



Graduates gather to celebrate Ladywood's final home meet

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Men rescued, sent to hospital

Carbon monoxide exposure blamed for incident

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Two men suffering from carbon monoxide exposure, one of whom had passed out, were rescued by Canton firefighters at a house on the township's west side Tuesday afternoon.

The incident also sent to St. Joseph

Mercy Hospital the four firefighters who had carried the unconscious victim out of the house's basement, said Chris Stoecklein, the Canton Fire Department's deputy director. One firefighter was having trouble breathing while the others were examined as a precaution, Stoecklein said.

The department was alerted to the emergency on Mornington Road, in the

area of Beck and Cherry Hill, shortly before 1 p.m., a press release from the township said.

Firefighters found a man on the ground floor who told them there was a second man in the basement. Firefighters started down the stairs, Stoecklein said, but their gas meters registered dangerous levels of carbon monoxide and they had to fetch breathing apparatus before making the rescue.

Four firefighters carried out the un-

conscious man, who was transported immediately to the hospital, Stoecklein said. When one of the firefighters started having trouble breathing, he was taken to the hospital as well, as were the other three. The firefighter suffering breathing difficulty did not pass out, he said.

Three of the firefighters had been released from the hospital by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

See RESCUE, Page 2A

A CATHOLIC CONUNDRUM

How can archdiocese make schools vibrant again?

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Catholic education runs through Westland resident Scott Brigmon's veins.

A graduate of St. Agatha High School in Redford, he wanted all his children to attend Catholic schools, including his daughter Macy, who was set to attend Ladywood High School in the fall.

She shadowed for a day at the school and visited during an open house last fall, Brigmon said, and she was all set to head to Ladywood for the next four years.

"When she was at Ladywood, it was like she was home," he said. "Like there was a community there she could belong to."

Then several weeks later, the news dropped: Ladywood, which operated on Newburgh in Livonia for more than 50 years, would close at the end of the school year.

The closure, coupled with two others at the end of the school year in the Archdiocese of Detroit, continues to challenge how Catholic education in the area can continue its rich legacy. It's a challenge the Archdiocese of Detroit, which encompasses six counties in southeast Michigan, knows exists and hopes to tackle in the coming years.

"We have work to do to make the case for Catholic education. And we're very much aware of that," said the Rev. Stephen Pullis, director of the archdiocesan Department of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools. "As my peers start

See SCHOOLS, Page 7A

Inside

Final days draw near at Livonia's Ladywood High School, 6A



Second grade is taught by Judy Rausch at St. Mary School in Wayne. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cancer fundraiser no longer 24-hour marathon

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In an era when even iconic charitable organizations like the American Cancer Society are facing stiffer competition for fundraising dollars, the ACS has pumped new energy into its annual Relay For Life by offering flexibility to the event's community organizers.

Local groups can still execute the original 24-hour model that was initiated by founder Gordy Klatt, who lit the fire for the fundraiser in 1985 when he ran and walked around an athletics track for 24 hours in Tacoma, Wash., raising \$27,000 for the ACS.

Shorter, but still successful, models have recently been added to the RFL menu — and local organizers are taking advantage of the rule change.

Neighboring communities are also being encouraged to combine forces to increase efficiency, which is also a popular new feature on the docket.

A prime example of the evolving fundraiser is the RFL event that took part Saturday in Heritage Park in Canton, which ran from noon to 10 p.m. and included participants from Plymouth.

"I like how the American Cancer Society has adapted to the needs of its local organizers," said longtime participant and Canton resident Denise Stafeld, who is the event leader for Saturday's RFL in her hometown. "We did the 24-hour event for several years

See RELAY, Page 2A

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Rescue

Continued from Page 1A

day, while the fourth was expected to be released later in the day, according to an update from the township. Stoecklein did not know the condition of the two men rescued.

The high carbon monoxide levels had apparently resulted from a concrete saw being operated in the basement without proper ventilation, Stoecklein said. The fumes were isolated to that one house.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Dan Dean, Managing Editor

Mobile: 248-396-0706

Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach

Mobile: 586-262-9892

Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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Pagan announces state House re-election bid

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, has announced her plans to seek re-election to the Michigan House of Representatives.

"For the past four years, we have come together as a community and advocated for the issues we care about most - fixing our roads, fully funding our schools, lowering the cost of car insurance and creating economic opportunity for all of our residents. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and I hope to earn your support one more time," Pagan said. "By allowing me to continue the work we started together, I am confident we will improve peoples'

lives and build upon my experience at getting things done as your current representative."

Pagan, 35, does not have a challenger in the August primary. She will face Republican Darian Moore of Canton in the November general election.

Pagan is currently serving in her second term in the state House. She serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee on school aid appropriations, where all decisions about school funding are made.



Pagan

A product of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, Pagan's main focus continues to be improving student success and educational outcomes locally. After graduating from Salem High School, Pagan went on to earn her bachelor's degree in secondary education from Western Michigan University and her master's degree in political management from George Washington University.

She continues to be an active volunteer and mentor with Canton's Lead Like a Girl Program and won the 2017 mParks Legislator of the Year Award for her work in Canton.

Relay

Continued from Page 1A

and it worked out well for everybody.

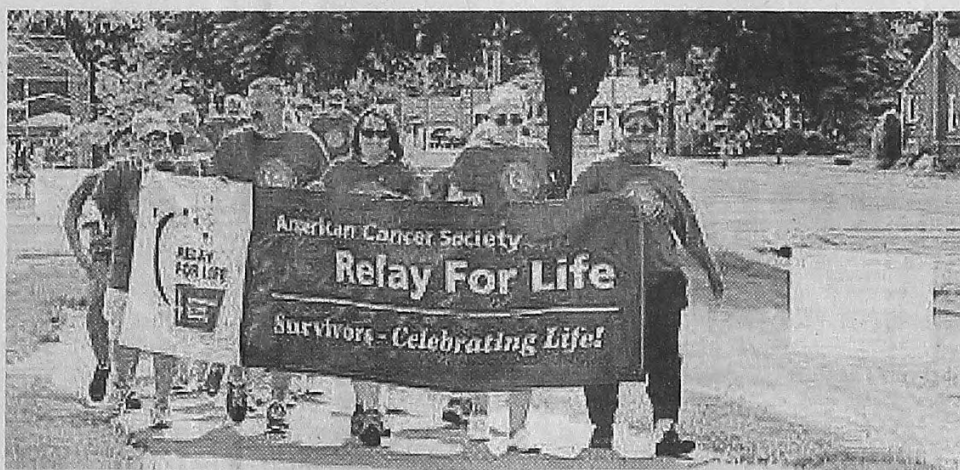
"Now, we still have a lot of people who want to participate (more than 600 are expected for Saturday), but the majority would prefer something shorter than the all-day/all-night model. Even though we're cutting it to 10 hours this year, we're still expecting to raise as much money than when we walked for 24 hours."

ACS spokesperson Megan Schaper said the customized events have been a huge hit with organizers since options were made available in 2015.

"Volunteers and participants still like to participate and walk a long way for a great cause, but a lot of them want to sleep in their own bed the night of the event," Schaper said. "One of the highlights for participants is the overnight experience, so some groups are doing 6 p.m. to 6 a.m."

"And then we have groups like Wayne-Westland, which is going 20 hours (from 11 a.m. to 7 a.m.) We're doing whatever we can to meet the communities' needs, because they're what make this event successful."

Wayne-Westland event leader Carol Nelius understands why some organizers decided to shorten the duration of their events, but the contingent of participants set to walk for 20 hours June 9-10 at Central City Park in Westland prefers the longer haul, she said.



Cancer survivors took the first lap around Claude Allison Park during a 2016 Relay for Life event. FILE PHOTO

"Our thoughts on it are that cancer patients don't sleep and their journey is an ongoing thing, so we want to push ourselves as long as we can to show our support," Nelius said. "Even though we're still doing an overnight event, I love the fact that the American Cancer Society is offering communities some flexibility."

Each year, more than 5,000 Relay For Life events take place in more than 20 countries. There are generally three main segments to each RFL event.

According to the RFL website, there's a Survivors' Lap, a Luminaria Ceremony and a Fight Back Ceremony - the symbolic traditions that serve to promote the core elements of the event's message: celebrate, remember and fight back.

Guests of the event can also take advantage of the Canton Healthy Kick-Off, set for 1-4 p.m. at St. Joseph Mercy Canton, which is a walkable distance from Heritage Park.

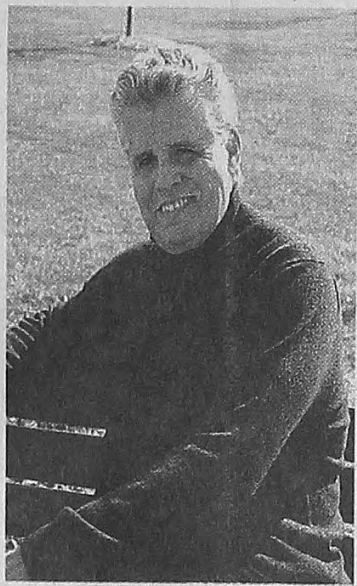
The St. Joseph Mercy event will offer several free activities, including Arctic Edge street hockey, free bike helmet fittings and skin cancer screenings, to name a few.

Although she is about to embark on her 17th RFL, Staffeld said she still gets an adrenaline rush on the day of the event.

"It's hard to explain how incredible the experience is," she said.

Contact Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

THE VILLAGE OF WESTLAND

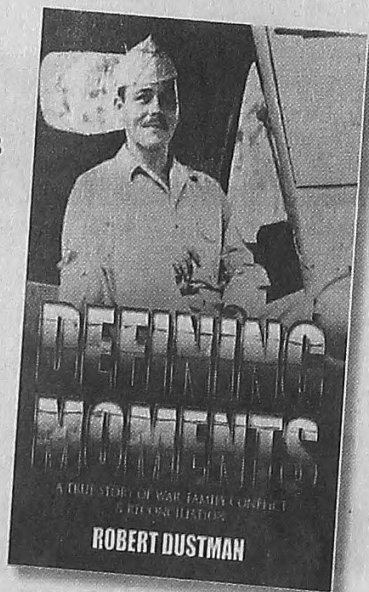


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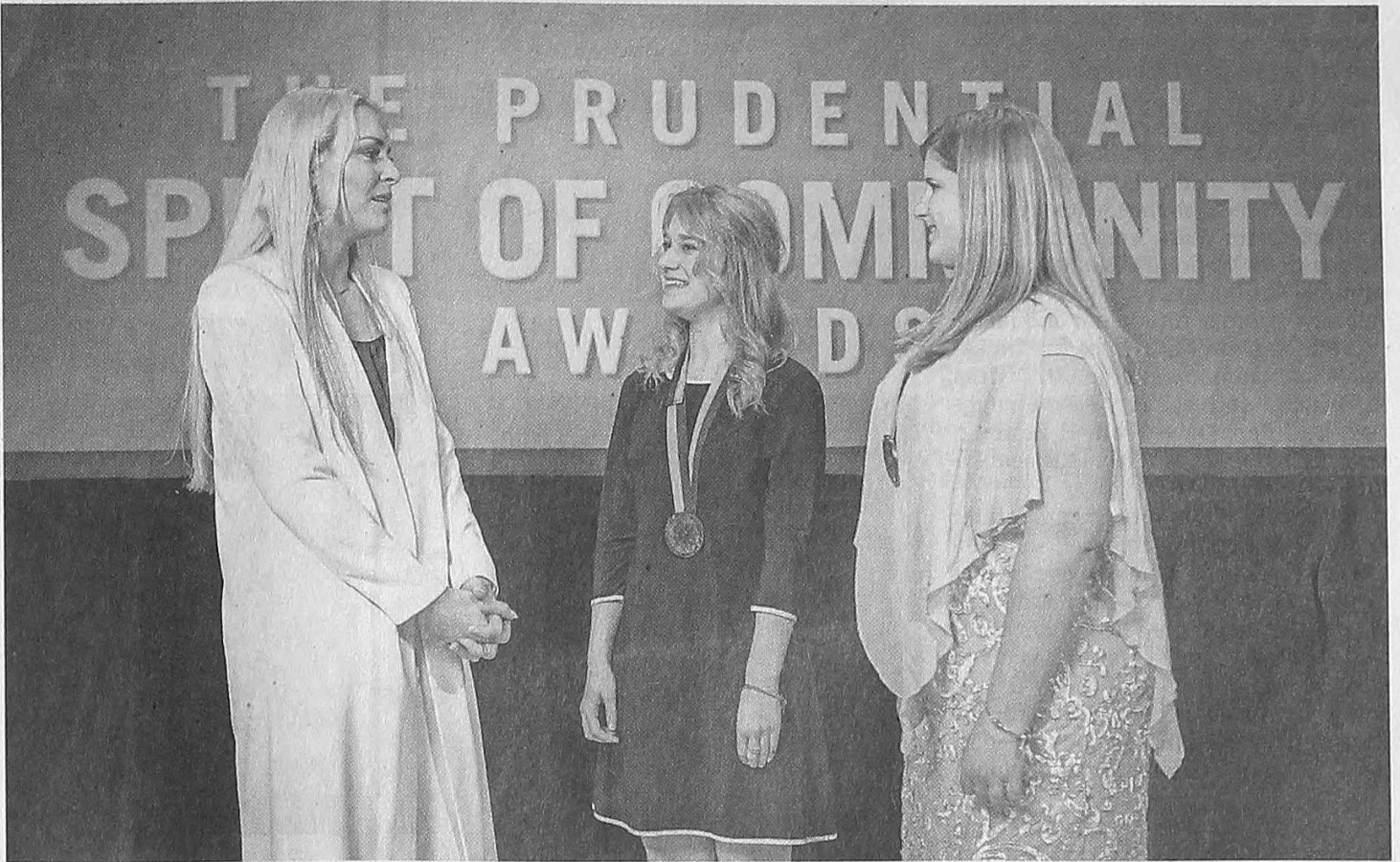
Canton student honored for exemplary volunteer service

Michigan's top two youth volunteers of 2018, Alyssa Ewell, 18, of Canton and Abigail Diuble, 13, of Manchester, were honored April 29 in Washington, D.C., for their outstanding volunteer service during the 23rd annual presentation of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Alyssa and Abigail – along with 100 other top youth volunteers from across the country – each received a \$1,000 award and personal congratulations from Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion Lindsey Vonn at an award ceremony and gala dinner reception held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, named Alyssa and Abigail Michigan's top high school and middle school youth volunteers in February. In addition to their cash awards, they each received an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent to Washington, D.C., for four days of recognition events.

Alyssa, a senior at Canton High School, was student coordinator of her school district's Relay for Life last year, which raised \$30,000 for the American Cancer Society. With her grandmother battling pancreatic cancer, Alyssa had a very personal reason to assume this leadership role when a teacher asked her to take the job. "She had seen my work last year raising \$12,000 to grant a wish for a young girl through the Make-A-Wish Foundation," Alyssa said. "She exhorted me to become a general in the war against cancer."

After meeting with Michigan's Relay for Life coordinator to set up a plan, Alyssa recruited students to help and began delegating tasks. She took steps to involve more than 20 schools in her school district, made fliers to get the word out to the community, assembled resource kits to help her leadership team of students coordinate activities



Alyssa Ewell of Canton (center) and Abigail Diuble of Manchester were recognized by Lindsey Vonn (left) for their outstanding volunteer service.

during the event, and held an "advertising" day to pitch the project to potential donors and sponsors in the business community. In addition to running the actual relay walk, Alyssa and her team planned a Spirit Week at her school, trick-or-treating for little kids, a faculty "kiss the pig" fundraiser, a lip-sync competition, a cancer survivor walk, a raffle, and a luminaria ceremony. "While a considerable amount of money was raised, the most rewarding part of this experience was learning I could be a catalyst for action," Alyssa said.

"These honorees exemplify something we've known for a long time – that

young volunteers have the power to bring meaningful change to their communities," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc. "These students have shown leadership and determination well beyond their years, and it's a privilege to celebrate their service."

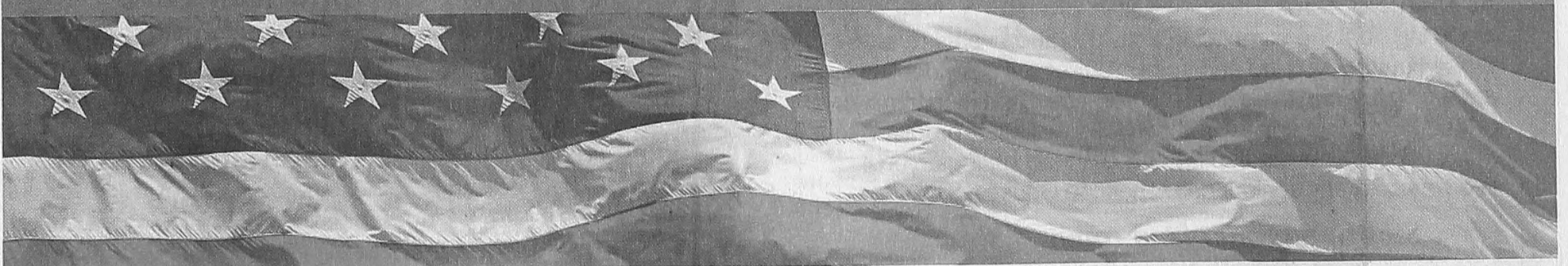
Youth volunteers in grades 5-12 were invited to apply for 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards last fall through schools, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and affiliates of Points of Light's HandsOn Network. More than 29,000 middle school

and high school students nationwide participated in this year's program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created in 1995 to identify and recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service. In the past 23 years, the program has honored more than 120,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

For more information about The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and this year's honorees, go to <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit.

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Former congressman sues campaign rival for \$10M

Todd Spangler
 Detroit Free Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

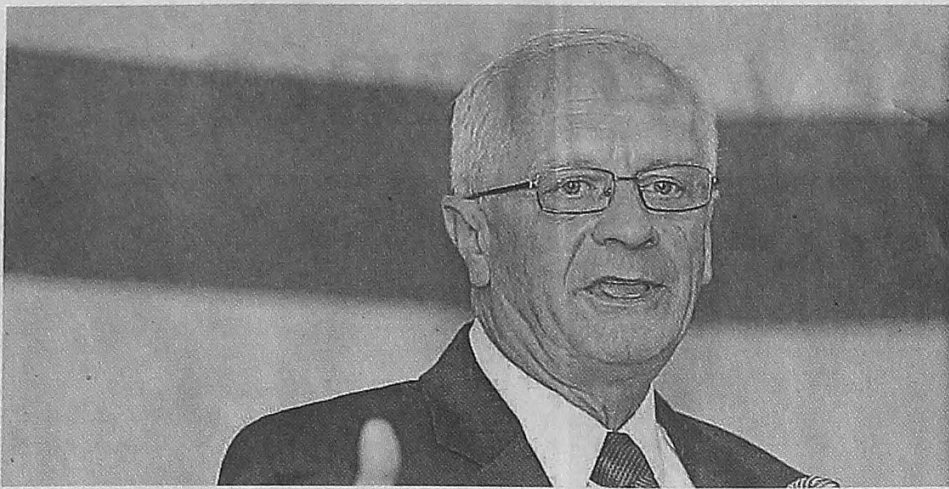
A former congressman who is running for a chance at getting his old job back is suing a rival for \$10 million, claiming the other candidate has defamed him by suggesting his military record is fake.

Through his lawyer, former U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Milford, filed the civil suit in Oakland County Circuit Court this week, saying A. Rocky Raczowski has for years "engaged in a malicious defamation campaign ... telling multiple third parties that Bentivolio's military record is fraudulent and fake."

Both men are candidates for the Republican nomination in the 11th District in Oakland and western Wayne counties. U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, is stepping down from the seat after two terms.

Bentivolio's lawyer, commentator and author Debbie Schlusel, said she has statements from people documenting that Raczowski, a former state representative and retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, has made false claims about Bentivolio's record and several medals his military record shows he received. Bentivolio served in the U.S. Army and later in the National Guard.

Raczowski denied the accusation. But he said he has publicly questioned



Bentivolio



Raczowski

what he said were comments Bentivolio made to him in 2012 that the former congressman had received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts for his service. "Yeah, I questioned that," Raczowski told the Free Press.

Schlusel said Bentivolio - who did receive a Vietnam Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars for his service in the army in the 1970s - never made those claims.

"Rocky is a liar," Schlusel said.

"I have brought it up lately because he demeaned my military service," Raczowski said of Bentivolio. He added that the lawsuit was served on him at a debate May 14 at the Emagine Novi theater by a retired military man in uniform. Military rules prohibit the wearing of uniforms to political events, even by retired personnel.

The initial filing in Oakland County asked for \$100 million, but Schlusel said that was in error.

Even so, winning a defamation case for actions alleged amid a political campaign could be difficult. Generally speaking, claims made about politicians and candidates - especially by other candidates - are often considered protected political speech, though in the lawsuit, Bentivolio and Schlusel say statements made were "not privileged, not opinion, not truthful and wholly unjustified."

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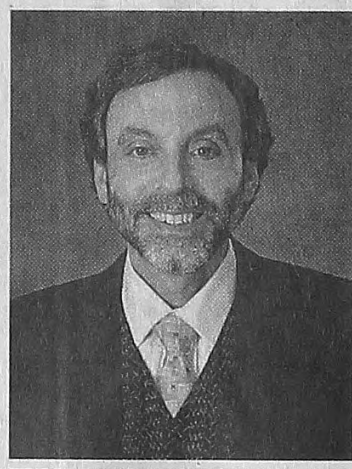
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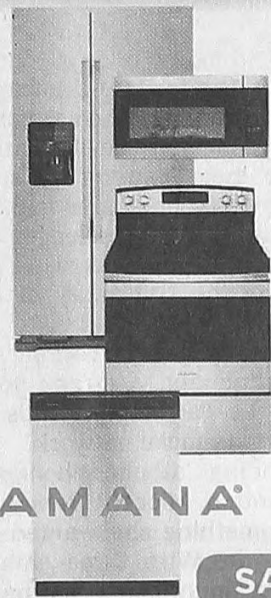
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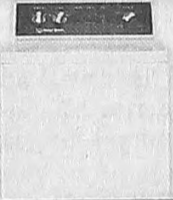


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A look back as Ladywood prepares to close

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It didn't take long for Ashley Chichila to feel like she had found the right place to spend high school.

The 14-year-old Livonia girl visited Ladywood High School last year and instantly fell in love with it.

"I shadowed here and, immediately, I just felt so welcomed," she said. "It was a unique environment with the block scheduling and how close everyone was here and how friendly they all were. I just felt like I was meant to be here. It was a great fit for me personally."

That feeling continues on in Chichila as the school year wraps up and, with it, so does Ladywood. The high school, which has been operated by the Felician Sisters for more than 60 years along Newburgh Road in Livonia, will close in June, a result of dwindling enrollment at the all-girls school.

With its closure goes a school with a rich academic history, several state titles in volleyball, basketball, competitive cheer, cross country and softball and the last all-girls Catholic school in Wayne County.

The school opened in 1950 with 45 students and graduated its first class in 1953. At the time of its announced closure in December, the school had about 169 students, though it had seen a 60-percent drop in enrollment since 2005.

Principal and Ladywood alumna Tracey Mocon said the days after word was out the school would close were tough. But with those challenges came a renewed sense of faith: that God's plan for the students and teachers of Ladywood would be revealed.

"Initially, when you hear an announcement and you're sad, it may seem mysterious at that time. But each day, God's plan is revealed more and more," she said. "As a Catholic school, we find comfort in our faith and in the fact that we believe that God has a plan for all of us."

For the underclassmen, many have decided to remain in Catholic schools next year, attending such schools as



Abigail Randall, Ladywood class of 2016, mom Michelle Randall and Elizabeth Randall, class of 2018. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, Marian High School in Bloomfield Township, Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, St. Catherine of Siena High School in Wixom, Divine Child High School in Dearborn, Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor and Powers Catholic High School in Flint.

Chichila plans on attending Mercy High School next year. Her mother, Nicole Chichila, said the process of finding another school was tough, but she took comfort in the care other schools took in working with families displaced by the closure.

"Every school was amazing. Every school was open arms," she said. "Everyone was just so helpful. Nothing is Ladywood. But like I said, Ashley is resilient and she'll find her place."

Celebration of the school

There's been no decision yet by the Felician Sisters as to what will happen to the school building and its property at 14680 Newburgh. A decision is expected to come later this year after the Felician Services have solicited for proposals. At least one group has proposed keeping a Catholic school on the site after classes end later this year.

For the teachers, Mocon said representatives from the Archdiocese of De-

troit have been in touch and the school is working to help those teachers affected through resume-writing and connecting them with potential employers across the archdiocese.

While activities will wrap up soon, there are still several events on the Ladywood calendar. Graduation will take place May 24 and a celebration of the school's legacy June 2. A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. in the presentation chapel, followed by tours of the building.

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan, the school's dean of ministry and mission, has been at the school about five years. While the school is closing, she said she has treasured getting close to the students and seeing them succeed.

"It has been a great experience getting to know individually the girls in the school and their tenacity, their vibrancy," she said. "It's wonderful to come in each and every day and to see the excitement in the air."

For those who currently attend or have attended the school, many will agree on one thing: it's a place girls have made great academic and social strides to help prepare them for life after high

school.

That's the feeling of current senior Elizabeth Randall, who has participated in groups such as the ski team and the sideline cheer team for the school. Attending the school, she said, has prepared her for the challenges she's expecting as she joins her sister Abigail in attending the University of Michigan this fall.

"It's really created a strong academic background and a strong social network," the Farmington Hills resident said. "A true social network."

Attending Catholic school, said Randall's mother, Michelle Randall, was always something she wanted her children to do. With three children and higher tuition bills, attending Catholic school could have been a challenge.

But it was one Michelle Randall said was absolutely worth it.

"I want them to connect their God-given talents to their future in the services of others," she said. "The holistic approach to the education they've received here was worth every penny I paid, without a doubt."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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Schools

Continued from Page 1A

to have kids, we have to re-propose the case for Catholic education."

One such way is the Unleash the Gospel initiative, launched after a 2016 synod by Archbishop Allen Vigneron. Touching on all aspects of Catholic life, the plan calls for specific ways to keep Catholic education a strong aspect of evangelization for the church.

The plan calls for the archdiocese's Catholic Schools Council to move forward on working on making Catholic education accessible to any Catholic family in the archdiocese, keeping evangelization and discipleship as its highest priority and work to eliminate sporting activities on Sundays, among others.

The archdiocese sent out surveys to schools and parishes earlier this year and results are beginning to come in. The data collected in this plan, according to archdiocese schools superintendent Kevin Kijewski, will be used to better focus their efforts.

"It's going to really help to focus them," Kijewski said. "Everyone wants to see schools improve, but it's important to get the voices of a broad constituency that support a school."

In a letter sent to school principals across Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Monroe and St. Clair counties, Kijewski said there is plenty of room to grow.

"The results of the studies indicated that all of our schools and the Archdiocese of Detroit are blessed with an unprecedented opportunity to foster growth and innovation," he wrote. "In sum, we see that parents, pastors, teachers, students and supporters see the value of our Catholic Schools; however, we also hear loud and clear that a comprehensive and cohesive plan should be created and implemented so our school system may become one of the best in the country."

Declining enrollment

Unleash the Gospel comes at a time where Catholic schools, especially in Wayne County, are closing. In addition to Ladywood High School, St. Mary Catholic School in Wayne and St. Mary Catholic School in Rockwood will close at the end of the school year.

The archdiocese's website lists more than 160 former schools that have closed over the years, including several in western Wayne County: St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford in 2015, St. Genevieve in Livonia in 2016, St. Damian in Westland in 2016 and St. Raphael in Garden City in 2016.

With those four closures, there were calls to try to keep a regional school in the area, though those plans fell through. The new regional school, named Divine Mercy, was to open on the St. Raphael campus if 250 students enrolled. Just 75 did, leading the archdiocese to scrap the idea.

Pullis, who was not working in the schools at that time, said the instance is one the archdiocese has



Pullis

looked at.

"That was a really sad situation," he said. "How do we learn from what didn't work there and what worked in other places?"

Efforts

Challenges in Catholic education face many of the same challenges public schools have faced: Declining populations in the inner-ring suburbs have resulted in school closures all over.

"Part of it is that our schools aren't immune to what all schools experience," said Holly Fournier, a spokeswoman for the archdiocese. "And that is changing demographics, lower birth rates — all schools are experiencing lower enrollment. And schools are closing everywhere."

On the public school level, two elementary schools closed last year in Livonia and Harrison High School in Farmington is scheduled to close in 2019. And the Wayne-Westland Community School District recently voted to reconfigure the school district in order to eventually close buildings due to declining enrollment.

To keep Catholic schools vibrant, Kijewski said there are several measures being looked at, including adding dual language immersion programs at schools and integrating more STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) into the classrooms.

Doing so strengthens many programs that already see benefits when a child attends Catholic school, Kijewski said. Minorities who attend Catholic schools are 2.4 times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree. Students who already graduate can typically expect to make 13-14 percent more as well.

"We believe that, when it comes to the Catholic church, nothing is isolated," he said. "We believe we can have kids who are prepared for careers of tomorrow, while also having that in a Catholic environment."

He points to Holy Redeemer Grade School in southwest Detroit as an example. That school is the alma



Kijewski

mater of Cardinal Joseph Tobin, the first native-born Detroit to don the red robes in the Catholic Church. It's doing wonderful mission work in that neighborhood, Kijewski said, complete with community support and a successful STEM program.

Examining costs is something else the archdiocese will look at. With costs of everything increasing, Kijewski said reviewing costs for students is something to study.

"If we could bring more kids into our system because it's affordable, the better off not only those families will be, but the better off the church will be as well," he said.

Keeping students enrolled in schools and proclaiming the church's message is all part of the plan, especially as the schools work to factor in the Unleash the Gospel plan. But at the end of the day, Kijewski said, it's all about keeping the faith.

"We want to help the archbishop achieve his mission. Yes, it's great if a kid gets into Harvard, but it's even better if they're able to get into heaven," he said. "I don't know how you can compete against that."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

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Westborn Market: Just 'Eat Good Chocolate'

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Westborn Market customers can satisfy their Birmingham Chocolate cravings through a new product line called Eat Good Chocolate.

The two businesses have teamed to create a line of chocolate bars in seven different flavors that are sold at Westborn Market under its private label partnership program.

"We're always looking to bring in new food products that will surprise and delight our customers," Westborn Market CEO Bryan Bandyk said in a news release. "We love partnering with other local and like-minded independent companies to bring the best of Michigan to our shoppers."

Doug Cale, owner of Birmingham Chocolate, said in an email that most of his private label customers are out of state, but that the company collaborates with some Michigan-based businesses such as Westborn Market.

"Achatz Handmade Pie Co. is an example of a Michigan collaboration. We make a Four Berry Pie Chocolate Bar, including the exact streusel modeled after their most popular pie. Pure decadence," Cale said. "We collaborate with Murdick's Original Mackinac Island Fudge to create a Double Dark Salted Caramel Fudge Bar using their fudge and our chocolate. It's ridiculous in both milk and dark chocolate."

He said the majority of Birmingham Chocolate's private label sales are bars, although the company provides a varie-



Chocolate bars made by Birmingham Chocolate are sold under the private label Eat Good Chocolate by Westborn Market.

ty of "grab and go" chocolates, such as dipped pretzels and cookies, turtles and nonpareils, to Michigan retailers. Truffles and bonbons present a wholesaling challenge because of their short shelf life.

"Birmingham Chocolate's approach to chocolate-making is summed up in the three words on the façade of the shop — curiosity, imagination and discovery," Cale said.

Chips, coffee beans

Cale said the company constantly develops new chocolates and has been asked to collaborate on "some very interesting concepts" for partnerships.

"Westborn Market shares this same sense of creativity and was attracted to team with Birmingham Chocolate in order to incorporate some of their most popular products, such as (Real-Deal

Tater) potato chips and Jamaican Coffee Beans as ingredients in chocolate," Cale said.

In addition to Jamaican Coffee Bean bar and Westborn Tater Chip, the line includes Salted Toasted Coconut, 80% Cacao Extreme Dark Chocolate, Three Berry Blend, Pistachio Cherry and Blueberry Nibs. Three Berry Blend and Westborn Tater Chip are milk chocolate bars. The rest are vegan dark chocolate.

Each bar weighs three ounces, is sectioned into 24 squares and costs \$6.99.

"The chocolates are hand-crafted in small batches by experienced chocolatiers. You can taste the difference," Cale said.

The bars are certified kosher and are GMO- and gluten-free. No preservatives, coloring additives and artificial flavors are used.

Birmingham Chocolate sells bonbons, truffles, bars and other candies at its store, 1728 W. Maple. Products with the Birmingham Chocolate label also are available at markets and stores throughout metro Detroit, including Papa Joe's, Plum Market, Cantoro Italian Market and Trattoria, Holiday Market, Vince & Joe's Gourmet Markets, Arbor Farms, Joe's Produce and Market Square.

Westborn Market has locations in Berkley, Livonia, Plymouth and Dearborn. Its private label partnerships also offer Gourmet Flat Breads, Real-Deal Tater Chips and Gourmet Flat Breads.

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Emotional support animals require special consideration



Condo Living
Robert Meisner
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Q: In my condominium association, pets over 15 pounds are not allowed per the bylaws. My neighbor just got a new dog that must be at least twice the limit. When I asked about it, they said it isn't a pet, it's an emotional support animal. What's that? Can I get one?

A: Confusion abounds with respect to emotional support animals in residential communities such as condominium associations. This is because, generally speaking, existing rules such as limits on the number of pets, pet weight or even breeds of pets cannot be applied to emotional support animals, which may be allowed as reasonable accommodations for disabled individuals pursuant to the federal Fair Housing Act.

Does this mean that emotional support animals can get away with causing nuisances, such as frequent barking, or that they cannot be removed if they bite

someone? Not necessarily, although in certain circumstances, it may be more difficult to deal with them.

How might you meet the definition for disability? Included in the list of impairments that may qualify as a disability under the FHA is "emotional illness," which is not a well-defined term. While there are certainly many people who deserve reasonable accommodations to help them with their real mental disabilities, some people have abused the provision for "emotional illness" accommodations as a loophole through which they can avoid enforcement of condominium association restrictions on pets. Doctors like to keep their patients happy, so some will ignore ethical problems when diagnosing an emotional illness just so their patient can keep a pet that doesn't comply with the restrictions. Also, condominium associations and their attorneys are risk-averse to litigation over fair housing claims, as they carry stiff penalties if they are on the losing side. But I would never advise anyone to fake a need for an emotional support animal.

In fact, SB 663 was introduced in the current Michigan legislative session, although it has not yet received a hearing in committee. It would criminalize false

claims of a need for an emotional support or service animal made to landlords and housing providers (community associations are considered "housing providers" in this context). However, the issue of enforcement is problematic and I believe that the bill would at least require some revision before further consideration.

Condominium association boards of directors should carefully consider each accommodation request received from residents with their experienced community association attorney and require confirming documentation when appropriate.

Robert M. Meisner, Esq., is principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium" is available at www.momentumbooks.com. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or rmeisner@meisner-law.com. Go to the firm's blog at meisner-law.com/blog.

AREA EVENTS

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

Archer at joint chamber event

Former Detroit Mayor Dennis W. Archer will speak at a multiple-chamber gathering from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the Schoolcraft College Vis-TaTech Center. The event will involve members of the Livonia, Canton and Novi chambers of commerce. Archer will be available to sign copies of his autobiography "Let The Future Begin" and take pictures after the presentation.

The cost is \$35 per chamber member. For more details, contact the Livonia chamber at 734-427-2122 or go to www.livonia.org.

Lunch to feature WMU president

Celebrate Michigan Week (May 17-26) by attending a luncheon featuring guest speaker Dr. Edward Montgomery, president of Western Michigan University, at noon Wednesday, May 23, at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church Street.

This event is hosted by Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and the Western Michigan University Alumni Association and sponsored by Schoolcraft College, Bank of Ann Arbor and Gordon Food Services.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 or you can purchase a table for of eight for \$120. To purchase tickets, call 734-453-1540. Seating is limited.

Music at the Elks

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday, May 29, features Jerry McKenzie "Just Jazz" with Ellie Martin on vocals. Accompanying her are Stan Kenton drummer, Jerry McKenzie, Ray Tini on bass and Tad Weed on keyboards.

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

New exhibit at Village Theater

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will exhibit "A World of Animals," featuring more than 30 works by Nick Bair, on display through Tuesday, May 29, in the Gallery@VT, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. Bair's exhibit features some of his favorite animals, such as elephants and rhinoceros, as well as animals that are either very beautiful or endangered. Go to www.artistNickBair.com.

This exhibit is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; one hour prior to and during public performances at the theater; as well as by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The

Gallery@VT is closed holidays. For more information, go to cantonvillagetheater.org.

Fasting 5K run/walk

Area residents are invited to participate in the Fasting 5K run/walk, set to begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at the end of a long 16-hour fast during Ramadan. The starting point is the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, 40440 Palmer Road, in Canton. This event is open to everyone in the community and will include participants from various faiths.

Fasting 5K has raised more than \$250,000 to support local charities based in participating cities. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center. For more information or to register, go to www.Fasting5k.org. To learn more about The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-398-5570.

2nd Chance Prom at Village Theater

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton will host '80s Party: 2nd Chance Prom at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2. The event will feature food, drinks and Square Pegz, one of metro Detroit's most popular cover bands.

Prom-themed events will be held throughout the night, including a post-concert dance, the crowning of a prom king and queen and more. To nominate yourself for prom court, post your prom or another high school photo on Facebook, tag @cantonvillagetheater and use #Canton80sProm (10 shares or 50 likes gets you nominated).

Tickets are \$30 (ages 21 and over). One drink voucher for one complimentary beverage at the bar is included with each ticket. A special price for groups of four or more is \$25 each. Purchase your tickets online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org, or by calling 734-394-5300. Tickets can also be purchased at The Village Theater box office one hour prior to show time.

All-sports equipment sale

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department is

holding an all-sports equipment sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 2, inside the Plymouth Ice Arena, 525 Farmer Street. Each 10- by 10-foot spot is \$20 and space is limited. You may purchase multiple booths and we will ensure that your spots will be next to each other.

Admission is free. For more information or to register, go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or call 734-455-6620.

Plymouth H.S. reunion

The Plymouth High School Class of 1963 is celebrating its 55th class reunion Saturday, Aug. 18, with a dinner at The Summit in Canton. Other activities include a golf outing, a night mixer Friday, Aug. 17, at Karl's Cabin and an indoor picnic Sunday, Aug. 19, at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex. For more information, contact Nancy Richard Earle at 734-634-8974 or nancyearle@comcast.net.

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.

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.

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Horseback riding can be therapeutic



Our Mental Health
L.J. McCulloch
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Therapeutic horseback riding can be traced back to ancient Greek history.

Even then it was acknowledged that riding, although being a means of transportation, was also a way of improving the health and well-being for the handicapped. The Greeks learned that sending wounded soldiers out on horseback excursions expedited their recovery. British hospitals did the same during World War II.

In 1969, the North American Riding for the Handicap Association was founded as an advisory body for disabled groups across the U.S. and Canada. There are now hundreds of accredited therapeutic riding programs in the United States, involving more than 35,000 riders with disabilities. Integrating horse riding into therapy programs began in the U.S. some 30 years ago on a farm outside of Grand Rapids.

Many years ago, I participated in an English saddle riding class for two years. There is nothing like the feeling of power when one is sitting on a horse's back, gripping its reins and mane, as horse and human are united in movement, while hurtling over a fence. Imagine the empowerment of a youngster or adult who is wheelchair-bound who, through horses, masters the powerful animal and is able to sit upright and ride. Physically challenged children involved in therapeutic horse riding have been heard to say, "Well maybe I can't walk so good, but I can ride a horse!"

It has been shown that a walking horse with a seated rider exercises the injured body parts of the human being by providing similar muscle movement to that which one would acquire by walking on the ground. Balance and strength are enhanced. An individual with gait problems or paralysis of the lower half of the body can gain much physical and mental rejuvenation from sitting on a walking horse.

"Side walkers" typically accompany

the new rider until they are no longer needed and the rider can manage the horse by him/herself. There is a tremendous psychological benefit to mastering things much bigger than ourselves — and horses certainly fit the bill. The gentle rhythm of the walking horse has a calming effect on children and adults with impairments and is a unique and valuable characteristic of this process.

C.H.U.M. — Children and Adults United Through Movement — is a therapeutic riding program in Mason. Bonnie DePue, physical therapist, owns and operates a wonderful program that has benefited several traumatic brain injury patients that I have been working with over the years.

The Serendipity Riding Program is owned and operated Debbie Praay and is located just south of Mount Pleasant. In my consulting with Praay's program, we experienced a rare moment. An 8-year-old autistic boy, who had reportedly never spoken a word, visited SRP. On his first visit to the therapy horse ranch and his first encounter with a horse, he

was told that he could touch the horse while he, parent and Praay were in the stall. The boy stroked the horse gently and said the first word in his life: "soft." With trained helpers, he has had several classes in therapeutic riding and has begun speaking more. The phone number for SRP is 989-370-3030.

Finally, a fairly new program called Detroit Horse Power is creating a marvelous program to make horse riding available in the city of Detroit. The program combines a series of classwork study and application of principles from horseback riding to learn qualities of motivation, trust, gentleness and decision making. For more information, go to <http://www.detroithorsepower.org/>.

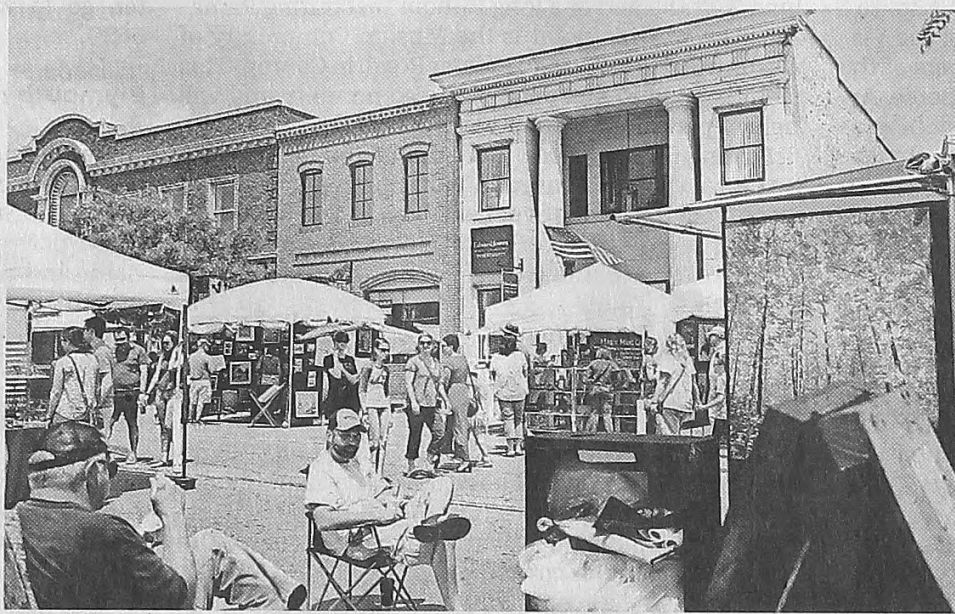
Leonard J. McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is a certified brain injury specialist and is board certified in traumatic stress, mental health, addictions and social work. He can be reached for a courtesy consultation at his Farmington Hills office at 248 474-2763, ext. 222.

Art on the Grand set for June 2-3 in downtown Farmington

Art on the Grand, an annual juried two-day fine art fair, is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, along Grand River Avenue in historic downtown Farmington. The festival features an array of high-quality art with a variety of price ranges and categories, including jewelry, painting, pottery, photography, glass, leather and sculpture. Kids can enjoy activities including DIA hands-on crafts, face painting, henna art, hair braiding, spin art, sandy candy and more.

A preview of the 100-plus artists and craftsmen from across the country and a sample of each artist's work is available at www.artonthegrand.com. This website offers access to the art before and after the show, bringing more visibility to each individual artist.

Kids Art Alley returns this year, featuring more than 40 young local artists in grades 3-12 who will be on hand to

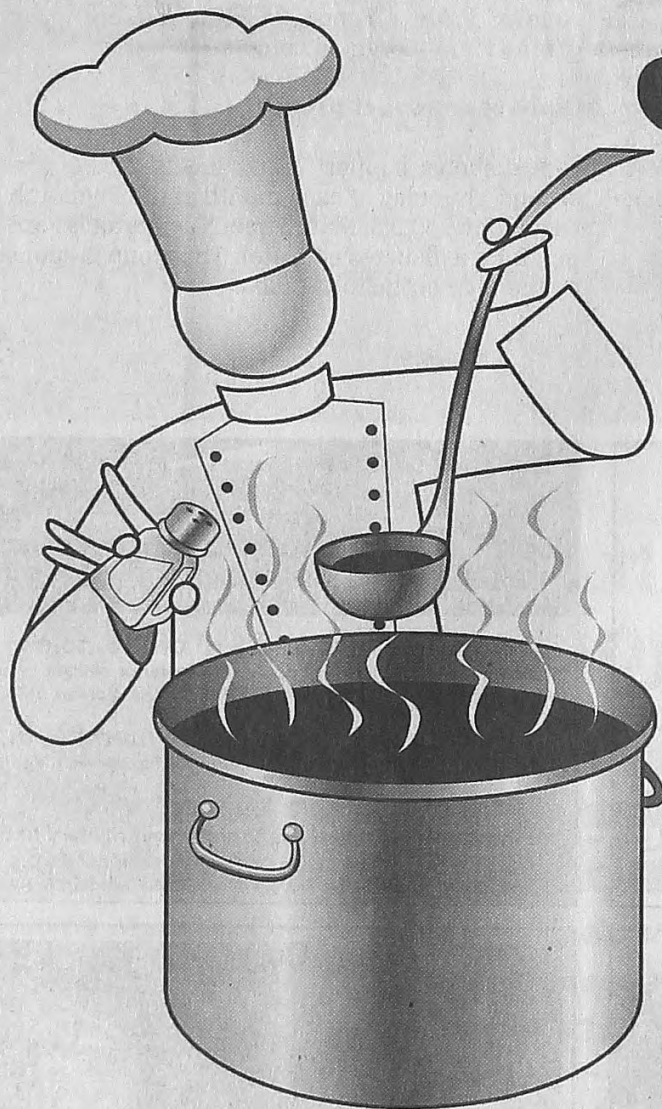


Art on the Grand, an annual juried two-day fine art fair, is set for June 2-3 along Grand River Avenue in historic downtown Farmington.

talk about and sell their own creations. Kids Art Alley, which also features a community mural and an upcycled DIY art activity, is located within the art fair along Grand River, between Sunflour Bakehaus and Grace Insurance through to The Vines and The Rocking Horse.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. If you arrive early Saturday, you can also visit the Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Riley Park.

Art on the Grand is sponsored by Bath Planet, Tom Holzer Ford, Renewal by Andersen, Michigan Bath Solutions, Ultimate Smiles, Sam's Club, C&G News and Starbucks. The event is presented by the Farmington Hills Special Services Department's Cultural Arts Division in partnership with the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. For more information, go to www.artonthegrand.com.



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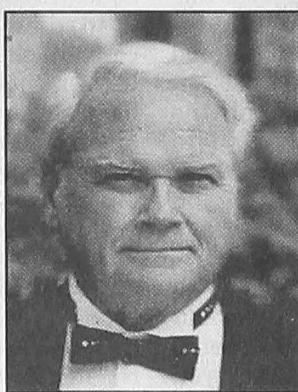
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Obituaries

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Ronald Hale

FARMINGTON - Age 83, passed away May 10, 2018. Ronald was born April 25, 1935, in Ann Arbor, Michigan; the son of Norman and Leila (Cooper) Hale. Surviving Ron is his beloved wife of 60 years, Alice; children, Kevin (Margaret) Hale, Craig (Theresa) Hale, Kenneth (Jennifer) Hale, Catherine (Michael) King, Kurtis (Margaret) Hale and Carrie (Michael) Carbone; grandchildren, Brian Hale, Kristen Hale, Adam Hale, Alex Hale, Ava Hale, Sarah King, Elizabeth Hale, Ann-Marie Hale and Matthew Carbone. Sadly, Ron is preceded in death by his brother, Roger Hale. A funeral Mass for Ron was held May 16, 2018 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, and he was laid to rest at St. Patrick Calvary Cemetery in Brighton, Michigan. Memorial contributions in Ron's memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association - Greater Michigan Chapter. www.heeney-sundquist.com



HEENEY-SUNDQUIST
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James A. Shaw

MILFORD - age 73, died May 13, 2018. Beloved husband of 19 years to Jennine (née Boswell, Palizzi); loving father of Kimberly (Matthew) Tice, Kristin (Brent Novak) Shaw, and Kathryn (Adam) Madigan; devoted grandfather of Kyle, Krista, Kevin and Konor Tice, Taylor, Tanner and Tucker Shaw Novak, and Jackson, Alexander and Brooke Madigan; and "Grandpa Jim/Jimbo" to the children of Julie (Gary) Abeska and Steven (Lisa) Palizzi: Joe, Kellie and Alex Abeska, and Nick, Noah and Sophie Palizzi. Sadly, Jim was preceded in death by siblings, Charlotte Leesburg, Lawrence, Shirley Belin, Glenn, and Jean Dupart. The Shaw family will receive guests at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Road, (between 9-10 Mile Roads, just north of Grand River), downtown Farmington (48-474-5200), on Saturday, June 2, from 10 am-1 pm, concluded by a 1 pm ceremony. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to either the Salvation Army, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or the National Parks Conservation Association. heeney-sundquist.com



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Duane Jennings

-- Duane Joseph Jennings passed away May 11, 2018 at the age of 78. Beloved husband of the late Charlene for 55 years. Loving father of Tracey (Mark) Hartsough, Jennine (Todd) Senkbeil, David Jennings, and Darrin (Laura) Jennings. Cherished grandfather of Jenny (Zachary), Josef, Rachel, Lauren, Tyler, Kaila, Alyssa, Zac, and Christa. Proud great-grandfather of Anika and Audrey. Dear brother of Darald. Duane was a dedicated teacher for over 30 years in Livonia Public Schools. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Samaritan's Purse. Calling hours will be at Harry J. Will Funeral Home on Sunday, May 20th at 5-8 PM. Viewing will be May 21st at St. Colletes 9:30-10 AM. Mass to follow.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes

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Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Q: I am 61 years old, single, with no dependents. The company I have worked at for more than 20 years announced that it's going out of business. My original game plan was to work until I received my full Social Security, which is another five or so years. At that point, Social Security would cover all my needs. I probably can find another job, but it won't pay what I currently make. Therefore, I'm just thinking of retiring. I figure by the time my severance and unemployment benefits end, I'll be 62 and can collect Social Security. I am divorced and I don't need much to live on. If I collect Social Security at 62, I figure I would need about an additional \$500 a month from my portfolio. My finan-

cial situation is I have about \$10,000 in the bank for emergencies and I have about \$150,000 in my 401(k) plan. My question to you is, do you think I can retire or should I work?

A: I would love to tell you that you can retire, because I know how difficult it must be to lose a job that you've been at for more than 20 years — but, I can't. I believe that the prudent and smart thing to do would be to work for another five or so years, when you are eligible to receive your full Social Security benefit. I think your original game plan before you lost your job made sense and one you should follow, because it puts you in a position where your Social Security would virtually cover your entire living expenses. That leaves you with your IRA, which would have five more years to grow to supplement your lifestyle.

One of the things that I constantly stress to investors who are getting ready to retire is they need to make sure they

have a rising income throughout their lifetime. When someone retires in their early 60s, it is important that they have money that they can reinvest and grow for the future. Someone in their 60s can easily live another 30 years; go back 30 years and you will see that the cost of living was substantially less than it is today. After all, 30 years ago, no one had to worry about cellphones or the Internet. Those items are not considered luxuries today, but rather essentials.

You don't necessarily have to earn the same wages you did before. The key is to make sure that you make enough to cover your living expenses. Even if you don't have extra money to save, that's fine as long as you're covering your living expenses. The fact you would delay needing money from your portfolio and collecting your Social Security benefits would give you the cushion that you need.

As I've said many times, we live in the greatest country in the history of the

world — but life is not necessarily good in America if you're old and poor. Retirement is not your grandparents' retirement; it is totally different. Your expenses don't go down in retirement; they continue to rise. Before you make the decision to retire, it is important to make sure that you can have a rising income throughout your lifetime.

In addition, think about how long you can live in retirement. Someone who retires in their early 60s should plan on being around for 30 years. I can't guarantee you many things when it comes to investing, but one thing I can guarantee is that, 30 years down the road, it will cost you substantially more to live than it does today.

Good luck!

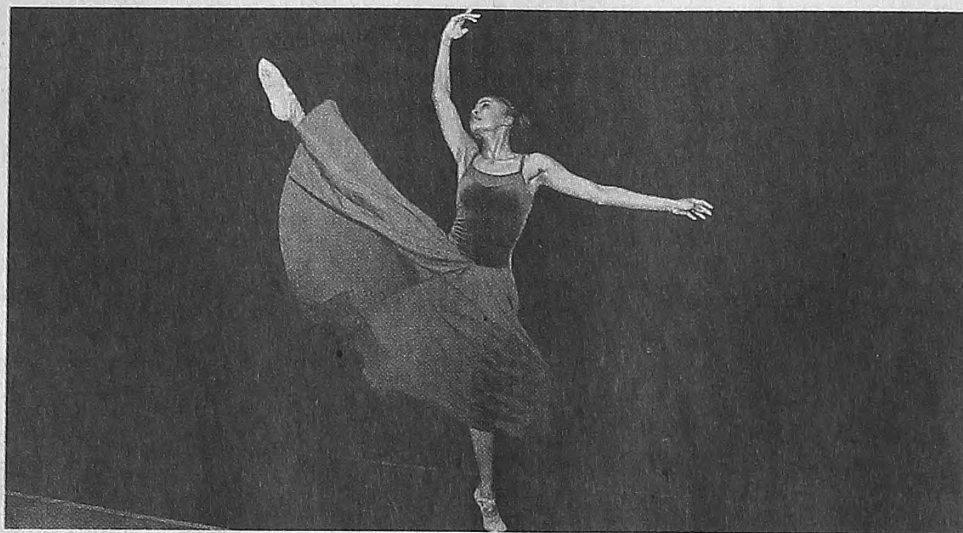
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Madonna University approved to offer degrees in dance

Madonna University recently received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer two new undergraduate programs in dance, beginning this fall: the bachelor of fine arts in dance performance and the bachelor of arts in dance.

"We are thrilled to be able to enhance our already strong liberal arts curriculum with these dance majors," Madonna University President Michael A. Grandillo said. "Along with art exhibitions in our Art Gallery, Lyric Theatre shows and music concerts, these new programs will further enrich the arts and cultural opportunities for members of the community."

The BFA degree is aimed at those students who aspire to be professional dancers, while the BA degree is suited to students who would like to choreograph, work in a studio or any number of dance-related careers. The programs include such courses as ballet, modern



Madonna University will begin offering two degree programs in dance. SUBMITTED

dance, jazz, tap, dance composition, repertory courses and production technology.

"Many prospective students, as well as current students, particularly members of Madonna's dance team, have ex-

pressed interest in pursuing a degree in dance," said Cam Cruickshank, executive vice president for enrollment and university advancement. "Madonna students engaged in our Lyric Theatre program will now be able to add a dance minor to their music degrees."

"We were most fortunate to recruit many of the acclaimed dance faculty members from Marygrove College, when they discontinued their undergraduate program," Cruickshank said. "The faculty have hit the ground running and already have presented two master dance classes for intermediate-to advanced-level high school dancers, as well as a dance concert. Their energy and enthusiasm for dance will certainly attract students interested in dance who had not previously considered Madonna University."

For more information, go to madonna.edu.

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Aubree's Pizzeria opens for business in Westland

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Customers began lining up outside Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill a half-hour before Westland's newest eatery opened Tuesday afternoon for business.

And they came hungry.

With a coupon in hand and her husband by her side, Anna Hyman of Farmington Hills said she has eaten at other Aubree's locations and loved it.

"This is my favorite pizza place," she said.

Inside the restaurant, co-owner Jeff Halas talked about what sets Aubree's apart from most pizzerias.

Sure, customers love the pizza and the choices they have, including gluten-free crust. But they also can order coconut-crust deep-fried chicken with mango chutney; Maryland crab cakes topped with roasted corn salsa and mustard aioli; or the bacon, avocado and tomato sandwich with boursin cheese on grilled brioche bread.

"I believe the food is very unique for a pizzeria," Halas said.

Some menu items, such as the London broil, started as limited time offers and spurred strong customer demand.

"It sold so well, it made our menu," Halas said.

The new Aubree's has opened at 37300 Warren Road, east of Newburgh, inside the former Ruby Tuesday restaurant. The 180-seat eatery fills a vacancy on the western edge of Westland's Shop & Dine District.

Halas said the site was chosen for the area's demographics, with an abundance of families and customers in the 35-55 age bracket. He also said the location can draw from a wider customer base from nearby Livonia and Canton.

"We are definitely excited about Aubree's opening," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "They are a great addition to the Westland Shop & Dine District and a



T.C. Williams serves a pizza to customers in the dining room. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tremendous reuse of the former Ruby Tuesday site."

The Westland location becomes the 10th Aubree's restaurant. It replaces a former location on Haggerty Road in Northville Township, which the company left after its lease expired.

Aubree's got its start in 1972 at a still-thriving location in Ypsilanti's Depot Town neighborhood. It was founded by the parents of Halas's business partner, company president Andy French.

Westland resident Mary Robinson, waiting in line Tuesday with 32-year-old daughter Amanda Sturm, has been to the Depot Town location and said she likes the pizzeria because she needs gluten-free options.

"I told my daughter we were coming here on a date," she said with a smile.

Adriane DeCeuninck, marketing manager for the Ann Arbor-based company, touted the restaurant's extensive menu of hand-crafted cocktails, with names like Killer Colada, Coastal Cocktail, Feeling Peachy and Aubree's Breeze.

"Aubree's Breeze is our No. 1 seller for three years at all of our locations," Halas said. It's a blend of coconut Malibu rum, grenadine and pineapple juice served over ice."

DeCeuninck said Aubree's also serves 14 beers on tap, including some made by Michigan companies such as Mountain Town Brewing Co. of Mt. Pleasant and Dark Horse Brewing Co. of Marshall.

As an employer, Aubree's has about 450 workers company-wide, with the Westland pizzeria starting off with about 70 employees. Halas said delivery is offered within a three- to four-mile radius.

Halas said one of the restaurant's most popular offerings is a lunch buffet with several different kinds of pizza, three different breads, soup and salad. It costs \$8.99 and runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

As a perk, customers can get loyalty cards, earn 1 point for every \$1 they spend and use it toward purchases.

Starting out, Aubree's is open 4-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Starting May 21, the restaurant opens at 11 a.m. daily and has the same closing hours. It has a full bar with televisions and space for special events such as wedding showers and graduation parties. The restaurant also sponsors local events, school teams and groups with its Dine to Donate program.

For more information, go to www.aubrees.com.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclem@hometownlife.com.

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Elizabeth Naida, a formerly devout "cradle Episcopalian" shares the story of her journey from trying to disprove the "arrogant truth" of Catholicism into finding her true "home" there.



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Sweet Dreamzzz gets \$6,000 grant for sleep education

The Karen Colina Wilson Foundation awarded local nonprofit, Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc., a \$6,000 grant to serve these children in need with its Early Childhood Sleep Education Program.

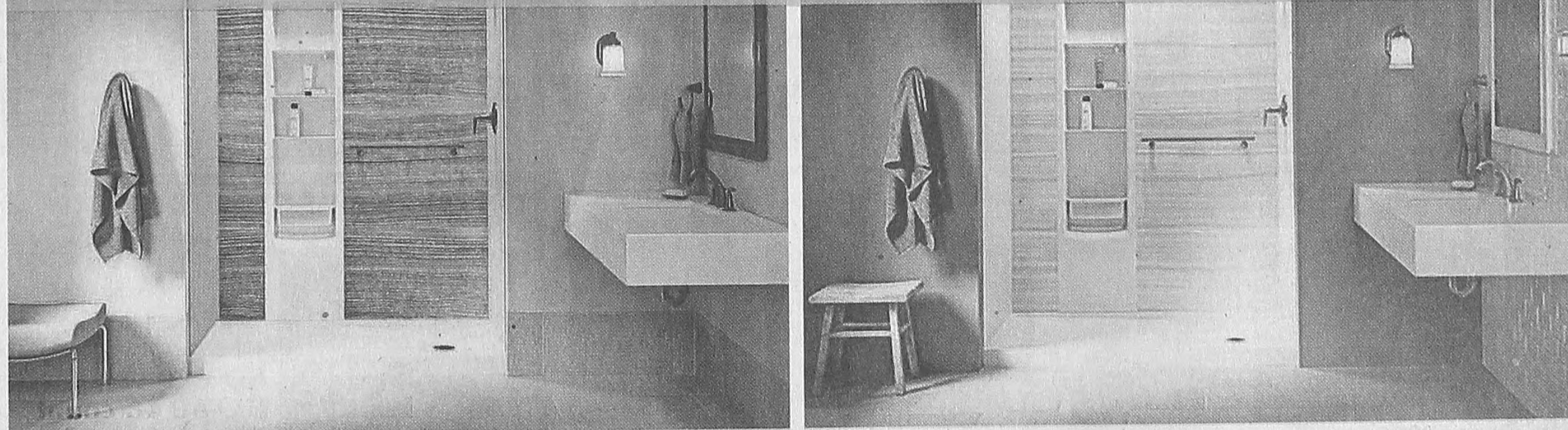
Founded in 2006, the Karen Colina Wilson Foundation is committed to making a difference in the lives of women and children and supports programs to enhance health, welfare, safety and well-being and development opportunities in education.

Sweet Dreamzzz will train teaching teams from Starfish Family Services of Plymouth on a two-week, in-school curriculum which focuses on developing healthy bedtime routines. Each student will receive a teddy bear to practice the steps with, like relaxing be-

fore bed, eating a healthy snack, brushing teeth and washing up and going to sleep at 8 p.m. The educators will receive classroom tools and reproducibles so they can continue to implement the program year after year. They will also be trained on the Sweet Dreamzzz Parent Sleep Education Workshop and will present the workshop to the parents.

Founded in 1998, Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc. of Livonia is a regional nonprofit organization committed to improving children's health, well-being, and academic performance by providing sleep education and bedtime essentials to economically disadvantaged students and their families. For more information, go to www.SweetDreamzzz.org.

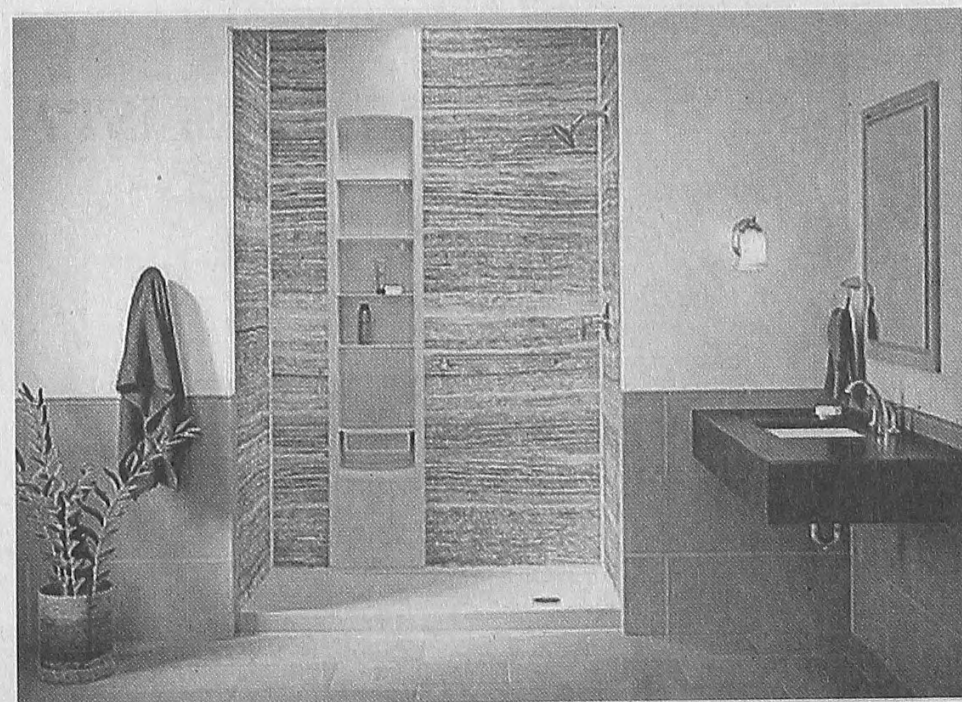
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Sports

BOYS GOLF

Clarkston captures county title

Seaholm finishes in second place in loaded field

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's safe to say the Oakland Activities Association Red Division is one of the state's top leagues for boys golf. That was proven again Wednesday at the annual Oakland County tournament.

The Red Division trio of Birmingham Seaholm (No. 2 state ranking in Division 1), Lake Orion (No. 3) and Clarkston (No. 4) swept the top three places at the county tourney, held at the Pontiac Country Club.

Clarkston captured top honors with a score of 297, the only squad in the 24-team field to break 300. Seaholm was

six strokes behind in with 303 and Lake Orion eight strokes back at 305.

Defending Oakland County champ Detroit Catholic Central (311) and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood (314), ranked No. 3 in Division 2, rounded out the top five.

"The OAA Red is a tough place to be, especially this year," said Pete Gallagher, in his 10th year as Clarkston's head coach. "I thought between 295 and 300 would win it and we were just about right there, halfway between that."

"In Oakland County golf, there are so many good teams. We've come in second a whole bunch and I'm not sure

See GOLF, Page 5B



The foursome of Henry Scavone, Jack Muir, Alex Acho and Hagen Cunningham led Seaholm to a second-place finish at the annual Oakland County tournament at the Pontiac Country Club. MARTY BUDNER

PREP TRACK

THE FINAL PASS

Former Blazers reunite in school's last home meet

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Although a bit faded, it was only appropriate that Katy Harley-Frederick broke out her original powder blue running singlet from her days as a member of Livonia Ladywood's track and field team.

It was not only nostalgic, but bitter-sweet for Harley-Frederick and several other Ladywood grads who took part Monday afternoon in an alumni meet with the 13 remaining members of the Blazers track program.

Ladywood, which will be closing its doors next month because of declining enrollment, is winding down a proud athletic past.

"I was super sad. I almost wanted to cry because I have so many good memories of Ladywood," said Harley-Frederick, a 1983 alum. "It was the best four years. I mean, I have a great life now, but it was a great place to be in high school."

When Harley-Frederick was on the Ladywood campus, the Blazers were a formidable group of runners, capturing the 1980 MHSAA Class B cross country state championship under coach Ray Prosser with names like Jennifer Rioux (Michigan/Wake Forest) Kelly Champagne (New Mexico) and Lisa Bagdady (University of Detroit Mercy).

In 1981, the Blazers also took runner-up honors in track and field in Class B. Back in those days, Ladywood didn't even have its own track. Practices were held out in the school parking lot.

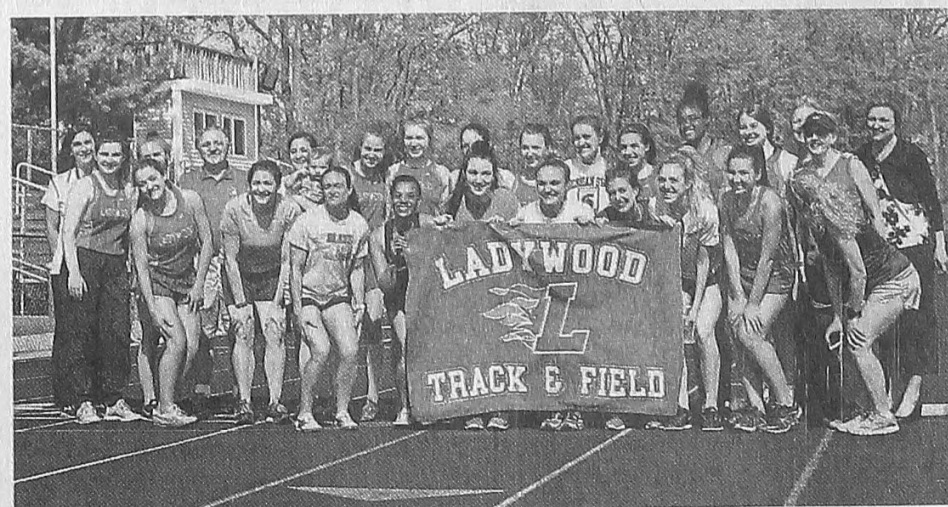
But with enrollment dropping 60 percent since 2005 and with only 169 students in grades 9-12, the Felician Sisters of North America decided to pull the plug on Ladywood last December. The announcement, which caught many off-guard, came from Sister M. Alfonsa Van Overberghe, chair of the school's board of trustees.

During the mid-'90s, Ladywood's track and field program thrived. Lindsay Parsell-Soter, a 1996 grad, and Nicole Clauson-Grant, a 1995 grad, were two of

See LADYWOOD, Page 4B



Nikki Horn-Bagdady ('89) chases her daughter Samantha Horn at the start of the 3,200-meter run. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Current and former Ladywood High School runners pose for a group photo. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

COLLEGE SIGNING

Seaholm's Mixon headed to DePauw

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

DePauw University took a special interest in Seaholm's Cooper Mixon and it's something he appreciated as much as a game-winning basket.

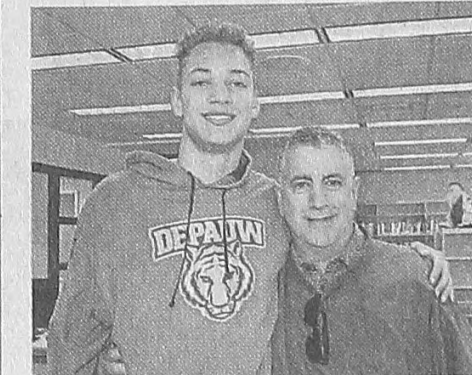
Tuesday afternoon inside the school's media center, Mixon signed his national letter of intent to play basketball at the Indiana school.

The 17-year-old Troy resident had considered Grand Valley State, Wayne State, Rochester (N.Y.) College and Denison (Ohio) University. Mixon made his decision to attend DePauw shortly after this season and said it was the school's persistence that ultimately won him over.

"DePauw really liked me. They were at at least five of my games," said Mixon, who had visited DePauw twice. "And it's 5½ hours away, so that just showed me they cared about me as a player and I appreciated that. The other schools were at some of my games, but they didn't show me as much love as DePauw did."

"They said I had a lot of potential and are really happy to add me to the team," he added. "They think I can make an impact right away."

See MIXON, Page 2B



Cooper Mixon (left) was a two-year varsity player for Seaholm basketball coach Mike DeGeeter. MARTY BUDNER

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COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Seaholm nine sign letters of intent

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The media center at Birmingham Seaholm was the scene of a college commitment celebration Tuesday afternoon.

Nine student-athletes signed national letters of intent and announced where they plan to attend college in front of a nice crowd of family, friends, a collection of school coaches and fellow students.

The 15-minute event was coordinated and presided over by longtime Seaholm athletic director Aaron Frank.

Following is a list of those who announced their college intentions:

Brennan Bull**Sport:** Tennis**College:** Rochester Institute of Technology**Athletic accomplishments:** Two-year captain; four-time regional team champion; two-year No. 1 singles player; two-year coach's award recipient; athletic director Sportsmanship Award recipient.

Quote: "I am proud and honored to have been a part of this team and of my accomplishments over the past four years, but even more excited for the opportunities and challenges that await me at Rochester Institute of Technology."

**Carson Claar****Sport:** Squash**College:** Bowdoin College**Athletic accomplishments:** Four-year varsity tennis player; No. 2 singles player as a senior; two-year varsity lacrosse player; highest squash ranking, No. 14 in country; played in more than 50 national tournaments; current skill ranking, 5.03 out of 5.5.

Quote: "What's squash? Give me five minutes and I'll explain it to you."

**Fotini Demetriou****Sport:** Soccer**College:** Oakland University**Athletic accomplishments:** Four-year varsity starter; all-district, all-league and scholar athlete (2015, 2016, ODP); 2017 ECNL national champion; Michigan Hawks captain.

Quote: "I am excited to be a part of an amazing program next year with exceptional staff and players. It's a place where I can grow and become better



A signing ceremony Tuesday inside the media center at Birmingham Seaholm involved nine student-athletes. MARTY BUDNER

person and student-athlete."

Nicholas Lang**Sport:** Football**College:** Kalamazoo College**Athletic accomplishments:** All-league (2017); team offensive player of the year, skill player of the year and receptions leader; three receiving touchdowns, one interception (2017); senior captain; three-year varsity player; team rookie of the year (2015); two-year varsity lacrosse letter winner.

Quote: "I had a one-on-one with (Kalamazoo) coach (Jamie) Zorbo and he just kind of laid out everything we would go through as a team and how they would help me academically, because it's a very good academically rigorous school and I was a little worried how I would balance that. But he gave me a very good explanation of how to balance that and that made me feel very comfortable. And I had an overnight with the team and I felt very comfortable. The team was very welcoming and they are very close. Those are the reasons why I chose Kalamazoo College. I feel like I am ready to play at the next level after playing the last three years at Seaholm. I have been playing against very good teams — Farmington Hills Harrison, Oak Park, teams that have a lot of D-I guys on it — and (Seaholm) coach (Jim) DeWald is a very good coach. He gets you ready for the next level and he just helped me a lot through this process. I feel very comfortable moving on."



captain, JV captain; all-state honorable mention (2017); two-time all-regional, all-conference and all-league; four-time scholar-athlete; three-time academic all-state; member of 2015 OAA Red Division championship team.

Quote: "I can't wait to take on the challenges ahead of me at Hope College, both academically and athletically. Go, Dutch!"

**Heather Meadows****Sport:** Track and field**College:** Grand Valley State University

Athletic accomplishments: Awarded more than 40 track and field medals; varsity captain (2018); team MVP (2016, 2017); coaches award (2017); broke school 100-meter hurdle record (2017); AAU Junior Olympics (2017); indoor track and field state meet (2015, 2016, 2017); heptathlon competitor (2017); scholar-athlete.

Quote: "I am extremely excited to attend Grand Valley State University. I feel it's the right place for me to take my academics and athletics to the next level."

**Cooper Mixon****Sport:** Basketball**College:** DePauw (Ind.) University

Athletic accomplishments: Oakland County scholar-athlete (2017, 2018); all-state honorable mention; all-conference nominee (2018); senior captain; Black Student Union; Moneyball AAU team member.

Quote: "I am looking forward to playing college basketball and being part of



the team at DePauw."

Henry Scavone**Sport:** Golf**College:** Carnegie Mellon (Pa.) University**Athletic accomplishments:** Four-year varsity player; two-year captain; all-state first team (2017); varsity MVP (2017); Detroit Free Press Boys Golf Player of the Year finalist (2018); top 10 state meet finish (2017); sportsmanship award (2016).

Quote: "I visited the campus and immediately fell in love with it. Loved it. I contacted the coach (Dan Rodgers) right away and we started to build a good relationship over the course of five or six months. And with how good their engineering program is and with my passion for math and science, it was just a perfect fit for me as far as education and golf combined. I committed in November (2017), just after Thanksgiving."

**Vaishnav Siddapureddy****Sport:** Football**College:** Pomona (Calif.) College**Athletic accomplishments:** Two-time Glen Goode Award winner for performance, leadership and academic excellence; first team academic all-state; OAA scholar-athlete; Maple of the Year award (2016); team captain (2017).

Quote: "I am so excited to get to Pomona and be able to continue my education and athletics at a top-notch college in beautiful southern California."



Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

HARRISON ATHLETES SIGN COLLEGE LETTERS



A trio of Farmington Harrison student-athletes took advantage of the recent spring signing period to announce their college intentions. They included (from left) Chris Rexroth (Hope College, football), Hailey Stewart (Saginaw Valley State University, swimming) and Drew Hinckley (Saginaw Valley State University, swimming).

Mixon

Continued from Page 1B

Merit scholarship winner

DePauw has a national reputation as a liberal arts college with a top-notch business school and that played a factor, since Mixon plans to major either in business or psychology.

Mixon owns a 3.80 grade-point average and has been an Oakland County scholar-athlete the past two years. He has earned a full merit scholarship to DePauw as a Rector Scholar Recipient.

Veteran Seaholm head coach Mike DeGeeter was in attendance at Tuesday's signing and is happy to see his oft-injured guard get the opportunity to play next-level basketball.

"Cooper's good academically too," DeGeeter said. "He's not just a one-trick pony. DePauw has a program he wants to get into."

Mixon's main attribute, according to DeGeeter, is his dedication to the game.

"He is the consummate gym rat and a basketball player," DeGeeter said. "He plays over 70 games a summer with AAU (Moneyball) and he's in the gym all the time. He's a great defender and great 3-point shooter."

"Cooper was primarily a scorer when he got to varsity, but his defense and rebounding have improved immeasurably," he added. "He's been injured a lot and that's what kept him from being really all he wanted to be."

Mixon played two years of varsity basketball at Seaholm, averaging 19 points in 16 games this past season.

He scored a season-high 34 points

in an early-season battle against Farmington Harrison, connecting on a last-second baseline jumper to lift Seaholm to a thrilling 59-57 victory, which proved one of his career highlights.

Seaholm's senior captain was a Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan honorable mention player and an all-conference nominee this past season. The Maples finished with nine wins in each of the past two seasons.

Fulfilling a dream

The 6-foot-6 Mixon knows he will have to raise his level of play at DePauw, which has one of the most successful Division III programs in the country. The Tigers have had 29 winning seasons over the last 32 years, with a 321-69 record on their home court at Neal Fieldhouse since its opening in 1982.

DePauw is a member of the 10-team North Coast Athletic Conference, which includes teams from Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"They like my length and how I'm versatile and that I can guard a lot of positions," Mixon said. "I think I'm a good scorer and I can score on most defenders. I think I can really excel as a (college) player and become the player I always wanted to be — as good as I can be."

"It's been my dream ever since I was a little kid to play college basketball. It takes dedication. You can't take days off and you really have to know what you're doing."

"I had fun while playing at Seaholm, but now I get to move on to the next chapter," he added. "This is really exciting."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

BOYS LACROSSE

Detroit CC captures school's first crown

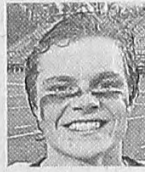
Pattinson's five goals fuels 11-8 victory in Catholic League final

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Birmingham Brother Rice had history on its side, but Detroit Catholic Central decided to make history of its own May 12 by winning its first-ever Catholic League boys lacrosse championship.

Thanks to Ethan Pattinson's five goals, the Shamrocks ended Rice's 13-year league title run with an 11-8 victory at Fr. Richard Elmer Stadium.

Rice, the 13-time defending MHSAA Division 1 champion, came into the match having won 18 of 19 Catholic League titles.



But the Shamrocks, who won earlier this season at Rice, 10-9 in overtime — their first victory over the Warriors since 1992 — made it two in a row against their vaunted rival by outscoring the Warriors 3-0 in the decisive fourth quarter to break an 8-8 deadlock.

"That was my high for the year," said Pattinson, a midfielder who also chipped in two assists. "Honestly, it was the chemistry. All week in practice, we've been harping on moving of the ball, playing with intensity and we really brought it. This team is something special and we promise we'll be there again."

Pattinson scored two unassisted goals in the fourth quarter and Joey Kamish had the other to help seal the victory as CC improved to 13-2 overall.

"It was knotted up for a fair portion of the game," CC coach Dave Wilson said. "We caught a couple breaks and we helped ourselves a little bit. It was a couple of gut checks with guys that were just absolutely putting the hammer down and going to the next level, which we train for. This is what we train for."

Senior Peter Thompson added three goals, while Ryan Birney scored the other two for CC.

"Everyone's heads were in it," said Pattinson, who will play next year at NCAA Division I Bellarmine (Ky.) University. We always talk about don't be individuals, be a whole team, a whole unit and that's how you get the win."

But it was definitely Pattinson's finest hour as a Shamrock.

"He just goes, he understands," Wilson said. "Sometimes your team needs you to do special things without becoming the entire team, as a person of one or heroic effort, but he makes the shots count and makes me look good, doesn't he?"

It was 2-2 after one quarter and Rice seized momentum going into the half, taking a 5-3 lead with just 19 seconds left on an unassisted goal by Mike Cosgrove. But CC countered with only one second remaining to cut the deficit to



Catholic Central players and staff celebrate their first league boys lacrosse title in school history.



Bloody knee and all, CC's Ryan Sullivan looks for an opening. DAVE DONOHER

one on Birney's goal from Kamish.

"That hurt us and definitely took some steam out," Rice coach Ajay Chawla said. "But those things happen. It's the game. It happens our way sometimes and it happened their way today."

CC outscored the Warriors 4-3 in the third quarter to pull even at 8-8 and then sophomore goalie Jakob Hemme blanked Rice over the final quarter.

"He got the last three or four, just little bits and pieces of them, but they all count," Wilson said of his goalie.

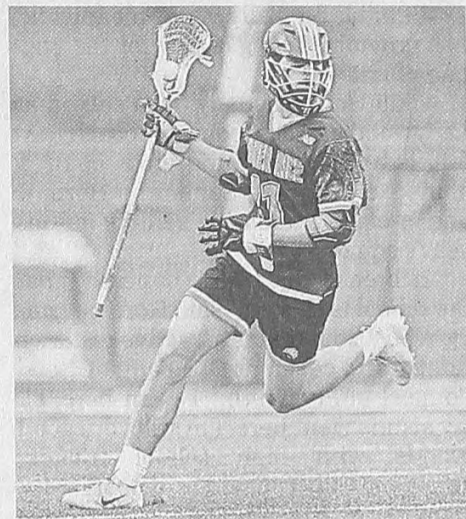
Rice (8-7) got two goals apiece from D.J. Dixon and Cosgrove, while Charlie Comer, Jordan Hyde, Dylan Braddock and Justin Glod each added one.

"They got a couple of calls and every call cost us," Chawla said of the final quarter. "If you go back and watch the tape you're going to see that ... it is what it is. I thought from the standpoint from player to player, it's a pretty even matchup. We lost it today."

CC's only two losses this season are to out-of-state schools Culver (Ind.) Academy, 15-8, and Dublin (Ohio) Coffman, 15-10.

Rice, meanwhile, came into the 2018 season having lost to only one Michigan school in 13 years, but now has suffered three setbacks to in-state schools: Catholic Central twice and Division 2 power Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central (12-5), which is 13-0 overall.

"Like I said, we're young, we're going up, we're learning on the fly," Chawla said. "I told them the other day that everybody else that's come through this program has had some seniors to rely on, some guys that they could look to on the offensive side of the ball and we don't. So these guys are learning on the go. And they just don't get to sit back and be the role player one year. They're 14-, 15- and 16-year-old kids and it's just a tremendous amount of pressure for them."



Brother Rice's Mike Cosgrove looks for an avenue against Catholic Central's defense. DAVE DONOHER

The Warriors defeated CC in last year's state final, 9-8, and the two teams are in opposite brackets once again for the upcoming state tourney. Rice is the top seed in Division 1 Region 6, while CC is the top seed in Division 1 Region 4.

"I think this good and I think they're going to bounce back," Chawla said of his squad. "And listen, CC is going to have to figure out how hard it is to beat somebody three times in a year in the state championship. It's not easy."

But beating Rice for a second time proved to be special — and then some — after a long drought.

"We've never won a Catholic League championship. It's the first year and the feeling is amazing," Pattinson said.

And Wilson also echoed his senior midfielder's sentiments.

"I'll say this, any day you beat Rice is a good day and every day is a great day to be a Shamrock," he said.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

PREP ROUNDUP

Seaholm sweeps softball twinbill from Marian

Softball

SEAHOLM 11-15, MARIAN 1-0: Seaholm swept this non-league doubleheader Wednesday in Birmingham. In the first game, Kate Bridges was 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and Bryn Longe was 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Erika MacArthur improved her record to 9-3 by picking up the win. In the nightcap, Abby Righter (three innings, seven strikeouts) and Kayla Eshaki combined to hurl a no-hitter. Reagan Hurd was the offensive star with a 4-for-4 performance with three doubles, four runs scored and three RBIs. Kelly DeClark had two RBIs for Seaholm which lifted its record to 14-7 overall.

GROVES 12-12, NOTRE DAME PREP 1-5: Groves scored a dozen runs in each game and swept Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in this non-league twinbill Wednesday. Freshman Bella Caza smacked a three-run home run in the first game. In the second game, the Falcons produced five runs in both the second and fifth innings. Rachel Miller went five innings and picked up the win in the second game. Jenna Ringler and Caza both had three hits. Groves hiked its record to 19-6 (overall) and 12-0 (OAA Blue).

MERCY 6, DIVINE CHILD 3: Mercy doubled-up Divine Child in this Catholic League semifinal playoff game Wednes-

day in Dearborn. The Marlins scored the first six runs before the Falcons broke the shutout bid with three seventh-inning runs. Anna Dixon and Samantha Shea both pounded out two hits to lead the offense. Libby Chevalier, Maggie Murphy, Grace Nieto and Sarah Cassidy accounted for the other four Marlins hits. Mercy (12-9 overall, 8-6 league) now faces Warren Regina at 6 p.m. Monday, May 21, at the University of Detroit-Mercy in a rematch of last year's Catholic League championship game. Regina is the defending league champ.

GROVES 17-11, WEST BLOOMFIELD 6-10: Groves and West Bloomfield combined for 44 runs in this OAA Blue Division doubleheader Tuesday. Junior Claire Higley was 5-for-5 in the first game while Halle Randolph, Rachel Miller, Jenna Ringler, Hannah Cherrin and Balla Caza all had multiple hits. Groves had a much tougher time in the second game, winning by a run in eight innings with a dramatic comeback. Losing by a run entering their last at-bat, the Falcons won on a two-run double by Cherrin, a junior, in the bottom of the eighth. Randolph and Caza each reached base before her with singles. Taegen Lemberg led the attack with a four hits and three RBIs.

Baseball

GROVES 11, NORTH FARMINGTON 3: After falling 5-2 to North Farmington on Monday, the Falcons rebounded nicely for the eight-run victory. Groves showed a balanced attack as 12 different players accounted for the team's 14 total hits. George Cutler (2-for-3, double, walk) and Chaise Ford (2-for-3, double, two runs scored) paced the offense. Ryan Laub hurled the first five innings and allowed seven hits to pick up the win. Tyler Newett pitched the last two innings. For North Farmington, Blake Maddalena was 3-for-4 with a run scored.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN 5, ROEPER 2: Southfield Christian clinched the MIAC Red Division title with this road victory Monday. The Eagles broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run fifth inning and never lost the lead. Junior pitcher Zach Johnson earned the win as he scattered three hits and did not allow an earned run in striking out 11. Junior Matthew Guerra pitched the final two innings. Southfield Christian is 9-4 overall and finished with a 5-1 conference record.

Girls lacrosse

MARIAN 16, BIRMINGHAM UNITED 12: In this non-league match-up Tuesday, Marian defeated host United

by four goals. The Mustangs were led by a strong second half from Mia Hannawa.

MARIAN 20, LADYWOOD 1: Host Marian received strong efforts from sophomores Tessy Klein and Faith Giltner in this Catholic League victory over Ladywood.

Girls soccer

GROVES 1, FARMINGTON 1: Both teams had chances in a scoreless first half. Host Groves broke through first when Kristen Harvey found the back of the net on a perfect feed from Claire Brady. A few minutes later, Farmington's Erin Abramczyk scored the game-tying goal off a rebound. Groves went to 9-3-2 overall.

SEAHOLM 3, CLARKSTON 0: In this OAA crossover game Monday, Hannah Stone, Natalie Erne and Zoe Gaffney accounted for the Maples' goals. Olivia Graham had two assists, while Fotini Demetriou added the other. Goalie Jillian Shefferly registered the two-save win.

FARMINGTON 3, AVONDALE 1: On May 10, Casey Borden, who leads the Falcons with eight goals, scored twice and Kara Linn added the other. Marlee Pope finished with two assists for Farmington.

Ladywood

Continued from Page 1B

the team's sprint standouts who remain on the school's record board in two different relay events.

And they didn't want to miss out on the final opportunity to suit up and run during the alumni meet.

"I'm just glad we were able to come back on the track and do stuff," said Parsell-Soter, who remains an active runner at age 40 and was a Boston Marathon qualifier. "Sports were more important here than anything, I think, for us, with all the friendships and everything. It's sad to see it close, but it's OK, things happen. I'm just glad we were able to come back and do this one more time."

Grant-Clauson said she hadn't run in four years, but wasn't about to miss the opportunity to churn her legs one more time.

"I thought it would stay open forever," she said. "They have 13 kids; we had over 100 (track athletes). It's a big shocker, but I'm glad that they invited us for the last go-around. The whole team isn't here with us, we miss them."

Running for Ladywood, meanwhile, has provided a long legacy for the Bagdady family.

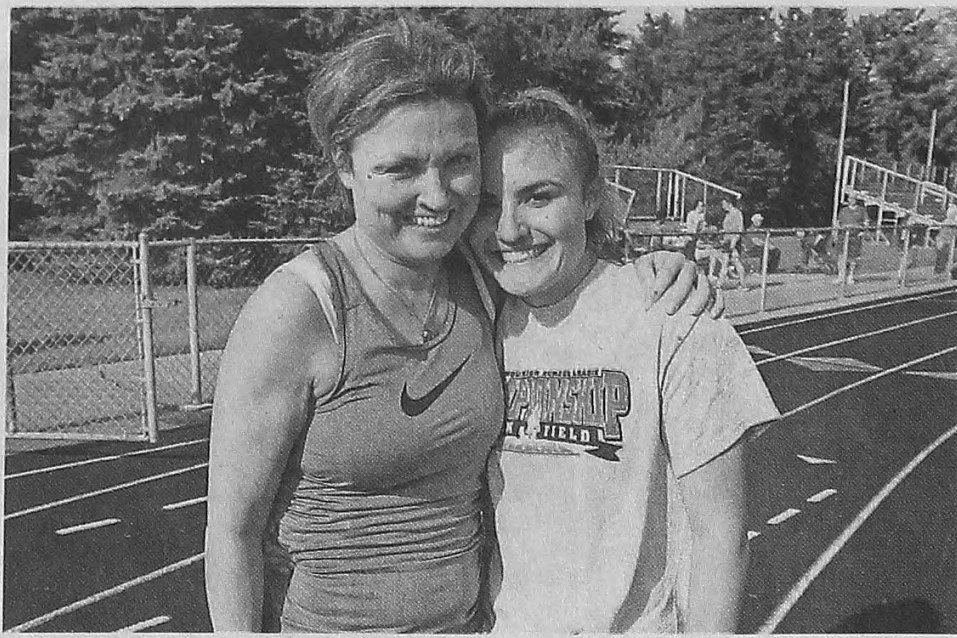
Nikki Horn-Bagdady, who served as Ladywood's cross country coach last fall, is a 1989 track and cross country alum. He daughter, Samantha Horn, is one of eight graduating seniors on this year's squad.

"It breaks my heart, honestly, that the school is closing," said Horn-Bagdady, who also remains an active distance runner and coach at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. "I went here, all my sisters went here, I'm still very good friends with high school friends. They're still my core group of people. My daughter is a senior here and I have twins who in seventh grade that I was hoping to send here, that wanted to go here, so it's really disappointing is all I can say."

Samantha Horn had hoped her younger sisters would also be part of the Bagdady legacy, too.

"I was excited for them to come here, but I'm sad that they can't go now," she said. "When I grow up, I wanted my daughters to go here."

Meanwhile, the dwindling school en-



Angela Hill-Dugas ('85) poses with her daughter Allyson Hill, a 2017 graduate of Ladywood. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

rollment numbers affected the track program. This year's squad consists of only eight seniors, three juniors and two sophomores. There are no ninth-graders.

"It's definitely taken a little bit of a toll, because we don't have enough people fill all the events," Samantha Horn said. "It would have been better if it were bigger, but we're close and it's all good."

With the season winding down, Ladywood has only two remaining meets scheduled: the MHSAA Division 3 regional this Friday at Whitmore Lake, followed by the Catholic League C-D Division meet Wednesday, May 23, at Macomb Lutheran North.

The Division 3 state finals are Saturday, June 2, at Comstock Park.

"We've just been trying to make the most of it and have been having fun," first-year Ladywood coach Dawn Conn said. "And the girls all have some personal records that they want to beat because we've working on trying to beat those records. We just want them to do the best they can."

"We try to keep our practices pretty positive and really don't dwell on (the school closing). All the girls on my team know where they're going next year."

Five Ladywood track and field underclassmen will be affected by the school closing, including junior Megan Rooney, who competes in the high jump, along with the 3,200- and 1,600-meter relays.

Megan's older sister Katie was a 2010 Ladywood grad who went on to play NCAA Division I volleyball at Lafayette (Pa.) College.

"It was pretty hard because my sister (Katie) went to school here, so I grew up watching Ladywood games and stuff like that," Megan Rooney said. "It was very hard. I remember just everyone during class the next day was crying, we were crying all day. It was hard."

Rooney plans to transfer to Father Gabriel Richard in Ann Arbor for her senior year.

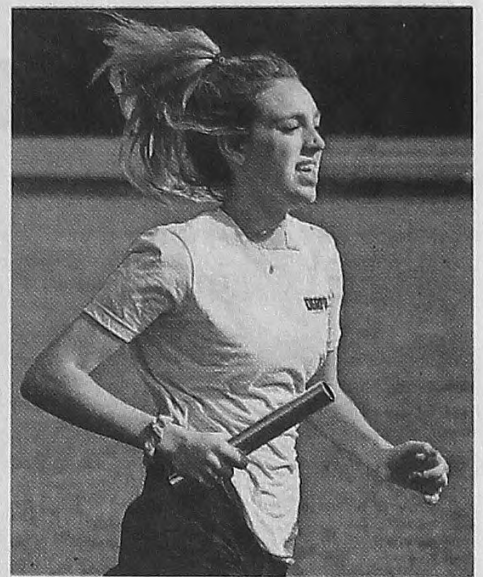
"I think change can sometimes can be good and at least for the better, so ..." Megan said. "It's hard having a small team, but there's a lot of benefits from it. We're very close, we're like sisters. Pretty much everyone at Ladywood are sisters."

Dana Santilli, a 2017 Ladywood grad now attending Xavier University, also made it back for the reunion.

"I'm definitely sad that Ladywood is closing, because I love Ladywood," she said. "It's really nice to see everyone, because we all went to different colleges, so it's like catching up with everyone. And when we came back, it was like we never left."

Santilli was among a graduating class of 70 in 2017, but this year's graduating class is around 50.

"We were all so sad, because it was such a big part of our lives," she said.



Current and former Ladywood High School runners competed in a special track meet that invited alumnae back to the track one last time before the school closes at the end of the school year. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's such a small school, but it's just sad itself that Ladywood is done. I loved doing track and cross country here. It emotionally built me up and that's what I love about track and cross country."

Some of the track alumni wonder what will become of the Ladywood campus.

"I'm hoping it will still be a school of some kind, but I don't know," Nikki Horn said. "I know there's a grass roots effort to keep it open. I'm hoping that it will still come to fruition, but if doesn't come through then ... I don't know. It's hard to say. I wish I had some amazing answer for you. I hope it's still a school and I hope it's Ladywood. I'm not completely giving up hope yet."

Harley-Frederick, who lives in Livonia, has stayed connected over the years with Ladywood, volunteering her time at the school's auctions. But she is starting to come to terms that the all-girls Catholic school, which opened in 1950, will be no more after 68 years.

"I think private education is very expensive ... I really don't know," Harley-Frederick said. "It just makes me sad it's not a priority. But as long as they don't demolish it, I'll be happy."

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmonsL.

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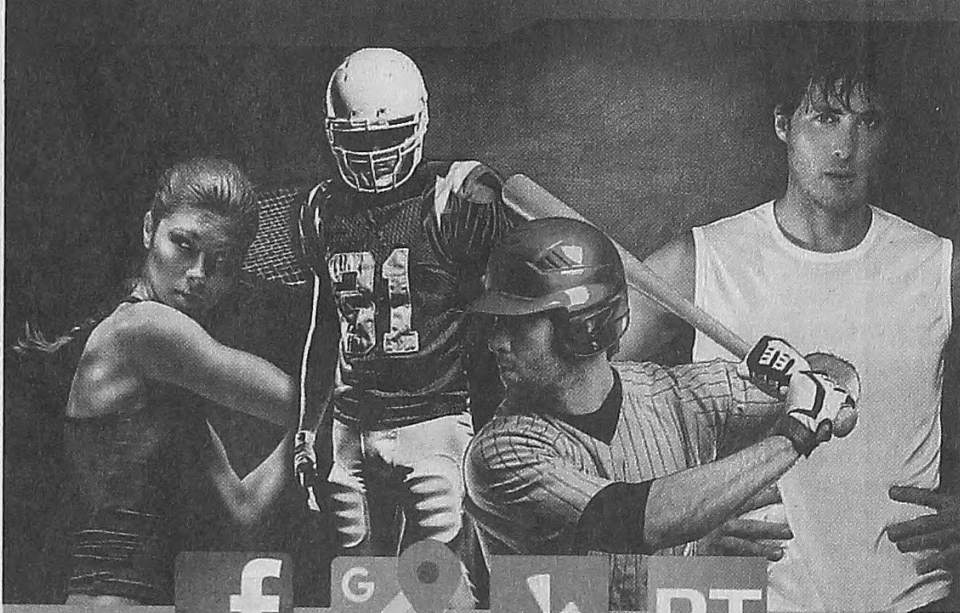
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Golf

Continued from Page 1B

when Clarkston won it last. I believe it was in the '90s. It's a pretty big accomplishment for the team.

"But I thought we had a chance to win it coming in. We're as good as any team out there," he added. "It's just so difficult with teams like Seaholm and Lake Orion. Everyone is filled with great players."

Seaholm head coach Matt Pesta said the county meet compares to the state meet.

"In a lot of ways, the Oakland County tournament is as big as states as far as how many good teams are there," Pesta said. "It's amazing how tough (the OAA Red Division) is with all those other teams being really strong."

"It was a great showing for our boys. I think, perhaps, we left a couple of strokes out on the course and I think they'll be thinking about that," he added. "But finishing second in the Oakland County tournament is really good."

Course experience helps

The Wolves, third in their league behind the Maples and Dragons, were led at the county tournament by junior Patrick Deardorff, who carded a 2-under round of 70. Deardorff finished the second overall after carding five birdies on the 6,360-yard layout.

Junior teammate Harry Bowman shot an even-par 72 and tied Catholic Central senior Brendan Britz for fourth place. Clarkston's other scorers were sophomore Cole Smaka (75) and junior Noah Bridgeman (80).

"Our boys have had a lot of experience on this golf course, playing junior tournaments here," Gallagher said. "Harry finished in the top five last year as an individual and Patrick is an awesome player. So these kids have played this course a lot and it really showed today."

"These kids are range rats, they love to play golf, they are committed to it and hard work pays off. It's a testament to these kids and their work ethic."

"We're young. We only have one senior and everybody who was in the top five today at all underclassmen," he added. "It's a deep field and these kids play hard."

Cunningham paces Maples

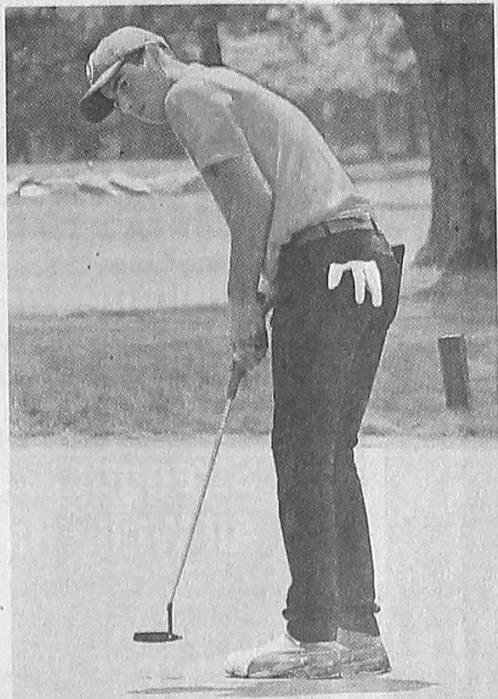
Seaholm senior Hagen Cunningham shot a 1-over 73 and tied for sixth overall with Everest Collegiate junior Mitch Lowney. Cunningham's round included three birdies, four bogeys and 11 pars.

"Hagen has been a really good ball striker for us all year and maybe a little unlucky with the putter," Pesta said. "But he hits it as good as anybody, so it's no surprise to see him put up a score like that."

Maples senior Henry Scavone, who is having a standout season, shot a 2-over 74 and tied for eighth



The top finishers at Wednesday's Oakland County golf tournament were (standing, from left) Patrick Deardorff (Clarkston), T.J. Hirschfield (Lake Orion), Brendan Britz (Catholic Central), Alex Gold (Bloomfield Hills), Henry Scavone (Seaholm), Hagen Cunningham (Seaholm) and Matt Lowney (Everest Collegiate) and (kneeling, from left) Jake Radom (Berkley, match medalist), Harry Bowman (Clarkston) and Ryan Pinho (Novi). MARTY BUDNER



Freshman Sam Yono shot 83 to help lift Brother Rice to a 10th-place finish at Wednesday's Oakland County golf tournament. MARTY BUDNER

third in the 120-golfer field.

The remaining teams from the hometownlife.com area were Bloomfield Hills (sixth at 316), Farmington (ninth at 321), Brother Rice (10th at 323), Novi (13th at 328), Birmingham Groves (14th at 332), South Lyon East (tied for 18th at 340) and Detroit Country Day (20th at 343).

Other area golfers to shoot under 80 were Farmington senior Jackson Tellerico (75), Catholic Central senior Andrew Lack (75), Cranbrook Kingswood senior Zach Felsenfeld (76), South Lyon East senior A.J. Clark (76), Cranbrook Kingswood senior Josh Anderson (78), Groves senior Brett Dudeck (78), Novi junior Niko Hatz (79), Brother Rice senior Ryan Deters (79) and Bloomfield Hills senior Braedon Creal (79).

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.



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with Brother Rice senior Brendan O'Rourke, Bloomfield Hills junior Alex Gold and Novi junior Ryan Pinho.

The other Seaholm scorers were seniors Jack Muir (76) and Alex Acho (80).

Berkley senior Jake Radom was the only golfer to shoot a sub-70 round, finishing with a 4-under 68 to earn medalist honors. Deardorff was second and Lake Orion senior T.J. Hirschfield shot a 1-under 71 to place

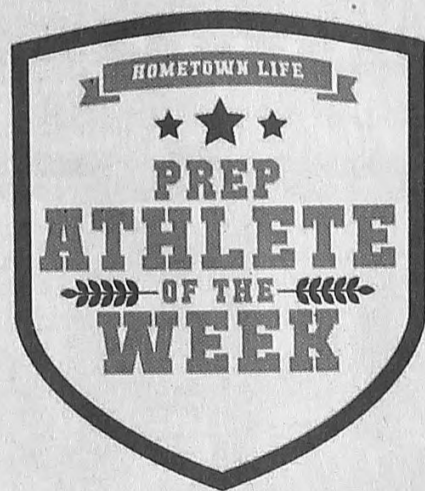
PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



BEN BARTON

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TRACK & FIELD
BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM MAPLES

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Like a true track star, Ben Barton's finish was tremendous.

Barton started slowly in this week's hometownlife.com Prep Athlete of the Week race, trailing by hundreds of votes two-thirds of the way through the polling period. However, thanks to a big push from his team and classmates, Barton won the six-person competition with an excellent stretch drive.

The Birmingham Seaholm senior captured 42.02 percent of the 10,655 votes cast, winning with 4,477 votes.

Detroit Catholic Central senior lacrosse standout Ethan Pattinson, the early leader, finished second with 3,044 votes. Westland John Glenn track star Alona Olshevska was third (1,660 votes) while Lakeland's Trent Farquhar put on a late push to finish fourth (1,037 votes).

"I saw (the poll information) on Twitter and one of my friends texted it to me, too," Barton said. "Then someone put it in the class group chat and there was a lot of voting through there. I think it's pretty cool that people are noticing the accomplishments that I've had."

WHAT HE DID: Barton earned the Athlete of the Week nomination with a sizzling performance at the recent OAA Blue Division track meet, where the Maples captured top honors for the second straight season.

The Bloomfield Township resident won the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 6 1/4 inches, which broke a school record. He also won the

110-meter hurdles (15.24), the 300-meter hurdles (39.38) and anchored the winning 1,600-meter relay team (3:29.44).

Barton, 18, said it was his best overall combined meet.

"I think it was more of a team effort. We had a lot of events where we did well at the league meet," said Barton, who plans to attend Brigham Young University next fall. "Everyone did their jobs and we won. We were really hoping to come back this year and repeat as league champs and we did that."

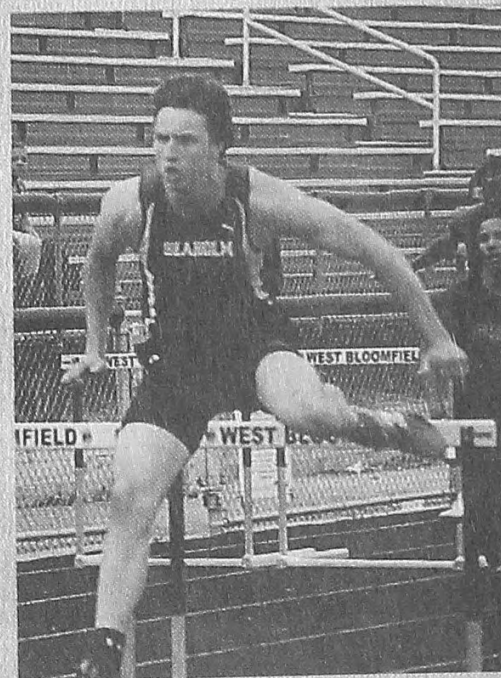
"For that meet, I was put in my best four events and coach was hoping I would win those, because we don't usually get a lot of points in those events," he added. "I was looking at the seedings in those events and I knew it was possible that I could win them and it all worked out."

Besides the high jump record, Barton owns both of Seaholm's hurdle records — 14.93 in the 110 highs (set earlier this year in a meet against Farmington Harrison) and 39.33 in the 300 intermediates (set at last year's Oakland County meet).

Barton, a four-year varsity veteran, hopes to

qualify for the upcoming Division 1 state meet in all four of his primary events. He placed second in the high jump and eighth in the 300-meter hurdles at last year's state meet to earn all-state honors.

"I still think there's a lot of improvement for me yet. I still think I can do a lot better in high jump and 300 hurdles," he said. "But it's been a pretty good season. I'm in a good position for the regional meet and, if I keep improving, I think I can do pretty well at states."

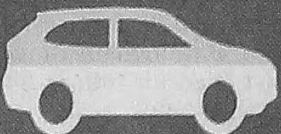


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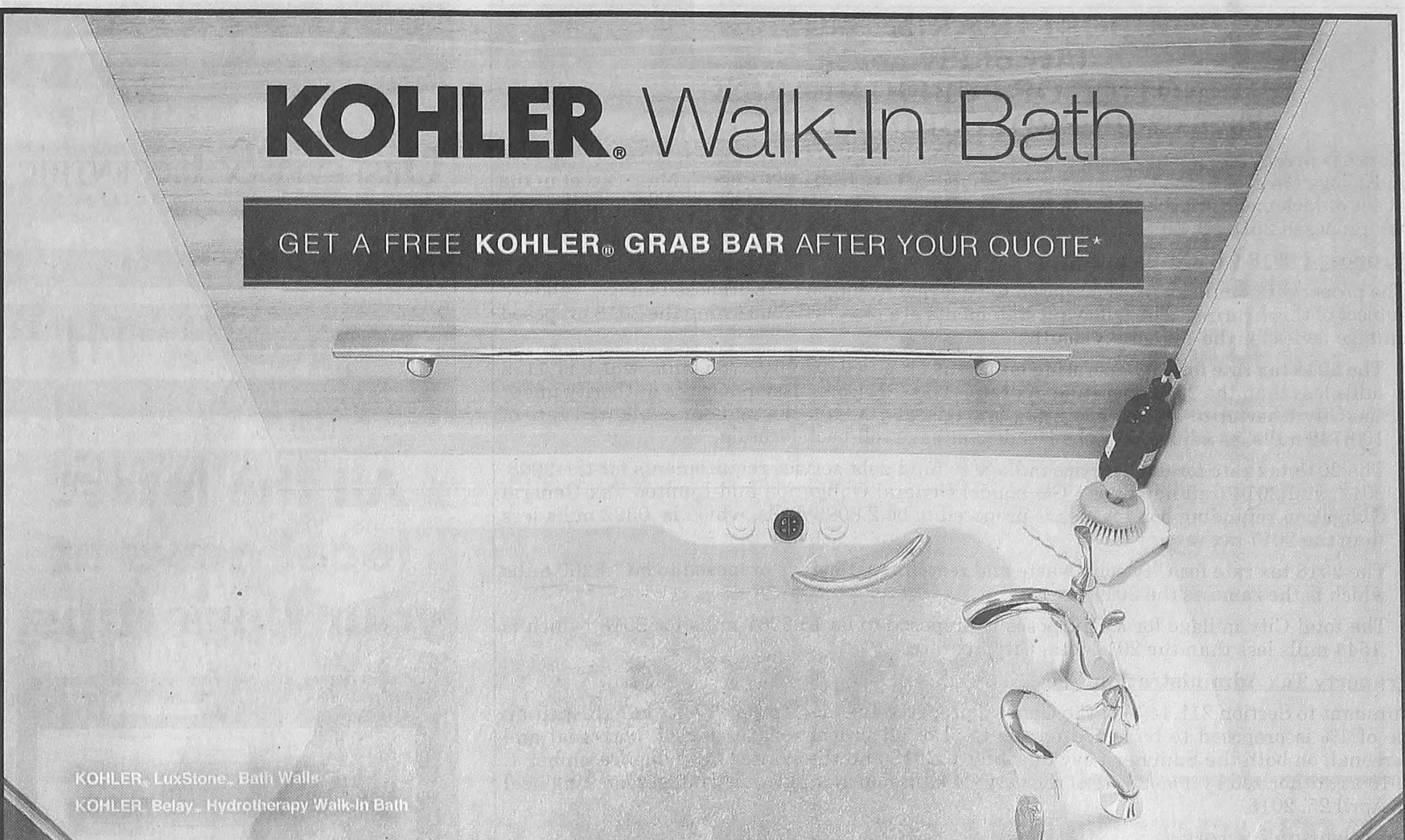
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BUDGET HEARING NOTICE City of Plymouth NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2018 - 2019 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. in Kellogg Park, or in the Commission Chambers of City Hall at 201 South Main Street in the event of inclement weather, for the purpose of discussing and receiving public comments on the proposed 2018 - 2019 City Budget.

Proposed 2018 City Millage Rates

The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The following statements are provided concerning the 2018 proposed millage levies for the City of Plymouth:

- The 2018 tax rate for City operating millage is proposed to be 10.8785 mills, which is .1152 mills less than the 2017 operating tax rate. The City Commission has the authority under the City Charter to set the operating millage rate, within the maximum allowed rate of 10.8785 mills, as adjusted by the Headlee millage roll-back formula.
- The 2018 tax rate for debt service millage to fund debt service requirements for the 2008, 2012, and 2014 (refunded 2004 GO bonds) General Obligation and Limited Tax General Obligation refunding bond issues is proposed to be 2.8096 mills, which is .0392 mills less than the 2017 tax rate.
- The 2018 tax rate for City solid waste and recycling millage is proposed to be 1.8200 mills which is the same as the 2017 tax rate.
- The total City millage for all purposes is proposed to be 15.5081 mills for 2018, which is .1544 mills less than the 2017 total City tax rate.

Property Tax Administration Fee

Pursuant to Section 211.44(3) of the General property Tax law a property tax administration fee of 1% is proposed to be levied on the total of all property taxes levied, both real and personal, on both the Summer Levy due July 1, 2018 and the Winter Levy due December 1, 2018 as authorized by a 5 - 2 vote of the City Commission at a scheduled budget meeting held on April 25, 2016.

Equalization Factors

Wayne County established tentative 2018 equalization factors of 1.0269 for the residential class of property, 1.0480 for the commercial class of property and 1.0219 for the industrial class of property. Since the City has adjusted assessments for all property classes for 2018 by the proposed factors, all 2018 equalization factors will be set at 1.0000.

2018 - 2019 Proposed City Budgets

The budgets for the various funds of the City of Plymouth are proposed for 2018 - 2019 as follows:

<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
GENERAL FUND			
Property taxes	\$5,856,890	Administration	\$1,934,210
Licenses & Permits	5,100	Buildings & Grounds	169,690
Federal Grants	30,560	Police Department	3,682,970
State-shared Revenue	902,810	Fire Department	1,029,150
Sales of Service	766,050	Public Works Dept	744,640
Cemetery Revenue	152,500	Other Functions	293,250
Parking Revenue	88,200	Capital Outlay	167,590
Other Revenue	713,780	Debt Service	-0-
Transfers-In	1,000	Transfers-Out	495,390
REVENUE TOTAL	\$8,516,890	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$8,516,890
MAJOR STREET FUND			
Gas & Weight Tax	\$565,380		
Contrib & Other	342,790		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$908,170	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$908,170
LOCAL STREET FUND			
Gas & Weight Tax	\$211,010		
Contrib & Other	346,460		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$557,470	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$557,470
RECREATION FUND			
Contrib. From G/F	\$200,000		
Prog. Fees & Other	947,810		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$1,147,810	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$1,147,810
WASTE & RECYCLING FUND			
Property Taxes	\$919,080		
Sales of Service & Other	431,550		
REVENUE TOTAL	\$1,350,630	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$1,350,630

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
-----------------	---------------------

OTHER CITY FUNDS

Budget Stabilization Fund	\$-0-	\$-0-
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$16,000	\$16,000
Parking Fund	\$175,010	\$175,010
Brownfield Re-Development Authority Fund	\$32,330	\$32,330
DDA Operating Fund	\$1,226,170	\$1,226,170
Building Fund	\$556,250	\$556,250
Neighborhood Services Fund	\$93,930	\$93,930
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$2,810	\$2,810
OWI Forfeiture Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000
Omnibus Forfeiture Fund	\$1,800	\$1,800
2008 GO Debt Fund	\$447,260	\$447,260
2012 GO Bond & 2002 Refunding Bond Debt Fund	\$357,470	\$357,470
2012 W/S Refunding Bond Debt Fund	\$246,350	\$246,350
2014 GO/2004 Refunding Bond Debt Fund	\$642,540	\$642,540
2015 LTGO Cap Imp Bond Debt Fund - DDA	\$236,160	\$236,160
2015 LTGO Cap Imp Bond Debt Fund - W/S	\$248,640	\$248,640
Public Improvement Fund	\$50	\$50
Recreation Capital Improvement Fund	\$4,050	\$4,050
2015 LTGO Cap Imp Bond Construction Fund - DDA	\$-0-	\$-0-
DDA Capital Improvement Fund	\$150,050	\$150,050
Water / Sewer Capital Improvement Fund	\$405,000	\$405,000
Water / Sewer Operating & Maintenance Fund	\$5,148,325	\$5,148,325
Brownfield Site Remediation Fund	\$50	\$50
Equipment Fund	\$777,670	\$777,670

Transfers Between Appropriations

As provided in State law, the general appropriations resolution is proposed to allow the City Manager to transfer up to ten percent (10 %) of each appropriation to any other appropriation within each fund, but not from Reserve Accounts nor between funds.

Copies of Proposed Budget Available

A complete copy of the 2018 - 2019 City Budget is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office during regular business hours and also at the Plymouth District Library during its regular hours of operation.

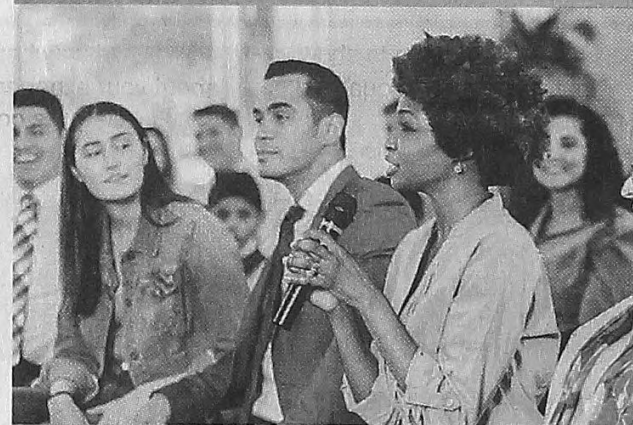
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BY KATE LOPAZE
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

Job gaps happen, because life happens. Maybe you've gotten laid off (or even fired). Maybe you took some time off from working to attend to personal matters, like a health issue, or caring for a child or family member. Our careers aren't always constant, linear paths. But fair or not, having gaps can put you at a disadvantage when compared with other candidates who have been working constantly in the field, picking up steady experience and progressing through the ranks.

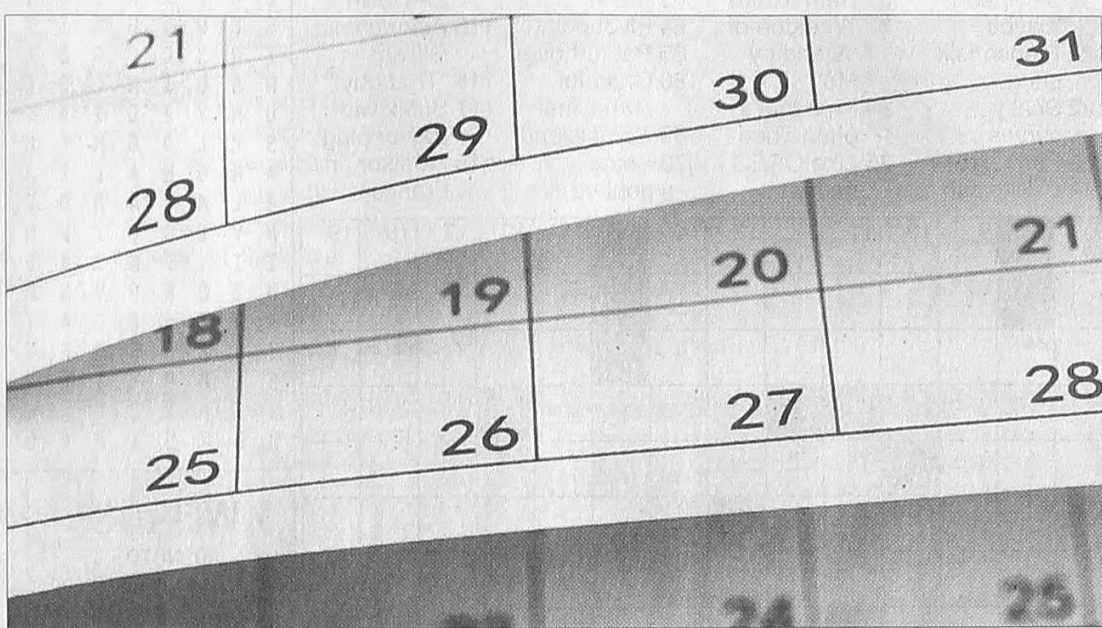
Let's explore how to maximize your resume to show that you're just as qualified, gaps and all:

Should you mention it?

If the gap happened in the past, and you're currently (or recently) employed, then you don't need to talk about your gap at all unless asked. Don't jump the gun just because you're anxious about it — your interviewer might not even bring it up.

Be honest

A few fake dates may go unnoticed by the resume reader. But they might not. And if your hiring process involves a background check, or you



GETTY IMAGES

get tripped up when talking about your experience at a job interview, it's going to be an embarrassing (and likely costly) mistake. If you've been out of the workforce for two years, acknowledge that fact, potentially in your cover letter, emphasizing that you're ready to jump back in.

If an interviewer asks you why you left your last job and you were laid off, it's OK to admit that. People get the downsizing factor — it happens to most people at some point. But again: Emphasize that your skills and experience have grown and that you're excited about this new opportunity.

Be careful of the kind of information you reveal about your gap

This applies especially if you took time off to have a child or had a medical issue in the past. Interviewers aren't allowed to discriminate against you on the basis of family status or physical disability, which means they can't ask you about those things. If you go ahead and mention them yourself, though, then you've opened that door. Instead of saying, "I took some time off to treat my clinical depression," say something vague like, "I took time off for a family health issue, but now that things are better I'm so

ready to put my store manager hat back on."

Tweak your resume format

Not every resume has to have the traditional job experience + skills + education format, with your work experience moving backwards chronologically.

If you're trying to set a narrative for your resume around a gap in employment, put your skills up front, taking care to spotlight ones that directly relate to the job at hand. The hiring manager needs to know, first and foremost, that you're a good fit for the job. You can make that connection

easier if you show that you have the skills.

If you have a long work history, in the experience section you can emphasize only the most relevant jobs, omitting ones that are chronologically older or just not applicable to this new job.

Highlight other kinds of experience

Maybe you volunteered while you were out of work. Maybe you took classes in coding that bumped your skills up to the next level. Look outside the usual job experience bullet points to show that while you may have a gap, you haven't been totally out of it. It will help you make the case that you're ready to seize this new opportunity.

So, if you have a gap on your resume, don't despair. It can feel intimidating to know you're up against people who don't have the same issue, but remember that you've got great experience and skills. It's all about showing how you plan to use those to overcome whatever challenges have come your way.

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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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Clean driving record
- Ability to pass a physical and drug screen
- Ability to lift up to 70 lbs

EDUCATION:

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Snakebite treaters
 - 9 Roomy rides
 - 15 Slowly, in music
 - 20 Tie in a race
 - 21 Actress Wilde of "House"
 - 22 — now and then
 - 23 Taff's foreign policy
 - 25 Jacket-and-tie affairs
 - 26 Look from a villain
 - 27 Word after lo or chow
 - 28 Non-U.S. gas brand
 - 30 Use a recliner, e.g.
 - 31 Forward, as a message with a hashtag
 - 34 Grand Prix racing
 - 37 A doc prescribes it
 - 40 Imbiber's hwy. offense
 - 41 Half-diameters
 - 43 He voiced Carl in "Up"
 - 44 Bachelor suitable for marriage, say
 - 48 Licoricelike herbs
 - 49 Novelist Ira
 - 50 Margaret Mitchell's plantation
 - 51 African nation
 - 53 — Trapp family
 - 54 Three-card game
 - 56 Some book blurbs
 - 57 Apollo program org.
 - 61 The girl
 - 62 Elderly Smurf
 - 63 Shifting of responsibility to another
 - 66 Co. name abbr.
 - 67 Golf rarity
 - 68 PayPal funds, e.g.
 - 70 Lead-in to skeleton
 - 71 Egg mass
 - 72 Edible soft-shell mollusk
 - 75 Burning liquid
 - 76 Bowl over
 - 77 Hens and heifers
 - 78 War group
 - 79 Bakery treats
 - 81 Mom's treatment
 - 82 Volkswagen family car
 - 85 Moore or Lovato
 - 86 Use profanity
 - 88 Very strong
 - 91 Late 19th-century political group
 - 95 De-creasing workers
 - 97 Gallery stand
 - 98 Laugh half
 - 99 Mao — -tung
 - 100 Brand of flavored balms in tubes
 - 102 Tower atop a mosque
 - 105 Hack (off) abbr.
 - 106 Kitchen lure
 - 107 Actress Olin
 - 108 Day of song
 - 112 Beat poet Ginsberg
 - 114 University SSE of Spokane
 - 119 V-formation fliers
 - 120 Medieval balladeer, maybe
 - 121 French folk song
 - 122 Snaky curves
 - 123 Perplexes
 - 124 Eellike fish
- DOWN**
- 1 Tosses in
 - 2 Sign light
 - 3 Narration
 - 4 Lazy type
 - 5 Partook of
 - 6 Always, to Donne
 - 7 "Too cool!"
 - 8 "Once upon — ..."
 - 9 Gem in a ring
 - 10 North Carolina university
 - 11 Not so bright
 - 12 Gardner of "Mogambo"
 - 13 Less nasty
 - 14 Bully's words of authority
 - 15 Block-filled theme park
 - 16 Entertainer Gabor
 - 17 Wrestling holds
 - 18 New hire
 - 19 Pearl makers
 - 24 Eyes closely
 - 29 African nation
 - 32 Bath fixture
 - 33 Wheaton of "Stand by Me"
 - 34 Fruit that's often dried
 - 35 Like OPEC nations
 - 36 Koreans and Laotians
 - 37 Ott of baseball
 - 38 High-school junior's grade
 - 39 Person with an ex-spouse
 - 42 Crime scene material
 - 45 — mill (bar)
 - 46 Sicilian volcano
 - 47 "Star Wars" creature
 - 52 Feature
 - 54 Royal staff
 - 55 "Faust" and others
 - 56 Greyhound transport
 - 58 Signal to pilots
 - 59 Treaded winter vehicles
 - 60 1940s film critic James
 - 61 Cobra sound
 - 62 Actress Dawber
 - 63 "Pow!"
 - 64 Pivot point
 - 65 Put turf over
 - 68 Graceful street liner
 - 69 Coral island
 - 73 Some poplars
 - 74 Cliff rock
 - 75 Solo often in Italian
 - 79 Slum abodes
 - 80 Moseying
 - 81 Old carrier
 - 83 Tentacled reef dwellers
 - 84 Fine violin
 - 85 — Moines
 - 86 Hits the gas
 - 87 Dark loaf
 - 88 Rob violently
 - 89 Twins' rivals
 - 90 Overturns
 - 92 Attention
 - 93 Part of a dance move
 - 94 Prefix with plop or flop
 - 96 Glowers
 - 101 Frank topper
 - 103 Of birth
 - 104 Redcap at work, often
 - 107 Speech therapy topic
 - 109 \$20/day, say
 - 110 Really small
 - 111 Uses eyes
 - 113 Suffix with 29-Down
 - 115 Actor/comic Gilliam
 - 116 "That guy!"
 - 117 Suffix with pay or plug
 - 118 Moniker, in France

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122								123													

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

SUDOKU

1					6			3
	6		9					5
		7		4		9		
		9		3				6
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		3			5	1		
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Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

WORDS

- ADENOIDS
- ALLERGEN
- ALLERGI
- ANAPHYLAXIS
- ANGIOEDEMA
- ANTIBODIES
- ANTIGEN
- ANTI-HISTAMINE
- ASTHMA
- CONGESTION
- COUGHING
- DANDER
- DECONGESTANT
- DERMATITIS
- DUST
- FOODS
- HAY FEVER
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- INHALER
- IRRITATING
- LUNGS
- MITES
- MOLD
- MUCUS
- NOSE
- PRESSURE
- REACTION
- RELIEF
- SINUS
- SNEEZING
- SWELLING
- TRIGGERS

ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
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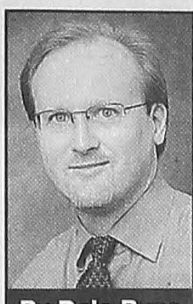
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Car Report

LEADING WITH THE NEW 2018 MAZDA6 SEDAN, MAZDA HAS LAUNCHED NEW BRAND CAMPAIGN URGING DRIVERS TO 'FEEL ALIVE' IN A MAZDA



By Dale Buss

Mazda is at a sort of pause in its new-product cadence right now between its sixth generation of vehicles and its seventh, but it has done some dynamic things to improve bread-and-butter models for 2018 including the staple Mazda6 full-size sedan and its CX-5 crossover.

The brand also is benefiting from a new marketing campaign hatched by Detroit veteran Dino Bernacchi, Mazda's new chief marketing officer since last year, that seeks to raise Mazda above the typical product-oriented approach.

Mazda6 is a great vehicle for Bernacchi to feature in Mazda's new branding campaign, which launched during March Madness with a general TV ad under the brand's new "Feel Alive" banner.

Priced starting at \$21,950, the new Mazda6 includes a Signature trim level that positions it against premium competitors, featuring authentic materials including Nappa leather and Japanese Sen wood. And a newly available, turbocharged Skyactiv-G 2.5T engine complements the car's revised chassis dynamics and refined road manners.

Thoroughly reengineered for 2018, the new Mazda6 is quieter, more comfortable, and carries more standard and available features. At a



The 2018 Mazda6 illustrates the premium appeal of the new brand platform.

time when American consumers seem to be generally pivoting toward utility vehicles, the 2018 Mazda6 makes a great argument for them not to avert their gaze from sedans.

The car also does a cameo turn in the "Feel Alive" TV ad. But overall, the first ad is light on vehicle images and chock full of the encouragement of strivers that has become a staple of much brand positioning these days, in and outside of the auto industry.

"We wanted to clarify who are the fans of the brand today and tomorrow," Bernacchi, who used to work in GM marketing and then went to Harley-Davidson for several years, told me. "And we wanted to fortify the brand in our messaging. I didn't come here to change the brand but to excavate and elevate important components of the brand to leverage."

It may be an opportune time for Mazda to reintroduce its brand

to American consumers. "We are leaning forward in the coming year to the seventh generation of our vehicles," he said. "This is a perfect time to seed the [brand platform] and evolve it."

Bernacchi talked more about Mazda and its brand with me:

What's been the response so far to "Feel Alive"? You began running the commercials toward the end of March Madness.

We've had an immediate positive response. The research we did beforehand showed the emotional impact on the target audience we're going after. We have seen some positive results through interest and intent measures. Google search terms for Mazda altogether were up 24 percent in April and unique visitors to our web site up 30 percent -- and when we get to leads, quote requests for vehicles, they were up 82 percent.

What audience are you going after?

They're younger, more affluent, better educated, a bit more diverse and with the propensity for more premium products than who Mazda previously was targeting. And we looked not just at auto brands but other brands they had an affinity for and dug into why.

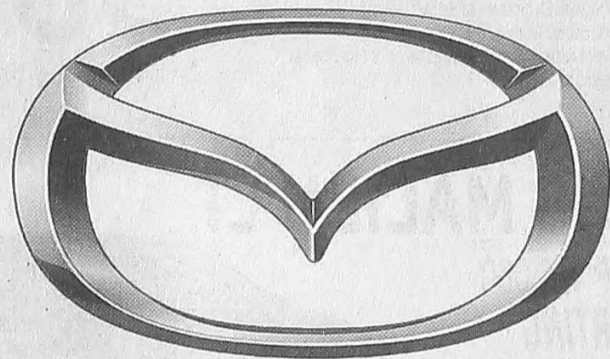
Kantar [a research agency] helped us explore elements of our company that are differentiated. We also looked at the category: What's out there today and how are different brands communicating? And we identified the customer who would gravitate toward our brands and the characteristics we represent. We also looked at the culture that impacts the customer we were going after.

Yet you've still got a bit of a marketing conundrum, given the decades that Mazda invested in making its brand about quick vehicles and the excitement of driving -- you know, "Zoom zoom" -- and

then more recently in Skyactive, the technology package that you've used to make Mazda vehicles lighter, yet more durable, and more fuel-efficient. How do you reconcile all of this with the new approach of "Feel Alive" -- or don't you?

We want Mazda to be a driver's car, about excitement, but the ad doesn't show off styling or cars or fun really. We could have just gone straight at it with straight-up car footage but these individuals want to connect with the brand. We're already a driver's car but people want something more. What is it that this company is standing for? Cars are included. We saw a 200- to 300- percent lift in interest in Mazda6 just from that one brand ad out there.

But now they're interested in what brand stands for. Driving is important but the brand promise of literally heightening people's state of being and making them feel more alive is equally important.



mazda

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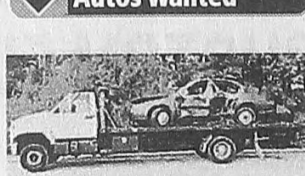
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- 4.3L EcoTec3 V-6 with Active Fuel Management
- Six standard air bags
- Rear Vision Camera with dynamic guidance lines
- Chevrolet MyLink system with 7-inch diagonal color touch-screen, Bluetooth wireless technology for phone
- 6-speed automatic transmission with Tow/Haul mode
- Four-wheel antilock disc brakes with DURALIFE™ rotors
- StabiliTrak™ with Electronic Trailer Sway Control
- Bright-machined aluminum wheels
- Chevrolet MyLink with 8-inch diagonal color touch-screen and HD radio

2018 TRAX LT

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STARTING AS LOW AS \$15,998



STOCK #181759

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24 MONTH LEASE WITH GM LEASE LOYALTY

- ECOTEC® 1.4L turbocharged engine
- Six-speed automatic transmission
- 10 air bags
- StabiliTrak™ Electronic Stability Control
- Rearview camera
- Power windows and locks
- Chevrolet MyLink Radio with 7" diagonal color touch-screen
- Remote Keyless Entry

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- 10 air bags
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- Remote Keyless Entry
- Rear vision camera
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- 7-inch diagonal center stack touch-screen display
- 10 air bags
- Rear vision camera
- Cruise control
- 6-speaker audio system
- 16-inch alloy wheels
- Cruise control

2018 EQUINOX LT

MSRP \$27,810
STARTING AS LOW AS \$22,397



STOCK #181026

\$119/MO* WITH \$999 DOWN

24 MONTH LEASE WITH GM LEASE LOYALTY

- 1.5L turbocharged 4-cylinder DOHC engine with Continuously Variable Valve Timing, Direct Injection and Stop/Start technology paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission
- Keyless Open, including extended range Remote Keyless Entry
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- Rear Vision Camera
- Built-in Wi-Fi hotspot
- 17" aluminum wheels
- 4-wheel antilock, 4-wheel disc 16" front and rear brakes
- Power driver seat with driver lumbar

2018 COLORADO CREW CAB LT 4X4

MSRP \$36,640
STARTING AS LOW AS \$30,131



STOCK #180673

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- 8 Speed Automatic Transmission
- Cruise Control
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- 18" Metallic Cast Aluminum Wheels
- Spray On Bedliner
- Trailing Equipment Package

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\$267/MO* WITH \$999 DOWN

24 MONTH LEASE WITH GM LEASE LOYALTY

- 3.6L V6 engine with stop/start technology
- 9-speed automatic transmission
- Dual-outlet exhaust
- StabiliTrak™ Electronic Stability Control System with Traction Control
- Rear vision camera
- Chevrolet MyLink Radio with 7-inch diagonal color touch-screen
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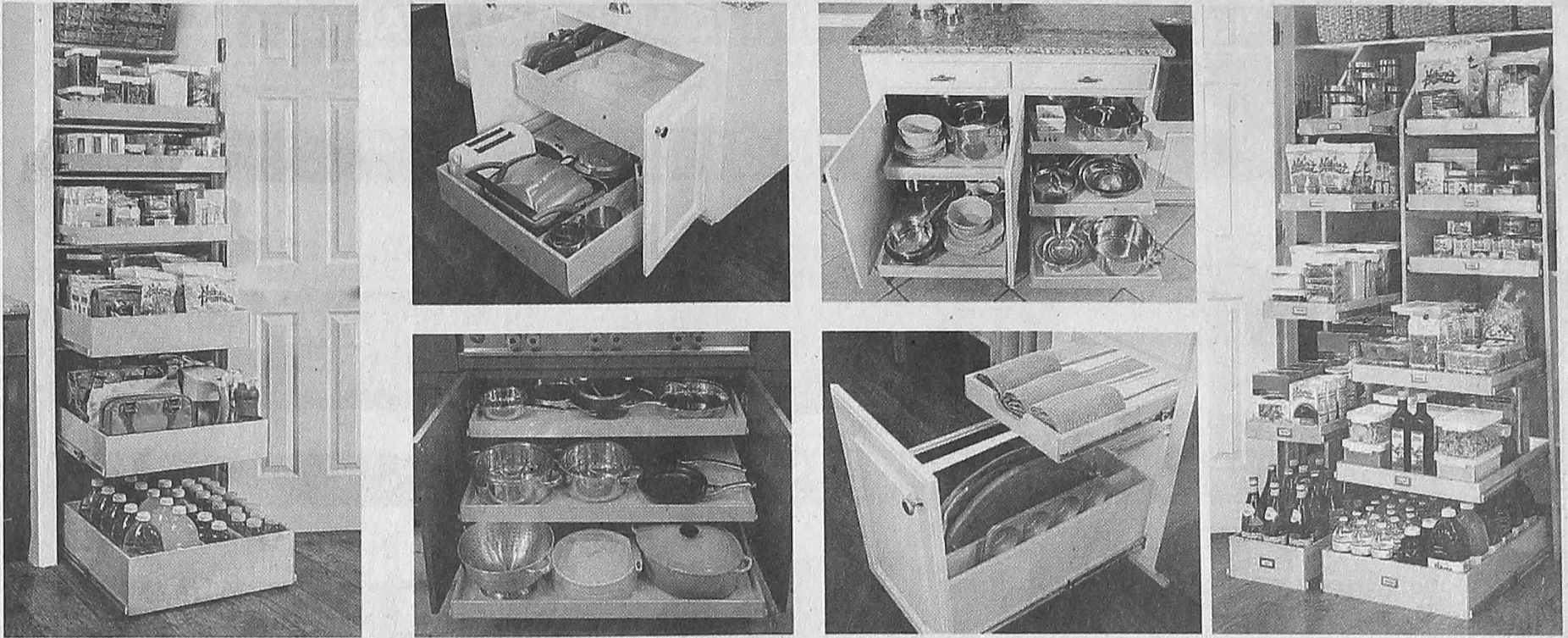
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