



Allison Schmitt's comeback could lead back to Olympics

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Roads millage in hands of primary voters

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Canton Township officials believe they've done all they can to educate voters on the proposed 1.45-mill road millage the township placed on the ballot in Tuesday's primary election.

Now, Supervisor Pat Williams knows, it's simply up to the voters.

After forming a roads task force that included township leaders and community members, township officials came up with the proposal. Canton then hosted three public information forums throughout the summer to give interested residents a chance to ask questions

and have concerns addressed by Canton's engineering staff as well as members of the township's Board of Trustees.

Williams said the Canton website also had an email address dedicated solely to road millage questions. Williams pointed out that more than 100 residents attended the forums and

nearly 50 emailed questions have been submitted.

"We wanted to bring residents in so they could ask questions about the roads improvement plan," Trustee Sommer Foster said earlier this summer. "By having an open forum ... we address

See **MILLAGE**, Page 2A

Looking for breakfast?



Courtney McManus takes orders from Anthony Warren, Brandon Jackson and A. Joseph, seated on the outdoor patio at Toast in Birmingham. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Several restaurants capitalizing on morning dining craze

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

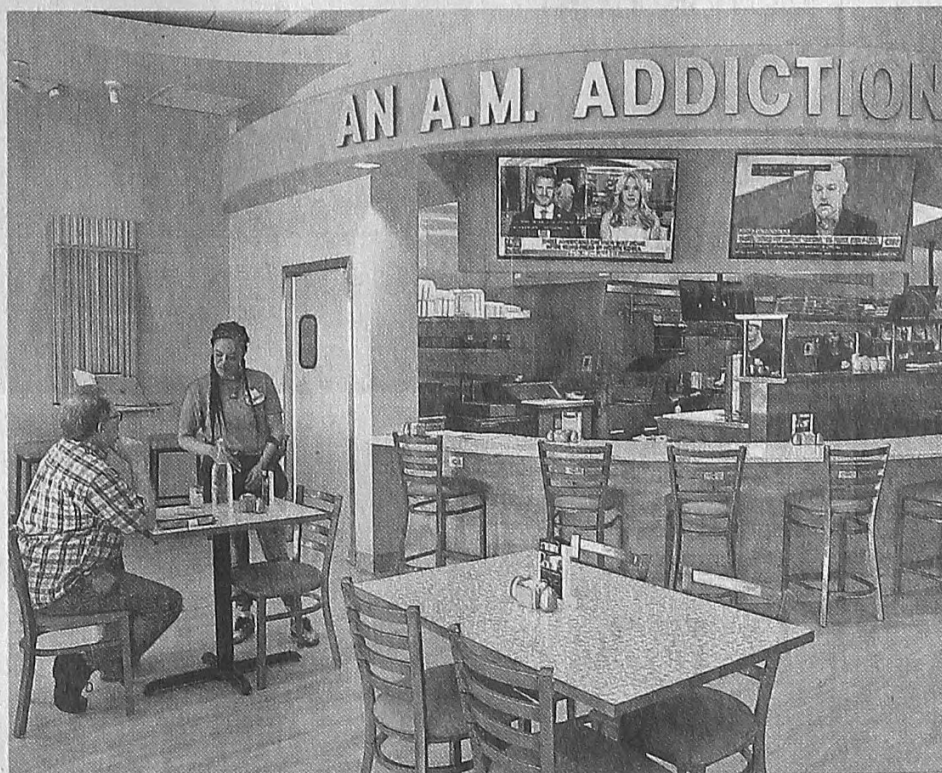
Quinoa breakfast bowls. Shakshuka. Huevos rancheros.

This isn't your momma's breakfast. Long gone are the days of just serving up French toast and bacon with a simple glass of orange juice. Today, it's about where the food is sourced, how fresh it is and whether a vegetarian can enjoy it.

Several restaurants across the region are finding that hitting the breakfast gold mine comes with out-of-the-box thinking. The desire for more than just pancakes and sausage has led to a surge of new restaurants focusing solely on breakfast and lunch.

It's a move, many restaurant operators say, that reflects the sign of the times and caters toward those looking for an experience.

"Gluten-free, vegan, the higher-quality products, I think that's what people



Welcome to Cracked: An A.M. Addiction. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

State candidates from Wayne County offer views

Voters go to the polls for the Michigan primary election Tuesday to decide who will land a spot on the November general election ballot in a variety of state Senate and House races.

Hometown Life reached out to primary candidates in our readership area and offered them a chance to share their views by answering a questionnaire provided to them. Here are the answers from those candidates who chose to respond (presented in alphabetical order, by race). (NOTE: For the full responses from each candidate, go to www.hometownlife.com)

State Senate, 6th District

Robert Kosowski

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Westland
- Family: Sons Andy, 16, and Austin, 12.
- Education: Garden City East High School; Adrian College; Wayne State University



■ Prior elected service: Current Michigan State Representative, 16th House District

Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?

A: I tell them I have introduced over 150 bills that are meeting the needs of my residents, leading the entire legislature. I have 16 bills signed into law leading the entire House Democratic Caucus. I have also personally brought back \$800,000 in funding to my district through the Appropriations process. It has been my honor to serve as the Ranking Democrat on the School Aid and Department of Education budget this session, and work side by side with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to obtain more funding in the per pupil budget for our schools. I am offering real solutions to real problems.

State Senate, 7th District

Dayna Polehanki

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Livonia
- Family: Married to Jim Walkup, and has three step-children.



■ Education: Graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Cen-

See **CANDIDATES**, Page 4A

Local MSU student studies elephants in Thailand

Nathan Gozdor, 20, of Canton spent two weeks this summer in Thailand helping animals and learning hands-on what it's like to be a veterinarian. Gozdor is a junior at Michigan State University, majoring in zoology.



Nathan Gozdor spent a week this summer working at an elephant reserve in Thailand. 2018 LOOP ABROAD

Traveling with study-abroad organization Loop Abroad, Gozdor was selected as part of a small team that volunteered giving care at a dog shelter and spent a week working directly with rescued elephants at an elephant sanctuary. The veterinary service program brings students to Thailand for two weeks to volunteer alongside veterinarians from the U.S. and Thailand.

"The best gift of all is the gift of giving," Gozdor said. "Being able to provide medical attention to cats, dogs and elephants has been the most rewarding experience I have ever partaken in. Helping others, especially animals who can't help themselves, is a great passion of mine."

For one week, Gozdor and his team volunteered at an elephant sanctuary outside of Chiang Mai, Thailand, to work with the giant animals and learn about animal rescue and conservation on a larger scale.

The elephants at the sanctuary have

been rescued from trekking, logging or forced breeding programs. Many of them had been abused and suffer from chronic injuries or blindness. At the elephant sanctuary, they are cared for by volunteers from all over the world. Gozdor helped to feed and care for elephants, as well as learn about their diagnoses alongside an elephant vet. The sanctuary is also home to more than 1,000 animals, including cats, dogs, water buffalo, horses and cows and is sustained in huge part by the work of weekly volunteers like Gozdor.

For the other week, Gozdor volunteered at a dog rescue clinic in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The shelter is home to dogs who have been rescued after being abandoned, beaten or abused.

While he studied under the veterinarians leading his group, Gozdor and his team made a difference in the lives of these dogs. By providing checkups and cleanings, diagnosing and treating ear

and eye problems, taking and testing blood, administering vaccines, cleaning and treating wounds and helping with sterilization surgeries, the students were able to help support the health and well-being of these dogs.

"Our students are some of the most amazing people I have ever met," said Jane Stine, the program's managing director. "They are kind, compassionate, dedicated, hard-working individuals who have big goals and want to make a big impact. It's amazing to see how eager they are to learn and challenge themselves. Over the last nine years, we've seen them go on to do some wonderful things."

Loop Abroad has animal science, marine biology, and veterinary programs for students and young adults ages 14-30 and offers financial aid and fundraising help. Interested participants can inquire or apply at www.LoopAbroad.com

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon

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Millage

Continued from Page 1A

their concerns and let them know how the millage is going to break down between main, local and state roads and how much it would cost, if passed, each individual homeowner."

According to Williams, the three most-frequently asked questions from residents were:

■ Is the millage money going to be given to Wayne County?

■ If the millage passes, will Wayne County reduce the funds Canton currently receives?

■ Where will the money be spent?

Also according to Williams, the answers to those questions are:

■ "No, the money collected from the millage will stay in Canton. Canton will design, bid and supervise the projects funded by the millage."

■ "No, Wayne County has provided a commitment letter stating that, if the millage passes, not only will they not reduce funding, they have committed to additional dollars for at least the first

year."

■ "The proposed 2019 projects have been identified and, should the millage pass, a multi-year plan will be developed."

If the proposal passes, the average Canton property owner will pay an additional \$145 per year, or roughly \$3 per week, raising \$5,506,872 each year over the 20-year lifespan of the millage for road maintenance and repair.

In addition to upgrading the township's crumbling roads, a successful millage would also set the groundwork for a massive project that engineers expect will make treacherous Ford Road much safer.

A 2.5-mile stretch of boulevards would separate east- and westbound Ford Road traffic, eliminating the center turn lane that currently exists. Boulevards would also be installed on Haggerty near the Haggerty-Ford intersection because of the high volume of traffic in that area, township Municipal Director Tim Faas explained.

Not everyone supports the project. The board heard opposition to its proposal during the public forums.

Included among the plan's oppo-

nents was Mark Horvath, who served along with Foster and several other residents on the roads task force that met 17 times over an eight-month stretch, beginning last summer.

"I am profusely disappointed by the position of the board on this topic," Horvath said. "It's like putting a Band-aid on a bad wound."

Horvath referred to last summer's repair work on Canton Center Road, between Ford and Warren roads, which was done using an inexpensive, short-term type of filling called cold patch.

"The township spent millions on Canton Center last year and now, one year later, it's just as bad as it was when the project started," he said.

With the vote looming Tuesday, Williams urged residents to visit www.canton-mi.org/roads for information on the proposal, including proposed 2019 projects, breakdown of millage allocation, millage calculator, FAQs and more.

Staff writer Ed Wright contributed to this report.

Contact Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



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Breakfast

Continued from Page 1A

really want," said Josh Beckett, owner of Anna's House, which has locations in Westland and Farmington Hills. "I think that's been part of the success of the brand. We're very particular about the product we pick."

Anna's House is well-known in west Michigan for its breakfasts, with wait times lasting an hour or more for food. The company decided to expand and opened its Westland location at Warren and Newburgh last summer. Another location, on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, opened earlier this year.

Adding higher-end foods and gluten-free entrees has worked for the small restaurant chain, Beckett said, giving more options to a wider customer base that wouldn't normally be found near a typical breakfast joint.

"So many of these young kids have celiac (disease). If you have celiac's, you can't go out to breakfast," Beckett said. "Those things have changed. Dietary needs have been a major turning point."

The launch of breakfast has even attracted the eyes of some longtime restaurateurs. Jeff and Patti Neely, owners of restaurants across Michigan such as The Pixie in Mount Pleasant and Smashburger in Troy and West Bloomfield, opted to join in on the morning fun. The Lansing couple opened Cracked: An A.M. Addiction earlier this spring at 17933 Haggerty Road in Northville Township.

It's only been a few months, but the pair say results are strong in the demand for breakfast.

"We've been really happy with the results to date. We've been enhancing and training the crew as we go along. The food is outstanding. The guests are loving the concept," Jeff Neely said. "We took well over a year designing this restaurant, from food to decor."

With so much attention paid to diners and late night in recent years, why has this concept exploded? The Neelys point to growing trends coming from the West Coast, where breakfast has become a huge hit (see: the "Portlandia" episode "Brunch Village," which focuses entirely on a long line outside of a popular brunch spot in the Oregon city).

"One is that it's been an underserved area in the restaurant area and



Stephanie Suchala is ready to serve you at Anna's House. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

it's a place to grow. You think of dinner, you think of lunch," Patti Neely said. "People are seeking new adventure and so they do that now through food."

"You give me an interesting breakfast, I'm going to be there."

Drumming up that excitement is crucial for the breakfast industry. Tony Minicilli, director of operations for Toast Birmingham, 203 Pierce, said waiting in line for breakfast is part of the experience.

Patrons can order a bloody Mary while they wait and see guests file in and out, building up to their eventual meal of toast hash or chicken and waffles.

"People come in and, I feel if people saw we were empty, that they would go somewhere else," said Minicilli, who grew up in Livonia. "They want that energy of a packed restaurant waiting for a table."

Mainstays still work

But dressing up breakfast isn't the only way to success. Up on Milford Road in Highland Township, you'll find an-

other breakfast joint that has had the same mainstays for more than 35 years.

If you're looking for that new mainstay on "trendy" breakfast menus, you won't find it at D's Cafe, 1415 S. Milford Road, which has been serving breakfast since the early '80s.

"We don't do avocados or anything like that," D's Cafe co-owner Dana Polk said. "We have farmers omelettes, sausage and cheese omelettes, ham and cheese omelettes, cheese omelettes."

Named after Polk's mother, Diana McBride, the restaurant is the go-to place for breakfasts in the Milford/Highland area. McBride's leadership over the years kept the menu mostly identical the last few decades, opting to keep traditional foods and forgo the trendy choices made by other eateries.

It's clearly working: The restaurant routinely has lines each weekend of hungry customers looking for that small-town diner experience.

"Especially with us, we try to do specials all the time," said Tonya Polk, Dana's wife. "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

It's not difficult to find a restaurant serving fare like D's Cafe across metro

Detroit. It's hard to blink and not spot a Coney Island restaurant serving traditional eggs and bacon with hash browns.

Westland resident Vic Barra is a frequent guest at several western Wayne County eateries, visiting spots such as the Garden City Cafe on Middlebelt, Leo's Coney Island and plenty more.

More than just a place to eat, Barra said he'll routinely wake up early each weekend and head out to breakfast to plan his day out with other colleagues.

"I like local places, because you get to know the owners. You build relationships with the people who are feeding you," he said. "I just like the hometown feel of the local eateries."

Growth

With several new restaurants opening, it's clear the breakfast scene isn't going away.

Minicilli said Toast, which launched in Ferndale in 2001 before opening its second location in downtown Birmingham in 2008, hopes to expand again in the future, targeting locations such as Detroit and Ann Arbor. Its model is best for a walkable area, Minicilli said, attracting curious diners throughout the day.

We like the downtown areas, because we have the foot traffic and everything like that," he said. "Not like in a strip mall. You want to have those clientele all throughout the day."

The Neelys have only been serving breakfast for a few months, but they expect another Cracked to find its footing in metro Detroit in the future.

"It's not only a thought process, it's being discussed on a daily basis now," Jeff Neely said.

Anna's House is in the same boat, looking at adding restaurants in places like Ann Arbor and northern Oakland County in the coming months. That growth comes as the demand, especially across the ever-important millennial demographic, increases.

"I still think people want to sit down and connect. We try to make the interior like your home kitchen," Beckett said. "I think the millennials are the biggest buying group. They're leading the social media trends."

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

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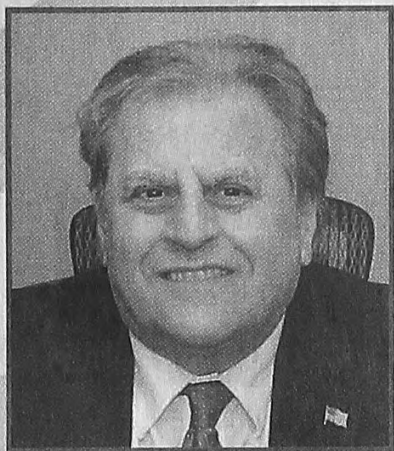
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"As a CPA and owner of a successful Certified Public Accounting firm in Bloomfield Hills, people ask me why are you running for State Representative and my response is simple. I am sick and tired of electing so-called conservative Republicans only to see them reach across the aisle to vote with Democrats to raise our taxes, increase the size of government and pass laws that infringe on our civil liberties. These Republicans do not embrace the Republican platform or the Constitution. I do. I'm a Constitutional Conservative. I believe in American Exceptionalism, a smaller less intrusive government, lower taxes and that we are endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Personal Information and Community Service

- Owner of Taros & Associates, PC - Certified Public Accountants
- BBA - University of Michigan, MBA - Wayne State University
- Host of cable television's Tough Talk with Taros - a political talk show
- Served four years as Treasurer of St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- Served six years on the Parish Council of St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- Served on the Board of Directors of Crossroads for Youth, an organization that helps at risk youth
- Participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at Focus Hope for many years
- Served on the Leadership Committee for Bloomfield Hills High Schools
- Two-time recipient of Ambassador of the Year from the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce

**TIME FOR
TAROS**
Paul Taros
for State Representative

Candidates

Continued from Page 1A

tral Michigan University, earned teacher certification and a second major in English from Alma College, and obtained a master's degree in teaching from Marygrove College.

Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?

A: I will use the same qualities that earned me the honor of being named my school district's 2018 "Teacher of the Year" when making decisions about what is the right course of action for the residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, and Wayne: namely, intelligence, resourcefulness, determination, prudence, and compassion.

State House, 11th District

Jewell Jones

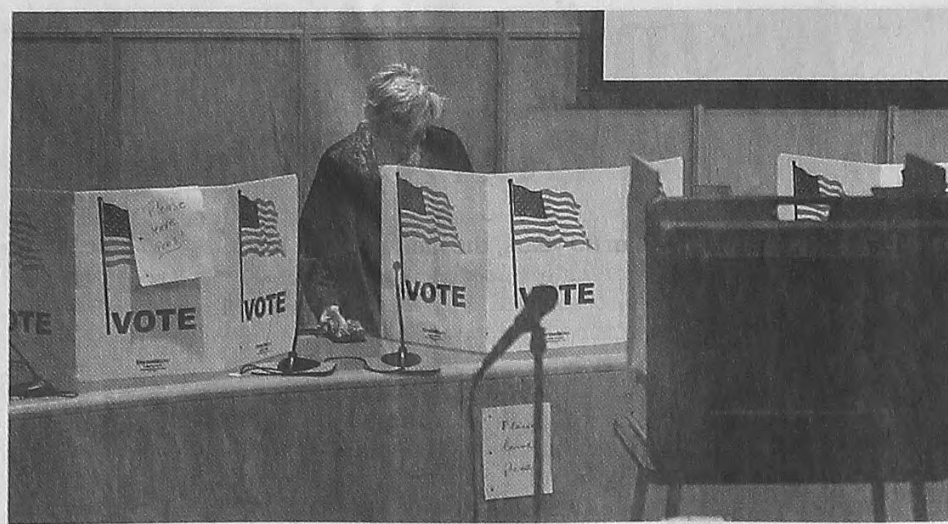
- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Inkster
- Family: Single
- Education: University of Michigan - Dearborn - B.A. Political Science & Business



■ Prior elected service: Current representative, 11th House District; Inkster City Councilman, 2015

Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?

A: I am seeking re-election to continue fighting for more equitable distribution of state resources and services to 11th District citizens. Many inequities exist in the way K-12 public education is funded - some communities have great after school programs others cannot even afford to hire new teachers, maintain reasonable teacher-to-student classroom size, or purchase textbooks for students. I want to reverse the Republican administration's unfair shift of the tax burden from corporations to seniors and working people that caused unnecessary hardships and underfunding of critical state programs that provide quality healthcare, road reconstruction and protection of clean water and other environmental needs. I want to continue fighting to reduce high auto insurance rates and restore workers rights to collective bargaining for fair



Voters go to the polls Tuesday to vote in Michigan's 2018 primary election. FILE

wages and benefits and restore prevailing wage policies.

Randy Walker

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Garden City
- Family: Wife Linda, proud father and grandfather



■ Education: Garden City Public Schools; U.S. Air Force veteran; bachelor's degree from Sienna Heights University.

■ Prior elected service: Five-term (nine years) mayor of Garden City.

Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?

A: I simply tell voters that I continue to live by my U.S. Air Force core values on a daily basis; integrity, service before self, and excellence in all that I do. I have served the public for well over 10 years and it is something I have a great passion for. I am honest, I am capable, and I am qualified. My focus will be on improving all of the cities in my district.

State House, 16th District

Kevin Coleman

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Westland
- Education: Bachelor's degree, Western Michigan University, Lee Honors College



■ Prior elective service: Westland City Council, 2014-2017

Q: When voters ask "Why should I vote for you? what are you telling them?"

A: Results matter. There is only one candidate in this race who has gotten results as a councilman by showing up every day to work hard for you, and I am that candidate. With the current political mess in Lansing, we need a representative who can hit the ground running, who has already created strong relationships with state-level leaders, and who has proven that they can reach across the aisle to get results on behalf of their constituents.

Jacob Johnson

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Wayne
- Education: Studied Public Policy at Wayne State University



Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?"

A: Voting for me is voting for someone who went to school with you, your children and grandchildren. I have lived here my whole life, through good and bad. I know what this community was, is and can be. I want to tackle the needs of the community before I tackle the wants. We need roads before we can add street sweeping. We need schools that are teaching to the student, before we have major investment return to the area. We need mass transit to lower our environmental impact.

State House, 19th District

Dan Centers

- Party: Democratic Party
- Residence: Livonia
- Family: Married to Janice Centers.
- Education: Madonna University, Bachelor of Arts, Social Studies/Curriculum and Instruction, 2007; Madonna University, Master of Business Administration, 2016-Present (current candidate).



■ Prior elected service: Appointed to the Livonia School Board, May 2014; elected for the remaining two-year term in 2014; re-elected in 2016 for a four-year term.

Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?"

A: As a fourth-generation resident of Livonia I love our city. I am grateful that the community has elected me twice to serve on the Livonia school board. As a Livonia Eagle Scout, I learned how rewarding service to the community is. I have continued that work into my adult life. Going forward, our state has many challenges that need to be addressed. I will go to Lansing to focus on improving the lives of Livonia families so they have opportunity, safety, and financial security in the years to come. Your family will be my priority.

Laurie Pohutsky

- Party: Democrat
- Residence: Livonia
- Family: Married to husband Mark for three years.



■ Education: Bachelor's degree in microbiology from Michigan State University.

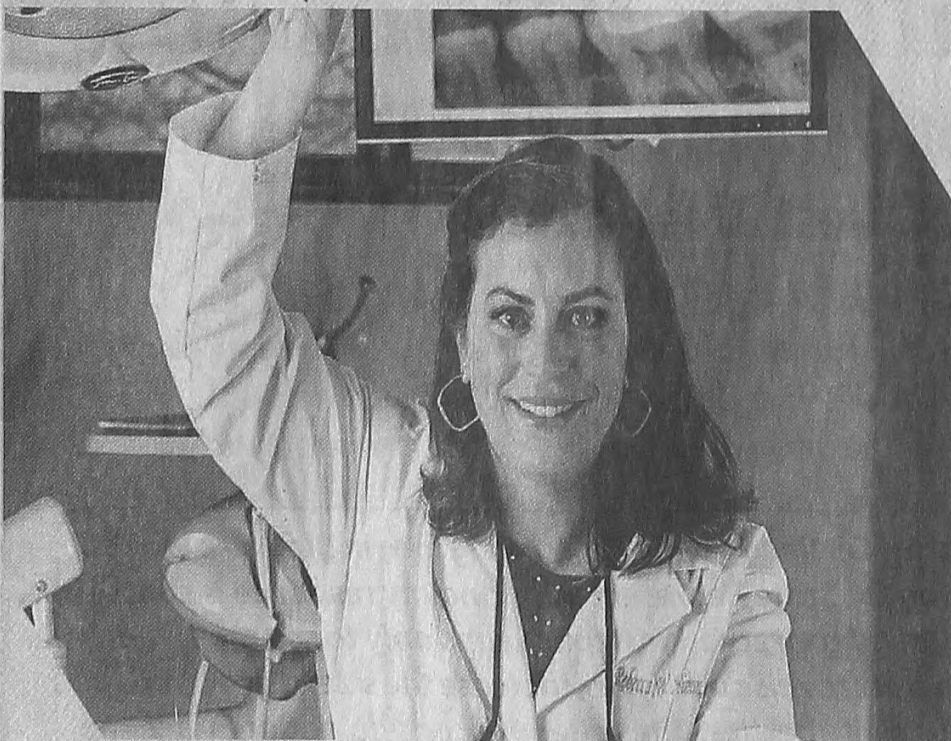
Q: When the voters ask, "Why should I vote for you?" what are you telling them?"

A: I am running because, as a scientist, I know that we need evidence-based policy in our legislature. Furthermore, I am not a career politician. I share the concerns and struggles of my neighbors in Livonia. I have been working full time while campaigning because, like most Michiganders, my family relies on two incomes. That has made campaigning hard, but authentic, work. You can be assured that when I'm elected I will represent your interests in our legislature, because they are my interests as well.

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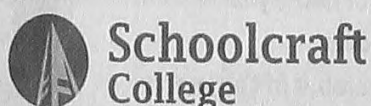
Rebecca Himm, DDS



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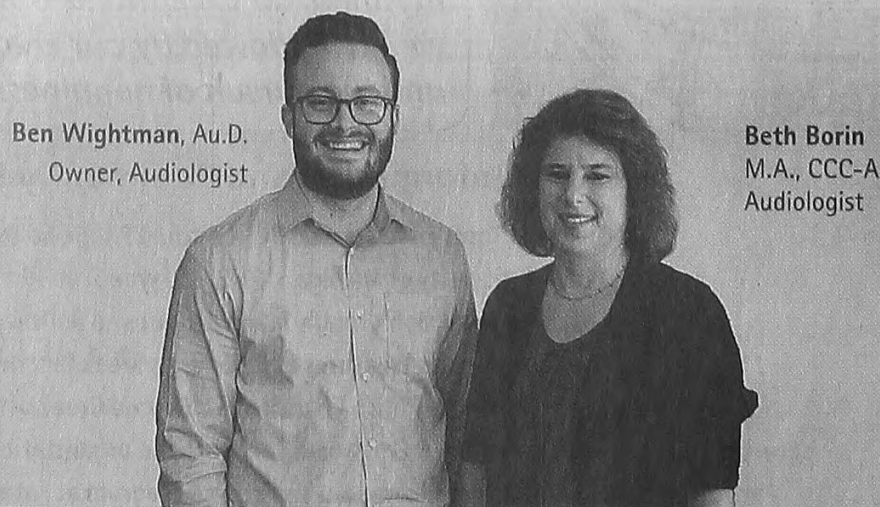
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Madonna tuition lowest of state's private colleges

According to a recent U.S. News & World Report article, Madonna University has the lowest tuition for private colleges in Michigan. The national average cost of a private education is \$34,817, based on data from 724 nonprofit, private institutions. Madonna's 2017-18 tuition was \$20,700. The story did not reflect the amount of public and private financial aid Madonna students receive, which reduces students' out-of-pocket expenses even more. More than 85 percent of Madonna students receive some sort of financial aid and the university awards more than 900 scholarships each year, both merit and endowed.

"We are very proud of the value proposition we offer to our students," said Madonna President Michael A. Grandillo, Ph.D. "It is gratifying to have U.S. News affirm what we've been telling prospective students and their parents. This is a real tribute to our talented faculty, helpful staff and generous benefactors, that we are able to provide a high-quality education, at an affordable rate."

For more than 80 years, the hallmark of a Madonna University education has been a rigorous liberal arts education, combined with career preparation and service-learning. Its diverse 3,000 students pursue associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in more than 100 undergraduate and 35 graduate programs in colleges of arts and humanities, business, natural and social sciences, education, nursing and health and the school of business.

In addition to its strong academic offerings, Madonna's extracurricular activities have expanded in recent years to include a student senate, 19 men's and women's intercollegiate athletics teams, more than 40 student organizations, several music, dance and theater performing arts groups, a leadership academy and academic societies.

In its 2018 Best Colleges Regional Universities rankings, U.S. News placed Madonna at 93 (six-way tie) among 173 schools.

Salvation Army stores to host hiring event

The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center will host a job recruitment fair to fill a variety of full- and part-time positions available at its 36 southeast Michigan Family Thrift Stores. The hiring events will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at each individual location.

Applicants must come prepared with valid photo identification and Social Security card. Individuals must be able to pass a criminal background check and substance screening to accept a position.

On-the-spot interviews will be offered for various positions, including cashiers/sales associates, dock employees, merchandise processors, maintenance, key holders and managers. Compensation will vary based on experience. Individuals interested in management positions must have supervisory experience to qualify.

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For a complete list of all Salvation Army Family Stores in southeast Michigan, go to www.semichigan.satruck.org.

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- 1:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton
- 2-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon Road, Canton
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, Gurdwara Temple, 3310 Canton Center Road, Canton
- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton
- 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty Road, Plymouth
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21, Canton Library, 1200 Canton Center Road, Canton
- 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, Gardner White, 39453 Ford Road, Canton
- 1:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, Plymouth
- 1:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, Hampton Inn, 1950 Haggerty Road, Canton
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
Regular Meeting**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting August 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI
734-453-0750 x 217

Published: August 5, 2018 LO-000344697 2x3

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Transferring annuities to IRA makes perfect sense for many



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Q: I have two variable annuities at AXA. I am considering surrendering them. Can I have their values rolled over into my TD Ameritrade IRA? I've had these contracts for six years and they keep on losing value. One is \$139,000; the other is \$171,000. They are variable annuities and I originally invested \$200,000 in each. They are AXA Accumulator II.0 Series L annuities. The contract type states traditional IRA. What are your thoughts?

A: Yes, you can have these monies transferred into your TD Ameritrade IRA. The reason is that these are traditional IRAs and, thus, they're eligible to be transferred. The key is to have the money directly transferred from AXA to TD Ameritrade. TD Ameritrade can certainly help you with the paperwork.

I think it is a smart move on your part to have the money transferred into your TD Ameritrade IRA. First, you will have more flexibility and investment options at TD Ameritrade than you would in the AXA annuity. With AXA, your investments are limited to the options within the annuity itself. With TD Ameritrade, you can virtually invest in any investment. As your goals and objectives

Variable annuities are aggressively sold. It's important that, as investors, you and I resist the high pressure and don't get fooled by the sales talk.

change, you can easily make the necessary changes in your portfolio. In today's world, you need flexibility and that is certainly something you do not get from variable annuities.

Another reason the change makes sense is regarding the fees involved. Variable annuities are one of the more expensive financial products on the market. In the AXA annuity, you have fees for such things as distribution charges, administrative fees and mortality and expense risk fees. In addition, many of the funds that you invest in also have high fees. The bottom line is, high fees equal low returns. With TD Ameritrade, you can invest in a wide variety of funds that are commission-free and have very low management fees.

In any one year, fees may not be important. When you add them up year after year, they are significant. In a variable annuity like AXA, you end up paying about 2 percent a year in additional fees. Trust me, the 2 percent a year

looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else.

On the whole, I am not a big fan of investing in variable annuities within an IRA. As far as I'm concerned, there's no benefit. Yes, variable annuities do grow on a tax-deferred basis, but since the money is in an IRA and IRAs grow tax-deferred, what benefit is there to invest in a variable annuity within an IRA? The only benefit is for the salespeople, who make substantial commissions.

For all those who have variable annuities, whether they're in an IRA or not, you should always look for ways to reduce your cost. One way to do that is to look for variable annuities with much lower fees. Companies like Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard all offer no-load annuities. These annuities have no surrender charges and very low ongoing management fees. If you're in an annuity and the surrender fees have either gone away or are very low, you should consider making a change. If the money is in an IRA, all you need to do is have the money directly transferred into a lower cost IRA.

Variable annuities are aggressively sold. It's important that, as investors, you and I resist the high pressure and don't get fooled by the sales talk. That doesn't mean that in certain situations variable annuities don't make sense, but it almost never makes sense to go into a high fee variable annuity. Why go into a variable annuity that has high surren-

der charges when you can go into one that has no surrender charges?

The reason people go into high-fee, high-surrender charge variable annuities is because those are the annuities that are aggressively sold. The reason why they are aggressively sold is because of the sale incentives and the commissions. You may ask why the government allows high-fee, high-surrender charge annuities to be sold. My answer to that is how does the government allow cigarettes to be sold when they are aware of the effects? The reality is we live in a free society and companies can sell products that are not consumer friendly. It is up to us as consumers and investors to look out for our best interests. I can assure you that, in the great majority of cases, it is not in the investor's interest to invest in a high-cost variable annuity.

One way to avoid the sales pressure is to not get into an awkward position. The next time you receive a card for a free dinner to go to a presentation, simply decline the offer. The free dinner is not worth subjecting yourself to the sales pressure. Remember, there's no such thing as a free dinner.

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.

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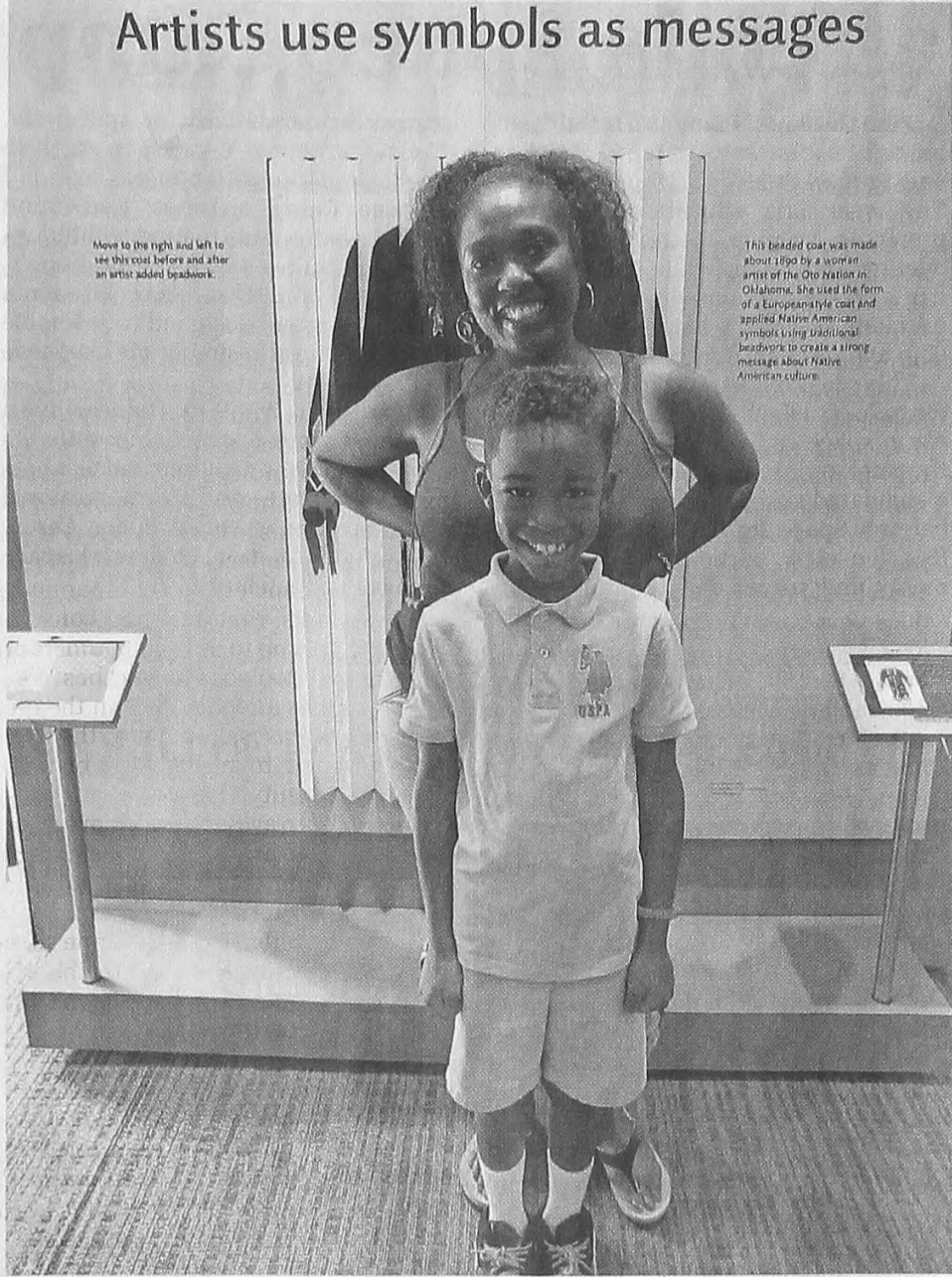
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DIA VISITS CANTON LIBRARY

Artists use symbols as messages



The Detroit Institute of Arts took its DIA Away Think Like an Artist program July 23 to the Canton Public Library. Both children and adults enjoyed the transportable classroom, full of hands-on activities, replicas of art and informative displays. Tasha Pettiford of Canton took her son Henry, 7. "We've always said we're going to get to the DIA, but I haven't gone yet. My sister is an art historian and she's been pushing us to go, so I thought it was cool when I walked by," Pettiford said. For more information about DIA Away, open to Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, go to www.diaaway.com.

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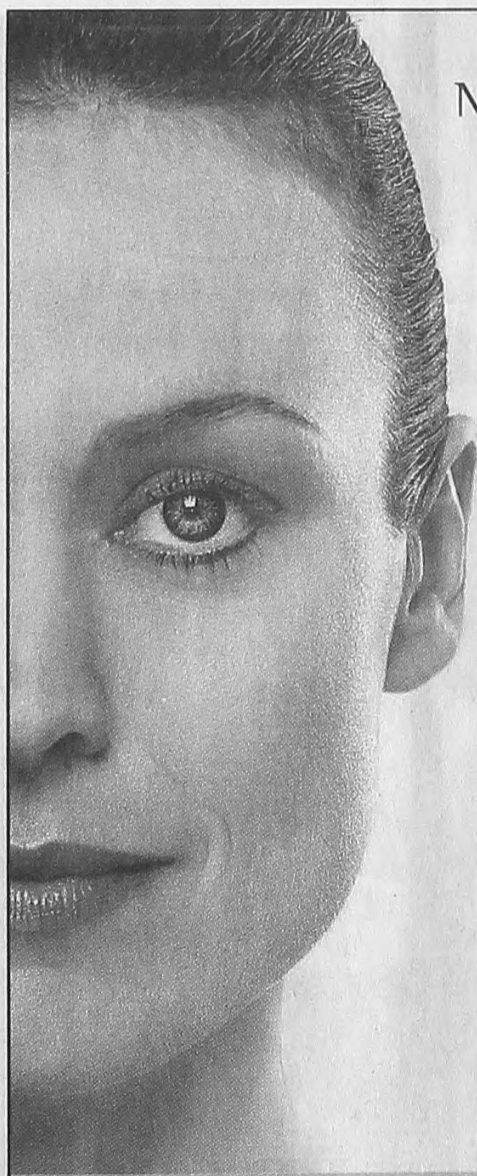
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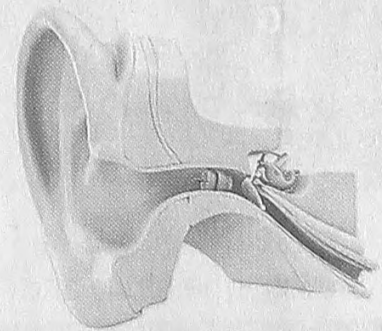
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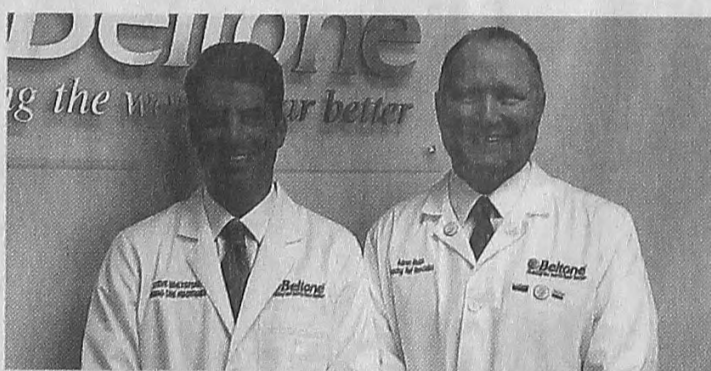
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Plymouth student attends Space Camp

Finn Owsley of Plymouth recently attended Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. The week-long educational program promotes science, technology, engineering and math, while training students and with hands-on activities and missions based on teamwork, leadership and problem solving.

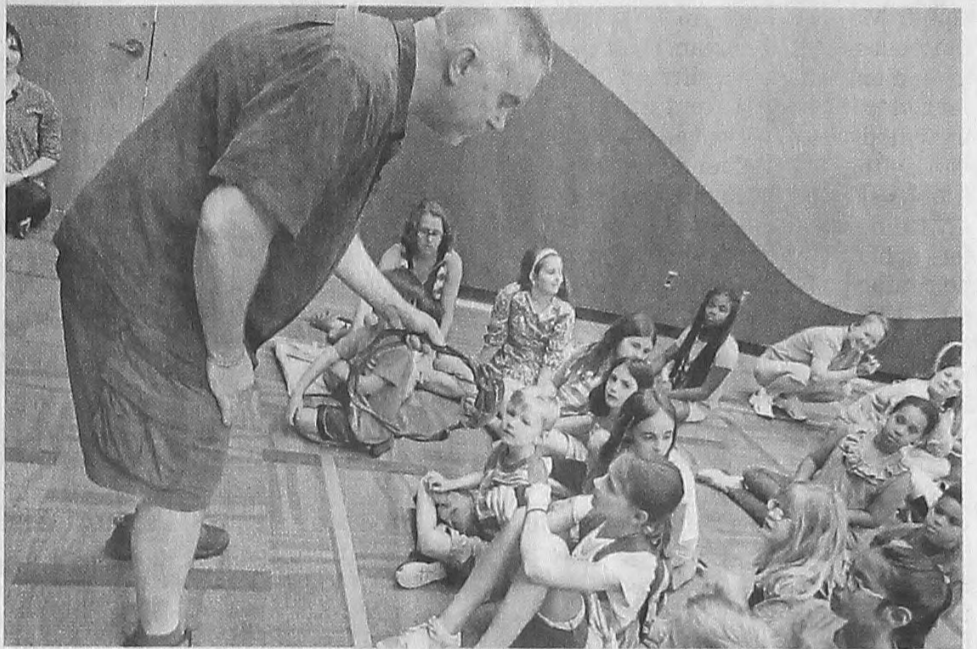
This program is specifically designed for trainees who have a particular interest in space exploration. Owsley spent the week training with a team that flew a simulated space mission to the International Space Station. Once aboard the ISS, the crew participated in experiments and successfully completed an

extra-vehicular activity, or spacewalk. Owsley and crew returned to earth in time to graduate with honors.

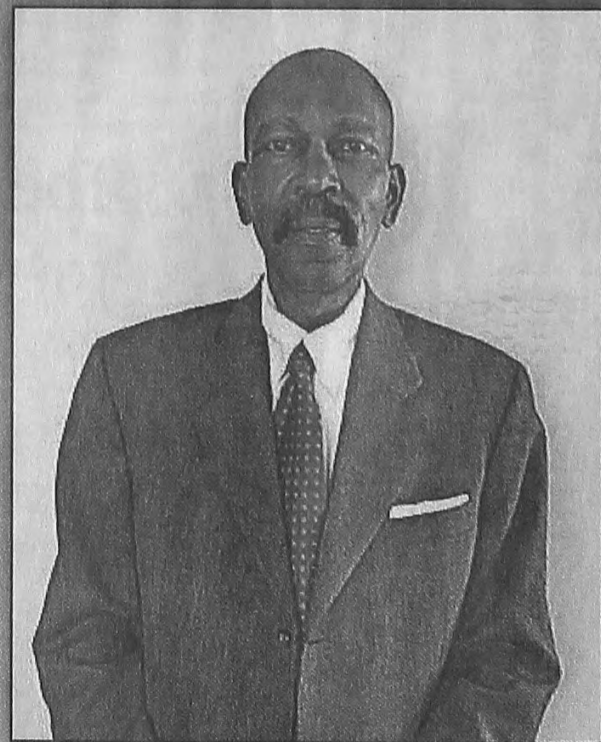
Space Camp operates year-round and uses astronaut training techniques to engage trainees in real-world applications of STEM subjects. Students sleep in quarters designed to resemble the ISS and train in simulators like those used by NASA.

More than 750,000 trainees have graduated from Space Camp since its inception in 1982. Children and teachers from all 50 states and 69 international locations have attended Space Camp. For more information, go to www.spacecamp.com or call 800-637-7223.

LITTLE CREATURES VISIT CANTON LIBRARY



Canton Public Library patrons were wowed by reptiles, birds, an arthropod, a mammal and other wiggles with a visit July 24 from Dan the Creature Man. Dan Briere of The Little Creatures Co. has been bringing his animals to community programs for almost 30 years. Sixty-four CPL patrons were treated to an hour-long presentation as part of the library's 62 Days of Summer. They met snakes, a tarantula, parrots, a chameleon, a cane toad (the world's largest type), a tortoise, an alligator, a red-eyed tree frog and a sugar glider and touched some of the animals. For more information on Dan the Creature Man, go to <https://littlecreaturesco.com/>.



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Family members looking for answers about missing man

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been more than three weeks since Highland Township resident Kevin Graves was last seen at a western Michigan music festival and no one has heard from him since.

"It's been silence. We've got no idea what happened, if he ran off or where he could be. He left with the clothes on his back," said his father, Gary Graves, who has been leading search efforts. "He is 28 years old and a man, but he's still my kid. The worst part for my wife and I is not knowing. We're trying to keep it together."

On July 1, Kevin Graves and his girlfriend were with friends at the Electric Forest Music Festival in Rothbury, on the west side of Michigan. He had a disagreement with his girlfriend, who returned to the couple's tent while Graves indicated he was going back to the festival. Neither his girlfriend nor any other friends saw Graves again.

"He never disappeared like this before in his 28 years. It's shocking to us — he contacted his mom daily by text and phone. He contacted me, too, but talked to his mom every day," said Gary Graves, who moved to Howell with wife Kathy in 2013. "He's definitely a missing person. We've asked the media to keep it (the search information) on the air."

The family is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that will help them locate Kevin, who grew up in Livonia and graduated from Clarenceville High School. He had been living with his girlfriend and her two daughters in Highland Township for about three years and was working at a factory in Commerce Township.

Searches have been conducted at the festival site, the Double JJ Resort in Oceana County about 25 miles north of Muskegon.

The private nonprofit Shiawassee Search and Rescue has been conducting searches of the 2,000-acre festival site.



Kevin Graves

The volunteer group does search and rescue operations in all 83 Michigan counties and two counties in Ohio. Gary Graves was referred to the group and contacted it for help in locating his son.

"On Monday (July 23), I only had five people, but it was a workday. We'll have 20-23 people (from Shiawassee Search and Rescue) on the weekend," said Ron Adkins, search manager. "The biggest problem we're having is with maps — we don't have topographical maps."

The search and rescue group searched four ponds on the 2,000-acre Double JJ property July 23. "If you look at a map of the property, only 20 percent is wooded — the rest of the acres are campgrounds. It's hard to hide a body in the grass," said Adkins, who described the effort as search and recovery.

Kevin Graves is described as having blond hair and blue eyes and is about 6 feet and 185 pounds. He has a USMC tattoo on his left shoulder and his left ear is pierced.

"Kevin wasn't a marine. He got the USMC tattoo because I was a marine," his father said.

There have been some reported sightings of Kevin, but none have proven to be him. Gary Graves is asking that anyone who thinks they see his son take a photograph of the person and send it to him. "Everyone has a cell phone. I've got my phone with me 24/7," said Graves, who asked that his number be provided (248-882-4270).

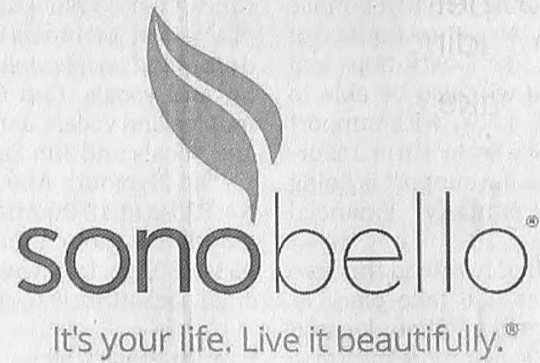
Anyone with information on Kevin Graves is asked to call the Oakland County Sheriff's Office at 248-858-4950, the Michigan State Police Hart Post at 231-873-2171 or Mason-Oceana Central Dispatch at 231-869-5858.

Contact LeAnne Rogers at lroggers@hometownlife.com or 734-883-9039. Follow her on Twitter: @LRoger-Observer.

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AREA EVENTS

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

National Night Out in Canton

Residents are invited to the North Pavilion in Canton's Heritage Park to spend a special night out 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, with community partners the Canton Police Department, the Canton Public Library, Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition and Canton Leisure Services, which will present this year's National Night Out, featuring Canton's annual Not In Our Town community program.

National Night Out is an annual campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The event will feature live music, an interactive Canton Public Safety vehicle display, complimentary refreshments from Kona Ice and Cruisin' Custom Cones and prizes provided by Target, one of this year's event sponsors. Additional activities include a craft project provided by Home Depot; a bounce house provided by Awesome Bounce of Michigan; a K-9 demonstration and more. Participants will also be able to design a Kindness Rock, with support from Amanda Ross-State Farm Insurance Agent. Additional support is being provided by Community Financial Credit Union.

All ages are invited to attend this free event. All activities will take place at Heritage Park's north pavilion, located off of Heritage Drive. For more information, go to www.cantonpublicsafety.org, www.niot.org or call 734-394-5460.

Noble to host office hour

State Rep. Jeff Noble, R-Northville, will host an office hour 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady Street. No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Noble at 517-373-3816 or via email at JeffNoble@house.mi.gov.

Music at the Elks

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



The Summit on the Park will host its fifth annual cardboard boat race, set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30.

Blues Society (www.detroitbluesociety.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door.

The next show is Tuesday, Aug. 14, featuring The Curtis Sumter Project, a Chicago-style blues band with a blend of Motown. Members include Sumter on drums and vocals, John Watkins on guitar and vocals, Carl Caballero on harmonica and vocals, James Cloyd on bass and vocals and Jim Finch on guitar.

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.

Family Field Day

Area residents are invited to the fourth annual Family Field Day & Movie in the Park starting at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at Heritage Park, located west of Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer roads.

Featured activities include potato sack races, shoe kicks and distance throw. No pre-registration is required.

Registration fees are \$12 per family and can be paid on-site, cash only. Food, snacks and popcorn will also be available for purchase on-site.

Following the Family Field Day events, a showing of "Despicable Me 3" (Rated PG) will be held outside in the park on the big screen starting at dusk. Food, snacks and popcorn will also be available for purchase on-site. Individ-

uals who are not able to attend the Family Field Day activities can attend the free movie.

For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Canton Senior Games

Area seniors are invited to enter the second annual Canton Senior Games, scheduled for Monday through Friday, Aug. 20-24, at various locations in the township. A variety of activities for men and women ages 55 and older will be available during the four days of competition.

Canton Club 55+ will offer a variety of events in which seniors may compete for a nominal fee for a chance to win in age categories 55-64, 65-74 and 75 and older.

Registration is available online at www.cantonfun.org or in person at the Canton Club 55+ front desk, located in the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. All participants must register by Friday, Aug. 10. An awards ceremony has been scheduled for 12:30-2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at the Summit on the Park Maple/Oak Room.

For more information, call 734-394-5485.

Movie screening at OLG

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's *Humanae Vitae*, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, in Plymouth is sponsoring a free movie screening of "Sexual Revolution: 50 Years Since *Humanae Vitae*" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11. Pizza, popcorn and drinks will be provided. Register to attend at bit.ly/olgcsexualrevolution.

Library Family Fair

The Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center Road, will host a family fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, celebrating the end of summer reading. The event will include a bounce house, snacks and a performance by pianist/singer Matthew Ball, a.k.a. The Motor City Boogie Woogie Kid.

Admission is free for the outdoor concert; bring a lawn chair. For more information, go to <https://www.cantonpl.org/>.

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.

Stop motion animation camp

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department will hold a stop motion animation camp 1-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 20-23, for children ages 7-15, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street.

Each day, participants will explore different forms of experimental animation, including claymation, 3D models, pixilation, paper cutout and more all under the stop-motion animation umbrella. Every participant will receive a DVD copy of all of the animation created during the camp at the conclusion of the program.

Cost is \$235 for city residents and \$250 for non-residents. Registration can be found online at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or by calling 734-455-6620.

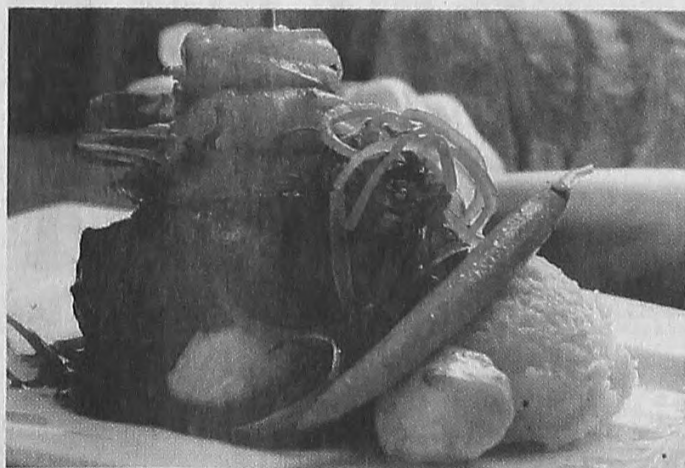
Learn about Islam

The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, 40440 Palmer Road, in Canton will hold an open house from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25. This will be a great opportunity to have any questions about Islam answered. Come for fun activities and international food.

Mom2Mom sale

The St. John Neumann women's organization is accepting applications for table rental space for its Mom2Mom sale scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road in Canton. Email bnolan6850@gmail.com for an application and more information.

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Chemical may pollute 11,000-plus sites statewide

Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The potentially health-harming chemical compound that shut down the drinking water supply in two West Michigan communities last week may contaminate more than 11,300 locations statewide, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The DEQ provided the observation on the contaminants as part of a presentation to the Michigan Environmental Compliance Conference in Lansing last month, displaying a series of maps with various facilities that could have PFAS contamination: 1,487 fire stations across the Upper and Lower Peninsulas; 27 municipal airports; 519 waste-water treatment plants, and more. All told, more than 11,300 sites were listed in the presentation maps.

"The number is staggering," said Anthony Spaniola, a Troy attorney whose family has owned frontage on Van Etten Lake in Oscoda for years. There, PFAS contamination emanating from fire-fighting foam used at the

former Wurtsmith Air Force Base decades ago has excessive levels of the chemicals in groundwater and surface foam on the lake.

PFAS, once commonly used in fire-fighting foam, nonstick surfaces, stain guards and other commercial and industrial applications, is an emerging contaminant of concern, as it persists for long periods in the environment and can be harmful to human health. According to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, studies have shown certain PFAS may affect the growth, learning and behavior of infants and children; lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfere with the body's natural hormones; increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system, and increase cancer risks. Laboratory animals exposed to high doses of one or more PFAS compounds have shown changes in liver, thyroid and pancreatic function.

The number of potential sites is high because of widespread use of PFAS for such a long time, said Scott Dean, spokesman for Gov. Rick Snyder's Michigan PFAS Action Response Team, or MPART, a multi-departmental entity founded last year to begin to assess and address the burgeoning discovery of the contaminants.



Signs from the Michigan Department of Community Health warn to not eat fish from Clark's Marsh in Oscoda. RYAN GARZA | DETROIT FREE PRESS

der's Michigan PFAS Action Response Team, or MPART, a multi-departmental entity founded last year to begin to assess and address the burgeoning discovery of the contaminants.

"Those maps were really designed to be very, very conservative — just to identify worthwhile

places to look and consider," he said.

In an example of just how common and long-lasting PFAS contamination can be, the DEQ in May revisited the site of a massive, 1995 tire fire that lasted for weeks at Carl's Retreading, a now-defunct scrap tire collection and recycling site in

Grand Traverse County's Blair Township. Firefighters had used fire suppressing foam that contained PFAS as they combated the blaze.

The DEQ in May tested the groundwater at the historic fire site, and found two PFAS compounds at levels above the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion. One compound was at almost four times the regulatory limit at nearly 40 feet below the ground surface.

In the Kalamazoo County community of Parchment, local health officials issued a do-not-drink order for municipal water late Thursday, after DEQ testing results showed PFAS levels in the community's municipal water supply at 1,410 parts per trillion, about 20 times the EPA health advisory level.

Bottled water was offered to the 3,100 water system users affected by the order in Parchment and adjacent Cooper Township. Officials Friday planned to switch residents to the City of Kalamazoo's water, as they flushed the Parchment water system until PFAS levels were below regulatory limits. Investigators are still attempting to determine the cause of the high contamination levels.

The DEQ last year uncovered a large area of Kent County north of Grand Rapids tainted with high levels of PFAS from a longtime Wolverine Worldwide shoe and leather products operation there.

Snyder last month asked state Attorney General Bill Schuette to begin legal proceedings against 3M, the Minnesota manufacturer of products such as Scotchgard and fire-fighting foam that contained PFAS compounds. The DEQ in March announced it would inspect 1,300 municipal water systems statewide for the contaminants.

"Michigan isn't more susceptible to PFAS contamination than other locations in the U.S.," Dean noted.

"Michigan is one of the leading, if not the leading, states in attacking this issue," he said. "The reason we are leading is we are looking. We are one of only a handful of states that are aggressively addressing this emerging contaminant."

But Snyder came under fire after public records emerged showing top DEQ officials were alerted to the potential widespread PFAS problem in Michigan by a staff member's report in August 2012. Though that report urged multi-agency, statewide action, such action wasn't taken on PFAS until more than five years later.

More needs to be done now, said Lisa Wozniak, executive director of the nonprofit Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

"The fact that PFAS pollution has grown in just the last month from 32 publicly released sites to now maybe 11,000 or more highlights the dire need for more transparency from our government, and should sound the alarm bells for our leaders to take bold action immediately," she said.

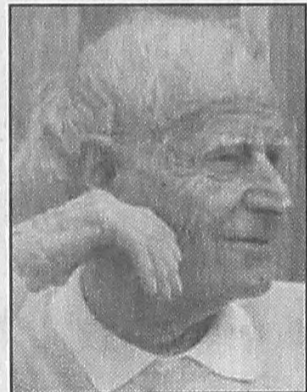
"Michigan must enact an enforceable drinking water standard, and our state lawmakers should return to Lansing from summer break and conduct a full investigation into this 'forever chemical' crisis in our water, and how an MDEQ report exposing it six years ago was ignored, kept from the public and swept under the rug."

Obituaries

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

David Fitzpatrick

FARMINGTON - passed away on July 20, 2018, at the age of 91. His wife Rosemary preceded him four years earlier. He graduated from St. James High School in Ferndale, Michigan and later from the University of Detroit, where he played quarterback and served as co-captain of the golf team. He enjoyed a long, successful career in sales and marketing. An avid golfer, David was Club Champ at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, Michigan five times. Prior to that, he won Club Champ honors at the Burroughs Course in Brighton six times. He was a respectably mobile backyard quarterback into his 80's. David took the long way home: he biked, swam, skated, read books, told stories, played bridge, horsed around, instigated, laughed and danced right up to death's door in his 91st year. His was a life of service. He signed up for tours of duty in the Adriatic and on the USS Tomich Destroyer in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He worked on numerous community projects with the Farmington Area Jaycees, coached boxing and grade school football, served as an usher at his home church, taught third-grade catechism, took communion to parishioners unable to make their way to services, and volunteered at hospitals in Florida and Michigan. David is survived by six children: David (Peggy), Mike (Katrina), Paul, Sharon (Russell), Mary, and Dan (Robin); and thirteen grandchildren — Adelle (Bassam), Adina (Leon), Alexandra (Doug), Alex (Kristin), Amy, Austin (Jenny), Chris, Ellen, Matthew, Paul (Katie), Rachel (Steve), Tera (Ryne), and Victor. He is also survived by ten great grandchildren — Alyeska, Aila, Annabelle, Atticus, Bliss, Camdyn, Eden, Gunner, Sean, and Ravi. He taught his offspring (and everyone else in the neighborhood) how to throw a tight spiral, never to lead with their right, how to tell a good story, and that no one eats a bite until mom finishes her first forkful. When everyone else showered their attention on the "adorable" kid in a room, David would engage the shy one in the corner, just to balance things out. He showed his family where to find the courage to cut their own path — one of his pet phrases — when none of the available roads could take them where they needed to go. He reached beyond his personal borders to live a life that touched the world... Visitation will be held from 2:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated, Friday August 10 at 10:00 a.m. (in state 9:30am) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church at 23815 Power Road, Farmington. Memorial donations in memory of David can be made to Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor. <https://www.arborhospice.org/>
www.heeney-sundquist.com



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Thomas Lehnis

FORMERLY OF PLYMOUTH, MI - Thomas Milton Lehnis, 76, of North Port, FL passed away peacefully surrounded by family on July 29, 2018.

He is survived by his ex-wife of 42 years, Mary Ann of Canton, MI; his children Sara, Cindy Richter, and Michael (Kathryn); his partner, Rosann Carey of Englewood, FL; his grandchildren Jackson and Cooper Lehnis and Maya and Zoe Richter; and his siblings Terry (Tim), Dave (Jane), Julie, Clare, and Mary.

"He fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith." -2 Timothy 4:7.

Visitation will take place on Saturday, August 11, 2018, at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road (West of Lilley Road) in Canton starting at 11 a.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 2pm.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Tom's name to Henry Ford Maple Grove Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan or Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota, Florida.

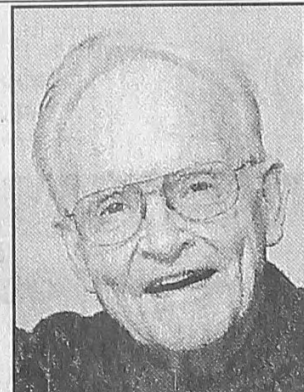
Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

GRIFFIN
L.J. GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Elizabeth R. Walton

WESTLAND - Passed away on June 10, 2018 at the age of 95. Elizabeth was the beloved wife of the late John. Loving mother of John (Sue) and Jim (Libby). Dear grandmother of 5 and great-grandmother of 6. A Memorial gathering will be held on Monday, August 13, 2018 starting at 11 am from the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd. (at Ann Arbor Trail) until the celebration of life service at 12 pm. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

GRIFFIN
L.J. GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Charles Neubrecht

MILFORD - A memorial service to celebrate the life of Charles Nelson Neubrecht, formerly of Milford MI, will be held on August 12, 11:00 am at the Spring Hill Picnic Shelter in Kensington Metro Park, 4570 Huron River Parkway, 48380. Please bring a story to share. Lunch will follow.

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Sports

PREP FOOTBALL

D'Angelo leaves CK program in good shape

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Joe D'Angelo's goal when he accepted the job as Cranbrook Kingswood's head coach was to resurrect a struggling football program.

The proud Hall of Famer believes he's met that challenge and it's time to step aside.

D'Angelo, 75, informed CK's admini-

stration in late January that he would not return for the 2018 football season after six years — one as an assistant and the past five as head coach.

Scott Steward, who served as CK's defensive coordinator last year, takes over as the program's new head coach.

"When I came on board, I already had been coaching a long time and they asked me, 'How long are you going to



D'Angelo

stay here?" D'Angelo said. "I told them I would stay as long as it takes to, hopefully, turn everything around and then find the right guy to turn it over to."

"The past six years at CK have been most rewarding and enjoyable, but it was time to step down," he added. "I think my plan has been accomplished."

Cranbrook Kingswood amassed a 34-18 record under D'Angelo, winning at a

.650 clip. Over an eight-year span prior to D'Angelo taking over, the Cranes posted just one winning season (5-4 in 2009).

The Cranes won 32 games over the past four regular seasons and qualified for the playoffs each year. The win total and playoff streak matches the four-year totals from 2002-05 under then head coach Gary Gerson.

See D'ANGELO, Page 3B

INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING



Canton's Allison Schmitt adjusts her goggles July 28 during the Phillips 66 USA National Championships held at the William Woollett Aquatics Center in Irvine, Calif. MELISSA LUNDIE

FINDING HER GROOVE

Schmitt's comeback taking her to Pan Pacific Championships

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The book apparently is far from closed on Allison Schmitt's illustrious swim career.

After a lengthy hiatus from the pool, the 2008 Canton High grad with eight Olympic medals, including four gold, is thriving once again in the water following the recent Phillips 66 USA Swimming National Championships in Irvine, Calif.

The 28-year-old will be one of the U.S. team's elder stateswomen when she heads to the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships, Aug. 23-27, in Toyko,



Schmitt

Japan, which ironically is the site of the next Summer Olympic Games in 2020.

After finishing runner-up to Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky in the 200-meter freestyle with her seventh-best time ever (1:55.82), along with placing sixth in the 100 freestyle (54.24) behind Simon Manuel, another Olympic gold medalist, Schmitt is serving notice once again that she's not ready for the rocking chair quite yet.

"I'm excited to be representing the

See SCHMITT, Page 2B

"I'm excited to be representing the U.S. again and to make the team this summer it definitely sets up for two years from now. ... I have nothing else to prove in swimming, but I'm doing this for myself."

Allison Schmitt
Olympian swimmer and Canton native

PREP FOOTBALL

Takeaways from the Catholic League's media day

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Detroit Catholic High School League gathered Tuesday for its annual Football Media Day at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Coaches representing 18 schools and some dozen members of the media gathered in the spacious upstairs room adjacent to the school's ice rink to talk Catholic League football. The 90-minute session began with Catholic League Athletic Director Vic Michaels giving a few comments, continued with each coach giving a quick team overview and ended with individual interviews.

Here are a few takeaways:

YOUTHFUL COACHES

With the retirements over the past three years of such iconic head coaches such as Al Fracassa (Brother Rice), Tom Mach (Catholic Central) and Paul Verska (De La Salle), the Catholic League is undergoing a major turnover on the sidelines.

The youthful corps consists of seven first-year head coaches and two more second-year head coaches. Furthermore, three more head coaches have been patrolling the Catholic League sidelines for four years or less.

That means half of the league's head coaches have been in their positions for less than two years. Two-thirds of the coaching fraternity has been there four years or less.

The Catholic League's dean of coaches is Orchard Lake St. Mary's veteran George Porritt, who is beginning his 29th season with the Eagles.

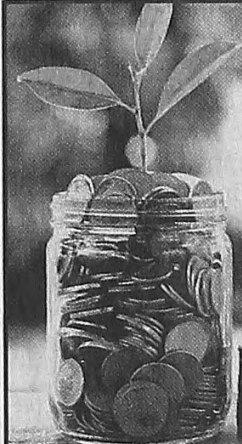
Porritt's three other Central Division head coaching colleagues include Dan Anderson (Catholic Central) and Adam Korzeniewski (Brother Rice), both beginning their second season. De La Salle's Mike Giannone is flying into this third season with the Pilots.

The next three highest tenured




Anderson

See CATHOLIC, Page 3B



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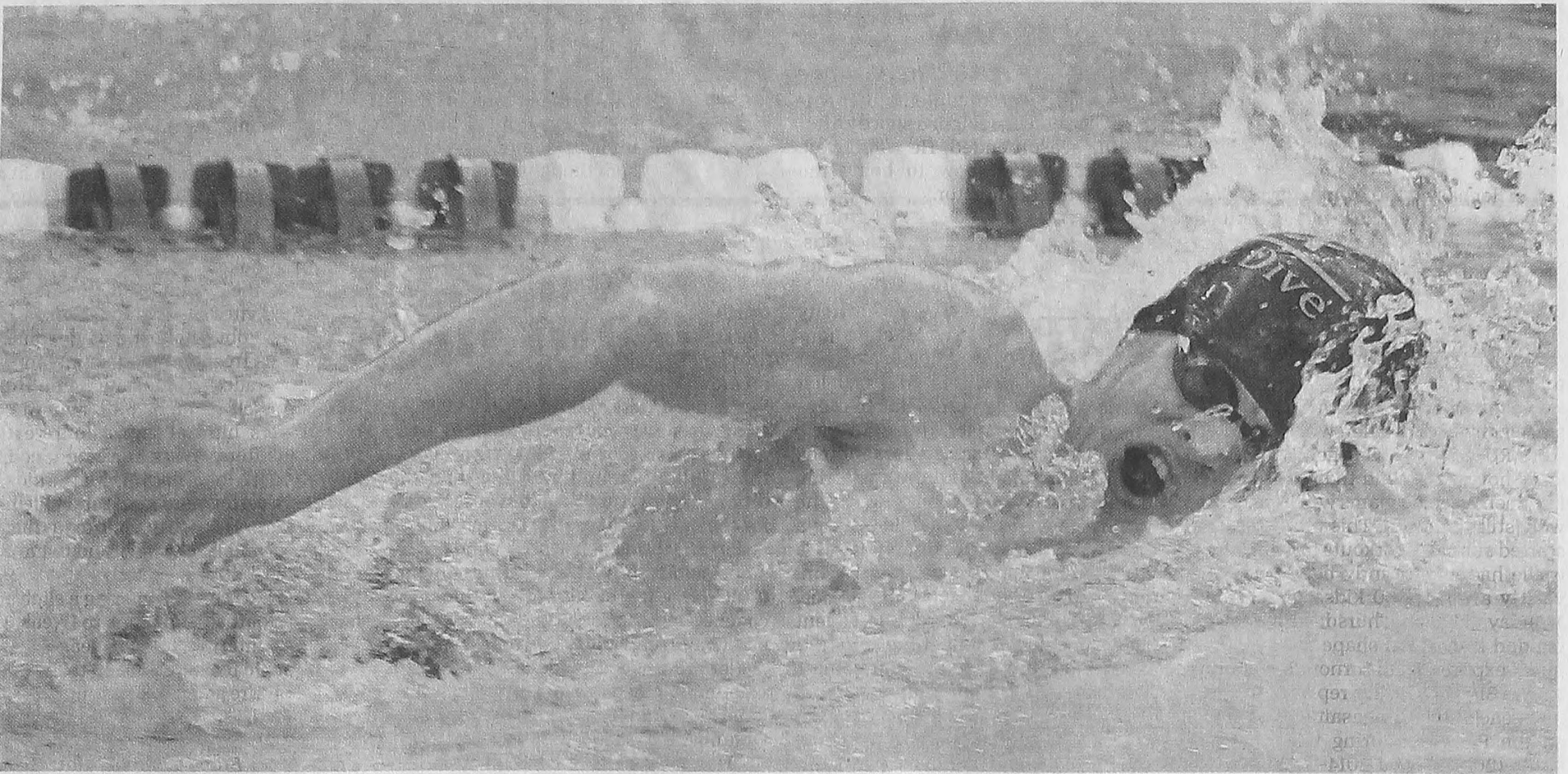
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CLUB SWIMMING



Trevor Jones swam the anchor leg of Farmington Glen's winning 66-under 200 freestyle relay at the NSSL championship meet. MARTY BUDNER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Forest Hills survives challenge at NSSL finals

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Some thought this was the year Forest Hills Swim Club's remarkable Northwest Suburban Swim League championship streak would end. Well, the streak is intact.

The Water Hogs swam to their 17th consecutive NSSL crown July 29 at the Beachwood Recreation Association in Troy.

Forest Hills, coached by veteran Karl Hodgson, won both the boys and girls competitions to register a meet-high 912 points. Farmington Glen was second with 852.50 points, followed by host BWRA, which posted 608 points.

Here are some takeaways from the meet:

FHSC'S RARE LOSS

Farmington Glen had snapped Forest Hills' amazing 13-year regular-season dual meet swim streak July 12. Glen, coached by Drew Hansz, won by 10 points, 294-284, in a thriller.

Because of that dual-meet loss, it was thought the Water Hogs would be vulnerable at the championship meet.

While Glen did finish with a meet-high 13 victories in the 52-event championships, it wasn't enough to overcome Forest Hills' overall depth. The Water Hogs won nine individual events, while Huntington Woods Aquatic Club had seven individual event winners. The BWRA was next with six.

Forest Hills was led by a pair of double winners.

Samantha Clifford, 11-12 division, won the 50 free (27.96) and the 50 fly (30.66). Michael Arpasi, 15-18 division, touched first in the 100 IM (57.74) and the 50 fly (25.07).

Forest Hills' other individual winners were Genevieve Hoppen (15-18, 50 breast), Sean Lu (9-10, 50 fly) and Joshua Bukowski (13-14, 50 breast).

The Water Hogs also won two relays — the girls (Isabella Vaughan, Lauren Louwers, Clifford and Carly Burry) and boys (Robbie Jack Higgins, Bukowski, Cami Wilson and Andrew McLean) 52-



Hodgson

under medleys.

FGAC DOUBLE WINNERS

Farmington Glen paced the field with three double winners — Hannah Gurgel (9-10 girls), Madeline Greaves (13-14 girls) and Jared Visser (13-14 boys).

Gurgel won the 50 fly (32.97) and 50 back (34.79), Greaves took the 50 fly (28.60) and 50-breast (33.22) and Visser won the 50 fly (27.50) and 50 free (25.09).

Farmington Glen's individual event winners were Kyle Grugel (8-under, 25 back), Noah Yarian (15-18, 50 back), Anika Cho (9-10, 50 breast) and Ocean Taylor (11-12, 100 IM).

The three relays which Glen won were the mixed 40-under 200 free (Hannah Gurgel, Leah Greaves, Jack Tomlinson and Sarah Wilder), the girls 66-under 200 free (Lia Munson, Emma Inch, Madeline Greaves and Julianna Petrak) and the boys 66-under 200 free (Brody Jamieson, Noah Yarian, Mario

McDonald and Trevor Jones).

OTHER DOUBLE WINNERS

The meet's other double winners were Bloomfield Surf's Andrew Szachta (11-12, 50 back and 50 fly), Cranbrook Swim Club's Elliot Rijnovean (9-10, 50 breast and 50 back), Huntington Woods' Jack Hamilton (13-14, 100 IM and 50 back) and Alden Snavely (8-under, 25 free and 25 breast), BWRA's Avery Tack (8-under, 25 free and 25 fly) and Woodbrooke Hills Swim and Tennis' Greta Gidley (15-18, 50 back and 100 IM).

The remaining team finishers were the Beverly Hills Athletic Club (561), Cranbrook Swim Club (442.50), Woodside Athletic Club (434), Woodbrooke Hills Swim & Tennis (315), Huntington Woods Aquatic Club (312), Bloomfield Hills Swim & Tennis (288), Beechview (275), Heart of the Hills Swim Club (215) and Pleasant Ridge (160).

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

Schmitt

Continued from Page 1B

U.S. again and to make the team this summer it definitely sets up for two years from now," Schmitt said. "Like I said, ever since I started jumping back into the water ... I don't want any what ifs. And if I do happen to be sitting on the couch in 2020 and not making the team, then I know that I gave everything I had. I'm currently enjoying the journey. So it's all about the journey right now. I have nothing else to prove in swimming, but I'm doing this for myself."

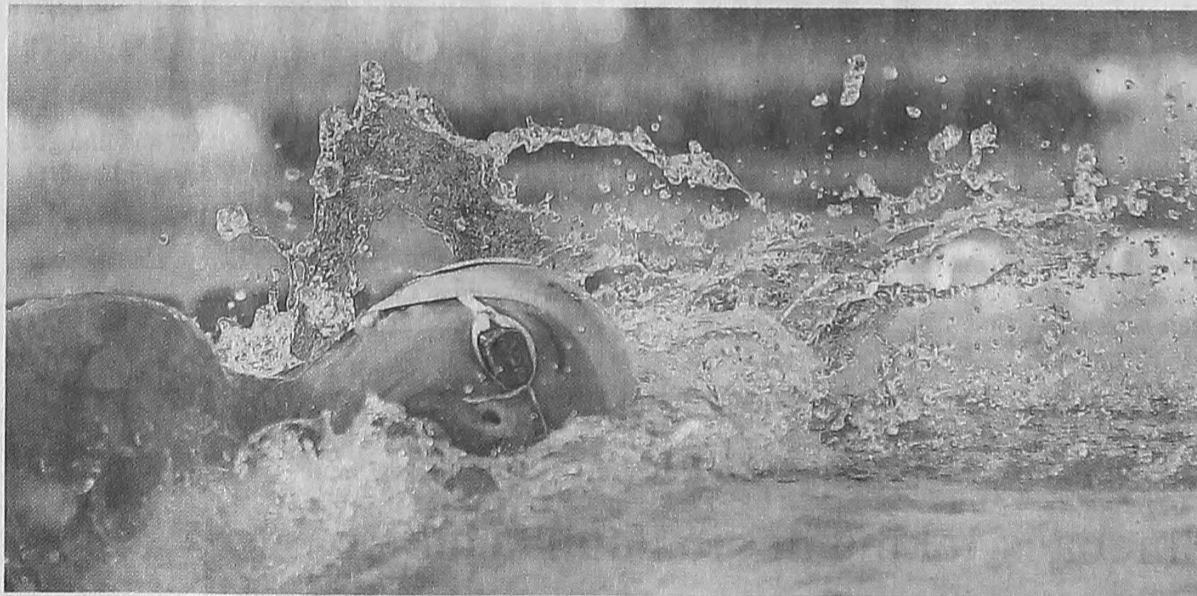
Following the 2016 Games in Rio and her third Olympics, Schmitt was more than ready to hang it up. But in January, while in the midst of working on her master's degree in social work at Arizona State, Schmitt began to feel a magnetic pull back into the pool.

And it just so happened that her old coach at Club Wolverine and the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, Bob Bowman, is now coaching at Arizona State. Her brother Derek was also a member of the coaching staff at Pitchfork Aquatics in Tempe.

"I didn't touch the water for over a year," Schmitt said. "In the fall, when I started school in 2017, I was, like, 'Well, I need to get into some kind of shape. I need to get a tan' and so I decided to swim again with the (ASU) team two or three times a week. Then they'd ask me if I was coming to practice the next day and I was, like, 'Whatever, I mean, I'll come, I don't have anything else to do.' I gradually got back into the sport and started doing more practices, started getting faster."

In April, Schmitt swam in the TYR Pro Series in nearby Mesa, Ariz. She also competed in another TYR event in July in Columbus, Ohio (placing second in 1:57.21 in the 200 free), before heading to Irvine to take on the nation's best.

"I definitely didn't see results for a few months," Schmitt said. "That part is very hard to continue when you don't see any results, nothing is getting better. Just being able to stick with it and have



Canton's Allison Schmidt swims the 200-meter freestyle April 12 during the TYR Pro Swim Series at Skyline Aquatic Center in Mesa, Ariz. PATRICK BREEN | AZCENTRAL SPORTS

the support system that got me through those times. And now I'm starting to see some progression and I know there's a lot more work to be done in these next two years, but this is a great start."

During the U.S. Nationals, a long course event, Schmitt also was ninth in the 400 freestyle (4:08.46). But her time of 1:55.82 in the 200 freestyle, her signature event where she won an individual gold in 2012 (London Olympics), is currently the fourth fastest time this season in the world.

"I really didn't have expectations for nationals," Schmitt said. "Being out of the sport for three years, you really can't have expectations of what you had before. Everything is different now."

In another irony, Schmitt's first dip into the international swimming waters came during the infant stages of her career in Japan. And now she's there again, with the possibility of joining an elite group of U.S. female swimmers that have competed in four Olympics.

"I'm looking forward to going out there and racing and I have goals for the future," Schmitt said. "I feel we're on the right path of that, so I'm just excited to represent the U.S. again, having that opportunity to represent the U.S., and I'm ready to race again internationally. I know there's tough competition out

there, so just being able to stand there with the world's best is awesome."

Schmitt's bouts with depression have been well-documented. She has become a spokesperson for childhood mental illness along with her longtime club teammate Michael Phelps, the sport's greatest Olympian.

The former NCAA All-American never envisioned continuing her education after graduating from the University of Georgia in 2013. But now she's back in the fast lane, juggling training and school with a new post-swim career path in mind.

"I want to go into counseling. I want to specifically work with athletes that have mental illnesses, depression and anxiety," Schmitt said. "I had no interest in going back to school when I finished (at Georgia). And in 2016, I wasn't really sure what I could do with a psychology degree and I also had a huge passion in mental health, which led me to the social work now. If you would have ask me four years ago if I'd go back to school or go into counseling, I never thought this is where I would be. I guess all the events and experiences that have taken place over the few years have led me to social work. A lot of it is putting together my experiences."

During the U.S. Nationals, the ever

popular Schmitt was her bubbly self, waving, smiling to the crowd. In the staging area prior to her races, she normally listens to "something always country" on her headphones, but this meet she changed up her selection for the big 200 freestyle event while earning a hug afterward from Ledecky, the world's top female swimmer.

Schmitt's parents, Ralph and Gail, were in the stands at the William Wollert Aquatics Center in Irvine to show their support. With her brother Derek and the Phelps family nearby during her new journey in Tempe, Schmitt has taken a liking to the desert.

"I'm from a big family, a middle child of five, so it's awesome to still have family," she said. "I get to live in Arizona, go to school, train there. It's far from home, far from where I grew up and my parents and just to be able to have family out there is awesome to have that comfort every day. I'm so happy how successful (Derek) is in coaching and how far he has come the past few years."

After Rio, Schmitt didn't turn in her retirement papers. And it appears her biography has a few chapters to be completed.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Iler named new Redford Union coach

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Ian Iler has hit the ground running after being named the new varsity football coach at Redford Union earlier this year.

And when official practice starts Monday, Aug. 6, Iler can't wait. He expects to see at least 35-40 eligible varsity players suit up.

"My goal coming in January was 40, that was probably the largest team we've had at Redford Union at least since I played," said Iler, who graduated from RU in 2005. "Our good teams always hovered around that 28-30 mark. I've been on some teams with 25 that we were still very good. This year, since we started summer workouts back in June, we've had consistently between JV to varsity about 45-50 kids out there on Monday through Thursday conditioning and keeping in shape for the summer. I expect a good turnout."

The 31-year-old Iler replaces his former coach Miles Tomasaitis, who guided the Panthers during two different stints (2001-09 and 2014-17) to a 61-60 overall record in 13 seasons while earning five state playoff berths and capturing one Michigan Mega Conference Gold Division title (2004).

Tomasaitis, a retired Redford Township police officer, resigned shortly after the 2017 season ended. He will devote his all his duties now to being the school's athletic director.

"I was just ready, I had a lot of things going on, family stuff," said Tomasaitis, who stepped down immediately after the 2017 season after going 3-6.

Iler played for the Panthers varsity from 2002-04. He earned all-state honors as a fullback during his senior year as well as being named all-Observer. Iler was also a two-time all-Michigan Mega Conference honoree.

Iler went on to play at Grand Rapids Community College before transferring to Urbana (Ohio) University, where he was a two-time captain while setting a school record for receptions (79) as a wide receiver during the 2009 season. He also earned second team all-DII football.com honors among independent schools.

Iler, entering his second year as a behavior intervention coordinator at RU, served as an assistant last year for the Panthers, coaching the scout team, wide receivers and defensive backs under Tomasaitis. He was also an assistant at RU in 2014.

"Last August, I got a full-time position in the high school, so (Tomasaitis)



Iler

and I talked about me taking over and it's definitely something that I had thought about a lot ever since coming back in 2014," Iler said. "So I was really happy to get the opportunity and I always said I wouldn't be a head coach unless I was in the school, so the stars aligned perfectly. I have a lot of love for the town of Redford. I'm looking forward to bringing a lot of energy. We've already started earlier in August than we've ever started before. It's been great to put a lot of my own spin on things, but still keep some of Miles's traditions intact and I'll just pave the way for the new RU Panthers."

Iler's other high school coaching stops included Westland John Glenn (2015-2016) and Canton (2012). He also coached at both Siena Heights University (2013) and Urbana (2011).

Iler serves as director for player development and as a seven-on-seven offensive coordinator for Legacy Football Organization.

"He knows I'll be looking over his shoulder," Tomasaitis said with a chuckle. "He's a special kid. Ian has got a lot of energy, he's very eager. He's a Redford kid. We pride ourselves on be-

ing a family here. He's not only part of the school family, but the football family."

Tomasaitis believes Iler is the right fit at the right time for the Panthers, who open their season at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at home against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"One of the proudest moments is when I got invited to his graduation party because, obviously, he had some struggles his freshman and sophomore years with grades," Tomasaitis said. "He turned himself around and then was able to work himself into a four-year university after playing at a junior college. He's got a lot of lessons for the kids that he can certainly relate to and talk to them about. He's turned into a fine young man and I'm really proud to have him around."

The new RU coach will bring a slightly style of football and plans to tweak a few things entering the 2018 season.

"Really, we're going to keep the same style, but we're going to jazz it up a little bit," Iler said.

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D'Angelo

Continued from Page 1B

Best single season ever

However, the major difference is D'Angelo's squad registered the best single-season mark last year.

The Cranes won the Catholic League Intersectional regular-season crown, captured the program's second straight Prep Bowl championship and had its best postseason.

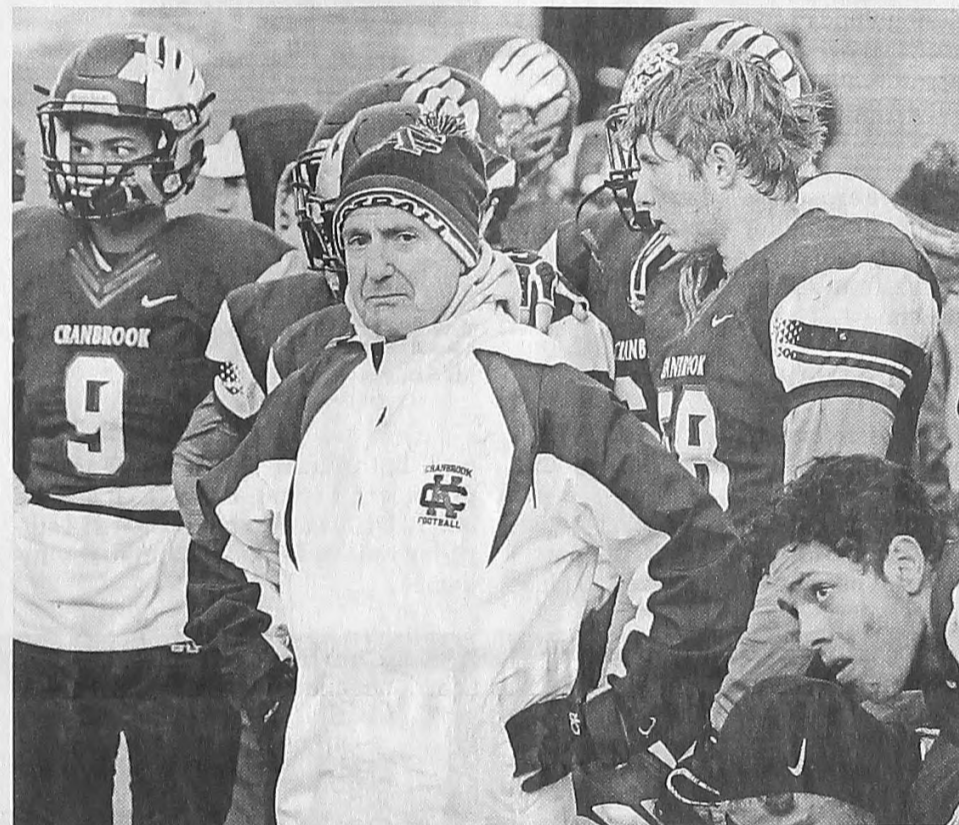
In the Division 4 state playoffs, Cranbrook opened with two straight shutouts — 35-0 over Madison Heights Lamphere and 7-0 over a strong Detroit Mumford squad. The Cranes lost in a competitive and entertaining regional championship game to highly-regarded River Rouge, 21-14.

It was a tear-rendering loss to a brilliant season during which the Cranes finished with a school-record 10 victories.

"Last year was the most successful we've had in Cranbrook history," D'Angelo said. "I'm really excited to see where the school will go from here. I feel like we left the program in good shape and they'll carry on."

D'Angelo's coaching career began at his alma mater, Detroit St. Ambrose High School, where he served as head coach from 1967-69. He moved over to Erie-Mason in 1970 and then took over at neighboring Detroit Country Day in 1977.

In a remarkable 21-year coaching career at DCD, D'Angelo led the Yellow Jackets to an overall 161-46 record, which included two state championships and one state runner-up showing in 11 state playoff appearances. D'Angelo's only losing season (4-5) at Country Day was in 1997 — his final year at the



After 37 years as a head coach — the past five at Cranbrook Kingswood High School — Joe D'Angelo has retired as one of the state's top 30 winningest prep football coaches. MARTY BUDNER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

helm.

He was named to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990, was named the regional Coach of the Year 12 times and named the Michigan High School Coach of the year in 1986 — his first state championship season.

Creating a winning culture

D'Angelo spent 14 years out of coaching before taking a job at CK as an assistant coach in 2012 under then head coach Steve Graf, the school's athletic

director. D'Angelo took over as head coach the following season and managed to create a winning culture, attracting greater numbers while making the sport relevant again.

"Cranbrook has been a great place to coach. They've been very supportive and the parents have been great," D'Angelo said. "Anytime that you can take a program and sort of change it around, there's a lot of rewards to that."

"There was a time when they were thinking about dropping football. So now we're on the map. We put several people into college and more and more

schools have recognized the fact we are playing pretty good football now.

"I'm happy for Cranbrook. They are all appreciative and I am more appreciative of just having the opportunity to coach there," he added. "It gave me another chance to get back into coaching after I left Country Day and see what I could do. I'm very proud of what we've been able to do, me and my staff."

Seamless transition

With Steward at the helm, D'Angelo can take comfort in the fact the program's continuity will not be disturbed.

Steward seemed to be a hot prep coaching commodity and D'Angelo did not want to lose him to another school. In addition, Cranbrook will move up a division in the Catholic League this year and D'Angelo figured it would not be a good time to start over with a new staff.

"I was very fortunate. I had a great staff of guys who were head coaches and who were all very knowledgeable," D'Angelo said. "I didn't want to lose any of them and Scott was being recruited to coach by other schools and some of the other guys (on CK's staff) were tied to him."

"I wanted to make sure nobody left. I could have stayed on maybe one more year, but I didn't want to lose Scott," he added. "It was important we made that transition this year. He was our defensive coordinator and we shut out five teams last year."

D'Angelo retires as one of the state's all-time winningest coaches. He's tied for 30th on the MHSAA's wins list with a 239-93-4 overall record. Farmington Harrison's John Herrington surpassed Brother Rice's Al Fracassa as the state's winningest coach last fall.

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Catholic

Continued from Page 1B

coaches are Detroit Loyola's John Calahan (11th season) and Divine Child's John Filiatraut and Riverview Gabriel Richard's Thomas Michalsen (seventh seasons).

The league's first-year head coaches include Matt Lewis (U-D Jesuit), Scott Steward (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood), Deacon Dave Lawrence (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard), Garrett Wenzelburger (Lutheran North), Jason Albrecht (Our Lady of the Lakes), Oscar Olejniczak (R.O. Shrine) and Joe Quesnelle (Cardinal Mooney).

PROJECTED DIVISION WINNERS

Michalsen takes a poll prior to the formal Media Day session where coaches vote on who they think will win division championships.

The four Central Division coaches selected Warren De La Salle, the defending Division 2 state champion, to capture its second straight division title. Giannone led the Pilots to a perfect 3-0 Central Division mark last year en route to a 12-victory season. Catholic Central and Brother Rice were picked to tie for

second place.

In the Double AA Division, the five coaches picked Divine Child to repeat as champ. The Falcons finished with a 10-2 overall record last year, losing in the regional round of the state playoffs to Riverview. Cranbrook Kingswood was picked to tie for third with Detroit Loyola.

In the Intersectional I and Intersectional II divisions, the projected winners are Riverview Gabriel Richard and Madison Heights Bishop Foley, respectively.

C-K MOVING ON UP

Cranbrook Kingswood certainly has made a steady impact since joining the Catholic League in 2010. The Cranes captured the Intersectional I Division regular-season championship and soared to Catholic League Prep Bowl crown in each of the past two seasons under head coach Joe D'Angelo.

As a reward for that success, the Cranes were promoted to the AA Division this year. The schedule now includes Divine Child, University of Detroit-Jesuit, Detroit Loyola and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Like C-K, Divine Child and Gabriel



Steward



Korzeniewski

Richard were playoff participants last year. Loyola, a perennial state power, had a down year in 2017 with a 2-6 record and had its 10-year playoff streak snapped. During that run, Loyola advanced to the state championship game four times, winning the Division 7 title in 2014.

RETURNING HONOR TEAM MEMBERS

Following are the returning all-Catholic and all-league honor team members for each of the four divisions:

CENTRAL DIVISION

ALL-CATHOLIC: Devin Campbell, Josh DeBerry, Jacob Dobbs, Michael McGinnety (De La Salle); DaRon Gilbert (Brother Rice); Lucas Hendershot (Catholic Central).

ALL-LEAGUE: Ryan Birney, Mike Harding, Marco Genrich (Catholic Central); Colin Gardner, Luke Newman, Ben Zardus (Brother Rice); Danny Motowski (De La Salle).

AA DIVISION

ALL-CATHOLIC: Elijah Cate (U-D Jesuit).

ALL-LEAGUE: Carson Hinton, Nicholas Johnson (U-D Jesuit); Aeron Lath-

am (Divine Child); D'Anthony Robinson (Loyola).

INTERSECTIONAL I

ALL-CATHOLIC: Noah Hamid, Logan Heath (AP Cabrini); Daniel Bowen, Ian Narva (GP University Liggett); Jackson Giske (Lutheran North); Nevin Hughes (Gabriel Richard).

ALL-LEAGUE: Jackson Stanley (AP Cabrini); Max Hatty, Sebastian McWilliams (Gabriel Richard); Brady McCarron, Andrew Zelenak (GP University Liggett); Jake Mlynarek (Lutheran North).

INTERSECTIONAL II

ALL-CATHOLIC: Ben Alderson, Kendel Taylor (Bishop Foley); Kyle Cartier, Vince Oliver, Grant Ross (Our Lady of the Lakes); Quincy Greenia (Cardinal Mooney); Dan Romano (RO Shrine); Josh Legg, Nino Mastromatteo (Everest Collegiate).

ALL-LEAGUE: Zach Proctor, John Stickney (Bishop Foley); Cameron Howell, David Valent (Our Lady of the Lakes); Daniel Donaldson, John Zawadzinski (Cardinal Mooney); Mike Jones, Max Engle, John Stickney (Everest Collegiate).

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FIGURE SKATING

National Showcase performers combine athleticism, theatrics

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Milford's Paige Bartholomew and Alyssa Kormos did a Tuesday morning run-through of their acclaimed "Squeaky Clean" theatrical figure skating routine, it was like hitting a home entertainment system's repeat button.

Just like that, they were once again at Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton, absolutely shredding the same bit they won with at the 2018 Michigan Showcase in March. Chances are they'll keep on doing just that Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 2-5, during the 2018 National Showcase, at the same venue.

The head-bobbing, head-turning duo nailed it just as well Tuesday as they did months ago — even though Bartholomew and Kormos wore practice garb instead of the bow ties, green stretch pants and sweater vests that judges and audience members saw then.

All weekend, they will be among 500-plus talented performers from the United States and Canada slated to crank it up another notch under the spotlight. It is the only national showcase event sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating.

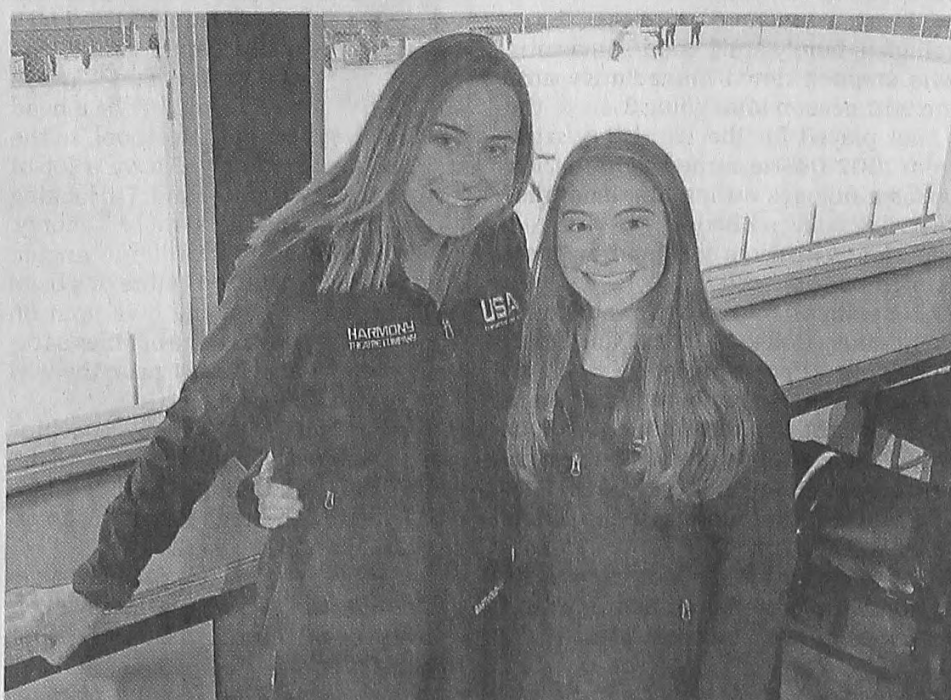
Expressing themselves

"National Showcase is about expressing myself and just being able to be carefree," said the 19-year-old Kormos, an alum of Milford High School. "We just get to be crazy and not have a care in the world."

Takeaways for those who come to the Ice House (10540 Citation Drive) over the weekend (8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday)?

"It's entertainment, it's just a fun competition and you're not ever bored," Kormos said. "There's always something funny going on on the ice."

Concurring was Bartholomew, 20, who graduated from Brighton High School. "We just hope that anyone who



Expected to contend in the senior division at the 2018 National Showcase is the duo of Paige Bartholomew (left) and Alyssa Kormos, both of Milford. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

comes out to watch leaves with a smile on their face and they had fun," she said.

Winners in each event will compete during Sunday's Parade of Champions, when an overall champion is named in four disciplines (Parade of Champions, Junior Parade of Champions, Parade of Duet Champions, Parade of Interpretive Champions).

There are several other figure skaters from surrounding communities who will "lay everything out there" to score points from judges and nods from the stands.

Telling a story

Livonia Churchill's Cathryn McGowan is set to perform in the novice ladies category.

"This is my third year doing showcase," said McGowan, 17. "In the past, I put a lot of pressure on myself to place



McGowan

well. But ultimately, it's not about the placement for me anymore. It's more about, I just want to be able to tell a story, not only to the judges, but to the audience.

"You can definitely tell the difference when it's crowded, packed or kind of sparse. But either way, there's the judges to feed off of."

McGowan, a regular at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia when not working with Ice House Skating Academy choreographer Piercyn Hunt, said she will reprise two performances she excelled in during the Michigan Showcase.

"I have a light entertainment, which is more like lighthearted skating, and it's set to 'Red Shoes Blues' from 'Wizard of Oz,' the London production," McGowan said. "And I'm skating to Josh Groban's 'Over the Rainbow.'"

"I just got my 'Over the Rainbow' program, I finished it with (Hunt) two weeks ago. I love them both equally. I like being emotional when I skate, so I'm very excited for 'Over the Rainbow.'"

Best of both worlds

All three young women said they equally enjoy the two-in-one composition of "showcase" performances. There is a physical, athletic aspect of theatrical figure skating and an artistic side — the latter including everything one would find watching a stage musical.

"At the beginning, I was focusing more on the jumps and spins of it, which I still focus on now," Bartholomew said. "But I realize how important acting is, too."

"So I've been able to learn how to live in the moment of what I'm doing and not worry about the harder things of my program and be able to soak in the easy moments and the acting moments more."

According to Kormos, "It's so different from what people see on the TV for the Olympics and things like that. They watch them, they're, like, 'Oh, wow, just a bunch of jumps and spins.' And then you watch showcase ... this is a whole different side of skating."

Spectators at the National Showcase

See SKATING, Page 5B

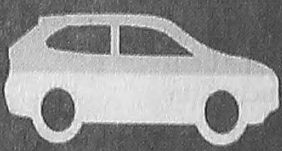
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Skating

Continued from Page 4B

will immediately know they aren't watching a traditional figure skating event.

"In regular figure skating, you're seeing the competitors reach for higher and higher technical difficulty," said Heather Blasko, event publicist and a part-time instructor in the Ice House Skating Academy. "They're doing quad jumps. How many quads can you do and, if you can do the most, then your score is going to be the highest and you win, right? But when you also have a creative component to it and you're being marked on that, it's really not the emphasis.

"Here, we take the complete opposite. This is the creative side of it. The creative mark is key. You still have to have a good technical ability and you have to have really solid skating skills, but the emphasis is on how you're interpreting music, how you're playing your role, much more theatrical and creative. A lot of kids enjoy that."

Growing into the sport

That certainly is the case with Bartholomew, Kormos and McGowan, who began developing their skating chops while still attending elementary school.

"I started learn to skate (lessons) when I was 3 and started more serious competitive when I was 5 or 6," Bartholomew said. "It was just fun. I love team aspects, which is why I do theater, too, but being by yourself when you're skating is fun and being able to be with your friends while you're skating is super-fun.

"And I grew the competitive aspect out of the fun start that I had."

Kormos became a serious-minded skater at age 6, with McGowan getting a little bit of a later start.

"Honestly, it might sound kind of cocky, but it came naturally to me," McGowan said. "I'm not the most technically advanced skater, I'm not the best of the pack, but it's just about having that perfect balance of all of them that can make someone, like, pretty great.

"As I've grown into my skating style and the more comfortable I've gotten with the ice, I've been more easily able to combine them."

Skating now is as easy as a stroll in the park, perhaps even easier.

"My dad always says I skate better than I walk," Bartholomew said with a laugh. "Because I trip when I'm walking, but I'm more graceful on the ice."

"Definitely, I am very clumsy off the ice," Kormos added. "I am clumsy on the ice, too, but more graceful and it's more of my first nature than walking is. I'm on the ice more than I'm on my feet in my shoes."

Tuning things out

Once the music starts in the ice rink, however, the young ladies all have the ability to trust themselves — and, in the case of Bartholomew and Kormos, their duet partner — while tuning out any distractions.

Off the ice, they have different personalities — with Bartholomew more outgoing than Kormos. But the moment they step on to the ice, a transformation occurs.

They are performing without a care in the world, not worrying too much about how the panel of judges might be critiquing their efforts.

"I have shy moments," Bartholomew said. "But it's why I like showcase skating, because I get to show that fun side, that outgoing side, more than I can show it off the ice."

Driven by passion

As for McGowan, whether she scores a medal or acclaim from a performance is not as important as knowing in her heart whether she was on the money.

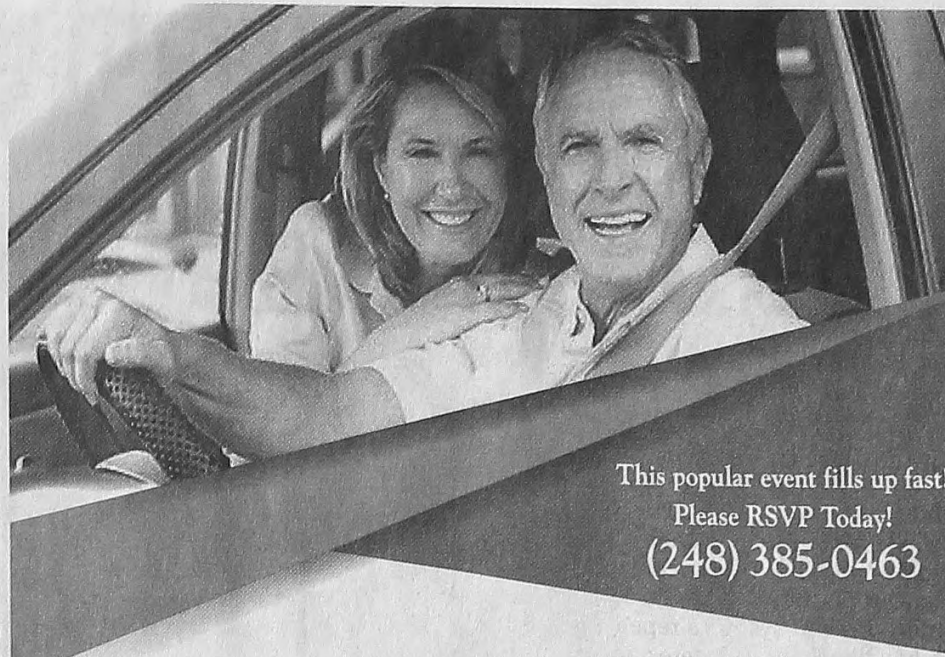
"When I tell people I do showcase and theatrical skating, they kind of turn their head and raise an eyebrow," McGowan said. "It's just very hard to explain unless they see it.

"But when I'm practicing, I listen to my music so many times on repeat, whether I'm on the ice in Livonia or I'm just doing off-ice (routines) in my room, it's just that love (of performing) that always brings me back.

"Why would I care about what other people have to think about it? It's not self-centered, it's more so having your own passion drive you."

Those who make the journey to the Kensington Valley Ice House this weekend will unquestionably see and feel that for themselves.

If you have a compelling story to tell, contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



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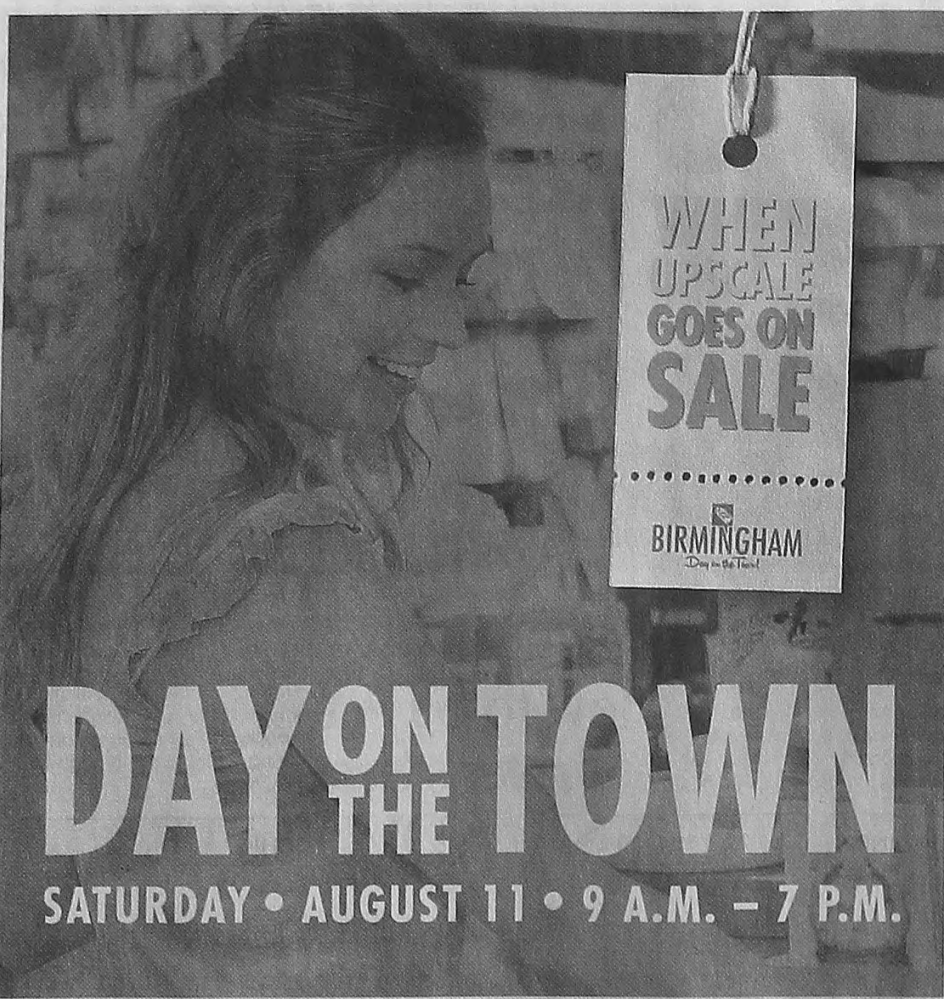
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Bylaw Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month except there will be no meeting on the fourth Tuesday in July; no meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday in November (November will be the first and third Tuesday); no meeting on the fourth Tuesday in December and no meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday in April (April will be the third and fifth Tuesday) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Bylaw No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each special meeting and of each rescheduled regular or special meeting shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting. Elizabeth Adams or other Central Office staff in her absence shall be appointed the designee for posting notice of meetings.

Publish: August 5, 2018

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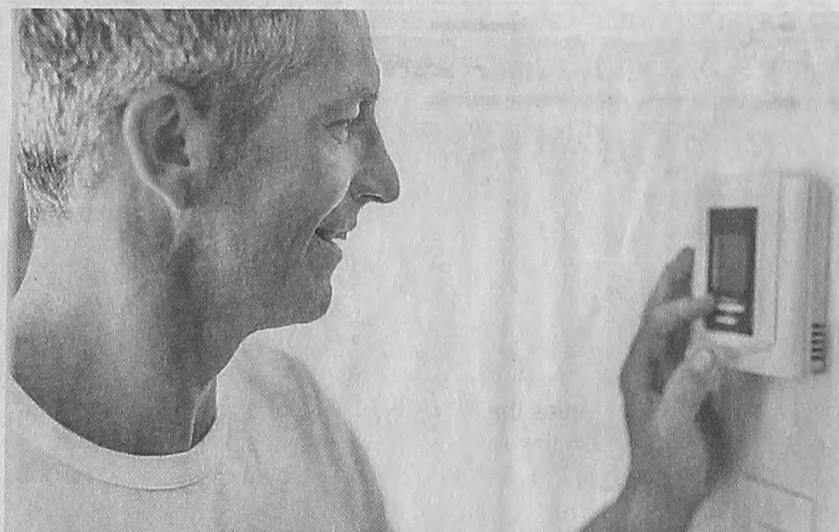
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How 'returnships' can help older job seekers

BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

Those among us who have been in the workforce for a while have no doubt witnessed a tidal wave of change in the work world. Everything from technological innovation to globalization and how employers and employees approach the very notion of work has undergone seismic shifts in recent years, and it can be a real challenge to keep up.

If you're someone who has taken a career break — for whatever reason — and you're looking to jump back in to employment, the challenge to get up to speed can be even more daunting. On top of this perception gap, your skill set and industry knowledge may need a refresh or revamp.

What is a 'returnship' and who is it for?

Although this may seem like an insurmountable obstacle, jumping back into an industry in order to build a new career is completely doable. Companies are recognizing that a significant and potentially valuable segment of the workforce consists of those who are looking to return to work after an extended absence, and are making a real effort to help these individuals make the transition back.



GETTY IMAGES

As a result, we're seeing a rise in the number of companies that are offering "returnships," which are essentially internships for experienced job hunters who are looking to return to work but need a refresher period to get up to speed regarding changes in their industry and need to build their skills. In many instances, individuals who re-enter the workforce through a

returnship are able to get back on their professional feet, prove themselves and get satisfying full-time positions.

How to find a returnship opportunity

Does this sound like just the sort of opportunity you're looking for? If so, there are a few options for snagging a returnship. Some companies have established structured

returnship programs that you can apply to, and the number of companies that are developing similar initiatives is on the rise. For example, IBM has a formal 12-week re-entry program for experienced technologists as part of its initiative to diversify its workforce and source the best available talent at various levels. You can search directly to determine companies in

your industry who have similar programs; often, companies will provide information about applying for a returnship and open employment positions directly on their websites.

Try creating a targeted list of companies in your field that you'd like to work for, and do some research to determine if they offer returnship or re-entry programs that you might be qualified for. If not, you can always contact their HR departments and suggest that they consider starting such a program. If you can effectively convince them of the potential benefits for doing so, you just may be among their first set of program participants.

Returning to work after an extended absence can be a real challenge in today's rapidly changing, ultracompetitive work environment — but it certainly isn't an impossible mission. If you've been out of the workforce for a while and are eager to get back in, consider a returnship program in your area. It just might be the perfect bridge between your current situation and full-time employment.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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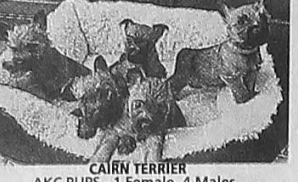
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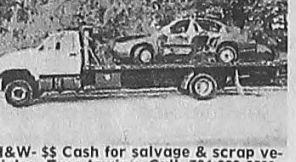
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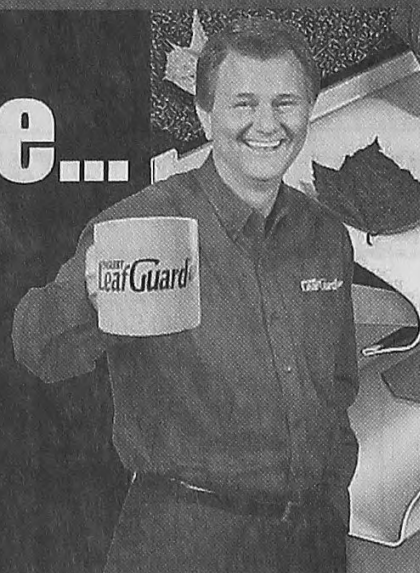
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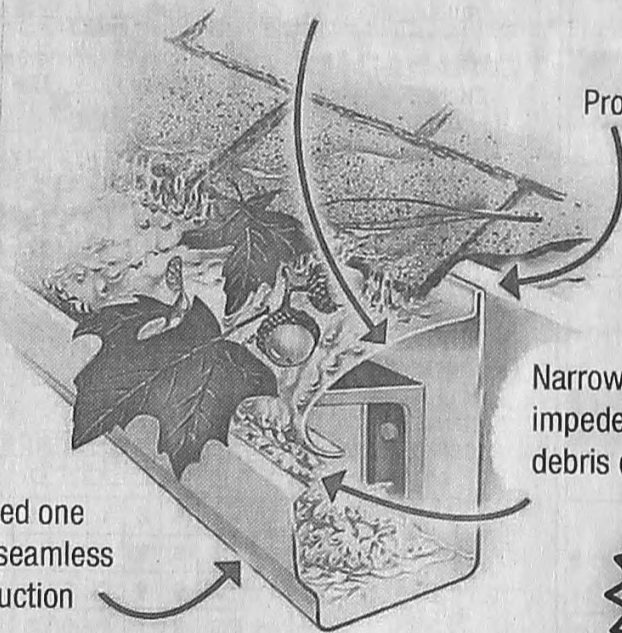
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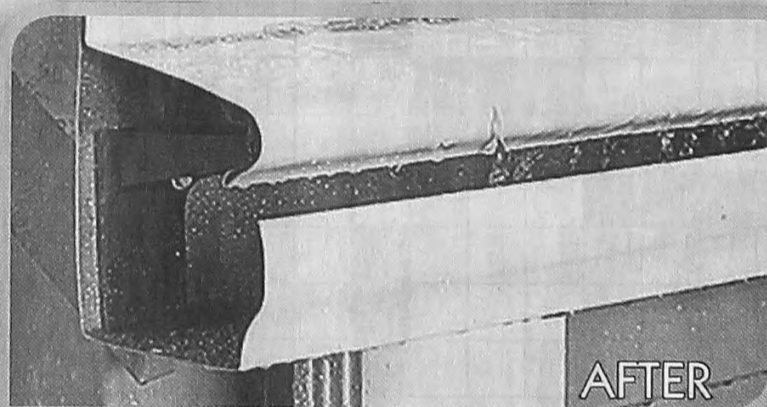
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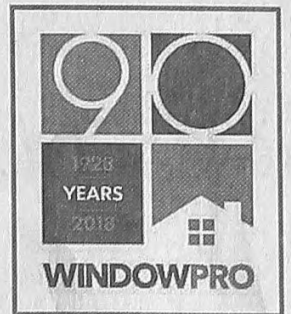
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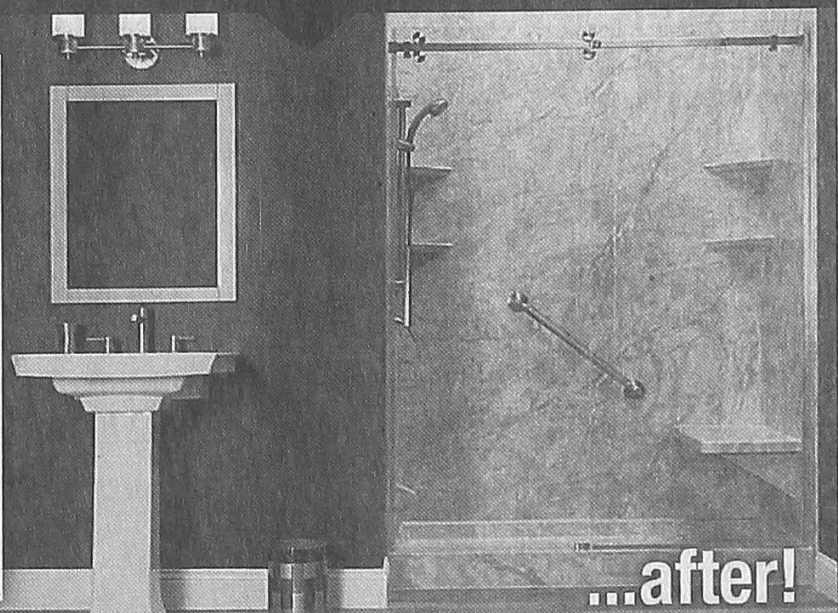
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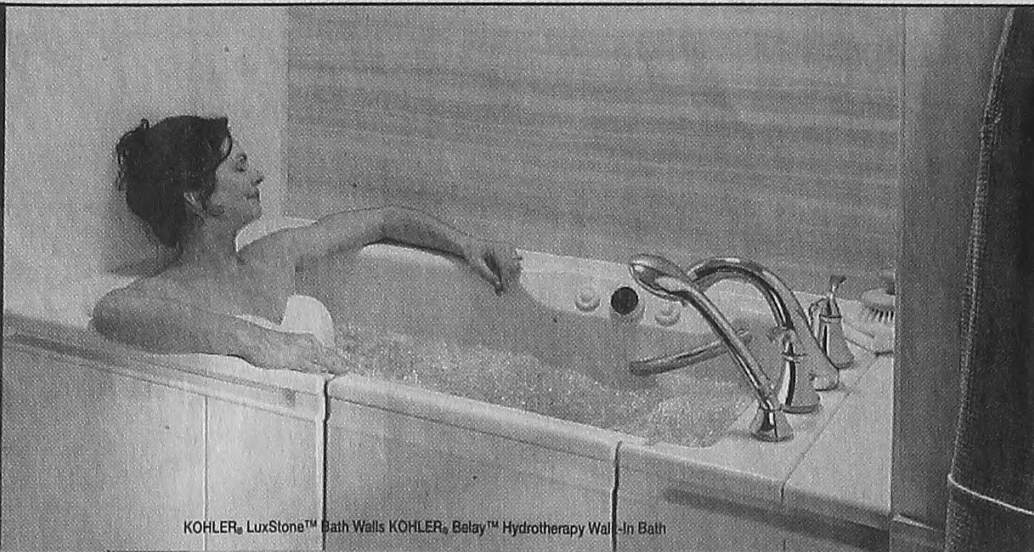
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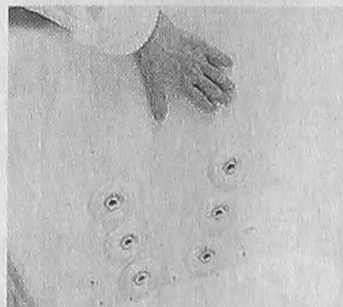
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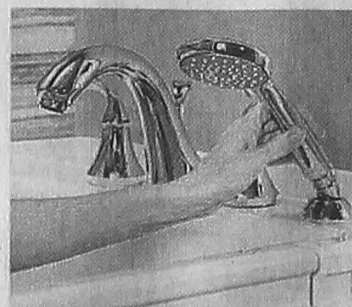
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DESIGNED & ASSEMBLED
IN THE U.S.A.

*Limited time offer. Valid through August 31st, 2018. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK, HI or Nassau County, NY, Suffolk County, NY, Westchester County, NY and Buffalo County, NY. Also may not be available in other areas. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Savings is off of KOHLER LuxStone™ Bath Walls with the purchase of a KOHLER Belay™ Walk-in Bath. Walk-in bath installed in as little as one day.

31-DAY SALE

windows & patio doors

**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company



Less than a month left!

This isn't one of those 'limited time' offers that's **not really** limited. We're only offering this window discount, this patio door discount and this special financing for 31 days!¹

There are limited appointments available, and you must book yours before **August 31st...**

which means you have LESS THAN a month left!

BUY ONE WINDOW OR PATIO DOOR,
GET ONE WINDOW OR PATIO DOOR
40% OFF¹

PLUS
\$50 OFF
EVERY WINDOW AND PATIO DOOR¹
No minimum purchase required.

PLUS **NO NO NO** for 1
Money Down Payments Interest year¹

Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months. Minimum purchase of four.

**LESS THAN a month left to book your
FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis**

734-224-5100

**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company
The Better Way to a Better Window™

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/15/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2018 and purchase by 9/15/2018. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) 40% off and 12 months no money down, no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 7/29/2018 and 9/15/2018. Discounted windows and patio doors are of equal or lesser value. Additional \$50 off per window or patio door when you set your appointment by 8/31/2018 and purchase by 9/15/2018, taken after initial discount(s), no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2018 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.