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Incumbents Herzberg, Kehrer top Westland primary results

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Two incumbent Westland city councilmen topped the list of eight candidates moving forward to the Nov. 7 election after primary voting Tuesday.

The only candidates seeking re-election, Peter Herzberg and Michael Kehrer, finished first and second, respectively. Voters will be filling four council seats in November as the two other in-

cumbents aren't running for council: Christine Bryant, who cited plans to run for another office in 2018, and Kevin Coleman, who is challenging incumbent Mayor William Wild in November.

Making the cut for November, in order of finish, were Jim Hart, Michael Londeau, former Wayne-Westland school board member Debra Fowlkes, Tasha Green, former Councilwoman Meriem Kadi and Timothy Gilbert.

From those eight candidates, voters

will fill four council seats — the top three finishers earning a four-year term and the fourth-place candidate getting a two-year term.

Finishing out of the running in a race that pared the number of primary candidates in half were, in order: Steve Boron, Joseph Schaefer, Donna Stottlmyer-Beaupre, Jody White, Terry Martin, Jason Jackson, Felicia Miles-Clegg and Jesse Davey.

The 12.2-percent turnout — 7,481 bal-

lots cast from among more than 61,000 registered voters — was slightly over the 11 percent predicted by Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc.

It was quiet at the polls election day — only 2,135 voters cast their ballots in person. That's compared to 5,346 absentee ballots that were cast ahead of election day.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
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"Some of them are apprehensive at first, but the relationships have really grown where there's that wisdom and wonder with both. It's been fun to watch."

MARIA SICILIANO MUELLER, administrator and president for the Felician Sister Child Care Center and St. Joseph Home for Children



Senior Merle Edwards colors with Anabelle Scott and Violet Foley.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FROM 4 TO 94

Students, seniors thrive in inter-generational preschool program in Livonia

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

It's an idea that was two years in the making over on the Felician Sisters campus: An idea brought to directors at both Marywood Nursing Care Center and St. Mary Child Care Center to better connect their programs.

And after launching a pilot program and executing it for the past school year, organizers say they're hoping to expand a program that connects 4-year-olds with 94-year-olds.

The inter-generational program ramped up last fall, when leadership at the preschool would bring over students once a week to interact with residents of the nursing home, both Felician-sponsored facilities. They do all their normal lessons, just with the help and support of residents at Marywood.

"The children walk over in the morning and they do their theme lesson here," said Maria Siciliano Mueller, administrator and president for the Felician Sister Child Care Center and



The children look at collaborative portraits of seniors and themselves.

St. Joseph Home for Children. "They do their story time, they do their snack time, they do their art project, they do

lunch. And it's all with the older adults."

The program's idea came from an email from Sister Mary Christopher Moore, a Felician in Pennsylvania. She passed along a similar concept being done in Washington and the idea took off at the Livonia campus quickly. Students were already coming to Marywood for a few hours each month, but leadership decided coming weekly would be extremely healthy.

Students came over to the nursing home Aug. 3 to showcase their artwork and partake in an ice cream social with some of the Marywood residents.

One such resident was 98-year-old Mary Napier, who said it's always a joy to see the children come to the nursing home each week.

She said she wasn't the only one that enjoyed seeing the children visit each week.

"It's not only me, but the other women, too," she said. "The kids are great."

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Livonia Y, Westland partner on summer camp

Ask 8-year-old camper Maddy Valdez if she thinks she is having the "best summer ever" and you better have some time on your hands. She has a lot to share.

"Being at camp is so much fun," said the pint-sized Garden City resident, referencing the summer program she attends at Westland's Central City Park. "I love all the fun games, like when we play Wet Kick Ball after it rains. We get to go to the H2O Zone in the park and I have fun with my friends. And we try new experiences like archery."

Parents in Westland and the surrounding communities can still register their children for the remaining weeks of camp, providing kids with both a safe and entertaining environment. The day camp is designed to offer a variety of programs and activities that stimulate mind and body.

"This is the first year the City of Westland and the Livonia Family YMCA have partnered to offer summer day camp," said Brian Wolverton, executive director of the Livonia Family YMCA. "We want people to know that although this camp is in Westland, we have campers from many of the surrounding communities who attend at Central City Park. We want to be a resource for all families in the area."

With a goal of providing each child "the best summer ever," the week-long themed day camp sessions run through Sept. 1 and are open to children ages 5-12. Children must be 5 years old as of Sept. 1, 2016 to attend. Held inside the Westland Farmers Market Pavilion, this summer program regularly takes advantage of the park's many adjacent amenities including a playscape and splash pad, as well as providing fun activities that develop character and teach new skills. Children also travel

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COURTESY LIVONIA YMCA

Eight-year-old Garden City resident Maddy Valdez enjoyed cooling off at the H2O Zone, one of the many weekly activities during YMCA summer day camp.



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Newsroom Contacts

Dan Dean, Managing Editor
Mobile: 248-396-0706; Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach
Mobile: 586-262-9892; Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com



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Incredible Science Machine breaks 3 domino records

Breaths were baited as more than 200 people crowded the bleachers of the Trillium Academy gym in Taylor in July to watch the uninterrupted toppling of nearly 250,000 dominoes.

The display that took a team of 19 domino artists and chain reaction builders a full week to make, came down in just over 15 minutes. This year's "Game On!" theme of Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine featured dominoes arranged as video games, board games and a variety of sports.

Lead builder Steve Price, a Canton native and Michigan State University graduate, surprised the audience before the dominoes toppled to announce that the team was attempting to break three national records, not just one.



A panoramic view the Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine. Game On! is advance of the continuous chain reaction.

The team was seeking to break the record for the most dominoes toppled; the largest domino field, a Pokemon display; and largest structure, a Game Over build.

After making last-minute checks to make sure everything was ready, Price invited the team, ages 13-31, to introduce themselves. They included builders from California to the East Coast, Canada, Austria,

Germany and Switzerland.

The audience also included domino and chain reaction enthusiasts who traveled hundreds of miles to watch the record-breaking event.

Making the drive to Michigan from Toronto with her husband and three sons was Jas Bimrah. "It's a great opportunity for my son Aaron, 11, to meet builders he communicates with online," Bimrah said. "As a parent, it's a great way to expose kids to science and the hard work and patience that goes into building a domino rally or chain reaction machines." This was the third year for the family to attend Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine event.

The honor of starting the chain reaction was given to 7-year-old Sebastian Krage, a Detroit-area resident and member of Incredible Domino Workshops, sponsored by Zeal Credit Union. The workshops are held monthly at local libraries.

Everyone was on their feet when the chain reac-

tion began, shouting and screaming as their favorite structures and displays came down. With 10 seconds to go on the scoreboard, a buzzer sounded, and the final Game Over structure came toppling down. Cheers erupted throughout the crowd.

Final results revealed three new U.S. records set, with the most dominoes toppled at 245,732, the largest domino field of 12,450 and the largest domino structure of 12,780.

None were more delighted with the success of the Incredible Science team than its sponsor Zeal Credit Union.

"Passion, dedication and hard work is what led the team to success," said Tiffany Sweet, youth and community development coordinator for Zeal Credit Union. "And that's exactly what we're all about at Zeal."

For more information and to view a video of Zeal Credit Union's Incredible Science Machine: Game On!, go to www.IncredibleScienceMachine.com.

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CAMP

Continued from Page A1

twice a week to explore the outdoors, participate in field trips and go swimming.

"The field trips are one of my favorite things," Valdez said. "We went to the Detroit Institute of Arts and I saw so much great art and many old objects. I really liked the Roman statues and there were many interesting things to see like the Native American masks and costumes. There was so much rare art, like paintings and drawing from Europe."

Although Valdez says she is planning on studying art in college, the Albert Schweitzer Elementary School student had a fair amount to say about nutrition as well.

"I learn a lot about healthy foods on Wednesdays when we have our PE-Nut activities. The name stands for physical education and nutrition," Valdez said. "This week we tried healthy s'mores, made with blueberries, vanilla yogurt and graham crackers. They were delicious."

Good nutrition is a theme that runs throughout the camp program as well as the YMCA mission. Along with the daily camp activities, children attending the Westland camp can take advantage of free breakfast and lunch, offered through the YMCA Healthy Living and Life Skills Branch.

"The Y offers free meal programs at 20 locations throughout metro-Detroit, with nine of them being at YMCA summer camp locations," said Lisa Senac, executive director of the program.

The summer meal programs are placed in areas where 50 percent of school-age children receive free or reduced-cost lunches during the school year.

"The Y tries to bridge the gap during the summer months when children are not in school," Senac said. "The program is completely free; you do not have to sign up or provide any paperwork. It is simply available for those who might need it."

The free food service program is designed to serve kids throughout the area and is available to anyone up to age 18, regardless of whether they are enrolled in YMCA programs or not. This age extends to 26 for anyone with a disability.

"Our food program in Westland is



YMCA Campers from Livonia, Garden City, Westland and other surrounding communities took part in some silliness at the H2O Zone.

COURTESY LIVONIA YMCA

considered a drop-in site," Senac said. "Anyone from the surrounding communities meeting the age requirement is welcome to come to Central City Park and take part. We also offer some fun programs during the lunch hour, including crafts, games and physical activities that concentrate on getting kids moving."

"We believe both our camp and food programs are a great opportunity for families from Westland and the surrounding areas to provide their children with a great summer experience, in a safe nurturing space," Wolverton said. "The Y's presence in Central City Park is a win-win partnership for both the Y and the City of Westland."

Although they are Livonia residents, 10-year-old Aiden Campbell and 6-year-old brother Colin Campbell were all smiles as they talk about their camp experience in Westland. While both referenced a great trip to the DIA, the brothers also had running lists of other favorite activities.

"I made so many new friends," said the older Campbell brother, "and I liked the waterpark, the running

games and crafts." The list stopped abruptly, when fellow campers began singing a rousing rendition of "There are No Bananas in the Sky," the Campbell brothers' favorite camp song and they were excited to join in.

A kid's gotta have priorities.

The YMCA supports all children in the community and helps them discover their potential. In addition to overseeing the camp in Westland, the Livonia Family YMCA has also been running summer camp at the branch location in Livonia since 1968. Both camps provide opportunities for children to spend summer in a welcoming environment where kids build friendships, develop character and have fun.

For families who cannot afford camp, the YMCA offers financial assistance programs so they can participate as well.

To find out more about either of these camp programs or the free lunch program, contact Kelly Plocharczyk, Youth Development manager, at kplocharczyk@ymcadeloit.org or call 734-261-2161, ex. 216, or visit www.ymcadeloit.org/livonia/programs/camp/.

PROGRAM

Continued from Page A1

John Mimnaugh, administrator for Marywood, said the benefits don't flow just one way with a program like this: The Marywood residents see benefits doing activities with the youngsters, too.

"They really are helping each other," he said. "It's not just the senior adults helping the kids."

Mueller said the program gives some students, who come from all over western Wayne and western Oakland counties, the opportunity to interact with senior citizens. She said some children don't have regular interaction with senior citizens on a regular basis.

"They don't know what an older adult looks like," Mueller said. "Some of them are apprehensive at first, but the relationships have really grown where there's that wisdom and wonder with both. It's been fun to watch."

The program is expected to continue into the fall, with the hopes of it growing even more. The success of the program the past year has organizers thinking big: Mueller said the ultimate goal would be to connect the two facilities physically, in addition to the spiritual bond the two already have.

"Our big dream would be to have a building right next door with a link," Mueller said. "Because then the older adults could come over and rock the infants. They could be more involved."


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Activities director Jackie King shows Mary Napier the art she created with the children.



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COURTESY INSIDEOUT CHURCH

Organizers say Hope Fest will give away some 400 backpacks filled with school supplies.

InsideOut Church in Garden City to give out backpacks at Hope Fest

Brad Kadrich
 hometownlife.com

The folks at InsideOut Church in Garden City like to show God's love in a practical way.

And apparently it's working, because the church's third annual Hope Fest, they believe, will be the biggest yet.

Hope Fest, InsideOut's annual effort to "restore hope to families that are in need," takes place Saturday, Aug. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Garden City park at the corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill roads.

The event will include a backpack giveaway during which church officials are expecting to give out some 400 backpacks. That's up from 250 a year ago and 100 in the first year. After some 600 people showed up for the 2016 Hope Fest, organizers are expecting 750-1,000 people this year.

"Each year it just keeps getting bigger and bigger," said associate pastor for evangelism Roger Heitman, who is organizing the event. "Our main purpose is to ... restore hope to families that are in need. People do care about them and want to show it in practical ways."

The day will feature lots of events for the kids along with free food, and a local band will provide the entertain-

ment.

Ten local businesses will also be on hand with booths at which they'll be giving away free items and talking about what they have to offer, Heitman said.

The event also features a prayer tent, led by Heitman.

Other features include:

- » The backpack giveaway will start at noon, but Heitman hopes people will come and participate in the rest of the event.

- » Free lunch of hot dogs and other food.

- » Free haircuts.

- » Several inflatables for kids.

- » Face painting.

- » Garden City police with a cruiser to look over.

- » Garden City Fire Department will have a fire truck to look over.

Everything is free of charge.

"We hope it will bring some hope to the families of Garden City and the surrounding communities," Heitman said. "Our payment will be seeing families encouraged to know that others do care about them and their welfare."

InsideOut Church is located at 1075 Venoy Road (on the corner of Marquette in Garden City). Contact the church via email at Jason@IOchurch.net or call 734-956-0181.

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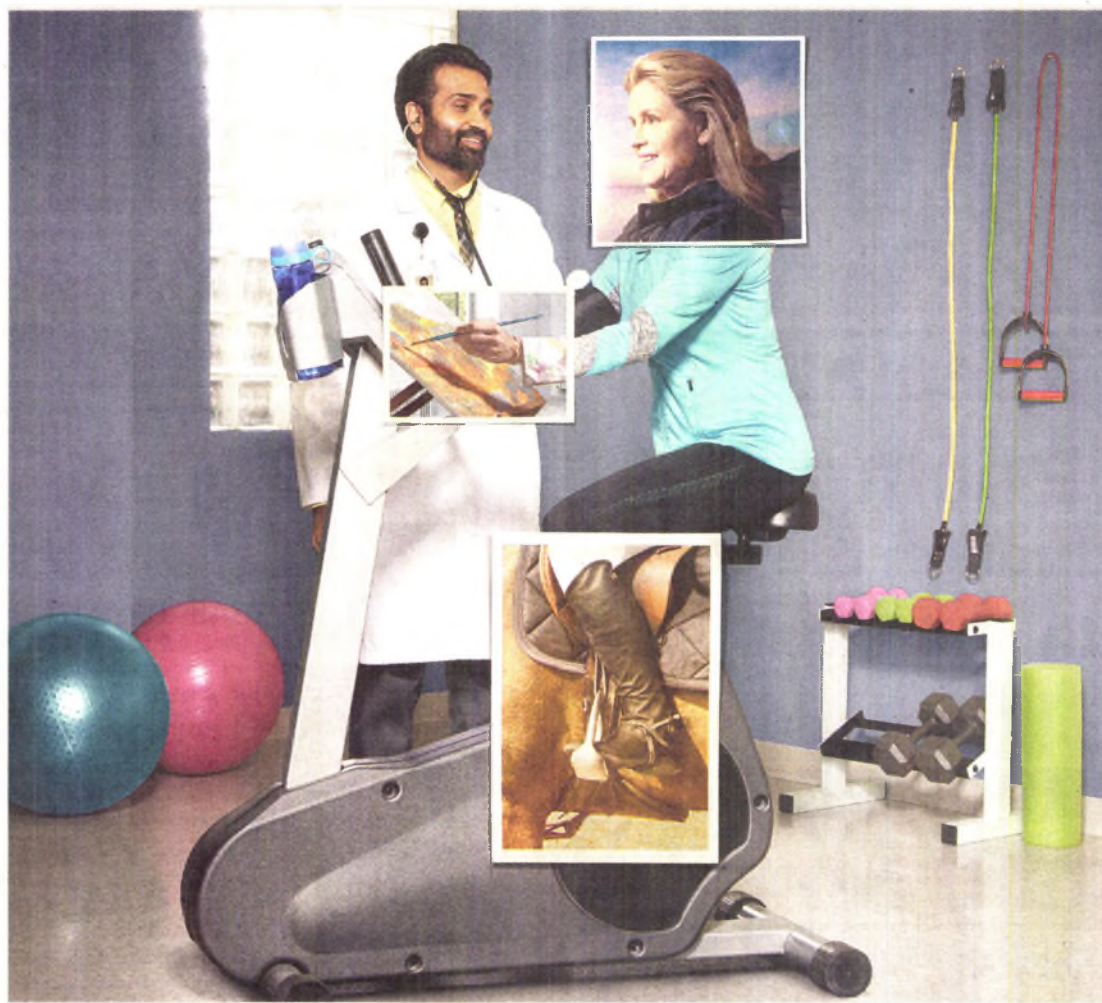
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Next court date set for man accused in death of infant son

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

A 30-year-old Wayne man will return to court later this month for a preliminary examination on murder and child abuse charges.

Marc Minter will return to Wayne's 29th District Court at 9 a.m. Aug. 22 for his preliminary exam. He faces two counts of first-degree child abuse and one count of felony murder after Wayne police say he was responsible for the death of his 2-year-old son back in October.

Minter appeared via video in 29th District Court in front of visiting



Minter

asked for more time for discovery before the exam, which is held to determine if there's enough evidence for the case to go to trial.

Minter was originally charged back on July 28 with the charges, which came after a "lengthy investigation" by Wayne police. Police say they were called back on Oct. 19 to a home near Williams

Judge Sabrina Johnson for a probable cause conference Tuesday morning. His attorneys

and Annapolis on the report of a child who was not breathing. He was then taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

An autopsy performed on the boy showed the cause of death to be blunt force trauma to the back, according to police. Police investigated and found the boy's sister, who was seven months old, also had a pair of broken legs.

Minter remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail without bond. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

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

Police: Mom left children in minivan in 86-degree temps

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

A 41-year-old Plymouth mother is accused of leaving three of her seven children in a minivan in sweltering heat while she shopped inside the Canton Meijer store, police say.

The mother, now facing a misdemeanor child neglect charge, told police she had been in the store

for 45 minutes about 3 p.m. Aug. 3 while the children were in the minivan in 86-degree weather.

A witness phoned police after she saw the three boys in a locked Toyota Sienna, with the windows slightly rolled down and the ignition shut off with no air conditioning. Police found the children — ages 2, 5 and 11 — "tired and sweating pro-

fusely," according to a police report.

The youngest child's T-shirt was soaked with sweat, the report said.

An officer unlocked the minivan, removed the boys and put them in an air conditioned police car. The other four children — 13, 9, 7 years old and 8 months old — had accompanied the mother into the store, police said.

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844.456.KIDS



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



FreePreOakland.org

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

Red Cross: Blood urgently needed

The American Red Cross urges blood donors to give in the final weeks of summer to help overcome a chronic summer blood shortage.

In August, regular donors may delay giving as final summer vacations are planned and back-to-school activities ramp up. To fully meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks, donations are urgently needed from new and current donors. Those who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again. Blood can be safely donated every 56 days and power red cells can be donated every 112 days.

As a thank you, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross now through Aug. 31 will be emailed a \$5 Target eGiftCard (restrictions apply).

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS. To help reduce wait times, donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at redcrossblood.org/RapidPass.

Upcoming area blood donation opportunities include:

Wayne County

Canton
Aug. 17: Noon to 5:45 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Drive

Aug. 22: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Canton Public Library, 1200 Canton Center Road

Aug. 23: 12:30-6:15 p.m., Hampton Inn Suites, 1950 Haggerty Road North

Livonia
Aug. 17: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 18: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 20: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon

Aug. 20: Noon to 5:45 p.m., Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road

Aug. 21: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 25: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 28: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 29: 6-11:45 a.m., St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile

Aug. 29: Noon to 5:45 p.m., St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile

Aug. 31: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Plymouth

Aug. 18: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Plymouth Library, 223 South Main Street

Aug. 20: 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Road

Aug. 28: 1:30-7:15 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 West Ann Arbor Road

Aug. 28: 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695 Plymouth, 1426 South Mill Street

Northville
Aug. 27: 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile

Wayne
Aug. 31: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Community Living Services, 35425 W. Michigan

Oakland County

South Lyon
Aug. 15: 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette

Aug. 16: 1-6:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 640 S. Lafayette

Aug. 31: 1-6:45 p.m., Salem-South Lyon District Library, 9800 Pontiac Trail

Farmington Hills
Aug. 17: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 19: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 21: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 26: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 28: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 31: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills

Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Novi
Aug. 25: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Learning Care Group, 21333 Haggerty

Aug. 31: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., RSM Management, 39500 High Pointe

Aug. 31: 2-7:45 p.m., Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Nick Lidstrom Drive

For more information, go to redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org or on Twitter at @RedCross.

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I am an American We are One Nation

CREATING ATMOSPHERE FOR LEARNING

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

SADY SWANSON
USA TODAY NETWORK

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

Leshler Middle School principal Tom Dodd hasn't taken a sick day since 1997. "I don't really get sick," he said. "There's so much to do."

Dodd has been the Fort Collins, Colorado, school's principal for 12 years.

Leshler Middle School is one of the most diverse schools in Poudre School District. Of its 770 students, almost half are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch; more than a third are minorities.

Students come to Leshler from about 23 elementary schools.

"We have everybody," Dodd said. "We have some of the most privileged, affluent kids in our city coming here, and we have 20 homeless kids."

In 2016, Dodd won the National Secondary Principal of the Year award, months after winning the Colorado Secondary Principal of the Year award.

"As principal of the year, I've had an opportunity to do some policy advocacy," Dodd said. "That has created some opportunities for me ... to say, 'Here's what's really going on out there.'"

One opportunity that arose from the award was to travel to the Dominican Republic with the photography company Lifetouch and educators from around the country to build a school in January.

Dodd realizes there's still work to do for schools on the local level.

"Public education in America is still better than anywhere I've read about or heard about," Dodd said. "Our funding system in Colorado is woefully in-



VALERIE MOSLEY/USA TODAY NETWORK

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

adequate. ... That inadequacy ... is what motivates me. It's that we can do better. And I can't get more funding. So what do I have to do? I have to work harder."

For Dodd, creating a great experience for his students is at the heart of his mission. Dodd said every year, the incoming class of sixth-graders comes into the gym, sits on the bleachers and is inducted into the Leshler Middle School Vikings family.

Tom Dodd

Location: Fort Collins, Colorado

Age: 46

Mission: Deliver on the promise of public education. Help kids realize they too can live the American dream. Create the culture and conditions for teachers to teach and students to learn in a school where every adult wants for other people's children what they want for their own children.

Q&A WITH TOM DODD

What does it mean to be an American?

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

What moment touched and motivated you in your work in education?

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

What gives you hope and what concerns you?

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

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Chamber panel focuses on diverse workforce



West

At a time when business managers are searching to better manage millennials in their workforce, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce organized a panel discussion to support a productive multi-generational and multicultural workforce.

The second annual Connecting Cultures to Business Luncheon returns to the Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 7. The program is sponsored by NYX Inc., Schoolcraft College, the law firm of Fausone Bohn and PNC Bank.

The panel features four highly regarded business professionals who represent unique generations and cultures: Peter Ventura of Principal Associates, Kellen Winslow Sr. of Madonna University and an NFL Hall of Famer, Martin Manna of the Chaldean American Foundation and Chamber of Commerce, and Van Nguyen of the Beaumont Foundation.

The program will be moderated by Ron Fournier, editor and publisher for Crain's Detroit Business, who will also share his insights into trends with the much-discussed millennial generation.

"We had a great response to our first Connecting Cultures luncheon last year, and we are honored that this panel is willing to discuss how all of us can better understand a workforce with so many backgrounds and experiences," said Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

Each panelist represents uniquely defined generation. Each generation has similar characteristics based on commu-

nication, shopping and motivational preferences, according to the Center for Generational Kinetics. The Center identifies the "Silent Generation" as those born before 1945, the "Baby Boomer Generation" as those born between 1946-1964, "Generation X" as those born from 1965-1977, "Millennials" or "Gen Y" as those born from 1978-1995, and "Gen Z" or "Centennials" as those born before 1996.

"Generation-shaping trends are most influential as people come of age, which means that members of a particular generation will develop and share similar values, beliefs, and expectations," according to The Center's website. "It is important to remember that at an individual level, everyone is different. But looking at people through a generational lens offers useful predictability for those trying to reach, inform, or persuade a large cross-section of a population."

The Connecting Cultures panel comprises business leaders from four of these generations who will share their observations and their experience managing people from other generations. Each panelist also represents a unique ethnic group, and they will discuss how those dynamics come into play in the workplace.

Admission to the Connecting Cultures for Business Luncheon is \$30 for chamber members and \$40 for guests. For more information, call the Livonia Chamber at 734-427-2122.

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

AUGUST 29, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
LIVONIA CITY HALL - AUDITORIUM (1ST FLOOR)
33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MI
(734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-08-45: Israel Mitchell, Jr., west side of Henry Ruff (16165) between Greenland and Puritan, seeking to construct a second attached garage, resulting in excess number of garages and garage area. Garages attached to the dwelling with no other accessory buildings may be 1000 sq. ft.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-08-46: Anthony and Andrea Cerroni, west side of Country Club (14863) between Jamison and Fairway, seeking to erect a six (6) foot tall privacy fence without obtaining the rear abutting neighbors approval. Written neighbors approval is required for all privacy fences along the property line.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-08-47: William and Gail Zhmendak, east side of Fairway (17830) between Bennett and Brookview, seeking to maintain a double fence along the rear property line. The new chain link fence was erected without a permit, also, the adjoining property has not given written approval for the chain link fence.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-08-48: Lisa Kovaleski, west side of Oporto (15429) between Five Mile and Puritan, seeking to maintain a privacy fence adjacent to a four (4) foot tall chain link fence, resulting in maintaining a double fence and erecting the privacy fence in the side yard, which is not allowed. This fence was erected approximately four (4) years ago.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-08-49: Robert Jaber, Jr., east side of Floral (18704) between Seven Mile and Clarita, seeking to remove the existing detached garage and construct a new detached garage, resulting in excess garage area and height.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

Publish: Sunday, August 13, 2017

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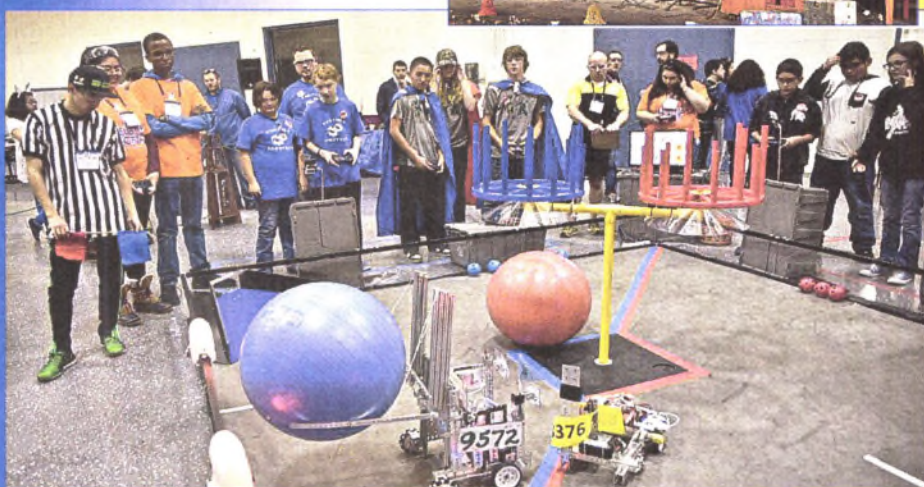
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PREP FOOTBALL

'Basics' training for gridgers

Chiefs start practices with eye on Big House opener

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

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

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

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

game.

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

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

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

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



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

See TRAINING, Page B3

MIHL Showcase teams set

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

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

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

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

MAJOR LEAGUE LACROSSE

After a small taste, Perkovic shooting for long pro career

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

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

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

See PERKOVIC, Page B2

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

SERGIO PERKOVIC

Brother Rice grad playing pro lacrosse for the Boston Cannons



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

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Albion College to honor pair of athletes with Country Day connections

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

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

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



Fradeneck



Upward

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

Upward and Fradeneck are

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

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

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

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

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

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

See ALBION, Page B2

Prep Kickoff Classic on tap

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

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

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

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

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

Little League fall registration


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

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

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

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


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



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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Clutter will keep things simple as Churchill coach

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Following a legend is a tough assignment for any coach.

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

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

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

ball scene.

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

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

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



Clutter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

ALBION

Continued from Page B1

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

Onward and Upward

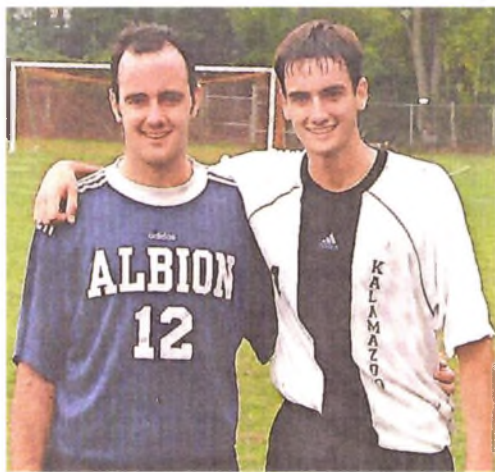
Upward began his college soccer career Claremont Graduate University in California after starring at Country Day. However, he transferred to Albion in summer 1998 and it couldn't have worked out better.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Albion in the family

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

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

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

Upward amazingly finished with five state championships.

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

Diving into the HOF

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PERKOVIC

Continued from Page B1

sylvania.

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

A successful pro debut

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

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

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

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

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

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

Showed star power at Rice

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

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

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

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



LAXSPORTSNET

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

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

Shining at Notre Dame

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Drafted second overall

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

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

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

ends.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOMEN'S AMATEUR GOLF

Her calm approach in playoff nets O&E title

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

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

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

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

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



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

'Felt wonderful'

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

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

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

straight ball out wherever I could.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other winners

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

respective scores of 64 and 71.

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

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

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

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

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Birmingham U-12 boys team concludes 'awesome run'

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

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

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

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

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

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

elite eight:

BIRMINGHAM 3, BC NW 2: In the tournament opener July 21, Bay City shot out to a 2-0 lead and was cruising right along until the fifth inning. In that fateful fifth, Birmingham's Logan Connaughton and Gunnar Dudlar reached base and were brought home on a timely round-tripper by Noah Wood. The three-run blast put Birmingham ahead by a run and pitcher Grant Stice, in relief of starter Ben Catlin, held things in check by striking out six and walking just one.

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

BIRMINGHAM 5, WHITE LAKE 4: Birmingham pitchers Wood, Joe Simpson and Henry Allen combined to scatter five hits while striking out nine. Allen hurled the final two innings to pick up the win. The big blow offensively was a key two-out, two-strike, first-inning base hit by Bradley Babitch, which gave Birmingham the early 2-0 lead.

BIRMINGHAM 17, PORTAGE LAKE 7: After



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



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

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

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

KINGSFORD 6, BIRMINGHAM 1: In the state quarterfinal, the Kingsford squad belted a pair of solo home runs in the opening inning to go up 2-0 and take a lead it would never relinquish. The Birmingham boys finished with three hits, including a triple by Catlin and a long home run by Stice. Pitchers Wood

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

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

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

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

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

"We've only been together for two years with

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

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

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

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

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

TRAINING

Continued from Page B1

outs.

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

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

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

All about team

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

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



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

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

About uniformity being important, Brown smiled.

"Everybody better

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

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

protect themselves against concussions.

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

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



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

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

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

freshman and junior varsity squads combined.

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

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

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BY MIRANDA PENNINGTON
THEJOBNETWORK.COM

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

1. Keep quiet about your job search

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

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

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

2. Don't quit your job

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

3. Think before you list character references

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

these references off of their resumes.

4. Schedule job interviews outside of office hours

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

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

5. Don't bad-mouth your boss

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

6. Don't use office equipment

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

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



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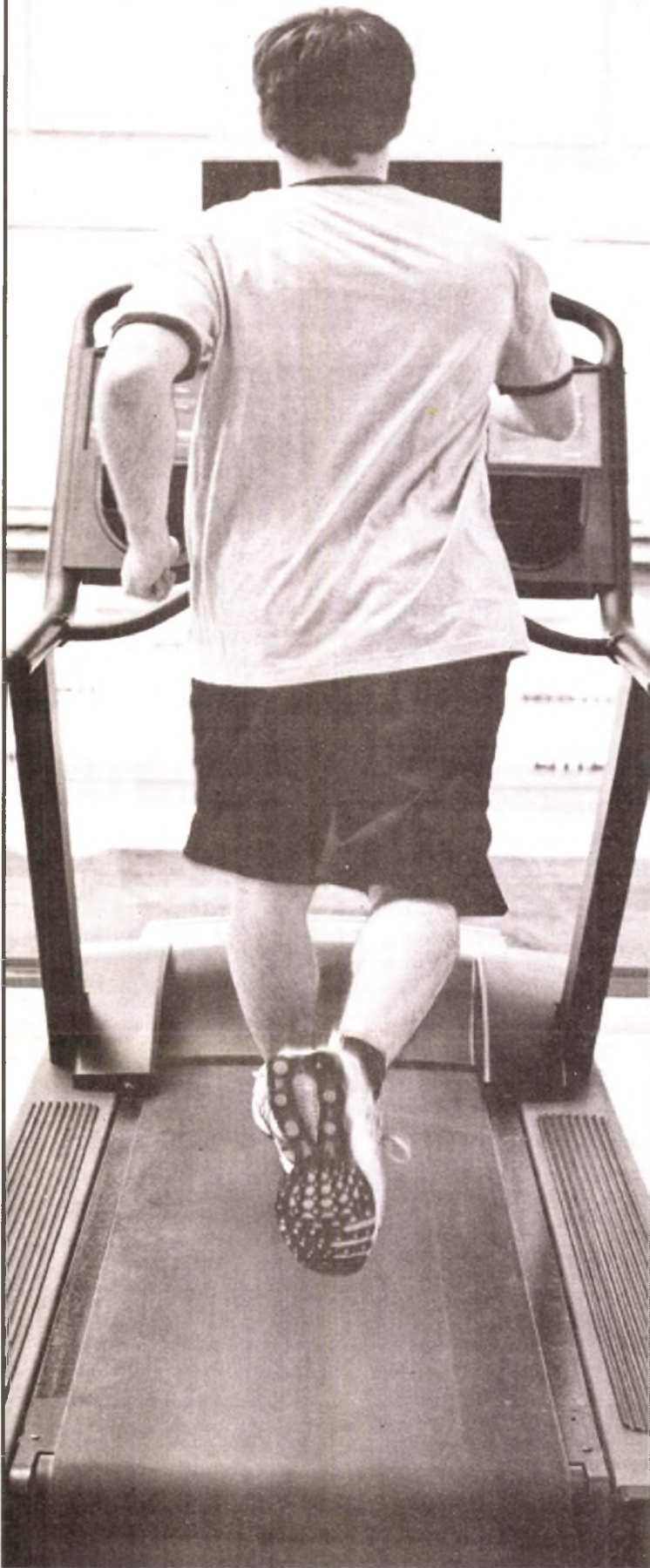
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 1995-96 CIA director John
 - 7 Seat of Johnson County, Kansas
 - 13 Dah's counterpart in Morse code
 - 16 Ungar of poker
 - 19 African antelope
 - 20 Mink's relative
 - 21 Actress Jennifer
 - 23 Nebraska-based insurance company [1935]
 - 25 Panther
 - 26 "I've Got a Crush —"
 - 27 Bean high in protein
 - 28 "Wide — Sea" (Jean Rhys novel)
 - 29 Desires
 - 31 Summons for speeding, say [1948]
 - 35 Footfaraw
 - 36 Like granola
 - 37 Up to the time when
 - 38 Chicago-to-Tampa dir.
 - 39 Sharp items with eyes [1956]
 - 43 Bond part
 - 47 Day, in Chile
 - 48 "Seals sold out" sign
 - 49 Mood of an environment
 - 53 Cloud layer
 - 57 Being attacked [1946]
 - 61 Funny Margaret
 - 62 Water, in Chile
 - 64 "— you one"
 - 65 Ventriloquist Bergen
 - 66 Egg layers in coops
 - 68 Refittings of cars' motors [1955]
 - 73 Fluids with antibodies
 - 74 Writer Asimov
 - 76 Comical lode
 - 77 Water pit
 - 79 Racer Jarrett
 - 80 Having recognized the value of one's own conscious being [1978]
 - 84 Artist's mixing board
 - 86 Amber wines
 - 87 "You betcha"
 - 90 "Angie" actor Stephen
 - 91 Ollie's buddy
 - 92 Executive arm headed by Antonio Guterres, for short [1973]
 - 99 Acer or Asus products
 - 102 Touch base on a fly
 - 104 Easy throws
 - 105 Gp. backing arms
 - 106 "Just Shoot Me!" actress [2005]
 - 111 Protest type
 - 113 Tree expert
 - 114 Christmas party quaff
 - 115 Chicago air hub
 - 117 Machine on a skating rink
 - 118 Event won by the horses at the ends of eight answers in this puzzle
 - 123 Up for debate
 - 124 Lipton drink, informally
 - 125 Actress Driver
 - 126 Booming jet of old, briefly
 - 127 Suffix with Hollywood
 - 128 Quagmire
 - 129 Actor Liam
- DOWN**
- 1 Lose luster
 - 2 Tall bird
 - 3 Thus far
 - 4 Razz
 - 5 Pottery's materials
 - 6 Slightly glow
 - 7 A bit amiss
 - 8 "When I Need You" singer
 - 9 Long — the law
 - 10 Cookie batch, often
 - 11 Snarky laugh
 - 12 Socrates' H
 - 13 Buddhist leader
 - 14 Like neon
 - 15 New York county
 - 16 Equilibrium
 - 17 Trunks
 - 18 Not finished
 - 22 Petty fight
 - 24 Eke — existence
 - 28 Phys., e.g.
 - 29 Existed
 - 30 Sweet drink
 - 32 Map nos.
 - 33 Opal ending
 - 34 Dol. divisions
 - 36 Model railroad size
 - 40 Lupino of old Hollywood
 - 41 Naldi of old Hollywood
 - 42 "How — Want It" (#1 hit for 2Pac)
 - 44 "The Detour" channel
 - 45 French river
 - 46 Honey drinks
 - 49 Realms
 - 50 Guitarist Ted
 - 51 Table wine
 - 52 Big online investing site
 - 53 Deep divide
 - 54 "La Mer" — translated
 - 55 President after Jimmy
 - 56 Part of SPF
 - 58 Sibling of a nephew
 - 59 Two, in Chile
 - 60 "That's icky!"
 - 63 "— just a number"
 - 67 Bank boxes
 - 69 Like the verb "lie". Abbr.
 - 70 Game with matchsticks
 - 71 Baby wolf
 - 72 Stings
 - 75 "I Am —" (Jenner's reality show)
 - 78 Supplication
 - 81 Clerical title
 - 82 Dreams
 - 83 Tincture
 - 85 Incus' organ
 - 88 Pastoral poems
 - 89 Grads' event
 - 92 Sheepskin boot brand
 - 93 "Rapa —" (1994 film)
 - 94 Wrench, to a Brit
 - 95 Kindle download
 - 96 ER trainees
 - 97 Moviedom's Meyers
 - 98 Bronzy
 - 99 Some statue sites
 - 100 Gem measures
 - 101 Yield (to)
 - 103 Home pest
 - 107 Rips off
 - 108 Sprang forth
 - 109 Congested cavity, often
 - 110 Terra — (file material)
 - 111 The Beatles' "Sexy —"
 - 112 "Fame" star Cara
 - 116 Choir melody
 - 118 Basinger of "Batman"
 - 119 — friendly (Jenner's "crossword")
 - 121 Yearbook bit
 - 122 Deep longing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19																	
23																	
29	30																
35																	
39																	
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99	100	101															
106																	
113																	
117																	
123																	
126																	

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

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

QUILTING WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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

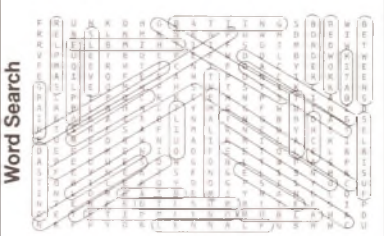
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CHENILLE
EASE
ECHO
FEEDSACKS
FLANNEL
FUSIBLES
GRAIN
LAYOUT
LINEN
MONOFILA
MUSLIN
NEEDLES
ON POINT
PIECEWO
QUILT
REDWORK
SAMPLER
SLEEVE
STIPPLIN
STUFFING
TATTING
TEMPLATE
THIMBLE
THREAD

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

Crossword Answers

DEUTCH	OLATHE	DIET	STU
IMPALA	FERRER	ANISTON	
MUTUAL	FOMAHA	LEOPARD	
ONYOU	SOY	SARGASSO	
WANTS	TRAFFIC	CITATION	
ADO	OATY	UNTIL	SSSE
SEWING	NEEDLES	ATTITUDE	
DATA	SIRG	AMBIGENCE	
STRATUS	UNDER	ASSAULT	
CHO	AGUA	IOWE	EDGAR
HENS	ENGINES	WAPS	SERA
ISAAC	ERIC	SUMP	NEE
SELF	FAFF	IRMED	PALETTE
MADE	TRIAS	HEP	RE
STAN	UNSE	CRETARIAT	
PCS	TAGUP	LOBS	NRA
LAURAS	ANGIACOM	SITIN	
ARBORIST	NOG	OHARE	
ZAMBONI	KENTUCKY	DEBERRY	
ATTISUE	ICETE	MINNIE	
SST	ESS	MORASS	NEESON

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Car Report

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



By Dale Buss

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Inside, Touareg's restrained design is classy.

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

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

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

to Touareg when it's in that mode. Some competing models don't allow you to lock down the 60/40-splitting rear seats, which both constricts cargo space and makes cargo less stable.

The Wolfsburg Edition that I drove adds 20-inch wheels, a panoramic sunroof, ventilated front seats with

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

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

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



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



The Wolfsburg Edition adds a panoramic sunroof and more.

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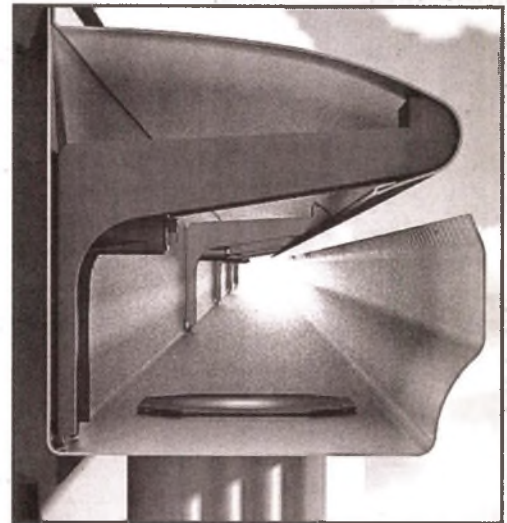
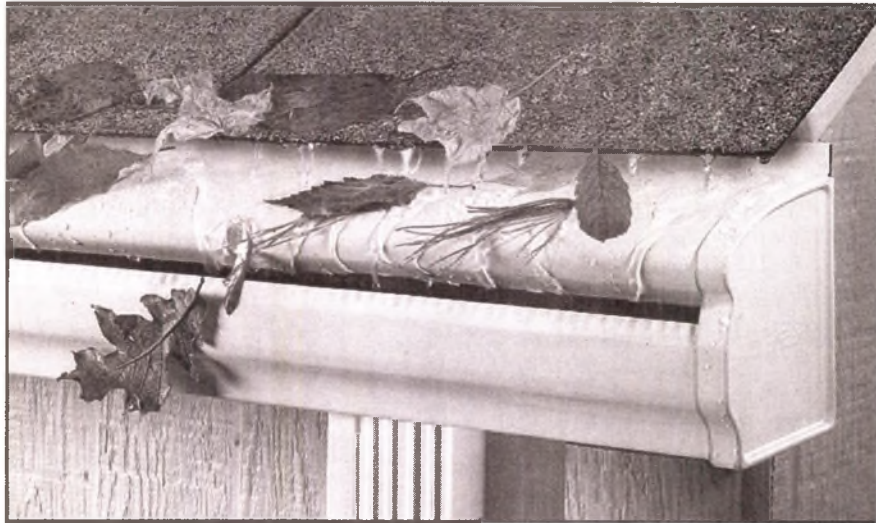
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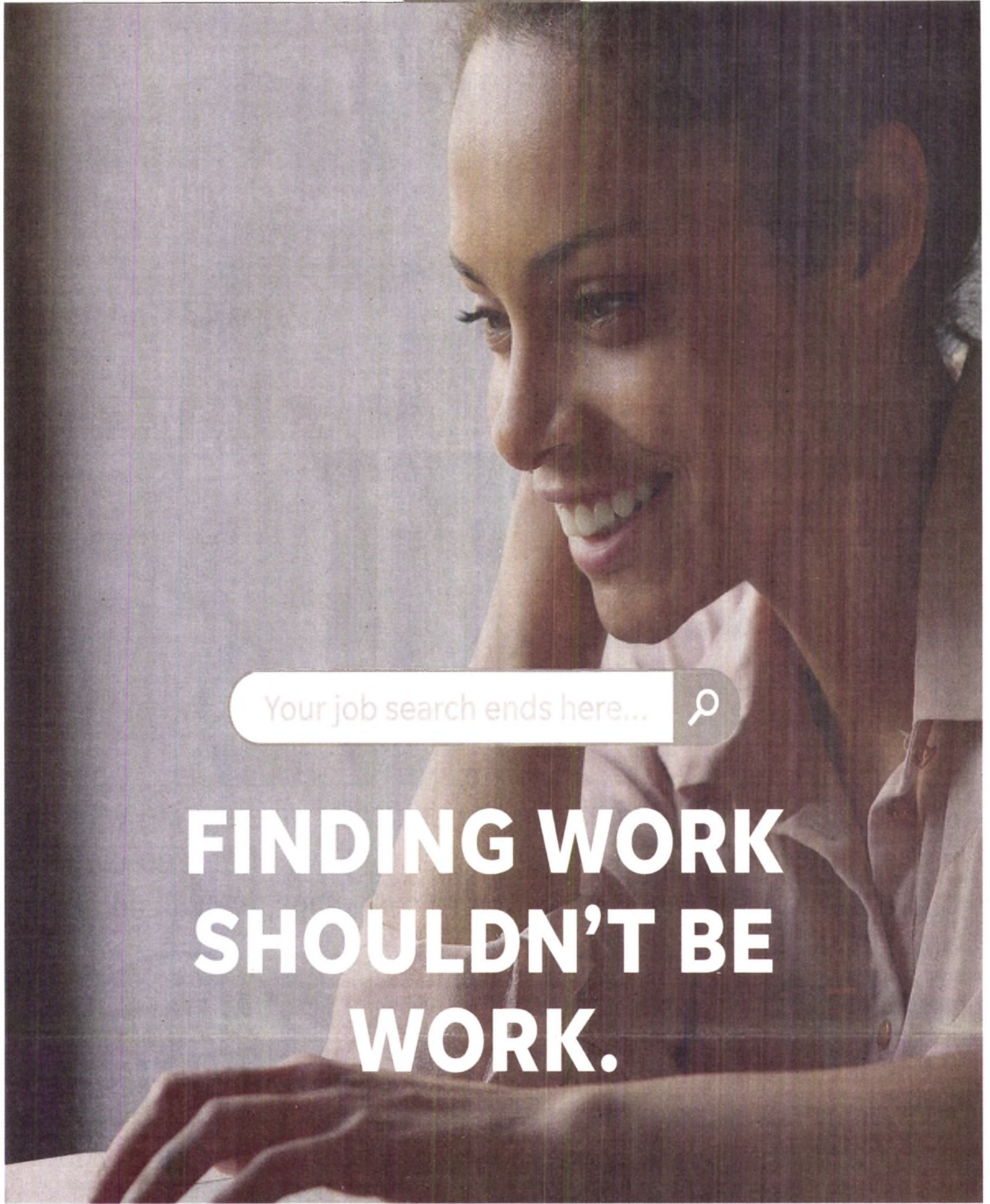
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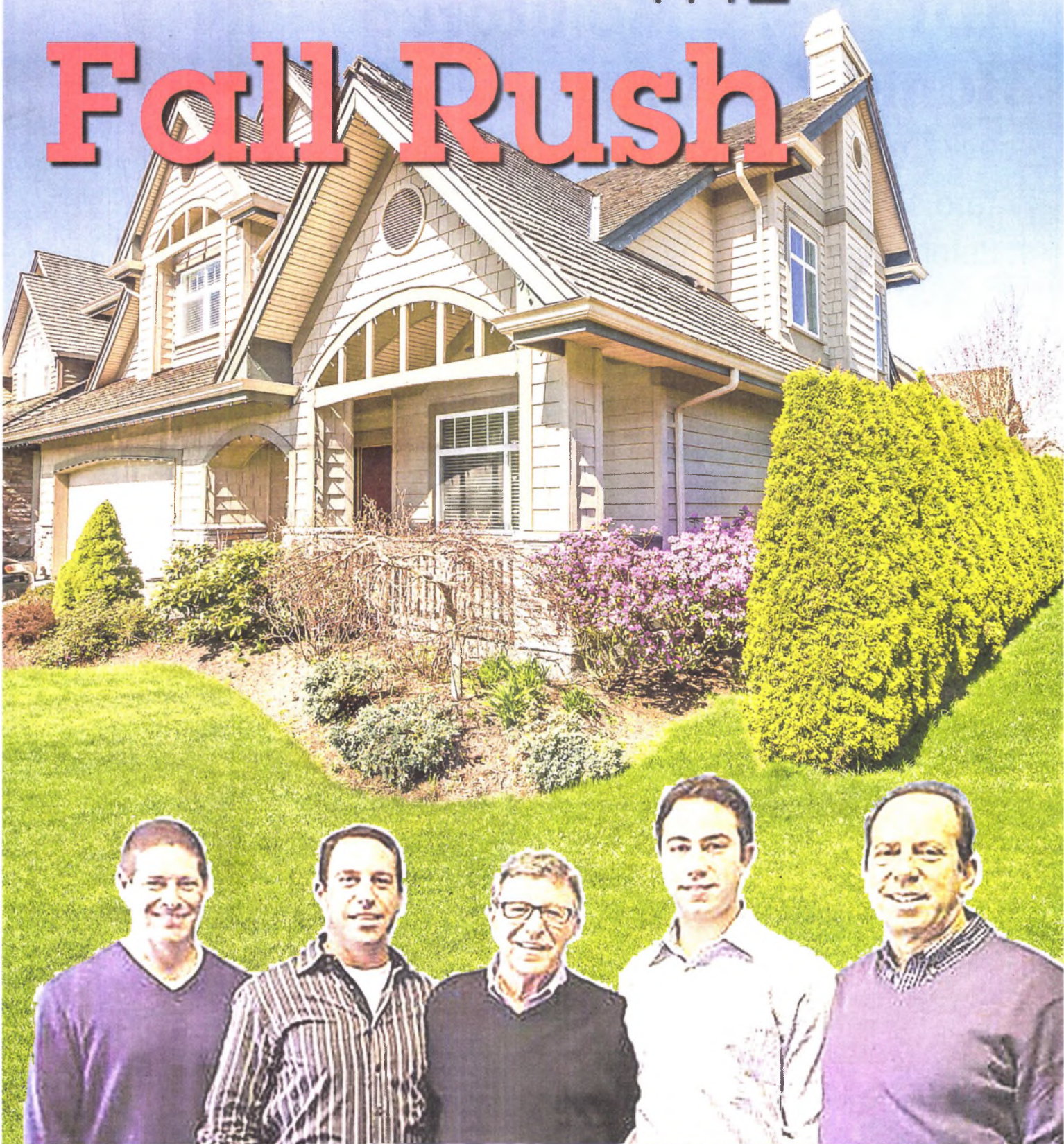
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- Power Driver's Seat
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MSRP \$56,625
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- Forward Collision Alert
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MSRP \$32,745
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STOCK #172006

\$87/IMO*

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- 8 Passenger Seating
- Rear Vision Camera
- Color Touch Screen Radio with XM Sat. Radio
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- OnStar w/4G LTE with Wi-Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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MSRP \$44,560
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STOCK #171491

\$149/IMO*

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