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Owner hopes to rebuild eatery in 2018

LeAnne Rogers hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Passersby may have noticed some activity at the Grindstone Smokehouse, the Westland restaurant closed since a fire last May.

fire last May. "We're just trying to get it all cleaned up. I have enough funds to start, but the insurance tells us they probably won't pay us for a couple of months, so in January or February," Grindstone owner James Raptoplous said. "I have some guys helping me clean up so we'll be ready to go. Maybe we can repair the roof."

The infrastructure of the building such as the electrical and plumbing will be costly work that needs to be done in the fire aftermath, he said.

The fire started in the early hours of May 6 at Grindstone Smokehouse, which had opened on Wayne Road, south of Ford, in 2015 following extensive remodeling. It had formerly been Beaver Creek, a long-time Westland favorite.

Both the Westland Fire Department and the insurance company have completed their investigations into the fire, the cause of which is listed as undetermined.

"We have our own investigation team — not the fire department. A plumbing company had been working soldering pipe right where the fire started," Raptoplous said. "Our employ-

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James Raptoplous, owner of Grindstone Smokehouse, is hoping to reopen next summer after fire repairs are completed. FILE PHOTO



Bridgette and Jason Desira recently adopted Delta, a dog rescued from Puerto Rico. Tailwaggers 1990 recently brought more than 20 animals recovered from the island back to Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

TAILWAGGERS 1990 SEEKS HOMES FOR REFUGEE PETS

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was a fast 72 hours last weekend for Laura Zain and several members of Tailwaggers 1990.

The Livonia resident and CEO of the pet nonprofit at 28422 Five Mile made a split-second decision to help find homes for several cats and dogs that had been housed in shelters after Hurricane Maria rocked Puerto Rico earlier this fall.



mentation that came with the animals and what little did come was in Spanish. No records came with the cats that arrived.

"They were either owned and surrendered or they were already street dogs," Zain said. "Or there were lost and not identified. The owners had just kind of given up." Anyone interested in adopting or

fostering a cat or dog can do so by contacting Tailwaggers via email at tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com or by calling 734-560-4660. Several animals had already been adopted, including Delta, who was adopted by Redford residents Jason and Bridgette Desira. The couple has several pets already, but saw Delta when they came to Tailwaggers - Bridgette Desira works at the nonprofit --- and decided she needed to become part of the family After bringing another dog they currently own to see if they would get along, the couple knew it would be a great match. We brought our other dog and it was like they were old friends," Jason Desira said. "She worked out to be perfect.

Area school administrators troubled by weapons bills

Brad Kadrich hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and in reaction to the Michigan Senate's passing of legislation allowing concealed weapons in schools, school officals like Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Monica Merritt are saying, "How do I not love thee, let me count the ways."

The bills they don't love were approved earlier this month by the state Senate, allowing the concealed carry of handguns in places that have traditionally been off-limits to guns, such as schools, churches, day care centers, bars and stadiums.

The three-bill package, which now moves to the state House, passed the Senate in 25-12 votes, over strong objections from Democrats, one day after it cleared a Senate committee.

And school officials aren't happy about it. Merritt believes the legislation is wrong-minded in a variety of ways and her district's board of education feels strongly enough that it unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday urging the state Legislature to kill the bills.

bills. "Safety and security is our No. 1 priority. ... Anytime you're introducing guns into our buildings, you potentially compromise the safety of our students and staff," Merritt said. "We have very good response time with our local police and we have school resource officers in our buildings."

And that's not her only problem. "The biggest piece is we have a board of education and they are our governing body," Merritt said. "The should have the authority to determine whether we're a gun-free zone." Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, and other proponents said the recent mass shooting at a Texas church made the legislation more timely than ever, on the theory that having responsible armed gun owners in churches or schools could deter, stop or minimize such attacks. Meekhof said the vast majority of mass killings occur in gun-free zones and "citizens have the right to be safe and secure and defend themselves and their loved ones." State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, supported the bills. "Many proponents of the Second Amendment, myself included, have seen how so-called 'pistol-free zones should really be viewed as 'criminal empowerment zones' where people with evil in their hearts will go to try to find victims that they believe will be

She returned last weekend with nearly two dozen animals and hopes several members of the community can help by adopting or fostering some of them. "We need to move them out of here

"We need to move them out of here fast, because we're not a holding facility," Zain said. "We had some foster people lined up, but they have fallen through.

"We urgently want to find them homes."

Zain met with one of her rescue colleagues she met when they went to Texas this fall to help with Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. They went to Florida and met at an airport to meet a private plane coming in from San Juan.

"This was the ninth flight coming in from Puerto Rico bringing animals," she said. "It's the plane with just one passenger and then crates (of animals)."

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One of the 18 cats brought back to Livonia by Tailwaggers 1990. This cat, along with the others, was rescued from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The group from Livonia brought back 18 cats and seven dogs, all from Puerto Rico, an island that continues to recover from the devastating hurricane that struck in late September. The hurricane left at least 55 dead on the island and more than 120 dead across several Caribbean islands.

The clinic began vaccinating the animals, mostly cats, this past week and hopes there are members of the community that can adopt or take them in for a short time while permanent homes are found. Some dogs were handed off to a shelter in Grand Rapids, but Tailwaggers was a makeshift, emergency shelter for more than a dozen cats this past week. Zain said there wasn't a lot of docu-

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LOCAL NEWS

WEAPONS

Continued from Page A1

unarmed," Colbeck said. "These bills still respect private property rights and won't allow people to carry concealed on private property where they are not allowed. It will, however, make sure that our Second Amendment rights and the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves won't artificially end in our public spaces due to arbitrary governmental laws."

EATERY

Continued from Page A1

ees said they smelled something that night (before the fire), but you figure it could have been coming from the smoker. The manager never went

South Lyon Police Chief Lloyd Collins said he supports the three-bill package, although he believes the bills, as written, "still need some help, certainly."

"The bill makes it too easy to get an exemption," Collins said. "There are technical issues with the current law and those bills are supposed to clean that up. I'm a supporter of the Second Amendment and people having the right to carry weapons. But there are still issues (with the bills)." Milford Police Chief

Milford Police Chief

upstairs (where the fire started) that night." The plumbing company had been doing re-

pairs needed as part of a kitchen expansion that was being done before the fire, he said. Projecting a possible

July reopening, Raptoplous said that there Tom Lindberg doesn't think it's "necessarily" a Second Amendment issue and knows there are some districts where the bills will "be embraced."

Lindberg, who said the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police "lobbied very hard to get pistolfree zones," said he does not support the changes. "It should be a juris-

dictional decision and the school district, based on what their culture is, should really have the ability to make that decision," Lindberg said. "When somebody makes the argument it's better

was recently a gathering of employees who had been working at the Grindstone Smokehouse.

"All of them have jobs at other restaurants, but they're putting the pressure on me about when we will reopen. I feel like we had put a good family together," he said. "I to have someone carrying a gun in case a bad guy comes in, that is as silly as the opposite end of the spectrum, when people say nobody should ever be able to carry a gun at all. You can never predict every single scenario. There's a happy median in there."

The House was expected to take up the issue after the Thanksgiving break.

Detroit Free Press staff writer Paul Egan contributed to this story.

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miss it so much. I'm really looking forward to moving forward."

Once Grindstone reopens, Raptoplous said he expects to offer a similar menu and operation, with a few changes.

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Community support continues for LPS Foundation

Seat by seat, table by table, the room filled with more than 230 supporters of the LPS Education Foundation during its annual fundraising luncheon Nov. 8 at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center in Livonia.

From business and education to faith and nonprofits, it was a tremendous show of support, according to LPS Education Foundation president Diane Policelli.

"It is a tribute to our community and to the LPS Education Foundation that you have filled the room to show your support," Policelli said.

Luncheon chairman Jay Young said several people have commented that this is a "must attend" event each year, because it serves as a major source of funding for the foundation's Competitive Edge College Savings Program.

The foundation offers to set up a college savings trust account for each kindergarten student in Livonia Public Schools, with an initial deposit made by the foundation and additional contributions being added by the foundation each year, as budgets allow. Once the student graduates from LPS, he or she can use the accumulated funds toward a college, trade or any other post-secondary program, anywhere in the nation.

Since the program began in 2008, the foundation has set up savings accounts for nearly 2,500 students and has donated almost \$350,000 to the students' accounts. For the current school year, the foundation added 420 students to the program.

LPS parent Amy Schilbe took advantage of Competitive Edge by signing up her kindergartner last school vear.

year. "Even though college seems very far off, it's great to know that we already have a start, thanks to the generosity of the LPS Education Foundation," Schilbe said. "This is a unique program that is not found in most school districts."

The eighth annual luncheon is the main fundraising event for the program and always features "outstanding" guest speakers, Young noted. This year, Crain's Detroit Business

This year, Crain's Detroit Business editor and publisher Ron Fornier offered stories from his political report-



Audience members listen to Ron Fornier during his keynote address to the more than 230 guests in attendance. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Ron Fornier, editor and publisher of Crain's Detroit Business, spoke of his career covering politics and about today's political landscape. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ing career and political insight into today's local and national landscape. The Detroit native is an award-winning and critically acclaimed political contributor to The Atlantic who started his



Lynda Scheel was presented with a 10-year plaque to mark her decade of service to the LPS Education Foundation. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

career in Arkansas, covering then-Gov. Bill Clinton, before moving to Washington, D.C., to cover the politics and the presidency during the administrations of Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack

Obama.

Fornier also served as a 2005 fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics, where he co-wrote the New York Times best seller, "Applebee's America."

Each year, hometown favorite Steve Courtney, WJR-AM (760) sports director, serves as host and emcee, offering a dose of humor to the event.

a dose of humor to the event. The LPS Education Foundation's grant program is in its fifth year and has distributed 85 grants totaling \$183,000 to LPS classrooms, schools and departments. Each year, LPS teachers and non-instructional staff may apply for a foundation grant to fund a special project, equipment or other needs that may be outside of the district's budget.

"This is a wonderful gift from the Education Foundation that we are very proud of," Policelli said.

For more information about the LPS Education Foundation, go to www.lpsfoundation.org.

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New senior housing proposed on Eight Mile

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's no secret there's a demand for senior housing in Livonia. One Detroit company is hoping to alleviate that problem by proposing to construct new independent living apartments for seniors along Eight Mile Road in Livonia. Southwest Housing

Southwest Housing Solutions recently went before the city's planning commission to request the property at 29023 Eight Mile be rezoned from C-1 General Business to OS-Office Services. That rezoning is the first step in constructing a three-story complex that would contain S5 one- and twobedroom apartments for low-income seniors. "We're working very closely with your public

closely with your public housing commission to make sure we do serve as many residents and serve the local need and try to address the local need as much as possible," said Janay Mallett, a real estate development specialist with Southwest Housing Solutions.

The plan, if it makes it through the appropriate steps with the city, would bring the housing to to the city for seniors 55 and up making between 30-60 percent of the median income for the area. It would be placed in the property between the strip mall and the Clarenceville Cemetery.

The rezoning request

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was recommended for approval by the planning commission at its Nov. 14 meeting and now moves to the city council for its approval. A site plan of the facility would need to come back for a round of approvals before the

project could begin. "The site plan will have to come forward in the future as well," planning commission chairman Ian Wilshaw said.

Mallett said a study was done in the area to determine the need for such housing. The area looked at was between Telegraph Road, Interstate 96, Interstate 275 and 10 Mile, encompassing several communities such as Livonia, Farmington Hills, Farmington and Redford. The result of that study showed an extreme need in that area, Mallett said.

"(The study) is recommending that there is a demand for 544 households within that primary market area," she said.

Jim Inglis, director of the city's housing department, said the wait lists at several of the city's senior housing facilities show there's still a need for such housing. Places like McNamara Towers, he said, have wait lists up to 100 people deep.

Adding such a new development, he said, would not put the city's facilities at a disadvantage.

"Not for 55 units," he said. "That's a drop in the bucket for what we need in this community." Several residents who

live south of the proposed facility spoke against the development, believing it could be detrimental to that area's living and wildlife that occupies the neighborhood.

Andrew Baur, who lives on Morlock, said he had concerns regarding the water retention issues on the property and feared it would negatively impact the neighborhood south of the development. He said previous examples include someone running gasoline from the nearby pump that made its way to the area.

"The drainage is the backyard of the people next to me," he said. "My concern is with the runoff. It already comes from the gas station and the strip and flows through."

Steve Pariseau, an architect with Royal Oak-based Shelter Design Studio, said the designers will eventually work to keep storm water retention on-site as opposed to it running into the neighborhood.

"We're still working through what amenities will be included within the building itself. But absolutely, we'll include storm water on the parcel," he said. "How we manage it will be a combination of different things."

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Madonna launches fast-track nursing program

The nationwide nursing shortage is expected to hit critical levels over the next decade and southeast Michigan is no exception. If the number of registered nurse graduates remains constant, Michigan's nursing shortage will reach 5,296 by 2018, according to Michigan Health Council 2016 data. That's why Madonna University and Ascension's St. John Providence are teaming up to offer a new, accelerated path to nursing. Madonna University's

Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health is pleased to announce the launch of its Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Qualified students can transfer their college credit or non-nursing degrees to earn a BSN in 16 months through a combination of online coursework, onsite lab experience and clinical placements through St. John Providence, the ABSN program's academic practice partner.

"As the need for nurses increases, it is important for us to help meet the demand through more quality educational options," said Catherine Griffin, Ph.D., RN, interim dean of Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health. "Our new ABSN program provides the opportunity for more students to earn a BSN degree, so they can begin their careers of service in the community as soon

as possible." Metro Detroit's health care sector is a prime destination for registered nurses because of the rapidly aging baby boomer population and retirement wave of registered nurses; 43 per-cent of the RNs in southeast Michigan plan to retire within 10 years. according to 2016 data from the Michigan Center for Nursing. Michigan is one of 10 states that are projected to represent half of the nursing job growth by 2022 (Strategic Pro-

grams, Inc., 2016). "Developing qualified, career-ready nurses through an accelerated nursing program like this is essential for our community," said Gay Landstrom, St. John Providence chief nursing officer. "As the demand increases, it's our responsibility as a health care leader to provide and foster solutions. That's why we are proud to team up with Madonna University to help educate and prepare the nurses of tomorrow." Madonna University's

Madonna University's ABSN program has spots available now for qualified students.

The ABSN program will offer three start dates each year, fall, winter and summer. MU is accepting applications now for the first start Aug. 27, 2018

To learn more, go to absn.madonna.edu or call 844-319-2107.

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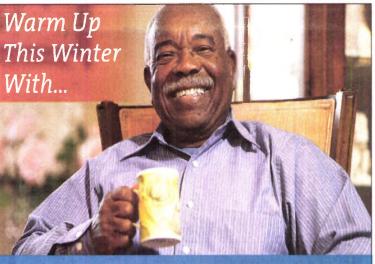
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Westland to again host Deck the City Hall event

Westland is once again hosting its annual Christmas kickoff event, Deck the City Hall. The event starts at

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6. Attendees will gather in front of city hall to sing Christmas carols and welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Westland. After they help Mayor William Wild light the official Christmas tree and city hall grounds, everyone is invited inside for free cookies and hot cocoa. There will also be interactive dance activities in order to promote Westland's Healthy City Initiative and children can write their lists for Santa and put them in Santa's Mailbox that goes direct to the North Pole. Children will also have

Children will also have a chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. As part of Westland's Compassionate City Initiative, anyone who brings a \$5 per kid or \$10 per family monetary donation for Shop with a Hero or an unwrapped toy for the Westland Goodfellows toy drive will get a fast pass to see Santa and will be able to skip the line.

There will be overflow parking available at JCPenney at Westland Shopping Center and free shuttle buses will be provided.

provided. For those who cannot attend Deck the City Hall, letters to Santa can be dropped off to Santa's Mailbox at Westland City Hall through Dec. 8.

For more information, call 734-467-3200.



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Wheels, tires stolen

Livonia police were called Nov. 19 to a residence in the 19300 block of Merriman on the report of the theft of some wheels and tires.

The resident said he came out that morning and found the wheels and tires removed from his truck. His vehicle was left resting on landscaping blocks. He told police they were on the vehicle the night before.

Resident out \$4K in 'grandparent' scam

A Livonia resident came into the police station Nov. 18 to file a fraud report, saying she had been defrauded of \$4,000 in a "grandparent" scam. The resident said she

received a call from someone who told her her granddaughter had been arrested for reckless driving and that she was not allowed to talk to anyone. The suspect then told the victim to buy five Target gift cards for \$800 apiece so that money could be used for bail The woman called back and the resident read the numbers on the back of the cards. She got a call from her granddaughter that day, who said the whole thing never happened. She then filed a police report.

Yet another scam

Another resident came in Nov. 17 to the police station to report she had been scammed out of a few hundred dollars by

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

someone claiming to be a Microsoft employee. The resident said she

was working on a job application on her computer when it froze all of a sudden. She then received a call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft, who told her she needed to transfer \$1,500 to get the comput er working. She told him she didn't have that much money and the price was lowered to \$500. She passed along her credit card information to pay for some of the cost and then passed along her daughter's credit card info as well. The computer was unfrozen and she was able to use it again. She went to her credit union, who advised her she was the victim of a

ANNIVERSARY

g to be a scam and told her to file a yee. police report.

Wallet taken at store A shopper at Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, came into the police station Nov. 17 to report her wallet had been stolen while

at the store. She said she was shopping at the store that day when she placed her purse in her cart. She said she only left the cart unattended for about 15 seconds during the shopping trip. She noticed her wallet was missing when she got to the register. She and her daughter discovered it had been taken and went to the store's loss prevention department, which referred them to the police department.

Second wallet taken

A shopper at Meijer, 13000 Middlebelt, came into the police station Nov. 17 as well to file a report after her wallet had been taken. She said she was in the

produce area of the store with her purse in the baby seat area of her cart. She said she noticed someone close to her while she was facing away from her cart. After she turned her back, she discovered her purse had been opened and her wallet was missing. She contacted store security, who reviewed footage and showed the suspect grabbing the wallet.

— By David Veselenak





Robert and Phyllis Mooradian were married Dec. 16, 1942, in Detroit, FAMILY PHOTO

Real

state

Robert and Phyllis Mooradian

Robert and Phyllis (Zerilli) Mooradian of Livonia will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary Dec. 16.

They met on the dance floor of Eastwood Gardens in Detroit and were married Dec. 16, 1942, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Detroit. Their family includes four children, six grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren.

Robert earned a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and also served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. he enjoyed a 55-year career with Ford Motor Co., starting in the foundry at the Rouge Plant in Detroit. He then became an engineer in cost estimating. Robert worked his last 15 years as a consultant. He retired at the age of 81 wanting to spend more time with his wife.

Phyllis worked hard to keep everything running smooth in the home. She totally dedicated herself to her children and others. She is very skilled at planning and coordinating family, friend and neighborhood activities. For more than 22 years, she was the neighborhood "social chair" for innumerable parties and gatherings on East Clement Circle in Livonia. Robert and Phyllis

ent Circle in Livonia. Robert and Phyllis still reside in their home in Livonia and enjoy their time being together.

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The Mooradians still live in Livonia, FAMILY PHOTO

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Cancer patient, 16, enjoys candlelight dinner in hospital

Jay Grossman hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After four rounds of chemo, two trips to the pediatric intensive care unit and one candlelight dinner with his girlfriend held inside his hospital room, 16-year-old Maximus Finnen is feeling fine.

"I'm doing great," he said Nov. 15 in a phone interview between classes at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. "I'm pretty much back to my normal self ... just have to wait for my energy to come back. But it's great being back. It was tough not being around everybody."

It started with a cold last April. Everyone in the family seemed to have it, but Max couldn't shake it.

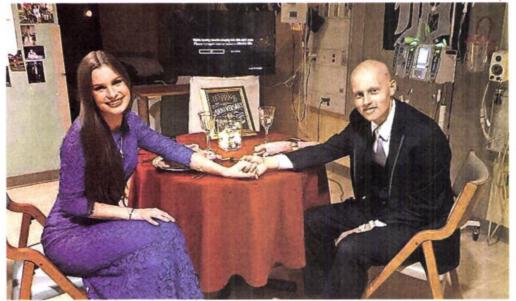
Then it turned into pneumonia. Then he had some blood work done. Then he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

"We got the results on Mother's Day weekend," Tammy Demeere-Finnen said of her son's cancer diagnosis. "That Monday, he was admitted to Royal Oak Beaumont so they could start chemo right away. He was in there 32 days for that first round."

Four walls, beeping monitors, no privacy and daily doses of chemotherapy. Max was supposed to be playing baseball, but instead found himself confined to a hospital bed. He pitches and plays shortstop for his high school team and he's hoping to land a baseball scholarship to get into college.

"It was rough," his mom said. "He had a really good year as a

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"It was amazing," Max Finnen, 16, said of the candlelight dinner set up through Wish Upon a Teen and other local groups. WISH UPON A TEEN

freshman – he was playing all the time. He was looking forward to his sophomore season ... they had already played a couple of games and he was pushing his body as hard as he could and we didn't know he had leukemia. I could tell that he couldn't get to the same speed he had last year."

Dinner with Max

Each treatment averaged 28 days in the hospital. Max would go through a chemo round, come home for a couple of weeks, then go back in again. It's how he spent his entire summer and the beginning of the new school year.

On one hand, there was a sense of optimism: the cancer went into remission after the first round. But it's cancer and he's a teenager and all mom and dad could do was hug their kid and promise him it would be OK. "It's so tough on kids

Tammy said. "Kids are going to football games and dances and they're hanging out... and your kid is fighting to survive in the hospital. They want to be around their friends and parents can't do that. We're not teenagers, we're not your friends."

Not to mention homecoming. "We were coming up on the fourth round of

chemotherapy and the idea came up about having a homecoming dance for him and Nadia at the hospital," Tammy said. "She played such an important part in keeping his spirits up."

Max and Nadia are a pair of high school sweethearts coming up on their two-year anniversary. Tammy will always be grateful for how Nadia visited Max at the hospital nearly every day to support him and said the young couple reminds her of "two peas in a

pod." Max wasn't really in the mood for a dance, but he was game for a candlelight dinner. That's where Wish Upon a Teen and a lot of other groups stepped up to help. The Birmingham-

based organization designs hospital rooms, holds spa days and passes out tickets for sporting events so that teens with life-threatening medical conditions can have a little fun with their families – along with some much-needed

distraction. Nancy Sovran, executive director of Wish Upon a Teen, coordinated the event. Working with Foundation for Strength, Motor City Movement

Nov. 24

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and Strength Depot, she managed to collect a treasure chest of donations to make the night a

memorable one. "It's wonderful when you can just make a phone call and amazing people come together to help a teen who is going through a difficult time," Sovran said. "These folks really have a special place in my heart."

place in my heart." Fleming's Steakhouse provided a steak and lobster dinner with all the fixings. Astrein Jewelers donated a gorgeous bracelet for Nadia, while the Flower Bar provided a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Tisp Bakery made the cake.

Glam4Good provided a dress for the occasion and Men's Warehouse fitted Max with a tuxedo. Tammy said it was the first time her son wore a tuxedo. The entire Michigan

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State University baseball team even autographed a bat and sent a video from the coach, rooting for Max to recover quickly. The dinner was held

The dinner was held Oct. 11. Violin teacher Bradley Foster with Cameron's Music played for the couple throughout the dinner. Dad even found a handy app to turn the TV into a roaring fireplace for the night.

fireplace for the night. "It was pretty amazing," Max said. "It was hard being away from home so long, but eventually, I realized being sad wasn't going to change anything and I tried to. toughen up and get through it as best as I could. That night really helped."

Max left the hospital six days later, Oct. 17. He'll go to a clinic every month for a clean bill of health. Otherwise, he's back in school and looking forward to spring practice

For mom and dad, they can finally take a moment to pause and relax.

"You never think your kid is going to get cancer, so when it happens, you're living in a weird nightmare," Tammy said. "But as unlucky as it was to get cancer, everything else ended up being very lucky. We feel so much gratitude ... we're here, he's alive and doing well. There's every indication he can go back to baseball and ot he things he loves - because it doesn't always go that way for every kid. We're aware of that and we're very thankful."

And for Max? Hopefully, it's just one bad inning in a long and winding road.

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Livonia resident wins academic award at Madonna

Sarah Knapp, daughter of Steve and Patty Knapp, was selected by the faculty and administration at Madonna University in Livonia to receive the St. Catherine Undergraduate Achievement Award for the 2017-18 academic year.

The Detroit chapter of Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society, offers the St. Catherine Medal to honor a junior student who represents the high ideals of a Catholic college education and maintains a minimum grade-point average of 3.25. Knapp, with a 3.95 GPA, was selected based on her academic achievement and leadership roles in church, campus and community. The award is in honor of the third century saint, Catherine of Alexandria, renowned for her love of learning and dedication to princi-

ples A biology and premedicine major at Madonna, Knapp is more than just a dedicated student. She is an engaged volunteer on campus. She serves as a student ambassador, assisting with undergraduate recruitment. As part of the Ford Community Corps, she joins other students in providing science lessons to students in the St. Vincent Sarah Fischer afterschool program. During the summer, she worked with her dean and a professor to organize the Biological and Health Sciences Club on campus. She is a natural sciences tutor and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

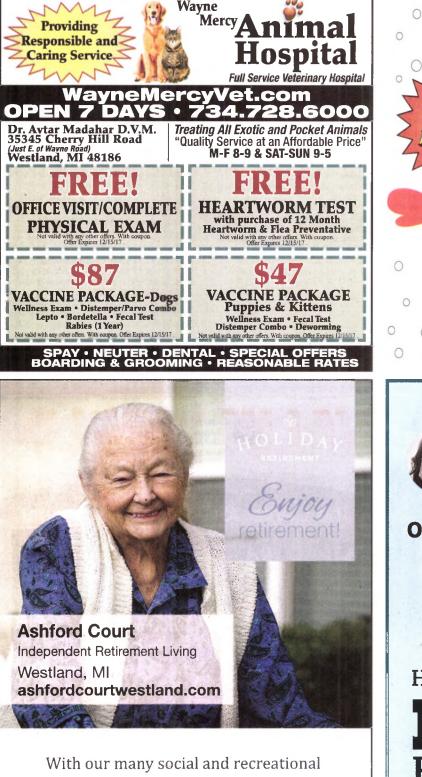
A Livonia resident, whose parents graduated from Madonna, Knapp is involved in her communi-ty as well. She coached softball and helped with the vacation bible school and high school youth group at St. Damian Catholic Church. Rather than play softball in college, Knapp coached a Livonia 14U team. After serving as a research associate for the Emergency Medicine Re search Associates Program at St. Mary Hospital in 2016, Knapp was asked to serve as the volunteer chief of the clinical research program this past spring.



Dr. Connie Tingson-Gatuz, vice president for student affairs and mission integration (from left), President Michael Grandillo, Sarah Knapp and her parents Patty and Steve Knapp.SUBMITTED

She also volunteered at the Alternatives for Girls Center in Detroit.

Knapp is applying to medical schools with the hope she will get accepted to the University of Michigan.







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COACH TAKES LEAD ROLE AFTER STORM

In Texas town, football takes a back seat as critical needs are met

LEN HAYWARD

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES 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.

REFUGIO, Texas — Jason Herring, the head football coach and athletic director at Refugio, one of Texas' most successful schoolboy football programs, was on his way west as Hurricane Harvey was strengthening to a Category 4 storm in the Gulf of Mexico and barreling down on the Coastal Bend.

While he had the means to leave, many of his players and Refugio's school district students did not, and it left him with some guilt.

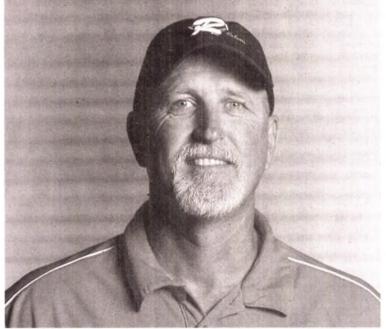
"When I got back, I couldn't believe my eyes," Herring said. "When I came back and saw all the devastation and the power lines laying everywhere, I didn't even have to think about it. It just came natural. I knew I needed to help as much as I could."

The storm was one of the strongest to hit Texas, and the heart of the storm took dead aim on Refugio after making landfall near Rockport. The town of about 2,900, which relies on farming, ranching and the oil business and struggles economically, had damage everywhere.

Herring's home suffered significant damage, as did the high school. The town was without power for nearly a month. Herring hardly slept as he and the school's staff worked to locate students to make sure they were OK, and began to help anywhere he could.

Herring said he knew football could be a galvanizing force for the town as it rebuilds, but for a few weeks football took a back seat.

Herring and the players who could get there unloaded truckloads of supplies at churches and donation stations, and also cleaned up at homes and businesses. Herring even became a de facto relief organizer as the supplies began to



Football coach Jason Herring helped direct relief efforts around Refugio, Texas, following Hurricane Harvey. RACHEL DENNY CLOW/CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

JASON HERRING

Location: Refugio, Texas

Profession: Head football coach/athletic

director for Refugio Independent School

post-Hurricane Harvey recovery for Refugio

build," Herring said. "I want to give

them a semblance of hope, and I want to

get them back to as much normalcy as I

Mission: Took a lead role in the

can in their lives.

Age: 48

District

come to the town. Some of his players were left without homes, and shortly after the storm, there were cots set up for players in the school's weight room.

A high school football coach in Texas is a high-pressure job, but in many small communities the coaches are town leaders, and Herring has shown that as the cleanup has continued. Herring was one of a handful of coaches in affected areas who took up similar responsibilities.

"I love people, I love these kids with all that I have, and I want to help as many kids and family members as I can possibly help; through the grace of God and all these donations, I want to help them re-

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Q&A WITH JASON HERRING

What does it mean to you be an American?

Just right off the top of my head, being an American is about being something greater than yourself. To be part of a free country, a big, big unit where you are just a small piece and everybody is working towards a common goal. Specifically, being an American to me, we are so blessed to get to worship where we want, to live where want, be what we want.

What moment touched and motivated you in your efforts to help the community?

I've always had the heart to help people that didn't have the means. So I just trusted the good Lord and prayed about it, and God brought in the finances, and we were able to help a bunch of people get back on their feet. I knew our community was downtrodden. I knew the hurricane was devastating. I just knew immediately I had to do what I could do, however small that is, to help as many kids and kids' families as I could.

What gives you hope? What concerns you?

No question, the hope has been great. The tens of thousands of supplies, the tens of thousands of people. Over \$100,000 has been donated, so there's no question the hope, and what I'm really excited about is all the people that came to help us. My biggest fear is that there's going to be tons and tons and tons of people that need our help when all of our resources are gone.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

Honestly, what I want to accomplish even as a coach, even as a teacher, in everything I do is I want people to understand there is nothing greater than love. I believe that you need to love everyone and you need to spend your whole life serving other people. If you spend your whole life serving other people and helping people and doing for people, then one of these days in life when you find yourself in a pinch, somebody will help you.



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Inspire Theatre produces 'Ultimate Christmas Program'

Inspire Theatre rings in the holidays with "The Ultimate Christmas Pro-gram." The show opens Friday, Dec. 1, and runs for three weekends, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 17 The Westland Center

for the Arts is located at 33455 Warren Road. Tickets are \$16 for all seats and are available at https://inspiretheatre. ticketleap.com . More information is available

http://inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057

St. Mary Mercy to offer joint replacement event

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Livonia will offer a free educational seminar 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. Attendees will hear from an orthopedic surgeon and expert staff as they discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures and available implant options. Individuals can also learn about presurgical classes, choos-ing a personal "coach" to provide assistance throughout the process, and what to expect postsurgery and discharge

from the hospital. The seminar is held in Classroom 10 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36154 Five Mile Road. To register, call 734-655-2345.

AREA EVENTS

Civic Park craft show

The Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia will be hosting its annual holiday craft show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. There will be more than 40 craft vendor tables. In addition to all the Christmas/holiday crafts, there will be a bake sale, Share the Wealth drawings and refreshments available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit

S.C.A.N. (Senior Citizen Achievement Needs). This is a free event. For more information, call 734-466-2557

Redford Symphony concert

The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will present a free holiday concert at 3 p.m. Sunday,

Dec. 3, featuring selections from the "Nut-cracker Suite" and many other holiday favorites. There will be a bake sale following the concert with lots of delicious holiday treats. The concert will be held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, go to www.redford symphony.org.

Merrick's Miracle benefit dinner

Merrick's Miracle benefit dinner is a family friendly event that will be held 3:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Redford Jaycees Hall, 15585 Beech Daly. The event will feature a spa-ghetti dinner, balloon entertainment, live music, a silent auction and 50/50 drawings.

Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$5 children ages 7 and under and free for children under 3. All proceeds will benefit The Riley Katheryn Foundation. You can purchase tickets to this event ahead of time via Paypal using email address info@rileykatheryn foundation.org. You can also mail checks to The Riley Katheryn Founda tion, c/o Laurel and Paul Space, 9040 Hanlon St., Livonia, MI 48150.

Compass to host Billingsley

Michelle Billingsley will be the featured speaker at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Compass Christian Business Alliance Western Wayne luncheon at Dave & Buster's in Livonia. She will discuss how her walk with Christ has influenced her career, lessons she has learned, her leadership principles and perspectives on key challenges.

There is a \$20 fee for the luncheon. Register and pay online at michigancompass.org.

Lunch with Santa

Livonia's annual Lunch with Santa will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The event includes lunch, crafts and a visit from

Santa and Mrs. Claus. Tickets are \$6 for Livonia residents and \$9 for non-residents and are available at the Kirksey Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. All attendees over the age of 2 must have a ticket. For more informa-tion, call 734-466-2900.

Obituaries

Amelia Maier

ONTARIO - Amelia Jane Maier (McDougall) 84 of Gaylord, MI and formerly of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 17, 2017 surrounded by loving family.

Jane was born on December 7, 1932 to Malcom and Catherine Mc-Dougall and grew up as a farm girl on the Mani-

toulin Island in Ontario, Canada. After marrying and moving to the Detroit area, Jane devoted her life to her 5 children and her career as a real estate broker.

She was a successful entrepreneur and businesswoman, owning brokerage firms in Farmington and West Bloomfield. Jane was a member of the Michigan Realtors Association for over 40 years. and was a hallmark in the real estate industry, establishing many wonderful relationships with colleagues and customers, while working in a profession she truly loved.

Surviving are her children, Laurie (Kevin Parsons) Butler of Nunica, Douglas (Sandy) Maier of Jacksonville, FL, Dennis Maier of Gaylord, Joanne (Treavor) Smith of Sterling Heights and Jennifer (Todd) Brigmon of South Lyon; grandchildren, Ashley, Gregory, Amanda, Jack, Cael, Preston, Linnea, Jake and Kate; a great granddaughter, Elizabeth; a sister, Peggy Johnson of Ingersoll, Ontario and several nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Joan McDougall; a brother, Stan McDougall; and her former husband, George Maier.

Her family has chosen to remember her privately. Those who wish are asked to consider memorial contributions to Munson Hospice of Grayling.

Arrangements are by Gaylord Community Funeral Home & Cremation Service. Please share your memories and personal messages with the family at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com



Doris Keehl

WESTLAND - Keehl, Doris Arlene, November 14, 2017 age 81 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Roy Keehl. Loving mother of Kevin (Suzy) Bewersdorf and the late Kip Bewersdorf. Proud grandmother or Kal and Kris Heir; great grandmother of Kash Heir. Dear sister of Carol (Ronald) Bobby. Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Memorial Service Monday 11 AM at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 N. Venoy Road, Westland. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com











Warren G. Todd

AUBURN, CA - Warren G. Todd passed away on 11/4/2017, one day after his 97th birthday. He had recently relocated to The Oaks of Auburn in Auburn,



CA to be closer to his daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Ken Haruta. Warren passed comfortably at home with his daughter and son-in-law by his side after a brief illness.

Warren was born in Plymouth, MI on

11/3/1920. His parents were Lydia Trinkaus & Robert Todd, longtime, early residents of Plymouth. Warren was married to June Willig of Chicago, IL. They met in the Navy during WWII and were wed

on St. Patrick's Day 1945, after only 3 weeks from

their first date. June always said, "He was the only guy on base with a car".

Warren started his engineering apprenticeship at the Nankin Mills Ford plant in Westland then retired from Ford Motor Co. after 37 years in the experimental engineering department Livonia, MI plant.

Warren and June bought their civil war era home on N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth in 1970. They spent over a year lovingly restoring the historic house to make it a comfortable and welcoming family home. Warren took great pride in his home and enjoyed giving tours of the old house to friends, especially his wine cellar. He was a charter member of the Plymouth Elks Lodge for many years and had a lot of happy times with friends and family fish fry. In their early years of marriage they would spend time at Avery Lake Area Historical Society P.O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175, Attn: Terry Cwik

"up north" in Michigan where his dad had been a member of a hunting club when Warren was a child. Warren was athletic all his life and a very good bowler, he grew up at his dads alleys in Plymouth and then spent many nights in league play. He once had a close to perfect game. Warren had the wonderful ability of making friends easily. After all his old friends had passed he continued to make new friends at his home at Abbey Park in Milford, MI and more recently at the Oaks of Auburn in California.

He was a favorite with the nurses and caregivers in the last weeks of his life. Warren was a very fortunate man; he had a brilliant, sharp mind and a great memory. He enjoyed telling jokes and stories until the last day of his life. One of his favorite sayings was "boy, oh boy"! His caregivers expected him to repeat that a few times a day. Warren was always interested in current events, his friend's lives and had a curiosity for life; he kept a very active mind until his very last days.

Warren is survived by his daughter Jennifer Haruta and her husband Ken Haruta, daughter in law Cristina Todd, grand daughters Stefanie Todd-Lee, Joanna Todd and partner Mike Davis, grandsons Jakob Lee, Hunter Lee and Solan Davis all of Bluffton, SC. We can't forget his beloved black cat Spooky III who moved to California with him in July. Warren is predeceased by his wife June Todd and more recently by his son Thomas Todd of Canton, MI (June of 2017). Warren will be joining June at the Great Lakes Memorial Military Cemetery in Holly, MI next summer June 15th is the intended date. Memorial donations in Warrens name can be directed to the Salem Historat the Elks. June and Warren were known as regulars at the weekly Friday ical Society where Warren and June were active members for years. Salem

F

PARC: \$30M campaign for new theater, renovations

Darrell Clem

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

It's an ambitious plan that officials say could make Plymouth the cultural hub of Detroit's western suburbs.

The vision involves a far-reaching renovation of the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Center, a place where 27 arts, recreation and education tenants already are rent-ing space since PARC got the keys to the former Central Middle School two years ago.

And, in a major boost to the area's cultural scene, the plan involves building an 800-seat per-

forming arts center about 100 yards from PARC's rear entrance, between PARC and the nearby Plymouth Cultural Cen-

ter. The total cost: \$30 million.

To that end, the non-profit PARC has launched a capital funding campaign amid hopes of reaching its fundraising goal by spring. Depending on how much is raised from private sources. PARC may work with local government officials to propose a modest tax increase.

"We're going to do everything we can to raise as much private funding as we possibly can," PARC President

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Soenen and Gail Grieg-er, PARC executive director, revealed the latest developments during an interview in Soenen's PARC office. They say it's unique in this area to have a 17-acre site in a downtown setting to offer amenities such as PARC and a new theater. Soenen said PARC

already has about 125 likely commitments for the performing arts center from theater groups and other entertainers. He said the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is among those indicating a preliminary interest in performing.

Officials say the performing arts center

910 Ridge Rd. 48198

(1 blk. North of E. Michigan Ave.)



This is a rendering of what the new performing arts center would look like. PARC

Holiday Deason

too many children living in the holidays are often a time of feeling lost with little hope

would likely open in fall 2020 with a 43,245square-foot first level and a 7,100-square-foot balco-ny. If built, officials say the theater and PARC can heighten Plymouth's position as an arts desti-

nation. "It solidifies Plymouth's position as a destination for the arts for all of western Wayne County (and beyond)," Grieger said. "There's really no other place in southeast Michigan that

Orchards



Nan Washburn, music director and conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic, has said, "Having a performing arts center right in the heart of our hometown of Plymouth would be a dream come true for the Michigan **Philharmonic**

The latest developments come after the



three-story, 160,000-square-foot PARC build-

In all, 85 percent of PARC's 62 classrooms already are leased, Soenen said. PARC has arts, recreation and education tenants alongside recreation offerings, including a swimming pool, a gymnasium and outdoor athletic fields

During the capital funding campaign, Soenen said attempts will be made to raise as much as possible through charita-ble donations from foundations, companies and individual donors. PARC also will seek pledge commitments and opportunities for large-scale donors to potentially have naming rights and recognition opportunities.

As the capital funding campaign begins in earnest, PARC officials plan to conduct public forums to educate the community on the PARC vision. One is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the

Twitter: @CantonObserver

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INSIDE: FRANKLIN PLAYER WINS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK VOTING, B4

SECTION B (WGRL) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

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GIRLS SWIMMING

Classic team effort leads Mercy to D-1 state title

Marlins place first despite not winning any events

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls swim team displayed a classic team effort in securing the ninth state championship in program history. The Marlins, despite not

winning any individual events, used their superior depth to capture the Division 1 crown

END OF AN ERA

Nov. 18 at Oakland University. It is Mercy's first state title since 2013 and its seventh state crown since 2007. Mercy finished with 277

points to defeat runner-up Saline, which totaled 248 points. Harrison-Farmington's combined swim team scored 192 points to take home the third-place trophy.

"We knew that our competition had a number of top-tier swimmers and, if we were going to be competitive, that we needed to rely on our depth and try to score two swimmers

to each of their one in as many events as we could," Mercy veteran head coach Mike Venos said. "We preached team all season

'We would talk about what it is like being part of some-thing bigger than ourselves and how to sacrifice our personal glory for the team," he added. "For the most part, the girls bought into the philosophy that we were all important and we were all capable of contributing to the team's suc-

See MERCY, Page B3



Mercy senior Katie Minnich set a backstroke state record of 53.80, which she set in the prelim round of the Division 1 state meet at Oakland University, DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

FAMILY DECISION

Hall of Fame coach Tim Baechler decides time right to leave successful Canton High School football program that he built

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.cor

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tim Baechler absolutely loves football, especially coaching the Canton Chiefs But the 50-year-old Ply

mouth resident loves family more. Baechler announced at Monday night's team banquet what those close to the team have been whispering about for months — he is retiring after 20 years and 173 wins on the Canton sidelines.

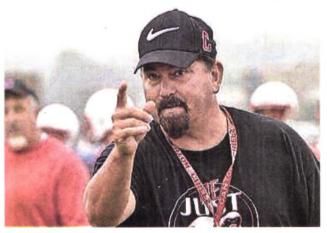
"It's a bittersweet feeling," said Baechler, who talked about his decision during an exclusive interview last week with Hometown Life. "I am sad to say goodbye to what was a large part of our fam-ily's life for 20 years as we raised our sons, but excited at the prospect of having some frage time." free time."

Baechler's final game was Nov. 10, when Canton dropped a 27-26 decision to Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the Division 1 regional champi-onship game. That was only the 52nd loss during his out-standing two-decade run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Keeping his program running at such a lofty level for so long proved to be a "really, really hard" task. But he was

really hard task. But he was up to it and then some. "Building it is not even remotely hard compared to keeping it going as long as we've been able to keep it going," Baechler said. "That just wears you out; it wore "It feels like a 50-pound gold chain that you love, but you wear it every single day - every day of the year. I'm glad to take it off. I will, however, miss the kids and the coaches and the excitement of it all."





Canton coach Tim Baechler knew it was time to leave the post, with son Lou (foreground) finishing his chool footbal Julie Baechler photographs her son's introduction during senior honors. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

GIRLS SWIMMING

Cranbrook captures D-3 state crown, Marian takes second place

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association added a Division 3 girls swimming state meet in fall 2007. The Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood swim team has certainly taken advantage of that over the past 11 years. The Cranes swam to their

third D-3 state championship Nov. 18 at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Pool. They finished with 292 points and placed well ahead of runner-up Bloomfield Hills Marian, which had 207 points. Grand Rapids Catholic Central was third with 189 points. Cranbrook Kingswood's last

state title came in 2012, Chris Bagley's first year as head coach. The Cranes also won the previous season under head coach Tony Kurth.

"We had a feeling very early in the season that we would have an outside shot to win, but we would need a lot of things to go our way," Bagley said. "We prepared for all the different scenarios, but none of them were as good as what actually happened."

What happened was that Cranbrook Kingswood won both the freestyle relays, was second in the medley relay and was led individually by double-winner Gwen Woodbury, a freshman. She also swam the anchor leg on each of the winning relays.

The winning 200 free foursome included sophomore Jordan Murrell, freshman Charlotte Trunsky, junior Syndey Allison and Woodbury. ir time was 1.37 95

There for Lou

Baechler explained that he always considered stepping down as soon as his son, sen-ior linebacker Lou Baechler, finished his high school ca-

See BAECHLER, Page B2

Tim Baechler went 173-52 during 20 seasons coaching Canton. He announced his retirement Monday. FILE PHOTO

In the 400 free relay, the team of Murrell, Trunsky, ju-nior Camille Misra and Woodbury won in 3:33.8. The medley relay quartet of Misra, freshman Hale Oal, freshman Justine Murdock and Allison also gained all-state honors with a

runner-up finish in 1:49.91. Woodbury won both the 200 (1:51.77) and the 100 free (51.53) races.

Cranbrook Kingswood's other all-state swims were turned in by Murdock (second

See CRANBROOK, Page B3

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BOYS HOCKEY

Players, fans react to Baechler's retirement

End of Tim Baechler era draws varied responses, from shock to surprise

PREP FOOTBALL

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The rumors apparently circulated for a while around whether or not Tim Baechler's 20th season as Canton football head coach would be his final one

Indeed, the 50-year-old Baechler confirmed his retirement at the team banquet Nov.

20 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. After making his announce-ment, as the banquet came to its conclusion, Baechler as-sured "Chiefs Nation" that he would do everything he can to ensure the program continues to excel in 2018 and beyond. "Underclassmen, I will

have a huge say in who re-places me," Baechler said. "This (team success) has to continue. Has to continue. ... will make sure the guy who replaces me is a winner and somebody you'll be proud of to call coach and who's going to get after you like I get after you and who knows winning is important. But you'd better impress him, too, and don't let us down."

Some had an inkling what was in store. Yet there still were feelings of shock and surprise among players and others in the tight-knit Canton football community.

"It was actually a very big surprise to us, but we kind of



Canton senior Colin Troup walks up to the podium Nov. 20 to receive the Homer Elias Award, which honors the memory of the former Detroit Lion. Troup expressed surprise about Tim Baechler's retirement. BILL BRESLER HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

figured," senior running back/ defensive back Colin Troup said. "Coach B has just been the best coach and I appreciate all the work he's done for me the past four years and I really wish him the best of luck " luck.

According to senior quarterback Connor Engel, who came back to the team with Baechler's blessings after missing his junior year, he was "not really surprised, just shocked, because he's a hall of fame coach and a real good person

"I know Coach B will get a good person in here. We'll be all right."

Senior linebacker/tight end

Lou Baechler, the coach's youngest of two sons, said his father's decision was "kind of shocking, but he wants to watch me play in college. He had a great career and I'm so

proud of him." Lou Baechler shook his head when asked his reaction to a key reason for the retirement, to follow his college football career.

"It makes me feel great," he said. "Yeah, he's a coach, but he's also a dad and he wants to come see his son every college game. It means a lot to me.

Another stellar senior, linebacker/running back Nick Polydoras, said he "wasn't too surprised, but I know it's good for him. He's done such a good job these past years. I'm just proud to call him my coach."

One of Canton's longtime football boosters, Dave March, lamented the end of a champi-onship-level era. "(He) and his family are

one of the best things to ever happen to the Plymouth and Canton communities, they set a high standard," March said. "The kids that he coached got a ton of character. People want to go to cached at Conter. to go to school at Canton, teachers want to teach there, families want to live in the community and a lot of it is thanks to the Baechler family. "I can't thank them enough

for what they've done over all

these years." March had hopes the next one will be right around the corner, especially if one of the current assistant coaches can be persuaded to take the

"It depends, it really does," he added. "If they go with one of the coaches here, that'd be great, carry it on. If it's a whole new coaching staff then we'll have to see.'

TOP AWARDS: A handful of senior players eceived special awards during the banquet. Lou Baechler was named Most Valuable Player; Colin roup collected the Homer Elias Award, named in troup coulected the Homer Elias Award, named in honor of the late former Detori Lion; Nick Polydoras won the inaugural Chris Lanier Chiefs Spirit Award (named in honor of the late 2007 Canton High School graduate and former varisly player) and Coaches Award; Robert Laird won the Most Improved Player Award; and Noah Brown was named the team's Best Lineman,

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Stevenson roars back to edge Brother Rice, 6-4

Plymouth romps 9-2 behind Chumley's five-point game

Tim Smith hom<mark>etownlif</mark>e.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In a season-opening battle between two top Division 2 boys hockey teams, Livonia Stevenson spotted Birmingham Brother Rice a two-goal lead in the first period. But then the visiting Spar-

tans roared back with five goals in the second period and earned a 6-4 victory Nov. 18 at

Oak Park Arena. "Was kind of like a heavy-weight prize fight," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "They hit us first, we bounced back. We hit them, they bounced back. And then

we got the last one in." Stevenson fell behind 2-0 when the Warriors' Nick Marone and Anthony Potestivo lit the light behind Spartans sen-ior goaltender Will Tragge (21 saves).

The game turned around when Stevenson's Austin Adams and Julian Decina both scored twice during a four-minute span early in the sec-ond period, putting the Spar-tans up 4-2. Two of those came on the power play. Brother Rice would not go

away, however. fighting back to make it 4-4 when Kenton Vogel and Ethan Nystrom

The Spartans regained the lead (5-4) with just 1:20 left in the middle period. Cole Park-hurst ripped a shot past the Warwione gachie with project Warriors goalie, with assists going to Decina and Kyle Siro-

Closing out the scoring with an empty-netter with 11 seconds remaining in the non-conference contest was Brenden Preiss.

"Hats off to the Brother Rice team," Mitchell said. "They are a solid, wellcoached team. We were happy with the win, for sure, but we also realize that there are so many areas to clean up. We learned a lot about our team tonight. Was a great experience for us." PLYMOUTH 9, DIVINE

CHILD 2: On Nov. 18 at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, senior forward Jack Chumley scored two goals and assisted on three others to spark the Wildcats over Dearborn Divine Child.

The Wildcats (1-0) broke the game open with five goals in the second period and enjoyed a 44-12 edge in shots on goal.

Other big contributors for Plymouth included Timmy Baldwin and Cianni Pinto (two goals each), Jack VanDen-Beurgeury (goal, assist), Graham Sheehan (goal, assist) and senior goalie Brendan Olepa (11 saves). Pinto also had an assist for a three-point game, while four players had two assists (Nathan Stoneburg, Adam Rebecca, Jack Blake and C.J. Mullenax. BASELINE BATTLE: Livonia hockey teams had the upper hand against Farmington squads Nov. 17-18 at the Hockey Has Heart Baseline Battle. Doubleheaders involving the four teams took place each night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena. On Friday, Churchill romped to a 10-0 win over Farmington Hills United, while Franklin posted a 6-4 victory over Farmington. The following night, the Chargers won 5-1 over the Falcons and the Patriots earned a 5-0 victory over FHU.

BAECHLER

Continued from Page B1

reer

"I wasn't sure," Baechler said. "I've been wrestling with it since Lou came up freshman year (2014). I'm, like, 'You know what, let's see how I feel when Lou gets through it.

"There was a day in foot-ball class when Lou was absent due to an illness. I walked into class and, when I didn't see his face in the group, I knew I wouldn't be able to coach once he was gone

"He's lived (Canton football) his whole life. I consid-ered retiring before Lou got to Canton, but then realized I had to try to give him the same experience, so I kind of knew when Lou was done, I'd be done."

He added that following through on his retirement plans still might take a while to fully digest. "It will, especially still

teaching here (Canton High School physical education)," Baechler said. "It will be dif-ferent. I have a lot of football players in my class. It will be a little weird here on Tuesday.

"It's kind of like Bob Cummings. He used to be the head football coach at Salem and he teaches the Salem football



Tim Baechler should have more time with wife Julie and son Lou as he retires from coaching. BILL BRESLER HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

who played for me in 2005."

Sticking with it

With Baechler at the helm beginning in 1998, after hav-ing coached several seasons at Hudson, the Chiefs soon became an annual title contender.

His final coaching record of 208-72 included a 173-52 mark at Canton.

The program he inherited was on the downside, with only four winning seasons since the team's 1973 debut. In 1997, the Chiefs finished 1-8.

starting to show," he said. "We were getting stronger and faster."

Chance to exhale

But with the success came expectations. Those eventu-

ally took a toll. "When you show up every Friday and you're supposed to win, it kind of takes the fun out of it a little bit," Baechler said.

Now, with the decision to end a career that already has Baechler enshrined in two halls of fame (Michigan High School Football Coaches Asso-ciation and Michigan High Day in early February.

'I know Lou wants to play football in college somewhere and it would be nice if Julie and I'd be able to go to all those games and enjoy it," he said. "Not drive there thinking about 'Oh my God, what happened last night' in our game, constantly thinking about the next opponent com-

ing up." The accomplished veteran also remembers what it was like to be a young coach look-ing for sage advice. That's why he won't completely abandon the sport. "I'm sure there's going to be a lot of coaches around. Every year there is," Bae-chler said. "'Hey you want to give my staff a mini clinic on your defense, your offense?' I'm sure that kind of stuff will continue. It's part of being a coach. "You always got to give back to people when they ask you, because I used to be a young coach and there were some coaches I used to ask help from. They were always more than willing to help me. It's our job as older coaches, if somebody asks for your help, you should do it Through 20 years of trials, tribulations and — mostly -triumph, Baechler's tenure has left him fulfilled with a lot of great memories and success, but also ready to just be dad. It's taken a huge bite out the family time that is so dear to him, yet he wouldn't have changed a thing. "I loved it and I'm going out on top," Baechler said. "I had an absolute blast."

Never a second thought

class.'

Canton's latest standout season, featuring a 10-game winning streak that carried the Chiefs to KLAA and district championships, did not change Baechler's inclination to retire.

He staved on course even as others tried to gauge whether the victories might sway him to hang on for another season.

"No, never a second thought to it," Baechler said. "I have got a few close friends

that would ask the same thing, Well. what are you thinking, about ready to change your mind?' I was, like, no, no. It's just going to happen."

Longtime assistant coaches Tony Boucher, Bob Williams and Rich Mui knew all season what Baechler planned on doing

Would any of those trusted confidantes take over for 2018? Or some of the younger coaches like Andy LaFata or Craig "Bubbs" Hnatuk?

"That's going to be totally up to them," Baechler said. "I've talked to the guys and the only one that's remotely interested is Andy LaFata,

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Baechler recalled making changes right off the bat, implementing what was called by some as "a little league" offense.

"Some of the parents were not happy with the offense in the first two years," Baechler said. "My coaches and my players believed, though, They could see that we were getting better and that we were in games deep into the fourth quarter. (Still) I heard things like, 'You have to throw the ball' or 'You play offense in a 10-foot box.' We stuck with it and I'm glad we did."

Those comments dissipated quickly, especially once the results started rolling in.

Employing a triple-back set that often made it difficult to detect which player actually was carrying the football, Baechler's Canton teams made the playoffs 17 times, won 11 division titles, eight league titles, nine district championships and three regional crowns.

In 2005, the Chiefs made it to Ford Field for the Division 1 state final against Rockford.

"We started getting more kids to play football and our work in the weight room was School Coaches Association), there finally will be an opportunity to exhale.

Not to mention taking a long vacation with wife Julie and their sons Broc (who also played football for his dad) and Lou. Or maybe even enjoying some autumn golf with buddies.

"Julie and I and the kids. we can do anything we want whenever we want," Baechler said. "We can go on a three-week vacation (next) summer. I can go on some golf trips in the fall that I've always had to say no to.

"I haven't played golf in September or October since I was 8 years old (playing for a youth team in White Pigeon). This is going to be crazy not having anything to do (during) August, September, October.

Road trips

His schedule won't be that empty, though, because he plans on traveling to watch Lou play college football. The younger Baechler has received an offer or two, but probably won't make his decision until National Signing

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GIRLS SWIMMING

Harrison-Farmington third at D-1 state meet

Marty Budner vnlife.co USA TODAY NETWORK --- MICHIGAN

Harrison-Farmington raced to a third-place finish at the Division 1 girls swimming state meet and set a new standard for Farmington Public Schools

Farmington Hills Mercy won the Nov. 18 meet at Oak land University with 277 points and Saline was second at 248. Harrison-Farmington mus-tered 192 points, just slipping by Ann Arbor Skyline, which placed fourth with 191 points.

It is the best state-meet finish ever for a Farmington Public Schools girls swim team. Harrison-Farmington, in its second year as a combined program, was 13th in its inaugural season last year.

"It's the best finish (for a FPS team) and it's pretty excit-ing," said head coach Kyle Kinyon, the former Harrison head coach. "Michigan has some really fast teams and it's a great state for swimming. So to go up there and compete with those great powerhouses which have been there year-in an year-out is something special for these girls. "This year, our preseason

goal was to break into the top 10 at the state meet, so to finish third is amazing. We had a lot of contributions. We scored in all the events, other than back-stroke and diving, so that real-

ly helps. "There were a lot of records set and it was just one domino after another of positivity throughout the day, so all of that kind of culminated in the third-place finish," he added. "The girls came in with a bet-ter focus this year and it was great. Again, it was unbelievable. It really was.'

The Thunderbirds, with a state-meet squad of nine swimmers, posted All-America, school-record and personal-best times throughout the afternoon en route to claiming the third-place trophy.

The three relay teams were fantastic.

The 200 free relay team of Ashley Turak, Emma Inch, Hailey Stewart and Madeline Greaves won with a time of 1:34.67. The 400 free foursome of Lia Munson, Inch, Greaves and Turak touched first in 3:26.35, which was a little more than two seconds lower than its prelim time.

Those times not only set school records and earned all-state recognition, but also earned All-America honors. Even the 200-yard medley

Continued from Page B1

cess."

All-state swims lead way

Mercy mustered points in 11 of the 12 events and produced eight individual all-state swimmers. All three relays earned all-state honors, with two of them swimming to automatic All-America honors. The third



Head coach Kyle Kinyon led the combined Harrison-Farmington girls swim team to unprecedented results at the D-1 state meet.

relay quartet of juniors Bella Feenstra and Dayna Borregard, Munson and Stewart placed 13th with a time of 1:49.38. That team swam 1:48.52 in the prelims, which set a school record.

"The freestyle relays are automatic All-Americans, which is pretty wild," Kinyon said. "I knew the 200 free relay would be pretty good with Turak and a couple of the other girls, but to come back there in that 400 free relay and win it was really something special."

Turak sets D-1 record

Individually, Turak, a junior captain in her third year as a state qualifier, stood out as the meet's lone double individual event winner.

Turak won the 50 free in a Division 1 record time of 22.38, which is the third-fastest high school swim in that event in state history. She returned two events later to beat the field in the 100 free with a time of 49.79. Both all-state showings were school- and personal-best swims

'After being a runner-up in the 50 free last year, we certainly went into this season with the goal of trying to win that event," Kinyon said. "The fact that she went 22.3 is just phenomenal.

"I wouldn't say it was disappointing where she finished last year. But this year, she was just another year older, anoth-

er year more mature, another year more focused. I think being runner-up last year gave her the fire coming into this season, that she felt it was her time. I just think it helped towards her goal.

"Going into that race, we talked about certain strategies of how we wanted to swim each part of that race, even though it's a quick race. In prelims, she absolutely nailed that strategy," he added. "She executed perfectly and I think, with the momentum she had from the prelims and just the atmosphere of finals day, she was pumped up and ready to go. I couldn't be happier for her and I couldn't be prouder of that girl.

Greaves, a freshman in her first state meet, registered a pair of all-state, school-record and personal-best swims: the 200 IM (fourth in 2:05.40) and the 100 breast (fifth in 1:04.63) Inch, a junior and team captain, earned the same honors in the 200 free (seventh in 1:53.01) and the 500 free (fifth in 5:01.57)

'Madeline has been swimming for quite some time and it's awesome for her to go allstate as a freshman in D-1. Kinyon said. "One thing about her is, where a lot of people let nerves get to them and really get stressed out, and not to say she doesn't get stressed, but she deals with it very positively. So she is a racer and did

not have a lot of built-up stress. "For Emma, I've never seen a harder worker in practice, be it boys or girls," he added. "She is so positive and she's such a competitor, just like the other girls. For her to break the fiveminute barrier (4:59.70 prelim time) in the 500 is just a monumental achievement for a distance swimmer."

Harrison-Farmington's other individual event scorers were Munson in the 100 fly (11th in 57.69) and Borregard in the 100 breast (14th in 1:07.02). Munson shattered the school 100 free record in the first leg of the 400-free relay with a time of 52.93 and set a school record in the 100 fly with a prelim time of 56.99. Borregard set a personal-best breast time of 1:06.45 in the prelims.

Capping an outstanding year

Harrison-Farmington's state-meet finish capped an outstanding season during which it finished second in the perennially tough Oakland County meet to Mercy and second in the always-challenging OAA Red Division to Rochester Adams.

"It was a great year, a great season," Kinyon said. "The girls put so much pressure on themselves. With school and academics and what it takes to actually compete at (the state) meet in terms of training and try to somehow have a social

life, the time that they put in is unbelievable. "So to have that moment

where they are winning (events) at the state meet, are getting personal bests culminating with third overall, where we are holding up a third-place trophy that we thought we would never be able to attain, is really some-thing special," he added. "I could not be more proud and happy for them.'

Kinyon will lose just two seniors from this year's rec-ord-setting squad -- Sydney Balk and Stewart. Everyone else, including sophomore Kate Pierni, who also was on the state-meet squad, is expected to return next year.

"It's exciting to have a number of swimmers back, but I hope they're not thinking about next year yet, because they need to enjoy what we just did," Kinyon said. "We're still kind of on cloud nine, as some of the parents have said. I know a lot of the girls are excited and looking to take some time off before going to their club teams.

"They deserve to have some time off after such a great season," he added. "Certainly, from a coaching perspective, you can always look ahead a little bit. Next year, we should be pretty strong but, obviously, there is a lot of work ahead.

MERCY



Minnich

of the season when it matters most." Venos said. "We are in a delayed gratification sport in an instant gratification society and there were a lot of frustrating, tired and crabby mo-

Loniewski

ond in the 100-yard backstroke (54.42) and fifth in the 200 IM (2:05.69). Minnich, the 100 back state champion the previous three years, set a state backstroke record with a prelim time of 53.80, which gave her automatic All-America status. Dombkowski was sixth in

the 200 free (1:52.67) and fourth in the 500 free (4:59.67). Connolly was third in the 200 IM (2:04.78) and fifth in the 100 fly (56.06).

Mercy's other all-state indi-

Janovksy, Connolly and Dombkowski was second in an automatic All-America time of 1:44.41. The 400 free relay team of Kendall Goit, Connollly, Pulick and Minnich placed second with an All-America time of 3:28.07.

The 200 free relay quartet of Kendall Goit, Lindsey Case, Kylie Goit and Dombkowski was sixth with an All-America consideration time of 1:36.23 Sarah Puscas (12th, 200 IM

and 100 fly), Ciara McCliment 200 free), Kylie Goit (10th, butterfly), Kendall Goit (10th, 100 free), Julia Coffman (12th, 100 free. and ninth, 100 back), Katherine Hutter (14th, 500 free), Myla Loniewski (15th, 100 back), Emily Guerra (11th, 100 breast) and Janovsky (16th, 100 breast) accounted for Mercy's other points. Mercy ended its tremendous season with an 11-0 dual-meet record. The Marlins won their 27th consecutive Catholic League championship, the Cranbrook Invitational and the Fenton Relays.

In addition, Venos was named the Division 1 Coach of the Year in his second season at Mercy. Venos also coaches at Birmingham Brother Rice, where he has led the Warriors to six state titles

(This season) was very special, because Mercy has

relay is under All-Americ consideration.

It was a satisfying feeling for Venos to watch the Marlins produce such excellent swims in such a demanding environment.

"It was a tough sell, getting these young ladies to buy into our philosophy of being patient, trusting in the process and swimming fast at the end

ments inrougnout the sea so it took a lot of trust on their part to let things play out the way that they did."

Senior captain Katie Min-nich and juniors Annette Dombkowski and Courtney Connolly registered double all-state individual swims to lead Mercy's scoring parade Minnich, a University of

Michigan commit, placed sec-

captain Kendall Goit in the 200 free (fourth in 1:51.92) and sophomore Chloe Pulick in the 500 free (5:02.64)

Ending a sensational season

Mercy also produced sterling all-state relay results. The 200-yard medley relay foursome of Minnich, Tierney

deen ver me," Venos said "My mother, my aunt, my wife, my sister-inlaw and my daughter all are Mercy grads. I am so thrilled that these young ladies could be a part of something that they will remember for a life-time."

CRANBROOK

Continued from Page B1

in the 200 IM and 100 back), Oal (sixth in the 200 IM and 100 breast) and Misra (fifth in the 100 back and eighth in the 200 IM)

Murrell (100 and 200 free) and Cate Hofley (200 IM and 500 free) also scored for the Cranes.

"It was an unbelievable year. We have an incredible group of girls," Bagley said. They all worked very hard throughout the season. This championship is a testament to their dedication, work ethic

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and spirit. These girls swam with a lot of heart throughout the meet.

"This was really a fun team to coach," he added. "They earned this championship and I am so proud of them."

Marian took home the runner-up trophy for the second straight season. The Mustangs earned all-state honors in all three relays and had six other individual all-state swims.

Senior Lauren Biglin won the 500 free (5:04.69) and was second behind Woodbury in the 200 free (1:52.15). Senior Gabby Granata was third in the 200 IM (2:10.68), sophomore Lau-ren Sielicki was fifth in the 100 fly (58.19) and third in the 100

back (58.56) and junior Jane Nodland placed eighth in the 500 free (5:20.73).

The Mustangs' top relav was the 400 free squad of Nodland, Sielicki, Granata and Biglin, which placed second in 3:34.06. The 200 free relay team was fourth and the medley relay squad placed seventh. Detroit Country Day placed

16th with 40 points.

DCD's all-state swimmer was freshman Jenny Tian, who took second in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:07.60.

Division 2 meet

East Grand Rapids ran away in the Division 2 state meet at the Holland Aquatic Center with 396 points. Birmingham Seaholm was

fourth (190), North Farmington 11th (79) and Birmingham Groves (12th (74).

Seaholm's individual allstate swimmers were senior Haley Dolan (third in the 50 free, fifth in the 100 free), senior Linnea Anderson (fourth in the 50 free, second in the 100 fly), freshman Chloe Blake (eighth in the 500 free) and sophomore Gigi Hoppen (fifth in the 100 breast).

The Maples were second in both freestyle relays.

North Farmington freshman Greta Gidley was fifth in the 50 free and fourth in the 100

free to earn all-state honors. In the 100-vard breaststroke. junior Julianna Petrak was fourth to gain all-state. The Raiders' 200-yard med-

ley relay team of Gidley, Petrak, senior Aubrey East and senior Jillian Brown won allstate designation with a seventh-place effort. For Groves, senior Camille

Rochaix (200 free and 100 free) earned individual all-state honors. The Falcons' 200 free relay team of senior Taylor Moilanen, Rochaix, junior Juliette Cerny and senior Miranda French was all-state after placing seventh.

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BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Livonia Churchill has unfinished business as new season opens

Tim Smith hometownlife.con USA TODAY NETWORK MICHIGAN

The lingering taste in their mouths is still somewhat bitter for Livonia Churchill coach Jason Reynolds and his players, who were on the brink of playing at USA Hockey Arena in the Division 2 final four last season.

After letting a late lead slip away against Saline, the Chargers fell 5-4 in double overtime in the D2 quarterfinal.

That disappointing conclusion to an outstanding season (20-9) remains a sore point for Reynolds and players such as senior captains Conor Burnette and Josh Friend — back for the chance to finish the job. "It just builds their

motivation for this up look at it as unfinished business," Reynolds said. "I think it's going to be in the back of their minds, especially as we get towards the postseason. They want to finish what

they started." Burnette and Friend will team up on a top forward line, joined by either junior Dane Allen or junior Zach Flynn.

"We're super-excited about the season," Bur-nette said. "It didn't end the way we wanted it to. But we just take that like a grain of salt ... we take that for what it is. We learn from it.

"It's a big stepping stone for us to work on and we're not going to end it out the same way this year. We're going to definitely work to make sure that doesn't happen again. That's on our agen-da, for sure." The Chargers will hit the ice with a little extra

zest for another reason. They are sporting clean-looking "Edmonton Oilers-inspired" uniforms, Reynolds said. "Look good, feel good,

play good," Burnette said about the new-look squad.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Josh Friend makes a pass to a Livonia Churchill teammate during a 2016-17 game. MICHAEL VASILNER

Plenty of offense

Scoring a lot of goals also will be part of Churchill's script, anytime the lineup includes highscoring forward and alternate captain Jordan Venegoni (24 goals, 30 assists last year, according to Michigan Hockey Hub).

Venegoni will play on a line with senior center Carter Swider, another alternate captain.

"Unfortunately, last year (Swider) was out with a concussion that kept him out for the en-tire season," Reynolds said. "He was willing to step in as a student manager last year and really committed all his time and efforts to our pro-

gram. "Now that he's back, we're excited to have him as a player. ... He has a clean bill of health. Playing with Jordan Venegoni, I think he is going to provide us a nice one-two punch on offense." Other Churchill for-

wards will include senior Adam Sinclair, juniors Zack Vendittelli and Jack Boyk, sophomores Cameron Greener and Tyson Wisner and freshmen Jimmy Targosz and Ryan McCoy.

On the blue line

Top players on defense include seniors Willis Wuebben and Seth Kucharczyk. "They've been with us for a long time, great character guys, provide a

lot of leadership for us on the blue line," Reynolds said. "Also (junior) Matt Gibboney, who's been

with us for three years." Churchill's defensive group will include junior returnee Vaughn Ken-dall, freshman and former Belle Tire player Donovan Young, sopho-more returnee Keith Peterson and sophomore Michael Mansina.

Reynolds said Mansina is coming over from the Livonia Hockey Association, but won't be eligi-ble to join the Chargers until January.

"He's a high-energy guy," he said. "We're excited to get (Mansina) into the lineup as soon as we can.

With three-year stalwart goaltender Andrew Broyles having graduated, Churchill's goalkeeping will have a different look. Taking over the reins will be senior Chris Sergison, beginning his fourth year with the

team "It's finally Chris's turn and I think he's ready for it," Reynolds said

Backing up Sergison will be junior Joey Proctor and freshman Bryant Riley.

Different path

Reynolds and compa-ny plan on attacking the regular schedule with the same vigor. But once the postseason arrives, the Chargers will have a different challenge,having moved down a notch to Division 3.

"It doesn't mean a lot to our regular season overall. We'll still play in the KLAA and we've booked a really tough schedule this year," Rey-nolds said. "But once we get to the playoffs, obvi-ously, it's a new crop of teams we have to compete with. "I feel good about our

chances in the Division 3 playoffs and I think this regular season will really prepare us for another extended playoff run.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



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Livonia Franklin's Jacob Mass (right) makes a defensive stop against Grand Blanc. BILL BRESLER HOMETOWNI IFE COM

Franklin's Jacob Mass wins weekly voting

Week winners (also quarterback Jacob Kelbert).

with 7,080 votes (41.92

percent). In third place

was Plymouth Christian

Academy senior volley-

ball player Grace Kel-logg (1,621, 9.6 percent).

Mass was honored

after his stellar perfor-

mance Nov. 18 during

Franklin's 20-0 victory

Grand Rapids Forest

Hills Central in the D-2

over previously unbeaten

,

Turak finished second

utive Ath-

lete of the

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin senior linebacker Jacob Mass won Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week honors for Week 13, but he had to ward off a late challenger.

Mass broke out to a big lead in the weekly polling, but saw Harrison-Farmington junior girls swimmer Ashley Turak nearly catch him down the home stretch.

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound Mass tallied 7,908 of 16,887 votes (46.83 percent) to give the Patriots football team



Mass

semifinals at Grand Ledge.

He contributed a team-best five solo tackles, including one for a loss, to go along with an

assist. "You know, it's a good award," Mass said. "It's nice to be recognized for having a good game.

"But it's really about the teammates and the players who helped me get to that point. Each player on the defense is doing their 1/11th, everybody doing their job, working as a team and working as a family. Just one unit."

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Lakewood ousts Ladywood in Class B state semifinals

Blazers' season ends in four-set setback in Battle Creek

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Lake Odessa Lakewood donned T-shirts Nov. 17 for the Class B volleyball semifinal against Livonia Ladywood which read on the back: "Unfinished business."

The Vikings, despite a slight hiccup during the second set, did take care of business, disposing of the unranked Blazers in four sets, 25-21, 18-25, 25-17, 25-13, to reach their second straight state final at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Lake Odessa Lakewood (47-5-2) lost the next day in three sets against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the final. "That's what you

"That's what you strive for from day one," said coach Kellie Rowland, who is 1,028-153 overall in her 23rd season with the Vikings. "It's about postseason. It's not about what happens during the year or wins or losses. It's about getting to the state final in postseason. And they've adapted to that and adjusted and that'(was) our goal."

In the opening set against Ladywood, Lake Odessa broke a 15-15 tie by going on a 6-0 run before closing it out.

But the underdog Blazers bounced back to win the second set behind Samantha Serra's three blocks and four kills from Natasha Strzelewicz to even the match at 1-1.

"I think that we utilized our cut shots and we were tipping," secondyear Ladywood coach Kathryn Chinavare said. "We played our game and that has worked for us all season. And then we just dug ourselves a hole in that third game. You can't be down over 10 points and expect to come back from that, not on rally serves. It's not just going to happen."

The Vikings dominated the third set, jumping out to leads of 10-4 and 19-6 en route to a 2-1 advantage. "(Madison Benoit) had

"(Madison Benoit) had those cuts, so I had to keep blocking more inside," said Lakewood 5-9 senior middle blocker Breanna Wickerink, who had a match-best 18 kills with an eye-opening .516 hitting percentage. "And I was basically the only blocker when I was in on the right side, because our setter is a little small."

Lakewood hit for a .266 percentage against the Blazers, one of five Detroit-area Catholic schools to reach the final four.

Aubrey O'Gorman, a 6-foot-2 freshman, added 10 kills, while Lisa Hewitt, Alivia Benedict and Erica Potter contributed eight apiece for the Vikings.

Defensively, Patsy Morris led with 21 digs, while setter Kayla Sauers and Benedict added 15 and 11, respectively.

"Any win is exciting ...

we didn't play our best," Rowland said. "A little bit of a slow (second) game, couldn't get in rhythm, but we did what we needed to do. We found their holes and that's what we went for."

Here are some other takeaways:

CHAIR CONCERNS

Sauers finished with a match-best 47 assist-tokills, but Rowland thought her 5-5 senior was hamstrung by some questionable calls by chair official Roy Britz.

"You have an official that is very inconsistent," she said. "You have to tell your setter to begin bump passing to set the ball, because you don't know if she's going to get called or not. So that gets you out of system a little bit, but we adjusted. My assistant coach said, 'Let it go, it's his problem. We just got to outplay them' and that's what we decided to do."

Rowland directed her ire at the chair, but Sauers was able to adjust.

"We had to get her to the ball a little faster, leave her defensive stance," Rowland said. "You're not supposed to see the ball to make the call, you're supposed to see the hands and so she could get to the ball quicker than she could the clean set, I guess, in his eyes."

PLAYING CATCH-UP

After winning the second set, the Blazers found themselves swimming upstream during the third and fourth sets. "I just feel like we got low in some areas and it

Ladywood's Madison Benoit (right) goes on the attack against Lakewood's Kayla Sauers TOM LANG

was hard to push back," said Ladywood junior Madison Benoit, who finished with a team-best 16 kills and 17 digs. "So we should have stayed up and maybe kept fighting."

ing." Madeline Hudson added 12 kills, while setter Monique Lamoureux had 27 assists for the Blazers.

"It's very overwhelming coming into, like, this big stadium knowing that we've experienced small gyms," said 5-4 senior libero Reese Moschetta, who had 15 digs. "So I think that played a part in our head, but I feel like we did our best to look at the other team on the other side and take maybe a breath, just calm down and we just ended up falling down."

TAKE A BOW

Of Ladywood's six losses this season, two came against Class A finalist Birmingham Marian, another against Class A semifinalist Farmington Hills Mercy and yet another vs. Class C semifinalist Wixom St. Catherine.

And the other was against Class B finalist Lakewood.

"That's a bummer, but it always pretty much seems when you lose," Chinavare said. "It's hard. I'm just, like, beyond proud. We just got a little bit out-muscled, but it happens, it's final four. We did things that nobody really expected us to do, so that in itself is pretty exciting."

Four Ladywood seniors played their last match: defensive specialist Danielle Lamoureux, Micaela Kuscinski, Strzelewicz and Moschetta. "I saw the potential

when I took the job at Ladywood," Chinavare said. "I remember the first day I walked into the gym thinking, 'Oh, my God, this team could do something really great.' And last year, unfortunately, in districts, were were matched up with (state champion Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard) and they had Jurnee (Tipton) and she's a phenomenal all-around player and we got kicked out a little early. And I knew this year with this core group ... they're, like, all best friends, they all play well together and we could really make a run and do some decent things

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Garden City Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on *Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.*, in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on proposed amendments to the Garden City Master Plan. Changes proposed include changing the residential future land use classifications in 2 areas along Cherry Hill Road.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN ROTARY PARK UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Sealed proposals will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until **2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017** at which time the RFP's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each proposal shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Proposals shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late proposals will be returned unopened.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Rotary Park play structure located at 32300 Six Mile Road in Livonia, Michigan at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 5th, 2017. Proposals will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.

> Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at

<u>www.mitn.info</u>

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Faxed proposals in response to this request will not be accepted.

All proposals shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN ROTARY PARK UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No vendor may withdraw their proposal within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any proposal does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Ted Davis Superintendent, Parks & Rec Dennis K. Wright Mayor

LO-0000334531 3x5

Publish: November 26, 2017

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA Zoning Board of Appeals

December 12, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Livonia City Hall – Gallery (5th Floor) 33000 Civic Center Drive Livonia, MI

(734) 466 2259

<u>APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-10-61</u> (Tabled on October 24, 2017): Patrick and Dianne Tarbet, west side of Wayne (9535) between Ann Arbor Trail and West Chicago, seeking to construct a detached garage while maintaining an attached garage, resulting in excess number of garages, garage area and the detached garage being excess in height. The existing shed to be removed, which is 198 square feet. This increases the total area of "outbuilding" to 1718 square feet.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-12-66: Jeff Lowery, 32517 Pardo St., Garden City, MI 48135, seeking to maintain a four (4) foot tall vinyl privacy fence, erected without a permit and placed in the side yard to the front of the house on property located on the east side of Oporto (9144) between Dover and Grandon, which is not allowed. All privacy fences must not extend beyond the rear of the home toward the street.

<u>APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-12-67:</u> Jeff and Vanessa Schembri, east side of Wayne (18100) between Curtis and Bennett, seeking to construct a detached garage while maintaining an attached garage, resulting in excess number of garages and garage area.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-12-68: Laurentiu Gherase, west side of Savoie (16565) between Grove and south end, seeking to erect a six (6) foot tall wood privacy fence within the side yard, which is not allowed. Privacy fences must not extend beyond the rear line of the dwelling toward the front property line.

<u>APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-12-69</u>: Mike Adams, west side of Merriman Court (19833) between Seven Mile and north end, seeking to erect a six (6) foot tall wood privacy fence in the side yard, which is not allowed. Privacy fences cannot extend beyond the rear line of the dwelling toward the front of the lot.

<u>APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-12-70:</u> Howard Whitaker III, east side of Blackburn (9900) between Elmira and Orangelawn, seeking to construct a detached garage, resulting in excess garage area.

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. Publick: Sunday November 26, 2017

Publish: Sunday, November 26, 2017 Livonia Observer

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, will be held at the corporate office at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland Michigan on Tuesday December 12, 2017 at six o'clock P.M. for the election of officers and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Published. November 26 & December 3, 2017 214



Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the remedy exercised by the private Administrative Process and in compliance to UCC 1.201.32, DEBTOR(s) Ronald L. Wallen (Farmington, Michigan) and/or Assigns of Dreams Abound, Inc. (Livonia, Michigan) by tacit default agreement supported by affidavit(s), notice of fault, affidavit of default with proofs of mailing via Certified Mail #7012 3050 0000 5018 5146; DEBTOR(s) had dishonored and defaulted by silent tacit agreement to stipulate, confess and agree with the intent to defraud, embezzle funds, commit investment fraud and breach loan agreement in bad faith. The DEBTOR(s) agreed to pledge their property as collateral via lien as evidenced by UCC File Number 979090600028 in the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. Daniel Przybylski, Secured Party/CREDITOR.

Published: Nov. 19, 26 & Dec 3, 2017



CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Garden City Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6.30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on proposed amendments to Section 154.165 (Medical Marijuana Facility) of the Garden City Zoning Ordinance. Major changes proposed include adding regulations for Provisioning Centers in accordance with State Law.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: November 26, 2017

Publish: November 26, 2017



PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved minutes for meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the months of September and October 2017 are posted at the following public places within the Township.

> Community Center, 12121 Hemingway Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly Library, 25320 Six Mile Road Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly Police Department, 25833 Elsinore Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved minutes may also be viewed online at: www.redfordtwp.com

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC, Township Clerk Charter Township of Redford

LO-0000334297 3



PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

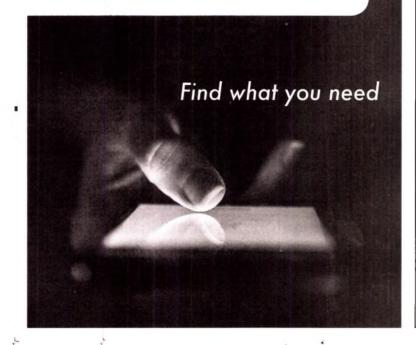
In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following item:

Petition 2017-11-02-15 submitted by BJ's Restaurant, Inc. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(r) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to utilize an SDM liquor license (sale of packaged beer and wine) in connection with the operations of a full-service restaurant (BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse) at 19470 Haggerty Road, located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Seven Mile and Eight Mile Roads in the Southwest ¼ of Section 6.

The above-mentioned petition will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the scheduled public hearing and may be examined during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

> Ian Wilshaw, Chairman CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC



Publish: November 26, 2017

O-0000334562 3x3.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN CLOTHING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the bidder. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

Instructions to bidders and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Bids must be submitted on the Forms section found on the MITN website. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia in triplicate and electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN CLOTHING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, name of bidder and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

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Ted Davis Superintendent, Parks & Rec

Dennis K. Wright Mayor

Published: November 26, 2017

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4 questions to ask at the end of an interview

BY KATE LOPAZE THEJOBNETWORK

t's game time - the interview is here. You prepped well. You aced the handshake, anticipated the questions they asked and wowed them with your smooth, competent demeanor and relevant work anecdotes.

Or maybe it wasn't your best interview (it happens) and you need a way to salvage the whole thing. Either way, as the interview is wrapping up, it's time to close strong. This is your chance to leave a valuable impression on your way out

At this point, most interviewers will open the floor to you by asking if you have any other questions. Before you simply shake hands and say "thank you for your time," consider asking these four questions to finish strong:

1. "How would you describe the culture here in the office?"

This question shows that you're already thinking about how you can fit in and add value to this company. It also gives you an unofficial glimpse into what the company is like - information that you can't necessarily get from online research.

The interviewer is unlikely to tell you the "warts and all"



version, but it's a good way to get an initial feel for whether the job will truly be a good fit for you

2. "What's been your favorite part about working for this company?"

This engages the interviewer's personal side, letting them give an opinion that isn't necessarily based on the company motto or the job description. The answer can be even more revealing about the day-to-day life at the company than asking, "What's the dayto-day like here?"

For example, at one interview I asked this question

and was pleasantly surprised to find out that once a month the company throws a pizza party for employees and holds regular events like employee bake-offs and craft fairs. That told me that the company valued employee morale, and was a deciding factor when I accepted the job.

If the interviewer seems stumped by this question and has to think a while before answering, that may be a red flag, which is also good information to have.

3. "What experience best prepared you for working here?

Again, this engages with

the interviewer and gets him or her respond candidly without being too intrusive or personal. It also tells you about the kinds of skills that will serve you best in this role, regardless of what's in the job description.

For example, if the interviewer tells you that working for a chaotic small company prepared her for the "all hands on deck" attitude of this place, it tells you that teamwork is prized here. You can respond by saying something like, "I thrive in that kind of atmosphere too. Working at a small mom-and-pop store taught me how valuable it is for everyone to pitch in to get the job done."

4. "How would you describe the leadership style here?"

Up to this point, it's likely that the interview was focused on the job itself and your qualifications. This question opens it up a bit and tells you more about the expectations of the company for this iob — whether it's a hands-on management kind of company (or potentially micromanaging), or a leadership style that relies on employees being more independent.

It also tells the interviewer that you're thinking about creating a productive, in-tune relationship with your potential manager.

As with all interview questions, it's important to read the flow of the interview. If you've covered any of these topics earlier, no need to rehash them at the end — it could look like you weren't paying attention.

But making sure you have a potential list of thoughtful, engaged questions ready to go will help you finish the interview in a polished, professional way.

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



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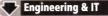
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Car Report

GENESIS G80 LUXURY SEDAN HITS SWEET SPOT INTENDED WHEN IT LAUNC



Genesis was a car model, a cool, surprising performance statement by Hyundai that the brand created to dimensionalize marque previously know

almost exclusively for producing reliable, high-**Dale Buss**

quality, reasonably priced sedans. Genesis appeared on action shows such as Burn Notice and began acquiring fans in the media and the U.S market with specs that fit premium European sports sedans as well as as Korean-made upstart.

And over the last couple of years, as Hyundai faced challenges in the shrinking U.S. sedan market because of quiet gasoline prices, the brand took some significant measures to

address its challenges. For one thing, Hyundai decided to launch a bunch of new vehicles into the biggest weak spot in its mainstream

product line: SUVs and crossovers. Maybe just as important for Hyundai over the longer term is that it decided to stop trying to stretch its existing brand in dealer showrooms first, over vehicles that ranged from its humblest \$15,000 sedans to its pricey new sports car. And Hyundai created a separate brand for Genesis.

Genesis G80 is one of the two new models that Hyundai introduced under the new Genesis brand in 2017, a staging that also included creation

of a new flagship sedan called G90, which is essentially a rebranding of the Hyundai Equus. The spawning of Genesis included the creation of a logo that many luxury-car buyers mistake initially for a Parthu sumbel While what is under a Bentley symbol. While what's under the frontal decoration of a Genesis doesn't match the ultra-luxury level of the British pinnacle brand, Hyundai has done a great job of producing a vehicle worthy of comparison with premium competitors from anywhere on the globe.

The Hyundai Genesis was last wholly redesigned for 2015. But for 2017, besides creating a new brand to house and promote its newly renamed car. Hyundai also imbued the new



The interior of the Sport version of G80

G80 with a number of features from the previous Hyundai Genesis that are now standard. They include a power-adjustable steering wheel, lane-departure warning and blind-spot monitoring.

Also, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto were new for the 2017 model, allowing users to control smartphone functions such as navigation and audio playback through the G80 touchscreen.

touchscreen. Genesis 2018 G80 is a full-size, rear-wheel drive sedan that's available in a six-cylinder, 3.8-liter power train or 5.0-liter V& engine, with all-wheel drive available as an option for the 3.8-liter model. Standard features are a rich menu

for the 3.8-litter model. Standard features are a rich menu of goodies that any self-respecting purchaser of a 2018 \$56.000 vehicle that 1 drove would expect, including 18-inch alloy wheels, xenon headlights with automatic high-beam control, LED daytime running lights, a rearview camera, headed mirrors, automatic winers adaptive cruise

and intervention.

That rich list also includes heated eight-way power front seats, leather upholstery, a power-adjustable steering wheel and driver-memory settings as well as a top-notch connectivity web and a seven-speaker audio system.

For good measure, all-wheel drive models come with headlight washers, heated rear seats and a heated steering wheel

G80's interior is spacious, and materials are top-notch, supporting its luxury positioning. It's got an outstanding safety rating. Just as important, the ride and feel of the G80 are reminiscent of the parameters that Lexus has made its stock-in-trade. In other words, G80 won't be mistaken for a true sports sedan and

trade. In other words, G80 won't be mistaken for a true sports sedan, and that's how its target buyers want it. Indeed, G80 accelerates as smoothly and briskly as you might expect from such an expensive car, responds quickly and precisely to driving commands, provides a bump-soaking ride that isn't marshamallowy, and provides an extremely quiet cabin that will make a strong impression on passengers and driver alike. All of this really makes an impact

All of this really makes an impact on you when you consider price, which is exactly what Hyundai was intending. G80 starts at around \$42,000, below the luxury midsize class average price, according to U.S. News & World Report, while the competing Lexus GS starts at around \$46,000.

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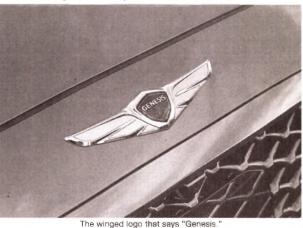
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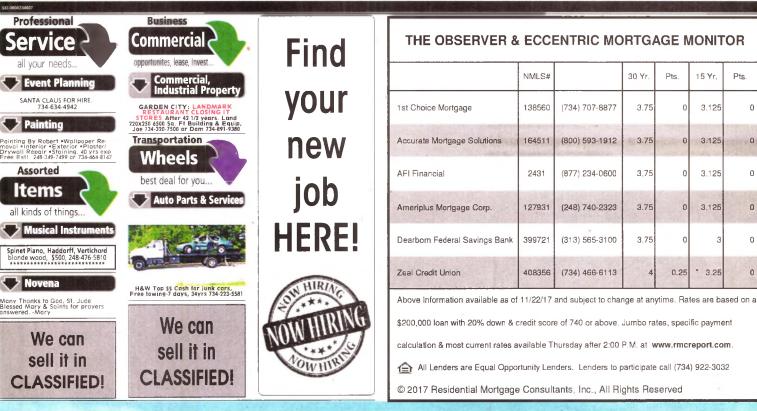
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