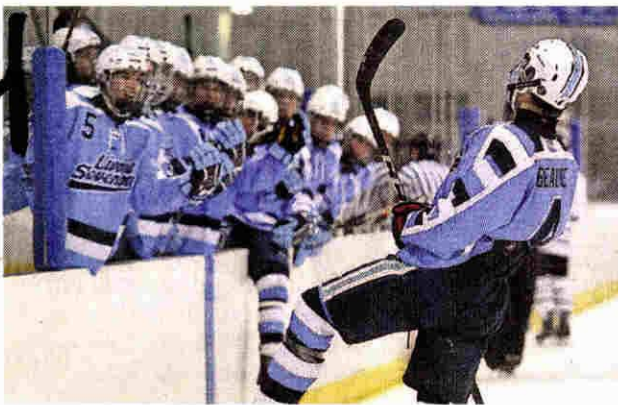


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Action heating up in prep boys hockey state tournament

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SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Schools reopened following threat

Social media posting prompts closure

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

All Wayne-Westland Community Schools district buildings reopened Wednesday after school and law enforcement officials deemed threats found on social media not credible.

In a video posted on the district's website, Superintendent Shelley Holt

said district officials and local police worked overnight to identify and determine the credibility of an anonymous threat posted against the district, which has schools in Wayne, Westland, Canton and Inkster.

"The anonymous posts are being investigated and, at this point in time, law enforcement does not feel there is any danger to our students or our staff and our children are safe to return to school," she said. "This is a time to get together as a community with compassion and

See **THREAT**, Page 2A



Shelley Holt, superintendent of the Wayne-Westland school district, speaks in a video posted on the district's website. She is surrounded by other community members, including the mayors and police chiefs of Wayne and Westland, the W-WCS board president and a lieutenant from the Inkster Police Department.

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Jeff Powers cuts signs in his workshop next to the showroom. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

DUAL PURPOSE

New store in downtown Wayne offers custom-made wooden pieces

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A lifelong wood worker, Jeff Powers and his wife Mary were selling items he made at craft shows and vendor malls.

At the same time, Mary Powers was a volunteer with Wayne Main Street, which has among its goals seeking new businesses to locate in the city. So the couple recently opened the doors of Powers Wood Craft, located in a storefront on Glenwood, just east of Wayne

Road, next door to the Alano Club.

"My dad got me started woodworking. I've done it since I was 10 or 12 years old. My dad was a perfectionist. I started building stuff — more artsy kinds of

See **WOOD**, Page 3A

Numbers game is all about winning for Glenn trio

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

From their formative years wrestling as kids in the Bottle Rockets program at Westland John Glenn, Mikey Mars, Anthony Gibson and Isaac Lefler just seemed to have a special kind of potential.

Longtime John Glenn varsity wrestling coach Bill Polk knew then that he had some talented youngsters coming through the pipeline and, all of a sudden, all three are about to graduate.

Entering Saturday's Division I individual state finals at Ford Field in Detroit, the trio had combined for well over the magic number of 500 career victories.

"We've had several kids in the last 20 years that I've been here reach 100," Polk said. "But reaching 150, there's been a small handful. And reaching 200, there's only been one other kid (Kyle Gillies, 2013 graduate, with 204 career wins)."

Two-time state champion Mars alone was closing in on 220, while Gibson and Lefler both have surpassed the 160 mark.

Polk has several promising, up-and-coming wrestlers who will help

See **WRESTLERS**, Page 2A

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Wrestlers

Continued from Page 1A

the 2018 team stay highly competitive. But he is soaking it all in as a unique era comes to a close.

"They're all pretty dedicated kids as far as putting time in, ever since they were little," Polk said about Mars, Gibson and Lefler. "They've been going to clubs, traveling on their own, their parents take them places.

"They've done a lot of work on their own. I've never really had to ask them to do anything extra in the summers, they're always the first ones to go on every trip and just get the amount of work in, the amount of matches in.

"But in the room, they're all very different. All three of them are that clutch guy you can put the dual meet on. If it's going to come down to any of them, they're all clutch performers."

They also are durable, versatile and able to either tear up the wrestling room with fierce combat or light it up with



Westland John Glenn senior wrestlers (from left) Anthony Gibson, Mikey Mars and Isaac Lefler have combined to win more than 500 matches during their high school careers. JOHN GLENN WRESTLING

smiles and personality.

"Isaac's a little silly, he likes to play around and have a little bit more fun," Polk said. "So we got to keep him focused a little bit more. Mikey's kind of the quiet one that stays in the corner and just works all the time. Gibby can kind of be a combination of both. He's a guy that's always doing the extras. Not a lot of guys want to be his workout partner besides Mikey, because he goes so hard all the time and never takes a break."

One thing is certain. When the Rockets need to make a push during a dual meet, they can count on bonus points from Mars (125-130 weight classes), Lefler (130-135) and Gibson (140-145).

They are three of the spokes in a wheel that rolled over teams en route to KLA Black Division, district and re-

gional championships.

"It's unbelievable," Polk said. "If we're in a dual meet where we know we're within 15 points, it's pretty much a done deal with those three guys coming up."

The name Mars, bound for the University of Michigan, is synonymous with points on the scoreboard.

After rolling through the recent individual regional and winning his bout in the team finals, he owned a 49-0 record this season and 218 wins for his great career — the most in program history.

"It's pretty crazy, honestly," Mars said, talking about the trio's feat during a recent practice. "Not many people get past 150, so to have three on the same team in the same class — and we've all been friends for all four years — it's great.

"We all push each other in the room and we compete with each other every day. It's kind of a little competition, honestly, I think. That's helped the past four years to get us the cumulative of 500 wins."

According to Mars, there is a twist to his wrestling philosophy.

"Just me hating losing more than I like winning, that's how I see what it comes down to," Mars said. "I never focus on the amounts of wins I had in a season. I always focused on the amount of losses I had.

"Last year, I had four losses and it made me really mad, because I doubled my career losses in one year. So I think that's what it came down to. I never said, 'Oh, I got 50 wins or I'm at 40 wins.'

I always went, 'I have one loss or two losses or three or four.' That helped me a lot in getting the career victory record."

Mars's kind of reverse psychology in the circle gets the nod of approval from Lefler.

"Anybody can go out there and win a match," Lefler said. "But a wrestler like Mikey, a two-time state champ, of course he's going to judge himself on his losses, because he has so few."

Yet Lefler and Gibson also have demonstrated they are among the best in program history.

Gibson said being part of such a milestone is "definitely a big accomplishment. At first, it doesn't seem like much. But when you sit back and look at it, it's pretty amazing what we were able to accomplish."

Another way to reboot is to look around the room and see nobody is slowing down or giving up. That push-the-envelope drive tends to be draining, unfortunately.

All three of the "milestone men" put in the time and, as a result, are carving out a pretty impressive legacy at John Glenn.

"It means a lot to me," Mars said. "It's going to be a pretty good record for any other trio to break for years to come. I'm looking forward to it and, again, it's just going to be competition for other people to inspire them and, hopefully, push them to be better."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.

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Threat

Continued from Page 1A

support for one another."

Holt said while the posts have been deemed to not be a threat, students can expect to see an increased law enforcement presence at the schools.

Schools in the district closed Tuesday after posts began spreading around social media accounts. It was just one of the latest such incidents reported around the state and country since police in Florida say a gunman entered a high school and killed 17 people using a semi-automatic weapon.

Several area schools have investigat-

ed threats of violence in recent weeks, including at South Lyon High School, the high school complex for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Stevenson High School in Livonia and, most recently Monday evening, Novi Middle School. Criminal charges have been filed in some of these cases.

Holt asked parents interested in speaking more about the topic to come to one of three remaining meetings being held by the district. The first meeting, held Monday night at Wayne Memorial High School, saw more than 150 people attend.

The remaining meetings take place at the following days and times:

■ 5:30 p.m. March 6 at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, West-

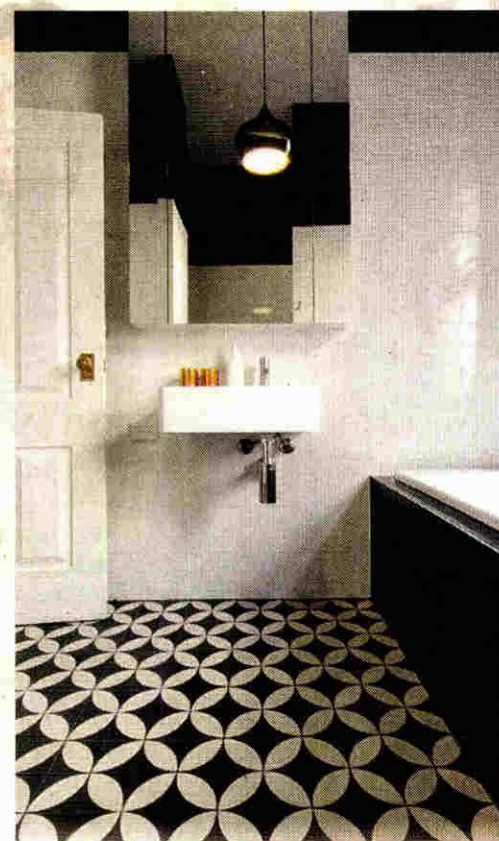
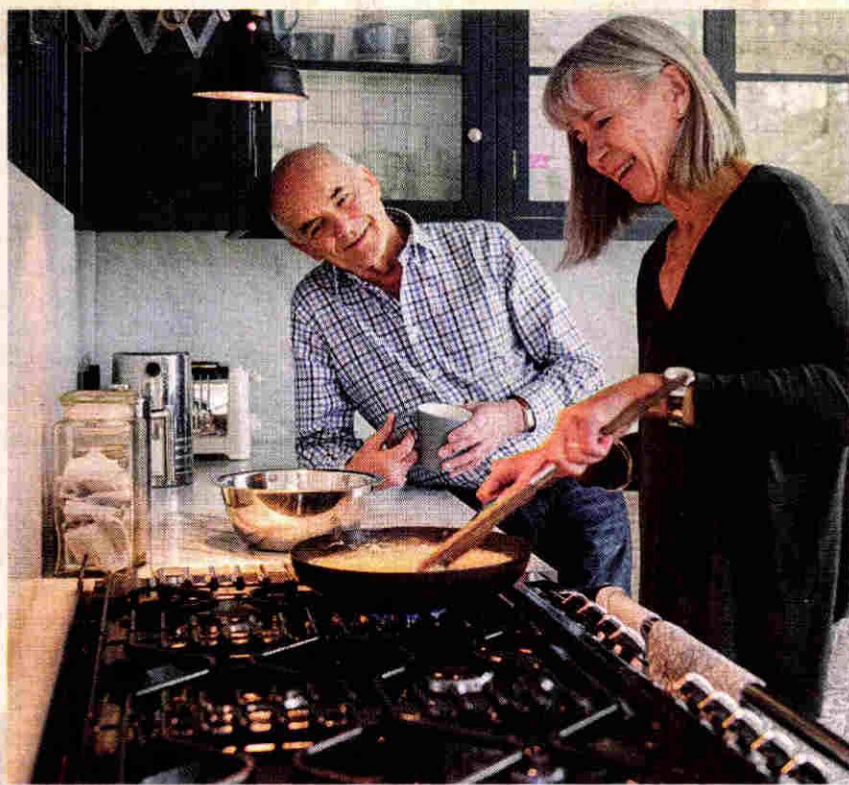
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■ 9:30 a.m. March 12 at W-WCS Board Office, 36745 Marquette, Westland

Holt encouraged parents to be aware of their children's social media accounts and what they post.

"We do not consider this a school problem, a parenting problem, a student problem or a socioeconomic problem," she said. "We consider this a community problem that can only be solved by our entire community coming together."

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



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Wood

Continued from Page 1A

things," said Jeff Powers, who works full time as a maintenance supervisor. "It was kind of a hobby. My father-in-law said I should sell it."

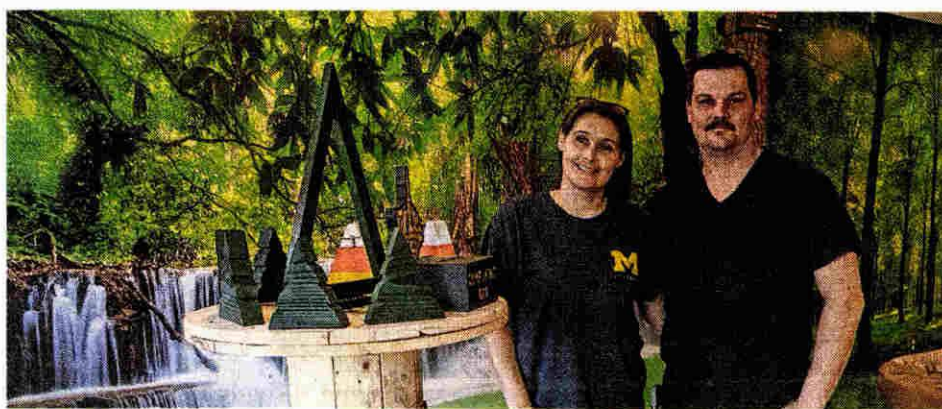
The couple, who also sell products online, said it's hard to say which is their biggest selling item — they estimated at least 90 percent of what they sell are custom orders.

There are custom "Man Cave" signs with college or pro sports logos — there are "Lady Cave" signs, too. One customer who wasn't a sports fan had his name added instead of a logo, Jeff Powers said.

Along with Michigan and Michigan State items, there is a noticeable number of University of Kentucky signs, some customized.

"I was born in Kentucky, but I grew up here. There are a lot of people around here from Kentucky," Jeff Powers said.

There was a small child-size chair Powers made featuring Michigan State University colors reading "Go Green, Go White." Powers customized one chair for a little girl in green and pink. He can



Mary and Jeff Powers opened Powers Woodcraft in Wayne. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

make furniture, but the size of the store limits what can be displayed, he said.

One unique item features a mounted photo of Jeff Powers's late parents with a fingerprint from each cut into the wood.

One corner of the store has intricately carved wooden items made from James Powers, Jeff's 53-year old cousin, who lives near Corbin, Ky.

"He's a veteran who has PTSD and making these helps calm him. There is a piece that took him five days to carve," Jeff Powers said.

Mostly a stay-at-home mom and self-described taxi for their four children, Mary Powers is also a student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her professor put her in touch with Wayne Main Street.

"I was looking for community involvement. I worked with the junior Main Street Committee. A lot of them were in high school, so they graduated," she said. "I became a member of the Main Street board of directors."

So when the couple were finding the craft shows and vendor malls a pricey

route, they decided to open their store in Wayne, where they also reside.

"One of our goals in Main Street is to fill vacancies, so we filled a vacancy in our town," Mary Powers said. "Shop small is a great idea. Not a lot of people understand that. People think about getting gifts from Penney's or Walmart, but they could go to Helium Studio (located nearby)."

Trying to keep their prices reasonable, Jeff Powers said, "Some people charge a lot. We never charge more than we would be willing to pay ourselves."

Mary Powers staffs the store, which is open 3-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday with hours by appointment Sunday and Monday. Foot traffic has been a bit slow, at least partly due to the weather.

"We're hoping that Wayne is on the upswing. It's been a long time coming. It's a great town full of great people, despite its problems," Mary Powers said. "It really is on the upswing and we want to keep it going."

Contact LeAnne Rogers at lrogers@hometownlife.com or call 734-883-9039. Follow her on Twitter: @LRogersObserver.

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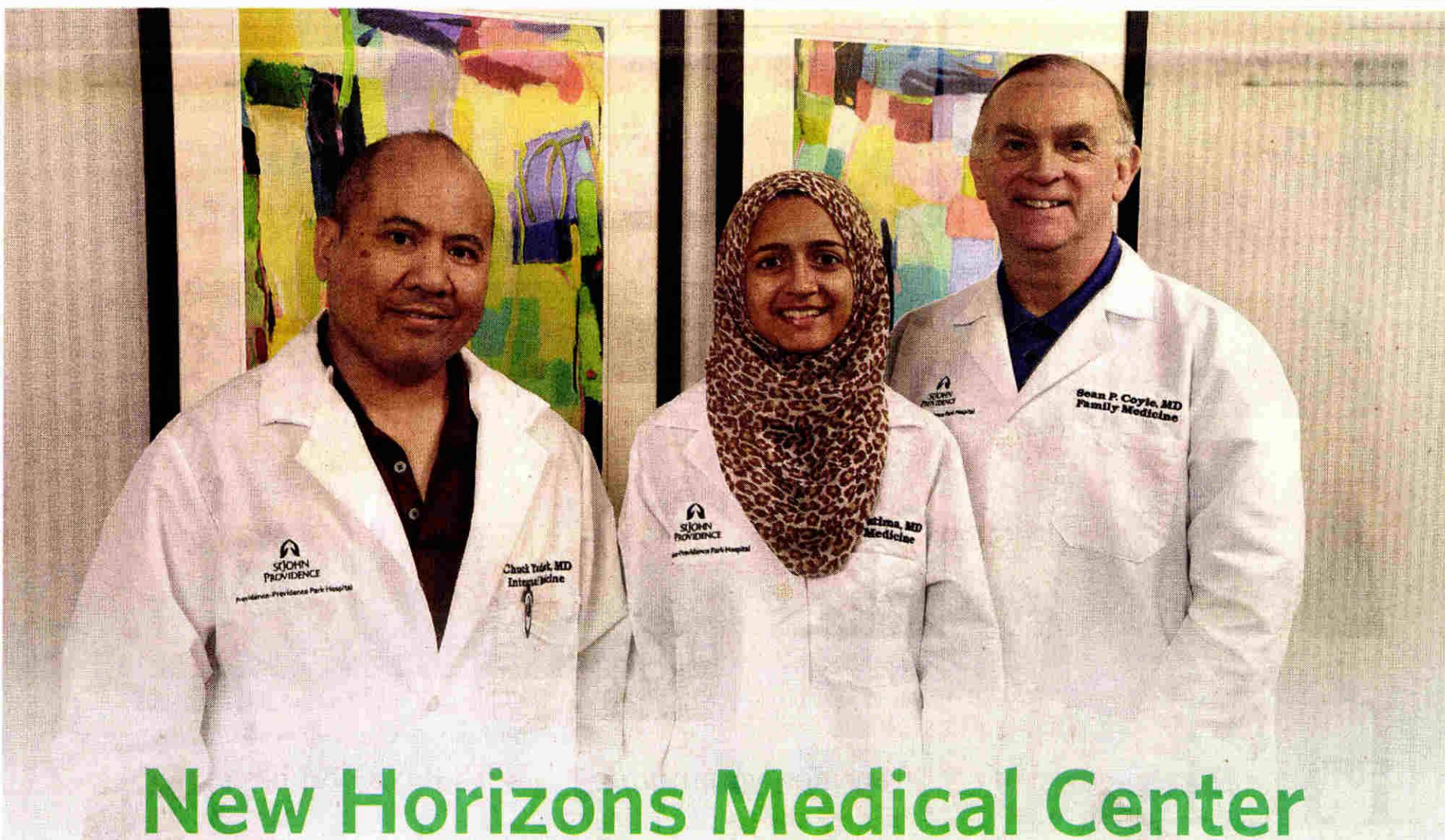
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LIVONIA ROTARY CLUB'S DONATION NIGHT



The Livonia Rotary Club held its eighth annual donation night Feb. 26 at Laurel Manor. Club members were able to provide \$24,000, donated to 18 organizations, locally and globally. Presenters were club president Laura Perlowski, president-elect the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz and president nominee Dr. Janet Haas. For more information, go to www.livoniarotary.org.

Three new developments coming to Wayne

LeAnne Rogers
 hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been more than seven years since William Franks Furniture, a fixture in Wayne, was destroyed by an explosion and fire that killed two employees and seriously injured the store owner.

The site on Wayne Road, at Chestnut, has been vacant for a number of years after the debris left from the explosion — caused by a gas leak — was cleared away.

Now, a site plan for a new building on the property has been approved, one of several new projects coming to Wayne.

■ The site plan for a 4,300-square-foot office building has been approved for the former Franks furniture site. It is being developed by Saints, Inc., a company that provides administrative ser-

vices for group homes. There will be 30 employees expected to be working on-site, with training sessions also to be held at building.

"I think the plan is that they will start spring construction and that they hope to get into the building in mid-August," Wayne City Clerk/Planner Matthew Miller said. "It's a real nice looking building."

The investment for the new building is estimated at \$350,000.

■ The long-vacant Sav A Lot store on Michigan Avenue is getting a complete makeover — inside and out — to become a new Planet Fitness facility.

"The store has probably been closed seven years. It closed at an inopportune time with the financial crash," Miller said. "They are hoping for a summer opening."

This project has an estimated cost of

\$1 million, with the building being re-done on the interior and the site being brought up to code, he said.

"There will be a lot of landscaping, a new facade, a new parking lot," Miller said. "It will all be brought up to current standards."

The property owner, who also owns the nearby building leased by Dorsey Schools, is doing the facade work before the remainder of work will be done by Plant Fitness, he said, adding it is going to be a corporate-owned location rather than a franchise.

■ A brownfield remediation has been approved for the site of a new self-storage facility — a project estimated at \$3 million when announced in 2016.

The Wayne City Council voted to sell a 2.3-acre parcel on East Michigan Avenue, to the east of the Wayne Police Department to Metro Storage, for \$1. The

proposal called for a 95,000-square-foot self-storage building with 70,000 square feet of rentable space.

A radiator shop had once operated on the site and some contamination was found on the property. That resulted in recent approval of a brownfield redevelopment plan to provide some financial assistance for the clean-up.

"I hope he is able to break ground by summer of this year. If all the infrastructure and foundations are up by the fall, he could have a spring of 2019 ribbon-cutting," Miller said.

This is Wayne's first brownfield redevelopment, which uses financial incentives to promote redevelopment of sites with contamination issues.

Contact LeAnne Rogers at lroggers@hometownlife.com or call 734-883-9039.

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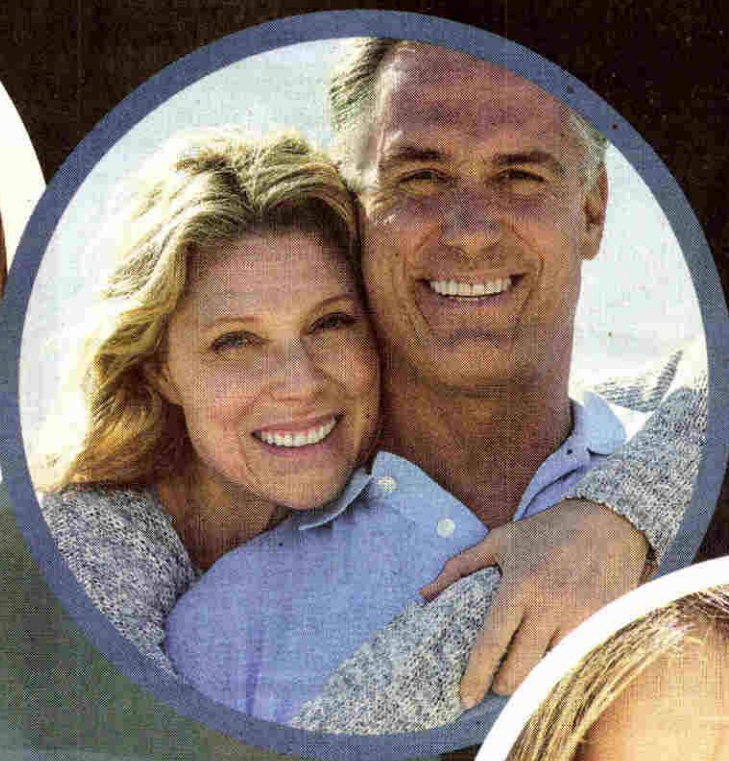
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DENTAL HEALTH MONTH VISIT



Dental Smiles of Livonia and Dr. Kristal Greniuk-Wioncek visited The Learning Tree Childcare Center recently in honor of Dental Health Month Give Kids a Smile Day. The children learned how to properly brush and floss their teeth and what to expect when visiting the dentist. Dental Smiles of Livonia regularly attends classrooms and hosts dental field trips annually to educate children on proper dental care.

HYPE RECREATION CENTER EVENTS

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Health screening

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 14

Details: Screening includes blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (diabetes). No fasting required and no appointment needed. You must be 18 years or older. Offered through Beaumont's Community Health.

Legal consultation

When: Thursday, March 15 (by appointment only)

Details: Have questions that only an attorney can answer for you? Here's your opportunity. Appointments are for 15 minutes. Senior residents ages 50 and up. Call Nancy at 734-721-7460.

Personal Action Toward Health

When: 6-8:30 p.m. each Wednesday through March 28

Details: Designed to provide skills and tools to help people living with Type 2 diabetes and their support system, live a healthier life. It is a fun, interactive, workshop led by certified leaders. Go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/fUjwC5yw29h2y58MfzjBgp?domain=beaumont.org> or call 313-586-5488 to register.

Matter of balance

When: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday

Details: An award-winning program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase their activity level. Learn practical strategies to manage falls, make changes to reduce fall risks at home and improve balance and flexibility. Call Nancy at 734-721-7460 to register.

Diabetes prevention program

When: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3

Details: Small changes can make a big difference in your health; helping you to prevent the development of type 2 diabetes. Beaumont's Diabetes Prevention Program is led by trained lifestyle coaches who will give you the

Cooking for diabetes

When: 6-8 p.m. each Tuesday, April 4 through May 9

Details: This six-week workshop is a commitment of fun, interactive sessions presented by a trained culinary and nutrition instructor. Hands-on presentations demonstrate the link between nutrition and health, the affordability of healthy eating, healthy meal planning and cooking tips.

Free groceries and cookbooks are included to practice new skills at home. This workshop provides specialized recipes and information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers. Class is free and open to adults who have not previously enrolled in a Cooking Matters course.

Go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/TWWHC68x3RHqRjkPf6Tv-c?domain=beaumont.org> or call 800-543-9355.

Sometimes Travelers Club

Stop by the office or city hall to pick up trip fliers, which will have further trip details, or call Nancy at 734-721-7460. The club is offering the following trips:

- Gems of Detroit, Thursday, April 5. Visit the Roasting Plant. Tour the iconic GM Renaissance Center. Enjoy the Motown Museum. Lunch at Slow's BBQ.

- District Detroit, Wednesday, April 11. Guided tour of Little Caesars Arena. Lunch at Pizza Papalis. Three hours to try your luck at Greektown Casino.

- Memory Lane/Grand River Avenue, Wednesday, April 25. Guided tour of the Redford Theatre (opened in 1928), currently owned and operated by the Motor City Theatre Organ Society. Lunch at the Stillwater Grill. Shopping at Heart of Michigan and Sweet Sensations.

- Spring Mystery Tour, Thursday, April 26. This trip has something for everyone. Four planned stops, plus lunch. Travel approximately two hours away. In which directions, we cannot say. Proof of citizenship is not required.



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AREA EVENTS

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

Addiction treatment series

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia offers an ongoing series titled "Addiction: What you need to know and what you can do." Classes are scheduled 7-8:30 p.m. the first three Tuesdays of each month through May (March 6, 13 and 20) in Classroom II.

Focus is on understanding addiction and the impact of addiction on families. No registration necessary. For more information, contact Karen Bonanno at kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org or 734 338-9580.

Hernia seminar at St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host hernia night 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the hospital's South Auditorium. The night will include a free educational seminar and screening.

Dr. Jacob Roberts, M.D., will answer questions, discuss hernia-related symptoms and provide education about the latest hernia treatments. Attendees will be entered to win Detroit Red Wings tickets and refreshments will be provided. Guests should enter from the hospital's south entrance, 14555 Levan Road.

For more information or to register, call 734-655-8486.

Livonia GOP Club

The Livonia Republican Club's next meeting will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Livonia Victory Center, 33462 Seven Mile Road. Guest speaker will be state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, a candidate for Congress in the U.S. House 11th District. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Gardener to speak at library

Jan Bills, a certified landscape designer, an advanced master gardener, a business owner and a contributing writer for State-by-State Gardening magazine, will be the speaker at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library, 32777 Five Mile Road. Bills is the author of "Late Bloomer" and "Two Women and a Hoe" and will share information from her books and experi-

ence on down-to-earth tips on gardening.

This is a free program and is sponsored by the Friends of the Livonia library. For more information, call 734-466-2495.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. Special activity groups meet year-round.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, followed by pizza and bingo.

For more information, go to <http://livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com>

3D Photography Club

The 3D Photography Club will hold its ext meeting 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. Everyone is invited to come and see the award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

The program for the evening will be the PSA Stereo Sequence Exhibition, a collection of short 3D programs. After a refreshment break and the final drawing for free 3D-related items this season, we'll finish with our monthly 3D image competition. We encourage members and visitors alike to make plans to join us.

For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org, or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Livonia Dems Club

The Livonia Democratic Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. Its next meeting is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. March 14 at 33150 Schoolcraft Road, 104. For more information, call 734-466-5140.

Colon cancer event at St. Mary

In recognition of National Colorectal

Cancer Awareness Month, St. Mary Mercy, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia will host an educational event on colon cancer from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 15, inside the hospital's south lobby. The event is free and open to the public.

St. Mary Mercy physicians will be on hand to answer questions. Important screening information will be available. For more information, go to www.stmarymercy.org.

St. Micheal kindergarten roundup

St. Michael Lutheran School, at 3003 Hannan Road, in Wayne is hosting kindergarten roundup at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15. The school offers a Christ-centered environment, differentiated learning, flexible seating, as well as before- and after-school care. Every family attending receives a hot pizza to take home for dinner. For more information, call 734-728-3315.

St. Patrick's Day at Legion

The Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia is having its annual St. Patrick's Day party from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 17. A corned beef dinner will cost \$12 (includes cabbage, potatoes and carrots), while a corned beef sandwich is \$7.

The party will include games and door prizes, as well as Irish drink specials. There will be Irish trivia at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., with \$5 per team entry. The public is welcome.

Food drive

The Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) is collecting food and funds for the poor and homeless. Collection boxes for non-perishable items will be at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, from Sunday, March 18, until Sunday, April 15. Drop-off times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Monetary donations can also be made by cash or check. Make checks payable to Unity of Livonia and include "Fast for Food" on the notation line. Checks can be mailed to Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Cash donations need to be delivered to the church.

On Saturday, April 14, the Youth of

Unity (Y.O.U.) will fast for 24 hours to raise awareness of hunger and nutrition challenges within our community. Donations will be delivered to Redford Interfaith Relief, a local hunger organization, and ChristNet, a partnership of local churches serving southeast Michigan's homeless community.

St. Michael Lenten fish dinners

St. Michael the Archangel Parish invites the community to its annual all-you-can-eat Lenten fish fry, scheduled for 4:30-7 p.m. each Friday through March 23.

The dinners will feature baked or fried Atlantic cod, mac and cheese, green beans, cole slaw, French fries or baked potato, rolls, beverages and ice cream. Prices are adults, \$10; seniors, \$8; children ages 3-13, \$5.50; and under age 3, free. Take-out service is also available at \$9 per dinner.

St. Michael is located at 11441 Hubbard Road in Livonia. For more information, call 734-261-1455, ext. 200, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org.

St. Mary fish fry

St. Mary Catholic Church, 34530 Michigan Avenue, in Wayne is hosting its annual Lenten fish fry 4-7 p.m. each Friday through March 30. The menu includes traditional fried fish, baked fish, baked salmon, shrimp and macaroni and cheese, along with cole slaw, a roll and water, lemonade and coffee.


First United Methodist fish fry

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne/Westland, 3 Towne Square, is holding fish fry dinners at 4:30 p.m. each Friday through Lent. Cost \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-12, under age 5 free. Dinner includes fried or baked fish, baked potato or french fries, cole slaw and a roll. A piece of pie is \$1. Pop is \$1 a can. Coffee or lemonade are free.

American Legion fish dinners

The Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia will host fish dinners 5-8 p.m. each Friday during Lent through March 30, that are open to the public. Cost is \$12 for perch, \$10 for cod or shrimp and \$9 for chicken, which includes side dishes.

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Family waits for closure in missing woman's case

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

This year, as happened last year, that celebration went on as always, but with a major part of it missing. Danielle Stislicki's 30th birthday passed Wednesday, with her family and friends stuck in limbo, praying, waiting and hoping for some closure in the case of the missing Farmington Hills woman, who disappeared Dec. 2, 2016, and hasn't been seen since.

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

It's a big hole for ev-

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

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

Galloway was sentenced to 16-35 years in the Livonia case. So far, he has not been charged in the Stislicki case and Farmington Hills police are mum on any possible evidence.

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

"Grief is a tremendous challenge we face daily, with emotions that vary frequently," Ann Stislicki said. "Our employers

have been patient and empathetic as we attempt to manage daily activities outside the comfort zones of our homes since her disappearance."

As they have for more than a year now, Stislicki family members have relied on support they've gotten through family, friends and even complete strangers, largely via social media.

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

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

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

"We are asking Facebook followers to do an act of kindness in recognition of (Danielle's) birthday and share that she continues to be miss-

ing," her mother said. "Our family will always continue to recognize her birthday, as many do when their loved one is no longer with them."

It's not like the case has gone cold. In the 15 months since Danielle disappeared from that Southfield office building, the Farmington Hills Police Department has initiated 78 search warrants. Officers have searched Galloway's Berkeley home multiple times, while a search last summer of Hines Park in Livonia turned up nothing.

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

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

"I believe there is someone out there who can help," Nebus said.

Contact Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.

Qadir announces bid for state Senate seat

Dr. Ghulam Qadir of Northville Township, former chief of psychiatry at Oakwood Healthcare System and current CEO of Apex Behavioral Health

Dearborn, has announced his bid to seek the Democratic nomination for

the state Senate 7th District seat. The district, which includes the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne and Canton, Plymouth and Northville townships, is currently represented by Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, who is running for governor.

"Good education, physical and emotional health and hard work are the core ingredients of success and happiness," Qadir said. "Diversity is a key strength for the fabric of the community."

Qadir is no stranger to Lansing. He served as vice chairman of the Controlled Substances Advisory Commission for the state of Michigan for four years. He participated in the passage of the Michigan Patient Bill of Rights. He was instru-

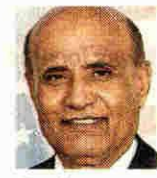
mental in removal of punitive provisions in the Michigan Mental Health Code, which affected the practice of psychiatry, pharmacy and nursing professions.

Outside the workplace, Qadir has been active as a volunteer at the professional and community level.

In 2016, Qadir ran for a seat on the Northville Township Board of Trustees. During his campaign, he stood for neighborhoods and against unfettered development.

He played a significant role in rallying support to stop expansion of the Arbor Hill landfill. He organized the community to persuade the Northville Township board in redesigning the development of the Old Scott Prison area at Beck and Five Mile roads, according to the desires of the area residents. He convinced the planning commission to abort an unpopular residential development at Ridge and Six Mile roads.

In recognition for his life's work in community services, Qadir was presented with the Distinguished Life Fellowship award by the American Psychiatric Association. He was honored with the Scholar Award for single-handedly raising money for an endowment fund to perpetually provide 50 scholarships per year to the medical students at his alma mater. And in 2015, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, a Washington-based think tank, awarded him Philanthropist of the Year.



Qadir



Danielle Stislicki

ielle.

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

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Published: March 4 & 8, 2018 LO-000039719 2x2

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Home broken into

The owner of a residence in the 2200 block of Ellsworth came to the police station Feb. 18 to report a burglary had taken place at his property.

He said it appeared someone had kicked in the door of the home and damaged the living room. Ceiling fans were pulled down, drywall and wood flooring were damaged and wiring was pulled out from the ceiling. No suspect information was available.

Vacant home burglarized

Police were called Feb. 18 to a home in the 33000 block of Bentley Court on the report of a home that had been broken into.

Police were called after a broken window was seen on the house, which was empty. When they arrived, they spoke to a maintenance worker for the property, who said he was notified of the damage by a neighbor. Police checked the house and did not find anyone inside, nor did it appear anything was missing.

Items thrown at car

Westland police were called Feb. 24 to the 37000 block of Booth on the report of some items that had been thrown at a vehicle, damaging it.

Police saw a large rock on the ground next to the vehicle parked in the area. The truck had damage done to the windshield and hood, consistent with a rock being thrown at it. No evidence was located near or on the rock.

Windshield smashed

Police were dispatched Feb. 25 to the 30000 block of Ann Arbor Trail on the report of some damage done to a vehicle's windshield.

When police arrived, they spoke to the owner, who said she saw the vehicle intact earlier that morning. Later, she went outside and saw damage to the car, which included the rear window smashed out. No suspect information, though she said she heard her dogs barking in the morning, which she believes is when the incident occurred.

— By David Veselenak

House is named Westland's economic development director

Mayor William R. Wild has appointed Charles House to serve as the city of Westland's economic development director, beginning March 5.

House is joining the Westland administration with more than 25 years of experience as a sales management professional. He held his most recent position as the senior director of leasing for General Growth Properties, Inc., based out of Chicago, Ill., since 2010. General Growth Properties is an S&P 500 company focused exclusively on owning, managing, leasing and redeveloping high quality real estate properties throughout the United States.

"Mr. House comes highly recommended and has demonstrated incredible tenacity in building new business,

securing customer loyalty and forging strong relationships with external business partners throughout his career," Wild said. "We are fortunate to be able to welcome him to the team and look forward to utilizing his ideas and experience to attract jobs and to continue developing Westland's business community."

House has a bachelor of arts degree in managerial studies from Rice University in Houston, Texas, and is a licensed associate broker in Michigan.

"It is an honor to be appointed by Mayor Wild as the new economic development director for the city of Westland," House said. "For more than 25 years, I have built relationships and brokered deals for national developers across the country. I am excited for the opportunity to bring my experience to the team and add value to the city and its residents."



House



Carson Ellis (from left), Scoutmaster William J. McCarley and Bryan Reppenhagen. SUBMITTED

Troop 782 has two Scouts achieve rank of Eagle

Troop 782 of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia has announced that Carson Ellis and Bryan Reppenhagen have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Boy Scouting. They bring its Eagle Scout total to 305 since the troop began 64 years ago, which ranks the troop among the top in the United States.

Ellis is a student at Churchill High School. He has achieved the honor roll every semester and has received the Scholar Athlete award for his participation in cross country. Ellis plans on attending the University of Michigan to enroll in aerospace engineering. He would like to join the NASA program upon successfully graduating. He hopes to continue in Scouting and give back the training and responsibilities which he received from Troop 782.

For Ellis's Eagle project, he organized and built an herb garden for the residents at the Methodist Children's

Society facility. There were 12 people helping on the project, which was completed in 204 hours. This garden will afford a learning and relaxing experience for the residents.

Reppenhagen's plans are to study biomedical engineering either at the University of Michigan or Michigan State University. He believes that his leadership from Boy Scouts and other organizations will help him achieve his ambitions.

For Reppenhagen's Eagle project, he organized and built a 12-by-35-foot patio for the Finnish Cultural Center. The project began in early August with gathering materials and was completed in late October. The people who will benefit from this are the Finnish Center community or anyone who visits the Finnish Center and uses the patio. A work crew of 28 people helped on this project, which took a total of 235.75 hours.

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Carefully consider strategy for IRA distributions



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Q: I have a few questions regarding required minimum distributions that I hope you can help me with. My situation is, I will turn 70½ in July. I don't need the money from the IRA, as my pension and Social Security more than cover all my needs. My first question: Is there any way I can avoid taking a distribution? If I do have to take a distribution, I am confused as to when I have to take it. Everyone tells me it's when you turn 70½. I was at one of your talks a couple of years ago and I remember you said something different. Lastly, since I don't need the money, it was recommended to me that I take the money, pay the tax and put it into a Roth IRA; is that a good move for me?

A: When it comes to required minimum distributions from a traditional

IRA, when you turn 70½, you must begin taking distributions. The one big exception with Roth IRAs. If the money was in a Roth IRA, there would not have to be a distribution (the required minimum distribution laws do not apply to Roth IRAs). In your case, since the money is in a traditional IRA, you have no alternative but to take a distribution.

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

Although, delaying the distribution may sound appealing, it's important to keep in mind that the distribution on April 1, 2019, is your 2018 distribution, which means that you still have to take another distribution by Dec. 31, 2019.

For anyone who is thinking of delaying their first required minimum distribution into the next year, you need to explore how that will impact your tax situation.

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

Whoever told you that you can put your required minimum distribution into a Roth IRA doesn't know what they are talking about. Required minimum

distributions are not eligible to be converted into a Roth IRA. You can convert money above and beyond your required minimum distribution, but that's it. In your situation, converting a portion of your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA on a year-by-year basis may be a good strategy and something you may wish to explore.

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

Good luck!

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

Therapy choir helps mark Brain Injury Awareness Month



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

Studies show that every 21 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a traumatic brain injury. A common source of brain injury is motor vehicle accidents. Michigan is the only state that continues to have full no-fault auto insurance, which can cover catastrophic injuries for life.

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan is a valuable asset for those afflicted by a traumatic brain injury. More people than you can realize have been helped because of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and Michigan's no-fault auto insurance law.

There are many components to the treatment of traumatic brain injury, including emergency services, acute hos-

pital care, step-down rehabilitation programs, outpatient TBI rehabilitation and numerous other team treatment modalities. These may include physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, surgery, disability adjustment therapy, social reintegration and music therapy.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month in Michigan. The first week of March has been designated Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan. You see, choir therapy has become one of the several sub-modalities of treatments for traumatic brain injuries as well as many other neurological disorders. Its value is seen most when integrated with other rehabilitation strategies.

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan was created two decades ago with only one singer and one volunteer voice. Soon, there were five members who gave their first public performance at the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's annual

conference/dinner. Since then, TCM has become a nonprofit organization that provides choir therapy for groups in Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties.

As studies continue to show, the performing arts provide a positive contribution to the recovery of brain injury survivors and many others. Since its inception, TCM has expanded to offer services, not only to TBI survivors, but people with autism, Down's syndrome, stroke, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and other neurologically and psychiatrically compromised individuals.

TCM is proud to announce its upcoming 20th annual concert from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the beautiful Rotunda at the Michigan Capitol Building. This show is free of charge and open to the public.

The choir lives by the motto, "It's about more than just singing." This is because membership in the choir does not require good singing skills or talent.

Members consistently demonstrate gains in self-esteem, a sense of belonging to a part of their community, development of friendships and re-entry into the community. In addition, there is the opportunity to be helpful to others by raising awareness in a manner which is pleasing to listening audiences and also imparts inspiration and hope that audiences can take home and share with others. For 20 years, it has been a win-win situation for all who have been involved.

For more information, go to <http://therapychoirs.org/> or <https://www.biami.org/>.

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

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Obituaries

Frank W. Allen

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

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

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

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



Joan Rossow

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com for the Rossow family.



Deanna Sadlowski

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

Dora DeMarco

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



Barbara Elizabeth Lewis

NOVI - Age 90, on February 23, 2018.

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

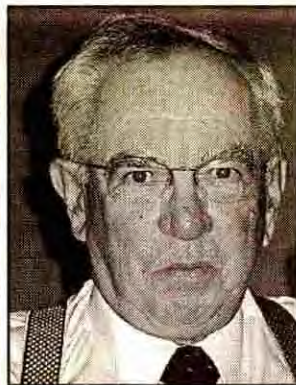
B.A. from U of M in 1949 and Masters in Library Science in 1970; Zeta Tau Alpha sister, Teacher and Media Specialist in MI and CA for more than 33 years and worked in two public libraries in retirement.

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

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

Richard Nelson

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



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



Christine Kiernan

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

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



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

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

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

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Sports



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

GIRLS SKIING

Weymouth captures state championship

Marian junior places first in giant slalom at Boyne

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

"I really love giant slalom," she added.

See WEYMOUTH, Page 2B

BOYS SWIMMING



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

READY TO FLY AGAIN

Seaholm senior hopes to defend 100 butterfly state championship

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

See ARPASI, Page 2B

BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson prevails in clash of top teams

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

See STEVENSON, Page 3B



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



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BOYS HOCKEY

Cranbrook ices Birmingham

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

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

Topouzian scores twice for CK

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



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

tive.

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

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

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

Senior captain Chase Kantgias contributed three assists.

Both goalies stand out

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

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

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

"Gabriel Barish was outstanding to-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Arpasi

Continued from Page 1B

year and they really got me into swimming.

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

An 'outstanding' swimmer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

State-meet challenges

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

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



Arpasi



Wyllie

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

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

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

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

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

"He has to really focus on how we

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

Denison is next stop

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

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

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

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Weymouth

Continued from Page 1B

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

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

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

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

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

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

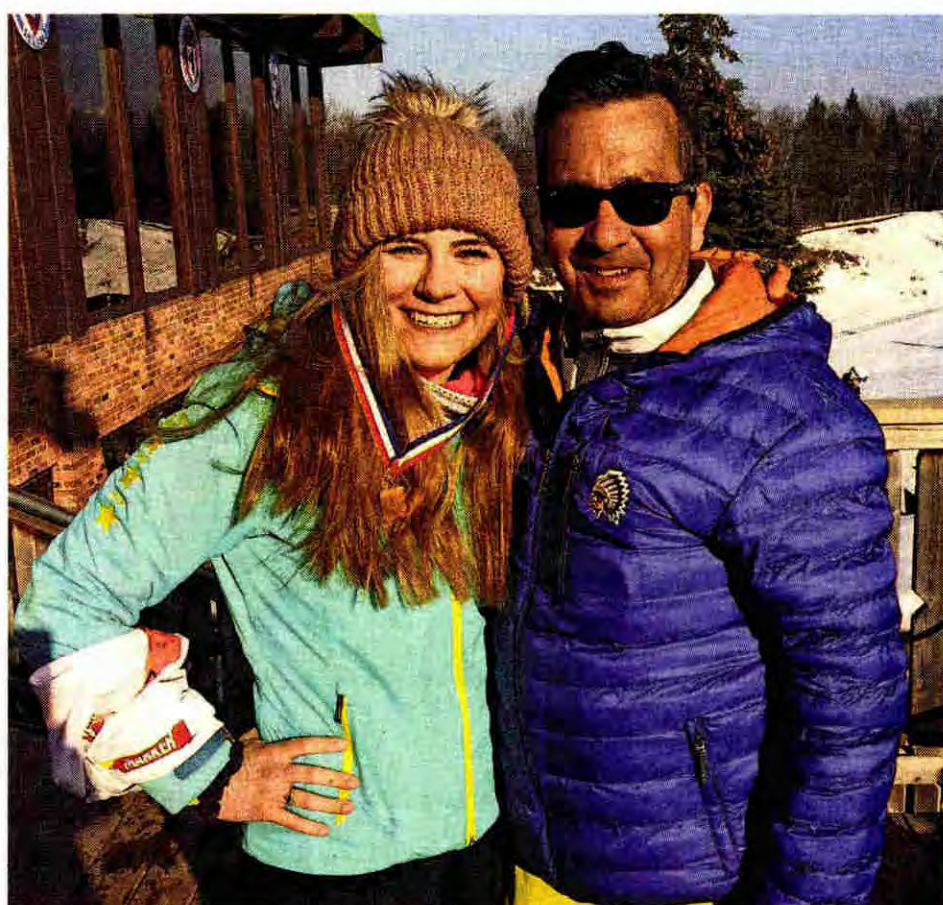
Neither Weymouth nor Bridges finished the slalom after earning first team all-state honors in the giant slalom.

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

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

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

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.



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

BOYS HOCKEY

State tourney seeding sought by coaches

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

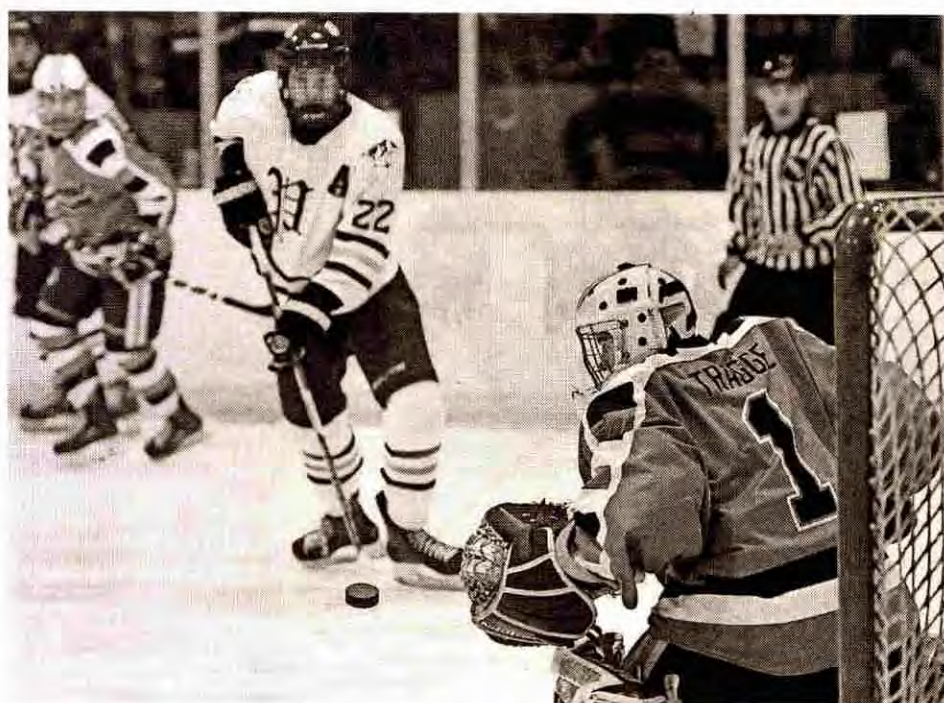
Meanwhile, in the same pre-regional, an up-and-coming team in Canton — not quite there yet as a contender under the guidance of first-year head coach John Bartle — received an opening bye.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Skeptics remain

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

Yet skepticism remains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

in talent-rich areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Stevenson

Continued from Page 1B

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

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

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

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

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

Plymouth coach Gerry Vento also tipped his cap to Tragge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Wildcats cut the gap to 2-1 on a



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



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

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

Here are several takeaways:

WHERE THERE'S WILL

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

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

BUZZWORTHY

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

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

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

JUST THE BEST

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

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

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

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mercy slips past Groves in opener

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Close all the way

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



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

point lead.

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

It did not take Groves long to overcome that deficit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mercy's defense shines

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

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

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

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

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

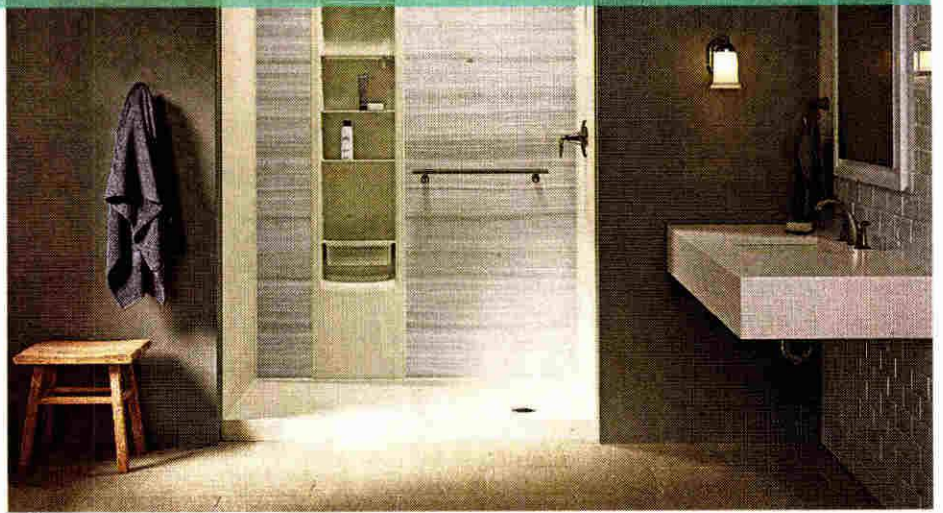
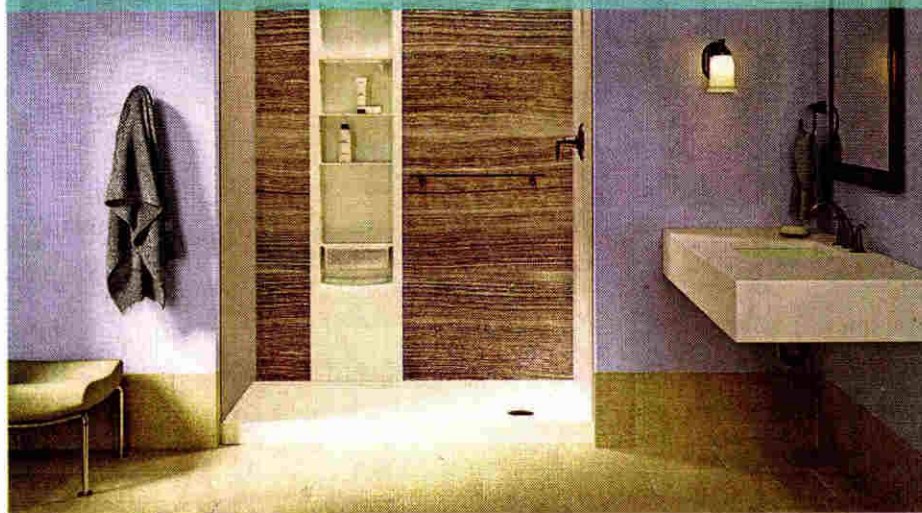
Carter, Groves' leading scorer all season, scored a game-high 22 points (including 10-of-11 from the line). The next highest Falcons were Kalya Nelson with nine and Jasmine Worthy with six.

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

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

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Cranbrook claims first Catholic League crown

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

Sweep of the Ventures

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

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

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

Cranbrook Kingswood's tenacious defense proved the difference.

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



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

time.

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

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

Fourth-quarter defense

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

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

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

See CRANBROOK, Page 7B

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Published: February 18, 25 & March 4, 2018

NO.3046

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 060 OF TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63 (SNOW ALERT) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 060 of Title 10, Chapter 63 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.63.060 Time limit for removal of parked vehicles or trailers—Impoundment conditions. Within six (6) hours after notice of a snow alert has been given, any motor vehicle or trailer parked on any street, road or avenue within the city shall be removed. Any vehicle or trailer parked on any street, road or avenue in violation of the provisions of this section may be ticketed and/or removed and impounded by order of the Police Department, the Director of Inspection or the designees of the Director of Inspection, and/or the Director of the Department Public Works or the designees of Director of the Department of Public Works. The owner shall be required to pay towing, impounding and storage costs prior to the return of the vehicle or trailer in addition to any fines and costs which may be assessed for the violation of this chapter.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 3. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare and shall take effect immediately upon publication.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Susan M. Nash, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 18th day of January, 2018.

Dennis K. Wright, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney
Dated: January 18, 2018

Published: March 4, 2018

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PREP ROUNDUP

Mercy tops North, 44-38

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills Mercy needed a second-half rally to get past neighboring North Farmington in a Class A district semifinal game Wednesday, 44-38. The teams were tied 20-20 at half-time and the host Marlins outscored the Raiders by a 24-18 second-half margin to earn the victory.

"We came out very flat after our (opening district) game against Groves," Mercy head coach Gary Morris said. "It was a big emotional victory for us and I was worried that we might come out like that."

Bella Dugas was the lone Mercy player to reach double figures with 20 points. Jillian Smith and Jenna Schluter added nine and seven points, respectively.

Sam Cherney led North with a double-double that included 11 points and 10 rebounds. Maya Kelly added 10 points with four rebounds. North finished the season with a 13-8 record. Mercy (19-3) was scheduled to play Southfield A&T (15-5) for the district title Friday.

COUNTRY DAY 74, CENTER LINE 29: In this Class B district opener Monday, Country Day had three players reach double figures. Adrian Folks led the way with 21, followed by Maddie Novak (13) and Mazine Moore (12). Senior guard Kaela Webb added nine points. Lasha Robinson led the Panthers with eight points.

COUNTRY DAY 88, FERDALE UNIVERSITY 16: Country Day easily advanced into the Class B district title

game after this semifinal win Wednesday. Kaela Webb led the offense with 16 points and Adrian Folks finished with 14. Morgan Morrison (12) and Taylor Fowler (10) also hit double figures for the Yellowjackets. Host Country Day (17-4) was scheduled to play Madison Heights Lamphere (11-11) for the district title Friday.

Boys hockey

BROTHER RICE 6, BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2: Brother Rice successfully opened defense of its Division 2 state championship with a victory Tuesday at the Detroit Skating Club. The Warriors were led by junior defenseman Ethan Nystrom who had a natural hat trick and a pair of assists. Nystrom scored Rice's first three goals, all in the first period. Senior forward Garrett Moore, junior forward Chris Andoni and sophomore forward Nick Marone accounted for the other Rice goals. Senior forward Dominick Diponio was credited with three assists, while Marone and Moore both had two. Bloomfield Hills' Ryan Pape (power play) and Cameron Koch scored the final two goals. Daniel Sternberg, Jonah Stone, Jaxon Perlmutter and Fletcher Wooley had assists for the Black Hawks. Bloomfield Hills finished 12-11-2.

COUNTRY DAY 8, WALLED LAKE WESTERN 0: Country Day picked up in the postseason where it left off in the regular season in its pre-regional game. The Yellowjackets hiked their record to 23-2-1.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Cranbrook

Continued from Page 6B

the rest of the game. They made a nice adjustment.

"In practice we tried to simulate their speed and athleticism and size," he added. "They're a very good team and they've been the best team in our

league all year. Credit to them."

Williams led Cranbrook Kingswood with 14 points. Senior center Tim Hauxwell finished with 12, while Doman had nine.

Foley was led by junior guard Sam Siepker's 14 points. Senior center Franklin Lama was next with seven.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

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PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



RACHEL REDDEMAN

SENIOR BASKETBALL
LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND WARRIORS

It was a bittersweet ending to Rachel Reddeman's stellar basketball career at Lutheran High Westland.

After leading her team to the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division title and surpassing the 1,000-point mark during her four-year career, the Warriors had their 13-game winning streak snapped in the opening round of the Class D district on Feb. 26 by host Plymouth Christian, 51-39.

The 5-foot-10 senior center scored 15 points in her season finale and finished with 1,034 career points, second only in school history to Stephanie Locke, who had over 1,500 points (1988-1991).

Reddeman earned Athlete of the Week honors after scoring 11 points and adding 14 rebounds in a 25-20 non-

conference win Feb. 22 over Ann Arbor Greenhills as the Warriors finished the regular season 19-1 overall.

The previous night (Feb. 21) in a 47-32 victory at rival Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, Reddeman scored 18 points to break the 1,000-point barrier.

"Plays on the block, plays in the high post," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "She can catch the ball in the high post and drive to the basket. She's really smart, has a great basketball awareness, court awareness down low."

This season, Red-

deman averaged 15.8 points shooting 57 percent from the floor to go along with 9.3 rebounds per game as the Warriors, who finished 19-2 overall and finished 8-0 in the division, tied a school record for most wins in a season.



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2. 2002 Chevrolet 1G1JC124427292367
3. 2007 Ford 1FAPP53U27A114125
4. 1997 Honda 1HGCD5536VA047330
5. 1997 Chevrolet 2G1WL52M9V9197819
6. 1996 Buick 2G4WB52M3T1507769
7. 2002 Chrysler 3C4FY48B72T379391
8. 2003 Ford 1FMZU73W83ZA20125
9. 1983 Jeep 1JCCE87E0DT004342
10. 2000 Dodge 2B3HD56J1YH111377
11. 2006 Chrysler 3A4FY48BX6T367512

Publish: March 4, 2018

LO-00003980 32x3



CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Garden City will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 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 a request to rezone the vacant lot located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Merriman Road and Bridge Street (Tax Parcel No. 35-001-01-3267-000) from O-1, Office District to C-2, Community Business District.

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: March 4, 2018

LO-000039645 3x3

CITY OF LIVONIA
PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA
Zoning Board of Appeals

March 20, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2018-03-05: Stephen Graham, south side of Hees (36095) between Crown and Linville, seeking to erect a six foot tall wood privacy fence on a corner lot, resulting in excess fence height and erecting the fence in the side yard, which is not allowed. Privacy fences must not be closer to the front lot line than the rear line of the home.

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

Publish: March 4, 2018

LO-000039820 3x3



Notice to Taxpayers
Charter Township of Redford
March 2018 Board of Review

Notice is hereby given that the 2018 March Board of Review for the Charter Township of Redford will meet at the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road Redford, Michigan 48239 in the Board Room for the purpose of reviewing the 2018 Assessment Roll. Appeals will be heard **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. You must call the Assessor's Office at (313) 387-2730 to schedule your appeal.

THE BOARD WILL MEET ON THE DATES AND TIMES INDICATED BELOW.

Tuesday	March 6, 2018	Organization Meeting	11:00 A.M.
Thursday	March 8, 2018	9:00 A.M. to	4:00 P.M.
Friday	March 9, 2018	9:00 A.M. to	4:00 P.M.
Monday	March 12, 2018	3:00 P.M. to	9:00 P.M.
Friday	March 16, 2018	9:00 A.M. to	4:00 P.M.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TAXPAYER TO PROTEST THE VALUATION PLACED ON THE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE YEAR 2018.

NONRESIDENT APPEALS BY MAIL WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 16, 2018.

ATTENTION POVERTY APPEALS: PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE FOR POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AT (313) 387-2730.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

Publish: February 15, 22, & March 4, 2018

LO-000038630 3x4

NO. 3047

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 090 OF TITLE 13, CHAPTER 42 (INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF GREASE INTERCEPTORS; DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 090 of Title 13, Chapter 42 the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.42.090 Violations and penalties.

- A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter, including the failure to pay any fees, fines, charges or surcharges imposed hereby, or who knowingly makes any false statements, logs, reports, representations or certifications; who fails to include material facts in any application, log, record, report, plan or other document filed or required to be maintained; or, who tampers with or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device required under this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 for each violation per day, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both fine and imprisonment. This chapter may be enforced by the Police Department, the Director of Inspection or the Director of Inspection's designees, or the Director of the Department of Public Works or the designees of the Director of the Department of Public Works.
- B. Whenever the City has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is violating, or has violated a standard or any requirement of this Chapter, the City of Livonia may commence a civil action to compel compliance in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the establishment or any owner, operator, or manager of it from discharging or allowing the discharge, and/or to obtain appropriate relief.
- C. The City may also seek additional legal and/or equitable relief. The commencement of suit neither constitutes an exclusive election of remedies nor prohibits the City from commencing action for discharges believed to be in violation of this Chapter or other applicable laws or requirements.
- D. In addition, the City of Livonia shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees, court costs, court reporters' fees, and other usual expenses related to enforcement activities or litigation against the person or entity found to have violated this Chapter.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 3. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Monday, February 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Susan M. Nash, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 14th day of February, 2018.

Dennis K. Wright, Mayor

Approved as to form:
 Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney

Dated: February 14, 2018

Publish: March 4, 2018

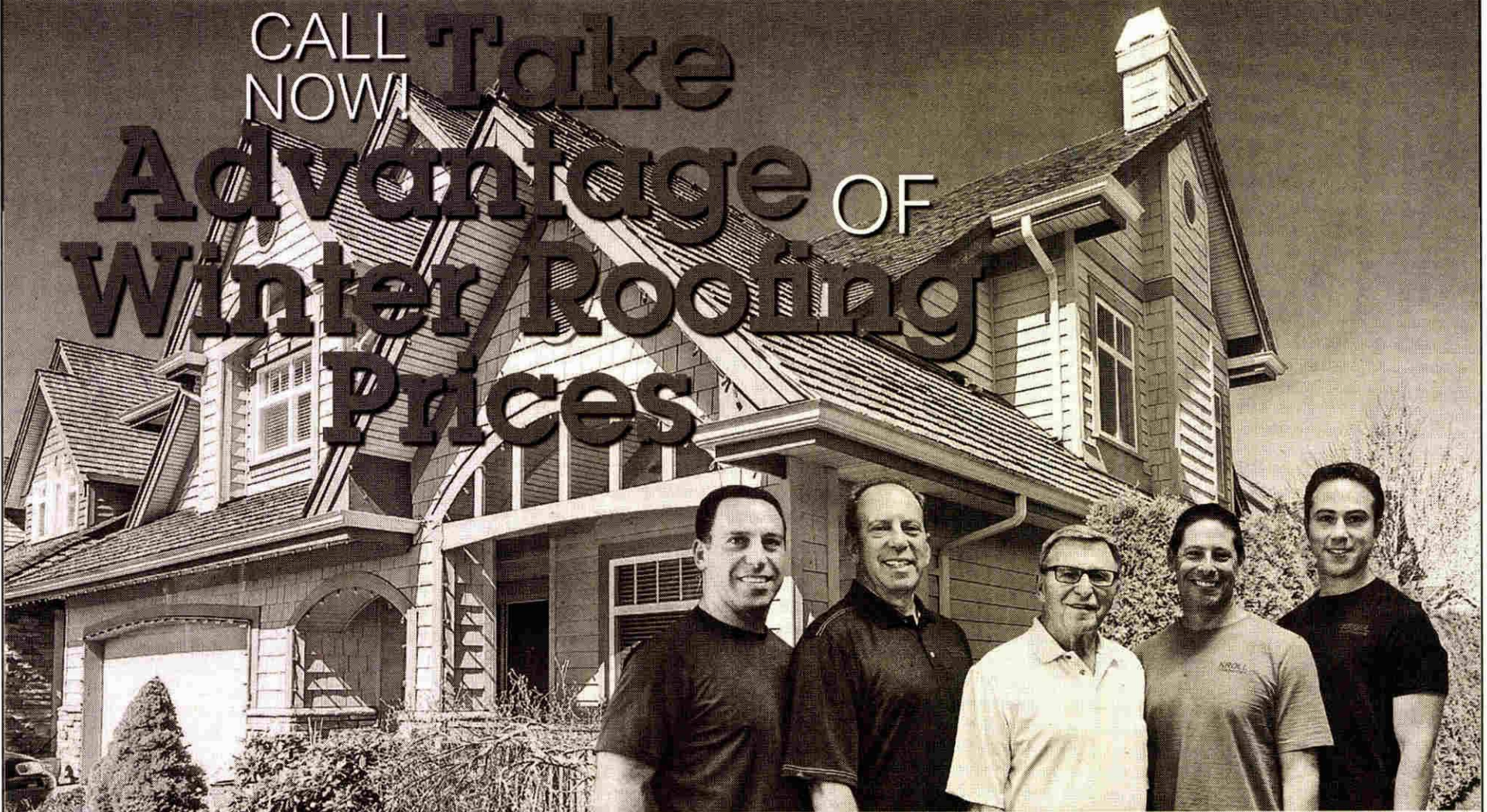
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YOUR LOCAL JOB LISTING FROM LIVONIA OBSERVER

What to ask when negotiating a job offer

BY KATE LOPAZE
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

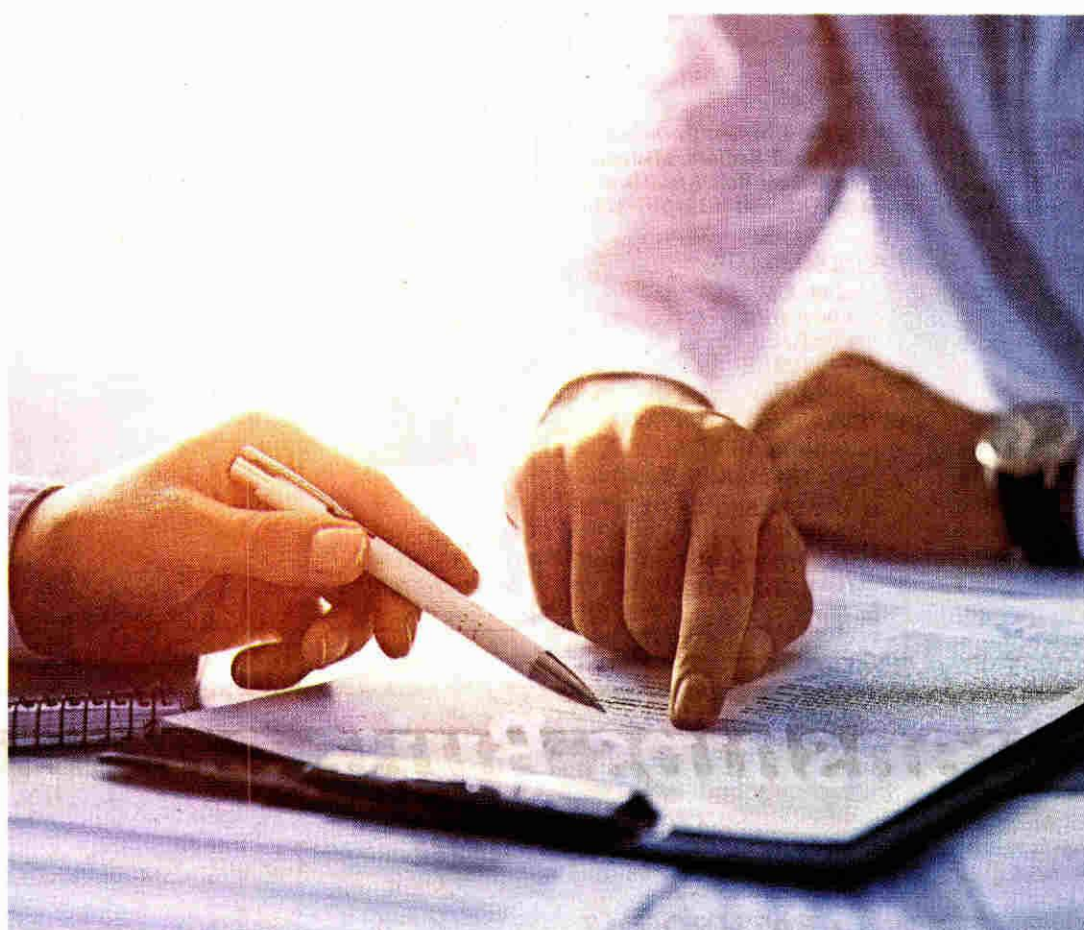
You have a job offer — awesome! Your work is done, right? After all, you've made it through the resume pile/interview/second interview gauntlet and emerged as the winner. Not so fast, champ ... you still have some work to do. The job offer is just the start of the next phase: negotiating. This is your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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

3. What is the fiscal year for this company?

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

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

4. Can you send me employee benefit costs?

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

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

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

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pres. Lincoln
 - 4 Bar mitzvah officiant
 - 9 Placed a burden on
 - 14 Broke, as a horse
 - 19 Fake signatures
 - 21 Billy Joel's "— Extremes"
 - 22 Rock's Cooper
 - 23 "The Golden Girls" co-star being a rascal?
 - 25 Bit of gossip
 - 26 Conical-bore woodwinds
 - 27 Winslet and Middleton
 - 28 Source of great wealth
 - 30 Make juice of
 - 33 Mean beasts wearing disguises?
 - 35 Burg
 - 38 Life story, for short
 - 40 Suffix with cloth or cash
 - 41 With 45-Down, place for paternity testing
 - 42 "Sad to say ..."
 - 43 Record of the years
 - 47 Serpentine fish
 - 49 Unearthly
 - 53 Stared creepily at a group of wolves?
 - 56 Long deli sandwiches
 - 58 Pretend to be
 - 59 Mythical man-horse
 - 60 Red chapter heading, e.g.
 - 62 Ancient French region
 - 64 In re
 - 67 Minerva, to the Greeks
 - 69 Comes out on top
 - 70 "Make no edits to those script lines!"?
 - 76 Sleek, informally
 - 77 How some freelancers work
 - 78 Bellyache
 - 79 Iditarod Trail animal
 - 81 Very spirited
 - 84 Swiftly
 - 89 Brand of fruit drinks
 - 90 Notion, to Luc
 - 92 Heavy work shoe filled with currants?
 - 95 Comedian Smirnoff
 - 97 Apr. clock setting
 - 99 Countdown expression
 - 100 Manila money
 - 101 Lively spirit
 - 103 Smidge
 - 105 Phys ed class
 - 106 Epochs
 - 107 Airport area that's only an illusion?
 - 114 Stair unit
 - 116 Mexican revolutionary
 - 117 Oasis beast
 - 119 Capital of the Beaver State
 - 123 Poe's bird
 - 124 Evil poet
 - 128 Belgian port
 - 129 Wise up
 - 130 Aggressively defiant
 - 131 — Domingo
 - 132 Unable to relax
 - 133 Composer Erik
 - 134 "Prob'ly not"
 - 4 Actress Witherspoon
 - 5 Equip for war
 - 6 Razor brand
 - 7 Radio host Glenn
 - 8 Koran's faith
 - 9 Tablecloth material
 - 10 Tennis great Andre
 - 11 Shout on "The Simpsons"
 - 12 Curio display stands
 - 13 Giving type
 - 14 Late state
 - 15 Female grads
 - 16 Copy closely
 - 17 Low-cost, in product names
 - 18 Freedom from govt. control
 - 20 Brown-and-white cow
 - 24 Get from — B
 - 29 '60s drug
 - 31 Blind as —
 - 32 Ho Chi —
 - 34 Golf peg
 - 35 New Mexico ski spot
 - 36 Bond girl Kurylenko
 - 37 Drawer Disney
 - 39 Burdensome
 - 44 Storekeeper on "The Simpsons"
 - 45 See 41-Across
 - 46 Try to harm with claws
 - 48 Angola's capital
 - 50 Cosine, e.g.
 - 51 Cake topper
 - 52 JFK guesses
 - 54 "Blast!"
 - 55 Kin's partner
 - 57 Linda of "The Exorcist"
 - 61 "— -ching!"
 - 63 Hole tool
 - 65 Stomached
 - 66 Used a tool to grab, as an ice block
 - 68 Engraved work of art
 - 70 Screenwriter Ephron
 - 71 Big name in vacuums
 - 72 "Yes" signal
 - 73 EMS skill
 - 74 Tune in to
 - 75 On — with (similar to)
 - 76 Pasty
 - 80 Enters headfirst, as a pool
 - 82 Cup edge
 - 83 "So far — know ..."
 - 85 Any of six pontiffs
 - 86 Wine ripener, e.g.
 - 87 House, south of the border
 - 88 Son of Seth
 - 91 Female hormone
 - 93 Van —, Calif.
 - 94 Cellar, in apt. ads
 - 96 Luxurious
 - 98 Piper's cap
 - 102 School gp.
 - 104 Kitchen choppers
 - 107 Arctic floaters
 - 108 Large city in Nebraska
 - 109 Established fact
 - 110 — Gay (warplane)
 - 111 Tot watcher
 - 112 Latin "I love"
 - 113 Some jobs
 - 115 Suffix similar to -like
 - 118 Pre-euro Italian money
 - 120 Security claim
 - 121 Italian peak
 - 122 Tall tale
 - 125 "Gimme —!" (rude demand)
 - 126 Granola bit
 - 127 Here, in Lyon

SUDOKU

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

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

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

WORDS

- BEACH
- BIRDS
- BLUE
- BOARDWALK
- BOATING
- CONCH
- CORAL
- COVE
- CRUISE
- CULTURE
- DESTINATION
- DOCK
- DUNE
- EXPLORE
- FISH
- FOLIAGE
- GULL
- HUMIDITY
- ISLAND
- LUSH
- OCEAN
- PALM
- PEBBLES
- PENINSULA
- SAND
- SCUBA
- SEASHELLS
- SHORELINE
- SNORKEL
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMSUIT
- TIDE
- TROPICS
- VACATION
- WARMTH
- WAVES

ANSWER KEY

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

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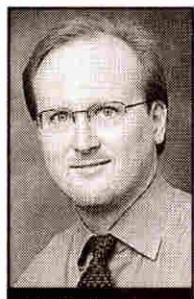
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Car Report

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



By Dale Buss

This is an era when consumers are said to be looking down at sedans, as American car buyers have begun favoring sport-utility vehicles and crossovers

more than the traditional automobile configuration that built the industry.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

best-anytime fourth-quarter sales for the nameplate.

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

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

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

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

potholes that, quickly glanced, looked to be formidable.

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

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

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

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



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



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

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