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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 ■ [HOMETOWNLIFE.COM](http://HOMETOWNLIFE.COM)

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Aldi set for former Chi-Chi's site

**David Veselenak**  
[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Ask anyone in Livonia what property has long been clamoring for redevelopment in the city, it's likely they'll say the name of a former Mexican restaurant that's been long closed: Chi-Chi's.

But those days could be over by the beginning of 2019. That's because, after

being empty for more than a decade, plans have been submitted to develop an Aldi grocery store and a multi-tenant retail building at the site on the north-east corner of Schoolcraft and Middlebelt roads.

"It is a development proposal that has been long-awaited," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning director.

The owner of the property, Birmingham-based Center Management, has

submitted plans to the city for the nearly-3.5 acre property to house a new prototype Aldi grocery store along the property's eastern boundary, plus a multi-tenant building closer to Middlebelt.

Thomas Guastello, owner of the property, said as long as approvals move along with the city, he hopes it could be open by the beginning of 2019. He's happy progress on the property is moving forward.

"We're delighted. We've been in Livonia a long time with this and other developments," he said. "It's a great community."

The property has not been utilized in more than a decade. Chi-Chi's closed in 2004 and the building was not razed until 2011, leaving the property vacant.

Since 2013, that area around Middle-

See ALDI, Page 2A



Students across the country have joined in protest following the Feb. 14 shooting at a Florida high school. DAVID SCRIVNER | IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

## RAISING THEIR VOICES

Students plan walkouts to protest gun violence

**David Veselenak**  
[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been a tense feeling among students enrolled at the three high schools in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park these last few weeks. Lockdowns have occurred — not once, but twice — at the campus in the past month after potential gun violence threats were investigated by officials.

Because of those, even a routine announcement at the schools recently had students worried they'd be under a lockdown.

"More people have anxiety going to school," said Jocelyn Brown, a Plymouth High School junior. "People are struck with fear. Everyone was worried it was going to be a shelter in place."

Later this spring, students across the region plan on taking action with others across the country to protest gun violence,

walking out during one of two nationally scheduled protests while administrators talk with students to figure out how best to work with them as they decide to participate.

Two dates have been targeted as nationwide protest days against gun violence. One is Wednesday, the one-month anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., an incident that left 17 dead. The other date is Friday, April 20, the 19th anniversary of

See STUDENTS, Page 4A

## Event aims to connect businesses, disabled

The Livonia Public Schools district is teaming with regional partners for a community conversation event that focuses on ways to create new employment opportunities for adults with disabilities.

The event is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at the Embassy Suites Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, off Seven Mile Road, just east of I-275.

Local business owners, community leaders, education professionals, parents and advocates are invited to attend this round table meeting and offer input on ways to support and grow this segment of the workforce.

"The employment rate for adults with disabilities is extremely low," said Beth Santer, coordinator of student services for the district. "In LPS, we are trying to change that, one step at a time."

The district offers adults ages 18-26 workforce and life skills training and employment opportunities through programs at the Western Wayne Skill Center, the Livonia Transition Program and through a special program called Project SEARCH, a partnership between LPS and Embassy Suites Livonia.

"We already support post-high school programs and help secure employment for our students with disabilities, but events like this are critical in building and maintaining relationships between schools, businesses, agencies and parents," Santer said.

The event will assist in making

See DISABLED, Page 2A

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Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

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**Subscription Rates:**

Newsstand price: \$1.50  
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

**Home Delivery:**

Customer Service: 866-887-2737  
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Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon  
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**Aldi**

Continued from Page 1A

belt and Schoolcraft has seen revolutionary changes. The former Walmart building on the southwest corner has been demolished and turned into the Livonia Commons shopping center, housing a Dick's Sporting Goods, Rally House and Joanne Fabrics. Menards opened south of Industrial, along with a strip mall, a Goodyear tire shop and a Goodwill store.

Millennium Park has seen plenty of development, including a new Culver's and Popeye's restaurants. And the old Cloverlanes bowling alley on Schoolcraft, east of Middlebelt, has been torn down to make way for a storage facility.

Guastello said his company turned down a number of businesses looking to locate on the corner before they decided to go with Aldi, known for its low prices and no-frills shopping.

"We like the family-use concept of this and bringing a new concept with an international company, we think, is terrific," he said. "They're going to be Livonia's answer to Whole Foods."



There are development plans to consider for the site of the former Chi-Chi's restaurant, on the northeast corner of Middlebelt and Schoolcraft roads. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Aldi operates more than 1,600 stores across 35 states. Locally, there are stores in Redford, Garden City, Westland, Canton, Wixom and Commerce Township.

Guastello said there are a few possible tenants for the other building on the site, though he declined to identify them Tuesday.

The project is currently working its

way through the approval process with the city. It was discussed Tuesday night during a study meeting of the planning commission and is expected to be reviewed at the planning commission's regular meeting Tuesday, March 13, in Livonia City Hall.

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**Disabled**

Continued from Page 1A

those connections and in sparking the interest of local businesses that may wish to add adults with disabilities to their workforce. Santer notes that businesses gain tax advantages as well as unique strengths that can increase productivity.

"We look forward to a great evening of sharing and making those connections for adults with disabilities and for businesses that may be open to hiring these wonderful members of our community," Santer said.

The event is free and will include appetizers

"The employment rate for adults with disabilities is extremely low."

**Beth Santer**  
coordinator of student services for LPS

and a cash bar. RSVPs are requested by Tuesday, March 20, by emailing [Eileen Brandt](mailto:eileenbrandt@live.com) at [eileenbrandt@live.com](mailto:eileenbrandt@live.com) or by calling 734-578-6186.

The event is sponsored by Embassy Suites, Livonia Public Schools, WRACE (Wayne Regional Autism Collaborative for Excellence), START (Statewide Autism Resources and Training) and Wayne RESA (Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency).



Student Aaron Rutkowske worked in the Fitness Center at Schoolcraft College, as part of the Livonia Transition Program. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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# Facts and fiction concerning long-term annuities



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

**Q: I'm helping my 80-year-old father with his finances and I have some questions. A number of years ago, my dad purchased a non-IRA annuity. He paid \$100,000 and today it's worth about \$150,000. The annuity matures in another month or so and the agent has been hounding my dad to roll the annuity into a different annuity. He told my dad that, if he cashed out the annuity, he would have to pay taxes on the entire \$150,000. My first question is, is that true? My dad wants to withdraw about \$25,000 a year from the annuity to use that money to help his grandchildren through college. The agent informed my dad that the most he could take out of any annuity would be 10 percent without penalty. My second question is, does my dad have other options? The annuity that**

**the agent wants my dad to transfer into has a 12-year penalty provision and the penalty starts at a ridiculous 12 percent.**

**A:** In looking at the tax consequences of cashing out the annuity, the agent is plain and simply wrong. Since this annuity is a non-IRA annuity, it means that you have a basis. Your basis is what you originally paid for the annuity. Since your father paid \$100,000 for the annuity, that would be his basis. If he cashed out the annuity in its entirety and received \$150,000, the only amount he'd be subject to tax on would be the \$50,000. The other \$100,000 is his money coming back to him and that is tax-free.

When your agent suggested that the most your dad could pull out of annuity without penalty is 10 percent, again he was wrong. There are many annuities that have no penalty provisions; you could pull out as much as you want on a year-by-year basis. Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard all offer penalty-free annuities. What you dad can do is have the

annuity directly transferred into one of the aforementioned annuities. By doing this, there are no penalties and you are not locking up your money. You can withdraw all or a portion of the annuity whenever you want without penalties. On a year-by-year basis, your dad can withdraw the \$25,000 penalty-free.

The way taxation on annuities work is the first money that comes back to you is the taxable portion. In the situation with your father, the first \$50,000 he receives he would have to pay tax on. After that, the money he withdraws would be tax-free.

I hear this frequently when annuities mature, where agents are trying to re-up people in annuities with crazy penalty provisions. Why should you have to pay penalties to take back your own money? The answer lies in the commission and fees the agents are receiving. Higher penalties and longer penalty provision always go hand-in-hand with high commissions. Annuity owners should know that there are other options.

Companies like Fidelity, Schwab and

Vanguard all offer commission-free and penalty-free annuities which give investors a great amount of flexibility. In today's world, it is important to have flexibility and that's why it doesn't make sense to lock up money for a long period of time. The only one who benefits by you locking up your money is the agent who is selling you the annuity.

If you get approached by an agent who is selling an annuity, the questions you need to ask are how long are you committing your money for and what are the penalty provisions. Locking up money for anything longer than five or seven years doesn't make sense in this environment. To make sure you have flexibility and use of your money, don't be afraid to say no to the salespeople and always make sure you shop your options around.

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

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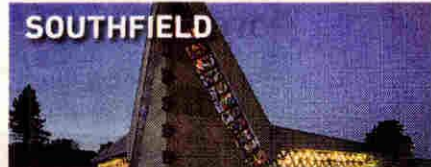
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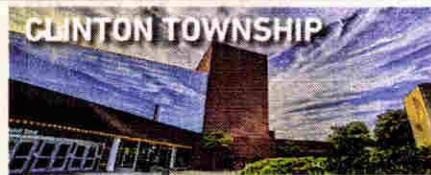
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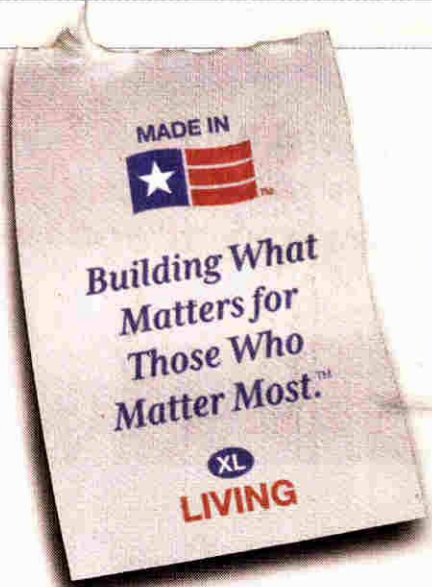
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**DAR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**



The local Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its annual awards day luncheon Feb. 19 at the Plymouth District Library. It is held to recognize and honor the student participants and winners of the DAR essay contests. The essays are written by students in grades 5-12 in various categories who are nominated by their schools. Winning essays were written by (front, from left) Gabby Harter of Churchill High School and Andrew Wu of Gallimore Elementary and (back, from left) Aiden Farmer of Pioneer Middle School, Abby Reppen of Ladywood High School, Sreya Sista of Canton High School, Amanda Noel of Garden City High school and Nathan Preiskom of Huron Valley Lutheran High School. All chapter winning essays have been sent to the state committees to compete with entries of more than 50 other DAR state chapters for the state award. For more information, go to [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org) or connect with DAR on social media at [facebook.com/TodaysDAR](https://facebook.com/TodaysDAR), [twitter.com/TodaysDAR](https://twitter.com/TodaysDAR) and [youtube.com/TodaysDAR](https://youtube.com/TodaysDAR).

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# Brinza selected as featured veteran

Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

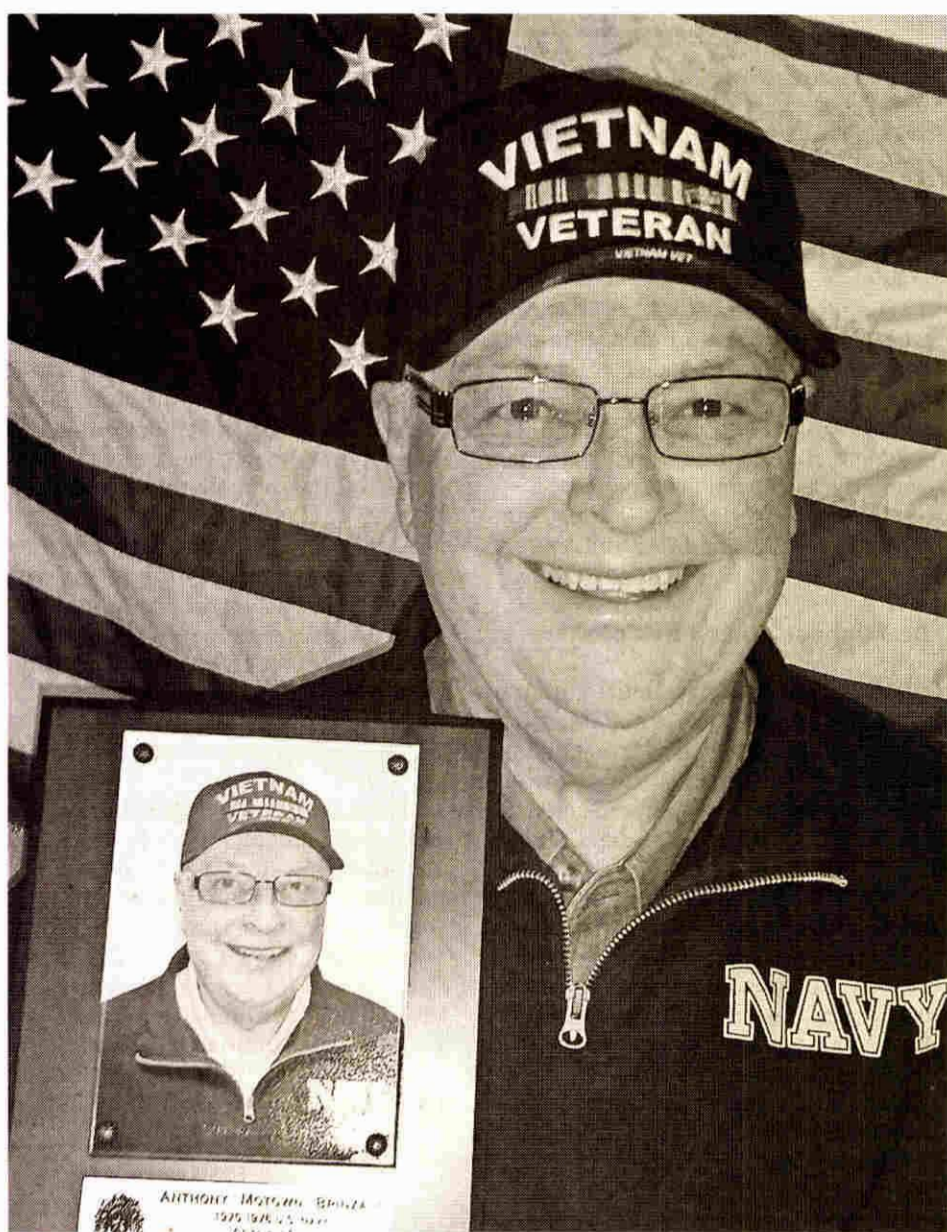
Brinza served in the U.S. Navy from 1970-76. He was born in Detroit and lived there until his teens, when he moved to Southfield. He graduated from Southfield High School in 1965 and then attended Oakland Community College, where he earned an associate's degree. He received notice that he would be drafted in October 1969 and, not wanting to settle for the U.S. Army, Brinza went to the recruiting office to enlist.

He was told there was a two-year waiting list for the U.S. Air Force, so he decided to take the test for the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy. The navy offered him training in nuclear power, which sounded very interesting to him. He was also told that he could have three months to get his life in order before being inducted, but he would also have to commit to six years service. Brinza signed up and was inducted in February 1970.

He was sent to for basic training San Diego, where he graduated as Co. 102 Honor Man and was nicknamed "Motown." Following initial rate training and completion of electricians mate 'A' school, he transferred to the USS Puget Sound (AD-38, Destroyer Tender) in Newport, R.I., for temporary duty in the electrical motor repair and rewind shop and, in November 1970, was advanced to EM3. In January 1970, he was selected to attend Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Md.

"It was a rugged class," Brinza said. "I spent about 85 hours a week between classes and study hall. We started with 50 in the class and wound up with only seven that took the final test. I had a 'B' average in the classes, but washed out on the final. I was told I was not strong enough in the areas that mattered the most. Only five of the seven were ultimately selected. I think it was a blessing in disguise."

In July 1971, he transferred to the USS Providence (CGL-6, guided missile cruiser and flagship) in San Diego. In April 1972, they were assigned to WEST-PAC and departed for the Pacific.



Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month.

"We were told we were going out on operations, but the next thing we knew, we were in Hawaii, then the Philippines and then on the gun line off Vietnam," Brinza said. The USS Providence then spent the next eight months in Vietnam, providing gunfire support to allied forces ashore and blocking supply ships to North Vietnam in the Haiphong harbor area. They inflicted serious losses on the enemy and often came under intense hostile fire and received a U.S. Na-

vy unit commendation for their actions. "The first week on the gun line was a real indoctrination to hell," Brinza said. "We had three days of general quarters with no sleep we were like zombies. One night, I decided to go on deck to see the action. It looked like a scene from 'Victory at Sea.' Then I said to myself, 'Are you nuts? Get back inside.' The next morning, I went back outside and there was shrapnel all over where I was standing. I still get the shudders thinking

about how stupid I was, but you get so mentally fatigued you don't think straight."

They returned to San Diego in December 1972 and Brinza was transferred to PTF-25 Osprey Class patrol boat at COSRIVON ONE (Coastal River Squadron One) at Coronado Island, San Diego, and advanced to EM2. In May 1974, he was hand-selected as a research and development crew member for the new CPIX-X (a new hydrofoil coastal patrol boat) in Tacoma, Wash. They spent six months testing the new systems at sea and working with Seal Team 1. They completed final testing at Port Huene, Calif. In November 1974, he returned to COSRIVON ONE and was advanced to EM1.

Brinza separated from active duty in April 1975 and remained in the reserves until 1976. He returned home to Michigan and got a job at J.L. Hudson's in security. In 1978, he went to work as a draftsman at the Ford Van Dyke plant and, in 1983, transferred to the Livonia transmission plant as a torque converter engineer and calibration tester.

While at Ford, he attended Northwood University in Livonia and graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in business administration. He retired in 2007. He married Maryann in 1970 and they have a daughter, Tonya. He is a member of VFW Post 6695 and a life member of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 in Plymouth. He has been a member of American Legion Post 32 for 19 years and chairs the annual golf outing that raises money to place wreaths on veterans graves at the Great Lake National Cemetery in Holly each Christmas season.

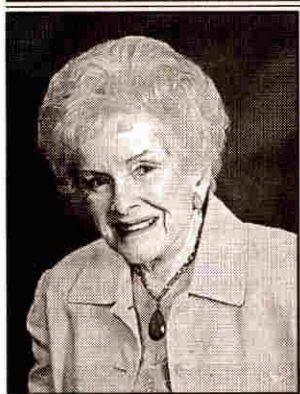
Brinza was interviewed by members of S.A.L. and a DVD was made of the interview. He attended the S.A.L. March membership meeting, where the video was shown to all. A plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall. The public is encouraged to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia.

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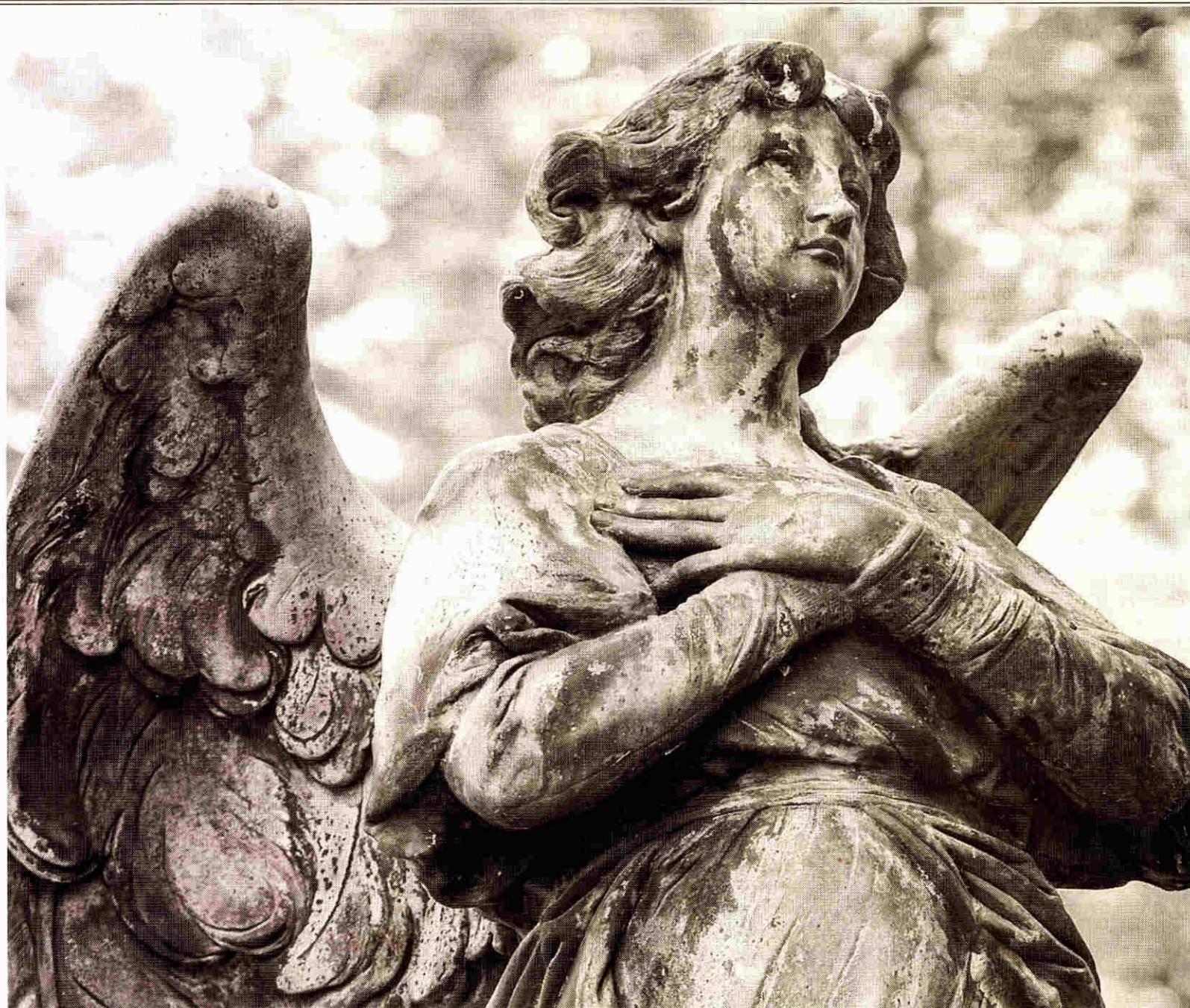
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# Obituaries



**Peggy Sayed**

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
- Sayed, Margaret Jane "Peggy" (Moore) age 91 died at Sunrise of Bloomfield Hills on March 4, 2018. Beloved wife of Robert (Bob) Kenneth Sayed (deceased). She is survived by two daughters: Ginger Dery (Roger) and Joy Murray (Thomas), and three grandchildren: Meghan Murray, Rachel Dery, and Samuel Murray. A memorial service will take place at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 16. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund.



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**HYPE RECREATION CENTER EVENTS**

All classes take place at the *HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, in Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7460. Classes are free unless noted.*

**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 skills you need to make lasting, healthy lifestyle changes. Call 313-586-5488 or go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/TWWHC68x3RHqRjkPf6Tv-c?domain=beaumont.org> to register.

**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.

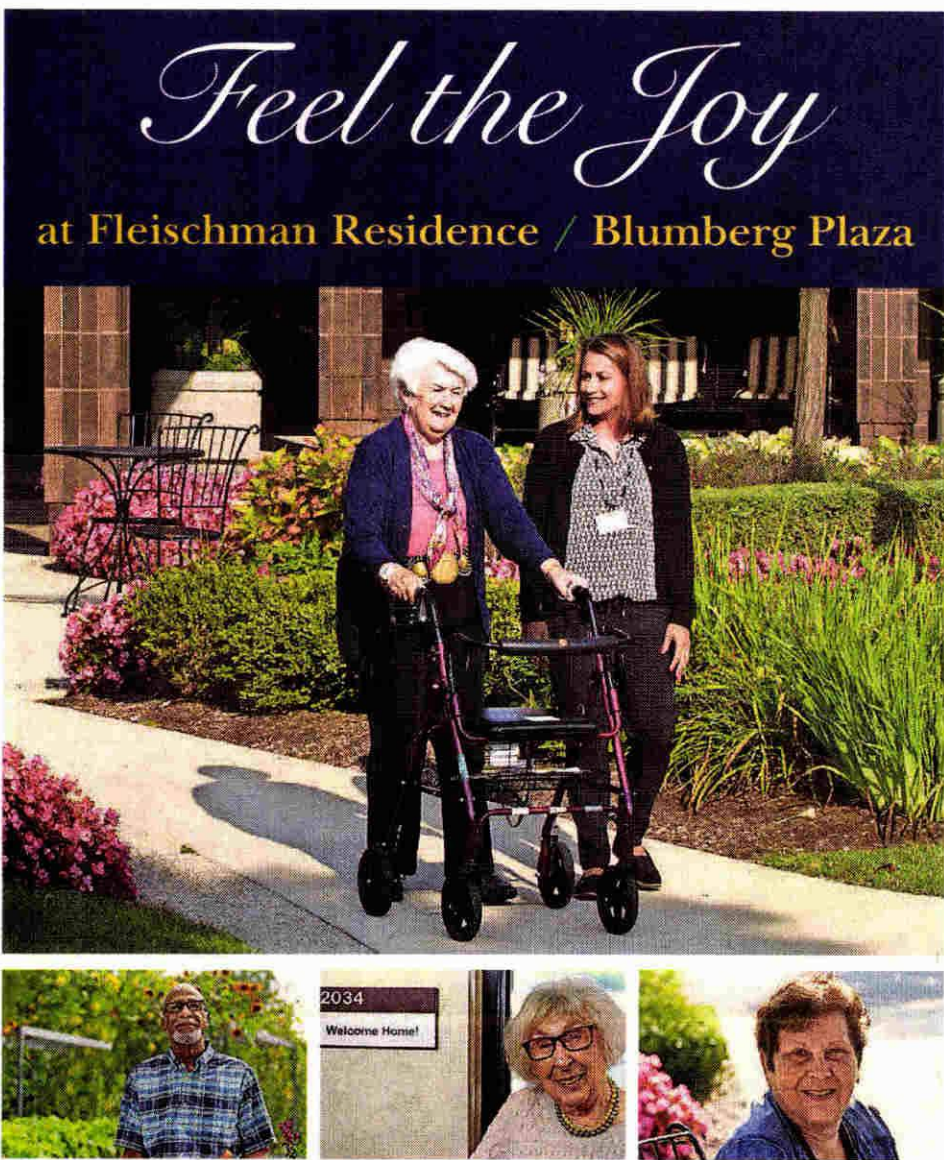
**Sometimes Travelers Club**

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.



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The famous Second City comedy troupe will perform a show Saturday, March 31, at Canton's Village Theater.

## Second City to appear at Canton's Village Theater

Chicago's legendary sketch and improv comedy touring company, The Second City, will return to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill to perform "Look Both Ways Before Talking." The show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

Edgy, thought-provoking and always spectacularly funny, The Second City is celebrating nearly six decades of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and launching the careers of generation after generation of comedy's best and brightest, including Stephen Colbert, Steve Carrell, Tim Meadows and countless other comedy legends.

The Second City based out of Chicago, is a training center that specializes

in improvisational comedy. In its purest form, the dialogue, action, story and characters are created collaboratively by the players as the improvisation unfolds in present time, without the use of an already prepared, written script.

"Look Both Ways Before Talking" is an improvised revue show, which is a mix of semi-improvised and scripted scenes with new material developed during unscripted improv sessions after the second act, where scenes are created based on audience suggestions.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$32 for seniors and are available at [www.cantonvillage.com](http://www.cantonvillage.com) or by calling 734-394-5300. Tickets can also be purchased at box office one hour prior to show time.

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Sunday, March 11, 2018

### SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

# homes

## National Home Builder Toll Brothers to Host Weekend Open House March 17 & 18 Tour Quick Move-in Homes and Villas and Decorated Models in Ann Arbor, Canton, Novi, and Northville



Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, is offering limited-time savings and incentives on Quick Delivery Homes during its Open House Event taking place Saturday and Sunday, March 17 & 18, in Ann Arbor, Canton, Northville and Novi. Buyers will have the opportunity to take advantage of the best possible pricing on all quick move-in homes and villas in the metro Detroit area.

"With spring quickly approaching, this is the perfect time to take advantage of one of our immediate and quick occupancy opportunities to get you into your new home this Summer or Fall," said Nadia Mekled, Senior Sales Manager. "We have everything you have been looking for in a new home, and a few things you didn't know you wanted!" she adds.

To take advantage of this opportunity offered only

through this Open House Event, buyers must make a deposit between March 17 and March 25. Incentives on quick occupancy homes will vary by community, so buyers should contact their community of interest and speak with a sales representative to learn more.

#### Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the upper \$400,000s. Quick occupancy homes are available. For more information, visit [WestridgeofCanton.com](http://WestridgeofCanton.com) or call 734-844-0279.

#### Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. A new first-floor master suite home design is available.

Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the low \$400,000s. A first-floor master plan is available. Quick occupancy homes are available. For details, visit [TheHamlet.com](http://TheHamlet.com) or call 734-398-5939.

#### Low-maintenance Villas in Novi

Located in the heart of Novi on the east side of Novi Rd., just south of Ten Mile Rd. is Ridgeview Villas of Novi. Several luxury villa designs range from 2,041 to 2,676 sq. ft. and most offer a first-floor master suite. Residents enjoy low-maintenance living and paved walking paths leading to The Sports Club of Novi, a dog park, and an ice arena. Pricing begins in the upper \$300,000s. Quick occupancy homes are available. For details, visit [RidgeviewVillas.com](http://RidgeviewVillas.com) or call (248) 904-8515.

#### Luxurious Living in Northville

The impressive model

home is now open at Toll Brothers at Montcaret in prestigious Northville, located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 1¼ miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. A range of home designs are available with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized ½- to 1+ acre home sites. Prices start in the mid-\$700,000s. Call 248-924-2601 or visit [TollBrothersAtMontcaret.com](http://TollBrothersAtMontcaret.com) for details.

#### Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

"Kensington Woods is selling very quickly due to the exceptional location and the unique open layout of our villa designs," says Christina Wade, Sales Manager. Located on the north side of Scio Church Road, just west of Maple Road, the low-maintenance luxury villas feature an exceptional list of included features in a stunning setting with pricing from the low \$400,000s. A model home is open and quick occupancy homes are available. For details, call (734) 769-9660 or visit [Kensington-Woods.com](http://Kensington-Woods.com).

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier situated in a stunning 109-acre setting surrounded by towering trees and open meadows. The luxury Villa Collection is opening soon to the public. The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts,

loft space, and more.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now under construction. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call 734-224-6686 or visit [North-Oaks.com](http://North-Oaks.com).

#### Now Open in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools on Ann Arbor's west side is now open. Two collections of homes offer all new home designs with an impressive list of included features. Prices begin in the low \$400,000s. A new model is open and quick occupancy homes are available. For

more information, visit [TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com](http://TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com) or call (734) 995-5503.

#### Last Chance in Novi

This is it! Only one opportunity remains at Island Lake of Novi! This premier resort-class community features a 170-acre lake, clubhouse with pools and fitness room, boat docks, beaches, parks, walking paths, tennis and sand volleyball courts. One quick occupancy home is available featuring an expansive home site and South Lyon schools. For details, visit [IslandLakeOfNovi.com](http://IslandLakeOfNovi.com) or call 248-924-2601.

Toll Brothers, an award-winning Fortune 500 Company, was founded in 1967. Toll Brothers is currently building in 20 states nationwide and is a publicly owned company whose stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: TOL). For Community Information, visit [TollBrothers.com/MI](http://TollBrothers.com/MI). This is not an offering where prohibited by law.



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# March SAVINGS

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# Sports

BOYS HOCKEY

## Churchill flawless in historic win

Chargers post first quarterfinal win in school history

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's boys hockey team was on cloud nine after its triple-OT win March 3 over Allen Park in the Division 3 regional final.

But the Chargers put on their hard hats and put their skates squarely on the ice for the next task at hand — Wednesday's D-3 quarterfinal against Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett

at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

An early 3-0 Churchill lead put the Knights in a hole they couldn't escape, not with the Chargers playing strong and confident in every phase of the game. Senior goalie Chris Sergison also was flawless, stopping all 26 shots as Churchill earned a 4-0 victory.

"Winning in overtime, especially for a regional championship, definitely gives you some momentum coming into

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B



Cutting in on University Liggett goalie Grant Lindsay is Livonia Churchill's Conor Burnette. TOM BEAUDOIN

BOYS HOCKEY



Livonia Stevenson senior goaltender Will Tragge is the picture of calm confidence, even when the action around him is frenetic. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## STANDING TALL

Stevenson's Tragge eyes NAHL-college route after finishing standout prep career

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In this day and age of hockey, the odds are stacked against any "smallish" goalie — under the 6-foot-0 mark, for sure — doing anything big.

But don't underestimate Livonia Stevenson senior Will Tragge, all 5-foot-9 of him. Spartans head coach David Mitchell certainly doesn't.

"He's extremely committed to his

craft, his mental approach to the game," said Mitchell, who considers Tragge the best prep goalie in Michigan this year. "Everything about him is high character. He's going to play hockey for a long, long time."

That certainly is a definite possibility, because Tragge isn't about to take no for an answer — not when his mentor is 5-6 Jeff Lerg, who was a standout at Michigan State University and currently

See TRAGGE, Page 2B

**"That's something my parents always instilled in me. ... If you really want to be the best, you got to put in the work."**

**Will Tragge**  
Stevenson senior goaltender

PREP GYMNASTICS

## Livonia Blue, Farmington land state's top scores

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

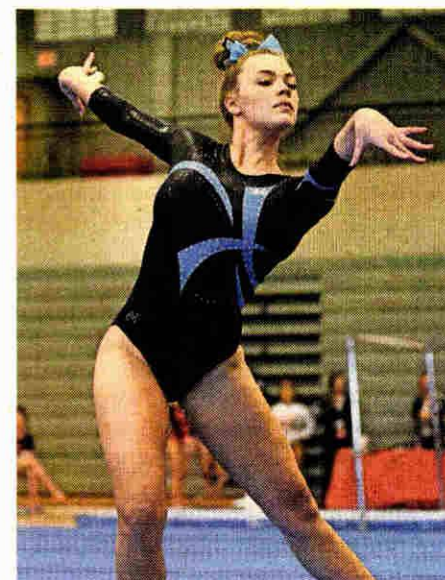
If the regional results are any indication, the 2018 prep gymnastics state championship was most likely to produce some magic moments.

Twelve of the 13 teams that qualified for states registered at least 140 points at the four regional meets held March 3. They assembled to decide a state champion this weekend at Rockford High School with the team finals and individual finals.

The list is topped by the Livonia Blue team, which captured the regional hosted by Canton with a state-high 146.225 points. Farmington Unified won the Walled Lake Central regional with 145.775 points and defending state champion Rockford posted the third-best score of 145.6 in winning the Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills regional.

The next two highest regional scores were registered by Plymouth (143.95), which placed second to Farmington Unified at Walled Lake Central, and Linden (143.575), which won the Grand Ledge regional.

See GYMNASTICS, Page 3B



Regional all-around champion Anissa Conway of Livonia Blue performs a floor exercise routine. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Country Day goaltender wins latest online voting

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A pair of hockey players battled it out for Athlete of the Week honors for the week ending March 4.

Detroit Country Day's Sam Evola and Livonia Churchill's Zach Vendittelli — both juniors — were two of six people up for the weekly honor. Evola finished as the winner with 5,718 votes. Vendittelli was not far behind with 4,177. The next highest finisher was Plymouth Christian girls basketball player Robin Albert, with 3,526.

"I was on Twitter and received a notification about Athlete of the Week," Evola said. "You like to see your hard work pay off in the form of an award like this, so that's always nice."

**What he did:** Evola helped lead Detroit Country Day's hockey team to the Division 3 regional championship March 3 with a 2-0 shutout of No. 2-ranked Flint Powers Catholic.

Evola made 27 saves in what was a one-goal game until the Yellowjackets deposited an empty-netter to ice their third consecutive regional crown. It was Evola's eighth shutout of the season.

**The coach's perspective:** Evola is in his second year as a varsity goalie for Detroit Country Day coach Frank Novock. He was a part-time player last

year, but assumed a full-time role this season and has responded splendidly.

Evola owns a sizzling .953 save percentage. He helped lift DCD into the Division 3 state semifinals as the winning goalie in a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory Wednesday over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan State University's Munn Arena.

"Sam's goaltending stats are amazing and speak for themselves," Novock said. "He has been a big part of our team's success, without a doubt, but I think the most important facet about Sam is how consistent he has been in making every save that he is supposed to. I feel that's what coaches expect from their goalies, to give their team a chance to win every night and he has exceeded those expectations."

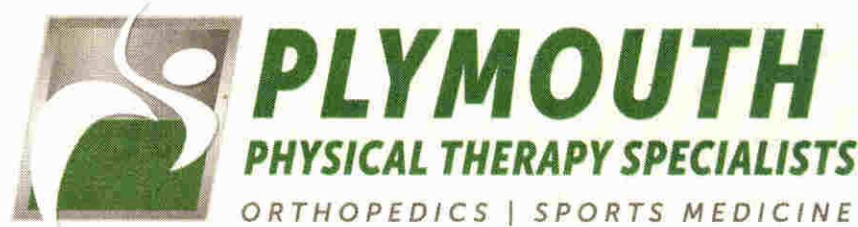
**His story:** Evola, who lives in Shelby Township, began his hockey career as a skater and switched to goalie "about six years ago." He started his junior career with the Rochester Rattlers and then moved on to the USA Eagles organization, which plays out of the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills. Evola won a national championship with them two years ago.

He did not play high school hockey as a freshman, but joined the team as a sophomore and is enjoying the team's terrific postseason run.

Contact Marty Budner at [mbudner@hometownlife.com](mailto:mbudner@hometownlife.com).



Evola

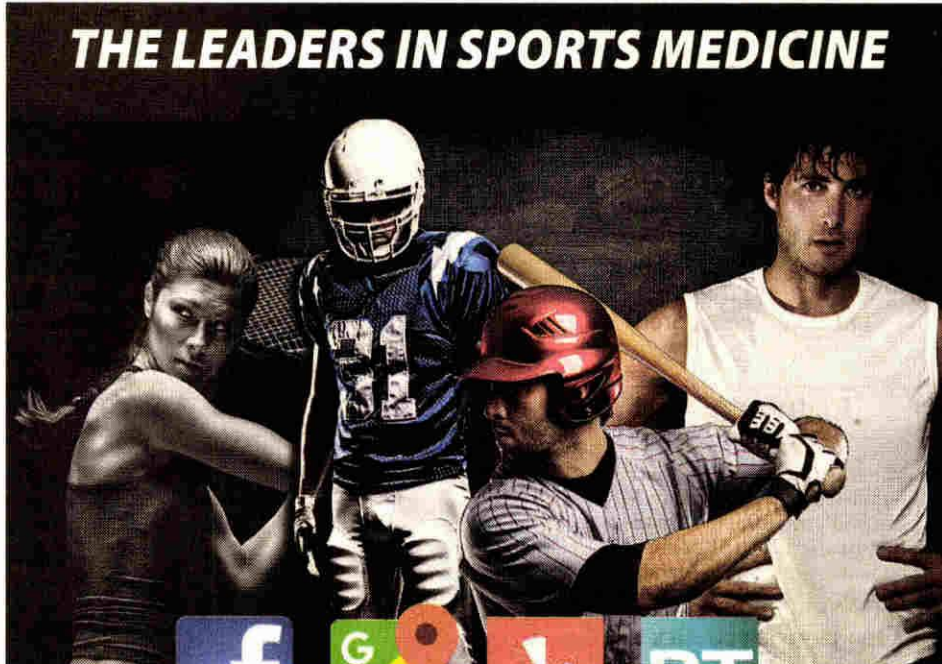


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**PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**



**SAM  
EVOLA**

**JUNIOR  
ICE HOCKEY  
DETROIT COUNTRY DAY**

A pair of hockey players battled it out for 'Athlete of the Week' honors for the week ending March 4.

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"This is the greatest I've ever played in my life and I'd like to thank my teammates for pushing me in practice every day and helping to make me a better goalie," Evola said. "A lot of our success this year is through hard

work. Right off the bat this year we knew we had a great team with great potential."

**THE COACH'S PERSPECTIVE:** Evola is in his second year as a varsity goalie for Detroit Country Day head coach Frank Novock. He was a part-time player last year, but assumed a full-time role this season and has responded splendidly.

Evola owns a sizzling .953 save percentage. He helped lift DCD into the Division 3 state semifinal Wednesday evening as the winning goalie in a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan State University's Munn Arena.

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**SAM'S STORY:** Evola, who lives in Shelby Township, began his hockey career as a skater and switched to goalie 'about six years ago.' He started his junior career with the Rochester Rattlers and then moved on to the USA Eagles organization which play out of the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills and won a national championship with them two years ago.

He did not play high school hockey as a freshman, but joined the team as a sophomore and is enjoying the team's terrific postseason run.

"I couldn't tell you the last time Country Day hockey has made it to the semis," said Evola. "The past two years we've gotten knocked out in the quarters, but this is our year because we got through the quarters. It's a great feeling getting to the semifinals and obviously we're not done yet."



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