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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Wayne's Derby's Alley nears finish

Wayne Main Street recently announced the completion of the first phase of the organization's Derby's Alley placemaking project. The project began in 2017, with the installation of three bistro tables and two park benches. Earlier this month, the organization com-

pleted the installation of festooned string lighting. Funding for this initial phase of beautification was secured through a grant from AARP, the Greater Metropolitan Area Realtors Association, Michigan Realtors, the Wayne Rotary Foundation and the Wayne Downtown

Development Authority.

Wayne Main Street worked with its funding partners to improve Derby's Alley utilizing the "lighter, cheaper, quicker" concept of placemaking by focusing on events and long-term improvements that would have maximum impact. The

organization hosted three events in Derby's Alley in 2017: a cardio drumming and Tai Chi fitness series that took place in September and October; the annual Scarecrow Reception in October; and a

See ALLEY, Page 2A



The kitchen is a busy place on this Wednesday evening at the Birchler residence in Plymouth. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Professor discusses Vanderbilt at Livonia Town Hall

Famous family has kept its name in the news

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Looking at lists of the most wealthy families in the nation today, one won't find the name "Vanderbilt" on that list. It's a far cry from the 1800s, when patriarch and transportation mogul Cornelius Vanderbilt was one of the richest people in the world.

But today, according to Elliot Engel, the family has continued to make a name for itself through several ways, including through fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt and CNN news anchor Anderson Cooper.

"It's that rare family who gave away the cash cow, the golden goose, early on," he said. "But then, because not only were they upper class, but knew

See PROFESSOR, Page 7A



Audience members listen to Elliot Engel speak Wednesday morning. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Locals offer home away from home for USA Hockey players

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The long journey for National Hockey League players such as Detroit Red Wings star forward Dylan Larkin involves plenty of God-given talent and a non-stop desire to excel.

But that quest often requires a necessary pit stop for players in the USA Hockey National Team Development Program, where Larkin cut his teeth before moving on to the University of Michigan and the NHL.

We're talking about unsung heroes —

billet families who provide stability, friendship and a calm-before-the-storm environment for the teenagers who spend two years hundreds and even thousands of miles from their actual homes.

The next Larkin, Patrick Kane or Auston Mathews goes through their paces on the ice in hopes of hearing their name called someday by an NHL general manager. Off the ice, they can't get to that destination without down-to-earth people such as the Birchlers, McKendrys and Wrights, among many others.

They give unconditional love and friendship — and no matter where a

player winds up, it's as valuable to success as skating, stickhandling and sniping top shelf.

"My host family is a special group," said Luke Martin, a defenseman in the NTDP from 2014-16 currently at the University of Michigan and drafted in 2017 by the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. "They made it (transition to U-M) incredibly easy on me. You have bad days while at the NTDP, but my host family understood that and made it easy to just come home and be myself around them."

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# Bookstock to sponsor cupcake contest

Bookstock, Michigan's largest used book and media sale, invites amateur bakers across Michigan to submit their recipe to its cupcake contest.

The winning cupcake will be featured at Good Cakes and Bakes, Detroit's hottest new bakery and contest sponsor, owned by Detroit natives April Anderson and Michelle Anderson. In addition, the winner and chefs will make the best cupcake recipe on the television show "Live in the D" on WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

A celebrity judging panel, featuring Anderson, Detroit Free Press restaurant critic Mark Kurlyandchik and Detroit Free Press food writer Sue Selasky, will judge the contest. Local news anchors Carolyn Clifford (WXYZ-TV, Channel 7), Sherry Margolis (WJBK-TV, Channel 2) and Tati Amare (WDIV) will join Bookstock sponsor Sue Morse and Bookstock honorary co-chair Rochelle Riley to announce the winners at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.

Complete rules and an entry form can be downloaded from the Bookstock website at [bookstockmi.org/cookstock](http://bookstockmi.org/cookstock). Send the recipe and the entry form to [cookstock18@gmail.com](mailto:cookstock18@gmail.com) by midnight April 2.

Bookstock runs April 22-29 at Livonia's Laurel Park Place. Marking 15 years of supporting the need to read, Bookstock has generated nearly \$2 million for literacy and education projects throughout Oakland County and Detroit.

For more information, contact Beverly K. Phillips at 248-203-1527 or [phillips@jfmnd.org](mailto:phillips@jfmnd.org).

# MASCO MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



More than 100 Masco employees gathered March 15 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth to recognize International Women's Day. In keeping with the theme, "Press for Progress," the event was both a celebration of women's achievements in the corporate workplace and a time to bring attention to the barriers women still face daily. Five women in leadership at three of Masco's businesses in metro Detroit and the surrounding areas — Masco headquarters, Masco Cabinetry and Brasscraft Manufacturing Co. — were chosen as panelists to share experiences in the workplace that have been impacted by their gender, including (from left) Sue Sabo, Jessica Joffe, Kristi Plain, Ia Ko and Kristen McSorley. For more information, go to <https://jobs.masco.com/en-US/page/diversity>.

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## Alley

Continued from Page 1A

Visit with Santa that took place in early December.

"We are pleased with the progress that has been made with our project in Derby's Alley," said Cindy Schofield, board member for Wayne Main Street. "Last year's events showed the wide range of events that can be hosted in space like Derby's Alley."

With the addition of seating and lighting in the alley, the organization anticipates that even more people will

utilize Derby's Alley as an event space as weather improves.

Wayne Main Street plans to continue improvements to Derby's Alley over the coming years. The organization aims to install signage and undertake repairs to the concrete by the end of 2018. Wayne Main Street is also looking at plans to improve other facets of the space such as improved landscaping and additional seating.

For more information, go to [downtownwayne.org](http://downtownwayne.org).



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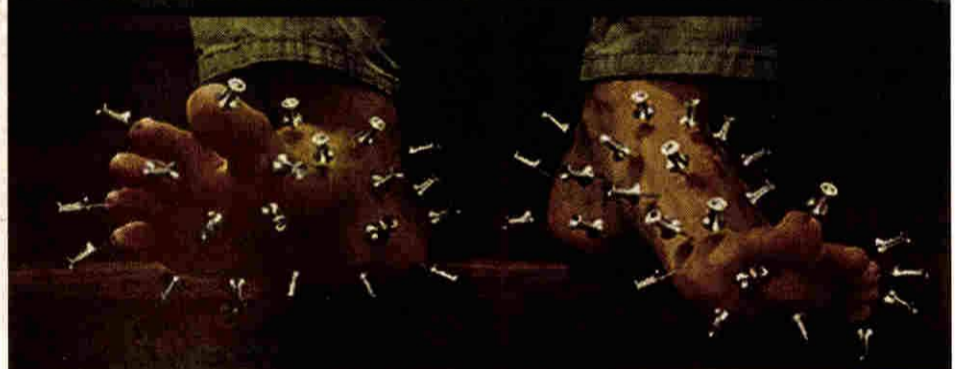
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# Families

Continued from Page 1A

Not everybody can be a humble host. The NTDP always is looking to replenish its billet roster.

"Everybody's different," said Lisa Vollmers, who oversees the billet program as director of student-athlete services for the NTDP. "We have couples that are retired, who are empty-nesters. We have families with little people. We have families with an only child."

"They really run the gamut of all sorts of backgrounds. It's really just about their passion for working with the program and supporting a player who is moving away from home, who is going to have a very challenging two years."

Vollmers heads a staff that thoroughly vets each prospective household to make sure it's a good match for players making their way to Plymouth, Canton, Northville or Novi (the communities where billets must live) from points on the map such as San Diego or Orlando.

## Just like home

The matches, more often than not, are made in hockey heaven.

"They serve as your second family," said Gavin Hain, an NTDP U-18 forward whose billets are Laurie and John Birchler of Plymouth. "Obviously, if you have a small question or a life question, you need to talk to them about — and they'll answer it."

"Playing here, it's hard, so I'm able to come home to a good place. Keep you company if you need it. It's nice."

Hain enjoys all the comforts of home, which for him is Grand Rapids, Minn. There is a playful greeting from enthusiastic Labrador retriever puppy Rocket, who is named after the Montreal Canadiens Hall of Fame player Maurice "Rocket" Richard.

His girlfriend (Kaelyn Denker) stops by while Laurie Birchler cooks up a dish of chicken with honey mustard, one of Gavin's favorites.

During this particular week, Hain had an NTDP brother hanging out with him at the Birchlers — U-18 forward and fellow Minnesotan K'Andre Miller (whose billet dad was recovering from surgery).

"It's awesome, obviously. I have a Minnesota chemistry," Miller said. "Just knowing (Hain) for so long, being on the same teams growing up, I wouldn't want to be with anybody else, to be honest."

## Keeping it real

The role NTDP billet "parents" play is as key to how young men turn into potential pros as that of the coaches.

Without a stable home situation, the potential exists for a player to get distracted from becoming the very best he can be, both on and off the ice.

"It's been kind of fun, having these guys around and



Grilled cheese for lunch at the McKendrys. Jonathan Gruden (left) and Jack DeBoer each ordered two sandwiches each. In the middle is Theresa McKendry. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## WANT TO BE A BILLET?

**What:** Families are invited to consider hosting U.S. National Team Development Program hockey players for the 2018-19 season.

**Who:** The NTDP includes the U-17 and U-18 teams; players from all over the country join the program for two years. Billets provide a place for the players to live during their stay.

**How:** Contact Lisa Vollmers of USA Hockey at 734-453-6400, ext. 392, or send an email to [housing@usa-hockey.org](mailto:housing@usa-hockey.org). More information is available at the USA Hockey website by clicking on the NTDP link.

giving them a support system to be there," John Birchler said. "It's kind of a unique situation, to bring kids you don't know in that are top athletes, to see them play and be part of your family."

"They (USA Hockey) do give you a book, but the main thing is, our ultimate responsibility is to give them a stable environment, a place to sleep, feed them, provide them everything they need there — and a family to be a part of."

With family life goes the same kind of chores that their actual children (Zane, 26, Vaughn, 23, and Bryn, 21) had to do.

"They've got things they're responsible for, just like our kids did," John said. "Whether it's cleaning up the dishes, taking the garbage out."

One recent snowy day, John worried about having to use the snowblower after work. When he arrived home, there was a nice surprise.

"Gavin had done it," he said with a smile. "I told him he's my new favorite kid."

"We would definitely consider doing it again," Laurie said about billeting. "It wasn't as much of a burden as you might think it would be, because they have such a good support system through USA Hockey and because they're very focused."

"These guys have a lot at stake. This is a really important time for them. ... We try to keep them humble."

## Like old times

In the Canton home of Pat and Theresa McKendry, NTDP U-18 forwards Jack DeBoer and Jonathan Gruden mostly are quiet and serious as they go about their business.

The two players — whose fathers have National Hockey League connections — typically get up, chow down and commute to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, where they attend morning classes before going to practices at USA Hockey Arena.

After returning to the McKendrys' home, it's usually dinner time. On game days, of course, naps come first.

The McKendrys are back in the billet game after a lengthy absence. Back in the 1990s, when Jack DeBoer's dad (Pete DeBoer) coached the now-defunct Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League, they hosted future NHL player Harold Druken.

"The only difference was the (Whalers') players were a little bit older," Theresa McKendry said. "There's a little more restrictions on the kids we have now, just because of their age. They're a little more disciplined, because of their age and what they have to do. But it's pretty similar, other than that."

When Jack DeBoer earned a two-year stint with the NTDP in 2016 (24 months is the typical cycle of player development in the program), the McKendrys contacted their longtime friends about a "reunion" of sorts.

Jack DeBoer said the experience with the McKendrys — whose children Ryan, 32, and Laura, 31, are on their own — has been perfect. "I think it's been awesome," he said. "Pat and Theresa are like a second family to me."

## Finding a connection

Gruden, son of former NHL player John Gruden, didn't join DeBoer and the McKendrys until midway through his first NTDP season.

"I was living with (original billet family) for four months. It just wasn't the right fit," said Gruden, 17. "I brought it (changing billets) up to the people there, that it wasn't the right fit."

Vollmers wouldn't have moved Gruden to the

See FAMILIES, Page 4A



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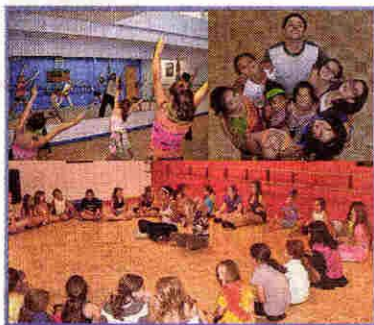
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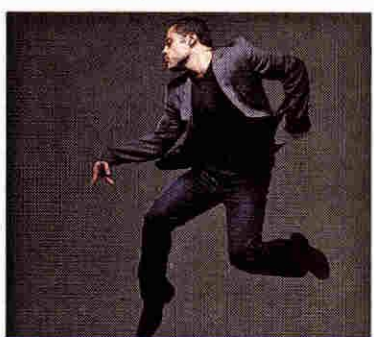
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## Families

Continued from Page 3A

McKendry household had their been any issues with the younger DeBoer, either.

"It was no problem for us to say yes," Theresa said. "We already had Jack and we thought it would be more fun for Jack to have someone else here his age, rather than just hanging out with us."

"So my first question was, 'What do you feel about it, Jack?' ... The fact that they get along so well and don't have any issues and the four of us can get along and laugh a lot, it's a good fit. It makes their life a little easier."

Nodding in agreement was DeBoer, adding that "it's been a great experience here, just hockey-wise and billet-wise, too. Some guys, like him before (nodding toward Gruden), didn't have the best billets. They welcomed him with open arms. I think both of us can say they've been awesome and we couldn't ask for better people to stay with."

Gruden acknowledged he is in a much different situation than virtually all other NTDP players, simply because his actual family lives in Rochester, about 40 miles from the arena.

But USA Hockey mandates players live in the school districts that serve the program, which beginning in 2017-18 include Plymouth-Canton, Novi and Northville.

"On days like these, driving 45 minutes through the snow can be tough," Gruden said. "And also going to school with the guys, I wanted to have that team camaraderie outside the rink, doing activities with the guys."

Vollmers said it is rare when a player and family don't hit it off. When that happens, the program finds a suitable new billet.

"As players are there, they might not like the food or their rules," Vollmers said. "But we really try to work through things and, 90 percent of the time, just with open communication, everything can be resolved."

"Sometimes it's coaching a player (on how to integrate into a family environment). You can't just go there and go in your room and not participate. It's really important for you to become a member of the family. That's huge ... if there's good communication, it's usually golden."

## Youngsters at home

The Birchlers and McKendrys have adult children who have moved away, but it's a completely different situation at the Novi home of Cameron and Emily Wright.

They now have a household with their two sons (Ben, 12, and Nate, 9) and NTDP U-17 players Judd Caulfield and Alex Vlastic (who attend Novi High School). Caulfield is about 1,000 miles from his home in Grand Forks, N.D. Vlastic's family lives in Illinois.

"We volunteered to billet because we thought it would have a positive impact on our family," Emily Wright said. "Our kids learn from watching others and we thought there wouldn't be better role models than the type of person selected for the program — boys requiring both a strong work ethic and a passion for hockey."

"The most challenging time for us was early in the season. When the players first move in, there is definitely an adjustment period as we get to know each other. The first few meals together were fairly quiet, but we tried to make everyone feel comfortable by cooking foods they know and liked — and, of course, talking about favorite foods are good ice-breakers."

One reason Vlastic was placed with the Wrights is because "he, like our family, cannot eat gluten. And since Alex and Judd realize how important nutrition is, they don't eat much junk food."

"So cooking a large enough quantity of food for meals requires multiple trips to the grocery store in a week," she added. "And since our boys are active in activities in the evenings, the food needs to be ready at various times."

The Wright boys get along with the players as though they were siblings.

"There is a lot of activity and sports in the house," Emily said. "Alex and Judd will play all sports with Ben and Nate, whether it is basketball or football in the backyard to soccer or knee hockey in the basement."

"You can see the excitement on our neighborhood kids if Alex and Judd are able to play when they come over."

Indeed, with potential NHL players "in the house," neighborhood watches have never been so much fun.

Contact Tim Smith at [tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: [@TimSmith\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/TimSmith_Sports).



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# Sicily: Land of landscapes and timeless traditions

**Jay Young**  
Special to Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Sicily, the triangular "rock" kicked by the "boot" of Italy, is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Long known for its association with the Mafia made famous by the movie "The Godfather," Sicily is much, much more as we discovered on a recent two-week trip with Overseas Adventure Travel.

The earliest archaeological evidence of human activity on Sicily dates from as early as 12,000 B.C.E., but the island has experienced waves of conquerors, beginning around 750 B.C.E. with the Phoenicians and Greeks.

They were followed by Romans, Carthaginians, Byzantines, Normans, French and Spanish Bourbons and more. As a result of all these invaders, Sicily enjoys a rich and unique culture with regard to art, music, literature, cuisine and architecture and is home to some of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Sicily eventually became part of Italy in 1860, during the Italian unification campaign led by Giuseppe Garibaldi, whose name is on street signs and piazzas across the island.

We started our adventure in Palermo, the island's capital and largest city, located on the northwest coast of this semi-autonomous region of Italy. The city consists of an eclectic mix of architectural styles, but the 17th and 18th century Baroque period has left the most visible mark on Palermo's civic and religious structures. Intense rebuilding after heavy bombing during World War II has also contributed to the city's chaotic beauty. Palermo is replete with fascinating museums, medieval

churches, Byzantine mosaics, a huge opera house, bustling street markets and a creepy catacomb filled with mummified cadavers.

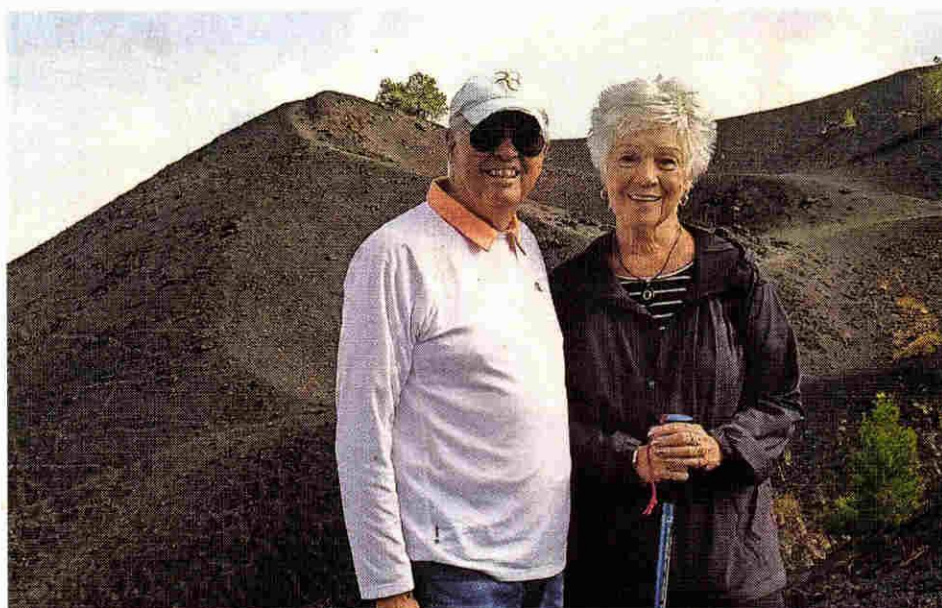
From Palermo, we traveled to Sicily's northern coast to visit Castelbuono, a medieval settlement which boasts an imposing 14th century castle, complete with battlements and towers overlooking the town. We continued to the former fishing village of Cefalu, which takes its name from the Greek word meaning "cape." It is nestled between a natural bay and a towering granite cliff called La Rocca.

Today, the fishing industry has largely disappeared, but the town has remade itself into a tourist destination that features a Romanesque cathedral built in 1131 for the Norman King Roger II. On the day we visited, the cathedral was filled with flowers for an elaborate wedding, complete with a nervous groom anxiously awaiting the arrival of his bride on the front steps.

One of the trip's highlights was an amazing display of Byzantine art in the 12th century Norman Cathedral of Monreale, in the hills overlooking Palermo. Nearly every surface in the cathedral was covered with intricately-detailed mosaics depicting scenes in rich colors and gold filigree. Our guide said the hundreds of craftsmen who created this incredible artwork sought to relay scenes from the Old and New Testaments, since parishioners were largely illiterate at that time.

We continued southward to Segesta, a region that was home to the ancient Elymians, one of Sicily's indigenous populations. As a reminder of Segesta's

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Jay and Linnea Young on Mt. Etna.

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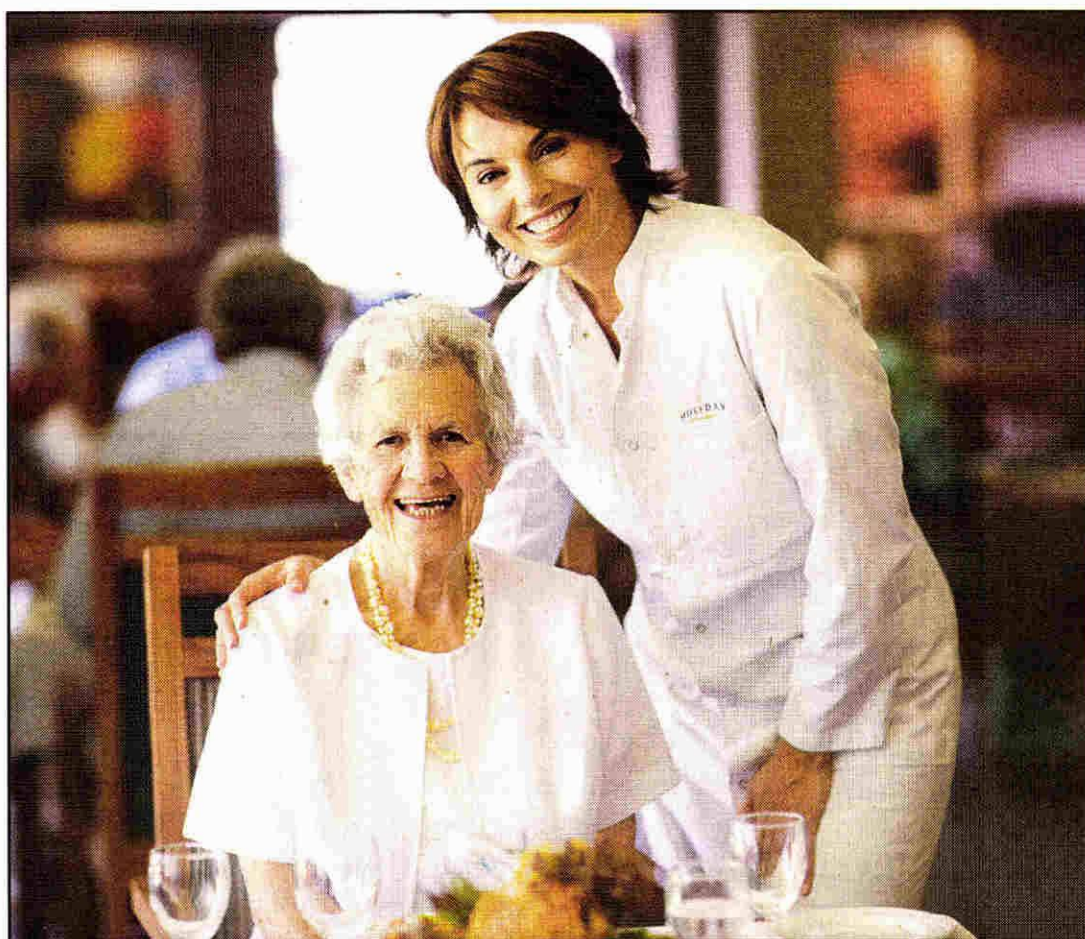
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Sicily

Continued from Page 5A

ancient Greek heritage, the columns of a beautifully preserved unfinished Doric temple stood proudly at a majestic hill-top location.

Guardino di Costanza, a resort outside the city of Mazara, was our base for the next three days as we visited this city, home to about 3,000 Tunisians who migrated here in the 1950s. We walked through its historic Kasbah quarter and visited a museum built to house the bronze statue of the "Dancing Satyr," dredged up by area fishermen in 1998 after lying on the seabed for 2,000 years.

The next day, we visited the Museo del Sale, a salt museum that describes the age-old tradition of salt production and refining that characterizes this area. Embarking on a boat ride to Mothya Island, settled by Phoenicians some 2,700 years ago, we viewed the remains of their island fortress. Our day concluded with a tasting of the famous wines of the Marsala vineyards.

Our journey continued along Sicily's southern coast to the Valley of Temples, situated outside the city of Agrigento. This is the site of one of the most culturally advanced cities of ancient times, with the stunning archaeological remains of eight Greek temples built between 510 and 430 B.C.E.

Our next stop was Villa Romana del Casale, the extraordinary ruins of a Roman villa, built in the fourth century A.D. as a hunting lodge. It was covered by a landslide in the 12th century, which helped preserve some of the finest examples of Roman mosaics in all of Europe and contributed to its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We journeyed next to Ragusa, one of Sicily's best-preserved old towns. Built on the side of a cliff following an earthquake in 1693 that leveled the original site at the bottom of a gorge, the two sections became one in 1926. Today, a jumble of homes and churches cling to the walls of a steep ravine that once divided the city. The Duomo de San Giorgio dominates the city's piazza.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was a day spent with a Sicilian family on their farm near Ragusa. We participated as they demonstrated some of the culinary traditions that make Sicily famous, including how to make delicious bread



The most famous structure of the Valley of the Temples is the Greek Temple of Concordia. JAY YOUNG

from scratch in a wood-fired oven. We concluded our visit by enjoying an authentic Sicilian lunch provided by our gracious hosts.

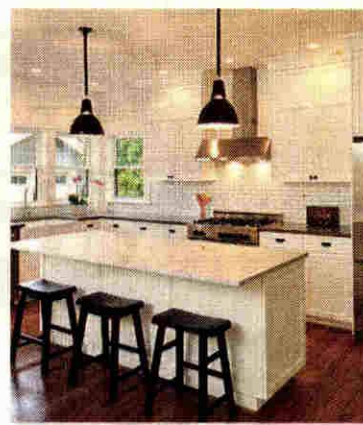
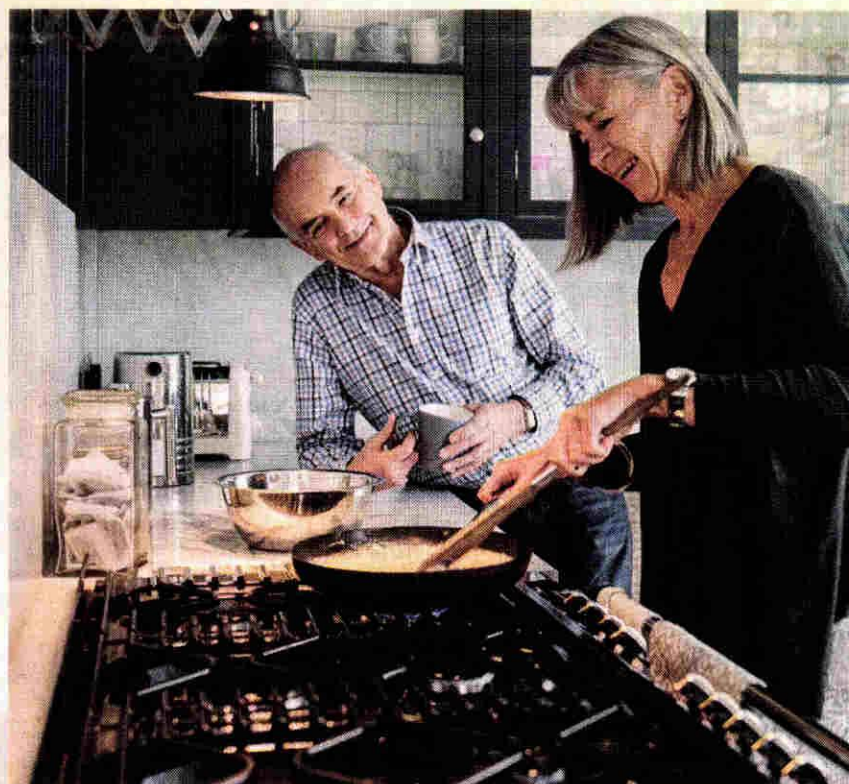
Nearing the end of our journey, we visited Syracuse, the birthplace of the famed mathematician Archimedes and once one of the most powerful ports of the ancient world. At 2,700 years old, Syracuse boasts a rich and storied history, exemplified by the Temple of Apollo and the Piazza del Duomo, the beautiful pedestrian square that serves as the heart of the city.

Our final stop was the city of Catania, the second largest in Sicily. While there, we visited a World War II museum dedicated to the Allied landing on the southern coast of the island and built on reclaimed land that once housed sulfur factories. From Catania, we took a day trip to Taormina, the home of a Greco-Roman theater that is one of the most highly regarded ancient sites in Sicily.

Our final day was spent touring the northern slope of nearby Mt. Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe and the highest mountain in Italy south of the Alps, at more than 10,000 feet. Its rich volcanic soil brings abundant vineyards and orchards to Etna's slopes and quaint alpine villages.

With 3,000 years of history, ancient ruins, elegant architecture, gastronomic delights and friendly people, Sicily is truly a wonderful place of ancient landscapes and timeless traditions.

Jay Young is a retired Livonia Public Schools district staff member. He and his wife have traveled to several countries and provided insight into those trips. He can be reached at [jyoung-mi@comcast.net](mailto:jyoung-mi@comcast.net).



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# Professor

Continued from Page 1A

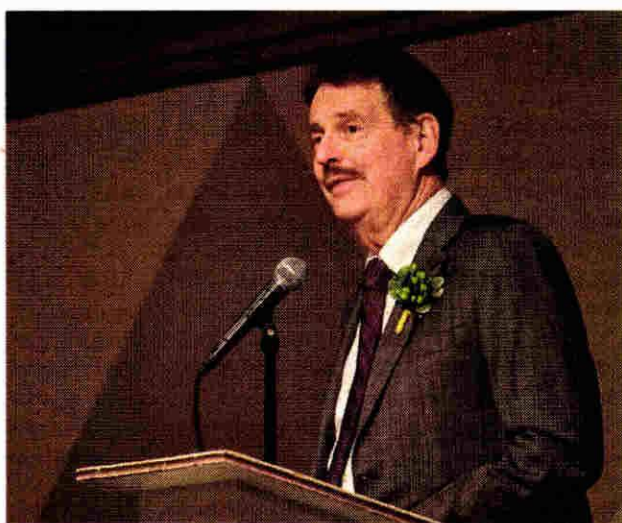
that America wanted to be upper class, too. So by inventing Bridge and by inventing etiquette and by inventing designer jeans and by being a very good spokesman on the news, their money's coming in."

Engel made his record fourth appearance at the Livonia Town Hall speaker series Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman. Engel, who has taught at universities such as the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and Duke University, gave a talk on the Vanderbilt family, including Cornelius Vanderbilt, known for his work in the 1800s in the transportation business by boat, train and other means.

Engel talked about the family's history, from its growth in New York City to Cornelius Vanderbilt's growth of his empire. Despite just three months of education, Cornelius was able to secure a fortune by making smart business decisions, such as finding a way to enter a contact with the government of Nicaragua to construct a canal connecting the Pacific and Atlantic oceans to better serve the population moving to the western United States after gold was discovered.

"He became filthy rich with this wonderful idea," Engel said. "This is a clever man."

Plaguing Cornelius Vanderbilt were issues such as a mismatch of a marriage to his first cousin, which produced 13 offspring, including 10 girls that were not included in his will. Just one of his



Elliot Engel speaks at the final Livonia Town Hall event Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

son's, William Vanderbilt, survived to bear children of his own.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, with all his business dealings, was also one of the first to launch corporations rather than partnerships, a way to keep more money in-house.

"This is his gift to the 20th and 21st centuries," Engel said. "He separated a company from an individual."

Engel's talk wrapped up the series for the year, which attracts hundreds of attendees for each lecture. Speakers for next year will include:

■ Jim Laurie, the director of Focus Asia Productions, LTD, who will discuss China

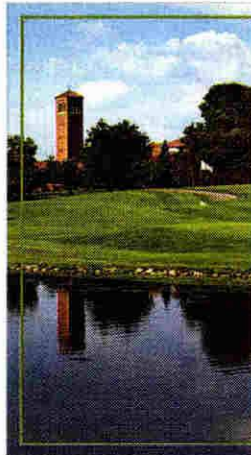
■ Andrew Och, who will talk about his experience with artifacts and exhibits regarding first ladies of the U.S.

■ Salvador Salort-Pons, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts

■ Frank Farmer Loomis, author of "Is It Antique Yet?" and host of the show with the same name on PBS

Information about tickets for the upcoming season of Livonia Town Hall is available at [livoniatownhall.org](http://livoniatownhall.org).

Contact David Vesele-nak at [dvesele-nak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dvesele-nak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @david-vesele-nak.



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# Paying off mortgage is smart use of inheritance



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

**Q: I just inherited \$150,000 and my husband and I can't decide what to do with the money. We both work and our salaries more than cover all of our living expenses. We each have a 401(k) plan and some savings accounts. We are debt-free except, for our home. Our current mortgage is about \$140,000 at about 4.5 percent. We plan to work another 10-15 years. When we retire, we each will have a pension. What I want to do with the money is pay off our mortgage. My husband doesn't feel the need to be mortgage-free; he thinks we should invest the money. We've decided that since it is my inheritance, I will make the final decision. I would like to give my husband some good reasons other**

**than it makes me feel good to pay off the mortgage. Can you give me some good financial reasons to pay off our home?**

A: First, let me say I think comfort is definitely something that should be factored into the equation. When you take a step back and think about it, the purpose of money is to have comfort. When you have the resources, you can afford some of the "luxuries" of life that make life easier. No one should dismiss comfort as a legitimate use of money. I think comfort is extremely important in making investment decisions. I always tell investors it is important for them to be comfortable with any investment. If you make an investment and that investment keeps you up at night, no matter what the return is, it's not an appropriate investment for you.

In discussing the situation, the first thing I would talk about would be the economics. When you pay off your mortgage, you're getting a guaranteed

4.5 percent on your money. Four and one-half percent is not a great rate of return, but it is significantly better than rates of return on CDs, money market accounts and U.S. treasuries. In addition, paying off your mortgage is a risk-free investment in that you know the exact rate of return you're receiving and market conditions will not affect your return. If you invest in stocks either individually or through mutual funds, we all know there is risk involved.

I would also discuss with your husband the fact that paying off the mortgage doesn't mean you can't add to your investment portfolio. What I would recommend you propose to your husband is that, each month, you invest the money you would have used to pay your monthly mortgage payment. If you do that, by the time you retire in 10-15 years, you would have accumulated a nice size portfolio.

If your husband mentions that by paying off the mortgage you would lose

out on tax write-offs, you can tell him that is not the case. In looking at the numbers you have provided me, whether you pay off the mortgage or not, this year you will more likely than not take the standard deduction. The standard deduction would actually provide you with a larger deduction than if you itemized. You can tell your husband that there's absolutely no tax disadvantage by paying off the mortgage.

Being debt-free can provide many people with peace of mind and, although you can't measure that in dollars and cents, it's a good feeling and it will take some weight off your shoulders.

Good luck!

*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).*

Filing# 69227567 E-Filed 03/14/2018 08:45:58 AM  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 16-2017-DR-006590-FMXX-MA  
Division: FM-F

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:

DAVID J. GEDERT,  
Husband,  
and

NICOLE R. GEDERT,  
Wife

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**

TO: Nicole R. Gedert

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Michelle Broyles, Esquire, of Beaches Family Resolutions, PLLC, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 14333 Beach Blvd., Ste 33, Jacksonville, FL 32250, on or before **APRIL 18TH, 2018**, and file the original with the clerk of this court at the Duval County Courthouse, 501 W. Adams St., Jacksonville, FL 32202, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

**WARNING:** Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this **16TH** day of March, 2018.

**RONNIE FUSSELL**  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By:   
Deputy Clerk **DEONNA SHELTON**

For Publication in:  
Daily Record & Observer, LLC, 10 N. Newnan St., Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Garden City Observer, Legal Notice Advertising, 29725 Hudson Dr. Novi, MI 48377  
ACCEPTED: DUVAL COUNTY, RONNIE FUSSELL, CLERK, 03/16/2018 09:05:33 AM  
Publish: March 25, April 1 & 8 & 15, 2018

**CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN  
CARPET REPLACEMENT AT  
JACK KIRKSEY RECREATION CENTER**

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until **2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 17, 2018** at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

**A mandatory pre-bid meeting** will be held at the Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia, MI 48154 at 10:00 A.M. on April 10, 2018. **Bids will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.**

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info)

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

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN Carpet Replacement, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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

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

Edward Davis  
Superintendent

Dennis K. Wright  
Mayor

Publish: March 25, 2018

LO-0000340356 3x5



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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.

**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 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.

**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.

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# Anna's House promises no ordinary breakfast

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Anna's House has an ambitious motto: Saving the world from an ordinary breakfast.

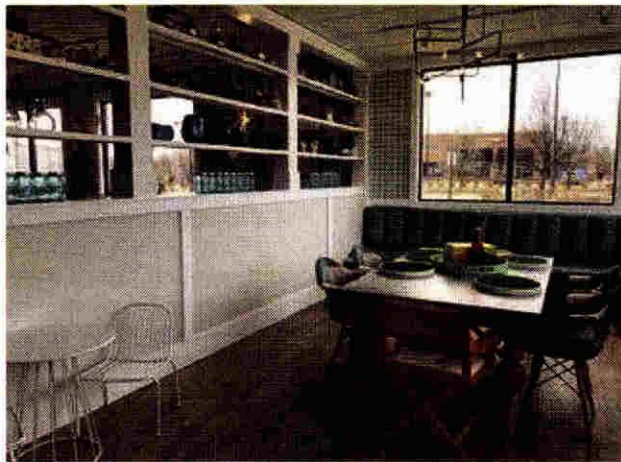
After branching out from its west Michigan roots last fall with a hugely popular Westland eatery, Anna's House is ready to conquer Farmington Hills with its Twilight French Toast, Chorizo Breakfast Burger, vegan bacon Temppeh Power Bowl, Cuban Benedict or Dublin Omelette, with house-made corned beef hash, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese.

CEO Josh Beckett chose Farmington Hills — specifically the former TGI Fridays site on Northwestern Highway — for the seventh Anna's House and the second in metro Detroit.

"We're loving being in the Detroit area," he said.

Anna's House has racked up several best-breakfast awards from Grand Rapids Magazine, MLive and Revue Magazine, among others, but Beckett said it's the top-quality, chemical-free meats from Wisconsin-based Jones Dairy Farm, cage-free eggs, vegan and vegetarian options and gluten-free dishes, among other offerings, that keep customers coming back.

"There are so many dietary needs in this day and age," Beckett said, adding later, "We really want people to feel that this is a great place to go for the food and the



Anna's House is set to open April 2 in Farmington Hills. CURTIS LUBBERS | ANNA'S HOUSE

atmosphere." Menu items are made to be appealing to the eye, as well. Anna's House has a bright interior and makes use of bright and pastel colors. The decor is retro

See ANNA'S, Page 14A

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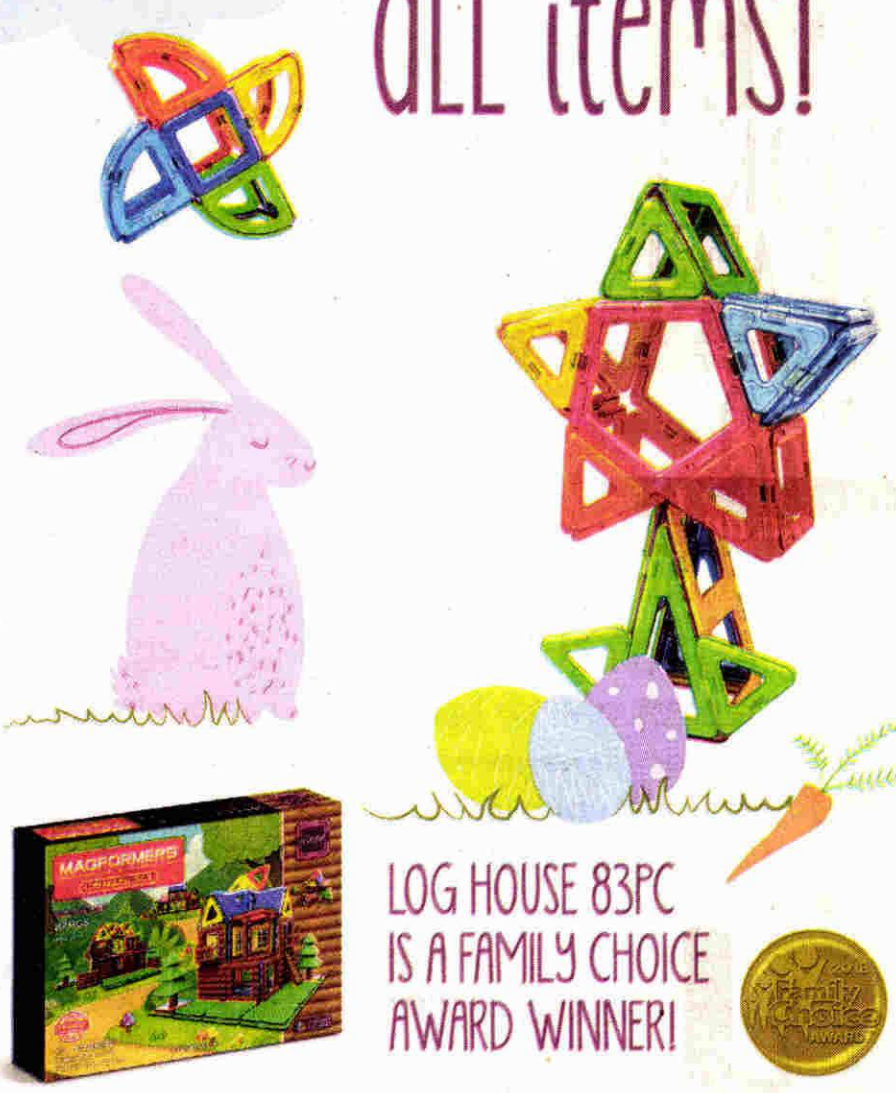
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## Village Theater issues call to artists

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton is now accepting proposals for solo or group exhibitions for its 2019 exhibition season. Both local and regional artists are encouraged to apply and all mediums will be considered. The deadline for submissions is April 12.

To apply for a solo or group exhibition, artists must submit: a cover sheet with full name, ad-

dress, phone number, email signature and date of submission; CD of high-quality JPG digital images; list of representative images submitted; document artwork, including the artist's name, title, medium, dimensions and date of the work; current resume/biography, artist statement and availability. Artists' submissions may be sent via email to village.theater@canton-mi.org

or delivered directly to The Village Theater. For more information, go to [www.cantonvillage.theater.org/418](http://www.cantonvillage.theater.org/418).

The Village Theater's exhibition committee, composed of local artists and art educators, will determine the final 2019 exhibition season's schedule. For more information, go to [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org) or call 734-394-5300.

## Anna's

Continued from Page 13A

chic and a large circular counter adorns the restaurant. The music is mostly from the '50s and '60s.

"We want it to be a happy place," Beckett said.

Evan Pazkowski, Anna's House marketing manager, said an interior designer has been putting the finishing touches on the Farmington Hills location. The restaurant, which seats about 220 people and has about 65 employees, has passed all its inspections.

"We're good," he said. "We're ready to go April 2."

Opening day, the Anna's House team will be giving away \$20 gift cards once every hour, along with coupons Pazkowski said he plans to hand out.

Anna's House has served 3 million meals since it first opened 15 years ago, but it's a company that appears destined to grow. Beckett already is eyeing East Lansing and Ann Arbor as possible locations.

Beckett chose the former TGI Fridays site partly because he saw it as a way to open a new restaurant in an existing build-

ing. "We're bringing that building back to life with a remodel," he said. "We're not tearing it down and wasting all the product."

Whether diners want chemical-free, antibiotic-free meats, a vegan omelette or want to splurge "like a mini-vacation right in the middle of the week," Beckett said Anna's House is ready.

Word has spread. "We get emails constantly from people who want us to come (to their community) and rescue them from an ordinary breakfast," Beckett said.

For the Farmington Hills area, the wait is over.

Hours are 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For more information, go to <http://www.annashouseus.com>. The address is 32555 Northwestern Highway and the phone number is 248-254-3436.

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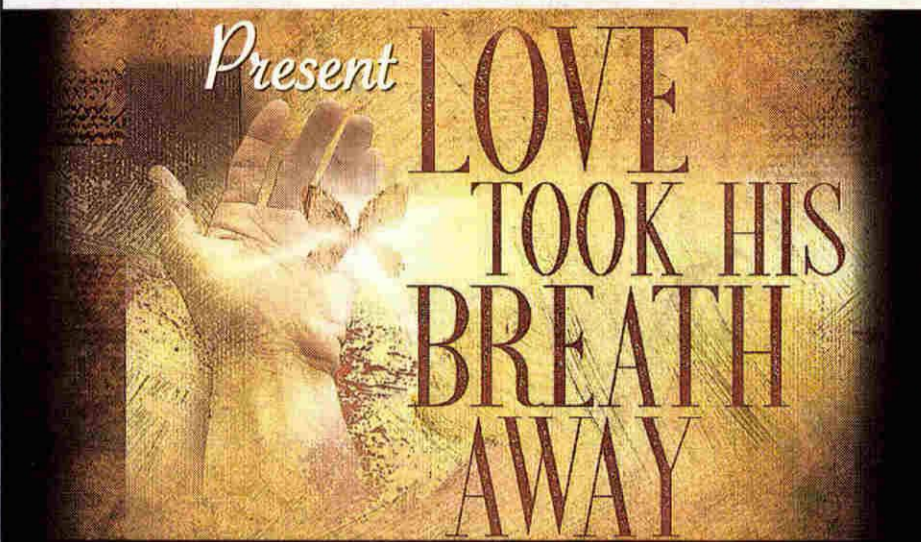
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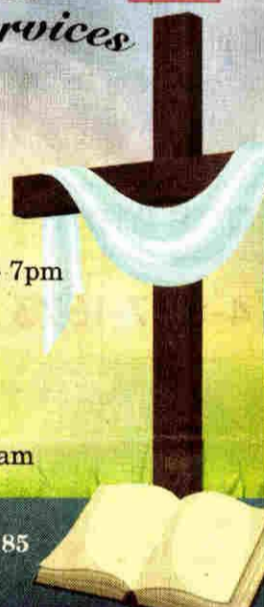
**Palm/Passion**  
Sunday Worship - 10am

**Maundy Thursday** - 7pm

**Good Friday** - 7pm

**Easter Sunday**  
Resurrection Worship - 10am

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - Thursday, March 29

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7:00 p.m. Worship & Communion  
at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
25475 Five Mile Rd. Livonia, MI  
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**GOOD FRIDAY** - Friday, March 30

Joint Service of Worship at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church  
7:00 p.m. Worship  
at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church  
16700 Newburgh Rd. MI  
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**EASTER SUNDAY** - Sunday, April 1

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1:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy  
3:30 pm Fish Fry (until 7pm)

**HOLY SATURDAY**

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8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

**EASTER SUNDAY**

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11:00 am Mass

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**Holy Thursday** - March 29th at 7pm

**Good Friday** - March 30th at 1pm

**Basket Blessing** - March 31st at 11am

**Easter Vigil Mass** - March 31st at 8:30pm

**Easter Sunday Mass** - April 1st 8:30am,  
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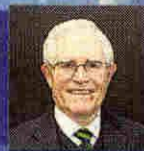
**248-719-7787**

**Maundy Thursday 3/29 6:30 pm.**

**Easter Sunday 4/1 10:30 am.**

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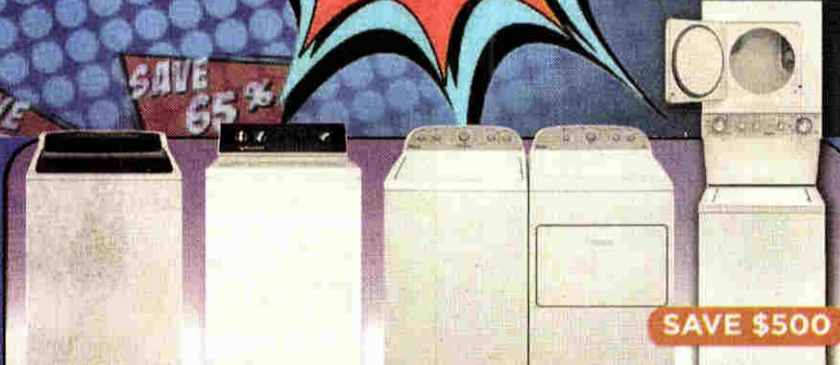


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# Sports

## YOUTH ATHLETICS



Fred Procter and his son Nolan have opened The Practice Zone, a basketball training facility in Farmington Hills equipped with seven shooting and three ball-handling stations for players to work on fundamentals. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## GIRLS SOCCER

### Kopitz set to make comeback following ACL tear

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been a long road back, but Audrey Kopitz is seeing the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

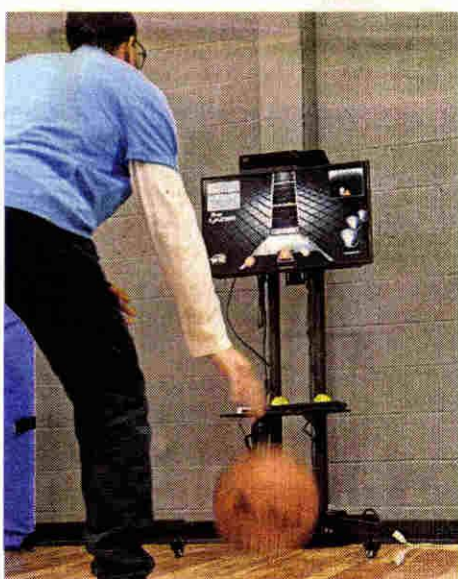
The senior girls soccer player from Livonia Stevenson is on the comeback trail after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee during a 2-1 win in the district semifinal last June 1 over host Northville.

Kopitz, who as a junior earned first team Division 1 all-state honors after scoring 24 goals and adding 13 assists, missed the district championship game, a 4-1 loss to Novi.

"I feel ready to go. I'm excited and ready to kick it back," said Kopitz, a Madonna University signee who has 54 career goals for the Spartans. "It's been 10 months since I've been in an actual game, really. I had to re-learn how to walk with my left leg again. I was in a huge brace for a couple of months. It's an experience I don't wish on any other player, because it sucks. I was out for so long that you lose your conditioning. You have to gain your confidence back. It's a process, but I'm glad it happened then, because it's my

See KOPITZ, Page 3B

# IN THE 'ZONE'



An interactive video machine will record dribbling techniques for players to examine and to improve their skills. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### New basketball training facility opens in Farmington Hills

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

Sports, basketball in particular, have always played a big role in Fred Procter's life.

So it's no surprise he's bouncing into the business world with a basketball training facility.

Procter and his son Nolan have opened The Practice Zone, a multi-purpose training center in Farmington Hills which specializes in basketball, but can also make accommodations for volleyball and pickleball.

"I think, for both of us, sports have been a huge part of our lives and what we've been able to accomplish," Fred

said. "I started to think about a need to do something like this and then it became a passion. This is a way we can make a difference.

"I've been in basketball forever and so this was a chance to kind of give back to sports. But also, it was a chance to promote some good, solid fundamentals for kids and for adults, too.

"There is, to me, a lack of fundamentals in the game. I saw it when I was in L.A. and when I was here in Michigan," he added. "It was a case of watching kids play and noticing they did not have a full grasp of the fundamentals of the game."

The center's official grand opening was Saturday, but the facility recently was made available for area basketball coaches and a few players to examine, about 40 in all. It received positive reviews.

See ZONE, Page 2B



Stevenson's Audrey Kopitz, a Division 1 all-state player as a junior, has recovered from a torn ACL.

## PREP SOFTBALL

# Veteran Ashe takes over Mercy program

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

Jerry Ashe has been associated with the Mercy High School softball program in some coaching capacity for the past 22 years, but never as a head coach. That changes this year.

Ashe, who was officially given the job in January, takes over the program from Alec Lesko, who coached the Marlins to

their only state championship in 2016. This marks Ashe's first job as a high school varsity head coach.

"It's a totally different animal," said Ashe, a 1971 Detroit Catholic Central graduate. "It's a challenge, especially taking over for Alec, because he's so knowledgeable and that kind of thing, but I'm welcoming the challenge.

"One of the things I've learned over



Ashe

the years is to help the kids out. And that's what I've done in an assistant's role. I never really aspired to be a head coach, but the position opened up and we couldn't fill it with anyone that we thought was adequate to do what we think should be done at Mercy.

"So I threw my hat in the ring," he added. "And I got it and I'm excited about it."

Ashe first came to Mercy in 1996, when he was asked to help out then Mercy head coach Jack Falvo, who is credited with putting the Marlins on the softball map with four straight trips to the final four.

The West Bloomfield resident has served at every level of the Mercy softball program, starting as the middle school head coach, freshman coach, ju-

See MERCY, Page 2B



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## Zone

Continued from Page 1B

Former Southfield High School basketball coach Gary Teasley, who is now a part-time physical ed teacher at Saxon International Language Academy Elementary School in Farmington Hills, attended and said the new facility is a much-welcomed opportunity for kids to upgrade their basketball acumen by giving them advanced workout opportunities.

"I think it's a fabulous facility," said Teasley, who also coaches recreational basketball in Southfield. "It's almost like a batting cage for basketball where kids can go and get some work done — do what I consider homework."

"This may be a big thing for kids who are getting started and recognize that they have to get their shots in and get to work. It's a wonderful place to do that and you can see the value in it, because kids can go there in the off-season and get some work in."

"It's very intimate. You can get some half-court work done, which will allow you to work on offense or defense," he added. "You can get creative, even with post shots with two machines. I'm excited about it. It's the first one I've seen like that and it's the perfect scenario."

### Working on fundamentals

Nolan Procter was an all-conference football and basketball player at Birmingham Groves who went on to earn a Division I football scholarship at Akron. He later became a women's basketball graduate assistant coach and has worked with AAU and high school players for more than seven years.

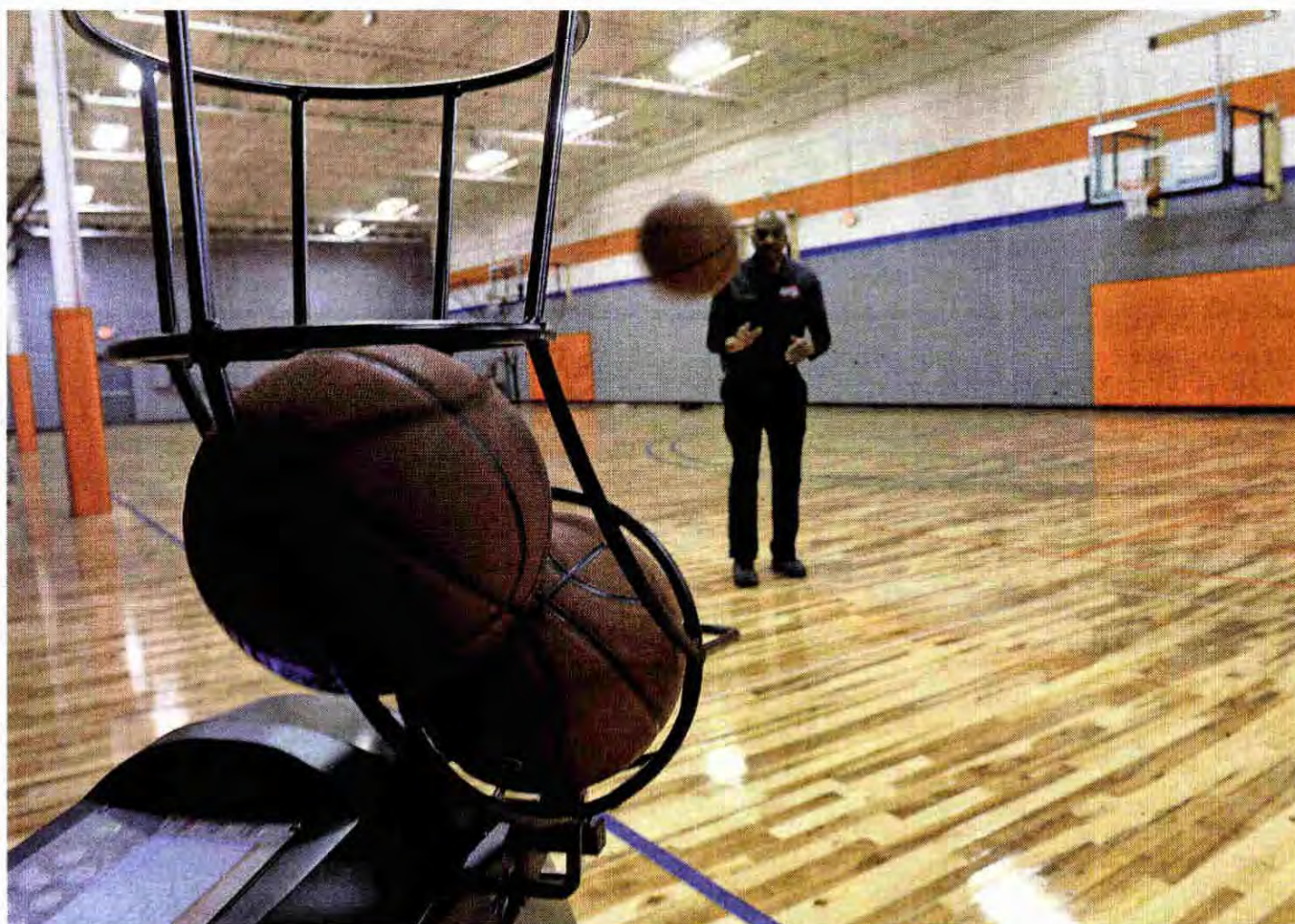
Like his dad, he can't stress enough the importance of learning basketball's fundamentals. And, he said, The Practice Zone will be a perfect start towards that goal.

"I am excited. It's going to be fun working with kids that are playing now," said Nolan, who most recently served as a YMCA sports director in Milford. "I wish I had a place like this to go to when I was a kid working on my fundamentals. That's what's needed now."

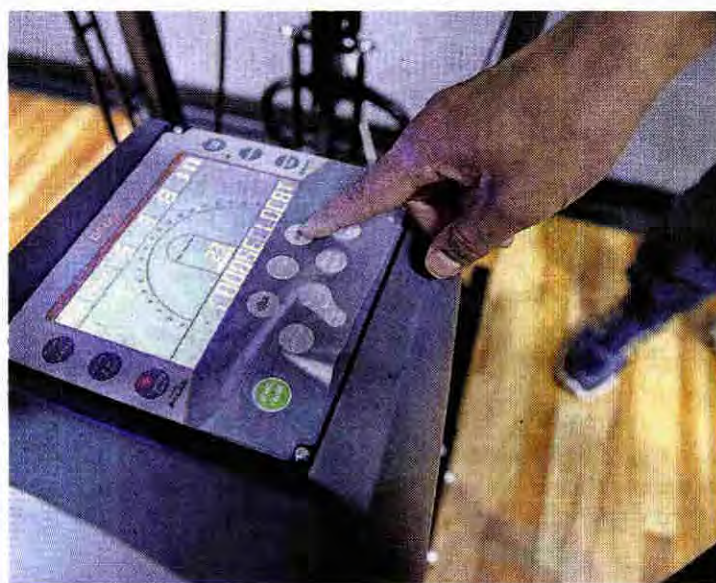
"Kind of the idea that we have is to, essentially, come here and utilize the half court. Whether it's to work on your ball-handling or your jump shot, those things are at your hand here," he added. "The glory about our situation is that we are not trainer-based. People can come here and just rent the gym and work out."

The Practice Zone, located at the southeast corner of 10 Mile and Haggerty roads, is designed to help players improve their basic skills. In other words, like the name implies, practice their craft with the latest technology and under review from the Procters, who have a wealth of coaching and basketball knowledge.

The center includes seven shooting stations — shooters can complete 1,000 repetitions in 30 minutes — conveniently spaced on two half courts. Three ball-handling stations, which allow patrons to immediately review their dribbling with the latest interactive video and infra-red cameras, are available.



Whether short jumpers or long-distance bombs, one of seven stations at The Practice Zone allows for players to automatically receive balls in a variety of shooting positions. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Attendees at The Practice Zone can program one of seven ball-shooting machines for shooting distances from the basket and the speed at which they want to catch passes from the automated ball-throwing machine.

DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Impressive basketball resume

The elder Procter has an impressive basketball resume, which spans more than 30 years at the high school, college and AAU levels.

The 1974 Martin Luther King High School graduate played three years of college basketball at Wayne State University. He started his coaching career at Detroit St. Martin De Porres, where he led the Eagles to the 1987 girls basketball state championship. He went on to coach the women's basketball teams at Lake Superior State University and the University of Detroit.

In 1997, he leaped over to Birmingham Groves in an administrative capacity — first as athletic director and then as a principal. In 2014, he moved to California, where he served as an assistant superintendent of the Milken Community Schools in Los Angeles.

While it does not accommodate any full-sized court activities, the Procters said the plan is help provide for extensive practice sessions along with three-on-three league play for both men and women. Individual, group and team training will be available while embracing the motto of "practice makes perfect."

"Three-on-three play, for me, is the foundation of understanding the game," Fred said. "Think about it. In a five-player situation, two people can just hide and they don't have to do very much. In three-on-three, there is no hiding, baby. You have to step up and do something."

"Three-on-three helps the kids understand the game much better," he added. "One of the classes we will run will be a three-on-three situation."

## Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

nior varsity coach and then advancing to assistant varsity coach in 2004. He has assisted under six different varsity coaches.

### Keep winning tradition going

Now he's ready to take over the program, with a goal of maintaining Mercy's winning tradition that includes an impressive 100-18 record the past three seasons. The mark includes a school-record 43 wins during the historic title-winning campaign two years ago.

"I'm looking forward to keep Mercy's winning tradition of competitive softball going," Ashe said. "I think it's been about seven years since we haven't had a winning record."

Last spring, Mercy captured its sixth straight district championship, was the Catholic League tournament runner-up and finished with a 30-12 record.

The Marlins enter this season with a young team composed of only three seniors and one junior. The roster includes 13 players who are either sophomores or freshmen.

Mercy's undisputed leader is senior Anna Dixon, who returns as the team's leading hitter with a stellar .491 career average. The Hillsdale-bound four-year starter batted a team-leading .565 last spring and also led the Marlins in RBIs with 70. She was second in runs scored with 73.



Senior Anna Dixon, a four-year varsity player, owns a stellar .491 career batting average and will be a leader on the Mercy softball team this season.

FILE PHOTO

Dixon, who will be a team captain, will catch and play third base. She takes over the catching duties from Dunya Kizy, a returning starter who will miss the season due to injury.

"Anna is very consistent with her bat, although we'd like to see her hit for a little more power," Ashe said. "She is very knowledgeable of the game. She's a very quiet leader, but she sets an example by the way she plays, the way she works hard and the way she helps out the kids."

Sarah Cassidy, the team's only junior, will move from left to center field. The



Olivia Iafra heads a list of three sophomore pitchers this season for the Mercy softball team. MARTY BUDNER

three-year varsity player is a consistent performer with a strong glove (.891 fielding percentage) and good arm.

"I see Sarah stepping up and becoming a leader," Ashe said. "She is very steady with a good arm and, with any speed she lacks, she overcomes by taking charge and going after the ball."

Grace Nieto is a promising freshman with a rich heritage — her sister Kaycee was an all-state pitcher for the Marlins who played college ball at Utah. Nieto, a shortstop, is already committed to play Big Ten softball at Northwestern University.

"Grace grew up with softball in her blood and I think she's going to be a

heck of a shortstop," Ashe said.

### Sophomore pitching staff

The pitching staff is young, but returns with a year of experience as each member saw plenty of action last year as a freshman.

Olivia Iafra finished with a 21-7 record and hurled 156 innings with a 3.63 earned-run average and 113 strikeouts. Samantha Shea appeared in 19 games with nine wins. Sophomore Julia Crowley, a transfer from Ann Gabriel Richard, will offer depth on the pitching staff.

"Olivia was our mainstay last year and Sam is our other pitcher and we're really excited about getting them back," Ashe said. "Olivia has good control and hits her spots. She is not a flame thrower, but she hits her spots and her pitches have some movement to them."

Depending on the weather, of course, Ashe will make his varsity coaching debut at the East Lansing Invitational, scheduled for April 14. Mercy's first home game is scheduled for 4 p.m. April 17 against Gabriel Richard.

"We look to get back to the Catholic League playoffs. That's one of our goals," Ashe said. "It's a young team, but I don't think we have a weak player on the roster."

"We really have a good group of kids and I'm looking forward to it," he added. "I'm excited about the season."

Contact Marty Budner at [mbudner@hometownlife.com](mailto:mbudner@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.





GIRLS BASKETBALL

Country Day wraps up 13th state title

Marty Budner  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Senior Kaela Webb had the ball and dribbled out the final few seconds of Country Day's Class B state championship game March 17 at Calvin College. When the buzzer finally sounded, she smiled, threw the ball high into the air and was mobbed by her teammates near mid-court.

The celebration convened as Country Day defeated Jackson Northwest, 64-48, to clinch its second straight state championship, third in four years and 13th in program history. The Yellowjackets' year-long goal was finally achieved.

"I just looked up and Max and me, we started smiling because never did we think about winning three state championships," said Webb, who sparked the offense with game highs in assists (seven) and steals (six). "But we came in hungry after our freshman years and we wanted to continue that. That was lost in our sophomore year and we knew didn't want to do that again.

"This team is so special, because we had to find our own identity," she added. "We had to pick up where we left off last year and we knew we had to work even harder."

Like Webb, senior forward Maxine Moore was a freshman on DCD's 2015 state championship squad. The Western Michigan University-bound forward was simply delighted with her third state title.

"I'm so blessed and grateful. I have to give it up to my teammates and especially coach (Frank Orlando) for instilling a tremendous work ethic in all of us," said Moore, who helped lead her team to a 23-4 record. "In practice every day, this was our common goal. This is where we wanted to be.

"And to have three of these — not a lot of people can say that," she added. "And me and Kaela and Destini (Lewis) are so proud of our program, our coaches and everybody."

Used all their weapons

The Yellowjackets needed all their weapons to get past a determined Northwest team that advanced to the state championship game for the first time in program history. The Mounties had a raucous crowd base, which filled half the gym, looking to bring their team that coveted first state title trophy.

Northwest never led and trailed by 10 points after the opening quarter.

However, the Mounties twice battled back to cut into DCD's lead — once midway through the

second quarter, when they got within three points (27-24) and late in the third, when they trimmed it to five (44-39). On each occasion, Country Day showed its championship composure and went on a run of its own to regain control of the game.

DCD's Lewis and Maddie Novak connected on back-to-back triples late in the third quarter to make it 50-39 heading into the final eight minutes. The Yellowjackets wrapped up the win with a 14-9 fourth-quarter advantage.

Powell led DCD scoring

Junior Jasmine Powell led DCD's scoring with 19, including a pair of treys, and a team-high seven rebounds. Novak finished with 13, nine of which came in the second half. Junior forward Adrian Folks finished with 12 points.

Webb, the Providence-bound guard, scored 11 points.

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

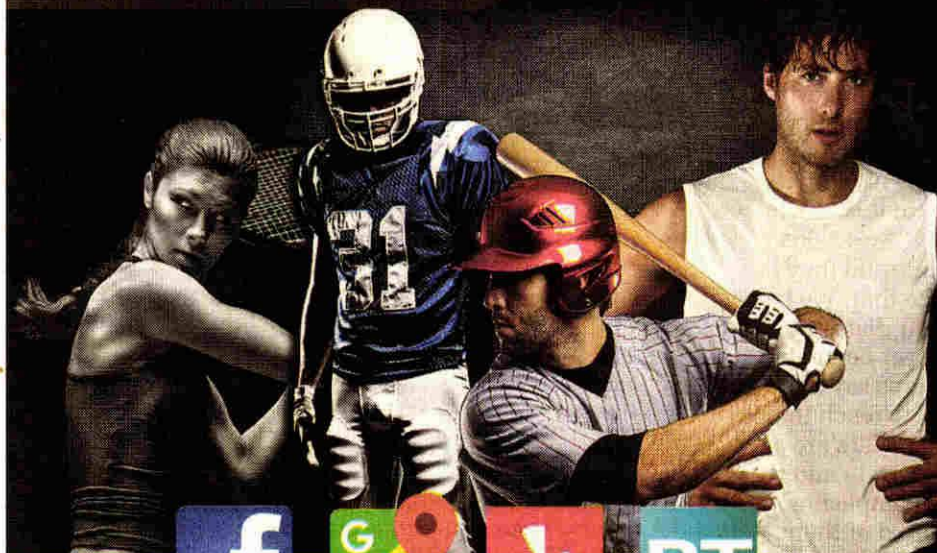


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PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



TRAVEON MADDUX, JR.

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL NOVI WILDCATS

Novi's Traveon Maddox, Jr. has proven this boys basketball season he has ice in his veins.

The 6-foot-5 senior guard, who was voted Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week, made the game-winning shot with only 2.8 seconds left to give the Wildcats their first-ever Class A regional title to beat previously unbeaten Ann Arbor Skyline, 61-59, March 16 at Salem.

And he did it again Tuesday night with a buzzer-beater in the state quarterfinal at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall to knock off Belleville, 75-73, as Novi earned its first trip in school history to the state semifinals on Friday at Michigan State's Breslin Center. (Game time is 2 p.m.)

In the five games during Novi's state tourney run, Maddox is averaging 18.6 points with highs of 22 each against Belleville and Northville (in the district final when he had five dunks).

"He's a special player," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said following Maddox's clutch performance in the quarterfinal. "I've mentioned it before, he's made big-time plays in big-time games and is a big-time player. He's a Division 1 player who is going to do a lot of great things at the next level."

Maddox, who was also a three-year standout wide receiver for the Novi varsity football team, is headed to play basketball next year at Oakland University.

This season he's averaging 19.5 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. He's shooting 48 percent from the field, including 33 percent from three-point range, and is a 75 percent free throw shooter.

"My favorite player is Kobe (Bryant) and I try to pattern my game after Kobe," Maddox said of the

retired Laker great. "So, I watched so much of Kobe Bryant... I've seen he plays inside and outside. He can go to the basket whenever he wants to. He can shoot the jump shot whenever he wants to. His pull-up game is nearly unstoppable. And that's one thing I really, really worked on in the off season was my pull-up game, attack the basket a lot stronger and finish over people."

Maddox credits his family and fellow Novi senior classmate Xavier Martin for putting him in the position where he is today. "I have a sister, but he's my best friend, I call him my brother," Maddox said. "Outside of basketball he keeps me level headed and supports me through everything. I really appreciate him for that. My mom (Alisha Thomas) and my dad (Traveon Maddox, Sr.) have also pushed me all the time."

A preseason top 20 team, Novi stumbled out of the gate going 1-5 at the start, but has now won 11 of its last 12 and stands 17-8 overall heading into the Final Four matchup Friday against Holland West Ottawa (24-2) at Breslin.

And Maddox believes there is one big reason why the Wildcats turned their season around and have earned their first-ever Final Four berth.

"Just getting our brotherly connection, trusting each other," he said.

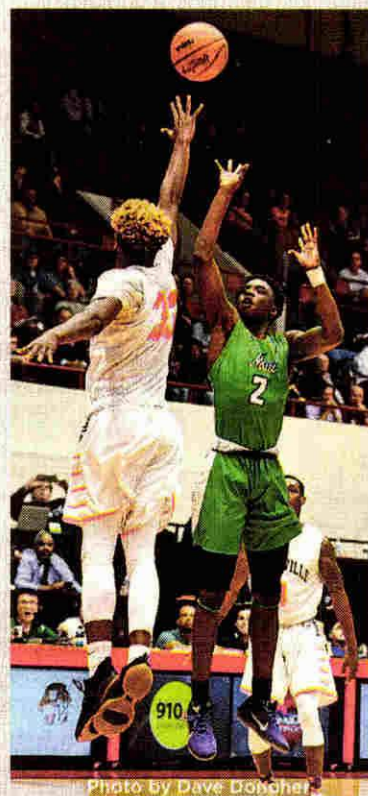


Photo by Dave Donohue

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## CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED AND REFUSE ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, of the City of Livonia, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Livonia, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, by May 1 of each year and as many times thereafter as may be necessary. If any noxious weeds or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City so ordered to be cut down, destroyed or removed by May 1, as aforesaid, have not been removed by the owner or occupant of the premises, then the City of Livonia is hereby authorized to enter upon the land and destroy, cut down or remove said noxious weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City at the expense of the owner or occupant of said land. The City may cut down, destroy or remove noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches or any refuse or debris, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City as many times as is necessary and charge the costs to the property owner.

In the event the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land in any subdivision in which buildings have been erected on sixty percent (60%) of the lots included in that subdivision and where such subdivision has a residential zoning classification of R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6 or R-U-F, or the owners or occupants, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to the aforementioned subdivisions for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation, having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to any developed public park or any developed school or college grounds, whether public, private or parochial, for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, along all improved streets in common usage for a depth of two hundred (200) feet or the depth of the property, whichever is less, shall fail, refuse or neglect to comply with the above mentioned ordinance, the City shall cause said noxious weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains of any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses, shall be exempted from the provisions of this ordinance. All expenses incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law. The expenses incurred in cutting, destruction, or removal of all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthful growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property shall include, but are not limited to, an administrative charge of seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars for each of the first two instances in a calendar year of cutting, destruction, or removal, which administrative charge shall increase to one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) dollars for the third and each subsequent instance of cutting, destruction, or removal required in the same calendar year.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

Jerome A. Hanna  
Director of Inspection  
City of Livonia

Published: March 15 and March 25, 2018

LO-000339028 3x7.5

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### How to get the best severance package

BY KATE LOPAZE  
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

So ... it happened. You've gotten the bad news that you're fired, or laid off. It may feel like the world is ending — or you may just feel shock. Whatever you're feeling, the fact remains the same: You're leaving your job, and not by your own choice. While you do need to embrace that reality, you don't necessarily have to take the severance package that was initially offered to you.

When the worst happens, take these considerations into account to see if you can improve your severance:

**Talk to a lawyer**

An employment attorney can help you navigate the waters after you've been terminated, particularly if you feel like you were fired without proper cause or you were marched out of the office quickly without the chance to take stock of the situation. This doesn't mean "sue the bastards," but it does mean you should get a professional's advice on whether you do have grounds for a potential suit. An attorney can also help you figure out if you have any wiggle room for negotiation.

**Negotiate yourself**

Even if you do have an

attorney, it's usually the best course to do the negotiating yourself (unless you are likely to file a lawsuit — then it's best to have your attorney either present or speaking on your behalf). Having someone negotiate for you can escalate the tension, so be careful to keep the tone civil if you're hoping to get a better deal.

**Ask for more**

At this point, you have little to lose, so you should request a higher severance payment. You should definitely be real-



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istic — the payment is unlikely to double or triple from an initial offer, but you may be able to negotiate a lump sum payment versus continued salary or an increase in the total payment.

**Nail down insurance information**

One of the trickiest parts of unemployment can be insurance coverage, especially if you're used to having solid coverage through your job. The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

of 1995 (COBRA) means you can likely continue your insurance coverage for up to 18 months, but at your own expense. If coverage is a concern, this is a point to raise with the company. You may be able to get the company to keep paying for your insurance for a period of time after you leave.

**Ask about unused benefits**

Some companies may offer a check in exchange for unused vacation or personal

time, so be sure to see what's on the table and fully understand what your company's policies are on that front.

**Be clear on what's in the severance agreement**

Always, always, always read the fine print. Some severance agreements contain "non-compete" language, which limits your ability to go work for a competitive company. Others contain a nondisparagement clause, which means you may have to forfeit your total severance package if you're busted saying anything negative about the company after you leave (even if it's true). Make sure you understand what the conditions are if you accept the severance package.

Once you get the bad news, the important thing is: Don't panic. Or if you do panic, try to get it out of your system and then settle in for the next phase of talking through the logistics of your leaving. Just like negotiating a salary, you may have the chance to improve your package — if you ask for it.

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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- 1 Watchful
- 8 Abjectly submissive
- 15 Floral shop receptacles
- 20 More candid
- 21 Fingernail surrounder
- 22 Novelist Munro
- 23 Bands of fibrous tissue enclosing muscles
- 24 Inept warrior in armor?
- 26 Like escaped convicts
- 28 See 17-Down
- 29 Slaughter of the diamond
- 30 Member of a certain antelope fraternity?
- 34 Plasma particle
- 36 "Hurlyburly" playwright David
- 37 Med. drips
- 38 Certain book of liturgy
- 43 Anti-DUI ad, e.g.
- 46 Ending for Alp or salt
- 47 Concept, to Jean-Luc
- 49 Activity when shopping for sweaters?
- 51 Person who repositions tiny flies?
- 54 "Life of Pi" novelist
- 55 Something easy-peasy
- 56 Apia resident
- 57 "Nothin' —!" ("Easy-peasy!")
- 59 In the dossier, e.g.
- 60 First-class
- 63 Sword stopper
- 67 Bireme tool
- 68 Shoelace snarl of note?
- 73 Young male, urban-style
- 74 Like many offshore rescues
- 75 Outdoor enclosure for tabbies
- 76 In a mischievous way
- 79 Inside: Prefix
- 81 Beautiful guy
- 85 Persian-founded faith
- 86 "That feels go-o-od!"

### DOWN

- 1 Out of whack
- 2 Pro-gun org.
- 3 Auto fluid
- 4 Set free
- 5 Spitz variety
- 6 Province
- 7 More moony
- 8 Singer Boz
- 9 Light unit
- 10 — glance
- 11 "La Dolce —"
- 12 Chilled
- 13 Pivot
- 14 Wife of Zeus
- 15 With 90-Down, actor Jean-Claude
- 16 Foreign
- 17 With 28-Across, ink the contract
- 18 Canyon reply
- 19 Puts (down)
- 25 — light (lamp on a film set)
- 27 Ominous bird
- 30 Prudish sorts
- 31 — Barbera
- 32 Flanged girder
- 33 News svc.
- 35 Like Mork, per his planet
- 39 Reaping tool
- 40 Alias lead-in

### DOWN

- 41 Maya of architecture
- 42 Cable TV's Spike, once
- 43 Rack-and-steering
- 44 Camp for Colonel Klink
- 45 According to
- 47 "But is —?"
- 48 Faye of films
- 49 NBAer, e.g.
- 50 Rubber check abbr.
- 52 Food-order option
- 53 French political units
- 58 "What a piece of work —"
- 59 Aromatic substance
- 61 "Where — start?"
- 62 Bungle
- 64 Wearing a disguise, informally
- 65 Airport info
- 66 Illuminated
- 68 Holy books of Islam
- 69 Cubbyholes
- 70 Bray sound
- 71 Slight push
- 72 A party to
- 73 Easter cake
- 77 Hem and —
- 78 Bird perches
- 80 Toledo "two"
- 82 User busters
- 83 Rockabilly singer Chris
- 84 "Come Back, Little —"
- 86 Rocker Rose
- 87 Be laid up
- 88 Drama unit
- 90 See 15-Down
- 91 Got tangled
- 93 Slacked off
- 94 Eggy quaff
- 99 Marilyn of "The Misfits"
- 100 Depleted
- 101 Opt
- 103 Lunchtimes, often
- 104 Early name in arcades
- 105 "Bonanza" star Greene
- 106 Among
- 107 Creole pod
- 108 Difficult task
- 110 Shankar of Indian music
- 111 Take too much, briefly
- 112 Knucklehead
- 113 Nero's "Lo!"
- 116 Stretch (out)
- 117 Almond-hued
- 119 Prefix for "equal"
- 120 Erwin of films
- 121 Young kid

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

## SUDOKU

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

## RETAIL TODAY WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing retail-related terms.

## WORDS

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- analytics
- anchor
- associate
- beacons
- big box
- catalog
- chain
- checkout
- click
- customer data
- deals
- demand
- demographic
- distributor
- ecommerce
- foot traffic
- grocery
- inventory
- layaway
- loss leader
- manufacturer
- markdown
- payment
- pos
- pricing
- products
- relationship
- retailer
- returns
- sale
- stock
- tenant
- terminal

## ANSWER KEY

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

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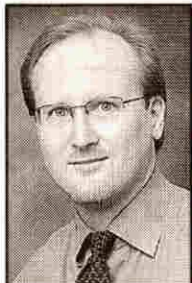
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# Car Report

## WHAT'S A BUICK? BRAND WANTS TO LEAD WITH ITS ENVISION SUV, OTHER VEHICLES, AS IT PLANS TO LEAVE NAME OFF FUTURE MODELS



By Dale Buss

Say this for Mary Barra, General Motors' CEO: She keeps shaking things up. And letting her lieutenants shake things up.

The latest examples, of all things, are what is happening

to Buick's logo, and how GM is expanding its ride-sharing trials through Maven.

Now consumers who really believe "That's Not a Buick," in line with the brand's long-running marketing campaign, may have a point: Buicks won't say "Buick" on them for much longer.

GM's fabled near-luxury marque will remove its brand name from its 2019 model-year vehicle line, the Detroit News reported, starting with the refreshed, China-manufactured Envision crossover this spring.

What will remain is the Buick tri-shield logo without the name, both on the front grille and on the back of each vehicle.

Buick is counting on research that it conducted at the beginning of 2017 that established 73% of those surveyed were able to connect that logo with the Buick brand without the wordmark or lock-up version of the logo and name to jog their memory, the report said.

GM may feel reassured by what happened when it toyed with the Cadillac logo several years ago, removing the iconic laurel branches that surrounded the Cadillac shield. Consumers accepted it fine.



Envision's panoramic sunroof is a key feature.

Now it's Buick's turn to refresh its visual identity. The brand would like to continue to distance itself from its traditional identification as the vehicle of choice for the over-50 crowd by modernizing its look to appeal to millennials and newcomers to the brand.

As GM has noted, "Nearly 60 percent of all Encore buyers come from outside General Motors. These new-to-Buick customers are increasingly return buyers, with nearly half of them likely to trade in their vehicle to buy another Buick SUV. In addition to attracting new customers to the Buick brand, the 2019 Envision is designed with these existing Encore customers' evolving needs and preferences in mind."

"The Envision's exterior has a sculpted front fascia, new grille and headlamps that align with the new face of Buick. Crisp horizontal lines on the front create a more premium look and feel, while redesigned

taillamps, reflectors and side markers give the back end a wider and more athletic stance. New optional 19-inch wheels provide an expressive and distinct profile.

A new pricing approach is revealing: "All trim levels have been adjusted toward the heart of the premium compact SUV market, further positioning the Envision to capture the interest of loyal Buick owners looking to move up to the next-sized compact SUV and conquest buyers who are considering Buick for the first time."

"The Envision brings a tremendous growth opportunity for the Buick brand," noted Sam Russell, Buick marketing director. "The new pricing strategy not only puts the Envision in the heart of the industry's largest segment, but also better positions it in relation to Encore, our top-selling nameplate."

In recent years Buick has introduced a number of SUVs and crossovers in a bid to appeal to millennials

to escape that identification, even as it has dramatically overhauled and slimmed down its sedan lineup.

With Super Bowl spots, celebrities such as Miranda Kerr and attractive vehicles ranging from its well-received SUVs to a new convertible, "That's Not a Buick" certainly helped in recent years as the brand survived the remake of GM's brand architecture post-recession and became a dependable player in the company's U.S. lineup.

So far this year, in what is a down year overall for the U.S. light-vehicle market, Buick sales have declined by only about 4%, compared with declines of more than 7% for GMC and nearly 14% for Chevrolet, and a 7% boost for Cadillac.

The brand also is trying to build up its Avenir trim line in its vehicles as an important premium sub-brand, based on a sleek concept vehicle that Buick introduced three years ago. The move basically mimics what GM

has been able to accomplish already with the Denali high-end trim line for its GMC trucks and SUVs; GMCs typically are sold alongside Buicks in US showrooms.

Buick also has become GM's best-selling brand in China—where its cars also don't say Buick—selling 1.18 million vehicles there last year.

In the meantime, GM also General Motors also keeps pushing the envelope in ride-sharing, expanding its Maven service to Austin and Toronto and now, reportedly, launching an Airbnb-style service that will enable car owners to rent out their vehicles when they aren't using them.

Bloomberg reported that GM plans to start a pilot program this summer through Maven that will allow car owners to put their vehicles on Maven's digital platform for other drivers to rent and then share revenue with the automaker. To date, Maven has only rented GM-owned vehicles.



The 2018 Buick Envision has the brand performing well in an important SUV segment.

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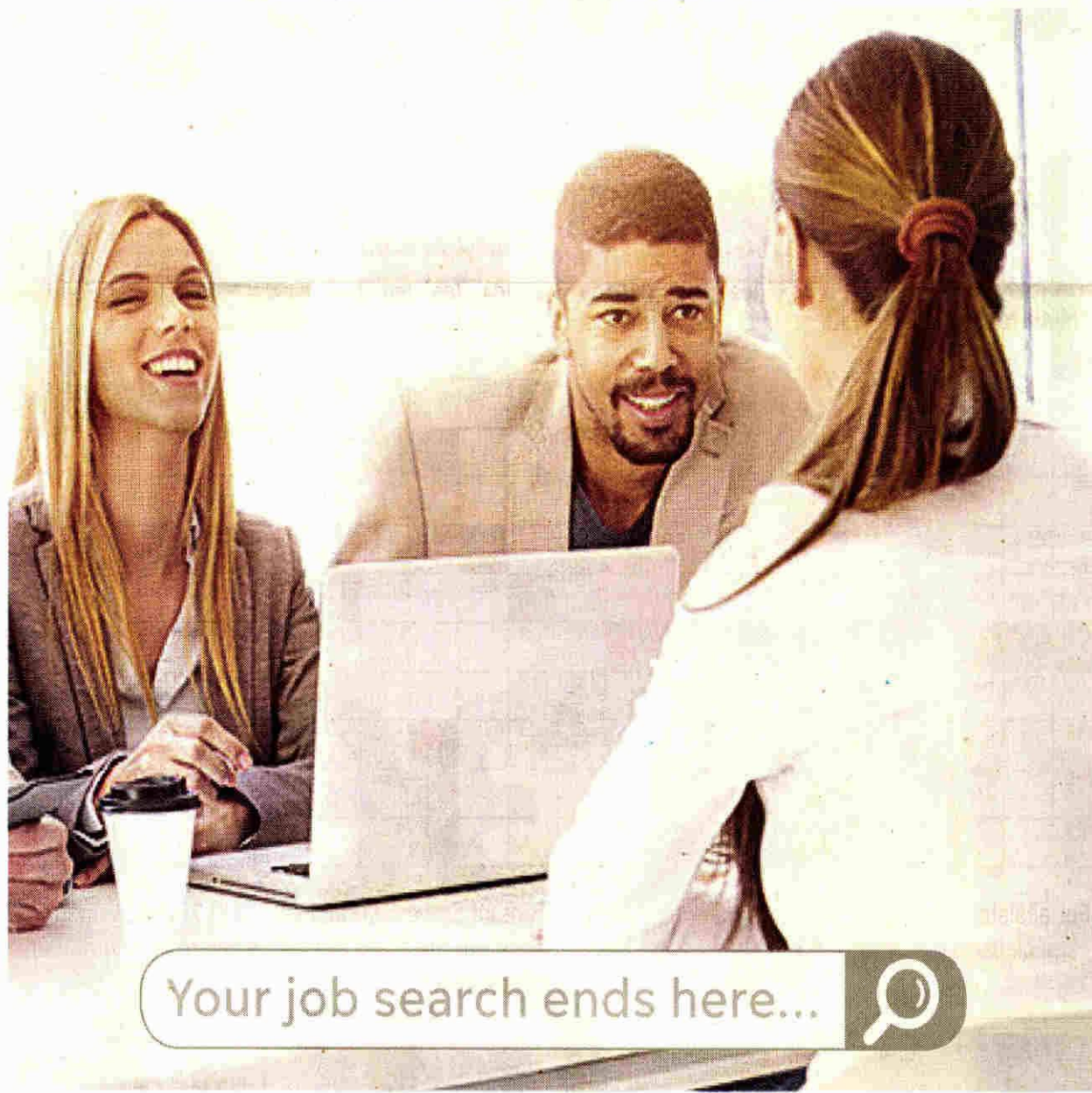
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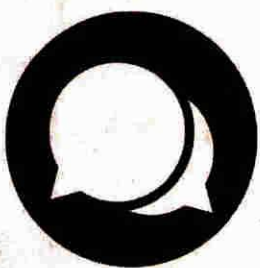
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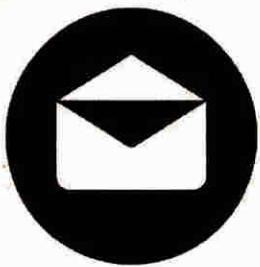
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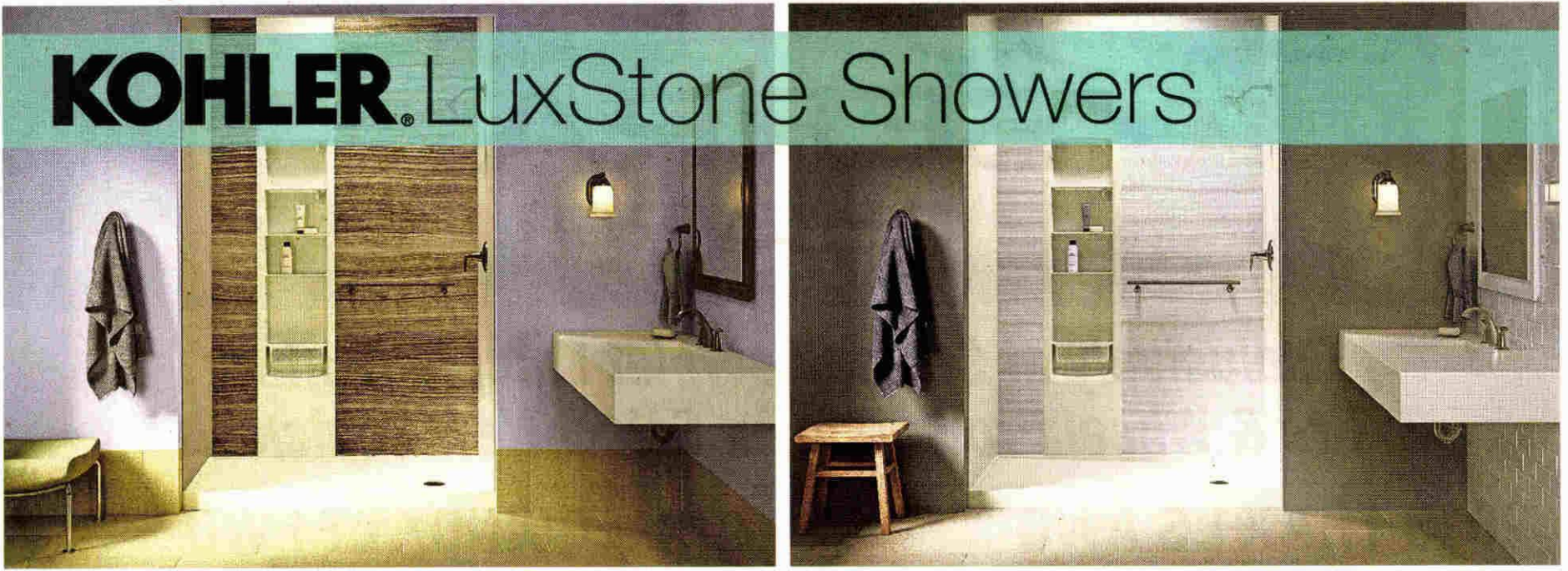
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