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Candidates agree: Roads need fixing

All those running for state office have ideas on how

Brad Kadrich

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If you're a candidate for elective office in Michigan, it's almost a require-

ment that you have to criticize the state

of the state's roads.

For instance, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer's catch phrase is catching on – to praise and criticism – as she declares it's "time to fix the damn roads."

So what do candidates in state House and Senate primary races think is the

right plan and from where does the funding come? Hometown Life asked them and here are the answers some of them provided (Note: Not all candidates responded to the questionnaire offered by Hometown Life).

State Senate, 6th District

■ Robert Kosowski, Democrat, Westland: "This session, I reintroduced House Bill 4060 which would legalize sports betting in Michigan casinos. Conservatively, it is estimated that this would generate at least an additional

\$300 million annually in revenue. This is money that could go to repairing our roads and infrastructure without raising residents' taxes."

State Senate, 7th District

■ Dayna Polehanki, Democrat, Livonia: "I believe Michiganders have paid their fair share toward fixing our roads via the gas tax and increased auto registration rates. I would like to see the corporations that received a \$2 billion tax cut from Gov. Snyder and who use our roads and infrastructure to run their businesses pay their fair share toward fixing our roads. I also support enforcing

multi-axle vehicle weight limits as they create a lot of wear and tear on our roads. Moving forward, we must find ways to make innovative road-building materials, like high-performance concrete or even recycled plastics, cost-effective."

State House, 11th District

■ Jewell Jones, Democrat, Inkster: "We should restore business and corporate taxes to increase funding for road repair and reconstruction. The business community reaps enormous benefits

See ROADS, Page 4A

Looking for breakfast?

Several restaurants have popped up across the area, capitalizing on the morning dining craze

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Quinoa breakfast bowls. Shakshuka.

Huevos rancheros.

This isn't your momma's breakfast.
Long gone are the days of just serving up
French toast and bacon with a simple
glass of orange juice. Today, it's about
where the food is sourced, how fresh it is
and whether a vegetarian can enjoy it.

Several restaurants across the region are finding that hitting the breakfast gold mine comes with out-of-the-box thinking. The desire for more than just pancakes and sausage has led to a surge of new restaurants focusing solely on breakfast and lunch.

It's a move, many restaurant operators say, that reflects the sign of the times and caters toward those looking for an experience.

"Gluten-free, vegan, the higher-quality products, I think that's what people really want," said Josh Beckett, owner of Anna's House, which has locations in Westland and Farmington Hills. "I think that's been part of the success of the brand. We're very particular about the product we pick."

Anna's House is well-known in west Michigan for its breakfasts, with wait times lasting an hour or more for food. The company decided to expand and opened its Westland location at Warren and Newburgh last summer. Another location, on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, opened earlier this year.

year.

Adding higher-end foods and glutenfree entrees has worked for the small
restaurant chain, Beckett said, giving
more options to a wider customer base
that wouldn't normally be found near a
typical breakfast joint.

"So many of these young kids have



Courtney McManus brings an order to patrons at Toast in Birmingham. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

celiac (disease). If you have celiac's, you can't go out to breakfast," Beckett said. "Those things have changed. Dietary needs have been a major turning point."

The launch of breakfast has even attracted the eyes of some longtime restaurateurs. Jeff and Patti Neely, owners of restaurants across Michigan such as The Pixie in Mount Pleasant and Smashburger in Troy and West Bloomfield, opted to join in on the morning fun. The Lansing couple opened Cracked: An A.M. Addiction earlier this spring at 17933 Haggerty Road in Northville Township.

It's only been a few months, but the pair say results are strong in the de-

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Dana Polk, owner of D's Cafe, hustles breakfast out to customers. BILL BRESLER |
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Breakfast

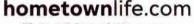
Continued from Page 1A

mand for breakfast.

"We've been really happy with the results to date. We've been enhancing and training the crew as we go along. The food is outstanding. The guests are loving the concept," Jeff Neely said. "We took well over a year designing this restaurant, from food to decor."

With so much attention paid to dinners and late night in recent years, why has this concept exploded? The Neelys point to growing trends coming from the West Coast, where breakfast has become a huge hit (see: the "Portlandia" episode "Brunch Village," which focuses entirely on a long line outside of a popular brunch spot in the Oregon city).

"One is that it's been an underserved area in the restaurant area and it's a place to grow. You think of dinner, you think of lunch," Patti Neely said. "People are seeking new adventure and



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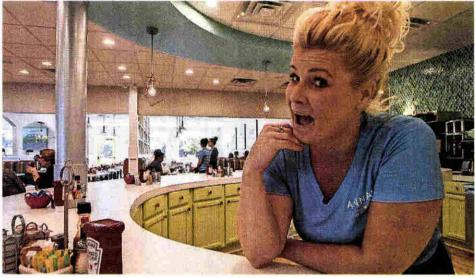
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Stephanie Suchala is ready to serve you at Anna's House. BILL BRESLER! HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

so they do that now through food.

"You give me an interesting breakfast, I'm going to be there."

Drumming up that excitement is crucial for the breakfast industry. Tony Minicilli, director of operations for Toast Birmingham, 203 Pierce, said waiting in line for breakfast is part of the experience.

Patrons can order a bloody Mary while they wait and see guests file in and out, building up to their eventual meal of toast hash or chicken and waf-

"People come in and, I feel if people saw we were empty, that they would go somewhere else," said Minicilli, who grew up in Livonia. "They want that energy of a packed restaurant waiting for a

Mainstays still work

But dressing up breakfast isn't the only way to success. Up on Milford Road in Highland Township, you'll find another breakfast joint that has had the same mainstays for more than 35 years.

If you're looking for that new mainstays on "trendy" breakfast menus, you won't find it at D's Cafe, 1415 S. Milford Road, which has been serving breakfast since the early '80s.

"We don't do avocados or anything like that," D's Cafe co-owner Dana Polk said. "We have farmers omelettes, sausage and cheese omelettes, ham and cheese omelettes, cheese omelettes."

Named after Polk's mother, Diana McBride, the restaurant is the go-to

place for breakfasts in the Milford/ Highland area. McBride's leadership over the years kept the menu mostly identical the last few decades, opting to keep traditional foods and forgo the trendy choices made by other eateries.

It's clearly working: The restaurant routinely has lines each weekend of hungry customers looking for that small-town diner experience.

"Especially with us, we try to do specials all the time," said Tonya Polk, Dana's wife. "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

It's not difficult to find a restaurant serving fare like D's Cafe across metro Detroit. It's hard to blink and not spot a Coney Island restaurant serving traditional eggs and bacon with hash browns.

Westland resident Vic Barra is a frequent guest at several western Wayne County eateries, visiting spots such as the Garden City Cafe on Middlebelt, Leo's Coney Island and plenty more.

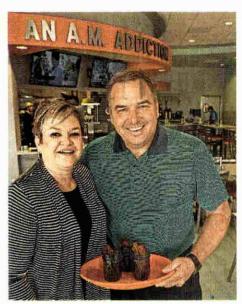
More than just a place to eat, Barra said he'll routinely wake up early each weekend and head out to breakfast to plan his day out with other colleagues.

"I like local places, because you get to know the owners. You build relationships with the people who are feeding you," he said. "I just like the hometown feel of the local eateries."

Growth

With several new restaurants opening, it's clear the breakfast scene isn't going away.

Minicilli said Toast, which launched



Patti and Jeff Neely own Cracked: An A.M. Addiction, Jeff is holding cracked bacon. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

in Ferndale in 2001 before opening its second location in downtown Birmingham in 2008, hopes to expand again in the future, targeting locations such as Detroit and Ann Arbor. Its model is best for a walkable area, Minicilli said, attracting curious diners throughout the

We like the downtown areas, because we have the foot traffic and everything like that," he said. "Not like in a strip mall. You want to have those clientele all throughout the day."

The Neelys have only been serving breakfast for a few months, but they expect another Cracked to find its footing in metro Detroit in the future.

"It's not only a thought process, it's being discussed on a daily basis now," Jeff Neely said.

Anna's House is in the same boat, looking at adding restaurants in places like Ann Arbor and northern Oakland County in the coming months. That growth comes as the demand, especially across the ever-important millennial demographic, increases.

"I still think people want to sit down and connect. We try to make the interior like your home kitchen," Beckett said. "I think the millennials are the biggest buying group. They're leading the social media trends."

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



Area contestants earn prizes in Distinguished Young Woman program

Michigan State Scholarship Program was held July 21 at The Village Theater in Canton. Brianna Patel, a senior from Novi High School, was selected as the Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan 2019.

She received a \$1,500 cash college scholarship and was selected as a top Scholastics Award winner and a top Interview Award winner. For her performing arts talent selection, Patel performed a lyrical dance to the song "The Light That Never Fails." Patel studies dance at Sheryl's School of Dance in Novi and is the daughter of Sima and Vimesh Patel of Novi.

Patel will represent Michigan at the Distinguished Young Woman of America Scholarship Program in Mobile, Ala., next June. A two week all-expenses paid trip is provided by the Distinguished Young Women of America organization. She is also eligible for many full-ride scholarships at various colleges around the country through the national program.

'We are so excited to have Brianna as our state win-

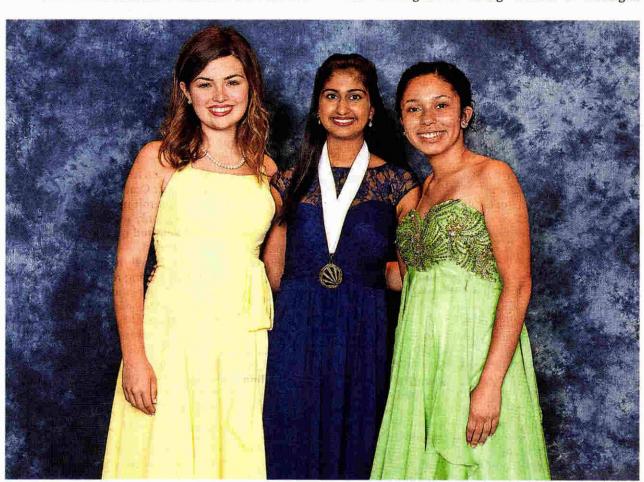
The 61st annual Distinguished Young Women of ner and look forward to a great year as Brianna represents the class of 2019 at events throughout the state of Michigan and at the national finals in Mobile, Ala.," Michigan state committee member Jan Witte said.

> Ten contestants from around the state participated and were awarded a total of \$3,700 in college scholarships. Sophia Ericson of Oakland County was selected as the first runner-up. Sydney Terry of Saginaw was selected as the second runner-up. Fatima Herrera of Wayne was selected as a top Scholastic winner. Michaela Gahn of Lenawee County was selected as a top Interview winner. Jenna Wyly of Downriver was selected as a top Self Expression winner. Caitlin Clark of White Lake was selected a top Fitness and Talent winner. McKendra Perry of the Irish Hills was selected at the Brooklyn Kiwanis Community Service Essay winner. Alanha Rudd of Wayne-Westland was select at the Spirit Award winner. And Leah Kennedy of Westland was awarded a Be Your Best Self Award.

The Distinguished Young Women of Michigan

Scholarship Program awards college scholarships to young women who have distinguished themselves at school and in their communities. Contestants are high school juniors from around the state who are evaluated in areas of scholastics, fitness, performing arts talent, interview and self-expression. It is part of the Distinguished Young Women of America, which is the largest and oldest scholarship program for high school seniors in the country. State sponsors are Chelsea Milling Co., The Angela Bobo Scholarship Fund, Brooklyn Kiwanis Club, Livonia Italian Bakery, Pacific Rim by Kana and Rose's Restaurant. National sponsors are Alabama Power, Encore Rehabilitation, Regions Bank, Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation, Wintzell's Oyster House, Master Boat Builders, Inc., Alabama Media Group, Evonik and Jostens.

The Distinguished Young Women of Michigan Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. If you are a high school junior graduating in 2020, you are eligible to participate in next year's program. Go to www.distinguishedyw.org or email michigan@ distinguishedyw.org or more information.



Pictured are (from left) Sophia Ericson, first runner-up; Brianna Patel, Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan 2019; and Sydney Terr, second runner-up.





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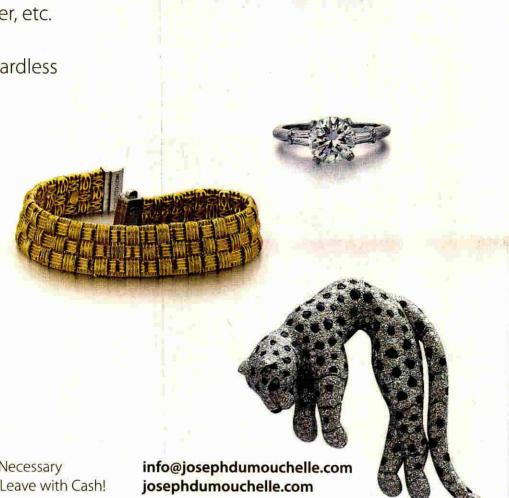
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Hometown Life's choices in Tuesday's primary

Voters take to the polls Aug. 7 to help settle primary election races for state House and Senate seats and to approve or reject a roads millage in Canton Township.

Hometown Life offers our recom-

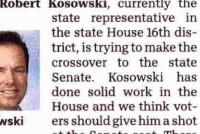
mendations for each: I State Senate, 5th District: We rec-



ommend state Sen. David Knezek in the Democratic primary. He has worked hard in his district, helped lead drives to get fresh water to Flint during that crisis and has been a leader on local education issues. Knezek

has earned another term. There is no Republican primary; the winner of this race faces DeShawn Wilkins of Detroit in the November general election.

I State Senate, 6th District: Democrat Robert Kosowski, currently the



House and we think voters should give him a shot at the Senate seat. There is no Republican primary; Brenda Jones of Taylor awaits the Democratic winner

in the November general election.

■ State Senate, 7th District: In the Democratic primary here, we believe newcomer Dayna Polehanki should get

the nod. She's a teacher

Polehanki

 she was New Haven's Teacher of the Year with strong opinions about public education and other issues in the state, including roads and mass transit. In a race with no experienced

candidate, we believe Polehanki is bestsuited to challenge longtime Livonia Republican Laura Cox in the November general election.

■ State House, 11th District: Democrat Randy Walker is the choice here. The five-term mayor of Garden City is a U.S. Air Force veteran who has led Gar-



den City nine years, giving him solid experience in the political arena. Incumbent state Rep. Jewell Jones is facing legal challenges stemming from a misdemeanor charge of open intoxi-

cants following a May traffic stop. He's due in court on that charge Aug. 24.

■ State House, 16th District: Democrat Kevin Coleman gets the nod here. He cut his political teeth on the Westland City Council for four years (2014-



Coleman

about issues facing the district. # State House, 19th District: Democrat Dan Centers is our choice in this race. The Livonia Public

Schools Board of Education trustee is all about Livonia — he got his bachelor's degree from Madonna University and volunteers with the Jaycees and the West Oaks Civitan club. His background is in teaching, so he should be

strong on education is-

in a losing battle against

Mayor William Wild.

Coleman is bright, intelli-

gent and has solid ideas

sues.

Centers

Millage proposals

Canton Township is asking voters to approve a 1.45-mill request to raise some \$5.6 million a year for 20 years for roads improvements that officials say will go strictly toward Canton roads.

And, with some reservations, we think voters should approve it.

The measure would break up spending as follows: Major county roads (Warren, Cherry Hill and Canton Center, to name three) would receive 55 percent of

17), before leaving council the funding; 30 percent would be earmarked for subdivision roads; and 15 percent toward improving state-owned roads, the category in which Ford Road is slotted.

In a move that seems more like taking Canton voters hostage than dangling a carrot, the Michigan Department of Transportation has agreed to provide funding for the long-sought boulevard conversion along 2.5 miles of Ford Road; however, MDOT has made its pledge contingent on Canton voters approving the township's ballot initiative.

There are certainly reservations to be had here - Canton roads task force member Mark Horvath calls it a "Bandaid on a bad wound" - especially when you look at roads like Canton Center, which was improved a little over a year ago and already needs work.

But we think voters can trust township leadership to do what they say they'll do: Keep the money in Canton. So we urge a "yes" vote.

■ The city of Wayne has a request for millage not to exceed 1.0 mills library officials say is necessary for operating, maintaining and equipping the Wayne Public Library. The proposal would raise some \$334,000 in the first year. We believe voters should approve the mea-

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

from the use of Michigan roads yet Gov. Snyder and the current administration shifted the tax burden for generating revenue from business to seniors and working people. Corporations and the business community should contribute more to maintaining and rebuilding Michigan's roads and infrastructure."

Randy Walker, Democrat, Garden City: "My plan is to increase the state shared revenue to each community in my district, as well increase the amount of money allocated to each city from the state for road repairs."

State House, 16th District

Kevin Coleman, Democrat, Westland: "Our state is experiencing a budget surplus. More of that money needs to be invested in our local and state roads now. Additional revenue could also come from ballot measures and also from excess money in the catastrophic claims fund. I will be looking into higher road quality standards and cutting-edge materials that will last longer than our current road-paving methods. We need roads that will last."

■ Jacob Johnson, Democrat, Wayne: "Pot for Potholes, ending of corporate incentives that get no results and introduction of a graduated income tax. I also want to set up a resource consolidation

board so that neighboring communities can share manpower and equipment in a efficient manner."

State House, 19th District

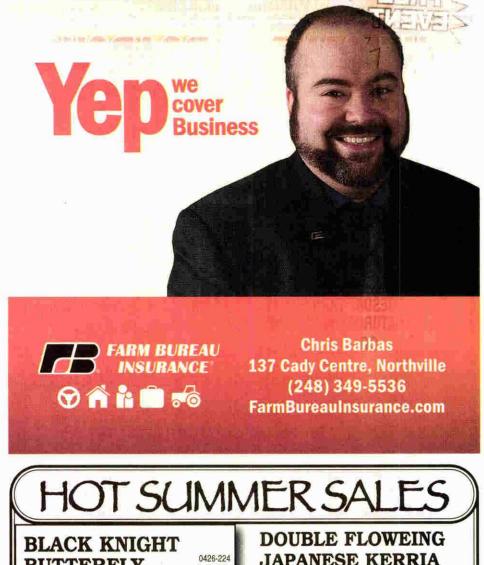
■ Dan Centers, Democrat, Livonia: There is no doubt something needs to be done about our roads and our outdated, crumbling infrastructure. We need to use existing budget surpluses and additional revenue to fix our roads. We cannot wait to act because, as road conditions continue to deteriorate, the more expensive the ultimate solutions will be. It is worth investing now to fix our roads and fix them right. I believe that the corporate community will need to pay their fair to have the dramatic

changes we need."

Laurie Pohutsky, Democrat, Livonia: "A significant source of funding can come from the legalization of recreational marijuana, should it pass in November. I would also like to lower the weight restrictions on trucking companies in Michigan, open the weigh stations to enforce them and put any fines collected back into our roads. I would like to explore alternate sources of funding road repair before we discuss increasing the gas tax again."

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







Do your homework to avoid bad choice in senior housing



Rick Bloom USA TODAY NETWORK -

When I was a kid, when seniors could no longer live by themselves, they had basically two options. They either would move in with family or they went to an "old-folks home." The "old-folks homes" were always on the edge of town and were generally warehouses for people. Unfortunately, the great majority of these places were somewhat depressing and the quality of life was poor, at best.

Fast forward to today and the environment is totally different. Today, we have a wealth of different, very good options that can provide a quality life, from independent living to nursing homes. In fact, some would say we have too many options. But like everything else in our society, because we have so many options, it is important when it comes to senior housing to take your time and do your research to select the

option that best fits your situation.

One of the mistakes people make is making decisions when they are forced to. In other words, people wait too long to make a decision. Then, when they are forced to, they don't have the time to make an informed decision. My recommendation is that the time when you should start doing your homework and look at the various housing options is when you are healthy and have time on your side. That doesn't mean you have to decide to move into a senior housing solution now, but you can begin the process to narrow your search so that it will be easier to make a decision when necessary. Whether it's visiting some senior housing, going to some seminars or doing research on the Internet, the more you learn today will help you make an informed decision in the future.

In analyzing different senior housing, it is important to consider your finances. Unfortunately, senior housing can get expensive. You have to be realistic about what you can afford. Being realistic about your finances will help you narrow your search. In looking at your finances, it is important to take into consideration that — more likely than not — you will sell your current home and free up those assets to assist you. Don't forget that, even if your house is free and clear, there's still a cost to maintain the house such as property taxes, homeowners insurance, repairs and maintenance and utilities.

In addition to finances, it's also important to consider your physical, medical and emotional needs. Not all types of senior housing offer the same services. For example, in an independent living facility, some of the services offered are housekeeping, recreational activities and meals. They generally have very little with regard to health care and assistance in daily living such as dressing and personal care. An assisted living facility, though, typically would provide more support in the health care area, such as assistance in taking medication, nursing and assistance with various activities of daily life.

The bottom line is you have lots of options, more than you've ever had in the past. Although that is beneficial, it does mean you have more of a responsibility to vourself. You need to start your search early, so you can obtain all the necessary information and make the right decision for you. The worst time to make the decision is when you are forced to. Whether you are a senior yourself or are assisting a loved one, start the process sooner rather than later to educate yourself so that, when the time comes when you have to make a decision, you'll be ahead of the game, allowing you to select the right place for you or your loved one.

Good luck!

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

Garden City selected for placemaking grant

The Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, a local trade group representing more than 8,200 Realtors across metro Detroit, recently awarded the city of Garden City's Patronicity campaign with a \$5,000 placemaking grant toward the installation of an outdoor physical fitness court, in conjunction with the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and other partners.

"We are grateful to GMAR for its willingness to help see this project come to fruition. We've nearly raised the \$50,000 to receive the MEDC matching grant for this project, but these last few grant dollars will help us get over the finish line to install this great community asset," Garden City Mayor Randy Walker said.

"GMAR's placemaking grants are really unique because it helps foster an environment where collaboration, from the bottom up, can create vibrant gathering places," said Vickey Livernois, chief executive officer of GMAR. "Garden City has worked diligently to be an attractive city for buyers who are looking for a place to

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belong. This grassroots effort is an ideal placemaking project for us because it's creative and helps instill a greater sense of place amongst Garden City residents."

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FREE HOME

These campers are taking luxuries on the road

Sharon Dargay

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Thousands of travelers are hitting the road this summer and taking the comforts of home with them.

They sleep, cook and entertain in their motor homes, trailers and pop-up campers, at parks, campgrounds, on the beach and in the wilderness.

For at least some of them, their induction into the RV lifestyle started at General RV in Wixom. It's the largest family-owned RV dealership in the country, with 12 locations — a 13th will open by the end of the year — in Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Utah, 1,600 employees and sales that top 17,000 RVs annually.

The flagship store and headquarters along Interstate 96 at Wixom Road stocks 500-600 RVs, maintains 40 service bays for repair and sells accessories, furniture and appliances for mobile living

General RV has come a long way in 65

"We started with a gas station in 1953. My grandfather had a gas station in Redford and one on Five Mile and Meyers (in Detroit). He had the opportunity to sell and make a little more money than pumping gas and thought it was a good avenue to get into," said Loren Baidas, General RV president and a Milford Township resident. His uncle now serves as CEO and a brother-in-law and a cousin's husband also are involved in the family business.

"Back then, dealerships did a lot of different things because the RV market was so small. He sold utility trailers and built utility trailers. There's no blueprint that says this is what you need to run an RV dealership. You learn as you go as to what you need."

Baidas's grandfather and his father figured that investment in employees and customers would set General RV apart from competitors. That meant upgrading facilities, expanding to new markets, training employees and improving the service side of the dealership. The company has added 200 service bays in the last five years alone.

"I don't think there's another RV dealership in the country that has done that," Baidas said. "If you look around, I



Many RVs have bump-outs that significantly increase space when parked. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

think there are a lot of dealers that haven't changed in 10 or 20 years."

Loyal customers

Baidas says most customers that try an RV vacation enjoy the experience. General RV sees generations of customers, two- and three-time buyers, in an increasingly younger market.

"Customers I sold to 15-20 years ago still come back and look for me," he said. "I had a customer yesterday, they bought their third one from us. They bought their first one in 2000. Their kids are grown now, so they are buying one without bunk beds."

Although retirees make up a portion of RV buyers, the largest segment of the market is ages 40-50, according to Baidas

"What we're seeing now for the last three or four years, as the industry has grown, is that number has gone from the 40s to the 30s," he said. "We're getting younger families starting earlier. That has helped fuel the growth of the industry."

According to a University of Michigan study commissioned by the RV Industry Association in 2011 — a new study will be published this year — approximately 10 million households own an RV. Households headed by 35- to 54-year-olds own the largest share of RVs.

Baidas says young families that are more price-conscious may invest in a smaller trailer, but likely will return in a few years to trade up for something with more elbow room.

Pop-up camping trailers are the least expensive at \$6,000 to \$12,000, but represent a small segment of the industry. Most new pop-up units include a stove, refrigerator, sink and furnace, while more expensive models have bathrooms and air conditioners. Travel trailers cost from \$10,000 to \$50,000, depending on size and amenities, and are the most popular.

"A lot of people jump right into a travel trailer, where a fold-down might have been their first choice 10-15 years ago," Baidas said. "A travel trailer is very economical for families. It's the most affordable. You're talking about something under \$200 a month."

Best sellers

Bill Sheffer, executive director of Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds, said RV buyers today "want more space" and find it in a travel trailer.

According to Sheffer, 13,362 new travel trailers were sold in Michigan last year. Fifth-wheel trailers, which are towed by trucks, accounted for 3,762 RV sales and 1,763 new motor homes and 510 new popup trailers were sold. The average price of a motor home sale was \$122,390. The average price of a trailer was \$23,910.



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If you are not into giant RVs, you might consider this teardrop-shaped trailer. You could probably tow this with your Kia. The air-conditioned interior has sleeping space for two. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Approximately 35 percent of General RV's sales is in used RVs.

Buying an RV is similar to buying a house, Baidas said. The online photos won't tell the entire story, so potential buyers should "touch it, feel it, walk through it."

"Out of the available brands in this marketplace, we probably carry 80 percent ... so a customer can look at a \$20,000 travel trailer and we'll have four or five different brands for them to look at," he said.

Like home

A quick tour of General RV's service area, where motor homes and trailers are prepped for their new owners, turns up a \$40,000 trailer with an indoor

See CAMPERS, Page 7A



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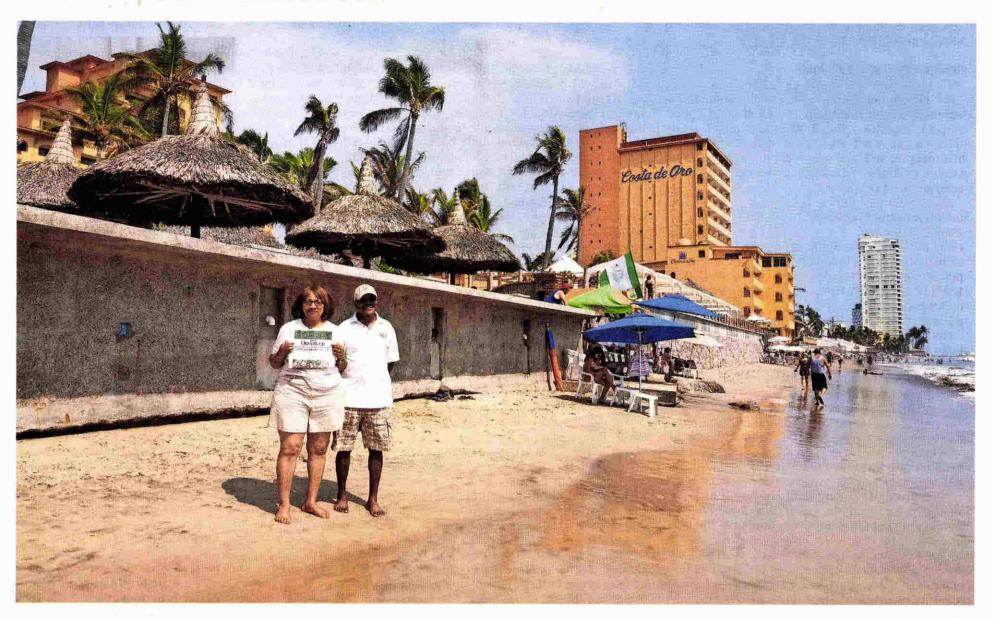
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WISH YOUR WERE HERE



Morse and Arma Brown of Livonia recently vacationed in Mazatlan, Mexico, and took along a copy of the Observer. This picture was taken on the Pacific Ocean at the El Cid Resort. If you have a photo of you on vacation with a copy of the Observer, email LIV-OENewstip@ hometownlife.com.

Campers

Continued from Page 6A

kitchen — including an island — and outdoor kitchen, three slide-outs, a bathroom with shower, master bedroom, bunks for four and theater-style seating in front of the wall-mounted television set.

In another service bay, a \$120,000, 37-foot motor home includes king- and queen-sized beds, laundry area, three television sets indoors and one hidden by a panel on the outside.

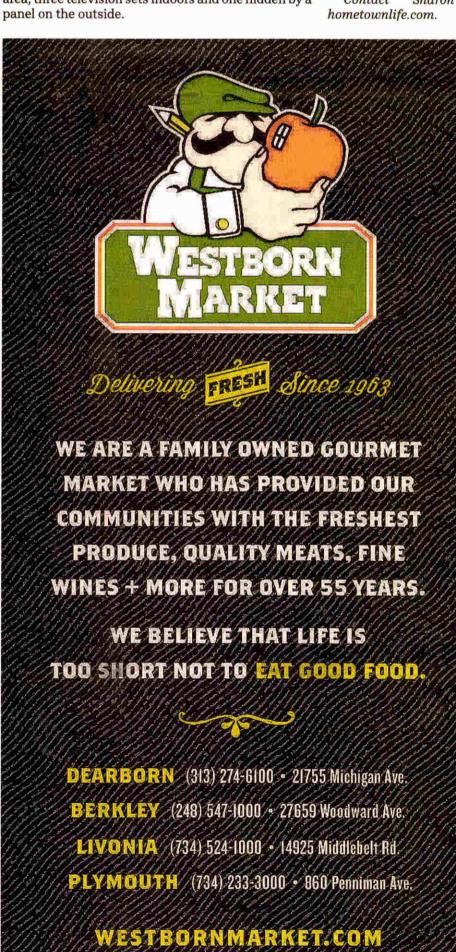
A few bays down, a \$20,000 teardrop-style trailer that appeals to millennials seems to take a cue from the "tiny house" craze, with barely enough room for a bed, a bathroom and cooking area.

Regardless of their size, RVs help families create memories and make new friends, Baidas said.

"RVs are something different for everybody, but there are so many things they can provide," he said. "That's why they have such a broad appeal. It's a remarkable industry."

Contact Sharon Dargay at sdargay@ metownlife.com.







AREA EVENTS

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

Michigan Tastefest at Joe's

Joe's Produce, 33152 W. Seven Mile Road, in Livonia will host a Michigan Tastefest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. The event will include prizes to raffle off and many different vendors with samples to try. There will be a band starting at noon, grilling starting at 11 a.m. and face painting from noon to 2 p.m.

St. Rafka annual festival

St. Rafka Maronite Church, 32765 Lyndon Street, in Livonia will host its fifth annual festival Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4-5. Hours are 4-11:30 p.m. Saturday and 1-8 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

The festival features homemade Middle Eastern food, premium bar, live music, dancing, children's games, giant inflatables, kiddie train, face painting, raffles, oxygen bar, hookah lounge and henna tattoos. Live music will be performed Saturday by 50 Amp Fuse and Emad Batayeh and Sunday by Exit 69 and Usama Baalbaki.

For more information and a complete event schedule, go to www.SaintRafkaFestival.com.

VegMichigan SummerFest

The third annual VegMichigan SummerFest is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5, at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, in

The free, family-friendly event features a huge selection of tasty summertime eats such as burgers, ice cream, dogs and shakes - all plantbased or vegan. Nearly 60 food trucks and vendors will be on-site. Attendees also can enjoy shopping for vegan items, playing sand volleyball, carnival games, a bounce house and more while being entertained by the Hines Drive Band and the award-winning Sun Messengers.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, go to vegmichigan.org.

Ann Arbor Magic Club

The Ann Arbor Magic Club, a club for magicians, meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Senate Coney Island, 34359 Plymouth Road, in Livonia. The next meeting is set for Aug. 8.

The club is open to anyone who has an interest in learning about and/or performing the art of magic. All ages welcome. No admission cost for meetings. Club memberships are available and require an application and start at \$25.

For more information, call 313-910-1041 or began in 1998, is to help a Wayne resident whose

email annarbormagicclub@gmail.com.

Summer camp with Kaykim

Berean Bible Church, 35375 Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia will host a Kaykim Academics Summer Day Kamp from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each weekday through Aug. 10. Campers enjoy hands-on science, interpretive history, cooking, sewing, interactive geography, baseball, basketball, soccer, drama/acting, martial arts, chess, arts and crafts, camp music and games, and more.

Drop-off service and lunch options are availinformation, For more www.kaykimacademics.com.

Author talk at Livonia library

Marylin E. Atkins, former 36th District Court chief judge, will discuss her new book "The Triumph of Rosemary: A Memoir," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road. Atkins will speak about her story and autograph copies of her book. The book is \$22 per copy and is also available on amazon.com in paperback and ebook.

For more information, contact Patty Goonis at 734-466-2481

Livonia GOP Club speaker series

The Livonia Republican Club has announced its inaugural Summer Night Forums speaking series, featuring current and former elected officials on the federal, state, county and municipal level, as well as policy experts on a variety of topics.

The series will be held at the Livonia Victory Center, 33462 Seven Mile Road. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with programs beginning promptly at 7 p.m. The schedule includes:

■ Tuesday, Aug. 14: Ed Haroutunian, founding chairman of the Wayne County Republican Committee, will speak about the structure of the Re-

■ Thursday, Aug. 23: A local issues forum, with a panel that will feature Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams, Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix

These events are free and open to the public, however you must register for tickets via Event-A link can be found www.LivoniaGOP.com.

The city of Wayne 2018 FRIENDS (People Helping People) group is looking for volunteers. FRIENDS will take place Saturday, Sept. 8 (rain date, Sept. 15). The goal of this program, which

home is in need of some care and they are not able to handle the work due to financial or medical reasons.

The day (usually about six hours) starts at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast at the HYPE Recreation Center. Material, equipment, T-shirts and lunch, plus refreshments, are provided onsite. Youth groups are welcome, with one adult for

If you would like to volunteer or need more information, call the Community Development Department at 734-722-2000 or email Albert Damitio at damitioalb@gmail.com.

Bishop Borgess Class of '78

every five youth volunteers.

The Redford Bishop Borgess High School Class of 1978 will hold a 40th reunion dinner dance buffet at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, in Livonia. The cost is \$60 per person and includes cash bar with casual

Send a check or money order, payable to Diane Chiola, to 20712 Fairview, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 or use Pay Pay account http://PayPal.me78

oWestland library book sale

The Friends of the Westland Library will hold the group's next book sale info Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 13-16, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Hours are 3-6 p.m. Thursday (preview sale), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday (bag day, \$4 per bag).

Tail Waggers fundraiser

Tail Waggers 1990, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is hosting its inaugural Cruisin' 4 Critters, a motorcycle fundraiser, Sunday, Sept. 16, at Dick Scott's Freedom Powersports, 36534 Plymouth Road, in Livonia. Registration is 9:30-10:45 a.m., withthe cruise at 11 a.m. Registration costs \$25 per rider or \$35 with a passenger.

The motorcycles will start and end at Freedom Powersports. The Wayne County Sheriff Department will escort the riders for safety on a ride to last approximately 2½ hours. A brief stop at the turnaround will give riders a chance to refuel, use restrooms and get a drink. While pre-registration for the ride is recommended to ensure proper at headcount for the after-party, ride-ins are welcome until 10:45 a.m.

Following the cruise, a picnic-styled after-party will be provided by the Blue Plate Diner of Livonia, featuring a 50/50 drawing, music, vendors and alumni animals. All money raised directly benefits Tail Waggers' animal care services.

For more information or to register for the event, go towww.tailwaggers1990org or call 734-855-40 77. You can also go to www.dickscott powersports.com for information and to register.

Benedictine High reunion

The Benedictine High School Class of 1973 will hold its 45th reunion at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Italian American Banquet & Conference Center, 39200 W. Five Mile Road, Livonia. Late admission for those not participating in the meal will begin at 8 p.m. A cash bar will be available. Musical entertainment will be provided by the popular band Cat Daddy & the 1320s.

Reservations and payment must be received by no later than Sept. 10. Tickets may be pur chased and complete reunion information can be found at www.bennyhigh73.com. Additional information may be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/detroitbennyhigh73 committee emailing the bennyhigh73@att.net; or by calling 734-620-1201.

Memorial Day parade planning

The Wayne Westland Veterans Parade Council will be holding planning meetings for next year's parade, which will be held Sunday, May 26, 2019. The meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of most months at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/veterans.parade council or call 313-576-7268 or 734-355-4569.

Art classes at VAAL

Several art classes and workshops will be held at the Visual Arts Association of Livonia during the summer semester. The art classes at VAAL are all taught by professional artists.

The VAAL classroom is located in the Village Shopping Center at 37653 Five Mile Road. For more information or to receive a schedule of classes, call 734-838-1204 or go to vaalart.org.

Food pantry

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard Road, in Livonia sponsors a food pantry 10-11 a.m. the second Saturday of each month. For more information, call 734-421-8451.

Diabetes support group

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will offer a diabetes support group 1:30-2:30 p.m. the third Friday of each month in 2018. The group meets in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 11. The support group will offer participants an opportunity to meet others living diabetes and learn from one another. To learn more about the program, call 734-655-2868.

pgoonis@livoniapubliclibrary.org.

publican Party in Wayne County.

and Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise.

FRIENDS in Wayne

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on July 15, 2018 with

his family by his side.

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and loving husband to

his wife Caryle. Cher-

ished father to Audrey

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her husband Jay Tee-

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Beck) Plymouth. Vis-

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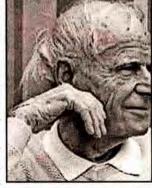
PLYMOUTH - Age

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

David Fitzpatrick

FARMINGTON - passed away on July 20, 2018, at the age of 91. His wife Rosemary preceded him four years earlier. He graduated from St. James High School in Ferndale, Michigan and later from the University of Detroit, where he played quarterback and served as co-captain of the golf team. He enjoyed a long, successful career in sales and marketing. An avid golfer, David was Club Champ at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, Michigan five times. Prior to that, he won Club Champ honors at the Burroughs Course in Brighton six times. He was a



respectably mobile backyard quarterback into his 80's. David took the long way home: he biked, swam, skated, read books, told stories, played bridge, horsed around, instigated, laughed and danced right up to death's door in his 91st year. His was a life of service. He signed up for tours of duty in the Adriatic and on the USS Tomich Destroyer in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He worked on numerous community projects with the Farmington Area Jaycees, coached boxing and grade school football, served as an usher at his home church, taught third-grade catechism, took communion to parishioners unable to make their way to services, and volunteered at hospitals in Florida and Michigan. David is survived by six children: David (Peggy), Mike (Katrina), Paul, Sharon (Russell), Mary, and Dan (Robin); and thirteen grandchildren - Adelle (Bassam), Adina (Leon), Alexandra (Doug), Alex (Kristin), Amy, Austin (Jenny), Chris, Ellen, Matthew, Paul (Katie), Rachel (Steve), Tera(Ryne), and Victor. He is also survived by ten great grandchildren - Alyeska, Aila, Annabelle, Atticus, Bliss, Camdyn, Eden, Gunner, Sean, and Ravi. He taught his offspring (and everyone else in the neighborhood) how to throw a tight spiral, never to lead with their right, how to tell a good story, and that no one eats a bite until mom finishes her first forkful. When everyone else showered their attention on the "adorable" kid in a room, David would engage the shy one in the corner, just to balance things out. He showed his family where to find the courage to cut their own path – one of his pet phrases – when none of the available roads could take them where they needed to go. He reached beyond his personal borders to live a life that touched the world... Visitation will be held from 2:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated, Friday August 10 at 10:00 a.m. (in state 9:30am) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church at 23815 Power Road, Farmington. Memorial donations in memory of David can be made to Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor. https:// www.arborhospice.org/

www.heeney-sundquist.com

HEENEY-SUNDQUIST



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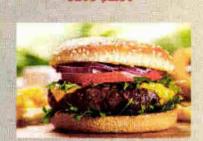
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Sports

HomerownLife.com

50-YEAR REUNION

These Tigers recall their own '68 magic

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Yes, the Detroit Tigers won the 1968 World Series — by and large thanks to the heroics of southpaw Mickey Lolich.

But a few months earlier and about 20 miles west of Tiger Stadium, Garden City West High School was enjoying its very own Year of the Tiger.

And those Tigers also had a tireless pitcher who came through time and time again the way Lolich famously did against the St. Louis Cardinals. Righty Bob Chidester pitched Garden City West to three victories in five days to capture the Les Anders Tournament (which was co-sponsored by the Observer Newspapers).

Memories of that unbelievable season were relived July 20 at the Garden City home of Bob and Debbie Chidester, during the G.C. West Tigers' 50th anniversary reunion.

See TIGERS, Page 3B



Memories of 1968 were stoked by visual aids such as this one, surveyed by Garden City West 1968 baseball players Craig Sylvester (left) and Ray Hannon. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

YOUTH FOOTBALL



It's good! Max Robertson, 7, raises his arms in triumph after kicking the ball at the Sunshine's clinic. His buddy is Plymouth junior Sean Britt. JOHN KEMSKI | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OFF THE CHARTS

Sunshine's Skills and Drills Football Clinic meets special needs

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In just over four short years, Connor Sherman has grown from a diminutive grade school student with shoulder length hair into a tall, strapping high school football player.

Also growing is the Sunshine's Skills and Drills Football Clinic — an idea put forward by the younger Sherman to spread his love of the game with lessfortunate kids.

July 27 at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, an enthusiastic group of Plymouth Wildcats players and coaches "buddied up" with about 35 youngsters with various special needs.

See CLINIC, Page 2B



Carlos Teran, 13, exuberantly competes at one of the stations during the Sunshine's Skills and Drills Football Clinic. JOHN KEMSKI | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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JUNIOR GOLF

Top junior players set to attack Forest Lake Country Club

Marty Budner

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Some of the are's top golfers are set to compete in the American Junior Golf Association tournament to be played Monday through Thursday, Aug. 6-9, at Forest Lake Country Club.

The sixth annual national junior tournament will include more than 95 male and female golfers ages 12-19 battling for top honors in the 54-hole event.

Northville's Jimmy Dales and Birmingham's Henry Scavone are two of the top male players expected to be title contenders. West Bloomfield's Makaela Schulz and Northville's Abigail Livingston figure to be two of the top female contenders.

Dales, who graduated from Northville High School in June, tied for medalist honors in the recent MHSAA state tournament with Grosse Pointe South's Patrick Sullivan, as each carded 143. Sullivan, who will also play in the AJGA, defeated Dales in a playoff for the individual state title June 8-9 at The Meadows Golf Course at Grand Valley State University.

Scavone, a Seaholm graduate, helped lead the Maples to a third-place team finish at last season's D-1 state meet. The Carnegie Mellon University-bound linker was Seaholm's low scorer at 151. Scavone tied for 18th in last year's tournament at Forest Lake.

In the girls field, Schulz and Livingston both competed in the MHSAA girls state championship tournament, held at Grand Valley in October 2017.

Schulz, who will be a senior this year at Bloomfield Hills, finished fourth at the state meet and helped lead the Black Hawks to a seventh-place team finish. She was named the 2017 Golf Association of Michigan's Junior Girls Player of the Year.

Livingston, a 2018 Novi graduate, qualified for states as an individual.

The defending champions are Ohio native Cade Breitenstine, a high school junior-to-be who has committed to Kent State University, and Iowa native Britta Snyder. A high school junior-to-be and Baylor University commit, Snyder set a girls division tournament rec-

See JUNIORS, Page 2B

Continued from Page 1B

ord last year with 4-over 217.

Other Michigan players in the field include Brian and Eric Marx from Bloomfield Hills, Coalter Smith and Evan Theros from Grosse Pointe and Troy resident and recent Brother Rice graduate Brendan O'Rourke. Anika Dy, a University of Michigan commit from Traverse City, is another title contender in the girls field. Bloomfield Hills resident Marlo Hudson will also compete.

The AJGA tournament at Forest Lake, presented by Tom Holzer Ford, includes entrants from 14 states and two foreign countries. It begins Aug. 6 with a Junior-Am Fundraising Tournament and continues over the next three days with stroke play.

First-round play begins 7 a.m. Aug. 7 at Forest Lake's No. 1 tee with action going to 12:10 p.m. The awards ceremony takes place approximately 5 p.m. Aug. 9.

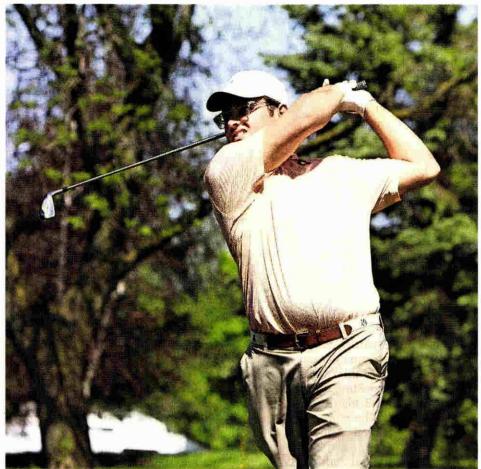
Forest Lake Country Club is located at 1401 Club Drive in Bloomfield Hills, one mile west of Telegraph, just south of Square Lake Road. Guests are welcome and admission is free.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.



Mikaela Schulz, who will be a senior this year at Bloomfield Hills and is the 2018 Michigan Junior Amateur champion, is entered in the AJGA tournament set for Aug. 6-9 at Forest Lake Country Club. GREG JOHNSON

The AJGA tournament at Forest Lake, presented by Tom Holzer Ford, includes entrants from 14 states and two foreign countries.



Jimmy Dales, who graduated from Northville High School in June, figures to be a top male contender in the upcoming AJGA tournament at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Township. BILL KHAN I LIVINGSTON DAILY

Clinic

Continued from Page 1B

In addition to Plymouth-Canton, participants came from Livonia, Novi, Ann Arbor and Downriver, among other locations.

"When I was in fourth grade, my teacher created a project called Miracle Hour," said Sherman, now 14 and gearing up for ninth grade at Plymouth High School. "Where we get to do something we're passionate about and turn it into a project.

"I love football and I thought it'd be great idea to give a chance to give a chance for everyone to play football, as in the special-needs kids out here."

In a week or so, Sherman will officially begin his Wildcats football career. He intends to play both quarterback and defensive back.

Let's keep doing this

But he looked like one of the team's coaches July 27, wearing a green "Sunshine's" T-shirt and going around the gridiron talking to his visitors as they moved around to four stations (passing, running, kicking and blocking).

"It's amazing. It wouldn't be possible without the sponsorships and all the kids coming back," Sherman said. "I just feel they really enjoy it and think it's a great night. And I just want them to keep having that experience every year, over and over."

He didn't have to look far to see examples of that football joy. Near the 50yard line, 13-year-old youngster Carlos Teran was wowing his buddy (Lucas Holden) with some sharp, accurate spirals. On one snap, Carlos expertly followed his blocker for a nifty gain.

(Carlos) likes to throw a lot," said the 17-year-old Holden, a junior expected to play linebacker and tight end. "He just loves to play catch. He pretty much loves all sports, too, especially football. He's pretty cool.

"I love the Sunshine's camp. It's fun seeing everybody just playing and having fun, meeting all these new kids. It's really cool."

They love it

Over at the nearby running station was Plymouth junior Seth Humm, teamed up with 6-year-old Kalem

"He is one of the best players out here, personally," Humm said. "He can throw the ball, he can run the ball and he's very quick.

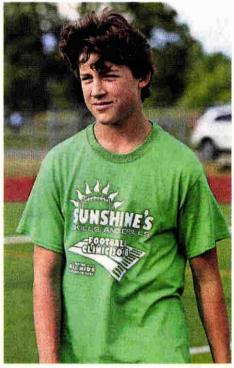
"It's very exciting to be working with Kalem. It makes everyone happy to see this kid come out here and experience what we get to experience on a daily basis."

Plymouth senior Hunter LeForge, meanwhile, noted how much the Sunshine's participants change from year to year. A number of them have taken part on a repeat basis.

"I saw my previous kid (from last year's clinic) earlier and it's really fun seeing how they change and how they grow up," LaForge said. "And I just love seeing everyone come together and be a family like we are on the football field in front of other people.

"And it helps the community out. I think it's cool."

Sherman's right-hand man once again was Plymouth offensive coordina-



Connor Sherman, entering his freshman year at Plymouth, is the brainchild behind the annual Sunshine's Skills and Drills Football Clinic. JOHN KEMSKI | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The evening was all about smiles and friendship as shown here in this "buddy moment" between Max Reid (left) and Plymouth player Billy Salamey. JOHN KEMSKI I SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Varsity players hold up blocking dummies for clinic participants to push against. JOHN KEMSKI I SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tor Brian Rochon, who stressed how important the contributions from community members and businesses have been to keep the Sunshine's magic going.

"We've had so much support from the community and support from parents," Rochon said. "People within our program are always willing to help. Our kids are tremendous and they look at this as a chance to give back.

"To be able to do this for five consecutive years and have the support and turnout we have is a testament to the Plymouth-Canton community, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and everybody that's been helpful with it."

Rising up

Rochon provides continuity, not just for the Sunshine's clinic, but for the Wildcats. On the staff of first-year head coach Brian Lewis, he remains in the same role he had under former coach Mike Sawchuk, who recently stepped down due to personal reasons.

He also couldn't help but notice the change in Sherman.

"Connor's grown about eight inches in the last year or so," Rochon said. "We actually saw a picture of him at Sunshine's last year with me and his dad and he was below me (in height).

"And now he's very much not below me. So that's a little depressing, but good for him."

The fact that Sherman has grown in stature and maturity is something that Rochon and other coaches have come to expect from all Plymouth Wildcats football players.

"This is what we're more concerned about," Rochon said. "Obviously, every

high school coach and every high school player, no matter their sport, wants to win games and be successful.

"But we really believe in, and it's kind of a cliche, the idea of turning boys into men. And creating successful husbands, fathers, employees and members of the community.

"Regardless of we're 9-0 or 0-9, we look at the smiles that we're able to put on kids' faces and how our players mature and grow into their roles as young men. That's what we're most proud of as a staff."

Sherman's successful "Sunshine's" clinic has to rank near the top of the list,

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Tigers

Continued from Page 1B

More than baseball

It wasn't about baseball as much as it was about reuniting with old friends. The bodies moved slower, with many of the players featuring graying or thinning hair. Yet their eyes gleaned with youthful delight when looking back on the big hits, pitches and wins that filled scorecards in 1968.

"It is (like a family reunion). He's really been looking forward to it," Debbie Chidester said, nodding in her husband's direction. "I've heard stories about the team throughout our marriage and it's a really nice thing that he's been able to get ahold of all these people."

Seven of the 1968 varsity team's 15 players (along with head coach Bob Dropp) traveled from near and far to attend the shindig. Junior varsity players Pat McHugh and Steve Pummill, both sophomores in '68, also attended.

A catalyst for the reunion was thenoutfielder Al Poland, who now lives in Springfield, Mo.

"I ended up contacting everybody but two kids from the team. We've had two kids that passed away (Craig Wilson, Gary Woodside)," Poland said. "That was sad. And Jim Furay, he's just in a really bad way with cancer; he lives down in Houston.

"When I talked to (Furay), you just got to start crying and everything. It's just sad, you know? I said to him, 'We're going to have it in July.' He said, 'Al, I'll just be happy if I'm alive.' That's the realities of 50 years ago and us being 16-17 years old at that time."

Unable to travel to Garden City were Furay, Ray Anderson, Carl Dork, Randy Williams and Jerry LaCross. Efforts to reach Chuck Evans were unsuccessful.

'Amazing' reunion

Furay was part of a one-two pitching punch for Dropp's squad, with "Cheddy' Chidester the unquestioned ace. Other top players included outfielder Ray Hannon and the double-play combination of shortstop Bill Harrison and second baseman Craig Sylvester.

"I didn't have a lot of expectations (for the reunion) because I didn't know how it was going to be received," Poland said, choking up with emotion. "And all these people here, it's great."

Happily concurring was infielder Ken Pierce, along with everybody else at the

"It's pretty amazing when you think about it, this many guys come in for it," said Pierce, who still lives in the Detroit area. "Just to see everybody again, it's just incredible.

'You do think back. ... I don't feel like a kid. But we all went through this together, which was fun. We had a great time doing it. Even though it (G.C. West) folded, we left a great legacy."

A lot of that legacy had to do with the Les Anders Tournament, dominated on the mound by the 5-foot-9 Chidester.

"He was the type of kid who would say, 'Give me the ball, I'll take it,'" Dropp said, not needing much prodding. "And he ended up with a 10-2 record and that's a lot of games."

Sylvester also gave props to Chidester: "Yep, rubber arm. Nothing was going to stop him."

On a mission

In the Les Anders championship game, at Ford Field in Livonia, Garden City West edged Livonia Bentley by a

4-3 score. "I remember we were ahead the whole game and, after pitching that much the last inning, I was getting tired," Chidester said. "A couple guys on the bench were rubbing my arm, saying, 'You can do it, you can make it through

"They got a couple guys on, coach (Dropp) came out and I said, 'I'm OK.' We got out of the inning and won the

Such banter about the best year in the relatively short history of Garden City West (which closed in 1982, when the district went to one high school, on Middlebelt Road) filled the air July 20.

"Baseball was everything back then." Ron Michaud said. "Did we play other sports? Sure. But as far as what baseball meant to the people, I think that was king, for the most part. It was fun.

"I actually hit a homer, quite a ways over the fence. I wasn't that good a hitter, let's put it that way. ... Some kid that had a lot of junk and I waited on the ball and unloaded on it."

A banner season

Large banners from the Les Anders and Tri-River Conference championships hung on the garage, as did a larger Year of the Tigers banner - a nod to how



Seven 1968 Garden City West baseball players and their coach were on hand for the July 20 reunion. Standing (from left) are coach Bob Dropp, Bob Chidester, Ron Michaud, Craig Sylvester, Ray Hannon, Ken Pierce and Bill Harrison. Seated is Al Poland. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The reunion of Garden City West High School's 1968 baseball team gave old friends a chance to look back at old newspaper clippings and photos of that season. In the background is the Tri River Conference championship trophy. TOM BEAUDOIN I SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

there were two championship teams that summer with the same nickname.

Dropp joked about being a first baseman on the squad, before setting the record straight. He went on to eventually become athletic director at the future Garden City High School (following the merger of G.C. West and G.C. East).

"Back then, they used wooden bats and we played in pastures," Dropp said. "The field went on forever. There were very few home run fences. And there were a lot of new schools. Tri-River was a really, really good eight-team league.

The neat thing about this team is that we tied with Southgate High School with 10-4 overall records for the (league) championship. We won the Les Anders (tournament), which was our area. (Southgate) actually won the Downriver (tourney), which was their area. That in itself shows how good the Tri-River League was at that time."

Underscoring the area's competitive muscle was the Observer's 1968 All-Star team, which included Chidester, Furay and future Detroit Tigers catcher Bill Fahey (Redford Union).

In 1968, there was no Michigan High School Athletic Association championship tournament (the first champion was crowned in 1971). So the Tigers competed for larger bragging rights at the Tournament of Winners in Wyandotte, falling 3-2 to Utica in the title match-up.

Top sport in town

Dropp and others talked about how rich a baseball community Garden City and surrounding cities were back in the

"Back then, all the populations were really there in terms of high school," Dropp said. "Garden City West, we probably had 1,600 kids. East had 1,600 kids, we had four junior high schools to work from. Livonia was the same way. We did have good baseball players."

Most every summer during the 1960s, Garden City youngsters were friends first, baseball players second.

"We grew up in a Garden City where baseball was big, growing up as kids," Bob Chidester said. "It was huge, Little Leagues and Connie Mack and Babe Ruth and all of that. It really made a great baseball atmosphere. And so when we all went to high school at East and West, they had good teams back then, both high schools.

"Coach Dropp will tell you the same thing, it's because of the program Garden City (Parks and Recreation) had at the time. They had a lot of good ballplay-

"All of us played Little League in Garden City together," said Poland, who graduated in 1969 and stayed in Garden City to pursue a potential junior hockey career. "And on up, whether East or West, in our one -or two-year age group. We were all such good friends. I think that's what made this, that people wanted to get together."

After his hockey dream came to an unsuccessful end (he played in an amateur league spearheaded by Mrs. Hockey, Colleen Howe), Poland attended college and played baseball at Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. He also lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, where his wife's family lived at the time.

Ultimately, Poland went back to Evangel University and coached the baseball team there. But Garden City always remained in his heart.

And while driving back to Springfield following the 2017 East/West combined reunion, Poland started to think about



From left are 1968 Garden City West Tigers baseball players Ron Michaud, Al Poland and Ray Hannon. Poland was instrumental in the 50th reunion of the team, which took place July 20 in Garden City. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Talking about the Year of the Tiger are Garden City West 1968 baseball ace Bob Chidester (left) and that team's coach, Bob Dropp. The reunion was hosted by the Chidesters. TOM BEAUDOIN I SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

getting the baseball band back together.

Taking action

"We started to talk about the 50th reunion and things started to dawn on me that, 'Hey, that baseball team when I was a junior, that was pretty much the best baseball team that West ever had during its history," Poland said. "Be-cause we had won the league and we didn't have a state tournament at the time. They were trying to get it off the ground.

"So they had this thing called the Les Anders Tournament and we just played so well and won that tournament. Surprised a lot of people."

During an 11-hour drive, Poland convinced himself that it would be "pretty cool to see if I could get everybody together and see if we could pull it off. So I contacted Ray Hannon on Facebook, a good friend of mine in high school, and he thought, 'That's a good idea.' Then I texted coach Dropp."

Everything came together, perhaps better than Poland and his Tigers teammates envisioned.

Even the forecasted thunderstorms darted away from Garden City, like a Cheddy curveball.

"It's great. I'm glad Al Poland put it together," Hannon said. "We played ball together for about probably seven straight summers, fantastic."

That word aptly described a backyard gathering that even the 1968 Detroit Tigers would have been thrilled to

If you have a compelling story to tell, contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter @TimSmith_Sports.

Healthy twist: These hockey players (and vets) dig yoga

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

During their years serving in the United States military, both Josh Krajewski and Mike McTaggart had a band of brothers to bond with during intense battles and moments of solitude.

Now a decade or more removed from active duty, both men still deal with acute back pain and times of darkness. They also are literally skating out of the shadows with their new "band" - the Michigan Warriors veterans hockey program.

"Michigan Warriors is about continuing that brotherhood we had in the service and continuing that when we get home," said Krajewski, a Livonia resident and president of the Warriors.

There's literally a twist, too. Thanks to the Michigan Yoga Room (which has studios in Plymouth and Northville), when the word "stretch" comes up in a conversation, they won't automatically think of the long outlet pass that sparks an offensive rush.

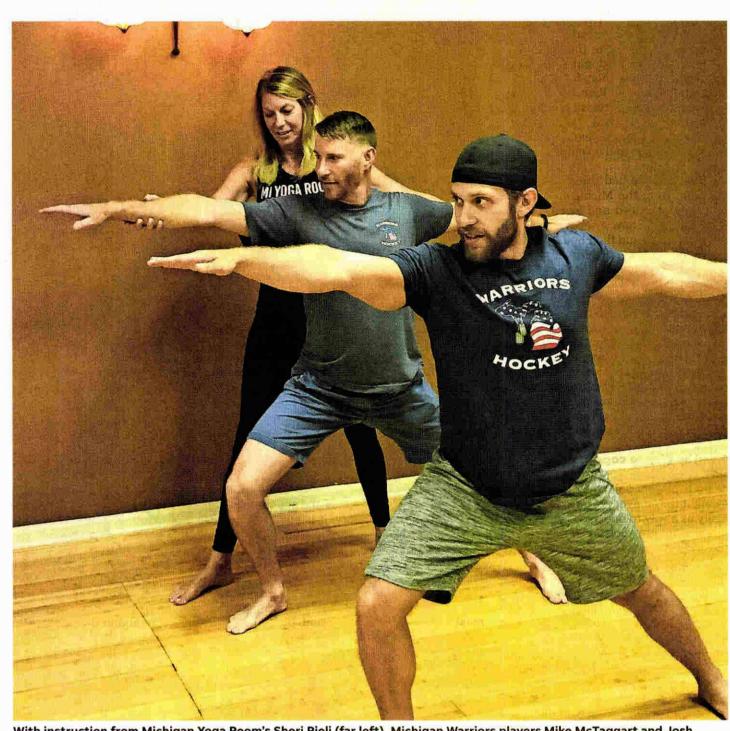
Krajewski (U.S. Army, 2005-09) and McTaggart (U.S. Marines, 1998-2002) were at the downtown Plymouth yoga studio founded by Brent and Sheri Rieli on July 27 to receive a check for \$850 to help members of the Warriors either pay for their ice time or attend Michigan Yoga Room classes.

They both plan on making return trips to the Rielis' yoga studios and bring some Warriors teammates with them.

'We're a community-driven organization," Krajewski said. "Our veterans don't pay anything to participate in our program, on the ice, off the ice, whatever it may be.

"We try to keep it at no cost to veterans. so this donation that we received today, it's going to help keep our veterans on the ice longer and it's going to

See YOGA, Page 5B



With instruction from Michigan Yoga Room's Sheri Rieli (far left), Michigan Warriors players Mike McTaggart and Josh Krajewski (foreground) work on a yoga stance. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Yoga

Continued from Page 4B

help our veterans continue to practice yoga here."

Benefits body and mind

The money was raised in Plymouth on July 4, when several Warriors players also took advantage of complimentary classes served up for free by the Rielis.

"We had all our students donate money and we paid for the teachers to come in for free and donated the funds to the Michigan Warriors for the hockey program," said Brent Rieli, a teacher of a modern-day form of classical Indian yoga (Ashtanga Vinyasa). "We try to do this a couple times a year, charities to donate money to and do charity classes for.

"That day we had three of the vets come in, from the Michigan Warriors, and they practiced and loved it. They were telling us how awesome they felt after that class and their bodies still feel better and more pain-free than they have in a long time. So they really benefited in a lot of ways."

Money donated to the foundation will perhaps entice Warriors players to check out Michigan Yoga Room, where specials include \$39 for 30 days and 20 percent off for those ages 22 and under.

"It's not just a physical practice, it's a physical, mental, emotional and, for some people, spiritual practice," Sheri Rieli said. "It's all what you want it to be, what you make it, what you put into it."

Healthy way to cope

Both players said they never really thought they'd ever get into yoga, especially as a way to manage their pain.

Yoga not only bolsters bodies, it can help military veterans wrest free of the hold that post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury often has on them

"For me, ever since I got out, I've been trying to heal up my back," said McTaggart, who has been bothered for years by herniated discs. "Some stuff has worked, some stuff hasn't. I never thought to try yoga before. I've tried a lot of medications, chiropractors, physical therapy.

"Stuff seemed to work for a little bit, but then it'd come back," he added.



Mike McTaggart (left) and Josh Krajewski of the Michigan Warriors military veterans hockey team are all smiles after receiving a check for \$850 from Michigan Yoga Room in Plymouth. The yoga studio had a July 4 fundraiser for the hockey organization. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"This is the first time my back's felt good in over three years. Obviously, yoga works."

And during a time when many Americans are turning to steroids and opioids to deal with their misery, it is good to know there is another way to cope.

"The medical associations have just come out the last couple years showing that for short-term and long-term back pain, that yoga should be first in line before opioids and things like that, that mask the pain," Brent Rieli said.

"Other forms of therapies are so much better than pills any day," McTaggart said. "And this seems to be one of the best."

Fits their mission

Added Krajewski: "Yoga wasn't nec-

essarily ever on my radar or on the radar of the (Warriors) program. But coming in here on July 4 and coming to the class and seeing the benefits, the immediate benefits, is something we're going to try to push more to our veterans off the ice, so they can continue their training in a healthy and active lifestyle."

According to its website, the Michigan Warriors is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization "created for charitable and recreational activities, namely, providing an educational and developmental hockey program for disabled veterans and to participate in volunteer community services."

There are about 145 players currently in the southeast Michigan chapter, which includes metro Detroit and goes as far west as Albion and Jackson.

The team's home rink is Arctic Edge

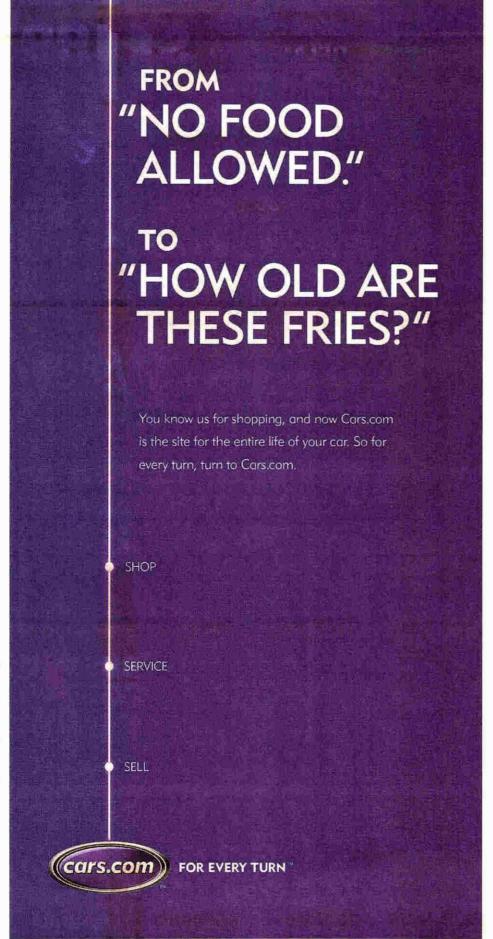
Arena in Canton and there are a handful of annual benefit games against teams composed of community policemen and firefighters.

Arctic Edge donates ice team to the Warriors, something that causes McTaggart to shake his head.

"They work really good with us," McTaggart said. "It's a really, really good facility."

For more information about the Michigan Warriors, go to www.miwarriors.com; to get info on the Michigan Yoga Room, go to www.MIYogaRoom.com.

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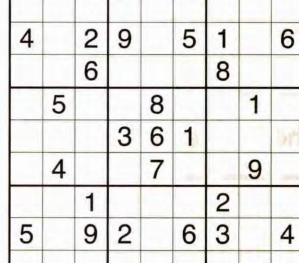
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93 Incident



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



WORDS

AFTERMARKET **AIRHEADS** ANTI-DIVE **APEX** BACKBONE BACKWARMER BACKYARD BAFFLE BAGGER BIKER BLOCK BOBBER **BROTHER** CAGER CAN CHASSIS CHOPPER CITIZEN CLUB COLORS CRUISER DOME DO-RAG DOUGHNUT FISHTAILING GAUGES HACK HELMET HOG INK

> KICKSTAND **LEATHERS**

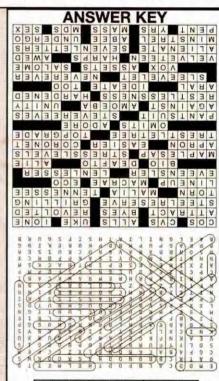
ORGAN DONOR PIPES

SISSY BAR

SUSPENSION

Posting Date:

Reports To:



1	9	6	3	9	1	Þ	2	8
t	8	3	9	1	2	6	1	9
1	9	2	t	6	8	1	9	3
3	6	9	2	1	9	8	Þ	L
8	Þ	9	L	9	3	1	6	2
2	L	1	6	8	t	3	9	9
9	2	8	1	Þ	L	9	3	6
9	1	1	9	3	6	2	8	t
6	3	t	8	2	9	9	1	1

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

Notice of Position Opening External Part Time Campus Police Officer (£013-18)

Posting Date: July 2, 2018 • Reports To: District Director, Public Safety • Grade / Level: Non Union (\$20.00 per hour) Applications will be accepted until positions are filled

Summary of Dutles:
Under the direction of the Director of Public Safety, law enforcement work involving the protection of life and property, and the enforcement of laws and ordinances on all property owned and operated by Wayne County Community College District Employees may be designated to represent the police department in various uniform and non-uniform capacities. MODLES sworm police officer will perform all related duties including, but not limited to, patrolling on foot or by vehicle, college property and on the public way adjacent to all college owned or controlled property by prevent and discover the commission of crimes; enforce State and Federal lows, enforce traffic regulations; conduct investigations on criminal offenses and traffic accidents to gather evidence, obtain witnesses and make arrests; provide documentation and testimony to Judicial Board and courts; and provide general security for college properties and citizens on campus to insure a safe environment for all.

- Must be a high school graduate, or equivalent, Associates Degree preferred General Requirements Must be MCOLES certified. Previous experience as an MCOLES police officer preferred.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen, at least 21 years of age. Possession of a valid driver's license

- Ability to work as a learn player in a multi-cultural diverse working environment. Experience with multi-cultural students and staff preferred. Each applicant must meet the minimum employment standards for Police Officers as established by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229-150169-.00.html

801 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226 Or e-mail your resumes to: jobs@wcccd.edu

Additional Requirements:
Successful candidate must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Applicants are subject to a background check facriminal convictions; a drug/alcohol dependency test (medical) will be conducted as a condition of employment. Please reference this staffing number on all documents: E013-18 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H/V Mail Resume to: Wayne County Community College District, Attention: Human Resources,

126

Police Authority Officer I Internal / External **Part Time**

(E014-18) July 2, 2018

District Director, Public Safety Non Union (\$15.00 per hour)

Grade / Level: Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. **Summary of Duties:**

Summary of Duties:

Campus Safety Officers perform specialized safety/ security activities including enforcement of college regulations, vehicular and foot patrol of college property. Under the direction of the shift supervisor, conducts preliminary investigations (gather evidence and obtain witnesses information, and submit written reports), answer calls and complaints and provide assistance to students, faculty and staff, including assisting with jump starting vehicles. Personal escorts, provides directions/ information, lock/unlock classroom doors, and perform other related duties as assigned. Issue parking violations and enforce the college's parking procedures. Observes and reports unsafe equipment or areas on the campus. Assist in communication/ control center, monitoring CCTV, alarm system, access control, taking students ID cards, and assist with all other dispatch / communication duties as needed. Officers may also assist law enforcement officers in the performance of their legal duties, including the investigation and apprehension of suspects in criminal matters. Performs other their legal duties, including the investigation and apprehension of suspects in criminal matters. Performs other work –related duties as requested.

Education:

Previous graduation from an accredited Police Training or a P.A. 330 accredited academy, and received a Police Officer training program, including receiving instruction on Use of Force policy. Bachelor Degree in criminal justice or related field preferred.

Experience: Previous Law Enforcement experience with an MCOLES Police agency or equivalent experience with P.A. 330 certified Police Agency.Ten (10) years of previous corporate security experience and an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice may be considered.

Additional Requirements: Successful candidate must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Applicants are subject to a background check for criminal convictions; a drug/alcohol dependency test (medical) will be conducted as a condition of employment. Applicants are subject to a background check for criminal convictions; a drug/alcohol dependency test (medical) will be conducted as a condition of employment. Possession or ability to obtain a CPL license and must be currently P. A. 330 certified or eligible for P. A. 330 certification. Please reference this staffing number on all documents: E014-18

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H/V Mail Resume to:

Wayne County Community College District, Attention: Human Resources, 801 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226 Or e-mail your resumes to: jobs@wcccd.edu

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 86th DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ANTRIM

WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, a Michigan Co-partnership,

Plaintiff,

File No. 18-1796-SP-3

Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

MARK R. JOHNSTON and CHRISTINA M. JOHNSTON.

Defendants.

YOUNG, GRAHAM & WENDLING, PC By: Nicole E. Essad (P80791) Attorneys for Plaintiff 104 E. Forest Home Ave., P.O. Box 398 Bellaire MI 49615 (231) 533-8635

COMPLAINT FOR POSSESSION AFTER LAND CONTRACT FORFEITURE

The plaintiff states:

- 1. Attached to this complaint is a copy of the land contract and a copy of the forfeiture notice showing when and how it was served.
- 2. The plaintiff is the seller and the defendants are the purchasers in a certain land contract described in the attached forfeiture notice and are in possession of the land described in the notice.
- 3. The plaintiff has a right to recover possession of the property for nonpayment of money required to be paid under the contract: Original selling price \$17,900.00; principal balance due \$15,421.35; total amount in arrears \$2,860.00. Last payment on April 5, 2017. Interest at 11% paid to April 5, 2017.
- 4. The land contract was forfeited in accordance with the terms of the land contract. 5. The plaintiff asks for a judgment of possession and costs and asks the court to issue an eviction order according to law.
- 6. There is no other pending or unresolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence alleged in this complaint.

Dated: May 16, 2018

Nicole E. Essad (P80791)

Published: July 26, August 2 & 9, 2018

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 86th DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ANTRIM

WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, a Michigan Co-partnership,

Plaintiff.

File No. 18-1796-SP-3

Hon, Thomas J. Phillips

MARK R. JOHNSTON and CHRISTINA M. JOHNSTON.

Defendants.

YOUNG, GRAHAM & WENDLING, PC By: Nicole E. Essad (P80791) Attorneys for Plaintiff 104 E. Forest Home Ave., P.O. Box 398 Bellaire MI 49615 (231) 533-8635

SUMMONS Landlord-Tenant/Land Contract

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are

- 1. Plaintiff has filed a complaint against you and wants to recover possession, after land contract forfeiture, of Plainfield Parcel #2, Section 31, T30N, R5W, Star Township, Antrim County Michigan; Parcel No.: 05-13-031-002-10.
- You are summoned to be in the district court on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. at 1905 Courthouse Lower Level.
- You have the right to a jury trial. If you do not demand a jury trial and pay the required jury fee in your first defense response, you will lose this right.
- If you are in district court on time, you will have an opportunity to give the reasons why you feel you should not be evicted. Bring witnesses, receipts, and other necessary papers
- If you are not in district court on time, you may be evicted without a trial and a money judgment may be entered against you.

Dated: May 17, 2018

Published: July 26, August 2 & 9, 2018

Cynthia Visnaw, Court Clerk



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With Coupon. Expires 8/31/2018.

Up To

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 86th DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ANTRIM

WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, a Michigan Co-partnership,

Plaintiff,

File No. 18-1796-SP-3 Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

MARK R. JOHNSTON and CHRISTINA M. JOHNSTON.

Defendants.

YOUNG, GRAHAM & WENDLING, PC By: Nicole E. Essad (P80791) Attorneys for Plaintiff 104 E. Forest Home Ave., P.O. Box 398 Bellaire MI 49615 (231) 533-8635

ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

A complaint for possession after land contract forfeiture was filed in this Court by

Plaintiff Woodland Development Company on May 16, 2018.

THE COURT FINDS that service of process upon the Defendants, Mark R. Johnson and Christina M. Johnston cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the Defendants actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED service of the Summons and Complaint and a copy of this Order shall

be made by the following methods: First class mail to Mark R. Johnston, 33109 Hennepin St., Garden City, Michigan 48135 and to Christina M. Johnston, 33109 Hennepin St., Garden City, Michigan, 48135; and publication in a newspaper of general circulation in/around Garden City, Michigan.

A copy of this Order Regarding Alternate Service shall be published once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Garden City Observer, a newspaper of general circulation in Garden City, Michigan, that is hereby designated as most likely to give notice to the Defendant, pursuant to MCR 2.106(D)(1).

Dated: June 27, 2018

Hon. Thomas J. Phillips District Court Judge

Published: July 26, August 2 & 9

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GIFT CARD: \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system. Shipping and Handling Fee applies. SENSORS: Up to 15 sensors free for pre-wired homes or up to 7 wireless sensors free. No substitutions allowed. Labor charges may apply, BASIC SYSTEM: 599 Parts and Install. 36-Month Mornitroing Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64), 24-Month Mornitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$67.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, ADT Pulse: ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible on the ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. Or may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required from ADT Pulse Video: \$58.99 per month, (\$2,123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP), EGNERAL: For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply, additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitoring Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purch



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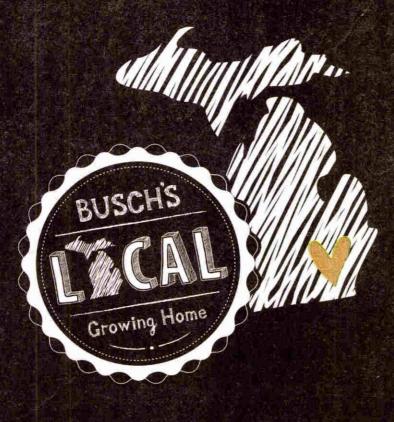
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DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/15/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2018 and purchase by 9/15/2018. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) 40% off and 12 months no money down, no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 7/29/2018 and 9/15/2018. Discounted windows and patio doors are of equal or lesser value. Additional \$50 off per window or patio door when you set your appointment by 8/31/2018 and purchase by 9/15/2018, taken after initial discount(s), no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.



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