



Franklin coach off the football sidelines this Friday

SPORTS, 1B

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OBSERVER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Protesters call for police reforms in Westland

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

About 25 people in Westland on Friday decried what they say is a pattern of police misconduct and bias against black residents and visitors. With signs that called for justice, de-

clared that "Black lives matter" and, in one case, pleaded, "Stop police brutality," protesters chanted and marched in a tight oval in front of city hall before announcing a warming of relations with police as well as plans to keep tabs on their actions.

It was the third demonstration in reaction to police officers' use of a Taser

on two black men during their arrests last summer. A larger march between city hall and Westland Police Department headquarters had been planned, and a protest spokeswoman said "we still have the march in our pocket" if activists aren't satisfied with police reforms.

"The culture in Westland has to

change," said Crystal Linton of the Inkster/Western Wayne County chapter of the National Action Network.

"Things need to start from the top down," said Will Miller, the chapter president.

Activists said Police Chief Jeff Jedru-

See **PROTEST, Page 3A**



Ryan Karr, of Canton, says that the time for the Ironman is now, before he marries and begins a family. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

20 Michigan athletes take on Kona Ironman

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Imagine seeing God and swearing at him simultaneously.

Rabid triathletes insist there indeed is that double-tracked response to pouring body and soul into the intense training needed to reach the summit of triathlon competition — the 40th annual Ironman World Championship, set for Oct. 13 in Kona, Hawaii.

See **IRONMAN, Page 8A**



Nikki Derrick poses at Island Lake State Recreation Area before the T-Rex triathlon series. Read inside about how Derrick is honoring her longtime friend Karen Perzyk, who died in January, by wearing her number at Kona. SUBMITTED

Officer charged in prisoner death is fired

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Westland police sergeant was fired Oct. 4, the same day he and two former paramedics were formally charged in the December death of a man in police custody.

A statement from Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said Ronald Buckley was dismissed after an internal investigation determined he failed to follow departmental policies in the treatment of William Marshall.

Marshall, 35, died Dec. 10, 2017, after being arrested that morning on suspicion of driving with a suspended license and marijuana and cocaine possession. He went into convulsions while in the city's police lockup and was eventually taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The Wayne County medical examiner's office determined he died of cocaine toxicity.

Buckley, the watch commander on duty at the time, and former paramedics Matt Discosola and Leah Maynard are each charged with involuntary manslaughter and misconduct in office. They were arraigned Oct. 4 in 20th District Court in Dearborn Heights, where Judge Mark Plawecki entered not-guilty pleas for them. They were released on personal bonds.

In a press conference Monday, county Prosecutor Kym Worthy said Buckley, Maynard and Discosola neglected to provide Marshall with proper medical attention despite his pleas and calls from others in the lockup to help him.

All three have waived a probable cause conference and a preliminary hearing is set for Dec. 17.

Buckley's attorney, Kevin Simowski, said he expects the former sergeant to be exonerated.

"We believe the evidence will show Mr. Buckley did not violate any law, and in fact did what he was supposed to do," Simowski said Thursday.

The city in May agreed to a multi-million-dollar settlement with relatives of Marshall.

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Santaland Parade grand marshals include Madej

Three grand marshals, including Miss Michigan Alyse Madej, have been announced for the 58th annual Santaland Parade in Garden City.

Sponsored by the Garden City Downtown Development Authority, the Santaland Parade hits the streets of Garden City at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 24.

The parade will honor three deserving products of Garden City:

Madej, who was just crowned Miss Michigan USA for 2019, is the first Garden City woman to ever win the Miss Michigan USA title. A 2011 Garden City High School graduate, she went on to continue her education at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, studying marketing and information technology management.

Madej currently works as a marketing coordinator for major automotive companies and also travels the country as a national spokeswoman for Italian



Alyse Madej

car manufacturer Alfa Romeo. She will represent Michigan at the 2019 Miss USA pageant.

Another Garden City grad, Michael Pack, has put together a very impressive career modeling and acting. He is appearing in an upcoming movie, "22," a story inspired by the late Robby Spellman's life. The film was made with all local talent, most of whom knew Spellman personally and were greatly impacted by his life.

Pack was a multiple varsity letter winner at Garden City High School and is a member of the Garden City Cougars Football Hall of Fame. He played football for Wayne State, playing in the Division II championship game, and won the Randy Guzowski Award.

The third grand marshal is Garden

City school teacher Carla Young, who received one of five Teacher of the Year awards June 22 from The American Legion at its 100th annual convention in Kalamazoo. More than 80 teachers were nominated for the award that recognizes educators who stand out in competence and school involvement in programs that include patriotism, Americanism and community service.

Young teaches at the Farmington 5-6 Campus and has been with the Garden City Public Schools district for more than 19 years. She works with students to create and send greeting cards to service members, coordinates the annual flag-folding ceremony at Farmington and has her class members enter the American Legion's annual Poppy Poster contest. Veterans at Ann Arbor VA Medical Center enjoy baked goods courtesy of Young's class. Go to www.santalandparade.com.

Friends set up fund to help Plymouth family

Brad Kadrich
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amy Caragay always knew Kevin McCormack as a family man, a leader and "an amazing dad and person."

Now Caragay is among friends who are trying to help Kevin McCormack's family through a tragedy, following the fire that ultimately claimed McCormack's life.

McCormack was killed, and his wife, Carrie, was severely injured last month after an accidental propane explosion caused a fire at a cabin on an island in Lake Huron.

"Kevin ... was the kindest person and very laid back and giving and just enjoyed life," Amy Caragay recalled. "Always helping others and funny and friendly. Kevin was ... an amazing dad and person."

According to Amy Caragay, Kevin McCormack, whose family lived in Plymouth, worked as a pharmacist at Henry Ford Hospital, where his wife, Carrie, is a nurse manager.

The families were friends for years. Caragay's son, Bryan, and the McCormacks' son, Dylan, have known each other since they were 4 years old (they're 22 years old now), were in a Boy Scout troop for which Kevin McCormack was the leader, and went on to Michigan State University together.

"I've known the McCormacks almost my entire life ... They are always the people there when others need help," said Bryan Caragay. "This family is composed of the most compassionate people you can meet."

The McCormacks have three sons and, according to Amy Caragay, Carrie McCormack's mother also lives with the family. That's a large family group the Caragays say are "going to need some help" in the coming days and weeks.

That's why friends have set up a GoFundMe account (<https://www.gofundme.com/the-mccormacks>) to help the family. As of Friday, Oct. 5, the account had reached more than \$14,000 of its \$15,000 goal.

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WAYNE SENIOR 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.

One Stop Health Screening

When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16

Details: Have your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (diabetes) screened. This free program is offered by Beaumont Community Health in partnership with Wayne Senior Services. No appointments. 18 and older.

AARP Smart Driver Classroom Course

When: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7

Details: Check-in starts at 9:15 a.m. This course will discuss: techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts; understanding how to reduce traffic violations, crashes and the risk of injury; and discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. This course does not qualify you for an insurance

discount unless you have taken the eight-hour AARP course within the last three years. Check with your insurance company for discounted rates for taking this refresher course. To register, call 877-846-3299 or go to www.aarp.org/drive. Cost is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for all others.

Smart DriverTEK Workshop

When: 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14

Details: Understanding how the newest car technology works can make driving safer and more enjoyable. The workshop will cover: the benefits of current and emerging vehicle safety technology; important information about the smartest safety features and how to use them; and details on backup cameras, lane-departure warnings, smart headlights, blind spot warnings and more. Participants will receive a Smart DriverTek Checklist that may be utilized after the workshop to examine the features of their personal vehicle. To register call 734-721-7460 or go to www.aarp.org/SDTEK. Cost is \$5.



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PROTEST

Continued from Page 1A

sik phoned Miller on Wednesday and that the two plan to soon meet. "He has reached out. We are trying to work with them," Miller said.

Calls to the chief's office were not returned Friday afternoon.

The protest came days after charges were announced against a police sergeant and two former Westland paramedics in the case of William Marshall, a 35-year-old black man who was in police custody when he died of cocaine toxicity Dec. 10. Prosecutors say defendants Ronald Buckley, Matt Discosola and Leah Maynard failed to properly care for Marshall while he was in the police department lockup.

Buckley, who was a police sergeant, was fired on Thursday, and Maynard and Discosola, who were paramedics, left the city's employment since Marshall's death.

In a prepared statement, Jedrusik said incarceration policies have been changed and employees have been provided with additional training.

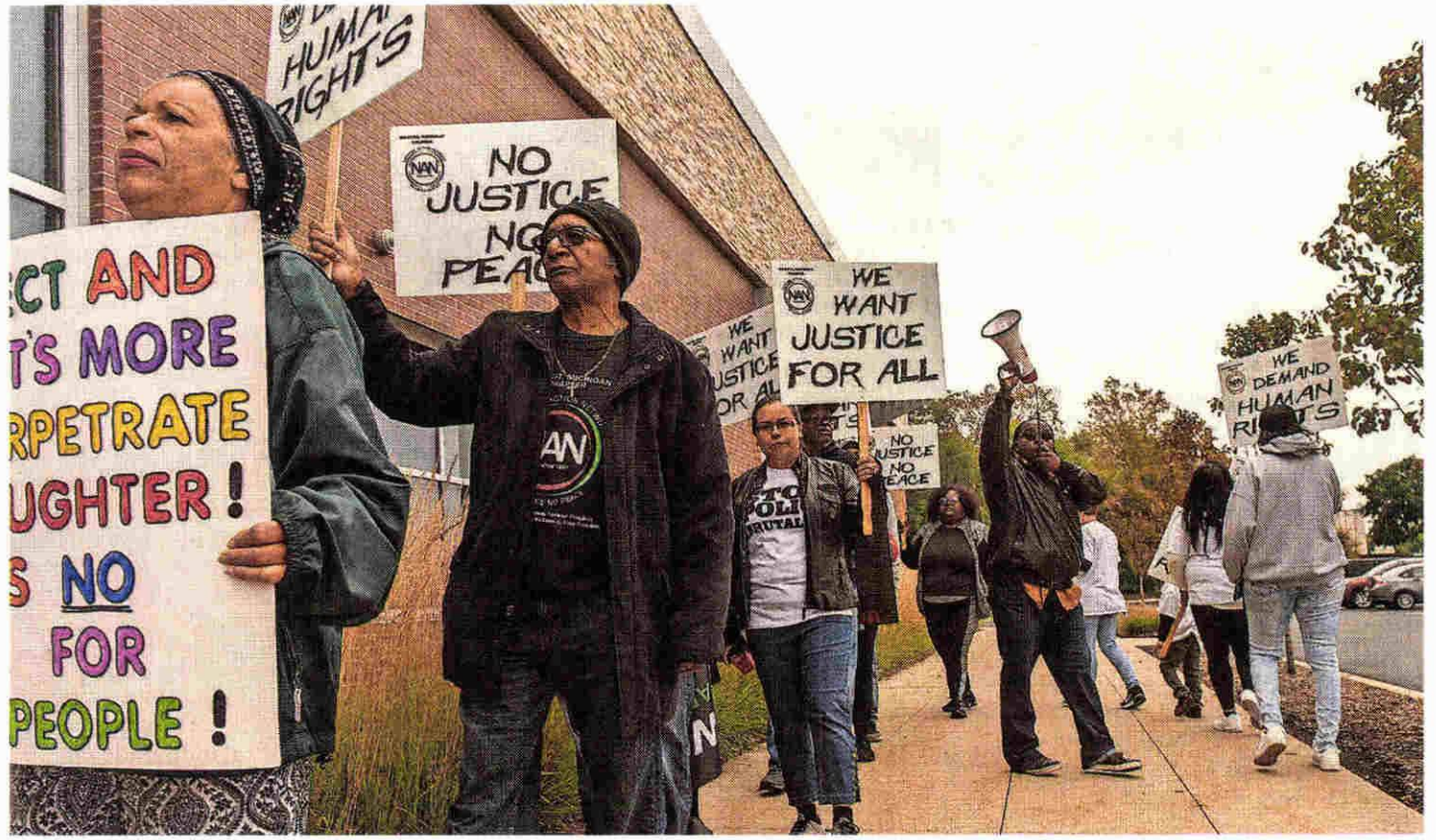
Linton praised Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy for bringing charges in the Marshall case. "I feel safer in Wayne County knowing that she's the prosecutor," she said.

Activists on Friday said they want to see officers wearing body cameras — the department purchased cameras last summer and is in the process of deploying them — as well as retraining and disciplinary actions against police over the Taser incidents.

Raymurez Brown, 33, was Tasered outside his home on the night of Aug. 17 after an argument with officers, who were there investigating a report of assault and vandalism, escalated. Brown was arrested on several charges; much of the incident was captured on a video that was seen thousands of times.

Brown said Friday that he was waiting the results of a test to determine the extent of a knee injury suffered during the arrest. He may have to undergo surgery, he said.

Brown was holding his two-month-old son, Chris, as police began Taser him, and an officer was suspended for 30 days following the incident, with Jedrusik calling the use of the Taser "questionable." Police say the boy was



Will Miller, center, president of the Inkster/Western Wayne County chapter of the National Action Network, leads marchers in a chant outside Westland City Hall on Friday. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

not hurt but Brown and his supporters say they aren't certain of that.

Brown said he wants to hear more specifics about what mistakes police made. "They're always so forthcoming on what we've done wrong," he said.

Shingles, 29, was Tasered in the doorway of his house about 2 a.m. on June 22. Police had come to his house looking for his father, who was said to have been involved in a nearby crime, and arrested Shingles on outstanding warrants.

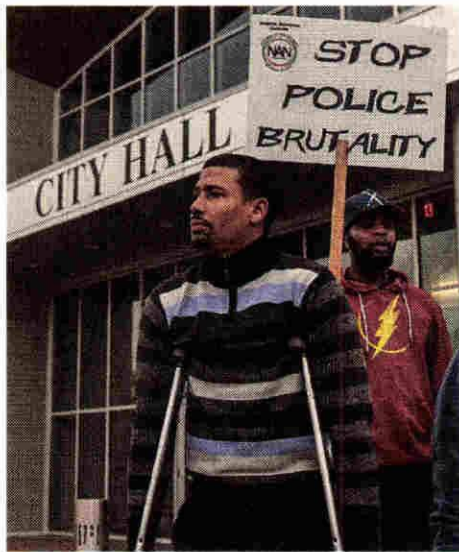
Shingles says he was polite and cooperative with police. Though he admits to having had outstanding warrants, he suggests his arrest was in retaliation for his refusal to let officers search his house without a search warrant.

Jedrusik, however, has defended police actions in the Shingles case.

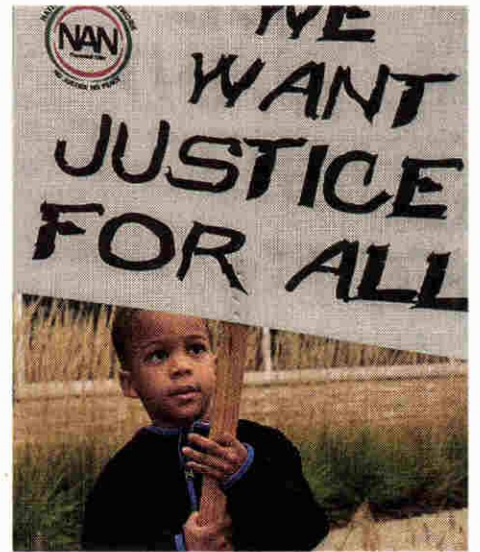
Shingles said he was grateful for protesters' show of support for himself and Brown.

"All lives matter," he said. "That's what I want to see in the world today."

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com.



Ray Brown, on crutches, was Tasered while holding his infant son. Jerry Shingles was awakened in the middle of the night by Westland officers who were looking for his father. Shingles admitted to having outstanding warrants but said he was Tasered twice while being arrested even though he was not resisting. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Jase Diamond, who is almost 4 years old, was protesting outside Westland City Hall on Friday. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

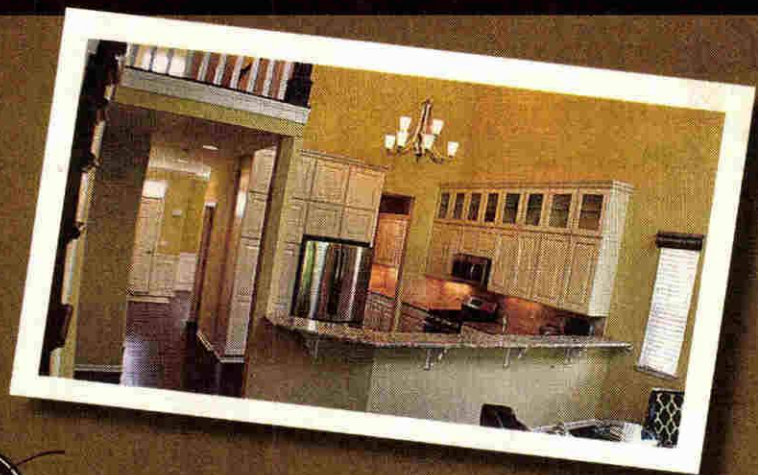
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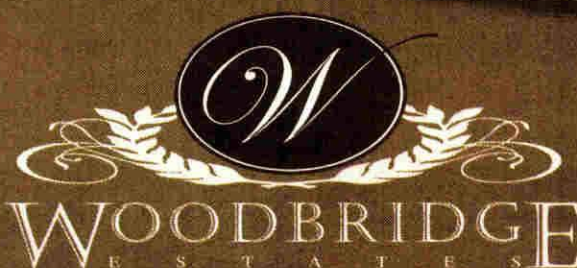


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for Dayna

Our state is in desperate need for new leadership. We need legislators in Lansing who advocate for strong public education, safe water and improved infrastructure, as well as protections for working families.

This year we are very lucky to have a distinctive choice for state Senate. My friend Dayna Polehanki is a teacher and a small business owner. Every day she rolls up her sleeves and works to help students achieve in the classroom. I know she will bring that same work ethic to the state Senate.

As a Livonia School Board member, I first crossed paths with Dayna due to her passionate advocacy for students. She is one of the most authentic people I know; always speaking from her heart. Livonia, and the entire state of Michigan, will benefit from electing someone like Dayna, who has the moral courage to lead.

With only weeks left before election day, I know we need Dayna in Lansing, to put our families first. I am personally supporting Dayna Polehanki and I hope that you will join me and cast your vote for her on your absentee ballot, or at the polls on Nov. 6.

Dan Centers
Livonia

Campaign signs up too early

I have noticed campaign signs for Brian Meakin for state Representative appearing all over the city. Livonia has an ordinance that campaign signs may not be put up more than a month in advance of the election date. As a member of City Council, Meakin has no excuse for pleading ignorance of this ordinance.

It does not speak well for a candidate who openly flaunts the regulations of the community he wants to represent.

Richard Abdo
Livonia

Support Democrats

'Tis the season for glossy flyers in the mail and the airing of TV ads, both pro and con for candidates.

The attack ads against Democrats are understandable. The Koch Brothers and other billionaires are fearful they may have to start returning some of the bounty bestowed on them by the Republicans at the state and federal level.

The pro ads and campaigns by Republicans Bill Schuette, John James and Lena Epstein have one common thread, they all seem to list undying loyalty to Donald Trump. Hardly a mention of anything that will benefit Michigan.

On Nov. 6 lets make sure the Koch Brothers' and cronies' fears turn into reality by electing Democrats to return fairness to all segments of government.

James Huddleston

Canton

Support for Prop 2

As registered voter, I have known about the problem of gerrymandering in our politics for a long time but never saw any way to solve it. All that changed when I heard about Voters Not Politicians. I immediately knew that it was a movement I wanted to be involved in and acted accordingly.

Partisan redistricting, or gerrymandering, has been a problem in the United States almost since its inception. Michigan has been excelling in this regard of late, with some of the most gerrymandered political maps in the country. The fundamental problem with the current redistricting process is that it puts the power to map districts in the hands of those who compete in those districts. Such a problem cannot be resolved except through the reforms exemplified in Proposal 2.

Proposal 2 solves the problem of gerrymandering excluding politicians. Instead, it gives the task to a citizen's commission made up of Republican, Democratic and independent voters. With at least two votes needed from each group to approve new maps, all but guaranteeing maps not marred by gerrymandering. Furthermore, the commission must act with complete transparency by holding public meetings and publishing the methods it used to determine district boundaries.

Once voters understand the problem, they will see Proposal 2 as the solution. It is not concerned with advocating for any particular party, candidate or even policy; rather, it ensures that all candidates and ideas have a fair shot at prevailing electorally. I invite all Michigan voters to get involved with this campaign, and most importantly, to vote "Yes" on proposal 2.

Yousuf Ali
Northville

Opposes Prop 2

I will not, and I hope many many people will not vote to approve Proposal 2 on Michigan's 2018 ballot.

The slick TV ads claiming that Proposal 2 is for the people, is in fact, an ad for special interest groups. Any time a proposal that wants to change or amend our state constitution, is proposed, be very suspect of what exactly is wanted. A yes vote on Proposal 2 would eliminate, or take away, part of our legislators job to represent us and would put it into the hands of special interest groups, leaving us, "We The People," out in the cold.

You think that auto and health insurance is high in Michigan, now, wait till you see your rates skyrocket if Proposal 2 passes. The biggest lobbies in Michigan are, insurance companies, pharmaceutical corporations, and petroleum companies. Vote no on proposal 2.

Robert Johnson
New Hudson

School boards, parents should oppose Proposal 1

It is every parent's worst nightmare. Your son or daughter riding on the school bus, and a classmate shares a snack, a harmless activity that occurs every day. But instead of an ordinary gummy, this snack is marijuana in disguise.

Of all people, parents and school boards should oppose Proposal 1. The damage marijuana does to children is well-known and undisputed. One in six teens who use marijuana get addicted to it. Marijuana is the #1 reason why kids enter treatment for substance abuse: more than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, ecstasy and other drugs combined. Parents who may have experimented in their past should also know that today's marijuana is substantially more potent than that of the past.

Supporters of Proposal 1 suggest that marijuana should be regulated "like alcohol." When it comes to schools, the nature of marijuana makes that impossible. First, if a student comes to school possibly drunk, the police can issue a breathalyzer test to confirm that. When it comes to marijuana, there is no reliable on-the-spot test. Districts are not trained in identifying impairment and will be powerless to act. That's one reason that dozens of law enforcement professionals have lined up against this proposal.

Second, if a student brings alcohol to school, administrators can rapidly identify it, remove it, and discipline the student. Marijuana cookies? Brownies? How are they to know? Are they expected to send it to a

lab? The reality that voters should digest is that Proposal 1, if passed, will lead to more marijuana in our schools, and districts will be powerless to stop it.

One of the most pervasive behavioral issues in our schools is vaping. Children believe, due to slick marketing, that vaping is somehow healthy behavior. Under Proposal 1, children will have easier access to hash oil for vaping, and unless districts purchase law-enforcement grade devices, administrators will be unable to determine the substance's contents and take proper action. Don't be fooled; this legislation is about introducing to our great state a powerful new industry — corporate marijuana — and its best customer is your children. Fighting this industry will redirect time, money and resources out of education and into more drug prevention. This self-inflicted wound-to-be is not what our struggling schools need at this time.

Parents and school boards should take the lead and let the public know that Proposal 1 is a disaster for local schools.

Matthew J. Wilk
Northville

Political games

I'm sure by now that most of us have seen the TV campaign ad that is intended to paint a picture of Gretchen Whitmer and Jennifer Granholm as forming a partnership resulting in the loss of 500,000 jobs and an unemployment rate of 15%. It was designed to mislead with no indication of when and why that took place. We have to pay attention to what is not said and who is promoting what we are seeing. In this case the ad was paid for by Americans for Prosperity — operated by the Koch brothers who have been described by "Newsweek" as two billionaires who... "make workers poorer and put Republicans in power."

It appears the information is based on 2009 data which was during the time that both Whitmer and Granholm were serving in the Michigan Legislature, 2003-2010. The data shows that in June 2009 the unemployment rate was 14.6% with 534,571 persons not working. Indeed a bleak picture, however, that is a picture painted with broad strokes with details erased.

In 2007-2008 the worst crisis since the Great Depression began according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: "...by December 2008 the number of unemployed persons in the U.S. had grown by 3.6 million since the beginning of that year. During 2008 the Michigan unemployment rate grew by 5.7%. The 500,000 jobs lost claim was not additional persons not working but an increase of 100,000 over the amount that were not working when Granholm first took office in 2003.

What is also not said is that after the 14.6% June, 2009 high the unemployment rate declined every month thereafter until Ganholm left office. Clearly that high rate and the high job loss claim was not created by Whitmer and Granholm during their joint time in office.

Jim Brenner
Redford

Support Runestad for Senate

Jim Runestad will always work to fight corruption and clean up government. Too many politicians today are owned by lobbyists. Runestad is not one of those politicians. He will continue to fight these special interests and clean up politics in the state Senate. I know because that's exactly what he's done already as both a county commissioner and as a state Representative.

Jim sponsored a bill to make it illegal for former politicians to become lobbyists immediately after leaving office. That way, they can't turn around and use their connections to lobby for special interests. Jim also led the charge to take away taxpayer-funded benefits for felons who took bribes while in government. Before Jim went to work on this, felons were still taking taxpayer benefits from we the people. But Jim didn't stop there; he also voted to make government more transparent and open to the public.

Runestad is someone we can count on to be on our side. He's in Lansing to clean up government and make it accountable to the public. He's in Lansing to end the dirty tricks of politics. And he's in Lansing to make a difference for people like you and me. If you're like me and sick of politicians who try to game the system for their own benefit, I hope you'll join me in supporting Runestad for State Senate.

Polly Kingsley
Milford

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AREA EVENTS

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

Community rummage sale

Silver Village Senior Housing, 33780 Lyndon, in Livonia will hold a community rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 11-12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Mary Mercy charity gala

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host its 26th annual charity gala Friday, Oct. 12, at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft, in Livonia. Proceeds will support the Healthy Livonia Initiative, a collaboration the hospital helped launch in 2016.

Platinum sponsor is the DTE Energy Foundation, which donated \$25,000. Josie Norcia and Kelly Athens are serving as honorary co-chairwomen of the event.

Sponsorships and tickets to the gala are still available. For more information or if you would like to make a donation to help support Healthy Livonia, contact St. Mary Mercy's Office of Philanthropy at 734-655-2980 or email livoniaevents@stjoeshealth.org.

Star Wars Reads Day

The Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, will hold a Star Wars Reads Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13. A wide variety of Star Wars activities are planned.

Attendees will find Star Wars characters, collectibles, posters, decorations and more throughout the library. All are encouraged to dress as a favorite character and enjoy the following free activities, thanks to the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

For more information, contact the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or go to plymouthlibrary.org.

Harvest Hike & Hunt

The Livonia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting Harvest Hike & Hunt at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard. Families will enjoy a hike and scavenger hunt through the nature trails and cre-

ate crafts with the items they find.

Tickets are \$6 for Livonia residents, \$9 for non-residents, and can be purchased in advance at the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. For more information, call 734-466-2900 or go to www.livoniaparks.org.

Hair cut fundraiser

Santa Fe Salon, 34367 Plymouth Road, in Livonia will host the seventh annual fundraiser for Children With Hair Loss from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$5 for eyebrow or lip waxing. All proceeds benefit Children With Hair Loss, a Michigan-based company that provides hair pieces to children with medically related hair loss.

Donate a ponytail of eight inches or more and be entered in a raffle drawing. Rizes and refreshments available. For more information, go to www.childrenwithhairloss.us.

Halloween open house

The Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, in Livonia will host a Halloween open house from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14. Attendees will have access to the pool, climbing wall and gym activities. The gyms will be set up for roller hockey, pickleball, volleyball and basketball.

Youngsters will be able to trick-or-treat at participating organizations and businesses. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Admission is free for the day for residents and \$3 per person for non-residents.

For more information, call 734-466-2900 or go to www.livoniaparks.org.

Synchronized swimming show

The Michigan Synchro Masters will present a show titled Sync-in by the Dock of the Bay at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Schoolcraft College pool, 18600 Haggerty Road, in Livonia. This is a preview of routines the group will perform at USA Masters synchronized swimming competition in California later this year.

\$5 for adults; children ages 12 and under are free. Tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call 734-522-7749.



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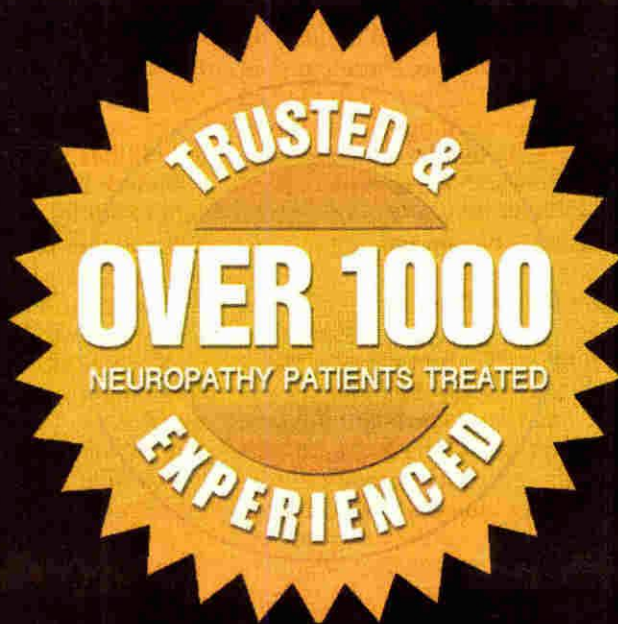
  

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In her heart, Ironman Kona all about lost friend

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Nikki Derrick is going to wear her heart on her Ironman race bib.

Sure, the 47-year-old Royal Oak resident hopes to perform well enough at the Oct. 13 Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, to land a spot on the podium.

But more than anything else, she will be honoring the memory of another Ironman triathlete — the late Karen Perzyk, a friend who died in January after a brief battle with stage IV esophageal cancer.

Derrick will wear race bib No. 1184 in Kona, the same number worn in the 2016 Hawaii Ironman by Perzyk.

"The problem is we think we have time and we don't know," said Derrick, a former all-state girls basketball player for Grosse Ile High School who is about to compete in her fourth Ironman and second Kona event. "We don't know if we do. And even in this journey ... it's been a weird year for me."

"It throws you for a loop when you watch your friend just fade away and just die. I'm, like, 'Am I doing the right thing with my time, sacrificing? Is this where I should be?'"

The loss of Perzyk at age 49 continues to rock Derrick, who will spread some of her friend's ashes while in Hawaii. She'll wear the race bib as well as a temporary tattoo with the initials "K.P." on it. To secure bib No. 1184, she made a written request to Ironman organizers.

"I think me having her race number it makes it cohesive ... it's not about me," Derrick said. "The people who don't know me and knew her better, I think will still be very touched by the fact that there's someone who she was close to who is honoring her there."

Gearing up for the Kona Ironman has been another tough chapter for Derrick. In early September, she ran so hard and long that she suffered a pre-stress fracture.

Brief setback

Thoughts rolled through her mind that maybe she couldn't race in Hawaii.

"For a while I couldn't really walk without pain and, at that time I thought about not going (to Kona)," she said. "But honestly ... when you have your mind set on something and put everything into it and all of a sudden you can't do it, you go into this really dark, dark place."

"Your brain chemistry changes. Your dreams just feel shattered. So I don't know if those were real concrete thoughts that I wouldn't go, but I definitely had the thoughts that I wouldn't be able to go. ... That was short-lived. I'm going. I'll have (Perzyk) in my heart."

Asked about what Perzyk's reaction might be to the Ironman tribute, Derrick said quickly, "She'd be over the moon. ... She was excited for everybody, no matter what their skill level was. She really was. She just loved triathlon and the sport, watching her friends do well."

And Perzyk had many, many friends who now are wearing T-shirts with #KPSTRONG on them.

A day to remember

In early September, on what would have been Perzyk's 50th birthday, more than 100 of those friends spent the day doing her favorite things.

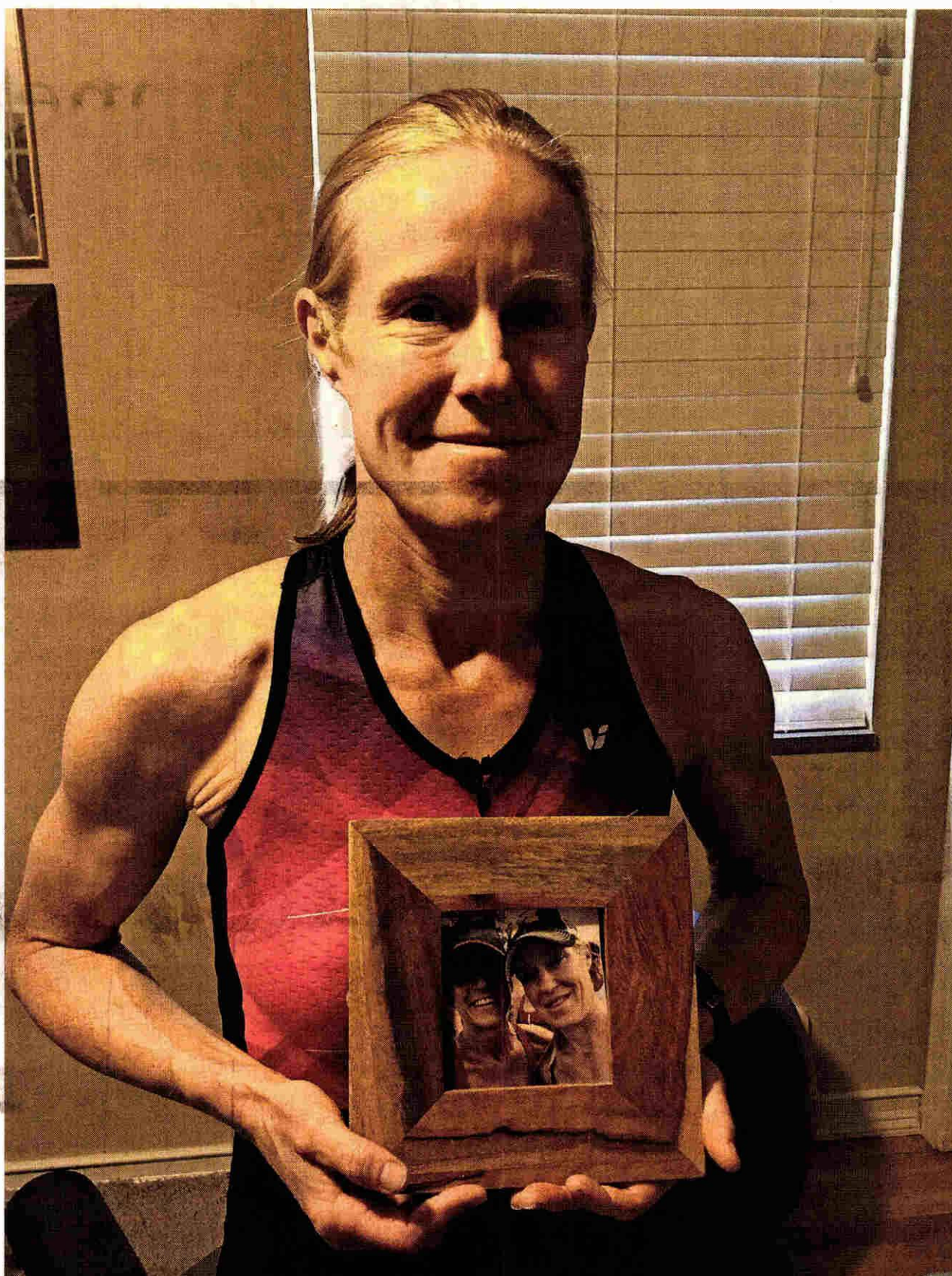
The Sept. 4 event was organized by Derrick, also author of an ongoing Facebook blog titled "KP's Updates and Support," which has more than 500 followers. Derrick keeps tabs on her Hawaiian quest in "Nikki's Road To Kona," a second Facebook blog.

"I have two separate parts of my life now," Derrick said. "There's Nikki doing the Ironman and there's the Nikki doing something in Karen's memory. In that (latter) bucket, I organized an event this summer for Karen."

"It's sort of like a memorial. But I knew on her 50th birthday that I would have a hard day. So I put it out there that I was going to do things she loved to do on that day. And we probably ended up having 125 people come out. We swam in Walnut Lake that morning, the family came, we got boats and we scattered her ashes that morning."

"And then we went out to Island Lake and did a bike ride. There's a bench and a bike station in her name out there."

They closed the remembrance with beers and



Holding a photo taken with friend Karen Perzyk is Royal Oak's Nikki Derrick. The photo was taken at the 2016 Hawaii Ironman. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

laughs at Kickstand Brewery. They plan to do it again in 2019.

Life is fleeting

All of that is a stark reminder about how fleeting life is, even for those who seem to be in seventh heaven.

Two years ago, with no hint of the tragedy ahead of her, Perzyk was on top of the world when she raced at Kona. There to lend support were Derrick (who was not participating in that race) and Perzyk's boyfriend, Patrick Foley.

"In 2016, it was the best day of her life, making it there and participating in that," Derrick said, in a hushed voice.

Derrick's training room has a photograph taken on that trip, with the initials "K.P." spelled out on a bed of lava rocks. There also is a stationary trainer bike nicknamed "J.T.," a playful nod to entertainer Justin Timberlake.

"I am pushed to my limit often in there," Derrick said. "I named the trainer J.T., by the way, after Justin Timberlake, so I feel like I'm on a journey with a fun person. In my blog I'll say, 'Oh, I spent three hours with J.T. today.'"

Then came another Ironman event in October 2017, when Perzyk finished fifth in her age division with a time of 11 hours, 32:35 minutes.

But around Thanksgiving, Perzyk started having

trouble breathing. Tests were done and the news was devastating — not only was it stage IV esophageal cancer, it had metastasized to her liver.

The timing of that horrific diagnosis came just two months after Derrick qualified for the 2018 Kona Ironman. She did so with a top five finish in her age division at the Ironman in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Even though Derrick knew she had a major race to start training for, she virtually dropped her long runs and bikes to be there for her dying friend.

There for her

It was coincidental that Derrick worked as a physician assistant at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, the same facility where Perzyk was hospitalized.

Derrick virtually devoted the next several weeks to helping Perzyk, whether running errands or being a patient advocate.

"Our friendship just grew," Derrick said. "I just happened to (have) the career, at U-M, and be a friend of hers and be a single woman who could be over there on my days off. It's all I did. I didn't work out one time, I didn't want to. How could I work out when I'm watching my friend?"

"When she got sick, she wanted to see fewer and

See KONA, Page 8A

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KONA

Continued from Page 7A

fewer people, because she just didn't want to repeat herself. She didn't feel well, right? Finally, the doctors came in. She didn't want to give up. But they said, 'I don't think there's anything more we can do for you.'

"She's, like 'So, I have like a couple days left?' They said yeah and she said, 'OK.' I was, like, 'Karen, there's a lot of people who want to see you, it's ultimately your choice.'"

Derrick immediately posted on her "KP's Updates and Supports" Facebook page that Perzyk wanted to say so long to whoever could stop by her hospital bed. "There were, like, a hundred people that showed up," Derrick said. "People dropped what they were doing to get there."

The day Perzyk died, Jan. 21, Derrick gave her friend as much space as she needed. K.P.'s family was there, so was her boyfriend.

Noticing Perzyk's lips starting to bleed, Derrick left to grab a bottle of Biotene spray from a nearby pharmacy. When she returned, her triathlon pal was gone.

"So I felt like it was, like, this kind of beautiful story where, like, I was her great friend. I wasn't her best friend," Derrick said. "But she had her siblings and her boyfriend at her bedside — and her friend out running a last errand."

"I actually have the bottle (of Biotene) in my cabinet in there, just to remind me to be a good friend."

Be fearless

In another couple of weeks, Derrick will once again say so long to K.P. in a personal, unforgettable way. If she finishes in the top five of her age division (45-49 women), she'll come back to Michigan with a coveted wooden bowl.

Then, it will be back to normal.

"This is going to end Oct. 13 and then I'll go back to the lifestyle where I have a lot more freedom with my



Nikki Derrick talks about several items in her Ironman training room, dedicated to the late Karen Perzyk. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

time," Derrick said. "But I'm also trying to do something big with my life. You know, like, capture one of those great moments (Kona). It just takes work to get there. It's kind of a balance."

"But yeah, I plan to do things kind of differently go-

ing forward. Just being a better friend to people, being a better listener and not worrying about the drawbacks of certain experiences.

"I'm trying to be more of a fearless person, because life can be really short."

IRONMAN

Continued from Page 1A

"It's the Super Bowl of triathlon, for sure," said veteran triathlete Jimi Young, 48. "It's Boston Marathon times a thousand. It's probably that difficult to get in as well."

Young delved into the enormous task facing him and some 2,000 others, following a recent training session in preparation for the race considered to be one of the world's most grueling tests of human endurance.

A Novi High School alum who now lives in DeWitt, Young is one of 20 men and women of all ages from Michigan who will head to the big Island of Hawaii to take on Kona.

For some, like Canton's Ryan Karr, it is their first crack at the race made famous in 1982, when ABC's "Wide World of Sports" cameras documented the most incredible finish in Ironman history.

The footage shows college student Julie Moss in the lead with just yards to go when her body fails and she collapses. As folks rush to her aid, Kathleen McCartney passes Moss to claim the title. And then, miraculously, unable to get to her feet, Moss crawls across the finish line.

Ironman was born 40 years ago as a challenge between swimmers, bicyclists and runners in Hawaii to see who was more fit. The race combined the toughest races in each discipline, resulting in what is now a 2.4-mile swim in the warm waters of Kailua Bay, biking 112 miles across the hot, windswept lava fields of Kona and wrapping things up with an equally grueling 26.2-mile run.

The unforgettable footage from 1982, still popular today on YouTube, has made an impression on the 23-year-old Karr, the youngest member of the Michigan Kona contingent.

"It's still a mythical thing in my head where you hear about the heat and the lava fields and you see the videos of these people in the '80s (where) they can't move any more and they're 10 feet away from the finish line," Karr said. "It's starting to hit me, but I still can't quite wrap my head around it."

Karr, a graduate of Plymouth High School, only has one full Ironman under his belt — July's Lake Placid, N.Y., race, where he finished third in the 18-24 age division with a time of 11 hours, 20 minutes.

"Completely unexpected," Karr said about his fast ascent to the cream of the Ironman crop. "It's starting to get a lot more real now that I look at the calendar and realize 'two weeks from yesterday, (Sept. 26) I'm flying to Kona.'"

Bumps, bruises and butterflies

Another first-time Kona participant is Royal Oak's Allen Hutchinson. He may have been only age 9 when Moss made her famous finish, but today he is a veteran of 13 Ironman events. He said the nervousness he used to feel when he started out in the sport is creeping back as he contemplates racing Kona.

"So talking about the mental thing ... now here I am," said Hutchinson, who qualified via the Legacy program (for those with 12 Ironmans under their belt). "This is the first time I'm going to Kona, I have that thing again, because it's just built up so much. It's such a big thing. It's the pinnacle of the sport."

Young agrees, saying the mental aspect is as big as the three physical challenges: "It's really four (disciplines), because you have to add the mental aspect into it as well. You can actually throw a half in there for nutrition."

Rochester Hills resident Jennifer Rea, 52, might not conclude the 26.2-mile portion of the Kona challenge on her hands and knees the way Moss did. But she definitely could limp down the stretch, due to a nagging stress fracture in her foot.

"If I can walk, it will be good," Rea said. "Without a limp, I hope. And it will be the first race I've ever done

where I really have to worry about the cutoffs."

Because of the foot injury, her plan is to complete the swim and bike portions with time to spare, in order to give her the best possible chance to complete the race in the allotted 17 hours.

"I have a couple friends who have gone (to the Hawaii race)," Rea said. "They have given me a lot of pointers, about how to be relaxed when you go there and not get too caught up in the excitement and seriousness that a lot of people have."

"I am mostly excited about doing the bike portion of the race. The swim is kind of exciting, but I'm also a little bit nervous as I've never raced in the ocean. But that will be a fun experience."

This will be Rea's first Kona Ironman, although she has "20-ish" triathlons and four Ironmans to her credit. She qualified in 2017 at the Chattanooga, Tenn., Ironman (finishing first in her age division), overcoming a bike crash with 100 or so miles yet to ride. She scraped up an elbow and banged up her bicycle.

"I was going through a feed zone and I decided, 'I'm not going to take anything,'" Rea said. "So I have a little (snacks) pouch, I thought I'll just get something out of my own bag and I kind of went over the yellow line and went down. The yellow lines are really dangerous. You should stay off of them at all costs."

"It was early, maybe 15 miles in. I had 116 at that race to actually ride. So I said, 'OK, I know I have to keep going.'"

And it is that mind-over-matter penchant that keeps veterans and newbies from giving up on achieving the goal of an athletic lifetime.

Spectacular view

Young's 31st career Ironman will be his third at Kona. His first visit there was a thrill-per-minute joyride as he set eyes on the ocean-front beach where a couple of thousand triathletes make their start at Kailua Pier in the 79-degree aqua-blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

"There's a hill called Palani," Young said. "I have watched the Ironman videos over and over. I bet I had 15 videos riding on the (stationary bike) trainer downstairs. I have in my mind what I thought it was going to be like and I thought I knew everything there was to know about Hawaii."

"And the first time I walked down that hill and saw the very, very small beach where the race starts and stops, the hair on my arms just stood up. It was amazing, way better than I expected."

Karr is looking forward to his own hair-raising experience.

"Just riding my bike up on the pier the day before and getting everything ready," Karr said. "I've seen it so many times on the TV specials. Once you get there and you're on the pier looking out toward the water, it's going to be real."

"And then just getting through that pain and crossing the finish line on the Ali'i Drive will be one of the most special moments in my life."

Now that's extreme

Asked about the hopeful message of Ironman's "Anything Is Possible" mantra, Hutchinson said the slogan is completely on target.

"It's exactly what it says," Hutchinson said. "And here's the thing for me. When you look at Ironman and you look at the people involved, the cross-section, there's all types of people that are there and all types of people that are accomplishing it."

"There's people that are missing limbs. There's handicapped people. There's people that come from all types of different backgrounds. Veterans. People with stories of addiction and alcoholism. I think that's what it is. Anything's possible, you can do it."

Many of the Ironman participants who make it to Kona are merely devotees to the sport, carving time out of work and family obligations to peddle endlessly on stationary bikes, run or swim at 5 a.m. to push themselves beyond their physical limits.

But there are those who give a new meaning to extreme triathletes.

"I was in this (Ironman) race one time, I was in Louisville (Ky.)," Hutchinson said. "And it was a really hot race, it was in August. I saw a guy coming down the hotel elevator with a sling on. I stopped and I talked to him."

"It was mile 88 of the bike, he basically got in a crash. He broke his collarbone. Got back on the bike, rode the other 25 miles and then after that ran the marathon."

That encounter dialed down Hutchinson's perspective about how he views his own Ironman accomplishments.

"On one hand, people can talk about that, 'Oh that's great, it's an Ironman, you did an Ironman,'" Hutchinson said. "But when I look at some of the people that are out there, like to me, those are the people that ... I don't feel like I'm doing anything special when you look at some of these other people and what they're overcoming."

Maybe not. But there still is a Mt. Rushmore-type feeling that endurance athletes of all ages and abilities experience on the Big Island. There also is an attitude adjustment — in the best possible way.

"It means you're a bad ass," Rea said, loudly and proudly.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Obituaries

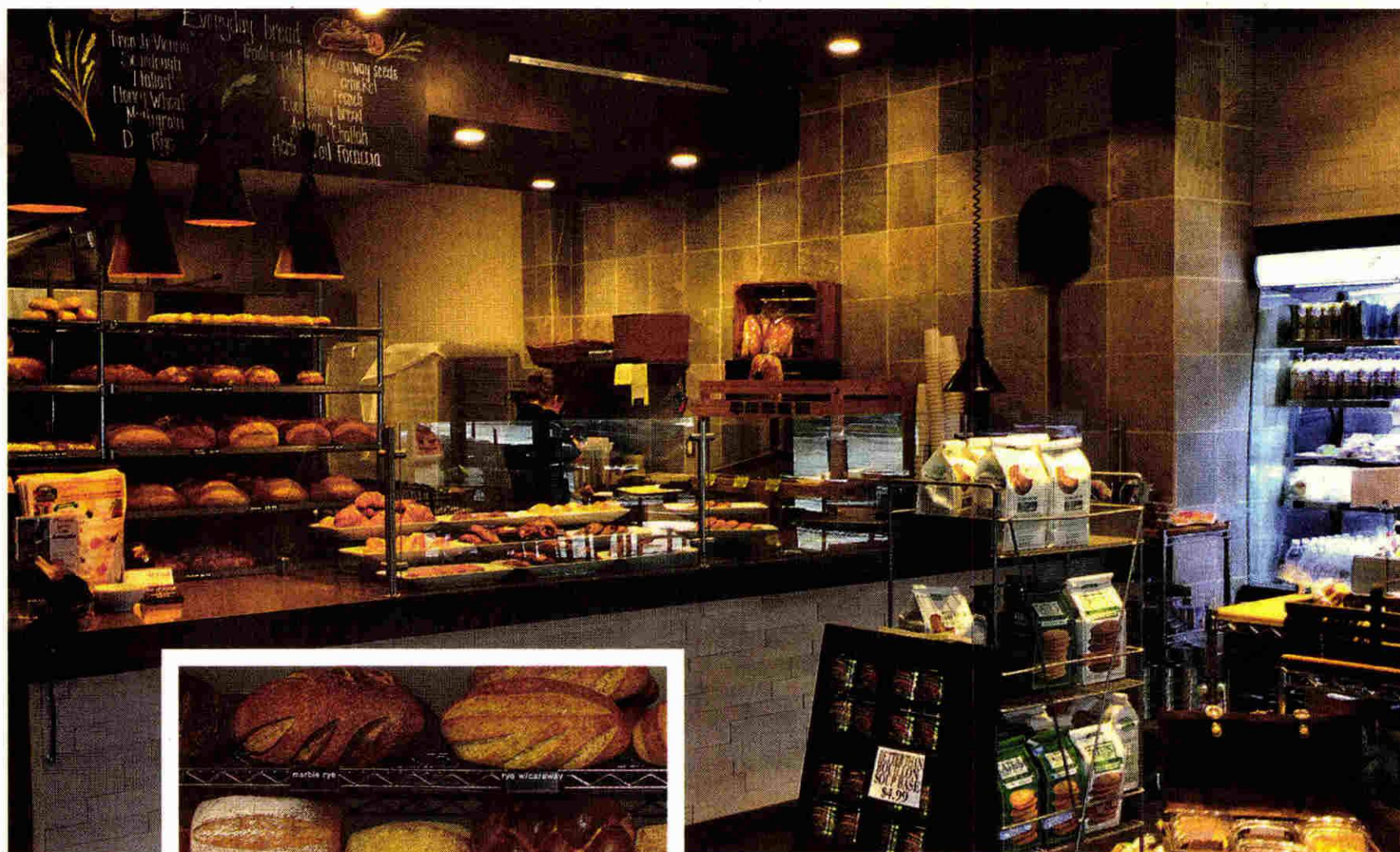
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Carlton "Russ" Smith

LIVONIA - Age 85 Beloved husband of Betty Anne. Loving father of Shawn Marie (John) D'Annunzio-Bracewell, Carlton Craig (Diane) Smith, and Tracy Ann (Phil) Campau. Cherished grandfather of Chelsea (Brandon) Morrison, Carlton Smith and Evan (Brianna) Campau. Adored great grandfather of Madison, Landon, and Addilynn. Dear brother of Mary Jane Barnette. Funeral services were held. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

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When Joe Maiorana opened Art of Bread by Joe's in 2012, he had a mission not to make good bread, but, to make great bread. At Art of Bread, they only use natural flour that's as close to its original form. There are no preservatives and nothing genetically modified. "The flour is the backbone to all our loaves of bread. Bread is a living, breathing product that has to be handled with care," says Justin, Culinary Manager.

Every bread has a 12-step process and takes up to three days to make. It's a lengthy procedure that you can't rush. Every day Dustin and his team of bakers get to the store at midnight to start the baking process, so the bread is hot out of the oven by 9 am. Then it is available for sale at The Art of Bread and at Joe's Produce Gourmet Market. Nothing is outsourced. It's all fresh, hand-crafted daily, baked in a stone-hearth oven, and hit with steam to help it rise and create a perfect crust.

It's Not Only about Making Bread

Joe welcomes his bakers to experiment, especially with fresh seasonal flavors. With the seasonal breads, Dustin uses the freshest herbs right from Joe's Produce Gourmet Market. He's created herb and oil focaccia, crostinis, puff pastries, danish, flavored butters, and cream cheeses. On the weekends, Dustin likes to create pizza or ham and cheese croissants or specialty brioches. He says people love to buy them for their lunches. Are you hungry yet?

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Sports

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Franklin football coach suspended for two games

Brad Emons
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin's Chris Kelbert was not on the sidelines during the Patriots' 35-31 homecoming loss against Dearborn Fordson.

The Patriots' head coach was suspended and placed on an administrative leave for two games, according to the

school's athletic director Ron Hammye on Friday.

Assistant coach Dusty Hall is serving during the interim. He will also coach this Friday's game (Oct. 12) against KLAA West Division leader and unbeaten Belleville (7-0, 6-0).

Hammye said Kelbert will return for the Patriots' final regular season game on Oct. 19.

According to Hammye, the decision



Kelbert

to suspend Kelbert was made jointly by the Franklin administration and the Livonia Public Schools. The Franklin A.D. said that Kelbert's teaching status is not affected and does not factor in the coaching suspension (Kelbert is a physical education instructor at Franklin).

Hammye said he could not go into any specifics regarding Kelbert's suspension, but a statement was provided by the Livonia Public Schools and shared with the Franklin football community, which reads in part:

"Head varsity football coach, Chris Kelbert, has been suspended from his football duties through October 12, 2018.

See **SUSPEND**, Page 2B

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Canton's Steven Walker ran 19 times for 377 yards and five touchdowns in a 48-29 victory over Howell on Friday, Oct. 6, 2018. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Howell victimized by Steven Walker Show

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Canton defensive end Darius Robinson doesn't need to sell himself too much on the recruiting trail.

He's the state's highest-ranked uncommitted football player in the Class of 2019, holding 20 Division I scholarship offers, including one from Michigan State.

But while he's talking with college coaches to determine his own future, Robinson plans to put in a good word for senior teammate Steven Walker.

Words may not be necessary. He can just bring Friday night's game film to his next college visit and push "play."

Walker tore up Howell's defense to the tune of 377 yards and five touchdowns on 19 carries, the vast majority of that damage coming in the first half, as Canton rolled to a 48-29 victory.

In the first half alone, Walker had what would've been a record-setting day at most high schools, running 12 times for 327 yards and four touchdowns. He had six runs of at least 20 yards and three of at least 61 yards.

See **CANTON**, Page 2B

'That's Steven Walker for you. I can't wait to see him at the next level.'

Darius Robinson
Highly ranked recruit on his Canton teammate

5 TO WATCH

Championship week marks Week 8 match-ups

Marty Budner
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Well, here it is. Championship week.

Three league championships are on the line for four Hometown Life Sports prep football teams.

South Lyon can wrap up an outright Lakes Valley Conference championship against Walled Lake Western and remain undefeated on this memorable season.

Over in the Oakland Activities Association Blue Division, Birmingham Seaholm and Farmington are both undefeated in league play and the winner brings home the hardware.

And, in the Catholic League Central Division, Catholic Central can still earn a share of the crown with a triumph over Warren De La Salle.

So, if you find yourself some free time Friday evening - or Sunday afternoon this week, put on some warm clothes and go out to support your favorite team. It promises to be a great weekend of prep football.

Here's a preview at this week's top five match-ups.

5 to watch

(all games at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, unless noted)

Walled Lake Western (5-2, 5-1) at South Lyon (7-0, 6-0): South Lyon has wrapped up a playoff berth and now has its sites firmly set on the Lakes Valley Conference championship to cap an amazing turnaround season. The Lions can wrap up their first league championship since tying Livonia Stevenson for the KLAA Central Division title in 2014. Western was the pre-season pick to capture the LVC championship and enters the battle with a 5-1 series advantage over South Lyon, including a 49-28 victory last year. Quarterback Connor Fracassi and his Lions, who won only one game last year, will make it a great evening for their fans and the dream season continues. **Picks:** Emons (Western), Budner (South Lyon), Smith (South Lyon).

Farmington (6-1, 6-0) at Birmingham Seaholm (6-1, 5-0): The winner takes the outright OAA Blue crown to end title droughts. Seaholm's last division title came in 2013 when it went undefeated in the Blue. Farmington's last title came in 2014 in the Blue with a

See **5 TO WATCH**, Page 2B

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ABSTRACT
WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2018-28
October 2, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. PRESENTATIONS: Rotary Club to Police Department and Dr. Holt, Wayne-Westland Comm. School Dist. APPROVED: agenda; minutes of regular meeting of September 19h as written, bid to Altech Doors; V. Cesarz to Library Board; resig. L. Kaye from Parks & Trails; resig. P. Rice from LOCC; P. Dobrowolski to LOCC; SMART/Nankin Transit 2019 Comm. Credit; SMART/Nankin Transit 2018 Amendment; purchase F450 ambulance; LWV at City Hall; addendum with Western Wayne POT; two stormwater agreement with GroundFX; lot split #2018-04; Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
 City Clerk

Publish: October 11, 2018 LO-000346526 3x2.5

CITY OF LIVONIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the City of Livonia has received an application requesting approval of an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate from Daniel E. Laible, Plymouth Properties, for the new construction of 60,000 sq. ft. addition to house assembly, sequencing, and warehouse space for the launch of interior product for the new Ford Explorer and Lincoln Aviator. The project will also add additional machines to their facility located at 38900 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. (Industrial Development Overlay District #112)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIVONIA has determined as follows:

1. The City Clerk shall provide copies of the said Application to the legislative bodies of the governmental units deriving property taxes from the property which will be affected, as required by Act 198, P.A. 1974, as amended.
2. The City Clerk shall contact each of the affected taxing units, and (i) indicate the Council's interest in this matter, and (ii) assist these taxing units in collecting such information as may be necessary to determine their respective opinions on this Application, and (iii) advise the said taxing units of the Council's desire to hold a hearing on this Application on **Monday, October 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan.
3. The Council has set **Monday, October 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, as the date, time and place for conducting a hearing on said Application.

SUSAN M. NASH
 CITY CLERK

Publish: October 11, 2018 LO-000346532 3x2.5

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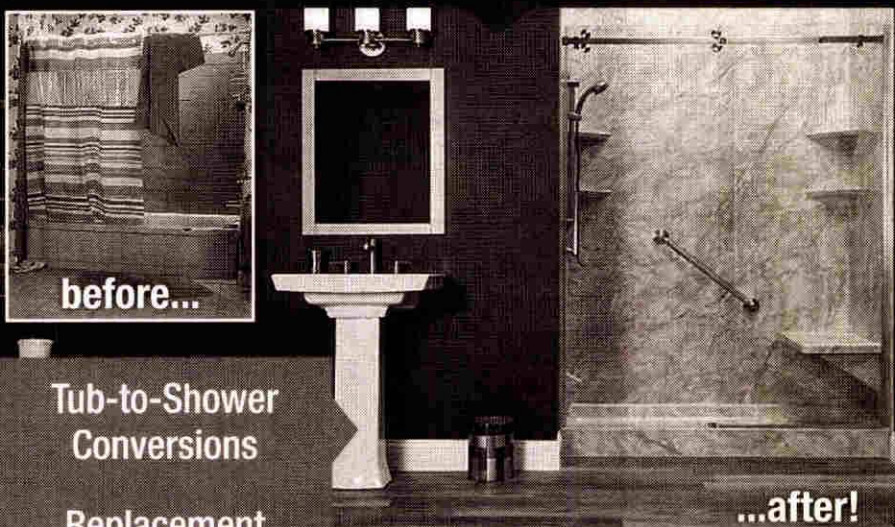
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