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Area school officials troubled by Senate's concealed weapon package

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and in reaction to the Michigan Senate's passing of legislation allowing concealed weapons in schools, school officials like Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Monica Merritt are saying, "How do I *not* love thee, let me count the ways."

The bills they don't love were approved earlier this month by the state Senate, allowing the concealed carry of handguns in places that have traditionally been off-limits to guns, such as schools, churches, day care centers, bars and stadiums.

The three-bill package, which now moves to the state House, passed the Senate in 25-12 votes, over strong objections from Democrats, one day after it cleared a Senate committee.

And school officials aren't happy about it. Merritt believes the legislation is wrong-minded in a variety of ways and her district's board of education feels strongly enough that it unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday urging the state Legislature to kill the bills.

"Safety and security is our No. 1 priority. ... Anytime you're introducing guns into our buildings, you potentially compromise the safety of our students

and staff," Merritt said. "We have very good response time with our local police and we have school resource officers in our buildings."

And that's not her only problem. "The biggest piece is we have a board of education and they are our governing body," Merritt said. "They should have the authority to determine whether we're a gun-free zone."

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This is a rendering of what the new performing arts center would look like. PARC

PARC: \$30 million campaign for new theater, renovations

Darrell Clem

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's an ambitious plan that officials say could make Plymouth the cultural hub of Detroit's western suburbs.

The vision involves a far-reaching renovation of the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Center, a place where 27 arts, recreation and education tenants already are renting space since PARC got the keys to the former Central Middle School two years ago.

And, in a major boost to the area's cultural scene, the plan involves building an 800-seat performing arts center about 100 yards from PARC's rear entrance, between PARC and the nearby Plymouth Cultural Center.

The total cost: \$30 million.

To that end, the nonprofit PARC has launched a capital funding campaign amid hopes of reaching its fundraising goal by spring. Depending on how much is raised from private sources, PARC may work with local government officials to propose a modest tax increase.

"We're going to do everything we can to raise as much private funding as we possibly can," PARC President Don Soenen said.

Soenen and Gail Grieger, PARC executive director, revealed the latest developments during an interview in Soenen's PARC office. They say it's unique in this area to have a 17-acre site in a downtown setting to offer amenities such as PARC and a new theater.

Soenen said PARC already has about



With all new windows, this is how the front of PARC would look after a massive renovation project. PARC

125 likely commitments for the performing arts center from theater groups and other entertainers. He said the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is among those indicating a preliminary interest in performing.

Officials say the performing arts center would likely open in fall 2020 with a 43,245-square-foot first level and a 7,100-square-foot balcony. If built, officials say the theater and PARC can

"We're going to do everything we can to raise as much private funding as we possibly can."

DON SOENEN
PARC president

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Event touts gratitude, inspiration

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Standing in front of people and having them watch her doing anything is way outside Abby Santelio's comfort zone.

And that's exactly why she was standing in front of students in her school, New School High School in Plymouth Township, singing the Beatles song, "Blackbird."

She was one of several students who made presentations and stood to speak in front of the student body for the school's Day of Inspiration and Gratitude.

For Abby, the song is about someone who has "been through so many tough times" and is still able to fly again.

"Standing up in front of people and having them look at me freaks me out," Abby said. "I'm working on not being as scared by that. I want to be able to step out of my comfort zone."

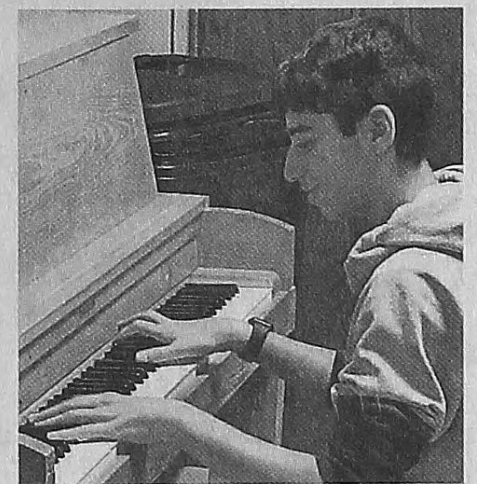
The event was a day for students to stand up and talk about things about which they're passionate, about things and people who inspire them.

It's a time, school leader Cyndy Burnstein said, when students and staff can take a step back from their academic lives and think about things that inspire and motivate them.

"At this school, we talk a lot about that kind of thing," Burnstein said. "If students don't feel safe and cared for and respected and if they don't respect others, they aren't going to learn. If we have a relationship where the culture is a trusting one, we're going to have a great environment."

Figuring out what motivates and inspires is something Jamon Pulliam has done, which made him a good candidate to be the featured speaker at Tuesday's event. Pulliam, a 2011 Salem High School graduate, is now associate director of college at the

See INSPIRATION, Page A2



Sophomore Rayda El-Charif played the piano at the assembly. BRAD KADRICH



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WEAPONS

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Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, and other proponents said the recent mass shooting at a Texas church made the legislation more timely than ever, on the theory that having responsible armed gun owners in churches or schools could deter, stop or minimize such attacks.

Meekhof said the vast majority of mass killings occur in gun-free zones and "citizens have the right to be safe and secure and defend themselves and their loved ones."

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, supported the bills.

"Many proponents of the Second Amendment, myself included, have seen how so-called 'pistol-free zones' should really be viewed as 'criminal empowerment zones'

where people with evil in their hearts will go to try to find victims that they believe will be unarmed," Colbeck said. "These bills still respect private property rights and won't allow people to carry concealed on private property where they are not allowed. It will, however, make sure that our Second Amendment rights and the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves won't artificially end in our public spaces due to arbitrary governmental laws."

South Lyon Police Chief Lloyd Collins said he supports the three-bill package, although he believes the bills, as written, "still need some help, certainly."

"The bill makes it too easy to get an exemption," Collins said. "There are technical issues with the current law and those bills are supposed to clean that up. I'm a supporter of the Second Amendment and people



South Lyon Police Chief Lloyd Collins said he supports the three-bill package, although he believes the bills, as written, "still need some help, certainly." FILE PHOTO



Milford Police Chief Tom Lindberg doesn't support legislation passed earlier this month by the state Senate that would make it easier to carry concealed weapons in schools. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

having the right to carry weapons. But there are still issues (with the bills)."

Milford Police Chief Tom Lindberg doesn't think it's "necessarily" a Second Amendment issue and knows there are some districts where the bills will "be embraced."

Lindberg, who said the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police "lobbied

very hard to get pistol-free zones," said he does not support the changes.

"It should be a jurisdictional decision and the school district, based on what their culture is, should really have the ability to make that decision," Lindberg said. "When somebody makes the argument it's better to have someone carrying a gun in case a bad guy

comes in, that is as silly as the opposite end of the spectrum, when people say nobody should ever be able to carry a gun at all. You can never predict every single scenario. There's a happy median in there."

Sen. Curtis Hertel, D-East Lansing, called it the "pistols in pre-schools" legislation.

Democrats proposed a series of amendments, including one from Hertel to ban people who are on the no-fly list from getting a concealed pistol license. That amendment was rejected along a party line vote, along with amendments to cover any increased liability insurance costs for schools that arise from the legislation and to reimburse teachers for the cost of buying body armor.

Novi Community Schools District Superintendent Steve Matthews is opposed to the legislation for a very simple reason, in his mind: Guns do not belong in schools.

He said his district, like many others, takes several precautions to keep buildings safe — locking exterior doors, using a buzzer system to control entrances, using security cameras and a school resource officer from the Novi Police Department.

"We don't need guns to be in buildings," Matthews said. "Why should a teacher or administrator in a high-stress, highly emotional meeting have to worry about whether the parent has a concealed gun? Why should we have to worry if, in a crowded auditorium or gymnasium, that there might be concealed weapons?"

The House was expected to take up the issue after the Thanksgiving break.

Detroit Free Press staff writer Paul Egan contributed to this story.

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INSPIRATION

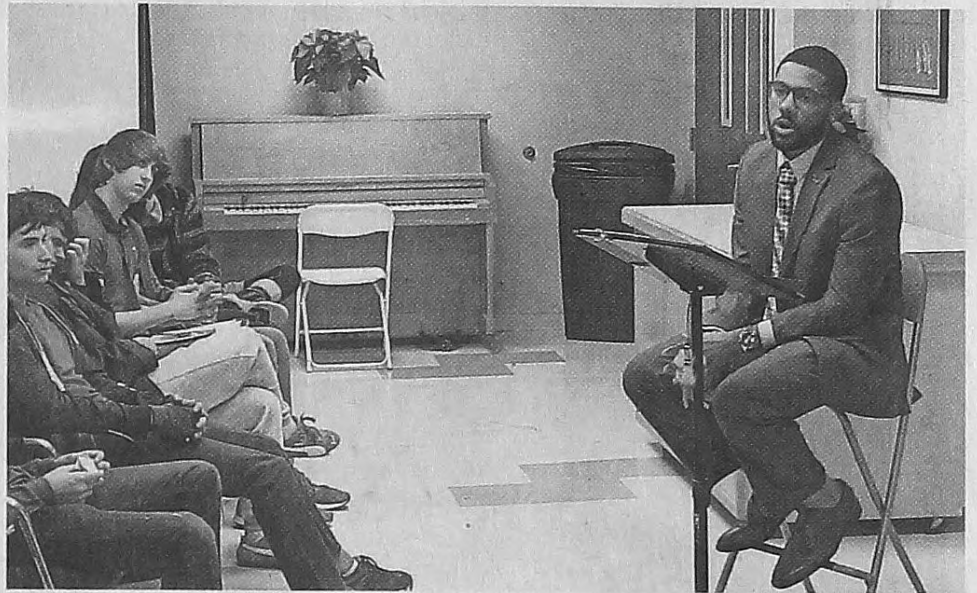
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Drew School in San Francisco, Calif.

He told the students that if they do "something you're really passionate about, you'll never work a day in your life."

"Young people need to understand they have to identify their inspiration and to identify what and who they're thankful for," Pulliam said. "It's important for (students) to find the part of them that inspires them, to find gratitude."

Nicole Colpaert was in the audience, because her son Ben was making a presentation (he offered an inspirational quote from Dr. Suess). Colpaert said the as-



Jamon Pulliam was guest speaker at New School High's inspiration day. BRAD KADRICH

sembly was a "great way" to get kids thinking about things like inspiration and gratitude.

"I don't think kids

spend much time being grateful," she said. "It's great if something can bring that to the forefront. We probably don't

do that enough. The kids are really engaged in it."

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PARC

Continued from Page A1

heighten Plymouth's position as an arts destination.

"It solidifies Plymouth's position as a destination for the arts for all of western Wayne County (and beyond)," Grieger said. "There's really no other place in southeast Michigan that will be able to present those types of amenities in one place, with access to restaurants and shops and things like that."

Nan Washburn, music director and conductor of the Michigan Philharmonic, has said, "Having a performing arts center right in the heart of our hometown of Plymouth would be a dream come true for the Michigan Philharmonic."

The latest develop-

ments come after the three-story, 160,000-square-foot PARC building already is used for theater productions, youth sports, culinary arts classes, orchestra concerts and arts education, among other uses. Tenants range from the Michigan Philharmonic to the Detroit-based College for Creative Studies, which wanted to offer classes in the Plymouth-Canton area.

In all, 85 percent of PARC's 62 classrooms already are leased, Soenen said. PARC has arts, recreation and education tenants alongside recreation offerings, including a swimming pool, a gymnasium and outdoor athletic fields.

Soenen said the building at 650 Church St. has an ideal location between Detroit and Ann Arbor. However, officials say the building, which also

was once Plymouth High School, dates back 100 years and is in dire need of major renovations.

During the capital funding campaign, Soenen said attempts will be made to raise as much as possible through charitable donations from foundations, companies and individual donors. PARC also will seek pledge commitments and opportunities for large-scale donors to potentially have naming rights and recognition opportunities.

Soenen envisions three equal pledge donations in fall 2018, mid-2019 and mid-2020. Potential donors can initiate a pledge or learn more by contacting Soenen at dsoenen@sensors-inc.com.

Despite the money-raising campaign, Soenen acknowledged it's likely that a tax increase might

be needed. Although it's premature to say how much, Soenen said a 1-mill tax hike would cost a typical homeowner about \$110 a year, while 0.5 mills would cost \$55.

On a recent survey conducted by Lansing-based polling firm EPIC-MRA for Plymouth and Plymouth Township, residents overwhelmingly said they are aware of PARC. In all, 94 percent of city residents knew about it, compared to 84 percent of township residents.

Of those aware of PARC, 88 percent of city residents said the facility adds value to the Plymouth community, compared to 83 percent of township residents.

The question is, can PARC officials use that level of support to convince residents to approve a tax increase, if one is needed.

The survey follows a separate, independent study by Lansing-based Anderson Economic Group that concluded the PARC plans will have a positive effect on property values and downtown businesses.

"PARC will bring numerous long-term benefits to the Plymouth community, including quality of life and economic benefits," the study concluded.

And a feasibility study conducted by an independent advisory firm, Stout, Risius, Ross, LLC, concluded the project is viable.

"Based on our forecasts of income, expenses and performance projections of the existing and proposed development, our study of the business operations of the project indicates the future operation will be feasible," the company

wrote.

It also said the business model of renting out space provides for a "stable income stream."

Local residents Mark and Patty Malcolm donated \$3.5 million to save the building and support PARC.

In a press release, the Malcolms issued a joint statement saying PARC "can become an incredible, value-added asset for us all, with scope and quality that is unprecedented and superior to anything in this region."

As the capital funding campaign begins in earnest, PARC officials plan to conduct public forums to educate the community on the PARC vision. One is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Penn Theatre.

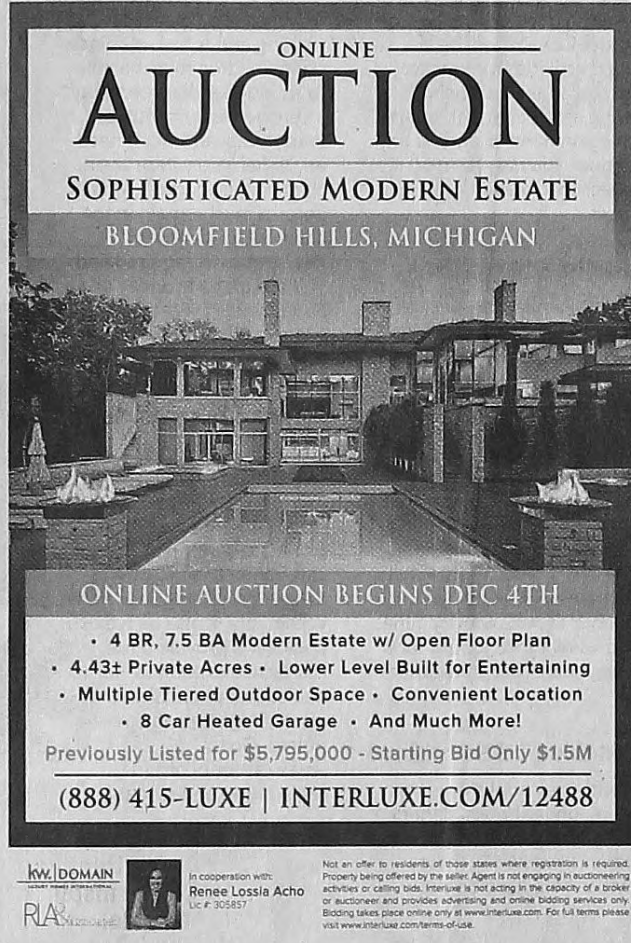
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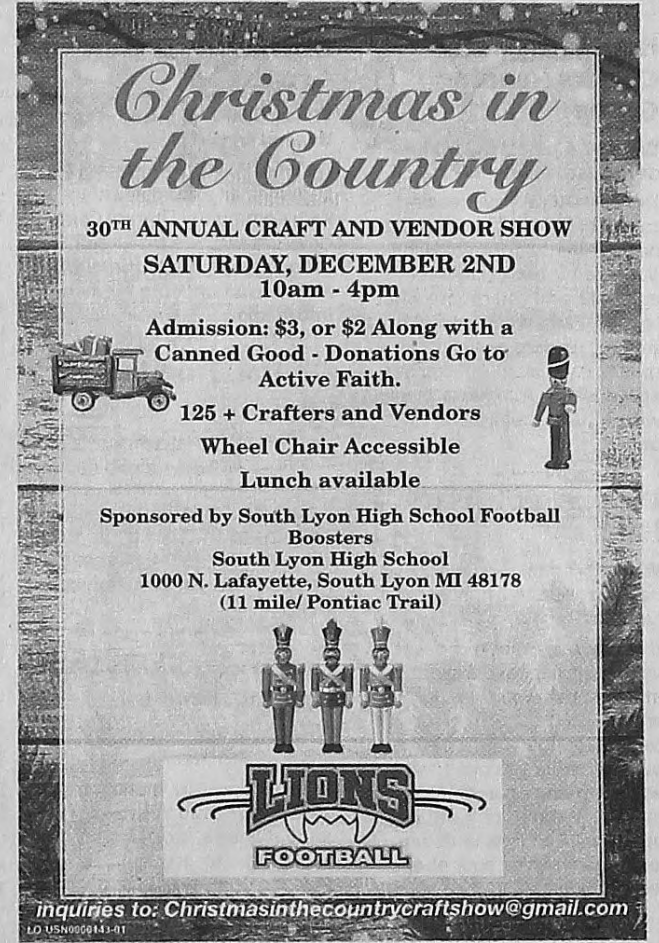
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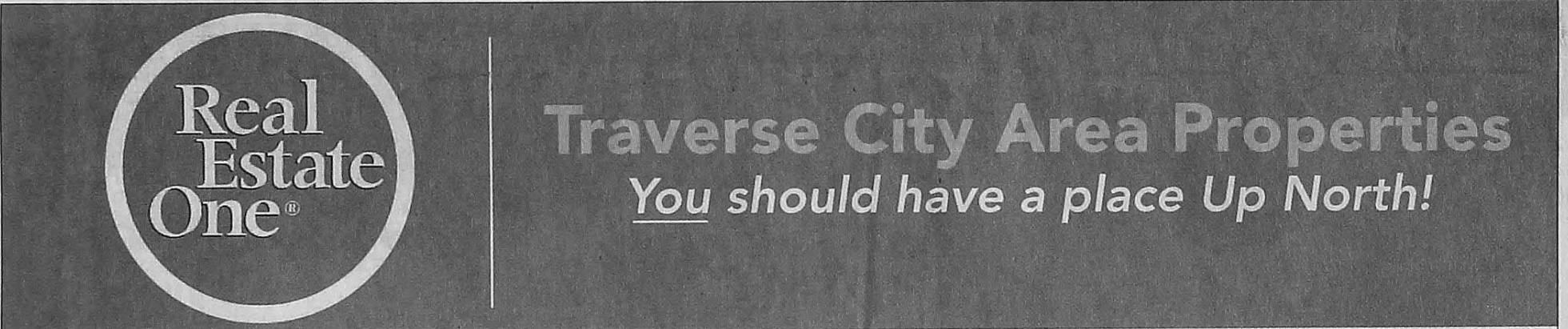
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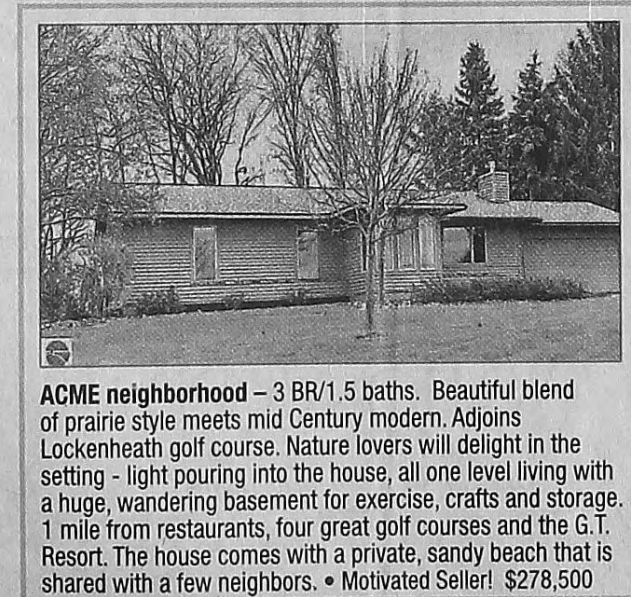


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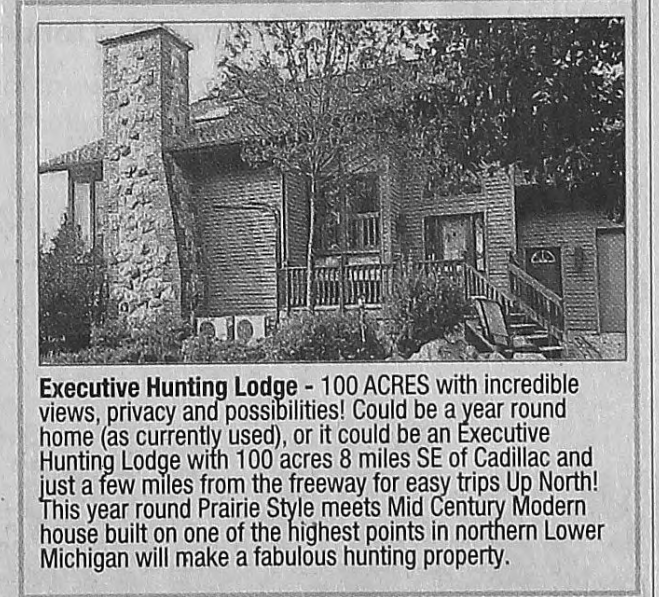
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PCA students collect relief funds for Puerto Rico



During the month of November, Plymouth Christian Academy has been involved in a contest to raise funds for Puerto Rico. The destruction in Puerto Rico has been close to PCA's heart since one of its staff members, Netty Melendez, has family there and has shared members' first-hand accounts of the tragedy that has struck the island. Collection cans were placed outside classrooms, preschool through 12th grade, including elementary and secondary principals, Ryan Batson and Caryn Huntsman. Staff and students voted for the persons (one elementary and one secondary) who would end up dressed in a turkey costume by placing money in their can. The winner of the elementary contest was sixth-grade teacher Ashley Frey, while the winner of the secondary contest was middle school teacher Nathan Yates. The amount of money raised was to be announced and a check was to be presented to Melendez at the annual PCA Thanksgiving Chapel.

Century mark: State's oldest Mayflower descendant is 100

When Betty Ann Dryer joined the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan in 1989, she had no idea she would be celebrated as the organization's most senior member nearly 30 years later.

Born Nov. 18, 1917, in Coldwater, Dryer spent her formative years in that city before moving to the Wayne area, where she has spent the past 50 years.

She attended Cleary College in Ypsilanti and later worked as a bookkeeper in her husband's medical practice.

She married Dr. C. Kenneth Dryer, M.D., in September 1939 and together they raised three children, Kendra Dryer Ross of Naperville, Ill., a nursing instructor; Richard D. Dryer, M.D., of Pinckney, who is affiliated with the Henry Ford Medical System; and Diana Dryer Stadtmiller of Northville, a high school English and middle school ESL teacher.

Ken and Betty were married for nearly 72 years before his death in 2011. She has been very active in Wayne, volunteering at the Annapolis Hospital Auxiliary, the First Congregational Church and serving as a Cub Scout troop leader.

Dryer currently lives in Canton, near her family.

Directly descended from Stephen Hopkins, a pilgrim who arrived in the New World on a



Betty Ann Dryer is the state's oldest Mayflower descendant.

small sailing ship called the Mayflower in 1620, Dryer proved her ancestry in 1989 before the benefits of computers and the Internet, building on the research done by other family members.

Her ancestor was from Hampshire, England, and was one of the few pilgrims who had visited the New World before joining the separatists who left England for religious freedom in 1620. He had visited both Barbados and Jamestown by 1609. As an experienced traveler, Hopkins was invaluable to the Pilgrims in their relationships with the Native Americans.

Mayflower descendants across the globe will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower arrival at Cape Cod and what is now Plymouth, Mass., in 2020.

CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS

Hero Hangout: Comics Reading Group

When: 7-8 p.m. third Wednesday of each month

Details: Do you love reading comics or learning about super heroes? Join us for Hero Hangout, a comic book club is for ages 7-12, and you choose what to read. Every week we will be sharing, reading and making comics. Participants are encouraged to bring a comic to share with a group, but are not required.

On the Spot Tech Help

When: 5-7 p.m. each Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. each Saturday

Details: A team of tech-savvy volunteers has been assembled at CPL to help you find the answers to those tech issues you can't quite figure out on your own. Whether you need help while working on a project at one of our computers, setting up an email address or downloading an app on your phone, we can help.

ELL Conversation Groups

When: 9:30-11 a.m. each Thursday and Friday

Details: Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers. See the English Language Learner Program FAQ at www.cantonpl.org for more information.

Digital Drop-In Help

When: 10-11 a.m. each Friday

Details: Stop in to get one-on-one help with your e-readers from the friendly experts at the Information desk. Just bring your device and your desire to learn. Kindle users must bring Amazon log-in information as well.

Computer Skills Lab for Beginners

When: 9-11 a.m. second Saturday of each month

Details: If you are looking to build a foundation of strong computer skills, including Internet use and setting up an email account, stop in to CPL's

Internet Lab. We will have guided activities for practice with mouse skills, copying/pasting and more, with trusted experts on hand to answer any questions you may have or connect you to additional resources.

Family Storytime

Details: Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children under age 5.

Together with a youth librarian, you can build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every Family Storytime is followed by a half-hour of ABC Activity Time. Go to www.cantonpl.org for a full November program schedule.

Preschool Storytime

Details: Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-55. These activities help develop pre-

reading and school-readiness skills. Children must be able to sit independently and be attentive for 30 minutes. Parents may attend, if needed, to help transition their child to this program, and all parents must remain in the children's department. Registration is required and you can pick a Monday or a Friday session. Go to www.cantonpl.org for registration and schedule.

Baby Storytime

Details: Baby Storytime is designed for babies 18 months and younger with an adult and features simple stories, songs and rhymes carefully chosen to build awareness of language and vocabulary, foster a love of books and provide a fun, interactive experience for babies and parents/caregivers. Registration is required. Go to www.cantonpl.org for registration and schedule.

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All-natural toy store opens in Plymouth

Maria Taylor

Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Judy Alexander had her first son, she realized she had a problem. It was the very early years of the eco-friendly movement and, for people who valued organic food and clothing and furniture, there wasn't much out there.

So she set to work to fix that.

Today, what started as a side hustle has turned into a full-time business: Palumba, an all-natural toy store dedicated to quality workmanship and simple, beautiful materials. This fall, Alexander relocated her store to Plymouth after 10 years in Ann Arbor. The new storefront is at 502 Farmer St., an industrial building by the railroad tracks.

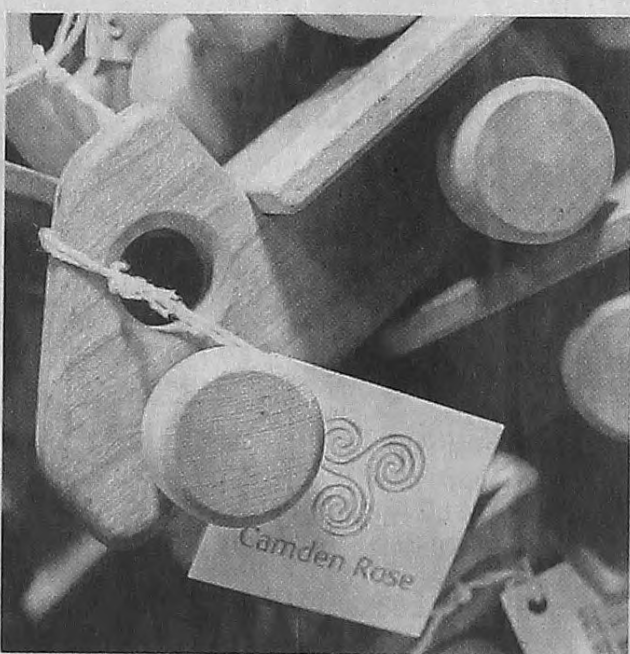
Palumba's mission is "inspired natural living." Inside, you can find natural wooden toys, Waldorf dolls made of soft fabric, musical instruments, art supplies, organic clothing and hardwood furniture.

"I primarily only had organic food and it made sense that I wanted a mattress for my child that's not full of chemicals. I didn't want to have clothing full of chemicals. So I started importing and then selling organic baby clothing," Alexander said. "It's healthier for babies, healthier for kids and healthier for the environment."

Alexander joined forces with a local artisan who did woodwork and ended up buy-



Laura Darrow tags little flatbed trucks. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Little flatbed trucks at Palumba. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sells for \$379.99. Alexander calls it heirloom quality. "After you're done playing with it for seven, eight years, you can sand it, refinish it and it's like new," she said. "It's ecological, too."

Orders for Palumba/Camden Rose come from all across the United States, primarily online.

"It started as a small market, but it's growing," Alexander said. Many customers are people with allergies or food sensitivities or can only handle natural products.

For those who visit the new Plymouth location, there's a special feature: a 1,000-square-foot "natural playroom," kind of like a mock house, where you can see Palumba products in a lifestyle setting. Admission to the room is \$8 and kids and families can hang out, play and test the products. It's a big upgrade from the last location, where the showroom was less than a quarter of the current size.

"People used to look in there and say, 'wow!' When it's all natural products in a room, it's a totally different feeling," Alexander said. "They're beautiful — soft, inviting. Even if they're left out, not put away, they look artful."

Simple play, she said, allows a child to be creative and fosters their development. With something as basic as simple wooden blocks, you can make a fort, an animal, a house.

In today's high-tech, high-speed world, couldn't we all use a bit more of that?

ing him out seven years ago. Camden Rose is the manufacturing side of the business and produces more than 200 types of wood products, including rattles, teethingers, blocks and puzzles.

All Palumba/Camden Rose products are made in the U.S. from either wood, wool, silk or cotton: no plastics, no electronics. That's a big part of what makes her toys different, Alexander said.

"Wood is warm to the touch, almost like a person," she said. "Plastic can get really cold, really hot."

Palumba products are fashioned after a Waldorf education,

which is all about open-ended, authentic play — like the cherry wood rattle, one of the first toys to be sold. It's a doughnut-shaped circle with a bar through the center and a wooden bead on the bar. Like all Camden Rose products, it's made by hand.

"When a baby shakes it, they see what makes the noise," Alexander said. "They see cause and effect. With most rattles, the noisemaker is hidden."

Topping the sales charts is the simple hearth kitchen. It's a play kitchen with a stove, an oven and a sink. It's made of solid cherry hardwood and

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Madonna launches fast-track nursing program

The nationwide nursing shortage is expected to hit critical levels over the next decade and southeast Michigan is no exception. If the number of registered nurse graduates remains constant, Michigan's nursing shortage will reach 5,296 by 2018, according to Michigan Health Council 2016 data. That's why Madonna University and Ascension's St. John Providence are teaming up to offer anew, accelerated path to nursing.

Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health is pleased to announce the launch of its Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Qualified students can transfer their college credit or non-nursing degrees to earn a BSN in 16 months through a combination of online coursework, on-site lab experience and clinical placements through St. John Providence, the ABSN program's academic practice partner.

"As the need for nurses increases, it is important for us to help meet the demand through more quality educational options," said Catherine Griffin, Ph.D., RN, interim dean of Madonna University's College of Nursing and Health.



Michigan's nursing shortage is expected to reach 5,296 by 2018, prompting Madonna University to begin a new fast-track nursing program.

"Our new ABSN program provides the opportunity for more students to earn a BSN degree, so they can begin their careers of service in the community as soon as possible."

Metro Detroit's health care sector is a prime destination for registered nurses because of the rapidly aging baby boomer population and retirement wave of registered nurses; 43 percent of the RNs in southeast Michigan plan to retire

within 10 years, according to 2016 data from the Michigan Center for Nursing.

"Developing qualified, career-ready nurses through an accelerated nursing program like this is essential for our community," said Gay Landstrom, St. John Providence chief nursing officer. "As the demand increases, it's our responsibility as a health care leader to provide and foster solutions. That's why we are proud to

team up with Madonna University to help educate and prepare the nurses of tomorrow."

Madonna University's ABSN program has spots available now for qualified students.

The ABSN program will offer three start dates each year, fall, winter and summer. MU is accepting applications now for the first start Aug. 27, 2018

To learn more, go to absn.madonna.edu or call 844-319-2107.

Three Canton churches vying for security award

Security 101-Detroit has announced three area churches are finalists to receive a \$10,000 integrated security system as part of the corporate-wide sixth annual Gift of Security. The Gift of Security provides integrated security services from Security 101 and equipment from product partner Axis Communication.

The winner of the system will be chosen in a public online voting process running through Dec. 8.

The local finalists, chosen by a panel of civic leaders, include St. Thomas a'Becket Church, Connection Church and St. John Neumann Parish, all

of Canton.

To vote for one of these nonprofit organizations, go to the Gift of Security website at detroit/gift-of-security. The winning organization will be announced Dec. 11.

Since its inception in 2012, the program has grown yearly and benefited 14 nonprofit groups. Former winners have included children's organizations, domestic abuse homes, homeless shelters and more. This year, Security 101-Detroit is one of 15 Security 101 locations participating nationwide.

For more information, go to www.security101.com.

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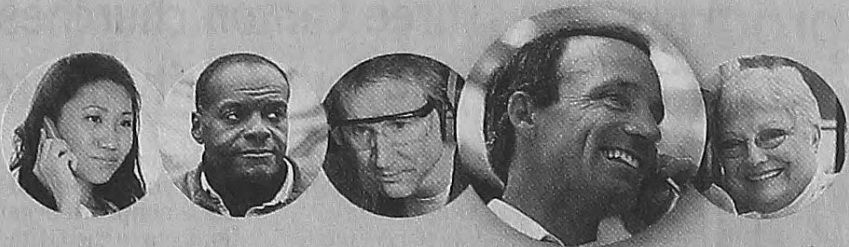
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Some things to consider with a Roth IRA conversion

Q: I was at a library talk you gave a few weeks ago and one of the items you talked about was that people should look at potentially converting some of their traditional IRAs into a Roth IRA. I sat down with my accountant and had him compute the numbers. He told me that, because of my income, I could only convert about \$10,000 in order to stay in the same bracket. With Michigan taxes and federal taxes, it'll cost me about \$3,500 in taxes. My question is, where best to get this money? The two options I have are to either take a little larger IRA distribution and use the extra money to pay the tax or take the money from my personal checking account. My question to you is, which option do you think I should take? I want to do another Roth conversion next year. It is best to wait until the end of the year or should I do it at the beginning of the year?

A: First, I think it is great that you're doing a Roth IRA conversion. I think it is an excellent strategy and something more people should take advantage of. After all, if you can turn tax-deferred money into tax-free money, why not?

With regards to paying the taxes, there's no doubt in my mind that



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

you should take it from your checking account. The reasoning is quite simple — if you take additional amount of money from a traditional IRA and use that to pay your taxes, you are taxed on the distribution. If you take the money from your checking account, there would be no additional tax liability.

What many people forget about is, when you do a Roth conversion, there is a tax liability. That's why I always tell people that one of my rules of converting is that you must have the money available to pay the taxes without touching any of the money that you are converting. In addition, if you did withdraw extra money from an IRA for the conversion and you are under 59½, in addition to the tax on that money, you would also have to pay a penalty. To make things easier, you should always plan to pay your tax liability if you do a Roth conversion with non-IRA money.

With regards to timing of a Roth conversion, do it sooner than later. My reasoning is simple: the sooner you convert, the more time your money has to grow tax-free vs. tax-de-

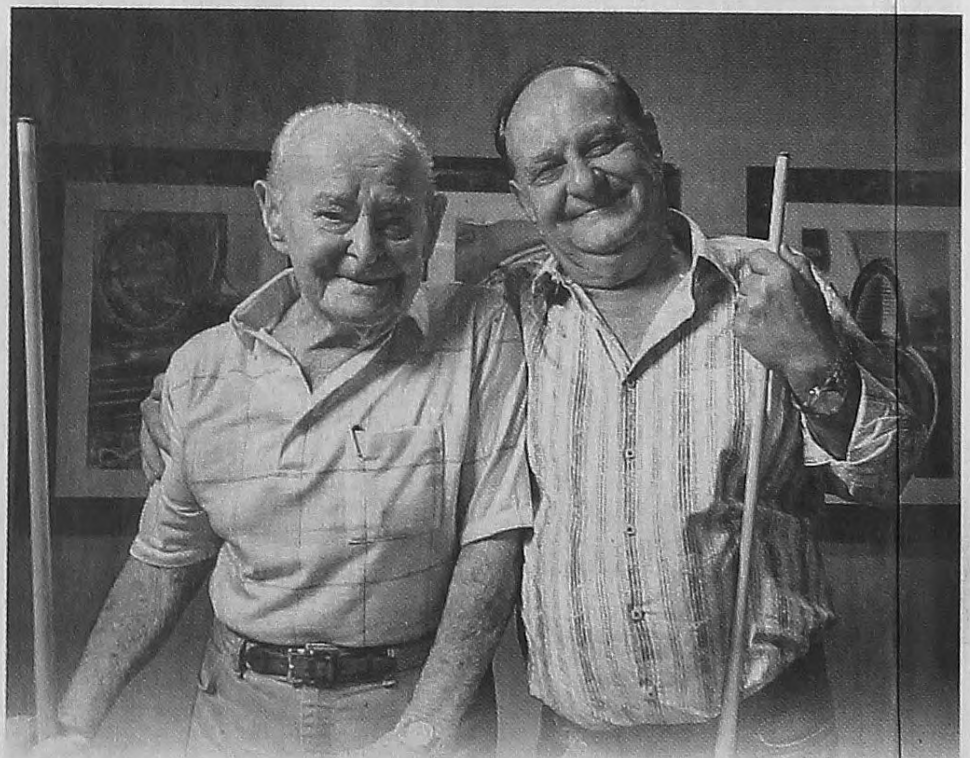
ferred. If all things are equal, I would do my Roth conversion at the beginning of the year rather than at the end.

If you do decide to do a Roth IRA conversion at the beginning of the year, make sure that if you need to make an estimated payment for your tax liability, you do so. So many people are under the mistaken belief that they can wait until the following April to pay the tax, but that is not the case. As I've mentioned many times in the past, taxes are due on a quarterly basis, so if you do a Roth conversion in the first quarter of 2018, it is important to look at your income tax situation to make sure you don't have to make an estimated payment.

There is still time before the end of the year to do a Roth conversion, but the clock is ticking. Remember, the Roth IRA conversion must be completed before the end of the year and there are no extensions. If you are thinking about doing a Roth conversion, you should contact your IRA custodian as soon as possible so the transaction can be completed in plenty of time.

Good luck!

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



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Check out the coolest aquarium shop in Michigan

David Bloom

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It is hard to characterize what's hidden behind a non-descript home on Inkster Road in Romulus, but it's one of the coolest places in metro Detroit.

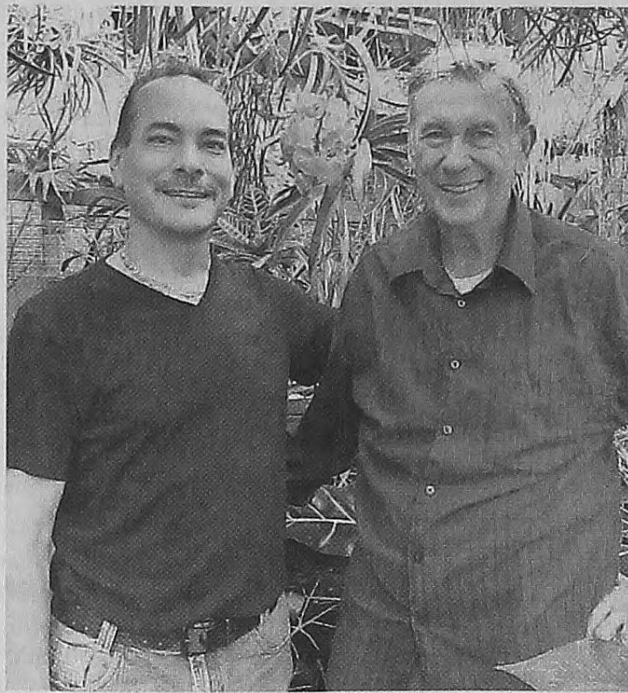
Is it a business, an over-the-top hobby cave, a nursery or a farm? It's all of these things and it's a six-decade realization of a young airman's dream to bring back a piece of Okinawa's underwater paradise to Michigan.

Customers park on a gravel driveway and follow the posted signs around to a small, windowless side door at Tropicorium. An eerie dark blue light illuminating a tank of multi-colored stony corals greets guests upon entering. A blast of supercharged humid air immediately follows, taking one by surprise.

Inside, narrow concrete passageways lined with tanks of colorful, tropical salt water fish lead to two adjacent greenhouses, each filled with large, chest-high tanks where hard and soft corals, iridescent clams and tons of live rock are being cultivated amidst the sounds of rushing and bubbling water.

Another tank is filled with several shark species that are hand-fed with whole squid. A large freshwater tank holds small koi and a much larger sturgeon. Out back are four large ponds, surrounded by Japanese lanterns, that contain bigger koi.

Dick Perrin, the 84-year-old founder of Tropicorium, was hooked for life after discovering the



Dick Perrin (right) and his son Ray run the Tropicorium in Romulus. DAVID BLOOM

wonders of Okinawa's rich marine life in 1953 while serving in the U.S. Air Force on the Japanese island during the Korean War.

"The coral there came right up to the shore," he said.

As there was no practical way to keep saltwater fish in Michigan, Perrin started out with freshwater ones in 1959, when he opened at his first location in Woodhaven. In the early 1970s, he began keeping saltwater fish, shipping them in from the Florida Keys.

Perrin realized this was going to be an expensive hobby, so he became a residential builder and a draftsman, designing and building his own houses, with the goal of making enough money to afford the investment. He succeeded.

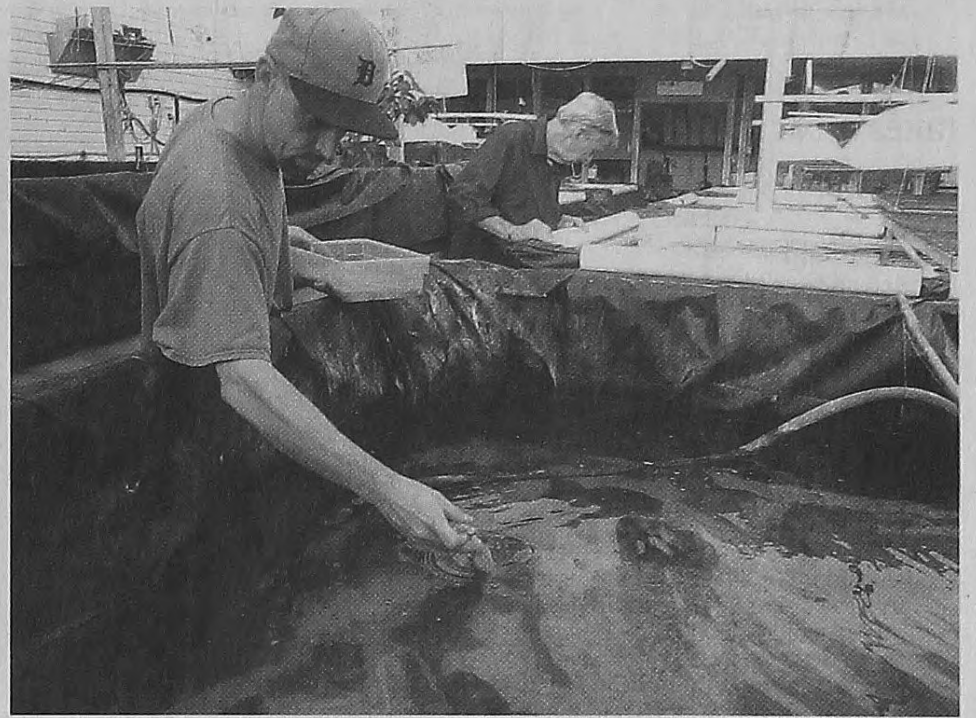
"Because of this, profit is not a main driver for me anymore. This is all a gigantic hobby for me

that has grown disastrously overboard!" said Perrin, who runs Tropicorium with his son Ray and two employees.

Today, Tropicorium's tanks hold 55,000 gallons of salt water, which, according to Perrin, might be more than all other aquarium shops in Michigan combined. To raise healthy animals, Perrin says he needs "high-quality food, lots of room and no overcrowding."

"Tropicorium carries the broadest selection of clownfish anywhere in the world," he said, including designer clownfish with color schemes that don't exist in the wild. His also claims to have the only shop around that breeds sharks. About 150-200 are born there each year and, if a customer's shark outgrows its tank, Tropicorium will exchange it for a smaller one.

It took Perrin 30 years of trial-and-error experi-



A worker at Tropicorium feeds squid to the sharks. DAVID BLOOM

mentation to succeed in growing coral and cultivating live rock, which contains a range of beneficial bacteria, algae and invertebrates. The rock starts out as quarried, fossilized coral and it takes eight months to a year to transform it into a must-have item for anyone desiring to build a healthy and self-sustaining saltwater aquarium system.

Perrin has moved beyond just growing corals. Now he designs the invertebrates through selective breeding, bringing out fantastic color schemes that look like they belong in psychedelic works of art.

After Perrin retires, his son Ray will take over. Until then, he's happy to roam among the sharks and clownfish.

"You couldn't find a luckier guy than me to get into all this cool-ass stuff," he said with a big grin on his face.

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COACH TAKES LEAD ROLE AFTER STORM

In Texas town, football takes a back seat as critical needs are met

LEN HAYWARD
CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit one-nation.usatoday.com.

REFUGIO, Texas — Jason Herring, the head football coach and athletic director at Refugio, one of Texas' most successful schoolboy football programs, was on his way west as Hurricane Harvey was strengthening to a Category 4 storm in the Gulf of Mexico and barreling down on the Coastal Bend.

While he had the means to leave, many of his players and Refugio's school district students did not, and it left him with some guilt.

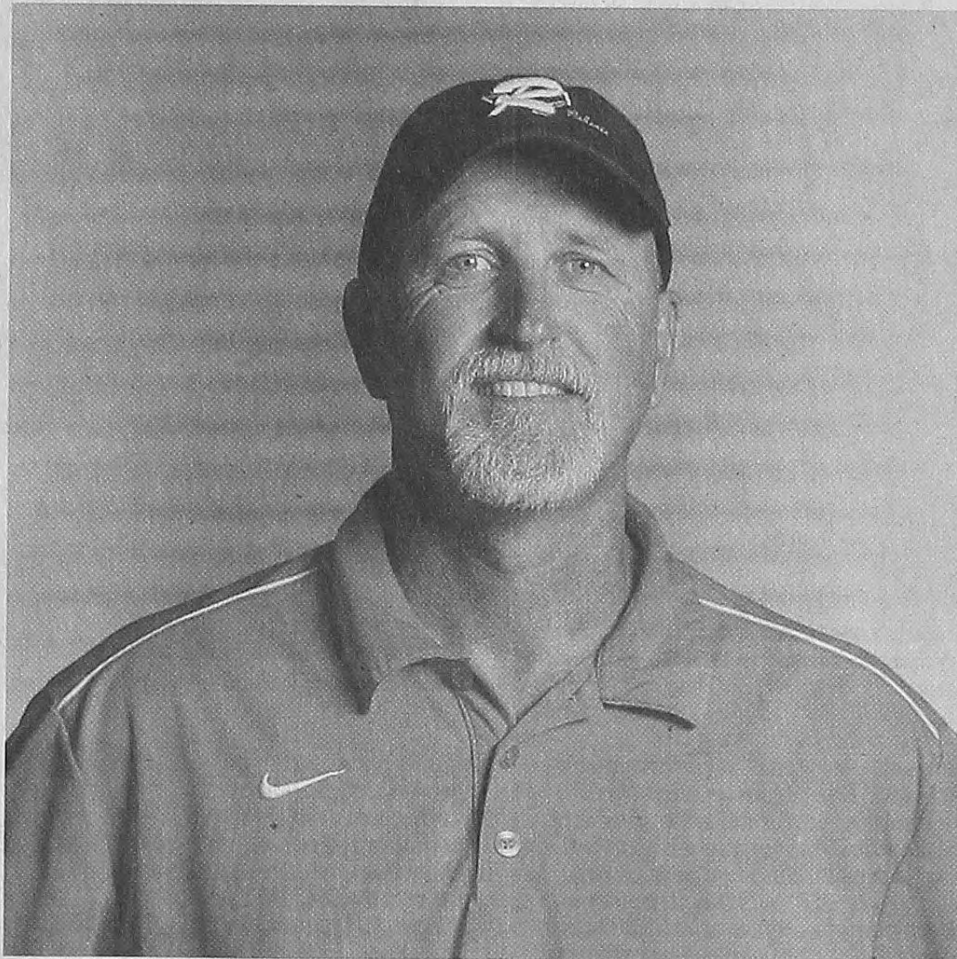
"When I got back, I couldn't believe my eyes," Herring said. "When I came back and saw all the devastation and the power lines laying everywhere, I didn't even have to think about it. It just came natural. I knew I needed to help as much as I could."

The storm was one of the strongest to hit Texas, and the heart of the storm took dead aim on Refugio after making landfall near Rockport. The town of about 2,900, which relies on farming, ranching and the oil business and struggles economically, had damage everywhere.

Herring's home suffered significant damage, as did the high school. The town was without power for nearly a month. Herring hardly slept as he and the school's staff worked to locate students to make sure they were OK, and began to help anywhere he could.

Herring said he knew football could be a galvanizing force for the town as it rebuilds, but for a few weeks football took a back seat.

Herring and the players who could get there unloaded truckloads of supplies at churches and donation stations, and also cleaned up at homes and businesses. Herring even became a de facto relief organizer as the supplies began to



Football coach Jason Herring helped direct relief efforts around Refugio, Texas, following Hurricane Harvey. RACHEL DENNY CLOW/CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER-TIMES

come to the town. Some of his players were left without homes, and shortly after the storm, there were cots set up for players in the school's weight room.

A high school football coach in Texas is a high-pressure job, but in many small communities the coaches are town leaders, and Herring has shown that as the cleanup has continued. Herring was one of a handful of coaches in affected areas who took up similar responsibilities.

"I love people, I love these kids with all that I have, and I want to help as many kids and family members as I can possibly help, through the grace of God and all these donations, I want to help them rebuild," Herring said. "I want to give them a semblance of hope, and I want to get them back to as much normalcy as I can in their lives."

Q&A WITH JASON HERRING

What does it mean to you to be an American?

Just right off the top of my head, being an American is about being something greater than yourself. To be part of a free country, a big, big unit where you are just a small piece and everybody is working towards a common goal. Specifically, being an American to me, we are so blessed to get to worship where we want, to live where we want, be what we want.

What moment touched and motivated you in your efforts to help the community?

I've always had the heart to help people that didn't have the means. So I just trusted the good Lord and prayed about it, and God brought in the finances, and we were able to help a bunch of people get back on their feet. I knew our community was downtrodden. I knew the hurricane was devastating. I just knew immediately I had to do what I could do, however small that is, to help as many kids and kids' families as I could.

What gives you hope? What concerns you?

No question, the hope has been great. The tens of thousands of supplies, the tens of thousands of people. Over \$100,000 has been donated, so there's no question the hope, and what I'm really excited about is all the people that came to help us. My biggest fear is that there's going to be tons and tons and tons of people that need our help when all of our resources are gone.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

Honestly, what I want to accomplish even as a coach, even as a teacher, in everything I do is I want people to understand there is nothing greater than love. I believe that you need to love everyone and you need to spend your whole life serving other people. If you spend your whole life serving other people and helping people and doing for people, then one of these days in life when you find yourself in a pinch, somebody will help you.

JASON HERRING

Location: Refugio, Texas

Age: 48

Profession: Head football coach/athletic director for Refugio Independent School District

Mission: Took a lead role in the post-Hurricane Harvey recovery for Refugio

ONE NATION

Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at onenation.usatoday.com or via email to onenation@usatoday.com or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on December 14th, 2017, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit A19 Doub, Household Goods: Unit B21 Roberts, Household Goods: Unit C113 Lockett, Household Goods: Unit C206 Williams, Household Goods: Unit D21 Johnstone, Household Goods: Unit D35 Doub Household Goods: Unit E29 Wimberly, Household Goods: Unit E38 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit F45 Fogarty, Household Goods: Unit G32 Powell, Household Goods: Unit G33 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit J25 Siano, Household Goods: Unit K03 Cromwell, Household Goods: Unit K10 Siano, Household Goods: Unit K11 Gaines, Household Goods.

Published: November 26 & December 3, 2017

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AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LJV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com.

Letters to Santa from Canton

From now through Nov. 30, Canton residents can mail a letter to Santa by dropping it off in the North Pole Express Mailbox in the Summit on the Park lobby, 46000 Summit Parkway.

Santa asks that participants who send him some special mail this holiday season print their names and addresses clearly so that he is able to personally reply to all letters. Each household will receive a return letter and Santa will take care of the postage. Canton residents only.

For more information about this or any Leisure Services activity or

event, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluesociety.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, for its debut appearance with the Elks will be The Sax Maniacs Band. Performing will be Terry Burton on vocals, Ray Wise on guitar and vocals, Tom Hunter on bass and vocals, Joe Bruglio on drums and vocals and Dave "Dr. Z" Daniele on keys, sax and vocals.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, returning will be The Terry Lower Trio. Members are Edye Evans Hyde on vocals, Terry Lower on keys, Ray Tini on bass and Jim Ryan on drums.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

Holiday tea event

The Canton Historical Society will host a holiday tea event 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the historic Bartlett-Travis

House, 500 N. Ridge Road, at Canton's historic house while it is decorated for Christmas! Ticket price . Tickets are \$25 a person and include tea, sandwiches and small desserts. They are available at the Summit on the Park.

'Christmas Memories' concert

The First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, is offering a free Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 10. There will be two performances, at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., in the church sanctuary. Performers will include the Chancel Choir, Fifth Season women's ensemble and soloists performing familiar holiday music.

Parking is available in the church parking lot

and on surrounding residential and downtown streets. Guests will be greeted by church deacons at the doors adjacent to the church parking lot starting 20 minutes prior to the performance.

Hats for the Homeless

Plymouth Community United Way is gearing up for the annual Hats for the Homeless drive, scheduled to run through Dec. 29 in an effort keep our homeless community warm during the winter months. New and handmade items can be dropped at the PCUW office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday.

Should your company or group like to partici-

pate by hosting a drive on-site or like to sponsor items like coats or blankets, contact Randi at 734-453-6879, ext. 5. For more information, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org.

Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 13th season at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

Obituaries

Amelia Maier

ONTARIO - Amelia Jane Maier (McDougall), 84 of Gaylord, MI and formerly of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 17, 2017 surrounded by loving family.

Jane was born on December 7, 1932 to Malcolm and Catherine McDougall and grew up as a farm girl on the Manitoulin Island in Ontario, Canada. After marrying and moving to the Detroit area, Jane devoted her life to her 5 children and her career as a real estate broker.

She was a successful entrepreneur and businesswoman, owning brokerage firms in Farmington and West Bloomfield. Jane was a member of the Michigan Realtors Association for over 40 years, and was a hallmark in the real estate industry, establishing many wonderful relationships with colleagues and customers, while working in a profession she truly loved.

Surviving are her children, Laurie (Kevin Parsons) Butler of Nunica, Douglas (Sandy) Maier of Jacksonville, FL, Dennis Maier of Gaylord, Joanne (Treavor) Smith of Sterling Heights and Jennifer (Todd) Brigmon of South Lyon; grandchildren, Ashley, Gregory, Amanda, Jack, Cael, Preston, Linnea, Jake and Kate; a great granddaughter, Elizabeth; a sister, Peggy Johnson of Ingersoll, Ontario and several nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Joan McDougall; a brother, Stan McDougall; and her former husband, George Maier.

Her family has chosen to remember her privately. Those who wish are asked to consider memorial contributions to Munson Hospice of Grayling.

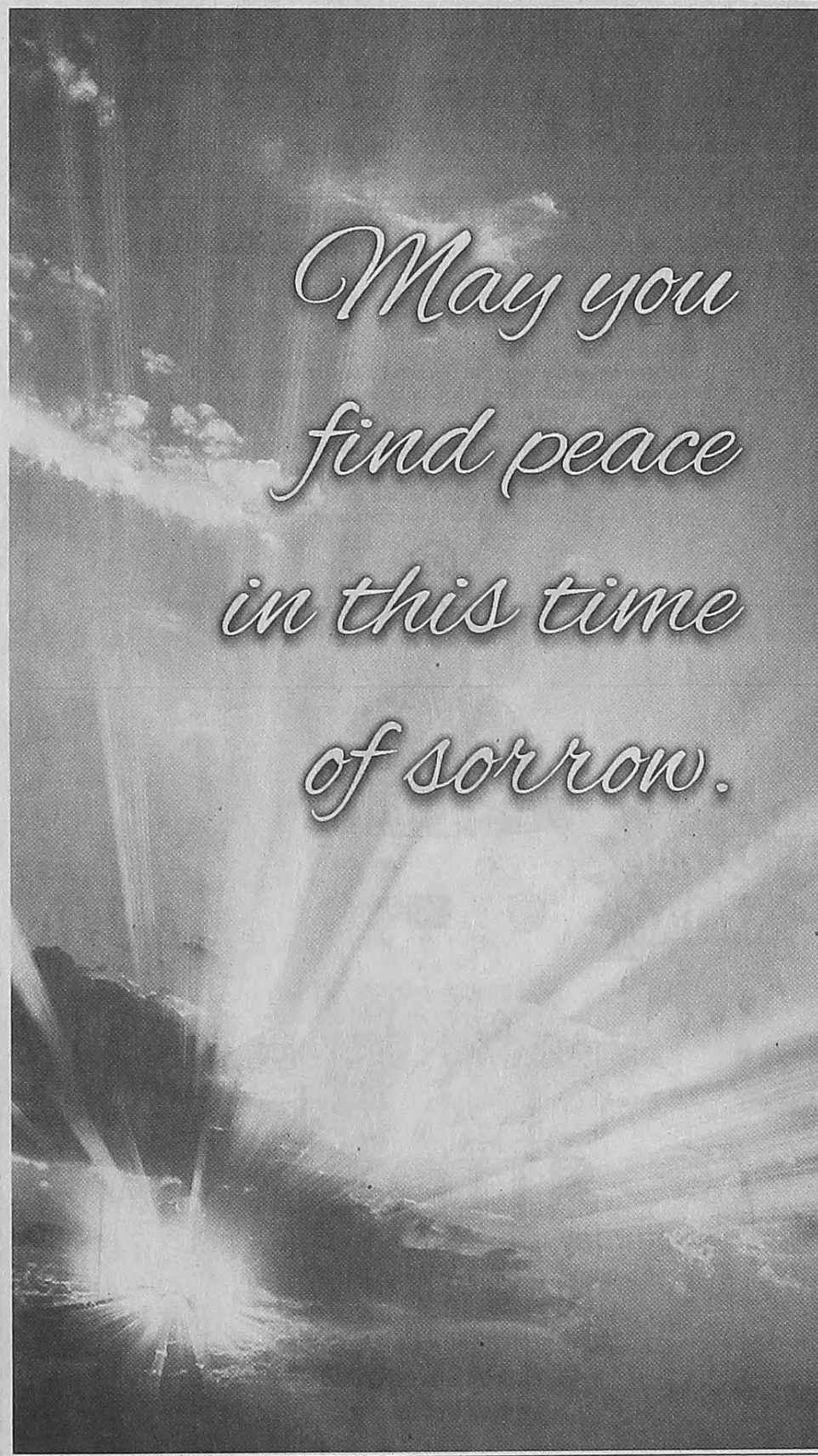
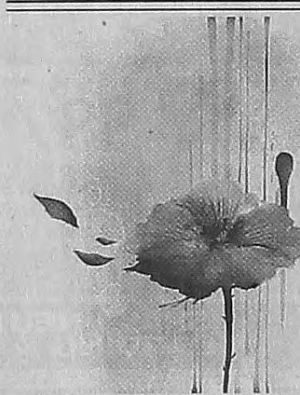
Arrangements are by Gaylord Community Funeral Home & Cremation Service. Please share your memories and personal messages with the family at www.gaylordfuneralhome.com



Doris Keehl

WESTLAND - Keehl, Doris Arlene, November 14, 2017 age 81 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Roy Keehl. Loving mother of Kevin (Suzy) Bewersdorf and the late Kip Bewersdorf. Proud grandmother of Kal and Kris Heir; great grandmother of Kash Heir. Dear sister of Carol (Ronald) Bobby. Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Memorial Service Monday 11 AM at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5885 N. Venoy Road, Westland. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com

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Warren G. Todd

AUBURN, CA - Warren G. Todd passed away on 11/4/2017, one day after his 97th birthday. He had recently relocated to The Oaks of Auburn in Auburn,

CA to be closer to his daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Ken Haruta. Warren passed comfortably at home with his daughter and son-in-law by his side after a brief illness.

Warren was born in Plymouth, MI on 11/3/1920. His parents were Lydia Trinkaus & Robert Todd, longtime, early residents of Plymouth. Warren was married to June Willig of Chicago, IL. They met in the Navy during WWII and were wed on St. Patrick's Day 1945, after only 3 weeks from their first date. June always said, "He was the only guy on base with a car".

Warren started his engineering apprenticeship at the Nankin Mills Ford plant in Westland then retired from Ford Motor Co. after 37 years in the experimental engineering department Livonia, MI plant.

Warren and June bought their civil war era home on N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth in 1970. They spent over a year lovingly restoring the historic house to make it a comfortable and welcoming family home. Warren took great pride in his home and enjoyed giving tours of the old house to friends, especially his wine cellar. He was a charter member of the Plymouth Elks Lodge for many years and had a lot of happy times with friends and family at the Elks. June and Warren were known as regulars at the weekly Friday fish fry. In their early years of marriage they would spend time at Avery Lake



"up north" in Michigan where his dad had been a member of a hunting club when Warren was a child. Warren was athletic all his life and a very good bowler, he grew up at his dad's alleys in Plymouth and then spent many nights in league play. He once had a close to perfect game. Warren had the wonderful ability of making friends easily. After all his old friends had passed he continued to make new friends at his home at Abbey Park in Milford, MI and more recently at the Oaks of Auburn in California.

He was a favorite with the nurses and caregivers in the last weeks of his life. Warren was a very fortunate man; he had a brilliant, sharp mind and a great memory. He enjoyed telling jokes and stories until the last day of his life. One of his favorite sayings was "boy, oh boy"! His caregivers expected him to repeat that a few times a day. Warren was always interested in current events, his friend's lives and had a curiosity for life; he kept a very active mind until his very last days.

Warren is survived by his daughter Jennifer Haruta and her husband Ken Haruta, daughter in law Cristina Todd, grand daughters Stefanie Todd-Lee, Joanna Todd and partner Mike Davis, grandsons Jakob Lee, Hunter Lee and Solan Davis all of Bluffton, SC. We can't forget his beloved black cat Spooky III who moved to California with him in July. Warren is predeceased by his wife June Todd and more recently by his son Thomas Todd of Canton, MI (June of 2017). Warren will be joining June at the Great Lakes Memorial Military Cemetery in Holly, MI next summer June 15th is the intended date. Memorial donations in Warren's name can be directed to the Salem Historical Society where Warren and June were active members for years. Salem Area Historical Society P.O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175, Attn: Terry Cwik

Cancer patient, 16, enjoys candlelight dinner in hospital

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

After four rounds of chemo, two trips to the pediatric intensive care unit and one candlelight dinner with his girlfriend held inside his hospital room, 16-year-old Maximus Finnen is feeling fine.

"I'm doing great," he said Nov. 15 in a phone interview between classes at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. "I'm pretty much back to my normal self ... just have to wait for my energy to come back. But it's great being back. It was tough not being around everybody."

It started with a cold last April. Everyone in the family seemed to have it, but Max couldn't shake it.

Then it turned into pneumonia. Then he had some blood work done. Then he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

"We got the results on Mother's Day weekend," Tammy Demeere-Finnen said of her son's cancer diagnosis. "That Monday, he was admitted to Royal Oak Beaumont so they could start chemo right

away. He was in there 32 days for that first round."

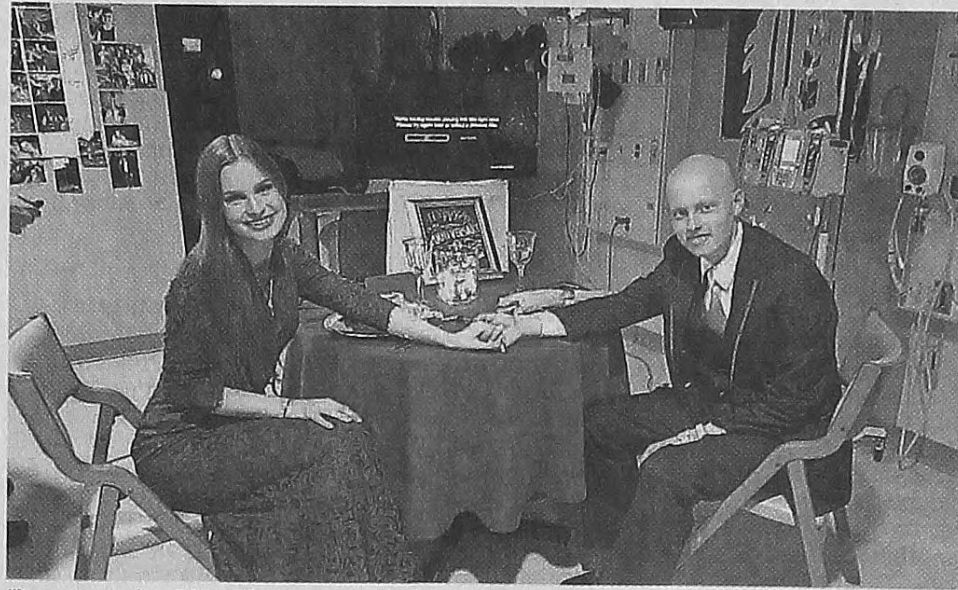
Four walls, beeping monitors, no privacy and daily doses of chemotherapy. Max was supposed to be playing baseball, but instead found himself confined to a hospital bed. He pitches and plays shortstop for his high school team and he's hoping to land a baseball scholarship to get into college.

"It was rough," his mom said. "He had a really good year as a freshman — he was playing all the time. He was looking forward to his sophomore season ... they had already played a couple of games and he was pushing his body as hard as he could and we didn't know he had leukemia. I could tell that he couldn't get to the same speed he had last year."

Dinner with Max

Each treatment averaged 28 days in the hospital. Max would go through a chemo round, come home for a couple of weeks, then go back in again. It's how he spent his entire summer and the beginning of the new school year.

On one hand, there was a sense of optimism: the cancer went into remission after the first



"It was amazing," Max Finnen, 16, said of the candlelight dinner set up through Wish Upon a Teen and other local groups. WISH UPON A TEEN

round. But it's cancer and he's a teenager and all mom and dad could do was hug their kid and promise him it would be OK.

"It's so tough on kids in their teenage years," Tammy said. "Kids are going to football games and dances and they're hanging out ... and your kid is fighting to survive in the hospital. They want to be around their friends and parents can't do that. We're not teenagers, we're not your friends."

Not to mention home-

coming. "We were coming up on the fourth round of chemotherapy and the idea came up about having a homecoming dance for him and Nadia at the hospital," Tammy said. "She played such an important part in keeping his spirits up."

Max and Nadia are a pair of high school sweethearts coming up on their two-year anniversary. Tammy will always be grateful for how Nadia visited Max at the hospital nearly every day to support him and said the young couple reminds her of "two peas in a pod."

Max wasn't really in the mood for a dance, but he was game for a candlelight dinner. That's where Wish Upon a Teen and a lot of other groups stepped up to help.

The Birmingham-based organization designs hospital rooms, holds spa days and passes out tickets for sporting events so that teens with life-threatening medical conditions can have a little fun with their families — along

with some much-needed distraction.

Nancy Sovran, executive director of Wish Upon a Teen, coordinated the event. Working with Foundation for Strength, Motor City Movement and Strength Depot, she managed to collect a treasure chest of donations to make the night a memorable one.

"It's wonderful when you can just make a phone call and amazing people come together to help a teen who is going through a difficult time," Sovran said. "These folks really have a special place in my heart."

Fleming's Steakhouse provided a steak and lobster dinner with all the fixings. Astrein Jewelers donated a gorgeous bracelet for Nadia, while the Flower Bar provided a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Tisp Bakery made the cake.

Glam4Good provided a dress for the occasion and Men's Warehouse fitted Max with a tuxedo. Tammy said it was the first time her son wore a tuxedo.

The entire Michigan State University baseball team even autographed a bat and sent a video from the coach, rooting for Max to recover quickly.

The dinner was held Oct. 11. Violin teacher Bradley Foster with Cameron's Music played for the couple throughout the dinner. Dad even found a handy app to turn the TV into a roaring fireplace for the night.

"It was pretty amazing," Max said. "It was hard being away from home so long, but eventually, I realized being sad wasn't going to change anything and I tried to toughen up and get through it as best as I could. That night really helped."

Max left the hospital six days later, Oct. 17. He'll go to a clinic every month for a clean bill of health. Otherwise, he's back in school and looking forward to spring practice.

For mom and dad, they can finally take a moment to pause and relax.

"You never think your kid is going to get cancer, so when it happens, you're living in a weird nightmare," Tammy said. "But as unlucky as it was to get cancer, everything else ended up being very lucky. We feel so much gratitude ... we're here, he's alive and doing well. There's every indication he can go back to baseball and do the things he loves — because it doesn't always go that way for every kid. We're aware of that and we're very thankful."

And for Max? Hopefully, it's just one bad inning in a long and winding road.

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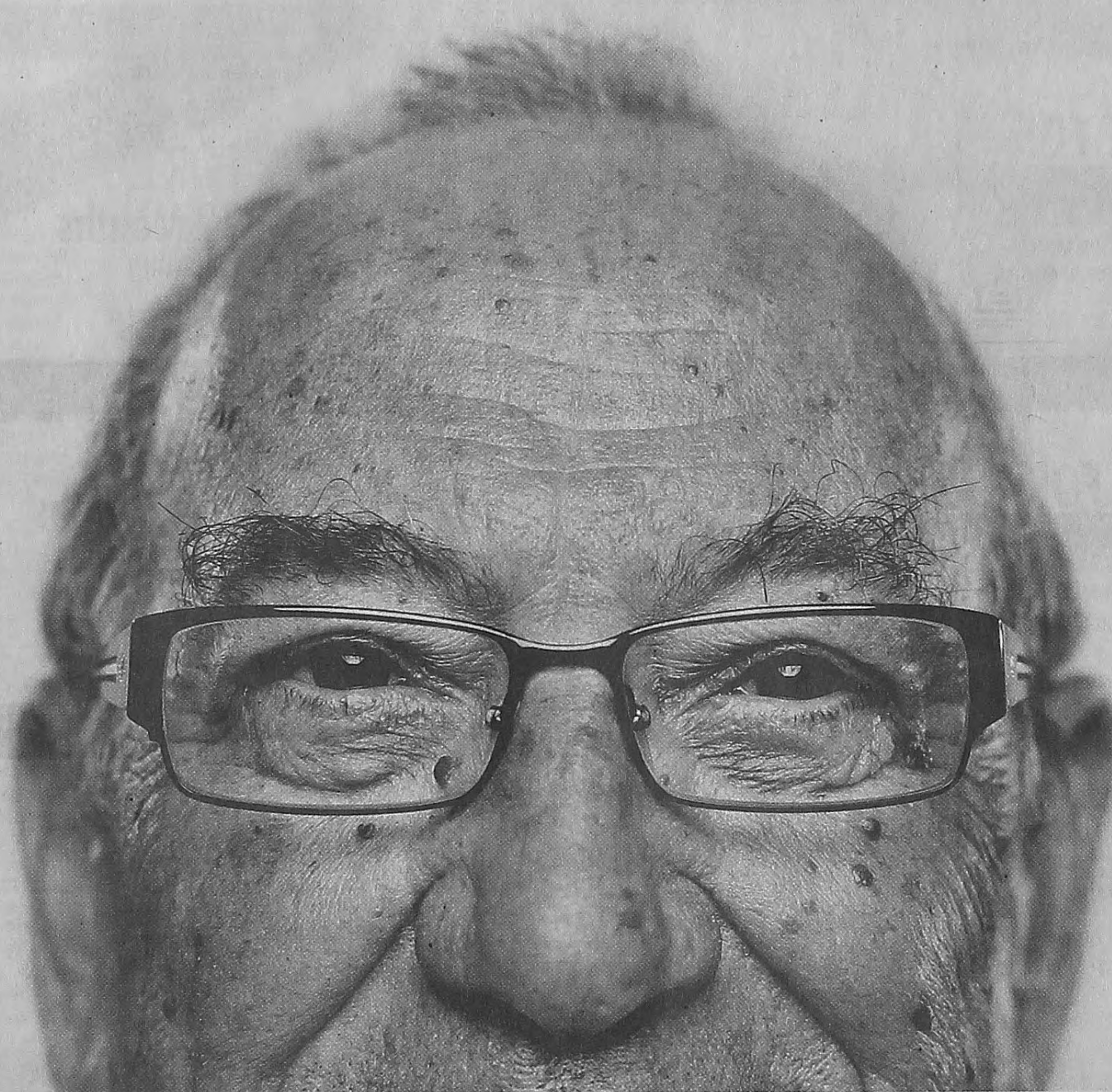
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GIRLS SWIMMING

Classic team effort leads Mercy to D-1 state title

Marlins place first despite not winning any events

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls swim team displayed a classic team effort in securing the ninth state championship in program history.

The Marlins, despite not winning any individual events, used their superior depth to capture the Division 1 crown

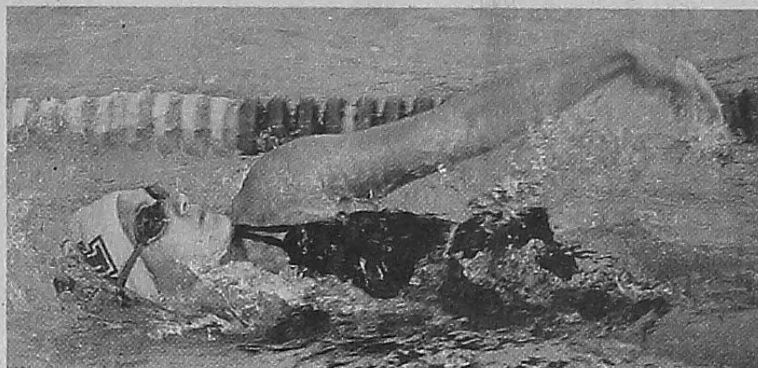
Nov. 18 at Oakland University. It is Mercy's first state title since 2013 and its seventh state crown since 2007.

Mercy finished with 277 points to defeat runner-up Saline, which totaled 248 points. Harrison-Farmington's combined swim team scored 192 points to take home the third-place trophy.

"We knew that our competition had a number of top-tier swimmers and, if we were going to be competitive, that we needed to rely on our depth and try to score two swimmers

to each of their one in as many events as we could," Mercy veteran head coach Mike Venos said. "We preached team all season.

"We would talk about what it is like being part of something bigger than ourselves and how to sacrifice our personal glory for the team," he added. "For the most part, the girls bought into the philosophy that we were all important and we were all capable of contributing to the team's suc-



Mercy senior Katie Minnich set a backstroke state record of 53.80, which she set in the prelim round of the Division 1 state meet at Oakland University. DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See MERCY, Page B3

END OF AN ERA

FAMILY DECISION

Hall of Fame coach Tim Baechler decides time right to leave successful Canton High School football program that he built

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Tim Baechler absolutely loves football, especially coaching the Canton Chiefs.

But the 50-year-old Plymouth resident loves family more. Baechler announced at Monday night's team banquet what those close to the team have been whispering about for months — he is retiring after 20 years and 173 wins on the Canton sidelines.

"It's a bittersweet feeling," said Baechler, who talked about his decision during an exclusive interview last week with Hometown Life. "I am sad to say goodbye to what was a large part of our family's life for 20 years as we raised our sons, but excited at the prospect of having some free time."

Baechler's final game was Nov. 10, when Canton dropped a 27-26 decision to Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the Division 1 regional championship game. That was only the 52nd loss during his outstanding two-decade run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

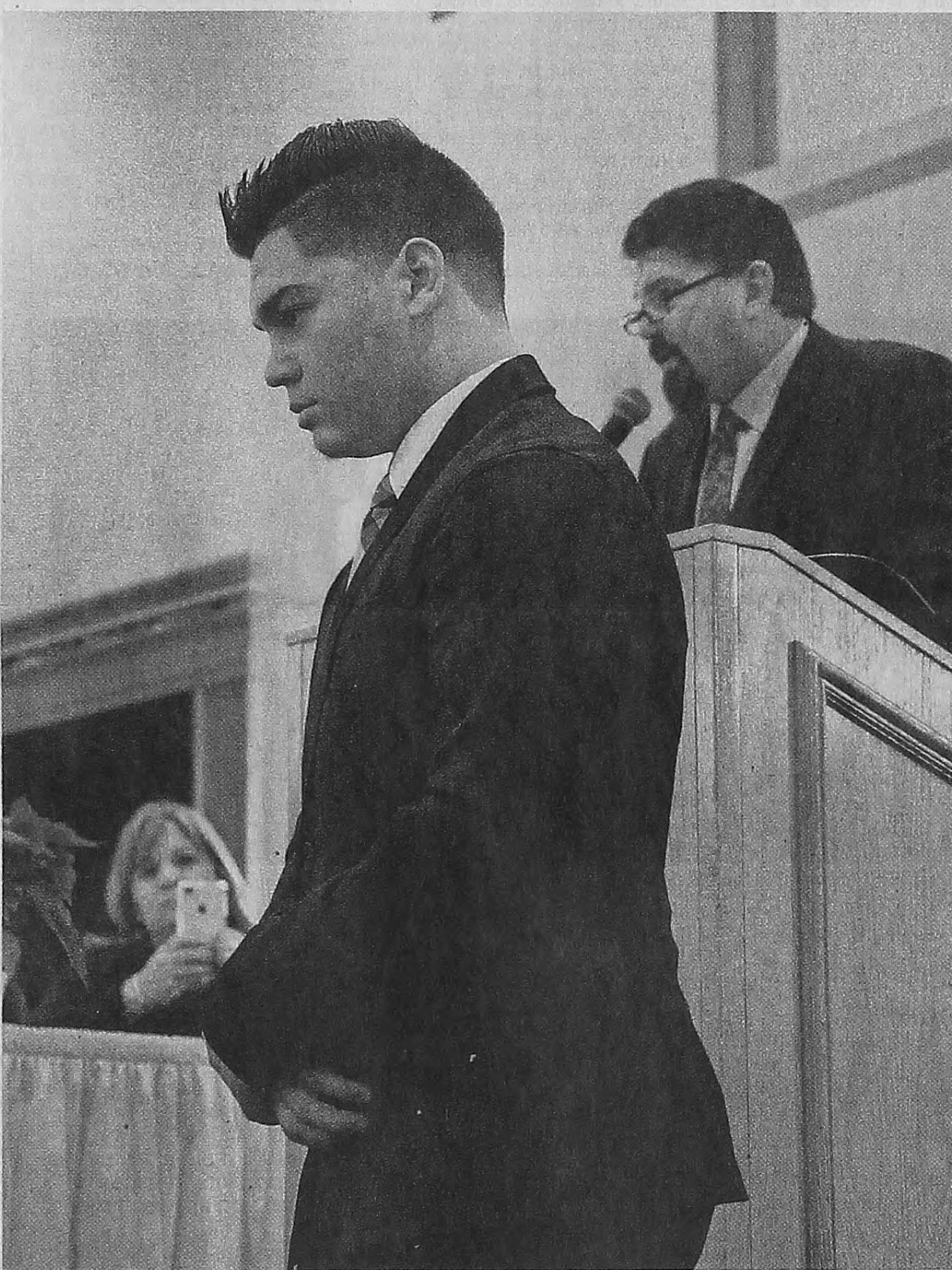
Keeping his program running at such a lofty level for so long proved to be a "really, really hard" task. But he was up to it and then some.

"Building it is not even remotely hard compared to keeping it going as long as we've been able to keep it going," Baechler said. "That just wears you out; it wore me out and I love (football)."

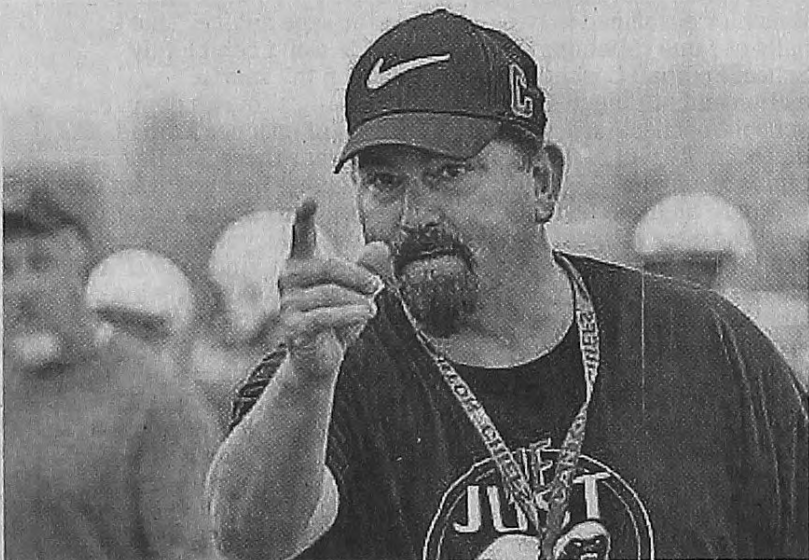
"It feels like a 50-pound gold chain that you love, but you wear it every single day — every day of the year. I'm glad to take it off. I will, however, miss the kids and the coaches and the excitement of it all."

There for Lou

Baechler explained that he always considered stepping down as soon as his son, senior linebacker Lou Baechler, finished his high school ca-



Canton coach Tim Baechler knew it was time to leave the post, with son Lou (foreground) finishing his high school football career. Julie Baechler photographs her son's introduction during senior honors. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tim Baechler went 173-52 during 20 seasons coaching Canton. He announced his retirement Monday. FILE PHOTO

See BAECHLER, Page B2

GIRLS SWIMMING

Cranbrook captures D-3 state crown, Marian takes second place

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association added a Division 3 girls swimming state meet in fall 2007. The Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood swim team has certainly taken advantage of that over the past 11 years.

The Cranes swam to their third D-3 state championship Nov. 18 at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Pool. They finished with 292 points and placed well ahead of runner-up Bloomfield Hills Marian, which had 207 points. Grand Rapids Catholic Central was third with 189 points.

Cranbrook Kingswood's last state title came in 2012, Chris Bagley's first year as head coach. The Cranes also won the previous season under head coach Tony Kurth.

"We had a feeling very early in the season that we would have an outside shot to win, but we would need a lot of things to go our way," Bagley said. "We prepared for all the different scenarios, but none of them were as good as what actually happened."

What happened was that Cranbrook Kingswood won both the freestyle relays, was second in the medley relay and was led individually by double-winner Gwen Woodbury, a freshman. She also swam the anchor leg on each of the winning relays.


The winning 200 free four-some included sophomore Jordan Murrell, freshman Charlotte Trunsky, junior Sydney Allison and Woodbury. Their time was 1:37.95.

In the 400 free relay, the team of Murrell, Trunsky, junior Camille Misra and Woodbury won in 3:33.8. The medley relay quartet of Misra, freshman Hale Oal, freshman Justine Murdock and Allison also gained all-state honors with a runner-up finish in 1:49.91.

Woodbury won both the 200 (1:51.77) and the 100 free (51.53) races.

Cranbrook Kingswood's other all-state swims were turned in by Murdock (second


See CRANBROOK, Page B3



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PREP FOOTBALL

Players, fans react to Baechler's retirement

End of Tim Baechler era draws varied responses, from shock to surprise

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The rumors apparently circulated for a while around whether or not Tim Baechler's 20th season as Canton football head coach would be his final one.

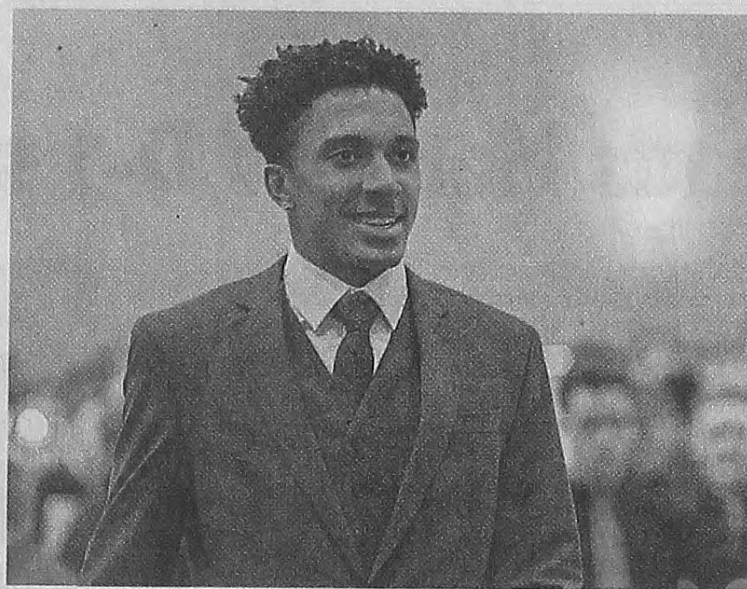
Indeed, the 50-year-old Baechler confirmed his retirement at the team banquet Nov. 20 at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

After making his announcement, as the banquet came to its conclusion, Baechler assured "Chiefs Nation" that he would do everything he can to ensure the program continues to excel in 2018 and beyond.

"Underclassmen, I will have a huge say in who replaces me," Baechler said. "This (team success) has to continue. Has to continue. ... I will make sure the guy who replaces me is a winner and somebody you'll be proud to call coach and who's going to get after you like I get after you and who knows winning is important. But you'd better impress him, too, and don't let us down."

Some had an inkling what was in store. Yet there still were feelings of shock and surprise among players and others in the tight-knit Canton football community.

"It was actually a very big surprise to us, but we kind of



Canton senior Colin Troup walks up to the podium Nov. 20 to receive the Homer Elias Award, which honors the memory of the former Detroit Lion. Troup expressed surprise about Tim Baechler's retirement. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

figured," senior running back/defensive back Colin Troup said. "Coach B has just been the best coach and I appreciate all the work he's done for me the past four years and I really wish him the best of luck."

According to senior quarterback Connor Engel, who came back to the team with Baechler's blessings after missing his junior year, he was "not really surprised, just shocked, because he's a hall of fame coach and a real good person."

"I know Coach B will get a good person in here. We'll be all right."

Senior linebacker/tight end

Lou Baechler, the coach's youngest of two sons, said his father's decision was "kind of shocking, but he wants to watch me play in college. He had a great career and I'm so proud of him."

Lou Baechler shook his head when asked his reaction to a key reason for the retirement, to follow his college football career.

"It makes me feel great," he said. "Yeah, he's a coach, but he's also a dad and he wants to come see his son every college game. It means a lot to me."

Another stellar senior, linebacker/running back Nick Polydoros, said he "wasn't too

surprised, but I know it's good for him. He's done such a good job these past years. I'm just proud to call him my coach."

One of Canton's longtime football boosters, Dave March, lamented the end of a championship-level era.

"(He) and his family are one of the best things to ever happen to the Plymouth and Canton communities, they set a high standard," March said. "The kids that he coached got a ton of character. People want to go to school at Canton, teachers want to teach there, families want to live in the community and a lot of it is thanks to the Baechler family."

"I can't thank them enough for what they've done over all these years."

March had hopes the next one will be right around the corner, especially if one of the current assistant coaches can be persuaded to take the reigns.

"It depends, it really does," he added. "If they go with one of the coaches here, that'd be great, carry it on. If it's a whole new coaching staff then we'll have to see."

TOP AWARDS: A handful of senior players received special awards during the banquet: Lou Baechler was named Most Valuable Player; Colin Troup collected the Homer Elias Award, named in honor of the late former Detroit Lion; Nick Polydoros won the inaugural Chris Lanier Chiefs Spirit Award (named in honor of the late 2007 Canton High School graduate and former varsity player) and Coaches Award; Robert Laird won the Most Improved Player Award; and Noah Brown was named the team's Best Lineman.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson roars back to edge Brother Rice, 6-4

Plymouth romps 9-2 behind Chumley's five-point game

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In a season-opening battle between two top Division 2 boys hockey teams, Livonia Stevenson spotted Birmingham Brother Rice a two-goal lead in the first period.

But then the visiting Spartans roared back with five goals in the second period and earned a 6-4 victory Nov. 18 at Oak Park Arena.

"Was kind of like a heavy-weight prize fight," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "They hit us first, we bounced back. We hit them, they bounced back. And then we got the last one in."

Stevenson fell behind 2-0 when the Warriors' Nick Marone and Anthony Potestivo lit the light behind Spartans senior goaltender Will Tragge (21 saves).

The game turned around when Stevenson's Austin Adams and Julian Decina both scored twice during a four-minute span early in the second period, putting the Spartans up 4-2. Two of those came on the power play.

Brother Rice would not go away, however, fighting back to make it 4-4 when Kenton Vogel and Ethan Nystrom scored.

The Spartans regained the lead (5-4) with just 1:20 left in the middle period. Cole Parkhurst ripped a shot past the Warriors goalie, with assists going to Decina and Kyle Siroky.

Closing out the scoring with an empty-netter with 11 seconds remaining in the non-conference contest was Brenden Preiss.

"Hats off to the Brother Rice team," Mitchell said. "They are a solid, well-coached team. We were happy with the win, for sure, but we also realize that there are so many areas to clean up. We learned a lot about our team tonight. Was a great experience for us."

PLYMOUTH 9, DIVINE CHILD 2: On Nov. 18 at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, senior forward Jack Chumley scored two goals and assisted on three others to spark the Wildcats over Dearborn Divine Child.

The Wildcats (1-0) broke the game open with five goals in the second period and enjoyed a 4-12 edge in shots on goal.

Other big contributors for Plymouth included Timmy Baldwin and Cianni Pinto (two goals each), Jack VanDenBourgeury (goal, assist), Graham Sheehan (goal, assist) and senior goalie Brendan Olepa (11 saves). Pinto also had an assist for a three-point game, while four players had two assists (Nathan Stoneburg, Adam Rebecca, Jack Blake and C.J. Mullenax).

BASELINE BATTLE: Livonia hockey teams had the upper hand against Farmington squads Nov. 17-18 at the Hockey Has Heart Baseline Battle. Doubleheaders involving the four teams took place each night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

On Friday, Churchill romped to a 10-0 win over Farmington Hills United, while Franklin posted a 6-4 victory over Farmington. The following night, the Chargers won 5-1 over the Falcons and the Patriots earned a 5-0 victory over FHU.

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BAECHLER

Continued from Page B1

reer.

"I wasn't sure," Baechler said. "I've been wrestling with it since Lou came up freshman year (2014). I'm, like, 'You know what, let's see how I feel when Lou gets through it.'"

"There was a day in football class when Lou was absent due to an illness. I walked into class and, when I didn't see his face in the group, I knew I wouldn't be able to coach once he was gone."

"He's lived (Canton football) his whole life. I considered retiring before Lou got to Canton, but then realized I had to try to give him the same experience, so I kind of knew when Lou was done, I'd be done."

He added that following through on his retirement plans still might take a while to fully digest.

"It will, especially still teaching here (Canton High School physical education)," Baechler said. "It will be different. I have a lot of football players in my class. It will be a little weird here on Tuesday."

"It's kind of like Bob Cummings. He used to be the head football coach at Salem and he teaches the Salem football class."

Never a second thought

Canton's latest standout season, featuring a 10-game winning streak that carried the Chiefs to KLA and district championships, did not change Baechler's inclination to retire.

He stayed on course even as others tried to gauge whether the victories might sway him to hang on for another season.

"No, never a second thought to it," Baechler said. "I have got a few close friends that would ask the same thing, 'Well, what are you thinking, about ready to change your mind?' I was, like, no, no. It's just going to happen."

Longtime assistant coaches Tony Boucher, Bob Williams and Rich Mui knew all season what Baechler planned on doing.

Would any of those trusted confidantes take over for 2018? Or some of the younger coaches like Andy LaFata or Craig "Bubbs" Hnatuk?

"That's going to be totally up to them," Baechler said. "I've talked to the guys and the only one that's remotely interested is Andy LaFata,



Tim Baechler should have more time with wife Julie and son Lou as he retires from coaching. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

who played for me in 2005."

Sticking with it

With Baechler at the helm beginning in 1998, after having coached several seasons at Hudson, the Chiefs soon became an annual title contender.

His final coaching record of 208-72 included a 173-52 mark at Canton.

The program he inherited was on the downside, with only four winning seasons since the team's 1973 debut. In 1997, the Chiefs finished 1-8.

Baechler recalled making changes right off the bat, implementing what was called by some as "a little league" offense.

"Some of the parents were not happy with the offense in the first two years," Baechler said. "My coaches and my players believed, though. They could see that we were getting better and that we were in games deep into the fourth quarter. (Still) I heard things like, 'You have to throw the ball' or 'You play offense in a 10-foot box.' We stuck with it and I'm glad we did."

Those comments dissipated quickly, especially once the results started rolling in.

Employing a triple-back set that often made it difficult to detect which player actually was carrying the football, Baechler's Canton teams made the playoffs 17 times, won 11 division titles, eight league titles, nine district championships and three regional crowns.

In 2005, the Chiefs made it to Ford Field for the Division 1 state final against Rockford.

"We started getting more kids to play football and our work in the weight room was

starting to show," he said. "We were getting stronger and faster."

Chance to exhale

But with the success came expectations. Those eventually took a toll.

"When you show up every Friday and you're supposed to win, it kind of takes the fun out of it a little bit," Baechler said.

Now, with the decision to end a career that already has Baechler enshrined in two halls of fame (Michigan High School Football Coaches Association and Michigan High School Coaches Association), there finally will be an opportunity to exhale.

Not to mention taking a long vacation with wife Julie and their sons Broc (who also played football for his dad) and Lou. Or maybe even enjoying some autumn golf with buddies.

"Julie and I and the kids, we can do anything we want whenever we want," Baechler said. "We can go on a three-week vacation (next) summer. I can go on some golf trips in the fall that I've always had to say no to."

"I haven't played golf in September or October since I was 8 years old (playing for a youth team in White Pigeon). This is going to be crazy not having anything to do (during) August, September, October."

Road trips

His schedule won't be that empty, though, because he plans on traveling to watch Lou play college football. The younger Baechler has received an offer or two, but probably won't make his decision until National Signing

Day in early February.

"I know Lou wants to play football in college somewhere and it would be nice if Julie and I'd be able to go to all those games and enjoy it," he said. "Not drive there thinking about 'Oh my God, what happened last night' in our game, constantly thinking about the next opponent coming up."

The accomplished veteran also remembers what it was like to be a young coach looking for sage advice. That's why he won't completely abandon the sport.

"I'm sure there's going to be a lot of coaches around. Every year there is," Baechler said. "Hey you want to give my staff a mini clinic on your defense, your offense? I'm sure that kind of stuff will continue. It's part of being a coach."

"You always got to give back to people when they ask you, because I used to be a young coach and there were some coaches I used to ask help from. They were always more than willing to help me. It's our job as older coaches, if somebody asks for your help, you should do it."

Through 20 years of trials, tribulations and — mostly — triumph, Baechler's tenure has left him fulfilled with a lot of great memories and success, but also ready to just be dad.

It's taken a huge bite out of the family time that is so dear to him, yet he wouldn't have changed a thing.

"I loved it and I'm going out on top," Baechler said. "I had an absolute blast."

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GIRLS SWIMMING

Harrison-Farmington third at D-1 state meet

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Harrison-Farmington raced to a third-place finish at the Division 1 girls swimming state meet and set a new standard for Farmington Public Schools.

Farmington Hills Mercy won the Nov. 18 meet at Oakland University with 277 points and Saline was second at 248. Harrison-Farmington mustered 192 points, just slipping by Ann Arbor Skyline, which placed fourth with 191 points.

It is the best state-meet finish ever for a Farmington Public Schools girls swim team. Harrison-Farmington, in its second year as a combined program, was 13th in its inaugural season last year.

"It's the best finish (for a FPS team) and it's pretty exciting," said head coach Kyle Kinyon, the former Harrison head coach. "Michigan has some really fast teams and it's a great state for swimming. So to go up there and compete with those great powerhouses which have been there year-in an year-out is something special for these girls."

"This year, our preseason goal was to break into the top 10 at the state meet, so to finish third is amazing. We had a lot of contributions. We scored in all the events, other than backstroke and diving, so that really helps."

"There were a lot of records set and it was just one domino after another of positivity throughout the day, so all of that kind of culminated in the third-place finish," he added. "The girls came in with a better focus this year and it was great. Again, it was unbelievable. It really was."

The Thunderbirds, with a state-meet squad of nine swimmers, posted All-America, school-record and personal-best times throughout the afternoon en route to claiming the third-place trophy.

The three relay teams were fantastic.

The 200 free relay team of Ashley Turak, Emma Inch, Hailey Stewart and Madeline Greaves won with a time of 1:34.67. The 400 free foursome of Lia Munson, Inch, Greaves and Turak touched first in 3:26.35, which was a little more than two seconds lower than its prelim time.

Those times not only set school records and earned all-state recognition, but also earned All-America honors.

Even the 200-yard medley



Head coach Kyle Kinyon led the combined Harrison-Farmington girls swim team to unprecedented results at the D-1 state meet.

relay quartet of juniors Bella Feenstra and Dayna Borregard, Munson and Stewart placed 13th with a time of 1:49.38. That team swam 1:48.52 in the prelims, which set a school record.

"The freestyle relays are automatic All-Americans, which is pretty wild," Kinyon said. "I knew the 200 free relay would be pretty good with Turak and a couple of the other girls, but to come back there in that 400 free relay and win it was really something special."

Turak sets D-1 record

Individually, Turak, a junior captain in her third year as a state qualifier, stood out as the meet's lone double individual event winner.

Turak won the 50 free in a Division 1 record time of 22.38, which is the third-fastest high school swim in that event in state history. She returned two events later to beat the field in the 100 free with a time of 49.79. Both all-state showings were school- and personal-best swims.

"After being a runner-up in the 50 free last year, we certainly went into this season with the goal of trying to win that event," Kinyon said. "The fact that she went 22.3 is just phenomenal."

"I wouldn't say it was disappointing where she finished last year. But this year, she was just another year older, another

year more mature, another year more focused. I think being runner-up last year gave her the fire coming into this season, that she felt it was her time. I just think it helped towards her goal."

"Going into that race, we talked about certain strategies of how we wanted to swim each part of that race, even though it's a quick race. In prelims, she absolutely nailed that strategy," he added. "She executed perfectly and I think, with the momentum she had from the prelims and just the atmosphere of finals day, she was pumped up and ready to go. I couldn't be happier for her and I couldn't be prouder of that girl."

Greaves, a freshman in her first state meet, registered a pair of all-state, school-record and personal-best swims: the 200 IM (fourth in 2:05.40) and the 100 breast (fifth in 1:04.63). Inch, a junior and team captain, earned the same honors in the 200 free (seventh in 1:53.01) and the 500 free (fifth in 5:01.57).

"Madeline has been swimming for quite some time and it's awesome for her to go all-state as a freshman in D-1," Kinyon said. "One thing about her is, where a lot of people let nerves get to them and really get stressed out, and not to say she doesn't get stressed, but she deals with it very positively. So she is a racer and did

not have a lot of built-up stress."

"For Emma, I've never seen a harder worker in practice, be it boys or girls," he added. "She is so positive and she's such a competitor, just like the other girls. For her to break the five-minute barrier (4:59.70 prelim time) in the 500 is just a monumental achievement for a distance swimmer."

Harrison-Farmington's other individual event scorers were Munson in the 100 fly (11th in 57.69) and Borregard in the 100 breast (14th in 1:07.02). Munson shattered the school 100 free record in the first leg of the 400-free relay with a time of 52.93 and set a school record in the 100 fly with a prelim time of 56.99. Borregard set a personal-best breast time of 1:06.45 in the prelims.

Capping an outstanding year

Harrison-Farmington's state-meet finish capped an outstanding season during which it finished second in the perennially-tough Oakland County meet to Mercy and second in the always-challenging OAA Red Division to Rochester Adams.

"It was a great year, a great season," Kinyon said. "The girls put so much pressure on themselves. With school and academics and what it takes to actually compete at (the state) meet in terms of training and try to somehow have a social

life, the time that they put in is unbelievable."

"So to have that moment where they are winning (events) at the state meet, are getting personal bests culminating with third overall, where we are holding up a third-place trophy that we thought we would never be able to attain, is really something special," he added. "I could not be more proud and happy for them."

Kinyon will lose just two seniors from this year's record-setting squad — Sydney Balk and Stewart. Everyone else, including sophomore Kate Pierni, who also was on the state-meet squad, is expected to return next year.

"It's exciting to have a number of swimmers back, but I hope they're not thinking about next year yet, because they need to enjoy what we just did," Kinyon said. "We're still kind of on cloud nine, as some of the parents have said. I know a lot of the girls are excited and looking to take some time off before going to their club teams."

"They deserve to have some time off after such a great season," he added. "Certainly, from a coaching perspective, you can always look ahead a little bit. Next year, we should be pretty strong but, obviously, there is a lot of work ahead."

MERCY

Continued from Page B1

cess."

All-state swims lead way

Mercy mustered points in 11 of the 12 events and produced eight individual all-state swimmers. All three relays earned all-state honors, with two of them swimming to automatic All-America honors. The third relay is under All-America consideration.

It was a satisfying feeling for Venos to watch the Marlins produce such excellent swims in such a demanding environment.

"It was a tough sell, getting these young ladies to buy into our philosophy of being patient, trusting in the process and swimming fast at the end



Minnich Loniewski

of the season when it matters most," Venos said. "We are in a delayed gratification sport in an instant gratification society and there were a lot of frustrating, tired and crabby moments throughout the season, so it took a lot of trust on their part to let things play out the way that they did."

Senior captain Katie Minnich and juniors Annette Dombkowski and Courtney Connolly registered double all-state individual swims to lead Mercy's scoring parade.

Minnich, a University of Michigan commit, placed sec-

ond in the 100-yard backstroke (54.42) and fifth in the 200 IM (2:05.69). Minnich, the 100 back state champion the previous three years, set a state backstroke record with a prelim time of 53.80, which gave her automatic All-America status.

Dombkowski was sixth in the 200 free (1:52.67) and fourth in the 500 free (4:59.67). Connolly was third in the 200 IM (2:04.78) and fifth in the 100 fly (56.06).

Mercy's other all-state individual swims were by senior captain Kendall Goit in the 200 free (fourth in 1:51.92) and sophomore Chloe Pulick in the 500 free (5:02.64).

Ending a sensational season

Mercy also produced sterling all-state relay results.

The 200-yard medley relay foursome of Minnich, Tierney

Janovksy, Connolly and Dombkowski was second in an automatic All-America time of 1:44.41. The 400 free relay team of Kendall Goit, Connolly, Pulick and Minnich placed second with an All-America time of 3:28.07.

The 200 free relay quartet of Kendall Goit, Lindsey Case, Kylie Goit and Dombkowski was sixth with an All-America consideration time of 1:36.23.

Sarah Puscas (12th, 200 IM and 100 fly), Ciara McCliment (ninth, diving), Pulick (10th, 200 free), Kylie Goit (10th, butterfly), Kendall Goit (10th, 100 free), Julia Coffman (12th, 100 free, and ninth, 100 back), Katherine Hutter (14th, 500 free), Myla Loniewski (15th, 100 back), Emily Guerra (11th, 100 breast) and Janovsky (16th, 100 breast) accounted for Mercy's other points.

Mercy ended its tremen-

dous season with an 11-0 dual-meet record. The Marlins won their 27th consecutive Catholic League championship, the Cranbrook Invitational and the Fenton Relays.

In addition, Venos was named the Division 1 Coach of the Year in his second season at Mercy. Venos also coaches at Birmingham Brother Rice, where he has led the Warriors to six state titles.

"(This season) was very special, because Mercy has always been very important to me," Venos said. "My mother, my aunt, my wife, my sister-in-law and my daughter all are Mercy grads. I am so thrilled that these young ladies could be a part of something that they will remember for a lifetime."

CRANBROOK

Continued from Page B1

in the 200 IM and 100 back), Oal (sixth in the 200 IM and 100 breast) and Misra (fifth in the 100 back and eighth in the 200 IM).

Murrell (100 and 200 free) and Cate Hofley (200 IM and 500 free) also scored for the Cranes.

"It was an unbelievable year. We have an incredible group of girls," Bagley said. "They all worked very hard throughout the season. This championship is a testament to their dedication, work ethic

and spirit. These girls swam with a lot of heart throughout the meet."

"This was really a fun team to coach," he added. "They earned this championship and I am so proud of them."

Marian took home the runner-up trophy for the second straight season. The Mustangs earned all-state honors in all three relays and had six other individual all-state swims.

Senior Lauren Biglin won the 500 free (5:04.69) and was second behind Woodbury in the 200 free (1:52.15). Senior Gabby Granata was third in the 200 IM (2:10.68), sophomore Lauren Sielicki was fifth in the 100 fly (58.19) and third in the 100

back (58.56) and junior Jane Nodland placed eighth in the 500 free (5:20.73).

The Mustangs' top relay was the 400 free squad of Nodland, Sielicki, Granata and Biglin, which placed second in 3:34.06. The 200 free relay team was fourth and the medley relay squad placed seventh.

Detroit Country Day placed 16th with 40 points.

DCD's all-state swimmer was freshman Jenny Tian, who took second in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:07.60.

Division 2 meet

East Grand Rapids ran away in the Division 2 state

meet at the Holland Aquatic Center with 396 points.

Birmingham Seaholm was fourth (190), North Farmington 11th (79) and Birmingham Groves (12th) (74).

Seaholm's individual all-state swimmers were senior Haley Dolan (third in the 50 free, fifth in the 100 free), senior Linnea Anderson (fourth in the 50 free, second in the 100 fly), freshman Chloe Blake (eighth in the 500 free) and sophomore Gigi Hoppen (fifth in the 100 breast).

The Maples were second in both freestyle relays.

North Farmington freshman Greta Gidley was fifth in the 50 free and fourth in the 100

free to earn all-state honors. In the 100-yard breaststroke, junior Julianna Petrak was fourth to gain all-state.

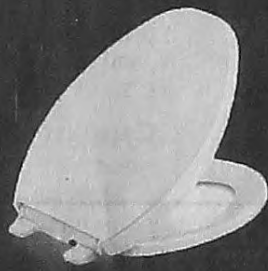
The Raiders' 200-yard medley relay team of Gidley, Petrak, senior Aubrey East and senior Jillian Brown won all-state designation with a seventh-place effort.

For Groves, senior Camille Rochaix (200 free and 100 free) earned individual all-state honors. The Falcons' 200 free relay team of senior Taylor Moilanen, Rochaix, junior Juliette Cerny and senior Miranda French was all-state after placing seventh.

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BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Livonia Churchill has unfinished business as new season opens

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

The lingering taste in their mouths is still somewhat bitter for Livonia Churchill coach Jason Reynolds and his players, who were on the brink of playing at USA Hockey Arena in the Division 2 final four last season.

After letting a late lead slip away against Saline, the Chargers fell 5-4 in double overtime in the D2 quarterfinal.

That disappointing conclusion to an outstanding season (20-9) remains a sore point for Reynolds and players such as senior captains Conor Burnette and Josh Friend — back for the chance to finish the job.

"It just builds their motivation for this upcoming year. I think they look at it as unfinished business," Reynolds said. "I think it's going to be in the back of their minds, especially as we get towards the postseason. They want to finish what they started."

Burnette and Friend will team up on a top forward line, joined by either junior Dane Allen or junior Zach Flynn.

"We're super-excited about the season," Burnette said. "It didn't end the way we wanted it to. But we just take that like a grain of salt ... we take that for what it is. We learn from it."

"It's a big stepping stone for us to work on and we're not going to end it out the same way this year. We're going to definitely work to make sure that doesn't happen again. That's on our agenda, for sure."

The Chargers will hit the ice with a little extra zest for another reason. They are sporting clean-looking "Edmonton Oilers-inspired" uniforms, Reynolds said.

"Look good, feel good, play good," Burnette said about the new-look squad.



Josh Friend makes a pass to a Livonia Churchill teammate during a 2016-17 game.
MICHAEL VASILNEK

Plenty of offense

Scoring a lot of goals also will be part of Churchill's script, anytime the lineup includes high-scoring forward and alternate captain Jordan Venegoni (24 goals, 30 assists last year, according to Michigan Hockey Hub).

Venegoni will play on a line with senior center Carter Swider, another alternate captain.

"Unfortunately, last year (Swider) was out with a concussion that kept him out for the entire season," Reynolds said. "He was willing to step in as a student manager last year and really committed all his time and efforts to our program."

"Now that he's back, we're excited to have him as a player. ... He has a clean bill of health. Playing with Jordan Venegoni, I think he is going to provide us a nice one-two punch on offense."

Other Churchill forwards will include senior Adam Sinclair, juniors Zack Vendittelli and Jack Boyk, sophomores Cameron Greener and Tyson Wisner and freshmen Jimmy Targosz and Ryan McCoy.

On the blue line

Top players on defense include seniors Willis Wuebben and Seth Kucharczyk.

"They've been with us for a long time, great character guys, provide a

lot of leadership for us on the blue line," Reynolds said. "Also (junior) Matt Gibboney, who's been with us for three years."

Churchill's defensive group will include junior returnee Vaughn Kendall, freshman and former Belle Tire player Donovan Young, sophomore returnee Keith Peterson and sophomore Michael Mansina.

Reynolds said Mansina is coming over from the Livonia Hockey Association, but won't be eligible to join the Chargers until January.

"He's a high-energy guy," he said. "We're excited to get (Mansina) into the lineup as soon as we can."

With three-year stalwart goaltender Andrew Broyles having graduated, Churchill's goalkeeping will have a different look. Taking over the reins will be senior Chris Sergison, beginning his fourth year with the team.

"It's finally Chris's turn and I think he's ready for it," Reynolds said.

Backing up Sergison will be junior Joey Proctor and freshman Bryant Riley.

Different path

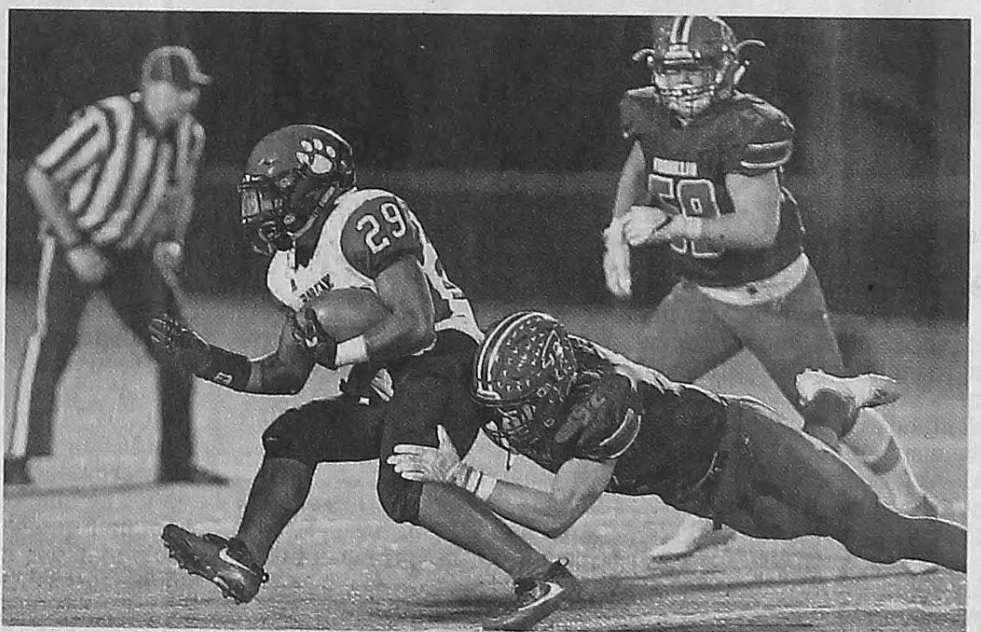
Reynolds and company plan on attacking the regular schedule with the same vigor. But once the postseason arrives, the Chargers will have a different challenge, — having moved down a notch to Division 3.

"It doesn't mean a lot to our regular season overall. We'll still play in the KLA and we've booked a really tough schedule this year," Reynolds said. "But once we get to the playoffs, obviously, it's a new crop of teams we have to compete with."

"I feel good about our chances in the Division 3 playoffs and I think this regular season will really prepare us for another extended playoff run."

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Livonia Franklin's Jacob Mass (right) makes a defensive stop against Grand Blanc. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Franklin's Jacob Mass wins weekly voting

Tim Smith
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USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin senior linebacker Jacob Mass won Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week honors for Week 13, but he had to ward off a late challenger.

Mass broke out to a big lead in the weekly polling, but saw Harrison-Farmington junior girls swimmer Ashley Turak nearly catch him down the home stretch.

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound Mass tallied 7,908 of 16,887 votes (46.83 percent) to give the Patriots football team —



Mass

who reached the Division 2 state final — two consecutive Athlete of the

Week winners (also quarterback Jacob Kelbert).

Turak finished second with 7,080 votes (41.92 percent). In third place was Plymouth Christian Academy senior volleyball player Grace Kellogg (1,621, 9.6 percent).

Mass was honored after his stellar performance Nov. 18 during Franklin's 20-0 victory over previously unbeaten Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central in the D-2

semifinals at Grand Ledge.

He contributed a team-best five solo tackles, including one for a loss, to go along with an assist.

"You know, it's a good award," Mass said. "It's nice to be recognized for having a good game."

"But it's really about the teammates and the players who helped me get to that point. Each player on the defense is doing their 1/11th, everybody doing their job, working as a team and working as a family. Just one unit."

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Lakewood ousts Ladywood in Class B state semifinals

Blazers' season ends in four-set setback in Battle Creek

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Lake Odessa Lakewood donned T-shirts Nov. 17 for the Class B volleyball semifinal against Livonia Ladywood which read on the back: "Unfinished business."

The Vikings, despite a slight hiccup during the second set, did take care of business, disposing of the unranked Blazers in four sets, 25-21, 18-25, 25-17, 25-13, to reach their second straight state final at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Lake Odessa Lakewood (47-5-2) lost the next day in three sets against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the final.

"That's what you strive for from day one," said coach Kellie Rowland, who is 1,028-153 overall in her 23rd season with the Vikings. "It's about postseason. It's not about what happens during the year or wins or losses. It's about getting to the state final in postseason. And they've adapted to that and adjusted and that (was) our goal."

In the opening set against Ladywood, Lake Odessa broke a 15-15 tie by going on a 6-0 run before closing it out.

But the underdog Blazers bounced back to win the second set behind Samantha Serra's

three blocks and four kills from Natasha Strzelewicz to even the match at 1-1.

"I think that we utilized our cut shots and we were tipping," second-year Ladywood coach Kathryn Chinavare said. "We played our game and that has worked for us all season. And then we just dug ourselves a hole in that third game. You can't be down over 10 points and expect to come back from that, not on rally serves. It's not just going to happen."

The Vikings dominated the third set, jumping out to leads of 10-4 and 19-6 en route to a 2-1 advantage.

"(Madison Benoit) had those cuts, so I had to keep blocking more inside," said Lakewood 5-9 senior middle blocker Breanna Wickerink, who had a match-best 18 kills with an eye-opening .516 hitting percentage. "And I was basically the only blocker when I was in on the right side, because our setter is a little small."

Lakewood hit for a .266 percentage against the Blazers, one of five Detroit-area Catholic schools to reach the final four.

Aubrey O'Gorman, a 6-foot-2 freshman, added 10 kills, while Lisa Hewitt, Alivia Benedict and Erica Potter contributed eight apiece for the Vikings.

Defensively, Patsy Morris led with 21 digs, while setter Kayla Sauers and Benedict added 15 and 11, respectively.

"Any win is exciting ...

we didn't play our best," Rowland said. "A little bit of a slow (second) game, couldn't get in rhythm, but we did what we needed to do. We found their holes and that's what we went for."

Here are some other takeaways:

CHAIR CONCERNS

Sauers finished with a match-best 47 assist-to-kills, but Rowland thought her 5-5 senior was hamstrung by some questionable calls by chair official Roy Britz.

"You have an official that is very inconsistent," she said. "You have to tell your setter to begin bump passing to set the ball, because you don't know if she's going to get called or not. So that gets you out of system a little bit, but we adjusted. My assistant coach said, 'Let it go, it's his problem. We just got to outplay them' and that's what we decided to do."

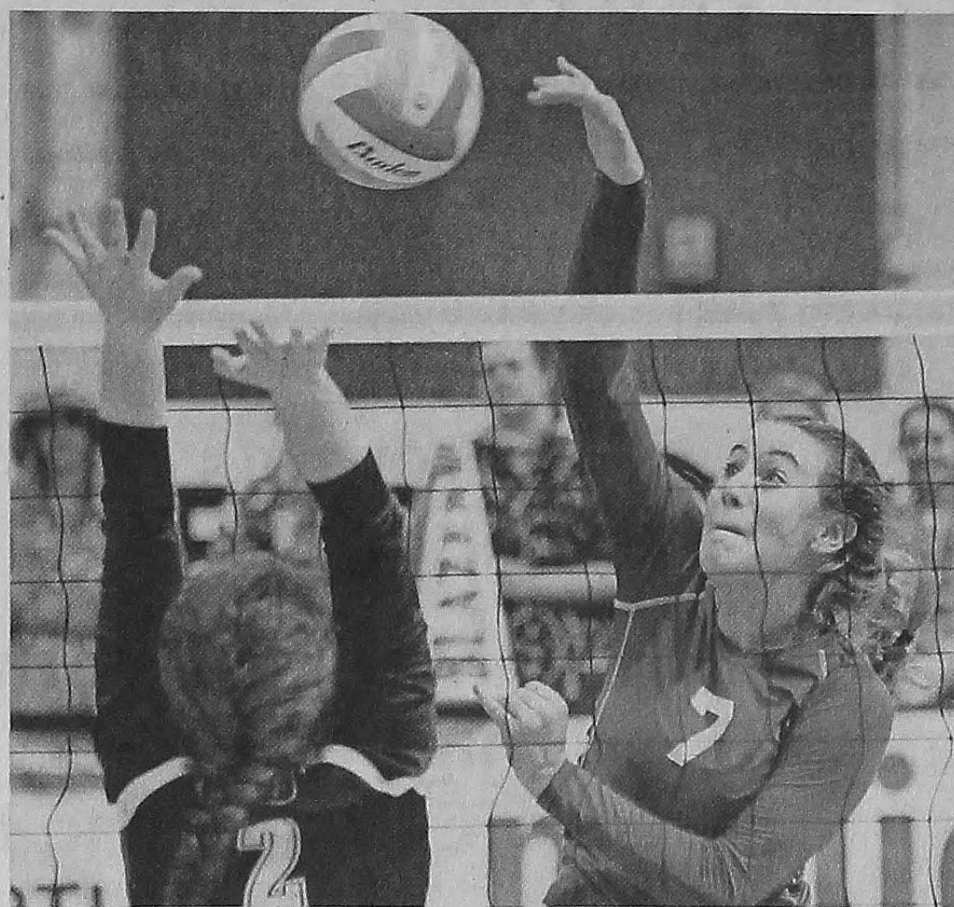
Rowland directed her ire at the chair, but Sauers was able to adjust.

"We had to get her to the ball a little faster, leave her defensive stance," Rowland said. "You're not supposed to see the ball to make the call, you're supposed to see the hands and so she could get to the ball quicker than she could the clean set, I guess, in his eyes."

PLAYING CATCH-UP

After winning the second set, the Blazers found themselves swimming upstream during the third and fourth sets.

"I just feel like we got low in some areas and it



Ladywood's Madison Benoit (right) goes on the attack against Lakewood's Kayla Sauers.
TOM LANG

was hard to push back," said Ladywood junior Madison Benoit, who finished with a team-best 16 kills and 17 digs. "So we should have stayed up and maybe kept fighting."

Madeline Hudson added 12 kills, while setter Monique Lamoureux had 27 assists for the Blazers.

"It's very overwhelming coming into, like, this big stadium knowing that we've experienced small gyms," said 5-4 senior libero Reese Moschetta, who had 15 digs. "So I think that played a part in our head, but I feel like we did our best to look at the other team on the other side and take maybe a breath, just calm down and we just ended up falling down."

TAKE A BOW

Of Ladywood's six losses this season, two came against Class A finalist Birmingham Marian, another against Class A semifinalist Farmington Hills Mercy and yet another vs. Class C semifinalist Wixom St. Catherine.

And the other was against Class B finalist Lakewood.

"That's a bummer, but it always pretty much seems when you lose," Chinavare said. "It's hard. I'm just, like, beyond proud. We just got a little bit out-muscled, but it happens, it's final four. We did things that nobody really expected us to do, so that in itself is pretty exciting."

Four Ladywood seniors played their last match: defensive specialist Danielle Lamoureux, Micaela Kuscinski, Strze-

lewicz and Moschetta.

"I saw the potential when I took the job at Ladywood," Chinavare said. "I remember the first day I walked into the gym thinking, 'Oh, my God, this team could do something really great.' And last year, unfortunately, in districts, were were matched up with (state champion Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard) and they had Jurnee (Tipton) and she's a phenomenal all-around player and we got kicked out a little early. And I knew this year with this core group ... they're, like, all best friends, they all play well together and we could really make a run and do some decent things."

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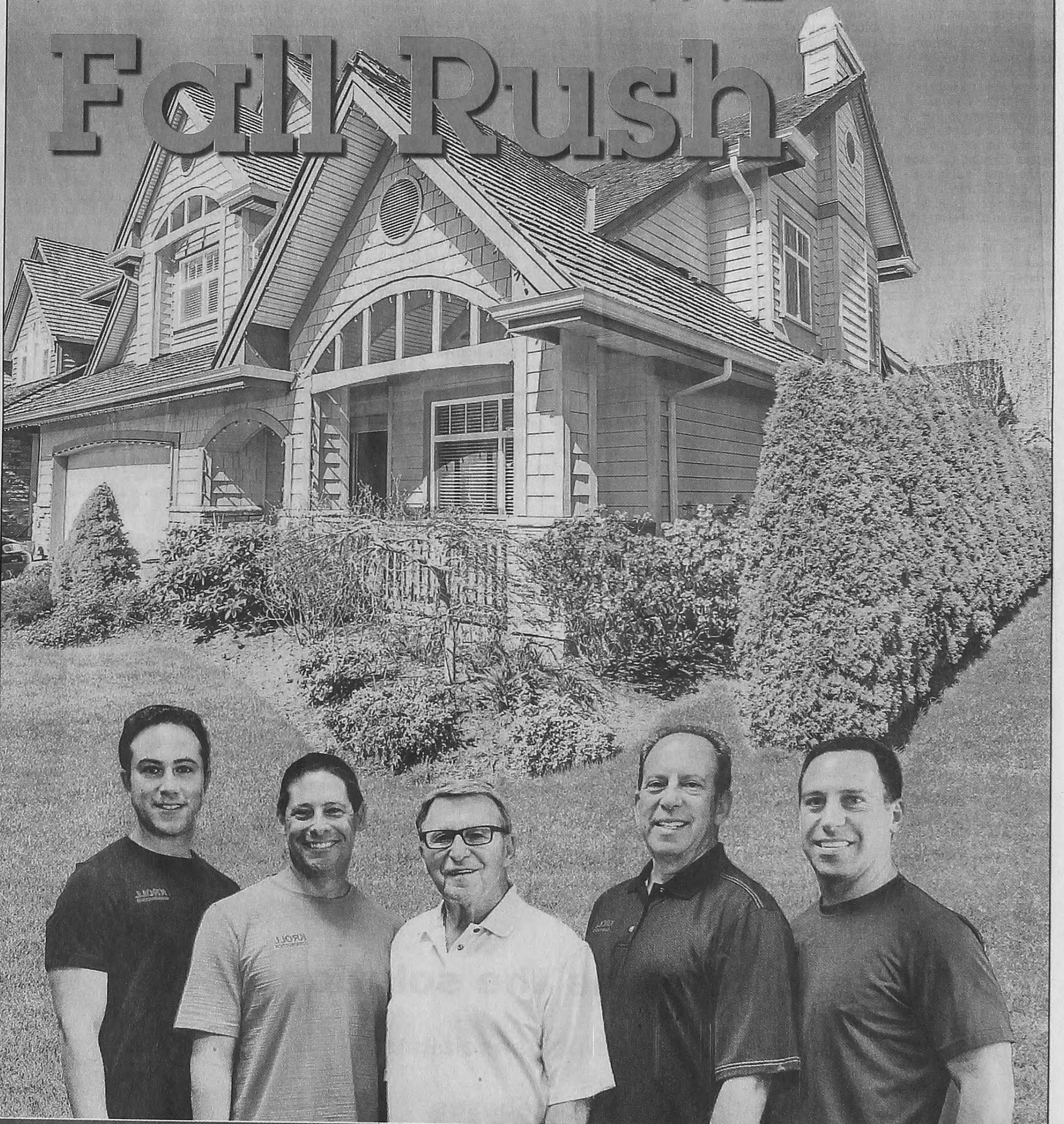
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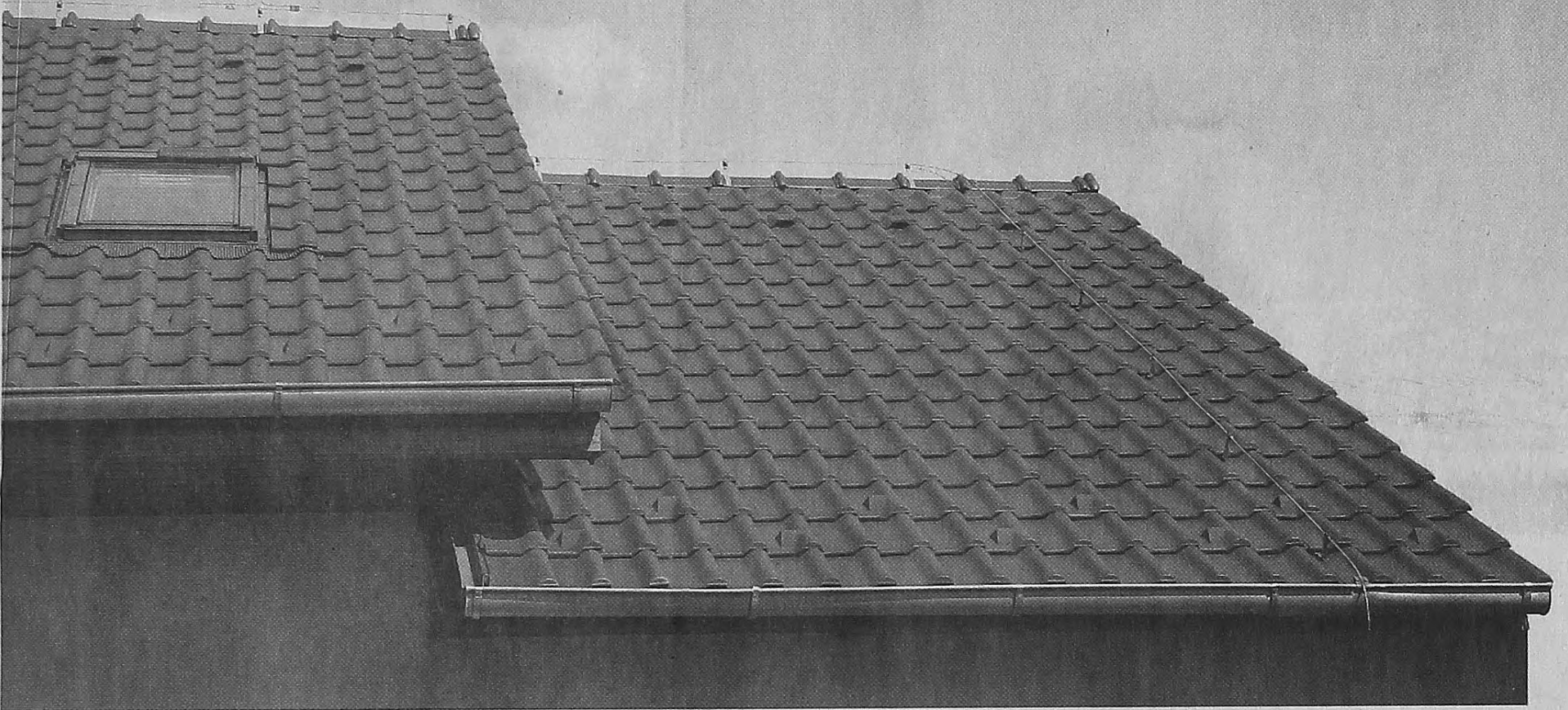
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4 questions to ask at the end of an interview

BY KATE LOPAZE
 THEJOBNETWORK

It's game time — the interview is here. You prepped well. You aced the handshake, anticipated the questions they asked and wowed them with your smooth, competent demeanor and relevant work anecdotes.

Or maybe it wasn't your best interview (it happens) and you need a way to salvage the whole thing. Either way, as the interview is wrapping up, it's time to close strong. This is your chance to leave a valuable impression on your way out.

At this point, most interviewers will open the floor to you by asking if you have any other questions. Before you simply shake hands and say "thank you for your time," consider asking these four questions to finish strong:

1. "How would you describe the culture here in the office?"

This question shows that you're already thinking about how you can fit in and add value to this company. It also gives you an unofficial glimpse into what the company is like — information that you can't necessarily get from online research.

The interviewer is unlikely to tell you the "warts and all"



GETTY IMAGES

version, but it's a good way to get an initial feel for whether the job will truly be a good fit for you.

2. "What's been your favorite part about working for this company?"

This engages the interviewer's personal side, letting them give an opinion that isn't necessarily based on the company motto or the job description. The answer can be even more revealing about the day-to-day life at the company than asking, "What's the day-to-day like here?"

For example, at one interview I asked this question

and was pleasantly surprised to find out that once a month the company throws a pizza party for employees and holds regular events like employee bake-offs and craft fairs. That told me that the company valued employee morale, and was a deciding factor when I accepted the job.

If the interviewer seems stumped by this question and has to think a while before answering, that may be a red flag, which is also good information to have.

3. "What experience best prepared you for working here?"

Again, this engages with

the interviewer and gets him or her respond candidly without being too intrusive or personal. It also tells you about the kinds of skills that will serve you best in this role, regardless of what's in the job description.

For example, if the interviewer tells you that working for a chaotic small company prepared her for the "all hands on deck" attitude of this place, it tells you that teamwork is prized here. You can respond by saying something like, "I thrive in that kind of atmosphere too. Working at a small mom-and-pop store taught me how valuable it is for everyone to pitch in to get the job done."

4. "How would you describe the leadership style here?"

Up to this point, it's likely that the interview was focused on the job itself and your qualifications. This question opens it up a bit and tells you more about the expectations of the company for this job — whether it's a hands-on management kind of company (or potentially micromanaging), or a leadership style that relies on employees being more independent.

It also tells the interviewer that you're thinking about creating a productive, in-tune relationship with your potential manager.

As with all interview questions, it's important to read the flow of the interview. If you've covered any of these topics earlier, no need to rehash them at the end — it could look like you weren't paying attention.

But making sure you have a potential list of thoughtful, engaged questions ready to go will help you finish the interview in a polished, professional way.

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

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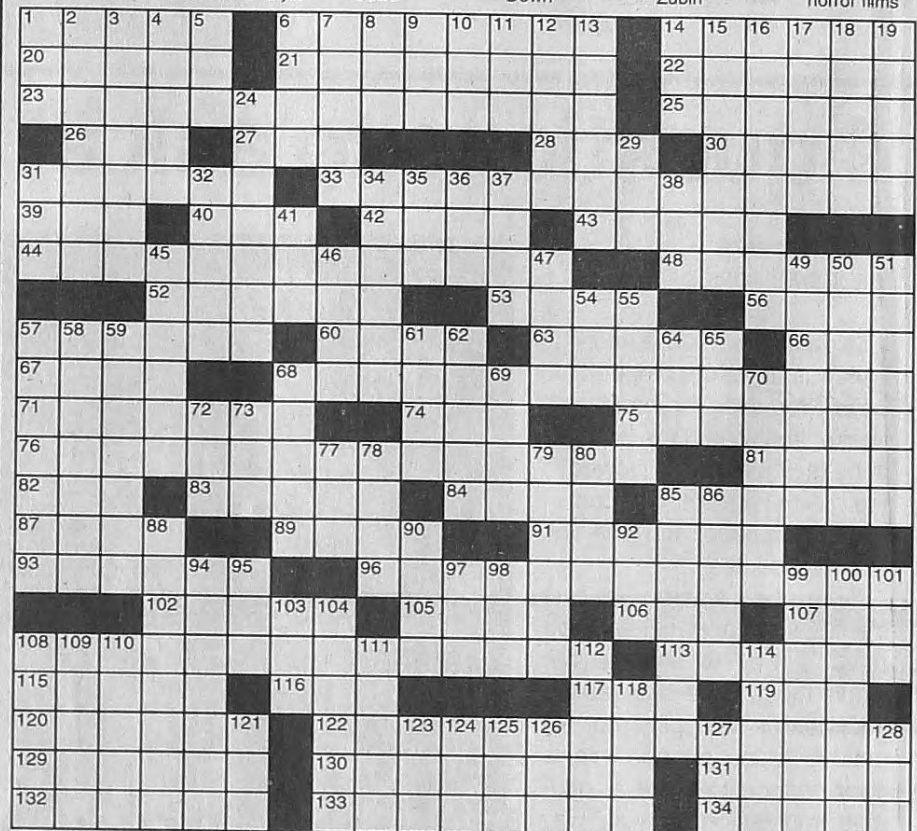
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Music-licensing gp.
 - 6 With greatest frequency
 - 14 Light, in a way
 - 20 River to Lake Geneva
 - 21 Many kids' art projects
 - 22 "Any way is fine by me"
 - 23 STARDOM WEALTH
 - 25 "Bewitched" husband
 - 26 F minor, e.g.
 - 27 Albany hrs.
 - 28 Abbr. on a pay stub
 - 30 One of King Lear's daughters
 - 31 Most like Solomon
 - 33 STRIKE DWELLING
 - 39 "... boy girl?"
 - 40 Gambling place, briefly
 - 42 Planted "pet"
 - 43 "Für — (Beethoven favorite)
 - 44 HUDSON OCEAN
 - 48 "Peanuts" girl with glasses
 - 52 Student's dissertation
 - 53 Country's McEntire
 - 56 Wyatt of the Old West
 - 57 Hector
 - 60 "Mona —"
 - 63 Makes match up
 - 66 Pastu luau fare
 - 67 Skating rink shape
 - 68 PERFORM ZERO
 - 71 In a strict way
 - 74 Bovine sound
 - 75 Global divide
 - 76 NEGATIVE LEVY
 - 81 Tomb-raiding
 - 82 Suffix of pasta names
 - 83 "A Bell for —" (classic novel)
 - 84 Any minute
 - 85 "Slim Shady" rapper
 - 87 Blockhead
 - 89 Half of Mork's goodbye
 - 91 Gradually withdrew
 - 93 Antigen
 - 96 EMERALD JEALOUSY
 - 102 Path in a jet
 - 105 Miami — (Florida county)
 - 106 Wasted
 - 107 Small battery size
 - 108 GREATLY OFFING
 - 113 Guevara's commander
 - 115 Of the hipbone
 - 116 Prickly seedcase
 - 117 Ark.-to-Ill. dir.
 - 119 Mai —
 - 120 Frolic
 - 122 ALLOWED STATUTE
 - 129 Verdi tragedy
 - 130 Hold dear
 - 131 Flared dress
 - 132 Forwarded, as mail
 - 133 Furry marine mammal
 - 134 Encounters
 - 8 Overly
 - 9 Be incorrect
 - 10 Met or Phillip rival
 - 11 Avian runner
 - 12 RCA rival
 - 13 Fly of Kenya
 - 14 Pot coverer
 - 15 Reality TV celebrity fired by Donald
 - 16 Cry from a member of an arriving group
 - 17 Ship's goods
 - 18 Faith Hill's "Take Me —"
 - 19 Wife of Dick Cheney
 - 24 Prickly plants
 - 29 N.J. neighbor
 - 31 Pan for stirring
 - 32 Ex-frosches
 - 34 Strands post-blizzard
 - 35 Summer misery stat
 - 36 Puff piece?
 - 37 Actor Bert in a lion suit
 - 38 Footballer Tebow
 - 41 City transport
 - 45 And others, in Latin
 - 46 Grain storer
 - 47 See 72-Down
 - 49 El — (peak in California)
 - 50 Mined find
 - 51 Clever adage
 - 54 Party abbr. about drinks
 - 55 Append
 - 57 Certain wind musician
 - 58 Of flight technology
 - 59 Music of Scott Joplin
 - 61 Highway rig
 - 62 Parts of nerve cells
 - 64 — au vin
 - 65 Good name for a chef?
 - 68 Bob of folk
 - 69 Country in West Africa
 - 70 Silver — (photo lab compound)
 - 72 With 47-Down, forensic tool
 - 73 Kind of TV
 - 77 A, in Aquila
 - 78 Ding- — (visitor)
 - 80 De novo
 - 85 Tempted
 - 86 Maestro Zubin
 - 88 Like nondefective DVDs
 - 90 Pakistani's language
 - 92 Feel sickly
 - 94 Capital of Nebraska
 - 95 135 degrees from 117-Across
 - 97 Nosh on
 - 98 End of some URLs
 - 99 Cole of song
 - 100 "Iglu" for "igloo," e.g.
 - 101 76" Ming
 - 103 R&D center
 - 104 Bursts forth
 - 108 Pep
 - 109 Make thrilled
 - 110 Country singer
 - 111 Brother, in Brest
 - 112 Between, in Brest
 - 114 Vogue topic
 - 118 — do-well
 - 121 Boatload
 - 123 Actor Stephen
 - 124 — Zedong
 - 125 Suffix with 124-Down
 - 126 Boy pharaoh
 - 127 "Whack!"
 - 128 Craven of horror films



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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

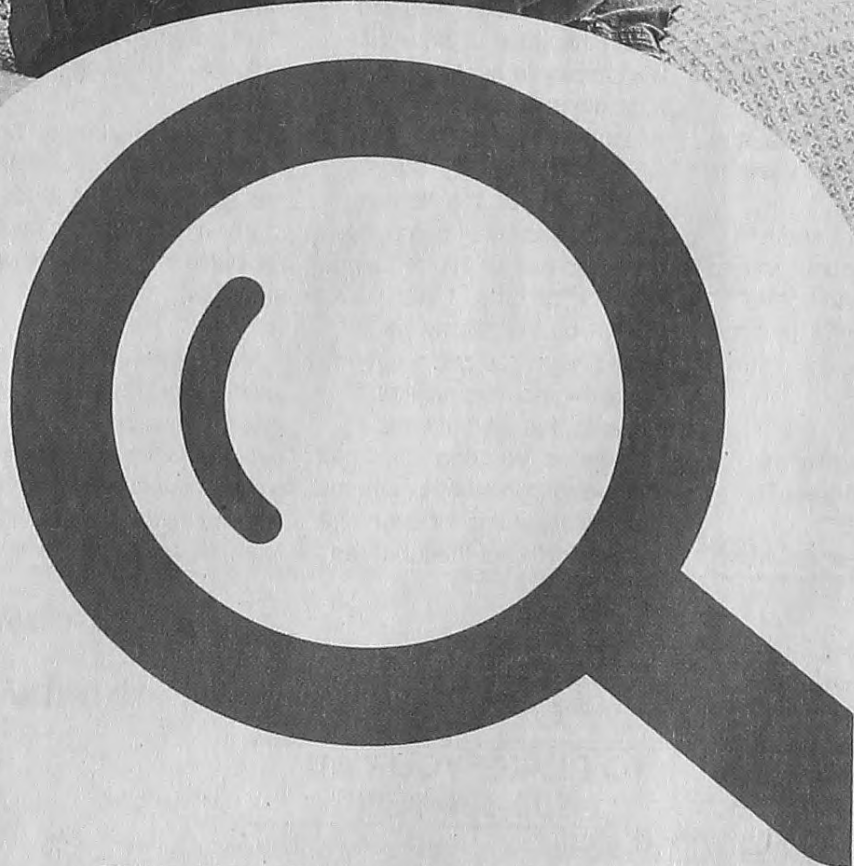
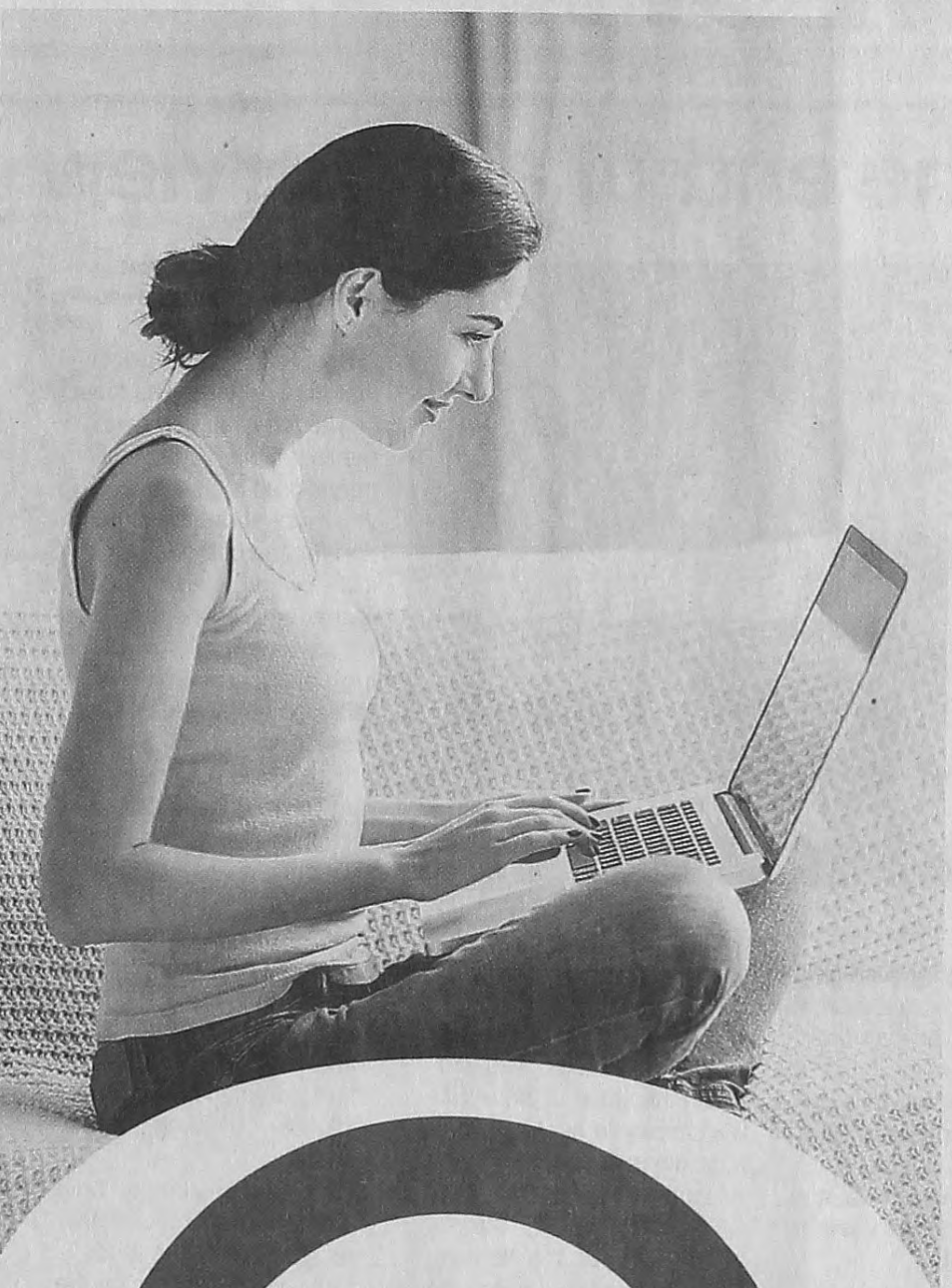
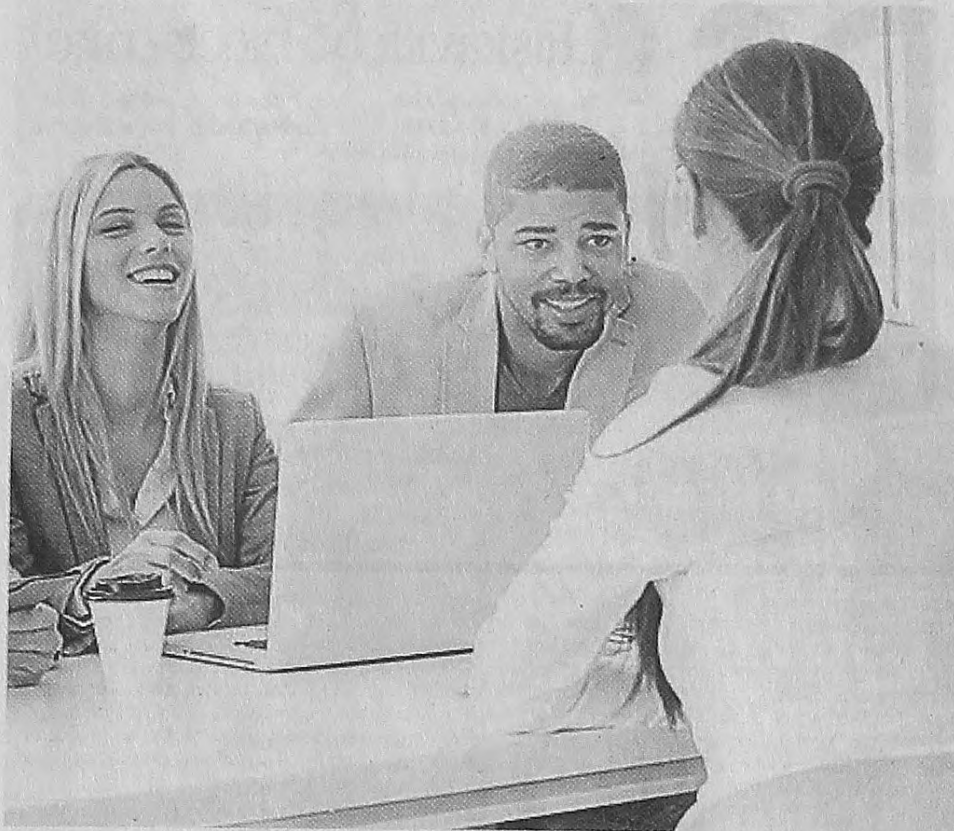
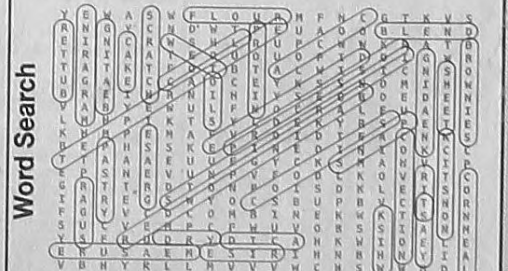
WORDS

- ACID
- BAKING POWDER
- BEATING
- BLEND
- BROWNIES
- BUTTER
- CAKE
- COCOA
- COMBINE
- CONVECTION
- COOKIES
- COOL
- CORNMEAL
- DISSOLVE
- DRY
- FLOUR
- GREASE
- INGREDIENTS
- KNEADING
- MARGARINE
- MEASURE
- NONSTICK
- OILS
- PANS
- PASTRY
- PROCESSOR
- PROTEIN
- RISE
- SCRATCH
- SHEET
- STIR
- SUGAR
- TEMPERATURE
- WET
- WHISK
- YEAST

Crossword Answers

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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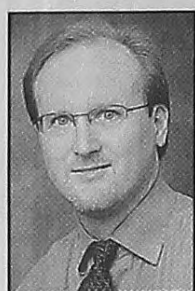
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Car Report

GENESIS G80 LUXURY SEDAN HITS SWEET SPOT INTENDED BY HYUNDAI WHEN IT LAUNCHED THIS EXCITING NEW BRAND



By Dale Buss

At first, Genesis was a car model, a cool, surprising performance statement by Hyundai that the brand created to dimensionalize a marque previously know almost exclusively for producing reliable, high-quality, reasonably priced sedans.

Genesis appeared on action shows such as Burn Notice and began acquiring fans in the media and the U.S. market with specs that fit premium European sports sedans as well as as Korean-made upstart.

And over the last couple of years, as Hyundai faced challenges in the shrinking U.S. sedan market because of quiet gasoline prices, the brand took some significant measures to address its challenges.

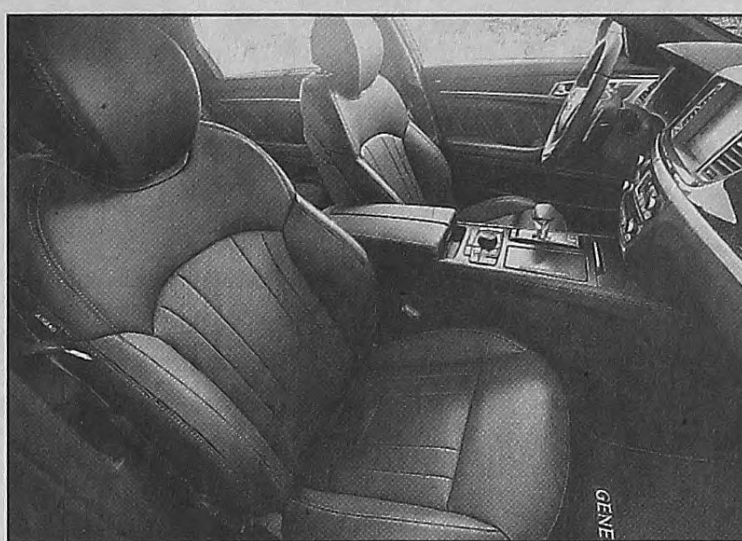
For one thing, Hyundai decided to launch a bunch of new vehicles into the biggest weak spot in its mainstream

product line: SUVs and crossovers. Maybe just as important for Hyundai over the longer term is that it decided to stop trying to stretch its existing brand in dealer showrooms over vehicles that ranged from its humblest \$15,000 sedans to its pricey new sports car. And Hyundai created a separate brand for Genesis.

Genesis G80 is one of the two new models that Hyundai introduced under the new Genesis brand in 2017, a staging that also included creation of a new flagship sedan called G90, which is essentially a rebranding of the Hyundai Equus.

The spawning of Genesis included the creation of a logo that many luxury-car buyers mistake initially for a Bentley symbol. While what's under the frontal decoration of a Genesis doesn't match the ultra-luxury level of the British pinnacle brand, Hyundai has done a great job of producing a vehicle worthy of comparison with premium competitors from anywhere on the globe.

The Hyundai Genesis was last wholly redesigned for 2015. But for 2017, besides creating a new brand to house and promote its newly renamed car, Hyundai also imbued the new



The interior of the Sport version of G80.

G80 with a number of features from the previous Hyundai Genesis that are now standard. They include a power-adjustable steering wheel, lane-departure warning and blind-spot monitoring.

Also, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto were new for the 2017 model, allowing users to control smartphone functions such as navigation and audio playback through the G80 touchscreen.

Genesis 2018 G80 is a full-size, rear-wheel drive sedan that's available in a six-cylinder, 3.8-liter power train or 5.0-liter V8 engine, with all-wheel drive available as an option for the 3.8-liter model.

Standard features are a rich menu of goodies that any self-respecting purchaser of a 2018 \$56,000 vehicle that I drove would expect, including 18-inch alloy wheels, xenon headlights with automatic high-beam control, LED daytime running lights, a rearview camera, heated mirrors, automatic wipers, adaptive cruise control, dual-zone automatic climate control, keyless ignition and entry, auto-dimming mirrors, blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert, and lane-departure warning

and intervention.

That rich list also includes heated eight-way power front seats, leather upholstery, a power-adjustable steering wheel and driver-memory settings as well as a top-notch connectivity web and a seven-speaker audio system.

For good measure, all-wheel drive models come with headlight washers, heated rear seats and a heated steering wheel.

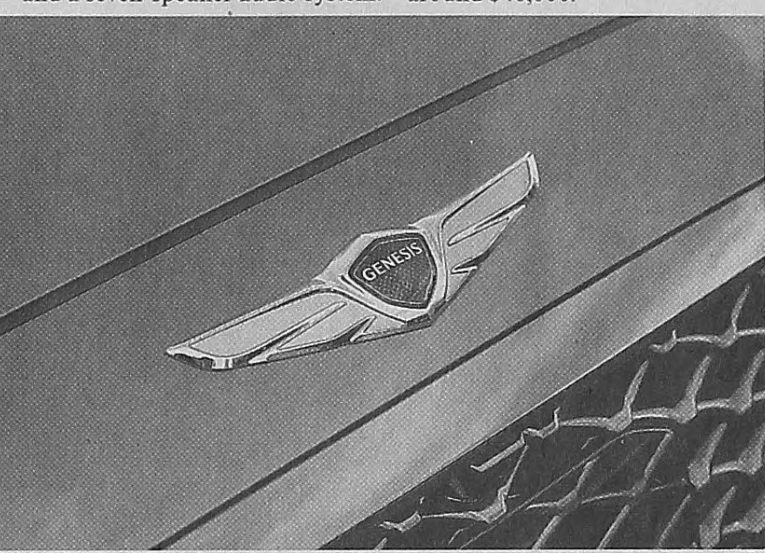
G80's interior is spacious, and materials are top-notch, supporting its luxury positioning. It's got an outstanding safety rating. Just as important, the ride and feel of the G80 are reminiscent of the parameters that Lexus has made its stock-in-trade. In other words, G80 won't be mistaken for a true sports sedan, and that's how its target buyers want it.

Indeed, G80 accelerates as smoothly and briskly as you might expect from such an expensive car, responds quickly and precisely to driving commands, provides a bump-soaking ride that isn't marshmallowy, and provides an extremely quiet cabin that will make a strong impression on passengers and driver alike.

All of this really makes an impact on you when you consider price, which is exactly what Hyundai was intending. G80 starts at around \$42,000, below the luxury midsize class average price, according to U.S. News & World Report, while the competing Lexus GS starts at around \$46,000.



The 2018 Genesis G80.



The winged logo that says "Genesis."

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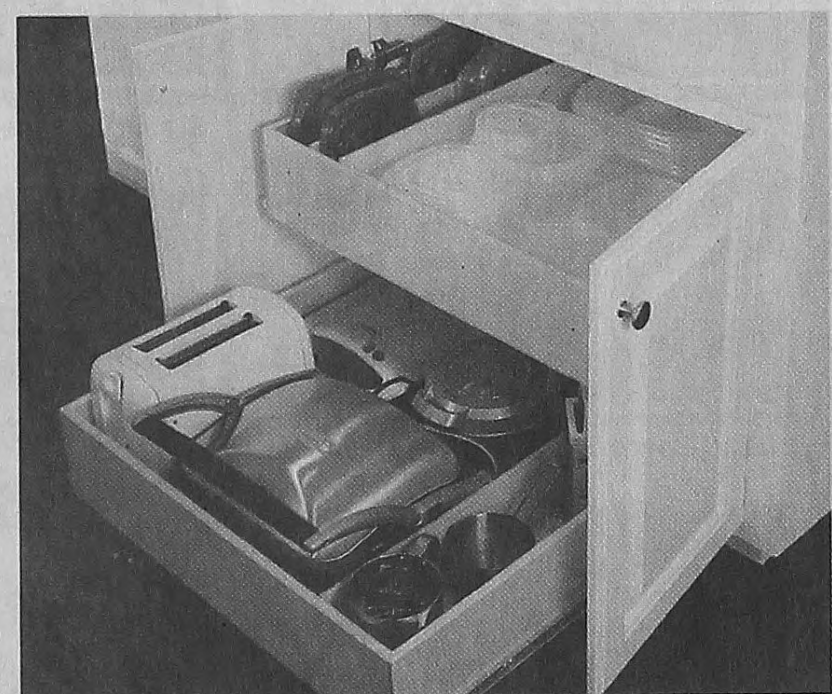
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