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Survey: Plymouth Twp. loves recycling

Ed Wright [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A leisurely drive Thursday afternoon through the checkerboard grid of Plymouth Township's Lake Pointe subdivision provided ample — albeit not scientific — proof that the community's residents love their recycling.

As a decision looms for the township's board of trustees regarding whether to give in to Green For Life Environmental's demand for a monthly \$2.07-per-resident rate increase or simply scrap recycling altogether, the high volume of recycle bins resting in front of homes spoke loudly as to how the trustees' constituents feel about the weekly practice.

If the streets could talk, they'd probably say, "Go, Green!"

The results of a week-long survey (also unscientific, but somewhat telling) posted on the Plymouth Township Facebook page concurred with the visual evidence: 81 percent of the more than 800 respondents were in favor of paying the rate increase while 19 percent were not.

"I have been very impressed by our community's enthusiasm for recycling," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise. "We are consistently one of the communities in the area that has a

See RECYCLING, Page 2A



Longtime Pizza Hut employees Sharon Cheston, left, Angie Maggioncalda, and Thomas Southard, each with a minimum of 20 years at the Hut, said goodbye to the sit-down restaurant's Ford Road location Monday.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Dine-in Pizza Hut in Canton closes its doors

Ed Wright [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

During the early days of Canton Township's one and only Pizza Hut, members of the Hauk family rode their horses along the then-three-lane Ford Road, tied their four-legged transportation to a bar located just outside the restaurant, ate their meal, and then galloped away.

This, longtime employee Angie Maggioncalda recalled, happened regularly in 1983.

"Canton was pretty much all woods back then, very rural," Maggioncalda remembered. "There was us, the Big Boy and Meijer, but that was about it. Ford Road traffic wasn't as bad as it is today, that's for sure."

"We still have the pole they tied the horses to. Actually, I'm not sure if it was placed where it was to secure the horses or to block people from parking in that

The Pizza Hut at 44995 Ford Road closed Monday after decades of serving Canton residents. A Pizza Hut station will open at Ford and Sheldon roads.

"I was 17 years old when I first started working here in 1983. The staff was like a family back then."

Angie Maggioncalda Pizza Hut employee

See PIZZA HUT, Page 3A

Livonia man's pro-Trump float disrupts Cleveland vigil

Jennifer Timar [Livingston Daily](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A metro Detroit man faced backlash for interrupting a Cleveland vigil for victims of the mass shooting at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Rob Cortis travels around the country with a pro-Trump float, a decorated bridge he hauls behind a trailer, visiting rallies and events.

Cortis is a Livonia resident who operated the Barnstormer complex in Green Oak Township before the township shut it down in 2012 due to unsafe building conditions.

He made international news after passing by a Friday vigil on the steps of Cleveland City Hall blaring loud music from his float, which was decorated in large letters spelling out "Build the Wall."

Cleveland 19 WOIO news reported that the float's appearance left mourners in disbelief.

Cortis' float, which he calls the "Trump Unity Bridge," can be seen in a video driving by the city hall blaring 1996 Kiss song "I Wanna Rock N Roll All Night" during a speech by Imam Islam Hassan of the Islamic Center of Greater Cleveland posted to the organization's Facebook page Monday.

Messages seeking comment were left Monday with the Islamic Center of Greater Cleveland and Global Cleveland, the two organizations that organized the vigil.

After making one pass, Cortis headed back to city hall playing the song "God Bless America."

WOIO reported that speakers at the vigil, who included Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, continued speeches about the tragedy in New Zealand during the disruption.

"I've got a lot of hate comments since," Cortis said during a Monday phone interview while traveling in Connecticut.

He denied intentionally offending any vigil attendees or speakers.

"We were coming from a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame rally and drove by (the vigil), and when we saw it, I said, those signs are peaceful, about peace, love and unity, and it was nice to see people in America having a unity rally," Cortis said.

He said he was unaware it was a vigil for the victims of the New Zealand

See FLOAT, Page 2A

Float

Continued from Page 1A

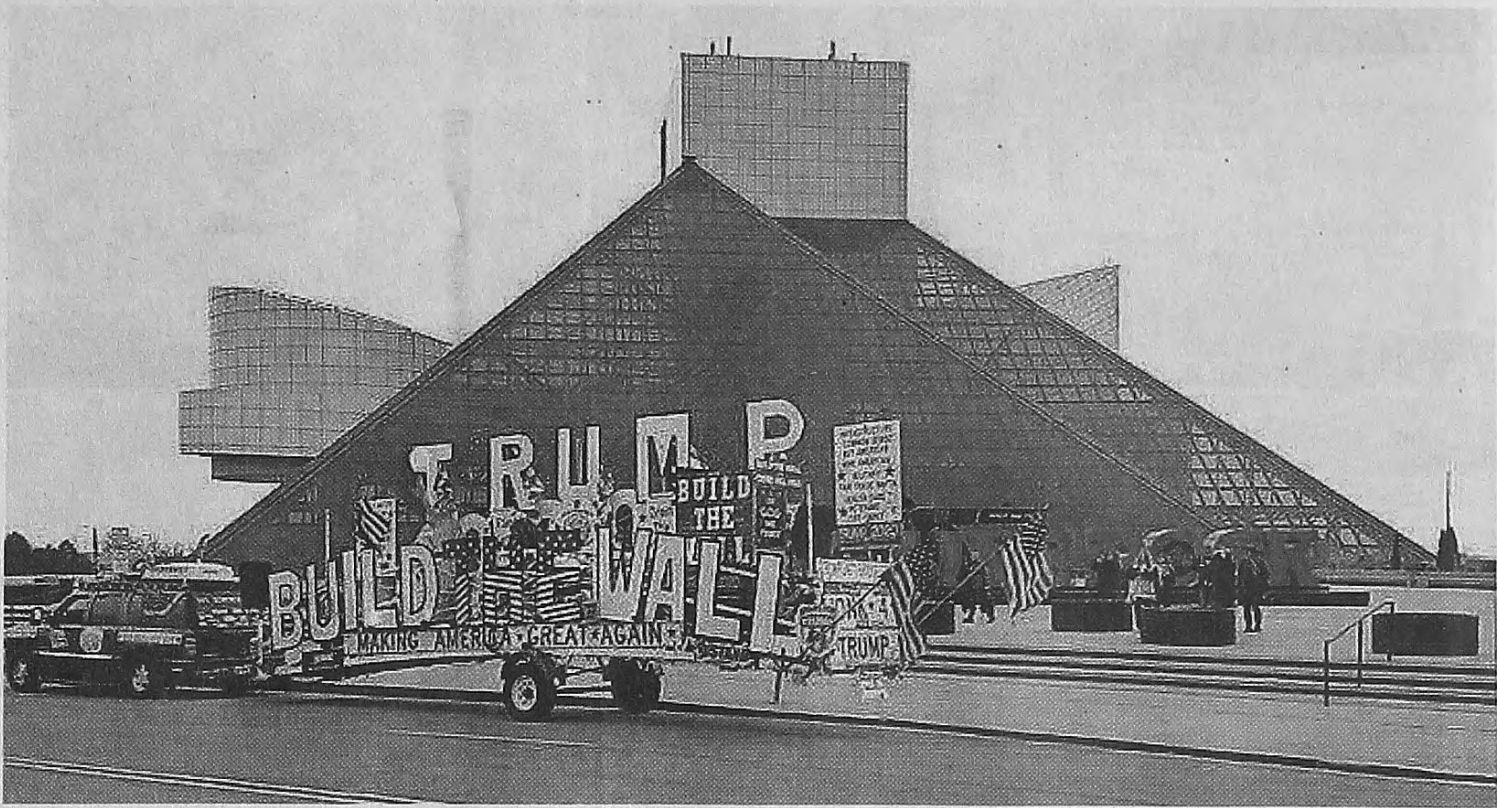
mosque shootings.

A gunman killed at least 50 people in a terrorist attack on two mosques in the city of Christchurch on Friday. Authorities say it appeared to be a carefully planned terrorist attack. The shooting suspect, who police identified as Australian Brenton Tarrant, left a 74-page manifesto against immigrants and livestreamed the attacks.

“Had I known it was them, I would have stopped and shared a moment of prayer,” Cortie said. “I circled the block and then came back playing ‘God Bless America’ to salute them ... a peaceful salute to a peaceful gathering.”

He said he turned down the music after being approached by a Cleveland police officer.

Cortis is on a cross-country tour, traveling with his pro-Trump float to rallies to support the president’s push to fund building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.



Rob Cortis is on a cross-country tour, traveling with his “Trump Unity Bridge” float to rallies to support the President Donald Trump’s push to fund building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. SUBMITTED

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Empty recycling bins lined a street in the Lake Pointe subdivision Thursday.
ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Recycling

Continued from Page 1A

low percentage of spoilage, so people take their time cleaning the recyclable materials.


“We’ve even had requests from some residents who want to know if they can have two recycling bins instead of one.”

Although the feedback suggests the township is leaning toward accepting the rate increase — Heise said the township offices have received several emails and phone calls supporting the increase — it’s far from a done deal.

“We owe it to ourselves and our community to do our due diligence regarding this matter,” he said. “We need to continue our dialogue with GFL and our lawyer, Kevin Bennett, is thoroughly reviewing our contract.”


The township has approximately six weeks to inform Green For Life Environmental of its decision.

Contact Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.



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Pizza Hut

Continued from Page 1A

area, but nobody really cared either way."

Memories like this flooded Maggioncalda's mind as the 40-year-old restaurant prepared to close its doors for good Monday.

Pizza Hut will still have a Canton presence as a takeout/delivery-only station is set to open soon right down the street, at the intersection of Ford and Sheldon roads.

Any time a brick-and-mortar structure's days are numbered — a home, a church or a restaurant — people who have grown to love the memories stirred up in the space tend to mourn.

"I'm sad this place is closing," revealed Maggioncalda. "I was 17 years old when I first started working here in 1983. The staff was like a family back then. A lot of us learned life lessons in this building."

"Employees would graduate from high school, head off to college, but they'd all come back and either work on their breaks or just stop by to visit. One couple who worked here ended up getting married. They live in North Carolina now with their two kids, but when they come back to Canton, they stop by and say hi."

In 1983, Sharon Cheston began a 31-year run as a waitress at the Pizza Hut located at Plymouth and Inkster roads in Redford Township before transferring to the Canton location almost four years ago.

The 70-year-old soon-to-be-retired resident of Detroit teared up briefly as she reflected on her career with the Hut.

"I've worked here half my life," she said. "I've been setting up a salad bar like that (she pointed to the one in the middle of the Ford Road location's dining area) for 35 years. I am going to miss the customers the most."

"There is a group of medical students who attend a school across the street. They've been coming in here regularly for the past year or so."

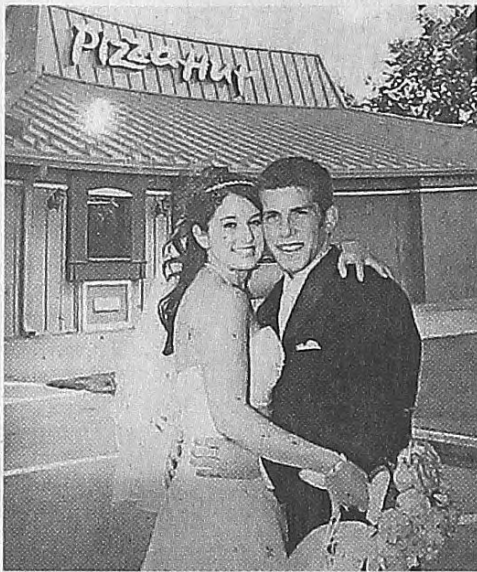
"When they found out Monday would be my last day, they came in, brought me cards and they each said a speech."

"It was very touching."



A new Pizza Hut station, with limited seating, will soon open at the southwest corner of Ford and Sheldon roads.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mindy and Kevin Savoni got married after meeting at Pizza Hut. SUBMITTED

Gathering place

Pizza Hut has been the point of convergence for groups and families of all ages.

Maggioncalda said that throughout the 1980s, people would flock to the restaurant after Friday night high school football games.

She said half-days for elementary school students were also bustling as the kids would trade their hard-earned "Book It" points — rewards for reading a certain number of books — for personal pan pizzas.

"That's still a popular program," Maggioncalda said. "The Friday night football crowds aren't as big any more. Teenagers don't seem to go out to eat in groups as much as they used to, which is probably one of the reasons our dine-in restaurant is closing."

Pizza Hut has embedded itself into the Canton community, taking pride in its charitable fund-raising efforts, sponsoring slow-pitch softball teams and offering a pleasant, reasonably-priced option where a visitor's hunger and thirst could be quenched with a deep-dish pizza and a beer.

The 16-member staff — all but two of whom will be transitioning to the new location — initially heard about the

changes in October.

Cheston's eyes moisten when she talks about the generosity her familiar clientele have lavished upon her.

"I've received flowers, a couple of retirement cards with \$100 bills in them ... there are so many great people in the world," she said. "I wore one of those step counters one night and I found out I walked anywhere from four to seven miles each night I work. Once I'm retired, I'm determined to continue to exercise."

When asked what has changed the most in the pizza industry since she first started working at the Hut during Ronald Reagan's first term as president, Cheston delivered a worrisome answer.

"With our all-you-can-eat lunch buffet, people waste a lot of food," she said. "Honestly, I think we have to scrape off more food from people's plates than the amount of food they actually ate. I was always taught to only take as much as you can eat, but that doesn't seem to be the case any more."

Contact Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.





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Tires stolen from car in store parking lot

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Police need help finding the person or persons suspected of recently stealing tires from cars outside a Dollar Tree, 38000 Ann Arbor Road.

Police said in a report they were dispatched to that location the morning of March 13 because someone was removing tires in the parking lot and placing them in another vehicle.

They found a beige Chevrolet TrailBlazer backed into the northwest side of the parking lot. It was on car jacks and missing two front tires. Doors were locked. There was no apparent damage.

A possible suspect was wearing all-black clothing. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Livonia police at 734-466-2470, or Crime Stoppers of Michigan at 1-800-SPEAK-UP.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Family finds man exposing himself at Meijer

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 34-year-old Dearborn Heights man seems to have exposed himself to the to wrong family during a trip to the Livonia Meijer on the last day of February.

Raymond Field, 34, has been arraigned on a misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure.

Livonia police said in a report they were dispatched to the store the evening of Feb. 28 because a family, along with an employee, reported that Field was walk-



Field

ing through the store with his pants unbuttoned and his genitalia out.

A father was with his 4-year-old daughter in the pet supplies section of the Middlebelt Road Meijer when he saw that Field was exposing himself.

The father approached Field, who quickly left the store. The dad followed him and provided license plate and car information to police. Police arrested Field around 11 p.m. at his residence.

Former Plymouth Twp. parks director sentenced for theft

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Former Plymouth Township parks and recreation director Mike Mitchell was sentenced March 14 in United States Federal Court to two years probation and 250 hours of community service after pleading guilty in August to one felony count of theft from a government receiving federal assistance.

Mitchell had been accused of the theft of a riding lawn mower worth nearly \$3,000, plus other, smaller pieces of landscaping equipment that belonged to the township — items that were found in the garage of his Livonia home when police searched it after he left the township's employment, police said.

In addition, police said, Mitchell, as parks supervisor, condoned the theft of a small utility vehicle, worth about \$5,000, by another man.

The maximum sentence was 10 years in prison, but under a plea agreement, Mitchell's penalty was reduced following a non-binding recommendation by the prosecution that Mitchell could be put on probation.

Mitchell served under then Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price.

"Thanks to our police department and the U.S. Department of Justice for their help in closing this sad chapter in township history," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise.

During an August hearing, Mitchell confessed to the wrongdoing that unfolded in 2016.

"Instead of returning the equipment, I kept it for my own use," Mitchell said, adding that he also allowed a friend to have another piece of equipment "knowing it would not be returned."



Mitchell

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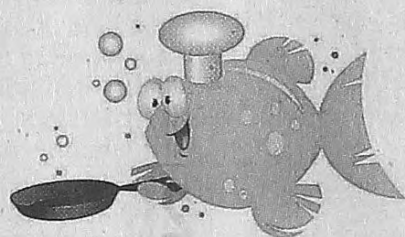


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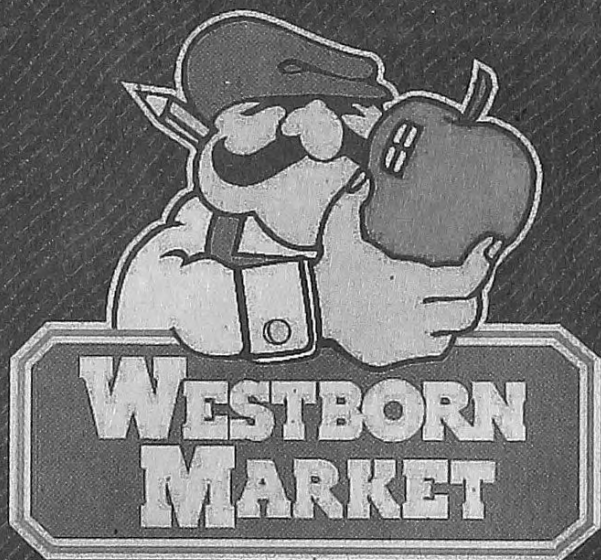
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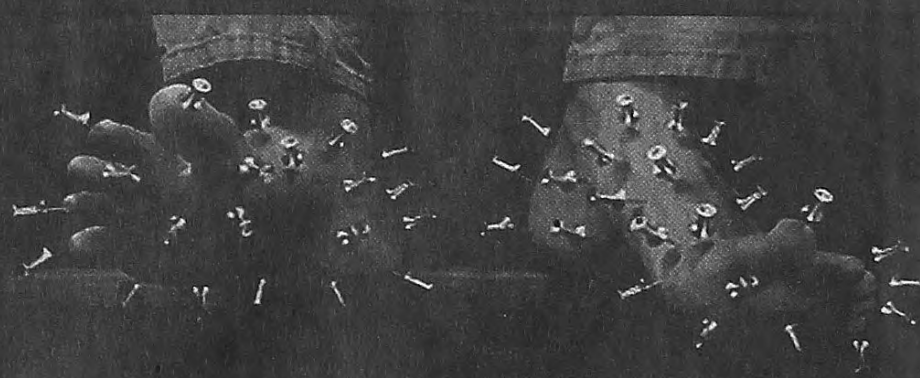
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Teen tells dad about gun found in rental car

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police say an 18-year-old girl was with her boyfriend when she called her father to say they had discovered a loaded Ruger LCR .38 special revolver in the glove box of the car the father had rented.

Police said in a report they were dispatched to the man's home in the 29000 block of Minton the morning of March 10.

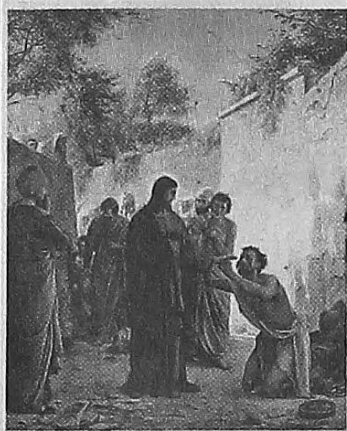
The father told police he had rented a red 2017 Toyota Corolla from an Enterprise Rent-A-Car location on Plymouth Road the morning before. His daughter was in the driver's seat when her boyfriend, in the passenger seat, opened the glove box and found the gun.

The teen called her father and went home. He told police he had never looked in the glove box until his daughter told him about the gun.

The gun had five rounds of ammunition. No arrests were made.

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Wayne-Westland board hosts community meetings ahead of school closures

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The upcoming shake-ups in the Wayne-Westland Community School District have Tosya Balko's fourth-grader expecting some pretty big changes.

Realignment of the school district's buildings means he will stay at his elementary one year longer before changing schools again, instead of attending an upper elementary school next year.

"He has questions about it," the Westland resident said after a community meeting at Adams Upper Elementary School on March 13. "With him being the youngest, his siblings have all attended the same schools. So he has questions, like is he going to attend the same schools that his older siblings have attended. That's what his hopes are."

The realignment has been the focus of several community meetings across the district over the past two weeks. Wayne-Westland schools will close at least one upper elementary or middle school after the 2019-20 school year as enrollments continue to drop across. The district had 10,628 students enrolled this year, compared to 10 years ago when it had 13,143.

Meetings were planned at each of the upper elementary schools and middle schools to discuss data and take input from residents and stakeholders across the district, which covers the city of Wayne and parts of Westland, Canton, Inkster and Romulus.

As a part of the district's successful \$158 million bond in November, schools must be at 80 percent capacity. Currently, no school in the district meets this benchmark, according to data distributed during the meeting. That's why discussions have begun surrounding closing one of the schools after next year.

Adams Upper Elementary is currently at 70 percent utilization, Marshall Upper Elementary is at 73 percent utilization, Franklin Middle School is at 57 percent utilization and Stevenson Middle School is at 53 percent utilization.

Students in fourth grade currently will remain in their elementary schools and the upper elementary schools will host just sixth-graders for the 2019-20 school year. Students will then be shifted to middle schools after the district implements its realignment to K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. That realignment was decided by the school board last spring.

The closure won't be the last for the district. Elementary schools could close in a few years as well because declining enrollment is expected to continue. The district is waiting on closing those primary buildings for a few years, since no bond money will go into them for at least three years. Bond work will begin in the high schools.

"Once construction starts, we'll start to do the same thing with our middle school buildings. Then we'll trickle down to elementary school buildings," said Jenny Johnson, the district's communications director. "The reason we don't feel the urgency to have to close an elementary school yet ... is because no money is going to be spent on any elementary buildings until about 2022."

Once the information gathering wraps up, the school board will receive a report from the demographics and utilization subcommittee sometime next month. The board is expected to make a determination on what school to close as early as its May meeting.

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

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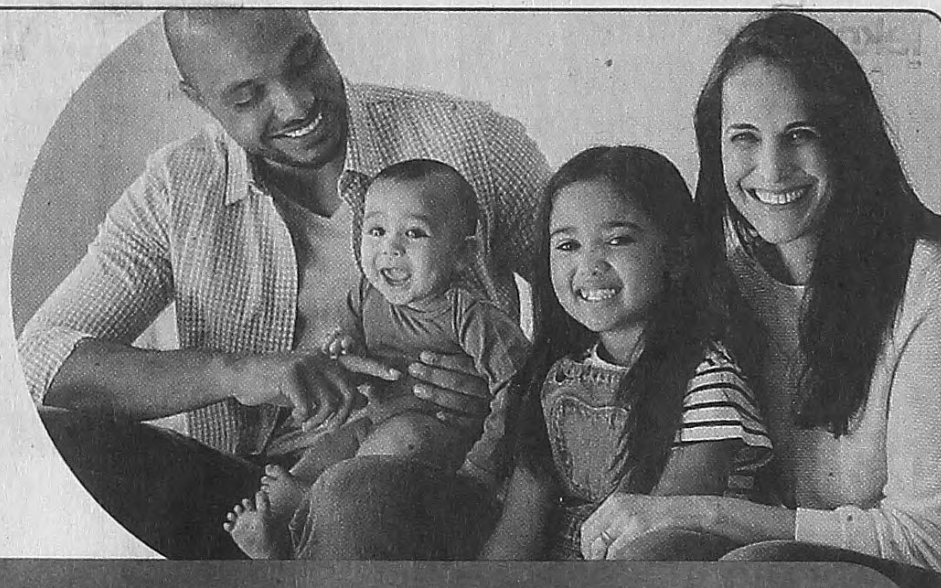
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Jessica Haddad, MD, is a board-certified family medicine physician. She has clinical interests in women's health, pediatrics, preventive care, cryotherapy and the management of chronic diseases.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Sint Maarten

RESIDENCY

Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, Chicago

Internal Medicine



Li Li, MD, PhD is board-certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Li focuses on listening to her patients' needs and concerns, and educating them on preventive care, allowing her to build relationships with the whole family. She is fluent in Chinese.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Fudan University Shanghai Medical College, China

RESIDENCY

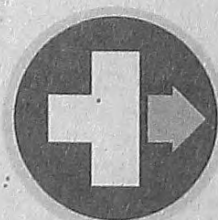
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Celebrate spring and more at weekend events

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If the theater is your scene, this weekend is perfect for you.

There's plenty happening across the Hometown Life communities this weekend if you're looking to get out of the house (or improve your house).

Here are three events happening across the region this weekend:

Chinese Spring Festival in Canton

Celebrate Chinese culture by attending the Village Theater at Cherry Hill this weekend.

The Chinese Spring Festival will take the stage Saturday night at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Performances from local groups and schools will celebrate Chinese history through song and dance.

A reception for the event begins at 6 p.m. with displays on the Peking Opera. The show begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online at cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling 734-394-5300.

Tickets will also be available at the box office one hour prior to showtime.

Home improvement show in Livonia

If you're looking to make some improvements to the ol' homestead, Five Mile and Hubbard is where you want to be Saturday.

The annual Livonia Home Improvement Show takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard.

More than 50 exhibitors will be on hand showcasing their wares and services to those looking to make some improvements.

Services will include lawn maintenance, windows, cabinets and several contractors.

Admission and parking is free for the show.

More information, including a list of vendors, can be found on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce's website at livonia.org.



The Chinese Spring Festival takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday in Canton. Cost is \$5. COURTESY OF THE VILLAGE THEATER AT CHERRY HILL

'Once Upon a Mattress' in Farmington Hills

Want to see some local history? How about the final theatrical show at Harrison High School?

The high school at 29995 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, which closes at the end of the school year, is producing "Once Upon a Mattress" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the auditorium.

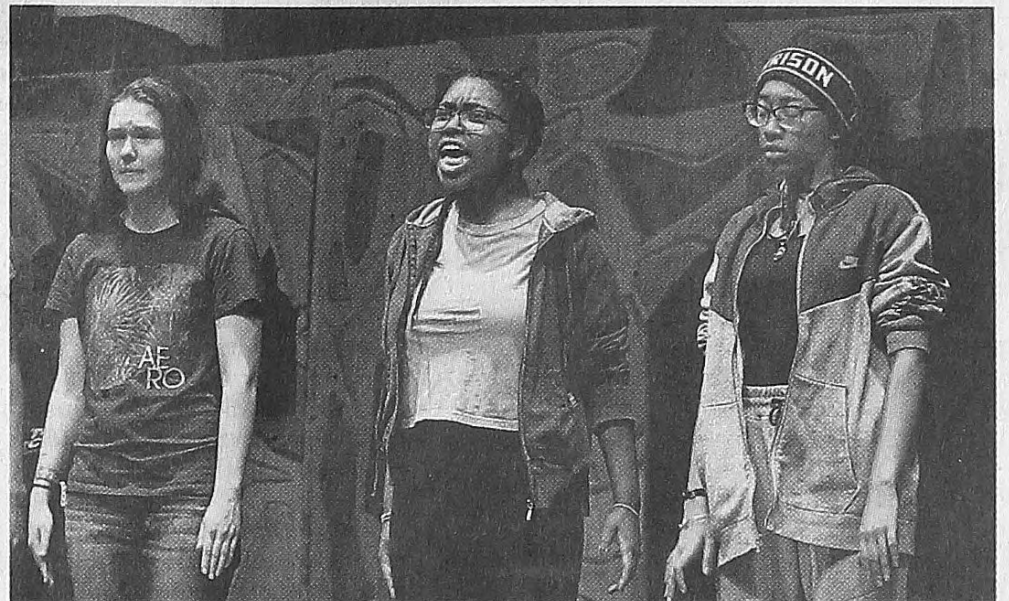
Director Sue Cobb said a special surprise will take place after the final performance wraps Saturday night.

The show will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, as well as at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$12 for students and seniors (age 60 and older) and \$15 for adults.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door or through the box office by calling 248-888-6274.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



Queen Aggravan (Ebony Matthews) yells for "Quiet!" during a rehearsal of Harrison High School's production of "Once Upon a Mattress." This will be the school's final musical, as it is set to close this year. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Harrowing tales of heroism told at Novi Police and Fire Awards

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Genna Guibord was in the right place at the right time to save the life of a suicidal woman, and possibly the lives of innocent motorists, on a Wednesday night last year.

The 27-year-old was among those honored for heroic actions and dedication to public safety at the Novi Police and Fire Awards last week.

Guibord, a Livonia resident, had just left her Dale Carnegie training class — one ironically intended to help students learn how to negotiate and make a positive impact on people — near Walsh College in Novi on Nov. 28.

The class had ended later than normal, putting her northbound on Meadowbrook Road at the Interstate 96 bridge at 9:45 p.m.

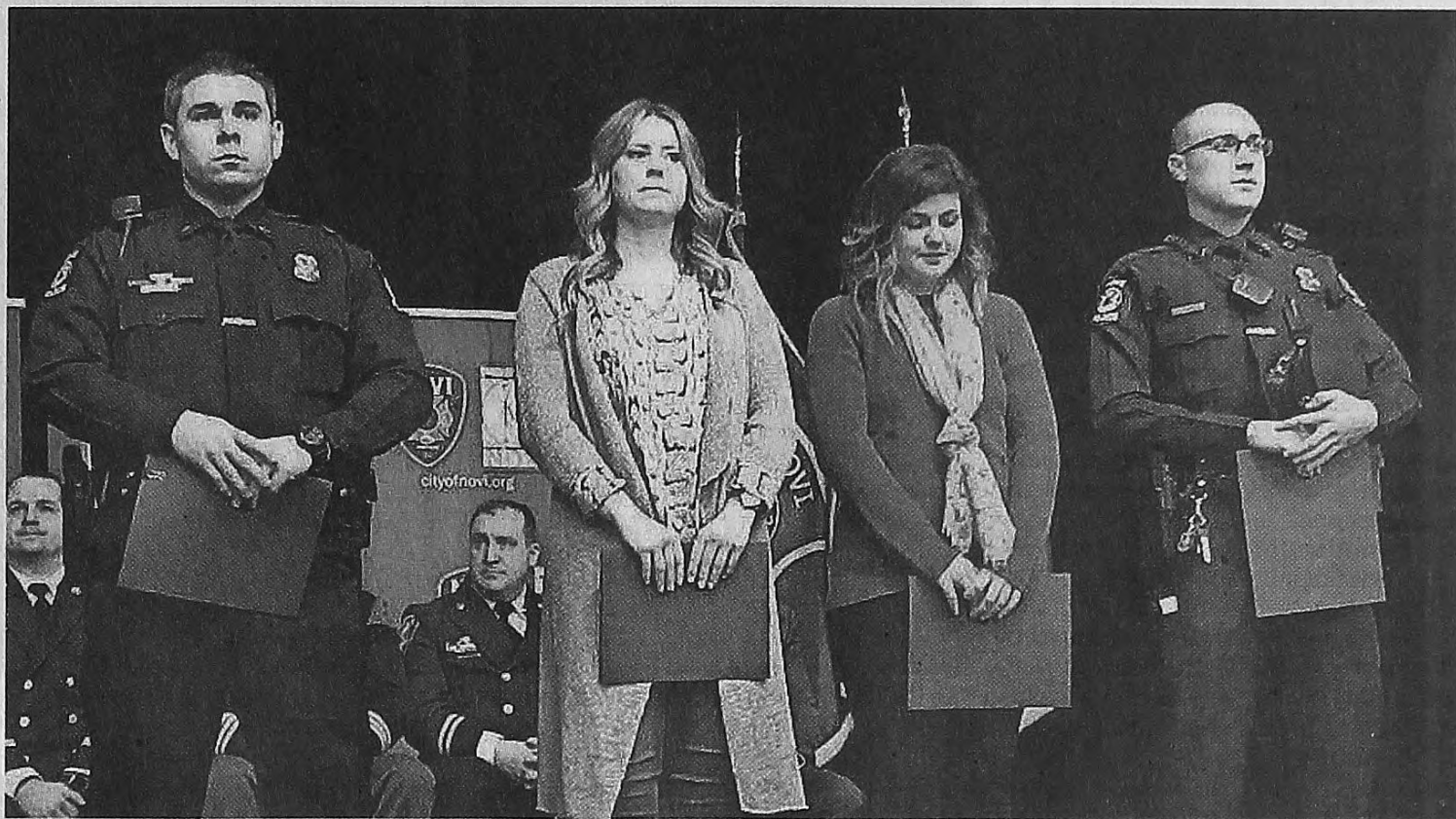
She was on the phone when she saw a southbound motorist brake hard. Guibord slammed on her own brakes as she saw a young woman over the railing, hanging on, only her pom-pom from the top of her winter hat still on the safe side of the bridge.

Guibord told her boyfriend on the other end of the line, "I gotta go, I gotta go," dropped the phone, jumped out of her car and ran to the girl, who was sobbing hysterically, holding on to the bridge with her left hand, while holding a phone in the other.

"I grabbed this girl by the armpits," she recalled. "All she had to do was let go and she would have fallen on to the expressway. ... I was shaking trying to hold her back."

The other driver, whose name Guibord never learned, also held on to the distressed girl, who was facing them and had the Meadowbrook road sign behind her.

Guibord's vehicle and the other motorist's car were blocking the bridge, and Guibord's classmate, Rachel Hauk, arrived in seconds, with Guibord yelling for her to call 9-1-1, which Hauk did before joining in their effort to keep the girl from falling to her death.



Civilians Genna Guibord and Rachel Hauk are honored along with Novi Police Officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto during the Novi Police and Fire Awards on March 7. SUBMITTED

The girl, distraught that several family members had died while she was in National Guard basic training and facing the impending loss of another terminally ill family member, begged her rescuers to let her go.

Guibord was nearly speechless as she thought of her 15-year-old cousin who had taken his own life in February 2018 and simply told the girl she could not let her go.

Hauk tried to calm the girl and coax her back from making a terrible mistake, telling her life was worth living.

"It was like a full-circle experience for me," Guibord said. "It's so hard to see someone struggling so much that they think suicide is the only way out. There are people who will listen and who care. ... I had no idea my cousin was struggling. I just wish people would talk."

In a life-or-death moment, adrenaline gave Guibord the strength to hold the girl until police officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto arrived.

She recalls the first officer stepping up on to the rail and screaming, "Do not let her go! Do not let her go!" The second officer pulled her safely back to the side of the bridge on which Guibord stood, still in shock.

A woman Guibord could only presume was the girl's mother was suddenly running on the bridge toward them, screaming, "That's my baby!"

An officer touched Guibord's shoulder and asked if she was OK, telling her she could go. She made her way to her car, emotionally and physically drained.

Four months later, she still thinks of what could have been. What if class had ended earlier or later? What if she had

lost her grip and the girl had fallen? What vehicle, carrying what family, could have struck her and ended or changed their own lives forever?

She and Hauk helped prevent a tragedy and were honored with life-saving citations at the 2019 Novi Police and Fire Awards on March 7.

Guibord is happy it brought awareness to mental health and said she is honored to have been recognized alongside men and women who save lives daily.

"They helped us save that girl's life and they put their lives on the line every day and I appreciate them," she said. "I was in the right place at the right time. I just wish I could have done the same for my cousin."

See AWARDS, Page 9A

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Awards

Continued from Page 8A

Scene at a nightclub shooting

Rachel Meier and her husband, Jason Meier, sergeants on the Novi police force, were also among the honorees for their roles in high-stress situations they prevented from escalating into tragedies.

On the evening of Sept. 23, the pair were both on duty when they, along with officers Tim Hartland, Dan Jenkinson, Shawn Penzak and Joshua Russell, responded to shots fired at the 29 Novi nightclub.

Rachel Meier was first to a chaotic scene of about 40 civilians pushing and screaming in each other's faces in the parking lot.

An officer was helping a man lying on the ground as Meier, her husband and others began calming and sorting the situation which had begun with an altercation during a birthday party in the bar. During the investigation, two intoxicated males both admitted to having guns in their vehicles, although both initially denied firing their weapons.

In a search of the area, Hartland found four shell casings. Jason Meier discovered four rounds missing from the gun of one of the suspects. Fortunately, no one had been struck by a bullet, and the guns were taken from the suspects, who had both violated their license to carry.

Rachel Meier, a cop for 15 years, and in Novi for the last 12, said it is easy for officers to get tunnel vision when such an intense situation occurs.

"You have to shake that out and get head on a swivel, and don't focus so much that you miss things in your peripheral," she said, praising the officers she works with for that ability, as well as all the effort they put into interviewing, collecting evidence and more. "You are looking for victims, and to keep them safe. What is most important is to keep it all in perspective."

Dealing with a homicidal husband

Jason Meier had a unique perspective to an incident that occurred last spring, in which he and fellow officers Jason Bergtold, Alex Marchione, Dan Jenkinson, Tim Hartland and Matt Chylaszek almost certainly prevented a homicide.

"This was a first for me and I've been here almost 21 years," Meier said, recalling the June 1 night during which Novi Police were advised an Eastpointe man was possibly on his way to their city to kill a man he said was having an affair with his wife.

Eastpointe Police reported the suspect had loaded his shotgun and attempted to run over his wife before leaving the scene, on his way to Novi.

Meier said with this information, he and the officers responded to Country Lane to warn the Novi man and his family about the Eastpointe suspect.

Meier said shortly after their arrival,



Richard Antuna, volunteer of the year; Captain Mark Theisen, firefighter of the year; Officer Mike Daisley, police officer of the year; and Steve Tallman, civilian employee of the year, were honored at the Novi Police and Fire Awards. SUBMITTED

the man received a text message from the suspect that read, "I hope the girl was worth dying for."

Not knowing whether the suspect would arrive at any moment, possibly "guns a-blazing," the Novi officers escorted the man, his pregnant wife, and their child out of the house and rushed them to the station for their own safety.

Moments later, the Novi man received another text from the suspect that reiterated he hoped the girl was worth dying for, and saying he was outside of the man's house and he should "come out, or I am coming in."

At the instruction of officers, the Novi man, now safely at the police station, texted the suspect to stay put, that he was getting his shoes on and coming out.

Meanwhile, Meier and the officers sped back to Country Lane, blocking off the street and taking up positions of safety.

"We don't want a shootout at the house, stray bullets, we wanted to maintain the element of surprise on this guy," Meier said. "We just sat there for five minutes trying to cover every angle. A couple (neighbors) came out, we told them, 'Get back inside.' This guy was on a mission and wasn't going to let us get in his way."

The officers approached the suspect's vehicle on foot and surrounded him. He surrendered without harm to anyone and officers found a loaded shotgun, ammunition and latex gloves in the car. The suspect is awaiting trial on felony charges.

Chief David Molloy praised the officers' heroic actions in the face of danger, taking a potential killer off the streets and keeping a family and the community safe.

"If you take up this calling for this job,

you're willing to risk your life for the safety of the community you are trying to protect," Meier said. "It's humbling to be appreciated for your work, but at the same time, that is just what me and the

guys on our shift would do any night of the week. Our department does an excellent job of paying attention to what we are doing and rewarding us for our work."

Obituaries

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

Carolyn Anne (Russell) Dritsas

SACRAMENTO, CA - Carolyn Anne (Russell) Dritsas passed away gently on February 2, 2019 at her home in Sacramento California. Born to Jay and Madelon Russell on November 20, 1936 in Detroit, MI, Carolyn was the oldest of four children, two (twins Jay and Jo) who predeceased her and her surviving sister Cynthia (Russell) White. Carolyn's beloved husband Jim Dritsas preceded her in death in February 2014. They were happily married for over 48 years. She is survived by her daughter (Elizabeth), her 4 step children (Bill, Jane, Dave and Sue), 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Carolyn graduated with a BS from Central Michigan University and became a school teacher, focusing on English and Home Economics. While still a young woman, she married Jim and became a full time mother to his four children, and later their daughter Elizabeth. She and Jim lived together in Bloomfield Hills for 45 years.

Carolyn was smart, kind, generous, elegant and cultured in her appearance and manner. She helped instill values of fairness, hard work, financial prudence, and academic achievement in all her children. She enjoyed family visits, reading, gardening, sewing, attending the opera, symphony and theater. She also was an outstanding cook. She and Jim shared a special, tender and loving relationship. They traveled extensively, including several trips to Europe, and a fabulous lengthy vacation to Australia and New Zealand.

Carolyn suffered a stroke in 2008 as part of a routine medical procedure which substantially limited her speech and mobility. She never complained or felt sorry for herself. A life long Michigander, she and Jim moved to California in 2012 to be closer to their children. Despite her setbacks, Carolyn soldiered on with treatments and therapies. While limited, she continued to express strength, kindness and love to her family, and to her dedicated caregivers Mina and Nia. Carolyn was a special person and we were all enriched by her beautiful and loving spirit. She was loved and will be sadly missed. God bless you Carolyn.

Condolences may be sent to the family care of Bill Dritsas, 2224 Washington St., San Francisco, CA 94115 or wjdcad@yahoo.com.

Award recipients

■ **Naloxone-life-saving:** Lt. Maria Risner; Detective Jon Zabick; officers Dan Jenkinson, Samantha Grockau, Shawn Penzak, Michael Walton, Stacy Simon, Kevin Nutter, Joshua Johnson, Eric Tobey, Ryan Haney, and Kyle Smith; Captain Todd Seog; firefighters Nicholas Luschas, Douglas Moebs, and Michel Shank.

■ **Life-saving:** Captain Mark Theisen and firefighter Nathan Ryan; officers Jason Bergtold and Eric Carlomusto; citizens Ian Grant, Doug Rowe, Michell Tarsin, Misty Croteau, Gabrielle Gauruder, Genna Guibord, and Rachel Hauk.

■ **Fire Prevention Service Award:** Fire Protection Officer Andrew Copeland

■ **Merit citations:** Sergeants Jason Meier, Rachel Meier, and Amanda Kulikowski; detectives Bender (2), McCarey, Jerry Stempien, and Brian Martin; officers Tim Hartland, Shawn Penzak, Dan Jenkinson, Joshua Russell Erick Tapia, and Samantha Grockau; Special Agent Sean Callaghan.

■ **Unit citations:** Sgt. Bob Manar; detectives Mike Wilson, Randy Mince (2), Jeff Brown, and Mike Marchetti (2); officers Paul Leslie, Erick Tapia, Matt Chylaszek (2), Sarah Moulik, Brandon Bidus, Josh Russell, Alex Marchione, Kevin Nutter, Kyle Smith, Ryan Haney (2), Eric Tobey, Andrew Toth, Shawn Penzak (2), Dan Jenkinson, John Corder, Eric Carlomusto, Stacey Simon, Samantha Grockau, Alisa Harwell, and Tim Shea.

■ **Department citations:** Sgt. Jason Meier; officers Dan Jenkinson, Jason Bergtold, Tim Hartland, Alex Marchione, and Matt Chylaszek.

■ **Life-saving/civilian citation award:** Lt. Paul Mullett; firefighters Dennis (Ron) Barratt, Gregory Lis, Amir Farahani, Ian Patterson, Jack Liao, and Michael Mosian; paramedics Jeremy Beatty and Josh Gramm; officers Michael Walton and Deanna Stevenson; EMT Thomas Brown; citizen Carol Aurilla; doctors Eric Kovan and Scott Laker; and Oakland County Sheriff Court Deputy Mark Ross.

■ **Civilian citations:** Susan Lanczak, Colleen Wilson, and Jeff Douglas.

■ **Letters of Commendation:** Officers Steve Snell, Brandon Bidus, and Matt Chylaszek; Fire Protection Officer Michael Olando; firefighters Dennis Barratt, Michael Moisan, and Jack Liao; Detective Julie Warren; paramedic Terrence Mayfield; EMT Thomas Brown.

■ **MADD Award:** Officer Jason Bergtold

■ **Staff and Command:** Sgt. Bob Manar

■ **Police Heart:** Officer Josh Chapman

■ **FBI National Academy:** Assistant Chief Erick Zinser

■ **Advanced degrees:** Captain Todd Seog, Sgt. Amanda Kulikowski, Lt. Remo Oliverio, Fire Protection Officer Matt Marken, and firefighter Scott Discher.

■ **Lee C. Begole Police Officer of the Year:** Officer Mike Daisley

■ **Volunteer of the Year:** Richard Antuna

■ **Firefighter of the Year:** Captain Mark Theisen

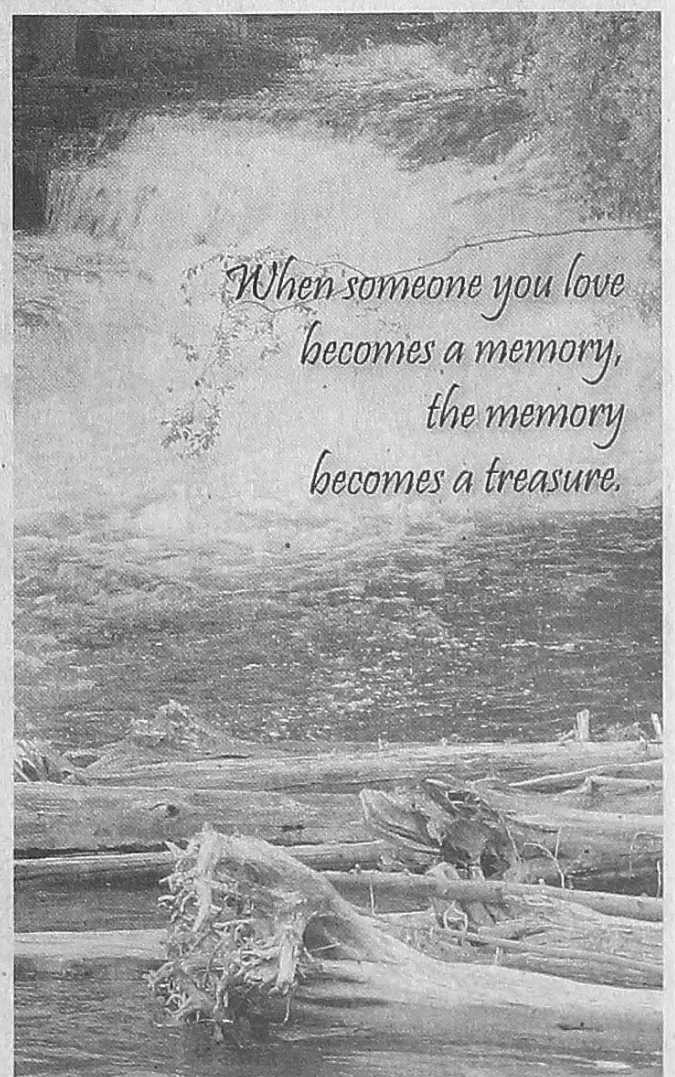
■ **Civilian of the Year:** Lead Mechanic Steve Tallman



Barbara Ann
"Grandma Bill"
Gunther

-- November 6, 1938 to March 13, 2019. Loving Mother to Gary (Silvia) Henrick and Julie (Kirk) Albert. Devoted Grandmother to Adam and Robin Albert who were "the wind beneath her wings". Cremation services were entrusted to Harry J Will Funeral Home.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



Schoolcraft College submits plan for new office building

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It appears Schoolcraft College isn't done building on its campus off Haggerty Road in Livonia.

The college has submitted plans to construct a new several-story office building at the rear of the campus near Interstate 275 and just south of Seven Mile on about eight acres of land.

The project went before the Livonia Planning Commission on Feb. 19 for a rezoning petition, one that was recommended for approval.

The plan would rezone the land from PL-Public Land to PO-High Rise Professional Office.

"We always look and evaluate projects not only for what it's going to do ... for the college, but for the region," said Glenn Cerny, the college's chief financial officer, at the planning commission meeting. "We continue to do that and I think that speaks to the letter."

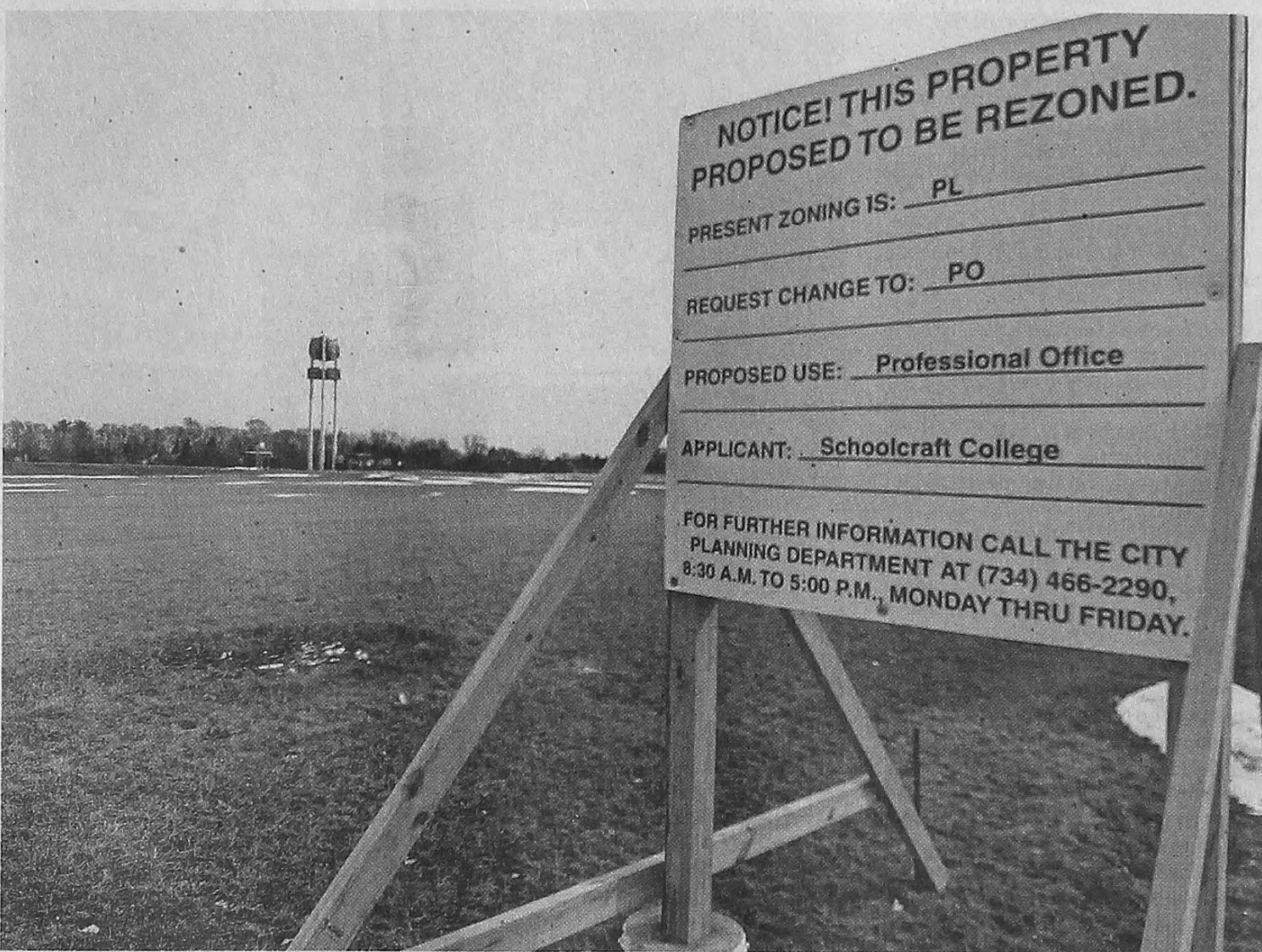
While the land the building is proposed for is owned by the college, a non-profit foundation overseen by the school has a 99-year lease on the land, Cerny said, and that foundation, which has both trustees and school administrators on the board, would oversee the property's development.

"That entity will be the one doing all of the pieces of the deal for this facility," Cerny said. "It's all supported pieces of the college."

If approved, the plan would be the most recent addition to the Livonia campus. Masco Corporation opened its world headquarters back in 2017. The St. Joe's Sports Dome opened that year as well.

Commissioner Peter Ventura asked Cerny about the status of clients for the building, noting a sign on the property stated it was build-to-suit. Cerny said there is at least one potential client for the property.

"We have a lot of people that we have been evaluating," Cerny said. "This has



A sign on the property makes clear Schoolcraft College's request for rezoning. The college is proposing a new, multi-story office building for an unnamed tenant or tenants at the site off Interstate 275 in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

been going on for at least a year."

No client was named at the planning commission meeting, though Cerny said it was safe to say 300-400 high-paying jobs would be coming to the building. Cerny, citing a confidentiality agreement, said he could not say whether it was one client or multiple clients that would occupy the new building when asked in an interview with

Hometown Life.

The rezoning will head to the city council for its review. A site plan will also need reviewing by the city, something Cerny expects to happen later this spring.

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

"We have a lot of people that we have been evaluating. This has been going on for at least a year."

Glenn Cerny
Chief financial officer of Schoolcraft College



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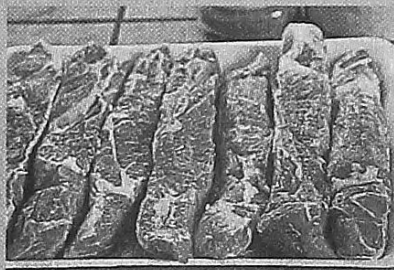
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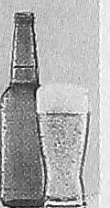
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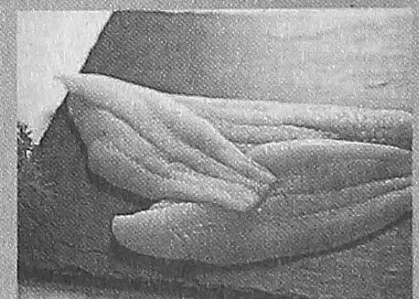
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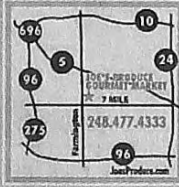
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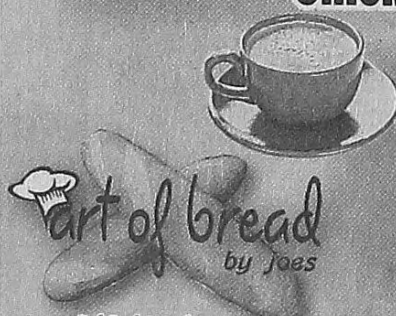
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PREP GYMNASTICS

Farmington team wins state title again

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

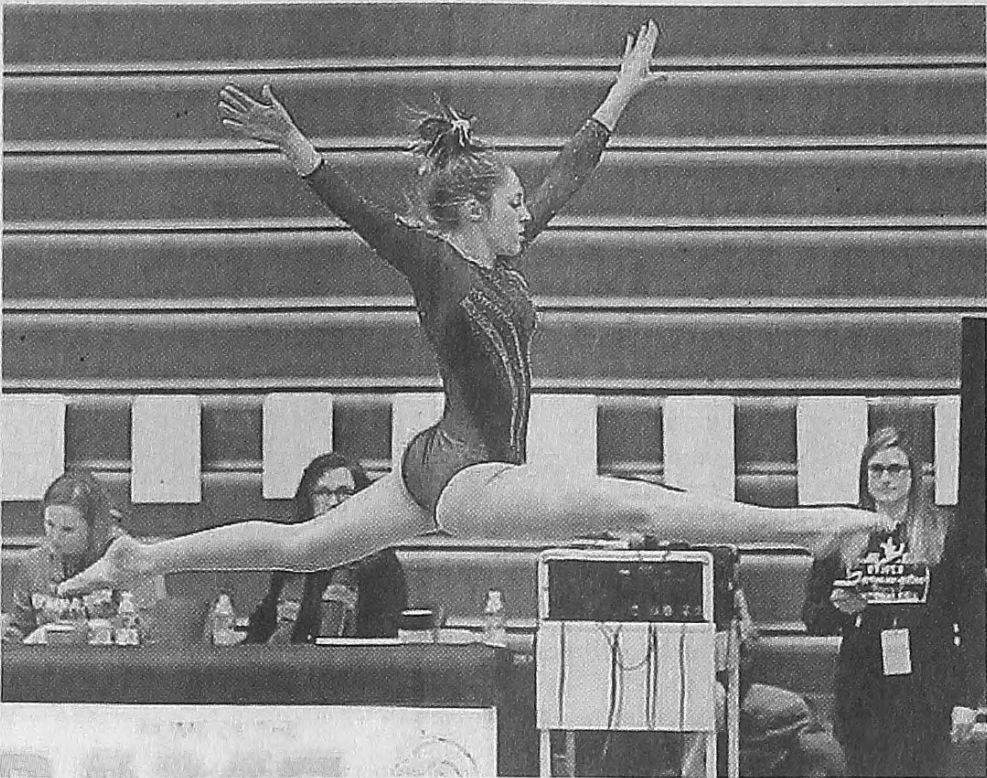
The Farmington United gymnastics team secured its second straight state championship, topping second-place Rockford, 145.55-144.25.

The team also finished the season with a perfect record for the second consecutive year.

Rockford had the highest team scores in three events: floor, beam and bars, but Farmington was right there in each event and dominated the vault. Farmington's Elena Vargo scored a 9.8, Sydney Schultz posted a 9.5, Kacey Noseworthy recorded a 9.3 and Ava Farquhar hit a 9.1. That gave United a team score of 37.7 which no other school came close to.

Farmington United coach Jeff Dwyer said this year's title was much different than last year's, but is just as special.

"In 2018 it was much more emotional as we won by .2 on the last competitor of the entire meet," Dwyer said. "This year was harder as we were expected to win,



Kacey Noseworthy served as another captain for Farmington United in March.
COURTESY OF ROGER PLAYLE

as we went undefeated in dual meets, we won all three major invitationals and we won our regional meet. We were expected to win and that brings a different pressure. However, this is such a tough group of girls. They have proven themselves."

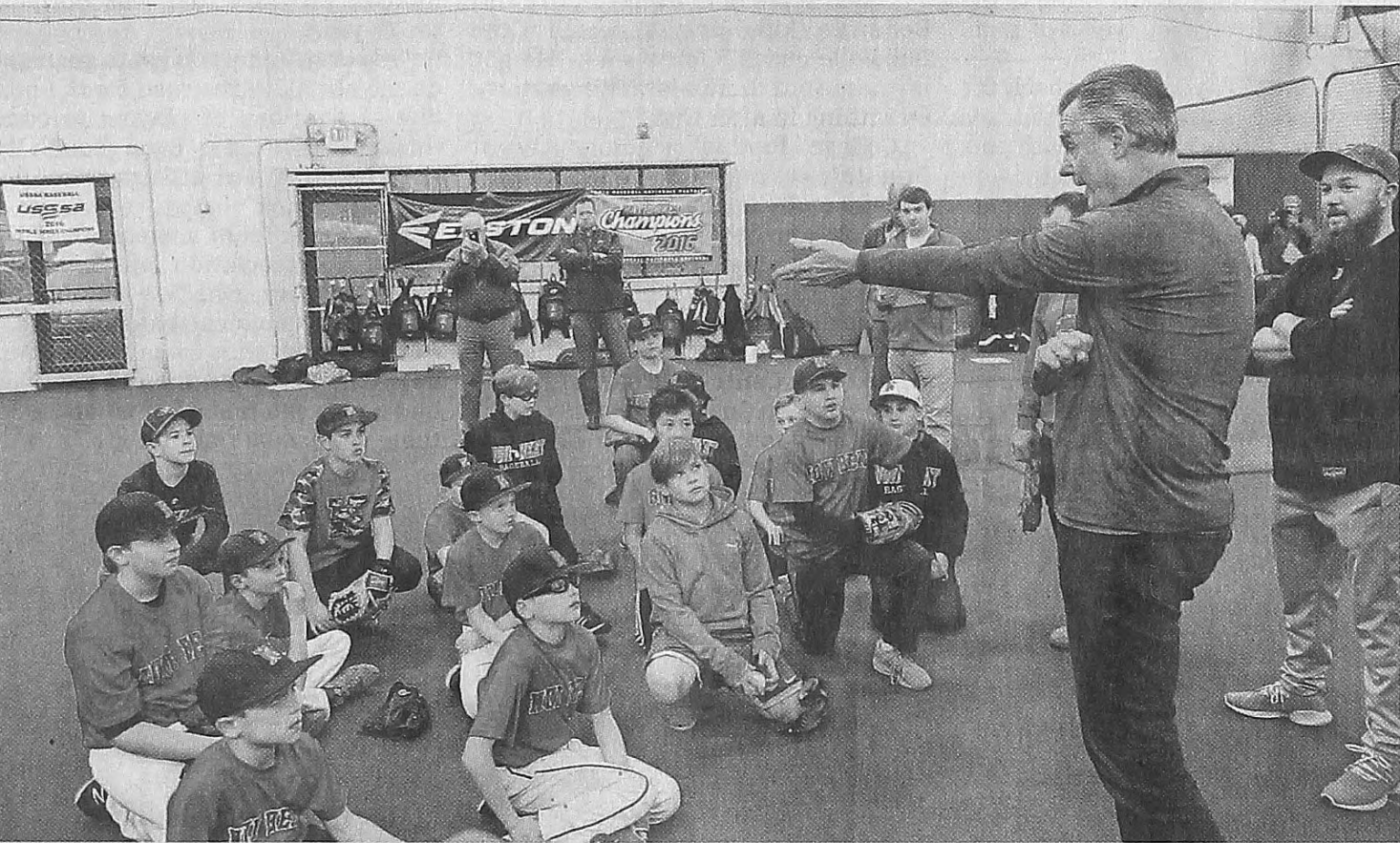
The meet began with beam. United was the first team to perform, and Farquhar nailed her routine. Her teammates came up big as well, giving the team a good starting point.

On the floor, Farmington scored a 9.1 or higher on all five routines.

"I would like to give a shout out to the following gymnasts who all helped contribute to the teams success: Captains Kacey Noseworthy and Ava Farquhar, Elena Vargo, Shelby Smith, Sydney Schultz, Allison Schultz and Kamini Playle who all held their own and proved so tough under such pressure situations," Dwyer said. "Also to coach Kim Mandrelle, assistant coaches Amanda Pechniuk and Nicole Daihl, who were all associated with championships in their

See TITLE, Page 3B

YOUTH Q&A OUTING



Frank Tanana takes question from the young ball players. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Former MLB pitcher Tanana embraces youth

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Playing in the major leagues for 21 seasons taught Frank Tanana all kinds of lessons.

The former Detroit Tigers pitcher, who attended Detroit Catholic Central High School before being selected in the first round by the California Angels, had the opportunity to share some of his baseball knowledge with an eager group of 10 and 11-year-olds Thursday night at The Strike Zone indoor facility in Novi.

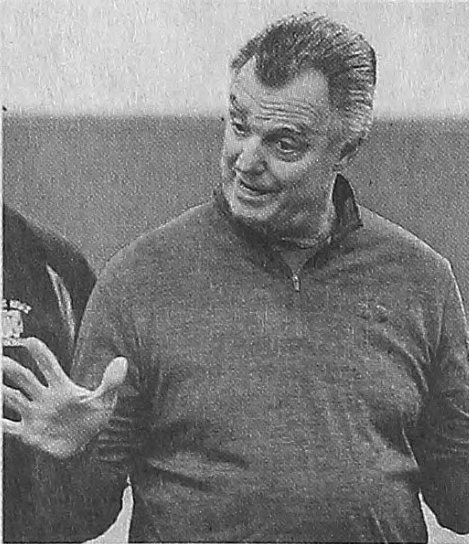
Tanana spoke to the Novi Heat 10U and 11U Gold travel teams for about half an hour to start off the night's practice,

sharing stories of his playing days and giving pitching tips before taking the next hour to spend time with each of the 20 players individually on the pitching mound.

"It's always fun to encourage, it's fun to teach, it's fun to show kids and keep them excited about the game of baseball," Tanana said. "It's such a great game. It's fun to be around these kids who obviously love the game."

The outing was organized by 10U assistant coach Jack Janigan, who has known Tanana since he started playing for the Tigers back in 1985. Tanana and the Janigan family got to know each other through Highland Park Baptist

See TANANA, Page 2B



Tanana talks to Novi Heat players.

PREP SWIMMING

Catholic Central captures historic finish

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was a historic weekend for Detroit Catholic Central's boys swim and dive team.

The Shamrocks came in second place at the Division 1 state meet on March 8 at the Holland Aquatic Center, coming behind Holland West Ottawa by just eight points and .06 seconds. It's the highest finish ever for Catholic Central, which came in third in 1991 and fourth in 2002.

The group also broke four team records, had 17 All-State and five All-American times and recorded two times that are among the 16 fastest in the state's history.

"It was amazing, it was everything I could have asked for. Obviously, losing by .06 is a heart-breaker," Catholic Central coach Jessica Stoddard said. "I'm nothing but proud, I'm so happy for them. My only sadness is that the season is over. While it sucks to to come so close and fall short, I think it's going to make us more hungry and keep us more focused on what more we can do as a team. They all stepped up for each other and supported each other, it's what a team should be."The meet's deciding race was the 400-freestyle relay.

West Ottawa came in first, edging Catholic Central by just .06 seconds, who came in second. That event gave West Ottawa the points it needed to claim first place.

See SWIM, Page 1B



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Brighton quarterback Jontz headed to Indiana; two other Bulldogs sign with colleges



Brighton football players, from left, Will Jontz (Indiana), Colby Ford (Lawrence Tech) and Seth Steinacker (CMU) made their college choices. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Will Jontz could have signed with any number of smaller colleges, taken up-front scholarship money and had more of an immediate impact on the field.

Or, the Brighton quarterback could follow his dream of playing on the major college level, even if it comes with no guarantees.

Jontz chose to gamble on himself, signing with Indiana University as a preferred walk-on. As a preferred walk-on, Jontz has a spot on the team, but won't have a scholarship for at least his first year on campus.

"It's a dream come true," Jontz said. "I've been wanting to do this my whole life. It's really a blessing. It's too hard to pass up; it's too big. It's going to be great."

Jontz intends to compete for a job as if he was the Hoosiers' most highly routed recruit.

"Once you get down there, it's all the same," he said.

Indiana didn't have a quarterback in its 21-player signing class. Jack Tuttle, who didn't play as a freshman at Utah last season, transferred to Indiana and will have four years of eligibility.

Jontz, who played quarterback for three varsity seasons, entered his senior year below the radar with college recruiters. That changed on opening night when he ran 21 times for 169 yards and four touchdowns and threw a 41-yard touchdown pass with 3:42 left to give Brighton the lead in a 40-35 loss to state power Belleville.

It was a performance that prompted Belleville coach Jermain Crowell, whose team was loaded with major

college talent, to say, "I don't know who this quarterback is, but I'm going to tell every college in America about him."

Suddenly, Jontz was being contacted by Big Ten Conference schools, taking a game-day visit to Michigan State early in the season.

"I had some help from some of the Belleville kids and especially the Belleville coach," Jontz said. "He got my name out there a lot. Things started rattling in after that."

College football signing day at Brighton was decidedly different than events at Belleville and East Kentwood, two teams stocked with college recruits. The Bulldogs had only three players sign with colleges, but nearly beat each of those teams last season.

Long snapper Seth Steinacker signed with Central Michigan and defensive tackle Colby Ford signed with Lawrence Tech.

"It's pretty cool you get to go in and do me and pave the road for the next few generations of players to come through, even though I'm not the first, I'm still part of that founding team."

Colby Ford
Lawrence Tech signee

"It's a lot about just our grit," Ford said. "We put in 100 percent, executed."

Steinacker made himself into a Division I recruit by refining an often overlooked skill in football as the long snapper on punts and placekicks.

"They moved me up sophomore year to snap," Steinacker said. "After that, I started getting serious about it, snapping all the time, working to try to get better."

It didn't take long for Steinacker to decide he wanted to play for Central Michigan.

"It just felt like home," he said. "I went up there and visited. It was right after that that I committed. I loved the coaches. They have a whole new facility they're putting in next year, so I'm extremely excited to get out there."

Ford will join Lawrence Tech for its second season after reinstating a football program that was dormant for 72 years.

"It's pretty cool you get to go in and do me and pave the road for the next few generations of players to come through," Ford said. "Even though I'm not the first, I'm still part of that founding team."

Lawrence Tech, a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, was 5-3 last season. Ford plans to major in architecture.

"They had what I was looking for," he said. "They had the degree. They had a nice campus. I felt when I went there it was just right for me."

Tanana

Continued from Page 1B

Church in Southfield, where Janigan worked for a time. In his retirement, Tanana has become quite active in his church.

Janigan, whose son plays on the 10U team, said Tanana jumped at the chance to come work with the two teams and was happy to see the kids learn so much from the experience.

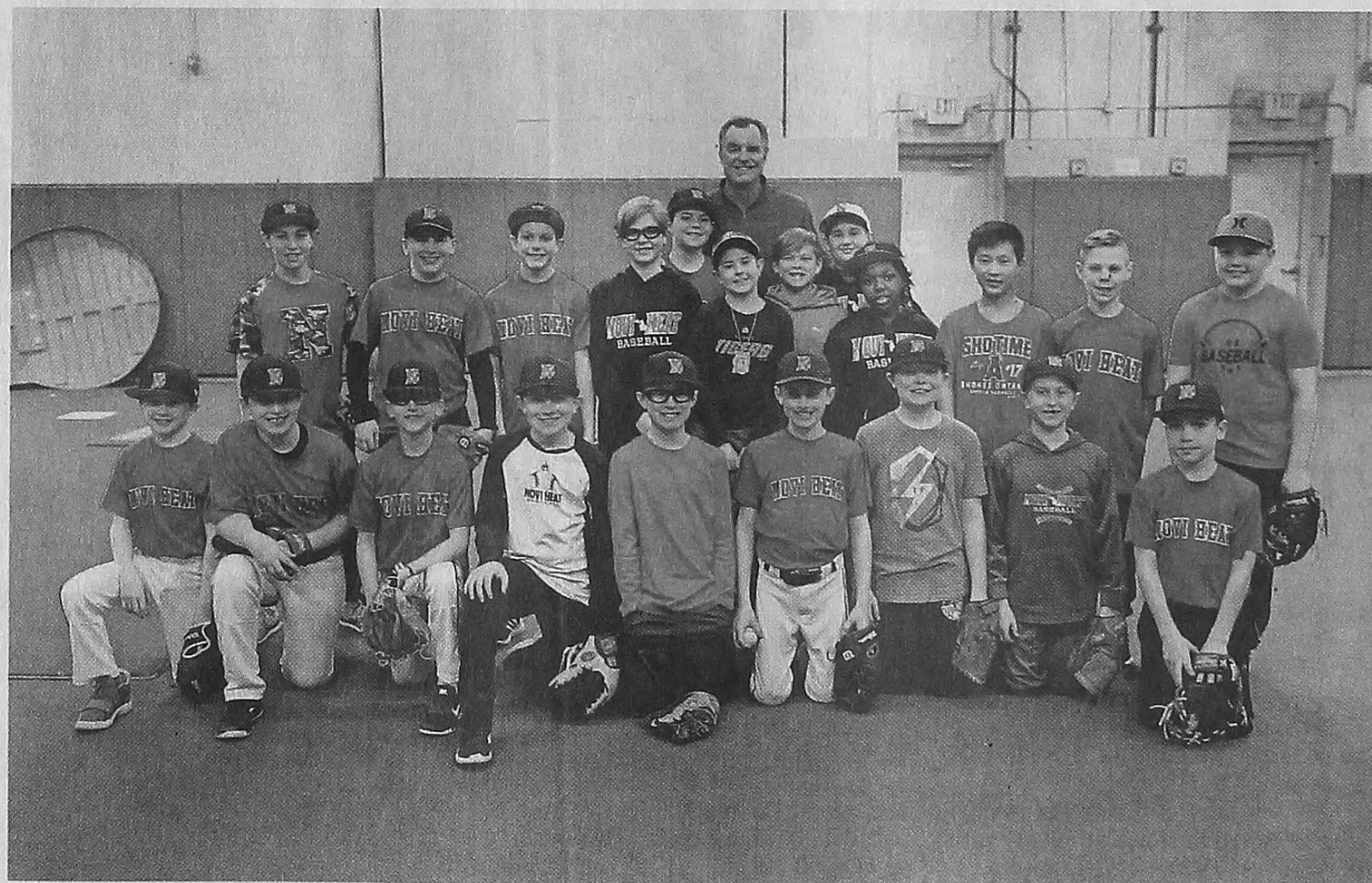
"It's really cool because he's teaching us and making us better pitchers," pitcher and infielder Luke Janigan said. "Some of us might not have been as good but now he's teaching us different skills and teaching us to be better athletes so we have a chance at the majors."

In his opening discussion, Tanana preached the importance of having strong legs and good balance as a pitcher. He demonstrated what a good wind-up and pitch looked like and answered all the players' questions — and even the dads', who were excited to see one of their own childhood heroes teaching their kids. He hopes the players go forward with an understanding of what makes a good pitcher.

"From a physical standpoint, it's the importance of strong legs," Tanana said. "From a pitching standpoint, it's really balance and throwing strikes and throwing a lot to strengthen your arm. That's how you get a stronger arm, you play a lot of catch."

Tanana played for six different teams in his career and was a three-time all-star. He was known as a hard-throwing lefty who could reach the high 90s, and played with Nolan Ryan in the 1970s. An injury early in his career forced him to change the way he pitched, so he became a control pitcher that relied on a variety of good off-speed pitches. He threw nearly 4,200 innings and had 143 complete games before he retired in 1993.

He said he was fortunate to have a father that played professional baseball and loved sports, so he was able to learn from him and grow as an athlete. Now,



Detroit Tigers retired pitcher Frank Tanana takes a group photo with Novi Heat baseball players.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he has the ability to pass on the lessons he learned years ago and is taking advantage of the opportunity.

"It's awesome, he knows so much," 11U catcher and infielder Trevor Reed said. "He was really encouraging and showed me a way to hide the ball."

As youth sports become more competitive, having good coaching is critical to the development of young athletes. Pitchers want to learn curveballs and other off-speed pitches, and while the belief of many is that throwing a curveball too young is damaging to the arm, Tanana says it's most important that players learn how to throw the pitch correctly, regardless of what age it happens.

He picked up on the excitement of the players at Thursday's practice, noting

that they're hungry to learn and show their love for the game — something he takes great joy in.

"I enjoy their enthusiasm, they're fun," Tanana said. "It's sad, I'm glad they have these (indoor training facilities) because when I was growing up, we played in the park when the weather was good. You don't see kids out as much on the fields just playing, so I'm glad they have men and dads that want to coach them and play with them, because they really do need this to develop their skills."

It wasn't just the players he helped. The coaching staffs were as focused as the players, picking up things to better their teams going forward.

"I think it's great," 10U coach Ben Abler said. "He's given us a lot of tips

that even our own coaches haven't picked up on over the years. He's been in the majors for 20-plus years and there's an unbelievable amount of knowledge that he's sharing with us right now and we're very lucky to have him here."

Today, Tanana lives in Farmington Hills and spends most of his time being a grandfather. His four daughters combined to have 14 children, so he's busy traveling across the country to spend time with them all.

In addition to the love he has for his family and faith, he'll always hold baseball close to his heart.

"There's nothing like a summer night at the ballpark," Tanana said.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at vaillenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.

U.S. NATIONAL SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Allegro! Synchronized Skating team won the gold medal at the national championship earlier this month. COURTESY OF CARRIE BROWN

Michigan Synchronized Skaters take gold

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Allegro! Synchronized Skating Teams, based out of Plymouth, were top performers at the 2019 United States National Synchronized Skating Championships, which was held at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth earlier this month.

The Allegro! Masters team won the gold medal and are the 2019 National Champions. They skated to a medley of music by Queen, and received both high technical and performance marks from

the judges.

It's the third national championship for the group this decade, winning it all in 2010 and 2014.

The Masters team brought home another first place finish at the Midwestern Championships, held in Kalamazoo, Mich. in February.

"We've been working hard all season, but in the month leading up to Nationals, we really focused on adding stellar skating skills and embodying the emotions of each piece of music," Erin Behrend, an 11-year member of Allegro! Masters, said.

The Allegro! Masters Team is made up of 17 skaters, ranging in age from 28-54. Team members are from various parts of both Michigan and Ohio.

"The program came to life when I saw a trailer for the movie Bohemian Rhapsody last summer while on a rain delay at my son's baseball tournament," Allegro! coach Carrie Brown said. "I knew this program would be special from its first imaginings."

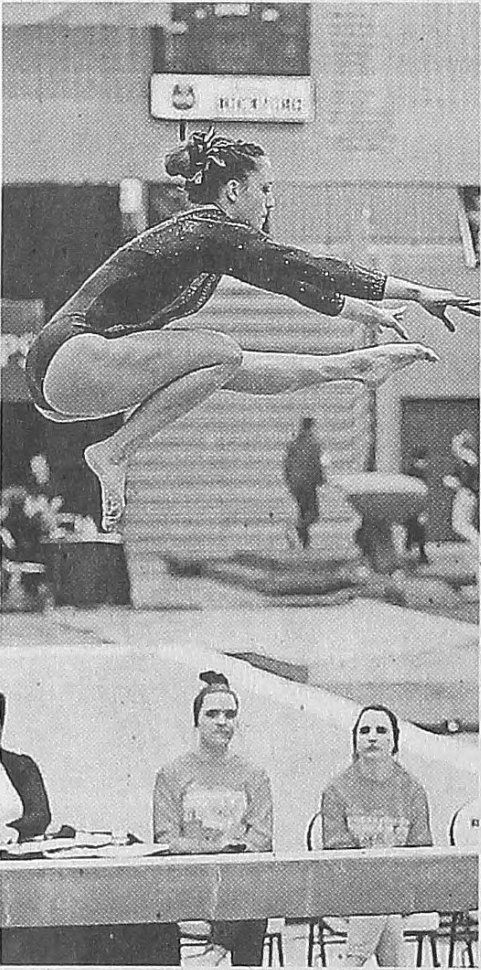
The Allegro! Adult team, with skaters ranging in age from 21-35, finished the season as the sixth best team in the country in their first year of competition,

narrowly missing the podium by .52 of a point. They are the 2019 Midwestern Sectional champions.

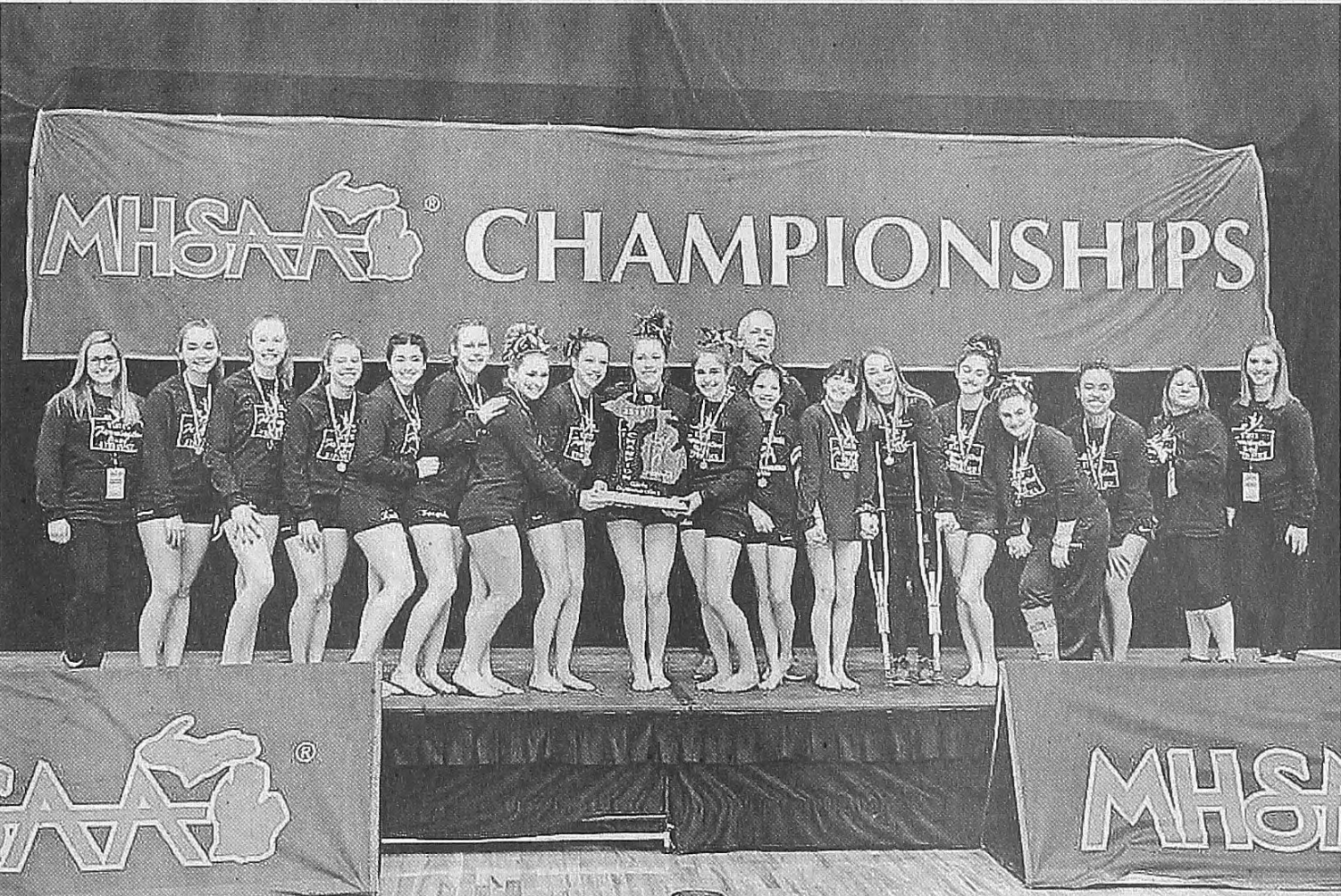
The winners of the Adult division were the Crystallettes, also based out of metro-Detroit in Dearborn. In addition, their senior team placed third and novice team placed sixth.

Both Allegro! teams will begin recruitment for the 2019-2020 competitive season with clinics this month and tryouts in May and June.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Farmington United's Elena Vargo was the Division 1 State All-Around champion.



Farmington United gymnastics team won its second straight state championship in March. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROGER PLAYLE

Title

Continued from Page 1B

own careers. They deserve a lot of credit for all their help and influence. They could all be head coaches with other teams with their abilities and I am lucky to work with them."

It's the first time United has won multiple state titles in a row since they did so from 2004-2006.

Individual Honors

On Saturday, just one day after the team finals, Farmington United gymnasts participated in the state individual championships.

Four members of the team placed in the top 10 of the All-Around competition, which includes routines on bars, vault, floor and beam.

• Vargo came in first place and was

named the Division 1 All-Around Champion. She placed first in every event except beam and finished with a score of 38.0, which was 1.325 points higher than the second-place finisher, Katelyn O'Brien of Northville.

"(Vargo) is so powerful and beautiful to watch," Dwyer said. "Many spectators came up to me during the competition and made several comments about her performances."

In Division 2, Noseworthy, Farquhar and Sydney Schultz all finished in the top 10. Noseworthy came in second with a 36.2, just .475 behind the leader. Farquhar came in fourth and Schultz came in sixth in the All-Around competition.

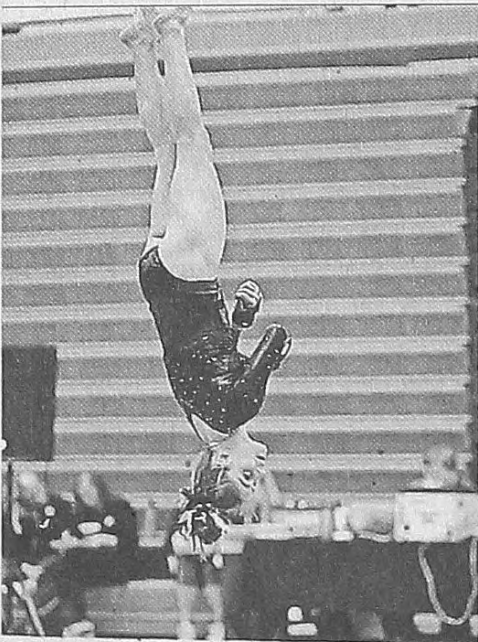
"Kacey has been a gamer her entire career," Dwyer said. "An incredible athlete who always goes full out to win. She gives her heart and soul every practice and every meet. You can often hear her grunting in the way a football player grunts when they hit another player –

yet Kacey does this as she attacks each event. These gymnasts are somewhat rare and it shows in the end. I am so proud of the strides she has made in her career."

Noseworthy was also the recipient of the "Senior-of-the-year" award which comes with a \$1,000 scholarship.

"To do what we did the last two years has been special," Dwyer said. "It takes a core group of individuals to make it happen. Seniors Kacey Noseworthy, Ava Farquhar, and Shelby Smith have been strong leaders the past two years. Sophomores Sydney Schultz and Allie Schultz were also instrumental as freshmen and this year. The work ethic and determination of this group over the past two years is a key reason for two undefeated seasons and two back-to-back state championships."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Farmington United's Ava Farquhar was one of the team's captains.

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PREP SWIMMING

South Lyon swim and dive team wins LVC title

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The South Lyon Boys Swim and Dive Unified team captured its second straight Lakes Valley Conference title, marking the first time in program history that the team won the league in back-to-back years.

South Lyon Unified outscored its closest rival, Huron Valley United, 544-395, at Waterford Mott High school to secure the victory. The team finished the season undefeated in conference dual meets. Walled Lake Central scored 350 points followed by Walled Lake Western (296), Walled Lake Northern (212) and Waterford United (150).

The Lakes Valley Conference Championship saw top performances from several members of the South Lyon Unified team in all 12 events starting with the 200 yard individual medley relay where the team of Jared Keeney, Max Topping, Eric Perczak and Josh Mason combined for a Division 1 state cut and took first place with a time of 1:38:86.

South Lyon was victorious in four other events, including a come from behind win in the 400 freestyle relay:

One meter dive

Blake Vaughn, 335.10 points

500 yard freestyle

James Perry, 4:49.14

100 yard breaststroke

Max Topping, 1:00.09

400 yard freestyle relay, 3:16.45

Josh Mason

James Perry

Jared Keeney

Christian Etnyre

"We were a very young team with only four seniors, yet we managed to perform well in all our meets, swim and dive our best at the end of the season and overall have a great and successful season," South Lyon Unified coach John Burch said. "This team was very hard-working. All season long they could be counted on to put in 100 percent effort in practice. This paid off in the end with a great performance at the LVC championship meet."

South Lyon placed in these events at the Championship meet:

200 yard freestyle

3rd- James Perry, 1:46.73

4th- Nick Finn, 1:48.77

6th- John Abernathy, 1:53.22

8th- Andrew Brenner, 1:55.21

200 yard individual medley

2nd- Jarod Keeney, 2:02.44

4th- Erik Perczak, 2:04.19

50 yard freestyle



The South Lyon Unified boys swim and dive team poses after winning the 2019 LVC title. COURTESY OF RICH PERRY

3rd- Christian Etnyre, 22.22

4th- Josh Mason, 22.30

6th- Aiden Butler, 23.04

8th- Vince Adragna, 23.55

One Meter Dive

1st- Blake Vaughn, 335.10 points

9th- Marcus More, 197.30

11th- Manev Shah, 162.10

100 yard butterfly

1st- Erik Perczak, 50.38

4th- Max Topping, 54.60

6th- Vince Adragna, 55.78

100 yard freestyle

3rd- Christian Etnyre, 48.39

4th- Josh Mason, 50.34

7th- Nick Finn, 50.97

8th- Aiden Butler, 51.83

500 yard freestyle

1st- James Perry, 4:49.14

3rd- John Abernathy, 5:02.76

7th- Andrew Brenner, 5:09.65

200 yard freestyle relay

2nd- Topping, Etnyre, Perczak, Perry, 1:29.42

100 Yard backstroke

2nd- Jared Keeney, 54.14

100 yard breaststroke

1st- Max Topping, 1:00.09

6th- Preston Healy, 1:07.65

400 yard freestyle relay

1st- Mason, Perry, Keeney, Etnyre: 3:16.45

Other notable events from the 2018-19 season:

Erik Perczak broke the sophomore team record in the 100 yard butterfly with a 53.82.

Josh Mason broke the freshman team record in the 50 freestyle with a 22.30 and the 100 freestyle with a 49.21.

Rich Perry contributed to this report.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.

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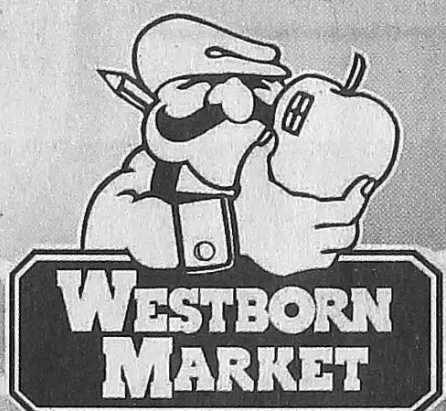
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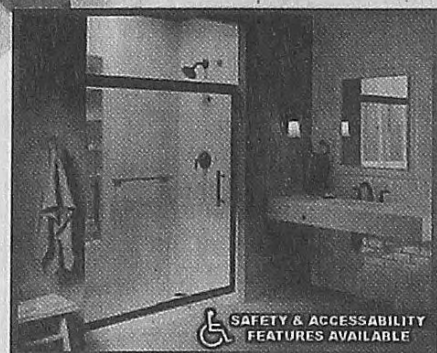
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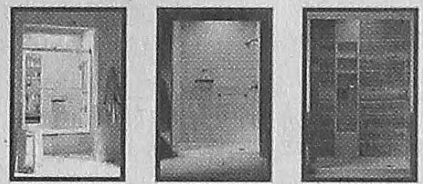
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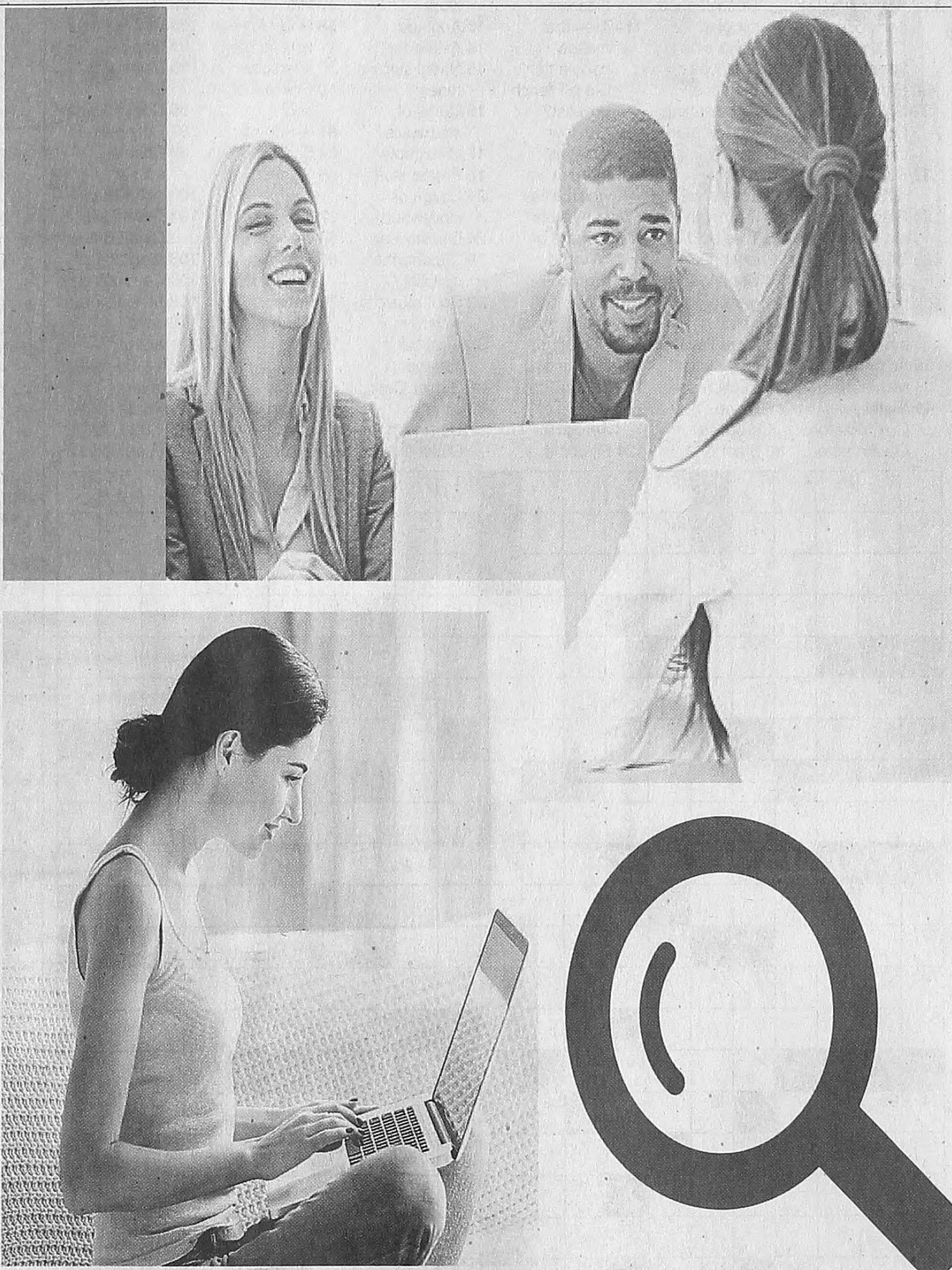
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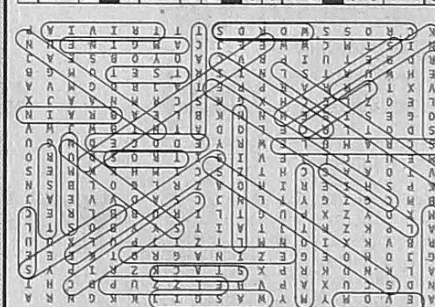
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- 1 Item in a place setting
- 6 Duffels, e.g.
- 10 Grand tales
- 15 Hence
- 19 Boundary
- 20 "— Three Ships"
- 21 — Park (Edison's home)
- 22 Took off
- 23 Really big tree?
- 25 Fundamental tree?
- 27 Longs for
- 28 Franz who composed "The Merry Widow"
- 30 Early settler
- 31 "Erin Burnett OutFront" channel
- 32 Passes on, as a story
- 34 French brandy
- 35 Chinese ideology centered around a tree?
- 39 Actor Mahershala
- 41 "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane

42 Soon
43 Two of Henry VIII's wives
44 Coagulates
46 "Gunga Din" studio
47 Recorded digitally, in a way
49 LAX datum
51 Wharf locale
56 Tree-dwelling hooded snake?
60 Tree whose trunk curves?
62 Cut of pork
63 Dutch Renaissance scholar
65 Rake part
66 Nuances
69 Item in a place setting
70 Of delicate beauty
72 A shot
73 Love-struck
74 Farm vehicle
75 Tree sold at a low price?
78 Cantaloupe growing on a tree?
83 More flavorful
84 Indy circuit
86 Auction site
87 Union promise
88 Slant

90 Millionaire-making game
93 Merinal type-
94 Provoke
98 Corp. wheel
99 Charm
exuding from
a tree?
02 Nancy of the
House
04 Like sown
seeds
06 "Ally McBeal"
co-star Lucy
07 In total
09—Gay
(WWII B-29)
10 Tea-scenting
blossom
14 Tree that
makes
people think
like a French
novelist?
16 Window
sections
through
which trees
are visible?
18 Richard of
"Wicked
Woman"
19 "Für—"
(piano piece)
20 Romances
21 Florida bird
22 Mail in
23 Steven of
Aerosmith
24 Fit of pique

125 Plow inventor
John

DOWN

1 Pleased

2 Citrus fruit

3 Hi-fi parts

4 Microchip
material

5 Ships' rears

6 Slant

7 Viper variety

8 Old warship

9 Deary

10 Prepare for a
pyramid

11 Oyster bead

12 People with
clout

13 Applaud

14 Asked for

15 Nasal singing
tones

16 Curtis of
cosmetics

17 Overthrow

18 Potato stuff

24 Suvani of
Hollywood

26 Ghostly cry

29 "Siddhartha"
novelist

32 Soul music is
a form of it

33 — soda
(cleanser)

35 Singer Cohn

36 Jimmy
Durante's "—
Dinka Doo"

37 "Park" a ship
38 Central Georgia city
40 Gets bested
44 Vivid crimson
45 Egg pouch
47 Slender woodwind
48 CBS military law show
50 Fee dangler
52 Small and 70-Across
53 Chief Norse god
54 Talk wildly
55 Deuce taker
57 Hackneyed
58 Grid of fine lines in an eyepiece
59 Franklin of soul
61 — -de-sac
64 See 71-Down
66 Splinter group
67 Laugh sound
68 Golf coups
69 Thurman of Hollywood
70 Funny Carvey
71 With 64-Down, hostile swarming insect
73 Suit fabric

74 Old computer language
76 Entertainer Zadora
77 Gift for a drawer, perhaps
79 Dealt (out)
80 In — of (replacing)
81 Gas leak giveaway
82 Zilch
85 Suburb of Dallas
89 Hack (off)
91 Prohibits
92 High crime
93 Bird feathers
94 Gaps
95 Mammal's fur
96 Comic Tracey
97 Roly-poly
99 Cavalry soldier
100 Actor Ruck
101 Talked like Cindy Brady
103 Alert at sea
105 Car contract
108 As is fitting
110 Joke
111 About
112 — -do-well (idler)
113 Punta del —
115 1,000 G's
117 Luau bowlful

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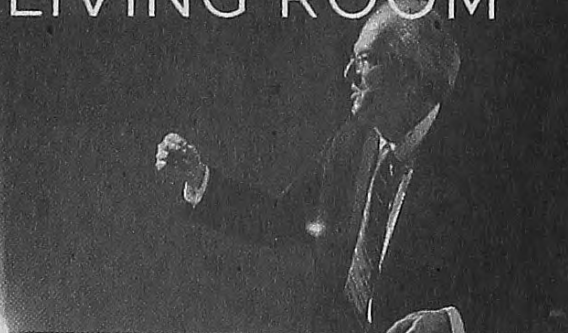

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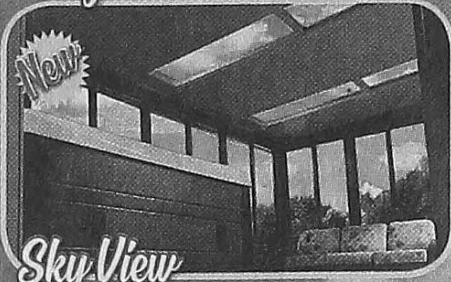
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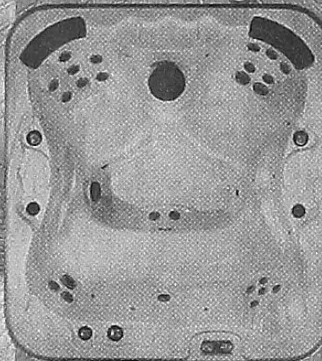


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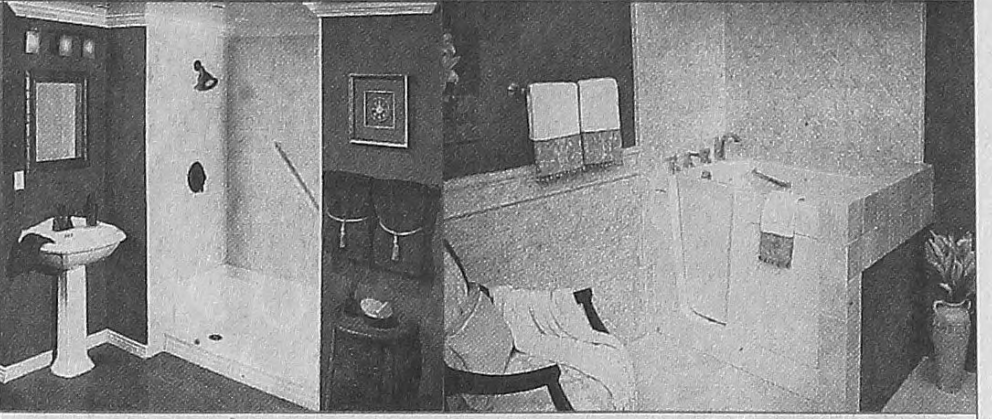
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