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Low birth rates hit school enrollment

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not easy for people to see their former school close its doors. Leading up to the last day of Farmington Public Schools' Harrison High, alumni and current students found themselves with tears in their eyes.

But enrollment had dropped and the Detroit closed, and Wayne-Westland district couldn't afford to fiscally support its three high schools any more. And enrollment drops aren't a problem unique to Farmington.

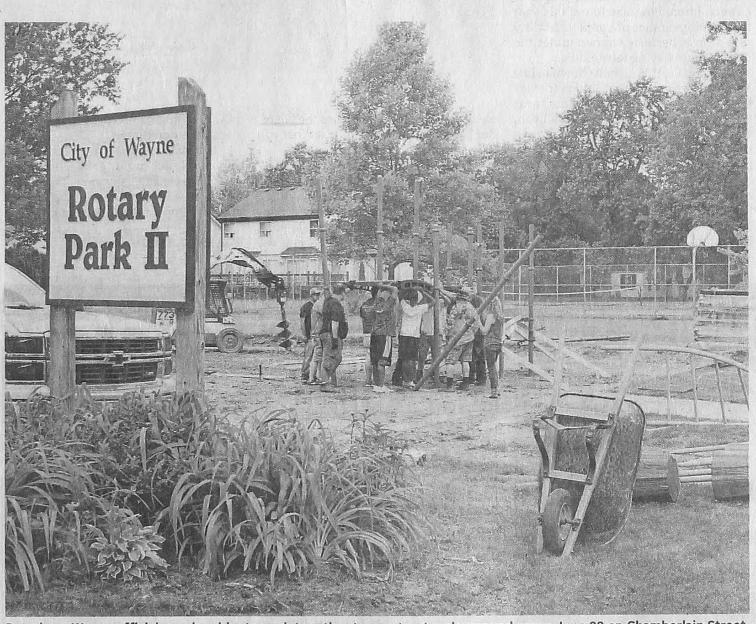
In the last five years, Huron Valley Schools saw one closure, Livonia had two, Plymouth-Canton repurposed two, a number of private schools in metro has two, maybe three closures on the

Birth rates are low, which gives schools fewer minds to mold.

"We saw significant population decline through the great recession," said Paul Salah, superintendent of Huron Valley Schools. "Hundreds of

thousands of people left the state in an effort to find gainful employment, which reduces the total number of students, which causes, unfortunately, schools in communities to have that conversation and look at maximizing facilities."

See ENROLLMENT, Page 2A



Rotarians, Wayne officials, and residents work together to construct a playground space June 28 on Chamberlain Street. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne Rotary Park adds new playground

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Community members came together in the sweltering heat June 28 and 29 to build a new playground in Wayne.

The playground will replace the outdated wooden equipment in Rotary Park II at 5150 Chamberlain St.

The park, donated by Beaumont Hospital Wayne, was expected to reopen this week. The hospital chipped in about \$48,000 for the project, according to Mayor John Rhaesa.

This project has been years in the making for Rhaesa, who was happy to see the old playground replaced with newer, safer equipment.

"We had an old play structure that

See PARK, Page 4A



Courtney Ozog, left, and Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini move a rail section.

PCCS' Merritt earns 'highly effective' rating in evaluation

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If an honor roll existed for school district superintendents, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' leader Monica Merritt would be on it.

During the district's Board of Education meeting, board President Kate Borninski said Merritt earned a "highly effective" rating follow-

ing the superintendent's annual evaluation.

Following a unanimous vote from the five board members present, Merritt's contract Merritt was extended through June 30, 2022.



"There has been a lot of turnover on the board the past few years, but you've remained, giving the district stability," said Borninski. The board met June 17 to evaluate

the work Merritt has done over the course of the past year, which included bargaining with the Plymouth-Canton Education Association on a new contract.

First-year board member Leonardo Savage said he was impressed by one of Merritt's traits not included in the evaluation.

"I would like to state that Monica's character is excellent," Savage said. "She is a very empathetic person and I am grateful she is our district's superintendent."

Merritt, the 14th person to lead the district, shared praise with the district's team of decision-makers.

"Thank you for your trust in me," Merritt said. "There is no way this district would have the success it has had without a collaborative effort.

"Three years ago, when this position became available, I know it wasn't the easiest decision for you to choose me, but I appreciate you for trusting in me. When you talk about stability, as long as you will have me, I'll be right here in this seat. I love this district, I love the students and I love our staff."

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Merritt logged extensive experience in education as a teacher, building principal and administrator before she was named superintendent July 1, 2016.

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

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Enrollment

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Fewer babies and fewer students

Salah wasn't with Huron Valley when the district made a decision to close Brooks Elementary in 2017. But he understands that sending a child to another school, even if it is in the same district, can be a challenge.

"Loss is difficult and change is hard," he said. "Even if we go through that process as a district, we need to be sensitive to the community."

Kim Root, Huron Valley's executive director of communications and community relations, said in her experience, the memories held within school buildings make their closures hard.

"It's a painful process when people have to go through a school closing, because a lot of their emotional attachment to their school district has to do with their school buildings," she said.

When Livonia closed two elementary schools in 2016, Superintendent Andrea

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Consumer Experience Director Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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Oquist said parents and kids alike took the closures hard.

"People care deeply about their neighborhood schools, and they care deeply about their school community. ... So the positive of that is they're invested, they care, they work to support their schools," she said. "The downside, or difficult side, of that is when there's a school closure, people also feel that greatly."

School officials from Huron Valley and Livonia said low birth rates were a significant reason for a school closure.

Oquist said when Livonia faced its closures, "the district was responding to the population decline that really was mirroring the population decline across the state of Michigan."

For Livonia, the population is generally aging, and growing past the familybuilding stage.

"Livonia is a wonderful, stable community that has essentially grown out, meaning there is not a significant amount of new housing as you might see in other communities," Oquist said. "Because we have wonderful city services and resources and parks and schools, people tend to not only stay, but they stay through multiple genera-

Root said, as a mother of Millennials, she sees that generation waiting longer to build families.

"Millennials are waiting longer to get married and waiting longer to have children," she said. "That's impacting us as well. ... When they do have children, they're having fewer as well. That's part of waiting longer.'

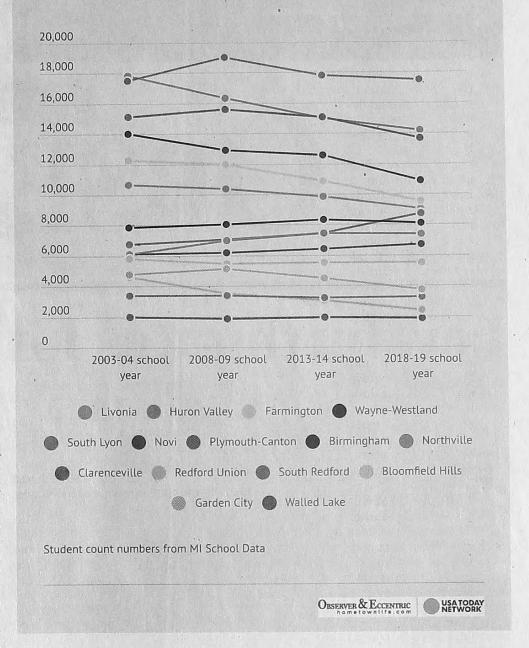
Teen pregnancies in the state of Michigan have been nearly slashed in half throughout the last decade. The Pew Research Center found in 2018 that women are, overall, waiting longer to have children. Pew also found this year that the appearance of a general fertility rate drop is because women under the age of 35 are having fewer kids.

For schools, this all boils down to low kindergarten enrollment, which trickles to every other grade over the next 12 years. Even districts like South Lyon, which actually saw 2 percent growth this academic year, keep an eye on birth

"We're watching those numbers because that is a national trend," said Melissa Baker, superintendent of the South Lyon School District. "Do I think it's going to impact us in the short term? No,

Enrollment drops in metro Detroit

In the last 20 years, South Lyon and Novi are among the few districts in the state to make steady enrollment gains.



we're gaining students across the board. But I do think birth rate is a fact that you have to consider long-term.

"That is something we pay really close attention to here. We don't want to be a district that has to close a building."

Oquist also said that her district continually watches birth rates so, looking five years into the future, staff can see

how they might need to prepare for kindergarten enrollment.

"It really is something that every school district in our area, I'm sure, is watching closely," she said. "We follow about 13 different enrollment factors that will impact the following year."

See ENROLLMENT, Page 3A



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Enrollment

Continued from Page 2A

Enrollment and state funding

When enrollment numbers drop, so does the amount of state funding a district receives.

The two are directly tied.

"Our challenge is that it's not like 30 students stop attending one school so you just cut a class out," Salah said. "It might be 30 students across eight schools, which means that you do not cut staff proportionately. So your costs continue to remain the same or increase, but you have fewer students to pay for programs."

As much as enrollment drops adversely affect funding, some districts take issue with the funding itself.

"Enrollment is on one side of this, and school funding is really on the other," Oquist said. "Those are the pieces I think, if we're going to take a big picture of enrollment decline in the state of Michigan, we also have to look at the school funding piece pretty deeply."

Salah and Baker added that their districts see funding as an issue. Both South Lyon and Huron Valley are at the minimum of school funding, receiving \$7,871 per full-time equivalency student (FTE), which is the lowest amount a Michigan school receives.

Depending on a variety of factors, some districts receive a little more. For instance, Livonia receives \$8,409 per student, and Farmington receives \$10,285 per FTE.

To top it all off, a Michigan State University study found earlier this year that the Mitten state is "dead last" in the country when it comes to school revenue growth. The issue stems from, according to the report, the state allocating education money to other areas in the budget and tax cuts.

But Ben DeGrow, director of education policy for the Mackinac Center of Public Policy, said that it should be remembered that, either from birth rates or families moving away, Michigan has fewer school-age children than it did in the past. DeGrow also found that higher school funding doesn't always result in a higher-quality education as reflected in test scores.

"Fixed costs are the ones that are go-



Students at Parkview Elementary School in Novi board the bus on their last day of school. Novi and South Lyon school districts are among the few that have actually seen an increase in enrollment numbers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's a painful process when people have to go through a school closing, because a lot of their emotional attachment to their school district has to do with their school buildings."

Kim Root Huron Valley Schools executive director of communications and community relations

of students from year to year, like utilities, maintenance costs and things like that ...," he said. "The short-term fixed costs don't change, but over (time), it requires planning on the district's part to adapt over the long term and convert those fixed costs into variant costs and realize that, over time, you will need fewer teachers, fewer administrators, fewer employees in the system."

DeGrow said, overall, state funding has gradually gotten higher and usually makes up about 60 percent of a district's budget. While he thinks the main responsibility lies with a district, he also thinks the state has a role in providing quality education for kids.

"The state has a role there to play to ing to be there regardless of the number provide funding for students to pursue

the public education that helps prepare them for success in post-secondary education or a career," he said.

Keeping up

In a mix of efforts to provide great education and keep classrooms filled, schools have gotten creative.

Junior kindergarten, early childhood education, advanced placement (AP) courses, international baccalaureate (IB) diploma tracks and vocational classes are some of the ways districts try to stand out.

These help keep school of choice transfers or charter school transfers at a minimum. Typically, charter schools gain enrollment by offering something a

public school does not.

"Charter schools are established to fill a specific need within the community," said Buddy Moorehouse, vice present of public relations and media for the Michigan Association of Public School Academies. "They aren't meant to be all things for all people in the way that public schools were originally designed to be. A charter school will only open if there is a specific need for that

kind of school in that community." Whether it's a focus on the outdoors, STEM-based learning or something else, charter schools stay open by being different.

They're offering a kind of education that isn't available in the traditional public schools. ... Each one of them has a specific academic focus that you're not going to find at any of the traditional public schools, which is why they're successful," Moorehouse said.

For the most part, that works for charter schools. In the last five years, six of the 24 Michigan charter schools to close their doors shut down because of "financial liability," which Moorehouse said usually stems from enrollment drops. Two of those six schools were in Redford.

Livonia operates what used to be a charter school. Since taking over what is now Niji-Iro elementary school, which benefits students who speak or want to speak Japanese, the district has grown it "significantly."

According to MAPSA data, a charter school attempted to open in Farmington Hills in 2015, but never came to fruition.

But whether its unique programming or increased state funds, districts will continue to keep an eye on Michigan's education budget and state fertility rates and try to curb any unpleasant effects that might come along.

"The money in the school system is and should be set aside to serve students and prepare them for success in life," DeGrow said. "The role of institutions like districts and other public education agencies to manage those resources well and provide programs that attract students and provide them with the best chance to get that success. The focus should be the money serving the student rather than serving institutions."

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby_tankk.

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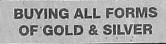






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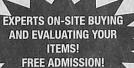
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Farmers market celebrates start of summer



Happy Fourth of July and the start of the high summer season, which by way of recent temperatures seems to be off to a sizzling start! Go figure.

April, May and most of June were, for all intents and purposes, washouts, and now Mother Nature is wasting no time making up for our lost spring by bringing summer on in full force!

Safe travels, by the way, if you're out on the highways and back roads. If you happen to be in town, make a point to stop by the market. We'll be celebrating the holiday in our own way and you're invited. More on that in a moment.

The race is on!

There's a large banner that hangs down from the inside rafters of the Walter E Sundquist pavilion, the home of the farmers market.

The banner proudly reminds market-goers that the Farmington Farmers Market was voted metro Detroit's best farmers market in 2017 and 2018.

Occasional winds come through and furl the banner up as if it's a flag - and in a sense it is - though maybe a better word for it is "badge."

I got to thinking about what it means to be the best, and it goes well beyond bragging rights. Maybe it's about knowing you need to catch up with your mom and thinking to yourself, "Why, I think I'll pick her up and we'll go the farmers market together!" Or maybe it's the kids tugging at your elbow with "Can I get a Petey's Donut at the farmers market today?"

You can paint your own picture, but mine is that the farmers market, in its 26th season, is squarely a part of my life. I choose to spend time at market and am happily surrounded by thousands like me. We meet friends, we talk to farmers, we enjoy the blue skies, the sunshine, the welcoming vendors and the camaraderie of an open-air marketplace.



President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln have accepted an invitation to visit the Farmington farmers market this weekend. SUBMITTED

Vote for the farmers market

If you're of the mind, please contribute a moment of your time to vote for Farmington as having the best farmers market in metro Detroit for 2019. Use this link to exercise your community spirit in an impactful way: www.clickondetroit.com/vote4thebest.

It's the primordial, ancient way of getting connected - no wi-fi, no cellular data required. And it's free.

Your market this week

You know how holidays go: sometimes it's a feeling of "there's so much to do," sometimes it's "What am I going to do?" The simple answer is, if you're in town and around this weekend, come to market!

We open at 9 a.m. with a color guard and drumline

that will come to attention as we sing "America the Beautiful." The market will be bursting with vendors when we ring the bell to open this festive day and part of the excitement is that we should see more farmers rolling in to market this week, bringing the good food as you get your grill ready!

Activities abound. Our Little Sprouts Kids Corner will be hosted by the Farmington United POM team which will stage a high-energy, flash mob-style routine. Starting at 10 a.m., find yourself on the south bricks for an interactive, highly entertaining and free cooking demo featuring Chef Laura Romito from High Five Salts, courtesy of the Calder Dairy and Edible WOW magazine. I would not be surprised to see President Abraham Lincoln and First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln in the audience.

Also, on the south side and a bit to the east, we will have a farm animal petting zoo, featuring ducks, chickens, bunnies and goats! Joining in the fun will be the Ann Arbor symphony orchestra, bringing an "instrument zoo" of their own, hosted by performing members. Kids can take turns playing symphony instruments including violins, cellos, horns and more.

Meanwhile, also starting at 10 a.m., Oakland County Mobile Parks will setting up with "Let's Go Fishing!" a popular and fun learning game that teaches kids how to cast and catch a fish.

Mike Freeman is our featured entertainer in Riley Park playing across rock and roll generations. The American Legion Walker Groves Post of Farmington will be out in force, grilling all-American hot dogs, maybe Coneys, and fries, too!

Market bags are back! This year's bag tag is "Turnip the beet!" These bags are beautiful and impactful way to reduce plastic in our environment, and the bags are FREE! Simply bring receipts showing \$20 in total purchases from any of our downtown shops, restaurants and stores to the market information tent (the only tent with a green top) and the bag is yours!

That about sums up a great day, and a great way to feel a close sense of community. It's small town all the way around but that is what Saturday life is like here. Until next time, then, and as always, here's saying, "See you at the market!"

Park

Continued from Page 1A

was just falling apart. ... To have donations and be able to make some of this stuff happen with our resources is great for the next, the mayor plans to

community," he said.

The park will also receive new wood chips. All of the community's other parks will also get new chips, which Rhaesa said hasn't happened in about a decade.

Between this year and

put around \$300,000 into Wayne's parks.

Rotary Park II is smack in the middle of a neighborhood with lots of kids on bikes and skateboards riding around throughout the day. Because of that, Rhaesa and Beaumont officials expect the park to

be well-used.

"It's awesome to see the kids coming out of the houses to see what's going on. They're excited," said Eric Woody, regional community affairs manager for Beaumont Hospital Wayne. "Some of the parents came over to say

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they were excited that their kids will have it."

According to Beaumont Hospital Wayne Vice President of Operations Jose Kottoor, employees were encouraged help put the park together. He said many of the hospital's employees live

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in the community and they want to see it stay healthy.

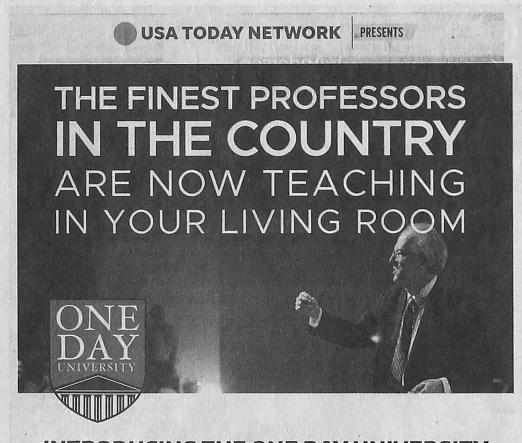
"We live and work in this community, so we feel it is important that we actually take care of the communities around us too," he said. "We are creating an environment for the children and the families to come out and play and promote their health."

Beaumont sent surveys to community members to see what people wanted in the space. Lynn Ish-Green, project manager for the Healthy Wayne Community Coalition, said the swings, slides, swinging bars, balance contraptions and other equipment will be accessible for people of all ages.

For Healthy Wayne, Ish-Green said, it's all about giving people ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

"We hope that maybe this will encourage people to see the value of maintaining the parks and using the parks," she said.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@ hometownlife.com 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby_ tankk.



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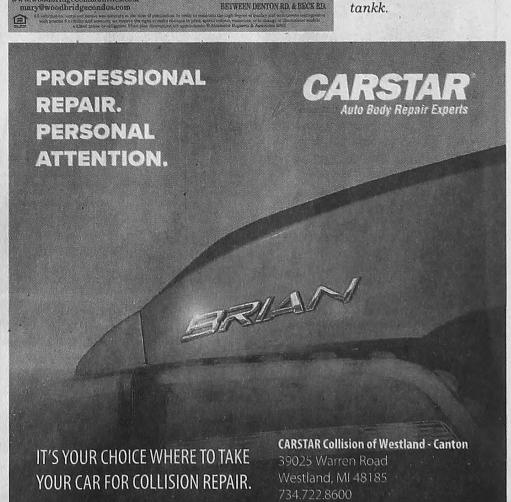
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Oakland County adopts 'ban the box' policy

Angie Jackson Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Applications for most Oakland County government jobs will no longer ask people to disclose their criminal convictions thanks to a new "ban the box" policy set to take effect later this summer.

Following similar initiatives by other local government bodies, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted earlier this month to remove the question that asks about a person's criminal history from county job applications.

Oakland County joins places such as Detroit, Ferndale, Kalamazoo and Washtenaw County in "banning the box."

The State of Michigan struck the criminal background question from state job applications last year.

Commissioner Nancy Quarles, D-

Southfield, who led the effort, said she reers or positions working with chilexpects the change to benefit the county's workforce and open up opportunities for convicted felons who've paid their debt to society.

"I thought it was time for Oakland County to step up and show that we are a fair-chance employer," she said. "One of the things that I believe ... is once you remove the box, it gives the person a fair chance to interview."

Quarles said the county will still run background checks when making a job offer after the interview process, but now a conviction won't be the first thing an interviewer learns about an applicant.

The change, which will take effect by Aug. 1, will not affect jobs for which background checks are required by federal law as part of an initial screening process, such as law enforcement cadren.

Percy Glover advocated for the policy as part of the nonprofit group Michigan Liberation, telling commissioners on the Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee that he was shut out of prospective jobs after his release from prison in 2003. Now he's a program manager at Oakland County Michigan Works! Pontiac.

"I ran into people saying, 'Tell us about your history.' In all fairness, I had to say I was so far removed from the person I was that sent me to prison," Glover told the Detroit Free Press. "Most times, I was disqualified.'

The "ban the box" movement has gained momentum across the country in recent years.

At least 35 states and more than 150 cities and counties have adopted the hiring policy, according to the National Employment Law Project.

Some advocates in Michigan are hopeful that the ban will spread beyond government jobs.

House Bill 4326, introduced in March by Rep. Cynthia Johnson, D-Detroit, would prevent both public and private employers from inquiring about a criminal conviction until after a conditional job offer is made. The bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tour-

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Woodward, D-Royal Oak, said he hopes private employers follow suit, adding that he believes it's "as much a justice issue as it is a fairness issue."

"I think this really comes down to taking individuals from being a number to allowing them to be people," he said.

Are timeshares a worthwhile investment?



My husband and I just came back from a two-week trip to Mexico. We loved the resort we stayed at and plan to come back again. While we were there, we found out at the resort that it is mostly timeshares, and we sat down with a representative of the company who made a pretty good pitch to us. The salesperson was pretty high-pressure and encouraged us to sign up.

We know enough not to rush into anything, and as a result we didn't sign. However, we are interested. What do you think of timeshares, and do you think it would be a good investment for us? You should know we're both retired, and we do plan to travel more.

Thank you, Ellen

Dear Ellen:

On the whole, I am not a big fan of timeshares, and I would not classify

them as an investment. When I think of an investment, I think of something that is either going to appreciate in value when it's sold or it is going to generate income on an ongoing basis. As far as I'm concerned, timeshares don't meet these criteria. After all, when you historically look at timeshares that have sold on the secondary market, you generally see that they sell for less than half of what people originally paid. In addition, renting out your timeshare will very rarely cover your cost to own it.

Typically with a timeshare, you are paying a substantial amount of money up front, plus an annual maintenance fee to cover basic expenses. You could incur costs to cover capital improvement expenses. When you factor those costs in, you are not going to be able to sell your yearly allotted time to cover those expenses. Another factor to take into consideration is that typically when you look at selling your timeshare for the allocated period, you generally have to go through one of the resale companies where commissions are substantial. It's not unusual to pay 30 percent or more in commissions.

If I was thinking about buying a timeshare as opposed to buying directly from the developer of the property, I would probably work to purchase something on the secondary market. In many situations, you can buy a timeshare at a substantial discount over the developer's price. There are a number of websites you can use to purchase timeshares on the secondary market.

Whether you purchase a brand new timeshare from a developer, or one on the secondary market, it is important to recognize that not all timeshares are the same and that it is important to understand your rights and responsibilities. For example, some timeshares are part of a larger organization and allow you to select timeshares from a variety of properties around the world. In other timeshares, you are limited to that same

In addition, it's important to understand how the maintenance fees work. Unfortunately, many of the high-pressured salespeople (common in the timeshare industry), forget to tell you about the annual maintenance fees and that they have a tendency to increase year by year. Remember, you are liable for your annual maintenance fee whether you use the property or not.

I have known many people who have owned timeshares, and one thing I have never seen is anyone who made money by selling their timeshare. Therefore, if you are thinking about buying a timeshare, don't look at it as an investment where you will make money, because you won't. You need to look at it as an investment in your future vacations. Even then, proceed with caution, because I believe of all the new avenues to rent properties today, in the long run you'll do better by looking for a property year by year as opposed to being bound to just one time share.

Today is our country's birthday, and I want to wish everyone a very Happy Fourth of July!

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email Bloom at Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Volunteerism is win



Our Mental Health L. I. McCullough

Danny Thomas said, "Success has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others." Similarly, a wise man named Z. Hurston once said, "There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them."

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ cured the sick, made the blind to see and the deaf to hear, and fed the multitude ... at no charge. Other greats in the area of volunteerism are Mother Teresa, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have personally met several high school and college students upon their return from volunteer positions in various local and remote areas of the world. All describe their experience as positive and uplifting.

A recent video produced by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) speaks of the mental and medical health improvements in volunteers. Some of the benefits mentioned are: lowering of high blood pressure, lowering of stress levels, increased feelings of well-being along with increased self-esteem and return of a feeling of purpose in the volunteer groups that were studied.

These are but some examples of the many areas where volunteerism is being lived out. Almost every type of skill is needed somewhere. The benefits to others are incalculable and the benefits to one's self-esteem are amazing.

Volunteering your time, energy, and talents gives you an opportunity to support a cause, to share your knowledge and expertise, to meet people, make friends, to feel the satisfaction of helping others, and to make a difference in your community. Others have said that looking for volunteer work is very much like looking for a paying job only better! You can expect volunteering to be a fun way to spend your valuable. time with the added benefit of helping

To get started is simple. Just call any agency, business, hospital, or community institution and ask if they are looking for volunteers. Be prepared to express what areas of interest you might have. You could then be expected to be interviewed by an agency representative who is trained in determining the appropriateness of you as a potential volunteer.

There are certainly many volunteer opportunities (and benefits) for the men and women of our special needs populations. With disability often comes depression, isolation, and self-pity. Finding one's niche in the world of volunteerism can be a potent antidote and restore one's sense of self, sense of purpose, and sense of belonging. In my work with people who have lost so much in life due to traumatic injuries, I have seen a turning point in their suffering towards mental health when they realize they can be of service to others. This puts their own problems into perspective and helps them to find new aspects of identity as helpers.

Whether motivated out of a therapeutic need to overcome one's own hardship or the result of a well-off, ambitious person having time and talent left over to share, the ministry of volunteerism benefits all who are involved: a win-win situation for the giver and the receiver.

Resources

■ Beaumont/Farmington Hills Hospital has had a longstanding, successful volunteer program. Call them at 248-471-8000 for details.

Many volunteer opportunities can\be found worldwide via Google computer search: Key in search word, 'volunteerism."

■ The Therapy Choirs of Michigan (TCM) is always welcoming volunteer voices as part of its program of choir therapy for people with special needs (no singing skills are necessary). Visit, www.therapychoirs.org.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association and is credentialed in traumatic stress, mental health, addictions and social work. He is a volunteer member of the American Red Cross Mental Health Disaster Team. McCulloch can be reached at 248-474-2763 x-222 for a courtesy phone consultation.



¹DETAILS OF OFFER; Offer expires 7/13/2019. You must set your appointment by 7/6/2019 and purchase by 7/13/2019. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 24 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 6/9/2019 and 7/13/2019. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the project. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is vaived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period, Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. @2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. @2019 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *2018 L.S. Homeowner Brand Study of Andersen and Renewal by Andersen brands vs. competitive brands.

When you set your appointment by July 6th and purchase by July 13th, Minimum purchase of four, Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 24 months.

Call to schedule your appointment. Limited appointments are available.

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Livonia candidates to participate in League forum

The League of Women Voters of North Western Wayne County has two opportunities to help Livonia voters make educated decisions in the Aug. 6 primary election: a July 11 candidate forum and an online voter guide.

The League will host a candidates forum at Livonia City Hall from 6:30-9 p.m. July 11. The 12 council candidates will be split into two groups and will be

on stage in the first two sessions. The three mayoral candidates will be on stage from 8:10 to 9 pm.

The public is invited to attend the forum and submit questions that will be asked by a League moderator. The public can also submit questions

in advance through the League's email address: lwvmail@yahoo.com.

The forum will be filmed and the link

will be available on the League's website within days after the event.

Voters can also access the League's non-partisan, online voter guide at VOTE411.org. By typing in their address, a voter can view and compare responses to questions.

Primary elections are important. When you go to vote, know that by doing so you are fulfilling the single most important aspect of our democracy.

In this time of great political divide, voting brings us together as Americans it is the one time when we are all

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Mother, boyfriend arraigned on murder charges in girl's death

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A man who took care of his girlfriend's children while she was at work explained to Redford Township police that the children's bruises were the result of playing rough.

The weekly routine of Michael DeShawn Lewis, 30, and Steffani Jones, 26, came to a halt June 25 when Jones' daughter, 5, died from multiple blunt force trauma after being in Lewis' care.

Both adults were arraigned June 27 on charges of felony murder and second-degree murder and two counts of first-degree child abuse.

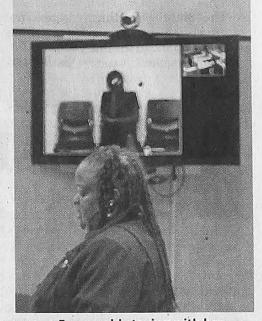
Redford Township Police Sgt. Jeffrey Bero testified in 17th District Court that the adults talked of routinely disciplining the children at Inn America, where Jones had been staying with her children, when police interviewed them.

The two were taken into custody after police were dispatched to the Telegraph Road motel June 25 because a 5year-old had stopped breathing. She was transported to Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, where she was pronounced dead.

An autopsy revealed multiple bruises on the girl's back, legs and head. Other injuries included internal bleeding, a lacerated liver and a torn adrenal gland. Her death was ruled a homicide from multiple blunt force trauma.

Her 3-year-old half-brother was taken later that day to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Bero said he had several fractured ribs in different states of healing. Other injuries included





On June 25, police were dispatched to Inn America in Redford Township, at left, because a 5-year-old staying with her mom was not breathing. She was taken to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead. At right, the girl's mom, Steffani Jones, 26, sobs on the video screen while her attorney, Regina Jemison, speaks on her behalf during arraignment June 27. Jones and her boyfriend, Michael Lewis, have been arraigned in the death. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

bruises and swelling, lacerations and a contusion to his liver, a distended abdomen and anemia.

"No one else is seen entering or leaving the room except for Lewis when he goes to the office to make phone calls," Bero said.

When police arrived, Lewis and the children were outside their motel room. Lewis held the girl, who was not breathing. Her half-brother stood at Lewis'

Lewis told police Jones' daughter complained of feeling sick that morning. He went to the lobby to call for help, and when he returned she was on the bed. A swollen eye, he told police, was because she fell after he picked her up off the bed. Her half-brother's injuries, he told police, were from playing on a park slide.

He had been taking care of Jones' children five days a week. The couple had been together for up to two years. Police were familiar with the two from previous contacts.

Police said Lewis admitted to using a belt on the children and making them do squats when they misbehaved.

Jones told police that her daughter "does get a whuppin'."

"She also stated that Lewis hits the kids every day with his fists and also uses the belt," Bero said. "He told her he can't watch her kids any more and she would have to figure something out."

Lewis and Jones are scheduled to appear in court again July 9.

Jones sobbed during the arraignment. Lewis showed little reaction.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.



New landfill GM maps out plan of action

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The steady stream of excuses and unfulfilled promises that has flowed from the mouths of Arbor Hills Landfill leaders over the past three-plus years, critics say, has become as nauseating for the dump's neighbors as the windblown odors generated at the site.

So when Advanced Disposal Services's new general manager, Mark Johnson, introduced himself and his plan of action at a recent Northville Township Board of Trustees meeting, he was greeted with a stern warning: Stop the stench!

Since 2015, the towering landfill south of Six Mile Road and west of Napier Road - which on a clear day can be seen (and sometimes smelled) from Interstate 275 - has been the source of thousands of complaints (approximately 1,400 in 2018 alone) reported by residents of nearby subdivisions, especially Northville Ridge and Steeplechase.

Considering its purpose, the landfill was an ideal neighbor during its first 15 years of existence, creating just a handful of complaints, but the past few years have been littered with violations and stomach-turning air.

"Enough is enough," Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix told Johnson. "This has gone on long enough. It needs to be fixed and you need to be successful. Going back to 2015, we had one, maybe two, complaints a year. Nothing like we're having

"You talk about weather and other causes. Prior to 2015, we had weather and everything else that is going on to-



Residents of neighborhoods bordering Arbor Hills Landfill posted signs on the windows of the Northville Township headquarters during a recent meeting. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

day, without the violations."

Johnson, who proclaimed his career in landfill-problem mitigation stretches 30 years with a string of successful turnarounds under his belt, stressed that he and ADS's new leaders have already made a mark at Arbor Hills.

"There has been significant improvement from March until now," Johnson told the board. "That said, we still have work to do and there may continue to be issues that impact our neighbors. I am personally doing everything I can to minimize those impacts.

"Please remember that long-term solutions are not always the quickest to implement. A significant amount of engineering is going into every solution.

That takes time. That's not an excuse; it's the reality of complex solutions."

Johnson said ADS has ramped up its annual monetary commitment to resolving the issues by increasing its annual operation budget from \$1.6 million to between \$8 million and \$10 million.

Ralph Lassel, president of the Stop Arbor Hills Conservatory Initiative, reported at the trustees meeting that residents have reported what they believe are symptoms of the odors since June 1.

"Some of the issues reported to us have been headaches, nausea, eye irritation, light-headedness and trouble breathing," Lassel said. "Members of an outside contracting team told the family they were working for that they couldn't believe how bad (the odor) was."

Lassel said residents are tired of hearing that the odor problems aren't the fault of ADS because "they inherited these issues" and ADS representatives telling conservatory members: "Trust us; we're working on these problems."

"It's time to stop the excuses. Take accountability and fix the problems (that are causing the odors)," he said.

Johnson detailed three primary causes of the odors generated at the

'We have greater control over two of the three," he revealed, but the third the replacement of a quarter-mile stretch of piping – will require patience. "In my 30 years in the landfill industry, I have mitigated problems far more complex than what I've seen at Arbor Hills. Throughout my career, a landfill I've worked at has never received a (notice of violation), so this has been an eyeopener for me."

Citing the community's health concerns regarding possible toxic chemicals in the odors, trustee Mindy Herrmann encouraged Johnson to install air detection devices at schools near the landfill and have the devices overseen by a third party.

Johnson said in his introduction that there were "zero" health risks related to the odors.

"Just because you smell something, doesn't necessarily means it's toxic," said Johnson, comparing the odors to those released by a skunk. "EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes & Energy) has placed monitoring devices downwind from the landfill and the results came back just like we thought they'd come back: with zero (toxins)."

Auto show planned to fill January void

Eric D. Lawrence Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're bummed the next Detroit auto show won't happen until next June, you will still have an option for woman for the Detroit auto show, seeing automotive sheet metal in the area next January.

A new effort, the Southeast Michigan Auto Show, is planned for early January at the Suburban Collection Showplace

The event will be a different animal than the glitzy North American International Auto Show, which is switching to June from its traditional January time slot next year.

Blair Bowman, president of the Suburban Collection Showplace, said the Jan. 3-5 show will be distinctly different from the North American International Auto Show, focusing on vehicles that are

available at dealerships "We're very excited about the event, and it is planned to be consumer-focused, consistent with a very high-quality regional auto show effort," Bowman said, noting that no active sales would occur at the event. "Consumers are going to be able to come and see a tremen-

dous amount (and) variety of brands." The showplace is dedicating 220,000 square feet to the event, Bowman said, noting that it would fill an important gap in the schedule for dealers.

Asked if the new show could be seen as undercutting the North American International Auto Show, Bowman said the two shows could be "mutually enhancing" of each other.

"We would like to do anything we could to help support (the reimagined North American International Auto Show) and know that it's going to be very, very successful," Bowman

Amanda Niswonger, a spokesprovided a statement saying that the NAIAS and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, the group behind the Detroit show, are not involved in the new, "three-day local dealer event."

"We are focused on making the 2020 NAIAS the biggest and best event of its kind, creating more opportunities to engage industry, media and consumers from around the globe and showcasing the industry's latest products and technology in the beautiful city of Detroit," the statement said.

The 2020 North American International Auto Show in Detroit kicks off with The Gallery on June 6. The public show runs June 13-20. The shift to summer will allow organizers to take advantage of outdoor space beyond Cobo Center, offering an expanded experience for attendees and allowing the show to evolve beyond a showcase for the latest vehicle models and concepts.

The change in schedule has been seen as an effort to help the show retain its relevance in an era when traditional auto shows have been pushed to evolve. Detroit also faced pressure because of its calendar proximity in January to CES in Las Vegas, which is a showcase for technology. Several German brands had opted out of Detroit's final winter

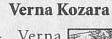
Obituaries

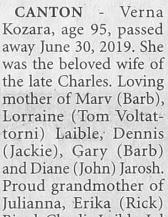


Lois Margaret **Gjernes**

LIVONIA - Lois Margaret Gjernes "Marge" born April 4th, 1937, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on June 29th, 2019 at the age of 82. Beloved wife of John. Loving mother of Larry (Polly), Daniel (Carol), Terese (Brenton) and John. Proud grandmother of 13 and dear sister of Rod Guest. Visitation will be held on Friday July 5th from 2-8pm at Harry J. Will Funeral home in Livonia. A funeral service will be held at St. Aidan's Church in Livonia 9am in state until mass at 9:30am.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes







Bierd, Charlie Laible, John (Grace) Laible, Sarah (Chris) Hopkins, Robert Laible, Tricia (Kris) Peters, Shannon (Leo) Banks, Sean, Shane (Tiffany), Shelby and Nick (Kelly) Matijega. Greatgrandmother of 22 and great-great-grandmother of 5. She was predeceased by her brothers Donald "Doc" Kopka, Frank Kopka Jr., Joseph Kopka, John Kopka, Leo Kopka and her sisters Beatrice Wavra, Blanche McQuarter, Hilda Dunham, Irene Hodak and Reta Benton. Visitation for Verna will be held on Tuesday, July 2, from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. She will lie in state on Wednesday, July 3, at 10:30 a.m. until the time of her funeral mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. Burial will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery, Pinconning. Memorial donations are appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

Roderick "Rod" Earl Norgren

LEESBURG, FL - Roderick "Rod" Earl Norgren, 83, of Leesburg FL; formerly of Plymouth MI died Thursday, June 20 2019 at home in Leesburg, FL. Survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary (Cleary); his children, Michael (Janie) of Carleton, MI; Cathy



(Skip Straight) Norgren of Elmira, NY; and Jerry of Livonia, MI; 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, many other family and friends. Predeceased by parents, Henry and Charlotte; brother, Robert; sisters, Jean and Lois. Rod retired to Florida after 35 years as a conductor with C & O Railroad. Prior to the railroad, Rod served 8 years in the United States Air Force. Also spent many years as successful owner, driver and trainer in harness horse racing. Rod believed in living life to the fullest. He enjoyed golfing, motorcycling, Michigan sports, music, movies and reading. A private service will be held for family. In lieu of flowers, remembrances for Rod may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or American Heart Association.



The North American International Auto Show in Detroit is moving from January to June next year, but a new regional event, the Southeast Michigan Auto Show, is planned for Novi this coming January. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Beaumont opens new urgent care facilities

Beaumont Health has acquired five urgent care centers from Urgent Care 1. The converted and upgraded facilities opened as Beaumont Urgent Care in metro Detroit on June 25.

The five sites are in Farmington Hills at 29263 Orchard Lake Road; in Garden City at 6200 Middlebelt Road; in Novi at 43535 Grand River Ave.; in Taylor at 9870 Telegraph Road; and in Woodhaven at 18930 West Road.

The new centers allow patients to access providers and facilities in the Beaumont Network quickly for minor injuries and illnesses at a reduced cost compared to an emergency room visit. Patients will get fast, efficient care. Expanded services like an in-house lab, X-ray and fiberglass splinting are also available.

"Beaumont is working with Well-Street, a company experienced with running patient-focused urgent care centers. We are eager to serve patients and families by providing quality care on their terms, with easy access at lower cost," said Dr. Bernice Sessa, medical director of Beaumont Urgent Care.

While services are not limited to Beaumont patients, the medical team at Beaumont Urgent Care centers can access the Beaumont Network electronic medical record to help doctors and nurses provide coordinated care. Patients are also encouraged to find a primary care physician, and staff can assist with coordinating necessary care for patients and physicians.

WellStreet CEO Ron Lavater said, "Beaumont Urgent Care Center's talented providers and staff are very focused on our patient's experience. It is our goal to have patients in and out of our centers within an hour or less. We are thrilled to serve the communities in the new locations."

The locations will be open daily. The hours for each are:

Farmington Hills: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ Garden City: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Novi: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ Taylor: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

■ Woodhaven: 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Weekend and evening hours allow recently hospitalized patients an opportunity for earlier evaluation and intervention. This easy access can reduce hospital readmission rates and decrease health care costs for patients and employer

Urgent care centers are most appropriate for cough, cold, sore throat, rashes, skin irritations, fever or flu-like symptoms, minor lacerations, minor orthopedic injuries and mild intestinal illnesses.

Patients experiencing signs of a heart attack, stroke or other serious symptoms should go directly to an emergency room. Always call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are experiencing severe or life-threatening medical symptoms.

Visit www.beaumont.org/where-to-go for more information.

This year, the Beaumont Network is growing to include 30 urgent care centers throughout southeast Michigan. To learn more about Beaumont Urgent Care, visit BeaumontUrgentCare.com to view a list of current and upcoming locations.

Thousands of fireworks deemed potentially dangerous recalled

Anna Bauman Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Thousands of potentially dangerous fireworks sold in Michigan have been recalled by federal officials urging people not to use the too-powerful explosives

Two Michigan companies, Patriot Pyrotechnics/Bill's Fireworks and GS Fireworks, sold products recalled June 26 by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, according to a news release

The recalled fireworks are overloaded with products intended to make a booming sound, which could result in a greater than expected explosion that poses hazards to users, according to the safety commission.

Patriot Pyrotechnics, located in Sher-

idan, sold 11,000 units of 22 kinds of fireworks from January 2017 to July 2018 that are now on the recall list. The products cost \$100 to \$125.

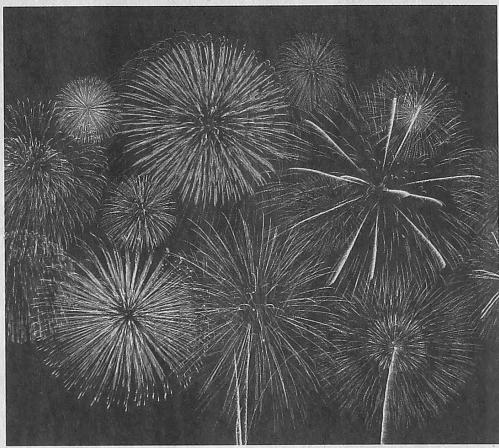
GS Fireworks, located in Wyoming, Michigan, sold 260 units of 26 products on the recall list between March and May 2018.

These are part of a nationwide recall of similar products numbering 40,000 that were sold in stores in Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

An 8-year-old boy lost his hand and another was injured using one of 25,000 fireworks on the list of recalled items sold at Grandma's Fireworks in Indiana, according to the commission.

No incidents or injuries have been reported in Michigan.

Customers can return the fireworks for a full refund.



The recalled fireworks are overloaded with products intended to make a booming sound, which could result in a greater than expected explosion. GETTY

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All information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. In order to maintain the high degree of quality and incorporate management with greater flexibility and economy, we reserve the right to make changes in price, specifications, materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Floor plan dimensions are approximate. © Alexander Bogaerts & Associates 2003.



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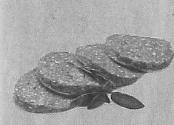
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Sports



PREP ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Northville names Salem's Brian Samulski as new athletic director

Andrew Vailliencourt

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville Public Schools announced that Brian Samulski will take over as the district's next Athletic Director in No-

Samulski, who is currently an assistant principal for activities and athletics at Salem High School in the Plymouth-Canton Community School District, will succeed Bryan Masi, who is retiring.

The Northville Board of Education

unanimously approved Samulski's appointment at its June 25 meeting.

The athletic director is a leadership role that coordinates Northville Public Schools' sixth through twelfth grade athletic programs. As the athletic director, Samulski will carry out all leadership functions of the athletic program and build strong relationships with students, staff, parents and the communitv. He will supervise and direct all coaching staff and ensure that MHSAA rules are adhered to by all athletic teams and schedule all middle school and high Physical Education, a 6th grade English



Samulski spent the last five years in his current role at Salem. Prior to his role as Assistant Principal, Samulski was an educator for multiple grade levels and subjects at Wayne-Westland Schools for 13 years. Samulski was a teacher for K-5

ness office.

school athletic events.

This position is also re-

program budget in con-

sultation with the busi-

Language Arts and Social Studies, a 9-12th grade Physical Education and he taught all subjects for 6th graders. Samulski is an experienced Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach for Canton High School where he coached for 13 years.

Samulski will begin his new position as the athletic director in late October 2019 for a brief transition period prior to Masi's retirement in November 2019. Masi is retiring from Northville Public Schools after 28 years of service as an

See SAMULSKI, Page 4B

South Lyon runner has sights set on mom's record

Andrew Vailliencourt

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon eighth grader Lili Aittama is taking the track world by storm.

The Millennium Middle School student competed at the New Balance Outdoor National Track meet held in Greensboro, N.C. on June 13-14 and stood out with excellent results.

In order to participate in the elite meet, middle and high schoolers had to qualify in their events.

Aittama ran the mile and competed in the pole vault at the big meet and finished 11th out of 50 in the mile, with a time of 5:17, and finished sixth out of 22 in pole vault, with a mark of 9'7", a personal best.

That mile time is a personal record for Aittama and also beats her school record. She said she was in the middle and back of the pack for much of the race, but sprinted at the end when everyone else was tired to take second place in her heat.

It was a great experience for Aittama, who isn't used to having other girls around that are as fast as her. She enjoyed being pushed.

"I was really excited and happy because I could race against girls that were more near my speed," Aittama said. "It was more of a competition for

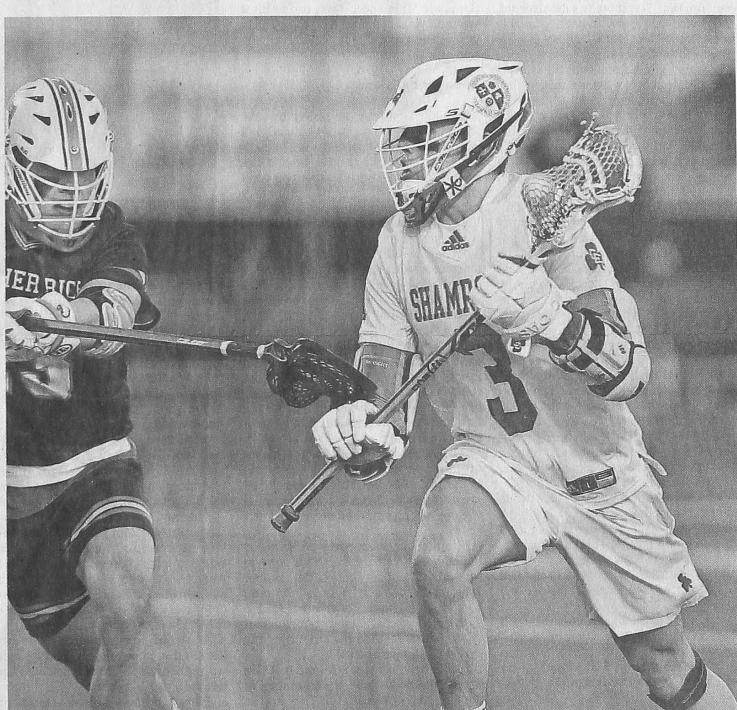
Despite it not being available at her middle school, she's been training with the Livonia "Inversion" Pole Vault Club for almost two years now after the event peaked her interest when she heard her experience in gymnastics would benefit her. All the training in the event has paid off.

She plans on both running and doing pole vault in high school at South Lyon East.

Aittama first qualified for the national meet at indoor races at Eastern Michigan University this past winter, running the mile faster the 5:39 qual-

See RUNNER, Page 4B

PREP LACROSSE



Detroit Catholic Central player Joseph Kamish brings the ball upfield against Brother Rice. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CC's Joey Kamish named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central's Joey Kamish was talking with his dad about allstate lacrosse selections when his dad suddenly leaned over and showed his son his phone.

Kamish stared at the tweet on screen and read through to the end, realizing what it said - he had just been named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse.

"I was so happy, I can't really describe it," Kamish said. "That had been a goal of mine going into the season, aside from the team goal of winning the state championship, I felt like that was

the pinnacle and stuff that I was working toward. It felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders."

He led Catholic Central to its sixth straight state championship game against Brother Rice, where the Shamrocks fell by one goal at the final buzzer.

See KAMISH, Page 3B



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PREP GOLF

Hartland, CC golfers shine on Kensington junior golf tour

M.B. Dillon Special to Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Hartland High School golfers led the way in the ladies' division of Kensington Junior Tour competition on a picture-perfect day at Hartland Glen Golf Course June 26. Sydney Bradford and teammate Olivia Root swept first and second place with scores of 76 and 82, respectively, in a field that included six fellow Hartland players.

Mike Joseph, Hartland varsity coach, came out to support his team, which took 7th in state competition this year. "I'm very proud of our golfers and our program. This is our home course, and I expected to have a good turnout. Our two seniors (Sydney and Olivia) will be playing at the college level. I can't wait to see them play," said Joseph. "Sydney has the top seven scores in the history of our program. She shot the school record, 72, twice last year. What's probably most important is that these players have a love of the game."

Sydney, who signed with the University of Detroit Mercy, shot 41 on the front nine. "It wasn't very good. I missed so many birdie putts and a few eagle putts," she said. Things went well on the 6th hole. "I drove the green, pin high. I thought it was going to be short, but it was perfect. I was 15 feet from the pin. I 2-putted for birdie.

"The back nine started off better," Sydney said. "I started off with a par and a birdie so that helped, and I kept it going. I shot 35, one under par for the back (nine.)" One of Sydney's career-best 72's (par at Hartland Glen) came on the home course. "It's flat, so it doesn't really tire you out. It's much easier to stay doing good because you're not that tired," she said.

Olivia, who will play for Cleary University in Howell this fall, carded a 2-over par 38 on the front nine. "I chipped in on the third hole for birdie, about 35 feet, using my 54-degree wedge. It felt really good," said Olivia, in her 4th season with the Kensington Tour. "I birdied two other holes, 3 and 4, back-to-back, and birdied 7 as well.

"I shot 44 on the back nine," Olivia said. "I started out pretty rough, but I didn't let myself get angry because I knew I could recover from a bad shot." Olivia's putter was working. "I saved par with a 1-putt on 13 and 14. And the last hole I parred, which really helped my score."

On the men's leaderboard, Detroit Catholic Central players dominated. Incoming senior L.T. Smith of Brighton fired a 73 for the win, and Jack Guerrera of Novi shot 76 to take runner-up hon-

"I shot even par on the front," Smith

said. "I eagled number 2 (a par 5). I hit my drive right in the middle of the fairway and hit a 5-iron up. I had a 30-foot putt for eagle. I was surprised it went in, but I'll definitely take it.

"The back nine was an adventure. It was very wild," said Smith. "I started out four over par through three holes. I had three birdies in a row to get back to one over, and I finished with a 37, one over for a 73. I felt like I left some strokes out there. My putts were a little short. But I played well and I putted really well; I felt like it was the key to my success."

Smith enjoys the Kensington Tour. "It's very local, and very affordable," he said. "I like the a.m. tee times. You still have the rest of the day to do what you need to do."

Guerrera, who will be a junior in the fall, said, "I had just a bunch of pars, and four bogeys. I was just consistent. The course is kind of tight on some holes. Some are wide open. You have to hit it well and you have to adjust your putts to get on the greens," said Guerrera, who had only 30 putts.

Younger divisions

Keldon Koshorek, 14, of White Lake shot 87 to win the boys' 12-14 division. "I was concerned when I got here," he said. "My first drive off the tee wasn't the best, and I wasn't driving the ball good the whole round. I finished number 9 with a double bogey to shoot 44. I was a little disappointed. I knew I had to turn it on on the back to have a chance.

"That's what I did," Koshorek said. "I started off with a 3-putt for bogey on 10. I wasn't too happy about that. On 11, a par 5, I sank a 20-foot putt for par. I was fired up and knew I had a chance. On 12, I struggled after almost hitting it into the water behind the green. I had a really good chip that almost went in. The ball just went around the edge, 3 feet past the hole. I made the putt for double bogey. On 18, I hit my tee shot a little to the left, and the wind helped and pushed it onto the green."

Koshorek's second shot was a stellar 40-foot putt that stopped 3 inches shy of the pin. "I tapped it in for par. It felt great," he said. "I have to say chipping was my strong point today. I had a lot of saves."

Runner-up Keller King of Hartland finished just a single shot back at 88 to card one of his best scores. "On number 7, I hit a 35-foot putt, right to left, and I parred it," he said. Keller was pleased with his tee shots. "I used to just fade it with my driver, and now I'm hitting my drives straighter," he said.

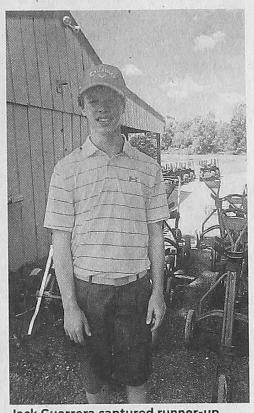
Keller, who'll be an 8th-grader at Ore Creek Middle School in September, is playing on the Kensington Tour for the third year. "I just like the golf, and it's



Sydney Bradford, right, and Olivia Root took first and second place, respectivelty, at Kensington's Hartland Glen tourney. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



L.T Smith won the Hartland Glen Kensington tournament with a 1-over par 73.



Jack Guerrera captured runner-up honors with a 76.

just a little competition," he said.

In 9-hole competition, Detroiter Dayton Reid, 8, captured the win with a 54. "I had good driver shots, and some of the 4-woods were okay," said Dayton, who's entering fourth grade this fall at Davison Elementary in Detroit. "Then my sand iron was ok, and my putting was nice, fine." The bright spot? "On a par 5, I got a 6 for a bogey," Dayton said.

Playing in his first tournament ever, Layne Broker, II, of Howell, shot 59 and was runner-up. "The highlight for me was my short game," said Layne. "I wasn't doing very well with my driving shots toward the end. But my putts and chips were right on. I chipped one in on the 6th hole, a par 4, and got a 5."

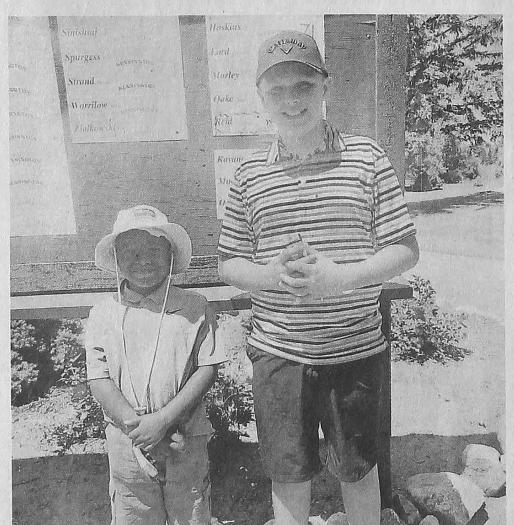
Look for Layne to compete in more Kensington tournaments. "I like playing with other people close to my own age," he said

Players in the 9-hole developmental division, ages 6-11, posted impressive

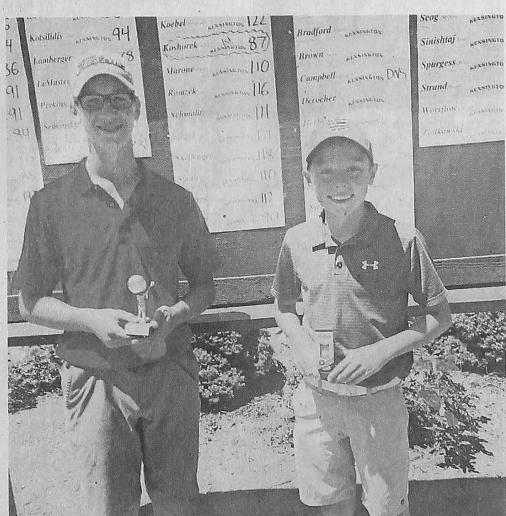
scores at Hartland. Addison Mach of Linden fired a 61. Natalie Kavanaugh of Northville carded 64, while Colton Oake of Hartland shot 68.

Coach Joseph gives the Kensington Tour high marks."What I like about it is that the people are friendly. And whether you come out here and shoot par, or you shoot 140, it doesn't matter. You are enjoying the game, and enjoying the people you are playing with. You're preparing yourself for when you get to the next level," Joseph said. "Also I like the fact you can have caddies. You see parents out here coaching and having fun with their kids. The developmental division is fantastic. It's a good way to grow the sport. Kensington is keeping interest in the game going - for the boys and for the girls."

For complete results and standings, visit kensingtonjuniorgolf.com or Kensington Junior Golf Tour's Facebook page.



Dayton Reid. left, and Layne Broker place first and second among the 9-holers in Kensington's competition at Hartland Glen.



Keldon Koshorek, left, and Keller King led the field among boys 12-14 at Hartland

Kamish

Continued from Page 1B

Kamish scored six of his team's 13 goals in the contest.

This season, Kamish scored 85 goals and tallied 42 assists in 24 games. He said the team's strong play in the state final helped his case for the

"We were obviously the underdogs and a lot of people thought we weren't going to have a chance," Kamish said. "I thought we over-performed and that game was anyone's at the end of the day. I was proud of everyone coming off that and getting this award to finish the season off, I thought it ended on a great note."

He added that it is a great honor to win the award, especially with so many other talented players in the state of Michigan.

"It's a summation of all the work that I've put in during the season and all four years during high school," Kamish said. "It shows the player I've become."

Before the announcement, he knew he'd at least be in the mix for the award, but wasn't sure if he'd actually win. He mentioned Brother Rice's Justin Glod, James Donaldson and Hartland's Reece Potter as three players he thought had a good shot to win it as well.

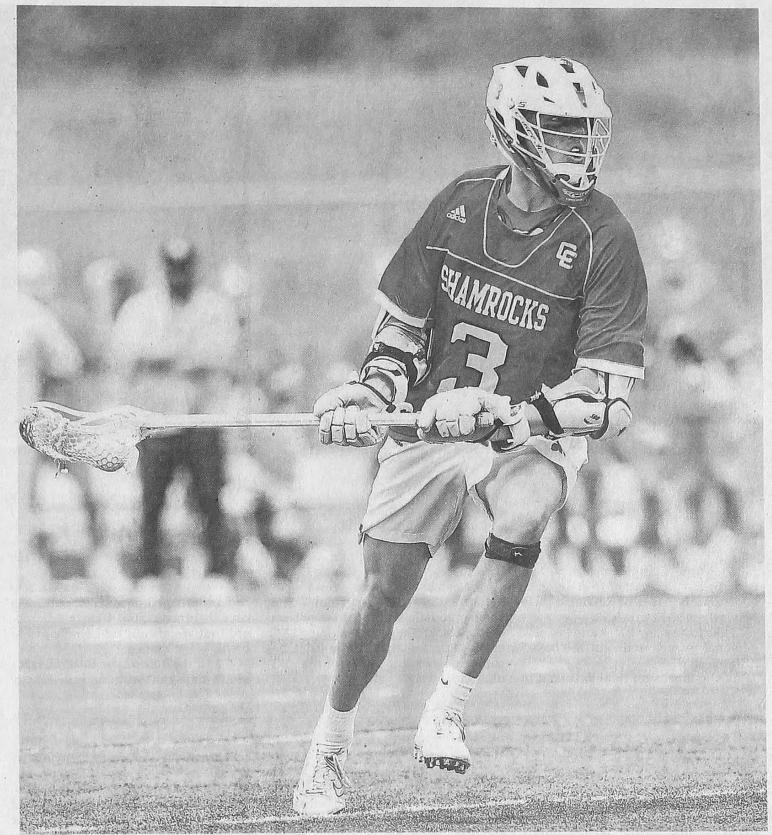
Making the award even sweeter for Kamish, is the fact that he's the first player from Catholic Central to win the award.

Kamish will be headed to Loyola University Maryland in the fall, where he will play lacrosse for the Division One Greyhounds. They compete in the Patriot League.

He said he felt comfortable at the school and that the atmosphere reminded him of CC and the city of Novi.

As he looks back on his high school career, he sees the path of an underdog that helped lead Catholic Central to the top, breaking the stronghold that Brother Rice has held on Michigan la-

"I want to think of my legacy as the underdog," Kamish said. "I came from the Walled Lake Gladiators program which wasn't very renowned and from Wixom, where there's not a lot of insane lacrosse players. Coming into CC,



Catholic Central's Joseph Kamish scored six goals in the state championship game. DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brother Rice had that dominant hold on lacrosse in the state, but right from when I got on the varsity team, we lost by one in the state championship game,

then we won it finally and another loss by one. I feel like ever since I got there, we were the underdog that finally got to where we wanted to be.'

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

BOOK REVIEW

Complex 'Saints' plays out in Philippine drug war

Delfina V. Barbiero

Jay is just a typical Michigan teen when he finds out that his estranged and beloved cousin has died in a brutal, government-sanctioned drug war halfway across the world.

Author Randy Ribay pulls no punches in "Patron Saints of Nothing" (Kokila, 352 pp., ★★★☆), which Epic Reads calls one of the most anticipated YA books of the summer. Born in the Philippines and raised in Michigan, Ribay understands Jay's confusion about his identity and the isolation he feels from

his extended family. Ribay also pulls from current events to write about the cruel policy against drug addicts made under Philippines President Rodrigo Du-

Ribay Since taking office, Duterte has carried out a war on drugs that permits the killing of any drug addict and drug pusher by police. Human Rights Watch has estimated that since 2016, more than 12,000 Filipinos have been killed in the drug war, most of them poor.

When Jay learns that his cousin Jun was killed in the drug war, he sets out on a journey to a country he barely remembers to find out exactly what hap-

Jay believe his cousin did not die in the drug war because of drugs - but possibly for shedding light on police

Jun is the "Saint" of the story, a young man only a few years older than through grief itself - not only the

Jav believe his cousin did not die in the drug war because of drugs but possibly for shedding light on police

Jay, but with a wisdom and kindness that surpasses even the adults in this story. Jay and Jun spent their youths countries apart but were pen pals. Even though Jay stopped replying to Jun's letters, Jun continuously wrote to him with honesty and kindness. Through the letters, Jun reveals to Jay the hypocrisy of the church, the vulnerability of the poor and his feeling trapped under the watchful gaze of his emotionally abusive father.

Who also happens to be the police

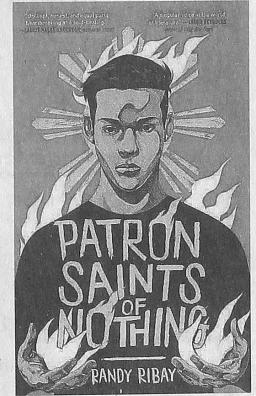
Jay takes these old letters with him to the Philippines to try to piece together any clues he might find. But what he finds is a family more willing to sweep the death of their son under the rug than to even have a proper fu-

As mysterious as the plot is, the book is no thriller and has a purposefully slow pace. And that is the pace of grief. "Patron Saints of Nothing" is part coming-of-age story, part mystery. But more than anything, it is an exploration of finding your identity

grief of loss, but the regret of a lost connection. Ribay paints a family that cannot communicate with each other, but longs for the emotional embrace of a strong family.

As an immigrant myself, I felt deeply connected to the humiliation of being ignorant of your own country and only learning from being there yourself just how privileged and at loss you can be without your family.

Ribay's novel is not one to miss. It's a perfect balance of an immigrant story, an American story and a story of grief, woven together by the perspective of a teenage boy trying to understand his family and himself.





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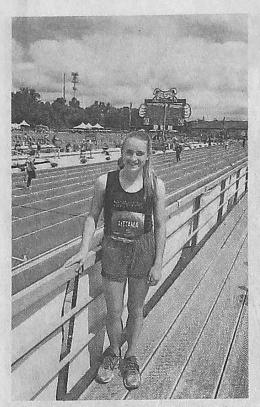
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South Lyon's Lili Aittama placed 11th nationally in the mile at a meet in North Carolina.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ERICA AITTAMA



Aittama will participate in pole vaulting in high school, and placed 6th nationally.

Runner

Continued from Page 1B

ification time multiple times. She then came in first place out of 46 at the Oakland County Meet of Champions in May, where she ran a 5:32.

"I like to beat my times and get new personal records and beat the boys," Aittama said.

As she moves on to high school in

the fall, she will continue to accomplish all three of those goals.

Luckily for her, a familiar face will be an assistant coach with the track and cross country program: Aittama's mom, Erica.

She has been Aittama's running inspiration and has always done what she can to help her daughter succeed on the track. They started doing Girls on the Run together before Erica became an assistant coach for the middle school team.

"She always coached me at every meet, helped me think about what I want my next goal to be and pace myself right," Aittama said. "She does a lot of track workouts with me so I can get faster."

In high school, she's excited to break more records and compete with new teammates, but there's one record that stands out that she hopes to break — her mom's.

5:37 is the South Lyon East mile record, a time that Aittama has already

beaten and simply needs to accomplish as a high school student to officially break it. Even more impressive, though, would be topping her mom's mile record of 5:06.

If she continues on the same pace, there will soon be new mile champion in the Aittama household.

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at avail-810-923lienc@hometownlife.com, him on Twitter Follow @AndrewVcourt.

Samulski

Continued from Page 1B

award winning athletic director, physical education and health teacher and a coach to multiple teams. Masi has been the athletic director since 2003. In 2009, he received a certificate from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Associations, a voluntary national certification process for Athletic Directors.

"Our athletic and extracurricular programs are an integral part of Northville's long-standing Tradition of Excellence in our classrooms, on our fields of play, and beyond the playing field. Brian Samulski's student-focused philosophy, leadership and experience make him a great choice for the role," Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said. "We welcome Mr. Samulski to our Northville team, and know that he shares a commitment to leadership, service and ex-

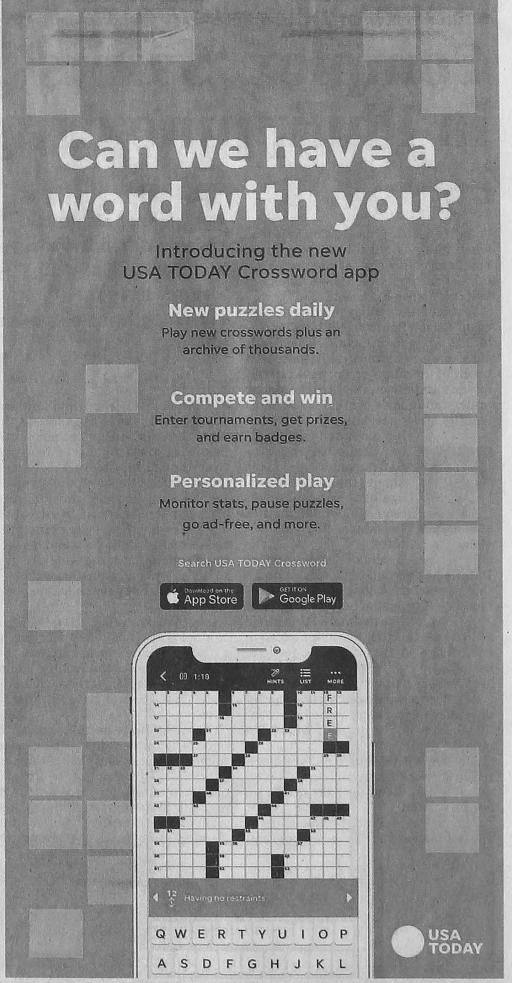
cellence that is a large part of Bryan Masi's legacy."

Mr. Samulksi has a Bachelors in Education majoring in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and a minor in History from Olivet College. He has a Masters in Sports Administration and an Administrative Certificate also from Wayne State University. He has also served on several professional committees such as the MHSSA Scholar-Athlete Committee and a Positive Behavioral Supports Committee.

"Northville Public Schools is student-centered, has great facilities, and is fully supported by its community," said Brian Samulksi. "I look forward to establishing relationships with the student athletes, coaches and staff while continuing to build on the great department that Bryan Masi has led for so many successful years."

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.





Em-bark on a road trip aimed at pets

Gwen Pratesi Special to USA TODAY

Travel with pets is a growing trend. Our four-legged pals provide emotional support as well as friendship when we're away from home.

Many hotels and resorts are petfriendly and some even offer welcome amenities, dog-sitting services and gourmet canine cuisine.

Some properties have a nightly or one-time charge, but such chains as Kimpton Hotels welcome travel with pets and host furry friends for no extra fee.

Some restaurants and bars also cater specifically to pups, and there are other attractions you both can enjoy.

These road trips explore some of the most pet-friendly destinations in the USA. So, pack up your BFF (Best Furry Friend) and hit the road for a howling good time you'll both remember.

The Jersey Shore and Philadelphia

Asbury Park, New Jersey, is the new cultural hub of the Jersey Shore with its eclectic arts and music scene. You and your pup will enjoy the hip vibe at The Asbury Hotel, burgeoning restaurant scene and playtime at Asbury Park Dog Beach. Don't miss Yappy Hour at the Wonder Bar. Dogs run the show at this rowdy nightly event.

Next, head west and splurge on a stay at Philadelphia's iconic property, The Rittenhouse. In the city, free walking tours; the Magic Gardens, a mosaic art environment and public murals; and the Philadelphia Art Museum also welcome four-legged friends. After a walk through Rittenhouse Square, savor French fare with your pal at Rouge.

California Coast

Take in spectacular views walking along the Scenic Road path in Carmelby-the-Sea. In the afternoon, book massages or surf lessons followed by Yappy Hour in town. Plan to stay at Carmel Valley Ranch, a 500-acre playground, where you and your pet can sniff, hike and experience the great outdoors.

Afterward, drive south to Santa Mon-



Enjoy the pristine white sand beaches and sunsets at Fort De Soto Dog Beach Park in St. Petersburg, Fla., and then head to The Dog Bar for cocktails downtown. VISIT ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

ica. Stroll on the boardwalk, enjoy VIP pampering at the best spas and run off-leash at Herb Katz Dog Park. The new Santa Monica Proper Hotel will be happy to host you and your pet. The hotel will donate 10% of your pet fees to the Best Friends Animal Society.

Then, bring your surfer dog to Huntington Beach's McKenna Subaru Surf City Surf Dog event. This pawsitively riveting experience occurs in September at Surf City USA. Following the big event, pamper your pup with the Pawséa Pet Package at Paséa Hotel & Spa.

Florida beaches and theme parks

Kick off your Florida adventure with sunrises on the East Coast at the Kimpton Vero Beach Hotel & Spa. Pets are welcomed with amenities and invited to socialize with other pups at the nightly wine reception. After a day at Vero Beach Dog Park, treat your BFF to dinner on the beach at Mulligan's Beach House.

Take time out for adult thrills at Universal Orlando Resort. Loews hotels and the Hard Rock Hotel welcome your furry friends with bowls, beds and treats or even gourmet meals, upon request. While you're hitting the rides, your pup can spend the days playing with his pals at Universal's on-site kennel.

End your vacation with pristine beaches and sunsets at St. Pete Beach at the TradeWinds Island Resorts. Play all day at the Paw Playground at Fort De Soto and surf the waves on Dog Beach. At the sun sets, head to The Dog Bar for cocktails in downtown St. Petersburg.

The Lone Star State

Grab a burger and a brew at Austin's Yard Bar while your pup plays at their off-leash dog park monitored by Bark Rangers. Then, treat your pal to a shopping spree at Hill Country Galleria or take a hike on the Barton Creek Greenbelt. In the evening, escape to The Hotel San José

Afterward, bring your furry pal to the Big D for a doggone great time. Restaurants including MUTTS Canine Cantina have literally gone to the dogs. There also are plenty of pet-friendly green spaces and trails to explore and you can both ride the vintage McKinney Avenue Trolley for free.

Pamper your pooch with a stay downtown at The Joule.



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\$1,515.00	2005	DODGE	CARAVAN	WHITE	2D4GP24R75R388746
\$1,580.00	2011	CHEVROLET	EQUINOX	BLACK	2CNFLDE5XB6382069
\$1,385.00	1998	DODGE .	NEON ·	BLACK	1B3ES42Y1WD561238
\$1,155.00	2001	CHEVROLET	S10	BLACK	1GCDT19W318143632
\$1,125.00	1999	OLDSMOBILE	AURORA	BLACK	1G3GR62C3X4118335
\$835.00	2002	PONTIAC	AZTEC	BLACK	3G7DA03E12S562912
\$795.00	2002	HYUNDAI	ACCENT	BLACK	KMHCG35C92U202680

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\$855.00	2017	TAO TAO	MOTOR SCOOTER	SILVER	L9NTEACBXH1058044
\$815.00	2001	NISSAN	SENTRA	WHITE	3N1CB51D11L486296
\$805.00	1997	FORD	EXPLORER	RED	1FMDU34E4VUC92311
\$3,965.00	1963	OLDSMOBILE	98	BLUE	638M05427
\$1,745.00	2015	CADILLAC	ESCALADE	BLACK	1GYS4TKJ0FR554626

Publish: July 4, 2019

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NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 2019 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due July 1, 2019 and payable through August 10, 2019 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.

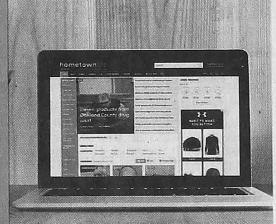
Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Cash, Checks and Credit Cards (a convenience fee applies) are accepted for payment during business hours. After hours, payments (checks only) can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library. Additional payment options are on the City website @ www.plymouthmi.gov.

John Scanlon City Finance Director / Treasurer

Publish: June 30 & July 4, 2019

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4 Letter-printing

Excelsis --"

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ACROSS	F0 (D 1 1 :-	0/5
ACROSS	52 "Put a sock in	
1 Livestream	it!"	blood
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omission	57 Pro at	Brits
9 Tennis star	alterations	96 Airport town
Seles	59 Way out	on Long
15 Feudal	60 British title	Island's
drudge	61 Green tract	South Shore
19 Like — out of	62 Put lube in	98 Bite gently
hell	63 Deny, as a	101 Giddy deligh
20 Special	statement	103 THREE OF
periods .	66 Blue-skinned	MIND
21 Tesla vehicle	race in	110 In the past
22 Court claim	"Avatar"	111 Really strain
23 THREE OF A	69 THREE OF A	112 — -Ball
KIND	BIND	(arcade
26 Himalayan	75 Wry comic	favorite)
hoax subject	Mort	113 Slight ridge
27 — Lodge	76 Bitter	on a surface
(motel chain)	complainers	114 Tiny particle
28 British title	77 Troll's cousin	116 THREE OF
29 Yoko who	78 Famed coach	RIND
appeared in	Parseghian	122 Calf's father
"Let It Be"	81 Edmonton's	123 More
31 Op. —	prov.	dilettantish
(footnote	83 Like boys	124 Cuisine with
abbr.)	84 Certain	many curries
32 THREE OF A	granola	125 Under sail
FIND	snack	126 Apple discar
39 — awkward	85 THREE OF A	127 Jeb the reb
position	WIND	128 Desiccated
40 Broadcast	91 Rink star	129 Gen —
41 Severe	Bobby	(millennials)
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	novelist	
48 Opposite of	93 On the	2 Crude

alway

57 Pro at Brits alterations 96 Airport town 59 Way out on Long 60 British title Island's 61 Green tract South Shore 62 Put lube in 98 Bite gently 101 Giddy delight 63 Deny, as a statement 103 THREE OF A 36 Blue-skinned MIND 110 In the past race in 111 Really strain "Avatar" 69 THREE OF A 112 - Ball BIND (arcade 75 Wry comic favorite) 113 Slight ridge Mort 76 Bitter on a surface complainers 114 Tiny particle 77 Troll's cousin 116 THREE OF A 78 Famed coach RIND Parseghian 122 Calf's father **123** More 81 Edmonton's dilettantish prov. B3 Like boys 124 Cuisine with 84 Certain 125 Under sail granola

many curries 126 Apple discard snack 35 THREE OF A 127 Jeb the reb WIND 128 Desiccated 129 Gen -11 Rink star Bobby (millennials) DOWN 1 Like skates 2 Crude counters

"Silas Marner" novelist 93 On the cutting 3 Cats, in Spanish

5 "Gloria in a wheel, to 6 Act human, 8 Expository 9 Dry red wine 10 Fall mo. 11 In no way 12 Super-cold 13 Dinner 14 "The Human 15 CIA figure 16 Concerned ·

with voting 17 Inclination to keep silent 18 Islam, e.g. 24 Hired tough 25 Structured gps. 30 Orangy shade 33 Knightly virtue

34 Slaughter an outfield 35 Ian Fleming novel 36 Forecaster 37 Water pitchers

38 Part of UAE 42 Aperture setting for a shutterbug 43 Atheist Madalyn

Murray -7 Crust, mantle 44 During which 46 Geyser stuff 47 More alluring 49 Signs again, as a contract

> 51 Jamaican pop genre 53 Orators' platforms 54 Lisa of "Melrose Place"

55 "The hour has arrived" 56 Asia's shrunken -Sea

58 Kinds of bulbs, in brief 105 Boston 63 Big name in polls -!" ("Let's do

it!") 65 Gives up 67 Human herbivore 68 "- it rich?" 70 Converse

71 Minoan land 72 N'awlins sub 73 Celebrity astrologer

74 - Haute (Indiana city) 78 Master pilot 79 Eliminating as

a possibility 80 Plato's pupil 82 Rodeo ride 84 Dental care

brand 86 Mouselike critter 87 Half-cocked

88 Broadcast 89 Hale- -(comet) 90 Strong desire

95 Afternoon service salver 97 Public squares 99 Contend

100 Young 'un 102 Irish Gaelic 103 Bard's feet 104 Really strain

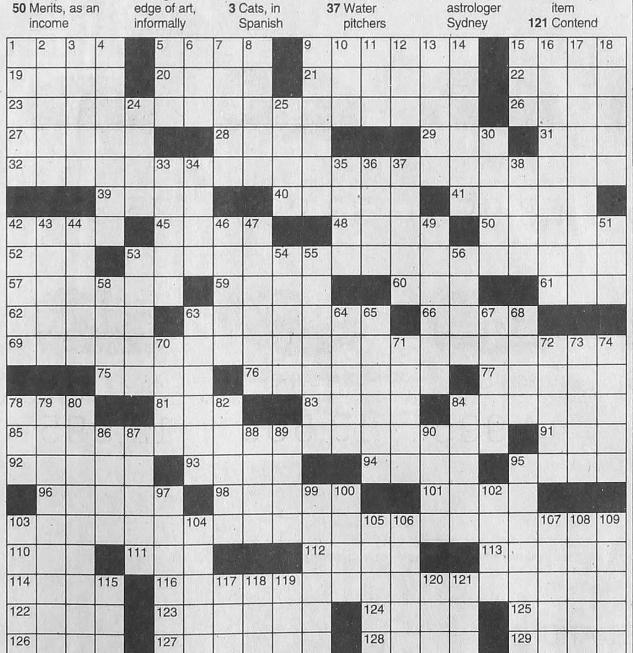
hoopsters 106 Actress Anne 64 "Sounds like 107 Angelou's "And Still --" 108 S.F. NFLer 109 Epic stories

> 115 Hardwood tree 117 VW lead-in 118 Carrere of "Rising Sun'

119 — capita 120 Sculling item

6 8 9 5 9 4 3 1 2 6 8 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

IRRAG H S IGHTSEE PASSENGEROGCIPVSL LVTTGUMFNNTNXREIN APDRKNBAIOTECFSOCPXL CIIOSUIKKEILLPIUTBEA RA E D 0 RATU IT G



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

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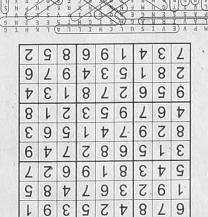
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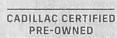
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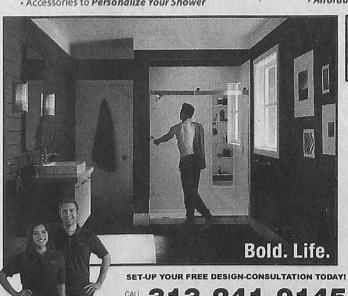
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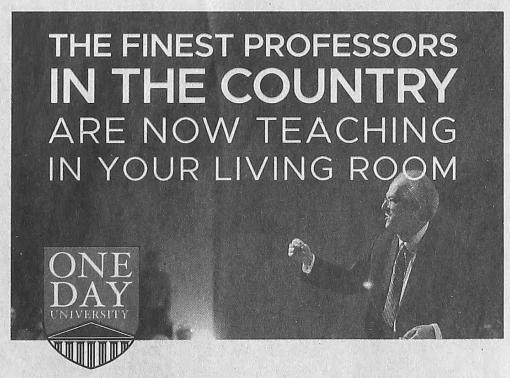




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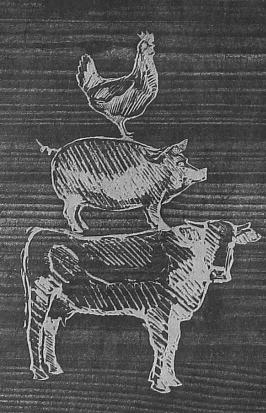
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