# OBSERVER CANTON

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# How are road projects moving along?

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Local roads repair is a double-edged sword in the eyes of Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams.

"Early on, residents aren't happy with all the potholes and rough roads," Williams said, "then once the repairs start, they're not happy with the inconvenience that comes with the orange

barrels and detours."

Williams isn't complaining; just telling it like it is.

"I'll get stopped at the grocery store, when I'm out to eat, by people politely telling me what roads need to be fixed," he said with a light-hearted tone to his voice. "I really don't mind. It comes with the job."

The side of the blade Canton residents feel currently is the orange-tinted

one — and slow-going aside, the projects are rolling right along.

Williams said that he has heard the most positive feedback from residents regarding the fixes on the stretch of pavement on Lilley Road, south of Ford Road, a former shock-absorber destroyer that is now heaven on wheels.

Another former rumble-strip-like area that is comparable to a Michigan International Speedway straight-away — Morton-Taylor Road north of Warren Road — has also sparked applause from long-suffering residents of the neighboring subdivisions.

A pair of township-wide projects that have cut through the hearts of subdivisions — months-long work on east-west mainstays Hanford and Saltz roads — are limiting traffic to one lane and one

See PROJECTS, Page 2A



Kyle Pryce, of Plymouth, works on a tattoo on the leg of Brook Jacoby at Eternal Tattoos in Howell on July 26. Pryce, a former counselor, became a full-time tattoo artist seven months ago. Photos By John Heider/HometownLife.com

# Tattooists explain 'mind-blowing' art

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Brook Jacoby readily admits that he "probably should have waited a few more years" to get hard-to-hide tattoos forever inked onto the back of his hands.

"They probably cost me a few jobs when I was young," the Plymouth resident said with a chuckle, extending his hand as if handing a job application to a potential employer.

But Jacoby has no regrets when it comes to the rest of the body art that decorates most other sections of his skin, including his shiny scalp.

"It's nice how people's acceptance of tattoos has changed ... although I still get people staring at me while I'm using the self-scan checkout ... they think I must be stealing something (because of his body art)," Jacoby said.

See TATTOOS, Page 3A



Pryce lines the tattoo art on Jacoby's leg in black ink, making it permanent.

# Wayne police close rape case from 2001

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Kevin Schmidtke was one of Wayne's rookie police officers when he conducted his first sexual assault interview

The victim was more young than old, and Schmidtke knew to be thorough so investigators could avoid a path of mistakes and injustices.

He took down what he could. Then the case went cold — for years — until the victim reached out to Schmidtke, who, by then, was a detective.

Their relationship led to the arrest of Bashiri Kairi Cook, an Inkster man who subsequently was arrested and charged for other sex crimes.

"I was elated," said Schmidtke of the rape case he helped resolve. "I was extremely happy for the victim. I was happy that she was able to maybe get some closure in this case.

"That was really what was driving us this whole time - just to make sure that she was able to know who this person was and that to now he's finally being held responsible."

For his exemplary due diligence, Schmidtke recently received a 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Association of Chief of Police. He was one of four law enforcers to be so honored.

"I'll never forget this case," said the police lieutenant, 40. "This one feels good to finally put to bed. The greatest reward was honestly was just making sure that the victim was able to get some closure. That really was all I ever cared about. I never thought about recognition."

Schmidtke took that initial rape report in 2001. When the victim asked for an update, he was a detective. He reopened the case and began searching a DNA registry for matches and reviewing other sexual crime investigations in the region.

Schmidtke said he noticed DNA matches between his case and some Inkster, Detroit and Ohio investigations.

"They all shared the same suspect, ...but we didn't have a name," he said.

"All we had was just DNA."

He couldn't use the DNA matches in

See RAPE CASE, Page 6A

## **Projects**

Continued from Page 1A

direction, but affected residents have taken the restrictions in stride, for the most part, Williams noted.

Beginning in 2020, the road repairs will stream deeper into subdivisions thanks to a funds-matching program that requires homeowners associations to divvy up the exact amount of dollars that the township has calculated it can invest on its roads.

The township's dedicated funds were generated by the passage of the 2018 roads-improvement millage.

"As always, I want to emphasize to residents that this is a 20-year project," Williams said. "All the roads are not going to be perfect overnight. We appreciate residents' patience.'

Williams said he is pleased with the number of HOAs that have already applied for the matching funds.

One subdivision, Williams revealed, agreed to donate \$1,200 per homeowner to its road-repairs project in 2020 after HOA leaders went door-to-door to gather residents' thoughts on the increased annual HOA rates.

The minority of residents who voted against the one-year rate hike will still have to pay the increased dues or face the risk of having a LEIN placed against their property.

Major work that started July 29 in-

Canton Center Road (north of Gerald Court to Cherry Hill Road): Only one lane of northbound and southbound traffic will be maintained on Canton Center Road.

The good news: northbound leftturns onto westbound Cherry Hill Road will be permitted.

Saltz Road (Sheldon to Lilley): Oneway traffic will be maintained going eastbound. The westbound lane will be closed for construction.

■ Hanford Road (Sheldon to Morton-Taylor): One-way traffic will be maintained going westbound. The eastbound lane will be closed for construction. Weather permitting, construction is anticipated to be completed by mid-August.

Morton Taylor Road (Arlington to Candlewood): Detour route will include Joy Road, Lilley Road, Warren Road and Sheldon Road. Weather permitting, construction is anticipated to be completed by early September.

Lotz Road (Wildwood to Burlington, between Palmer and Cherry Hill): Detour route will include Palmer Road, Haggerty Road, John Hix and Cherry Hill Road. Access to Wildwood Lane will be maintained at all times using part width construction methods at the intersection. Access points to Lotz from Finley Drive and Burlington Drive will

be fully closed. Half the road is complete and now moving to the other side.

All of the full closures listed above still allow access to local traffic (those who live there or commercial business-

Residents are urged to call the township's engineering services at 734-394-5150 if they have questions regarding access through the full closure routes for emergency services.

In addition, Canton will also perform preventative maintenance asphalt crack sealing at the following locations; Cherry Hill Road from Beck and Canton Center Roads; Warren Road from Morton Taylor and Lilley Roads; Palmer Road from Canton Center to Lilley Roads; and Beck Road from Cherry Hill to Ford roads.

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

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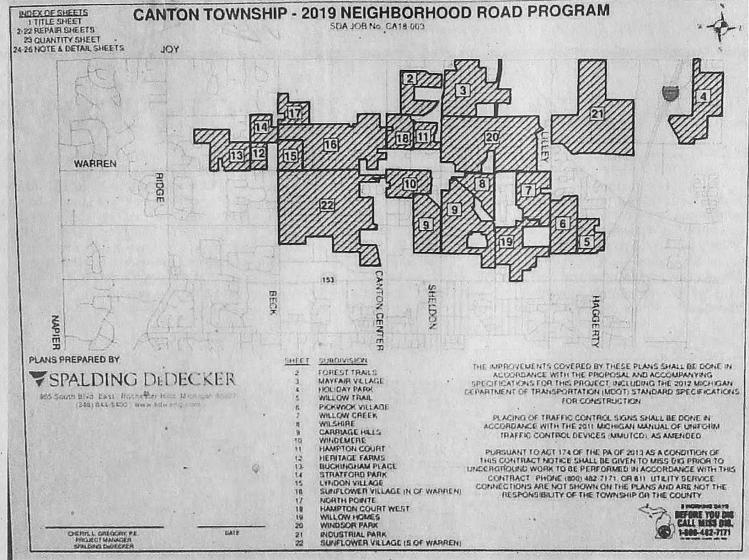
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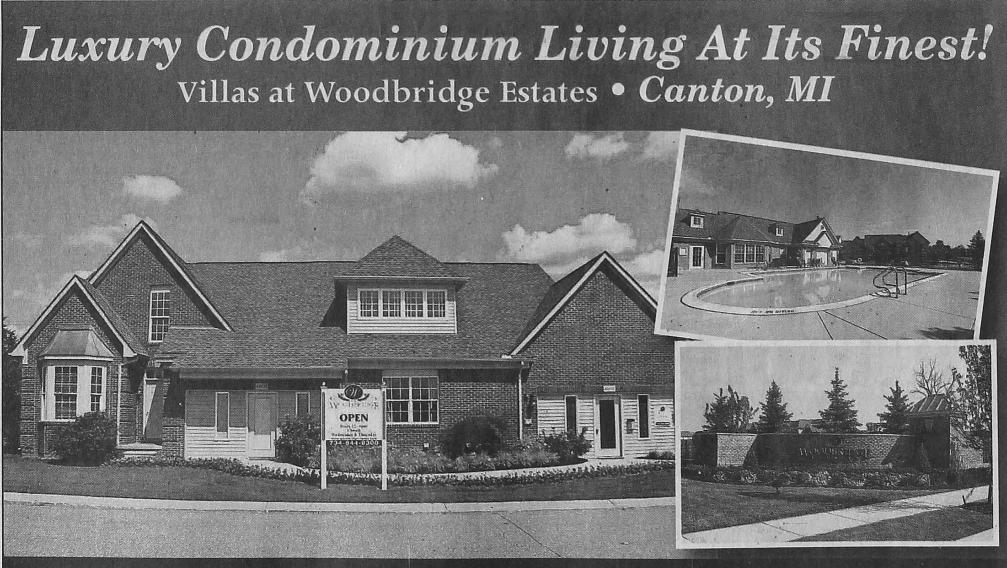
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A map shows the areas affected by various road construction projects in Canton Township. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP



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### **Tattoos**

Continued from Page 1A

"On the flipside, an older woman who had literally just walked out of a church the other day, stopped me while I was walking down the street and said, 'I just think you look great,' "he said. "And a mom at the grocery store pointed out my tattoos to her kids, complimenting how nice they looked.

"I definitely get more positive comments than negative ones. Every once in a while, someone will think I must be a criminal or a white supremacist because I have a lot of tattoos and a bald head, even though I don't have anything close to a racist tattoo on my body. I've been spit at and harassed pretty badly.

"It's funny, though: the people who react negatively to my tattoos are the ones I would expect to, but most of the ones who react positively are the ones I'd never expect."

Jacoby will be one of several accomplished tattooists (and in his case, tattoo-ee) at the Northville Art House's exhibit "MARKED: The Art, Body, & Soul of the Tattoo Artist," running through Aug. 24.

A display of tattoo images submitted by the public to #northvillearthousetattoo on Instagram in an installation titled "Tattoos from You: Public Photographs," will also be featured.

The public is invited to submit images through Aug. 19.

Plymouth resident Kyle Pryce, whose work will join her Eternal Tattoos studio colleague Jacoby's at the exhibit, took the ink-soaked plunge into full-time tattoo artistry seven months ago after switching out her job as a counselor. She is a longtime conventional artist, having earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in counseling.

Transitioning from conventional art to body art required an adjustment period, Pryce revealed.

"Tattoos are very permanent, obviously, and the finished product can be unpredictable because everyone's skin is different," she said. "I can do one design on one person, turn around and do the same thing on another person, and they will look totally different.

"During my apprenticeship with TJ Hodge, I worked a lot on honing and cleaning up my drawings and doing things I didn't already have a back-



Eternal Tattoos artist Brook Jacoby talks about his creations at the Howell tattoo studio. "It's nice how people's acceptance of tattoos has changed for the better. ... I definitely get more positive comments than negative ones," he said. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ground in, like lettering. As part of my apprenticeship, I had to do my first tattoo on myself. I did a little flower on my leg."

While she will always take pride in that first work of self-made body art, Pryce prefers the larger-scale variety that is more noticeable and creates more buzz from people.

"I'm currently in the process of working on two half-sleeves, a large side piece that starts on the leg and goes up to about here (she points to a spot just below her armpit), and a large back tattoo," she said. "Obviously, it takes multiple sessions to complete the bigger ones. I'll try to get the outline done during the first session, any shading during the second session before adding color in the final session."

#### What's the price, Pryce?

As a relative newcomer to the profession, Pryce said she charges approximately \$100 an hour, considerably lower than the \$150-an-hour rate most experienced tattooists charge.

"Although, if it's a bigger tattoo, I'll cut the customer a break," she said.

The spectrum of tattooing has expanded over the past few years, the Eternal Tattoos of Howell professionals said, moving from traditional, more Americana-esque designs, which are still wildly popular, to "mind-blowing" art

"There are a lot of fine artists who are getting into tattooing and pushing the boundaries in every respect," Pryce noted. "It's such high-level work that it will hold its integrity over time."

The growing acceptance of high-profile tattooing is reflected in at least a small scale South Lyon High School art teacher Andrew Klebba, a Livonia native who now resides in Plymouth, who gave his mom a tattoo as a gift for her 60th birthday.

"She wasn't real excited when I first started getting tattoos," said Klebba, whose collection of skin art includes a colorful farming scene and a military-themed landscape – homages to both of his grandfathers. "But I gave her a small flower tattoo for her birthday, which was a cool experience for me."

#### No pain, no gain

Considering the tattooing process is

See TATTOOS, Page 4A





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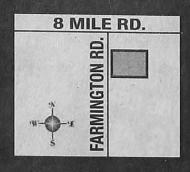
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An example of the many tattoos that will be featured at the Northville Art House exhibit through Aug. 24. SUBMITTED

### **Tattoos**

Continued from Page 3A

centered on ripping through skin with a sharp object and filling the void with ink, there's no getting around the pain aspect ... at least for now, Jacoby said.

"It would be difficult to come up with something to improve the process. The tools we use have been pretty much perfected over the past 150 years," Jacoby said. "If there are changes to the industry 10 years from now, I'd say that someone will possibly come up with a way to make it painless and/or instant."

Enduring the pain is part of the hurts-so-good appeal to tattoos, Pryce chimed in.

"Tattoos for a lot of people are very meaningful and they feel strongly that they need and want that image, so they're willing to undergo the pain it takes to get it," she said. "It's kind of like making up your mind that you want to run a marathon. You don't go into it with the mindset that 'This sucks!.' You're going in with the mindset that, 'I'm doing this!'"

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



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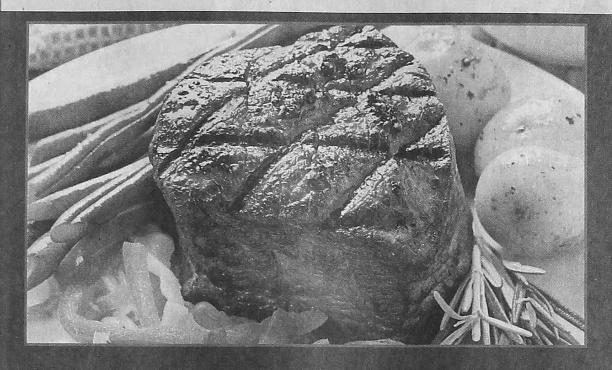
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# Rape case

Continued from Page 1A

Wayne's investigation until he had a name for the suspect. That didn't happen until 2017.

Information in another case led to Schmidtke pinpointing Cook as his suspect that year. He discovered the Inkster resident had a prior felony conviction where his DNA was taken.

Then Schmidtke approached the Michigan State Police and received permission to compare Cook's DNA to the DNA in his case.

"I didn't really have a lot of time to devote to it but if there was something there I was going to," Schmidtke said. "I promised her that. There were times when the case kind of stalled. I kind of had to put it to the side."

"We'd get another DNA match. Then I'd have more information from that case to work on. Every little case that I got, it gave me a little bit more, a little bit more."

Sgt. Stephan Perez was able to take care of the interviews, witness statements and other details that led to Cook getting arrested in 2018.

Cook, 43, resides behind bars after pleading guilty to two counts of criminal sexual conduct, one count being for assaulting a person under the age of 13, according to Third Circuit Court records.

He also has pleaded guilty to three counts of firstdegree criminal sexual conduct in 2007, and he could go to trial this fall because of first- and third-degree criminal sexual conduct charges for a 2012 crime.

His attorney Kareem LaMount Johnson declined to comment beyond saying that Cook maintains his innocence and will have his day in court.

Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong wrote this in honor of his award-winning lieutenant.

"Without Lt. Schmidtke's dedication to the case, the suspect would have continued to commit sexual assaults. I strongly believe that Lt. Schmidtke's actions prevented numerous sexual assaults. To put it mildly, I am extremely proud of him and our department. I hope everyone takes some time to congratulate him on his achievement."

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





Wayne Police Lt. Kevin Schmidtke received statewide recognition for solving a cold case. "I was extremely happy for the victim," he said. "I was happy that she was able to maybe get some closure in this case."

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bashiri Kairi Cook, 43, resides behind bars after pleading guilty to two counts of criminal sexual conduct, one count being for assaulting a person under age 13, according to court records.

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Schmidtke recently received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Association of Chief of Police for his work on the case. He was one of four police officers to receive the award.

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# Latest breach reminds us of need to protect credit



Over the last week, we've had news of another major data breach, this time affecting Capital One.

The Capital One story is important to everyone because data and security breaches put you at risk, and when you consider that over 100 million Americans were affected by the Capital One breach, it's a reminder of the vastness of this problem.

Even though there is not one thing that you can do that will 100 percent guarantee that you will not be hacked, there are things you can do to better protect yourself. One of the things you may wish to consider is to put a freeze on your credit report.

When you put a freeze on your credit report, it basically prevents others from accessing it. When you put a freeze on your credit report, it prevents identity thieves from opening a new account in

People who have been subject to identity theft find that the crooks take out loans or open charge cards in their name. Having your credit reports frozen prevents this. Therefore, I recommend more and more people do this. It is important to keep in mind that when you freeze your credit report, it does not have any impact on your credit score, and you can always unfreeze your account if you apply for credit.

To freeze your credit report is relatively simple; all you need to do is to go to each individual credit bureau and click on their security freeze page. In that regard, it is important that you type in the website into your browser as opposed to linking from an email.

The three websites are equifax.com, experian.com and transunion.com. The reason I mentioned that you shouldn't directly link from an email is because that is one way scammers get your information. One thing they do is put up fake websites and pop-up ads that look real, and they use that to capture all your information. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission just issued a warning about this.

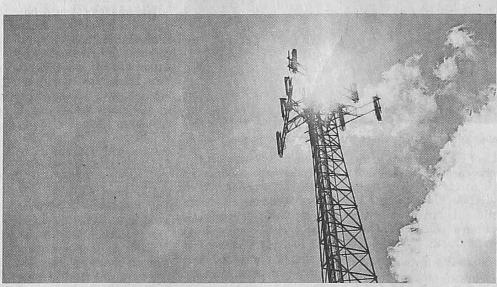
As you may have heard, Equifax reached a settlement with the government regarding its security breaches. As part of that settlement you can go on its website, and if you're affected, apply for a cash settlement or free credit monitoring. Unfortunately, the crooks are already trying to take advantage of this. As the Federal Trade Commission pointed out, there have already been fake websites claiming to be the Equifax Settlement Claim website, and bogus popup ads. That is why to protect yourself, you must always type the address into the web browser.

I remember in the good old days all you had to do to protect yourself was tear up your carbons from your charge cards; unfortunately, that is no longer the case. Identity thieves have taken advantage of technology to our detriment.

This is the world we live in, and we cannot put our heads in the sand and do nothing. In addition to putting alerts on your accounts, review all statements, and be very judicious about to whom you give your sensitive and personal information. Freezing your credit will protect you and give you some peace of mind.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email Rick at rick@bloomasset-



5G service has arrived on the Verizon network for a small portion of Livonia.

# Part of Livonia now boasts 5G coverage

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you crave the fastest download speeds on your phone, Livonia is where you'll want to be. If you have the right

Verizon Wireless has rolled out 5G speeds in parts of metro Detroit this past week. They appear to be the first major cellular provider to bring the powerful speed on a regular basis to metro

Verizon spokesman David Weissmann said parts of Livonia, as well as Troy, Dearborn and around the Oakland/Troy Airport in Troy near Birmingham and Royal Oak now offer 5G services. Those areas were selected, he said, as great places to begin because of larger open areas and other factors.

"It really does its best work in public spaces," he said. "We always want to work with forward-thinking community leaders."

Anyone with a compatible phone or device can access the speeds, though they are currently limited geographically, Weissmann said. The coverage is first launching along the Victor Parkway corridor, which houses businesses such as Dave and Buster's, the Embassy Suites and the Trinity Health headquarters, he said. More areas of the city are expected to be covered in the new speeds in the coming months.

To access the speeds on the Verizon network, users will have to have have one of several devices that support 5G speeds. Those include:

II LG V 50 ThinQ 5G

Moto z3 and z4 combined with the 5G Moto Mod

■ Samsung Galaxy S10 5G

I Inseego MiFi M1000

Users in that area with one of those devices on the Verizon network should experience 5G speeds, Weissmann said. He had not heard of any customer feedback yet as of Aug. 1, though the speeds were just launched July 31.

Having 5G speeds can enable users with incredibly quick download speeds, much quicker than 4G. Weissmann said he demonstrated the speeds by downloading a season of a show from Amazon Prime Video in roughly 45 seconds on 5G, whereas he downloaded only a few episodes after 10 minutes on 4G

He said the speeds will only further technological improvements and is more transformational than just the

"It's going to bring on the fourth industrial revolution," Weissmann said.

# **Obituaries**

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

#### Alfonso "Al" Roldán

BIRMINGHAM - Alfonso "Al" Roldán passed away peacefully on August 2, 2019 at the age of 72, surrounded by his family.

Loving husband of Lisa (née Frontero), beloved father of Sarah Roldán-Dodson (Seth Dodson) and Christina Roldán, and dedicated grandfather of Sofia, Eliza, William and Charles. Al is also survived by his brother Juan (Kathy) Roldán. Al was deeply devoted to his late mother, Maria Luisa Matanzas LoCicero and late step-father, Charles Frank LoCicero. He was also preceded in death by his father, Alfonso Roldán Campos.



Born in Oviedo, Asturias, Spain on March 18, 1947, Al or "Pochi" as his family called him, immigrated with his mother and brother to the United States in 1958. Al became a U.S. citizen in 2015, but never forgot his Spanish roots. Throughout his life he showed his love best when he was sharing his passion for Spanish cooking with his family, especially his granddaughters who have come to expect a delicious charcuterie plate whenever they spend time with Pochi. We will all be a little hungrier without him. Al loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing Up North. And while many deer just barely escaped him, through fishing he instilled in his daughters a lifelong appreciation for patience and the beauty of an early morning cast.

Al enjoyed gardening and trips to the Farmers Market with his wife, and could often be found in his backyard or perhaps attempting to get his '69 Stingray moving. He loved good food, good wine, and maybe most of all, just for once, a good kiddie pool that would last more than one season for his grandsons. So please raise a glass for our bull fighter, who fought so hard to stay and will be missed so much.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, August 6th from 4-8 PM at Spaulding and Curtin Funeral Directors, 500 West 9 Mile Road, Ferndale, MI 48220. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Ocular Melanoma Foundation. www.ocularmelanoma.org

Spaulding Curtin

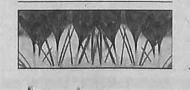


Thomas N. · Hitchman, Jr.

THOMAS N. HITCHMAN JR., July 31, 2019, age 82. Beloved husband of Myrna for 62 wonderful years. Father of Paula Hitchman Dreeszen (Bryce) and Thomas Darrow Hitchman (Keith Hewitt). Brother of Julia Smith and Ann Pike (Bob). Uncle of three. Funeral services have been completed. Memorial Tributes to Alzheimer's Association or Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

View obituary and share memories at

AJDesmond.com



#### Harry "Bud" Porter Keller

HASTINGS - Harry "Bud" Porter Keller passed away on August 1, 2019 at the age of 93. Harry was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 18, 1926, the son of Harry Raymond and Norma (Porter) Keller.

He attended Western Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in 1950, a



Master of Arts from the University of Michigan in 1956, and an Education Specialist Degree from Michigan State University in 1976. Bud taught in Buckley, Michigan from 1950-1952, Birmingham, Michigan from 1952-1986, retiring on June 30, 1986. He proudly served in World War II USN from 1944-1946.

On Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, Bud married Joan Louise VanLaningham, his wife of 67 years. He enjoyed coaching summer baseball, which he did for 20 years, reading and playing golf.

Bud is preceded in death by his wife, his parents and his sister Ruth Ann Keller. He is survived by his five children: Steven (Ruthie) of Anacortes, Washington; Jeff (Sally) of Delton, Michigan; Dave of Delton, Michigan; Jon (Kara) of River Forest, Illinois; Kate (Todd) of Tampa, Florida; 18 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held on Monday, August 5 at 2:00 PM with a visitation one-hour prior at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation (HEEF), 232 West Grand Street, Hastings MI, 49058. Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence, visit www. girrbachfuneralhome.net.

# Musical groups announced for Wayne Downtown Days

Organizers of Downtown Days in Wayne have announced the acts that will be performing on stage at this year's Downtown Days festival Aug. 9-10.

The headlining acts include: Yankee-Ville at 6 p.m. Friday; Braxton Davis Motown Review at 7 p.m. Friday; Toppermost Beatles Tribute at 6 p.m. Saturday; and The Phoenix Theory at 7 p.m. Sat-

Other musical groups performing Aug. 9 include Abbigale Abbot, a Garth Brooks/Trish Yearwood tribute, an Elvis tribute, and The Great Folk Scare of the 1960s. Aug. 10 will feature two local Wayne group: Blues Preacher Creighton; and TC and the Katz. Also at 5 p.m. Saturday, the winners of Downtown Days' Art-O-Motive and Window on Wayne contests will be announced and the celebration of Wayne's 150th anniversary will take place on the stage.

On both days before 1 p.m. community events will be taking place on the stage, including a demonstration by the Phoenix Freerunning Academy and Wayne Memorial High School Marching

"All of the acts we have in store for this year's festival will be a great way to keep community members engaged and provide entertainment for different audiences throughout the weekend," said Jacob Fuchs, an intern with Wayne Main Street.

All acts will perform on the main stage at Veterans Plaza, located next to the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne. The concert area will have food trucks, a beer tent, and sponsor booths. Seating will be available in front of the stage. The concerts are free for all to attend. Free parking will also be available in the municipal parking structure off East Michigan Avenue.

For a full schedule of events taking place during Downtown Days visit downtownwayne.org/downtowndays.



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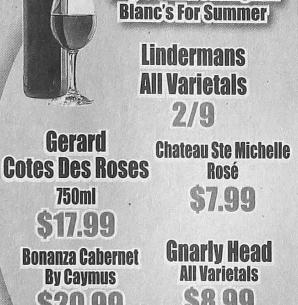
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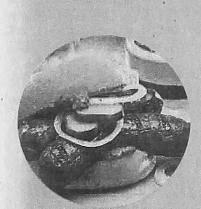
USDA Premium Choice Angus Ground Beef from Chuck \$3.49 lb Save \$1.00

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Premium Fresh
All Natural
Chicken Leg
Quarters
89¢
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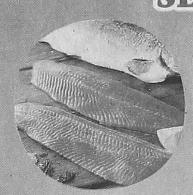
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\$7.99 lb
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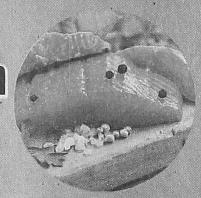
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Tilapia Fillets
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# Sports



# Detroit Catholic Central dedicates baseball complex

**Andrew Vailliencourt** 

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the end of last school year, several hundred alumni, parents and fans attended a ceremony on the campus of Detroit Catholic Central as the Detroit Catholic Central Fr. Martin Baseball Complex and Al Moran Field at Shamrock Park was officially dedicated and blessed

Many former players attended the day's festivities, allowing the doubleheader to serve as a school reunion in

addition to the dedication event.

Stan Wilkins '42 and The Honorable Roland L. Olzark '45, two of Fr. James Martin's C.S.B. former ball players from the Belmont Avenue and 15 consecutive Catholic League Championships days, were on hand.

More than a dozen of Martin's former players would go on to play professional baseball. Three of his former players played in the 1945 World Series between the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs.

Moran '57 gave a heartfelt speech

See BASEBALL, Page 2B



The Detroit Catholic Central baseball complex was dedicated in the spring. COURTESY OF JAKE MARMUL

# Drew Poet Foundation keeps its namesake's memory alive

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Drew Poet was a perfectly-wrapped gift – to his family, friends, coaches and teammates.

He was the kid who, on the hottest sun-baked afternoon of late summer, would pull off his Plymouth-Canton Steelers football helmet during practice breaks and energize his teammates with his life-is-beautiful smile.

He was the young man who yearned to attend the University of Michigan someday, churning out straight A's in high school advanced-placement classes that propelled his grade-point average to a Wolverine-worthy 4.7 (on a 4.0 scale).

He was an accomplished multi-sport athlete – maybe not the biggest stud on the baseball field, basketball court or gridiron, but pound-for-pound, among the toughest and most effective.

And he was the son and brother whose beyond-his-years courage made his family (parents Kevin and Mary and brothers Nick and Matt) proud beyond words while he wrestled with an undefeated monster named Ewing sarcoma.

#### Evil foe

Ewing sarcoma is a merciless, deceptive and relentless beast.

A difficult-to-detect cancer that grows in the bones or in the tissue around bones, it delivers unbearable pain to its victims, the vast majority of

whom are boys in their mid- to lateteens.

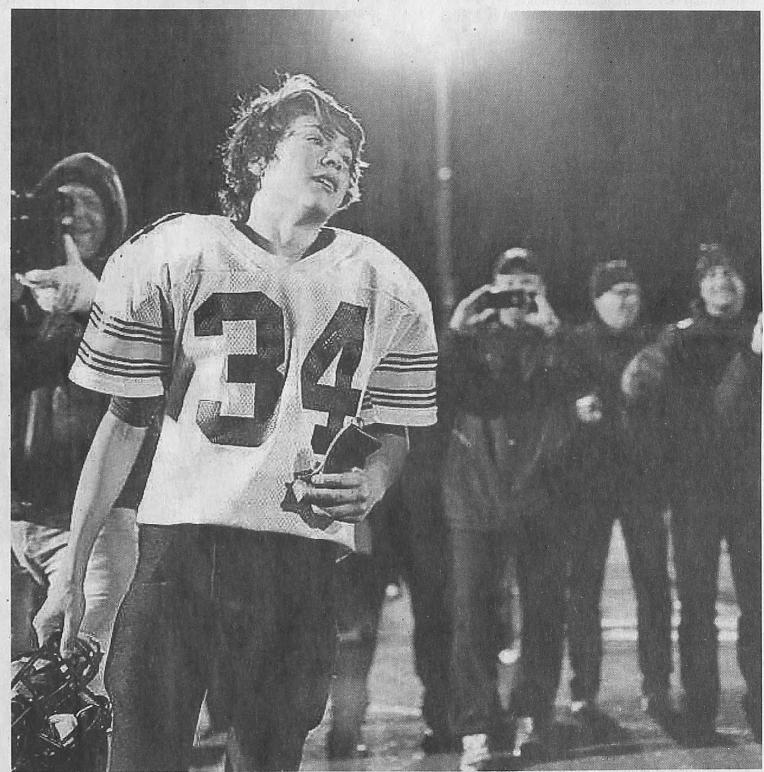
The disease's rarity – approximately 200 to 300 people are diagnosed in the United States each year – is both a blessing (fewer cases, less suffering)

money devoted to finding a cure).

And as the Poets discovered at life's most tragic level, Ewing sarcoma can

and a curse (fewer cases, less time and

See POET, Page 2B



Drew Poet holds his Super Bowl trophy after his final game as a Plymouth-Canton Steeler in 2015. COURTESY OF DEANNA WILLIS

# Stevenson softball, pom teams to host golf outing Sept. 15

Andrew Vailliencourt

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson softball and pom teams have joined together to host a golf outing that will raise money for the two programs.

The outing will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Whispering Willow Golf Course on Newburgh Road in Livonia.

It will be a four-person scramble and costs \$90 per person. There will be a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets and a silent auction. Various golf games such as closest to the pin, longest drive, Vegas hole,

skins and more will also take place.

Dinner is included; those who don't want to play golf but still want to attend can get dinner only for \$25. There will be chicken, mostaccioli, potatoes and salad. You also have the opportunity to sponsor a hole for \$100.

Registration is due by Sept. 7. For availlienc@hometownlife.com.

more information, visit https://livoniastevensonsoftball.sportngin.com/golfouting or contact softball coach Kevin Hannigan at hannigankevin9@ gmail.com or pom coach Aleigh Schlatterbeck at aschlatterbeck@gmail.com.

Contact Andrew Vailliencourt at



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The Poet family: (from left to right) Drew, Nick, Kevin, Matt and Mary. Drew Poet died April 20 after a valiant battle with Ewing sarcoma. SUBMITTED

### **Poet**

Continued from Page 1B

only be diagnosed with advanced medical scans – tests that the medical professionals who treated Drew's unbearable pelvic pain (and tests that his parents exhaustively requested) failed to execute until it was too late.

With his family at his side, in the comfort of his own Charlotte, N.C. bedroom (the Poets moved from Plymouth to North Carolina in the summer of 2017), Drew Poet passed away after a valiant battle with Ewing sarcoma on April 20, the day before Easter.

He was just 17.

"Drew was an absolute rock through this entire nightmare," said Mary Poet, "and that was part of the problem. Even when he was experiencing excruciating pain several months before the ultimate diagnosis, he never complained. He was the strongest human being I've ever known.

"Even in the final weeks of his life, while he was being cared for with inhome hospice, he was determined to beat it. He was the one encouraging us, telling us it was going to be OK. It was Drew's idea to start the foundation. He didn't want anyone else to go through what he was going through."

Just weeks after Poet's death, while still in the early stages of a hard-to-imagine grieving process, his family and friends launched The Drew Poet Foundation, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to keep its forever-young namesake's spirit alive by supporting clinical research programs in pediatric cancer, Ewing sarcoma in particular.

"There are 200 to 300 sets of moms and dads out there who, over the next year, don't know what's coming," Mary Poet said. "Drew's foundation will help shed light on this horrific disease, raise awareness and, hopefully, increase the level of research that goes into finding a cure."

#### Loved beyond measure

The overflowing ocean of love Drew Poet harvested during his short life is reflected in part by a GoFundMe page initiated by family friend Deanna Willis to help the Poet family with costly medical expenses and to kick-start the foundation.

In less than a month, the fundraiser had generated close to \$70,000.

"Drew was a big-time leader, a bigtime motivator," said Angelo Lanava, one of Poet's P-C Steelers coaches. "I never saw him hang his head. He was always picking everybody else up.

"And I'm not just saying this because Drew passed away. I'd have said the same thing five years ago. Drew was a great, great young man. The year after his final season of playing with the



Drew Poet zeroes in on a ball carrier during a Plymouth-Canton Steelers' game at the University of Michigan's football stadium.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEANNA WILLIS

Steelers, he came back and helped us coach the varsity. I think he got as much out of being a mentor for the younger players as he did playing."

Poet's final on-the-field statement as a Steeler left an everlasting imprint in the hearts of the team's fans.

"We were winning by six points in the (2015 Michigan Youth Football and Cheer Conference) Super Bowl with less than a minute to play and Macomb was driving," Lanava remembered. "Macomb's quarterback threw a pass to the receiver Drew was covering. They both got their hands on it, but Drew fought for the ball and got the interception.

"What a way to end his Steelers' ca-

The Steelers' program, for which Kevin Poet formerly headed, is honoring Poet in a variety of ways during the upcoming season. A flag bearing the number 34 he wore throughout his youth football career will fly at half mast at the team's home field, located on the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex property.

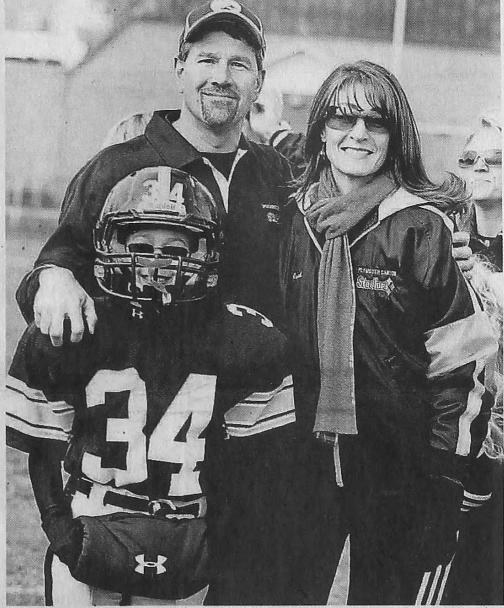
And his number will be retired during a special ceremony at the varsity team's homecoming game in October.

#### **Fabulous first impression**

During his first football game for Charlotte (N.C.) Catholic Central, Poet returned a punt for a touchdown – just months before being diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma.

The move south was ignited by a job promotion Kevin Poet accepted in Charlotte.

"Kevin worked in Charlotte during the week, then flew home for the weekends," Mary Poet said. "We told Drew that we could continue to live in Plymouth, but he told us that he wanted to try the move. He knew he'd miss his



Drew Poet, front, stands with his parents, Kevin and Mary, prior to a game.

friends in Michigan, but he was such a friendly, outgoing kid that he made friends in Charlotte immediately."

Most importantly, the move to Charlotte proved to be a health-related blessing for Drew, whose new doctors at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte reacted to the Poets' adamant requests for advanced testing on Drew's chronic pelvic pain after he had been consistently misdiagnosed by two health systems in Michigan.

"Our family pediatrician was sure it was a combination of both growing pains and athletic injury," Mary Poet revealed. "Ultimately, Drew was misdiagnosed by several practitioners."

In October of 2018, a series of blood work revealed that Drew's C-reactive protein numbers were "off the charts", Mary Poet said. The result was a sign of widespread inflammation in his system.

"Drew's oncologist in Charlotte was mortified that he hadn't been accurately diagnosed due to how long we sought answers and treatment for his pain," Mary Poet said. "She told us no teenager should have to go through what Drew's been through."

#### **Demand action**

Mary Poet urged parents to demand advanced testing if their child is experiencing high levels of pain for more than three months.

"Doctors mean well," she said. "A disease like Ewing sarcoma is so rare that they don't test for it. But there comes a point where pediatricians need to think outside the box, listen to parents and test for even the worst diseases."

Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Charlotte Catholic Central high schools will honor Drew Poet, who would be entering his senior year this fall, by including him in their respective graduation ceremonies in the spring of 2020.

"Drew attended a Jimmy Buffett concert in Michigan before he moved to Charlotte and a verse from one of the songs he heard became his motto," Mary Poet shared.

The verse: "Some of it's magic, some of it's tragic, but I've had a good life all the way."

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

# Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

recognizing and thanking his family, the Basilian Fathers, former and current coaches and players and the benefactors who made this long-awaited dream of such a complex and field a reality.

Moran is regarded as one of the best athletes to ever come out of CC. He received 11 varsity letters in four sports and earned all-state honors in football and baseball. He turned down a scholarship offer to play football at Michigan State after he was drafted by the Boston Red Sox. He played 10 years of professional baseball before returning to CC to spend 23 years as an assistant coach.

The facility features new turf, bleachers and a press box.

Fr. Richard Elmer, C.S.B. '46, CC president emeritus, gave a prayer as he blessed the complex and field. Ed Turek '85, CC president and a former player for Moran, expressed CC's collective gratitude toward all who made the project a success, as well as for Fr. Martin and Moran, who have dedicated their lives

to CC, the baseball program and the formation of young men. Dan Collins '84, CC advancement director, served as master of ceremonies.

The Shamrocks swept U of D Jesuit in the doubleheader (6-1, 7-6).

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

# Tigers trade deadline return uninspiring



The trade deadline has come and gone and the Detroit Tigers are in an even better position to earn the first overall pick in the 2020 MLB Draft.

The team was already the worst in baseball, and after trading away closer Shane Greene and outfielder Nick Castellanos, it will have the edge on the Orioles for that top pick as the seasons winds down. The player the team selects there will assuredly help propel this rebuild forward, which the franchise desperately needs after the return at the deadline failed to do so.

The Tigers trade deadline return was uninspiring. It wasn't awful, it wasn't good. They were able to get two decent pitching prospects for Castellanos, which is as good a return as they were going to get and picked up another pitcher and outfielder, Joey Wentz and Travis Demeritte, for Greene. They could've done better, they could've done worse.

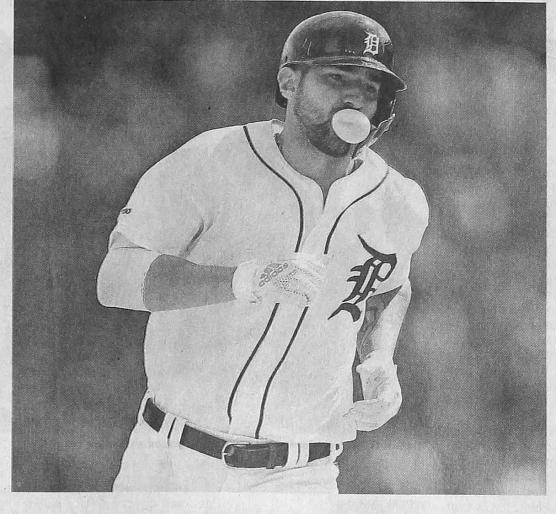
Detroit also decided not to trade rising star pitcher Matthew Boyd.

The main takeaway from the series of trades and non-trades, is that the Tigers did not bring in a single player that fans can point to as a building block for the future. If Paul Richan and Alex Lange (the pitchers acquired in the Castellanos deal) pan out, that'll be a great boost, but isn't something that should be counted on. Wentz, who is the best prospect the team received at the deadline, is now the team's No. 10 prospect and has joined a loaded rotation at Double-A Erie. He's a solid prospect, but profiles as a No. 4 or 5 starter in the future — if he makes it. He slots behind five other pitchers in the Tigers' system. Demeritte raked in Triple-A this season for Atlanta, but wasn't ranked as a top-30 prospect and has already been called up to Detroit. He is a project defensively, but can hit for some power. He has the potential to be the team's fourth outfielder of the future - more if he can hit for average, but that remains to be seen.

Should the Tigers have gotten more for Greene, who had been one of the top relievers in the league this season? Probably.

It's not unreasonable to think they should've received one top 100 MLB prospect, but the market was slow, buying teams were stubbornly unwilling to move top prospects, and backed into a corner, the Tigers seemingly got what they could. It's fine, but uninspiring. Greene has promptly imploded with the Braves, with two bad outings to start his time with them, so it's always possible we'll look bad and be satisfied with the trade, but that still doesn't mean I have to be excited about what the Tigers got back.

The most controversial move of the trade deadline was holding on to Boyd, who has broken out this year



The Tigers were able to get two decent pitching prospects for outfielder Nick Castellanos, which is as good a return as they were going to get. The Tigers did not bring in a single player that fans can point to as a building block for the future. RAJ MEHTA/ **USA TODAY SPORTS** 

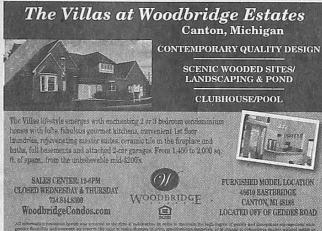
and is among the league best when it comes to striking out opposing batters. Tigers GM Al Avila decided to hold onto Boyd, as an offer worthy of his services was apparently not made.

This is a difficult move to discuss because while it would've been in the best interest of the team to trade Boyd, Avila needed to maximize the return and bring back not one but two top 100 prospects, or at least one top 30 player. He made the reasonable demand of Houston's top prospect, outfielder Kyle Tucker, but was rebuffed. Instead, the Astros went out and got Zack Greinke from Arizona. A fair deal given the salary of Greinke, Tigers fans would've been unhappy with the return the Diamondbacks got for him. It's better to hold onto Boyd than give him away for lesser prospects, especially considering he still has three years left on his contract.

An upper tier GM, however, might've been able to pull off the type of trade the Tigers needed. We've seen plenty to know that Avila is average at best, especially after the Detroit Free Press reported he turned down trades involving Javier Baez of the Cubs and Alex Bregman of the Astros two years ago for Michael Fulmer.

Baez and Bregman were top prospects at the time and have since become superstars. Hindsight is 20/20, but that stings, especially considering Fulmer's demise.

With Boyd still in the fold, the team has two options: trade him this offseason/at the next trade deadline or compete for the playoffs in 2021 with Boyd still on the roster.





# South Lyon pom team does well at Grand Rapids camp

**Andrew Vailliencourt** 

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The South Lyon varsity and JV pom teams attended the Mid-American Pom Pon Camp this summer at Davenport College in Grand Rapids.

The varsity team, which is made up of 32 girls, and the JV team, made up of 16 girls, are coached by Katee Buddenburg and Emily Thomas. Both squads had great performances.

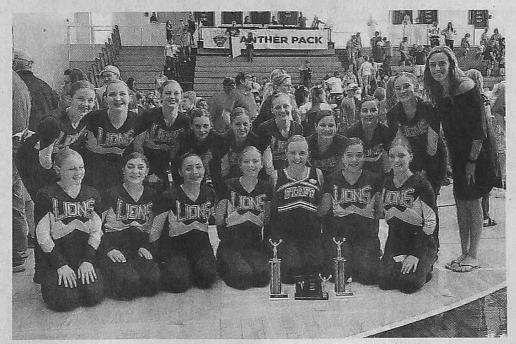
The varsity team received first place for all of their routines resulting in first place in speed learning, first place in kick-line and a grand champs trophy. They also received the peppy pom award for having the most spirit and Leah Evangelista won the advanced toe touch competition.

In addition, the varsity team received the Knock Your Socks off award given to them from Howell varsity for blowing them away with their routine. 14 girls made the MAPP All-Star team which will perform at Cedar Point, the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, the Detroit St. Patricks Day Parade and this year, is traveling to California to perform at Disneyland. They also received most congenial team voted on by all the other teams attending camp that weekend and got first-place in their original rou-

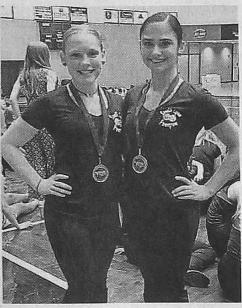
The South Lyon JV team had a great showing for its first year in existence.

It won first-place in speed learning, second-place in kick-line and firstplace for their original routine. The team won the Team Unity Award given out by the staff. Emma Reif won the toe touch competition for the intermediate teams.

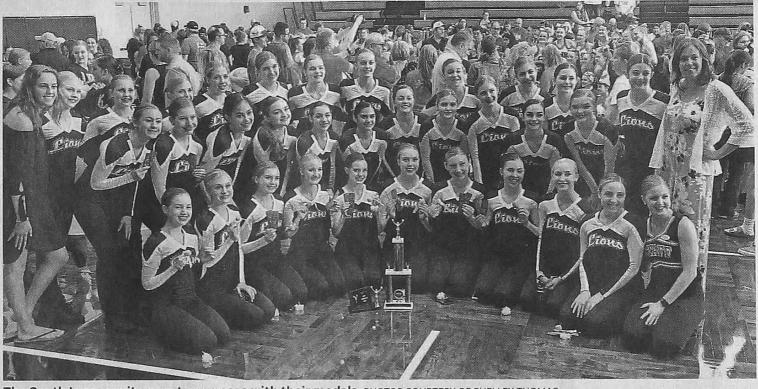
2019 South Lyon graduate Molly Thomas, who was on South Lyon varsity pom team for all four years, was selected to be a Mid-American Staff Sister - only the second South Lyon pommer to be selected for this elite team. She attended the camp this summer with the team



The South Lyon junior varsity pom team poses with their trophies.



Leah Evangelista and Emma Reif won the varsity and Junior varsity toe touch competition in Grand Rapids.



The South Lyon varsity pom team poses with their medals. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLEY THOMAS



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# Will Larkin be anointed Wings' next captain?

Helene St. James Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

August tends to be the quietest month in the NHL, an uneventful cool down period after the exhilaration of July's free agency and the excitement of June's draft.

Come September players will gather for unofficial skates, a chance to lace up before training camp. The Red Wings are scheduled to undergo physicals Sept. 12 and begin the on-ice part of training camp Sept. 13 at Centre Ice Arena in Traverse City. For the first time in nine years, Steve Yzerman will be watching from a corner suite, in his first camp since taking over as general manager April 19.

Until then, here's a mailbag. Thanks as always for the many interesting and some fun questions.

When are the Wings announcing an official Captain??? — @bettiepage-

After Yzerman retired in July 2006, the Wings announced Lidstrom as the new captain during the 2006-07 season opener. Fans responded with a standing ovation. They cheered even louder when Yzerman dropped a ceremonial puck between Lidstrom and Canucks captain Markus Naslund.

Just as Lidstrom had been the clear-cut successor to Yzerman, Henrik Zetterberg was Lidstrom's heir apparent. That didn't happen until Jan. 15, 2013, though, because the NHL and NHLPA spent the fall of 2012 mired in a labor dispute. The Wings opened with a two-game road trip, so they chose to anoint Zetterberg during a news conference at Compuware Arena in Plymouth (now USA Hockey Arena), hours before a scrimmage.

The Wings didn't name a captain after Zetterberg retired last September, instead going with three alternates (Dylan Larkin and Frans Nielsen split wearing an 'A' between road and home games, unless one of the other alternates, Niklas Kronwall or Justin Abdelkader, was not in the lineup).

That softened Larkin's adjustment to the duties of wearing a letter on his



Dylan Larkin split time wearing an "A" last season. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

sweater. The decision reflected on Larkin's age (22) and the knowledge the team would struggle (Yzerman was 21 when he was named captain, but that was in 1986, back in the days before the Internet and especially social media). Larkin handled the role well, speaking frankly to media after tough losses, and would seem to have earned a promotion

The Wings open 2019-20 on the road, but host the Dallas Stars the next day, Sunday, Oct. 6. The Wings could reveal Dylan Larkin as the next captain before the home opener, but what a way to energize the fans at Little Caesars Arena if Yzerman comes out for a ceremonial puck drop after Larkin is introduced wearing a 'C' on his sweater.

Any word if Seider is going back to the DEL this year or staying in NA with the Griffins/Wings? — @ImTheSchmidt13

Moritz Seider's German Hockey League team, Mannheim Adler, starts preseason games this month and begins the regular season Sept. 13. The Wings, however, plan to have Seider, their top selection (sixth overall) from the 2019 draft, at prospects camp and main camp. Those run Sept. 6-16 in Traverse City, followed by a nine-game exhibition season. Then Yzerman and his hockey operations staff will decide where Seider is best off to start the 2019-20 season.

Mannheim is the defending champion and Seider would be a valuable member of the lineup, getting top minutes.

There's a strong argument for keeping Seider, 18, in North America, too, beyond adjusting to the smaller ice sheet.

The Wings signed Seider, 6-foot-4, 207 pounds, to a three-year entry-level contract in July. If he doesn't look NHL ready, they could put him in Grand Rapids. The Wings could take a nine-game look at Seider at the NHL level (like they did last season with Zadina) without triggering the contract.

If Seider is in Grand Rapids, it'll be considerably easier to keep tabs on his on-ice development, plus there'd be direct oversight over his off-ice activities, such as his training and his diet.

Another option is the Ontario Hockey

League, as Seider was drafted by Owen Sound in the 2018 import draft.

What does the goalie depth chart look like as of right ow? — @stemy24

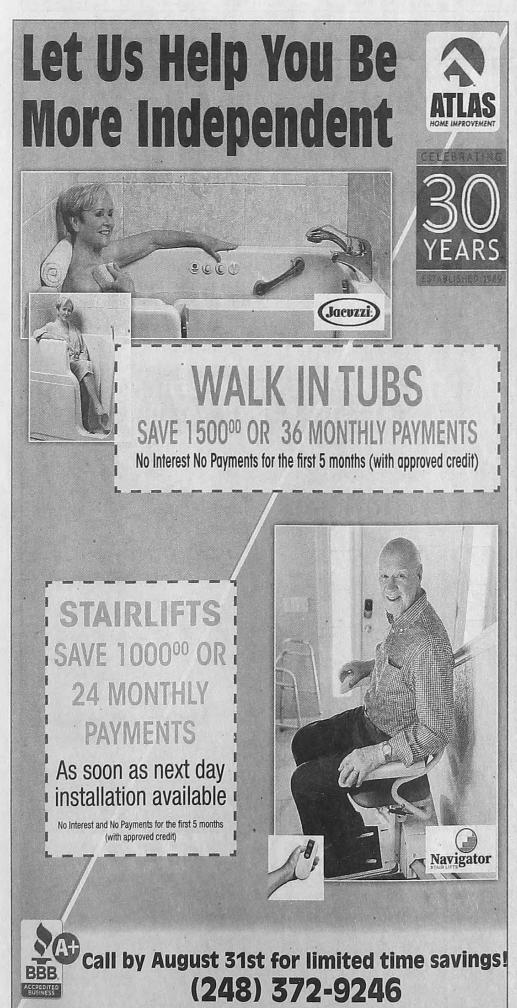
Jimmy Howard and Jonathan Bernier are slated to man the net for the

nier are slated to man the net for the Wings. Coach Jeff Blashill chose to alternate starts between them down the stretch (before Bernier got hurt) and is likely to do that again to start the season.

Yzerman signed Calvin Pickard to a two-year deal on July 1 to help mentor top goalie prospect Filip Larsson in Grand Rapids, and to have in reserve in case of injury to Howard or Bernier. Pickard, 27, has 104 NHL games to his credit.

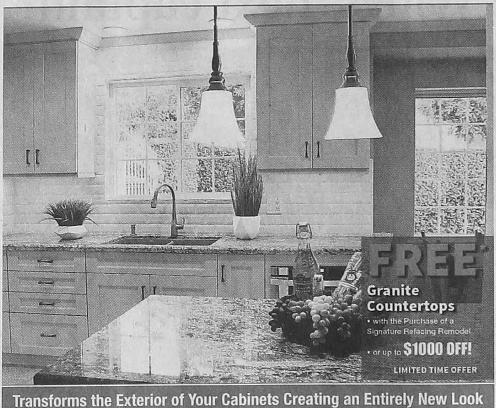
Good morning, in your opinion, which Red Wing would best help the @Lions in this 2019 season, and which position would he play? — @Twitter-Slim

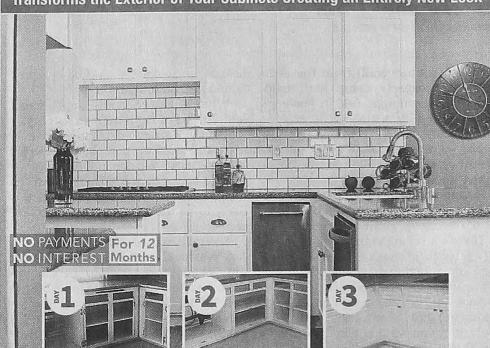
Hah, love a little cross promotion. I pitched Andreas Athanasiou as wide receiver because of his explosiveness and size to my Lions colleague Dave Birkett, who agreed.





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112 Enter ... or what each of seven long answers in this puzzle has

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rails 10 Highway distance marker 11 Keen insight

12 Rhythm 13 Lumber tool 14 High ethical standards 15 Encourage 16 Court excuse

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92 "Behold!," to Sean Brutus 55 Ale grain 56 Capri, e.g., to 93 Brutus' lang. a Capriote •94 Sent forth 58 Filmmaker 96 Ukraine city

Preminger 98 Goes on foot 59 Stellar bear 99 "George & 60 Dog healer -" (1990s 61 Ending for talk show) 100 "Yes, -!" journal

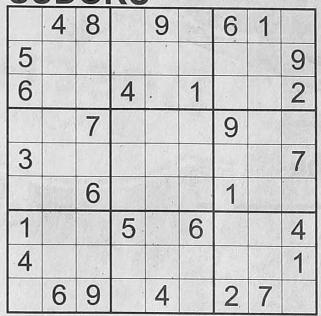
63 Three-("For sure!") 101 Actor Davis in sloth 64 NASA moon many Spike Lee films lander 102 Creme-filled 65 Ending for

journal cookies 66 Insurer with a 103 Puppy bite duck mascot 108 Funny Fey 67 San - Bay 109 Wallet singles

68 Stellar hunter 111 Internet ID 69 Grain storers 112 — Lankan 72 Redcap, 113 Fury 114 Comedian e.g. 73 On the job Rickles

**115 USNA** 77 "POV" airer grad.

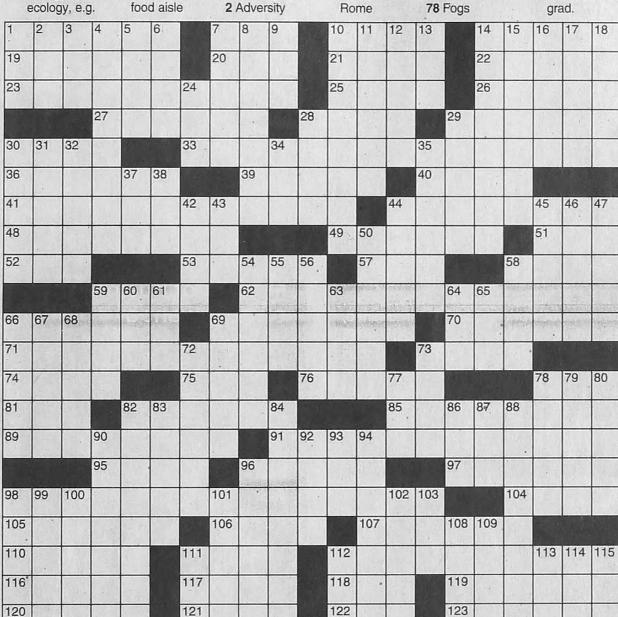
SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

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

D R 0 CIRPA C ERP ENSXOQ



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

#### WORDS

ANDROMEDA ANTLIA AQUARIUS ARIES **CAELUM** CAMELOPARDALIS CANCER CANIS MAJOR CAPRICORNUS **CASSIOPEIA CENTAURUS** CORVUS **CYGNUS DELPHINUS** DRACO **ERIDANUS** GEMINI HERCULES **HYDRA** INDUS

> LE0 LIBRA LYNX **MONOCEROS** OCTANS ORION **PEGASUS PERSEUS PHOENIX PISCES** SAGITTARIUS SCORPIUS SERPENS **TAURUS**

> > URSA

**VIRGO** 

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Hudsonville Ice Cream Hudsonville, MI

Cool Jacks Livonia, MI



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