

Canton skating club brings home the gold at nationals

SPORTS, 1B

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OBSERVER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Primary sets up mayoral showdown

Brosnan, Toy to face off in race for Livonia mayor

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thousands of voters went to the polls around Livonia on Aug. 6. After people cast their ballots, the mayoral race was narrowed down to Maureen Miller Bros-

nan and Laura Toy while the city council race went from a 12-person race to an eight-person one.

Toy, the current city council president, led the mayoral field with 7,400 votes, and Brosnan followed with 6,124. Both have earned spots on the Novem-

ber ballot. Candidate Bruce Tenniswood received 1,375 votes and will not get an official spot on the November ballot. Vote totals in the election still need to be certified by the county to become official.

Toy said the night of Aug. 6 that she was excited to garner the most votes.

"It feels darn good," she said. "It's great that all my supporters and this

great city (voted). I mean, you can't go wrong with the people in Livonia."

Toy was a favorite among voters approached that morning and afternoon. Many who agreed to speak said they voted to exercise their "civic duty."

"She's been with Livonia for a long time," Richard Folsom said. "She knows

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Suburban Collection Showplace introduces new executive chef

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For many chefs, operating their own restaurant is the dream. Cooking for thousands of people at a time? Perhaps not as much.

But Chef Robin Wilson thrives on that challenge.

"Wrapping your head around that many numbers and stuff, it intrigued me," said Wilson, 47, of Westland. "I probably would never go back to the private sector. I did that for years, and it's not the lifestyle I want to live."

Wilson is the new executive chef at the Diamond Center in the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. He runs the kitchen for Epoch Catering, the company that handles food service for the convention center at 46100 Grand River.

Wilson came to Novi after spending the last several years at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit, deciding he was ready for a different challenge.

"I just felt that I wanted to use my skills and talents to help another facility grow and excel," he said. "It was just time for a change."

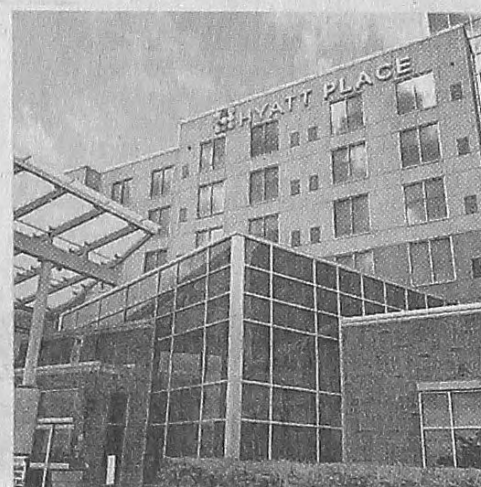
He graduated from Redford Union High School and decided the culinary arts were his passion, wanting to learn everything he could about cooking. After having a child early in life, he chose to forgo earning a degree and began apprenticeships at restaurants such as the former Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township, known for being the last place Jimmy Hoffa was seen before disappearing.

After taking jobs in Indiana and Texas, Wilson came back to Michigan in 2012 and later started as the retail executive chef at Cobo. He became the executive chef there a few years ago, in charge of food for events like the North American International Auto Show.

See CHEF, Page 4A



Chef Robin Wilson and Epoch Catering need to be able to prepare a variety of dishes for different diets, and their repertoire includes these grilled asparagus, mushrooms, and squash. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Epoch Catering is located inside Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace and serves its Hyatt Place hotel, as well as events held in its ballroom, such as weddings or corporate meetings.



Wilson talks about how his career led him to his place as executive chef at Novi's Epic Catering.

The 2019 Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest is underway

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Go hug a tree.

Or at least throw a measuring tape around one.

The 2019 Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest is on with one month left to go, and there are prizes for the largest tree in multiple categories.

Lara Edwards, programs and development coordinator for contest sponsor ReLeaf Michigan, called the contest "a wonderful activity for families, outdoor enthusiasts and folks who love trees."

"Contest entries help track these vital, historical, living landmarks and provide potential state champion trees to Michigan's Big Tree Registry," she added.

Hundreds of trees have been entered so far from 67 of Michigan's 83 counties, including a willow tree that Edwards said measures more than 30 feet in circumference.

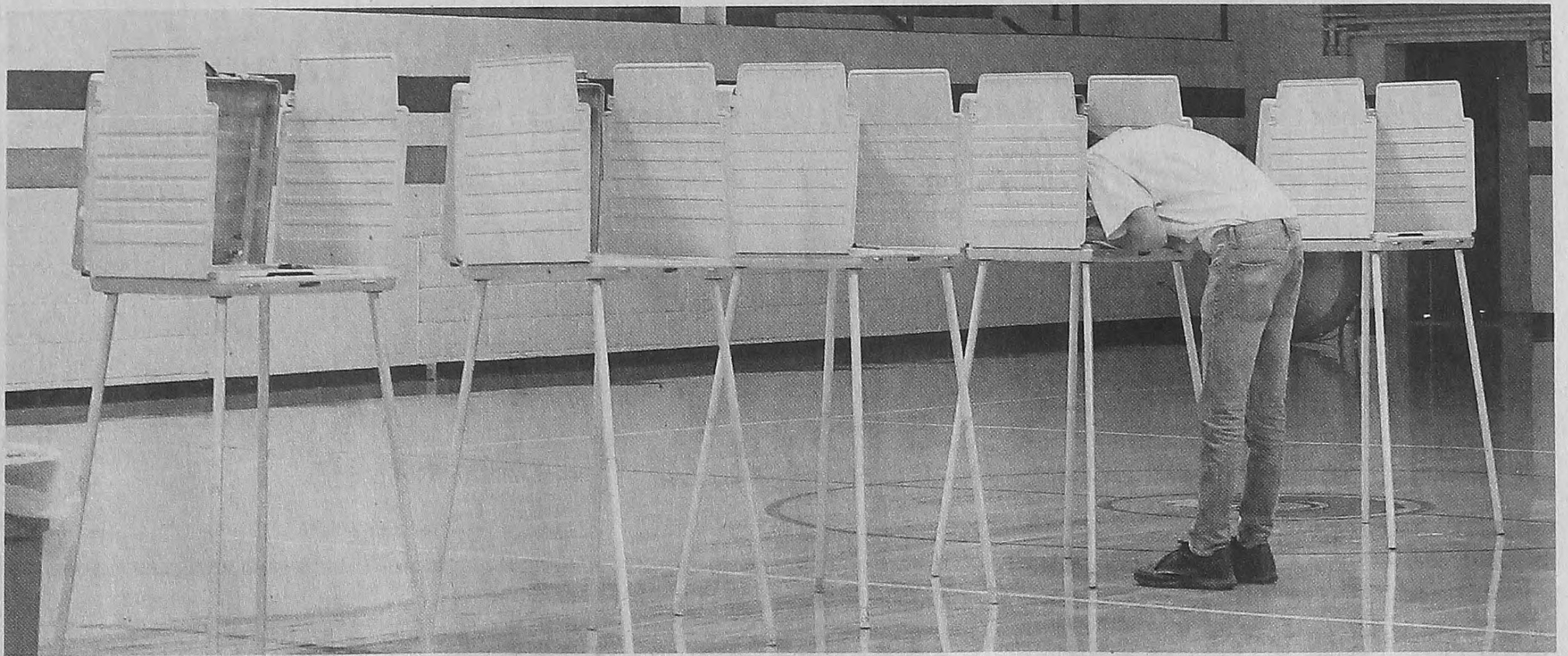
Besides the largest tree per county, awards will also be presented for largest tree found by a youth age 15 and younger; largest found by an adult (16 and older); the largest Eastern White Pine

found in the state; and for potential state champion trees.

The newest state champion, an eastern red cedar that has a girth of 133 inches and height of 101 feet, was added to the register in April. It was found in the Kleinstuck Preserve in Kalamazoo County. The tree has an average crown

See TREE HUNT, Page 3A





John Souza was the 47th voter at Livonia's Precinct 1a and 1b during the primary election on Aug. 6. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Primary

Continued from Page 1A

the city, she knows how it works and she knows what's best for the city."

Brosnan was also popular among those polled.

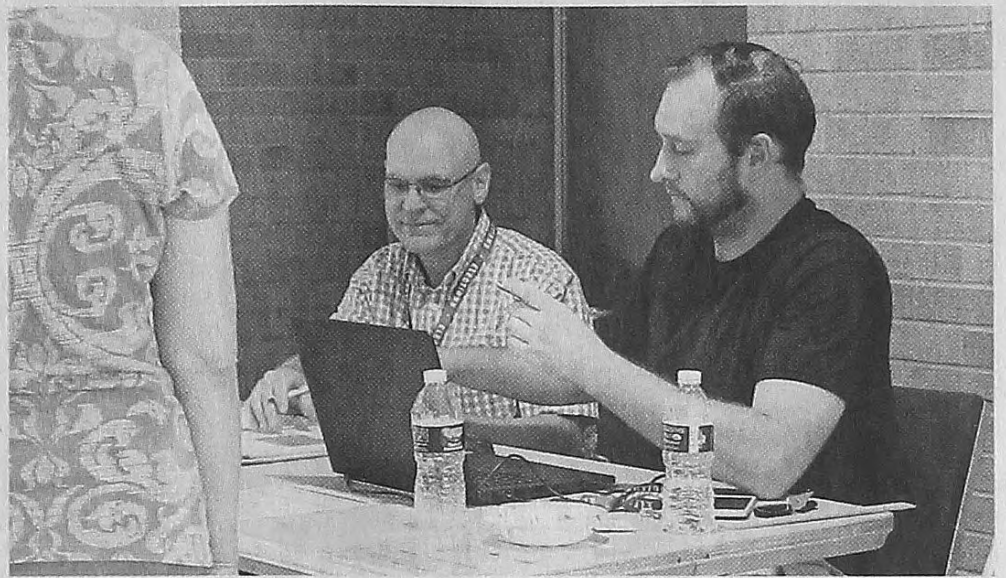
"She has a ton of experience, she's very articulate, she does her homework before her meetings and I just think she's the best choice for Livonia," William Musick said.

The candidate was happy to make it to the fall ballot with a large number of votes.

"I am honored by the support I received from my neighbors throughout the primary election, and I am ready to continue the tireless, issues-based campaign Livonia residents deserve as they select their next mayor," Brosnan said in a statement.

Given the results of the mayoral primary, Livonia looks poised to elect its first female mayor in November.

Tenniswood said that, though his campaign is over, he is thankful for the chance to run and the many who supported his campaign.



Livonia Precinct 2 workers Elwyn Hyde, left, and Adam Whalen get a voter ready to cast their ballot.

"I'm just kind of overwhelmed with gratitude for the number of people that supported me and helped me," he said. "This campaign was a great event and I'm very happy that I got involved."

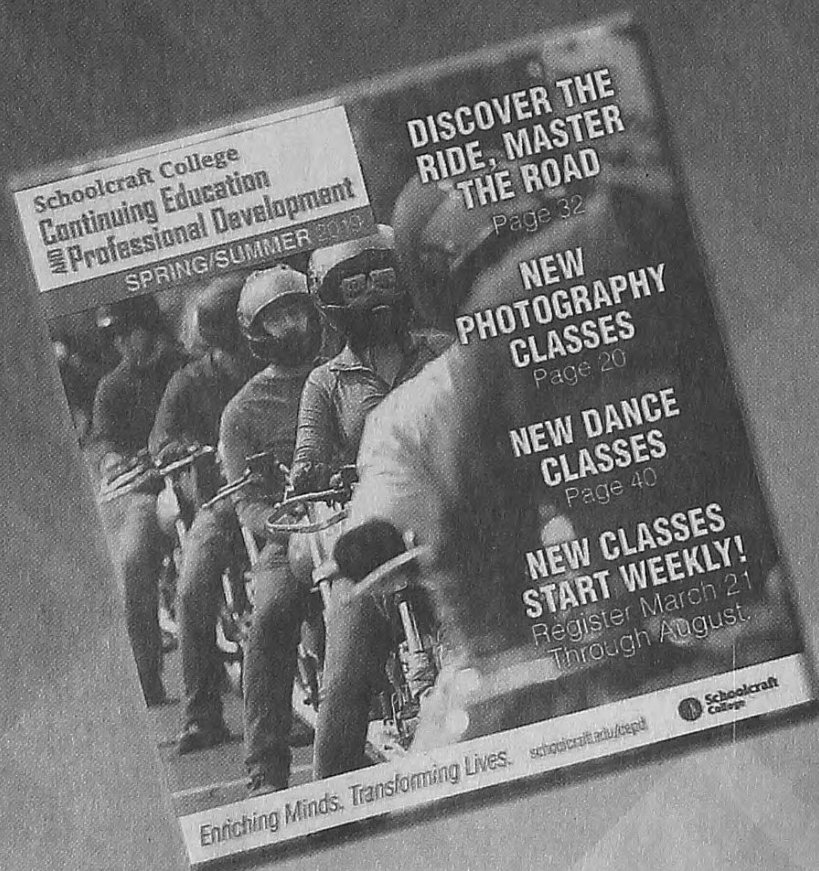
As for city council, Scott Bahr, Kathleen McIntyre, Brandon McCullough, Rob Donovic, Eileen McDonnell, Jim

Davis, Gregory Coppola and Brian Dugan were the eight highest vote earners and will be on the November ballot. From there, the eight will vie for the four open council seats.

Bahr led the way with 8,116 votes. Mc-

See PRIMARY, Page 3A

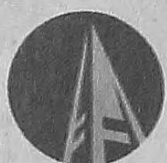
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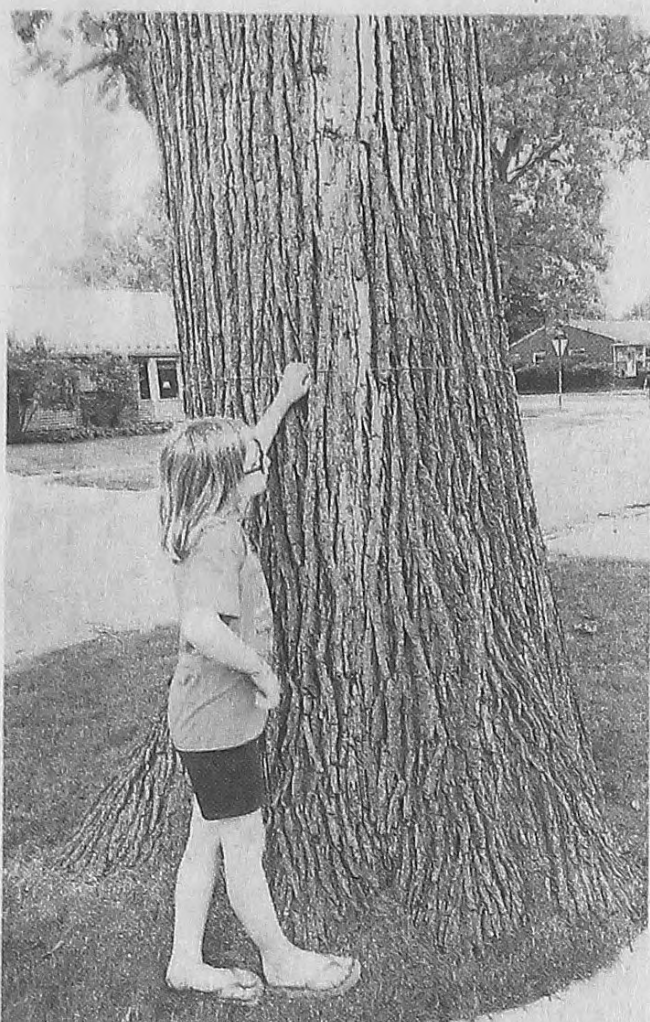
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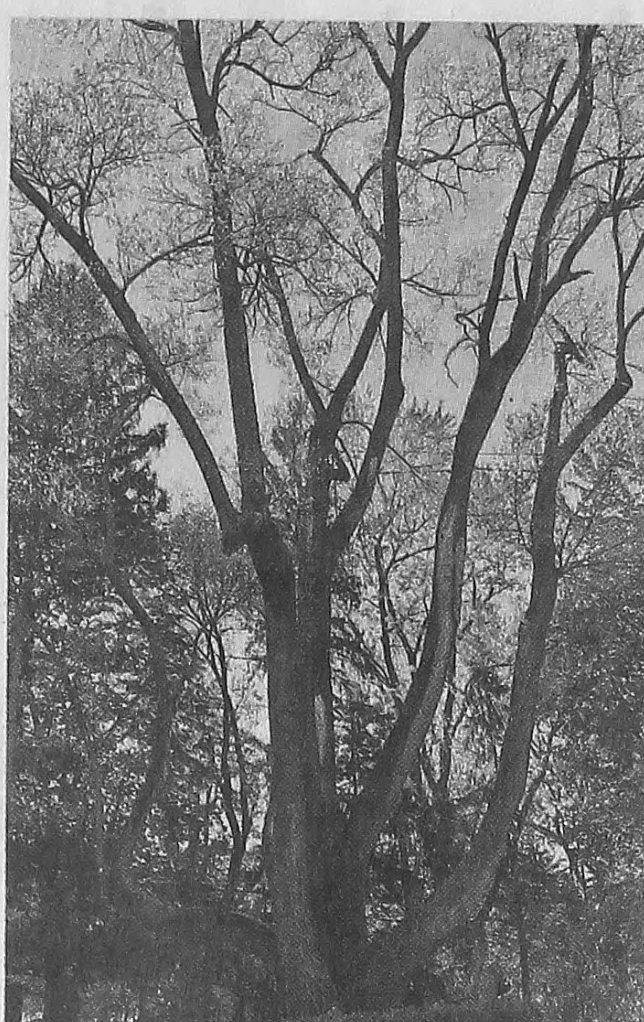
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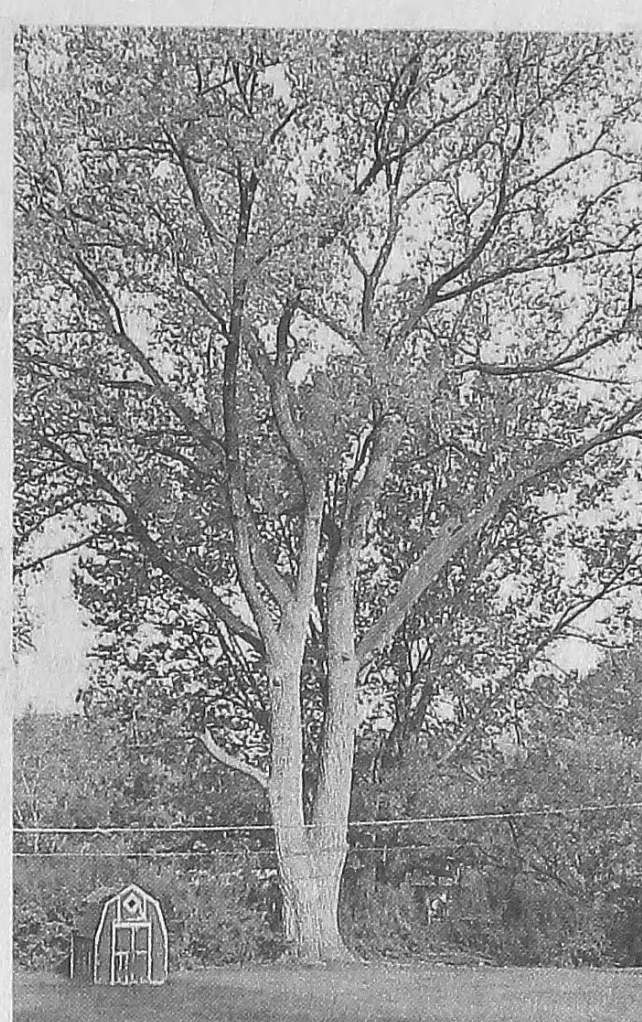
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Ruby Edwards takes the measure of a Bur Oak in Birmingham. COURTESY OF LARA EDWARDS



A Chinese elm in Farmington Hills is one of the entries in the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. COURTESY OF PAUL GROSS



A Cottonwood in Livonia is one of the entries in the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. Hundreds of trees have been entered so far. COURTESY OF TINO ASQUINI

Tree hunt

Continued from Page 1A

spread of 47 feet and scored a total of 246 points, according to the Michigan Botanical Club.

The Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest was started in 1993. Trees must be living and accessible for verification. Tree size is determined by circumference, which is measured around the trunk.

Trees already listed in the Michigan Big Tree Register are not eligible.

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online

by Sept. 3. To enter a tree or for more information, visit www.bigtreehunt.com. Brochures and printed entry forms are also available at any local library.

All participants will be invited to the awards ceremony in late 2019.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

Primary

Continued from Page 2A

Intyre had 8,059, McCullough had 5,631, Donovic had 5,009, McDonnell had 4,579, Davis had 4,317, Coppola had 3,823 and Duggan had 3,311.

Candidates Steve King, Nicholas Turco, Gerald Perez and Leo Weber did not earn enough votes to be put on the November ballot.

The most popular candidates among polled voters

were Bahr, Donovic, Coppola and Davis.

"He's very involved, I've seen him at Greenmead and some of the Livonia Civic Chorus events," Musick said of Bahr. "He's very active, he's a very personable fellow."

Livonia residents will vote again Nov. 5, at which time they will elect a new mayor and four city council members.

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

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Voters pass Livonia schools proposals

Shelby Tankersley | HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in Livonia and part of Westland headed to the polls Aug. 6 and made their decision regarding Livonia Public Schools' two proposals: a renewal of its operating millage and replacement of its sinking fund.

Voters in both communities supported both the non-homestead millage and sinking fund tax increase. The millage passed 1,253-575 in Westland and 10,566-3,507 in Livonia. For the sinking fund, Livonia supported it, 8,357-5,709, and Westland approved it, 1,031-805.

Vote totals are unofficial until certified by the county.

"We are so grateful to our LPS community for their passage of both millage proposals this evening," Superintendent Andrea Oquist wrote in an email that day. "This is a meaningful and long-term investment in our schools, our students and our district. We value the partnership we share with our community and truly believe we are 'better together!' Thank you for the tremendous support you have given to Livonia Public Schools and the students we serve."

When residents were polled Aug. 6, many parents and alumni of the district said they were supporting the proposals for the benefit of the students.

"I have two kids in Livonia Public Schools," said Brenda Tallent. "So I voted yes."

Others weren't quite so supportive. "They've got enough money," said



Voters wait to cast their ballots in the primary election Aug. 6 at Clarenceville Junior High. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

resident Bill King.

The district's operating millage levies 18 mills on non-homestead properties. School officials asked the community to renew the millage without a tax increase to most homeowners.

The millage can help the district put funds toward nearly every area in its budget, from employee salaries to building maintenance.

Unlike the non-homestead millage,

residents were asked to pay more toward Livonia Public Schools' sinking fund in the proposed replacement. The 0.49 mill hike will result in about \$50 more annually per homeowner, increasing the \$5 million the district has received from the fund annually to \$7 million.

LPS officials previously said the replaced fund will go toward improving the roofs, boilers and parking lots across

its 23 buildings. Technology and school security have also been considered as fund uses.

A big change for both proposals is that they will now operate under 10-year terms instead of the previous five-year terms.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at [@shelby_tankk](https://twitter.com/shelby_tankk).

Chef

Continued from Page 1A

"That's what kind of hooked me into the convention center world," he said. "I did my first auto show and I was hooked."

"I just loved the volume and the intensity."

Kevin Aspinall, one of the co-owners of Epoch Catering, said Wilson was chosen for the job because of his skill set. He said the company conducted a national search and found Wilson's talents

to be best-suited for keeping the energy up at the convention center.

"We were looking for ... somebody that could handle the volume of business we have here," he said. "I think he was a very good fit."

Wilson is tweaking the menus for the banquet center and the attached restaurant, as well as working with the staff currently employed in both kitchens in the convention center on the east and west side, which includes the new wing that opened nearly a year ago.

He's brought two new appetizers to the menu already, including a grits frit-

ter with a spicy red pepper jelly, as well as a firecracker pork belly, slow smoked overnight and pan seared on a stove glazed with a peach barbecue sauce and topped with a pickled jalapeño.

While his training is more influenced by classical French cuisine, Wilson knows there are plenty of dietary adjustments needed as more people eat vegan or require gluten- or nut-free dishes. That's a trend, he said, that has been growing and isn't going away.

"You have to be versatile in this line of business," he said. "In the last 10-15 years, that particular requirement has

been greatly increased."

While he took the hard route to becoming a chef, he knows the hard work he dedicated to his craft led him to where he is today. It's something he doesn't take for granted.

"I knew I wanted to do this when I was eight years old," he said. "There's something about cooking that gave me peace and comfort, and I was just always drawn to it."

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

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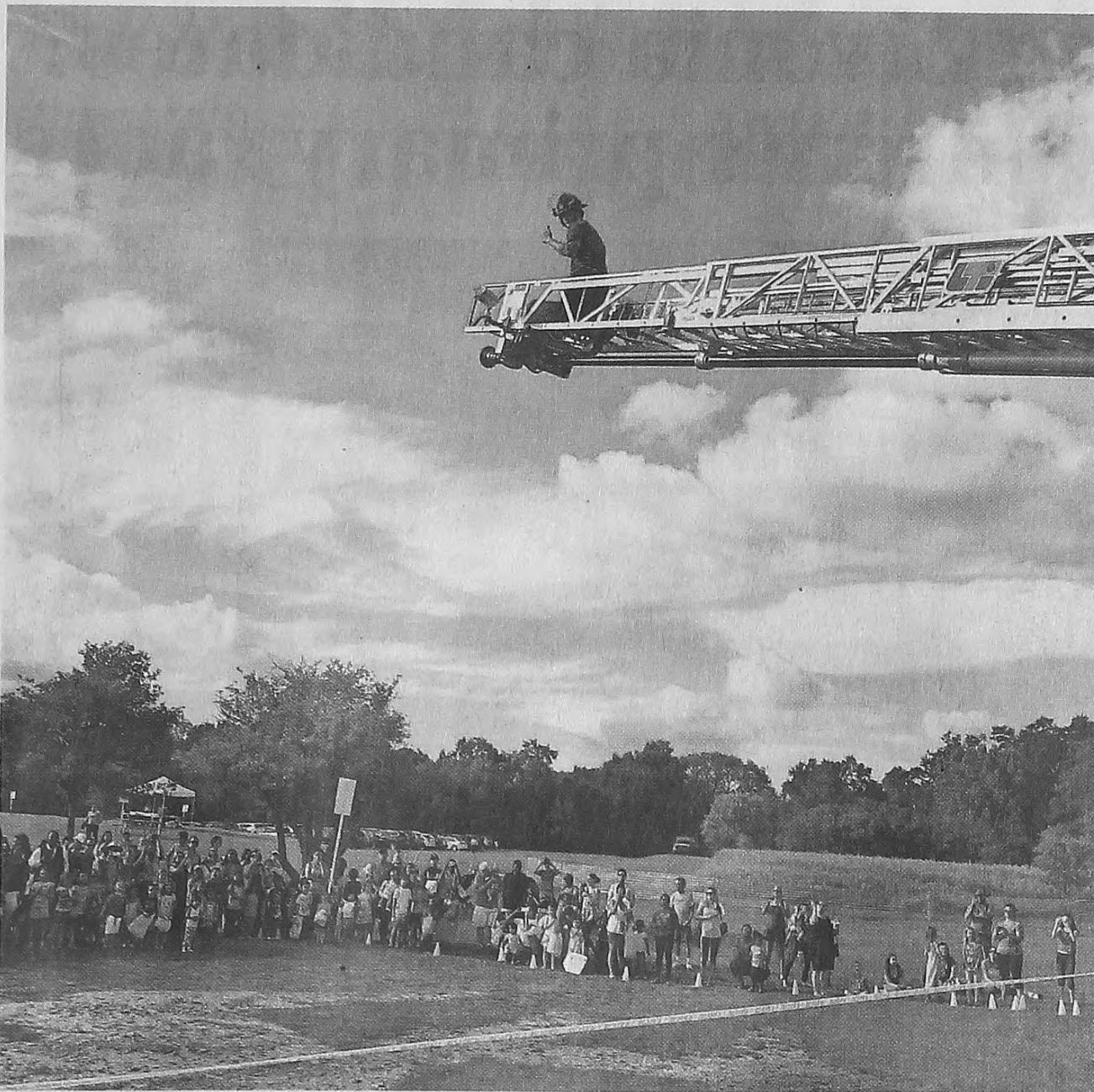
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The Marshmallow Fly and Fry returns to Farmington Hills on Aug. 13. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Annual Marshmallow Fly and Fry set for Aug. 13 in Farmington Hills

Have some family fun and see the city's largest campfire ever at the annual Marshmallow Fly and Fry, from 5-8 p.m. Aug. 13 at Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

The City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, the Fire Department, and Busch's Fresh Food Market have partnered to create a fun event where families can cook hot dogs and s'mores over the campfire, then watch over 1,000 marshmallows fall from the sky.

Also, enjoy the splash pad, play on the bouncer, check out the fire trucks, and a whole lot more.

Hot dogs, s'mores, drinks and socks for the bouncer (in case you forgot yours) will be available for \$1 per item.

After dinner, kids will line up and retrieve marshmallows dropped from the fire department ladder truck and can exchange them for goodies.

The event is free to attend. For more information, call 248-473-1800.

A123 Systems laying off dozens

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A123 Systems is laying off more employees as the company prepares to move into a new headquarters in Novi.

The lithium-ion battery manufacturer currently at 39000 Seven Mile in Livonia provided notice to the State of Michigan that it plans to lay off 42 employees later this year.

The layoffs are expected to take effect at the end of September and are expected to be permanent. Most of the jobs include production operators, process technicians, materials planning and logistics positions and several others.


"We expect the related layoffs to be permanent and we hope to accomplish these reductions with the least possible disruption to our employees and the community," the letter to the state read.

A message was left with A123 Systems seeking comment, but was not returned. The Livonia headquarters opened in 2010.

The layoffs aren't the first time the company has seen a staff reduction in recent years. A123 informed the state back in 2017 it would close its facility in Romulus, laying off 200 people at that facility and the world headquarters in Livonia. The company also announced in 2017 it would move to Novi, something that is still in the works: the new building, visible from Interstate 96 just west of Novi Road, is still under construction. There's no official word on when the company would relocate, though it's expected to happen later this year.

Beaumont Health is expected to take over the current headquarters. The Southfield-based health care provider had a site plan approved by the Livonia City Council in July. That new structure will consist of physician offices, an emergency room, and more.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.



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Who's funding Livonia candidates? Thousands went into primary races

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ahead of the Aug. 6 primary, thousands of dollars from Livonia and surrounding communities were poured into the campaigns of three mayoral hopefuls and the 12 city council candidates. Donors range from political action committees to the candidates themselves.

Candidates were required to report pre-primary earnings to Wayne County by July 21.

City council candidates Brian Duggan, Steve King, Gerald Perez, Nicholas Turco and Leo Weber did not have any reported contributions for this cycle.

Candidates for mayor

Maureen Miller Brosnan

Total raised: \$74,963

Total spent: \$58,890.17

Largest donor: Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters with \$10,000.

"From the very beginning of this grassroots campaign, Livonia residents have been generous in their financial contributions to our work, because they know my track record of leadership in the nonprofit sector, on Livonia City Council, and in the community shows I am ready to lead our city as mayor," Brosnan said. "I am grateful for all of my supporters."

Brosnan received correspondence from Wayne County on July 31, stating that the campaign's reports were filed improperly, resulting in the apparent discrepancy in the contributions report. Because of that, her campaign's total raised was \$26,907.

After receiving this correspondence, Brosnan submitted a new report, listing \$74,963 as her campaign's total raised during the pre-primary cycle.

Bruce Tenniswood

Total raised: \$10,111.46

Total spent: \$7,738.74

Largest Donor: Anthony Wallen, listed as an engineer with Link Engi-



Thousands of dollars from Livonia and surrounding communities were poured into the campaigns of three mayoral hopefuls and the 12 city council candidates ahead of the Aug. 6 primary election. GETTY IMAGES

neering, with \$2,000.

"When I started my campaign, I did not want this to be about spending astronomical amounts of money," Tenniswood said. "Money in politics creates very poor politics, so we had a campaign kickoff party that was a fundraiser and that was our one and only fundraiser that I did. We set our budget based on that fundraiser."

Laura Toy

Total raised: \$98,761.55

Total spent: \$20,138.58

Largest donor: Sharon Hartshorn, a self-employed person, with \$2,100.

"We had a lot of grassroots people and people that I've known over the years donate to me because they believe in what I've done in the city," Toy said. "I've used a lot of my personal funds because I believed I wanted to run and I was asked to run by many, and that's what you do."

\$701,675.55 of Toy's funds come from a combination of personal savings and past campaign donations.

Rob Donovic

Total raised: \$28,812.74

Total spent: \$15,966.11

Largest donor: Mohamed Alsomairi and Luk Dedvukaj, who each donated \$2,000.

Donovic received correspondence from Wayne County on August 2 stating that Donovic's campaign filed part of the financial report improperly.

Brandon McCullough

Total raised: \$6,695

Total spent: \$5,218.26

Largest donor: Brittany Huntzberry with \$366.

McCullough received correspondence from Wayne County on August 2 stating that McCullough's campaign filed part of the financial report improperly.

Eileen McDonnell

Total raised: \$150

Total spent: \$1,409.34

Largest donor: Linda Bernhardt with \$100

McDonnell received correspondence from Wayne County on August 1 stating that McDonnell's campaign filed part of the financial report improperly.

Kathleen McIntyre

Total raised: \$12,876.46

Total spent: \$9,747.85

Largest donor: Frank Zaitshik with \$1,000

McIntyre received correspondence from Wayne County on August 2 stating that McIntyre's campaign filed part of the financial report improperly.

Contact **Shelby Tankersley** at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Candidates for City Council

Scott Bahr

Total raised: \$21,806.02

Total spent: \$8,391.02

Largest donor: Phil Bahr, Karen Martin and the Realtors Political Action Committee of Michigan all donated \$500.

Bahr received correspondence from Wayne County on Aug. 1 stating that Bahr's campaign filed part of the financial report improperly.

Gregory Coppola

Total raised: \$14,709.62

Total spent: \$4,781.12

Largest donor: Richard Felton with \$500

James Davis Jr.

Total raised: \$11,355

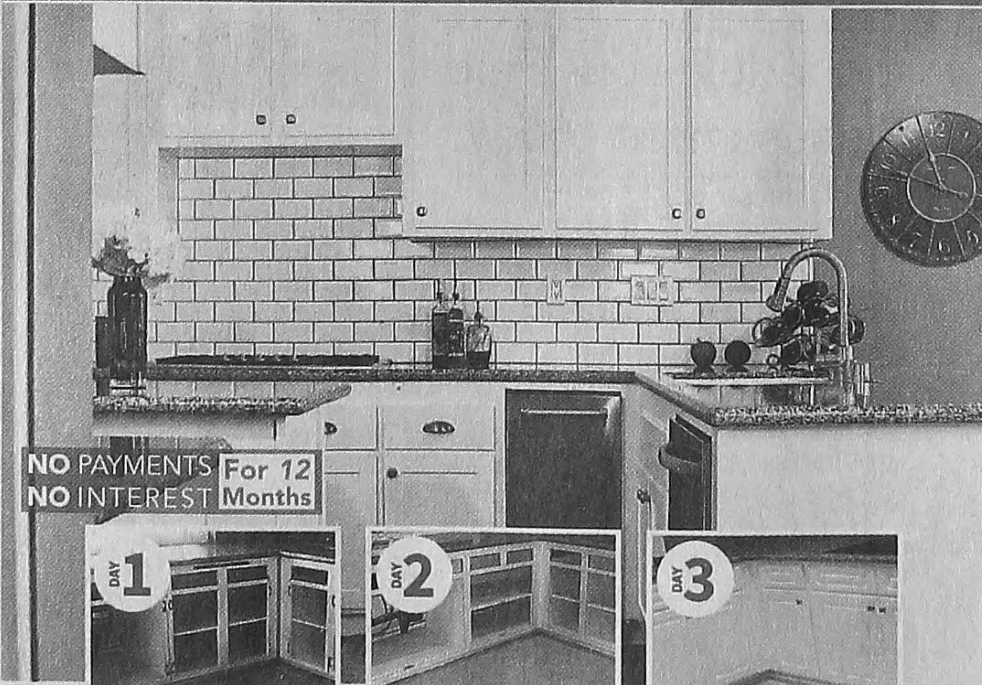
Total spent: \$2,868.19

Largest donor: Steve Hale, with State Farm Insurance, with \$2,100

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Law could hold back 3rd-grade students who struggle to read

Mark Johnson Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING — A controversial reading law takes effect this school year and Michigan State University researchers say it could lead to thousands of students having to repeat third grade.

That is, if parents and administrators don't find a way to push the child through to fourth grade.

Michigan's Read by Third Grade law, approved in 2016, requires schools to identify students struggling to read through school-issued tests, then give those students individualized reading improvement plans, access to early literacy coaches and a reading intervention program, among other resources.

It leads up to the Michigan Student Test of Education Progress (M-STEP) in the third-grade year.

Third graders with cut scores of 1,252 or lower in the English and language arts portion of the test could be held back.

Additional reading help will be recommended for students scoring between 1,253 and 1,271, but they will not be considered for retention.

Less than half of Michigan's third graders — 44.4% — met last year's reading proficiency standards.

Holding a student back is a decision that, ultimately, comes down to an administrator's discretion. Local superintendents say they are doing everything they can to avoid student retention.

"That's a big, big choice," said Adam Spina, Williamston Community Schools superintendent. "We will cross that bridge when we get to it in the spring. That is something that we would very closely have to evaluate."

What happens to 'deficient' readers?

M-STEP results come out in the spring, as will notices to those parents whose children fall short of "proficient" in the English and language arts section.

The notices will warn parents that their children could be forced to repeat third grade. But some loopholes could push them on to fourth grade anyway.

There are eight ways a student who falls short might still move up a grade, like if the student was already retained in kindergarten through third grade or if the student has an individualized educational plan. Exemptions also apply for students with less than three years in English language learning courses.

Students also could advance if the superintendent agrees with a parent who argues moving the student on would be in the student's best interest.

"Retention is a very, very serious decision and it's a decision you make with a whole host of factors with reading being one of them," said Lansing School District Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul, who will retire before the retention decisions are made for her school district.

MSU study shows thousands of third graders could repeat under law

A Michigan State University study shows superintendents across the state could soon be faced with that tough decision.

MSU Education Policy Innovation Collaborative researchers analyzed last year's M-STEP scores, finding that 2,000 to 5,000 students statewide did not score "proficient" in the English and language arts section and would be recommended for retention under the new law.

That includes seven to 11% of African-American third grade students and up to 10% of special education students, according to the study.

While the retention numbers appear concerning, researchers pointed to the true reason for the law and the help it could give Michigan students.

"The purpose of the law is not punitive. People have focused a lot on the retention numbers," said Katharine Strunk, professor of education policy at MSU and co-director of EPIC.

Caamal Canul considered the law another example of overreach by state legislators.

"We are all focused now, not that we haven't been, on making sure students read from the grade from which they leave," she said.

Lansing schools have literacy specialists placed in schools, issue reading proficiency tests during the year and monitor struggling students between the tests, Caamal Canul said. But reading proficiency rates still have remained stagnant for the school district for the past several school years.

Michigan Department of Education Data shows less than half of the district's third grade students, just 29.6%, scored proficient on the M-STEP English and language arts section last year. It's up from 24.4% in the 2016-17 tests.

Caamal Canul questioned whether M-STEP scores are accurate indicators of whether a student is a proficient reader. She doubts whether there is any alignment between school reading programs and what the M-STEP determines is third grade reading proficiency.

Williamston Community Schools saw 71.9% of third grade students scoring proficient on last year's M-STEP. Early childhood literacy is a calling card for the school district, Spina said.

His district will continue reading efforts and assure students get the help they need to avoid retention. Spina would consider "a whole slew of caveats" before deciding if retention is in the best interest of the student.

Administrators at Eaton Rapids Public Schools — where third graders scored an overall 49.4% English and language arts proficiency rate on the M-STEP last year — are taking a proactive approach by simulating the outcomes a year ahead of time.

They placed about 22 incoming third graders expected to score lower on the M-STEP in a class with a specialized literacy teacher who will provide a curriculum geared toward helping the students, Eaton Rapids Superintendent Bill DeFrance said.

Helping students read statewide

Struggling readers aren't unique to local schools. Students around the state struggle to reach their reading goals, said Tanya Wright, an associate professor of language and literacy at MSU's Department of Teacher Education.

Many reading problems come down to two aspects of reading — actually reading the word and comprehending the meaning. Some students can do one but struggle to do the other, Wright said.

"This also means that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to supporting children who are having difficulty learning to read," she said in an email.

Bill DiSessa, Michigan Department of Education spokesperson, said initial third grade reading legislation concerned him since early discussions included a provision to automatically retain all third grade students not reading up to their reading level.

He supported the benefits of the law, including intervention for struggling students and a focus to increase reading levels statewide, a move that he hopes will make Michigan one of the top in the country when it comes to education within the next decade.

Assuring a student can read by third grade proves crucial to the rest of their educational career, DiSessa said.

"A child learns to read by grade three and after that reads to learn," DiSessa said. "If there is a problem ... sometimes it affects the rest of the child's education and development moving forward."

"It's very important that children read to learn by grade three."

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.

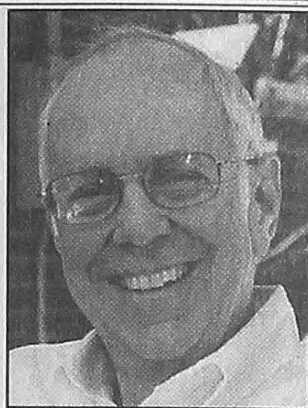
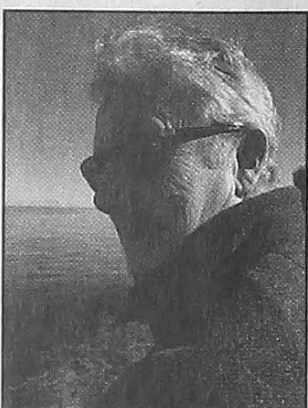
Loving husband of Lisa (née Frontero), beloved father of Sarah Roldán-Dodson (Seth Dodson) and Christina Roldán, and dedicated grandfather of Sofia, Eliza, William and Charles. Al is also survived by his brother Juan (Kathy) Roldán. Al was deeply devoted to his late mother, Maria Luisa Matanzas LoCicero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

In loving tribute

Frances Evelyn Nolte

NEW BRANFORD, CT - Frances Evelyn Nolte died peacefully in her home in New Branford, CT on August 4, 2019 at the age of 93. She was born in New York City on April 14, 1926 to Evelyn and Manfred Messner. She graduated with a BA in Literature from Duke University, after which she worked at B. Altman & Company and Condé Nast in New York City. In 1951, she married Henry R. Nolte, Jr., whom she met during their college days at Duke.

"Sis" was a supportive and loving wife and mother who enjoyed painting, gardening, sailing and entertaining friends at their homes throughout the years in New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, England, Connecticut and Florida. She loved traveling, playing tennis and golf with her friends and children and having wonderful family holidays in Michigan, Florida and abroad. She was a supporter of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Institute of Arts, Cranbrook Educational Community, The Society of The Four Arts and Planned Parenthood. She was a member of the Ocean Club of Florida, the Everglades Club and Gulfstream Golf Club.

She is survived by: brothers, Warren and Robert Messner; children, her son Henry Reed Nolte, and daughters Gwynne Conn, Jennifer Stevens, and Suzanne Saunders; grandchildren, Diana Conn, Hannah, Emma, and Henry Nolte, Suzanna and Alexandra Stevens, and Isabella and Ethan Saunders; daughter-in-law Leslie Nolte and son-in-laws Mark Stevens and Scott Saunders. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Episcopal Church on the Guilford Green, 11 Park Street, Guilford, Connecticut 06437.

Harry "Bud" Porter Keller

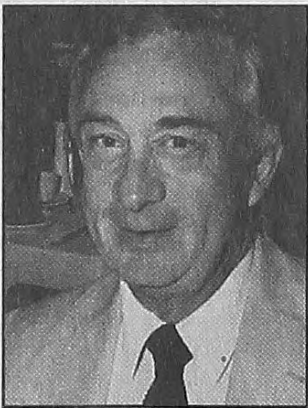
HASTINGS - Harry "Bud" Porter Keller passed away on August 1, 2019 at the age of 93. Harry was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 18, 1926, the son of Harry Raymond and Norma (Porter) Keller.

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.





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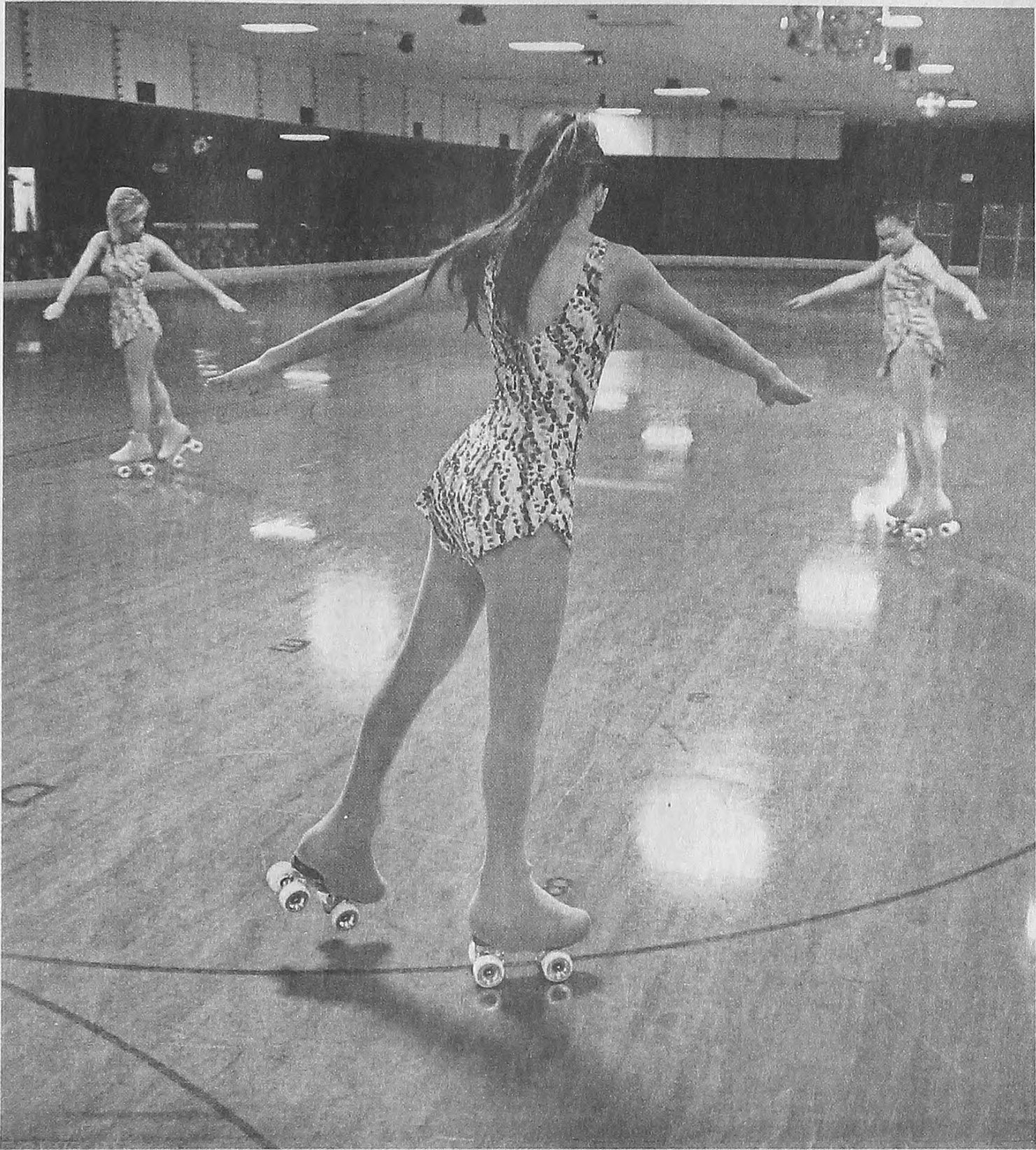
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Sports



Members of Canton's Skatin' Station Artistic Roller Skating Club practice their moves Aug. 6. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton skating club brings home the gold

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It was a big year for the Skatin' Station Artistic Roller Skating Club. The Canton-based club saw all seven of its skaters qualify for the USA Roller Skating national tournament in Spokane, Washington, and had three of its team members bring home a combined seven medals – three of them gold. Amanda Smyser, 21, from Livonia, took home gold in advanced figures and earned two bronze medals in junior solo dance and figures and loops combined. It was her seventh year with the team and her ninth year competing in figure roller skating. “I’ve always loved skating,” Smyser said. “I had outdoor skates when I was little and I would skate outside on the cement. I didn’t even know that this existed. Who knew artistic roller skating was a thing? ... I saw all these girls in skating dresses and I was like ‘I want to do that,’ and I had no clue it was a thing, I wish it was more well known.” She has qualified for nationals each

See GOLD, Page 2B



Amanda Smyser, center, stands on the podium after winning a gold medal at the USA Roller Skating national competition in July in Spokane, Washington. COURTESY OF BRENDA SMYSER

Oakland Hills closer to South Course renovation

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A year after approving the renovation of its South Course with a design by renowned golf architect Gil Hanse, Oakland Hills Country Club announced the overwhelming approval of its members to move forward with the project that will now include a PrecisionAire system. PrecisionAire uses the latest technology to dry, cool and heat the green subsurface to ensure high-quality surface conditions throughout golf season. The renovation work will begin Oct. 1. The course, which has hosted U.S. Open championships, PGA championships and a Ryder Cup match, will close for the renovation beginning in October, and is expected to reopen in spring 2021. The Club’s North Course, the site of the 2019 and 2012 Michigan Amateur and 2016 U.S. Amateur, will remain open throughout the South Course renovation. “The PrecisionAire system will help fulfill our vision for a consistently great day-to-day member experience on the renovated South Course,” club President Tom Stacy said. “This long-term investment received enthusiastic support from the membership, validating our commitment to our vision. Oakland Hills South Course will be the first course in Michigan to have this type of technology, which courses like the Merion Golf Club, Bel-Air Country Club and TPC Sawgrass have added in recent years.” COO and club General Manager Rory Godfrey added, “PrecisionAire will provide benefits through the spring, summer and fall for optimal growing

See RENOVATION, Page 2B

Register for the 50th anniversary O&E golf tourney

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The 50th annual Observer & Eccentric Open golf tournament is Sept. 1-2. The 36-hole men’s tournament will be split between two courses: Fox Creek Golf Course on Sunday and Whispering Willows Golf Course on Monday. Both are in Livonia. The maximum handicap is 20. The cost per golfer is \$105 and includes a commemorative anniversary gift. The event is limited to the first 120 entries. Registration ends at 6 p.m. Aug. 26. For more information and to register, visit www.golflivonia.com. The women’s Observer & Eccentric Open golf tournament took place Aug. 3 and was won by Lori Rogers, who shot a 76. Debra Horning finished second with an 80 and Shelly Weiss placed third with an 82.



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Olympic swimmer Murphy to visit school in Birmingham

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Ryan Murphy, three-time Olympic gold medalist and world-record holder, will visit Goldfish Swim School in Birmingham on Aug. 11.

The swim school was named the top fundraiser of Float It Forward, raising \$24,751 to benefit the USA Swimming Foundation and its Make A Splash Initiative.

The initiative supports lesson providers with grant funding, resources and materials to allow the opportunity for every child across the country to learn to swim.

Goldfish Swim School raised funds through silent auctions, community partnerships, donation-based family swim events, membership fee donations, and front desk fishbowls.

As the top fundraiser, Goldfish Swim

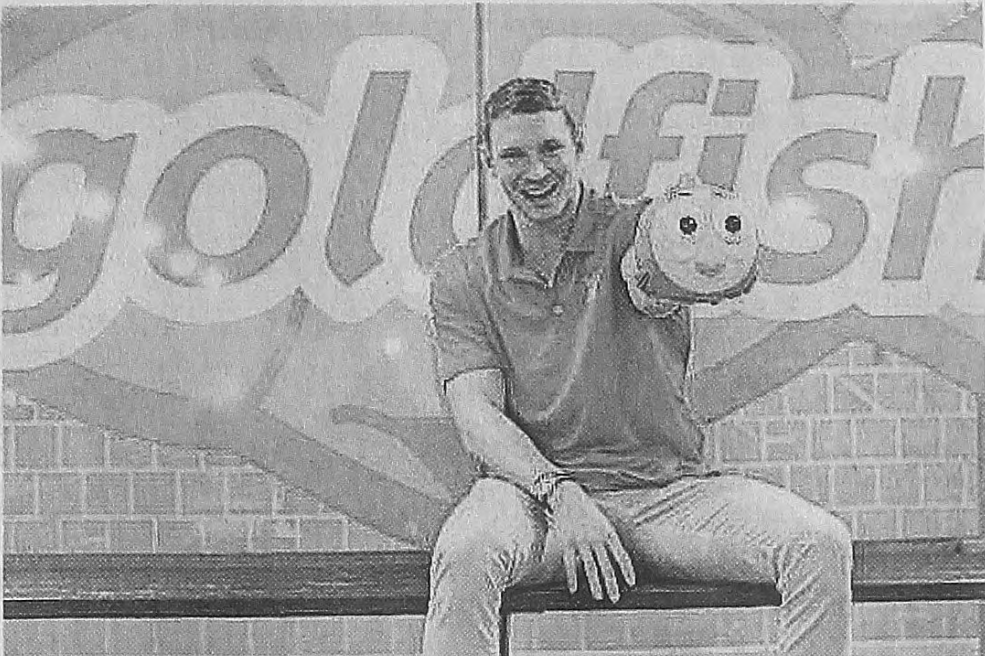
School-Birmingham was gifted a \$2,500 donation from the franchise office to be donated to Detroit Swims, which was the school's charity of choice.

As part of their prize, the school is also receiving this special meet-and-greet opportunity with Murphy.

The schedule for his visit follows:

- **4-6:15 p.m.:** Murphy will attend Goldfish Swim School's Swim Force Practice, providing tips and inspiration to the future generation of swimmers.
- **6:15-7:15 p.m.:** VIP Meet & Greet for Float It Forward donors.
- **7:15-8:30 p.m.:** Goldfish Swim School Members Meet & Greet/Celebration
- **7:45-8 p.m.:** Goldfish Swim School-Birmingham Facebook Live

Goldfish Swim School is at 2388 Cole St., Ste 101, Birmingham. For more information contact Kelly McNamara at kmcnamara@fishmanpr.com.



Olympic gold medalist swimmer Ryan Murphy will be visiting the Goldfish Swim School on Sunday in Birmingham. ANNA JENSEN



A woman plays an early-morning round at Oakland Hills Country Club's South Course in 2018. The South Course will close in October for a renovation project that now includes the installation of PrecisionAire, a system that can dry, cool and heat the green subsurface to ensure high-quality conditions throughout golf season. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Renovation

Continued from Page 1B

and performance conditions on the green complexes by controller moisture content and temperature, using sensors in the greens."

The renovation project:

- Addresses various areas with linear and penal bunkering and replaces them with risk- and reward-oriented features.
- Introduces modern technology and improved infrastructure to a 100-year-old course.

- Rebuilds what many consider to be the best green complexes in the country, keeping the traditional Oakland Hills undulations.
- Improves the greens' subsurface to promote consistent drainage and surface conditions.
- Adds new grass surfaces on the greens to perform at peak levels throughout the playing season.
- Increases the size of the greens to allow additional hole locations.
- Provides championship bunker conditions.
- Ensures high-quality grass surfaces throughout the property.
- Addresses strategic placement of

forward tees and extends the championship tees to more than 7,500 yards.

- Includes a new irrigation system and pumps.
- Extends peak playing conditions on each side of the season.

"We appreciate that the membership has approved all renovation plans for the South Course at Oakland Hills," said Hanse, founder of Hanse Golf Course Design. "We are now looking forward to beginning the project as we look to combine the best attributes of the original Donald Ross design, with the finest aspects of the course evolution that has occurred over the last 60-plus years."

"Our goal is to maximize the potential

of this exceptional golfing landscape and this masterpiece of a golf course."

Founded in 1916, Oakland Hills has hosted six U.S. Open championships, three PGA championships, the Ryder Cup, two U.S. Senior Open championships, two U.S. Amateur championships and a U.S. Women's Amateur championship.

Dubbed "The Monster" by Ben Hogan, the Ross-designed South Course was enhanced by Robert Trent Jones prior to the 1951 U.S. Open Championship and Rees Jones prior to the 2008 PGA Championship.

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiillenc@hometownlife.com.

Gold

Continued from Page 1B

of the past seven years and now has eight total medals. This was the first time she won gold since 2016.

"It was great because I didn't know (I had won)," Smyser said. "The whole event was sitting there and no one knew what they got. When they announced it, I was excited, happy, I stood up and (coach) Vickie (Hudson) gave me a hug. Everyone around was so happy for us. It was overwhelming."

Since graduating from Livonia Franklin, Smyser has worked as a manager at Skatin' Station and teaches lessons. She's attending Schoolcraft College this fall to earn a degree in business and hopes it will help her become a successful coach in her own right.

Coached by USA Roller Skating Hall of Fame inductee Hudson, Smyser has

received more responsibilities and is one of the team's leaders. She's been with the group longer than anyone else on the team.

Also receiving medals at the national competition were Jade Zhang, 13, and Mahira Tandon, 13. Both are from Canton.

Zhang picked up a gold medal in loops, while Tandon earned a gold in elementary advanced figures and loops, and silver medals in loops and combined figures and loops.

Melia Conners, 15, Arya Shah, 9, Ishana Shah, 11 and Sinchana Gowda, 10, all from Canton, also qualified for nationals.

"We're like a big family, especially this year," Smyser said. "We really got super close."

The team skates five days a week for about four hours per day.

For \$50 a month, every member of the team gets unlimited access to Skatin' Station in Canton.

The competitive season runs from October to July.

For anyone interested in learning how to figure roller skate or join the team, lessons are available through the Skatin' Station website at www.skatinstation2.com/content/index/skate-lessons. A typical package with five weeks' worth of lessons costs about \$50. There are lessons available for all skill levels.

"I've been teaching for 40 years and I still love it," Hudson said. "I love going to work every day. I don't care if it's a beginner or if it's an advanced skater. For about 12 years straight, I had people on the World team and a lot of world champions. This group that is starting, I hope to get them there down the road. I've been traveling the world and skating my whole life."

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



Amanda Smyser pauses to remember how many medals she has won in roller skating artistic competitions over the years. The 21-year-old has been competing since she was 14. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

This expansion won't die of old age



Ken Fisher
Columnist
USA TODAY

Happy birthday to America's longest-ever economic expansion. June marked 10 years of growth, matching 1991–2001 as the longest expansion in U.S. history. And the good news continues. Third-quarter numbers will set records.

But rather than partying, most pundits are preparing eulogies. This expansion is too old, they fret. Wrong! Economic cycles don't die of old age. The more folks fear that myth, the more I want to party. Whatever finally kills this 120-month upswing, it won't be the fact that it's more than twice as old as the 58-month average for U.S. expansions since World War II. To understand this, think globally.

Australia finished its 27th year of uninterrupted growth in 2018. It's still running strong. Britain grew from 1992–2008 – a 16-year-long streak. That one, of course, got clobbered by the 2008–09 financial crisis.

So, if age didn't kill these longer expansions, why should it doom America's now? People think about many phenomena as they do about biological life, where relative old age within any species eventually kills – technically called senescence. Senescence is irrelevant to economies. Expansions die from multi-trillion-dollar negative shocks. Historically, central banks, such as our Federal Reserve, often were the culprit. They have often misread the tea leaves, feared an inflationary overheated reality and tightened evermore while the economy weakened. While I don't think rate cuts are necessary now, that central banks globally are starting to cut shows they don't fear overheating now.

Nor should they. This expansion has averaged quarterly GDP growth in the low 2% annual range. Sluggish! The postwar average pre-2009 was 3.3% including recessions. Until last August, wage growth hit 3% year over year in just one month this entire cycle. Fed data show workers with only a high school degree (or less) fared worse, with wages falling 4.2% in total from 2007 to 2013. They didn't regain pre-recession levels



This long, slow economic expansion is history's most hated. GETTY IMAGES

until 2017. Nearly any economic metric you examine – inflation, loan and money supply growth, industrial output, consumer spending – shows slow growth.

The cause? The Federal Reserve and its early long-executed "quantitative easing" – bond buying it wrongly called "stimulus." Why? That bond buying lowered long-term interest rates. Fed officials thought that would make for eager borrowers. But banks must supply those loans. Banks fund long-term lending by borrowing at short-term rates. Hence, that spread, between short and long-term rates – the infamous "yield curve" spread – is a proxy for new lending's profitability. The Fed's lowering long rates when short-term rates were near zero pinched the profitability of lending. So banks lent be-

grudgingly. Businesses struggled to get credit. The quantity of money didn't grow, keeping inflation low and economic growth dragging. The Fed's quantitative Quaalude turned an economic "boom" into a low, long, joyless trudge toward growth.

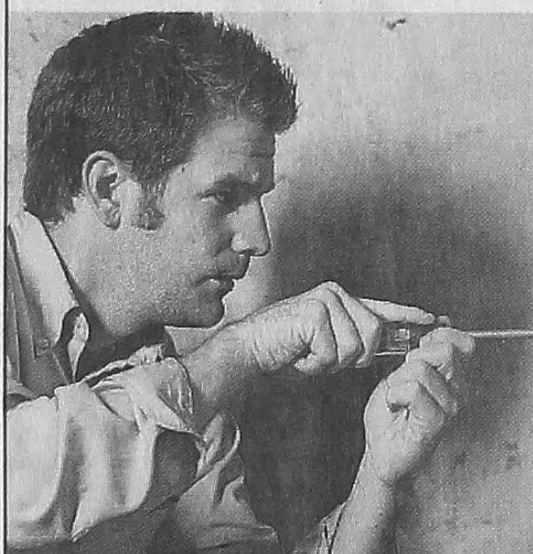
This longest, slowest expansion has another accolade: It is history's most hated. Throughout, pundits have dissed growth. Early on, it was normal freaked-out skepticism, folks fearing a depression, double-dip or Japanese-style lost decade. Those fears never fully vanished. Every wiggly growth slowdown – typical variations within any economic cycle – spur recession fear to this day. See current worries over slowing manufacturing data. Pundits claim this wobbly old economic upswing is dying before their eyes.

As I detailed recently, other people's fears are your friend. They keep euphoria at bay and lower expectations. That makes positive surprise easier to attain, buoying stocks. That also explains why history's longest bull market runs parallel to this long joyless expansion – twin long, slow ascents.

Forget fears of age killing this expansion. As long as folks hate this still-growing U.S. economy, stocks have room to climb.

Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments and is No. 200 on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher. The views and opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.

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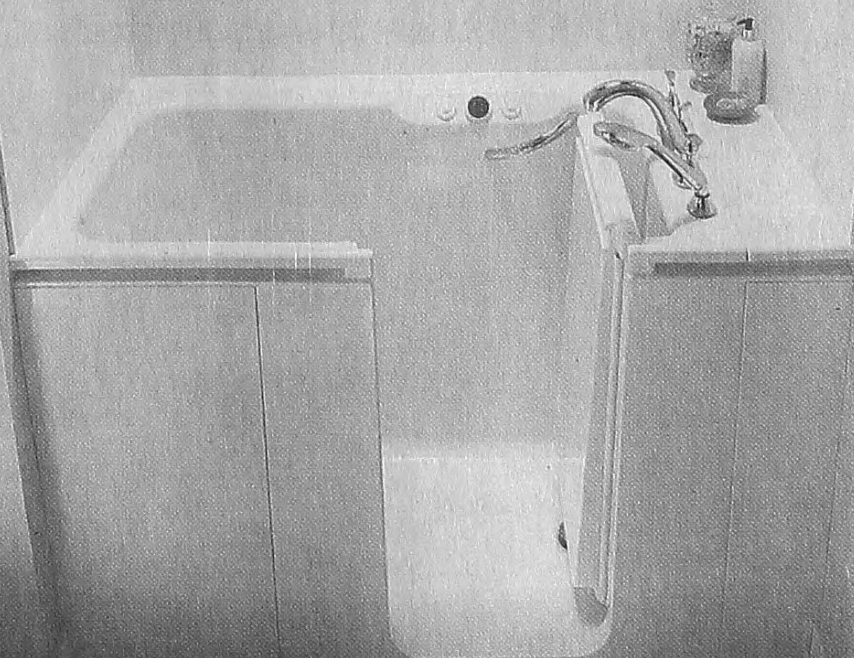
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HOW I BECAME A ...

Being the life of
the parties is a
passion and a job

Mindy Weiss helps create memories

Susannah Hutcheson
Special to USA TODAY

From her beginnings as a custom invitation designer to planning massive celebrity events and weddings, Mindy Weiss dominates the event planning space. Weiss' magic touch has been seen on everything from Diana Ross' 75th birthday celebration and the wedding of Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi to nuptials on ABC's "The Bachelor" and the elaborate first birthday extravaganza Stormiworld for Travis Scott and Kylie Jenner's daughter Stormi.

USA TODAY caught up with the sought-after event planner, author and lifestyle expert to talk about everything from working 40 hours in a single week-end to planning events for the Kardashian family.

Question: How did you get your start in the business?

Mindy Weiss: I designed custom invitations out of my garage at my home, and everybody would come to the house and I would do these creative, really off-the-charts, crazy invitations. I did that for probably about seven years until one of my clients said, "Could you just do the whole party?" I actually didn't want to be an event planner because I did a lot of event planner invitations for their jobs, and often they were so cranky and miserable. I thought, I'll never do that! I was asked to do a party, he wouldn't take "no" for an answer, and I planned that one party. I need to say that I grew up in a home where my mother gave the most fantastic parties – she was insanely talented and she stepped out of the box – so it was kind of in my blood, and once I did

that one party it became like a drug.

Q: What does a typical workday look like for you?

Weiss: I get up at 6 a.m., lay in bed until 7 a.m., then I get dressed and do pilates three to four times a week. I'm in my office at 9. Monday is a hard day because I've just come off the weekend of parties and people are very anxious on Mondays. Monday is a day of phone calls and catching up, and then I work until about 7 and then I rush over to my grandchildren to give them kisses and hopefully get to put them to bed. Then, I'm home by probably 8:30, and then I start all over again.

On the day of an event, we meet with the staff and have an early breakfast to review the whole thing or the whole weekend. We start at 8 a.m., and then I pretty much can only last until mid-night, so the girls will stay until it ends. Sometimes they're getting back home or in their hotel rooms at 6 a.m. It's a long day, a long process – first ones there, last to leave.

Q: What does your creative process look like?

Weiss: Thank God for Pinterest, because it's really helped in knowing what the client loves and doesn't love. Sometimes they'll come to me with 10 different looks, so it's up to us to eliminate and then kind of focus into one look. Once we get that down, then we design around that. We do a set-up for a client where we have the flowers, the tables, we give them choices of dishes and all the tableware, and we try to show them as much as we can to give them an idea of what it will look like that day.

Q: What is your favorite thing



Mindy Weiss says the best part of her job is being a part of people's memories. VALORIE DARLING

about your job?

Weiss: My favorite thing is being part of people's memories. It is such a huge responsibility, and I've been honored to be included in their life memories.

Q: What have been some of your career highlights?


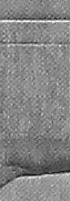
Weiss: Diana Ross's 75th birthday; parties for Beyoncé; and one of my most exciting is working for Oprah. Now, I have to tell you, working for the Kardashians – kindest family ever. They are so creative, and they push me to another level. Kanye (West) really makes you think – “Nope, bring it to the next level!” – so I've learned so much from them, and Kris (Jenner) is everything.


When I hear someone say anything negative about them, I just want to say, you have no idea. They are very special.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Weiss: A lot of people think this job is very luxurious, and that you get dressed up to go to parties every Saturday night, but this is a seven-days-a-week job. It is hard, it is pressure, you need to be patient, you need to want to work hard, and you need to be able to keep a lot of secrets. If you can get up on Monday morning and start all over again after you worked 40 hours on the weekend or more, then this job is for you.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Plymouth District Library
PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR 2020 BUDGET**

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the 2020 Budget will be the subject of this hearing.

Carol Souchock, Director
Plymouth District Library

The District Library Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon (7) seven days' notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 X 217.

Published: August 11, 2019

LO-0000353021

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
THE NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
(ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE DISTRICT OR NPS IN THESE
DOCUMENTS) WILL ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR:
2019-20 FRESH MADE PIZZA FOR LUNCH SERVICE**

The RFP specifications and bidding documents will be made available on line at: www.michigan.gov/sigmavss or www.northville.k12.mi.us.

Proposals should be submitted to Michael Zopf, Assistant Superintendent, Northville Public Schools. Proposals are to be submitted no later than 11:00AM, Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at the Board of Education Office (Old Village School, 405 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167). The District will not consider or accept an electronic proposal, or a proposal received after the date and time specified for submission.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in whole or in part; or, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time or preference, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

The contents of the RFP and Bidder's (also referred to as Vendor in these documents) Proposal will become contractual obligations, if a contract ensues. Failure of the Bidder to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the award.

In compliance with MCL 380.1267, the proposal shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, or the superintendent of the school district. Additional certifications and acknowledgements are required, and the Board shall not accept a bid that does not include these disclosures, certifications and/or acknowledgements.

All bids shall be firm for at least sixty (60) days from the date of opening of bids. Length of time required for completion shall be specified in the bid. All bids submitted must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Bids are to be submitted on our Bid Proposal Form, signed by the bidder, in a sealed envelope clearly marked. Two (2) copies of the Bid Proposal Form should be addressed to the attention of:

Mr. Michael Zopf
Northville Public Schools
405 W. Main Street
Northville, MI 48167
"2019-20 Fresh Made Pizza for Lunch Service"

One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files. Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Ms. Carrie Morfino, morfinoca@northvilleschools.org, 248-344-3692, between 8 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST.

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Publish: August 11 & 15, 2019

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How to answer: 'What are you passionate about?'

Eric Titner
thejobnetwork.com

When we're on the job hunt in search of our next great career opportunity, many of us spend the bulk of our time in prep mode, where we do everything we can to try and get our foot in the door of a company that we want to work for. This includes research to see which companies are hiring, catching up on the latest industry news and trends, and frantic networking to kick open the doors of opportunity. Meanwhile, we're also polishing our cover letters and resumes until they're razor-sharp, and—if we're lucky enough to score an interview—spending an almost embarrassing amount of time thinking about what we're going to wear to make a perfect impression.

Sure, these are positive steps to take and will help you get closer to making your goal a reality. But the truth is, today's savvy interviewers are looking for more than just walking bulleted lists of skills and accomplishments. They want to make sure they hire well-rounded candidates who are passionate about work and life who will fit well into their company cultures. According to a recent article by Inc., "...employees who fit well with their organization, coworkers, and supervisor had greater job satisfaction, were more likely to remain with their organization, and showed superior job performance."

Think about it — hiring personnel are going to be bombarded with a blizzard of successful candidates who have the requisite abilities to handle the job effectively. Do you want to be just one more qualified person, or do you want to stand out from the crowd and make a deeper impression?

Hopefully, we've convinced you that



GETTY IMAGES

today's successful job candidates are able to demonstrate what motivates and drives them, and what they're truly passionate about in life — a question that is increasingly popping up during interviews. The truth is, many candidates (even ones who have prepared intensely) stumble when asked what they're passionate about during interviews. But you don't have to! Use the following strategies to help you hit a home run when this question comes flying your way.

Be honest

The truth is, seasoned hiring managers are great lie detectors and will likely know when you're telling the truth and when you're just floundering in an effort to try and make a good impression. Today's progressive companies often dedicate time, energy, and resources

to a variety of helpful humanitarian causes, and if your passions naturally align with theirs then that's a sign of a great fit. So, if you're truly passionate about helping orphans in third-world countries or dedicated to ending ocean pollution that's fantastic, but if you're just trying to make yourself sound good, chances are it will backfire — especially if you're asked follow-up questions that you don't have answers for. Being honest about what you're passionate about in life, whatever it is, is your best approach, and the right company will appreciate who you are and what moves you.

Be bold

Chances are if you're asked about what you're passionate about in life then so are those other qualified candidates, so do what you can to make sure

your response stands out. Use bold and genuine language and imagery when discussing your passions, and if you have a compelling story to back it all up, even better.

The goal here is to make a strong impression that you're the sort of person who dedicates 100% of themselves to the things in life that matter to you — an impression that lasts long after the interview is over.

Tie it all together

As previously mentioned, today's companies are bolstering their corporate brands by dedicating themselves to all sorts of worthwhile global causes, and if you can show how your passions complement theirs, it's really going to help you stand out as a potential hire. Also, try to tie your life's passions to your work life, if possible. Show how you're the sort of person who is naturally driven and motivated by professional challenges, and how work for you is more than just a paycheck. If you can convince interviewers that your passion for your work is undeniable, you're going to have a much better shot at demonstrating your potential value as a member of their team.

If you're looking to have a stand-out performance during interviews and make a lasting impression, then make sure that your passions — in work and in life — are made clear. Use the advice and strategies presented here to help make that happen, and to ensure that you're doing your absolute best while on the job hunt. Good luck!

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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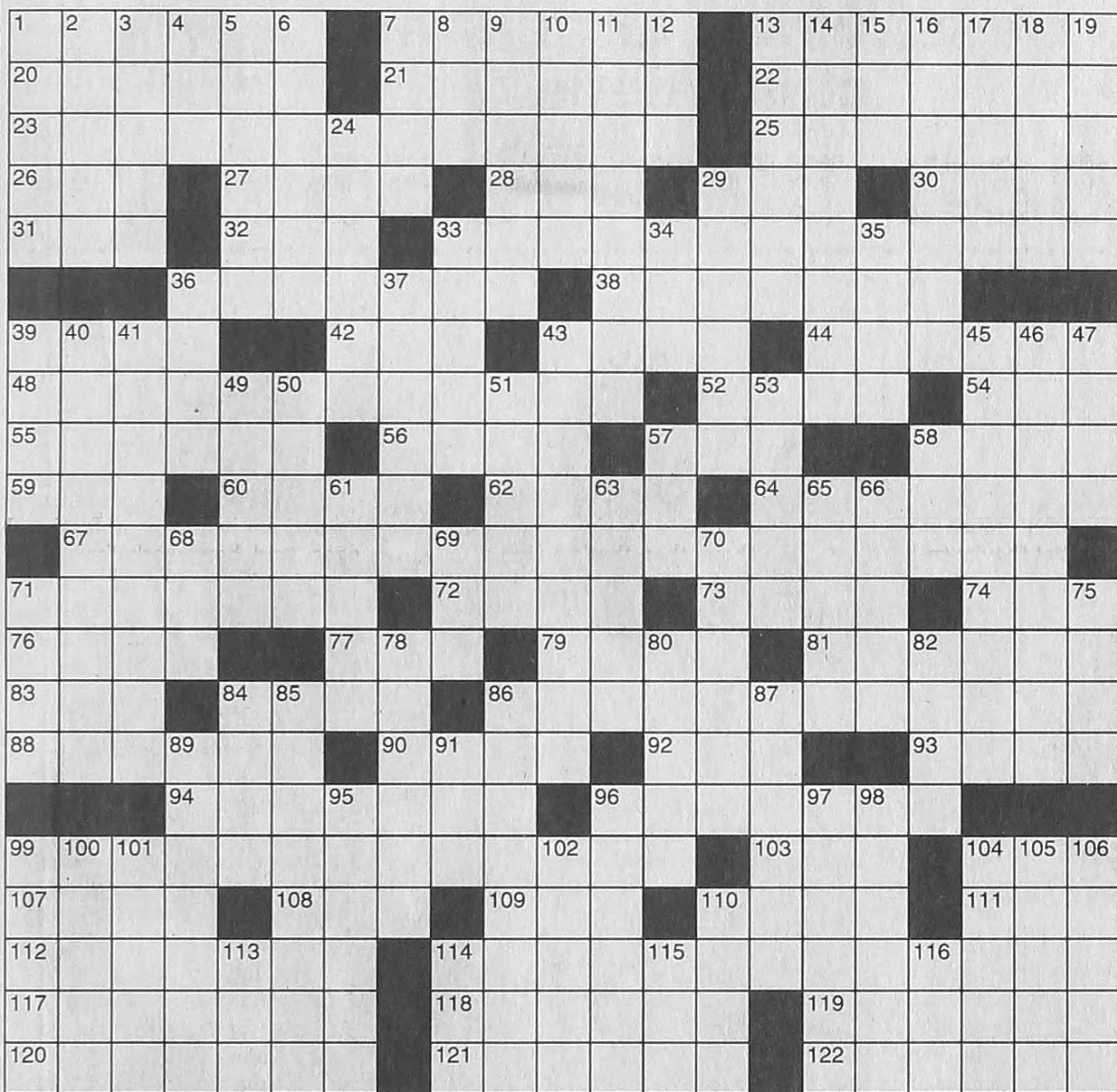
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7 Smithies' blocks
13 Mark with surface ridges
20 Wise goddess
21 Baby sock
22 Garden State capital
23 Money made by the poet who wrote "In a Station of the Metro"?
25 Lessees
26 Port on the Danube
27 "Just playin' with ya"
28 Singer DiFranco
29 Bad-mouth
30 Fuel brand in Canada
31 Tirana is its cap.
32 Hound doc
33 Switchboard worker reached by the poet who wrote "The Bridge"?
36 Grid of fine lines in an optical instrument's focus
38 Boxer Johansson
39 Aged, once
42 According to
43 Concerning
44 High-priority task
48 Holiday tree decoration hung by the poet who wrote "The Song of the Shirt"?
52 German car make
54 Cool, 1940s-style
55 Mix up
56 "No it —!"
57 450, in old Rome
58 Co. division
59 Caesar of old TV
60 Horror film lab helper
62 Puente of mambo
64 Promises
67 Business run by the poet who wrote "The Shooting of Dan McGrew"?
71 Most ventilated
72 Lovett of country rock
73 Give a title to
74 Pindar verse

- 76 FBI action
77 Koko, e.g.
79 Vigoda and Fortas
81 Having a bill
83 Novelist Packer
84 Soccer star
86 Caution given by the poet who wrote "The Road Not Taken"?
88 Amount of groceries, say
90 Busy as —
92 Adriatic, e.g.
93 Henri's head
94 Off the mark
96 Compound with two or more amino acids
99 Food energy used by the poet who wrote "To a Mouse"?
103 Toronto-to-D.C. dir.
104 — Cruces
107 Irish Rose's lover
108 Pats' goals
109 Drink suffix
110 Enter
111 Noah's boat
112 Tennis hitting technique

- 114 Marinara cooked by the poet who wrote "Aurora Leigh"?
117 Shifty
118 Fisher of fashion
119 Israel's language
120 One of the 12 apostles
121 See 115-Down
122 Tromps (on)

DOWN

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2 Reef ring
3 Any point of the compass
4 D.C. figure
5 Curly-leaved salad green
6 Funeral box
7 Sacked out
8 Hide-hair link
9 Old Plymouth
10 1986 memoir by singer Turner
11 Bolshevik, e.g.
12 Line div.
13 Skunk mark
14 Hair-care brand
15 Kylo — ("Star Wars" villain)
16 Weeping
17 Trial blast
18 Bodily trunk
19 Painter James
24 Venetian painter
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110 Cotton seed removers
113 Fruit seed
114 TV's Arthur
115 With 121-Across, company's worth after liabilities
116 Japanese prime minister Shinzo



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

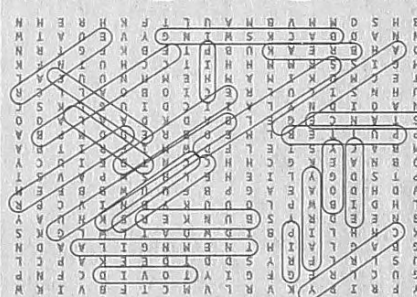
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

18th HOLE WORD SEARCH

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

ANSWER KEY

S O V E R L S L E S S Y W E L L E J L S
M E R R E H N E E T I E E A I S S O T E
E O N V S O N I N M O R E N I F S S O L
H H Y N I O O E O V S O L E I B Y
S V T E S S S E I H O L Y O S N H N E
E O I L E E E H O H E N I
E L E L V E S E E E Y T O N J O V E R
N I N H Y M I S O E J E R E J N N Y
E E E V E E S E E E Y E J V E I V E
E O O E W Y N E T A T E I S E I O I V
N O I L V Z I N Y E E O E O I A H E S
S E E N S S V O L I L H O F I O I S
L E E O T O O I N S I T O R E O O W
E E H E E O I N E W Y N N O O O O H
O O L S O W O L S V Y V E E O O T O
H Y W E E N I E T O I E I E
H O L Y H E E O E N V H O I E A E R Y
O S S E S I D I N Y O I X I W T O
S H E I N E H E E O N I T E H I S O N O O
N O I N E H I E E L O O E V N E H I V
E L A I H I L S E T I I A N Y E E S S H V P



9	8	6	8	9	2	7	1
2	2	7	1	8	9	6	9
8	1	9	6	7	2	8	9
8	6	2	9	2	1	9	8
7	9	8	2	9	6	2	1
2	9	1	8	8	7	9	6
9	8	2	9	1	8	7	6
6	7	9	2	2	8	1	8
1	2	8	7	6	9	8	9

WORDS

AIMING
ALIGNMENT
BACKSWING
BALANCE
BIRDIE
BOGEY
BREAK
BUNKER
CADDIE
CARRY
CHIP
CHUNK
CLUBS
DIVOT
DOWNSWING
DRIVER
EAGLE
FAIRWAY
GRIP
LOFT
PUTTER
RANGE
SKULLED
STANCE

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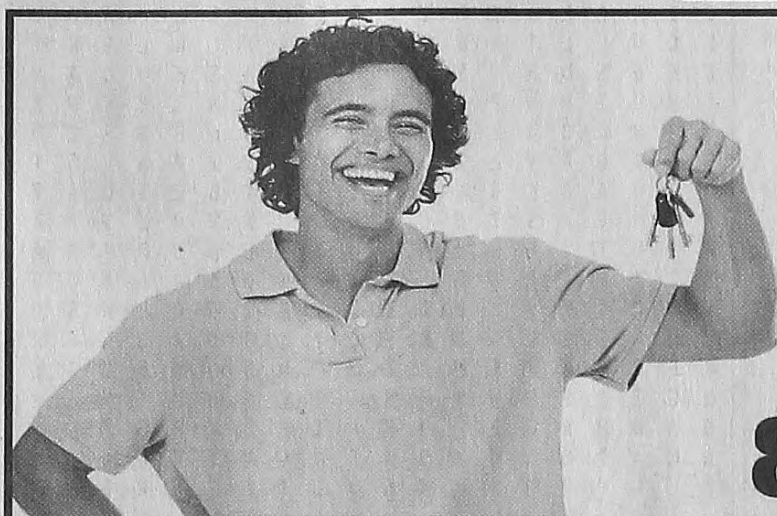
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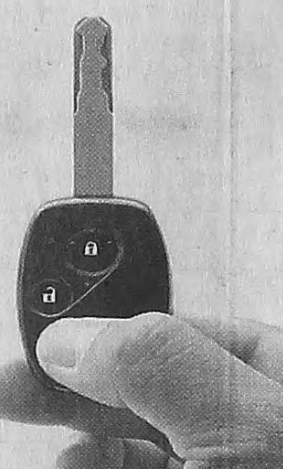
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