

Stevenson runners sign letters of intent for college

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Madonna plans for in-person fall classes

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The full college experience may return to Livonia later this summer.

Madonna University hopes to join several other higher educational insti-

tutions in Michigan in bringing back inperson instruction for its fall semester, which begins Aug. 31.

What that will look like is still unclear, said Karen Sanborn, the university's director of communications.

Like other educational institutions

across the state, Madonna suspended in-person classes in mid-March, moving all its classes online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, students' connections have been virtual, but university officials hope they will have in-person

offerings in the fall.

Exact details on what those offerings will be are still being decided, but Sanborn said university officials are looking at every facet of college life, from

See MADONNA, Page 2A



DTE has been working to eliminate power issues for Plymouth residents. "The whole community is in a better place," said City Manager Paul Sincock of their work.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANNY SALISBURY

DTE spends \$12 million to fix power problems in Plymouth

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

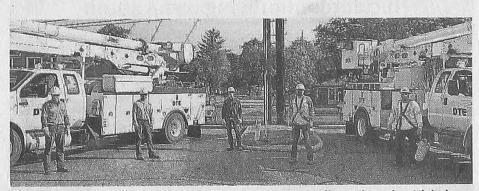
Almost three years after an explosion and fire at a Plymouth DTE substation triggered months of debilitating power outages for the city's residents, the energy giant insists the problem is history.

A \$12 million project that included rebuilding the damaged substation, an ambitious tree-trimming effort and upgrading multiple overhead facilities in Plymouth has shed a more reliable light on the city's power stability.

The cost of the improvements will be shared by all of DTE's customers, not just Plymouth residents, assured DTE Supervising Engineer Tony Ignasiak.

"The Plymouth system is more resilient and stronger than ever," said Ignasiak, who added that overgrown tree branches in older communities like Plymouth account for almost two-thirds of power outages. "Rebuilding the damaged substation makes the infrastructure stronger to reduce power outages

See DTE, Page 2A



DTE linemen, from left, Timothy Hubble, James Ness, Allen Schroeder, Nicholas Read and Nate Kangas prepare for a full day's work in Plymouth on May 15.

Westland council denies Kroger gas station proposal

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

For the second time in a decade, the Westland Kroger's hope of building a gas station on Ford Road has been dashed.

Westland council voted 6-0 on May 18 to deny a site plan proposal for 36420 Ford Road put forward by the grocery store. Kroger already owns the property.

The site, formerly a Lone Star restaurant and training facility for Kroger, currently sits vacant. But representatives from the grocery chain have told city officials they have no intention of selling the property.

Councilman Jim Godbout said the Ford Road corridor doesn't need another automotive-related business. The city

conducted two studies on the corridor and both concluded it shouldn't house any more auto businesses. In all, Westland has about 35 gas stations.

"We shouldn't be approving automotive uses along that Ford Road corridor," Godbout said. "I'm sure that Kroger bought that building on spec fully anticipating the city would allow them to put a fueling center in there regardless

of whether it was really in the best interest."

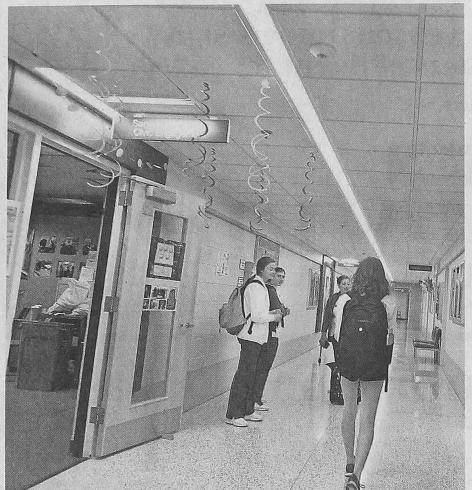
Council denied a similar motion from Kroger in 2010 for the same reason.

The motion came to council this time following a 4-4 failed planning commission vote. City administration and the planning department suggested approval, with Mayor Bill Wild calling Kroger a "good corporate citizen."

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Above at left, Madonna University nursing students pass by each other at the Livonia school in 2019. The university joins several other universities across Michigan that have announced intentions to reopen their campuses later this summer. Above at right, work has continued on the Student Life building on campus this month.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Madonna

Continued from Page 1A

instruction and living in the residence halls to extra-curricular activities and athletics.

"The various work groups are looking at, what are the protocols? How do we safely bring people on campus? What does student life look like?" she said. "How do we have campus events? How do we have off-campus events?"

Summer classes this year will remain

Sanborn said in addition to offering classes at the main campus in Livonia, the university hopes to reopen classes at its two satellite locations in Clinton Township and Gaylord.

Sanborn said the university will look

to comply with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Michigan for reopening with precautions. She said they will also work with the Michigan Independent College and Universities association for best practices.

University President Michael Grandillo said part of the plan to reopen includes expanding testing, something he's working with the Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities to secure. Even with those tests, he said the view of Madonna University will look very different than when students arrived for the start of a new semester in January.

"When we go back to in-person (classes), I wanted to have some idea of testing and how that would take place in America and Livonia in particular," he said. "We don't know exactly what we're

going to look like."

Sanborn said the university is planning to keep some online components in the fall, especially given the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have to still maintain the online presence, because you don't know what the fall is going to bring," she said. "It's still contingent on other forces saying 'yay' or 'nay.'"

Madonna University joins several other universities across Michigan that have announced intentions to reopen their campuses later this summer.

Public schools such as Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Lake Superior State University and Saginaw Valley State University are planning to reopen campuses in the fall. Smaller private schools, such as Siena Heights University, Concordia University and Hillsdale College have also an-

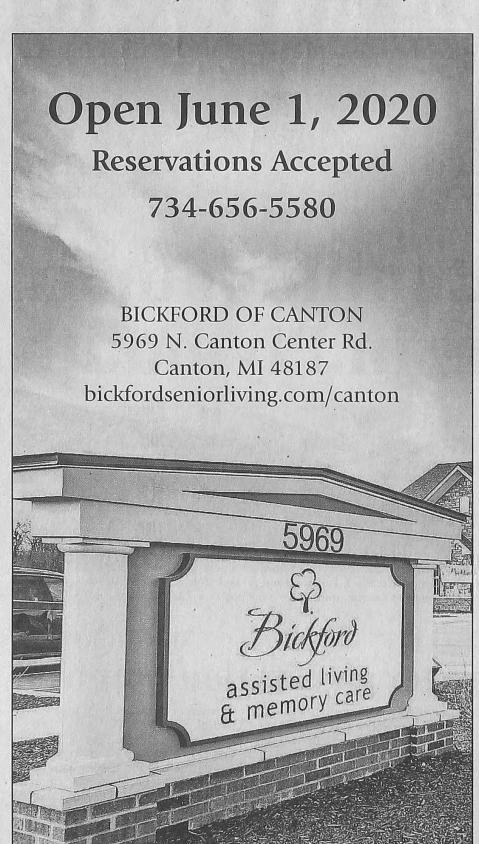
nounced plans to reopen campuses in the fall.

Hopefully before the fall semester begins, Grandillo said, the university wants to recognize those who graduated with degrees earlier in the year with some sort of ceremony. Whether it's gathering by college with a few hundred people at a time or even if Grandillo has to dress in his academic regalia and go to each senior's house, he wants to recognize each student's achievement.

"I'm committed to handing each person their diploma in person," he said. "I committed to having an in-person commencement with each individual.

"We'll make it special and we'll have all the pomp and circumstance."

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



hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail Email: custserv@hometownlife.com

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DIE

Continued from Page 1A

and voltage fluctuations."

DTE claims Plymouth experienced one of the best years in electric reliability in 2019, with an 87% reduction in power outages.

This year should be even better, Ignasiak said.

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock shared Ignasiak's enthusiastic outlook.

"Since the tree trim program, our reliability has turned around and we have seen significant improvement," Sincock said. "The whole community

is in a better place."

Ignasiak said DTE commits approximately \$1 billion to ongoing improve-

ments throughout its coverage area.

"We're making an effort to be more proactive," he said.

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



Senior living center prepares to open

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Canton's Bickford Senior Living facility is preparing to open its doors.

Initially scheduled to open in mid-March when its license was approved by the state, the nationwide chain of longterm care centers halted the Canton opening as the number of COVID-19 cases surged. It plans to open June 1.

"For sure, that decision probably saved lives," said Michelle Connell, Bickford of Canton's community relations director. "The virus was running rampant in so many senior-care facilities that Bickford's owners thought it was in the best interest of everyone to delay the opening."

Connell said the family-owned company has always put its residents' health ahead of financial gains.

'We regularly updated the owners as to the number of cases and deaths in Wayne County, which soon became a hot spot," Connell said. "It wasn't until the number of cases and deaths started dropping that they decided June 1 would be the best time to open."

As of April 22, over 10,000 assisted living care residents in the United States had died as a result of coronavirus-related complications, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Michigan tracks active COVID-19 cases in assisted living facilities, but does not track total cases or deaths. As of May 10, such facilities in Wayne County reported 1,300 coronavirus cases and about 3,200 across the state.

Bickford has managed to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in its facilities by practicing preventative steps in its 63 senior care sites in 10 states, said Canton of Bickford Executive Director

"We've had three COVID-19 positive cases, one of which was at our Portage, Michigan, center," she said. "We're not counting our blessings yet because this virus is manifesting itself differently in all people. ... But we're committed to maintaining a diligent strategy in all of our facilities to keep our residents and

Bickford staff members have their



Sue Vincent, executive director of Bickford of Canton, leads a tour of the assisted living care facility Jan. 31. Initially scheduled to open in mid-March, the opening of the Canton facility has been postponed to June 1. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

temperature checked multiple times a day and have been issued surgical and cloth masks that are cleaned and sanitized daily, Vincent said.

Staff must wear masks at all times. Staff and residents will have their oxygen levels, blood pressure and pulse rates recorded daily to stay ahead of any potential infections.

'Residents will be required to quarantine in their rooms for the first 14 days and not until after the 14th day will they be able to open their doors and step out into the hallway," Vincent said.

Residents will receive room service three times and day and in-room exercise opportunities will be offered daily.

"There are several touch points we've instituted based on what we've observed from the virus," she said. "For instance, our cafeterias will remain closed and meals will be delivered to the residents' room with paper products only. We are taking every measure necessary to keep everyone safe."

senior-living provider to begin reporting cases of COVID-19 among its resi-

"We owe it to the families of the loved ones in our care to let them know what is happening in our locations across the nation," said Andy Eby, one of the four owners of Bickford Senior Living. "We believe transparent communication is more important than ever in these difficult times and we urge all of our peers in the senior living and long-term care industry to join us now."

Vincent said Bickford was not required to seek permission from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office to open the Canton facility.

'In fact, our state representative contacted us last week and asked us what was going on," she said. "When we told her we were opening June 1, she said. 'That's good to know.'

The opening strategy has been fol-Bickford says it was among the first lowed to the smallest detail, Vincent

'We've ordered all of our paper products and made sure the food supply is stocked so that there's no unexpected shortages, no 'Where's the beef?' moments," she said. "And staff will come in in small groups for training sessions. They were already trained when we expected to open earlier, but we will go through a re-engagement process.

"If we err, it will-be on the side of caution because there is so much we still don't know about the virus. We're confident, though, that we can provide a safe facility for both residents and staff."

Family members will not be allowed to visit the residents until Michigan's stay-at-home order is lifted.

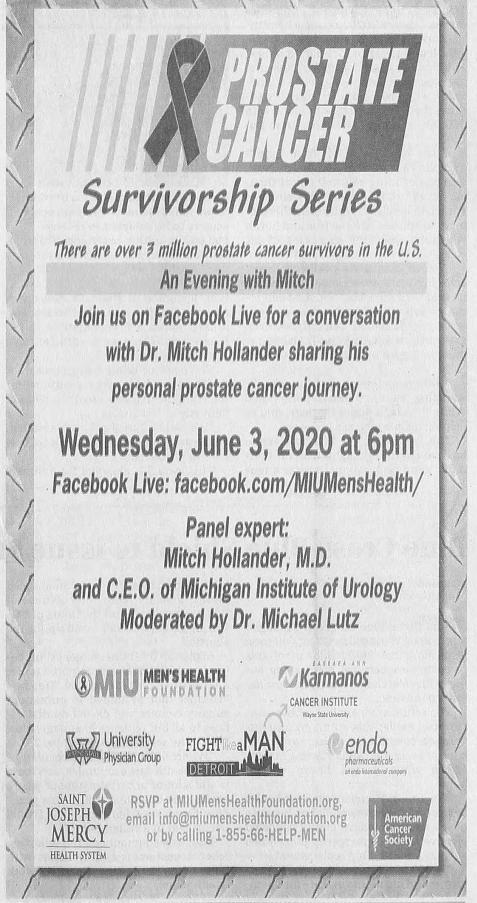
Bickford of Canton includes 64 single-resident apartments and 16 rooms for memory care patients.

eawright@hometownlife.com



The Bickford Assisted Living & Memory Care facility at 5969 N. Canton Center.





Nonprofits sue Canton apartment owners, managers

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joseph Paliwoda has spent decades trying to help addicts reclaim normal

That has meant overcoming some resistance from those questioning whether former substance abusers truly are a right fit for their neighborhoods.

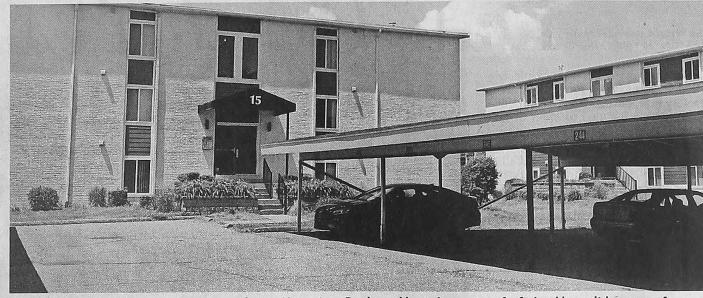
The chief executive officer of Personalized Nursing LIGHT House Inc. said he would work to address unease by talking and educating away concerns expressed by apartment officials and ten-

However, a Canton Township apartment complex owner pushed Paliwoda beyond his limits, prompting him to file a federal lawsuit against the owners of The Crossings at Canton, claiming fair housing and civil rights violations against his clients.

Paliwoda alleges he was forced to find housing for about 70 people living at the Honeytree Boulevard apartments as part of LIGHT House's recovery program after the complex came under new ownership and management in 2018.

Defendants Crossing Owner LLC and Pepper Pike Property Management LLC apparently "decided it needed a different demographic and refused to renew its leases with LIGHT House," the lawsuit alleges. "What defendants obviously meant in turning away LIGHT House and its nearly \$230,000 in annual rent, which was paid on time, was that it no longer wished to have LIGHT House's clients, who are all persons with disabilities, living in their apartment complex.

'In doing so, Defendants treated LIGHT House and its clients with ani-



The Crossings at Canton apartment complex on Honeytree Boulevard is at the center of a federal lawsuit because of alleged violations against more than 70 people struggling with substance abuse. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

mus based on unfair and outmoded myths and stereotypes associated with people with their disability - substance

Co-plaintiffs Paliwoda, LIGHT House and the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit have several demands including a jury trial, declaration of violations, prevention of future discrimination and compensation for various damages, including humiliation and embarrassment.

Paliwoda said the defendants refused to work with him despite The Crossings at Canton housing LIGHT House recovery program participants since 2004. A message to the apartment complex seeking comment was not re-

LIGHT House is a non-profit group whose clients can spend about 10 weeks in an outpatient recovery program with housing. That's when they live in furnished apartment units near treatment centers in Plymouth and Canton.

The non-profit supports about 125 clients at several apartment complexes. LIGHT House staffers make random check-in visits, and the tenants are regularly screened for substance use.

LIGHT House began receiving "Notice to Quit, Termination of Tenancy" forms for its leased apartments at The Crossings at Canton in December 2018. They came with cover letters explaining that the complex was undergoing major renovations and should be vacated by

Paliwoda alleged the apartment complex was still advertising apartment units with immediate occupancy and management refused to work with him.

Ultimately, he found new housing for his clients. But the financial losses and his clients' emotional distress prompted his lawsuit. He wants the apartment complex owners and their supporters to know their "blatant," "harmful" violations aren't acceptable.

"It was a very stressful and challenging time," Paliwoda said.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Metro Detroit senior wins \$50K in tuition assistance from Doritos

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press

The Class of 2020 has had a lot taken from it, as the novel coronavirus pandemic has impacted the normalcy of everyday life as well as the big events, like prom and commencement.

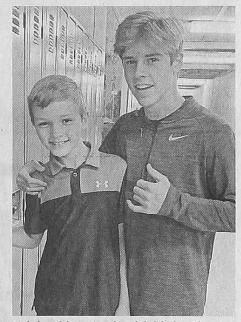
To make up for this loss, iHeart Radio launched Commencement: Speeches for the Class of 2020, a podcast featuring commencement speeches from celebrities ranging from Smokey Robinson to Bobby Flay. Among those chosen to give speeches are five high school graduates who received a moment to address their fellow graduates along with \$50,000 in tuition assistance from Do-

Caleb White, a senior from Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi, was one of those selected out of thousands of submissions to deliver a Caleb White stands with his brother, speech to his class. White used this moment to address coronavirus and how it will not impact the successes of his

"You've caused us pain and heartache, but you'll never cause us to break," he said in his speech. "You may temporarily confine us, but let us be clear, you will never define us. You did, however, graciously remind us that disappointment and grief have the power to align

White was a member of the school's wrestling team and founded the Caleb White Project, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people who are homeless.

This is far from the first time White has been in the spotlight, with his nonprofit garnering national media atten-



Noah. Caleb is one of five high seniors to be selected to receive \$50,000 in tuition assistance from **Doritos.** COURTESY OF MELISSA KENNEDY

tion, including multiple TV news segments, a HALO award from Nickelodeon in 2017 and a few appearances in the Free Press for his work with Detroit's homeless population.

The news of White being chosen for the Doritos contest was a surprise for the family, said Caleb's mother, Melissa Kennedy of Northville.

"We were all in shock. It's amazing, I'm so proud of him, he's such a selfless kid," Kennedy said.

This award is personal for Kennedy

and White's father, she said, as White applied without telling his parents with hopes of helping alleviate the burden of paying his tuition fees.

"He's very empathetic - it's not sympathy - it's empathy. He really has the ability to put himself in other people's shoes," Kennedy said. "For us, it's just Caleb.

"I don't think it's something that you get used to but it means a lot that people are taking the time to notice that your son is helping the communi-

While the Class of 2020 was stripped of several rites of passage, like championship games and school dances, this will not dampen their spirits, White said.

"The dances and the sports that you've taken away will mean so little when we're leading the world someday," he said. "We will use your servito enhance our gratitude, we will use your ability to be infective to remind us to keep life in perspective."

White thanked the virus for giving his class the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate and for teaching them to appreciate their freedom.

"You messed with the wrong class if you wanted to slow our progress, because we will turn all of your disappointments into success," he said. "We're stronger than ever, this class that you've stolen from. In fact, watch out, world, because here we come."

To listen to White's speech in full and to browse through celebrity speeches, visit Commencement: Speeches for the Class of 2020 online at https://ihr.fm/2z0Vpcu.

Wayne considers allowing recreational marijuana

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

During its first week providing curbside pickup, Wayne Releaf told city officials it turned away about 100 customers looking to buy recreational marijuana. The medicinal marijuana shop at 36900 Michigan Ave. is one of four similar establishments in

Though not all of those customers were Wayne residents, Planning Director Lori Gouin said he thinks the city could tap into some extra revenue by allowing its medicinal stores to sell

"Why would we want them going to Inkster or Westland to spend their money if we can provide them an opportunity to do business right here in their own city?" she said during the council's May 19 meeting.

Council members voted 5-2 to have the city attorney explore a recreational marijuana ordinance.

The planning commission suggested only those who hold medicinal licenses should be able to apply for recreational ones. Wayne has eight medicinal license holders, four of which are provisioning centers.

According to Gouin, all eight license holders said they would apply for a recreational one. If an ordinance was passed, those businesses would bring in an additional estimated \$40,000 to the city general fund in fees. Councilman Anthony Miller suggested that money could go toward paying off the city's debts.

Members Phil Wagner and Kelly Skiff voted the motion down.

"I understand all of the reasons in favor of recreational marijuana in our city," Wagner said. "I, however, cannot vote in favor for this."

Miller argued council members should vote for residents and not their own beliefs. Wagner later said he felt he was voting in the residents' inter-

"My personal opinion doesn't count here," Miller said. "I wish the council people who are using their beliefs and their personal thoughts would step away from their thoughts and think about what their constituents would want. ... They wanted recreational marijuana."

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

Blue Cross Blue Shield to issue \$100M in refunds

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan announced Wednesday that it will soon issue more than \$100 million in refunds to customers because it is paying out fewer medical claims during the coronavirus pandemic.

The refunds are similar to those announced earlier this spring by auto insurance companies, which saw a decline in accident claims starting in mid-March when drivers began staying

Blue Cross, Michigan's largest health insurer, is seeing fewer claims because hospitals and medical clinics canceled elective and nonemergency procedures such as knee and hip replacements.

Those elective procedures are expensive — and big moneymakers for hospitals. Many hospitals have announced layoffs or salary reductions because of this revenue loss, and the influx of CO-VID-19 patients hasn't made up for the shortfall

Many of the nonemergency procedure cancellations were required under an executive order from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer that pertained to outpatient surgery centers and closed dentist offices to all but patients in emergencies. That order was set to expire May 29.

'We are living through a great disruption in health care economics, and there is still a lot of uncertainty about where health care spending will go this year," Blue Cross President and CEO Daniel Loepp said in a statement.

Blue Cross announced the following relief to customers and members with Blue Cross and Blue Care Network health plans:

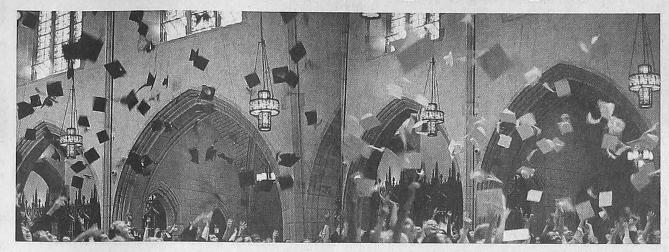
I Fully insured small group customers with 50 or fewer employees: a 30% credit on their July premium in-

■ Smaller rate increases for small groups in 2021: The Blues is seeking an average 0.9% increase for PPO plans and 1.9% for HMO plans.

Medigap and individual Medicare Advantage: Those in a plan with a premium above \$0 will get a 15% premium refund for the months of March and April, applied to their July bill. The refund totals about \$15 million.

■ Blue Dental and Blue Vision employer group customers: They will share a total \$10.5 million refund. Groups with dental and vision coverage will get a one-month premium refund credit on their July invoice. Also, no rate increases for 2021.

Hats Off to a Class Like No Other.



Cranbrook Schools Class of 2020

All students imagine their senior year. No one imagined it like this.

Extraordinary events have kept graduates at all levels from the important rites of passage and traditions enjoyed by so many generations before them. The Cranbrook Educational Community celebrates the character and perseverance of all high school seniors, everywhere.

Cranbrook Schools congratulates our seniors for facing today's challenges with resilient spirit both as individuals and as a connected community. Working from home in twenty-three countries around the world, you have completed your journey as Cranbrook students and are prepared to advance - with courage, hope and grace - to the next chapter of your lives.

Even though we cannot be together as we normally would, we stand joyfully with you, proudly recognizing your accomplishments and celebrating all that the future holds.

On behalf of the entire Cranbrook Schools community, congratulations to the Class of 2020.

Paloma Elena Adams Ilina Adhikari Grace Shaw Aikens Imge Aktugan Noa Isabel Alterman Yasmin Binti Amir Hamzah Emma Kathryn Austin Emma Douglas Block Rebecca Claire Blum Zoe Miller Boise Julia Lucas Bolukh Olivia Rose Bowden Margaret Rose Brice
Allison Rose Brook
Asha R. Bulusu
Miranda Claire Cancelosi Kerrigan Arianna Carr Clare Wren Catallo-Werner Rachel Lauren Chaika Rui Chang Angela Chao Shaza Asim Chaudry Bodie Lynn Collins Sophie M Cronk Ava Josephine Deeby Asha Jacqueline Denny Daphne Lynne Donigan Marci Wutong Edwards Angelina Jordan Elder Madison Fan Rose Helena Feinbloom Emma Marie Ference Trina Marie Fiebig Aerin Rose Fink Lily Ann Gardella Madison Sophia Gardner Robin Katherine Goldman Sophie Leah Goleski Jinying Guan Jiayi Hao Kali Lillia Hightower Joyce Claire Hong Reilly Augusta Hourigan Mia Kay Inakage Meher Anum Jabbar Sophie Noelle Kane Hye Jin Kang Natalia Kask Diana Giovanna Kernen Suhyoung Kong Kelsey Shea Kowal

Eleanor Vivian Kwartowitz

Angelina Jeehye Kwon Emily Hannah Langdon Natasha S. Lee Maya Bartley Lenz Shannon Margaret Lewand Alexandra Ellen Lowery Haneefa Mahmood Jami Sarah Male Hoa Ngoc Trung Man Maria Emilia Marcantonio Jade Arora Mayer Zoe Rae McManus Kendall J. McMurray Eva Simone Metro-Roland Madison Autumn Mies Hannah Grace Momblanco Haley Nicole Mozen Jordan Kay Murrell Jessica Michelle Newton Tamunoamiesia Tonia Ogolo Khanh Ngoc Nguyen Pham Subashri R. Ramesh Brianna Renee Regula Lauren Hope Rockwell Lauren E. Roebuck Jacqueline Paige Ross Gabrielle Marie Santangelo Claudia Ruth Seiler Selin Senturk Jacqueline Sarah Shamie Minfei Shen Lindsiann Shi Seoho Shin Hannah Clarice Sidberry Chanel Stevanovich Safura Naveed Syed Hannah Christine Tatu Ghislaine Frances Taubman Laura Rose Topf Julia Totsky Grace Mae Trudeau Emma Katherine De Boer Van Houten Kaitlynn Mia Wilson Lauren Rose Winegarden Sherrye Alice Ye Daisey Yu Elizaveta Żaytseva

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Obituaries

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Pastor William Charles Lindholm

LIVONIA - Age 88. May 9, 2020. Beloved husband to the late Patricia Lindholm for 65 years. Loving father to William Jr., Jana (Carleton) Britt and the late Jonell Lindholm. Dear Grandfather of Rachel and Lauren Britt. Brother to John Lindholm, Mike Ivey and the late Mary (Lindholm) Goeth. He is also survived by his sister in law Jean Johnson and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Harry Will Funeral Home, 37000 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48152 on Friday, June 5, from 3 to 8 p.m. Instate at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, on Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. with funeral at 12 p.m. Please share a memory at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

Hany J Will Funeral Homes

Linda Norton Savell

CAPTAIN COOK, HI -Linda Norton Savell, 79, of Captain Cook, Hawaii died May 1, 2020, at her residence.

Born October 28, 1940, in Detroit, she was a long time resident of Birmingham, Michigan. She will be remembered as a medical office manager, a teacher at Westchester

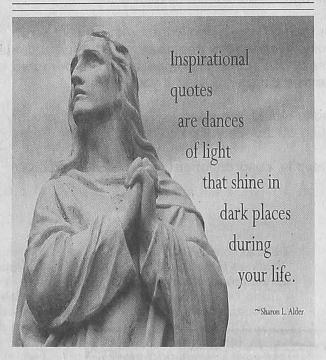
Elementary School and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, a functional and decorative potter and clay sculptor and a founding member of the Lawrence Street Gallery.

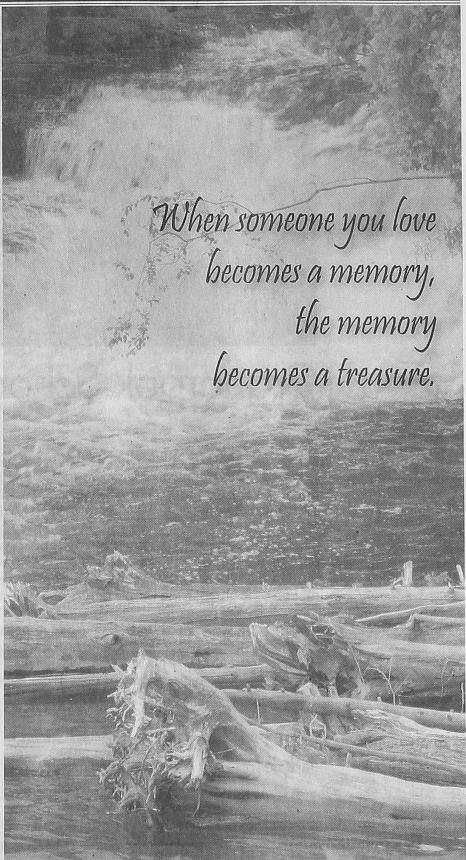
Private service held.

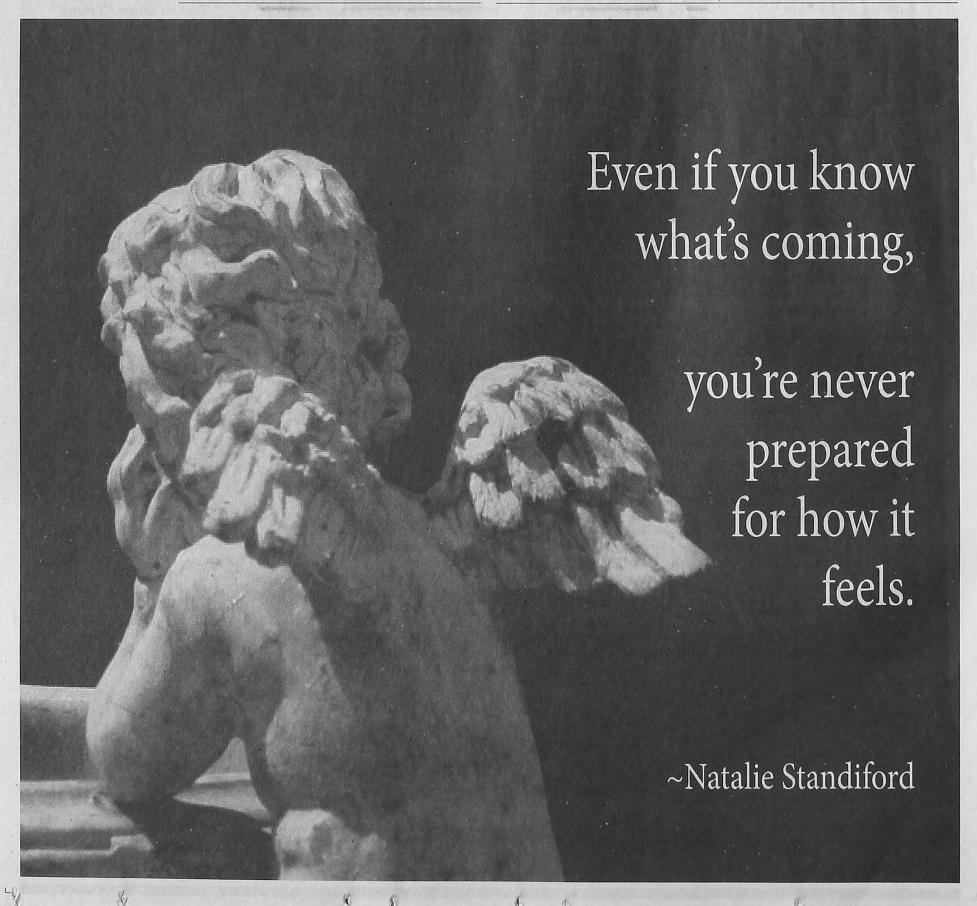
In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to: Hospice of Kona, PO Box 4130 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745.

She is survived by her husband Charles Savell of Captain Cook; son, Douglas (Stephanie) and granddaughter Hunter Savell of Illinois; sister, Ann (David) White and nephew Andrew (Lauren) of Michigan.

A creative, kind, generous and loving person. She will be sorely missed.



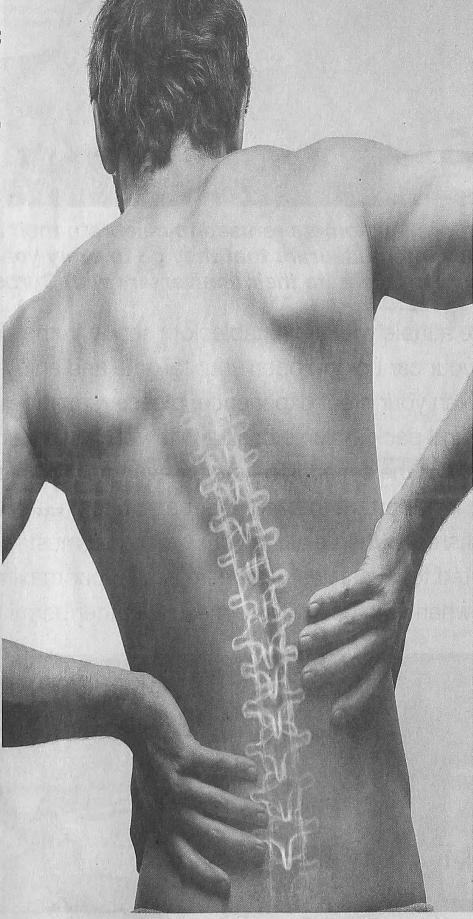




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SPORTS

Simpkins looks to revive Groves

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ant-Juan Simpkins knows what it takes to turn around a high school girls basketball program.

Taking over a River Rouge team that had lost to Dearborn Divine Child in the first round of the 2017 playoffs, Simpkins completely flipped the Panthers back into contention, ending the 2018 season with 18 wins, a conference title in the Michigan Metro Athletic Conference and a district title.

Simpkins' job as a real estate broker forced him to leave River Rouge after one season, continuing on as a coach with the Michigan Storm, an AAU travel

However, as he watched some of his players from the Storm play for Birmingham Groves during the 2019-20 season, he saw a similar opportunity to what he had at River Rouge.

"I just felt that the team was performing under their potential," Simpkins said. "And that is not disrespect to the prior coaching staff. I just saw a lot of things that I thought I could bring that would help the team."

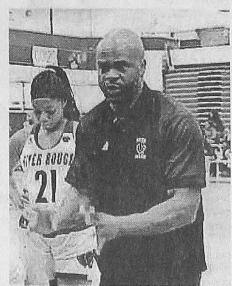
Simpkins was named head coach for the Groves girls basketball team, after Jessica Wieseler left as she realized an increased role in her teaching position at Grosse Pointe.

The Falcons finished with a 10-11 record this past season, falling to Southfield Arts and Technology in the first round of district play.

'Coach Simpkins brings to us a wealth of knowledge in the world of basketball from past experiences as a high school head coach to experiences at a high level in the AAU circuit," Groves athletic director Thomas Flynn said. "I believe he is going to be a great fit for our program and get the best out of our girls. Competing in the OAA Red Division, he gives us the best chance to compete with some of the best teams in the state."

At the high school level, Simpkins

See SIMPKINS, Page 2B



Ant-Juan Simpkins turned the River Rouge girls basketball program around in one season (2017-18). COURTESY OF ANT-JUAN SIMPKINS



in the fall. COURTESY OF COLIN SHEAHAN



of Michigan Dearborn in the fall. COURTESY OF CASSIE MCDOUGALL

CROSS COUNTRY

Stevenson runners find college home

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

olin Sheahan knew he wanted to run at the next level since entering his sophomore year. But it took some time for him to realize his dream to make it to the college level. • Sheahan is one of two senior runners at Stevenson - the other is Cassie McDougall − planning to run at the college level. • Coming into high school at Livonia Stevenson, Sheahan initially planned to play hockey for the Spartans, but he jumped in on a pair of cross country practices in the summer before his freshman year. He saw the senior class, enjoyed learning from them and strived to be like them.

But despite his eventual success in the long-distance sport, for his first two years he admits he was not all in. • "I didn't have the short shorts my freshman or sophomore year. I wasn't really in the game, you know," Sheahan said. "Look good, feel good, play good: came in and I definitely trained more. I took it seriously starting junior year."

Others were more optimistic. From See RUNNERS, Page 4B

COLLEGES

Churchill announces Athletic Patrons scholarship recipients

Andrew Vailliencourt

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Eight graduating seniors from Livonia Churchill High School have been selected to receive CAP (Churchill Athletic Patrons) scholarships as they move on

It's the 20th straight year CAP awarded scholarships to seniors from Churchill. The award is open to all senior athletes at Churchill and requires no minimum grade point average. Applicants are requested to fill out an application which is normally due on April 1 of each year, but was bumped to May 1 this year.

A committee of five individuals then assigns point values to the responses given by each student. The top point

illis year s recipients		
Name	College	Sports played at Churchill
Josh Barr	Central Michigan	Football, track and field
Vanessa Cummins	Loyola-Chicago	Basketball, cross country
Mya Grant	Wayne State	Tennis, volleyball
Brendan Lowry	Central Michigan	Baseball, football
Jessica Maladecki	Nebraska	Track and field, volleyball
Allison McConnell	Valparaiso	Swimming, tennis
Jessica Nagle	Michigan State	Bowling, swimming
Kayla Osen	Purdue	Basketball, soccer

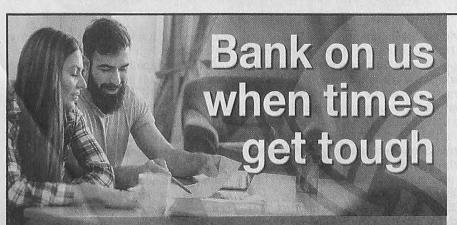
earners are awarded a \$1,000 scholar-

ship for their future endeavors. On behalf of the Churchill Athletic Patrons and Churchill High School, our congratulations to these scholar athletes and our best wishes upon their pending graduation," Churchill Athletic

Director Marc Hage said. Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Brendan Lowry waits for a pitch against Franklin on April 24, 2019. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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CMU track athletes: 'Blindsided' by cuts

Anxiety and shock after disbanding of program

Evan Petzold

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Jack Dodge woke up at 10:30 a.m. on May 19 to a frantic phone call from his

"Did you see the news?" he asked. Dodge was confused.

The night before, with the exception of the coronavirus pandemic that has kept the Central Michigan track athlete locked inside his Walled Lake home, everything was normal. He had healthy loved ones, and one of his assistant coaches at CMU was sending goofy GIFs over text messages.

"Look at the article I sent you," his un-

In a pandemic that has shut down sports across the nation and led some athletic departments to the brink of a financial crisis, Central Michigan became the latest university to disband an athletic program when it canned its indoor and outdoor men's track and field pro-

"I couldn't believe what I was reading, like there's no way this was real," Dodge told the Free Press on May 19. "I broke down. My mom and I broke down."

CMU expects to save \$300,000 immediately and \$620,000 annually by cutting men's track and field. But the savings are minute compared to the big money involved in Division I sports. The move could jeopardize CMU's FBS membership, the top rung of college football. But most importantly, the effect on student-athletes could be permanent.

The Free Press reached out to four Division I athletes whose sports had been discontinued, including three at CMU. And each of them expressed frustration, anxiety and shock at the news

"The emotions I was going through, I didn't want to talk to anybody," Dodge said. "To wake up this morning and get the news they're cutting your sport, it feels like a part of you is being ripped out. It's an irreplaceable feeling."

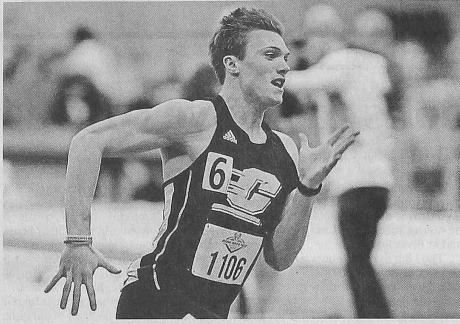
'It all happened so fast'

The novel coronavirus has been an unforgiving threat, and one of its consequences has been the way in which we connect. Zoom calls have replaced inperson team meetings and more routine scheduling, which can intensify the shock value when life-changing news

Take Jenny Swieton, CMU's director of track and field and cross country; she found out her program was being cut at 9 a.m., one hour before she addressed her team in a Zoom call with athletic director Michael Alford.

Only 10 of CMU's 36 track athletes vere on the Zoom call which lasted all of four minutes. The others, like Dodge, heard the information second-hand.

'(Swieton's) face was red, her eves were super puffy," said Parker Aerts, a sophomore sprinter/hurdler from Muskegon. "I know her face when she has bad news. (Alford's) face was pretty red. It was quick and simple. She started crying before she could even speak, then



After learning the track and field programs were disbanded, CMU sprinter Jack Dodge said, "It feels like a part of you is being ripped out. It's an irreplaceable feeling." JACK DODGE

"I was numb that whole first day. The next day, I got upset. The amount of money wasn't worth hurting 36 athletes and two coaches (who also were cut). The amount of money wasn't worth that. I'm very upset."

Parker Aerts Sophomore sprinter/hurdler

said, 'I'm sorry everyone. I tried so hard for this not to happen.' She had no idea this was even going on. It all happened

Sprinter/hurdler Jackson Blanchard missed the call, as he was at work in Houghton Lake putting in seawalls to save for the tuition that isn't covered by his scholarship.

He checked his phone during his break at 10:41 a.m. and saw a slew of text messages, one of which asked if he was transferring. A link to the story was in-

"I was like, 'What the heck?' " Blanchard said. "I checked my email, and I missed the Zoom meeting. I was shocked because I heard from my friend. I didn't know this was coming. It blindsided me, blindsided all of us.

He said the rest of the workday, which lasted until 4:30 p.m., was the longest of his life. He moped around, couldn't focus and felt the life being sucked out of him. He compared it to piling a lifetime of depressed feelings into one day.

The feeling seems universal.

At Bowling Green, former L'Anse reuse pitcher Jeremy Spezia got an in vitation May 13 to a next-day video meeting. That wasn't surprising; weekly meetings had been a constant for the baseball team throughout the pandemic. But it was stunning when athletic director Bob Moosbrugger emerged on screen and said 34 players, two full-time coaches and one part-time assistant were being cut to save \$500,000 annually.

"It broke my heart," Spezia said. Aerts feels the same way.

"I was numb that whole first day," Aerts said. "The next day, I got upset. The amount of money wasn't worth hurting 36 athletes and two coaches (who also were cut). The amount of money wasn't worth that. I'm very up-

'Impossible to make it work'

All but three of the 15 programs that have reportedly been eliminated at Division I colleges, including Cincinnati, Old Dominion, Akron, East Carolina and Florida International, are men's sports. Those are often the first to be trimmed as schools, especially those with football programs, strive to comply with Title IX, the federal law requiring gender equity for participation and scholarship oppor-

According to the latest data, 499,217 students, many of whom werent; on scholarship, participated in NCAA championship sports across all three divisions during the 2018-19 academic

The Intercollegiate Coach Association Coalition reported more than 28% -141,483 – participated in Division I nonrevenue sports, generating \$3.6 billion in tuition and fees for their universities. That's an amount the coalition says is nearly equal to the total expense of providing playing opportunities for those students.

B. David Ridpath, associate professor of sports business at Ohio University and interim president of the Drake Group, a national nonprofit advocacy organization, said he believes a college's decision to eliminate non-revenue sports - such as track and field, which at CMU spreads a total of 12.6 scholarships across its roster - could "backfire and hurt the overall university enrollmentwise" as schools lose tuition-paying students.

'Dropping these sports, you're likely losing bodies, and that counts against your overall enrollment," Ridpath told the Bridgewater (New Jersey) Courier News. "Enrollment is going down nationwide and (colleges cutting sports) are not really looking at the whole pic-

CMU's enrollment had already dropped 10.5% from 2018 to 2019. And considering CMU's athletic department isn't self-sustaining - \$25.2 million of its \$33.6 million budget came from university funds last year, records show - Alford felt he had no choice but to end CMU's indoor and outdoor track programs after telling the Free Press in April he hoped to avoid any cuts.

"The declining enrollment impacts our financial bottom." Alford said this week. "We are facing additional financial challenges. When I looked at the different models, probably six or seven, trying to make it work, it's just impossible to make it work without this reduction."

'I'm not going to settle'

Once a team gets slashed, everyone has the same question: What's next? Most everyone wants to continue competing, but the NCAA's decision to extend eligibility of seniors whose final season was cut short by the pandemic likely complicates matters.

Programs, including CMU, are honoring scholarships for students who stay. Those who want to transfer won't have to sit out a season. But not everyone will find a perfect fit, and some careers will end. Coaches might never call. Some schools may not have the desired major. Others won't get what they need financially from scholarships.

For Dodge, a lesser scholarship would be a deal-breaker. He was on a 50% scholarship as a freshman and sophomore but got bumped up to 80% for his junior year. CMU's cost of attendance is \$24,288.

He needs security, and he says his next move will be a financial one.

"If they can match or better what I'm getting from Central, I'll take it, or at least take it into consideration," Dodge said. "But I'm not going to settle for some half-ass scholarship and go into debt when I graduate when I know I won't be in debt out of Central. It just depends on what I can get from other schools.'

Spezia already has heard from coaches who said they are willing to match, or at least come close to matching, his scholarship, but some out-of-state schools won't be able to do so. If he can't land somewhere affordable, he's not sure what his future holds.

"I had it pretty good (at Bowling Green)," Spezia said. "I was out-of-state at BG, and that's where they get you out-of-state tuition. Some of the schools I've talked to in-state, it'd be more realistic. The out-of-state ones can get pricey. For some, I can't do that. I don't want to graduate with hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans."

Dodge summed it up this way:

"I don't want to leave it; I don't know if I'm going to leave it or not," Dodge said. "It's still a decision to make, obviously, but that's going to be the toughest par leaving everything I've built. Restarting somewhere else is sad to think of.

"They're not going to take anything else away. We can only go up from here, so it's important to take advantage of everything we can right now."

Greg Tufaro of the Bridgewater (New Jersey) Courier News contributed to this

Howell's Weatherly gets All-America nod at Clemson

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sam Weatherly of Howell will have another accomplishment on his resume heading into the Major League Baseball

Weatherly, a junior lefthander for Clemson University, was named thirdteam All-America as a starting pitcher by Collegiate Baseball on Tuesday.

Weatherly started in Friday games for

Clemson, going 2-0 with a 0.79 earned run average during a season abbreviated

by the COVID-19 outbreak. He struck out 43 batters in 22% innings, limiting opponents to a .096 batting average in four starts. He had at least eight strikeouts in all four starts and at least Weatherly 10 in his last three.

Twice this season, Weatherly was named national Player of the Week in

consecutive starts by Collegiate Base-

He pitched seven no-hit scoreless innings with 11 strikeouts in a 7-1 victory over South Carolina, earning the Bob Bradley Award as MVP of the rivalry series. In his following start, his 14 strikeouts in six innings against Stony Brook were the most by a Clemson pitcher since 1996.

In his career at Clemson, Weatherly is 4-0 with a 3.48 ERA, a .195 opponents' batting average and 106 strikeouts in 72% innings over 33 appearances.

Weatherly, who won Michigan's Mr. Baseball Award as a senior at Howell in 2017, is the 86th-ranked prospect for the MLB draft, which will be held June 10-11. The draft has been reduced to five rounds and 160 total selections.

Weatherly was chosen in the 27th round of the 2017 draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, but elected to maintain his commitment to Clemson.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

Simpkins

Continued from Page 1B

said a major focus is on skill development, having a mix of players with different levels of experience and skills on the court, which is very different from the travel team circuit.

Simpkins said there is a lot of talent in the group he is inheriting, and that the goals he set for his one season with the Panthers in 2017-18, however lofty, are achievable.

"I think we have a chance to win the OAA," Simpkins said. "I think we have a chance to win our district, and I believe that we can go far in the regionals as well with what we currently have."

While the talent level may be different than the level of the nationally ranked Michigan Storm, Simpkins says that the expectation is not more than anything he expect from himself. Along with the practices, allowing players to gel together as a team, he said he will volunteer his time at other points for individual development.

He said that's where the real progress happens, and that he will use his ability as a coach and a skill developer to put his team at Groves in the best position to succeed as a program, and his players in the best position to get noticed.

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Simpkins said he plans to meet with parents and players over Zoom to go over expectations and to get the ball rolling for the 2020-21 season.

Even though it may be his first year with the program, Simpkins has shown in the past all it takes is one year to turn a high school team around.

"That is some of the expectations to be able to turn it around, but not just in winning record, but to start winning championships," Simpkins said. "And I believe winning the OAA and winning the district is just a start. I believe we can

get that accomplished this year.' Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@ hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Brighton's Harrity fulfilled Div. I goal

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brendan Harrity arrived in high school with the talent to play varsity baseball right away.

But while Harrity was no ordinary freshman, Brighton was no ordinary team. The Bulldogs were ranked 10th in Division 1 and had a 28-7 record in 2017, so they were obviously loaded.

"If we were not as talented as we were when he was a freshman, he would have been with us as a freshman, to be honest with you," Brighton coach Charlie Christner said. "He stuck out in a crowd in terms of his ability to field and swing."

The Bulldogs were stacked again the following this season, but this time there was no holding back Harrity. He was the starting second baseman on a team that won a district championship while being groomed to take over at shortstop the following season.

By getting to play at regionals, Harrity got to experience a little bit of what he watched from the bleachers as a sixth grader. One of his earliest memories of Brighton baseball was rooting for the Bülldogs in a 2014 state quarterfinal game against Clarkston at Novi.

"They were really deep in the playoffs," Harrity said. "It was something I looked forward to and looked up to that I could be in a position of playing for a regional title or a district title. It's something I got stoked about."

While Harrity hoped to go deeper into the state tournament during his two seasons on the varsity, he singled out two victories during the postseason as the highlights of his career.

Naturally, both were over archrival Howell, the first by a 3-0 score in the 2018 district championship game and the second by a 14-1 rout in pre-districts last year.

Having two other strong programs in Howell and Hartland as natural rivals enhanced Harrity's high school baseball experience.

"The team was probably more into it," Harrity said of those games. "More energy was brought to the games. Every game is really important, but those



Brighton shortstop Brendan Harrity (11), who hit .427 as a junior, will continue his baseball career at Western Michigan.

GILLIS BENEDICT/USA TODAY NETWORK-MICHIGAN

"Baseball's my passion. I set standards for myself. I wanted to go Division I to play in school. That's been my goal since I was really young."

Brendan Harrity

games just hit in a different way."

Big things were expected out of Harrity this spring.

He ranked fourth in Livingston County with a .427 batting average last year,

1

was second with 13 doubles and third with 42 runs. He drove in 23 runs as the team's lead-off hitter.

Harrity was one of only three firstteam all-county players who weren't seniors.

"It's always nice to have a guy who, whether he hit lead-off again this year or hit third, you don't have to worry about it," Christner said. "You put him in the lineup every day and put him at short-stop every day. It's not a luxury every team has, especially at a position of that importance like shortstop."

Harrity didn't get to show what he could do as a senior because of the CO-VID-19 outbreak, but he will get the chance to continue his career at Western Michigan University. Harrity com-

mitted to the Broncos before his junior year.

"I had a goal in mind, and I wanted to get it," he said. "Baseball's my passion. I set standards for myself. I wanted to go Division I to play in school. That's been my goal since I was really young."

Having the opportunity to continue his career in college eases some of the disappointment of not playing as a senior, but not entirely.

"For some kids not going to college, I feel for them," he said. "They had one more season left; now it's taken away from them. My teammates are great friends of mine. Some of them aren't playing; it's sad to think about."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com





Runners

Continued from Page 1B

the moment Sheahan joined the Spartans cross country and track team, head coach Chris Inch could see that potential right away.

"He's pretty slender, he looks like a distance runner – not a lot of muscle on him – but he was born to run," Inch said. "He's got great form and efficiency when he runs. The good distance runners make it look easy, and he kind of falls into that category with how he runs and when you watch him run."

As a junior, Sheahan began to meet his coach's expectations.

He finished in first place at the Livonia City Meet in 2018 and 2019, finishing his season at the regional meet at Ann Arbor Huron.

After winning the Livonia City Meet his junior year, Sheahan realized he could be successful as a collegiate runner.

"I was like, 'Yeah, I'm pretty good. I think I can do something with this,' "Sheahan said.

Sheahan reached out to Wayne State. Despite there being only two recruiting spots left, the Stevenson senior was confident, signing up for an in-person visit.

Sheahan was impressed right away, and he committed.

"It's in the middle of Detroit," Shea-

han said. "When I went on the on-campus visit, I just absolutely loved it. We went on a 5-mile run with the guys around Detroit. I saw Little Caesars, the river and all the people in Detroit.

"They really brought me in and they are just super friendly."

The Stevenson senior said, running with the team on his visit, that he has the opportunity to be pushed and to get better by joining Wayne State.

Inch sees that potential, the same potential he saw when Sheahan came in as a freshman.

"They are getting a kid that, I think, has some upside, if he continues to focus and enjoy the process and take care of the things on the team and the things outside the team," Inch said.

High upside

Cassie McDougall already had an idea of what she was getting into when she joined the team. Her brother was a cross country and track runner at Stevenson, two years older than her.

Watching her brother run, McDougall said she might as well give it a shot.

"He would drive me to practice and he knew a lot of the people on the team," she said. "I guess I did feel more comfortable knowing somebody on the team."

But after her freshman season – joining the team for fun and for an opportunity to make friends – McDougall quickly realized how much she enjoyed it, turning her four years with the Spartans

"He's got great form and efficiency when he runs. The good distance runners make it look easy, and he kind of falls into that category with how he runs and when you watch him run."

Chris Inch

Livonia Stevenson head coach, on Colin Sheahan

into a spot on the University of Michigan Dearborn cross country team in the fall. During the 2017 outdoor track season, McDougall hit the ground running.

She was a member of the 4-by-800 relay team that placed 11th at the Division 1 state final, earning a spot at the New Balance outdoor national championships.

McDougall returned to the state finals in the 4-by-800 relay her sophomore season as well. In cross country as a freshman, she made it to the state finals in the 5,000-meter race.

Stevenson girls cross country head coach and track and field assistant coach Rick Brauer saw the potential from the moment she entered high school.

"Far and away, the four years that she was there, she far and away had the most talent out of anybody that I worked

with," Brauer said. "Her upside is tremendous."

At the college level, Brauer said, McDougall will go through a maturation process, taking on stronger and faster college runners, which, he said, has a high attrition rate.

However, with that upside he saw in McDougall her freshman season, he sees now in McDougall heading off to college.

"She definitely could be one of the better NAIA runners in the country," Brauer said. "She has that kind of talent. It depends on how she fits into the program and the coaching philosophy down there and how it all plays out."

McDougall said the U-M Dearborn cross country team reminds her of the Spartans: small and family oriented. Talking to members of the team, it was first on her list during the recruiting process.

Now, as an official member of the team heading into the fall, McDougall said she strives for a personal record in the 5,000 meters.

Looking back at her time at Stevenson, McDougall's advice is to embrace the time given.

"Enjoy it because it goes by very quickly," she said. "Just always encourage each other, even if people are having a hard time."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@ hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on June 16, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Carol Souchock, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 X 218.

Publish: May 31, 2020

LO-0000356304 2

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DIVINOUTH OF

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PLYMOUTH CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES AS NOTED BELOW:

Chapter 54 - OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
ARTICLE II. - OFFENSES AFFECTING GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS
DIVISION 2. - ALARM SYSTEMS

Sec. 54-47. - False alarm fines.

REMOVE THE FOLLOWING FIRST SENTENCE FROM Sec. 54-47. - False alarm fines. (a):

(a) The alarm user shall be required to pay a fine, as set forth in subsection 54-47(c), for each false alarm in excess of three false alarms occurring within the calendar year.

INSERT THE FOLLOWING AS THE FIRST SENTENCE IN Sec. 54-47. - False alarm fines. (a) The alarm user shall be required to pay a fine, as set forth in subsection 54-47(c), for each false alarm in excess of two false alarms occurring within a calendar year.

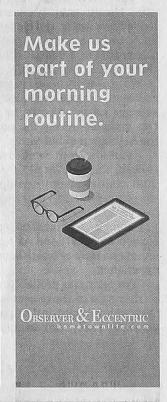
The entire ordinance can be viewed at:

 $https://library.municode.com/mi/plymouth/codes/code_of_ordinances$

First Reading: May 4, 2020 Enacted: May 18, 2020 Effective: June 1, 2020

Publish: May 31, 2020

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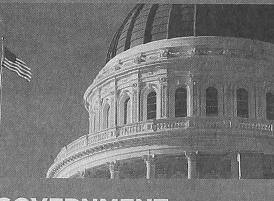




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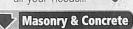
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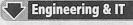
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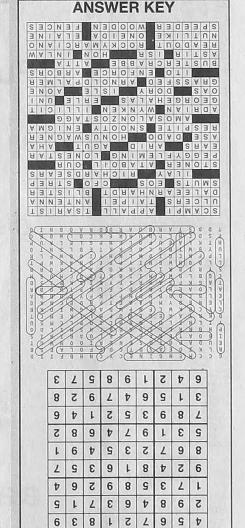
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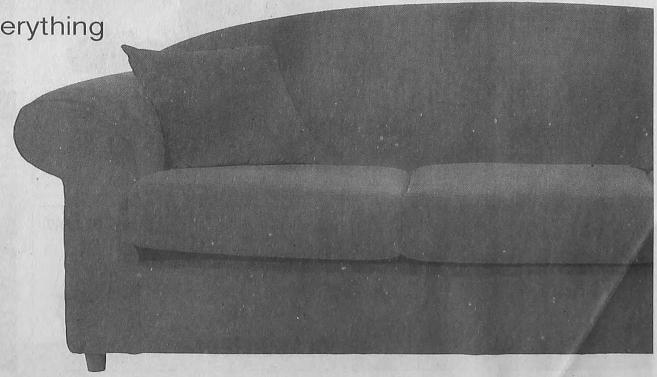
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