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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Close-to-home care



Brian Hayes, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, checks out the lobby of the newly opened Canton Community Based Outpatient Clinic on North Lotz Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## New \$9M VA outpatient clinic opens in Canton Township

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

About 12,000 military veterans can save some gas money by visiting a new \$9 million community-based outpatient clinic in Canton Township for a more personal, close-to-home experience.

The 44,000-square-foot Lotz Road facility officially opened its doors Wednesday, sparing curious and weary

veterans the traffic and parking snarls that come with trips to Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Approximately 100 employees have been trying out equipment and running through drills for VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System's largest clinic activation in a decade.

"We're really looking forward to this," Director Ginny Creasman said. "We think that this is just going to go a long way in serving the veterans in a growing

population in a growing city closer to home. I'm very proud of the facility (and) proud of the work that's been done."

Appointments already are set for veterans seeking medical services at the pristine facility in the 5900 block of North Lotz Road, north of Ford Road and easily accessible from Interstate 275.

See CLINIC, Page 7A

## Canton residents decry plans to develop natural site

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There is an untarnished 31.5-acre parcel of wilderness on the western edge of Canton Township whose only inhabitants are abundant wildlife (everything from deer to foxes), towering trees — including one cottonwood that reportedly first sprouted roots in the 1840s — and flourishing plant life.

Residents who live in nearby Pilgrim Hills Estates, a subdivision of spread-out homes built mostly in the 1960s, suggest there's quite a bit of historical significance on the land dating back more than two centuries.

The property is sacred and peaceful to its neighbors — and they're doing everything in their power to keep it that way.

Currently zoned rural residential, which would allow a developer to build one home per five acres, Pulte Group has proposed a plan to have the land located south of Warren Road and east of Napier Road rezoned RI, which would permit one home per acre.

Arguing the construction of up to 31 new homes on the undisturbed land would be a massive waste of pristine earth, opponents of the rezoning showed up en masse at recent planning commission and board of trustees meetings, many offering their unfiltered opinions.

Longtime Pilgrim Hills resident Terry Zimmerman's voice cracked with emotion when she was asked how she would react if the rezoning proposal is allowed.

"Honestly, I would move," said Zimmerman, who has lived in a home within a stone's throw of the northern

See PLANS, Page 3A

## Retired police chiefs testify in Stislicki investigation

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Danielle Stislicki was missing a week when Chuck Nebus, then police chief for Farmington Hills, received a call from a personal friend and professional colleague.

Troy Police Chief Gary Mayer had received a tip with specific locations re-

garding how and where the 28-year-old woman's keys, Fitbit, cellphone and body could be found.

Police only found the keys and Fitbit where the tipster said they would be — near Grand River Avenue's intersection with M-5, near Stislicki's apartment at the Independence Green complex.

That December 2016 tip raises concerns about possible violations of attor-

ney-client privileges related to confidential communications.

The tipster was a polygraph operator and Mayer's friend but working for an attorney already representing Floyd Galloway, a person of interest in Stislicki's disappearance. Mayer wouldn't divulge the controversial source with Nebus, and Nebus chose to work with the tip because of intense pressure to

find Stislicki.

An Oakland County judge is now reviewing testimony about the law enforcement communications.

Nebus and Mayer, both now retired, testified at an all-day May 3 evidentiary hearing while Stislicki's parents looked on.

See INVESTIGATION, Page 2A

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# Plymouth DDA director remembered

**Tony Bruscato, a former Observer and Eccentric reporter, died May 6**

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tony Bruscato was the kind of person who was more than just his work. In fact, he found every way to live life to the fullest.

"There was so many facets to Tony. He was kind and sweet and gentle," Lucia Morrison, Bruscato's long-time girlfriend, said. "He knew what was going on in the world. He would keep abreast of it."

Bruscato, executive director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority and a Canton Township resident, died May 6. He was 68.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, Bruscato's life took him all across the Midwest, Morrison said. He attended Indiana University and was a lifelong Hoosiers fan, returning occasionally for basketball games, she said.

After spending some time in Iowa, Bruscato moved to Michigan, where he spent time working in radio. He eventually worked as a reporter for the Observer and Eccentric, covering local news in western Wayne County.

"Tony was one of the best reporters I ever worked with. His absolute passion for community journalism and dedication to fair and accurate reporting earned him a great reputation in the community," said Brad Kadrich, a former editor at Hometown Life/Observer and Eccentric. "People trusted him to get it right and, in 10 years working with him, he never got a story wrong.

"His ability to listen and communicate what he heard not only made him a great reporter but an excellent storyteller as well."

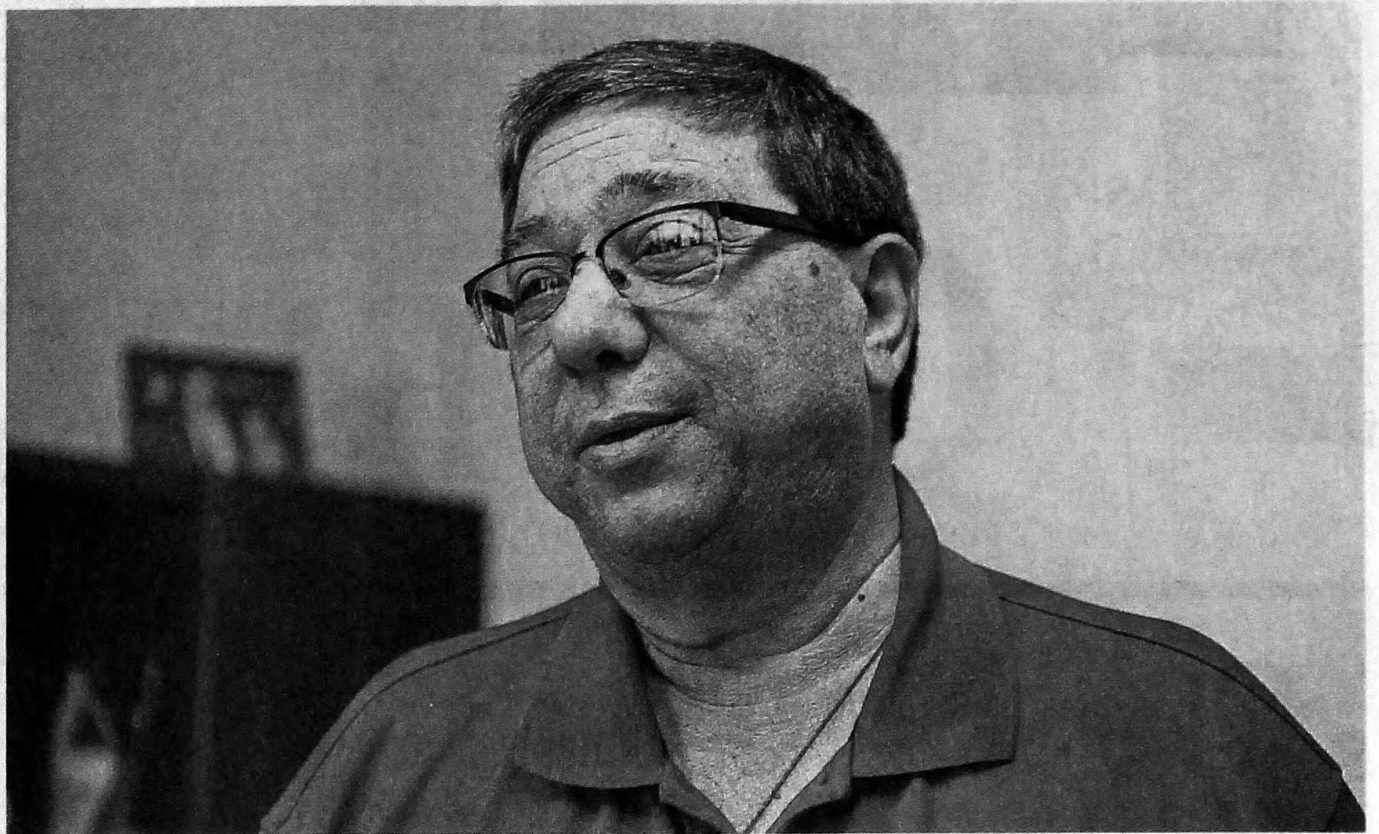
His work eventually led to government, where Bruscato would lead the Plymouth DDA. There, he spent years helping to promote and build the community, including through special events such as the Ice Festival and more.

"Tony was instrumental in so many things that help make Downtown Plymouth what it is today," the DDA posted on its Facebook page. "He helped grow many of our events over the last decade, helped develop a new downtown Master Plan, assisted our businesses during the pandemic, and much, much more."

Despite working as the DDA director, Morrison said Bruscato never lost the passion for communications: he would spend time filling in at several local radio stations.

In addition to his work, Morrison said they would do plenty of things, including going to shows at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit and traveling to places like Italy.

"He enjoyed doing all kinds of things," she said. "We would go to many of those events."



Tony Bruscato, pictured here in 2018, was passionate about the Plymouth community and helping it thrive. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

**"Tony was one of the best reporters I ever worked with. His absolute passion for community journalism and dedication to fair and accurate reporting earned him a great reputation in the community."**

**Brad Kadrich**  
Former editor, Hometown Life/Observer and Eccentric

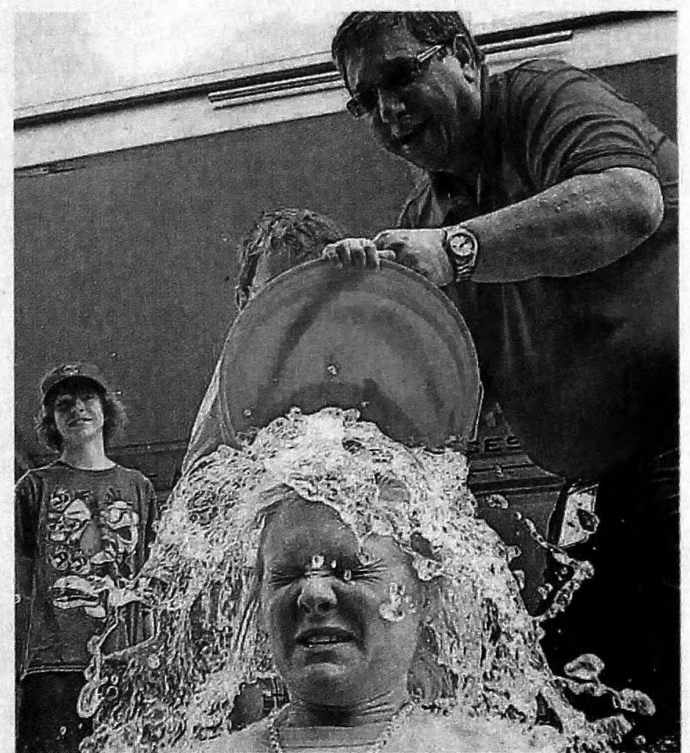
"Wherever we wanted to go, we would go. He was amazing."

Bruscato is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Evans Scholars Foundation, 2501 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, IL 60026; or to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 5401, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



Bruscato was a fan of fun and philanthropy, like the ice bucket challenge fundraiser in 2014 during the annual music in the park concert series.

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

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### Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50  
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## Investigation

Continued from Page 1A

Their daughter is assumed dead because she loved her friends and family but they haven't heard from her, and her body was never found.

"This is about evidence," defense attorney Ellen Michaels said during a break in testimony.

Her client, Galloway, is a prison inmate who pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a Hines Park runner a few months before Stislicki vanished on Dec. 2, 2016.

Law enforcers said during the May 3 hearing Galloway was a person of interest from the start of their missing person investigation.

According to prior court testimony, Galloway and Stislicki knew each other from working at the MetLife office building in Southfield.

Galloway, while no longer assigned to the same building, was seen in the MetLife parking lot, dealing with apparent car problems, on the day Stislicki disappeared.

Co-workers saw him in her passenger side when she drove away.

Regarding the thorny tip, Galloway is claiming government malfeasance and requesting a quashing of certain information, if not outright case dismissal.

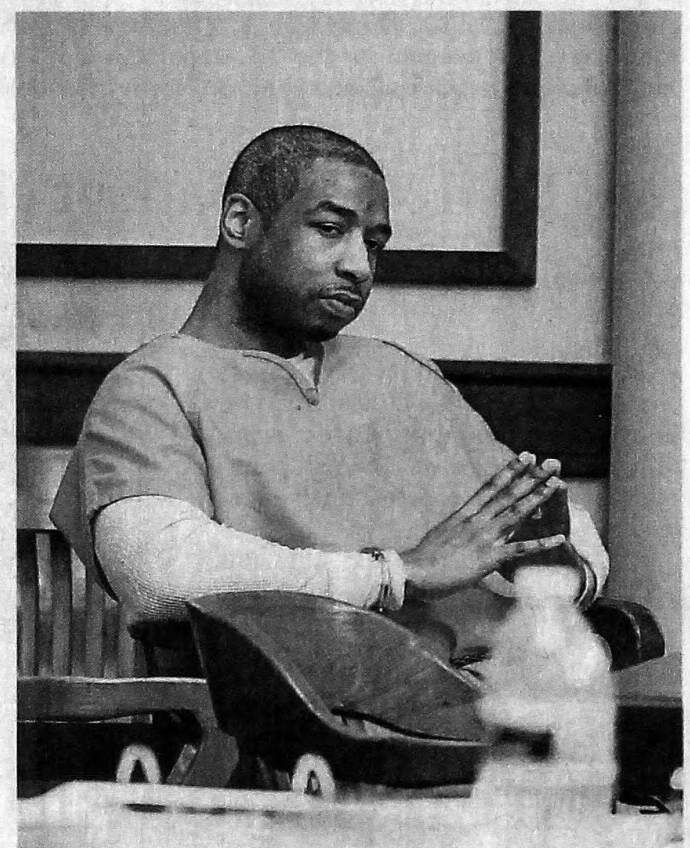
"Mr. Galloway's skepticism about (Farmington Hills Police Department's) representations and production of discovery to date has continued to grow," Michaels said in her motion for the hearing. "He seeks broad discovery to determine the degree to which law enforcement continued to engage in malfeasance.

"This is not a fishing expedition."

Both retired chiefs admitted during the May 3 hearing that they knew the tip was troublesome. Mayer said his friend insisted on confidentiality when he called Dec. 9, 2016, to say he had information on "the security guard" and evidence.

Law enforcers were then working with the possibility that Stislicki was alive and the pressure was on because of a looming snowstorm.

"Evidence disappears. Security footage gets reused," Mayer said, explaining why time was crucial.



Floyd Galloway Jr. in the 47th District Court of Judge James Brady in 2019. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Nebus testified to Mayer's call.

"There was urgency in his voice," he said, adding that Mayer made it clear he couldn't reveal the name of the source.

Nebus would later share his predicament with Oakland County prosecutors, who did not charge Galloway in Stislicki's death.

Instead, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced she would pursue charges against him in spring 2019, more than two years after Stislicki's disappearance and the sharing of the tip.

Farmington Hills Police Detective Robert Gerak was the last of several witnesses to testify, and he recalled for Judge Phyllis McMillen that he was upset when he learned Mayer had chosen to shield a friend rather than see "justice done."

Other Farmington Hills law enforcers testified about a tip sheet that the defense attorney said she couldn't use for her own investigative purposes because it never identified the source that allowed Nebus' officers to retrieve Stislicki's possessions.

The hearing concluded during Gerak's testimony. McMillen scheduled more testimony for June.

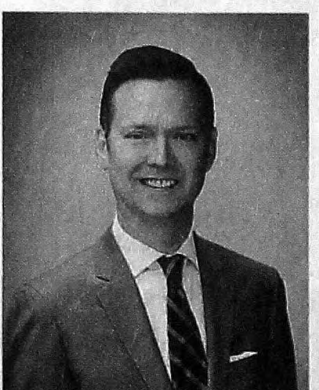
Galloway was escorted from the courtroom carrying a thick legal file.

Stislicki's parents declined to comment. Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



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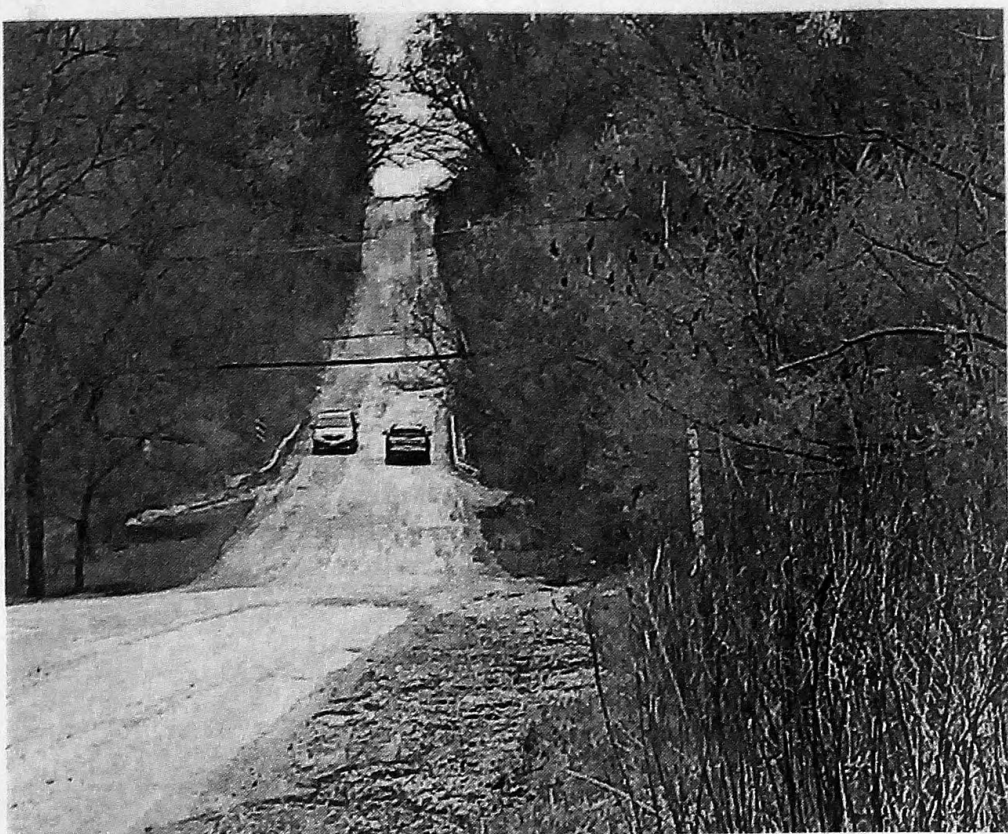
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A stretch of Warren Road near the property proposed for rezoning climbs dramatically to the east, a feature nearby residents assert would create a hazard with increased traffic volumes. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Keith Zimmerman, left, and Duncan and Teresa Savage stand on the northern border of a 31.5-acre section of land Pulte Group is looking to rezone.

## Plans

Continued from Page 1A

boundary of the parcel for the past 25 years. "I couldn't take seeing them destroyed all those trees ... and if you could see the number of deer that come out of there, and there are foxes and eagles.

"I would love to see the township purchase the property and turn it into a preserve. When they built the development east of us at Ridge and Warren (roads), I could hear the trees being destroyed. It broke my heart."

In March the Canton Township Planning Commission voted 6-0 to recommend that the board of trustees deny the rezoning, a significant victory for the pro-preservation fans of the parcel.

"We were beyond ecstatic," said Keith Zimmerman, Terry's husband.

The celebration was short-lived, however; a month later the board of trustees voted to return the matter to the planning commission.

"This is a remand of the planning commission because the planning commission failed to provide any factual ba-

sis to support their decision to deny rezoning of the parcel," said Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak at the April 12 meeting. "This is a procedural matter for compliance of state law."

According to the minutes posted online from the April 12 board of trustees meeting, the township's planning division staff advised the remand because Pulte's plans met all 10 standards on the rezoning application.

Graham-Hudak explained there will be a second planning commission public hearing on the topic that residents are welcome to attend and voice their opinions.

Kevin and Beth Vaughn, who live on Hanford Road, just south of the property that would be impacted by rezoning, acknowledged the landowner's right to sell the land.

"We're not here to deny them their right to sell the property," Beth Vaughn said, "we just want the township to make sure the property is developed responsibly."

The Vaughns' 132-year-old home sits just south of the recently-completed Westchester Phase II subdivision, so they know how modern development

can affect rural living.

The higher volume of water draining from the new subdivision toward the Vaughns' property has left their yard so wet between April and October that it is unmowable, and the section of Fellows Creek that flows directly through their property has overrun its banks more than ever this spring — direct results of poorly-managed water runoff from the development, the Vaughns suspect.

The construction of an additional 31 homes northwest of their land would only worsen their water issues, they agreed.

"Everyone who attended the planning commission meeting spoke out against the rezoning," Beth Vaughn said. "Everyone who spoke gave valid, reasonable arguments and you could tell the members of the planning commission were moved and voted no. But now we're right back to square one."

Teresa Savage, a longtime resident of the area impacted by the rezoning proposal, said the land needs to be preserved for several reasons.

"In addition to the 180-year-old cottonwood, there's a white oak that is estimated to be 283 years old," said Savage,

who wants to see the property turned into a nature preserve. "That tree was there when the French came into this area for fur trapping.

"My great-great-great grandfather was alive in 1833. They cleared all this land (pointing at the property south of Warren as she spoke) except this white oak. And they're going to rip it out."

Savage suggested Canton Township and neighboring townships come together, purchase the property and make it a passive park similar to Plymouth's Miller Woods Park.

"It could be a place you could stop by if you wanted to unplug and hear nothing but wildlife for a little while," she said. "Then you could get back in your car and feel refreshed."

Although hopeful the parcel will maintain its current natural status, Kevin Zimmerman is not overly optimistic.

"All 10 of the criteria (in the township's rezoning standards) are against us and for the developer," he said.

The planning commission meets the first and third Mondays of the month. It was not immediately clear when the issue would be back on a commission agenda.

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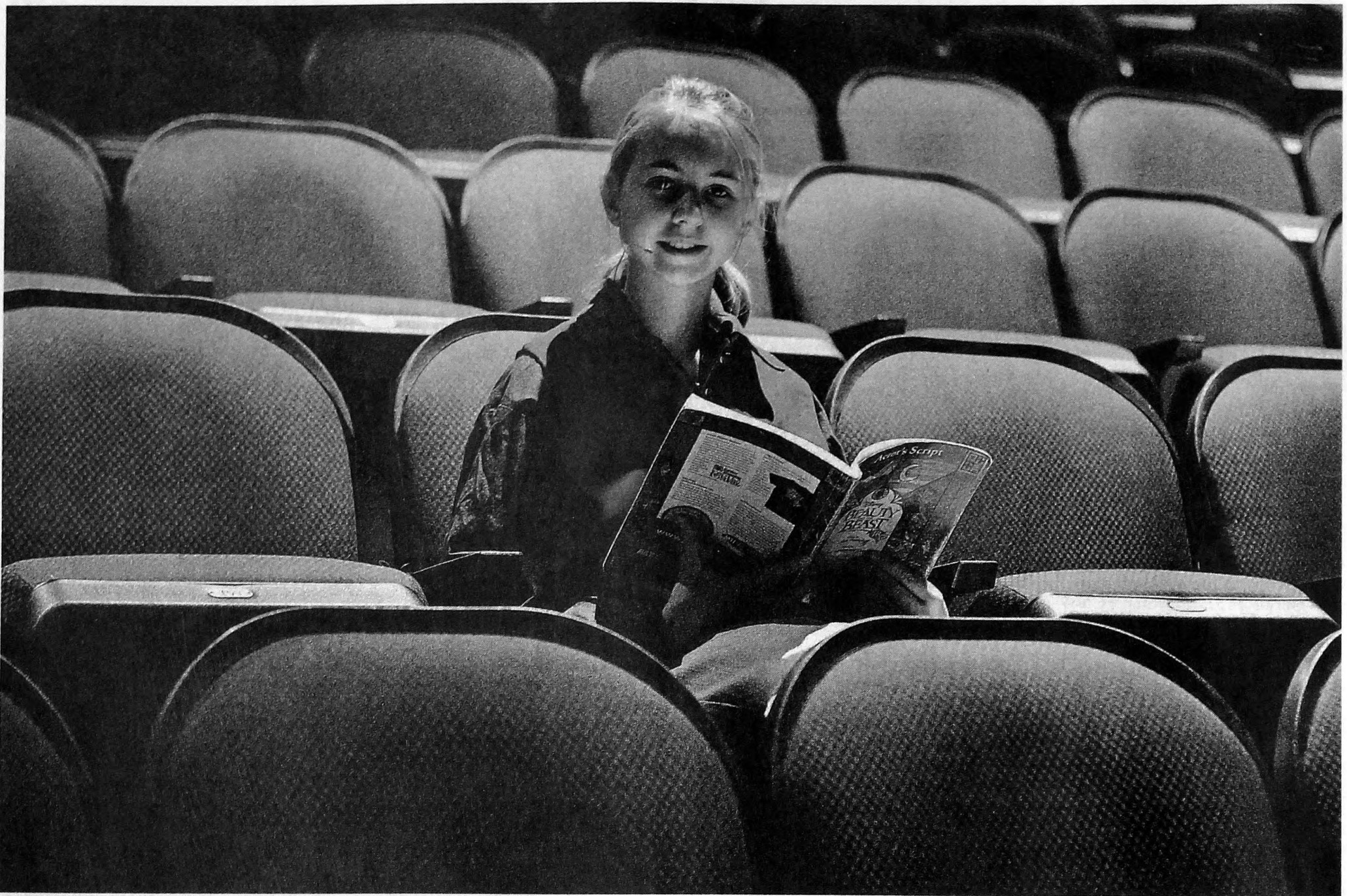
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Riley, 13, at a school district in Washtenaw County on April 20. PHOTOS BY ANNIE BARKER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Lawmakers seek change of course for dyslexic kids

Lily Altavenna Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In first grade, Lynn Gaskell's daughter was behind in reading.

When Riley, now 13, tried to read aloud, she added extra syllables to words and stumbled through pages.

Riley's school evaluated her and came back to her parents with a recommendation: Evaluate Riley for ADHD, which Riley did have. Her reading problems persisted all through elementary school, landing her extra time with reading teachers with little progress.

Gaskell brought up dyslexia, but she said school officials brushed her off.

"Not one single person approached me about dyslexia, not one time," Gaskell said.

Except, Riley does have dyslexia, according to an evaluation completed outside her Washtenaw County school district, the name of which Gaskell did not want published. Riley was in sixth grade when the diagnosis came, years after she initially showed signs of dyslexia, her mother said.

Like many kids in Michigan, Riley's school system missed signs — such as having trouble learning new words or reading slowly — Gaskell now feels were obvious.

State Sen. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake, said he has also coped with dyslexia, a learning disability that affects reading skills, his whole life. While intervention during his time as a student made him a better reader, many other students in Michigan aren't afforded the same opportunity under the state's current system, he said. And many, like Riley, are identified later than they should be.

"Michigan, by every measure, is the worst state for a dyslexic student," he said.

Runestad, along with other Michigan lawmakers, is supporting a package of bills aimed at improving the state's help for students with dyslexia. The measures are sponsored by a mix of Democratic and Republican lawmakers. Education advocates are hopeful the proposals, if passed, would help teachers better identify students showing signs of dyslexia. Statistics on what percentage of the U.S. population has dyslexia range from 5% to as much as 20%. This is the second year these measures have been proposed. Runestad said he's frustrated that the bipartisan-backed bills have not made it through both chambers, and frustrated by the silence from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office about this legislative package.

"The governor, of all people, has the most power to smash through a reform to get something done," he said. "I just don't think it's a priority."

Whitmer's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Susan Schmidt, an educator on the board of the Michigan chapter of the International Dyslexia Association, said the state can't afford to take a wait-and-see approach.

Children are — and have been for

### Signs of dyslexia

- Has difficulty learning nursery rhymes.
- Has trouble with recognizing rhymes.
- Struggles to learn to read and tries to avoid reading.
- Has trouble sounding out words.
- Doesn't have a strategy for reading new words.
- Has trouble reading unfamiliar words.
- Avoids reading out loud.

The University of Michigan also offers resources for parents at <http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu>.

decades — graduating from schools illiterate or still struggling to read, losing out on higher wages and opportunities for advancement, she said. Schmidt recently tutored an adult man who has struggled to read for years.

"We can't afford to stay in the status quo because we see the 40% proficiency rates and they've been flat for 40 years," she said. "Nothing's changed and it's sickening."

### Learning the signs

Ann Randall, director of the Children's Dyslexia Center of Southeastern Michigan, works with students identified as showing signs of dyslexia in school. She said it's clear that educators aren't receiving enough training around the condition of dyslexia.

"Our classroom teachers are not trained to identify dyslexia, even though it's the most common learning disability," she said.

For example: David Pelc, a reading interventionist in Romulus Community Schools, said he always performed well as a student at Eastern Michigan University's teacher prep program.

But when he became a reading interventionist, about 16 years into his teaching career, he realized the reading program his district used to teach kids to learn to read wasn't effective.

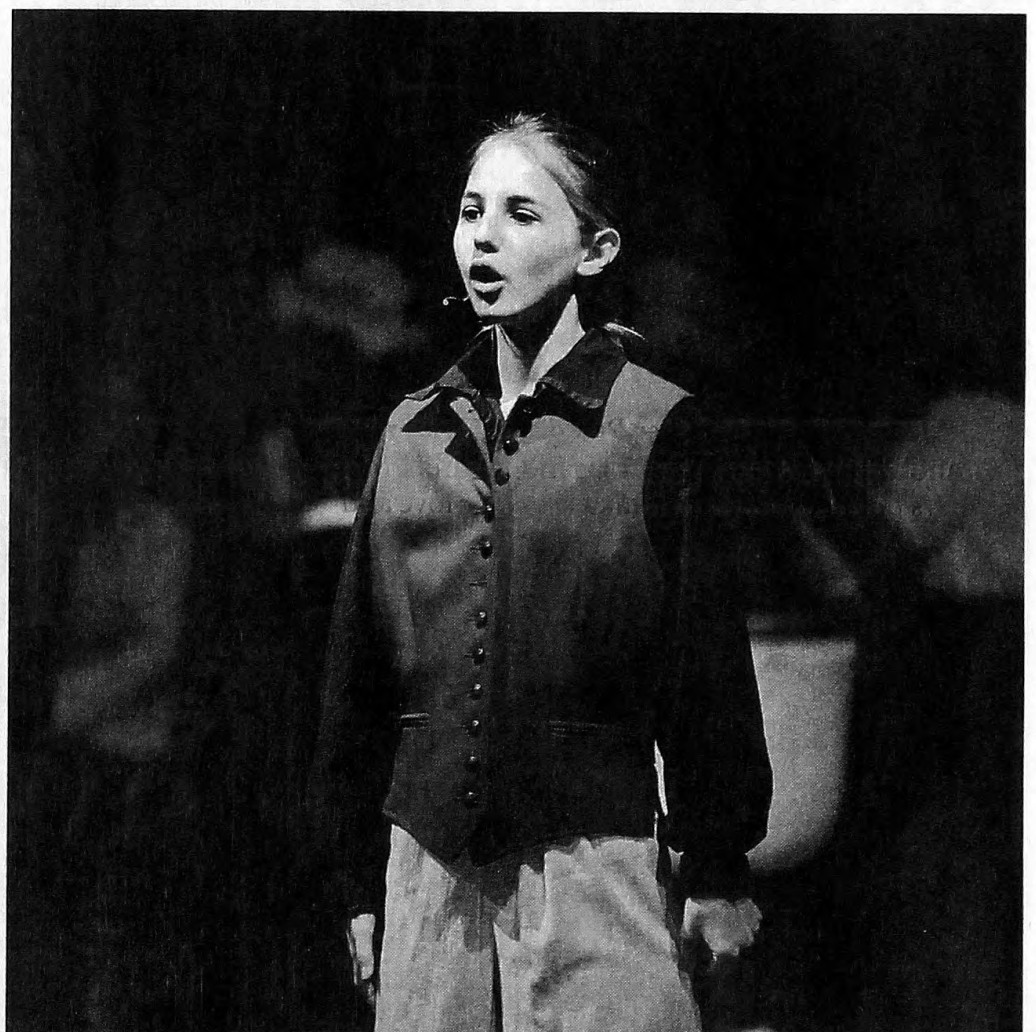
Pelc went down a rabbit hole.

By researching online and connecting with other educators in his position, he discovered new strategies to teach reading, through research around the science of reading, a concept he now says he "should have learned in college."

"It used to be not until second or third grade where you start to bring kids up ... to see if they have some kind of learning disability," he said. "And now you can catch them faster."

The proposed legislation making its way through the state Legislature seeks to improve teacher training on dyslexia and reading methods. The legislative package includes:

- Senate Bill 380 would require dyslexia screening for all K-3 students, evidence-based instruction and that districts employ teachers trained in dyslexia.
- Senate Bill 381 would require the



Riley practices her role as narrator in a school play.

state to approve state teacher prep programs only if they offer instruction on dyslexia for prospective K-6 educators.

- Senate Bill 382 would add dyslexia and specific reading education to teacher certification requirements starting in 2024.

- Senate Bill 383 would create a state committee to develop a dyslexia resource guidebook for schools and parents.

Michigan lawmakers have slowly made improvements even before this package of bills cleared the Senate's education committee in March, Schmidt said. Lawmakers included \$4 million in 2022's budget to train pre-K to grade three teachers in the science of reading, called LETRS training.

Pelc is a part of the first cohort of educators being trained in LETRS. He said teachers involved are very enthusiastic about the impact of the training that teaches science-of-reading concepts to educators, which includes methods that emphasize decoding words and phonics.

"I think being able to understand how to use these new screenings or new tests, it's going to really help to make make a lot of teachers more proactive and plan for instruction," he said.

The budget also included \$1 million for specific dyslexia training referred to as the Orton-Gillingham, a specific way to teach reading to children with dyslexia.

### Approaches to reading

Students, particularly those who are dyslexic, struggle to learn to read when

schools take a "whole language" approach to teaching reading, Randall and Schmidt said.

Whole language reading lessons encourage children to recognize words as a whole, not breaking them down into smaller chunks of syllables and sounds. There are people who still support a whole language approach, and there is a long-running controversy over what approach educators should take.

"The whole reason Orton-Gillingham works is, we teach the structure of the English language from the most frequent type of sounds that they're going to hear," Randall said.

"When we teach 'S,' we don't just teach that sound. We teach the fact that it goes on present tense verbs, it is part of the plural, so that they're making connections as they're learning how to sound things out.

"That's just not the way it's ever been taught in the schools."

In all the years Gaskell sought help for Riley, she said dyslexia seemed like a "dirty word" that schools tried to dodge. Riley was put in a special reading intervention program, but she still struggled to progress, Gaskell said. And even then, teachers tried to graduate her out of reading intervention programs early.

"Reading specialists are supposed to be aware of the signs of dyslexia," she said. "These programs are run by reading specialists, and that not one person in five years said anything about my daughter.

"I don't feel like I should have to beg for what my child needs educationally," she said.

# Obituaries

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## Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Sellars Evenden

NOVI - Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Sellars Evenden, 96, of Novi, Michigan, entered Eternal Rest May 4, 2022. She was born December 11, 1925 in Detroit, Michigan. Betty was preceded in death by her husband William T. Sellars and her second husband, Clayton Evenden; daughter Gail E. Paulus; brother, Wallace Wilcher; and her parents. She is survived by her daughter Cynthia (Dwight) Wininger; son, William Gary (Karen) Sellars; Son-In-Law, Steven Paulus; six grandchildren; Amanda (Devon) Taylor, Alicia Wininger, Austin (Paige) Wininger, Barrett Sellars, Kirsta (Jordan) Jenne, and Kyle Paulus; two great-grandchildren; Bixby Taylor and John Jenne; sister; Lois Moore and many beloved nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday, May 20, 2022 from 5-8 pm at Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile Rd, Livonia, Michigan 48154. Funeral service Saturday May 21, 2022 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia, Michigan 48150, with Greeting/Viewing 9:30 am until time of service at 11 am. Interment at Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills, Michigan. Please visit [www.turowskifuneralhome.com](http://www.turowskifuneralhome.com) for full obituary and memorial contribution details.



## Mable Nora Harabedian

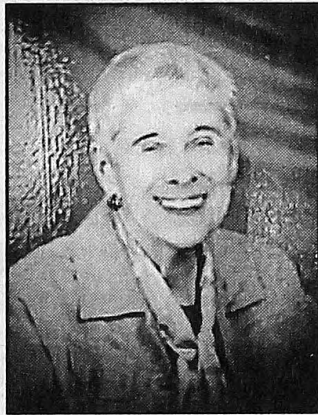
- - Mable Nora Harabedian was born October 30, 1937, to Anna and Mike Harabedian of Birmingham, Michigan. She passed away peacefully on Mother's Day. She was the youngest of four children and was a life-long resident of Birmingham. Mable graduated from the new Birmingham High School in 1955, where she was voted one of six "Who's Who" in the graduating class. While in high school, she assisted the window dresser at Kay Baum's Women's Clothing Store, as well as becoming the top salesperson for the store. After attending Michigan State University, where she became a lifelong Spartan fan, she returned to Kay Baum's and eventually became a buyer for the clothing store. She traveled frequently to New York City and became a lover of NYC theater, as a result. Upon retirement in 2001, she was the manager of the men's department at Macy's Dearborn, Michigan store. Mable was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions. She also was a lifelong lover of dogs. Mable's favorite place to vacation was at the family cottage in Port Austin, Michigan. Other favorite spots included, Scottsdale, AZ, Boca Raton, FL and the Florida Keys. She is survived by her two loving sisters, Marie Matice, Alice Bakalis, and a multitude of loving nieces, nephews and godchildren. Service was held on Friday, May 13, 2022 at Embury United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068 or ASPCA, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090-6929.



View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

## Edith Miller Wagner

- - Edith Miller Wagner, age 94, passed away May 2, 2022, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She is preceded in death by her husband Dale O. Miller Jr., her parents Marion and Harold Kendall and brothers Robert and Glen. She is lovingly survived by her son Douglas Miller (Carol) and daughter Susan Miller Prychodko (Peter), 4 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandchildren. She always put her family first, taking care to love and support them. Her family will miss her dearly. The family wishes to thank the incredible staff, particularly Linda Tait, at Cedarbrook Senior Living, the memory care unit, and Assured Hospice for the kind and dedicated care provided to our mother. A private ceremony for the family will occur in the future. Memorial donations in her honor to First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.



View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

## Joyce Lydia Kasper

LIVONIA - Joyce Lydia Kasper, age 88, of Livonia, Michigan passed away on Friday, May 6, 2022.

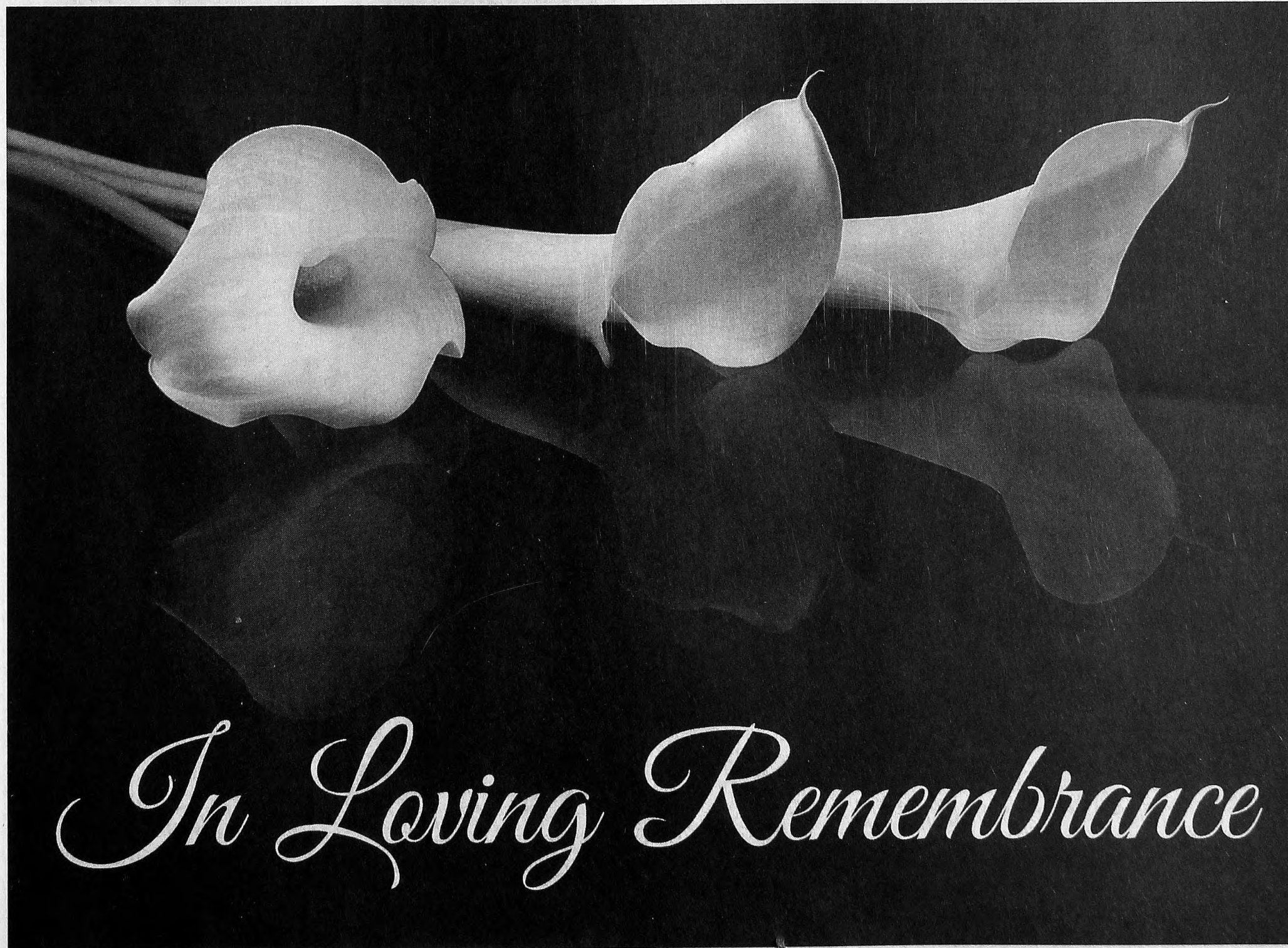
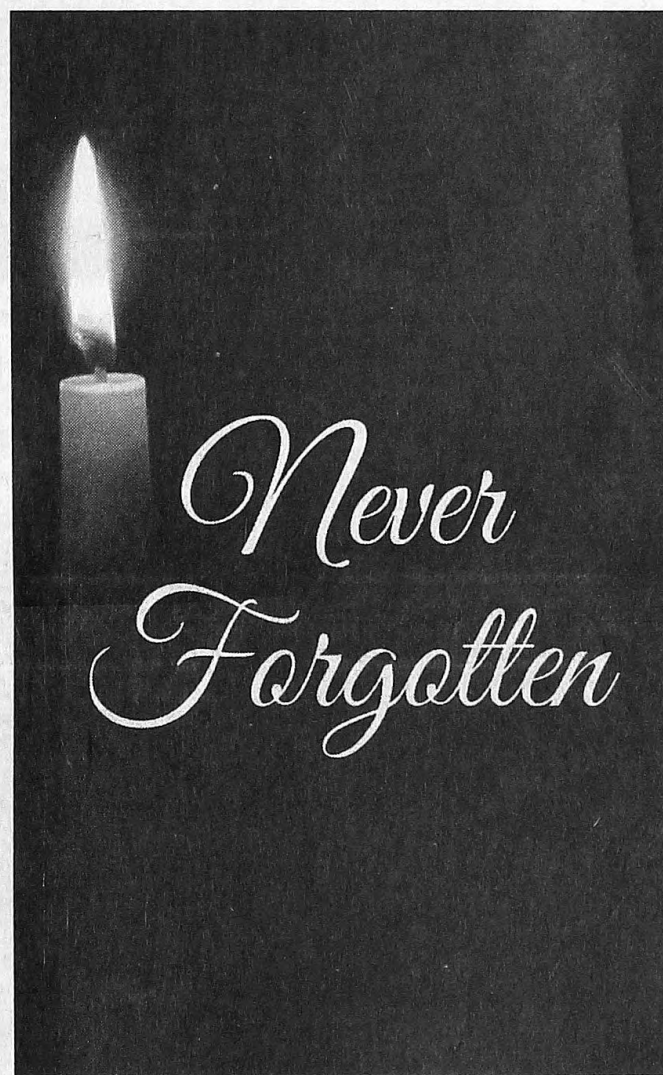
Beloved wife of the late Frank for 62 wonderful years. Loving mother of Brian (Barbara) Kasper, Phil (Kelly) Kasper and Kevin Kasper. Proud grandma to Ben Kasper, Katie (Corey) Redman, Emily Kasper and great grandma of Nathan. Dear sister of the late Roy (Lori) Kubicki, Carol (late John) Wiggers and Arlene (Bob) Hayden. Adoring aunt of many nieces and nephews.


Joyce was a lifelong educator in Dearborn Public Schools. She attended Madonna University and received her Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. Joyce enjoyed her retirement as she visited Arizona during the winter months. She loved spending time at the family property, reading, playing cards, and watching the Tigers. Joyce was highly independent and will be remembered locally as the "Scrubbie Lady" at the Livonia Senior Center where she would sell her crocheted scrubbies.

A Memorial Gathering for Joyce will be held Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 10am with a Celebration of Life beginning at 1pm at Harry J Will Funeral Home, Livonia. A Luncheon will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Angela Hospice or the Spina Bifida Association

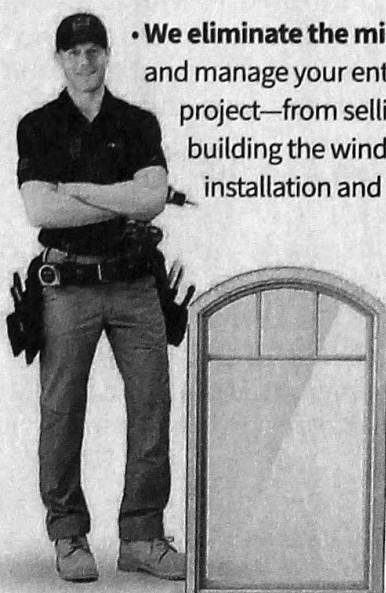
Harry J Will Funeral Homes







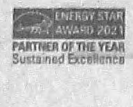
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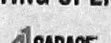

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# Clinic

Continued from Page 1A

Spokesman Brian Hayes said an official ribbon-cutting ceremony with the renaming of the facility after a decorated Canton resident is being planned for the fall.

Besides primary care, veterans can seek medical appointments for women's health, mental health, whole health, radiology, pain treatment, physical therapy, prosthetics, ultrasound, lab services, and pathology.

Creasman said the age range for patients is expansive but the median remains in that 50-60 years of age range.

She encourages local veterans curious about the new clinic to call first since they'll have to decide whether a shorter drive is worth saying goodbye to a favorite doctor in Detroit or Ann Arbor.

"We are constantly evaluating how we can make healthcare more accessible to local veterans," Creasman said in a statement. "We identified this geographical gap for a significant number of veterans between Ann Arbor and Detroit. The new Canton (Community Based Outpatient Clinic) will halve drive times for thousands of veterans, bringing high-quality VA health care right into their neighborhoods."

The project began taking shape in 2014. Construction began in summer 2020. Barring some technology and Internet challenges due to the pandemic, the single-story facility was mostly done in the fall.

Designers wanted to build a facility that meant a more personal experience for veterans. Color-coded hallways will help them navigate the clinic. There are about 40 exam rooms and, once there, patients can sit tight instead of maneuvering hallways and stair flights.

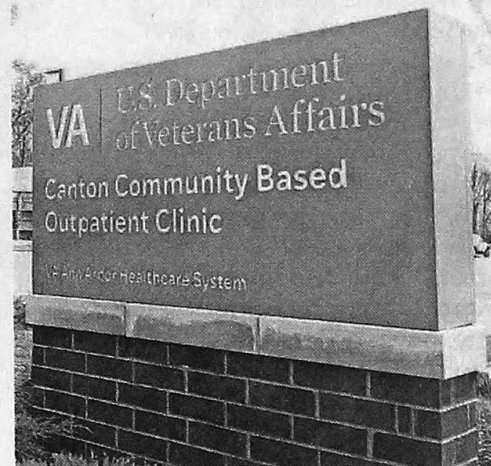
"The new facility has large, open work areas for different providers to work collaboratively," Meaghan Short, an interior designer and project manager for VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, said. "Rather than bouncing from service to service, the veteran stays in a single room while health care providers from different services easily navigate to them."

"A tremendous amount of thought and work went into the design of this facility."

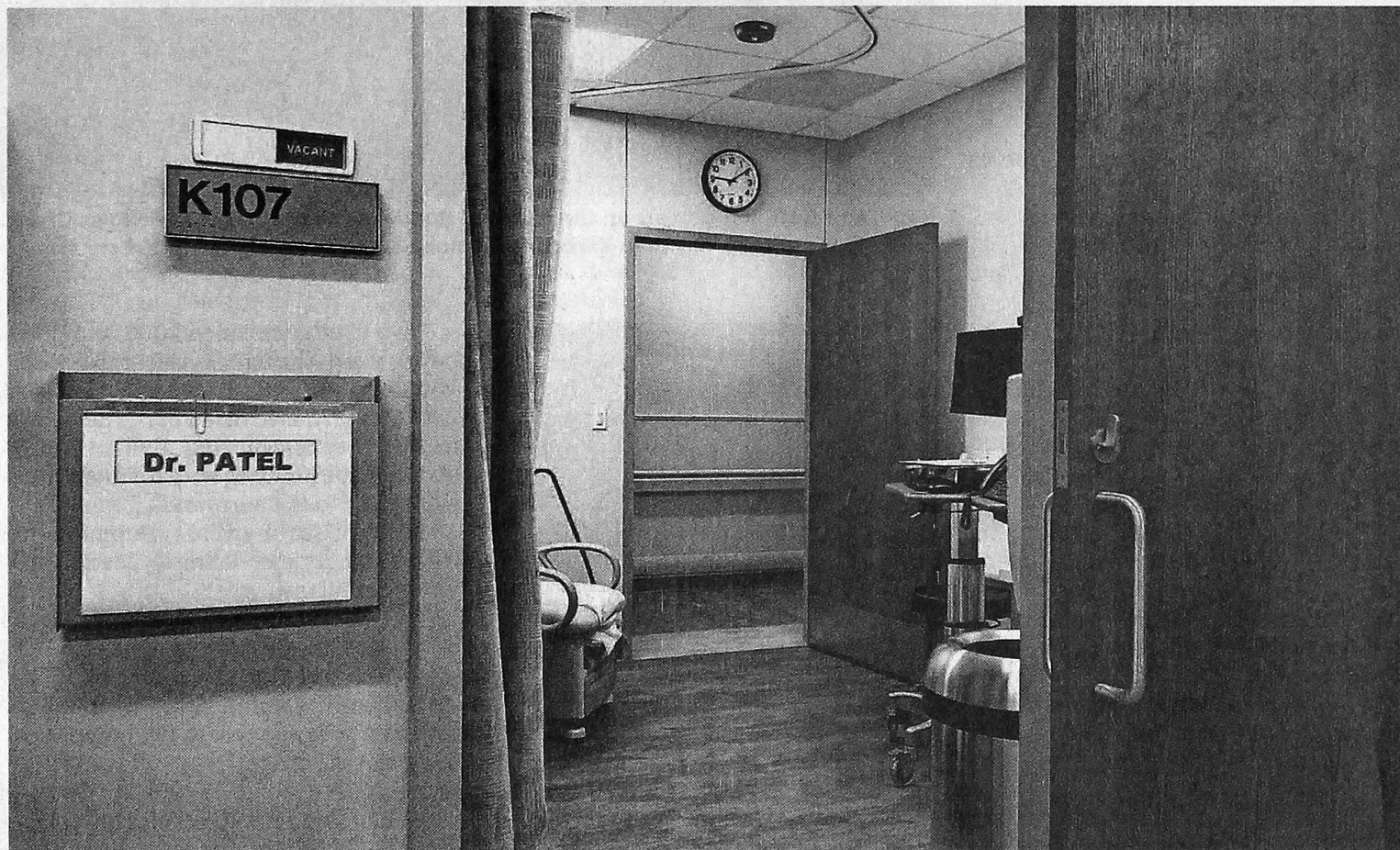
The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System



Reception staff at the Canton VA facility at work May 10, the evening before the outpatient clinic's official opening. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The new VA Canton Community Based Outpatient Clinic.



The facility has a unique system to bring care to its patients. Visitors enter from a common, secure hallway opposite from where doctors and nurses gather.

also encompasses the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor and community-based outpatient clinics in Flint, Jackson and Toledo, Ohio.

The network opened a VA clinic in Adrian in October and expects to open a new clinic in Howell in the fall.

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System provides medical services to more than

70,000 local veterans.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

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# Water levels in Wayne County streams higher this spring

Ed Wright [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Torrid April showers in southeast Michigan are bringing more than May flowers this spring to Wayne County and beyond.

Heavy downpours are also resulting in higher-than-normal water levels in creeks and tributaries and creating more pooling in yards — occurrences Friends of the Rouge Senior Restoration Coordinator Matthew Bertrand confirmed can't be attributed solely to long-term climate change.

A dry winter and — in some cases — over-development of rural land are also playing roles in the widespread wetness.

"The reality is we've had a very wet last month or so with a lot of rain coming down following a drought from roughly late-December through February," Bertrand explained. "When there's not a lot of snow in January and February, the ground is not insulated so frost freezes deeper, basically."

"When this happens, the ground doesn't soak up the rain water as quickly as usual, putting more of it into streams and creeks, while creating more pooling in yards. Plants may be coming up a little later, too, and they absorb a lot of the rain water."

Bertrand acknowledged climate change is a phrase often associated with unusual weather patterns these days, but it's not always the biggest culprit.

"In reality, climate change is a long process — not something that happens year to year, rather over decades and centuries," he said. "What we're experiencing now is an extreme weather period. When it's really cold in the winter, we'll say, 'Global warming? It's freezing outside!' No, it's just that we've got an extreme event. It's still going to get very cold at times."

"Whatever your take is on climate change, you can never point to just one event and say, 'See!' on either side of the issue."

Kevin and Beth Vaughn, whose 132-year-old home is located on 2.5 acres of rural property on the western fringe of Canton, said Fellows Creek, which cuts a north-south path directly through their land, has overflowed its banks more now than in recent memory.



Kevin and Beth Vaughn sit on the Hanford Road bridge that crosses Fellows Creek. They say the stream has overflowed its banks more this spring than in recent memory. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A flooded Fellows Creek. COURTESY OF BETH VAUGHN

The Vaughns' yard is so saturated with rainwater from spring through fall, Kevin Vaughn has difficulty mowing. They point to the escalation of development in the once-entirely wilderness-covered area.

"I've lived here since 2005 and have never seen the creek this full," Beth Vaughn said. "I certainly hope it is not a new normal based on all of the development they're putting where they shouldn't be building without more consideration to the surrounding areas."

Bertrand said overdevelopment of rural property can definitely lead to environmental issues.

"Localized flooding like this can often be related to development," Bertrand said. "And we've seen a whole lot of development in Canton lately. It would be interesting to see where the sources of the water is coming from and going into that lot."

"When you have a development upstream (which is the case with the Vaughns' property), there's the potential the drainage system isn't working properly. Water from the developments suddenly are flooding an area that doesn't usually receive that much water."

Another likely reason for high-rising water levels in creeks that run through western Wayne subdivisions is debris-

clogged culverts that run under roads. A culvert that carries North Fellows Creek under Hanford Road in Canton appears to be 80% clogged with tree branches and other debris.

Friends of the Rouge Restoration Manager Cyndi Ross said it should be okay for residents who live near these culverts to band together and help clear the openings.

"That would be a great thing for residents to do," she said. "If, for instance, a tree falls in the creek, the floating wood or broken off branches can be removed. However, any wood that is still embedded in the stream bed or stream bank has to be left intact. This is so the bank doesn't become destabilized."

Ross suggested residents who live adjacent to a stream like Fellow Creek not mow all the way to the edge of the creek.

"A lot of people like to mow to the water's edge because they like the look, but that's actually the worst thing you can do for a stream. Vegetation and plants take in extra nutrients and help clean and cool the water."

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# SPORTS

## Longtime assistant replaces Marian coach

Former Mustang Michelle Lindsey has been with program for nine seasons

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you're patient enough, the right opportunities will eventually find you.

That's Michelle Lindsey's story.

A week ago, Bloomfield Hills Marian tabbed the ninth-year assistant as its new girls basketball coach.

She replaces coaching legend Mary Cicerone, who retired following 39 seasons leading the Mustangs, which included six state championships, 18

Catholic League titles and 707 wins, the third most in Michigan High School Athletic Association history.

"I still think it's pretty surreal," Lindsey, 31, told Hometown Life. "I don't think it's truly hit me yet. Last night at Marian's Sports Hall of Fame ceremony, Coach Cicerone got inducted, and I'm still sitting there in disbelief that I'm able to take over this program. I'm able to take on what she's built here at Marian."

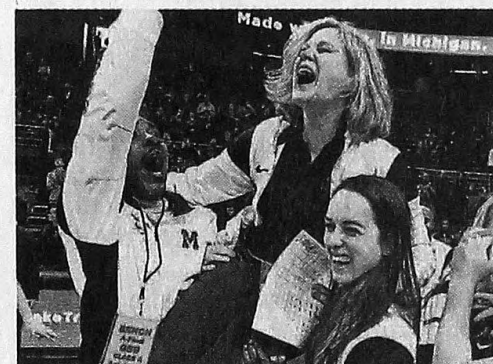
You could say Lindsey was always

destined to be part of Marian's basketball program.

Heck, she grew up behind Brother Rice's Fracassa Field, right next door to Marian. She even attended nearby St. Regis Catholic School until it was time to pick a high school.

She played for Cicerone for four seasons before graduating in 2009 and heading off to Hillsdale College to play at the next level.

**See MARIAN, Page 3B**



**Marian assistant coaches Derrick Thomas, left, and Michelle Lindsey carry head coach Mary Cicerone after a win in 2015.** DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

## Plymouth boys hoops coach steps down after 13 seasons

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just under two months before former Westland John Glenn three-star center Mike Edwards committed to Georgia, he played in an absolute knock-down-drag-out thriller against Plymouth.

The Wildcats clung to a 51-48 lead in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association divisional tournament semifinal, but the host Rockets had possession and enough time left to draw up a 3-point play to potentially knot the score.

So they called a timeout.

Plymouth coach Mike Soukup knew exactly what play John Glenn was going to run.

"He used to watch so much film back in the day," said Plymouth girls basketball coach Ryan Ballard, who was Soukup's assistant back then. "John Glenn was really good. And Mike Edwards dunked on everyone that year. Our team followed the game plan perfectly."

"Mike had watched so much film that he knew they'd run this screen-box play out of the timeout to try and get the 3. Mike drew it up for our guys."

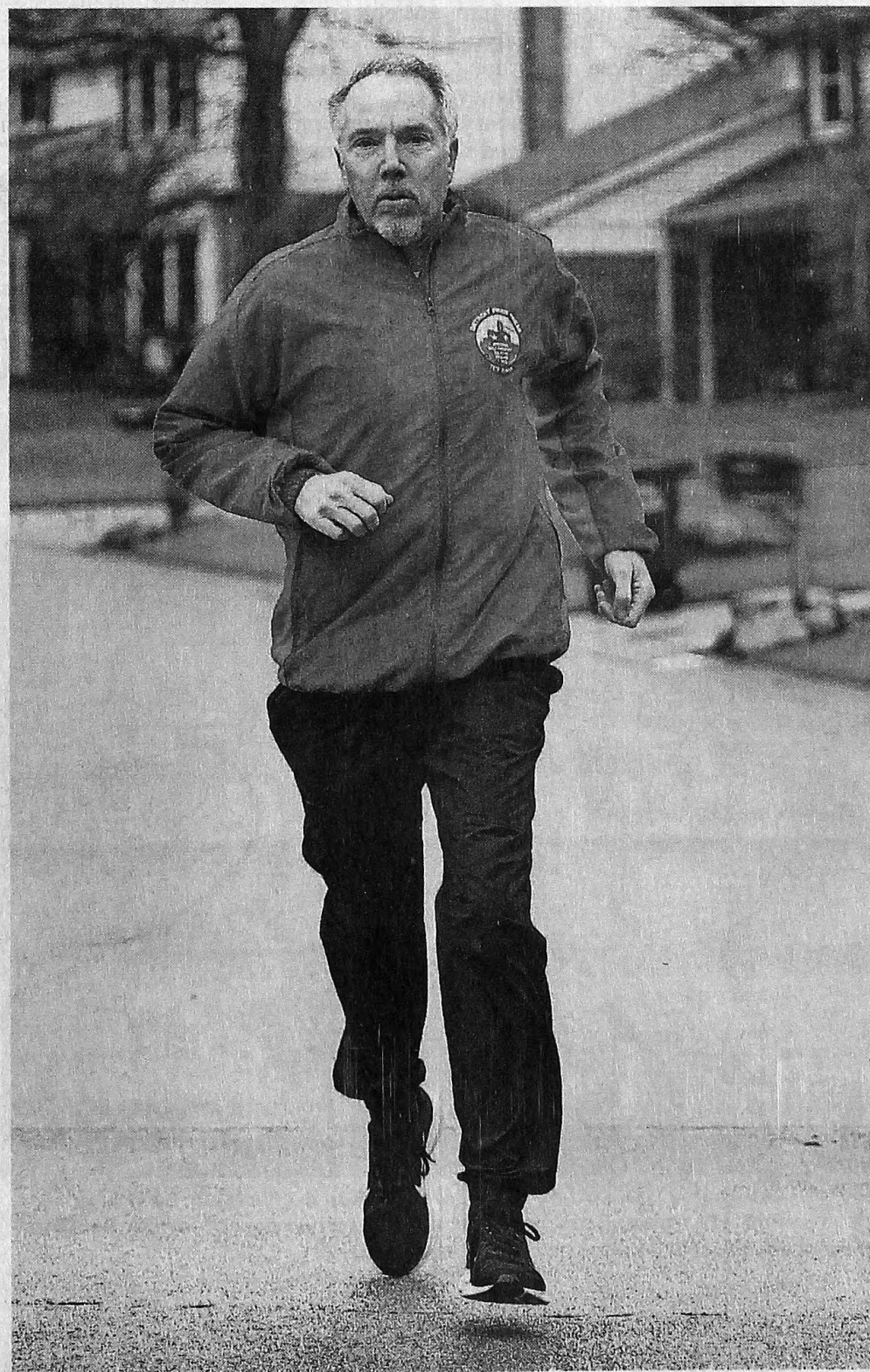
Ballard remembers seeing Soukup crack a smile as soon as John Glenn left its bench and lined up for the final play.

"He drew it up before it happened," Ballard added. "They lined up in that box play."

"Our guys were all over it, and John Glenn couldn't even get a shot off. I remember embracing with him because we were on our way to the KLAA championship against Churchill."

**See PLYMOUTH, Page 2B**

## Freep Marathon will be 100th career run for Northville man



**Mike Webster, 62, runs in his Northville Township neighborhood as he prepares for his 100th career run, which will be the 2022 Freep Marathon on Oct. 16.**

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Never say never, but there are two things that are almost certain about Michael Webster.

Had the 62-year-old Northville resident not picked up a copy of the Detroit Free Press in early 1983, he likely never would've met his wife of 33 years, Vicki, 65, nor would he have become an avid runner, one who's about to achieve a milestone most would never fathom reaching.

So what the heck was in that edition of the newspaper?

It was an advertisement for the 1983 Freep Marathon disguised as a training plan.

It was one of those couch-to-42-kilometers how-to guides that broke down how many miles you needed to run each week to ready yourself for the actual marathon by the time it rolled around in the fall.

"I bet I can do that," Michael remembered saying to himself as he grabbed a pair of scissors, cut out the training plan and placed it under a magnet on his refrigerator. "I said, 'I want to test myself. I think I can make it.'"

"I tried following it, but then I wasn't following it too much. Just about everything you could do wrong I did during that first marathon."

That was almost 40 years ago. Michael made it to the finish line. But it wasn't pretty.

When he lines up to run the Freep Marathon once again on Oct. 16, it'll be his 100th marathon.

That's right. He went from reading a random article in a newspaper to becoming a hobbyist runner obsessed with pushing his body's limits to its breaking points and even thriving in the process.

Here's how he has gone from doing "everything you could do wrong" to now preparing to run No. 100.

**See MARATHON, Page 2B**

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# Marathon

Continued from Page 1B

## Giving up golf for distance running

Growing up in Peoria, Illinois, Webster thought he was going to be a professional golfer.

In fact, when he attended Richwoods High School he remembers being on the golf team and practicing at one of the local courses, the same course that Richwoods' cross country team would run on. Webster remembers he and his buddies making fun of the runners as they'd run past them on the greens and tee boxes.

It's kind of funny how that all worked out.

Webster's father, who worked at the old Caterpillar headquarters in town, eventually convinced his son to give up golf and pursue a real career. Webster attended the University of Illinois, studied engineering and eventually landed with Chrysler, as the automotive industry is what brought him to metro Detroit.

## Running partners for life

Vicki Johnson ran track and field for one season while attending Westland John Glenn, but she never really took a true interest in running until the early 1980s.

But running wasn't why she actually got into running.

After a breakup with an old boyfriend, she was distraught about her dating prospects. She didn't know where she was going to meet a man, let alone find "the one."

"I had family members who ran races, and I was looking to find a boyfriend at the time," she remembers. "I went and watched a race and thought, 'Wow, there's a lot of guys here. Running might supply me with a healthy young man. What's the shortest race there is? A 5K? I can do that.'

"Then I fell in love with running. I did a 5K and loved it. I kept on running and kept on running."

A family friend suggested she should join a running club. Lots of guys are serious runners nowadays anyways.

She eventually signed up with the Redford Road Runners in July 1986. That's when she met Michael, who had joined the club a year earlier.

Not too long after meeting each other, they started dating. And on one of their first dates, they discovered that the 1983 Freep Marathon was the first time either had competed in a marathon.

"That's the only time I have ever beaten him in a race," said Vicki, whose 4-hour, 5-minute jaunt around downtown Detroit edged Michael's time by

12 minutes.

They got married in 1988. Most of the wedding's attendees were their running buddies. Michael even wore red running shorts underneath his slacks. By the time the dancing started at the reception, he was seen wearing those shorts and a pair of running shoes.

## Running during 'our younger, foolish days'

The Road Runners, who were originally organized by local running legend Randy Step, used to meet at Saint Robert Bellarmine School off W. Chicago and Inkster in Redford.

It worked out great for them because one of the club's members had access to the school's locker rooms. Runners could do their race prep and then take a shower so they didn't have to drive home in sweaty clothes.

They'd run up and down Middlebelt and Merriman. But, even back then there were plenty of close calls while running against unpredictable traffic.

"Those were our younger, foolish days," Michael said. "We would take risks you wouldn't normally take today. We just loved to run and were competitive about it."

Since most of the members were from the Northville, Plymouth and Novi areas, the club elected to relocate to the Northville area and, ultimately, change the name of its club to the Northville Road Runners.

The scenery switch provided fewer cars to dodge and more challenging terrains.

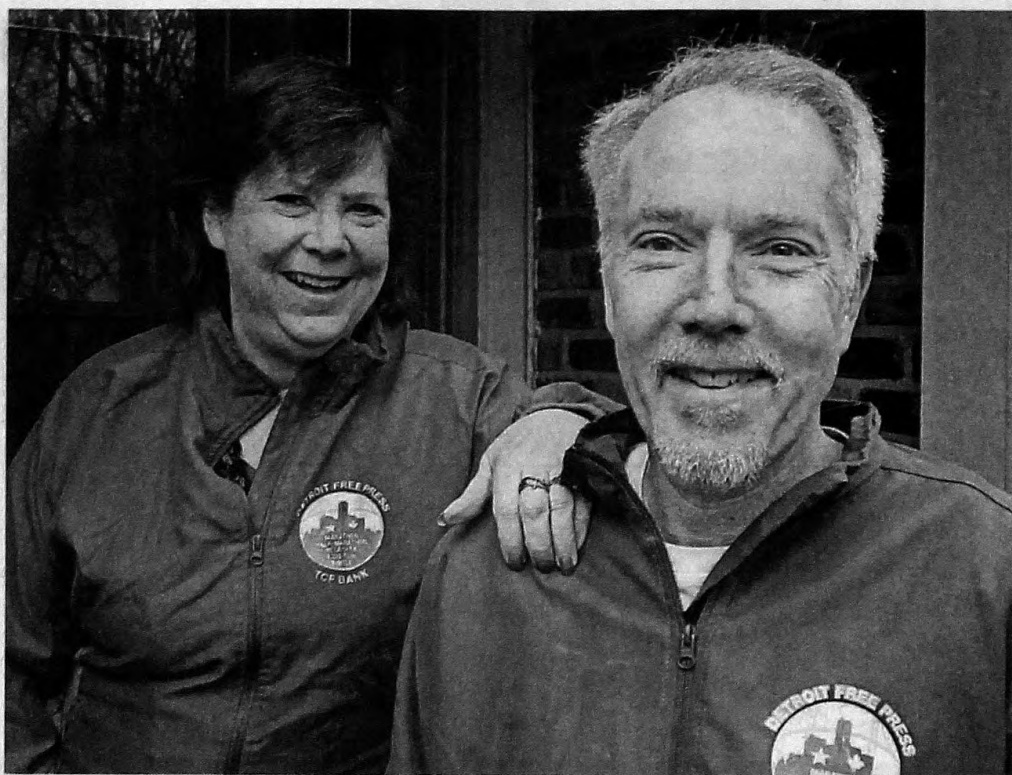
The running clubs have helped Michael and Vicki train for most of their marathons and some of their top times. Michael's best time at the Freep Marathon was 2 hours, 46 minutes in 1991; Vicki's was 3 hours, 31.5 minutes in 1988.

## The quest for 100 marathons

While Vicki has since stopped running marathons after having two children, Michael has run in about every prominent marathon around the country. That includes two New York Marathons — he ran the first marathon there following 9/11 — and 10 completions of the Boston Marathon, including him running in Boston about a month ago.

He's already run three marathons this year. He completed the Walt Disney World Marathon in Orlando in January, did the Boston in April and followed it up with the Glass City Marathon in Toledo the following week, which put him at 99 marathons for his career.

He's going to take a break from marathons for now. Part of that's because he competes in triathlons during the summer. The other part is because he wants his 40th Freep Marathon to be his 100th overall.



Mike Webster, right, and his wife of 33 years, Vicki, outside their Northville Township home. Mike has run the Freep Marathon for the last 40 years and Vicki has been his biggest fan as he's tackled the race. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"Once I got close to 90 marathons I started thinking: 'Well, ya know, I guess I could get to 100, and if I run this one here, and this one on that day, maybe I can play it so I can get to 100 at the same time as I run my 40th Detroit Free Press Marathon,'" he said. "I run many shorter races, too, and I never really thought about running 100 marathons when I first started running. But I just kept plugging away, and I liked the experience at Detroit, so I just kept signing up for that race year after year."

Thanks to Michael's successful career, it afforded his family several vacations over the years. But it didn't take too long for his children to realize that most of their trips out of state were organized around their father's marathons.

And if a family trip wasn't buttressed by one of Michael's runs, he and Vicki went out of their way to find a 5K or fun run to compete in while they were in a new place.

The toughest part about being a year-round runner from Michigan is, in fact, forcing yourself to train year-round in Michigan. And given how brutal the cold was this past winter, finding the motivation to run isn't always the easiest.

"Running the Disney Marathon in January requires you to get out and run," Michael said. "I've talked to people who are local to Florida who were asking me how do I run and train in the cold. Somebody told me there if it gets below 50 degrees, they don't even run because it's too cold. I told them, 'Man, in Michigan, if it's under 50 degrees and you're not running, you're eliminating 6 months of the year.'"

## So what's next for this long-distance runner?

Michael doesn't know how much longer he's going to compete across the country after he runs his 100th marathon.

But he's going to keep running the Freep Marathon every year until he's physically unable to do it.

Other than that, he's going to continue to sign up for races that interest him. To put himself through that much pain, both while training and competing, the race has got to be worth it.

"Afterwards, it's certainly not a pleasant feeling," he said. "I don't know if you ever really get used to that feeling, but you get accustomed to knowing what to expect."

"Even after running 99 of them, you get a sense of accomplishment and a sense of satisfaction afterward, so that doesn't go away."

And no other race has given him that kind of feeling quite like the Freep Marathon.

"It's considered a hometown race to me, and it's a nice course," he added. "There are communities who come out and support you. There's not travel required. It's evolved and changed over the years, and it's really unique in that sense. Now you can run into another country (Canada). When I first started running it, we just ran through the tunnel. In the 2000s, we actually had a chance to run in Tiger Stadium. Now you can run across the (Ambassador) Bridge in the morning with the sun coming up, and that's always a cool, unique experience."

"That's what keeps me coming back."

# Plymouth

Continued from Page 1B

Plymouth went on to beat the Chargers in the division championship. Two weeks later, it edged Northville by one point to claim a district title.

Yes, being able to sniff out which play John Glenn was going to run took talent and lots of basketball wherewithal. So there's no discrediting what Soukup did there. But being able to do that also takes hours upon hours of film study.

If coaching basketball was a construction gig, Soukup would have the dirtiest overalls on the job site. He never shied away from doing the dirty, hard work.

It's glamorous hoisting the district championship trophy in front of your family, friends and fans. What's not glamorous are the 20 hours charting John Glenn's tendencies before the game tips off.

And Soukup just doesn't have that kind of time anymore.

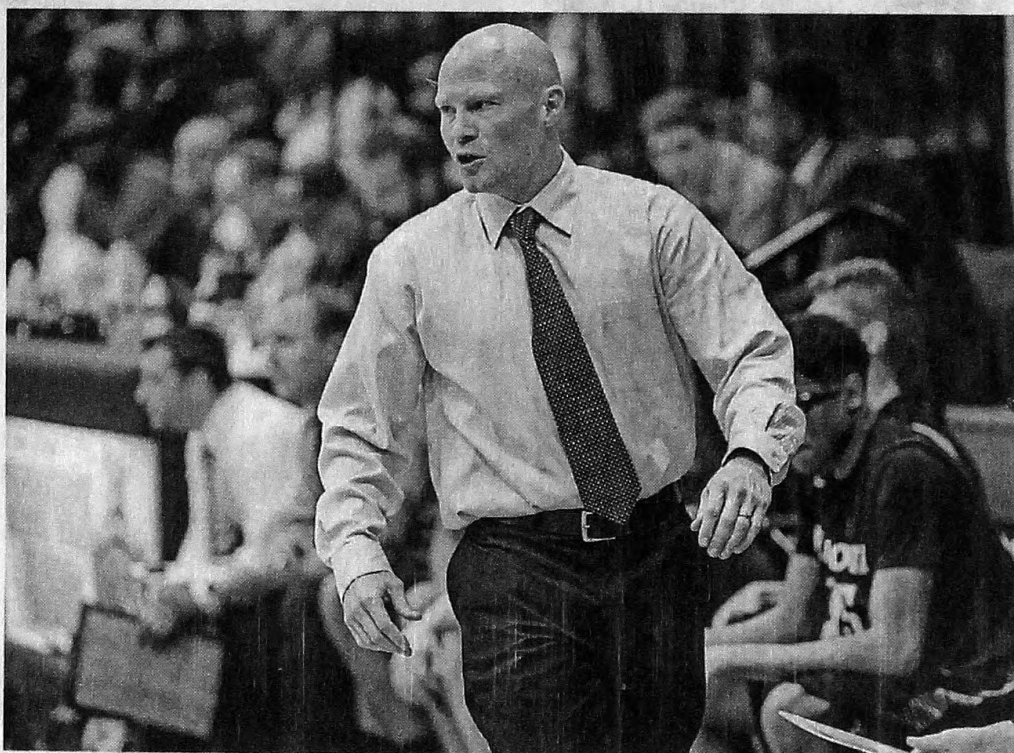
Or at least that kind of time to give to the Wildcats. He has two small children at home. It's time to invest that same kind of commitment into making memories with his little ones.

Soukup recently tendered his resignation to athletic director Chaka Johnson after 13 seasons leading the team.

"Coaching is obviously a huge commitment to the kids I coach," Soukup told Hometown Life. "And I've been absent from my own kids at home a little too much. I just need to be home a little bit more with my family."

"Oh my goodness, it was a very tough decision. Some of my staff have been with me for 13 years, and it's tough to make that call with so many great people you've worked with. It was very emotional and very tough."

"The decision wasn't made hastily, that's for sure. I loved being part of our team. I just need to be part of my team at



When Plymouth boys basketball coach Mike Soukup is courtside, he is very active and vocal - traits he picked up in the 2000s while part of former Redford Union coach Brett Steele's staff. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

home, too."

Soukup, 45, has coached basketball for most of his adult life.

He was an assistant at Redford Union before taking over Plymouth in 2009. He proceeded to put together a 122-147 coaching record leading the Wildcats.

That's four winning seasons, including the 2015 division and district championship season where they went 16-7 and the 2010 league title year they went 13-6.

He sent dozens of players to compete in college, from the Division I ranks down to the NAIA and junior college levels.

He was a two-time regional coach of the year.

"We took over a program that was kind of down," Soukup said. "One thing we talked about when we started here was leaving it better than we found it.

We have done that. It's been a great ride. I'll miss the kids. We had great kids and some still keep in contact with me to this day."

Soukup hasn't ruled out coaching varsity basketball again in the future. But, right now, he's focused on watching his two kids grow up. He'll still continue teaching physical education at Mead Mill Middle School in Northville as well as leading the cross-country program and seventh-grade girls basketball team there.

"It's going to be weird not being on a high school sideline anymore," Soukup added. "I don't want to know what it's going to be like in November when my mind and body gets ready for the season, and it's not there for me. It'll be an empty feeling, for sure."

Someone who is also feeling empty by Soukup's decision to step down is

Ballard, who said he owes much of his coaching success to Soukup, his best friend.

Ballard was coaching at Plymouth Central Middle School when one of Soukup's assistants, Jon Schneider, convinced Soukup to bring Ballard onto the varsity staff.

Ballard took the invitation a little too seriously. To the point that he was glued to Soukup's hip from 2012 until he eventually left the staff to take over Plymouth's girls team seven years ago.

"I just started following him around all summer and all season," Ballard recalled. "In practice, I'd walk up and down the sidelines just to hear what he had to say. I wanted to know what he was saying to people and how he was coaching. People thought it was a little weird because I'd just follow him on the sidelines."

Ballard compared Soukup's coaching prowess to former Flint Northern coach Tony Holliday, who won a state title with former Michigan State star Mateen Cleaves in 1995.

"My goodness, what a mentor Mike was to me," Ballard added. "I hit the goldmine, I'll tell you that. Not only was he a phenomenal basketball coach and teacher of the game, but the relationships he made with everybody he came in contact with were amazing. He taught me to be respectful to everyone who comes in the door."

"Any parent, player or media member. Treat everybody with respect was what he did, and that was a positive impact on me."

Whether it was drawing up game-saving defensive stands during a final timeout, helping players reach the next level or mentoring assistants on his staff, it was always time well-spent for Soukup.

Now that time goes to his children. Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

# Marian

Continued from Page 1B

She didn't see much playing time with the Chargers. In fact, she wound up transferring to Madonna University to finish out her final two years of eligibility.

But little did she realize that would prove to be a boon for her future coaching career.

One of former Madonna assistant John Kenger's AAU teams needed a last-minute coach. So he asked Lindsey to take over the seventh-grade travel team.

She instantly fell in love with coaching and mentoring players.

As soon as she graduated from college with her nursing degree, she called Cicerone to see if she could join her old coach's staff.

There wasn't a spot available, though. That was until the freshmen coach stepped down a short time later to take a job out of state, opening up one spot.

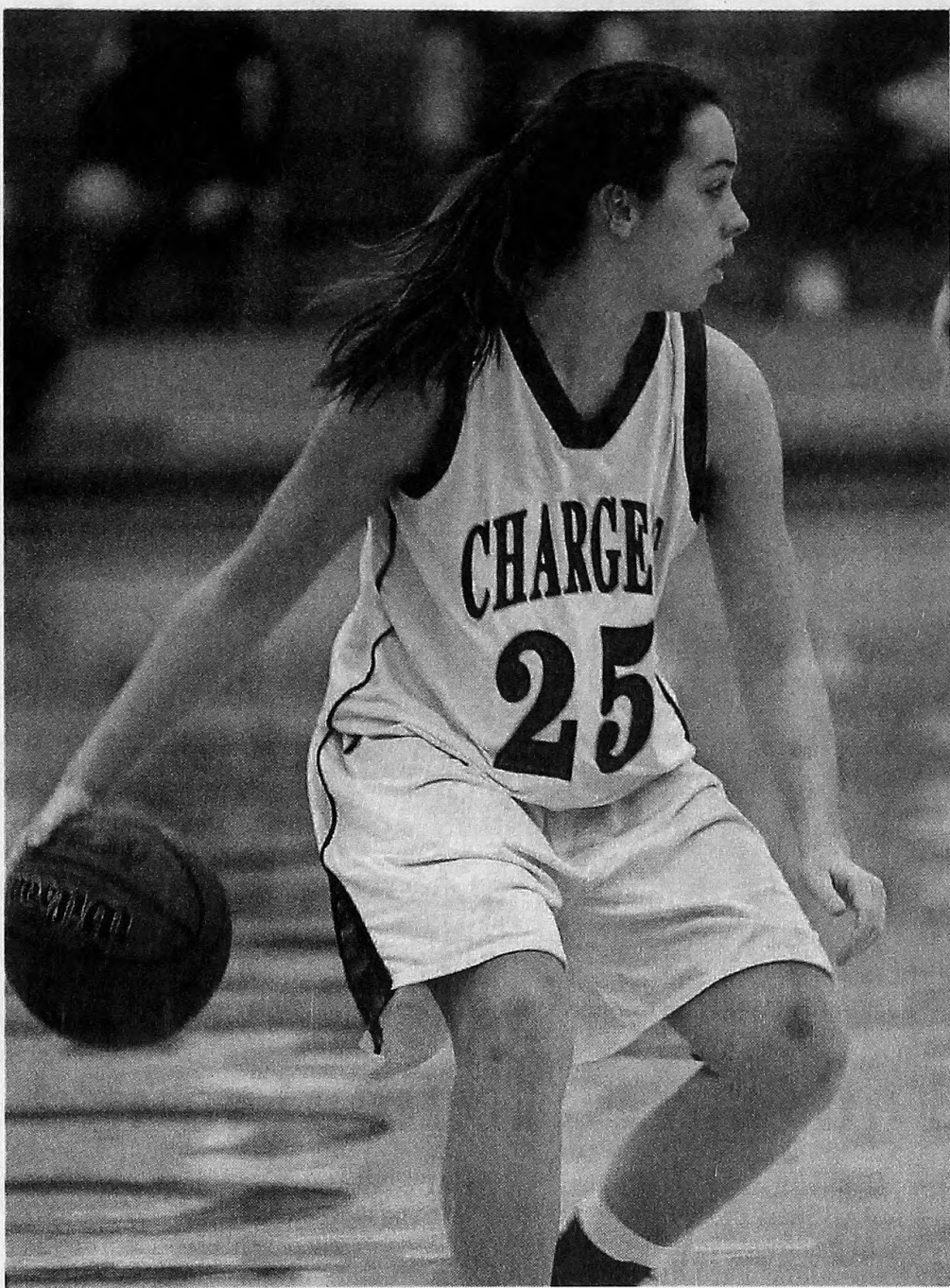
Lindsey swooped in and took the job. She led the ninth-graders for two seasons, starting in 2013, until an assistant job opened on Cicerone's varsity. She's been on the bench by Cicerone's side ever since.

"There's no better place to be, especially since I went to Marian," Lindsey said. "There's no place I'd rather want to coach. Having that freshmen job open up that year, I was honestly so fortunate. Now being the head coach at Marian, I just never thought about that ever happening.

"I'm also a nurse, but I like to tell everyone that basketball is my job. It's what keeps me going every day, and the kids are great. They're fun at this age, and they keep me young. I'm excited to be with this good group of kids."

Lindsey takes over an interesting scenario with the Mustangs.

While the team is expected to return only five varsity players from last year's CHSL tournament championship run, one Mustang should be one of the best forwards in metro Detroit. That's 6-foot-3 sophomore McKenzie Swanson, who was recently offered by Xavier. As the summer circuit heats up, more Division I offers will likely roll in for her. Marian will likely also return current sophomores Elle Ervin and Abby Landa as well as freshmen Molly McLeod and



Former Bloomfield Hills Marian girls basketball star Michelle Lindsey played two seasons for Hillsdale College before transferring to Madonna University. COURTESY OF HILLSDALE COLLEGE ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

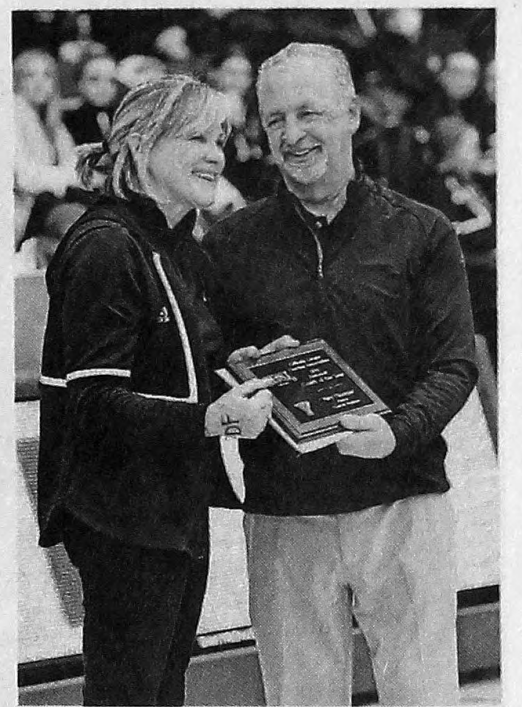
Charlie Bingham.

Lindsey has a chance to build another CHSL championship contender around Swanson and the next up-and-comers at Marian. That's not always the case for new hires, but it helps that Lindsey has been in the program and she knows all of the girls who are making the jump from the JV to the varsity next winter.

Plus, while Marian graduates most of its key contributors, such as point guard Anna Herberholz, small forward Grace

Rotter and center Sarah Sylvester, among others, it'll be interesting to see who Lindsey turns into the next all-state player with her leading the huddles during timeouts.

"I love seeing players grow and having an impact on their games," Lindsey said. "Even dating back to my two seasons coaching the freshmen at Marian, thinking about that has always stuck with me. I had girls on that freshmen team who couldn't even hit the backboard while shooting. The next thing



Catholic League athletic director Vic Michaels (right) presents Bloomfield Hills Marian coach Mary Cicerone with the Coach of the Year Award at halftime of the CHSL tournament championship in February. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

you know, they're starting as juniors and seniors at Marian. It just shows how high school is such a special time."

Other than Lindsey's four years away from college, she's always been around Cicerone, whether that was as a player or an assistant.

She admits most of her coaching philosophies come directly from Cicerone. Which makes sense. They spent 13 years together.

So the Mustangs won't look too different when they take the floor for the first time without their old head coach.

"I learned some things in college, but I've learned most of my stuff from her," Lindsey added. "The biggest takeaway is how she's been able to bring out the best out of every single kid. You might not think a kid has the potential sometimes, but Coach Cicerone knows what they can bring to the team and what they can bring to the team to help it succeed. It's about being able to utilize everything on the team and get them to come together, striving for success."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

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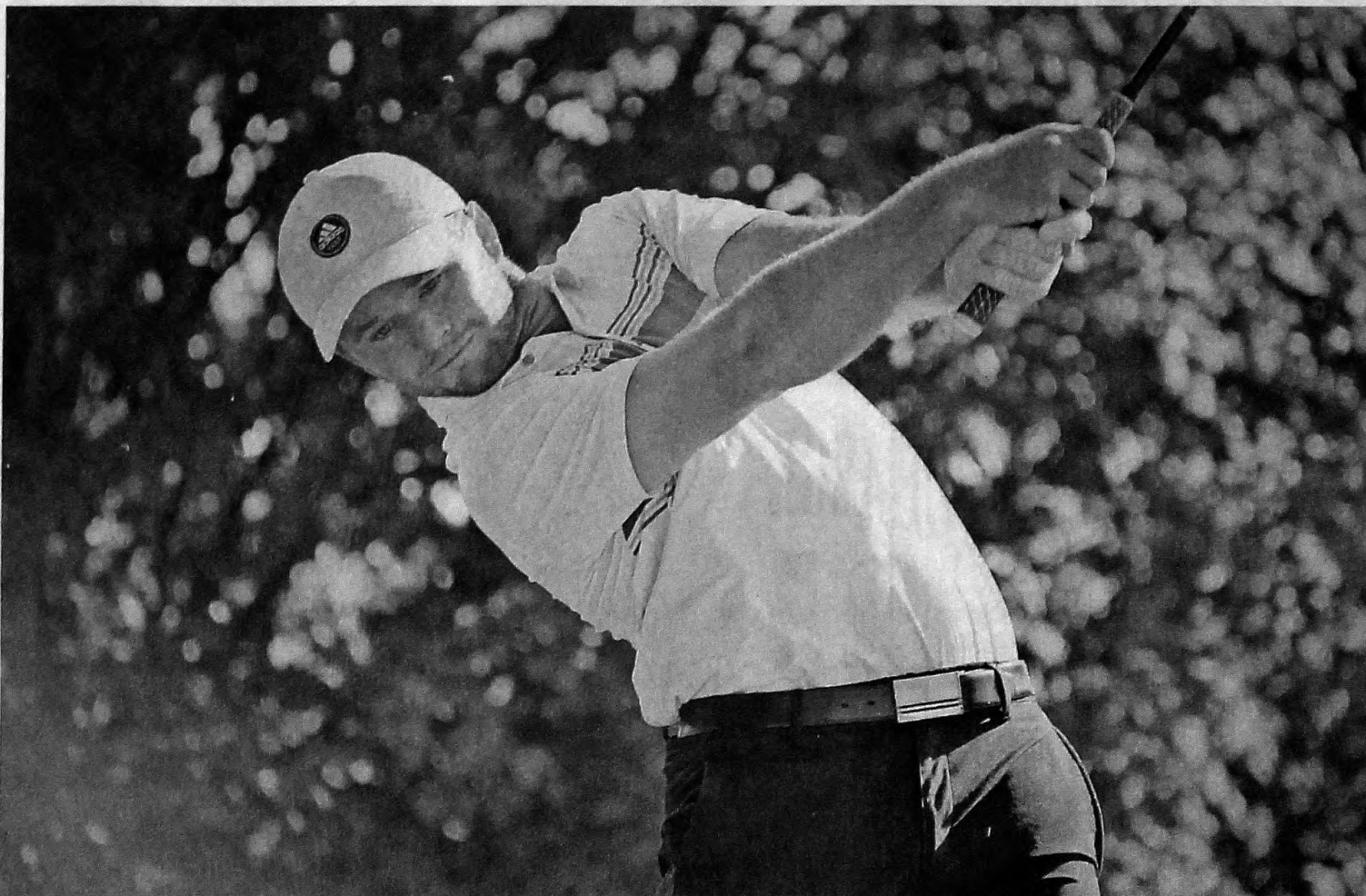
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## U.S. OPEN GOLF QUALIFYING



Beau Breault advanced from a U.S. Open local qualifier at Muskegon Country Club. GREG JOHNSON/MICHIGAN PGA

## Hartland grad advances to final round

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was typical spring weather in Muskegon — cold, wet and windy.

In other words, ideal golfing conditions for Hartland High School graduate Beau Breault.

Even though Breault spends winters in Florida pursuing his pro golf career, he's still acclimated to grinding it out during miserable Michigan weather better than most people.

"The tougher, the better," Breault said. "It weeds out a lot of players who on a perfectly sunny day when it's 70 degrees can go put up numbers, but when there's any adversity they're not going to show up. I don't mind the elements. I grew up playing in it in the spring in high school. It doesn't bother me. The harder the better. I kind of excel when it gets tougher."

Indeed, he did.

Breault fired a 4-under-par 68 to finish second in a U.S. Open local qualifier Monday at Muskegon Country Club. The top five golfers advanced to sectional qualifying, which is held at 13 sites May 23 and June 6.

The U.S. Open will be held June 16-19 in Brookline, Mass.

It's the first time Breault has advanced past a local qualifier after several attempts.

"It's been frustrating in all these U.S. Open local qualifiers, because you expect to get through," Breault said. "But it's just not that easy, because there are so many good players. It's just a one-day qualifier, so anything can happen. I've

been playing good.

"I just got back from Florida on Friday, so I went from 91 degrees to 41 degrees; it was kind of a rude awakening. I knew what to expect in Muskegon. It's always nice to play a round of golf the way you know you should. This is the first time I've qualified through to the sectional event, so I'm excited for that opportunity."

There were 8,880 golfers in local qualifiers, with 530 advancing to sectionals.

Breault finished two strokes behind Ann Arbor's Tyler Copp, the 2020 Michigan Amateur champion and younger brother of New York Ranger forward Andrew Copp.

Bradley Smithson of Grand Rapids and Kyle Gaines of Oxford tied for third with 69s, while William Anderson of Portage grabbed the fifth and final qualifying spot with a 70. There were 73 players in the field.

Baker Stevenson of Hartland tied for 29th with a 77.

Breault, the 2018 Michigan Amateur champion, felt he was in a good position to qualify throughout a round in which he had four birdies and 14 pars. Three of the birdies came in the final five holes after he made 11 consecutive pars.

"Anything under par, you usually give yourself a chance at Muskegon, just with the weather," Breault said. "I made a birdie early on my second hole. I hit it pretty well. I played really solid coming in. (No.) 17 is a pretty gettable short par-4. I hit it tight there, made a birdie on the final hole. I didn't try to force anything. I knew I was in a good spot. I just

had to finish strong. I was happy to get it in the clubhouse."

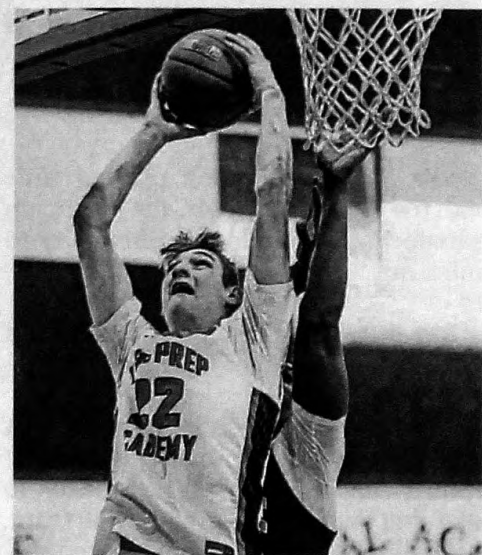
Breault will play his sectional qualifier on June 6 at a site to be determined. Players are assigned a site after submitting a list of preferred venues. He ranked Springfield Country Club in Springfield, Ohio first; Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in Columbus, Ohio second; and Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, N.Y. third.

"I've been recommended to go to Springfield, just because it would suit my game," he said. "It's a hard place to get out of, as far as making it to the actual U.S. Open. There's a lot of ex-PGA Tour players and even PGA Tour players who are not exempt who go there and play it. The course is really solid. It's difficult; you don't have to go super low."

Final qualifying consists of 36 holes on one day. The number of players who advance from each site is determined by the number of players and strength of each site's field.

Breault, 25, made it to the second round of qualifying last fall for the Korn Ferry Tour, the developmental tour for the PGA Tour. His goal this year is to qualify this fall.

"Statistically, I've gotten better with my scoring average," he said. "I've learned a lot in the 2½ to three years I've played professional golf. You pick up so much from being around players who are better than you. You learn how to travel, you learn course management, you learn you don't have to play every week, you know when to rest, when to push, what to practice."



Carson Cooper played as a junior with Emoni Bates at Ypsi Prep and then transferred to IMG for his senior season. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## MSU gets commitment from former Ypsi Prep big man Cooper

**Marlowe Alter** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State has added a big man to its 2022 recruiting class.

Carson Cooper, 6-foot-10, 220-pound center from Jackson who played last season at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, announced his commitment to coach Tom Izzo and the Spartans on Sunday afternoon.

Cooper spent his first two years of high school at Jackson Northwest, played for the Emoni Bates-led Ypsilanti Prep as a junior in 2020-21, showing improvement in his game, and then transferred to IMG for his senior season.

"100% committed I'm extremely blessed and grateful for everyone that has helped me get to this point in my basketball career!" Cooper wrote on Twitter. "I also want to thank all of the college coaches that have put their time into recruiting me. I am officially a Spartan!"

Cooper flashed a few nice performances for Ypsi Prep, playing with a good motor and improving his footwork as the season progressed. He went from a reserve big to a spot starter, and once he learned Ypsi wouldn't be back for 2021-22, he landed with IMG Academy, one of the best programs in the country.

"He's a kid who his best basketball is definitely ahead of him," Ypsi Prep coach Corey Tucker told the Free Press in March.

By March, Cooper's scholarship offer list had grown from nearly nonexistent to the Division I level: Vermont, Eastern Michigan, Stetson and Duquesne.

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#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will receive sealed bids for:

#### District Athletic Apparel/Spirit Wear

Bids will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bids will be conducted in public:

Date: May 23, 2022  
Time: 1:00 pm. EST  
Place: Board of Education  
Wayne-Westland Community  
Schools 36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

All bids received after the date and time stated above will not be considered. All project bids should be submitted in accordance with the Owner's bid specifications. The sealed bid is to be date-stamped in the Business Office no later than Monday, May 23, 2022 at 1:00 pm. The outside of the envelope must include the bid title, due date and time and be addressed as follows:

Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
Chanda Cleaves, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations  
District Athletic Apparel/Spirit Wear  
36745 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185

A mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 on May 13, 2022 at 9:00 am. At this time all specifications and expectations will be discussed.

The Wayne Westland Community School District Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

Questions should be directed to Kim Markey, Wayne Westland Community Schools, [markeyk@wwcsd.net](mailto:markeyk@wwcsd.net). The bid specifications may be obtained May 9, 2022 or thereafter by contacting Wayne Westland Community Schools at [markeyk@wwcsd.net](mailto:markeyk@wwcsd.net).

### BUDGET HEARING Notice for General Fund and ESSER III Budgets

Sigma Academy for Leadership & Early Middle College will be holding its annual budget hearing on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 8:30 A.M. at 25 Ford Street; Highland Park, MI 48203. The budget is available for public inspection at [www.sigmalaeemc.org](http://www.sigmalaeemc.org), posted to the website 2 days prior to the meeting. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880645-01 3x3

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #2258, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Enclosure of Existing Vacant Bank Drive-through Area, 36700 Ford Rd., North Side of Ford Road, East of Newburgh Road, Dr. Rodwin Saad.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting at [mayoub@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mayoub@cityofwestland.com) or 734-467-3219.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880396-01 3x3

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1532D, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Building Addition for an Oil Change Shop, 32911 Warren Rd., Southwest corner of Warren Road and Venoy, Steven Hamade.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting at [mayoub@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mayoub@cityofwestland.com) or 734-467-3219.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880390-01 3x3

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1126B, Site Plan Approval for Proposed Veterinary Clinic, 36391 Ford Rd., Southeast corner of Ford Road and Carlson, Mark Pytiak.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting at [mayoub@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mayoub@cityofwestland.com) or 734-467-3219.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880393-01 3x3

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1051J, Site Plan & Special Land Use Modification for Proposed Outdoor Seating for an Existing Smoking Lounge, 7900 Middlebelt, Southeast corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt, Salim Sabbagh.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting at [mayoub@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mayoub@cityofwestland.com) or 734-467-3219.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880389-01 3x3

#### CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

**Case #1716B, Site Plan & Special Land Use Approval for Trailer Storage, 1313 S. Newburgh, East side of Newburgh, West of the Railroad, Mario Caushi/L&M Express LLC.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting at [mayoub@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mayoub@cityofwestland.com) or 734-467-3219.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman  
Westland Planning Commission

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### Abandoned Vehicle Auction Friday, 20 May, 2022 @ 12noon Sparks Auto and Towing, 34043 Ford Road, Westland MI 48185

2003	BMW	WBAEV33483KL60162
2002	Ford	1FMYU03142KD82998
2003	Pontiac	1G2NW12E33C307690
2000	GMC	1GKCS13W4Y2342312
2002	Lexus	JTHBD192220043151
2010	Toyota	4T1BF3EK0AU554423
2014	Chrysler	2C3CCA4T4EH321418
2003	Land Rover	SALTY16433A786700
2014	Chevrolet	2GNALCEK1E6300871
1998	Dodge	1B4HS28Y7WF198839
2015	Jeep	1C4PJM4B4FW769722
2003	Nissan	1N4AL11D13C190709
2004	Ford	2FMZA57674BA61258
2003	Chrysler	2C3HD46R93H521761
2002	Dodge	2B5WB35Z12K120980
1999	Honda	JHMCG6659XC006465
2006	Ford	1FAFP24166G184564
2009	Saturn	1G82S57B69F193202
2006	Chevrolet	1G17W63106F138200
2006	Ford	1FAFP34NX6W133082
2004	Buick	2G4WS52J941224154
2002	Honda	1HGCG32532A018980
2000	Ford	1FMDU64P8YZB19014
2008	Dodge	1C3CDFEB6FD142177
2009	Nissan	JN8AZ28R49T121199
2005	Chevrolet	1G1ZU54825F119870

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0880514-01 2x6

### BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2022 - 2023 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 24th, 2022 at 6:30 o'clock p.m., Bloomfield Hills Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2022 - 2023 budget. The public hearing will be held during the Board of Education meeting and may be attended in-person at 7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2022 - 2023 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2022 - 2023 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rates, will be available online Monday, May 23rd, 2022 at 4:00PM at: <https://www.bloomfield.org/about-us/board-of-education/meeting-minutes>. Select either the Online Agenda or Download Agenda options for the Board of Education meeting date of 05/24/22. If you would like to view the budget in person, please call (248) 341-5445 to schedule a time.

**The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Jennifer Matlow, Secretary  
Bloomfield Hills Schools Board of Education

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI087269-01 3x3.5



OFFICIAL DOCUMENT  
BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
31301 Evergreen Rd.  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3800  
(248) 203-3000

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BID

**PROJECT: Bingham Farms Playground Improvements** | **2020 BOND BID PACKAGE #1-4**

Notice is hereby given that sealed Bids for **2020 BOND Bid Package 1-4: Bingham Farms Playground Improvements** will be received electronically in Building Connected. Bids are due on or before **Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 10:00a.m.**, local time. No oral, fax, mailed, dropped off or emailed Bids shall be submitted. No allowance will be made for late delivery for any reason.

Bids shall be prepared in accordance with specifications outlined in Request for Bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on **Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**, local time, by Birmingham Public Schools via a livestream meeting. The meeting link is: <https://rockfordconstruction.zoom.us/j/99704969820?from=addon> Bids will then be evaluated, with awards subsequently to be made by Birmingham Public Schools. No immediate decision will be rendered.

The Request for Bid documents may be downloaded by Bidder, on or after 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 11th, 2022 through Building Connected: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/projects/62715eb3a86d2102c1b6b032/files> This advertisement will also be posted on the following websites: <https://bit.ly/2HBG3IP> and [www.bpsecatalog.net/bids](http://www.bpsecatalog.net/bids). Request for Bid documents may be contained in more than one electronic file. It is bidder's responsibility to register as a vendor in order to access and download all pertinent documents related to a particular Bid. Request for Bid change notifications, such as addendums, will be electronically sent to this email address. **If you do not register a valid email address, which you verify on a regular basis, you will not be notified of changes to Request for Bid documents.** No other request for Bid change notifications (addendums) will be honored.

A Pre-Bid will be held at **4:00 p.m.** local time on **Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 at Bingham Farms Elementary, 23400 West 13 Mile Rd., Bingham Farms, MI, 48025.** Bidders shall report to the main entrance of Bingham Farms Elementary. Bidders are responsible for attendance at the Pre-Bid conference and information presented, though attendance is not mandatory.

All questions shall be directed to Christa Amalio, at [camalio@rockfordconstruction.com](mailto:camalio@rockfordconstruction.com) and/or (586) 295-1412 with the following subject line: "BPS 2020 Bond Bid Package #1-4 Request for Clarification" prior to **Friday, May 20th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

Bids shall be submitted electronically into Building Connected. Bid security by a quality surety in the form of a bid bond, cashier check, or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid/Quote/Proposal amount shall be submitted with the Bid. All cashier's checks must be scanned and submitted electronically through Building Connected by bid opening and be delivered to 31301 Evergreen Rd., Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025-3800, Attention: Lori McCracken, Purchasing Coordinator within 48 hours of bid opening. The District will not consider a Bid that does not include a bid security.

Bidders will be permitted to withdraw their Bid, unopened, after it has been submitted if so requested prior to the time specified above for opening of Bid. The successful bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with Birmingham Public Schools. The successful bidder shall pay all taxes required by law.

Bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and submit this with their Bid. The Bid will 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 of Education of the school district, or the Superintendent of the school district. The District will not consider a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Bidder is not an "Iran Linked Business" within the meaning of the Iran Economic Sanctions Act. The District will not consider a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

The right to reject any or all Bids, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, is reserved by Birmingham Public Schools. The Board of Education will not consider or accept a Bid received by the Board after the date and time specified for receipt of Bid.

Date: **5/5/22**

Authorized Signature:

*Lori McCracken*

Lori McCracken, Purchasing Coordinator

Publish: May 15, 2022

LO-GCI0881079-01 3x10

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## Rapid Reaction: Employment Cost Index

Private-sector wage growth hits record highs across occupations but fails to keep up with inflation

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Nominal wage growth is at record highs, but failing to keep up with inflation, in most occupations and industries. Here are three takeaways from today's Employment Cost Index (ECI) Report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

**We're seeing the fastest nominal wage growth, in both goods-producing and service-providing industries, since the government started collecting ECI data.**

Wages and salaries for all private-sector workers increased by 5% and total compensation by 4.8% in Q1 2022 over the year. Those are the highest year-over-year growth rates going back to 2001. Both goods-producing (4.4%) and service-providing (5.2%) industries saw record growth.

**Nonetheless, inflation is eroding workers' purchasing power in all occupations, except accommodation and food services.**

With inflation at a 40-year high, nominal wage growth is failing to keep up. Real wages—what employees earn after taking inflation into account—decreased 3.6% overall—and by as much as 4.6% in professional occupations. Inflation is weighing on consumer confidence.

**There is a strong relationship between nominal wage growth and employee quits.**

According to data from the Atlanta Fed, wage growth first rose for job switchers but has recently broadened, spiking for job stayers as well. Employers are raising wages not only to recruit new candidates in a tight labor market, but to hold

onto the workers they've got. There is a clear correlation between nominal wage growth, as measured by the ECI, and the quits rate reported in the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. Most recently, the quits rate was highest in leisure and hospitality at 5.6%. That sector has also seen the fastest nominal wage growth (9.0%).



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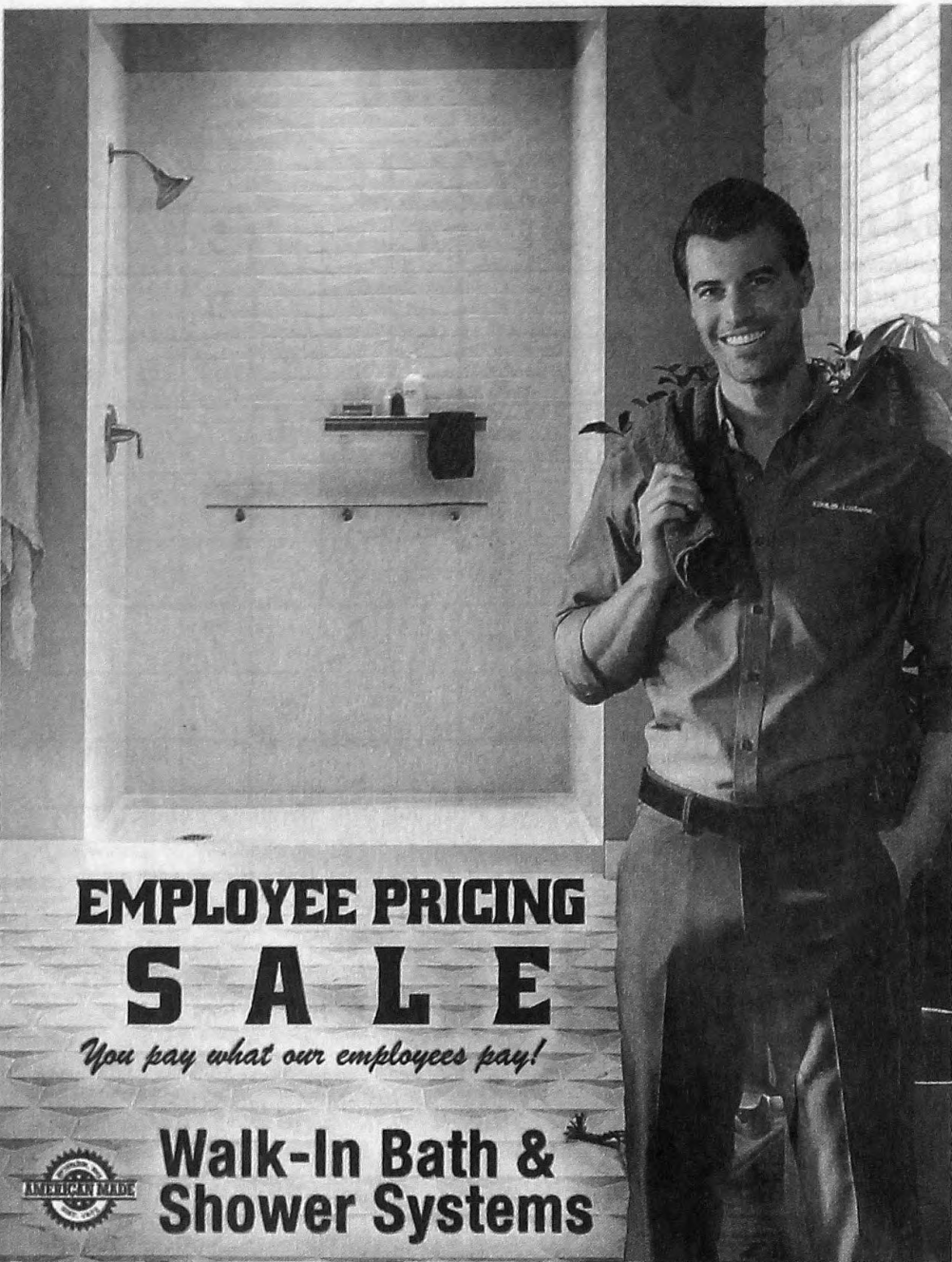
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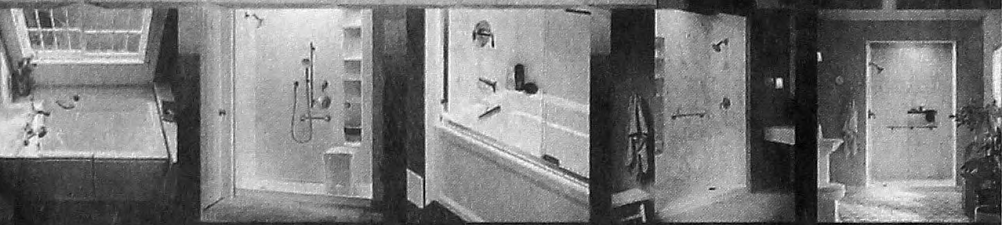


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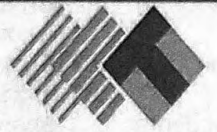
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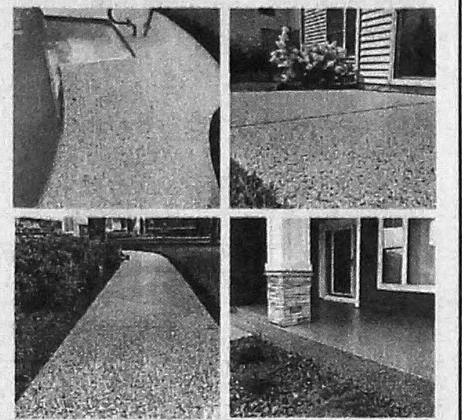
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