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NOVI NEWS

THURSDAY 08.17.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

08/17/2017

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Youth group to host fundraiser

Lakes Area Youth Assistance hosts its annual Taste of the Lakes fundraiser 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, at Edgewood County Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce.

This event marks the largest fundraiser for LAYA, which annually raises between \$30,000 to \$35,000 for essential programs and services for young people ages 16 and younger. LAYA's mission is to strengthen youth and families and to reduce the incidence of delinquency, abuse and neglect through volunteer involvement.

More than 20 restaurants participate by donating food that is the available to sample at the event. These restaurants include Applebee's, Tim Horton's, CJ's Brewery, CAYA Smokehouse Grill, Edible Arrangements, Willson's Pub 'n Grill and Benstein Grill.

There will be a silent auction and a raffle for a variety of gifts and items.

Tickets can be purchased until Sept. 18 at the LAYA office (615 N. Pontiac Trail, Room LL1, Walled Lake), the Commerce Township offices and the village of Wolverine Lake offices. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

For more information, call LAYA at 248-956-5070.

CONTACT US

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Showplace to host LEGO event

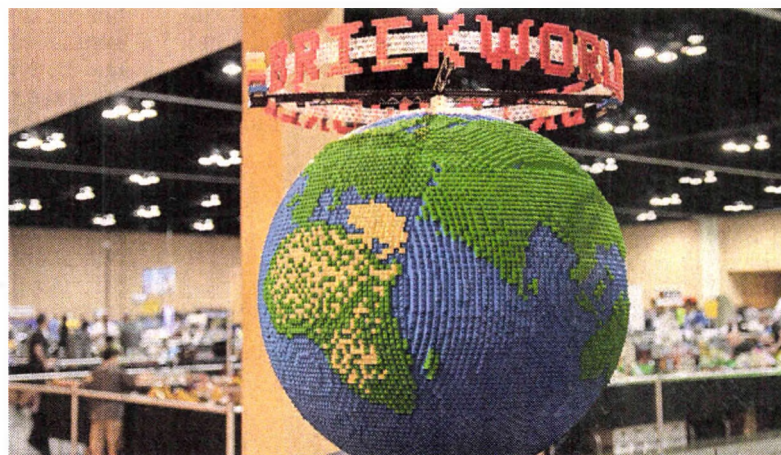
Brickworld will feature many 'awe-inspiring' creations

Brickworld is excited by bringing a premiere LEGO display and exposition to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The event will fill 40,000 square feet with displays, interactive activities and vendors.

"The displays at the event are awe-inspiring," event organizer Bryan Bonahoom said. "The detailed ideas and creativity of the artists and engineers always amaze. Displays are our focus, unlike some other shows that travel the country. We like to find locations that appreciate the displays and then we return every year."

"We are very excited to be partnered with the local adult LEGO fan groups to present their displays in one large space, along with some additional cool displays from outside the local area like the 26-foot long, 500,000-piece model of the USS Missouri."

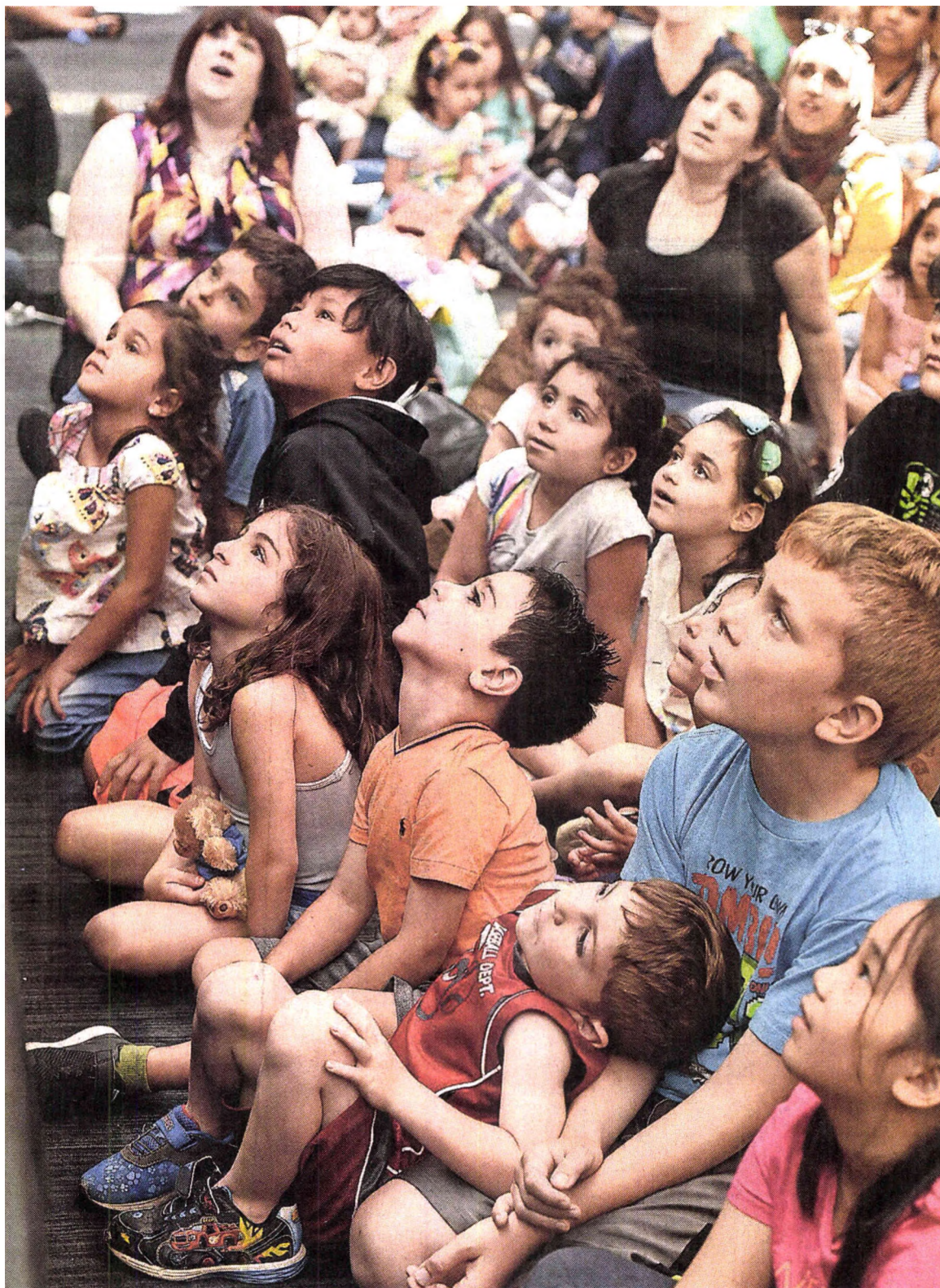
The creations at the event range from medieval castles to futuristic space stations. They include movie scenes, replicas of real world buildings and recreations of famous paintings. Pretty much anything you can



A Brickworld, built by Bryan Bonahoom, is a 25,000-piece globe made of LEGO bricks. CALE LEIPHART

See LEGO, Page A2

Summer fun at Twelve Oaks Mall



Kids watch with rapt attention at the creations of the Bubbleologist Rob Lloyd during an Aug. 10 visit to Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. Lloyd created bubbles both big and small and multi-layered during his afternoon stop, which was part of the mall's Summer Fun Thursdays at Center Court. The series of fun activities will continue through Aug. 31. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Karate kids (and adults) shine at international competition

Family Self Defense Center of Novi continued its tradition of excellence July 22 by earning 21 competitive awards at the Isshinryu Hall of Fame Tournament. Fourteen students also earned top five International rankings at the event, with the school chosen as one of the Top Five Isshinryu dojos internationally for the 10th year.

Earning first place, international champion titles were Elizabeth Arnold, Ian Kosaka and Shaelyn Carroll, all in the sparring division.

Those earning second place were Hand Kata: Noah Bayma, Jachin Chung and Rachel Manella; Weapons: Noah Bayma; Sparring: Amelia Chung, Jachin Chung, Lexi Maxton and James Takeshita.

Finishing in third place were Hand Kata: Amelia Chung, Rowan Adomaitis, Elizabeth Arnold and Jim Bertin; Weapons: Rowan Adomaitis; Sparring: Austin Bermingham.


In fourth place were Hand Kata: Austin Bermingham and James Takeshita; Weapons: Lexi Maxton; Sparring: Rowan Adomaitis.

Prior to IHOF tournament, FSDC students competed in the KIAI Grand Nationals and

See KARATE, Page A2



Ladies of Family Self Defense Center led a segment of the "Ladies of Isshinryu" seminar at the Hall of Fame Tournament. SUBMITTED



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Books for bikes

Gale rewards kids for reading

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Bess Anderson thought her internship with Gale in Farmington Hills was just going to be the usual — learning the ropes of the research publication firm, run errands, go through the daily grind.

But for Anderson and the other interns at Gale this summer, the oppor-

tunity turned into something bigger than that.

Anderson and her fellow interns were put in charge of the company's outreach program from the beginning and the work they did was much more than they expected. They led the effort of some 300 Gale employees to build and distribute bicycles to 50 Detroit children who completed a summer

reading program through the Detroit Public Library.

"It's been much bigger than a typical intern experience," said Anderson, a grad student at the University of Michigan. "We're building bikes for kids, but we bought the bikes from another charity, so it's had an even bigger impact. It's been a really rewarding experience."

The bikes were built on the Gale campus in Farmington Hills by some 300 employees split into teams. While Gale officials planned about 90 minutes for the bike-building exercise, employees finished in about 30 minutes.

What they didn't know was this: The kids from Detroit were coming out that afternoon to pick out their bikes.

"It's just a great opportunity, especially doing it for kids," Gale employee Scott Maynard said. "It's giving back, it's helping kids."

Anderson said the interns settled on the bike-building project after "calling around to several charities." Turns out, she said, the Detroit Public Library's summer reading program was "exactly what we were looking for."

To qualify for the prizes in the summer reading program, Detroit kids had to complete certain levels of reading. The kids that went highest on the scale got the biggest prize — the bikes.

Lurine Carter, the coordinator of children



Interns Emily Gucoma and Deepanshee Singh tagged the bikes so the kids would know which one they were receiving.

BRAD KADRICH

and teen services for the DPL, said the reading effort uses the program "Read Squared" and gives points for each level of reading. The idea, she said, is obvious: keep children reading.

"The program gives kids motivation to continue to read," Carter said. "One of our goals is to get them to never stop (reading). Programs like (Gale's) keep them reading. I think it's absolutely wonderful."

Fox Simmons is in the library at least three times a week, according to his dad, Andrew Simmons. Fox was "excited" to get his first bike, said Andrew, who wholly endorsed the reading program.

"It helps them move forward and take that next step in learning," Andrew said. "The program is awesome."

That's what Brian

McDonough thought, too, the first time he saw it work at a company down in Florida — "It was awesome," he said — and he was so impressed he wanted to see it work just as well in Farmington Hills.

"When you got that first bike as a kid, it gave you power to explore more things," said McDonough, the company's senior vice president of sales. "The library isn't just about reading anymore. Bikes help kids expand their horizons and so do libraries. It's a reflection of what we do at Gale."

The employees made short work of the building. Of course, for them, it wasn't really work anyway.

"This is fun," employee Kelly Sprague said. "It's a great gift to the community. We're enjoying doing it."

The kids also got bike locks, backpacks and books donated by Thorndike Press, an imprint of Gale. The event was part of the company's Gale Cares initiative to support local and national organizations whose charitable mission is education-focused.

That makes programs like the bike giveaway, plus other outreach efforts, simply part of the culture at Gale.

"Our mission is to empower learning by bringing knowledge to libraries," said Paul Gazdolo, Gale's general manager. "We feel really lucky. Helping the Detroit Public Library reward these kids who completed the reading program feels really good."

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SUBMITTED

The Family Self Defense Center had a strong showing at the recent Isshinryu Hall of Fame Tournament in Tennessee.

KARATE

Continued from Page A1

earned 41 awards. FSDC students earned 19 national champion titles, with the coveted Junior Black Belt Grand Cham-

pionship won by FSDC's own Ram Kiru.

For the past 10 years, FSDC, in partnership with the city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, has taught classes in Isshinryu Karate for ages 5 and up.

Okinawan Weaponry and special adult only classes are held each Monday and Tuesday evening and a class for home school students is held each Tuesday morning.

For more information, go to karatebyfsdc.com or cityofnovi.org.

LEGO

Continued from Page A1

imagine is probably at Brickworld in some form. Plus, no Brickworld event would be complete without an incarnation of the Great Ball Contraption Rube Goldberg machine and trains.

The LEGO brick is widely recognized as one of the most educational toys in the world. At

Brickworld, kids of all ages can witness an incredible variety of ways to use the brick for art and engineering applications. Using the LEGO brick exercises creativity, engineering skills and hand-eye coordination.

The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. General admission tickets are \$12.50 cash or \$13 credit card at the door and \$13 online.

Kids under 3 are free. Tickets are available at the door (unless/until the event reaches sellout) and online at <http://brickworld.com>.

Brickworld LLC is a private company that is not associated with the LEGO Group of companies. Brickworld operates expositions and conventions dedicated to LEGO enthusiasts with creations from brick artists and engineers.

Fashion choices should meet district standards, expectations

There was a time in my life when I thought I should be on the leading edge of fashion. I was in middle school. I thought I would look good in a Nehru suit. My parents did not agree. My parents refused my request. I begged. I pleaded. Ultimately, it was all for naught. My parents purchased for me a traditional suit and I soon moved on to wishing for other things. School starts in less than a month — Sept. 5, to be exact. During the course of this summer — and certainly during the course



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

of the next few weeks — many parents have had or will have conversations with their children about back-to-school clothes. My sense is that, on occasion, there are differences of opinion between the parents and their children on what is appropriate.

Our schools do have dress codes. The elementary dress code, as written in the parent-student handbook, is

rather general. It states: "Students will dress in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness and safety. Clothing will be worn in a manner that will convey self-respect and will not disrupt the education process."

The middle and high school dress code, addressed in the student handbooks, is more extensive and more direct. It addresses such things as tank tops, length of shorts and wearing pants so they do not expose undergarments. It addresses clothes that promote alcohol or drugs (forbidden, by the way).

I am asked why we worry about what clothes a student wears. It is true that, over the years, what is appropriate has changed. More informal attire has become more accepted. Casual clothes are seen in more and more places.

While that is true, it is also true that there are still standards. What I wear Saturday around the house I do not wear Monday when I come to work. There are certain expectations that are still honored.

In our school district, we allow students to have some flexibility, recognizing that many stu-

dents will choose to express themselves through how they dress. We do not require a uniform.

However, we do have standards that we believe help to maintain the focus on education. We do not allow clothes that promote alcohol or drugs. We do not allow clothes that are overly revealing. We do not allow clothes that promote intolerance or violence.

It can, at times, seem like the district is arbitrary in what we will allow and what we will not allow. To help clarify, the 2017-18 Novi High

School student handbook (online and on page 25) details our standards. It is the same standard as Novi Middle School.

As parents have conversations with their children and as decisions are made on clothes for the new school year, it will be important to make choices that match the expectations and standards that we have established in our district.

Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at smatthews@novischools.net.

Turning pink: 3-Day walkers hope to beat cancer

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Denise Mintz of Canton ruffled through the more than 30 tiny ribbons on the bracelet around her right wrist while taking a break Aug. 5 from the Michigan 3-Day in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Every one of the ribbons represented a family member or friend in Mintz's life who's been impacted by cancer.

And so she walked, 60 miles in three days, "for all of these people."

"They're all friends and loved ones of friends who've been touched by cancer," said Mintz, walking in her fourth 3-Day. "If by chance (walkers) pass a woman who then says, 'I should go get a mammogram,' it's worth it."

Mintz was one of hundreds of walkers who took part in the annual Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day, walkers who

spent months raising funds and training to walk 60 miles over the three days of the event.

Walkers gathered Friday at the starting point at Walled Lake Western High School in Commerce (it moved from the Suburban Showplace Collection in Novi this year) to get started.

They then walked an average of 20 miles a day in support of cancer research and awareness in a walk that has raised more than \$56 million since 2004.

With a dwindling number of events — there were seven this year — walkers came from all over the country to take part.

Karen Rush and Ellen Banta both came from Phoenix, Ariz., to walk in Michigan's event. Both women are doing all seven walks; Rush has walked 53 times, while Banta has made 25 walks.

Ironically, they didn't meet at home; they met

at a Komen walk. "We do all seven of the walks because we can, because we have to," Rush said. "We need to get rid of this disease."

Jeremy Wallace of Akron, Ohio, hasn't ever had cancer, but he knows people who have. He figured walking 60 miles in three days — even wearing a bright pink bra — wasn't nearly as tough as cancer patients have it.

"They've got a lot longer, rougher road than this," said Wallace, walking in his third event. "This is the least I could do for my friends."

Amanda Boyd of Dearborn was in Plymouth to support the walkers. A first-timer, Boyd has watched five aunts battle cancer.

"I've watched it for too long," said Boyd, who was dancing at the corner of Main and Ann Arbor Trail. "It was time for me to do something." For Barbara Boone,

"doing something" involved riding her motorcycle all the way up from Atlanta, Ga., to show her support. Boone danced along with Boyd as the walkers paraded through Plymouth.

Boone, affectionately known as "BB," has beaten cancer twice and watched other family members fight it, as well.

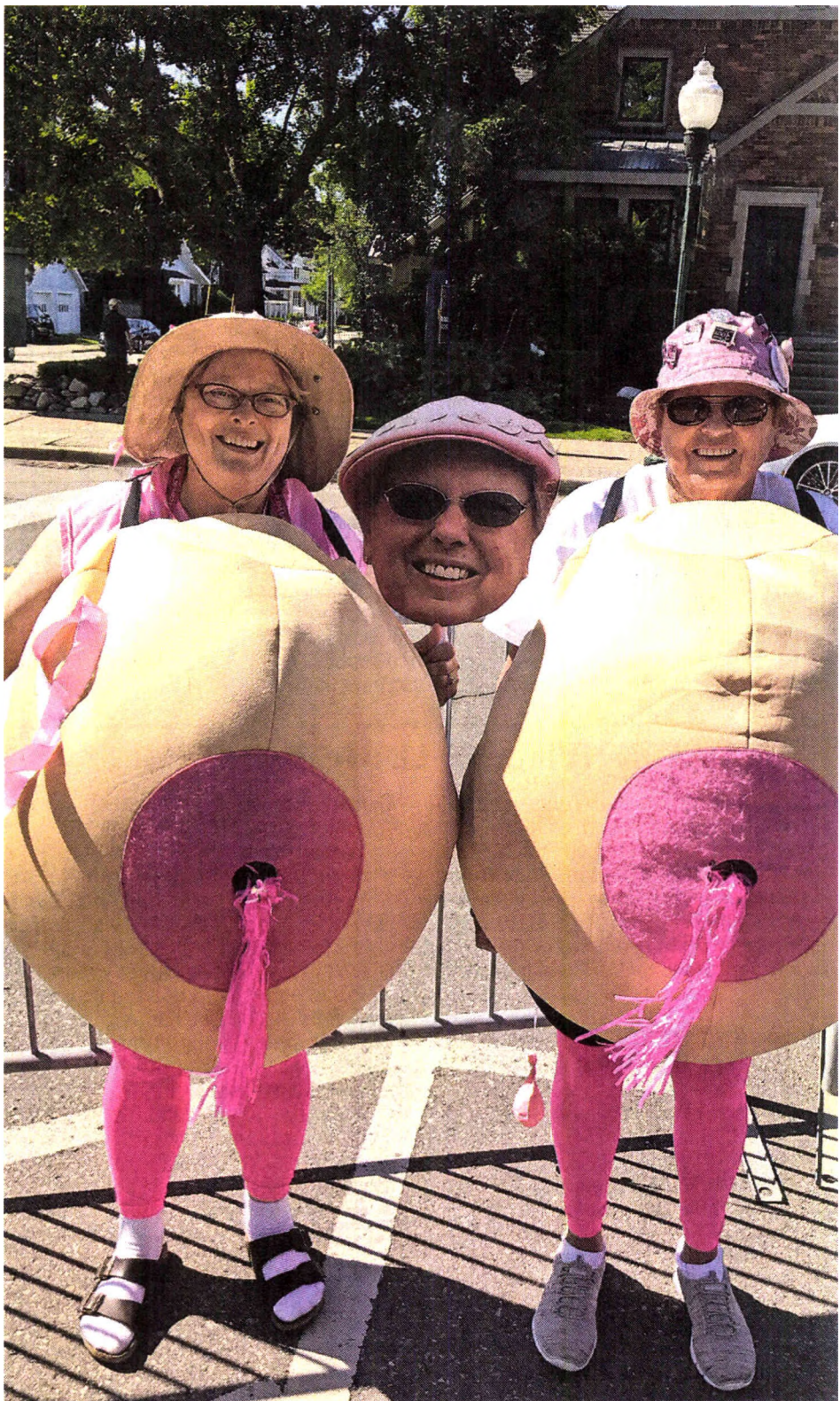
"I'm doing this so my daughter won't have to do it," Boone said. "I didn't make it through cancer alone. This is my way of paying it forward."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



BRAD KADRICH

As they always do, supporters lined Ann Arbor Trail in support of the hundreds of walkers during the Michigan 3-Day.



BRAD KADRICH

Jackie Pauls (left) of Chicago and Bettv Deoutv of Indiana dressed up for the occasion.

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Summer day on Walled Lake



Sam Perry holds his daughter Cela, 10 months, during a recent visit to Novi's Pavilion Shore Park. Perry, a resident of Japan, is visiting a sister-in-law who lives in Farmington Hills.



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

A shot of the southern end of Walled Lake from Novi's Pavilion Shore Park on Aug. 10. The park features a fishing dock, picnic shelter and a retention wall along its northern end from which the lake can be accessed.

NORTHVILLE LIBRARY LINES

One-on-one help with our tech expert

When: 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each Tuesdays; 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Thursday
Details: Free one-hour session with our Digital Services librarian to help you navigate our downloading services, help with email, Facebook, DropBox and more. Not for computer repair or configuration questions. Register online or in person or call 248-349-3020.

International Cosplay Day

When: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26
Details: Teens in grades 6-12, come in costume or start your own as we learn to make no-sew cloaks and capelets - perfect for the aspiring Hogwarts student, Attack on Titan character and more! Geek out over some awesome anime screened during the craft.

Foreign Film @ NDL

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28
Details: View a well-reviewed film with English subtitles. "Marie's Story" is about a woman born both blind and deaf who finds a friend in Sister Marguerette, who wins her trust and teaches her how to express herself. French film. 95 minutes.

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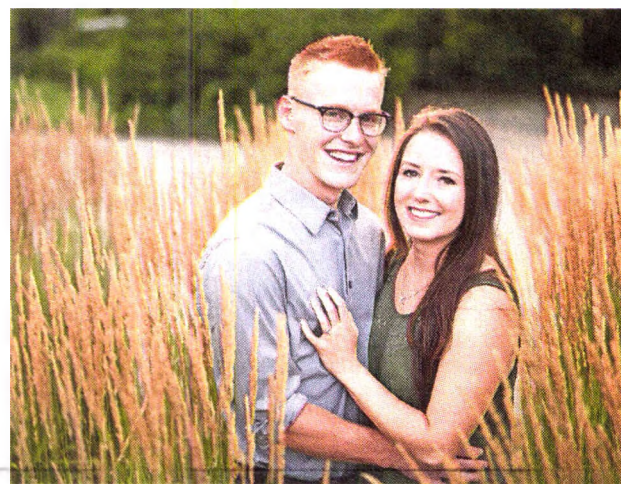
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ENGAGEMENT

Williams-Putman

Lindsay Irene Williams, daughter of Steve and Nancy Williams, and Gregory Allen Putman, son of Mike and Sue Putman, announce their engagement. The couple met while attending Northville High School and started dating during winter 2010.

Lindsay attended the University of Michigan and received a bachelor of science in Earth and environmental science. The bride-to-be was a four-year member of the University of Michigan women's gymnastics team, graduating as team captain. Greg received a bachelor of science in Earth and environmental sciences at Michigan State University. Both Greg and Lindsay are



Greg Putman and Lindsay Williams

now obtaining a master of science degree in environmental geosciences at Michigan State University. The couple will be married at the Horticultural Gardens on the campus of Michigan State University in October 2017. Greg and Lindsay will reside in their recently purchased home in the East Lansing area.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Two vehicles burglarized in local neighborhood

Two vehicles parked in a Novi neighborhood were targeted in burglaries on the same night earlier this month.

The incidents took place late Aug. 3 or early the next day in a residential area west of Taft and south of 10 Mile, according to Novi Police Department reports.

On Jaslyn Lane, a laptop computer and a designer lunch bag were reported stolen from a Ford Focus that had been left unlocked.

On Kimberly Court, about two blocks away, a

laptop and a computer hard drive were among the things reported stolen from a Dodge Ram pickup truck. There were no signs of forced entry, a police report said, and the complainant told police the truck may have been left unlocked.

Bike theft

A child's mountain bicycle was reported stolen Aug. 6 from a backyard shed at a house on Rousseau Drive, in the area of Novi Road and 13 Mile.

The theft took place between about 6 p.m. Aug. 5 and 11:30 a.m. Aug. 6, a police report said. The complainant

told police the shed had been left unlocked.

Vandalism

Pole-mounted lights that illuminate a sidewalk that leads to a playground in the area of Nine Mile and Ennishore Drive were vandalized in recent weeks.

A police report filed Aug. 4 said the lenses and bulbs on three light poles had been broken.

One light was damaged a few weeks earlier and the other two within a few nights of the day the report was filed, police said.

— By Matt Jachman

NORTHVILLE MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold, north of Main Street, near Ford Field. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the village. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today; go to www.millracenorthville.org for details.

Upcoming events

Buildings open to the public: 1-4 p.m. each Sunday through Oct. 15.

Grounds closed for wedding: 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and 4:15-6:15 p.m. Aug. 19.

Victorian clothing sale: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 10. \$2 admission.

Heritage Festival activities: 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sept. 17. Duck Race at 3:30 p.m.

Victorian tea at the Inn: 12:30-3 p.m. Sept. 17. Tickets sold at door. No pre-sale.

Ticket sales for Dec. 9 German Christmas Tea: 12:30-3 p.m. Sept. 17.

General info

Website: www.millracenorthville.org

Volunteers: The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volunteers in many different areas. We are in special need of Sunday store clerks and help with our fundraising teas. Students, we're happy to verify your volunteer hours with school or scouts. Please contact the office for more information.

Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available. More information on our website.

Donations: Archives donations accepted from 9 a.m. to noon each Tuesday.

Archives: The archives are temporarily closed.

Office: The office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org.

Livonia residents speak out at council meeting about dog shooting

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Laura Hilobuk said the story of her father's dog dying at the hands of a utility worker last month in Livonia has gone global. She still does not understand why the situation that happened at her father's house took place.

"As a gun owner myself, stories like this make me furious," the Pinckney resident said. "A gun is used as a last resort for protection, not a first. There's nothing more dangerous than a coward with a gun."

Hilobuk, along with others, spoke at the Livonia City Council meeting Aug. 9 to express concern over the situation that happened last month.

The incident took place July 28 in the 19900 block of Angling, when a utility worker was in the neighborhood doing some work. Livonia police say he was walking near the front yard of the dog owner's home when the dog began running toward him. Police say the man, feeling threatened, pulled out a legally owned weapon and shot the dog, killing it.

After a police investigation, a warrant request was submitted to the city prosecutor's office for review, which determined no criminal laws were broken and denied the warrant request.

Hilobuk said she believed that was the wrong decision.

"The shooter and prosecutor demonstrated a



Livonia City Attorney Don Knapp points to a map of the neighborhood where a dog was fatally shot by a utility worker.

complete disregard for public safety," she said. "If a similar situation comes up down the road but the bullet lands in a child or ricochets off the intended target, will this prosecutor still say the person afraid of a barking dog is in the right?"

City Attorney Don Knapp said the city attorney's office became involved after the police department completed its investigation of the incident. Once a police report is complete, Knapp said, the office then applies the facts as set forth in the report to the law and determines whether any laws were broken.

"I have a dog. The assistant city attorney who made the decision not to prosecute has two

dogs. We have a lot of sympathy for the owner," Knapp said. "But that being said, the decision is made on an objective analysis of the law and facts."

Knapp said while the man, a valid concealed pistol license holder, did discharge a weapon in the city, state law allows for one to defend themselves if felt they are under threat.

"He has the right, under state law, to defend himself," he said. "There is an ordinance that prohibits the discharge of a weapon in the city, but that has no application in this case."

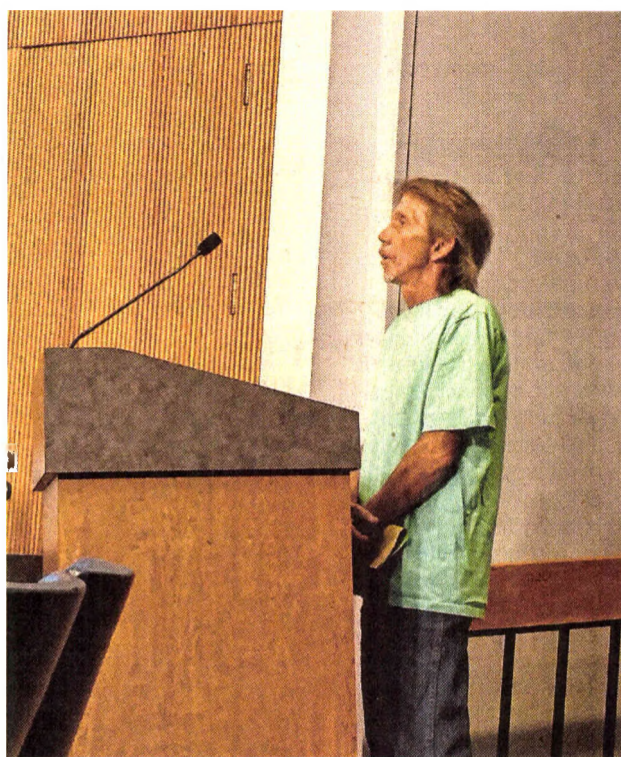
Desire for ordinance change

Michael Eiben, the dog's owner, said he

wanted to have something done about making utility workers give some sort of advance notice in the area and to provide a phone call if they see an issue with a dog in the yard.

"He ought to go around the front like everybody else does, come down the driveway and he would have seen my sign that says, 'Beware of dog,'" he said. "I'd kind of like these utility workers to come through the front yard, because we are not able to have any fenced-in front yard in the neighborhood. And the only yard we're able to have is the front yard."

Council President Kathleen McIntyre said police responded quickly to the call of the shooting



Livonia resident Douglas Eiben speaks at the Aug. 9 city council meeting. Eiben was the owner of a dog that was shot by a utility worker in his yard last month.

from the utility worker and the dog's owner that day. She said while it was determined by the city attorney's office to not pursue criminal charges against the worker, the council felt horrible that a family pet had died in the unfortunate situation.

"I would like to extend the deepest sympathies on behalf of the entire council to the Ivan family on the death of their beloved dog, Katie," she said. "We're very sorry for their loss. Most of us have family pets who we love and have a special place in our hearts."

Livonia resident Sandra Abrahamian said the

case could set a dangerous precedent to dog owners in the city if utility workers are in the neighborhood.

"Me being a Livonia resident, this is very concerning, that someone can shoot your dog because they 'feel threatened,'" she said. "How do we know he really felt threatened? The dog weren't there. It's his word against a dog that's dead that can't talk or the people."

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Residents call for Ford to clean contaminated groundwater

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Livonia resident Bruce Tenniswood was all set to sue Ford Motor Co. in federal court over the groundwater contamination in the Alden Village neighborhood.

He said the paperwork had been filed, giving 90 days notice that he and other neighbors would sue to force Ford to clean up the groundwater that's become contaminated with vinyl chloride. But he said that opportunity was taken once the state filed and settled a lawsuit with the Dearborn-based company back in July.

That left Tenniswood and other residents one option: Sue for damages done to their homes' property values. That suit was filed Aug. 9 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"This lawsuit is, basically, a result of filing that we made about 90 days ago where we requested the right to sue for cleanup. That right was taken away from us by the state of Michigan," he said. "It left us with no recourse whatsoever."

Tenniswood, along with other neighbors and attorneys from an Illinois law firm that have been hired to handle the lawsuit, held a press conference Aug. 9 in the neighborhood regarding the lawsuit. More than 130 residents who live in the Alden Village neighborhood, east of the Ford



Bruce Tenniswood, Donna Coppola and more than 130 neighbors have filed suit against Ford for damages related to vinyl chloride contamination in their Livonia neighborhood. The plant property begins just behind the home in the background.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Transmission Plant at 36200 Plymouth Road, are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit asking for monetary damages that will exceed \$25,000. The exact dollar amount has not yet been determined.

The suit comes about

18 months after Ford said it discovered chemicals such as vinyl chloride and trichloroethylene were present in the groundwater underneath the plant. After testing, Ford determined the chemicals had drifted

eastward into the groundwater beneath Alden Village.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality settled a lawsuit with Ford over the groundwater contamination in late July, which is its legal right to do so, said Illinois attorney Shawn Collins, one of the attorneys representing the neighbors. He said the neighborhood expects to see a decline in property values in the coming years, with the DEQ saying their neighborhood contains contaminated groundwater.

"Three weeks ago, the state filed a lawsuit that said this whole area is threatened with imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and environment," he said in an interview with the Observer & Eccentric. "That's something you have to, by Michigan law, disclose to a potential purchaser, a potential lender. They're not going to lend or buy under those circumstances."

"A buyer isn't going to buy without getting a substantial discount."

Those expected property values declines, coupled with the carcinogenic chemicals polluting the groundwater that could be affecting residents, were reason enough to seek damages from Ford, Collins said.

Norman Berger, another environmental attorney from Illinois, said while the residents cannot sue to force a cleanup, he said the residents will continue to see if that does occur.

"We will be sleeping

with one eye open to make sure that happens," Berger said.

Melody Kindraka, a spokeswoman for the Michigan DEQ, said the consent decree obtained with the company will be required to make the problem whole, including doing screening at more stringent levels than currently being used.

"Through the filing of the complaint and seeking a consent decree to guide the investigation and response actions necessary at and near the Ford Livonia Transmission Plant, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is ensuring the public will be protected through a settled and enforceable agreement, including a requirement for ongoing public outreach by Ford," she wrote via email.

Ford: drinking water unaffected

A status conference in the civil lawsuit will take place at 9 a.m. Nov. 8 before Circuit Judge John Murphy, according to online court records.

Ford reiterated this

week the groundwater contamination continued to show no dangers to area residents and that drinking water, which is not taken from groundwater and is provided by the Great Lakes Water Authority, is not affected.

"We remain fully committed to protecting the environment. All community samples collected to date show no health risk to residents or drinking water. When we discovered the issue, we promptly alerted the MDEQ and the plant's neighbors. Since then, we have actively worked with the MDEQ and investigated the potential for groundwater contamination, culminating in our settlement with the state of Michigan in July that includes plans for addressing the neighborhood and continued public outreach," the company said in a statement. "Throughout this process, we have worked quickly and cooperatively with the state and community to keep everyone fully informed of our progress."

Collins said vinyl chloride is tied to several diseases in humans, including scleroderma, a rare autoimmune rheumatic disease. He said the neighborhood has several people with that disease at a higher rate than most neighborhoods.

Do they know whether the contamination of the groundwater is a direct cause of disease in the neighborhood? Not at this time, Collins said, but they would look into it.

"No we don't, but we're studying it," he said.

Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright attended the press conference Aug. 9. He said he got word of the lawsuit a day earlier and wanted to come and speak to residents about the issue.

While the city is not directly involved in the issue, he said he wanted to come and show residents its taking an interest in its residents' needs.

"We care about the people," Wright said. "And everything we do is because we care about the people."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
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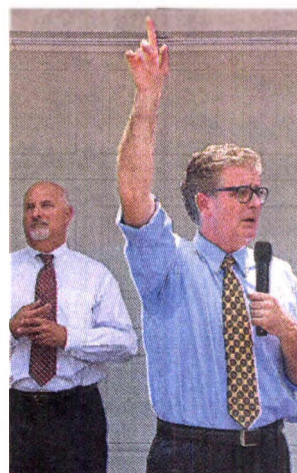
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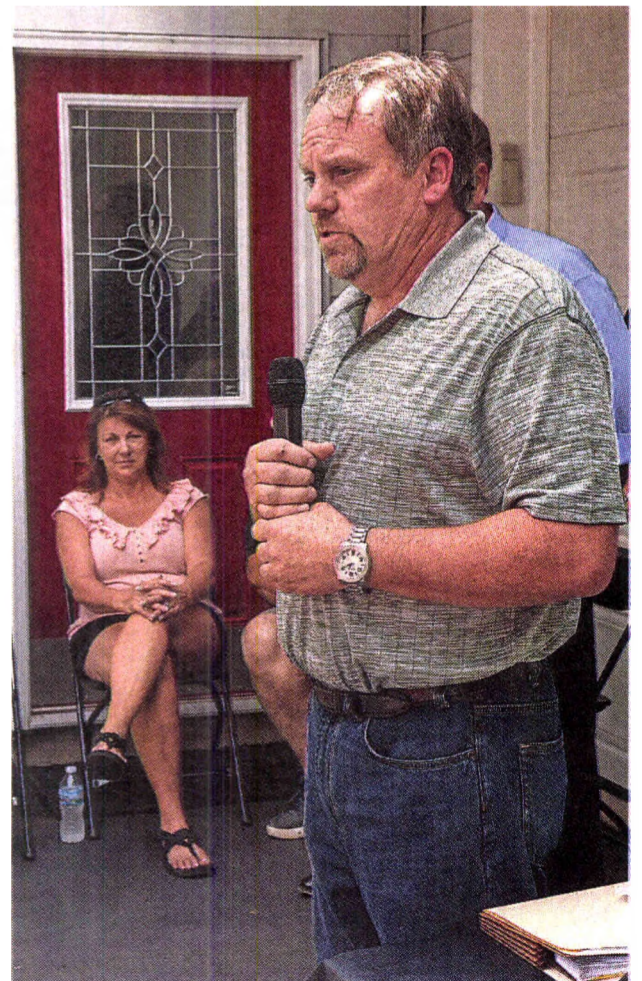
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Attorneys Norman B. Berger (left) and Shawn M. Collins.



Bruce Tenniswood speaks about the suit filed Aug. 9. At left is Donna Coppola, his spouse.

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Brighton man finds snake in garage

It's believed to be eastern massasauga rattlesnake

Laura Colvin
Livingston Daily

A Brighton Township man said he "screamed like a little girl" when he encountered what he believes was an eastern massasauga rattlesnake in his garage.

Last week, Bob Kakaley came home from work about 3:30 p.m. As usual, he opened the garage door and walked through to enter the house, which is on Aberdeen Lane, just east of U.S. 23.

A few minutes later, he left the garage door open and headed to Kroger to fill a honey-do list for his wife Carolyn.

When he returned and began stacking the pop he'd purchased in its usual place in the garage, he was greeted by the snake.

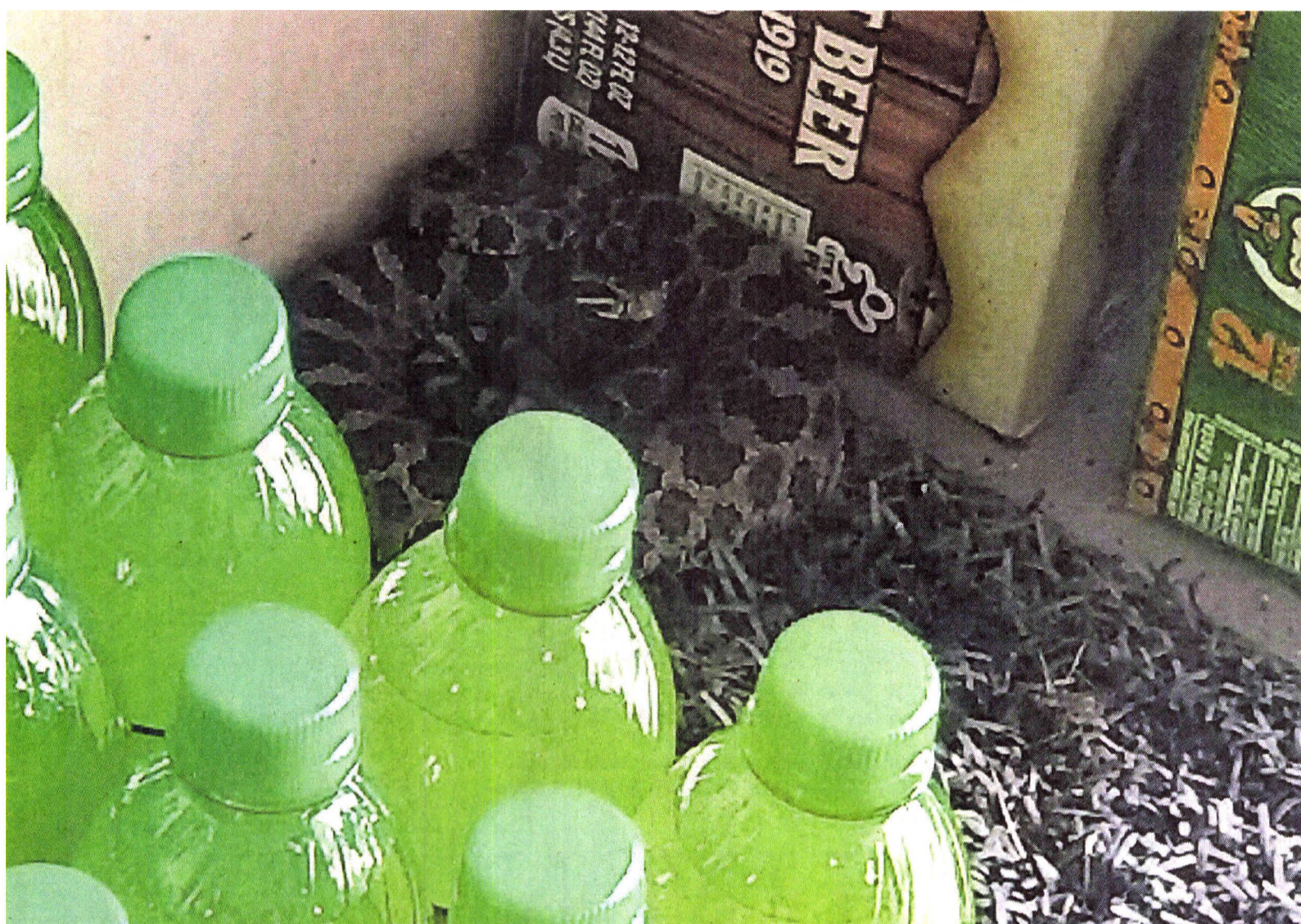
"All of a sudden, this thing started rattling at me," Kakaley said, noting the snake was coiled about six inches from his hand with its head raised "like a cobra would."

"I screamed like a little girl and ran to the front door and started pounding on it," he said. "My wife inside, she thought I fell or something because she heard me scream."

"Yeah, I don't like snakes," he said with a laugh.

The couple went inside and quickly looked online for some direction, then decided to call 9-1-1.

Michigan State Police Trooper Christopher McIntosh responded to the call and, after making



JENNIFER KAKALEY

Bob Kakaley of Brighton Township found what's believed to be an eastern massasauga rattlesnake in his garage recently.

a few phone calls, decided he'd have to take matters into his own hands.

McIntosh could not be reached for comment, but Kakaley said the trooper used an old weed whacker box to push the snake against the wall and into the box, then pulled a pillowcase over the top to keep the snake inside.

Kakaley said the trooper told him he would release the snake away from the residen-

tial area. A marshy area, prime massasauga habitat, separates Kakaley's property from U.S. 23.

"He asked me if I wanted my box or my pillow case back," Kakaley said. "I said 'Nope, you can keep them.'"

"He was an awesome cop," Kakaley added. "He handled the situation quite well."

Hannah Schauer, a communications coordinator for the DNR's wildlife division, said the

photo provided by Kakaley to the Livingston Daily appears to be an eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

"I can't say for certain because I cannot see the head or the tail, but the markings on the body do look consistent with a massasauga rattlesnake," Schauer said, noting while no other species of rattlesnakes inhabit Michigan, other snakes can mimic a rattlesnake. "Other snakes will

wiggle or vibrate the tips of the tail ... to scare away potential predators, but it will not have the distinctive rattle," she added.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website, the eastern massasauga, Michigan's only venomous snake, can be found throughout the Lower Peninsula, but tends to avoid confrontation with humans and is thus a rare sight for most

residents.

The snakes possess a potent venom and can easily puncture skin with their short fangs, but are not prone to strike unless confronted by a potential predator.

In September 2016, the eastern massasauga rattlesnake received federal protection as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

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<p>2017 GMC YUKON 4WD SLE STK# B10588 MAX TRAILERING PKG., SLE VALUE PKG., 20" WHEELS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$415* LEASE PER MO.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">36 MOS/10K/\$1,999 DUE/NO SEC. DEP. 2 YR/24,000 MAINTENANCE INCLUDED</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">6 REMAINING HURRY!</p>	<p>2017 GMC CANYON 2WD SLE EXT CAB REMOTE KEYLESS START STK# B19466</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$197* LEASE PER MO.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 MOS/10K/\$1,999 DUE/NO SEC. DEP. 2 YR/24,000 MAINTENANCE INCLUDED</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">3 REMAINING HURRY!</p>

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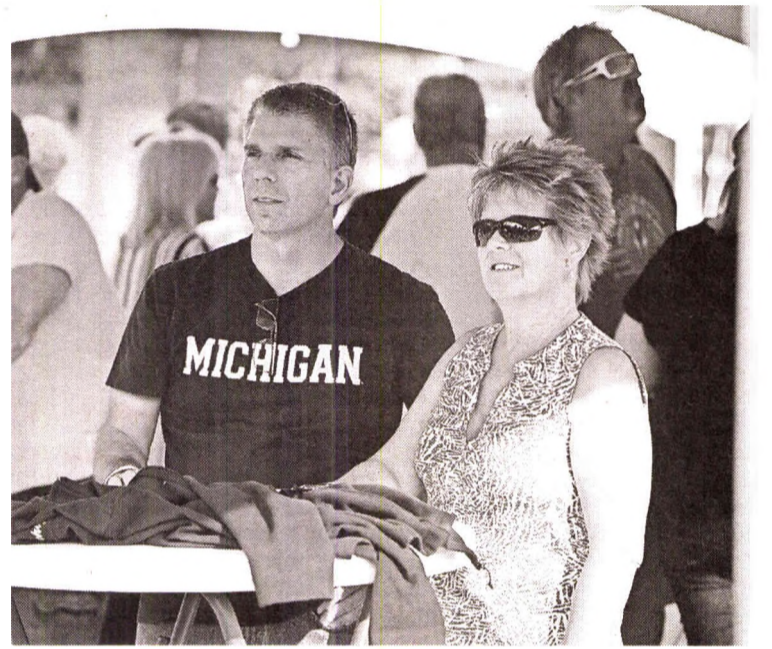
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TOM BEAUDOIN

The Jeff Hoagland Band entertained the crowds at this year's Brews, Blues and Brats event in South Lyon.

SOUTH LYON BREWS UP HOT BLUES, BRATS FESTIVAL



TOM BEAUDOIN

Brighton residents Scott and Diana Morris enjoyed a beautiful summer day at the annual Brews, Blues and Brats in South Lyon.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Volunteer Melissa Fury serves up craft beer from Draught Horse Brewery during the Blues, Brews and Brats event in South Lyon.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Large crowds enjoyed great weather at the annual Brews, Blues and Brats event in South Lyon.



TOM BEAUDOIN

Kiwanis Club volunteers Jack Renwick, Susan Sobota and her husband Rich serve brats and hot dogs.



TOM BEAUDOIN South Lyon resident Grace Anderson (center) smiles while hanging out with parents Stephanie and Mike during the annual Brews, Blues and Brats event.



TOM BEAUDOIN

South Lyon residents Lindsay Andrews and Heather Daniel enjoy a cold beverage of their favorite craft beer during this year's Brews, Blues and Brats event.



TOM BEAUDOIN South Lyon residents Jeff Senechal and Paula Tamonis take part in the cornhole tournament that was held as part of the annual Brews, Blues and Brats event.

Red Cross: Blood urgently needed

The American Red Cross urges blood donors to give in the final weeks of summer to help overcome a chronic summer blood shortage.

In August, regular donors may delay giving as final summer vacations are planned and back-to-school activities ramp up. To fully meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks, donations are urgently needed from new and current donors. Those who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again. Blood can be safely donated every 56 days and power red cells can be donated every 112 days.

As a thank you, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross now through Aug. 31 will be emailed a \$5 Target

eGiftCard (restrictions apply).

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. To help reduce wait times, donors are encouraged to make appointments and complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at redcrossblood.org/RapidPass.

Upcoming area blood donation opportunities include:

Wayne County

Northville
Aug. 27: 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile

Canton
Aug. 17: Noon to 5:45 p.m., Summit on the

Park, 46000 Summit Drive

Aug. 22: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Canton Public Library, 1200 Canton Center Road

Aug. 23: 12:30-6:15 p.m., Hampton Inn Suites, 1950 Haggerty Road

Livonia

Aug. 17: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 18: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 20: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon

Aug. 20: Noon to 5:45 p.m., Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road

Aug. 21: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 25: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 28: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Aug. 29: 6-11:45 a.m., St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile

Aug. 29: Noon to 5:45 p.m., St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile

Aug. 31: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five Mile

Plymouth

Aug. 18: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main Street

Aug. 20: 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Road

Aug. 28: 1:30-7:15 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road

Aug. 28: 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695 Plymouth, 1426 S. Mill Street

Wayne

Aug. 31: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Community Living Services, 35425 W. Michigan

Oakland County

Novi

Aug. 25: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Learning Care Group, 21333 Haggerty

Aug. 31: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., RSM Management, 39500 High Pointe

Aug. 31: 2-7:45 p.m., Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Nick Lidstrom Drive

South Lyon

Aug. 31: 1-6:45 p.m., Salem-South Lyon District Library, 9800 Pontiac Trail

Farmington Hills

Aug. 17: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills

Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 19: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 21: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 26: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 28: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

Aug. 31: 12:45-6:30 p.m., Farmington Hills Blood Donation Center, 31150 Haggerty

For more information, go to redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org or on Twitter at @RedCross.

Navy veteran Sachau is August honoree

Dwight (Mickey) Sachau, a World War II veteran living in Hartland, was honored as the August 2017 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Sachau served in the U.S. Navy from 1941-45. He was born in Anthon, Iowa, and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. Sachau was in high school in 1940 as things were really heating up in Europe. In April 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. In May, it invaded France forcing, that country to surrender in June. In March 1941, Germany invaded Russia. On St. Patrick's Day 1941, Sachau turned 17 and decided to join the navy.

His father signed for him and June 28 he was on his way to the induction center in Des Moines and then off to boot camp at Great Lakes in Chicago. After nine weeks, he was sent to Dearborn to the U.S. Navy Service School at the Ford Rouge Plant. There he joined 2,400 other servicemen to be trained as machinists mates. On Dec 7, 1941, Sachau was with a buddy at a picture show in Wyandotte when they heard the news about Pearl Harbor. They rushed back to their base, which was now under guard. They were ready to go, but were told they had to stay and finish their training.

He was then sent to Norfolk, Va., to Baltimore and, finally, to New York City, where he was assigned his first ship. It was the USS McCawley, APA-4 Troop Transport,



Dwight (Mickey) Sachau, a World War II veteran living in Hartland, served in the U.S. Navy from 1941-45.

built in 1928 in England and purchased by the U.S. Navy in 1940. Its first mission, during February 1942, was to sail to Iceland with army troops to replace the 4,100 marines stationed there. The marines were dropped off in Norfolk and Sachau's ship returned to NYC, where it was outfitted with more guns and ballast then sent to Norfolk to pick up those same marines and transport them through the Panama Canal to Pago-Pago on American Samoa Island, where they would spend two months in training. Sa-

chau's ship was then sent to Wellington, New Zealand, where it joined the amphibious force, South Pacific, and she became the flagship for Rear Admiral R. K. Turner shortly before the first Allied counter invasion of the war, Guadalcanal.

Sachau said, "On Aug 7, the Battle for Guadalcanal started. First were landings at Tulagi on Nggela Sule Island, followed by troops from our ship at Lunga Point on Guadalcanal. Air raids started on the next day and we scored our first kills, destroying three or four Japanese planes.

"On (Aug. 9), we lost three heavy cruisers and Australia lost one. The heavy cruiser Chicago had her bow blown off, but was still operational. It was the first blow to the Japanese and a costly one for the U.S."

The McCawley then sailed to its base in Nouméa, New Caledonia Island. It returned three times to Guadalcanal with supplies and reinforcements and departed back to Nouméa with wounded and, occasionally, POWs. On Nov 24, the McCawley sailed to Wellington for overhaul, which was completed in January 1943. In February, the McCawley was designated Attack Transport APA-4 and continued to supply Guadalcanal until mid-June.

"On June 30, 1943, we finished unloading at Rendova Island and were in the Blanche Channel when torpedo planes attacked," Sachau said. "We shot down four of them before we were hit. I was below in the machine shop when a torpedo slammed into our side and hit the engine room one deck below me. There were only nine of us that made it out; 15 men and two officers were killed. It knocked out all power, but did not sink. Later that day, we were attacked by dive bombers and we shot down one of the three with no more damage. By evening, we were sinking and the McCawley pulled alongside and we all transferred to it. At around 2023 hours, we were hit by more torpedoes and she sunk."

The next day, they discovered the final tor-

pedoes came from U.S. PT boats that thought they were a Japanese ship. During the time Sachau was aboard the McCawley, it received five Battle Stars. The survivors were picked up by the USS President Adams the next day. Sachau spent the next six months in Munda, New Georgia Island, as a mechanic helping keep 15 ships running.

In December 1943, he received orders to report back to the states for a 30-day leave. He spent two weeks at Treasure Island in San Francisco, guarding prisoners, before going home on leave. After his leave, he was sent to diesel school in Cleveland for two weeks and then to small craft training in Long Beach, Calif. In September 1944, he was assigned to the YMS-424 Mine Sweeper and sent to Astoria, Ore., where it was being built. It was a 135-foot wooden ship with a crew of 30. After completion of the ship, they spent the next two months patrolling the west coast of the U.S. before heading off to the Pacific.

In October 1945, the war was over and they were in Buckner Bay off Okinawa when typhoon Louise hit and drove them onto a reef. A total of 265 ships were damaged or grounded. "The skipper told everyone to abandon ship and many of the crew jumped overboard," Sachau said. "I asked the skipper why he ordered to abandon ship as we weren't taking on any water. About half the crew, the skipper and I stayed on board and

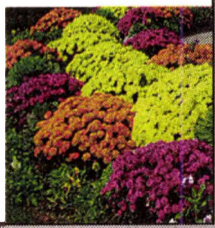
eventually the waves pushed us to shore. Four of our crew that had jumped drowned and one of them was my best buddy. The skipper should have never given that order without first checking."

Sachau was sent home and discharged. He had met his wife in 1941 while in Dearborn for mechanics training and they were married in 1946. They spent 46 years in Detroit and the past 19 years in Hartland. Sachau retired from Sears after 28 years and was a partner in a pest control business for 19 years. He and Eileen have been married 71 years and have three sons, two daughters, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Sachau is an active member of American Legion Post 415 and he and Eileen have been members of the Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia or more than 50 years.

Sachau was interviewed by members of the S.A.L. Veteran of the Month Committee and a DVD was made. A plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall. The S.A.L. invites local residents to attend its monthly meetings to listen to the Veteran of the Month. The public is also encouraged to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

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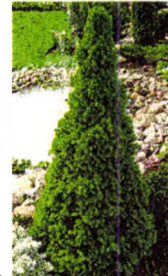
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Stalled Milford loft development expected to be back on track by fall

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com

The demolition of buildings at the former Iverson's lumberyard in Milford will begin by October at the latest, according to the developer who plans 100 luxury apartments at the site.

"No one is more eager to get started than me," said developer Mark DeMaria of Dev Mar Development in Bingham Farms. "Our insurer of the construction loan is the federal government and their rules changed without notice. They changed the order of when we could start demolition based on a final environmental review. We've been held up since May 6. I got a call the day I had two machines ready to swing into the buildings and knock them down."

DeMaria said he based

scheduling of the Milford project on the same kind of time frame he used in building the Starkweather Lofts in Plymouth. The same financing, through U.S. Housing and Urban Development, was used for both developments. In Plymouth, the company was allowed to begin demolition on a specific date, before the environmental review was finalized.

"During the time of the demolition, we accomplished the final closing on the construction loan," DeMaria said. "So that's how I sequenced this (Milford) project."

DeMaria said the policy change, requiring an environmental review before the start of demolition, was unexpected.

"We are pleading with them to take it out of sequence," he said. "We're talking a matter



Buildings at the old Iverson's lumberyard await the wrecking ball.

SHARON DARGAY

of 60 days we may have to wait, but we're already lost (more than) 60 days. It could be as late as October before we get started."

DeMaria estimates demolition will take approximately 14 weeks in Milford and the construction project will be com-

plete in approximately 18 months.

Dev Mar plans to build two four-story apartment buildings and parking at the East Huron Street site, which is located east of Main, along a railroad track. The two-bedroom apartments will range in size from approximately

850-1,350 square feet and will rent for between \$1,300 and \$2,000 per month.

DeMaria said the project, formerly called the Milford Lofts, has been changed to The Marquette, in honor of the Pere Marquette Railroad that operated on the ad-

acent track that CSX Railroad now owns.

Dev Mar also added a few more amenities to the project plan, which calls for a resident lounge and fitness center.

"We've included a golf simulator," he said. "It's a nice-sized room."

A dog wash also was added to the community area, which will enable residents to bathe their dogs on site without messing up their own bathrooms.

"So many of our tenants have pets and so many people are into their pets," he said. "We're also looking at adding that in Plymouth."

He expects the loft apartments will attract empty-nesters and young professionals who enjoy living in a walkable community.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

How do you know if your child is ready for school?



DETROIT COUNTRY DAY

School director Jenny Bullock, with some of her Detroit Country Day Lower School students.

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

When it comes to sending your kid off to kindergarten, Jenny Bullock understands your angst.

"Many parents struggle to determine if their child is ready for kindergarten," said Bullock, director of Detroit Country Day School's Lower School. "Luckily, there's still time this summer for parents to work with their young children to build the critical skills needed to make a successful transition to school."

Q: How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?

Bullock: Once your child reaches the standard age for kindergarten indicated by your school or district, it's time to take a good look at your child developmentally. I like to use an acronym (COPS) to examine some of the areas to consider:

Communication: Can your child express him or herself and can he or she also understand spoken language, such as simple directions, questions, stories?

Observation: Can your child sort items, begin to count, make a simple pattern and find matching items?

Print: Is your child interested in text? Can he or she recognize his or

her name? Does your child understand that printed text carries meaning? Is your child interested in recognizable signs ... such as a stop sign or McDonald's?

Social: Can your child interact with and respond to other children and adults? Can your child separate from you and accomplish self-care tasks such as getting dressed, unpacking a backpack and putting away belongings?

Q: What should I do if I don't think my child is ready for kindergarten?

Bullock: It's OK if your child isn't yet ready for kindergarten! We can't rush development anymore than we can rush gestation. Human gestation generally takes nine months; even though we're busy, we can't rush development in utero and it's the same once our children are born.

It's best to enhance your child's development with enriching conversations and activities, but relax with the notion that he or she will be ready soon ... but maybe not this year.

Q: What's your opinion on "academic red-shirting"?

Bullock: There has been a lot written on the gap year before kindergarten, whether it's called developmental kindergarten, junior kindergarten, etc. After helping to guide many

children through their early years in school, I feel strongly that it's best not to rush school, with the hope that they will "catch up" at some point.

Parents know their children best and educators know them best as learners. In a true partnership, parents and teachers will make the best determination together about whether a child is best served with an extra year of preschool prior to kindergarten entry.

They need to keep in mind the future years of the child, not just the coming school year. It's not "red-shirting" at all, it's just an opportunity to give a child more time before entering school years.

Q: My kid isn't completely potty-trained — is that a problem for kindergarten?

Bullock: Most schools will insist that children are fully potty-trained well before kindergarten. If your child has frequent accidents during the day, it's best to visit your pediatrician to consult on other factors that may influence your child's challenge with potty-training.

Q: Isn't social development more important than academic development at that age?

Bullock: Social and academic development work hand in hand. Yes, your child will have every advantage in kindergarten if he or she has learned the basics of sharing, listening to others, attending for short periods of time and sharing ideas. These important social skills, in turn, help set the groundwork for academic learning.

There's a cautionary note here, too: Avoid the temptation to force academic learning, especially rote facts. Children make important decisions about themselves as learners and memorizing facts at an early age may only serve to send the message that learning is boring!

Instead, engage your child with learning experiences such as science experiments, gardening, museum trips, arts and crafts. You'll begin to build deeper learning in meaningful and engaging contexts.

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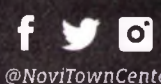
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In Flint, Dems call for repeal of emergency manager law

Paul Egan
Detroit Free Press

Four Democrats running for governor condemned the Flint water crisis during a forum there Saturday.

Speaking to about 250 people at the University of Michigan-Flint, they used the Flint public health debacle as a launching pad for a wide-ranging critique of state government under Republican Gov. Rick Snyder and the GOP-controlled Legislature.

Former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer of East Lansing, retired Xerox executive Bill Cobbs of Farmington Hills, former Detroit health department director Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Ann Arbor businessman Shri Thanedar agreed on many of the issues at the forum, sponsored by the Michigan People's Campaign and other Democratic organizations.

They all called for repeal of the state's emergency manager law, through which Flint had been placed under state receivership when its drinking water was contaminated by lead in April 2014.

They also called for better environmental protections, including a shutdown of the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac; a halt to state government privatization and the growth of for-profit public charter schools, and expansion of publicly funded health insurance plans such as Medicaid and Medicare.

But they were not always ready with detailed plans when Flint residents confronted them with specific problems arising from the water crisis.

In fact, the moderator, state Rep. Phil Phelps,



Democratic candidates for governor (from left) Gretchen Whitmer, Bill Cobbs, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Shri Thanedar at a forum Saturday in Flint. PAUL EGAN | DETROIT FREE PRESS

D-Flushing, felt compelled to intervene and ask for more specifics after Reneta Richard, a Flint high school social studies teacher, told the candidates that she is already seeing the effects of lead poisoning on her high school age students, who are older than the Flint children who have been the primary focus of health outreach efforts in the wake of the water poisoning.

Richard wanted to know what the candidates would do to move her students off the "path

of destruction of the so-called school to prison pipeline" that she fears some of them are on.

But most of the answers related to the need to improve education opportunities for Michigan students were not specific to Flint. After prompting from Phelps, Cobbs suggested tutoring and other support services for students who fall behind and making sure teachers are aware of the potential impact of lead on student learning so they are "adjusting expectations."

Richard said after the meeting she felt the candidates mostly stayed on their talking points, rather than truly addressing the specific issue she raised.

"I was a little bothered, because my question was not answered," she told the Free Press.

Jeffrey Raupp, a Flint real estate worker, fared somewhat better when he asked what each candidate would do to address the high cost of residential water in Flint, which is among the highest — if not the highest —

in the nation.

Thanedar said Flint residents shouldn't have to pay for water that was poisoned because of mistakes made at the state level, and "no one should be prosecuted for not paying their water bills."

Whitmer, who slammed the Snyder administration for missing "red flag after red flag" before acknowledging the lead contamination of Flint's water, said she would make sure every resident has the right to affordable water.

Cobbs said he sees a

fundamental problem with a state that allows a bottled water company to draw huge volumes of water for a nominal fee while families can't afford to pay for municipal water service.

And El-Sayed said he would assure every family receives the amount of water they need for drinking, cooking and bathing and introduce a sliding scale of charges for usage in excess of that so the resource is protected.

GOP governor candidates criticize Lansing moves

Republicans attack budget bloat, taxes, energy policy

Paul Egan
Detroit Free Press

Several measures passed by the GOP-controlled Legislature and signed into law by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder were harshly criticized at a political forum in Livonia on Saturday.

And it wasn't Democrats lobbing the verbal grenades, but three Republican candidates for governor.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton; Saginaw physician Dr. Jim Hines; and Lansing businessman and student Evan Space all decried the growth in the size of the state budget in the past seven years and recently approved energy legislation that continues to severely limit electric choice for consumers.

Colbeck and Hines both hammered the state's expansion of Medicaid through the Healthy Michigan program, which Hines called "a disaster" for the state and his patients, as well as recently approved tax breaks to attract new businesses, which Colbeck said represent government "picking winners and losers," instead of letting the free market

operate.

As is often the case in a Republican primary battle, all three candidates presented positions on the conservative end of the Republican spectrum.

All three said they are abortion opponents, with Colbeck and Hines agreeing life should be protected beginning at conception and there should be no abortion ban exceptions for rape or incest. Space, a student at Grand Valley State University who owns a window washing company and served with the military in Afghanistan, said life begins at the embryo stage and did not rule out certain exceptions as part of an abortion ban.

All three said they are staunchly pro-gun and opposed to "gun-free zones" at places such as schools.

And while none wanted to be described as anti-vaccine, all three said parents should be able to choose whether their children are vaccinated against various contagious diseases.

Colbeck, an aerospace engineer who can't run for the Senate again because of term limits, was highly critical of higher gas taxes and vehicle registration fees the Legislature approved in 2015 to increase road funding. He portrayed himself as a lawmaker

willing to stick to his convictions despite the consequences, boasting that his opposition to Healthy Michigan was the main reason he was not selected to chair any committees in the latest term.

Hines, who worked as a missionary in the Central African Republic before setting up a medical practice in Saginaw, stressed that he has never run for public office before and is "not a politician," but an outsider. "Are you going to elect someone who is looking for their next job because they're term-limited?" he asked the roughly 100 people who attended the event sponsored by the Republican Club of Livonia.

Space staked out a position of his own, proposing the legalization and taxation of marijuana as a way to raise money to fix roads and improve schools. He also disagreed with Colbeck and Hines on tax breaks for corporations as a form of economic development, saying they are useful for job creation and adding that he favored the Michigan film credits the state eliminated in recent years.

Two other declared Republican candidates for governor — Joseph DeRose of Williamston and Mark McFarlin of Pinconning — did not



ERIC SEALS | DETROIT FREE PRESS
Michigan State Sen. Pat Colbeck talks to the crowd Saturday during a Republican candidates for governor meet and greet at the Michigan Republican Party field office in Livonia.



ERIC SEALS | DETROIT FREE PRESS
Dr. Jim Hines, a Republican candidate for governor, talks during a meet and greet at the Michigan Republican Party field office in Livonia.



ERIC SEALS | DETROIT FREE PRESS
Evan Space of Lansing, a Republican candidate for governor, talks during a meet and greet at the Michigan Republican Party field office in Livonia.

attend Saturday's event.

Also missing were two undeclared candidates widely expected to join the Republican race — Attorney General Bill

Schuette and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

**CITY OF NORTHVILLE
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance requested by the property owner of 335 Eaton, Northville, Michigan, 48167. The applicant is seeking a variance to enlarge a non-conforming structure on premises zoned R-1B First Density Residential District, parcel number 48 003 02 0017 002. The City's Building Official evaluated the proposal and determined that two variances are needed from Section 22(5)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance. The applicant needs a 2.7-foot side yard setback variance and a 2-foot rear yard setback variance.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday September 6, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, City Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments pertaining to the proposed variance requests will also be received at the above address.

**DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Publish: August 17, 2017 LO-000027750 3x3

Hunger games: Old Village Restaurant Crawl returns

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

It's a food lover's paradise — a chance to sample the cuisine of seven restaurants and wash it down with Plymouth-made beer, all for \$15.

That averages out to just over \$2 per eatery, a deal that's hard to beat.

It all happens in Plymouth's oldest neighborhood as the 18th annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl offers mouth-watering deals 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21.

This year's lineup is bigger than most: Hermann's Olde Town Grill, Liberty Street Brewing Co., Station 885, Jeff Zak Catering, Beyond Borders Latin Street Food, Northville's Wok Asian Bistro and, even though it's not yet officially open

in Plymouth, Honey Hole Market.

Organizers say the restaurant crawl gives Plymouth residents and visitors a way to sample the food while enjoying an evening of camaraderie in Old Village. Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, said the event also can bring new business to local restaurants.

"It's mostly to expose these restaurants to new customers," Graff said. "And it gives people a chance to see a part of town they don't always get to see."

Old Village Restaurant Crawl typically draws 120-140 customers to eateries that set aside special sections for participants to dine buffet-style, Graff said. Patrons

also can try locally made craft beer at Liberty Street Brewing Co.

Moreover, the event provides a chance to explore the charm of the city's oldest neighborhood.

Two restaurants — Wok Asian Bistro and Beyond Borders — plan to serve their food in front of 3&UP, a board game lounge. Similarly, Honey Hole plans to welcome visitors in front of its upcoming location on Starkweather.

Tickets are \$15 each or \$5 for children 12 and under. Call the chamber at 734-453-1540, stop by the office at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail or go to <http://www.plymouthmich.org>.

dclem@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver



Customers enjoy the food at Hermann's Olde Town Grill during a previous Old Village Restaurant Crawl.

FILE PHOTO

Students, seniors thrive in preschool program

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

It's an idea that was two years in the making over on the Felician Sisters campus: An idea brought to directors at both Marywood Nursing Care Center and St. Mary Child Care Center to better connect their programs.

And after launching a pilot program and executing it for the past school year, organizers say they're hoping to expand a program that connects 4-year-olds with 94-year-olds.

The inter-generational program ramped up last fall, when leadership at the preschool would bring over students once a week to interact with residents of the nursing home, both Felician-sponsored facilities. They do all their normal lessons, just with the help and support of residents at Marywood.

"The children walk over in the morning and they do their theme lesson here," said Maria Siciliano Mueller, administrator and president for the Felician Sister Child Care Center and St. Joseph Home for Children. "They do their story time, they do their snack time, they do their art project, they do lunch. And it's all with the older adults."

The program's idea came from an email from Sister Mary Christopher Moore, a Felician in



Senior Merle Edwards colors with Anabelle Scott and Violet Foley.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pennsylvania. She passed along a similar concept being done in Washington and the idea took off at the Livonia campus quickly. Students were already coming to Marywood for a few hours each month, but leadership decided coming weekly would be extremely healthy.

Students came over to the nursing home Aug. 3 to showcase their art-

work and partake in an ice cream social with some of the Marywood residents.

One such resident was 98-year-old Mary Napier, who said it's always a joy to see the children come to the nursing home each week.

She said she wasn't the only one that enjoyed seeing the children visit each week.

"It's not only me, but the other women, too," she said. "The kids are great."

John Mimnaugh, administrator for Mary-

wood, said the benefits don't flow just one way with a program like this: The Marywood residents see benefits doing activities with the youngsters, too.

"They really are helping each other," he said. "It's not just the senior adults helping the kids."

Mueller said the program gives some students, who come from all over western Wayne and western Oakland counties, the opportunity to interact with senior citizens. She said some children don't have regular

interaction with senior citizens on a regular basis.

"They don't know what an older adult looks like," Mueller said.

"Some of them are apprehensive at first, but the relationships have really grown where there's that wisdom and wonder with both. It's been fun to watch."

The program is expected to continue into the fall, with the hopes of it growing even more. The success of the program the past year has organizers thinking big:

Mueller said the ultimate goal would be to connect the two facilities physically, in addition to the spiritual bond the two already have.

"Our big dream would be to have a building right next door with a link," Mueller said. "Because then the older adults could come over and rock the infants. They could be more involved."

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Activities director Jackie King shows Mary Napier the art she created with the children.

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Teen wasn't supposed to survive radical surgery; he did

Laura Colvin
Livingston Daily

When Jake Bontekoe took his son to the hospital after the boy and his brother collided on their motorcycles in a cornfield, it was precautionary.

Or so he thought. Bontekoe had no idea 12-year-old Max was bleeding internally or that the only hope to save his life would be a radical procedure where surgeons removed his liver, repaired the damage and reattached the organ.

The surgery had never been done successfully before – not in a trauma situation.

Bontekoe also didn't know his son's heart would stop both during and after surgery or that they'd both spend the next six months in the hospital as Max, in a medically induced coma for the first eight weeks, encountered one dangerous complication after another.

Today, the zipper-like scar running from neck to navel is the only indication his life nearly ended a few days before he was to begin seventh grade.

In June, Max graduated on time with the Hartland High School Class of 2017.

'He's hurt really bad'

In late August 2011, Jake and Betsy Bontekoe were preparing to host a "summer's last hurrah" cookout with friends at their Deerfield Township home.

Max and his brother Harrison, then 14, asked if they could go riding with Max's friend Jack near the cornfield, about a quarter-mile from the house, before the rest of the guests arrived.

An avid motorcyclist himself, Jake Bontekoe had allowed his sons to buy the bikes with money they'd earned raising 4-H pigs and working on the family's 1,000-acre dairy farm, with one caveat: The motorcycles had to remain untouched until the end of the school year.

"I was encouraging my boys to have straight A's in school, so I ... put the bikes in the office in my house," he said. "They couldn't touch them until ... they brought home report cards for that year with all A's."

It was an intense school year, but ultimately the boys succeeded.

They had been riding the motorcycles all summer and, like always, strapped on helmets before heading out.

Bontekoe turned on the grill and was slapping hamburger into patties when he realized he could no longer hear the motorcycles.

A few moments later, Jack called from the cornfield. The brothers had crashed into one another. Max was hurt.

Bontekoe jumped in his truck and drove to the site, where he found Max's Honda CRV 150 bent and tangled with his brother's bike.

"Harrison is dazed, he's just walking around in a circle," Bontekoe said. "Max is standing there holding his stomach. Jack keeps saying, 'Max is hurt. He's hurt really bad.'"

Max doesn't remember much after the crash, but he does remember how it happened: He and Jack went to find his brother, who'd split from the group during the



GILLIS BENEDICT | LIVINGSTON DAILY

The scrape on Max Bontekoe's arm is "nothing," Max says; the scar at his Adam's apple which continues to his belly button tells a story of a motorcycle crash that bent the handlebars he holds and left him critically injured.

ride.

"He just kind of disappeared," Max said. "When we were going around the corner of the field, we couldn't see over the corn and here comes Harry coming the other way. We hit head on."

He remembers the terrible pain in his shoulder and abdomen, a tire mark across his chest and climbing into his dad's truck to go to the hospital.

And he remembers briefly waking up in the helicopter.

'Something's not right'

On the way to St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell, Bontekoe was concerned, but not overly worried. After he and the boys' mother divorced and before he and Betsy married, he'd spent the larger part of the last dozen years as a single father. Bumps and bruises for the boys were part of the process.

But at the hospital, Bontekoe recalls hearing someone say his son's blood pressure was dangerously low, that he needed blood product. Another staff member shouted for a CT scan.

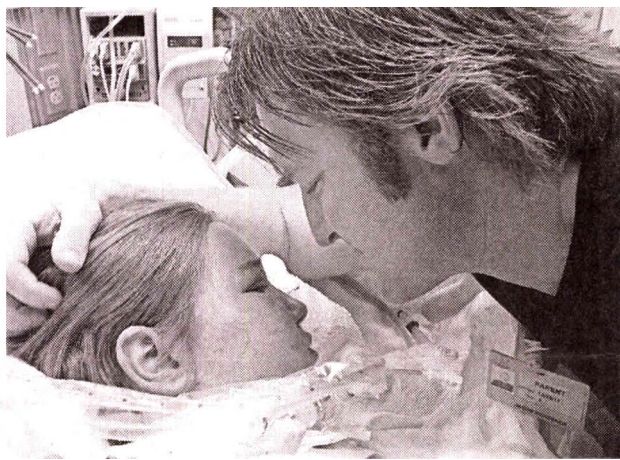
"I'm thinking, 'What is all this about?'" Bontekoe said. "A boy fell off his motorcycle, got the wind knocked out of him and everything's going to be fine. I've fallen off motorcycles as many times as I've gotten on. Something's not right here."

The CT scan revealed internal bleeding, perhaps from his spleen, and doctors told Bontekoe his son needed to be airlifted immediately to Ann Arbor.

At home, with a yard full of guests waiting on news, Betsy's phone rang. She thought Jake was calling to say Max was fine and they were on the way home.

Instead, she grabbed her keys and rushed to the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Minutes after climbing out of the helicopter alongside Max, Bontekoe found himself running down the hallway – running, he emphasizes – alongside a doctor who explained they'd be opening Max's abdomen to



BETSY BONTEKOE

Jake Bontekoe comforts Max in November 2011, months into his son's recovery at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

repair his spleen, a fairly common injury, and to look for other potential damage.

It was a long time before the surgeon came out of the operating room.

"He sat down and took off his mask and he was, like, 'This is bad. This is bad,'" Bontekoe said.

In an Adirondack chair under a shade tree in his yard last week, Bontekoe pauses for a moment in his story. He looks across the distance of his property and blinks hard.

"It was horrible," he said of the hospital experience. "I could hear another parent in another room, screaming and wailing because her child didn't make it."

'It was very extreme'

Dr. Ronald Hirschl, a pediatric surgeon at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, was at Max's bedside moments after he arrived in the helicopter and quickly decided Max needed to have surgery immediately.

There, he discovered what he later described as a surgeon's nightmare: Two of three veins connecting Max's liver to his body were torn off and the third was partially torn.

Max was bleeding to death — and quickly.

Hirschl summoned a transplant surgeon and a radical idea quickly took shape: remove the liver, fix the veins and replace the organ.

"Transplant surgeons do that all the time as a liver transplant," Hirschl said. "But not in a trauma

situation like this; it has been tried in a few instances, but no one ever survived more than a few days."

It worked. It took 12 hours of surgery and Max had a mountain of challenges ahead, but his liver was reconnected to his body.

Hirschl credits several factors for the success of the surgery.

"We thought of it early," he said, noting the hospital's academic setting led to discussion of a better approach when other patients with similar injuries did not survive.

"In medicine and surgery, sometimes we ... have to innovate to save someone's life," he said. "It was very extreme, but we had no choice. We knew if we didn't do something very innovative, he was going to die. That was clear."

A long road back

The surgery saved Max's life, but it was only the beginning of his grueling road to recovery.

All told, he went through more than 100 units of blood during his stay at the hospital. Over the next several months, underwent some 30 additional surgeries. He required dialysis, developed a clot in his heart, infections, had problems with nutrition and more.

And he needed rehabilitation once he was finally brought out from sedation; two months of lying in bed meant he was weak and debilitated.

As a farmer, Bontekoe depended on his mother to help care for the boys

while he, his brothers, father and sister tended to the duties of maintaining 180 dairy cows.

But when Max was hospitalized, he rarely left the boy's side.

"I lived at the hospital," he said. "I came home when he came home. I tried to help as much as I could while staying out of the way and not to be irritating."

After 100 days in the old C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Max was moved to the new hospital. It was around that time doctors began letting him emerge from the sedation and Bontekoe began to feel they were on a path home.

Max couldn't talk, so they used an iPad to communicate.

"It kind of felt, like, 'All right, we're going to get home,'" Bontekoe said. "He's not out of the woods yet – that was a term everyone kept using – but there was a definite pathway leading us out of the hospital."

Videos he made during Max's recovery offer a glimpse of the long road as therapists helped a weak boy shuffle through his first steps and slowly become stronger with the support of friends and family.

Meanwhile, Betsy, a teacher at Farms Intermediate School in Hartland, drove back and forth to the hospital every day, usually with Harrison, to visit, help with Max's therapy and make sure Jake was eating and getting out of the hospital room occasionally, if only for a few minutes.

Slowly, as Max got stronger, Bontekoe was persuaded to go home every other weekend.

He didn't like it and was always eager to get back, but realized he needed a break to refocus.

"He was always there when the doctors rounded in the morning, always asking questions and doing research," Betsy said. "He didn't allow himself to get emotional like he does now; it was all about making sure Max got better."

When Max finally did come home, he came home with a breathing machine, slept in a hospital bed and continued on

a liquid diet.

Although he missed his entire seventh-grade year, a teacher brought lessons and he was able to start eighth grade the following year. At Hartland High School, he played trumpet for four years in the school's marching band and continued to develop a passion for cars and engineering through the shop program.

Gratitude and caution

Bontekoe said he's forever grateful to the hospital.

"There's no question about the nursing staff, surgeons, doctors and therapists and the amount of love and care they giving their patients," he said. "They loved Max. They wanted everything for Max. Everyone there saved his life."

The message he'd send to others?

"I'd want more people to donate blood. If that blood was not available for him, he would have passed," he said. "Be aware that you could have an internal injury. ... If you're in an accident, seek help. If you're on a motorcycle, wear a helmet."

"Without the helmet, Max most definitely he would have had a head injury," he added. "That could have been the determining factor whether he lived or died."

Today, Max says the accident has little lasting impact on his life. He's focused on the 1977 Trans Am he and his dad restored – he sold his bike to pay for the car – and the Jeep they also worked on together.

Last month, he began a mechanical engineering program at Kettering University in Flint. He likes living away from home for the first time, he said, and plans, ultimately, to work for General Motors.

He still rides his dad's motorcycle occasionally and Betsy admits she's threatened to sink it in the pond.

Bontekoe is also more hesitant to climb on the bike.

"We don't ride as much as we used to," he said.

There's nothing like a good purpose statement

Hello, I'm Dean Johnson, senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth and I'm the new religion writer for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. My wife Crystal and I have three great kids and we live in Plymouth Township.

When our kids were very young, we heard a speaker who challenged us to write a mission or "purpose" statement for our family. So we did. It goes like this: "We exist to glorify God by loving Him, loving each other and loving others, especially the poor and 'outsiders.'" (By "outsiders" we mean refugees, widows, the mentally handi-



Dean Johnson
CULTURAL RELEVANCY

capped, unwed mothers, etc.) Hopefully, if you know our family, you see some of these qualities in us.

It's also good for an organization to have a purpose statement. Lake Pointe Bible Church's purpose statement is "Building disciples of Jesus Christ." So we exist not just to convert people or to do social programs or recreational activities, we exist to win people to Jesus and then help bring them to spiritual maturi-

ty. It is also good as an individual to have a mission or purpose statement. Why are you here? What is your purpose in life? So I have one of those, too. (To be honest, it's pretty similar to our family statement!)

Did you know that, according to the Bible, Jesus had a mission statement? It's in Luke chapter 4. I have to warn you, Jesus's purpose statement made one group of people unexpectedly happy, but another group of people very unhappy and even violently angry, kind of like a church who calls a new pastor and, when he arrives, the longtime members think he's go-

ing to make them comfortable and happy, but he starts reaching out to an entirely different group of people and makes the longtime members uncomfortable and unhappy.

In the Luke passage, Jesus was at his hometown synagogue and they ask him to do the daily reading from Isaiah the prophet. Jesus reads it and then sits down in front to expound on the passage. Here's what the Isaiah text said:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery

of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus's "exposition" added one thing that no one expected him to say: "Today this is fulfilled, and I am the one fulfilling it." He was saying, "This passage is about me. In fact, it's my purpose statement."

The Jews loved this quote from Isaiah 61 because it talked about all the great things God was going to do for the Jewish people. But people picked up on the fact that Jesus left off the last line of the Isaiah 61 quote, the part that says "and the day of vengeance of our God." This

line assured the Jews that the day of their salvation — the day the Messiah came to release and heal them — would also be the Day of Judgment on Israel's pagan enemies, the Gentiles.

Jesus was refusing to say that his messiahship was for any one group of people. He's implying that God's love and mercy is for all people, to any who would come to him in faith. He has come to bring hope for all people. It turns out that's his purpose statement.

Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at DeanLPBC@sbjglobal.net.

Five years later

Slain Sikhs remembered as locals combat hate

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Five years after six Sikhs were shot dead at a Wisconsin temple, they are being remembered in metro Detroit by people of all faiths who vow to fight back against hate, discrimination and intolerance.

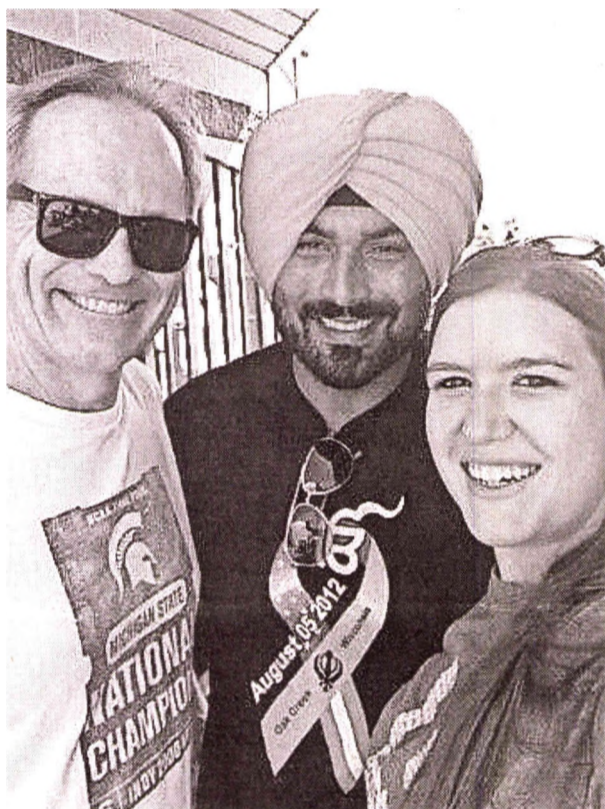
A crowd representing Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Jewish people gathered Aug. 4, the eve of the anniversary of the massacre in Oak Creek, Wis., for a prayer ceremony at the Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib of Plymouth, often called Hidden Falls.

Afterward, Steve Spreitzer, a Plymouth Township resident and president/CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, left to show his support in Oak Creek along with Canton resident Julia Smith, who attends Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton and whose father, Bryan Smith, is pastor there.

"We went to both remember those who were killed in a hate crime, but also to learn from that community," Spreitzer said.

He took along cards and letters written by local Sikh youngsters thanking Oak Creek police Lt. Brian Murphy, the first responder who survived 15 gunshot wounds as he intervened to save what officials believe would have been more lives lost.

"He is considered one



Pardeep Singh Kaleka, who lost his father in the Wisconsin Sikh massacre, is flanked by Steve Spreitzer of Plymouth Township and Julia Smith of Canton during events in Wisconsin.

of the great heroes in the Sikh community," said Spreitzer, who hand-delivered the letters to Murphy.

On the fifth anniversary of the Sikh massacre, Spreitzer and Smith attended an event at Oak Creek High School that included a 6K run — honoring the six killed — a blood drive, turban-wrapping and other activities. Then they went to the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin — site of the killings — for a ceremony honoring those who died. Spreitzer said about 1,500 people joined the day's events.

"That is such a strong message both of love to

the Sikh community, but also a message to those who would do harm that the Sikh community is loved and cared for by their neighbors," he said.

Last September, Pardeep Singh Kaleka, whose father died in the Oak Creek massacre, came from Wisconsin to metro Detroit to attend a screening of the film "Waking in Oak Creek" by Patrice O'Neill at Madonna University. The film told the story of the Oak Creek killings.

While here, Kaleka invited Spreitzer and others to attend this year's fifth-anniversary

ceremony in Oak Creek.

Closer to home, the Sikh community of Detroit commemorated the five-year anniversary July 30 by serving food and distributing care packages to the homeless community in Midtown Detroit, fulfilling the Sikh concept of seva, or selfless community service.

Rajanpreet Kaur Pannu, a spokeswoman for The Sikh Coalition, said it's important for Sikhs to serve the community with acts of kindness that, hopefully, can stem the tide of hatred.

"Sadly, this tragedy did not happen in a vacuum and, five years later, the continual tide of hate crimes underscores the urgency of initiatives that promote an appreciation for Sikhs and other communities most affected by these crimes," Pannu wrote by email.

She noted that Sikhs wear articles of faith, such as the turban, as religious expression and to represent equality and justice. However, she said, since 9/11, Sikhs have become a frequent target for bigotry and backlash, despite their lack of involvement in the terrorist attack.

"From Oak Creek to Detroit," Pannu said, "no community is immune to this crisis and, by sharing stories of compassion and service in response to these dramatic acts of bigotry, we can better educate the American public."

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13 questions you need to ask a prospective divorce lawyer

Question: I am contemplating a divorce and wonder what questions to ask of a prospective attorney should I decide to go forward?

The first thing to remember is that you are hiring an attorney to work with you and for you. You want an attorney who will guide you through the legal system but will also explain what is going on step-by-step as you go through the very confusing legal process. The saying that knowledge is power is so true in the divorce arena. You do not want to hire an attorney who will say, "Don't worry, I will handle everything." You want to be a partner in all of the decision-making. Worry — there is nothing wrong with a little worry as you make decisions that will impact upon your life and that of your children.

The legal system is not user-friendly and divorces can be very confusing, to say the least.

Following are some questions that you should ask an attorney at the initial consultation:

1. What percentage of your practice is devoted to family law?

You want a specialist and not someone who dabbles in divorce.

2. How long have you been practicing family law? Experience is critical. It takes at least 5-10 years before an attorney really knows what he or she is doing.

3. Do you represent more men or women? You want someone who is emphatic to your situation. Judges tend to respect an attorney who represents both men and women and not someone who represents only men or women.

4. How well do you know the judges? A good attorney knows the law, a great attorney knows the judges!

5. Is there any reason why you are not comfortable representing me? You want the right fit.

6. What are your fees? This is a critical question. Discuss retainers, hourly rates and how often you will receive a billing statement.

7. If I reconcile, will I get the unused portion of my retainer back? This is an important question to ask.

8. How many divorces have you tried? While trial is a last resort, you want an attorney who is not afraid to go to court, when necessary.



Henry Gornbein
TALES FROM THE FRONT LINES

9. What is your attitude regarding negotiations, mediation and staying out of court? Court should be the last resort, not the first. You do not want an attorney who creates unnecessary litigation and court appearances to charge you more!

10. Will you provide me with copies of all correspondence, pleadings and other documents? Your file should mirror that of your attorney.

11. When I call or email you, how soon can I expect a response from you? This is an emotional time in your life and prompt communication with your attorney is critical. It is reasonable to expect a response by the end of the day.

12. Approximately how long will my divorce or custody case take? This will vary depending upon the facts and complexity of your case and the court.

13. Who will be working on my case? Will it be you or members of your support staff? You need to know what to expect and how your case is being handled.

It is important to be comfortable at the initial consultation. It is critical that you have your questions answered. You do not want to feel rushed. Whoever is taking on your case should have your best interests at heart. Last, but not least, there are many excellent attorneys, but you should trust your gut as to what your comfort zone is before deciding to hire a particular attorney. Don't hesitate to talk to two or three before making your decision.

These are some of my thoughts. Please share yours as well.

Henry S. Gornbein specializes in all aspects of family law. He is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Lippitt O'Keefe Gornbein PLLC, where he heads the family law unit. He is creator and host of the award-winning cable television show "Practical Law," with more than 800 episodes aired to date. He is the author of the book "Divorce Demystified, Everything You Need To Know Before You File For Divorce." Contact him at hgornbein@lippittokeefe.com or 248 646-8292.



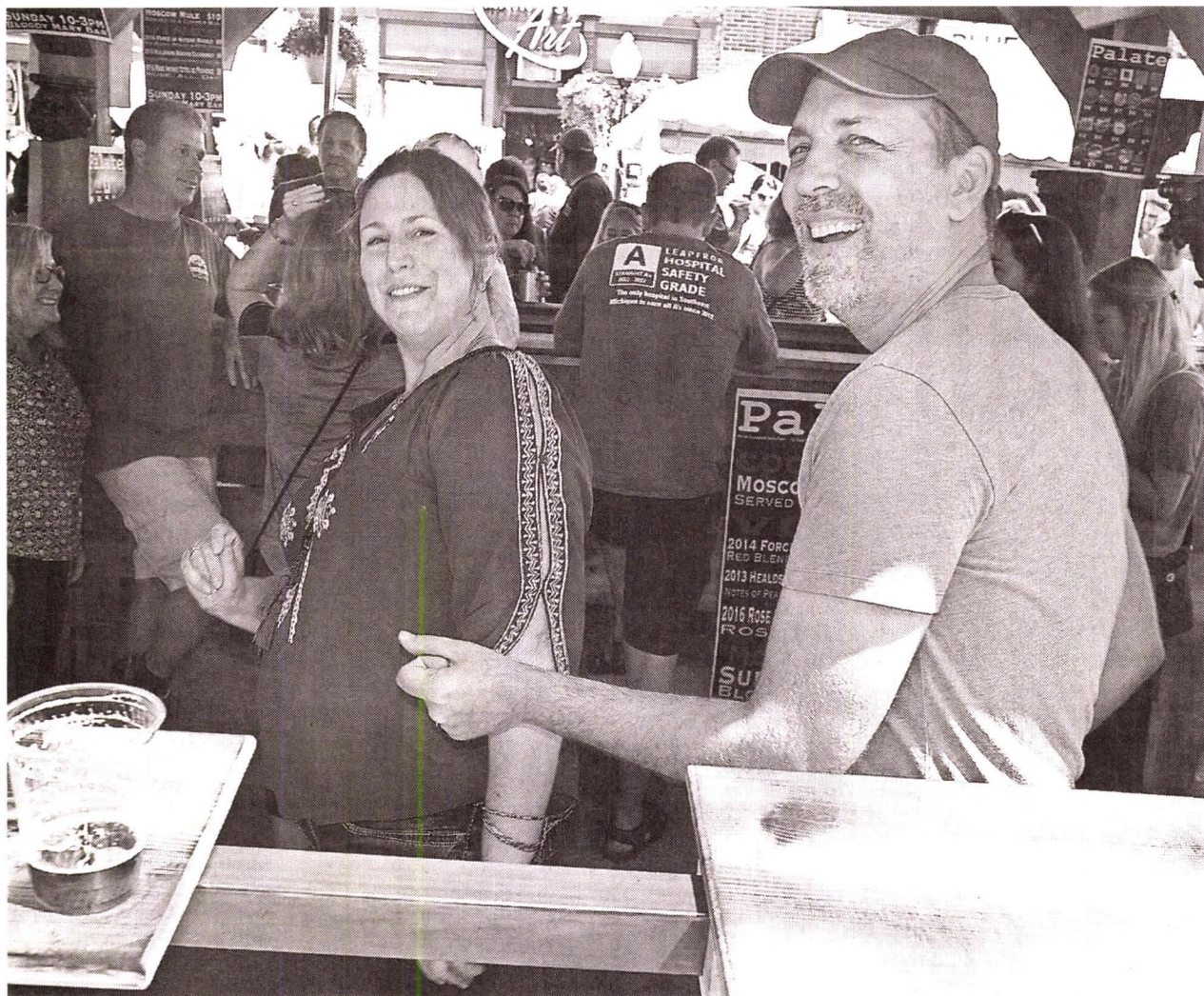
Attending the interfaith prayer ceremony at Hidden Falls gurdwara in Plymouth are Yasir Khogali of Plymouth, Dr. Herminder Singh of West Bloomfield, Chandru Archaya of Canton, Dr. Nauman Imami of Plymouth Township and Sawan Ahmed of Canton.

Milford festival creates 'Memories'



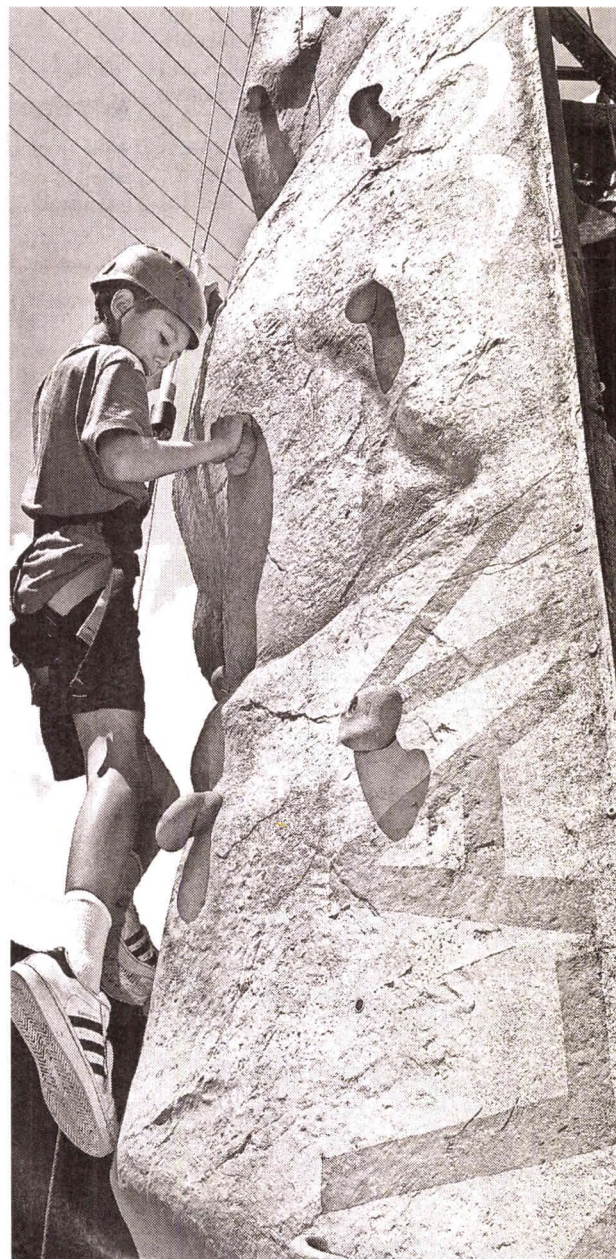
JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Zea Labate, 14, (left) and Cassandra Zugel, 10, got their faces intricately painted at Milford Memories.



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Jan Ziozios and Brian Bohneff enjoy some dancing at the Palate restaurant Aug. 12 during Milford Memories.



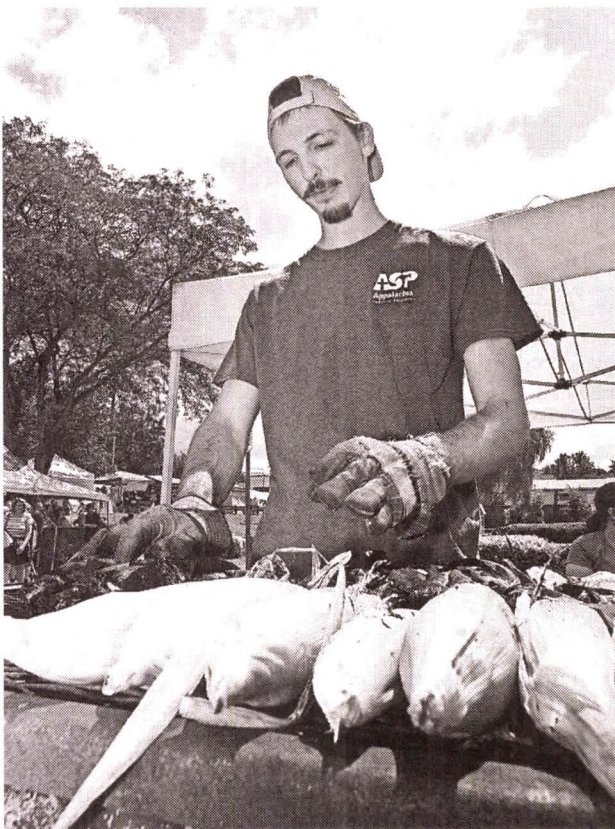
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Jacob Parker, 10, climbs a wall provided by Oakland County Parks at Milford Memories.



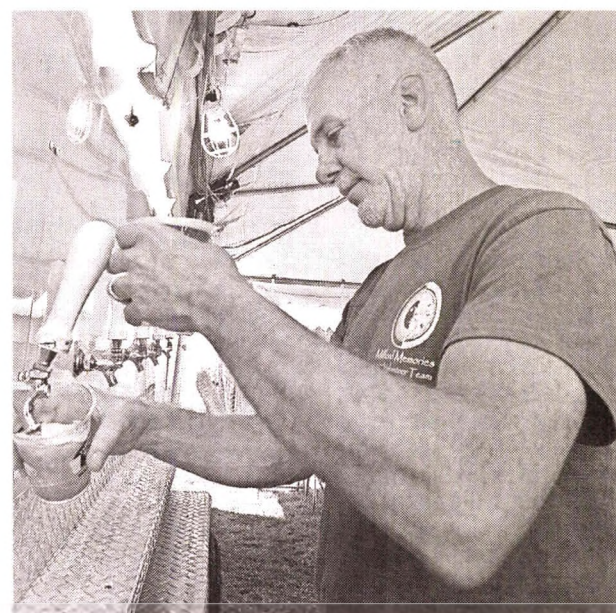
JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Huck Hoffmeyer, 2, goes "fishing" for a prize at Milford Memories.



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Luke Olarvi and other members of Milford's United Methodist Church, grill up some corn in the husk for Milford Memories visitors.



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Dave Jamison draws a beer for customers at Milford Memories festival at Central Park.

I am an American We are One Nation

CREATING ATMOSPHERE FOR LEARNING

Principal toils long hours to create great experience at diverse middle school

SADY SWANSON
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit one-nation.usatoday.com.

Leshner Middle School principal Tom Dodd hasn't taken a sick day since 1997.

"I don't really get sick," he said. "There's so much to do."

Dodd has been the Fort Collins, Colorado, school's principal for 12 years.

Leshner Middle School is one of the most diverse schools in Poudre School District. Of its 770 students, almost half are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch; more than a third are minorities.

Students come to Leshner from about 23 elementary schools.

"We have everybody," Dodd said. "We have some of the most privileged, affluent kids in our city coming here, and we have 20 homeless kids."

In 2016, Dodd won the National Secondary Principal of the Year award, months after winning the Colorado Secondary Principal of the Year award.

"As principal of the year, I've had an opportunity to do some policy advocacy," Dodd said. "That has created some opportunities for me ... to say, 'Here's what's really going on out there.'"

One opportunity that arose from the award was to travel to the Dominican Republic with the photography company Lifetouch and educators from around the country to build a school in January.

Dodd realizes there's still work to do for schools on the local level.

"Public education in America is still better than anywhere I've read about or heard about," Dodd said. "Our funding system in Colorado is woefully inadequate. ... That inadequacy ... is what motivates me. It's that we can do better. And I can't get more funding. So what do I have to do? I have to work harder."

For Dodd, creating a great experience for his students is at the heart of his mission. Dodd said every year, the in-



Tom Dodd of Leshner Middle in Fort Collins, Colo., was named National Secondary Principal of the Year in 2016, months after being named Colorado Secondary Principal of the Year.

coming class of sixth-graders comes into the gym, sits on the bleachers and is inducted into the Leshner Middle School Vikings family. But it isn't that simple.

"Vikings are like angry white guys, and that's not real inclusive, so we have Vikings and Vi-queens," Dodd said. "I tell them, 'I want for you, when you reflect back on your K-12 experience ... (to) say the three years I was at Leshner was a great experience.'"

ONE NATION

Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at onenation.usatoday.com or via email to onenation@usatoday.com or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

Tom Dodd

Location: Fort Collins, Colorado

Age: 46

Mission: Deliver on the promise of public education. Help kids realize they too can live the American dream. Create the culture and conditions for teachers to teach and students to learn in a school where every adult wants for other people's children what they want for their own children.

Q&A WITH TOM DODD

What does it mean to be an American?

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I still believe in the American dream, but I don't know if it's a real dream anymore. The idea that you, just by growing up in America, that you're going to have a better life than your parents, I don't know if that's true anymore. ... What are you doing to contribute to your community and society as a citizen? ... I think you should have an appreciation and show respect for your parents and the people that came before you who made this nation great.

What moment touched and motivated you in your work in education?

I lose sleep over the big tragedies that happen. We've had students attempt suicide. We've had students (die by) suicide, while they're students here, ages 11-14, or shortly after leaving here as a freshman, sophomore, junior in high school. I also lose sleep over the inequity of it all. Every day I come to work, I realize I don't have what I need to do the job to the level I want. I've got 770 kids from diverse backgrounds; I have 75 adults in this school. And I've never been an educator who's crying about money, saying, "We need more money." What touches me and motivates me is knowing that there's work to do.

What gives you hope and what concerns you?

I have faith in people, in spite of the fact that we have such disunity and partisanship. I just have faith in everything, that it's all going to work out. That human beings and people are inherently good. That parents want what you want. No. 1, they want someone to love and care about and know their kid. I tell my teachers that all the time. What concerns me is our partisanship and differences and the fact that we can't come together on some core values. ... And how can you have a good intellectual conversation without some foundational agreement on core values? What gives me hope is my fundamental belief ... that we can get there, that people are inherently good.

What do you hope to accomplish through your work?

My job is to create the conditions and culture and climate for teachers to teach. I want them to love coming to work here, and I want kids to love coming to school here.

Kick off to fall school sports

David Humphrey
Fort Worth Star Telegram

School will be starting soon again around the country.

Some sports, mainly football, volleyball and cross country, have already begun practicing.

For many households, parents will be experiencing for the first time having an athlete in the house.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association released safety tips for parents on their athletic sons and daughters. Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses.

Here are some safety questions and tips from NATA for parents with athletes:

Who comprises the school's sports medicine team?

Find out who will provide care to your child in case of an injury, and ask to review their credentials. Many schools and sports teams rely on athletic trainers or parents with medical and first aid training and certification to keep kids safe. NATA also recommends that any medical decisions are made by the school's sports medicine professionals (physicians and athletic trainers) and not the coach to avoid conflict of interest. Coaches and even the athletes themselves might unconsciously make decisions that favor winning over safety.



It's time for parents to get educated about their children in athletics and what the school has for safety equipment and personnel.

Does the school have an emergency action plan?

Every team should have a venue-specific written emergency action plan (EAP) for managing serious and or potentially life-threatening injuries. It should

be reviewed by the athletic trainer or local Emergency Medical Service, and individual assignments, emergency equipment and supplies need to be included. If an athletic trainer is not employed by the school, other qualified individuals need to be present to

render care.

Is the equipment in working order?

Make sure all equipment ranging from field goals, basketball flooring, gymnastics apparatus and field turf are in safe and working order. This also includes emer-

gency medical equipment such as spine boards, splint devices and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) — which should be checked once per month; batteries and pads need consistent monitoring and replacing.

Are locker rooms, gyms and shower surfaces cleaned on a regular basis?

With the advent of MRSA and related bacterial, viral and fungal skin infections reported in recent years, it is crucial to keep these surfaces routinely cleaned and checked for germs. Athletes must be discouraged from sharing towels, athletic gear, water bottles, disposable razors and hair clippers. All clothing and equipment should be laundered and/or disinfected on a daily basis.

What are the signs of a concussion?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are between 1.6 million and 3.8 million brain injuries occurring in sports each year and 63,000 occur in high school sports alone. The athlete should be encouraged to speak up if he or she is hit in the head and suffering from any related symptoms such as dizziness, headache, loss of memory, light-headedness, fatigue or imbalance.

Did your child take a physical before joining a team?

All athletes are usually required to get a physical, or pre-participation exam, to determine their readiness to play and uncover any condition that might limit participation. A young athlete's underlying medical condition can be exacerbated with vigorous, sustained physical activity.

MAX FAULKNER | FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Mom left three children in minivan in 86-degree temps

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

A 41-year-old Plymouth mother is accused of leaving three of her seven children in a minivan in sweltering heat while she shopped inside the Canton Meijer store, police say.

The mother, now facing a misdemeanor child neglect charge, told police she had been in the store for 45 minutes about 3 p.m. Aug. 3, while the children were in the minivan in 86-degree weather.

It was the latest of at three incidents this summer during which a moth-

er has been accused of leaving children in a vehicle in Canton — a decision police say is potentially life-threatening.

“Your poor choice could lead to death,” Canton police Lt. Michael Steckel said.

In the latest incident, a witness phoned police after she saw the three boys in a locked Toyota Sienna, with the windows slightly rolled down and the ignition shut off with no air conditioning. Police found the children — ages 2, 5 and 11 — “tired and sweating profusely,” according to a police report.

The youngest child’s T-shirt was soaked with sweat, the report said.

An officer managed to unlock the minivan, remove the boys and put them in an air conditioned police car. The mother’s other four children — 13, 9 and 7 years old and the youngest just 8 months old — had accompanied the mother into the store, police said.

The mother told police she left the 2-year-old behind because he was sleeping. She said her 11-year-old son volunteered to watch the toddler and the 5-year-old

who, according to the report, wanted to stay in the minivan to play video games.

The mother said she left the minivan’s keys with the 11-year-old so he could turn on the air conditioning if the children became hot. She told police she is a professor who teaches online courses for Columbia College in Missouri. She said her husband is a bio-medical researcher at the University of Michigan.

Police issued a citation to the woman for child neglect and also contacted Child Protective Services.

Steckel said Michigan, unlike some states, has laws against leaving children alone in vehicles. Regardless, he said, parents should realize it’s dangerous to leave youngsters in cars, especially on hot summer days.

Among other similar incidents:

» A 29-year-old Canton mother admitted to police that she left her two sons, ages 2 and 7, in a Ford Edge that was unlocked and running while she was inside a Meijer store for 30 minutes about 11:40 a.m. July 22.

» A 37-year-old mother

left her two sons, ages 4 and 5, strapped inside a hot Acura MDX for 21 minutes in 88-degree weather while she returned merchandise to the Kohl’s department store on Ford Road. The incident happened about 8 p.m. June 10. The car was not running and the front windows were slightly rolled down.

Those women also were charged with child neglect.

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Veteran driver honored at Spirit of Detroit Hydrofest

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Growing up on Detroit’s lower east side, Sandy Ross could hear the sound of hydroplane engines when they were being tested on the Detroit River.

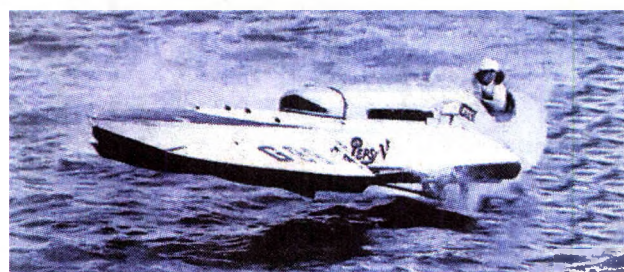
“That drew me to the water. I went down and met those guys. My best friend and I built an in-board hydroplane in his father’s dirt floor garage at Van Dyke and St. Paul,” Ross said. “The local racing association helped us. Hydroplane racing was much bigger then. There were more blue-collar people and those jobs were well-paying jobs.”

That racing association eventually became the Detroit Marine Prop Riders, which today has 200 members. Turning 89 Labor Day, Ross has been involved with hydroplane racing since 1948 as a driver, crew member and, today, historian and vintage racing advocate.

A South Lyon resident, Ross is honorary chairman of the 2017 Spirit of Detroit Hydrofest, scheduled for Aug. 25-27 on the Detroit River.

To kick off the event, there will be the annual Detroit Racing Legends lunch Aug. 25 at Sinbad’s. A PowerPoint presentation on drivers from hydroplane racing’s golden age, put together by Ross, will be shown during the luncheon, which is open to the public.

“I’m a member of the Pioneers of Power Boat Racing. We are active in perpetuating vintage racing,” said Ross, who mentions well-known drivers such as Gar Wood, Bill Muncy, Ron Musson and the Schoe-



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Sandy Ross will present a slide-show of hydroplane racing boats during this August’s Spirit of Detroit Hydro Fest, including images like this racing boat from the 1950s.

nith brothers, Jerry and Tom.

“Most people don’t know what the drivers looked like. The show highlights 50 drivers who drove on the Detroit River.”

With friend and fellow South Lyon resident Paul Poledink, Ross shows the vintage racer White Lightning at hydroplane races held around Midwest. He notes the rebuilt hydroplane is capable of doing 90 mph.

“As a youth, it was the spirit of competition that drew me. There was the camaraderie of the boat crew,” Ross said. “I garnered many mechanical aspects. Most important, I learned a lot about human nature. You were with people who had somewhat common interests.”

Ross had been an active hydroplane driver until he married wife Mary Margaret in 1960, became a father to three daughters and a homeowner. It was a much more hazardous sport, he notes, in those days before the drivers had current safety precautions.

Flipping a boat was the most dangerous accident years ago, Ross said, noting that hazard has almost been eliminated with drivers now

strapped inside F-16 capsules with oxygen.

“My wife and I had a three-year get-together prior to marriage. She accompanied me to many things,” he said. “She never rode in a boat. She saw enough in the early ‘60s and ‘70s — she witnessed people we had met lose their lives. Seven guys I knew lost their lives on the Detroit River.”

But over the years, Ross stayed involved with hydroplane racing as a crew member and crew chief. A highlight was winning the APBA Gold Cup and national championship in 1972 with the Atlas Van Lines team.

A master electrician and 70-year member of IBEW Local 58 with a master’s degree in business and economics, Ross gave up active crewing in the mid-1970s. He said he took up tennis instead.

But Ross continues to be an active supporter of the sport, particularly its history and heritage.

For more information about the Spirit of Detroit HydroFest, go to www.detroitboatraces.com or call 313-329-8047.

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JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon resident Sandy Ross once piloted an Unlimited class hydroplane boat like the model he’s holding in 1958 on the Detroit River. Ross, 88, couldn’t get the boat to the required 90 mph average speed for the course.

Michigan State Police hosting recruiting seminar in Livonia

The Michigan State Police will host an informational recruiting seminar from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 19, at Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center, Kehrl Auditorium, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. Attendees are asked to arrive by 9:45 a.m.

Recognizing the importance of a diverse workforce, the MSP is committed to reflecting the communities it serves. This free seminar will explain the variety of career opportunities available. Troopers, supervisors and command officers will

provide insight and answer questions on recruit training, the lifestyle of a trooper and positions available, according to a press release.

The minimum requirements for consideration of employment, according to the press release, are as follows:

» Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, of good moral character and have no felony convictions.

» You must be a U.S. citizen and a Michigan resident at the time of appointment to the academy.

» Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED.

» A good driving record and stable credit history is required.

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PREP FOOTBALL

First day of hitting 'just like Christmas'

Energy unleashed as Livonia Stevenson gridders finally get to go full throttle

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

There's nothing that football players such as Gio Agazzi look forward to more than the first practice of the season when they can hit with full pads.

Agazzi, a 6-4, 285-pound lineman entering his senior year at Livonia Stevenson, took a swig of water during Friday

afternoon's practice and then flashed a smile.

"It's just like Christmas, it happens once a year," said Agazzi, who plays tackle on both sides of the line of scrimmage. "It's going to be the last time for me. I will be playing college football, hopefully, somewhere. I'll have this chance again."

"But a lot of these kids I don't think will ever get to have this day back. It's going to be something you remember forever, tell your kids and all that other good stuff."

Also thrilled to be on the hot, turf field for the first day of all-out hitting was Stevenson outside linebacker Collin Bo-

wersox, also going into his senior year.

"We're all excited, we're all pumped, I'm not going to lie," Bowersox said. "Our defense is looking a lot better than last year and we're all getting really excited for the season to come around."

"We're just working on shedding blocks, working on all the techniques that we've practiced during the year and just putting it all in with pads now."

Let's go

That Christmas morning feeling of anticipation is some-

See STEVENSON, Page B3



First day of hitting at Livonia Stevenson. Spartans Giovanni Agazzi and Brendan Plue compete.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

COLLEGE BASEBALL

IT'S ALL GOLDEN



Schoolcraft College Gold Glove winner Jared Merandi demonstrates proper technique for catching a throw.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Merandi grabs first Gold Glove in Schoolcraft program's young history

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Every day throughout the baseball season, Jared Merandi brought his glove, bat and proverbial lunch bucket to go to work. His job was to be quicker and more assertive tracking fly balls in center field for the Schoolcraft Ocelots.

Practice does makes perfect, especially for 20-year-old Merandi, a flawless defender in 2017 with zero errors next to his name.

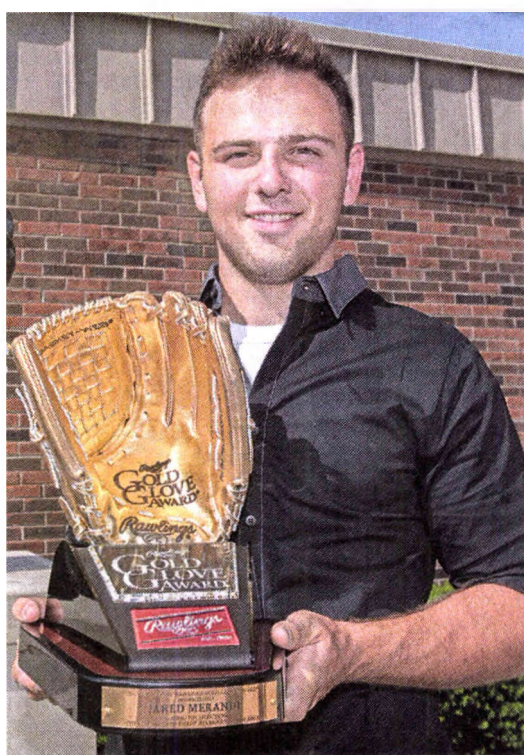
And perfection proved golden for the Plymouth High School alum and Canton resident, who Friday received a National Junior College Athlet-

ic Association Division III Rawlings Gold Glove — the first national honor for the second-year Schoolcraft program.

"Coming here and picking it up, it was awesome," said Merandi, who knew about the award in July. "At first I was, like, 'Sweet, it's a cool award.' But actually coming here and it was right in front of me I was, like, 'All right, this is pretty sweet. It's special.'"

"I wished regionals would have ended a little differently so that the whole team could have gotten some hardware. That would have been really cool. But being able to get

See MERANDI, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
Jared Merandi proudly accepts the Rawlings Gold Glove trophy for his fielding prowess with the Schoolcraft College Ocelots.

PREP FOOTBALL

'Darko' is the straw that stirs CC's drink this year

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

When he's on the football field, Isaac Darkangelo likes to take the Theodore Roosevelt approach.

The 6-foot-1, 228-pound senior's policy on the gridiron is to "speak softly and carry a big stick."

Darkangelo, a third-year varsity player, can be presidential and diplomatic-like off the field, but once he's inside those white lines, he can lay the lumber, as evidenced by leading the Shamrocks last season in tackles with 144, including 43 solo (plus a sack and one interception).

"He has great leadership qualities," first-year CC coach Dan Anderson said. "He's not always the most vocal guy, but he just works. He's just a workhorse and people follow his lead."

The linebacker and running back, who helped Novi Detroit Catholic Central to a 13-1 record and a run to last year's MHSAA Division 1 state final, is a throwback.

"Isaac is an old school linebacker," Anderson said. "He loves to run downhill and he loves contact. He has great footwork and good speed, too."

Expectations remain high for the Shamrocks heading into their season opener at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, at home against Sterling Heights

See 'DARKO', Page B3



Darkangelo

PREP ATHLETICS

Fordson, Dearborn to become KLAA members next year

League will grow to 16 schools in 2018-19

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association is entering a new phase once again.

After shrinking from 24 to 14 schools for the 2017-18 school year, the KLAA an-

nounced that Dearborn High and Dearborn Fordson have accepted invitations after being members of the Western Wayne Athletic Conference.

In 2018-19, three WWAC schools will be leaving for the KLAA: Belleville, which was voted in last spring (to replace Grand Blanc), along with the two Dearborn schools.

The three are expected to link up in an eight-school divi-

sion based geographically along with Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson, Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn. It will be called the Black Division.

The other eight-team division, which will be called the Gold, will feature current KLAA members Novi, Northville, Canton, Salem, Plymouth,

See KLAA, Page B2



Senior linebacker Isaac Darkangelo stands in front of the One Body sculpture on Detroit Catholic Central's campus.

BRAD EMONS

Balconi tourney gets season rolling

Eight of state's top teams to compete

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

August doesn't just mean the return of football. Soccer is back on the horizon, too.

For starters, there is Saturday's Gary Balconi Varsity Soccer Tournament at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Taking part in this year's tourney, which begins 10 a.m. at four fields on campus, are Canton, Plymouth, Salem,

Novi Detroit Catholic Central, Walled Lake Northern, Rochester Adams, Saline and Utica Eisenhower.

"The Balconi Tournament includes some of the best teams in the state year in and year out," said Canton varsity boys soccer coach Mark Zemanski, whose team is a perennial powerhouse. "The great competition it provides helps us assess our teams strengths and weaknesses at a very early stage in the season."

"This helps us to focus on improving our team play for the season."

Teams will be competing at the P-CEP Varsity Soccer Stadium (where the championship game will take place at 3 p.m.), as well as the varsity turf, freshman soccer and baseball fields.

Opening games are as follows: Canton vs. Northern, varsity soccer field; Plymouth vs. Adams, turf field; Salem vs. Eisenhower, freshman field; Catholic Central vs. Saline, baseball field.

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AMY MCGRATH
Canton celebrates winning the 2016 Gary Balconi Soccer Tournament. This year's tourney begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Eight teams will compete on four fields.

MERANDI

Continued from Page B1

something nationally, it's awesome."

Merandi also got it done at the plate, batting .355 with two homers and 19 RBIs.

Sharing the moment

On hand Friday at Schoolcraft College's physical education building were Ocelots head coach Rob Fay and another standout outfielder from the 2017 squad, Raymond Lemon.

"It's amazing, probably I should have worked on my defense more," Lemon said with a grin. "I could have got

one."

Both Merandi and Lemon (.340 hitter with just three errors in 2017) concluded their second seasons with the program, with Merandi considering Michigan State University for a walk-on opportunity. Lemon will continue his baseball career in 2018 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"Me and (Merandi) have been throwing partners for two years," Lemon said. "So just seeing my brother like that, on a huge accomplishment, even for a program that's only been around for two years, is very special."

Merandi said it meant a lot to him to see Lemon there when Fay brought

the shiny gold glove down from the athletic office.

"Yeah, we always played catch," Merandi said. "He was probably one of my closest friends during the school year. We'd always play catch, we'd be in the outfield together, we'd be pitching together."

"It's real nice to see him out here supporting me. Experiencing it with me. It's nice, cool."

Just crazy

After Merandi takes the award home for a while, he will bring it back to Schoolcraft to be on display for future baseball players to catch a glimpse of.

"It sets a standard," said Merandi, who will study business at Michigan State University regardless of whether he wins a spot as a baseball walk-on. "Coming into the season, national awards, I don't think any one of us was thinking

about that. I know I wasn't.

"To win it, it was actually, like, it was crazy. When our coach told us we were nominated, I was thinking, like, we're going up against everyone, all the D-III teams in the nation. I didn't think I had a chance. But when it happened, I was really surprised. So I think it will set a standard and let everyone know that things are attainable."

According to Fay, he and other Schoolcraft coaches nominated Merandi and second baseman Hunter Sellers (Livonia Franklin alum) for the regional Gold Glove team.

Sellers, unfortunately, did not make the all-region squad. But Merandi's name went to the national board composed of officials from Rawlings and the NJCAA, after which one player per position is selected.

"He was error-free in the outfield, so for him it

was real easy," Fay said.

"When they decide who wins these awards, they basically look at fielding position, which comes into fielding and throwing.

"And all year long out in center field, he was perfect for us."

On the map

That level of proficiency didn't happen by accident. Fay praised Merandi for his constant inner drive to work and get better with Schoolcraft outfield coach George Kontos.

"We preach here that we play defense with our feet," Fay said. "So the faster, quicker, more agile we can be, the better we are going to be to get to balls."

"We constantly tell our guys to beat balls to spots. If you can beat a ball to the spot and get your body in position, you're not only in position to field it, you're also in position to make the

throw."

And after just two seasons, Schoolcraft's baseball program is on the national map, something that can only help future high school players decide being an Ocelot is a viable option.

"Being a young program, recruits aren't necessarily familiar with our coaches," Fay said. "This award shows that if you're an outfielder, coach Kontos is a great coach for outfielders."

"It shows that we get talented players and it shows that, by coming to Schoolcraft you can get the national recognition that may help you get into the four-year school that you're pursuing."

Who knows whether future Gold Gloves are in the offing for Schoolcraft players? But thanks to Merandi, the possibilities are endless.

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HOW TO BE FLAWLESS

Take it from Jared Merandi, who just won an NJCAA Division III Rawlings Gold Glove for his fielding prowess for the Schoolcraft baseball team. Here are a few basic tips on what it takes to become a flawless outfielder:

» **GET BEHIND IT:** Merandi said outfielders need to be in proper position. They shouldn't literally take shortcuts.

"For the outfield, the main tips are staying in front of the ball," Merandi said. "I think that's the biggest mistake a lot of people try to time it out, so they get right to the ball as it's coming down. Biggest key is to get behind it, it's a lot easier to move forward than it is to move backwards."

» **READ THE PLAY:** When the baseball leaves the bat, good outfielders quickly know whether to break toward the infield or drift back toward the fence.

"It's a little bit of anticipation," he said. "Being able to read the ball off the bat. The biggest thing is your first step. You want to make sure your first step is backwards, you open up quick. That's going to be your biggest help to get the ones deep."

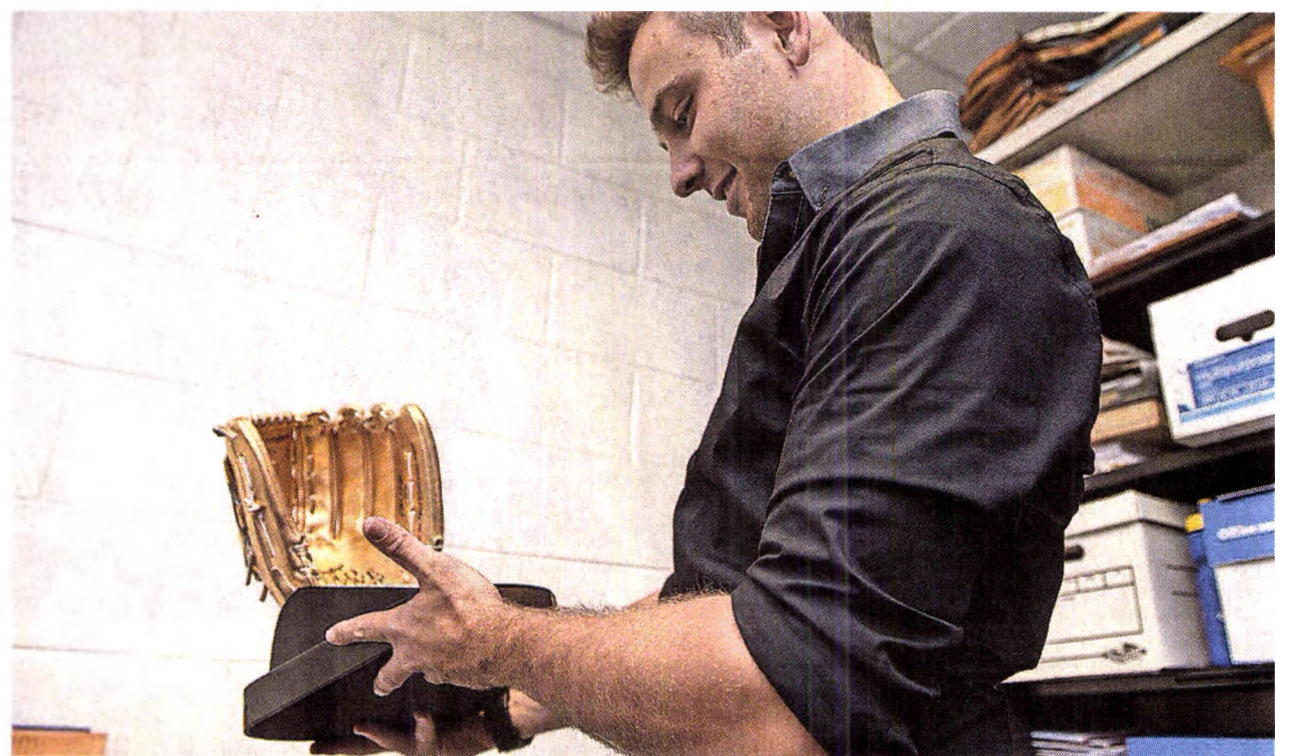
» **RELAY GOOD:** Hitting the relay man is an integral part of being an outfielder and Merandi said there is no easy formula — other than being a tireless worker in practice.

"Honestly, it's repetition and practice," he said. "Because you can do it, it's basically just your throwing skills. So if you're not practicing it, it'll be sloppy."

» **WORK ETHIC:** Although winning a Gold Glove is glamorous, the work that goes into raising one's proficiency to award worthy isn't. But Merandi underscored the importance of good, old, hard work.

"(It's about) practice, hard work," Merandi said. "On the field and off the field, in the gym. A lot of kids like to skip leg day. You can't skip leg day. You got to be quick; that's how you get explosive."

» **ON SECONDS THOUGHT:** "We (train with) Mercy Elite, they're really good at working with your explosiveness," Merandi said. "They always talk about it takes 0.2 seconds to change direction. That's what outfield is, being able to change direction or get yourself moving really quick."



Jared Merandi gets his first look at the Gold Glove trophy, which he won for being error-free in 2017 for Schoolcraft. He is an alum of Plymouth High School.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

KLAA

Continued from Page B1

Howell, Hartland and Brighton.

KLAA president Nicole Carter, principal at Novi, confirmed the move Friday.

"We are pleased and excited to welcome Dearborn and Dearborn Fordson into the association," Carter said in a press release. "These are two schools with strong athletic and academic heritages that share our association's commitment to excellence."

Dearborn Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko sent out a letter last week to inform the WWAC that both Fordson (2,762 students) and Dearborn (2,096) will be leaving while accepting the offer from the KLAA.

"Enrollment-wise, we're going to be more aligned with what we have," Fordson athletic director Jeff DelGiudice said. "We're all a little different, the three schools that are coming over. From a personal perspective, we're

locked into a division where we think we can compete. It was attractive to us, because we'll still be in with Belleville, Dearborn and the three Livonias. It, obviously, geographically fits. And with John Glenn and Wayne in there, too, I think it's a pretty good division. And it's a great league. The football is going to be fantastic. It will be good in every other sport, too."

Fordson, a perennial state playoff qualifier in football, proved to be dominant in the WWAC, followed by Dearborn and Belleville.

"It was a tough decision, only because I think for us it was a good league for us other than football," DelGiudice said. "We were considered the big boy on the block for football. Other than Belleville and Dearborn, nobody wanted to play us in football at all. Because of that, it created a need for us to look elsewhere. From my perspective as a Fordson A.D., I think it's going to be great thing for our kids. Apart from athletics, their league is good about getting student council

kids together and doing more activities other than athletics."

The current moves were all precipitated by 10 schools leaving the KLAA following the 2016-17 school year, with nine of the 10 forming their own league this fall: Milford, White Lake Lakeland, South Lyon, South Lyon East, Waterford Kettering, Waterford Mott, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern and Walled Lake Western.

Another KLAA member, Pinckney, also jumped ship to join the Southeastern Conference.

Travel concerns, enrollment discrepancies and competitive balance within each of the leagues became some of the factors for schools to look elsewhere for new alignments.

"(Dearborn and Fordson) showed interest before school got out and we looked at their facilities," one KLAA school administrator said. "That will give us 16 teams and two divisions, which would be nice. Balance-wise and competitively, I think it's good. It hap-

pens to work out geographically. It will work out really good."

Grand Blanc, the KLAA's largest school (2,662), is in its final year in the league. Voted out of the KLAA last March, Grand Blanc is headed for the Saginaw Valley Athletic Association for 2018-19.

"Sixteen (schools) works out better than 14, eight and eight in a division," another KLAA school administrator said. "Dearborn and Fordson made a push and said, 'We'd love the KLAA, great competition.' They came to us and asked for consideration. We met last June and talked about it. We had another meeting on Aug. 1 and the principals voted on it unanimously to accept them. They had to give their league (WWAC) a year's notice. We decided we're not going to do anything in terms of seeding for football or sports. You're going to stay in your division just like they did for the KLAA for every single sport."

The two new divisions, yet to be named for 2018-19 in the KLAA,

fit geographically and enrollment-wise, for the most part.

"The only exception would be Fordson, but we said it wouldn't make sense to send Fordson and Hartland (2,052) to the other side," the KLAA administrator added. "It makes no sense for Hartland to travel all that way and Fordson the other way."

DelGiudice added that Fordson and Dearborn explored getting into a football-only alliance with the Southeastern Conference, which includes the three Ann Arbor high schools, Saline, Temperance-Bedford and Monroe.

But the proposal fell through.

"If the football alliance had worked, I don't know if we'd be talking," the Fordson A.D. said. "There wouldn't have been that push to do something else, because we would have taken care of the major problem, which is football."

Meanwhile, the WWAC will be shrinking to eight schools. The largest school remaining is Dearborn Heights Crestwood (1,387), while

the smallest is Livonia Clarenceville (541).

The remaining six members include Garden City (1,107), Redford Thurston (1,103), Redford Union (925), Romulus (868), Dearborn Heights Annapolis (782) and Dearborn Heights Robichaud (682).

Another WWAC school, Dearborn Edsel Ford (1,411), will be joining the Downriver League in 2018-19.

"It was a good league for us in a lot of ways," DelGiudice said of the Western Wayne. "But the enrollment disparity was becoming an issue because there was us, Dearborn and Belleville (1,710) and then we had schools in the 600-700 range. Football drives things, especially when it comes to enrollment. A lot of sports, it's not a big deal because you're putting five basketball players out there, but with football, it's all about depth. With three schools having a lot bigger enrollments, it creates an issue."

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STEVENSON

Continued from Page B1

thing shared by high school football players all over the state, especially coming at the end of the first week of official practices.

The opening week schedule, as outlined by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (which in 2014 passed rules to protect players against sustaining concussions, which continues to be a major issue for the sport at all levels) gets started with two days where the only equipment allowed are helmets.

Wednesday and Thursday added shoulder pads to the mix. But those early practices pale in comparison to Friday's, with the exhilaration of being fully equipped to do what football players love most — other than scoring touchdowns, of course.

"We don't try to attack the legs of our teammates," Agazzi said. "But there's nothing like being in full pads. It's just a feeling, I guess."

Stevenson head coach Randy Micallef said the first workout with full hitting is something players put on their calendars every year.

"They're very fired up to have the opportunity to go full equipment," Micallef said. "And for many of them, it was since last season where they've been able to go and tackle somebody at full speed. They always look forward to that event."

Micallef added that players are ready and raring to get after it, having been held back somewhat by the MHSAA rules in the early practices.

"With all the (MHSAA) rules, we use a lot of the (hand-held) pads," he said, "because you can't have contact or do those type of things for the first four days."

"So we've been using a lot of the tackling pads and tackling rings and those type of things. It's nice to be able to hit a moving (human) target with full equipment."

Heating up

Next on the checklist was Saturday's inter-squad scrimmage, followed by Thursday's three-way scrimmage. The latter is set for 11 a.m. Thursday at Stevenson, with Redford Union and Walled Lake Northern also participating.

Then, of course, will be the season opener, scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, against visiting Livonia Franklin.

For Agazzi and other veteran players, the 2017



Brendan Plue hits the sled Friday at Livonia Stevenson. It was the first day where players could practice wearing full equipment.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

season promises to be a special one. The main reason for being optimistic is the strong team chemistry exhibited so far.

"Last year, I can say personally I don't think we had the best family-oriented team," Agazzi said. "This year, I can tell, we're just one big, giant family. All of us, we know what everyone's doing on the field."

That is duly noted by Micallef and other coaches, looking to improve upon last year's record (5-5, including a loss in the opening round of the

playoffs).

"The kids have done a tremendous job picking up what we're trying to teach offensively and defensively," Micallef said. "And we've got good leadership. (Quarterback) Parker Graham, Devon Dunn, Gio, Josh Page are all three-year players so they bring a lot of experience."

"They've done a great job teaching and showing the other guys what it's going to take."

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Football practice unfolds Friday afternoon on the turf field at Livonia Stevenson.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

'DARKO'

Continued from Page B1

Stevenson.

Anderson has made some subtle changes after taking over this season for Tom Mach, who retired after 41 seasons. Mach ranks third all-time among MHSAA coaches for wins after going 370-94 overall, including 10 state titles and seven runner-up finishes.

The transition seems smooth so far.

"I think it's great. Coach Anderson is keeping all the tradition here," Darkangelo said.

Early season practices have been high-velocity and high-intensity.

"Everything is broken up like a college practice, so it's awesome for us," Darkangelo said. "We've got the young coaches that are great and keep us going."

Darkangelo, nicknamed "Darko," will also share some of the load in the running game as a lead back, along with

seniors Cameron Ryan, Carson Kovath and Matthew Young.

"What drives me is just knowing that I have all my brothers behind me and I know they're all with me," he said.

"They're keeping me going and I'm keeping them going and I know they've got my back. I'm just hoping to have the best year yet and just keep grinding."

The Shamrocks have added a couple of high-profile members to their staff this season.

Former Birmingham Brother Rice head coach Dave Sofran will be working with the quarterbacks, while former Michigan State standout Greg Jones, who played for three NFL teams (including 2011 Super Bowl champion New York Giants), is helping coach the defense.

"He's an All-American and he's been helping out," Darkangelo said of Jones. "It's been great and I've been doing one-on-one with him. He helps us with our feet movement. He helps us

with our hands ... quicker. He helps us with our read steps and everything."

Darkangelo acquired his work ethic from his older brother Anthony, a former CC standout who just finished a stellar career as a linebacker at Ferris State.

"He taught me what hard work is," Isaac said. "He's always been on my back and getting me to go. It's really just driven me to be more like him and to lead like he did."

Family is important to Darkangelo, too, who is the youngest of six children. There are three boys and three girls.

Just above his right pectoral muscle, Isaac has a small tattoo that reads "Mi Casa."

"It actually means 'my house' and it's all my family's (first) initials," he said.

When he's not in school or playing football, Darkangelo can be found during the summer on Woodland Lake in Brighton.

"We actually just bought a beach house,"

he said. "I like to water ski, slalom ski. I'm pretty good. Me and Anthony go at it. It's pretty good."

The Shamrocks return three other starters: seniors Mike Harding (6-5, 220), a two-way end; Nick Carrey (6-7, 295), a two-way lineman; and Joe Natoci (6-0, 250), another two-way lineman.

Junior Marco Genrich (5-10, 175) and senior Jake Hinshaw (6-1, 185) are vying for the quarterback job, while juniors Keegan Koehler (5-11, 170) and Parker Bohland (5-8, 155) will get a strong look at running back.

"I really liked the hard work ethic that they had," Anderson said of the team's off-season. "They came to work every day and they worked hard and they're still working hard now. They really kind of have a chip on their shoulder after the loss (49-20 to Detroit Cass Tech) in the state championship game last year."

Anderson plans to tweak a few things as the Shamrocks will play



Anderson

another ambitious schedule, which features three Ohio teams: Toledo Whitmer, Cleveland St. Ignatius and Dayton Dunbar.

"It's going to look different from what you've seen the past, but it's still the same mentality," Anderson said. "We're going to be going to have that bring your lunch pail to work

mentality."

Darkangelo, however, knows when it's time to let his hair down and time to get serious.

"He's a jokester," Anderson said. "He's a funny kid. It doesn't always appear to be that way when he's out on the field because he has that workman mentality. Once he's off, he likes to have some fun."

Darkangelo's goal is to play at the highest level possible in college, but his priorities remain with his current CC teammates.

"I'm focused on high school right now, but still hoping for that Division I offer," he said. "Right now, it's been Division IIs. Got to focus on my season and have my best season and, hopefully, they will come. I've been working out and we've all been grinding together and it's great."

And according to the world of No. 38, it's called Big Stick Diplomacy.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Northville ace kicker Moody puts his best foot forward

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Having a kicker and punter the caliber of a Jake Moody has proven to be a huge bonus.

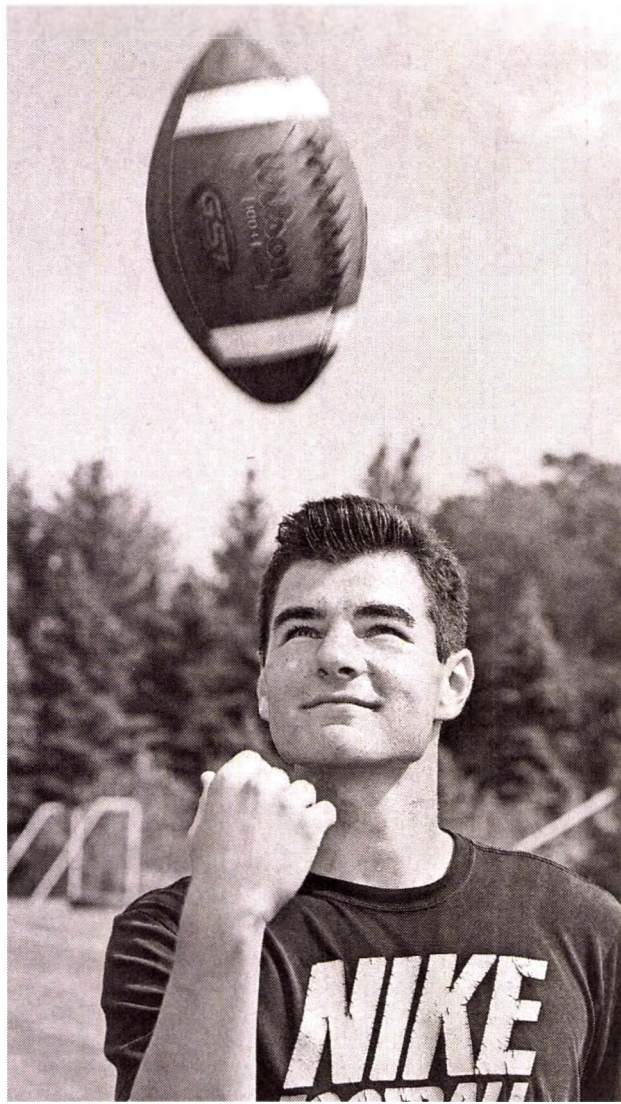
Just ask Northville High football coach Matt Ladach, who continues to marvel at the incoming senior's abilities while becoming a huge fan.

"It's his leg strength," Ladach said. "He booms the ball. When he kicks the ball, it sounds like a cannon has been shot off. The ball gets up right away and it's not like he's kicking knuckle balls or line drives. He gets it up in the air and he kicks it a long way as well. His strength ... I mean, it's phenomenal. His accuracy is, too."

Last month, Moody spent two days in Milwaukee at Kohl's National Scholarship Kicking Camp, where he graded out as the nation's 16th best kicker and the 44th best punter for the class of 2018.

He was the top-ranked kicker in Michigan and second in punting only to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook's Pierson Cooke (No. 13).

"It's really charting and seeing how well you do against other kids," Moody said. "It's not as much instruction. It was definitely a new experience for me, because the biggest camp I'd been to before that was about 100 kids, so having 550 kids there was a little crazy. But overall, it was really fun. I had a good time. I performed pretty well and it was a really fun experience."



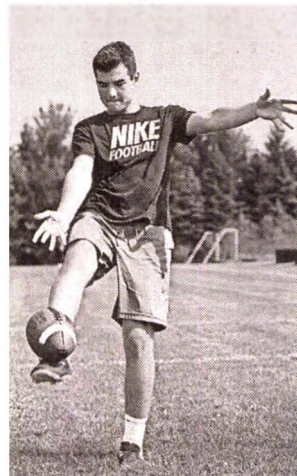
Senior Jake Moody wears three hats for the Northville football team as a nationally ranked kicker and punter, as well as playing as a scout team quarterback.

Moody, who took part in a showcase camp last Dec. 31 in Naples, Fla., also ranks among the Fab 50 nationally by Kornblue and has three scholarship offers on the table already.

Last season for the Mustangs (7-3), Moody converted 14-of-17 field-

goal attempts, including a school-record 52-yarder against South Lyon East, after going 9-of-12 as a sophomore.

After attending the Milwaukee camp, Kohl's described Moody's leg speed as "outstanding and different than most top level players in the



Northville senior Jake Moody is adept at punting and kicking.

2018 class."

A majority of his kick-offs sail through the end zone.

"The most important thing is consistency," Moody said. "It's got to be the same kick every single time. The PAT (point-after) should be the same kick as a 60-yard field goal, so you have to be consistent with every kick and you've got to have a good mindset. You've got to know the snapper has to have a good snap, your holder has to have a good hold and all you've got to do is make the field goal."

Moody said he compares kicking to being a pitcher in baseball. A starter at third base last spring for the MHSAA Division 1 state runner-up Mustangs, Moody follows a set practice regimen.

"You can't go every day, otherwise your arm would fall off or your leg

would fall off kicking," he said. "I try and get out a couple times a week, get some good work in and that's all you really need. It's just a few good days a week."

Moody played organized soccer until he was 11 and began kicking as a sixth-grader.

"It all started when I was playing soccer," Moody said. "I was always the kid with the strongest leg. I was always taking free kicks and everything. I kept kicking the ball over the soccer goal and I really didn't like the running involved with soccer, so I decided to actually play football to get points for kicking the ball over the goal."

As a sixth-grader, Moody gave youth football a shot with the Northville Stallions.

"I knew I had a pretty good leg and they kind of held a little bit of tryouts to see who could kick the farthest and I won by a long shot," Moody said. "That's how it all started."

Moody spent two weeks on Northville's freshman football team before getting moved up to the varsity. But his reputation preceded him even before he arrived as a ninth-grader.

"I was aware of Jake and who he was when he came to us as a freshman," Ladach said. "He was doing a really good job. Our freshman coaches at the time said, 'Coach, you really need to take a better look at Jake, because he could help us.' Our kicker at the time had a stronger leg,

but Jake was just so much more accurate, so we brought Jake up for our short field goals and, by the end of the year, Jake had taken over the job completely."

The 6-foot, 180-pound Moody, who wears No. 13, also doubles as a scout team quarterback. But instead of throwing touchdowns, Moody has proven to be an effective offensive weapon in the kicking game.

"I've always had the impression about Jake is that nothing really bothers him," Ladach said. "He can go out for a game-winning kick and he's just as cool. He doesn't let the pressure get to him. He just goes out and puts the ball through the uprights."

Moody, who carries a 3.64 grade-point average, has an offer from Morehead (Ky.) State, along with serious interest from Army and Air Force.

Academically, he leans toward the sciences, with an eye perhaps on the medical field.

Moody also likes to keep a close eye on two of his favorite pros.

"I like Matt Prater a lot, because he plays for the Lions and he's a really good kicker," Moody said. "And Justin Tucker (Ravens), because he's the best in the NFL."

Meanwhile, Moody's grandfather, Skip Moody, who also played for Northville, is another big-time supporter.

"He's my biggest fan," Jake said.

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CLUB SOCCER

National champion Hawks filled with local talent

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There are golden goals and then there are golden seasons.

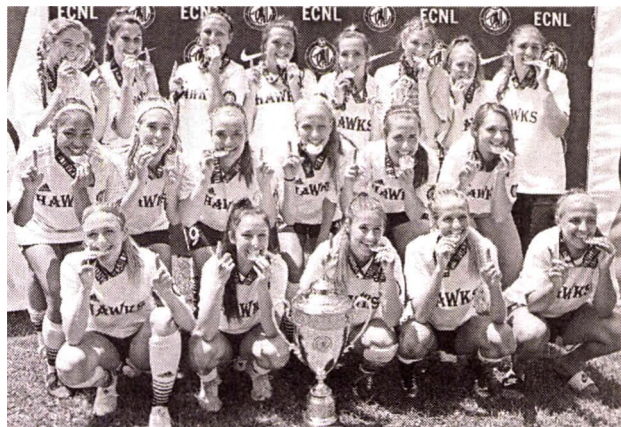
The Michigan Hawks, loaded with area players, made quite a statement during the 2016-17 Elite Club National League campaign by claiming the ECNL's overall club championship girls soccer title for the second time in three years.

The Hawks' Under 18-19 squad, coached by Doug Landefeld, earned gold earlier this summer in Rockford, Ill., while the U17 team, coached by Derek Williford, also brought home a national title last month in San Diego, Calif.

The Hawks claimed three Midwest Conference championships this season at U15, U16 and U18-19 levels and had no team finish lower than third in one of the most demanding conferences in the country.

Overall, the club qualified all five age groups for the top tier of the ECNL post season. The Hawks' U15 team also advanced to the ECNL's final four in San Diego.

Playing five games in the seven days, the Hawks' U18-19 team finished with a 4-0-1 record, capped by a 3-2 win over the vaunted San Diego Surf in the finals as forward Riley Tanner (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern), now playing for the University of South Carolina, scored a pair of goals. Canton grad Madison



The Michigan Hawks U18-19 repeated as Elite Club National League champions in Rockford, Ill.



The Michigan Hawks' U17 ECNL champions were all smiles after winning the title in San Diego.

Wolfbauer (Illinois), added the other goal.

"We played better teams in the final 16 than we did the year before," Landefeld said. "And the Surf was arguably the best team. We lost to them two times. That was our only loss this year and then we lost to them the year before, so we'd never beaten them."

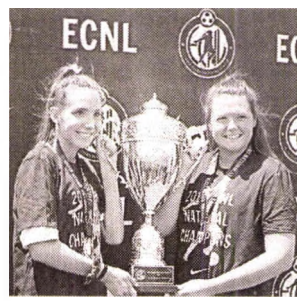
D-I recruits

Landefeld's starting 11 were all NCAA Division I

signees, starting with Novi's Bethany Kopel (Indiana University) in goal.

The back line was anchored by Farmington Hills Mercy's Sarah Clark (Milford/Purdue), Northville's Abby Williford (Central Michigan), Brighton's Maggie Samanich (Ohio State) and Sterling Heights' Sarah Mitchell (Macomb Dakota/CMU).

The midfield consist-



Michigan Hawks members Grace Krygier (left) of Novi and Abby Williford of Northville hold the ECNL U18-19 trophy.

gan Kloosterman (Butler), Brighton's Sheila Magnan (CMU), Novi's Grace Krygier (Wisconsin) and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern's Maddie Myers (Penn State).

Among the key reserves were Livonia Stevenson's Diane Senkowski (Iowa) and Saline's Catherine Dager (Villanova) in the back and Dakota's Hannah Mueller and Regan Steigleder (North Liberty, Iowa/Northwestern) in the midfield.

Sharing the load in the midfield and also at forward were Birmingham Groves' Alexxis Lipsey (Southfield/Ohio State) and Birmingham Marian's Hannah Redoute (Shelby Township/Western Michigan).

Canton midfielder Izzy Rodriguez (Salem H.S.), a member of the U.S. U17 World Cup team now playing at Ohio State, was injured early on in the tournament, while Brighton defender Samantha Kleedtke (Far-

lington Hills Mercy/Wisconsin) was also out of the lineup due to illness.

"The San Diego Surf team we beat in the finals had five youth national team players on it," Landefeld said. "Pretty cool. We've been in the national championship with U18s in the ECNL five of the last six years and won three of them. The commitment to help get the kids ready for college and helping them finish out their careers in the club has been rewarded by both the parents and the club players."

Meanwhile, the Hawks' U17 team was ranked 30th out of 32 teams heading into the Rockford regional, but Williford's team defied the odds by capturing the title.

Brighton's Alexa Spaanstra, another member of the U.S. U17 World Cup team, scored a hat trick in the regional final as the Hawks defeated Ohio Premier, 3-1, to earn the trip to San Diego.

In the semifinals, the Hawks ousted the Colorado Storm in a penalty kick shootout, 2-1, before earning the coveted crown with a 3-2 triumph over Crossfire Premier (Wash.) behind goals from Camryn Evans (Flint Powers), who had the game-winner, and Kelsey Adams (Brighton) and Natalie Viggiano (Dakota).

Sharing the goalkeeping duties by playing a half each in the final were Alex DeRuvo (Canton) and Maciah Lipsey

(Marian).

The defense was sparked by Sami Lopez (Sterling Heights Stevenson), Sam Sklarski (Grosse Pointe South) and Lexy Smith (Rochester), while Annabelle Honet (Birmingham Seaholm) and Izzy Verdugo (Canton) anchored the midfield.

Other key defenders included Madeline Carlson (South Lyon East), Erin McDonald (Plymouth/Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard), Fotini Demetriou (Troy/Birmingham Seaholm) and Zoe Hudson (Marian).

Forwards off the bench included Sydney Kloosterman (Northville), Kasey Jamieson (Lansing Christian) and Chloe Woodbeck (Royal Oak Shrine), along with midfielder Gabby Mueller (Dakota). Unable to play due to injury was Alexa Sabbagh (Dearborn).

"To get there, they had a great run," Landefeld said. "They won their first game in Rockford and then just kind of kept moving forward. They went 7-0-1 in the spring to get in. Then it was kind of a perfect storm for them. Everything they needed to (have) happen, happened. They got goals at the right time. Maciah (Lipsey) and Alex (DeRuvo) both played great in goal. Sam Sklarski and Lexy Smith, the two center backs, were solid in the back. Just a really, really good team effort."

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JUNIOR GOLF

Oakland County prevails in Kensington Ryder Cup

M.B. Dillon
Correspondent

Oakland County junior golfers defeated their Kensington Tour counterparts from Livingston, Wayne and Washtenaw counties Monday to win their first Ryder Cup in the season-ending tournament at Moose Ridge Golf Course in South Lyon.

Nearly 80 junior golfers competed in match play on the scenic but hilly, tough course on a picture-perfect summer day. Points were awarded on each hole based on lowest individual scores. The Oakland squad emerged with 52.5 points, followed by defending champion Livingston County with 44 points, Wayne (32.5 points,) and Washtenaw (7 points).

White Lake's Trevor Benoit, 16, of Catholic Central High School helped power his team to victory with a 5-over-par 76.

"I got on the green almost every time, except for two holes when I ended it pretty badly with a three-putt on the last hole for a 38," said Benoit, who was able to keep his driver under control on the tight fairways. "On the back nine, I started with a birdie. But on three of the next four holes, I three-putted for bogey. After that, I parred out."

Hrishika Gogineni of Novi High School scored well for the Oakland County women despite a tough round. "My drives were going pretty well today and my iron shots were fine, but it was a bad golf day," she said.

Memorable

It was a memorable day for South Lyon's Matt Maser, 17, of Catholic Central, who fired 80. He nearly had a hole-in-one, but sank a two-footer for birdie.

"The first nine was rough. I actually lost my tee shot on the first hole, so I dropped. But I hit it on the green and putted it two or three yards for par," Maser said. "On the first par-3, I just missed a hole-in-one. I hit a 130-yard shot onto the green



The team of (from left) Ben Yono (West Bloomfield), Griffin Price (Novi), Peter Stassinopoulos (Novi), Nick Wilson (Novi), Will Kluczev (Novi) and Steve Bernas (South Lyon) turned in strong rounds to help power Oakland County to the Kensington Junior Golf Tour's Ryder Cup.

and stuck it right at the pin. I thought it might roll in."

Maser began the back nine with two lip-out birdies, but made the pars. One of his best holes came on a hilly par-4.

"I drove the green off the tee," he said. "I paced off 27 yards to the hole; I ended up still making par."

West Bloomfield's Ben Yono, 11, a sixth-grader at St. Regis Catholic School, fired 47 to add points for Oakland.

"On No. 6, a par-3, I chipped on and one-putted for a par. On the fifth hole, I was on in two and two-putted for a par. I put it pretty close for a birdie," Yono said.

There were bright spots for Yono's brothers Jake, 12, and Sam, 14, also. Jake shot successive pars on holes 5, 6 and 7. Sam had a few birdies on the front nine and "five straight pars at the end that helped me out," he said.

Steve Bernas, 14, of South Lyon High School shot 88, his best round of the summer. He recalled a highlight on the front nine. "I sank a 30-foot putt to save par on a par-4. On No. 15, I was 130 yards from the pin and I stuck it 10 feet from the pin and got a (par) four," Bernas said.

Kendall Skore, 17, of South Lyon High School,

put points on the leader board for Oakland as well.

"I think I parred the first three holes in a row for a 46. The back nine wasn't that good; I had a couple pars, but it was just tiring. By the end, I couldn't focus," Skore said.

The Kensington Tour awards individual age-division championships to the top players in four counties. Benoit was the men's Oakland Division champion, while Princess Wells of Macomb Township won the women's Oakland Division. Mitchell Cotten, 17, of Howell captured the Livingston County championship.

Wayne's Andrew Aigeltinger conquered the men's divisions in both Wayne and Washtenaw counties. Reika Fujiwara of Novi took the women's title in Wayne County. Andrea Davis of Highland won the women's Livingston County crown. Jessica Lan of Bloomfield Hills placed first in the women's Washtenaw Division.

Good start helps

Among boys ages 12-14, Troy Watson of Westland won the Oakland and Livingston county titles. The Wayne championship went to Jack Kolka of Dexter, while Nick Spicer of Tecumseh took the Washtenaw Division. Damo

Watson of Westland won all four divisions in nine-hole/11U competition.

Cotten carded a 3-over-par 74 in the Ryder Cup. On the back nine, he nearly scored an eagle, just missing a 15-foot putt. "I tapped it in for birdie," he said.

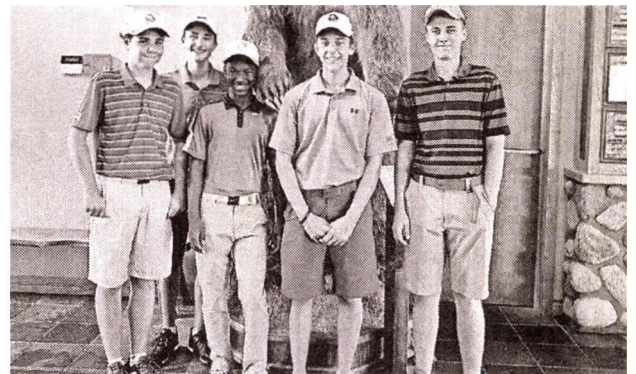
Cotten noted that the Moose Ridge course is "beautiful and incredibly maintained. With the scenery, it kind of gives you that northern Michigan feel," he said.

Novi's Peter Stassinopoulos fired 78 to help lead the Oakland team.

"I started off really well; I was even through three and then I went downhill for about a hole. But I kept my head up and recovered. Then I made a birdie and a par," he said. "I ended up shooting 40 on the front. Everything was working."

It was a family affair for three Northville siblings, all of whom supported the Wayne County effort. Sara Haupt, 14, shot 99. "On the back nine on the last hole, there was a big tree. I hit it right through the tree and onto the fairway," she said. "I came close to getting on in two shots. I got on the green in three for a six on a par-5."

Anna Haupt, 16, said, "On a couple holes, I got close to getting it in with one putt. It was a fun day."



Junior golfers (from left) Michael Maser (South Lyon), Nicholas Smith (Northville), Otis Kirkland (South Lyon), Brendan Stout and Matthew Maser (South Lyon) participated in the recent Ryder Cup tournament. All five attend Catholic Central.



Golfers (from left) Saraya Chaparala (Novi), Kendall Skore (South Lyon), Jordan Rempert (South Lyon) and Hrishika Gogineni (Novi) helped lead the Oakland County girls team to a win in the Ryder Cup held at Kensington.

Tony Haupt, 10, of Hillside Middle School, shot 55. It's his first year on the tour. "I feel like I did pretty well," he said. "And I got to know people who live around me that I don't know anything about."

Kensington tour director Dan Aldred, Hartland High School's junior varsity golf coach, is proud of the entire squad.

"We had the most participation we've ever had," he said. "It's not work when you have fun with a group as great as these kids are."

Aldred said golfers will reap rewards when school tryouts roll around.

"It's really good to

play by the rules so that you're used to playing with other people and used to keeping score," he said. "Your nerves are calmed down and you can compete. It's a good measuring stick."

Aldred encourages junior golfers to sign up early for the tour's 13th season.

"Look for us next March and register early, because the first two events are free with registration," he said.

Each summer, Kensington hosts 27 tournaments at reasonable rates in four counties, averaging 50-70 golfers per event. For more information, go to kensingtonjuniorgolf.com.

PREP ATHLETICS

Huron Valley returns to two-AD high school model

Marszalek named at Milford; Miller takes over at Lakeland

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Huron Valley Schools district has installed full-time athletic directors once again for both Milford and Lakeland high schools.

Jim Marszalek, who served as Milford's building liaison for activities and athletics since 2015, was elevated to his new position July 6, while baseball coach Todd Miller, who taught social studies for 13 years and was a content leader for the last two, takes over at Lakeland.

The moves occurred after district-wide athletic director Greg Michaels resigned in June to take the AD's position at South Lyon East. Michaels previously was Lakeland's AD before taking over the district-wide job in 2015.

"During the interview process, it was clear that both gentlemen have a passion for their field and have benefited from many years of teaching, coaching and motivating our students," Director of Communications and Community Relations Kimberly Root wrote in district-wide email sent July 6 to all Huron Valley Schools employees. "In order to best meet the district's needs in a fiscally responsible manner, the decision was made to return to our former model of building based athletic directors."

The two new athletic directors both signed contracts July 1.

"They made some cost-cutting measures to this position already when it was the old model with Greg and the central (office) AD and then two liaisons," Marszalek said. "And when Greg left to take the job at South Lyon East, they figured, with the fiscal responsibility of the district, that it was time



Miller

Marszalek

to go back to an athletic director at each building."

Both Marszalek and Miller will be part of Milford and Lakeland's maiden voyage into the new nine-school Lakes Valley Conference, which is being launched for the 2017-18 school year.

The new league also includes former Kensington Lakes Activities Association members Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western, South Lyon East, South Lyon, Waterford Mott and Waterford Kettering.

"When it came down to the new league, we each got new responsibilities or jobs given to us to help alleviate some of the workload that was on the

other ADs, so we picked up a few to be a commissioner of some of the sports," Marszalek said. "And I was put in charge, as a start-up, to put in the ordering that we need for our conference such as scholar-athlete patches, trophies for the conference, all-conference medals, signs and banners."

The 45-year-old Marszalek graduated in 1990 from Garden City High School, where he played football and basketball. He did his student teaching at both South Redford and Garden City before accepting an information technology position at Huron Valley's Muir Middle School, where he taught for 18 years.

The 39-year-old Miller, meanwhile, is a 1996 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice who played on the Warriors' 1994 MHSAA Class A state championship baseball team.

Miller went on to play baseball at both Oakland

and Madonna universities. He graduated from Madonna in 2001 with a B.S. in secondary education, while also serving as an assistant baseball coach at MU for three seasons under Greg Haeger.

Miller was Lakeland's varsity baseball coach for the past 14 seasons, but had to step down from that post after being named the school's new AD.

"I think we always want to kind of advance our careers and this is an opportunity for me to do it," said Miller, who also has a master's degree from Marygrove College. "I've been a teacher for 15 years and now I get to do educational athletics, which is pretty appealing to me. I've been a sports guy my entire life, played ball in high school and in college. I think it's just a way for me to further my career with something I truly enjoy."

Miller is looking forward to working with other athletic directors in

the LVC.

"The good news, obviously, is that I've had a good relationship with Greg (Michaels) at South Lyon East," Miller said. "I've known Brian Swinehart for a long time playing against the Walled Lake schools and they've helped me out a bunch. And, of course, Jim (Marszalek) at Milford, who was liaison before. And he's been helpful. I'm really following the lead of some of these veteran guys as much as I can and navigate through the waters."

Miller has already settled into his new AD position at Lakeland. "I'm just trying to make sure we don't skip a beat," he said. "(Michaels) did a phenomenal job and also Brad (Farquhar) as our liaison. I just want to make sure we don't miss anything in the transition."

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3 CREDIT-CARD NOTIFICATIONS WORTH SETTING UP

For consumers, it's 'about maintaining a sense of financial control' in real time

CLAIRE TSOSIE NERDWALLET

Your secret weapon for better managing of your credit cards could very well be the same device you're using to read this article: a smartphone.

Consumers are relying more than ever on credit-card push notifications or pop-up alerts in apps, according to data from banks that show how use has grown from 2016 to 2017. These messages can be customized to alert you to account activity in close to real time, helping you stay on top of your spending while avoiding penalties. They're already popular with younger cardholders: About 40% of Millennial consumers — those ages 18 to 34 — receive financial alerts as push notifications, says Mark Schwanhausser, director of digital banking at Javelin Strategy & Research, citing a 2017 study by the banking advisory firm. For cardholders, these notifications are "about maintaining a sense of financial control, increasingly in real time, increasingly on your mobile device," Schwanhausser says. To be sure, the notifications aren't always perfect; some could be more personal or provide more detail. But "you ought to at least take advantage of what's there," he says. Here are three notifications to set up that could help you handle your cards more responsibly.

1 A BALANCE NOTIFICATION

When you're getting too cozy with your credit limit, you need to know about it right away — not after your credit score has plummeted because of spending. A low credit score can make it harder to qualify for favorable credit terms, get approved to rent an apartment or snag the lowest car insurance rates.

Generally, using less than 30% of your credit card limit is a good rule of thumb, but the lower your balance, the better it is for your score. Some apps let you set customized notifications for when your balance is within a certain dollar amount of the card's limit.

A balance notification like this "could warn you when you're getting close to a misstep," Schwanhausser says.

Consider using this alert to follow the 30% credit-use guideline to keep your credit in good shape.

WHOM IT HELPS MOST:

This alert is especially helpful for cardholders with low limits — such as first-time cardholders — as well as big spenders. When your balance gets too high, it gives you a friendly nudge.

HOW TO SET UP NOTIFICATIONS

The process for setting up credit-card push notifications varies by issuer, but you can follow these steps to get started:

1. Download your credit-card issuer's app on your smartphone.
2. Log in to your account.
3. Navigate to your preferences for credit-card notifications or alerts. For some apps, this is under "Settings."
4. Select the notifications you want to set up from the list of options. (You can change your selections at any time.)
5. After that, you'll start getting the alerts on your smartphone whenever those activities happen on your account.

3 A BILL DUE NOTIFICATION

It's easy to goof up and pay your credit-card bill a day late, which might rack up a late fee and, in some cases, your issuer could increase your annual percentage rate.

"Our 'Payment Due' alert is the most popular," Alice Milligan, chief customer and digital experience officer at Citi global cards, said in an email.

Similarly, at Bank of America, "Payment Due" is one of the most-used alerts, according to McCormick.

WHOM IT HELPS MOST:

For consumers who don't rely on auto-pay for their credit-card bills, this alert could be a godsend. A quick reminder could save you from steep penalties.

2 A SPENDING NOTIFICATION

When you look at your credit-card statement, you might wonder, "Did I really spend money there?" A spending notification, which alerts you when charges are applied to your account, makes it possible to answer that in the moment. This way, money spent isn't money forgotten. Such alerts could serve as a reminder to slim down your future spending.

"It's really a great way to stay connected to how you are spending, as well as the activity that's occurring in your account," says Meredith McCormick, senior vice president for digital banking operations at Bank of America.

Spending notifications vary by card issuer. With some, you'll be notified if purchases are over a certain amount, like \$20. Other times, you can set it up to notify you with every purchase.

WHOM IT HELPS MOST:

If you have an account with a joint account holder or authorized user, you might encounter more "mystery charges" than most, making this notification valuable. With an alert, it's easier to investigate unfamiliar expenses right away, instead of at the end of the billing cycle.

DIGITAL DOLLARS

How Facebook's 'People You May Know' works

Site explains why it picks who it picks

ROB PEGORARO
@ROBPEGORARO
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

Q Facebook's "People You May Know" suggested my landlady. How could it do that when we have no friends in common and I don't have her in my contacts?

A This question from a reader touched on an issue that has left many Facebook users wondering:

How does the social network's friend-suggestion feature — sometimes called "PYMK" for short — identify potential friends?

Facebook's documentation often has been a model of vagueness about the suggestions you may see on its "Find Friends" page, your News Feed or your notifications.

Until recently, its help article said, "We show you people based on mutual friends, work and education information, networks you're part of, contacts you've imported and many other factors."

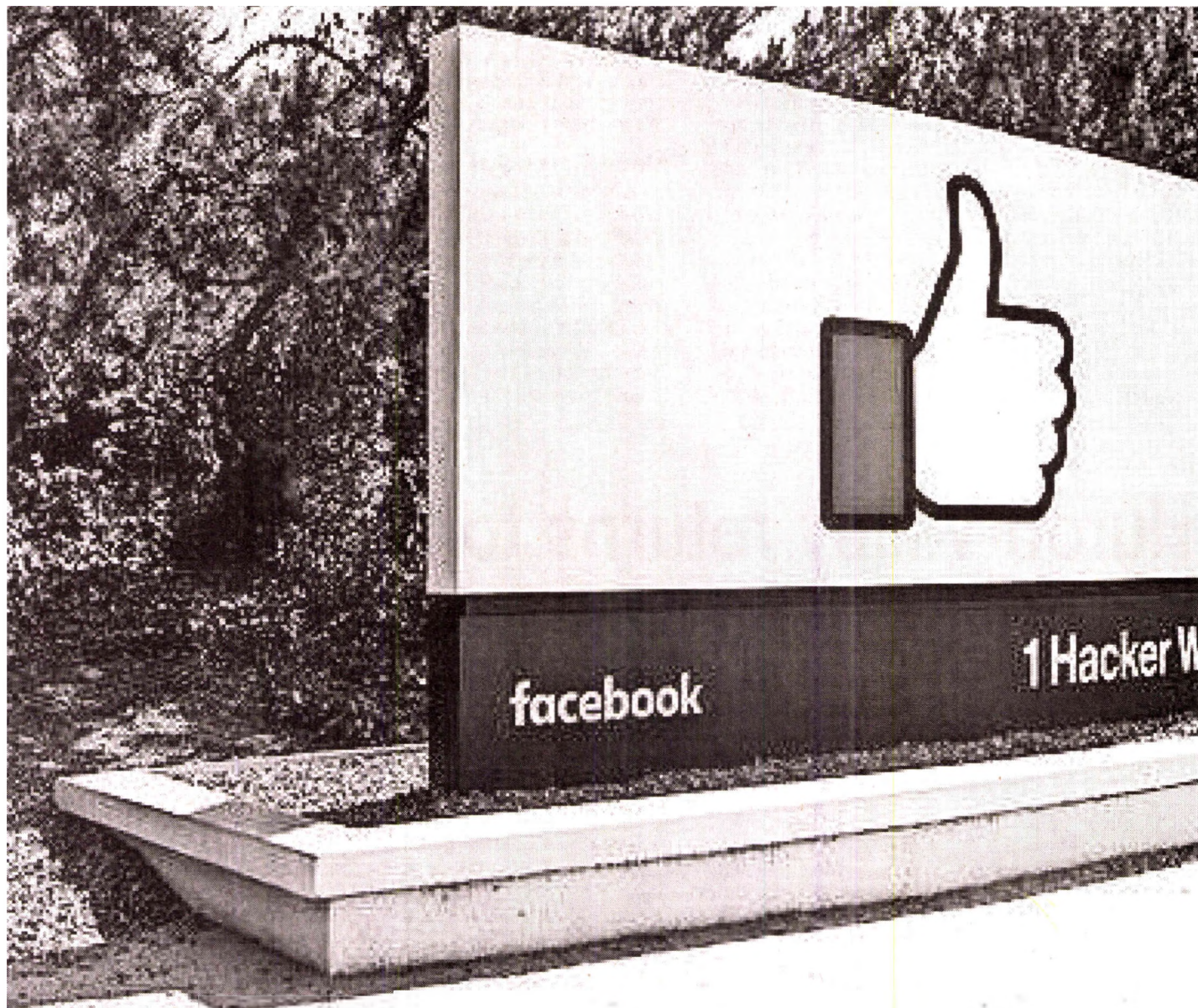
It now breaks out the following possibilities:

- ▶ "Having friends in common, or mutual friends. This is the most common reason for suggestions"
- ▶ "Being in the same Facebook group or being tagged in the same photo"
- ▶ "Your networks (example: your school, university or work)"
- ▶ "Contacts you've uploaded"

Facebook says a few other common theories about what drives People You May Know either no longer apply or never have.

First, your location history doesn't factor into this. Facebook once used its record of where you've gone to inform PYMK, but it stopped after reporter Kashmir Hill asked about creepy cases of Facebook suggesting such random people as a receptionist at a doctor's office or strangers who frequented the same bars.

Second, Facebook doesn't draw on who you email or text. But if an email app automatically adds people to your contacts (see, for example, older versions of Microsoft's Outlook) and you then sync that address book to Face-



FACEBOOK

book — something the company long has encouraged people to do — the same thing could happen.

In the same way, accepting another frequent Facebook suggestion by setting its Messenger mobile app to be your phone's SMS app will not lead Facebook to check for who you text more often and factor that into PYMK's advice.

Third, somebody else looking at

your profile does not cause them to show up in these suggestions. To everybody who checked out an ex's Facebook profile anytime recently: Take a moment to breathe a sigh of relief.

So what might have happened?

There's a scenario Facebook's help doesn't spell out but which the company confirmed can happen.

The reader's landlady added him to

her contacts, then synced them to Facebook, and that sufficed to get the PYMK algorithm in gear.

Result: a friend suggestion whose basis is invisible to the person who received it.

Pegoraro is a tech writer based out of Washington, D.C. To submit a tech question, email rob@robpegoraro.com.

TECH

Do smartphones keep us in or out of touch?

Devices often isolate, distract and disrupt acting with others

BRETT MOLINA
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USA TODAY

Most of us can walk and chew gum at the same time. But add a smartphone, and beware the zombies.

Hawaii recently enacted a law that will fine “smartphone zombies,” or pedestrians so distracted by their screens that they are oblivious when crossing the street. New Jersey is considering a similar measure.

We also can't — or, at least, shouldn't — drive and check our phones, which explains why 47 states and the District of Columbia have banned texting while behind the wheel.

Smartphones are disruptive at dinnertime. They're often the last thing we look at before we go to bed and the first thing we see when we wake up. They are affecting how we parent: A survey conducted by Common Sense Media last year found it's not teenagers or tweens spending the most time in front of screens but rather parents.

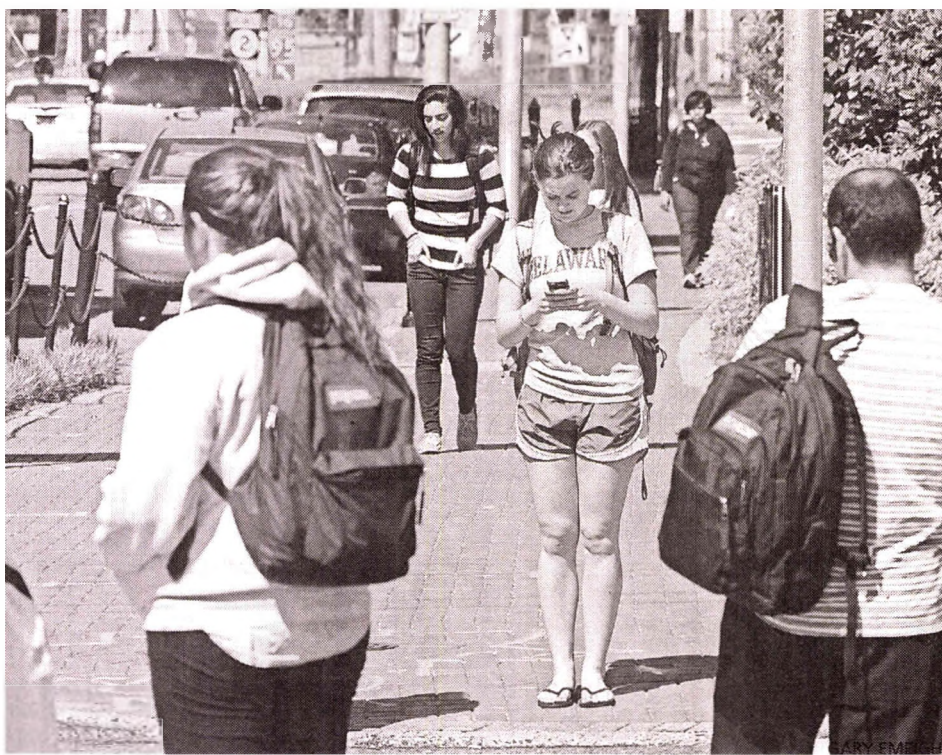
The glowing allure of the phone is undeniable. Is its hold on our lives untenable?

“There are a lot of folks worried our phones are eroding our relationships, are eroding our ability to concentrate,” said Devorah Heitner, author of *Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World*. She doesn't necessarily share those concerns. “I think that some people do (worry) in terms of distracted parenting. I think parents have always been distracted. This is a new distraction.”

When Apple introduced the iPhone 10 years ago, co-founder and then-CEO Steve Jobs promised a “revolutionary mobile phone.” It let us perform tasks like email, Web surfing or watching videos that previously required a computer. It also birthed experiences like Snapchat, Instagram, Angry Birds and Waze, which supplied us with endless connections — and countless hours staring at screens.

At the same time, the smartphone has become the most important tool for documenting our lives.

It's the window into our world, wheth-



THE (WILMINGTON, DEL.) NEWS JOURNAL

A phone-focused pedestrian prepares to cross the street.

er through videos of our kids' first steps, a filtered shot of our dinner or the all-important selfie.

Add in push alerts, and the tiny computer in your pocket is literally begging for your attention.

Even a smartphone facing down on a table could affect how we connect with each other in person. A 2014 study at Virginia Tech examined 100 two-person conversations, where in some cases a smartphone was placed face down on a table. Results showed conversations where the phone was hidden were rated higher compared to chats where the phone was visible.

“Just the presence of the phone reminds us of all the ‘elsewheres’ that we can be,” said Sherry Turkle, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and author of *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*.

According to Pew Research Center, more than three-quarters of Americans own a smartphone. In 2016, American consumers spent an average of five hours a day on their smartphones, nearly double from 2013, according to research firm Flurry Analytics, which specializes in analyzing mobile use.

But with all this access to information, it's possible our phones are making us less aware of the physical world around us.

In March, the Governors Highway Safety Association projected an 11% bump in the number of pedestrians killed on roadways in 2016 compared to the previous year, the steepest year-over-year increase since it started keeping records. The report cites the “sharp rise” in smartphone use as a potential factor.

And among the starkest examples of tragic distraction, a 21-year-old Texas woman was charged in June after her 6-month-old daughter drowned in a bathtub. According to investigators, the mother was on Facebook Messenger while the baby was left unattended.

Then there's our fascination with selfies. People have lost their lives (or had a brush with death) trying to capture one, while a town in Texas paid homage to our digital self-portraits with a statue.

The distraction isn't always so nefarious. Smartphones affect how we connect with others, Turkle said: “We become less aware of each other above all. Our attention is divided between the

people we are with and what is on our phones.”

That's especially true when it comes to parenting. A small study published this year from the University of Michigan Medical School and Illinois State University dubbed this “technofence,” in which the use of gadgets like phones by parents — say, checking an email or a text — can affect interactions with their children.

The study, based on a sample of 170 U.S. couples with young children, found gadget interference was linked to issues ranging from anxiety to disruptive behavior.

“Parents should critically examine their device use and seek to minimize distractions and time spent on technology while interacting with young children,” said Brandon McDaniel, an Illinois State professor and one of the study's authors.

Turkle said smartphones “promise that we will never have to be bored. But the capacity for boredom, the capacity to go within and explore your imagination, is one of the signal developmental capacities of childhood. And they promise we will never have to be alone. But ... you need to know how to be alone in order to know how to be together.”

So is this an epidemic requiring us to dial back on our smartphone usage? Keith Hampton, a professor at Michigan State, studied how interactions in public spaces have changed over time. In a study published in 2015, Hampton's team reviewed films from four public spaces over a 30-year period, analyzing the behaviors of more than 143,000 people.

Hampton found people often turned to their phones during “transitional spaces,” such as leaving a park to go to lunch or waiting in line.

“Clearly we all have anecdotal evidence of times when we are in social situations, and people are on their mobile phones, and it annoys us,” he said. “When we looked for how often they occurred, it just doesn't happen that often.”

As for parents worried their kids are equally obsessed, Heitner suggested leading by example: “If you sleep with your phone, then your child is going to expect that's what normal.”

Turkle senses people will continue to adjust. “This is a technology in its infancy. We are just now figuring out how powerful it is.”

TECH

Looking for a new phone soon? Put that on hold

New models will mean better deals, analysts say

ELI BLUMENTHAL
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USA TODAY

NEW YORK With summer and back-to-school sales underway, you might be tempted by some of the deals to buy a new phone.

Wireless carriers, electronics retailers and phone makers have come out with promotions to lure summer shoppers, offering heavy discounts and buy-one-get-one-free deals.

While on the surface they seem great, don't be fooled.

With the new Galaxy Note 8 set to be announced later this month and potentially three new iPhones on tap for September, now is probably the worst time of the year to buy a new phone.

“It is a terrible time to buy a new phone when you know new options are being brought to the table in a month,” said Avi Greengart, research director for platforms and devices at market researcher GlobalData.

“Even if you have no desire to buy a new iPhone, there are also new Android phones coming,” Greengart said. Rumors strongly suggest LG and Google also plan new devices for the fall.

Then there are the price drops that follow new releases, creating better deals for those who don't want or need the latest and greatest.

If history is any indication, many of today's top phones will get lower prices when these new big-name devices come out. Last year's iPhone 7 would presumably drop to the cost of the iPhone 6S, allowing you to get a better deal on what is arguably a better phone (missing headphone jack notwithstanding).

The price drops are likely to happen whether you're on Team iPhone or Team Android.

The Galaxy S8, Greengart said, might become a better deal. Carriers and Samsung could look to “raise the profile of a phone that was launched several months ago that is still quite spectacular.”

Other impressive Android phones, such as the HTC U11, could also become better deals.

The push for the new iPhone is expected to be particularly strong. Apple has historically launched new models in



DAVID CHANG, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

The upcoming season of new smartphones — four or more models in a few months — is great for owners of older phones.

“It is a terrible time to buy a new phone when you know new options are being brought to the table in a month.”

AVI GREENGART, OF MARKET RESEARCH FIRM GLOBALDATA

early September.

If you are specifically looking to buy an iPhone, “you have to hold tight,” said Roger Entner, an analyst at Recon Analytics.

What about those with a broken phone that needs to be replaced as soon as possible?

“Get a refurbished phone,” Entner said, “with the expectation that you would probably lose \$100 when you trade it in again” for the new device.

A refurbished 16GB iPhone 6S phone generally ranges from \$319 at Best Buy and Gazelle to \$449 directly from Apple, with other options available from

Amazon, eBay and others. Older models are even cheaper.

You might not even lose that much money on the trade-in, as wireless carriers' iPhone promotions are increasingly intense.

Last year, all four major wireless carriers offered a free iPhone 7 to those willing to trade in an iPhone 6 or 6S in good condition, with hundreds of dollars in credits for trades of Android phones or older iPhone models.

“In all likelihood, they will pay more for the iPhone than they should,” Entner said. “That's the opportunity for the consumer.”

Why you should take your children with you on vacation

KRISTEN JORDAN SHAMUS
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Julia rode in her stroller down the Champs-Élysées, cruised up the River Seine and tossed bread crumbs to the pigeons outside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

She toured Stanley Park in Vancouver, British Columbia, and got a glimpse of the snow-capped Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson.

When she learned to walk, our little one played in the sand and hunted for seashells on the beaches of North Carolina's Crystal Coast, the Gulf Coast of Florida and the Jersey Shore.

She toddled through apple orchards in upstate New York and took a windy ferry ride across Lake Champlain to Vermont.

Just because you've got a baby doesn't mean your dreams of adventure are quashed. And it doesn't limit your options to sprawling theme parks — although you can do that, too, and it's fun.

We're living proof. Even as baby No. 2 came along, and then baby No. 3, we traveled on.

Sure, the pace of our vacations slowed, and our destinations were limited because of our budget, but we found a way. In February, we took our most adventurous family-of-five trip yet and headed to Maui, Hawaii.

As we've taken our brood on journeys to places near and far, we've learned a few things:

- ▶ Set realistic expectations.
- ▶ Plan well in advance of your trip.
- ▶ Be prepared for the worst to happen, even as you hope for the best.

Some disappointments will happen, but that's true even on adult-only trips.

The benefits of broadening your children's horizons, of helping them see that the world is filled with adventure and wonder, and that diverse and interesting people live their lives in ways they never before considered is worth every ounce of aggravation. With a little luck, you might even inspire wanderlust.

You might have to alter your itinerary, but don't skip a visit to the Louvre or Musée D'Orsay because you have a toddler in tow. Just be sure to ride the carousel at Tuileries Gardens on the way.

It's all about balance, and considering ways to ensure younger travelers enjoy the trip, too.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

With gas prices relatively low — AAA listed the average price of a gallon of gas at \$2.26 nationally in mid-July — now is a great time to hit the road.

When kids are going along, try your best to be patient about needing to make more frequent pit stops and plan plenty of games, movies, books and other activities to keep the boredom at bay.

On our most recent road trip to the eastern coast of North Carolina, each child had a road atlas and could plot our drive from Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean, tracking where we were and predicting how quickly we would get to the next big city or town using a map.

Having paper maps also comes in handy when you're driving through the mountains or other rural areas where a GPS signal is interrupted.

History buffs can create mini lessons and true stories to tell children about past events that happened in the cities they travel through.

Other great ways to pass the time include playing road trip games like 20 Questions and I Spy.

You can sing children's songs or create a playlist of your favorite tunes on your smartphone.

If you plan well, you also can include stops in places with fun things to do. On a trip to visit family in the South over the Labor Day weekend in 2016, we stopped in West Virginia to explore Seneca Caverns and pan for gemstones.

Our son delighted in sifting through mining rough in the water sluice to discover fool's gold, rose quartz, malachite and lapis lazuli.

Hot tip: For kids prone to motion-sickness, check with the pediatrician about chewable Dramamine. The medication is available over the counter, and it has allowed our kids to read, watch movies and play games on their iPads without getting sick while en route to our destinations.

UP, UP AND AWAY

If you're planning a trip by air, keep in mind that most airlines offer new parents the option of carrying their babies free on their laps until they're 2 years old.

While that can save money on airfare, it's better to buy a seat for your baby if you can afford it. Carry a car seat onto the plane and buckle your infant or toddler just as when riding in an automobile. If you experience



Julia was just 18 months old and clapping with joy in October 2006 at the base of the Eiffel Tower.



Sarah Shamus leaps on the sand as she frolics in Lake Champlain with her brother, Sam, and sister, Julia, last September.

turbulence, your child will be far safer strapped into a car seat.

If you opt to lap-carry your child, keep in mind that most airlines allow you to check a car seat or booster seat for free when you check your luggage. That saves you from having to rent a car seat or booster from the rental-car company.

When you're flying, air pressure during ascent and descent can hurt children's ears. Sucking on a pacifier, nursing or having a bottle handy can help the baby equalize that pressure. If the child is older, try snacks or chewing gum or drinking on the ups and downs.

Occupying a child on a long-haul flight can be tricky. If you have an iPad or other device, you can preload with new games and movies.

Consider picking up a new coloring book, crayons or colored pencils.

If you've got older kids, make sure each child has a backpack filled with things to do. Consider card games or a

Rubik's Cube to pass the time in addition to favorite electronic devices loaded with music, movies and games.

On our flight to Hawaii, we brought Uno cards and played across all three seats in our row.

I also bought an inexpensive journal for each child, which they could use to chronicle their experiences. And, when all else fails, bring out the snacks to keep hunger at bay.

Hot tip: Restrictions for carrying liquids through airport security are different if you're traveling with infants and small children. The Transportation Security Administration allows passengers to carry on more than the 3.4-ounce limit if the liquids are breast milk, milk or juice for an infant or toddler.

Make sure your travel first-aid kit has children's Tylenol and Ibuprofen along with a thermometer, children's chewable Pepto Bismol and Tums, children's chewable Dramamine, Band-Aids, first-aid cream, hydrocort-



KRISTEN JORDAN SHAMUS, DETROIT FREE PRESS
Sarah, Greg and Sam Shamus get ready to ride a zip line in Maui, Hawaii, in February.

tisone cream and Benadryl.

AHHH-CHOO!

Even the best planning and organization can be derailed when illness or injury strike.

If you're flying or taking a cruise, consider travel insurance in case a child breaks a bone the day before you're supposed to leave or your cruise is thwarted by a nasty case of pneumonia.

Even if you manage to make it to your destination unscathed, someone might come down with a bug during your vacation.

The best way to take the sting out of unforeseen illness is to be prepared. Before you leave home, be sure to call your insurance company and find out what kind of coverage you have out of state or internationally. Find out about what your co-pay or out-of-pocket costs will be for emergency room visits and urgent-care stops.

Hot tip: If you or your child is in need of medical help while visiting a foreign country, check with your hotel front desk about medical services available to guests.

If none are available, ask for directions to the nearest urgent care facility or hospital.

WHERE TO STAY?

If your first choice is to stay in a hotel, look for one with an indoor pool. That way, no matter the weather, the kids can burn some energy with a romp in the water.

Just don't forget to pack swimsuits, and if your kids are small enough, swim diapers and a floaty to keep them safe in the water.

Other features to look for: A hotel with family-friendly suites, an in-room refrigerator to keep milk and other drinks cold, a microwave and, truly pie-in-the sky, complimentary breakfast.

If you're looking to really spread out, relax and save a little money to boot, consider renting a house or an apartment.

Several online companies like VRBO and Airbnb offer great deals that give families a home away from home.

Vacations shouldn't be fun for adults at the expense of the kids. Nor should everything you do revolve around the kids at the expense of the adults.

Find a balance so everyone can have a great time and make memories together while exploring all the joys this world has to offer.

Memory-making is the reward of traveling with your kids.

I'll always remember pushing my baby girl up the streets of Paris in her little pink stroller. We stopped for chocolate-and-banana crepes at a roadside stand, and the expression on her face when she took her first drippy bite was just as delicious as the crepe tasted.

I'll never tire of recalling those tender times. Nor will I tire of laughing about the inevitable travel catastrophes we've encountered, which are much funnier years later — the lost luggage, the missed connections, the plane ride with a screaming infant. They are the remember-when foibles that are the backbone of family lore.

And when your kids have kids? Go along for the ride. There's nothing better than grandma or grandpa to offer another set of eyes on a wayward toddler, another pair of arms to hold a crying baby or hug a moody tween.

Trust me. I've been there.

TRAVEL

Dining on water a must-do for summer

Floating bars and restaurants give customers that special experience

JONAH FLICKER
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy a drink or a meal on the water. While there are plenty of waterfront dining experiences around the USA, a choice few restaurants and bars operate on boats and barges, adding a floating sensation to a great view.

New York City has the lion's share of floating bars and restaurants.

Roman Tartakovsky, beverage manager for Pier 81 venues Hudson's and North River Lobster Company, attributes this to the large amount of aquatic real estate available around the city. "The horseshoe shape of Manhattan Island makes for a colossal amount of waterfront territory," he says. The protected waterways and harbor that surround the city make it a perfect location for floating bars and restaurants, of which there are at least seven.

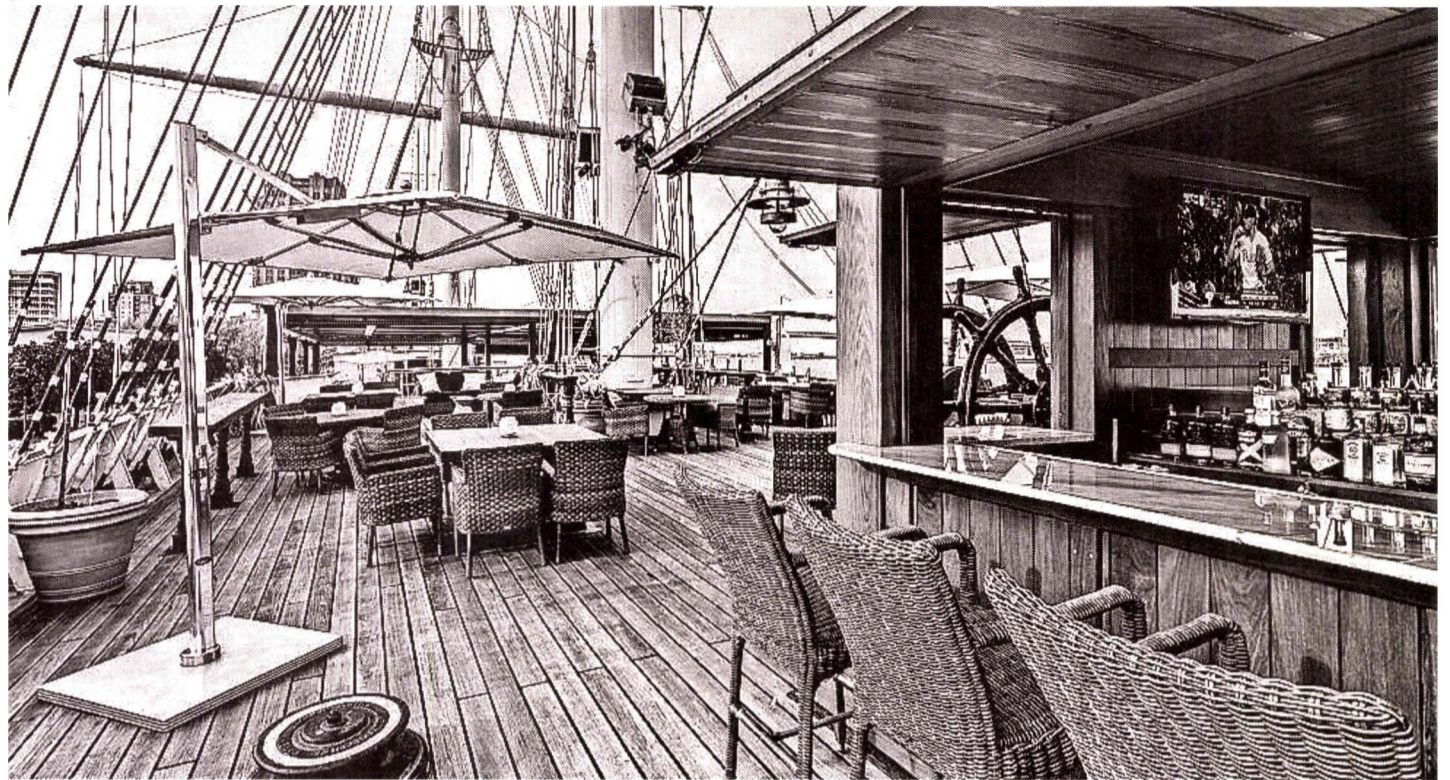
Gus Markou, president of New York Cruise Lines, says that in addition to following all state rules for operating a bar or restaurant, "You need a U.S. Coast Guard certificate," to run one on a boat.

The vibe at maritime eateries and watering holes ranges from decades-old, family-run restaurants to more modern, upscale party atmospheres. The cuisine is often seafood-heavy, and drinks are frequently given a nautical twist — expect lots of rum.

Here are some of the USA's most appealing restaurants and bars on boats, barges and floating docks.

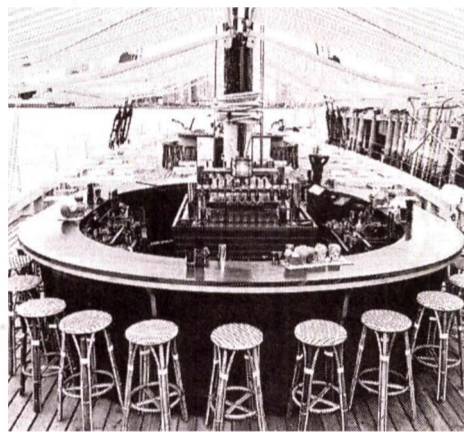
Grand Banks is a bar and raw bar that sits on the F/V Sherman Zwicker, a fishing schooner built in 1942 that is now docked at Pier 25 in New York City's Hudson River Park. Grab a seat at the bar and enjoy a selection of oysters, as well as a seasonal cocktail menu.

The Honorable William Wall is a steel barge anchored in New York Harbor. The floating venue is accessible only by boat; purchase round-trip ferry tickets from Jersey City or Manhattan's WFC Ferry Terminal. You can bring your own food, but drinks must be purchased onboard, leading to a lively and convivial atmosphere.



ALLISON GUZY

Philadelphia bar and lounge The Deck opens every summer above Moshulu, a restaurant on a ship built in 1904. The vessel is docked at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River waterfront.



ALEXANDER PINCUS

Grand Banks bar sits on the F/V Sherman Zwicker, a fishing schooner at Pier 25 in NYC's Hudson River Park.

Brooklyn Barge is open for its second season, offering a full menu of food and drinks with views of the Manhattan skyline. The barge, which once transported railroad box cars, is docked on the East River in Brooklyn's Greenpoint

neighborhood.

The Crow's Nest sits atop The Water Club, a restaurant on a moored barge on New York City's East River with amazing views of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Food and drinks are served in a much more casual setting than at the restaurant below.

DiMillo's on the Water opened in 1982 on an old car ferry docked at Portland, Maine's, historic Old Port. The family-run restaurant and bar has two outdoor decks where guests can eat and drink from a menu full of seafood, including fresh Maine lobster.

Philadelphia bar and lounge The Deck opens every summer above Moshulu, a restaurant on a ship built in 1904. The vessel is docked at Penn's Landing, a lively part of the Delaware River waterfront. The Deck offers food, a creative cocktail menu, and a full wine and beer list.

Tiki Barge is home to a bar (open to the public) and pool (members only), near the Federal Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. Tiki Barge also hosts yoga classes on select Tuesdays and Sundays,

with a free drink afterward.

In Key West, Fla., **Thai Life** has been floating for 40 years under different ownership and names. The current owners were inspired by the floating restaurants of Thailand, and decided to bring the concept to the USA.

Landry's Seafood House is on a docked boat in Corpus Christi, Texas. Landry's serves Gulf Coast seafood, such as seared scallops, right on Corpus Christi Bay.

The Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino is home to **Pier 111**, a bar floating on Lake Tahoe at the end of the resort's floating pier. Pier 111 serves specialty cocktails, such as the Lakeside Lemonade.

Chowder Barge was built in 1934 for the filming of *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and has been docked in Wilmington, Calif.'s, Leeward Bay since 1988. Locals frequent this spot south of Los Angeles for pub grub and beer.

In Sacramento, Calif., **The Virgin Sturgeon** offers al fresco seating and a daily changing seafood selection on the Sacramento River.

TRAVEL

Outdoors a magnet for family fun, adventure

GARY GARTH
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES, KY. A middle-aged man wearing khaki cargo shorts, flip-flops and a St. Louis Cardinals baseball cap wheeled a golf cart into the parking lot of The Outpost and disappeared inside.

He emerged a few minutes later carrying two bags of ice and a small sack of groceries.

"Glad this place is here," he yelled from the passing cart without slowing down. "Always seem to need something."

The Outpost is the camp store that services Hillman Ferry, a 374-site campground that's scattered along nearly 900 acres of rolling, timbered, postcard-pretty Kentucky Lake/Tennessee River shoreline. During the Independence Day weekend in July, every site was occupied and the campground took on the look and feel of a self-contained small town, albeit one with an idyllic personality and through-the-looking-glass persona.

On a quiet, post-holiday weekday afternoon about half the campsites were filled. Their occupants were mixed: Families with young children. Apparent long-time retirees. Every age group in between.

Accommodations varied, too. A handful of tents were scattered among the trees, but most of the filled campsites were anchored by travel trailers and RVs, including a few school-bus-size units. Some featured portable satellite dishes. The quiet hum of air conditioning units provided the background noise.

It was a transient city; quiet and clean, largely self-contained yet portable in manicured surroundings. *Twilight Zone*-ish almost; but in a safe, comfortable, friendly sphere.

"It is like a small city here, especially during holiday weekends," said Jason Osborne.

Osborne is the assistant manager for Hillman Ferry, one of four fully-developed U.S. Forest Service campgrounds inside the 170,000-acre Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, a popular camping, boating and hiking destination that spills across the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Hillman Ferry is also one of thousands of federally-owned/managed campgrounds across the country. Thousands more campgrounds are operated by na-



PHOTOS BY GARY GARTH, SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

This one-room Civilian Conservation Corps-era cabin at Columbus-Belmont State Park is available for campers to use.



GARY GARTH SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

Travel trailers and RVs fill most modern campgrounds. Approximately 40 million Americans camp each year.



A Land Between the Lakes view next to Kentucky Lake.

tional and state parks and other municipalities.

Many offer creature comforts. Others provide campers the bare-boned necessities of chemical toilets, a fire ring. Privately run campgrounds also abound.

Camping is an astonishingly popular

summertime activity. On summer holiday weekends — Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day — many if not most campgrounds are filled. Those that accept reservations are booked months in advance. But weekdays are busy, too.

According to the 2014 American Camping Report prepared by The Out-

door Foundation with help from outdoor retail giant The Coleman Company, 41 million Americans went camping in 2013. That's 14% of the U.S. population.

Other sources have the number closer to 45 million. Either way, it's a passel of folks. And they're not limited to specific geographical areas. In Wisconsin, campers filled 5,924 state-owned/operated public campsites in 2016 equaling 435,100 campsites "number of nights occupied." The American Camping Report identifies Wisconsin as part of the "East North Central" region that also included Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. It's a region that reports a 15% participation rate of the population who camped. The Mountain West (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico) has the highest percentage of campers, with 21% of the population sleeping under the stars.

Non-camping enthusiasts might, understandably, wonder what's the attraction.

"For me, I just love being in the campground and seeing all the campfires, hearing the sound of children playing, staring at the stars and, if I'm lucky, perhaps hearing the sound of wildlife," said Boyd Smith, whose job as a Baptist minister doesn't keep him from heading to the woods every time he gets the chance. "I just love it."

Smith became addicted to nights under the stars as a boy in Mississippi, camping with his twin brother. "Many times our tent was vacant because we would rather be lying on our makeshift sleeping bags looking up than be in a small tent filled with the heat of summer."

Osborne suspects there is another draw, one that might reflect societal anxiety outside the campground.

Campgrounds are generally safe and camping is a family-friendly pursuit. At Hillman Ferry and most other public sites the entrance is gated or manned, and only registered campers are allowed in after a certain time. Quiet hours are enforced. A supervisor is on site 24 hours.

"We provide a lot of amenities," Osborne said. "We have basketball courts and volleyball courts and playgrounds and different (nature) programs. But one of the biggest things is the security we provide. People can bring their kids inside this campground and provide them with a very safe environment in which to recreate."

TRAVEL

Sleepbox tops 'Shark Tank' contest of airport innovations

Naptime unit ties baggage tracker for overall honors

HARRIET BASKAS
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

It had all the makings of a reality television program.

Industrious entrepreneurs brought ideas they were certain should be on the market, then an expert panel peppered them with probing questions. Everything from biometrics, robots and autonomous transportation to new screening technologies was on the agenda last month in Seattle at a gathering of industry leaders that included airport employees with the word "innovation" in their job titles.

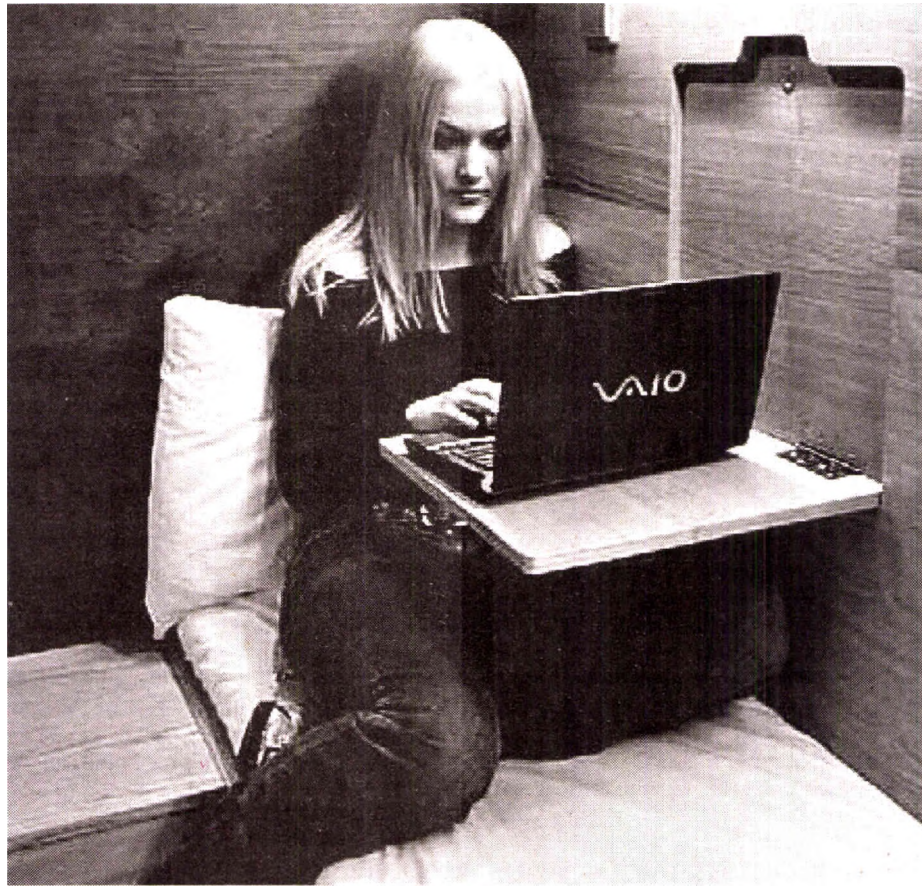
The Airport Innovation Forum, organized by the American Association of Airport Executives, capped off with a *Shark Tank*-style competition in which five start-ups competed for a spot in the Airport Market Match program.

I was part of a panel of judges that included innovation experts from Microsoft and Amazon and an aviation industry insider. After we grilled the contestants for details on their business plans, it was up to forum attendees using an instant electronic polling system to choose the winners.

Competing ideas included an app designed to help visually impaired travelers navigate airports (Loud Steps), a mobile app to monetize passenger loyalty (Venuetize) and a platform that analyzes mobile device location data for insights on passenger behavior (Kiana Analytics).

The two (tied) winners were Bellevue, Wash.-based Alitheon, a company whose proprietary computer technology can very accurately and securely authenticate, track, trace and monitor baggage without the need for bar codes, tags or RFID chips, and the passenger-friendly "sleep vending machines" created by Boston-based Sleepbox.

Airport operators and security teams will be most interested in the technological services of contest winner Alitheon, but being able to grab a bit of shut-eye when you're stuck at the airport ranks high on most every traveler's wish list.



Sleepbox units have a bed, storage space for carry-on luggage and electrical outlets.

The self-contained, plug-in Sleepbox units are just as their name describes: efficiently designed 45-square-foot boxes with a window to the outside and, inside, a bed, storage space for carry-on luggage, a wireless stereo system, fold-down work table, wall mirror, lighting and electrical outlets. Units come in three sizes: basic ("Inner-Space"), single or double.

"We think we have a solution that can eliminate one of the worst airport experiences," said Peter Chambers, Sleepbox chief operating officer and co-founder.

The original design called for the unit to have self-changing sheets after each use. Although Chambers still likes that idea, the current design has an attendant doing cleanup duty.

Positive reaction media coverage in response to a prototype Sleepbox set up

for three months in 2011 at Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow and success with a hotel-use setup in Stockholm convinced the creators they had a good idea.

Prices and stay requirements vary for each style of napping nook, but travelers will find sleeping cabins by NapCabs in Munich Airport and Berlin-Tegel Airport in Germany, Minute Suites — equipped with daybed sofas and work tables — in Philadelphia International Airport, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and in Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Chambers said there's room for the Sleepbox concept in the airport (and hotel) napping market in the USA, and the company recently presented its proposal to install Sleepbox units at a major U.S. hub.

ASK THE CAPTAIN

Obscure airplanes have us wondering

JOHN COX
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

Q I heard about an aircraft called the VFW-Fokker 614 that had its engines above the wings. What were some of the negatives and positives of this design?

— Sam, Greensboro, N.C.

A The VFW-Fokker 614 is a rare airliner. I know of only one remaining; it is at the Museum in Oberschleißheim, Germany. I was fortunate to see it in the summer of 2015.

The 614 was designed to be a short-range, regional airliner seating 30 to 40 passengers. It did not sell well. It was slow for a jet, and the engine manufacturer filed bankruptcy, causing very few airlines to place orders. The engine location limited the cruising speed, while the small size limited the revenue it could produce.

It lost the market to the Fokker F-28 and the BAE 146.

Q I once took a ride in a military jet with leading edge slats. The pilot seemed to dismiss them as minor, automatic. What are they?

— Kirk, Atlanta

A Some early jet fighters, such as the F-86, had automatic slats; they help provide lift at lower speeds. However, the F-86 was a single-seat fighter.

Using similar technology, the North American Sabreliner, known in the Air Force as the T-39, had automatic slats. It is possible that is the airplane in which you flew. The slats on this model also were used to provide lift at slower speeds but were not particularly effective.

Q A retired Air Force colonel told me he has flown at 60,000 feet. What plane can do that?

— Steve Barnes, Florida

A Some fighter aircraft can achieve 60,000 feet, as well as special reconnaissance planes such as the U-2 or SR-71. The only civilian airplane that could fly at 60,000 feet was the Concorde.

How to make travel insurance work for you

A policy can mean different things to different people



ON TRAVEL
CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Travel insurance doesn't always work. There, I said it.

Sometimes, travel insurance is worthless. I know, because a few weeks ago, I wrote a column about how travel insurance can sometimes save the day, and many of you, dear readers, begged to differ.

Diane McGrew says she always buys insurance and assumed it would protect her vacation when she canceled her trip to Europe last year after terrorist attacks in Belgium.

"It didn't," says McGrew, a retired print manager from St. Joseph, Minn. "We were shocked. It was a \$4,500 loss to us. We never received one penny back."

That's the thing about travel insurance. It covers you — except when it doesn't.

Most policies place strict limits on terrorism-related claims. In McGrew's case, she canceled because of worries about terrorist activity in Belgium. "The denial was based on something regarding known terrorist cells as opposed to an actual event," she says.

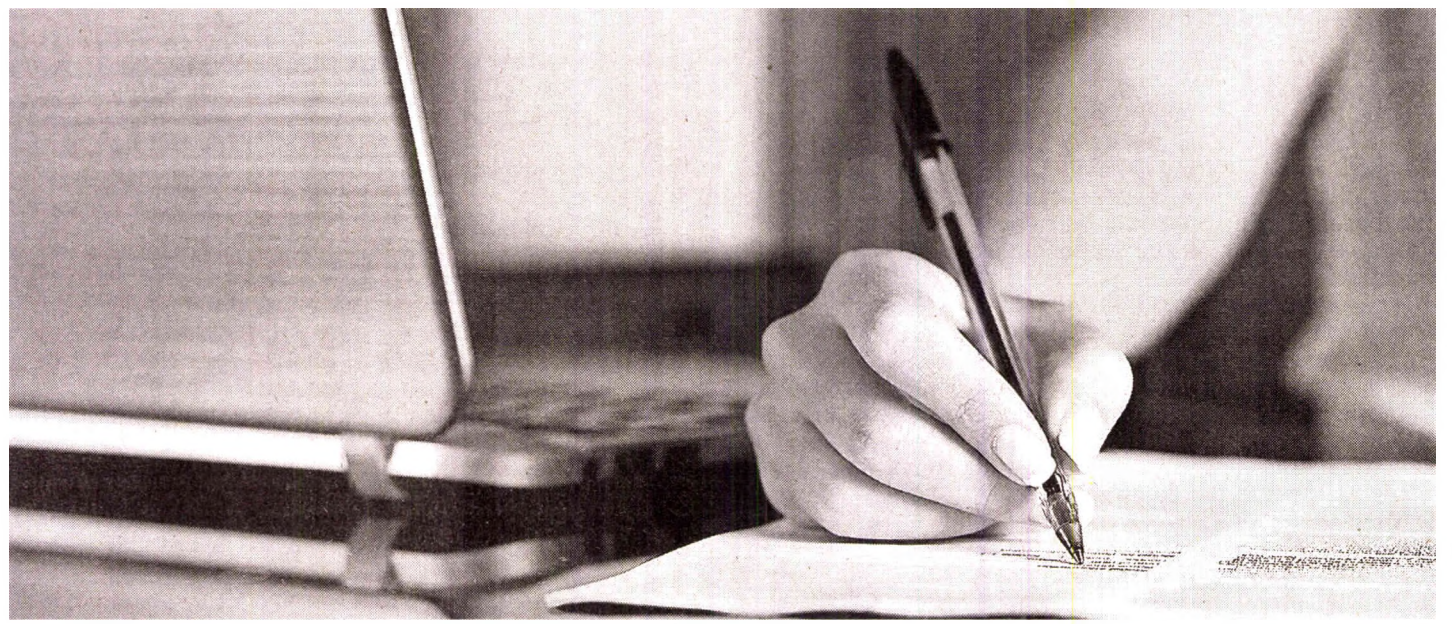
Right now, during one of the busier times of the year for insurance claims, it helps to know what that shiny new policy will really do — and won't do — for you.

"Travel insurance means different things to different travelers," says Mike Kelly, a risk consultant with AHT Insurance, an insurance brokerage and consulting firm. "Most travel insurance policies vary widely."

That's true. What do you do when a policy fails to deliver as advertised? Insurance insiders might argue that there's no such thing, that the real problem is travelers who don't take the time to read the policy.

"I've never heard of insurance that did not work as advertised," says veteran travel agent Michelle Weller, who works for Travel Leaders in Houston. "But I have noticed some people do not read the fine print."

Before you write off your policy as a failure, take a moment to read every-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The best way to avoid an appeal is to buy the right policy.

WHO DO YOU CALL?

YOUR STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. If your claim was rejected without cause, your state insurance commissioner may be able to help. To find your insurance commissioner, visit the National Association of Insurance Commissioners site: naic.org/index_members.htm. Some travelers have reported that their claims were honored after copying their state insurance commissioner on their appeal.

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB). The BBB investigates claims of this nature, but it has little sway over the final outcome of your appeal.

A CONSUMER ADVOCATE. Even though travel insurance companies operate "by the book," they can be prodded into changing their minds by an outside party. USA TODAY's Traveler's Aide column addresses consumer complaints (email travel@usatoday.com). Your local TV station's "on your side" segment is also a good place to start. Check out the National Association of Consumer Advocates site for a referral: consumeradvocates.org.

thing. Remember, only the more expensive "cancel for any reason" policies actually let you cancel for any reason — and even those policies have rules.

Reading before a purchase can be a frustrating experience. Tom Moore, a retired college professor from Grinnell, Iowa, sometimes considers travel insurance for his trips. Then he reviews the policy.

"I get into the morass of verbiage, that seem to be spelling out dozens of things not covered by the policy," he says. "I generally just opt out and cross my fingers."

If your travel insurance claim has been denied, you have options. Remember, a rejection isn't the insurance com-

pany's final word. It just means that based on the information it has, it isn't going to pay your claim.

"If a claim is denied, insurance carriers will adjudicate the claim against the specific policy," says James Page, the chief administrative officer for AIG Travel. A company such as AIG operates on what it calls the "fairness principle" that requires each denied claim to go through a quality-control process to make sure it was adjudicated properly.

"Instead of simply sending a denial letter, an AIG Travel representative will call the client and explain the reasons for the denial," Page says.

A brief, polite, written appeal with any new information that you believe is relevant to your case is the first step in getting the company to reverse its decision.

Appeals are taken seriously by insurance companies and are typically reviewed by several adjusters at a senior level. Their goal is to make sure nothing was overlooked the first time. This process can take as long as the initial claim, according to many travelers.

You can lean on your travel agent for help. Christina Ernst told me the story of a young couple who booked their honeymoon through her travel agency, VIP Southern Tours in Santee-Nacoochee, Ga. "The fiancé died in a horrible car wreck eight days before their wedding and honeymoon," she recalls.

Her surviving client was distraught and would have missed the deadlines for canceling her vacation and filing a claim. Ernst jumped in and took care of the paperwork to secure a refund.

What if your agent can't help? There are several third parties that could turn a travel insurance company's "no" into a "yes" (see below). That can be a long road, but I've seen claims honored after a lengthy appeals process.

The best way to avoid the headache of a travel insurance appeal is to buy the right policy. The time to make that determination is before you travel — not after you have to file a claim.

Christopher Elliott is editor at large for National Geographic Traveler.



Angelina Jolie, seen here during a June visit to Kenya, announced she has developed Bell's palsy, a type of facial paralysis.

DAI KUROKAWA, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Face ailment is no respecter of star power

Temporary paralysis has hit Jolie, Clooney among A-listers

JAYME DEERWESTER
USA TODAY

In a new interview in the September issue of *Vanity Fair* published in late July, Angelina Jolie went public with a diagnosis of Bell's palsy, a type of temporary facial paralysis.

"Sometimes women in families put themselves last," she says, "until it manifests itself in their own health," she told the magazine, noting that she had it last year and that acupuncture helped her recover fully.

WHAT IS IT?

According to the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Bell's palsy is caused by damage or trauma to the facial nerve (also known as the seventh cranial nerve), causing a disruption of the nerve signal somewhere between its origin at the brain stem to the muscles on either side of the patient's face, causing that side to droop. Blinking, smiling, the raising of eyebrows, flaring of nostrils and even taste sensation also can be affected since the same nerve is responsible for those functions.

In most cases, only one side of the face is affected, though it can affect both.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

Jolie mentioned in her interview that she'd also been diagnosed with hypertension, or high blood pressure, which has been linked to Bell's palsy, as have diabetes, Lyme disease and autoimmune disorders, chronic ear infections, tumors and trauma to the head or face.

It's often been linked to stress, although a single, precise cause has not been found.

The NIH says many doctors believe viral infection or viral meningitis create a situation in which the facial nerve swells within its canal, restricting the flow of blood and oxygen throughout the nerve.

In minor cases, only the myelin sheath, or the nerve's fatty insulation, is

affected, rather than the nerve fibers themselves. (The myelin sheath is the same tissue affected by multiple sclerosis.)

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

One of the patient's eyelids may droop or one eye might produce more tears than the unaffected side.

The mouth may also droop, produce excess saliva (or not enough) and the sense of taste may be affected, along with the patient's ability to eat or drink.

Hypersensitivity to sound, ringing in the ears, headaches, dizziness and impaired speech also can be signs of Bell's palsy.

The symptoms often occur suddenly and peak within 48 hours.

Bell's palsy is caused by damage or trauma to the facial nerve, causing that side of the face to droop.

HOW IS IT FOUND, TREATED?

No single laboratory test can determine whether a patient has Bell's palsy. It's a game of eliminating other causes of facial paralysis. MRIs and CT scans may be used to rule out other causes.

Otolaryngologists (head-and-neck specialists) treating the disorder may also use electromyography to test nerve function by measuring muscle cell reaction to electrical or neurological activation.

If the eyes are affected, doctors often recommend eye drops or eye patches for protection during the recovery process.

Mild cases of Bell's palsy may go away on their own within two weeks. If symptoms persist, it may be treated with pain relievers or steroids (often prednisone) to reduce swelling.

Most patients recover fully within three to six months, though some may never rid themselves of it or may suffer a recurrence.

WHO GETS IT?

According to the NIH, there are some 40,000 cases of Bell's palsy per year with most affecting people between the ages of 15 and 60.

People with diabetes or upper respiratory ailments are at particular risk.

OTHER FAMOUS SUFFERERS

George Clooney: The actor was a 14-year-old boy when milk dribbled out of his mouth during a post-church lunch. He feared the worst. "I thought, 'Oh, my God, I have Lou Gehrig's disease,'" he told CNN's Larry King in 2006. By comparison, his Bell's palsy, which lasted about nine months, wasn't so bad. Still, he noted, "It was the first year of high school, which was a bad time for having half your face paralyzed."

Pierce Brosnan: The former James Bond actor told *TV Guide* he suffered from it in the 1980s after catching a virus while shooting a shirtless scene in a river. He was put on prednisone and had to be shot from the left side to mask the disorder, which went away a few weeks later.

The Mountain from *Game of Thrones*: Icelandic actor Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson shared his diagnosis earlier this spring on Instagram. It didn't stop him from winning the title of Europe's Strongest Man, though he understandably told fans he wouldn't be able to smile for photos.

Joe Mantegna: The *Criminal Minds* star was diagnosed with Bell's palsy in the 1980s while starring in the play *Speed the Plow*. "My character (a movie producer) was on stage the whole time and that adds stress because you never catch your breath," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1988.

"While I was doing the play, I came down with Bell's palsy, which is a stress-related illness, and I'm sure the play had something to do with my getting it."

AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to
LIV-OENewstip@
hometownlife.com.

The opioid crisis

New Hudson United Methodist Church will host guest speaker Steve Anderson, MA, LLP, an interventionist based in Plymouth, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17. The topic is Opioid Crisis, Intervention and Treatment. Anderson has worked in the field of chemical dependency and mental health services for 30 years and is part of Love First Intervention. To learn more about Anderson, go to www.lovefirst.net.

The church is located at 56730 Grand River in New Hudson. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 248-880-8429 or go to sw.oakland@familiesagainstnarcotics.org.

Summer concerts

The Northville Summer Friday Night Concert Series – presented by Tom Holzer Ford –

brings the music of some of the finest local musicians to downtown Northville's outdoor stage in Town Square (located on Main Street across from the Marquis Theatre) 7-9 p.m. each Friday through Aug. 25.

The schedule features everything from jazz to blues to rock 'n' roll. For more information, including a full schedule of performances, contact the Northville Chamber at 248-349-7640 or go to www.northville.org.

Free movie at Finnish Center

The award-winning Finnish film "Man Without a Past" will be shown at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, the Finnish Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills. The movie is a comedy-drama, rated PG 13, for which director Ari Kaurismäki was awarded the Grand Prix in Cannes and received the highest accolades from film critics. For more information, call 248-478-

6949.

Carrabba's to host blood drive

Please join in Sept. 5 at Carrabba's Restaurant, 43455 W. Oaks, in Novi as Carrabba's partners with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive to help save lives. The American Red Cross has a critical blood shortage this summer and has issued an emergency call for blood donors to give now and help save patient lives. Right now, donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in and more donations are needed now to replenish the supply.

The Red Cross will be bringing out its mobile bus for the blood drive and the restaurant will be offering a \$10 gift card to all presenting donors and everyone will be entered into a raffle for dinner and movies for two.

The blood drive hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and donors can sign up

at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code is Carrabba's) or call 800-RED-CROSS.

Runestad seeks public input

State Rep. Jim Runestad has scheduled two public meetings to gather input on proposed child custody reforms. Runestad, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, is working on legislation establishing shared custody with equal parenting time as the starting point for all child custody deliberations in Michigan.

"I want to get as much input as possible from people involved with the family court system throughout our state, including parents, attorneys and other experts," said Runestad, R-White Lake. "This information will allow me to move forward and make meaningful reforms that improve child custody laws in Michigan."

Public meetings will be at 6-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at Studio D2D, 401 Hall St. SW, Grand Rapids; and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at Antonio's Cucina Italiana, 2220 N. Canton Center Road, Canton.

Anyone unable to attend one of the meetings is encouraged to contact Runestad's office at 517-373-2616 or email JimRunestad@house.mi.gov.

Runestad to host coffee hours

State Rep. Jim Runestad of White Lake will host coffee hours Friday, Aug. 18, in White Lake, Highland and Milford. The coffee hours are at the following locations and times:

- » 8-9 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 6845 Highland Road, White Lake
 - » 10-11 a.m. at Colasanti's Market, 468 S. Milford Road, Highland
 - » Noon to 1 p.m. at Baker's of Milford, 2025 S. Milford Road, Milford
- No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Runestad at 517-373-2616 or JimRunestad@house.mi.gov.

SL Rec Authority

South Lyon Area Recreation Authority board meetings are held at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month. Call the South Lyon Area Recreation office at 248-437-8105 for directions and confirmation of meeting location. To register for upcoming classes, call or go to www.slrec.net.

Week of Aug. 20: Island Lake Kids Kamp Week 10, Fun Time Soccer Camp

Friday and Saturday Night Hangouts

The Living and Learning Center in downtown Northville is a center that specializes in helping teens and adults that are on the autism spectrum learn job and social skills. This center provides a program 6-9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night that allows their clients to partake in games, art, and creating friendships with their fellow peers and mentors.

Each week, teens and adults learn essential social skills (introducing themselves, carrying a conversation, etc.) while also having a fun night out of the house.

To learn more about this program or to reserve your spot in the program, call 248-308-3592 or go to www.livingandlearningllc@gmail.com.

Wooden window repair workshop

Do you own an older house with original windows? Learn how to repair this valuable asset

while maintaining the historic character of your home. Find out how to save money, improve window operation and increase energy efficiency with historic window specialist James Turner of Turner Restoration at a workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

If you love DIY projects, this workshop is for you! Attendees will learn how to remove old sashes; safely remove old paint or finishes; make needed repairs; add energy-efficient upgrades; eplace glass the proper way; and more.

Admission is free for the first 12 attendees who register by Aug. 15. The admission fee is \$25 for all others. Space is limited to 16 attendees.

Register online at <https://farmingtonhillswindowworkshop.eventbrite.com/>. Contact Ellen Thackery, Michigan Historic Preservation Network, at info@mhpn.org or call 313-575-5215. Please bring a bag lunch.

Art House exhibition

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, will host a juried watercolor exhibition titled The Graded Wash, featuring featuring 29 artists who painted 44 works. It will take place through Aug. 26 during normal Art House hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.northvilleart.com.

Free back to school supplies

As summer winds down, the transition back to school is just as difficult for parents as it is for kids. Families are easily overwhelmed by hectic schedules and high cost of back to school supplies, clothes, physicals and health check ups. To help ease the stress and smooth the transition, Provident Dentistry and Canton Park Dental are offering back to school discounts as well as free school supplies and free sports mouth guards for those who make dental health a back to school priority.

Make an appointment for the week of Aug. 21-25. Those who are seen for their exam will receive free school supplies and free mouth guards. Discounts include a kids cleaning, exam and X-rays for \$49, adult cleaning, exam and X-rays for only \$79 and \$500 off Invisalign. Families can also take advantage of the In-House Dental Plan offered at both locations.

Provident Dentistry is at 40105 Grand River Avenue, Suite 1, Novi. Canton Park Dental is at 45600 Joy Road, Plymouth. Call Provident Dentistry at 248-471-0345 or Canton Park Dentistry at 734-459-5370 or visit www.providentdentistry.com or www.cantonparkdenta.com to schedule your back to school appointment.

Milford Knights of Columbus golf outing

The Knights of Columbus, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council No. 7444 in Milford is having a golf outing for the children at St. Jude Children's Hospital. The outing will take place Aug. 20 at Mystic Creek (in Camp Dearborn), Milford.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m., shotgun start is at

9:30 a.m.

Price is \$400 for a foursome or \$100 per golfer. This get you doughnuts, coffeecake, bagels, coffee or juice, hot dogs, chips and a soda at the turn, dinner to follow, golf 18 holes with cart, best ball scramble, longest drive, closest to the pin, skins, putting contest, prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

Hole sponsorship is \$100. Donations welcome.

If you make a donation, make them to: St. Jude. c/o John Rogers, 3101 Sands Ct., Milford, MI 48380. If you need a form, call Rogers at 248-714-5353.

Artist lecture features Roko

The Village Fine Arts Association invites the public to hear guest speaker, Tony Roko, a Detroit-based post-industrialist figurative painter, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Roko is gaining recognition as one of the nation's most innovative artists. His accomplishments include commissioned pieces for Lady Gaga and Jay Leno, as well as a commission for Ford's centennial celebration of the assembly line in 2013. Roko has been voted "Best Fine Artist" of Detroit by the readers of HOUR Detroit magazine.

VFAA informational meetings are free and open to everyone and are on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October, at the SHAC 125 S. Main St., Suite 700, Milford. Come for a general meeting at 7 p.m. or for the lecture at 7:30 p.m. The VFAA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization since 1992 that has been operating the SHAC since 2014. For more information, go to www.milfordvfaa.org, email contactus@milfordvfaa.org or call 248-797-3060.

Evenings in the Garden

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center in Novi is offering two great late-summer classes for gardeners of all levels to enjoy, as part of their Evenings in the Garden series.

Aug. 24, popular author, professional gardener and artist Cheryl English will reveal the wide variety of Michigan woody native plants that "play well with others" in the landscape. English is a dynamic and provocative speaker with a deep knowledge of our state's green jewels, most of which are available at our local garden center.

Sept. 14, Nick Zimmer will be at Tollgate to demonstrate how to plant successful and beautiful fall containers. Zimmer is an MSU alumnus and founder/owner of Willow Greenhouse. At the end of this class, attendees will have the opportunity to purchase finished pots, along with plants for their own containers.

Classes are 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday. Advance registration is required. The cost of classes is \$20 and supports further adult education programming at MSU Tollgate.

To find out more and to register, go to <https://events.anr.msu.edu/evenings17sum/>.

Salem-South Lyon book sale

The Salem-South Lyon Library will hold a book sale Aug. 22-26. This once a year sale features thousands of books and media for all ages. Prices start at 25 cents. Books are sorted by category.

S-LL Library is at 9800 Pontiac Trail. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.mlddeathnotices.com

Deadlines: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

Baron

Robert E. age 63, passed away August 9, 2017. He was born July 9, 1954 in Utica, New York, son of the late Edmund and Helen Baron. Bob was a gifted and talented musician. His love of guitar was evident with his involvement in many musical groups throughout the years. Bob played drums and guitar in jazz combos, the Plymouth symphony and the Plymouth community band. He was a loving and devoted husband and father and he will always be remembered as a good and decent man who loved his family and friends deeply. He is survived by his wife, Liz of 28 years; his children: Helena and Joseph; and many extended loving family members. Bob also leaves behind an amazing group of friends in Rochester, New York. Visitation was held on Sunday, August 13 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, August 14 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Memorial donations may be sent to the Grand Traverse Lighthouse, P.O. Box 43, Northport, MI 49670. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Kluck

Teresa 'Tess' age 89, passed away August 8, 2017. She was born March 17, 1928 in Detroit, daughter of the late Guiseppe and Katherine Buatti. Tess is survived by her beloved husband, Eugene; her loving children: Ronald (Joan) Kluck, Gerald (Sandra) Kluck, Tim Kluck, Richard (Deborah) Kluck, Thomas (Patty) Kluck, Mary (Dave) Sheldon, Joseph (Krys Ann) Kluck, Ann Roberston and Chris (Lynn) Kluck. She is also survived by 26 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and her siblings: Phyllis (Dennis) McCarthy and Edward (Dianne) Buatti. Tess was preceded in death by her brother, Gene (Cathy) Buatti. Visitation was held on Friday, August 11 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, August 12 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. She was laid to rest in South Lyon Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Grand Rapids Right to Life, PO Box 901, Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0901. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Lafferty

June D. age 86, of Northville passed away August 8, 2017. She was born May 15, 1931 in Chicago, Illinois; daughter of Clarence A. and Eugenia (Comyn) Bostrom. June graduated in 1948 from Steinmetz High School in Chicago and graduated from Hillsdale College with a BS in Education. She was a retired teacher and taught history at Thurston High School in Redford. June was a life member and past President of the Northville Garden Club. She appreciated the beauty of flowers and enjoyed gardening. She loved history, travel and was interested in all art forms. June enjoyed decorating and designing homes. June left teaching to start a family, but continued to teach her children and grandchildren because she wanted to expand their minds. June was an amazing, loving, and giving mother, grandmother, and friend. She is survived by her daughter Michele Lafferty-Conner; and her grandchildren, Megan Conner, Tristan Conner, and Taylor Lafferty. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Craig Lafferty, and her brother Clarence Bostrom. A private family service was held. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

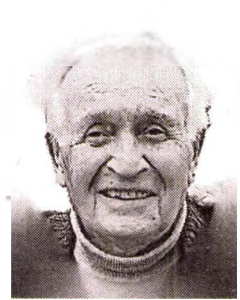
CASTERLINE
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Scheffer

Hazel M. age 80, passed away August 12, 2017. She was born October 31, 1936 in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Lloyd and Alice Steele. She came to South Lyon in 1950. Hazel worked at the South Lyon VFW Post 1224 for nearly 30 years. Following that, Hazel worked as a cashier at Wal-Mart for 10 years before her retirement. She is survived by her children: Debra (Rodney) Lovely, Marl (Heidi) Banks, Randy (Sandy) Banks, and Tracy Banks. Hazel is also survived by 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Janet Ulisky. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Louis Scheffer; her daughter, Sandy Steele; her granddaughter, Amber Banks; six brothers: William, Andrew, Lloyd Jr., James, John and Walter; and two sisters: Goldie and Mary. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 17 from 4:00PM-8:00PM with a funeral service being held on Friday, August 18 at 11:00AM with final visitation beginning at 10:15AM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Hazel will be laid to rest in South Lyon Cemetery. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Terwillegar

Marcus E. a longtime resident of Highland and a native of Midland, died at home on August 10, 2017 at the age of 45. Marcus had a valiant sixteen month battle with lung cancer and lived his life to the fullest. He worked for over twenty three years with Bobson Construction and was a dedicated member and deacon of West Highland Baptist Church. He is survived by his lifelong friend and beloved wife of 26 years, Angela (nee. Winchester); five children, Taylor Angela, McKenzie Jean, Zachary Marcus, Travis Connor, Dawson Raymond; his parents, Nancy Jean and Rick Weage; in-laws, Robert and Sharon Winchester; grandparents, Raymond and Jeanne Terwillegar, Letha Anthony; sister-in-law, Robin (Herb Helzer) Winchester; brother-in-law, Bob (Karen) Winchester as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, four nephews and many dear friends. Funeral Services were held at West Highland Baptist Church in Highland, on August 15, 2017. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the church. For further information phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com

Wheeler

George Francis a long time resident of Milford and Manufacturing Engineer with Ford Motor Company, died on August 14, 2017 after a three month battle with cancer. He was 84 years old. He is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret (nee Cece); his children, Craig (Karen) Wheeler, Colleen (Will) Soutar, Eric (Lisa) Wheeler, Adam (Samantha) Wheeler; grandchildren, Lyndsay (Ryan) Forsmo, Caitlin (fiance Jim Siegel) Wheeler, Aaron Soutar, Collin (Alicia Bynum) Wheeler, Rylea Wheeler, Cameron and Madeline Wheeler; great granddaughter, Olin; brother, John Bruch; sister, Connie (Don) Wheeler-Carlson, and many in-laws, nieces, nephews and dear friends. Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Tuesday, August 15, from 1-6PM. Memorials may be made in his name to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or to the Milford Historical Society. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

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8 red flags employers see on your resume

BY JESSIE LIU
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

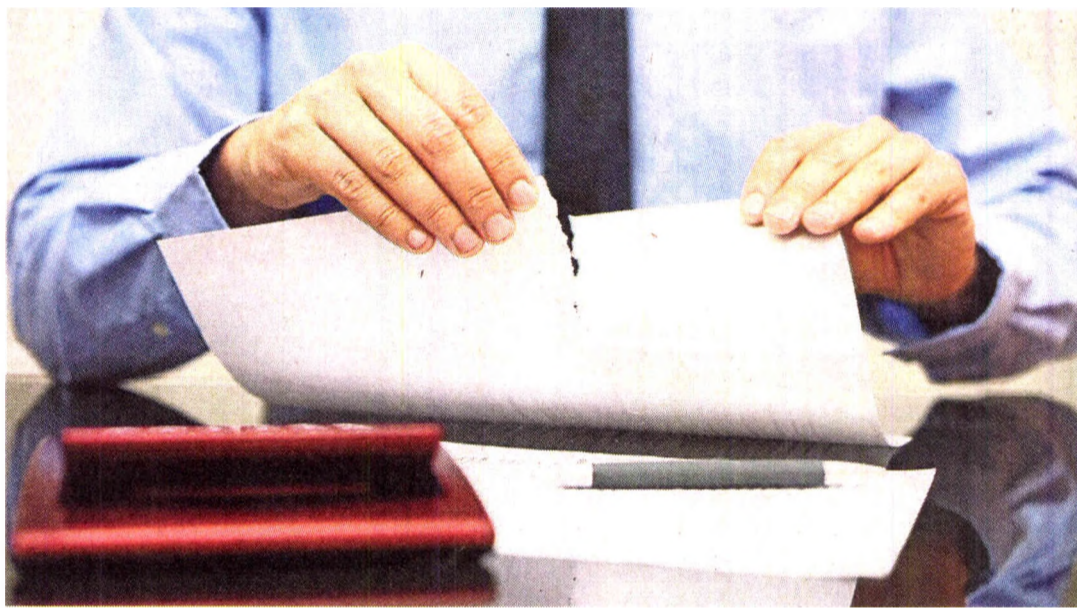
Do you send out lots of resumes and never hear back? According to the Society for Human Resource Management, recruiters tend to spend less than five minutes looking over a resume, so your content and formatting is important. A few tips on what to do – and what not to do – on your resume may help.

1. Your resume is obviously recycled

If you're one of those individuals who sends out the same resume for every job application, you shouldn't be surprised if you don't hear anything back. Read the posting carefully and write your resume and cover letter toward that particular job. Include your relevant experience and how you would be an asset to the company. Otherwise, your application may be destined for the bottom of the pile. Recruiters say that it is surprising how many job applications have no relevance to the job.

2. Your resume is too flashy

Unless you are applying for a job as an artist or graphic designer, over-embellishing your resume may backfire on you. Employers are looking for



GETTY IMAGES

workers who are qualified for the job, and recruiters aren't going to spend much time trying to figure out when and where you worked when they have to wade through decorative fonts, colors and other unnecessary decorations.

3. Your email address is not professional

While the email address you use on a regular basis might be something you consider cute or original, such as partythenight@email.com, the recruiter might not find it amusing. If an applicant has this type of email address, it is a better idea to create a

new email with an address that won't be perceived as frivolous or suggestive.

4. You have spelling and grammatical errors

Poor spelling and grammar are noticed by recruiters and can make a recruiter discount your application. This also counts for social media postings. Take a moment before sending off your cover letter and resume to spell check, and make sure that everything is correct. Do the same for your social media posts.

5. You omit dates

While it may be easier for

an individual to leave out dates, this may seem suspicious to recruiters. This could mean there are gaps in employment history or an individual changed jobs frequently. If you have a long history and great credentials, it may be less important.

6. Your information is outdated

When an individual does not update a resume when it is necessary, all the information may not be correct. While he or she might add a new job to the list, checking the current phone number and address is sometimes over-

looked. Recruiters say it isn't unusual to send an email to an applicant and have it returned, or call and find out the phone number is different.

7. You've changed jobs frequently

Frequent job changes are not likely to be looked upon favorably by recruiters. While workers do change jobs more often than in the past, too frequent a change may be a red flag for recruiters. If an individual stays on a job less than two years, it might make that worker more likely to be overlooked for another individual with longer time at one job.

8. You don't use bullet points on your resume

Recruiters like resumes that get right to the point, and the use of bullet points makes that easier to do. Sometimes, a lack of bullet points accompanies a resume that is far too long. Try to keep a resume under two pages, and use bullet points to focus on what you did to be an asset at your earlier jobs. Be specific.

Jessie Liu is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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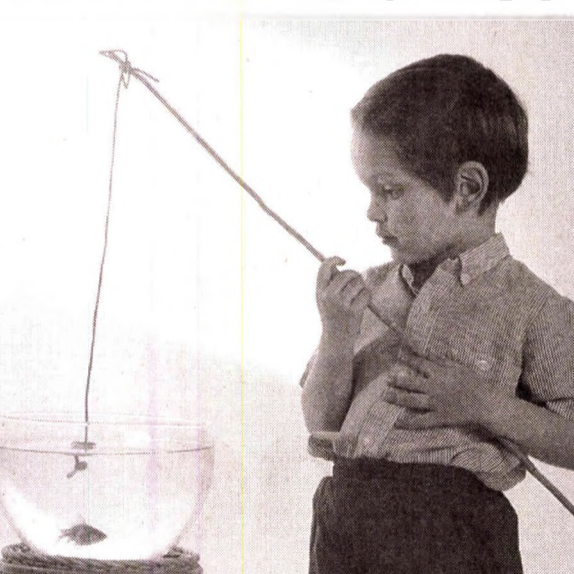
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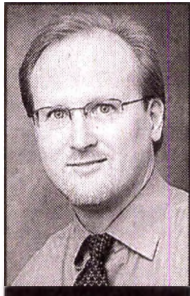
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Car Report

VOLKSWAGEN SHOWS IT'S TAKING SUV MARKET SERIOUSLY WITH TOUAREG THAT COMPETES IN NEAR-PREMIUM SEGMENT



By Dale Buss

Now that it's past its near-death experience in the United States market over the diesel emissions scandal, Volkswagen has been able to get Americans to pay closer attention again to its vehicle lineup. And as they do, consumers are seeing a lot to like in the 2017 Touareg mid-size SUV.

VW long has been more or less an afterthought in the SUV segment, preferring to emphasize its zippy and fuel-efficient little cars and its iconic Beetle. But recognizing that American buyers have made a definitive shift in favor of the utility-vehicle type over traditional sedans, Volkswagen is taking SUVs more seriously than ever. Soon, for example, it'll have a seven-passenger new SUV called Atlas.

And for the time being, VW is making Touareg an even more serious

entry in the crowded mid-size, near-premium segment. It competes with the top trim levels of Ford Explorer and Grand Cherokee, while licking at the heels of true high-end models such as Acura MDX, BMW X5 and Lexus RX350.

Significantly larger than the Volkswagen Tiguan just below it, Touareg presents as pretty formidable competitor in the segment. It already was loaded with a near-premium list of features, but for 2017 Volkswagen also added as standard adaptive cruise control, a rearview camera, a trailer hitch and eight-inch touch screen.

Touareg's appeal starts with its spare exterior styling, a very German execution of what an American SUV should look like. The design is beautiful in a somewhat minimalist way, and when emphasized with its 20-inch wheels, the Wolfsburg Edition makes for a handsome presence on the road indeed.

Inside, Touareg is restrained in a classy way as well. The cabin design is pretty conservative, but it evokes the premiumness that VW is after in this segment. Standard features



Inside, Touareg's restrained design is classy.

include automatic and adaptive bi-xenon headlights, foglights, LED running lights and tail lights, a hands-free power liftgate, heated mirrors, a trailer hitch, a rearview camera, front and rear parking sensors, a blind-spot monitoring system, a forward collision-warning system and automatic emergency braking, a lane departure warning system, keyless ignition and entry, and adaptive cruise control.

Amenities include dual-zone automatic climate control, heated eight-way power front seats, a heated tilt-and-telescoping steering wheel, 60/40 split folding rear seats, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity, an eight-inch touchscreen interface, a navigation system, and an eight-speaker sound system with HD and satellite radio, a CD player, and a proprietary digital media interface.

There also are some unique touches that reflect good old-fashioned German engineering. For instance, the split second row of seats locks into the flattest position for each portion, which is very handy for loading cargo and lends a certain solidity and stability

additional adjustments, driver memory functions, second-row air vents, leather upholstery and a power-folding rear seat.

Also of note are two other significant characteristics of Touareg. First, VW says Touareg can tow up to 7,716 pounds when properly equipped, which is considerably more than most rivals. And in a Michigan market where a considerable number of utility vehicles are counted upon to haul boats, JetSkis, motorcycles and other drag-behinds to points all over the state, this advantage alone may bear a look for many buyers.

Second, however, is a negative about Touareg: It's only adequately powered. It comes with a 3.6-liter V6 engine that produces 280 horsepower and 265 pound-feet of torque, coupled with an eight-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive as standard. It accelerated to 60 mph in an unremarkable 7.7 seconds in testing by Edmunds. Yet its mileage is only 19mpg combined, only an average figure for this segment.



The 2017 Volkswagen Touareg is a great match for Michigan summers.

to Touareg when it's in that mode. Some competing models don't allow you to lock down the 60/40-splitting rear seats, which both constricts cargo space and makes cargo less stable.

The Wolfsburg Edition that I drove adds 20-inch wheels, a panoramic sunroof, ventilated front seats with



The Wolfsburg Edition adds a panoramic sunroof and more.

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Charming Colonial!
 * This home features three bedrooms and two and half bathrooms
 * Gorgeous landscaping, large lot and neighborhood sidewalks
 * Completely updated kitchen with granite counter tops, porcelain country sink and center island
 * Open floor plan with vaulted ceiling in family room, fire place, large loft sitting, study area with built in shelves
MLS 217067067 248.684.1065 \$289,900



Perfect Location!
 * This condo features two bedrooms and one and half bath
 * Private and secluded back deck allowing for great outdoor entertaining
 * Generous size rooms, separated by Jack and Jill bath
 * Best location for shopping, dining and convenience of many local freeways
MLS 217061801 248.684.1065 \$169,900



Peaceful Ranch on 1.5 Acres!
 * This gorgeous Ranch has three bedrooms and two bathrooms
 * Updated kitchen with patterned granite, refinished cabinets and hardwood flooring
 * Dining room with arched opening and cathedral ceiling
 * Finished walkout with family room, rec room and work out area
MLS 217047128 248.684.1065 \$359,500



Gorgeous Cape Cod in Desirable Lake Oaks!
 * This home features four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms on 1.86 acres
 * Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, hardwood flooring and desk area
 * Master bedroom has private deck, 2 walk in closets, cathedral ceilings and bath with jetted tub
 * Full finished basement with kitchenette, full bath, rec room and laundry
MLS 217055133 248.684.1065 \$549,000



Gorgeous Colonial on Over 1 Acre!
 * This four bedroom, two and half bathroom Colonial, has a spacious backyard perfect for a pool
 * Spacious kitchen with expansive island, granite counters and maple cabinets
 * Master suite with sitting area, finished basement with plenty of space for entertaining
 * Located just minutes from downtown Milford and Kensington Park
MLS 217024941 248.684.1065 \$439,900



Adorable Colonial in Desirable Subdivision!
 * This home features three bedrooms two and half bathrooms
 * Great floor plan, finished basement and beautiful landscaping
 * Oversized lot, and stamped concrete patio in backyard
 * Neighborhood features tennis courts, clubhouse and community pool
MLS 217057283 248.684.1065 \$239,900



Gorgeous Custom Built Colonial!
 * This home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms located on a quiet cul de sac
 * Beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and hardwood floors
 * Great room equipped with temperature controlled wine cellar & cozy bar
 * Full finished basement with kitchen, bedroom, full bath and living room
MLS 217057350 248.684.1065 \$549,900



Exquisite Home in Great Neighborhood!
 * This beautiful four bedroom, three and half bathroom home is located on 2.26 acres
 * Spacious dining room with crown molding, open kitchen with breakfast room
 * First floor laundry with porcelain tile, cabinets and sink
 * Stunning master suite
MLS 217040546 248.684.1065 \$525,000



Build The Home Of Your Dreams!
 * Pictured is a four bedroom, two and half bathroom, Colonial, on 1.03 acres
 * Many floor plans, with natural fire place and hardwood floors
 * Brick and stone with covered porch
 * Island kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliance
MLS 216116498 248.684.1065 \$499,000



Award Winning Lake Front Home!
 * This home features three bedrooms, three and half bathrooms, with panoramic lake views
 * Big open living spaces, 10ft ceilings throughout
 * Italian porcelain slate and cherry flooring
 * Hydronic heated floors throughout, including the basement and garage
MLS 217023744 248.684.1065 \$1,490,000



Motivated Sellers Looking at Offers!
 * This five bedroom, four and half bathroom, has custom features galore including, walk in closets on each level
 * Kitchen features a sub-zero refrigerator, high end range with steamer and hickory cabinets
 * Theatre room has an 8ft HD projection screen
 * Basement includes walk in fire proof vault
MLS 217070257 248.684.1065 \$575,000

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