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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



Novi Schools to ask voters for \$185M in bonds

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in Novi will see a \$185 million bond request on the November ballot to improve infrastructure and programs in the schools.

The board of education unanimously agreed during a meeting June 25 to authorize a capital projects bond election. The bond would raise \$185 million while

lowering taxes by a quarter mill, from the currently levied 7 mills to 6.75 mills.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our school district to continue optimizing opportunities for our students and our community," board President Bobbie Murphy said. "We can reduce our millage rate, generate revenue, and continue to enhance our facilities and programs so that Novi remains a destination for families seeking a high-quality educational experience."

ity educational experience."

If approved, the bond would be used to address critical infrastructure needs, enhance programming throughout the district, support ongoing technology needs, enhance Career and Technical Education space including space for robotics; renovate and expand Meadows Elementary, which houses fifth and sixth grades; create new space for special education and adult transition stu-

dents; enhance the high school pool area; build an activities center; and purchase buses.

Every building in the district would see improvements, including safer and more secure entries and additional, enhanced learning spaces.

In his recommendation to the school board that the district put the bond

See BONDS, Page 2A



Students at Parkview Elementary School in Novi board the bus on their last day of school. Novi and South Lyon school districts are among the few in the area that have seen an increase in enrollment numbers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Low birth rates hit enrollment numbers

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not easy for people to see their former school close its doors. Leading up to the last day of Farmington Public Schools' Harrison High, alumni and current students found themselves with tears in their eyes.

But enrollment had dropped and the district couldn't afford to fiscally support its three high schools any more. And enrollment drops aren't a problem unique to Farmington.

In the last five years, Huron Valley Schools saw one closure, Livonia had two, Plymouth-Canton repurposed two, a number of private schools in metro

Detroit closed, and Wayne-Westland has two, maybe three closures on the way.

Birth rates are low, which gives schools fewer minds to mold.

"We saw significant population decline through the great recession," said Paul Salah, superintendent of Huron Valley Schools. "Hundreds of thousands of people left the state in an effort to find gainful employment, which reduces the total number of students, which causes, unfortunately, schools in communities to have that conversation and look at maximizing facilities."

See ENROLLMENT, Page 4A

"It's a painful process when people have to go through a school closing, because a lot of their emotional attachment to their school district has to do with their school buildings."

Kim Root
Huron Valley Schools executive director of communications and community relations

New landfill GM maps out plan of action

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The steady stream of excuses and unfulfilled promises that has flowed from the mouths of Arbor Hills Landfill leaders over the past three-plus years, critics say, has become as nauseating for the dump's neighbors as the wind-blown odors generated at the site.

So when Advanced Disposal Services's new general manager, Mark Johnson, introduced himself and his plan of action at a recent Northville Township Board of Trustees meeting, he was greeted with a stern warning: Stop the stench!

Since 2015, the towering landfill south of Six Mile Road and west of Napier Road - which on a clear day can be seen (and sometimes smelled) from Interstate 275 - has been the source of thousands of complaints (approximately 1,400 in 2018 alone) reported by residents of nearby subdivisions, especially Northville Ridge and Steeplechase.

Considering its purpose, the landfill was an ideal neighbor during its first 15 years of existence, creating just a handful of complaints, but the past few years have been littered with violations and stomach-turning air.

"Enough is enough," Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix told Johnson. "This has gone on long enough. It needs to be fixed and you need to be successful. Going back to 2015, we had one, maybe two, complaints a year. Nothing like we're having now."

"You talk about weather and other causes. Prior to 2015, we had weather and everything else that is going on today, without the violations."

Johnson, who proclaimed his career in landfill-problem mitigation stretches 30 years with a string of successful turnarounds under his belt, stressed that he and ADS's new leaders have already made a mark at Arbor Hills.

"There has been significant improvement from March until now," Johnson told the board. "That said, we still have work to do and there may continue to be issues that impact our neighbors. I am personally doing everything I can to minimize those impacts."

"Please remember that long-term solutions are not always the quickest to implement. A significant amount of

See LANDFILL, Page 5A

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Bonds

Continued from Page 1A

proposal on the ballot, Matthews said, "The key to the recommendation is that the Novi Community School District, because of an increasing tax base in Novi, upcoming declining debt obligations, and issuing the bonds in three series in 2020, 2022, and 2025, can enhance our district facilities and programs and provide a tax decrease to the community."

According to the bonding proposal, the estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2020 is 1.41 mills (\$1.41 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a net 0.25 mill decrease from the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding for any single series, exclusive of any refunding, is 25 years.

Voters last approved a bond proposal in the district in 2014, for \$70.9 million. Those funds were used to construct the Early Childhood Education Center and a new high school fitness center; replace roofs; upgrade technology; add classrooms; and renovate interiors and exterior spaces, including athletic fields and courts.

School Board Secretary Willy Mena, also chair of the board's Capital Projects Committee, said: "This new bond will reduce the tax rate, address critical infrastructure and program needs in areas like robotics, and create new opportunities to work and collaborate with the city of Novi to meet our community needs."

The capital bond projects were developed by examining building needs using a strategic facilities assessment. A committee comprised of school staff, parents, and community members met four times over the course of two months for all stakeholders to learn about the proposed projects and provide input at two community forums.

Under state law, bond proceeds must be spent on improving school district facilities for program enhancement and may not be used to pay administrator, teacher, or staff salaries, routine maintenance costs, or other school operating expenses.

sbromley@hometownlife.com



Novi Meadows, the districts fifth-sixth grade school will be renovated and expanded if the bonds are approved by voters. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC SURVEY 2020-24 STRATEGIC COMMUNITY RECREATION & MASTER PARK PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi has posted a public survey online at www.cityofnovi.org/parksurvey to seek public input for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services' 2020-24. Strategic Community Recreation & Master Park Plan.

Publish: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2019

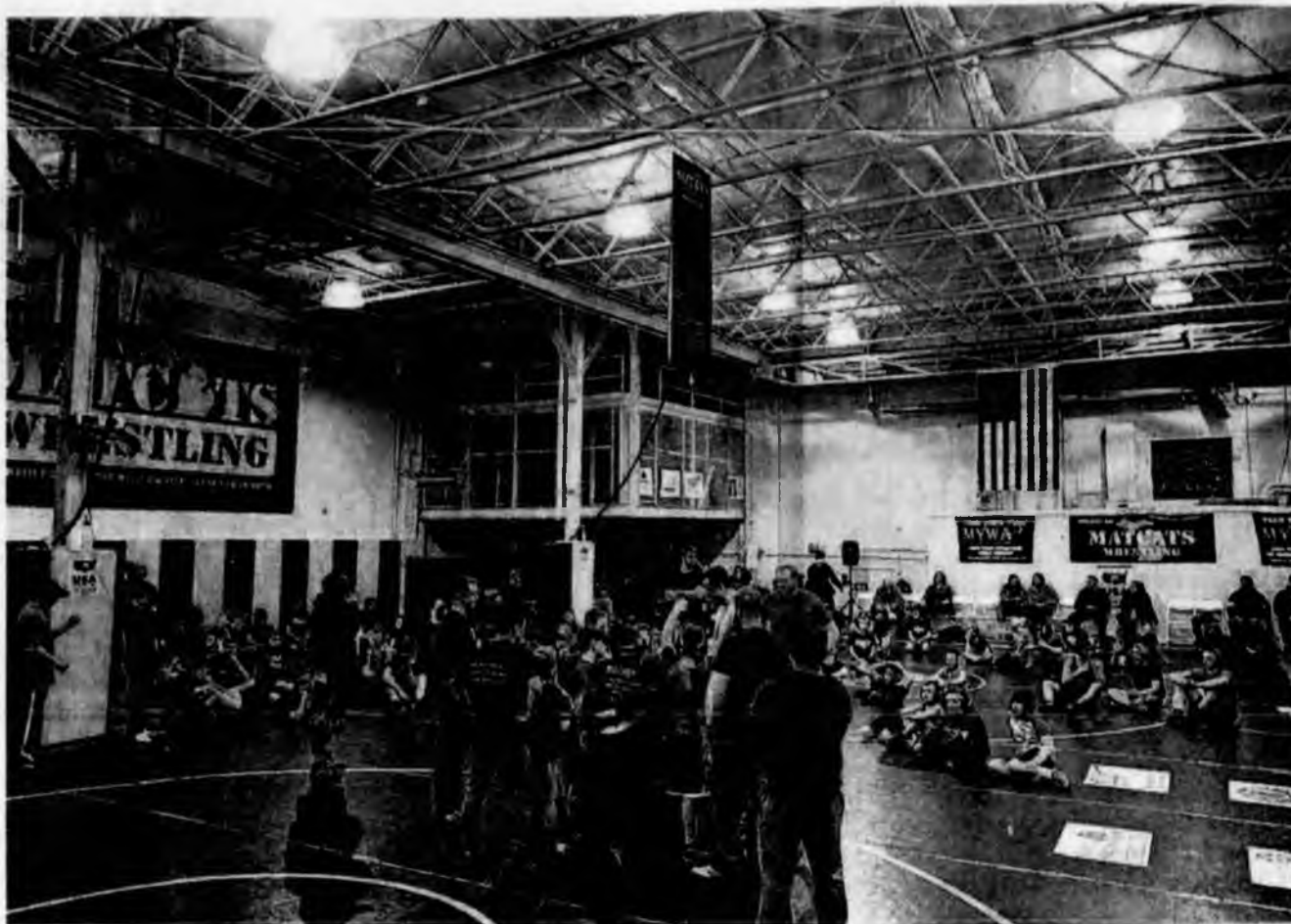
CITY OF NORTHVILLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE 4:00 P.M. ON JULY 23, 2019

The City Charter language pertaining to filing nominating petitions for regular city elections is superseded by Michigan Election Law MCL 168.644e as amended under PA 276 of 2012.

The non-partisan candidate filing deadline for the November 5, 2019 election (no primary) is 4:00 p.m., July 23, 2019. Candidate packets are available at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

DIANNE MASSA, CITY CLERK

Publish: June 13 & July 4, 2019



The Michigan MatCats have taken up residence at the former Duncan Disposal facility, 23333 Griswold in Lyon Township. The facility may soon be converting an additional 19,000-square-feet for indoor recreation.

SUBMITTED

Indoor rec center planned for former Duncan site

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A plan for nearly 20,000 feet of indoor recreational space is moving forward in Lyon Township.

The planning commission unanimously approved a site plan for the Action Sports and Community Center, which will be inside the former Duncan Disposal facility at 23333 Griswold Road. They have recommended approval of a special land use, which now goes to the township board for a vote.

"We've done a lot more work and appreciate the guidance that township officials gave," applicant Scott Duncan said.

Duncan hopes to convert more than 19,000 square feet of the warehouse area in the western portion of the building to indoor recreation use, with inclusion of batting cages for baseball and softball, as well as courts for basketball and volleyball.

He and his father, Tom, were encouraged by the success of the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority and the wrestling organization Michigan MatCats, both of whom

moved their operations into the eastern portion of the building last year following the township's approval of a special land use in the industrial district.

The Duncans are also seeking to fill a public demand for additional recreational space.

Scott Duncan told commissioners that travel sports clubs are expected to use the facility heavily in the winter for scheduled training and practices, but the building will be open in the daytime year-round and drop-ins would be welcome.

The facility on 9 acres

north of 9 Mile Road is also home to several industrial tenants, including American Door and Glass; Case Concepts, a furniture manufacturer; and Grimestoppers, a vehicle detailing operation.

The Duncans have a temporary operating permit for occupants of the building through July and hope to extend that permit while upgrades are made, including installation of a fire suppression system which could take up to six months.

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

Oakland County adopts 'ban the box' policy

Angie Jackson
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Applications for most Oakland County government jobs will no longer ask people to disclose their criminal convictions thanks to a new "ban the box" policy set to take effect later this summer.

Following similar initiatives by other local government bodies, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted earlier this month to remove the question that asks about a person's criminal history from county job applications.

Oakland County joins places such as Detroit, Ferndale, Kalamazoo and Washtenaw County in "banning the box." The State of Michigan struck the criminal background question from state job applications last year.

Commissioner Nancy Quarles, D-Southfield, who led the effort, said she expects the



Bryan Jones, 52, of Detroit, says he's lucky his boss looked past his prison background and hired him.

BILL LAITNER/USA TODAY NETWORK

change to benefit the county's workforce and open up opportunities for convicted felons who've paid their debt to society.

"I thought it was time for Oakland County to step up and show that we are a fair-chance employer," she said. "One of the things that I believe ... is once you remove the box, it gives the person a fair chance to interview."

Quarles said the county will still run background checks when making a job offer after the interview process, but now a conviction won't be the first thing an

interviewer learns about an applicant.

The change, which will take effect by Aug. 1, will not affect jobs for which background checks are required by federal law as part of an initial screening process, such as law enforcement careers or positions working with children.

Percy Glover advocated for the policy as part of the nonprofit group Michigan Liberation, telling commissioners on the Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee that he was shut out of prospective

jobs after his release from prison in 2003. Now he's a program manager at Oakland County Michigan Works! Pontiac.

"I ran into people saying, 'Tell us about your history.' In all fairness, I had to say I was so far removed from the person I was that sent me to prison," Glover told the Detroit Free Press. "Most times, I was disqualified."

The "ban the box" movement has gained momentum across the country in recent years. At least 35 states and more than 150 cities and counties have adopted the hiring policy, according to the National Employment Law Project.

Some advocates in Michigan are hopeful that the ban will spread beyond government jobs. House Bill 4326, introduced in March by Rep. Cynthia Johnson, D-Detroit, would prevent both public and private employers from inquiring about a criminal conviction until after a conditional job offer is made. The bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Woodward, D-Royal Oak, said he hopes private employers follow suit, adding that he believes it's "as much a justice issue as it is a fairness issue."

"I think this really comes down to taking individuals from being a number to allowing them to be people," he said.

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Judge Brennan removed from bench

Keyla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Suspended Livingston County judge Theresa Brennan is off the bench.

In an opinion released late Friday afternoon, the Michigan Supreme Court stated: "Effective immediately, we order that respondent, 53rd District Court Judge Theresa M. Brennan, be removed from office. In addition, we impose a six-year conditional suspension without pay effective on the date of this decision."

The opinion also states that should Brennan, 62, be elected or appointed to a judicial office during the suspension, she is still "debarred from exercising the power and prerogatives of office until at least the expiration of the suspension."

This decision comes less than two weeks after Brennan's attorney told Michigan Supreme Court justices that his client is innocent.

Dennis Kolenda said Brennan, who was accused by the Judicial Tenure Commission of several instances of misconduct including making false statements, tampering with evidence and failing to disclose her relationship to Michigan State Police Detective Sean Furlong, had no relationships to disclose, adding that "they just don't exist."

The Supreme Court determined otherwise, stating Brennan committed eight instances of misconduct, including not disclosing her relationship with Furlong and with attorney Shari Pollesch.

"In determining appropriate sanctions, we seek to restore and maintain the dignity and impartiality of the judiciary and to protect the public," the opinion stated.

Phone records seized by the Michigan State Police show in the 14 months prior to the murder trial for Jerome Kowalski, Brennan and Furlong talked on the phone and texted hundreds of times, including 37 times during the trial.

Furlong was a lead investigator in the deaths of Richard and Brenda Kowalski, Jerome Kowalski's brother and sister-in-law.

The Supreme Court previously suspended Brennan in February, but did



Suspended Judge Theresa Brennan sits next to attorney Dennis Kolenda in the Michigan Supreme Court on June 19. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

not agree with the Judicial Tenure Commission recommendation to stop paying her approximately \$140,000 annual salary at the time.

"The cumulative effect of respondent's misconduct convinces this court that respondent should not remain in judicial office," the justices wrote.

The Supreme Court also found Brennan responsible for costs, fees and expenses incurred by the Judicial Tenure Commission throughout the investigation.

"The Commission thanks the witnesses who were willing to come forward and share their information," Lynn Helland, the Judicial Tenure Commission's examiner said after hearing the Supreme Court's decision.

Kolenda did not immediately respond to a message for comment.

During oral arguments last week Justice Megan Cavanagh asked Kolenda if "the calls are an implication that there is evidence of a relationship that, at a minimum, should have been disclosed."

"It's just evidence that there were phone calls and texts," he said.

Kolenda said Brennan spoke to a lot of people on her phone, including numerous conversations with Shawn Ryan, an assistant prosecuting attorney in Livingston County.

"Is there a difference between communication with a counsel you meet in

chambers and a witness in a case?" Cavanagh asked.

"No," Kolenda said.

Helland told justices Brennan's misconduct can be divided into three distinct areas: deception, abuse of power and conflicts of interest.

"She (Brennan) never acknowledges any wrong doing. Whenever she has to confront the possibility that she has done something wrong her default position is to conceal, lie," he said.

Helland said Brennan's continual denial of wrong doing, despite the facts, shows her character.

"If you analyze the three most serious types of misconduct and other types of misconduct and look through the prism of the court you need to remove Brennan from the bench," he said.

Judicial Tenure Commission complaint

The Judicial Tenure Commission filed a formal complaint against Brennan in June 2018, more than a year after an alleged affair with Furlong was uncovered through depositions in her divorce case.

Retired judge William Giovan held an evidentiary hearing on the misconduct complaint spanning nine days in October and November.

Giovan concluded that Brennan was

in a romantic relationship before and during the Kowalski trial. Brennan has argued the relationship was not romantic during that time, and that the affair began after the trial.

In asking the Supreme Court to remove Brennan from the bench, the commission said it doesn't matter whether Brennan and Furlong were friends or lovers.

"The relationship required, at a minimum, the Respondent disclose the fact of her close, personal relationship to the parties in the Kowalski case so that the parties could determine whether to move for disqualification..." the commission said.

Kowalski was convicted in 2013 for the 2008 murders of Richard and Brenda Kowalski. His conviction was overturned by Shiawassee County Circuit Judge Matthew Stewart in light of the allegations against Brennan and criminal charges brought against her by the Michigan Attorney General's office.

Criminal case still pending against Brennan

Brennan also faces three felony charges, including perjury, in the separate criminal case.

In December, the Michigan Attorney General's office charged her with perjury, tampering with evidence and common law offenses, alleging Brennan gave false testimony regarding a cell phone that was considered a marital asset during hearings in her own divorce case and that she tampered with evidence in an official proceeding.

It also said she committed misconduct by failing to recuse herself immediately from her own divorce case and used the delay to dispose of evidence. Brennan was served with divorce papers Dec. 2, 2016 but did not disqualify herself until Dec. 8.

Genesee County District Judge David Guinn bound the case over to circuit court for trial on Wednesday.

The most serious charge is perjury, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison upon conviction. Brennan also is charged with tampering or destroying evidence and a common law offense.



The North American International Auto Show in Detroit is moving from January to June next year, but a new, regional event, the Southeast Michigan Auto Show, is planned for Novi starting this coming January. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Auto show planned to fill January void

Eric D. Lawrence Detroit Free-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're bummed the next Detroit auto show won't happen until June, you will still have an option for seeing automotive sheet metal in the area next January.

A new effort, the Southeast Michigan Auto Show, is planned for early January at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The event will be a different animal than the glitzy North American International Auto Show, which is switching to June from its traditional January time slot next year.

Blair Bowman, president of the Suburban Collection Showplace, said the Jan. 3-5 show will be distinctly different from the North American International Auto Show, focusing on vehicles that are available at dealerships.

"We're very excited about the event, and it is planned to be consumer-focused, consistent with a very high quality regional auto show effort," Bowman said, noting that no active sales would be occurring at the event. "Consumers are going to be able to come and see a tremendous amount (and) variety of brands."

The showplace is dedicating 220,000 square feet to the event, Bowman said, noting that it would fill an important gap in the schedule for dealers.

Asked if the new show could be seen as undercutting the North American International Auto Show, Bowman said the two shows could be "mutually enhancing" of each other.

"We would like to do anything we could to help support (the reimagined North American International Auto Show) and know that it's going to be very, very successful," Bowman said.

Amanda Niswonger, a spokeswoman for the Detroit auto show, provided a statement saying that the NAIAS and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, the group behind the Detroit show, are not involved in the new, "three-day local dealer event."

"We are focused on making the 2020 NAIAS the biggest and best event of its kind, creating more opportunities to engage industry, media and consumers from around the globe and showcasing the industry's latest products and technology in the beautiful city of Detroit," the statement said.

The 2020 North American International Auto Show in Detroit kicks off with The Gallery on June 6. The public show runs June 13-20. The shift to summer will allow organizers to take advantage of outdoor space beyond Cobo Center, offering an expanded experience for attendees and allowing the show to evolve beyond a showcase for the latest vehicle models and concepts.

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Enrollment

Continued from Page 1A

Fewer babies and fewer students

Salah wasn't with Huron Valley when the district made a decision to close Brooks Elementary in 2017. But he understands that sending a child to another school, even if it is in the same district, can be a challenge.

"Loss is difficult and change is hard," he said. "Even if we go through that process as a district, we need to be sensitive to the community."

Kim Root, Huron Valley's executive director of communications and community relations, said in her experience, the memories held within school buildings make their closures hard.

"It's a painful process when people have to go through a school closing, because a lot of their emotional attachment to their school district has to do with their school buildings," she said.

When Livonia closed two elementary schools in 2016, Superintendent Andrea Oquist said parents and kids alike took the closures hard.

"People care deeply about their neighborhood schools, and they care deeply about their school community. ... So the positive of that is they're invested, they care, they work to support their schools," she said. "The downside, or difficult side, of that is when there's a school closure, people also feel that greatly."

School officials from Huron Valley and Livonia said low birth rates were a significant reason for a school closure.

Oquist said when Livonia faced its closures, "the district was responding to the population decline that really was mirroring the population decline across the state of Michigan."

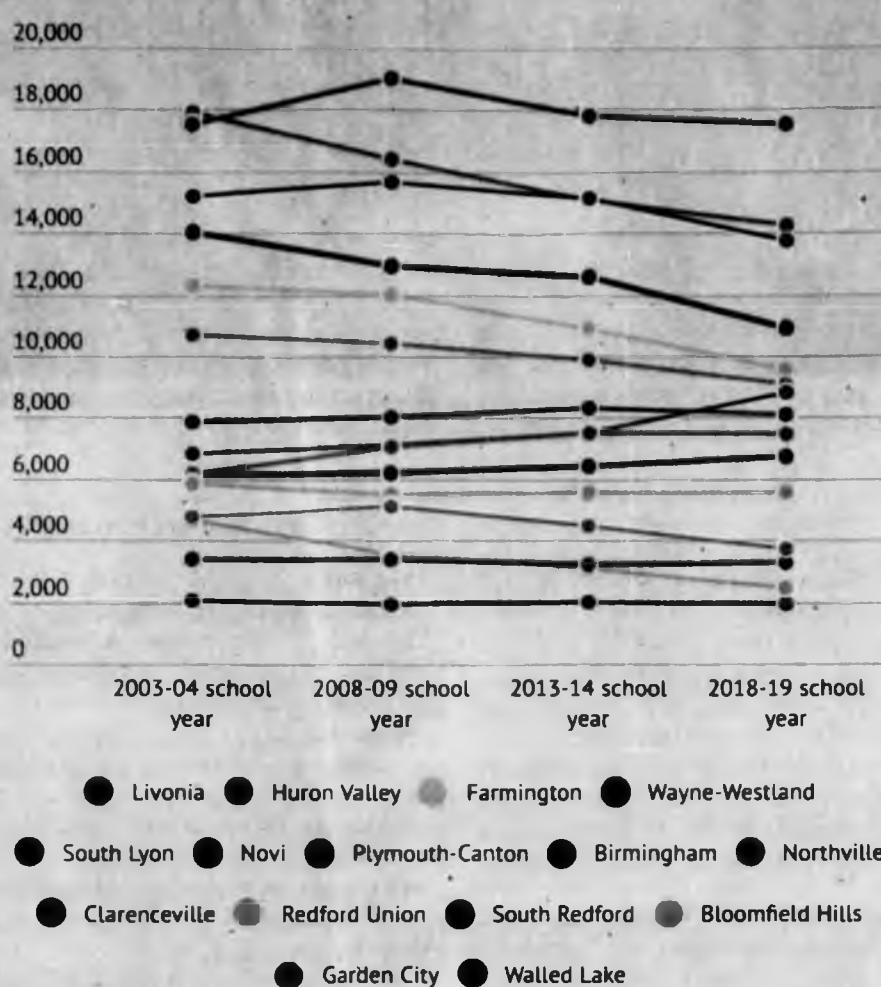
For Livonia, the population is generally aging, and growing past the family-building stage.

"Livonia is a wonderful, stable community that has essentially grown out, meaning there is not a significant amount of new housing as you might see in other communities," Oquist said. "Because we have wonderful city services and resources and parks and schools, people tend to not only stay, but they stay through multiple generations."

Root said, as a mother of Millennials,

Enrollment drops in metro Detroit

In the last 20 years, South Lyon and Novi are among the few districts in the state to make steady enrollment gains.



Student count numbers from MI School Data

Owens & Eccentric
KATYAY NETWORK

kindergarten enrollment, which trickles to every other grade over the next 12 years. Even districts like South Lyon, which actually saw 2 percent growth this academic year, keep an eye on birth rates.

"We're watching those numbers because that is a national trend," said Melissa Baker, superintendent of the South Lyon School District. "Do I think it's going to impact us in the short term? No, we're gaining students across the board. But I do think birth rate is a fact that you have to consider long-term."

"That is something we pay really close attention to here. We don't want to be a district that has to close a building."

Oquist also said that her district continually watches birth rates so, looking five years into the future, staff can see how they might need to prepare for kindergarten enrollment.

"It really is something that every school district in our area, I'm sure, is watching closely," she said. "We follow about 13 different enrollment factors that will impact the following year."

Enrollment and state funding

When enrollment numbers drop, so does the amount of state funding a district receives.

The two are directly tied.

"Our challenge is that it's not like 30 students stop attending one school so you just cut a class out," Salah said. "It might be 30 students across eight schools, which means that you do not cut staff proportionately. So your costs continue to remain the same or increase, but you have fewer students to pay for programs."

As much as enrollment drops adversely affect funding, some districts take issue with the funding itself.

"Enrollment is on one side of this, and school funding is really on the other," Oquist said. "Those are the pieces I think, if we're going to take a big picture of enrollment decline in the state of Michigan, we also have to look at the school funding piece pretty deeply."

Salah and Baker added that their districts see funding as an issue. Both South Lyon and Huron Valley are at the minimum of school funding, receiving \$7,871 per full-time equivalency student (FTE), which is the lowest amount a Michigan school receives.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 5A

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Are timeshares a worthwhile investment?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My husband and I just came back from a two-week trip to Mexico. We loved the resort we stayed at and plan to come back again. While we were there, we found out at the resort that it is mostly timeshares, and we sat down with a representative of the company who made a pretty good pitch to us. The salesperson was pretty high-pressure and encouraged us to sign up.

We know enough not to rush into anything, and as a result we didn't sign. However, we are interested. What do you think of timeshares, and do you

think it would be a good investment for us? You should know we're both retired, and we do plan to travel more.

Thank you, Ellen

Dear Ellen:

On the whole, I am not a big fan of timeshares, and I would not classify them as an investment. When I think of an investment, I think of something that is either going to appreciate in value when it's sold or it is going to generate income on an ongoing basis. As far as I'm concerned, timeshares don't meet these criteria. After all, when you historically look at timeshares that have sold on the secondary market, you generally see that they sell for less than half of what people originally paid. In addition, renting out your timeshare will very rarely cover your cost to own it.

Typically with a timeshare, you are

paying a substantial amount of money up front, plus an annual maintenance fee to cover basic expenses. You could incur costs to cover capital improvement expenses. When you factor those costs in, you are not going to be able to sell your yearly allotted time to cover those expenses. Another factor to take into consideration is that typically when you look at selling your timeshare for the allocated period, you generally have to go through one of the resale companies where commissions are substantial. It's not unusual to pay 30 percent or more in commissions.

If I was thinking about buying a timeshare as opposed to buying directly from the developer of the property, I would probably work to purchase something on the secondary market. In many situations, you can buy a timeshare at a

substantial discount over the developer's price. There are a number of websites you can use to purchase timeshares on the secondary market.

I have known many people who have owned timeshares, and one thing I have never seen is anyone who made money by selling their timeshare. Therefore, if you are thinking about buying a timeshare, don't look at it as an investment where you will make money, because you won't. You need to look at it as an investment in your future vacations. Even then, proceed with caution.

Today is our country's birthday, and I want to wish everyone a very Happy 4th of July!

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email him at Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Landfill

Continued from Page 1A

engineering is going into every solution. That takes time. That's not an excuse; it's the reality of complex solutions."

Johnson said ADS has ramped up its annual monetary commitment to resolving the issues by increasing its annual operation budget from \$1.6 million to between \$8 million and \$10 million.

Ralph Lassel, president of the Stop Arbor Hills Conservatory Initiative, reported at the trustees meeting that residents have reported what they believe are symptoms of the odors since June 1.

"Some of the issues reported to us have been headaches, nausea, eye irritation, light-headedness and trouble

breathing," Lassel said. "Members of an outside contracting team told the family they were working for that they couldn't believe how bad (the odor) was."

Lassel said residents are tired of hearing that the odor problems aren't the fault of ADS because "they inherited these issues" and ADS representatives telling conservatory members: "Trust us; we're working on these problems."

"It's time to stop the excuses. Take accountability and fix the problems (that are causing the odors)," he said.

Johnson detailed three primary causes of the odors generated at the landfill.

"We have greater control over two of the three," he revealed, but the third — the replacement of a quarter-mile stretch of piping — will require patience. "In my 30 years in the landfill industry, I

have mitigated problems far more complex than what I've seen at Arbor Hills. Throughout my career, a landfill I've worked at has never received a (notice of violation), so this has been an eye-opener for me."

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Enrollment

Continued from Page 4A

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Enrollment

Continued from Page 1A

Fewer babies and fewer students

Salah wasn't with Huron Valley when the district made a decision to close Brooks Elementary in 2017. But he understands that sending a child to another school, even if it is in the same district, can be a challenge.

"Loss is difficult and change is hard," he said. "Even if we go through that process as a district, we need to be sensitive to the community."

Kim Root, Huron Valley's executive director of communications and community relations, said in her experience, the memories held within school buildings make their closures hard.

"It's a painful process when people have to go through a school closing, because a lot of their emotional attachment to their school district has to do with their school buildings," she said.

When Livonia closed two elementary schools in 2016, Superintendent Andrea Oquist said parents and kids alike took the closures hard.

"People care deeply about their neighborhood schools, and they care deeply about their school community. ... So the positive of that is they're invested, they care, they work to support their schools," she said. "The downside, or difficult side, of that is when there's a school closure, people also feel that greatly."

School officials from Huron Valley and Livonia said low birth rates were a significant reason for a school closure.

Oquist said when Livonia faced its closures, "the district was responding to the population decline that really was mirroring the population decline across the state of Michigan."

For Livonia, the population is generally aging, and growing past the family-building stage.

"Livonia is a wonderful, stable community that has essentially grown out, meaning there is not a significant amount of new housing as you might see in other communities," Oquist said. "Because we have wonderful city services and resources and parks and schools, people tend to not only stay, but they stay through multiple generations."

Root said, as a mother of Millennials,

she sees that generation waiting longer to build families.

"Millennials are waiting longer to get married and waiting longer to have children," she said. "That's impacting us as well. ... When they do have children, they're having fewer as well. That's part of waiting longer."

Teen pregnancies in the state of

Michigan have been nearly slashed in half throughout the last decade. The Pew Research Center found in 2018 that women are, overall, waiting longer to have children. Pew also found this year that the appearance of a general fertility rate drop is because women under the age of 35 are having fewer kids.

For schools, this all boils down to low

kindergarten enrollment, which trickles to every other grade over the next 12 years. Even districts like South Lyon, which actually saw 2 percent growth this academic year, keep an eye on birth rates.

"We're watching those numbers because that is a national trend," said Melissa Baker, superintendent of the South Lyon School District. "Do I think it's going to impact us in the short term? No, we're gaining students across the board. But I do think birth rate is a fact that you have to consider long-term."

"That is something we pay really close attention to here. We don't want to be a district that has to close a building."

Oquist also said that her district continually watches birth rates so, looking five years into the future, staff can see how they might need to prepare for kindergarten enrollment.

"It really is something that every school district in our area, I'm sure, is watching closely," she said. "We follow about 13 different enrollment factors that will impact the following year."

Enrollment and state funding

When enrollment numbers drop, so does the amount of state funding a district receives.

The two are directly tied.

"Our challenge is that it's not like 30 students stop attending one school so you just cut a class out," Salah said. "It might be 30 students across eight schools, which means that you do not cut staff proportionately. So your costs continue to remain the same or increase, but you have fewer students to pay for programs."

As much as enrollment drops adversely affect funding, some districts take issue with the funding itself.

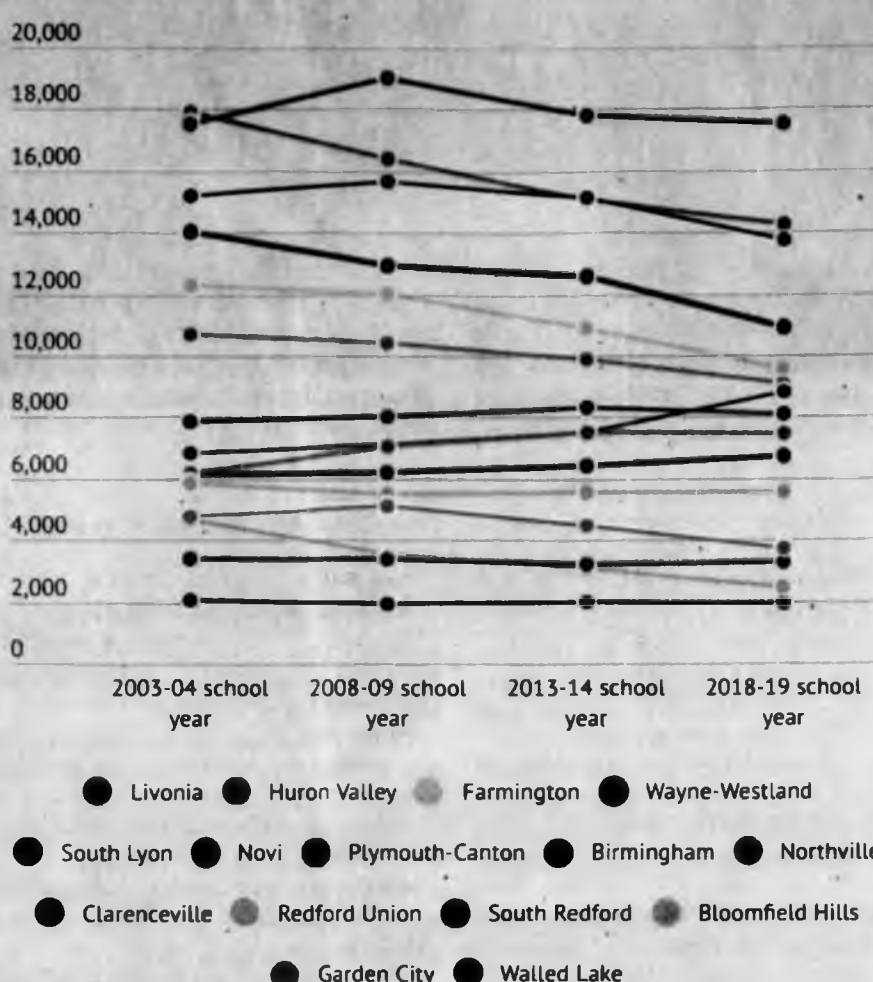
"Enrollment is on one side of this, and school funding is really on the other," Oquist said. "Those are the pieces I think, if we're going to take a big picture of enrollment decline in the state of Michigan, we also have to look at the school funding piece pretty deeply."

Salah and Baker added that their districts see funding as an issue. Both South Lyon and Huron Valley are at the minimum of school funding, receiving \$7,871 per full-time equivalency student (FTE), which is the lowest amount a Michigan school receives.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 5A

Enrollment drops in metro Detroit

In the last 20 years, South Lyon and Novi are among the few districts in the state to make steady enrollment gains.



Student count numbers from MI School Data

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Are timeshares a worthwhile investment?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My husband and I just came back from a two-week trip to Mexico. We loved the resort we stayed at and plan to come back again. While we were there, we found out at the resort that it is mostly timeshares, and we sat down with a representative of the company who made a pretty good pitch to us. The salesperson was pretty high-pressure and encouraged us to sign up.

We know enough not to rush into anything, and as a result we didn't sign. However, we are interested. What do you think of timeshares, and do you

think it would be a good investment for us? You should know we're both retired, and we do plan to travel more.

Thank you, Ellen

Dear Ellen:

On the whole, I am not a big fan of timeshares, and I would not classify them as an investment. When I think of an investment, I think of something that is either going to appreciate in value when it's sold or it is going to generate income on an ongoing basis. As far as I'm concerned, timeshares don't meet these criteria. After all, when you historically look at timeshares that have sold on the secondary market, you generally see that they sell for less than half of what people originally paid. In addition, renting out your timeshare will very rarely cover your cost to own it.

Typically with a timeshare, you are

paying a substantial amount of money up front, plus an annual maintenance fee to cover basic expenses. You could incur costs to cover capital improvement expenses. When you factor those costs in, you are not going to be able to sell your yearly allotted time to cover those expenses. Another factor to take into consideration is that typically when you look at selling your timeshare for the allocated period, you generally have to go through one of the resale companies where commissions are substantial. It's not unusual to pay 30 percent or more in commissions.

If I was thinking about buying a timeshare as opposed to buying directly from the developer of the property, I would probably work to purchase something on the secondary market. In many situations, you can buy a timeshare at a

substantial discount over the developer's price. There are a number of websites you can use to purchase timeshares on the secondary market.

I have known many people who have owned timeshares, and one thing I have never seen is anyone who made money by selling their timeshare. Therefore, if you are thinking about buying a timeshare, don't look at it as an investment where you will make money, because you won't. You need to look at it as an investment in your future vacations. Even then, proceed with caution.

Today is our country's birthday, and I want to wish everyone a very Happy 4th of July!

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email him at Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Landfill

Continued from Page 1A

engineering is going into every solution. That takes time. That's not an excuse; it's the reality of complex solutions."

Johnson said ADS has ramped up its annual monetary commitment to resolving the issues by increasing its annual operation budget from \$1.6 million to between \$8 million and \$10 million.

Ralph Lassel, president of the Stop Arbor Hills Conservatory Initiative, reported at the trustees meeting that residents have reported what they believe are symptoms of the odors since June 1.

"Some of the issues reported to us have been headaches, nausea, eye irritation, light-headedness and trouble

breathing," Lassel said. "Members of an outside contracting team told the family they were working for that they couldn't believe how bad (the odor) was."

Lassel said residents are tired of hearing that the odor problems aren't the fault of ADS because "they inherited these issues" and ADS representatives telling conservatory members: "Trust us; we're working on these problems."

"It's time to stop the excuses. Take accountability and fix the problems (that are causing the odors)," he said.

Johnson detailed three primary causes of the odors generated at the landfill.

"We have greater control over two of the three," he revealed, but the third — the replacement of a quarter-mile stretch of piping — will require patience. "In my 30 years in the landfill industry, I

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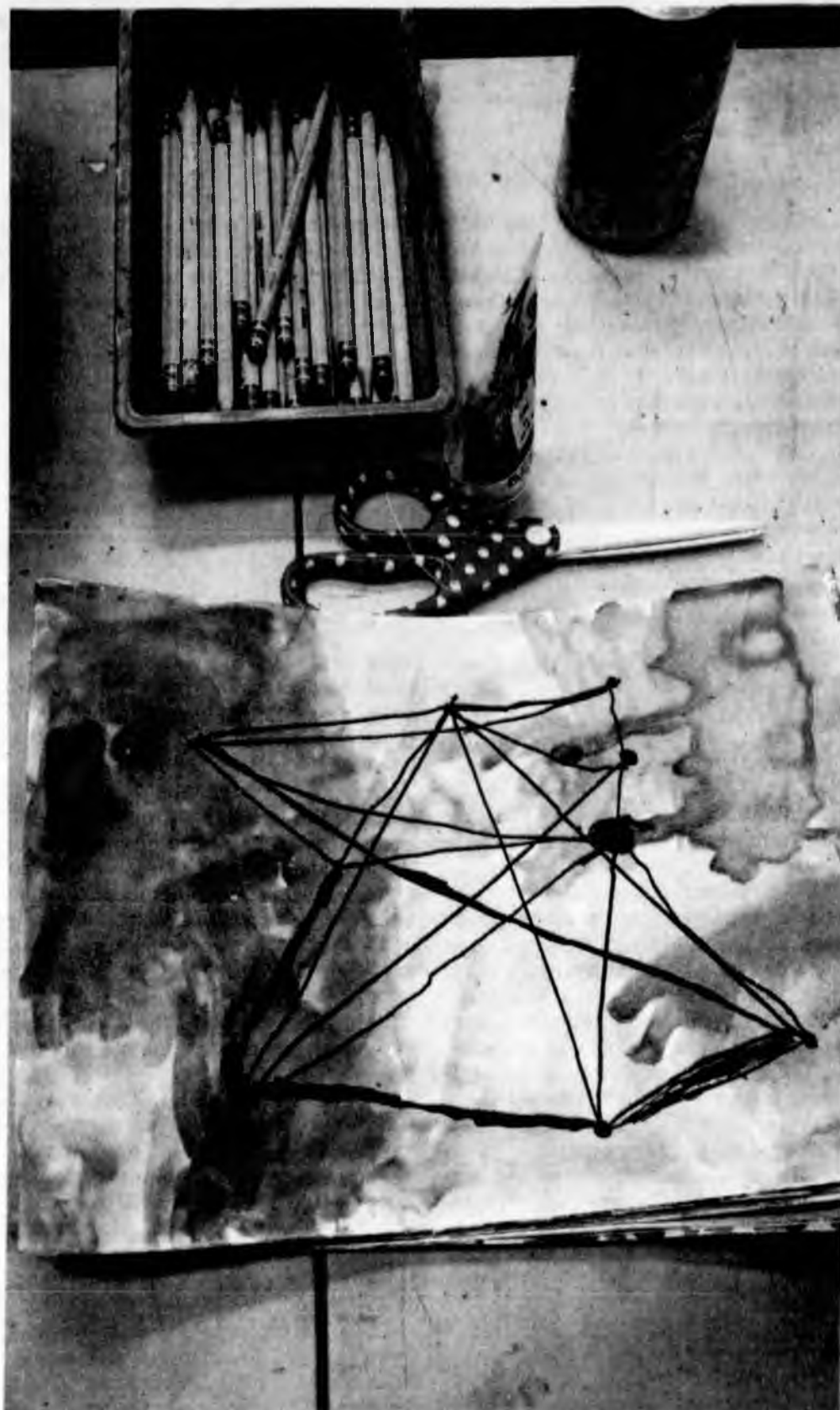
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MILFORD'S SHAC HOSTS SUMMER ART CAMP FOR KIDS



With a studious tongue that belies utmost concentration, SHAC summer art camper Claire O'Connor, at left, works on a flower pattern on the cement floor of Milford's Suzanne Haskew Art Center on June 27. O'Connor was part of the art camp that wrapped up a four-day session that Thursday. At right, the art campers experimented and explored many different styles of art, including pen-and-ink and watercolor paintings. See more photos from art camp on Pages 7A and 8A. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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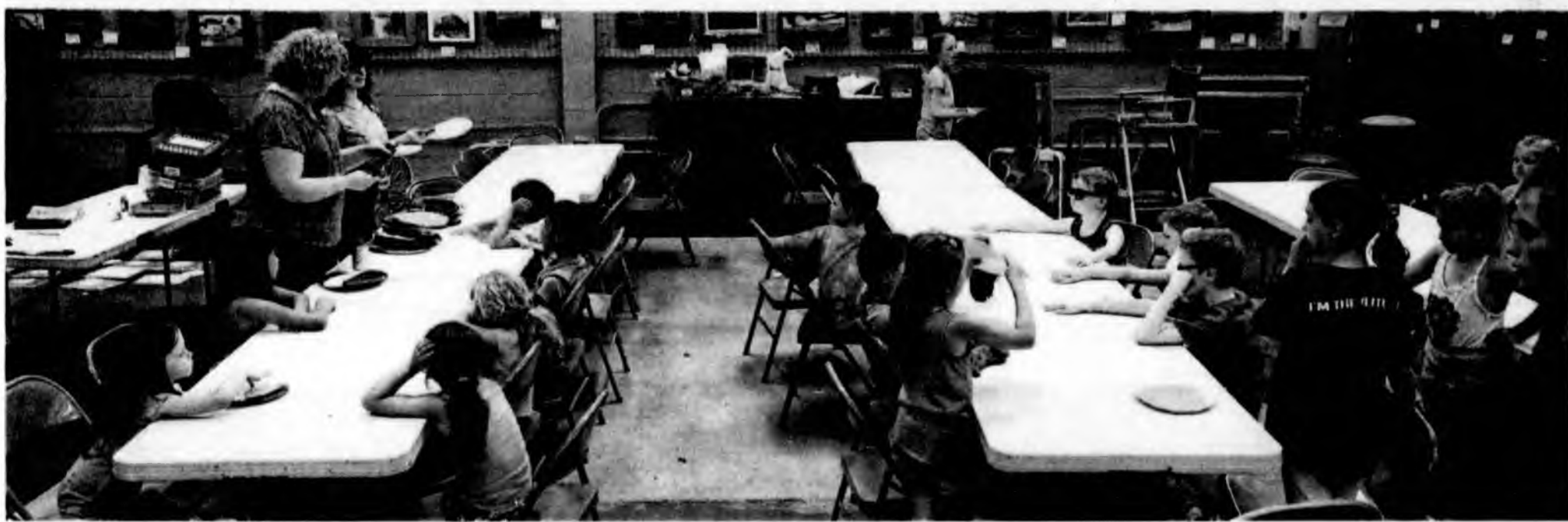
MILFORD'S SHAC HOSTS SUMMER ART CAMP FOR KIDS



SHAC summer art camp leader Sarah Sims, center, works with her young artists.



Colin Shram, 6, peers into a primary color wheel he painted.



Art campers at Milford's SHAC prepare their various artworks to show their parents on the last day of the four-day session. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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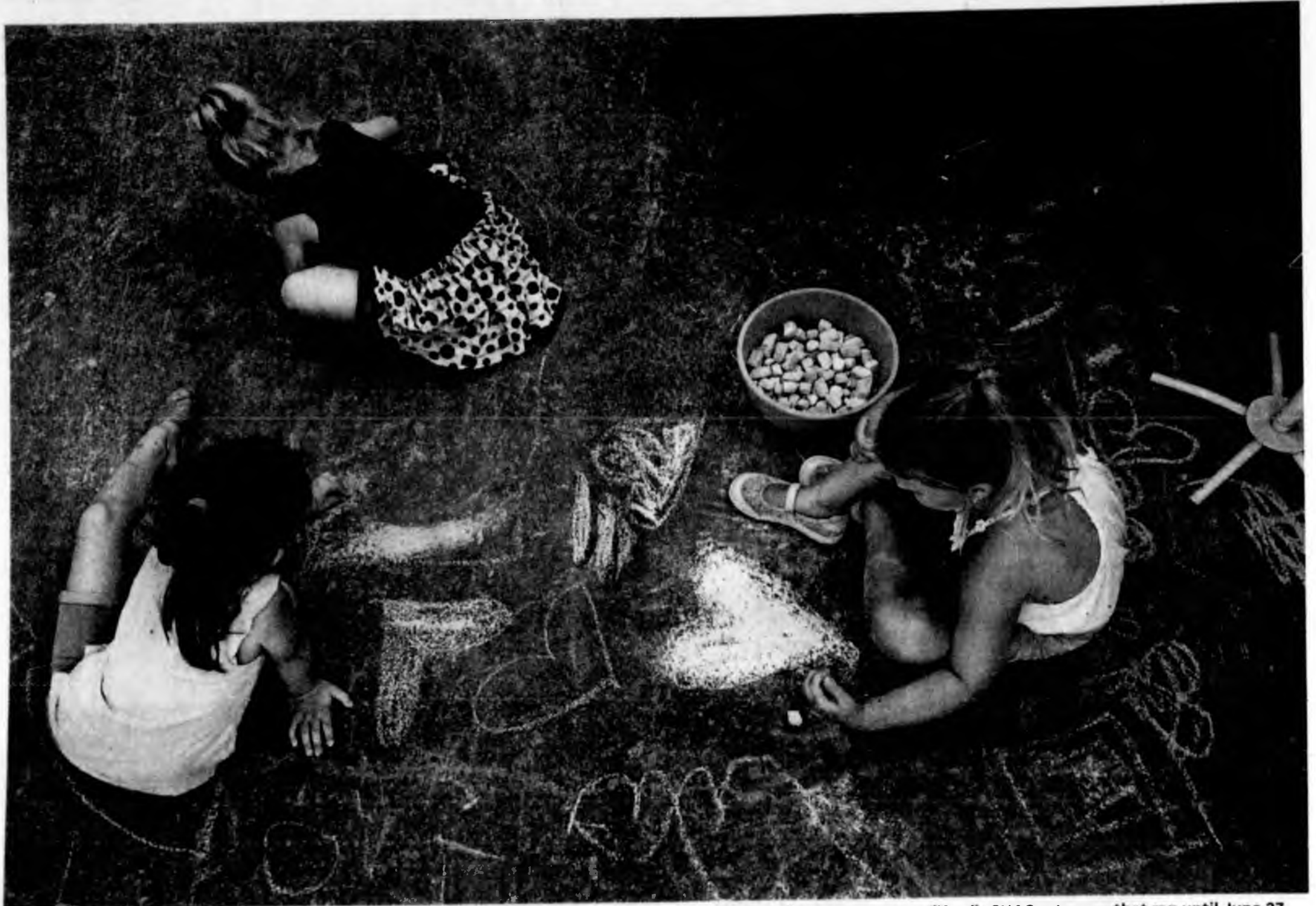


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MILFORD'S SHAC HOSTS SUMMER ART CAMP FOR KIDS



Above, a trio of young ladies hits the cement floor of Milford's SHAC with some colored chalk. The kids were part of Milford's SHAC art camp that ran until June 27. Below, Zion Borgstahl works on putting together his multi-pieced primary color wheel. The center offers other summer art camp for kids and classes for adults. More information can be found at milfordshac.org/classes or by calling the SHAC at 248-797-3060. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Man who lay dead for 20 minutes shares story

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michael Pruitt was working outside April 30 when he was electrocuted, resulting in the untimely death of the 20-year-old Taylor resident.

But after 20 minutes, doctors at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills had him back.

Pruitt had been working outside on a job in Livonia with his father when a metal ladder he was carrying hit a live wire, electrocuting him.

"I remember being electrocuted while holding that ladder and shaking, and then nothing," Pruitt said in a news release.

Livonia Fire and Rescue was on the scene after four minutes, and paramedics performed what they hoped would be life-saving CPR and defibrillation. But, Pruitt died before he made it to the hospital.

That didn't deter anyone, though. Once at Beaumont, doctors continued to shock Pruitt with defibrillation until his heart started beating again. Because doctors increased the voltage they used with the defibrillators, Pruitt was revived after two minutes in the hospital.

Dr. Angel Chudler, who worked on Pruitt, remembers saying "You better come back" to the man's lifeless body.

Medical professionals on the scene said Pruitt woke up with full strength and it took a number of people to restrain and keep him from shaking himself out of his hospital bed.

Jillian Pruitt, Michael's mother, said she was happy to have her son back and is even happier that he's the same man he was before he died. Typically, brain cells start to die after just five minutes, and Registered Nurse Barbara Smith said it is "miraculous" that Pruitt still has all of his brain function, including his sense of humor.

"I knew he'd be okay when Michael made a sarcastic gesture when I asked if he had any other superpowers," Jillian Pruitt said. "My first-born had returned from the dead."

The only scars Pruitt sustained were burns on his big toes where the electricity left his body. But he made a mark of his own to commemorate the experience. He now has a tattoo sitting over



Dr. Angel Chudler, right, helped save Michael Pruitt's life after he was electrocuted while working outside in April. PROVIDED

his heart of "the sacred all-seeing eye of God inside a triangle surrounded by a Native American dream catcher" to remember that fateful day.

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

"I knew he'd be okay when Michael made a sarcastic gesture when I asked if he had any other superpowers. My first-born had returned from the dead."

Jillian Pruitt Michael Pruitt's mother

Volunteerism a win-win situation

Our Mental Health
L.J. McCulloch

Danny Thomas said, "Success has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others." Similarly, a wise man named Z. Hurston once said, "There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them."

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ cured the sick, made the blind to see and the deaf to hear, and fed the multitude...at no charge. Other greats in the area of volunteerism are Mother Teresa, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have personally met several high school and college students upon their return from volunteer positions in various local and remote areas of the world. All describe their experience as positive and uplifting.

A recent video produced by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) speaks of the mental and medical health improvements in volunteers. Some of the benefits mentioned are: lowering of high blood pressure, lowering of stress levels, increased feelings of well-being along with increased self-esteem and return of a feeling of purpose in the volunteer groups that were studied.

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The benefits to others are incalculable and the benefits to one's self-esteem are amazing.

Volunteering your time, energy, and talents gives you an opportunity to support a cause, to share your knowledge and expertise, to meet people, make friends, to feel the satisfaction of helping others, and to make a difference in your community. Others have said that looking for volunteer work is very much like looking for a paying job - only better! You can expect volunteering to be a fun way to spend your valuable time with the added benefit of helping others.

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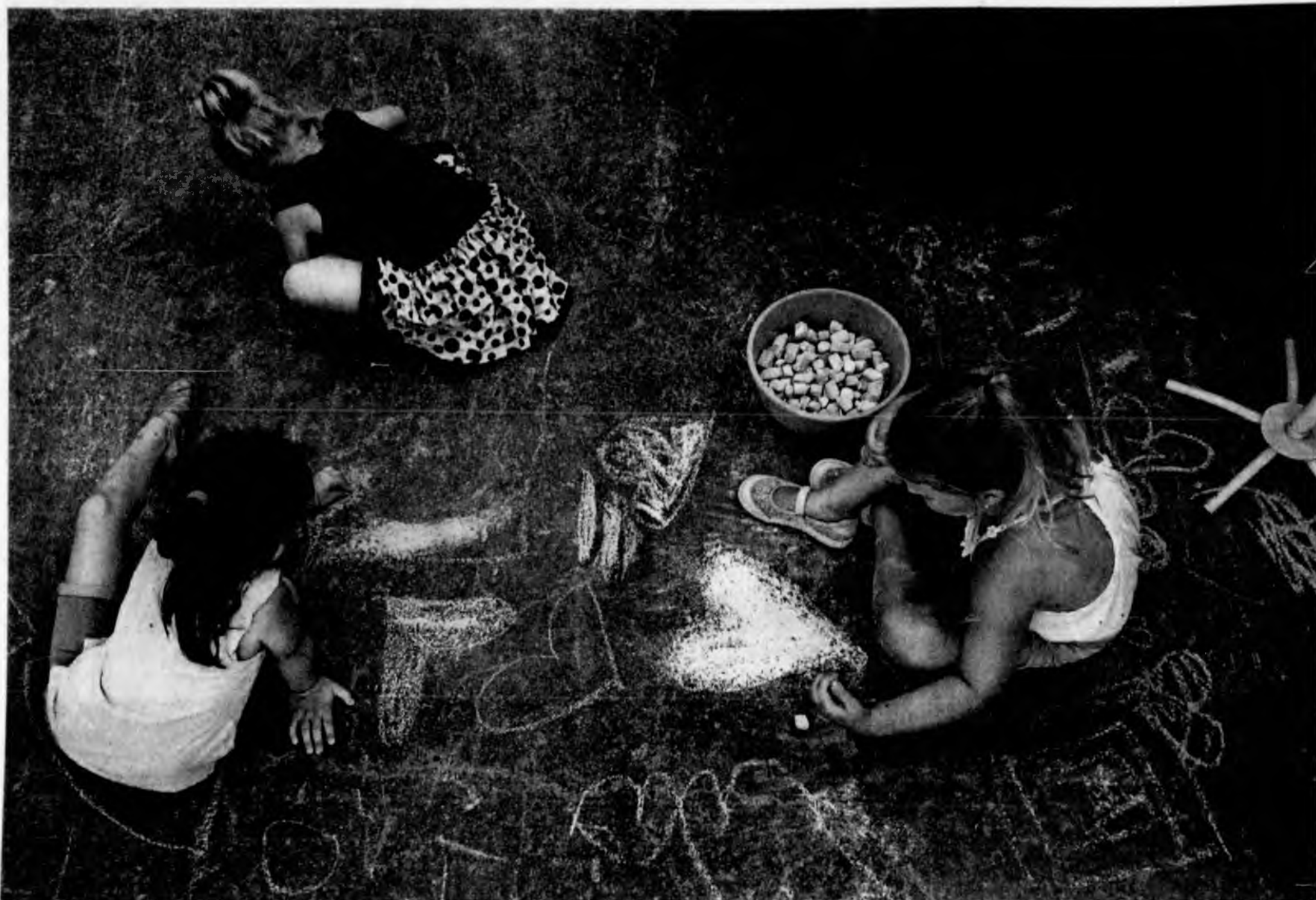
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PREP ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Northville names Salem's Brian Samulski as new athletic director

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville Public Schools announced that Brian Samulski will take over as the district's next Athletic Director in November.

Samulski, who is currently an assistant principal for activities and athletics at Salem High School in the Plymouth-Canton Community School District, will succeed Bryan Masi, who is retiring.

The Northville Board of Education

unanimously approved Samulski's appointment at its June 25 meeting.

The athletic director is a leadership role that coordinates Northville Public Schools' sixth through twelfth grade athletic programs. As the athletic director, Samulski will carry out all leadership functions of the athletic program and build strong relationships with students, staff, parents and the community. He will supervise and direct all coaching staff and ensure that MHSAA rules are adhered to by all athletic teams and schedule all middle school and high



Samulski

school athletic events. This position is also responsible for the athletic program budget in consultation with the business office.

Samulski spent the last five years in his current role at Salem. Prior to his role as Assistant Principal, Samulski was an educator for multiple grade levels and subjects at Wayne-Westland Schools for 13 years. Samulski was a teacher for K-5 Physical Education, a 6th grade English

Language Arts and Social Studies, a 9-12th grade Physical Education and he taught all subjects for 6th graders. Samulski is an experienced Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach for Canton High School where he coached for 13 years.

Samulski will begin his new position as the athletic director in late October 2019 for a brief transition period prior to Masi's retirement in November 2019. Masi is retiring from Northville Public Schools after 28 years of service as an

See SAMULSKI, Page 4B

South Lyon runner has sights set on mom's record

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon eighth grader Lili Aittama is taking the track world by storm.

The Millennium Middle School student competed at the New Balance Outdoor National Track meet held in Greensboro, N.C. on June 13-14 and stood out with excellent results.

In order to participate in the elite meet, middle and high schoolers had to qualify in their events.

Aittama ran the mile and competed in the pole vault at the big meet and finished 11th out of 50 in the mile, with a time of 5:17, and finished sixth out of 22 in pole vault, with a mark of 9'7", a personal best.

That mile time is a personal record for Aittama and also beats her school record. She said she was in the middle and back of the pack for much of the race, but sprinted at the end when everyone else was tired to take second place in her heat.

It was a great experience for Aittama, who isn't used to having other girls around that are as fast as her. She enjoyed being pushed.

"I was really excited and happy because I could race against girls that were more near my speed," Aittama said. "It was more of a competition for me."

Despite it not being available at her middle school, she's been training with the Livonia "Inversion" Pole Vault Club for almost two years now after the event peaked her interest when she heard her experience in gymnastics would benefit her. All the training in the event has paid off.

She plans on both running and doing pole vault in high school at South Lyon East.

Aittama first qualified for the national meet at indoor races at Eastern Michigan University this past winter, running the mile faster the 5:39 qual-

See RUNNER, Page 4B

PREP LACROSSE



Detroit Catholic Central player Joseph Kamish brings the ball upfield against Brother Rice. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CC's Joey Kamish named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central's Joey Kamish was talking with his dad about all-state lacrosse selections when his dad suddenly leaned over and showed his son his phone.

Kamish stared at the tweet on screen and read through to the end, realizing what it said — he had just been named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse.

"I was so happy, I can't really describe it," Kamish said. "That had been a goal of mine going into the season, aside from the team goal of winning the state championship, I felt like that was

the pinnacle and stuff that I was working toward. It felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders."

He led Catholic Central to its sixth straight state championship game against Brother Rice, where the Shamrocks fell by one goal at the final buzzer.

See KAMISH, Page 3B



PREP GOLF

Hartland, CC golfers shine on Kensington junior golf tour

M.B. Dillon
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hartland High School golfers led the way in the ladies' division of Kensington Junior Tour competition on a picture-perfect day at Hartland Glen Golf Course June 26. Sydney Bradford and teammate Olivia Root swept first and second place with scores of 76 and 82, respectively, in a field that included six fellow Hartland players.

Mike Joseph, Hartland varsity coach, came out to support his team, which took 7th in state competition this year. "I'm very proud of our golfers and our program. This is our home course, and I expected to have a good turnout. Our two seniors (Sydney and Olivia) will be playing at the college level. I can't wait to see them play," said Joseph. "Sydney has the top seven scores in the history of our program. She shot the school record, 72, twice last year. What's probably most important is that these players have a love of the game."

Sydney, who signed with the University of Detroit Mercy, shot 41 on the front nine. "It wasn't very good. I missed so many birdie putts and a few eagle putts," she said. Things went well on the 6th hole. "I drove the green, pin high. I thought it was going to be short, but it was perfect. I was 15 feet from the pin. I 2-putted for birdie."

"The back nine started off better," Sydney said. "I started off with a par and a birdie so that helped, and I kept it going. I shot 35, one under par for the back (nine.)" One of Sydney's career-best 72's (par at Hartland Glen) came on the home course. "It's flat, so it doesn't really tire you out. It's much easier to stay doing good because you're not that tired," she said.

Olivia, who will play for Cleary University in Howell this fall, carded a 2-over par 38 on the front nine. "I chipped in on the third hole for birdie, about 35 feet, using my 54-degree wedge. It felt really good," said Olivia, in her 4th season with the Kensington Tour. "I birdied two other holes, 3 and 4, back-to-back, and birdied 7 as well."

"I shot 44 on the back nine," Olivia said. "I started out pretty rough, but I didn't let myself get angry because I knew I could recover from a bad shot." Olivia's putter was working. "I saved par with a 1-putt on 13 and 14. And the last hole I parred, which really helped my score."

On the men's leaderboard, Detroit Catholic Central players dominated. Incoming senior L.T. Smith of Brighton fired a 73 for the win, and Jack Guerrero of Novi shot 76 to take runner-up honors.

"I shot even par on the front," Smith

said. "I eagled number 2 (a par 5). I hit my drive right in the middle of the fairway and hit a 5-iron up. I had a 30-foot putt for eagle. I was surprised it went in, but I'll definitely take it."

"The back nine was an adventure. It was very wild," said Smith. "I started out four over par through three holes. I had three birdies in a row to get back to one over, and I finished with a 37, one over for a 73. I felt like I left some strokes out there. My putts were a little short. But I played well and I putted really well; I felt like it was the key to my success."

Smith enjoys the Kensington Tour. "It's very local, and very affordable," he said. "I like the a.m. tee times. You still have the rest of the day to do what you need to do."

Guerrera, who will be a junior in the fall, said, "I had just a bunch of pars, and four bogeys. I was just consistent. The course is kind of tight on some holes. Some are wide open. You have to hit it well and you have to adjust your putts to get on the greens," said Guerrero, who had only 30 putts.

Younger divisions

Keldon Koshorek, 14, of White Lake shot 87 to win the boys' 12-14 division. "I was concerned when I got here," he said. "My first drive off the tee wasn't the best, and I wasn't driving the ball good the whole round. I finished number 9 with a double bogey to shoot 44. I was a little disappointed. I knew I had to turn it on on the back to have a chance."

"That's what I did," Koshorek said. "I started off with a 3-putt for bogey on 10. I wasn't too happy about that. On 11, a par 5, I sank a 20-foot putt for par. I was fired up and knew I had a chance. On 12, I struggled after almost hitting it into the water behind the green. I had a really good chip that almost went in. The ball just went around the edge, 3 feet past the hole. I made the putt for double bogey. On 18, I hit my tee shot a little to the left, and the wind helped and pushed it onto the green."

Koshorek's second shot was a stellar 40-foot putt that stopped 3 inches shy of the pin. "I tapped it in for par. It felt great," he said. "I have to say chipping was my strong point today. I had a lot of saves."

Runner-up Keller King of Hartland finished just a single shot back at 88 to card one of his best scores. "On number 7, I hit a 35-foot putt, right to left, and I parred it," he said. Keller was pleased with his tee shots. "I used to just fade it with my driver, and now I'm hitting my drives straighter," he said.

Keller, who'll be an 8th-grader at Ore Creek Middle School in September, is playing on the Kensington Tour for the third year. "I just like the golf, and it's



Sydney Bradford, right, and Olivia Root took first and second place, respectively, at Kensington's Hartland Glen tourney. PHOTOS SUBMITTED



L.T. Smith won the Hartland Glen Kensington tournament with a 1-over par 73.



Jack Guerrero captured runner-up honors with a 76.

just a little competition," he said.

In 9-hole competition, Detroit's Dayton Reid, 8, captured the win with a 54. "I had good driver shots, and some of the 4-woods were okay," said Dayton, who's entering fourth grade this fall at Davison Elementary in Detroit. "Then my sand iron was ok, and my putting was nice, fine." The bright spot? "On a par 5, I got a 6 for a bogey," Dayton said.

Playing in his first tournament ever, Layne Broker, 11, of Howell, shot 59 and was runner-up. "The highlight for me was my short game," said Layne. "I wasn't doing very well with my driving shots toward the end. But my putts and chips were right on. I chipped one in on the 6th hole, a par 4, and got a 5."

Look for Layne to compete in more Kensington tournaments. "I like playing with other people close to my own age," he said.

Players in the 9-hole developmental division, ages 6-11, posted impressive

scores at Hartland. Addison Mach of Linden fired a 61. Natalie Kavanaugh of Northville carded 64, while Colton Oake of Hartland shot 68.

Coach Joseph gives the Kensington Tour high marks. "What I like about it is that the people are friendly. And whether you come out here and shoot par, or you shoot 140, it doesn't matter. You are enjoying the game, and enjoying the people you are playing with. You're preparing yourself for when you get to the next level," Joseph said. "Also I like the fact you can have caddies. You see parents out here coaching and having fun with their kids. The developmental division is fantastic. It's a good way to grow the sport. Kensington is keeping interest in the game going — for the boys and for the girls."

For complete results and standings, visit kensingtonjuniorgolf.com or Kensington Junior Golf Tour's Facebook page.



Dayton Reid, left, and Layne Broker place first and second among the 9-holers in Kensington's competition at Hartland Glen.



Keldon Koshorek, left, and Keller King led the field among boys 12-14 at Hartland Glen.

Kamish

Continued from Page 1B

Kamish scored six of his team's 13 goals in the contest.

This season, Kamish scored 85 goals and tallied 42 assists in 24 games. He said the team's strong play in the state final helped his case for the award.

"We were obviously the underdogs and a lot of people thought we weren't going to have a chance," Kamish said. "I thought we over-performed and that game was anyone's at the end of the day. I was proud of everyone coming off that and getting this award to finish the season off, I thought it ended on a great note."

He added that it is a great honor to win the award, especially with so many other talented players in the state of Michigan.

"It's a summation of all the work that I've put in during the season and all four years during high school," Kamish said. "It shows the player I've become."

Before the announcement, he knew he'd at least be in the mix for the award, but wasn't sure if he'd actually win. He mentioned Brother Rice's Justin Glod, James Donaldson and Hartland's Reece Potter as three players he thought had a good shot to win it as well.

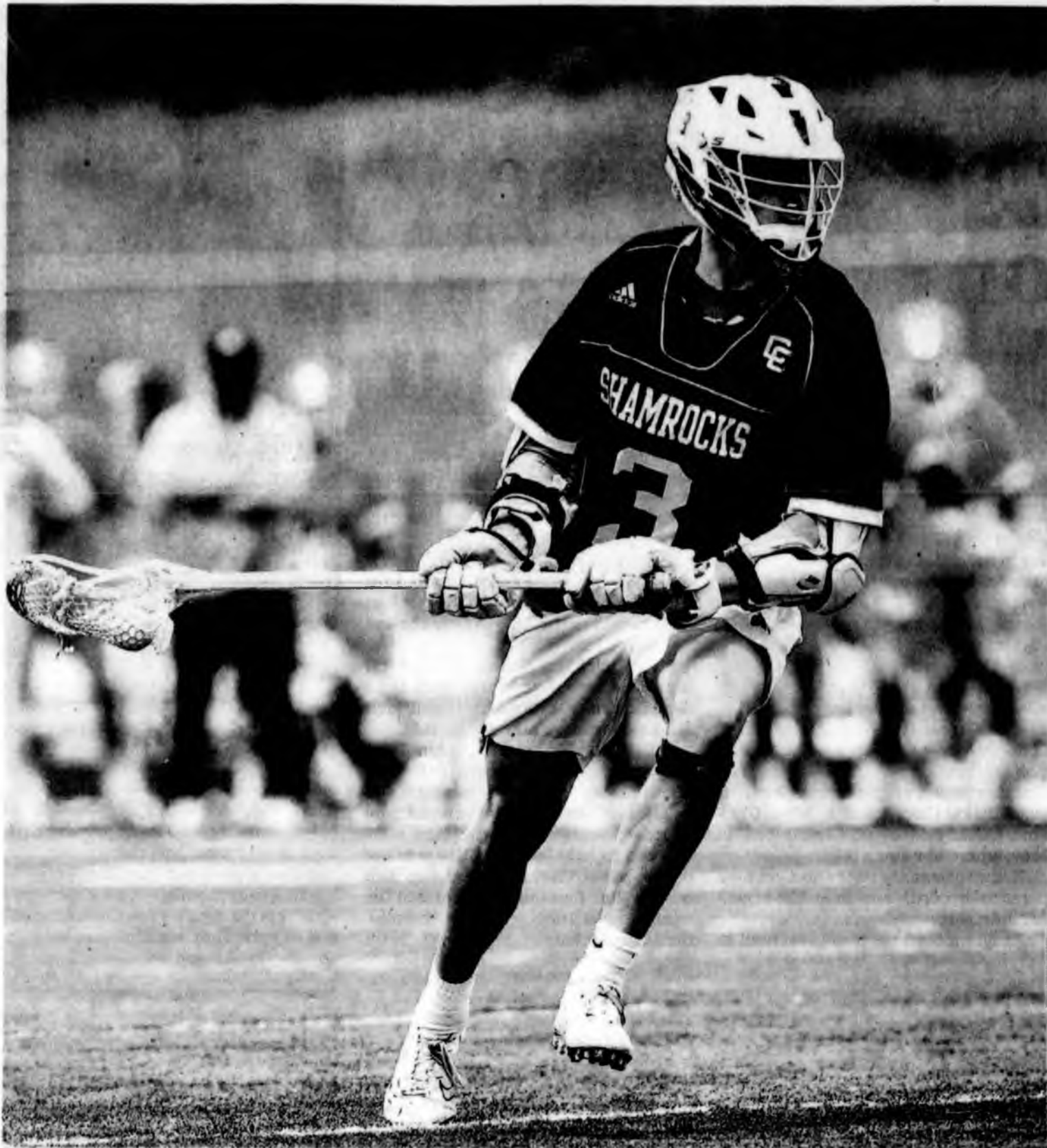
Making the award even sweeter for Kamish, is the fact that he's the first player from Catholic Central to win the award.

Kamish will be headed to Loyola University Maryland in the fall, where he will play lacrosse for the Division One Greyhounds. They compete in the Patriot League.

He said he felt comfortable at the school and that the atmosphere reminded him of CC and the city of Novi.

As he looks back on his high school career, he sees the path of an underdog that helped lead Catholic Central to the top, breaking the stronghold that Brother Rice has held on Michigan lacrosse.

"I want to think of my legacy as the underdog," Kamish said. "I came from the Walled Lake Gladiators program which wasn't very renowned and from Wixom, where there's not a lot of insane lacrosse players. Coming into CC,



Catholic Central's Joseph Kamish scored six goals in the state championship game. DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brother Rice had that dominant hold on lacrosse in the state, but right from when I got on the varsity team, we lost by one in the state championship game,

then we won it finally and another loss by one. I feel like ever since I got there, we were the underdog that finally got to where we wanted to be."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



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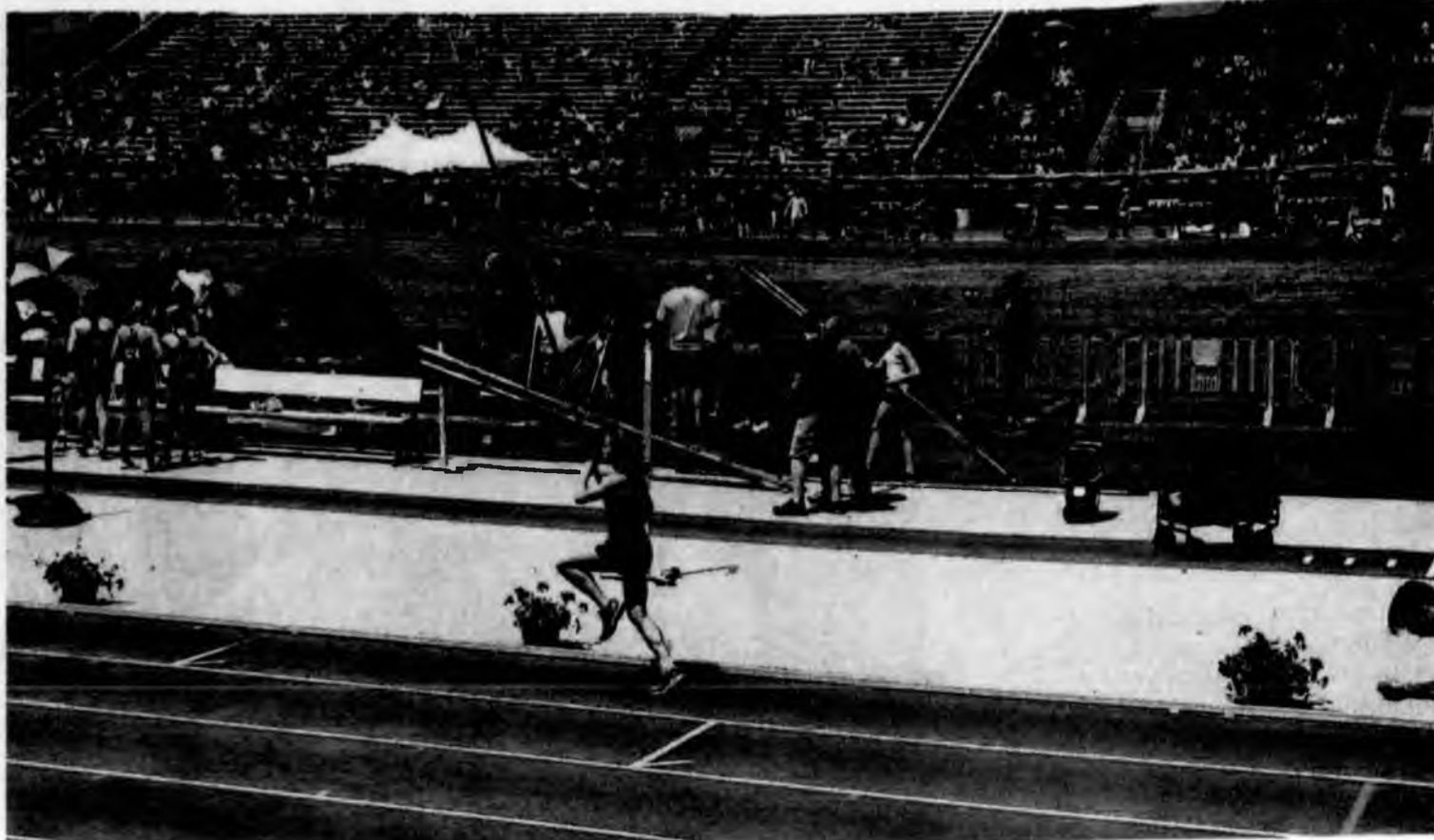
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South Lyon's Lili Aittama placed 11th nationally in the mile at a meet in North Carolina.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ERICA AITTAMA



Aittama will participate in pole vaulting in high school, and placed 6th nationally.

Runner

Continued from Page 1B

ification time multiple times. She then came in first place out of 46 at the Oakland County Meet of Champions in May, where she ran a 5:32.

"I like to beat my times and get new personal records and beat the boys," Aittama said.

As she moves on to high school in

the fall, she will continue to accomplish all three of those goals.

Luckily for her, a familiar face will be an assistant coach with the track and cross country program: Aittama's mom, Erica.

She has been Aittama's running inspiration and has always done what she can to help her daughter succeed on the track. They started doing Girls on the Run together before Erica became an assistant coach for the middle school team.

"She always coached me at every meet, helped me think about what I want my next goal to be and pace myself right," Aittama said. "She does a lot of track workouts with me so I can get faster."

In high school, she's excited to break more records and compete with new teammates, but there's one record that stands out that she hopes to break — her mom's.

5:37 is the South Lyon East mile record, a time that Aittama has already

beaten and simply needs to accomplish as a high school student to officially break it. Even more impressive, though, would be topping her mom's mile record of 5:06.

If she continues on the same pace, there will soon be new mile champion in the Aittama household.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

Samulski

Continued from Page 1B

award winning athletic director, physical education and health teacher and a coach to multiple teams. Masi has been the athletic director since 2003. In 2009, he received a certificate from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, a voluntary national certification process for Athlet-

ic Directors.

"Our athletic and extracurricular programs are an integral part of Northville's long-standing Tradition of Excellence in our classrooms, on our fields of play, and beyond the playing field. Brian Samulski's student-focused philosophy, leadership and experience make him a great choice for the role," Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said. "We welcome Mr. Samulski to our Northville team, and know that he shares a commitment to leadership, service and ex-

cellence that is a large part of Bryan Masi's legacy."

Mr. Samulski has a Bachelors in Education majoring in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and a minor in History from Olivet College. He has a Masters in Sports Administration and an Administrative Certificate also from Wayne State University. He has also served on several professional committees such as the MHSSA Scholar-Athlete Committee and a Positive Behavioral Supports Committee.

"Northville Public Schools is student-centered, has great facilities, and is fully supported by its community," said Brian Samulski. "I look forward to establishing relationships with the student athletes, coaches and staff while continuing to build on the great department that Bryan Masi has led for so many successful years."

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Em-bark on a road trip aimed at pets

Gwen Pratesi
Special to USA TODAY

Travel with pets is a growing trend. Our four-legged pals provide emotional support as well as friendship when we're away from home.

Many hotels and resorts are pet-friendly and some even offer welcome amenities, dog-sitting services and gourmet canine cuisine.

Some properties have a nightly or one-time charge, but such chains as Kimpton Hotels welcome travel with pets and host furry friends for no extra fee.

Some restaurants and bars also cater specifically to pups, and there are other attractions you both can enjoy.

These road trips explore some of the most pet-friendly destinations in the USA. So, pack up your BFF (Best Furry Friend) and hit the road for a howling good time you'll both remember.

The Jersey Shore and Philadelphia

Asbury Park, New Jersey, is the new cultural hub of the Jersey Shore with its eclectic arts and music scene. You and your pup will enjoy the hip vibe at The Asbury Hotel, burgeoning restaurant scene and playtime at Asbury Park Dog Beach. Don't miss Yappy Hour at the Wonder Bar. Dogs run the show at this rowdy nightly event.

Next, head west and splurge on a stay at Philadelphia's iconic property, The Rittenhouse. In the city, free walking tours; the Magic Gardens, a mosaic art environment and public murals; and the Philadelphia Art Museum also welcome four-legged friends. After a walk through Rittenhouse Square, savor French fare with your pal at Rouge.

California Coast

Take in spectacular views walking along the Scenic Road path in Carmel-by-the-Sea. In the afternoon, book massages or surf lessons followed by Yappy Hour in town. Plan to stay at Carmel Valley Ranch, a 500-acre playground, where you and your pet can sniff, hike and experience the great outdoors.

Afterward, drive south to Santa Mon-



Enjoy the pristine white sand beaches and sunsets at Fort De Soto Dog Beach Park in St. Petersburg, Fla., and then head to The Dog Bar for cocktails downtown. VISIT ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

ica. Stroll on the boardwalk, enjoy VIP pampering at the best spas and run off-leash at Herb Katz Dog Park. The new Santa Monica Proper Hotel will be happy to host you and your pet. The hotel will donate 10% of your pet fees to the Best Friends Animal Society.

Then, bring your surfer dog to Huntington Beach's McKenna Subaru Surf City Surf Dog event. This pawisively riveting experience occurs in September at Surf City USA. Following the big event, pamper your pup with the Paw-séa Pet Package at Paséa Hotel & Spa.

Florida beaches and theme parks

Kick off your Florida adventure with sunrises on the East Coast at the Kimpton Vero Beach Hotel & Spa. Pets are

welcomed with amenities and invited to socialize with other pups at the nightly wine reception. After a day at Vero Beach Dog Park, treat your BFF to dinner on the beach at Mulligan's Beach House.

Take time out for adult thrills at Universal Orlando Resort. Loews hotels and the Hard Rock Hotel welcome your furry friends with bowls, beds and treats or even gourmet meals, upon request. While you're hitting the rides, your pup can spend the days playing with his pals at Universal's on-site kennel.

End your vacation with pristine beaches and sunsets at St. Pete Beach at the TradeWinds Island Resorts. Play all day at the Paw Playground at Fort De Soto and surf the waves on Dog Beach. At the sun sets, head to The Dog Bar for cocktails in downtown St. Petersburg.

The Lone Star State

Grab a burger and a brew at Austin's Yard Bar while your pup plays at their off-leash dog park monitored by Bark Rangers. Then, treat your pal to a shopping spree at Hill Country Galleria or take a hike on the Barton Creek Greenbelt. In the evening, escape to The Hotel San José.

Afterward, bring your furry pal to the Big D for a doggone great time. Restaurants including MUTTS Canine Cantina have literally gone to the dogs. There also are plenty of pet-friendly green spaces and trails to explore and you can both ride the vintage McKinney Avenue Trolley for free.

Pamper your pooch with a stay downtown at The Jole.

BOOK REVIEW

Complex 'Saints' plays out in Philippine drug war

Delfina V. Barbiero
USA TODAY

Jay is just a typical Michigan teen when he finds out that his estranged and beloved cousin has died in a brutal, government-sanctioned drug war halfway across the world.

Author Randy Ribay pulls no punches in "Patron Saints of Nothing" (Kokila, 352 pp., ★★☆☆), which Epic Reads calls one of the most anticipated YA books of the summer. Born in the Philippines and raised in Michigan, Ribay understands Jay's confusion about his identity and the isolation he feels from his extended family. Ribay also pulls from current events to write about the cruel policy against drug addicts made under Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Since taking office, Duterte has carried out a war on drugs that permits the killing of any drug addict and drug pusher by police. Human Rights Watch has estimated that since 2016, more than 12,000 Filipinos have been killed in the drug war, most of them poor.

When Jay learns that his cousin Jun was killed in the drug war, he sets out on a journey to a country he barely remembers to find out exactly what happened.

Jay believe his cousin did not die in the drug war because of drugs — but possibly for shedding light on police abuse.

Jun is the "Saint" of the story, a young man only a few years older than Jay, but with a wisdom and kindness that surpasses even the adults in this story. Jay and Jun spent their youths countries apart but were pen pals. Even though Jay stopped replying to Jun's letters, Jun continuously wrote to him with honesty and kindness. Through the letters, Jun reveals to Jay the hypocrisy of the church, the vulnerability of the poor and his feeling trapped under the watchful gaze of his emotionally abusive father.

Who also happens to be the police chief.

Jay takes these old letters with him to the Philippines to try to piece together any clues he might find. But what he



finds is a family more willing to sweep the death of their son under the rug than to even have a proper funeral.

As mysterious as the plot is, the book is no thriller and has a purposefully slow pace. And that is the pace of grief. "Patron Saints of Nothing" is part coming-of-age story, part mystery. But more than anything, it is an exploration of finding your identity through grief itself — not only the grief of loss, but the regret of a lost connection. Ribay paints a family that cannot communicate with each other, but longs for the emotional embrace of a strong family.

As an immigrant myself, I felt deeply connected to the humiliation of being ignorant of your own country and only learning from being there yourself just how privileged and at loss you can be without your family.

Ribay's novel is not one to miss. It's a perfect balance of an immigrant story, an American story and a story of grief, woven together by the perspective of a teenage boy trying to understand his family and himself.

BOOK REVIEW

Imaginative 'FKA USA' gets a little road-trip weary

Elliot Schreier
Special to USA TODAY

This novel starts with a map. It looks sort of like the United States, if someone took a baseball bat to it. California is lopped off, the Great Lakes region has been smooshed into something called the Soviet Federated Frontier, and "Florida" is an island off the coast.

Welcome to the world of Reed King's "FKA USA" (Flatiron, 463 pp., ★★☆☆), a futuristic U.S. that has splintered into territories ruled by corporations and bandits. Sixteen-year-old Truckee Wallace works the assembly line in the Crunchtown 407 factory ("I was one-thousandth responsible for every cargo load of Flavor Blast Cheez Dust™ that blew out of the factory doors and chugged on to another production department"). He has few goals in life beyond maybe persuading a girl to have sex with him someday and making enough from his meager paychecks to upgrade his VR headset.

This humdrum existence is upended when the company president calls Truckee into his office and tasks him with escorting a talking goat across the lawless middle of America. Truckee's story becomes a sort of "Mad Max" reimagining of "The Wizard of Oz," complete with its own version of the Yellow Brick Road. Truckee has his own versions of Dorothy's friends, too, including Sammy, an android freed from a lifetime working as a pleasure bot, and Tiny Tim, who's got a case of



bad head wiring.

King, the novel's pseudonymous author, takes infectious joy in his imagined world; its impressive layers are the best reason to read the book. "FKA USA" is riddled with footnotes and digressions and interludes and commentaries. This avalanche of minutiae makes it feel as if King is talking at us more than telling us a story, however, and the storyline soon suffocates.

If taken less as a novel than as an encyclopedia of an imagined future, "FKA USA" has a lot to offer. King explores ideas of humans who "transspeciate" to a cat form, Monsanto-style fast-cycling crops that eventually kill their farmers, a virus that grants outsiders neural control of a person and a PTA run by literal clones. The book's not afraid to ask big questions, such as "why, if God created the universe, he couldn't invent endless oil fields and soil that didn't turn irradiated and an ozone layer that didn't vanish like a cloud of vape smoke."

For such a futuristic world, though, "FKA USA's" sexual politics are decidedly retrograde. Women are either lavishly hot ("Her cleavage, I felt, warranted a real hard look-see") or grotesquely unattractive. Granted, our protagonist is a 16-year-old boy, but after spending nearly 500 pages in his mind, his limited view of women starts to feel squeamishly like "FKA USA's" instead.

Richly textured but curiously shapeless, "FKA USA" is a wander through a strange and fascinating future, nudged along by weak currents of story.

PREP ATHLETICS

Local H.S. athletes star in state playoffs

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2019 spring sports season is complete and saw many local high school athletes enjoy incredible success on the field. A number of area teams won state championships, while several more made the state finals and made deep postseason runs.

As we head into July, let's take a look back at some of those athletes that were critical to the success of their teams.

Brother Rice baseball

The Warriors advanced all the way to the state semifinals, knocking off one of the state's best team's, Birmingham Seaholm, in the process. They also escaped a difficult regional, which saw them beat Romeo in 12 innings.

Two of the players most important in the run were pitcher Tyler Sarkisian and infielder/outfielder Tito Flores, who is headed to Michigan.

Sarkisian was phenomenal on the mound, pitching 17 and 2/3 innings with a 0.50 ERA. He allowed just one earned run, which came in the state semifinal against state champion Portage Northern. He had nine strikeouts, allowed 12 hits and five walks, compiling a 2-1 record. Sarkisian pitched 7 and 2/3 innings in relief during the team's nail-biter versus Romeo, allowing his team to come back for the win in the 12th.

That game-winning run against Romeo was scored by Flores, who had a dynamite postseason as well. He went 14-for-24 (.583), with five RBIs, one walk, three doubles, a triple, four steals and 11 runs scored.

Novi soccer

Arguably the most impressive team in the entire region regardless of sport, the No. 1 nationally ranked Wildcats won their second straight state championship, beating Plymouth 5-0 in the state final.

There are a number of players who are worth mentioning, but two stand out above the rest: Avery Fenchel and Jessie Bandyk.

Fenchel had nine goals and two assists in seven playoff games. For the second year in a row, she scored the winning goal in the state championship game. She was voted to both the Division 1 All-State 1st Team as well as the Dream Team (the top 11 players in the state, regardless of Division). Whenever Novi needed a goal, it looked to Fenchel.

Bandyk was just as important. She had five goals and four assists in seven playoff games. She had two goals in the state championship game. She too, was voted to both the Division 1 All-State 1st Team as well as the Dream Team and she was voted "Ms. Soccer," which is awarded to the top player in the state.

Brother Rice lacrosse

Brother Rice dominated the state lacrosse scene this season, going undefeated and winning the state championship. That state title didn't come easily, however, as Catholic Central controlled much of the game.

In order to pull out the win, it needed some late-game heroics, and got them from Justin Glod, who scored with one second left to give Brother Rice the one-goal lead.

In six playoff games, Glod scored 22 goals and had eight assists.

Catholic Central lacrosse

The Shamrocks were unable to upset Brother Rice in the state final, but they still had a successful season of their own, going 20-4 and getting past several tough teams to make the final.

The scoring attack relied heavily on Joey Kamish, who scored six goals in the state championship game alone. On the season, he tallied 85 goals and 42 assists in 24 games. He had 25 goals and eight assists in the playoffs.

Following the season, Kamish was named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse award, given to the best player in the state.

Plymouth soccer

The KLAA flexed its soccer strength this postseason, sending two teams from the West Division to the state championship game. Plymouth had multiple comebacks in order to make that possible and leaned on the scoring prowess of two key players throughout its run.

Kennedy White led the team in scoring with 11 goals and four assists in seven playoff games. She was the team's



Marian senior Jansen Eichenlaub dribbles down the field in the Division 2 state final against Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern on June 14. Marian won 2-1. MATT VAILLIENCOURT/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

scoring leader during the regular season as well, scoring 32 goals and tallying 17 assists. She was named to the Dream Team.

Brianna McNab helped with the scoring punch of the Wildcats, with seven goals and two assists in the seven postseason games. She had 11 more goals and seven assists on top of that in the regular season.

Brianna's reg season is 11 goals & 7 asst and her playoff stats are for the 7 games played was 7 goals & 2 asst. here's the breakdown:

Marian soccer

Marian continued its division two soccer dominance, winning its third consecutive state title against Forest Hills Northern.

Leading the charge throughout both the regular season and playoffs was Jansen Eichenlaub, who was named to the Dream Team. She scored five goals and added an assist in the playoffs.

Just as important was Maria Askounis, who scored two goals and had one assist in the playoffs. Those goals were the game-winners in both the state semifinal and state championship game.

Marian lacrosse

The Marian lacrosse team got over the hump and reached the state finals before falling to East Grand Rapids. The Mustangs finished 18-2 overall.

Crucial to the team's success was Coco Chinonis and Mia Hannawa.

Chinonis finished the season with 86 goals, 13 assists, 42 draw controls, 44 ground balls and nine caused turnovers. She scored the game-winning goal against previously unbeaten Farmington in the regional finals in double overtime. She was named All-Catholic and All-State Honorable Mention.

Hannawa finished the season with 60 goals, 14 assists, 62 draw controls, 42 ground balls and 13 caused turnovers. She was named first-team All State, All-Catholic and the MVP of Marian Lacrosse.

Canton softball

The Canto Chiefs won a regional title this year to advance to the state quarterfinals, where they lost to Howell.

Key to Canton's big playoff run was shortstop and pitcher Shae Scott. At the plate, she went 11-for-17 (.647), with a triple, RBI and six runs scored.

Her pitching may have been even more impressive. She threw a no-hitter against Salem, going all seven innings with seven strikeouts and three walks. She also pitched a complete-game shutout in the regional final against Allen Park, giving up just three hits.

Her total playoff pitching stats were 24 and 2/3 innings pitched, nine total runs allowed, 19 strikeouts, three wins, one save and two shutouts.

Northville tennis

The state power was unable to win their third straight state title as a team,



Novi Wildcat co-Captain Jessica Bandyk, left, and Forest Hills Central midfielder Grace Kline both pursue the ball. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

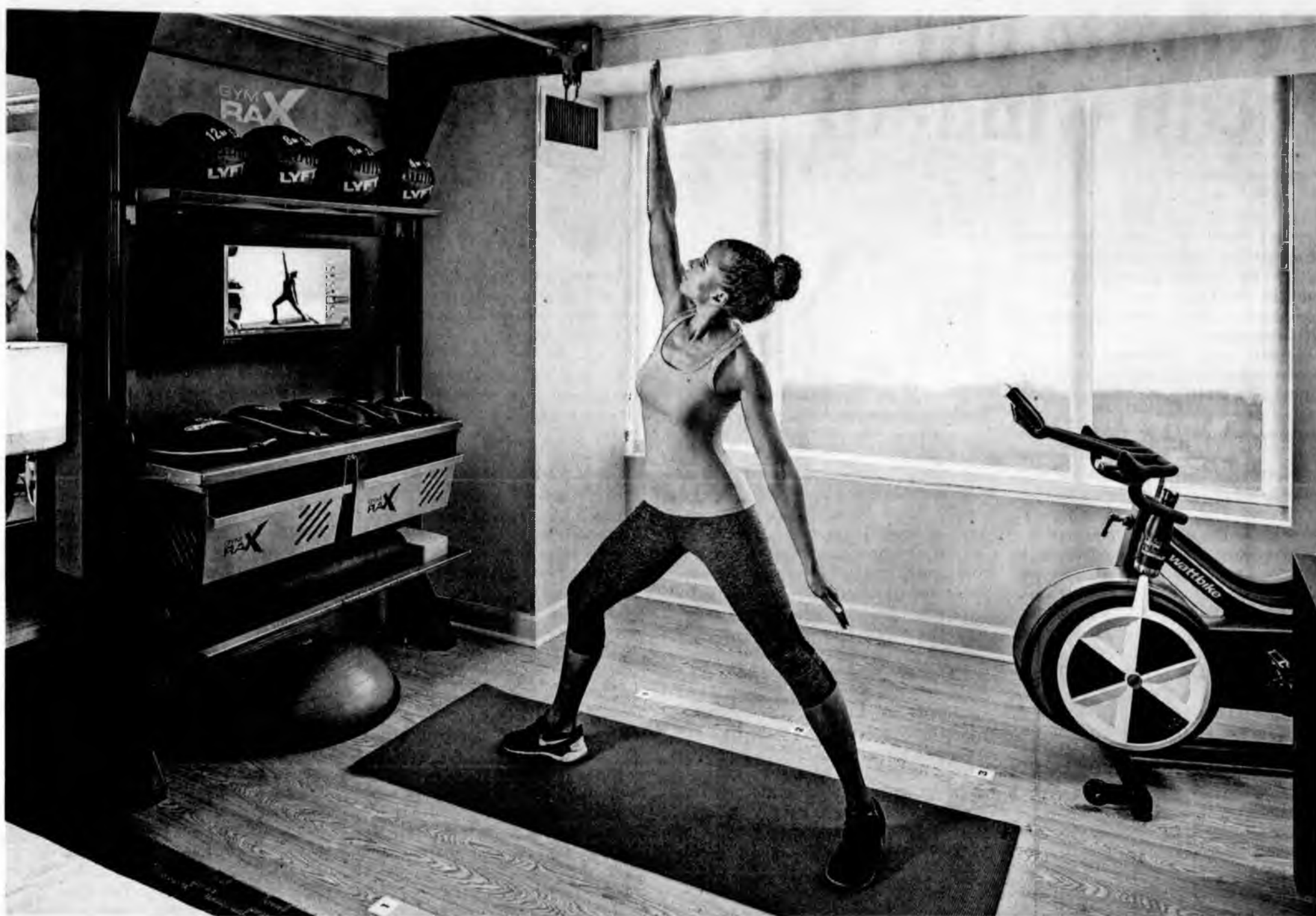


Novi Wildcat Avery Fenchel used her head, and feet, to help Novi to its second straight soccer title on June 15. Fenchel scored the Wildcats' first two goals of the day. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

but still had an impressive year, finishing fourth in the state. One doubles pair did win an individual championship though — the No. 3 doubles partnership of Connie Gao and Michelle Tong. It's

Gao's third individual state title.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



Hilton offers in-room fitness amenities at hotels in New York, Texas, Illinois and Florida. HILTON

Work out without leaving your hotel room

Adrienne Jordan
USA TODAY

If you like working out but don't want to make the trek down to the hotel fitness center, you can take advantage of the growing trend of in-room fitness amenities.

You can stick to your workout routine when traveling by using interactive home gym systems such as Mirror; burning calories with stationary Peloton bikes in your room; or get flowing on yoga mats, exercise balls and other workout equipment that allow you to break a sweat privately.

"The intrinsic need for wellness offerings is showing up in markets you may not expect," says Guy Langford, vice chairman and U.S. leader of the Transportation, Hospitality & Services industry at Deloitte, which collects statistics on the travel industry. "Las Vegas for example, is seeing an increase in properties focusing on health and wellness, designating specific rooms and floors to cater to wellness-minded guests. This not only provides the experiences travelers are looking for but also provides the hotel with an opportunity to drive a higher room rate and overall revenue."

"Having workout gear in the room provides for me fewer excuses for not staying active while on vacation," says Los Angeles-based frequent traveler, Jynarra Brinson. "The convenience of rolling out of bed and not needing to leave the comfort of your room to exercise is something I think hoteliers should consider more often."

EVEN Hotels, an IHG hotel brand, equips every guest room with a yoga mat and block, resistance bands and an exercise ball in addition to workout-friendly flooring and on-demand fitness videos ranging from 5 to 30 minutes.

In May 2017, Hilton incorporated in-room fitness to a portion of their portfolio.

Melissa Walker, Hilton's senior director of Global Brand Wellness, launched Hilton's Five Feet to Fitness concept, in which guest rooms include guided workout routines on a fitness kiosk, an indoor spin bike, suspension accessories, resistance bands, exercise balls, yoga mats and sports performance flooring.

"Five Feet to Fitness allows our guests to pursue wellness on their own terms and pursue a wide variety of fitness modalities to include strength, cardio, functional and mind/body training," Walker tells USA TODAY.

Hilton plans to offer Five Feet to Fitness in more than 560 DoubleTree by Hilton properties globally by 2020. The in-room amenities currently are available at hotels in New York, Texas, Illinois and Florida.

Many properties now offer stationary bikes in-room, according to Peloton



Mirror is an interactive home gym system. MIRROR.CO



, which has its exercise bikes in rooms at more than 70 U.S. hotels.

"Since we debuted our first bikes in 2014, we've heard from our community that they want to continue working out with Peloton while they travel," Ryan Crabbe, the company's senior director of commercial experience, tells USA TODAY.

To that end, Westin has designated WestinWORKOUT guest rooms in more than 50 locations across the country, where travelers can work out on Peloton bikes.

And some hotels across the country are incorporating another tech-based wellness tool in the rooms: Mirror, a digital personal trainer that instructs on different fitness routines, from yoga and Pilates to boxing and cardio.

To coincide with Global Wellness Day on June 8, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group unveiled Mirror specialty suites across all properties in the U.S., including New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and Miami. On June 1, Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa launched its new Wellness Suites to include Mirror.

Another fitness amenity popping up in U.S. hotel rooms is complimentary workout and wellness kits that fit in bags, boxes and carts. For example, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside offers "Bootcamp in a Box," which includes free weights, ab rollers, push-up bars, jump rope, cushioned knee pad and a workout guide.

Boutique hotels also are jumping on the in-room fitness trend. The LINQ Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas has com-

plimentary in-room fitness carts that include yoga mats, stability balls, fitness discs and foam rollers, while LUMA Hotel Times Square has a "GYM-bag" that features a yoga mat and block, bionic bar, ergonomic push-up bar, resistance bands, ab wheel and muscle relaxation balls.

Brinson says hotel in-room workout options ultimately were the deciding factor when she booked her upcoming trip.

"Other hotels were comparable in rate and walkability, but could not compete with the in-room features of the hotel my partner and I chose," she said. "The exercise bike will be a lifesaver, especially since this next trip will involve ingesting lots of carbohydrates."

Fed rate cut won't mean windfall

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday signaled that it may cut interest rates as soon as next month for the first time in more than a decade.

But while rate cuts are like steroids for stock markets, borrowers shouldn't anticipate a big windfall, because the central bank already has boosted rates sharply the past 3½ years, including four hikes last year, experts say.

"For consumers, all that will do is unwind a fraction of the nine rate hikes enacted since 2015," says Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "All it does is take you back to where you were 12 months ago."

About half of Fed policymakers expect to lower the central bank's key short-term rate by as much as half a percentage point this year. Economists believe the move could happen at a late July meeting if talks next week between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping don't head off Trump's threats to slap a 25% tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The new levies would more than double existing ones on China's shipments and could tip the U.S. into recession, economists say.

Limited help

But let's put a rate cut in perspective. A quarter-point reduction on a \$30,000 home equity line of credit would shave the monthly payment by \$6.25, McBride says. Two such cuts would trim the bill by \$12.50. By contrast, the nine rate increases since late 2015 have lifted the same payment by \$56.

"To households on a tight budget, this is of limited help," McBride says.

Similarly, a quarter-point cut on a \$5,000 credit card balance would lower the minimum payment by just \$1 a month, a fraction of the \$9 in increases already enacted.

Holden Lewis, a home finance expert at NerdWallet, says any cut would still be money in consumers' pockets. Those



Your minimum credit card payment likely won't decrease much.
GETTY IMAGES

with variable-rate loans, such as home equity lines, "should expect to see smaller monthly payments," he says. "For those who may be looking to borrow money to fund home renovations, this could be a time to do so cheaply."

Meanwhile, bank customers who finally have started to benefit from higher savings rates could see some of those gains curtailed going forward. Rates on one-year and longer-term certificates of deposits already have edged down this year in anticipation of lower Fed rates, says Ken Tumin, founder of DepositAccounts.com. That's likely to accelerate after the Fed on Wednesday more explicitly raised the prospect of rate cuts, he says.

Banks move quickly on such longer-term accounts because they don't want to get stuck paying higher returns for extended periods when rates are falling, McBride says.

Banks to move quickly

Meanwhile, online banks, which have been paying much higher rates on money market and savings accounts, likely would lower their rates within a month or two of any Fed rate cut as their profit margins narrow. A study Tumin conducted during Fed rate decreases in 2007 found banks initially lower savings rates by about half the size of the Fed's cut and then catch up to match the central bank's move within several months.

Seasonal proverbs can stunt a 401(k)

Ken Fisher
Columnist
USA TODAY

Making investment decisions based on seasonal proverbs could squish your 401(k) retirement savings.

U.S. stocks dropped more than 6% last month – their worst May since 2010 and second-worst since 1962. That sour four-week stretch seemed to prove the old adage, "Sell in May and go away."

But don't let coincidence fool you. Markets don't heed calendars.

Such seasonal myths as "Sell in May and go away" have lingered for eons. Bedfellows include "The January effect," which argues January's returns (or its first few days) predict the year. Then comes the "Santa Claus rally," which 2018 disproved, and "financial hurricane season" – which supposedly means awful September and/or October returns. All of these proverbs work occasionally. None work often enough to help you.

Sell in May at least started with logic. Its original name – sell in May and go away until St. Leger Day – came from U.K. stockbrokers traditionally taking summers off until a famous September horse race (the St. Leger Stakes). The reduced liquidity supposedly brought sharper swings and weaker returns. Avoiding the summer months dodged this problem.

But decades of stock returns destroyed this logic. Modern sell-in-May thinking argues that avoiding the six months from April 30 to Halloween spells success. Yes, stocks' average returns over that period – 4.2% since 1925 – trails returns from Halloween through April 30, which are 7.4%. But 4.2% isn't negative. If you want the stock market's 9.9% annualized return, you need those spring and summer months along with autumn and winter. Otherwise, your return will be lower and reaching your retirement goal harder.

Seasonal adages "work" just often

Short-term timing your 401(k) puts your savings at risk, especially if you invest based on calendar trivia.

enough to sustain their myths. January predicted full-year returns in 65 of 92 years – a 70.6% success rate. April 30-Oct. 31 was negative 28.3% of the time. September stunk 47.8% of the time, while October sank 39.1% of years. The Santa Claus rally paid off an amazingly high 78.3% of years.

Calendars didn't drive any of these past returns. Consider January. Stocks are positive on a yearly and monthly basis more often than not, making it logical that good Januaries would happen in "up" years. And the bad? It's normal for a "down" January to occur during a bear market. That's a coincidence.

And what happens when seasonal myths overlap? While the six-month "sell in May" stretch is lackluster, July is the calendar's best month. So if you sell in June, you've sold too soon! Do you sell in August to avoid "financial hurricane season" in September and October, then buy in November? September's average – a negative 0.6% return – might seem to support that. But that is dragged down by a handful of awful Septembers in the 1930s and 2008. Is it wise to stake your retirement on a few outliers? Or is it better to remember September and October are positive more often than not?

Short-term timing your 401(k) generally puts your retirement savings at risk, especially if you invest based on calendar trivia. What happens if you sell after a down May, like in 2019, but the rest of the year is fine? That happened in 2010, when U.S. stocks fell 8% in May, then went on to climb 16.8% from May's end through Dec. 31.

So ignore seasonality. Always think long term. Your 401(k) needs to provide for your lifetime.

Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher. The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.

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The issues that older workers face in the job hunt

 Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

With age comes wisdom. That old proverb may very well be true, but with age and wisdom also come challenges during the job hunt process. The further along you get in your career, the more challenging it can be to find and chase the right opportunities. If you find yourself looking for the next step or a fresh start as an older job seeker, here are some of the challenges you may face.

'You're overqualified.'

Accumulating a career's worth of skills and experience is a great thing. However, many companies are trying to save money or resources by hiring more junior employees, with more junior salaries. When you're looking for a new job, be prepared to make a case for why you think the job is the right opportunity for you, even if it seems like you're over-qualified on paper.

'We need someone tech savvy in this role.'

Fighting the stereotype that older employees are not as tech-savvy as younger ones is tough. Having entered the workforce before everyone had a phone surgically attached to their hands, there may be an assumption that you're not as tech-friendly as other candidates. But this is a skill set you can absolutely build, and one you should emphasize on your resume and any application materials.

'We're looking for someone to grow into this role.'

This can be code for "we're hiring



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younger because it's cheaper." Discriminating a potential employee based on age is illegal. However, there are many ways that age discrimination can still sneak into the process. Dates on a resume can be a giveaway, and in-person interviews can make it very clear that you're not an intern fresh out of school. It's ugly, but unfortunately, it will likely continue to be a source of bias (con-

scious or not).

If it seems to be a case of the company not wanting to support a more experienced employee's salary, you don't need to take entry-level dollars to get the job.

Rather, show how an investment in you is an investment in the right skills for the job.

'We're looking for a specialist.'

One of the selling points of your career is that you've likely built a number of strong skill sets and a solid base of experience. When pitching yourself for a particular job, make sure you're specific about the most important skill or quality that makes you perfect for this role. Your resume (and interview) should be targeted for the most important skills, not just the most skills, period.

'We just don't have any senior-level openings.'

The further you go, the tougher it will be to find job openings on your experience level. It's a fact of hiring life that most jobs will likely be for entry-level or junior positions that have a naturally higher turnover. This means you may need to be more proactive in your job search. Traditional job sites may not have a satisfactory number of openings, try other avenues. Build your network and work it for word-of-mouth opportunities. Whatever edge you can get in an increasingly narrow field will help make your job search less frustrating.

If you're a mid- or later-career job seeker, it can feel like there are many factors working against you as you look for your new career opportunities. But it's important not to feel stuck, and make sure that you're creating a lean, focused approach to branding yourself. Being ready for these challenges can help you navigate them more easily when they come your way.

Kate Lopaze 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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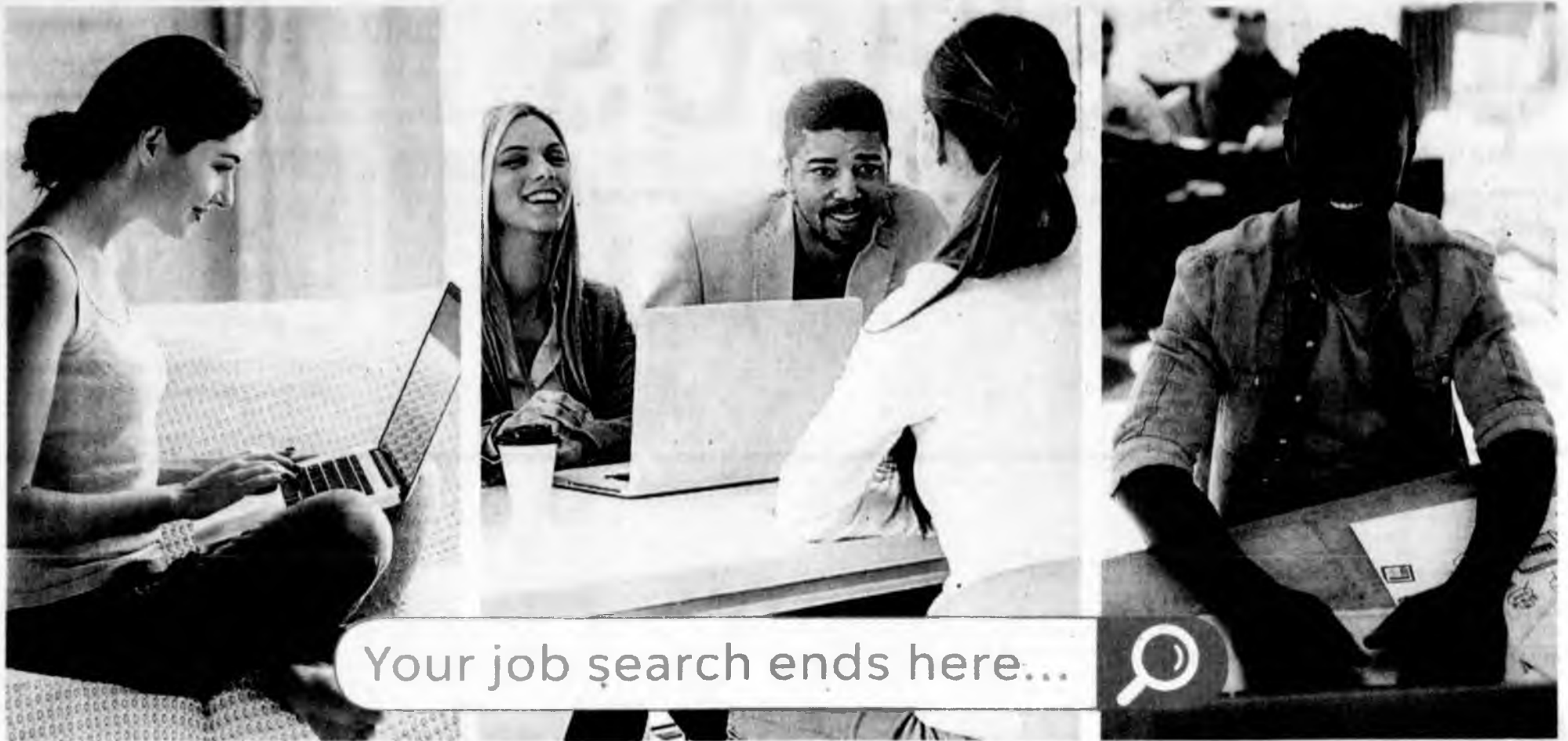
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

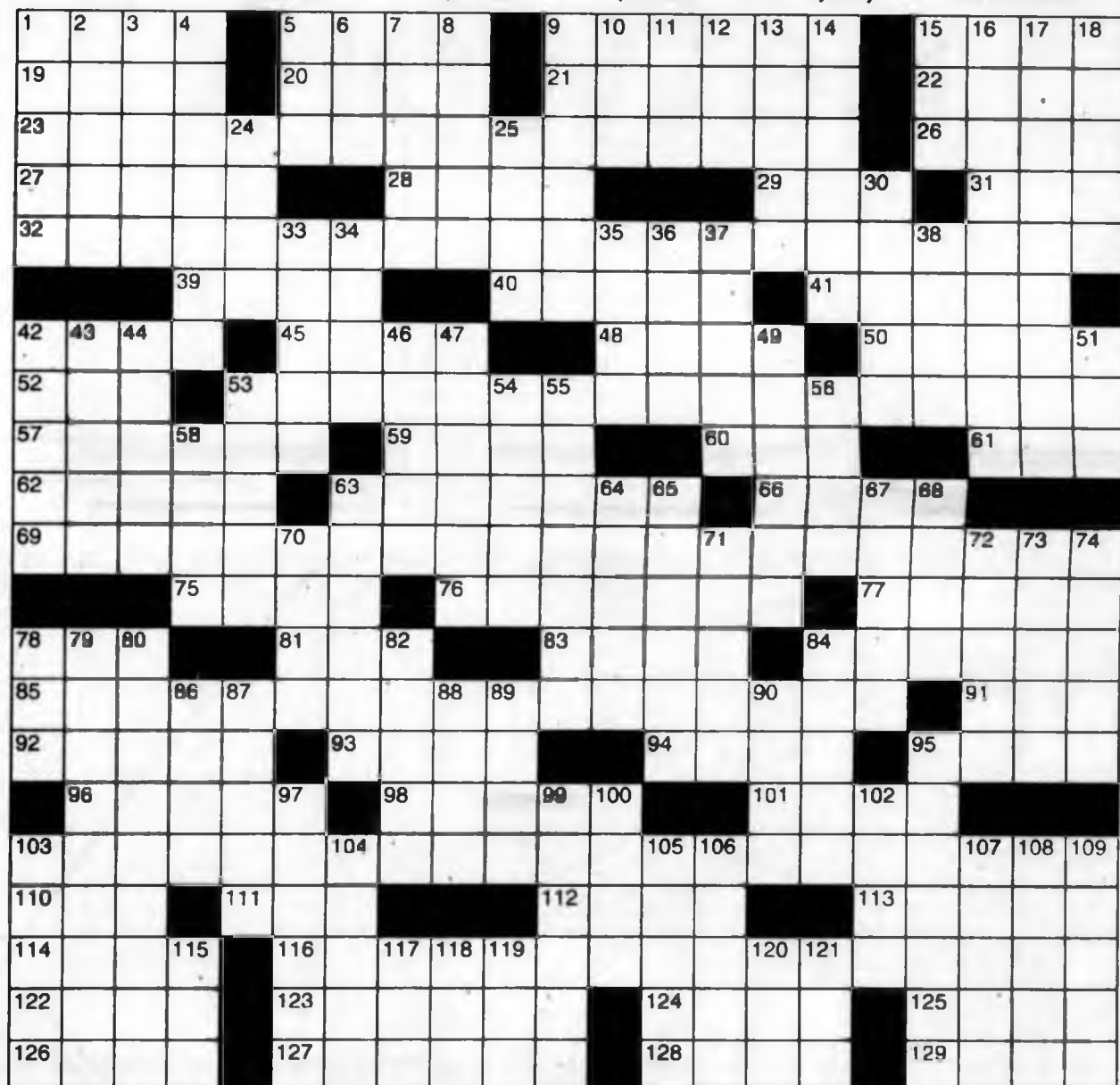
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Livestock annoyances
5 Mark for omission
9 Tennis star Seles
15 Feudal drudge
19 Like — out of hell
20 Special periods
21 Tesla vehicle
22 Court claim
23 THREE OF A KIND
26 Himalayan hoax subject
27 — Lodge (motel chain)
28 British title
29 Yoko who appeared in "Let It Be"
31 Op. — (footnote abbr.)
32 THREE OF A FIND
39 — awkward position
40 Broadcast
41 Severe spasm
42 Chicken, e.g.
45 Destruction
48 Opposite of away
50 Merits, as an income
- 52 "Put a sock in it!"
53 THREE OF A HIND
57 Pro at alterations
59 Way out
60 British title
61 Green tract
62 Put lube in
63 Deny, as a statement
66 Blue-skinned race in "Avatar"
69 THREE OF A BIND
75 Wry comic Mort
76 Bitter complainers
77 Troll's cousin
78 Famed coach Parseghian
81 Edmonton's prov.
83 Like boys
84 Certain granola snack
85 THREE OF A WIND
91 Rink star
92 "Silas Marner" novelist
93 On the cutting edge of art, informally
- 94 Fluids in blood
95 Car part on a wheel, to Brits
96 Airport town on Long Island's South Shore
98 Bite gently
101 Giddy delight
103 THREE OF A MIND
110 In the past
111 Really strain
112 — Ball (arcade favorite)
113 Slight ridge on a surface
114 Tiny particle
116 THREE OF A RIND
122 Calf's father
123 More diletantish
124 Cuisine with many curries
125 Under sail
126 Apple discard
127 Job the reb
128 Desiccated
129 Gen — (millennials)
- 4 Letter-printing aid
5 "Gloria in Excelsis —" (hymn)
6 Act human, so they say
7 Crust, mantle or core
8 Expository piece
9 Dry red wine
10 Fall mo.
11 In no way
12 Super-cold
13 Dinner chicken
14 "The Human Condition" author
15 CIA figure
16 Concerned with voting
17 Inclination to keep silent
18 Islam, e.g.
24 Hired tough
25 Structured gps.
30 Orangi shade
33 Knightly virtue
34 Slaughter in an outfield
35 Ian Fleming novel
36 Forecaster
37 Water pitchers
- 38 Part of UAE
42 Aperture setting for a shutterbug
43 Atheist
44 During which
46 Geyser stuff
47 More alluring
49 Signs again, as a contract
51 Jamaican pop genre
53 Orators' platforms
54 Lisa of "Melrose Place"
55 "The hour has arrived"
56 Asia's shrunken — Sea
58 Kinds of bulbs, in brief
63 Big name in polls
64 "Sounds like —" ("Let's do it!")
65 Gives up
67 Human herbivore
68 "— it rich?"
70 Converse
71 Minoan land
72 N'awins sub
73 Celebrity astrologer
74 — Haute (Indiana city)
78 Master pilot
79 Eliminating as a possibility
80 Plato's pupil
82 Rodeo ride
84 Dental care brand
86 Mouselike critter
87 Half-cocked
88 Broadcast
89 Hale — (comet)
90 Strong desire
95 Afternoon service salver
97 Public squares
99 Contend
100 Young 'un
102 Irish Gaelic
103 Bard's feet
104 Really strain
105 Boston hoopsters
106 Actress Anne
107 Angelou's "And Still —"
108 S.F. NFLer
109 Epic stories
115 Hardwood tree
117 VW lead-in
118 Carrere of "Rising Sun"
119 — capita
120 Sculling item
121 Contend

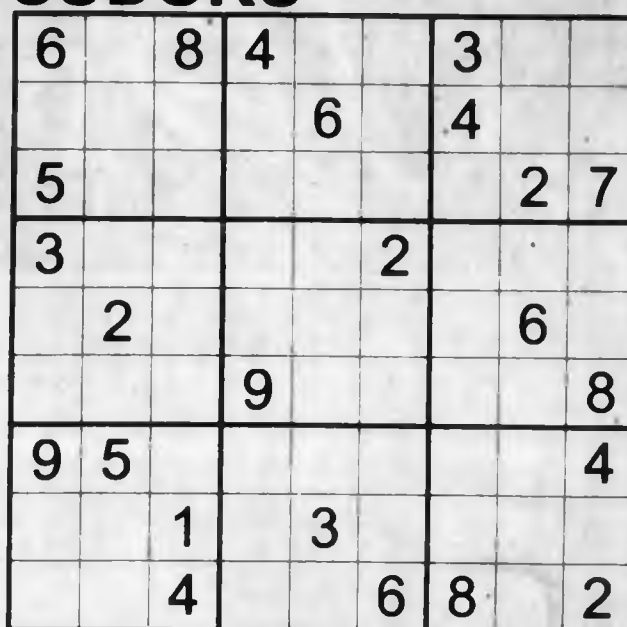
DOWN

- 1 Like skates
2 Crude counters
3 Cats, in Spanish



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

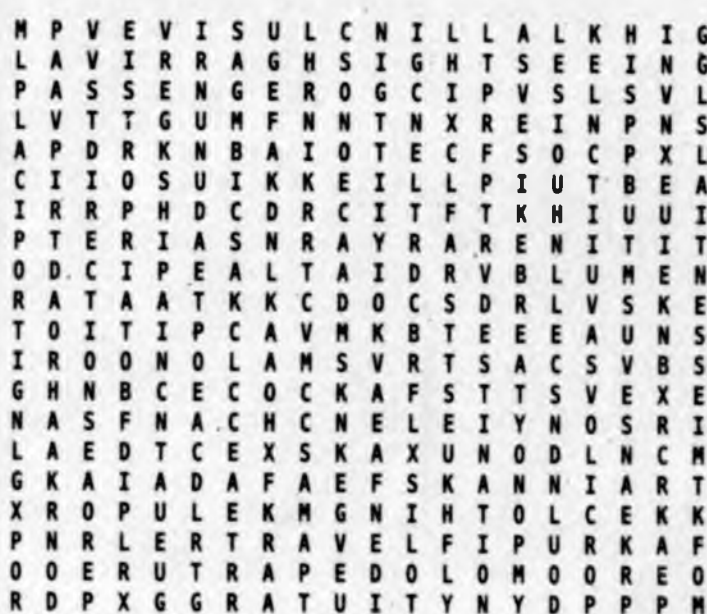
SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

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

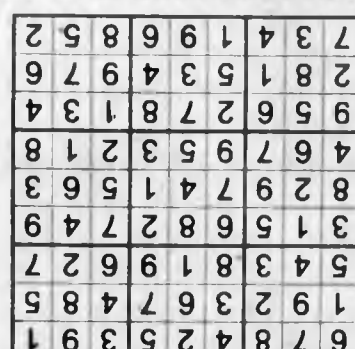
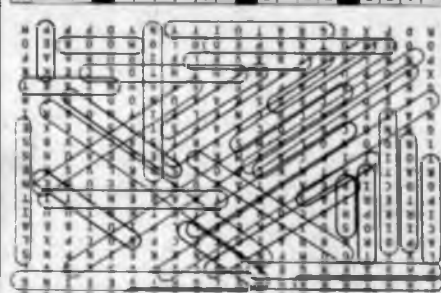
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04 Dodge 245509, 06 Chevy 278345
06 Honda 090797, 07 BMW 15919
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12 Chevy 199974, 03 Ford 896259
04 Pontiac 100409, 04 Jeep 213434
03 Mercury 622216, 03 Chevy 308544
06 Chrysler 046285
07 Pontiac 233454
04 Ford 116793, 11 Dodge 520840
11 Ford 121602, 10 Ford 162091
04 Chevy 245510, 09 Dodge 520845
07 Chevy 148378, 09 Pontiac 153174
02 Chevy 101831, 09 Dodge 547449
01 Dodge 216490, 09 Chevy 217541
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00 Dodge 520144, 06 Mercury 610547
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