



Could Underwood’s legs spark U-M offense?

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The Daily Telegram

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 | LENCONNECT.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Parents of disabled son face troubling future



Karen (on couch from left), Jeff and Danny Groff watch as Jessica Hartman plays with her daughter Cecelia during a family “happy hour” held at a relative’s home in Upper Arlington, Ohio.

‘Our worst nightmare is that we lose him first. And our worst nightmare is that we go first.’

Madeline Mitchell USA TODAY

Karen and Jeff Groff have read the same children’s books to their son Danny for nearly four decades. • At 6-foot-1, 39-year-old Danny Groff enjoys sitting between his parents on their couch in Upper Arlington, Ohio, holding a stuffed Bert Muppet toy. He leans in toward his mother as she reads “Curious George Rides a Bike,” and breaks into a smile when she whispers, “George got curious.” • Danny Groff has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a rare and severe type of epilepsy that typically develops in early childhood. About 50,000 people in the United States and 1 million people worldwide have the condition, according to the LGS Foundation. Every time a seizure happens, brain damage occurs that can lead to learning difficulties and other lifelong disabilities. Danny Groff has seizures daily, and Karen Groff said he has the developmental abilities of a 2-year-old.

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Family portraits sit behind Jeff Groff as he reads to his son, Danny. From left in the pictures are Karen and Jeff when they were both young teachers. Danny and his sister Jessica are pictured in the smaller portraits. PHOTOS BY DORAL CHENOWETH/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Kirk, Trump fueled each other’s rise

Activist had prominent role in president’s orbit

Bart Jansen, Terry Collins and Lauren Villagran USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Republican President Donald Trump called him “Great” and “Legendary.” Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom recognized his success drawing young people to the Republican Party. The president’s son, Donald Trump Jr., said he was “like a little brother to me.”

Charlie Kirk wasn’t a Trump aide. He didn’t have a college degree. But over the last decade, the conservative phenom built Turning Point USA into a group that helped propel Trump to the

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State education board appoints interim state superintendent

Lori Higgins Chalkbeat

Sue Carnell, the chief deputy superintendent at the Michigan Department of Education, will take over as interim state superintendent in October and serve until the man who was selected to permanently take the job can step into the role. The board last month voted to offer the state superintendent job to Glenn

Maleyko, who currently is the superintendent for Dearborn Public Schools. On Tuesday, Sept. 9, the board approved allowing Pamela Pugh, the president of the board, to negotiate with Maleyko and his attorney on its behalf. It’s unclear when Maleyko will begin. The board’s timeline for the superintendent search process had set Oct. 4 as the start date for the new leader. Tom McMillin, a board member

from Oakland Township, asked about the start date during Tuesday’s monthly meeting, saying, “I’m just wondering if January or April,” or another date. McMillin said there had been some suggestion that Maleyko might need to remain in his Dearborn role through December. “All I can say is that we are negotiating,” Pugh said. Carnell will begin as interim superintendent Oct. 3, the last day for cur-

rent State Superintendent Michael Rice, who is retiring. She will be the first Black woman to serve as state superintendent in Michigan’s history, according to the MDE. Carnell has had a 40-year career in education government, according to an MDE news release. She was superintendent in Westwood Community Schools, deputy superintendent in the

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Volume 133 | No. 239
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