

CANTON OBSERVER

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LOCAL GRAD ADJUSTS TO PRO BALL
SPORTS, B1

Hundreds already voting absentee

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton voters already have begun casting absentee ballots for the Aug. 2 primary, while potential first-time voters face a July 5 deadline to register.

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said her office mailed out 5,695 absentee ballots last Friday.

"We've already gotten 500 back," she said Tuesday.

Absentee voters "every day" are going to the clerk's office or calling to request ballots, Bennett said. Canton has about 63,000 registered voters.

First-time voters are registering so they can weigh in on candidates and ballot issues

this election season.

"We've had a fair amount (of new voters)," Bennett said. "There's a lot of interest."

She cautioned voters filling out their absentee ballots to stick with one political party, because the purpose of a primary is to choose nominees for the November general election.

"You can't cross teams (in the primary)," Bennett said, or the ballot will be spoiled.

Moreover, Michigan has eliminated straight-ticket voting, meaning voters cannot simply check one box to vote for all Democrats or all Republicans on the ballot.

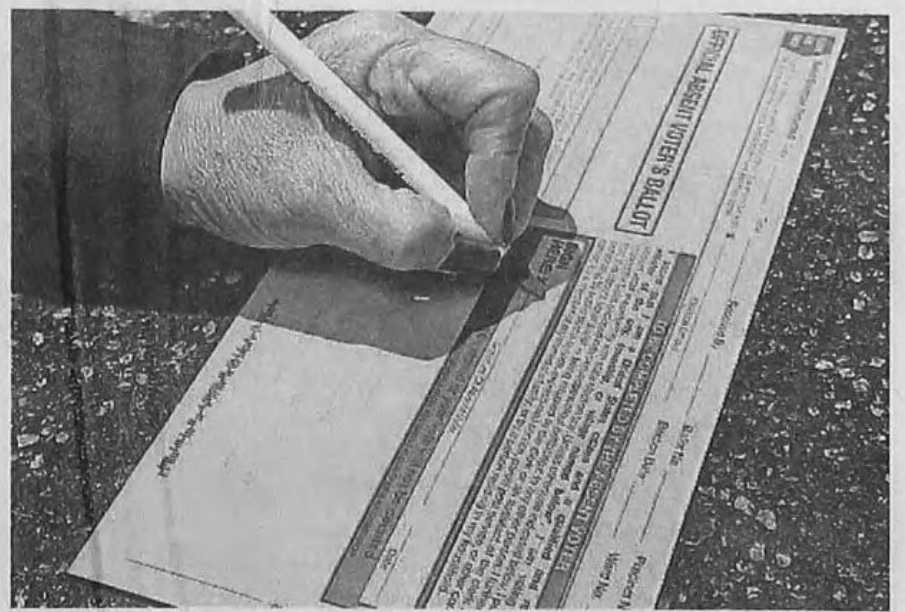
Voters who still need to register may go to the clerk's office, 1150 S. Canton Center. A

local resident must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of Canton to register in Canton.

Bennett has said state officials are predicting "a huge turnout" this election season — particularly in November for the presidential race between presumptive nominees Hillary Clinton, a Democrat, and Donald Trump, a Republican.

Canton's voter turnout reached 84 percent when President Barack Obama was first elected in 2008 and fell to 73 percent in 2016, Bennett said.

Canton voters this year will choose candidates ranging from the Canton Township



FILE PHOTO

Canton voters already are casting their absentee ballots for the Aug. 2 primary.

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FAWZIA AHMED

The crowd gets started at the beginning of the 5K run to benefit charities serving children.

MUSLIMS' 5K EVENT HELPS CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Detroit-area Muslims, embracing the spirit of Ramadan, gathered Saturday outside the Canton Mosque for a 5K walking and running event to raise money for children's mental health services.

Sixty-five participants raised \$15,400 and joined the Fasting 5K event that came near the end of a 17-hour fast. They left from the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs at Palmer and Lotz and made their way to the I-275 Metro Trail.

"It's Muslims of all backgrounds coming together to raise money for a good cause," said Jabeen Siddiqui Hamzavi, a physician, Northville resident and one of the lead organizers.

Some non-Muslims joined the effort, she said: "Giving to charity is a universal concept and it knows no religion."

It marked the second year



FAWZIA AHMED

Muzammil Ahmed, a Canton physician who chairs the Michigan Muslim Community Council, celebrates finishing the 5K charity run.

MCWS has joined the Fasting 5K event, started in 2013 by Boston-area Muslims. Canton joined Boston, Chicago, Columbus, New York, Toronto and Washington, D.C., for this year's event.

Altogether, Fasting 5K this year has raised \$134,100 — a record-shattering amount that far outpaced the cumulative \$80,000 raised during the first three events. Fundraising continues through noon July

10 at www.fasting5k.org.

"We are so thrilled," said Amna Kamal, a Canton resident and corporate communications manager who also served as an organizer.

Detroit-area participants, joining Fasting 5K for a second year, raised \$15,400 prior to Saturday's event. Kamal alone raised nearly \$2,500.

Some of the local money will go to the Detroit-based Children's Center — specifically its Crisis Care Center, a walk-in alternative to the hospital emergency room for non-medical crises affecting the mental health of children ages 4-17. It provides crisis intervention and offers an environment where home, life or behavioral issues can be addressed.

"They are wonderful people," Hamzavi said.

Some money also will go to an international charity, Syrian American Medical Ser-

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Fire severely damages townhome clubhouse

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A fire blamed on a discarded cigarette caused heavy damage to the Meadowood Townhomes clubhouse, near Haggerty and Palmer roads.

An employee and two customers were inside the building when the fire started, but Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Stoecklein said no one was injured.

The fire erupted shortly before 3 p.m. Saturday and prompted fire officials to issue a warning to use caution amid dry weather conditions, especially as the Fourth of July holiday weekend approaches.

Stoecklein said the clubhouse fire is believed to have started when an employee discarded a cigarette in landscaping mulch, with dry conditions causing it to smolder before the blaze ignited and spread to the building.

No criminal charges are expected.

"It was accidental," Stoecklein said.

Officials estimated the damage at \$150,000 and issued a warning as the holiday weekend ushers in outdoor activities such as grilling out.

"With the upcoming holiday weekend, residents should take extra precautions when using items such as charcoal grills, outdoor fire pits and fireworks," Stoecklein said. "Fires can easily start and will spread rapidly due to the dry outdoor conditions."

Fire officials released photos showing extensive damage to the Meadowood clubhouse.

Stoecklein also warned property owners to make sure their home smoke detectors are working, though he said fires starting outdoors — such as the Meadowood blaze — often go undetected "until the

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FIRE

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fire is causing significant damage to property."

Fire officials offered the following fire safety tips for outdoor activities:

- » Never add lighter fluid to charcoal grills after a fire has been started.
- » Place grills at a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet from any flame.
- » Ensure all flames

are fully extinguished with water before leaving the area.

» Hot grill coals should be cooled and doused with water before discarding.

» Dispose of cigarettes in a designated fire-safe container.

» Leave fireworks to professionals.

Additional questions regarding ordinances specific to fireworks and fire pit use in Canton should be directed to the Canton Fire Department's fire prevention unit at 734-394-5456.

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A fire left the interior of the Meadowood Townhomes clubhouse severely damaged.

CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



A fire at the Meadowood Townhomes clubhouse caused an estimated \$150,000 in damage.

CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

CANTON OBSERVER

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VOTING

Continued from Page A1

Board of Trustees to the next U.S. president, though most local township races are uncontested in the August primary.

One exception is the Republican race between township clerk candidates Linda Obrec, a community activist, and Thomas Lutkenhoff, retired fire captain. Bennett chose not to seek re-election after 21 years.

Canton voters also will help decide an August primary among candidates for the state House 20th District race. Canton's east side is in the district.

Republican candidates include Jeffrey T. Neilson, an attorney from Northville Township, Jeff Noble of Plymouth Township, pastor at Praise Baptist Church, and Chris Roosen of Northville Township, global sales manager at an automobile parts supplier and a former trustee in his hometown.

On the Democratic side, John Sullivan of Northville, an attorney and former Wayne County commissioner, and Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member and a former county employee and Michigan Liquor Control Commission member, are running.

Voters in August also will help decide two area tax renewals, one for the Detroit Zoo, which would generate \$3.9 million in revenue, and one for Wayne County parks, which would generate \$9.3 million, Bennett said.

Meanwhile, the clerk's office still needs to hire about 75 precinct workers for this election cycle. For more information, call the clerk's office at 734-394-5120.

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Bill Hill goes over the route map with Tracy Bragiel of Livonia.

Run, walk, enjoy a beer at weekly 5K

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Farmington-area runners and walkers who love beer now have a weekly 5K to call their own.

Farmington Brewing Co. Run Club meets 7-10 p.m. each Tuesday at the brewery, 33336 Grand River Ave., in downtown Farmington.

"It's lighthearted fun," said Susan Arlin, a recreational runner from Farmington Hills and the event's co-organizer with her neighbor, Bill Hill. "The beer afterward is a bonus. If you don't want to drink when we get back from the event, they have pitchers of ice water ready for everyone."

"We hang out and talk and meet each other and the sense of community is phenomenal. We have a great small town in downtown Farmington. To bring people together to share in that is so awesome."

Arlin had participated in other 5K events with Hill and tried an east side community run on her own, but realized it was too far away.

"I'm a social person, but I felt a little awkward," she said. "I thought I'd so like to do this in my own hometown."

She and Hill talked about starting a local run and then asked Jason Hendricks and Jason Schlaff, owners of Farmington Brewing Co., for permission to meet with runners outside the brewery. Arlin said the brewers were "beyond supportive" and created a Facebook page for the new event. Meanwhile, she started a Meetup.com page for the weekly run.

More than 60 runners and walkers signed up for the inaugural 5K two weeks ago. The group's 78 members live in the Farmington area, Livonia, Novi, Commerce and other area communities. About 70-80 percent of members run and the rest walk. Arlin plans to change the route monthly.

At the run this week, Arlin greeted every participant, while Hill went over the route map with newcomers, including Tracy Bragiel of Livonia, who planned to push her daughter Rachael in a stroller. Derek Westbrook of Farmington brought his Jack Russell terrier mix, Twiggy, to run the roughly three miles.

Arlin said 90 percent of the group returned to the brewery to socialize after the first run. She hopes that continues.



Run organizers Bill Hill (left) and Susan Arlin, with Jason Hendricks and Jason Schlaff, owners of Farmington Brewing Co.

"It's about the whole sense of community. It's so comfortable and casual," she said.

Beer Yogis

Craft beer doesn't just pair well with walking and running. It also attracts other fitness fans.

Mikki Trowbridge, who teaches yoga at breweries in Oregon, and Ohio-based yoga instructor Melissa Klimo-Major call themselves the Beer Yogis. They'll lead yoga sessions in 23 cities across the country over the next month. At-water Brewery in Detroit is their second stop on the tour, although the June 30 session sold out last week. A waiting list is available and Trowbridge said the duo may return to the Motor City in the future.

"Yoga and beer make you feel good. They help you relax and connect with other people," Trowbridge said. "They complement each other well. I think so often people go into a yoga studio and it's easy to head to class and practice, head back into your day and not connect with anyone."

Although yoga students learn to

focus on breath, mind and self during practice sessions, Trowbridge hopes they look outward after class. Beer, food, juice, "anything that encourages community" can serve as social glue.

"Local craft brewers put so much passion into how they brew their beer," she said. "Yoga is about finding the passion in yourself and not blindly walking through life. From that standpoint alone, it aligns with the beer world."

Real world

She said students tell her they enjoy working out in a brewery because it's closer to "normal" life than they'd find in a quiet, "sacred space" studio.

The distractions and noise help them to realize they can practice yoga anywhere, Trowbridge said.

That's good news for Rich Lockwood, who runs Motor City Gas, a whiskey distillery in Royal Oak.

"We cook with steam in here. We get nice and hot with steam. I've thought about having bikram hot room yoga here in the winter," he said with a laugh, adding that making whiskey also

can be noisy.

He opened the small distillery a year ago. It includes a tasting room where visitors can get flights, buy bottles of his whiskey and try it mixed into cocktails. On Saturday, July 9, they'll have a chance to practice yoga, too.

Renegade Yoga Detroit will lead a yoga session for all skill levels — no hot steam necessary — 1-2 p.m. at the distillery, 325 E. Fourth, two blocks east of Main and south of 11 Mile. Cost is \$16.82 in advance and \$20 at the door and includes \$2 off a mixed drink. Participants should bring a yoga mat and water bottle. Register through Renegade Yoga Detroit's Facebook page or go to its Meetup.com page, Beer + Yoga, for an event link and information on other beer and spirits yoga sessions.

Another meet-up, Blood, Sweat & Beers, offers bootcamp-style workouts at 6 p.m. each Wednesday at Wagner Park in Royal Oak. Cost is \$5. The group heads for a local brewery or pub after the 45-minute session.

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EVENT

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vices, and its initiative to expand psychosocial services that help Syrian refugees at the Zaatari camp in Jordan heal and cope with the effects of trauma.

Fasting 5K's focus is on supporting programs that help not just Muslim youths, but youngsters from all backgrounds who are served by organizations such as The Children's Center. Last year's effort raised money to help homeless youths.

Hamzavi said the Canton-based Fasting 5K drew participants from across southeast Michigan who marked Ramadan by praying, reflecting and giving to charity.

"Running without food and water during a 17-hour fast is challenging and your body physically dips in energy," Hamzavi said. "But when you do this with other people who share a similar purpose — to support youth mental health — you pull through. We hope this inspires others to support The Children's Center, where they help kids face far greater challenges."

Kamal said all the communities involved in this year's Fasting 5K had hoped collectively to raise about



Zayd Ahmed and brothers Naazir Hamzavi and Zaakir Hamzavi run along the I-275 Metro Trail as part of the Fasting 5K.

\$50,000 — a goal Muslims and their supporters far outpaced with \$134,100 to date.

"I think we totally rocked the fundraising aspect of it," Kamal said, adding later, "This is about helping these wonderful charities and making a difference in our communities."

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Woman pretends to pass out to end choking attack

A Canton woman being choked by her ex-husband pretended she was unconscious to stop the attack, after she already had been thrown against a wall, punched in the ribs and knocked to the floor, a police report said.

The 47-year-old woman gave her account of what happened after she went to an urgent care center for injuries she sustained during an assault that allegedly occurred about 1 p.m. June 19.

Weeping as she sat on a hospital bed, she told police the assault occurred in the 44400 block of Savery, near Sheldon and Ford.

The woman told police she

had married her assailant when she was 19, had a daughter with him and divorced him 28 years ago, though she said they have remained in touch. She said he has a problem with drugs and alcohol.

She told police her ex-husband, a 48-year-old Westland resident, often visits her Canton home to let her dogs outside while she is working. On the day of the assault, she said, an argument ensued and he became enraged after she asked him to leave.

She said he threw her against a wall, causing her to hit her head, then punched her in the ribs with a closed fist and knocked her down before he started choking her.

The woman told police she pretended to lose consciousness to end the assault. She

also said there have been previous assaults, but none as serious.

Police put the woman in touch with First Step, an agency that helps victims of domestic violence. Charges were pending against the accused assailant.

Warrant arrest

An 47-year-old Inkster man involved in a two-vehicle accident Friday was arrested, even though he had nothing to do with the crash.

He was a passenger in a vehicle involved in a minor accident that occurred about 2 a.m. Friday at Michigan Avenue and Haggerty. Police, during an investigation at the scene, learned that the passenger had warrants for his arrest in Canton and Westland

for possession of marijuana, making an illegal turn on a red light and not wearing a seat belt.

Police took the man into custody, but he posted bond and was given a date to appear in court.

Restaurant brouhaha

Two cousins, accused of fleeing a restaurant without paying their tab, were caught after returning to get a cellphone that had been left behind, a report said.

The incident unfolded about 11:30 p.m. June 22 after a man, 21, and a woman, 22, went to the Applebee's restaurant on Ford Road, near Morton Taylor. An employee said the pair ran up a \$32.77 tab, stayed more than an hour and said they were cousins celebrating

a birthday.

The pair fled the eatery when an employee went to get their bill and police were summoned. The male suspect, apparently hoping not to be recognized, was confronted when returning to the restaurant to pick up a phone that had been left behind, the report said. He already had called to say he was coming to get the phone.

The suspect was confronted by an employee when he returned and then fled again to an awaiting car, but Canton police spotted the vehicle on Ford Road and initiated a traffic stop. The suspects claimed they had paid for the food, but police ticketed both for defrauding the restaurant.

—By Darrell Clem

Veterinarian says prevention is best remedy for ticks

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Tick season is here and the population is growing in Michigan, according to the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

These wingless blood-sucking insects frequent moist, wooded and grassy locations and can transmit disease to you or your pets if they bite. You'll find them on small animals, in addition to deer, and sometimes in brush and leaves — possibly in your own backyard.

Sarah Marsh, HSHV clinic manager and a licensed veterinary technician, and Courtney White, HSHV clinic director and a veterinarian, put their heads together to answer a few questions about ticks and what you can do about them.

Q: Has HSHV seen an increase in tick bites on pets?

A: The last several years, we have seen an increasing number of ticks found and reported on pets.

Q: How do dog and cat owners know their pets have been bitten? What are a few**signs?**

A: The most common tick-borne diseases are Lyme disease, anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis babesiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Symptoms for tick-borne diseases in animals are typically non-specific. They can include fever, weakness, lethargy, lameness, lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. A lot of focus tends to be on dogs, however, many species (including cats and horses) are also susceptible. Prevention, identification, diagnostic testing and early treatment for infection are keys to decreasing the incidence of severe illness.

Q: Should a pet owner attempt to remove a tick?

A: Owners comfortable with tick removal can remove ticks by grasping with tweezers firmly at the skin and slowly pulling straight out. Do not twist or jerk the tick to reduce the chance of breaking and leaving behind tick remnants. The chance of disease transmission is greatly reduced when ticks are removed less than 24 hours after attachment.



A dog at the Humane Society of Huron Valley takes a look at a box of Vectra, a product used to prevent ticks.

ment.

It is best to have the tick identified by an experienced professional to determine the risk to your pet. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan citizens. However, testing for disease is not included, and fees apply.

Q: What kinds of ticks are**you seeing?**

A: Michigan has over 20 species of ticks, however the top three ticks found in Michigan are American dog tick (wood tick) — 75 percent found on people and companion animals — blacklegged tick (deer tick) and Lone Star tick.

Q: If a pet owner fails to notice the tick, how will it affect their pet?

A: Medical treatment should be sought if illness occurs after a tick bite. Not all ticks carry disease. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to improved patient health. Lyme disease, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis are treatable with antibiotics and, when treated early, pets and people can usually recover rapidly and completely.

Q: Can dogs get ticks from their own backyard, even if they don't live anywhere near deer population?

A: Yes. Extra awareness in warmer months is needed when ticks are more active. Avoid contact with overgrown

grass, brush and leaves. Check your pets for ticks daily. Putting your pet on flea/tick preventative, especially during the warmer months, is the most effective way to reduce the possibility of tick bites. If ticks do bite your pet, the preventative works to kill the tick. The speed at which the tick will die after biting your pet varies by manufacturer. Vaccinating your dog against Lyme disease is recommended if you live in an endemic area.

Q: Some heartworm medications offer tick prevention and some don't. Should dog owners add a topical liquid flea/tick preventative to their monthly regimen?

A: Unfortunately, there is no single product on the market that covers absolutely everything. One product, Revolution, covers fleas, heartworm prevention and protects against the Lone Star tick — the least prevalent disease-spreading tick in Michigan. Therefore, protecting your pet requires a multi-modal approach.

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Worldwide ukulele popularity hits home

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Retired men from the Plymouth Ukulele Group like to go out walking — and share their gift of music.

"We stop at coffee shops every morning," said Jim Malinowski of Plymouth. Informally, a couple of men play for staff and customers at places like Edwards Cafe on Main Street in Northville, the Plymouth McDonald's on Ann Arbor Road and the Grand Traverse Pie Co., also on Ann Arbor Road.

"We get our walks in and our music all in one fell swoop. We're not intrusive," said Malinowski, who regularly walks to coffee shops and plays with Dave Adair of Novi. "We've played a lot together."

Sometimes, a third person from the Plymouth Ukulele Group will join in; they aim to keep the groups small at coffee shops to avoid disturbing people.

Dick Groen of Plymouth Township was with Malinowski at the Plymouth District Library one recent Monday morning. The men meet there to practice at 9:30 a.m. each Monday and agreed listeners can stop in if interested.

"Oh, my God, it's exploded," Groen said of the past decade or so and ukulele music. As the men practiced, song books full of music rested on tables in the library's Dunning Room.

'Just a bunch of guys'

"Just a bunch of guys that meet," Malinowski said of the Plymouth group, which has been at the library each Monday morning for several months. The men like the acoustics and praise the library staff.

"It all worked out pretty good," Malinowski said. His wife is in a library book group and they also have a librarian neighbor who works there.

Adair was at a grade school that recent Monday, performing with Puppet Pals. Andy Kronk of Dearborn and Ron Masino of Livonia are also regulars.

They use a Meetup page on the Internet, which has many ukulele groups listed. "You can play almost anything on the ukulele," Kronk said.

"It's branched off into jazz, rock and roll, everything," Malinowski said of ukulele music. Groen said, "It's small, it's portable, it's fun. If you can sing great," but if not that's fine, too.

"It's four strings and it's easy to learn," Groen said. "A lot of ex-guitar players love



The ukulele has four strings, as Andy Kronk of Dearborn shows.

JULIE BROWN

them."

Listeners do as well. "The summer's loaded. There are festivals all over the country," Groen said.

Malinowski is just back from the Ukulele World Conference in Needmore, Ind., the eighth annual such gathering. "There were people from all over the world," he said.

The men praise the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, encouraging a check-in of them on YouTube.

"They've been performing for many years," Groen said of the U.K. group. The Beatles also used the ukulele in their

music.

They praise Jake Shimabukuro for his musical prowess with the ukulele. Shimabukuro was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. He does original compositions and also performs others' work.

His cover of George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" went viral on YouTube, establishing his name. Shimabukuro also travels to schools to share a positive message on living drug-free, the artist's website notes.

The local men also cite Canada's James Hill as a great ukulele musician. They're not

fans of Tiny Tim's late 1960s TV "Laugh-In" strumming.

"He probably set ukulele back 20 years," Malinowski said, with Groen adding, "He's outdated." The men agree Tiny Tim was primarily a comedian.

Variety abounds; easy to learn

The instrument comes in varied shapes and sizes, as well as sounds. They had a tenor, a soprano and a concert ukulele for practice that Monday.

Kronk said, "A lot of people have no music background coming into this. It's an easy instrument to learn," he added,

with plenty of helpers around.

All five regulars are retired. Kronk noted the Motor City Ukes meet monthly at a Farmington Hills business. The Tree Town Ukes of Ann Arbor meet monthly at Oz's Music and have been around about a decade, they said.

The Ann Arbor-based group is set to perform in that city's Fourth of July parade this year.

Added Groen with a grin, "It's big. It's almost as big as beer drinking — not quite."

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MDOT to host update concerning I-275 project

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Could motorists learn the date when the Interstate 275 construction project flips-flops later this week? It's possible, but nothing has been announced yet.

The Michigan Department of Transportation will hold another public meeting on the I-275 construction project from Five Mile to the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange this week to provide updates on the project.

The meeting will take place starting at 5 p.m. Thursday (June 30) at Davenport University, 19499 Victor Parkway, in Livonia. The presentation is expected to last an hour and will be repeated for another

audience at 6 p.m.

MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said a lot of work would need to happen to announce a hard date for when the southbound stretch of the freeway would open and when the northbound side would close and could not say Monday if it would be announced at the meeting. She said MDOT will go over procedures for when the northbound stretch will close, such as detours.

The meeting will be the second public meeting held at the school regarding the project: MDOT met with motorists and area residents about the project about a month before major work took place, answering questions from scores of attendees.

The \$75 million project has

left half the freeway shut down since the beginning of May so workers can complete construction along the road. There have been some dates for the switch that have been thrown out, including as early as Friday in a video posted by the city of Novi, and as late as July 15, the date Cross gave earlier this month as a more likely date the switch could take place. The entire project is expected to be done by sometime in September.

More information on the project can be found at revive275.com, a website that states the project is roughly 39 percent done as of June 22.

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734-678-672

Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crews work June 20 on replacing the guardrail along I-275.

REUNIONS

CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1976

40th reunion is 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at Kickers Allstar Bar & Grill, in Canton. For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/Crestwood76>.

DEARBORN HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1976

40th class reunion and golf outing is Sunday, Aug. 13. For more information, go to <http://www.dhs1976.myevent.com>

DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion is 6-11:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. For more information, call Gary Berriman at

313-300-4470 or Barbara (Doherty) Kalinski at 734-320-6545.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1981

The 35-year reunion is set for Saturday, July 16, at the Holiday Inn in Farmington. Cost is \$60 per person. Call Jeri Martin Stam at 734-895-9026 or go to Farmington High class of '81 on Facebook.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST & WEST

CLASS OF 1966

The 50th reunion will be held Sept. 10. Find more event information on the G.C.H.S. class of 1966 East & West Facebook page.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL WEST

CLASS OF 1976

40th reunion Motown Dinner Dance Cruise on the Princess Riverboat. Boarding 6-7 p.m., cruise 7-9:30 p.m. Aug. 27. \$65 per person. Call 877-338-2628.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1966

50th reunion will be held Aug. 25-28. Contact Larry Ruzsas at 810-599-3509 or lruzsas187264mi@comcast.com.

MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1986

30th reunion is 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at 59 West Banquet center in Highland. Cost is \$25 per person at the door, which covers appetizers, Mexican buffet

and non-alcoholic beverages. Go to the Facebook event link at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1046427258783445/>.

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1966

50-year reunion dinner and celebration set for 5-11 p.m. Sept. 17, at the Summit in Canton. For more details, check the Plymouth High School Class of 1966 Facebook page or email jerry-norquist@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1967

50-year reunion planned. Go to ClassCreator-Plymouthmi67.com for information or call Lynette Thayer at 419-726-2088.

SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1976

40th reunion set for Aug. 13 at Baker's of Milford. For more information, email Southlyonclass1976@yahoo.com or go to South Lyon Class of 1976 on Facebook.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971

45th reunion set for 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 24, at Mama Mia, 27770 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Mail \$25 to JGHS class of 71 in care of Gary Pack, 38128 Cherry Hill Road, Westland, MI 48185. Pre-reunion party is 7-11 p.m. Sept. 23, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. For more information, call JoAnn Keenan at 734-516-6443, Gary Pack at 734-377-9133 or Darla Webb at 734-262-1132.

Must-have tech gadgets for the summer

We've reached peak technology status. Remember how the emergence of cellphones helped us downsize the number of necessary digital devices? The cellphone became not only your phone, but your MP3 player, camera, video camera, key ring, wallet and more. But the rise of the Internet of Things has seemingly reversed that trend and helped the electronics market shift from entertainment devices to useful productivity devices. That's not to say that the TV, radio or your 1995 desktop computer wasn't useful — new unitasking devices are simply more functional and affordable and have pushed more tech devices into consideration.



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

Digital thermometers

Advanced and enhanced summer grilling is as easy as a digital thermometer. And that doesn't mean your standard meat thermometer with a digital display. Bluetooth and WiFi-enabled temperature gauges are available for the professional smoker to the novice griller. And while nobody needs a digital thermometer that connects to their phone, it certainly saves you unnecessary trips to the grill, smoker or oven. The Weber Style for

instance, offers two prongs (which is what you want) to measure the air temperature as well as internal temperature. A two-prong meat thermometer can run \$40 to \$100. Of course, if you think this is a waste of money, then I don't need to tell you about the more than \$200 solar-powered beach tote that has been developed by a company called Earth Beach Products.

Security cameras

Previously, a homeowner who wanted peace of mind could sign up for an expensive monthly or yearly contract with a home security company. Expensive top-end video monitoring systems were also available for the 1 percent. Today, you can secure your home as easily as an add-on pack-

age from your cable provider or a wireless self-install device.

Nest, the famous smart thermostat provider, offers a home security camera for as low as \$150. Any homeowner and renter can grab one for less than the cost of an upgraded phone and install it in less than an hour. For those with large homes, you can grab a three-pack of cams from Nest or other manufacturers like Arlo for \$500 or less. With both Nest and Arlo, buyers receive access to the cloud, where they can store 24 hours of video coverage. Owners can purchase more space for a monthly fee. It is the perfect solution for the business traveler, snowbirds or summer vacationers. Arlo, D-Link and others offer motion-activated

cameras. Some brands such as NetAtmo offer facial recognition and can send text alerts when something is up.

Mosquito repellent

Some mosquito deterrents like citronella candles are hardly considered technical. But a trendy, synthetic lantern might be. Thermacell offers a \$29.99 lantern that will keep a 15 by 15 area free of those pesky bugs. At that price, it makes sense on a patio, porch or deck to help keep us outdoors longer.

Watershot pro

Finally for the travelers, outdoor enthusiasts and photography pros, the Watershot pro can help you capture shots in and around water without worrying about your phone insur-

ance coverage. Retailing for \$139, the Watershot Pro is safe to use up to 195 feet — which should be considered "extreme waterproof."

Notebook

Just when you thought it was safe to buy video games, Microsoft and Sony announced updated versions of their respective Xbox and PlayStation devices. In June at E3, Microsoft announced a virtual reality and 4K-capable Xbox that is expected to hit the market next year. Sony also recently announced updates with 4K, but may not have virtual reality capabilities.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

Only sure outcome of Brexit vote is uncertainty

The financial world was shocked last week as Great Britain decided to leave the European Union. The vote, known as Brexit, was close, but a clear majority voted to leave the European Union. Most of the so-called experts had predicted Great Britain would vote to remain; they were wrong.

The question on most investors' mind is how this will affect the markets and, more importantly, how it will affect their individual portfolio. If you listen to 20 experts, you'll get 20 different opinions. Some of the so-called experts are predicting a worldwide recession, while others are saying the Brexit will



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

be good for America in the long run.

My opinion is quite simple and something the so-called experts never like to admit: I don't know. If the so-called experts were truly honest, they would admit that all they are doing is speculating because, in reality, what Great Britain is doing is unprecedented and there are really no comparable examples from which to draw. Of course, in today's world of 24-hour news where everything is put into crisis mode,

admitting the experts don't know does not make for good TV. That's why I always caution investors from making moves on their portfolio solely based upon what they hear and see in the media.

I am amazed that the same people who predicted the Brexit would go the other way are now giving opinions as to what will happen because of the vote. I am not saying these are not smart people; what I'm saying is that many of the so-called experts are not in the media because they know more or have any unique insights, but because they look and sound good on TV. I am not sure that's who you want to take advice from

when it comes to managing your portfolio.

I don't know what is going to happen and neither does anyone else. One thing I do know is that markets do not like uncertainty and Great Britain's vote to exit the European Union creates uncertainty. The volatility we experienced immediately after the vote was not unexpected. It also would not be surprising that, as the process of Great Britain's exit proceeds, there will be more volatility. Just because there will be volatility, doesn't mean investors should panic or rush out and liquidate their portfolio. As I've always said, fear is one of those emotions that ruin investors' portfolios. You cannot let fear dictate how you invest your money.

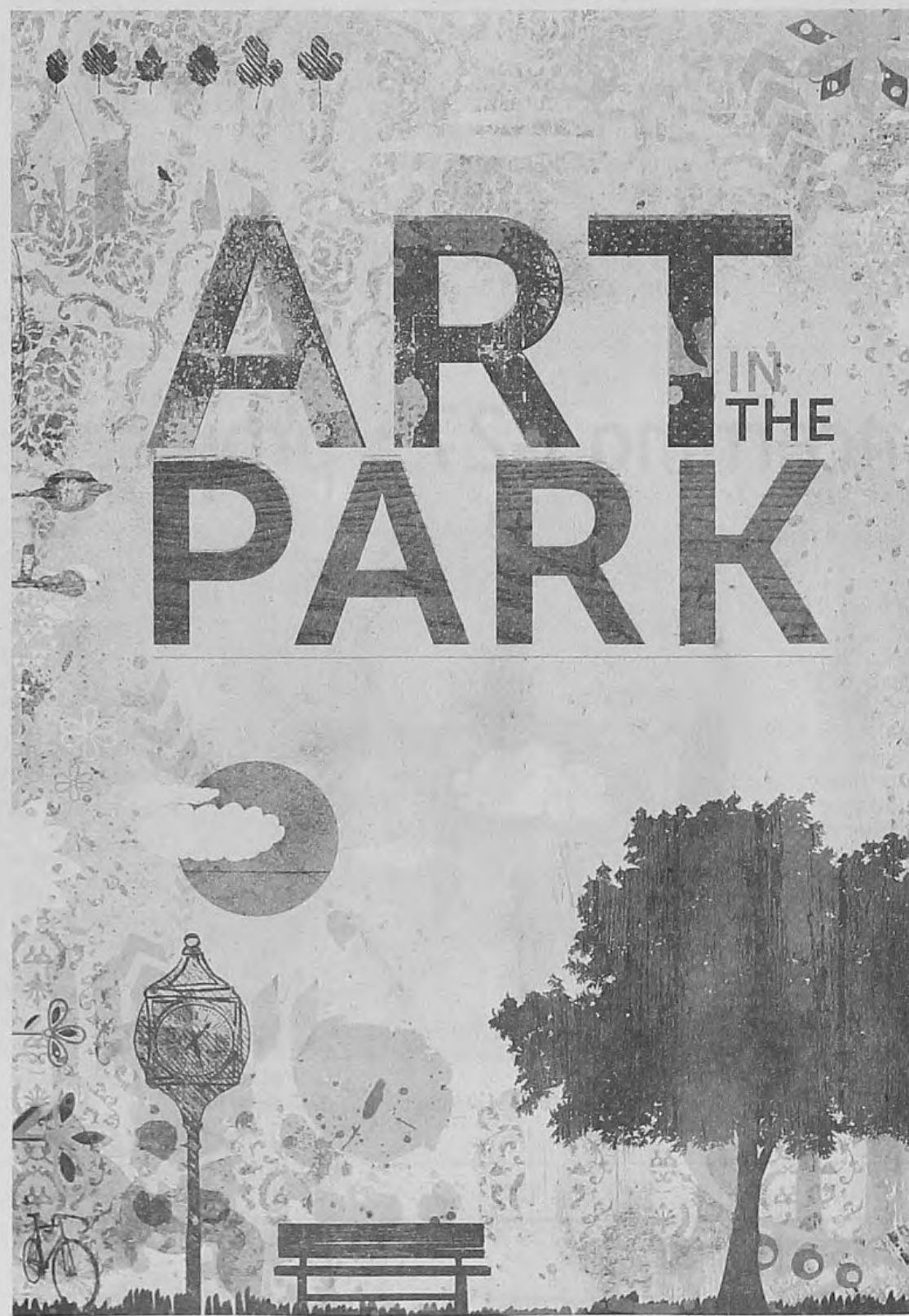
In the last number of years, we have seen other unprecedented events. It was only a few years ago the United States lost its AAA credit rating. At that time, the so-called experts predicted doom and gloom for the U.S. economy. After the initial volatility, markets returned to normal over a relatively short period of time.

With Brexit, we don't know how the markets are going to react and we don't know if in two to three months from now everything will be back to normal. As I've always told investors, you should not invest based upon what is happening in the market, but based upon your goals and objectives. Investors who try to invest based upon the market are constantly buying and selling and, in

the long run, are going nowhere.

Being an investor is not easy and it's difficult to see our portfolios go in the wrong direction. To be a successful investor, you must have discipline, particularly in times such as now. My advice is to take a wait-and-see attitude and, ultimately, make decisions based upon what you are trying to achieve in your portfolio. If you focus on your individual goals and objectives and not on the market, in the long run you will be a successful investor.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



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Blu, a Bernese Mountain Dog with Mike Zebolsky of Marshall, wins the working group Sunday at the show in Novi.

Annual dog show in Novi draws fewer breeders, canine lovers

Daniel Bethencourt
Michigan.com

Mary DiPerna came prepared for the Detroit Kennel Club's annual dog show Sunday.

A longtime breeder and competitor, she helped bring no fewer than 10 pugs that would appear in competitions. She even helped design a booth that stood more than 5 feet tall in the shape of an ancient Chinese building facade, with the sign "Exquisite Chinese Pugs." There were balloons in the shape of pugs and even more balloons that spelled out, one letter at a time: "PUGS."

"We just like to educate people about the breed," DiPerna of Fowlerville said. "I enjoy it. I've been doing this all my life. If we don't do it, how are you going to educate the people?"

DiPerna was one of hundreds of dog owners and breeders who came to the All-Breed Benched Dog Show & Obedience Trial at the Suburban Collection Showplace in

Novi. Two separate shows Saturday and Sunday marked the 100th anniversary for the event's host, the Detroit Kennel Club.

The show felt more like a convention than an arena-sized contest. There was a ring where handlers jogged in circles with their pets to the sound of polite, scattered applause — but there were also many booths where owners and breeders groomed their dogs and answered questions from passersby.

Organizers noted that attendance was sparser than in past years. During one round of competition Sunday, only a few dozen watched.

"When it was downtown, it was packed. You couldn't even move," DiPerna, the longtime breeder, said while watching a judge assess a group of "toy" breeds like Yorkshire terriers and Chinese crested dogs.

Some attendees said that could be due to the show's relocation from Cobo Center to a convention hall in Novi starting

last year. Phil Booth, assistant show chairman, said he didn't have specific attendance figures for the weekend. He did express some concern with the format, though, which requires competitors to stay all day even if they lose. Increasingly, breeders just don't want to stick around.

"The point was originally to educate the public about purebred dogs," Booth said. "Things have just changed."

He added: "We're working very hard to re-establish ourselves here. We have lots of things to offer."

Before the final rounds of competition Sunday, dog owners seemed to be having fun while also saying they regretted the low turnout.

One of those was Pauline Sabatini of Chesterfield Township, who was grooming her border collie named Budge before a "best of breed" competition Sunday.

"It's kind of sad that it's a little small," she said.

Don't blame CSX for train crossings in Plymouth



Dan Sabo
GUEST COLUMNIST

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock is being disingenuous by getting on WDIV-TV recently, representing the city commission, and blaming CSX for the train crossing problems in Plymouth. He, as a lifelong resident of Plymouth, as well as the mayor and the Plymouth City Commission, know full well the solution to the problem. And that is grade separation, or a rail underpass, at either Main Street or at Blanche Street and re-

connecting Blanche. Grade separation as a solution to the rail problem in Plymouth has been proposed for nearly a century. The solution has been a part of the public record and is well-known to city leaders and many residents. For example, I refer the reader to the two-part letter to

the editor of the Plymouth Mail by Karl Starkweather, beginning Feb 5, 1967, and the follow-up titled "Karl Starkweather Tells Area Problems," as well as the Dec. 16, 1974, Plymouth Observer & Eccentric article by Sam Hudson titled: "Rail Crossing Problems Are Nothing New to Plymouth."

If the safety and EMS issue of rail crossings in Plymouth was such an important issue to city commissioners and the mayor, instead of spend-

ing most of their time glad-handling developers of housing projects; instead of trying to prevent CSX from blowing their train horns and thus causing safety problems; instead of trying to build parking garages on historic sites to placate a handful of downtown business owners; instead of allowing developers to take away public-owned green space and thus violating city ordinances, they would instead have made a rail underpass in town a No. 1 priority

issue in their city goals.

Instead, their actions and priorities as reflected in yearly city goals prove otherwise. I believe this attempt to blame CSX is merely a deflection away from the city commission's negligence in not solving this rail underpass problem, a deflection for the ongoing Open Meetings Act scandal at Plymouth City Hall originally reported by the Plymouth Observer this past November and deflection of the soon-to-come traffic

congestion in Old Village and across town from massive housing projects in Old Village, which the city commission recently signed off on and which thus compounds the gridlock problem – a deflection by a city commission that does not well represent Plymouth residents.

Taylor resident Daniel Sabo grew up in Old Village in the home his great-grandfather G.A. Starkweather built, attended Starkweather School and graduated from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

LETTERS

Dwyer endorses Heise

As the mayor of Plymouth, I typically don't get involved in the elections of nearby communities. This year, however, I'm asking Plymouth Township residents to vote for Kurt Heise for township supervisor in the Aug. 2 Republican primary. He is running as a write-in candidate.

Plymouth city and township have been neighbors and friends since the 1800s. We were an example of regional cooperation before the term even existed. The past few years, however, those historically positive relations have been strained. As a result, our communities' ability to work together on recreation, arts and culture, seniors and emergency services has been negatively impacted.

Our two communities need healing and must move forward together. We share a common bond that's reflected in our appreciation for music, festivals, great restaurants, arts and cultural opportunities and so much more. Our communities can lead the state in regional cooperation, if we have the right leaders.

State Rep. Kurt Heise has been a friend to the Plymouth community for more than 12 years. As director of the Wayne County Department of Environment, he worked with us on water quality issues, regional cooperation laws and saved our communities millions of dollars on needed sewer upgrades. As our state representative, he's been a leader on local government law, improved roads, downtown development and court reform.

Kurt Heise is the kind of professional, principled, honest, educated leader the Plymouth community needs. I enjoy working with him and know he will put people before politics and help restore trust between our communities.

Please remember what's at stake Aug. 2. Plymouth city and township depend on and benefit from each other. While we are two governments, we are one community and we need to start acting like it again.

Plymouth Township residents, I hope you agree and will write in your vote for Kurt Heise for supervisor in the Aug. 2 Republican primary.

Dan Dwyer
mayor, city of Plymouth

Tax, spend politicians

I get a kick out of things politicians say to get elected. I received a Kurt Heise flier in which he stated he wants "to protect seniors from financial and physical harm." The two biggest worries seniors have are money and health (which costs money). First, Rep. Heise voted to tax pension income. Ouch! Then, after the public rejected the Road Tax Plan (Proposal 1) by an 80 percent to 20 percent vote in 2015, Heise voted for the deal to increase diesel/gasoline taxes from 15/19 cents a gallon to 26.3 cents a gallon and to increase vehicle registration fees starting next year.

As a senior, tax-and-spend politicians cause me financial harm – that is not protection.

Robert Harris
Plymouth

Vote for change

I am writing you in regard to the article: "Thrown off ballot, pair launch write-in bids."

One can argue Nancy Conzelman did not do her job, does not care about her performing duties accurately or that she had alternative motive for not noticing and following up properly with Kurt Heise and Don Schnettler about their applications. Both Heise and Schnettler missed filling out a box. Right now, none of this is on my radar and it not the focus.

Right now, it is up to each and every taxpayer and resident in the township to take notice and do their homework to make a difference in the primary vote Aug. 2. What do they want the future of Plymouth Township to be? What legacy do they want to leave for their families and friends?

Do you want to elect board members that will work with the residents for one united community between Plymouth Township and the city of Plymouth? For my household, we have an address as Plymouth, not Plymouth Township. This is because, in our minds, we are one community.

Do you want to elect officials who want to spend our tax dollars responsibly and not hire and create jobs for their friends and their salaries are paid with our tax dollars? Do you want to elect officials that want to work for the residents and get our feedback to items that impact our community?

We are voting for a change! For supervisor, write in Kurt Heise and, for trustee, Don Schnettler. We also will be supporting the change to elect for clerk Jerry Vora and treasurer Mark Clinton. As part of the change, we need trustees who know the history of the township and support Chuck Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz. Although you can only vote for four trustees, we support Jack Dempsey and Gary Heitman. All these gentlemen want to work for the township, not for their own agenda.

It is OK to vote as a Republican in the primary to get the supervisor you choose to vote for and in the election in November vote as Democrat.

Now is our time to make a statement and elect responsible leaders. Do your homework and make your vote count Aug. 2.

Rita Gajewski
Plymouth Township

Where's the data?

In response to the recent article "Crouch, Maloney tangle in P-CCS budget talks," one can read between the lines that important financial information is not being provided to the lone fiscally conservative board member.

Problems do not go away just because we're tired of hearing about them. I get it, the financial situation of our Plymouth-Canton schools is boring. Still, 17,500 students will be adversely

affected if we close our eyes and hope for the best. The board has once again kicked the ball down the road without addressing the problems of declining enrollment, higher expenses and less money from Lansing. The article states that Allen Elementary is scheduled to close, but Kim Crouch says that it is profitable. Where is this information and how did she make this assessment?

To solve this problem, Democrats will be asking taxpayers for more money for local schools with a county-wide millage. They have no plan except higher taxes, blaming charter schools and Republicans. I ask taxpayers to become active, attend meetings and demand all information and data be shared. We need good leadership and that starts with all the data.

Geoff Boltach
candidate for Canton trustee

Maloney makes sense

I read your column regarding the Plymouth Board of Education budget disagreements. I was interested to know exactly what budget ideas Mike Maloney had suggested.

Transparency and communication is key to successful leadership. I reached out to Mr. Maloney via email and asked him for "the list" of budget ideas.

He responded immediately with a thoughtful message and document containing all of his ideas on how Plymouth-Canton can move towards a fiscally responsible system.

His ideas make sense.
Michelle Dillon
Salem Township/Plymouth

Make change in township

I had the pleasure of attending the forum June 21, hosted by PARC. The objective was to have all of the candidates for the Board of Trustees running in the Aug. 2 primary speak to the people of the community and express their visions for the future of Plymouth Township.

I was surprised to see that only two of the sitting board members were present: Charles Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz. Both are incumbent candidates for trustee. The other candidates speaking were Kurt Heise, write-in candidate for supervisor, Mark Clinton for treasurer and Jerry Vora for clerk. There were three new candidates for trustee positions: Jack Dempsey, Gary Heitman and write-in candidate Don Schnettler.

Each person had the opportunity to give their background and experience. They expressed their reasons for running for office and their visions for the future of our community. I was very impressed with the qualifications of these people. I applaud their commitment to transparency, interest in the concerns of the citizens and their desire for cooperation with surrounding communities.

All of the candidates for township offices had been invited to speak to the voters. All but two of the sitting board members were glaringly absent. What does that say

about their relationship with the public? It is obvious to me that there is a huge disconnect with the voters and the current Board of Trustees. They could not be bothered to come out and speak to their constituents. Their attitude toward the public is very disappointing. Who do they think pays them their large salaries?

It is time to make a major change and the citizens have that opportunity in the Aug. 2 primary. There is hope for the future.

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

Ethics lacking

Over the last eight years, I have attended nearly every Plymouth Township board meeting. At the Sept. 8, 2015, meeting, an Ethics Ordinance was passed, however, it has absolutely no "teeth," no means of enforcement and obviously has little or no meaning to some members of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees.

When Bob Doroshewitz led an effort to include a policy limiting gifts from vendors to Plymouth Township's elected officials, it was met with firm opposition from then-Supervisor Richard Reaume, Clerk Nancy Conzelman, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Kay Arnold and Mike Kelly.

The Plymouth Observer (Sept. 12, 2013) stated that "Treasurer Ron Edwards said ethics for those in public office encompass not just gifts, but how one treats people, represents the public body and goes about working for the public interest." Unfortunately, Ron Edwards doesn't practice what he preaches, evident from the number of lawsuits in which he has been named.

The ordinance states that it provides "practical guidelines for ethical decision-making" and encourages "ethical behavior from township representatives responsible to the citizens of Plymouth Township."

In Section III, Subsection B, No. 3, it states that "All public officers ... shall refrain from intentionally using their respective township office or position for personal gain or benefit." It's obvious our township officials don't understand what this statement means.

» The use of township resources to communicate personal political views and messages is not ethical.

» The use of valuable and limited public safety resources to deliver bags of popcorn to seniors boarding a bus is not ethical.

» Putting the residents of Plymouth Township in jeopardy by using firefighters and emergency vehicles to pop and deliver popcorn is not ethical.

» Even asking the fire chief for permission to pull this foolish and irresponsible stunt is not ethical.

» Using our limited emergency staff and equipment for political gain is not ethical.

» Providing and cooking special food for daily lunches for the outside financial auditing team is not ethical. It smacks of

pure unadulterated bribery!

This latest move by Carl Berry to have Kurt Heise and Don Schnettler removed from the primary ballot is just another example of their lack of ethics, as well as Ron Edwards' typical method of operation at election time. This is not the first time Ron has found a way to eliminate the opposition.

He did it 2012, eliminating John Werth from opposing Richard Reaume. Many past candidates have been eliminated by members of Edwards' own political party of Republicans. Edwards and his political bullies, many of whom don't reside in Plymouth Township, look for every possible means to eliminate the competition. They don't mind disenfranchising the very people they claim to represent.

That was apparent with the highly manipulated appointment of Shannon Price last year. Carl Berry is only the front man for Shannon Price and Ron Edwards in their effort to eliminate any and all competition in this 2016 political race. This is an example of their political "ethics"! Who will enforce ethics in this community? Only you, the people of Plymouth Township.

Send a message! Vote Aug. 2!

Susan Bondie
Plymouth Township

Noble for state rep

The majority of Michiganders are angry and confused as to why Michigan has increased taxes, grown government and expanded Obamacare (Medicaid). A study just published this week, ranks Michigan as the seventh worst taxed state, by total dollars, right behind New York. Michigan residents pay 22 percent more taxes than the national average. Why is this?

After the Michigan voters overwhelmingly sent a message that they would not tolerate more taxes by voting Prop 1 down by a super-majority of 81 percent in May of 2015, our state government slapped us in the face with a \$600 million tax increase last October.

State Rep. Ray Franz, R-Onekama, had strong words to share after voting on the road funding package:

"I firmly stand by my belief that tying the gas tax to inflationary increases sets a dangerous precedent for Michigan's future and I stood fast for as long as I could. Unfortunately, I lost that argument with my colleagues and I could not in good conscience be the lone obstacle to addressing the road package as a whole. I lost a piece of my soul last night because I betrayed my values, my principles and myself."

Franz's confession was an admission of failure to faithfully serve his constituents.

It became tremendously obvious to me that the most important personal trait that any person in the Legislature must have is "moral courage." Without it, even good men fail.

I know that Jeff Noble possesses this "moral courage." I have known Jeff Noble for more than

two years and have observed his integrity and tremendous work ethic in campaigning for Sen. Pat Colbeck in 2014.

I, therefore, endorse Jeff Noble for state representative of the 20th District in 2016.

Bob Cushman
GOP precinct delegate
Northville Township

Scary prospect

To this point I've really enjoyed the Trump show. How he's awakened the silent base of the GOP is brilliant; simply put, we're witnessing world-class carnival barking skills.

For decades the GOP has worked relentlessly to keep this part of their base quiet and hidden, even denying their existence; the racists and bigots, whiners and complainers, the takers, those who can't look at their selves in the mirror and think they themselves may be the reason for their crappy lot in life.

Oh no, no, no, it's them "Mex-kins" taking our jobs, those uppity feminists demanding fair pay and an equal voice, that black guy in D.C. whose going to take all our guns, giving all the other black people in 'Merica tons of free stuff.

Now that it's officially a two-horse race, I'm wondering if he'll shift from me, me, me, I, I, I, to us and we and explain, in detail, how he'll accomplish his fantasy plans. Doubtful, methinks. Thus far not a single detail on anything policy related except his tax plan, which sounds suspiciously exactly like the Romney/Ryan windfall for the rich, and his plan to defeat ISIS, which sounds suspiciously exactly like the Bush/Cheney plan that created ISIS in the first place.

Trump's non-stop America-hating rhetoric makes me nuts. Never in my life have I ever seen someone born with so much wealth and privilege, whine and complain so relentlessly even though he's always bragging about how great and wonderful his life is. He brags about paying no taxes, none at all, all the while he and his businesses have benefited immensely from the using infrastructure the rest of us have built and the security this country provides.

To the Republican establishment who wonders how they lost control of their own party, Trump is what you get when, since Reagan, you promise this loyal silent base jobs and prosperity, personal freedoms and responsibility, balanced budgets and restraint in spending our tax money, smaller government and national security and then you don't deliver on any of it. Ever.

And when you give your blessing to let the Tea Party spread crazy rumors and outright lies about President Obama and the job he's done thus far, well, like the Bible you love to quote says — you reap what you sow.

It pains me to say it but Sarah Palin, with her public service as a mayor and that weekend she spent as governor makes her infinitely more qualified to be president than The Donald. That's scary.

Mitch Dubanik
Livonia

OUR VIEW

Flying our flag on the Fourth shows respect

There are a variety of times during the course of a given year the American flag moves front and center as citizens pay tribute to their country, its freedoms and the men and women who fight for them.

There's the recent Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and, Monday, Independence Day — all designed to allow American citizens the opportunity to pay their respects not only to their country, but to its most visible symbol.

And when they do, it's important they do it properly. If you're displaying an American flag, Public Law 94-344, The Federal Flag Code, contains some guidelines. (If you're worried about how deep the federal government is getting into our lives, know this: The code contains no penalties, though some states have their own codes and may impose penalties.)

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms, unless it is an all-weather flag.

It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

When flags of states, cities or organizations are flown on the same staff, the U.S. flag must be at the top.



FILE PHOTO

This one seems to be "violated," for lack of a better term, more often. During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart.

Here's one that gets violated occasionally in

school gymnasiums or football fields: When the flag hangs from a staff in a church or public place, it should appear to the audience on the left, the speaker's right.

When the flag is worn out or otherwise no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Here are a couple of things not to do with the American flag:

» Do not let the flag touch anything beneath it: ground, floor, water, merchandise.

» Do not place anything on the flag, including letters, insignia or designs of any kind.

» Do not use it as apparel, bedding or drapery. It should not be used on a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be attached to the uniform of patriotic organizations, military personnel, police officers and firefighters.

» Do not use the flag for advertising or promotion purposes or print it on paper napkins, boxes or anything else intended for temporary use and discard.

There are more and you can find them on the website of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. But these guidelines give you a good idea of ways to treat the American flag with respect.

As the Fourth of July approaches, it's important to remember the American flag, the symbol of our country, deserves the same respect.

Friendships give life value, whether they're old or new



Arlene Funke
GUEST COLUMNIST

It was a sight for sore eyes, gazing on the faces of longtime friends from our now-closed St. Hilary Catholic Church of Redford. We gathered for an informal lunch at Sandy's By the Beech.

"We should do this more often," said Joseph Gies of Redford, who attended with his wife MaryLou. Also there was Sister Marie Miller, the heart and soul of St. Hilary, especially after our pastor, the Rev. John Nowlan, suffered a stroke, retired and later died. Rounding out our lunch

group were the church's office manager Chris Saladin, Loretta Gasiorek, Irma Calvisi, Laurie Ruszkiewicz and Donald Burkholder. We ate good food and caught up. I relished the time spent with these folks.

I have struggled to find a new place to worship. Many members had been at St. Hilary since the doors opened in the 1950s. The church was small compared to many other Catholic churches. It was easy to get to know people. We prayed together, celebrated holidays and weddings and mourned when friends died. We feasted on Polish dinners and pancake breakfasts. There are many churches in Redford and surrounding communities, but I still have not joined another, two years after St. Hilary closed.

Some of our members have stayed together. The Goldenaires, St. Hilary's senior club, now meet monthly for lunch and card-playing at St. Robert Belarmine Church at West Chicago and Inkster roads. Several of St. Hilary's members now attend services at Our Lady of Grace Church on Joy Road, east of Telegraph, in Dearborn Heights. Grace will host a St. Hilary reunion Mass at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 10. All former St. Hilary members are invited. A time of fellowship will follow.

Friendships enhance our well-being. Some endure,

others fade. I enjoyed working with many people over the years, but seldom see any of them now. When my children were young, I spent time with the parents of my kids' friends. Neighbors, once close, move away. These days, I enjoy spending time with folks I've met in my apartment building.

Some of my dearest friends I met on the first day of kindergarten in southwest Detroit! Others joined this group in high school. Back at Western High School, the elites — athletes, cheerleaders and other beautiful people — were called "cakes." My friends and I called ourselves the "crumbs," happy, but not members of the "cake" world. We get together for lunch several times a year. Sadly, we gathered recently for the funeral of one of our "girlfriends" who died unexpectedly on her 51st wedding anniversary. That one hit me hard.

Many people can't believe that I once was painfully shy. I wised up when I realized how much fun I was missing.

Friendships, old or new, make life worthwhile.

Arlene Funke was a longtime resident of Redford and shares her thoughts as a regular contributor to the Observer. She can be reached at arlenefunke@sbcbglobal.net.

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EDUCATION
Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

By Brad Kaminich

What Canton Community Foundation officials had in mind for the group's 2015 scholarship year, they're executing with a tradition of generosity on the anniversary of the school's founding. The foundation will award \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 students who are currently attending or planning to attend a four-year college or university in Michigan.

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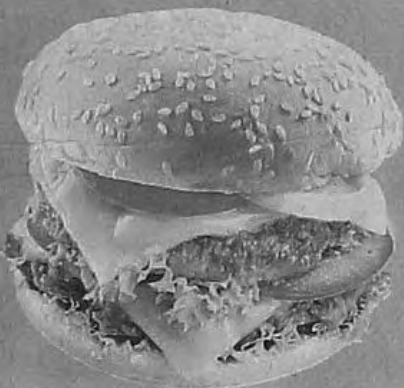
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PREP SWIMMING

Dunworth leaves Mercy, CC swim coaching posts

Marlins won six state titles under his leadership

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Shannon Dunworth isn't retiring and doesn't rule out a return to coaching at some future date, but one of the area's top swim mentors is leaving the sport.

The highly successful coach of the Farmington Hills Mercy girls and Detroit Catholic Central boys recently moved to Texas to work with his brothers in their business.

"I love coaching dearly," Dunworth said. "To me,

there's no better job. Unfortunately, it was difficult for me to continue coaching and still make a living.

"If not for coaching, I would have been here 10 years ago. The opportunity came up, and the timing was right. They had a position that really needed filling, and they're trusting me to fill that void."

Dunworth, 59, has a solid



Dunworth

business background, having owned and operated his own company - Different Strokes Swim Shop with stores in Livonia and St. Clair Shores - for 38 years.

His brothers own Celling Biosciences, which deals in the research, development and manufacture of a variety of medical devices. Their business is a leader in making devices used in orthopedic procedures and the procurement of adult stem cells, according to Dunworth.

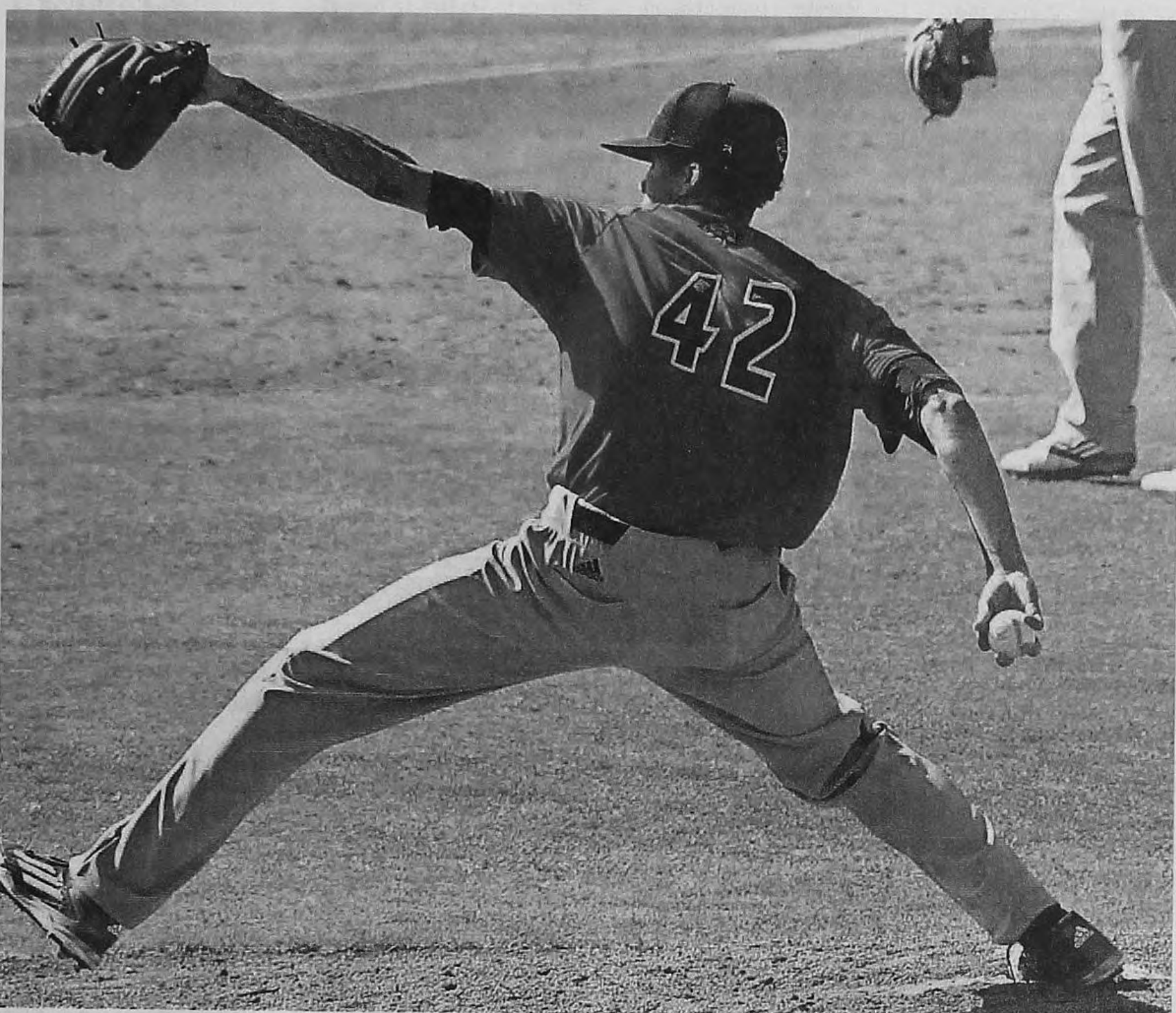
See DUNWORTH, Page B2



FILE PHOTO

In a dozen seasons at Mercy, Shannon Dunworth's teams won six state titles, had four runner-up finishes and placed third twice.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Six-foot-4 Sterling Sharp of Farmington Hills made a good impression on front-office personnel during a workout in Washington, D.C.

Ex-Raider Sharp adapts to new role in pro ball

Farmington Hills pitcher and Nationals draftee gets start in Gulf Coast League

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

After being drafted earlier this month by the Washington Nationals, Sterling Sharp has moved to the next stage of his baseball career and is living the life of a minor leaguer. The Farmington Hills

resident was assigned to the club's rookie team in the Gulf Coast League and is based at the Nationals Training Center in Viera, Fla.

"I love it down here," Sharp said, adding each day begins at 7 a.m. "It's just like going to school, but it's baseball.



Sharp

he wants to have a simulated game or not."

Sharp, a former all-Observer pitcher at North Farmington High School, and his new teammates were sched-

uled to play their first game Friday against the GCL Mets. In addition to their training, the rookie Nationals had played three three-inning, intrasquad games since reporting to camp June 15.

The right-handed Sharp pitched one inning of one game. He faced four batters - the results being a strikeout, groundout, teammate error and walk.

The right-handed Sharp pitched one inning of one game. He faced four batters - the results being a strikeout, groundout, teammate error and walk.

See SHARP, Page B2

Blazers had successful run during Combs' era in softball

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Scott Combs softball era is over at Livonia Ladywood after the nine-year coach announced his resignation Tuesday.

Combs, who guided the Blazers to one MHSAA Division 2 championship (2012), two state runner-up finishes (2014 and 2009) and six final fours, finished with a 284-85 overall record.

He cited increased commitment to coaching the University of Michigan Dearborn women's program, along with being president of Computware Girls Fast-pitch organization, as reasons for stepping down.

Combs, who lives in Northville, informed Ladywood principal Tracey Mocon of his decision.

"It's been a great nine years," Combs said. "I can't thank the families and the coaches enough at the school. It's just time to move on. I'm far, far too busy doing college and high school. It was just a decision my family and I made."

In his final season at Ladywood, the Blazers finished 32-13 overall and reached the state semifinals before losing to Vicksburg, 7-5. Ladywood loses six seniors to graduation including Erika Selakowski, Rozlyn Price,

See COMBS, Page B3



FILE PHOTO

The Blazers won 284 softball games in nine seasons under Scott Combs.

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RUNNING

NYC Marathon – former sprinter going long, longer

Koback running polar opposite lottery events

Running has treated Bradley Koback, 29, of Royal Oak very well in 2016.

From the grueling scenic vistas of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in July for the 274-participant Tahoe Rim Trail 50 Mile Endurance Run to the 50,000-plus entrants in the world's largest marathon through New York City in November, Koback is making the most of his two lottery-accepted races in 2016.

And a special honor in October makes for a banner year for the former Wisconsin high school and college sprinter.

"Is it feasible when I finish a marathon, could I get to the finish line and then turn around and go all the way back to the start?" It is a question Koback started asking himself after completing his first marathons in 2013-14.

"Why not give it a shot?" He said leading up to his first ultra in April 2015. "So I signed up for the American River 50. ... When I did all my research, that was the most beginner-friendly course — even though after doing it, it was really not easy by any means."

Running 400 meters very fast was Koback's specialty in high school and college. After graduating from Amherst High School in Wisconsin, he attended and ran track for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he was part of the 1,600-meter relay team that won a Division III national championship in 2008.

However it was a ruptured Achilles, along with fellow high school running buddy Tim



Dan Dean
STAFF WRITER

Olson, that eventually got Koback running 40,000-plus meters instead of 400.

After graduating from college, moving to Los Angeles and following ultra-marathoner Olson's career, Koback ran his first marathon in 2013.

"I needed to get competitive again. ... As far as racing, I couldn't do sprints anymore," he said. "I had done 10Ks and upwards of half-marathons before so I was, like, OK, let's try something longer, so I did the L.A. Marathon."

Koback, a lab technician at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital, talked as we dodged light rain under a Market Fresh store canopy at 13 Mile and Southfield roads, interrupting a recent run through the Birmingham area.

Fueling his competitive nature and a new-found way to experience places he had never been, Koback followed his first L.A. Marathon by running it again in 2014, along with the San Diego and San Francisco marathons.

"It is an amazing thing. I had never been to any of these places," he said. "It gives me the perfect opportunity to go visit and actually immerse myself and run through all these areas that a lot of people even when they go and visit never get a chance to."

Immerse himself he will July 16, when he attempts his second 50-miler in Nevada. According to the race website, the event is located on the



Bradley Koback of Royal Oak runs north along Southfield Road between 14 Mile and Maple in Birmingham during a recent training run.

DAN DEAN

northeast side of Lake Tahoe, with the highest point of the run just below the 9,214-foot Snow Valley Peak.

The 2016 TCS New York City Marathon is about as opposite an experience one could find compared to the running events at Tahoe.

"I got an email for it. I thought, well, I have never been to New York, I will give it a shot," he said. "I got the email and it said congratulations you got in. I was just amazed, I didn't expect to get in. I knew I did not qualify, but

it was amazing. I am super-stoked."

Before heading to New York in November, Koback has some business to attend to in Wisconsin. On Oct. 15, he will skip his planned running of the Detroit Free Press Talmer Bank Marathon and will instead reunite with his collegiate 1,600-meter relay teammates as they are inducted into the UW-Stevens Point Hall of Fame, honoring the foursome's national championship.

If you are in a runner signed up for the TCS New York City

BRADLEY KOBACK, 29, ROYAL OAK

Running Group/charity: Team RWB and Project Purple. Koback decided to team up with Project Purple for New York because "they are not only one of the main charity sponsors for the NYC marathon, but also my uncle has just been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and I promised to run in his honor, as well as bring awareness to the disease and all others affected by the illness."

Number of Marathons: 9-Full, 5-Half, 1-50 mile ultra

Favorite running song: I almost never run with music, but when I need it, "High" by Sun City.

Shoes: Nike Flyknit Racer

Watch/GPS: Garmin Forerunner 235 GPS

Favorite energy Gel/bar: Clif Shot Bloks - Black Cherry

Nip guards or Glide?: BodyGlide - I've learned my lesson by leaving it behind!

Best advice for a newbie: When deciding on a race, pick one that you have an emotional attachment to and are passionate about. The emotional engagement will help you persevere when you find yourself in a tough part of the race or wanting to quit.

Marathon, drop me an email. I would love to profile others from Michigan and maybe even go for a run together as we prepare for this iconic event.

Dan Dean is interim managing editor for the Observer & Eccentric. Contact him at ddean@hometownlife.com. Twitter: @OandESports and #MiMarathoner_NYC; Instagram: Espressodanno and Facebook: Observer & Eccentric Sports.

DUNWORTH

Continued from Page B1

"It's really cutting edge," he said. "They have a huge team that works down here, and they have sales reps all over the country."

Dunworth, who was hired to fill the role of chief operating officer, said he will be coaching the people around him.

"I'm hoping to find the same semblance of coaching people in the business world as I have in the pool," he said.

"When you own the business, you're the guy who opens the doors and takes out the garbage. Even though I have zero medical background, I do know the business end of it."

Dunworth said the decision to leave coaching was tough. He was fortunate to work with "great people, great kids and great administrators" and hasn't closed the door on coaching again.

"For the time being, I have to get my ducks in a row and make a living," he said. "My business in Livonia is still doing fine. I made a decision to broaden my horizon and take on other responsibility."

First coaching stint

Dunworth coached the boys and girls teams at his alma mater, Dearborn High School, for 15 years until he gave that up in 1995 to concentrate on running Different Strokes.

He has had a management team running those stores since he returned to coaching in 2004, replacing Jim Downs at Mercy. He started coaching at CC the following year.

"When I came back, that's when I realized what a cherished time in my life it is and how fortunate I was during that period," Dunworth said.

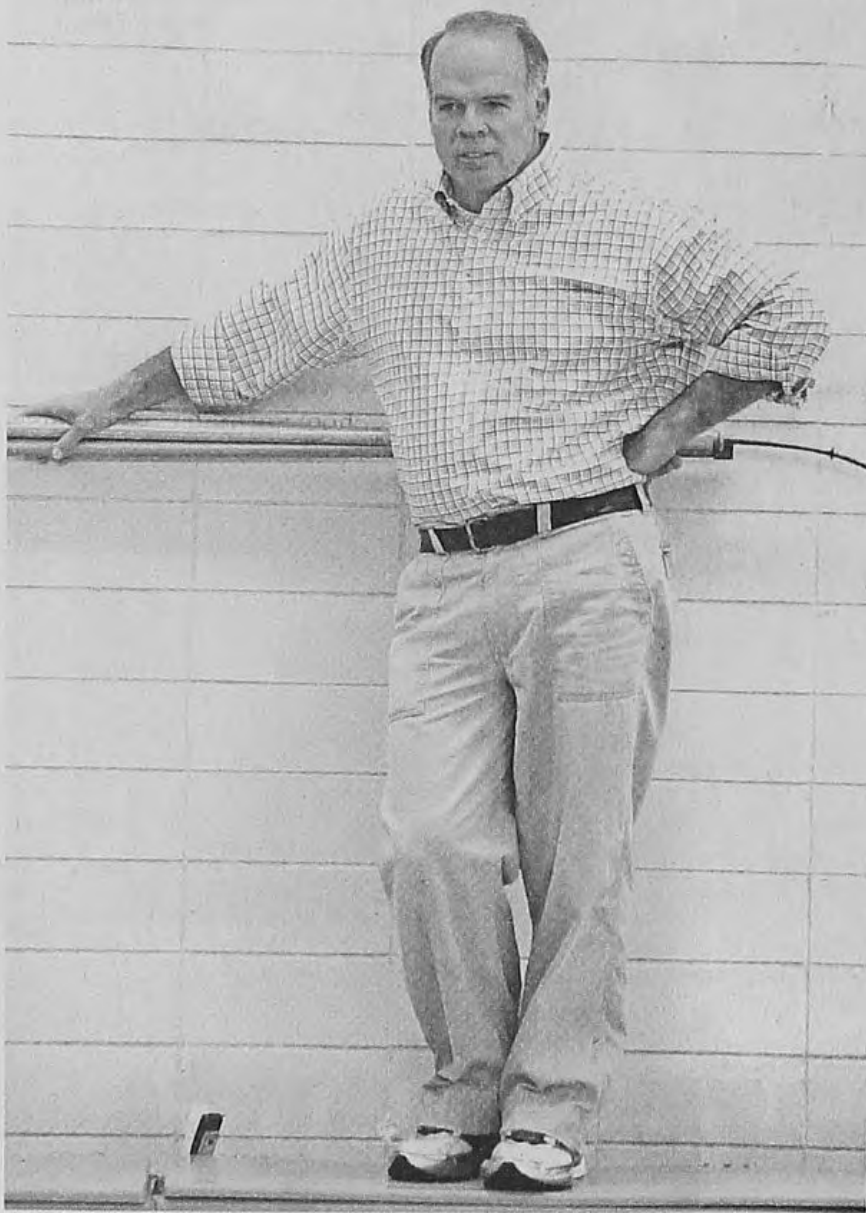
"I want the kids to know they're not going to miss a beat, and I'll still be engaged in what they're doing from afar. My heart will be there for a long, long time."

"That has to do, not with the sport of swimming, but the people you get to work with. If I was a hockey coach, I'd feel the exact same way."

Teams among best

Dunworth had great success at Mercy during his 12 seasons (2004-15) at the school, winning the Catholic League every year and six state championships.

The Marlins won four straight titles in Division 2 (2007-10) and two in Division 1 (2011 and 2013). He also coached Mercy to four state



FILE PHOTO

Shannon Dunworth hasn't ruled out a return to coaching at some time either in Michigan or Texas.

runner-up finishes.

"Coaching is fun and rewarding," Dunworth said. "Winning is the result. You aim for that result, but that doesn't change. I loved coaching at CC as much as I did Mercy. The results there, in my eyes, were equally successful."

"In the moment, it's fun to be successful. When the moment is over, it's over. You're just wanting that moment again. You're always craving the next fix."

Enjoys the process

The fix for Dunworth is the day-to-day process of training, striving to be better and working toward a goal. He's never been interested in the tally, he said.

"Some people like to hunt, and some people like to hang trophies of what they hunted," he said. "I'd like to just be hunting instead of thinking, 'Where is this going to go in my living room?'"

While he was out of coaching, Dunworth said he had several phone calls from people trying to coax him back into it.

"One day, I said, 'Why am I saying no?' One day, I said,

'Sure, why not?' and it was the best decision I ever made," he said.

Didn't plan to leave

When the boys season ended in March, Dunworth said he had every intention of returning to Mercy and CC. It was shortly after that the discussions about going to Texas intensified, and he had to make a decision.

"I was kind of glad it took me by surprise," he said. "The last thing I wanted was a parade year."

Dunworth sent each swimmer a letter, informing her/him of his decision and thanking them for their contributions to the program and for being an important part of his life.

"Some kids were disappointed," he said. "Some came to see me and expressed their appreciation. The last thing I was looking for was to generate some kind of response."

"The response I did get was a lot of maturity in their approach to it. It's nice to know they're going to miss you, but it's also nice to know you prepared them well enough for the next page."

SHARP

Continued from Page B1

"Honestly, it's like summer ball, but we're getting paid and competing for spots," Sharp said. "They treat you like professionals. The coaches aren't breathing down your back and telling you what to do."

"The practices are 75 percent making sure things are under control and you're perfecting what you already do. You do what got you drafted."

"If there are little things we need to tweak, they'll address that and we'll work on it. But they drafted you for a reason. They stress that a lot."

The majority of the players are recent draftees and free agents, but there are a few extended spring-training guys and Major Leaguers doing rehab work, Sharp said.

After playing for three college teams in three years, Sharp, who turned 21 two weeks ago, figured it was time to go to the next level when he was picked in the 22nd round of the Major League Draft.

He began his collegiate career at Eastern Michigan, but a coaching change at the end of his first year caused him to transfer to Darton State College in Albany, Ga.

After one season there, Sharp followed Eric Peterson, the former pitching coach at EMU, to Drury University, an NCAA Division II school in Springfield, Mo.

"It was a rough junior year," Sharp said, adding he was pleased to have the chance to get into pro ball after a "not-so-good year. It was best for me to get in and not worry about going through another good or bad season of college."

"When you look at the numbers, they weren't the numbers that get people drafted, usually. Throughout the season, the Nationals stayed in contact, and my agent kept saying they were interested."

Sharp, who was 2-5 with a 5.90 earned run average, 43 strikeouts and 21 walks in 50½ innings, performed well during a pre-draft workout with the Nationals in Washington, D.C.

"I think that helped a lot because they could see the potential and the frame I have, the way my arm works with my body," Sharp said. "It was a good bullpen opportunity. I threw 20 pitches in front of the GM and front-office guys."

Sharp, who also was an all-Observer basketball player at North Farmington, had heard all the stories about life



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sterling Sharp pitched for EMU, Darton State College and Drury University during his collegiate career.

in the minor leagues and the long bus trips.

It shouldn't be too bad in the GCL. All the games start at either noon or 1 p.m., and Sharp doesn't anticipate any trips longer than four hours. All the rookies are housed in a hotel at the team's expense.

"Some ex-teammates and guys I played against told me how it would be, and it's pretty much how they explained it," Sharp said.

"The road trips are just like summer ball the past two years up north in Madison, Wis. They won't bother me; I'm used to that."

"The second language is the thing I was most unprepared for. We have a lot of Spanish-speaking players in the clubhouse. We're learning Spanish, and they're learning English, too."

It's too early for Sharp to know what plans the team might have for him in the short term, but that will depend a lot on how he performs as the season unfolds.

"They just want us to get the feel of throwing every day like a professional does and to see that our arms are taken care of before they start putting the pieces together," he said.

Like any draftee and player with a shot to make it, Sharp has the dream of one day making it to the Major Leagues.

"I know it's a long process," he said. "I have to stay confident and have a belief in myself."

"Making it in three years is still pretty fast for guys to go from rookie league to the bigs. I just have to stay on the right path and keep working toward it."

"I believe I have some of the best stuff in the minor leagues. I have to keep going out there and putting up zeroes. Hopefully, I'll get a chance to move up and perform at the next level."

PDL SOCCER

Bucks jump-start offense against Toronto

Landell notches natural hat trick in 6-0 soccer victory

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Michigan Bucks returned June 23 to Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac and rediscovered their potent offense in a 6-0 Premier Development League win over Toronto FC U23 Academy.

The victory kept the Bucks (6-2-0, 18 points) in second place in the Great Lakes Division of the PDL's Central Conference, four points ahead of the Derby City Rovers (4-2-2, 14 points) and seven points behind Kitchener-Waterloo United (8-1-1, 25 points), but the Bucks have two games in hand on K-W.

Against Toronto (1-6-4, seven points), the Bucks dominated from the opening whistle.

In the 42nd minute, Bucks goalkeeper Drew Shepherd (Ann Arbor/Western Michigan University) launched a 60-yard punt to forward Ben Fitzpatrick, who took a nice touch to bring the ball down and then blew by his defender and ripped a shot from 16 yards out

that left Toronto keeper Darren MacLeod no chance for the first goal of the match.

Bucks leading scorer Andre Landell (England/Tiffin University) kept the attack going by scoring a natural hat trick that included goals on either side of halftime.

In the 44th minute, Landell took a through ball from Tom Owens (England) and used his speed to get past the back line and finished his chance to make it 2-0.

Just a minute later, Marco Charalambous (Cyprus/Butler) found Landell and the English forward made it two for two on his chances and the Bucks took a 3-0 lead into halftime.

The second half started the same way the first half ended, when Russell Cicerone (Bloomfield Hills/University of Buffalo) cruised down the left flank from the opening kick and found Landell sitting in the box, where he finished his third goal on his third shot of the game, all coming in a four-minute span.

Landell leads the Bucks with seven goals this season.

In the 57th minute, Owens launched a corner kick to the back post and found defender Alexi Souahy (France/Bowling Green), who one-timed his shot to make it 5-0.

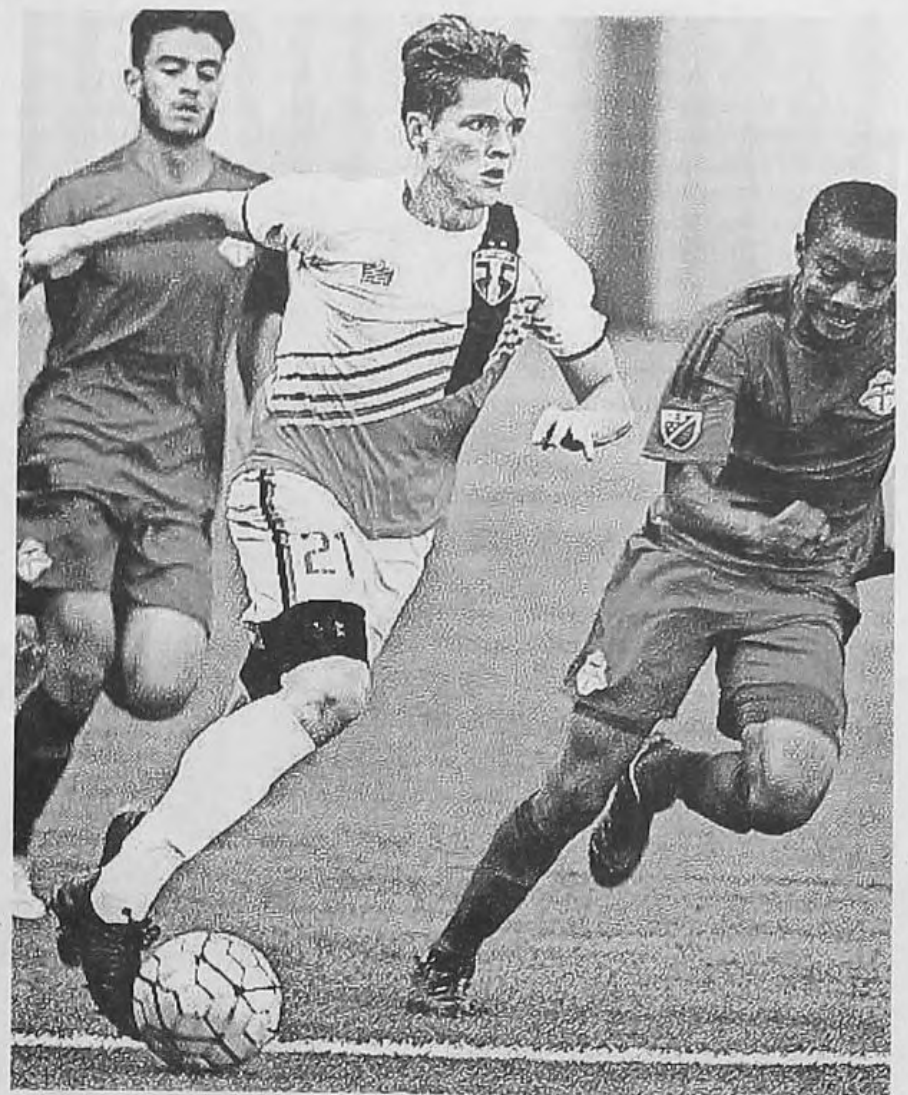
Cicerone, who played high school soccer at Birmingham Brother Rice, closed out the scoring with the game's best finish when he made a solo run through three Toronto defenders before smacking home his fourth goal of the campaign.

The Bucks were scheduled to play Tuesday at Derby City in Louisville and then Friday against K-W United at Wilfrid Laurier University in their toughest road stretch of the season.

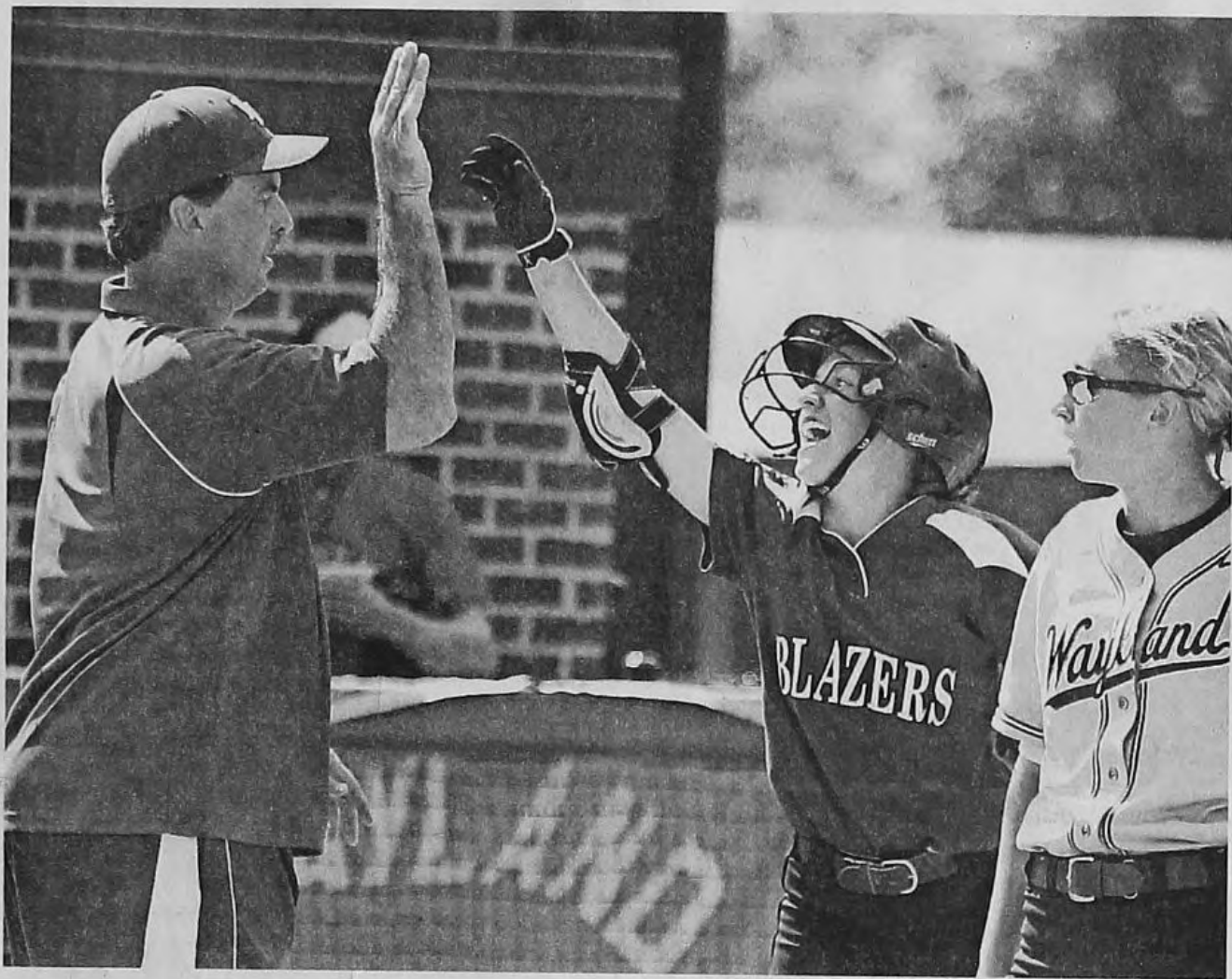
"We gave away points when we played there last week in a game we should have won, so this time we are going to try and get the job done right," said Gary Parsons, Bucks director of coaching. "Three points against Derby would put some breathing room between us and them for the final playoff spot and would really add some urgency to Friday's rematch with K-W."

"If we can clean up the mistakes we made on defense and finish a few chances in Louisville like we did against Toronto, I like our chances to keep on track. All of our guys know how difficult this next week will be and I think we are ready for the challenge."

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The Michigan Bucks' Ben Fitzpatrick (center) charges past a pair of Toronto FC defenders. JAY DUNWELL



Livonia Ladywood's Scott Combs (left) guided the Blazers to one state championship, two runner-up finishes and six final fours in nine girls softball seasons. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER | MICHIGAN.COM

COMBS

Continued from Page B1

M.K. Warner, Alexa Flores, Sydney Triest and Maddie Hass.

"I wanted to finish out this class," Combs said. "They've been a great, great class ... three final fours. But it was the end of the line, and I wish everyone well. I've got great memories and it will be extremely hard to drive by the field and see it. But all good things come to an end."

Combs, a native of Battle Creek who played baseball at Kalamazoo College, produced over 20 all-state players and sent as many to the collegiate ranks.

His daughter Briana, now at Bowling Green State University, was a standout pitcher

for the Blazers who earned Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year and Miss Softball honors in 2012 following the Blazers' state championship run.

In 2013, first baseman Celeste Fidge (Toledo) also earned Miss Softball honors.

Combs led Ladywood to eight straight district titles along with seven regional crowns. The Blazers also captured two Catholic League A-B Division championships (2011 and 2012).

"We had good representation in that tough Catholic League and we were by far the smallest school in there," Combs said of the Central Division. "But I greatly appreciated playing in the highest division. It really got us ready for the state tournament."

Combs, who has his own law practice, has gone 76-71 in

three seasons at UM-Dearborn. This spring, the Wolves finished 31-18 overall, including a 12-6 record in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Combs also wanted to spend more time devoted to following his son Scott, who is a standout three-sport athlete entering his senior year this fall at Dearborn Divine Child. His wife Pauline manages his law office.

"It was pulling me and it took so much effort that I really couldn't continue doing that," Combs said of the Ladywood job. "I'm also expanding Compuware a little bit. Something had to give. And with this class going out on such a high note, it was the right time to do it."

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SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

Rams win pitchers' duel over Lightning

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Michigan Ram Tyler Lowe proved a wooden bat can hit a ball as far as an aluminum bat as long as the swing mechanics are sound.

In a Livonia Collegiate Baseball League game played June 22 at Bicentennial Park, Lowe's first-inning round tripper was the catalyst for the Rams' 3-1 victory over the Southfield Lightning.

The result bumped the red-hot Rams' record to 10-3-1 while the Lightning smoldered to 4-9. It was the fifth consecutive victory for the Rams.

Ravi Mahanti earned the win for the Rams after yielding just two hits and striking



Tyler Lowe rocked a two-run homer in the win over Southfield. TOM BEAUDOIN

out a pair in two frames of work.

Mike Kanitra turned in a

strong three-inning stint on the mound, giving up a run and three walks, and Brendan Wetmore earned the save with two innings of scoreless relief.

Mike Warner suffered the setback for Southfield after giving up three runs in three innings.

The Rams, who outit the Lightning 4-3, were bolstered by one-hit, one-run efforts from Pat Downing and Nolan Page.

Anthony DiPonio went 1-for-2 for the winners, and Alex Peczynski added an RBI.

Marques Irving stroked two of the Lightning's three safeties. Brent Kline knocked in Southfield's lone run.

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Mercy star wins spot on All-America team

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Abby Krzywiecki can add another honor to her impressive resume as a softball player.

The Mercy High School star was named to the 2016 FloSoftball All-America first team as an infielder Saturday.

Krzywiecki was selected Miss Softball for position players a week earlier by the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association.

A Division 1 all-stater and perennial all-Observer honoree, Krzywiecki played first base and was the No. 2 pitcher for the Marlins.

She was a major factor in Mercy winning its first state

championship in softball with a 4-0 win over Macomb Dakota June 18 at Michigan State University.

Krzywiecki, who will play college ball at South Alabama, had a .526 career batting average. She had 46 doubles, 48 home runs and 238 RBIs.

As a pitcher, she was 51-5 with two saves, 11 shutouts and a 2.02 earned run average. She had 317 strikeouts and 99 walks in 351 innings.

Krzywiecki set a state record for single-season home runs this year with 20. She also led the Marlins (43-2) with a .558 average and 94 RBIs.

She was 12-1 in the pitching circle with a 1.66 ERA, 81 strikeouts and 13 walks in 92 2/3 innings.



Krzywiecki

U.S. OLYMPIC SWIM TRIALS

Canton's Schmitt earns berth in 200 free final

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Allison Schmitt of Canton qualified for the final race in the women's 200-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in swimming Tuesday.

Schmitt, the gold medalist in that event at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, was second in her semifinal heat at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb.

She was seeded third in the final Wednesday evening. Nineteen-year-old Katie Leddecky had the top semifinal time at 1:55.10.

Leah Smith swam 1:56.73, Schmitt 1:57.05 and Missy Franklin, another former Olympian, 1:57.33.

The 26-year-old Schmitt went 1:57.77 and was fourth in the preliminary round earlier Tuesday. Smith and Franklin are 21-year-olds.

On Monday, Schmitt finished fifth in the women's 400 freestyle final and failed to make the U.S. team. The top two make the cut.

Schmitt went 4:06.66 and was third in a semifinal heat earlier Monday. She swam 4:09.25 in the final.

Schmitt, who has six medals from the previous two Olympics, was the 2012 silver medalist in the 400 freestyle.

Miranda Tucker of Plymouth was eighth in the final race of the women's 100 breaststroke Tuesday eve-



Tucker

Schmitt

ning with a time of 1:08.19.

The top two placers and Olympic team members are Lilly King and Katie Meili with respective times of 1:05.20 and 1:06.07.

Tucker, who swims for Indiana University, qualified for the final Monday night with a semifinal time of 1:07.60, securing the eighth and last spot.

The top three swimmers in each semifinal heat are automatic qualifiers for the final. Those with the next two fastest times also advance to the final.

Tucker went 1:08.49 in the preliminary round Monday and swam nearly a minute faster in the semifinal to get into the final.

She swam for Waterford United in high school and is a member of the Livonia Community Swim Club.

The U.S. Olympic Trials continue through Sunday. The Olympic Games take place Aug. 5-21 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Swimming competition is scheduled for Aug. 6-13.

domeara@hometownlife.com

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Email event information for this calendar to Sharon Dargay, sdargay@hometownlife.com.

JULY

CAR SHOW

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, July 16

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: The lot will open for participants at 8 a.m. Cars must be in place no later than 11 a.m. \$10 covers participation and car owner's goodie bag. Voting will take place throughout the day, with the awards ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Door prizes will be drawn every hour and there will be additional activities and food available

Contact: livoniastmichael.org

COMMONGROUND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, July 22

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Women and girls, 12 and over, from more than 30 churches will gather for worship to live music and an after party with appetizers, a coffee and cocoa bar and giveaways. The outreach focus for the event is Grace's Table, an organization that works with teen mothers and their children. Lisa Anderson, founder, will be the guest speaker. CommonGround will collect diapers, sizes 2-6, refill packages of moist wipes, \$10 Meijer gas cards and \$10 Starbucks gift cards, for donation to Grace's Table

Contact: 734-397-1777

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Location: Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Road, Highland

Details: The Paradise Band, Elvis Lives and The Soulmen perform in an outdoor concert. \$15 advance tickets; \$20 at the door

Contact: 248-887-5364; holyspiritconcert.ezevent.com

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 23

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, Redford

Details: Free Christian music festival with Wise 4 Salvation, 11 a.m.; REIGN, noon; Reggie Williams, 1 p.m.; Redemption Road, 2 p.m.; Krymsyn Grayce, 3 p.m.; Second Day Story, 4 p.m.; The Well House Band, 5 p.m.; and Veracity, 6 p.m. Crafters and vendors will be on site from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gift drawings will be held at 3 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket

Contact: 313-937-2424; hosannatabor.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time: 6-8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, July 13-14

Location: Celebration Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, between Joy and W. Chicago Road, Livonia

Details: For children, 4 through starting fifth grade. The theme is Deep Sea Discovery. Activities include Bible stories, music, art, science and games. A family meal is available 5:30-6 p.m. No fee, but registration is required

Contact: 734-421-0749 Monday-Thursday mornings, or online at www.celebrationlc.com.

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile,

Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offerory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

Contact: 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

Recycling

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at

313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

SONG CIRCLE

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

» Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

» Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

» Fireside Church of God

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Fireside Adult Day Ministry activity-based program for dependent adults, specializing in dementia care. Not a drop-in center

Contact: 734-855-4056 or 734-464-0990; www.firesidechog.org; or email to adm@firesidechog.org

» St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Saturday

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: A twice-monthly drop-in Food Cupboard (non-perishable items) is available

Contact: 734-421-8451

» St. Thomas a' Becket Church

Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton

Details: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Contact: Margaret at 734-838-0322

» Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts), Thursday

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township

Details: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hangups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free.

Contact: Child care, 248-374-7400; www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

THRIFT STORE

St. James Presbyterian

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Contact: 313-534-7730 for additional information

Way of Life Christian Church

Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m. third Saturday from October through May

Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth

Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God more in their lives.

Contact: 734-637-7618

TOUR

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon first Sunday of the month

Location: The Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry, at 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit

Details: Led by Capuchin friar Larry Webber, the director of the Solanus Casey Center, the tour focuses on the spirituality and holiness of Father Solanus, a humble Capuchin friar credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. No reservations are needed, although the center requests an advance phone call for groups of five or more. No cost for the tour, although donations are accepted.

Contact: 313-579-2100, Ext. 149; www.solanuscenter.org

WORSHIP

» Adat Shalom Synagogue

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Sunday; and 6 p.m. weekdays

Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-851-5100

» Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia

Contact: 734-522-6830

» Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m. the third Friday of the month

Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Synagogue with Rabbi Peter Gluck and Cantorial soloist Robin Liberatore

Contact: www.facebook.com/betchaverim or email to betchaverim@yahoo.com

» Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m. Tuesday Bible study

Location: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia

Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services.

Contact: 248-960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org

» Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship; 9 a.m. Bible study

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi

Details: Women's group meets 12:30 p.m. third Thursday of the month. Vacation Bible School runs Aug. 8-12

Contact: 248-349-2345; faithcommunity-novi.org

» Faith Community Wesleyan Church

Time/Date: Prayer service, 9 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Sunday school, 12:30 p.m.; Bible study, 6 p.m.; Sundays, Soul Retention Discipleship classes, 4 p.m. Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia

Contact: pastor Roger Wright at 313-682-7491

» Garden City Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: Adult Bible study at

8:15 a.m.; traditional worship service, youth Sunday school and child care at 10 a.m. Large print order of service is available. Refreshments in the church fellowship hall immediately after service. Elevator and handicap parking

Location: Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road

Contact: 734-421-7620

» Good Hope Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with Communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesday

Location: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Contact: 734-427-3660

» Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

Time/Date: 8:45 a.m. Sunday school/adult Bible study; 10 a.m. Sunday service

Location: 4145 W. Nine Mile, Novi

Contact: Rev. Thomas E. Schroeder at 248-349-0565; GoodShepherdNovi.org

» Grace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service and 10:30 a.m. contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m.

Location: 46001 Warren Road, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township

Contact: 734-637-8160

» His Church Anglican

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m. at Madonna University

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, and Kresge Hall on the Madonna University campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; 248-442-0HCA

» Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Faith Forum; 10 a.m.

GRILLING? BE MINDFUL OF FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

As summer continues, home chefs everywhere are reaching for their grills, eager to enjoy barbecue season. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that grillers pay particular attention to safety in the spring and summer months when home fires involving grilling incidents occur most often.

Three out of five households own a gas grill, according to NFPA's latest "Home Grill Fires" report, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires. In 2009-13, an annual average of 8,900 home fires involved grills, hibachis or barbecues, and close to half of all injuries involving grills were due to thermal burns. While nearly half of the people who grill do so year-round, July is the peak month for grilling fires followed by May, June and August.

Although gas grills contribute to a higher number of home fires overall than their charcoal counterparts, NFPA reminds everyone that all types of grills pose a risk for fires and burn injuries. More than one-quarter (27 percent) of home structure grill fires started on an exterior balcony or open porch, and another 27 percent started in a courtyard, terrace or patio. Eight percent began in the kitchen, according to the report.

"As friends and families prepare for a fun grilling season together, be sure the grill is working properly and review safety tips," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy for NFPA. "Failing to properly clean the grill or having the grill too close to something that could burn are the leading causes of fires. It's good practice to check for damage before using the grill for the first time each year, and to check the entire grill regularly."

When grilling, NFPA suggests the following:

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grates and in the trays below.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.

For more information and resources, including tips for outdoor cooking with portable grills, visit www.nfpa.org/grilling or download NFPA's safety tips sheet on grilling for easy access. There is information online on checking propane hoses for leaks.



Write legislators on Nonprofit Corporation Act changes

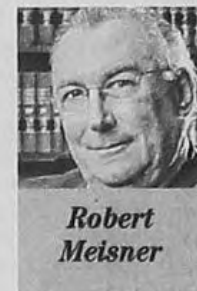
Q: My condominium Board is out of control and has acted totally irresponsibly in terms of the management of our condo and the retention of experts, including our attorney. I want to sue them, but am wondering what effect the new Nonprofit Corporation Act has on it?

A: The new changes to the Nonprofit Corporation Act, which were politically motivated during the lame duck session of the legislature in December 2014, make it very difficult for a member of the association to sue a Board member for acts or omissions which are irresponsible. Under the old rule, only volunteer members of the Board of Directors had various protections under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act which we wholeheartedly supported on behalf of our community association clients. Now, whether or not you are compensated as a Director, and even if you are grossly negligent which is an extremely difficult standard to meet, you are free from liability. In short, it is actually easier to sue a governmental official which has governmental immunity unless they have committed gross negligence than it is to sue a member of a Board of Directors. This is outrageous and community association members who are involved in a nonprofit association should write their Michigan legislators to demand a retraction of this unreasonable provision and you should seek redress with an experienced community association lawyer who may be able to find a loophole that allows you to take recourse.

Q: We live in a condominium community with 42 units on a small lake. They are site condominiums and the pricing is between \$350,000 to \$500,000. The one entrance/exit is always open and monitored with a surveillance camera. There have only been two attempted break-ins in twenty years. We have recently been told that going to a gated community would increase our condominium values by at least \$20,000 per unit. Is there any truth to that?

A: I can only speak from my legal standpoint as to the effect that a gated community will have on the market value of your units. To the extent there is a perception that there is more security in the condominium, then the units may be worth more money, but how much is not known except as may be determined by the market. However, you do incur additional expense in having a gated community and the threshold for liability for security issues may be lower because of that perception. You are best advised to consult with an experienced realtor in your area for his or her opinion.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Robert Meisner

Industry report: Home sale prices on a climb

Existing-home sales sprang ahead in May to their highest pace in almost a decade, while the uptick in demand this spring amidst lagging supply levels pushed the median sales price to an all-time high, according to the National Association of Realtors. All major regions except for the Midwest saw strong sales increases last month.

Total existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, grew 1.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.53 million in May from a downwardly revised 5.43 million in April. With last month's gain, sales are now up 4.5 percent from May 2015 (5.29 million) and are at their highest annual pace since February 2007 (5.79 million).

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says existing sales continue to hum along, rising in May for the third consecutive month. "This spring's

sustained period of ultra-low mortgage rates has certainly been a worthy incentive to buy a home, but the primary driver in the increase in sales is more homeowners realizing the equity they've accumulated in recent years and finally deciding to trade-up or downsize," he said. "With first-time buyers still struggling to enter the market, repeat buyers using the proceeds from the sale of their previous home as their down payment are making up the bulk of home purchases right now."

Added Yun, "Barring further deceleration in job growth that could ultimately temper demand from these repeat buyers, sales have the potential to mostly maintain their current pace through the summer."

Surpassing the peak median sales price set last June (\$236,300), the median existing-home price for all housing types in May was \$239,700, up 4.7 percent from May 2015 (\$228,900). May's price in-

crease marks the 51st consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

Total housing inventory at the end of May rose 1.4 percent to 2.15 million existing homes available for sale, but is still 5.7 percent lower than a year ago (2.28 million). Unsold inventory is at a 4.7-month supply at the current sales pace, which is unchanged from April.

"Existing inventory remains subdued throughout much of the country and continues to lag even last year's deficient amount," added Yun. "While new home construction has thankfully crept higher so far this year, there's still a glaring need for even more, to help alleviate the supply pressures that are severely limiting choices and pushing prices out of reach for plenty of prospective first-time buyers."

The share of first-time buyers was 30 percent in May, down from 32 percent both in April and a year ago. First-time buyers in all of 2015 also

represented an average of 30 percent.

According to Freddie Mac, the average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage inched backward from 3.61 percent in April to 3.60 percent in May, which is the lowest since May 2013 (3.54 percent). The average commitment rate for all of 2015 was 3.85 percent.

Properties typically stayed on the market for 32 days in May (39 days in April), which is below a year ago (40 days) and the shortest time since NAR began tracking in May 2011. Short sales were on the market the longest at a median of 103 days in May, while foreclosures sold in 51 days and non-distressed homes took 30 days. Forty-nine percent of homes sold in May were on the market for less than a month — the highest percentage since NAR began tracking.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in

Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m.

each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvalue-realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.625	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.625	0	2.875	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.5	0	2.875	0
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	2.875	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.625	0.25	2.875	0

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This notice is to inform our Bright House Networks customers of upcoming changes to their cable programming lineup.

From time to time our agreements with cable channels and television stations come up for renewal. While we do not anticipate any loss or disruption of service, regulations require us to notify you of the possibility of losing programming. Therefore, please be advised that our agreements Outdoor Channel, Pop, TV Guide (analog only), TV One, and Youtoo America remain in effect on a month-to-month basis, and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld.

Our agreements with ASPIRE, GOLTV, Music Choice, and The Weather Channel expire on June 30, 2016 and our agreement with The Arabic Channel expires on July 1, 2016 and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. Also, our agreements with WDIV NBC/This TV expire on July 31, 2016 and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. We are working diligently at this time to come to acceptable and fair terms with all these channels.

For more information, please call 1-877-885-8318 or visit our website at brighthouse.com

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Special Notices

Michigan Technical Academy Attention: Food Service Vended Meal Companies. The Michigan Technical Academy is requesting proposals for school food service vended meal services. The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines. Vendors and/or their representatives must submit proposals to: Michigan Technical Academy 23750 Elmira Redford, MI 48239

The Michigan Technical Academy Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district. A pre-bid meeting will not be scheduled. A copy of the RFP will be available by email at lucker@matchbooklearning.com by July 6, 2016. Potential bidders are asked to email their questions to LaTasha Tucker at lucker@matchbooklearning.com by July 8, 2016. The school district will email its response to these questions by July 11, 2016. All proposals must be submitted no later than 3:00 pm on July 27, 2016. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Michigan Technical Academy and be clearly marked: Food Service Vended Meal Proposal.

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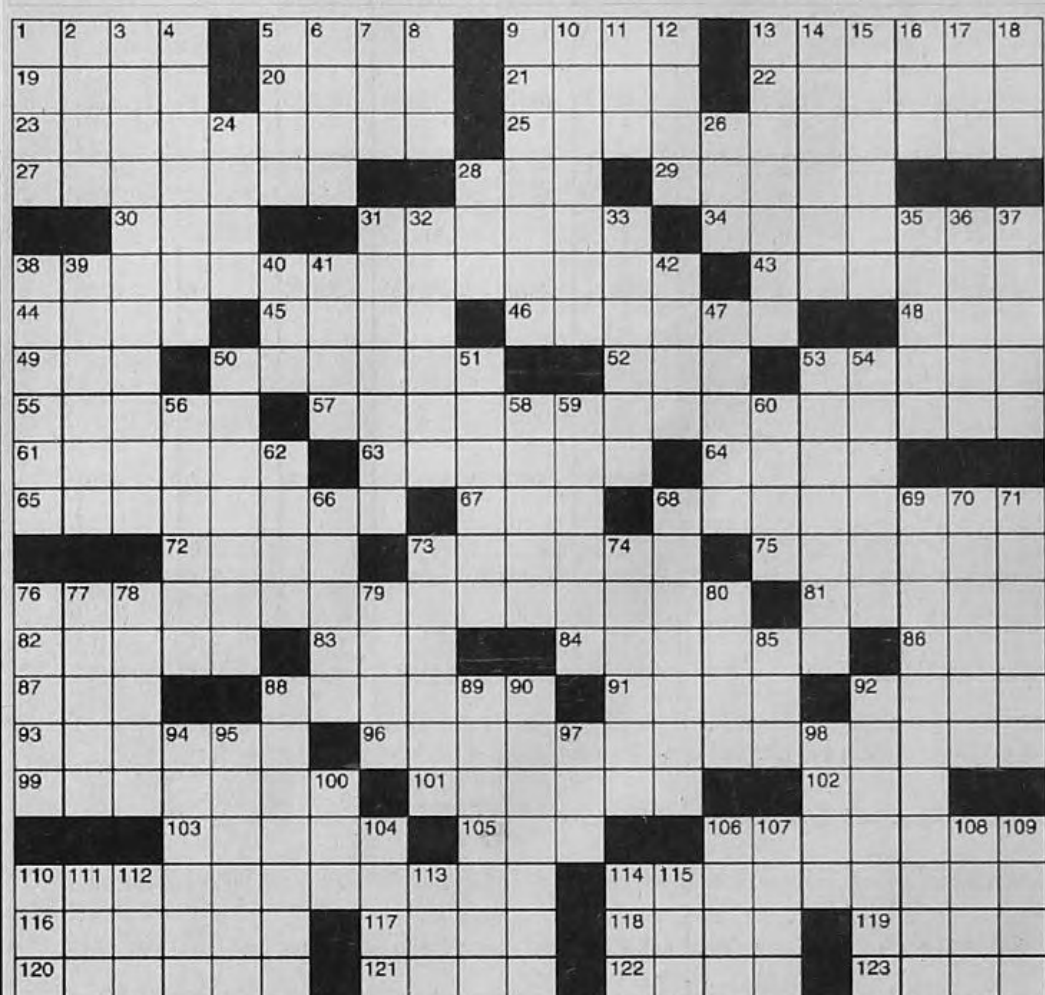
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Putting game
 - 5 Graham of football
 - 9 Train lines, e.g.; Abbr.
 - 13 Minnesota's capital
 - 19 Hollywood's Sharif
 - 20 Apparel
 - 21 "Got it," facetiously
 - 22 — del Fuego (island group)
 - 23 Occur
 - 25 Grizzly catcher's activity
 - 27 Solidarity
 - 28 Stock value
 - 29 Florida resort
 - 30 Moist
 - 31 First part of an act
 - 34 Lacking any amenities
 - 38 Repulsive
 - 43 Product's ultimate application
 - 44 Pub mug
 - 45 Nanny, e.g.
 - 46 Captivate
 - 48 Scholastic stat
 - 49 Up vote
 - 50 Digit with a relatively large nail
 - 52 Fourth scale steps
 - 53 Bubbling, as hot water
 - 55 "I read you"
 - 57 Not reveal one's pain
 - 61 Athletic shoe brand
 - 63 Outward flow
 - 64 Swenson of the screen
 - 65 Sacred sites
 - 67 Adam's mate
 - 68 Minor deities
 - 72 Other, to Jose
 - 73 Tennis' Graf
 - 75 Fed head
 - 76 Play fair
 - 81 Towel off again
 - 82 Sophia of the silver screen
 - 83 Heckler's cry
 - 84 Facial hair
 - 86 In thing, temporarily pluralized
 - 88 Bewilder
 - 91 Movie genre
 - 92 Totally fulfill
 - 93 Tiny nation in Europe
 - 96 Be a sentinel for
 - 99 Oppressive
 - 101 Like pre-1991 Russia
 - 102 Funny
 - 103 Code name
 - 105 Ring count
 - 106 Current flow
 - 110 "It's Just a Matter of Time" singer of 1959
 - 114 What the first words of 23-, 25-, 38-, 57-, 76-, 96- and 110-Across can all mean
 - 116 Bodega site
 - 117 Major — (steward)
 - 118 Author Oz
 - 119 "Boy!" or "girl!" lead-in
 - 120 Selected
 - 121 Utah city
 - 122 Thanksgiving side dish
 - 123 "Sure thing"
 - 3 "A Prairie Home Companion" town
 - 4 Rival one is amicable with
 - 5 Night hooters
 - 6 4:00 socials
 - 7 Tic-toc linkup
 - 8 Refinery rock
 - 9 Paco of fashion
 - 10 Regarding that matter
 - 11 That, to Jose
 - 12 Collate, e.g.
 - 13 Tough one
 - 14 Metal cake container
 - 15 Besieger's bomb
 - 16 Jackie's "O"
 - 17 Sizable vase
 - 18 Not keep up
 - 24 Gp. against bullfighting
 - 26 Includes
 - 28 Diem lead-in
 - 31 Many busts
 - 32 Sever
 - 33 Stymied
 - 35 Yank at
 - 36 Savory jelly
 - 37 Tennis' Fraser
 - 38 Glassy looks
 - 39 Camry, e.g.
 - 40 Special FX graphics
 - 41 Boars, say
 - 42 FBI worker
 - 47 Davis of "Get on the Bus"
 - 50 Composer Benjamin
 - 51 Devilized
 - 53 Casbah city
 - 54 Small hound
 - 56 Cipher
 - 58 Young moray, say
 - 59 Lamentable
 - 60 Part of IMO
 - 62 Rein in
 - 66 Perhaps
 - 68 Becomes extinct
 - 69 Long-loved item
 - 70 Lower the value of
 - 71 Gary of beat poetry
 - 73 Yells
 - 74 Projecting flat collar
 - 76 Thrifty rival
 - 77 Element #5
 - 78 Actress Jacob
 - 79 Male turkeys
 - 80 LaBeouf of "I, Robot"
 - 85 Botch it up
 - 88 Straight whisker type
 - 89 Island that's partner
 - 90 Poison
 - 92 By one means or another
 - 94 Knights' suits
 - 95 Oreo, e.g.
 - 97 Loud noise
 - 98 "Chocolat" actor Johnny
 - 100 Compass pt. e.g.
 - 104 Within: Prefix
 - 106 Molecule unit
 - 107 Touse
 - 108 Blues singer — James
 - 109 Pahlavi, e.g.
 - 110 Telly channel
 - 111 Cheer word
 - 112 Gold, to Jose
 - 113 Blue Jays, on scoreboards
 - 114 Cough up
 - 115 Actress Thurman



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

SUDOKU

2			8					5
	7							9
	1		2		6			7
		7				9		8
5		1				4		
	8		5		4		2	
	9						3	
6					7			4

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!

4	8	1	7	3	6	2	9	9
9	3	8	7	4	1	2	6	7
6	9	2	4	7	9	5	8	1
7	9	4	6	8	3	1	2	5
2	1	3	5	4	7	7	8	9
8	5	6	2	1	9	7	4	3
3	7	8	9	6	2	5	1	4
1	9	2	3	5	4	5	9	7
5	4	5	1	6	4	8	3	2

FROZEN DESSERT WORD SEARCH

WORDS

BAKED ALASKA	MALTED MILKSHAKE
BOMBE	NOVELTY
CAKE	PARFAIT
CARAMEL	PREMIUM
COLD	SANDWICH
CONE	SEMIFREDDO
CUSTARD	SHERBET
DELICIOUS	SOFT SERVE
DESSERT	SORBET
FLOAT	SOUFFLE
FRAPPE	SPRINKLES
GELATO	SPUMONI
GLACE	SUNDAE
GRANITA	SWIRL
ICE CREAM	TARTUFO
ICES	WAFFLE
KEFIR	YOGURT
KULFI	

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

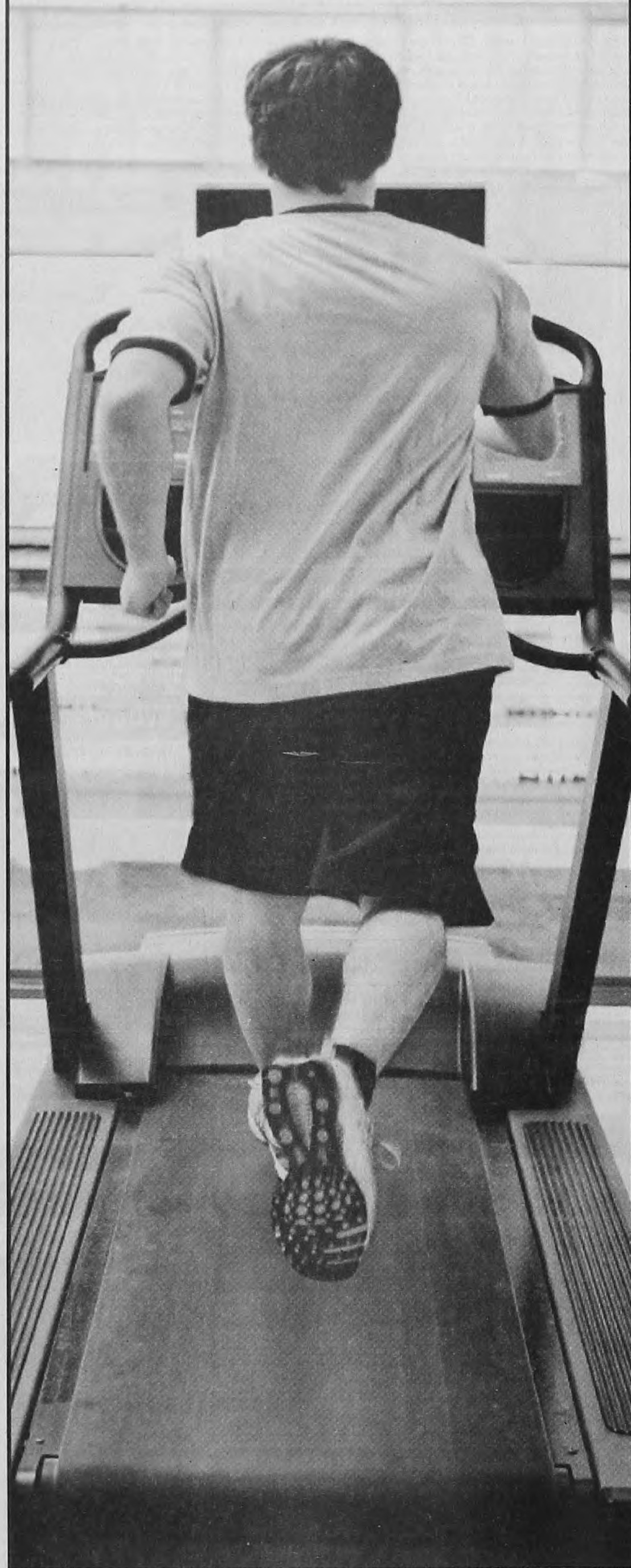
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

GOLF	OTTO	RTES	STPAUL
OMAR	WEAR	AHSO	TIERRA
TAKE	PLACE	BEAR	HUNTING
ONENESS	PAR	TAMPA	
WET	SCENE	I SPARTAN	
STOMACH	TURNING	ENDUSE	
TOBY	GOAT	ENAMOR	GPA
AYE	BIG	TOE	FAS
ROGER	SUFFER	INSILENCE	
ETONIC	EFFLUX	INGA	
SANCTUMS	EVE	DEMIGODS	
OTRA	STEFFI	YELLEN	
ABIDE	BY	THERULES	REDRY
LOREN	BOO	LASHES	FAD
ARE	BEMUSE	NOIR	SATE
MONACO	STAND	GUARDOVER	
ONEROUS	SOVIET	EMO	
MORSE	TEN	AMPERES	
BROOK	BENTON	PUTUP	WITH
BARRIO	DOMO	AMOS	ATTA
CHOSEN	OREM	YAMS	YEAH

Crossword Answers

Word Search Answers

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