

CANTON OBSERVER

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**SCHOOLCRAFT
BASEBALL
PROGRAM
'ALL IN' WITH
NEW FACILITY**
SPORTS, B1

Would you? Suburbanites head to downtown Detroit to live

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

When he's not working, Detroit resident and Livonia native Andrew Davis is able to keep himself occupied. Just like most people, he tends to follow a routine, sticking to the same typical places.

Those activities can include stopping by the Detroit Institute of Arts, going to Belle Isle or going to a favorite watering hole for a drink.

"If you put a little energy and thought into it, there's always something you can do," the 2003 Stevenson High School graduate said. "There's always something to do and there's always a friend who wants to drink."

Davis is just one of many Detroit residents who grew up in the suburbs, only to flock to the inner city and the lifestyle that comes with it. It's a decision many young people have made over the last few years, especially those looking to make a difference in a city that was the site of the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history.

This comes even as population estimates for Detroit continue to drop: U.S. Census Bureau figures show Detroit's estimated population was at 677,116 as of July 1, 2015. That's down from the 713,777 that were counted back in the 2010 census.

Davis currently lives in Corktown, but has lived many places across the urban core, including Midtown, Indian Village and the enclave city of Hamtramck, a place he grew quite attached to because of its rich culture and blending of people.

"I kind of grew to love that area," he said. "It is refreshing to be around not all white people."

He currently works at SMPLFD, a local clothing shop downtown, along with others who grew up in the western suburbs. One of those is Abbas Hassain, who moved to Detroit about three years ago to complete his studies at Wayne State University. He'd commute five days a week, sometimes from his home in Canton, and found a friend who had an open room. He recently graduated from the school, but plans on staying in the Woodbridge neighborhood, where he's been since coming to the city.

Hassain, a 2011 Canton High School graduate, said he's noticed the wide range of diversity in the city without



Justin Fishaw (from left), Andrew Davis, Darren Barrowcliff and Vincent Troia.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the fear of being racially profiled.

"I haven't come across any forms of racism on me in Detroit," he said.

Despite the buzz he feels happening in the city, Davis knows there's still plenty to be done to make Detroit even better. Development downtown is seeing big investment, but he knows getting the neighborhoods across the city fixed and cleaned up will help improve the city.

"There's straight up neighborhoods where there are two houses left," he said. "It's so much area in Detroit, that it's going to be tough to get it all back in order."

But knowing his role in the city is just as important, Hassain said. Knowing the story of those who have lived in the city their entire lives is key to understanding their thoughts on those who lived in the suburbs before coming to the urban core.

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Garrett Fishaw (left) and his brother Justin.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I kind of grew to love that area. It is refreshing to be around not all white people."

ANDREW DAVIS
former Livonia resident now living in Detroit

See MARKETS, Page A2

Three Winter Markets planned in Canton

The Canton Farmers Market will return with special Winter Markets over three Sundays in February, March and April at the Summit on the Park community recreation center. The markets will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 26, March 19 and April 23, in the Banquet Lobby in the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton.

"We're thrilled to bring back our Winter Markets that provide a fun destination for families and individuals who value healthy, local food options," Canton Farmers Market coordinator Amanda Campana said. "Our goal is create a unique shopping experience for our market-goers, while supporting our local farmers and producers and expanding access to fresh, healthy food sources."

The Canton Farmers Market is also partnering with Healthy Food Connect, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund and the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to launch its new Healthy Food Connect: Canton program to help better connect Canton-area seniors to fresh, nutritious, local food during its 2017 markets. Interested seniors, who are 55 years of age or older, may schedule an orientation with the market staff to receive a one-on-one tour of the farmers market and information about the food assistance programs currently accepted at the markets.

The first 300 Healthy Food Connect participants to attend a scheduled orientation will receive \$5 in Market Bucks to purchase eligible food products at the market. Monthly drawings for prizes will also be held for those who attend the market, so be sure to check in with the market staff each time you attend! In addition, the Canton Farmers Market will have weekly cooking demonstrations. Recipe cards will also be available so you can recreate each culinary masterpiece at home!

In addition, the Canton Farmers Market is partnering with HVA Mobility Transportation to provide free transportation for qualifying individuals to and from Canton's

Plymouth-Canton musicians earn high marks at regional festival

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools musicians earned top marks for their talents at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District Solo & Ensemble Festival in late January and early February at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School.

This festival features student musicians from across

southeast Michigan. Thousands of students from dozens of schools perform for judges in exhibitions of their skills. The MSBOA states that the "Solo & Ensemble Festival is an opportunity for individual students from member schools to perform a selection of their choice for adjudication." Students are ranked with score of

1 to 5, with 1 being "superior". Those musicians that achieve a superior rating can progress to the State Level Solo & Ensemble festival in March and April.

With its five concert bands, two Orchestras, Jazz Bands and a variety of other ensem-

See MUSICIANS, Page A2



Heather Zeigler, Nate Lewis, Matthew Milanovich and Erin Boyle-Levy performed as a saxophone quartet.



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MARKETS

Continued from Page A1

upcoming winter and regular season markets. Participants who qualify can schedule their transportation directly with HVA's call center during its business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, by calling 734-477-6404. This trip to the Canton Farmers Market will not deduct from your weekly allotment.

More than a dozen vendors will be onsite at the Feb. 26 Winter Market offering a wide assortment of Michigan grown and made products, including honey, jam, cider, apples, artisan cheese and bread, baked goods, farm eggs, seasonal produce grown in greenhouses and hoop



Visitors at one of last year's Winter Markets in Canton.

houses (weather permitting) and more. A local chef will be hosting a cook-

ing demonstration from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with tasty bites for market-

goers to sample. Bridge Card and Double Up Food Bucks transactions

will also be accepted. Purchase your tokens at the Canton Leisure Ser-

vices table. Plenty of parking is typically available toward the back of the Summit parking lot. Enter through the banquet doors. For more information, call 734-394-5375.

These indoor Winter Markets will pick up where the outdoor regular season of the Canton Farmers Market left off. The new season of the outdoor Canton Farmers Market will re-open Sunday, May 14, and will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday through Oct. 15 in Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road.

For additional Canton Farmers Market information, go to www.canton-mi.org/496, contact the farmers market coordinator at cantonfarmersmarket@canton-mi.org or call 734-394-5375.

CORRECTION

A story in the Feb. 5 Observer should have said that artist Sasha Roberts-Levi is a former Redford resident now living in West Bloomfield.

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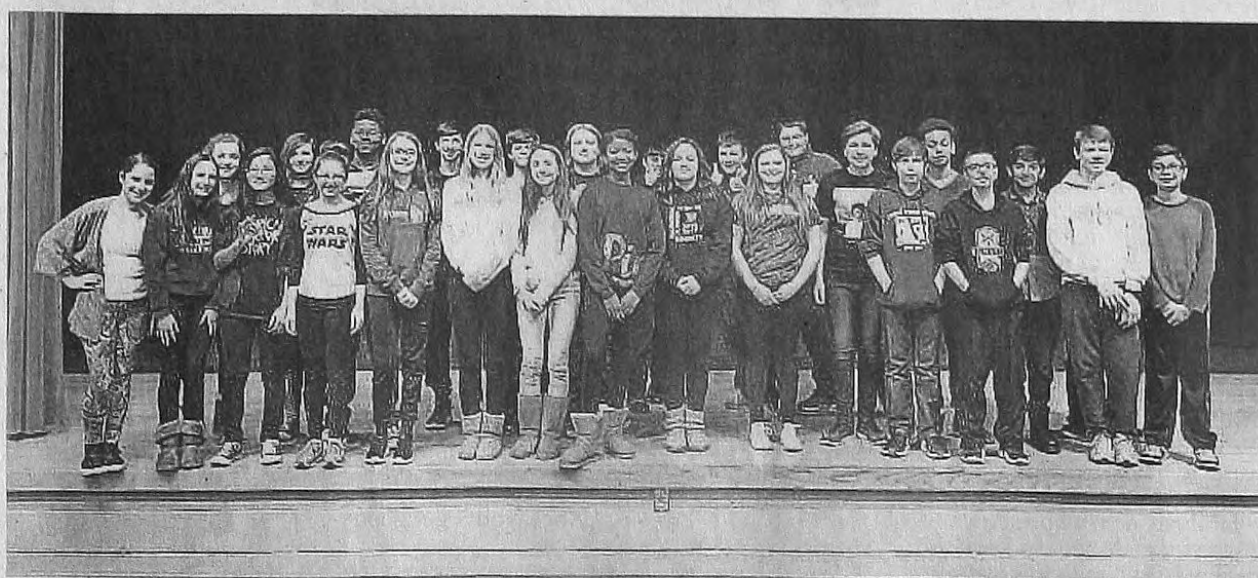
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Eighth-grade Discovery Middle School students performed at the recent festival.

MUSICIANS

Continued from Page A1

bles the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has the talent to excel. G. Jonathan Thomann, director of bands, and Cathy DePentu director of orchestra at P-CEP, sent more than 100 soloists and 50 ensembles, ranging from duets to quintets, to the festival.

The P-CEP musicians played everything from violins to tubas and flutes to pianos. The students didn't disappoint: 58 events from the band, and many more from the orchestra, received superior ratings and have earned the privilege to participate in

the State Level Solo Ensemble.

Not to be outdone by their high school counterparts, the district's middle schools also sent a large contingent of musicians to the festival. Marc Whitlock, band director at Discover Middle School, sent 50

students to perform for the judges. East, West, Liberty and Pioneer sent similar numbers. Almost 200 middle school students performed at the Solo & Ensemble. Much like P-CEP, the middle school students brought the talent. Many earned top marks.

Investigational Stem Cell Trial for Dogs with Osteoarthritis

Dr. Michael Petty is participating in an investigational study of donor stem cells for dogs with osteoarthritis that will determine if a single injection of stem cells into 1 or 2 affected joints can help reduce signs associated with osteoarthritis in your dog.

Your dog may qualify for the study if they:

- ✓ are 9 months old or older
- ✓ weigh 5.5 pounds or more
- ✓ have osteoarthritis in ONLY 1 or 2 of the following joints: hips, stifles, shoulders, elbows
- ✓ have had pain and/or lameness for at least 3 months
- ✓ are in good health other than osteoarthritis; a physical exam and diagnostic work up will be conducted to see if your dog qualifies for the study
- ✓ have not had previous stem cell therapy of any kind
- ✓ can tolerate anesthesia needed to perform joint injection(s)
- ✓ do NOT have cancer

The study covers all study related bloodwork, radiographs (x-rays), and in-clinic procedures.

Your dog may be treated with the stem cells or a placebo. If your dog is treated with the placebo, after it completes the 6-month study it may be eligible for stem cell treatment, to be provided at no cost. There is also a monetary incentive for participating in the study.

For information, please Call Janet or Stacie at Arbor Pointe Veterinary Hospital located in Canton Michigan at 734-844-8844.



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CITY OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USES OF 2017-2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Year 2017-2018 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide benefits to senior citizens.
2. To provide benefits directly to persons of low/moderate income and/or areas in which at least 51% of the residents are of low/moderate income.
3. To maintain a high level of performance in the management of all CDBG funded programs

PROPOSED YEAR 2017-2018 PROJECTS:

The City anticipates receiving approximately \$49,754.64 in CDBG funds for the contract year 2017-18, and has identified the following potential projects and corresponding estimated allocations for use of these funds:

1. ADA and/or Public Facility Improvements	\$32,849.60
2. Public Services- Senior Transportation	\$11,929.58
3. Administration/Planning	\$4,975.46
	TOTAL \$49,754.64

PUBLIC HEARING:

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed projects listed above, and to suggest other projects. All projects must meet one of the Federal CDBG objectives.

A public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed uses of 2017-2018 CDBG funds, and additional suggestions for use of said funds, will be held at the Plymouth City Commission Meeting on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Chambers at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 9, 2017

Posted at the following locations:

Plymouth Cultural Center- Bulletin Board Main Entrance
Plymouth City Hall- North Entrance and South Entrance
Plymouth Downtown Development Authority Office- Front Window
Observer & Eccentric Newspaper- Published Thursday February 9, 2017

LD-0000311279 3X8

DETROIT

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“Treat it as if it’s your own, but a lot of people don’t do that,” he said. “I try to stay aware of what’s actually good for the community. I think that stuff’s pretty important.”

Staying around

Dan Ross is a new-comer to the city, but he sees a bright future living in the urban core. Ross, a 2007 Milford High School graduate, moved to Detroit about six months ago when a room opened at a friend’s place in the Boston Edison neighborhood. He’s spent time all over, living in Milford, Wixom and Pontiac, and recently had his job take him from Redford to Royal Oak, where he currently works.

So far, he said, he’s always able to keep occupied when not working. It’s a far cry from his time as a youth in Milford, where, he said, it was routine to spend the evening at Meijer, though he did say the transition from being in a more rural area to an urban one has taken some adjusting.

“It’s kind of cool being so close to downtown,” he said. “It’s neat that there is a nightlife that exists.”

Josh Wilt, who had grown up in cities like Troy and Berkley, moved to Detroit in 2009 and lived in the city until 2015. He said he always wanted to be a part of the scene in Detroit, enjoying the music, art, food and other experiences it had to offer. He got married in 2012 and he and his wife lived in several neighborhoods, including Boston Edison, Milwaukee Junction and Woodbridge.

But living in the city wasn’t something he and his wife felt they could do when they began raising children, given the current situation with the school district in Detroit. With that facing them, they opted to move out of the city, but stay as close as possible: they now live in Grosse Pointe, just five houses from the Detroit border.

“I was not willing to pay for school and have to deal with driving my kids to a private school,” the Royal Oak Shrine High School graduate said. “It’s a sad truth, but I have met several people and heard stories about a lot of young couples not willing to move to the city for this reason.”

‘A lot of good’

Ross said he plans on staying in Detroit, hoping to make it his home for the foreseeable future. He’s routinely asked “why?” when he tells people he recently moved downtown. The connotation of Detroit being a dangerous place, he said, is unwarranted.

“There’s bad areas to every city, but Detroit has a lot of good going for it,” he said. “There’s a whole lot to see and do and they don’t give it a chance. You don’t have to be afraid.”

Hassain agrees, saying it’s best for those in the suburbs to come to their own conclusions about what Detroit is all



The skating rink at Campus Martius Park.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“It’s kind of cool being so close to downtown. It’s neat that there is a nightlife that exists.”

DAN ROSS
former Milford resident
now living in Detroit

spent much time in Detroit.

“They would think it’s just some sort of deserted dump. I’ve always advocated for making your own opinions and check it out,” he said. “As long as you put out good vibes, you’ll get good vibes.”

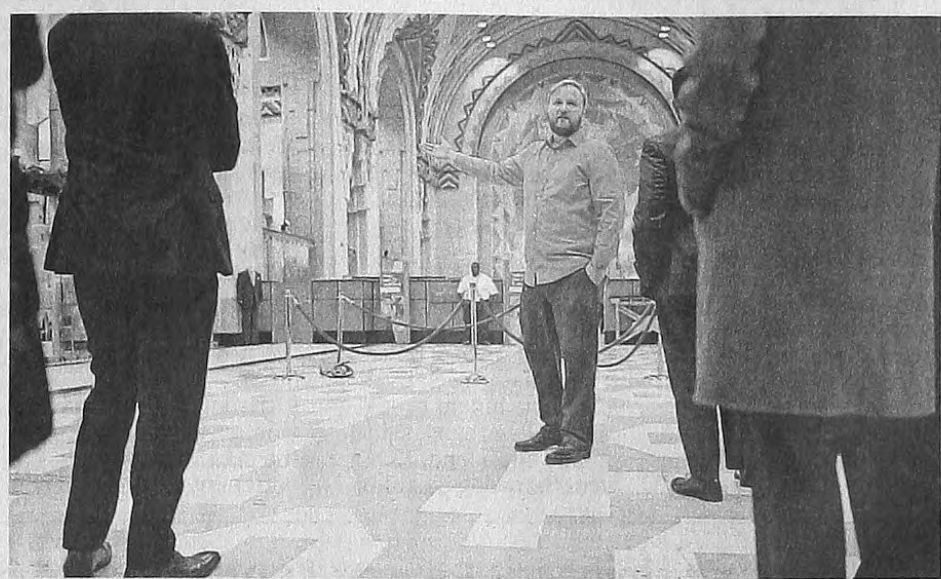
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about. They might just be surprised what they find.

It’s a conversation he’s had with many others who haven’t lived or

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Chezick shows a group the lobby of the Guardian Building in Detroit.



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New book by Canton resident talks teacher tactics

Unbiased decisions must drive honest and objective change to redevelop our educational structures and institutions, according to the new educational book "Truth Transforms Education: A Framework for New School Leaders."

The newly released book from Dr. Antoinette Pearson, "Truth Transforms Education" discusses seven practical principles school leaders

should consider as they strive to build the instructional capacity of educators and create institutions of academic success for students.

"There have been minimal efforts to really support educators' pro-



Pearson

fessional growth and development," said Pearson, a Canton resident and founder of Common Sense Learning, LLC. "True and meaningful investments in building the capacity of school leaders and teachers will begin to transform our schools; that's how 'Truth Transforms Education' was born. I wanted to help other educators navigate school leadership."

"Truth Transforms Education" was released last month. The 148-page book serves as a guide for individuals beginning their journey as a new school leader. Readers can expect to learn the following:

- » The importance of being self-reflective,
- » The benefits of positively engaging people within their school,
- » The importance of valuing staff and col-

leagues through words and actions,

» And how to use their personal values and shortcomings to strengthen the school.

"Through this book, Dr. Pearson has created a solid blueprint for new and aspiring school leaders to help them to navigate their initial years of their principalship. This book is an absolute must for any new or aspiring urban school principal,"

said Principal Baruti Kafale, internationally renowned education speaker and author.

"Truth Transforms Education: A Framework for New School Leaders" is available on Pearson's website and on Amazon. For more information on "Truth Transforms Education" or to find a nearby book signing, go to www.AntoinettePearson.com/books.

CRIME WATCH

CANTON

Driver accused of trying to hit women

A drunken driver is accused of narrowly missing one of three women he allegedly drove toward after he dropped them off at a mobile home community on Canton's southeast side.

Police arrested a 25-year-old Taylor man after the incident unfolded about 12:50 a.m. Saturday at Sherwood Village, near Michigan Avenue and Haggerty. No one was seriously injured.

Police went to the mobile home park amid reports of a ruckus involving the driver and three women, all in their 20s. One of them, a 26-year-old Romulus woman, said she, another woman and the drunken driver had been to a bowling alley and decided to pick up a third woman in Romulus.

On the way back to Sherwood Village, the driver allegedly ran a red light at Ecorse and Middlebelt. Moments later, he dropped off the women, but then circled back and drove toward them in his Buick Rendezvous as one of the women shoved two others out of the way, a police report said.

The driver nearly hit one of the women, described as a 21-year-old Romulus woman. Nothing in the police report indicated what may have caused a dispute between the driver and the women.

Police arrived on the scene and arrested the man, who was facing criminal charges.

Shooting threat

A 19-year-old Westland woman threatened to shoot her former boyfriend and his relatives after a turbulent breakup, a police report said.

The boyfriend, 22, went Saturday morning

to the Canton Police Department to report the allegations. He said the relationship had ended three days earlier and his ex-girlfriend had been calling him since. He said she left one message saying she would kill him and his family.

The man told police he didn't believe the threats were credible, but he nonetheless wanted to document the situation. Police advised him to get a personal protection order.

Domestic dispute

Police went to the Meadowood Townhomes, near Haggerty and Palmer, after a neighbor reported a domestic fight between a man, possibly suicidal, and a woman about 2 p.m. Jan. 31. The caller said he could see the two beating on each other.

Police arrived and the woman, 23, said she and the man, also 23, had gotten into an argument

on the drive back from visiting a friend in Detroit. She said the man began sulking on the front porch after they got home.

She went outside and urged him to come inside, but a fracas ensued and, once inside the residence, she said he came toward her and she fell. She said he then got on top of her, causing her to have difficulty breathing, the report said.

He then got off her and mentioned killing himself with a knife, the woman told police. However, the man told police had made empty threats out of anger.

Police took the man a psychiatric center for an evaluation.

Mental evaluation

An employee of a Wendy's restaurant on Michigan Avenue called police after a man, possibly suffering from a mental condition, had been inside the eatery for five

hours, a report said.

Police were summoned about 7:15 p.m. Sunday and found a 64-year-old man who appeared not to know where he was or how he had gotten there, the report said.

The confused man told police he was 100 years old and had no idea where he lived, though he said he had walked to Canton from Westland. He told police he took medication for schizophrenia.

Police took the man to a psychiatric center for evaluation.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Pot arrest

A 19-year-old Livonia man's decision to disregard a stop sign ended with his arrest after Plymouth Township police found marijuana and a pipe in the glove box of his car, a report said.

Police were near Ca-

price and Tavistock Drive when they noticed a silver Audi A6 run a stop sign. An officer could smell marijuana after he initiated a traffic stop, the report said.

The man was not a medical marijuana card holder, the report said, so he was arrested and his car impounded.

License plate theft

A Plymouth man notified police after someone stole the license plate off his 2005 Chevrolet Colorado while it was parked outside his residence on Postiff, near Ann Arbor Road and Lilley, a report said.

The man said the incident happened between 10:30 p.m. Jan. 24 and 11:45 p.m. the following day.

Police advised the man to go to a Secretary of State office to report the incident and get a new license plate.

— By Darrell Clem

Madonna University event spotlights eating disorders

Farmington Hills native and Miss America 2008 Kirsten Haglund will talk about eating disorders at a fundraising event hosted by the Madonna Circle K International Club, to build awareness about eating

disorders. The Dinner and Discussion event takes place 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in Madonna University's Franciscan Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

In addition to serving

as a fundraiser, the event is designed to raise awareness of eating disorders. Sponsored by Timberline Knolls, the event will feature a light dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a keynote address by Ha-

glund. In addition, Madison Humphrey, National American Miss Perrysburg Teen 2016, will speak, followed by a panel discussion with the following subject matter experts: Clinical Psychologist Dr. Kristine



Haglund

Vazzano, Dr. Jaime Lyn-Essian Taylor and Registered Dietitian Patrizia Jesue. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Kirsten Haglund Foun-

ation. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$12 for Madonna University students with ID. Tickets may be purchased in advance at venmo.com. Guests can pay at the door, but are asked to RSVP to circle.K@my.madonna.edu.

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Immigration: Student shares her life around the globe

My name is Kathryn Ufford and I am a first-year student at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. I am writing today to let you know that my heart is heavy with the direction that our country seems to be taking. For the two years before starting university, I lived with my family in



Kathryn Ufford
GUEST COLUMNIST

Dusseldorf, Germany, for my father's job. While I was living in Germany, I had many opportunities I know were special. My family and I took the

chance to explore many places and meet many different people — places that we probably wouldn't have been able to visit had we not been living so close. I want to take this opportunity to share a few of the experiences I had.

Our first vacation was to Turkey. We spent time in Istanbul and Fethiye,

on the Mediterranean coast. We met the kindest people in Turkey. They told us about their history and natural bounty and we talked to them about their lives. They loved their country so much, but they were wary of power being too centralized and controlling. The people we met did not share our faith,

but we shared important values like love for family and a concern for the safety, well-being and future of our countries.

That December, we traveled to Israel, an incredible and enlightening trip. While there, we were also able to travel in the West Bank. We met people who loved their neighbors and the history

they shared. We met people who wanted to see their children get a strong education so that they could provide for their future families. We met people who took their children to school with students from the other side of the wall that divides Jerusalem, in the

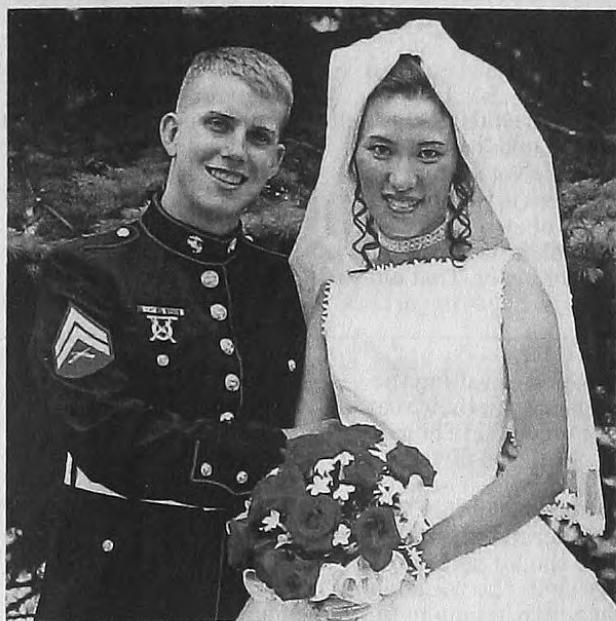
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Words concerning immigration issue from a Livonia veteran

Johannes Cawood
Guest Columnist

As a boy, I feel I was very lucky to have grown up outside the small town of Columbiaville, Mich. I attended the local public school and enjoyed a 45-minute bus ride along country roads, talking to friends and listening to the radio as we went to school. As is the case in many rural communities, our school was the center of pride for the people there. While we may not have always had the best football team (go Broncos!), we were focused on our studies. As a blue-collar community, college offered a way out. My grades were so-so at best. I joined the U.S. Marines instead.

After boot camp, I went to the School of Infantry and, finally, my primary MOS school. The warm weather of San Diego and the bald mountains of Camp Pendleton were a far cry from the rows of corn and small lakes of Michigan. I had met a range of people from all walks of life and wanted more. When they asked who wanted to volunteer to go overseas, my arm nearly shot out of its socket. Fast forward a few weeks and I was in a foreign country, couldn't speak the language and was completely astonished at how friendly the greater world is. About a year-



Rie Suzuki and Johannes Cawood at their wedding.

and-a-half later, after landing in Japan, my wife and I were married. She still looks as beautiful today as the day I met her 17 years ago.

But life wasn't always so good. After a four-year tour in the Marines, I went home to Michigan, working as a contractor for GM. Before I could get hired in, the economy took a hit. Those of us in Michigan feel the business cycle, with the auto industry supplying so many jobs, is always either feast or famine. With a pregnant wife and a mortgage, we went on food stamps and WIC. But we got through it. After a time, the econ-

omy was booming again and, after being passed over for a promotion in favor of someone with a degree and no experience, I decided to start my own business. It was my wife's family who seeded us with \$50,000. Things were looking good. The business was making money, I had good employees and I enjoyed what I did. Hell, our house value was going through the roof. Then some bank in New York went under.

After losing the house, the business and with few prospects, it was back to the military and off to war. This time was with the U.S. Army and

the wife and child stayed behind when I went overseas. To cut to the chase, there were good times and bad times in Iraq. I met Iraqis who were risking everything to help us, as well as those who were risking just as much to kill us. When I wasn't at war, there was also again food stamps and WIC, despite being fully employed. When the war ended and the doctor said my back can't carry that ruck sack anymore, I came home to Michigan. This time, I decided it was time to get smart and finish that degree. With the help of the VA, I finished my degree. I ended up going to graduate school and earning a master's degree and now work in research and development for the auto companies.

The point of my story is twofold. Throughout my working life, starting at age 14, I have paid into the system when times were good and the system was there for me and my family when times were bad. The second part is my experience abroad and the immigrant community here.

I can tell you that the people coming to this country do not want to take away what you/we have. They want the same thing we have. They want the opportunity to work hard and raise a family and see their children prosper, just like you and me. They


are not coming here to take from America; they are coming here to add to it. They are not strangers. Simply open those old photo albums you have and you will see the same gritty and hopeful faces in those pictures as you will see on a Syrian refugee or an Iraqi interpreter or the bride of a soldier returning home. They may have needed some help in the beginning and even a time or two afterward. But research shows that over a lifetime and, certainly, when including second-generation immigrants, they contribute far more than they receive.

Friends, President Trump is contemplating a horrible new executive order. When I got out of the Marines, I could not sponsor my wife's immigrant visa because I had not yet began working for GM. My father sponsored her instead. If this executive order had been in effect when the housing bubble crashed and we went on assistance, those costs would have been forwarded to my then-retired father. We would have had to make the horrible choice of malnourishing our child or going on assistance, with the burden being forwarded to my retired father. I, a U.S. citizen, had been paying taxes for nearly 10 years without ever taking a dime before. Because my wife was an immigrant,

we would have been treated like an underclass.

If anything, our new president is bold, decisive and does not fully consider the consequences of his decisions. This order would mean that only the wealthy would be able to sponsor people. It would keep families apart, with moms and dads separated from their children, in addition to slowing the growth of our country. It would even hurt the families of returning soldiers who found their love overseas. Please stand with me and say this is not right.

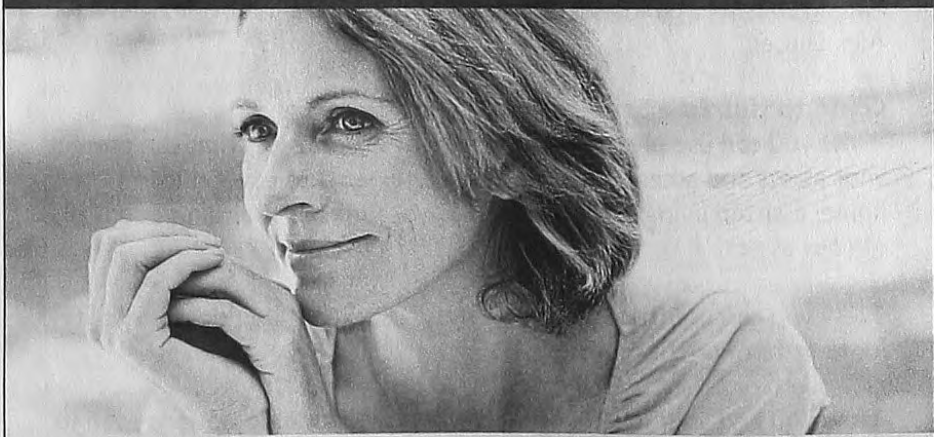
Livonia resident Johannes Cawood, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army Retired, married Rie Suzuki at St. John's Episcopal Church on Aug. 11, 2001. With Sept. 11 happening just days before their marriage reception in Japan on Sept. 16; Cpl. Cawood was unable to attend the reception. His unit, Combat Service Support Detachment 36, was ordered to prepare for deployment. With no time to cancel the event, his wife went forward with the event with grace and poise in the face of hardship. Cawood was deployed to Iraq as a part of the 1st Mobility Enhanced Brigade serving in the Corp of Engineers. He was deployed from June 2008 to August 2009. He retired from the Army Oct. 17, 2011, due to medical issues from injuries sustained in Iraq and in training. The Cawood family now has three sons.



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LETTERS

Responding to Trott

This is my response to a request by Congressman Trott for constituents to share views and essentially validate his inaccurate assumptions regarding regulations and access to credit for businesses and individuals.

Congressman, again you are attempting to perpetuate straw man nonsense GOP talking points, but sadly the polls and stats don't support your claims. Where credit is concerned, small businesses in a recent survey conducted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, lists ability to get credit as "a very minor problem" and in fact responses citing inability to secure credit are "at record lows" for their annual survey.

Regarding the general

regulatory environment that you claim is "holding back" economic growth, again statistics dash your claims. A primary indicator proving you wrong is the profit to GDP ratio which compares business profits to the overall size of the economy. Guess what, the profit to GDP ratio is at or near a record high and has been for several years and the tax to GDP ratio is at or near a record low. Bottom line is business are neither being regulated or taxed out of existence, but in fact enjoy a rarified climate for success, historically speaking.

Problems of small banks you cite are due to inability to compete due to economies of scale. Too big to fail megabanks that are under regulated represent monopolistic monsters that Main Street bankers have zero

chance competing against.

As far as personal credit is concerned, obtaining credit doesn't seem to be a problem for most. Hard to get a car loan? Nope, "2015's record auto sales were fueled by debt and are being compared to the subprime bubble by some regulators," according to an article in "Yahoo Finance." and little has changed since.

If automakers are recording record sales and over 80 percent of purchases involve credit, how can your claims possibly wash? They don't. Congressman, plenty of real problems exist for you to waste time trying to carry water for the wealthy and corporations instead of serving your constituents: problems like the repeal of the ACA (Obamacare) that you support

without an affordable replacement that will cover those who will lose coverage or never had it. Multiple studies show that 10s of thousand will die per year without the coverage you seek to destroy.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Hooray for Sally Yates

I would like to commend former Acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates. She was fired by Trump after she refused to enforce his executive order banning Muslims. She was doing exactly what her job required.

I hope that Law Enforcement Officers at all levels take note of her action. Not a single one of them is required to obey or enforce an illegal or immoral act, law or order. That old "I was just obeying orders"

didn't work for the Nazis at the Nuremberg Trials, or any where else it was used as a defense.

The same thing applies to members of our military, but they have The Uniform Code Of Military Justice to guide them. That is unless all those Retired Generals Trump hired replace that too.

With the likes of Steve Bannon advising the White House Staff and Jeff Sessions as AG a whole slew of illegal, immoral and just plain evil directives are on the horizon. But, there will be a day of reckoning.

A writer in this forum (Feb. 2) opines of loading Trumps dissidents into cargo ships and sending them on a one way trip to Antarctica. This line struck me as a euphemism for box-cars and concentration camps. It is readily apparent who

belongs in that "Basket of Deplorable's" Hillary spoke of. Perhaps this person should limit his scribbles to Breitbart News for a more receptive following.

As a retired cop and veteran, I will be standing on the front lines if Fascist attempt to turn our Military into the new SS or our police into the Gestapo. And I don't imagine I'll be standing alone.

James Huddleston
Canton

Unacceptable for democracy

The 9/11 terrorist hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon. These three countries were not listed in President Trump's "Muslim Ban," because he does business with them. Us-

See LETTERS, Page A7

UFFORD

Continued from Page A5

hope that their children could achieve something their parents couldn't. We didn't share the faith of many of the people we met. We did, however, share a hope in future generations and the peace they could bring.

We went to Egypt in the spring of that year. Egypt is filled with such rich and remarkable history. It is impossible not to be in awe of what humanity can accomplish when you are standing in front of the Pyramids of Giza or in the middle of the Temple of Luxor. While there, we met people who were busy working so that they could put their children through school. We met people who were trying to preserve the history that people from all over the world traveled to admire and learn more about. We met mothers who loved their children and were

trying to protect them from the dangers that were their reality.

We went to Morocco the following December. That was probably my favorite trip of all. Not because the food was incredible or the desert was spectacular — though without a doubt, they were. It was my favorite trip because the people we met there were so loving and considerate and kind. We asked questions about their country's history and people answered excitedly and passionately. We spent four days with a man who was born as a Saharan nomad and taught us about a life that is far different than anyone in my family could even imagine.

We sang songs in Arabic with Moroccan shepherds, playing their traditional drums, chanting after them in the desert on a chilly Christmas Eve and enjoying the company of people from a culture very different than ours. The transcendence

of that situation taking place on Christmas Eve was really remarkable ... sitting under the stars on that crystal clear night and singing together around a campfire was a small band of people composed of Muslim Arab shepherds with their heads wrapped in turbans and my Christian family. It was amazing and gave me a tiny glimpse of what peace might feel like. We talked to people who sent their children to a different country and went for months without seeing them, just so that their children could have a hopeful future. These people did not share our faith, but they shared a love for humanity and a respect for others' beliefs and history.

Another one of the great privileges I had was the opportunity to greet a train of refugees as they came into Düsseldorf, hoping that they were nearing the end of an arduous, punishing escape from their home

in Syria, awaiting the next step in their search for a new, safe home.

I colored pictures and played with a little girl while her mother was deliberating about where she should take her family next. She was looking at a map, trying to figure out where the best opportunities would be. I was happy to help her and allow her to change the diaper of her four-month-old baby without worrying about the safety of her 3-year-old. I couldn't imagine how overwhelmed she must have felt at that moment. But whatever the deluge of emotion she was feeling, it couldn't compare to the fear she felt in her home country. I know that she was not happy about leaving her homeland, but it was the only option she had where she could be confident about the safety of her tiny daughters. Her future wasn't going to be easy, but she hoped that it would at least be safe.

I know that the coun-

tries I visited are not in the group of seven countries whose citizens were recently banned by President Trump from entering the United States, but I can imagine a situation in which they could be added to the list. I am certain that the woman and her two daughters whom I met in the train station in Düsseldorf would not be allowed to enter the United States today. That breaks my heart. I do not know what happened to my homeland, America, the country I love and thought I knew. The country whose Statue of Liberty bears a plaque which reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

I'm not sure when America went from being the land of opportunity to being the land of

privilege for the few who happened to be born on this dirt. It doesn't matter if I missed the change or if I was just awakened to an America that I am no longer idealizing. I am doing my part by sharing stories about the people I have met who were not people to fear, but people to learn from and respect.

I ask that you would do your part in fighting to help restore America to its place as a world leader that shows by example how a society can flourish by creating an environment of opportunity and safety for all the people in the world. Let's once again share the historic values of the incredible country that is the United States of America with people who desperately need it.

Bloomfield Hills resident
Kathryn Ufford lived in
Plymouth Township until she
was 16.

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- How you and your loved one still have good planning options even if you have already entered a nursing home; it's not too late.
- How you can stay in your home long, afford the care you need, and protect your assets.

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Alex Dinser CFP®, ChFC

Alex is a founder and a senior partner of Horizon Advisers. He attended Western Michigan University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance. He also enlisted in the Air Force National Guard and was deployed to Balad, Iraq where he served his country with honors. Following his tour of duty, he completed the Certified Financial Planning® Program at Oakland University. Soon after, he enrolled with the American College and received the designation of Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC). Alex continues to grow his practice and will be sharing his knowledge with others as Associate Professor in Oakland University's CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ program of study.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Be a Miracle League volunteer

The Miracle League in Plymouth is in need of two coaches for the 2017 season. Teams will consist of players ages 5-11. If interested, contact Shari Bilkie, shari@miracleleagueplymouth.org

Miracle League player registration ends at 4 p.m. Friday, March 10.

Complimentary tax prep

Cole, Newton & Duran CPAs in Plymouth is offering complimentary tax preparation to all area reservist and National Guard members called to active duty as well as regular military receiving combat pay. The office is at 1095 S. Main, Plymouth. Call 734-427-2030 to schedule an appointment.

Forgotten presidents

The Friends of the Livonia Civic Center Library will present Annette and Jim McConnell on the Forgotten Presidents at 2 p.m. Sunday,

Feb. 12, at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The speakers will present unique trivia, key achievements and failures of the leaders we often forget or perhaps never knew in the 19th century. Annette and Jim McConnell have co-authored small historical books, newsletters and other publications. They are volunteers for the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan and Friends of the Livonia Library. They have received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2012.

Hayden's outreach

Hayden's Grill & Bar of Canton and Plymouth Community United Way are partnering to raise funds for community outreach programs. Hayden's will donate 15 percent of total bills back to the community. The event will run from 11 a.m. to midnight Friday, Feb. 10. Guests must present a flier to donate the 15 percent back to

Plymouth Community United Way. Fliers can be downloaded directly from www.plymouthunitedway.org, or shown on your mobile device. For more information, call Randi Williams at 734-453-6879, ext. 5 or email randi.williams@pcuw.org. Hayden's is at 39895 Ford Road, Canton.

Coffee hours

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will host Coffee Hours in Garden City and Westland with elected officials from the state of Michigan on Monday, Feb. 13. Coffee Hour in Westland will be co-hosted with state Reps. Robert Kosowski and Jewell Jones from 9-10 a.m. at Mr. Mike's Grill, 6047 N. Wayne Road.

Coffee Hour in Garden City will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan room at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood Street. Garden City Coffee Hour will be co-hosted with state Sen. David Knezek and state Rep.

Jewell Jones.

Wine tasting fundraiser

The Friends of the Canton Public Library and Tony Sacco's will host a Wine & Craft Beer Tasting event benefiting the Friends, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza Restaurant, 1663 N. Canton Center Road, Canton.

Sample red and white wines, craft beers, and enjoy an appetizer buffet. Participants must be 21 or older to attend. Each ticket costs \$25; there are a limited number of tickets available. Purchase tickets directly from Tony Sacco's.

Meet Joe

All residents of Wayne County are invited to come and meet Joe Barone, Wayne County commissioner, who will speak at the Plymouth Library at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15. The library is at 223 S. Main St. in Plymouth. Plymouth Concerned Citizens is hosting the event.

Wine, beer tasting

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's second annual Wine & Beer Tasting is set for 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17. The event features wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres compliments of Holiday Market. This event is hosted by Holiday Market along with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by Beaumont and Jack Demmer Ford Inc.

Fifty percent of proceeds will benefit the LiveLikeMax Foundation, which was created after the passing of Max Pardington. The purpose is to bring awareness to the importance of healthy heart checks and to provide them free to all high school students.

Tickets may be purchased at Holiday Market for \$35 per person and \$40 at the door. This event will be held at the Summit on the Park Banquet Center, 46000 Summit Pkwy. Must be 21 to attend. Sponsorship and a limited number of tickets are available. Call the Chamber at 734-453-4040

for more information or purchase at www.cantonchamber.com.

Spaghetti dinner

The Plymouth VFW No. 6695 will host a spaghetti dinner 5-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the VFW, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth. Karaoke will follow at 9 p.m. in the lounge. Sponsored by the VFW Aux. 4th Dist. Pool League proceeds will benefit Camp Trotter for Children in Newaygo.

How to de-stress

The Citizens for Peace will welcome Counselor Judy Lipson to its meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Road). Lipson will share her tools and practices on how to remain calm, focused and relaxed despite the ups and downs we are facing and will face in 2017. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over 30 years of experience. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to www.citizens4peace.com

LETTERS

Continued from Page A6

ing the presidency to make money for oneself is definitely a "conflict of Interest," and totally unacceptable in a democracy.

Nancy Lightbody
Livonia

How is it possible?

In the last two appeals to the citizens of Wayne to increase support for police and fire and emergency services the voters who cared to show up voted against providing the funds. The strain is showing in the city. One previous mayor who advanced on to county commissioner loudly opposed it and claimed Wayne could not afford it. What?

Two nights ago, a city council person declared he knew the police department is strained "...but," said he, "you know what? I don't care." So yesterday a bus was picking up Wayne kids. A person backed out of their driveway and hit the side of the bus. Then he drove away.

The bus driver said it took 1.5 hours for police to arrive. That is the sad reality considering children were involved. Not too long after, on the same morning, another bus got hit when a driver car ran a red and spun out.

All the children were from Wayne and Westland with most on those buses from Wayne.

How do people with little regard for law or even a basic understanding of government get elected in modern America?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

A lesson in grassroots civics

As a new year begins, we can look back at 2016 and the many changes in government which will impact our lives. Besides the big changes in Washington, Plymouth Township has seen a new group of people elected to run our local government. We are looking forward to a transparent and productive board who will work tirelessly for the citizens of our community. Many problems and questions concerning the out-going group of board members have become very apparent. It does not appear that they were good stewards of our tax dollars. Their serious lack of accountability and transparency resulted in a number of questionable business practices involving the use of township funds. For these reasons, a recall campaign was attempted by citizens who were watching this process.

The Plymouth Concerned Citizens organization was instrumental in ousting that group. The PCC is a non-partisan watchdog group of area residents whose mission

is to keep the public informed of government actions. Through their tireless work, people became aware of the unacceptable uses of taxpayer dollars by those occupying Township Hall. As a result of constant vigilance and citizen involvement, those officials were voted out of office, and we now have a new group to whom we are entrusting our government. We can all be proud of what happened in our township; it was a lesson in grassroots civics.

That change could never have happened if not for citizens becoming aware and involved. We must all be vigilant and demand accountability from our leaders at every level of government. We need to raise our voices loud and clear when we see injustice, corruption, or incompetence.

We have confidence that our new board of trustees will repair the damage done by the previous board and will

serve the citizens well in the future. And of course, we will be watching.

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

Door slammed on democracy

Two mosques in Texas were burned to the ground. The second was just four hours after President Donald Trump had signed his Executive Order to ban Muslims from entering the US. In Canada, a gunman opened fire in a mosque killing and injuring those Muslims praying.

The perpetrators of these crimes are criminal thugs and not some patriotic heroes. U.S. violence directed against Islam religion is violence toward any religion. I thought our religious discrimination was waning, but with the stimulation of a Trump executive order banning Muslims, while favoring other religions, seems to have stimulated anti-Muslim violence.

Trump is from New York. Wonder if he has

ever read the inscription on our Statue Of Liberty, "Give us your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. the retched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these homeless tempest tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." This inscription no longer applies as Trump has slammed the door to those seeking American democracy and freedom.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

A frightened American

On Monday, Jan. 30, I witnessed an unprovoked, verbally aggressive attack on a minority citizen who was simply trying to fill his vehicle with gas. The perpetrator of this attack was an older white man who yelled obscenities and

told him that Trump was going to kick him out of the United States. The victim appeared to be a Middle Eastern man who tried to speak to the aggressive man; however, the attacker yelled, "You can't even speak English and Trump is going to kick your ass out of our country!" When the victim tried to leave, the attacker stood in front of the vehicle and wouldn't move until the station attendant finally came out.

This incident has shaken me to the core. Never could I have imagined this scene happening in the middle of the afternoon in Livonia. I wish I had had the courage to speak up. I wish I had had the nerve to stand up to the attacker and challenge his unprompted, venomous

tirade. I did not. Maybe because I was caught off guard or maybe because in today's world of fear and hatred I didn't want to risk the chance that he might produce a weapon, but I said nothing.

I am a 30-something white woman and I am ashamed of the behavior of the man I saw this afternoon. I am ashamed to think we are able to challenge the basic freedoms of other citizens based on perceived differences. I have always been very proud to be an American but now I am very frightened. When one cannot stop for gas without worrying about encountering anger, profanity and hatred, then I must, and do, worry about the nation in which we live.

Megan Unruh
South Lyon

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DORIS ELIZABETH (SCHERER) Of Rochester Hills, Michigan and formerly from Cape Coral, Florida and Rochester, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2017 at the age of 92 years with family at her bedside. Doris practiced as a registered nurse both in Pennsylvania at the Rochester Hospital Operating Room and in Florida at the Fort Myers Beach Clinic. Doris was a very accomplished seamstress, artist, pianist, and avid reader. She was an active bowler and golfer and enjoyed many years of travel. Doris was a longtime member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Cape Coral. Doris was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Edward, of 62 years. They were high school sweethearts and had eight children together. Doris is survived by her four daughters, Suellen (Barry) Casey, Sr. Carol Stenger, Nancy (Daniel) Mazzei, and Jean (Paul Turnbull) Stenger; two sons, Tom (Nancy) and Steve (Shannon) Stenger; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren residing in Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana. Doris was preceded in death by daughters, Cynthia and Paula Stenger; son-in-law, Daniel Mazzei; grandchildren, Becca and Jason Stenger, and great-granddaughter, Katie McGee. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Freda Scherer, and two sisters, Shariene Bable and Audrey Scheidmantel. Doris will be dearly missed by her family and friends. There will be a celebration of her life with a Mass on Tuesday, February 7 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, 771 Old Perch Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall. Private burial to take place in Rochester, Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations in memory of Doris to Sisters of Divine Providence, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101.

ROBERT RUSSELL GM Executive passed away January 30, 2017. Born October 17, 1927 in Omaha Nebraska to Forrest Thomas Bockemuehl and Myrtle Rosella Beebe, he served in the US Navy at the end of WW II. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joyce McGehee Bockemuehl, a son Kenneth Forrest Bockemuehl (Marilyn), two grandchildren, Brooke Nicole Bockemuehl Martinez (Emilio) and Russell Forrest Bockemuehl (Jamie). Three great granddaughters also delighted him. Brielle and Audrey Martinez and Penelope Bockemuehl. Bob retired as Department Head of the electronics department at GM Research Laboratories. Memorials may be sent to the Bloomfield Twp. Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 where he volunteered 2 days a week.

DAVIS
MARGARET "MAGGIE" HAYES age 74 of Livonia, passed away on Saturday, February 4, 2017. She was born to the late Jane and James Hayes on February 21, 1942. She is survived by her husband Bobby Davis, her sister Patricia Hayes, her children, Robert (Angela) Davis and Thomas (Celia) Davis, and her grandchildren Kristen (Matt) Iaquinta, Chelsea Davis, Corey Davis, and Hailey Davis. A Gathering will be held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia on February, 9 at 1 p.m., as well as a Funeral Service at 4 p.m. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Arnold finally getting his due for coaching career

Longtime Canton softball coach to receive MHSSCA honor Friday

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

During a quarter-century career as head coach of Canton's varsity softball team, Jim Arnold knew how to communicate, teach and motivate.

He also won a lot of games between 1991 and 2003 — 582 to be exact. On Friday, Arnold will be inducted into the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"I get a ring," Arnold said with a chuckle, slowly speaking words that are interpreted by his wife of 17 years, Nancy.

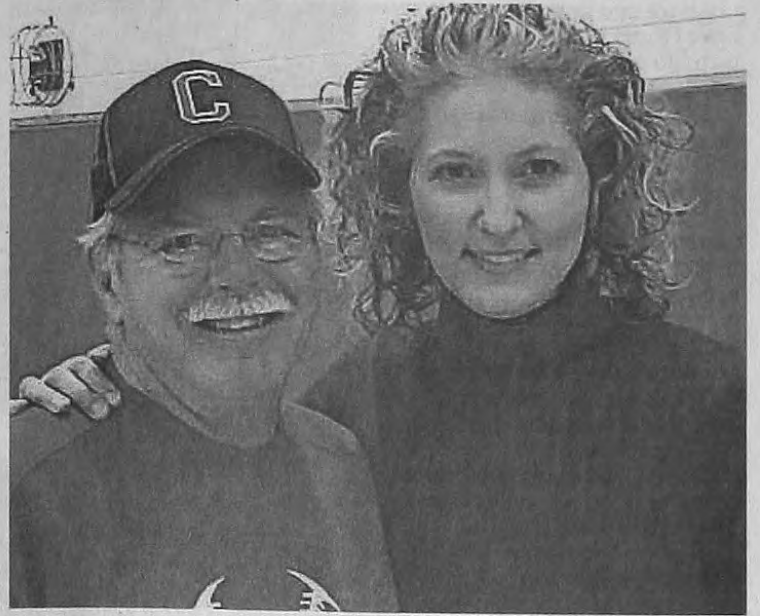
"I think you get a plaque, too," Nancy Arnold said, in reference to Friday's Hall of Fame dinner at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing.

Jim Arnold needs help speaking these days, unfortunately, because of a 2014 stroke that hinders the 67-year-old South Lyon resident's speech.

But with the help of a tablet coaching app and lifelong knowledge of the game, as well as an opportunity to join the staff of Livonia Churchill head coach Steve Gentilia, Arnold is able to stay in the game.

He is beginning his second season helping Gentilia, who brought him on board to be an assistant coach following the stroke.

See **ARNOLD**, Page B4



Jim Arnold (left), shown with wife Nancy, is happy to be coaching again — he is an assistant at Livonia Churchill. He will be inducted Friday into the softball coaches hall of fame, honoring his longtime career at Canton (1991-2013).

COLLEGE BASEBALL



Getting a chance to get in some long toss under the dome is Schoolcraft sophomore pitcher Christian Mercure.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INSIDE PITCH

Indoor facility at Schoolcraft College gives baseball team a major jump on season

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It was ice cold outside on the last Monday of January.

But inside Schoolcraft College's new sports dome, which rises majestically on the western edge of I-275, it was just like a perfect spring day for the Ocelots baseball team.

A fungo hit to right fielder Ben Harthun, a Northville High School alum who never played varsity baseball for the Mustangs, nestled into his glove.

Harthun then fired a seed to second baseman and Livonia Franklin product Hunter Sellers, who then completed the perfectly executed relay by throwing the ball to the plate.

Standing nearby and watching with interest was Schoolcraft head coach Rob Fay, who said having the new dome available for daily practices could be an 'X' factor as the Ocelots head to Kentucky and Tennessee later this month for a 10-game spring trip.

"Facility-wise, it's night and day," Fay said. "Last year, we were able to practice at an indoor facility (the Skill-



Sophomore catcher Nick Romanowski, who graduated from Canton High School, is all smiles about practicing under the Schoolcraft College dome.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

builder Batter's Box in Dearborn Heights). We could do ground balls there, but nothing like this.

"Basically, we're able to get full team work in, every day of practice.

Outfielders can see fly balls, outfielders can make throws from a distance. We can work on all our infield plays

See **INDOORS**, Page B2

CANTON INVITATIONAL

Chiefs edged by Farmington United

Top gymnastics teams in state square off at competitive 'pre-state' meet

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Saturday's annual Canton Gymnastics Invitational at Plymouth High School brought together the top six high school teams in Michigan.

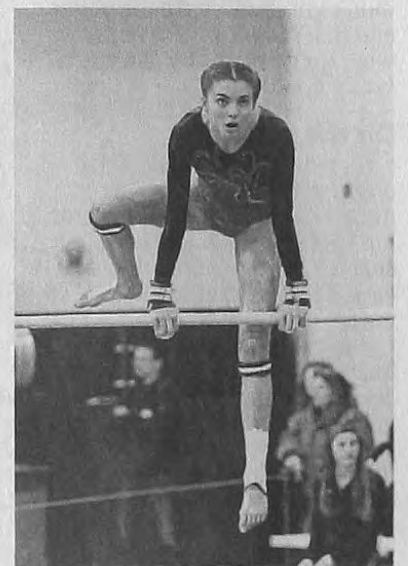
And the performances didn't disappoint, with Farmington United nipping the Chiefs 145.525-144.900. Not far behind in the team standings were annual contenders such as Rockford (144.500) and Brighton (143.450). The top four teams received trophies.

"I call it the 'pre-state' meet," said veteran Canton head coach John Cunningham, whose team literally was one slip from catching or surpassing Farmington United at the top of the 18-team field. "We had seen Rockford. They beat us when we were at the Rockford Invitational, but we got ahead of them. We got ahead of Brighton and Howell, really good scoring teams."

For those who couldn't get to Plymouth's gym, don't fret. State finals (both for team and individual) are slated to take place March 10-11.

Some of the teams who com-

See **GYMNASTICS**, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Victoria Faber of Canton works on her bars routine. She won the event in Division 2 with a score of 9.650.

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INDOORS

Continued from Page B1

the proper distance. It's just a huge advantage.

"We can practice base-running, we can get long toss in. Everything this dome allows us to do will definitely pay off."

Fay said there are 12 stations where players can hit off the tee, as well as two batting cages.

"Later today, we'll simulate a scrimmage with (softer) indoor balls, so guys can get used to putting the ball in play, making live plays and running the bases," Fay said. "And our pitchers will get out there and throw it, just so they can get down their reactions to balls coming off the bat."

Doesn't every junior college baseball team have something like this?

No bad days

It remains to be seen how much of an impact the new digs will have on the Michigan Community College Athletic Association standings. But Fay and players such as sophomore catcher Nick Romanowski (Canton) definitely see nothing but positives.

"Never a bad day here," Romanowski said. "It's like we are practicing in the nicest facility in the state at this point, it's brand new."

"No other junior college has this and I can't imagine many other schools having it either. We're lucky and blessed to have this."

Romanowski added that the dome gives players a chance to knock off any rust and get in sync with each other.

"Last year, weren't able to throw the full distance of a baseball field and now we can do that," he said. "We'll be ready to go in the spring, ready to throw and get after it. We're scrimmaging right now, getting some live reps in. We weren't able to do that before."

"We're going to try to come right out the gate winning every game. We're going to try to be ranked after our spring trip."

Concurring was Sellers, who said everything is going smoothly under the dome — other than sometimes struggling to pick up the ball. "You lose it sometimes (in the roof), but other than that, no biggie," he said.

Sellers said being able to field, throw and hit (that day



Schoolcraft baseball coach Rob Fay speaks with players during a recent indoor practice.

the team also scrimmaged, with pitchers throwing from about 40 feet) in a "realistic" baseball environment will yield dividends down the line.

As much of a facility improvement as the dome provides, Sellers also doesn't discount how the program is improving from a talent standpoint, too.

"It's huge, being able to have a full infield right here and a full outfield, the ground balls we're able to do," Sellers said. "Everything's realistic. Last year, we were in Batter's Box. It was a lot smaller, so we were crunched in. Now, we're able to air it out."

Nicer ring to it

Off to one side of the turf surface, which for much of the week is home base for the Michigan Wolves/Hawks elite soccer program, Schoolcraft pitchers, including Will Burakonak, fired baseballs from a distance of about 10 feet into a mesh curtain.

Fay called the exercise velocity training.

"Really, everything we're



Getting around on a pitch during the indoor scrimmage is Schoolcraft College baseball player Michael Peplinski.

focusing on is our body work, working our body fast while keeping our head still," Fay said. "So the distance here really doesn't matter to us."

A half-hour later, Burakonak — a 6-foot-8 southpaw who

graduated in 2016 from North Farmington — said the dome is something that the team can't help but benefit from as the season begins.

He also talked about how progressive programs such as

Schoolcraft's could change the perception of JUCO baseball, especially among high school players.

"I think a lot of kids, when they hear about junior college or Schoolcraft, it just doesn't have the ring that a D-I school has," Burakonak said. "So it scares them away. They don't want to say they play baseball at Schoolcraft. When really, it's that you need more time. It helps you develop."

"The more kids realize a JUCO is a good option for playing baseball, I think a lot more kids will start coming here. Better players, too. It could become a great program."

And why not have a great place to practice, too?

NEXT UP: Schoolcraft will bus Feb. 24 to Kentucky and Tennessee and get in games against Volunteer State Community College, Parkland Community College (ranked No. 7 in NJCAA D-II) and Union College, as well as Hiwassee College.

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GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page B1

peted Saturday also will go to Plymouth for team and individual regionals (March 3-4) although Farmington United will look to advance at the Walled Lake Central regional.

"Farmington's been the strongest all year," Cunningham said. "Actually we were one dismount away from beating them today on balance beam (36.025-35.450)."

"One of my girls missed her foot and fell, slipped, so she didn't get credit for a dismount and that's six-tenths. That's what they beat us by. We had a really good meet."

On the calendar

Farmington United, composed of athletes from Farmington and North Farmington high schools, now looks to stay sharp for the next month and earn a return ticket to Plymouth.

"It gives us confidence," Farmington United head coach Jeff Dwyer said. "We've had a good year. I think this team has surprised me more than other teams. I didn't think we'd be doing this."

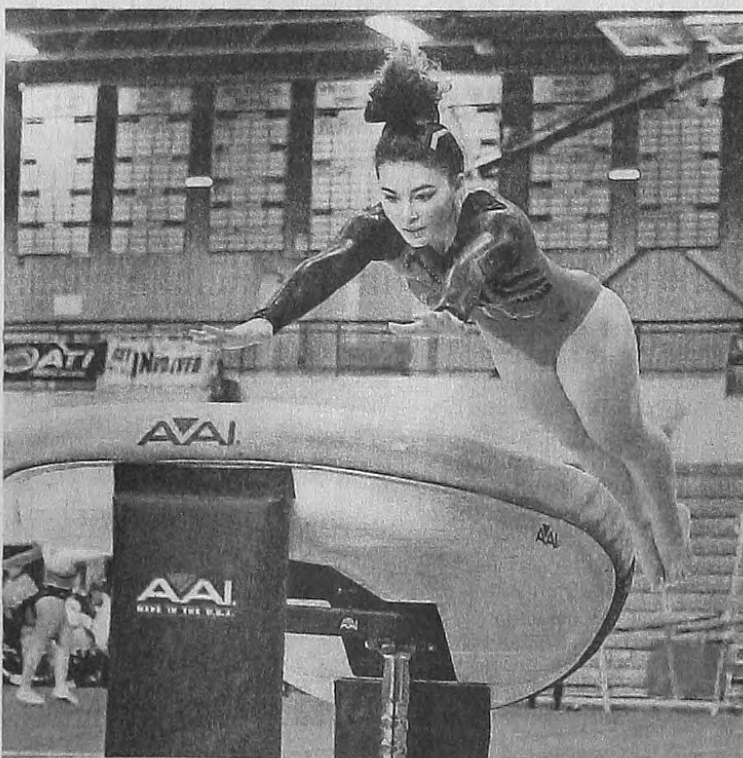
"We won our last invite, we won this. But I know some of these teams aren't going away. So I just look at it as another dual meet. I'm real happy. The girls work hard and we came out on the good end of it today."

Dwyer smiled when asked whether winning the Canton Invitational would give his team an added boost entering the stretch drive.

"I know Canton's not going away, I know Rockford's not going away," Dwyer said. "But it's a confidence-builder. I'm not going to deny that."

Other teams in the top 10 included Northville (fifth, 141.550), Plymouth (sixth, 141.225), Howell (seventh, 141.100), Livonia Blue (eighth, 140.275), Forest Hills and Grand Ledge (tied for ninth, 139.550).

Top performers



Canton's Katherine Nadjuk performs on vault during Saturday's invite.

The 140 mark often is a benchmark for teams to advance from regionals to state finals.

Spearheading Farmington United to victory were Jacquelyn Farquhar and Elisa Bills, who finished first and second in Division 2 all-around with respective scores of 37.225 and 36.825.

Farquhar also was individual champion on balance beam (36.025).

"Elisa and I have have been one and two for the last three meets and our other teammate (Kacey Noseworthy) has been the third," Farquhar said. "(Noseworthy) couldn't compete in everything today, because she was injured."

"But it's really cool to see all our hard work pay off and to be out there with one of my best friends."

Noseworthy did post 9.125 on vault and 8.9 on uneven parallel bars (seventh and eighth, respectively, both in D2).

According to Farquhar, Saturday's success bodes well for the team to continue doing well at regionals and states. More-

over, the team does not get fazed by who the other teams might be — even if it could prove to be a preview for the state meet.

"We all get really nervous, but when it's time to compete, we just know we practiced really hard in the gym and we know what to do," Farquhar said. "So we just run with it and compete and do what we know."

"I think we're going to do really well at states. We're going to just keep doing what we're doing, because it's working so far. Today, my best score was on floor (9.550), but I think I did really good on beam today."

Measuring stick

Livonia Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield said her team was hampered by injuries and illness Saturday.

But led by Jessica Weak (fifth in Division 2 all-around with 36.150 and tied for third in D2 floor exercise with 9.675), the team showed it should be reckoned with when regionals come around.

That the high-stakes tourna-

ments will once again be at Plymouth High School is something that should benefit Weak and her teammates, Broomfield stressed.

"It's helpful to get on the equipment, it's helpful to be in this atmosphere," Broomfield said. "It shows us where we stand."

Broomfield, who noted that Farmington will not be at the Plymouth regional, said the Canton Invitational gave her team a good look at what to expect moving forward.

"Farmington's not in our region," she said. "So we're looking at Plymouth, Canton and Northville, who are in our region, to come out strong against them."

Livonia Blue senior co-captain Colleen Malkowski emphasized that the team has a good idea what to expect at regionals and states. Of course, the team knows from past experience, too, having qualified last season.

"I think it just gives us a good look and opportunity of what regionals and states is going to be like," Malkowski said. "Our region is pretty tough, so I think everyone has a fair chance of going to states from regionals."

Chiefs' outlook

Canton's Victoria Faber — who won D1 bars with a score of 9.650 — pointed to an excellent team effort on bars (the Chiefs finished first overall in that event with a 36.100 score) as a highlight of the day.

"I was really happy with all the performances on bars," Faber said. "We really came together as a team to do that. And we had a good meet overall. Could have done better on beam as a team, but we pulled through."

Registering 8.850 on bars was Zoe Graves, with Katie Dickson and Kelsea Kernosek both scoring 8.8.

"We were strong on bars," Cunningham said. "We had a 36.1 on bars, which is envious of almost every team. If we can average nines on bars, that's terrific."

And Cunningham said it doesn't hurt his team that the

regionals and states will be right back at Plymouth — not to mention there will be time for other standouts such as Jana Hilditch to be fully recovered from injuries.

"Jana Hilditch was out with a broken toe," he stressed. "Victoria's still not working all-around because of her ankle. We've got lots of steps that can be taken to make us better."

Top 10 showings

There were other individual standouts, including the following:

D1 vault: second, Kernosek (Canton), 9.375; fourth, Emily Caragay (Plymouth), 9.325; fifth, Erin McCallum (Northville), 9.250; eighth, Hilditch (Canton), 8.925; ninth, Mackenzie Willson (Northville), 8.900.

D2 vault: fourth, J. Farquhar (Farm. United), 9.350; fifth (tied), Bills (Farm. United) and Weak (Liv. Blue), 9.150; seventh, Noseworthy (Farm. United), 9.125; ninth (tied), Mikaela Hille (Liv. Red) and Haden Florn (Liv. Blue), 9.000.

D1 bars: first, Faber (Canton), 9.650; third, Caragay (Plymouth), 9.500; sixth (tied), McCallum (Northville) and Graves (Canton), 8.850; eighth (tied), Kernosek (Canton), Dickson (Canton) and Hannah Bracken (Brighton), 8.800.

D2 bars: fourth (tied), Bills (Farm. United) and Alton LaFrance (Grand Ledge), 9.000; seventh, Noseworthy (Farm. United), 8.900; eighth, J. Farquhar (Farm. United), 8.825; ninth, Weak (Liv. Blue), 8.800; 10th (tied) Hille (Liv. Red) and Maddie Vernon (Brighton), 8.600.

D1 beam: first, Paige Sanders (Plymouth), 9.575; eighth, Kernosek (Canton), 9.125.

D2 beam: first, J. Farquhar (Farm. United), 9.500; second, Rachel Socha (Canton), 9.375; fourth (tied), Riley Fisher (Salem) and Annika Wang (Canton), 9.025; sixth, Bills (Farm. United), 9.000; seventh (tied), Tori Silvester (Plymouth) and Reagan Ammon (Rockford), 8.925; ninth (tied), Cloe Longeway (Salem), Ava Farquhar (Farm. United), Sarah Mossett (Brighton), 8.900.

D1 floor: third, Dickson (Canton), 9.625; fourth (tied), Sanders (Plymouth) and Carly Coughlin (Rockford), 9.575; seventh (tied), Faber (Canton) and Madison Varish (Troy Avondale), 9.400; ninth (tied), Olivia Dillon (Liv. Blue) and Hilditch (Canton), 9.375.

D2 floor: second, Emily Stivic (Farm. United), 9.700; third (tied), Bills (Farm. United) and Weak (Liv. Blue), 9.675; sixth, J. Farquhar (Farm. United), 9.550; eighth, Fisher (Salem), 9.475.

D1 all-around: fourth, Caragay (Plymouth), 36.925; fifth, Kernosek (Canton), 36.650; sixth, McCallum (Northville), 36.350; ninth, Dillon (Liv. Red), 34.675; 10th, Dickson (Canton), 34.650.

D2 all-around: first, J. Farquhar (Farm. United), 37.225; second, Bills (Farm. United), 36.825; fifth, Weak (Liv. Blue), 36.150; ninth, Fisher (Salem), 35.100; 10th, Hille (Liv. Red), 35.025.

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PREP BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Canton senior girls lead the way to win

Plymouth girls down Rockets, 56-50

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Canton made the most of senior night Tuesday, with plenty of contributors in a 50-47 varsity girls basketball win over visiting Livonia Churchill.

The Chiefs were led by Erin Hult and Samantha Mattern (12 points each), with Madison Wolfbauer tallying eight and Marissa Templeton, Brianna Finn and Shanya Butler each scoring five points. All seven are seniors.

For Livonia Churchill, Annie Yost and Shae Smith scored 16 and 12 points, respectively. Adding six for the Chargers was Maria Targosz.

"Samantha Mattern played big for us all night (six rebounds along with her 12

points)," Canton coach Rob Heitmeyer said. "And Marissa Templeton scored five timely points in the third quarter."

Canton stepped up to the free-throw line a season-high 23 times, indicating the team did a good job of getting to the basket.

"I am very proud of our seniors and the successes they have worked hard to achieve during their basketball careers at Canton," said Heitmeyer, whose team improved to 12-3 overall and 8-1 in the KLAASouth Division.

The Chargers fell to 5-10 overall and 3-6 in the KLAASouth.

PLYMOUTH 56, JOHN GLENN 50: A 22-point effort by Chantal LeDoux spearheaded the Wildcats, who improved to 7-8 overall and 6-3 in the KLAASouth.

Plymouth broke a 23-23 halftime tie with a 15-7 surge in the third.

"We played with great ener-

gy and cashed in on some big plays to push us into a comfortable lead," Wildcats coach Ryan Ballard said.

Chipping in nine points each were Alexa Ebeling and Sydney McCaig.

For John Glenn (4-11, 2-7), Sharon Woodard (18 points), Carley Loving (13 points) and Jasmine Edwards (11 points) all reached double figures.

NOVI 52, STEVENSON 42: Despite 11 points and 11 rebounds from Grace Lamerson and nine points from Diane Senkowski, visiting Livonia Stevenson fell short against the Wildcats.

Ellie McCay led Novi (12-3, 7-2 in the KLAASouth) with 19 points. The Spartans' record dipped to 8-7 and 4-5.

"We played them hard and it came down to the wire again," Stevenson coach Karen Anger said.

ROMULUS 47, GARDEN CITY 35: Kayley Hewer and Alicia Ascencio both scored

eight points for the host Cougars, but their efforts were not enough.

Garden City fell to 6-9 on the season.

WARRIORS WIN TWO: Lutheran Westland defeated Canton Prep 54-40 Monday and then followed up with Tuesday's 58-3 shellacking of Macomb to improve to 13-3 overall.

In the win over Canton Prep, a 21-point night by Taylor Jones sparked the offense.

Helping the cause were Rachel Reddeman (12 points) and Faith Mcloed and Emilie Fremder (seven each).

Jones scored 20 more in the Tuesday win, with Mcloed and Reddeman both collecting eight points and Yvonne Rilette seven.

Boys basketball

JOHN GLENN 79, PLYMOUTH 63: In a KLAASouth Division match-up at Plymouth, Joe Moon IV scored 26 points to spark the Rockets (13-1, 8-1).

Also in double figures for the Rockets were Dajion Parker (16 points), Christian Agnew (14 points) and

Khalil Wright (11 points). Plymouth (7-8, 4-5) was led by Anthony Crump's 22 points, with Tariq Woody and Connor Bush chipping in 17 and 15 points, respectively.

WAYNE 51, FRANKLIN 45: On Tuesday at Livonia Franklin, the Zebras eked out a hard-fought win over their KLAASouth rivals.

Scoring 20 points for Wayne Memorial (12-3, 8-1) was Rashad Williams, with Isaiah Lewis (nine points) and Kason Epps (eight points) also contributing.

The Patriots (5-10, 1-8) were led by Mark Mettie's 23 points, including three triples. Keyon Brown added nine points.

PCA 67, CANTON PREP 60: Plymouth Christian Academy rolled to a win Friday night behind 20 points from Brian Schlientz and 13 from Ian Hay. Adding 12 and 10 points, respectively, were Levi Yakuber and Max Okolo (who also had 11 rebounds).

"It was a great night for the whole school," Eagles head coach Matt Windle said. "We got to unveil the championship banner for our volleyball team and a lot of people showed up."

DEARBORN 51, RU 44: Yousef Saad led a balanced scoring attack with 12 points Tuesday as Dearborn (9-4, 5-2) came on late to earn a WWAC Red Division victory over host Redford Union (8-6, 4-3).

Hassan Beydoun and Mahdi Hamade added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Pioneers, who rallied from a 38-36 deficit after three quarters by outscoring the turnover-plagued Panthers, 15-6, in the fourth.

Christian Montgomery and Jacob Gagnon led RU with 10 and nine points, respectively.

"We had the lead with two minutes to go," RU coach Randall Taylor said. "Turnovers were the story of the night. Every time we turned it over they made us pay. We did not value the basketball and it cost us."

RU was 4-of-8 from the foul line, while Dearborn was 3-of-8.

Staff writer Brad Emmons contributed to this report.

BOYS HOCKEY

High-scoring Rocks ramp it up at MIHL Showcase

Rocks outscore two opponents 15-2 as team getting healthy at right time of season

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Talk about shining under the bright lights.

Salem's varsity boys hockey team displayed its potent offensive capabilities during the prestigious Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase in Trenton.

On Friday, the Rocks pounded Rochester Unified (ranked No. 7 in Division 1) by a 7-1 score and came back Saturday with an 8-1 rout of Muskegon Mona Shores. With plenty of junior and college scouts in attendance at Kennedy Ice Arena, the top forward unit of Matt Schaumburger, Colin Goleniak and Joey Driscoll accounted for 10 of the 15 goals.

"The showcase was an outstanding experience for our players," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "The MIHL does a fantastic job of putting together a quality event that helps showcase the quality high school hockey being played across our state."

"In addition to showcasing teams, it helps give individual players the platform to get noticed by teams at the next level."

Salem's rousing success wasn't just about burying pucks into opponents' nets, either.

In the team's MIHL Showcase opener, goalie Tristan Rehling "was solid in net and our (defense) did a tremendous job making clean plays



Salem's Sean McCormack (from left), Joey Driscoll and Matt Schaumburger celebrate after a goal during the MIHL Showcase.

with the puck," Ossenmacher said.

Schaumburger sparked the attack with a three-goal performance.

On the attack

Against Mona Shores, a four-goal burst in the first period set the tone. Jake Saunders got it going at 4:46 (from Anthony Gattoni and Robbie Hermes) and Schaumburger's unassisted goal made it 2-0.

Before the end of the period, Driscoll scored back-to-back goals, with Schaumburger assisting on both. Austin Marthaler also earned an assist.

In the second, Goleniak (from Tyler German and Chase Kee) and Shawn Weldon (unassisted) kept the Rocks on a roll.

Mona Shores cut the lead to 6-1 early in the third period against goalie Austin Goleniak — who, like Rehling the previous night, was strong between the pipes.

Wrapping up the victory with two goals in a 2:24 span was Colin Goleniak, both from Schaumburger (with Driscoll adding an assist).

"Every line was rolling and playing with energy (against Mona Shores)," Ossenmacher said. "The line of Schaumburger, Driscoll and Colin Goleniak played a tremendous game."

Ossenmacher added that a plus is the fact the Rocks (6-1 over the past seven games) finally are healthy after injuries throughout the season. The team also is started to jell in all facets.

"Over the last month, we have seen signs of growth with our team and this past weekend we continued with that trend," he said. "Players have continued to buy in and work in practice. And they are now being rewarded in game situations."

"Our success starts when we play with energy and are solid in our defensive zone, which allows us to generate and use our speed through the neutral zone."

The Rocks will look to keep rolling against Plymouth at 6 p.m. Friday at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

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PREP BOWLING

Salem teams sweep Mercy invitational

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The Park — most notably Salem — rose to prominence at Saturday's annual Dearborn Divine Child/Farmington Hills Mercy bowling invitational.

Salem captured first place in both the boys and girls tournaments, while Canton and Plymouth came in second and third on the boys side.

"(Canton coach) Karl Brubaker thinks that's the first time we've all finished 1-2-3," Salem co-coach Kathie Hahn said. "It was a good showing."

The Rocks won the 16-team boys tourney with a 4,200 total, followed by Canton (3,982), Plymouth (3,931), Farmington/Harrison Black (3,798) and North Farmington (3,790).

Individually, Salem senior Mitch Rusinek was the top finisher with a three-game set of 664. His best game was his last one of the day, a 279 tally.

"We're finally getting better at our Bakers (as a team)," Rusinek said. "It's a team effort and we're doing great right now."

"And our individuals are going pretty good, too."

Salem registered four Baker games of more than 200, including 204, 224, 227 and 213.

Other area standouts included North Farmington's Joe Damiani (fourth, 654), Ply-

mouth's Justin O'Shaughnessy (fifth, 645), Canton's Mathieu Mondro (seventh, 615) and Salem's Ryan Gonyea (10th, 606).

In the girls invite, Salem led throughout and held on 3,544-3,531 over New Boston Huron despite a third regular game of just 793.

"My girls team has exceeded my expectations of what they were going to do this year," Hahn said. "They've just been phenomenal. They're undefeated in the division and the conference."

In third place was North Farmington (3,420), followed by Farmington/Harrison (fourth, 3,408), Bloomfield Hills Marian (fifth, 3,140), Canton (sixth, 3,107), Plymouth (seventh, 3,059), Allen Park Cabrini (eighth, 2,980), Mercy (ninth, 2,973) and Novi (10th, 2,938).

Individually, key performers for the Rocks were Leah Boucha (fifth, 559) and Lexis Silverman (eighth, 537).

In first was New Boston Huron's Jordyn Carroll (703). Other P-CEP performers included Canton's Meghan Macunovich (11th, 520), Plymouth's Maddie Harden (12th, 515) and Canton's Megan Peldo (13th, 508).

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Salem's varsity boys bowling team won the annual Divine Child/Mercy Invitational on Saturday.



All smiles after taking first place at Saturday's Divine Child/Mercy Invitational is Salem's girls bowling team.

COLLEGE SIGNING

Scheffer means business in college

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Austin Scheffer is all business, on and off the football field.

And the Plymouth High School senior lineman will get to take that mindset to the next step when he goes to Northwood University next fall.

Scheffer took part in national signing day, putting his signature on a letter of intent to play Division II football for the Timberwolves in the GLIAC.

He'll also pursue a business degree over the next four years.

"I always wanted to do business," Scheffer said. "They have a great business school and they really wanted me as a player."

"They had my best interest and wanted me as a student and player. They knew I would succeed as a player."

The 6-foot-2, 275-pound



Plymouth senior lineman Austin Scheffer (seated, left) celebrates signing with Northwood University along with his dad, Lawrence Scheffer (seated, right) and Wildcats football head coach Mike Sawchuk.

Scheffer credited Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk and the rest of the staff for helping him improve enough to catch the attention of a college program.

But he did his part, too, whether cracking the books or punishing the weights during

workouts.

"Stay in the weight room and buy into the program," Scheffer said when asked about what advice he'd give other student-athletes aiming for their own college careers. "Always listen to your coaches. They want the best for you in athletics and academics."

"Make sure you stay on top of your grades — nothing below a C."

Meanwhile, no matter what happens at Northwood (where he will be teammates with Canton senior Markus Sanders), Scheffer will never forget his senior season with the Wildcats.

"We were brothers and staying together was very important to us," Scheffer said. "If I could do it all over again, I would try harder to motivate others on our team to be successful."

"I really enjoyed playing for coach Sawchuk. He was a great mentor."

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

SALEM'S DESERVING DOZEN

Impressive list includes U.S. soccer player Rodriguez, golfer Scott, swimmer Collingwood

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Salem rolled out an impressive group of student-athletes Wednesday, all taking part in national signing day festivities at the high school.

A dozen Rocks seniors made their college decisions official, although Izzy Rodriguez — who will play Division I women's soccer at Ohio State University — could not attend. Rodriguez is training with the U.S. Under-19 National Women's Soccer Team in Sunrise, Fla.

But plenty of talented student-athletes were on hand to celebrate the big day with family, friends, coaches and teammates.

Rodriguez wasn't there, but a trio of girls soccer players (Skylar Brant, Olivia Harkins, Gabrielle Teodorescu) signed with their respective colleges. Also signing were three girls lacrosse players (Maddie Johnson, Stephanie Miller, Leah Tardiff).

"It was mostly finding the right school for me academically," said Darby Scott, who will play college golf next fall at Methodist University. "It just happened that it had the program I really wanted to go into and it was a great school and I could play golf there and do something I've always wanted to do."

Scott, the 17-year-old daughter of Joy and Jason Scott of Canton (and whose grandfather is Dick Scott, owner of a Dodge dealership in Plymouth), is small and stature (5-foot-2), but a big achiever. In addition to a 3.8 grade-point average, she set a new Salem girls golf record (for 18 holes), shooting a 1-under-par 71 in 2016 at Huron Meadows.

"I never thought I'd get to where I did, breaking the school record this year," Scott said. "I never thought that would happen in my wildest dreams. But just working hard, you can anywhere you want to go."

Ready to adjust



Izzy Rodriguez could not be at Salem for national signing day. But she still celebrated signing to play women's soccer at Ohio State University.



When fall 2017 rolls around, Salem's Darby Scott (seated, center) will be golfing at Methodist University. Also seated are her parents, Jason and Joy. Standing are (from left) Salem coach Ryan Nimmerguth and Kelly Sivier, swing/golf coach at Meadowbrook Country Club.

She said it shouldn't be too much of a problem making the transition to college golf, which will include a staple of 36- and 72-hole tournaments.

"No more nine-hole matches," she said with a laugh. "I think I can handle it. I play in high-level tournaments over the summer with college girls and I think that this summer is a big summer for me preparing for college golf. I think I'll be ready by the time school rolls around."

About Methodist University, located in Fayetteville, N.C., Scott said it was the perfect fit. In addition to golf, she will study for a business degree (minoring in sports science).

Among those at the ceremony was Scott's coach with the Rocks, Ryan Nimmerguth. "I'm very proud of Darby and her accomplishment," Nimmerguth said. "She had worked very hard to get to improve her golf game and is very deserving of this opportunity."



Salem distance swimmer Phillip Collingwood (center) makes it official on national signing day. He'll swim at Depauw University. Also with him are parents Ian and Gill.

nity

"It was a pleasure and honor to coach her and I am very confident she will be successful at the college level."

Collingwood's calling

For Phillip Collingwood, it's a natural that he'll continue his swimming career at Depauw University (located in Indiana) beginning in 2017-18.

"I think it's great, because I've been swimming since I was 4," said the 17-year-old Canton resident, listing time with the Dearborn Country Club, Plymouth-Canton Cruisers, Club Wolverine and Bulldog Aquatic Club in Northville. "Then I swam at East (Middle School), Salem. It's been such a staple of our family."

"All of us swam four years in high school. And it's been such a big part of my life."

Collingwood, 17, whose parents are Ian and Gill, added that "being able to continue it (swimming career), pursue it to the full, four college years and see what I can do there, it will be awesome."

At Salem, where he holds a 3.7 grade-point average, Collingwood largely swims the 500-yard freestyle along with relay events. He's earned all-KLAA honors and has qualified for the Division 1 state meet throughout his high school career.

"I've been (to states) all three of my years and I'm expecting to go a fourth year," added Collingwood, who followed the lead of older brother Matt (a 2011 grad who swam in college).

"My brother was captain of the swim team when he was here, my sister (Abby) was captain of the (girls tennis) team and I'm captain of the swim team," Phillip added. "So we've all got stars on our (letter) jackets."

College-bound, too

Other signees and their college destinations as unveiled Wednesday include:

Soccer: Brant, University of Southern Indiana; Harkins, Alma College; Teodorescu, Ferris State University.

Girls lacrosse: Johnson, University of Detroit Mercy; Miller, Davenport University; Tardiff, UDM.

Football: David Mason III, Valparaiso University; Trevor Nowaske, Saginaw Valley State University.

Baseball: Matt Brooks, Northwood University.

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ARNOLD

Continued from Page B1

Softball language

Arnold wandered purposefully around the practice gym at Churchill, where four players at a time can get in swings off a tee. He observes, gives knowing nods or thumbs-up signals. When something needs fixing, he'll frown a little bit.

"We found a way to work through it," Gentilia said, talking about Arnold's ability to still get through to players. "We went to some hand signals that were pretty basic for girls to understand what he was trying to get across if they couldn't understand him."

"But as the (2016 Churchill) season went on, they really learned to understand some of his speech. The more and more you talk to him, the more you can tell what he's trying to say."

Gentilia said he has known Arnold since the early 2000s and always admired his coaching style and personal demeanor.

"I had a little bit of a relationship with him when I was coaching with Al (White) at Madonna, recruiting girls and stuff," said Gentilia, a coach with the Crusaders in 2001-10. "I knew who he was. We kind of have the same styles of coaching. I heard he was available, contacted him and we spoke, sat down."

"It was a good fit for everybody, even with his stroke and everything. The softball kind of takes that barrier away. We can communicate differently, just a look and we know what each other is saying."

Full marks

Nominating Arnold for the MHSSCA honor was Milan High School baseball coach Adam Gilles.

He wrote that Arnold coached him in Little League and that he became lifelong friends with Arnold's son.

"When I became varsity baseball coach at Milan High School in 2002," Gilles wrote in his nomination of Ar-

nold, "(he) was one of the first people I called and he helped me so much with all the responsibilities that comes with being a varsity coach."

Gilles described Arnold as a "tough, hard-headed coach who knew how to get the most out of his girls. This allowed many girls to go on to play college softball. More importantly (are) the 21 all-state academic players in which he was very proud of."

That career of achievement with the Chiefs, which included 10 division and seven conference championships, plus 11 district titles and six regional crowns (the last in 2013, when Canton went 28-5), came to an unexpected halt when administrators decided to let him go.

"His contract was not renewed," Nancy Arnold said.

The softball coaches association green-lighted the nomination, enabling Arnold to join Garden City coach Barry Patterson as inductees from Observerland schools.

"(The nomination) goes in front of a board and they select two or three people," Gentilia said. "It's a very prestigious list of coaches. The only (other) coach locally is Barry Patterson."

Chance to help

Gentilia asked Arnold to join his staff in 2014, but then the stroke happened. Two years later, with encouragement from Nancy at the forefront, Arnold was convinced to return to the sport.

"(Arnold) was hesitant at first because of the speech thing; that can be a deterrent," Nancy said. "But I just said we have to at least talk about this. And so we had the meeting (in early 2016) and Steve was adamant that he thought he could make this work and that his speech wouldn't be an issue."

"There are other ways (he) can teach these girls what they need to know. Credit to (Gentilia) — he was willing to put himself out there."

Nancy Arnold looked at her husband's eyes as he tried to answer what it meant to get the chance at Churchill.

"It's great, it means a lot," she said. "(The Chargers) treat him with respect, they welcomed him, they lis-

tened to him and I think it's been a positive interaction from both sides."

As for Arnold's speech, it is slowly coming along. But there is no way to know whether he'll ever get to someday enjoy an argument with an umpire.

"They don't give a prognosis, because every stroke patient is different," she said. "I think it's kind of a blessing and frustrating all at the same time."

"Is his speech improving? Yes, it has, since the stroke. It's very slow in its increments, so there'll be a little bit of improvement and then we might have a long plateau."

Honor overdue

The telltale sense of humor hasn't changed.

Nancy helped him answer that he's 67 years old, but the longtime coach had no trouble laughing and blurring out to her that "you're 29."

According to Gentilia, it's been all good as far as how much Arnold is helping to provide instruction and encouragement to youngsters.

"It didn't interfere with his ability to coach at all," Gentilia said. "His fire that he had when he coached at Canton is still there. His competitive spirit is still there."

"He's still Jim Arnold. He's still a great coach and he has a lot to offer us. That was one of the biggest reasons I reached out to him, to say, 'Hey, we could use you. You always have something to give.'"

There is another positive to come out of the return of Arnold.

"(The players) see him dealing with it (the speech impairment) and battling through it," Gentilia said. "It's a good thing for them to see somebody going through this, 'Hey, life isn't over. We can still overcome this, fight through it.'"

"It's a good thing for them to see on a daily basis."

After Friday, they'll be dealing with a Hall of Fame coach.

"He's someone who is very deserving of what he's getting," Gentilia said. "This is long overdue, in my opinion."

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BENEFIT GAME

Plymouth icers host food drive Friday vs. Salem

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It's been said that "Hockey Has Heart" and the Plymouth Wildcats will be demonstrating that once again Friday night.

Plymouth is hosting a 6 p.m. game and canned food drive Friday at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, against campus rival Salem. Both teams will skate in a KLAA South Division match-up certain to spark an intense night of hockey.

More importantly, however, the teams are all in on the canned food drive to benefit Plymouth United Way.

Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said any spectator who comes to the game with one non-perishable food item will get a \$1 discount on the cost of a ticket.

Meanwhile, all of the food that is brought to the arena, located on Michigan Avenue, west of Canton Center/Belleville Road, will be distributed to needy people through Plymouth United Way.

On the ice

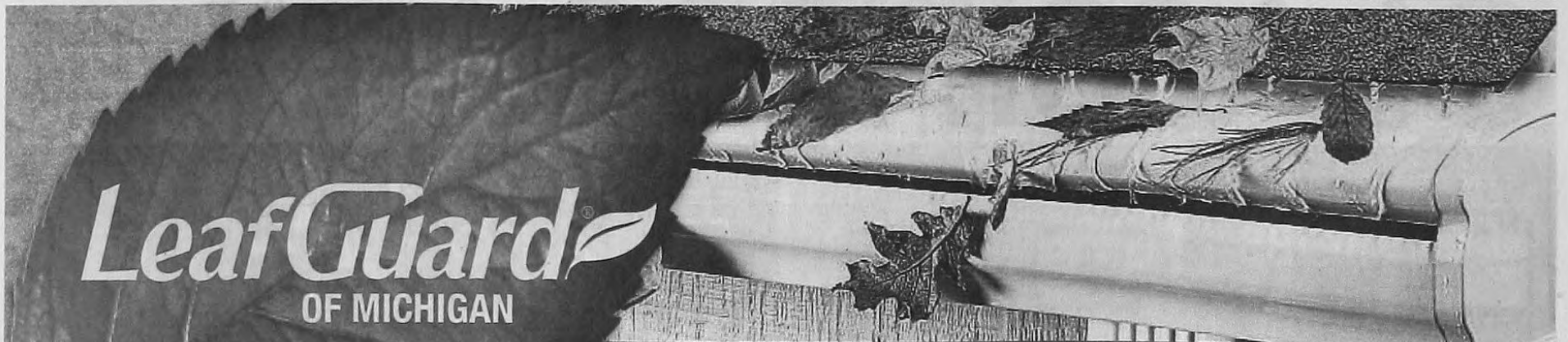
The Wildcats dropped a pair of games in Trenton at the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Prep Showcase Feb. 2-4.

Plymouth fell 3-0 to Allen Park and 2-1 to Trenton, the latter despite the Wildcats enjoying a 37-17 edge in shots on goal.

"No doubt, I thought we deserved a better outcome, but that is how it goes sometimes," Vento said about the Trenton loss. "That third period was probably the best period of hockey we have played all year. I thought we set the pace and made Trenton chase us, but we weren't able to capitalize."

"The showcase was great experience for our guys. We played two quality opponents and, while we obviously would have liked a better outcome, both games will prepare us for the playoffs, which is the ultimate goal."

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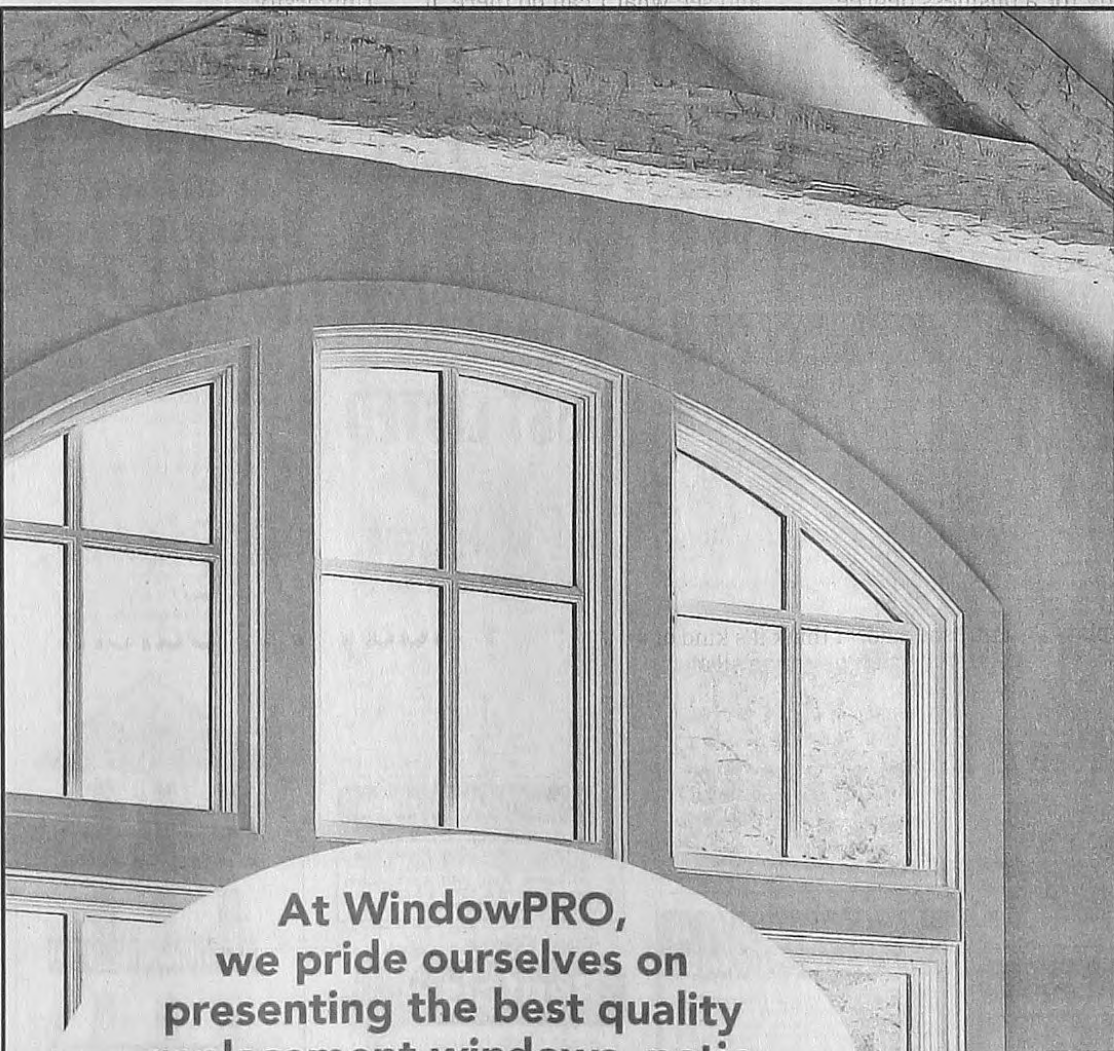
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