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Cha-ching! Tourney has big impact

IIHF World Championship will bring players, fans

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

When the women's hockey world championship comes to USA Hockey Arena, local observers say it will have an economic impact on Plymouth and beyond.

Players, fans, coaches and

referees are expected to have a significant impact on area hotels, restaurants and retail shops as the IIHF Women's World Championship unfolds March 31 through April 7. The threat of a boycott by the three-time defending champion American team still loomed Friday afternoon, amid hopes

it would be resolved. Regardless, officials have said the tournament will go on.

Jennifer Zieger, general manager of the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Plymouth-Ann Arbor, said the hotel, near the arena, has long been sold out, while many players are staying at its sister property, Fairfield Inn and Suites of Livonia.

"We're just so excited to see

the women's world tournament come to Plymouth and have the opportunity to participate and support USA Hockey," Zieger said.

The hotels are hosting a significant number of players from the Canadian team and also the referees and coaching staff.

Amy Hamilton, Canton Downtown Development Authority coordinator, said Can-

ton hotels, restaurants and shops also are expected to cash in on the games. She said Shop Canton guides already are placed in hotels.

"I'm sure we will get some spillover from the tournament, which we gladly welcome," Hamilton said.

She said Michigan's only IKEA store in Canton often

See TOURNEY, Page A2

Making a difference in Detroit: 'It's a big part of who I am'

Catholic Central student shows how to help the homeless

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

At age 6, Caleb White was making a difference where many others would look away.

Caleb, now 14, a Northville resident and a freshman at Catholic Central High School in Novi, has for years been stopping on Detroit street corners and at shelters to ease the lives of homeless people.

"If I were in that position, I would want help, too," Caleb said during an event at a Detroit shelter.

"I guess I just like to help," he added. "I make a lot of friends here through volunteering. It's a big part of who I am."

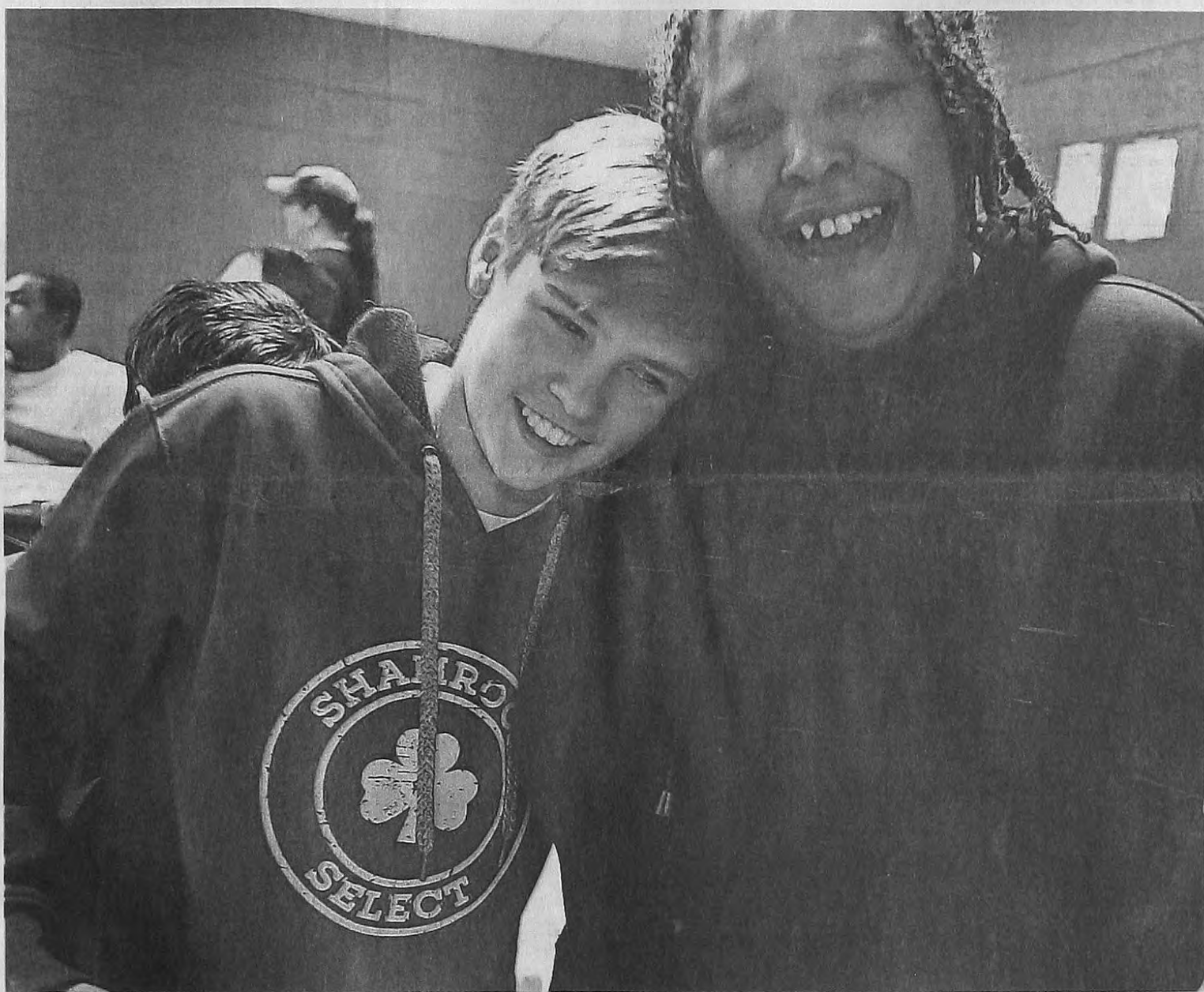
He is founder of the Caleb White Project, a charitable organization with a twofold mission: to aid down-on-their-luck people and to develop leadership skills among young people that will equip them to serve their communities.

"They need to eventually step up and pass it on, too," he said.

'True heart of gold'

Caleb, with the support of family, friends, classmates and volunteers and donors, plus the

See CALEB, Page A4



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Caleb White gets a quick hug from Genesis House II resident Christina Jones during a March 18 game night. Caleb is known by name by most of the residents and they approach him easily to say hello.

INSIDE

Game night always a lot of fun, A3

All Saints students learn about counting cash at Money Carnival

"Thanks for shopping with us," All Saints second-grader Lily Berry told a student customer at a carnival toy booth as she provided change. This was not a typical school sale, however. The second-graders at All Saints Catholic School (www.allsaintscs.com) had the chance to test their skill, luck and money-counting abilities at their inaugural Money Car-

nival. "The students could earn up to three quarters a day over the course of three weeks," said Kelly Gibb, math coach.

All Saints Catholic School developed the event to bring real-world applications of math and computation into the classroom experience.

"The students have been saving their money, knowing

they would be able to 'pay' for games, toys and snacks at the carnival. By buying treats and toys, they get the experience of counting while making and giving change," Gibb said.

During the Money Carnival, half of the second-grade students, assisted by parent volunteers, worked the attrac-



See MONEY, Page A2 Second-graders at All Saints Catholic School learn about money.



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TOURNEY

Continued from Page A1

draws out-of-town visitors to the Ford Road corridor, where they also can find numerous restaurants and retail shops.

"We have a little bit of everything here," Hamilton said.

Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, said the economic impact is likely to affect Plymouth and neighbors such as Livonia, Northville, Farmington Hills and Novi.

"The biggest pieces of it are always lodging and food," he said. "Anytime you bring people in from

out of town, you're automatically making money on lodging and food."

Graff said visitors also are likely to seek out entertainment, while players from around the world will likely want clothing and souvenirs from the United States.

According to the IIHF Women's World Championship website, participating nations beyond the United States include Canada, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany.

USA Hockey spokesman Dave Fischer said it's difficult to predict how many visitors the tournament might draw to Plymouth and surrounding communities.

"The Women's World Championship — with the number of players, coaches, officials, media and fans that will descend upon Plymouth next week — will bring significant economic impact to the area," he said. "This is only the fourth time we've had the chance to host this event in our country and the fans in the greater Detroit metropolitan area will have a chance to see most of the same players they'll watch on NBC in the Winter Olympics in South Korea in 10 months."

Tony Bruscato, Plymouth Downtown Development Authority director, said downtown Plymouth is expected to benefit as visitors seek out restaurants, retail stores, coffee shops and other places to spend time.

"It's an opportunity for us to showcase downtown Plymouth," he said, saying the city has the potential to be a destination for visitors looking for a good time when they are not involved in games.

Local officials say it's difficult to quantify just how much money the tournament could mean for Plymouth and other communities, but they say the amount is likely significant.

Jason Keenan, general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn in Plymouth Township, said that inn is often sold out anyway from Monday through Thursday, as guests are in town for business purposes. He said the tournament is having an impact on the other days and at other hotels.



WINSLOW TOWNSON | USA TODAY SPORTS

Team USA forwards Alex Carpenter (left) and Hilary Knight celebrate a goal during the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Both players were on the roster announced earlier this month by USA Hockey for the 2017 IIHF World Championships in Plymouth.

"It's compressing the market," Keenan said, and bringing in more

weekend guests. "It's obviously a nice event."

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MONEY

Continued from Page A1

tions, while the other half served as customers. Midway through, the students switched positions so everyone had a chance to play and enjoy

the day. Items were priced with a variety of costs to make the counting more challenging. For example, candies sold for 21 cents and 47 cents, while drinks were \$1.07.

"You have to reel people in and get them to come by," said student

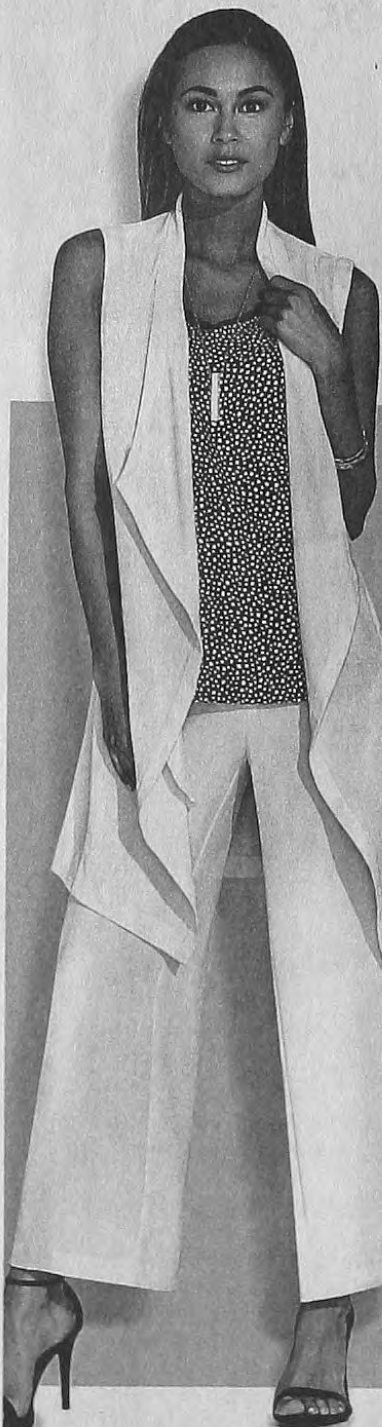
Alexandra Marciniak, who staffed the bank during one shift. "It's really important to give people the right change and be very nice!"

In addition to learning directly about handling and counting money, the carnival offered students a chance to polish

their customer service, marketing and promotional skills. Parent volunteer Anne Marie Fueling enjoyed helping at the event. "It's been real fun for the kids to put into practice what they have been learning," she said.

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Game night at a homeless shelter: 'Everyone's equal' thanks to Caleb

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Saturday evening on Detroit's west side, in the basement of a shelter for homeless people.

Some have to be here, some want to be here, but people in both groups are having a good time.

There's pizza and pop, games like Jenga, Connect Four and Sequence, plus the chance to hand-paint a picture frame or a birdhouse-shaped knick-knack.

Players are talking about their games or plotting their moves, young children are shouting and running in the hall chasing balloons. At the crafts table, there's quiet conversation.

It's another family game night sponsored by the Caleb White Project, a charitable organization named for the Catholic Central High School freshman who's been reaching out to homeless people since he was 6. Caleb and other volunteers, at least one Saturday each month, visit the shelter, Genesis House II, for games, socializing and a pizza dinner.

"I have fun down here," said Artesha Davis, who was attending her third game night, while at the crafts table.

Davis had just finished playing Sequence, in which participants draw playing cards and try to match them to cards depicted on the board in an effort to get five matches in a row. Daughter Takesha, 9, won the game; Davis was at the shelter with her and another daughter, Takela.

"Everything," Davis said when asked what she likes about the events. "Just being in the room, talking with people. I'm a people person."

The game nights bring

together people of different ages, races and experiences and cross city-suburban boundaries in a personal way.

"Everyone's equal" and people who normally wouldn't socialize together do so, said Pete Hayek of Northville, who was volunteering for game night March 18. "That's the magic of game night."

Kim Winfrey was at one end of the crafts table, quietly painting a picture frame. It was her first game night; she went down to dinner, she said, and decided to join the fun.

"Fantastic," she said when told Caleb had organized the evening. "That's so nice." She asked to meet Caleb and he later introduced himself.

"Those one-on-one communications, I think, are some of the biggest parts of what we do," Caleb said.

Winfrey, formerly a food-service manager, said her life unraveled after her husband Matthew died — seven years ago to the day. "My career, my education, everything. Everything got put on hold," she said.

Now, she said, she's trying to rebuild, getting job training in the culinary arts and also studying online through the University of Phoenix.

Julissa Gutierrez of Lincoln Park was volunteering at the March 18 game night, prompted by her son, Angelo, 7, who had joined the crafters.

"He just wants to come and help," Gutierrez said. "He said he was inspired by Caleb."

Caleb has been leading the game nights for about three years. His brother Noah, who is 9, came up with the idea, Caleb said, because it combines two of Noah's favorite things: helping



Longtime volunteer Pete Hayek (left) plays Sequence with resident Artina Armstrong at Genesis House II on March 18.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



people and playing board games.

"People enjoy the idea of just coming down and having a good time," Caleb said.

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JOHN HEIDER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Catholic Central student Caleb White plays a vertical checkers game with Danaya Brooks, 3, on March 18 at the Detroit Rescue Mission Shelter on West Chicago. White organized the frequent Saturday game night excursions to the shelter years ago and heads to the shelter with a group of other volunteers with dinner in hand a lots of fun for all. For his volunteering work, White recently won an award from the National Catholic Education Association.



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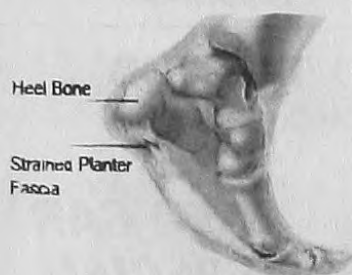
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CALEB

Continued from Page A1

backing of corporate heavy hitters like Quick-Loans' Dan Gilbert, offers people in need direct aid in a variety of ways. Among them:

» Each year since 2008, he's gone to Detroit at Christmas time to hand out care packages, with essentials like hats, gloves, food, toiletries and, more recently, socks.

"We don't make them feel embarrassed or anything like that," Caleb said. "Usually, everybody we come across is super thankful."

• Every summer since 2014, he and other volunteers set aside a day to distribute backpacks stuffed with school supplies to Detroit children. The back-to-school event has become a miniature carnival, with food, games and activities, plus free haircuts and manicures.

» At least one Saturday each month, he and his crew visit Genesis House II, a west-side shelter for homeless women and children that's part of the Detroit Rescue Mission. Young people, the middle-aged and seniors, black and white, enjoy pizza and pop, laugh and talk and play games and work on crafts.

"Everyone's equal" and people who normally wouldn't socialize together do so, said Pete Hayek of Northville, who was volunteering for the March 18 game night. "That's the magic of

game night."

» Caleb and volunteers in December threw a Christmas party for about 60 homeless military veterans at another DRM shelter. Sponsors that included Domino's Pizza, Novi's Oak Pointe Church and the Catholic Central wrestling team "adopted" veterans, providing each with a personalized gift package. Caleb and other volunteers had interviewed the men beforehand to find out their needs, wants — and clothing sizes.

"Caleb White is dear to our hearts. He is a young man with a true heart of gold," Chad Audi, president of Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, said in an email. "Detroit needs more difference-makers like Caleb White."

Empathy started early

Caleb's concern started when he was 6.

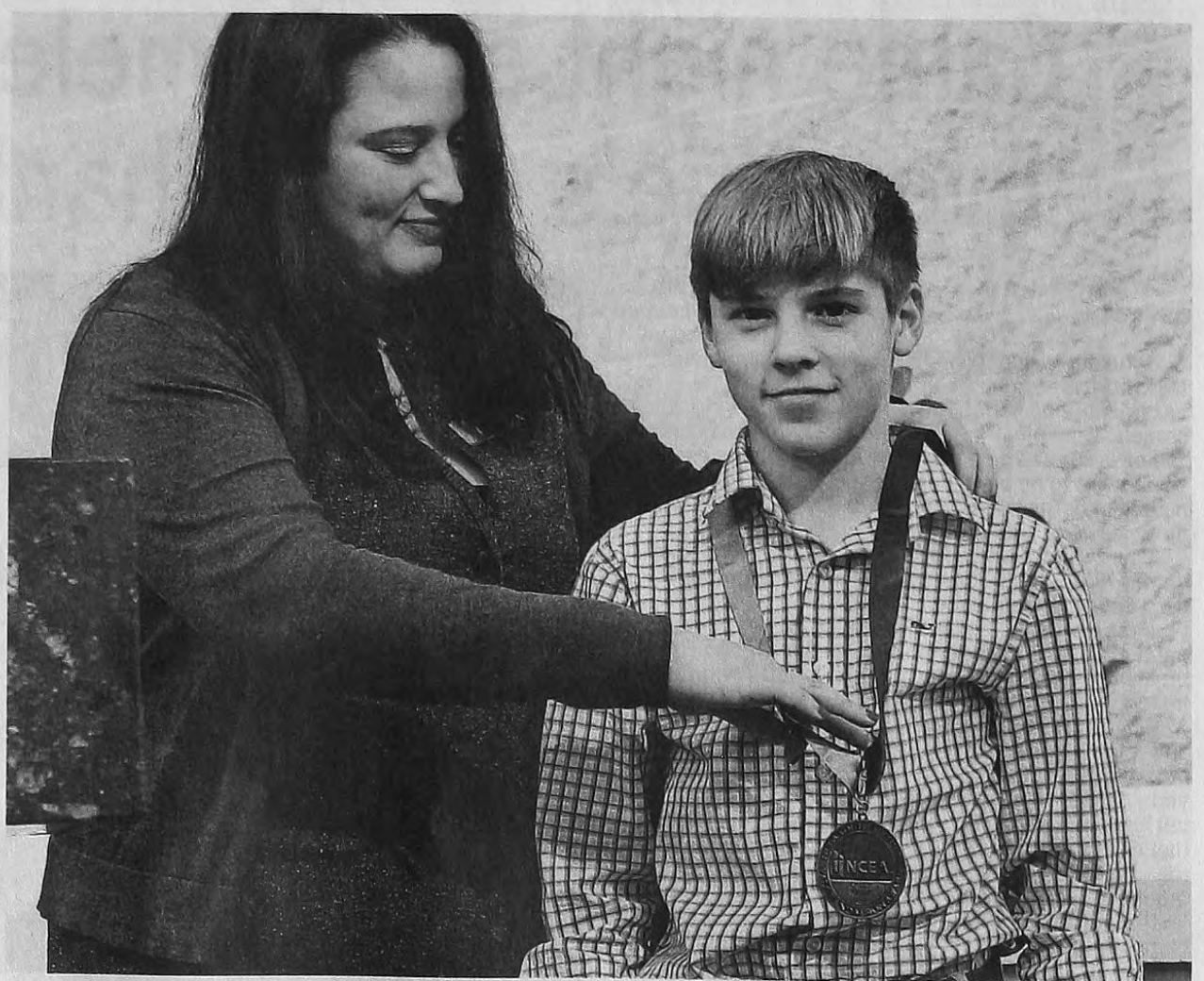
"He saw somebody sleeping outdoors on the way home from the circus and wanted to build him a house," said his mother, Melissa Kennedy.

He also asked questions. "I didn't know what homelessness meant," Caleb said.

Later that year, before Christmas, Caleb returned to Detroit with about 10 care packages, handing them out to people on the streets.

"That's when all of this began," he said. "Every year after that, more people got involved."

The effort's reach grew, too; Caleb's most recent gift distribution, in which he got help from



Andrea Kopp gives Caleb White of Northville the Virtue, Values and Vision on behalf of the National Catholic Educational Association. Caleb's charitable efforts, begun when he was 6, have been expanding in recent years.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CC wrestlers, totaled about 250 gifts.

Caleb helps without judgment. He recognizes some are homeless because of poor decisions, others because of circumstances beyond their control and the lack of a support system.

"It doesn't matter what choices you made," he said. "We're going to help you either way."

He is, in part, motivated by his Catholic faith. "We're called to live like Jesus or called to walk in his footsteps," he said.

The work keeps everyone — his mother, father Bryan White and other family members, Caleb White Project board members and fellow Shamrocks and other volunteers — active.

"I always joke that Caleb sort of gets us into

these projects before I have a chance to think about it," Melissa Kennedy said, adding the projects lead to "crazy busy" times. "It always comes together."

Caleb, however, still finds time for CC sports, like track and cross country, his schoolwork, playing the French horn and, now, driver's ed.

Fostering leadership

Caleb often speaks to school groups about service — pitching in to make the world a better place. The talks are part of the leadership-building mission; another part is the CWP leadership board, which is made up of young people like himself.

"He is passionate about homelessness, but he really just wants

young people to understand that they can make a difference and he challenges them to be leaders in something that they care about," his mother said.

He is also increasingly sought after by adult audiences. Earlier this month in Miami, Caleb spoke to about 300 executives from the vaccine division of Merck & Co., the pharmaceutical firm, about service. His talk followed a Merck-sponsored event — a game night, with a traditional Cuban dinner — at a Miami shelter the previous day.

"He's got a movement going," said Hayek, who works in Merck's vaccine division. Hayek helped book Caleb for the event and for a smaller Merck gathering in Indianapolis

last August.

"The impression that Caleb made in Miami was long-lasting," Hayek wrote later in an email. "Merck employees left inspired by his talk and by their game-night experience. Our vaccine teams feel a great responsibility to protect our young people and Caleb reminded them why they do what they do."

Caleb has won recognition for his work, including the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, the Governor's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award and, most recently, the National Catholic Educational Association's Virtues, Vision and Valor Award.

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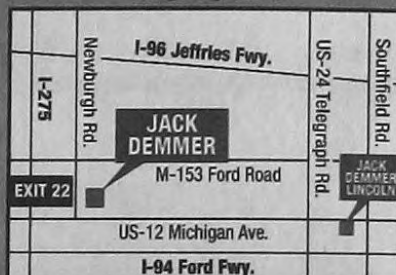
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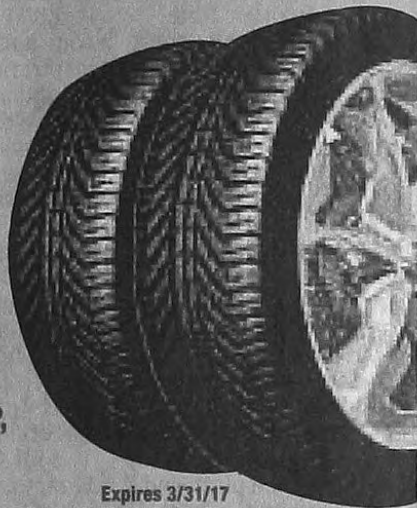
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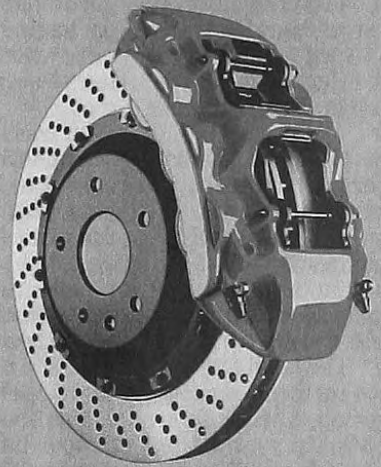


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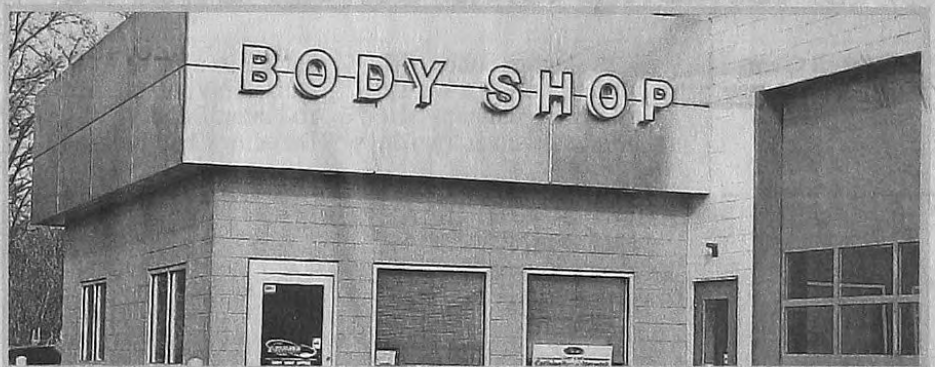


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Discovery students chosen for DSO band

Three eighth-grade and eight seventh-grade students from the Discovery Middle School Band program were selected to perform in the DSO Middle School Honor Band for 2017.

These 11 students are: Grace Adelman (alto sax), Alyssa Aznavorian (flute), Ty Bahnke (tuba), Joshua Brauchler (trombone), Benjamin Ferencz (trumpet), Adrienne Jones (flute), Brionna Jones (flute), Sarah King (baritone sax), Grace Laney (flute), Thanapa Manthongkham (alto sax) and Brandon Perez (percussion).

These achievement-oriented students were selected by the DSO as some of the finest student musicians in southeast Michigan.

"It is an honor to perform in this prestigious group and our excited



Eleven Discovery Middle School musicians were chosen to be part of the DSO's middle school band program.

Discovery students took to the Orchestra Hall stage in Detroit on Monday, March 13, and performed a fantastic concert," band director Marc Whitlock said.

The students received the music a few days in advance, rehearsed for

eight hours and performed the concert that night.

"It was a true Herculean effort, to say the

least, and the students are very proud to have represented Discovery Middle School, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Canton community at this esteemed musical event," Whitlock said.

The DSO's Middle School Honor Band is an opportunity for middle school musicians to rehearse and perform with renowned directors in historic Orchestra Hall. In the course of one day, students work together to learn challenging Wind Ensemble repertoire alongside Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians, before performing the same evening for family, friends, Michigan music educators and the public.

Since 1970, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Ensembles have provided Michigan

musicians of all ages a comprehensive music education experience. CYE's twofold mission is to cultivate every student's artistic and creative potential through rewarding musical experiences while continuing to develop meaningful skills outside of the arts. CYE faculty believe music can provide youth with the necessary tools to develop important life skills, such as critical and analytical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, and teamwork, as well as believing that students can discover success, no matter what path in life they choose.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Discovery Middle School Band can call Whitlock at 734-416-7960 or email marc.whitlock@pccsk12.com.

Help fight hunger with music and Birchler family

The Birchler family will host "Jammin' to End Famine 2017," the 10th annual concert to benefit Kids Coalition Against Hunger, at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Kids Coalition Against Hunger is a nonprofit organization with the mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the U.S. and to feed starving children throughout the world. "The need for nourishing meals is just staggering, whether in Flint, Michigan, or in places like Haiti," Dave Birchler said. The concert will showcase five acts, four of them featuring members of the Birchler family.

Concert organizer Tom Birchler was very impressed with Kids Against Hunger after participating in a mega packaging event in Okemos, where 800 volunteers assembled 100,000 meals.

"I was astounded to see hundreds of grade school and high school kids laughing and having fun while helping to package food for the less fortunate. All the profit from this concert will go directly towards buying the food at a packaging event we will schedule in the fall at Brother Rice High School during their day of service," Tom Birchler said. "Your support of the concert will help us take advantage of the tremendous participation Kids Coalition Against Hunger

inspires in our youth."

The concert gives people of all ages the opportunity to let loose and enjoy music and dancing in a casual atmosphere. Every act features outstanding singing. John Birchler will open the show as a member of the a cappella vocal jazz group The Grunyons. Rock band The Paisley Fogg (featuring Tom, Keith and Dave Birchler) will serve up a healthy dose of Beatles along with other danceable favorites from the '60s.

James Higdon, a teacher at Brother Rice High School, will then lighten the mood with his stand-up comedy routine. "We are excited to have James performing at the fundraiser. His students

are stoked to finally have a chance see their teacher on stage. We are very thankful for the participation of Brother Rice students at our fall packaging event. They are tremendous partners in this effort to end hunger," Tom Birchler said.

Also, the legendary band Scratch will reunite for a groovin' set of originals and classic rock dance faves. Closing the show will be Tom's sons Mark Warren and Mike Birchler and their band Close Enough. They always pack the dance floor with their rock and funk mix. Attendees will also enjoy free pizza and salad, along with a cash bar. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students.

Jim Birchler, who will emcee the event, said,

"Pope Francis in his first speech asked Catholics and all people of good will to 'protect the poor.' Don Birchler, our beloved papa and our spiritual inspiration for this work, taught us by his example to care for the poor. This year marks his 12th anniversary. I can think of no better way to honor his memory than continuing to afford folks the opportunity to have a good time while helping us enhance food security for the thousands of people who benefit from the work of Kids Against Hunger Coalition."

Kids Coalition Against Hunger works with churches and local nonprofits to package its specially formulated rice-soy casserole for delivery in the U.S. and

more than 40 countries to feed starving children and their families. "When you feed a child, you feed our future," was the motto of Kids Against Hunger Coalition founder Donald Burwell, who died last year.

His son, executive director Michael Burwell, carries on his mission. "Since 2004, over 180,000 volunteers have packaged over 18.5 million meals in Michigan, serving together to feed those in need. We support disaster victims, starving people throughout the world and food shelters and depots in Michigan and the Great Lakes area," said John Birchler, past-president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, a major KAHC partner.

Canton police officer injured in rollover accident Wednesday

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

A Canton police officer remained in a hospital Friday morning after he was involved two days

earlier in a crash that caused his patrol car to roll over, Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh

said. The two-vehicle crash happened about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday on Geddes, east of Beck. Police said the officer was responding to an assault in progress when the crash occurred.

Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said soon after the crash that "it appears the injuries are non-life-threatening." Baugh said the officer is expected to make a full recovery.

"I expect he will re-

cover very soon," he said. "We're very happy that nothing extraordinary happened."

Meier said the police vehicle's sirens were on when the crash occurred. He said the driver of the other vehicle was not injured.

The police officer was traveling west on Geddes and the other vehicle, a Chrysler Town & Country, was eastbound. Baugh said the driver was the only person in the other vehicle.

Officials couldn't yet comment on what caused the crash.

"It's an ongoing investigation," Baugh said. He said the Michigan State Police's accident investigation team was called in to handle the investigation.

MSP Lt. Mike Shaw said the investigation should be wrapped up within two or three days.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

- Z 17-06 920 Fairground
Non-Use Variance
Front yard setback on a corner lot for detached garage
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Paul Hedemark
- Z 17-07 607 Harding
Non-Use Variances
Front yard setback
Rear yard setback
Front yard setback on a corner lot
Side yard setback for detached garage
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Jackie Bates

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: Sunday, March 26, 2017

LO-000016170 4.5

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LO-000016170

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO STATE LAW 257.252, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE(S) WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE AT MAYFLOWER AUTO TRANSPORT, 1179 STARKWEATHER RD, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170 ON THE DATE AND TIME LISTED BELOW:

DATE **04-04-17 @ 7:00pm**

VEHICLE(S):

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	VIN	CASE #
1999	DODGE	CARAVAN	SW	1B4GP44L0XB877802	17-273
1996	CHEVROLET	LUMINA	4D	2G1WN52M5T9178031	16-6031

INQUIRIES REGARDING THESE VEHICLES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OFFICER Cowell, CITY OF PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT 734 453-1234 x545.

Maureen Brodie, CMC
City Clerk

Published: Sunday, March 26, 2017

LO-000016227 3x3

**PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017
7:00 PM
(734) 453-1234**

1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS OF:

Article XXVI- NONCONFORMANCE, 78-351, Non-Conforming Lots and Sites

2. SPECIAL USE PERMIT AND SITE PLAN REVIEW:

SP 17-02 195 W. Liberty
Zoned: B-1, Local Business District
Applicant: NSMN LLC.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
(734)453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: Sunday, March 26, 2017

LO-000016172 3x4.5

I am an American We are One Nation

LIZ JOYNER FINDS UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Pieces of her 'Threads of a Nation' quilt don't match until woven into a whole

NADA HASSANEIN
USA TODAY NETWORK

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

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Liz Joyner's "Threads of a Nation" quilt is stitched together with red, white and blue squares and patriotic quotes: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" and "Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears."

It's a quilt that's a tribute to her family who had served in the military and worked in government — her brother a Navy SEAL and her father a Pentagon worker. But it's also, she said, a reflection of the "beauty of the diversity of our people."

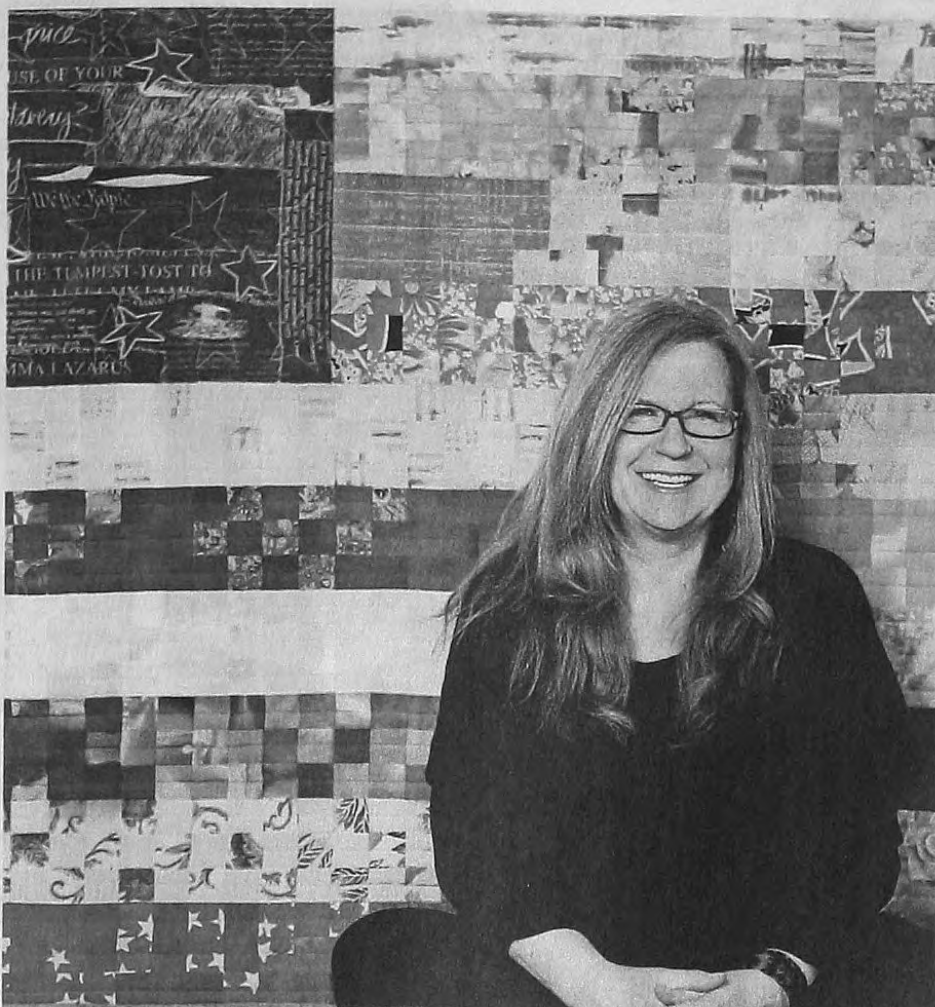
Joyner picked and dyed scarlet-, rose- and cerulean-colored fabrics that at first glance, wouldn't necessarily match. But when woven together, unified into one piece.

She's the executive director of The Village Square in Tallahassee, Florida. The quilt, created after September 11, was almost a foreshadowing of what she does now through The Village Square: bridge gaps between communities and ideologies through conversation.

Somehow, Joyner's been able to gather both liberals and conservatives around dinner tables and on stages to talk about race, religion and politics. The concept might seem only possible to discuss in a civil way across party lines "when pigs fly" — hence The Village Square's mascot, of sorts: a little pink pig with wings.

The Village Square holds events like Faith, Food, Friday, an interfaith conversation rotating at different faith centers, and film screenings followed by discussions called Race to the Movies: An Unflinching Conversation on Race.

Joyner is a fervent believer that "diverse groups make better decisions,"



Liz Joyner, executive director of The Village Square, sits in front of a quilted flag she sewed to "represent the dynamic diversity of democracy." The quilt hangs in her bedroom.

but even if a conclusion or decision isn't made, "you've still changed everything" by gathering people to converse and learn about life from another person's perspective.

Joyner believes important change starts with relationships fueled by empathy.

"Human beings are capable of amazing feats of empathy," she said, "when we just get to know each other."

Liz Joyner

Location: Tallahassee, Fla.

Age: 57

Profession: Executive Director, The Village Square

Mission: Reviving the founding spirit of American democracy by building community across ideological and demographic divides inside hometowns.

Q&A WITH LIZ JOYNER

What does it mean to you to be an American?

The Adlai Stevenson quote, "the steady devotion of a lifetime." It's really quite incredible how many people do that. Alexis de Tocqueville said when he came to America that Americans are forever in the habit of forming associations. We've gotten used to doing things with people who are more like us rather than unlike us, and we need to get back to the habit of seeking out other people.

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

I really feel like I grew up in a place that I know what it looks like — I know what a healthy, civic life looks like. I know what disagreement looks like when it's vibrant and real and dynamic, and it really was from watching people who had become my friends who were local leaders, who had those kinds of dynamic conversations going on that inspired me. I reached the point in time that my personal frustration was so high that if I didn't do something, it wouldn't have been healthy for me.

What gives you hope?

I think that getting the upcoming generations of leaders, people who are millennials and younger, gives me a lot of hope. It gives me a lot of hope that when you guys are my age, it'll just naturally be better. But — there is a 'but' there, and the 'but' is: We've got to find a way to connect what's naturally so exceptional about your generation to what is exceptional about the hero arc of American democracy.

What concerns you?

That having fallen into our like-minded silos, as we have, that we're not going to have the will to climb out. And I think if we have the will, it's there — but we're going to have to see the reason to find what we share.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

What I hope to accomplish with what we do is revive the old idea, repackage it in a way that works for a new environment. I describe The Village Square as being a very new, very old idea. It really is just the whole idea that we had from the very beginning of American democracy. We've just got to punch it up a little bit.

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Details:

Monday, March 27, 2017
Registration 6:45 pm
Presentation begins at 7:00 PM

Plymouth Cultural Center

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Refreshments will be served.

Parents & Students should attend!

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Some strategies are limited after student finishes 9th grade.

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35th District Court announces amnesty program

The 35th District Court announces the 2017 Amnesty Program for all delinquent civil infraction tickets. Unpaid tickets can accumulate additional default fees, late fees and warrant fees, which increase the original amount of the ticket. This program provides individuals with an opportunity to settle their old court financial obligations and pay the original amount of the

ticket. In addition, the program assists the court in clearing up a backlog of files without additional court resources and collection costs. The court will give citizens an opportunity to resolve their outstanding tickets, avoid possible arrest and take advantage of the court waiving late penalties and fees. To take advantage of this limited time opportunity, consider the follow-

ing: » The program will run from Monday, March 27, through Friday, April 28. » Amnesty applies only to those individuals who present themselves at the 35th District Court, 660 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. The court is open for business from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. No mail in payments or online credit card payments

will be accepted. Included are all payable traffic civil infraction tickets issued within the jurisdictions of cities of Northville and Plymouth and townships of Northville, Plymouth and Canton. » Under the program, individuals with arrest warrants for failure to appear in court on a civil infraction will have their outstanding warrant canceled. These individ-

uals may come to court without the fear of being arrested for their voluntary appearance. » This is a one-time effort to clear a backlog of cases. Once free from the backlog, the court will continue to move more aggressively to enforce and collect on unpaid tickets, including all penalties and late fees. » During the period of amnesty, the ticket will

be reduced to the original fine plus the \$45 driver license clearance fee, if applicable. Upon full payment, the court will notify the Secretary of State to lift the suspension. » All payments must be cash, certified check, money order or credit card. » For information on paying court fines, contact the court at 734-459-4740.

I do! Guess who might get to marry you next?

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

When Bloomfield Township Supervisor Leo Savoie was asked if he wants to perform marriage ceremonies, his answer came without hesitation: "I do!" A new bill in Lansing just might make it possible. State Rep. Mike McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) has introduced a bill that would allow township supervisors to perform marriage ceremonies. Under the current law, judges, magis-

trates, county clerks and city mayors have the authority to solemnize a marriage. House Bill 4272 would add township supervisors to that list. Savoie spoke before the House Judiciary Committee two weeks ago in support of the legislation. He said that over the years, he's had numerous requests to perform marriage ceremonies. "I think it would be a great honor," he said. "Hopefully, it's a joyous occasion." Former Birmingham Mayor Rackeline Hoff has had the privilege of



Bloomfield Township Supervisor Leo Savoie (left) testifies before the House Judiciary Committee to support House Bill 4272, which would allow township supervisors to perform marriage ceremonies.



SUBMITTED Lisa and Kyle Clark get married on the steps of City Hall in Birmingham.

marrying 27 couples during her 16 years in public office. "They've all been very happy affairs," Hoff said. "We've had ceremonies in the commission room, at Oakland Hills, Quarton Lake, Shain Park ... sometimes people only have two witnesses, and sometimes there's a roomful of people. There are some tears occasion-

ally, but they're tears of happiness." Lisa and Kyle Clark of Birmingham were married by Hoff on the front steps of City Hall last November. "We were looking for an intimate civil ceremony, and the steps of City Hall was the perfect setting for our nuptials," Lisa Clark said. "Mayor Hoff made the experi-

ence very simple and fun to plan. We strolled to dinner with our guests, and enjoyed an afterglow and stay at the Townsend Hotel. It truly was the perfect day for us." Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, on the other hand, has performed about a dozen marriage ceremonies. The one ceremony that stood out most involved an 89-year-old bride and an 81-year-old groom.

"That was one pretty unique," the Livonia mayor said with a smile. "It was definitely true love." House Bill 4272 was approved by the judiciary committee on Wednesday. The pending legislation now heads to the full House for consideration.

grossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Cash or mortgage? Do whatever makes sense to you

Q: My husband and I are going back and forth on an issue and we would love your thoughts. From a financial standpoint, we're in good shape. My husband's pension, along with our Social Security, covers all of our living expenses. In addition, we have about \$150,000 in our IRA, an emergency fund at the bank of about \$20,000 and a joint account with approximately \$250,000. Our money is invested in a variety of things, mostly geared long term. Our kids are out of the house and I would like to sell our home and downsize. One thing I have learned is that downsizing does not mean cheaper. To buy the condominium my



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

husband and I both like and to furnish it, in addition to the proceeds of our old home, we would need at least \$150,000. The question is, how do we come up with the \$150,000? My husband said that with interest rates low, we should just get a mortgage on the new home. I, on the other hand, like the idea that we are debt-free and I'd like to take the money from our joint account. I figure that would still leave us enough money. My question to you is, what would you do?
A: In reviewing your

situation, there are two ways to look at this. The first way is from a financial standpoint and what would be the best move financially; the second is from a quality of life standpoint. First, let's talk about the financial issues. In reviewing the financial issues, interest rates are still at historic lows and the after-tax cost of borrowing, assuming you itemize your deductions, is going to be in the 3-percent area. Historically, that is very inexpensive money. If you continue investing in a diversified growth portfolio, over time, that portfolio, after taxes, should return a substantially better return than the 3-plus percent that you are going to pay on the mortgage. On the

other hand, as opposed to investing the money in a growth portfolio, if you are going to invest that same money in fixed-income investments like CDs and government treasuries, after taxes you would be earning in the 1-percent area. Therefore, from a financial standpoint, the key is how you would invest the money that you would otherwise use to pay for the home. Again, looking at it purely financially, if you were going to continue to invest in a long-term growth mode, then I would say go for the mortgage. On the other hand, if you would take that \$150,000 and put it in the bank or buy U.S. treasuries, I'd say pay cash for the house. When it comes to tak-

ing on debt, there is the issue of what allows you to sleep at night. I know some people who sleep better at night because they have no debt. Money should be a tool to help you have a better quality of life and bring you comfort. In the situation at hand, one of the great things is the fact that you are in such good financial shape you can afford not to think from a purely financial standpoint, but also from a quality of life standpoint. Unfortunately, too many people in our society don't have those options. You have achieved that by living within your means and saving enough so you can maintain your lifestyle throughout your life. How do you weigh the financial vs. the quality of life? My view is that

with a married couple, if either husband or wife can honestly say that their quality of life would be improved, in this case by not getting the mortgage, I would lean to paying cash for the property. After all, isn't giving us comfort exactly what money should do? Do I think it would be a mistake to get a mortgage? Absolutely not; however, when you work hard and put yourself in very good financial shape, as you have, it doesn't always have to be about the dollars and cents.
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Guide to Employment

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NANKIN MILLS CALENDAR

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in the historic Nankin Mills Gristmill and Wayne County Park's Office at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, off of Hines Drive in Westland,

Two Indoor Presentations for ages 12 – adult; \$3 per person, call Park Office at 734-261-1990 to pre-register:

Gristmill families of Nankin Mills

Saturday, April 8, 1-2:30 p.m.

Nankin Mills operated as a Gristmill (grinding flour from grains) from 1842 until 1918. Many different families owned and operated the Mill over the years and lived in the little house beside the Mill. Learn the history of our beautiful, historic Mill and Miller's house, longtime landmarks on Ann Arbor Trail.

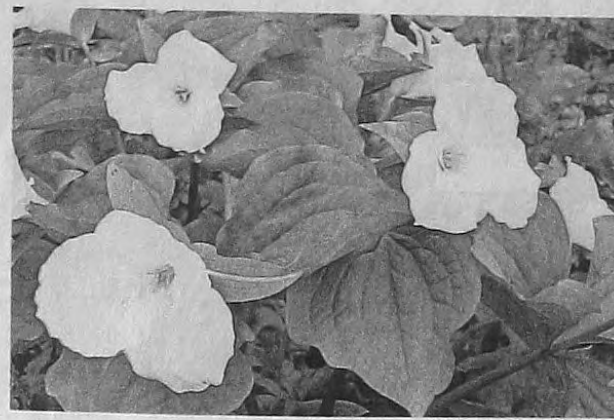


You can't miss Frog Frenzy at Nankin Mills.

Wildflowers of Southeastern Michigan

Saturday, April 29, 1-2:30 p.m.

Not only are they beautiful, but our native wildflowers have fascinating folk stories. You will learn how they were used in the past for folk



Learn about flowers, such as trillium, of southeast Michigan.

medicine and other purposes as well as intriguing natural history of some of our favorite native wildflowers, such as how ants help to plant trillium in the forest.

One program for the whole family, ages 6 – Adult, \$6 per child and \$2 per adult, call Park Of-

fice at 734-261-1990 to pre-register:

Frog Frenzy

Saturday, April 29, 6-8 p.m.

Join us to learn about the many different kinds of frogs that call Michigan home and meet some live frogs! Children will

create an amphibian craft and then we will all venture outside to visit our pond to catch and release some of our native frogs! Those interested in more frog adventures can follow our Naturalist and car-pool a few miles to another site in Holiday Nature Preserve to enjoy the spring symphony of frog romance.

One Event for the whole family:

Earth Day Extravaganza

Saturday, April 22, 1-4 p.m. (free and no registration required)

Join Nankin Mills for a special day to celebrate all things Mother Earth. Live animal shows, music, crafts, speakers, nutty nature re-enactors and educational demonstrations will all be a part of the family fun.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jazz at the Elks

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

On Tuesday, March 28, the popular The Paul VornHagen Quartet will perform. Hear the standards and some of his original songs. Playing with him on reeds, Chuck Shermetaro on keyboard, Kurt Krahnke on bass and Scott Kretzer on drums.

The Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, email jazzattheelks@gmail.com or go to www.plyaa325.com.

Blessings in a Backpack

"Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia is holding its 2nd Annual Summer Cereal Drive. We currently provide weekend meals to 210 children in the Livonia Public School system during the school year, but when summer vacation starts, often hunger does too. We'd like to send lots of cereal home with students again this year, to help them start their summer days out right.

If you or your business would like to hold a cereal drive for us, please contact us at biablivonia@gmail.com, and we will send you a flyer to post. We ask for healthier cereals, in family size boxes (but not gigantic boxes), with as little sugar and dyes as possible. We will have to collect all the cereal by May 15 to be able to distribute it in time. Please see our web site at https://www.biablivonia.org/ for additional information.

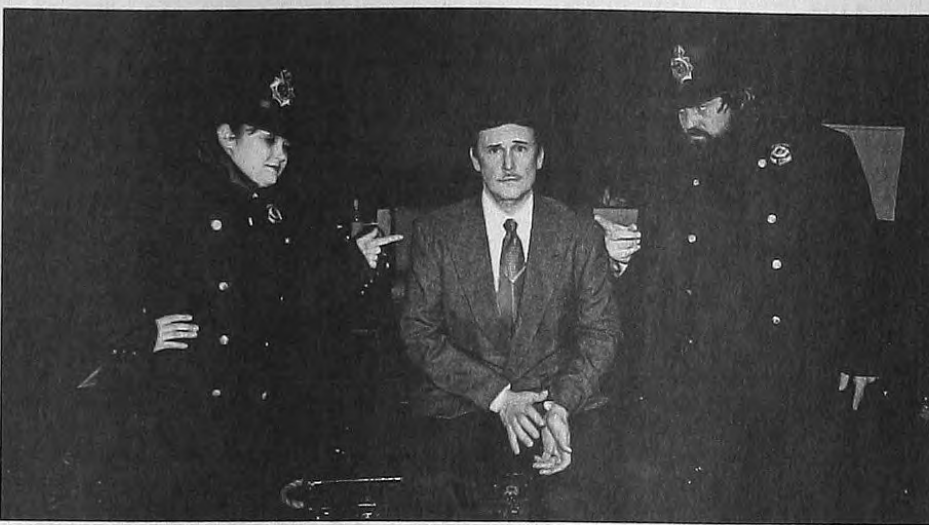
Pagan hours

State Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton) will hold a coffee hour Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 41950 Ford Road in Canton. Pagan invites residents to join her to discuss their thoughts and ideas about how she can best represent and address the needs of her constituents.

Thrivent hosts educational workshop

Thrivent Financial is hosting a free educational workshop to help parents of high school students with their college planning called "College Planning Strategies." The 60 minute workshop will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, March 27 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St, Plymouth. Jay Kempf, CFP®, a financial representative with Thrivent Financial in Plymouth will host presenter Alison LeCloux Certified College Planning Specialist™.

The workshop, titled "College Planning Strategies" is designed to help parents and their students avoid costly mistakes that can arise



Barefoot Productions stages "The 39 Steps" at 8 p.m. April 7-8 and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. April 2 and 9. Pictured are Steve Sedore of Plymouth, Kate Fasco of Canton and Chris Glutting of Detroit.

throughout the college admission and selection process. It also covers basic facts about financial aid; steps that parents and students can take to help save money by using admission and academic strategies; and, discovering funding sources to help pay for your child's college education and other ways to help minimize out-of-pocket expenses.

UpJumped spring concert

The Schoolcraft Jazz Studies Program under the direction of Dr. Riccardo Selva and the Synthesizer Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Barton Polot present a concert featuring the talented musicians and vocalists of the Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation Combo, and Synthesizer Ensemble. The eclectic repertoire programmed by the ensembles will unfold into a lively and creative concert that promises to usher in the freshness of Spring.

The concert is at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 27, at Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center, DiPonio Room. Admission is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door and will be used to fund student scholarships and the Jazz Program.

School open house

St. Michael Lutheran School located at 3003 Hannan Road in Wayne is hosting an all school open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 1. Meet our teachers, learn about our programs. Also, the Leslie Science Center from Ann Arbor will present a wild animal exhibit from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 734-728-3315.

April Fools' Softball

Come out and play Saturday, April 1. It is a 10 Team Tournament, Modified Chicago Style Double elimination, Championship game. Teams are co-ed. Minimum five female, five male. Rain, shine or snow, the tourney will take place.

Registration fee is \$150. Winning team receives T-shirts. Registration and payment accepted at the Wayne Senior Services Office in

the HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. Organized by M3 to benefit the Wayne Commission on Aging.

Artists-of-the-year

Tuesday Musicale of Detroit presents its 2017 Artists-of-the-Year concert featuring duo pianists Yuki and Tomoko Mack, at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., just north of Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.. The concert will benefit a program supporting scholarships for outstanding young musicians.

The Mack Sisters will perform works by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Smetana, Rachmaninoff, Barber and Gershwin.

Admission for adults \$25; students \$10; students 18 and under free (Courtesy of Perlman Insurance Agency). Scholarship Support: \$50, \$75, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 (gifts above the cost of tickets are tax-deductible). Make credit card purchases at 313-885-7882. Mail checks payable to Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, P.O. Box 36535, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, or log on to www.tuesdaymusicaleofdetroit.org for more information. Tuesday Musicale of Detroit is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Monte Nagler speaks

Three Cities Art Club is proud to have Farmington Hills' renowned photographer Monte Nagler as our guest speaker as he reveals some of his secrets for creating award winning photos. The public is welcome to attend this free event from 7-9 p.m., on Monday, April 3, at Canton Township Hall, lower level meeting room, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about this event, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or email marilynmeredith@wowway.com. To learn more about the art club, visit www.threecitiesartclub.org.

Bunny Brunch

Join us for a Livonia Spring tradition. The annual Bunny Brunch will take place at 11 a.m.

on Saturday, April 8, at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The event includes lunch, crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Tickets are available for \$6 for Livonia residents and \$9 for non-residents at the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, All attendees over the age of 2 must have a ticket. For more information call 734-466-2900.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church will host an Easter egg hunt from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the church, 321 S. Ridge Road, between Cherry Hill Road and Michigan Ave., Canton. For all children. Hunt for candy and small toy-filled plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church. Have a picture taken with the Easter bunny. For more information, call the church at 734-495-0035.

Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a Women's Club in Livonia, will welcome back, retired Sgt. Robert Haig of the Detroit Police Department on Tuesday April 11. Sgt. Haig, will discuss how not to become a victim of gypsy scams, utility work impersonators, pigeon drops and computer and phone scams. The "Don't Get Scammed" event will take place at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church located at 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia. Livonia Neighbors and Friends (A Women's Club in Livonia) is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May at 7 p.m.. Special activity groups continue to meet year round. For more information visit our website at http://livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com

Spring Bazaar

Spring Bazaar at St. John's Episcopal Church, Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Arts, crafts, baked goods, etc. Lunch available. 555 S. Wayne Road. For more information, call 734-721-5023.

Motor Truckers

Tickets are on sale now for Better Than

Ever Productions third season opener, "Mother Truckers," a comedy by Judith Sapperstein and Gary Murway performed April 5-9, at the new PARC facility downtown Plymouth. Show dates include April 6 at 1 p.m.; April 7 and 8, 7 p.m.; April 9, 2 p.m. at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church St., Plymouth.

Hello, Dolly!

Spotlight Players is pleased to present the Broadway Classic "Hello, Dolly!" at the Village Theater of Canton. Show times are March 31-April 2 and April 7-9. The shows start at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturdays,

and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets for \$16-\$18 may be purchased, and printed at home or held in will call at no extra charge by using www.cantonvillageheater.org. Tickets can also be ordered over the phone at 734-394-5300 x3 between 10 a.m.-2 p.m., weekdays. You can purchase tickets in person at the box office which is open between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. If remaining tickets are available, they can be purchased in person one hour prior to show time at the box office. For more information, see http://spotlightplayersmi.org/.

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Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**

LAVOIE



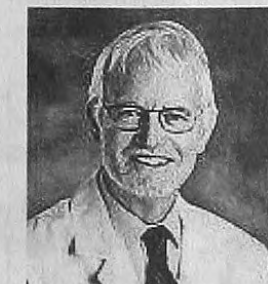
ROGER LEO 77, passed away peacefully on Monday night, March 20, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of June. Loving father of Nanine (Steve) Cvengros, Kristen and Daniel (Emma) Lavoie. Proud grandfather of Madison Cvengros as well as Luca and Nina Lavoie. Also survived by cherished sister, Janet (David) Solomon and several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia, on Friday March 31, 3-8 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at St. Collette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia on Saturday, April 1, in state 9 a.m. followed by 10 a.m. Mass. Roger's full obituary can be viewed at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

FIOL



PATRICIA ANN Age 92. March 22, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Stanley James Fiol for 64 years. Loving mother of Buzz (Kathy) Fiol and Melissa (Gary) Oudersluys. Cherished grandmother of Gwendolyn (Andrew) Miriani, Stuart (Laurie) Fiol, Bethany Oudersluys, Barclay Oudersluys, and Boyce Oudersluys. Great-grandmother of three. Memorial Service at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Rd. (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads), Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Friends may visit beginning at 5 p.m. Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com.

JACOBS



JOHN ROBERT M.D. 67, suddenly passed away March 20, 2017 at home. Beloved husband of Sharon for 37 years. Brother of Patricia Jacobs, William (Yuki), Thomas (Cora), Marie Weissbourd (Robert) and Steven (Kathleen). Loving son of the late John E. and Elizabeth Jacobs. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests gifts may be made to Wayne State University, check memo John R. Jacobs, MD or charity of your choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com

WILES



RUTH J. age 92 of Canton, passed away March 18, 2017. Beloved wife of the late John Wiles. Loving mother of Diane (James Thomas) Pollock, Thomas (Laura) Wiles, Ray (Ildia) Wiles, and Joanne (the late Gary) Harper. Proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of 10. Funeral Service Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, 48170. Visitation Friday from 2-8 p.m. To leave a condolence and view full obituary, please visit schrader-howell.com

SMITH

SHIRLEY FRANCES March 24, 2017, age 68 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of George. Loving mother of Lisa (Scott) Paxson and Amy (Neal) Harrison. Proud Grandma of James, Jessica, and Josephine. Funeral Service Wednesday 10:30 a.m. at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (between Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Visitation Tuesday 2-8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Huron Woods, 5361 McAuley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Schoolcraft dome, program 'catalyst' for health

St. Joe's Sports Dome not just about soccer, thanks to newly unveiled SC Elite partnership

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

There's literally no place like dome — especially at Schoolcraft College. Wednesday afternoon's official grand opening of the newly named St. Joe's Sports Dome was about much more than celebrating the \$6 million facility that now towers over 1-275 in Livonia.

It also was about launching SC Elite

— a collaborative program designed to jump-start health, fitness and good nutrition both for youngsters and adults.

"As a college, we're all about success in the classroom," Schoolcraft Vice President Glenn Cerny said. "What we have learned is success in the classroom happens when we also engage our students outside the classroom, in activities on our campus."

The unveiling also featured a ribbon-

cutting including Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway Jeffress and a ceremonial first kick by youngsters in the Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club.

"I really think these partners are extraordinary," Jeffress said from a podium under the dome. "I want to take a little time to talk about them because this could not happen without them."

He rolled the welcome mat out for

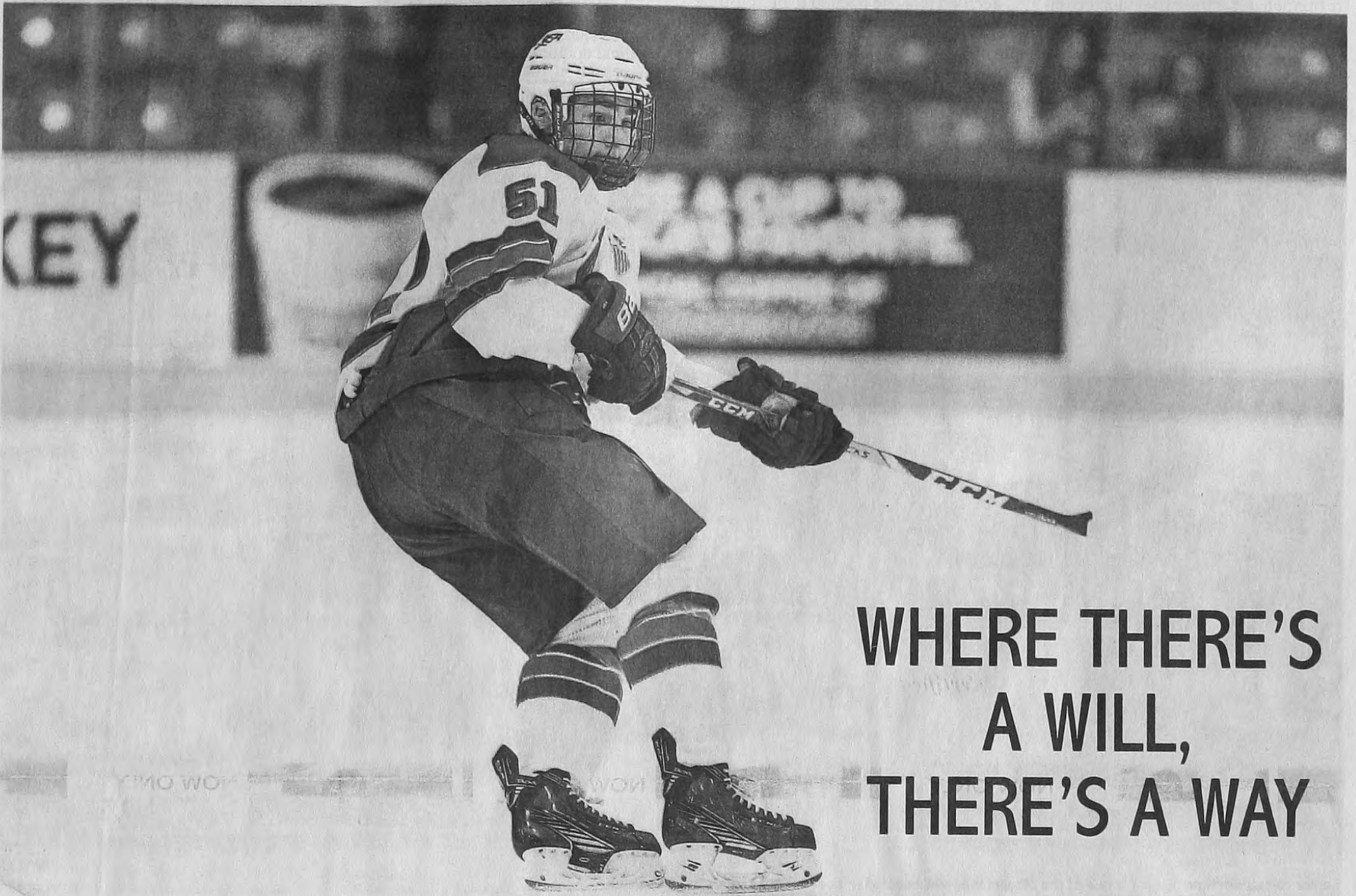
See DOME, Page B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed McCarthy, president of the Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club, said the new St. Joe's Sports Dome has been a "game changer" for the organization.

USA HOCKEY



WHERE THERE'S
A WILL,
THERE'S A WAY

Plymouth resident Will MacKinnon is right at home on the blue line for the U.S. NTDP Under-17 team.

RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth's MacKinnon enjoys NTDP ride, eyes continued success with program, career

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Getting "schooled" is nothing but good stuff for Will MacKinnon.

For starters, the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-17 defenseman gets to take classes at Plymouth High School — not too far from his family's home.

And following morning sessions at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the 16-year-old MacKinnon continues his education on and off the ice at USA Hockey Arena.

When necessary, he'll take classes and do study work with his U17 teammates. There might be a test makeup to take care of. Of course, MacKinnon then works on his "hockey studies," with practices and games, not to mention grueling weight-lifting sessions and other training duties.

"Usually wake up around 6 (a.m.), get to school around 7, then we do our four classes and come to the rink," said MacKinnon, son of Julie and Dan MacKinnon of Plymouth. "I get here about 12:20 (p.m.). Then we go on the ice for an hour, maybe two. And then every

other day we go in the gym and lift. And we have study hall sometimes.

"Today, I took a physics test. I had Mrs. (Lisa) Volners pick it up from the school because we were absent the day of the test. So we do some test makeups here."

Whirlwind year

MacKinnon said it has been a whirlwind for him, learning his way around Plymouth High School (he attended Total Package Hockey in Canton the

See MACKINNON, Page B3



MacKinnon



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

A key player for Salem's offense will be junior Ari Finn (No. 8), shown from last season.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW

Karns likes talent, depth of Rocks' veteran roster

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

There's a relatively new face on the sidelines with Salem's varsity girls soccer team, as Kyle Karns takes over head coaching duties.

But Karns is no stranger around Salem, having also coached the Rocks' boys soccer team in 2016.

"Coaching both the boys and girls program will be enjoyable," said Karns, who succeeds George Tomasso at the

helm. "Each team supports the other, so I am always in contact with players from both sides, it is always fun to look in the stands and see the level of support that Salem students provide.

"As far as what to expect to see this season, I am excited for the potential this team has. With hard work each day and wise decisions on the field, we have the necessary skills and talent to be a competitive team not only in the division but in the postseason."

It will be quite a help to Karns to

turn to a veteran roster. There are 15 players back from the 2016 team that racked up a record of 8-6-7 overall (3-3-4 in the tough KLAA Central).

That experienced group will be spearheaded by senior captains Gabby Teodorescu (midfield), Skylar Brant (goalie) along with seniors Oliva Harkins (midfield), Jayna Lenders and Nikki Pilon (both forwards).

Providing support in front of Brant

See ROCKS, Page B3

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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Graves departs as MU women's hoop coach

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Madonna University women's basketball program is going in a different direction after Carl Graves confirmed Friday he will not return for his 12th season as head coach.

Graves went 166-162 overall in 11 years. He surpassed Marylou Jansen's career 154-win total on Dec. 3, 2016, to become the all-time winningest coach in program history and was honored for the accomplishment prior to the Crusaders' Jan. 14 home game against Lawrence Tech.

According to Madonna.edu, Graves' replacement will not only serve as head basketball coach, but also as a senior women's administrator working with assistant athletic director Noel Emehiser, who is also the men's basketball coach.

"The job has already been posted," said MU's Scott Kennell, who is in his first year as the school's A.D. after coming from Penn College (Pa.). "The process goes through the sports information department. We don't comment on why people are not here. It's a new process for any of our employees. We're not commenting."
Madonna's newly hired sports in-

formation director Zachary Shore said there would be no press release regarding Graves' departure. Graves' bio was taken down Thursday on the MadonnaCrusaders.com website. The website continues to list both Jamey Petree and Heather Pratt, a former Crusader player under Graves, as assistant coaches.

The Crusaders wound up 16-12 overall and 12-10 in the WHAC this past season. Two of the team's five starters have been lost to graduation including NAIA honorable mention All-America and first-team All-WHAC selection Michele Hayes.

"The University deemed that the position needed to be full-time," Graves said. "They offered it to me and I could not take it as a full-time position because I already have a full-time position, so my understanding is that they're going forward. It needs to be full-time for a lot of reasons, which I guess they can explain to you. I know that they were talking about making some of the positions full-time, but they decided this one needed to be full-time in the fall. They did offer it to me with a pay increase and I could not take it."

The 48-year-old Graves is currently employed as a social worker in special



Graves

education with the Monroe County Intermediate School District.

"That's my day job, that's my passion," Graves said. "That's what I went to school for and that's what I love to do. I mean, not that I don't love coaching ... I love coaching, too. One day I'll return to coach. But 11 years there I feel like I did a heckuva job and we had a lot of great things happen."

Graves' teams finished runner-up in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference three times and qualified for the WHAC playoffs 11 times. One of his biggest wins came in late December of 2013 when the Crusaders upset NCAA Division I foe University of Detroit Mercy at Calihan Hall, 86-76.

Graves was twice named WHAC Champions of Character Coach of the Year. He coached two WHAC Players of the Year and one Newcomer of the Year. Fifty-one student-athletes had earned Academic All-Conference honors with 32 of them being named NAIA Scholar-Athletes under Graves.

"I've had kids you remember like Tabatha Wydryck and Katie Martin," Graves said. "Those kids that are now medical doctors ... Kim Olech a police officer out in Tucson (Ariz.) ... I could

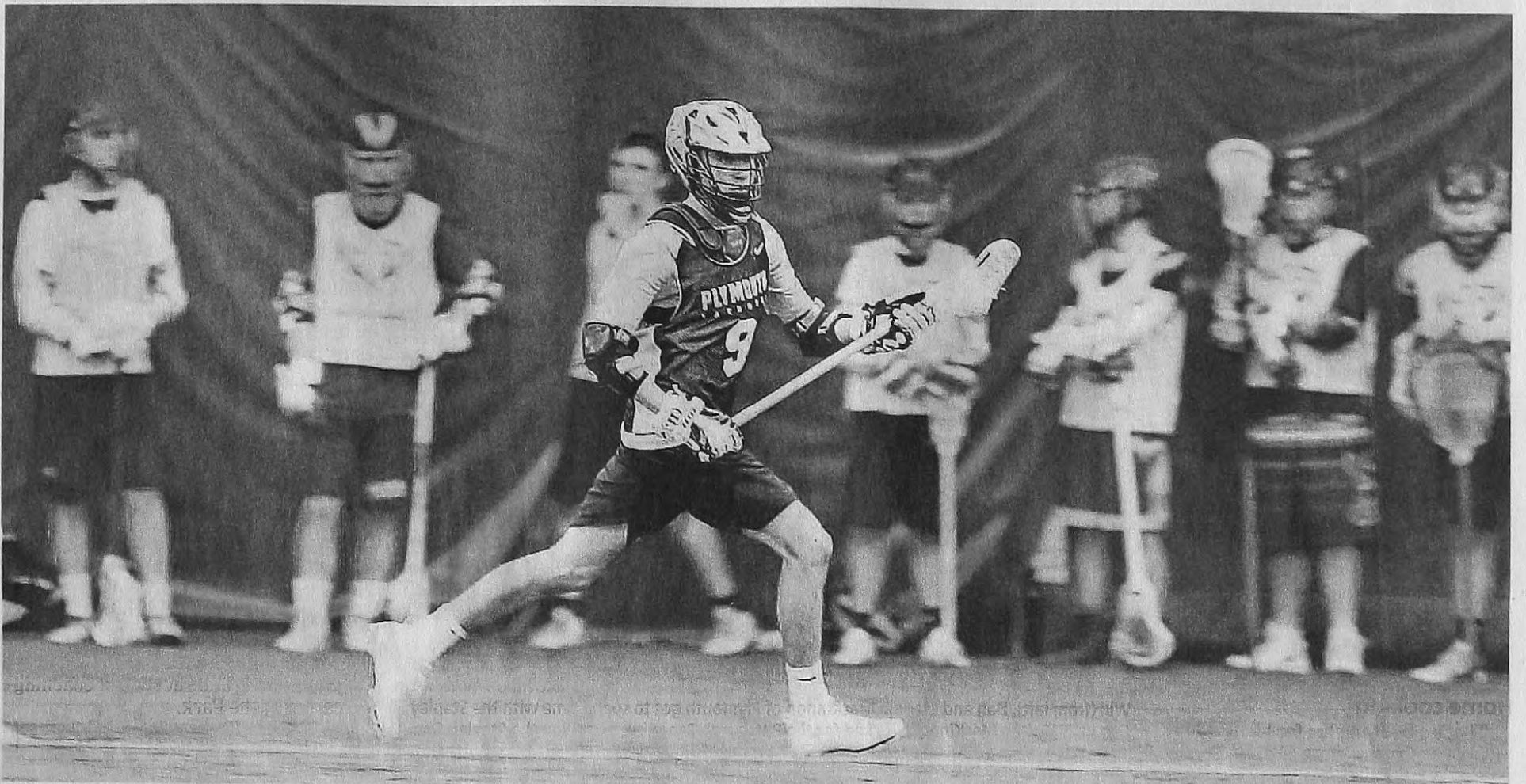
go on and on. There's just are so many of them that I am in contact with ... Kaylee McGrath is one of the top NICU nurses out in Denver. So we've had a lot of success there and I brought a lot of very talented athletes like McGrath, Olech, Wydryck and Michele Hayes — all those people — so I think we had a good run for 11 years. I'm proud of everything of what they went on to accomplish at Madonna."

A former U.S. Marine who saw action in Desert Storm, Graves coached previously as an assistant at Concordia University (1996-98) and posted a 88-39 record during his six seasons as the varsity girls basketball coach at Carleton Airport High School before taking the Madonna job.

"I don't think I'm done coaching," Graves said. "I'll will coach again somewhere. Like I said, they decided that it needed to be full-time right now. It's just unfortunate. I don't have any ill will towards them. For me personally and for my family, I certainly couldn't do that because it would have represented some major changes for us as a family and I couldn't take it. It wasn't my call to make it full-time, but that's what happened."

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LACROSSE PREVIEW - PART 1



Senior co-captain Nate Messer is one of the players who will spearhead the Plymouth Wildcats this season.

SUBMITTED

New era for Plymouth boys lacrosse team

With first-year head coach Ray Miller taking charge, the Plymouth varsity boys lacrosse team promises to play fast, focus on winning the small battles and stay on an even keel as much as possible during a season's ups and downs.

Miller expects the Wildcats to be competitive in the KLAA this season.

"I believe we have an opportunity to win every time we step out on the field," Miller said. "But with that said I believe every team we play this year can and will defeat us if we do not come focused and leave everything we have out on the field."

He added the team has its sights on repeating as Plymouth-Canton Educational Park champions, but that "Canton

Miller begins first season as Wildcats head coach, team expected to make run for Park championship

and Salem have great teams this year so it will be a battle and fun to see who will rise as the city champion this year."

Leadership duties are in good hands, with co-captains Nolan Ouellette, Zach Gallaher, Nate Messer and sophomore Blake Nowicki.

Depth at attack is another plus. Ready to go for goals will be seniors Zach Gallaher, Jack Balch and junior Bryan Twinney, followed by freshman Ethan Rottell and juniors Wilson Berryhill and Nick Helias.

At midfield will be seniors Nolan

Ouellette, Nate Messer and Blake Varner; sophomores Carson Miller, Ian Gozдор and Griffin Connell; juniors Jake Roach, Bradley Twzskiewicz and Mitchell Bates.

Taking care of the defense will be senior Tyler Ramer, juniors Charlie Shaver, Jake Marciniak, Tyler Lowder, Brendan Wang; sophomore James Hansen; seniors Ernie Travick, Joe Oleszczak and Abbas Ahmed. In goal is sophomore Blake Nowicki.

Plymouth, set to open the season Friday at Grandville, will be coached by

Miller along with assistants Kent Woody and Jordan Smith. The junior varsity Cats will be coached by Doug Mullen and Al Lesperance.

SALEM 8, BELLEVILLE 3: The Rocks opened up the regular season with a victory Wednesday night, spearheaded by senior Marty Mills (six points) and sophomore Walker Sievers (three goals).

Other solid contributors included senior goalie Noah O'Donnell (eight saves), junior Tommy Simpson (73-percent win on face-offs) and freshman Michael Mihalic (four groundballs).

Salem fell behind 1-0 early on, but came back to take a 4-1 lead into halftime and carried on to victory from there.

PREP FOOTBALL

It's full circle for Clarenceville's Ryan Irish

Clarenceville brings back football coach for second stint with team

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Ryan Irish has come full-circle after being named Livonia Clarenceville's new varsity football coach for the second time.

The 47-year-old Irish replaces Ken Fry, who stepped down recently after six seasons, citing increased family obligations.

Clarenceville athletic director Kevin Murphy interviewed three candidates for the vacant position before choosing Irish, who previously served as the Trojans head coach for five seasons (2005-09) and posted an overall record of 24-23, including a 9-2 record in 2008 while reaching the second round of the Division 5 state playoffs.

For the past three seasons (2014-16), Irish was the special teams coordinator and defensive line coach under Tony Patritto at Rochester Adams as the Highlanders went 15-13 during his stint as an assistant, finishing 6-4 in 2016 and reaching the Division 1 playoffs.

Irish, who teaches at Clarenceville,

also served as the head coach for three seasons at Royal Oak (2011-13) going 6-21 overall, which included one season in the Oakland Activities Association Red Division and two in the OAA Blue.

"He had the most experience, eight years being a head coach, and it was pretty obvious to bring him back," Murphy said. "He's in the building and does our after-school weight program already and he's great for kids. He's good for football and he works hard at it and he's very passionate. It was a pretty easy choice when you get all those things."

In 2010, Irish resigned as Clarenceville's head coach to accept the job at Waterford Mott, but stepped down shortly after following a falling out with the school's administration.

"Ken came in and did a great job," Irish said. "I've absolutely loved Clarenceville from day one, not only from what they gave me, but also what they gave me was a lot of support that they've always shown me from the time my daughter was sick to even now. I certainly feel that it's a place I can call my own. And I felt with Ken stepping down that I was the right guy for the job, just because I know every kid. Not



Irish

only that, but I feel I can make a positive presence and make that exchange within the high school. There were a lot of staff members coming to me saying, 'Hey, Irish, you got to make sure that we get the right guy to be able to fill this position.' So when my colleagues are telling me to do it, I just felt it was the right thing to do."

Fry posted a 27-32 record in six seasons (2011-16), making the playoffs twice, highlighted by a 12-1 season in 2013 as the Trojans made a run to the Division 5 state semifinals. The Trojans also went undefeated in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division that season.

"My personal life kind of caught up and I just couldn't do it justice," Fry said. "Ryan is there. He knows everybody. He knows the routine. I'll miss the kids, that, and the competition. It was always fun to play the game itself and being around the kids."

Fry, who teaches special education at Clarenceville, coached previously as an assistant at his alma mater Livonia Franklin and at Northville as well.

"Ken is a great man," Murphy said. "He was great for kids and accom-

plished some great things going 12-1 that year. He put Clarenceville football back on the map after having a little bit of a lull for a while. I wish him the best of luck."

The Trojans finished 3-6 in Fry's final season, including a 1-4 mark in the WWAC Red. Clarenceville has the lowest enrollment (569 students) in the 12-member WWAC.

"We're the small fish in the big pond in that Western Wayne Athletic Conference," Irish said. "We've got an uphill battle to go. By doing that, we've got to get back to winning football games. Now that's easier said than done. But how we go about doing that, I think, that it really starts in the hallways and it starts in the classroom. The second time around, as a young guy when I was first running it, I feel I was a little out of balance of trying to win, win, win ... but we've got to win the day first. We've got to win in class and we've got to win in the community. We've got to start winning on those things first before we can take it to the football field. If we can do that, then we can win on the football field."

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GIRLS LACROSSE

Ladywood squad under new management

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com



Ladywood's senior lacrosse captains are Colleen Barnes (left) and Colleen Lynch.

BRAD EMONS

Although Wednesday's season opener was postponed due to cold weather, first-year coach Mike Sullivan has a warm feeling inside about his Livonia Ladywood lacrosse squad.

Sullivan inherits a Blazers squad that finished 10-7 a year ago under Chris Merucci in his lone season as coach. Ladywood's season ended last year in the MHSAA Division 2 regional semifinals against Walled Lake Northern, 14-11.

"I didn't know much about the talent coming in," Sullivan, who is the Blazers' third head coach in three seasons. "I just knew they needed a coach and I knew I like coaching. But as I've been here, we've had athletes and we have people who can score. And that's really all I needed to try to win."

Sullivan, who coached boys club lacrosse the past two years at Total Sports in Wixom, has been leaning on assistant coach Andrea Konja during the preseason workouts.

"I have a broader understanding of most sports, but during practice I'll be putting in game plans and then someone

will correct me on a rule," he said. "I've been looking into all the rules, and what not. But as you go on it's kind of been a work in progress. I've been an assistant coach who kind of concentrates my thoughts and strategies towards women. So I'm learning just as much as I'm

teaching them. It's a very similar sport, but very different at times."

Nicole Reece (Alma College) and Jill Jacobs (Tiffin University) were two notable losses to graduation.

But senior captains Colleen Barnes and Colleen Lynch both return and will

be the team leaders. Barnes plays defense, while Lynch is an attacking midfielder.

Sullivan hopes to get consistent scoring from junior attackers Sydney Pilot and Claire Haase, while sophomore Adrianna Rugerio will open in goal for the Blazers.

Other key returnees include sophomore attack Victoria Pilot, senior midfielder Kristin Kelly, senior defender Devon Kelly, junior midfielder Bridgid Sullivan, senior attack Jacquelyn Czynski, junior midfielder Julianne Snyder, junior Kathleen Sullivan and sophomore attack Victoria Pilot.

After the Farmington season opener was postponed, Ladywood will open its season at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 3 at Birmingham Marian in a Catholic League match.

Sullivan hopes the Blazers can not only contend in the Catholic League, but also compete at the state level. During a four-year run from 2011 through 2014 under coach Kristine Sanders, Ladywood reached the Division 2 semifinals three times and lost in the 2013 state final.

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MACKINNON

Continued from Page B1

previous two seasons) and getting acclimated to the NTDP and United States Hockey League.

"It's been good (at PHS), it's been a little different for me because I went to a hockey academy we did online school the last two years," he said.

As for how he is sharpening his skills on the ice, it's been a case of so far, so good.

"I think I've gotten a lot faster since being here (with the U17s)," MacKinnon said. "We get to work on our skating a lot. I think that's the biggest difference. It's so nice, they have everything set up for us."

MacKinnon pointed to the talent that populates NTDP rosters as one of the reasons for his personal growth.

"It's been great, being able to be on the ice every day with just elite players really pushes you to get better," MacKinnon said. "And being in the gym every day you get a lot stronger, too."

With the 2016-17 season drawing to a close (the final home game for the U17s was Friday; there are four road games remaining on the schedule), MacKinnon doesn't have to worry about packing up and leaving for points all over the map to reunite with families for the summer.

Home cooking

That's a built-in plus for being a Plymouth resident.

"It's pretty nice," MacKinnon said. "All the other guys had to move away from home to come here. But for me it's probably been a little easier transition, because I get to live with my family and get to stay close to my friends."

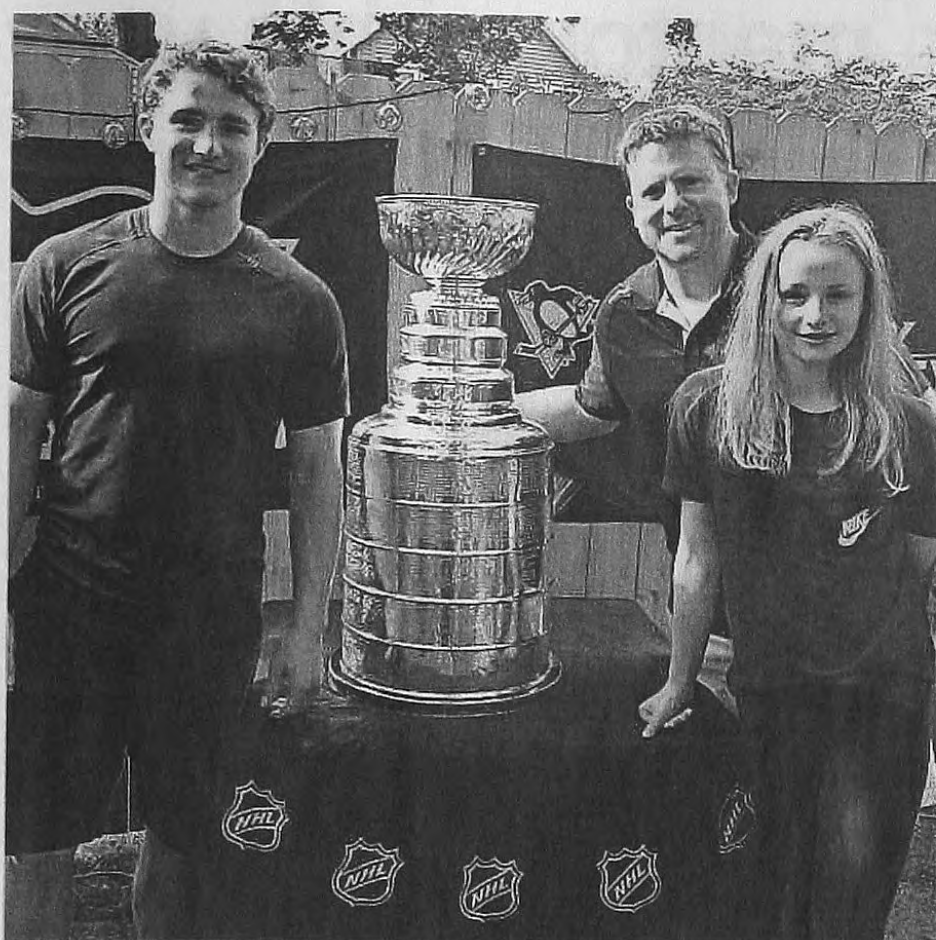
His coach with the U17s, Danton Cole, who will stay with the group as it moves up to the Under-18 level for next season, has nothing but high marks for MacKinnon as a player and young man.

"Will's done a great job, he's a real hard working young man, a physical defenseman," Cole said. "But not just limited to that. He makes some good passes and gets pucks on the net, so he's a pretty well-rounded player."

"And off the ice, he's been outstanding. He's a great teammate, he's being doing outstanding in school and represented everything here very well."

Cole — a Pontiac native who played hockey at Michigan State — also said he welcomed having a local guy on the team, although sometimes that isn't what it's cracked up to be for a player.

"I ended up going to college about 10 minutes away from where I grew up," said Cole, adding with a chuckle that "I think there's some advantages and some disadvantages. Sometimes it's a little nice to get away and have a new



MACKINNON FAMILY PHOTO

Will (from left), Dan and Maggie MacKinnon of Plymouth got to spend time with the Stanley Cup in 2016. Dan MacKinnon worked for the Pittsburgh Penguins, who won the Stanley Cup last season.

Big goals

And then it will be off to the University of Denver, where he is verbally committed to play Division I hockey beginning in 2018-19.

Of course, he is still going after "the dream," which is to be drafted by a National Hockey League team.

It is something he and his dad often discussed during carpools between Toledo — where the family resided while he played travel hockey before it relocated to Plymouth three years ago — and rinks in southeast Michigan.

"We talked a lot of hockey all the time, about the NHL and college and how to get where I want to go," MacKinnon said. "Yeah, it's the dream."

The younger MacKinnon has the

benefit of insider knowledge about the big time. Dan MacKinnon is senior director of player personnel for the New Jersey Devils, after a similar job with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Last summer, the MacKinnons were able to spend the day with the Stanley Cup following the Penguins' championship run.

And Will is able to watch some NHL games from time to time, particularly those involving the Calgary Flames. That's because a player he is patterning his game after plays for that squad, defenseman Mike Giordano.

"I like to try to emulate my game after him," MacKinnon said. "He's someone my dad tells me to watch."

Meanwhile, if the hard-hitting blue liner with a knack for puck movement keeps elevating his game with the NTDP, University of Denver and beyond, who knows?

Maybe someday in the not-so-distant future there will another dad telling his son to keep an eye on Will MacKinnon as a player to imitate.

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ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

will be junior defenders Rhona Nicol, Gabriella Mazzuca and Brittany Simpson. Expected to make a contribution in the back will be sophomore newcomer Jaclyn Deprez.

Joining Teodorescu and Harkins in the midfield will be juniors Anna Faybrick, Madalyn Simko and promising sophomore Chloe Parana.

"We have plenty of depth in the midfield this season," Karns said.

Up top will be returning juniors Ari Finn and Katie Coleman, along with Lenders, Pilon, and freshman Sydney Smith. The latter will be called upon to "play a key role in the attack this season," the coach said.

Rounding out the roster are junior forward Amanda Lopez, junior defender Grace Campbell, sophomore midfielder Brooke McCaffrey, junior goalie Anna Lundh and freshman defender Anna Azarovitz.

According to Karns, he is "extremely excited" to take the Salem reins from Tomasso, who has enjoyed a long and successful coaching career at the Park.

"George Tomasso has had tremendous success in high school soccer," Karns said. "So it will be exciting to follow in his footsteps."

Meanwhile, Karns knows the Rocks will need to hit the pitch in full stride in order to be heard from in the KLA Central.

"Historically the KLA Central has been a very difficult division to win. With quality teams from top to bottom, it leaves very little margin for error. We have a lot of individual talent on our roster, the test will be how quickly we can become a cohesive group. It will be important that we come together as a team quickly however, with division games starting (March 29, at Northville)."



KARNs

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"George Tomasso has had tremendous success in high school soccer. So it will be exciting to follow in his footsteps."

KYLE KARNs, Salem girls soccer coach

DOMe

Continued from Page B1

the prongs of SC Elite. Those included Trinity Health — based in Livonia and including Saint Joseph Mercy Health System — as well as for the Legacy Center, MercyElite Sports Performance and Wolves-Hawks programs.

The St. Joe's Sports Dome already is home to Wolves and Hawks teams, practicing and playing inside the facility for several months.

Cerny said the facility represents a community catalyst, "something that Livonia's been looking for for about 20 years. We were able to work with private monies in a joint venture to put this up."

Many benefits

Reasons abound for the palpable excitement Wednesday.

Schoolcraft student-athletes and many others in Livonia and surrounding communities soon will benefit in myriad ways through the SC Elite program.

There will be on-site sports training from MercyElite (made possible by expansion of the school recreation center), team-oriented camps and coaching from the Legacy Center; and healthy nutrition at the dome's "Ocelot Cafe," provided by Schoolcraft's own culinary



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn Cerny, vice president at Schoolcraft College, touted the new dome and SC Elite program as ways for student-athletes to succeed on the field and in the classroom.

arts department.

And then there will be the opening of a 6,000-square-foot urgent care and student health center inside the Jefferson Center (Haggerty and Seven Mile roads).

"We truly believe that excellence honors God and it inspires people," Rodney Goble, of Brighton's Legacy Group, said during a later program in the VisTaTech Center's Diponio Room. "And we're in the position where we can have the impact on youth."

'Healthy young minds'

Dave Spivey of St. Joe's and MercyElite said SC Elite is a partnership "that's all about creating healthy young minds and successful people as they grow forward into adulthood."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kevin Winningham of Brighton's Legacy Center said a new partnership with Schoolcraft College will pay dividends across the region.

Shortly after the ribbon-cutting, Wolves-Hawks president Ed McCarthy said SC Elite and the St. Joe's Sports Dome enable "one-stop shopping for all the activities we do as a soccer club. That's from the nutrition, education to the performance and strength training and development to the soccer playing and having the facilities."

McCarthy, who said as many as 300 soccer players of all ages "come through here between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m." on any given night, emphasized that the facility has been "a game changer" for the nationally renowned club.

And with good reason. The indoor and outdoor facilities are unrivaled in Michigan, providing plenty of quality space for players ages 7-18 to learn and

compete.

As of June, the Wolves-Hawks will merge with AC Milan-Detroit and the Livonia Soccer Club.

Great opportunity

McCarthy — formerly a player at Redford Union and a coach at Salem — said the dome provides "an enormous practice space for us to develop players in, so we can get large groups in there to help manage the cost. A big piece of player development is what are the costs associated with that. Having that additional space helps us leverage that."

Just as pumped up about the partnership was Kevin Winningham of Legacy, a group that will bring team-oriented coaching and programming concepts in numerous sports to the dome.

"To have a state-of-the-art facility to come practice in year-round is just phenomenal for this area," said Winningham, also a longtime soccer referee. "In this area there's limited dome facilities, whether it's soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse."

"This is going to be a great facility just to ramp that up over the years. ... It's a fantastic opportunity. This has not been here. And now that it is here, you're going to see this place explode."

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Seek out a mentor within your company

BY MARY LORENZ
 CAREERBUILDER

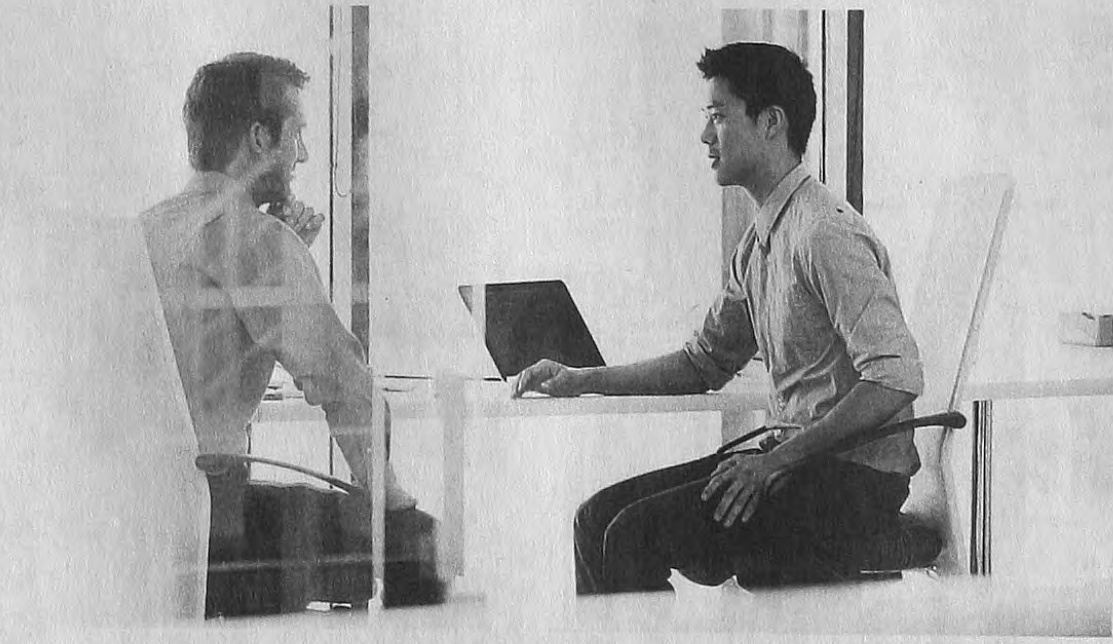
No matter where you are in your career or what industry you are in, almost everyone can benefit from having a mentor. "Every successful person got to where they are due to great mentorship," says Mary Grace Gardner, a career strategist for the Young Professionalists, which helps college students and young professionals reach their professional goals. "Even famous athletes, singers and actors have coaches to help them get better."

While many people have mentors who work at another company, finding a mentor within your company has unique benefits, giving you better insight into the company's culture and what it takes to advance.

When seeking out a mentor within your company, Gardner advises finding one who falls outside of your team or department. "You want your mentor to be able to have some level of objectivity," she says.

Here are additional benefits of having a mentor at your company.

Get objective feedback: There may be times when you need advice on career changes or other areas where



THINKSTOCK

it may not feel appropriate to ask your colleagues or boss. For those times, a mentor can be a much-needed sounding board, says Gardner. "A mentor is someone whom you can confidentially bounce ideas off of and get feedback on your career trajectory," she says.

Advance your career: "One of the benefits (of a mentor) is having someone who can help you advance if the opportunity presents itself," says Laine Schmidt, a certified business and career coach who owns her own consulting company. Schmidt asserts this should never be a reason for seeking out a

mentor; however, it can be a beneficial side effect. For example, if you are up for a promotion or a role somewhere else in the company opens up, a mentor can be a valuable, credible reference.

Get career-specific advice: A mentor at your company can give you advice based on experience specific to your company, industry and job, says Dr. Luz Claudio, professor of preventive medicine at a New York City medical center who has 25 years of experience mentoring students. "You can read all the books, blogs and courses, but nothing is better than getting

input from someone who's 'been there and done that' and can give you feedback about the specific things you need to do to get ahead in your particular situation."

Accelerate the learning process: Oftentimes, mentors can teach us what it could take months or years to learn on our own. "Someone who has been down the path (you are) about to embark (on) can give you the shortcuts that will help you avoid common and time-consuming mistakes," Schmidt says. Additionally, mentors help you gain confidence and build your skills, "both of which add to your

professional development," she says.

Discover new ideas: When you have a problem or face a challenge, you're likely to seek the advice of a friend or co-worker; however, a mentor can offer professional, impartial advice gleaned from years of experience. "Having an expert at your disposal gives you the opportunity to work through ideas with someone who will help you discover what's best for you," Schmidt says. "Instead of throwing thoughts around with those who may not be the most ideal brainstorming partners, take advantage of the wisdom of a specialist."

These benefits don't come overnight, however. "Make sure you have enough time to nurture the relationship," Gardner warns. And make sure you have a focus. "Start listing the ways you'd like to grow," she says. "To make the most out of your mentoring relationship, you have to be clear about how you want to use that time together and what goals you want to achieve."

Mary Lorenz is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Sighing word
5 Humiliate
10 Sugar-name suffix
13 Stretch (out)
19 Billiards item
20 Drive rudely (out)
21 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
22 Mambo music's Tito
23 Bicycle additions for tykes
26 Make a new blueprint for
27 Cut and Paste setting
28 Give relief to
29 Protein formed during blood clotting
30 Sue Grafton's "for Ricochet"
31 Sterile hand wear
35 Three, in 6-Down
38 PIN-taking dispenser
39 "Hands off!"
40 Microwaves, e.g.
41 Stalled-car clip-ons

DOWN

1 Funny Johnson
2 Hog fat
3 Antioxidant-rich berry
4 Many Aspen outings
5 Sky ram
6 Old German capital
7 City of golf's Masters
8 Albany-to-Baltimore dir.
9 Passé anesthetic part
10 Toddlers' bodysuits
11 Opt for
12 Mag VIPs
13 Parsley part
14 Adobe dwelling
15 Scold gently
16 Pep up
17 Done
18 Lion's locale
24 Abbr. for people with only two names
25 Aerie nesters
29 Ornate
32 Dark area in an eclipse
33 Do — deed

ACROSS

45 Metalliferous rock
47 "The Neverending Story" author Michael
48 Related to earthquakes
49 Hi — monitor
50 A little wet
52 Edberg of tennis fame
54 Horse rider's attachments
59 Dot in the sea, to José
63 Part of Gr. Britain
64 Entertainer Lollobrigida
66 The older Obama girl
67 Theme of this puzzle
73 Asocial sort
74 She had a show with Sonny
75 "It's — -brainer"
76 Rogen of "Superbad"
77 They look like footless socks
81 Gymnast Olga
84 "Ghost" co-star Demi

DOWN

85 Stylist's goo
86 Coastal
91 In a crowd of
95 Pal, casually
96 Rink rentals
98 Ignited again
100 Commercial charge
102 Cozy lodging
103 Tacit assents
104 Part of some made-up faces
107 Teeny bit
109 Little leaves on flowers
110 Old jazz singer Anita
111 Collective software clients
116 Bela of old horror films
117 They often surround titles
119 Wiped from the board
120 A/C abbr.
121 Broadway prizes
122 Luau favors
123 Blank out
124 Jet to JFK, once
125 Garments for Gaius
126 Ineffectual

DOWN

34 Dir. 45 degrees from 8-Down
35 Dance club V.I.P.s
36 Regret a lot
37 Big British record co.
38 Brogue
42 Middle of summer?
43 Solemn acts
44 Running times
46 Subj. for some immigrants
50 The "m" of "yes'm"
51 Office sub
53 E-I linkup
54 Skin diver's tube
55 Flock noises
56 "It's —!" ("Untrue!")
57 Surrounded
58 Military band
59 "— turn up"
60 Brogue, e.g.
61 "What a ding-a —!"
62 Freshly
65 Hard water
68 Mass unit
69 Realty unit
70 Corn unit
71 Congenital
72 Verb counterparts

DOWN

78 Plunder, e.g.
79 Eel types
80 Rub down
82 North fired by Reagan
83 "Bad" cluck
85 Charges
87 Off-the-wall sport?
88 An Amerind
89 Color of chili
90 Suffix with govern
91 Whelp yelp
92 Put a ruler to
93 Outlawed
94 Get rid (of)
96 Digital display
97 Subsequent
99 China shop ensemble
101 Defies openly
105 Skip, as a syllable
106 Hotel chain
107 Nail-biting
108 Una locale
112 Tofu bean, to Brits
113 Environs
114 Kind of milk
115 "To be," in Latin
116 Fronted
117 NFL VIPs
118 Also

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.99	0	3.125	0
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CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ACRYLIC
ADHESIVE
APPLIQUE
BASECOAT
BEADING
BINDING
BLEED
BLOTTING
CALLIGRAPHY
CARDSTOCK
CERAMICS
CLIP ART
COLLAGE
COMPASS
CRAFT
CREPE
CROP
EMBOSS
FELT
GLAZE
GLUE
INK
KNIFE
KRAFT
OILS
ORIGAMI
PAINT
PAPER
PASTE
PUNCH
SCISSORS
STARCH
STENCILS
TEMPERA
WATERCOLOR

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Crossword Answers

Word Search

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Car Report

RAV4 HAS GOTTEN GOOD AT HOLDING DOWN TOYOTA'S STAKE IN COMPACT UTILITY VEHICLES, A CRUCIAL SEGMENT



By Dale Buss

RAV4 has always been one of those vehicles that a great car company absolutely needs but doesn't talk about: a high-volume nameplate in the sweet spot of a crucial segment of the American market that pleases a loyal ownership base year after year and picks up enough new customers to remain vital to the brand.

In the case of RAV4, Toyota practically invented the compact crossover with the first version of this utility vehicle in the mid-1990s. And it's still a huge player in the segment with a fourth-generation RAV4 that has been around since 2012.

Toyota made a bunch of improvements last year to help keep RAV4 a leader in a segment that has grown tremendously around some of



The rear is flexible for passengers and cargo.

the early players like RAV4, as sport-utility vehicles now have become the majority of the U.S. vehicle market, flipping the situation with sedans from just a couple of years ago.

And fittingly, RAV4 remains one of Toyota's biggest sellers. Almost at the volume level of the best-selling Camry and Corolla sedans, RAV4 is by far Toyota's best-selling truck or SUV, selling almost double the level of the much bigger Highlander, for example. And it has survived atop the brand's ute lineup while others – the short-lived Venza, for example, and FJ Cruiser – have disappeared.

RAV4 sold at about a 3-percent higher level in the first two months of this year than a year earlier,

an impressive achievement for such a mature model in a flattening overall market and going against a proliferation of newer compact SUVs from competitors. The vehicle long has competed head-to-head with the equally venerable Honda CR-V, but new entries include the Mazda CX-5 and Hyundai Tucson.

The RAV4 is a car-based SUV with five seats, with no third row offered in this generation, and either front- or all-wheel drive. It's got pretty middling performance and relatively utilitarian styling, but like most Toyota's, RAV4 has a great reputation for reliability, practicality and comfort.

Yet Toyota hasn't been standing still. For 2017, Toyota added a long list of active-safety equipment as standard on every model. What the company calls Toyota Safety-Sense consists of forward-collision warning, lane-departure alert, lane-keeping assist, adaptive cruise control, and automatic high-beam headlights.

Also, Toyota has added a new, higher-priced top-level trim, Platinum, for 2017, priced at \$35,690 for a front-wheel-drive version and \$1,400 more for all-wheel drive.



RAV4 is Toyota's best-selling utility vehicle.

This upper-crust version includes a monochromatic exterior and luxury features including heated steering wheel, power lift gate, and a 360-degree-view camera system.

RAV4 was popular from the get-go because Toyota figured out how to create a spacious and versatile interior that is able to fit in people comfortably, as well as a lot of stuff – or even both at once. The rear-seat area allows plenty of legroom and headroom and, unusually in SUVs even today, it reclines. There is a low lift-over height to the cargo area through the hatch, making it easy to put bulky or heavy items in the hold.

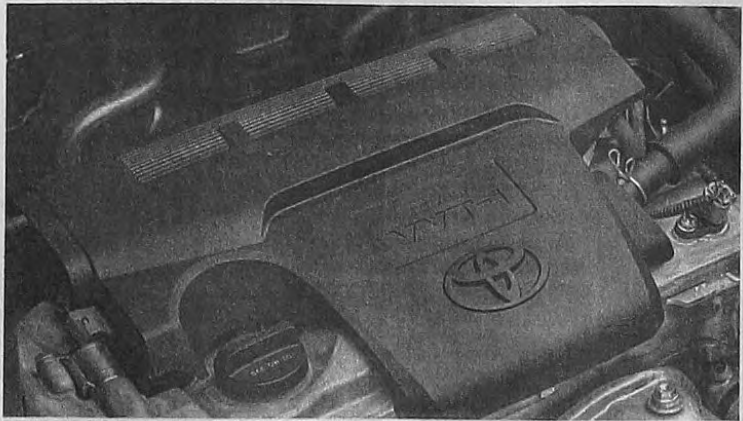
At 38 cubic feet with the back seats up and 73 cubic feet with the seats folded into the floor, RAV4 provides ample space that seems more characteristic of a larger vehicle

on the outside.

And when it comes to performance in the areas where it counts most with daily drivers – noise levels, smoothness and handling – RAV4 is exemplary of Toyota's considerable accomplishments in these areas.

Where RAV4 falls a bit short of competitors is in some performance areas. For instance, with 26 mpg combined mileage, some newer rivals do better than RAV4's fuel economy, though it's still very respectable for any SUV.

And the standard 2.5-liter, four-cylinder powertrain is fair to middling at best when it comes to peppiness. The all-wheel drive version consumes 8.4 seconds getting from zero to 60 mph (A hybrid version does it a tad more quickly.)



RAV4 is powered by a 2.5-liter, 4-cylinder engine.

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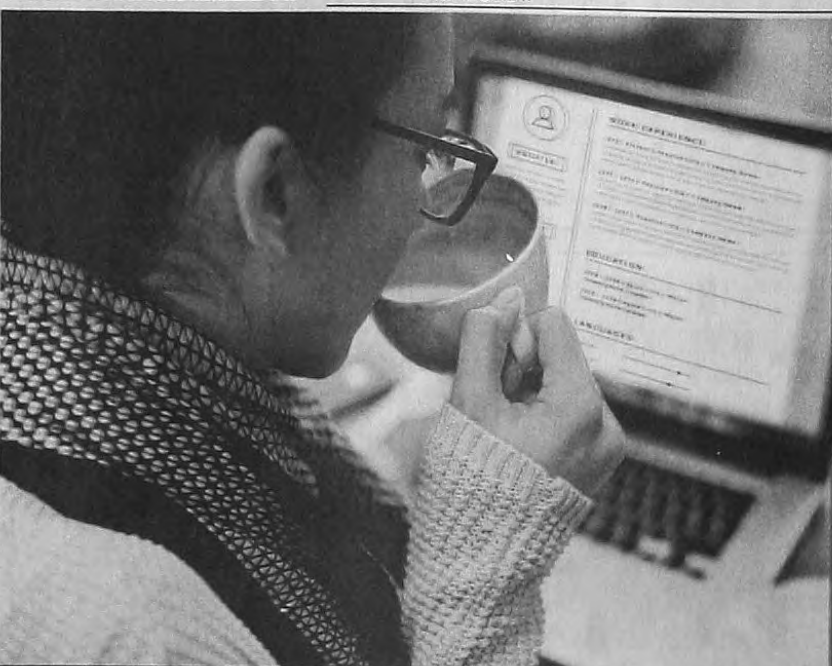
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