

CANTON OBSERVER

THURSDAY 06.29.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



**PREP ATHLETES
HOST CAMPERS
FOR A DAY
OF FUN**
SPORTS, B1

ROAD OFF-TRAVELED



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Getting through traffic in metro Detroit can be horrendous at times. Those who weekend up north hope they won't experience similar traffic once they're past the suburbs.

Hassles worth every chance to get up north, drivers say

Philip Allmen
hometownlife.com

Maybe it's the turquoise water of Torch Lake or heavy forests surrounding Grayling that draws them in. Or perhaps the cute boutiques that bustle in the waterfront downtowns like Traverse City, Alpena and Petoskey in northern Michigan.

For tens of thousands of people, heading up north is a summer ritual. Load up everything in the car after work Friday, drive four or five hours until you get up north. Then Sunday afternoon, you get things packed up in the car for the adventure back home to reality.

Michigan is a state where distance is usually measured with time, but "up north" has a flexible definition.

Just where is "up north"? Depends on who you ask. Steve Wisinski, a Hartland dad, thinks that moniker best applies to areas north of the Mackinac Bridge. He and his wife Karen bought a cottage on Drummond Island in Lake Huron about five years ago. If they time it just right, it's a 5½-hour drive and ferry ride.

But for Adam Daniels, a day trip to Kensington Metropark will suffice for his up north experience. Daniels, of Romulus, said he'd rather go to Kensington, Hines Park or Belle Isle for an afternoon, then go back to the comforts of home and suburban life.

"Why would I take all that time (to visit

See UP NORTH, Page A4



ALLISON STOCK | PURE MICHIGAN

Tahquamenon Falls is found near Newberry in the eastern Upper Peninsula, as shown from this 2015 Pure Michigan Moments photo contest entry.

Camaro club revs up to help

Show will raise funds
for Miracle League

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Call it Camaro heaven. And it's for a good cause. Chevrolet Camaro owners from 13 states and three Canadian provinces are coming to Ypsilanti to show their cars, swap stories and raise money to help the Miracle League of Plymouth and its special-needs baseball programs.

Canton resident Barry Hensel said as many as 500 Camaros are expected from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 1-2, in Ypsilanti's Riverside Park. Spectators can donate whatever they want as admission.

The Eastern Michigan Camaro Club, with 80 members from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Westland and other southeast Michigan communities, has revved up its car show for charity for 26 years.

It's a way to socialize and help others.

"We do have fun with our cars. We have great camaraderie with Camaro owners from all over the country," Hensel said. "We have a whole family of people we see every year. The charity aspect just adds a whole new dimension to the show and it gives us a purpose. It's a good thing to do."

The show, sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet of Plymouth, last year raised \$15,000

See CAMARO, Page A2

Canton Leisure Services to collect donations for troops

Canton Leisure Services is partnering with Operation Care Package Michigan during the month of July in an effort to collect items and donations that will go directly toward care packages for deployed military troops and wounded soldiers recovering from injuries away from home. Items and donations will be collected in the lobby of Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

Care package items that are currently being accepted include: bar soap, batteries, black sunglasses, bug spray, sticky bug strips, Chapstick, cough drops, dental floss, disposable razors, envelopes, paper, pens, cereal bars, Excedrin, Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, eye drops (natural tears), Fabreeze spray, foot powder, hand sanitizer, hand lotion, Kleenex (pocket size), Q-tips, mouthwash, safety glasses, saline nose spray, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, sunscreen, toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth picks, travel

See TROOPS, Page A2



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EASTERN MICHIGAN CAMARO CLUB

Camaro owners are revving up for a car show that is raising money for the special-needs Miracle League of Plymouth.

CAMARO

Continued from Page A1

for The Salvation Army. This year, Camaro owners hope to increase their revenue to \$17,000. "We pick a different charity every year,"

Hensel said, adding the club agreed the Miracle League was a good choice.

The club formed in 1991 and has about 80 regular members, though its car shows draw Camaro lovers from close to home and far away.

Hensel said Camaros are Chevrolet's answer to the Ford Mustang and have remained a popular car over the decades.

"It's just one of the quintessential cars that's ever been made," he said.

For more on the club, go to <http://www.em>

[camaro.org](http://www.em).

For more on the Miracle League, go to <http://www.miracleleagueplymouth.org>.

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LD-0000315423

TROOPS

Continued from Page A1

games, Tums, Ziplock bags (all sizes), greeting cards (any occasion), socks (black, brown, green), hats (black, brown, green), scarves (black, brown, green), gloves (black, brown, green), blankets, DVDs (new or used), CDs (new

or used), games and sports equipment.

Food items currently being accepted include: beef jerky, cookies, crackers, hard candy, gum, Pringles, Doritos, pretzels, cereal (small boxes), canned fruit, instant coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate, cream, sugar, energy bars, granola bars, fast food sauce packets, powdered drink mixes, instant

oatmeal, Little Debbie snacks, Pop Tarts, microwave popcorn, ravioli, trail mix, nuts, tuna or turkey (foil packages), Hickory Farms cheese and sausages and individually wrapped snacks.

Operation Care Package Michigan is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose mission is to provide support to deployed mem-

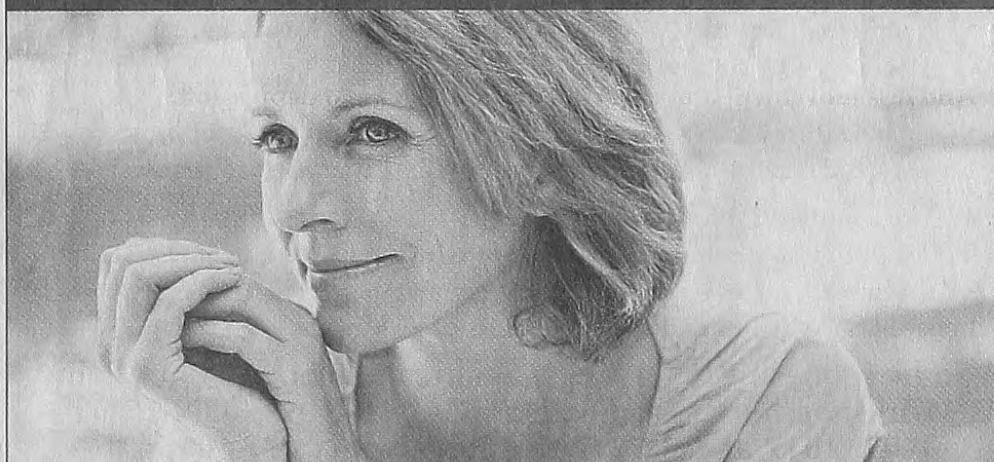
bers of the U.S. military and wounded soldiers by sending care packages and letters of encouragement. All proceeds collected during this and all Operation Care Package Michigan donation drives go directly toward care packages.

For more information, go to www.summitonthe.org or email ocpmichigan@yahoo.com



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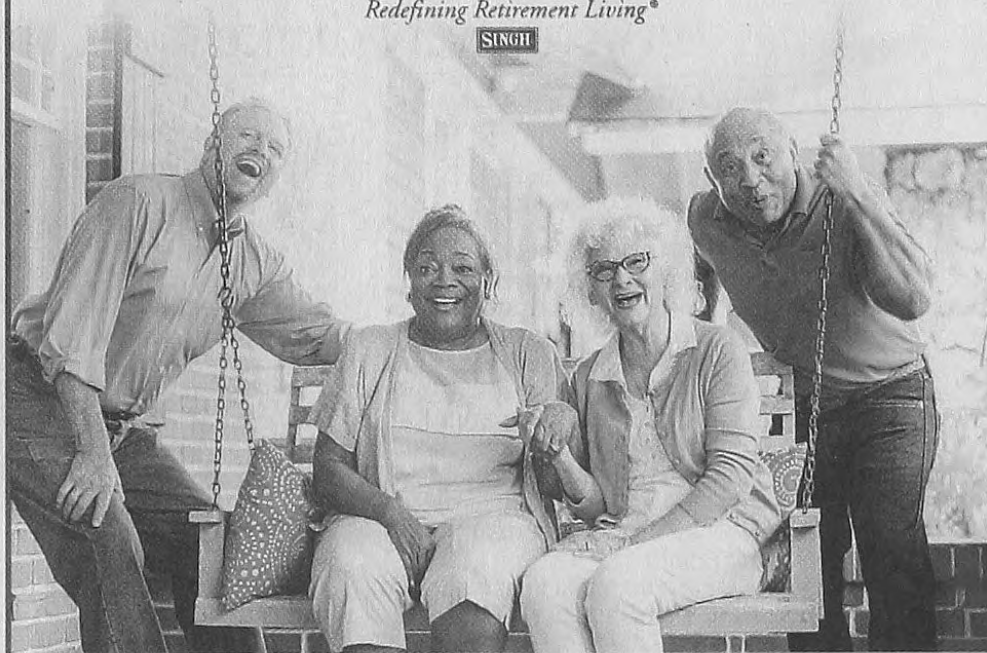
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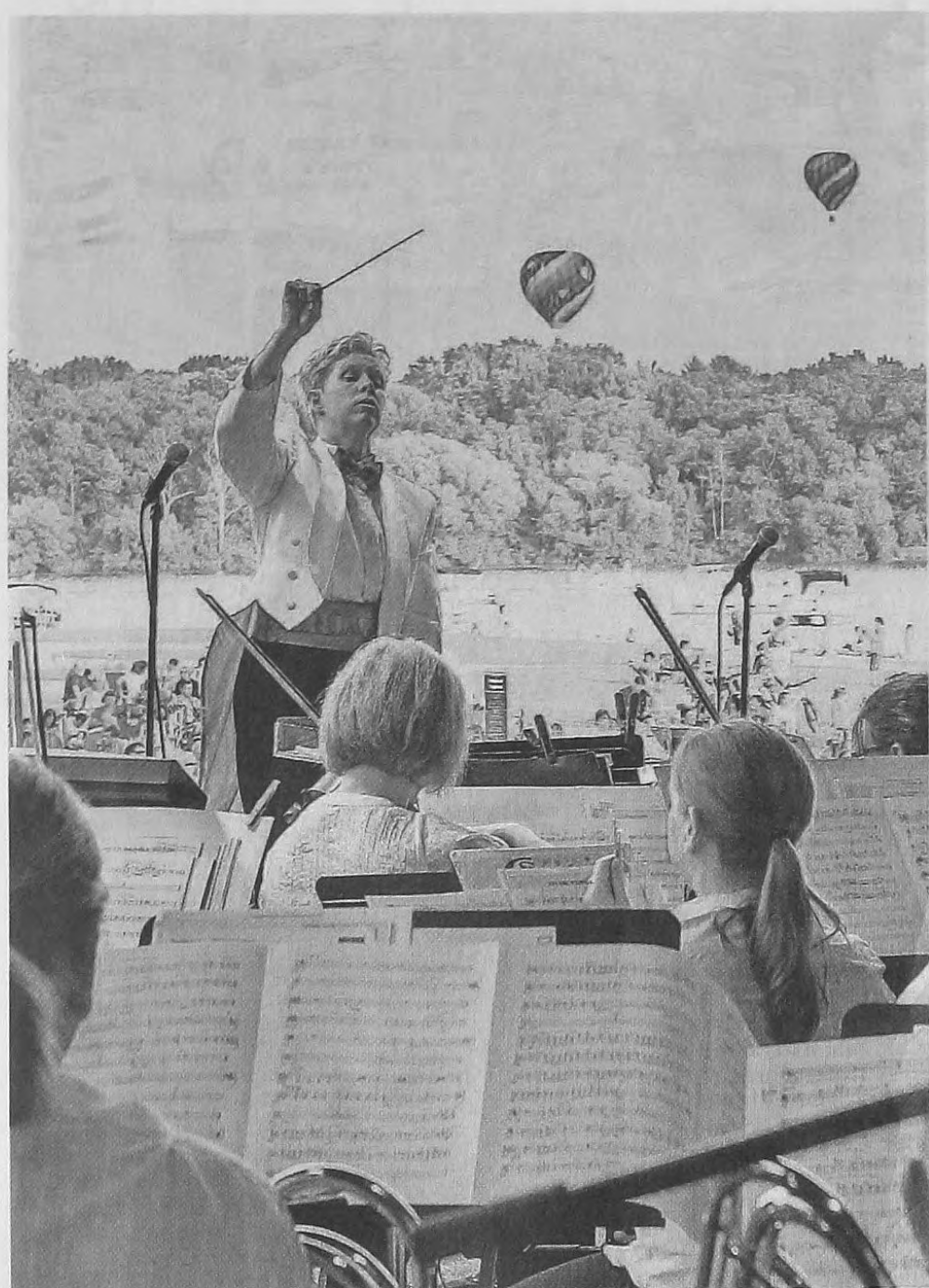
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MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Nan Washburn and the Michigan Philharmonic play the orchestra's annual patriotic concert, "An American Salute," at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 1, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Michigan Philharmonic headlines annual Fourth of July concert

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

It'll be a patriotic homecoming of sorts Saturday, July 1, for the Michigan Philharmonic when the orchestra plays downtown Plymouth.

The Michigan Phil, born years ago as the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, will play its own backyard with its annual Fourth of July holiday concert, An American Salute, starting at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Park.

The stage will be right across the street from the PARC, which is where the Michigan Philharmonic is now headquartered.

"We will be performing a variety of pops and patriotic tunes which will also feature the children's chorus from our own local Main Street

Opera in one of the melodies," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic. "As always, we end with the '1812 Overture' complete with canons."

It's the first of a whole summer of free concerts, Stewart said, that will see the orchestra performing at four Metroparks celebrating its 75th anniversary. Those concerts include:

» July 15 at Kensington Metropark, 7:30 p.m.

» July 22 at Lake St. Clair Metropark, 7:30 p.m.

» July 29 at Stony Creek Metropark, 7:30 p.m.

» Aug. 5 at Lake Erie Metropark, 7:30 p.m.

The orchestra will also play July 23 at the opening of the new DTE Beacon Park in Detroit.

But the schedule kicks

off July 1 in downtown Plymouth with a concert sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, the Wilcox Foundation, Joe and Ellen Elliott, Dearborn Jewelers and the Observer & Eccentric.

The Plymouth DDA hosts the popular Friday night concert series in Kellogg Park, but the Michigan Philharmonic's patriotic show has become one of its crowd favorites.

"It has grown to one of the most popular concerts of the season," said Tony Bruscato, director of the Plymouth DDA. "We're proud of our relationship with the Michigan Philharmonic, and pleased to bring their music to the visitors to our concert series."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Mom drove drunk with child, 2, and Jagermeister in car

A 36-year-old mother is accused of driving drunk while she had her daughter, 2, and a bottle of Jagermeister in her car, a police report said.

Police arrested the Romulus woman after she was seen speeding in a Kia Portage through the Maple Leaf mobile home park, off Mott Road east of Ridge. A police report said the Kia's tires were squealing as the incident unfolded about 11:20 p.m. Friday.

Police noticed a bottle of Jagermeister, which had been opened, on the passenger-side floorboard of the Kia. She told police the liquor didn't belong to her, a police report said.

Police took the woman into custody and she was facing misdemeanor charges of fourth-degree child abuse, a second drunken driving offense and having an open container of alcohol in her car.

She has pleaded not guilty in 35th District Court.

Harassing encounters

A man accused of harassing workers and customers inside at least four businesses along Ford Road was arrested by police for disturbing the police.

Police went to the Ford Road shopping corridor about 8:25 p.m. Saturday amid reports the 19-year-old Canton man had caused a ruckus at Buffalo Wild Wings, Panera Bread, the Speedway gas station and Chuck E. Cheese pizza.

The report said the man harassed workers and customers and yelled obscenities. He was accused of trying to get merchandise from Speedway in exchange for drugs he allegedly said he would deliver later.

Police offered to give the man a ride to his grandfather's house, but he refused, so he was taken into custody and ticketed for disturbing the peace.

Irate shopper

An irate customer yelling obscenities and causing a disturbance

inside the Home Depot store at Ford and Lotz roads was paid a visit by Canton police.

The 57-year-old Westland suspect had become upset over what he called a slow process for getting a refund, a police report said. He had placed a \$33 online order, but changed his mind and went to the store for a refund to his credit card.

The report indicated the matter was handled. Police then asked the man to leave the store.

Stolen bikes

At least two residents of the Autumn Ridge apartment complex reported their bicycles being stolen, a report said.

The bikes were taken between 6 p.m. Friday and 9:45 a.m. Sunday from two residences on Reisa.

One 30-year-old man told police his Giant Escape bike was taken, while a 34-year-old woman said her Huffy Nighthawk bike was stolen. The woman told police she had a chain and lock on her bike.

— By Darrell Clem

Attention Back Pain and Sciatica Sufferers!



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Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop Reveals How to Naturally Heal Back Pain and Sciatica For Good.

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Do you experience pain, numbness or tingling into your butt, groin or down your leg?

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Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don't do anything about it?

If you have answered YES to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse who is in denial) – the Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop may be a life changing event for you...

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Hello,

Back pain and sciatica can completely ruin your life... I've seen it many times.

- ✓ It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store (how embarrassing)...
- ✓ It can take your focus away from enjoying your life...like spending time with your children or grandchildren...
- ✓ It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don't want to do...
- ✓ It can ruin your travel plans...
- ✓ And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others... or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.

And less movement and enjoying of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much) which leads to bigger health problems...and life problems.

We are Sciatica and Lower Back Specialists at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY, we've helped 100's of people from right here in Livonia, MI...and the rest of Wayne County...who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica...it's our specialty.

So by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop here at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY ON 15TH JULY 2017 at 32858 5 mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154 at 10:30am – 11:30am.

If you're confused about what to do and looking for answers, here's some of what you'll learn:

- ✓ The Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which actually stops them from healing...
- ✓ The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica...
- ✓ A Sure-Fire Way to Pick the Right Treatment for the Cause of Your Pain (and save you a ton of time and money)
- ✓ How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in your leg...
- ✓ What successful treatment and permanent relief looks like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop?

Call our office to register at **734-525-3000** talk to Jessica or Nancy and reserve your spot today!!!!When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet which you will bring with you to the event.

We only have 15 seats available for the event...and this will be going out in our Newsletter and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ally-Physical-Therapy>).

So if you would like to attend, be sure to register now... Call 734-525-3000.

How Much Is It to Attend? The Event is Free to attend.

As a Special Bonus...the first 10 people to call, register and attend for the event will receive 15 min one on one time to discuss with Physical Therapist regarding their low Back Pain (to be scheduled on different day).

All 15 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report: "The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica". Looking forward to seeing you there on 15th July 2017 at 10:30am.

Mehul Vaidya,PT /Founder.

Ally Physical Therapy, 32858 5 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154.



ABHISHEK BAFNA | PURE MICHIGAN

This 2015 Pure Michigan Moments photo contest entry of Lake Superior is one example of the scenic beauty found up north.

UP NORTH

Continued from Page A1

northern Michigan for the weekend) when we have everything we need close by?" he said.

No easy way

The draw to northern Michigan can be hard to fight. The only problem sometimes? Getting there.

Matt Blase was heading north the afternoon of June 22 with plans for a long weekend to some family property near Rogers City at the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula. The Westland man and his wife stopped at a rest area on U.S. 23, near Grand Blanc, for a quick break.

"We really prefer coming up Thursday or staying until Monday, if we can," Blase said. "You never know how easy the drive's going to be. I'd

rather just avoid it."

And when all you want to do is get to your destination — or get home — any hiccups can get frustrating.

For the amount of traffic Interstate 75 sees any given weekend, life isn't too bad for these weekend vacationers, said First Lt. Michael Shaw with the Michigan State Police. But for summer holiday weekends like Fourth of July, problems can be compounded.

"Naturally for us, the holiday weekends is when we see our heavier traffic, Shaw said. "If there is a bad crash, that throws everything for a loop. And construction is always another issue."

If you're lucky, those orange barrels have been pulled off to the side of the expressway for the weekend.

It's worth it

Matt Eggleston, a Milford High School

teacher, said those first 60 miles or so — to about Bay City — are the worst, traffic-wise, but any headaches in the journey are worth reaching your destination.

"The journey up — packing and unpacking, making the trip — definitely the time is the worst part," he said.

Whether it's going to a family-owned cottage on the lake or rustic campground in the middle of nowhere, families like the Egglestons try not to limit their options.

"I enjoy being outdoors," he said. "Northern Michigan is beautiful for that. I like to spend time in the woods, on the lakes."

Same goes for Jeff Wirth, who June 22 was on his way to the Alpena area for some fishing.

"Sure, I could fish near home, but it's so much nicer up here," Wirth said. "It's not so busy and you can just, I don't know, relax."

Wirth left from Farmington Hills early in the afternoon to beat the usual evening rush hour traffic on I-96 in Novi. Leaving Friday, he said, would just extend the heavy traffic through half his drive. More important to him, he said, was to maximize his time up north, since he can't get up there too often.

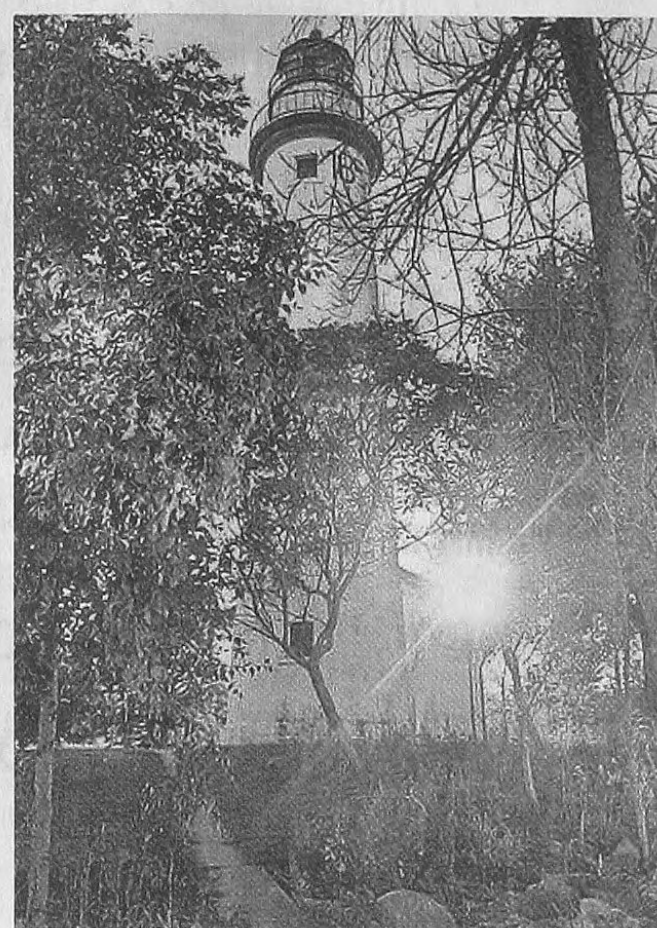
Same goes for the Wisinski family.

"It's not something we can pop up Friday after work for the weekend," Wisinski said. "We've got to have a day or two extra just to make it worth it."

But ask any regular weekend traveler why and they'll agree that any hassles along the way are worth it. Some seek the forest to connect with nature. Others meet up again with old friends who have grown up together along a line of cottages. Others prefer the resort towns, where they can discover local artists, craft brews and a slightly slower pace to life, a welcome respite at times from the daily grind.

It's tradition

Another common thread among these frequent northern travelers



AMBER CLARK | PURE MICHIGAN

Visiting lighthouses is a popular pastime with some Michigan travelers, like this one in Michigan's Thumb, one of the 2015 Pure Michigan Moments photo contest entries.

is that it's a tradition, something they've done all their lives.

"I grew up doing a lot

of northern Michigan things. Lots of camping, canoeing and fishing," said Eggleston, who grew up near Lansing.

Wisinski, a Bay City native, has fond memories of spending time with friends in places like Au Gres and Alpena.

Wirth went fishing and camping with his dad, grandfather and brothers for as long as he can remember.

"It's these Michigan getaways that I think of when I think of my dad. They were always so much fun," he said. "I hope my kids feel the same way then they get to be my age."

Busy holiday

According to AAA Michigan, it's going to be extra busy for people traveling during the Fourth of July holidays. The company said it expects more than 1.48 million people to travel 50 miles or more from home.

The number of Michigan travelers, AAA said, is on the rise compared to last year with a 3.3-percent increase. And the projected number of travelers during the holiday weekend is the largest it expects in Michigan in the past 15 years.

And the vast majority of those people will be traveling by car.

The July 4 holiday weekend is considered June 30 to July 4. Because the holiday falls on a Tuesday, AAA is considering it a four-day weekend.

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Czaminske



Barbara Lee (nee Brummel)
age 89 June 22, 2017
Beloved wife of Paul William Czaminske. Loving mother of Paul William Czaminske III, Elizabeth "Lisa" (Ted) Stoik, Peter (Meghan) Czaminske, and Maria (Robert) Stuart. Cherished grandmother of ten. Great grandmother of one. Dear daughter of the late Ivan and Marcella Brummel. Sister of the late Patricia (Bill) Tomlinson and the late Gail Fear. Funeral Services have been held. Memorials appreciated to the College for Creative Studies, 201 E. Kirby St., Detroit, MI 48202. Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com

Wattenbarger



Agnes Monteith age 89, of Cohasset, MN, died on Friday, June 9th, 2017. Agnes was born March 31st, 1928 and became an actress early in life. She hosted her own radio show in college and spent a summer acting at Barter Theater after she graduated from the University of Tennessee. Agnes married Jacob Frazier Wattenbarger and devoted herself to raising her four girls. When her husband died, she went to work and finished up the job by herself. She was a dedicated volunteer, giving her time to various causes including Girl Scouts and church. She was an optimist who found the joy in everyday activity and was happiest swimming, or walking and talking with friends and family. Agnes was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her four daughters, Pat Noga, Lynn Hartwig, Jan Rourk and Kay Rudy; 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be Monday, July 3rd, 2017 from 11 AM until the 12 PM Celebration of Life at the United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MN. Rev. Marva Jean Hutchens to officiate. Arrangements are with Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids, MN. To sign the online guestbook or send condolences visit www.rowefuneralhomeandcrematory.com.



Wishes of
peace to
you and
yours in
this time
of sorrow.

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on the Web at
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What is becoming of Plymouth Township?

What and who is Plymouth Township becoming? I've lived in Plymouth Township for over 45 years. I fear we are selling our souls to the city of Plymouth and wonder how this all came to be. With new Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise orchestrating the end of storied events such as the decades-old Old Fashioned Fourth of July Picnic and the Plymouth Township Annual



Judith Washburn
GUEST COLUMNIST

July 3 Fireworks, we are losing our family traditions and, sadly, our identity. These events were funded in large part by area businesses and other generous individual donors who felt tied to our wonderful communi-

ty. I'm sure there were costs for fire/police and park workers for these events, but this is not extraordinary. The city of Plymouth pays its police/fire and employees for its events such as Art in the Park, the annual ice sculptures, fall festival, summer-related Friday concerts in Kellogg Park and the Fourth of July Parade, just to name a few.

I hear that Mr. Heise is contemplating the sale of Hilltop Golf Course and the DPW Yard on Helm Street. I always thought that a community was supposed to try and build on its green space and its traditions and now all I see is sell, sell, SELL!

I note in the trustee work session Heise mentions possibly adding 6,000 square feet to the city of Plymouths DPW facility so we could move our DPW operations there. I would prefer to see the other option mentioned, which would have the city of Northville moving into our facility and paying us.

It's interesting that Mr. Heise campaigned on reopening Fire Station No. 2 and has already

started the process to hire three firefighters for this closed station when it will take three additional firefighters to man this facility.

He "hopes" to adjoin with Northville Township for the three firefighters needed. I've seen how the city of Plymouth wants its way with regards to the legacy costs still owed to the township from the failed joint fire agreement that was in place a while ago. How do we make sure that Northville Township pays its fair share for legacy costs?

Now we hear that a 1-percent administration fee is being considered to collect our property taxes. As a senior citizen, I have appreciated the low property taxes, annual events and peace of mind knowing that we are in a community that has been consistently rated as one of the safest and most sought-after communities to raise a family.

All we'll have left is Plymouth Township Park, the Plymouth Soccer Field (closed to most), Miller Park (which most township residents don't even know exists) and the

Friendship Station for seniors. I note that the supervisor has most recently cancelled the weekly dance lessons that were held at the Friendship Station for the last 10 years.

It looks like all this administration wants us to do is to go to the city of Plymouth if we want any form of recreation. Now I hear that they are paying for yet another recreation survey after one was just completed last year. I'm sure they are trying to pay back their political supporters by sending our tax dollars to the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center (PARC) and need to figure out a way to make sure we're on board when we should be focused on what's best for our community and not the city of Plymouth.

I've visited the Kurt Heise for Township Supervisor Facebook Page and note that on Feb. 16, it shows how he's accomplished "all" of his campaign promises. One of those promises was to "eliminate the supervisor's executive secretary's position." Well, he did let the part-time executive secretary go in

lieu of bringing on his full-time assistant from when he was a state representative.

This reeks of smoke and mirrors. I'd love to know how much she's making in comparison to the secretary that was let go. I would also note the new clerk, Mr. Vorva, hired his deputy clerk at a rate of pay 20 percent higher than the previous deputy clerk without any sort of Board of Trustees approval (it approved the raise months after she had been receiving it).

How is it that these people can do whatever they want with our events, our land and our tax dollars? Were my beloved husband, Charles Washburn, alive today, he would be absolutely sick to his stomach to see what's become of the community he so loved.

I hope that Plymouth Township residents are staying up to date on all of these changes and take some interest and action before our taxes are equivalent to the city of Plymouth (which are very high!). I remain a concerned citizen.

Judy Washburn is a Plymouth Township resident.

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Canton Color Block Jazz Series announces lineup

Get ready to jazz up your summer by attending the 12th annual Canton Color Block Jazz Series. The series is a wonderful family friendly musical event featuring great concerts for the whole family. Starting July 14, talented jazz musicians will take center stage 7-9 p.m. each Friday through Aug. 25 in the parking lot of Super Bowl Lanes, 45100 Ford Road.

The Canton Downtown Development Authority, in cooperation with Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Chamber of Commerce, hosts the Canton Color Block Jazz Series.

The schedule includes: July 14, Phil Denny; July 21, John E. Lawrence; July 28, Sheila Landis & Blues in The Night; Aug. 4, Ron Otis; Aug. 11, Rayse Biggs; Aug. 18, RYZ Mr. Gerard Gibbs; and Aug. 25, Greg Nagy.

With more than 300 businesses in the Canton DDA District along Ford Road, it's like an outdoor mall with retail shopping, department stores, health and other professional services, financial institutions, auto supplies and services, a variety of restaurants, sports and entertainment venues and hotels. And each week, while supplies last, there will be a commemorative gift for the first 25 people who turn in

receipts for a minimum of \$25 from a Canton merchant.

For complete schedule and musician bios, go to www.ShopCanton.org or find details on www.facebook.com/ShopCanton, www.twitter.com/ShopCanton or www.twitter.com/jazzcolorblocks

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PREP BASEBALL

East-West all-stars soak up Comerica Park

Players, coaches all take home personal memories

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Grant Smith still has a lot of baseball left in his career, but he was already able to check off one thing on his personal bucket list June 20. And although the White

Lake Lakeland senior second baseman was on the losing end, 7-5, against the East, the opportunity to play in the 36th annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game at Comerica Park will resonate forever.

"It was more than what I could ask for," said Smith, who got the start and went 0-for-2 at the plate. "This experience is once in a lifetime."

Smith admitted to nerves, but those quickly dissipated. "At first there were some,

but as the game went on, it all went away," said Smith, who will continue his baseball career this summer with A Green before heading of to play at Northwood University. "It was just all having fun."

The victorious East team featured area players Kolby Dewhirst (Livonia Franklin), Branden Posky (Livonia Stevenson), Kevin Morrissey (Northville) and Scott Combs (Dearborn Divine Child/Northville).

Morrissey, just coming off

a Division 1 state runner-up finish with the Mustangs, entered the game at shortstop in the sixth inning and made an immediate impact when he drew a walk and scored on a double by East MVP Sam Cross (Grosse Pointe North) to make it 2-0.

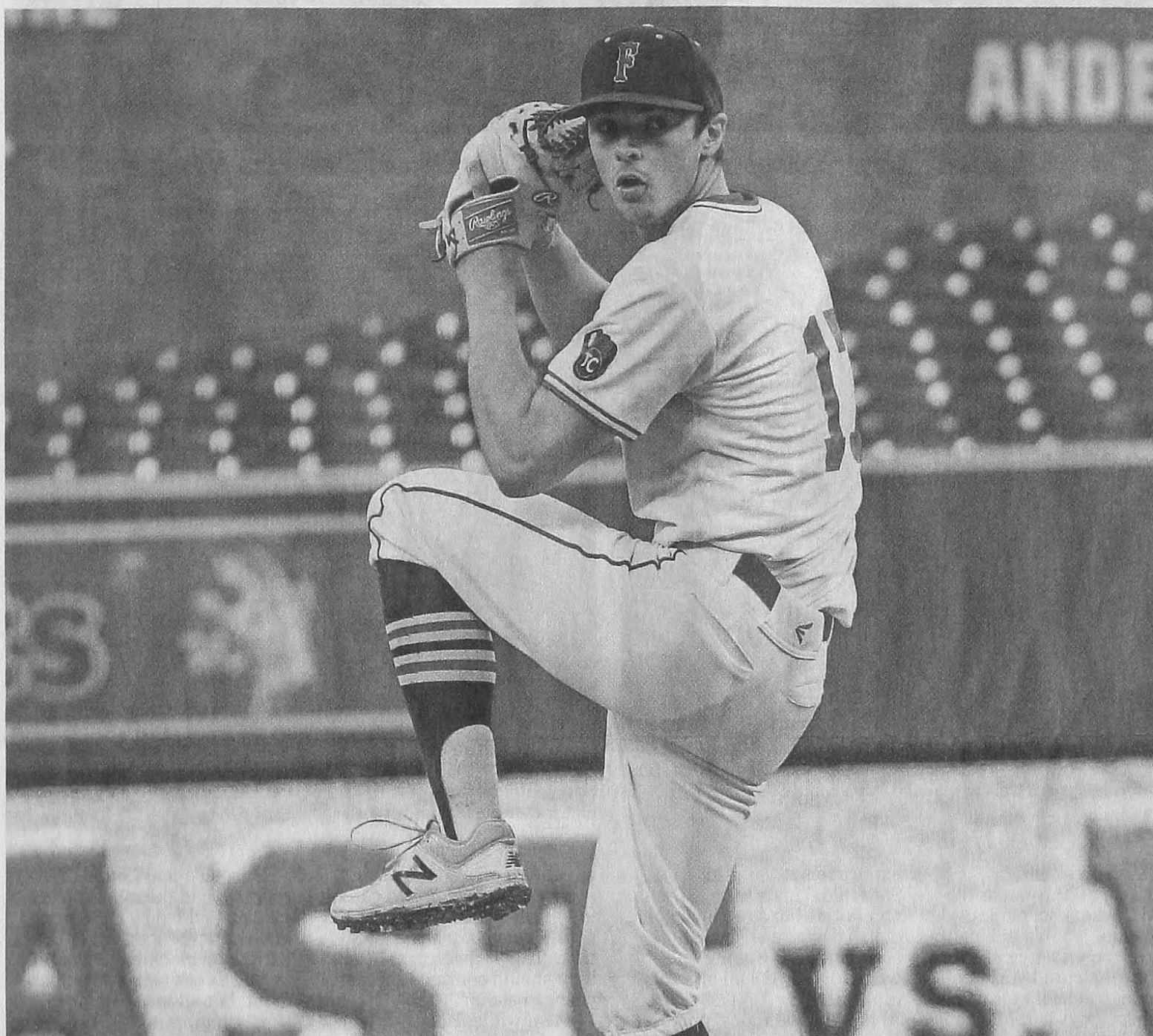
Morrissey, who helped Northville reach its first ever MHSAA Division 1 state final June 17 before losing to Saline, 5-2, followed with two singles,



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
Northville's Kevin Morrissey paces in the dugout between innings during the MSCBA All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

See ALL-STARs, Page B4

PREP BASEBALL



WENDY DEWHIRST

Kolby Dewhirst of Livonia Franklin throws a pitch from the Comerica Park mound during the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Game.

STARRY SENDOFF

After Comerica Park stint caps stellar Franklin career, Dewhirst ready for Eastern Michigan chapter

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Just one night earlier, Kolby Dewhirst threw from the mound at Comerica Park during the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game.

He still had a smile on his face just thinking about throwing from the same slab that Justin Verlander does.

Yet, as thrilled as the recent Livonia Franklin grad was about playing in the coveted game, he seemed more proud

about the legacy he built the past four years with the Patriots.

The four-year varsity performer and co-captain — both in baseball and hockey — sat on a bench at Alumni Field and let his mind wander to all the times he graced the neatly manicured infield.

"Obviously, going to Comerica was really cool," said the 17-year-old Dewhirst, who at the start of his senior year signed to play NCAA Division I baseball at Eastern Michigan University. "But I think I'm

See DEWHIRST, Page B4



TIM SMITH
Kolby Dewhirst reflects on his Livonia Franklin career while looking out at the Alumni Field diamond.

REC SPORTS

Novi Fantasy Football Camp a big hit

More than 80 participants turn out for fun-filled evening

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Novi Wildcats Fantasy Football Camp is rapidly becoming a real happening.

Just ask the more than 80 children and young adults between the ages of 4-26 with physical or cognitive disabilities, along with their families, who participated in the second annual event June 19 at Wildcat Stadium.

The free event was spearheaded by the Novi High football players and coaches, who also worked in conjunction with the Easter Seals' Miracle League of Michigan and the Detroit Sports Commission.

Novi head coach Jeff Burnside set up six different stations for the participants to go through a simulated practice session, which included cone and bag drills to increase agility, while learning the basics about blocking, tackling, passing and catching.

The campers also had the thrill of entering Wildcat Stadium through the same inflatable tunnel that the Novi players use to run onto the field each Friday night during the fall.

Campers then finished the 90-minute session by demonstrating their own touchdown end zone and dance celebrations.

Detroit Lions fifth-year punter Sam Martin and NFL free agent linebacker Brandon Chubb, who had practice squad stints last year with the Rams, 49ers and Lions, also took part.

Members of the Livonia Stevenson football team also joined forces with their

See CAMP, Page B2

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

They keep up the 'Intensity'

Area high school runners combine talents for Intensity Track Club, gear up for AAU meets

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Just because the school year is over doesn't mean track runners such as Brandon Smiley shut it down over the summer months.

Smiley just finished his prep career at Livonia Franklin, but the standout sprinter was out on the track at Wayne Memorial High School with

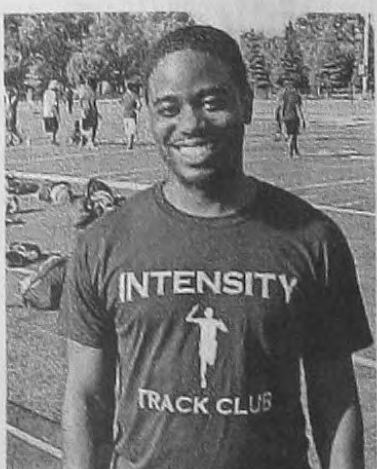
his new teammates — those on the Intensity Track Club.

Based at Wayne, under the guidance of Intensity coach Jamal Johnson (who also coaches the Zebras), the group of athletes from several KLAA schools works on shaving seconds and getting ready for the Amateur Athletic Union regional qualifier June 29 through July 2 at Detroit Renaissance High School.

"We're all in the same conference, so we all know each other," Smiley said. "Because it's a smaller team, it's more of a family."

"The people you're working with, you've raced them before and so you know what they run, if they're faster than you or slower than you ... everybody's competitive, but in a

See TRACK, Page B2



TIM SMITH

The Intensity Track Club is based out of Wayne Memorial and is coached by Jamal Johnson.



BILL ROOSE | NCSD

NFL free agent Brandon Chubb (left) gets ready to take on a young tackler at the Novi Fantasy Football Camp.

CAMP

Continued from Page B1

KLAA Central Division counterparts from Novi to work with the campers.

"It looked like everything came out really well," said Burnside, who worked alongside Chubb as they took turns getting tackled by campers. "It looks like the kids had fun. There was a rain shower in the middle but, hey, football is meant to be played in the rain. I saw a rainbow real briefly — that was good."

Novi junior middle linebacker Ryland Bennett partnered with 8-year-old Jonathan McSween, who attends Vandenberg Elementary in Southfield, going station-to-station during the various drills.

"I think it was amazing," Bennett said. "Such a great opportunity, not only for the kids, but for us. We're so fortunate to be able to play this great sport and such a great opportunity for these kids to come out and have a great time."

McSween, who has a form of muscular dystrophy, loves sports and counts Odell Beckham Jr., Steph Curry and LeBron James as his favorite athletes. He is currently playing Miracle League baseball.

"This is emotional for me, because he wants to play football," said Vivian McSween, Jonathan's mother. "And for me to just see him out here is just a blessing. I like the effort they made to put this together and the work of Easter Seals put in with the kids. They enjoy seeing the football players. They're passionate about being with the kids. I just think it's a good thing. They're thinking about doing a Miracle League football game, so I think that will be wonderful for him."

Jacob Louk, 21, of Farmington Hills, who has Fragile X syndrome, a genetic disorder, was attending his second Novi Fantasy Football Camp. He partnered this time with Stevenson lineman Brandon Plue, who will be a senior this fall.

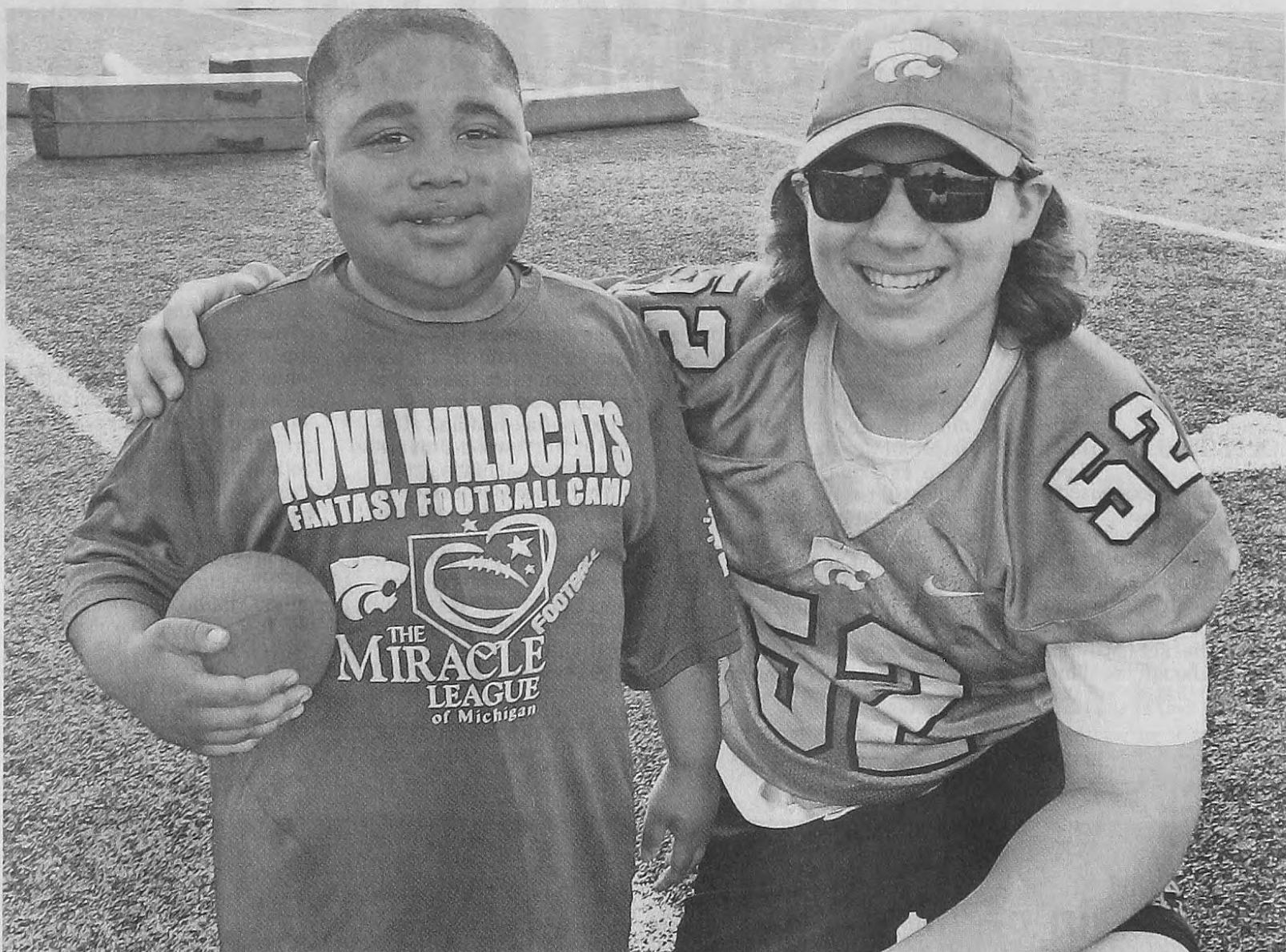
"We were here last year also," said Andy Louk, Jacob's father. "Verbally, he's not that great, but he has a blast with it and once he figured out where we were and when we pulled back up, he was all for it again. He was yelling for the guys."

Louk is the team mascot and a big fan of both the Farmington Hills Harrison varsity football and North-Harrison (Flyers) hockey teams.

"He has a blast with them," Andy Louk said. "They take care of him and he takes care of them. It restores my faith in the next generation that the way they accepted him with all their programs and stuff."

South Lyon's Tyler Glaszek, 7, who has cerebral palsy, was a first-time participant.

"This is awesome," said Tyler's father, Tom Glaszek. "Tyler likes to play sports and likes watching his (twin) brothers (Joshua and Owen) play baseball and football and to come out and do this with a lot of these great coaches and



Novi junior middle linebacker Ryland Bennett (right) partnered with Southfield's Jonathan McSween.

BRAD EMONS



Farmington Hills' Jacob Louk (left) found a new friend in Stevenson lineman Brandon Plue.

BRAD EMONS



Novi varsity football coach Jeff Burnside braces for the hit during a practice drill at the Novi Fantasy Football Camp.

BILL ROOSE | NCSO

players is awesome.

"You see all the camaraderie and the high school kids do an awesome job. We did another one of these last year, Victory Day, in South Lyon. Seeing the high school kids warm up to these guys is really cool. They all learn a lot, take selfies with them and I think it's something that's a real education for them."

And if it was only for a day, Stevenson junior safety Hunter Satz was glad to team with the rival Novi players to volunteer his time.

"We really got them going and getting around the pads, kind of showing them what we do out there, too, so they got to

experience it themselves," Satz said. "It's a little different, but no hard feelings going on here. We're all friends here, all getting along and we're all OK. It's all one community."

Martin, the Lions' punter from Appalachian State, was invited to the event by WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) sportscaster Justin Rose.

"This is really neat. It's the first time I've obviously been to this one," Martin said. "This is amazing, just the way both teams came out from different high schools and collaborated. Every kid I saw today had a smile on their face, no matter what activity they were doing,

whether it was something as simple as throwing and catching a ball or going through a drill. Everybody had a good time. This is awesome. I think they should continue this for years to come."

Meanwhile, Burnside said the camp participants will be invited back to join the players and coaches on the field for the pregame national anthem and run through the inflatable tunnel for the Week 2 match-up between Novi and Stevenson.

"We live in a world where a lot of times it's about 'me, me, me' and I want our kids to start giving back to everybody else," Burnside said.

Burnside and Chubb, it seemed, had the most fun, getting tackled by the campers as they braced to get hit with their blocking pads.

"I was taking some punishment, but all in the name of fun," Chubb said. "These kids, to be able to tackle an NFL player or to be able to punt with an NFL player or play catch ... it means the world to them, so I'm just using my platform to give back. I'll take a little hit for their fun, so it's a good time."

bemons@hometownlife.com
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TRACK

Continued from Page B1

friendly way, so everyone wants to outwork each other."

Those finishing in the top eight per event at Renaissance will make the cut for the Eastern Michigan University-hosted AAU Junior Olympics, slated to take place July 29 through Aug. 5.

"I want to qualify for the Eastern JOs and I want to run under 21.8 (seconds) in the 200 dash," Smiley said. "And in the 100, I want to get a better time just for myself. I know I can run under 11, I know I can run 10. That's a goal for me, too."

Keeping things fresh

Running hard side-by-side during practice were Wayne Memorial distance runner Jon Boland and Franklin's Greg Thaxton.

"It's so I can get better with my running," Boland said about what prompted him to essentially extend his track season into June, July and August. "I would like to im-

prove my time as much as I can."

Boland competed during the high school season in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs; some races are different in the AAU, he'll run the 1,500, for example.

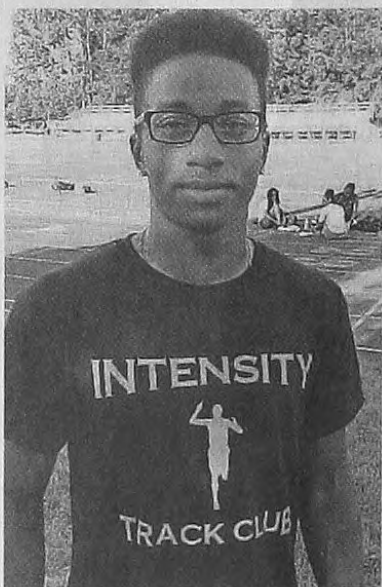
One concern about the Intensity season immediately following high school tournament season is the "burnout" factor.

But Johnson insists he tries to give the 18 young men and women on his squad (mostly grades 9-12) some variety to help them stay focused and energized.

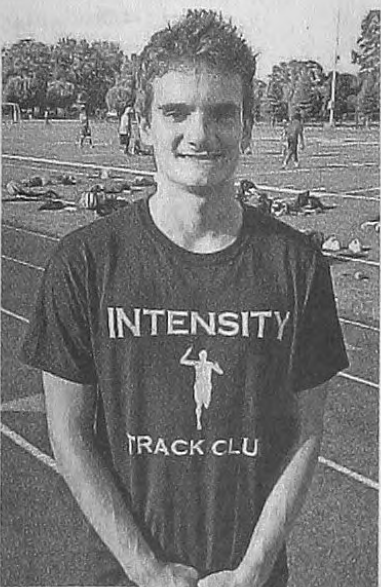
"We don't run every single day," Johnson said. "Yesterday, we did a whole bunch of jumps into the high jump mat. We were doing medicine ball tosses. Just to give the legs a rest from the pounding on the track. It's a little different. And our practices only last an hour and 20 minutes, so we aren't doing too much work."

Hot spot

According to Johnson, who started Intensity Track Club in 2014 (with only a handful of runners, all from Wayne at that



Smiley



Boland

time), the program continues to grow and attract athletes from all over southeast Michigan.

On the 2017 team, there are six members from Wayne, five from Franklin, two from Plymouth and one each from Livonia Churchill, Salem, Ann Arbor Huron, Monroe St. Mary's

and Dearborn Fordson.

"It's all word of mouth. Different kids being in different schools, they see them with the (Intensity) shirts on," Johnson said. "They've had success in their high school season so (they ask), 'How did you get fast? Who got you fast?'"

Johnson said he takes a bit of a different approach to coaching the club, too.

"There is an adjustment, because at this point in the summertime, I'm not really looking to get people in shape," he said. "The summer season is so short. So it's really just fine-tuning everything, putting everything together and try to run fast at certain meets."

With a chuckle, Johnson said if club members "aren't in shape after running the entire spring with their team, than you know that's a different story and we'll go from there."

This year's Intensity squad includes: **Wayne:** Boland, John Gaton, Kyle Osborne, Raymon White, Reanna Brown-Deacon, (state champion) Anavia Battle; **Franklin:** Smiley, Thaxton, Khalil Pasha, Michele Joyner, Christian Bagnall; **Plymouth:** Malcolm Caldwell, Faith Washington; **Churchill:** Niguel Smith; **Salem:** Berry Matthews; **Huron:** Kyle Martin; **St. Mary's:** Caden Smith; **Fordson:** Abe Jafaar.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

NHL HOCKEY

USA Hockey NTDP players go high in NHL draft

Norris and Oettinger selected in first round

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com



Norris

Oettinger

USA Hockey National Team Development Program alumni Josh Norris and Jake Oettinger were selected in the first round of the 2017 NHL Entry Draft on Friday night at the United Center in Chicago.

They were among 11 players from the Plymouth-based national program taken during the two-day, seven-round draft.

Norris, who hails from Oxford, was the first NTDP alumni selected when the San Jose Sharks secured his rights with the 19th overall pick.

"It's so surreal and hard to explain," Norris said. "It's a moment I've been dreaming about for a long time and I'm happy to have my friends and family here with me."

The Dallas Stars traded up

to the 26th slot to select Oettinger, making him the first and only goaltender selected in the first round.

"Whenever a team trades up to pick you, it shows how much they want you," said Oettinger, a resident of Lakeville, Minn. "I couldn't be more excited to be part of an organization that really wants me to be there."

Norris most recently completed his second season with the NTDP, where he finished his career with 41 goals and 47 assists in 105 games.

He also helped lead the U.S. National Under-18 Team to tournament victories in the 2016 Under-18 Five Nations

Tournament (Plymouth), 2017 Under-18 Five Nations Tournament (Sundsvall, Sweden) and the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Men's World Championship (Spisska Nova Ves and Poprad, Slovakia).

Oettinger recently completed his first season with Boston University, where he was named to the Hockey East all-rookie team after posting a 2.11 goals-against average and .919 save percentage.

He was also earned a gold medal with the U.S. National Junior Team at the 2017 World Junior Championship (Toronto and Montreal). Over his two-year career with the NTDP (2014-16), Oettinger earned 38 victories and posted a GAA of 2.48 and a .911 save percentage.

The picks continued Saturday, with University of Michigan defenseman Luke Martin (St. Louis, Mo.) and future University of North Dakota forward Grant Mis-

marsh (Edina, Minn.) being selected in the second round.

Martin was selected with the 52nd overall pick by the Carolina Hurricanes, while Mismash was taken with the second-to-last pick in the round by the Nashville Predators.

When asked about his reaction to hearing his name called, Martin said, "I just had a big smile and I think I'll be smiling for a long time."

The third round featured three NTDP players selected.

Max Gildon (Plano, Texas) was taken with the 66th overall selection by the Florida Panthers, while Evan Barratt (Bristol, Pa.) and David Farrance (Victor, N.Y.) were taken just two picks away from each other by the Chicago Blackhawks and Nashville Predators, respectively.

"I met with them (Florida Panthers) at the combine and I thought things went well," Gildon said. "The Panthers are a great organization and I'm

just happy to have the chance to be drafted by them."

Four players were selected in the final four rounds: Scott Reedy (Prior Lake, Minn./San Jose Sharks), Tyler Inamoto (Barrington, Ill./Florida Panthers), Logan Cockerill (Brighton/New York Islanders) and Phil Kemp (Greenwich, Conn./Edmonton Oilers).

Playing together as part of a gold medal winning defense corps, Inamoto and Gildon will now compete together as Panthers prospects.

"It's unbelievable," Inamoto said. "I've been playing with Max for a few years now and he's a great friend of mine and I'm just looking forward to it."

Following the 2017 draft, the NTDP has now produced 294 NHL draft picks during its first 20 seasons.

bemons@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @BradEmons1

He's Aquinas-bound



Salem graduate Noah Haran (left) recently signed to continue his baseball career at Aquinas College. He is shown being congratulated by Saints baseball coach Doug Greenslate. Haran told the college website he plans on having a dual major, in business administration and communications. In 2017, he earned the Rocks' Most Improved Player award.

SUMMER CAMPS AND CLINICS

June and July are filled with family reunions, graduation parties — and various summer youth sports camps and clinics. Such is the case once again this year, with a number of offerings on tap.

» **CHURCHILL 'UNDER THE LIGHTS':** Livonia Churchill's football program is hosting an "Under the Lights" Youth Camp 7-9 p.m. Thursday, July 27 for youngsters entering kindergarten through eighth grade. Cost is \$20. Checks should be made out to Churchill High School and be mailed in advance to Allen Feigel, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia, 48150.

The camp will take place at Churchill's varsity football field. On tap will be instruction about "offensive and defensive football techniques."

Participants also can pay the fee at the door. » **SALEM FOOTBALL ODK CAMP:** A fundamental skills football camp for incoming Salem High School players in grades 9-12 will be held 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, July 10-13, at the Centennial Education Park varsity stadium.

The camp will focus on Salem's offense, defense and kicking skills for all positions while integrating teamwork and discipline into all phases.

The cost is \$50 (includes camp T-shirt). All players must bring cleats, T-shirt, shorts and water.

To register, email Salem coach Kurt Britnell at salem-footballvarsity@pcck12.com or call 734-416-7768. Payment can be made at the camp.

» **CHURCHILL GIRLS HOOP CAMP:** Livonia Churchill is hosting a summer camp for girls in grades 1-9 this fall.

The camp is 5-7 p.m. July 17 through July 19 and costs \$60.

Former college athletes (including from Madonna) and varsity players will work with campers on various skills. Contact coach K'Len Morris, kmo2334@gmail.com. Checks should be made out to Churchill High School.

» **LIVONIA BLUE GYMNASTICS:** Gymnasts ages 11 and up are invited to sign up for the 2017 Livonia Blue Gymnastics Summer Camp at Churchill High School. The camp is July 10-13 and Aug. 7-10.

Submit questions to coach Lisa Broomfield, Missis621@yahoo.com or (734) 765-5439.

The program provides the chance for youngsters to "practice and showcase their skills" and receive instruction on conditioning, flexibility, individual skills and team building.

» **CHARGER HOCKEY CAMP:** Livonia Churchill's Charger Hockey Camp will take place at Eddie Edgar Arena between July 31 and Aug. 4 and Aug. 7-11. Each day's session is from 7:30-8:50 p.m.

Questions should go to coach Jason Reynolds, Jayrey48152@gmail.com or (734) 788-0447.

MICHIGAN GOLF HALL OF FAME

Six inducted with Class of 2017

They could be called the super six.

The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame's newest class was presented June 3 in induction ceremonies at Ferris State University's Katke Golf Club. Former LPGA Tour player and Birmingham Groves graduate Suzy Green-Roebuck of Ann Arbor was among the featured inductees.

PGA master professional Bob Ackerman of West Bloomfield, PGA professional Brian Cairns of Walled Lake, PGA Tour veteran Tom Gillis of Lake Orion, the late Alex Ross of Detroit — a U.S. Open winner 110 years ago — and Michigan State University women's golf coach Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll of Haslett were others in the group that tied for the largest class in history with the induction class of 1990.

Green-Roebuck, 50, won her third Michigan Women's Open title last summer at age 49. She played for seven years on the LPGA Tour in the 1990s and was a four-time winner on what is now the LPGA's Symetra Tour. As an amateur, she won the Michigan Women's Amateur, among other titles.

Ackerman, 63, owner of Bob Ackerman Golf in West Bloomfield, won his first Michigan Open title in 1975 as an amateur and added a second in 2003, while also winning the Michigan Senior Open that



The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame recently inducted its newest members (from left) Bob Ackerman, Brian Cairns, Tom Gillis, Suzy Green-Roebuck and Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll. A sixth — Alex Ross — is deceased.

year and being named Michigan PGA Player of the Year.

Cairns, 52, a teaching professional at Fox Hills Learning Center in Plymouth, was inducted into the Michigan PGA Section's Hall of Fame last year. His credentials include being a three-time Michigan PGA professional champion and being named the national Senior PGA Professional Player of the Year in 2015.

Gillis, 48, played nine seasons on the PGA Tour, including 2016, and has been a touring professional since 1993, including stints on the European Tour and the Web.com Tour. He has played competitive golf in 26 countries.

Ross, who died in 1952 at age 72, is the brother of famed golf course architect Donald

Ross and is credited with having won seven of golf's major championships because of his 1907 U.S. Open win at the Philadelphia Cricket Club and six North and South Opens at Pinehurst Resort (considered a major in the early 1900s). The native of Dornoch, Scotland, was head professional for 31 years at Detroit Golf Club.

Slobodnik-Stoll, 45, a Grand Rapids native, is the successful women's golf coach at Michigan State University with five Big Ten titles and 10 trips to the NCAA championships. As a player, she is the winningest golfer in Golf Association of Michigan history with 15 titles, including two Michigan Women's Amateur Championships and an unprecedented eight GAM Mid-Amateur wins.

USA HOCKEY

Appert named as new NTDP coach

Seth Appert, with more than two decades of coaching experience, has been named head coach of USA Hockey's National Team Development Program's Under-18 team for 2017-18.

In addition, USA Hockey promoted Nick Fohr to NTDP associate coach and hired Greg Moore as an assistant coach for the Plymouth-based program.

Appert, brought in after former NTDP coach Danton Cole left to become head coach at Michigan State University, spent the previous 11 seasons as head coach of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute men's hockey team.

"We're excited to have Seth join the NTDP," said Jim Johansson, USA Hockey's assistant executive director of hockey operations. "He brings a lot of passion and knowledge to the table and is someone we really feel like will be a terrific coach for the young players that are part of the NTDP and also a great mentor for our intern coaches."

In addition to currently being on the coaching staff for the U.S. Men's National Team, Appert also served as an assistant coach for the gold medal-winning 2017 U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team.

"Seth's experience level, connectivity in the sport and

commitment to development are characteristics that were important to us," said Scott Monaghan, NTDP senior director of operations. "We look forward to welcoming him and his family to Plymouth."

A former president of the American Hockey Coaches Association, Appert spent the nine seasons prior to taking over the head coaching reigns at RPI as an assistant coach at the University of Denver, where he helped lead the Pioneers to a pair of NCAA titles, three WCHA playoff championships and two

WCHA regular season titles.

"I'm honored to have this opportunity," Appert said. "I look forward to having a chance to work with the staff currently in place to help strengthen hockey in our country through our efforts at the National Team Development Program and across USA Hockey. I'm excited to meet and get to know our young men upon return from the world championship."

In his 20 years in the collegiate coaching ranks, Appert has recruited and helped develop 13 All-Americans, 37 all-league selections, four Players of the Year, four Hobey Baker finalists and 23 players who have gone on to play in the NHL.



Appert

DEWHIRST

Continued from Page B1

going to remember playing here as a Patriot the most, the past four years.

"It means a lot to represent Franklin. It's sad that I'm leaving but, at the same time, I'm ready to move on and do greater things at Eastern."

Dewhirst was in the middle of Franklin's baseball resurgence in 2016-17; the Patriots won 26 games each of those seasons and this spring won the district championship game. At the regional, he pitched the final inning and struck out the last batter he faced.

Unforgettable

Asked about any specific memories from his Franklin career, the bespectacled, introspective Dewhirst took a deep breath.

"There's a lot of good and bad memories, but mostly good," he said, with a knowing nod. "I'm going to miss playing here, that's for sure. I'll miss the guys."

A large contingent of Franklin players, coaches and classmates drove to downtown Detroit to watch Dewhirst compete on the East squad (as did Livonia Stevenson grad Brenden Posky). He joined David Wells, who played in the 2005 game, as the only Patriots to appear in the contest.

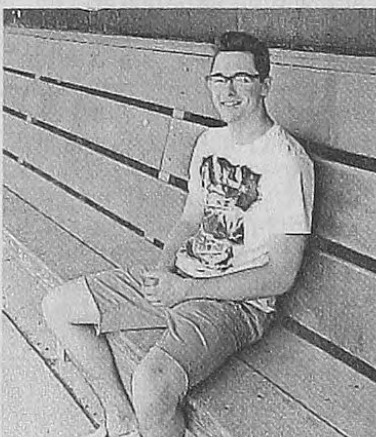
"There was a ton of people there. It was probably the most people I've ever played in front of," Dewhirst said. "I actually got to start at third base, so it was pretty cool to start the all-star game. No chances, thank God. I was a little nervous the ball was going to get hit to me. I was just happy to be there."

"I was more focused on just enjoying it. It was really fun to meet all the guys, guys I've played with before or played against before and some kids I'll be playing with and against in the future, too."

"I hit against Sam Weatherly. He got drafted (by Toronto). He was throwing pretty good. I struck out, but I was more focused on just going up there and getting good swings. I fouled a few off. I missed the last one just by a little."



Early in his senior year at Livonia Franklin, Kolby Dewhirst signed his NCAA national letter of intent to play baseball at Eastern Michigan University.



TIM SMITH

The afternoon after playing at Comerica Park, Kolby Dewhirst reminisced at Livonia Franklin. He now will go to Eastern Michigan University and pitch for the Eagles.

Working it out

With Dewhirst's work ethic, determination to get bigger and stronger and his already impressive pitching arsenal, veteran Franklin baseball coach Matt Fournier wouldn't be shocked if Dewhirst hears his name called at a MLB draft sometime in the future.

"You've got to have a lot of things go your way and somebody's got to fall in love with you, so to speak," Fournier said. "We haven't had a kid from here drafted in quite a long time, maybe since (former Detroit Tigers player) Chris Baker in the 1980s and Bernie Carbo in the late '60s, early '70s."

"But he's a hard worker. ...

He's a kid that got bigger every single year that he was here."

Fournier — noting Franklin's refreshing philosophy that athletes play as many sports as they can in high school — credited Dewhirst's standout varsity hockey career for helping him improve on the baseball field.

"You can just look at the difference in width of his shoulders (since ninth grade)," Fournier said. "He's 6-2, 6-3 now. The hockey helped him out tremendously because of the leg strength. If he doesn't play hockey, who knows, he might not be where he is now."

"Everything along the way helped him and, now that he can kind of focus on just doing one thing, the sky's the limit. I wouldn't put it past him."

"If he gains another couple miles an hour and you're sitting at 90 miles an hour and throw four pitches for strikes, someone's going to take a look."

Growing arsenal

Dewhirst, who is nicknamed "Dewey," throws four-seamers, two-seamers, a circle change and slider.

"But it's more like a slurve," he said. "And I'm working on a fifth pitch, a splitter. But it still needs a little work."

With a couple of months before EMU's baseball team begins its journey toward 2018 and, hopefully, another long run in the Mid-American Conference tournament, Dewhirst already is mapping out a busy, sweat-filled summer of training

sessions and bullpens.

He said he might join Barwis Methods in Plymouth, a training facility for many elite athletes (including college and professional).

"I've been looking into getting a personal trainer or training at a facility, because I know I need to get my body ready physically and mentally for college baseball," said Dewhirst, who sported an impressive 2.00 ERA against the best opponents on Franklin's schedule.

It's not all about work, however.

Having fun, too

"Not working out today, just some time to relax, babysit the little brother," Dewhirst said, talking about 9-year-old Braden, with him June 21 at Alumni Field. "We actually had a Wiffle ball game in the front yard and he beat me on a walk-off home run. He might be the best out of all three brothers."

The oldest brother, 24-year-old Tyler, also was a four-year letter winner in baseball and hockey.

"He was more of a hockey guy," Dewhirst said.

Dewhirst's memorable senior season partly was due to being able to chill from beginning to end, Fournier explained, simply because the pitcher/infielder had already made his decision to go to EMU.

"He started off (the year) by getting the recruitment process out of the way," Fournier said. "He got that done and over with,

so he could relax and play ball. It was a great year for him and a great year for us."

He just knew

According to Dewhirst, whose parents are Wendy and Brian Dewhirst of Livonia, he had some interest from other D-I baseball programs such as Michigan State.

But then he visited Eastern and immediately knew it was the place for him to play college baseball.

"I think I remember my first college visit, my mom said, 'When you leave the campus, if it's the right fit, you should see yourself going there right away,'" he said. "And I went to a few colleges and I was iffy on them and, when I went to Eastern, it was a right away thing."

"I liked everything there. It's a good school, a good campus and a smaller Division I school. I didn't like the fact some schools have classes with 300 or 400 kids in it. Not only that, but Eastern (baseball) is rebuilding right now. They just made it to the MAC finals this year. I think it was just the best fit for me, for sure."

Fournier said EMU head coach Mark Van Ameyde and his coaching staff will help the "good one" they signed to get to another level of success.

"The coach that's there now, Mark Van Ameyde, is a guy that was a pitcher himself in college," Fournier said. "He'll work wonders with Kolby and fine-tune some of the other things that maybe we missed on."

The best arm

If the Patriots "missed" on anything with Dewhirst, it wasn't enough to keep him from carving out an outstanding legacy.

"In the past 20 years, he's the best arm we've had that's come through here," Fournier said. "That's no knock on some of the other kids we've had. Alex DeYonker just finished up a great four years at Madonna."

"But Kolby, from the moment he stepped on the field as a freshman, he looked like he belonged."

Dewhirst is now set on doing whatever it takes to take flight with the EMU Eagles. All signs are he'll do just that.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

ALL-STARS

Continued from Page B1

making it a perfect 2-for-2 night at the plate.

"It was just a fun experience overall," said Morrissey, who also scored two runs. "That was my goal coming in, was just to have fun and I did that. When I first walked in, you see the huge stands and then the huge fern wall in center field ... walking around, I got a little nervous. I didn't get in until the sixth inning, so just seeing everybody else go out there and play really kind of calmed me down."

Morrissey is undecided about continuing his baseball career, but if he doesn't, he can say he went out a winner at a major league ballpark.

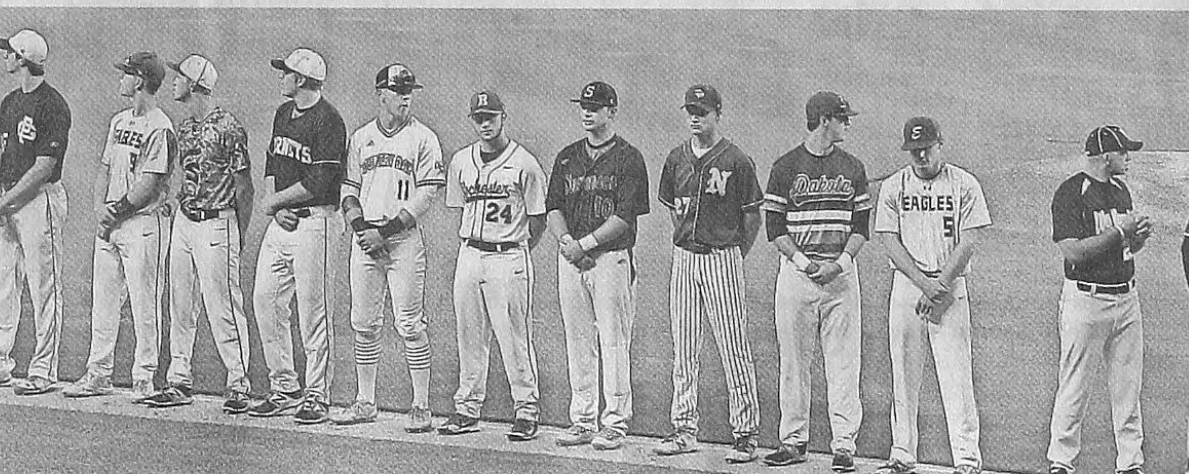
"I've been talking to the Michigan State coach (Jake Boss) a little bit," he said. "He told me I should come and try out in the fall, so that's a possibility (that) I'll try and walk on there. Then, there's also club baseball up there at State as well."

The two Livonians, Dewhirst and Posky, both threw scoreless innings for the East and got a chance to swing the bats as well.

"Just to be able to pitch on the same mound as MLB players is a really cool experience for sure," said Dewhirst, who will throw next season at Eastern Michigan University. "It was something I wasn't used to, was the mound being so nice. I got out there and I was, like, 'Oh, my God, this is perfect.' It was an MLB mound, so I couldn't expect anything else. Just to know pro ballplayers get to come here every day and you get to play on that same field is really cool."

Taking part in the MHSBCA All-Star Game experience is something the right-hander will treasure.

"I think it's really cool that it's just not a game now," said Dewhirst, who will stay busy



Some of the East team members line up for the pregame introductions at the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

this summer playing for College Connect, an 18-and-under team. "It's more like a two-day event. At the (MHSBCA) banquet, I got to hang out with the guys a little bit, meet some new kids. That's the thing I'll remember the most, just hanging out with the guys."

Posky, meanwhile, got one more chance to don a Stevenson uniform. In his final game June 10 with the Spartans, he struck out 13 in a 3-1 regional semifinal loss to Hartland.

The right-hander, who will pitch next year at Oakland University, followed East starter Alex Kuster (Birmingham Brother Rice) in the second inning.

Posky was able to work his way out of a slight jam when the West put two runners aboard before inducing a ground out to end the inning.

"I thought it was a great experience," said Posky, who will play sandlot ball this summer for Detroit Caesars. "I never had something like this before and I thought I did pretty well. I was a little bit nervous as I started out there, but I calmed down and started hitting my spots."

Posky and Dewhirst were also able to throw in the Tigers' bullpen.

"It's a different mound than what we pitch on in high school," Posky said. "In high

school, we have ditch on the mound and this one was flat. It was a little hard to get used to, but I got used to it."

For Combs, playing at Comerica has become old hat. The catcher, who has signed to play at Michigan State, played last month and last season at Comerica in the Detroit Catholic League A-B Division playoffs.

"This is my third time; it's crazy," Combs said. "As many times as you can come out and play on a professional field, is just a great feeling."

Combs, who will continue to play this summer in the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League for A Green, was glad to renew some old acquaintances.

"Got to play with some old teammates and got to see some guys that I haven't seen in a couple of years, so it was an overall good time with the banquet yesterday and the game today," he said. "I'm just thankful to be in this position to play here."

Meanwhile, East manager Mark Blomshield went out a winner himself.

"I would call it a pretty good success," said the Canton coach, who guided the Chiefs this season to a 32-6 record, including the KLAA Association, Kensington Conference and KLAA South Division titles. "Everybody had two or

three at-bats. All the the pitchers that needed to throw threw. Everybody did a real nice job."

With the East ahead 2-0 after Cross's RBI double in the sixth, Blomshield tried some "trickery" to get things jump-started offensively.

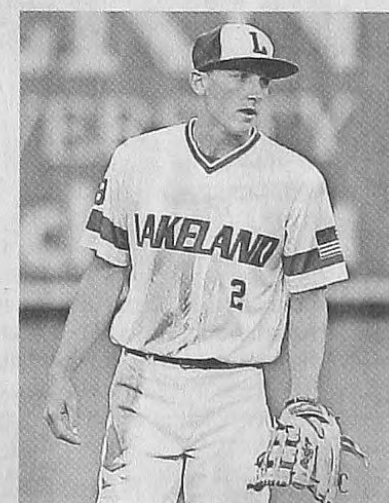
"We were kind of stagnant for a minute there," Blomshield said. "(Matt) Boutin was on first and I said, 'Do a fake steal.' (Boutin) just took off and ended up making it and then we scored the run from third. Sometimes things work in mysterious ways, but it worked out that time."

Afterward, Blomshield sat in the visitor's coaching office and joked: "This is where Joe Girardi (Yankees manager) sits his rear end. Maybe I can put a thumb tack on one of those seats."

Blomshield's assistant coach for the East, Lutheran High Westland's Kevin Wade, was also able to check off one of his bucket list boxes as well.

"The experience was just phenomenal ... the practice, being on the field, it was just tons of fun," said Wade, who led the Warriors to a 21-4 record this season. "These kids are really good and you don't get to experience that too often, so it was fun."

Blomshield and Wade, along with the two other East



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Lakeland High's Grant Smith mans second base for the West All-Stars at Comerica Park.

assistant coaches Corey Farnier (Woodhaven) and Tom Kurczewski (Avondale), had the task of getting all 21 players into the game for an equal amount of playing time.

"We planned it out the day before and tried to make sure we gave everybody three to five innings as best we could," Wade said. "We had a big matrix we filled out last night, just posted it in the dugout so they knew exactly what inning they were playing and everything. We just stuck to it, for the most part. It was good. Baseball season is officially over and what a sweet way to end it. It's fun to be here and fun to win."

Meanwhile, Blomshield will never forget setting foot inside Comerica Park for the first time.

"Being on the field was really breathtaking. Coming out of the tunnel and going out and saying, 'Whoa.' It's something as a coach that you should at least strive to try to do before you wrap it up, if you can," he said. "It was just a fun couple of days and glad I had the opportunity to do that. I was fortunate I was selected for the opportunity."

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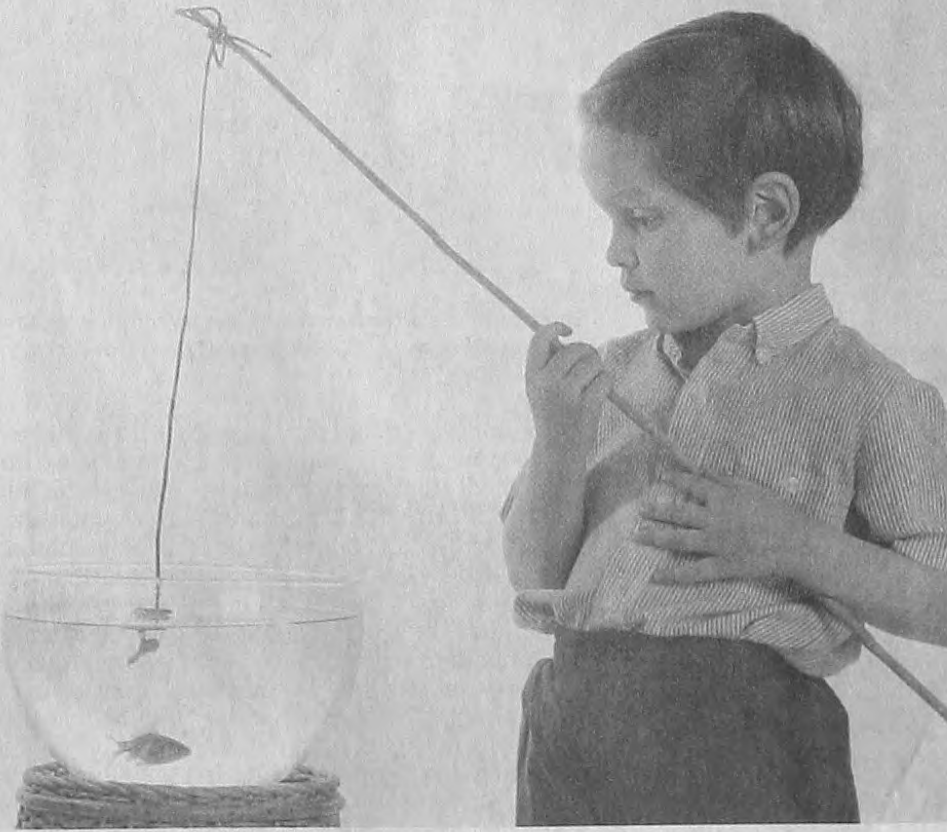
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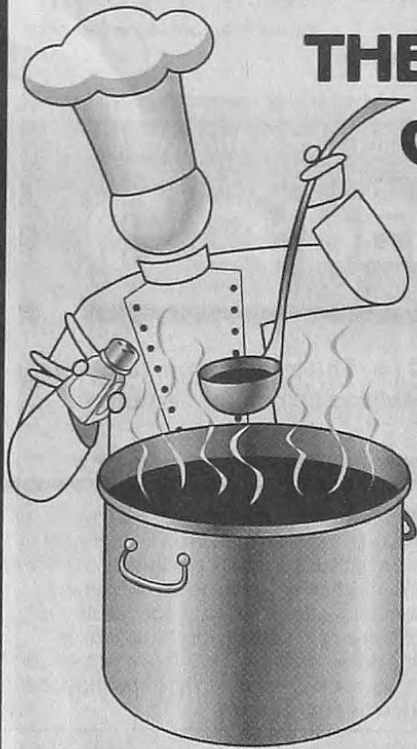
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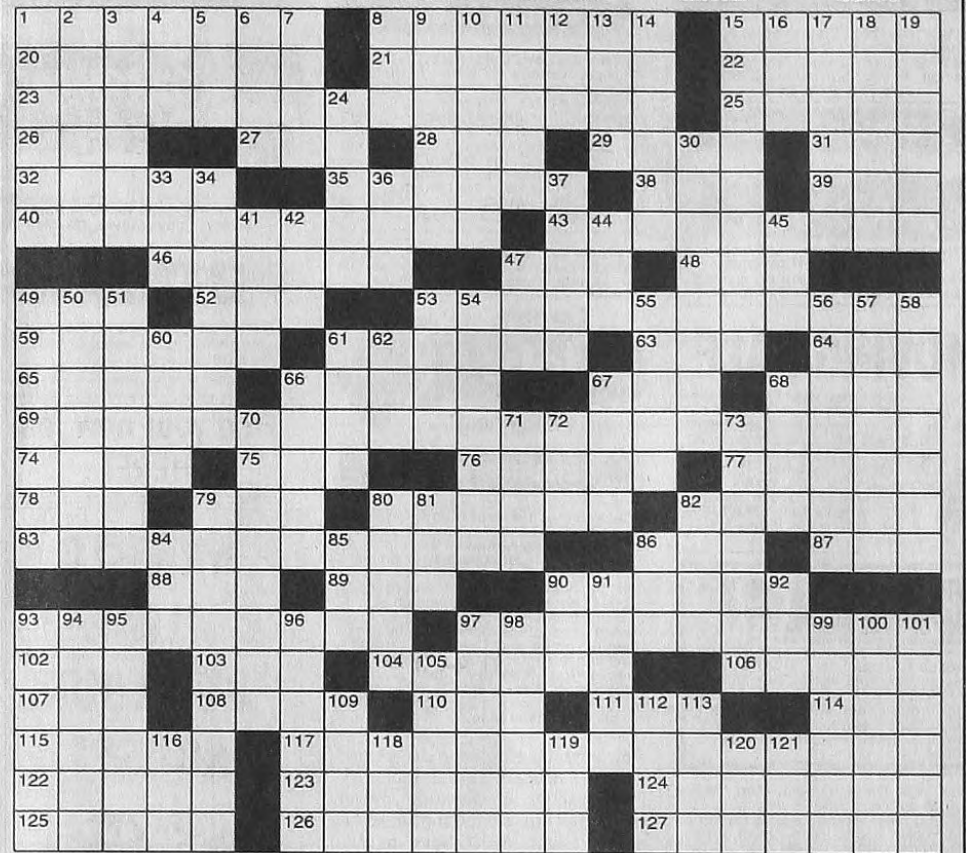
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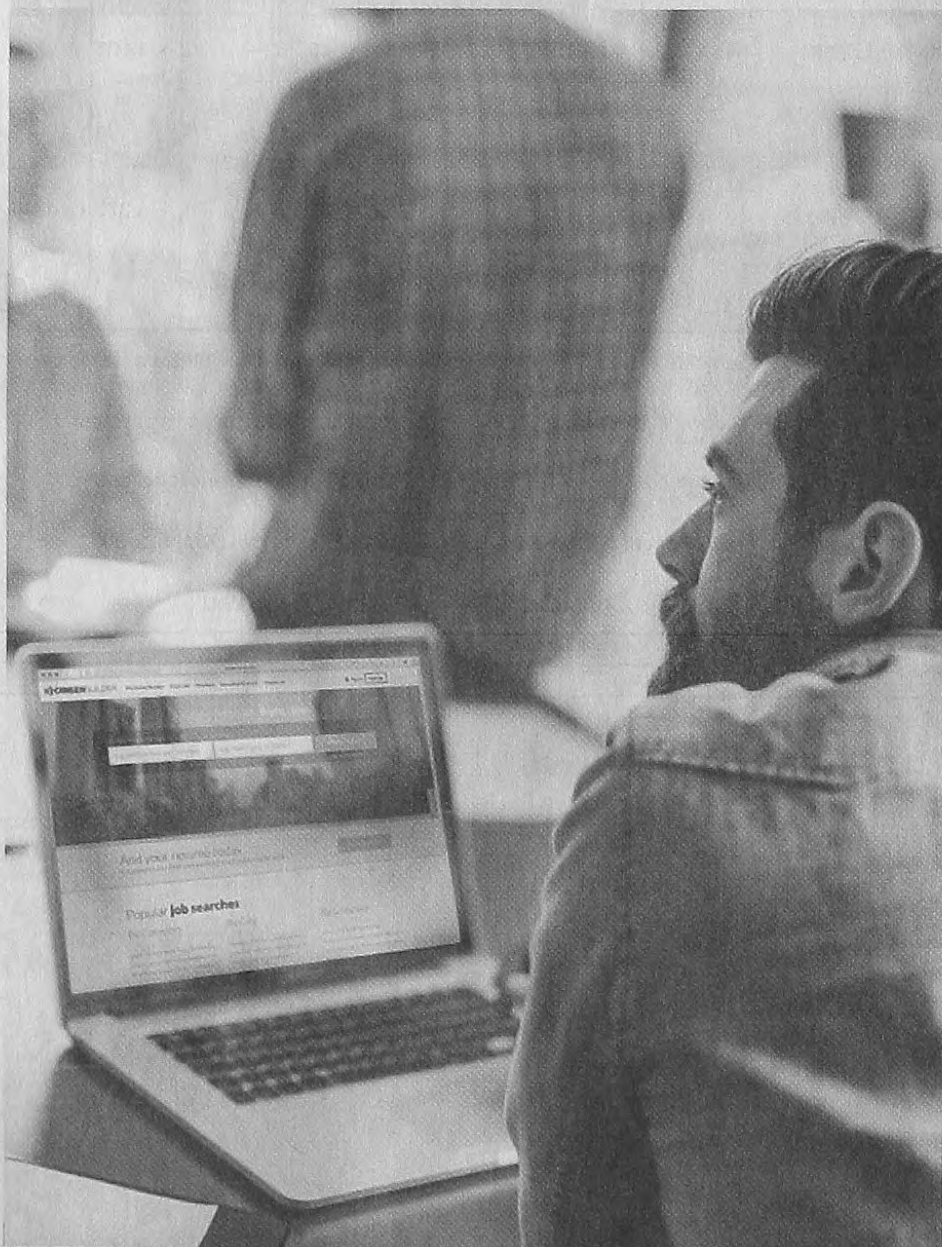
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Theater districts | 1 Kind of |
| 8 Friendly | 2 Galaxy rival |
| 15 See | 3 "Am tool" retort |
| 44-Down | 4 Twice XXVI |
| 20 Based on logic, not fact | 5 Craggy peak |
| 21 Retirement payment | 6 "Cammina Burana" composer |
| 22 Blossom part | 7 Filly's father |
| 23 Time when those people are most available? | 8 Chimp, e.g. |
| 25 Park | 9 Net fabrics |
| 26 Sweetie | 10 Chant |
| 27 Boggy area | 11 "... old woman who lived in —" |
| 28 You — | 12 Life, in brief |
| 29 (drink brand) | 13 Uncouth Italy |
| 30 Delergent brand | 14 Fermi of physics |
| 31 Fighter of Frazier | 15 Leadfoot |
| 32 Cain's eldest son | 16 — Luthor |
| 35 Film parts | 17 Metropolis in Ontario |
| 38 Boston fish | 18 Pizzeria, e.g. |
| 39 Got the little | 19 Stritch of "30 Rock" |
| 40 Class that's become stylish again? | 24 Occur next |
| 43 Carpenter's intent gaze? | 30 Full-size pickup model |
| 46 Gobbling bird | 33 Old PC part |
| 47 Martini liquor | 34 Famed escape artist |
| 48 Old Pontiac | 36 Shout |
| 49 Idling sort | 37 Dips in pools |
| 52 "Old man" | 41 Suffix with bureau |
| 53 Big show featuring female horses? | 42 Endorsed |
| 59 Part of the conspiracy | |
| 61 Court hearings | |
| 63 Flub it up | |
| 64 Child of the 60s or '70s | |
| 65 Ancient Greek physician | |
| 66 Flubs it up | |
| 67 Singing syllable | |
| 68 Jai — (court sport) | |
| 69 Planetary center's top and bottom? | |
| 74 Filly's feed | |
| 75 Where you live: Abbr. | |
| 76 Sioux City citizen | |
| 77 Central church areas | |
| 78 Golf club VIP | |
| 79 Certain sib | |
| 80 Kebab stick | |
| 82 Not moving | |
| 83 Reserve tire produced in Andalusia's capital? | |
| 86 Gp. once led by Arafat | |
| 87 Rd. with a number | |
| 88 — Wayne (rapper) | |
| 89 Filly's feed | |
| 90 Disenangle again, as hair | |
| 93 Lay the blame on Mr. Flintstone? | |
| 97 What happens when a low-value playing card is micro-waved? | |
| 102 French Dada artist Jean | |
| 103 Weed whacker | |
| 104 Home of Italy | |
| 106 Make a goal | |
| 107 — Moines | |
| 108 QED part | |
| 110 PC-game "City" dweller | |
| 111 Early 1960s atty. gen. | |
| 114 China's Sun — sen | |
| 115 Old numbing compound | |
| 117 Very unusual breeds of house pets? | |
| 122 Lyons' river | |
| 123 Scrutinize | |
| 124 Be quite revealing | |
| 125 Having eaten enough | |
| 126 Malady | |
| 127 Pizzeria herb | |
| 84 Not in good health | |
| 85 Doe or sow | |
| 86 Highly toxic pollutant, for short | |
| 90 Sales agt. | |
| 91 Observers | |
| 92 U.K. TV network | |
| 93 Soundboard controls | |
| 94 Soul great | |
| 95 End result | |
| 96 Brought up | |
| 97 Daughter of Richard Nixon | |
| 98 Natives of Italy's capital | |
| 99 Common Jesuit school name | |
| 100 2006 action-fantasy film | |
| 101 Begins, as a task | |
| 105 "I'm at your disposal" | |
| 109 Hailed ride | |
| 112 Burkina — | |
| 113 Tree knot | |
| 116 Tijuana-to-Phoenix dir. | |
| 118 Univ. dorm supervisors | |
| 119 Golfing peg | |
| 120 Anil or henna | |
| 121 First name among U.N. leaders | |



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



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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

FROZEN DESSERT WORD SEARCH

WORDS

A F K I F L U K P C S O U F F L E H M G	BAKED ALASKA	MALTED
U A E C E F K K A S P R I N K L E S O S	BOMBE	MILKSHAKE
P H F A K V T K M F Y P H P D I S T C O	CAKE	NOVELTY
A O I R I A E F S U N D A E A C A E G R	CARAMEL	PARFAIT
T M R A H G K H C I W D N A S L P V G B	COLD	PREMIUM
I E L M S S L S I S W I R L E L E R L E	CONE	SANDWICH
N Y G E O S M A A S Y G D G H S R E M T	CUSTARD	SEMIFREDDO
A F T L W V G C L A A B F E V P S K E	DELICIOUS	SHERBET
R F S L M O V E M E A O W M K A E T S	DESSERT	SOFT SERVE
G B L T E U D I N I M D I M R C W F U A	FLOAT	SORBET
M L V O F V L O P B C F E I A H O D E	FRAPPE	SOUFFLE
T K H C A K O D E G R E A K N C I S R A	GELATO	SPRINKLES
K E O K S T L N F E I C D A C V T A D	GLACE	SPUMONI
C N B H T O N O D E T N E R I B L R T E	GRANITA	SUNDAE
E O A R C K E D F H S O L E Y R U S T	ICE CREAM	SWIRL
M K V F E V O P B U S L E M Y A H G U L	ICES	TARTUFO
E D O L P H C H P E T D E U U Y M O C A	KEFIR	WAFFLE
O R T D I B S S R A Y R N B B P H Y V M	KULFI	YOGURT
M U I M E R P T O V R P A D Y U S S R A		
A K W E L F F A W V W F C T E C C P O Y		

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

R	I	A	L	T	O	S	A	M	I	A	B	L	E	S	L	O	P	E		
A	P	R	I	O	R	I	P	E	N	S	I	O	N	P	E	T	A	L		
T	H	E	I	R	F	R	E	E	S	T	H	O	U	R	E	X	T	R		
H	O	N	F	E	N	H	O	O	T	I	D	E	A	L	I					
E	N	O	C	H																
R	E	T	R	O	C	O	U	R	S	E	W	O	D	S	T	A	R	E		
T																				
B	U	M	D	A	D															
I	N	O	N	I	T															
G	A	L	E	N																
T	W	O	S	I	D	E	S	O	F	T	H	E	S	A	M	E	C	O	R	E
O	A	T	S	R	E	S														
P	R	O	S	I	S															
S	E	V	I	L	L	E	S	P	A	R	E									
L	T	I	L	H	A	Y														
F	A	U	L	T	F	R	E	D												
A	R	P	H	O	E															
D	E	S	E	R	A	T														
E	T	H	E	R																
R	H	O	N	E																
S	A	T	E	D																

Word Search Answers

