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Band's concert could be swan song

Rocky & The Continentals first performed in 1961

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

They recorded a song with then-unknown Marvin Gaye on drums, toured with Brenda Lee and played backup for the likes of Del Shannon.

They started the same year as the Beach Boys in 1961, one year before the Rolling Stones

formed in England.

Rocky & The Continentals, who started as a group of Livonia teens, never became superstars, but the band had some success and has survived 56 years. In what could be its swan song, the group is performing a benefit concert at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at Connection Church in Canton,

where band member Rocky Barra is pastor. The money will be used for a courtyard and play area at the church.

"We've learned to never say never, but this may well be the last opportunity for Rocky & The Continentals to get together and play the brand of music we love and grew up on," Barra said, adding that band members are now in their early 70s.

Barra, the lead singer who also played drums and guitar,

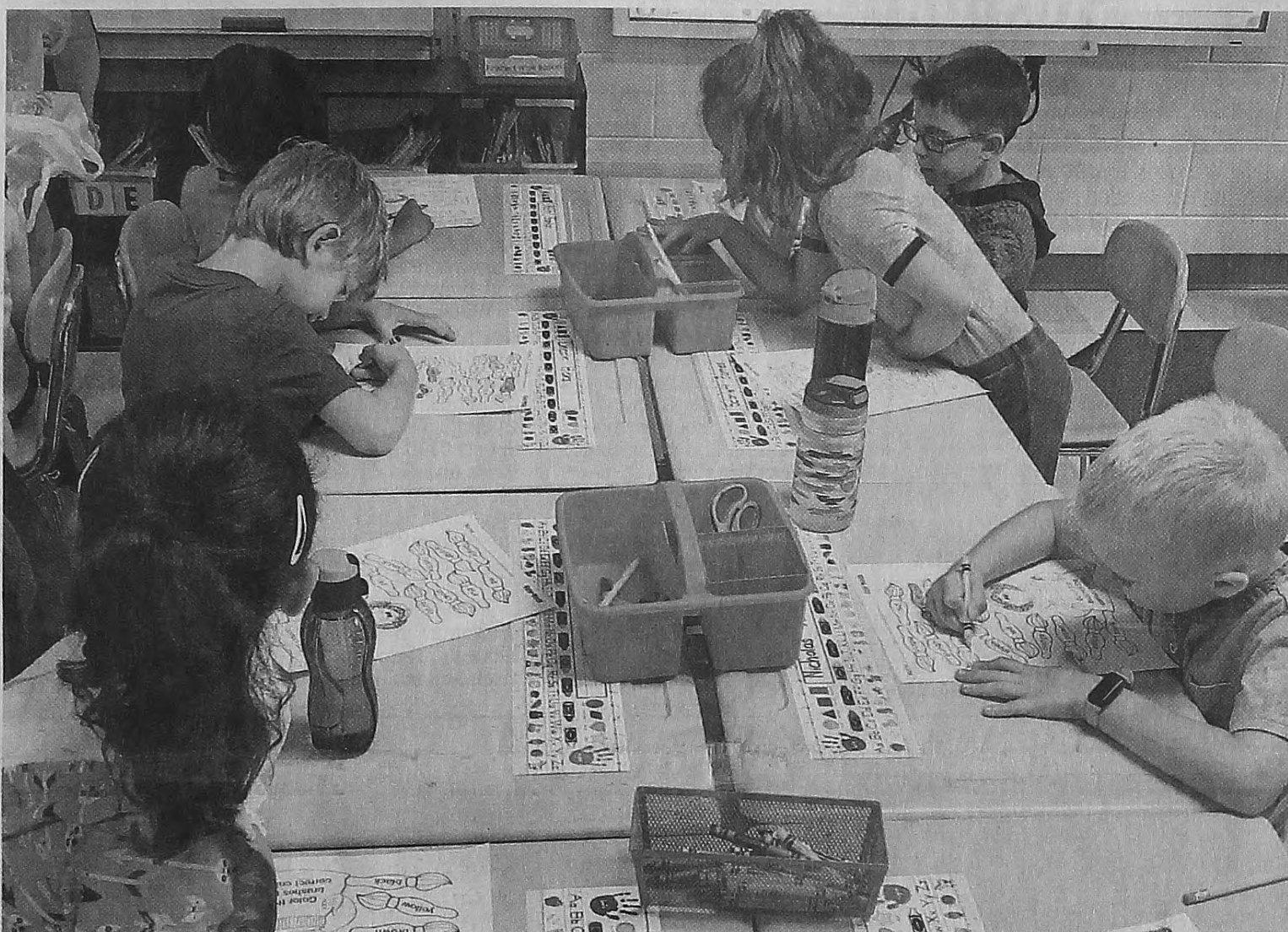
described the band's sound as roots rock and rhythm and blues. He and his friends, all graduates of Livonia Franklin High School, were ages 14 and 15 when they began to gain attention in the Detroit area. His father drove them around in a station wagon to play gigs as far away as Ohio and Indiana.

Barra reflected on a long career for a five-member group that in 1963 became the

house band on a weekly television show, "Teen World," that aired nationally. It was broadcast from the state fairgrounds on Eight Mile Road.

Though it was never released, the band recorded what Barra called "a funky version of 'Flamingo Express'" at Motown studios with Marvin Gaye on drums, just months before he had a hit with "Stubborn

See CONCERT, Page A2



The kids get right to work during the first day at Bentley Elementary.

BRAD KADRICH

Bicyclists face tough fitness test at cyclocross competition

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Avid bicyclists will face a challenging terrain of hills, gravel, grass and barriers as they compete in one of cycling's toughest sports.

As many as 250 cyclocross enthusiasts from across Michigan and a few from Indiana, Ohio and Ontario, Canada, are expected to tackle a tough, 1.5-mile course during the inaugural Wixom Cyclocross Race, set for Saturday, Sept. 23, at Gilbert Willis Memorial Park.

"It's extremely competitive," said race organizer Tim Faas of Farmington Hills. "This is the highest level of cycling competition that you would find here in the state of Michigan."

Cyclocross, a sport where mountain biking and road biking meet, is growing in popularity among fans who are as serious about fitness as they are cycling. They're not afraid to bike in mud, snow or on most any terrain.

"It's a test of fitness and it's competitive," said Sandy Gaulin of White Lake, who plans to race in the Wixom Cyclocross Race. "Road races are all concrete. Cyclocross is much more challenging."

Faas, Canton Township's municipal services director, said the event offers six races and each, on average, has three different categories of riders, depending on skill level. The course is 1.5 miles long, but only 10 feet wide, so "passing is an issue," Faas said.

The races are 30 minutes or 60 minutes in duration, depending on age and ability.

"It's so demanding that to go any longer is pretty ridiculous," Gaulin said.

The event, with the city of

See BICYCLISTS, Page A2

Principal, students excited to begin new school year

Brad Kadrach
hometownlife.com

It was tough to tell who was more excited, the students returning to Bentley Elementary School in Canton or their new principal.

Laura Carino, who moved over from Livonia Public Schools, was all over the place Tuesday, excitedly greeting parents, teachers, staff and students alike with the kind of high energy she hopes to bring to the school.

Carino, who replaces the retired Jerry Meier, said the

first day of school holds a certain magic.

"As long as I've been in education, I get the first-day jitters every year," said Carino, who was the principal at Livonia's Buchanan Elementary last year. "The anticipation and excitement of seeing the kids, seeing the families. We're starting fresh, everything's brand new and it's just the excitement of the new year. It's a magical day."

Crystle Hart of Canton was happy to have her daughter

See SCHOOL, Page A3



Fifth-grader Abby Brenner (left) and classmate Ava Gabourie catch up at the bus stop before the first day of school. They attend Bentley Elementary.

BRAD KADRICH



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CONCERT

Continued from Page A1

Kind of Fellow" and went on to become a superstar. "They told us he was going to be big," Barra said. "He was a good guy."

Rocky & The Continentals released their own single, "Lucky Star," in 1964 and it received airplay on local radio stations such as CKLW-AM (800) and WXYZ-AM (1270). A year later, the band did a tour backing Brenda Lee during her appearances at Montgomery Ward department stores.

During the 1960s, Barra said, the young band shared local stages with national artists such as Ann Margaret, Ray Stevens, Del Shannon and Freddie Cannon, among others. They met

Motown greats like the Supremes and Stevie Wonder.

The group continued to perform after the members left high school to attend separate colleges at Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University and Detroit College of Business.

After college, marriage and the military, band members began to go their separate ways, but remained active when they could with their music. The band still consists of original members David Viswat of Traverse City, Tim Topelewski of Bellaire, Dave Falzetti of Brighton and Barra, who lives in Canton. When a fifth member died seven years ago, Barra's son, Rocky Barra II of Orlando, Fla., began to fly into town on occasion to join the band on stage.

Though the original members are scattered about Michigan, they have remained best friends and have continued to play.

"We get together about as often as the Rolling Stones do, about every other year," Barra



After 56 years, Rocky & The Continentals — shown here during winter 1962-63 — are soon to play what could possibly be their last concert.

said. The upcoming concert at Connection Church is billed as a family event that also will include circus acts and Livonia's Nash Abrahams, who recently appeared on the TV show "Little Big Shots." Abrahams has multiple skills, including juggling and performing

on a unicycle. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and are available at the door. Connection Church is located at 3855 S. Sheldon Road, Canton.

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BICYCLISTS

Continued from Page A1

Wixom as a partner, was organized by the Wolverine Sports Club, which Faas said was formed in 1888 and is Michigan's oldest sports club. Its members delve into sports other than cyclocross, such as speed skating and cross country skiing. It has produced Olympic and national champions such as cyclist Frankie Andreu, who has competed around the world.

Andreu is scheduled to be the announcer at the Wixom event. Wixom Cyclocross is the third of

10 events the Wolverine Sports Club will sponsor during a season that typically runs from September to January.

"We'll be racing in the snow come December and January," Faas said.

Wixom Cyclocross is sanctioned by the Michigan Bicycle Racing Association, which is under the umbrella of USA Cycling. The Wolverine Sports Club often donates proceeds from its events to youth cycling programs, in an effort to spur an early interest early in competitive cycling.

Faas said cyclocross originated in the early 1900s in France and Belgium and made its way to

America about 30 years ago. Wixom Cyclocross is the first race of its kind in Wixom, but Faas said he hopes it can become an annual event.

Winners will earn prizes and cash. It costs \$30 to preregister and the deadline is the end of the day Sept. 17. To preregister, go to <http://www.usacycling.org>.

Registration the day of the event starts at 8:30 a.m. and the last race is at 3 p.m. More on the event also is available at <http://www.facebook.com/wixomcx>.

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page A1

Katie at the bus stop first thing Tuesday morning. She said getting Katie, a fourth-grader, ready for the day wasn't tough at all.

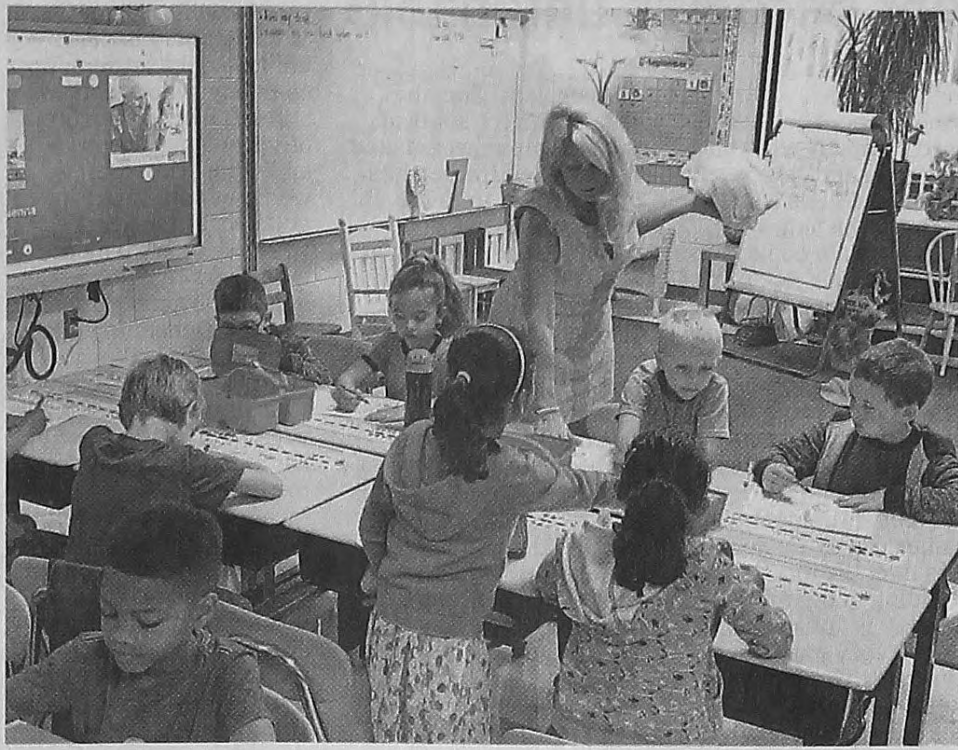
"It was pretty easy (getting her ready)," Hart said. "She got up when she was supposed to, she ate, she got ready ... it was pretty easy."

Katie was a little more non-committal about going back to school. "Eh," she said, smiling, and said she'd rather have had a longer summer, which she spent swimming and going to camp.

But Carino, a University of Michigan graduate with her administrative certificate from Eastern Michigan, was excited enough for everybody.

"I'm unbelievably excited," she said. "Everyone has been so welcoming and it has a real community feel — the students, the staff, the building, the families. I'm very excited to get to know everybody and start making relationships."

Carino said her special education experience will "help lend a different eye" and give her "some empathy for all of the students in our build-



First-grade teacher Cheryl Zuzo encourages her students during the first day of school.

"As long as I've been in education, I get the first-day jitters every year. ... We're starting fresh, everything's brand new and it's just the excitement of the new year. It's a magical day."

LAURA CARINO, Bentley Elementary principal

ing." She said the focus will be on student achievement and growth, relationships and "just really making sure Bentley is the best school in

Plymouth-Canton."

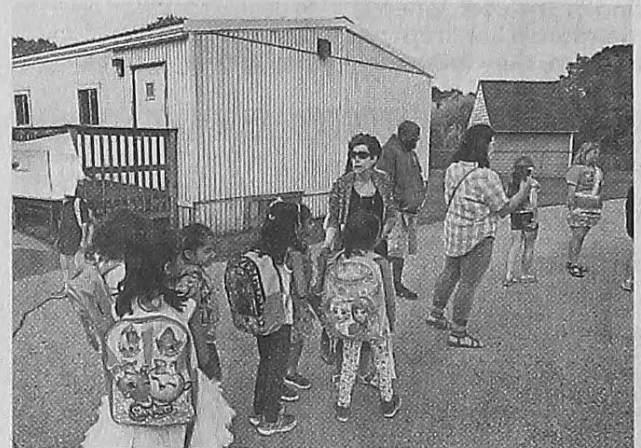
On the first day of the new school year, the new principal had an idea what she hoped to accomplish by the last day.

"I hope I will have made really long-lasting relationships with families and with students, to be able to set the bar high for expectations and reflect on the student growth that we've had since the first day of school," Carino said. "I want to look back and be really proud of where we've come and the progress we've made together as a building."

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New Bentley Elementary School Principal Laura Carino talks with parent Ashlee Keleman, who has a third-grader at Bentley.



Speech pathologist Candace Simons greets Bentley kids as they get off the bus during the first day.

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Weigh all options when debt becomes untenable

Q: After being married for more than 15 years, a few years ago I got divorced. The divorce was bitter and costly and left me in debt. Over the last few years, I have struggled with my finances and have watched the balance of charge cards grow and grow. I've reached the point where I just can't keep going on this way and I need help. I heard an ad on the radio about settling your debts with the charge card companies and I sat down with one of these debt settlement companies. They explained how they work and they were very confident that I would be able to settle my debt at a fraction of the cost. When I mentioned bankruptcy to them, they immedi-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

ately told me that I was not a candidate for bankruptcy and that bankruptcy could not help me. A friend of mine told me that I should just stop making my charge card payments, because he said the charge card companies wouldn't come after me. My question to you is, what would you do in my situation?

A: The first thing I recommend is to not to listen to your friend. Charge card companies do go after debtors all the time. I always prefer to be proactive, as opposed to reactive. If you stop making your pay-

ments, there is a very good chance the charge card company will come after you and, as a result, they could get a court order garnishing your wages, which could cause issues at your job. In addition, let's not forget the emotional cost to you as you will be constantly worrying what the charge card company might do. I would automatically dismiss this alternative.

Debt settlement companies can settle debt for less than the total outstanding debt, but the process is not short and can be very expensive. Typically, these debt settlement companies charge upward of 20 percent of your original debt. In addition, with the debt settlement companies, you are still going to owe a significant portion

of your debt. The instances where some of these companies get your debt settled for pennies on the dollar are rare. In many situations, you could still be left with at least 50 percent of your debt. That doesn't mean that using a debt settlement company is not an option; I also believe that you owe it to yourself to discuss your situation with a bankruptcy attorney.

I recognize that the debt settlement company said you were not a candidate for bankruptcy, I would not take its word. It certainly is not a bankruptcy expert and, in fact, my experience has been that most debt settlement companies hate bankruptcy. I'm not sure it gave you an impartial opinion.

Bankruptcy may be a

very viable option for you. One of the benefits of bankruptcy is that, unlike a debt settlement company, where you are still left owing a portion of your debt, it is possible that your debt would be totally extinguished. Furthermore, where debt settlements take years to resolve, bankruptcy can be much shorter. Depending upon your situation, it is possible that in bankruptcy your debts will be totally written off without you having to make any payments. Bankruptcy is meant to give an individual a fresh start; that may be your best option.

My advice is to sit down with a bankruptcy attorney to discuss your individual situation. Only after discussing your situation will you have all the information necessary to make the right decision for you.

Many people believe that bankruptcy is al-

ways the last option and that you should only pursue it if nothing else works. I don't believe that. Bankruptcy is meant to give someone a fresh start and individuals should use the law to their benefit. Corporations, such as General Motors, used bankruptcy laws to their advantage and so should you. I am not saying that every time you run into financial difficulty you should pursue bankruptcy. What I am saying is, when you're in severe financial difficulty, bankruptcy is a viable option and you owe it to yourself to sit down with an expert to understand your rights.

Good luck!


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

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The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting September 19, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

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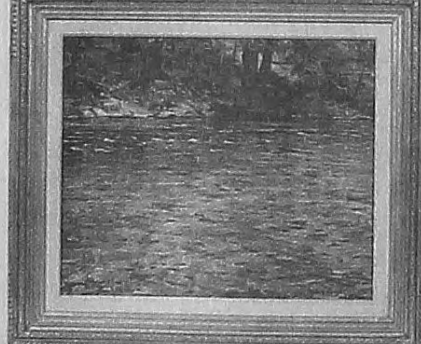
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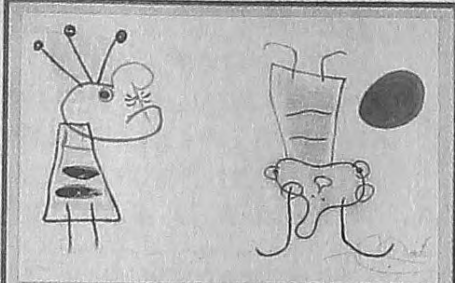
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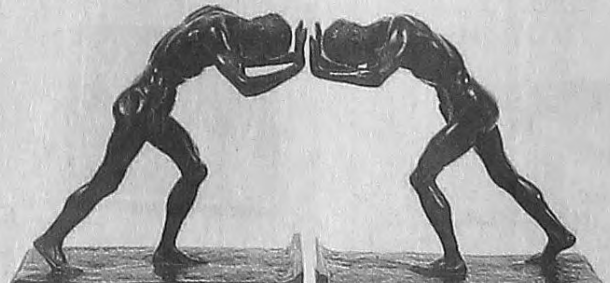
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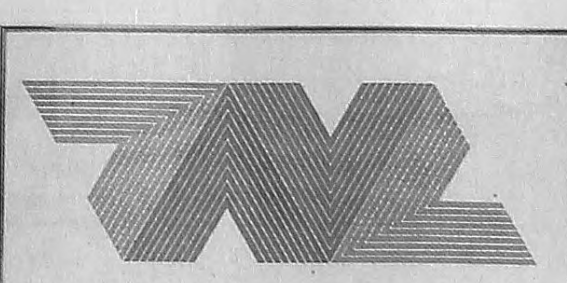
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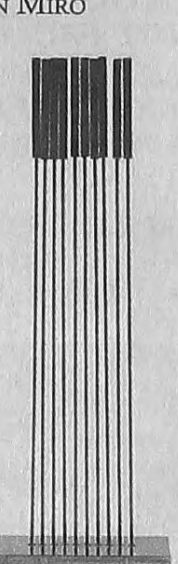
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When: 9:30-11 a.m. each Thursday and Friday
Details: Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers. See the English Language Learner Program FAQ at www.cantonpl.org for more information.

Digital Drop-In Help

When: 10-11 a.m. each Friday
Details: Stop in to get one-on-one help with your e-readers from the friendly experts at the Information desk. Just bring your device and your desire to learn. Kindle users must bring Amazon log-in information as well.

Adult Writers' Group

When: 2-3 p.m. Sept. 23
Details: Interested in writing? Join other adults to share your work, get feedback and discuss the craft of writing.

Computer Skills Lab for Beginners

When: 9-11 a.m. second Saturday of each month
Details: If you are looking to build a foundation of strong computer skills, including Internet use and setting up an email account, stop in to CPL's Internet Lab. We will have guided activities for practice with mouse skills, copying/pasting and more, with trusted experts on hand to answer any questions you may have or connect you to additional resources.

Family Storytime

Details: Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children under age 5. Together with a youth librarian, you can build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs, and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every Family Storytime is followed by a half-hour of ABC Activity Time. Go to www.cantonpl.org for a full September program schedule.

Preschool Storytime

Details: Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-55. These activities help develop pre-reading and school-readiness skills. Children must be able to sit independently and be attentive for 30 minutes. Parents may attend, if needed, to help transition their child to this program, and all parents must remain in the children's department. Storytimes start Sept. 11. Registration is required and you can pick a Monday or a Friday session. Go to www.cantonpl.org for registration and schedule.

Baby Storytime

Details: Baby Storytime is designed for babies 18 months and younger with an adult and features simple stories, songs and rhymes carefully chosen to build awareness of language and vocabulary, foster a love of books and provide a fun, interactive experience for babies and parents/caregivers. Baby Storytime sessions start Sept. 12. Registration is required. Visit www.cantonpl.org for registration and schedule.

Lunch and a Book

When: Noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 14
Details: Join Lunch and a Book and discuss this month's book, "The Handmaid's Tale," by Margaret Atwood.

Teen Boredom Busters

When: 3:30-5 p.m. Sept. 14 and 29
Details: Bored after school? Need a study break? No worries, we've got fun activities in our Teen Space that are just right for your busy schedule. Stop by for five or 50 minutes, whatever works for you. Learn something new, meet a new friend or just relieve some stress. We've got board games and coloring sheets always available, or drop in for one of the following activities:
 » DIY Back to School Swag with Washi Tape, Sept. 14
 » Fidget Spinners Craft, Sept. 29

Teen Writers' Studio

When: 2-3 p.m. Sept. 16
Details: Do you love making up stories, poems or dreaming about writing a novel one day? Do you want to meet other teens who share the same passion? Join us for an informal session where you can meet other writers, do a few exercises, talk about how to improve your work and bounce ideas off each other. You will never be required to share your work, but if you'd like to, this is a safe space and judgment free zone. Your stories and poems produced during these sessions will also be bound together at the end of the school year, creating a book or zine of your work. This program is open to all middle and high school students.

Hark! Medieval Day

When: 1-3 p.m. Sept. 17
Details: Celebrate and learn about Medieval culture, crafts and combat. Armored fighting demonstrations and hands on activities for the whole family will be presented by volunteers from the Society for Creative Anachronism, an international nonprofit celebrating more than 50 years of medieval interpretation. Find out how you can join the fun with re-enactors from the local Ann Arbor and Detroit chapters.

American Girl Club

When: 7-8 p.m. Sept. 18
Details: Join us as we learn about a different

American Girl character at each meeting through crafts, games and activities. We will explore both the historical characters and the modern day girls. No prior knowledge of the books or character is needed. If you have an American Girl doll, feel free to bring her and a friend. This program is open to ages 8-12 and registration is required. Go to www.cantonpl.org for registration and details.

Movie Night at the Library

When: 6 p.m. Sept. 19
Details: Join us on the day "The Big Sick" is released on DVD for a movie night. The movie is rated R and recommended for adult audiences.

Hero Hangout: Comics Reading Group

When: 7-8 p.m. third Wednesday of each month
Details: Do you love reading comics or learning about super heroes? Join us for Hero Hangout, a comic book club is for ages 7-12, and you choose what to read. Every week we will be sharing, reading and making comics. Participants are encouraged to bring a comic to share with a group, but are not required.

Library Board Meeting

When: 7:30-9 p.m. third Thursday of each month
Details: CPL is governed by a six-member Library Board of Trustees of community members elected quadrennially on a non-partisan ballot. The public is invited to attend.

Basic Excel Class

When: 10-11 a.m. Sept. 23
Details: Develop new skills to help you stay organized in professional or personal projects with Excel 2016. Build your confidence and a solid understanding of this popular and powerful software. Learn to input, edit and format data into charts and basic graphs. We'll show you additional resources to help you learn more on your own schedule. Basic mouse and computer skills required. Registration is required.

Kindness Rock Project - Adult Painting Party

When: 7-8 p.m. Sept. 26
Details: The Kindness Rock Project is a movement sweeping the nation. The idea is to paint rocks with inspirational messages and place them around town in the hopes of brightening someone's day. To help keep this movement going, adults 18 and older are invited to join us for a rock painting party. Paint, rocks and other supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

Slime Lab

When: 7-8 p.m. Sept. 28
Details: Join us to try out different slime stations and take your favorites home. Slime Lab is intended for ages 9-17 and registration is required.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

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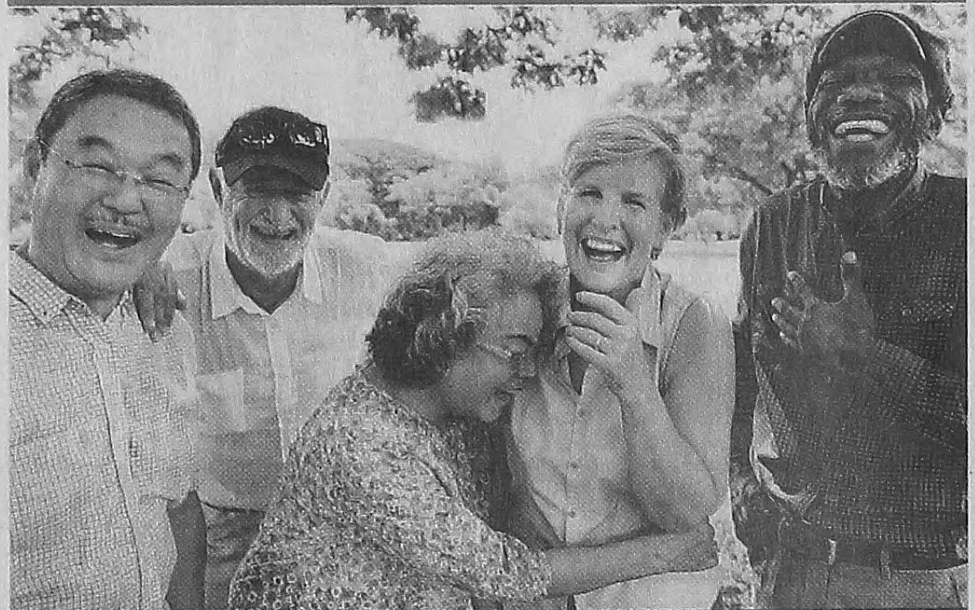
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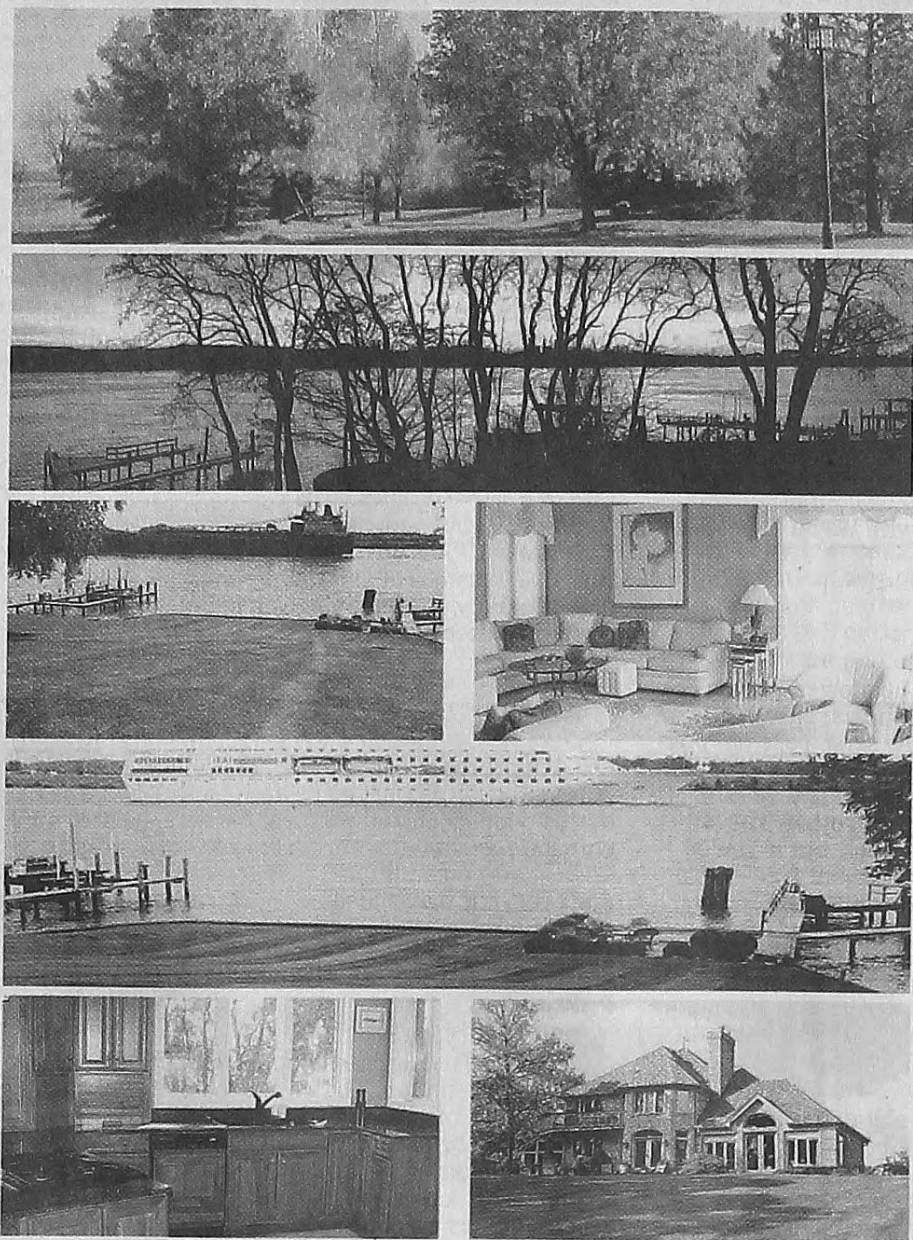
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Trial set for Hines Park sexual assault case

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

The man accused of sexually assaulting a runner in Hines Park last year will go before a jury later this fall.

Floyd Galloway, 30, of Berkley will go before a Wayne County Circuit Court jury Nov. 29 in Detroit's Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, according to online court records. He is set to be tried for several criminal counts, including kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct-assault with intent to



Galloway

commit sexual penetration, assault with intent to great bodily harm less than murder by strangulation and assault with intent to murder.

A final conference in his case will take place Oct. 29 before Circuit Judge Mark Slavens.

Galloway is accused of attempting to sexually assault a runner last September in Hines Park in Livonia. The victim in the case testified in an August hearing in Livonia's 16th District Court that she was running over Labor Day weekend last year when she was grabbed and assaulted by a suspect, who told her he wanted sex and tried to lift up her shorts.

Galloway, who has been named as a person

of interest in the disappearance of Farmington Hills resident Danielle Stislicki, was arrested earlier this summer as a suspect in the Hines Park sexual assault case. He has not been charged with anything in relation to the Stislicki case.

The charge of assault with intent to murder was added a few weeks after Galloway was bound over on the other three charges.

If convicted in the sexual assault case, Galloway faces a maximum of life in prison. He remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail on a \$750,000 cash bond.

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734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Livonia resident named CEO of Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan has chosen its chief operating officer, Dave Bartek, to take the helm of the human services agency as chief executive officer. CCSEM board chairman the Rev. Msgr. Charles Kosanke, pastor of St. Anne de Detroit and Most Holy Trinity parishes in Detroit, made the announcement, according to a press release.

Bartek replaces CCSEM's first CEO Jason Shanks, who accepted a new position as president of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute based in Huntington, Ind.

Bartek was chosen from among 44 applicants in a national search. He joined

CCSEM in early 2016 as director of Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Programs, which at the time was experiencing a significant increase in clients. Shanks added to Bartek's responsibilities the management of the agency's All Saints Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in southwest Detroit and then appointed him to the position of COO.

"Dave is blessed with excellent leadership skills and possesses the spiritual depth to oversee this agency as an intentional disciple of



Bartek

Christ," Kosanke said. "We are blessed to have his steady hand and his experience gained during challenging circumstances when our refugee relocations soared in October last year, then plummeted upon the administration's travel and refugee bans. We are confident he will guide CCSEM in its mission to bring help and hope to those in need in our community."

Prior to joining CCSEM, Bartek served in leadership roles at United Way for Southeastern Michigan. He and his wife are residents of Livonia. They have three adult children and a son-in-law and are registered parishioners at St. Kenneth Parish in Plymouth.



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Franklin Round-Up offers something for everyone

Diane K. Bert
Correspondent

Jane Polan remembers the time 12 years ago when she agreed to run the art show at the Franklin Round-Up. She asked artists what they wanted and needed to be comfortable participating in the show. She listened well and began providing the services they specified, which has resulted in their appreciation of the way the show is organized. Many have said, "This is the best show we attend."

Polan visits art shows in the Midwest and invites artists to participate if she thinks they are good prospects for the Franklin show. If they represent a novel product or make artwork which she feels is a good match for the local population, they are invited. About one-fifth of the artists represented were new this year.

The show is held on the Village Green in Franklin. More than 80 artists set up their canopies and participated in the show this year. Their works included pottery, wood works and furniture, metals, jewelry, oil and watercolor paintings, fiber arts and photography.

As hundreds of people strolled among the booths, they had a fine selection of art to view. Amy Beeler, a jewelry artist from Oregon, Ohio, had a beautiful array of handmade sterling silver jewelry. She uses a lost wax process and makes castings from seed pods. The results are exquisite necklaces and other items. She has won best of show awards at art fairs and gallery exhibitions.

Another artist who



DIANE K. BERT

Acrylic artist Thomas Legault of Plymouth puts finishing touches on his painting. Note the parts of the painting which extend beyond the borders of his snowy landscape. Franklin Round-Up visitors crowded around his booth watching the progress of the work.

attracted crowds of viewers was Thomas Legault of Plymouth. His acrylic paintings are popular, especially in northern Michigan. He leaves a margin around his paintings, creating a mat effect. His scene then overlaps the margin.

Many visitors stood in front of his booth, watching as he created paintings using a palette knife and fan brushes. He worked on commissions while at the Round-Up.

Stacy Rivard, headmistress of Cranbrook Kingswood, was one of the viewers with a particular interest in one of Legault's creations, which she had commissioned.

"We recently redecorated our home and this painting is destined to hang over our fireplace," she said. "We have stalked Legault to many shows."

"I think what he is doing is amazing, absolutely exquisite. There is so much depth," said Peggy Holzhauer of West Bloomfield.

At the glass-blowing

demonstration, many spectators stood watching Charlie Shoulders of Brighton create beautiful glass hummingbirds as he manipulated glass rods in the intense heat of his blow torch. The finished birds were about four inches. He also had beautiful glass paperweights on display.

These artists, who were demonstrating their creation of beautiful art, were especially popular, but all of the artists were busy talking to potential customers and describing their creations. That is part of the joy in art shows, the opportunity to meet the creators of the artifacts.

Nearby, members of the Franklin Garden Club were selling plants and talking about gardening with customers. The Franklin Historical Society had exhibits which helped viewers learn about the interesting history of Franklin. The aroma of kettlecorn and the sounds of popping corn attracted customers.

Classic cars were on

display for car enthusiasts, with the owners present to engage in discussions. The cars participated in the parade, which started at noon. Some lucky children and adults rode on top of the Franklin fire engine in the parade. Local and county dignitaries also rode in the parade. The band from Mumford High School in Detroit provided fine music as members marched in the parade.

Children were having a fine time at the activities for families. Many young children enjoyed riding on one of the three ponies present. Each rider was led by an adult as they rode around the baseball diamond. The petting farm animals were another attraction. The Robot Garage in

Birmingham brought thousands of Lego bricks for children to build with using their imaginations. There were also games and an inflated house for children.

Freshly grilled hamburgers were popular in the food area, with other choices available.

Throughout the hours of the Round-Up, there was the cacophony of dogs barking. The Home Fur-Ever organization had many foster dogs on display in cages on the front lawn of Franklin Community Church. Most of the dogs who are awaiting adoption were accompanied by their foster host.

Christopher McCarthy was interested in adopting one of the dogs. He described the complex process of being ap-

proved for adoption. "There was along form to fill in, which asked for references, including a veterinarian if you had had pets previously," he said. "You had to agree to go to dog training classes and to have your home inspected. They really wanted to assure that the adopted dog would have a permanent, good home."

The happy crowds enjoyed the wide variety of activities and there was something for everyone at the annual Franklin Round-Up.

Diane K. Bert is a Bloomfield Hills resident with a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Wayne State University. She's a regular contributor to the *Birmingham Eccentric*. She can be reached at dkbert617@gmail.com.

BATHTUBS CERAMIC TILE

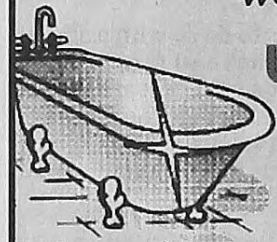
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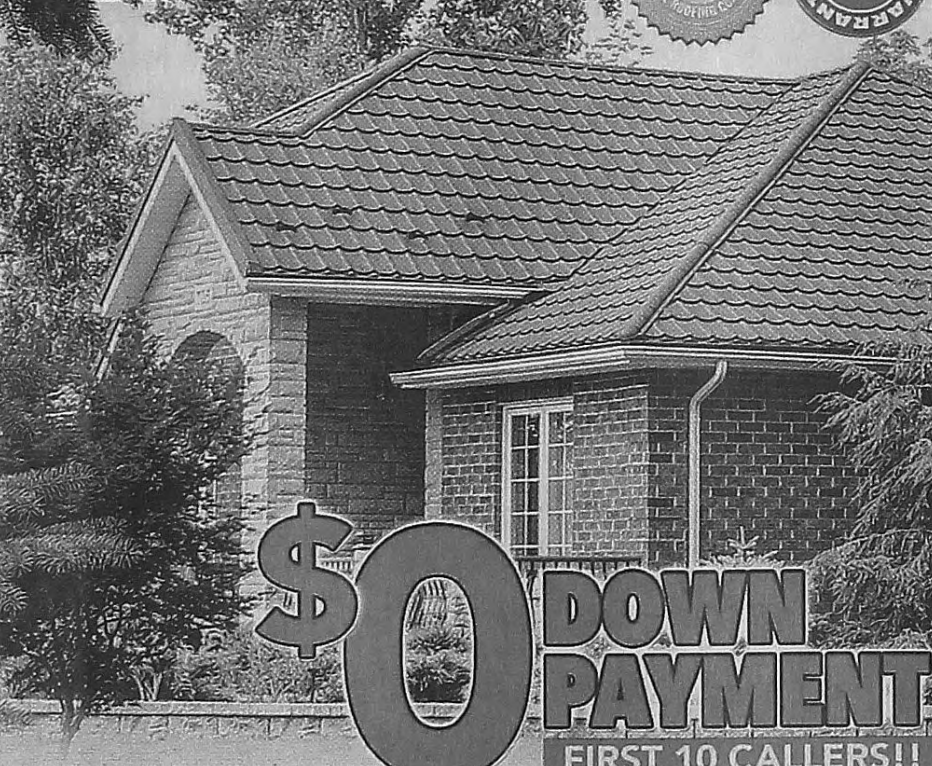
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MIXING BASKETBALL AND OUTREACH

Dwayne Jackson works on awareness, education for Fort Myers black youths

DAVID DORSEY
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.usatoday.com.

FORT MYERS, Florida – Even when discussing the poverty, the abundance of single-parent homes and the education gap in his hometown community, Dwayne Jackson does so with a smile.

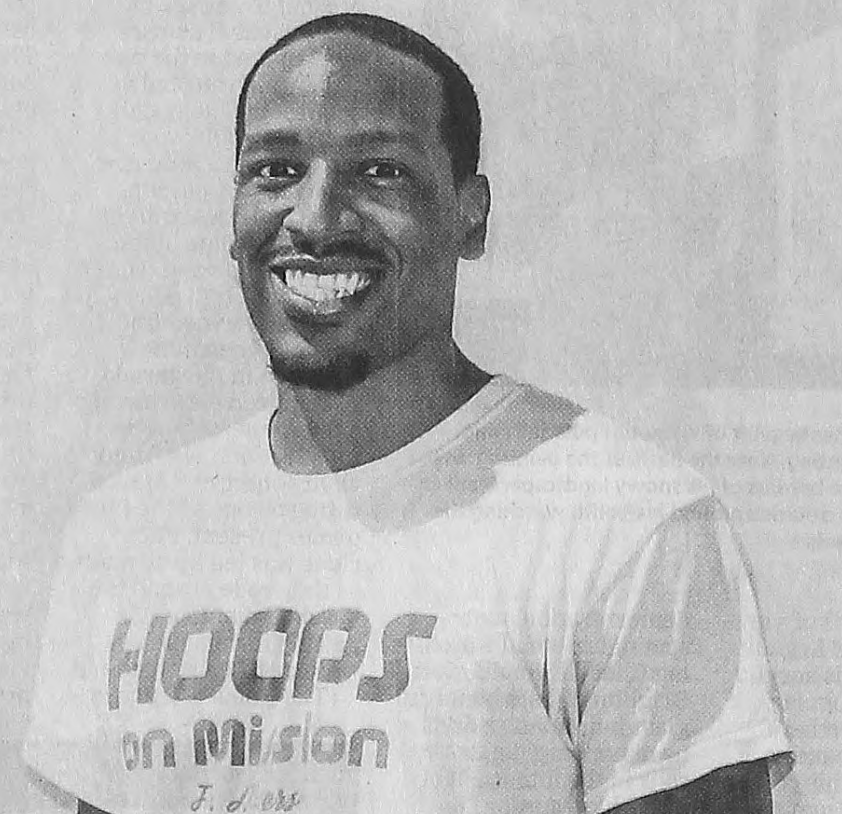
The 33-year-old Christian missionary and former Mariner High School basketball star returned home to the historically segregated black community of Fort Myers known as Dunbar because he saw hope amid hopelessness.

Jackson made a leap of faith, resigning from his fourth-grade teaching job at Unity Charter School of Fort Myers two years ago. He formed Hoops On Mission, a nonprofit with one employee — him — and one goal.

Jackson wants to educate and empower Fort Myers youths through basketball and Christian outreach. His annual event happens just before Christmas, when he distributes Bibles and basketballs to at least 200 children. But he works year-round, putting on summer basketball camps in order to make a living while seeking donations.

“What I’ve found out is people aren’t aware of what’s going on in Dunbar,” Jackson said. “They’re not aware of kids who aren’t eating. They aren’t aware of kids who are suffering from mental illness. They’re not aware of a boy or girl who’s being sexually abused. ... So I make people aware, from social media or to meeting people at Starbucks. If someone wants to support us financially, I’ll keep them aware of what’s going on in Dunbar. We have a lot of volunteers, a lot of people who support us.”

Unity Charter recently granted Jackson access to its basketball court.



Dwayne Jackson, founder of Hoops On Mission, works to educate and empower youths in the Dunbar community of Fort Myers, Fla., with his Bibles and basketball program.

ANDREA MELENDEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK

“He’s a kid magnet,” said Stephen Tebibieniec, dean of students at the school.

E.J. English, 14, met Jackson two years ago and has been a fan ever since.

“He’s the best trainer in southwest Florida, and he gives back to the community,” English said.

Jackson strives to do so with a smile.

“My goal is to make 50 people smile every day,” Jackson said. “I learned that people read body language. So I always have a smile. Even when things are going bad, because you never know who’s watching.”

ONE NATION

Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at onenation.usatoday.com or via email to onenation@usatoday.com or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

Q&A WITH DWAYNE JACKSON

What does it mean to you to be an American?

It means putting others before yourself. When I started putting others before myself, opportunities started to happen.

What moment touched and motivated you to become involved in this effort?

Two years ago, two of my cousins were murdered right in Dunbar. One was 18, and one was 36.

At that time, I was a fourth-grade teacher at Unity Charter School of Fort Myers. I felt like God was calling me to be a missionary — an African-American person in my community who graduated from college, who is a Christian, who is also married. I wanted the kids to be able to say: “Look at Dwayne.”

So I go out into the streets, and I build a relationship with them. The kids started hanging out with me. Then I started playing basketball with them. The kids love that.

What gives you hope and what concerns you?

It’s really frustrating. But if I don’t do it, who’s going to do it?

How many missionaries do you know who are in Dunbar? How many people do you know who does go into the projects at night and try to help out? Who else does this?

My hopes going forward are involving African-Americans, whites, Hispanics, Mexicans, all of these kids, and getting them involved in life together. I feel like Fort Myers is still so segregated. If you grow up on the other side of the tracks, they don’t know any other kids growing up.

Kids in our community get labeled whether or not they’re black or white. With Hoops On Mission, we bring all of these kids together. We don’t have any labels.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

I want to empower and educate the children in our community. I want to give them hope for a better future.

Dwayne Jackson

Profession: Christian missionary

Age: 33

Home: Fort Myers, Florida

Mission: To empower and educate local youths through the Bible and basketball

Expert Panelists:

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- Sheba Roy, ND, FABNO
- Michael Lutz, M.D., Urologist

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WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

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Marecki office hours

Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki, R-Livonia, has announced she will be conducting office hours in the District 9 community of Livonia from 10-11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Constituents can meet with Marecki and discuss matters of concern within the community.

"I am delighted to once again have the opportunity of sitting down and meeting with my Livonia constituents on a one-to-one basis and listening to their concerns regarding Wayne County," Marecki said. "The exchange of information is always beneficial, and necessary, in continuing the progress we seek in our community."

For more information, contact the commissioner's office at 313-224-0946.

'Mockingbird' auditions

Livonia Community Theater is holding auditions for "To Kill A Mockingbird," a play by Christopher Sergel based on the award-winning novel by Harper Lee. Auditions will be from 5-8 p.m. Sept. 12-13, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road.

Auditions are open you may come anytime during that time. Readings will be provided. Patricia Hutchison will direct the production which runs Nov. 17-19. Hutchison notes the group is not auditioning for the parts of Tom Robinson or Mayella Ewell. Particularly needed are male actors, and a young female actress who can play the part of Scout, a 9-year-old girl who is a leading character in the show.

For more information, email livoniacommunitytheatre@gmail.com, visit livoniacommunitytheatre.org or call 248-252-1940.

Westland community gathering

Westland will celebrate the end of summer with a community gathering from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Corrado Park, 8500 Flamingo Blvd.

The free family-friendly event will include a hot dog barbecue manned by the city administration, bounce houses, sidewalk CPR taught by the Westland Fire Department, Police, Fire and Public Service Equipment on display, Narco and Bella, the Police and Fire dogs, and basketball games with prizes. As part of Westland's Mission: Green initiative, free tree seedlings will be given to the first 100 guests. Information will also be available on the neighborhood makeover program, parks and recreation, Mission: Green initiative, tree planting program, historic park and how to stay connected with the city.

The event will also include a special tree planting dedication in memory of the late Samuel J. Corrado.

Family Fun Festival

The St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Merriam Road north of Ford Road in Garden City is having its annual Family Fun Festival on Sept. 15-17, including music, a classic car show, free entertainment (rain or shine), garage sale, Vegas games, Texas hold'em, dinners, rides, bake sale, games, raffles and bingo.



DAVID MALHALAB

After a summer hiatus, the North West Detroit Coin Club will hold its meetings again, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, beginning at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The club has numismatic talks and information, raffles, coffee and doughnuts and an auction, where members can sell their coins/currency or other numismatic items. The club has members of all ages and is family friendly, so everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

Volunteer tutor training sessions

The Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council is a volunteer, nonprofit organization aiming to improve conversation literacy skills for adults who speak English as a Second Language. CLC provides free one-on-one tutors and conversation group tutors in the Plymouth-Canton community. Volunteer literacy tutors do not need any prior experience.

Tutors receive comprehensive training before volunteering in a setting of their choice for 1.5-2 hours each week. The next training class, which includes 12 hours of instruction spread out over two days, will be held on the following dates: 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

Community Literacy Council charges \$40 for each tutor to cover the cost of training, materials and food. Advance reservations are required and can be made

at www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org or by calling the literacy council at 734-589-0011.

'Understanding Islam'

The Citizens for Peace invite the public to a lecture on "Understanding Islam" at its meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road. Dr. Saeed Khan will share his extensive knowledge of Islam: a 14-centuries-old religion and civilization for 1.7 billion people.

Dr. Khan teaches courses on Islamic and Middle East History, Politics and Culture at Wayne State University. He is a founding member and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding; a Michigan-based Think Tank promoting the study and analysis of US social and domestic policy.

He is a regular contributor to C-Span, NPR, Voice of America and the National Press Club, and is also a consultant on

Islamic and Middle East affairs for the BBC and CBC.

"Understanding Islam" will help unpack the beliefs, history and complexities of this global phenomenon. All are welcome.

For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to www.citizens4peace.com.

PARC Social Event

PARC-Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex announced its inaugural PARC Social Event, a day of free activities for ages 55-plus, Tuesday, Sept. 12.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a multitude of fun and exciting activities to choose from and experience such as line dancing, cooking demonstration, pickleball, aquatic classes and much more. Some activities require preregistration.

For more information, call 734-927-4090 or go to plymouthparc.com.

2017 Citizens Academy

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Citizens Academy is a free seven-

week program to educate and inspire citizens by providing insight into the criminal justice system in Wayne County. The program will explore emerging threats to individuals, families and community at large and a look at what is being done to address them. The academy will include discussions on crime investigation, specialized units, and the opportunity to weigh in with experts in the criminal justice system. Topics include sexual assault, child abuse, illegal drugs, firearms and homicide.

The academy will be held 6:30-9 p.m. each Tuesday at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. The course runs from Sept. 12 through Oct. 24. The number of participants is capped at 120 and Wayne

County residents are preferred. www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor/citizens-academy.htm.

Stinson Aircraft Program

The Wayne Historical Society will present about the Stinson Aircraft Co. that had factories in Detroit, Northville and Wayne. Aircraft historian Carl Shemwell and members of the Stinson Family will share their history of Eddie Stinson, his life and accomplishments Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Wayne Public Library.

The program starts at 6:30 p.m. but come early to view an artifact table and refreshments; doors open at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome, no charge to attend.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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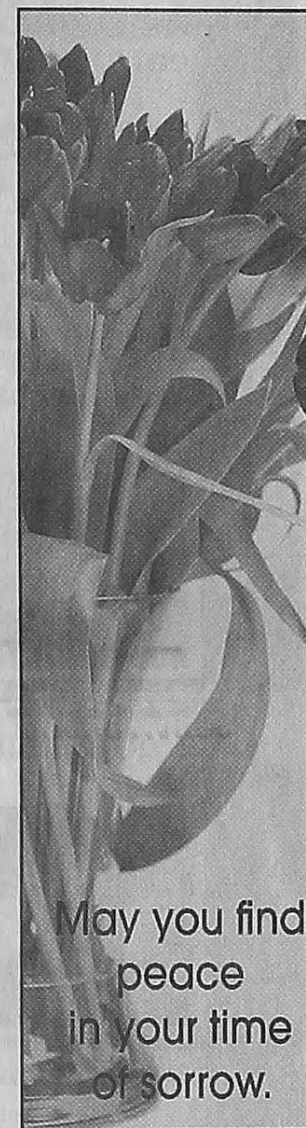
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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

Risak



Edward P. born November 28, 1950, passed on to the next phase of his life Sept 5th 2017 at his home surrounded by his family. Professional artist Edward Peter Risak was a professor and Master of Ceramics, but he was also a beloved husband, exemplary dedicated Father, incredible Grandfather and friend to many. Ed is survived by his wife of 36 years Julie C. Risak, Son and Daughter-in-law Jonas and Ann Clark (Marquette), Son Shane Clark (Marquette), Son Chase Risak and Malia Cole (Marquette) and Daughter Thea Risak of (Marquette). Grandchildren: Jesse Loveland (Traverse City) Alexander Fuller (Jenison) Aden and Jada Clark (Marquette) Additionally, Brothers Paul Risak (Milford) Charles Risak (Hollywood Florida) and sisters Judy Apple (South Bend, Indiana) Molly Risak (Long Beach, California). Ed was born in Park Forest, Illinois to Frank and Anne Risak, and later lived in Birmingham Michigan with 2 brothers and 2 sisters. In his youth he developed a love of hot rods and music from living near the motor city, and he performed in a band as a drummer. He stumbled into a pottery career when a sculpture class was too full, and discovered his true passion: ceramics. Upon graduating from Northern Michigan University with a BFA and MAE, Ed pursued an illustrious career as an artist in Fine Ceramics. His career in the arts stretched from 1974-2017 where he participated in numerous exhibits, art shows, museums, and galleries across the country. His works are on display in the Smithsonian and the Whitehouse as well as numerous other private and corporate collections. Ed and his wife have owned and operated several studios and galleries in Marquette since 1981, and used Marquette as a base of operations to raise their family. They traveled across the country selling their pottery for more than 40 years. Their current gallery is located at 2909 Island Beach Road at the entrance to Presque Isle. Ed developed a specialized metallic glaze which, when fired in the traditional Raku technique, produces incredibly colorful and dynamic pattern. From 2005-2015 he was an assistant professor at Northern Michigan University where he shared his unique knowledge and creativity with his students. Generous, kind, self-determined, exceptionally creative, and with an infectious sense of humor, Ed will be forever missed by his family, many friends, students, collectors of his work and fellow artists. Memorial services open to the public will be held Thursday Sept. 14th 2017 at the Presque Isle Pavilion in Marquette from 6-9pm. In lieu of flowers or gifts Edward's family is suggesting donations in his honor to the hurricane relief funds. www.uppermichigansource.com/content/news/Hurricane-Harvey-Relief-442380083.html Links for suggested donation sights are available at on Ed's www.fassbenderfuneralhome.com



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BOYS TENNIS

Top-ranked Zhang throws zingers at foes

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

Andrew Zhang is one of the country's top junior tennis players.

A hard-hitting southpaw, Zhang is ranked No. 1 in southeast Michigan, No. 4 in the Midwest and No. 12 nationally in the latest United States Tennis Association junior rankings. He is ranked 27th in his recruiting class.

Fortunately for Bloomfield Hills, Zhang opted to play high school tennis in lieu of focusing exclusively on the

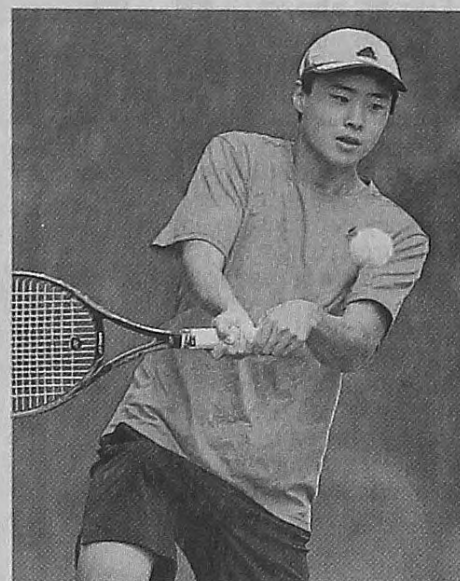
USTA tournament circuit.

Now in his third varsity season, the 16-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident helped lead the Black Hawks to a Division 1 state championship as a freshman and to the state runner-up trophy last year as a sophomore. He's back for another crack at a state title and couldn't be happier to be a member of the loaded Bloomfield Hills squad, which enters the 2017 season as the state's No. 1-ranked team.

"I love playing high school tennis," said Zhang, who's been playing since he

was 8 years old. "It's just a great new, different environment from the USTA, where it is kind of just yourself. You get a whole new scenery playing high school. You have a bunch of great guys out there cheering for you and it's just a great time, a great bonding experience."

"I like both forms of competition a lot, but even though the competition might not be as strong for high school tennis, it is a lot more fun," he added. "The team aspect makes it that way."



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Nationally-ranked Andrew Zhang is playing No. 1 singles for the powerful Bloomfield Hills tennis team.

See ZHANG, Page B2

PICKING UP THE PACE FOR SEASON



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Power skating instructor Kim Muir demonstrates for goalie Ivan Kulbakov how he should move on his skates during an Aug. 28 session at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. Kulbakov is a prospect in the Columbus Blue Jackets system.

Power skating with the (NHL) stars

Kim Muir teaches and reaches hockey players of all ages, sizes, shapes and skill levels

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Pro hockey camps are getting ready to open all over North America and former Detroit Red Wings forward Drew Miller is still trying to find out where he might fit in.

But as long as power skating guru Kim Muir is running sessions in metro Detroit ice rinks, Miller and other pro and college players make sure to book-mark those valuable time slots in their cellphone calendars.

And it doesn't matter that Muir teaches then while wearing figure skates.

"As long as I'm not wearing them,"

Matt Roy, a Canton native and defenseman who this summer signed with the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, said with a laugh.

"When you play in the NHL, you want to stay there," Miller, 33, said during Aug. 28 an afternoon session with Muir and stickhandling coach Kenny Brandt at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. "So you do anything you can to get better and stay at that level. So every year, you got to prove yourself. Any way you can kind of find that edge or improve yourself, you want to find that way to be better."

"Right now, you got young guys

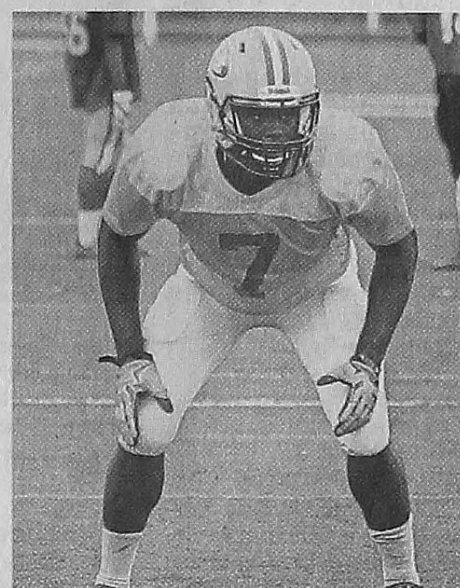
See SKATING, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Longtime Detroit Red Wings player Drew Miller, an MSU alum, pays homage to both of those programs during Kim Muir's training session.

PREP FOOTBALL



MARTY BUDNER

Harrison senior Ovie Oghoufo committed to Notre Dame prior to his junior year and is working hard to develop his game.

Irish-bound Oghoufo is key weapon for Harrison

Star doesn't let allegiance to U-M sway his college choice

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

Ovie Oghoufo was a University of Michigan fan growing up.

Come next spring, however, Farmington Harrison's highly-touted outside linebacker will be playing college football in South Bend, not Ann Arbor.


The 6-foot-3, 210-pound student-athlete verbally committed to play at the University of Notre Dame last summer prior to his junior season. Oghoufo is one of at least a dozen recruits head coach Brian Kelly has landed from the 2018 class and he's looking forward to playing for the Fighting Irish.

"I wasn't really a Notre Dame fan as a kid. I was a Michigan fan," Oghoufo said during a break in Harrison's practice session Monday afternoon. "When I went to Notre Dame for a visit, I just felt like, academically and athletically, I can do the stuff I need to get it done there."

"I just liked the visit and I feel like I have a lot of opportunities over there and that's why I ultimately made the decision to go there," he added. "One of my main goals coming into high school was to go to college for free, so that has worked out well."

Developed under John Herrington,


See OGHOUFO, Page B2



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SKATING

Continued from Page B1

coming up and trying to take your spot. So I'm always trying to improve every day."

Edging ahead

Miller, sporting a combination of Red Wings and Michigan State University gear (he is an MSU alum), started skating with Muir in 2016 after he came off knee surgery. As of last week, the unrestricted free agent was waiting for an NHL team to offer him a tryout.

"It's the little things," Miller said. "She helps you find that little bit of extra speed or, really, work on getting back on your edges, just feeling comfortable again after a summer off."

Muir's proactive, animated teaching style was in full swing as Miller and a handful of others got in some work on how to get faster, quicker and smoother on their blades.

They constantly shifted gears between forward and backward during so-called "mohawk" drills.

"We were doing a lot of edge work, opening up your hips, mohawk turns we call them," said Mike Ferrantino, another MSU alum who last year played for the ECHL's Florida Everblades. "It's just another way to skate and create space for yourself. Hockey is played so fast today, everyone's such good skaters."

Direct approach

The wide-ranging mix of talent levels that Muir easily instructs is a testament to her ability to communicate, demonstrate and have a friendly rapport with the players.

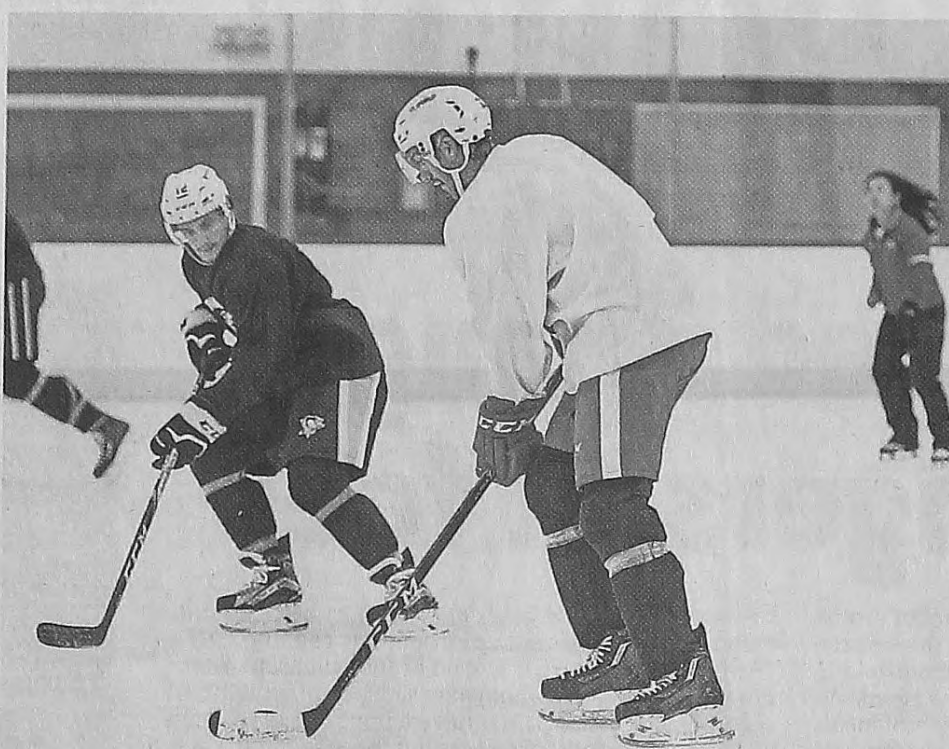
"She's pretty proactive when she teaches," Roy said. "So she'll point where she wants you to go. If you're not going that way, then she'll start physically moving you that way; she makes you aware."

"I think my skating's becoming a little bit more smooth. I think that will just help me playing with the NHL guys, because they're all smooth skaters and they're really fast. You can never improve too much on your skating, so that's what I've been working on."

Last week, Roy traveled to the Los Angeles area to begin Kings rookie camp.

"Plan A, obviously, is to make the Kings," Roy said. "But you know professionals are pretty good, it's not that easy to just go and take a spot. Plan B is the Ontario Reign (AHL team in California). I played there last year at the end of the year so, hopefully, that's a good Plan B for me."

With 25 years of experience, Muir trains everyone from young kids



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
Skating and passing their way down the ice are minor league player Cody Wydo (left) and ex-Wings player Drew Miller. In the background is skating coach Kim Muir.



Michael Babcock began working with Muir when he was young. He is a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central now playing college hockey.

to pro players (last year alone there were 50 NHL players and another 50 minor pro players that she worked with, according to her website).

She's the best

Among other players on the ice Aug. 28 were Novi Detroit Catholic Central hockey player Mike Babcock (now at Merrimack College and son of the ex-Wings coach), Cody Wydo (looking to make Pittsburgh's AHL affiliate), River Rymsha (Dartmouth College) and Antonio Stranges (Little Caesars Under-16 team last year).

"Since we moved to Detroit, I just heard through the grapevine she was the person to go to and I've been working with her ever since," young Babcock said. "The big thing that comes to mind is she's so kind and you have a personal relationship with her."

"I've been fortunate enough, with my dad's job, to have all these options and know who's the best and what to do. I wouldn't be working with Kim if she wasn't the best around. She knows exactly what she's doing."

There were some

younger players working side-by-side with the pros, too. One of them was 15-year-old Stranges of Plymouth. He will play during 2017-18 with the Little Caesars program in Oak Park and has hopes of playing for the U.S. National Team Development Program (based at USA Hockey Arena).

"I've been skating with (Muir) since I was 5 or 6," Stranges said. "What's not to like about her? She's great on edge work and she's got Kenny (Brandt) for stickhandling. It works all around. And skating with older guys (like Miller) is helpful."

Showing the way

The way players of all levels worked together, while Muir — president of Can't Skate, Can't Play and a 25-year instructor of everyone from young kids to NHL players — gave tips on body position and technique. She's not just about skating, although everything revolves around it.

"We stop, correct, we're a very hands-on type of learning," said Muir, who also instructs at Suburban Ice-Farmingington Hills, the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and Plymouth Cultural Center. "So we might physically put your body weight, body position, in the right position instantly, as opposed to directing verbally."

"We do all aspects of learning mechanisms, because everyone learns differently."

Pittsburgh farmhand Wydo, looking to move up from the ECHL to the AHL this year, plans on skating with Muir until he goes to camp in mid-September.

"It's more one-on-one, so you get more reps," Wydo said. "It's easier to transition it into the game and she's been doing it for a really long time. She's got a pretty good background, with

all of her pros that she's been training."

Huntington Woods native Rymsha, 21, said he has been working with Muir the past several summers. During an intricate drill, he and other players skated and flipped crisp passes back and forth without missing a beat.

"You got to handle the puck, you got to be able to skate and pass and shoot all at the same time, especially with the games being played now," Rymsha said. "You got to be able to do a lot of that at a high tempo. By doing that (drill), you get to work on everything."

Kids at heart

For the latter portion of the allotted time on the Olympic ice sheet at USA Hockey Arena, players worked on stickhandling with Muir's longtime assistant coach, Brandt.

"A lot of the hands work, I do moves with the body movements," Brandt said. "So if they're moving properly, it makes the hand stuff better."

"It's good that we get to do this together, so that guys don't have to skate and then find another trainer to do stickhandling, shooting and passing. They can come here and do both at the same time."

That players like Miller and Detroit Red Wings forward Riley Sheahan (who did not make the recent session) are willing to listen intently to such instruction says plenty about their makeup.

"They're all the same," Brandt said. "No matter what age, what level, hockey players are hockey players."

"They're still, even the big guys, are kids. They love the game, they love being out here. Just like my 10-year-olds."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

ZHANG

Continued from Page B1

Zhang is playing No. 1 singles for the Black Hawks this year after two years at No. 2 singles behind three-time team MVP Josh Mukherjee, now at Michigan State. Zhang was an individual state champion last year after placing second in 2015 in his first year of varsity tennis.

Ultimate team player

Veteran Bloomfield Hills head coach Greg Burks indicated Zhang is the ultimate team player.

"Andrew is a phenomenal player and the best part of his game is he can do it all," Burks said. "He can play defense and grind a point out or he can be offensive and finish it, but he can do all that within the same point. He has many assets and weapons to his game."

"He is an excellent player to have on the team. He has a great demeanor with a great attitude," he added. "He is a good team leader and an unbelievable player."

While Zhang is arguably the state's premier player, he is not the only highly-skilled player on the experienced Bloomfield Hills roster.

The Black Hawks have nine returning players in their intimidating starting 14 lineup.

Sophomore Tommy Herb (No. 2), senior Constantine Hemmrich (No. 3) and freshman Andrew Chen (No. 4) compose the rest of the loaded singles lineup behind Zhang.

Herb, who played No. 2 doubles last year, owns an impressive No. 15 Midwest ranking.

Hemmrich is playing the same flight where he won a state title last year and Chen is a promising rookie who rolls into the final singles slot with a No. 124 Midwest ranking.

Also strong at doubles

With two flights returning intact, the doubles teams are just as strong.

The Burman brothers — Midwest ranked juniors Cade (No. 31) and

Sebastain (No. 33) — have joined forces at No. 1 doubles. Sebastian played No. 1 doubles last year, while Cade was at No. 2 doubles. Burks said they are playing "ridiculously strong right now."

Bloomfield Hills' No. 2 doubles team of seniors Vik Chakraborty and Chaz Blamo was a state semifinalist last year.

The No. 4 team of seniors Alex Walkon and Kyle Peres lost in the quarterfinal round of the state tournament last year.

The starting doubles newcomers are senior Chris Sauer and junior Adrian Wilen (No. 3) and senior Santiago Puente and junior Ryan Frank (No. 5).

"I think this team is doing a little bit better than what I thought originally, because we graduated a bunch of good players in a few key spots and I thought there would be more gaps to fill," said Burks, whose team won the Ann Arbor Huron Invitational and is undefeated in duals after blanking a strong Groves team, 9-0, Tuesday.

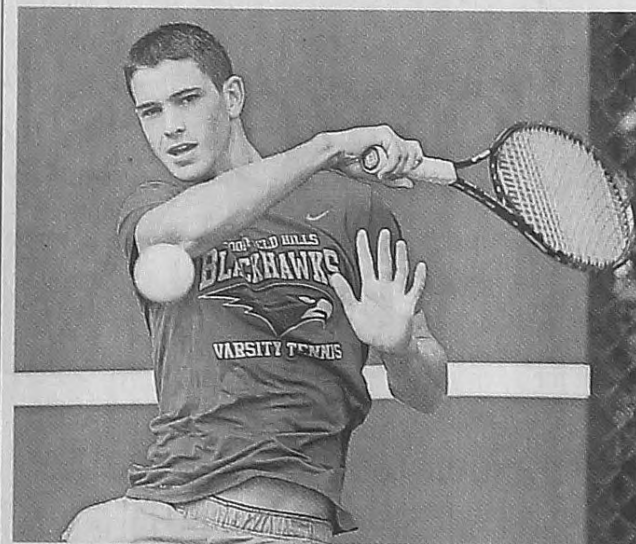
"But everybody worked really hard in the off-season and I'm pleasantly surprised with how everyone has filled in so far. I think we'll be in the thick of things this year. Our singles are very good again and doubles, I feel, are stronger than they were last year."

"But we still have a lot of work to do and we're only a couple of matches into the season, so it's tough to say what the other competition looks like so far," he added. "But I imagine there's a lot of good teams out there and we'll have to work hard to achieve our goals."

Zhang is already looking forward to the state tournament, especially considering last year's runner-up finish.

"It was pretty tough finishing second last year," Zhang said. "But we'll lock in this year and, hopefully, we'll finish the job."

"We have a great group of guys," he added. "I think if we practice right and focus up, we have a very good chance of winning this year. I have good vibes about this team."



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
Bloomfield Hills sophomore Tommy Herb warms up before a recent OAA Red Division match at Birmingham Groves.

OGHOUFO

Continued from Page B1

starting his 48th season as Harrison's head coach, has watched Oghoufo develop the past four years. He believes his talented young recruit will blend in nicely at Notre Dame.

"What I admire about Ovie is that he committed and he's been solid," Harrington said. "He hasn't been looking at every college in the world to see how many people on rivals.com have offered him. He just got an offer from a great school and that's what he wants to do. I wasn't too much a part of that recruiting thing, but I think they just liked him on tape."

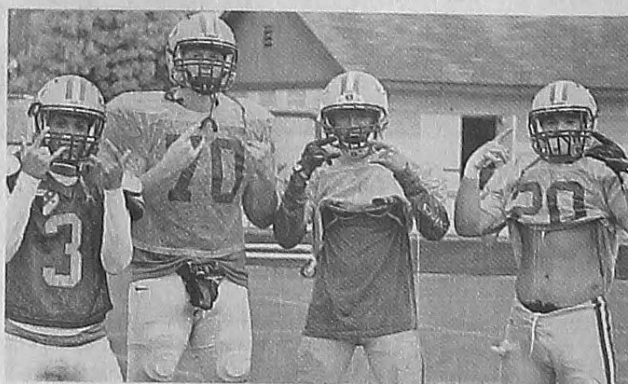
"Plus, I think they liked his character, too. Notre Dame goes for high-character people. I

really believe that," he added. "Plus, they have a kid of ours already there who they really like — Khalid Kareem — and I think that really opened the door for him."

Oghoufo, who also got looks from Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford and Penn State, has been pegged as one of the state's top linebackers.

According to scout.com, Oghoufo is ranked as Michigan's No. 1 outside linebacker and No. 5 in the Midwest. Rivals.com also has Oghoufo graded high — seventh in the state and 34th in the nation at linebacker.

"Notre Dame liked my speed off the edge and my speed from sideline to sideline," Oghoufo said. "They liked my versatility and my ability to play at different sports. That's what they really liked — and my size. It's going to be exciting. I can't wait."



MARTY BUDNER
Farmington Harrison players (from left) Ben Williams, Chris Rexroth, Trey Walker and Divine Filemu have a hands-on opportunity to get the Hawks back into the state playoffs after a one-year absence.

A tough, speedy defender in his third varsity season, Oghoufo's game has steadily improved over the years.

Primarily a defensive end as a sophomore and junior, he developed a reputation as a tough, speedy lineman whom opposing teams quickly learned to avoid. He was

second in tackles as a sophomore and another one of the team's leading tacklers last season.

In the 2017 season opener against East Grand Rapids, Oghoufo, playing as an outside linebacker, led the Hawks with 10 tackles. Oghoufo figures to play a more prominent role on

offense this year and finished with five receptions for 59 yards (11.8 average) against EGR.

"He brings a lot of leadership to our team and he showed that at our game (Aug. 24), where some people may not have taken that game as seriously as he did," said Harrington, whose team lost to East Grand Rapids, 33-8. "On the field, he's pretty tenacious. He can go sideline to sideline and he can get after the quarterback."

"We switched his position because we need him to make plays from the middle of the field and not just have teams run away from him," he added. "It's a work in progress, so we'll see what happens. I think it's going to be good, though."

Even though Harrison dropped its opener on the road, Oghoufo has high ambitions for his final year of high school foot-

ball.

The Hawks, owners of 13 state championships, missed the playoffs last season with a 5-4 record. Oghoufo aims to get Harrison back into the playoffs and entertains high hopes of leading his team to its 14th state championship as it begins its second-to-last year as a football program.

"I want to finish the season with a bang, with a state championship. And doing it for the seniors would be great and doing it for the coaches," Oghoufo said. "The school's going to be closing, so it would be a nice way to end up. That's what I've pretty much been thinking about for the team heading into this season."

"I love it here (at Harrison). It has great tradition. Great coaches," he added. "They really get you ready for the next level."

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL:

Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers eye USPBL title

Last year's loss provides incentive

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers have a shot at redemption.

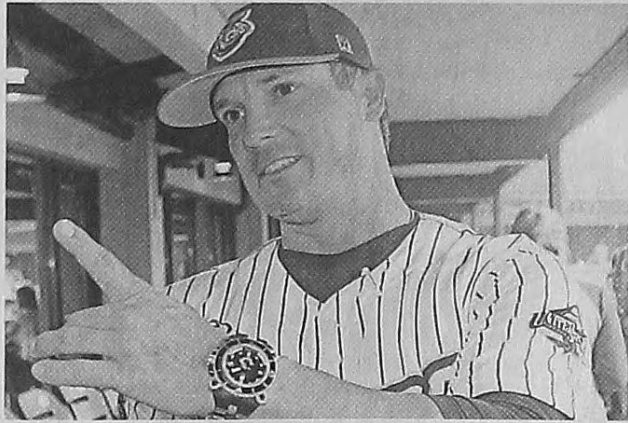
The Beavers will be playing in their second straight United Shore Professional Baseball League championship game, scheduled for 1:35 p.m. Sunday at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. They are hoping for a better result than last year, when they lost to the Utica Unicorns.

Head coach Chris Newell's squad again enters the title game as the top seed after registering the league's best regular-season record.

The Beavers earned the automatic bye into the championship game and will play whichever team advances through the playoff bracket in the single-elimination USPBL championship tournament. Whether it's the Eastside Diamond Hoppers, the league's newest team in the Westside Woolly Mammoths or the defending champion Unicorns, Newell promises the Beavers are eager to win this year's title.

"It's pretty cool to be playing for the league championship again," Newell said. "Anytime you accomplish what we have through the long season, I take a lot of pride in that. We came up one game short last year, but I told them after that game that it was our year, it just wasn't our game."

"That's what we're running up against again this year. It's a one-game elimination and the last place team could very well win it again," he added. "That's why it's tough. I hope I don't have to give the same speech to the guys. We just need to go out and do what we've been doing and we'll be OK."



Birmingham-Bloomfield's second-year manager Chris Newell hopes for better results in this year's USPBL title game.

Different than last year

Birmingham-Bloomfield's path to this year's regular-season title was dramatically different than last year.

After a slow start to the inaugural 2016 season, the Beavers got their act together and shot up to first place and never relinquished that lead. This season, however, Birmingham-Bloomfield faced much more adversity and floundered in the league standings most of the season before putting together a remarkable run to finish with the league's best record at 27-22.

The Beavers won eight of nine games in July, which included a six-game winning streak. They continued their hot play in August with a 7-3 mark. They went 15-4 over those two months to creep right back into the race, finally clinching first place during the final weekend of the regular season.

Birmingham-Bloomfield locked down the top seed despite the fact three of its best players were signed by Major League Baseball-affiliated teams. Starting pitcher Kevin Matthews went to the Atlanta Braves, bullpen ace Kevin Marston to the Minnesota Twins and third baseman Alex Maloney to the Chi-

cago White Sox.

In addition, slick-fielding middle infielder D.J. Martinez was lost for the season three weeks ago with an injury and slugging first baseman Nic Wilson left the team in late July to pursue his education.

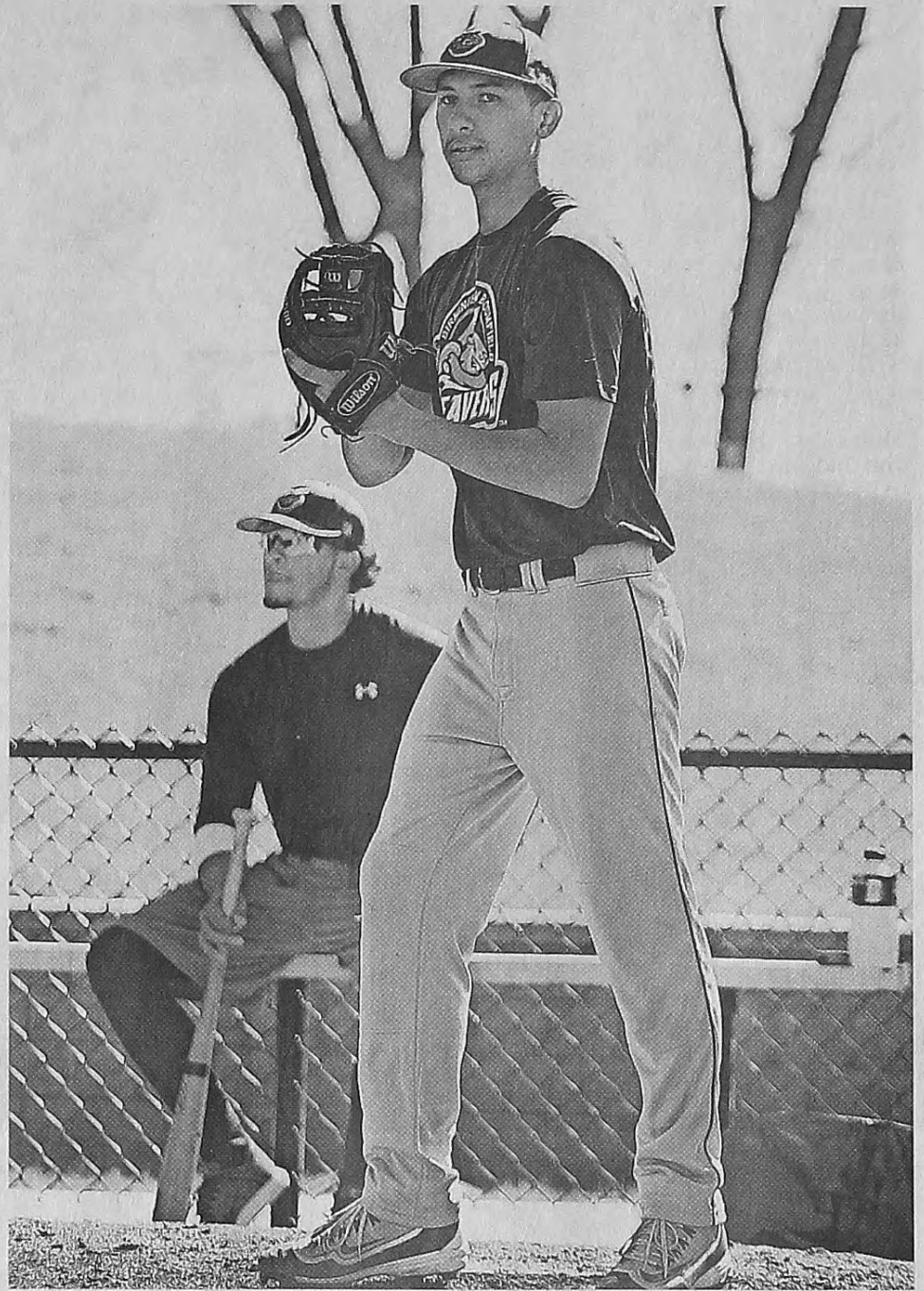
Some key managerial moves

Newell managed to overcome all the disruption by picking up a couple of players who were released by the Utica Unicorns — outfielder Brandon Rawe and pitcher Seth Brenner.

He also had strong performances from a few key players, including Robert Paller, who finished as the team's leading hitter with a .382 average and figures to fight for league MVP honors with teammate Thomas Roulis, who led the Beavers with 59 hits.

Second-year pitcher Randy Wynne, who tied for the league lead in wins (seven) and was among the league leaders in strikeouts (76), is in line to capture his second straight Pitcher of the Year honors.

"Last year was easy. We were just flat out better than everybody and it was proven day in and day out," Newell said. "This year, we've dealt with a lot of adversity. But this team is



Pitcher Randy Wynne had another strong season in leading the Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers to the USPBL championship game.

resilient and and they pick up each other's slack.

"This has just been a crazy, crazy year. If you would have told me in May and in June that we would have finished the regular season with the best record in the league after everything we went through, I don't think anybody would have believed me.

"We started off 0-6

and 5-12 and it wasn't looking good for us," he added. "I made some key changes, got rid of guys who weren't good enough to be at this level and brought in guys who were. And when those guys from the Unicorns got released, I knew I had to get them."

Newell, a Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes graduate, hopes those moves result in a league

championship. But whatever happens, he said it's been a memorable season.

"Whether we win or lose, I've taken so much pride and a liking to this club and I just really hope that we can win for their sake, because of everything they've endured," Newell said. "This is truly, truly a special group and it's been a lot of fun."

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Eagles ready to defend Class D championship

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

When Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity volleyball team got together for its first team meeting, players talked about the purple banner hanging on the gym wall.

They might have even glanced at the 2016 Class D state championship flag, especially three key returnees from that team — senior co-captains Grace Kellogg, Robin Albert and Abigail Pray.

But the 2017 Eagles have a job to do and aren't about to take their pending duties lightly.

"It's pretty exciting to have that experience under our belts," right-side hitter Albert said. "But it's really important that we stay humble and keep working hard. We know that it's possible that we achieve that, but we have to keep working so that we can do that again."

"And, most importantly, honor the Lord in whatever we're doing and playing. The goal isn't the state championship, it's to play for Him."

It's no gimme

Kellogg said the Eagles "definitely have the skill" to make another run at the top.

Of course, nothing is a given in high school sports.

"I want it to happen all over again. That would be fun," Kellogg said. "But we have to work for



D.J. Kellogg

it. It definitely seems like yesterday when that happened."

Although Pray nodded about the current squad having the makings of a great team, she emphasized that they won't get complacent.

That's good news for third-year head coach D.J. Kellogg, who wants his team to again embrace the day-to-day challenge of incremental improvement.

"If I had the same team as last year, and the same exact situations, there's no guarantee you're going to win it," said D.J. Kellogg, who has two heavy-hitting daughters on the squad (Grace and sophomore outside hitter Gabriella). "We talked about it (championship again) as a potential goal, that it's a possibility."

"But after our first team meeting, we haven't talked about, we don't plan to talk about it. We look at it as a byproduct. Our focus is on getting



Plymouth Christian Academy senior captains (from left) Robin Albert, Abigail Pray and Grace Kellogg were all part of last season's Class D state championship.

better."

PCA already is showing it has potential, faring well at a pair of August tournaments and then defeating Class A Plymouth in a recent scrimmage.

Yet for the Eagles to contend in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference and postseason, the senior co-captains will need to perform and help guide their younger teammates.

"With them, we do Bible verses every practice and we do things that have like helped us bond as a team," Pray said. "I think that bringing us close together is going to help us win again."

"We have a lot of talent," Albert said. "A lot

of younger people coming up that have great energy and we have great middle hitters, which I think is a very good asset."

"And Grace and Gabriella on the outside is amazing, as well."

Pray said setting the ball to both Kellogg girls is enjoyable: "It's just fun to watch them pound the ball."

Ready to roll

Plymouth Christian's roster is undergoing a big change, due to graduations. At the top of the list of recent grads are Olivia Mady, libero Divna Roi and Jessica Paulson.

But the 2017 Eagles are pumped up for a new year and new challenge.

"Well we definitely lost a lot of people, but we have just the same amount of talent this year," Grace Kellogg said. "I think we can accomplish the same thing. And all the girls we have have so much skill."

"We just know that we have to work for it, just because we have skill doesn't mean we're going to win it again. Like Robin said, just play for Him every game is still the most important thing."

The Eagles definitely have potential to have another strong season.

The front row is a big reason. Junior Elise Miera is so strong in the middle that coach Kellogg opted to move Ga-

briella Kellogg to the outside. Another talented blocker in the works is sophomore Caitlin Warnhuis.

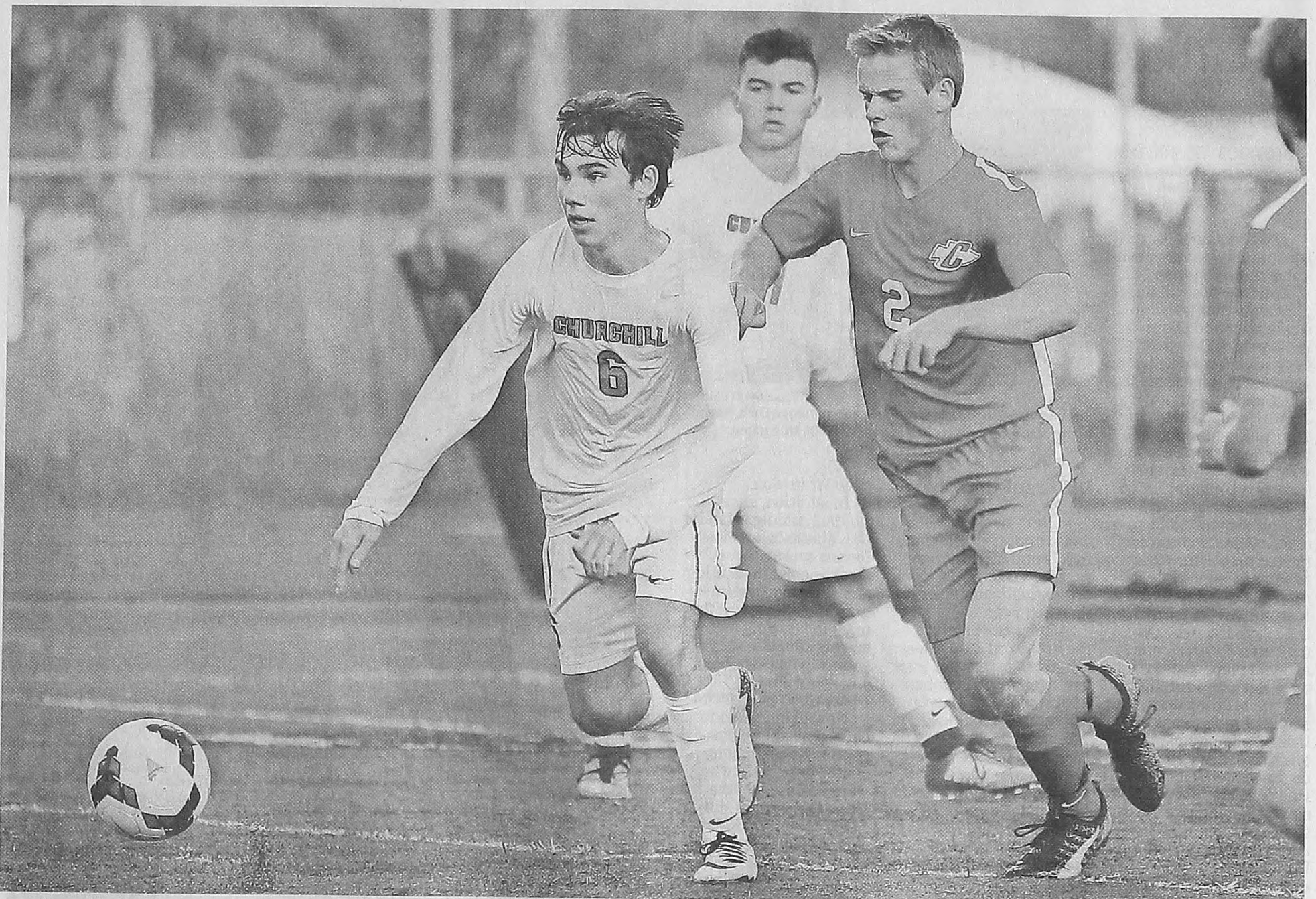
"They're all utility players," the coach said. "So any one of them can swing at any location."

As for succeeding Roi, several defensive specialists could be in the mix. But sophomore Madison Raymond (who was pulled up to varsity during the title run) so far is at the top of the depth chart, starting at the recent tournaments.

The fun gets going once again Sept. 12 at Southfield Christian.

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BOYS SOCCER



Livonia Churchill's Logan McCulley (left) chases the ball Tuesday night. Right behind him is Canton's Brett McGue.

ED HENGESH | EXPRESS PHOTO

Chargers fight back with late goal to forge draw against Canton

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

For the Livonia Churchill varsity boys soccer team, Tuesday's 1-1 tie against Canton might have felt like a victory as the Chargers scored with just 3:53 remaining.

The visiting Chiefs held a 1-0 lead for almost the entire second half — following freshman midfielder Nick Yono's goal in the final minutes of the first half — but could not add to the lead when they had chances.

Churchill senior goalkeeper Adam Sinclair sprawled to block a dangerous odd-man rush attempt by junior Justin Gottschalk.

That gave the Chargers enough hope to at least come away with a tie, which they did when senior Meritan Jusufi chipped a shot over the head of Canton senior goalkeeper David Sadanowicz.

"It was fun. We needed that, especially coming off the long weekend,"

Churchill head coach Matt Grodzicki said. "I think both teams were a little sluggish at the beginning. But it feels good to come away with a point against an awesome program like Canton."

The Chargers still are looking for that first KLAA victory and now are 0-2-1 in the conference. But Grodzicki sees positive momentum starting to grow.

"We've run a pretty tough gauntlet with Stevenson, Brighton and now Canton," Grodzicki said. "We're looking to get that win. I'm excited, this will hopefully jump start us."

Canton's Mark Zemanski said his team (2-0-3 overall, 2-0-1 in the KLAA) just could not close the deal when there were chances to extend its lead in the second half. And the tying goal was due to a simple defensive mistake.

"We didn't finish," he said. "I thought we got a little selfish. I thought if we hadn't, we would have had a couple easy goals and we didn't. We have

to learn from it and grow.

"We talk about always marking in the defensive third and, obviously, somebody one let their mark go and he scored. That's how it happens sometimes."

Grodzicki admitted the tying goal wasn't the prettiest, but it was a beauty all the same.

"It looked like a little scrum, we got a flick, the keeper was out of position," he said. "Just over his head, it was one of those. And we needed it."

Here are some takeaways from the contest:

HE'S A FRESHMAN

The Chiefs went up a goal late in the first half when Yono scored with a 20-yard blast from in front of the Churchill goal. Despite only being a ninth-grader, Yono consistently saw playing time in important situations, such as taking corner kicks.

"He's an excellent player, he's a

special player," Zemanski said. "He's got great skills, good vision, moves the ball well and has a nice shot."

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Sadanowicz kept the game scoreless about 10 minutes into the first half, when he acrobatically knocked away Anthony Paul's penalty kick.

Later in the half, Sadanowicz stopped Justin Jenkins and also got in front of the rebound try, taken by Paul at the left side of the goal.

"That kid made two or three of the best saves I've seen on this field in a long time," Grodzicki said. "The PK and the second one on the goal line minutes later, it was fun to watch."

FEELS LIKE AUTUMN

A cool rain fell in the 30 minutes before game time, but it was perfect September weather the rest of the evening for the teams and their fans.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

OAA RESULTS

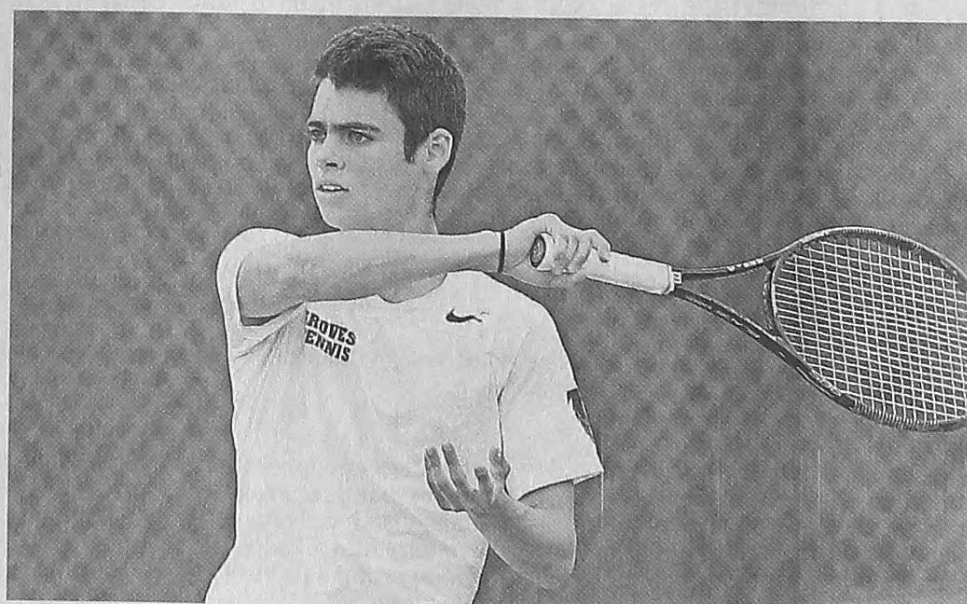
Boys soccer

NORTH FARMINGTON 3, WEST BLOOMFIELD 0: North Farmington goalie Zach Shuk made several big saves Sept. 6 to secure this victory. The Raiders' goal scorers were Matthew Swartout (two) and Cole Arnold. North lifted its overall record to 4-2-1 and its OAA White mark to 2-1.

BERKLEY 3, NORTH FARMINGTON 2: The teams were tied 1-1 at halftime, but the host Bears outscored the Raiders on Sept. 5 at Hurley Field. North held a 1-0 lead when Matthew Swartout finished a rebound shot by Andrew George. In the second half, North went ahead on a penalty kick shot by Easton Cummins. Berkley mustered the final two goals for the win.

Boys tennis

BLOOMFIELD HILLS 9, BIRMINGHAM GROVES 0: Visiting Bloomfield Hills, the state's No. 1-ranked team, won all nine matches in straight sets Sept. 5 in an OAA Red Division battle. At No. 1 singles, junior Andrew Zhang defeated Groves junior Gabe Liss in a match up of highly-ranked USTA Midwest ranked players, 6-1, 6-0. At No. 1 doubles, the Burman brothers, Cade and Sebastian, defeated the Falcons duo of Aerik Joe and Ari Sherman by identical 6-2 scores. "I think (Bloomfield Hills) is going to be No. 1 or 22 in the state in Division 1," Groves head coach Dave Farmer said. "They have a lot of USTA-sanctioned players. They are solid and they make you pay for every mistake, especially in doubles."



Birmingham Groves tennis player Gabe Vidinas is playing No. 2 singles this season for head coach Dave Farmer.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

NORTH FARMINGTON 4, LAKE ORION 4: In this OAA White Division match Aug. 31, North Farmington swept the doubles matches in straight sets. The winning Raiders teams were senior co-captain Sri Srinivasan and Tyler Poirier (No. 1), senior co-captain Keith Jackson and Nick Cherney (No. 2), Mitchell Alekman and Jackson Jozwiak (No. 3) and John Goodwin and Keegan Kenrick (No. 4).

Boys cross country

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES INVITATIONAL: Brother Rice finished ninth in the recent Golden Grizzle Invitational at Oakland University. Saline won with 90 points, followed by Oxford (109) and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (119). The Warriors scored 177 points. Rice senior John Tremonti won the 4,000-meter race in 12:29 and teammate Alec Miracle also managed a top 10 finish with a time of 12:56, as good for ninth. Dan Serra (43rd), Jacob Hannawa (60th) and Joe Berg (64th) were Rice's other scorers.

OAA WHITE DIVISION JAMBOREE

NO. 1: Rochester Hills Stoney Creek captured top honors Sept. 6 at Royal Oak High School. The Cougars won with 40 points, followed by Farmington (56), Royal Oak (69), Bloomfield Hills (95), North Farmington (127), Troy Athens (135) and West Bloomfield (158). Farmington's Nick Trevisan won with a time of 15:56.1 and North Farmington's Robert Irwin was third at 16:44.9. Josh Saba (sixth) and Matt Dennison (eighth) also had top 10 finishes for the Falcons. Bloomfield Hills' leading runner was Jacob King, who placed 10th in 17:26.0.

Girls cross country

OAA WHITE DIVISION JAMBOREE

NO. 1: Like the boys, the Stoney Creek girls raced to top honors Sept. 6 at Royal Oak High School. The Cougars had five runners among the top 10 and dominated with 34 points. Bloomfield Hills was second with 56 points, followed by Farmington (89), Royal Oak (100), Troy Athens (144), North Farmington (150) and West Bloomfield (171). Farmington's Abby Inch was the individual champion with a time of 19:08.2 and North Farmington's Whitney Reid was third in 20:15.4. Bloomfield Hills' Shelby Jenkins was fifth (20:20.1) and teammate Evelyn Sorgenfrei was 10th (21:26.1).

Field hockey

MARIAN 2, NOVI 0: Visiting Marian scored a goal in each half to blank Novi on Sept. 5. Kate Biglin and Lexi Jonna netted the Mustangs' goals.

PREP ROUNDUP

Novi, Northville earn KLAA volleyball wins

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LIV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.



Volleyball

NOVI 3, CHURCHILL 1: Senior setter Erin O'Leary recorded 10 kills, 43 assist-to-kills and four aces on Sept. 5 as the two-time defending Division 1 champion Wildcats (12-1, 1-0) turned back Livonia Churchill in a KLAA crossover, 25-15, 23-25, 25-17, 25-15.

Also chipping in for Novi included Shannon Jennings (seven kills, 12 digs) and Claire Pinkerton (17 digs).

NORTHVILLE 3, PLYMOUTH 0: On Sept. 5, Michael VanAcker led a balanced hitting attack with seven kills, while Rachel Holmes and Gabi Fiset combined for 29 assists as the Mustangs

(9-3, 2-0) defeated the Wildcats in a KLAA crossover, 25-18, 25-10, 25-13.

Other standouts for Northville included Hannah Grant (seven digs, three aces), Jenna Boksha (six digs), Clare McNamara (five kills, five digs) and Jessica Hogan (five kills).

Plymouth standouts included Kenna White (12 kills, six digs) and Lauren Wheeler (15 assists).

HARTLAND 3, SALEM 0: On Sept. 5, the visiting Rocks fell short 25-10, 25-12, 25-19. Senior Calee Nesler and sophomore Ava Billamoria led the team with five kills each.

Boys soccer
NORTHVILLE 8,

WAYNE 0: Felipe McCarthy and Owen Marshall each tallied a pair of goals on Sept. 5 as the Mustangs (5-0-1, 3-0) defeated host Wayne Memorial in a KLAA crossover.

Other Northville goal scorers included Andrew Mitchell, Adam Silberg, June Kim and Jacob Tremonti. Sophomore goalkeeper Robert Dameron got the shutout.

SALEM 1, HARTLAND 0: The Rocks prevailed in a KLAA match on Sept. 5.

PLYMOUTH 5, HOWELL 1: Scottlar Chakrabarty scored three goals on Sept. 5 to spark the Wildcats (3-0-0, 2-0) to this KLAA victory at Howell.

Girls swimming

SALEM 132, CHURCHILL 53: On Sept. 5 at Livonia Churchill, the Rocks prevailed as a number of performers dropped times.

Girls golf

FRANKLIN 178, SALEM 190: On Sept. 6 at

Idyl Wild Golf Course in Livonia, the host Patriots came away with a KLAA victory.

Franklin was led by match medalist Summer Horen, who registered a 42. Other Patriot finishers were Sophia Wygonik (44), Sofia Cueva (45), Olivia Napier (47), Stephanie Cueva (53) and Sarah Iler (57).

For Salem, senior Nicole Hahn shot a 45. Julianne Small and Megan Kozlowski each scored 47s while other finishers included Ryleigh Reed (50), Ally Walker (55) and Sarah Stec (58).

NOVI 172, CHURCHILL 180: On Sept. 6 at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia, the Wildcats were paced by match medalist Abby Livingston (39) and Lea Kiura (41). Chipping in with a 44 was Despina Alexander.

For the host Chargers, leading performers were Ashley Harlock (44), Kelsie Nowicki and Macey Reese (45 each).

Boys tennis

SALEM 5, STEVENSON 4: On Sept. 6 at Livonia Stevenson, the Rocks earned a KLAA victory.

Leading Salem was 1 singles player Eric Liu, who remains undefeated for the season. He won 6-0, 6-0.

Other Salem wins were scored by Jason Zheng (2 singles), Ajay Bharathan (4 singles), the 1 doubles tandem of Andrew Clarke-Khush Patel and the 4 doubles tandem of Roenik Master-Rahul Rao.

Stevenson victories were earned by Caleb Williamson at 3 singles, Brian Stemen-Abe Alrabady (2 doubles), Alec Said-Anthony Akel (3 doubles) and Dillan Pri-bak-Tom Andrews (5 doubles).

Boys cross country

WAYNE MEMORIAL 27, SOUTH LYON 30: In a double dual at Wayne Memorial, the Zebras were spearheaded to victory by the 1-2 of sen-

ior John Gatton and junior Jonathan Boland (each with 18:11 times), followed by sophomore Trent Griffith (fourth, 18:59).

The Zebras also defeated Garden City in the second double dual, 16-47.

GOLDEN GRIZZLY: Salem won the Golden Grizzly Tournament Sept. 1 at Oakland University with 90 points, with senior Ryan Exell and junior Luke Haran finishing seventh and 12th, respectively.

MUSTANG INVITATIONAL: Canton finished first in the underclassmen race, edging host Northville 87-90. Grant Hoffmeyer (sixth, 17:48), Garret Nagelhout (seventh, 17:55) and Drew LaBelle each received medals for their performances. Nagelhout's time made him the fastest Canton freshman in the race by over 20 seconds.

In the upperclassmen race, the Chiefs struggled to an 11th-place finish.

PREP FOOTBALL

Canton steamrolls past rival Plymouth, 47-14

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Canton rocked new alternate uniforms Sept. 1 against Plymouth and the Chiefs might not want to give them up after rolling to a 47-14 victory in an early season match-up of campus football rivals.

"We might (wear them) for the home games; they're good luck," Canton coach Tim Baechler said with a smile. "At least for right now they are."

Chiefs senior running back Steven Walker started the Canton party when he scored on a 49-yard run at the 17-second mark of the game. By halftime, it was a 40-7 lead as the young Wildcats could not contain Canton's multi-faceted and experienced attack.

The Chiefs racked up 578 yards total offense compared to just 129 for Plymouth.

There also was a huge margin in first downs (27-2) in Canton's favor as the Chiefs bounced back from their loss Aug. 26 to Muskegon Mona Shores in the Battle at the Big House.

"That's what we want to do, get that first score out of the way," Baechler said about the opening Walker touchdown. "Come out, kind of set policy with what we're doing. Hit it fast."

"Defensively, I was very happy how we played the run. I think both my inside backers really played well, Lou Baechler and Aaron Garbarino. And our D-line held up and our defensive backs made some plays."

When Walker scored from the 1-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter, that opened up a 47-7 lead and briefly set up a running clock scenario.

Spoiling that plan, at least for a while, was Plymouth's Calvin Vos — who on the second play of the quarter scored on a 73-yard kickoff return to make it 47-14.

"They executed and we didn't," Plymouth coach Mike Sawchuk said. "They were more physical than we were, they were the better team tonight. No doubt about it."

"You can tell kids who have never played Canton at the varsity level a million times. If you don't read your keys and



Canton QB Connor Engel holds off Plymouth defender Logan Walkley.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

you're not physical and you don't do what you're supposed to do, it can get real crappy real quick."

But Sawchuk said it was "a good sign" that the young Wildcats played a stronger second half, giving up only one touchdown.

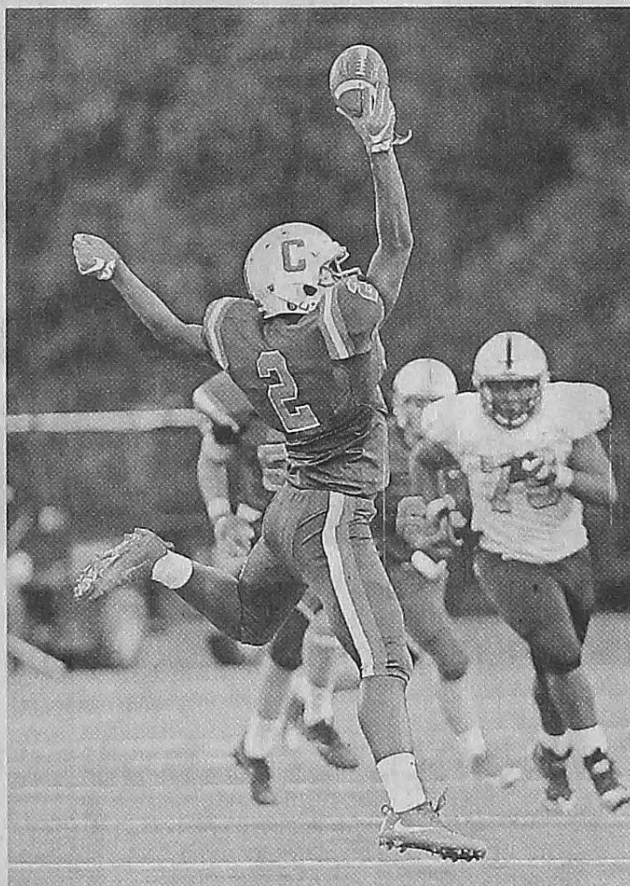
Although a number of players had big nights for the Chiefs, senior Colin Troup had the biggest. He scored three times and came through with a clutch interception, plus had 160 yards total offense.

His first touchdown was a 77-yard catch-and-run, turning a pass over the middle from quarterback Conner Engel (7-of-9 passing, 190 yards) into a dazzling TD.

"It feels really good, but our offensive line really stepped up," Troup said. "We all stepped up from a tough loss last week and I think we all did really good and I'm glad that we came out with the victory."

"When Walker scored off the bat I think that really boosted our motivation."

Following are takeaways from the game, which improved Canton's record to 1-1 while dropping



Canton's Noah Brown makes a one-handed catch on a pass from QB Connor Engel.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

plying Plymouth to 0-2:

GAINING GROUND
Walker and William Hall (two TDs) were

strong in the running game, with 127 and 115 yards, respectively.

"We came off the ball and moved people a little

bit better," Baechler said. "Our backs blocked a little better for each other and they ran a little harder today."

THREE-FOR-THREE

There were three TDs on three plays in the first quarter, with Plymouth's TD (a 59-yard run by Carson Miller) sandwiched by two Canton scores.

Opening up the sequence with 4:19 to go in the first quarter was Troup with his 77-yarder. After Miller's immediate response, Canton made it a 21-7 game with 3:51 remaining, when Hall broke through the line for a 26-yard TD.

HONORING BEAMAN

Before the game district historian and long-time Central Middle School teacher/coach Mark LaPointe announced words of tribute to the late Scott Beaman. A moment of silence followed.

Beaman, who died from cancer Aug. 31, first taught at the old Plymouth High School in 1966 and was a longtime history teacher at Salem, as well as an "ever-present" fixture at Park athletic events in recent

years.

Salem will be inducting Beaman posthumously into the school's Wall of Fame later this month.

The crowd also paid a moment of silence to the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana.

DIFFERENT LOOK

Canton players came out before the game wearing new, third jerseys — dark gray with red numbers. The team opted not to break out the uniforms Aug. 26 in the Battle at the Big House and instead waited for the Plymouth rivalry match-up.

"I love 'em," Troup said. "They're sweet. Coach Baechler surprised us with them and he's the best coach ever."

SLOW-ARRIVING CROWD

With the first day of school still four days away and with the Labor Day weekend, the bleachers were not packed to their usual capacity for the contest. The fans kept arriving during the first half, however.

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PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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SARAH DUNN

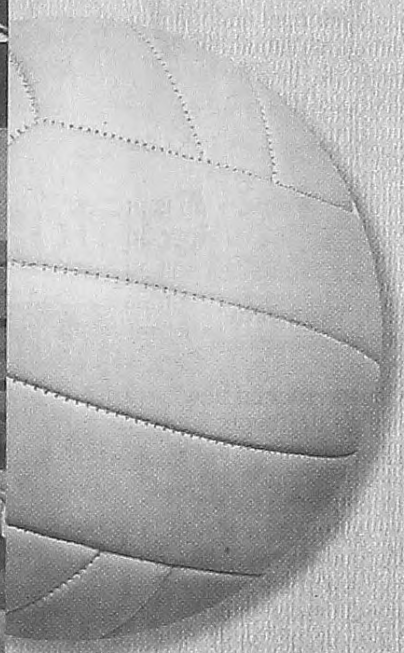
**VOLLEYBALL
SOPHOMORE
LIVONIA CHURCHILL CHARGERS**

WHAT SHE DID: Dunn, an outside hitter, made a big impact as the Chargers defeated Salem 3-1 in the Aug. 29 season opener. She powered the attack with 21 kills and chipped in defensively with 19 digs.

HOW SHE WON: Voters favoring Dunn built a healthy lead on Tuesday over Bloomfield Hills Marian volleyball player Lauren Wenzel and her lead never was threatened into Wednesday – despite a late push by supporters of

Canton football player Colin Troup. In the final tabulation, Dunn tallied 7,590 votes (36.5 percent) while Troup roared into second place with 6,030 votes (29 percent). Wenzel placed third with 5,357 votes (25.75 percent).

WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT BEING NAMED AOW: “I never thought I would have been nominated yet have won but I am very happy to compete with these other athletes,” said Dunn in an email to Hometown Life. “I just went out there and played my game and did what I needed to do and good things happened,” she said about the performance. Her older sister, Anabelle, also is on the Churchill volleyball team and led the cheers on social media during the voting period. “I think she will be proud of me,” Sarah Dunn said.



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YOUR LOCAL JOB LISTING FROM LIVONIA OBSERVER

How to get a job without connections

BY PETER JONES
THEJOBNETWORK.COM

Networking is probably the number one way to get yourself a job if you are looking. Referrals account for nearly 40 percent of all hires — and referred employees often get jobs quicker and make more money out of the gate. But what if you don't have anyone to refer you to a particular company or within a particular industry? If this is the case, then you'll need to figure out how to get a job without connections. Luckily, we've got the right information to accomplish that.

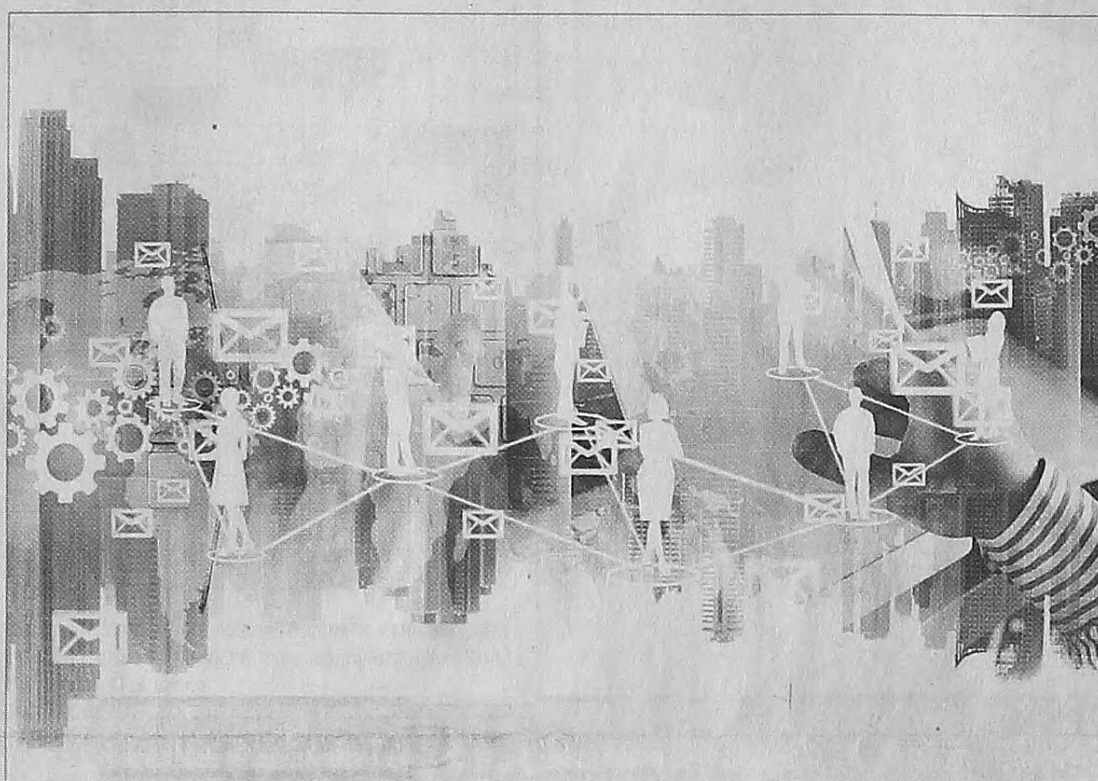
Here are four steps to follow to help you get a referral even if you lack the relevant connections.

1. Find an influencer

Once you've determined there's a job opening somewhere, find someone who has influence on the hiring process for that position. Search for the position you want and the company you want on a site like LinkedIn until you find your influencer.

2. Make contact

Find the contact information for that person and get in touch to set up a time to chat. This is just normal networking, remember? Keep it short, sweet and to the point.



GETTY IMAGES

Address the new contact by name, briefly explain that you're interested in working in their company, but ask only for advice. Throw in some modest, subtle flattery to sweeten them up and politely request a quick coffee (your treat) to pick their brain. You can use "Quick question" as your subject line.

If you don't get a reply, don't badger them — and don't worry. Just find yourself another influencer in the same company — or for a different

job entirely, and try again. If or when you do get a meeting, make sure to do plenty of homework first. That means researching the company, the field, the contact, etc.

3. Prep your question

The absolute most important question you need to ask is this: "What is the biggest challenge your team is facing right now?" That question will make all the difference between awkward small talk and giving your new contact

the opportunity to open up and talk about something that matters to him or her — and something that will be extremely informative and helpful to you. Dig in. Listen hard. And send a thoughtful thank-you note.

4. Strategize your solution

You've heard from your influencer (and new contact) what their biggest challenge is. Now figure out their solution. Reach out, research,

think inside and outside the box. Put yourself in their team's shoes and consider things from every conceivable angle. Once you've got a great idea, make sure to test it through all the possible hypotheticals you can come up with. Then craft a detailed and elegant proposal.

You're going to send this proposal to your influencer. Start a casual email, with an extra thank you for the coffee date, then say that you've been thinking about the conversation and mulling through their situation. Explain that you've come up with a proposal to help solve their problem. It's gutsy, of course, but if your idea is good — even if it isn't perfect — it will show your value, and your influencer will most likely share it with his or her team.

If any or all of this goes your way, you'll be able to follow up by inquiring about any open opportunities on this person's team (knowing already that there is one). Best case scenario: instant referral. Worst case scenario: You've netted yourself a new contact or two.

Peter Jones is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com, where this article was originally published. He investigates and writes about current strategies, tips and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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Hella Corporate Center USA, Inc.
43811 Plymouth Oaks Blvd
Plymouth, MI 48170

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Move springingly
 - 7 — mater
 - 11 Impact sound
 - 15 Outfielder Slaughter
 - 19 With 49-Across, it's between Greece and Turkey
 - 20 Hive buzzers
 - 21 Moniker for Lincoln
 - 23 Automobiles that are really dirty?
 - 25 Edited work
 - 26 Tooth doctors' org.
 - 27 — Fridays (dining chain)
 - 28 "The Matrix" actor eases pain?
 - 30 Draw up new boundaries for
 - 32 Apple's mobile devices run on it
 - 33 Olds antique
 - 34 WNW's opposite
 - 35 Showy flight maneuvers done by some birds?
 - 40 Boy band of pop
 - 42 Geologic time periods
 - 43 Suffix with Wisconsin
 - 44 — Schwarz
 - 45 Traffic sign
 - 49 See 19-Across
 - 50 Deep-down faiths?
 - 55 Sound, as an argument
 - 59 "That's clear"
 - 60 Cloning material
 - 61 Auto tankful
 - 62 Alligator's cousin
 - 65 Bit of design info
 - 67 Persian Gulf country
 - 69 Serenade your purveyor?
 - 73 Horse riding movements
 - 74 Bedazzle
 - 75 Events with witnesses
 - 76 NY hours
 - 77 Lyric-penning Gershwin
 - 79 Longtime youth org.
 - 81 Skilled in
 - 85 "Whatever happened to your faith?"
 - 90 Vow for the nuptials
 - 91 What might follow "tra"
 - 92 Bit of body ink
 - 93 Fertility clinic cells
 - 94 Ring sealing a junction
 - 97 Seizes
 - 100 Give some yuletide moisture?
 - 103 Mrs., in France
 - 106 "— and Stimp"
 - 107 Depressed
 - 108 Chaise spot
 - 109 Test done by a marine aquarium keeper?
 - 114 Suffix with 36-Down
 - 115 Diner bill
 - 118 Providing nourishment
 - 119 Bill of fare at an outdoor eatery on a clear night?
 - 122 Had profits equaling losses
 - 123 Helen of —
 - 124 Grippers on golf shoes
 - 125 Soup containers
 - 126 For fear that
 - 127 Besides that
 - 128 Grammar of "Frasier"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Qué —?"
 - 2 Necessary. Abbr.
 - 3 Oceano filler
 - 4 Tchr.'s union
 - 5 W. Coast engineering school
 - 6 Puzzles
 - 7 Easy as —
 - 8 Tap mishap
 - 9 Piddling
 - 10 Tear into
 - 11 Drive- (pickup windows)
 - 12 One using a weeding aid
 - 13 Promoted insufficiently
 - 14 Dallas' — Plaza
 - 15 Major finale?
 - 16 Easily fooled
 - 17 Reed instruments
 - 18 Get a feeling
 - 22 Offshoot
 - 24 Zoologist
 - 29 Fossey
 - 30 Refusals
 - 30 Rocker
 - 31 — dieu (paw addition)
 - 35 Real pain
 - 36 Sword type
 - 37 Part of S&L
 - 38 See 121-Down
 - 39 City on Utah Lake
 - 40 Scot's refusal
 - 41 Longtime CBS show
 - 44 Least restricted
 - 46 Forum robes
 - 47 Studio sign
 - 48 "Hey ... you"
 - 50 Sci-fi captain
 - 51 Nature
 - 52 Gym set
 - 53 Rubber stamp go-with network
 - 54 Charles de — Airport
 - 56 Skin woe
 - 57 Ziploc item
 - 58 Pen fixtures?
 - 63 "— longa ..."
 - 64 "Maybe later"
 - 66 Inferior dog
 - 68 Faint cloud
 - 69 Obama girl
 - 70 PC chip giant
 - 71 Anesthetize
 - 72 Chanteuse Edith
 - 73 Cry weakly
 - 78 Watchful
 - 80 Opposite of 95-Down
 - 82 — torch (lalu lamp)
 - 83 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
 - 84 Little 'uns
 - 86 Tattle (on)
 - 87 Owns
 - 88 "— had it!"
 - 89 Frontier figure Wyatt
 - 94 Took ill
 - 95 Just slightly
 - 96 — pitch
 - 98 Palmer of the links
 - 99 Actor Harvey
 - 100 Nursery cry
 - 101 "— Fideles"
 - 102 Greet
 - 103 "Hardball" network
 - 104 Tierney of "Liar Liar"
 - 105 Rocker John
 - 107 Fragrance
 - 110 Ticks off
 - 111 Part of YSL
 - 112 PC key abbr.
 - 113 Evil group in "Get Smart"
 - 115 Caddy picks
 - 116 Initial stake
 - 117 Not at all idle
 - 120 Seedy loaf
 - 121 With 38-Down, old New York Giants great

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19										20				21			22
23																	
26																	
35	36	37															
42																	
49																	
55																	
69	70																
73																	
76																	
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91																	
103	104	105															
109																	
118																	
122																	
125																	

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

RENOVATE & REPAIR WORD SEARCH

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

- WORDS**
- AMPERAGE
 - APPLIANCE
 - ARCHITECT
 - ASBESTOS
 - BACKFILL
 - BEAM
 - BONDING
 - CAULKING
 - CODE
 - CONSTRUCTION
 - CONTRACTOR
 - DOWNSPOUT
 - DRYWALL
 - ENERGY
 - FITTING
 - FLOORING
 - FURNACE
 - IMPROVE
 - LOAD-BEARING
 - PERMIT
 - PLUMBING
 - POWER
 - REBAR
 - REMOVE
 - REPLACE
 - RESTORATION
 - RETROFIT
 - SEPTIC
 - SEWER
 - STUDS
 - TECHNOLOGY
 - TILE
 - WALLS
 - WINDOWS
 - WIRING
 - WOOD

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

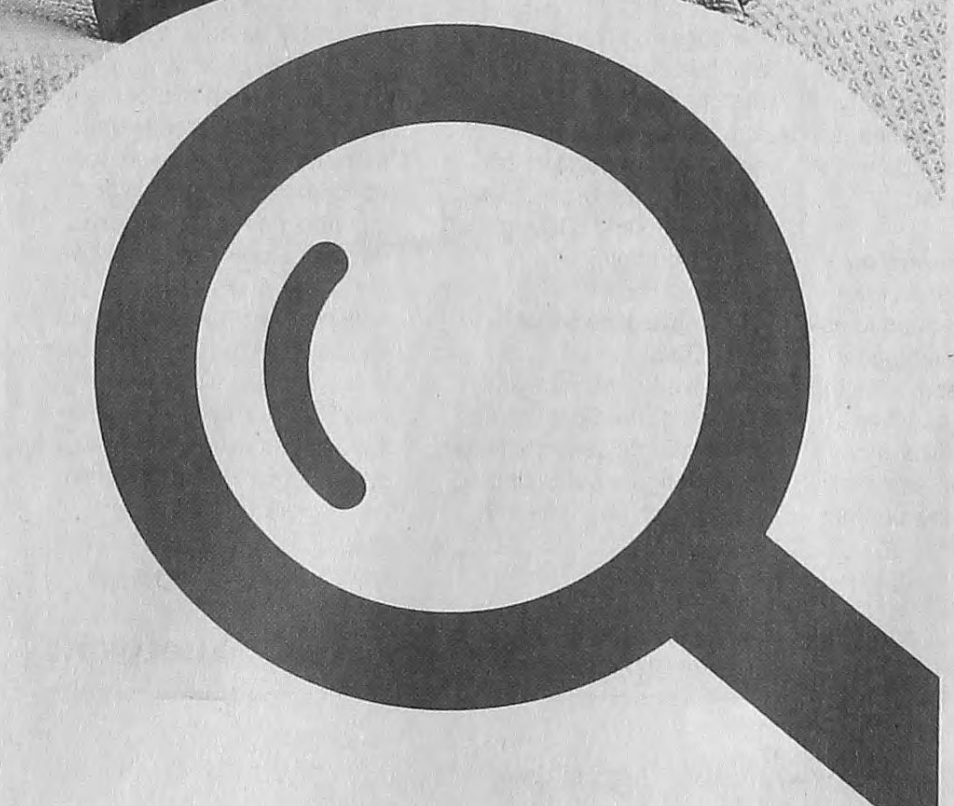
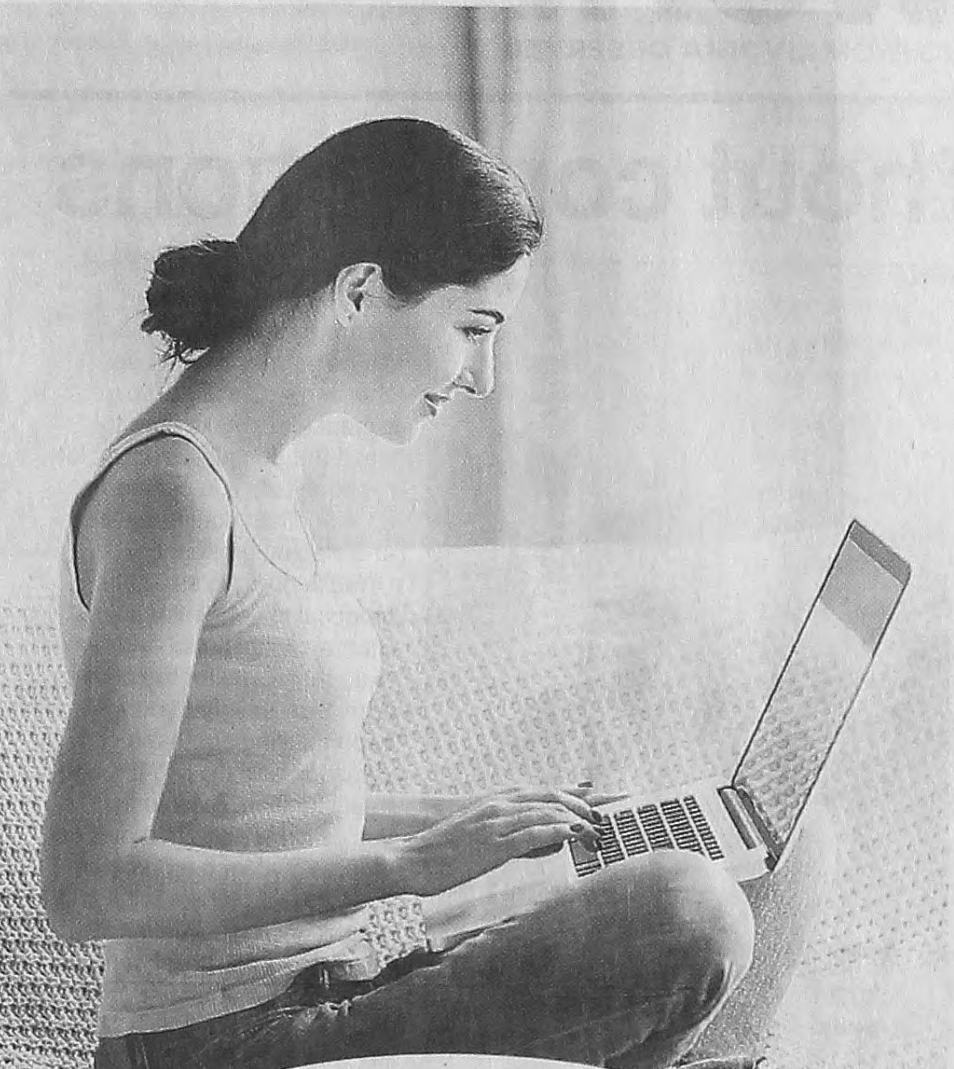
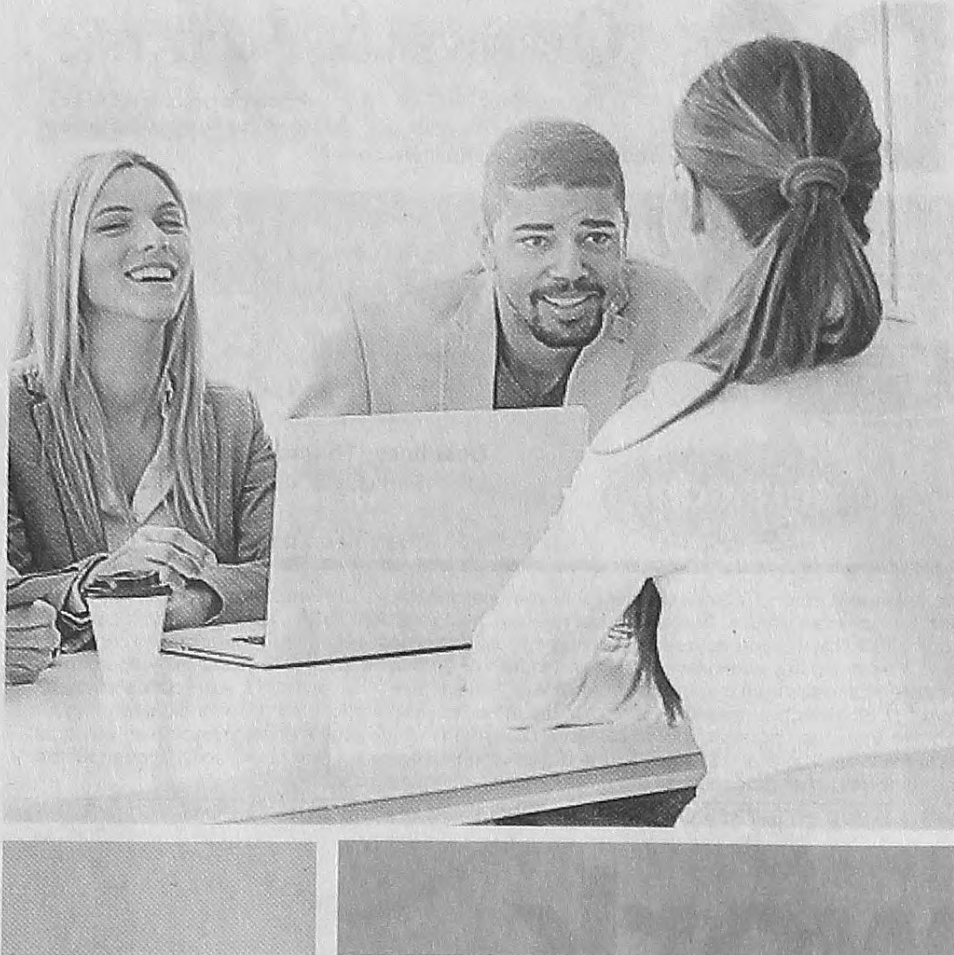
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

PRANCE ALMA THUD ENOS
 AEGEAN BEES HONESTABE
 SQUALID GARS REDACTION
 ADA TIGI KEANURE LIVES
 REMAP LOS REO ESE
 PELICANROLLS NSYNC
 EPOCHS ITE FAO STOP
 SEA NETHERRELIGIONS
 TENABLE ISEE DNA GAS
 CAIMAN SPEC KUWAIT
 SINGFORONESSUPPLIER
 MANAGE STUN TRIALS
 ESTIRA YMCA ADEPTAIT
 WHERESTHE LIEF GASKET
 LALA TAT OVA GASKET
 TAKES WATERHOLLIES
 MME REN SAD PATIO
 SALINITYCHECK IST TAB
 NUTRITIVE STARLITMENU
 BROKEEVEN TROY CLEATS
 CANS LEST ELSE KELSEY

Word Search

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



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- 1990 Oldsmobile 1G3HN54CLH333409
- 2012 Ford 1FAHP3F29CL475289
- 2006 Chevrolet 2G1WT58K569356441
- 2005 Chevrolet 1G1ZT62875F312060
- 2009 Ford 1FAHP34N39W126679
- 2003 Chrysler 2C3HD36M63H546079
- 2003 Toyota JTEZU14R138007891
- 2008 Chevrolet 3GCD48598587828
- 2003 Buick 3GSDA03E035593367
- 2009 Chevrolet 1G1ATS8HX97265833
- 2000 Chrysler 2C4GJ2536YR853742
- 2005 Jaquar SAJWA54A75WE48302
- 2013 Jeep 1C4NJP86DD140895
- 2002 Ford 2FAPF73W42X137144
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and Palmer

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MILFORD: 380 Mont Eagle, Sun 9/10;
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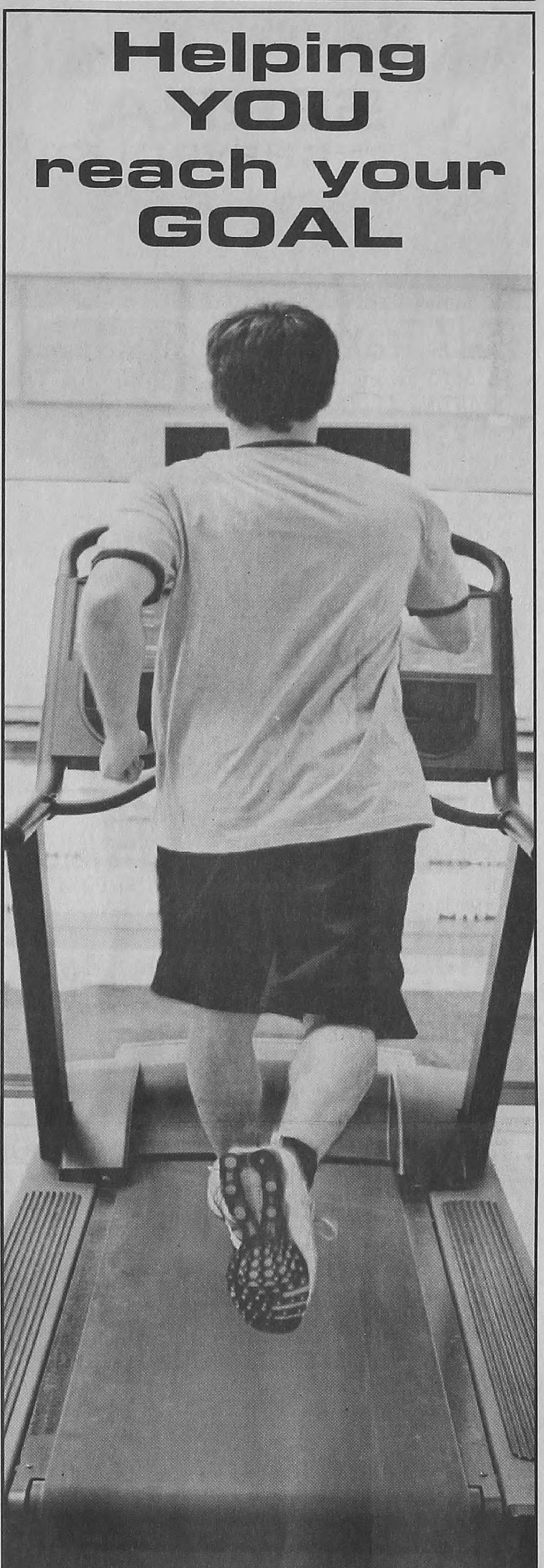
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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.75	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.125	0
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- Rear View Camera
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Onstar w4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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2017 Traverse LT

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2017 Cruze LT

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STOCK #172086

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2017 Malibu LT

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STOCK #170527

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2018 Equinox LT

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STOCK #180091

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2017 Silverado LT 4x4 Double Cab

MSRP \$44,560
STARTING AS LOW AS \$31,737



STOCK #171279

\$146/IMO*
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- 6 Speed Automatic Transmission
- Remote Start
- Rear Back up Camera
- Dual Zone Climate Control
- Onstar w4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTH LEASE/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

2017 Colorado Ext Cab LT 4x4

MSRP \$35,805
STARTING AS LOW AS \$28,782



STOCK #172918

\$167/IMO*
 WITH \$999 DOWN

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- LT Convenience Package
- Trailing Eq Package
- Power Seat
- Remote Vehicle Start
- Onstar w4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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STOCK #17004

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- Remote Start
- 10 Air Bags
- Rear Vision Camera
- Heated Leather Seats
- Bose Premium Audio
- Onstar w4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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MSRP \$37,555
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STOCK #172797

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