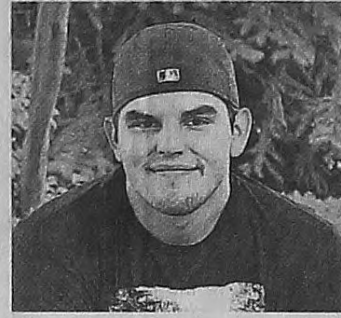


CANTON OBSERVER

SUNDAY 12.03.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



FAMILY DELIVERS POWERFUL MESSAGE AT TEAM BANQUET
SPORTS, B1

Musicians play to aid at-risk youth

Lost Voices group aims to help those struggling through songs

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They're only ages 12-18, but already they are having to rebuild their lives after being swept up in human trafficking, drug addiction and other life-altering situations.

They live in residential treatment places such as Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights, geared toward adolescent girls. Some spent time in juvenile facilities such as the former W.J. Maxey Boys Training School.

Now, they are exploring their innermost feelings by writing songs and

creating melodies with musicians who visit them from Lost Voice, a Plymouth-based program started a decade ago by founder Mike Ball.

It's a way the youngsters can begin to regain self-confidence and realize through songwriting workshops that they have something important to say.

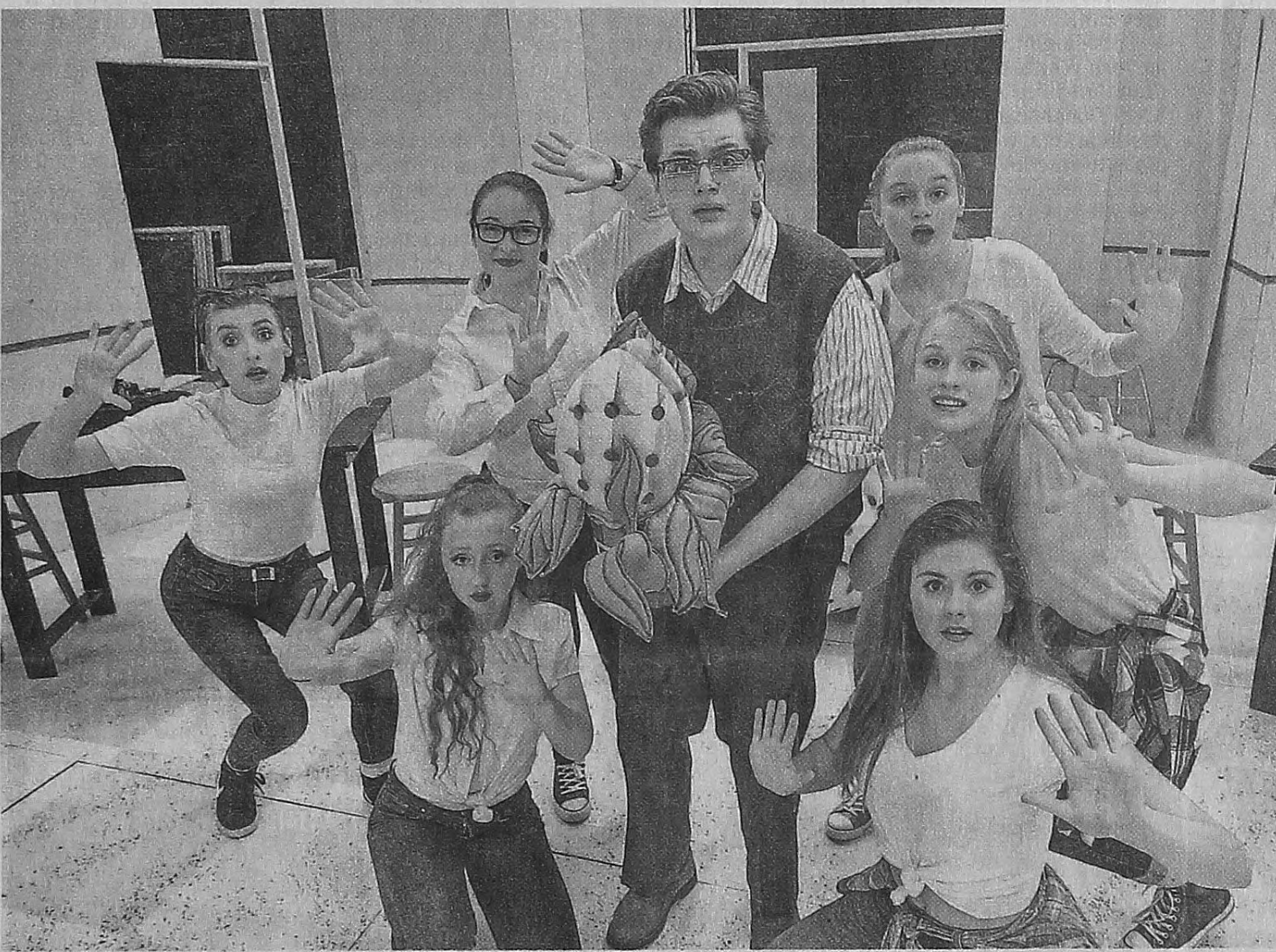
"We work with all kinds of kids who are in severely at-risk situations," Ball said. "The majority of them are just kids trying to figure out how to get their lives back together."

To boost much-needed funding for Lost Voices, 25 musicians are ready to



During a previous performance are Lost Voice musicians (from left) the Rev. Robert Jones, Josh White Jr., Mike Ball and Kitty Donohoe. LOST VOICES

See SONGS, Page A2



Seymour (Dalton Barthold), holding the mysterious plant Audrey II, with the chorus of Ronnette (Elyse Kazmierski) Chiffon (Corinne Marsh), Diana (Amber Mero), Vandella (Amanda Ellen Wood), Crystal (Morgan Gagnon) and Shirelle (Nora Detgen). BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Park Players present 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

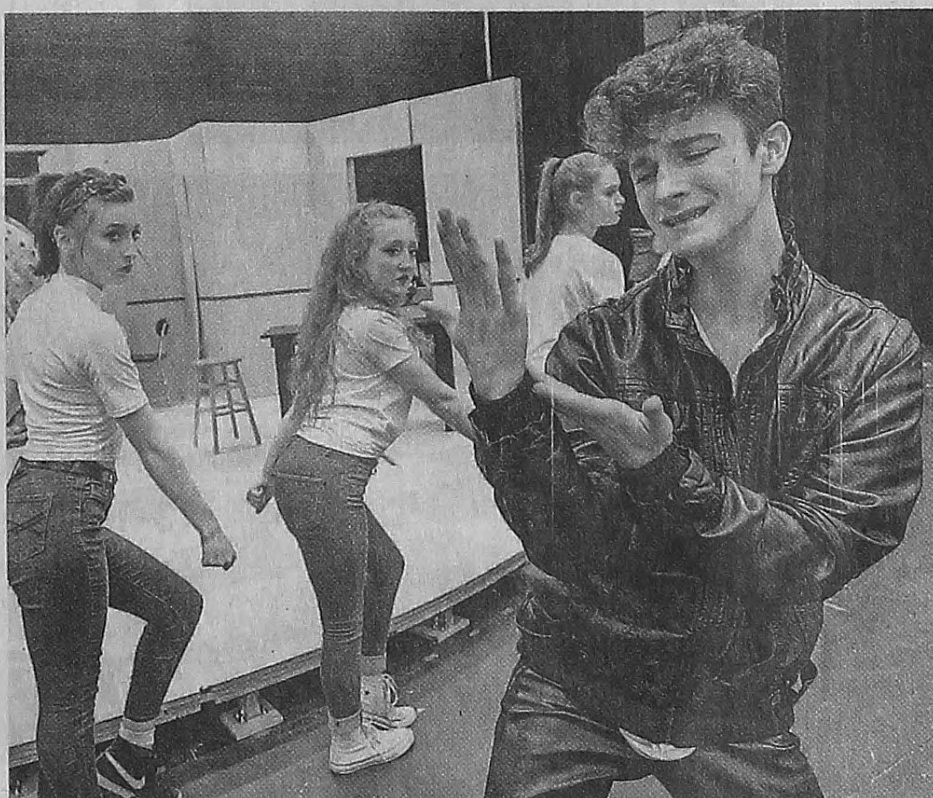
Best friends Hayley Martin and Dalton Barthold saw a production of "Little Shop of Horrors" in Ann Arbor a couple of years ago and both had the same thought:

"We've got to play Seymour and Audrey."

Now the two are getting their wish, starring in the lead roles in the Park Players' presentation of the musical comedy by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman about a geeky florist shop worker who finds out his Venus fly trap can speak.

Barthold plays Seymour, a part he calls "my dream role," opposite Martin's portrayal of Audrey, who turns out to be Seymour's romantic interest.

Martin, a Salem High School senior last seen as Rosemary in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" last spring, said Audrey is a woman beset by insecurities who dreams of getting away from an abusive boyfriend and off of Skid Row.



Orin Scravello (Aidan Gabriel) and chorus perform "Dentist." BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See PLAYERS, Page A3

Hacked computer at chamber leads to Florida arrest

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A hacker used a Canton Chamber of Commerce computer and a credit card number — stolen elsewhere — to buy airline tickets in Orlando, Fla., where authorities say a suspect was stopped while trying to board a flight.

Canton Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said "good investigative work" by local detectives allowed Orlando authorities to nab a 20-year-old suspect, who told police he was boarding a flight from Orlando to Canada to meet his brother because their mother was being deported to Saudi Arabia.

"They were actually able to arrest him before he could board the plane," Steckel said.

The ordeal began when the Canton chamber staff learned Nov. 21 of a "network intrusion" that allowed someone to remotely access chamber President Thomas Paden's desktop computer to handle the airline ticket purchase using a credit card number stolen elsewhere.



Paden

Paden noticed unusual activity on his computer and notified police, a move that allowed authorities to quickly investigate.

"It was almost like I sat down at my computer at the right moment," he said.

Paden said there is no indication that any information about chamber members was obtained. He said sensitive information such as credit card numbers isn't stored on chamber computers, only "things like email addresses."

The credit card belonged to a Plymouth woman who was not even in the chamber's database, Paden said.

"She is not a member of the chamber," he said. "She is not affiliated with the chamber."

Steckel said detectives worked with the chamber and its IT department to locate the airline itinerary in Orlando. Authorities then contacted Orlando police and the FBI. Canton police learned that the Plymouth woman had two airline ticket purchases for \$700 that she didn't authorize for her credit card.

"We took all that information and acted on it quickly," Steckel said.

According to police reports, the suspect who was detained in Orlando denied knowing of the stolen credit card number. He said his brother had given him information about the airline tickets.

Authorities contacted the brother in Canada, who said he bought the tickets through another person, but provided

See COMPUTER, Page A2



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One suspect at large as theft ring case gets trial

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With one suspect still eluding police, four other defendants are facing trial on charges involving stolen guns, vehicles, credit cards and, for one, allegations he had counterfeit money and a printing press.

Canton police are asking anyone with information about 19-year-old Destiny Capri Moore of Wayne to call 734-394-5400. She has a warrant for her arrest on multiple felony counts and already has been charged with a misdemeanor charge of



Hoskins



Richardson



Scott



Moore



Montgomery

larceny from an auto. Four other defendants, now free on bond, are facing trial after they voluntarily waived their preliminary exams in mid-November in Plymouth 35th District Court. They could potentially face lengthy prison sentences, if convicted.

The latest developments followed allegations the defendants were involved in a crime spree that spanned two weeks in October and led to search warrants being executed in Ypsilanti and Detroit, where police allege one defendant had \$2,000 in counterfeit money and a printing press.

Canton Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said authorities got a break in the case Oct. 21, when police officers caught three suspects in the act of breaking into garages in a residential neighborhood near Sheldon and Cherry Hill.

Police executed search warrants and seized five guns, 17 stolen credit cards and, from a house in Detroit, the counterfeit money and printing press, Steckel has said.

Police recovered a Cadillac Escalade stolen out of Canton and a Jeep Liberty stolen in Ann Arbor. Incidents in Canton involved numerous reports of items stolen from garages and vehicles near Sheldon and Cherry Hill roads and

Beck and Geddes.

One defendant, 19-year-old Saviontray Antonio Scott of Ypsilanti, already is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of possession of counterfeit money, larceny of firearms, receiving and concealing firearms and felony firearms.

Kobie Tyree Richardson, 19, of Ypsilanti is facing multiple charges, including receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, motor vehicle theft, credit card theft, identity theft, receiving and concealing \$1,000 to \$20,000, breaking and entering a vehicle causing damage and larceny from a vehicle.

Facing the same charges as Richardson are Ypsilanti residents Carolyn Danielle Hoskins, 19, and Elliot Deshawn Montgomery, 17.

Steckel said police believe the stolen items recovered are believed to have cleared cases in places such as Canton, Belleville and Ann Arbor. One of the stolen guns also was taken from a car in Canton.

Not guilty pleas have been entered for the defendants in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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SONGS

Continued from Page A1

perform outside and indoors during a charity event set for 8-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room in Ann Arbor. Those attending are asked to donate whatever they can.

Folk singer and guitarist Josh White Jr. and Celtic-inspired singer Kitty Donohoe are the headline acts, while Ball plans to emcee the indoor stage. Outside, performers will join in a "busk," playing on the street for donations.

"We work with all kinds of kids who are in severely at-risk situations. The majority of them are just kids trying to ... get their lives back together."

MIKE BALL, Lost Voices founder

Crazy Wisdom music director Michelle Everett Wilbert was among those who put out the call for musicians, saying Lost Voices is doing "amazing work."

"I can't think of a worthier endeavor to support with our gathering of music and goodwill than Lost Voices," she said in a message sent to musicians.

Lost Voices musicians

visit at-risk youngsters and encourage them to write songs.

"Then we help them create the melodies. We handle the guitar part," said Ball, who has a band called Dr. Mike & the Sea Monkeys.

Lost Voices is based at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex in Plymouth. Its musicians will perform acoustic sets of folk and blues

music at Crazy Wisdom, which hosts live music each Friday and Saturday in the tea room.

Lost Voices not long ago hosted a concert at PARC that included some of the young women from Vista Maria who shared their song, "Destination." Usually, though, it's the musicians who are visiting the youth in their residential treatment setting.

For more on Lost Voices, go to <http://www.lostvoices.org>

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COMPUTER

Continued from Page A1

little information. The investigation is continuing.

Paden said the cham-

ber has taken steps to try to avoid any similar incidents.

"We're continuing to work with our IT department to try and build stronger firewalls and stronger technical security to do the best of our

ability to ensure this doesn't happen again," he said.

Paden lauded Canton police for "amazing" detective work and offered advice to anyone who notices fraudulent activity on a computer.

"If you see something," he said, "say something."

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PLAYERS

Continued from Page A1

"She wants to be in a better place, but she doesn't think she deserves it," Martin said. "It's kind of hard to show the difference between her feelings and her facade."

Director Shannon McNutt said she chose "Little Shop" because it's a little more of a dark comedy after putting on a string of "more classic musicals."

The music, McNutt said, draws the students into the production.

"Part of it is the music itself ... it's very 'Motown' and they have a lot of fun with that," McNutt said. "It's very popular with the kids."

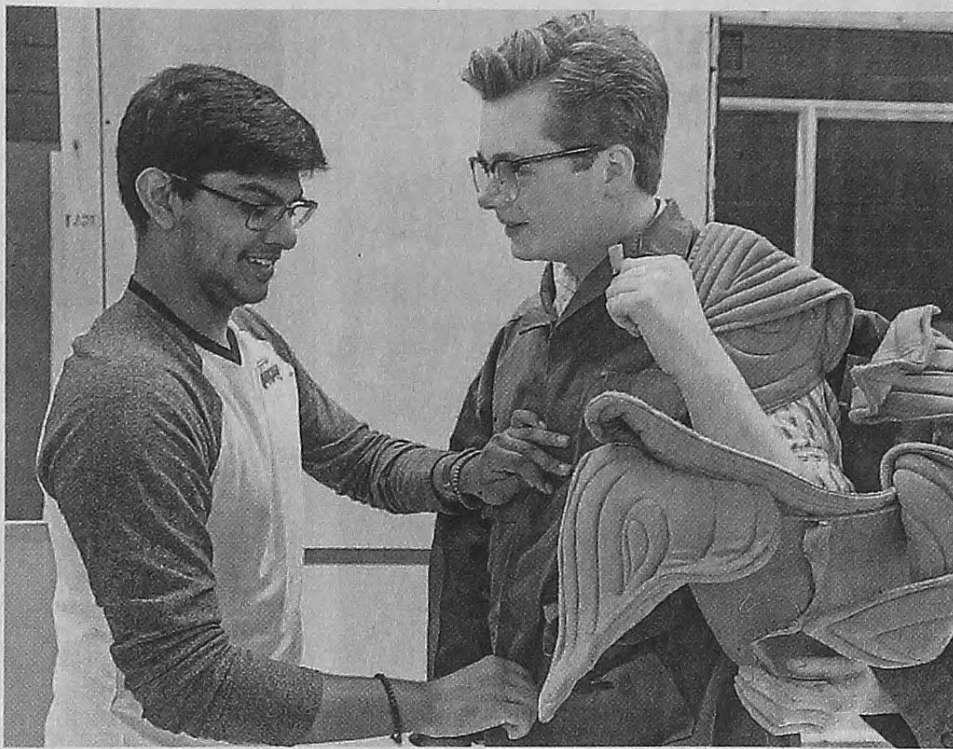
Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choir Director Jennifer Neumann said it's easy to tell the students are "into the music," because they've come to rehearsals well-prepared to perform it.

That has made getting them ready for the production fun for Neumann.

"A lot of the kids came to rehearsal already knowing the music," Neumann said. "It shows we have a committed cast and that really helps. With a cast this talented, it has been a joy."

Rehearsals for the 16-member cast started in late September in the Little Theater at Canton High School, which McNutt said was a perfect setting for "Little Shop." It's a smaller theater than the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School and provides a better backdrop for a show like "Little Shop."

"It's an ensemble play, which I really enjoy doing," McNutt said. "It's a really good show for the Little, because the intimacy fits better."



Anirudh Keshamouni, the voice of the plant, helps Seymour (Dalton Barthold) suit up for a scene. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Class of 2011 alumni Connor Rhoades returns as the plant puppeteer. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The mysterious plant has turned around the flower shop's fortunes, with Audrey (Hayley Martin), Mr. Mushnik (Abhinand Kashamouni) and Seymour (Dalton Barthold). BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

When he found out he'd gotten the role of Seymour, Barthold admitted he cried, then called Martin and "we cried together."

He said Seymour's character embodies the "everyman," prone to making bad decisions. "But he's so much more," said Barthold,

who stage-managed "How to Succeed" last spring. "I love the chemistry he has with everybody and I love his story."

Senior Anirudh Keshamouni loves the production, as well, and he doesn't even step on the stage until the cast takes its final bows.

"A lot of the kids came to rehearsal already knowing the music."

JENNIFER NEUMANN
choir director

Keshamouni plays the voice of the plant, Audrey II, perhaps the production's most delicious role.

"It's really awesome, because I'm acting primarily through my voice and not my face," Keshamouni said. "This was a perfect role."

"Little Shop of Horrors" hits the Canton Little Theater stage with 7 p.m. performances Dec. 8-9 and Dec. 15-16. The \$12 tickets are available at www.tpptc.book-tix.com or at the door.

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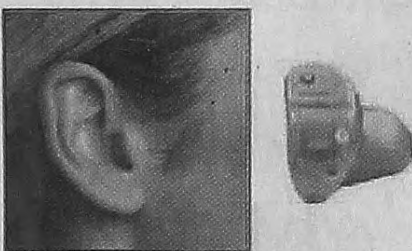
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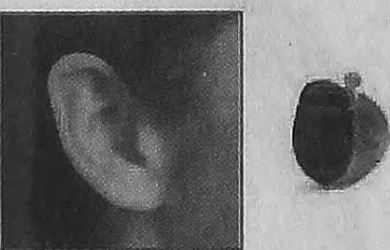
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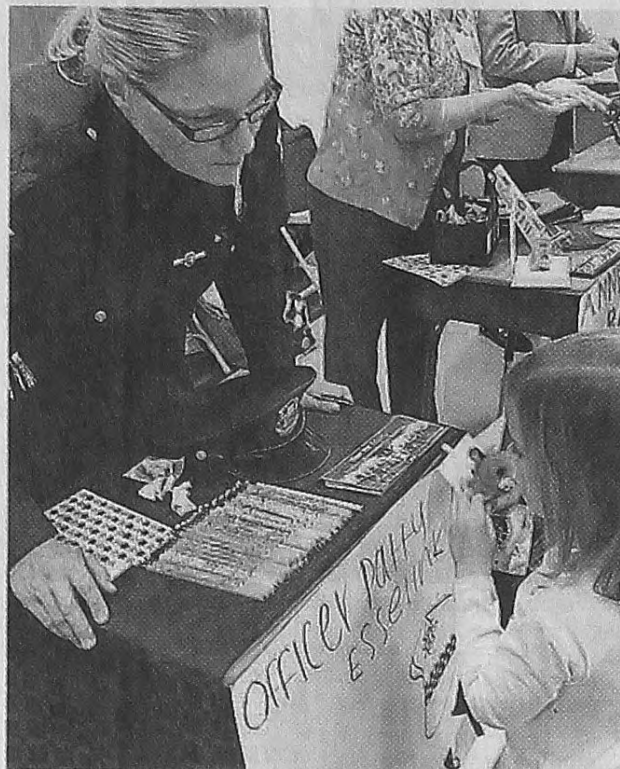
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Career night at All Saints



Wayne County Commissioner Joe Barone and Officer Patty Esselink, community relations officer for the Canton Township Police Department, recently spoke with students and parents at All Saints Catholic School's career night. The annual event brings together about 30 professionals from various fields to talk about jobs and educational preparation for the future. The goal is to inspire students to make the connection between their current classroom experiences and the importance of preparing for potential future occupations.



Students at Eriksson Elementary School raised \$3,000 to donate to Habitat for Humanity for hurricane relief. ERIKSSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Eriksson students raise money for hurricane victims

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Eriksson Elementary School fifth-grader Jasmeet Kaur was simply looking for a way to help the victims of recent hurricanes.

But Jasmeet and 22 of her friends weren't sure what to do. The idea of raising money came about and the school's Hearts for Hurricanes effort was formed.

Jasmeet took the idea to Heidi Nguyen-Tran, one of the school's ELD teachers, who helped students get the ball rolling.

"After some brainstorming, the team came to me and we worked through the logistics in order to get it up and running," said Deagon Jewett, the school's student support coordinator.

And running it did. After what Jewett called "an exciting two weeks of fundraising" using the penny war, the Eriksson community in Canton had raised \$3,000. The donation was presented to Habitat for Humanity.

Students made the donation Tuesday morn-

ing. "This donation will be sent to areas in Puerto Rico to help rebuild schools and the surrounding communities," Jewett said.

Jewett pointed out it took a team effort to pull off the fundraiser:

» Eriksson students, staff and families embraced the project with "generosity and compassion."

» Eriksson PTO members, who counted every penny.

» Habitat for Humanity "for all the great work they do for those in need," Jewett said.

» Hungry Howie's donated pizza as a special treat for the first-grade team, which brought in the most money.

» Tony Vasallo at the Plymouth-Canton Print Shop, for his "outstanding over-sized check design."

» Art teacher Christie Piastowski gave time and the necessary art supplies.

"And, of course, Heidi Nguyen-Tran and our Hearts for Hurricanes leaders... all 23 of them," Jewett said.

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In The Band music studio releases its first vinyl record

The In The Band Music Appreciation Studio, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, located in the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, has achieved a milestone with the release of ITB-1, the studio's first seven-inch vinyl record release featuring local bands Junior High Cheer Squad and Hilltop Drive. Both groups are made up of students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The release of ITB-1 continues In The Band's mission of providing supportive and unique opportunities for artists who use the studio and giving musicians the opportunity to have their

music pressed on vinyl was a longtime goal of the studio. The release of the record was celebrated Oct. 28 with a Halloween-themed released party in PARC, during which more than 250 local music fans gathered to get their hands on the record, as well as to see an outstanding collection of eight local bands and artists.

"The release of ITB-1 is another great way for us to give our artists opportunities to develop and promote their music," said Nick Brandon, ITB founder and director, a former P-CCS teacher and the district's current director of communications. "It has been an

inspiring project and it has generated tremendous excitement for not just the musicians on the record, but also the entire Plymouth-Canton music community."

ITB-1 was pressed on both pink and "random color" vinyl and the sleeve design (by Chicago-based artist and In The Band supporter Emory Davis) reflects the importance of a community music scene and even features imagery of PARC itself. The record can be purchased with a \$10 donation to the studio, which can be done online (via PayPal) or at any In The Band event.

The In The Band Mu-

sic Appreciation Studio has the mission, "To provide community and support for growing creators and appreciators of music in the Plymouth-Canton area." Based on this goal, In The Band provides a location for bands to have rehearsals, for musicians to receive smaller-group or individual training and feedback, and for artists of all genres to have the ability to perform at the regular concerts put on by the studio.

For more information, contact Brandon at 734-355-7031 or email InTheBandStudio@gmail.com.

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PCA student makes All-State Band



Caleb Cameron, an eighth-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy, has earned a spot on the 2018 Michigan Middle School All-State Band, the school's first student to do so. Out of the 2,614 who auditioned, Caleb was able to advance as one of the seven tubas in his ensemble. At the DeVos Center and Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Caleb will rehearse under the instruction of conductor Robert Herrings. At 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, the All-State Band will perform a concert. To learn more about the MSBOA, go to <http://www.msboa.org/AboutMSBOA.aspx>.

We could all use a little bit of peace this Christmas



Dean Johnson
CULTURAL RELEVANCY

A girl and her little brother were at church singing "Silent Night." The little boy concluded with the words, "sleep in heavenly beans." The sister whispered, "It's not 'sleep in heavenly beans'! It's 'sleep in heavenly peas!'"

We could all use some "peas" this Christmas-time. I know the people of Sutherland Springs, Texas, desire it. I know all the young women abused by sexual predators long for it. The young mother, exhausted with the demands of her young children, wishes for it. The couple contemplating divorce. The Rohingya refugees. And the many college students experiencing anxiety and depression.

In the famous story in Luke 2, angels appear to weary, ostracized shepherds and promise them "on Earth, peace." Yes, please! I would like

some of that! The Bible talks about peace in three ways:

Peace with God

The Bible says that because God is holy and we're corrupt — we're born with a wall between us. We're not "at peace" with God. "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it" (Romans 8:7). But the Bible says Jesus came to remove the wall between us and God. "Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Inner peace

This is the tranquility and serenity we all want. The Bible promises this, too. Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God, which transcends understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." So it turns out that inner peace is based on having peace with God. The problem comes when we try to get the latter from places other than the former.

The Biblical concept

This Christmas, it really is possible to have peace, even in the midst of such a troubled world.

of peace is "shalom" — wholeness. We often think of "peace" as the absence of turmoil. But the Biblical concept of peace isn't based on the conditions around us (the absence of turmoil), it's the conditions inside us — having a wholeness in yourself that is not overpowered by bad traffic, the sickness of a loved one or difficult people.

Peace between people

As Rodney King famously said, "Why can't we all just get along?" Jesus said that people who truly know him will demonstrate it by being "peacemakers." "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be

at peace with each other" (Mark 9:50). He's saying, "My people will be different." Christians will be the ones who practice peace. Remember the Amish Christians, after the gunman massacred their children in Pennsylvania? Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as depends on you, live at peace with everyone." So it turns out that peace between people is also based on having peace with God. If the peace of Christ rules in my heart, then I will be a person of peace.

Of course, we live in what is called "the already and the not yet." In the lives of those who know him, Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). This Christmas, it really is possible to have peace, even in the midst of such a troubled world.

The Rev. Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at DeanLPBC@sbcglobal.net.

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Walker-Winter students design, plan Twentyville

Second-grade students at Walker-Winter Elementary School have designed and created their own community. Twentyville is the result of a six-week class project that incorporated social studies, science, math and writing skills. Students researched and planned for the different components of building a community.

"We created lists for places that meet the needs of food, clothing and shelter," teacher Chris Kozaczynski said. "Students also identified important community resources such as a library, school and police and fire stations."

They started with a farm that grew into a town and culminated in a community with mountains, water, a forest, urban and suburban areas. Students got to build their own homes and worked together to create a city hall, hospital, stores, parks, streets, and restaurants.

The residents are deciding on laws that will determine which animals are allowed in Twentyville. Currently, they have an elephant and three alligators. There is much debate about the safety of having large animals in Twentyville.

"We were able to integrate learning from across the curriculum for this project. For science, the students began with the creation of land and water features to set the layout for our community, Twentyville. They created hills and valleys, mountains, lakes and rivers to start," Kozaczynski said. "Math skills were needed as they carefully measured to make sure all these features would fit."

"As the community developed, we studied urban, suburban and rural features to plan our community," he added. "The students researched and carefully decided what types of homes, buildings and businesses were needed for Twentyville to be successful. Each time a student built something new for the community, they would write about it on our classroom blog. Students were able to describe the building itself and how they made it, as well as become creative with the story that surrounded their creation. It was great to see the connections they made as they wrote realistic fiction to tell the evolution of our little community."



Second-graders at Walker-Winter Elementary School who built Twentyville.

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Bark Nation serves shelter dogs dinner in a KONG

Sharon Dargay

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Floyd stretched out on the floor of his kennel in Dearborn last week and wrestled with his holiday lunch.

The 1-year-old gnawed at the frozen turkey-bean-potato-pumpkin mixture that was stuffed inside a rubber KONG and held the toy between his paws, rolling it on the floor and fetching it from under his bed whenever it slipped from his grasp.

A bowl or plate would have cut mealtime in half. The chew toy kept the brown and white mixed breed busy until it was licked clean.

"What's great about this is it works their brain," said Reagan Gilshire, a Royal Oak resident and a volunteer for Bark Nation, a nonprofit organization that provides toys, love and enrichment activities to shelter dogs. "It's not just a treat. It makes them figure out how to get the food out of there. It helps keep their mind active in these kennels."

Floyd was among 1,100 lucky dogs to receive dinner packaged in a toy from Bark Nation during its fourth annual #KONGsgiving event.

Bark Nation's volunteer teams handed out food-filled KONGS to shelter dogs in Detroit, Macomb County, Dearborn, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Livingston County and other locations around the state. At Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit, where Floyd lives while awaiting adoption, they also treated shelter staff to pizza.

"We love enrichment. We're big enrichment



Hank loves his Thanksgiving dinner-filled KONG toy provided by Bark Nation volunteers. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

behavior nerds," said Kelly McLaughlin, a Farmington Hills resident and Bark Nation president. "I think it's a feel-good initiative for the shelter staff and for our supporters. The dogs don't know it's Thanksgiving. We know that, but they get a good meal like the rest of us and it's kind of fun. The idea is they clean out the KONG. It can take them some time to get it out of there and

then you've got a tired, emotionally exhausted, satisfied dog."

#KONGsgiving is a coordinated, large-scale version of what Bark Nation does on an ongoing basis at local shelters, including at Detroit Animal Care and Control, where McLaughlin serves as interim director.

Enrichment can take many forms, including playing music for dogs,

offering scents that help to combat boredom or simply one-on-one time with a Bark Nation volunteer. The organization tailors its ongoing efforts to each shelter's needs.

Mission

Bark Nation, founded in 2014, has a three-part mission. In addition to providing enrichment activities to shelter dogs, the organization partners with Dog Aide in offering

free spay and neuter services twice a month in Detroit. It also works with dog-fighting survivors to make them adoptable.

McLaughlin, who is certified in dog training and behavior, has served as a consultant on canine behavior and body language for a handful of shelters and a rescue organization. She hopes to expand that effort next year by offering semi-

nars and training classes through Bark Nation.

"We hold our team to a high standard at Bark Nation and we invest in our team members when it comes to dog behavior, because I believe everything we do stems from that," she said.

Events like #KONGsgiving help Bark Nation build relationships with shelter leaders and gain

See DOGS, Page A8

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DOGS

Continued from Page A7

their trust. Getting a foot in the door at some shelters was a challenge at first.

"The public likes to vilify shelters. Very few people want to offer solutions. I understand why shelter leaders are reluctant," McLaughlin said. "We see far less reluctance now and, as it grows, we have more people who reach out to us. I think that has come with Bark Nation's proven track record."

Working together

Heather Mehi, shelter director at Friends for

Animals of Metro Detroit, submitted an application to participate in #KONGsgiving after reading about it on Facebook. She said the shelter offers enrichment activities every day to the 30-40 dogs in its charge.

"Their second feeding of the day is enrichment, whether it is bottles filled with food, KONGs or dog food in paper base they have to tear open. If dogs don't get enrichment throughout the day, they can get depressed and shut down," Mehi said.

Peter Poulos, director of marketing and development at the shelter, hopes Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit and Bark Nation will find more opportunities for collaboration.

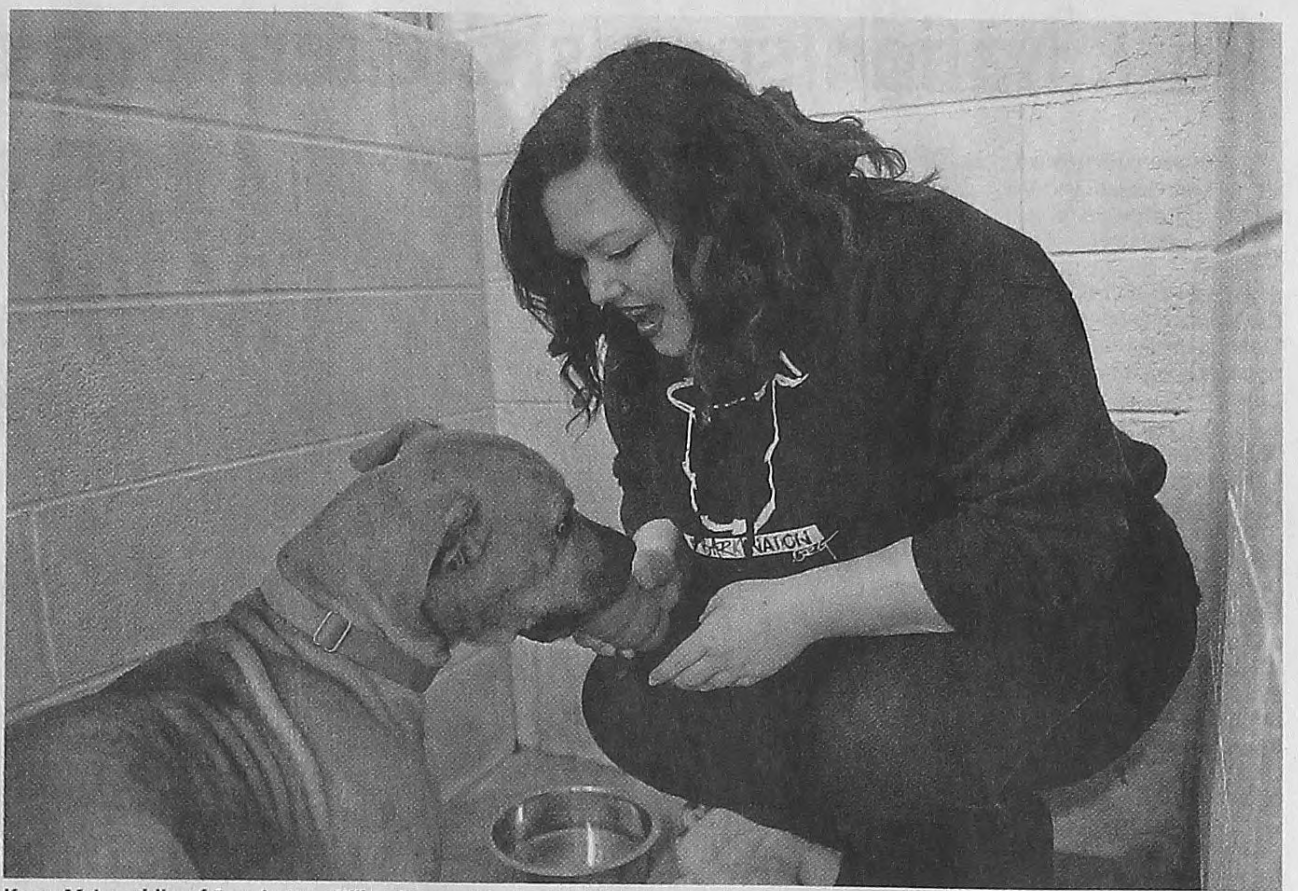
"We're all working for that same goal," he said. "This is so simple, it's brilliant. It spurs other ideas. Anyone can do it. Anyone can do this and make an impact."

Natalie and Jeff Lachapell of Battle Creek have volunteered with Bark Nation for a year and are so committed to the organization's mission they are considering a move closer to metro Detroit.

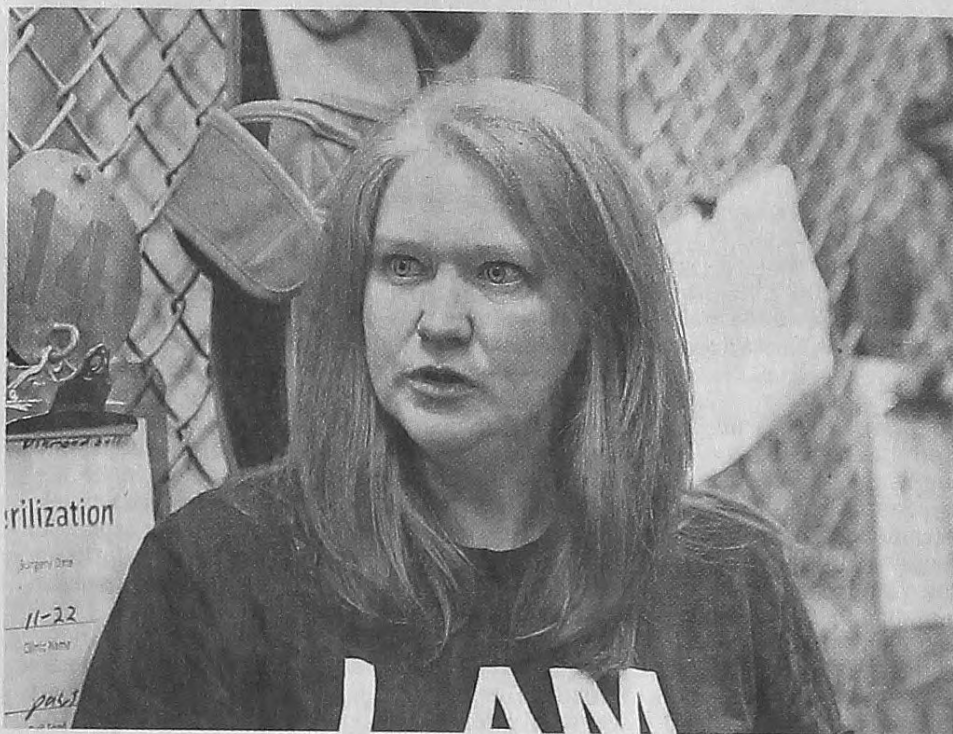
"I'm so glad to be a part of this. We have the same vision," said Natalie Lachapell, who distributed KONGs at Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit. "I want every dog to know it's respected, loved and that it matters."

A variety of roles are available for Bark Nation volunteers, including fundraising, working with dogs, stuffing KONGs and assisting with the spay and neuter clinics. Email kelly@barknation.org for more information.

sdargay@hometownlife.com



Kerry McLaughlin of Farmington Hills, vice president of Bark Nation, holds a Thanksgiving dinner filled KONG toy for Hank at the Friends For Animals of Metro Detroit kennel. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Regan Gilshire, a Birmingham Realtor, volunteers with Bark Nation delivering Thanksgiving dinner-filled KONG toys to metro Detroit kennels. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mehi

"The dogs don't know it's Thanksgiving. We know that, but they get a good meal like the rest of us..."

KELLY MCLAUGHLIN
Bark Nation president

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Settlor, MARLENE A. SOMERS, who lived at 40806 Newport Drive, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, died November 3, 2017. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Marlene A. Somers Trust dated July 21, 2004, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to KATHLEEN A. COTTER and PAUL J. SOMERS, Trustees, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

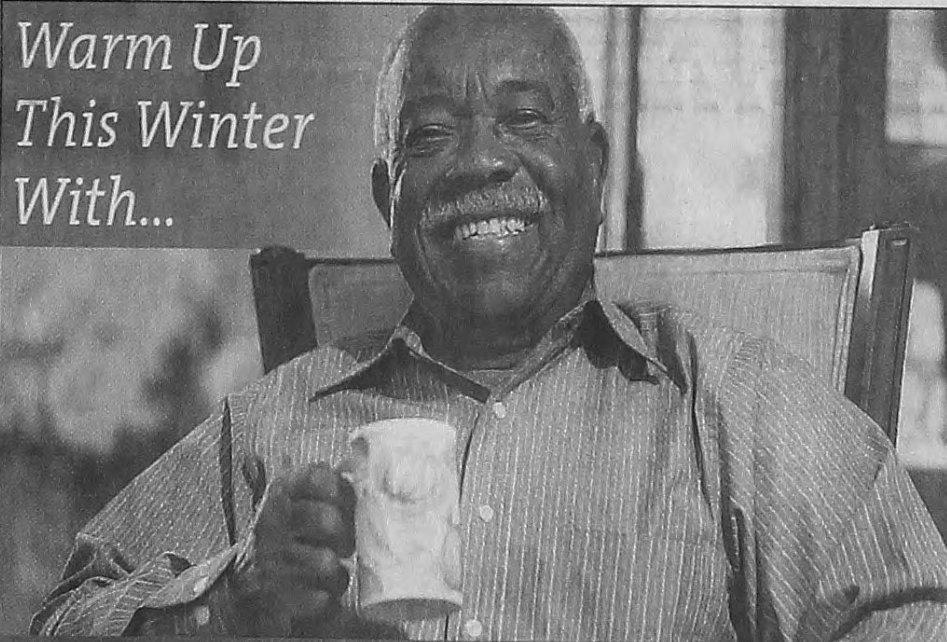
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Q: Every year about now, I sit down and do my charitable contributions. I generally write checks to four or five different organizations. Generally, this time of year, I receive a bonus from my employer and I use that bonus to make my charitable contributions. Because of a number of different issues, I've been notified that I will not be receiving a bonus this year; however, I still want to make my contributions. The question is, what should I do to free up some cash? I have a few different options and I hope you can help me select the right one. The first is to borrow from my 401(k) plan. I've been told at work that I



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

can borrow what I need. My second option is to withdraw some money from my IRA. I am over 59½, so I don't need to worry about any penalties. My last option is to sell some of my Ford stock. I bought Ford stock a number of years ago, when things were not doing well at the auto industry and I have a substantial gain in it. Can you help me decide which option I should consider?

A: First, I think it is admirable that, despite the fact that you are not

going to receive a bonus, you still want to help those less fortunate. Americans are the most generous people on Earth because of people like you.

In reviewing your situation, I believe there are better options than the ones you have proposed. The first option, borrowing from your 401(k) plan, is not bad, but there are better options. When you borrow from a 401(k) plan, one issue you always have to be concerned with is whether you can continue to contribute to the plan. Many plans do not allow new contributions if there is an outstanding loan.

The second option, withdrawing from your

IRA, can also have a significant downside. When you withdraw money from the IRA, it is taxed to you. Considering that you're working, it is potentially possible that withdrawing money out of an IRA can throw you into a higher tax bracket.

The third option, selling your Ford stock, will require you to pay taxes on the gain. The resulting capital gain that you would have to pay can also cause other negative tax consequences.

The option I would recommend would be to donate your Ford stock directly to the various charities. In this transaction, you would receive a double tax benefit, in the fact you would not have to pay the capital

gain tax you would have if you sold the Ford stock. In addition, you can write off the full fair market value of the stock as a charitable contribution.

For those who are charitable in nature, donating appreciated securities is a great tax strategy. Not only do you receive a double tax benefit, but the charity is also in a favorable position because it would not have to pay taxes either. It is a win-win situation.

Donating appreciated securities is a little more difficult than writing a check, but it is not complex. What it does is require a little more time. If you want to donate appreciated securities to a charity and still qualify

for a tax write-off for 2017, the time is now. Many of you may be asking, what about the charity? From a charity standpoint, it can sell the appreciated security immediately and will have no tax consequences. In other words, by donating appreciated securities, it's a win for you because you get a double tax write-off and it's a win for the charity because it receives a larger charitable contribution.

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.

CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS

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 qua-

drennially on a non-partisan ballot. The public is invited to attend.

On the Spot Tech Help

When: 5-7 p.m. each Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. each Saturday

Details: A team of tech-savvy volunteers has been assembled at CPL to help you find the answers to those tech issues you can't quite figure out on your own. Whether you need help while working on a project at one of our computers, setting up an email address or downloading an app on your phone, we can help.

ELL Conversation Groups

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.

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 December program schedule.

Preschool Storytime

Details: Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-5. 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. Reg-

istration 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. Registration is required. Go to www.cantonpl.org for registration and schedule.

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I am an American We are One Nation

WOMAN'S DREAM WOULD BE A FIRST

Joining police would make hijab-wearing Muslim feel 'unique'

BRUCE LOWRY
NORTH JERSEY RECORD
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about Americans doing exceptional things, visit onenation.usatoday.com.

While some 20-year-olds might profess hesitation or bewilderment at the thought of what to do with their lives, Huda Shalabi stands out as one who knows her path exactly. She has been on it since she was 10 years old: She wants to serve her community, and also to represent it. Her dream is to become the first hijab-wearing Muslim woman to work as a sworn police officer in her hometown of Paterson, N.J.

"It would mean the world to me, like I achieved something, that I'm unique, that I stand out," she said. "I could be a role model to other Arab females in my community."

Shalabi, who will soon graduate with a bachelor's degree in national security with a specialization in homeland security from nearby Berkeley College, maintains she has had the itch for police work since she was a child, when she helped officers solve the caper of the missing marble cutting machine, which had been stolen from her family's backyard.

One of the detectives arriving on the scene after the crime had been solved, thanks in part to Shalabi's instincts and a mysterious trail of pink residue, told her: "You can be a detective, a cop, with a great mind like that."

Shalabi took the advice to heart, and, 10 years later, she is well on her way to fulfilling the dream.

Last summer, she finished an internship at the Paterson Police Department, and next spring, as part of her studies at Berkeley, she is set to intern at the Passaic County Sheriff's Department.

Shalabi, whose first name is Arabic for "guidance," said the internship confirmed her career choice. She said she's



Huda Shalabi wants to be the first Muslim, hijab-wearing female officer on the Paterson, N.J., police force. ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTH JERSEY RECORD

"always had a passion to help people" and wanted to "give back" to her community, where she grew up and went to school. In Shalabi's case, that community is South Paterson, home to one of the largest Middle Eastern populations in the country.

"You want to build trust," she said, "and make sure people don't feel singled out. I want to be able to reflect the community since it's very diverse and now there is not one Arab-Muslim female officer wearing the hijab."

Shalabi said she could see herself working in domestic violence cases and being an asset especially in cases where there are women who speak only Arabic and not English. "Some of them sometime will put their head down," she said, "and really not talk of the incident, and just listen to their male partners."

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 HUDA SHALABI

What does it mean to you to be an American?

To be an American means I have no boundaries, and have rights as a female Arab Muslim American wearing the hijab. This country is built by the people, for the people, regardless of race, religion and ethnicity. Freedom of religion allows me to pay respect to my religion while living in the melting pot of America.

What gives you hope or what concerns you?

There is a misconception of what it means to be an Arab or Muslim in America. I hope through volunteering in my hometown of Paterson and by serving the community with compassion and care, I can help dispel this misunderstanding and bring a voice to Muslim women in our country.

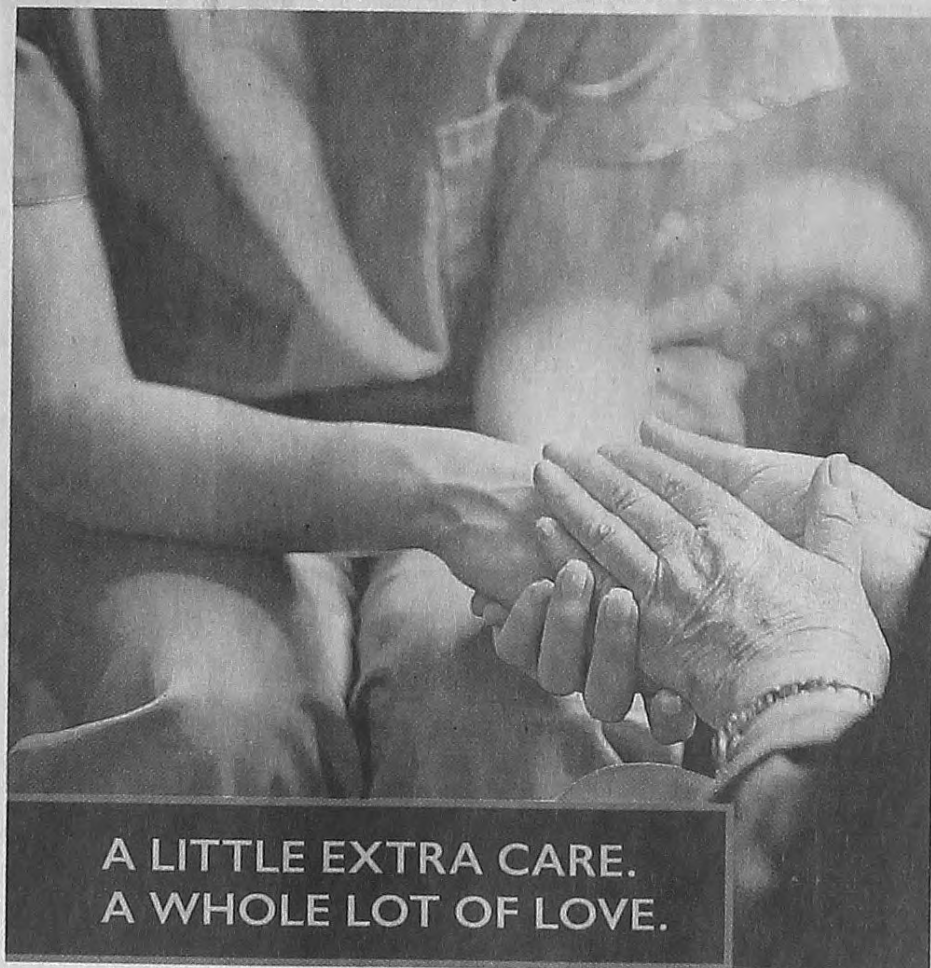
What moment touched or motivated you to launch your efforts?

When a detective told me, "You can be a detective, a cop, with a great mind like that," after I helped solve a crime at 10 years old, it inspired me to take my dream seriously. Having the opportunity to intern at the Paterson Police Department assured me that this is the field I want to pursue. My professors at Berkeley College are my mentors. These relationships have helped build my confidence as I continue to pursue my dream career.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

I hope to make a positive difference in my community and show what it truly means to be a Muslim American through my accomplishments. I want my success to show that America is the land of opportunity, where people of all backgrounds can strive to achieve their goals while still respecting their heritage.

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Notice of Public Sale of Liened Property

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on December 14th, 2017, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit A19 Doub, Household Goods: Unit B21 Roberts, Household Goods: Unit C113 Lockett, Household Goods: Unit C206 Williams, Household Goods: Unit D21 Johnstone, Household Goods: Unit D35 Doub Household Goods: Unit E29 Wimberly, Household Goods: Unit E38 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit F45 Fogarty, Household Goods: Unit G32 Powell, Household Goods: Unit G33 Dennis, Household Goods: Unit J25 Siano, Household Goods: Unit K03 Cromwell, Household Goods: Unit K10 Siano, Household Goods: Unit K11 Gaines, Household Goods.

Published: November 26 & December 3, 2017

LO-0000334085 3x2

NOTICE

CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2017

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2017 and payable through February 28, 2018 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Friday, December 22, 2017 and Monday, December 25, 2017 also Friday, December 29, 2017 and Monday, January 1, 2018.

During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on Tuesday, December 26, 2017, Wednesday, December 27, 2017 and Thursday, December 28, 2017, for our taxpayers' convenience.

Teresa Cischke, MiCPT CPFA
City Treasurer

Publish: December 3 & 7, 2017

LO-0000335338 3x3

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Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Bridges, Violet	90	Farmington Hills	20-Nov	Thayer-Rock Funeral Home
*Buikema, Jeanne E.	62	Plymouth	22-Nov	Schrader-Howell Funeral Home
*Case, James W. "Jim"	76	Bayonet Point, FL	06-Nov	Dobies Funeral Homes & Crematory
*Hopkins, Jeanette W.	87	Plymouth	26-Nov	Schrader-Howell Funeral Home
*Klaes, Frank	90	Plymouth	23-Nov	Schrader-Howell Funeral Home
*Robins, William C.	88	Arizona	18-Nov	Hansen Mortuaries and Cemetery
*Schultz, Harold "Hank"	90	Plymouth	28-Nov	Schrader-Howell Funeral Home
*Steele, Shirley Summers	95	Watertown, WI	21-Nov	Cremation Society of Michigan
*Wagner, Crystal	45	Jackson, SC	29-Nov	Harris Funeral Home

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.legacy.com/obituaries/HometownLife

Jeanette W. Hopkins

PLYMOUTH - Jeanette W. Hopkins, age 87, of Plymouth passed away on November 26, 2017. Jeanette was born on February 9, 1930 in Lapeer, Michigan, the daughter of George and Virginia (nee Perin) Wallace. She is the beloved wife of the late John M. Hopkins who passed away in 1996. Jeanette grew up in Ypsilanti.



She attended Michigan State College - now known as Michigan State University, and while she was a student, met her future husband, John Hopkins. Jeanette was a proud member of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and continued to be active in her sorority until later in life. She graduated in 1952 and married John the same year. Their marriage was blessed with their two children, Nancy and Mark. In addition to her sorority, Jeanette was also involved with AAUW, was a PEO, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. Jeanette became the Librarian at Plymouth High School and later pursued a degree to become a Medical Librarian. She then went on to work as the Medical Librarian at Garden City Hospital in 1974 until her retirement in 1990.

Jeanette is the devoted mother of Nancy (Mike) Hopkins-Maurer and the late Mark Hopkins. She is the proud Grandmother of Matthew Hopkins, and step-grandchildren, Ellen Maurer, Chad Maurer, Adam Titze, Sarah Clibourne and Magan Williams. She is deeply loved and will be greatly missed by her siblings, Gordon Wallace, sister-in-law, Jean Hopkins, the late Fritz Hopkins and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Celebration will be held in memory of Jeanette at Station 885 in Plymouth at 12:00 PM on Friday, December 8th. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Jeanette W. Hopkins to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010 and Alzheimer's Association, 25200 Telegraph Rd Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48033.

Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com



Jeanne E. Buikema

PLYMOUTH - Age 62, Jeanne passed away November 22, 2017. Born on August 16, 1955 to Klement and Edna (nee Stahelin) White. Survived by husband of 43 years, Robert Buikema, daughter Jodi (David) Svoboda, granddaughters Kara and Lauren, and brother Ron (Kathy) White. Memorial Gathering December 9, from 4-6pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, 48170. Memorial Service will begin at 6pm on Saturday. To view full obituary and leave a condolence, please visit schrader-howell.com



Earl Falk, Jr.

LIVONIA - died Tuesday, November 28, 2017. Surviving are his children, Sandy (Bryan) Michaels and Larry (Mary) Falk; grandchildren, Amanda (Sean) Kelly, Jessica (Tom) Wrisley and Melissa Falk; great grandsons Garrett and Lucas. Earl will be laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia, MI. The family extends their gratitude to Earl's extended family at Freedom Medical center and the Plymouth Inn. He thought the world of you. Memorial tributes suggested to Senior Alliance - Senior Alliance Holiday Meals Program. heaney-sundquist.com

William C. Robins

ARIZONA - Age 88, passed away peacefully on November 18, 2017. He is survived by his adored wife of 60 years, Ann (DeMeritt) Robins, daughters Susan and John Raetz, Jill and Jeff Durtschi; grandchildren Jason, Lindsay, Jeremy, Heidi, Nicole, Mikayla and Thomas, seven great-grandchildren, and brother James Robins.



Bill grew up in the Detroit area and attended McKenzie High School. He served two years in the Army during the Korean War then attended Wayne State University. Bill worked with his brothers at Robins Printing Company, a business their father started in the basement of their home. He served as president of the company for over 50 years and it became one of the most respected printing companies in the Detroit area.

Bill's passions were skiing, sailing, and biking. In retirement, Bill and Ann moved from Farmington Hills to Boyne City and became year-round residents for 25 years. He made many life long friends that shared his love for the outdoors. Bill was a season ticket holder at Boyne Mountain and skied everyday in the winter until the age of 84.

A memorial service will be held at a later date with family in Arizona where he spent his last years. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix AZ, 85014

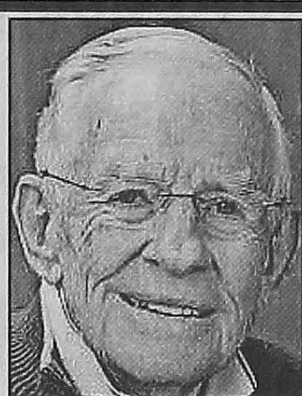
James W. "Jim" Case

BAYONET POINT, FL - Age 76, passed away November 6, 2017 following a determined battle with cancer with his sons by his side. Jim was born August 30, 1941 in Canton, Ohio and served honorably in the United States Army. Later he graduated from Bowling Green State University and settled in Plymouth, Michigan. An avid golfer, Jim maintained his Saturday morning tee time at Salem Hills Golf Course for 28 years before moving to Florida to escape the cold weather. Jim loved life—particularly talking to and helping people. He was quick to smile and extend a helping hand, and slow to criticize. Jim is survived by his wife Kay; brother Bill; grandchildren: Ashley, Nick, Sadie and Lindsey; and sons, Mike (wife Diane) and Bill (wife Barbara), to whom he played brilliantly the role of Chief Life Adviser, in addition to being a spectacular Dad. The family will hold a private service in Spring, 2018.



Crystal Wagner

JACKSON, SC - Crystal Wagner, age 45, November 29, 2017. Loving sister of Melissa Drouillard-Sciatto. Dear niece of Marjorie (Michael) Bourdeau, James (Ann) Drouillard, Timothy Drouillard, and Neil (Patricia) Drouillard. Aunt of Thomas and Jessica Sciatto; and great aunt of Annabelle Sciatto. Crystal was a best friend to Christopher Calandra. She was also survived by many cousins. Funeral service Monday at 2pm at the RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation Sunday from 5-9pm. Please share a memory of Crystal at www.rggrharris.com.



George B. Smith

NOVI - George B. Smith, age 89, died November 12, 2017 in Novi Michigan. He was a longtime resident of Plymouth and formerly of Wayne. George is survived by his wife Mary (nee Schlecht) Smith, his children Gregory (Pamela), Barbara, Thomas (Marilyn), Dan (Diana) and Timothy (Sue), and 8 grandchildren. Private Cremation Services have been entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. If you would like to make a donation in George's honor, memorials may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. To leave a condolence and read full obituary, please visit schrader-howell.com



Harold "Hank" Schultz

PLYMOUTH - Age 90, Hank passed away November 28, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wives, Marjorie and Elaine. Survived by children, Debra (Craig) Shaw and Eric (Lori Dames) Schultz; his stepchildren, Terry Bartel and Diane (Chuck) Dobry; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Ellen, and his parents. Funeral Service Monday, December 4, 2017, 11AM at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Friends may visit Sunday 2PM until 8PM and Monday beginning at 10AM.



Shirley Summers Steele

WATERTOWN, WI - Age 95. Loving wife of the late Norbert Summers and Vern Steele. Best Friend of Ruth and Ed Klostechaus, Helen Hall, Chuck and Stella Holoweski. Retired Wayne County General Hospital. She was an active bowler up until 90, she enjoyed knitting, scarves, hats, and shawls. Shirley was a member of the Nomads. Burial will take place in Watertown Wisconsin. Please visit the online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com



Frank Klaes

PLYMOUTH - Age 90, of Bellaire, Michigan passed away November 23, 2017. Born in New Boston, Michigan to Frank and Philomena Klaes on January 12, 1927. Survived by 8 children, 20 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and 3 siblings. Visitation Wednesday, November 29, from 4-8pm and Thursday, from 2-8pm with a Rosary at 7pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, 48170. Funeral Mass Friday, December 1, at 10:30am at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Road, Plymouth, 48170. To view full obituary and leave a condolence, please visit schrader-howell.com



Violet Bridges

FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 90. Beloved wife of the late Charles F. Bridges Jr. for 60 years. Loving mother of Irene (the late Albert) Bridges Slisinger, Carolyn (the late Randall) Bridges Bennett, Terry (Thomas) Welti and Charles F. (Theresa) Bridges III. Cherished grandmother of Alex, Zach, Leland, Charlie, Jordi, and the late Justin. A memorial service was held Thursday, November 30, 2017 at Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI 48335. Memorial contributions may be made to the Farmington Area Goodfellows - Neighborhood House.



Louis M. Randall III

QLD, AUSTRALIA - Formerly of Birmingham, Michigan, now of Queensland, Australia, passed away November 8, 2017 at the age of 72. Louis is the son of Zelna Randall and the late Louis M. Randall Jr. He is survived by wife Patricia, daughters Ellen and Lesley and grandchildren Nathan, Ava, Hugh and Rose.

Condominium board president cannot remove board member

Q: I'm on the board of my condominium association and I've been asking some difficult questions of other board members regarding our association's finances. The president has now threatened to remove me from the board. Can he do that?

A: Absolutely not – board members are almost always elected by the association members and they can only be removed from their seat on the board by the association members without cause. As a member of the association himself, the president and possibly other board members may spearhead an effort to gather signatures for a recall election, but unless your condominium is extremely small, it is likely that the other board members would not by themselves comprise the percentage of members required to initiate a recall election under your governing documents.

Regarding the percentage of members required to actually vote in approval for a successful recall, that would be determined pursuant to the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act and your governing documents. The following is the relevant language from Section 511 of the Act:

"A vote of a majority of the shares or members entitled to vote at an election of directors is required for removal, except that the articles of



Robert Meisner
CONDO LIVING

The president's attempt at intimidating you is troubling and may be an attempt to hide wrongdoing.

incorporation may require a higher vote for removal without cause. This subsection does not invalidate any bylaw adopted before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this sentence to the extent that the bylaw applies to removal without cause."

So your attorney needs to carefully examine your articles of incorporation and, possibly, also your bylaws to determine the percentage of votes required for removal. The "effective date of the amendatory act" referenced above is Jan. 15, 2015.

If you hold an office such as vice president, treasurer or secretary, the other board members could possibly vote to remove you from your office, as officers serve at the pleasure of the board and removal can generally occur with or without cause. But even

if you are removed from your office, you would still be a board member with voting rights on association matters before the board.

Finally, even if an association member vote results in your removal from the board, you still have rights as a member of the association to review certain documents. Both Section 57 of the Michigan Condominium Act and Section 487 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act allow inspection of the books and non-privileged records of the association by association members.

The president's attempt at intimidating you is troubling and may be an attempt to hide wrongdoing. Enlist the assistance of an experienced condominium attorney to prepare a formal request to inspect the association's books and records.

Robert M. Meisner, Esq. is principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book, "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium," is available at www.momentumbbooks.com. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or bmeisner@meisner-law.com. Go to the firm's blog at meisner-law.com/blog.

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USA HOCKEY

Rink reunion: U-M faces NTDP U-18 team

For Michigan players, two years with USA Hockey program sparked their development

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth was “Ann Arbor East” Saturday and that was just fine with Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for the U.S. National Team Development Program.

With more than 3,000 in attendance, one of the bigger crowds to watch a NTDP game since the program moved to Plymouth in 2015 came out for a highly anticipated game between the visiting Michigan Wolverines and NTDP Under-18 team. (go to home-

townlife.com for complete coverage).

“For us, this is really exciting. This is one of the premier college hockey programs in the country,” Monaghan said. “We’re certainly grateful that (first-year U-M head hockey coach) Mel Pearson was willing to work with us and wants to give us a chance to host a game once in a while. It says a lot about his comfort level and knowledge of the program.”

“For us, I think it’s a great opportunity for our kids to play in front of a full house at home and play against one of these powerhouse programs.”

The buzz wasn’t building just from a ticket-selling perspective, either.

Welcome back

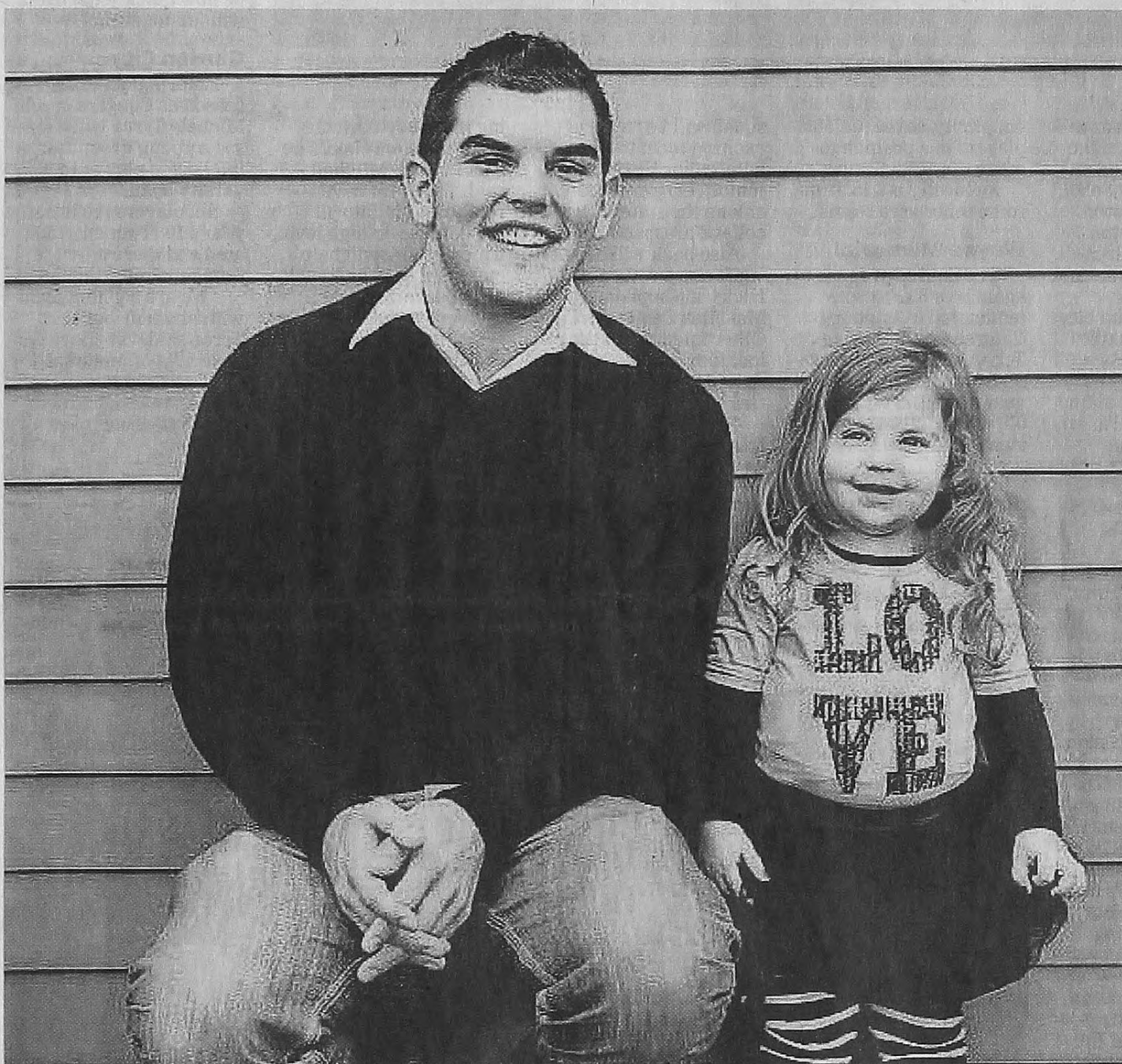
There are 10 current Michigan players who went through the two-year NTDP — including Plymouth native

See HOCKEY, Page B3



Nick Boka is a Plymouth resident who formerly played for the USA Hockey NTDP. He returned “home” Saturday night, when Michigan played the U-18 team. RENA LAVERTY

A FAMILY’S HEARTFELT PLEA



Chris Lanier (left) is shown with his “favorite niece,” Zoey Derouin, in this undated photo. Zoey continues to grieve over the loss of Chris, who died by suicide in 2013. LANIER FAMILY PHOTO

DON'T GIVE UP ON LIFE

Award, speech honors Chris Lanier and drives home message about suicide’s lasting impact

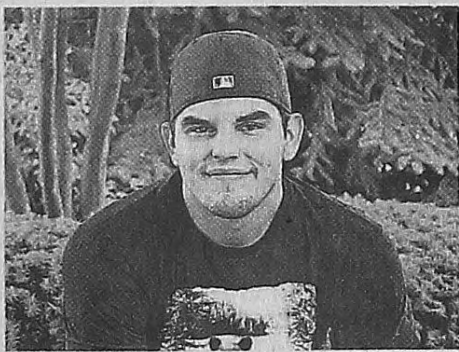
Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Chris Lanier played defensive end for the Canton Chiefs more than a decade ago, he never gave up on a play.

He never gave up on a single snap as he rocked the O-line to track down — and bring down — opponents’ run-



This photo of Chris Lanier belies the sadness he felt inside. The former Canton Chiefs football player, who graduated in 2007, died by suicide in 2013. An award in his memory was presented at the Chiefs’ recent team banquet. LANIER FAMILY PHOTO

ning backs.

Lanier was a member of Canton’s 2005 Division 1 state finalists and graduated in 2007, but then took his own life in 2013. Four years later, nobody can put their finger on why such a smart, athletic, fun-loving and personable young man would take that sad route.

On Nov. 20 at Laurel Manor in Livonia, during the Canton football banquet, Lanier’s family members made an impassioned plea to the Chiefs players (freshman, JV and varsity) who were watching and listening from their tables.

“Don’t give up on life,” Anne Lanier,

See LANIER, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL

Kurajian takes over as new coach for Black Hawks

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

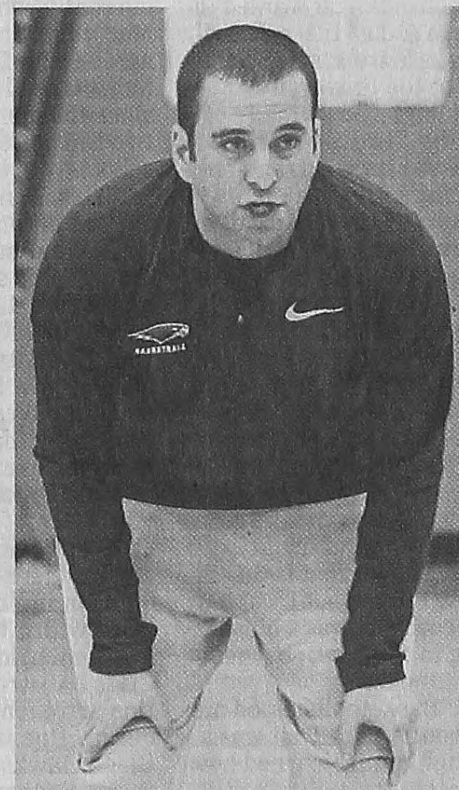
Phil Kurajian’s college basketball career was derailed by injuries. Since he couldn’t play, he decided to coach.

After two years as an assistant under former head coach Mike Maryanski, Kurajian is now in charge of the Bloomfield Hills boys basketball program. He’s eagerly looking forward to his first job as a head coach.

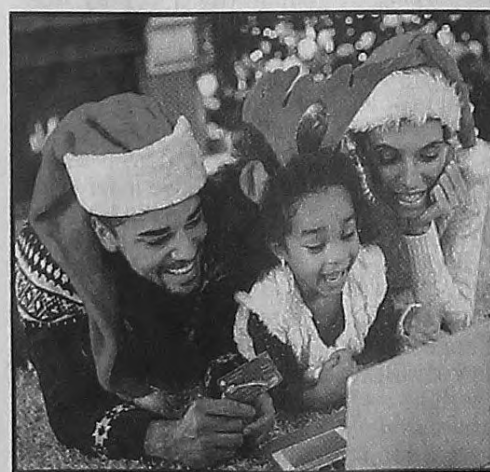
“I’m ecstatic, humbled. This is such a great community to coach in. Everyone here from the top down is a class act here,” Kurajian said. “Great people to be around and great student-athletes who really want to get better. It’s the perfect situation for me and my family right now and I couldn’t be more honored to be here.”

Kurajian, who grew in West Bloomfield and still lives there, attended Pontiac Notre Dame Prep High School. He played point guard for the Fighting

See KURAJIAN, Page B2



Phil Kurajian, a former assistant, takes over as head coach of the Bloomfield Hills boys basketball team. MARTY BUDNER



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Area teams ready to jump into new season

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Canton Chiefs will look different on the floor during the 2017-18 season, at least in the opening weeks of action as new players work to mesh with veterans.

But Canton varsity girls basketball head coach Rob Heitmeyer and his staff (now including former Salem assistant coach Bill Mair and former Plymouth standout Brett deBair) will expect the Chiefs (16-6 last year and division winners) to play strong fundamentally and compete in the KLAA.

"If we're physical and opportunistic, we may catch a few breaks," Heitmeyer said. "If we value our offensive possessions and transition back quickly into our defense, we'll set a tempo. In a nutshell, this year's team has the ability to play traditional Canton basketball."

Defending and rebounding, along with protecting the basketball, will be key elements to any success the Chiefs might enjoy.

"I like the effort I have seen up to this point," Heitmeyer said. "But there is a lot of work to be done."

Leading the way will be senior captains Ashley Criscenti, Alaina Heitmeyer and Jamie Wendel, who "will be counted on to give us quality minutes on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor."



Senior guard Alaina Heitmeyer (left) is one of Canton's top returnees. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Augmenting them will be seniors Carli Vaughn (who will be counted on for offense), Abby Sokol, Bella Wingate, Lauren Grendysa and Peyton Bagnell, along with juniors Carly Schwinke and Riley Spalding.

"This year's team has a nice balance of skills," Heitmeyer said. "As a staff, we're placing a premium on doing all the little things as well as we can. We're stressing

simplicity, so we put our players in a position to make plays."

Following is a look at some other area teams:

Wayne Memorial

The Zebras promise to again be a KLAA contender, led by captains Camree Clegg, Jeanae Terry and Jayah Hicks.

According to fourth-year coach Jarvis Mitchell, whose 2016-17 squad went 17-5, this season's

squad will be "a very exciting team to watch," with senior Clegg and junior Terry considered among the state's best college prospects.

Also back will be all-conference returner Hicks and sophomore Makailah Zeigler Griggs. Other talented players include Samiyah Hoskin, Jasmine Elder and Kayla Gray.

"Returning all starters from last year and add-

ing some key newcomers, I think we should be a lot better," Mitchell said. "The kids have really bought into playing defense on high level, which I think will help our chances to be a really solid basketball team."

"Very pleased with the effort the kids have shown and I am ecstatic about the start of the new season."

Redford Thurston

The Eagles return several players from last season's team, which went 10-10.

Those include senior center Bryanna Burton, junior forward Tristen Wesenberg, junior guards Naudia Jackson and Mikyha Johnson, sophomore forward/guard DaMareon Crimes and sophomore center Shayla Quates.

But veteran coach Bob Ostrowski is looking forward to how those players mesh with promising players moving up from the JV. He listed sophomore center/forward Jordan Fields, sophomore guard Raven Arnold, senior guard Ivory Mamo, sophomore forward Jazzman Pitts, senior guard Destini Welch and senior forward Kamille Williams.

"(We're) still a young squad with more talent than last year due to the influx of JV to varsity," Ostrowski said. "Key will be how quickly the team will jell together."

Garden City

Entering her sixth season as Cougars coach, Michele Tyree will oversee a young group learning how to play at the varsity level.

Six players from last year's 10-11 squad graduated and there only are four returning players.

"We are a young team with much to learn," Tyree said. "I believe we have a lot of potential."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

KURAJIAN

Continued from Page B1

Irish for two varsity seasons before graduating in 2007.

Kurajian attended Western Michigan University for two years and then transferred to Concordia College in Ann Arbor, where he intended to resume his basketball career. However, three ACL injuries interrupted his plans and he never played one game of college basketball.

"I didn't try to play at Western. I just wanted to go to school there," said Kurajian, a former staffer at the University of Michigan basketball camp. "I really realized I missed (playing) and one of the schools that recruited me out of high school was Concordia. I reached out to them and had a tryout halfway through college."

"My claim to fame with all the guys here is that I'm the only college basketball player never to have played a game. I tore my ACL three times in two years and the rest is history. But the great thing about that is that is how I found out I wanted to coach. It was a blessing in disguise, absolutely."

"Basketball helped me through a lot. That was a tough time. I learned how to fight through adversity, that was the biggest thing. And the relationship I had with the coaching staff there was really instrumental on who I kind of became as a man in college."

"I then kind of fell in love with the X's and O's and film and I just became a (coaching) junkie ever since," he added. "I was fortunate (Rice head coach) Ed Shaffer gave me my first job at 22 (years old) as a freshman head coach. So I went right into coaching after college."

An 'unparalleled' staff

After Rice, where he also served as a varsity assistant, Kurajian went on to another assistant coaching stint at Royal Oak Shrine. He then jumped at an opportunity to coach at John Jay College (NCAA Division III) in Manhattan.

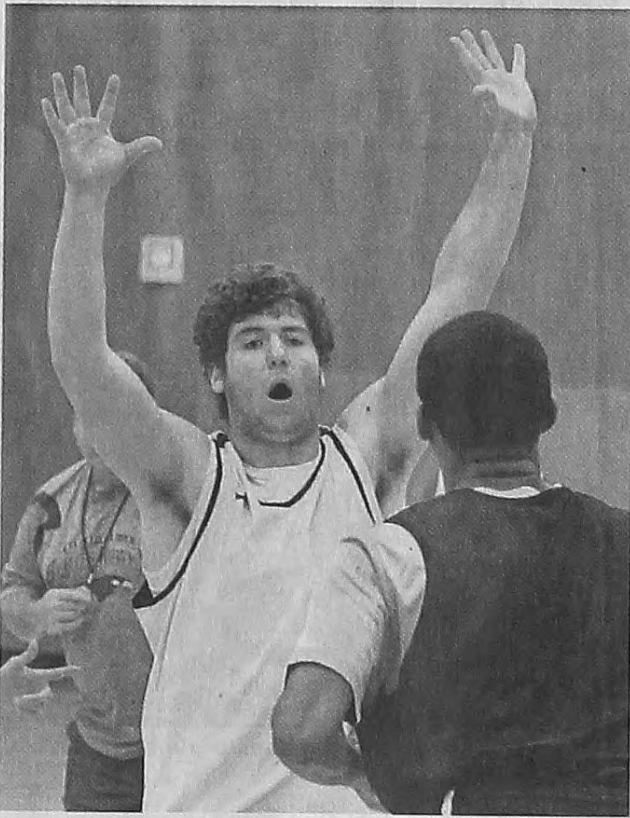
After one year in the Big Apple, Kurajian returned to Bloomfield Hills when Maryanski took over to begin the 2015-16 season. He's now the Black Hawks' fourth head coach (counting current freshman coach Nick Stratton, who served a half-year as an interim head coach) since the merger of the two Bloomfield Hills schools.

"This is one thing I've dreamt of for a long, long time. What makes it even better is the staff I have around me. It's unparalleled," said Kurajian, whose varsity assistants are Vanessa Thompson and Mike Weglarz. "It's something that really helps me every day. It's truly an honor to be here with this staff. It's an elite staff and I'm excited to be here with them."

Bloomfield Hills finished with a 10-11 record last season, losing in the Class A district semifinals to eventual state quarterfinalist Troy. The Black Hawks return seven players and Kurajian likes the way his squad is looking heading into the 2017-18 campaign.

Kurajian figures to field a strong shooting squad which should play an intense brand of man-to-man defense. He said the team basketball IQ is very high and the team is adapting to his new motion offense.

"Basketball-wise, it's a whole new system (from last year)," Kurajian said. "We're going to play very aggressively, we'll be disciplined, we're going to change defenses up and we're going to have some fun doing it."



Bloomfield Hills senior forward Joe Hecker is a versatile player who can handle any position of the court. MARTY BUDNER

"We're going to have more of a spread motion, offensively. We're fortunate to have some very good shooters here and we're going to move them around with off-ball screens," he added. "We're going to take advantage of our strengths."

Trio of senior leaders

The Black Hawks will be led by a trio of returning seniors who saw a lot of action last year in three-year varsity veterans Brent Bosart (6-foot-7 forward) and Joe Hecker (6-4 forward) and second-year varsity player Tyler Canfield (5-11 guard).

Bosart, who has several Division III college offers, is a strong rebounder and a talented inside-outside offensive threat. Hecker has a high basketball IQ and is a versatile player capable of handling any position on the floor.

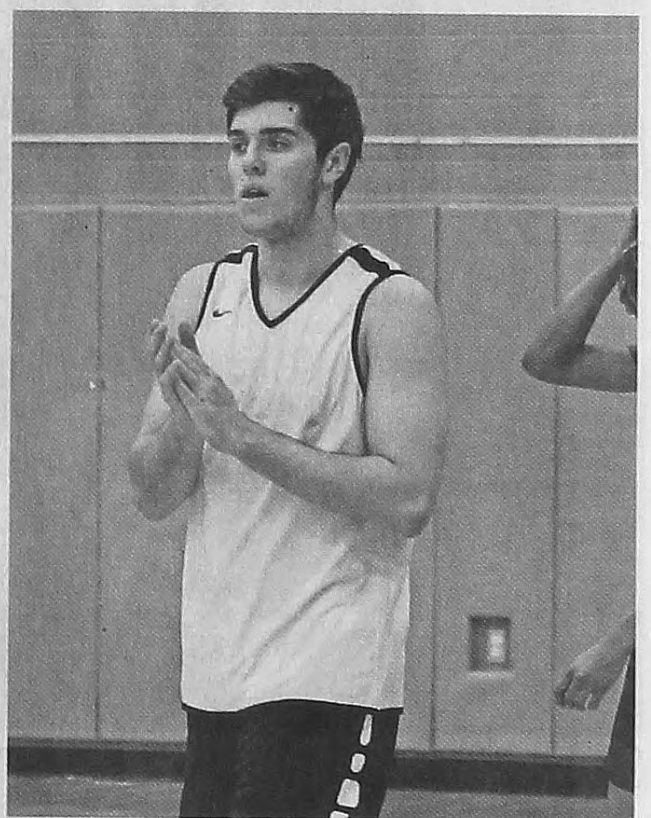
"Brent plays so hard and he's focused and dialed in and getting to a point where he can dom-

inate games and is a great teammate," Kurajian said. "We trust Joe running everything. He can handle the ball, he's a great passer for his size and he is a much better on-the-ball defender. He's an intelligent player and a leader, too."

Kurajian believes Canfield is one of the state's best shooters who figures to play a major offensive role this season.

"You can put me on record that (Canfield's) got to be the best shooter in Michigan and no one knows about him," Kurajian said. "He is a kid who's going to work harder than anybody else and he's shown that throughout his career. He's a great leader and he's going to score in bunches for us. When he's not, he's going to play defense at the other end, too, and still affect our team. I think he's going to have a great breakout senior year."

Seniors Jay Reedemer (6-0 guard), Grant Ellis (6-6 forward), Dean Hysny (6-4 guard/forward)



Brent Bosart is a senior forward who gives Bloomfield Hills a credible inside-outside scoring threat. MARTY BUDNER

and Devin Werthmeir (6-4 guard/forward), juniors Ben Mutz (6-0 guard) and Robert Goldsberry (guard) and sophomore Colin Hecker (6-2 guard) will fill out the rest of the roster and provide depth. Reedemer and Werthmeir are recovering from injuries, but figure to be available later in the season.

"It's really a blessing to be able to come to the gym every day, because it puts a smile on my face that I get to coach these kids every day," Kurajian said. "We're really building a family culture here. Teams who like playing together and really trust each other, it always shows on the court. We're really excited to see how that plays out this year."

Competing in the OAA Red

Bloomfield Hills is a member of the highly-regarded OAA Red Division and he knows the awesome challenges his team faces this year. But teams like defending Class A state champion Clarkston and state semi-

finalist West Blomfield are not the only monster squads on the schedule.

The Black Hawks also face standout non-conference foes Detroit Cass Tech, Detroit Western, Saline, Detroit Country Day and his alma mater, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

Kurajian is not backing away from anyone.

"We probably play one of the toughest schedules in Michigan. Our biggest thing we try to do is compete and get better every single day," Kurajian said. "We realize that the league we play in and the competition we play, that we need to be able to outwork teams to win games. We're excited to compete and get better."

"The big thing we're trying to do here is that the lessons we learn on the court are the lessons you're going to take to life," he added. "That's what we're trying to build here. We're very excited to get the season going and get the community involved."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brand new year brings new hopes for area teams

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Ready for some high school basketball?

Boys basketball teams from all over Observ-erland are practicing hard and trying to smooth out any wrinkles as the 2017-18 season tips off Monday.

There are veteran coaches and rookie coaches (Livonia Franklin's T.J. Hurley is the team's third coach in three seasons), players looking to pick up where they left off a year ago and newcomers pressing to join the rotation.

Following is a glimpse into what some of the area teams look to bring to the court this season:

Canton

Senior Noah Brown could be the player who helps Canton once again be a KLAA contender.

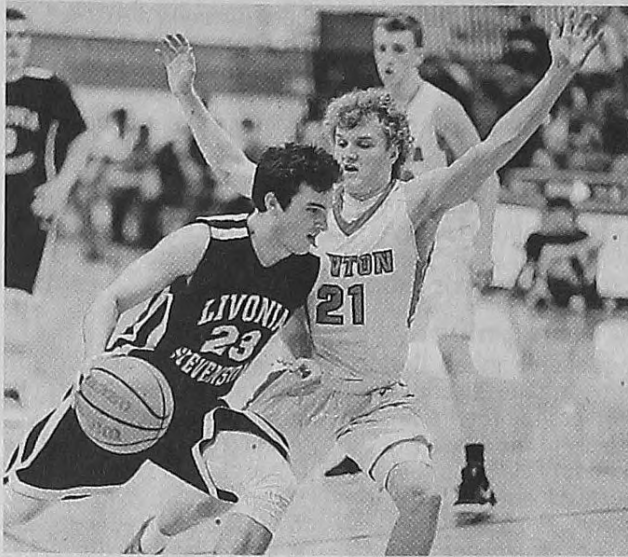
Ninth-year head coach Jimmy Reddy said Brown is "a young man with an outstanding character and work ethic who is finally being more aggressive on offense this year as a senior."

If Brown (a captain) indeed has moved his game up a notch, the Chiefs could improve upon last year's 13-8 record and get further in the postseason (Canton lost in the district opener to Novi).

But Brown won't be the only player with talent and desire to lift the team to new heights.

Other returnees include senior captains Connor Engel, Colin Troup, Chase Meredith, Danny Lanava and Eian Barker. Junior returnees are B. Artis White and Vinson Sigmon.

"The returners are the nucleus of the team and they will all play meaningful minutes this year," Reddy said. "Obviously, they all have varsity experience and two of them (B. Artis and Colin)



Back to help their respective teams are Livonia Stevenson's Devin Dunn (left) and Canton's Connor Engel. TOM BEAUDOIN

are in their third year of varsity and Noah is in his fourth year as a varsity player.

"I love our team chemistry and I love our competitive edge. Last year's team was so close to being a very good team, they just could not get over the hump and win all the close games we were in, which seemed like every game."

Newcomers with potential include junior Kendall Perkins (a transfer from Detroit Cass Tech), junior Darius Robinson, senior Thomas VanMiddlesworth and sophomore Benny Ste-siak.

Westland John Glenn

The Rockets soared last season to a 20-4 record and fourth-year head coach Rod Watts has the top-end talent to once again be a threat in the KLAA.

Junior point guard Joe Moon IV, who last year was an all-KLAA player and MVP at the Muskegon Holiday Tournament and MLK Floyd Mayweather Classic, is back to spearhead the Rockets.

Also back are senior wing guard Frankie Braxton, junior combo forward Donovan Long-Johnson and junior for-

ward Chad Stevens.

"We are looking forward to our team competing for a conference championship," Watts said.

Salem

Longtime Rocks head coach Bob Brodie will look to mold a winning unit out of a relatively new group. The lone returning starter is senior guard Jordan Ingram.

Several players on last year's team likely will have a larger role in 2017-18, including senior guards Shawn Srivistava and Grant Racer and senior forwards Thomas Noble, Matt Jira and Amit Tiwari.

Up from the junior varsity and looking to make an impact will be junior forwards Joe Kaceli, Saad Syed and Ben Dierker and junior guard Julius Nelson.

Rounding out the squad are sophomores Gabe Berishaj (guard), Tae Veon Ruffin (forward) and Jackson King (post).

"The key to this team is how fast we can come together as a unit," Brodie said. "With three different grades of players, we have to be able to figure it out to be successful."

"We have some size

and speed, but need to develop experience at all positions in a hurry to be able to compete with the talent in our league. It is a hard-working group who is striving to get better in every practice, which is a good start to developing a team."

Livonia Stevenson

Entering his fourth season at the Spartans' helm is Kareem Smartt, whose 2016-17 team went 14-6 and lost to John Glenn in the districts.

Leading the way will be senior point guard Devin Dunn (15 points, four assists), senior guard/forward Parker Graham, senior guards George Ferguson and co-captain Chris Fazica.

Seniors Thomas Demers and Matt Donehue and junior forward and co-captain Mike Reed also will contribute, as will varsity newcomer Josh Marquedant. The latter will bring "length and athleticism" to the lineup.

"Top to bottom, this team is made up of athletic players," assistant coach Chris Haldane said. "This athleticism should help achieve our goal of playing up-tempo basketball and being extremely versatile and aggressive on defense."

"All of our returning seniors played significant minutes last year and that experience should help lead us this season. Every year, our team goal is to make a deep run in the state tournament and that starts with improving our record from last year and claiming a district title."

Plymouth

Recent Division I recruit Anthony Crump (UNC-Asheville) is part of a solid nucleus that veteran head coach Mike Soukup will be leaning on in hopes of improving on a 9-13 mark from 2016-17.

Crump, a senior guard and co-captain, will be joined in the lineup by

senior co-captains Joe Robb and A.J. Neal. Also slated for the rotation will be seniors Justin Reynolds, Chris Chin and Jeff Davis and juniors Troy Aikins and Bryce Amison.

Several varsity newcomers also look to push for playing time, including senior Vince Hooks and juniors Devon Wisniewski, Brice Baumgart and Ryan Berger.

"We have a group that is eager and willing to be coached," said Soukup, starting his ninth season as Plymouth coach. "Our goal is constant improvement every day. If you can be a little bit better every day, then you will be a lot better by the end of the year and the results will take care of themselves."

"We have fantastic senior leaders who must demand that we hold each other accountable to getting better."

Livonia Churchill

The Chargers went 6-15 in head coach James McCulloh's first season at the helm, but he is enthusiastic that 2017-18 will be much improved.

"We are going to be a team that is going to be exciting to watch," McCulloh said. "We are replacing a lot of senior leadership from last year but have had a number of players that have taken up that role."

"We have seen a lot of growth in our players from the end of last year until today and we look forward to competing this year."

Senior guards Martell Dooley, Taji Hall and Luke Jaroszewicz, along with junior forward Joel Forgacs, are returnees with a lot to bring to the mix.

Churchill's influx of newcomers includes senior forward Jaren Carble, junior forwards Ashton Nance and Ethan Gyurnek and junior guards Jaylen Stanley and Josh Guilbault.

Plymouth Christian

Third-year head coach Matt Windle welcomes several key players from the 2016-17 team, which went 17-8 and went to the regional championship before bowing out.

Senior guards Matt Malcolm (17 points, seven rebounds), Max Okolo (13 points, 10 boards) and Levi Yakuber (10 points, six boards, seven assists) and senior forward Jayme Fadden (nine rebounds) will be counted on to build upon last season's successes.

Other returning players are senior forward Paul Pfister, who will "provide valuable minutes this year," and junior forward Layne Pries, slotted to be the Eagles' fifth starter.

"Really excited about them all," Windle said. "They have all put in a lot of work this summer and it will pay off."

Senior Phillip Morby returns after not playing last season. "He is back and will have a tremendous impact" via his energy and savvy, Windle noted.

Freshman Nathan Etnyre is a player who could make strides at the point guard spot, getting in some good minutes off the bench.

"Matt, Levi, and Max are kind of our big three when it comes to an offensive threat and putting the ball in the hole," Windle said. "Any one of those guys can put up 30 points on a given night. Jayme is our floor general and really leads our team on the defensive side of things. We want to be known for our defensive tenacity and toughness."

Plymouth Christian Academy will look to contend in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference and then take a run at a Division 4 state championship.

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LANIER

Continued from Page B1

Chris's mom, said from the podium. "Tattoo it on your arm if you need to."

A large image of a smiling Lanier from his football days was projected on the screen in the corner of the banquet hall while she spoke.

Don't quit the team

The Lanier family attended the banquet to deliver that heartfelt message about the need to squash any thoughts of suicide — and to apply to everyday life those same attributes it takes to be successful as part of a football team.

"Here's the thing, you become strong by staying in the game," Anne Lanier said. "First, second and third string, you are needed. If you're on the field, on the sidelines or in the stands, you are needed."



Canton Chiefs senior football player Nick Polydoros walks to the podium at Laurel Manor in Livonia, to receive the inaugural Chris Lanier Chiefs Spirit Award. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"What's not OK is to give up on life. Have a team, have a plan, have a plan B, C, D, E, if you need to. Learn how to stay strong through the tough times and take a timeout when needed." They also presented

the inaugural Chris Lanier Chiefs Spirit Award.

Receiving the award — given to the player who is great on and off the field — was senior linebacker and running back Nick Polydoros.

"It's such an honor to

be awarded the Chris Lanier Award," Polydoros said following the banquet. "I didn't expect it at all. But just hearing the story and everything, it's such an honor to be receiving that award."

Told that Lanier was described by his mom as "a person full of passion for the underdog," Polydoros nodded.

"Yeah," he said. "I think it fits me pretty well."

Sadness remains

The pointed and stark message delivered by the Laniers helped put things into perspective for the football team, whose championship dreams were literally stopped inches short when Novi Detroit Catholic Central stuffed a two-point conversion bid.

Had the Chiefs crossed the goal line in the final minute of that D-1 regional final Nov. 10, who knows how far they would have made it?

Somehow, all that didn't matter as much when listening to the speeches and sensing the agony and heartbreak Lanier's death still has on his mother, sister Melissa (who also spoke) and other family members who were at the banquet.

Tattoos on arms might be good. But one gets the sense what the Laniers said that night remains imprinted on their brains.

"That sadness is not gone," Melissa said. "It is just transferred to the rest of us."

Thousands of families like the Laniers are feeling that same pain.

Heartbreaking statistics

In a 2016 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. suicide rate spiked 24 percent between 1999 and 2014. The numbers apply to both genders and all age groups. In 2014, the re-

port continued, 13 people per 100,000 died by suicide.

In 2015, more than 44,000 people died by suicide and that was the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 15-34, according to the CDC.

And the question is what pushes youngsters over the edge? Depression, family issues, bullying on social media are some of the reasons.

The Laniers stressed to the Canton football players and their families that none of those things are worth cashing it all in for.

"So many life lessons are learned through football," Anne Lanier said, listing resilience, teamwork, discipline and courage. "We are up here (to say), no matter what, don't ever give up on life. Don't blame life."

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

Nick Boka, whose rights are owned by the National Hockey League's Minnesota Wild — plus several current U.S. players have committed to playing for U-M in the next couple of years.

"I think all the guys are pretty excited to go there and play at the new (former Compuware Arena) renovated rink," Boka, a defenseman, said during a telephone interview last week. "Just because we have so many (NTDP) alums on our

team and a couple of coaches on that team who were our previous coaches, it's a pretty exciting feeling to go back, especially for me."

Boka actually played for the NTDP when it was based in Ann Arbor (at the Cube).

Among his U-M teammates who played at USA Hockey Arena (the program moved to Plymouth in 2015-16) are Bloomfield Hills' Will Lockwood, Oxford's Josh Norris and Quinn Hughes — who happens to have a younger brother, Jack, playing for the NTDP U-17 team.

"I think they're really

excited, too," Boka said. "They got a lot of friends on their team, guys they've been around the last year or so. There'll definitely be some familiar faces there and they're definitely going to have fun playing against those guys."

"We love having guys from USA. I think we got a lot of USA alums on our team. It's definitely going to be a common theme going forward. They're all good players, they're all ready to step in and play on any college team."

Fast and furious

As for what kind of game fans could expect, Boka predicted it would be highly competitive and entertaining. Friendships are checked at the locker room door for a couple of hours, always the case when it comes to hockey players.

"We're definitely going to play to win," said Boka, whose younger brother Luke plays in the Ontario Hockey League with the 2017 Memorial Cup champion Windsor Spitfires. "I expect a high-tempo, high-speed game."

"They've got a lot of skill. I remember playing on that team and every-

one's skilled, everyone's tough, everyone is ready to play at the next level. Definitely not going to take that team lightly just because they're young."

Spartans are next

Meanwhile, Monaghan said Saturday's match-up was a good precursor to the U-18 squad's game Dec. 16 against Michigan State University (coached by Danton Cole, formerly of the NTDP).

"We think we have a little rivalry between Michigan and Michigan State to see who can draw the bigger crowd, because they have a ri-

valry in everything, as we know," Monaghan said, chuckling. "And that one, for us, they (Spartans) also have a few players that are alums of ours, like Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield) and Patrick Khodorenko and Ed Minney."

"But that's also really special for everyone here, because all three of the (MSU) coaches coached here. Danton, obviously, Chris Luongo and (goalie coach) Joe Exter. ... It's good to see those guys come home for a night."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

WWAC teams gearing up for 2017-18 openers

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Redford Thurston boys basketball coach Brian Bates says there's a lot to like about his team entering the 2017-18 season.

After going 7-13 a year ago, Bates is optimistic the Eagles can stay afloat in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's tough Blue Division, which includes Class A powers Belleville and Romulus.

Thurston, which opens its season Tuesday, Dec. 5, at home against Birmingham Groves, lost only three players to graduation in Malik Hill, De'Quan Gadson and Dorian Naylor.

Meanwhile, 10 players return, including nine seniors.

"We are playing with a lot of confidence this year and this team really gets along well with each other," Bates said. "The team is working hard to improve every day and, hopefully, that will translate into a good season."

Returning senior guards include 5-foot-10 Malik Walker and 5-11



RU's James Gresham (with ball) and Thurston's Kevin Newell both return for their respective team. TOM BEAUDOIN

Karlos Berry, along with 5-10 junior Darrell Anderson.

Bates has plenty of depth to choose from in the front court, led by seniors Zach Crofford (6-3), Kevin Newell (6-3), Demetrius Dowd (6-0),

Kevon Moore (6-0), Matteo Maisano (6-0), Hakim Salaam (6-6) and Matthew Acquah (6-2).

Among the promising newcomers are 5-10 sophomore guard Khalil Freeman, 6-0 junior guard Davon Headwood, 6-2

junior forward Marshai Carter Tait and 6-4 junior Jamar Boyd.

"This season, we have a lot of players returning," Bates said. "Last year, they learned a lot and I believe that experience is going to carry over to this year. I am excited about this team."

Redford Union

Coach Randall Taylor, entering his eighth season, guided the Panthers (11-11) to the Class B district final last year before losing to Detroit Henry Ford.

Lost to graduation off that team were all-WWAC players Eric McCarter and Jacob Gagnon.

"We lost eight seniors to graduations, so this team is young in experience," Taylor said. "We are hoping that each guy continues to get better each day. If that happens, we will get better as a team daily."

Among the top returnees are 6-3 senior forward Marcus Evans, 5-10 senior guard James Gresham, 6-1 junior guard Amir Huston and 6-3 wing Christian Montgomery.

The Panthers, mem-

bers of the WWAC Red Division, open their season Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Plymouth.

"We expect to be competitive this season and build off of last year," Taylor said. "We have set some team goals to accomplish this year."

Livonia Clarenceville

There's nowhere to go but up this season for second-year coach Ty Wallace, who suffered through a 0-21 season and last-place finish in the WWAC Red Division.

Five players return for the Trojans, including the team's top two leading scorers in 6-1 senior forward Logan Calimazzo and 5-10 junior guard Rickey Scott.

Meanwhile, Wallace expects 6-3 senior forward Bekim Lulanaj and 5-8 sophomore guard Tavian Cruz to make immediate contributions.

Clarenceville opens its season Tuesday, Dec. 5, at home against Allen Park Cabrini.

"After a disappointing 2016-17 season, we're looking to get back on track this upcoming season," Wallace said.

Garden City

Dave Arnold takes over the Cougars helm from Rick Morton, who retired after Garden City posted a 4-17 mark (2-8 record in the WWAC.)

Returning players are 6-5 senior center Cameron Walter, senior forward Eian Castonguay and senior guard Darius Benson. That trio had some outstanding games in 2016-17 and will be called upon to repeat their magic.

But Arnold also will be interested to see what first-year players David McDaniel (junior guard) and 6-6 Zachary Orsette (junior forward/center) will contribute.

"This is a pretty athletic group that should be able to hold its own against anyone on our schedule from that standpoint," Arnold said. "Until we learn to defend, rebound and take care of the basketball, last year's struggles will continue. The sooner we can take responsibility and improve in those areas, the higher our ceiling becomes."

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this report.

BOYS HOCKEY

Livonia Franklin climbs out of early hole, slips past Canton, 4-3

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Two up-and-coming KLAA varsity boys hockey teams squared off Wednesday at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia and the festivities boiled

down to a point shot that bounced into the goal with under six minutes remaining.

"I always say a shot not taken is a goal not scored," Livonia Franklin head coach Dan Phelps said following his team's 4-3 victory over Canton.

On a night featuring a

hat trick by Canton's Hugo Fonovic (two goals in the first 20 seconds of the contest) and two goals and two assists by Franklin's Trevor Van Vliet, the game was decided by freshman defenseman Casey Farren.

With 5:28 remaining, Van Vliet slipped the

puck to Farren at the point and he whipped a shot toward screened Canton goalie Michael Renzi — who played an exceptional game — and the puck found the back of the net.

"(Renzi) was playing really well down there in the net," Farren said.

"Trevor just gave it back to me. It deflected off a couple guys and it went in.

"It feels really, really rewarding, because this is my first year playing varsity hockey. And it makes me feel proud of myself to be here with my team, it's a win."

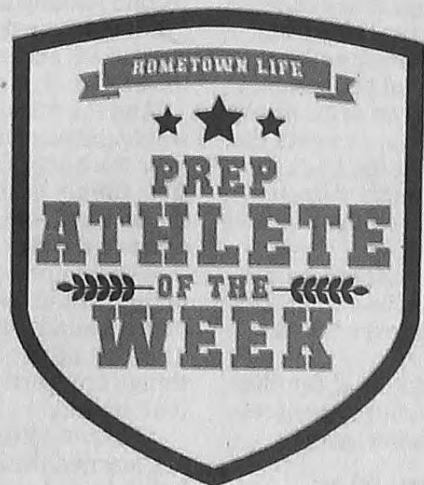
Following are several takeaways:

CHIEFS BREAK OUT

Right off the hop, Canton (2-3-0) put the Patriots behind the eight-ball when Fonovic scored just 10 seconds into the

See FRANKLIN, Page B5

VOTE ONLINE EVERY WEEK

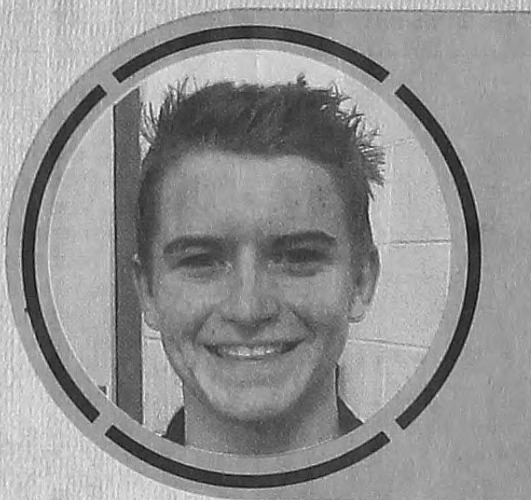


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PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



WILL TRAGGE

HOCKEY SENIOR LIVONIA STEVENSON SPARTANS

Livonia Stevenson senior goalie Will Tragge had a huge Thanksgiving week between the pipes. And then he feasted at the polls, as he coasted to win Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week honors.

More than 21,000 votes were cast and Tragge received nearly half of them with 9,604 votes (45.23 percent).

Three others had solid showings, although not coming close to the netminder. In second place was Cranbrook Kingswood freshman swimmer Gwen Woodbury (4,150, 19.54 percent).

Third place went to Novi Detroit Catholic Central hockey player Brendan West (3,583, 16.87 percent) while Livonia Franklin running back Isaac Moore — who was Athlete of the Week earlier in the season — placed fourth overall with 3,225 votes (15.19 percent).

What he did: Tragge backstopped the Spartans to a 3-1 win over Livonia Churchill on Thanksgiving Eve, and followed that up with a shutout victory over

Cranbrook Kingswood during a holiday tourney hosted by the Cranes.

Then came what Stevenson head coach David Mitchell called an "instant classic," a 3-2 loss in triple OT to powerhouse Brighton.

"That tournament's awesome, played great competition," Tragge said. "It sets us up. We got a big game this weekend against Northville."

ABOUT WINNING WEEKLY POLL:

The goalie said winning the Athlete of the Week poll was

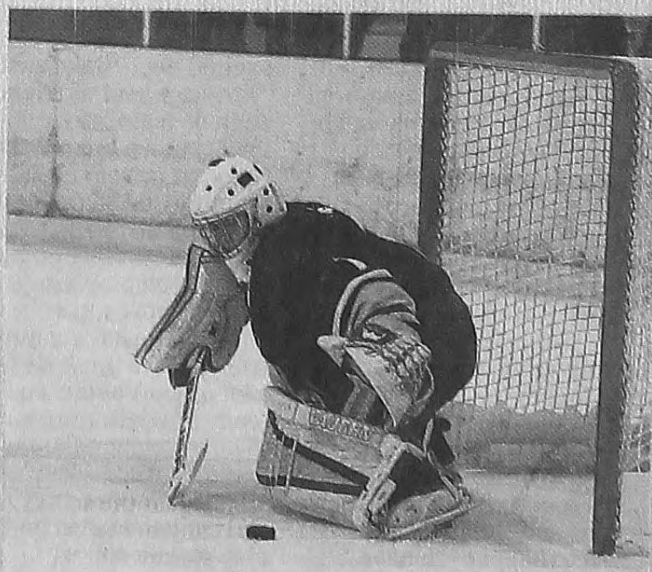
"an awesome honor. I was kind of surprised that I got nominated. It sort of took off. I told my family and my family started voting and it got pretty big, so I'm honored."

He also said it was great that so many from Livonia Stevenson voted for him.

"It's cool to see all the support," Tragge added.

SHIFTING GEARS: According to Tragge, he plans on being a leader on and off the ice for the Spartans. His role has been in transition since he was a

backup goalie two years ago. "I sat behind Cullen Barber my sophomore year," Tragge continued. "So having the reins last year it was more learning how to manage the grind, and playing day in and day out. This year, I'm starting to pass it down to the other (goalies). I feel more of a leadership role this year."



TO VOTE FOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK, GO TO WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS

PREP ROUNDUP

Mercy cagers open with win; Seaholm downed by Cousino

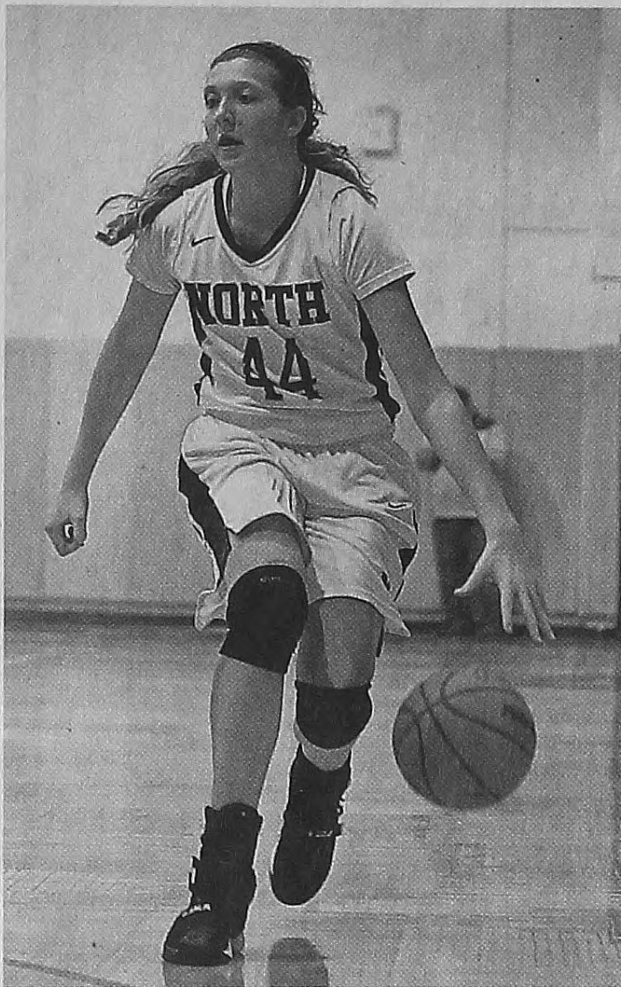
Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LIV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.

Girls basketball

MERCY 51, ROCHESTER ADAMS 41: Mercy opened the 2017-18 season Wednesday with this 10-point victory over Rochester Adams. The Marlins held a slim 13-11 lead after the opening quarter, but surged ahead with an 18-8 second-quarter scoring advantage for a 31-19 half-time lead. The Highlanders outscored the Marlins by two points in the second half. Jenna Schuller led Mercy with 18 points while Julia Bishop contributed nine. Makayla Smith led Adams with a game-high 21 points. Mercy made 12 of 20 free throws while Adams made 10-15.

COUSINO 51, SEAHOLM 28: Highly-regarded Warren Cousino took an early lead on Seaholm in the season opener on Tuesday and finished with the 23-point victory. The Patriots, state semi-finalists last year after winning the state title the previous season, led 12-6 after one quarter and held a 24-15 halftime lead. Cousino had two players reach double figures, including Olivia Jolliffe (14) and Kendall Homic (10). Seaholm's high scorers were sophomore Helena Beasley (seven), sophomore Julia Bell (seven) and senior Riley Annear (six).

NORTH FARMINGTON 59, LAKELAND 16: North Farmington made an impressive season debut Monday night with this 43-point victory over visiting Lakeland. The Raiders held a 25-9 lead after the opening quarter and had a strong second quarter to take a commanding 41-11 halftime advantage. Veteran senior Sam Cherney led



Senior Sam Cherney netted a double-double to lead North Farmington past Lakeland in its season opener last week. FILE PHOTO

Raiders with a double-double that included 23 points and 19 rebounds. She also added five steals. Patil Tcholakian also registered a double-double with 13 points and 12 steals. Maya Kelly (six points, six rebounds), Molly Simpson (five steals, five assists, three points), Natalie George (seven assists, three points) and Abby Hanus (four points, four assists) had notable performances. As a team, North Farmington posted 37 steals. The Raiders will host Walled Lake Northern on Tuesday.

Boys hockey

TRAVERSE CITY CENTRAL 6, FARMINGTON 4: Host Traverse City scored three second-period goals en route to this victory on Nov. 25.

The Falcons held a 1-0 lead in the opening period on the first of two goals by Joe Carbone. Farmington's other goals were tallied by Kris Kozoro and Collin Rea. The loss left the Falcons with a 1-2-2 overall record.

FARMINGTON 2, TRAVERSE CITY WEST 2 (OT): In its opening game in Traverse City on Nov. 24, Farmington found the back of the net twice in the opening period. Tony Eaton scored the game's first goal off an assist from Joe Carbone. Two minutes later, Tanner Neill scored off assists from Eaton and Carbone. West scored late in the first period and added its second goal in the final period to force overtime. Neither team scored in the extra session as the game ended in a draw.



Livonia Franklin's Nolan Niva (left) and Canton's Austin Woelke pursue a loose puck Wednesday at Eddie Edgar Arena. TOM BEAUDOIN

FRANKLIN

Continued from Page B4

game (assisted by Daniel Bourgeois and Sam Reinders). For good measure, he scored again eight seconds later and all of a sudden it was 2-0.

"Fastest two goals, everything went perfectly right off the faceoffs," Fonovic said. "I got lucky with two low shots right off the bat."

"Played it perfectly off the faceoff, got it right to me, it was a team effort. Good job by them."

MULLIGAN TIME

After those early goals, Phelps decided not to call a timeout for the Patriots (3-1-1).

"We didn't want to call timeout and push the

panic button," Phelps said. "We just wanted to keep them not too high and not too low. We said, 'Guys, there's all kind of hockey left; there's 50-some minutes left in the game.'

"They got back to what they knew they wanted to do. They worked hard. The common denominator for everything we do is hard work."

SHIFTING THE MO

Franklin chipped away at the deficit beginning with Van Vliet's goal about 10 minutes into the contest. Van Vliet then broke in and slipped a shot past Renzi at the 37-second mark of the second period.

The Patriots took their first lead with 8:15 left in the period, when Dakota Keaton buried a centering pass from Van Vliet.

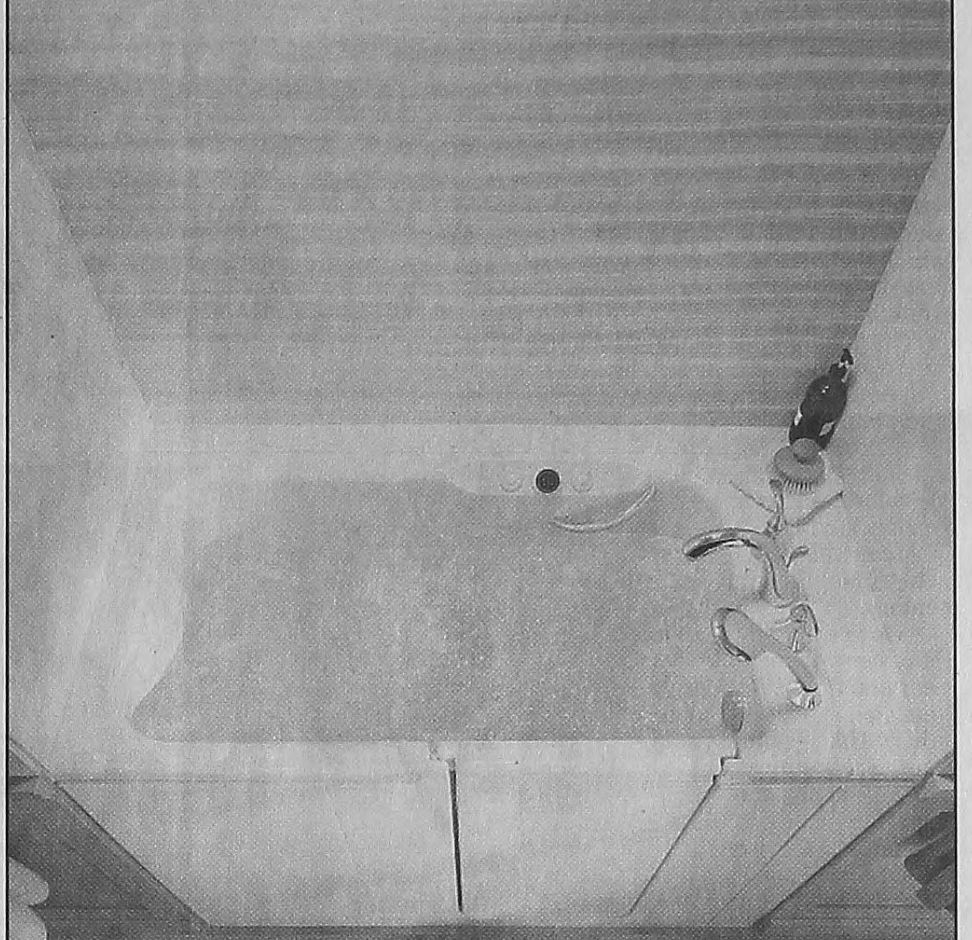
In the first five minutes of the third period, Franklin pressed Renzi with a barrage of shots, but could not find the back of the net.

With that spark, the Chiefs tied it up at 3-3 with 11:44 to play. After a shot was blocked at the Canton blue line, Bourgeois rushed down the right wing and took a shot at Franklin goalie Will Augustine. The puck rebounded to Fonovic and he buried it.

"He's just a natural goal scorer. He really knows how to put the puck in the net," Canton head coach John Bartle said. "I think he's in the top end of the scoring leaders right now. For a sophomore, he's an excellent player."

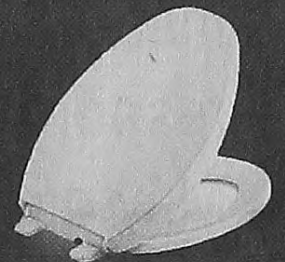
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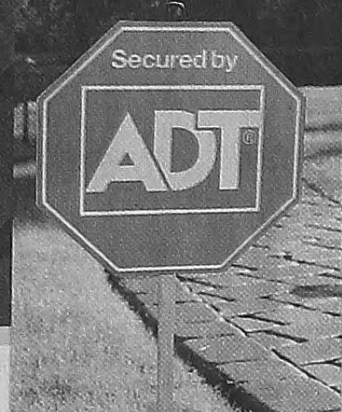
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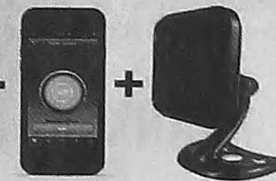
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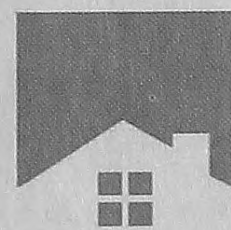
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What you need to know to be your own boss

BY KATE LOPAZE
 THEJOBNETWORK

If you've ever had a job with a boss, you've probably had these thoughts, especially on frustrating days: "I could be the boss and do a better job," and "Why don't I do that?" There are different ways to "do that." One is to rise through the ranks. The other is to go into business for yourself. It's not the easiest path, but if it's your goal, here are some ways to get started:

Are you ready?
 Being your own boss sounds great, but if you're not ready to handle the demands of running your own business, recognize that up front. Management consultant Steve Tobak recommends starting with an honest assessment of how you are as an employee to see how well you might function when you're depending on yourself to get everything done. People who focus on responsibilities over branding and who seek achievements over power will likely be more successful when it comes time to assume responsibility for a business.

Design a plan.
 Your next step should be deciding explicitly what it is you'll be doing in your business. Branding is great, but it comes later. The core business has to come first, so a solid plan is essential. If you need help coming up with a business plan, there are a number of free and premium services online that can help you craft it, such as LivePlan or Microsoft's Dynamics 365.



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Do a test run.
 Before you take the leap, think about doing a "soft launch" by creating your business as a side hustle or a part-time commitment. This is a way of figuring out if it is the right path for you before you've committed fully to the idea of ditching your current career path. Plus, it lets you start building a customer base and getting a real sense of what the market is like — information that will be invaluable.

Consider the money.
 Before you do anything drastic like quitting your current job, do your homework on some baseline financial issues. Finances are an incredibly important consideration. You'll be the one writing the paychecks, so there's not much room for error. Gather your personal financial records and answer

these important questions: What are the startup costs? What are the week-to-week operating costs? If your business is slow to develop, how long can you go without a paycheck? Will you need to hire employees? If so, what can you afford to pay them?
 It may be that after your financial analysis, you find you aren't quite ready to quit your job and go it alone. And that's okay — it gives you more time to plan, set goals and lay the groundwork for your business.

Decide who's on your team.
 Your company may be just you at first, and that's a lot of pressure. What friends or family do you have to help provide a balance for that? Do you have people you trust who can listen to you and help talk through decisions and provide valuable feedback? You

should start building your network in general, both using online social networks like LinkedIn and joining professional associations in your field. There are also organizations that specifically support small business owners.

Build your brand.
 Self-marketing is going to be one of the best tools you have at your disposal as you get started. Creating dedicated social media profiles is a no-brainer. You'll also need a website — ideally, one designed professionally. There are lots of hosting services that also help you build a sleek site. Once you have your own URL and platform, you can use a blog, photo gallery, portfolio and email to reach customers.

Prepare to make the transition.
 Think about a careful transition from your current job to your entrepreneurship — especially if your new company will be in the same field. It's important to exit gracefully. That means figuring out a timetable for quitting (potentially more than the standard two weeks). During this transition period, you should also see if there's fine print in your employment contract about pursuing clients or competitive job opportunities. Some companies have a noncompete clause to limit what former employees can do in the same field.

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

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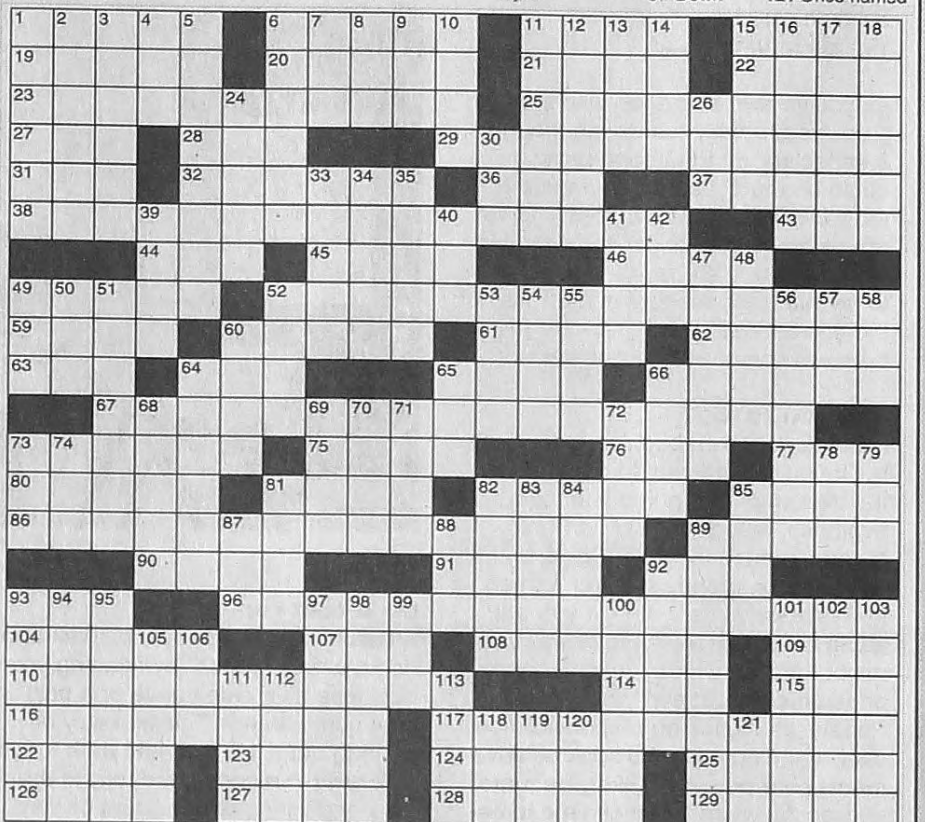
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63 Sauna spot
64 — tai (mixed drink)
65 Hive group
66 "Sorority Row" actress
67 Annual publication of Benjamin Franklin (#5)
73 Jonathan Swift's genre
75 Ark crafter
76 Egg case
77 Prefix with con
80 Her "Hello" was a big hit
81 Horror film helper
82 Composer Franz
85 Singer Baez
86 What a green card grants an allen (#6)
89 Dated yet trendy
90 Be a vagrant
91 "Othello" baddie
92 "No kidding!" target
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104 Not silently
107 August sign
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51 Book division
52 Brow or lash
53 Say for sure
54 With
56-Down, antwined like shoelace ends
55 Own (up)
56 See
54-Down
57 With
78-Down, tone deafness
58 Pro's vote
60 Cost to cab it
64 Singer Rita
65 Scornful cry
66 Dark mark
68 Gulf ship
69 Playwright William
70 Pigeon calls
71 Spy Mata —
72 Timber tool
73 Syrup base
74 Sugary drink
78 See
57-Down
79 1969 Beattle bride
81 — la Douce
82 Lutzes, e.g.
83 Bar of gold
84 Range
85 Taunt
87 Eatery check
88 Handy-andy's initials.
89 Evaluate anew
92 Low spirits
93 Hermit, say
94 — Lorraine
95 Schnozz
97 Maker of an exact copy
98 Brewing pot
99 "Skær — (2002 hit)
100 Merges
101 Crack, as a cipher
102 Provided, as with talent
103 — Rides it Again! (old Western)
105 In — (not yet born)
106 "What's the —?"
111 Trolley car
112 Caftan, e.g.
113 Jail division
118 Debt doc
119 Chewed stuff
120 Not square
121 Once named



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

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

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!

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

BEAUTY WORD SEARCH

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

- ACNE
- ACUPUNCTURE
- ALLERGIC
- ALOE
- BEAUTY
- BLACKHEADS
- BODY
- BOTANICAL
- BRONZER
- CELLULITE
- CERAMIDES
- CHEMICALS
- COENZYME
- COLLAGEN
- COMBINATION
- COSMETICS
- DERMATOLOGIST
- DERMATOLOGIST
- DIMETHICONE
- EPILATION
- EXFOLIATE
- GLYCERIN
- HAIRSTYLE
- HIGHLIGHTS
- HUMECTANTS
- LASER
- MEDICAL
- MINERALS
- NATURAL
- NONCOMEDOGENIC
- PEPTIDES
- PORES
- SPA
- TONER

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers
APRES CELEBR FAST SLAM
SLOMO AVILA ARLO YETI
TASIANDEVIL BEATINGON
RYE HOE DOHIVOLCANO
ATA ASTANA RIO ESTER
YOURWISHTISMYCOMD EDS
HAR MOTE CAST
MCCOY FIABITATFORHUNTY
RAHS FADERVIEWINNITF
SPA MAI BEES BRIANA
POORRICHARDSALACK
SATIRE NOAH DOZ NEO
ADELE IGOR LISZT JOAN
PERENTRESTIDENCE RETRO
NOAM TAGO GCC
MAH GACKBYPOPULARDED
ALOUO LEO STENOS ENE
ISNKTITROTIC IOS CDS
LAKEFRONT EIGHTMINENOUT
ICER ABEL LOUIE SEDER
NERO MERE LUMPS SEEDY

Word Search Answers
ACNE ACUPUNCTURE ALLERGIC ALOE BEAUTY BLACKHEADS BODY BOTANICAL BRONZER CELLULITE CERAMIDES CHEMICALS COENZYME COLLAGEN COMBINATION COSMETICS DERMATOLOGIST DERMATOLOGIST DIMETHICONE EPILATION EXFOLIATE GLYCERIN HAIRSTYLE HIGHLIGHTS HUMECTANTS LASER MEDICAL MINERALS NATURAL NONCOMEDOGENIC PEPTIDES PORES SPA TONER

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

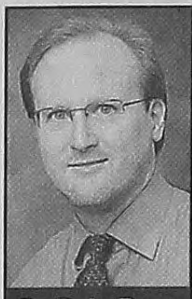
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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.125	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4	0.25	3.25	0

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Car Report

IN THE NEXT CHAPTER, CADILLAC EXPANDS ITS BOOK BY CADILLAC SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE TO 2 MORE CITIES – COULD DETROIT BE NEXT?



By Dale Buss

There are no plans to introduce BOOK by Cadillac in the brand's hometown of Detroit anytime soon and no indication whether the Motor City could be next.

But Cadillac's subscription service has been such a big hit in Cadillac's adopted home town of New York City that GM's luxury car brand is now extending BOOK by Cadillac to Los

Angeles and Dallas. For a monthly fee of \$1,800 (after a \$500 initiation fee), customers can get access to a portfolio of fully loaded Cadillac vehicles. Other premium auto marques, including Porsche, are testing similar services.

With more than 7,000 subscribers in New York alone, the automaker has been pleased by the "overwhelming" demand since January's launch by customers requesting to join the service.

"BOOK by Cadillac has introduced entirely new customers to the brand and has been fully embraced by younger audiences as an innovative service that meets their ever-changing needs," Melody Lee, newly appointed global director of the service, said in a press release. "Introducing the service in Los Angeles and Dallas is a natural evolution of the program."

Cadillac also is increasing the number of vehicles in its metro-New York fleet to keep up with demand. The brand also has launched BOOK by Cadillac as a pilot in Munich, Germany, with an eye to expanding it in other global markets.

Named Global Director, BOOK by Cadillac, last month, Lee is responsible for the successful growth of both BOOK as the luxury vehicle subscription offering it is today, as well as leading the Cadillac brand and executive team's charge into future innovation areas.

Prior to BOOK, as Director of Brand Marketing for Cadillac, she was responsible for building Cadillac's global brand identity and driving a clear and consistent strategy across all of its channels, products and markets.

I spoke with Lee for more insights into this new chapter for Cadillac—and how she intends to throw the BOOK at competitors.



Cadillac's XT5 crossover is one of the vehicles featured in BOOK

Why are you expanding BOOK by Cadillac now?

Even though we started out saying it was for New York City only, we received overwhelming demand from hand raisers all over the world. Recognizing the clear customer demand for the program, we made the decision to go to market where we know there is an affluent luxury customer and where we see an opportunity for Cadillac to grow our market share. Also, with the LA market, you're tapping into the bi-coastal luxury-lifestyle traveler.

Are you refining BOOK by Cadillac as you expand?

It's very much a constant learning experience for us—we want to test and learn and flex and refine. Among the changes we've made are to increase the price to \$1,800 a month; clearly there was a willingness to pay \$1,500 a month, so we've raised the price as we expand. To more carefully manage vehicle lifecycles, we've instituted a mileage limit of 2,000 miles. That's plenty of mileage, the way that

customers have driven so far.

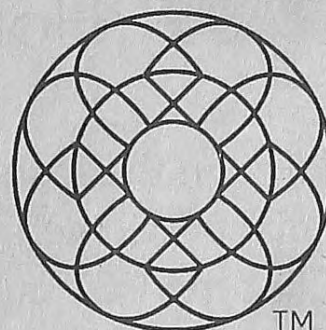
You've been a huge part of the brand overhaul at Cadillac, which could be a 10-year process. How far along would you say you're at?

We're about one-third of the way into our long-term strategic plan, and BOOK is a product of pushing

ourselves to live up to the tagline in our communications: "Dare Greatly." It's an effort to demonstrate that if you can't win the battle, you need to change the battleground. BOOK is a great and shining example of how a 115-year-old luxury brand can take risks and be entrepreneurial, and as a result bring a new way to access luxury vehicles to customers.

China is increasingly your biggest market and ever more important to the brand's growth. How do your overall branding efforts translate there?

Yes, we'd been using a similar strategy in China already, so there's been an effort to align the spirit of what we were doing there with the spirit of "Dare Greatly." We've worked very hard over the last few years to recognize that China is a massive market of opportunity for us and therefore to get it aligned with our U.S. and global brand message. We are ensuring that "Dare Greatly" works for us in that market and elevates the brand the same way it does in the U.S.



BOOK BY CADILLAC



Melody Lee, who heads BOOK by Cadillac

O&E-Book by Cadillac

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