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SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Bank hostage suspect named

Man attempted to rob bank before surrendering

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A federal complaint filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Detroit names Devin Rodriguez as the suspect accused of barricading himself with hostages inside a Canton bank.

The complaint said Rodriguez walked into the Citizens Bank branch on Canton Center Road, north of Cherry Hill, at about 3:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, brandished a semiautomatic handgun, announced a robbery and ordered a female teller to take money from a vault.

The teller pressed a panic alarm as she entered the vault, prompting a swift response from Canton police, who were joined by the FBI and western Wayne County special operations and hostage negotiation teams.

Rodriguez surrendered after a four-

hour standoff by dropping his gun and walking out of the bank with his hands up, the complaint said.

Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier lauded the response by police officers.

"I am very proud of how my entire team performed," he said. "This event tested our agency and the men and women of my department performed flawlessly."

Meier also said the western Wayne special operations and hostage negotiation teams played a critical role in the peaceful ending.

"Without them and their collaborative effort, this could have ended far differently than it did," Meier said. "It was a real team effort."

The federal complaint accuses Rodriguez of attempted bank robbery and

See **SUSPECT**, Page 2A



Canton police blocked off roads as the attempted bank robbery unfolded Jan. 25. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Spoon's Place: Area's new sports bar

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Good friends Tom "Spoon" Busard and Andy Hargreaves had a simple concept when they set out to open their own restaurant.

Make it a friendly place where sports fans and good friends can watch a game, share conversation, enjoy a creative menu and throw back a cold brew or favorite cocktail.

Welcome to Spoon's Place, which is drawing crowds to the former Max & Erma's site on Canton Center, south of Ford Road. It has 33 television screens — none smaller than 55 inches — 17 draft beers, many of them Michigan-made craft brews, and a menu ranging from spicy Spoon's Bangin' Shrimp to We Be Clubbin', which starts with a quarter-pound each of Dearborn ham and turkey.

Busard, a Canton resident and former partner in a Dearborn eatery, and Hargreaves, a real estate agent in the Plymouth-Canton area, saw a void in the Canton sports bar scene after Bailey's Sports Grille and T.C. Gators closed, leaving behind what Busard said were unappealing chain restaurants.

Paying homage to T.C. Gators, Busard said Gator Tails became one of 14 appetizers on the Spoon's Place menu — appetizers all freshly made except for just one frozen item, cheese sticks.

As business partners, Hargreaves and Busard brought in a third partner, Victoria Sequin of Livonia, for her expertise at running the bar area outside of the kitchen.

Spoon's Place seats 170 people and sports fans quickly learn they have am-

See **SPOON'S**, Page 3A



Joy Road, just east of I-275. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

David Veselenak
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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

"I had to buy all new tires. First week here, I ended up having to spend \$700 on new tires."

Dan Heintz
newcomer to the area

Dan Heintz got quite the welcome from southeast Michigan during his first week of work earlier this year.

Heintz, who recently moved to the Farmington area, was on his way to his new job in Livonia when he hit a pothole at the Grand River/10 Mile/M-5 interchange area. That pothole ate up a tire

and, because his car has four-wheel drive, he needed to replace all four tires.

"I had to buy all new tires," he said. "First week here, I ended up having to spend \$700 on new tires."

Everyone probably has a similar story to Heintz's, especially in years like this one, when potholes have cropped up everywhere along area roads.

Both Wayne and Oakland counties

See **POTHOLE**S, Page 4A

Suspect

Continued from Page 1A

brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence. Gina Balaya, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan, said Rodriguez is a 24-year-old Canton resident.

The complaint said Rodriguez wore white medical dressing on his face, a black hat, sunglasses, sweatpants and a black jacket.

The description was similar to that of a suspect who robbed the Huntington Bank branch on Michigan Avenue, east of Beck, about 4 p.m. Jan. 18. That suspect

was wearing what was described as medical bandages to disguise his face, but authorities as of Monday morning hadn't yet confirmed whether the same man is suspected in both robberies.

The federal complaint accuses Rodriguez of taking three bank employees and one customer hostage, though he later released them before surrendering. Crisis negotiators continued to engage him until he surrendered about 7:45 p.m., four hours after the situation began.

"During those conversations, Rodriguez identified himself as Devin to the negotiators," according to the federal complaint.

Meanwhile, the complaint, signed by a special FBI agent, said police responded to a report from a business on Cherry Hill Road that a silver Ford Focus was left running in the parking lot. Police ran a check of the vehicle's license plate and learned the car had been stopped last August by Van Buren Township police, who issued Rodriguez a traffic ticket, the complaint says.

Moreover, police found Rodriguez's driver's license in a jacket inside the car Thursday, according to FBI officials. And one hostage who spoke with federal officials identified Rodriguez from a photo, authorities said.

Canton Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh has said the suspect apparently acted on his own.

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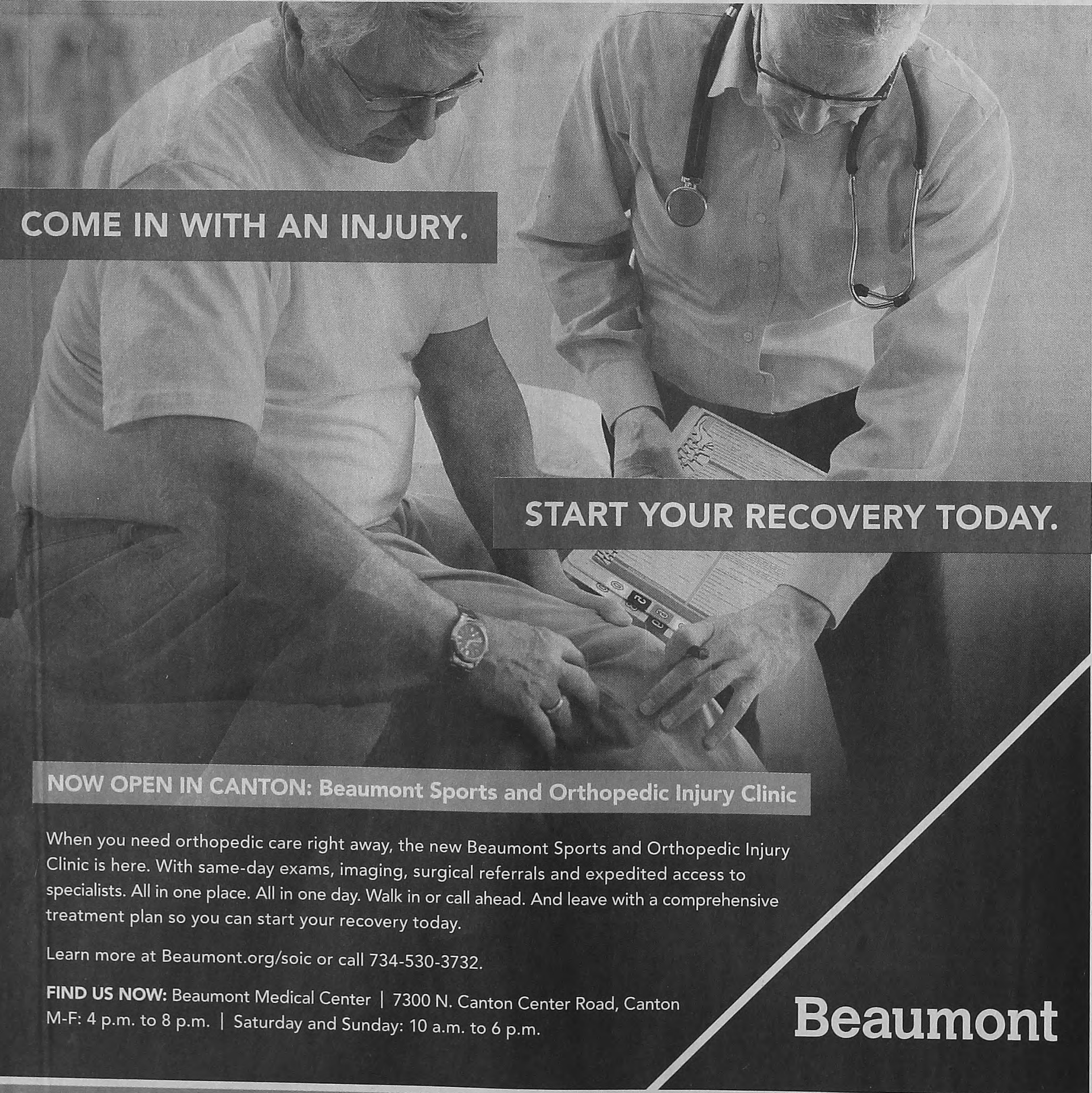


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Beaumont

Andy Hargreaves, Tom "Spoon" Busard and Victoria Sequin have opened Spoon's Place, where sports fans can find 33 large-screen TVs to watch their favorite games. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Spoon's

Continued from Page 1A

ple access to TV screens.

"No matter where you sit, you have at least three TVs you can view," and often more, Hargreaves said.

The restaurant is divided into two main seating areas, one of which can be cordoned off when needed for banquets. The latter area also is expected to soon become a place where live bands play each weekend.

One bar area has Detroit-inspired art — painted, cardboard figures of former Tigers manager Sparky Anderson, Pistons legend Isiah Thomas and the Red Wings hockey logo. Hargreaves said more art is to come.

Patrons who want to try their hand at cornhole, a bean bag toss game, can find a set-up in the front of the restaurant, one way to pass the time between sports games or while waiting for a seat.

Spoon's Place has some well-known customers. Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams said he has been there eight times for work-related meetings and dinner outings with his wife Nancy since the restaurant opened.

"They're doing a good job there," Williams said.

Busard conceded Spoon's Place had some early "hiccups," including some incidents of slow service, when it opened in late December. That's because it got busy faster than the owners expected, but Busard said the problems have subsided.

Now, the biggest problem is for customers to choose among menu items.

Crab cakes are made fresh every day. The house-made chili has a spicy kick. Some items have clever names, like the Porky Pig pulled pork sandwich or the So Hungover burger, which comes with ham, bacon, American cheese and an over-easy egg. The seafood chowder is made by Busard.

Sequin said items like the seafood chowder and cream of asparagus soup are popular.

"Our soups are so good," she said.

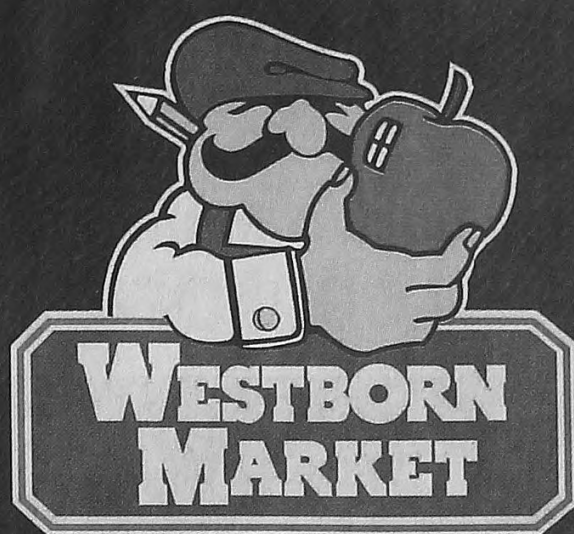
Patrons can choose among entrees such as peppered salmon and baby back ribs. And Busard said all sandwiches come with a half-pound of meat. That holds true for burgers like the Cajun-rubbed Dude I'm Jacked, with jalapeños, pepper jack cheese and house spicy mayo.

To accommodate the digital age, most every table has a charging station where customers can charge their devices. And by spring, the owners hope to have outdoor seating. Patrons also can use an app, Untappd, to document the beers they drink and make brew recommendations when Spoon's Place switches out a Michigan beer for another.

Spoon's Place owners believe they have found the perfect spot. They can draw patrons from the Ford Road corridor and beyond, while tapping into a new customer base as the area of Canton to the west continues to witness an ongoing housing boom.

For more about Spoon's Place, go to <https://www.spoonsplace.com/>.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclcm@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.



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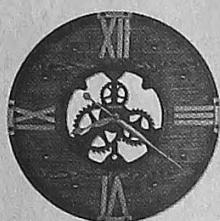
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Potholes

Continued from Page 1A

have seen an increase in pothole activity early this year, thanks to deep-freeze temperatures that evolve into warmer weather within a span of a few days.

Those sudden temperature swings, coupled with plenty of precipitation this January, have county road workers out in full force, shoveling cold patch into craters all over roads in the region.

The weather has crews working more than usual at this time of year. Bill Bantom, director of the Department of Public Services road maintenance division for Wayne County, said the county has used roughly 800 tons of cold patch so far this season. That's more than double what it used at this point in 2017, at 350 tons.

"I'm running probably eight to 10 crews a days patching potholes on various roads," Bantom said. "Based on our calculations, we've probably cold-patched 27,000 potholes."

Poor roads see potholes faster

Oakland County is also seeing plenty of activity. Craig Bryson, senior communications manager for the Road Commission for Oakland County, said crews are ahead on overtime hours usually budgeted for this time of year, a sign that they're out patching potholes on a frequent basis.

"Right now, it's a bit ahead of where we expected," he said. "We always plan for the worst and hope for the best."

Bryson said roads that are in worse shape are the ones seeing more potholes. But he said the county improved 40 miles of roads last year, including Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Even with recent improvements, he said there are more than 60 miles of roadway marked as "poor" in PASER, which usually see potholes sooner.

"It's really widespread from Holly to Ferndale and from Addison to Lyon," he said.

The potholes are being noticed by residents like Heintz, who grew up in Grand Rapids, lived in Lansing and recently came to metro Detroit. He said he doesn't recall roads being nearly as bumpy in west and mid-Michigan as



Water in the pothole can fool you. It's deeper than it looks. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he's found in the last month here.

"The roads over here are much worse," he said.

Crews in Wayne County have been out six days a week, filling potholes from Detroit to Canton, Bantom said. One recent Saturday, Bantom said crews filled more than 3,900 potholes and 100 service calls were completed.

When it comes to reporting potholes, both counties have a hotline for drivers to call. Potholes in Wayne County can be reported by calling 800-762-3273 or online at waynecounty.com. Oakland County potholes can be reported to the road commission by calling 877-858-4804 or online at rocweb.com.

While crews try to fill potholes this season as soon as they come in, Bantom said, it's not always possible to get crews there right away and drivers need to be wary of where they are on the road when dealing with potholes.

Such driving tactics can be compared to driving with several inches of snow on the road.

"To some degree, we have to look at potholes the same way as snow and ice," he said. "It causes us to have a need to drive a little differently."

Heintz has learned the hard way to avoid such calamities. The next day after damaging his tire, he drove in another lane and went slow enough so other drivers could pass him.

He said the best way to avoid pothole damage? Avoid potholes altogether.

"I'm definitely more cautious now," he said. "I know now which roads to avoid."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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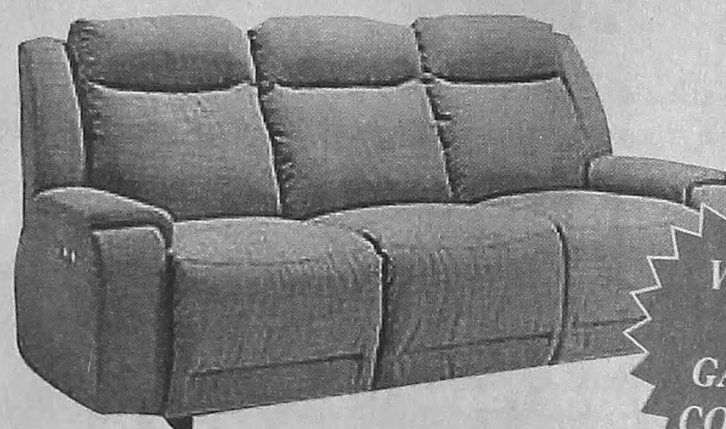
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Canton taking applications for Citizens Police Academy

The Canton Police Department will be accepting applications during the month of February for its popular Citizens Police Academy. This year's eight-week program will be held 6-9 p.m. each Thursday, from April 12 through May 31. The program is designed for residents who are interested in acquiring insight and knowledge on how the police department works to serve the Canton community.

Individuals attending the academy will be educated on the policies and operational procedures of the department

through presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities. They will increase their personal knowledge on law enforcement's role in the criminal justice system, as well as their understanding of the training and education required for police officers to effectively handle the challenges of police work.

"Academy participants will gain insight into the difficult challenges law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis through interesting and informative instruction," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said.

The overall mission of the Citizens Police Academy is to develop positive relationships between citizens and police officers, enhancing cooperation, understanding, and general good will.

"Once again this year, we will be including a mini-Citizens Fire Academy into the program," Meier said. "Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy two sessions of the crossover academy, learning about the daily operations of our fire department."

Class size is limited for this free program. Applicant requirements include:

Canton residents only; ages 21 and over; no felony convictions and no misdemeanor convictions in the past three years; applicants subject to a background check.

Applications will be accepted during the month of February online at www.cantonpublicsafety.org, or in person at the front desk of the Canton Public Safety Headquarters, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Questions can be directed to community relations Officer Patty Es-selink at 734-394-5194.

Canton company joins MEDC in Dubai

Business leaders from eight Michigan companies joined the Michigan Economic Development Corp. at Arab Health, which took place Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 in Dubai, U.A.E.

Prestige Global Healthcare of Canton, a distributor of pharmaceuticals and other medical needs, was one of the firms at the conference.

Arab Health is the Middle East's largest and world's second largest health care congress and exhibition. The 2018 exhibition showcased more than 4,200 companies exhibiting their latest innovations to more than 103,000 health care professionals attending from 158 countries.

"MEDC is pleased to be participating in this year's Arab Health show," MEDC CEO Jeff Mason said. "Michigan companies are well-positioned to respond to the fast-growing demand for health care products and services in the Middle East, and this year's show provides an excellent opportunity to showcase Michigan technologies and know-how."

This is the sixth year MEDC has led a group of businesses to Arab Health. Companies that participated in the last three events report a total of \$14 million in increased sales as a result of attending Arab Health.

For more information on the MEDC, go to www.MichiganBusiness.org.

Check out these events happening this weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Congrats, everyone. We made it through the first month of 2018.

With that success, it's time to head out and find something fun to do. Check out these three events happening across the hometownlife.co area this weekend.

Restaurant Week in Birmingham

If you haven't already done so, you've still got some time to enjoy the end of Birmingham's Restaurant Week tonight and tomorrow.

The annual event, which wraps up Friday, features two dozen participating restaurants across the city. Restaurants such as Big Rock Chop House, 245 S. Eton; Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse, 201 S. Old Woodward; Vinoteca, 210 S. Old Woodward; and Sidecar Slider Bar, 280 E. Merrill are just some of the those taking part.

Three-course lunches are \$15, while three-course dinners are \$30. And for those who aren't able to make it this week, Restaurant Week will begin again Monday and run through next week.

For more information, including a



Vinoteca moved from Royal Oak to Birmingham. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

full list of participating restaurants, go to birminghamrestaurantweek.org.

Used book sale in Livonia

Book hounds: It's time to line up outside the Robert and Janet Bennett Library in Livonia again this weekend for the tri-annual used book sale.

This sale, which runs Friday through Sunday, will feature hundreds of books for sale in the library, 32777 Five Mile. The sale takes place during the library's regular hours, which are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

A bag of books will sell for \$5 Sunday. All proceeds from the sale will go toward the library system in Livonia. For more information on the sale, go to livoniapubliclibrary.org.

Super Bowl party at Northville brewery

Who you got? Eagles or Patriots? You'll have the opportunity to cheer on one of them (though there's plenty of evidence that shows we probably know who you'll be cheering for) at North Center Brewing Co., 410 N. Center St., in Northville.

The business, which opened in 2015, will feature a tailgate buffet full of football-friendly foods, along with its usual assortment of beer and drinks.

For more information, go to northcenterbrewing.com.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS**NHS Tutoring**

Details: NHS students from P-CCS's The Park are here to provide students in grades 3-12 free homework help. If you're interested in getting tutored, if you're under 12, your parent must remain in the library and you must bring the assignment and any other needed materials. Tutoring is available 6-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the Children's Library. There will be no tutoring during breaks or school closures/snow days. Those seeking tutoring will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. They will be allowed a 30-minute

maximum if there is a line. Check www.cantonpl.org for ongoing schedule.

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.

AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

'Groucho Marx' at Village Theater

The Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton will present "Frank Ferrante in An Afternoon with Groucho" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. Award-winning actor/director/playwright Frank Ferrante recreates his acclaimed portrayal of legendary comedian Groucho Marx in this 90-minute show. The two-act comedy consists of the best Groucho one-liners, anecdotes and songs.

Tickets, \$35 for adults and \$25 for youth and seniors, can be purchased online at www.villageheater.com, in person from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or by phone at 734-394-5484. For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillageheater.org.

Electrify Your Winter

Avoid cabin fever, stay entertained and engaged without having to leave your house with Electrify Your Winter, the Canton Public Library's winter program. Now through March 20, the International Day of Happiness, you can take part in a Checklist Challenge, engage in online opportunities like Facebook Live storytimes, Youtube fireside storytimes, a Pinterest board with projects and much more, without leaving your couch.

When you feel like braving the weather and making a trip to the library, you may be surprised with hot chocolate, coffee and tea to warm you up. Set for a spell under our full spectrum LED white light lamps. Just 20 minutes can brighten your mood and help you sleep better. The lamps do not emit UV or IR radiation, so don't worry about getting sunburned. Patrons and staff are welcome to use these lamps on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on Electrify Your Winter, go to www.cantonpl.org.

Michigan Phil event

The Michigan Philharmonic will present "An Evening of Artistic Expression" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. This event features vocalist Lonnie Reed and will be take place at artist Tony Roko's



"Frank Ferrante in An Afternoon with Groucho" is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Village Theater in Canton.

Warehouse Studio, 180 Adams, in Plymouth.

Tickets are \$40 and light appetizers, wine, as well as Atwater Brewery craft beer, are included. The event benefits Music and Arts Education Programs of the Michigan Philharmonic and Art Foundation.

For tickets and information, call 734-451-2112 or go to www.michiganphil.org.

Meet your Sikh neighbors

Sikh Mystique, an afternoon with members of the local Sikh community, will take place 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Plymouth District Library. Area resident Paul Talwar, a leader with Sikh Outreach and Plymouth Canton Interfaith Community Outreach, is joining with local committee Know Our Neighbors to create this afternoon of introduction for the community.

A number of information table, with members of the Sikh community, will allow attendees to ask questions and learn more. The afternoon will also include a presentation on Sikhism. Sikh and Punjabi music, dance, art and food will also provide further introduction to these neighbors.

Sikh Mystique is a free event and open to the public. The Plymouth District Library is located at 223 S. Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitblues)

PCAC to celebrate Black History Month

The Plymouth Community Arts Council has received a Walmart Foundation grant to support its Black History Month programming.

February solo exhibit artist Carl Davis will show his work in the PCAC Main Gallery during the month in an exhibit titled "Celebrating Heritage." The community is invited to the exhibit opening 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. There will be opportunities to meet the artist, as well as purchase both originals and prints of Davis's artwork. Light refreshments will be served.

During the month, there will be information about Davis's work in the gallery and self-guided art tour materials for students to take with them as they view

the exhibit. Finished gallery tour worksheets can be turned in to the office for a chance to win a \$25 PCAC gift certificate and a "Create Your Own Extraordinary" T-shirt.

The PCAC will have school day-off art workshops for ages 6-13 from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 16, and Monday, Feb. 19. On Feb. 16, students will be creating unique mixed-media portraits that celebrate our own heritage. On Feb. 19, students will do some printmaking by designing a handmade stamp or stencil with an inspiring word to print on wood or canvas. Pre-registration is required. Go to www.plymoutharts.com for details.

Farm and garden club offering scholarship

The Plymouth branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association has a long tradition of offering scholarships to the Plymouth-Canton community. Information about this scholarship is available online at pccsk12.com.

The scholarship will be for between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for eligible high school seniors wishing to pursue post

high school education at an accredited college or university. As an added benefit, this scholarship can be renewed for an additional three years if grade-point average is maintained.

Applications are available in all three of the P-CEP counseling offices from the office secretary.

The deadline for this scholarship has been extended to April 16.

society.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Big Ray & the Motor City Kings will perform in celebration of Mardi Gras, Tuesday, Feb. 13. Members include Big Ray Haywood on sax and vocals, Davey Fender on guitar, Mike Rupprecht on keyboard and vocals, Louis Eurns on drums, and Richard Bright on bass and vocals.

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

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

Relay For Life kickoff

The American Cancer Society will host a free kickoff event open to the public for a celebration of the Relay For Life of Canton and Plymouth, set for 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Tony Sacco's Pizza, 1663 N. Canton Center Road.

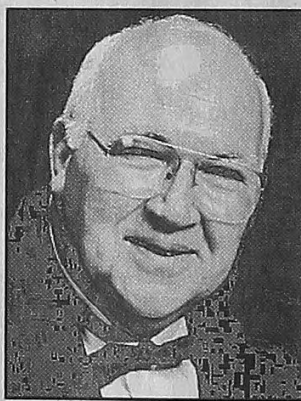
The event will be open house-style and will include a photo booth, light pizza and salad buffet, along with music and information on how you can join the American Cancer Society and participate Relay For Life.

Obituaries

Charles C. Thompson

WESTLAND - age 81, born June 19, 1936 in Chesterfield, PA. Passed away January 20, 2018 in Brighton, MI.

As a Michigan resident, Charles lived in Plymouth while raising his family, then eventually moved to Westland. Though he spent most of his time at his cottage on



Houghton Lake. He was a man of character, loved by many people. As a young man, while raising his family, Charles enjoyed having his landscaping company for many years. He was a Plant Foreman at Ford Motor Company, Michigan Truck Assembly, he retired in 1994. Charles was also a master woodworker and after retirement, cleared land in Northern Michigan for the State, milled and planed the fallen trees and sold furniture grade lumber throughout the tri-state area. He also cut and bundled firewood, which he sold throughout the Houghton Lake area, that kept many homes warm and campfires burning. Charles enjoyed fishing in his spare time, spending time with his beloved dog, Shane and making his special (too beautiful to use) cutting boards, which he sold at numerous fairs and trade shows. Charles is survived by son Michael (Lena), daughters Denise (James) Kelly and Tracy (Ronald Jr.) Buckley. His brothers Richard, Clifford and sister Joyce (Lloyd) Dell, along with 4 beloved grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private Celebration of Charles' Life will be held at a later date. The family asks for donations to, Hartland Hospice of Ann Arbor. Cremation services entrusted to the Uht Funeral Home, Westland, MI.



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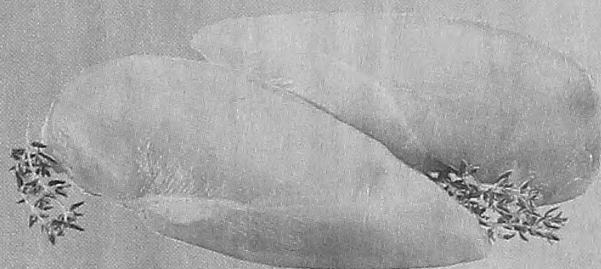
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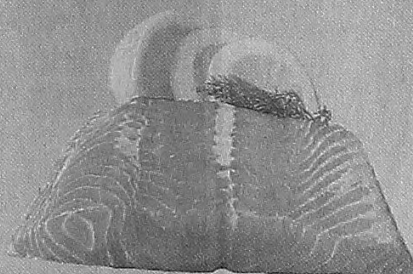
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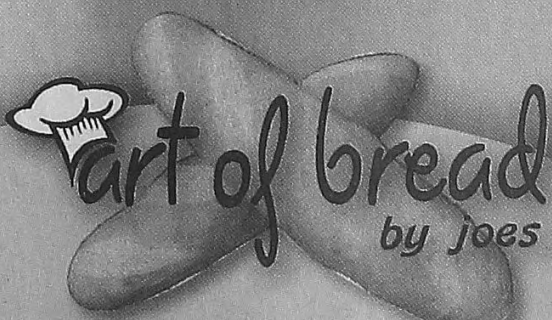
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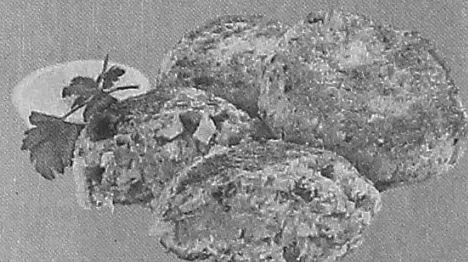
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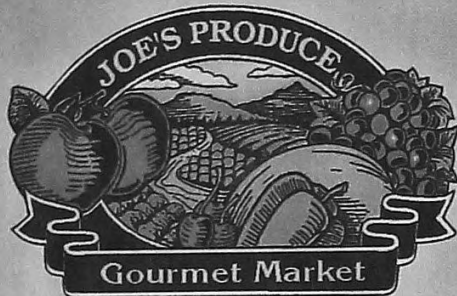
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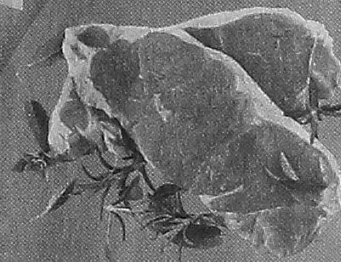
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Sports

PREP WRESTLING

Monroe Jefferson wins Observerland tourney

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's Drew Bush didn't want to disappoint the home crowd when he stepped onto mat for the 135-pound finals early Saturday against Waterford Mott's Darian Lindemier at the 27th annual Observerland wrestling tournament.

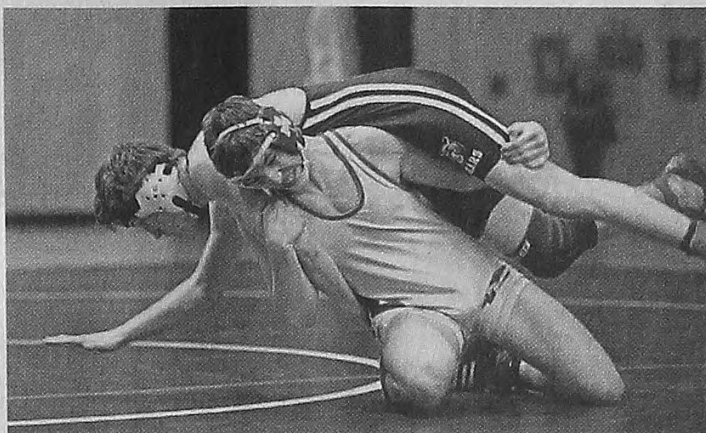
The junior was the only Charger to reach to the finals, but found himself in a 4-2 hole during the final stages of the third period.

"I'm thinking, I'm gassed, but this kid (Lindemier) is more tired than I am and I'm going to keep coming at him, so I kept coming at him and he broke before me," Bush said.

With his teammates urging him on, Bush tied the match with a late two-point move and then sealed the deal with another two-pointer in overtime to score a 6-4 decision, while also earning the lower weights MVP honors.

"It feels pretty nice, honestly," Bush said. "It's good to put all that hard work

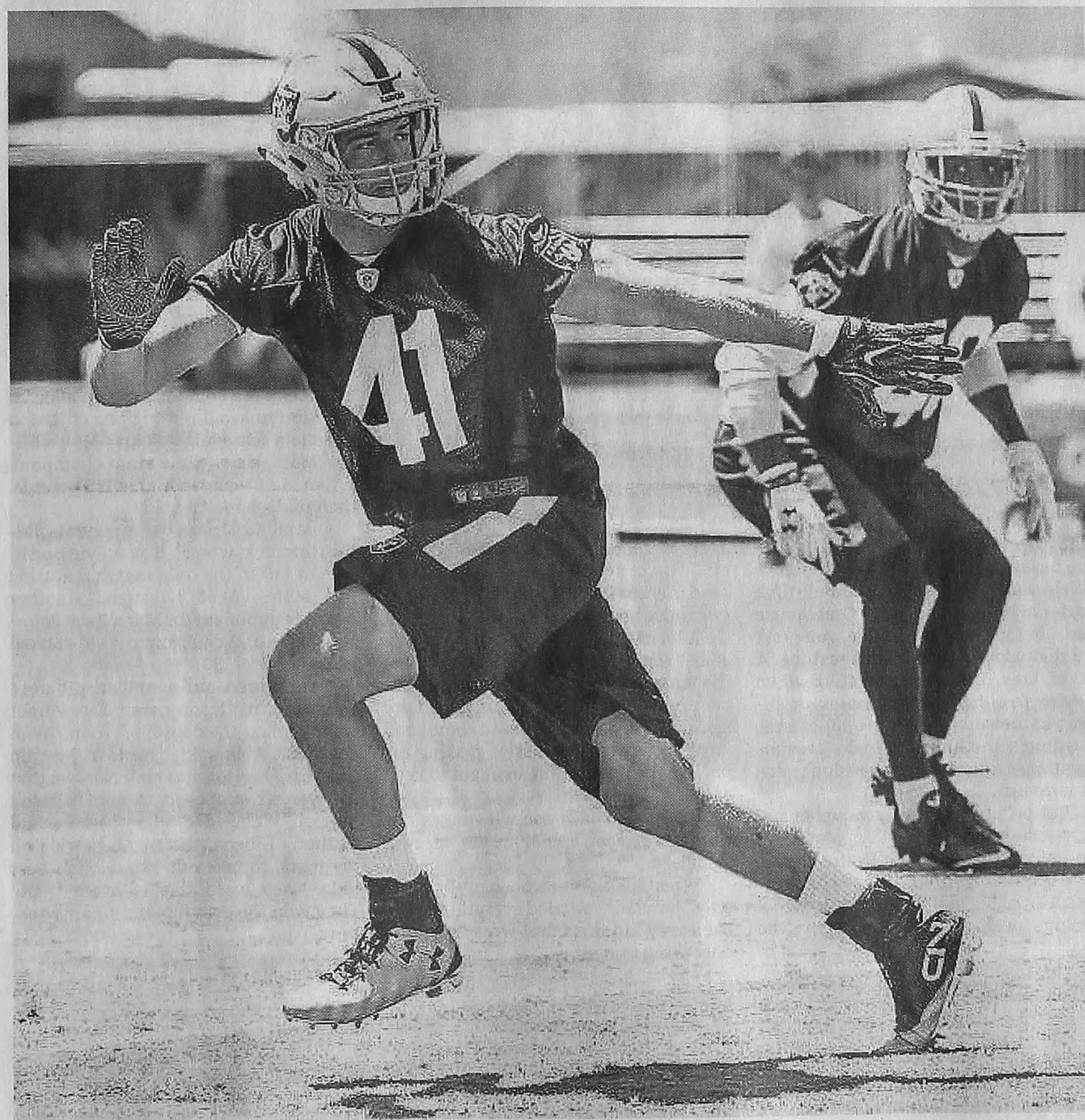
See **WRESTLING**, Page 2B



Jacob Bisdorf of Catholic Central (bottom) and Luke Borman of Berkley compete in the 125-pound championship match. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

NFL FOOTBALL

A CINDERELLA STORY



Novi High grad and former Ferris State player Brady Sheldon made the Oakland Raiders 53-man roster at the end of the season. OAKLAND RAIDERS

Novi's Sheldon got call from Oakland for last two games

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Brady Sheldon might only have two NFL games under his belt, but his journey to land a spot on the Oakland Raiders active 53-man roster is a lesson in perseverance.

The 24-year-old undrafted free agent, an edge-rushing linebacker out of Novi High School and Ferris State University, made his debut in a 19-10 Christmas night loss in Philadelphia and also played special teams in a season-ending 30-10 New Year's Eve setback to the host L.A. Chargers.

"It was a dream come true, from the ups and downs of the combine process and not being signed, getting called back and getting cut after training camp ... it was the best feeling ever, such a relief," said Sheldon, who turns 25 next month. "It was just a little taste, so I'm excited to get back, working out. I know

what I need to work on, I know what I need to get better."

After Raiders head coach Jack Del Rio was let go following a 6-10 season, Sheldon knows he'll have to prove himself all over again. That's because nothing in the NFL is guaranteed. He'll have to fight for his position under a new regime.

"I'm excited," Sheldon said. "I like (coach Jon) Gruden, I like his passion. I think he's gonna to shake some things up in the organization, which is going to be good for us."

Another chance

Sheldon, who signed a two-year deal with Oakland after earning a call-up to the Raiders practice squad prior to the Week 11 game against New England, can be found during the off-season training at Total Performance in Wixom.

Under the direction of Total Perfor-

See **SHELDON**, Page 3B



Novi's Brady Sheldon showed his NFL potential during his days at Ferris State. FERRIS STATE ATHLETICS

PREP ATHLETICS

Canton High rolls out red carpet for best of the last 45 years

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The best athletes to come out of Canton High School during the first 45 years of its existence have gone on to stardom at the collegiate and professional levels — not to mention U.S. freestyle swimmer Allison Schmitt of Olympics fame.

That rich tapestry of excellence finally will be officially recognized with the inaugural class of the Canton Athletic Hall of Fame. Fourteen athletes or coaches, plus the 2005 football team, will be enshrined Saturday, Feb. 3, at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton, during the induction ceremony and dinner.

What's more, the Class of 2018 were recognized at halftime of Tuesday's Canton-Salem boys basketball game.

"There have been many great athletes, coaches and teams over the past 45 years and there will be so many more in the future," Schmitt wrote in an email. "To be able to stand among them is quite an honor."

In addition to Schmitt, a 2008 grad, nine-time All-American and eight-time Olympics medal winner, members of the debut class include National Football League player Devin Thomas, former professional baseball player Thomas Close and Tim Baechler, the recently retired football coach who already is in two halls of fame.

"I am honored to go in with the first class," said Baechler, who built a state power during his 20-year coaching career, which just ended in November. "I have so much respect for these athletes and fellow coaches. We are just a few of many who have set a high standard of success for Canton athletics."

One of Baechler's Canton teams was the 2005 squad that reeled off nine wins in a row to advance to the state title game against Rockford at Ford Field in Detroit.

Baechler isn't the only coach to make the prestigious honor roll. Also inducted will be longtime gymnastics coach John Cunningham, veteran basketball coach Bob Blohm and legendary baseball coach Fred Crissey.

Crissey was the first baseball coach in school history, taking that job the year Canton High School opened (1972-73) and racking up a 348-147 record over 22 seasons. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993.

Two of Crissey's players were drafted by major league teams: Brian Stemberger (1975) and Close (1976).

Close played minor league baseball in the Kansas City Royals farm system, but he also was an all-league performer in football and basketball. Stem-

See **HALL**, Page 3B

PREP WRESTLING

Brighton senior's dramatic pin clinches KLAA

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Quitting was never an option for Jack Ireton.

The thought never crossed his mind at any point during his Brighton wrestling career, despite not having a regular spot in the lineup.

And after four years of grinding it out in the Bulldogs' demanding program, it certainly didn't cross his mind Jan. 25 when he was being dominated by Chase Kersten of Westland John Glenn.

Ireton figured he had Kersten right where he wanted him.

"A lot of my matches seem to end up like that," Ireton said. "I'm a come-from-behind kind of guy, I guess."

Down 5-0 in the second period, Ireton suddenly turned the tables and got a pin in 2 minutes, 46 seconds, at 171 pounds to clinch the team title for Brighton in the next-to-last match.

The third-ranked Bulldogs' 38-25 victory over second-ranked John Glenn gave them the KLAA championship and possibly the No. 2 seed for the Division 1 state tournament. The latter is of considerable significance, because no team wants to face powerful Detroit Catholic Central until as late as possible.

"Last year, we were the eighth seed and wrestled C.C. in the first round (of the state finals)," Brighton coach Tony Greathouse said. "It was tough, a nationally ranked team. It's tough going there and wrestling the best team right out of the gate."

Ireton is a holdover from three seasons ago, when Brighton was the best team in the state. He was a freshman on the junior varsity, but still cherishes the memory of watching the Bulldogs beat arch rival Hartland for the title.

"Even though I wasn't even wrestling there, it was still the best wrestling memory of my life," Ireton said. "It was incredible. Nothing can compare to that."

Ireton never had a secure spot in Brighton's lineup until this season. He's gone 20-8, but his confidence was rattled by some recent losses.

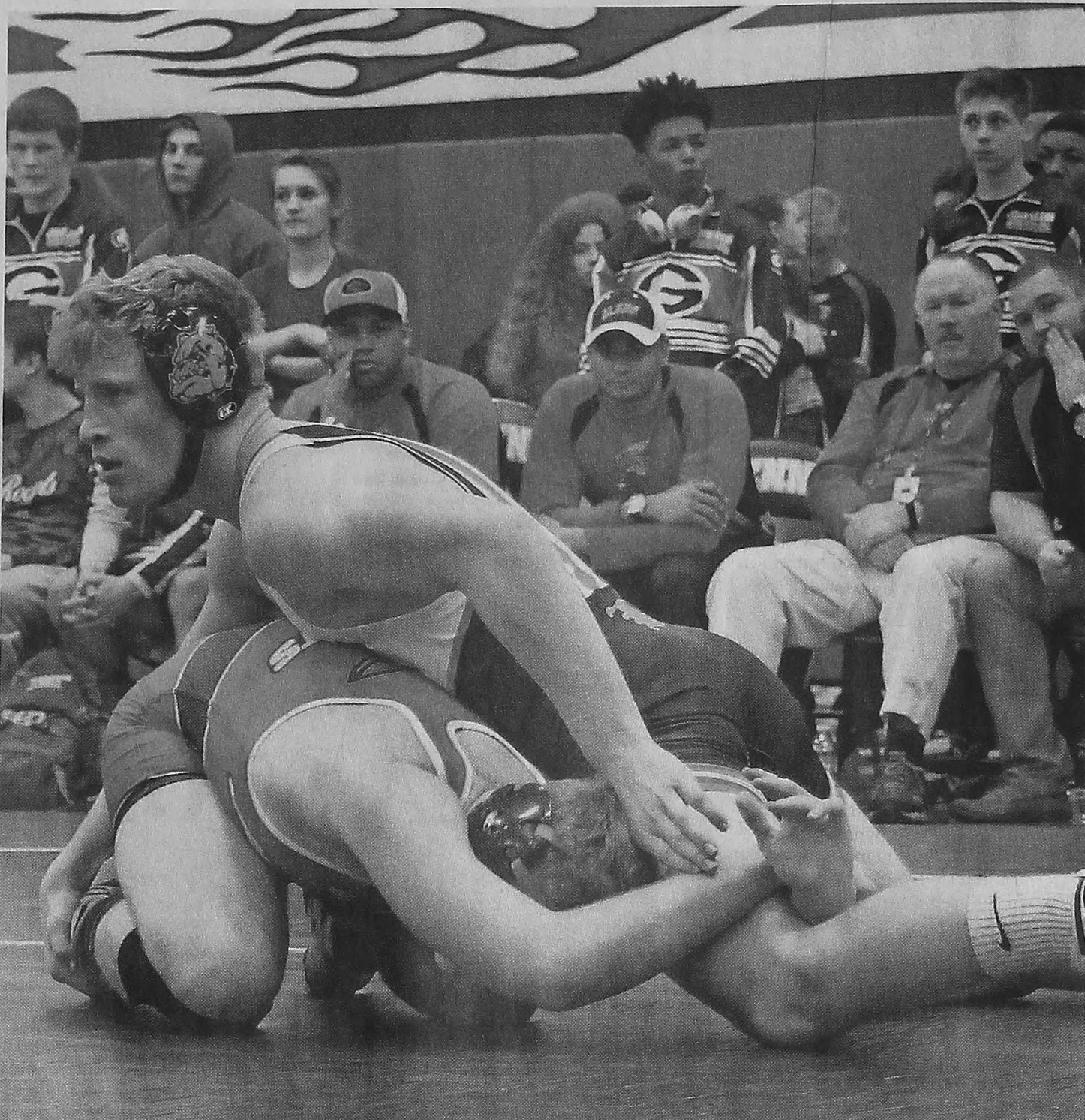
Sensing that, Greathouse tried to take pressure off Ireton before he took the mat. The Bulldogs needed to win only one of the final two matches. They were in a good position with Greyson Stevens, the eighth-ranked wrestler at 189 pounds, going into the final match.

"I think he knew I was a little worked up over this match," Ireton said. "I just came off a couple big losses. I was worried, I was kind of in a slump. He came out and told me I didn't have to win this one. I said, 'That doesn't matter, because I'm just going to go out and stick this guy.'"

It was Ireton who was getting worked over until he used his favorite move, a cross-face cradle, to turn the tide and pin Kersten.

"When you're in that dark place, you've got to just think, 'One more second, one more second,'" Ireton said. "Then the seconds start getting easier. Then eventually there's that time when he's thinking, 'One more second, one more second.'"

Greathouse admires Ireton for never



Brighton's Greyson Stevens capped off the Bulldogs' victory over Westland John Glenn with a 2-0 victory over George Schwemle. BILL KHAN | LIVINGSTON DAILY



Ireton

"When you're in that dark place, you've got to just think, 'One more second, one more second.' Then the seconds start getting easier."

giving up wrestling when he kept getting passed over in Brighton's lineup.

"He hasn't really been a full-time starter in his whole career," Greathouse said. "In today's day and age, you don't see that a lot, especially in wrestling. A lot of kids, if they don't start when they're freshmen, sophomores or juniors in the varsity lineup, a lot of time they find something else to do, because wrestling's a hard sport if you don't get a lot in return."

"But he's been a really valuable guy we've plugged in a lot this year. He's kind of got his own spot in the lineup. He's been doing great. He's been winning a lot of big matches. It's pretty cool for him tonight as a senior to win the dual."

Ireton understood his role in previous seasons and continued working hard in the wrestling room to get the opportunity he has earned as a senior.

"A lot of time, I've been a backup," he said. "You know that it's for the good of the team and you're just gonna get better and next season you're gonna try again. I've been stuck behind some good guys in my weight classes, putting me back in the lineup a bit. Just got to keep at it."

Ireton, who has been wrestling since third grade, can't imagine doing anything else.

"Wrestling's always been my one and only," he said. "I've tried everything else, like every kid does, but wrestling's the only thing that stuck."

The turning point in the match may have been the coin toss, which allowed Brighton to avoid putting one of its top wrestlers out against John Glenn's Mikey Mars, a two-time state champion. When Mars was sent out at 125 pounds, the Bulldogs took a void.

One of Mars' possible opponents, Eddie Homrock, won 10-6 over Kyle Borthwell at 130 in the only match featuring two state-ranked wrestlers. Another possible opponent for Mars, Zach Johnson, lost a 10-2 decision to state-ranked Isaac Lefler at 135.

"We figured out a million different ways and, really, on paper, the winner was winning the coin flip," John Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "We lost the coin flip, so we had to win a match or two that we weren't supposed to and it didn't happen. We needed Mikey Mars ... and Anthony Gibson, the two best kids on my team, to take out two of their best kids. They were able to avoid them. They won the coin flip. It's smart wrestling."

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

up in the room into the mat. It felt really nice."

It was the signature victory this season for Bush, who improved to 22-13 overall.

"My goals are to get out of districts, wrestling well at regionals and hopefully get out of regionals and go to states," Bush said. "Definitely this is our most competitive tournament, the most fun, home crowd advantage ... feels nice winning, looking up in the crowd, seeing all your family members and all the guys have wrestled with you the whole year and look at you to get the win."

Observerland newcomer Monroe Jefferson, placing seven individuals in the finals and coming away with four titles, captured the team championship with an even 200 points.

The defending champion Novi Detroit Catholic Central varsity White squad was runner-up with 173.5, while Westland John Glenn's 'B' team took third with 169.5.

Host Churchill and another newcomer, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, tied for fourth with 152 each in the 18-school field.

"I actually liked the tournament," Jefferson coach Mike Humphrey said. "We

didn't know what we were getting into even when we got up here the day coming in. We wanted to have a good tournament where the kids could just get some good matches, not every match be killer, but all the kids work into some tough competition, whether it be in the finals, consolation finals or whatever it might be. This time of the year, we're not wanting to get beat up every match, but we want to see just one or two good matches."

Individual champions for Jefferson, a Division 3 school with an impressive 19-3 dual match record, included Dawson Gessner (112), Greg White (130), Caleb Garro (140) and Justin Duvall (160), the upper weights MVP who decided Central's Chris Little in the finals, 6-2.

"Forest Hills Central, Catholic Central had some good kids," Humphrey said. "Our 140-pounder (Caleb Garro) beat the kid who was third in the state last year (Catholic Central's Rhett Newton), so that was a great win for him because he was just a regional qualifier. A lot of good competition once you get to the end."

While Catholic Central's top-ranked varsity Blue team, defending Division 1 team state champion, was competing in the Lowell Duals, the Shamrocks varsity White turned in another strong Observerland performance.

"Overall, it was a good day," CC assistant coach Mike Carrier said. "I thought

the guys who came in here and were supposed to get the job done did just that. We had a lot of young guys, too, that showed some promise. We probably could have won a few more closer matches in the semis and consolation semis, where could have had some other placers or seen some other finals qualifiers. But overall, pretty good job."

Individual winners for CC included Caleb White (103), who got past Franklin's Jager Kwiatkowski, 3-2; Jacob Bisdorf (125), who decided Berkley's Luke Borman, 9-5; Logan Sanom (145), who pinned Mott's Mystyr Sanders in 1:16; and Camden Trupp (130), who decided Jefferson's Greg White, 7-0.

"Logan Sanom was a killer all day at 145 today, tech falls and all pins ... that was great," Carrier said. "Jacob Bisdorf at 125, a sophomore, did a phenomenal job for us. And Camden Trupp, a freshman at 130, was great. Caleb, a sophomore at 103, was outstanding all day. And then Rhett Newton at 140, unfortunately, lost in the finals. He had a thumb injury, but overall, a really nice day. It's kind of setting us on a good track here as we go to the postseason."

Houghton Lake, 49.5; 15. Bellevue, 23; 16. Romulus Summit Academy, 22; 17. Detroit Mumford Academy, 17; 18. Salem (B), 9.5.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS

103 pounds: Caleb White (CC) decided Jager Kwiatkowski (LF), 3-2; third place: Aidan Haupt (LC) dec. Ethan Brabant (Jeff), 3-2; fifth place: Trevor Avierette (Farm.) dec. Dominic Megdanoff (WJG), 5-2.

112: Dawson Gessner (Jeff) pinned Anthony Averette (Farm.), 3:20; third: Anthony Marchione (LC) p. Valentino Scicluna (CC), 2:30; fifth: Damyn Smith (WJG) dec. Nathan McCollom (WJG), 5-4.

119: David Johnson (Houghton Lake) dec. Josh McGee (Jeff), 7-2; third: Han Ting Wong (FHH) dec. Philip Burney (CC), 5-4; fifth: Rocco DiPonio (LF) p. Casey Tennant (WJG), 0:53.

125: Jacob Bisdorf (CC) dec. Luke Borman (Berkley), 9-5; third: Ian Abel (FHC) dec. Charles Kersten (WJG), 5-0; fifth: Jack Higley (Farm.) p. Dylan York (GC), 3:13.

130: Camden Trupp (CC) dec. Greg White (Jeff), 7-0; third: Jake Justice (Farm.) p. Brandon McCollom (WJG), 2:06; fifth: Garrett Englehart (LC) dec. Nick Jaynes (LF), 6-2.

135: Drey Bush (LC) dec. Darian Lindemier (Mott), 6-4 (OT); third: Mitchel Winnie (Canton) dec. Scott Lange (Summit), 10-8; fifth: Chase Moscovic (CC) won by major dec. over Alex Nesovski (Canton), 9-0.

140: Caleb Garro (Jeff) dec. Rhett Newton (CC), 6-3; third: Mike Bragiel (LC) dec. Pierce Sledobnik, 7-4; fifth: Cole Bagwell (WJG) dec. Michael Watson (Mumford), 13-10.

145: Logan Sanom (CC) p. Mystyr Sanders (Mott), 1:16; third: Zack Dehne (Canton) dec. Tony Ujkaj (GC), 8-5; fifth: Alek Poremba (Jeff) p. Jack Fowler (Farm.), 2:16.

152: Tyler Haggart (Houghton Lake) dec. Dylan Weiss (WJG), 15-12; third: Dylan Slowik (Canton) dec. Nolan Ott (FHC), 4-0; fifth: Keith Thompkins (GC) p. Connor McAnally (LC), 4:36.

160: Justin Duvall (Jeff) dec. Chris Little (Canton), 6-2; third: Jalen Adams (Wayne) p. Jamison Irwin (LC), 1:26; fifth: Davis Gausden (GC) won by injury default over Logan Valente (WJG).

171: Isaac Torrey (FHC) p. Justin Morrison (WJG), 0:51; third: Luke Losie (FHH) p. Preston Dixon (LC), 1:11; fifth: Zack Beckett (LF) won by major dec. Jayvon Johnson (Wayne), 10-0.

189: Keegan Moore (FHC) won by injury default over Adam Heneveld (FHC); third: KeVaughn Henderson (Wayne) p. Hayden Rhoades (WJG), 2:21; fifth: Grant Imus (Mott) p. Jeremiah Loewen (Farm.), 2:23.

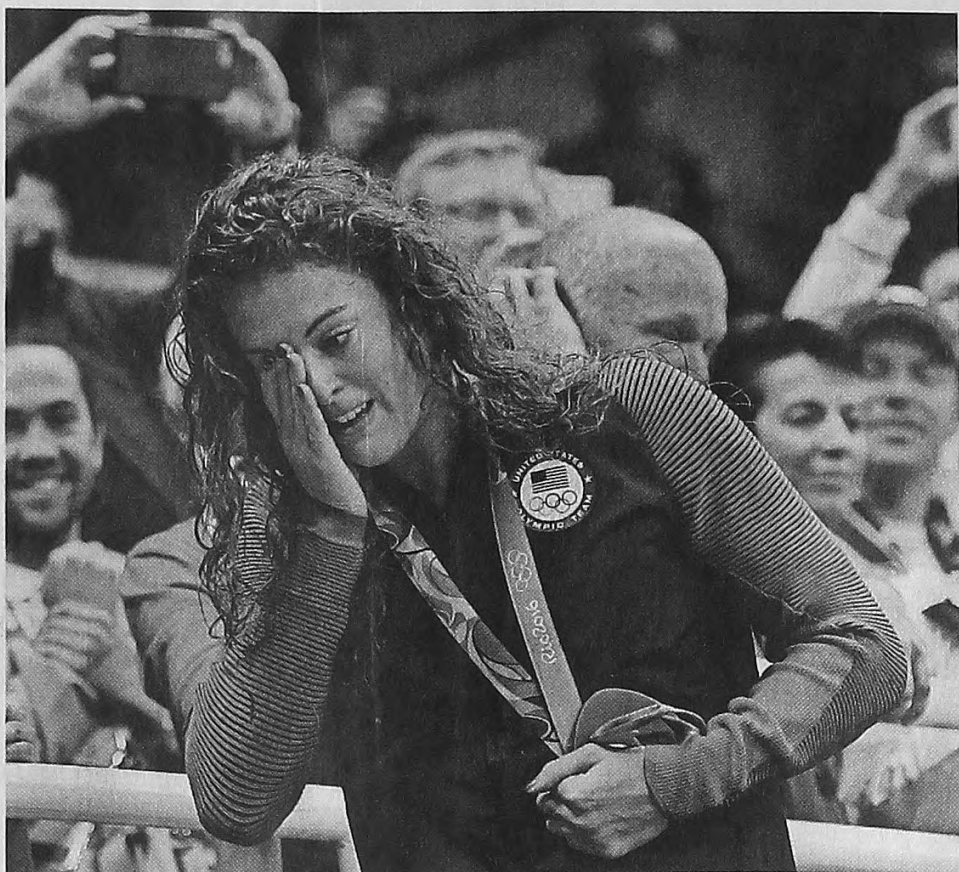
215: Thomas Eads (Jeff) dec. Trace Schirmers (FHC), 6-3; third: Jacory Scott (WJG) p. Matt Wilson (LC), 1:41; fifth: Seth Udell (FHC) p. Niko Przeslawski (FHH), 0:50.

285: Bobacar Diop (Berkley) p. Tyler Hattley (Jeff), 5:10; third: Justin Anagonye (Berkley) p. Doug West (Bellevue), 2:08; fifth: Chad Reeves (LF) dec. Devonte Miller (Mumford), 5-1.

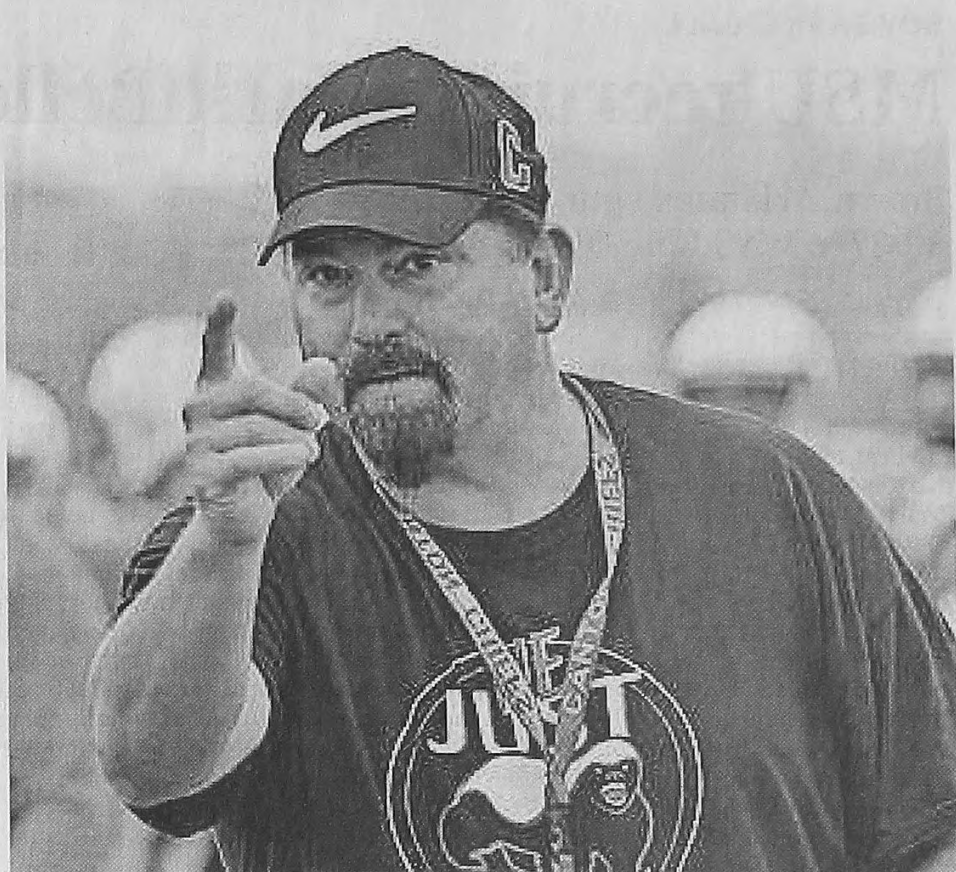
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27th annual
OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING INVITATIONAL
Jan. 27 at Livonia Churchill

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Monroe-Jefferson, 200 points; 2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central (White), 173.5; 3. Westland John Glenn (B), 169.5; 4. (tie) Livonia Churchill and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, 152 each; 6. Canton, 91.5; 7. Wayne Memorial, 84; 8. Farmington, 80; 9. Livonia Franklin (B), 77.5; 10. Berkley, 67; 11. Farmington Hills Harrison, 63; 12. Waterford Mott, 60.5; 13. Garden City, 59; 14.



Allison Schmitt wipes away tears during the medal ceremony after the U.S. won the gold medal in the women's 800-meter freestyle relay at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. MARTIN BUREAU | AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Tim Baechler, who recently retired after 20 winning seasons as Canton football coach, is among the first group to be inducted into the Canton Hall of Fame. FILE PHOTO

Hall

Continued from Page 1B

berger originally was picked by the Chicago White Sox in 1978.

Posthumously honored will be John Young, a 1977 graduate who was a three-year varsity starter and team captain in football and baseball. Young, who graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a first lieutenant, tragically lost his life piloting a C130 transport jet.

Other than Schmitt, arguably the honoree with the highest profile is Thomas — a standout wide receiver and track star. Thomas was captain of the football team as a senior in 2004, when the Chiefs went undefeated.

He went on to star at Michigan State University and played from 2008-12 in the NFL, including with the New York Giants team that won Super Bowl XLVI

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

What: The first induction class of the Canton Athletic Hall of Fame, celebrating 45 years of athletic excellence.

When: After honorees were introduced at halftime of the Tuesday, Jan. 30, boys basketball game between Canton and Salem (tip-off about 7:30 p.m.), they will be formally enshrined Saturday, Feb. 3.

Induction ceremony: The Canton Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner will take place beginning at 6 p.m. at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 S. Lotz Road, in Canton.

Who: Honorees include the state finalist 2005 football team, coaches Bob Blohm (basketball), Tim Baechler (football), John Cunningham (gymnastics) and Fred Crissey (baseball) and athletes Allison Schmitt (swimming), Anne Morrell (soccer), Brian Stemberger (baseball), Dave Visser (basketball), Devin Thomas (football and track), John Young (baseball), Katey (Gilles) Branson (gymnastics), Katie Cezat (basketball), Paul Petersen (swimming) and Thomas Close (baseball).

Info: Go to www.cantonathletics.net or [Twitter@CantonHSChiefs](https://twitter.com/CantonHSChiefs).

over New England.

The red carpet also will be rolled out for Anne Morrell (soccer, 2001); Katey

(Gilles) Branson (gymnast, 1997); Katie Cezat (basketball, 2005); Paul Peterson (swimming, 1979); and Dave Visser

(basketball, 1980).

"It's such a great honor to have my name included with these other amazing inductees," Morrell said. "All of us are unique in our own little ways and when you piece all our different qualities into one you get a group of true excellence."

A committee led by athletic director Vernon Crump led the process to choose the inductees.

According to an announcement about the induction, "We look forward to celebrating 45 years of rich athletic history with this prestigious honor. The Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports at Canton High School."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: [@TimSmith_Sports](https://twitter.com/TimSmith_Sports).

Sheldon

Continued from Page 1B

mance's Jim Kielbaso, the 6-foot-5, 236-pound Sheldon and a handful of several NFL hopefuls, including Ferris State teammates Tavierre Thomas, Jevonte "Book" Alexander and Brandon Walker, train weekly with the hope of just earning a spot in an NFL pro day and eventually getting a tryout.

"I actually trained Brady when he was in high school at Novi," Kielbaso said. "And when he came back, before his senior year (at Ferris), he was bigger, taller, stronger, faster ... like he had just completely, like, blossomed. It was, like, that late bloomer thing and right away your could see his explosiveness was crazy. For his size, to be able to move that smoothly and that quickly — just not a lot of people have that quality."

Sheldon was first discovered by NFL scouts during Central Michigan's pro day last spring.

"I didn't have as good of a senior season as my junior year," Sheldon said. "I knew if I just had a good combine, that maybe I'd get looked at."

Strong pro day

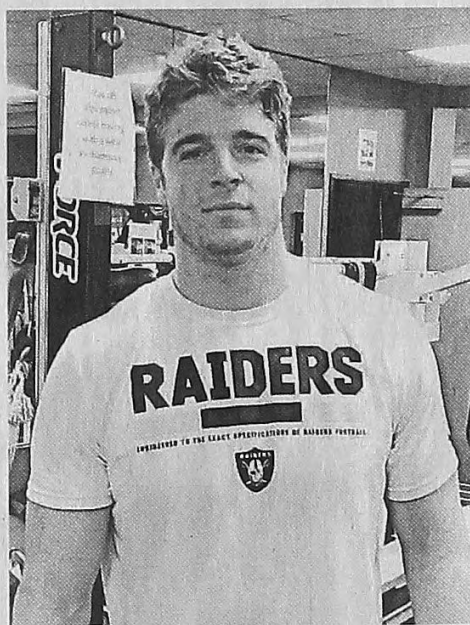
Sheldon weighed 228 entering the CMU combine, but caught a stomach bug and his weight dropped to 215.

"It ended up being a blessing," Sheldon said. "I ran a 4.47 (40-yard dash), jumped a 10-5 broad jump, 37-inch vertical (jump). They cut me short on bench (press) because I hit 19, but they only gave me 15. So that went really well and Jim got me super-prepared. These guys at Total are the best of the best for the combine and getting us ready."

The Raiders were the first to call, inviting Sheldon to their rookie mini-camp. He also received invites from the Baltimore Ravens and Kansas City Chiefs.

"I went with the first one," Sheldon said. "I was a nickel, strong safety in college, then (the Raiders) moved me to (strong side) linebacker, which is a glorified defensive end. I weighed 230. Bruce Irvin and Shilique Calhoun are 260, 265. I felt a little underweight, but I felt I could use my speed and, basically, it was a little rough putting my hand in the dirt. Coach Ken Norton Jr. was coaching me up a lot on my stance and, by third and fourth day of mini-camp, I was getting to quarterback and I was thinking, 'Maybe this is my calling.'"

But the Raiders didn't sign Sheldon



Brady Sheldon works out. BRAD EMONS

and he went back home for a month of training again at Total. Oakland then invited him back to mandatory mini-camp, where he was stationed at the same spot on defense.

Back-and-forth

"I said, 'This is it, this is my position, let me gain some weight and see if I can do it at this position,'" Sheldon said. "And obviously, special teams is where I'd be the most valuable. They didn't sign me, but it was a six-week period before training camp and I came back home. They talked to me like I was going to be in training camp and 10 days before they signed me. In training camp ... I did OK, but they saw me as a bigger value on special teams. I was there up until the last day and they cut me Sept. 2."

Sheldon returned home for 10 weeks and switched up his lifting techniques and performed Olympic-type workouts each day at 6:30 a.m. at Total.

Sheldon, who earned a small business management degree at Ferris, took a job with Precision Satellite, going door-to-door for Direct TV dish sales to help pay the bills during his 10-week hiatus.

"Jim's really good at keeping our mentality high and our attitudes up and just make sure ... just keep us level-headed, basically," Sheldon said. "And that helped a lot. That allowed me to keep my head down and just kept on grinding. I trusted the process and it ended up working out."

Prior to the Oakland-Patriots game Nov. 19 in Mexico City, Sheldon was signed to the Raiders practice squad.

Making his way

"I fly in on Monday and they put me on the practice team ... the best feeling ever," Sheldon said. "They put me at inside linebacker, which is where I wanted to be, with more space behind the line where I could run. And that's my strength. I think they liked me a lot there and, in four weeks, they moved me up to active roster."

Sheldon was one of four Ferris State players to suit up in the pros this season, joining Jason Vander Laan (Indianapolis Colts), Jake Lampman (Tampa Bay Buccaneers practice squad) and Justin Zimmer (CFL Montreal Alouettes).

Sheldon began playing football in the fifth grade at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth before moving to the Novi Bobcats as a running back.

"In the sixth and seventh grade, I was on par with everyone else, but eighth, ninth and 10th (grade), everybody was way bigger than me," Sheldon said. "Then continuously, I kept growing, but it was never a big growth spurt, so I never grew three inches at once. It was just gradual. As a sophomore, when I was 16, I was 6-foot, 140."

Sheldon's mother Angela was athletic and his late grandfather Bob Armstrong played football at Michigan State. His three uncles were all athletic as well, one playing for the USFL's New Jersey Generals and at Penn, another at Duke, while another was an Olympic decathlete.

Prep career

At Novi, Sheldon played both football and basketball. In football, he was a 6-3, 183-pound slot-back and safety.

The only school to recruit Sheldon, who was an all-Oakland County selection his senior year under coach Todd Pennycuff, was Ferris State.

"Truthfully, he was recruited by the previous coaching staff (under Jeff Pierce) and when we got there, we thought there would be a very solid plan over time and that came into fruition," current Ferris State coach Tony Annese said. "When we first got there, we didn't view him as a for-sure guy right then, but he kept on growing, kept on working hard ... he was just a joy to coach with a great personality, always smiling, always happy and he, obviously, ended up being a big force for us."

In 2011, Sheldon received a medical red-shirt and, in 2012, he got his first taste of action for the Bulldogs, appearing in five games as a reserve and on special teams.

In 2013, he played in just two games, recording 13 tackles. After not playing in 2014, when he red-shirted again, the linebacker began to take off 2015 as Ferris captured its second straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title and reached the NCAA Division II playoffs, as he finished with a total of 43 tackles, including 21 solo stops. He also intercepted a pass for a 51-yard pick-six touchdown in the postseason. He also recorded a total of 12 pass break-ups.

Total training

Prior to his final season (2016) at Ferris and just six credits shy of graduating, Sheldon took the spring semester off to go back and train at Total with the 2016 NFL Draft hopefuls.

He returned in the fall and the Bulldogs finished 12-3, reaching the semifinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs before falling to Northwest Missouri State, 35-20.

Sheldon finished the year with 54 total tackles, including 28 solo in 14 games.

"He was a guy when we took over there that was a little bit thinner, tall with not a lot of muscle mass," Annese said. "He just continued to grow and work hard and all of a sudden became one of the fastest guys on the team — 6-5, 225, and could really run around. So over time, it was, like, 'Wow, he's grown into a big old guy that can cover, close down space very effectively and tackle in open space, bring him off the edge to rush the quarterback.' He became the full package for us as time progressed."

Sheldon keeps in constant contact with his former coach,

"I talk to him all the time," Annese said. "He's one of those guys that Face Times me all the time. When we get off the phone, he always says, 'I love you, coach' and I say, 'I love you, Brady.' He's a very good young man and (I'm) very proud of him."

"He's got just such a positive attitude," Kielbaso said. "He's not a different person, so he's still very humble, but he's got a little more confidence now. He realizes what he has to do so that he knows he can fit in. And you can just see he's just got a little bit more confidence, not that he was shy or anything before, but now he knows. It's interesting, he still acts like the same kid even when he was back at Novi. Just a down-to-earth guy."

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BOY BASKETBALL

MSU recruits spark Belleville to win vs. Thurston

Brown, Williams spur Tigers to 80-37 WWAC Blue Division victory

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICH.

Asked if Belleville was the best team he's faced this season, Redford Thurston boys basketball coach Brian Bates didn't hesitate.

"Absolutely, by far," said Bates, whose team fell 80-37 to the highly-regarded Tigers in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference Blue Division clash Friday.

Visiting Belleville, a preseason top 20 team, was led by two Michigan State signees.

Gabe Brown, a 6-foot-7 senior hoop recruit, finished with a game-high 15 points to go along with eight rebounds and three blocks, while 6-2 senior guard Davion Williams, a football signee, wound up with 14 points.

Eight different Belleville players had scored by halftime as the Tigers (7-4, 4-0) roared out to a 43-23 advantage.

"They're so athletic," Bates said of the Tigers.

"Everybody they brought in was athletic. That's what stood out to me."

Senior Kaevon Merriweather and junior Andrew Leamy both added 10 points as Belleville made it a rout in the second half by outscoring Thurston in the third quarter, 27-9.

The Tigers stretched their lead to 40-point mark midway through the final quarter to invoke a running clock.

Thurston was coming off a 76-73 loss Jan. 23 to WWAC Blue Division co-leader Romulus, but couldn't keep up with Belleville's frenetic pace.

"We work on transition defense and we just didn't back in transition," Bates said. "And they ran floor well and they leak people out because they know they're going to get the rebound. They're just so athletic — even when we got back in transition, they're going over us and they're bigger than us."

Thurston (6-5, 1-3) also committed a total of 20 turnovers.



"Things are coming together. We still have to work on things every day."

Gabe Brown

Brown

"It's the best defense we've played against all season long," Bates said. "They got out, they play fast-paced and they even sped us up even more than that. They had that one stretch where they really sped us up and we had turnovers in there."

Brown's style of play reminds some of former UNLV and NBA player Stacey Augmon, nicknamed "Plastic Man," who was a long-armed lefty, too, with graceful and slashing-style moves to the basket.

"Gabe played well," Belleville coach Adam Trumpour said. "We've challenged him to go to the basket a little bit more, not settle for his jumper, even though he's an excellent shooter. We want that balance out of his game. He attacked well tonight. Good solid game for him, especially on that end of the floor from Gabe."

"What got things rolling for us was defense and our coach pushing us hard on the sidelines," Brown said. "And us just running in transition and showing that energy that we have."

Brown was an efficient 6-of-9 from the floor and, as a team, the Tigers shot a blistering 54.6 percent (35-of-64), with many coming on layups.

"Things are coming together," Brown said. "We still have to work on things every day. Our energy is still going up and down every day. We've got to correct that if we want to be a state championship team. But it was real good tonight."

Here are four other takeaways:

PLYMOUTH TRANSFER

Belleville has added forward Connor Bush to the starting lineup. He became eligible Jan. 16 after transferring from Plymouth. It was Bush's fifth game for the Tigers.

He finished the night with four points against Thurston after scoring eight in a lopsided 71-29 win Jan. 23 over Dearborn Fordson.

"He's a great kid," Trumpour said. "Even off the basketball court, I've had him in class. High-character kid and works hard. He's a really good human being and, obviously, on the basketball court, he's competitive, great athlete and wants to be really good. He's really worked on his left hand,

worked on his shooting. Hit a couple of threes the other night for us, just gives us another piece to the puzzle and, obviously, we're fortunate to have him the next two (years) as well."

SHOOTING WOES

The Eagles shot only 13-of-46 from the floor (28.2 percent) and leading scorer Karlos Berry, a senior guard, finished with just six points on 2-of-8 shooting. (Darrell Anderson also had six points off the bench.)

"He did struggle," Bates said of Berry. "Karlos is having a good year. We talked about a few things at halftime. And they're long. He got in there a few times and he's not used to playing against that. They'd come from the weak side and block his shot and he's just not used to that at all."

FALLING BEHIND

Belleville spotted the Eagles a 9-4 lead at the start before outscoring Thurston 18-3 to end the first quarter.

"Losing the tip right away kind of set us back a little bit," Trumpour said. "(Brian Bates) had those guys ready to play and it was a big Friday night game for them and they

were excited to play us."

But before long, it was off to the races for the Tigers.

"We got a little more up-tempo and pushed the pace and got it going a little bit," Trumpour said. "We're fortunate. We're very blessed with a lot of talented guys right now. They're good kids, they're sharing the ball right, they're playing both ends. When we get on a roll, we're difficult to deal with when we play that hard together."

MSU FALLOUT?

In the wake of the Larry Nassar sentencing last week and more revelations by ESPN's "Outside The Lines" about accusations of the Michigan State's handling of sexual assault allegations against members of the football and basketball program, Trumpour decided it was best for his two players, MSU-bound Brown and Williams, not to comment on the situation.

"Go green, that's all I'm going to say," said Trumpour, who has ties to Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo having worked at his summer camps. "Obviously, there is some stuff up there that you don't want to see occur. I'm not in the know enough to make an intelligent comment on it."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

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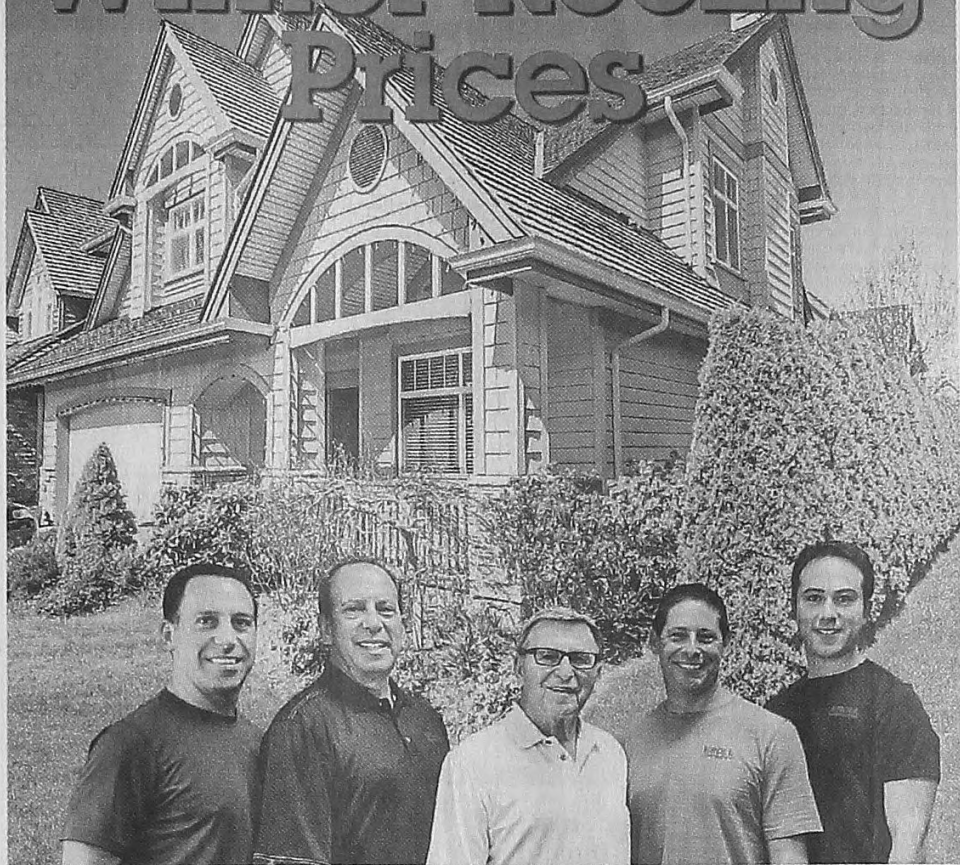
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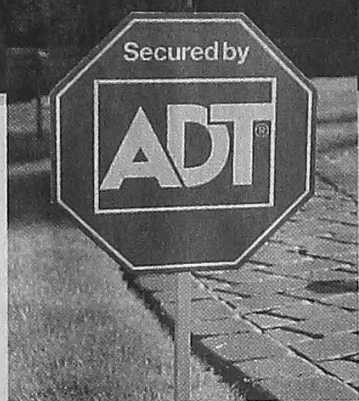
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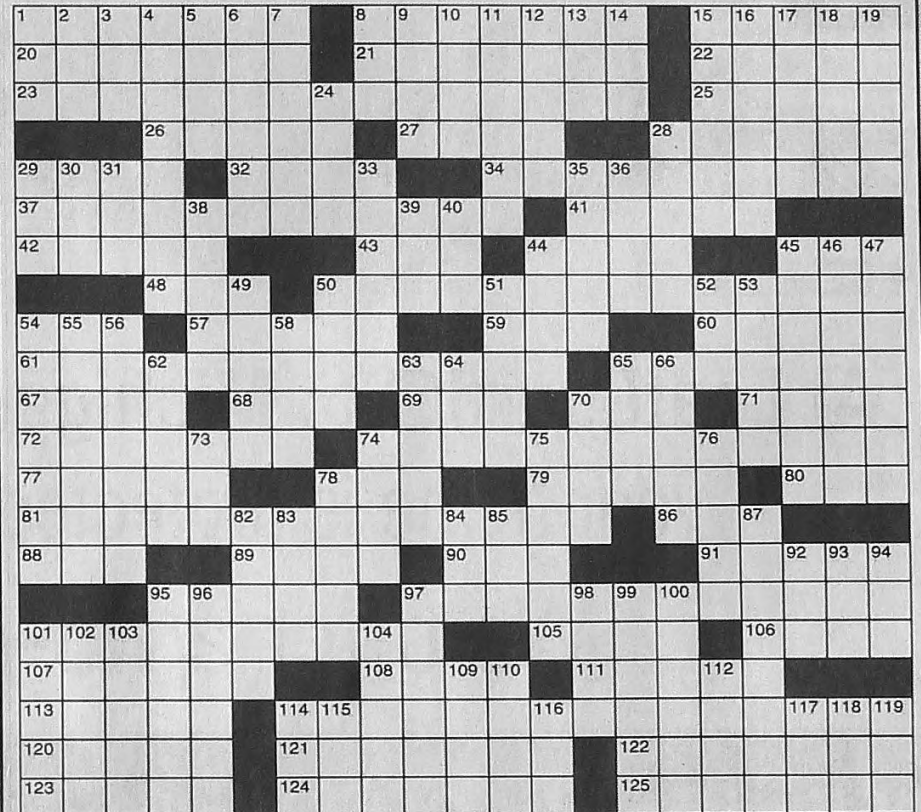
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Live online workshop
 - 8 Public poster
 - 15 Malcolm — Warner ("The Cosby Show" actor)
 - 20 14th-century music style
 - 21 Arrives leisurely
 - 22 Belittle
 - 23 Certain frat member receiving his diploma?
 - 25 Sing sweetly
 - 26 Cove
 - 27 Assuage
 - 28 Muddy mixture
 - 29 Met melody
 - 32 Took way too much, for short
 - 34 Gyro bread with lots of extra hidden calories?
 - 37 Heavenly food made from very hot peppers?
 - 41 — garde
 - 42 Sauna stuff
 - 43 Singer Acuff
 - 44 Stew
 - 45 Toon pic
 - 48 San Francisco's — Hill
 - 50 Target number of coverage policies?
 - 54 Download for an iDevice
 - 57 Denmark's — Islands
 - 59 High trains
 - 60 Detach, as a lapel mic
 - 61 Randomly mixed stack of Bing Crosby and Bill Haley albums?
 - 65 Folded a line into, say
 - 67 With 24-Down, reduced-cost product
 - 68 Glam rocker Brian
 - 69 Lav
 - 70 Aviary locale
 - 71 Bridge, in France
 - 72 Florida city
 - 74 Fish dish that's a chef's specialty?
 - 77 Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"
 - 78 Platform that runs on iDevices
 - 79 Ran easily
 - 80 La. neighbor
 - 81 Brass instrument with a dental product smeared all over it?
 - 86 "O Sole —"
 - 88 Sheepish
 - 89 "— well that ends well"
 - 90 Alias initials
 - 91 Idiot box
 - 95 Provide
 - 97 Hair dye produced in a county in southwest England?
 - 101 Chatty bird with shiny gray plumage?
 - 105 Pirate chant starter
 - 106 Took a train, e.g.
 - 107 Pilot a plane
 - 108 Prefix with skeleton
 - 111 Thin iPods
 - 113 Swiss chocolate brand
 - 114 Sitcom title woman living in a wasteland?
 - 120 Actor Jason
 - 121 Energize
 - 122 Algebra rule
 - 123 Totally love
 - 124 Toronto Blue Jays' stadium, before 2005
 - 125 Salzburg site
- DOWN**
- 1 Joking sort
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 - 5 Verb go-with
 - 6 "Why" singer Frankie
 - 7 Like a very clean film
 - 8 Maven
 - 9 Solitary
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 - 11 Top-level
 - 12 Fluttery tree
 - 13 Tear
 - 14 Stuff in the gene pool
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 - 19 Lotte of film
 - 24 See
 - 28 Glide (over)
 - 29 Belly muscles
 - 30 Groove
 - 31 Fury
 - 33 Mended, as a sock
 - 35 Works to get
 - 36 With, to Luc
 - 38 "Toodles!"
 - 39 Rebels' yells
 - 40 Sch. in the Big Apple
 - 44 FDR's terror
 - 45 Reneges
 - 46 — Aigner (fashion brand)
 - 47 Real-estate levy
 - 49 Bundled up, as hay
 - 50 Prefix for an element used in antiseptics
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 - 52 "— pasa?"
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 - 63 "Für —"
 - 64 Gear piece
 - 65 Brilliant move
 - 66 Composer Ned
 - 70 Reverse alphabetical order
 - 73 Japanese drama style
 - 74 Tossspots
 - 75 New York's capital
 - 76 Singer Piaf
 - 78 R&B's — Brothers
 - 82 San Diego ballplayer
 - 83 One reuniting
 - 84 Asian "way"
 - 85 Loc. of Kiev
 - 87 Exceeded, as a target
 - 92 — Cat
 - 93 Put a stop to
 - 94 — Bo
 - 95 Dodging type
 - 96 Irk
 - 97 Fortnight
 - 98 Skye of film
 - 99 California mountain
 - 100 Japan's largest island
 - 102 Zeasy dip
 - 102 Vine-covered
 - 103 Group
 - 104 Nervous — (worrywart)
 - 109 "Whip It" rock band
 - 110 City in Utah
 - 112 Iron sources
 - 114 Film director
 - 115 Ballpoint fill
 - 116 La.-to-ill. dir.
 - 117 Bruin Bobby
 - 118 Agnus — (Mass part)
 - 119 Drs.' org.



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

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Sudoku 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!

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

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

BAKING FUN WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ACID
- BAKING POWDER
- BEATING
- BLEND
- BROWNIES
- BUTTER
- CAKE
- COCOA
- COMBINE
- CONVECTION
- COOKIES
- COOL
- CORNMEAL
- DISSOLVE
- DRY
- FLOUR
- GREASE
- INGREDIENTS
- KNEADING
- MARGARINE
- MEASURE
- NONSTICK
- OILS
- PANS
- PASTRY
- PROCESSOR
- PROTEIN
- RISE
- SCRATCH
- SHEET
- STIR
- SUGAR
- TEMPERATURE
- WET
- WHISK
- YEAST

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

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

Word Search Answers

ACROSS: 1. Workshop, 8. Poster, 15. Malcolm Warner, 20. Ars Nova, 21. Leisurely, 22. Belittle, 23. Frat member, 25. Sing sweetly, 26. Cove, 27. Assuage, 28. Muddy mixture, 29. Met melody, 32. Took way too much, for short, 34. Gyro bread, 37. Heavenly food, 41. — garde, 42. Sauna stuff, 43. Singer Acuff, 44. Stew, 45. Toon pic, 48. San Francisco's — Hill, 50. Target number of coverage policies, 54. Download for an iDevice, 57. Denmark's — Islands, 59. High trains, 60. Detach, as a lapel mic, 61. Randomly mixed stack of Bing Crosby and Bill Haley albums, 65. Folded a line into, say, 67. With 24-Down, reduced-cost product, 68. Glam rocker Brian, 69. Lav, 70. Aviary locale, 71. Bridge, in France, 72. Florida city, 74. Fish dish that's a chef's specialty, 77. Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy", 78. Platform that runs on iDevices, 79. Ran easily, 80. La. neighbor, 81. Brass instrument with a dental product smeared all over it, 86. "O Sole —", 88. Sheepish, 89. "— well that ends well", 90. Alias initials, 91. Idiot box, 95. Provide, 97. Hair dye produced in a county in southwest England, 101. Chatty bird with shiny gray plumage, 105. Pirate chant starter, 106. Took a train, e.g., 107. Pilot a plane, 108. Prefix with skeleton, 111. Thin iPods, 113. Swiss chocolate brand, 114. Sitcom title woman living in a wasteland, 120. Actor Jason, 121. Energize, 122. Algebra rule, 123. Totally love, 124. Toronto Blue Jays' stadium, before 2005, 125. Salzburg site.

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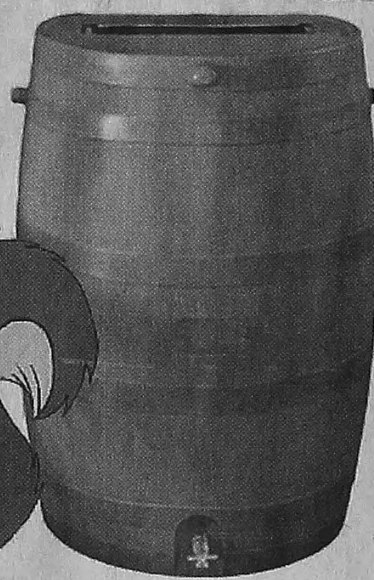
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OFF

OFF

On any 100 ft. or more
of gutter installed

On any 200 ft. or more
of gutter installed

On any 300 ft. or more
of gutter installed

Additional restrictions apply.
See estimator for details.
Limited time offer

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