

Residents invited to training for annual frog, toad survey

LOCAL NEWS, 9A

CANTON

OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Art Van party touts new store

Hundreds gather to tour stunning' flagship location

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A jubilant crowd celebrated the festive grand opening in Canton of Art Van Furniture's new flagship store in Michigan, building on a 60-year company started by a family with one store and two employees.

Hundreds of people attended an invitation-only party Feb. 1 inside the two-story, 70,000-square-foot store facing Ford Road, near Haggerty. They listened as president and CEO Kim Yost said Art Van has grown into a company that has 182 locations in nine states with 6,000 employees and annual sales of \$1.3 billion.

Yost said Art Van is going international later this year with a new store in

Windsor, Ontario. But this night, this crowd, belonged to Canton, which has the only store of this caliber, this style, outside of Chicago.

"It's beautiful. It's stunning," said June Sears, who works for Art Van supplier Beaver Tile & Stone.

"I think this store is fantastic," said Jessica Talbot of Howell, whose husband works for Art Van. "It's well-done. It's eye-catching."

Canton's store is the first completely new store Art Van has built in 20 years. It ushers in a new look across from Michigan's only IKEA store.

Yost said the store employs 120 people and represents a \$15 million investment.

Nigel Barker, whose NB2 Collection is

See ART VAN, Page 3A



James and Terri Todero own JMC Electric, based in Clinton Township. Their business handled construction of the electrical system at the new Art Van store in Canton. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

RATS!

Eradicating rodents is a labor of love for neighborhood groups

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Patrick Welsh won his first hunting trophy last month for "meritorious massacre" in his neighborhood.

"It's for my willingness to teach high-tech rat trapping," said Welsh, who accepted the tongue-in-cheek honor from Ferndale Rat Patrol, a Facebook group of nearly 600 members who are working to rid their metro Detroit communities of rats without the use of poisons.

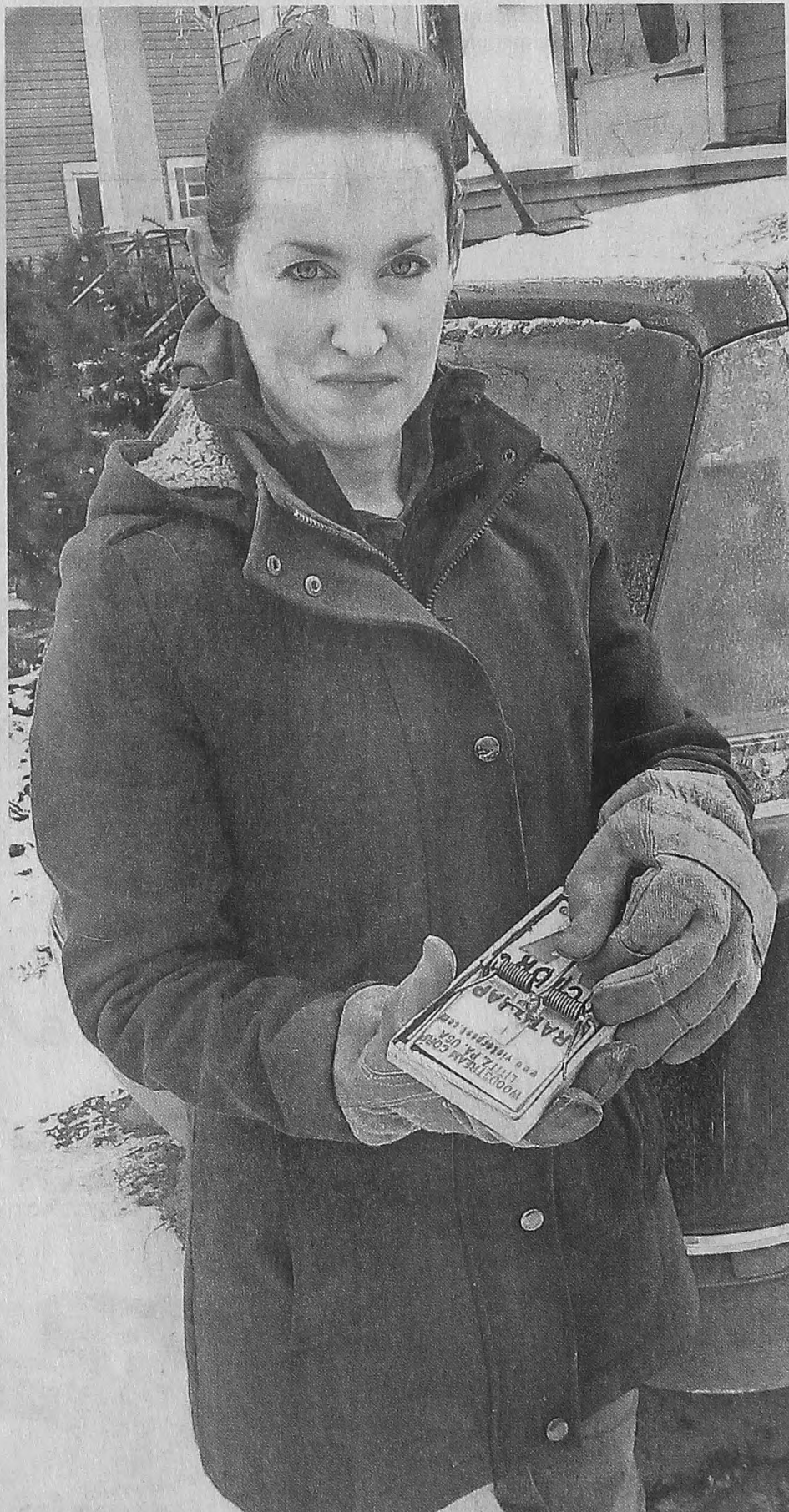
"One thing I invested in was a willingness to use modern hunting techniques," Welsh said. "I have game cameras that take infra-red video. I set them up. Someone had a one-pound rat in their front yard. I stalked that thing with a night vision scope and pellet gun and got it that same night."

Welsh has taken down dozens of rats since moving into Ferndale seven years ago. He was among a handful of neighborhood rat killers who were honored with trophies — golden rat traps — from Ferndale Rat Patrol last year. The light-hearted awards ceremony injected a little levity and fun into the otherwise serious work the group conducts year-round.

Like Facebook pages Royal Oak RATS and Rat Problem in Garden City, MI, Ferndale Rat Patrol posts information and tips about eradicating rats. Welsh, who sometimes posts photos of his latest kill online, and page administrators Suzanne Janik, Eric Geiner and Laura Mikulski also often meet with distraught homeowners in person, assisting them with traps, helping to identify tracks and burrows, lending trail cams to capture rat activity at night and distributing informational fliers to neighbors.

The group draws its members primarily from Ferndale, nearby south

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Laura Mikulski shows how to set a wooden rat trap. SHARON DARGAY

Student-run radio station will rock at record show

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Vinyl albums are a major draw as a Plymouth-Canton student radio station prepares to rock and roll with its 10th annual fundraising record show.

"I think there's just something to the sound of vinyl," said Bill Keith, station manager of WSDP-FM (88.1). "If you have a decent record player and put on a brand new piece of vinyl, there's something about the warmth that brings you in. It's definitely a lot better than an MP3."

"You can hold it, look at the art work and dive into it," he added.

Thousands of vinyl records, CDs, import-only releases, T-shirts, posters and other collectibles will be on display as the station known as 88.1 The Park hosts its record show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Salem High School cafeteria in Canton.

Matt Mai, owners of Finders Keepers vintage shop in Plymouth, plans to bring vinyl albums ranging from the punk rock sound of bands like Bad Religion and The Cramps to early, hard-to-find Bob Seger records. He expects to bring 400-500 albums to the show.

"Nobody has ever disputed that vinyl is the best sounding medium ever," Mai said. "Digital MP3s don't have the warmth and depth that vinyl has."

Mai sells vinyl dating back as far as the 1950s, along with CDs and cassettes, among other vintage items, at his store. He has noticed at The Park's record show that "everybody seems to have their head down in the vinyl records."

Like Keith, Mai said it's exciting to see high school students discovering vinyl.

"It's good to see them discover it for the first time," he said. "I only hope it

See RADIO, Page 2A

Radio

Continued from Page 1A

doesn't go away."

Keith said about 50 vendors are expected to attend the record show, which also features special giveaways and door prizes. The radio station hopes to build on the success of last year's show, which was the largest to date with nearly 400 people attending.

Organizers say the uptick in attendance is tied to the continued resurgence of vinyl.

"I don't even own a record player and I love attending the show," said Serafine Hinz, operations manager for 88.1 The Park. "The vinyl is amazing to see and I love finding CDs from all types of musicians. Even though I don't always go planning to buy music, I've never left empty-handed."

Keith said music lovers can find genres from rock and roll to jazz to elec-

tronic at the show. The show benefits a radio station that, for the last four years, has been a finalist for the National Association of Broadcasters prestigious Marconi Award for non-commercial station of the year.

"It puts us up against college and professional radio stations," Keith said, adding that The Park is the only high school station to achieve that status. "It's just a real neat honor for the work that the students are doing."

The Park is a 300-watt radio station with an adult top 40 format. It reaches western Wayne County and can be found online.

Admission to the record show is \$3. Collectors looking to get an early start can pay \$5 to get in 9-10 a.m. Students from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools get into the show free with student identification.

All proceeds help the station continue serving the community with a variety of programming while providing students with broadcast training. The show is one of The Park's main fundraisers each year.

Interested record dealers can contact Keith at 734-416-7732 or by email at bill.keith@pccsk12.com. Eight-foot tables can be reserved for \$30 each.



Vinyl is still popular at the record show hosted student-operated WSDP-FM (88.1 The Park).

Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy Road, on the corner of Joy and Canton Center roads. The cafeteria is located on the first floor, just inside the main entrance to the school.

The radio station is owned by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

district. For more information, go to <http://www.881ThePark.com>.

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

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Polehanki announces bid for state Senate seat

Dayna Polehanki of Livonia, a 16-year public school teacher and small business owner, has announced her bid for the state Senate as a Democratic candidate in the 7th District. This district, held by term-limited Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, includes the communities of Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Wayne.

Polehanki is hosting a meet and greet fundraiser at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at The Claddagh Irish Pub & Restaurant, 17800 Haggerty Road, in Livonia. The public is invited to attend.

Polehanki made her candidacy public at a campaign kickoff event this past November.

"I am running because I am fed up," she said. "As a teacher, I have seen firsthand that we are failing our children with a lack of investment in our public schools. Like all Michigan residents, I have avoided potholes, experienced

cracked windshields and flat tires and worry about driver safety on our roads. So many of our bright minds leave Michigan because we are not retaining talent."

A graduate of Flushing High School, Polehanki earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Central Michigan University, a teacher certification and English major from Alma College, a master's degree in teaching from Marygrove College and an administrator certification from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. She has taught English in the New Haven Community Schools district for the past 16 years and is a former Teacher of the Year at New Haven High School.

Polehanki is also a small business owner, running Detroit Casting Co., a



Polehanki

film/television/commercial casting office based in Livonia. A former manager of features casting at Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles and a member of the Casting Society of America, Polehanki has witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of the elimination of Michigan's film incentive on her once bustling small business.

"The work just dried up once the film incentive was fully eliminated," she said. "It is a shame. Filmmakers and talent from all over the country and the world came to Michigan to spend money and to create art and Michigan workers, from actors to caterers to electricians, benefited. But we cut the industry off at the knees. What a huge missed opportunity."

Polehanki plans to host events around the district. For more information, go to daynaforsenate.com.

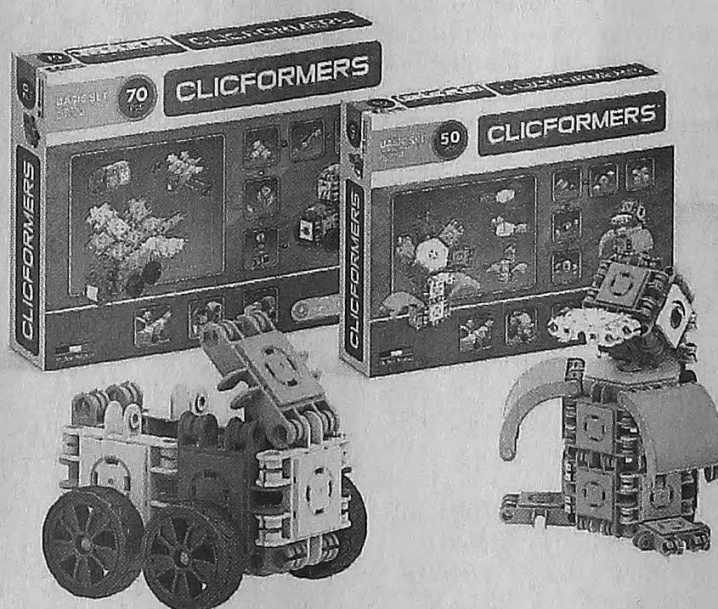
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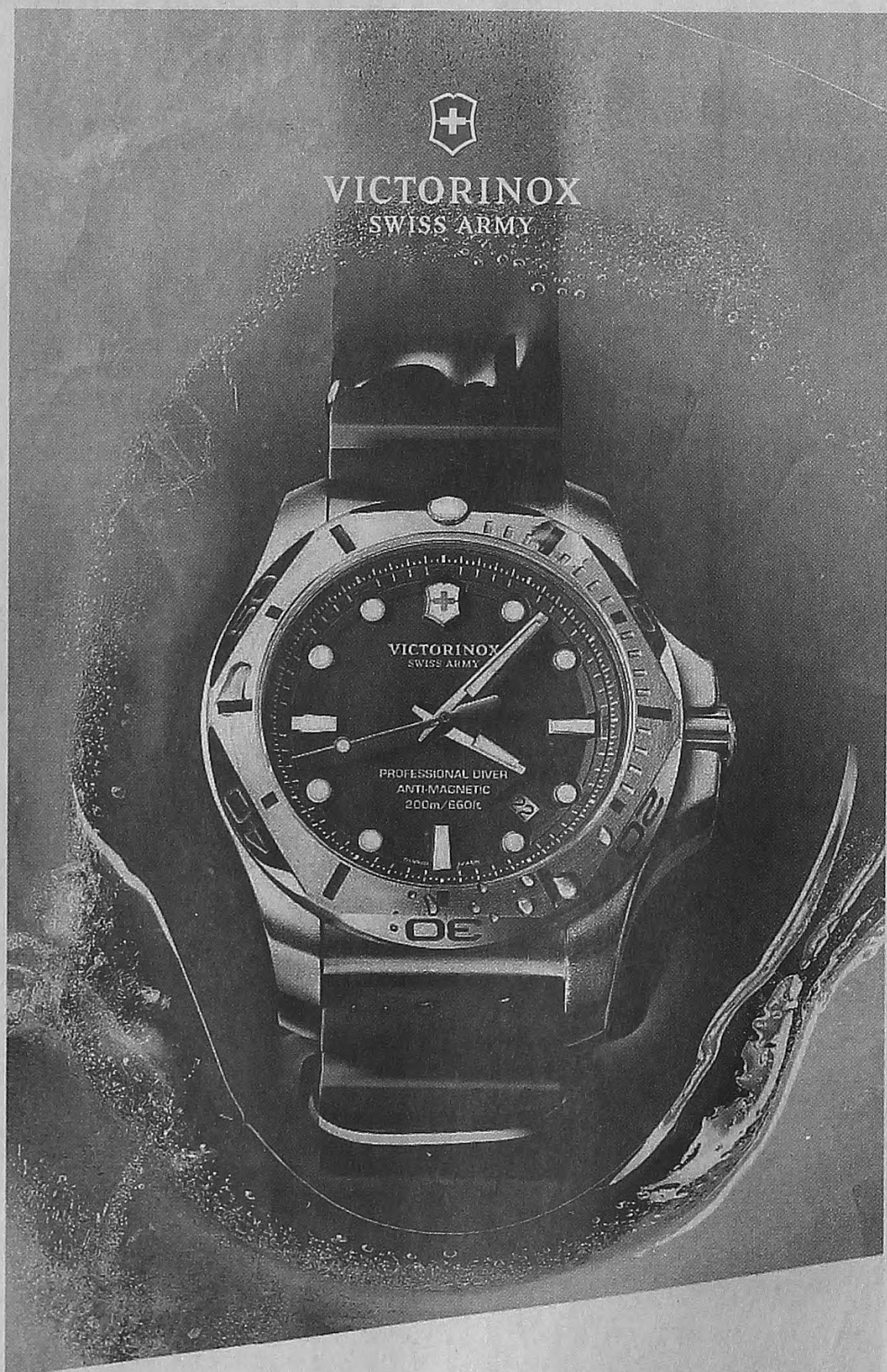


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Art Van

Continued from Page 1A

featured in the store, said it's the perfect location for his furniture because of the lighting, the style, the open-floor plan.

"This is that perfect store," he said, adding, "The future is here."

Craig Gourley, Art Van vice president of merchandising, said the store features 300 different furniture vendors. He said it includes a new outlet section that replaces the older clearance centers for shoppers on a budget.

Gourley called it the next-generation store. The store's glass exterior allows natural light to stream into the spacious showroom during daytime hours. At night, the store is lit up and can't be missed along Ford Road.

If there has been one complaint, Canton officials say, it is that the store is too large and too close to Ford Road. But others have embraced the look.

"It has certainly made a significant splash in Canton," said township Supervisor Pat Williams, who attended Thursday's grand opening bash. "We wish them years and years of great success."

Some marveled over a large, shiny sculpture suspended above the escalator to the second floor. It glistened and sparkled, one of the decorations that John Wyatt, Art Van vice president of store environments, said sets it apart from other stores.

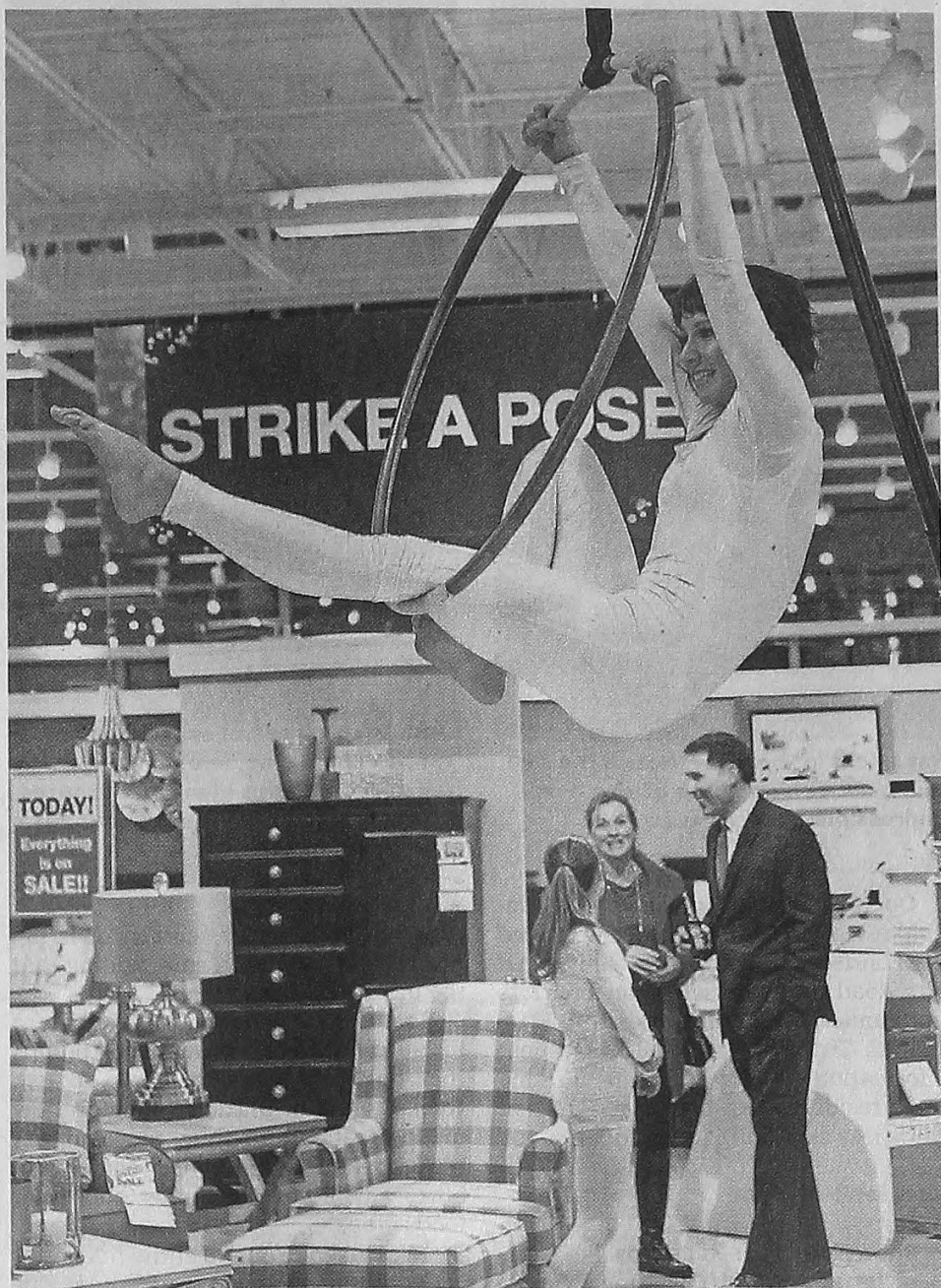
"This has more bling in it," he said, though he said the Canton store complements other stores in Novi, Westland and Ann Arbor.

Others remarked on decor such as a large dinosaur statue on the upper level.

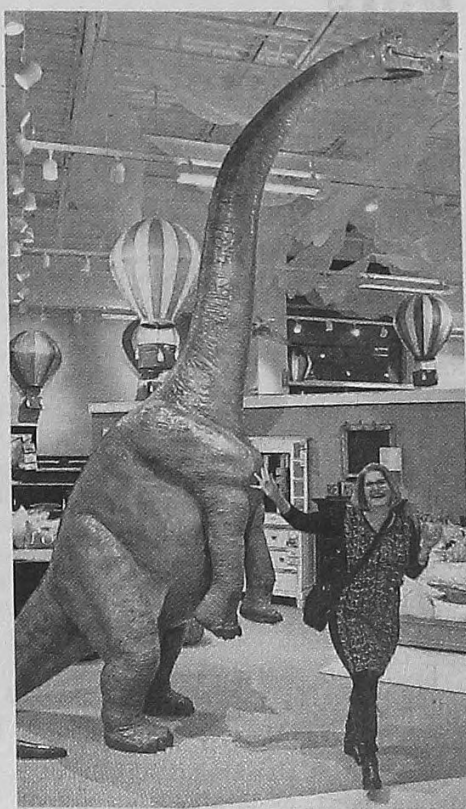
Wyatt said Canton seemed a perfect location due to the busy Ford Road retail corridor and its proximity to Interstate 275, making it accessible to a broad area.

Some in the crowd moved to the groove as a band, Skyline and the Backstreet Horns, played a set that focused heavily on Motown tunes by artists such as the Temptations and Marvin Gaye.

Art Van Furniture had revealed the new design of the Canton store in 2016. It was built on the site of what was once a medical office building and a two-story structure that formerly housed busi-



Entertainment on an aerial hoop during the invitation-only grand opening. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Debbie Beevers of Farmington Hills makes friends with a dinosaur hanging out by children's bedroom furniture section. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

nesses and a racquetball club.

Art Van had announced early last year that the company would be sold after it was owned for 58 years by its founder, Art Van Elslander. Officials said at the time that the sale wouldn't hinder plans for the new store.

Some Canton residents had worried the new store would add to traffic problems along already-busy Ford Road. But the company designed a driveway that lined up with the IKEA traffic light, eas-

ing some fears of worsening traffic problems.

In the end, the mood Feb. 1 was decidedly upbeat. And Wyatt said the store has drawn a good crowd of customers since its "soft opening" in January.

"The store has taken off from day one," he said.

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



The new Art Van store was called "stunning" and "beautiful" by visitors. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Beaumont

Rats

Continued from Page 1A

Oakland County communities and a handful of cities in Macomb and Wayne counties. A Livonia resident posting Jan. 21 asked for help with her rat-infested garage and noted that “the information in this group has been so incredibly helpful.”

Ratty cities

According to the pest control company Orkin, the Detroit area can use all the help it can get battling rats. It ranked the area No. 7 on its 2017 list of “Top 50 Rattiest Cities.” That’s up from No. 9 in the previous year. The ranking is based on the number of rodent treatments from October 2016 through September 2017 in each city.

Royal Oak RATS will team with Ferndale Rat Patrol to present a free workshop from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marais, north of 13 Mile and east of Crooks. Topics will include trapping, using raptors to control rats, owl houses, tools to help fight rat infestation, feeding birds without attracting rats, rat facts and the downside of using poisons. Two live red-tailed hawks and a garter snake will be on hand, along with an owl mascot and face painter to entertain children.

“You’ll find rats around farms and home and restaurants. They like our shelter, our food. They burrow along foundations, garages, sidewalks and driveways,” Mikulski said. “Everywhere there are people, there are rats.”

Mike Esson, Milford assistant director for public services, says he never receives complaints about rats and has never experienced a rat problem, other than being chased by a rodent while working for a cleaning service in Livonia years ago. He credits the village’s attention to cleanliness for its apparent lack of rats.

Doug Manigold, code enforcement officer for the city of Birmingham, says he gets a handful of calls about rat sightings every year. Some of the callers are surprised to see a rat in the upscale community.

“Usually, it’s close to a commercial area, along an alley, which is not uncommon,” he said.



Rat tracks in the snow: Notice the slim tail track behind some of the deep impressions. SHARON DARGAY

Open dumpsters, grease spilled behind restaurants and backyards littered with birdseed and dog feces can attract rats. Road and sewer work can force rats from underground burrows.

Both Birmingham and Livonia post information about rats online, offering steps residents can take to make their yards less appealing to the rodents.

Resident-driven

But resident-based groups like Ferndale Rat Patrol aren’t waiting for municipalities to intervene. Mikulski describes the online community as a “concerted citizen effort.”

“The city is not going to be the solution,” said Jan Coppola Bills, founder of Royal Oak RATS. “We want to plow forward and not get caught up in bureaucracy.”

Both Ferndale Rat Patrol and Royal Oak RATS promote non-poisonous rat control methods. They say poisons can harm children, pets or wildlife inadvertently.

“We have a city full of pet owners. Multiple people have had pets die because they got a hold of poison. I



Laura Mikulski searches through her “rat box” for a trap. She’s holding a trail cam that helps identify rat routes at night, along with fliers about rat eradication. SHARON DARGAY

watched a family of screech owls die one by one,” Mikulski said, adding that the birds ate poisoned rats.

She tells residents who are reluctant to use kill traps or burrow smoke bombs that poison bait can take up to two weeks to kill a rat, depending on how much it eats at one time. She said rats sometimes stockpile the poison in a burrow while eating tastier berries or food scraps.

“We can wipe out an entire burrow of active rats in one night (by trapping) instead of taking up to two weeks if they are eating (poisonous) bait,” she said. “A rat can get spooked and drop that piece of bait and run off and your pet can get it.”

The group uses a technique called “shock and awe” that entails setting several traps at once to snare as many rodents as possible. Mikulski, wearing thick gloves, then throws the used traps and rodents in the garbage.

“The first time, I felt horrible and scared to pick it up. Each time, it has gotten easier,” she said, adding that although women may at first object to trapping, “once they get involved, they



An owl house sits atop a tall pole in Jan Bills’s backyard. Bills says owls and other raptors can control rat population without using poison.

SHARON DARGAY

really get involved.”

The Garden City page “doesn’t judge” about the use of poison, although some residents who comment on the site prefer non-toxic solutions.

“I have three cats that bring me dead rats all the time,” said Kim Montayne, a Garden City resident. “I know this might sound crazy, but if neighborhoods would embrace the feral cat problems they have, I think cats would really help.”


If not cats, maybe owls and hawks. Bills, who keeps owl houses in her front and back yards in Royal Oak, promotes the use of raptors in controlling the rat population. The owls hunt at night when rats are active.

“We’re probably never going to eradicate all rats. They’re part of the ecosystem, but being able to control them is something we should strive to do,” Bills said. “Ultimately, we need to get people to stop using poison. No one wins with poison.”


Bills also suggests placing garbage in metal cans with tight-fitting lids and picking up yard waste, leaves and dog feces.

“One thing is for sure, rats don’t know city boundaries,” Bills said. “Because you haven’t seen one doesn’t mean you don’t have them.”

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CANTON POLICE BRIEFS

Kroger embezzling blamed on college money worries

A Kroger employee accused of embezzling \$910 confessed and told authorities he took the money because he is a financially struggling college student, a Canton police report said.

The 20-year-old employee of the Kroger at Michigan Avenue and Canton Center was captured on a surveillance camera taking money from a cash register and putting it in his pocket, the report said. He is accused of taking about \$910 during an eight-day period ending Feb. 3.

Store personnel became suspicious after cash registers came up short on money when he was working a checkout line. Further investigation revealed he was taking money from the drawers, the report said.

The employee, an Ypsilanti resident, is accused of taking money several times in January and February. He told police he is attending college and having money problems, the report said.

It wasn't immediately known what charges he might face.

Handgun confiscated

Police confiscated a semiautomatic handgun and 19 rounds of ammunition after making a traffic stop on

Michigan Avenue, a report said.

Police on patrol at the Walmart parking lot noticed a Ford Escape parked in a handicapped space and ran a background check on the license plate shortly before 10 p.m. Feb. 2. Police learned the vehicle owner was wanted in Dearborn for making fraudulent handicap claims; he also had a suspended driver's license.

The driver, a Romulus man, came out of Walmart and got into his vehicle, also occupied by a passenger. He drove off and ignored a stop sign shortly before police pulled him over, the report said.

When asked by police if he had any weapons, he said there was a gun tucked under the steering column of his car, the report said. He told police he uses it for protection when he is in Detroit, but police said he had no permit to carry it.

Police also found 19 rounds of ammunition in the vehicle. He was taken into custody for the warrant and for driving with a suspended license. He also could be facing gun-related charges.

Cocaine in car

Police arrested a 58-year-old Van Buren Township woman after finding cocaine in the driver's seat of her car during a routine traffic stop, a report said.

Police initiated a traffic stop about 1:30 a.m. Feb. 3 near Ford Road and Interstate 275 after noticing a

2009 Ford Focus without a light on the license plate. The car also had heavily tinted windows, the report said.

The woman told police she was driving home from her brother's residence in Canton. Police ran a background check and learned she had a restricted driver's license and a criminal history involving cocaine.

Police found cocaine in the driver's seat of her car and later, after she was taken to the police station, discovered a small rock of cocaine in her winter coat.

Charges were pending.

Parking lot rage?

A man's angry encounter with another motorist in a retail store parking lot could have led to his vehicle being damaged, a report said.

The 49-year-old Inkster man told police another driver honked a horn at him as he pulled into a parking space at the Walmart on Michigan Avenue in Canton. He described the other driver as an older white male with gray hair and wearing a red hoodie.

When the Inkster man returned to his vehicle, he found the taillight on his minivan had been smashed.

— By Darrell Clem

PLYMOUTH POLICE BRIEFS

Man selling rifle online avoids scam

A Plymouth man trying to sell his rifle online found what he thought was a buyer, but it turned out to be an attempted scam.

The man had put his 1935 rifle up for sale for \$1,250 and a South Carolina man sent him \$2,500, asking him to send the rifle along with the \$1,000 he supposedly overpaid, a police report said.

The man notified Plymouth Township police recently and told authorities he knew it was a scam. He went to his bank, which confirmed the check was fraudulent.

Flat tires, drunken driving

A woman driving drunk got into trouble after she had two flat tires and was stopped on Ann Arbor Road, blocking traffic and attracting the attention of police, a report said.

The woman told police she hit a pothole with her car and got two flat tires on the passenger side of her vehicle. She said she was going home to Novi from down-

town Plymouth.

Police noticed the smell of intoxicants during the traffic stop. She initially refused to have her blood-alcohol level checked, but later consented. She was arrested for operating while impaired.

False police report

A 59-year-old man was scolded by police after he apparently filed a false police report about his 2006 Mercury Montego being stolen.

Police went to the man's residence amid reports his car had been stolen, but a police officer found it nearby with front-end damage and the airbags deployed, the report said. The man finally admitted he hit a curb on the way to a gas station to pick up some cakes.

Police ticketed the man after learning he had been driving with a suspended license. He also was cited for failing to stop at an accident scene.

Police counseled the man on the potential consequences of filing a police report.

— By Darrell Clem

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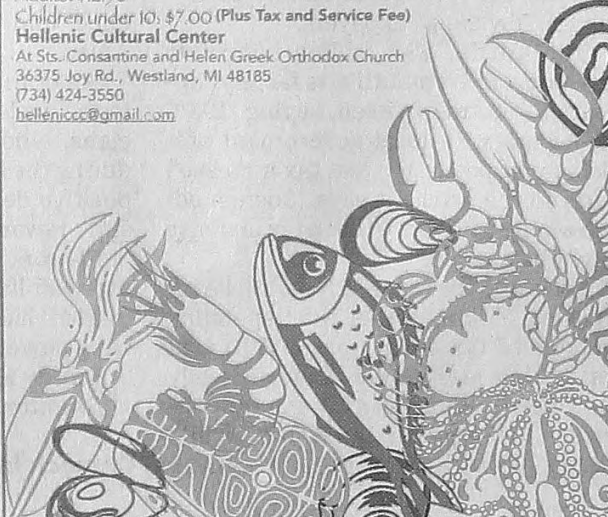
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smoke & mirrors

I'm a retired public school teacher on a fixed income, residing and paying taxes to Plymouth Township since 1971. My winter tax bill recently arrived, and I noted that I'm paying well over \$200 for the Plymouth City Library, which I have no issue with. I also noted the 1% Administration Fee the Board of Trustees voted on without bringing a vote to taxpayers. Now it appears that we will all soon be paying increased taxes for an 800-seat performing arts center that we really don't need.

Look at how scientific this EPIC-MRA survey really was. The original survey was to include 75 city residents and 225 township residents to ask opinions of joining each other to create a recreation body to serve both communities. It appeared this was a fairly weighted and legitimate survey. I wondered why this survey was necessary after the township paid for a recreational survey less than two years ago. EPIC-MRA added an additional 25 city residents, but none in the township after the survey had commenced, it suggests someone didn't like the original findings.

The city owes the township millions of dollars in legacy costs over the failed Plymouth Community Fire Department. Shouldn't we resolve this issue before we jump back into bed with the city?

With the reopening of Fire Station #2 and adding more firefighters, how much more will be added to our annual budget and the impending legacy costs. I'm all for public safety, but at what cost? This is a joint venture with Northville Township, and there are sure to be expenses that are the sole responsibility of Plymouth Township taxpayers.

The article "\$30 million sought to give boost to Plymouth arts facility" appears to contradict itself, saying "PARC may work with local government officials to propose a modest tax increase". Later in the article it says "Soenen acknowledged it's likely that a tax increase might be needed."

Shouldn't the City of Plymouth be increasing parking rather than spending millions of tax dollars on an 800 seat performing arts center that we really don't need? With over 20 annual concerts in Kellogg Park, the Fourth of July Parade, Art in The Park, the Fall Festival,

Ice Sculptures, the Farmers Market and so many other events already scheduled every year its only a matter of time that we'll all be paying to park downtown, if you can find a place to park.

Township elected officials have given out fat raises to some employees, raised our water rates, levied a 1% administration fee to tax bills, selling our DPW yard and will soon close Hilltop Golf Course, it's time to reflect on why they were voted into office.

Judith Washburn
Plymouth Township

Go Trump

President Donald Trump's first State of the Union address was uplifting, optimistic, and parts of the speech were truly inspiring. According to a CBS poll (not a Trump-supporting organization), 75% of Americans approved of the speech and 81% thought President Trump was trying to bring the nation together.

Trump's first year has been a big success for our fellow citizens - 2.4 million jobs created, African-American unemployment and Hispanic-American unemployment stand at the lowest rates ever recorded, and wages for ordinary Americans are finally going up after years of stagnation.

Since the Trump tax cut, more than 70 major U.S. companies have announced either pay raises or bonuses for rank-and-file employees, plus additional hiring and investment in America. Small business confidence in the future is at an all-time high.

All of this job growth in America is designed to lift our citizens from welfare to work, from dependence to independence, and from poverty to prosperity. Amen.

All of this good news did not appear to be welcomed by Democrat politicians, who largely sat on their hands during the speech. However, all of these positive developments are a refreshing and rewarding change for ordinary hard-working Americans (regardless of party affiliation) who are tired of being treated like helpless victims by left-wing power-hungry bureaucrats.

Randy Kniebes
Brighton

Colbeck impressed

The First Gubernatorial Debate in Grand Rapids, a brief synopsis:

1. Pat Colbeck clearly knocked it out of the ball park. His answers were clear, heartfelt, knowledgeable, accurate, sincere, with no ambiguity and were well received by the audience.

2. Brian Calley was smooth but vague in many areas. Although he is a well-polished politician, his answers were often too general. I thought he was going to gag when asked a question about tax cuts. (Let's not forget his tax-increasing record re: the gas tax, Medicaid expansion and increasing the senior income tax).

Perhaps one of his most embarrassing moments was the question about the purpose of government. He began his ramble with "infrastructure." Really?

The beauty of a town hall format where each candidate answers each question was realized when Colbeck followed Calley and answered that question remarkably different. Colbeck's answer was that the "purpose of government was to secure the rights of the governed." It was clear Colbeck read and actually understood the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and understood these two social compacts that unite all Americans. Especially the part: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Colbeck's short and extremely correct answer was virtually a direct quote from the Declaration of Independence.

Compare the two, and you will see which of the two is more qualified to serve us as our next Governor!

3. Bill Schuette failed to attend the gubernatorial debate. After watching, it was clear to me that Schuette is afraid to debate Colbeck. Colbeck mopped the floor with Calley.

4. Jim Hines is a nice man and has attained a nice set up of accomplishments, such as MD, being a pilot and distance runner. Perhaps one of his best accomplishments is to repeat that which Colbeck has previously champi-

oned. I have had many opportunities to attend town hall meetings where both were both speaking.

Those that attended the debate saw that the majority of campaign stickers, buttons, shirts and other forms of support were for Colbeck. No other candidate has anywhere the grassroots support that Colbeck enjoys. Last night was an initial glimpse of the beginning of the end of the "Lansing Swamp."

Bob Cushman
Northville

Poor comments by attorney

When it was first reported that Shannon Smith, the Atty. for Larry Nassar, was being threatened for defending the man, I was highly distressed. Being a retired cop, I believe in the rule of law and that even the most vile criminal is allowed to have an attorney.

While Smith never deserved to be threatened for doing her job, after an appearance on a radio show Thursday, she certainly deserves to be castigated for being a self-serving, publicity seeking jerk.

During the interview she questioned the validity of statements given by Nassar's victims. Her comments were so far off base, even Nassar shied away from them. When I hear the name, Shannon Smith, the word shyster comes to mind.

James Huddleston
Canton

School plan promotes bullying

I am an eighth grade student from Discovery Middle School. One of the largest problems in schools today is bullying. My problem lies in how my school has addressed this issue. This week the school decided to place the bullies with the bullied by forcing students to have assigned seats in the lunchroom.

Staff and students participate in a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support reward system quarterly to improve school culture, giving properly behaving students snacks or the use of electronics during recess and lunch.

This quarter, however, our school decided to do something new, called "Mix It Up" week.

See LETTERS, Page 8A

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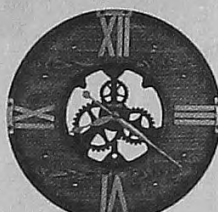
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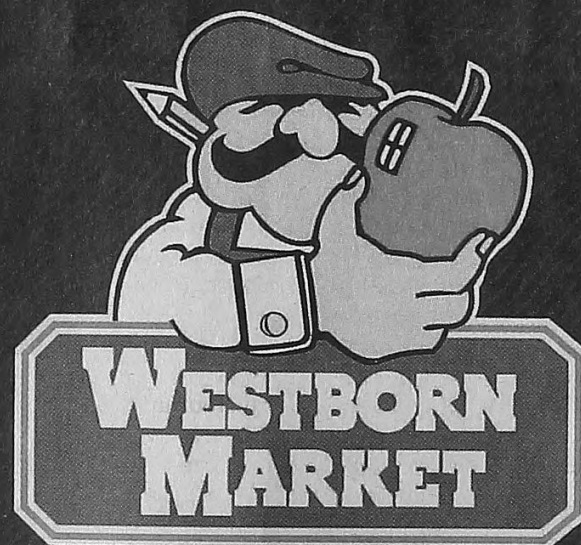
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AREA EVENTS

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

Village Theater exhibit features Gross

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, will exhibit the collected works of artist Raymond Gross in the Gallery@VT, through Feb. 26. An artist reception will be held 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, which is free and open to the public.

The exhibit, titled "Brushes, Pens & Pencils," features numerous works from Gross's 50-year career as an artist. Gross, a Canton resident, has taught in the Van Buren Public Schools district as an elementary art teacher, as well as a middle school assistant principal.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; during public performances at the theater; and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The Gallery is closed on holidays.

For more information, go to www.cantonvillage.com.

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.detroitbluessociety.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.

In addition, the West Side Ramblers will provide a free concert of Dixieland/bluegrass 5:30-8:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Burger Night. A limited menu is available.

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.

Fish dinners

The Plymouth VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, will host fish dinners during Lent 5-7 p.m. each beginning Feb. 9 through March 30. (no dinner Feb. 16 due to a scheduling conflict).

Diners can get cod or walleye, baked or fried. There will also be shrimp and chicken strips available. All dinners include french fries, baked potato or mac and cheese, along with cole slaw, a roll and butter. Coffee is on the house, all other drinks are available on a cash basis. There is also a dessert table and 50/50 drawings.

Pilgrimage to Solanus Casey Center

St. John Neumann Church is sponsoring an outing to the Solanus Casey Center from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21. The cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Meet at St. John Neumann and travel by carpool. Pilgrimage includes guided tour, Mass, simple soup lunch, Lenten refectio and a healing service, with options for confession, prayers and gift shop.

Register by Thursday, Feb. 8, at St. John Neumann Church, 44800 Warren Road, in Canton. For more information, email atdoherty707@yahoo.com or sharborke@gmail.com or call 734-455-5910.

Radio station fundraiser

Radio station 88.1 the Park, the student-run station at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, will present Rock the Park, a concert featuring talent from the Plymouth-Canton area, Friday, Feb. 9, at Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church Street. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 6:30 p.m.

The concert will showcase four local bands: American Arson, MeandtheDog, Theø and Gene Pool. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. The money raised will help maintain the station's mission of using local radio to invest in the lives of students and serve the Plymouth-Canton community.

For more information, go to www.881thepark.com.

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 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 in-

roduction 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.

Montessori school open house

The Plymouth-Canton Montessori School is hosting an open house for prospective students and their families 9-11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15. PCMS teachers and staff will provide classroom tours and enrollment information for the 2018-19 school year. Classes will be in session, so this is a great opportunity to see what authentic Montessori classrooms look like.

The school is located at 45245 Joy in Canton and is an independent nonprofit educational community that provides an individualized learning environment for children, ages 18 months through 6 years.

For more information, go to www.pcmontessori.org, email pcmontessori@sbcglobal.net or call 734-459-

1550.

Plymouth STEAM workshop

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department announces a stop motion animation workshop for children ages 6-15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street.

Students will be taught by Alex Thomas, a professional stop-motion animator who worked on Cartoon Network shows. They will learn animation techniques such as speed, weight, timing, easing and more through various exciting mediums and activities. Also included is a DVD of all animation created by the students during the workshop, a prize raffle and a snack.

Cost is \$69 for city residents and \$54 for non-residents. Registration can be found online at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or by calling 734-455-6620 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Obituaries

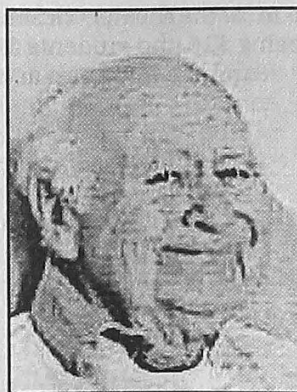
To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

John DeCoster

BELLEVILLE - April 12, 1932 - February 03, 2018 Age 85, of Belleville.

Died peacefully at his home with his family at his side on Saturday afternoon, February 3, 2018. John is the beloved father of Denise DeCoster of Redford, Jacqueline Droz of Redford,

Patricia DeCoster of Belleville, Myriam Manias of Tallahassee, Florida, Susan DeCoster of Palm Beach, Florida, Rachel (John) Connop of Belleville, Veronica (John) Worthington of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Herschel DeCoster of Dallas, Texas, Belva DeCoster of Wixom, Maria (Theo) Luschen of the Netherlands, and Cecilia DeCoster of Wayne. Mr. DeCoster is also the proud grandfather of nineteen grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren (with two on the way); brother of Beverly DeCoster of Dearborn Heights and Shirley DeCoster of Belleville. He is also survived by his cherished dog "Kipper". Sadly, he was preceded in death by his siblings Earl DeCoster, Elmer DeCoster, Bernard DeCoster, Wanda Graszak and Ed DeCoster. Born on April 12, 1932 to Earl and Sophie (Wesulowski) DeCoster, John was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army serving in the Korean War, and was a lifelong Belleville/Canton area resident. He was an avid fisherman, music lover (he enjoyed playing the piano, harmonica and tenor saxophone) and cook, and was said to have had a "green thumb" in his garden. He was loved by all who knew him. Mr. DeCoster was a loving and giving man, and he truly was a hero to all his children. A funeral ceremony with military honors was held at 11 AM, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 in the main chapel of David C. Brown Funeral Home of Belleville. Interment at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Huron Valley Humane Society or to VFW Post #4434.



James "Jim" Benaglio

LIVONIA - age 63, passed away on February 1, 2018 of complications due to ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) for which he was diagnosed May of 2016.

He is the beloved husband of Julie Louis-Benaglio, father of Jessie (Mark) Gruca, Jamie Benaglio, and new grandfather to Lucas James Gruca. He is survived by his mother, Gloria (Janareli) Benaglio, sister, Pam (Dan) Staub, brother, Tom (Lynne) Benaglio, sister-in-law, Lee Ann (Jay) Louis-Prescott, nieces, Yvonne and Leah Louis-Prescott, and nephews, Steve Louis-Prescott, Dawson and Dominic Benaglio.

Jim graduated from the University of Michigan with his Electrical Engineering degree and retired from Detroit Edison (DTE Energy) after 36 years of service. He always enjoyed understanding how technical things worked. He also enjoyed the many years of golfing on the DTE Energy golf league. One of his other talents and passions was music. He sang and played guitar and met Julie while in a church Folk Group together. Jim was an avid runner of 5Ks, 10Ks, half and full marathons. He and his daughters spent many memorable years participating in the Livonia YMCA Indian Princess (Daddy/Daughter) Program spending time camping, kayaking, designing, building and racing pine cars, going to dances and meeting with their other Daddy/Daughter team mates doing crafts and building treasured bonds.

Jim's brain and spine are being donated to the University of Michigan for ALS Research, hoping to help better understand and find a cure for this horrible disease that has no treatment and no cure.

A brief Visitation will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church (11441 Hubbard, Livonia, MI) at 10:00AM, Saturday, February 10th with a Memorial Mass beginning at 10:30AM. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: ALS of Michigan, 24359 Northwestern HWY Ste 100, Southfield, MI 48075 or online at www.alsof-michigan.org



Mark Edward Mathieu

REDFORD - 53 years, passed away at his home October 10, 2017.

Survived by siblings Jeanne Mathieu-Dendrinis (Carl), Renee Mathieu, Paul Mathieu (Kyong), Patricia Mathieu, Michelle Mathieu, Karl Mathieu (Rose Morand), Maureen Mathieu (Kevin Thompson) and Karen Mathieu Campbell. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Pre-deceased by his mother, Geraldine; father, Kenneth; and sister Mary Katherine.

Mark attended St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia and the University of Detroit High School in Detroit, graduating in 1982. Mark was a big fan of rock music, especially the Rolling Stones, and played guitar and keyboards in a band, The Flying Squirrels - or as Mark called them, "The Aerial Marsupials." Mark enjoyed water skiing, canoeing, kayaking and fishing. He loved cars, particularly Mustangs, and could often be found working on one. He began his work life at Food Emporium, staying when it became Hiller's and moving from stock boy to Store Director.

A brief Memorial Service will be held at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, MI on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 12 Noon. Attendees will gather at the cemetery office and proceed to the gravesite together. Donations to Salvation Army, Covenant House, or the charity of your choice.



Mae Elizabeth Dietrich

TRAVERSE CITY - Mae Elizabeth Dietrich, age 95 of Traverse City, previously from Livonia, died January 31, 2018. She was born on May 27, 1922 in Dexter, Missouri to Steven and Stella (Crow) Smith. Mae graduated from Pershing High School in Detroit in January of 1941. She

married Wilbur Frank Dietrich on August 20, 1943. She was a bookkeeper for many years with Delta Engineering. Mae enjoyed cleaning her house, reading, sewing, needlework but most of all, she treasured spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Mae is survived by her children; Donna Mae (Spencer E.) Ross and Dennis Frank Dietrich and grandchildren; Amanda Mae (Thomas E. Jr.) Godward, Devin Leigh (Joseph) Smitherman and Chelsea Lauren Dietrich; great-grandson; Silas Spencer Smitherman. Mae is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wilbur Dietrich; siblings; Myrtle Pauline Johnson, Marvin Eugene Smith, Nellie Shields, Harold Smith, Jewell Smith, David Smith and Georgia Krisfalusi. Chapel services will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, February 9, 2018 at Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park. Please visit www.lifestorytc.com to share your thoughts and memories with the family. Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City.



Check out these events happening this weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If you've got a hankering to head to the theater this weekend, there's plenty of options without having to head to New York City.

There are several events happening in hometownlife.com communities this weekend, including these three worth checking out.

'And Then There Were None' in Farmington Hills

If classic Agatha Christie mysteries are your thing, the Farmington Players have just the performance for you beginning this weekend.

The acting troupe will perform "And Then There Were None" beginning this Friday at "The Barn," located at 32332 W. 12 Mile. The show focuses on 10 people sent to a remote island where everyone has a secret. Slowly, the guests are found murdered in this classic whodunit.

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday each weekend until Feb. 25. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students and



The Farmington Players will perform "And Then There Were None" this month. JAN CARTWRIGHT

seniors and can be purchased in advance at farmingtonplayers.org.

'Rock, Pop and Soul' in Canton

The music of legendary artist Michael Jackson will be part of the performances taking place at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton this Saturday.

"Rock, Pop and Soul," performed by the Michigan Philharmonic, will take the stage Saturday at the theater at 50400 Cherry Hill. Guest singer Lonnie Reed will perform music from Jackson, as well as Lionel Richie, the Doors and others.

The original show sold out, though an additional show was added. That show will take place at 4:30 p.m. at the theater. Tickets are \$30, with senior tickets being \$25 and students \$10.

For more information, go to michiganphil.org.

'Pasta and Presidents' in Livonia

Head back in time this weekend to learn about the American executive branch at Livonia's Greenmead Historical Park.

The historical village will host "Pasta and Presidents" Saturday afternoon in the Alexander Blue House. The luncheon, which runs from noon to 2 p.m., will feature a guest speaker sharing a talk titled, "Forgotten Presidents."

Tickets for the luncheon are \$25 and are available only in advance. Proceeds will go toward assisting maintenance at the historical park. Tickets can be purchased at the Greenmead offices, 20501 Newburgh, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. during the week.

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

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Letters

Continued from Page 6A

Students were placed into table groups of about 20, who will sit together every day during lunch for one week. The stated goal is to keep your table the cleanest so you can win a hot lunch reward.

After the shock that the student body received laying out this plan, the hallways went into a frenzy, and at least four petitions were started with over 100 signatures from students and teachers.

Lunchtime is a time to relax after the first half of the day. Kids find safety in their friends. You can walk into our lunchroom and find kids actually enjoying school. This is the exact opposite when the plan for Mix It Up week goes through.

I have been called cruel names, have been filmed and laughed at, and have had food thrown at me. Friends and I will be sitting for an hour within arms' reach of the perpetrators of these actions. This week everything we do will need to be calculated so as not to give ammunition to people who have harassed us. I know that this week is trying to stop bullying; it's going to be a week of stress and anxiety added to the school day.

The plan for Mix It Up week is not a new idea. Novi ran a similar experiment and chose after one trial to not repeat it. Overall this week does not seem to be a plan that was thought out by the administration, had not gone through student council, and does not take students' feelings into consideration.

Grace Laney
Canton

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Due your homework before making a major move



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY — MICHIGAN

I recently met with a new client to manage their money. The client has been retired for about a year and one of the main topics of conversation was their home. As the client explained, they have been in the house for more than 30 years and they want to move. Not only is the house too big for them, but because of her health it has become very difficult to go up and down the stairs. He told me at one point they looked at putting in a lift system, but they dismissed it as impractical.

They are 100-percent convinced the home no longer fits their needs and they should move. The problem is, they're not sure where. They are thinking of a Texas (where their children now live), Florida or staying in Michigan. Deep down, I could tell in our conversation that they wanted to be close to their children, but they were not sure if they would like Texas. They had been to Texas, but they have never been there for more than a week. They did not know what they should do.

I agree it is difficult to pick up and move to an area that you are unfamiliar with. Even if you are moving to be closer to the kids, you're not going to spend all your time with them; you have to have a life of your own. In addition, let's not forget that your kids and grandkids will also have their own lives and they may not spend the amount of time with you that you had hoped for. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard from people that have moved out of state to be closer with their kids discover they've made a mistake.

What I had recommended was, before they pack off and move to Texas permanently, they consider going to Texas and spending a significant amount of time there. They should consider renting something for

three months to see what living in Texas would be like. It is very difficult to know what a place is like if you only spend a week there. One week doesn't give you much time to truly learn about an area. If you go for an extended time like three months, you can get a better flavor as to what living in Texas is all about. It will also give you time to look at different areas of the city to determine what best suits you

Think if someone were to move to southeast Michigan. Would they live on the east side in St. Clair Shores or Grosse Pointe or would they move to Northville, West Bloomfield or Troy? The decision to move out of Michigan is tough enough; what makes it even tougher is you don't have all the information. By spending an extended time somewhere, it gives you the opportunity to learn about an area so you can make the right decision for you.

In the old days, it may have been difficult to rent a home or a condo, but that's not true anymore. In today's world, with websites such as Airbnb and TripAdvisor, it is much easier to a rent place for an extended period of time. For anyone contemplating a move to an area they're not familiar with, a great strategy is to live in the area for a period of time before you make the final decision.

Living in an area is totally different from visiting a place for vacation. I've been to Las Vegas many times, but I would have no idea what it's like to live there. When I go to Vegas, I generally stay on the strip. I have no idea what it's like to actually live in Las Vegas. Before you make a major decision to move, always do your homework and make the decision not as a tourist, but as a resident.

One last note: I told the client they should begin the process of getting their house ready to sell. It's not easy to pack up a house that you've been in for 30 years; the sooner you start, the easier it will be. Whether they move to Texas or not, they should consider moving because the house no longer meets their needs. The

house may have been wonderful in the past, but not today. Remember, when it comes to your home, the most important thing is quality of life. If your house no longer brings you the quality of life it should, it is a sign that a change is needed.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



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Frog and Toad Survey training scheduled

Frog and Toad Survey training sessions for those interested in monitoring the health of the Rouge River will begin this month. Three area training sessions have been planned, all from 10 a.m. to noon:

■ Saturday, Feb. 17, at Canton's Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

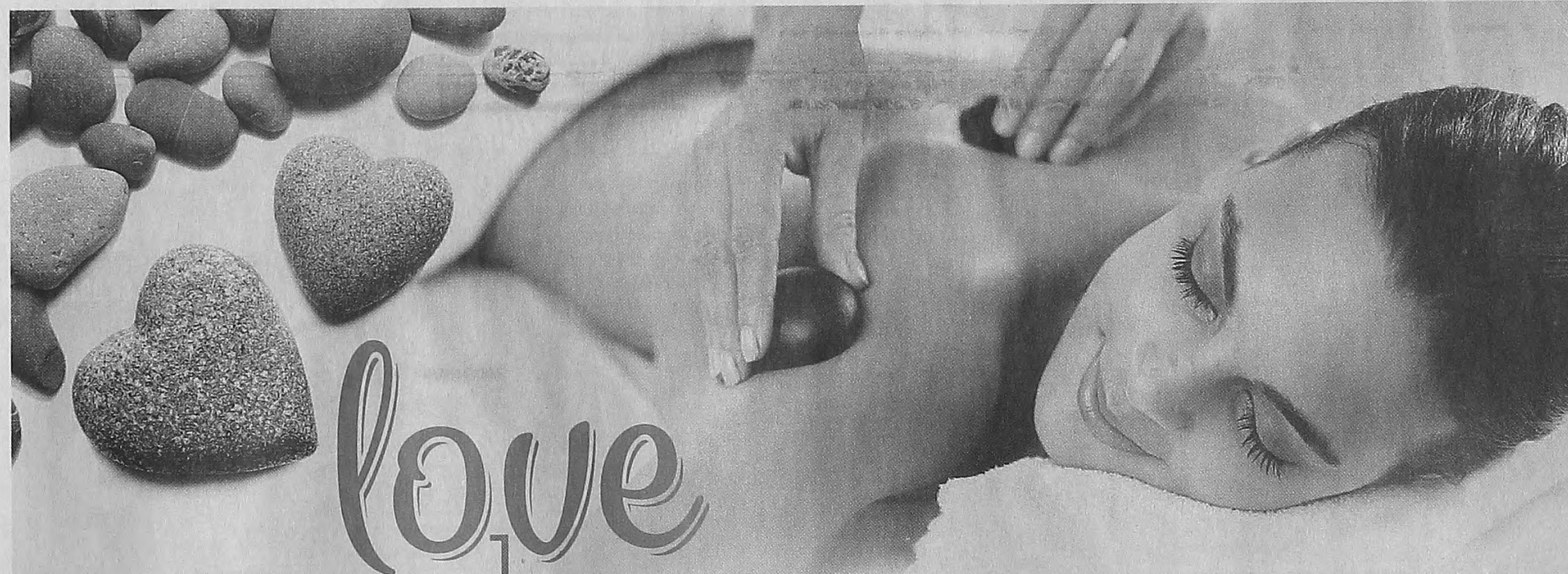
■ Saturday, March 10, at the Farmington Hills City Council chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road.

■ Saturday, March 17, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road.

Each training session will focus on frog and toad

identification skills in order to help volunteers determine different species out in the field. Frogs and toads are considered excellent indicators of the environmental quality around us. The more species a site can support, the better the habitat.

Training sessions are open to anyone, child or adult, who is concerned about the environment and wants to play an active role in monitoring its health. The sessions are free and pre-registration is required. To register, call the Friends of the Rouge at 313-792-9621 or go to www.therouge.org.



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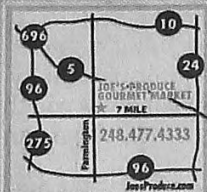
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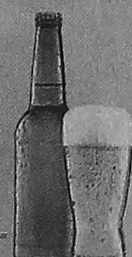
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Sports

COLLEGE RECRUITING

Northville kicker Moody commits to U-M

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

One of the state's all-time prolific high school place kickers has committed to play football at Michigan on the premise that he'll be receiving an athletic scholarship sometime in the future once he's enrolled.

Northville senior Jake Moody, a Detroit Free Press Dream Team selection who booted field goals of 55, 57 and 58 yards this season, made his decision Sunday after turning down a four-year scholarship offer from his second choice, Central Michigan University.

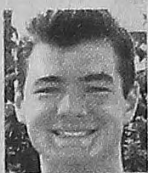
"I made a pros and cons list of the things that were important to me, because the decision was too hard to just

pick a school, so I needed to pick out all the little differences, everything that I liked and disliked about both schools, so at end Michigan had more pros than Central did," said Moody, who also had several other Division I offers.

Moody's dad Chad also graduated from Michigan, but Jake said his father stayed out of the recruiting process.

"I've always been a Michigan fan growing up," Moody said. "It just kind of felt right. He just left it up all to me, he didn't give any input at all. He just let me decide where I wanted to go."

Moody said had three face-to-face contacts during the recruiting process with Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, who made a visit Friday to the North-



Moody

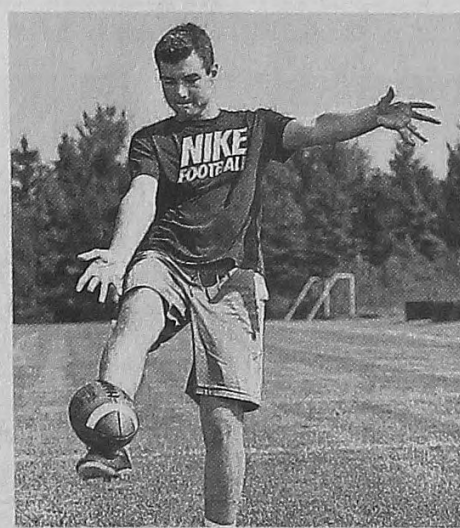
ville High campus.

During the new early signing period last month, Michigan landed 16 of its 19 verbal commits and was expected to fill the remainder of its 25-player scholarship limit during the second national signing day period, which was Wednesday.

Harbaugh mapped out a couple of different scenarios for the 6-foot, 177-pound Moody, who made 12-of-17 field goals this season.

"I'm not exactly sure how it works, but I'm pretty sure that they said I could play this fall, actually, if certain scholarships open up or people leave or (are) injured or stuff like that," Moody said of

See MOODY, Page 2B



Northville's Jake Moody is committed to kick for Michigan. FILE PHOTO

BOYS HOCKEY

Showcase showpiece



Catholic Central's Dylan Montie (left) checks Culver's Andrew Wisniewski. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Culver rallies to defeat Catholic Central, 2-1

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's safe to say Culver (Ind.) Academy has Catholic Central's number.

The Shamrocks have just three losses this season — all off of them to the country's No. 1-ranked powerhouse. Michigan's top-ranked team gave a valiant effort, but fell to Culver, 2-1, in Friday's final MIHL Prep Hockey Showcase game at the Kennedy Recreation Center in Trenton.

Culver (29-2) has now defeated Catholic Central 10 straight times dating back to 2014, when the Eagles took care

of the Shamrocks 6-1 in their last Showcase meeting. In between, CC had won six straight Showcase games over the past three years.

"They are the No. 1 team in the nation and it's not by coincidence," said CC head coach Brandon Kalenicki, whose team is 16-3-1 overall. "They play a Triple-A schedule and whether they have our number or not, they are just a really good hockey team."

"We were right there with them. It was a 2-1 hockey game and we hit a couple posts and they hit a couple posts too," he added. "I don't want to sit here and analyze it too much, because I'll drive myself crazy. It was just a real good

hockey game and it could have gone either way."

Catholic Central gave Culver a tremendous battle.

After a scoreless opening period, the Shamrocks took a 1-0 lead five minutes into the second on a goal by Kyle Gaffney. The sophomore forward broke down the left wing and cashed in on a wicked wrist shot that went top shelf over Culver goaltender Alexander Wisco.

It remained that way until late in the second period, when senior Dominic Vidoli tied the game with just 45 sec-

See CULVER, Page 2B

BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson iced by Culver power play

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Stevenson was the latest team to take a crack at the nation's No. 1-ranked hockey team in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase.

And although the Spartans fell short 4-2 Saturday afternoon against Culver (Ind.) Academy, they acquitted themselves quite well at Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

"It was a tough game. They played us really hard," fifth-year Culver coach Steve Palmer said. "And if we didn't get a couple of power-play goals in the second period ... that was the difference. Our power play was a little better than theirs tonight and it's a 2-2 hockey game if we're not two-for-two on the power play, so it was a really good game."

After a scoreless first period, Culver (31-2) capitalized twice in the second with the man advantage to take a 2-0 lead.

Senior forward Connor Merrill, who has 60-plus points on the year, scored at 8:15, assisted by Jackson Pierson and Dominic Vidoli, followed by a Vidoli goal at 16:45 from Brock Paul to give Culver a two-goal cushion.

"They're good," said Stevenson senior defenseman Kevin Stefanick, who was a standout on the blue line. "Coming in knowing what they are — No. 1 in the nation, too — we knew we'd have a tough game. Their power play is good, no doubt about that. We tried to focus on our defense, live another day, so just chip pucks out, get pucks deep and play simple."

Only 13 seconds after Vidoli's goal, Stevenson Brenden Preiss answered when he beat Culver goalie Grant Adams with an unassisted effort to trim the deficit to 2-1 entering the third.

But at the 3:36 mark of the third period, Culver's Nick Stapleton made it 3-1 on a screwball-type drive that eluded Stevenson goaltender Will Tragge.

See STEVENSON, Page 2B



Stefanick



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YOUTH BASEBALL

Livonia Franklin camp set for Feb. 24

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin's 12th annual Future Stars Spring Baseball Camp is just around the corner, set for Saturday, Feb. 24.

Patriots head baseball coach Matt Fournier and his coaching staff will oversee camps for boys and girls in

grades 2-6.

Campers will be assigned to groups according to age and ability and will be instructed on a wide variety of skills. The sessions will take place indoors at the Franklin High School field house.

Following are details on the two sessions:

The morning session is 9-11:30 a.m. On the agenda will be hitting, base running and infield work, as well as point-

ers on taking the extra base, hitting for average and taking the proper approach for playing infield defense.

The afternoon session will run from noon to 2:15 p.m. Defensive work will be the main focus. Included will be pitchers fielding practice, catching drills and outfield defense.

Registration fees are \$30 for a single session and \$55 for both. Checks should be made out to Franklin High School

and be sent to Matt Fournier, Franklin Baseball Camp, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Each camper should bring a glove, bat and athletic shoes and sack lunch.

For more information, contact Fournier at mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us or 734-968-0499.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



Catholic Central's Rylan Clemons is taken down at the blue line by Culver's Brennan Coulson. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Culver

Continued from Page 1B

onds left. The goal punctuated a furious Culver push as it peppered CC goalie Zach Allan relentlessly for a five-minute period until finally finding the back of the net.

Culver scored the game-winner at the 12:28 mark of the third period, when Jacob Eckerle redirected a nice pass from James Shea past Allan, who had no chance.

"We got the lead, they called a timeout and we knew they were going to have a great push there and they did," Kaleniecki said. "We fought it off as long

"I don't want to sit here and analyze it too much, because I'll drive myself crazy ... it could have gone either way."

Brandon Kaleniecki
Catholic Central head coach

as we could, but they scored the late one.

"And I thought we started the third really well, but they just got the one goal and that was the difference," he added. "We were right there."

Catholic Central had a few chances to tie the game, including a hard wrist shot

by Carter Korpi that just went wide of the net with six minutes left in the third. Korpi's shot was denied by Wisco on that same shift a few seconds later while rushing up the left wing.

The Shamrocks enjoyed a 10-4 edge in shots during the final period, but could not get the equalizer. CC finished with a 19-18 advantage in shots.

"This was the best game we played against them this year," Kaleniecki said. "We gave them two pretty good games (to start the season in Indiana). Obviously, we were looking to give them our best shot tonight, but we just fell a little short in the end."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Stevenson

Continued from Page 1B

Assists went to Pierson and Jacob Eckerle.

"The defenseman went to get his stick on it and it popped up, and Will (Trage) never saw it," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "They shoot the puck so hard and they shoot it so well. It was a fluky goal, but that's what good teams do. Good teams make plays happen."

Culver's Patrick Schmiedlin went top shelf off an assist from Merrill to increase Culver's lead to 4-1 at 9:04, but the Spartans got a late goal with 1:43 remaining from Vincent Decina, assisted by Cole Parkhurst.

With 1:23 left, Mitchell called a timeout and pulled Trage for the extra attacker, but time ran out on the Spartans, the state's No. 1-ranked team in Division 2.

"It was a great hockey game in terms of we gave it our best, that's for sure," Mitchell said. "Culver is on another level. You have the utmost respect for them, for their program, for what they do and what they're about. We can't say enough of who they are and we appreciate them coming down to this Showcase."

Stevenson did a good job of limiting Culver's chances. The official MIHL stat crew had Culver outshooting the Spartans, 18-11.

"They blocked a lot of shots tonight. Normally we've been getting 30-plus shots a game and we got under 20 today," Palmer said. "It was tough to get pucks to the net and they played really hard, they blocked a lot of shots, they had sticks in lanes. They really competed defensively. It was a real tough game for our kids, who skate pretty well and move the puck pretty well, but they made it real tough on us. That's a pretty good defensive hockey game."

The loss dropped Stevenson to 16-4. "We learned we can play with the

best, for sure," Stefanick said. "We got a lot of competitors, guys that want to compete, want to play hard. I think we're looking good."

It was only a night earlier that Culver handed Novi Detroit Catholic Central, the No. 1-ranked team in Division 1, a 2-1 setback in the Showcase. CC has only three losses this season, all to Culver.

"Culver plays a really mature, real hockey, next level hockey game," Mitchell said. "And when you play that, you have to stay on top, you have to make sure your guys stay with their assignments. You have to really have to stay on guys instead of puck watching. I think we did a really good job of sticking to the game plan, skating with them and playing with them."

The Spartans went 0-of-3 on power play, while Culver went 2-of-2.

Contact Brad Emons at be-
mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him
on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

Moody

Continued from Page 1B

Michigan "I think that's the only difference, that I would play this fall or if I sat out this fall.

"If I gray-shirted, I would stay home this fall and I would start up in January, most likely on scholarship, but if not, a scholarship that summer going into the (fall) semester (of 2019)."

Moody, along with Northville coach Matt Ladach, confirmed that Harbaugh also suggested another scenario where Moody could take a scholarship and kick for Central Michigan as a freshman before transferring to Michigan the next season and sitting out the next year under NCAA transfer rules.

"(Harbaugh) said he'd make sure (CMU) came to an agreement that that's how it would work out," Moody said. "That was an option, but I would just rather just kind of go to a school and just be done with it than keep having to transfer, worry about the credits and all that kind of stuff."

Michigan's starting kicker, Quinn Nordin, just completed his red-shirt freshman season and has three years of eligibility remaining. His recruiting process became famous when Harbaugh came to his house for a sleepover.

The Rockford native made 19-of-24 field-goal attempts this season, including 4-of-4 in an Outback Bowl loss to South Carolina. Nordin made four field goals from 50-plus yards, including a best of 55.

Ithaca kicker Adam Culp has also been accepted by Michigan as a preferred walk-on for 2018.

"If the scholarship isn't there this fall, then I would probably gray-shirt and that would probably give me a buffer a year in between Quinn (Nordin)," Moody said. "And if I gray-shirted, I could also red-shirt if I wanted to if it looked like I couldn't play. Then I could get two years in between Quinn."

Ranked among the nation's top kickers by two different recruiting services, Moody also punted for the Mustangs, finishing with a 39.6 average, including four punts downed inside the 10-yard line.

Midway through his freshman year, Moody earned a spot as a varsity kicker for the Mustangs and finished 9-of-12 on field goals as a sophomore. As a junior, he converted 14-of-17 attempts, including a school-record 52-yarder against South Lyon East.

In a 38-30 loss last fall to Grand Blanc, Moody raised more eyebrows by drilling the 58-yarder, topping his own school record of 57 set in the season opener against Dearborn.

Even more impressive was his 80-yard boot off the tee for a touch-back after the Mustangs had taken a safety in the Grand Blanc game.

In the Michigan High School Athletic Association record book, Moody is now tied for second for the longest field goal with former Michigan State kicker John Langeloh, who had a 58-yarder for Utica in 1985. Warren Woods Tower's Doug Kochanski holds the state record with a 59-yarder set in 1994.

"It's his leg strength," Ladach said earlier this season. "He booms the ball. When he kicks the ball, it sounds like a cannon has been shot off. The ball gets up right away and it's not like he's kicking knuckle balls or line drives. He gets it up in the air and he kicks it a long way as well. His strength ... I mean, is phenomenal. His accuracy is, too."

Moody, who carries a 3.64 grade-point average, said he plans on playing baseball again in the spring, when he returns as the starting third baseman for the Division 1 state runner-up Mustangs.

Contact Brad Emons at be-
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him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

PREP FOOTBALL

Smith is new coach at Milford

Oakland County deputy replaces Dan Novak after one season

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There's a new deputy in town for the Milford High School football program.

Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy Garfrey Smith, who spent last season as defensive coordinator at Madison Heights Lamphere, earned the nod Jan. 30 after Dan Novak stepped down following the team's banquet in November because of health reasons.

The 29-year-old Smith was among six candidates interviewed by a committee of five, including a football parent, a youth program member, a faculty member and two administrators.

"He didn't have as much experience as a couple of the other candidates, but his energy and what we consider his willingness to jump in head-first and be a part of the community and be visible is what really separated him from some of the other candidates," Milford athletic director Jim Marszalek said. "His experience and knowledge at all levels of the game will be an asset to our players and coaching staff as we work to advance the Milford football program."

Previous stops

In addition to his one season at Lamphere, Smith was also an assistant at his alma mater Waterford Kettering, where he played four seasons of football, along with Rochester Hills Stoney Creek.



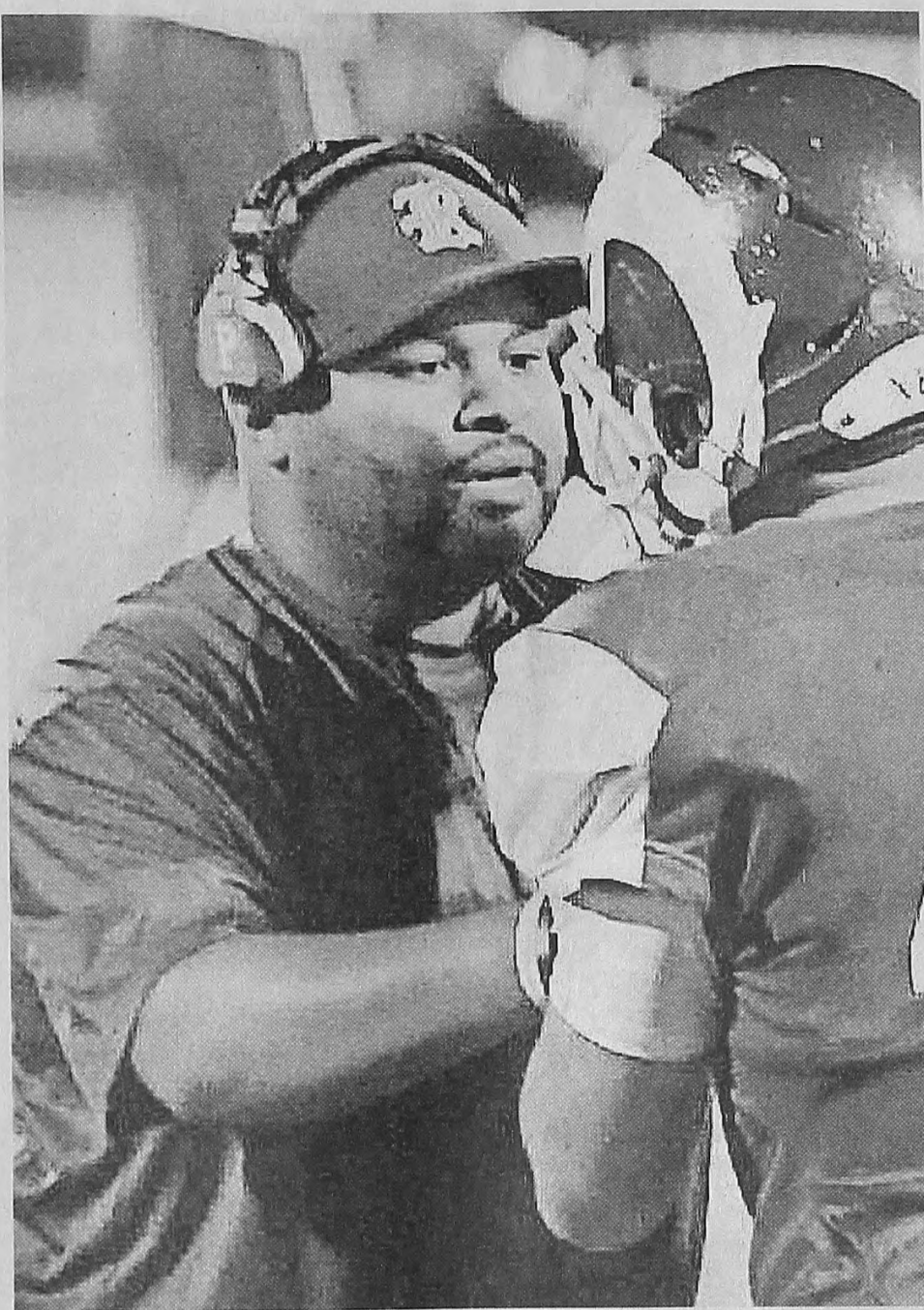
Novak

"Previous coaching positions that I had and previous head coaches that I were under always pushed for you to keep continuing your coaching career, not just be settled for something and be happy," Smith said. "The Milford job opened up and it felt like a good fit. It felt like a good community to go to and it felt like it was my time to try and take over a program."

In Novak's only season, Milford finished 2-7 overall and 1-7 in the inaugural season of the nine-school Lakes Valley Conference. Novak took over for Tim Gough, who resigned after going 4-23 in his three seasons.

Milford hasn't had a winning season since 2012 (5-4) and hasn't been to the state playoffs since 2011 (6-4).

"We want to be able to pop with our



Garfrey Smith has been named the new varsity football coach at Milford.

pads and play with our hearts," Smith said. "We want to show people that we want respect back in Milford. We want to be known for a team that can go out on every Friday night and compete to win a game, no matter who we are facing. We know we've got big challenges ahead of us. The league is tough, but why be in a weak league? We want to be in that strong league and we like that the league is strong."

New system

Smith said he hopes to implement the wing-T offense.

"I think the kids that I've watched on film so far that are coming back, that would be more suitable for them," he

said. "We're still going to look at some things and still look at some players after we meet them and put them through some tests to see what personnel we have best. We want to fit our personnel with the best system, so there's always options for that one."

Defensively, Smith plans to go with an aggressive, attack-style scheme.

"We don't like to sit back and wait for our opponents to take advantage of us," he said. "We want to take advantage of them. We run a 4-3 style the converts into a 3-4 and that's what we did at Lamphere and we were successful."

Smith said Lamphere assistants Jake Wittlich and Rob Karagosian will be joining him on Milford's staff for 2018.

"We took an 0-9 program (in 2016) to

5-5 and made the playoffs," Smith said. "Unfortunately, we lost to a good (Bloomfield Hills) Cranbrook team (35-0) in the playoffs, but it was a good experience because they hadn't been to the playoffs in seven years. We won the MAC Bronze (4-0), so that was a good accomplishment."

Family values

Smith's wife Amy is the volleyball head coach at Kettering. They have three children: son Camden, 6, and daughters, Payten, 2, and Rilee, 5 months.

"We not only want to give back to the school, but we want to give back to the community," Smith said. "We want to be family-based. We're a family."

The 36-year-old Novak, an insurance agent, took the Milford job in 2017 after going 0-9 in one season at Ann Arbor Huron.

He battled health issues during his one-year stint with the Mavericks following an auto accident when he was struck by a drunken driver at 1 p.m. St. Patrick's Day 2015.

"I had fusion surgery, rods and screws in my back," Novak said. "It got irritated around probably June-July. It's compressed around the fusion, so I've been pretty much in pain. The areas around it are kind of giving out. I'm going to need back surgery and hip surgery as well."

Coaching in pain

Novak said surgeons advised him not to coach last season, but he forged ahead.

"I wasn't going to leave the kids without a coach in summer and scrambling," Novak said. "We fought through it this year and I made the decision which was best for my family and I. It's not fair to the Milford kids with me being out three or four months to get surgery and miss the summer. I'm just trying to get myself healthy and do what is necessary."

And to complicate matters, Novak broke his tibia when he got hit during a practice.

"It was a fun one," Novak said with a laugh. "Most of the time, I was coaching on crutches or on a golf cart and that's not how I am. I want to be active and I'm only 36. I just decided to get healthy and, once I do, I may decide to get back into it. It was the best choice for myself and Milford, too."

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

BOYS BASKETBALL

Novi defense shines in win over Northville

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With March Madness still a month away, the Novi boys basketball team is trying to improve its stock portfolio.

Although it's been somewhat of a struggle so far this season for the Wildcats, a preseason top 20 team, they became a buy instead of a sell Friday as they knocked off rival Northville for the second time this season, 53-42, on the road.

With the win, Novi improved to 7-7 overall and 6-4 in the KLAA Gold Division, while Northville slipped to 10-5 and 6-4. Novi also captured the first meeting between the two rival schools Jan. 9, 61-50.

"I don't think there's a hump we've got to get over," said Novi 6-foot-3 junior swingman Giovanni Miles, who finished with a team-high 15 points to go along with nine rebounds. "We just got to flow into it and just really get prepared for March. I don't think we're really worried about the standings or the records because everybody makes it to the (state tourney). What matters is who wins districts, who wins regionals and states, so I think that's the most important thing right now."

Defense was the key for last year's Class A regional finalists, who held the Mustangs to 37.5-percent shooting from the field (18-of-48).

"It was more of our team chemistry on the defensive end, us talking and making sure we knew what we were doing," Miles said, "and so by that, we had a flow on offense the whole game. And we didn't give them easy shots."

Miles hit three 3-pointers to go along

with a basket as he scored 11 third-quarter points to give Novi a 39-32 advantage heading into the fourth.

"He passed up a lot of shots early because his point of emphasis was to get Trendon (Hankerson) the ball going to the basket or Traveon going to the basket," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said of Miles. "He sacrificed early, which opened up his shot a little late, but hey, he competed defensively. There were times when he was on the bench and we said, 'Hey, we got to have in there for a defensive possession.' Hey, he was committed to that and was a big reason why we win tonight."

Despite making only 8-of-26 first-half shots, Northville trailed only 22-17 at intermission.

"We felt pretty good about ourselves at halftime," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "As poorly as maybe as we thought we played, we were only down five when it could have been maybe 15. And we made a nice run at them. But again, Giovanni from the right corner hit a number of triples in the third quarter to stretch the lead after we had made a run coming back after them."

On two occasions during the third quarter, Northville pulled to within two, but Novi always had an answer.

"I thought we missed an opportunity early, we got wide-open looks and a lot of games those have fallen," Sander said. "And obviously, it's a different game if that's the case tonight, but that wasn't the case. They happened to be threes, they're long rebounds, they're early run-outs, so that really helped their transition game."

Steven Morrissey, a 6-4 junior for-



Miles

ward, turned in a nice offensive effort for the Mustangs with a game-high 17 points. Senior guard Mark Grimes chipped in 11.

"We just wanted them to slow it down, take rushed shots and forced shots, while we have easy fast-break layups and stuff like that," Miles said.

"I thought we did a nice job of settling in as the game progressed," Sander said, "but they're really talented and they played some of the best defense that I've seen them play for stretches tonight."

Here are four other takeaways:

BALANCED SHEET

In addition to Miles's team-high 15 points, the Wildcats also got 12 apiece from 6-7 senior center Tariq Woody and 6-3 senior point guard Trendon Hankerson.

Senior guard Traveon Maddox Jr. contributed 11, including two dunks in the final quarter. Woody also came through with four straight free throws during the final 39 seconds.

The Wildcats shot 50 percent from the floor (19-of-36), but only 52.6 from the foul line (10-of-19).

DAMAGING LOSS

Northville is now two games down in the loss column in the KLAA Gold race to first-place Grand Blanc, which has a makeup game Feb. 15 against Brighton.

The Mustangs finish their division schedule with road games against Howell (Feb. 6) and Grand Blanc (Feb. 9).

"Guys are disappointed, but we have a lot left to play for, though," Sander said. "We're looking at seeding within the division. Can we climb into second? Can we get a home (KLAA playoff) game early on? We just have to come back

from this weekend and get better, get ready for two tough ones next week."

CLOCK MANAGEMENT

After Morrissey's triple cut Novi's lead to 43-39 with 3:45 left in the game, the Wildcats began to spread the floor and milk the clock.

Miles, however, took one ill-advised shot from the wing with just under two minutes left, much to the chagrin of Sinawi, who gave him an immediate seat on the bench.

"It was an open shot," Miles said. "Trendon gave it to me and it was an open shot and I shot it. Coach is always looking for something else, but you always don't get it all the time."

But all was forgiven in the hallway afterward as the player and coach joked about it.

TRIPLEHEADER

The day started with the KLAA Unified basketball game between special-needs students, with Novi defeating Novi, 27-24, followed by the Northville girls varsity beating Novi, 43-37.

All three games were well-attended with large student cheering sections.

"It's a fun atmosphere to be in," Sinawi said. "Whenever we get on Friday night here at Northville or if it's at our place, these guys always come out and battle, both teams. And we told our guys just enjoy the moment, especially our seniors. Just enjoy the atmosphere and let's come out and play as hard as we can, because you know they (Northville) are going to, they're very well-coached and they play hard. My overall take is that we'll take the win."

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BOYS HOCKEY

Showcase host Trenton rallies to nip Plymouth in shootout

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Yes, Gerry Vento's Plymouth Wildcats suffered a tough, 2-1 shootout loss Saturday to Trenton at the MIHL Prep Hockey Showcase.

But Vento sounded more like a high school hockey fan than a coach after the hard-fought finale of the three-day extravaganza held at Kennedy Recreation Center in Trenton.

"Great game. You can't ask for much more," Vento said. "It's a tough way to lose, but we won one like that yesterday, so it evens out. But it is what it is, fun game, fun environment."

Plymouth won Friday against Hancock, 3-2, also in a shootout. And for about 48 minutes against the Trojans, it looked like the Wildcats might go two-for-two at the showcase.

Senior captain Jack Chumley's power-play goal with 11:45 remaining in the second period put Plymouth up 1-0 and that edge held up for the rest of that period and most of the third.

Trenton sniper Drew Welsch had other ideas, of course. He banged in the equalizer at 14:12 of the final period, beating Wildcats senior goaltender Brendan Olepa — who was locked in a goaltending duel with Dominik DeMaggio of the Trojans.

Both goals were similar. Chumley, stationed near the left post, ripped home linemate C.J. Mullenax's centering pass. The shot soared over DeMaggio's trapper.

Picking up the second assist was senior defenseman Andrew Garby, who impressed with his ability to skate back into his zone and ward off trouble.

Welsch also was parked in front and successfully one-timed Nolan Szczepaniak's crisp pass from behind the net.

In the shootout (the teams did not play overtime), the lone goal was scored by Trenton senior defenseman Justin Litchard.

Plymouth's last-ditch attempt to extend the shootout, by Baldwin, clanked off the left post.

"We preach all year batting through adversity and this was a night where we were battling adversity for 40-something minutes," Trenton head coach Chad Clements said. "And Litchard with a nice shot at the end, he's a defenseman we converted into a forward. But he's good around the net."

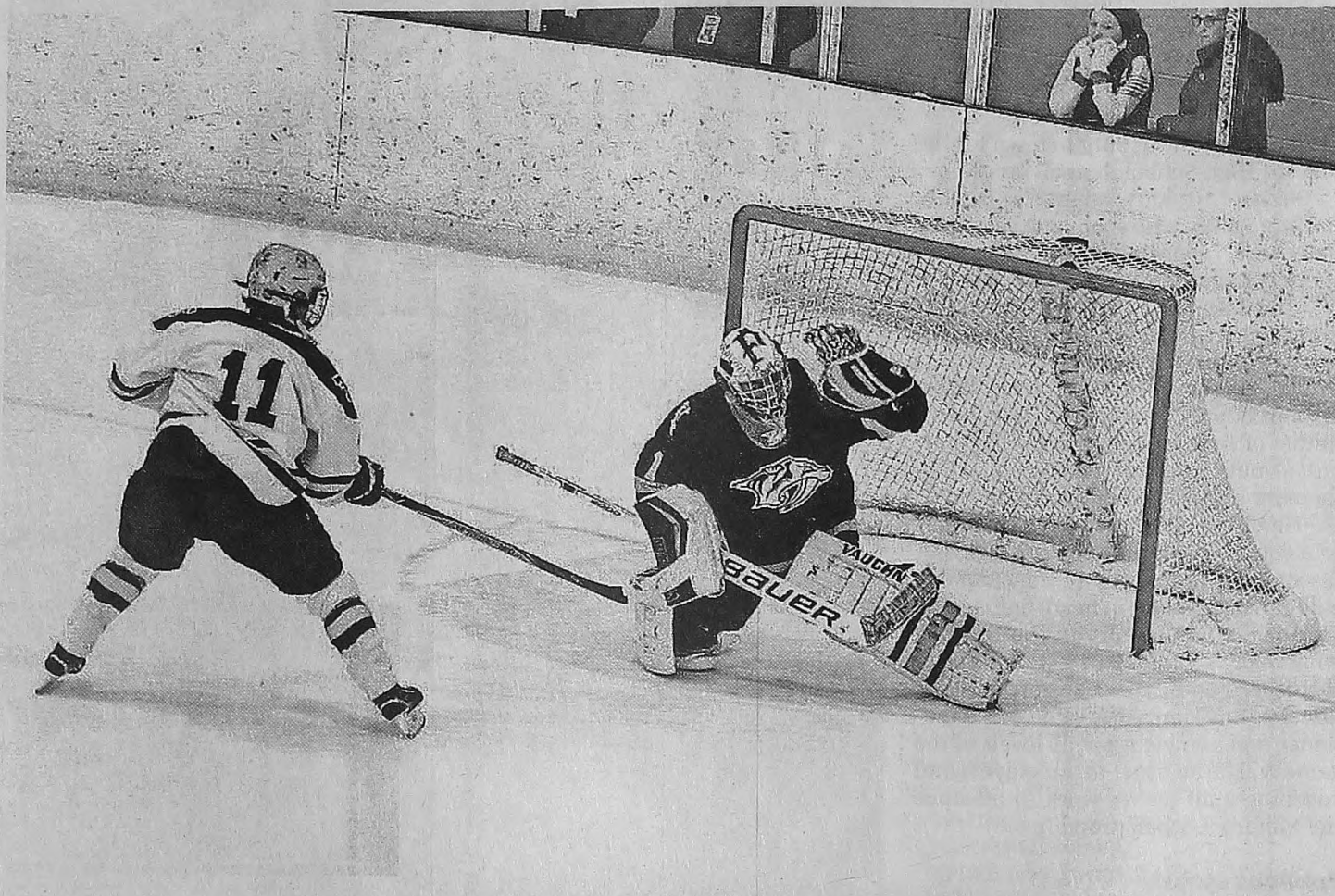
"Then DeMaggio comes up huge on all three of them. They had some pretty potent forwards shooting."

DeMaggio made 19 stops during regulation, while Olepa made 17 saves.

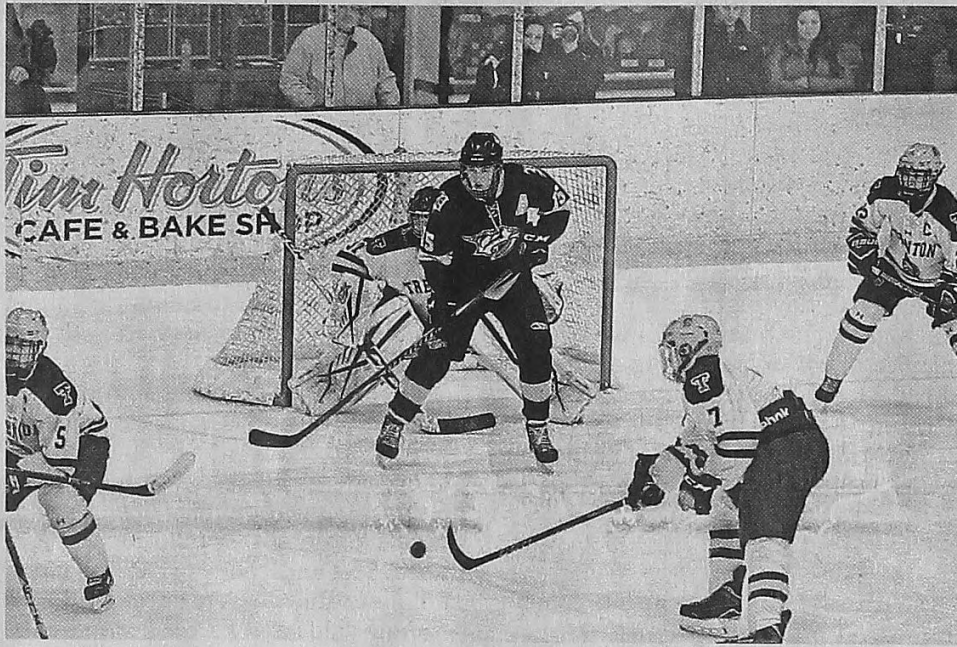
"(Olepa) played a great game," Vento said. "The shorthanded breakaway save he made (against Szczepaniak in the second period) with his glove was outstanding."

Vento added that the outcome might have been different had his team taken advantage of some scoring chances.

"We left a lot on the board early on, which I thought could have changed the game, but we didn't bury them," Vento said. "Give their goalie credit and, partially, a little blame on us for not bearing



Plymouth goalie Brendan Olepa robs Trenton's Nolan Szczepaniak with this glove save during the second period of Saturday's MIHL Prep Hockey Showcase game. ED OLEPA



Plymouth's C.J. Mullenax (front) tries to block the vision of Trenton goalie Dominik DeMaggio. ED OLEPA

down on some quality chances. That's the way it goes."

He did praise the showcase for providing quality, fast-paced hockey between a slate of outstanding teams from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

"For us it's a great environment. We're playing against top-ranked teams," Vento said. "It certainly preps the guys; they know what to expect. That was an intense game out there, no doubt about it."

Clements, whose team improved to 13-6-2, said some of his players might have been overly pumped up to impress the many college and junior scouts who

were in the building.

"This is one of the two showcases we play in where you know there's going to be a lot of scouts," Clements said. "And a lot of our guys want to move on and play at the next level."

"So I guess the intensity's up a little bit. They get excited, but sometimes they get overexcited and do too much."

Salem splits two

Salem, a state-ranked team in Division 1, went 1-1 at the showcase, edging Saline 3-2 before falling 4-1 to Warren De La Salle.

Salem defeated the Hornets on Feb. 1 on a third-period goal by junior forward Colin Goleniak.

Other goals for the Rocks were by Eric Jensen in the second period and Anthony Gattoni early in the third.

Saline then rallied to tie the game at 16:24 of the final period, but Goleniak answered 16 seconds later (set up by Tyler German).

Goalie Austin Goleniak turned aside 25 shots for the victory.

"I thought we played well in both games," Rocks head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "Saline was 16-1 coming into our game. We went up 2-0, they came back in the third. I thought we had a little bit of a letup. And then we were fortunate enough to finish it in the end."

In the loss to De La Salle, on Feb. 2, Salem took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Logan Sowa at 4:46 of the third period.

De La Salle reeled off four quick goals, however, to close out the win.

"The first two, two-and-a-half periods, against De La Salle, we played really well," Ossenmacher said. "We were up 1-0, outshot them 30-20. But we just worked so hard to get that goal, their goalie (Daniel Miscavish) was phenomenal in that game. It could have been 4-0 in the first period. He made some fantastic saves."

According to Ossenmacher, "Both games we played really fast. And when we play fast, we're a pretty good team. I was happy with that, even though we lost the second game."

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BOYS SWIMMING

Northville captures Wayne County title

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Travis Nitkiewicz was the catalyst once again as the Northville boys swimming and diving repeated as Wayne County meet champion Saturday over host Grosse Pointe South.

The Mustangs scored a team-best 409.5 points, while the host Blue Devils placed runner-up with 309.

Rounding out the top five in the 20-school field were Livonia Stevenson (370), Riverview (219), Canton (177) and University of Detroit-Jesuit (167). Plymouth and Salem finished ninth and 10th, respectively with 108.5 and 95.5.

Nitkiewicz, a junior who won two events a year ago, captured the 200-yard individual medley (1:58.10) and 100 breaststroke (57.73). He also swam a leg on the runner-up 200 medley and third-place 400 freestyle relay teams.

In addition to Nitkiewicz, Northville coach Rich Bennetts also singled out the

performances of Connor Halberg, Jason Nitkiewicz, Ali Pazooki, Brain Ding, Matt Pang and Nick Mouaikel.

"I would have liked to see some faster swims from some of our guys," Bennetts said. "This is just a tough meet for our guys to get up for. Whatever the reason is, we are always flat for this meet. I am not sure why that is. I hope that our boys are saving up their energy and we will have big drops in the next couple of weeks leading up to state meet. With the times I saw from the Oakland County meet, we have a long way to go to be competitive with any of them."

One of the meet's individual stars was Canton's Daniel Mullen, who swept the 100 and 200 freestyles in 48.55 and 1:45.83, respectively. He also teamed with Tristen Shao, Ethan Shimones and Derek Goderis for a victory in the 400 freestyle relay (3:17.22).

Stevenson's Parker Wasielewski was also an individual double-winner, in the



Nitkiewicz

50 freestyle (21.76) and 100 backstroke (52.81). Teammate Ben Rojewski won the 500 freestyle (4:50.05).

Grosse Pointe South's 200 medley relay team of Matthew Melican, Khalib Rahmaan, Matthew Koueiter and Ethan Briggs set a meet record (1:37.10).

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com.

WAYNE COUNTY BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING MEET Feb. 2-3 at Grosse Pointe South

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 409.5 points; 2. Grosse Pointe South, 309; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 370; 4. Riverview, 219; 5. Canton, 177; 6. University of Detroit Jesuit, 167; 7. Allen Park, 138.5; 8. Trenton, 125; 9. Salem, 108.5; 10. Plymouth, 95.5; 11. Wyandotte, 83; 12. Brownstown Woodhaven, 51; 13. Detroit King, 49; 14. Grosse Pointe North, 47; 15. Detroit Cass Tech, 25; 16. Livonia Churchill, 14; 17. (tie) Dearborn and Westland John Glenn, 12 each; 19. Allen Park Cabrini, 10; 20. Detroit Renaissance, 3.

FINALS RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. G.P. South (Matthew Melican, Khalib Rahmaan, Matthew Koueiter, Ethan Briggs), 1:37.10 (meet record); 2. Northville (Arthur Greenlee, Travis Nitkiewicz, Kirk Maibach, Cameron Heaven), 1:37.61; 3. Stevenson (Bryan Reppenhagen, Hans Anderson, Benjamin LaPorte, Paker Wasielewski), 1:39.51; 4. U-D Jesuit, 1:41.20; 5. Trenton, 1:42.05; 6. Salem, 1:44.45.

200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Mullen (Canton), 1:45.83; 2. Jason Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 1:47.51; 3. Ben Rojewski (Stevenson), 1:48.20; 4. Trevor DeGroot (N'ville), 1:48.38; 5. Thomas Jogan (G.P. South), 1:49.57; 6. Heaven (N'ville), 1:49.77.

200 individual medley: 1. T. Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 1:58.10; 2. Tristen Shao (Canton), 2:01.87; 3. Stephan Freitag (Salem), 2:02.07; 4. Spence Boling-Hamer (Trenton), 2:02.90; 5. Rahmaan (GPS), 2:04.08; 6. Reppenhagen (Stevenson), 2:05.10.

50 freestyle: 1. Wasielewski (Stevenson), 21.76; 2. Michael Wolsek (Trenton), 21.87; 3. Peter Buescher (U-D), 22.33; 4. Greenlee (N'ville), 22.35; 5. K. Maibach (N'ville), 22.55; 6. Bruce Liepe (AP), 22.57.

1-meter diving: 1. Mark Walker (Riverview), 375.65 points; 2. Charles Carey (Canton), 340.45; 3. Benjamin Kirchoff (Ply.), 334.10; 4. Cameron MacDougall (Riverview), 333.80; 5. Tobias Artman-Chance (Canton), 325.70; 6. Alexander Alvarez (Allen Park), 287.75.

100 butterfly: 1. Michael Wolsek (Trenton), 52.21; 2. Koueiter (GPS), 52.48; 3. Briggs (GPS), 53.21; 4. J. Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 53.29; 5. Maximilian Thomas (Riverview), 54.49; 6. Derek Goderis (Canton), 54.68.

100 freestyle: 1. Mullen (Canton), 48.55; 2. K. Maibach (N'ville), 48.87; 3. Buescher (U-D), 49.01; 4. Tyler Irving (Riverview), 49.76; 5. Jogan (GPS), 50.30; 6. Nick Vallan (GPS), 50.34.

500 freestyle: 1. Rojewski (Stevenson), 4:50.05; 2. DeGroot (N'ville), 4:54.60; 3. Goderis (Canton), 4:58.59; 4. Nolan O'Dowd (Stevenson), 5:06.07; 5. Michael Alameddine (N'ville), 5:07.98; 6. Leland Broge (Wyan.), 5:09.36.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Riverview (Thomas, T. Irving, Brendan Irving, Fisher Rose), 1:29.60; 2. G.P. South (Vallan, Rahmaan, Koueiter, Jogan), 1:29.63; 3. Northville (J. Nitkiewicz, Craig Maibach, DeGroot, K. Maibach), 1:31.01; 4. Allen Park, 1:31.12; 5. Stevenson, 1:32.36; 6. U-D Jesuit, 1:32.62.

100 backstroke: 1. Wasielewski (Stevenson), 52.81; 2. Briggs (GPS), 52.89; 3. Melican (GPS), 53.79; 4. Reppenhagen (Stevenson), 55.31; 5. Greenlee (N'ville), 55.41; 6. Thomas (Riverview), 57.08.

100 breaststroke: 1. T. Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 57.73; 2. Koueiter (GPS), 58.25; 3. Anderson (Stevenson), 1:00.28; 4. Boling-Hamer (Trenton), 1:01.30; 5. Rahmaan (GPS), 1:01.52; 6. Freitag (Salem), 1:02.56.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Mullen, Shao, Ethan Shimones, Goderis), 3:17.22; 2. G.P. South (Jogan, Vallan, Melican, Briggs), 3:17.82; 3. Northville (DeGroot, J. Nitkiewicz, C. Maibach, T. Nitkiewicz), 3:17.91; 4. Stevenson, 3:21.22; 5. Riverview, 3:22.73; 6. Allen Park, 3:23.89.

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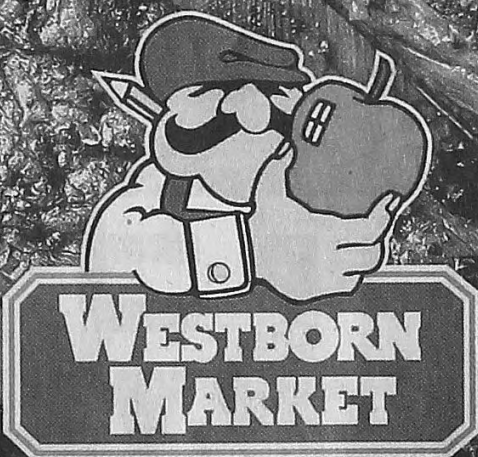
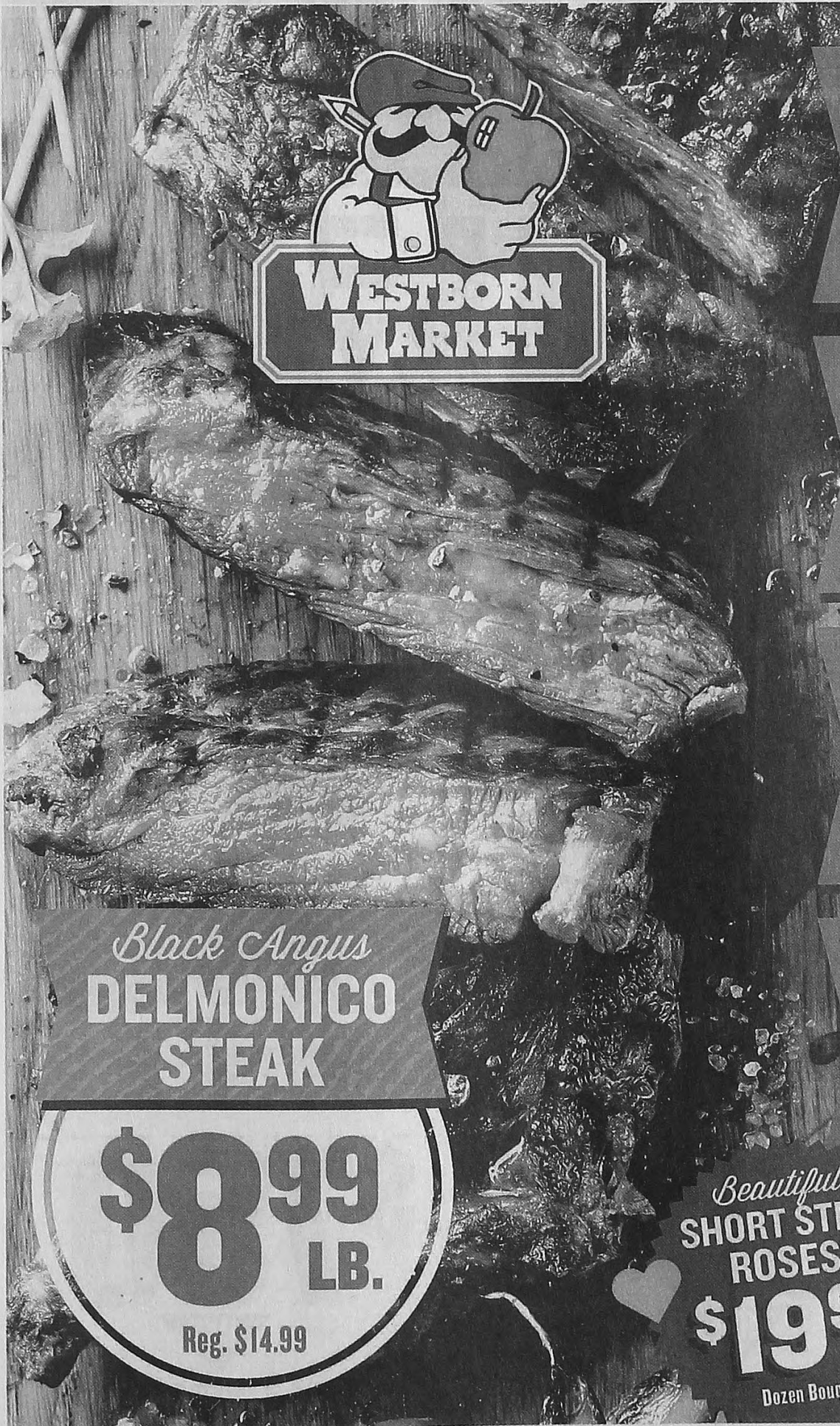
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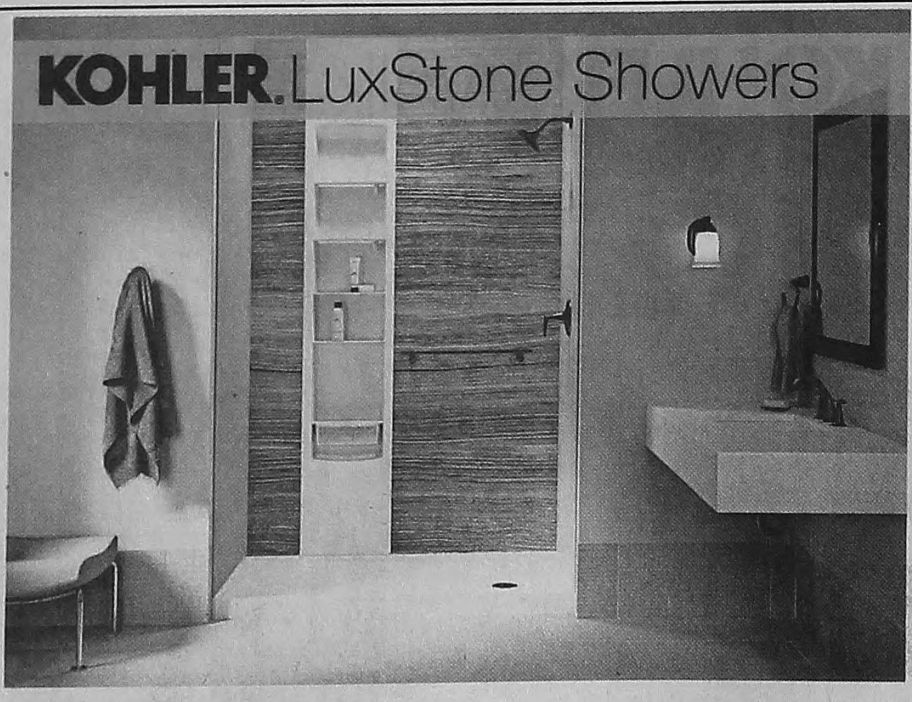
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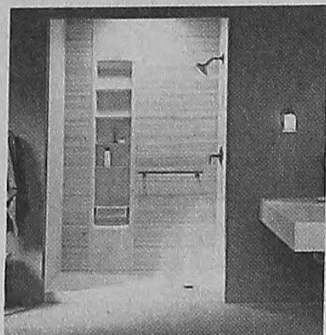
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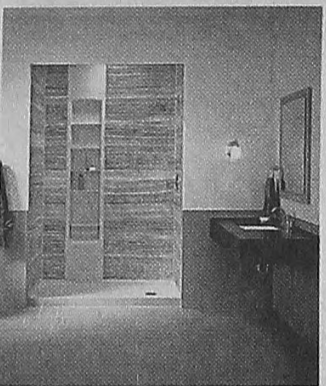
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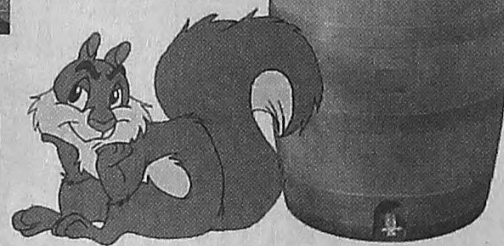


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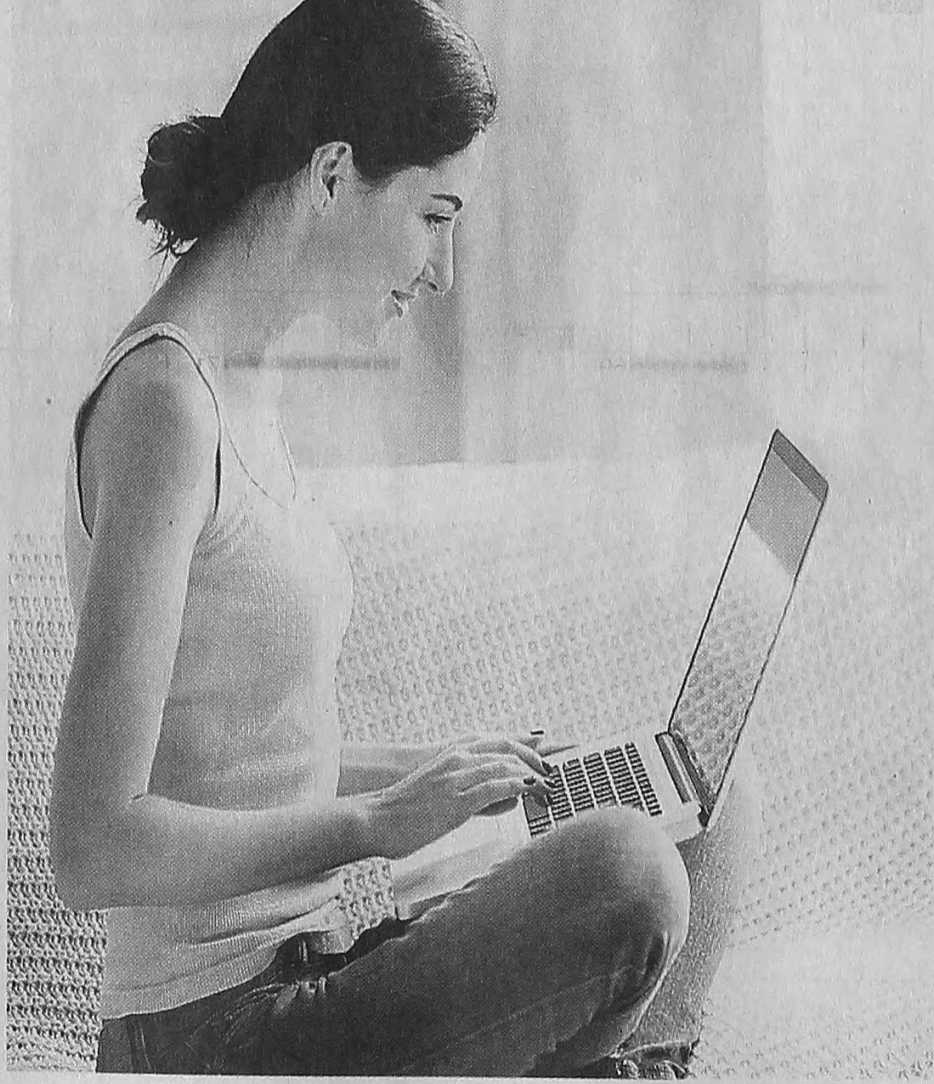


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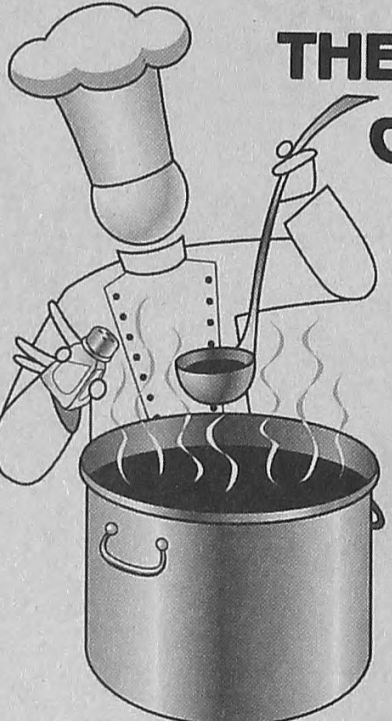


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