



Catholic Central completes dream season with state title

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Cops say school response good

Officials pleased with how students, staff reacted

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Rumors that a student brought a gun to Plymouth-Canton's 6,200-student high school campus prompted a response Friday that was long planned with training of local police and school officials.

"I think it went absolutely as planned," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said.

School officials implemented a soft lockdown shortly after noon as a precautionary measure and advised stu-

dents and employees to shelter in place.

"I think it was the right call," Meier said. "The school district did a good job of keeping students calm and keeping control of the campus, allowing us to do our investigation."

The police department's school resource officers were joined by patrol officers who rushed to the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to implement an active-shooter tactical response that they train for every year. Detectives also



Meier

went to the scene.

"We train annually for response to an active shooter event," Meier said. "That coincides with the work we do with schools on lockdown procedures."

Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said one student reported to a school resource officer that another student "may have brought a gun to school."

"The student denied it," he said.

Police checked with the student's parents, who do have guns, and learned they had no guns missing, Steckel said.

After further investigation, the lockdown was lifted at 1:45 p.m. Friday.

"At no time were any students in danger whatsoever," Meier said, though no one initially knew.

As the situation unfolded, some par-

ents received texts from their children, raising fears and prompting some parents to drive to the high school campus.

"That's the last thing we want them to do," Meier said.

When officers have to divert their attention to parents, it pulls some resources away from the job at hand, Meier said. That could prove highly detrimental during a real active shooter situation, he said.

"We ask that parents wait for notification to take place and allow us to do our jobs," Meier said. "The safety of the students will always be our No. 1 priority."

Shortly before the lockdown was lifted

See **RESPONSE**, Page 2A



Chris Velfling lifts the hood of his 1967 Corvette. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ex-mayor recalled as friend, servant

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Former Plymouth Mayor James McKeon is being remembered as a "wonderful" friend, public servant, businessman and historian in Plymouth, a city he loved and helped to shape.

McKeon died Tuesday, Feb. 20, with family at his side. He was 92.

Frank Yaquinto became close friends with McKeon after he began leasing property from him in 1998 for Compari's On The Park, Yaquinto's restaurant on Main Street. Yaquinto recalls conversations he had with McKeon over a cocktail before McKeon and his late wife of 59 years, Shirley, would have dinner.

"Jim was a wonderful conversationalist," Yaquinto said. "I would sit with him and we would talk about everything. He was one of the most wonderful people I was ever lucky enough to meet."

McKeon served on the Plymouth City Commission from 1966-73, rising from the position of commissioner to mayor pro tem and then mayor. While mayor, he visited Plymouth, England, and hosted the mayor of that city during his time in Michigan.

"He was a great person," City Manager Paul Sincock said.

McKeon and Sincock's family lived in the same neighborhood and Sincock's father served on the city commission with McKeon.

"It was a very tight-knit neighborhood at the time and Jim was a good neighbor to have," Sincock said. "He was always helpful."

McKeon was named to the Plymouth Hall of Fame at the Plymouth Cultural Center for his public service, joining "a lot of big names" of people



McKeon

See **MCKEON**, Page 3A

CARS ARE THE STARS

Local classics revving up for annual Autorama

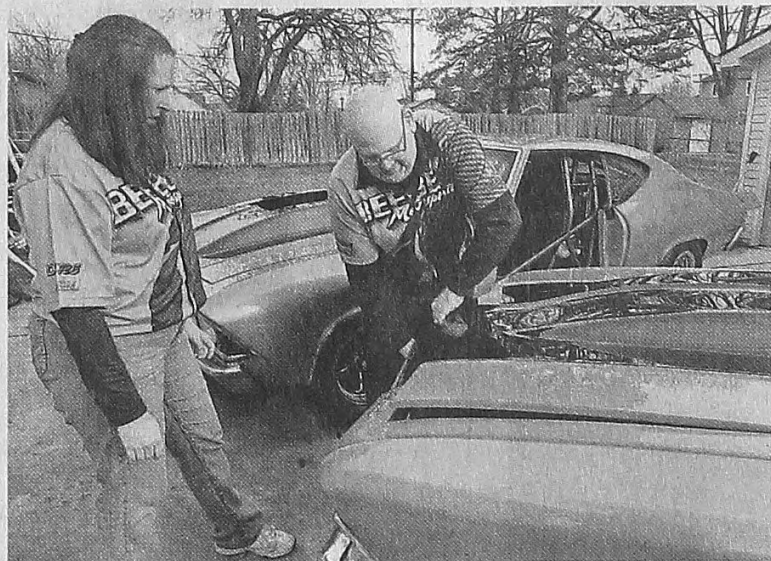
Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Chris Velfling's 1967 Corvette convertible and Bill Kotula's 1968 AMX represent 50 years of history, while Matt and Karri Beebe are making history — and hoping to turn heads — with twin 1968 Chevilles.

Velfling, Kotula and the Beebes are among more than four dozen area car aficionados with entries in this year's Detroit Autorama, which will feature more than 800 restored, souped-up and tricked-out classics, muscle cars, hot rod and motorcycles. The three-day show begins Friday at Detroit's Cobo Center.

Velfling of Redford Township is

See **AUTORAMA**, Page 7A



Karri and Matt Beebe lift the hood on the street Chevelle.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Inside

Autos from area owners on display starting Friday

Page 7A

Seedlings to hold benefit bowling event

You can give a blind child the gift of literacy by donating to or bowling in Seedlings Braille Books for Children's 31st annual Bowling for Braille Books event March 10 at Novi Bowl, 21700 Novi Road. Check-in starts at noon; bowling begins at 1 p.m.

The Livonia nonprofit aims to place 6,000 braille books into the hands of blind children by raising \$60,000 at its biggest fundraiser of the year. To make a donation or register to bowl, go to <https://www.firstgiving.com/seedlings-braille/31st-annual-bowling-for-braille-books>.

Braille literacy is key to a successful, independent life for those who are blind and visually impaired. According to the National Federation of the Blind, blind adults fluent in braille have an 80-percent chance of being employed, com-

pared to a 20-percent chance if they are not.

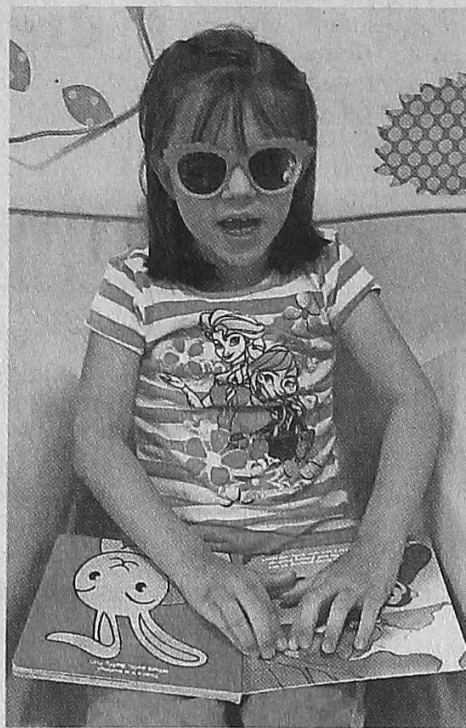
"Braille books are rare and expensive, sometimes costing more than \$100 each. For every 100 books a sighted child has, a blind child may have just five," Seedlings founder/director Debra Bonde said. "How can a child learn to read without books?"

Seedlings gives nearly 50 percent of its books free to blind children all over the world. The other 50 percent are sold for an average price of only \$10 a book.

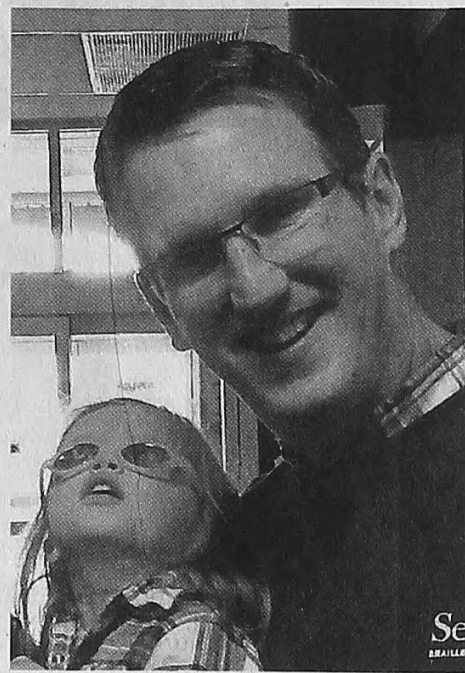
Dave Rexroth, chief meteorologist at WXYZ-TV (Channel 7), who lost his left eye in a fireworks accident in 2014, will return as the event's celebrity bowler for the fourth year. Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright will lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance before bowling begins and assist in the raffle ticket drawings.

Bowlers are encouraged to register by March 1 so lane assignments can be made. The minimum pledge amount of \$65 includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, T-shirt, goody bag, lunch and one free raffle ticket. You may also attend the event just to bid on auction items donated by area businesses. There will also be raffle drawings. Tickets are \$1 for one, \$5 for six or \$20 for 25.

Headlining sponsors are Alpha USA; Bill Brown Ford; Cancellieri Construc-



Seedlings produces and distributes free and low-cost braille books to blind children like Layla.



Dave Rexroth, chief meteorologist at WXYZ-TV (Channel 7), who lost an eye in a fireworks accident, will return as celebrity bowler. He is pictured here holding braille reader Avery.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Dan Dean, Managing Editor
Mobile: 248-396-0706
Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach
Mobile: 586-262-9892
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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Response

Continued from Page 1A

ed, Deputy Police Chief Craig Wilsher said police had determined that reports of a gun were unfounded.

"It was a rumor. There's no credible threat," he said.

In a real situation, Meier said, firefighter paramedics wearing bullet-resistant vests would be brought to the scene to tend to anyone who might be wounded.

"The days for fire personnel waiting until the event is over (to begin treatment) is no longer," he said.

In a real situation, Meier said, Canton also would likely summon backup from

other police and fire departments in communities such as Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

"We can always lean on our partners to the north if we need help," he said.

Nick Brandon, the school district's director of communications, lauded the response by Canton police.

"Our partnerships with all of our police forces that are part of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools community are incredible and it's something we value very much," Brandon said. "I think everyone involved (Friday) would agree that it was a very smooth process."

Meier and Brandon declined to confirm whether the gun rumor began at Canton, Plymouth or Salem high school. Officials say a student was believed to have overheard something about a gun.

The student who reported the rumor isn't expected to face any actions by police.

"I don't see any criminal charges coming out of Friday's event," Meier said.

In a statement on its website, the school district lauded Canton police for "their timely response and great support provided throughout this situation."

The district statement also commended "our incredible staff and students for conducting themselves in a calm, respectful and responsible manner."

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

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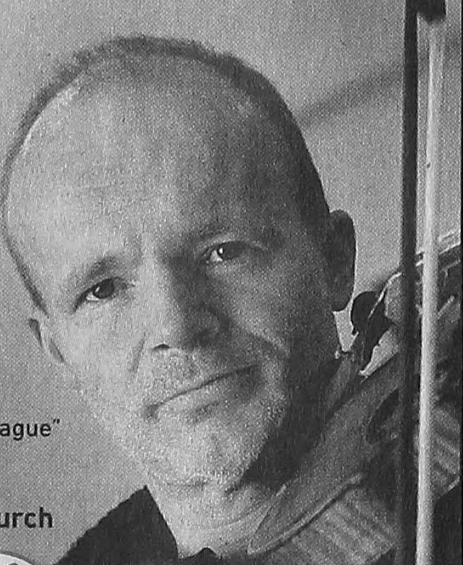
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McKeon

Continued from Page 1A

who made a difference in Plymouth, Sincock said.

McKeon served on the Schoolcraft Development Authority board of directors, the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce board and, since 1962, as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. He was a dedicated and involved member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church congregation.

Tony Bruscato knew McKeon as a newspaper reporter and later as director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

"He was one of the kindest people I've ever known. Jim would do anything for anybody," Bruscato said. "He was a very good businessman and one of our property owners downtown. He was just a really good guy, someone you could sit and have a great conversation with. I know I learned a lot about Ply-

mouth from him, just because of the history he knew."

Bruscato said McKeon was a "strong businessman" who owned properties such as Compari's, Fiamma Grille, The Sardine Room and Alpine Choclat Haus.

McKeon was born July 18, 1925, to Paul and Edith (Trollman) in Fenton, their only child to be born in a hospital. He grew up on the family farm and enjoyed telling stories about daily life during the 1930s. Those who knew him say he made history come alive from his recollections of hitching up draft horses, winters without central heat, Christmases with homemade gifts, feeding cats while milking cows and trading a goat for a doctor's house call.

He played football and baseball at Fenton High School and claimed to be quite skilled at making bats on a lathe. He was senior class president in 1944 and, after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. The GI Bill earned him a trip to Michigan State University, where he served others by finding homes for people displaced by the war. He was elected to MSU's student council and served as

"He was one of the kindest people I've ever known. Jim would do anything for anybody. ... I know I learned a lot about Plymouth from him."

Tony Bruscato
Plymouth DDA director

its president.

He graduated in 1949 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and then worked at Detroit Radiator and Ford Tractor. He became a professional engineer and then met his future wife, Shirley Scott, a Fenton graduate who attended Wayne State University.

McKeon moved in the 1950s from Ford Tractor to Distribution Services, Inc., which moved to Plymouth in 1962. McKeon in 1965 designed and built the company's main production area. He

also built in 1985 the Hamilton Street plant and was later instrumental in the board of directors at the time of the company's sale.

McKeon was an adviser to Junior Achievement and the Boy Scouts. To relax, he enjoyed cultivating roses, his lawn and time spent at his cabin on Burt Lake. He loved telling his grandchildren stories about when he grew up.

Survivors include his sister Eileen Fous, 97, of Flint; a brother, Jack, 89, of Ann Arbor; six children: Marcie (Ron) Foster, Jim (Carol), Jean (Chuck) Martin, Rebecca (Richard) Horvath, Karen Holstad and Janet (Bruce) Lillie; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Community Foundation of Plymouth, P.O. Box 700866, Plymouth, MI 48170 or the Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, 151 N. Mill St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

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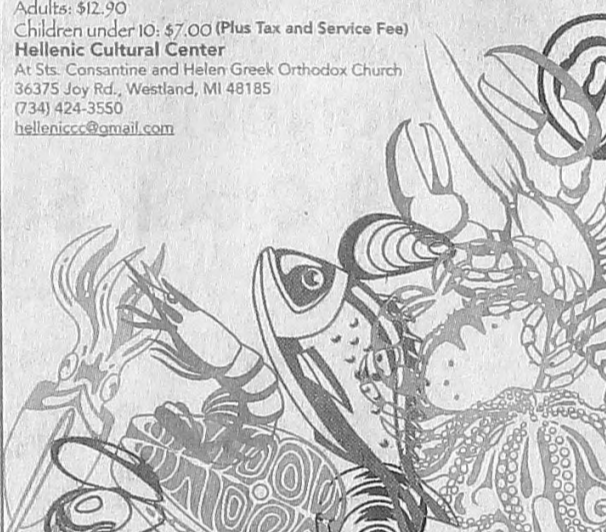
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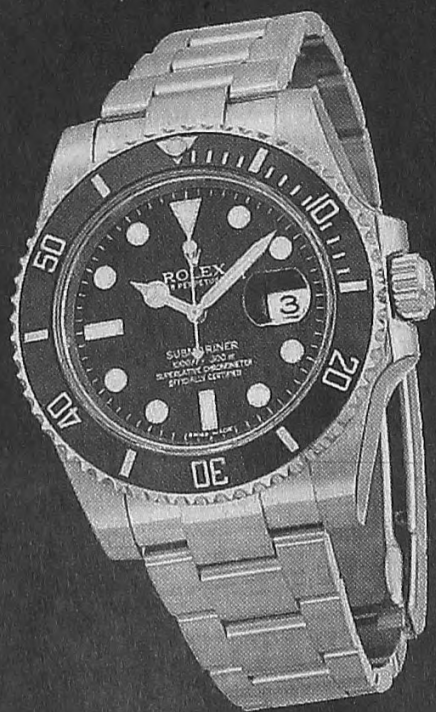
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CANTON STUDENTS MARK ENGINEERS WEEK



Employees of Varroc Lighting Systems visited Jay Obsinuk's classroom at Canton High School on Feb. 21 in celebration of Engineers Week. Students saw a presentation about engineering in automotive headlights and learned about the variety of types of engineering that goes into creating automotive lighting. Colby Childress (pictured), an optics engineer at Varroc, explains the mechanisms in a headlight to Canton High School students. Varroc Lighting Systems is a global automotive lighting supplier specializing in the design, development and production of exterior lighting systems headquartered in Plymouth. Engineers Week celebrates how engineers are making a difference in our world. Created by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, Engineers Week grew from local events to national programs run by DiscoverE. One of the goals of Engineers Week is to bring engineering to life for students and highlight the diversity of careers in engineering and technology fields.

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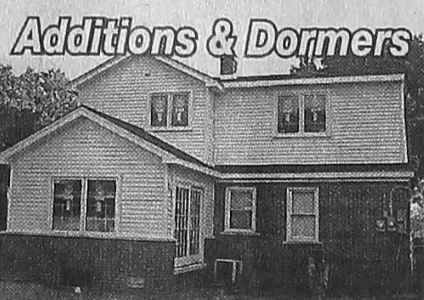
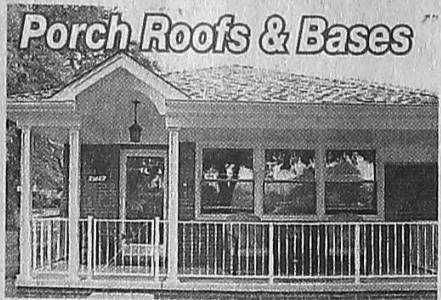
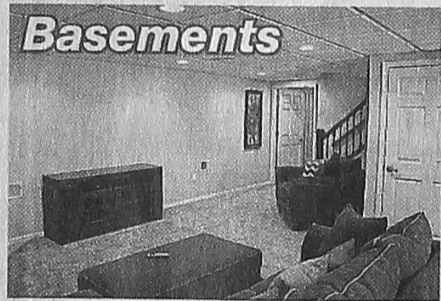
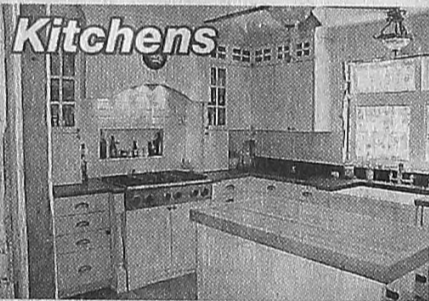
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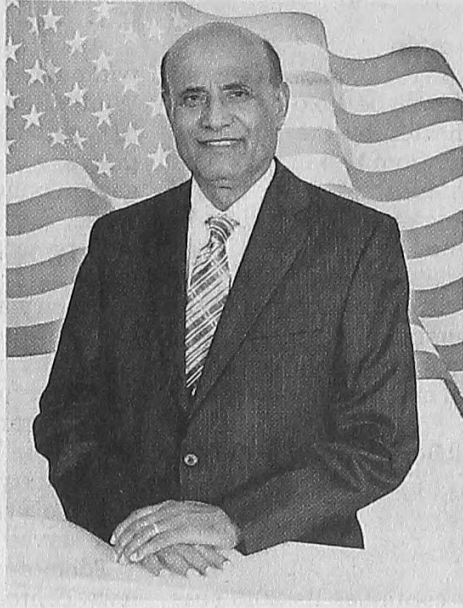
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Qadir announces bid for state Senate seat

Dr. Ghulam Qadir of Northville Township, former chief of psychiatry at Oakwood Healthcare System and current CEO of Apex Behavioral Health Dearborn, has announced his bid to seek the Democratic nomination for the state Senate 7th District seat. The district, which includes the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne and Canton, Plymouth and Northville townships, is currently represented by Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, who is running for governor.



Dr. Ghulam Qadir

years. He participated in the passage of the Michigan Patient Bill of Rights. He was instrumental in removal of punitive provisions in the Michigan Mental Health Code, which affected the practice of psychiatry, pharmacy and nursing professions.

Outside the workplace, Qadir has been active as a volunteer at the professional and community level.

In 2016, Qadir ran for a seat on the Northville Township Board of Trustees. During his campaign, he stood for neighborhoods and against unfettered development.

He played a significant role in rallying support to stop expansion of the Arbor Hill landfill. He organized the community to persuade the Northville Township board in redesigning the development of the Old Scott Prison area at Beck and Five Mile roads, according to the desires

of the area residents. He convinced the planning commission to abort an unpopular residential development at Ridge and Six Mile roads. He helped prevent the banning of the book "The Bluest Eye," written by Toni Morrison, from a Northville High School advanced placement course.

In recognition for his life's work in community services, Qadir was presented with the Distinguished Life Fellowship award by the American Psychiatric Association. He was honored with the Scholar Award for single-handedly raising money for an endowment fund to perpetually provide 50 scholarships per year to the medical students at his alma mater. And in 2015, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, a Washington-based think tank, awarded him Philanthropist of the Year.

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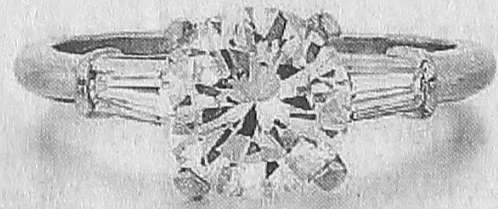
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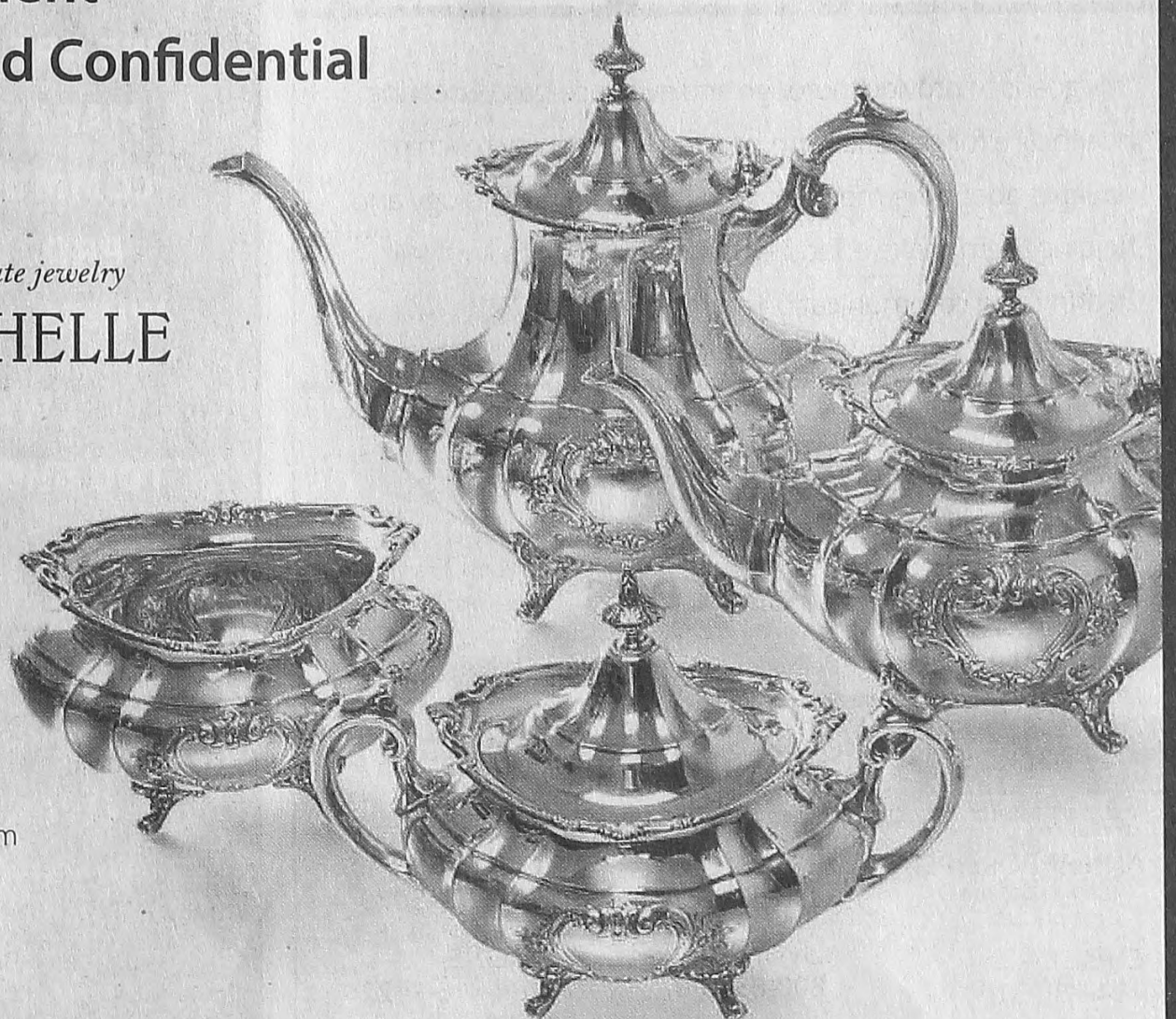
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AREA EVENTS

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Benefit fashion show

To help bring awareness to the problem of local human trafficking, Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a local Christian coalition, is hosting a Fashion for Freedom fashion show dinner 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, March 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, in Plymouth.

The fashion show will feature human trafficking survivors. Speakers from Sanctum House and Vista Maria will give short talks on how their organizations are helping survivors to heal and rebuild their lives.

The event includes a dinner, desserts and a cash wine and beer bar. Some proceeds will be used to support Sanctum House, the first southeast Michigan safe home for female human trafficking survivors ages 18 and older. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at fashionfreedom.eventbrite.com.

Rotary Club presentation

The Canton Rotary Club will host Lt. Dale Waltz from the Canton Police Department at 6 p.m. Monday, March 5, at Antonio's Italian Cucina, 2220 N. Canton Center Road. Waltz will speak on the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition.

Members of the community are invited. Attendees can order and pay for their individual meal from the restaurant menu. RSVP to Susan Kowalski at 734-968-1436.

The Canton Rotary Club meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month and also at noon the second through fifth Monday of the month. For more information, email suekowalski@mac.com or go to <http://www.cantonrotary.com>.

Movie premiere at St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, in Canton will host the world premiere of the latest Footprints of God film starring Steve Ray, "ELIJAH & ELISHA: Conscience of the Kingdom," at 7 p.m. Friday, March 9.

The film runs 1:15, followed by a reception with light refreshments. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Ray, as well as to purchase the DVD and have it autographed. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will benefit the seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit for their Desert Experience in Israel.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.goo.gl/12RcT9 or call St. John Neumann at 734-455-5910.

St. Mary to hold wellness expo

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will be holding a free health and wellness expo, hosted by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth. It is a drop in event and everyone is welcome.

Topics will include blood pressure checks, chair exercise, fall prevention, diabetic education, signs and symptoms of a stroke, pneumonia prevention, diet education, education on advance directives and plan in a can. Educational material and handouts will also be available.

For more information, call Bobbie Pummil at 734-354-3222.

Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 2018 season, at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road. Performances include 10 open-mic artists and then the feature act at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

The season schedule is available on its Facebook page. For more information, email bfsresident4u@gmail.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.

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.

Electrify Your Winter

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

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

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

Lions Club Easter egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31, on the ballfields of Plymouth Township Park, 46640 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Bring baskets and camera for photos with the Easter Bunny.

VFW fish dinners

The Plymouth VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, will host fish dinners during Lent 5-7 p.m. each Friday through March 30.

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.

Diabetes support group

A diabetes support group meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street. Facilitator is Fern Vining, R.N., a diabetes educator. The group is sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club.

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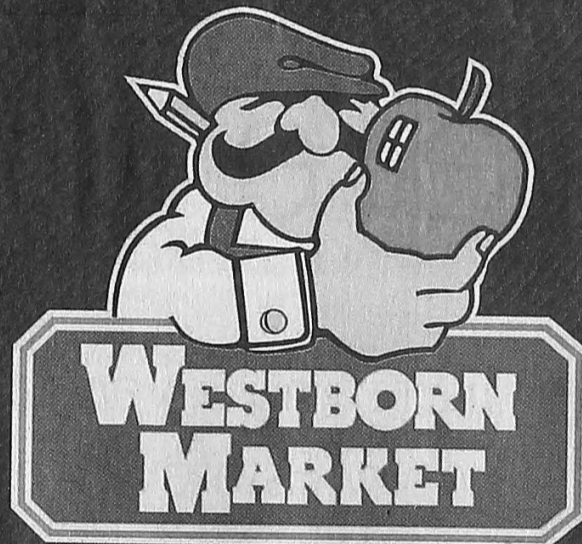
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Autos on display at Cobo starting Friday

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Detroit Autorama, one of the longest-running custom car shows in the country, opens Friday at Cobo Center in Detroit.

This year's show, the 66th annual, will feature about 800 hot rods, muscle cars, classics and motorcycles, plus a Saturday afternoon appearance by racer Dale Earnhardt Jr. and an exhibit of five record-breaking vehicles that have run on the Bonneville Salt Flats.

The speedster exhibit will include Speed Demon, billed as the world's fastest piston-engine car, with a 438-mph run on the Salt Flats last year.

The "Rolling Towering Inferno Flame-Throwing Fest," two cars and a truck shooting high flames in front of Cobo, will signal the opening of Autorama at 11:45 a.m. Friday.

Autorama got its start at the University of Detroit fieldhouse as a fundraiser for the Michigan Hot Rod Association. It moved to the Michigan State Fair-



Paul Rebmann of Plymouth Township with his 1965 Chevrolet Corvette, another Autorama entry.

grounds and the Detroit Artillery Armory before moving to Cobo, where it has been held yearly since 1961. Show cars from Observer & Eccentric and Home-

town Life newspapers communities include Northville resident Steve Hough's 1932 Ford Roadster, a 1948 Chevrolet pickup owned by Nate Briggs of South Lyon, Canton Township resident Richard Zezawa's 1937 International pickup and a 1966 Ford Fairlane owned by Charlie and Chris Dochenetz of Livonia.

Autorama will feature a student career day Friday, when more than 3,000 students from high schools and trade schools will be able to see the show and learn about career opportunities from hot-rod builders and others in the industry.

Autorama hours are noon to 10 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at the gate are \$20 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6-12; no charge for children ages 5 and under.

Discount tickets (\$18 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-12) are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts stores.

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

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.

Autorama

Continued from Page 1A

bringing the red Corvette Stingray once owned by his late brother Gary, who paid \$3,495 for it in 1969.

"It means a ton to me," Velfing said, adding that he is sometimes offered "ridiculous numbers" for it. "You just can't put a price tag on it."

Kotula of Chelsea owns the AMX used by legendary driver Craig Breedlove to set an endurance speed record — he covered 75 miles at more than 174 mph — in 1968. The feat was a publicity boost for American Motors Corp., which was trying to jazz up its image and compete with other muscle-car brands.

"We're going to put the car back as close as we can to its original Breedlove configuration," said Bill Deringer, an owner at Wrenchers, a Novi restoration shop where Kotula's AMX is being prepped.

The Beebes of Westland have a unique combination: fraternal-twin Chevelles, one of which Karri races at drag strips around the country.

"I like the competitiveness of it. I like the friendly atmosphere at the track," said Karri Beebe, who is known as one of the country's fastest women drag racers in her class. "We've raced all over the place."

Matt Beebe is just putting the finishing touches on his Chevelle, which was in pieces when the couple bought it in 2013. It's nearly identical to Karri's dragster, without the roll cage and other safety and racing features.

"It's all updated," he said. "It's a muscle car that looks like a race car, with all the amenities of a brand-new car."

Barn-find 'Vette

Gary Velfing, who died in 2007, bought his 'Vette from Dexter Chevrolet in Detroit 49 years ago this March. "His car payment was, like, \$63 a month," said his brother Chris, who has much of the original paperwork.

Gary later served in the U.S. Navy, got married and had kids. He took the Corvette out now and then, but after it spun a main engine bearing, it sat in a barn in Howell for many years, his brother said.

"He just didn't have the time or the money" to fix it, Velfing said. The car has fewer than 25,000 original miles on it.

Velfing, a service technician at a local auto dealership, bought the car from his sister-in-law in 2010. Covered with junk, it took two hours just to unbury it, he said, and inside mice had deposited mounds of upholstery material that was — thankfully — from an old sofa that was also in the barn, not from the Corvette's seats, he said.

"It was not running," Velfing said. "There was no motor in it."

Velfing put an engine in the Corvette and worked on the brakes, suspension, transmission and other "just normal stuff that you would do for a car that has sat for 20 years," he said.

With a new paint job, the Corvette looks very like much it did nearly 50 years ago. Even the top is original and the dashboard clock still works, Velfing points out.

"The car just runs and drives like a dream," he said.

Velfing, at age 50 born nearly a generation after his brother, said he has memories of admiring the car as a young boy, passing it when he went into the garage, at his parents' house in Detroit, to fetch his bike.

"You just can't put a price tag on it," he said. "I couldn't even think of a scenario where I would let it go."

Breedlove Car No. 1

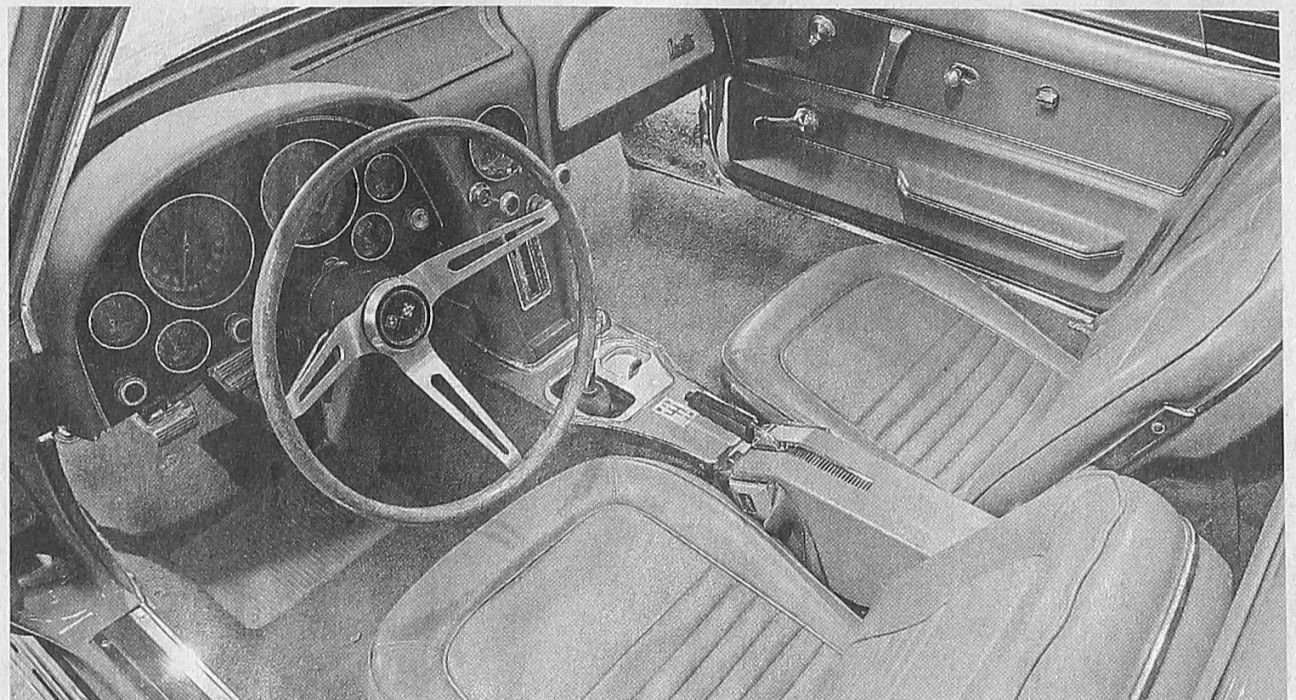
The AMX at Wrenchers in Novi is similar to the "big V-8" AMX that came off the line at the AMC plant Kenosha, Wis., in 1968, said Deringer, who worked at that factory from 1970-78. There were a few modifications for speed and the car was streamlined to minimize wind resistance, Deringer said.

Breedlove, who is now 80, was on the AMC payroll in 1968, setting records with cars the company loaned him, said Deringer, whose shop specializes in restoring and maintaining classic cars, especially those built for speed.

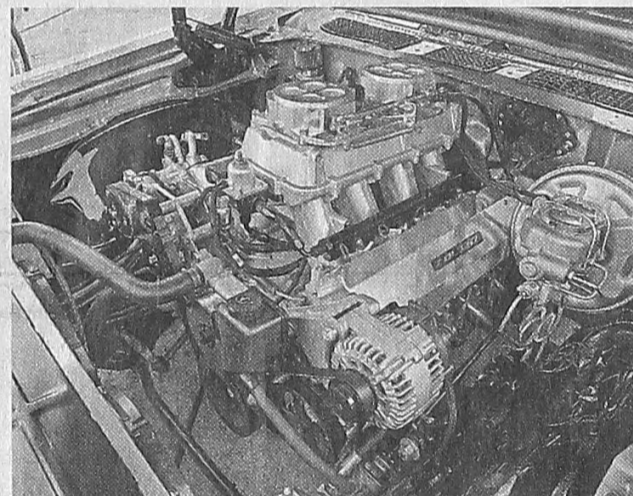
"AMC at the time was trying to change their image," he said.

The car, used for racing for years after AMC's successful Breedlove publicity campaign, is called Breedlove Car No. 1.

"You can still see pictures of the car on old Champion Spark Plug advertisements," Deringer said. There was a No. 2, as well, and Breedlove used them to set records at a five-mile circular track in Texas, he said. Kotula has owned the AMX for more than 30 years.



The interior is original, showing little wear for a 50-year-old automobile. All of the gauges work, including the clock. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The seven-liter engine in the street Chevelle is a monster, but air conditioning and power steering keep it a comfortable ride. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's still a very fast car," Deringer said. "It's a pretty cool car."

Like Velfing's Corvette, the AMX also had to be unburied.

According to Deringer, it was in Breedlove's garage in California years ago during a flood and got swamped with mud; there's mud packed into the frame rails to this day.

The AMX is one of three cars included in a Wrenchers display at this year's Autorama.

'Came with the marriage'

If you had told Karri Beebe, before she married husband Matt, that she would one day be racing cars, "I probably would've thought you were crazy," she said during a recent interview.

An accountant in her non-racing life, Karri definitely goes against type.

"I'm an avid book reader. I quilt and I play the flute, so, no, none of this is anything I would've imagined doing," she said.

Karri not only races, she helps maintain and fine-tune the Chevelle, things she hadn't imagined doing either. She gets help from Beebe Motorsports — herself, her husband and a team of friends.

They're putting back the engine, which had been taken out for maintenance after her last race, in preparation for Autorama.

She's learned a lot and she's still learning, she said. "It's my car, so working on it is part of the deal," she said. "Came with the marriage."

Her Chevelle is linked to what she admits is a faulty recollection of a sporty, two-door Chevelle owned by a friend's brother when she was a teenager.

When Matt asked her, years ago, what she would get if she could have any car in the world, she remembered that Chevelle. Her friend has since corrected that memory, she said.

"In reality, it was a \$500, four-door beater of a car that barely ran," she said. "It's crazy because ... I had always told (Matt) about this awesome Chevelle my friend's brother had owned."

Matt Beebe, who will be unveiling his own Chevelle for the first time, said he wants make an impression at Autorama and on the street with the twins.

"It's taken like five years to finish," he said of his car. "It's always been the plan to, when it was done, put

them in there side by side."

He envisions a local drag-racing fan experiencing a sort of déjà vu when seeing Karri race.

"When they see Karri's car racing, going down the track, we're hoping people will say, 'I've seen that car driving down Ford Road last week,'" he said.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.

Obituaries

Edward Peckinpugh

PANAMA CITY, FL

- Edward Lee Peckinpugh, 75, passed away in Panama City, Florida on Thursday, February 15, 2018. Ed was born in Detroit, Michigan. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. While living in Michigan, he served as a Birmingham Police Officer from 1967 until he retired in 1993. Ed was a car enthusiast who enjoyed singing and helping others. He came from a large family and had an abundance of friends. His closest friends and family would say that he had a big heart and enjoyed making others smile. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evangeline Peckinpugh. They were married for 45 loving years before she passed away. Those left to cherish Ed's memory include his daughter, Aimee Krause; son, Ed; three grandchildren, Payton, Amber and Danny; and two sisters, Barb Barton and Kaye Takatsu. No services will be held. Those wishing to extend condolences may do so at www.heritage-fhllc.com.

Ed was a car enthusiast who enjoyed singing and helping others.

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Mary Larson

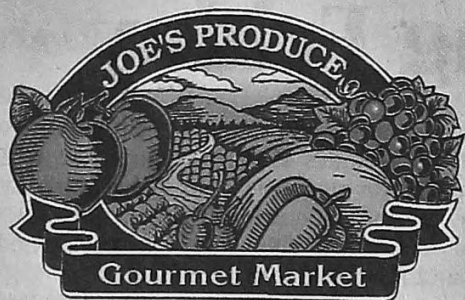
LIVONIA - age 88, Cherished wife of Albert for 65 years. Loving mother of Jayne (Steve) Zeisler, Eric (Mara Beth), Christine, Allen (Linda), and the late Baby Boy Larson. Beloved grandmother of 5 and great grandmother of 5. Also leaves behind many other loving family members and friends.

Funeral services were held earlier this week. Memorial contributions may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation or St. Edith Music Ministries. Share memories at fredwoodfuneralhome.com

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Dearborn Oven Roasted Turkey
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Boar's Head Vermont Cheddar Yellow & White
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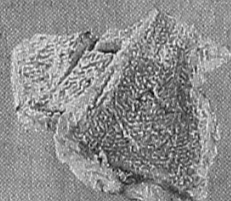
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Mike's Best Buy of the Week

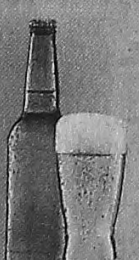
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Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Clegg clutch as Wayne wins KLAA crown

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

On a night when Wayne Memorial senior guard Camree Clegg displayed the Midas touch time and time again, the KLAA championship girls basketball game came down to the dirty details Feb. 22.

The Zebras fought and clawed their way to a 50-46 nail-biter over host Howell to win the championship trophy.

Clegg scored 31 points, making clutch jumpers from all over the floor — especially when her team needed them most.

“Pound for pound, if you can find a better player in the state, then show me,” Wayne Memorial head coach Jarvis

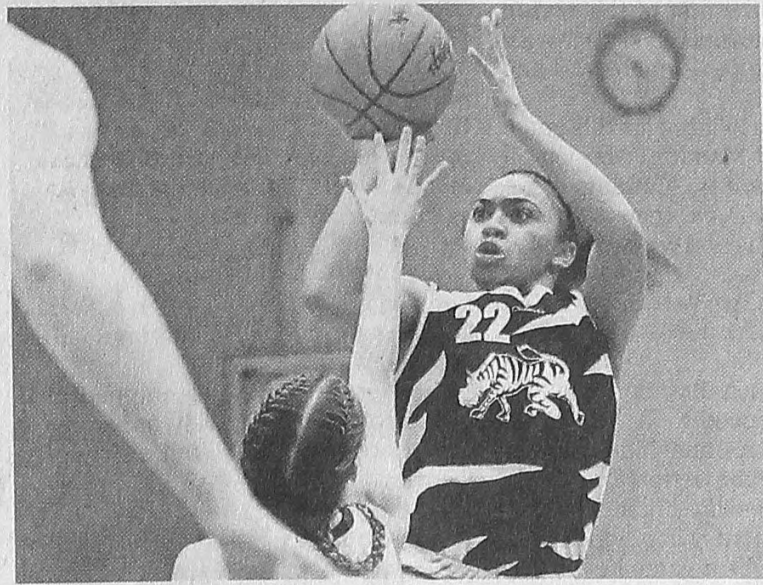
Mitchell said. “That kid (Clegg) is all heart. I just feel honored and privileged to coach her, because night in and night out, I get her best effort.”

But Howell head coach Tim Olszewski wondered might have been had his team made a few more shots than the 29 percent it made (15-of-52, including 5-of-26 from 3-point range) or grabbed a couple of rebounds in the final moments.

After Clegg stopped and popped for a triple from the left wing with 3:30 to go in regulation, giving the Zebras a 45-39 lead, the Highlanders did not allow another field goal.

“No pressure. I just shoot the ball,” said Clemson University-bound Clegg, a

See WAYNE, Page 5B



Wayne's Camree Clegg (right) launches a shot over the outstretched arm of Howell's Alexis Miller.

TIMOTHY ARRICK

PREP WRESTLING



Catholic Central repeated as MHSAA Division 1 team wrestling state champion Feb. 24 in Kalamazoo. BRAD EMONS

PREP FOOTBALL

Lafata takes reins from Baechler with Canton

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Canton's football future still is in the hands of a hall of famer.

Canton athletics director Vernon Crump announced Friday that Andy Lafata is the new football head coach, taking the reins from longtime coach Tim Baechler.

Both Lafata — an offensive lineman on the 2005 Chiefs team that reached the state finals — and Baechler were part of the first class of Canton High School Hall of Fame inductees, announced late last month.



Lafata

“Andy was my starting center on the 2005 team and the team went to the state championship,” Baechler said during a Friday telephone call. “And he’s coached with me the last 10 years, so he’s been around it pretty much most of his life and he loves Canton football.”

Lafata will continue teaching in the Roseville district while taking over Canton's high-profile football job. He was informed Feb. 22 that he had the job.

“It’s a big opportunity,” Lafata said. “You feel great about it, just to be considered for the job to start and then when you finally get offered the job, you just know the responsibility that comes with the job.”

“Our kids are ready to go. I’m excited for them and for our coaches, too, who get to still come along for the ride.”

Staying the course

According to Baechler, who retired in November after 20 successful seasons at the helm, the fact that Crump hired Lafata — who in recent years was the team's offensive line coach — is a sign that the program will enjoy continuity into the next era.

“I think it’s big, because we’ve got a

See LAFATA, Page 2B

The dream complete

Shamrocks capture 14th state title in school history with shutout against Brighton

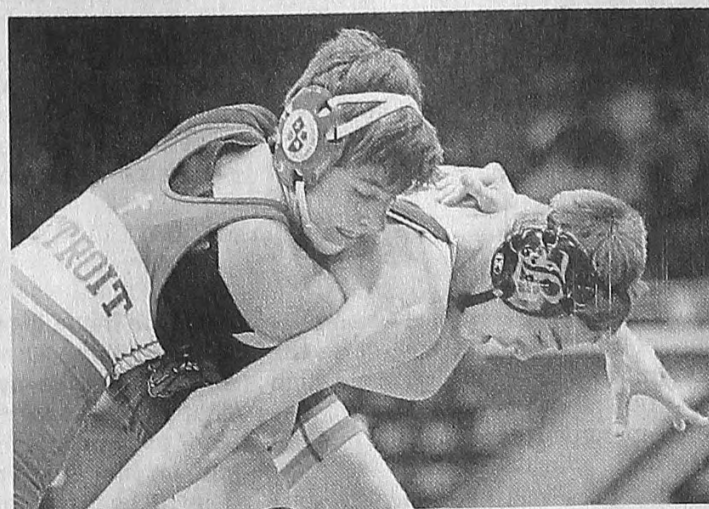
Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

This year's Novi Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team has no peers.

The Shamrocks completed an impressive 2017-18 season and MHSAA Division 1 team tournament run Saturday in Kalamazoo with a 57 to minus-1 win against Brighton at the Wings Events Center.

The victory was capped by senior Rory Cox's 3-1 overtime victory over Greyson Stevens at 189 pounds as the Shamrocks finished 29-1 overall while outscoring their seven tourney opponents by a combined total of 468-20 to earn their 14th state title in school history.

“Just a remarkable team, a very enjoyable team to coach,” said Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock, who earned his sixth Division 1 state crown since 2010. “And you



Catholic Central's Devon Johnsen (left) won by decision over Brighton's Ben Manly at 112 pounds. TOM LANG | DETROIT FREE PRESS

See SHAMROCKS, Page 2B



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BOYS BASKETBALL

Maddox powers Novi's big second half against Canton

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It wasn't quite as easy as 1-2-3 for Novi's varsity boys basketball team to knock off Canton during the KLAA tournament semifinal Friday.

But the three players wearing those numbers for the Wildcats — Trendon Hankerson, Traveon Maddox Jr. and Giovanni Miles — sure put a major hurt on the host Chiefs, roaring back in the second half for a 61-56 victory.

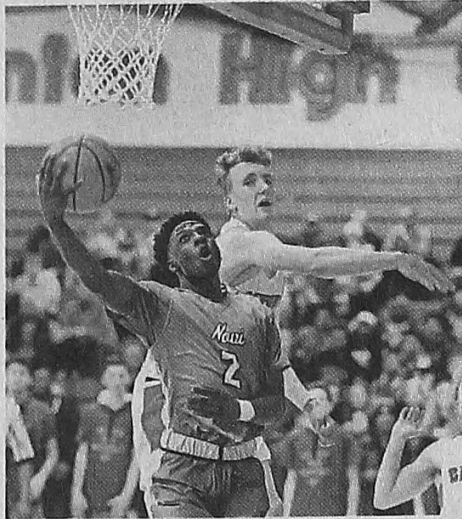
The loss was the first of the season for the Chiefs, who had rolled up 17 wins a row entering the hard-fought, fast and physical contest.

"Man, we were looking for this game for a while," said Maddox, who led all scorers with 25 points. "Coming in, we knew they were 18-0, we knew it was going to be a big game and we knew it was going to be an upset.

"And all practice we've been stressing 'Defense, defense, defense.' It came out on top today."

Novi head coach Brandon Sinawi, whose team improved to 13-7 and will move on to the KLAA final March 1, said Maddox laid out the script for Friday during the previous day's practice.

"He told us yesterday in practice that this was going to be a game he wasn't going to let us lose," Sinawi said. "Forget what the records were and them being



Novi's Traveon Maddox Jr. scores a reverse layup against Canton's Chase Meredith (30) during Friday's KLAA semifinal. TOM BEAUDOIN

undefeated. It doesn't matter, it's a basketball game and these kids love to play, especially Tray."

Hankerson and Miles chipped in 12 and 16 points, respectively, as Novi's big three accounted for all but eight of the team's points.

Shots wouldn't fall

Conversely, Canton stopped connecting and wound up making just 22-

of-67 field-goal attempts (32 percent), including 7-of-27 from beyond the arc.

"We had some tough luck misses tonight, for sure," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "A lot of in and outs on some threes, some tough misses at the rim with our big guys and our guards. We didn't get to the foul line.

"What really killed us is defensively, if you're going to win and beat good teams, you got to defend and rebound better than we did in the second half. We, obviously, did not."

It didn't help the Chiefs' cause that the normally hot-shooting trio of guards B. Artis White, Vinson Sigmon and Eian Barker were off their game — with a big reason being how quickly Novi defenders got out on them to take away time and space on long field-goal tries.

"Our team is very, very long," said Maddox, who will play Division I basketball at Oakland University. "And when we contest shots, it's hard for teams to shoot over us."

Canton senior forward Chase Meredith, who led the Chiefs with 17 points and eight rebounds, gave props to Maddox. But he is hopeful the teams will get another chance to face each other during Class A districts (which open March 5).

"He's definitely a great player," Meredith said. "We really had to contest him and I would say we didn't do a great job of it. We kind of (got lax) a little bit in the

second half.

"We have a chance to play them later on and I'd definitely say we got to pick it up on them."

Barker and White finished with 11 and 10 points respectively, although both were less than 100 percent. White left the game with an apparent ankle injury in the fourth quarter. Also scoring 10 points was Vinson Sigmon.

Tough turnaround

Canton went up 16-12 after one quarter, with Barker connecting on a buzzer-beater.

The Chiefs built a 37-26 halftime advantage, with last-minute triples by Barker and White keying the attack.

But things turned around in the third quarter and Maddox set the tone for Novi's comeback. He scored on a nifty, reverse layup and moments later powered his way to the basket for a layup.

Canton (17-1) will play a couple of games in the week preceding districts. Reddy is hopeful that the banged up players (Barker, White, Conner Engel) will be ready to go by then.

"Our goal is to get healthy by the time March 5 rolls around, when we open up districts with Catholic Central," Reddy said.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Shamrocks

Continued from Page 1B

just got to take your hats off to them. I don't know if it's ever been done, a shut-out in the finals, right? But they just continue to amaze me and I'm just blessed to be their coach. I'm blessed to be at Catholic Central and to be able to have the opportunity to work with such hardworking young men."

Catholic Central, whose only dual loss this season was to nationally-ranked Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward, 32-15, came in as the top seed, while Brighton was the second seed.

When the two teams met Dec. 22, Catholic Central won 65 to minus-1 and not much changed, as CC captured all 14 weight classes in the rematch.

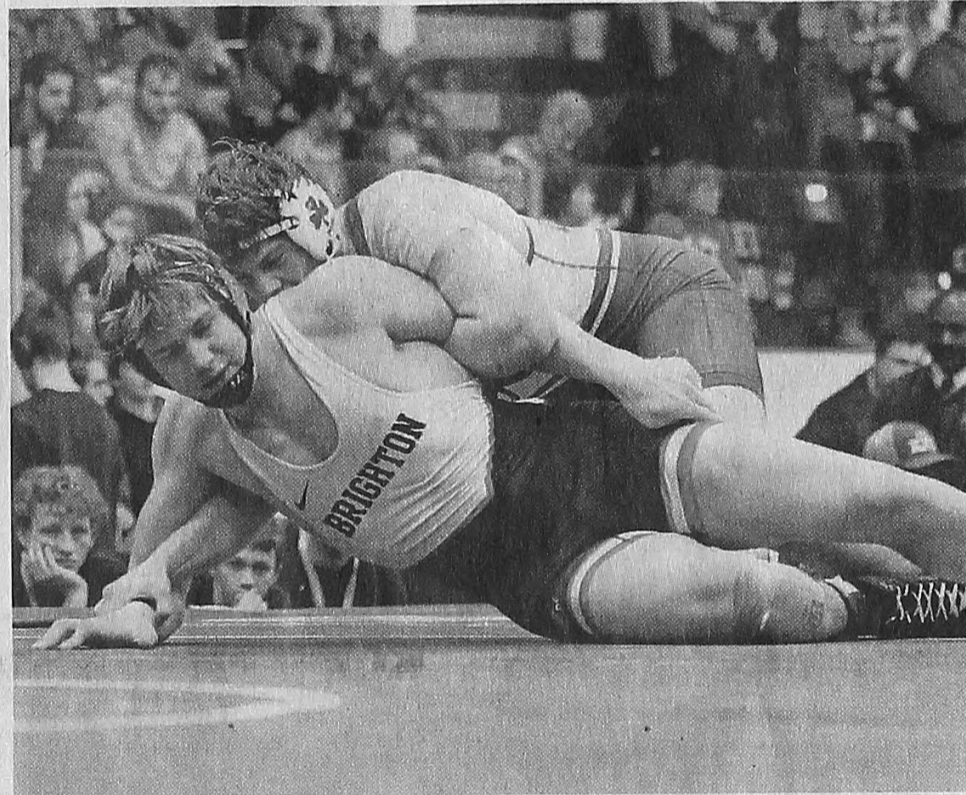
Scoring a pin for CC were Joshua Edmond (130 pounds), Devon Davenport (145) and Aidan Wagh (171), while Ben Kamali (119) and Cameron Amine (160) both won by technical fall.

Major decisions went to Easton Turner (215), Steven Kolcheff (285), while other wins came from Devon Johnsen (112), Dominick Lomazzo (125), Stone Moscovic (130), Derek Gilcher (140), Joe Urso (152) and Cox.

Moscovic, a senior, edged Brighton freshman Zack Johnson, 3-2, in a match that had several injury stoppages.

"I bleed a lot in matches, so it's nothing new," said Moscovic, an individual state qualifier who improved to 34-7 overall. "But I knew I had to keep on scoring. I didn't get off to a fast start at the beginning the first period, so I knew I had to keep pushing the pace, pushing the pace and, sooner or later, the other guy would break. It ended up working out for me."

To start the season Dec. 6 in the Shamrocks' annual all-school assembly match against Grand Ledge, Cox was the first on the mat and scored a victory. Ironically, he was last on the mat for the state finals and secured the shutout in OT with a two-point takedown against



Catholic Central's Easton Turner (top) won by major decision over Brighton's Luke Stanton, 12-0. TOM LANG | DETROIT FREE PRESS

Stevens.

"It was fitting for me to do my senior year," said Cox, who improved to 36-5 overall. "It's really impressive because these guys (Brighton) are really good. We had a whole team effort and it was great."

One teammate was confident Cox could get the job done and complete the shutout.

"Rory doesn't quit until the end and he gets what he wants," Amine said.

To add insult to injury, Brighton had a point deducted in the opening match at 215, when Luke Stanton was flagged by officials for unsportsmanlike conduct in a 12-0 loss to Turner.

The negative point was deemed irrelevant, because the gulf between the tourney's top two Division 1 seeds was enormous. The Bulldogs were unable to get a takedown in the 14 matches.

"They're in a league of their own, the entire state, but in Division 1 included," Brighton coach Tony Greathouse said of the Shamrocks. "We did our best; the guys competed hard. It doesn't take anything away from what these guys did this year. I'm extremely proud of them. We've got 11 guys going to state (individual tourney) and we're second in Division 1. It's a pretty amazing season for them."

So does anything separate this Shamrocks squad from the previous five championship teams Hancock has coached?

"I don't know, I think it's a level of talent, a level of depth, just a unity," he said. "If you look at the guys, the coaching staff is remarkable, our parents are great. It's the full equation. I'd really have to sit back and ask myself what separates them from other teams ... but

they work extremely hard and put a lot of time in during the off-season."

But it was a sweet repeat, for sure.

"This one ... it was just more dominant than it was like the last one, but it's kind of the same feeling," said Amine, a junior who is one of CC's three returning state individual champs, along with Kamali and Davenport. "I'm really happy for the team and how they wrestled and stuff. We're all are loyal to each other and we're all like brothers, so that puts the team together. And then we all feed off each other."

The Shamrocks also had fun doing it. "It's the unity," Moscovic said. "There's no other team that plays wall ball, spike ball, before every practice. We make, like, weird noises before we compete. It's big family. There's no other way to describe it."

**MHSAA DIVISION 1
WRESTLING TEAM FINALS
Feb. 24 at Wings Events Center
DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 57,
BRIGHTON -1**

215 pounds: Easton Turner (CC) won by major decision over Luke Stanton, 12-0; **285:** Steven Kolcheff (CC) won by major dec. over Colby Ford, 14-3; **103:** Daniel Rehfeldt (CC) dec. Mason Schrader, 4-0; **112:** Devon Johnsen (CC) dec. Ben Manly, 3-1; **119:** Ben Kamali (CC) won by technical fall over Logan Kehres, 21-6; **125:** Dominick Lomazzo (CC) dec. Eddie Homrock, 3-1; **130:** Stone Moscovic (CC) dec. Zack Johnson, 3-2; **135:** Joshua Edmond (CC) pinned Aiden Brown, 1:09; **140:** Derek Gilcher (CC) dec. Dane Donabedian, 9-3; **145:** Kevon Davenport (CC) p. Victor Grabowski, 3:54; **152:** Joe Urso (CC) dec. Nick Bleise, 6-0; **160:** Cameron Amine (CC) won by tech. fall over Jack Ireton, 21-6; **171:** Aidan Wagh (CC) p. Harley Berne, 1:04; **189:** Rory Cox (CC) dec. Greyson Stevens, 3-1 (overtime).

Final dual match records: Detroit CC, 29-1 overall; Brighton, 33-4.

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

Lafata

Continued from Page 1B

winning formula," said Baechler, who remains a teacher at Canton High School. "Everyone wants to talk statistics and things like that, but the biggest statistic in football is how many points are you scoring a game and how many points are you giving up in a game.

"And over 20 years, I think we scored over 35 points a game and only let up 17. You're going to win a lot of games doing that. So the systems are very good high school football systems and now that Andy's got the job, we'll be able to keep five, six, seven assistants."

Lafata also underscored the importance of continuity.

"Our expectations stay the same, what we want out of our kids," Lafata said. "They know who their coaches are and that familiarity helps with this process."

Even with Lafata (a Lake Orion resident) not having a teaching job in the building, Baechler said he could help with the transition in a behind-the-scenes manner. He coaches the football class, for example.

"During football class next year, I know the systems better than anybody," Baechler said. "So I'll be able to watch film with the kids and talk to kids, X and O on the board with the kids.

"There are certain things on film I can help out with during the school day. I will not step foot on that practice field."

The hiring of a new coach took longer than expected, especially compared to how quickly other high school coaches have been hired this off-season. But Baechler said there was a good reason for that.

"Initially, (Crump) was just waiting for more applicants," Baechler said. "I said, 'You're not going to get any.' People know we're not a school of choice, they know we don't have middle school football.

"To be frank, it's not a great program to take over, because we win just shy of nine games a year over the last 20 years. That's not exactly the kind of job you want to come in and have all that pressure on you. That's the expectation, it's going to be pretty difficult to live up to."

Time to work

Yet Lafata wanted the Chiefs job so badly that Baechler said it would have "crushed him" had the job gone to another applicant.

"Of course, it would have just broke his heart," Baechler said. "We were talking about it last night. It would have just crushed him to see it go to somebody else, because he's lived it and he wants it to continue. I'm happy he's got his shot."

Lafata, meanwhile, said it will be great to finally get to work with the players who will comprise the 2018 roster.

"That's the best part, to finally get going, get with the kids," Lafata said. "I

know they were put in a difficult spot when your head coach steps down, but I'm happy for them that they finally have an answer now. We can get moving and start working."

Lafata, a 2006 Canton grad, has a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education from Eastern Michigan University.

In addition to his assistant coach's role since 2008, he was junior varsity head coach in 2015-17.

"He was inducted into the inaugural Canton High School Hall of Fame, as a member of the 2005 state finalist football team and is a proud Canton Chief," a statement read. "In true Chief fashion, Coach Lafata has worked his way through the ranks to earn the position of varsity head coach at Canton High School."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.

PREP WRESTLING

John Glenn denied in D1 quarterfinal

Cardinals go on five-match run to defuse Rockets, 28-25

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Westland John Glenn came close but, once again, it was not close enough.

The Rockets entered as the fourth seed in the MHSAA Division 1 team wrestling quarterfinals Friday at Kalamazoo's Wings Event Center and, for the second straight year, lost by a razor thin margin, this time to perennial state power Davison, 28-25.

Glenn finished its season 25-4 overall, while fifth-seeded Davison improved to 25-5.

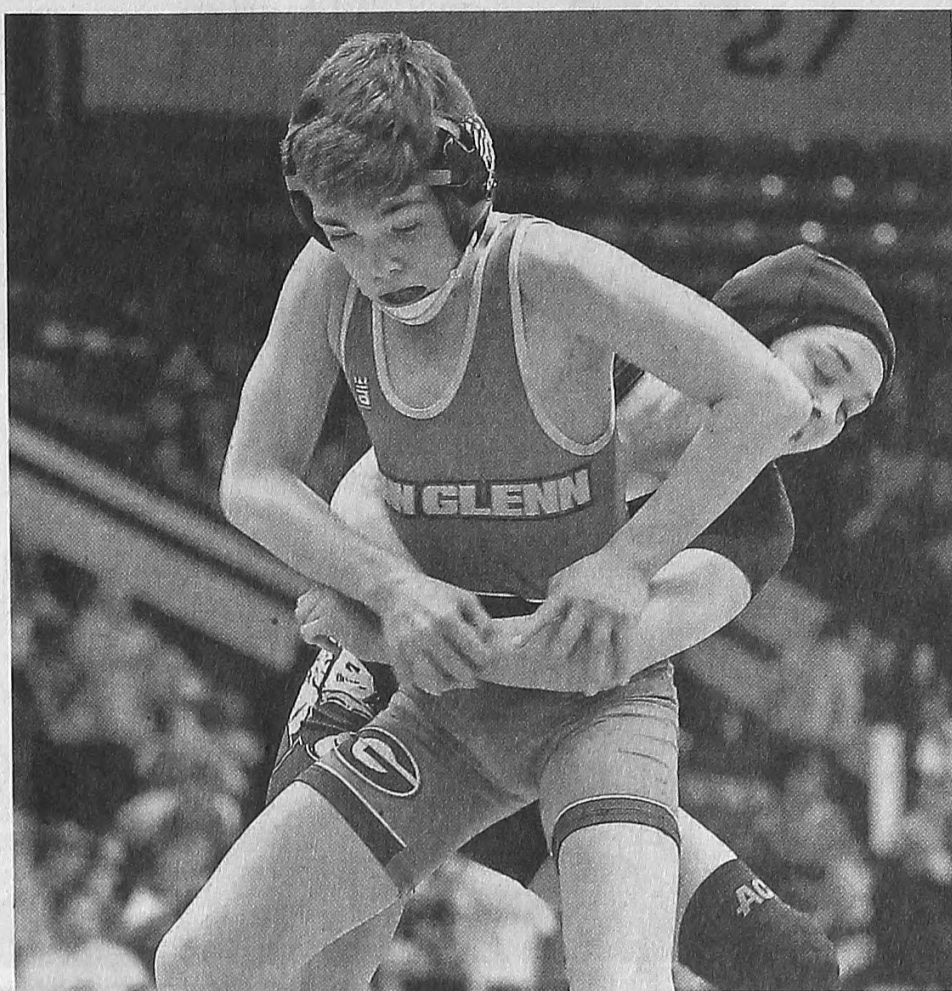
It was only a year ago when Glenn, as the sixth seed, fell 26-25 to third seed Macomb Dakota in the quarterfinals.

"In all reality, it's the best season we've ever had," said Glenn coach Bill Polk, who has guided the Rockets to four team state finals appearances in his 18 seasons. "It's a little disappointing ending, because if we had been on the other side of the bracket, we would have had a better run. I definitely think — in my opinion — Davison is the second best team in the state, so to lose like that to them ..."

Glenn got off to a good start, building a 10-0 lead after getting a four-point major decision from Isaac Lefler (130 pounds) along with three-point decisions from Mikey Mars (135), who improved to 49-0, and Shawn Brown (140).

"You're always hoping for the best and fearing the worst, but they had some real dangerous kids," said Davison coach Roy Hall, who has led the Cardinals to six team state titles and four runner-up finishes. "I thought it was balls for them to go right out, bump up and maybe steal a couple matches to set the tone."

In the featured match-up at 145, Davison's Alex Facundo, an individual state champion last year at 125, upped his season record to 26-0 with a 12-4 major decision over Glenn's Anthony



John Glenn's Ty Cowen (front) scored a 2-0 decision over Davison's Mackenzie Gilbert. TOM HAWLEY

Gibson, who was a state runner-up last year at 135.

Gibson, who is 46-4 overall, lost to Facundo for the second time this season.

"The kid (Gibson) is tougher than heck, but Alex is something else," Hall said. "He showed a lot of guts. His grandma just died Wednesday and we didn't know if we were going to have him. Then we asked him to cut to 145 and that's a lot. And the Gibson kid went up in weight, so that shows the love and respect they have for each other. Very, very good program all the way around."

Facundo's win sparked a 19-0 Davison run that didn't end until Glenn senior JaCorey Scott (215) decisioned Travis

Eads in overtime, 6-4.

The Rockets also got victories from Ty Cowen (103) and Caleb Meekins (119), along with a void to Kyle Borthwell (125) in the final match, but it was too little, too late.

"I can't say enough about John Glenn," Hall said. "They do an amazing job. The kids fight, they love each other and you can see it in the kids and the coaches. They're coached well and they've got good kids."

With two matches to go, Davison's Steven Garty Jr. gave the Cardinals a 28-16 lead with a pin of Ethan Collins in 2:29 at 112 pounds.

The best Glenn could do after that in order to tie was score a pair of pins.

"It pretty much worked out like I had it on paper," Polk said. "I knew we had to wrestle where somebody had to win that was not supposed to win the dual against them. We actually did win one (Scott) I didn't think we would."

Glenn was seeded one spot ahead of Davison because of a two-point dual match win over the Cardinals last month.

"We beat them 30-28, but they were missing Facundo, which the kid is a star," Polk said. "They had him back in the lineup and that was the difference. So we knew we had to win one along the way and had to get all the match-ups. We got the match-ups we wanted, but just didn't get it done."

After last year's team state finals were held at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, the MHSAA signed a four-year deal to move to Kalamazoo.

"This is incredible, I really like it," Polk said. "They picked a great venue. It's tough we lost, but you don't get a better stage than this with all these great teams. This is the top of the mountain in Michigan, so this pretty cool to be a part of it win or lose."

Hall also liked the new surroundings at the Wings Event Center.

"I like the level platform," he said. "I think it will be cool once it gets going here. I thought it was a great match, great high school event — period. It had a little bit of everything that you look for in a sporting event."

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

MHSAA DIVISION 1 TEAM QUARTERFINAL RESULTS Feb. 23 at Wings Event Center

DAVISON 28, WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 25

130 pounds: Isaac Lefler (WJG) won by major decision over Raymond Cole, 11-3; 135: Mikey Mars (WJG) dec. Marc Schaeffer, 5-2; 140: Shawn Brown (WJG) dec. Landon Kish, 5-3; 145: Alex Facundo (D) won by major dec. over Anthony Gibson, 12-4; 152: Brian Case (D) won by major dec. over Brenton Polk, 12-2; 160: Jay Nivison (D) won by major dec. over Graden Bowen, 18-6; 171: Travor McGowan (D) Chase Kersten, 10-2; 189: Cal Stefanko (D) dec. George Schwemie, 6-3; 215: JaCorey Scott (WJG) dec. Travis Eads, 6-4 (overtime); 285: Arron Gilmore (D) dec. Donald Ferris, 7-1; 103: Ty Cowen (WJG) dec. Mackenzie Gilbert, 2-0; 112: Steven Garty, Jr. (D) pinned Ethan Collins, 2:29; 119: Caleb Meekins (WJG) dec. Andrew Chambal, 11-5; 125: Kyle Borthwell (WJG) won by void.
Dual match records: Davison, 25-5 overall; John Glenn, 25-4 overall.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wayne Memorial finds mojo in nick of time against Hartland

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

After a sluggish first half against Hartland during the KLAAs girls basketball tournament semifinal Feb. 19, Wayne Memorial senior guard Camree Clegg had a message for her coach.

Trailing 27-19 at halftime to the pesky Eagles — who over the opening 16 minutes were paced by four treys and 14 points by senior forward Graysen Cockerham — Clegg told Zebras head coach Jarvis Mitchell she wanted to guard Cockerham and shut her down in the second half.

"She came to me (at halftime) and said, 'Jarv, I want her,'" Mitchell said. "When your senior and your leader tells you that's what she wants to do it's, like, 'OK, I trust you.'"

The rest of the game showed that Mitchell's trust wasn't wasted. Clegg, who managed just a single free throw in the first half, went off for 14 points, including a critical trey with 3:11 left to give host Wayne Memorial its first lead since the first quarter.

And Cockerham was blanked the entire second half as the Zebras enjoyed a 26-13 edge after that halftime chat between Clegg and Mitchell.

The clutch Clegg trey — set up by a spectacular, behind-the-back feed from junior guard Jeanae Terry — launched a closing 8-0 run that helped the Zebras post a hard-fought 45-40 victory.

On that sequence, Terry snagged an offensive rebound in a crowded lane and sent the no-look flip to Clegg on the right wing. The perfect finish had the home crowd on its feet.

"I knew she was going to pass it to me, I just didn't know how she was going to pass it me," Clegg said. "So when she threw it behind her back and I caught it, I'm, like, 'Oh yeah, you got to make this one.'"

"And when it went in, everybody just hyped up, 'Let's go, let's go, we got this one.'"

What Mitchell saw between the two players had him shaking his head, but

not because he hasn't seen them work that kind of magic before.

"They've been playing together for three years," he said. "(Terry) knows Cam's spotting up, she knows Cam's getting ready to cock the shot. So I'm glad, because that's something I can't coach."

"That's just something you hope they tie in together and they're synchronized and the synergy and the moon and the stars are all lined up."

Pressure cooker

Hartland head coach Don Palmer, whose team walked into the Wayne Memorial gym in 2017 to win a tourney match-up, said his team battled tooth and nail all night.

But the constant defensive pressure all over the floor finally cost his team a number of turnovers that led to points the other way. Hartland (14-5) made 21 turnovers in the game.

"It's too many for us; we're averaging about 10," Palmer said. "But I just think the pressure is excruciating and, then when you're open, you're still hurrying."

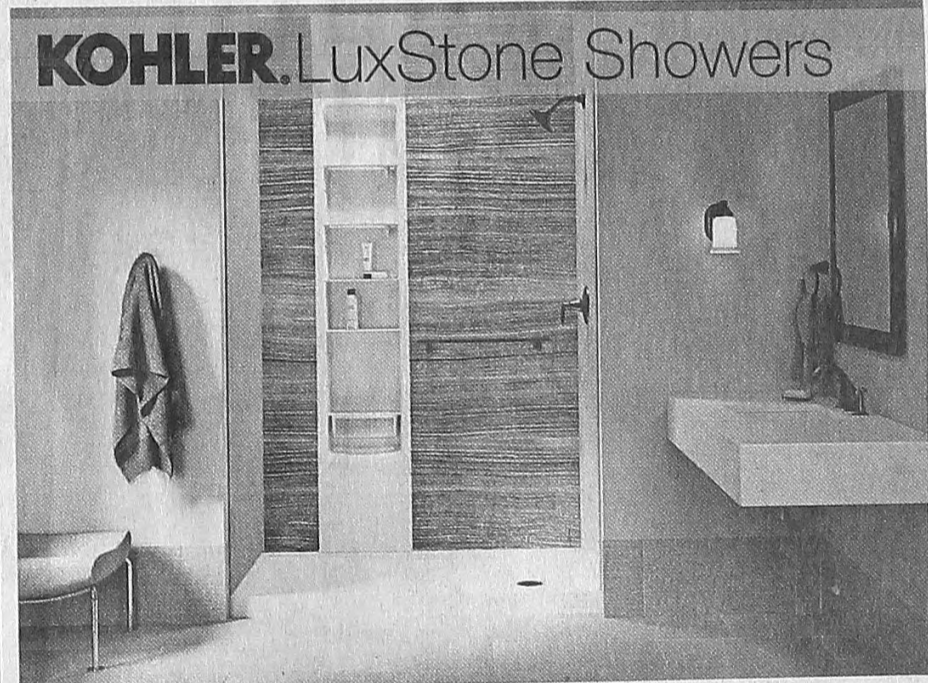
"Some of those were just absolutely forced. Some of those passes you saw just fly over open people's heads out of bounds. Once you get going, sometimes it's hard to stop. And they're kids."

It also didn't help that shots stopped falling for the Eagles. In the first half, Hartland connected on 9-of-22 field-goal attempts (including six triples). The team managed to make just 4-of-19 in the second half (and 0-of-7 in the final quarter).

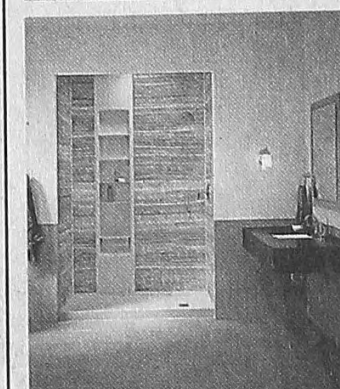
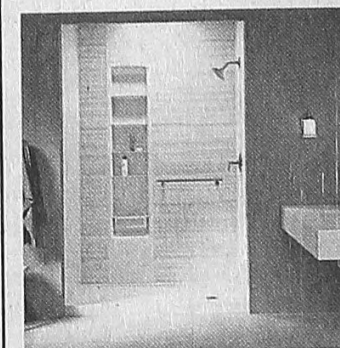
"In the second half, we couldn't buy a basket," Palmer added.

Clegg led all scorers with 15 points, but the Zebras were bolstered early on by junior guard Sammiyah Hoskin, who scored eight of her team's 10 points in the first quarter (which ended with Hartland up, 11-10). Hoskin finished with 14 points.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.



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PREP BOWLING

Catholic Central first in regional tourney

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Sterling Lanes is the next destination for the MHSAA Division 1 boys bowling state finals as both Detroit Catholic Central and Westland John Glenn punched their tickets after a one-two finish Feb. 23 at the regional tourney at Canton's Super Bowl Lanes.

The Shamrocks, coming off a heartbreaking setback to Warren De La Salle in the Catholic League championship, rebounded to edge Glenn by six pins, 3,970-3,964, while Saline garnered the third qualifying spot with 3,856.

Rounding out the field were Canton (3,744), Northville (3,728), Plymouth (3,698), Belleville (3,663), Salem (3,636), Farmington Harrison (3,617), Wayne Memorial (3,453), Novi (3,452), Ann Arbor Huron (3,411), Ann Arbor Skyline (3,411) and Pinckney (3,261).

CC, which captured the Catholic League regular season title with a 10-0 record, conquered the Kegel Allen oil pattern at Super Bowl with regular games of 920, 1,063 and 908. The Shamrocks were in fifth place after the six Baker games with a total of 1,079, including a high game of 199.

Among CC's top individual scorers were Jacob Smith (243-190), Jaden Thomas (236-191), Andrew Lack (200-209) and freshman Nick Zappia, a recent JV call-up who rolled a 221.

Boys singles

Wayne Memorial junior Anthony Kaminski-Thibodeaux was crowned individual regional champion Feb. 24 at Super Bowl with a six-game total of 1,353, including a high game of 235. Other state qualifiers who placed in the top 10 and made all-region were Jonathon Hall (Salem), 1,262; Bradley Folks (Belleville), 1,233; Dallas Casey (Saline), 1,226; Smith (CC), 1,200; Alan Brown (Plymouth), 1,200; Tyler Brown (John Glenn), 1,193; Nathan Colosimo (Northville), 1,193; Andrew



Members of the Catholic Central regional championship bowling team are (front row, from left) senior co-captains Andrew Lack and Jacob Smith and (back row, from left) head coach Matt Nugent, Chintan Maheshwari, Nick Zappia, Jaden Thomas, Matt Skarnulis, Ben Ward and assistant coach Scott Kujawa.

Lack (CC), 1,165; and Dominic Gentry (Canton), 1,160.

Glenn girls triumph

The Rockets were the regional runaway winner Feb. 23 with a total of 3,566, including a 1,015 regular game and 175 Baker, while other state team qualifiers were runner-up Harrison (3,212) and third-place Belleville (3,189). Missing the state team cut were Plymouth (3,181), Salem, 3,178), Northville (2,916), Canton (2,896), Pinckney (2,880), Novi (2,847), Wayne (2,775), Farmington Hills Mercy (2,630) and Saline (2,433).

Girls singles

Harrison's Rachel Doran led the regional field Feb. 24 at Super Bowl with a six-game total of 1,135, includ-

ing a high game of 227. Other state individual singles qualifiers who made the top 10 and all-region were Alyssa Kolb (John Glenn), 1,119; Anna Maxwell (John Glenn), 1,082; Sarah Hayes (John Glenn), 1,068; Madalyn Harden (Plymouth), 1,066; Megan Helisek (Harrison), 1,040; Kayla Thompson (Wayne), 1,016; Alaina Langen (Salem), 1,011; Lexis Silverman (Salem), 1,008; and Jennifer Snow (Salem), 1,003.

Up next

The Division 1 team event starts Friday, March 2, followed by the individual singles tourney the following day, both at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

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

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Wayne

Continued from Page 1B

top contender for Miss Basketball honors. "If it goes in, it goes in; if it doesn't, it doesn't. But there's no pressure, there's no pressure."

"They're a great team, very solid. They gave us a run for the money, but we came out with the (win)."

No other Zebras player had more than four points, but sophomore forward Makallah Griggs Zeigler had a key performance off the bench with 12 rebounds. She came up big on a night when junior guard Jeanae Terry was plagued by early foul trouble.

The Highlanders' lineup featured two other Miss Basketball hopefuls in senior Lexi Miller (15 points, five rebounds, five steals) and senior forward Leah Weslock (15 points, 11 rebounds).

"I think we got a little frustrated, missing some shots we usually make," said Miller, who fouled out in the final minute. "I guess our attitude kind of changed with that, but we got to keep going when you miss shots, just keep playing. It was a close game the whole time. We just got to know if we miss shots, we have to go get a rebound, go box out."

A tougher effort in the paint by the Highlanders, at least in the fourth quarter, might have resulted in a different outcome.

The last five Wayne Memorial (16-4) points were free throws (by Clegg, Jasmine Elder and Griggs Zeigler), but there were two times when the

Highlanders could not rebound a missed foul shot. That enabled the Zebras to whittle seconds off the clock.

"Let's make no mistake about it, yes, I wanted to win," Olszewski said. "Yes, the kids wanted to win and, yes, we would have liked to have had that trophy as well. But it didn't work out. And we know what we're capable of and, you know, we have to get re-focused."

"We were able to handle their pressure. I thought we did a good job breaking it and getting the shots we wanted. Some didn't fall and that's the game."

"The killer were a couple at the end, where we didn't secure a rebound. They miss and we're only down two or three and twice they came up with the rebound."

The Highlanders got off to a quick start when Martin buried a triple to make it 5-0 just two minutes into the contest.

Wayne Memorial built an 18-11 lead after one, with Jayah Hicks taking an inside pass from Terry for a nifty layup and Terry then stealing the ball and scoring another basket.

The Zebras stayed up 25-21 at halftime and took a 35-31 lead into the fourth, but Howell proved to be a tough out — deadlocking the game on a Weslock trey early in the final quarter.

It didn't take long for Wayne Memorial to go up for good, however, when Clegg connected on a jumper.

Following are several takeaways:

COMPARING NOTES

The game featured two

hot-shooting guards who are both in the conversation for Miss Basketball in Clegg and Miller.

Each had praise for the other.

"She's good, she lives up to her hype," Clegg said. "She's really good, she can shoot the ball, she can attack. I like her game."

Miller noted that it's "exciting" to go up against a top player such as Clegg.

"We're always looking forward to playing great players and great teams," Miller said. "And it gets us ready for the next game. And when you keep winning, going on and play even better teams, it just prepares us more."

OUTRIGHT WINNERS

Two seasons ago, Wayne Memorial and Howell tied for the KLAA championship, but a snowstorm postponed what would have been the deciding contest.

This time around, however, Mitchell and the Zebras won the trophy outright.

"I'm completely proud of their performance," Mitchell said. "We came into a situation where it was hostile. But my kids, they were able to fight. I believe a lot of the games that we've had led up to this point."

IF ONLY

Howell's fortunes might have changed with a better performance shooting the basketball.

"The kids played great defense, but when don't shoot well, you can't have miscues," Olszewski said. "We had success getting open looks. It's just a bounce here, a rebound there."

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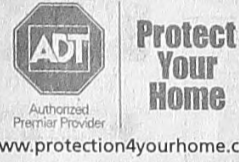
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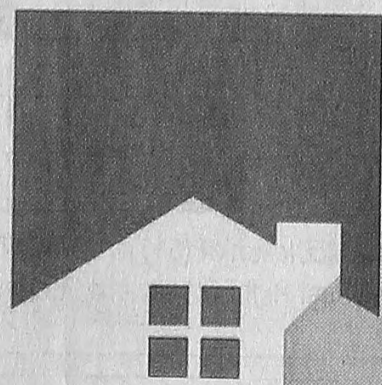
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