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SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Canton addresses voting lines

Williams touts changes during annual township talk

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Canton voters are less likely to face long lines at polling places this election season and beyond, after local officials made changes to streamline the voting process.

Supervisor Pat Williams, addressing a crowd inside The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, touted the initiative Wednesday afternoon during his second State of the Township address.

"The changes will allow Canton to absorb up to 5,000 new voters from residential development, streamline the cost of administering elections, reduce

travel distance and time for more voters and decrease the likelihood of long lines on election day," Williams said.

His remarks came after township Clerk Michael Siegrist last year led the charge with the Canton Election Commission to balance the number of voters among precincts.

Canton closed three precincts, created a new polling place at Liberty Middle School to accommodate west-end population growth and shifted some polls

among locations in hopes of avoiding hour-long waits that occurred in some past elections.

"My goal was to try to eliminate long lines, the distance that people travel to the polls and to run elections in the most efficient way possible," Siegrist said.

Williams cited the election changes as one of numerous achievements Canton made during the past year. He com-

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Students across the country have joined in protest following the Feb. 14 shooting at a Florida high school. DAVID SCRIVNER | IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

RAISING THEIR VOICES

Students plan walkouts to protest gun violence

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been a tense feeling among students enrolled at the three high schools in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park these last few weeks. Lockdowns have occurred — not once, but twice — at the campus in the past month after potential gun violence threats were investigated by officials.

Because of those, even a routine announcement at the schools recently had students worried they'd be under a lockdown.

"More people have anxiety going to school," said Jocelyn Brown, a Plymouth High School junior. "People are struck with fear. Everyone was worried it was going to be a shelter in place."

Later this spring, students across the region plan on taking action with others across the country to protest gun vio-

lence, walking out during one of two nationally scheduled protests while administrators talk with students to figure out how best to work with them as they decide to participate.

Two dates have been targeted as nationwide protest days against gun violence. One is Wednesday, the one-month anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., an incident that left 17 dead. The other date is Friday, April 20, the 19th anniversary of

See **STUDENTS**, Page 4A

Teen charged with making bomb threat at P-CEP

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 17-year-old Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student is facing four felony charges stemming from a threat that prompted a "soft lockdown" and then the dismissal of classes at the 6,200-student high school campus a week ago.

Brendan J. Sibel of Plymouth was arrested Tuesday and arraigned Wednesday on two charges of making a false terrorist threat and two charges of making a false bomb threat. Judge Ron Lowe entered not-guilty pleas for him in 35th District Court and set a \$250,000 bond and also scheduled a bond hearing for Thursday.

P-CEP, shared by Plymouth, Canton and Salem high schools, went on lockdown beginning about 8:30 a.m. March 1 after a threatening message was found scrawled on a wall at Canton High School.

Students and employees were initially sheltering in place, but school and police officials dismissed them at 11 a.m., with police citing the ongoing investigation as the reason.

Officials stressed that once the situation had been assessed, the threat was deemed to be not credible and that students were safe.

"We believe at this point the intent

See **THREAT**, Page 3A



Sibel

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Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams (right) talks with wife Nancy, son Joseph and daughter Erin McKenzie after delivering his second State of the Township address. DARRELL CLEM

Address

Continued from Page 1A

pared his first full year in office to the life of his 2-year-old grandson Declan, saying he and his team faced sometimes-befuddling challenges as they grew.

"Through teamwork," Williams said, "we persevered again and again for Canton Township."

Among the highlights of his State of the Township address:

Williams said the process has begun for a new Fire Station No. 2 on Warren Road, west of Haggerty. Canton has hired an architectural firm to begin work to design a new station amid plans to demolish the existing 42-year-old station, which is outdated for current technology.

The new station will be built just east of the old station. Williams said a small park is expected to be built on the old site. Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said a specific time line for the project isn't yet known.

In another nod to the Canton Fire Department, Williams said firefighter paramedics last year had a 57.1-percent survival rate for heart attack victims they treated using advanced life support equipment on all vehicles. He said that's more than double the 27.9-percent national rate.

"Canton is a great place to have a heart attack," Williams said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Canton switched last year to an automated recycling program, giving residents 64-gallon containers that GFL Environmental picks up and empties at the curbside using trucks with robotic arms. Some customers initially protested the size of the bins, but Williams said Canton is now recycling more and extending the life of its landfill.

Canton last year rolled out its new water storage facility on the north end, a move expected to save the township \$3 million a year and potentially soften the blow of water rate hikes. Canton also is exploring with Northville Township the possibility of buying water jointly to save money.

Williams said Canton and Wayne County have established closer relations by having quarterly meetings with key officials from both sides — a move he

said can only benefit Canton. His remarks came as county Executive Warren Evans sat in the audience.

Canton this year is expected to extend its trail system from Interstate 275 east to the city of Wayne, adding to the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail that already spans much of the community. It is linked together by wooden pedestrian bridges.

Summit on the Park's fitness center received a makeover last year, helping to keep it "a highly desirable destination that will continue to meet the evolving needs of our community," Williams said. Canton Leisure Services also is addressing any physical, social, cultural and economic barriers in its facilities to better align programs with community demographics.

The youth and teen center known as The B.L.O.C.K. got a kitchen makeover last year, courtesy of IKEA. It is located in the Canton Administration Building.

The Canton Sports Center on Michigan Avenue has renovated eight of its 12 fields using Wayne County parks money, Williams said. Four remaining fields are expected to be upgraded this fall.

The supervisor said Canton is on the forefront of what will be "the next big tobacco class-action (type of) lawsuit" by going after big pharmaceutical companies. The suit, arising from the opioid epidemic, hasn't yet been filed.

Williams commended Canton police for their "exemplary" response to recent incidents such as a bank robbery/hostage situation that ended peacefully and false gun threats at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Williams lauded the Canton Municipal Services Department for becoming nationally accredited by the American Public Works Association through a rigorous process, becoming one of two such agencies in Michigan and one of 113 nationwide. Canton's finance, Leisure Services and police departments already are accredited, leaving just the fire department, which already is working on accreditation.

The supervisor said Canton is reviewing property it owns that is not being used. Officials are considering using small parcels for what he called small "pocket parks."

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Teens get second chance in theft ring pleas

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

All five teens who pleaded guilty after Canton police broke up a theft ring have an opportunity to keep the crimes off their record, under a state law intended to give young offenders a second chance.

It's a tool used by judges and attorneys in certain cases when it is believed that defendants have the potential to learn from their mistakes and stay out of trouble. If they stray from a judge's orders or violate their probation, criminal charges can be reinstated and new penalties imposed.

Livonia attorney William Maze said the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act, or HY-

TA, can make a big difference in whether young offenders, including first-time offenders, can get a fresh start or have a criminal record follow them through life.

"It gives a young person who's maybe susceptible to pressures and influences at a young age a second chance," he said. "We don't want it to jeopardize the rest of their lives so, yes, it's beneficial."

Maze, who has represented young offenders, spoke in general terms about HYTA and is not the attorney for the five defendants in the Canton case, which Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said involved stolen cars, guns and credit cards.

Under HYTA rules, court clerks said they cannot divulge sentencing details of the defendants, charged after Steckel said the theft ring unraveled last Octo-

ber, when police began making arrests.

Court records previously indicated the defendants pleaded guilty to the following charges:

■ Destiny Capri Moore, 19, of Wayne, stealing a credit card and identity theft.

■ Saviontray Antonio Scott, 19, of Ypsilanti, receiving and concealing stolen firearms and a stolen car and also to a felony firearm charge. Authorities dismissed counterfeiting-related charges against him.

■ Kobie Tyree Richardson, 19, of Ypsilanti, receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, stealing a financial transaction device, or credit card, and breaking and entering a vehicle causing damage.

■ Elliott Deshawn Montgomery, 17, of Ypsilanti, receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, stealing credit cards and

larceny from a motor vehicle.

■ Carolyn Danielle Hoskins, 19, of Ypsilanti, receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, fraudulent use of a credit card and breaking and entering a motor vehicle.

Steckel said the charges arose from a two-week crime spree last October. He has said police executed search warrants in Detroit and Ypsilanti and seized five guns and 17 credit cards. Authorities recovered a Cadillac Escalade stolen from Canton and a Jeep Liberty stolen in Ann Arbor.

Maze said the HYTA law "can apply to some serious offenses," but still can be used for defendants ages 21 or younger.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclm@hometownlife.com.

Two Ypsilanti men busted for pot possession

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Two Ypsilanti men were cited for marijuana possession in separate incidents in Plymouth and Northville townships earlier this month.

One incident occurred just after 12:30 a.m. March 1, in the area of Seven Mile and Beck roads. An officer stopped a 25-year-old man driving a Dodge Charger after clocking him at 65 mph in a 45 mph

zone on Beck, a Northville Police Department report said.

The man was arrested for driving with a suspended license and a jar with 3.5 grams of suspected marijuana was found during a search of the Charger, police said. The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

The man told police he had applied for a medical marijuana card, but hadn't received it. He was later released on bond with a ticket for both the suspended license and marijuana possession

charges.

The second incident was just before 4 p.m. March 4. A Plymouth Township officer patrolling near the Red Roof Inn, on Ann Arbor Road near I-275, saw a man sitting in the passenger seat of a Chrysler PT Cruiser parked in the motel's lot and stopped to ask if everything was OK, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

The man replied, "Yeah," the report said, but the officer smelled marijuana in the vehicle and saw a plastic bag of

suspected marijuana in a pocket of the passenger door. The suspect told the officer the pot was for personal use and that he had purchased it that day, police said.

The man was released with a ticket for marijuana possession. The substance in the bag tested positive for marijuana, police said.

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

Threat

Continued from Page 1A

was to disrupt school," Chad Baugh, the Canton Police Department's deputy director, said Thursday. The result was that the threat "instilled fear," Baugh said.

Baugh would not detail what was written on the wall. He said the investigation was an "exhaustive effort" involving Canton detectives, school resource officers and the school community.

"Threats made against our schools, regardless of intent, will not be tolerated," Monica Merritt, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools superintendent, said in a prepared statement. "Any threats to the safety of our students and staff will be taken seriously, and those deemed responsible will be held accountable." Merritt went on to say that the district's "incredible community" strives to ensure a safe learning environment.

"We are evaluating these very serious cases on an individual basis. In this case, we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt alleged bomb and terrorism

threats," said Kym L. Worthy, the Wayne County prosecutor. Worthy said anyone with information on a potential school threat should immediately notify law enforcement.

The March 1 incident was the second recent lockdown at P-CEP; on Feb. 23, the campus went into "soft lockdown" for less than two hours because of a rumor that a student had brought a gun to school. An investigation proved that rumor to be unfounded.

Baugh said police had "no information" that linked the March 1 bomb threat to the gun rumor incident.

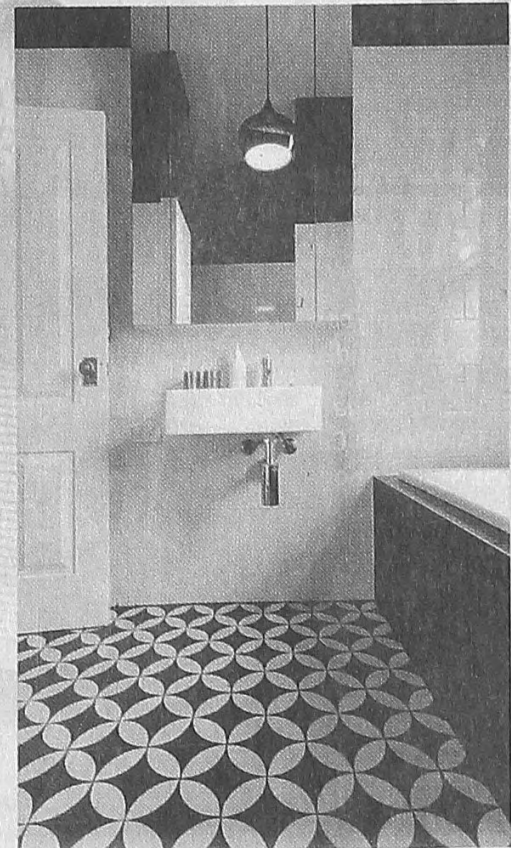
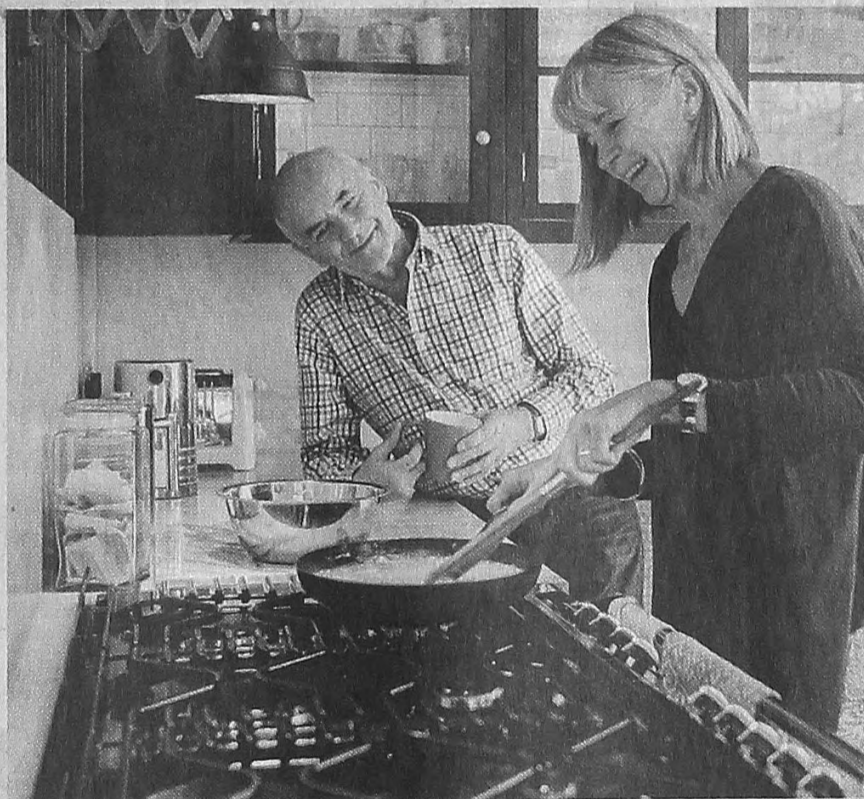
He urged parents of school-age chil-

dren to discuss with them the possible ramifications of making threats toward schools.

Sibel could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of making a false terrorist threat, and up to four years in prison if convicted of making a false bomb threat.

He is scheduled for a Friday, March 23, preliminary examination on the charges in district court.

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



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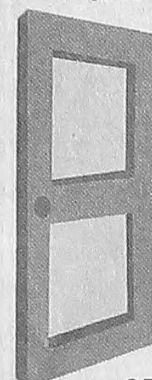
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Students

Continued from Page 1A

the Columbine High School shooting. Students across the country are expected to walk out of school during the day to protest.

As a result of the recent shooting in Florida, a national movement has called for protests across the country, asking students to walk out of school to protest gun violence. Locally, police have investigated several threats levied against area schools, including ones in Livonia, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Milford, South Lyon and Wayne-Westland, to name a few.

Seeing all the talk around gun violence and the protests is something that hasn't been prevalent in recent years by administrations. But many, including Clarenceville School District Superintendent Paul Shepich, say high school students have talked about participating Wednesday in the protest.

Shepich, who made an impassioned speech regarding the gun violence issue last month at the Livonia leadership banquet, said he's had conversations with students about the issue and has reached out to the Oakland Intermediate School District, of which Clarenceville is a member, and the state for more information on handling the issue.

"That's why I've decided to be more of a facilitator in the process rather than making it a negative and causing more chaos than is needed," he said. "We have



Clarenceville School District Superintendent Paul Shepich, who asked for a moment of silence for victims of the Florida shooting at Livonia's leadership banquet recently, said he's had conversations with students about the issue. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

plenty of resources and guidance on how to approach this."

The protest at P-CEP is planned for the latter date, as students have a half-day Wednesday and they decided to take part in April. Isabella Fessier, a sophomore at Plymouth High School, said students organizing the protest have spoken with the administration regarding logistics of the protest.

"They have been supportive as they are allowed," she said. "We're lucky to have an administration that's willing to work with us on something like this."

Students at Churchill High School in Livonia say they've had similar interactions with the administration from the Livonia Public Schools district. Those students are also planning to protest in April and have been working with district leaders on how best to proceed.

While no protest is planned for the upcoming week at the school, Churchill senior Sophie Comasi said students plan on using that date as one to build up awareness of the April 20 protest being planned.

"We've talked about passing out T-shirts and fliers," she said. "We do plan to, on that day, spread more awareness about the Columbine anniversary date."

The Novi Public Schools district announced this past week officials believed the best option for students' safety with these protests is to remain inside.

"We will also not permit the walkout to last all day, but will grant a window of time for students to express their opinion," Superintendent Steve Matthews said in a news release. "If students decide to walk out of the building or leave school property, they will not be granted re-entry without first going to the designated entry door. If students choose to leave school property, our school attendance and absence policy will be applied if they choose not to return."

"We live in a great community with active and committed students. Our students' voices are important voices to hear during this time of national reflection."

Students in the Farmington Public Schools district are planning on participating in the walkout Wednesday, when students will leave class and head to the football field at their respective school.

"We support their effort," said George Heitsch, district superintendent. "It's a perfectly legitimate and appropriate use of their First Amendment rights."

Shepich said while there's always talk of change after school shootings, the incident in Parkland has seen a movement like no other after such an event. There was no social media during the Columbine shootings, while the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary involved young children whose parents were their biggest advocates.

This time, he said, is clearly different.

"But now, as you ask me what's the difference, it's not the event again, it's the fact that it's high school," he said. "And these students, as we've seen on TV time and time again, who are very well-thought and well-spoken ... they are being the change agents. They're the ones who won't let it go."

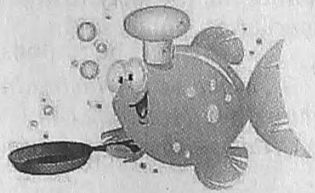
That's a sentiment with which Churchill High School senior Cole Nelson agrees. Nelson, one of the organizers of the walkout at his high school, said this is something his generation hopes to move the national discussion on, with the protests being just the first step.

"We're hoping we can inspire other people to be passionate about it," Nelson said. "We can be the change and we're going to be the change."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6729. Follow him on Twitter: [@davidveselenak](https://twitter.com/davidveselenak).

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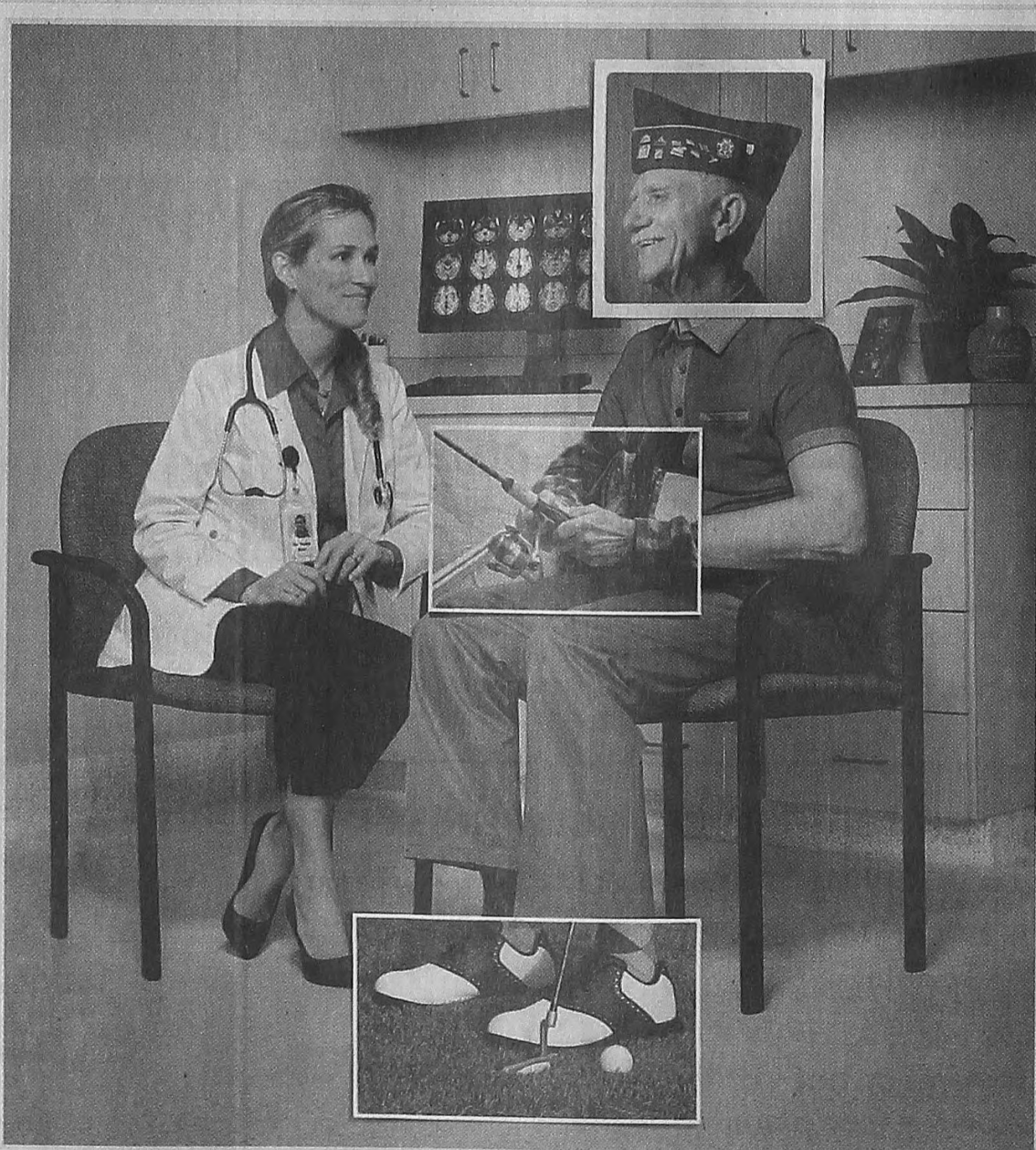


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Five people ejected in SUV crash on I-275

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Five people were ejected from a sport-utility vehicle during a crash March 3 on northbound I-275 in Canton Township and one of them, a 2-year-old girl, was hospitalized with serious injuries.

The single-vehicle crash occurred about 7 p.m., when a rear passenger-side tire on a Ford Expedition blew out and the driver lost control, according to a statement from the Michigan State Police.

The vehicle went off the freeway, flipping onto its right side while sliding, the statement said. It hit some fencing and

righted itself, coming to rest on top of the fencing.

Several of the SUV's windows were blown out and five people were ejected from it. A 2-year-old girl remained hospitalized with unspecified injuries Tuesday at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

The MSP said the girl was in guarded condition Tuesday, but is expected to make a full recovery.

Six of the Expedition's eight occupants were under age 18, the police said. The crash remains under investigation.

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

Local student a winner in C-SPAN competition

C-SPAN has announced that a student from Plymouth was among the winners in C-SPAN's national 2018 StudentCam competition.

Claire Swadling of East Middle School in Plymouth was awarded an honorable mention and a \$250 prize for the video: "The Electoral College: A Debatable Topic, Not a Place."

Each year since 2006, C-SPAN partners with its local cable television providers in communities nationwide to invite middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce short documentaries about a subject of national importance. This year, students addressed the theme "The Constitution & You: Choose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's impor-

tant to you."

In response, C-SPAN received a record 2,985 video submissions from more than 5,700 students in 46 states and Washington, D.C. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues, from the freedoms of the First Amendment and the right to bear arms, to equality and the powers of Congress.

The winners are among more than 300 students across the country winning a total of \$100,000, including one grand-prize winner, four first-prize winners, 16 second-prize winners, 32 third-prize winners and 97 honorable mentions.

The 150 winning videos may be viewed at <http://www.studentcam.org/>

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Canton conducting public safety survey

The Canton Public Safety Department would like to hear how it's doing. During the month March, the department is offering the opportunity to rate its police, fire, EMS and ordinance services. The online survey can be accessed from the home page of the de-

partment's website at www.cantonpublicsafety.org.

Included in the short survey is the opportunity for residents to rate which area of concern they feel is most important for the police department to focus its resources — either criminal activity,

traffic enforcement or crime prevention/community engagement.

Survey results will be reviewed by public safety officials to identify any potential issues or areas of concern. The results will also be taken into consideration as the department gathers infor-

mation for its next five-year strategic plan.

Results of the survey will be available to the public this summer on the department's website, Canton FOCUS newsletter and various local and social media outlets.

Change your clock, change your battery

Fire departments all across America are joining together in the annual "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" campaign. This life-saving program encourages people to change their smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks. The time change occurs this year at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 11.

"It's a simple and inexpensive way to protect your family and your home," Fire Marshal Jason Olszewski said.

Since 1987, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer batteries have joined forces to raise awareness that non-working smoke alarms are often responsible for home fire deaths and injuries. Now, thanks to the

participation of residents across America and the dedication of more than 6,000 fire departments, home fire deaths continue to decline thanks to the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" message. A working smoke alarm can often provide critical extra seconds needed to get out safely.

If your current smoke alarm is over 10 years old, it's time to replace it. Olszewski recommends replacing old smoke alarms with new 10-year lithium bat-

tery-powered smoke alarms: "Their value cannot be overstated. Consider that a new 10-year lithium battery-operated smoke alarm costs approximately \$20 and compare this to \$5 to \$8 for an alkaline battery-operated alarm and then the cost and time of replacing those batteries twice a year over a 10-year period."

Fire officials also remind you to check your carbon monoxide alarms. If they are more than 10 years old or you do not have one, purchase one immediately.

CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS

The Canton Public Library is at 1200 S. Canton Center Road. For more information, call 734-397-0999 or go to www.cantonpl.org.

Family Reading Night

When: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 13
Details: CPL's Family Reading Nights continue to be an excellent ongoing celebration of literacy, sharing stories and fun. This month, celebrate Women's History Month with stories, activities and games about famous women and their accomplishments. This program is for children ages 4-9 and their families. Registration is required.

Library board meeting

When: 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, March 15
Details: CPL is governed by a six-member Library Board of Trustees of community members elected quadrennially on a non-partisan ballot. You are invited to attend.

U-M STEM Spring 2018

When: 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 18, and 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 24

Details: CPL has partnered with the University of Michigan's technical communications department to bring a series of fun and exciting STEM workshops to the library. These workshops will present a wide range of topics in the science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines. Each session has been designed and developed for kids ages 11-13 by engineering students at the university. Registration is required.

International Day of Happiness

When: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 20
Details: Take part in our 21-day Happiness Challenge, then join us for a celebration of all things happy as we mark the end of winter and rejoice in the start of spring. The International Day of Happiness is part of a worldwide movement devoted to creating a happier world and CPL is in on the fun. Stop by and share what makes you happy. Enjoy some ice

cream with friends while listening to a play list of your favorite happy tunes. We have all sorts of happiness planned and all ages are welcome.

American Girl Club

When: 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 21
Details: Join us as we learn about a different American Girl character at each meeting through crafts, games and activities. We will explore both the historical characters and the modern day girls. No prior knowledge of the books or character is needed. If you have an American Girl doll, feel free to bring her. This program is open to ages 8-12 and registration is required. This month: Luciana Vega (Girl of the Year, 2018).

Sunday Afternoon Music Series

When: 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, March 25
Details: CPL is partnering again with the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Jazz Band for a series of Sunday afternoon performances. Stop in and warm

up with some great live music.

Open LEGO build

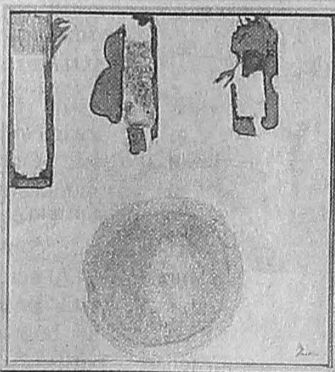
When: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 27
Details: Come join us for one hour of creative play and building with our collection of LEGO and Duplo Blocks. All welcome to complete our challenges or free play. Lego creations will be displayed on our website after each meeting. This program is intended for kids ages 7-14.

Teen Boredom Busters

When: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28
Details: Bored after school? Need a study break? No worries, we've got fun activities in our Teen Space that are just right for your busy schedule. Stop by for five or 50 minutes, whatever works for you. Learn something new, meet a new friend or just relieve some stress.

DuMouchelles Since 1927

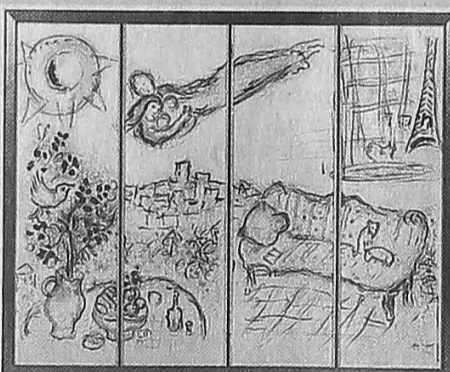
MARCH 16TH-18TH AUCTION ~ ON VIEW NOW FEATURING THE ESTATE OF ANNE MARKLEY SPIVAK



HELEN FRANKENTHALER
COLOR MIXOGRAFIA ON
HANDMADE PAPER,
"SIROCCO, 1989", 37" X 34.25"



PAUL JENKINS
WATERCOLOR ON PAPER
ST. CROIX, 1980
42" X 30"



MARC CHAGALL, "PARAVENT, PARIS 1963"
4 LITHOS AS A 4-PANEL SCREEN
EACH PANEL 57" X 17.5"



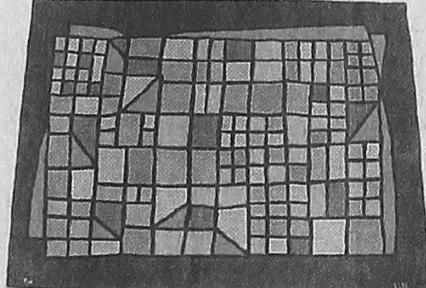
CHINESE CARVED JADE
GUANYIN & JADEITE
PHOENIX FIGURINES



FRENCH BRONZE
CHANDELIERS, 2 LOTS
EX ANNA THOMSON DODGE
ROSE TERRACE ESTATE



KEITH HARING
LITHOS, 5 PCS.
1985, 25.75" X 19"



PAUL KLEE,
ROBERT MOTHERWELL
& HEIJU OAK PACKARD
RUGS & TAPESTRIES

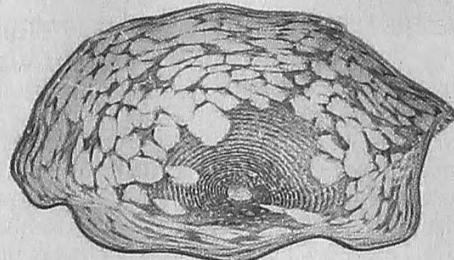


GEORG JENSEN
STERLING SILVER
COLLECTION - 23 LOTS

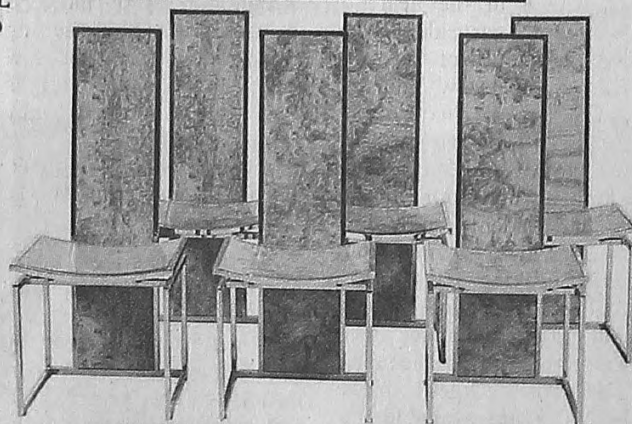


DOMINICK & HAFF
IMPORTANT STERLING CENTERPIECE
C. 1900, L 21.5"

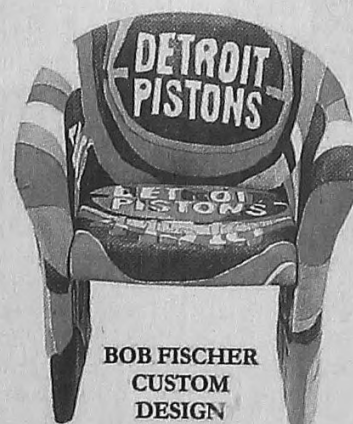
VIEW ENTIRE
CATALOG ONLINE
WWW.DUMOART.COM



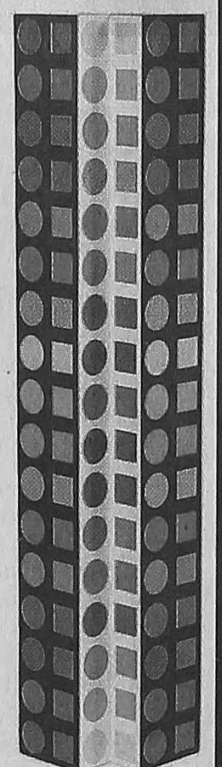
DALE CHIHULY
GLASS FEATURE
4 LOTS



ITALIAN STEEL & BURL WALNUT INLAY
CHAIRS & GLASS TOP CUSTOM DINING TABLE



BOB FISCHER
CUSTOM
DESIGN
CHAIR, 1990



VICTOR VASARELY
PLASTIC ON WOOD
"NBC 21", H 33.5"

** LATE PREVIEW ON WEDNESDAY EVENING TO 7:30 PM **

Sicily: Land of landscapes and timeless traditions

Jay Young
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Sicily, the triangular “rock” kicked by the “boot” of Italy, is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Long known for its association with the Mafia made famous by the movie “The Godfather,” Sicily is much, much more as we discovered on a recent two-week trip with Overseas Adventure Travel.

The earliest archaeological evidence of human activity on Sicily dates from as early as 12,000 B.C.E., but the island has experienced waves of conquerors, beginning around 750 B.C.E. with the Phoenicians and Greeks.

They were followed by Romans, Carthaginians, Byzantines, Normans, French and Spanish Bourbons and more. As a result of all these invaders, Sicily enjoys a rich and unique culture with regard to art, music, literature, cuisine and architecture and is home to

some of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Sicily eventually became part of Italy in 1860, during the Italian unification campaign led by Giuseppe Garibaldi, whose name is on street signs and piazzas across the island.

We started our adventure in Palermo, the island’s capital and largest city, located on the northwest coast of this semi-autonomous region of Italy. The city consists of an eclectic mix of architectural styles, but the 17th and 18th century Baroque period has left the most visible mark on Palermo’s civic and religious structures. Intense rebuilding after heavy bombing during World War II has also contributed to the city’s chaotic beauty. Palermo is replete with fascinating museums, medieval churches, Byzantine mosaics, a huge opera house, bustling street markets and a creepy catacomb filled with mummified cadavers.

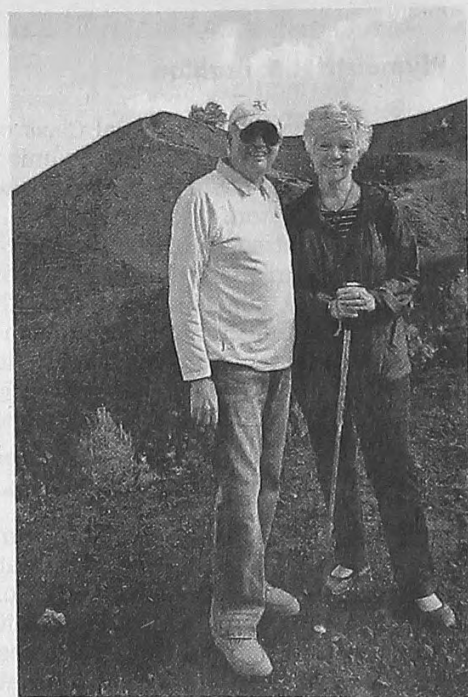
From Palermo, we traveled to Sicily’s northern coast to visit Castelbuono, a

medieval settlement which boasts an imposing 14th century castle, complete with battlements and towers overlooking the town. We continued to the former fishing village of Cefalu, which takes its name from the Greek word meaning “cape.” It is nestled between a natural bay and a towering granite cliff called La Rocca.

Today, the fishing industry has largely disappeared, but the town has remade itself into a tourist destination that features a Romanesque cathedral built in 1131 for the Norman King Roger II. On the day we visited, the cathedral was filled with flowers for an elaborate wedding, complete with a nervous groom anxiously awaiting the arrival of his bride on the front steps.

One of the trip’s highlights was an amazing display of Byzantine art in the 12th century Norman Cathedral of Monreale, in the hills overlooking Palermo.

See SICILY, Page 12A



Jay and Linnea Young on Mt. Etna.

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Sunday, March 11, 2018

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



National Home Builder Toll Brothers to Host Weekend Open House March 17 & 18 Tour Quick Move-in Homes and Villas and Decorated Models in Ann Arbor, Canton, Novi, and Northville



Toll Brothers, the nation’s leading builder of luxury homes, is offering limited-time savings and incentives on Quick Delivery Homes during its Open House Event taking place Saturday and Sunday, March 17 & 18, in Ann Arbor, Canton, Northville and Novi. Buyers will have the opportunity to take advantage of the best possible pricing on all quick move-in homes and villas in the metro Detroit area.

“With spring quickly approaching, this is the perfect time to take advantage of one of our immediate and quick occupancy opportunities to get you into your new home this Summer or Fall,” said Nadia Mekled, Senior Sales Manager. “We have everything you have been looking for in a new home, and a few things you didn’t know you wanted!” she adds.

To take advantage of this opportunity offered only

through this Open House Event, buyers must make a deposit between March 17 and March 25. Incentives on quick occupancy homes will vary by community, so buyers should contact their community of interest and speak with a sales representative to learn more.

Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children’s play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the upper \$400,000s. Quick occupancy homes are available. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call 734-844-0279.

Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. A new first-floor master suite home design is available.

Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the low \$400,000s. A first-floor master plan is available. Quick occupancy homes are available. For details, visit TheHamlet.com or call 734-398-5939.

Low-maintenance Villas in Novi

Located in the heart of Novi on the east side of Novi Rd., just south of Ten Mile Rd. is Ridgeview Villas of Novi. Several luxury villa designs range from 2,041 to 2,676 sq. ft. and most offer a first-floor master suite. Residents enjoy low-maintenance living and paved walking paths leading to The Sports Club of Novi, a dog park, and an ice arena. Pricing begins in the upper \$300,000s. Quick move-in Villas are available. For details, visit RidgeviewVillas.com or call (248) 904-8515.

Luxurious Living in Northville

The impressive model To place an ad or for more information, call your Michigan.com account executive or 586-826-7232.

home is now open at Toll Brothers at Montcaret in prestigious Northville, located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 1/4 miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. A range of home designs are available with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized 1/2- to 1+ acre home sites. Prices start in the mid-\$700,000s. Call 248-924-2601 or visit TollBrothersAtMontcaret.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

“Kensington Woods is selling very quickly due to the exceptional location and the unique open layout of our villa designs,” says Christina Wade, Sales Manager. Located on the north side of Scio Church Road, just west of Maple Road, the low-maintenance luxury villas feature an exceptional list of included features in a stunning setting with pricing from the low \$400,000s. A model home is open and quick occupancy homes are available. For details, call (734) 769-9660 or visit Kensington-Woods.com.

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region’s premier situated in a stunning 109-acre setting surrounded by towering trees and open meadows. The luxury Villa Collection is opening soon to the public. The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts,

loft space, and more.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now under construction. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan’s north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call 734-224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Now Open in Ann Arbor

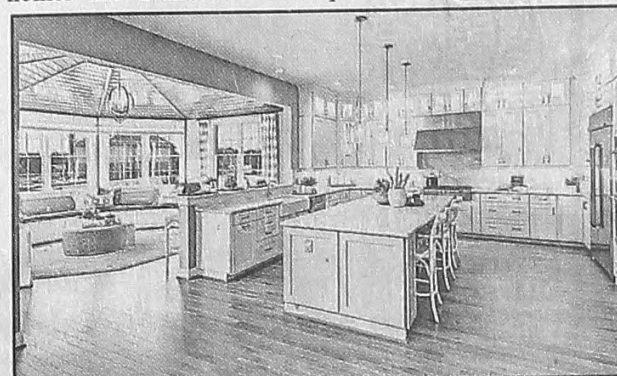
Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools on Ann Arbor’s west side is now open. Two collections of homes offer all new home designs with an impressive list of included features. Prices begin in the low \$400,000s. A new model is open and quick occupancy homes are available. For

more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

Last Chance in Novi

This is it! Only one opportunity remains at Island Lake of Novi! This premier resort-class community features a 170-acre lake, clubhouse with pools and fitness room, boat docks, beaches, parks, walking paths, tennis and sand volleyball courts. One quick occupancy home is available featuring an expansive home site and South Lyon schools. For details, visit IslandLakeOfNovi.com or call 248-924-2601.

Toll Brothers, an award-winning Fortune 500 Company, was founded in 1967. Toll Brothers is currently building in 20 states nationwide and is a publicly owned company whose stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: TOL). For Community Information, visit TollBrothers.com/MI. This is not an offering where prohibited by law.



AREA EVENTS

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

Plymouth H.S. reunion

The Plymouth High School Class of 1963 is celebrating its 55th class reunion Saturday, Aug. 18, with a dinner at The Summit in Canton. Other activities include a golf outing, a night mixer Friday, Aug. 17, at Karl's Cabin and an indoor picnic Sunday, Aug. 19, at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex. For more information, contact Nancy Richard Earle at 734-634-8974 or nancyyearle@comcast.net.

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

The Bobby Murray Band returns Tuesday, March 13, featuring Murray on guitar, Lenny Watkins on vocals, Renell Gonsalves on drums, Dave Uricek on bass and Norman Rhoades on keyboards.

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

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

Free home buyers workshop

Catholic Vantage Financial is hosting a free home buyers workshop 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at the credit union's Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon Road. James Clemens, a loan officer with the mortgage center, will talk about navigating the mortgage process, different home financing options, what costs are real and what fees you need to watch out for, along with differences between a home appraisal and inspection.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive handouts. A local Realtor from Metropolitan Real



The Bobby Murray Band will play Tuesday, March 13, at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge.

Estate will also be on hand to discuss how to make an offer on a home, decoding "mortgage talk" and other issues. To ensure adequate seating, advance reservations are requested by email to memberservice@mycvf.org.

For more information and to learn how you can join, call 734-432-0212 or go to www.mycvf.org.

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 featured act for Saturday, March 17, are the Village Strings, who will bring an entertaining mix of traditional, Celtic, Irish, Scottish and traditional folk music.

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

Chinese Spring Festival

The Canton Commission for Culture Arts and Heritage's Multicultural Committee will host the 2018 Chinese Spring Festival at The Village Theater at Cherry

Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 17. The event will include a guest performance by Shuping Ma, a notable opera singer in China and the U.S. who is a graduate of Sichuan Music College in China and was a vocal professor at Xinhai Music College in Guangzhou.

Other main stage entertainment will include vocal performances and Chinese folk and classical dances. Eventgoers can also a free reception starting at 6 p.m. Displays from three area Chinese schools (PCCLC, MNCCS and Ann-Hua of Ann Arbor) will be available in the Village Theater lobby.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at www.cantonvillagetheater.org and printed at home or held in will call. The box office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday. Tickets can also be ordered by calling 734/394-5300 ext. 3. If tickets are available, they can also be purchased one hour prior to program time.

Easter egg hunt

The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, in Canton is hosting an Easter egg hunt from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 25, for children of all ages. They can hunt for candy and small toy filled plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a picture taken with the Easter bunny.

This free event is open to the public. For more information, call 734-495-0035.

Kandouz exhibit at Village Theater

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton will exhibit the collected works of artist Mustapha Kandouz in the Gallery@VT, through March 29. This exhibit, titled "Facets of the Human" features numerous paintings that represent Kandouz's interpretation of the human condition; what it means and how it is shaped by modernity.

This 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 each holiday.

For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillage

theater.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.

Salvation Army rummage sale

The Plymouth Salvation Army will hold a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Salvation Army Community Center, 9451 S. Main Street. Tables rent for \$20. For more information, call 734-453-5464.

All-sports equipment sale

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department is holding an all-sports equipment sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 2, inside the Plymouth Ice Arena, 525 Farmer Street. Each 10- by 10-foot spot is \$20 and space is limited. You may purchase multiple booths and we will ensure that your spots will be next to each other.

Admission is free. For more information or to register, go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or call 734-455-6620.

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.

 <p>2018 FUSION SE</p> <p>\$103/month 24 mo. Lease Or 0% Financing for 27 mo.</p>	 <p>2018 F-150 SUPER CREW XLT 4X4</p> <p>\$149/month 24 mo. Lease BUY AS LOW AS \$36,350</p> <p>REBATES UP TO \$6,550</p>
 <p>2018 ESCAPE SE</p> <p>\$139/month 24 mo. Lease BUY AS LOW AS \$21,672</p> <p>\$3,000 IN REBATES</p>	 <p>2018 TAURUS SEL</p> <p>\$187/month 24 mo. Lease BUY AS LOW AS \$23,250</p> <p>\$6,000 IN REBATES</p>
 <p>2018 EDGE SEL AWD</p> <p>\$219/month 24 mo. Lease BUY AS LOW AS \$31,026</p> <p>\$3,000 IN REBATES</p>	<p>USED CAR SPECIAL:</p> <p>2013 ESCAPE TITANIUM</p> <p>\$13,998</p>

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Brinza selected as featured veteran for month of March

Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Brinza served in the U.S. Navy from 1970-76. He was born in Detroit and lived their until his teens, when he moved to Southfield. He graduated from Southfield High School in 1965 and then attended Oakland Community College, where he earned an associate's degree. He received notice that he would be drafted in October 1969 and, not wanting to settle for the U.S. Army, Brinza went to the recruiting office to enlist.

He was told there was a two-year waiting list for the U.S. Air Force, so he decided to take the test for the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy. The navy offered him training in nuclear power, which sounded very interesting to him. He was also told that he could have three months to get his life in order before being inducted, but he would also have to commit to six years service. Brinza signed up and was inducted in February 1970.

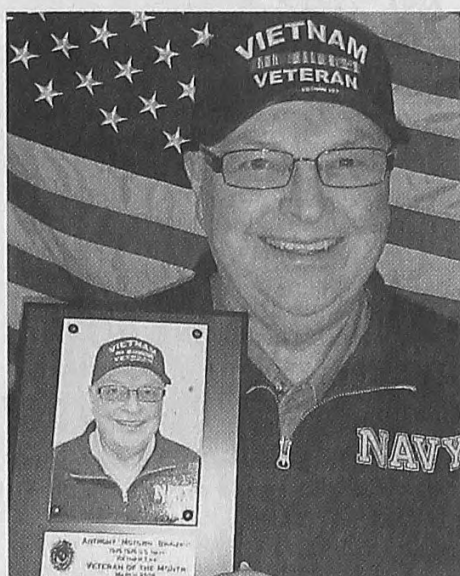
He was sent to for basic training San Diego, where he graduated as Co. 102 Honor Man and was nicknamed "Motown." Following initial rate training and completion of electricians mate 'A' school, he transferred to the USS Puget Sound (AD-38, Destroyer Tender) in Newport, R.I., for temporary duty in the electrical motor repair and rewind shop and, in November 1970, was advanced to EM3. In January 1970, he was selected to attend Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Md.

"It was a rugged class," Brinza said. "I spent about 85 hours a week between classes and study hall. We started with 50 in the class and wound up with only seven that took the final test. I had a 'B' average in the classes, but washed out on the final. I was told I was not strong enough in the areas that mattered the most. Only five of the seven were ultimately selected. I think it was a blessing in disguise."

In July 1971, he transferred to the USS Providence (CGL-6, guided missile cruiser and flagship) in San Diego. In April 1972, they were assigned to WEST-PAC and departed for the Pacific.

"We were told we were going out on operations, but the next thing we knew, we were in Hawaii, then the Philippines and then on the gun line off Vietnam," Brinza said. The USS Providence then spent the next eight months in Vietnam, providing gunfire support to allied forces ashore and blocking supply ships to North Vietnam in the Haiphong harbor area. They inflicted serious losses on the enemy and often came under intense hostile fire and received a U.S. Navy unit commendation for their actions.

"The first week on the gun line was a real indoctrination to hell," Brinza said.



Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month.

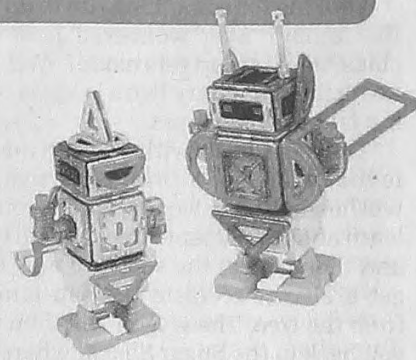
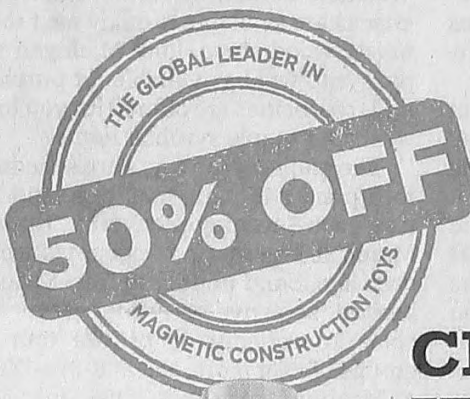
"We had three days of general quarters with no sleep we were like zombies. One night, I decided to go on deck to see the action. It looked like a scene from 'Victory at Sea.' Then I said to myself, 'Are you nuts? Get back inside.' The next morning, I went back outside and there was shrapnel all over where I was standing. I still get the shudders thinking about how stupid I was, but you get so mentally fatigued you don't think straight."

Brinza separated from active duty in April 1975 and remained in the reserves until 1976. He returned home to Michigan and got a job at J.L. Hudson's in security. In 1978, he went to work as a draftsman at the Ford Van Dyke plant and, in 1983 transferred to the Livonia transmission plant as a torque converter engineer and calibration tester.

While at Ford, he attended Northwood University in Livonia and graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in business administration. He retired in 2007. He married Maryann in 1970 and they have a daughter, Tonya. He is a member of VFW Post 6695 and a life member of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 in Plymouth. He has been a member of American Legion Post 32 for 19 years and chairs the annual golf outing that raises money to place wreaths on veterans graves at the Great Lake National Cemetery in Holly each Christmas season.

Brinza was interviewed by members of S.A.L. and a DVD was made of the interview. He attended the S.A.L. March membership meeting, where the video was show to all. A plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall.

MAGFORMERS

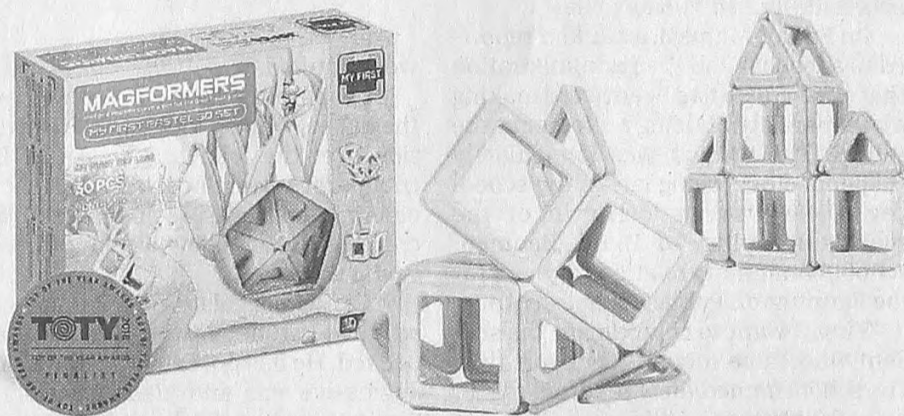


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Maybury Farm offering maple syrup tours

Looking for something fun to do with the family? Ever wondered how delicious maple syrup gets made? Well, look no further. Maybury Farm is again offering maple syrup tours.

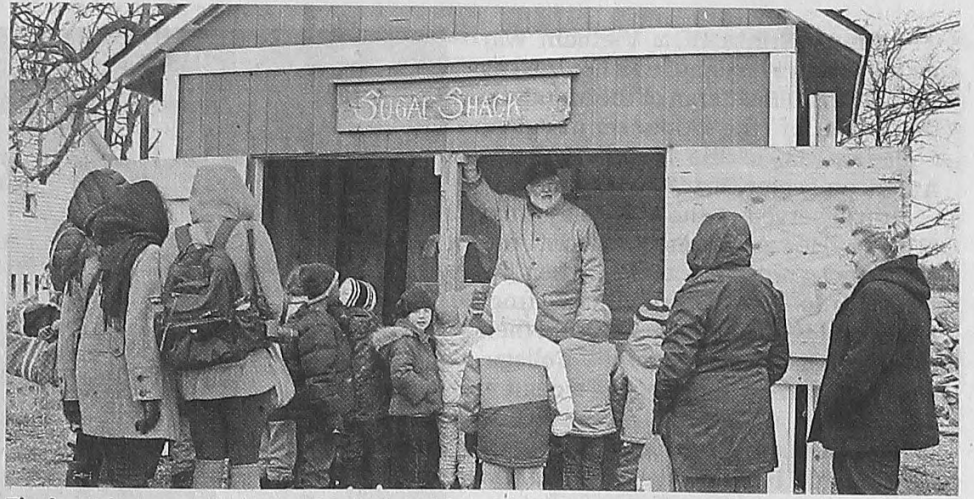
The tour begins with a wagon ride out to the Sugar Shack. Once you arrive, you will head into the woods, where you will learn about the maple tree, how to tap it and then collect the sap. You may even get a chance to taste the sap straight from the tree. The wagon will then take you back to the Sugar Shack, where you will watch and learn how the sap is converted into delicious maple syrup, how syrup is graded and also how to try making maple syrup at home.

Once your tour is finished, you are in-

vited to warm up in the Maybury Farm Welcome Center, where hot drinks and snacks are available to enjoy next to the toasty wood stove. Pure Michigan maple syrup will be available for purchase and free recipes are offered for you to try with your maple syrup at home.

The maple syrup tours are scheduled for 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through March 31. The cost is \$7 per person; children age 2 and under are free. Space is limited, so arrive early to reserve your spot. To schedule a private tour for groups of 15 or more, call 248-374-0200.

Maybury Farm is at 50165 Eight Mile Road in Northville. For more information, go to www.mayburyfarm.org.



Find out how maple syrup is made with a tour at Maybury Farm.

North Farmington student suspended in threat

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A North Farmington Hills High School student may be the latest teen to face a criminal charge over a comment that allegedly threatened his school.

The student was suspended and Farmington Hills police conducted an investigation that resulted in a warrant request being forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. Police declined to identify the student, a juvenile, even by age or gender, although another source described him as male.

On Friday, March 3, a student reported to a teacher and then administration that a classmate had been heard making a comment about being a shooter at the school. The student was immediately suspended but, being late in the school day, there was no lockdown of the school, according to Diane Bauman, school/community relations director for the Farmington Public Schools district.

"First, I want to compliment the student who came forward to report this. The school immediately reported this to us," Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus said. "The student was suspended and the student's parents



Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus said parents and district officials cooperated with the police, who conducted an investigation into a potential threat at North Farmington High School. FILE PHOTO

were notified."

The parents have cooperated with the police, who conducted an investigation over the following weekend. District parents were notified about the incident, which was deemed to not be a credible threat following the police investigation.

"The school liaison officer investigated. The student was arrested and booked. He has no history of any kind of aggressive acts and made no overt attempt to carry out a threat," Nebus said. "We made sure there was no weapon at the home."

The student was subsequently taken for a medical evaluation, although Nebus declined to comment further, citing medical privacy laws. Along with deciding if any charges will be filed against the teen, the prosecutor's office will also determine whether he could be charged as an adult or a juvenile.

"Typically, when we have a complaint about a student, we will pull the student out of class," said John Manier, executive director of student services for FPS. "We will investigate. It is possible that a student would stay out of class while the matter is pending at the

prosecutor's office. Certainly, we always want students to have their rights and protections. We balance that with the seriousness of the event and the safety of all our students and staff."

Since the Valentine's Day shooting at a Florida high school that left 17 dead, several area schools have dealt with threats of school violence, on social media, verbal comments or written on a restroom wall. Criminal charges have been filed against students in South Lyon and Novi.

"Most every school district is dealing with the situation. Our job is to take them very seriously. You have to sort if there is a real threat — that's important for the prosecutor," Nebus said. "I would take every opportunity to remind students to use good judgment and not make these kind of comments thinking they are funny or to get attention."

Nebus added that he would encourage parents to talk with their children about the seriousness of making these kinds of threatening comments, which are illegal and liable for prosecution.

Contact LeAnne Rogers at lroggers@hometownlife.com or 734-883-9039. Follow her on Twitter: @LRogersObserver.

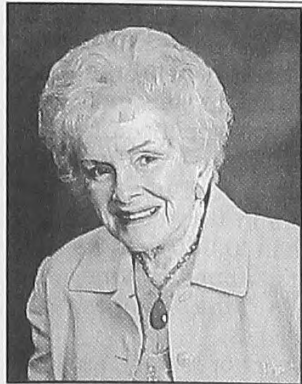
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Obituaries



Peggy Sayed

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Sayed, Margaret Jane "Peggy" (Moore) age 91 died at Sunrise of Bloomfield Hills on March 4, 2018. Beloved wife of Robert (Bob) Kenneth Sayed (deceased). She is survived by two daughters: Ginger Dery (Roger) and Joy Murray (Thomas), and three grandchildren: Meghan Murray, Rachel Dery, and Samuel Murray. A memorial service will take place at First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 16. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund.



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Sicily

Continued from Page 7A

Nearly every surface in the cathedral was covered with intricately-detailed mosaics depicting scenes in rich colors and gold filigree. Our guide said the hundreds of craftsmen who created this incredible artwork sought to relay scenes from the Old and New Testaments, since parishioners were largely illiterate at that time.

We continued southward to Segesta, a region that was home to the ancient Elymians, one of Sicily's indigenous populations. As a reminder of Segesta's ancient Greek heritage, the columns of a beautifully preserved unfinished Doric temple stood proudly at a majestic hill-top location.

Guardino di Costanza, a resort outside the city of Mazara, was our base for the next three days as we visited this city, home to about 3,000 Tunisians who migrated here in the 1950s. We walked through its historic Kasbah quarter and visited a museum built to house the bronze statue of the "Dancing

Satyr," dredged up by area fishermen in 1998 after lying on the seabed for 2,000 years.

The next day, we visited the Museo del Sale, a salt museum that describes the age-old tradition of salt production and refining that characterizes this area. Embarking on a boat ride to Molya Island, settled by Phoenicians some 2,700 years ago, we viewed the remains of their island fortress. Our day concluded with a tasting of the famous wines of the Marsala vineyards.

Our journey continued along Sicily's southern coast to the Valley of Temples, situated outside the city of Agrigento. This is the site of one of the most culturally advanced cities of ancient times, with the stunning archaeological remains of eight Greek temples built between 510 and 430 B.C.E.

Our next stop was Villa Romana del Casale, the extraordinary ruins of a Roman villa, built in the fourth century A.D. as a hunting lodge. It was covered by a landslide in the 12th century, which helped preserve some of the finest examples of Roman mosaics in all of Europe and contributed to its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We journeyed next to Ragusa, one of Sicily's best-preserved old towns. Built on the side of a cliff following an earthquake in 1693 that leveled the original site at the bottom of a gorge, the two sections became one in 1926. Today, a jumble of homes and churches cling to the walls of a steep ravine that once divided the city. The Duomo de San Giorgio dominates the city's piazza.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was a day spent with a Sicilian family on their farm near Ragusa. We participated as they demonstrated some of the culinary traditions that make Sicily famous, including how to make delicious bread from scratch in a wood-fired oven. We concluded our visit by enjoying an authentic Sicilian lunch provided by our gracious hosts.

Nearing the end of our journey, we visited Syracuse, the birthplace of the famed mathematician Archimedes and once one of the most powerful ports of the ancient world. At 2,700 years old, Syracuse boasts a rich and storied history, exemplified by the Temple of Apollo and the Piazza del Duomo, the beautiful pedestrian square that serves as the heart of the city.

Our final stop was the city of Catania, the second largest in Sicily. While there, we visited a World War II museum dedicated to the Allied landing on the southern coast of the island and built on reclaimed land that once housed sulfur factories. From Catania, we took a day trip to Taormina, the home of a Greco-Roman theater that is one of the most highly regarded ancient sites in Sicily.

Our final day was spent touring the northern slope of nearby Mt. Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe and the highest mountain in Italy south of the Alps, at more than 10,000 feet. Its rich volcanic soil brings abundant vineyards and orchards to Etna's slopes and quaint alpine villages.

With 3,000 years of history, ancient ruins, elegant architecture, gastronomic delights and friendly people, Sicily is truly a wonderful place of ancient landscapes and timeless traditions.

Jay Young is a retired Livonia Public Schools district staff member. He and his wife have traveled to several countries and provided insight into those trips. He can be reached at jyoung-mi@comcast.net.



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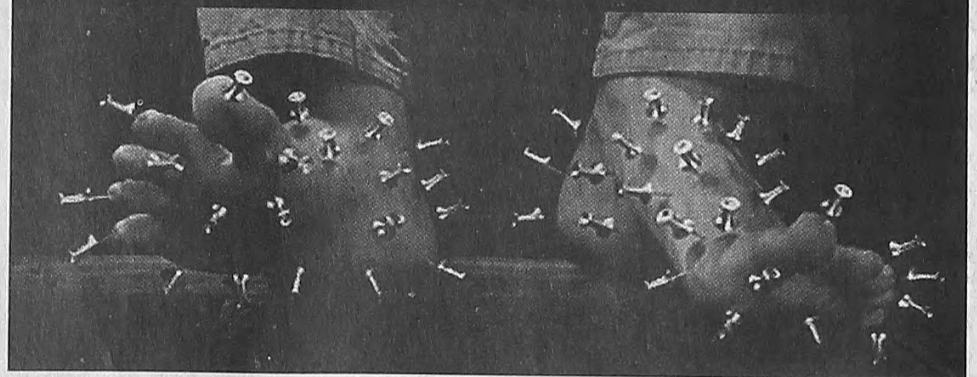
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Facts and fiction concerning long-term annuities



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Q: I'm helping my 80-year-old father with his finances and I have some questions. A number of years ago, my dad purchased a non-IRA annuity. He paid \$100,000 and today it's worth about \$150,000. The annuity matures in another month or so and the agent has been hounding my dad to roll the annuity into a different annuity. He told my dad that, if he cashed out the annuity, he would have to pay taxes on the entire \$150,000. My first question is, is that true? My dad wants to withdraw about \$25,000 a year from the annuity to use that money to help his grandchildren through college. The agent informed my dad that the most he could take out of any annuity would be 10 percent without penalty. My second question is, does my dad have other options? The annuity that

the agent wants my dad to transfer into has a 12-year penalty provision and the penalty starts at a ridiculous 12 percent.

A: In looking at the tax consequences of cashing out the annuity, the agent is plain and simply wrong. Since this annuity is a non-IRA annuity, it means that you have a basis. Your basis is what you originally paid for the annuity. Since your father paid \$100,000 for the annuity, that would be his basis. If he cashed out the annuity in its entirety and received \$150,000, the only amount he'd be subject to tax on would be the \$50,000. The other \$100,000 is his money coming back to him and that is tax-free.

When your agent suggested that the most your dad could pull out of annuity without penalty is 10 percent, again he was wrong. There are many annuities that have no penalty provisions; you could pull out as much as you want on a year-by-year basis. Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard all offer penalty-free annuities. What you dad can do is have the

annuity directly transferred into one of the aforementioned annuities. By doing this, there are no penalties and you are not locking up your money. You can withdraw all or a portion of the annuity whenever you want without penalties. On a year-by-year basis, your dad can withdraw the \$25,000 penalty-free.

The way taxation on annuities work is the first money that comes back to you is the taxable portion. In the situation with your father, the first \$50,000 he receives he would have to pay tax on. After that, the money he withdraws would be tax-free.

I hear this frequently when annuities mature, where agents are trying to re-up people in annuities with crazy penalty provisions. Why should you have to pay penalties to take back your own money? The answer lies in the commission and fees the agents are receiving. Higher penalties and longer penalty provision always go hand-in-hand with high commissions. Annuity owners should know that there are other options.

Companies like Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard all offer commission-free and penalty-free annuities which give investors a great amount of flexibility. In today's world, it is important to have flexibility and that's why it doesn't make sense to lock up money for a long period of time. The only one who benefits by you locking up your money is the agent who is selling you the annuity.

If you get approached by an agent who is selling an annuity, the questions you need to ask are how long are you committing your money for and what are the penalty provisions. Locking up money for anything longer than five or seven years doesn't make sense in this environment. To make sure you have flexibility and use of your money, don't be afraid to say no to the salespeople and always make sure you shop your options around.

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

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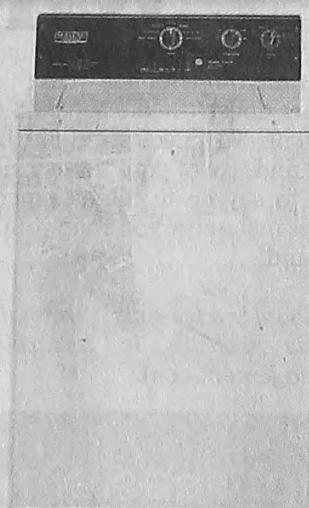


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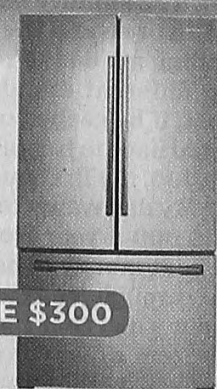
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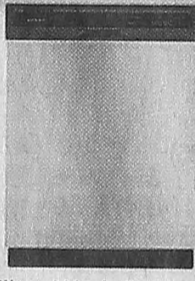
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Sports

BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill flawless in historic win

Chargers post first quarterfinal win in school history

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's boys hockey team was on cloud nine after its triple-OT win March 3 over Allen Park in the Division 3 regional final.

But the Chargers put on their hard hats and put their skates squarely on the ice for the next task at hand — Wednesday's D-3 quarterfinal against Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett

at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

An early 3-0 Churchill lead put the Knights in a hole they couldn't escape, not with the Chargers playing strong and confident in every phase of the game. Senior goalie Chris Sergison also was flawless, stopping all 26 shots as Churchill earned a 4-0 victory.

"Winning in overtime, especially for a regional championship, definitely gives you some momentum coming into

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B



Cutting in on University Liggett goalie Grant Lindsay is Livonia Churchill's Conor Burnette. TOM BEAUDOIN

BOYS HOCKEY



Livonia Stevenson senior goaltender Will Tragge is the picture of calm confidence, even when the action around him is frenetic. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

STANDING TALL

Stevenson's Tragge eyes NAHL-college route after finishing standout prep career

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In this day and age of hockey, the odds are stacked against any "smallish" goalie — under the 6-foot-0 mark, for sure — doing anything big.

But don't underestimate Livonia Stevenson senior Will Tragge, all 5-foot-9 of him. Spartans head coach David Mitchell certainly doesn't.

"He's extremely committed to his

craft, his mental approach to the game," said Mitchell, who considers Tragge the best prep goalie in Michigan this year. "Everything about him is high character. He's going to play hockey for a long, long time."

That certainly is a definite possibility, because Tragge isn't about to take no for an answer — not when his mentor is 5-6 Jeff Lerg, who was a standout at Michigan State University and currently

See TRAGGE, Page 2B

"That's something my parents always instilled in me. ... If you really want to be the best, you got to put in the work."

Will Tragge
Stevenson senior goaltender

PREP GYMNASTICS

Livonia Blue, Farmington land state's top scores

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

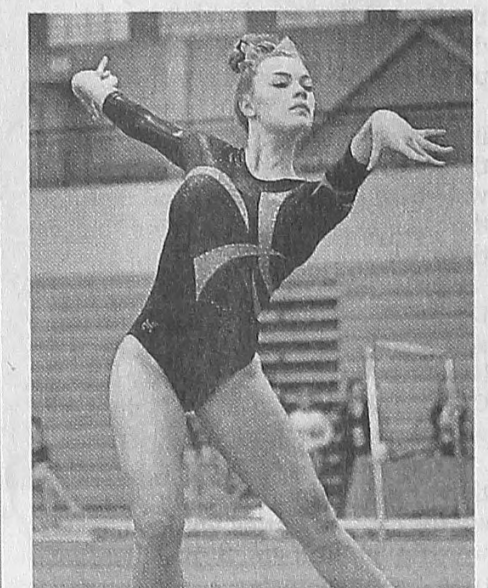
If the regional results are any indication, the 2018 prep gymnastics state championship was most likely to produce some magic moments.

Twelve of the 13 teams that qualified for states registered at least 140 points at the four regional meets held March 3. They assembled to decide a state champion this weekend at Rockford High School with the team finals and individual finals.

The list is topped by the Livonia Blue team, which captured the regional hosted by Canton with a state-high 146.225 points. Farmington Unified won the Walled Lake Central regional with 145.775 points and defending state champion Rockford posted the third-best score of 145.6 in winning the Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills regional.

The next two highest regional scores were registered by Plymouth (143.95), which placed second to Farmington Unified at Walled Lake Central, and Linden (143.575), which won the Grand Ledge regional.

See GYMNASTICS, Page 3B



Regional all-around champion Anissa Conway of Livonia Blue performs a floor exercise routine. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



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Tragge

Continued from Page 1B

plays in a European pro league.

"I've been working with him since I was little," Tragge, 17, said about Lerg. "He's been a great mentor for me. He always preaches (staying calm between the pipes). He's still playing, he's over in France, but I work with him in the spring and summer.

"He works through Future Pro Goalie School, so when I was little, my parents were looking for a goalie school for me to go to and they found him. My parents (John and Richelle) are both Michigan State grads and he is, obviously, a Spartan legend. They saw him, signed me up and the rest is history."

What a year

Tragge is putting the finishing touches on a special senior season. Entering Tuesday night's Division 2 quarterfinal at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor, he was 20-5 with a 1.80 goals-against average and .925 save percentage. (The Spartans lost 3-1 to Trenton in that game.)

Moreover, he is the frontrunner in State Champs Sports Network's Player of the Year polling and likely will find himself on the all-state team.

For all of the kudos, Tragge maintains an even-keel approach, whether in the heat of battle (such as last week's epic 3-2 win over Plymouth in a D-2 pre-regional) or literally going the extra mile for his team.

A hard shot broke his goalie mask during a practice March 2, so he drove over to Perani's Hockey World in Livonia to have a couple of screws installed.

"After this, I have to go over to Holmes Middle School for team yoga," he said with a smile. "That's really good for goalies, it helps with flexibility."

It's not about him

Also crucial for goaltending success is staying humble.

He shook his head when asked about the likely State Champs award, deflecting any accolades to his teammates and coaches.

"I was pretty surprised when I saw I



Long hours training and practicing enable Livonia Stevenson's Will Tragge to make the toughest saves look easy, such as this one against Plymouth in the recent Division 2 pre-regional. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

was nominated," Tragge said. "But huge credit to my teammates, this is such a team award, honestly. I can't have this success that I do without them diving around, blocking shots and back-checking hard. All the little things they do in the 'D' zone to help me.

"Also credit to the coaches, they push me every day. I think it was the best decision of my life to come play for Stevenson. Every little thing, they're always on you in practice. It's helped me become a way better goalie."

Tragge also makes sure to work hard

behind the scenes.

"That's something my parents always instilled in me, is to work hard when nobody's watching, because if you don't, someone else will," Tragge said. "If you really want to be the best, you got to put in the work."

He'll do extra stretching with foam rollers and work with resistance bands before going to bed, for example. He does private lessons with Lerg and (Stevenson goalie coach) Eric Schardt. He watches what other goalies do and don't do and applies that information to his game.

"Doing all that extra work when we don't have practice, just getting all those reps, it builds confidence to know you can trust your instincts," he said.

All mapped out

How far can his dedication and skill carry him? He hopes to find a spot on the roster of junior hockey team after graduating from Stevenson. From there, if all goes well, he'll play college hockey.

"I'm looking toward junior hockey first and then we'll go from there," Tragge said. "Hopefully, the NAHL, the North American Hockey League. But there's a lot of other leagues that are good, in Canada and the U.S.

"It's probably one or two years and then, hopefully, get a college scholarship."

That's not such a tall task, even for a 5-9 guy. He smiled again and listed a few other high school goalies who went the NAHL-college route.

He cited John Lethemon, a goalie at Farmington High School, who now is at Michigan State after two years with the Chicago Steel of the United States Hockey League (a Tier I junior league; the NAHL is Tier II).

Former Chelsea goalie Derek Schaedig played in the NAHL and has committed to Harvard.

"(Brighton's) Logan Neaton's in the NAHL with Fairbanks; there's a long list of goalies," Tragge said.

And there's no reason why Tragge's name can't be the next one on that list.

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

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

the game," Sergison said. "But we knew we had to start fresh this one. We started off great, put three goals in the first period and shut them down after that.

"We killed the seven minutes (of penalties) in the second period — we have the best penalty kills I've ever played with — and then we ran our systems perfectly and shut them down."

Quick start

Churchill coach Jason Reynolds, whose team became the first in school history to qualify for the state semifinals, said getting the early lead helped lift any possible nervousness.

"We wanted to make sure we were assertive in the offensive zone right out of the chute," Reynolds said. "I thought we did a really nice job of matching their pace and their energy right away.

"Obviously, we got a couple of goals in the first period to kind of get them on their heels. And from that point on, it was match shift by shift and maintain the energy throughout. The biggest thing was consistency."

Senior forward Josh Friend got the Chargers off and running when he scored at 2:54, snapping a shot from the left circle past Liggett freshman goalie Grant Lindsay. Drawing the lone assist was senior Carter Swider.

"We knew Liggett's a strong team, they have speed," said Friend, who shares captain duties with senior forward Conor Burnette. "I got a rush, got a pass from my defense and I skated down the ice. I was looking for a backdoor pass, but I saw the bottom corner open and I just had to shoot it.

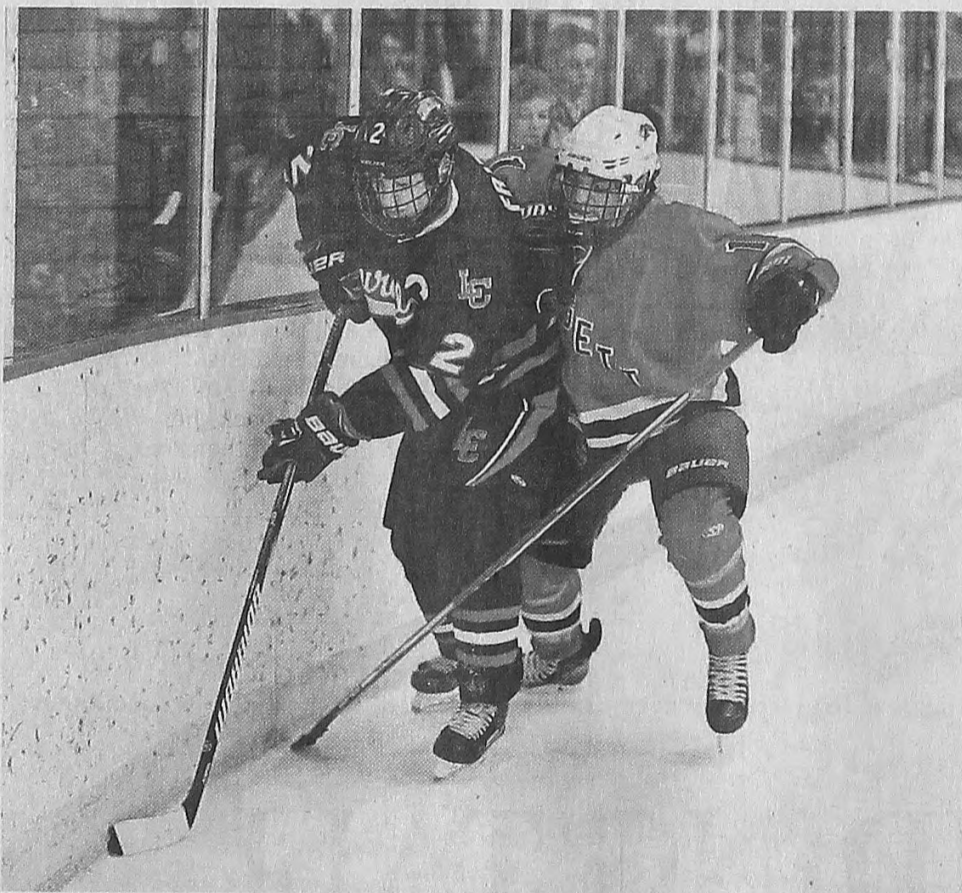
"Our team was very hyped up after the first goal. We built off that, keep going, kept grinding."

Reaching a goal

Friend smiled about the postgame celebrations, both on the ice and in the locker room. Churchill was scheduled to play a D-3 semifinal Friday against Riverview Gabriel Richard.

"We just got pretty excited with our athletic director (Marc Hagé), had a good talk with him, celebrating," Friend said. "Everybody's bought in from seniors to freshmen. We know what we want to do and we're going to go get it this year."

The Chargers (15-11-3) parlayed some



Battling along the boards are Livonia Churchill's Josh Friend (left) and University Liggett's Spencer Warezak. TOM BEAUDOIN

good fortune into a 3-0 lead after one period.

Sophomore forward Cam Greener tapped a loose puck into a wide-open net (assisted by senior defenseman Seth Kucharczyk) with 3:55 left, then a harmless-looking wrist shot by Peterson bounced in off a Knights defenseman just 70 seconds later.

PK perfection

Despite the three-goal cushion, the game was far from decided. Liggett (21-7) had the edge in scoring chances in the second period, thanks to extended time (seven minutes, including a major) on the power play.

To the Knights' chagrin, they couldn't get one past Sergison.

"We had some opportunities, we had a five-minute power play," Liggett coach Mike Maltese said. "A few rebounds bounced out to the wrong guys. A couple posts here and there.

"(The Chargers) did a pretty good job of clearing guys out in front of the net and just letting their goalie see the puck and clearing out those second-chance rebounds. They're a pretty fast team and a pretty aggressive and gritty team, in my book."

Reynolds credited penalty killers Friend, Greener, senior forward Adam Sinclair and junior forward Zach Venditelli for doing "a tremendous job tonight ... tenacious foursome there."

When Sergison needed to be ready, he was. With the major penalty expiring, he put an exclamation point on the PK when he flashed a pad to stop a slap shot by sophomore Tristan Reilly.

"Coming out of that regional championship game, I think (Sergison) was thinking about a couple of those goals that went in in that game," Reynolds said. "That was a tough battle. Even this game, he wanted to come back and really step up and earn a little redemption. He stood on his head tonight."

Churchill played smart and steady throughout the third period and Kucharczyk scored an empty-netter with just 2.7 seconds to go.

Following are several takeaways:

FAB FIVE

Reynolds listed Sergison, Friend, Burnette, Kucharczyk and defenseman Willis Wuebben as five players who started with the program as ninth-graders and have grown into strong senior contributors to a team now in the final four.

"They were the five original freshmen and they've all come into their own," Reynolds said. "They're really leading the way with this program."

Friend also talked about the transformation since 2014-15.

"We've had a pretty strong core group," Friend said. "Some of them didn't really get playing time freshman year, but they played some good roles on the team, battled through it and stayed all the way through to senior year."

THEY'RE THE FIRST

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, Sergison skated over to the Churchill student section along the glass. He was followed by a stream of teammates, who mobbed him and each other while celebrating along with the fans.

"It's great. We're the first team from Churchill to ever make it to USA Arena and we had a lot of great teams before us, but we're the first," Sergison said. "It's part of school history now."

MEMORY BANK

Reynolds said he talked to the team before the game about remembering to go hard for 51 minutes and, hopefully, succeed where it came up short in 2017 — when the Chargers coughed up a lead late in the third period of a quarterfinal against Saline and lost in double overtime.

"The one thing I did tell these guys is they shouldn't discount their previous experience in the quarterfinals," Reynolds said. "They knew they had to stay composed. They knew it was going to take the entire 17 minutes of each period in order to finish the job. And that's what it came down to last year, (when) we let that lead slip away."

He had no such worries this time around, as the Chargers played a flawless third period.

CAN'T BUY ONE

Maltese lamented that his team couldn't break the ice against Sergison and perhaps go on a much-needed offensive binge. The team has a tendency to score goals in bunches, he noted.

"In the regional final game, we scored goal after goal in the third period," Maltese said. "I just reminded them that it's the same type of scenario.

"We were just waiting for that first one to trickle in and then we'd, hopefully, pump in a couple more. But it just wasn't in the cards tonight."

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PREP WRESTLING

Mars rockets to third state crown

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Spearheaded by the incomparable Mikey Mars, Westland John Glenn went 5-for-5 March 3 at Ford Field in Detroit.

All five Rockets who competed in the Division 1 individual wrestling state finals were able to step up onto the podium for placing in the top eight — with senior Mars running the table at 125 to finish a 55-0 season and his third individual title. Another area school, Livonia Franklin, also had a successful day with two state placers.

Mars defeated Hartland junior Kantola in the championship bout, 5-1. Earlier that day, he pinned Damien Ballan (Traverse City West) and Anthonie Taylor (Grandville) and earned an 11-0 major decision over Brighton's Zach Johnson.

"It's really determination, doing what it takes every day, never take any days off," Mars said. "Always going to the gym and the practice room when other kids aren't. Doing what you do when other people aren't looking is what makes you a champ."

"I feel I wrestled really good this year and I reached my accomplishments."

John Glenn coach Bill Polk, who was named Division 1 Coach of the Year, marveled at the way Mars (218-8 career record) bowled over every obstacle in his path all season and at Ford Field.

"Mikey is my first undefeated state champion and that's saying a lot," Polk said. "I tried to wrestle him up and challenge him for the task of achieving this all year. He was put against the best and defeated them all. He deserves every bit of his undefeated state title."

"I am so proud and thankful to have him as a Rocket. He's a outstanding young man that has worked tirelessly to achieve his goal. He did it and now will be on to bigger things at the University of Michigan."

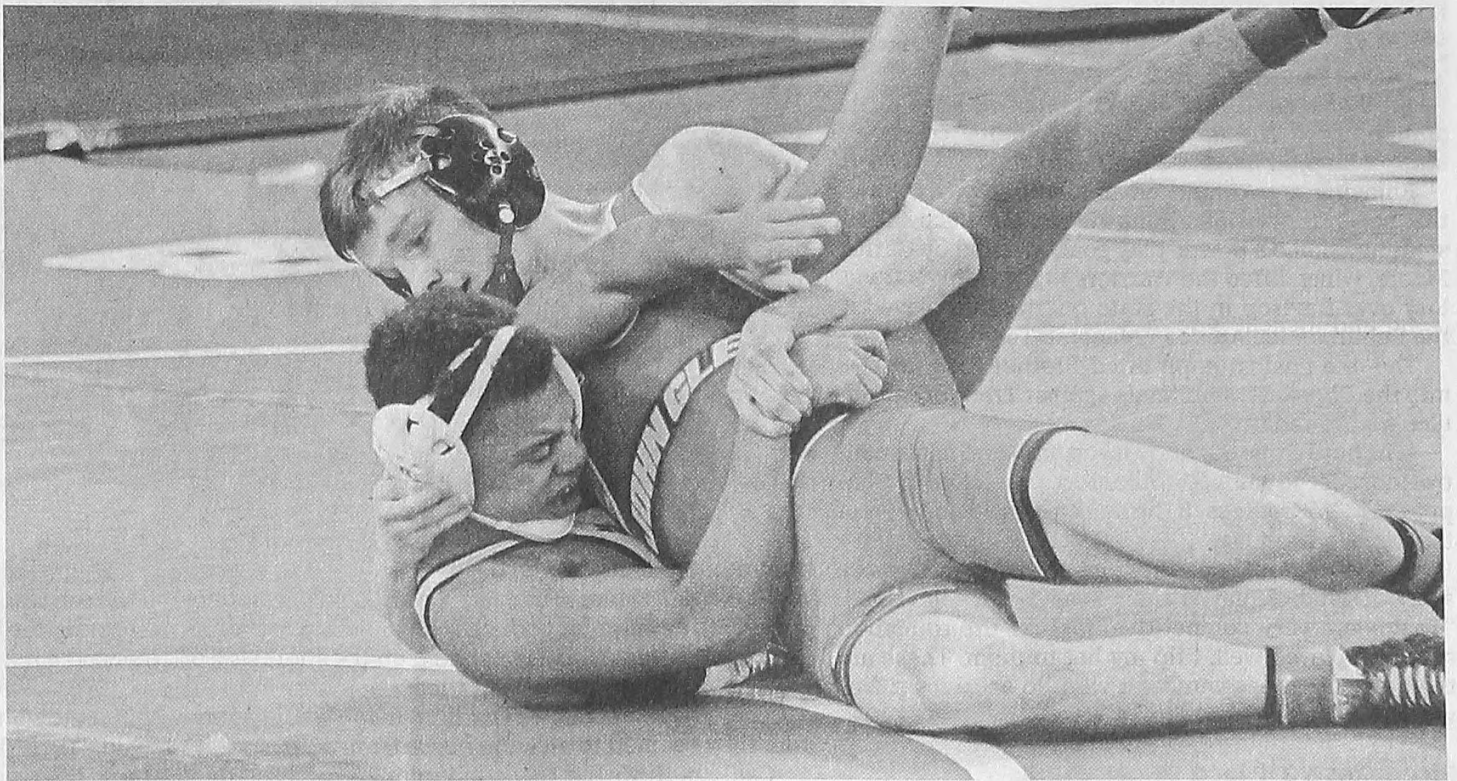
The Rockets came within an eyelash — a move here or there, really — of crowning two individual champions. Senior Anthony Gibson (51-5) lost in the 140 championship match against Walled Lake Central's Nick Freeman, 2-0.

It was the second runner-up finish for Gibson, who surpassed 160 career wins.

"Anthony is a coach's dream," Polk said. "He would take on anyone when asked to, with no hesitation. You knew, actually, what you were getting when he stepped on the mat, six minutes of non-stop action."

Another two-time state placer was John Glenn senior Isaac Lefler, fifth place in the 130-pound weight class. Lefler finished 50-8 for the season and also hit the 160-win mark for his career.

"Isaac completed the most impressive trio I've ever coached," Polk said re-



Westland Glenn's Miley Mars gets ready to pin Grandville's Anthonie Taylor during the 125-pound quarterfinals. TOM LANG

ferring to Mars, Gibson and Lefler. "Isaac was a gamer. He stepped it up against the best competition and won nine of 10 times."

Finishing fourth at 119 was Rockets junior Caleb Meekins, who closed out a 50-10 season. His 9-8 decision against Hartland's Corey Cavanaugh moved him into the third-place bout.

"(Meekins) keeps the same attitude every time he stepped on the mat, he is in the circle to win and expects to," Polk said. "We can't wait to see his quest to be the next state champion at John Glenn."

The Rockets' fifth participant was the coach's nephew, junior Brenten Polk (41-17). He finished eighth at 145, but has potential to climb to a higher podium step next season.

"He strived to take the next step this season and become one of the best on our team," coach Polk said. "He performed great down the stretch and had a good run to the podium. Now he needs to get to the top."

About his own award, Polk said he is "glad my peers realize and respect the work that my staff and I put in to be successful. It's an honor to be selected for such an award."

Two Patriots place

Livonia Franklin also had a very successful showing at Ford Field, with two state placers and two others who narrowly missed the cut.

Finishing fifth at 215 was senior Manee Willee (43-5), while sophomore heavyweight Jake Swirple (49-10) came in eighth place.

"Manee has been very consistent all

year," Patriots coach David Chiola said. "His biggest problem is he really didn't see much tough competition until the postseason."

"He had a legitimate shot to win it; he just came up short. His matches were all close and, when you wrestle like that, it only takes one mistake."

Willee, who went 3-2 for the day, earned a 4-2 win over Jenison's Mitch Hawkes in the bout for fifth place.

Swirple really held his own during the postseason, emerging from what Chiola described as a "stacked region," defeating the No. 2-ranked wrestler to qualify for states.

"Once he was there, he saw three regional champs and wrestled great against of them," Chiola said. "Finishing eighth at that tough of a weight, as a sophomore, is an incredible accomplishment."

Chiola said Swirple won his blood round match despite a dislocated shoulder to become the second Franklin sophomore to place. The first: Nathan Ateanza.

Two other Franklin state qualifiers, senior Johnny DiPonio and junior Russell Rusnell, lost in the blood round, coming close to having a crack at the podium.

DiPonio, who wrestled at 135, finished the season 46-9; Rusnell, in the 112 weight class, ended with a 47-9 mark.

"It was interesting because a huge percentage of my team was on the the football team," Chiola said, referring to the Division 2 finalists. "So when they played at Ford Field, I told them, 'Hopefully, you'll be back here in a few months.' Three of them were able to

manage that."

Others excel

■ Plymouth senior Tyler Campbell finished ninth at 112 and ended the year with a 46-12 record.

Wildcats coach Patrick Durocher said Campbell fell one short of placing in the top eight.

"Tyler has been a guy we looked to match after match to get a win," Durocher said. "He was successful in doing so for the team all year long. He showed great leadership on a very young team."

"This weekend at the state meet, he did everything right. He went out, wrestled his hardest and it showed. He had a tough route to place and he made the most of it."

■ Salem junior JaQuan Baker did not reach the Ford Field podium, going 1-2. But he completed a 42-17 season and could be one to watch next season.

"He lost to the runner-up River Shetler (Hartland) by fall and then lost to Reece Potter (Hartland) 12-2 in the blood round," Salem coach Jeremy Henderson said. "He has come a long way this year. To win a match at states after only been wrestling a little over a year is incredible."

■ North Farmington 130-pounder Scott Hampton (28-12) dropped both of his match-ups.

Tom Lang contributed to this report.

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Gymnastics

Continued from Page 1B

Salem (141.975), Northville (141.85), Brighton and Howell (141.425), Huron Valley United (141.375), Jackson Lumen Christi (140.325), Forest Hills (140.15) and Lowell (138.725) completed the 13-team state-qualifying field.

"As a team, we try each year to put us in a position to do well at states. We have reached that goal," said veteran Farmington Unified coach Jeff Dwyer, whose team hit a season-high at the regional. "It hasn't been an easy goal as there are four or five teams that are scoring in the same range. We have played those teams tough each time we have faced them."

"It has been very close at some of the invites that we have won and it was close when we lost to Rockford at their invite. I do know that this team will put up a good fight each and every meet. That is what we need to do at states."

"We need to go hard and take care of what we can do and not worry about other teams, then see where we are standing at the end of the meet," he added. "That is all I can ask for as a coach. Nothing is guaranteed in any sport at this level."

Following is a brief recap of the Canton and Walled Lake Central regionals.

W.L. Central

Farmington Unified, behind a tremendous showing from Elisa Bills, captured its sixth straight regional championship.

Bills, returning to action after a month off because of a knee injury, won the Division 2 all-around title with a



Livonia Blue celebrates after winning the gymnastics regional held at Plymouth High School. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

score of 36.9, while teammate Kacey Noseworthy was second with 36.775.

Bills, the defending Division 2 all-around state champion, won the vault and uneven bars competition. Noseworthy won the balance beam and floor exercise disciplines.

Farmington, in fact, took five of the top six all-around spots. Ava Farquhar was fourth with 35.325 points, followed by teammates Allison Schultz (35.25) and Sydney Schultz (35.15).

Shelby Smith (floor exercise, uneven bars) and Emily Stecevic (floor exercise) are Farmington Unified's other state qualifiers.

The only non-Farmington gymnast to break into the top six Division 2 all-around was Huron Valley's Nicole Graham, who placed third with 35.75. Graham was second on the beam, fifth on floor exercise and eighth in both the

vault and bars.

Huron Valley's other state meet competitors include Rachel Palaian (fifth all-around Division 1), Laura Nowicki (sixth on floor), Erin Murphy (sixth on bars, seventh on beam) and Lauren Graham (fifth on bars and beam).

Northville, competing in a new regional, was led by senior Erin McCallum, who was third all-around, and junior Mackenzie Willson, who was fourth all-around in Division 1. Maddy Lewis (bars), Lora Haupt (vault) and Grace Jankowski (vault) are the Mustangs' individual state-meet qualifiers.

Canton

In this very competitive regional, Livonia Blue achieved the state's highest score to win by nearly three points over runner-up Plymouth. Salem was the

third and final team qualifier.

Blue's Anissa Conway was the Division 1 all-around champion with a score of 36.575. She was second in floor exercise (9.6) and fourth in both the vault (9.175) and uneven bars (8.90).

The Division 1 individual winners were Livonia Blue's Natalie Irvine off the vault (9.35) and Makenna Fedrigo on the uneven bars (9.15) and Plymouth's Paige Sanders on the balance beam (9.55) and floor exercise (9.8).

In Division 2, the individual winners were Tecumseh's Alaina Carr off the vault (9.075) and Carilee Swan on floor exercise (8.3), Canton's Rachel Socha on the balance beam (9.445) and Saline's Lisa Heidler on the uneven bars (8.5).

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rice needs double OT to take down Davison

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Brother Rice's hockey team remained alive in the state tourney Tuesday, but the defending Division 2 state champion needed overtime to do it.

Enjoying a two-man advantage halfway through the second overtime, junior forward Luke Kafati slammed home a power-play goal, assisted by Garrett Moore, which lifted the Warriors to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Davison in the state quarterfinal played at the Suburban Ice Arena in Macomb Township.

The one-goal triumph lifted Brother Rice (16-12-1) into the Division 2 semifinals against Trenton, scheduled for Thursday.

"The boys came out and played hard and felt in control most of the game," Brother Rice coach Kenny Chapat said. "We possessed the puck a lot and had a lot of territorial advantage.

"But when you get in these games, you're a bounce away. (Davison) played their hearts out," he added. "They were very competitive, fast on the transition and they played well. I tip my hat to them. These are the types of games you don't want to see a loser, but we'll take the win, for sure."

Rice takes a 2-0 lead

Brother Rice started fast against the Cardinals by scoring the game's first two goals on shots by sophomore forward Nick Marone.

Marone's first goal, five minutes into the opening period, was a nice deflection of a shot from the point by defenseman Dominick DiPonio that slipped past Davison goalie Noah Hall.

Marone struck again three minutes into the second period on a strong wrist shot from 15 feet out that beat Hall high to the glove side. He was assisted by linemates Moore and Keaton Vogel.

The Warriors were outshooting the Cardinals at



Brother Rice's Alex Andoni (right) moves the puck out of the corner with Davison's Jake McCatty and Alex Wood giving chase. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

that point and seemed to be in control.

However, things changed when Davison sophomore Jeffrey Schmidt pounced on a rebound in the slot and put the puck into the net high on the short side of Rice goalie Pierce Cadieux at the 12:49 mark.

They were the first two Cardinals shots of the period and they seemed to give the home team a lift.

Cadieux thwarted Davison junior Gage Thrall on a shot late in the period, but Thrall chased the puck into the corner and passed it out to teammate Dylan McMullen who put in a shot high on the glove side to tie the game at 2-2 with 2:13 left.

Brother Rice enjoyed a 10-3 shot advantage in the third period, but neither team scored to force the overtime. Davison had a man-advantage in the third, but did not produce a shot.

Kafati causes a celebration

In the first overtime, Brother Rice was called for a penalty, but again Davison did not get any shots.

Then, halfway through the the second overtime, Davison went down two men for 30 seconds. It took 20 seconds for Kafati to put in the game-winner which, caused a massive celebration along the boards.

"We wanted to get the puck high and stretch them out a little bit and then try to work it down in," Chapat said. "Right before that Ethan (Nystrom) made a nice back-door pass to Luke, who hit it wide. And from where I was at, it looked like (Luke) was at a tough angle (on the winner), but the goalie was out a little bit.

"We did what we wanted to do, which was pull it out and then get it going to the net," he added. "We needed shots. We needed to get it down there."

Davison, winner of the Saginaw Valley League, finished with a 22-4-2 record. It marked the Cardinals' first quarterfinal appearance in "at least 10 years," according to coach Doug Towler.

"You can't take two penalties and play two-and-a-half lines and think you're going to handle that. That's tough," Towler said. "But it was what it was. The kids played hard and gave absolutely everything they had. I have nothing but good things to say about them.

"I thought we moved the puck off the face-off pretty well and we were able to create pretty well coming out of the zone, especially when we won the draw. One of the things we didn't do as well as I wanted was take the body in the neutral zone. We wanted them to go east and west rather than allow them to go north and south.

"We knew they had speed and we knew they had depth. Sometimes, you just have to take them out of their element a bit," he added. "We didn't do that as well as I had hoped, but listen, you have to give them credit, too."

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BOYS HOCKEY

Trenton stops Stevenson's quest for title

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Will Tragge's best Superman act could only carry Livonia Stevenson so far Tuesday.

Trenton forwards were stymied by the Spartans senior goalie time and time again on glorious scoring chances — including a pair of breakaways.

And then the Trojans found a way to score a goal and break Stevenson's collective heart, ultimately winning the Division 2 state quarterfinal 3-1 at Yost Ice Arena in Ann Arbor.

"It was deflected in front of me; it might have hit a stick," Tragge said, standing outside the quiet Stevenson locker room. "But credit to them, it was a good game by them. They deserved to win."

That goal was scored by senior forward Patrick Bazner with 3:56 to go, snapping a 1-1 tie.

The Spartans (23-6, No. 1 in D-2) then tried frantically to force overtime, but with Tragge pulled for an extra attacker, they were called for a penalty. Trenton junior forward Nolan Szczepaniak, who was robbed several times by Tragge, then skated the puck down the ice and took a full wind-up before ripping the puck into the empty net with 31.7 seconds to go.

"I missed a couple chances," Szczepaniak said. "(Tragge) was on his head the entire game. I've got to give the kid props. I'm just speechless right now, it was a great game."

Stevenson coach David Mitchell tipped his cap to the Trojans, but wondered out loud whether the outcome might have been different had two top seniors (defenseman Kevin Stefanick and forward Julian Decina) not been out



Trenton's Richard Boulware tries to stop on-rushing Livonia Stevenson forward Brenden Preiss from getting to goalie Joey Cormier. TOM BEAUDOIN

of the lineup due to injuries.

"We thought we were in a good spot, 1-1 going into the third, with Will Tragge back there," Mitchell said. "But let's be honest, we had two of our top guys out with Kevin Stefanick and Julian Decina."

Confidence boost

The Trojans (19-8-2) got an important early lead against the Spartans, on a one-timer by junior Sean Stanley with 7:30 to go in the first.

"I think that just gave our kids confidence that we can skate with this team," Trenton coach Chad Clements said. "You're playing the No. 1 team in the state, everyone's telling you you're going to lose. And again, they're one of the most talented teams in the state. The odds were against us and to score first was big for our confidence."

Tragge (22 saves) had some help from a goal post later in the period, but then he showed the skills that have him in the lead for the coveted State Champs Sports Network Player of the Year.

Wave after wave of Trojans came in his direction, with quality scoring chances to boot.

But Tragge was ready with a series of sprawling stops, not to mention staring down and stopping breakaways — including one by Brandon Clark with just two seconds left in the middle period.

Meanwhile, the Spartans were able to finally get on the scoreboard at 11:51 of

the second to even things up at 1-1. Senior Vinny Decina's cross-crease feed was one-timed home by senior Brenden Preiss, stationed to the left of Trenton goalie Joey Cormier (29 saves).

Following are other takeaways:

YOST-ED

The game at legendary Yost Ice Arena, the home of the Michigan Wolverines, was quite the backdrop for two high school teams.

Towering high above center ice was a state-of-the-art scoreboard with huge team logos displayed in full color. And then there were the college-like fan chants going back and forth between Trenton and Stevenson fans.

"Let's go Trojans!" followed by "Let's go Stevenson!"

Tragge said playing at Yost was "so cool, it's so historic here. So many legendary players have played here, so to get a chance to play here is really sweet."

"I think we all got here and were kind of awe-inspired, but we got over that," Preiss said. "It's definitely fun playing here. It's different, it's where everybody dreams about playing."

FEELING SOME JITTERS

Stevenson seemed to be on the nervous side, at least in the first period. Two players collided in the Spartans' zone during a power play and that led to a tripping call that evened the sides up.

A Stevenson player bobbled the puck at Trenton's blue line and the Trojans' Nikolas Moody broke in on Tragge, only to hit the crossbar. That good fortune for the Spartans kept the game 1-0 at that point.

The Clark breakaway late in the second period also followed a Stevenson giveaway.

"We weren't as clean as we would like to be," Mitchell said. "We talked about playing clean and playing structured. But again, the opponent has something to do with that. You play a team like Trenton, they tend to put a little more pressure on you."

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

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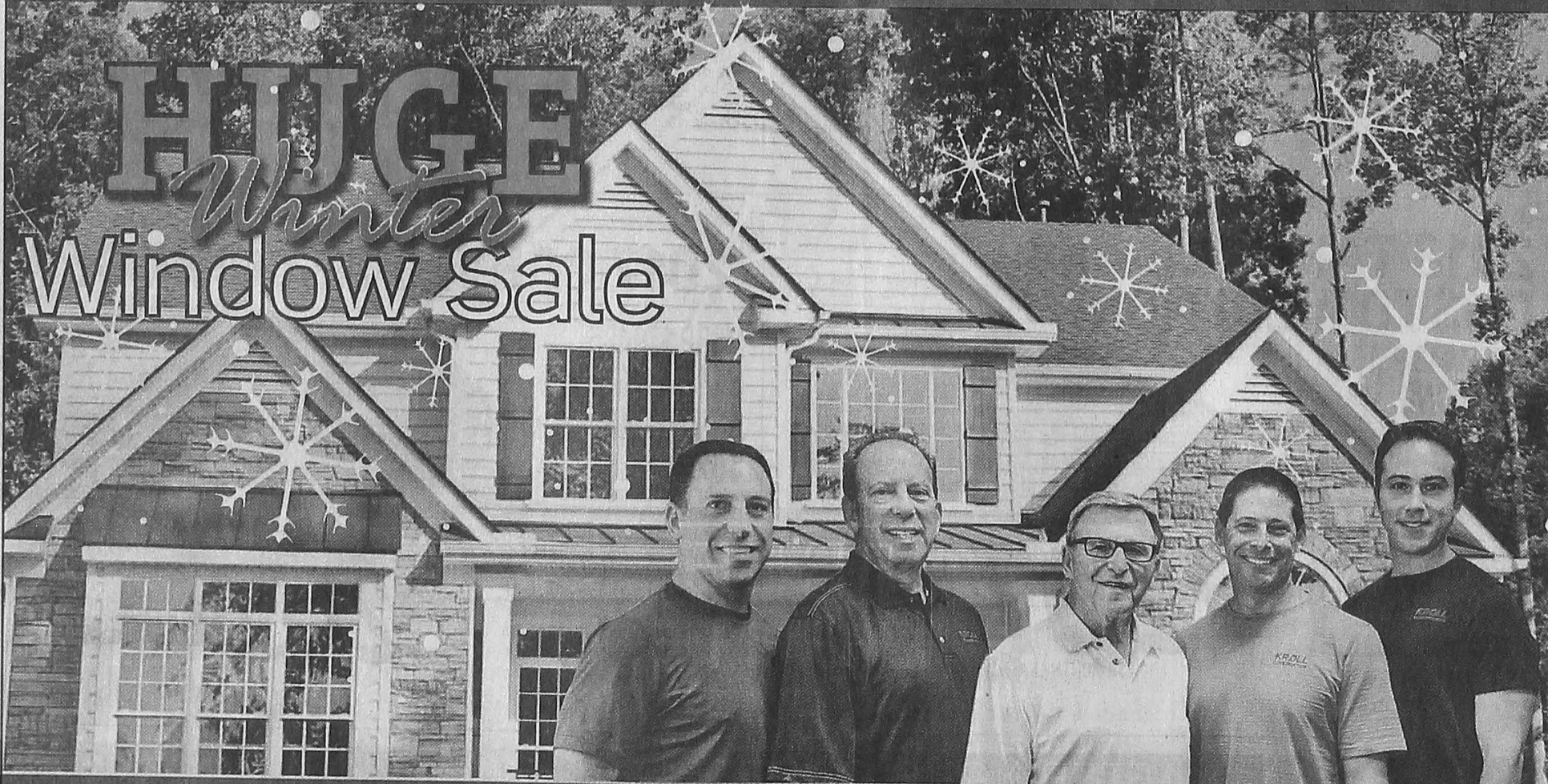
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Country Day goaltender wins latest online voting

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A pair of hockey players battled it out for Athlete of the Week honors for the week ending March 4.

Detroit Country Day's Sam Evola and Livonia Churchill's Zach Vendittelli — both juniors — were two of six people up for the weekly honor. Evola finished as the winner with 5,718 votes. Vendittelli was not far behind with 4,177. The next highest finisher was Plymouth Christian girls basketball player Robin Albert, with 3,526.

"I was on Twitter and received a notification about Athlete of the Week," Evola said. "You like to see your hard work pay off in the form of an award like this, so that's always nice."

What he did: Evola helped lead Detroit Country Day's hockey team to the Division 3 regional championship March 3 with a 2-0 shutout of No. 2-ranked Flint Powers Catholic.

Evola made 27 saves in what was a one-goal game until the Yellowjackets deposited an empty-netter to ice their third consecutive regional crown. It was Evola's eighth shutout of the season.

The coach's perspective: Evola is in his second year as a varsity goalie for Detroit Country Day coach Frank Novock. He was a part-time player last

year, but assumed a full-time role this season and has responded splendidly.

Evola owns a sizzling .953 save percentage. He helped lift DCD into the Division 3 state semifinals as the winning goalie in a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory Wednesday over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Michigan State University's Munn Arena.

"Sam's goaltending stats are amazing and speak for themselves," Novock said. "He has been a big part of our team's success, without a doubt, but I think the most important facet about Sam is how consistent he has been in making every save that he is supposed to. I feel that's what coaches expect from their goalies, to give their team a chance to win every night and he has exceeded those expectations."

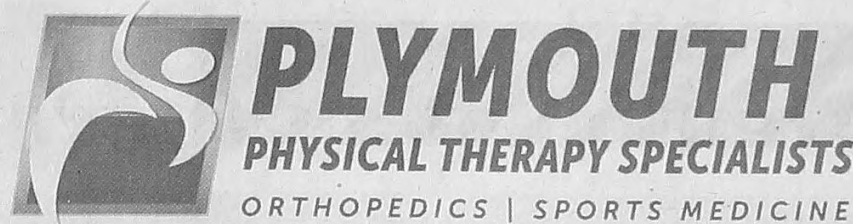
His story: Evola, who lives in Shelby Township, began his hockey career as a skater and switched to goalie "about six years ago." He started his junior career with the Rochester Rattlers and then moved on to the USA Eagles organization, which plays out of the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills. Evola won a national championship with them two years ago.

He did not play high school hockey as a freshman, but joined the team as a sophomore and is enjoying the team's terrific postseason run.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.



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SAM EVOLA

JUNIOR ICE HOCKEY DETROIT COUNTRY DAY

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Evola made 27 saves in what was a one-goal game until the Yellowjackets deposited an empty netter to ice their third consecutive regional crown. It was Evola's eighth shutout of the season.

"This is the greatest I've ever played in my life and I'd like to thank my teammates for pushing me in practice every day and helping to make me a better goalie," Evola said. "A lot of our success this year is through hard

work. Right off the bat this year we knew we had a great team with great potential."

THE COACH'S PERSPECTIVE: Evola is in his second year as a varsity goalie for Detroit Country Day head coach Frank Novock. He was a part-time player last year, but assumed a full-time role this season and has responded splendidly.

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SAM'S STORY: Evola, who lives in Shelby Township, began his hockey career as a skater and switched to goalie about six years ago. He started his junior career with the Rochester Rattlers and then moved on to the USA Eagles organization which play out of the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills and won a national championship with them two years ago.

He did not play high school hockey as a freshman, but joined the team as a sophomore and is enjoying the team's terrific postseason run.

"I couldn't tell you the last time Country Day hockey has made it to the semis," said Evola. "The past two years we've gotten knocked out in the quarters, but this is our year because we got through the quarters. It's a great feeling getting to the semifinals and obviously we're not done yet."



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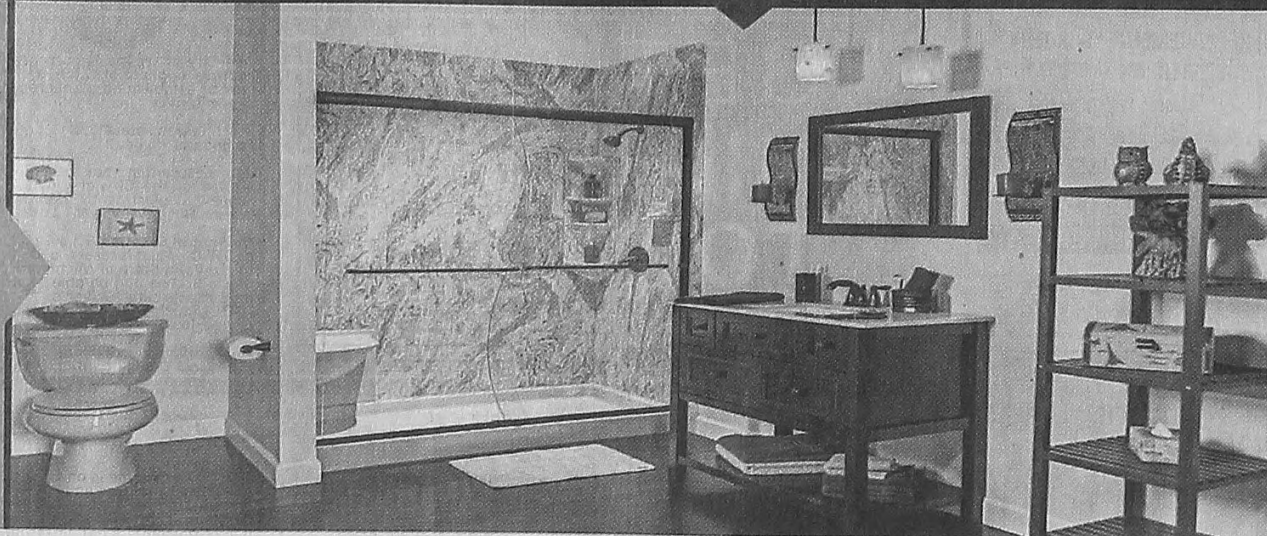
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Signs your co-worker might be toxic

BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

There's nothing quite as stressful as a toxic co-worker — and if you've been a victim of one you know precisely how difficult a situation he or she can create. They can be toxic for a variety of reasons, from a negative energy that they give off to a detrimental effect they have on your team. The effects can be wide ranging, from making your work environment uncomfortable to seriously impacting productivity.

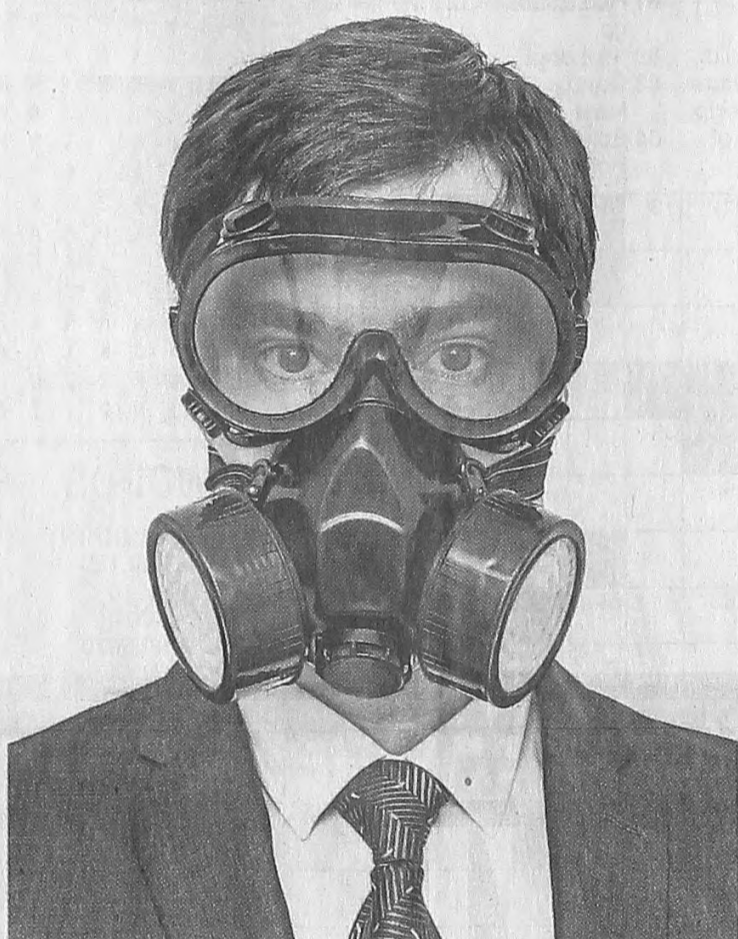
Inc. recently published an article that covers eight signs you should look for to determine if your colleague is toxic. Use this information to help you navigate this tricky situation:

1. They're "secret" know-it-alls.

Do you work with someone who's perfectly pleasant and agreeable — even a team player — when the boss is paying attention but quickly reverts to an annoying know-it-all who won't allow room for any opinions but their own? This sort of toxic co-worker can be impossible to work with collaboratively.

2. They act as if they've already paid their dues.

Most of us have experience



GETTY IMAGES

with this kind of person: They think that the sheer fact that they've been at the workplace longer gives them a pass to behave in any way they wish. Often, they get by doing as little as possible and expect newer employees who are currently "paying their dues" to shoulder a greater amount of the work.

3. They like to say, "That's not my job."

This type of colleague has a very narrow and rigid view of what their job entails and leaves little or no room for flexibility or taking one for the team. They treat everything that they don't want to do like a "hot potato" that they quickly pass along to others.

4. They think experience is a tangible commodity.

Some people wrap themselves in the vague notion of their perceived "experience," without it pointing to any clearly defined skill set or measurable contribution to the team. These people often fail or refuse to learn new skills, grow and adapt.

Experience is great — but in a fast-paced, constantly evolving workplace, it's not the sole commodity that some toxic teammates make it out to be.

5. They love gossip.

Who hasn't had a co-worker who seems to spend more time gossiping than getting actual work done?

They can talk endlessly about a wide range of useless subjects to anyone who will listen. Their work output is minimal as a result, and they're often a drain on others.

6. They use peer pressure to hold others back.

To these people, the workplace is like a reality TV show in which they create alliances and enemies and manipulate others around them to achieve their goals.

Often peer pressure is their tool of choice, and they use their perceived influence with their co-workers to manipulate and hold others back.

7. They're quick to grab the glory.

Rather than view successes as the result of teamwork and collaborative effort, these people like to hog the spotlight and pretend that every success is the sole result of their own influence and contributions.

8. They're even quicker to throw others under the bus.

Consider this the flip side to the previous point: They'll just as quickly point the finger at others and assign blame when things go sour.

These toxic personalities keep everyone on edge and on their toes at work — and not in a good way.

If you recognize any of the signs mentioned above, you might just have a toxic co-worker.

If so, recognizing it is the first step. Consider your options for following up — sometimes a simple talk with your colleague can make a world of difference.

Aim to be the co-worker you wish you had.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Bible book between Zephaniah and Zechariah
- 7 Largest New Deal agcy.
- 10 "The Wizard —"
- 14 In the slightest
- 19 Radiant
- 20 Vacillating response
- 22 Olive-green bird
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 iPod model
- 27 Musician Brian
- 28 From Jan. 1 until today
- 29 Disagreeing (with)
- 30 Tomorrow, to José
- 33 Essen article
- 35 Santa — winds
- 36 Riddle, part 2
- 45 Former WB rival
- 46 Classical music record label
- 47 Coup d'—
- 48 Rises rapidly
- 49 Overjoy

- 51 Grafton's "— for Evidence"
- 53 By way of
- 55 Impel
- 56 Riddle, part 3
- 63 Within: Prefix
- 64 Weapon
- 65 Special span
- 66 Lang. of the U.S.A.
- 67 IRA options
- 68 Riddle, part 4
- 73 "... Mac — PC?"
- 76 Buddhist discipline
- 77 Letter after pi
- 78 Pass along, as an email: Abbr.
- 79 Male deer
- 80 Riddle, part 5
- 87 Minestrone, e.g.
- 88 Moo — pork
- 89 Pewter metal
- 90 Reformer Sinclair
- 91 Wide open, as a mouth
- 93 Wide-mouthed fish
- 96 Lassos
- 100 Co. name ender, often
- 101 End of the riddle
- 105 Imitate a wolf

- 106 "— -haw!"
- 107 Morally base
- 108 Lipstick messes
- 112 "Evil Woman" gp.
- 114 Riddle-me—
- 115 Actress Rowlands
- 119 Riddle's answer
- 125 Lopez of pop music
- 126 More smart
- 127 Straight, as an arm or leg
- 128 Praise
- 129 Trig calculation
- 130 Gridiron pts.
- 131 When wages are given

- 10 Phrase on a thin coin
- 11 New Deal prez
- 12 Add- (extras)
- 13 Wildlife park
- 14 Incarnations of deities
- 15 Jazz great
- 16 Very dry
- 17 Advance, as money
- 18 Captains' journals
- 21 More fitting
- 24 "For want of —, the shoe was lost"
- 25 Half of Mork's sign-off
- 31 Poker stakes
- 32 Feel likewise
- 34 Insect snare
- 35 Be part of, as a film
- 36 Montreal's province
- 37 Elevated region
- 38 Puts into law
- 39 Tobaccoless smoke
- 40 Sitarist Shankar
- 41 Like a child
- 42 Toad feature
- 43 Jason's ship
- 44 Reverse of NNW

- 50 Boxing ref's ruling
- 52 Be sure the job is done
- 54 Docket
- 57 Spoils
- 58 "— longa, vita brevis"
- 59 Big maker of SUVs
- 60 Mr. Capote, to pals
- 61 Tartan cap
- 62 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 68 "I'm talkin' to you!"
- 69 Munic. law
- 70 "Quiet down!"
- 71 Little newt
- 72 "So adorable!"
- 73 Ear malady
- 74 Kid-lit "pest"
- 75 Part of NSA
- 76 With 109-Down, one of five famed comedic brothers
- 79 Big name in fuel additives
- 80 For takeout
- 81 Red Scare gp.
- 82 "Hot dog!"
- 83 Oahu feast
- 84 Sorvino of Hollywood

- 85 Monogram, e.g.: Abbr.
- 86 Japanese fish dish
- 87 Used a bench
- 92 Involve in conflict
- 94 Pig's place
- 95 Honey
- 97 Loving ones
- 98 Drowsy
- 99 Made sense
- 102 Part of 44-Down
- 103 Trojan beauty
- 104 Move past carefully
- 108 Place
- 109 See 76-Down
- 110 Send forth
- 111 Latin "year"
- 113 "Think nothing —"
- 116 One- — jack
- 117 "99 Luftballons" group
- 118 J.D. holder
- 120 NFL players who pass
- 121 Mentalist Geller
- 122 Swimming star Thorpe
- 123 Blushing hue
- 124 — big way

DOWN

- 1 Goldie of "Foul Play"
- 2 Turkish chief
- 3 Campbell of country
- 4 Full chromosome set
- 5 Car-towing org.
- 6 Gigantic
- 7 One of the Judds
- 8 Shar- (dog breed)
- 9 "With God — witness"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19						20			21					22					
23					24								25						
26					27			28					29						
		30	31				32		33		34		35						
36	37	38						39				40			41	42	43	44	
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119						120	121	122				123				124			
125						126										127			
128						129					130					131			

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

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

VOCAL ABILITY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ACCOMPANIMENT
- ADDUCTED
- ALTO
- ARIA
- ARPEGGIO
- BALLAD
- BARITONE
- BELTING
- CHEST
- DIAPHRAGM
- DICTION
- FALSETTO
- FLAT
- HEAD
- KARAOKE
- LARYNX
- LEGATO
- NASAL
- NOTES
- PHRASING
- PITCH
- POWER
- PROJECTION
- RANGE
- RESONANCE
- REVERB
- SCALE
- SHARP
- SOLO
- SOPRANO
- STACCATO
- TECHNIQUE
- TEMPO
- TENOR
- VIBRATO
- VOCALS

ANSWER KEY

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

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Car Report

TOYOTA GETS OFF TO GREAT START WITH 'START YOUR IMPOSSIBLE' BRAND PLATFORM, IN OLYMPICS AND EVEN IN ITS DEALERSHIPS



By Dale Buss

Toyota has put on quite a display of marketing over the last few months, initially by announcing its first global brand, "Start Your Impossible," and then fleshing out what that slogan means in blowout advertising efforts around the Super Bowl and Winter Olympics. Those efforts, in turn, are part of casting Toyota in a wider sense as a "mobility," not just an "automobility," brand.

The brand's efforts ranged from commercials featuring real people doing seemingly impossible things, to ads that featured Toyota's unique approach not only to automotion but to human mobility, to various ways of highlighting Olympic and Paralympic athletes with whom Toyota partners,

ranging from snowboarder Amy Purdy to PyeongChang skiing sensation Chloe Kim.

"This was the first time with a global campaign," Ed Laukes, group vice president of Toyota Division marketing, told me. "It was a true labor of love for the organization, building a campaign that has an essence that would work in every single corner of the earth."

Laukes took time for a Q&A: **What are your takeaways from your huge — let's say olympian — effort at the Olympics?**

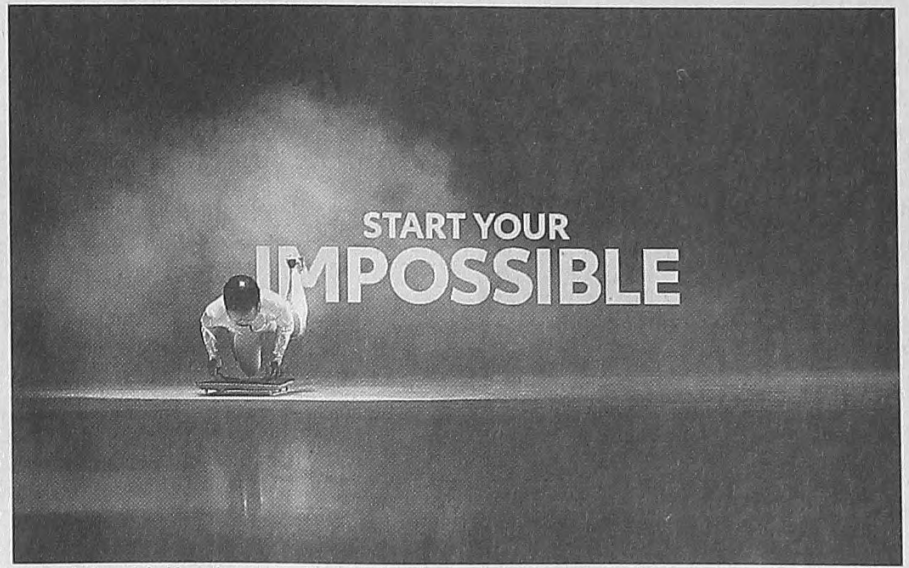
It's too early to get some solid data back to the reaction to the brand messaging. [But] we learned a lot about people, culture, laws and, we think, the campaign. The reaction within the organization and externally, both what we follow on social media and what we've received from an outpouring of people into the call center, and the dealer reaction in their communities, has been completely overwhelming.

I've been with the company 29 years and this is the first time we've had a campaign 100 percent without a car in it; we were nervous about that and reaction from the general public and our retailers. They expect us to showcase their products.

Will we see this "Start Your Impossible" positioning manifested more in products going forward, as the closings of your ads seemed to suggest? And is this a way of talking about autonomous driving as well?

Yes, right now we are testing a lot of different products. Some will come to the marketplace someday, some will be just a prototype based on an idea — similar to when you go to an auto show and see a prototype. Sometimes these are design experiments or technology experiments, and it will be the exact same thing about mobility: things built around an idea and hopefully some will come to market in some form or fashion.

[Autonomous driving] is a little bit of a stretch. Autonomous driving is in its early stages for many different organizations. One of the first things that has to happen is different levels of autonomy need to be vetted out and explained. [When you talk about mobility,] people immediately think about full autonomy. There are a lot of different factors that would say we have



Toyota's first global brand campaign has made for a big marketing season.

to make some decisions as a society in order to make that happen. It will happen over time.

How do you sell sedans in a market that appreciates them less and less?

First you have to look at the root cause. Maybe the sedan market has been ignored a little bit from a styling and features perspective and when you show up with a new Camry with an unbelievably styled vehicle with great features and benefits, you see that it arrests the erosion in the marketplace. If we bring treat styling and great package at great price, we think some folks who've gravitated to SUV will come back to a sedan.

How are you improving the customer experience, which seems to be increasingly important?

It's the cornerstone of this organization. I started in '89 with Lexus; I was the first district sales manager in Chicago. The DNA of Toyota and the

customer experience translated into Lexus and it was built from the ground up in Lexus. It's something at Toyota we work on every day and we put head and shoulders above everything else we do. When we don't deliver on that experience we work really hard to make sure that experience is improved.

When we introduced Toyota Care a few years ago — no-cost maintenance for the first two years of ownership — that was a big one. We saw a lot of people not bringing cars to the dealership or even maintaining their cars. They weren't in a [social environment anymore] where they learned about maintaining cars. We thought that Toyota Care would impact that and it's had a huge impact as far as people coming back to the store and maintaining cars and having a relationship with dealers which translates into greater purchase intent.



Toyota athlete Chloe Kim won a celebrated medal.

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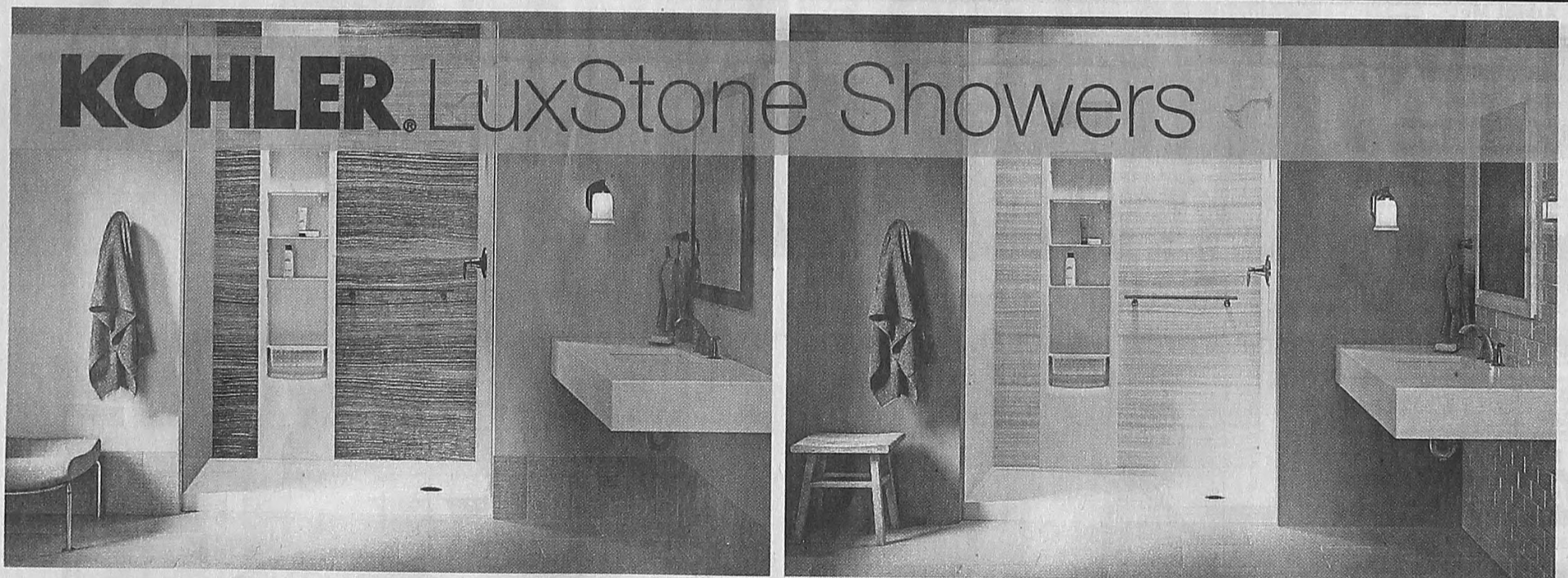
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SELL

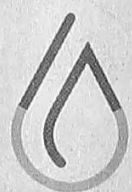


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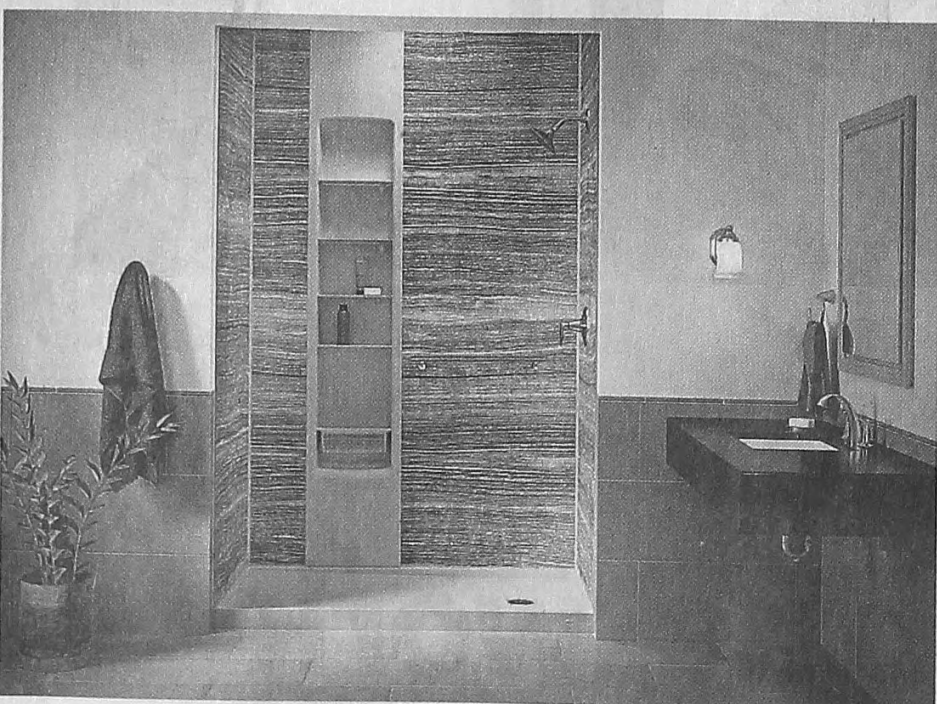
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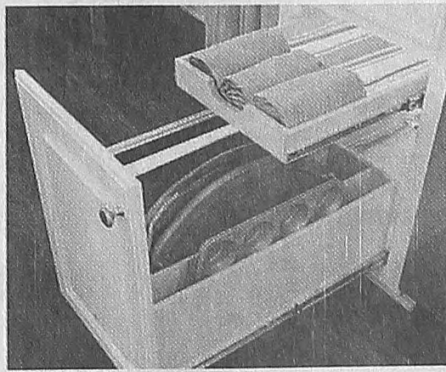
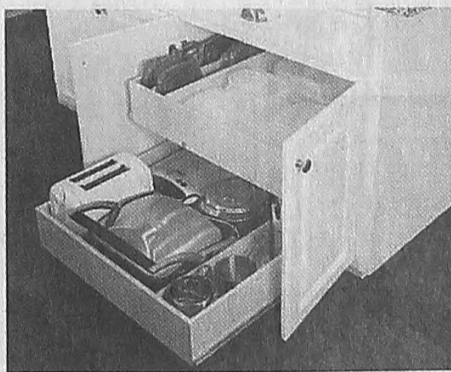


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- Alarm System
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- Alarm System
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- Rear View Camera
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- Alarm System
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