



New state champion teams crowned in boys hockey

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Bond stays at \$250K for student

Threats at P-CEP prompted lockdown March 1

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Brendan J. Sibel wanted to “potentially get the day off from school” in making bomb threats that ultimately closed Plymouth-Canton Educational Park on March 1.

His remark was repeated March 8 in 35th District Court by Judge Ron Lowe, who said Sibel had told him that during an earlier hearing. Lowe that day denied a defense attorney’s plea to reduce bond for Sibel, who is facing four felony charges.

The March 1 incident prompted a lockdown at P-CEP and then the dis-

missal of classes at about 11 a.m. as police investigated. The threats, scrawled on the walls in two Canton High School restrooms, were determined to be not credible and school and police officials stressed that students were safe.

Sibel, 17, of Plymouth was arrested March 6 and formally charged the next



Sibel

day with two counts of making a false terrorist threat and two counts of making a false bomb threat.

He sat quietly, occasionally looking down, during the latest court discussion, after which Lowe decided to maintain the \$250,000 bond he’d set March 7.

Defense attorney David Nacht, while saying Sibel had acted “like a jerk,” had

See STUDENT, Page 2A

Discovery musicians honored for festival performance

The Discovery Middle School Band has been recognized for its outstanding musical achievement by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

After what band officials called a “wonderful showing of performances at the Solo and Ensemble Festival” in February (where students are featured individually), the Discovery eighth-grade band had 20 class days to prepare for this adjudicated performance of its three prepared pieces, followed by a sight-reading performance in which students are given a piece of music by MSBOA that the students have never seen before, are given five minutes to study without playing and then perform the piece from beginning to end while being evaluated by a judge.

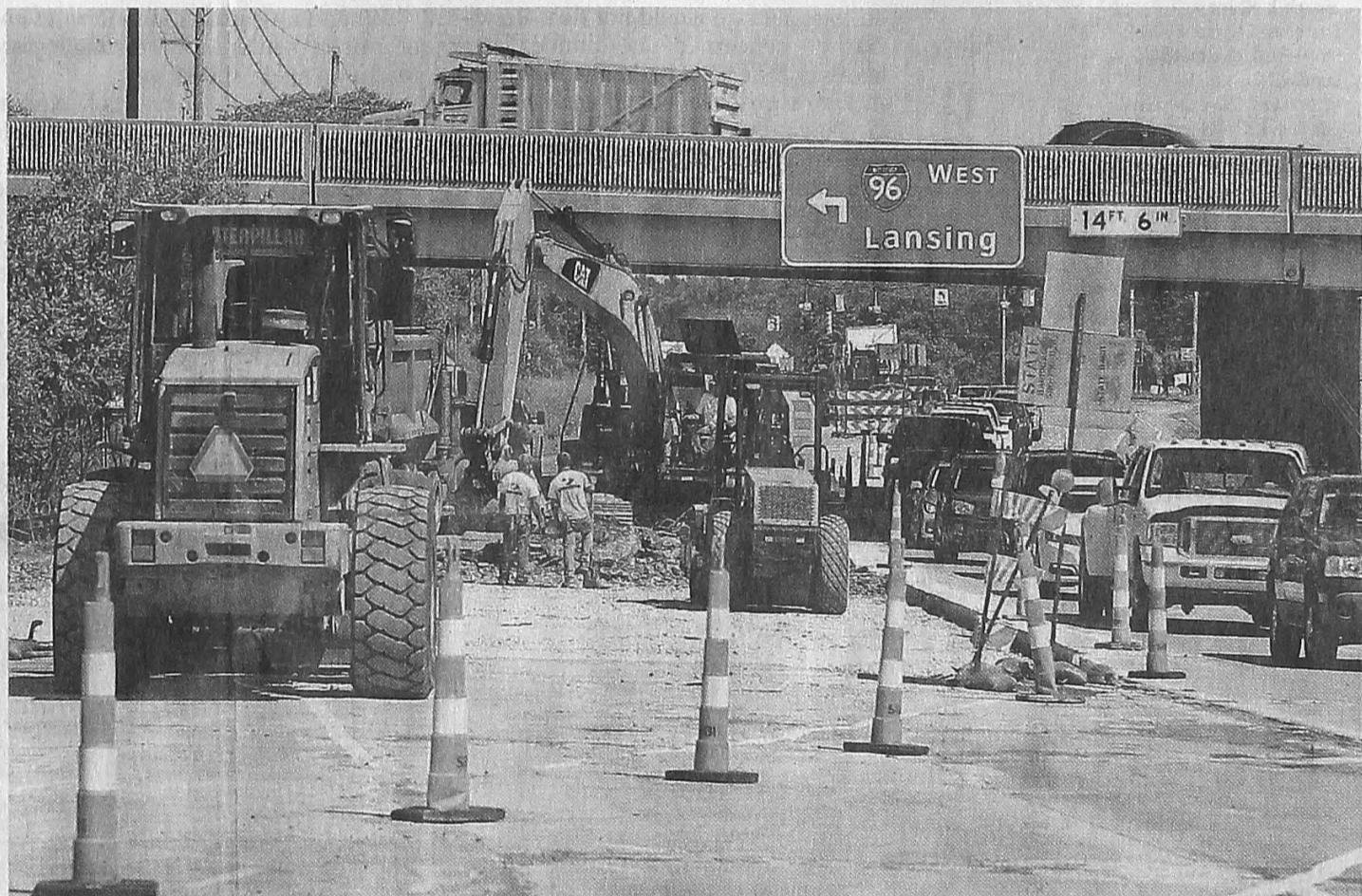
Bands from all over Michigan are evaluated within five distinct ratings/classifications based on the result of their performance assessment, with ratings ranging from superior (1) to poor (5).

The Discovery eighth-grade band received an overall rating of superior (1) from the judges. Band officials said the audio commentary and written comments from the judges were “quite positive and constructive.”

See FESTIVAL, Page 2A



Under the direction of Marc Whitlock, the Discovery Middle School eighth-grade band earned a superior rating at the band festival. DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL



A 2016 resurfacing project in Oakland County. Officials in local communities say they’ll use additional road money just made available by the state to fund repairs and improvement projects that might otherwise have been postponed. FILE PHOTO

Lansing to the rescue?

Officials grateful for new state road money, but say more is needed

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Dear Michigan legislators: Thanks for the new road money. Also: It’s not enough.

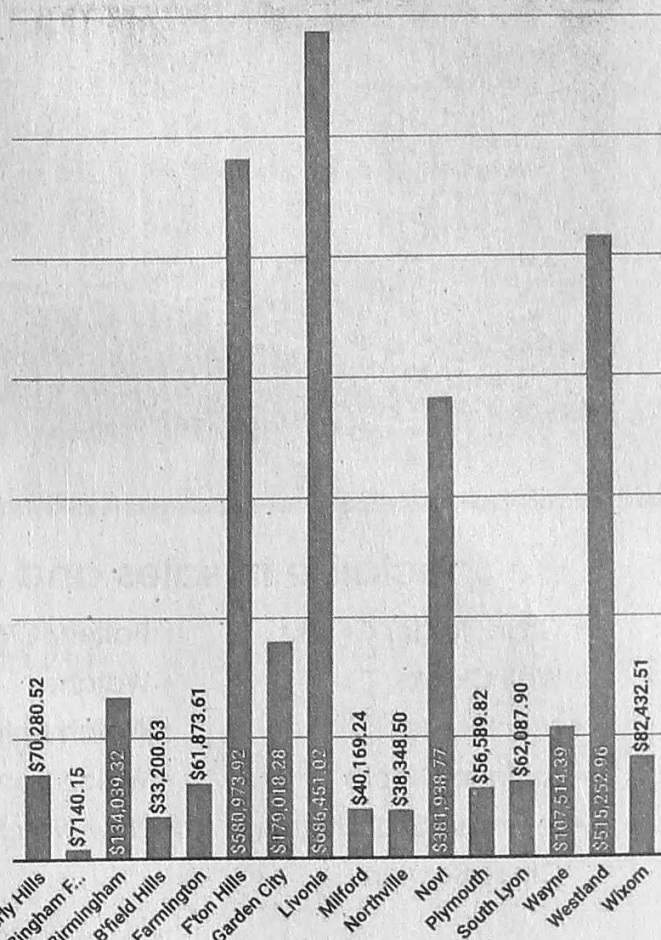
Those are the dual sentiments expressed by local officials over the state Legislature’s approval of \$175 million in additional road money in response to a public outcry over pothole-ridden roads that worsen with every thaw.

The package was approved unanimously in both houses of the Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign it.

“Any additional funding we can get is more than welcome,” said David Lear, assistant city engineer in Livonia. “Obviously, our budget for infrastructure repairs is much less than what it should be throughout the state.”

“We definitely appreciate the additional money available and we’ll put it to good use,” said Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Road Commission for Oakland County. But, Bryson added, the county has about 600 miles of primary road that’s

See ROADS, Page 6A



The amount of money local communities would receive under emergency road funding being considered by the state varies greatly. PHILIP ALLMEN

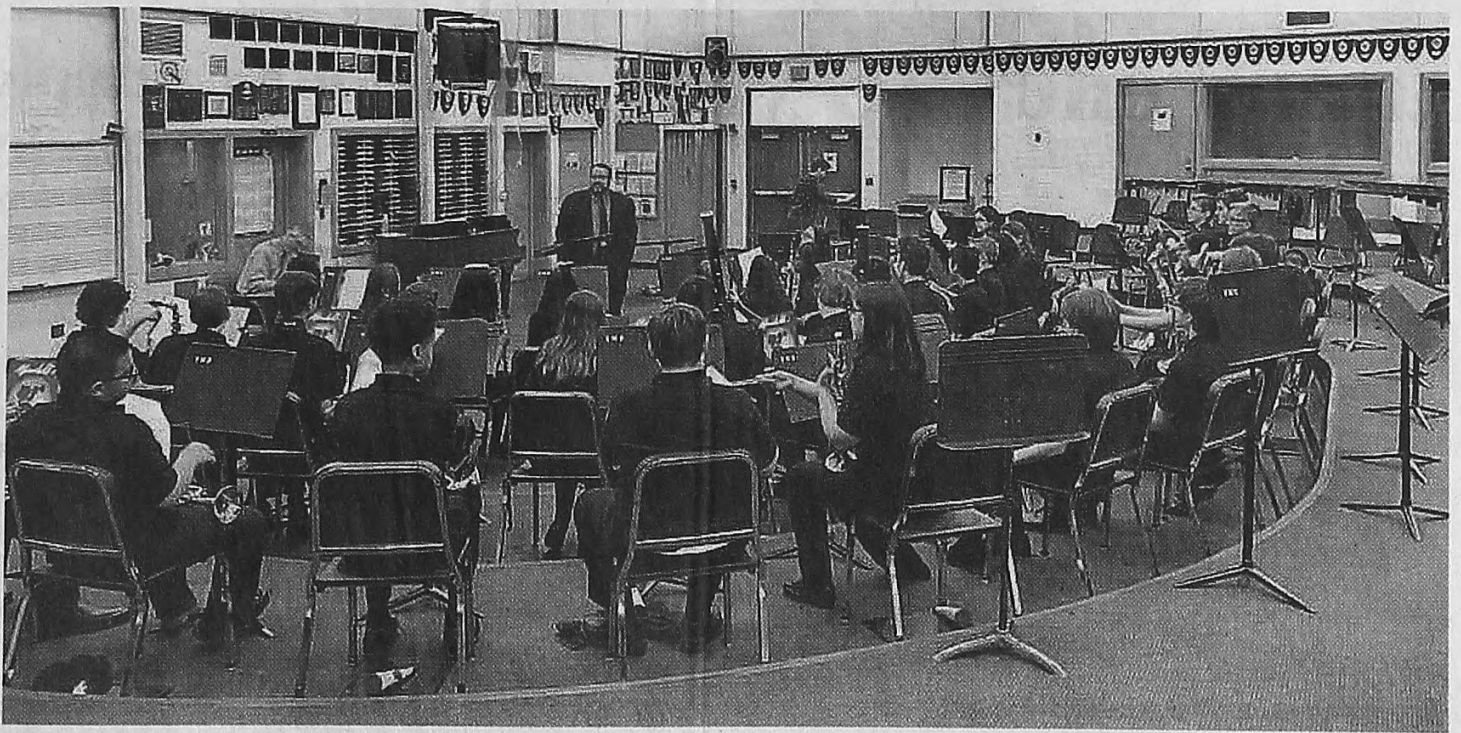
Festival

Continued from Page 1A

Marc Whitlock, band director at Discovery Middle School, was understandably proud after the performance.

"The eighth-graders made such impressive progress in such a short amount of time," Whitlock said. "We did not have that much time to prepare this new music and the students really stepped up for this performance and I am very proud of them. They now know what they can achieve when the pressure is on and have a better understanding of what true achievement is when setting goals."

There were 157 school ensembles participating in the MSBOA Band Festival representing southeast Michigan in District 12 (the largest district in the state), including Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.



The band festival performance followed what band leaders called "wonderful performances" at state solo and ensemble. DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Out of the 68 participating middle school groups, 17 middle school bands (25 percent) received superior ratings. Schools are classified by a combination of school size and music difficulty.

Discovery was one of only two bands in the highest classification, Class A, that performed the most challenging music.

"The Discovery eighth-grade band is

honored and humbled to be in this select company," Whitlock said. "We are happy that the students' detailed work was recognized with distinction."

Student

Continued from Page 1A

argued for a \$100,000 bond with a requirement that 10 percent — \$10,000 — be put up.

But Lowe said that with Sibel facing the possibility of prison, the court needed to ensure he would not flee. He was further concerned, he added, after learning that Sibel had been disruptive in the courthouse lockup earlier in the day, including trying to plug the toilet with toilet paper and banging his head on a wall.

"His mom and dad's money is not going to influence him at all," Lowe said. "I'm concerned it won't be enough to keep him from running."

Nacht said his client was not a danger to the public, has a good relationship with his parents and roots in the com-

munity. His parents, a sister and family friends were in the courtroom March 8.

"These are good people and this boy has not yet become a man and he's acting out," Nacht told Lowe.

Meghan Mathews, an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, had earlier noted that Sibel was already on probation and asked Lowe for "a substantial cash bond."

When Lowe mused about what sort of prison sentence Sibel might face, Mathews again spoke up.

"Even under the best of circumstances, he's looking at substantial time," she said.

Conviction of a false terrorist threat charge carries a prison sentence of up to 20 years, while conviction of a false bomb threat charge carries a sentence of up to four years.

Lowe noted that Sibel had previously been caught "vaping" — smoking an electronic cigarette — in a school rest-

room and, when confronted by a school resource officer, had refused to surrender it, leading to an altercation. No one was hurt, Lowe noted.

"It wasn't a kid taking a slug at an officer," Nacht said. "He's a kid with a mouth," but not violent, he added.

"I understand full well that teenagers will make some incredibly ridiculous decisions," Lowe said later.

District court documents indicate that Sibel has several traffic offenses on his record.

Lowe set several conditions should Sibel be released on bond, including that he wear an electronic tether, be under house arrest and not be in a place where there are weapons.

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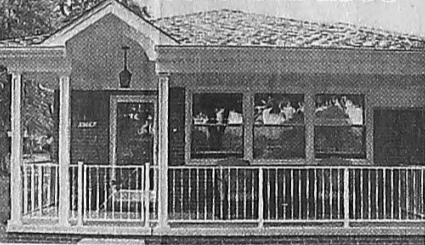
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Family ends 56-year run at Livonia cleaners

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jack Karakashian remembers dashing from his college classes in Detroit to work at the Livonia dry-cleaning business, Rosedale Cleaners, his father bought in 1961.

Back then, Karakashian made house calls to pick up dry cleaning orders.

"We needed the money," he said.

Karakashian and his brother Bob have spent the last few weeks moving their belongings out of the Plymouth Road business after closing in late December, ending a 56-year run. They are selling the building.

Rosedale Cleaners has been a fixture in Livonia's Rosedale Gardens neighborhood, though Jack Karakashian said customers came from as far away as Saline. They got to know their customers and will miss them.

"That's the saddest part," he said. "You get to know these people and it's like they're family."

Bob Karakashian said it's bittersweet closing the family business. The brothers are ready to retire, but it's still difficult ending a way of life.

"The business has been in the family forever," he said. "It seems like we've always done dry cleaning."

Livonia City Council President Laura Toy, whose Cardwell Florist business has been a neighbor of Rosedale Cleaners for 40 years, said it's the kind of business that helps shape a community. She said it has been a strong asset in the Rosedale Gardens neighborhood.

"They've been a quiet neighbor. They did a great community service within the neighborhood that surrounded it," Toy said. "They have been a strong asset to the community."

"It's great when any business can survive that many years, through all the economic ups and downs," she added. "They did it with hands-on, personalized attention. They went to work every day. People came



The last garment has been dry cleaned at Rosedale Cleaners in Livonia. DARRELL CLEM



Jack and Bob Karakashian are ending a 56-year run at Livonia's Rosedale Cleaners. DARRELL CLEM

to them by word of mouth."

Jack and Bob Karakashian carried on the family business after their father Steve retired in the late 1970s. The family also had former dry cleaning businesses in Novi and Farmington Hills.

Steve Karakashian had owned a dry cleaning business in Detroit before he bought the Livonia business. The family always did the dry cleaning themselves and Jack Karakashian recalls how his father had a talent to spot clothes clean, even the toughest stains.

"He was an excellent spotter," he said.

Jack Karakashian used to rush from his college classes at the Detroit Institute of Technology to work at the family business. He said many people don't un-

derstand what a labor-intensive job dry cleaning is.

Rosedale Cleaners has cleaned the clothing of everyday residents, local clergy and numerous others. Jack Karakashian said stained silk clothing can be among the most challenging to clean, while wool is among the easiest.

Back in 2011, then-Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey presented Jack and Bob Karakashian with a commendation for their 50th year in business.

Jack Karakashian remembers occasions when other dry cleaning businesses, unable to get a stain out, came to Rosedale Cleaners for help. He said some of the toughest jobs are when customers try to spot-clean their own clothing — and make it worse.

Rosedale Cleaners has won various awards over the years for its service. But the Karakashian brothers have dry cleaned their last garment. The clothing racks are silent and empty. They have moved out most all of their belongings, the last remnants of a family business that stood proudly for 56 years on Plymouth Road.

"It's time to retire and live life a little," Jack Karakashian said.

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

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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.

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

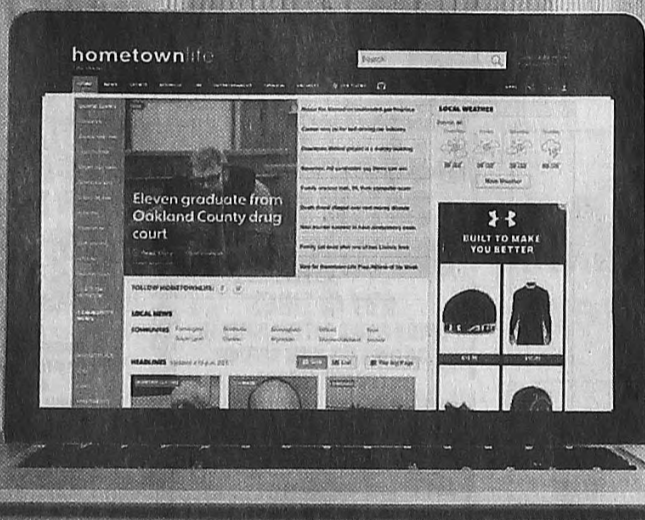
Details: Bored after school? Need a study break? No worries, we've got fun

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.

NHS Tutoring

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

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Student won't face any charges

Threat was made March 3 against North Farmington

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

No criminal charges will be filed against a student who allegedly made a shooting threat March 3 against North Farmington High.

"The Oakland County prosecutor denied charges yesterday (March 8) afternoon," Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus said.

Afterward, Nebus said he met with the student's parents and received written permission to say that the student is a special-needs student diagnosed with autism. The student was initially taken for a medical evaluation and is getting follow-up care.

As part of their investigation, police established the student had no access to

weapons and also had no history of criminal or aggressive behavior. It will be up to the Farmington Public Schools district to determine when the student could be allowed to return to classes.

Following school procedures, the student was suspended after a classmate reported a comment about becoming a school shooter to a teacher and then administration. Farmington Hills police conducted an investigation that resulted in a warrant request being forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

Police reported that the student's parents cooperated with the police, who conducted an investigation the weekend following the threat. District parents were notified about the incident, which was deemed to not be a credible threat following the police investigation.

"The information was presented to

See THREAT, Page 7A

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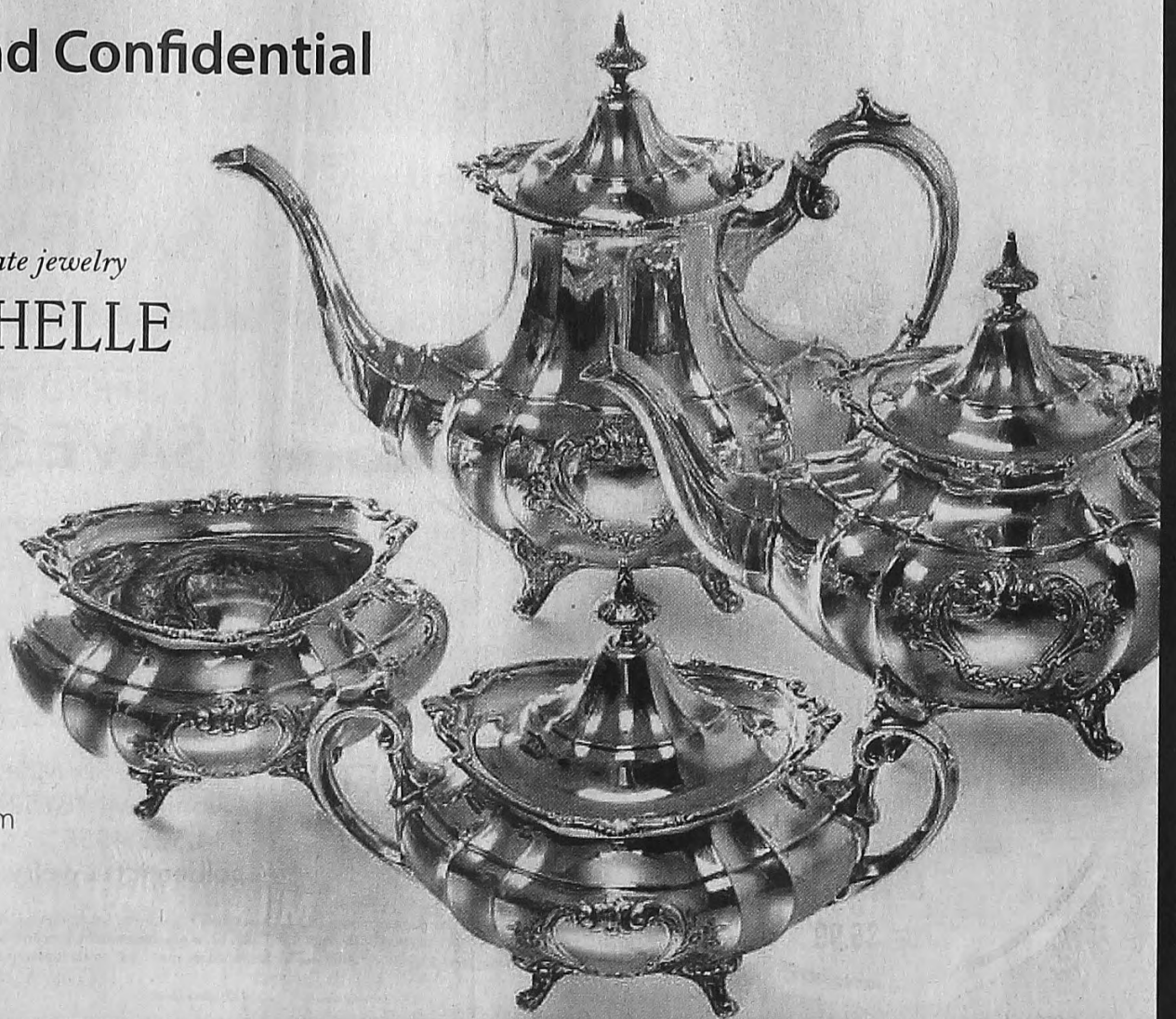
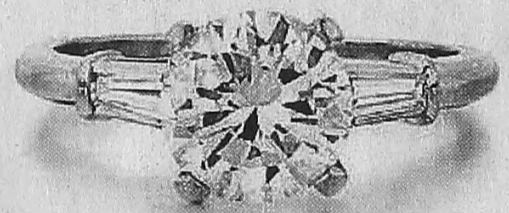
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Check out these area events this weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Everyone may be a little Irish this weekend, but there's plenty to do if you're not one to kiss the Blarney Stone or drink (responsibly) an Irish stout at your local watering hole.

Take a look at some of the events taking place this St. Patrick's Day weekend in the hometownlife.com communities:

Hockey Night in Westland

If you can't get enough hockey, Westland's Mike Modano Arena, 6210 Wildwood, will be the place for you Friday night.

That's because Hockey Night in Westland returns as a group of Detroit Red Wings alumni will take the ice against Westland's own Wild Wings, led by Mayor Bill Wild. The game serves as a fundraiser for the arena and will also feature raffles, a "Score-O" game and plenty more. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the puck drops at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the game are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and can be purchased at Westland City Hall, Mike Modano Ice Arena, North Bros. Ford or online at cityofwestland.com.

Northville Marketplace

The Northville business community will gather this weekend under one roof to share services.

The Northville Marketplace takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile. Put on by the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the event will host more than 60 businesses offering information on their services. Samples of food will be available from area restaurants and door prizes will be awarded beginning at 1:15 p.m. In addition, a LEGO building contest will also take place.

Admission is \$2 per person and parking is free. For



Westland Mayor William Wild headed the Wild Wings while his son Luke, 13, (center) joined Darren McCarty on the Detroit Red Wings alumni team for the annual charity Hockey Night in Westland game in this 2016 photo. FILE PHOTO

more information, go to northville.org.

Shamrock Race in Plymouth

For those who won't party "too" hard Saturday for St. Patrick's Day, there's an option to work off that corned beef and green beer Sunday morning.

That's because a Shamrock Run, put on by the Kona Running Co., will take place beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. The race, which will consist of both one-mile and 5K runs, will

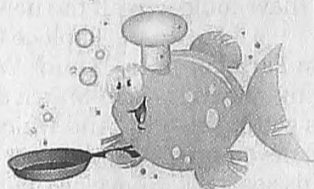
take place through Plymouth and encourages participants to come wearing green and other festive outfits. A costume contest will be judged by the Plymouth DDA as well.

More details on the run, including maps of the race as well as for parking in downtown Plymouth, are available at plymouthmich.org.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6729. Follow him on Twitter: @davidveselenak.

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Emergency fund is key to financial well-being



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

The other day, I met with a client to discuss his portfolio, as well as some other issues. One of the issues we discussed was some money the client had at his bank. The client was complaining about the return on that money; he wanted to add the money into his investment portfolio that we managed, because it had significantly better returns. When I told the client that I thought he would be making a mistake, he looked at me in shock. He couldn't believe I was telling him to leave the money in the bank, where it was getting an extremely low rate of return. After the shock wore off, my client wanted to know how I could justify leav-

ing the money in the bank at such a low rate of return.

What I explained to the client was that every investment has its own goal and objective. The money he had in the bank was his emergency fund. With emergency money, return is not the primary issue; accessibility is. With emergency funds, your goal is to have instant access to it in case of unexpected financial needs. If you kept your emergency money in something like stocks, you could be in the situation that there is a financial emergency and you may be forced to sell at an inopportune time.

I have always believed one of the ingredients that makes a successful investor is the flexibility to sell. We have seen it frequently over the last number of years — markets will take a temporary downturn and then, in a rather short time, regain their strength. If you were forced to sell when the markets took one

of those unexpected downturns, it can be very costly. By having money that is liquid — like in the bank, where you have instant access to it — in a financial emergency you are not going to have to be selling into weakness. You can use your emergency fund, allowing you to be in control of your portfolio as opposed to letting a financial emergency dictate to you.

I am a strong believer that everyone needs an emergency fund. What I generally recommend is you keep three to six months of living expenses as an emergency fund. If it costs you \$4,000 a month to live, your emergency fund needs to be between \$12,000 and \$24,000.

One of the beauties of having an emergency fund is that it protects the rest of your portfolio. By having an emergency fund, it will allow you to cover your short-term needs, allowing you

not to dip into your portfolio or, worse, run up a balance on your charge card. In too many cases when people don't have an emergency fund, they end up using their charge cards to cover their short-term needs and that is a very expensive way of going.

For those who do not have an emergency fund or if your emergency fund is underfunded, there is no time like the present to make changes. Even if you have to stop investing for a while or sell an investment, it is something you should consider. An emergency fund is an important ingredient to having a well-balanced and diversified portfolio.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

rated in poor condition and the new money will only go so far.

The new money comes as Michigan's roads last week received a D-minus grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The group rated 13 categories of infrastructure in its annual report card, giving the state an overall grade of D-plus.

Oakland will be getting just over \$7 million in new money, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Bryson said the ROCC is ready to use it in a three-pronged approach: Asphalt "preservation overlays" on stretches of road in moderate shape, milling and resurfacing of short portions of crumbling asphalt and the selective replacement of the worst slabs on concrete roads.

Bryson said RCOC engineers are currently evaluating possible projects for this year's road construction season.

In Livonia, the new money — just over \$686,000 — will likely be added to the existing pot for this season's projects, Lear said.

"We never have quite enough to do all the projects" and the additional money

could help get projects done that might otherwise get crossed off the list, he said.

As examples, Lear cited Industrial Road, east of Levan, and Amrhein Road, west of Levan. As in Oakland County, candidates for road improvements this season are still being evaluated and Lear and Bryson both said road conditions after this spring's final thaw could affect the priorities.

Public services officials in Farmington Hills, which is getting nearly \$581,000, and Novi, which is getting almost \$382,000, also said the new money will likely be put toward this season's projects.

In Farmington Hills, that will include the rehabilitation of Inkster Road, between 13 Mile and Northwestern Highway, and of 13 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, said Karen Mondora, the city's public services director.

Some of the money may also be used for pothole-filling and spot repairs, Mondora said. "Every little bit helps. We're grateful for it," she said.

Livonia is also lobbying Wayne County to repair the worst-off major roads that are under the county's jurisdiction, such as Farmington Road, between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads, and parts of Merriman, Lear said.

Wayne County will be getting nearly

\$6.5 million of the state's additional \$175 million. Calls to the county's public services department were not returned and questions for roads officials emailed to a department spokeswoman went unanswered.

Pat Williams, Canton Township supervisor, didn't hesitate when asked what he'd like to see Wayne County do with the new money.

"Replace the roads that are in horrific, Third World condition," Williams said March 8.

And which might those be? "There's not a major thoroughfare that doesn't have significant degradation," he said.

As a township, Canton doesn't get road funding from the state, but relies on the county to maintain its roads. The county has 1,440 miles of primary and secondary roads under its care, plus 462 miles of state trunk lines and freeways.

There are nine townships in Wayne County. "We're all competing for the same very limited amount," Williams said.

"The roads are deplorable across the state and the townships in Wayne County are feeling a little more pain," he added.

Despite not receiving road revenue, Canton has spent about \$10 million of its own money in the last decade to supplement the county's efforts. Still, Wil-

liams said, there's not a day that goes by that he doesn't get phone calls and emails from residents who are frustrated by poor road conditions and complaining of damaged tires and vehicles.

Williams said he saw County Executive Warren Evans at an event March 8 and spoke with him about the roads. "Warren Evans does understand Canton's problem," he said, and is working on plans to boost the county road budget in the short term, possibly by selling bonds that would be paid back with future state revenue.

Canton also has a citizens committee studying ways to improve the township's roads and the group "is getting very close" to making recommendations, Williams said.

The just-approved \$175 million will be added to additional state infrastructure money, projected to be more than \$600 million this year, resulting from 2015 legislation that raised vehicle registration fees and fuel taxes and set aside some state income tax revenue for infrastructure. That figure is expected to reach \$1.2 billion annually by 2021.

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



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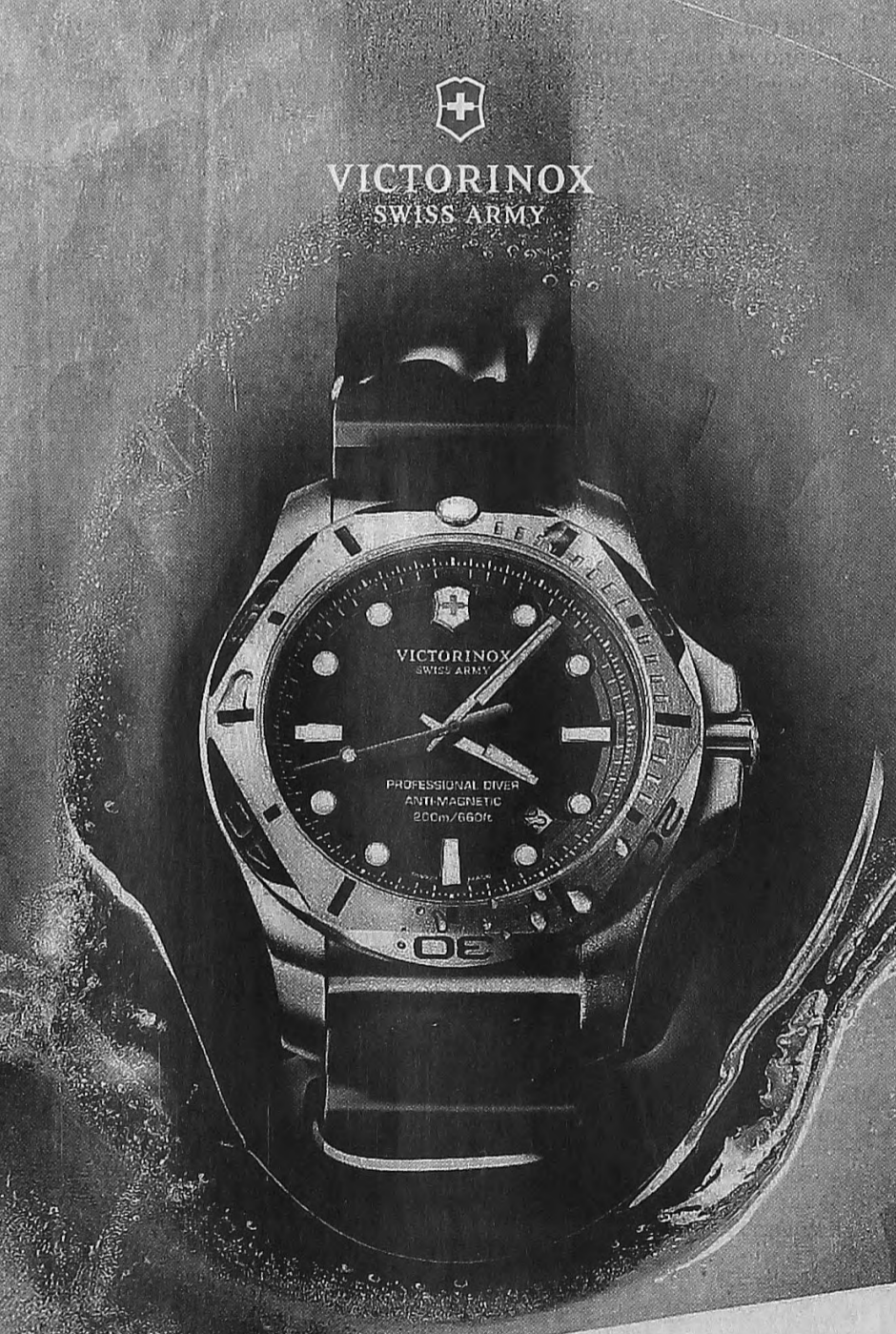
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Renowned photographer moves studio to Plymouth

Andy Greenwell, owner of Greenwell Photography Inc., said he's always been tugged toward Plymouth.

Now Greenwell has made the move, shifting his studio to Plymouth after spending 30 years in Farmington Hills.

"I've always felt strangely drawn to Plymouth," Greenwell said. "I call this attraction 'the pull.'"

In fact, most summer Friday nights find Greenwell prowling Kellogg Park with his signature long lens, shooting musicians and fans at the Music in the Air concert series. Because creating and capturing images isn't just what he does ... it's who he is, even in his free time.

So Greenwell finds it "especially satisfying" to relocate to Plymouth Township after operating a commercial photography studio in Farmington Hills for 30 years.

"We found a unique property that lets me combine the studio and a home in a single location and that is an ideal situation," Greenwell said. "It helps that Plymouth Township is friendly to home-



Photographer Andy Greenwell has moved his studio to Plymouth Township from Farmington Hills, where he'd had it for 30 years.

based businesses. Many communities, we found, are not."

Greenwell and girlfriend Tina Creguer recently purchased a home on Ann Arbor Trail, directly across from the en-

trance to Plymouth Township Park. A large building on the property has become home to his photography studio, with glistening white epoxy floors and professional lighting that will accommodate photo sessions for subjects ranging from business executives to intricate auto parts and everything in between.

Greenwell first rose to acclaim in the 1990s, when he produced a series of calendars featuring local sports celebrities. With text by Mitch Albom, with whom he partnered, Greenwell's calendars benefited local charities and showcased photos of such sports luminaries as Sparky Anderson, Steve Yzerman, Barry Sanders, Jack Morris, Bo Schembechler, Isiah Thomas, Joe Dumars, Chris Osgood and many more.

He has also shot thousands of models, business professionals, actors, events, products (semi-trailers to jewelry) and even a live childbirth.

Born and raised in Martinsville, Ill. — "think Andy Griffith's 'Mayberry,'"

Greenwell said — he moved to Detroit after college as a cameraman for the "PM MAGAZINE" Detroit TV show.

Working for WJBK-TV (Channel 2) over the next three years, he filmed, edited and co-produced segments that took him from the salt mines under Detroit to the skies over Selfridge Air National Guard Base and earned him six Emmy nominations. When the demand for video production services grew, Greenwell left broadcast TV to open his own video business, where he oversaw projects for Domino's, the Big Three auto companies, HBO, Showtime and others. Over time, his interest in still photography grew and he opened his first photography studio in 1987 in Farmington Hills.

In addition to photography sessions, the new studio will accommodate photography workshops and lessons. Greenwell Photography will host an open house for the public this spring. Greenwell's work can be seen at www.andygreenwell.com.

AREA EVENTS

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

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. Event-goers can also a free reception starting at 6 p.m. Displays from three area Chinese schools (PCLC, 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 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday. Tickets can also be ordered by calling 734-394-5300, ext. 3. If available, tickets can also be purchased one hour prior to program time.

Michigan Phil to present 'Tchaikovsky Spectacular!'

The Michigan Philharmonic will present the concert "Tchaikovsky Spectacular!" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, in Plymouth.

The concert will also feature a new work by Zhou Tian, an award-winning and Grammy-nominated composer known for his lush and distinctive compositional style. Zhou will be joining Michigan Phil conductor Nan Washburn for a pre-concert discussion at 1:15 p.m.

A special pre-concert brunch has been planned at 11:30 at AQUA in Plymouth. Brunch tickets are \$20. For reservation, concert tickets and information, call 734 451-2112 or go to



The 2018 Chinese Spring Festival is scheduled Saturday, March 17, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

www.michiganphil.org.

Movie screening at library

The local community group, Know Our Neighbor, will host a screening of the film "A Continuing Series of Small Indignities: A Personal Conversation about Race" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street.

Michigan filmmaker Michael Pfaendtner produced, directed and edited the documentary, which follows the personal experience of 59-year-old Rodney Harris as he recounts a lifetime of subtle and not-so-subtle racism. Both Pfaendtner and Harris will be at the library for this program. They will join a panel of community members in a discussion after the screening.

Registration is requested for this free event. Go to plymouthlibrary.org and click on Events or call 734-453-0750, ext 4.

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.

Music at the Elks

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

The Dave Bennett Quartet returns Tuesday, March 27, featuring Bennett on clarinet, keyboards, drums and guitar, joined by Cliff Monear on key-

boards, Jeff Pedraz on bass and Doug Cobb on drums.

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.

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.cantonvillagetheater.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.

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 nancyearle@comcast.net.

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.

Threat

Continued from Page 4A

us. One of the first issues to look at is does it qualify as a threat under constitutional and statutory standards," Oakland County Prosecutors Office Chief Assistant Paul Walton said. "What was relayed to us was a disturbing comment,

but it has to meet the standards of a true threat. It is a specific intent crime. It was not legally a threat."

Additionally, Walton said the developmental issues of the student outlined by Nebus also needed to be considered.

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

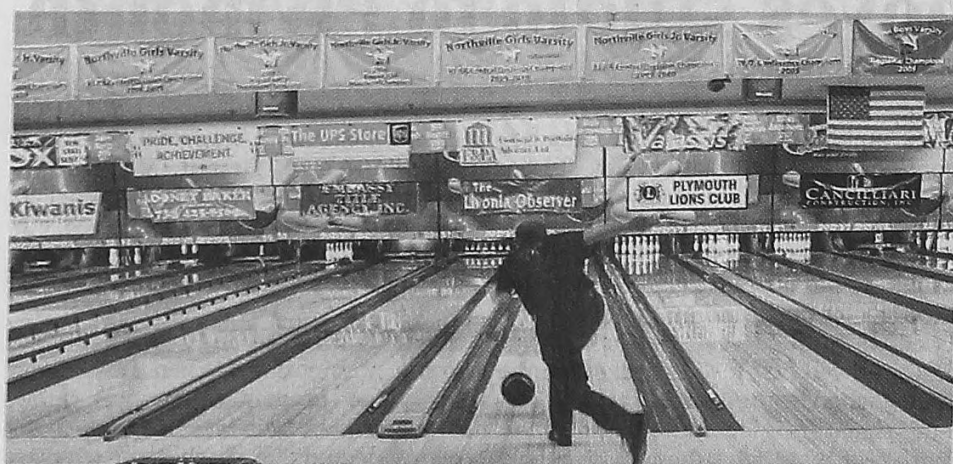
restroom wall. Criminal charges have been filed against students in South Lyon and Novi.

"I've spent a lot of time in the last nine years going out to talk to middle schools and high school students on responsible Internet use," Walton said. "After Parkland (Fla.), it all went out the window."

The reasons students, or adults, make threats varies, he said, with some

seeking attention or are angry over some issue. "The motivation for the threat doesn't matter; it's does it meet the legal standards of a threat?," Walton said.

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



Hometownlife.com Consumer Experience Director Phil Allmen shows off his bowling form. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seedlings benefit draws record number of bowlers

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The folks at Kennedy Industries, Inc., are big on helping out in the community.

That's why the company had six teams bowling Saturday in the 31st annual fundraiser for Seedlings Braille Books of Livonia, which provides braille books to visually impaired children.

It's the biggest fundraiser for Seedlings every year and Kennedy helped the 2018 event, held at Novi Bowl, clock in as the biggest and best ever.

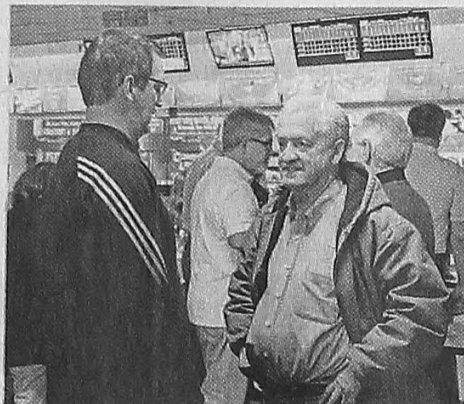
More than 200 bowlers helped raise money toward Seedlings' \$60,000 goal.

"Our company does one charity event a month," said Margie Kubasta, who organized the six-team Kennedy contingent. "We challenge ourselves to raise more money for each event. This event is fun and it's for a great cause."

The event drew a ton of support from around Livonia and surrounding communities. There were eight headline sponsors and nearly 60 event/prize/lane sponsors.

While final figures weren't yet available, Seedlings officials are confident the event topped the \$55,000 raised last year and were hopeful they'd reached the \$60,000 goal set for the 2018 event.

It's the kind of support Deb Bonde, the founder and director of Seedlings,



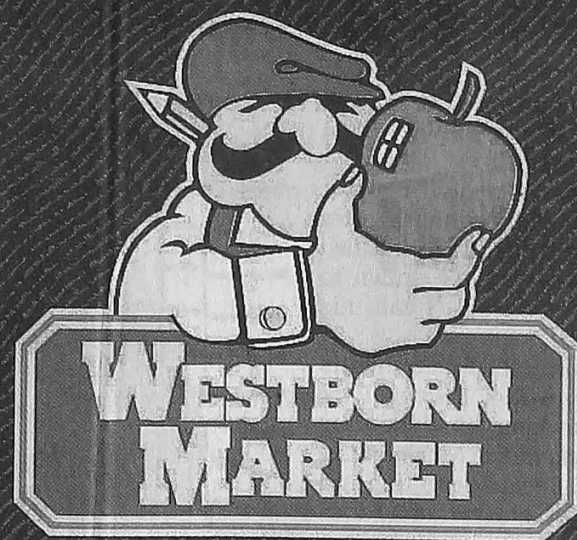
Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright speaks with Dave Rexroth, chief meteorologist at WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) and celebrity bowler for the event. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

appreciates.

"We totally rely on supporters and donors," Bonde said. "Without them, we can't do what we do for the kids. We have incredibly generous supporters who help make this happen."

Anyone who'd still like to donate can do so at www.firstgiving.com/event/seedlingsbraille/31st-annual-bowling-for-braille-books.

Contact Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.



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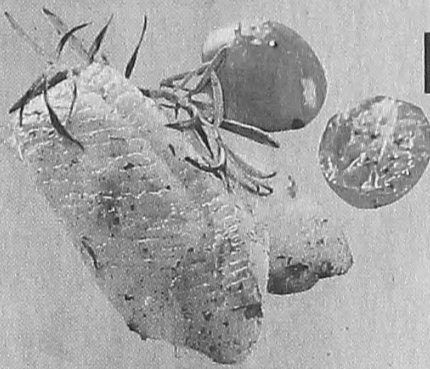
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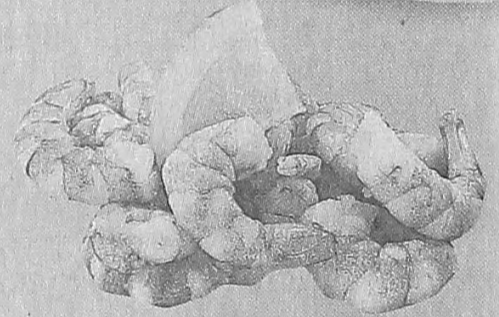
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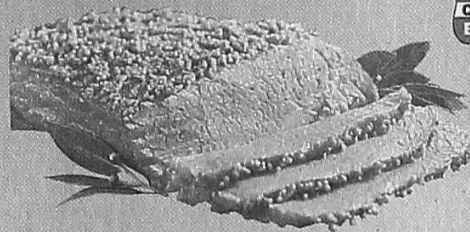
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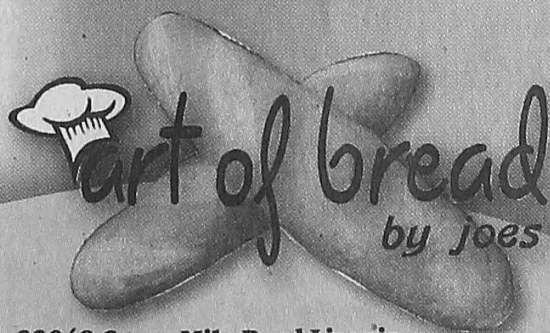
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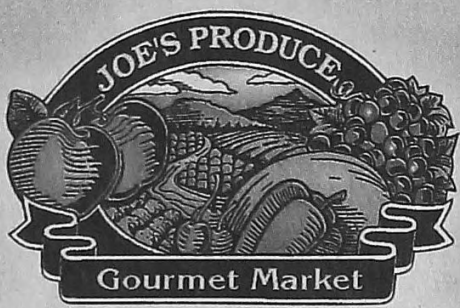
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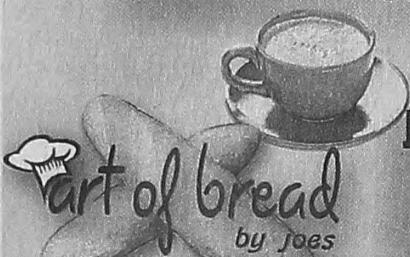
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Sports

BOYS HOCKEY

Brighton shocks No. 1-ranked CC, 2-1

Bulldogs were last state team to beat Shamrocks

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They were the unbeatable team, a juggernaut that had steamrolled through the state of Michigan with such ferocity that a state hockey championship seemed inevitable.

Key word: Were.
Brighton crashed the coronation Friday in the Division 1 semifinals at Plymouth's USA Hockey Arena, returning to the state final for the sixth time in the

last seven years with a 2-1 upset of a Detroit Catholic Central team that was being mentioned as one of the best to ever come out of Michigan.

All the Shamrocks did was go 23-0 against in-state competition. They outscored their previous six opponents, 50-0, the list of victims including four state-ranked teams.

But Brighton didn't succumb to intimidation. The Bulldogs were the last Michigan team to beat Catholic Central, winning 5-2 in the state championship game last season.

Brighton (23-6-1) has a confidence that most teams lack when facing the

See BRIGHTON, Page 4B



Brighton goalie Harrison Fleming makes a save in front of Catholic Central's Brendan West (right). DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS HOCKEY

The puck stops here



Detroit Country Day forward Mickey VanAntwerp scores the first goal of Saturday's Division 3 championship game, beating Livonia Churchill goalie Chris Sergison while sliding into the net. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Country Day pops Churchill's bubble, wins D-3 state title

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For two straight days at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Detroit Country Day junior goalie Sam Evola stared down enormous last-second pressure as opponents tried to force overtime.

Both Friday against the No. 1-ranked team in Division 3 (Hancock) and Saturday afternoon against upstart Livonia Churchill in the championship contest, Evola had the answers — winning 2-1 each game to cap off the first state title

for Country Day since 1981. With the title triumph, the Yellowjackets reeled off 22 wins in a row to finish with a 28-2-1 mark.

"It's all mental strength, to be honest," said Evola, who foiled the Chargers with a 30-save performance. "You're going to be sore, you're going to be banged up. You just got to know what you do best and execute."

"It was the same thing as (Friday). We were up by a goal, same score, just do what I do best."

Churchill trailed 2-0 with about 11 minutes left in the third period, follow-

ing a power-play goal by senior forward Tim Stebbins, who re-directed senior defenseman Grant Petrucci's point shot.

The Chargers responded on a five-on-three power play, with a snap shot from inside the blue line by senior defenseman Seth Kucharczyk getting past the screened Evola to make it 2-1 at the 9:07 mark. Junior forward Cameron Greener drew the lone assist.

"We had three power-play opportunities at that point and you know

See CHURCHILL, Page 3B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wayne Memorial claims first regional trophy

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Payback was on the mind of Camree Clegg and her Wayne Memorial teammates as they faced Belleville in the Class A girls basketball regional final March 8 at Wyandotte Roosevelt.

The Zebras remembered getting to that same place on the postseason schedule last year, only to be knocked out by the Tigers on a last-second basket.

This time around, the Zebras coasted from start to finish en route to a 66-36 victory. The regional title is the first in program history.

"Just redemption, it was always in the back of our heads that we lost by one (last season)," Clegg said. "So we knew we had to come out and play our hardest and that's what we did and we got the win."

Clegg scored only two points in the first half, but she helped orchestrate leads of 12-2 after one quarter and 27-7 at the half thanks to six assists. She picked up her own scoring in the second half and wound up with 15 points, along with 11 assists.

Leading the Zebras (21-4) with 20 points and nine rebounds was impressive junior guard Sammiyah Hoskin. Also a thorn in Belleville's side was junior guard Jeanae Terry, who scored 17 points.

"Jeanae Terry is just emerging into her own, being one of the top prospects in the state of Michigan," Wayne Memorial coach Jarvis Mitchell said. "I expect performances like that from her, because she's put in the work and she's earned the right to be aggressive and find her place in the basketball game. She's starting to come into her own groove."

"Hoskin is just a hard-nosed kid that won't quit. When you have kids on your team like Sammiyah Hoskin, it makes the team better, because not

See WAYNE, Page 2B



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BOYS BASKETBALL

Farmington wins district crown to end drought

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Farmington's boys basketball team couldn't wait to accept the Class A district championship trophy Friday from Southfield A&T athletic director Anika McEvans.

There's a good reason players were so anxious to get their hands on that coveted piece of hardware. After all, it's been 20 years since Farmington last won a district championship.

Farmington, trailing by 10 points halfway through the fourth quarter, used a relentless pressure defense over the final minutes to pull out a dramatic 57-55 victory over Birmingham Groves to win the district tourney hosted by Southfield. Farmington's last district title came in 1998.

"It feels great. I'm so happy for these guys, because they work so hard in the off-season, in the summer, in the fall," Farmington coach Terrance Porter said. "This was one of our goals and we were able to accomplish it."

"I like the fight we showed tonight," he added. "We showed a lot of intestinal fortitude."

Bryant sparks big rally

Farmington senior guard Ray Bryant, who finished with a game-high 25 points, played a key role in the remarkable rally.

Bryant scored Farmington's first nine points of the fourth quarter, but then, while attempting to make a defensive stop, got caught in an awkward position and came down holding his left knee. Bryant was carried off the floor and it didn't look good, for him nor the team, which trailed 50-40 with 3:55 left in the fourth quarter.

Farmington, however, regrouped over the next three minutes and actually cut into the lead, trailing by five points, 53-48, with 2:18 left. At that point, Bryant shook off the injury and re-entered the game and promptly swished home a crucial trey which made it a two-point deficit.

A minute later, Farmington senior Christian Smith hit a pair of free throws to tie the game. With 12 seconds left, Bryant, driving to the hoop, was fouled and made one of his two free throws to put his team on top, 54-53. Bashar Shalal later hit one free throw and Smith followed with another pair of free throws to make it 57-53 with eight seconds remaining.

Farmington allowed Groves' Offie Rashed to go in for an uncontested layup to account for the final score.

Farmington's 17-5 game-ending run ended the program's long postseason drought.

"This is a real good feeling," Bryant said. "We tried to do it last year, but we lost in the first round by a lot to West

Bloomfield. So we just wanted to come out here and get a win.

"I hit a real big shot there at the end, which helped our team get the win," he added. "I just want to thank my teammates, though, because they helped me out when I got hurt."

Pressure pays off

Porter said the difference down the stretch was his team caused a few key turnovers and was 7-of-10 from the free-throw line over the game's final three minutes.

"We were fortunate. Our pressure finally kicked in and turned them over," Porter said. "We tried to keep the ball out of the primary ball handler's hands and make someone else initiate their offense. It worked out for us and it led to some easy baskets."

"(Groves) coach (Marc) West did a good job preparing his team today," he added. "I think both teams knew one another from our previous game. I just think we were fortunate to turn them over the way we did and we started making some shots. We struggled in the first half to score."

Groves, which lost to Farmington in mid-February in an OAA crossover game at Little Caesars Arena, trailed 12-9 after the first quarter, but used a 19-4 second-quarter scoring outburst to go up 28-16 at halftime.

Groves still held a lead after three quarters, 37-31, only to fall victim to Farmington's late rally.

"It was disappointing going down the stretch," West said. "There was a 15-8 difference in fouls there in the second half and I guess we just weren't getting to the right positions and they were able to knock down some free throws."

"I thought our guys battled and we had to play the end of the game with two starters fouled out and that made a difference. That made it tougher on us. Their pressure bothered us and they're physical on the press. But to Farmington's credit, they kept playing."

Farmington's only other double-figure scorer was freshman guard Jaden Akins, who had 11 points. Senior forward Austin Anthony grabbed a team-high seven rebounds, while Bryant added six.

Groves had three players reach double figures: freshman guard Daniel Lee (17), Rashed (15) and senior guard Mitchell Pitts (13). Senior forward Crisition Williams added eight points.

Farmington (15-7), which placed third in the OAA Blue Division, was scheduled to play Monday in a regional semifinal against Detroit Martin Luther King.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Stevenson two-sport trio sparks district title win

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The way Livonia Stevenson's Parker Graham was grabbing the basketball and firing it the length of the court to George Ferguson during Friday's Class A district final against Redford Thurston, it was as if they were still on the football field.

Graham — the Spartans' quarterback — hooked up several times with Ferguson (who happened to be one of his top receivers), stretching the Eagles' defense and resulting in quick-strike baskets at the rim. Also getting in on the act was senior guard Devin Dunn, another football receiver.

But the football-basketball trio had plenty of help, especially from center Thomas Demers (20 points, 15 rebounds) and shooting guard Chriz Fazica (15 points) as the Spartans cruised to a 75-54 victory at Dearborn Fordson.

Stevenson (16-7) advanced to the regionals, scheduled Monday against University of Detroit-Jesuit.

"If people press us, (Graham) can go downcourt because George and Devin both played football, they were his receivers," Stevenson coach Kareem Smart said. "So he has the green light to throw it."

"Some of them didn't work out, but a couple of them did, so that's all that matters," Graham said with a laugh, about his long-range feeds. "When we get down to it, it just takes grit and toughness. That's what you get from football, so that's what we take to the court."

It starts with defense

Ferguson (17 points, 10 rebounds) pointed to great rapport with the two other three-sport seniors (they all play baseball, too). Chipping in 14 points was Dunn. Graham added seven points and 10 boards.

"Chemistry, it's a big boost and we're all really good friends," Ferguson said. "I think we got the pieces, this team, and we got the heart. We want it."

"e just got such good chemistry," Dunn said. "It just keeps building every single year."

Thurston (10-12) didn't give up easily. Stevenson needed to stop the Eagles to win a district championship for the first time in the eight years Smart has been with the program (four years as head coach and four coaching the JV).

"We had to buckle down, defensively," Smart said. "First quarter, we didn't do so hot of a job of stopping them from driving. Then second quarter, we took a team effort and started blocking off the drivers. That kind of sparked us to get going more on offense."

The two teams went back and forth for much of the first quarter, trading the lead.

Thurston trailed after one quarter,

23-17, but then scored nine points in the first minute of the second — with senior Karlos Berry, who scored nine points, hitting a trey and following up with a deuce-and-one. Suddenly, it was a 26-23 Thurston lead.

But the Spartans flipped the switch and went on a 21-4 run to end the first half up, 44-30.

"We just stopped executing defensively what we needed to do, we just got out of sorts a little bit," veteran Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "And then they kept pushing, they kept doing what they do and we didn't. I give them all the credit in the world."

"They attack the rim really well and we needed to put a body on them and we didn't, all night long. Again, I give them credit, because they're an aggressive team and they played aggressively."

Stevenson went up by 20 points (52-32) midway through the third after baskets by Graham and Demers.

The Eagles had one last gasp on back-to-back treys by seniors Malik Walker (nine points) and Demetrius Dowd (11 points) and Dowd followed with a slam to cut the lead to 56-42. Senior Kevin Newell also scored nine for Thurston.

A trey from the left corner by Fazica made it 59-44 late in the third and the Spartans were back on track.

"It hurts real bad to not move on," said Dowd, also a football-basketball athlete. "But it was a good experience with the group of guys that I played with."

The Eagles got to the district final after an emotional 69-62 overtime victory against Redford Union.

Following are other takeaways:

DIFFERENT SCRIPT

Stevenson's Smart said the 2017-18 team has a different style than previous teams, not relying on perimeter shooting and taking the ball to the basket with purpose for layups and put-backs (which were plentiful against Thurston).

"Our goal was to drive and (find) Fazica, which we did in the first quarter three or four times for threes," he said. "It was for him to get shots and for everybody else to get to the basket."

NOT DUNN YET

Smart added that Dunn's hard-nosed approach from the guard position provides another new wrinkle.

"Devin, he's been great for us all year," Smart said. "Within the last 10-15 games, he's had 15 or more points in every game. He's a big reason why we're here today."

BREAKING OUT

The Spartans also were sparked by Demers, who altered Thurston shot attempts in the paint and wound up with a lot of points at the other end.

"Thomas played a heck of a game, I'm proud of Thomas today," Smart said. "He finished, he passed the ball, rebounded and blocked shots."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Wayne

Continued from Page 1B

only is she hard-nosed and won't quit, she's also a very good leader."

Of course, it doesn't hurt to have Miss Basketball finalist Clegg, who is playing next year at Division I Clemson, in the backcourt.

Mitchell said he wasn't worried in the least when Clegg misfired on several treys in the first half, because she still was in charge.

"That's why it's called a basketball team, but I don't even know if she was off, because by halftime she had six assists," Mitchell said. "I told her at halftime that this was probably one of the best games I've seen her play, because she controlled the basketball game without scoring."

Belleville, which finished 18-6, struggled to make much happen in the first half against the continuous full-court press from the Zebras.

"We came out kind of nervous, I'm not going to lie," said Belleville senior guard and Wayne State University-bound Katelyn Sherwood, who led the Tigers with 12 points. "It's a good press because they're very tall, athletic, fast. It took us a second to adjust, obviously."

"But once coach kind of yelled at us (at halftime) to calm down, we had to take a deep breath and say, 'Hey, this is basketball, we just got to do our thing, relax and have fun.'"

The Tigers did find the mark more in the second half, but by then the cake was all but baked.



Wayne Memorial celebrates after winning the Class A girls basketball regional championship at Wyandotte Roosevelt. TIM SMITH

According to Terry, one reason the Zebras have had a big season is the way everybody picks up the slack when called upon. Against Belleville, with Clegg not hitting her shots early on, that meant Terry and Hoskin just had to score — and they did.

Terry buried a trey from the right wing to make it 12-2 with a minute to go in the first quarter and hit another from the same spot midway through the second. She led the Zebras with 11 first-half points (Hoskin scored 10 before the break).

"I'm always in the gym, shooting those types of shots," Terry said. "So I knew coming into the game, if I shot that shot, it would go in. I knew if I just kept my momentum and kept my adrenaline up, those shots would go in."

"Cam's always going to come back with the threes. If it's not in the beginning, it's going to come in the end. So I just knew if I had it in the beginning, she'd come around in the end."

Clegg wasn't too concerned about her personal stats, because the team was taking care of the only number that mattered — on the scoreboard.

"We were playing extremely unselfish, we locked up on defense and made them create turnovers and play our speed," Clegg said. "It worked out in our favor. Everybody's getting better, everybody's becoming way more unselfish and sharing the ball."

"We're not worried about scoring, we're just trying to get the win."

The Zebras were scheduled Tuesday face Hartland in a Class A quarterfinal at Southfield A&T.

Following are other takeaways:

DIALING IT DOWN

When the regional trophy was presented to Mitchell at center court, he calmly walked over to the bench with it instead of getting in the middle of a wild celebration. There was a reason for that approach.

"You never want to get too high, you never want to get too low," Mitchell said. "You want to stay even-keeled and focused on the next situation once you get past this. We take it one game at a time."

STICKING TO IT

Although Clegg said the team wanted redemption for losing to Belleville in the

2017 regional final, Mitchell downplayed that aspect.

"I wanted them to get better and I told them tonight we're competing against ourselves to make ourselves better than we were yesterday," Mitchell said. "Because when you get to saying, 'Oh, this team beat us last year' then it gets mental ... because it's all psychology."

SMOOTH AS SILK

During the KLAAs tournament, the Zebras were able to win despite not playing as well as they could. Foul trouble and turnovers needed to be overcome, which they did.

Those issues weren't evident against Belleville because Mitchell's team kept the pressure going for 32 minutes and played a very sound game in the process.

"We were playing extremely unselfish," Clegg said. "We locked up on defense and made them create turnovers and play our speed. It worked out in our favor."

"Everybody's getting better, everybody's becoming way more unselfish and sharing the ball. We're not worried about scoring, we're just trying to get the win."

EXTRA STATS

Also helping the Zebras' cause was junior Jayah Hicks, with six points.

Belleville senior Raven Grantham scored 10 points, while junior Shacylah Smith added eight.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill storms back to win semifinal

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With each game during the 2018 boys hockey postseason, Livonia Churchill is writing another page of history.

Friday's 3-1 victory over Riverview Gabriel Richard in the Division 3 semifinal at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth ensured that the book on the 2018 tournament run was not complete. Churchill played Detroit Country Day for the state title Saturday, losing, 2-1.

The Chargers' first appearance in the final four was salvaged behind a blue-collar, team effort — punctuated by two enormous goals by senior forward and co-captain Josh Friend that helped bring the team back from an early 1-0 deficit.

"The biggest thing we stressed was patience," sixth-year Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "We wanted to take our time, we wanted to play our game, we wanted to be calm and composed and confident with our play. Eventually, we broke it open."

It took a while for that to happen, however.

Friend banged in a centering feed from senior linemate Carter Swider at 14:25 of the second period, to finally get the Chargers even.

The winning goal, just over two minutes into the final period, was all about Friend. He picked off a pass in the Pioneers' zone, wheeled and roofed a blast from between the circles that beat goalie Drew Adams (33 saves).

"Gabriel Richard just tried to put the puck up through the center of the ice," Friend said. "Our forecheck is really good. I was staying up high and just intercepted the pass. I saw the corner and had to take it."

Elbow grease

The Chargers (16-11-3) still needed to kill a couple of penalties, but with steady senior goalie Chris Sergison (22 saves) and strong penalty killers on the job, the Pioneers weren't able to respond.

"In my history here with Churchill, this has been perhaps the most phenomenal penalty killing effort that I've had in all my years of coaching," Reynolds said. "They're consistently staying to their system, they don't take risks. And they've even found a couple goals



Churchill's Josh Friend celebrates the first of his two goals against Gabriel Richard. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

along the way.

"We have guys on our units who are willing to do the dirty work, those lunch-pail jobs blocking shots and sacrificing their body for the betterment of the team."

Junior forward Zach Vendittelli put the exclamation point on the victory when he scored a shorthanded goal with 4:01 remaining. He stripped the puck behind the Gabriel Richard goal and his shot from the side of the net banked in off Adams.

"Our team had a lot of energy, energy's a big thing on our team," Friend said. "Everyone was flying, we started on time."

Friend added that the winning goal, obviously, is "pretty up there" in his ranking of career highlights.

"It's the first time Churchill's ever been to USA Arena, Compuware," Friend said. "It's a great experience, it's an awesome feeling."

Senior forward and co-captain Conor Burnette had his foot on the gas pedal the entire game, with a pro-active pace and several shots on goal.

"We got tremendous respect for our opponent," Burnette said. "We knew they work hard and we had to work harder."

Preaching patience

The Chargers needed to keep plug-

ging to overcome an early hole, however. Gabriel Richard junior forward Josh Wiseman buried a centering pass from sophomore linemate Nathan Vazquez.

But Sergison, who blanked Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett on March 7 in the D-3 quarterfinals, made a clutch pad stop in the closing seconds of the period to keep Churchill down just one.

"Chris Sergison, our goaltender, he's playing outstanding, he's playing amazing," Burnette said. "He's been waiting his turn ever since his freshman year."

"He watched his freshman year, he watched his sophomore year, he watched his junior year. Finally, got his chance and he's making the best of it."

Friend then had his chance to keep writing an exciting chapter in Churchill hockey history and he didn't miss.

Following are other takeaways:

FINALLY

With the Pioneers leading 1-0 for much of the second period, the Chargers kept pushing for the tying goal.

It finally came when two longtime teammates (Friend and Swider) hooked up for a net-front jam with 2:35 left. That goal rewarded several back-to-back shifts by the hard-working Chargers.

"There's a turning point in every game and that, for sure, was the turning point in this one," said Burnette, who

then glanced over to Friend sitting next to him in the interview room. "This guy (Friend) worked his butt off. I can't thank him enough for what he's been doing for the team. He's been stepping it up every game."

LOUD AND PROUD

A large, noisy contingent of Churchill students and teachers cheered throughout the contest, getting louder and louder as the team started to take control late in the second period.

"We had school today," Friend said. "I don't know if anybody went to class."

After the final buzzer, the Chargers streamed out onto the ice and slammed into the glass in front of the throng of happy home fans.

RESET BUTTON

Reynolds said it was important for the Chargers to withstand a late Gabriel Richard charge, during the shift following Friend's equalizer. During a frantic 30 seconds, Sergison stopped a shot and another clanked off the left post.

"It gave us a chance to get back into the locker room, recompose ourselves, know that it was an even game at that point and that you can approach the third period as a 0-0 hockey game," Reynolds said. "It was kind of a reset for us. That was an advantage for us, as the game went on I think we got more confident."

Gabriel Richard coach Rick DeSana, whose team ended the season 18-12, also pointed to that sequence.

"It just seemed like it got tipped, (Sergison) made a glove save and then the puck (went) off the post and we were all over them for that shift," DeSana said. "It would have definitely made a big difference being able to respond right there."

HARD HAT

Friend wore the white hard hat awarded to that game's MVP, but he quickly said it should have been given to everybody on the team this time around.

"The best player from the last game moves it on to the best player of the next game," Friend said. "I couldn't really do it without my team. I wouldn't say I'm the MVP, I'd say the whole entire team's the MVP."

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Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

they're going to get their opportunities," Country Day coach Frank Novock said. "They did and they got traffic in front. The only way they're going to score on him is if he can't see it. They collapsed real good and it found its way in."

Whatever it takes

Churchill (16-12-3), in its first state finals appearance, then turned up the offensive heat during additional power-play time and with senior goalie Chris Sergison (24 saves) pulled in the final minute. But Evola and his teammates were ready.

Evola made stops when he had to and senior forward Carter Elrod made some daring blocks to frustrate the Churchill comeback bid.

"A lot of it's guys like him right here (Elrod), blocking shots out of nowhere," Evola said while sitting next to Elrod in the postgame interview room. "I think they might have scored if he hadn't blocked that one shot. I hadn't seen it."

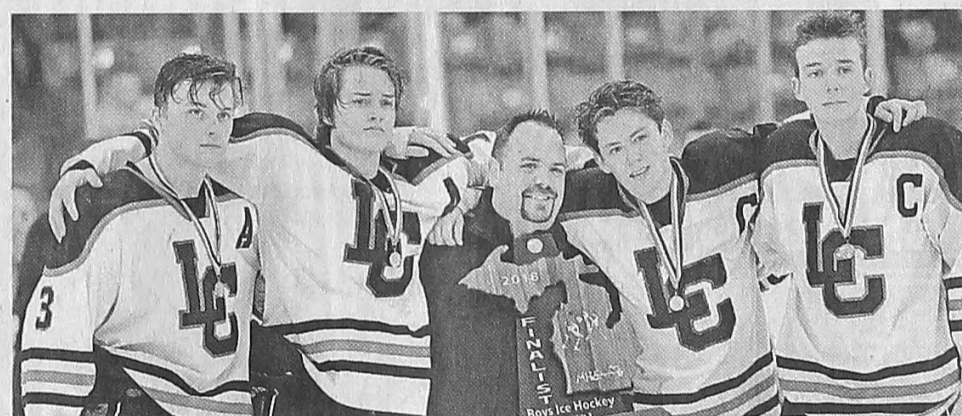
Elrod, who broke a hand blocking a shot earlier this season, said he was "just the guy out there to do it. I knew any of my teammates would do the same thing. We stuck to a system all year and it got us here and we won."

Churchill senior forward Carter Swider said he and his teammates left it all out on the ice in the bid for a tying goal.

"We just knew we just had to get in front of the net and screen him," Swider said. "He's a great goalie, just try to get shots through from the point and, hopefully, get a dirty goal. We knew we weren't going to get anything fancy, we just had to keep shooting, keep peppering him."

The Yellowjackets broke a scoreless tie with 38 seconds to play in the second period, on a breakaway by junior forward Mickey VanAntwerp.

"It was just an unfortunate circumstance on the ice, a puck got away from us and he had a stride or two on us,"



Livonia Churchill coach Jason Reynolds poses with the runner-up trophy with the Chargers captains. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "Our defenseman tried to chase it down, but those are the bounces that make or break hockey games."

"We knew this was going to be a back-and-forth game, we knew it was going to be a tight game and probably low-scoring."

"As the game went on, I thought we did a nice job of continuing to get traffic in front of their net. We just came up a goal short."

Following are other takeaways:

BUILDING A CULTURE

Both Novock and Reynolds talked about how their teams bought into a new way of doing things this season.

"With the leadership, it just kept evolving," Novock said. "Like, 'Now, we're going to work out in the summer.' Just little things like that; it's a culture change."

"This is still high school sports. How many of these kids that played this whole week are going to move on to junior and college hockey? Two, maybe. It's just that tough of a road and you got to keep it in perspective."

Reynolds said his program continued to evolve, with the first trip to the finals something to keep building off of.

"We've built a culture of learning here with our Charger program and each season has progressed and gotten better and better," Reynolds said. "We had a great senior class this year that really protected our culture and made sure ev-

erybody stayed on point and worked hard.

"Obviously, you get here once, the goal is let's find a way back here again."

TAKE A LOOK

The Chargers thought they had scored a power-play goal with more than nine minutes to play in the game. But officials immediately waved off the goal and ruled that the puck was gloved into the Yellowjackets goal.

Officials converged to discuss whether or not to go to video replay, which was available for the semifinals and finals. The headphones never were used, to Reynolds's dismay.

"To be very honest with you, I was under the impression we had video replay for a reason," Reynolds said. "I was disappointed they didn't use the video replay, but they took one of the officials' word."

"That being said, it's no different than any other road block that we've been thrown into at that point. You just have to reset, you have to continue to work hard. We were lucky to get a goal there late in the third period and that gave us an opportunity to rally a little bit."

STREAK REACHES 22

Country Day closed out the season with 22 victories in a row, but Novock said the way his team responded to a no-pucks practice after a poor game against Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett really jump-started that

amazing run.

"Our last loss to Liggett, we weren't very good," Novock said. "And we put 51 minutes on the clock (at practice) and I said, 'You guys owe me another game, because we didn't play on Saturday.'"

"That was the last game we lost this season. Not one guy complained, they took their medicine. ... You get a group that starts to feel like that, that (it) can do some magical things and this group did."

BOTTLE IT UP

Coaches and players both marveled at the high energy level and overall atmosphere all weekend at USA Hockey Arena and agreed that the experience was one they'll never forget.

"It's very humbling to have such an outpouring of support from the local community, the city of Livonia," Reynolds said. "Even our rivals from across town have all reached out, showing their united support for us."

"This has been a one-of-a-kind experience. Even though we didn't get to the ultimate goal, we're incredibly blessed to be here."

Chargers senior defenseman Willis Wuebben added that, although the defeat was a heart-breaker, "the core group of boys on the team, like Swider, our goalie Sergy, Seth and Josh, I've known those kids all my life. It's cool to make a run like that with some of my brothers."

TURNING ON THE JETS

The goal by VanAntwerp in the final minute of the middle period featured the junior forward breaking an 0-fer on breakaways, Novock joked.

"I guess you save your best for last, when it matters the most," he said. "And even him skating, Mick's not the fastest guy in the world, but I think that's the fastest I've seen him skate all year."

"And it was towards the end of a shift, he just outtraced the guy ... he was able to cut and made a great shot. I think it let us breathe a little bit."

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Brighton

Continued from Page 1B

Shamrocks. With Friday's victory, the Bulldogs are 3-1 the past two seasons against Catholic Central.

"The pressure was on them," Brighton coach Paul Moggach said. "We wanted to make them wonder, 'What in the heck is happening?' I thought we did that."

"Brighton's always been a playoff team," senior forward Adam Conquest said. "We always come to play in the big games. I knew, I think everyone knew, that we would give it our all. It came out for the best for us."

The loss was a shock to the system for the Shamrocks, whose late-

season run of dominance began with an 8-0 victory Feb. 21 over Division 2 finalist Hartland.

Catholic Central's three regular-season losses came against Culver Academy of Indiana. A tie game came against Lake Forest Academy of Illinois.

"I told them to keep their heads up," Catholic Central coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "They had an incredible season. They lost one game in the state of Michigan; it happened to be at the wrong time of the year. It doesn't change the fact they were tremendous kids. They worked hard, they did everything we asked them to do. We just didn't come up with our best game at the right time. I told them I felt they deserved better than a semifinal exit. But

you give all the credit in the world to Brighton. They did a great job. They outplayed us."

Brighton took a 1-0 lead with 48.5 seconds left in the first period when Kahra threw a cross-ice pass to Conquest, who rang one in off the post from the right circle on the power play.

"He found me open, I got it right in my wheelhouse and shot it," Conquest said. "Thank God it went in. I thought it hit the post and went out. It just gave us momentum. It was a big goal, knowing it was C.C., knowing they haven't given up a goal in about six games."

Conquest's goal ended Catholic Central's shutout streak at 268 minutes, 39 seconds.

In a scene more out of an NHL game than a high school game, Brighton



Brighton defenseman Sam Brennan, left, and Detroit Catholic Central's Ryan Clemons battle for the puck.

had to wait through an agonizingly long video review before Kahra's power-play goal with 4:38 left in the second period was confirmed. The Michigan High School Athletic Association allows video review in hockey and basketball for scoring plays at this level of the tournament.

The Catholic Central net was dislodged as the puck was going into the net.

"I knew the whole time they would count it,

because it was going in the whole way," Kahra said. "Of course, there was always a chance they'd call it off. We were ready if they called it off to keep playing."

The Bulldogs braced for a desperate Catholic Central team in the third period.

Shortly after a huge pad save by goalie Harrison Fleming, Catholic Central (25-4-1) made sure the final minutes wouldn't be comfortable for Brighton when Jared

Lee scored on the power play with 3:05 remaining.

The Bulldogs thought they regained a two-goal lead with 2:06 left, but a goal was disallowed when it was ruled the puck was kicked.

When Brighton defenseman Sam Brennan was penalized for holding with 1:00 left, the Shamrocks had the opportunity for a six-on-four advantage in the offensive zone after pulling goalie Zach Allan.

Brighton cleared the zone three times, with Kahra getting the puck out for the final time, setting off a wild celebration.

Fleming, who was the backup goaltender until late January, made 21 saves.

"It's been pretty crazy," said Fleming, who was Brighton's junior varsity goalie last season. "It's exciting. I've been trying very hard to get here."

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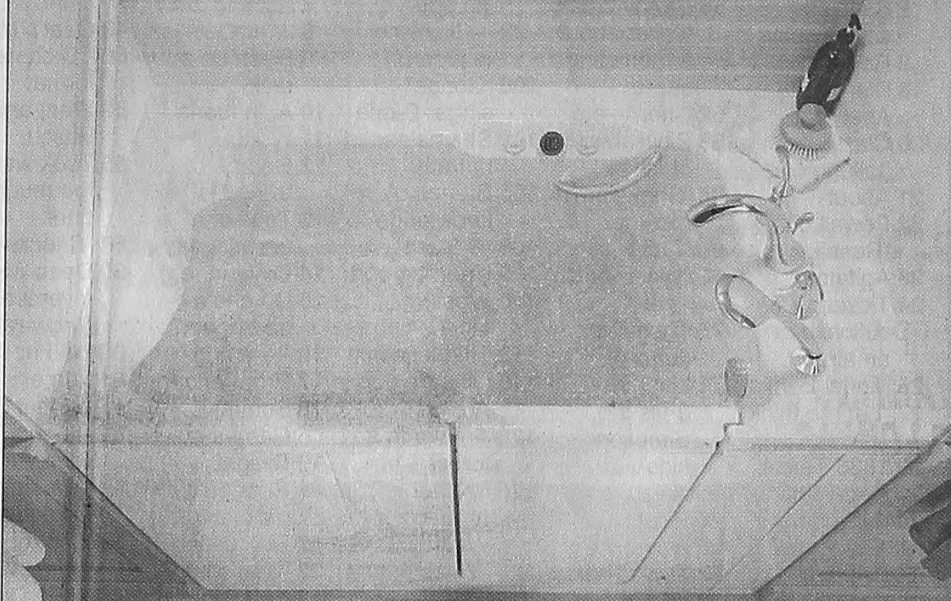
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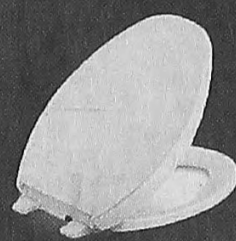
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