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OBSERVER

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Fresh Thyme eyes spring opening

Canton store will be chain's seventh in state

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market is expected to open by early April in Canton, becoming the Phoenix-based grocery chain's seventh store in Michigan. The new 28,709-square-foot store, which has taken shape on Morton Taylor, north of Ford Road, comes as Fresh Thyme moves to broaden its reach among Midwest grocery stores, said Dan Uebelhor, project manager for the developer, InSite Real Estate. Company officials chose the Canton location amid plans to tap into the bustling Ford Road business corridor and its built-

in customer base. "This is the market they have wanted to be in for a long time," Uebelhor said. "It's a great location in a great retail corridor they have been eyeing for a long time." Despite some minor weather-related construction setbacks, the project appears on schedule. Officials last January had said they hoped to open the store during the first half of 2017. "Everything has gone really well," Uebelhor said. The specialty store is expected to employ about 115 full- and part-time workers, similar to the workforce of the Farmington store that opened in

August. Uebelhor has described Fresh Thyme as larger than Trader Joe's, but smaller than Whole Foods Market. The company's niche includes natural, organic produce, hormone-free meats and fresh seafood, among other items. Fresh Thyme's spring opening is expected after the company last January received the go-ahead for its site plan from the Canton Township Board of Trustees. The company's website lists other Michigan stores in Northville, Farmington, Troy, Rochester Hills, East Lansing and Grand Rapids.

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Fresh Thyme Farmers Market is coming to Canton.

CANTON TOWNSHIP



ELENA VOYLES

This was the scene as firefighters a short distance away battled a house fire.

Fire destroys Canton house, cause under investigation

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Fire investigators Tuesday sifted through the ruins after a Monday night blaze swept through an unoccupied house on Canton's north side. "It's a total loss," Deputy Director of Fire Christopher

Stoecklein said. No one was at home when neighbors noticed the two-story colonial house and an attached garage on Ryegate, a residential street near Morton Taylor and Warren roads, were engulfed in flames about 11:45 p.m. Monday. "We believe it started on

the first floor," Stoecklein said. Investigators were trying to determine the cause. The fire also caused minor damage to two adjacent homes. Firefighters from all three Canton fire stations battled the blaze in single-digit temperatures until they cleared

the scene about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, about five hours after the fire was reported. Frigid weather conditions caused ice to build up on the street and sidewalk, Stoecklein said, but firefighters had no difficulty accessing water from a fire hydrant. "We were lucky last night,

because everything went as smoothly as it could possibly go in those conditions," he said. The investigation was continuing.

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Plymouth Township grandmother loses \$2,000 in telephone scam

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

A Plymouth Township grandmother has lost \$2,000 after a scam artist phoned her and said the money was needed to get her grandson out of jail. Police Chief Tom Tiderington said the caller posed as a

police officer and briefly put someone else on the phone, claiming he was the grandson. The caller convinced the elderly woman to go to a retail store, buy gift cards and provide the code numbers on the back, allowing the scam artist to collect the money. It's the latest such incident in Plymouth Township, Canton

and other communities where callers posing as police officers, Internal Revenue Service employees and FBI agents, among others, have convinced residents — often the elderly — to give money. On Monday, Tiderington said the victim became suspicious and called police after the scam artist called back a

second time and said another \$3,000 was needed. The police chief warned residents to beware of phone scams, get contact numbers for callers and verify the authenticity of calls, even from those claiming to be relatives, before sending money. Moreover, he said police officers do not solicit money by phone to

free a jail inmate. The Plymouth Township incident comes just two months after an 81-year-old Canton woman, worried that her grandson had been arrested for texting while driving, was swindled out of \$2,000 by a caller who fabricated the story.

See SCAM, Page A2



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From Sailor of the Day to ruler of the skies

The journey began with Ryan Dahlman growing up in Canton. As a young boy, he knew he wanted to work with aircraft, but just didn't know which route to take. At the end of his senior year in high school, he decided he wanted to join the U.S. Navy and follow a long history of military service in his family.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I was fascinated with aircraft and always wanted to work with them," said Dahlman, who joined the navy

right out of high school at age 18.

Dahlman's military career began as an enlistee sailor, joining as an aviation electrician's mate. His first command was with the Nightdippers of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 5 (HS-5), where he was selected as Sailor of the Day during an underway with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (Ike CSG).

"Sept. 30, 1999, was the day I was selected by my squadron to become Ike's Sailor of the Day,"

Dahlman said. "It was a real neat experience, being able to come up on to the bridge and meet the air wing commander and the captain of the ship. It was really great to be recognized for some of my achievements."

Dahlman said it was his drive to succeed that attracted the attention of his leadership.

"I was leading a night check line shack as a third-class petty officer. I think my work ethic was what people really sought after," he said. "That's what helped me stand out in a group of truly outstanding sailors. My family from an early age told me that, whatever I'm going to do in life, I need to do it 100 percent and put my best foot forward. We're here to do a job and we need to give it our all. That's what I instilled in my guys and I was fortunate enough to get recognized for that."

The leadership qualities were evident within Dahlman. His chain of command noticed that and opened the door to new career possibilities.

"Initially, my intentions were to do my four years, serve them proudly and then get out," Dahlman said. "I wanted to use the money the government would give me for school and become a teacher. My division officer and department head saw something in me and felt I had leadership potential. They encouraged me to apply for an officer program called BOOST (Broadened Opportunity



U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Dahlman grew up in Canton.

for Officer Selection and Training), which later turned into the Seaman to Admiral program (STA-21)."

The transition from military life to the civilian sector was anything but a breeze. Something even more challenging was transitioning to life as a full-time student.

"Some of the bigger trials were getting back into the swing of studying again and how to manage my time properly," Dahlman said. "I had to keep a certain grade-point average in order to get my commission. I also got married while I was in college and had a baby. We had financial burdens because, unlike STA-21 and the G.I. Bill,

with the BOOST program, when you start school, the government hands you a DD-214 and you lose all your benefits and pay, so my wife and I had to scrounge and save every nickel and dime to get by."

"I was working part time for health care and for the baby, trying to stay on top of all my schoolwork. We had to stay focused on the overall goal of me getting that commission to become an officer and earn financial stability for the family."

Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Dahlman earned his commission and is now the air boss aboard USS San Jacinto (CG-56). Looking back, Dahlman said it's possible that becoming

Sailor of the Day might have brought to light his potential and helped start him on his successful career path.

"I want to try and encourage junior sailors to keep your nose to the grind stone and push through," Dahlman said. "Put 100-percent effort in everything you do and good things will come. I fought through the tough times, kept going and got recognized. Now I'm an officer in the United States Navy, flying multi-million-dollar aircraft and loving every second of it. Who would have thought?"

Ike, currently deployed as part of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.

CANTON OBSERVER

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SCAM

Continued from Page A1

The woman told police she received a phone call from a woman who asked her to buy iTunes cards totaling \$2,000 and to call back and provide the code numbers.

She did, apparently believing it would free her grandson. It prompted a warning from Canton police Lt. Craig Wilsher.

"Don't send money to just anybody," he said. "If you have any concerns or suspicions, just don't do it."

Wilsher said anyone receiving such calls should verify with a family member that it is legitimate before sending money. He said some elderly people can be particularly vulnerable to scam artists.

"A lot times (scam artists) prey on the elderly, because they are a little more vulnerable and trusting," he said.

In another Canton incident, a 50-year-old man lost \$5,000 after a scam artist posing as an Internal Revenue Service agent phoned him and claimed he could be jailed for unpaid taxes.

The victim owed nothing.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said the caller convinced the man to go to a store, buy an iTunes gift card, return home and reveal by phone the numbers off the back of the card.

Authorities have repeatedly issued warnings about the scam, yet victims continue to lose thousands of dollars amid fears they will otherwise be arrested.

Agencies such as the IRS never demand immediate payment over the phone, Traylor has said.

The scam artists can be savvy. One caller in Canton managed to have the caller identification show up as the Canton Police Department, Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden has said. The caller even claimed to be Hilden.

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Woman is third pedestrian death on Michigan Avenue

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Police are calling it a tragic coincidence that three pedestrians have been struck and killed since Nov. 13 while crossing Michigan Avenue, near Lotz, in Canton.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said the deaths "sadly" are coincidental and serve as a reminder for pedestrians to use caution when crossing roads like Michigan Avenue that have a 55-mph

speed limit. He said it's easy to misjudge how quickly a vehicle is approaching.

"It's like not crossing where the speed limit is 35 mph," he said.

The latest incident occurred about 11:30 p.m. Dec. 12, when a 30-year-old Canton woman, whose car had broken down, was crossing the westbound lanes of Michigan Avenue at Lotz, near the McDonald's restaurant. She was trying to get from the south side of

the avenue to the north.

The woman, whose name hasn't yet been released, was struck by an oncoming vehicle whose driver stopped at the scene. Police said speed, alcohol and distracted driving do not appear to be factors.

The victim was taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where she later died from her injuries.

The Canton Police Department's Accident Investigation Team was

called in to investigate.

The woman's death came after a double pedestrian fatality near the same area that killed 54-year-old Martin Jude Lesinski of Westland and 45-year-old Robert James Locklear of Inkster. That incident occurred shortly before 6 p.m. Nov. 13 and involved three vehicles.

Two of the drivers stopped; police have said speed, alcohol and distracted driving didn't appear to be factors with them.

Police are still trying to identify and locate a third driver who reportedly fled the scene in a dark blue or black minivan, possibly a Dodge Caravan. The driver was described as male, 36-40 years old and clean-shaven with short black hair. Police say he briefly got out of his vehicle before leaving the scene.

Police say the two men were walking north across the eastbound lanes of Michigan Avenue. Lesinski was struck

by the vehicle that fled the scene and then by another vehicle, a Buick Lacrosse, whose driver did stop, police said.

Locklear was struck by a Ford Expedition. That driver also stopped at the scene.

Anyone with information about these incidents is urged to call the Canton Township Police Department at 734-394-5400.

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AREA CRIME WATCH

CANTON

Man accused of exposing himself on hotel elevator

What began as a harmless compliment on her hair quickly became frightening for a 24-year-old woman who said a man exposed and fondled himself on a Canton hotel elevator.

The incident unfolded shortly after 9 a.m. Monday at the La Quinta Inn on Ford Road, near I-275, on Canton's east side.

The victim told police she had gone to her car to get clothing and was returning to her second-floor hotel room when the suspect complimented her "pretty hair" on the elevator. She said he also noticed she had a sprained ankle and commented on it.

The woman accused the man of dropping his pants, exposing himself and masturbating as the elevator reached her floor, where she escaped to her room, a police report said.

The suspect was described as a black male, 5 feet, 7 inches, to 5 feet, 9

inches, about 150 pounds with short hair. The report indicated he had not been located.

Gun confiscated

Police confiscated a 9mm handgun during what started as a routine traffic stop near Cherry Hill and Haggerty roads, a report said.

Police pulled a vehicle over after noticing its windows were heavily tinted. The report said the 27-year-old driver and two passengers also were riding with a flat tire.

Police could smell marijuana and found a small amount on the front seat. Further search led police to the handgun, which was in a coat pocket in the back seat.

The driver, a Bloomfield Hills resident, and both passengers denied the gun was theirs. Police ran a background check that revealed the driver had a registered gun, but his permit to carry a concealed weapon had expired. He also had a suspended driver's license.

Police took the driver

into custody as the investigation was continuing.

Text, Facebook harassment

Amidst a months-long barrage of texts and Facebook messages, a Canton woman turned to police to get her brother's ex-girlfriend to stop harassing her.

She finally blocked the 23-year-old suspect from sending texts and Facebook messages, but police also contacted the ex-girlfriend, a Detroit resident, and advised her to stop contacting the Canton woman.

The suspect apparently was trying to get through to her former boyfriend by using his sister as the go-between, a report said. She began contacting her in mid-June and the activity continued into December.

When contacted by police, the suspect apologized and said she would halt her activity.

Teen resists police

A teen trying to escape a retail store where he was accused of steal-

ing a smart phone ended up dragging a police officer toward the front door before he was finally subdued, a police report said.

The incident occurred about 2:15 p.m. Saturday at the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue in Canton. It ended with a 17-year-old Ypsilanti Township man being taken into custody.

Witnesses told police the teen, accompanied by his mother and sister, left the store with a stolen phone and went to a Chevrolet Malibu before he returned to the store. A store employee had seen the teen remove the packaging from the phone and steal it.

Police arrived, found the teen and questioned him, prompting him to ask if he would be going to jail. He then tried to run away and dragged a police officer who was holding onto him to try to subdue him. The two scuffled and ended up on the store floor.

No one was seriously injured, though the suspect complained of pain, but wasn't specific about where he was hurting.

He was taken to a medical facility for evaluation and, upon his release from the facility, was facing possible charges of retail fraud.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Purse stolen from car

A 46-year-old Plymouth woman told police the rear window of her 2017 Ford Escape was smashed out by a thief who took her purse from the vehicle, a report said.

The woman had gone to the LA Fitness center in the 41600 block of Ann Arbor Road and left her purse inside the vehicle while she worked out. She returned to find her vehicle vandalized and her purse and laptop had been taken. She also said she lost an iPhone, credit cards, a copy of the Bible, makeup supplies and \$750 in cash.

Stun gun confiscated

Police confiscated a stun gun from the purse of a female driver who was stopped by Plymouth

Township police near Joy and Haggerty roads, a report said.

Police ran an electronic check of the vehicle's license plate and learned the owner, a 26-year-old Detroit woman, had a suspended license and warrants for her arrest. The incident unfolded about 2:15 p.m. Dec. 1.

Police could smell marijuana and ended up confiscating a small amount in a bag located in the car's center console. The investigation was continuing.

Crack pipe found

Police found a crack pipe inside a Chevrolet Cavalier during a traffic stop that occurred about 3 p.m. Nov. 7 near Ann Arbor Road and Tavisstock Drive.

Police had stopped the vehicle after running a background check and learning that the owner had a warrant for his arrest out of Garden City for possession of drug paraphernalia. He also had a suspended license.

He was taken into custody.

— By Darrell Clem

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GOING OUT OF BUSINESS



Hockey puck drop honors cultural center anniversary

A ceremonial puck drop was held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Plymouth Cultural Center. The event was held Friday, Dec. 16, before the game between the Canton High School and Salem High School varsity boys hockey teams. Taking place in the ceremony were Salem team captain Matt Schaumburger, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer and Canton team captain Michael Gaffka.

HANNAH SAAD

Taking place in the ceremony were (from left) Salem team captain Matt Schaumburger, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer and Canton team captain Michael Gaffka.

Amazon warehouse plan bringing 1,000 jobs to Livonia

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

You might see your Amazon packages shipping out of Livonia by next Christmas. That's because the mega online retailing giant has decided to bring a product fulfillment center to Livonia, set to open next fall. With the opening will come an additional 1,000 jobs to the city once it opens next October. The Michigan Strategic Fund has approved a \$7.5 million grant to the company, a Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant that will aid in the recruitment efforts. It's expected that Amazon will invest roughly \$90 million in the center. Dan West, president of

the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said the decision for Amazon to come to Livonia not only benefits the city, but the entire western Wayne County region. "It's good jobs for our whole area," he said. "From our perspective, this is great for our community." Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright agreed, saying the announcement is nothing but good news for Livonia and surrounding communities. "It's a real plus, though, for the people who live here, the people who work here," he said. "This is good news for everybody." He said it's expected some local tax abatement measures will also be requested for the site, with the expectation that they will go before the city council some time in 2017. West said once Amazon opens in the city, it will instantly become one of the top 10 employers in Livonia, diversifying the type of industrial within the city limits. Its location, West said, will also benefit the company and its future employees. The center is expected to move into the former GM Delco chassis plant at 13000 Eckles, off of Amrhein. "The site that Amazon picked, it's right near the I-96/I-275/M-14 interchange," West said. The announcement of 1,000 jobs was foreshadowed last year, when a development agreement between Canton-based Ashley Capital and the city of Livonia was approved by the city council in June 2015. This is the

second former GM plant in the city that is being occupied in recent years; Ashley Capital has also worked to redevelop and fill the former GM Powertrain plant near Plymouth and Middlebelt. "We're proud to welcome Amazon to Livonia and applaud the collaboration that took place to bring this significant capital investment and new, well-paying jobs to our community," Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans said in a statement. "Time is everything in today's global market and Wayne County was glad to do our part to ensure Amazon has the public infrastructure it needs to support its e-commerce operations."



Amazon announced it plans to open a distribution center in Livonia.

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Police: Missing Farmington Hills woman is a crime victim

Bill Laitner
Detroit Free Press

Investigators said they've determined that a 28-year-old Farmington Hills woman last seen Dec. 2 was the victim of foul play. "All available information and evidence leads investigators to believe Danielle Stislicki

was the victim of a crime," Farmington Hills Police Chief Chuck Nebus said Monday. In addition to Farmington Hills police,



Stislicki

detectives from federal and state agencies, as well as from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, have been "working tirelessly" and "all of us want the Stislicki family and the public to know that we are determined and committed to finding Danielle and solving this case," Nebus said in a statement.

According to police, Stislicki was last seen around 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, leaving her job at the MetLife insurance office building on Telegraph, north of 10 Mile, in Southfield. Her car, a 2015 Jeep Renegade, was found in front of her apartment building in the Independence Green Apartments complex in

Farmington Hills, where she lived, at about 6 p.m. the next day, police said. Stislicki, who is 5 feet, 5 inches, and weighs 123 pounds, left work wearing jeans, burgundy boots, a black zip-up shirt and a blue Eddie Bauer coat, according to police. Reward money for information leading to an arrest in Stislicki's case

has risen to \$125,000, with \$50,000 from the apartment complex, \$50,000 from MetLife and \$25,000 from a family friend's GoFundMe account, according to Nebus's statement. Tipsters may remain anonymous. Anyone with information may call police at 248-871-2610, anytime.

WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

Holiday decorating contest

"All American Holiday Decorating Contest" is underway and runs until midnight Saturday, Dec. 24. Residents can visit the city of Westland website to nominate themselves or a friend in one or all of the three categories: Best Traditional Display, Most Creative Display and Over the Top Display. Nominees will be asked to enter a picture with their submission. You can also enter the contest by posting your picture publicly on Twitter or Instagram, tagging @CityofWestland and using the hashtag #westlandholidaypride. Anyone can go onto the website, view the entries and vote for the holiday decorating display they think should win. Voting will close at midnight on Christmas Eve. Winners will be announced and awarded with prizes at the first council meeting of the new year Monday, Jan. 9.

Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations from Dec. 23 to Feb 1.

Wayne Memorial Parent Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host an eighth-grade parent night for those transitioning to ninth grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2016-17 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing

out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. Any additional questions should be directed to the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

Free open skate

The Redford Ice Arena offers free, open skate at the Redford Ice Arena or all residents and students 6:05-7:05 p.m. each Sunday. All residents and Redford students are free. Cost for others is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and children. Skate rental is \$3. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly Road. The annual Resident Appreciation Skate is 4:30-6:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29. All Redford residents and students are free. Skate rental is free though the number of skates is limited. The holiday skate schedule is 1:30-2:50 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec 26-28; Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 3-4; and 1-2:20 p.m. Thursday, Jan 5. All Christmas skates are \$3 per person. Skate rentals are \$3.

Winter Survival Gear Drive for the Homeless

Crossroad Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, will host a drive for the homeless 10:30-12:30 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 12. The church is accepting donations of men's new/used work boots, men's new/gently used white socks, ladies new/gently used turtle necks. Contact www.CrossroadsNow.orginfo@CrossroadsNow.org or the church office at 734-338-5149.

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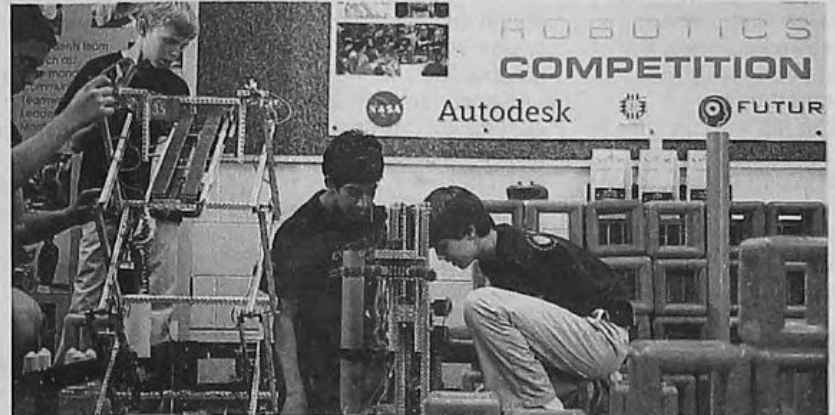
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Throwing a holiday party? Know your responsibility

We've all been there. You're hosting that special holiday party at your house, everyone is wearing their favorite (or ugliest) Christmas sweater and people are drinking the eggnog like its water.

Everyone loves to have a good time over the holidays, but how do we make sure that our guests are safe and we're not responsible?

In Michigan, dram shop laws may hold a vendor (bar, restaurant, shop) liable for providing alcohol to a minor or a visibly intoxicated person who then goes on to cause an accident. But what about your own private party?

You may not realize it, but as a host, you could be exposed to legal liability if some of your guests consume too much alcohol and are then in an



Jordan Acker
GUEST COLUMNIST

accident after leaving your party. Similar to a vendor, as an event host, many judges could rule that you should have been able to recognize the level of intoxication of your guests and, if they were visibly intoxicated, not allow them to continue drinking and drive. Doing so would be considered reckless and you could be held liable. This is particularly true if you are hosting a party where a minor is served alcohol.

So what can you do to ensure you and your guests are best protected? There are simple actions to take over the holidays to make sure that this doesn't happen:

You may not realize it, but as a host, you could be exposed to legal liability if some of your guests consume too much alcohol and are then in an accident after leaving your party.

» **Put everyone's keys in a basket when they get there.** This is the easiest thing to do to make sure that nobody that you've served alcohol to is driving drunk. When everyone walks in the door, take their keys away. That is the clearest and easiest way to make sure you have no liability for people drunk driving over the holidays.

» **In the email or invite, add a link to install the Uber or Lyft App on your phone. Make your guests use it.** In the era of smart phones and the ease of Uber (www.uber.com, avail-

able on iTunes and Google Play) and Lyft (www.lyft.com, available on iTunes and Google Play), there is no excuse for someone not to be able to get a ride sharing service. If they're unable to do it, have them bring cash and you order the ride for them. On Christmas and New Year's Eve, when the rates can be double or triple a normal fare, it's still far cheaper than the penalties for drunken driving, which include jail time, losing your license and other penalties.

» **Make plans ahead of time for rides.** New

Year's Eve is one of the statistically most dangerous nights for driving, whether you are sober or not. The best thing you could do, if drinking at a friend's house, is spend the night. Short of that, making your ride as short as possible is always the smart move.

» **Talk to your insurance agent regarding liquor liability coverage provided by your homeowners policy.** Many insurance companies have policies to protect you in these situations, should they arise. If you're unsure if you have such a policy or what kinds of situations your insurance coverage protects you from, don't assume, ask your insurance agent. Many policies are rescinded if you perform certain actions and you don't want to lose your home, your car or your livelihood.

» **Under any circumstances, do not serve alcohol to minors.** Parents frequently think "at least they're doing it under my roof, so I can see what's going on." This is extremely dangerous. Many teens mix alcohol with pills — a deadly combination — and serving them alcohol could make you responsible if someone gets sick or dies under your roof.

Like most holidays, the best thing you can do is plan ahead — make sure you have rides, places to sleep and engage in safe behaviors. If you don't, as a driver, homeowner or friend, you could end up in a situation where you have a very unhappy 2017.

Jordan Acker is an associate attorney and business development manager for the Southfield law firm Goodman Acker.

New year will bring changes in world of investing, as always

Iwould like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or even just the change of seasons, I hope that you spend time with your loved ones, enjoying their company and remembering what's important in life.

As we celebrate the holidays and look forward to a new year, there is no doubt 2017 will be a year of change and that we will see a fair amount of ups and downs, twists and turns and probably everything in between. In other words, situation normal.

One thing I have been



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

talking about for years is people have to accept that everything is changing and that the pace of change is faster than ever before. Whether we like it or not — and in many situations I don't — we all have to accept the reality of the world that we live in. That being said, it is important to remember that we can't ignore change; we also can't overreact. Overreacting can be just as detrimental to your financial health as putting

your head in the sand.

One change that I do believe is on the horizon is tax reform. After Mr. Trump takes office, there will be all sorts of speculation as to where the tax laws will go. My advice is to never react to the speculation, because it's a fool's game. When it comes to any legislation (and particularly tax laws), you never know what's going to happen until the law is actually passed. Therefore, it doesn't make sense to speculate; the better course of action is to wait until the law actually passes.

Despite all the changes in our society, there are still some

things that haven't changed and one is the importance of keeping your financial house in order. Whether you use technology and some of the great new apps to help you keep your personal financial affairs in order or do it the old-fashioned way with paper and pencil, it's a task you cannot afford to ignore. In this ever-changing world that we live in, it's more important than ever to stay on top of your personal financial affairs. At the beginning of the year, I believe everyone should prepare a personal family balance sheet.

A personal family balance sheet lets you

know what you have and what you owe. It is important that you take a look periodically at your assets and liabilities. Remember, assets minus liabilities equals net worth. Doing the first family balance sheet is always the most difficult. However, by doing the family balance sheet it lets you know where you are financially and also allows you to compare future years.

Doing a personal family balance sheet is easier this time of year because we all are going to get year-end statements with the balances of our account.

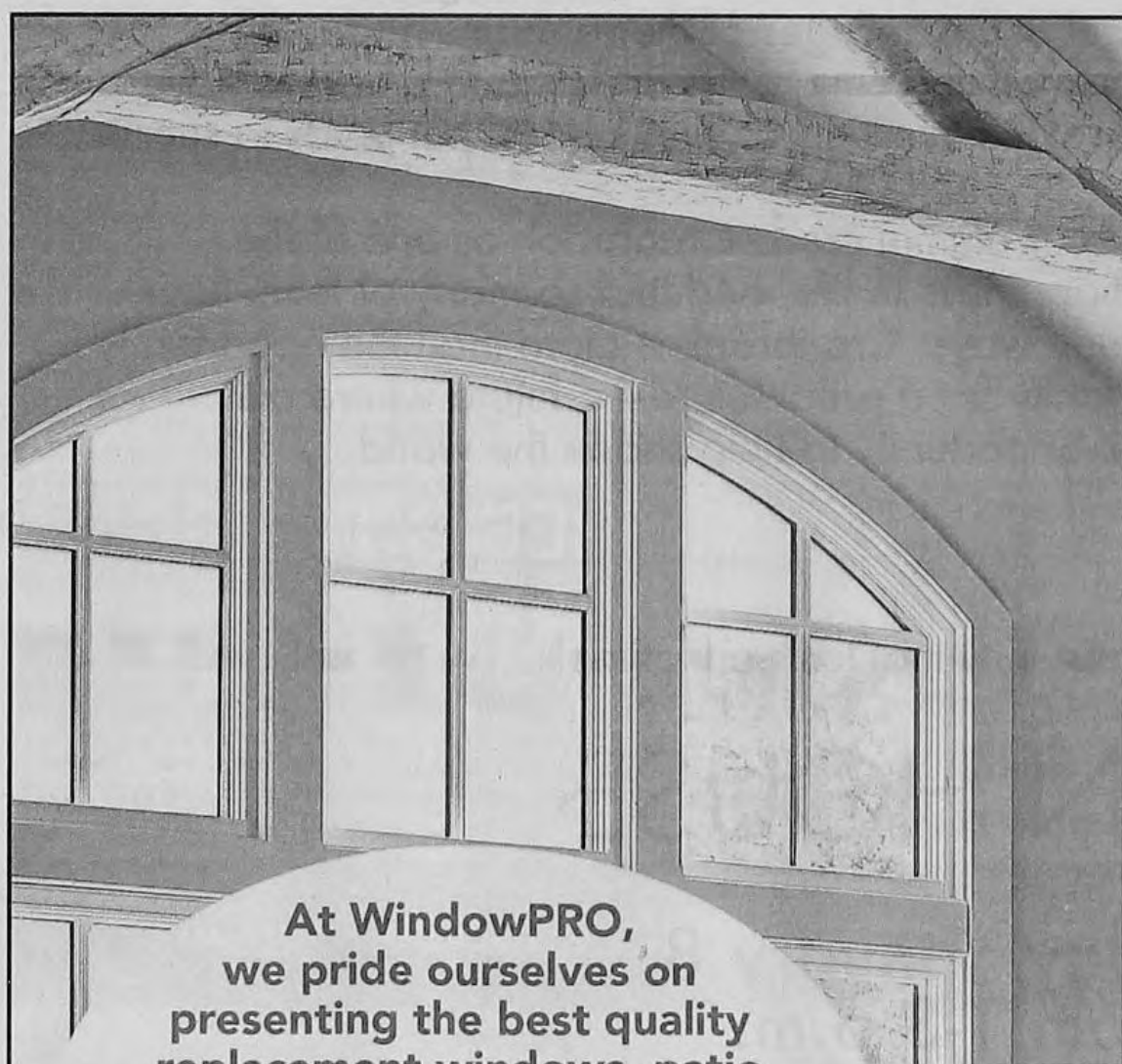
One other thing you can do to help keep your

finances in order is a cash flow statement, so you know exactly what is coming in and what's going out. For all investors and, in fact, for all people, it is extremely important to know what it costs you to live a month. It helps in determining how to invest and even if you can afford to retire.

Change is coming and, whether we like it or not, it's import we embrace it.

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

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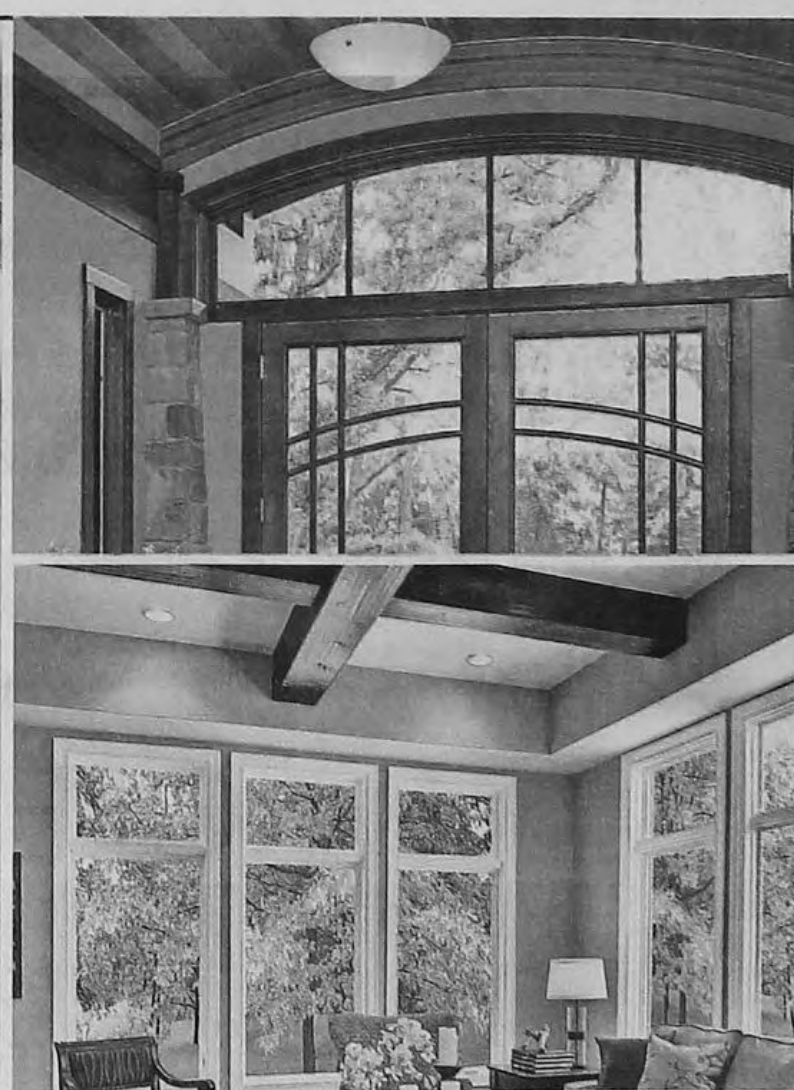
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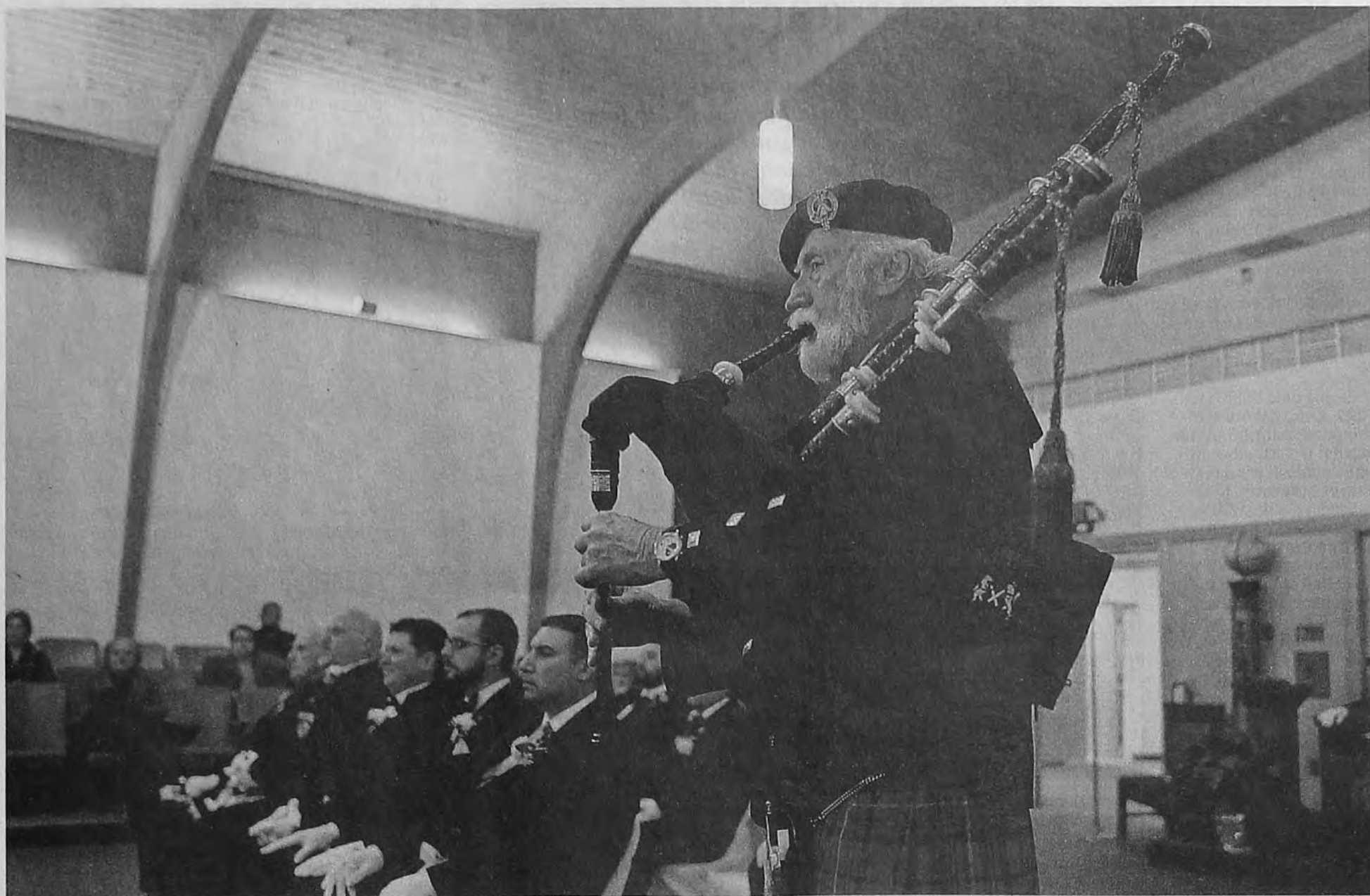
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A Scottish bagpiper in full kilt dress ushers in the new officers of the Birmingham Masonic lodge.

Enter the secret world of Masons

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

On a crisp Saturday night in early December, the Birmingham Lodge No. 44 of Free and Accepted Masons is opened for the installation of new officers.

In a ceremony dating back hundreds of years, Matt Wilde, a former backup quarterback for the University of Michigan football team, is elected worshipful mas-

ter of the lodge. As a symbol of his new position, he is presented with a top hat and a master's gavel.

It's the same installation ceremony that George Washington followed in 1788, when he was elected worshipful master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, shortly before he was elected the first president of the United States.

"My grandfather was a Mason," said Wilde, a

2002 Birmingham Seaholm High School graduate. "I always had a curiosity about Masonry, so I looked into it and decided to join. You hear everyone talk about a 'secret society,' but really we're just a group of guys who want to contribute to our community. We're a service organization."

Wilde is the 116th worshipful master of the Birmingham Masonic lodge.

Recognized as the

oldest fraternity in the world, Freemasonry came to the Great Lakes territory in the mid-1700s via the French. The Grand Lodge of Michigan was established in 1826, while the Birmingham lodge received its charter in 1851.

A number of the key players in the American Revolution were Freemasons. Along with Washington, the list includes Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, Paul Re-

vere and John Hancock, among others.

The Boston Tea Party was planned at the Green Dragon Tavern, a gathering spot for Freemasons. The majority of Washington's generals in the Continental Army were Freemasons.

Locally, prominent names such as Charles Shain, Wylie E. Groves, Ebenezer Raynale, Hugh McCurdy and Charles Bingham were members of Birmingham Lodge

No. 44. So was Almeron Whitehead, founder of the Birmingham Eccentric, and many others.

From 1922-63, the Freemasons of Birmingham met in the historic Peabody Mansion at the corner of Old Woodward and Brown Street. Wilde said his mom used to tell him stories about dropping off her dad at the Birmingham lodge.

See MASON5, Page A8

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MASONS

Continued from Page A7

Who are Freemasons?

"To be a Free and Accepted Mason means you're a man free-born, of good rapport and well-recommended," said Robert Hall, who serves as chaplain for the Birmingham lodge. "It means you'll try to live up to what we call the tenets of Masonry: friendship, brotherly love and morality."

Some date the Masons back to the days of King Solomon, suggesting the top hat worn by the worshipful master is a reflection of his crown. Freemasonry, as it's widely known today, dates to the 17th century.

Many of the group's so-called ancient rituals began in England and Scotland. A Scottish bagpiper in full kilt dress, for example, led the new officers into the hall at the installation ceremony. The term "worshipful" has Scottish roots and is meant to convey a position of honor.

Hall, a longtime resident of Royal Oak, became a Mason in 1985. He served as worshipful master twice, in 1997 and in 2007.

"We all have different reasons for joining," he said. "My father was very active in the Masons. He was a Shriner – and to be a Shriner, you have to be a Mason first."

Today, the Birmingham Masonic lodge is located at 37357 Woodward in Bloomfield Hills, just down the street from Cranbrook Schools. The lodge has about 300 members – a sharp decline from 25 years ago, when there were well over 600 members.

Go Blue!

Wilde, 33, is a fourth-generation Birmingham resident. His family first arrived in Birmingham in 1919. His grandfather, Gordon Deneau, graduated Birmingham High School in 1941, while his mother Gail (Deneau) Wilde graduated from Seaholm in 1970.

He played football at U-M under coach Lloyd Carr from 2002-05. Some of his teammates included future NFL players such as Chad Henne, Braylon Edwards, Mario Manningham, David Harris and LaMarr Woodley.

He also played on the 2002 lacrosse team at Seaholm that beat Brother Rice in the state finals.

"I actually had more offers to play lacrosse than I had for football. But at the end of the day, I knew I'd be happier playing football at Michigan," said Wilde, an attorney who's pursuing an MBA from the U-M Stephen M. Ross School of Business. His wife Liz is a social worker at Derby Middle School.

He petitioned to join the Birmingham lodge in 2010 and eventually became interested enough that he earned his three degrees of Masonry. The process took several years to complete before he reached the level of



Grand Marshall Frank Dascenza declares the officers being installed for 2017. Standing behind him are Matt Wilde (left) and past masters Carl Censoni, Tom Tabor and Dave Husk.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Matt Wilde, 33, will serve as worshipful master of the Birmingham Masonic lodge No. 44 in 2017.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

master.

His fellow Masons at the lodge elected him to serve as worshipful master for the upcoming year, a position that requires him to run the weekly Thursday meetings, preside over the lodge and keep track of the books. Tom Baranowski, who is senior warden and second-in-command of the Birmingham lodge, also went to Seaholm, played football there and graduated in 1985.

"A lot of the older members are pretty thrilled because I'm the youngest Master in quite a while," Wilde said. "So it's a bit symbolic, bringing in a new generation. A lot of the lodges really struggled with membership for the past 20 years, but there seems to be a resurgence of new people wanting to join. We'll have five new guys in January."

The Masons welcome "all men of quality," re-

gardless of race, religion or creed. Although Masonry is not a religion, members must have a belief in a supreme being.

"My father-in-law is from Venezuela and he just joined our lodge," Wilde said. "You have to be at least 21 and a resident of Michigan. We're not allowed to recruit members, but we're certainly supportive of anyone who's interested in joining."

Indians, Truman and Irving Berlin

The all-seeing eye above an unfinished pyramid on the \$1 bill is considered by many to be a Mason symbol.

The square and compasses is probably the most identifiable symbol of Freemasonry. The square, to square one's actions; the compass, to circumscribe and keep members within boundaries of their fellow men.

The top hat, worn by

the worshipful master during meetings, is a sign of respect. The apron worn by all Masons is symbolic of honesty and integrity.

There are more symbols and rituals, but those are for the Masons to keep among themselves.

"We are not a secret society – we are a society that has secrets," Hall said. "And those secrets, very simply, are means of recognition. They're certain words, handshakes, steps and signs. Those are the only secrets we have ... everything else is pretty much public."

The Birmingham Masonic lodge has a storied history. In 1849, the first Masons in the area met at Lodge No. 22 in Pontiac. According to the lodge scuttlebutt, there were Indians along the trail who were rather hostile toward the traveling parties on horseback.

"This was all wild and

"To be a Free and Accepted Mason means you're a man free-born, of good rapport and well-recommended."

ROBERT HALL

chaplain, Birmingham lodge

undeveloped territory," Hall said. "White people were trespassing uninvited on Indian property and they didn't like it."

The Birmingham lodge was officially granted a charter Jan. 9, 1851, and a man by the name of William Brown was the first worshipful master. The annual dues at the time was 25 cents.

Ebenezer Raynale was the first postmaster of Franklin village and a delegate to the first territorial convention of Michigan. Hugh McCurdy, born in England in 1829, came to the U.S. when he was 8 years old to become a cooper's apprentice, which involved making barrels for beer or cider.

Alanson Partridge, whose portrait hangs in the entrance vestibule of the lodge, was the most celebrated member of the lodge in its first 100 years, having served as a worshipful master on and off from 1854-83.

A number of presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Franklin D. Roosevelt to Gerald Ford, were Masons. One of Hall's favorite Masons was Harry S. Truman.

"He was active all his life in Masonry and would always try to go to

the local lodges whenever he traveled around the country," Hall said. "This drove the Secret Service nuts, because those who were not Masons could not go into the lodge room ... they had to let the president go into a room filled with strangers and they had no idea if they were honorable or not or if they carried weapons."

And then there's Harold Lanning. The 90-year-old member sang "God Bless America" during the installation ceremony. Afterward, Lanning told the audience that in October 1946, he shook hands with Irving Berlin, the person who wrote the song.

The heyday of Freemasonry in the U.S. was during the 1940s and early '50s. Today, there are roughly 2 million Masons in North America and around 5 million worldwide. There's a Grand Lodge in every state of the country. Michigan's is located in Alma.

"Go to the Grand Lodge website to learn more about us," Wilde said. "We're very welcoming."

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BREMER



BETTY ANN age 75, of Livonia, Michigan passed away on December 16, 2016 in Livonia, with her beloved husband of 53 years, Ross, by her side. She was born on March 21, 1941 in Traverse City, Michigan, to the late Gustaf and Hazel (Clark) Hoch. Loving mother of David (Renee) Bremer and John Bremer. Beloved sister of Bonnie Headlee, Violet Yack, and Kathy (Greg) Sheldon, and Ed Hoch. She leaves behind 9 cherished grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews. Memorial service will be held Tuesday, December 27, 2016, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills.

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

SPENCE



CHERYL LYNN Passed away on December 18, 2016. Loving wife of John. Cherished mother of Greg (Brooke) Schemers and Leslie (Tim) Winters. Proud grandma of Anna, Finn, Brayden and Stella. Dear sister of Randy (Margaret) Melville and Bill (Janet) Melville. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. Visitation Thursday 3-8 p.m. at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral service Friday 11 a.m., with viewing 10 a.m., at the Chapel at Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd. in Northville.

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Grand Marshall Frank Dascenza (center left) introduces the 2017 officers of the Birmingham lodge.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Chiefs overcome rough stretches to win 48-41

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The door was cracked open just enough for Livonia Franklin's varsity boys basketball team to sneak through Tuesday night. Unfortunately for the Patriots, they couldn't take advantage and dropped a 48-41 decision to visiting Canton in the KLAA South Division opener for both teams. That's because the Chiefs —

nursing a single-digit lead in the final minutes — missed the front end of three consecutive one-and-one situations, which rankled veteran Chiefs head coach Jimmy Reddy. "That's probably the worst free-throw shooting I've seen in eight years," Reddy said. "And I'm irritated, because we're too good of a shooting team to do that. "Our coaches just told us (we made) 4-of-14 and we had a chance to seal it. In the last

two or three minutes, we were shooting one-and-ones." But three times, the Chiefs clanked the shot and the Patriots grabbed the rebound, with another chance for junior center Mark Mettie or senior point guard Johnny Cantrell to drain one from long range and give Franklin a last burst of momentum. The Patriots, now 2-3 overall and 0-1 in the division,



Bill Bresler | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's Chase Meredith (right) makes a jumper against Livonia Franklin.

See CHIEFS, Page B3

TEAM USA WINTER CHAMPIONS SERIES



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Players from the Livonia Knights 14-and-Under girls hockey team await Saturday's game. Each fan in attendance received a miniature American flag to wave during the action.

PUCKS AND PATRIOTISM



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
A player from Compuware's youth girls hockey program skates before Saturday's game between the U.S. and Canada.

U.S.-Canada women's exhibition game gives players from area girls teams chance to cheer for their role models

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It was a patriotic sight to behold Saturday at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. Sitting in the front row in Section 109 were players such as Lindsay Hunt, Danielle Klee and Megan Mathews, all members of the Livonia Knights 14-and-Under team, a travel squad based out of Eddie Edgar Arena. They proudly sported their team jerseys and waved miniature replicas of the American flag before and during the women's exhibition game between the United States and Canada. All 3,308 fans in

attendance received one as they entered the arena. During the game itself, the level of noise grew and grew as the excited, higher-pitched voices of elementary, middle and high school girls screamed "U-S-A! U-S-A!" "I wanted to be here so I could support America and have a fun time with my teammates," Hunt, 13, of Livonia said following pre-game warmups. "It means not just boys can do it; girls can do it, too. We can probably beat them if we want to."

See PLAYERS, Page B2

BOYS SWIMMING

Salem squad clicking on all cylinders to start new season

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The long and successful career of Chuck Olson as Salem's varsity boys swimming and diving coach is undisputed. His name is on the outside of the high school's pool as proof. But the new guy in charge, Brandon Larkins, is already enjoying Olson-like success with the Rocks capturing victories over Livonia Churchill and Brighton and then placing third at the competitive Plymouth Wildcat Relays.



Larkins

Larkins said the victories — 111-72 on Dec. 13 against the Chargers and 98-78 on Dec. 15 against the Bulldogs — gave the Rocks their first dual meet victories in three years. "We're on a good roll right now, we're 2-0, we're dropping a ton of time," said Larkins, also coach of Salem's girls swim team.

Leading the charge is versatile sophomore Eugene Li, who already broke his own record in the 100 breaststroke with 59.3 against Brighton. "And he set the record at 59.8 last year," Larkins said. "So in the second meet, beating his own varsity record, it's phenomenal." Li swims all the relays, along with individual sprint and distance events. "He's a good swimmer. He can do everything I ask him to do," Larkins said. Also helping set the tone are senior co-captains Phillip Collingwood (500 back, 50 free, relays), Miles Angell (100 back,

See SALEM, Page B3



FILE PHOTO
Salem's Eugene Li, shown from a meet last season, already is shaving seconds and setting new records this year.

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Rally by Canada spoils fun for U.S.

Americans unable to cash in on multiple power plays in 5-3 defeat

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

With hundreds of jersey-wearing players from local girls hockey teams cheering loudly and waving miniature American flags, the atmosphere was electric Saturday afternoon inside Plymouth's USA Hockey Arena.

Players such as Farmington resident Megan Keller, who played defense for the U.S. Women's National Team against Canada, certainly noticed the buzz and wanted nothing more than for young fans to leave the arena happy.

Unfortunately, Canada spoiled those plans by scoring four unanswered goals and skating to a 5-3 victory in the first of a two-game exhibition series.

"It was pretty cool, I saw a lot of Honeybaked jerseys out there, a lot of Livonia jerseys," Keller said. "Those were two programs I played for growing up, so to be able to see all those younger girls out there was a really cool experience."

"I feel like not too long ago I was them, watching these games on TV. So it's pretty surreal to be able to see them in the stands."

But Canada spoiled the fun for more than 3,300 fans with four unanswered goals to knock off the U.S., 5-3.

"Certainly, it's great for our players to have that energy in the building," U.S. head coach Robb Stauber said. "I'm sure most of them went home disappointed, at least the fans that were cheering for us."

For the first two periods of the Team USA Winter Champions Series, it was all good for the home team (up 3-2 and enjoying a 25-12 edge in shots).

Off the hook

Yet Stauber lamented that his team didn't have a bigger lead going into the final period.

"We can carry some things into the next game (Monday in Sarnia) and we will," Stauber



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
U.S. women's players celebrate a goal during the first period of Saturday's Team USA Winter Champions Series game against Canada.

said. "When you're up 3-1 and you got 'em on the hook, we learned that we got to figure out how to get the job done."

"We were right there. We had a glorious chance on the power play and we didn't take the shot. We have to take advantage of those advantages because, against a team like that, they're not going to come around very often."

Canada tied it and then took the lead 4-3 with two goals 58 seconds apart by Rebecca Johnston (who scored a hat trick) and Natalie Spooner — the latter on a wraparound with 18 minutes left.

The key reason was not taking full advantage of a string of power-play chances, with the U.S. succeeding on only two of 10 opportunities — both in the first period, when goals by Hilary Knight and Brianna Decker erased an early 1-0 deficit and put Stauber's squad up 2-1.

For a stretch of the first period, however, the power play was clicking.

Knight one-timed a shot through the pads of Canada goalie Shannon Szabados, who



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Megan Keller (right) of the U.S. moves the puck behind Canada's Blayne Turnbull during Saturday's game at USA Hockey Arena. Keller is from Farmington.

came on just nine minutes into the game after a hard shot injured starter Ann-Renee Desbiens. Assisting on the goal were twin sisters Monique and Jocelyne Lamoureux, two of 13 players in this game who competed for the U.S. in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

Jocelyne Lamoureux also helped set up the second goal, ripping a shot that Szabados blocked but could not control. Decker veered in and chipped the rebound over the goalie's right pad with 2:37 left in the opening period.

Need to jell

After that, the U.S. could not find the mark — twice being thwarted on lengthy five-on-three opportunities — although Szabados benefited from third-period shots hitting the crossbar and post.

"When you have five-on-threes, we got to find a way to

bury one," Jocelyne Lamoureux said. "And I think we're just focusing on getting better every game."

"We just had camp, so we weren't playing together as a unit, but that's no excuse. With five-on-threes, you got to find a way to score."

Decker's second goal made it 3-1 with about 15 minutes left in the middle period to give the many young fans a chance to wave their flags.

Canada started its comeback when Jillian Saulnier intercepted a bad clearing pass in the U.S. zone and snapped a shot from the left circle over the glove of goalie Alex Rigsby (17 saves) with 10:08 left in the period.

Despite Canada's two goals early in the third, the U.S. cheering section remained loud and hopeful.

The equalizer never came, although Decker took a feed

from Monique Lamoureux and wired one off the crossbar.

With "U-S-A" chants still filling the air, Stauber pulled his goalie in the final 90 seconds. Johnston finally sealed Canada's win with an empty-netter at 19:27.

Although disappointed with the outcome, Keller said the game itself was everything she thought it would be.

"It was an awesome atmosphere out there," said Keller, 20, a North Farmington graduate who made the roster following a week-long training camp. "To be able to come back to my hometown and be able to play with Team USA, a bunch of great players out there and one of the biggest rivalries in women's hockey, it was something special to experience here in Plymouth."

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PLAYERS

Continued from Page B1

Place to be

Klee, 14, makes four two-hour round trips between her home in Sylvania, Ohio, and Eddie Edgar in order to skate for the Paul Seychel-coached Knights, so it was a no-brainer to accompany teammates to the U.S.-Canada extravaganza.

"We're here supporting the USA team and we're just here to have a fun time and watch some hockey," Klee said, adding that watching players such as Farmington's Megan Keller (who plays defense for the U.S.) will further inspire her to keep working, improving and ultimately also play for the U.S. Women's National Team someday.

According to Mathews, 14, who lives in Oak Park, she was "hyped" to soak it all in, sharing a unique event with her teammates.

The environment inside the arena was something to cherish, but she also just loves hanging out with her friends.

"It's just a really fun experience, because we get to support our country," Mathews said.

Plus, they were able to watch the pregame drills and noticed "how we do some of them and how they do it."

Almost directly across the ice from the Knights were Jillian Petrino, Callie Shanahan and other players from the Honeybaked 14-and-Under girls hockey team, based out of Suburban Ice Farmington Hills.

Fun and fast

Their assessment mid-game was the hockey between the national teams was pretty good, too.

"It's really fast, it's really cool," Shanahan, 13, of Commerce Township said following the second period of Canada's 5-3 win. "I'm having an awesome time watching this. It's so fun to see."

Chiming in was teammate Petrino, 13, of Walled Lake.

"It's a good game. They're really good," Petrino said. "I think it's a little better from what I expected, I haven't seen one of their games before. I'm surprised. They're faster and



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Awaiting the big game Saturday are players from the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins high school girls team (from left): Grace Balch, Paige Sweet, Piper Keranen, Brooke Gauthier and Alexis Pheeney.



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Players from various girls hockey organizations stood at center ice during the Canadian and U.S. national anthems, sung by Northville senior Carly Bins.



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Saturday's game between the U.S. and Canada enabled teams such as this one from Compuware to hang out and cheer together.

they're smart hockey players."

Hundreds of players and parents were at the game from the Livonia Hockey Association (which the Knights are part of),

Honeybaked, USA Hockey Arena-based Compuware and other girls hockey travel and house teams.

Before the game, one player

from each of those groups stood on the red line for the Canadian and U.S. national anthems. Among them was Plymouth's Carly Carpenter, 10, of the Honeybaked 10U squad.

"It's really cool for those girls to be out there, on the ice standing right next to their heroes for the anthem," said Carly's dad Larry Carpenter (also coach of the Honeybaked 14U team, which includes two other daughters, Julia and Jenna.)

He said his team played earlier Saturday at the Beck Road arena and had the chance to see Keller and other U.S. players during pregame activities.

"Our girls were coming out (of their room) and the U.S. Women's Team was going from

the training center over to their locker room," Carpenter said. "And our girls were just weak-kneed, just so excited for this to get going."

Teen perspective

There were older players enjoying the atmosphere. The entire Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins high school girls team took the game in.

Senior Alexis Pheeney smiled about the growing anticipation for the rivalry game. "It's pretty cool, to be able to watch girls, some of them our age, playing at this level of hockey, knowing that we could do it, too," she said.

They agreed that the U.S.-Canada game had a chance to make a big impact on younger girls playing the game — or considering it as an athletic pursuit.

"I'm really excited. It's such a great opportunity to get to watch all these girls who are so good at what they do," sophomore Grace Balch said before the contest. "And to be inspired by how far they've come in this sport, how far we could go if we really want to."

Sophomore Brooke Gauthier said she was "really excited to see our role models growing up, girls who play hockey. I like to see them play at a higher, fast pace."

Piper Keranen, another sophomore, said being there with her team made it a fun day, no matter what happened in the game. She added that the event itself is "really important and exciting" for girls and women's hockey.

Concurring was Penguins junior Paige Sweet.

"It gives us a chance to see people who have put in a lot of dedication and time into their game, to see how they play," Sweet said. "It's exciting. And I get to hang out with my team, so that's fun."

A few minutes later, the Penguins settled down into their section with the rest of the team and listened to the national anthems beautifully sung by Northville High School senior Carly Bins.

The way the entire day played out (other than the final score, of course) was something to sing about.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Chiefs' balanced attack rolls over Franklin

Good defense sparks Stevenson to victory

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

There was little about which Canton varsity girls basketball coach Rob Heitmeyer could complain after his team thumped visiting Livonia Franklin, 68-20.

On parent night before the KLAA South Division opener at the Canton gymnasium, parents received balloons, flowers and photos. And then they received perhaps the best gift of all, 32 minutes of excellence from the Chiefs, who built a 33-7 half-time lead.

Leading the way with 11 points was senior Erin Hult, with Brianna Finn and Shanya Butler (nine points each) and Madison Wolfbauer (eight points) all helping foil the Patriots.

"We had balanced scoring with eight players scoring five or more," Heitmeyer said. "And we limited our turnovers to 10, so that was a positive."

Also chipping in for Canton (5-1, 1-0) were Carli Vaughn (eight points), Samantha Matern and Ashley Criscenti (six points each). Criscenti led the team with five assists, while Wolfbauer and Raquel Church both grabbed six rebounds.

Franklin (0-5, 0-1) was led by Brooke Garbarino, who scored seven points. Adding three for the Patriots was Sydney Stresser.

Stevenson hangs on

In a low-scoring game Tuesday night, Livonia Stevenson defeated South Lyon East 28-25 to open KLAA Central Division play.

"We played another great defensive game," Spartans coach Karen Anger said. "We



Going for a rebound during a game earlier this season is Canton's Shanya Butler. She scored nine points Tuesday against Livonia Franklin.

created a lot of turnovers, not necessarily with steals, but with good pressure and making them push the ball."

Sarah Tanderys (nine points), Grace Lamerson (six points, seven rebounds, six blocks), Elisa Lebron (six points, five boards) and Diane

Senkowski (five points, five boards, five assists) all contributed to the victory as Stevenson improved to 5-1 overall and 1-0 in the division.

RU whips Trojans

Haley Hebner scored a game-high 16 points Tuesday as

host Redford Union (3-2, 1-0) opened Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division play with a 53-11 triumph over Livonia Clarenceville (1-4, 0-1).

Johnnae Steele added 10 points for the Panthers, who led 36-7 at the half. Myla Hoskins-King scored

four for the Trojans.

Garden City edged

Despite 16 points from Kayley Hower, 10 from Brittany Radtke and nine from Alea Montgomery, the host Cougars could not overcome a slow start, falling 55-42 to Dearborn Fordson.

The Tractors went up 16-5 after one quarter. Although the Cougars chipped away, they could not dig out of that hole. It was 25-18 at halftime and 41-32 after three.

Garden City made 7-of-19 free-throw tries, while Fordson hit 9-of-17.

Thurston triumphs

On Tuesday, Megan Abela scored a team-best 14 points to lead Redford Thurston (4-2, 1-0) to a 44-27 WWAC Red Division victory over Dearborn Heights Annapolis (1-5, 0-1).

The Eagles, who led 26-12 at halftime, also got nine points from Naudia Jackson and eight apiece from Bryanna Burton and Gillian Drake. Julia Blevins led the Cougars with six points.

Eagles fly, 39-15

Plymouth Christian Academy improved to 4-1 overall with Tuesday's 39-15 victory over MIAC rival Southfield Christian.

Robin Albert keyed the win with 10 points and nine rebounds, while Lydia Chapel (nine points, nine boards) and Aliyah Pries (five points, nine rebounds, three steals) also had solid games.

"Our defense did a great job rebounding the basketball and stepping into passing lanes," PCA head coach Rod Windle said. "Robin Albert did a great job of leading the team at both ends of the floor."

The Eagles led 10-2 after one quarter and padded that edge to 21-7 at halftime.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

could not make the shot that would have made the final 30 seconds or so much closer.

"We're learning how to win. We're learning who we are," first-year Franklin coach Jon Djokaj said. "I've thrown a lot at them offensively and defensively. We're trying to figure out what we're good at and what we want to do in situations like that."

"We'll get better as the season goes on but, yeah, you got to execute plays down the stretch. I felt we got some good looks, but credit to them, they did a nice job of taking away our primary options on a lot of plays."

Reddy said a big factor in the Chiefs' victory was the strong defense played by junior forward Noah Brown in the second half against the 6-8 Mettie — who scored 14 of his 16 points before the intermission, when Franklin enjoyed a 21-16 edge.

"Noah Brown is a really good defender; he can shut a lot of people down," Reddy said. "I don't know if shutdown's the right word, but we held (Mettie) in check."

Franklin fell behind 13-7 after one quarter, but turned things around thanks to Mettie's hot hand in the second. He drained a trey from beyond the top of the arc to cut Canton's lead to 13-12 and, later in the quarter, hit another triple to put the Pats in front 19-16 with 1:30 remaining.

Before the final buzzer, Mettie went to the rim and hit a high-glasser to pad the Franklin lead.

Canton (3-2, 1-0) took control



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Franklin's Mark Mettie (left) drives against Canton's Noah Brown on Tuesday.

in the third quarter however, with junior forward Chase Meredith registering nine of his team-leading 13 points to put the Chiefs up 35-31 going into the fourth.

Also stepping up was sophomore guard B. Artis White, who connected on a runner through the lane to snap a 25-25 tie and later buried a trey to put Canton in front, 33-29. White finished with seven points.

"(White) was really good in the second half," Reddy said. "He did a better job of getting his hands ready to shoot and knocked them down in the third quarter, for sure."

A nifty baseline jumper by Franklin's Keyon Brown (nine points) sliced the Canton advantage to 35-33 with 6:41 to play before the Patriots gained

possession of a 50/50 ball.

However, Franklin missed a field-goal try that would have tied the game and the Chiefs came back with buckets by Meredith and junior guard Eian Barker (seven points), the latter hitting a 3-pointer from the left corner to open up a 40-33 spread.

Also helping the Chiefs was senior guard Jake Cesarz, with eight points.

Cantrell scored six points (all in the fourth) for the Patriots, while Mettie augmented his scoring with eight rebounds.

THURSTON CLIPPED: Jalal Baydoun's game-high 30 points was the difference Tuesday as host Dearborn Edsel Ford (2-3, 1-0) opened Western Wayne Athletic Conference Blue Division play with a 62-57 victory over Redford Thurston (2-2, 0-1).

Malik Hill scored 15 points for the Eagles, who overcame a 39-23 halftime lead by outscoring the Thunderbirds 23-11 in the third quarter to pull within five, 50-46. But Thurston couldn't get over the hump.

"I thought Edsel Ford took it to us early," Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "They were ready to play. They deserved to win the game. They executed on both sides of the floor. They shot the ball well the first half and got out to a big lead. I'm proud of the kids for giving a great effort in the second half to get back into the game. But we need to learn to play four quarters."

RAVENS EDGE RU: Mark "Rocket" Watts led all scorers with 29 points Saturday to give Detroit Old Redford Prep (2-1) a 66-62 non-league win over Redford Union (2-2) in a game played at Hazel Park.

The Ravens, who trailed 27-20 at halftime, stormed back to outscore the Panthers 46-35 during the second half as Bobby Walton and Jawan Snoddy added 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Eric McCarter paced RU with 21 points, while Christian Montgomery, Jacob Gagnon and Marcus Evans both added 11.

JOHN GLENN 73, CHURCHILL 44: Tuesday at Westland John Glenn, the Rockets never trailed and rolled to a KLAA South Division win.

Leading John Glenn (4-0, 1-0) with 24 points was Christian Agnew, while Dajon Parker (13 points, nine rebounds), Joe Moon IV (12 points, six assists, eight rebounds) and Kijuan Chandler (nine points, six assists) sparked the attack.

Churchill (2-3, 0-1) received 14 points each from Genesis Barnes and Evan Cummins.

NOVI 91, SALEM 64: Cameron Grace and Jordan Ingram scored 13 points each Tuesday for the host Rocks (1-3, 0-1 in the KLAA Central), but the team could not stop Novi's Travon Maddox (30 points).

Novi (3-2, 1-0) led 20-14 after one quarter and 51-36 at the half.

DEARBORN 65, GARDEN CITY 45: Host Dearborn took care of the Cougars in Tuesday night's WWAC match-up. Scoring 13 points for Garden City was Brad Russell, with Avery Emerson adding nine.

SALEM

Continued from Page B1

50 free, 100 free, relays) and Lucas Sheedy (100 breast, 50 free, relays).

"We just found out (Sheedy) is a breaststroker," Larkins said. "I just said, 'You're doing breaststroke' one day. He did a phenomenal time."

"He's an athlete. I just tell him to grab water, like this, and he starts to work on it and he does it."

Larkins said the team is also being bolstered by an influx of freshmen, namely Eric Foor, Stephan Freitag and Joseph Rosato.

"Eric Foor, I don't know what his 200 freestyle was before, but he had to at least drop two seconds," Larkins said. "I think the first time he broke two minutes was at the Brighton meet (1:58) and the next day, at the Plymouth Wildcat meet, he went a 1:57 in the relay."

"He's really improving. He's enjoying every single bit of it. Every time I say to fix this stroke, work this technique, he does it."

Freitag is "really working hard, too. Stephan has just been phenomenal at what he's been doing (with) his breaststroke, his technique, his paces."

Family approach

The coach, who swam

at Livonia Franklin and is an instructor at Livonia Community Swim Club, smiled when talking about Rosato.

"I don't think he ever swam before this year," Larkins said. "Joey, when he first got in the pool, I didn't know what he was going to do because his technique was not up to par."

"All of a sudden, two weeks ago, in a blink of an eye, his stroke got better. I was at a meet and my jaw literally dropped and was, like, 'Wow, did we do this?' He dropped 20 seconds from practice in the 50."

According to Larkins, it is great to see his new team already making strides.

"I bring a different approach to the whole team," Larkins said. "I'm very much a family man and this is my family. I treat them like family. I treat them with love and respect."

"I really work one-on-one on them. I've probably worked one-on-one with these guys more times than I count by now."

"And every single one of them has improved in drills, times. Their strokes look phenomenal now. It might just be a variety of coach, a variety of practices. I'm not 100-percent sure, but this year it seems to be clicking."

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PREP BOWLING

Shamrocks place third at Pinconning

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Novi Detroit Catholic Central bowling team braved a snowstorm recently to earn a third-place finish Dec. 11 at the 20-team Pinconning Invitational at Monitor Lanes.

The Shamrocks got off to a hot start in the qualifying rounds, which consisted of six Baker games, highlighted by a 212 and 245, followed by three regular games to wind up fourth overall.

In the elimination round, CC defeated fifth-seed St. Charles in the best-of-three quarterfinals by winning both Baker

sets before falling to top seed Hartland in the semifinals, where the Shamrocks won the first Baker before losing the next two by two and 12 pins, respectively.

Among the individual leaders for the Shamrocks was Andrew Lack, who rolled a 638 three-game series, highlighted by games of 221 and 244.

Other high individual games for CC were posted by Jaden Thomas (237), Nathan Geddes (218), Alex Roelant (214) and Joe Jessop (213).

Salem tops Novi

The Salem boys and girls bowling teams both regis-

tered a 28-2 win Monday over Novi.

For the boys, captains Ryan Gonya (223, 195 games) and Mitchell Rusinek (200 game) led the way. Also strong were Brendan Kwapis (204, 191) and Alex Mattson (187, 192).

In the girls contest, captain Leah Boucha's 170 and 168 games sparked the Rocks, with other outstanding performances turned in by Emily Zach (191) and Morgan Zach (161).

Perfect game

On Dec. 13, Plymouth's Alan Brown threw a 300 game against Hartland at Novi Bowl.



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS
Throwing the strike to complete a 300 game Dec. 13 is Plymouth's Alan Brown.

Brown also threw a 208 game, but the Wildcats dropped a 17-13 decision.

Staff writer Tim Smith contributed to this report.

PREP WRESTLING

Rockets top 21-team Wayne County field

Plymouth's Shulaw is 189-pound champion

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Westland John Glenn's wrestling program flexed its muscle at Saturday's Wayne County Championships, hosted by Wyandotte Roosevelt.

With a quartet of county champions leading the way, the Rockets easily topped the 21-team field in the varsity competition with 214 points. Second-place Woodhaven trailed with 169.5 points.

Winning championships for head coach Bill Polk were Mike Mars (119 pounds), Isaac Lefler (125), Anthony Gibson (135) and John Siemasz (145).

The list of champions could have been longer, with Caleb Meekins (119), Lional Cornish (189) and JaWuan Peete (285) all losing in the final in their respective weight classes.

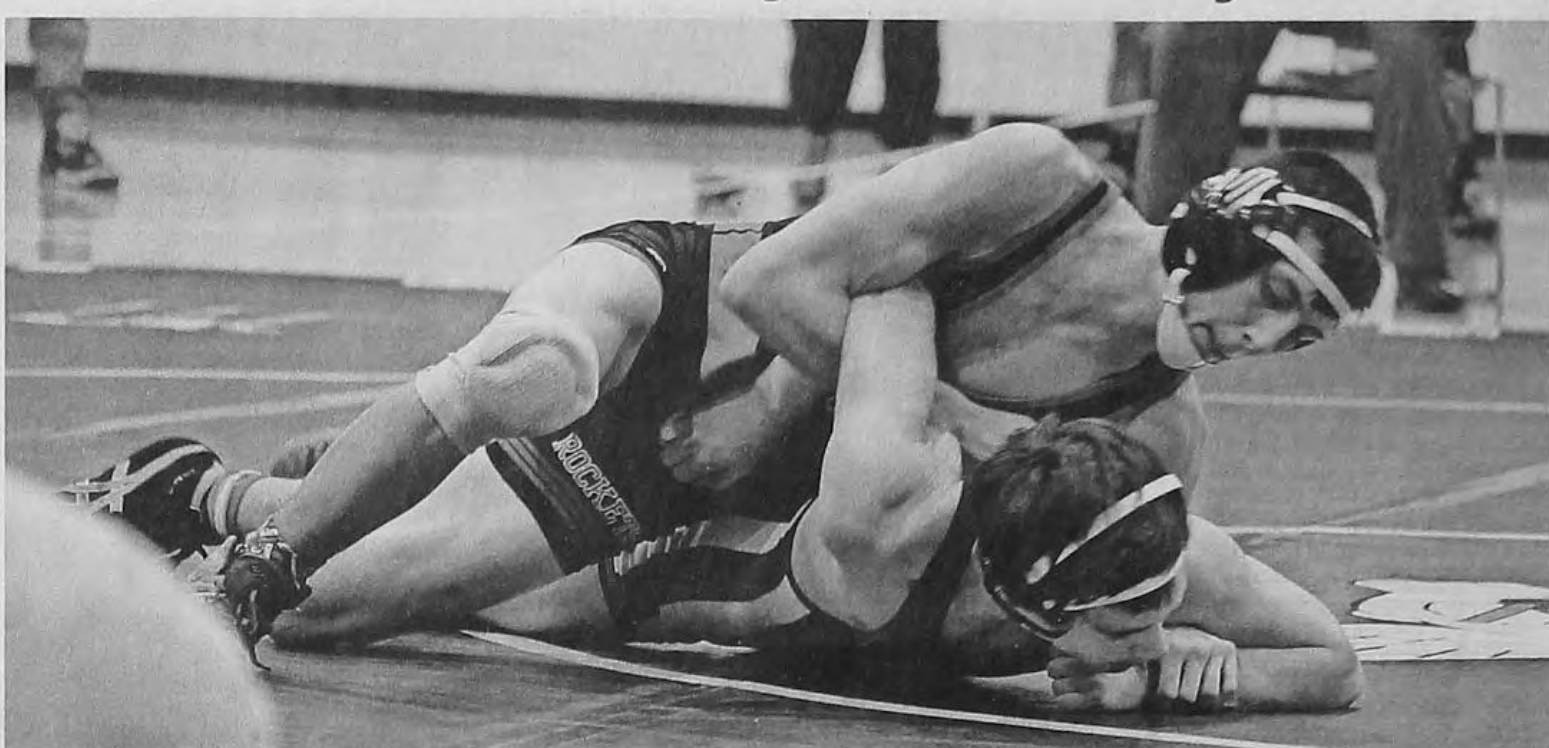
It was the same story in the junior varsity meet, with John Glenn's 224.5 points besting Livonia Franklin (142), Livonia Stevenson (140) and Salem (101.5).

Pacing the JV Rockets were first-place finishers Brandon McCollum, Anthony Hudson, Cole Bagwell and Brandon Carethers.

Cornish was pinned in 3:40 by 189 champion Ethan Shulaw of Plymouth. Shulaw pinned every opponent, earning 24 of his team's 62 points for the day.

Meanwhile, Livonia Franklin senior Nathan Atienza's long unbeaten streak (he was 58-0 in 2015-16) came to a close in the final at 152.

Atienza, who had won his first 10 bouts of this season,



Westland John Glenn's Anthony Gibson (top), shown from last season, was one of four Rockets to earn individual county championship Saturday.

dropped an 8-3 decision to Dustin Gross of Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

But Atienza's teammate, Manee Willie, did prevail at 215. Willie won 11-8 over Josh Dodd of Woodhaven.

Among other Observerland teams, Franklin placed fifth with 110.5 points, Canton was eighth (90) and Wayne Memorial was 10th (73).

Plymouth (tied for 12th with 62 points), Salem (14th, 50) and Livonia Churchill (15th, 49) rounded out other area teams.

Several area wrestlers distinguished themselves by reaching the final in their weight class.

Canton's Justin Winnie was brought down in 1:43 by John

Glenn's Gibson at 135; Salem's Bruce Haslitt lost 9-1 to Woodhaven's Hunter Grasso at 160.

WAYNE COUNTY MEET
Dec. 17 at Wyandotte Roosevelt
TEAM SCORES: 1. Westland John Glenn, 214 points; 2. Woodhaven, 169.5; 3. Dearborn Fordson, 169; 4. Southgate, 119; 5. Livonia Franklin, 110.5; 6. Wyandotte Roosevelt, 99; 7. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 92; 8. Canton, 90; 9. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 75.5; 10. Wayne Memorial, 73; 11. Belleville, 66; 12. (tie) Plymouth, 62; 12. (tie) Riverview, 62; 14. Salem, 50; 15. Livonia Churchill, 49; 16. Dearborn, 43.5; 17. Melvindale, 41; 18. Hamtramck, 34; 19. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 14; 20. Grosse Ile, 12.5; 21. Romulus, 5.
103 pounds: 1st: Aaron Garcia (D), pinned Hamdi Ali (H), 5:28; 3rd: Russ Fussnell (LF) won 8-0 major decision over Abdullah Nassr (EF); 5th: Alahdain Nasser (DF) p. Johanna Palshan (SG), 2:14; 7th: Saleh Said (M) 13-5 maj. dec. over Jake Campbell (WR).
112: 1st: Aseel Almuhdala (DF) p. Alec Balogh (SG), 3:06; 3rd: Nicholas Pyle (W) p. Howie Whitaker (LF), 1:37; 5th: Tyler Campbell (P) 11-0 maj. dec. over Kyle Cox (WR); 7th: Ty Wyka (DEF) 8-0 maj. dec. over Ethan Collins (JG).
119: 1st: Mike Mars (JG) p. Caleb Meekins (JG), 2:24; 3rd: Tarik Shalhout (DQ) 11-2 dec. over Yusef

Hamie (DF); 5th: Ethan Englehart (LC) 11-1 maj. dec. over Esam Kasem (H); 7th: Ryan Cacicedo (SG) 16-2 maj. dec. over Hamzah Ghaleb (M).
125: 1st: Isaac Lefler (JG) 10-2 maj. dec. over Logan Palshan (SG); 3rd: Samuel Lymon (B) 4-3 dec. over Josh Mussen (LC); 5th: Mason Grasso (W) 10-2 maj. dec. over Kyle Thompson (Riv); 7th: Akash Rai (Salem) won by injury default over Ali Alziyadi (DF).
130: 1st: Xavier Graham (W) 7-4 dec. over Donte Rivera-Garcia (SG); 3rd: Mustafa Aubeidy (M) 3-2 dec. over Nick Daniels (WM); 5th: Johnny DiPonia (LF) 6-4 dec. over Raghu Murshed (EF); 7th: Dylan Neal (WR) p. Brian Walrad (LC), 2:08.
135: 1st: Anthony Gibson (JG) p. Justin Winnie (Canton), 1:43; 3rd: Jacob Emery (W) p. Devin Spears (M), 2:13; 5th: Jacob Lanzini (GI) 5-1 dec. over Nathan Hawkins (S); 7th: Zachary Schaffner (WR) p. Evan Jaynes (LF), 4:02.
140: 1st: Cam Wyka (EF) 6-1 dec. over Hamzeh Mrech (DF); 3rd: Kyle Emery (W) 5-0 dec. over Colton Thompson (WR); 5th: Bradley Jones (SG) 5-4 dec. over Marcus Mertz (A); 7th: Zack Dehnke (Canton) p. Abdul Abdulaziz (M), 2:38; Cons. A Champ: Dylan Weiss (JG) 12-10 dec. over Nathan Lazar (B); Cons. B Champ: Mario Succurro (Canton) won by void.
145: 1st: John Siemasz (JG) won by technical fall over Anmar Al-Abolodi (A), 3:36; 3rd: Jason Bury (WR) over Joseph Muzzin (W), DQ; 5th: Essa Ghaleb (DF) 11-3 maj. dec. over Dylan Slowik (Canton); 7th: Kevin McCann (Riv) won by forfeit over Robert Laird (Canton).

152: 1st: Dustin Gross (A) 8-3 dec. over Nathan Atienza (LF); 3rd: William Marano (DEF) p. Jeremy Van Berkel (Canton), 0:52; 5th: Zachary Buho (B) 9-4 dec. over Zach Warlick (Riv); 7th: Brenten Polk (JG) p. Jalen Adams (WM), 0:59.
160: 1st: Hunter Grasso (W) 9-1 maj. dec. over Bruce Haslitt (Salem); 3rd: Genaro Acerrano (JG) 5-2 dec. over Christopher Little (Canton); 5th: Marc Rodriguez (SG) p. Kyle Nair (Riv), 1:25; 7th: Ali Makki (DF) p. Joey Aheam (P), 4:13.
171: 1st: Hiram Robinson (WR) 16-9 dec. over Patrick Burrage (B); 3rd: Michael Bates (EF) 9-4 dec. over Jason Hamlett (WM); 5th: Noah Anderson (W) p. Malek Mansour (DF), 4:13; 7th: Artis Jackson (P) 6-1 dec. over Dean Elder (D).
189: 1st: Ethan Shulaw (P) p. Lional Cornish (JG), 3:40; 3rd: Andrew Antolin (B) 7-2 dec. over Kevoughn Henderson (WM); 5th: Amir Nasser (DF) p. Markus Sturgill (W), 2:30; 7th: Nick Dlugos (LC) p. Noah Van Berkel (Canton), 0:39.
215: 1st: Manee Willie (LF) 11-8 dec. over Josh Dodd (W); 3rd: Khalil Makki (DF) p. Quin Regan (WR), 1:25; 5th: Donovan Richardson (D) 10-5 over James Torres (A); 7th: George Schwemmer (JG) p. Chris Fletcher (WM), 6:29.
289: 1st: Evan Begeman (Riv) 5-3 dec. over JaWuan Peete (JG); 3rd: Anthony Calloway (WM) p. Jake Giorgi (Salem), 2:49; 5th: Hussein Berro (DF) p. Devin Visnav (LF), 1:44; 7th: Rigo Silva (A) p. Christian Haddad (LC), 0:23.

BOYS SWIMMING

Northville rules Plymouth Wildcat Relays

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Coming off a dual meet loss the previous night against defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion Birmingham Brother Rice, the Northville boys swimming and diving team jumped back into the pool Friday at Salem and came away with the Plymouth Wildcat Relays title.

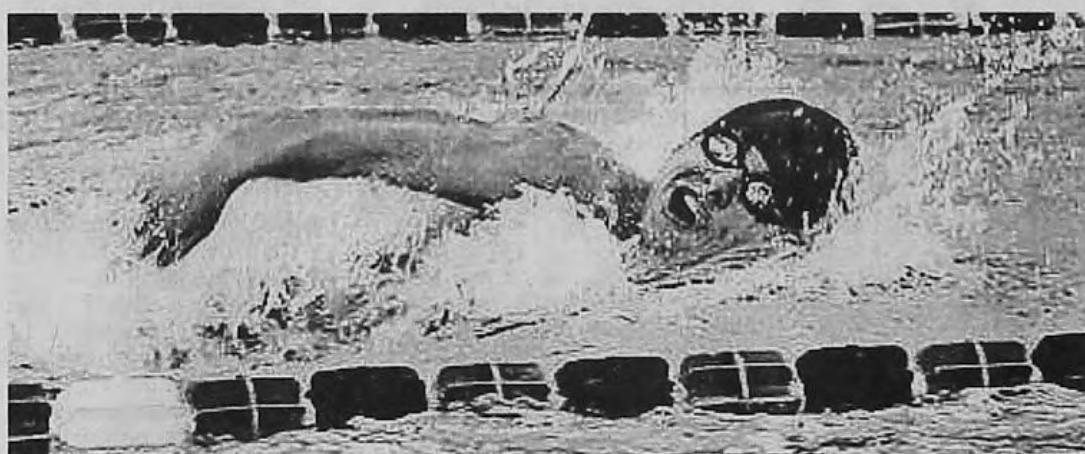
Northville, winning four events, scored 343 points in the all-relay format. The Mustangs were 17 points better than runner-up Chelsea (326).

Rounding out the eight-school field were the host Rocks (290), South Lyon Unified (280), Plymouth (253), Hartland (241), Livonia Churchill (240), Dearborn (188) and Dearborn Edsel Ford.

"It was a fun meet for the guys. We had some decent swims," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "I'm looking forward to the holiday training period, so we can focus on creating good habits for the remainder of the season. We are still getting way too tired at the end of meets and that is something we will have to improve on."

After Chelsea took the 400 freestyle relay (3:25.77), Northville's 400-yard medley team of Arthur Greenlee, Travis Nitkiewicz, Trevor Degroot and Cameron Heaven got things going in the right direction with a first-place time of 3:47.45.

Chelsea then took the 200



South Lyon Unified's Christian Etnyre swims a leg in the 400-yard medley relay.

JOSEPH LEAHY

butterfly relay (1:40.83) and the 1-meter diving, with Tim Lyons scoring 226.40 points, but the Mustangs reeled off three consecutive wins, starting with the 400 medley team of Jason Nitkiewicz, Degroot, Haotian Jiang and Travis Nitkiewicz (3:55.33).

The Northville foursome of Greenlee, John Duan, Ali Pazooki and Kirk Maibach placed first in the 200 backstroke relay (1:45.59), while the quartet of Nikolai Arton, Jiang, Roman Grossi and Travis Nitkiewicz captured the 200 breaststroke relay (1:58.97).

"I saw some good energy from the boys for most of the meet," Bennetts said. "It is always nice to win, but we really have a long way to go to be any good. It's just going to take a lot of old-fashioned hard work, but this team can get there. I don't know why we always want to take the path of most resistance, but

we can get there."

Salem closed the meet by winning the 500 crescendo relay (4:26.25), while Chelsea was first in the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays in 1:43.03 and 1:32.69, respectively.

South Lyon's best finish came in the 400 medley, with Logan Boals, Christian Etnyre, Nick Finn and Max Topping taking second (4:03.30).

PLYMOUTH WILDCAT BOYS SWIM RELAYS

Dec. 16 at Salem H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 343 points; 2. Chelsea, 326; 3. Salem, 290; 4. South Lyon, 280; 5. Plymouth, 253; 6. Hartland, 241; 7. Livonia Churchill, 240; 8. Dearborn, 188; 9. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 178.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

400-yard freestyle: 1. Chelsea (Lee Argir, Collin Babicz, Preston Wald, Joey Manger), 3:25.77; 2. Salem (Nathan Budnick, Phillip Collingwood, Stephen Freitag, Eugene Li), 3:28.45; 3. Northville (Taiyo Ichikawa, David Alameddine, John Duan, Jason Nitkiewicz), 3:31.00.

400 medley: 1. Northville (Arthur Greenlee, Travis Nitkiewicz, Trevor Degroot, Cameron Heaven), 3:47.45; 3. Salem (Ryo Hirose, Li Budnick, Collingwood), 3:50.15; 4. South Lyon (Logan Boals, Brandon Bell, Max Kempisty, Christian Etnyre), 3:50.90.

200 butterfly: 1. Chelsea (Wes Wickens, Kurt Jolly, Argir, Manger), 1:40.83; 2. Northville (Duan, Ali Pazooki, J. Nitkiewicz, Kirk Maibach), 1:42.61; 3. South Lyon (Etnyre, Luke Campbell, Boals, Kempisty), 1:43.34.

1-meter diving: 1. Tim Lyons (Chelsea), 226.40 points; 2. Jordan Groves (Ply.), 217.60; 3. Andrew Saltzman (LC), 161.65; 4. Nolan Thaxton (Nville), 156.55.

4 x 100 medley: 1. Northville (J. Nitkiewicz, Degroot, Haotian Jiang, T. Nitkiewicz), 3:55.33; 2. South Lyon (Boals, Etnyre, Nick Finn, Max Topping), 4:03.30; 3. Churchill (Kevin Taylor, Ethan Stack, Tyler Opycke, Nathan Sutton), 4:21.72.

200 backstroke: 1. Northville (Greenlee, Duan, Pazooki, Maibach), 1:45.59; 3. Salem (Miles Angell, Caleb Johnson, Eric Foor, Hirose), 1:57.54; 5. South Lyon (John Abemethy, James Perry, Riley Vaughn, Finn), 2:04.13.

200 breaststroke: 1. Northville (Nikolai Arton, Jiang, Roman Grossi, T. Nitkiewicz), 1:58.97; 3. Salem (Freitag, Lucas Sheedy, Jacob Rumpitz, Li), 1:07.52; 4. South Lyon (Bell, Jared Keeney, Preston Healy), 2:16.17.

500 freestyle crescendo: 1. Salem (Tom Cousino, Collingwood, Budnick, Li), 4:26.25; 2. Northville (Maibach, Heaven, Alameddine, Degroot), 4:29.03; 4. South Lyon (Vaughn, Perry, Etnyre, Kempisty), 4:36.56.

200 medley: 1. Chelsea (Jolly, Zach Lee, Argir, Manger), 1:43.03; 2. Northville (Greenlee, T. Nitkiewicz, J. Nitkiewicz, Heaven), 1:43.44; 3. South Lyon (Boals, Bell, Kempisty, Topping), 1:45.01.

200 freestyle: 1. Chelsea (Babicz, Jolly, Lee, Manger), 1:32.69; 2. Northville (Duan, Arton, Degroot, Maibach), 1:33.94; 4. Salem (Cousino, Abraham Soto, Sheedy), Collingwood), 1:38.02.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth hangs on for win over Salem

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The Plymouth Cultural Center was rocking Saturday night as KLAA South Division varsity boys hockey rivals Plymouth and Salem got after it before a jam-packed crowd.

Thanks to some clutch goalkeeping by Wildcats junior Brendan Olepa, Plymouth escaped with a 4-2 victory over the Rocks.

After Salem's Colin Goleniak scored a power-play goal in the first minute of the third that cut Plymouth's lead to 3-2, Olepa stood tall to prevent the equalizer.

Adding an empty-netter with three seconds to go was Tim Baldwin (his second goal of the game; he also had an assist).

"I was really impressed with (Olepa's) composure in the Salem game," Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento said. "That's always a nerve-wracking game, it's intense. But the saves he was making, he made them look easy."

Olepa made 25 saves and Vento said "they outshot us and for long stretches they outplayed us."

Making 15 saves for Salem was Tristan Rehling.

The Rocks (2-5-1, 2-2-1) took a 1-0 lead midway through the first on Matthew Schaumburger's goal (from Tyler German and Goleniak).

Baldwin — who scored Plymouth's OT winner Dec. 9 against Northville — then helped set up the equalizer, by Nick Yankee at 15:04 of the period. Jack Chumley also assisted.

Plymouth scored again with just 11 seconds left in the period, with Baldwin firing one past Rehling. Assisting were Chumley and Graham Sheehan.

The lone goal of the middle period was scored at 9:40, with junior C.J. Mullenax taking a feed from Zachary Gallaher and finding the mark.

But the Rocks came out charging in the third, scoring early on and having another goal disallowed.

After Wednesday's game against South Lyon, Plymouth will face Canton at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Arctic Edge, following a Plymouth alumni contest.

On Friday, also at Plymouth Cultural Center, Salem earned a 1-0 victory over Canton.

Stopping nine shots for the shutout was Salem's Matt Visel.

The lone goal of the KLAA South match-up was scored in the third period by Logan Sowa. Setting up the goal were German and Alex Schaumburger.

Salem will next face the Bay City Reps on Dec. 28 at the Traverse City Central Tournament.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Sofran is out as Brother Rice's head football coach

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

David Sofran's tenure as Brother Rice's football head coach lasted three years.

Brother Rice school officials announced Friday afternoon that Sofran will not return for the Warriors next season.

"We truly appreciate all of the contributions coach Sofran has made to Brother Rice during his three years as head coach, which fol-

lowed his many years as an assistant coach and as a player," Rice Athletic Director Jeff Calcaterra said.

Sofran was named head coach for the 2014 football season following the retirement of the legendary Al Fracassa.

The Warriors posted a 20-12 overall record during that time, including a sparkling 11-1 mark and a trip to



Sofran

the Division 2 regional championship game in his first season.

After missing the playoffs in 2015 (2-7), Rice regrouped this past season and finished with a 7-4 overall record and a return appearance in the state playoffs.

Rice's season ended with a 24-0 loss to Birmingham Groves in the Division 2 district championship game.

"The long-term vision of

our football program embodies the values of Brother Rice High School and our commitment to academic and athletic excellence," Calcaterra said. "We strive to develop our student-athletes and consistently place our program among the top in Michigan."

Sofran will remain on the staff as associate athletic director for this academic year. Administrators plan to soon begin a search for a new head coach.

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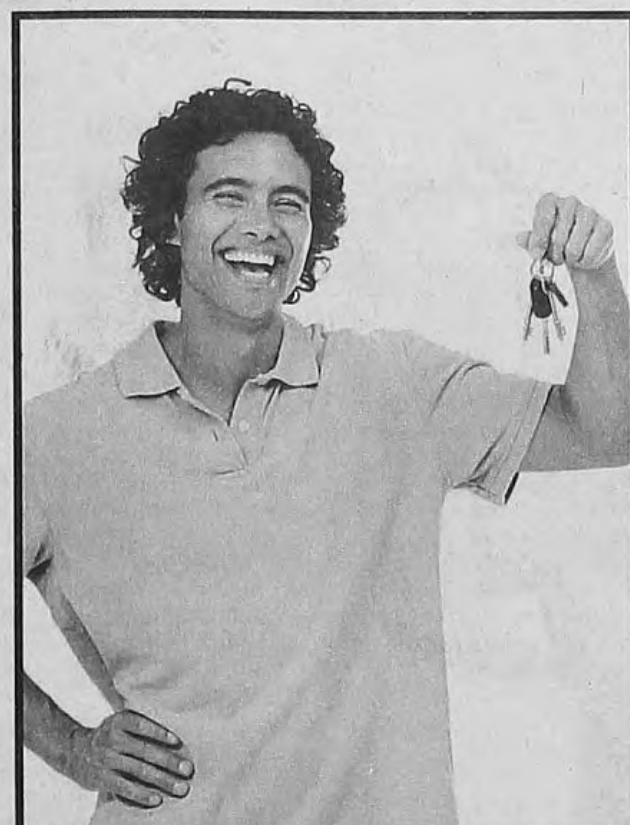
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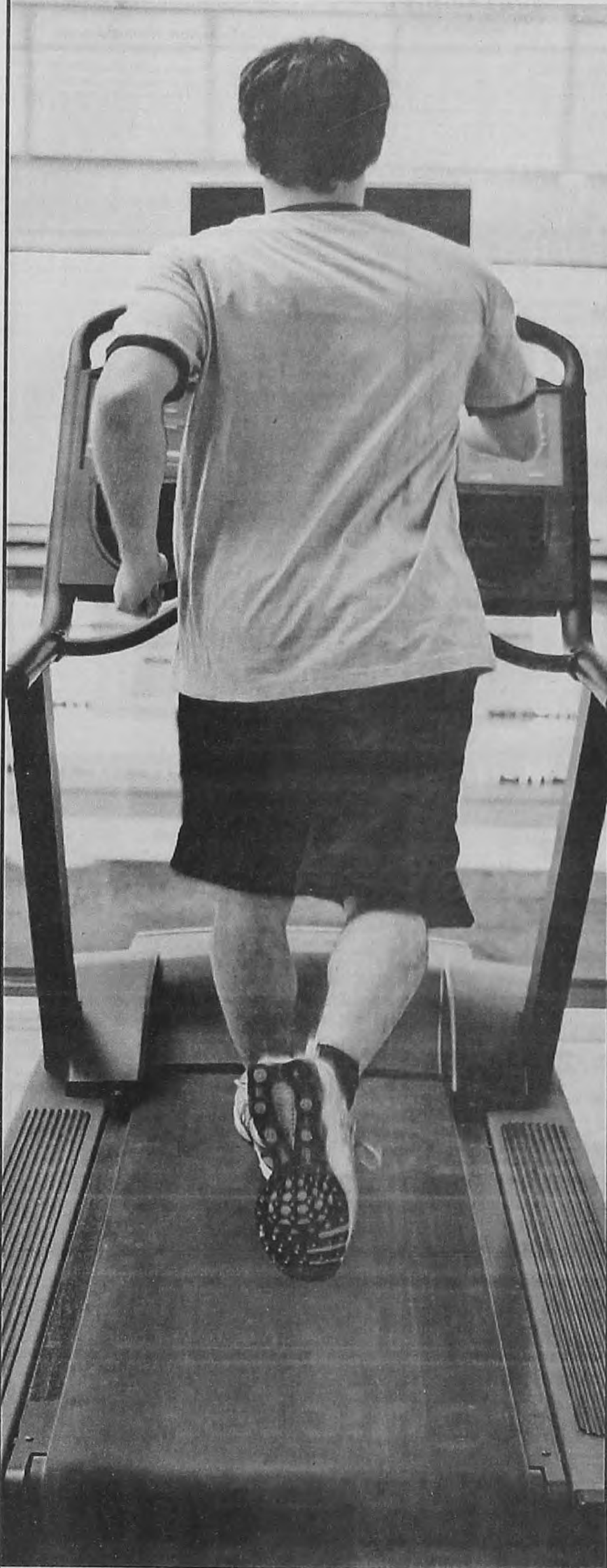
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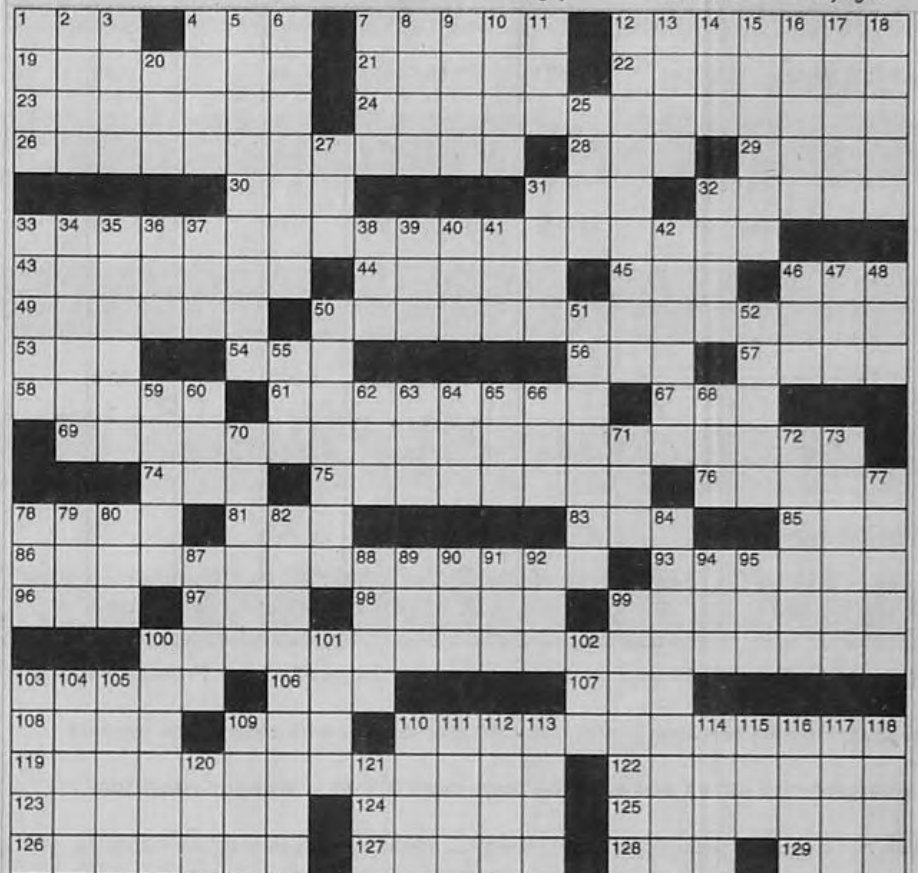
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127 "Let's roll!"
128 Purview of Gov. Cuomo
129 Dipso

DOWN

1 In — rush
2 Religious act
3 Urban model — Chynia
4 Horse gait
5 Likely traffic snarl times
6 Opens, as a tomb
7 Sea predator
8 Billiards
9 — nitrate (fuel additive)
10 With
85-Across, (fuel)
11 — Canals
12 Gossipy chatterer
13 Hoppy brews
14 Decree
15 Cellphone components
16 Cursor, often
17 "Affliction" star
18 Birch cousin
20 Deer cousin
25 Pianist John
27 Prefix with life or land
31 Big name in frozen drinks
32 Part of NBA: Abbr.
33 Capital of Senegal
34 Brunch dish
35 Luxuriant
36 "Bad" cholesterol, for short
37 Vocal vote
38 Chem., e.g.
39 Multitude
40 Yule drink
41 Not sound
42 Actress
Langtry

46 Baseball's Red —
47 Pro
48 Go-aheads
50 Rightful deserts
51 They show certain transit routes
52 Actress Dem
55 Shanty
59 Tim of football
60 — Poke (candy)
62 "Do Ya" gp.
63 Lion lair
64 B-to-F run
65 Suffix with drunk
66 Wish undone
68 Sun or moon
70 "Yes, that guy!"
71 1,051, to Nero
72 Iroquois tribe
73 Per annum
77 Doesn't exit
78 Irish dance
79 Yankee land
80 Small dollop
82 Arboreal frogs
84 In the way a lass would
87 2011 Marvel Comics film
88 Problems for vain sorts
89 Snarling mutt
90 Chart buster
91 "Sorta" suffix
92 — wee Herman
94 "— will not!"
95 Clunker
99 Adds abundantly
100 Swear by
101 C-worthy
102 Polloi
lead-in
103 In two, say
104 Scatterer of seeds
105 City square
109 Patella locale
110 Certain bolt holder
111 Altitudes: Abbr.
112 Architect
Saarinen
113 Drescher of "The Nanny"
114 Lashes (up)
115 Traffic clog
116 Redding of soul
117 Canadian fuel brand
118 Deep desire
120 Company abbr.
121 "— was saying ..."



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

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

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!

5	8	7	9	8	2	6	1	7
6	8	7	8	7	1	9	9	2
9	1	2	7	6	9	8	8	7
2	7	6	8	9	8	7	9	1
1	9	9	7	2	7	8	8	6
8	7	8	1	9	6	7	2	9
7	9	8	9	1	7	2	6	8
7	6	1	2	8	8	9	7	9
8	2	9	6	7	9	1	7	8

ASTROLOGY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

AIR
AQUARIUS
ARIES
ASCENDANT
ASTROLOGY
BIRTH
CALENDAR
CANCER
CAPRICORN
CELESTIAL
CHART
CONFIGURATION
CONSTELLATION
EARTH
ECLIPSE
FIRE
GENI
HOUSE
INTERPRET
LEO
LIBRA
NATAL
PISCES
PROGRESSIONS
RETROGRADE
RISING
SAGITTARIUS
SCORPIO
SIGN
STARS
SYNASTRY
TAURUS
TRANSIT
VIRGO
WATER

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



Word Search Answers

