LOCAL STUDENT SHARES STORY OF LIVING WITH ASPERGER'S LOCAL NEWS, A6





THE ENCLAVE COMING **TO NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE, A4**

THURSDAY 04.13.17 II HOMETOWNLIFE.COM II PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Miracle League players hunt for Easter eggs

Brad Kadrich hometownlife.com

Perfect weather contributed to what organizers said was a perfect day Saturday as the Miracle League of Plymouth celebrated its annual Easter egg hunt.

Some 80 children and 15

volunteers turned out for the event at Bilkie Field in downtown Plymouth. Some 200 plastic eggs were scattered around the field and the children filled their baskets for as long as the eggs held out.

Each child went home with a "goody" bag as their reward for participating.

"The kids all had a good time," MLP president Debra Madonna said. "It's so nice to have this field for special occasions. It's so nice to see everyone. We haven't seen some of the children since the end of last season and we always have



See EGGS, Page A2 Five-year-old Brandon Raskey found plenty of eggs.

Robots converge for epic, but friendly, battles

Matt Jachman hometownlife.com

The sounds of machines scrambling across the field and sending plastic balls into hoppers were punctuated last weekend by the shouts of enthusiastic fans and the announcer's play-by-play of epic robot battles at Churchill High School.

The annual Livonia-hosted FIRST Robotics district com-petition brought 41 high school teams, from as close as Plymouth and Northville townships and as far as Muskegon, to Churchill, where they pitted their robots against each other in Steamworks, this year's challenge for students in the nationwide robotics program.

FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a not-for-profit that encourages the study of science, technology, engineer-ing and mathematics, the STEM subjects.

Students, parents and volunteers took over big portions of Churchill on Friday and Sat-urday, cheering — or running - Steamworks matches in the fieldhouse, packing the cafeteria at lunchtime and turning the auxiliary gymnasium, where team members repair, test and fine-tune their robots between matches, into a hive

of activity.



A traffic jam on the playing field during a Steamworks match.

nia Warriors (a combined Livo- Saginaw Valley State Univer-

"We lost this match, but we've been making steady progress," said David Ganss, a mentor for the Novi Detroit Catholic Central Shambots, upon returning to the "pits" from a Friday match. "We're on pins and needles this weekend."

The standings can change rapidly, but the Shambots' steady progress paid off, as they stood atop the rankings at the close of the contest. After 12 matches, Catholic Central had a 10-2 record and a 1.66 match score, followed the Livonia Public Schools team) with a 9-3 record and a 1.58 match score, and five teams tied for third place, including the Heavy Duty Eagles from Thurston High School and the Hackbots from the Farmington Public Schools.

"It's the biggest, craziest sports event you've ever been to, but with none of the negativity," said Joanna Garrett, the Warriors' lead robot programmer.

Joanna, a Churchill senior, was excited about the Warriors' trip to the state finals at sity next weekend. The team qualified by winning the Chairman's Award, given to the team that judges decide best represents a model for others and best embodies the goals of FIRST, at an earlier competition

She spent hours helping program Iron Kraken, the Warriors' robot. "There is no better feeling in the world" than to work diligently on programming "then see it come to life," Joanna said. "It's amaz-



See ROBOTS, Page A2

The theme of this year's FIRST challenge is Steampunk and Livonia Warriors pit crew member Carolyn Mackenzie is dressed for the occasion. She's with pit crew members Sarah Tumavitch and Joey Golinske.



DAN DEAN

Shannon Thomas (left) shares a laugh with Bob and Fran McGowan of Farmington Hills at the Spring Senior Expo.

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Hundreds flock to annual Spring Expo

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

The line for a coney dog and salad was literally out the door Monday morning at the annual Spring Senior Expo. Redford residents Walt and Dottie Young decided the wait was worth it for some local flavor from Leo's Coney Island, located at 17398 Haggerty in Livonia.

After getting a quick bite to eat, it was off to hopefully see financial adviser Rick Bloom's talk.

"I love his column," Dottie Young said. "He's not our adviser, but I read him all the time. I've chosen our adviser based on what Rick Bloom says. I think he's excellent."

The Youngs were only two of the hundreds that came out Monday to the Observer & Eccentric's 14th annual Spring Senior Expo at Schoolcraft College. There was plenty to do, from gathering information on senior living facilities to getting more info on doctors and financial advice - and, of course, all the free stuff.

The info shared by vendors was some that Walt Young said could come in handy later, especially if a situation arises they hadn't thought of. "You get some good, free

information," he said.

One of those vendors was Connie Myler, a clinical specialist who oversees the Inspirit Salon at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, which caters to patients dealing with diseases such as cancer. It provides salon services, wigs,

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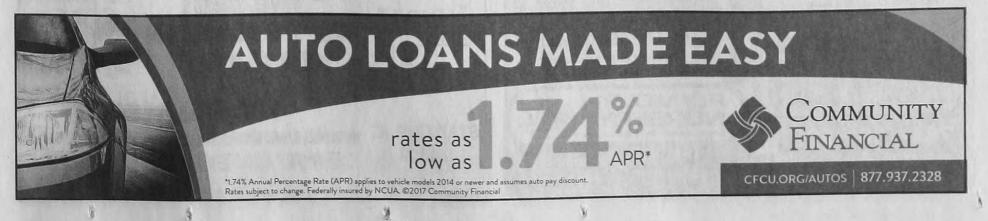
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Obituaries

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LOCAL NEWS

EGGS

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new players." This year, MLP expanded its activities beyond the baseball diamond. The league conducted two sessions of bowling (four weeks in January, three more in March) at Plymouth's Plaza Lanes, plus had a four-week session of yoga at the Plymouth

Community Arts Council. After the success of those sessions, though, the league is getting ready to get back to what it does best: baseball.

The league is looking for players, volunteers, fans, buddies and umpires for its spring season, set to start May 6.

The league is looking for:

» Volunteers — Get the required waiver at www.miracleleagueplymouth.org/waiver.html or sign up for duty at www.miracleleagueplymouth.org volunteer.html.

» Buddies - Minimum age for a buddy is

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Thad Brooks and daughter Melissa Brooks, gathering eggs.

10 years old. Large groups can sign up en masse (each buddy will

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need a waiver). The league asks volunteers not to sign up unless they know they're actually going to be able to fill the slot. There's a "Buddies FAQ" at www.miracle leagueplymouth.org/ index.php?q=buddies.

The spring schedule starts Saturday, May 6, and runs through Sat-urday, June 24 (there are no games Saturday, May 27, because of the Memorial Day holiday).

For more information, email info@miracleleagueplymouth.org.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

EXPO

Continued from Page A1

bras and other needs for patients to feel at their best

Myler said she requested the salon have a booth at the event, her first time attending. She said the crowds had stopped by her table and picked up plenty of information and free lip balm

"I thought it would be a good resource for us, to connect with the public," she said. "I thought it was a good place for us to get exposure.'

Farmington Hills resi-

ROBOTS

Continued from Page A1

ing."

Joanna and teammate Carolyn Mackenzie, also a Churchill senior, said they liked the sense of camaraderie at FIRST, even among opponents. Everyone's friendly, they said, and borrowing tools from other teams is not uncommon.

Samatha Downs, a Farmington High School senior, said it's stressful being a "shooter," or remotely controlling the upper half of the robot, during play. Samantha has mechanical duties in the Hackbots' shop, too. "I stuck my hand in

the 2014 robot," as a ninth-grader, "got covered in grease and I was completely hooked," she said

Steamworks is played between alliances of three teams each. The field has two "airships" and each alliance tries to score by having its robots deliver gears to its airship, which human players put in place to turn propellers, and send fuel (the plastic balls) into a "boiler." Each match is just over two minutes long and ends with the robots attempting to board the airship by climbing a

"The climber works very well," sophomore Natalie Corrigan of the Robostangs, the Northville High School team, said at Northville's pit station after a match. Other parts of the Robostangs' robot, The-





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Livonia Warriors driver Iris Derry and operator Jake Gates put the team's robot to work.

seus, weren't working quite as well, however, including the gear manipulator. "We just need to calibrate it better." junior Alexander Steinig said after Theseus was sent to the practice floor.

The pits are where FIRST teams get to show off their work for others, talk about their machines and tinker with them or recharge the batteries.

'Occasionally, something breaks," said Todd Peterson, a mentor for the Farmington Public Schools team. "It's like NASCAR in here." "Usually, one problem leads to another and we have to fix that before each match," said Keaton Mulcahy, a Catholic Central sophomore.

Peterson, a manager at General Motors Corp., is in his fifth year as a Hackbots mentor. An electrical engineer by training, the work keeps his STEM side happy. "These kids are phe-

nomenal," he said. 'That's why I really do it.'

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dents Marie and Frank Nido came to the annual expo looking for a change of residency. The couple said they're hoping to move to Fox Run in Novi and came to the expo to get a little more information

"(We come) when we find notice of it," Marie Nido said ...

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DAN DEAN Arlene Zsilka of Redford balances hot dogs and salads, courtesy of Leo's Coney Island, during the Spring Senior Expo.

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Hungry? Showcase, Taste of Plymouth on the way

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

Imagine paying just \$10 to sample food from 20 restaurants, all while visiting as many as 75 local businesses under one roof.

It all happens at Showcase & Taste of Plymouth, 5-7:30 p.m. Mon-day, April 24, at The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road.

French Toast Bistro, a French-inspired Cajun eatery, is among the restaurants planning to dish out palate-pleasing samples.

"We love to be a part of the community and this is one of those things that lets people experience what is French Toast Bistro," manager Camille Henry said.

That's the goal of the 28th annual Showcase & Taste of Plymouth, exposing 500-600 visitors to

local restaurants and businesses in hopes they will like the food they taste and the products they see, enough to become patrons. It could even put a spark in the local economy.

"It's a great way to promote the businesses so the general public can find businesses and restaurants they didn't even know existed," said Wes Graff, president of the **Plymouth Community** Chamber of Commerce.

The event draws visitors from neighboring communities, too.

'Canton and Northville show up in droves," Graff said.

A wide range of businesses participate, including a dog-groomer, salons, a car-cleaning company, yoga and dance studios, Realtors, financial institutions and furniture stores, among many others. There will

be prizes and giveaways. Eateries range from candy stores to fine res-

taurants "You're going to get some really, really good chefs," Graff said.

Patrons who work up a thirst can find relief from bartenders at The Inn at St. John's

The event will offer some competition, too. A group of judges will choose winners in categories such as best dessert and best entree, Graff said, and community volunteers will be honored by local service clubs.

Tickets are available at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, on its website at http:// www.plymouthmich.org or at the door. For more information, call 734-453-1540.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver



A crowd gathers for a previous Showcase & Taste of Plymouth.

Seminar aims to help women business owners

Cheryl Skynar, owner of Skynar Bookkeeping, and Dorothy Twinney, owner of RBD Creative, will be speaking at the 2017 Fempreneur Summit following the Money Smart conference.

The Money Smart Fempreneur Summit 2017 is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at University of Phoenix-Southfield Main Campus, 26261 Evergreen Road, fifth floor.

In its second year, Fempreneur is being organized by local busi-



Twinney Skynar

nesswomen Heather Doering (Ace in the Hole Branding) and Kelly Masters (Graceful Communications). Participants will enjoy a day of inspiration, relationshipbuilding and tips for building themselves and

their businesses, with access to more than 15 panelists, a robust Resource Marketplace and other women business owners who are striving to thrive in 2017.

This is Skynar's second year as a speaker. She will be on a panel, "The Unsexy Side of Business: Biz Structure, Financing, Cash Flow, Accounting and Resources."

"The underlining drive behind Skynar Bookkeeping is to help other business owners reach

their professional goals and dreams," Skynar said. "Especially other women business owners. That is the reason I feel honored to participate in this event each year."

Skynar Bookkeeping is located at 9397 N. Haggerty in Plymouth. www. skynarbookkeeping.com. It also has a second office in Trenton at 2836 W. Jefferson, Suite 100. Sky-nar Bookkeeping offers full bookkeeping services, as well as Quick-Books training. It can be reached at 734-335-7702.

Twinney said she's proud to be participating for the first time this year. Her panel is, "What's Your Story?: Communications, Marketing, Social and Traditional Media Tips and Tricks."

"Every business simply has to not only know, but own, their story," Twinney said. "And then they need to know how to broadcast their story in the most effective marketing media for their demographic. I love helping businesses figure this out. It doesn't need to be a mystery.

RBD Creative is located at 9349 N. Haggerty. Its website is www. rbdcreative.com. The firm offers a full spec-trum of marketing services, including brand development, website design, identity pieces and other printed materials such as brochures.

Tickets can be purchased at: https://www. eventbrite.com/e/money -smart-fempreneursummit-2017-tickets-32324185509.

Canton Community Foundation, United Way to host PTSD forum

The Canton Community Foundation and the Plymouth Community United Way will host "Fighting PTSD Trying to

Mask the Trauma and Veterans Abusing Drugs & Alcohol" 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 28, at Madonna University, Kresge Hall,

Livonia. The free event is open to veterans, families dealing with someone with PTSD or anyone

wanting to know about the diagnosis and next steps for treatment. Register at www.canton-

foundation.org or call Beth Meade at 734-495-1200. The event is sponsored by Community Financial.



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The home features an area near the entrance that reaches to the second floor, with an overlook to the floor below. This area, near the bedrooms, is an option, usable for office space or casual seating

Pulte Homes' The Enclave makes way for family lifestyles



Joanne Maliszewski hometownlife.com

If you're watching any of the HGTV home renovation shows, the term "open concept" should be familiar. And it is a strong concept that drives development of Pulte Homes' The Enclave, now under construction in Northville Township

"We set up our homes with an open flow," said Jennifer Eckardt, sales consultant.

Pulte is developing The Enclave with four models on Seven Mile - property that had been designated by consent judgment to sport some 200 mobile homes. Pulte purchased the property with plans for 55 single-family homes, just east of the Highland shopping center. 'This is a home run for us," Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix said, referring to the new development. "It's a different residential product."

urban feel with smaller, narrower lots 45 feet wide and 120 feet deep. Homes on the cul de sac and on corners, however, provide 111 feet in width in the back yard. The new subdivision is marketed as walkable close to downtown Northville - again a nod to urban design and living.

On the west side of the subdivision, Pulte will build a park complete with gazebo and scenic overlook. It will also feature walking trails. When Pulte has completed the subdivision, a homeowners association will take over responsibility for the park, as well as snow removal and care of the stone monument entrance to the neighborhood. Homeowner dues are expected to be \$750 annually.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The cafe area contains the kitchen, casual seating for meals and an area for seating that includes a fireplace.

The homes will take on an

The new homes range in size from 2,500-3,000 square feet. The final price paid depends on the model and options chosen. The newly built model,

See ENCLAVE, Page A5

Architect: Don't star in your own home remodeling horror show

e've probably all shared that scary movie moment when, helpless in our theater seat with sweating palms, we watch while the heroine innocently reaches for the door knob

"Don't open that door!" we shout inside our heads (or aloud, depending on our inhibitions)

We already know the monster lurks behind. We try to warn. The door is opened.

I've been an architect specializing in residential projects for more than 20 years. I've seen a lot of scary "monsters" appear when I have



worked on existing houses. Support beams that were undersized because the homeowner asked the contractor to make the house two feet wider. Sagging roofs that, over time, pushed walls to bow outward

The initial fright of uncovering the unexpected secretly crouching in the walls, attic or foundation is often exceeded by the terror of realizing the

added time and expense these add to a remodeling project. As an architect, one of my primary goals is to counsel homeowners on what they might find when starting a renovation project. The troubles lurking beneath and behind will still be there, but at least together we can make allowances and prepare strategies to triumph over these villainous contingencies.

What are some of the "boogeymen" that jump out of dark corners when working on older homes?

See ZUBER, Page A5

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Realcomp's Tools of the Trade

Realtors are invited to Realcomp's 2017 Annual Tools of the Trade Realtor Expo from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

Get in on this year's lessons in real estate from Karen Kage, Realcomp CEO; Jared James, a real estate coach; and economist Elliot Eisenberg, among others.

The free event includes attend exhibitors, presenta-

tions — some with continuing education credits - speakers, lunch, games and prizes. To learn more and to register for

the event, go to www.realcomp.com/ News-Events/Tools-Expo.

Flex building sold

Friedman Integrated Real Estate Solutions recently negotiated the sale of a 7,500square-foot flex building, 7767 Ronda Drive, Canton. The seller, J&V McKinley Realty LLC, sold the building to Bat-Cave Properties LLC

Robert Gagniuk, associate, Brokerage Services at Friedman, and Amit Hingorani, associate, Brokerage Services at Friedman, represented the purchaser in this transaction.

Down payment program

Atlanta-based Down Payment Resource allows potential home buyers to view down payment program eligible listings on two new public MLS websites MLSPINhomes.com and MoveInMichigan.com. Across both markets, 72 percent of homes may be eligible for

See BRIEFS, Page A6

BY THE NUMBERS



FEVERPITCHED, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

February real estate statistics, provided by Realcomp of Farmington Hills:

Wayne County **Total sales**

February 2017: 1,313 February 2016: 1,332 Change: 1.4 percent **Median sales price** February 2017: \$99,900 February 2016: \$91,000 Change: 9.8 percent Average days on market February 2017: 47 February 2016: 55 Change: minus-14.5 percent On market listings — ending inventory February 2017: 3,845 February 2016: 6,680 Change: minus-42.4 percent **Oakland County**

Total sales

February 2017: 1,101 February 2016: 1,218 Change: minus-9.6 percent Median sales prices February 2017: \$203,250 February 2016: \$185,950 Change: 9.3 percent Average days on market February 2017: 47 February 2016: 55

Change: minus-14.5 percent On market listings — ending inventory February 2017: 3,391

February 2016: 5,625 Change: minus-39.7 percent

Fastest selling communities

35 days and less with 10 or more sales, year-to-date: 1: Holly: 18 days on market 2: Lathrup Village: 20 days 3: Clawson: 24 days 4: South Lyon: 25 days 5: Brighton: 26 days 7: Huron Township: 27 days 8: Berkley: 29 days 9: Farmington: 30 days 10: Novi: 31 days 11: Oak Park: 31 days 12: Pittsfield Township: 31 days 13: Plymouth: 31 days 14: Hazel Park: 32 days 15: Wixom: 32 days 16: Ferndale: 33 days 17: Flat Rock: 33 days 18: Oceola Township: 34 days 19: Sterling Heights: 35 days 20: Livonia: 35 days 21: Howell: 35 days 22: Northville: 35 days

REAL ESTATE

share a Jack and Jill bath. "People really like these, because it gives

easy access for the kids," Eckardt said. "The bed-

ENCLAVE

Continued from Page A4

the Everett, offers four or five bedrooms, two or three bathrooms, 2,823 square feet and starts at \$462,990. The largest design is the Woodward, with four to six bedrooms, two to four bathrooms and 2,950 square feet with a starting price tag of \$459,990.

The smaller designs are the Bridgeport with four bedrooms, 2½ baths and 2,561 square feet with a starting price of \$442,990. A bit larger is the Boardwalk, with four to six bedrooms, two to four bathrooms and 2,658 square feet for a starting price of \$449,990

"You can't build in Northville for this price. This is a real draw," Eckardt said. "Pulte has not been here for a while.'

The Enclave homes are designed to support today's family life with smaller bedrooms, yet options for flexible space, such as a loft area on the second floor. "It is like a second living room on the top floor. We are moving away from building huge bedrooms,' Eckardt said.

Bowing to the needs and likes of today's families, formal dining



The master bedroom.

rooms and large formal living rooms are not a focus. In the Everett, space that can be used as dining and living rooms greet guests when the front door opens into a smaller foyer. "People see (formal areas) as wasted space. You use the formal dining rooms once a year. So it is really up to you what you want to do with the space." Also gone in the new

design is the closed-off kitchen. Today, parents want an open kitchen to the living area to encourage families to gather in the space and for parents to see what the kids are doing while busy in the kitchen, Eckardt said.

"Whether entertaining or with the family, they can all come together now," she said No longer called a family room, that "come

together" space is named a gathering room and is open to the dining area and the kitchen. Pulte offers as stan-

dard granite counter tops, although the less porous quartz is an option. As a \$3,200 option, a five-burner gas stove top, oven and microwave can be designed as builtins. The 50/50 stainless steel sink is standard, but Pulte has available as an option a large sink made of a composite material that doesn't scratch. Eckardt said.

The kitchen also boasts an island facing the cafe, as well as 42inch cabinets with maple as the standard material.

Each of the four designs also will boast a planning center, which is a desk near the kitchen that can serve as a good spot for kids to do their homework or as a small office for empty-nesters.

And for those empty-

nesters, Pulte offers, as an option, a small bedroom and full bathroom on the main level. Otherwise, the main floor bathroom is a powder room.

In the Everett, the flex space, if chosen as an option, is essentially the entry point to the upper floor, with bedrooms off a gathering area. While the secondary bedrooms are smaller, ranging in size from 10 by 12 feet to 11 by 12 feet, the master bedroom runs larger, 14 feet, 6 inches by 20 feet, 10 inches, accompanied by a master bath with double vanity and two walk-in closets. The master suite also provides room for a sitting area.

If a buyer does not want the upstairs flex space as a gathering area option, the space is used as a cathedral ceiling for the main floor front foy-

In the Everett, the secondary bedrooms

rooms are smaller, but they will fit what you need. Each of the available models also includes an upstairs laundry, another popular contemporary design. "People like this because this is where their clothes are," Eck-

ardt added. While plenty of options in all the models are available, the one thing Pulte will not do is redesign the spaces, such as making the upstairs bedrooms larger. "We have a six-month build, so we don't do custom options," she said

Excited with the new residential offerings, Nix said The Enclave will be a winner for Pulte and for the township, considering that the property was originally scheduled for mobile homes. "That was not compatible with the surrounding area," Nix said. "This is a fill-in parcel. If we can get more families in there. that's great. We know the (Northville) school board said they need more children.'

A number of other residential areas are planned in Northville Township, including neighborhoods specifically for empty-nesters, a means to keep in the community those residents whose children have flown the nest.

"We're looking at the master plan to see how much acreage we have left for residential," Nix said.

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ZUBER

Continued from Page A4

Inadequate insulation

Homes built before the 1980s were built when energy was cheap. They are often underinsulated or possibly not insulated at all because of the price of heating fuel. We now know that it's better to keep our heated and conditioned air inside rather than letting it escape through our walls and roofs. Adding insulation is a good intention, but be aware this can change the way that water vapor moves through the walls, which can, in turn, cause mold and mildew to form. It's wise to consult an expert before adding barrier materials to assess how our friend and simultaneously potential foe moisture - will be handled.



A notched joist.

supply lines. Supply lines are the pipes that bring water from your water meter to your faucets. Galvanized pipes are steel pipes with a zinc coating on the inside. Over time, this zinc coating erodes, which causes the insides of the pipes to corrode, causing low water pressure by blocking the pipes. Corroded pipes can also leak at the

ture, but can and should be repaired when they are found. Unfortunately, even the best-intended builders can create terrifying problems when disregarding the laws of physics.

Furnace and water heater capacity

If you are building an addition, you should check with a heating and





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SHURLY

MARY ANN AFFLECK LUTOMSKI Age 72 of Goodyear, Arizona, originally of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan entered into life eternal on Friday, March 17, 2017. Born

Knob and tube wiring, undersized electrical panels

We own a lot more electrical devices now than people did in the early to mid-20th century just think of the number of hair dryers, curling irons, shavers, electric toothbrushes and other devices you probably have in your bathroom. Most older homes that haven't been updated have 60-amp electrical panels with screwin fuses rather than circuit breakers

A home today is better served by 150- to 200amp (or more) service and some insurance companies are refusing to insure homes with outdated electrical panels. Not many things are as frightening as an insurance agent saying "no" to issuing a policy on an over-sized risk! When you renovate your home, you should ask your electrician to calculate the estimated loads and size the electric panel accordingly.

In addition, homes built before the 1940s are likely to have knob and tube wiring, which was not designed to handle the electrical loads we need for all our devices today. If that weren't scary enough on its own, cellulose and spray foam insulation cannot be installed where knob and tube wiring is present because the heat produced by this outdated method of wiring can cause the insulation to catch fire. It's important to plan to replace this obsolete electrical system as part of any renovation project.

Galvanized plumbing pipes

Many homes built before the 1960s have galvanized plumbing

joints. Galvanized pipes are another hiding monster you may be required to chase away with PVC or copper replacements when you remodel a kitchen or bathroom.

Orangeburg sewer lines

Orangeburg pipe was made of layers of wood fiber and pitch and was used for piping sewage from houses to the main sewer line. During World War II, inexpensive Orangeburg pipe became popular because cast iron the material sewer pipes were typically made from - was subject to a heavy tax. Over time, Orangeburg pipe tends to absorb moisture, deform under pressure and eventually disintegrate. If your home was built between the late 1940s and the mid-1960s, you may have Orangeburg pipe. Sorry, but again, just the architect as messenger here: it should be replaced.

Asbestos, lead paint, and radon

A lot has been written about these potential dangers. Although these adversaries may be as familiar to most as Frankenstein, Dracula and the Wolfman, it's still worth the expense to hire an expert to advise you about the best way to identify and remove or encapsulate these threats.

Hacked-up structure from old renovations

Homes that are so old that they may have been built without indoor plumbing or that have been renovated a few times may have floor joists or wall studs that have been cut or notched inappropriately. These cuts weaken the struc-

cooling contractor to assess the capacity of your existing furnace. Although many older furnaces were oversized, if yours is nearing the end of its lifespan, it might be time to replace

it. If you are adding a bathroom or two, you should also consider the size of your water heater. If you run out of hot water when taking a long shower, you're already stretching the capacity of your water heater. You may want to replace the existing unit with a larger model, add a second water heater to serve only the new bathrooms or replace your water heater with a tank-less water heater.

As you can see, there are a lot of beasts that can jump out and grab you (and your savings) when you remodel your home. I recommend setting aside a contingency fund of 10-25 percent of the cost of construction to cover these potential expenses. That way, when confronting these villains, you can look at them in the eye and shout: "You can't scare me. My architect warned me you might be hiding behind that door!"

Canton resident Dawn Zuber, AIA, who owns Studio Z Architecture in Plymouth, earned her bachelor of architecture degree at the University of Cincinnati. She also completed an independent study at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. She moved to southeast Michigan with her husband in 1994 and initially worked with two other architecture firms before starting Studio Z. She is a licensed architect in Michigan and Ohio. Zuber was the architect for the HGTV Urban Oasis ® Giveaway 2016 in Ann Arbor.



PAUL JAMES 88, passed away Friday, April 7, 2017. He was born in Jackson County, North Carolina, son to the late John Thomas & Daisy Owens Buchanan. He is also preceded in death by his wife Lois Evelyn Buchanan, and nine siblings. Funeral services were held 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at Concord Bible Church, 711 Williamsburg Ct. NE Concord, NC 28025. Burial followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Paul is survived by two sons; Art Buchanan, wife Connie; Jim Buchanan, wife Leslie; six daughters; Pat Jordan, husband Jon; Pam Yerkes; Connie Wakefield, husband Tom; Sandy Marano; Chervl Brame: Laurie Reeder. husband Daniel; a sister Wilma Bloom, twenty five grandchildren, and fourteen great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Concord Bible Church, 711 Williamsburg Ct. NE Concord, NC 28025. Gordon Funeral Service & Crematory is caring for the Buchanan family. Online



condolences may be made at

www.gordonfuneralservice.com

DOROTHY (PRIMOZICH) April 7, 2017. Age 83 of Naples, Florida, formerly of Livonia, MI. Surviving is her husband of 32 years, Richard Crawford; sons, Randy, Danny, and Gary Primozich; stepsons, David and Douglas Crawford; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Visitation Friday, April 14, 5-9 p.m. at R.G. & G.R. 5-9 p.m. at H.G. & G.H. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. No services scheduled. Private burial, Please share a memory of Dorothy at

www.rggrharris.com



BILLY K. April 9, 2017. Age 88, of Dearborn Heights. Beloved husband of the late Annamary. Loving father of John (Barbara), Douglas (Hetty), the late Phil (Rita), Kathryn (Timothy Leonard) Pate, Carolyn (Joseph) Dery, the late Wenda (Christopher) Selvig, Billie (Daniel) McCarty, and Anna. Cherished grandfather of twenty-one and dear great-grandfather of eighteen. Memorial Visitation will be Monday at 10:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Towne Square St. (Michigan Ave. and Wayne Rd.) until time of Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lions Club of Garden City. Care and services were entrusted to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Westland, (734) 522-9400. Share a 'Memorial Tribute" with the family at

griffinfuneralhome.com.

lay you find peace your time worrow.

June 8, 1944 to Gregor and Elizabeth Affleck of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She is survived by husband, Burt R. Shurly III; daughter, Karen Lutomski Biddulph (Curt) and son, Karl F. Lutomski Jr. (Carla); grandchildren, Brynlee, Braxten, and Brittan Lutomski, Lily Biddulph; and step-children, Burt Shurly IV (Lauren) and Rosmary Barbara Duval (Chris). Mary Ann is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Gregor Affleck; and first husband, Dr. Karl F. Lutomski, DDS, MS, PC. Mary Ann was a graduate of Kingswood School Cranbrook and the University of Michigan where she majored in Industrial Math and Art. Mary Ann spent her childhood living in the Affleck House, a Frank Lloyd Wright home built for her family and later donated to Lawrence Technical University. Mary Ann was very active in philanthropic efforts, leading Kingswood School's Giftorama and Cranbrook Gala de Cuisine annual events When Mary Ann and Burt moved to California, she led efforts as President and then Treasurer of the Assistance League of Huntington Beach, raising \$2 million each year benefitting local children. She was a veracious reader, a worldwide traveler, and a true friend through and through Her magnetism, exceptional cooking and entertaining brought people together. Mary Ann will be missed greatly by her husband, children, grandchildren, extended family, and all those she lovingly touched in her life. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to: Cranbrook Schools: https:/ schools.cranbrook.edu/page, LUNGevity: https://www. lungevity.org, International Myeloma Foundation: https:// www.myeloma.org, Assistance League of Huntington Beach: https://www.assistanceleague org/huntington-beach/#1450582126817 968a53a3- 5d5f. In California: Celebration of Life services will be held in California on March 25th, 2017 at St Michaels and All Angels, 3232 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar, CA 92625, (949) 644-0463 at 2 p.m. Reception to immediately follow at Shady Canyon Golf Club, 100 Shady Canyon Drive, Irvine, CA 92603. Suggested hotel: Newport Beach Marriott Fashion Island. In Michigan: Celebration of Life/Columbarium Committal will take place on April 8, 2017 at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, (248) 644-5210 at 10 a.m.

My story: Living with Asperger's syndrome

pril is rolling in and, while many may associate the month with showers and warmer weather, it is also Autism Awareness Month. "What is autism?" some may ask. Google defines it as "a mental condition, present from early childhood, characterized by difficulty in communication and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts.

An early age, I was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a milder form of autism. Life for students with special needs can be hell while you're growing up. There's always a sense of isolation from other people; you're always told that you're "different." Words people use to describe those like me can range from "retard" to "special," but they all mean the same thing: you don't belong and you're different.

While adults have good intentions for children with this diagnosis, they have a hard time



putting themselves in our shoes

I'm considered high functioning on the autism spectrum. This means I can communicate effectively and I have an average or above-average cognitive ability.

However, people like me tend to have trouble reading social cues and knowing what's appropriate and what's not. Because I'm high functioning, I was placed in regular classes in school, the equivalent of throwing me in a lion's den, with teachers and para-professionals my only armor from direct encounters.

Kids with special needs get some of the worst treatment from their peers. It's a struggle to communicate and realize what's acceptable and what's not. Kids with autism are seen as a joke. It can feel like the

entire world hates you for just existing - like you're always being pit-ied, treated like you're stupid or both. I was raised to keep my condition a secret because it carries a stigma, it's considered wrong and weird

I've had people take advantage of my condition and judge me differently once they found out. I remember in middle school how we would have these things called 'Snack Pack," and invite kids who weren't in special-needs program to hang out with us. Most of the time, these kids were just using it to get free food. Later, we would see some of the same kids making fun of us in the hallways with their friends, usually by imitating or mocking us. It hurt a lot, but worse yet, it was widely accepted to mistreat people like me. I hear people use special or retarded as an insult in the hallways all the time. Using someone's race as an insult is shortsighted and no longer tolerated, so why is it OK

Kids with special needs get some of the worst treatment from their peers. It's a struggle to communicate and realize what's acceptable and what's not. Kids with autism are seen as a joke.

to use mental disabilities in the same way?

You can imagine that many kids, including myself, grew bitter from this treatment. I got used to hurtful comments and to different treatment, be it good or bad. I thought I was immune to the things people said, to the things people did, but I really wasn't. I was just detaching from it, which is very different from being immune.

I was talking to a teacher at my school one day. When I briefly told him that I was bullied and why, he only had one question for me: "Was there something wrong with them or something wrong with you?'

I remember internally smiling, the answer was

Michigan.

RE/MAX Dream Properties received the prestigious Showcase Award during the event. Showcase Awards are based on agent growth, average yearly commission per agent and average yearly production per agent. **RE/MAX** Dream Properties was recognized for achieving the highest net gain for an office size of

Lisa Hall, broker/

owner, **RE/MAX** Hall Dream Proper-

"The hard work and dedin south estate company

so obvious. I looked up at him and replied, "There is something wrong with me.

Until then he was not nonchalantly listening, but he quickly turned to face me. "Wrong? There is nothing wrong with you.'

I was confused when he said this; what did he mean by that? I'd always believed that I was the one who couldn't communicate right or learn things like everyone else. For a brief moment, all my flaws crashed into a chaotic mess, a circus of negativity within my own thoughts. I realized just then what his question really meant. I had given everyone who hurt me permission to because I believed I was born

ductive real-estate sea-

Industrial building sold

Friedman Integrated **Real Estate Solutions** recently arranged the sale of a 78,065-squarefoot industrial building at 23300 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills. The seller, 23300 Haggerty Associates, sold the building to Humanetics Innovative Solutions Inc. Phil Konopitski, senior

vice president, Brokerage Services at Friedman, represented the purchaser in this transaction.

Brokers honored

Friedman Integrated **Real Estate Solutions** announced the following individuals in the Brokerage Services division were recently awarded the 2016 CoStar Power Broker Awards, which honor the nation's top brokerage firms and individuals in commercial real estate: Glenn N. DesRosiers, senior vice president, Brokerage Services; Rob Gagniuk, issociate, Brokerage Services; Todd Hawley, senior vice president,

wrong. But really, it was the people who hurt me who are truly wrong in the end. I was just me and there would never be anything wrong with me for being who I am. The people who had hurt me in some way were the ones who were wrong. They were the ones who thought they had the right to deem others as being abnormal or broken

When I tell everyone the story, it is not for pity. I've had enough of that. It's to get people to wake up and realize the pain they are causing others. My story gets a happy ending here, but I know many others out there are still hurt and bitter. I want a world where people don't hate themselves for existing or feel afraid of things they can't control. I want the world changed to be a place where people can be accepted for who they are, not judged by it.

Abby Desselles is a student at Plymouth High School.

Brokerage Services; Alan Stern, vice president, Brokerage Services; and Rich Deptula, national director, Investment Advisory Services.

The awards are presented to the top 15 individuals in their field who closed the highest transaction volume in commercial property sales and leases in their respective market during the previous year.

In the Detroit metropolitan market, Des-Rosiers, Gagniuk and Hawley were recognized as Top Office Leasing Brokers, Stern as a Top **Retail Leasing Broker** and Deptula was recognized as a Top Sales Broker. In addition, Friedman was honored as a Top Leasing Firm and a Top Sales Firm, ranking in the top 15 firms in the Detroit metropolitan market. CoStar is the largest independent information provider to commercial real estate professionals in the United States.

To submit real estate news, email Joanne Maliszewski at

BRIEFS

Continued from Page A4

some type of home ownership program. The company also launched a new partnership with Homes for Heroes to ensure more community heroes are aware of the discounts and savings available to them

Consumers searching on the public MLS websites can benefit by immediately seeing which homes are eligible for down payment help. Home searchers can click the Down Payment Resource icon to check their eligibility. Both the home and the home buyer must be eligible for the home ownership program.

Across southeast Michigan, 71 percent of Realcomp II Ltd. listings are eligible for a home ownership program. When consumers go to MoveInMichigan.com, they create their own custom home search, selecting "down payment assistance" to view properties with program eligibility.

Down Payment Resource and Homes for Heroes are also working together so any "hero" home buyer will see additional savings and discounts they may be eligible for when buying a home.

Now, when consumers using Down Payment Resource identify themselves as a firefighter, active military or veteran, law enforcement,

to them when buying, selling or refinancing a home. **Northville Realtor** honored

teacher or health care

worker, they will see a

Homes for Heroes link

ship program results. It

Homes for Heroes web-

site so they can investi-

gate rebates, savings and

other discounts available

will take them to the

next to their home owner-

RE/MAX Dream Properties, 138 Main Center, Northville, was recently honored at the RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan Awards Gala. The event was held at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn and celebrated the accomplishments of RE/MAX's highest performers in southeast

MY BEST. MY MARATHON. OCT. 14-15, 2017

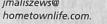
DVANGED

11-25 agents. The award was accepted by

"We are very proud to see RE/MAX Dream Properties recognized for superior performance," said Magnus Sublett, chief executive officer, RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan. cation of Lisa and her team have helped RE/ MAX maintain its position as the No. 1 real-

east Michigan. "I am honored to be

recognized at the regional level for the accomplishments of RE/MAX Dream Properties," Hall said. "Our entire team is committed to providing superior service to our clients throughout the Northville area. We look forward to another pro-





Commercial brokers recognized included (from left) Glenn DesRosiers, Robert Gagniuk, Todd Hawley, Alan Stern and Rich Deptula.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

1-800-Pack-Rat (MI-Plymouth-5514) 46201 5 Mile Rd Plymouth, MI 48170 877-774-1537

Notice of Sale

Tenant: Deck, William Greene, Desmond

Unit # D54644 D52231

1-800-Pack-Rat (MI-Plymouth-5514), 46201 5 Mile Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170, has possessory lien on all of the goods stored in the units above. All these items of personal property are being sold pursuant to the assertion of the lien on 4/19/2017 at 10:00 AM in order to collect the amounts due from you. The sale will take place on <u>www.strangeauctionservices.com</u> from 4/19/2017 to 4/26/2017 at 6:00p.m.

Published: April 6 & 13, 2017

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CITY COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN MONDAY APRIL 17, 2017 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

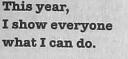
PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS OF Chapter 6- Alcoholic Liquors. Article II - Licenses and Permits, Section- 6-33, Licensing Policy

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170 (734)453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: April 13, 2017



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INSIDE: PCA GIRLS SOCCER SQUAD HOPING FOR BIG SEASON, B3

SPORTS

KI SECTION B (CP) THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

USA HOCKEY

St. Cyr standing tall in net for U.S.

Goaltender's inspired two-year run with NTDP, closing with stint at IIHF Under-18 Men's Worlds in Slovakia

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Dylan St. Cyr only stands 5 feet, 8 inches, but he is about to be a big presence on the world

hockey stage. St. Cyr, 17, son of former women's professional goaltender Manon Rheaume and exminor league player Gerry St. Cyr, is competing through April 23 at the IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship in Slovakia.

That's where St. Cyr and his teammates on the U.S. National Team Development Program

U18 squad are capping off an intense, two-year journey.

'Anytime you put on the USA Hockey jersey, whether it's international or USHL games or college games, it's special," St. Cyr said during a recent interview at USA Hock-ey Arena in Plymouth. "But obviously, it's just a different mindset, it's a different feel.

You know you're going up against every other country. It's a really special feeling going into places like Sweden, Slovakia. I'm really excited

See ST. CYR, Page B2



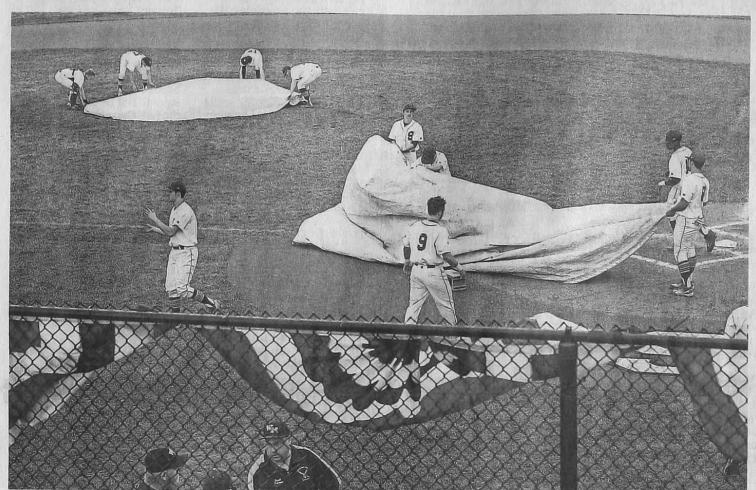
TIM SMITH, EDITOR

248-926-2237

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Northville's Dylan St. Cyr stands inside USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, where he has been a standout the past two seasons with the National Team Development Program.

PREP BASEBALL



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Salem baseball players spread tarps as the rain begins Monday. The storm passed and play resumed against Wayne Memorial

PREP SOFTBALL

Salem hungry for big 2017 season

U-M-bound Overaitis leads talented, young cast

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.com

Salem is about to rip up the template.

Although the Rocks do have two important seniors in Emily Stewart and Kristin Mihalic, veteran softball coach Bonnie Southerland can comfortably pencil into the lineup a number of juniors, sophomores and even freshmen without worry.

Led by junior shortstop and all-stater Morgan Overaitis, who is verbally committed to play Division I softball at Michigan, and coming off an outstanding 28-9 season, all signs point to Salem having a KLAA juggernaut in the 2017

OPENING DELAY

Wet weather interrupts Salem's home opener against Wayne, but game resumes and Rocks prevail

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.com

The bunting decorated the backstop at Salem High School and the hot dog grill was back in business Monday afternoon.

Mother Nature also had her say in matters as the Rocks hosted Wayne Memorial in a KLAA varsity baseball crossover game, opening the 2017 season for the home team after a string of rainouts.

For a while, it looked like Salem would be 0-for-5 against Michigan's unpredictable spring weather, when lightning



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Monday was the first time Erich Payne pitched for Salem since his sophomore year.

and thunder - and then rain forced the teams to their respective dugouts with the Rocks up 1-0 in the top of the

PREP BASEBALL

See BASEBALL, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Salem's Luke Hindt (left), who scored on a wild pitch on this play, watches as teammate Henry Runnells is tagged out trying to make it home from second. Tagging him out is Wayne Memorial catcher Tyler Hamilton.



And Southerland isn't just looking at going for another KLAA Central Division championship, either.

"We are young and we are experienced," Southerland said. "Great team chemistry and their work ethic shows they are committed to this team and to winning.

'The continued sensational attitudes this season by all the girls will take this team far.'

Southerland added that if the players remain "focused, unselfish and healthy, we will be a team to look for and will be able to contend at the most important time - state tournament time.'

Tough to beat

Opponents definitely will be looking to somehow stop Overaitis, who Southerland said batted .602 with 55 RBIs last spring in addition to being a vacuum at short.

'Morgan Overaitis will again take on all who dare to hit that ball up the middle,' Southerland said. "Morgan has a quick release, gets a jump on the ball, turns the double play with ease and reads the batters well." The Rocks have a pair of

See SALEM, Page B3



FILE PHOTO Rounding the bases during a 2016 game is Lutheran Westland's Drake Snyder. He is part of the Warriors' impressive cast of returnees for 2017.

Warriors, Eagles ready to take on MIAC For Lutheran Westland and Plymouth Christian, new season one of optimism and hope

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Weather is warming up in Observerland and so is high

school baseball in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Both Lutheran Westland and Plymouth Christian Academy are optimistic about being competitive in the MIAC in 2017, although the incline might be a bit steeper for the young Eagles.

Following is a glimpse at

both teams as the season begins in earnest this week.

Lutheran Westland

For veteran Warriors head coach Kevin Wade, last year was one of the best in school history with an 18-6 record and district championship.

That team lost "irreplace-able" Jordan Williams and Brent Croft to graduation. But Wade isn't too concerned because "we have guys who are ready to step in and pick up where they left off."

Lutheran Westland does return a trio of senior captains in outfielder-pitchers Drake Snyder and Kory Barikmo and shortstop-pitcher Andy Faith.

"All three young men bring different talents to the team, so they complement each other well," Wade said. "Each has a drive and determination to be successful and that will be infectious with the rest of the team."

They are three of nine

See MIAC, Page B2



Expected to be Salem's go-to pitcher is junior Maddy Rosiewicz.

FILE PHOTO

ST. CYR

Continued from Page B1

about having played in those five tournaments (over the past two years) and being here and part of that."

The Northville resident's most recent international tournament might be tough to surpass, however.

Shootout star

At the Five Nations Tournament during February in Sweden, St. Cyr stoned four of six Swedish skaters in a shootout as Team USA prevailed 5-4 in the gold medal game.

"In our final game, to battle the adversity that we did, so many penalties called against us and scoring with about three seconds left, down a man," St. Cyr said. "That was pretty cool stuff to go into overtime and force a shootout, which was awesome."

Another Michigan product, forward Josh Norris of Oxford, was the hero at the end of regulation with his shorthanded goal, which gave St. Cyr his chance to shine in the ultimate pressure situation.

Beginning this week, St. Cyr and company will try to have the same kind of success. The U18 squad faces Belarus and Russia on Thursday and Saturday, respectively, during the preliminary round. The top four teams in each of two pools will advance to the quarterfinals.

Whatever happens in Slovakia, the Northville High School senior will be more than ready to start his collegiate hockey career at Notre Dame.

St. Cyr originally committed to the University of Michigan, but earlier this year decided with encouragement from his parents — to change his future address.

"I think it was a collective decision, just family and all," he said. "My dad has been along the way, too. He wasn't a goalie, but he was a player.

"He's helped me, especially mentally and in influencing decisions. I just think it was the right decision for everyone."

Learning curve

The growth St. Cyr has made in his second season with USA Hockey undoubtedly could help lift him to a successful NCAA Division I career.

With the U18 team, which in addition to tournaments faces a demanding slate of games against college and United States Hockey League teams, St. Cyr so far has played 40 games and posted a 2.79 goalsagainst average with .896 save percentage while going 26-11.

As an NTDP rookie in 2015-16 with the U17 team, he gave up 3.31 goals per game and won just 13 of 34 decisions. In the NTDP, elite junior players from around the country are procured for a unique, twoyear program with the purpose of winning medals. "It's a process. You show up here and you're playing against older guys," St. Cyr said. "It's really something you want to experience so you can move and challenge yourself to play against those older guys. "Moving forward, I think it's really going to help in the long run, getting that experience that no other kids our age are getting, playing against college kids now.'



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY Maintaining sharp focus as he knocks a shot away with the knob of his goalie stick is Team USA's Dylan St. Cyr.

THE ST. CYR FILE

Who: Dylan St. Cyr, 17, a senior at Northville High School and goaltender for the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-18 team. What: St. Cyr and his teammates are finishing their NTDP careers April 13-23 in Slovakia. They will play in the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Men's World Championship.

Michigan flavor: In addition to St. Cyr, Michigan products skating in the tourney include defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield) and forwards Logan Cockerill (Brighton) and Josh Norris (Oxford).

Openers: Team USA, slotted into the B pool, will open preliminary round play Thursday against Belerus and will follow up with a Saturday game against Russia. Top four teams in the A and B pools advance to the quarter-finals.

Personal: St. Cyr's parents are Manon Rheaume and Gerry St. Cyr, both former minor league hockey players. Rheaume, also a goaltender, is the only female to suit up for a National Hockey League team. She played several preseason games in 1992 for the Tampa Bay Lightning. St. Cyr has committed to play college hockey at Notre Dame.



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY Dylan St. Cyr and the rest of the U.S. NTDP Under-18 team begin play Thursday at the IIHF U18 World Championship in Slovakia.

to, the nature of the position itself requires the ability to have a short memory and flick away any bad experiences as though they were beads of sweat.

Thanks, mom

That's where St. Cyr doesn't mind having the first female professional goaltender in history in his family. Rheaume won the silver medal for Canada in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano.

"At a younger age, (Rheaume) was more working with me on the ice and working with my team, but that was at a very young age," St. Cyr said. "And now, it's just the mental game, because that's something that's always going to be a part of the game, it's not going to change 'So she's really been there for me a lot. Just know there will be times that you're going to be on your downs and you're going to have to work through it and mentally overcome it, I think that's been a really good help for me this year.' Although the good games have far outnumbered the bad this winter, Rheaume knows from experience when to step in and offer some advice or encouragement.

"Usually, bad games I don't like to talk about, I keep those to myself," St. Cyr said, nodding with a smile. "But she always tries to help me with keeping confidence and always just keeping the right mindset going to the next game.

"Usually that night, I'll be upset (about) it, but moving forward from that there's nothing you can do. You got to move forward."

And by the end of April, St. Cyr will be doing just that with his NTDP career coming to a close.

Still a Mustang

He'll graduate from Northville High, where during the season he's attended morning classes before finishing up daily schoolwork at the rink.

"That was my school for all my life, so I see all the same friends," he said. "It's right down the street, so I can't complain about it; it's about two minutes away from here.

"I really like Northville. It's a great school, definitely challenges you. I go to three classes out of the four a day and then I come over here."

With the Notre Dame chapter of his hockey life waiting for him, St. Cyr will never forget the whirlwind two seasons wearing the red, white and blue.

"It's been the most exciting two years, but also the quickest two years of my life and I think everybody can tell you that," St. Cyr said. "It's tough, but it's fun and I enjoyed it a lot.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

third on a wild pitch (scoring Luke Hindt, who doubled to left in the inning).

But instead of another postponement, the bad weather subsided enough for the game to resume. Salem ultimately won 9-2 in six innings, behind home runs from Trevor Genaw and Danny Diaz and strong pitching from starter and winner Erich Payne.

Top performers for Wayne Memorial (2-4) were sophomore Gio Ramirez (two hits) and senior Brandon Pryzbala (RBI).

"I guess that's Michigan, though, you got to kind of expect it," Salem's third-year head coach John Wright said during the weather delay. "We're real blessed this year with 10 or 12 pitchers, so when these games have to be backed up, we're still going to be able to throw people out there that have a little bit of experience on the mound."

Zebras counterpart Kerry Johnson, starting his first season at the helm, shook his head about the delay, which came moments after Ramirez reached first base on a sharp single to left.

"You know, as a coach, I always want to play and at least get four innings in," Johnson said. "Because making up a game is pretty difficult, with the schedules. We play a lot of three-day weeks already."

Should Wednesday's weather cooperate, the Rocks were scheduled to host Northville for a KLAA Central Division doubleheader, while Wayne was to be at Livonia Franklin for a twinbill.

Franklin for a twinbill. "Luckily, I got my one and two guys ready for Wednesday," Johnson said, referring to senior Devin Puckett and junior Tyler Napier. "With the new pitching rules with the days off between number of pitches, you have to be careful who you use each particular game."

Salem preview

Wright pointed to the fact Payne toed the rubber Monday, returning after a twoyear absence due to arm trouble, as an indication the Rocks could be ready for a big year.

"It's his first time pitching off the mound for Salem since his sophomore year," Wright said. "He pitched in the summer last year. His arm is back to normal, so we're happy to have him."

Payne and juniors Jake Seipenko and Sean McCormack (an all-district pitcher in 2016) will be throwing to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Salem's Danny Diaz and teammates watch the ball as he hits a double. Diaz will be a go-to player on offense this season for the Rocks.

catcher Noah Haran, who has upped his game since last season, the coach noted.

"He's made some serious strides to get better," Wright said. "We're real excited with him this year and how good he's gotten."

According to Wright, another plus for the Rocks will be defense all over the field.

"I like where we're at right now; we returned a lot of defensive guys," he said. "We moved a couple guys to different spots, but infield is pretty much everybody returns."

Payne and Seipenko are two of the captains, with the others being leadoff hitter Trevor Genaw and Matt Brooks.

Genaw is relegated to designated hitter duties to open the season because he is recovering from a torn labrum suffered during football season. But he can still swing the bat. Once he is completely healthy, he will take over right field.

When McCormack isn't pitching, he'll play left field, while first-year varsity player Hindt is making some noise in center field.

"(Hindt) has real good speed, that's why we have him out there," Wright said. "I think he's going to be pretty solid. We'll find out.

"This is our first game, so I'm not really sure what we have yet."

Sparking the offense will be Seipenko and senor third baseman Danny Diaz, in his second year on the varsity.

Rounding out the roster are Guido Costantino, Gage Moyers, Ryan Lambrix, Jeremy Armstead, Ryan McAuliffe, Noah Daugherty, Carlton Harper, Adam Pitcole, Ryan Boyd, Jack Savage and Henry Rennells.

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Yet, as any goalie will attest

"But you really don't believe it's going to be that quick of a two years, but when you look now, there's only (several) games left, it's crazy to even think about that."

Not all that crazy is the notion St. Cyr could soon add to his growing pile of hockey gold.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER With rain clouds hovering, Jack Savage of Salem awaits the pitch. The catcher for Wayne Memorial is Tyler Hamilton.

MIAC

Continued from Page B1

senior returnees, providing Wade with plenty of experience as the Warriors navigate through the MIAC waters.

That group includes Ben Brown (catcher), Zach English (third base), Colin McLaughlin (second base), Jeremy Orme (first base-pitcher), Evan Zagata (outfield-pitcher) and Greg Miller (outfield-pitcher).

Also back are juniors Josh Rockensuess (infield-pitcher), Christian Zimmerman (outfield-pitcher) and sophomore Nate Schaffer (infield-pitcher).

A pair of senior newcomers also could spice things up for the squad. Luke Konkel will play third base and pitch, while Grant Ingersoll is ready to help out anywhere in the infield and on the mound.

"I think we will compete just fine in our division," Wade said. "We have a good mix of experience and talent that should keep us in most games.

"We have a lot of guys who can throw as well, which will be important as games get stacked up as the season goes along."



Dropping a bunt during a 2016 game is Plymouth Christian Academy's Austin Andres.

Plymouth Christian

The backdrop is one of relative uncertainty for Plymouth Christian coach Joe Bottorff and the Eagles.

A handful of players graduated, but Bottorff said there is reason for optimism.

"Fortunately, we have several players with significant experience that are hungry for their turn to start," he said. Certain to spark PCA is

senior leadoff hitter Matt Cusumano, who will divide time between shortstop and outfield.

"Matt is a perfect leadoff hitter," Bottorff said. "He always puts the ball in play and his speed puts pressure on the defense."

Other seniors are Josh Mason, power-hitting cleanup hitter Nathan Bishop, Brendan Hess, Adam Albert and Austin Andres.

The latter is one of PCA's top starting pitchers as well as an all-around talent who will start in center field on nonpitching days.

"Austin has power and speed and aggressively attacks the defense at the plate and on the bases," Bottorff said.

PCA's other top starting pitcher is versatile junior Phillip Morby (who will play catcher, first base or shortstop when not on the mound).

"Phillip is a very smart player, hits for a high average and is an excellent base-runner," Bottorff said.

Bottorff also can get innings out of Mason, Norby Fernandez and Elijah Grit, among others.

"With the new MHSAA pitch count rule," Bottorff said, "pitching will be at a premium and we will use around nine different guys at some point during our 28-game schedule."

A lot of the offense will be set up by Cusamano at the top of the order. But Bishop (catcher, first base, pitcher) hopefully will then clear the bases from his cleanup spot in the lineup.

"Nathan was a clutch pinch hitter late in games last season and I am excited to see how he does as a full time player," Bottorff said.

Flexibility will be PCA's main ingredient. Sophomore Grit and Mason can play third base and the outfield; Albert is ready for second base or outfield duty; sophomore Fernandez can chip in at either middle infield spot; junior Conner Smith is available at second and the outfield; and Bottorff can plug Hess and junior Gavin Goerke into the outfield.

Other players set to help the cause include: juniors Caleb Godin and Evan Wright; sophomores Aaron Geisler and Tyler Joseph and freshmen, Aiden Andres and C.J. Mangum.

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hometownlife.com

PCA squad to feature improved depth

Eagles double size of roster, boast nucleus of strong players

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls soccer program is on the rise, in more ways than one.

The Eagles, coached by former PCA player Annette Somercik, have doubled the roster from 10 to 20 as the season opens Tuesday against Parkway Christian.

"Not only that, but the talent has improved overall," Somercik said. "Returning players are looking better and the new players are exceptional.

"I feel like we have an honest shot at making it to states. It all depends on us staying close to each other and working hard."

After winning its district last spring, PCA lost its postseason mojo. That's something Somercik wants to guard against this time around.

"Hopefully this year, we can keep our spark and fight hard on the field the whole season," she said.

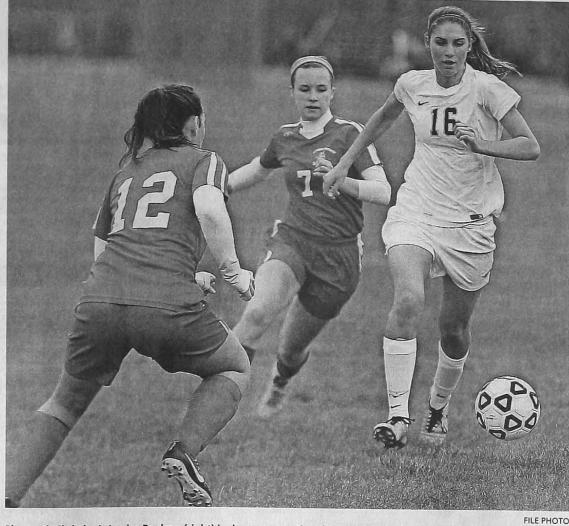
PCA's core of leaders includes seniors Jessie Paulson and Allie Crecelius and sophomore Crystal Bock. All are returning Class D all-staters, with Paulson at midfield, Crecelius at forward and Bock on defense.

"She is director of the team," Somercik said about Crecelius. "She is consistently making sure that everyone is in the right place and on the same page as the rest of the team. Our vocal leader on the field."

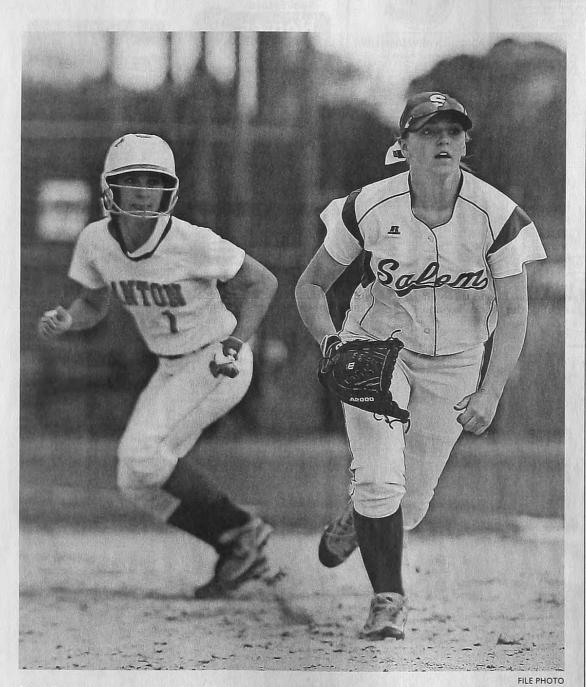
Paulson is more of a "quiet leader," while Bock "has a lot of spark and is very passionate and knowledgeable about soccer. She keeps the team in order and motivated. Really looking forward to seeing her impact on the field this year."

Somercik said freshman forward Danae Moriarty and freshman midfielder Ava Atchison have potential to make a quick impact.

Rounding out the roster are seniors Kennedy Horne, Rebekah Vileo, Ruth Doty, Devon Burns, Alyssa Hood, Taylor Mistele and Hannah Liabenow; juniors Natalie Shaffer, Jessica McHugh and Isabel Nunez; sophomores Taylor Maxwell and Shelby Johnson; and freshmen Rosalia Vileo, Addison Moore, Gloria Ravuri and Hannah Askew.



Plymouth Christian's Jessica Paulson (right) is shown competing during a 2016 girls soccer match.



ROUNDUP

Softball

A nine-hit barrage lifted Plymouth's varsity softball team to a 4-1 victory Monday over South Lyon East in the KLAA opener for both teams.

The Wildcats displayed power bats, with Whitney Holden hitting a home run and

Haley Gagnon tripling. Chipping in two RBIs was Kiersten Metz.

Jenny Bressler was the starting and winning pitcher. She struck out 11 batters in a complete game. "The girls came together to

"The girls came together to successfully clinch a great win," Plymouth head coach Lauren Evans said.

Baseball

PLYMOUTH 13, S.L. EAST 3 (5): Also Monday, Plymouth routed South Lyon East in a game called after five innings due to the MHSAA mercy rule. The Wildcats had a number going 2-for-3 with a triple.

Contributing one hit each in two at-bats for Plymouth were Evan Good, Austin Scheffer, Mike Wischer and Jacob Mac-Brien.

Earning the win after pitching three shutout innings was Brendan Lacorato, while Dylan Brown closed out the game with two scoreless innings of relief.

STEVENSON 3, FRANKLIN 1: A three-run surge in the third inning Monday lifted Livonia Stevenson to a KLAA crossover win at Livonia Franklin.

The win improved the Spartans record to 4-0 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA, while Franklin fell to 3-1.

Stevenson parlayed five hits into the three-run third, with RBI hits by George Ferguson, Mark Petterson (2-for-3) and Jacob Way.

Other Spartans to record hits included Chris Tanderys,

Salem first baseman Jordan Hazel (right), shown during a 2016 game, is one of a number of solid returnees for the Rocks.

SALEM

Continued from Page B1

strong seniors in outfielders Stewart and Mihalic, the latter beginning her fourth year as a starter.

"Kristin will slide over to take on the leadership duties in center field," Southerland said. "Kristin is fast, smart and versatile ... also has a powerful bat and will most likely move in the four slot."

In 2016, Mihalic led the team with 10 home runs and Southerland said she could double that total.

As for Stewart, who also can help at designated player, the coach noted she possesses "an amazing attitude and continues to work at all parts of her game. Emily is our go-to player that keeps us in the game. She is a leader."

The list of potentially major contributors does not stop with Overaitis, Mihalic and Stewart.

Southerland has several key returning juniors in pitcher Maddy Rosiewicz, utility player Caroline Miller, catcher-third baseman Makayleigh Silverman and outfielders Morgan Reno and Averie Hauser.

Rosiewicz (also able to help out at second base) "is one of the best in the league. The way Maddy mixes up pitches and shuts batters down is for sure an asset to any team. Maddy has incredible endurance and stamina."

Miller can be slotted in anywhere on the field, although she likely will get most of her time at third base.

"We need her wheels, smart bat and (she is) the one who is getting that nod for the hot corner," Southerland said. "Caroline's quickness and range will be the key to getting us out of those games where the small ball teams try to take advantage."

Young guns

Salem also has some sophomores who already have shown they can cut the mustard at the varsity level, namely second baseman Amy Hines, catcher Hailey Dechalk and first baseman Jordan Hazel.

Southerland said Hines is an excellent fielder who will team up with Overaitis to turn many double plays. Dechalk is taking over from 2016 graduate (and four-year starter) Kara Hutchison.

"Hailey is ready for this challenge and is fitting in quite nicely," Southerland said. "Dechalk will be working with all the pitchers and, with her strong arm and quick release, she will be shutting down those base running attempts."

Hazel, a left-handed hitter, posted a .367 average as a freshman and will be counted on to keep on delivering at the plate. "Hazel's ability to hit left will certainly keep the opponent on their toes as she can really do so many different things," Southerland said.

Newcomers include junior infielder Sophia Smock, sophomore pitcher Rae Campbell, freshman utility player Audrey Whipple and freshman first basemancatcher Grace Hokett.

Salem, which enjoyed a 14-0 lead over Wayne Memorial before a rain delay Monday, was scheduled to host Northville on Wednesday in KLAA Central Division action.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports The Wildcats had a number of contributors on offense in a 13-hit attack, with Sam Bruscz Michael DiPonio and Danny Morris.

BOYS GOLF

Early tourneys could set the tone for Churchill

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Experience is Livonia Churchill's key ingredient as the Chargers prepare to improve on last year's 6-5 record, including 3-2 in the KLAA South Division.

Chargers head coach Paul Worley, meanwhile, also can throw in a dash of home cooking, beginning with Thursday's Kensington Conference pretournament at Whispering Willows.

"We will be looking to move up in the rankings this season," Worley said. "And with our opening event for the conference at our home course ... this could give us a jump-start on the season."

Churchill also could enjoy a springboard to success with a good showing at the Livonia City Invitational. That event features a Ryder Cup format, with the first tee shot set for 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, also at Whispering Willows.

Worley's scorecard will feature senior co-captains John Doyle and Peyton Elkins. Also showing skills and consistency so far during practices are senior Aaron Walton, junior Logan Welch and sophomore Max Proulx, who will round out the top five.

Pushing to crack the lineup will be seniors Davis Coughlin and Robbie Gulick.

Franklin outlook

The return of a core of solid players also should help Livonia Franklin's cause in 2017. Coaches Jason Rammler and Justin Adams have a group of returnees, augmented by several impressive newcomers, enough for the starting lineup to change from match to match.

Junior Jacob Kenward and freshman Brandon Tirador will share captain's duties for the Patriots.

Franklin, which finished 4-3 overall last season, also will bank on seniors Owen Sullivan and Graham Opie and juniors David Shoemaker, Eric Liberati and Trevor Van Vliet.

Plymouth Christian

At Plymouth Christian Academy, the Eagles' varsity co-ed golf team will be led into Michigan Independent Athletic Conference action by first-year head coach Al Hing.

Much of the roster is new, too, but Hing raves about the "exceptional effort" being demonstrated by his golfers, both individually and as part of the unit.

"The 2017 Eagles golf squad has blossomed and we have more than a dozen young men and women primed to compete," Hing said. "Playing the game of golf is an individual match against a course and how well we compete is against ourselves on the links. I've got a fine group of young men and women whose skills are developing, both in body and mind, whose goals are championships."

PCA opens the regular season April 20 against Allen Park Inter City Baptist. B4 (*) 0 & E Media | Thursday, April 13, 2017

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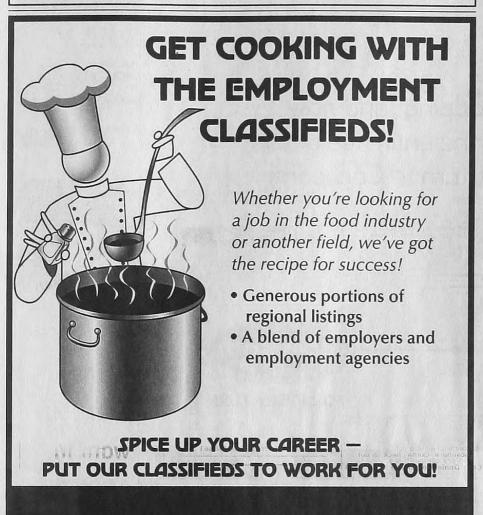
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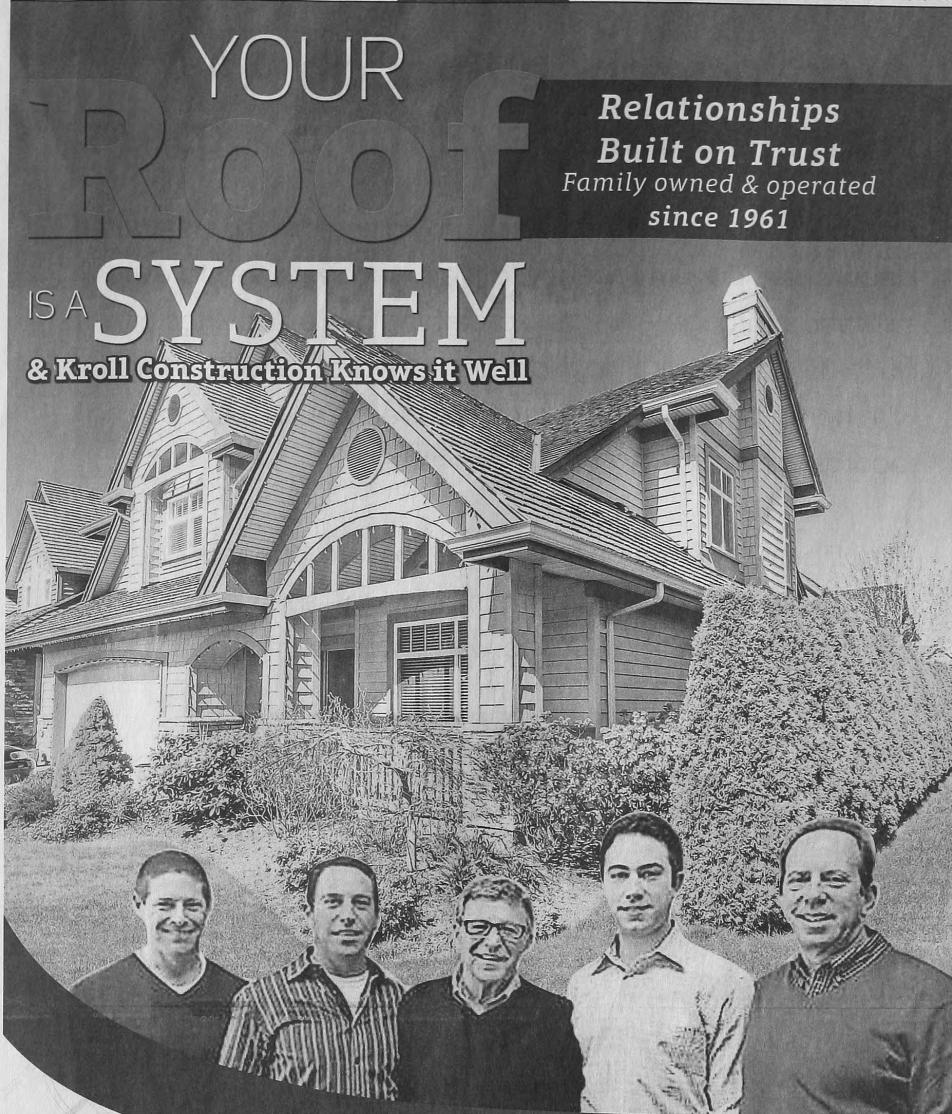
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