

CANTON OBSERVER

THURSDAY 04.27.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



BUSINESS, A4
DOG GROOMER CALLING IT A CAREER AFTER 47 YEARS

Canton bridge closed amid safety concerns

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Wayne County has abruptly closed a deteriorating bridge on Lilley, north of Michigan Avenue, as work crews assess whether it is structurally safe, officials said.

"It's in rough shape," Canton Public Works Manager Bob Belair said.

Wayne County's road division closed the bridge April 20, forcing motorists to find alternate routes as work crews began their inspection. County spokeswoman Kaye Byrd said it wasn't immediately known when the bridge might reopen.

The county closed the road amid potential safety concerns.

"There is concern over the integrity of the bridge," Belair said, adding that the county sent structural engineers to the site to assess whether it is safe for traffic.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Canton and Wayne County have long kept watch on the bridge's condition.

"We've been watching that bridge together with the county for at least five years," he said.

Byrd issued a statement April 20 announcing the bridge's sudden closure.

"The bridge will reopen

pending the results of further inspections," she said Friday.

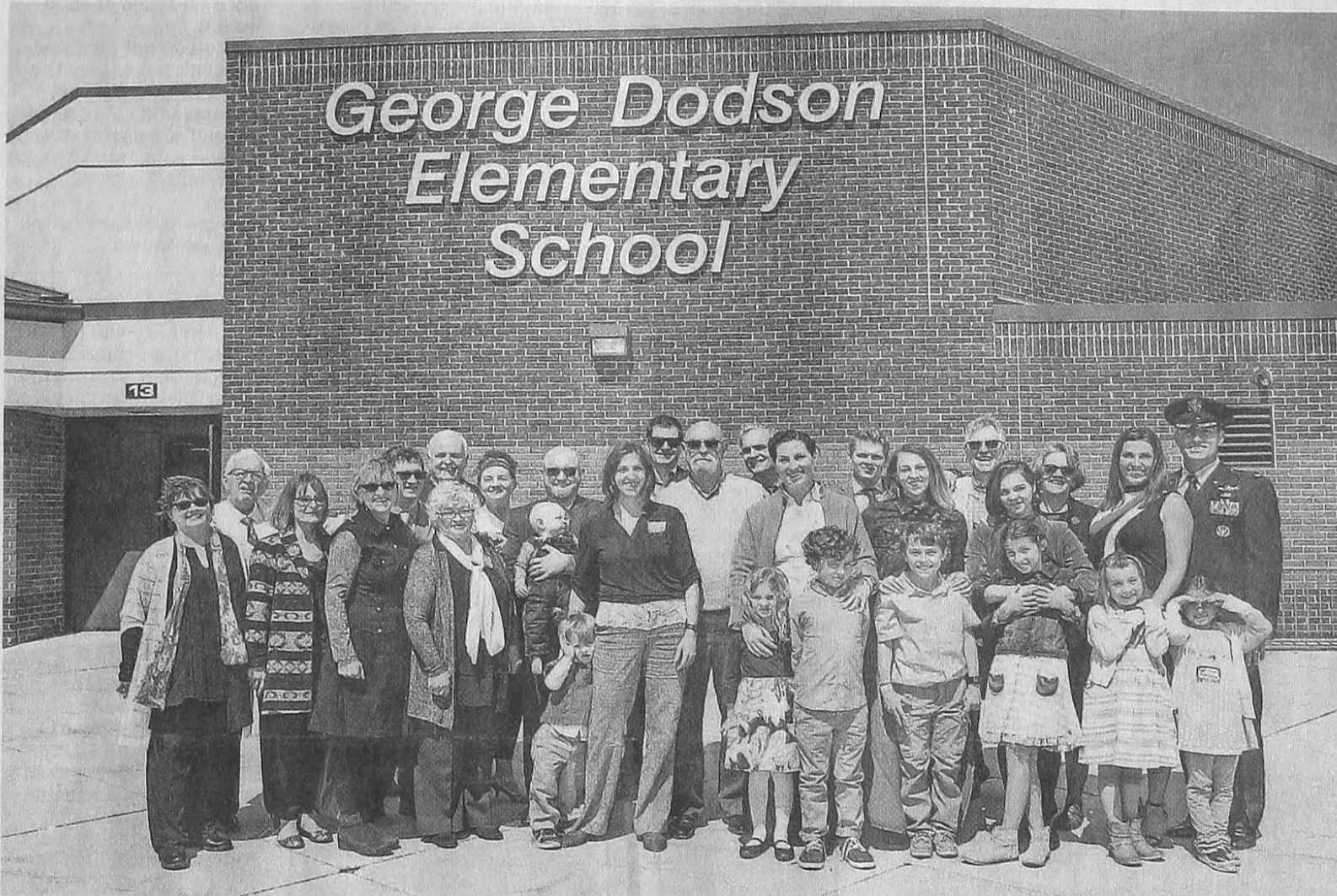
Byrd said the bridge was closed following "a routine inspection" and the Wayne County Roads Division is contacting a contractor to determine what steps should come next. The scope of potential repairs wasn't immediately known.

Lilley south of the bridge can be accessed from Michigan Avenue. Lilley north of the bridge can be accessed by Palmer Road.

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CANTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Wayne County has closed this bridge on Lilley, north of Michigan Avenue, to determine whether it is safe.



George Dodson Elementary School

The Dodson clan gathers for a photo after the memorial.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Inmate's dad advocates to achieve successful outcomes

Brad Kadrach
hometownlife.com

When Alex Letkemann was sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2008 for his role in the death of a Westland man, his father Pete could have done what many family members do in that situation.

He could have melted into the background, gotten lost and struggled with a system that, while trying to improve, still presents a degree of challenge as families try to navigate it.

Instead of giving into the system and watching other families give up, as well, Letkemann, a Westland resident, decided to do something productive.

He's part of a group of people in several organizations trying to change the system, making it easier for families to navigate the morass of red tape and other problems they face in dealing with issues such as visitation.

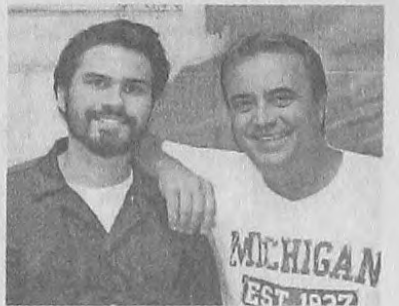
"People don't like to talk about it," said Letkemann, an engineering manager at Franklin Fastener in Redford. "When a loved one gets in trouble, they tend to close in on themselves. As I learned the system, people would come to me with questions. As I learned, I helped other people out."

It's a system he's been trying to help improve since Alex

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INSIDE

Groups making prison system easier on families, A3



Pete Letkemann of Westland (right) visits his son Alex.

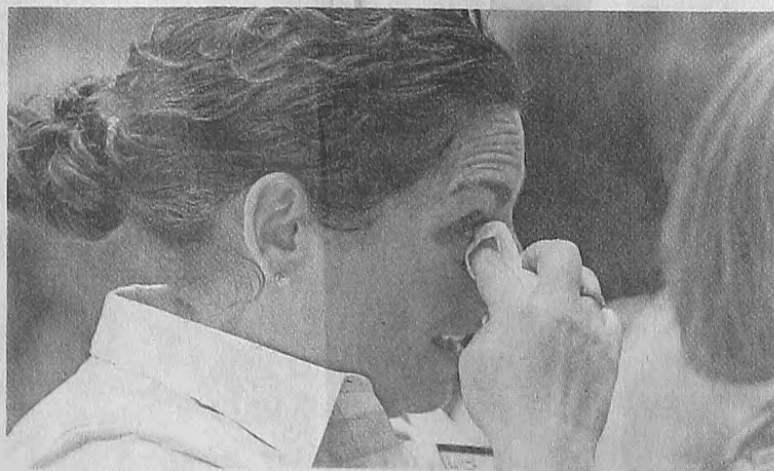
Celebration honors beloved school namesake Dodson

Brad Kadrach
hometownlife.com

Zack Hall told the crowd gathered at Dodson Elementary School to remember and honor his grandfather that George Dodson spent his life bringing out the best in people, that he and his wife Melba "encouraged you to be able to do anything you want to do."

Maggie Wunderlich certainly agrees with that. After all, George was one of the people who encouraged her to go back to school to get her teaching certificate, going so far as to write a glowing letter of recommendation to show his support.

The support helped and Wunderlich proved Dodson right: After spending seven years at Dodson as an English Learner paraprofessional, Wunderlich is now a fourth-



Eldest granddaughter Elycia Hall Morris has tears and smiles for the memories of George and Melba Dodson.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

grade teacher at Orchard Hills Elementary School in Novi.

She recalled Dodson telling her to let students "skip down

the hallways sometimes," because "school has to be fun, too."

"George had a special way

about him where he got to know you while sharing stories about himself as an educator or about his family," Wunderlich said Saturday, after attending the memorial celebration at Dodson Elementary School, which was named after George. "Later, when he discovered I was going to the Educators to Japan trip, George and Melba surprised me with a cover for my passport and a book to read on the plane. They were so incredibly thoughtful and, because of that, I knew I had to go to the memorial ceremonial today."

She wasn't the only one. People crowded into Dodson Elementary to attend the ceremony, pay their respects, share similar stories and show their love not only for Dodson, who died in January, but for

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DAD

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pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the highly publicized killing in a Canton garage of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen of Westland. Alex took the plea in exchange for testimony that helped convict Jean Pierre Orlewicz of first-degree murder. Orlewicz, a 17-year-old Plymouth Township resident at the time of the murder, is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The publicity that trial received — Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy dubbed it a “thrill kill” — eventually helped bring attention to the system, Pete Letkemann said.

“When everything happened with Alex, it sort of blew up ... everyone heard about it,” Letkemann said. “It helped us put a human face on it.”



A lot of Pete Letkemann's time is spent working with legislators on potential improvements to the state's prison system.

Making things better

Alex's experiences in the system have helped galvanize Pete's determination to improve it. Simple things like medical release forms that don't follow transferred inmates from facility to facility, visitation that can be delayed or re-

scheduled for a variety of reasons not explained to families or incomplete family information packets are all things that make supporting an incarcerated loved one difficult on families.

After a few years, Letkemann decided getting involved with change was infinitely more satisfying than standing on the sideline.

A support group called Citizens for Prison Reform, a grass-roots, family-led initiative designed to engage, educate and empower families, was working with the Michigan Department of Corrections to form a Family Participation Program, designed to reach out to those dealing with incarceration.

The idea was to create a place where families feel supported and get the tools they need to have a more positive

experience.

CPR was founded by Lois DeMott, who got the group started after the experiences of her own son.

“I contacted (DeMott) and told her I've been stumbling through this for five years,” Letkemann said. “I thought maybe I could help.”

Letkemann has done just that, both with the Family Participation Program and its sister program, the Family Advisory Board. Letkemann has recently assumed the chairmanship of that board, made up of a half-dozen or so family members, former inmates and ex-Michigan Department of Corrections officers.

Hard on families

Letkemann said the system can be very hard on family members, some of whom have to

travel for hours or even days to get to the prisons. Letkemann himself has to drive to the Upper Peninsula to see Alex at Kinross Correctional Facility.

Such visits can be cut short, delayed or even cancelled for a variety of reasons, ranging from health problems the family members didn't know about to a lock-down due to some factor inside the prison walls.

Those kinds of problems, Letkemann points out, are partially responsible for the low number of family visits to prisoners. Letkemann said only some 14 percent of inmates across the state get visits from the outside.

“We see best practices and suggest to MDOC ways to streamline,” Letkemann said. “They recognize the importance of (inmates having) contact with good people on the outside. It has an effect on re-entry (into life). It's a measurable fact.”

Kyle Kaminsky, the MDOC's legislative liaison who also serves as a liaison for the department to the Family Advocacy Board, said the work that group is doing is “helpful” and added having someone like Letkemann on the board is an asset.

“I think it's important there are people like (Letkemann) out there,” Kaminsky said. “He's a constructive guy, he's trying to find constructive solutions. He understands some of the limitations faced by

(MDOC).

“Pete isn't looking to make it better just for his son,” he added. “He's looking at making it better for everybody. He can see the complexity of a lot of these issues and works through it to try and offer useful advice on how to make it better.”

He's made himself useful enough to DeMott to convince her to step back a little bit. She said part of Letkemann's true value is his ability to avoid the pitfalls most families face — “A lot of people end up bitter and angry,” she said — and view the group for what it is: an opportunity to help, not unlike herself, who formed CPR in 2011.

“Pete has been a god-send,” DeMott said. “I turned my anger into passion and purpose and that's exactly what Pete has done. It's a life-changing experience and it can be very painful. Pete has done a remarkable thing to turn that into being able to help a lot of people.”

It's not all sunshine and roses — “Sometimes it feels like you're not doing any good at all,” Letkemann said — but when he looks back at what his group has been able to accomplish, there's a sense of satisfaction.

“You do get past this ... it doesn't have to be the end of the world,” Letkemann said. “As long as you can see past it, you can see your way through to the end.”

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DODSON

Continued from Page A1

his wife Melba, who died in December. They were there to share stories of the man for whom Dodson Elementary was named when it opened in 2001.

Among the throng were family members who came from Berlin, Hawaii, Arizona, the

Carolinas, Florida, Maryland and Texas.

Kate Borninski didn't know the Dodsons well, but felt she had to be at the memorial anyway. She said when George Dodson spoke to you, “you felt as though you were the most important person in the world to him at that moment.”

“He truly listened and you felt heard,” said Borninski, now vice president of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education. “He was like that with everyone, young and old. Their legacy is one of caring. They proved that

through their commitment not just while George was a district employee, but over the many years after he'd retired.”

Dodson's presence wasn't only felt when he worked for the district; he and Melba were regular participants in events at his namesake school until very late in his life.

Dodson showed his devotion to his namesake school and its students in a variety of ways:

» He made sure he sent the staff a fresh box of apples every year

during the holidays.

» He followed up with handwritten congratulatory notes to students or staff who had received recognition or awards. “He was very proud of his school, especially when the Blue Ribbon status was awarded last November,” said April Quasarano, current Dodson principal.

» He commissioned an artist to make special ceramic vases for the office and library.

» He insisted that there always be fresh flowers on display to welcome visitors. One time he and Melba even drove over on a terrible winter day when school had been canceled just to deliver the weekly flowers.

Dodson was a regular in classrooms, reading stories to students, and often wandered the hallways to comment on the work posted on the hall bulletin boards and to visit classrooms.

“I think probably the most important thing about him would be his sense of family and his love for kids,” daughter Darcel Hall said shortly after his death. “He never met a kid that he didn't want to shake their hand or say hello. He was always a lot of fun to be around, always knew what to say and how to connect with them. It was a real joy of his, I think.”

The memorial celebration told Wunderlich she wasn't alone in having her life impacted by the Dodsons.

“It was easy to see that George and Melba had similarly touched the lives of everyone they encountered,” she said. “The ceremony was beautiful and the message that really stuck with me was spoken by (Zack Hall), who said that they encouraged you to be able to do anything you want to do. I totally agree. This is George's legacy to the district: believe in yourself and you will succeed.”

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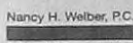
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The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Sanitation Services and Cleaning Supplies. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, and Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before **Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed-“Sanitation Services and Cleaning Supplies.” The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Groups making prison system easier on families

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

When Lois DeMott first got involved with the Michigan Department of Corrections — which came about because of the legal troubles of her then-15-year-old son — she didn't know much about how the prison system worked.

Like many family members of incarcerated loved ones, DeMott had trouble navigating a system she said was fraught with red tape. Getting a simple visitation with her son was difficult.

Inspired by those roadblocks, DeMott is not unfamiliar with the system anymore. In fact, the group she founded based on her early experiences, Lansing-based Citizens for Prison Reform, is working to make it easier for those who've followed in DeMott's footsteps.

According to the CPR website, the grass-roots group engages, educates and empowers family members and loved ones affected by crime and punishment to advance their rights.

"That came out of my own personal experience of never having dealt with the system before and, all of a sudden, being thrown into it," DeMott said. "What we experience — what we go through, some of the hardships — often don't seem real to families."

Family connection

DeMott believed one of the biggest issues involving prisoners and their families was a matter of connectedness. She believed some of the policies within the MDOC made it much harder for the families of inmates to remain connected with their loved ones.

She formed the Citizens for Prison Reform, which began meeting monthly. The group has



Westland's Pete Letkemann (left) and Citizens for Prison Reform founder Lois DeMott (center) with other Family Advisory Board members at the MDOC.

done educational presentations in the Lansing area every month since 2011.

The goal was to educate families about how the system works. DeMott felt the system's policies often left families in the dark about the health, condition and welfare of their loved ones.

She pointed to a couple of examples that demonstrated there was a need for improvement:

» A family authorization form, which she likened to the form patients fill out when they go to a doctor, wasn't automatically being given to prisoners; it was something the prisoner had to ask for. Without it, DeMott said, families didn't know if their loved one was ill or had been hospitalized. Because of the education effort put in by the CPR, the MDOC is now making that an automatic part of the intake process.

» Another issue was

discipline. For example, she said, if a prisoner had received two substance abuse tickets, the director of corrections can take away visits for that prisoner. The problem, as DeMott sees it, is that family members don't know that until they arrive for the visit. Families have lost visitation for years for that reason.

"A lot of these prisoners and families don't know ... I still get calls from families who are in crisis because they don't know enough," DeMott said. "Our point all along has been that if you truly believe family support makes the difference, why are we punishing entire families, including small children who have parents or siblings on the inside?"

Grant helps

DeMott applied for, and received, a Soros Justice Fellowship, a grant that funds projects designed to advance reform and change on a

range of issues facing the criminal justice system.

Grant in hand, she began working more directly with MDOC officials because "we had some specific issues and concerns we were seeing," she said.

"We've done a lot of legislative work and that started early on," DeMott said. "We started bringing a lot of attention to capitol hill."

DeMott said the MDOC has been a willing partner in the work the CPR and its support groups, the Family Participation Program and the Family Advisory Board.

Kyle Kaminsky, legislative liaison for the MDOC and its liaison with the Family Advisory Board, said the department is working with the group because it's doing good work.

"The work they do is really helpful," Kaminsky said. "The information flows in two directions. They bring useful information to us so we

have better knowledge and we can share information with them that they can then disseminate to families."

The work is helping. Pete Letkemann, a Westland resident whose son Alex is in the system, said the group has effected some change, particularly in areas surrounding visitation.

According to DeMott, some prisons have made enough change that visitation has improved. Families who've traveled fewer than 400 miles, for instance, are guaranteed only a one-hour visit. And the rooms often are small enough, she said, that people have to wait hours for their visit — or don't get in at all.

"Can you imagine driving two or three hours and then having to wait?" DeMott said.

Visitation issues

Letkemann said visitation can be affected by so many things — and so dramatically — that he's heard inmates tell their loved ones the risk of not getting a visit is high enough that the loved ones "shouldn't make the trip."

That's part of the reason, according to Letkemann, that only some 14 percent of inmates get visits. But that is starting to change, he said, because of the work the FAB is doing.

"Sometimes, it feels like you're not doing any good at all," said Letkemann, who recently stepped up to the chairmanship of the Family Advisory Board. "Then you think back on some of the problems we've helped with."

The group has helped with enough that the state has considered making the Family Advisory Board — right now a volunteer group of maybe a half-dozen people — an official part of the system.

State Rep. Stephanie Chang introduced legislation in 2015 that would do just that (she has not

reintroduced that bill again this year). Kaminsky acknowledged the bill, if ever approved, would formalize the FAB's standing. He wouldn't say whether he thought it was a good idea — "The department refrains from taking a position on legislation," he said — but acknowledged the group is doing good work.

"The current approach is working pretty well," Kaminsky said. "We're happy with the way it's working right now."

The groups are active now. The Citizens for Prison Reform hosts its sixth Legislative Day on May 11 in Lansing and will use a replica of a solitary confinement cell to educate legislators about what that part of prison life is like. The Family Advisory Board meets quarterly, at the will of the MDOC.

DeMott called the working relationship between the CPR and the MDOC "fabulous." She said officials with the MDOC understand prisoners need "productive, positive things to do with their time," which will make them better citizens when they re-enter society.

"When we make things difficult, has that really helped them when they come out?" she said. "Does that make for a safer neighborhood? Who would you rather have living next door, someone who has been a victim (of the issues in the system) or someone who has been encouraged with family assistance?"

"The biggest issue we're working to address is the connectedness and the support of families ... how we can have better family connectedness," DeMott added. "The department is working with us, but it's a very big department. It's a huge ship to get turned around."

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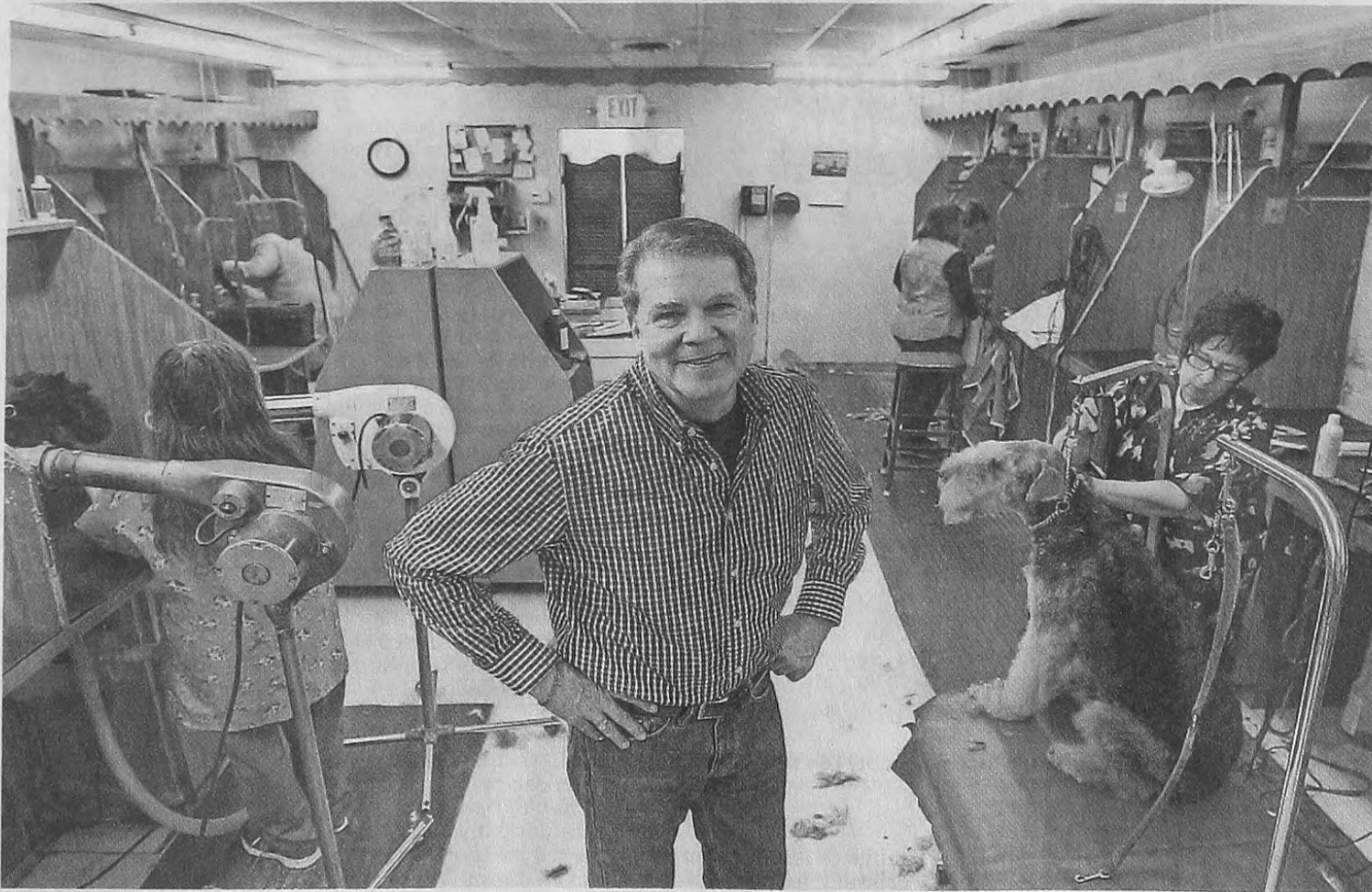
On April 28, 2017, the AIP draft will be available online at www.aaalc.org

Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm on June 2, 2017.

Please send written comments to:

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Al Bologna will hang up the clippers this month after 48 years in the dog grooming business. At left, Karen Miles washes a dog. At right is shop manager Patty Wenner.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George's Senate celebrates 80 years

When walking into George's Senate Restaurant on Haggerty Road, a customer is likely guaranteed three things: fresh food, quickly served dishes and a smile from owner George Dimopoulos.

Dimopoulos is still at work every day, often before 4 a.m., to ensure potatoes, dressings, soups and rice pudding are freshly prepared. The work ethic that helped him and his family build a chain of successful family restaurants continues to drive him at an age when most of his peers are retired.

"The people keep me happy," he said. "They keep me going. I love talking to them every day."

His uncle, George Hinaris, started the family business in 1937 by opening a Detroit restaurant on Michigan Avenue called Senate Coney Island, named for its close proximity to the Senate Theater.

In 1969, Dimopoulos immigrated to Detroit from his native Greece and worked in the original Senate Coney Island. He said he quickly learned the importance of working long hours, preparing fresh ingredients and providing a comfortable dining atmosphere.

Senate Coney Island added a second location on Ecorse Road in Taylor in 1972. Dimopoulos brought the chain to Plymouth Road in Livonia in 1985, which is primarily run today by his sons, Niko and Steven.

After the original Detroit restaurant caught fire in 1990 and did not re-open, the family opened a Dearborn location on Greenfield Road in 1994. Then Dimopoulos opened the Haggerty Road location on the Northville-Livonia border in 2005.

While he spends most of his time at the Haggerty Road location, Dimopoulos and his wife Kathy keep a close eye on the other restaurants.

"She goes in all the time to taste the soups all day, to make sure everything is OK and tasting right," he said.

The effort results in a loyal base of customers, such as Lita Hoyer, who started visiting the Taylor location in the 1970s and recently dined at the Haggerty location.

"We love the food, but we love George more," said Hoyer, a West Bloomfield resident. "We have family who live in Chicago and, every time they come to visit, they want to eat at Senate."

The Senate restaurants have been frequented by famed sports figures Gordie Howe, Ernie Harwell, Tomas Holmstrom and Scotty Bowman. Pictures of Dimopoulos with each are

See **GEORGE'S**, Page A5



Senate Coney Island's George Dimopoulos (right) chats with long-time customers (from left) Lita Hoyer, Laurie Mercier and Mark Hoyer.

Groomer to turn in clippers after 48 years

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com

Al Bologna's clients have come in all shapes, sizes, personality and temperament over the past 48 years.

Happy customers practically "push in the door" of his Garden City salon, eager for their shampoo and cut. The nervous ones cautiously walk in "shaking like crazy," but settle down as the pampering begins. And the aggressive complainers not only bark, but sometimes bite.

"It comes with the job. We've all been in that situation. Luckily it's nothing serious," said Bologna, who has worked at Mister B's Pet Salon for 48 years, 37 as its owner.

Most of his furry customers are happy-go-lucky, playful and often smiling.

"There have been so many really nice dogs," he said. "Then, when they passed, you feel like you lost your own. You feel just as bad because we've worked on those dogs all those years. It's been one heck of a business."

Retirement looms

Bologna will hang up his clippers for good Saturday, April 29, passing the torch to his employee, Michelle Becker, who will take over the dog-grooming business. Although he's retiring, Bologna said he'll be at the salon "in spirit" every day and won't forget his furry customers and their owners.

"It has been a pleasure working in this community so many years," he said. "I've gotten to know so many people. I'm going to miss everybody. It has been great."

Bologna began working at Mister B's as a "go-fer" fetching coffee and running errands, during the summer of his junior year at Bentley High School in Livonia. His uncle Pete Bologna opened the business in 1969 after attending dog grooming school.

"That summer, the building was being finished and we got it set up," Bologna said. "All of my family had dogs. He taught me with my dog and the family's dog. He taught me the fundamentals of grooming and one thing led to another."

You're opening what?

His uncle set up shop in an era when dog owners took their pets to breeders or kennels for grooming. Dog salons were just starting to gain a following. They flourished as owners began to regard their pets as family members.

"It was such a different type of business at the time. He got a lot of ridicule when he put up the building," Bologna said. "You never went to a salon, to a business. You went to where you bought the dog."

Bologna continued to work at his uncle's salon through high school and while studying music and then business at Schoolcraft College. He was 28 when his uncle, who was



Al Bologna grooms Sasha.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

eager to retire in northern Michigan, offered him the business.

"By then, I had a good 10 years under my belt," he said. "I'm thinking, 'Yeah, I've enjoyed all of it, the customers and the grooming.'"

Like a family

He took over ownership in 1980 and bought the building in 1992. Three of his employees have been with him since the 1970s. A couple of them joined his staff in the 1980s. They form a "family" of staff members that work well together and enjoy what they do.

"These dogs go out looking great," he said. "We're very lucky that a lot of people recommend us. I can send fliers and coupons out, but a person walking down the street with a dog that just got groomed is the best advertisement I can get."

Bologna said Becker will maintain Mister B's high standards and has told customers they won't notice a difference when she takes the reins May 1.

Meanwhile he looks forward to spending time with family and friends. He moved into his childhood home four years ago to care for his father, who recently was moved to a facility for physical rehab. He'll have more time to see his father, his son and two grandchildren.

Mister B's is located at 27852 Ford Road. Go to misterbspetsalon.com.

ON THE BUSINESS CALENDAR

Canton Chamber auction

Tickets are still available to attend the annual auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$75 person. To purchase, go to cantonchamber.com. The theme is country western. The evening includes a strolling, open bar, raffles, live and silent auctions and entertainment.

JVS hosts job fair

The Jewish Vocational Service will host more than 40 potential employers at the JVS Job Connection from 9 a.m. to noon May 10 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. The event is open to the general public and veterans at no charge and will have more than 40 employers, including

FedEx, DTE Energy, city of Southfield, Robert Half and more.

On-site job seeker registration begins at 8 a.m. (pre-registration not required). JVS and Michigan Works! career experts will offer brief one-on-one sessions to provide advice on job search skills and strategies. In addition, new this year, photographers will be on-site to take job seeker head shots for LinkedIn at no charge.

Go to www.jvsdet.org/jobconnection for more information.

Seeking a new Spokester

Michigan First Credit Union has launched its statewide search for its next Young & Free Michigan Spokester, a minimum of a year-long paid role designated to one creative and energetic young adult who will serve as the spokesper-

son for the credit union's education-focused program aimed at 17- to 25-year-olds.

The winner will become the sixth Young & Free Michigan Spokester, Michigan First President/CEO Michael Poulos said.

As the financial ambassador of the state's millennial generation, the winner will receive a \$30,000 salary with the potential for a \$5,000 bonus and an extension as the Spokester based upon performance.

Throughout the duration of his/her term, the winner will also be provided with an Apple MacBook Pro, an HD video camera and a smart phone, as well as have access to the Young & Free Michigan car for the year with paid gas and insurance. The selected Spokester will be responsible for creatively promoting smart financial decisions

among his/her peers through the management of Young & Free social media channels, daily blog posts, weekly videos and participation in community events.

"At Michigan First, we are keenly aware of how important it is for millennials to not only be knowledgeable about their finances, but also be able to manage them," Poulos said. In an increasingly digital world, the Spokester position provides valuable hands-on experiences and support from a team of industry professionals, as well as a variety of networking opportunities, serving as a great resume builder and platform to create lasting relationships throughout Michigan. Interested applicants can go to YoungFreeMichigan.com to learn more and view previous Spokesters' efforts that have paved

the way for successful, long-term careers.

To apply, individuals must be ages 18-25, willing and able to work full time and reside in Michigan from June 2017 to May 2018. Applicants should bring their creativity, personality and passion for helping young adults and the community at-large to a three-minute video showcasing why he/she is the ideal spokesperson.

A public vote May 16-23 will help determine four of the finalists, while the Michigan First team will select another three finalists. Announced May 25, all finalists must be able to attend the "Getting to Know Each Other" event June 7 at Michigan First, where each individual will participate in an on-site interview with a series of activities that the next Spokester will

be responsible for carrying out during his/her term. The winner will be announced to the public in mid-June.

Advanced Manufacturing Expo

More than 110 companies are expected to participate in the first Advanced Manufacturing Expo-East to showcase technology solutions to improve productivity and profitability. The show is open to the public and free. The AME-East expo is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., in Novi. The show will feature booths spread throughout 30,000 square feet of space for companies involved in additive manufacturing, machine vision, automation, quality control gauging, metalworking and other technologies.

EYE ON BUSINESS

Work starts on new credit union

Michigan Schools & Government Credit Union welcomed several Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, city council and state of Michigan officials to its meet-and-greet and groundbreaking ceremony April 13. MSGCU is adding a 14th branch to its growing network, at 29657 Orchard Lake Road (north of 13 Mile Road). This will be MSGCU's fourth branch in Oakland County and its first in Farmington Hills.

MSGCU was warmly welcomed to the neighborhood by Farmington Hills dignitaries who committed their support

and partnership to the MSGCU family.

"On behalf of the state of Michigan, we would like to welcome MSGCU here to Farmington Hills. We know that credit unions and other small businesses are the heart of our economy here in Michigan. We are thrilled to have such a community focused organization in the greater Farmington area community," said state Rep. Christine Greig, D-Farmington Hills.

"We are going to be building a facility but, more importantly, are the relationships we are trying to develop in the community. We take pride in what we do in the community and are excited to be here, in

Farmington Hills," MSGCU President and CEO Peter Gates said.

The Farmington Hills branch offers an excellent location with high visibility and will provide added convenience for new and existing members within the area.

Construction of the new office will begin this spring. An official grand opening will be announced at a later date.

Aqua Tots opens

Aqua-Tots Swim Schools, a national leader in swim instruction since 1991, is making a splash in Farmington Hills with the opening May 1 of a new indoor facility. The newest Aqua-Tots Swim School,

the fifth in Michigan, will be at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, next to Orange Theory Fitness and Office Max.

With pool temperatures at a comfortable 90 degrees and family friendly changing rooms, Aqua-Tots offers lessons to children ages 4 months and older, including adult lessons. Both group and private classes are available year round with morning, afternoon and evening times during the week and weekends with ample seating and complimentary Wi-Fi. Other features of the program include open swim times, monthly events, birthday parties and free open swims for infants ages 0-6 months. Given the

large number of lakes and pools in Michigan, Aqua-Tots also places equal emphasis on teaching water safety and drowning prevention.

New grocery service

There's a convenient new way residents can get groceries delivered right to their door in as little as an hour through their favorite local stores, free for an entire year.

Starting April 27, Instacart will launch delivery service for its Instacart Express membership program through popular local stores, including Costco (no membership needed!), Kroger, Whole Foods Market, Plum Market, Petco and Meij-

er. Instacart Express offers unlimited same day, one-hour deliveries with a free trial for an entire year. Price following the first year is \$99 a year or \$14.99 a month.

The delivery area will cover more than 1.6 million households and will also provide more than 200-plus new jobs. Areas of service include Dearborn, Warren, Allen Park, Taylor, Woodhaven, Flat Rock, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville, Grosse Pointe, St. Clair, Royal Oak, Macomb, Rochester Hills, Troy, Farmington Hills, South Lyon, Pinckney, Brighton and more. For more information, go to www.instacart.com/express.

GEORGE'S

Continued from Page A4

displayed on the walls of the Haggerty Road location.

The careful attention to fresh dishes and customer service helped grow the business, but the Dimopoulos family has made extraordinary efforts to give back to the community. They made many donations to churches, schools, non-

profit organizations and needy families for decades.

His effort to provide free meals to hundreds of people who are alone each Thanksgiving garnered national media attention in recent years. Dimopoulos said his personal experience moves him to provide these meals.

"When I was young in Greece, I lived alone," he said. "So when somebody talked to me or did something for me, it meant a

lot to me, so I wanted to give back to others."

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce recognized the Plymouth Road location as its outstanding small business of the year in 2010. The chamber and city officials plan a special ceremony in May to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Senate Coney Island.

"George is a legend in this town," chamber president Dan West said. "He is a model we can all admire for how to run a

successful business with good relationships, loyalty to customers and dedication to the community."

To recognize the 80th anniversary of the Senate restaurants, each location will offer coney dogs for \$1 throughout the month of May. "This is a way," Dimopoulos said, "to show how much we appreciate the support we've received from all the communities and people throughout the years."

ON THE MOVE

Named

University of Detroit Mercy named Gary J. Erwin of Plymouth Township as associate vice president for marketing and public affairs, effective April 17.

In his new position,



Erwin

Erwin will oversee the university's Marketing & Public Affairs Department and promote

the mission of the university to its internal and external audiences. He will be responsible for overseeing communication through publicity, publications, online systems and other marketing efforts that uphold the image, integrity and mission of Detroit Mercy.

Formerly executive director of marketing and communications with Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Erwin oversaw the institution's strategic, cross-discipline/interactive organization for the past seven years in all aspects of marketing and communications. Under his leadership, he coordinated the institution's marketing and re-branding efforts, including the new mar-

keting brand and media buys for radio, television, print, digital, billboards and outside digital displays. Under his marketing efforts and leadership, Henry Ford saw increased enrollment and community participation in many college-wide activities and events.

A native of Northville, the Plymouth resident earned a master of fine arts in English from Western Michigan University and a B.S. in English from Grand Valley State University.

Gleaners appoints

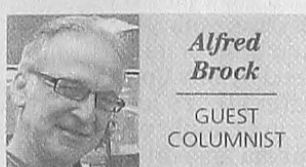
Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan has announced the appointment of Ryan Hoyle and Linda Markis to the positions of chief development officer and chief financial officer, respectively. Most recently, Hoyle was the vice president of business development and talent acquisition for technology-based consulting firm GalaxE.Solutions Inc., and Markis was chief financial specialist for Financial One Accounting, Inc., a company providing accounting and consulting services exclusively to nonprofit organizations.

Public libraries are key to knowledge

In large parts of Mexico, the idea of a library is quite foreign. The children may be shown the word, "libreria" in school but often the library they know will be composed of just the few books that the teacher has been able to collect. If they are fortunate their parents may have been able to secure some books for them at home.

The precarious place that the middle class occupies in the United States cannot be compared to what might be referred to as the middle class in Mexico. In some larger cities the multi-class system may putter along, but by and large throughout Mexico there is a two class system, the haves and the not-haves. Some folks call them the rich and the poor, but economic discussions based on those two words cannot be applied by Americans to Mexicans.

Personally, I cannot imagine life without a public library. I actually find it strange if I go to a place of business, no matter what it is, and find that they don't have at least some small collection of books. When I



Alfred Brock
GUEST COLUMNIST

visit my friends' homes I am interested in what books they might have, but, I must be careful about inquiry because even here in the United States, the information capital of the world, not every house has the resources to supply books to their children.

At least they can go to the public library.

The reality in Mexico is that they cannot. They simply cannot because there isn't one. The idea of having one is absent in many communities, as well. It is as far as an out reach as building an opera house or a commercial bank - which were targets of both Mexicans and Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for any community wishing to find respect in the then "modern" world.

In the United States, we were blessed when Mr. Andrew Carnegie came from Scotland and put the steel industry in the fast lane. Our nation

was transformed and Mr. Carnegie became one of the wealthiest men in the world. Then, it seems, he came to realize that the few simple advantages he had been provided while growing up in Scotland did not exist in the United States. He perceived, as few do, what it was that led to his success and he set out to share the opportunities he enjoyed with others.

He built libraries. He built them all over the place in the United States. He left us a legacy of information and knowledge that had been intended by the founders of our nation. He had provided the nation with an operational form of the Jeffersonian ideal of public education.

Our laws were changed and amended and in Michigan the state actually mandates that local governments set up, support and operate a library for public use. It has become so common place and ingrained in our society that it goes without question that we will have a library.

I want you to imagine then a situation where the library becomes a given. It belongs to ev-

eryone so everyone is supposed to get one. You've got to have one. The government mandates it. It doesn't have to be a good one. It's just got to be there. You don't even have to visit it. Just sort of know where it is. Maybe you don't have a library card. That's OK, right? You pay taxes, if you want one you can get one, right?

Well, what if you go to the beautiful library building and were to find the roof leaking, heating and cooling system not operating properly and posing a danger to the few books that are left? That's right - the few books that are left.

Let's say you visit your local library and rather than seeking out the one single book you might need from many, you start to count the empty shelves. Row after row after row.

In the United States, it seems, that the idea of a library is becoming quite foreign to us.

What do you want your library to be?

Wayne resident Alfred Brock is secretary of the Wayne Public Library.

AREA POLICE BRIEFS

CANTON

100 mph driver: I was rushing home to sleep for work

A woman driving at speeds up to 100 mph told police she was rushing to get home so she could sleep before going to work.

Police spotted the woman in a red SUV traveling at a high rate of speed on westbound Ford Road, before she turned north on Lilley, a police report said. The incident happened about 2:25 a.m. Saturday.

With police trailing her, the 23-year-old driver passed another vehicle in a no-passing zone and, rounding a curve, almost struck yet another vehicle near Lilley and Joy, the report said.

Police trailed the woman to Plymouth Manor, an apartment complex in Plymouth Township. When confronted, she told police she had to work that morning so she was rushing home to get some sleep.

A police report indicated she was facing a charge of reckless driving.

Domestic fight

A 54-year-old Canton man was arrested for felonious assault amid accusations he struck his

girlfriend's 20-year-old son with a broken chair leg during a domestic dispute, a police report said.

The victim's head was bloodied and he also was struck on the arm as the incident unfolded about 11:30 p.m. April 19 at The Crossings, an apartment complex at Joy Road and I-275 on Canton's north side.

Police went to the scene after a neighbor reported hearing loud fighting. The suspect told police he became upset when he heard his girlfriend's two sons, ages 20 and 21, fighting. He said the younger son was cursing at the mother.

The suspect asked the son to leave and he refused. The suspect then picked up the broken leg of a wooden chair, damaged by one of the brothers, the report said. He told police he hit the victim once on the arm in an attempt to separate the brothers, but he denied hitting him on the head.

The son, however, said he also was hit on the head by the chair leg. He was treated at the scene by Canton paramedics.

Dog swiped

A 31-year-old Canton woman accused her ex-husband's new girlfriend of illegally entering her

apartment and taking a dog.

The woman came home to her apartment at The Crossings and noticed the dog, which belonged to her ex-husband, was missing, a police report said. She said her ex-husband no longer had a key to her place.

Turns out, the woman leaves her back door unlocked, so the ex-husband told his new girlfriend to go to the apartment and get the dog, the report said.

The girlfriend followed his instructions and told police she thought his name was still on the lease to the apartment. The woman who lives there told police she did not want to prosecute for trespassing.

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

Larceny from auto

A Plymouth man notified police after someone stole prescription Suboxone strips, used to fight opioid addiction, from his car.

He also said Burberry sunglasses were stolen during the incident, which occurred either April 10 or 11.

The man told police he wasn't sure if he had

locked his vehicle, a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado.

Pot pullover

Spring is in the air and so was the odor of marijuana when a Plymouth Township police officer was driving behind a vehicle near Joy Road and General Drive, a report said.

Police detected the marijuana just being behind the car and pulled over a Plymouth man driving a gray Ford Focus, the report said. Police ended up confiscating two pipes, two grinders and a green jar that had marijuana in it.

The driver was facing a charge of possession of marijuana.

Stolen phone

A woman attending a birthday party at Plaza Lanes reported to police that her cellphone, a Samsung Galaxy S6, was stolen while she was there.

She said the phone was stolen during a 15-minute period ending at 4 p.m. April 9.

She said she tried to track down her phone through a website intended to help find lost phones, but she wasn't successful.

— By Darrell Clem

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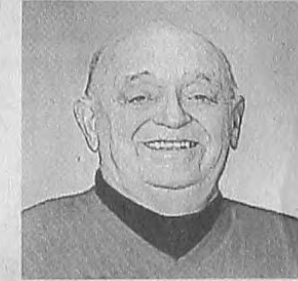
**Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**

CHAPMAN



LEONARD EARL Age 85 of Howell, passed away Sunday morning, April 23, 2017. Born in Detroit on January 24, 1932, he was the son of Clarence and Alice Chapman. A Howell area resident since 1976, Leonard was a retired engineer for the City of Farmington. Known as "Chappy" by his colleagues, he was very proud of his work for the city. Leonard was also a former volunteer for St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital and enjoyed working out at the gym. He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His dedication extended to everyone, always offering a helping hand in any way he could. Beloved husband of Frieda Chapman whom he married in Detroit on May 25, 1957. Loving father of Glenn Chapman of Colorado, and Christopher (Jaime) Chapman of Byron. Proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service in honor and celebration of Leonard's life will be held Friday, April 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. (visitation beginning 10 a.m.) at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Memorial contributions are suggested to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation. Please sign the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.

REYNOLDS



JAMES ALBERT passed away January 13, 2017 at the age of 80. He was born April 29, 1936 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is deeply loved and will be missed by his wife Anne, his daughters Maura (Tom) Topper and Dana Reynolds, his grandchildren Kelsey Topper, Kyle Topper, Jordan Taylor, Jarred Taylor, Jacob Taylor and Savannah Taylor. He is also survived by his brothers, Tim (Sally) Reynolds and Mark (Maddie) Bryan. James was a 30 year resident of Novi, Michigan prior to moving to Durham, North Carolina. After 20 years in Durham James and Anne recently moved to Plymouth, Michigan. James was a retired Systems Analyst at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. He was a past member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi. James was very proud of his service in the United States Marine Corps, 1954 until 1957, having served during the Korean War. He loved golf and sports of all kind but mostly loved spending time with his family. Friends may gather on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. A Memorial Service will be held at the Funeral Home following visitation beginning at 2:00 p.m. Memorials in James memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association alz.org or the Humane Society of Huron Valley hshv.org Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yes on Lyon library millage

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man." — T.S. Elliot
The Lyon Township Public Library is an integral part of our township. The people, young and old, need this resource to become better citizens, better people.

Please vote yes for the library millage May 2.
Lois Gdowski
South Lyon

Restore trust with transparency

There are numerous lists one can read about on the Internet, and in the past few years, Michigan has not fared well in many of the rankings. It seems in most categories, education, environment, roads, etc. we tend to rank near the bottom. A big part of the problem is our inability as citizens to know exactly what is going on (or not going on) behind closed doors in our state Legislature and governor's office. Our state ranks 50th, dead last, in a national study of state ethics and transparency laws, partly due to its weak public records law and an absence of laws requiring personal financial disclosures by lawmakers and top state officials.

We have a chance to move out of last place and improve transparency in our state government, but our state Senate needs to hear from us. Incredibly, the state House passed unanimously — that's 100 percent bipartisan support, which is unheard of in recent times — the Freedom of Information Act/Legislative Open Records Act. This would require the Legislature and governor be subjected to the same FOIA requirements as other state agencies.

SB 246 and SB 0247 have bipartisan support in the Senate, but Majority Leader Arlan Meek-

hof (30th District) has been obstructing these bills and doesn't appear willing to budge. We need to put pressure on him and our own state senators to get this package of bills passed as soon as possible. I have called my senator, Mike Kowall, who is on the committee that will take up these bills. I encourage everyone to do the same. This would be a big step forward in restoring people's trust in our state government.

Sherri Masson
Milford

A Knight's thanks

The Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council No. 7444 of Milford would like to take time to thank all the people who attended the Friday Knight Lenten fish fries. Our council thanks all those that were there every week for a fish dinner.

We also thank those that bought raffle tickets for this year's Knight's of Columbus raffle. There were a lot of people who purchased a ticket. Thanks. And there were some who bought two or more, like Kelly Rogers, Bob Bonish, Colleen Gonzalez, Mary Segfeda, Steve Vigh, Larry Strauss, Joan Sare, Dave Craft, Ron Lennis, Emily Henning, Jodi Brooks, Pat and Dick Kostin, Joe Ciofo, Lisa Auger, Vickie Wiemer, Adam Wisniewski, Leroy Brown, Krystal Gibson, Marla Hayden, Amy O'Callaghan, Rose Ann O'Sullivan, Sally Beadle, Jim Crane, Jack Bolling, John Drouillard, Dave Morantes, Dan and Shaon Theriault, Gerard Michalak, Steve Matti of Milford Grovery, Greg and Jim Hlinski of Village Butcher, Gene Ryeson and Highland House, Shannon Prieur, Jake Thome and the girls at the Kroger bakery, Mark Stater and the crew at Pet Supply Plus. A special thank you to Mike O'Hagan who works at the Proving Ground and hustles over to our fish

fries for carry outs, and he also bought a couple of books for the raffle. Can't forget the Ciarelli family (all 10 of them) for their great, great support. And then there's Kathy Johnson. She's usually our first customer, a carry out, but always bought a ticket. Hope your dad is doing well.
We hope everybody enjoyed their dinners and we wish you luck in this year's raffle.
Hope to see all of you at this year's Concerts in the Park at the AMP in Central Park, which starts at 7 p.m. June 8.
John Rogers
Milford

Just stop, Mr. Weber

I found Leo Weber's letter to the editor published April 16 and titled "Liberals are annoying" very disturbing. Please note that my concern is not based on politics but on Mr. Weber's choice to publish such rude and intolerant rhetoric. Name calling of individuals that Mr. Weber deems to be "Liberals" (and therefore apparently his enemy) include such terms as: "pack of wild animals, out of control school brats, big mouths, un-reasoning wild dogs, scurrilous folk, etc."

It appears that Mr. Weber is a conservative zealot and will not tolerate that others can or should have opinions that vary from his own, much less that they have the nerve to actually express them. Please note that Mr. Weber has every right to his opinions and to express them. My concern is the hate that oozes from his letter. He exercises his right to free speech and then he belittles others who want to discuss their concerns with an elected official! He even goes so far as labeling these people "vile creatures" because they chose to drive in a snowstorm and stand outside in the cold in order to exercise their Constitutional rights.
Mr. Weber, no one is

lucky that you are writing these types of letters now or have been for the last 15 years. You should be ashamed of yourself. Please get some help. Here are some suggestions:

1. I am guessing from your letter that you are a Christian (reference to abortion and sodomy). Please visit your pastor and bring your letter and this response. Consider participation in a bible study. Please pay attention to God's word regarding tolerance and embracing your fellow man.

2. If Option No. 1 is not possible then get professional help. You need it.

3. Consider helping those that are less fortunate than yourself. Volunteer! You obviously have too much time on your hands. Do something positive with it.

4. Take a class at your local community college. Suggestions include U.S. government and U.S. history.

Mr. Weber, if you read this response I am guessing that you will label me as the enemy (a.k.a. a "Liberal"). While I am not interested in sharing my political views in this letter, I will state that I am most definitely not a "Liberal." What I am is an American. My family has bled and died for this country, including service in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War (Union), WWI and WWII. United we stand, divided we fall. Your letter writing promotes the divisive nature of strong-arm politics. You are not making America great, you are hurting this great nation. Please stop!

Catherine Freeman
Canton

Take a deep breath first

Ah, Mr. Weber. You have outdone yourself this time. I have been reading your frequent letters to the editors and citizens for what seems like so much more than 15 years. Are you really that

hateful? Are you really that rigid? Are you incapable of seeing both sides of an argument?

You probably consider me to be one of those hateful liberals, but let's get something straight. While I have some liberal leanings, many of my opinions are very conservative. I prefer to think of myself as a reasonable, independent thinker who is willing to listen to all sides and accept everyone's opinion, even yours. What could be more American than that?

To be clear, I am not a fan of Mr. Trump. I did not vote for him. Nor do I not trust him — yet. But, I am hopeful. I want him to do well as president, because if he fails we all fail.

Bipartisanship is a good thing for all of us, and should be a part of everyday life in Washington. Apparently our former presidents have grasped the concept as we keep hearing about their friendships that cross party lines. Why can't our current elected officials do the same? (Why can't you?)

I notice that neither President Bush is in a hurry to rush to the White House to show support for Mr. Trump. I worry that they know something we don't, but should. Time will tell.

Perhaps, in the future, you could step back and take a deep breath before you compose a tirade to share with all of us. Of course, your way is acceptable — it is guaranteed by our Constitution, after all. It's just so easy to get caught up in the media hype of everything, good or bad, that gets reported. Stopping to think something through may soften or change your opinion Mr. Weber. Probably not.

Diane Barrett
Livonia

'Delusion of grandeur'

It is a sure sign of spring when Leo Weber

emerges from his lair to spout his right-wing nonsense. This man has no problem attempting to degrade Progressives, Liberals, Democrats, or for that matter, anyone with common sense. Evidently, he considers himself the spokesman for Livonia. I don't know if the residents agree with that, considering he came in dead last when he ran for mayor. The term "delusions of grandeur" comes to mind.

On another note, the so-called rift between Putin and Trump is nothing but a charade. The Russians were warned about the impending missile attack on that Syrian base by our military leaders. This was done to make sure no Russian personnel or planes were at the base when the bombardment started. Of course, the Syrian pilots followed suit.

If any planes were destroyed, it was because they were not able to be flown. So, we couldn't hit the armory because it held the same poison gas that killed those people, and we would be blamed if it was dispersed and killed more innocents. We didn't hit the runways because they are too easy to repair. The end result was the planes returned, loaded up at that armory we couldn't touch, took off and proceeded to bomb the same town and a hospital where the victims of the gas attack were being treated. And, according to published reports, with the aid of the same Russian military we so gallantly warned. Just what in the hell did we gain by wasting our missiles on a deserted base?

Well, Trump got to flex "his" Navy's muscle and Putin got to rattle his saber to appease his hardliners. As a bonus, this was a distraction from the investigation of dealings between Trump's people and Putin's.

James Huddleston
Canton

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PATRIOT RELAYS



Plymouth's Binyah Howard leaps a hurdle during Saturday's Patriot Relays.

TOM BEAUDOIN

U18 MEN'S WORLDS

American squad wins gold again

Northville's St. Cyr backstops Under-18 squad to championship

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

To say the U.S. Men's National Under-18 team enjoyed a golden stay in Slovakia would be an understatement.

Team USA, with Northville's Dylan St. Cyr a pillar of strength between the pipes, defeated Finland 4-2 on Sunday to capture the gold medal game of the 2017 IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship.

St. Cyr made 22 saves en route to his seventh victory of the tournament, but the U.S. had many other heroes in winning the gold medal for the seventh time in the past nine years.

"I'm very proud of how hard our group worked to represent all the best traits that the USA Hockey crest embodies," said John Wroblewski, head coach of Team USA. "The team truly played for each other, their families and our country."

Joel Farabee provided much of the offensive spark as he scored two goals, while Oxford native Josh Norris and Grant Mismash also notched goals.

It was Norris to get the U.S. off to a solid start, one-timing a feed from Brady Tkachuk past Finland goalie Ukko-Pekka Luukonen.

Before the first period ended, Farabee — named the player of the game — collected Jacob Tortora's centering pass and ripped a shot through Luukonen's five hole.

Just 63 seconds into the middle period, Farabee

See GOLD, Page B2



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Dylan St. Cyr of Northville, goalie for the U.S. Under-18 Men's Hockey team, won all seven games he played to lead Team USA to a gold medal in Slovakia.

See RELAYS, Page B2

IT'S 'RE-LAY' DIFFERENT

Plymouth girls, Franklin boys come away with first-place finishes in annual track and field event



Among top performers for the first-place Plymouth girls track and field team was Annie Bonds.

TOM BEAUDOIN

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Run and fun, that's what the annual Livonia Franklin Patriot Relays are all about as boys and girls from 12 area high schools mixed and matched their abilities with the unique track and field invitational.

Garnering first place among boys teams were the host Patriots, who edged city rival Livonia Stevenson by a 80-78 score. On the girls side, Plymouth prevailed with 98 points, while Franklin came up just short with 94 points.

"We haven't been at the top of the heap in a few years, so it's good to be back up there," Franklin head boys coach Aaron Moran said.

"It's always good to protect the house, if you will, but it's even better to, in front of our fans, be able to have a good showing and both the boys and girls have had a good showing

today."

Moran noted the continuing strong performances from seniors Brandon Smiley, Christian Bagnall, Khalil Pasha and Jacob Clark.

"They all have done a wonderful event," Moran said. "They've won every event they've been in so far. It's different; our kids are competing."

He said the format of the Patriot Relays rewards teams with a lot of depth and versatility.

"The different type of events allows us to get different kids to see what they actually have," Moran said. "Some kids we don't get to see in dual meet format because it's regimented, you get to see your top three, but you don't get to see what you have after that."

PREP BASEBALL

Clutch hits spark Canton to 5-3 win

Chiefs make the most of their opportunities

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Canton came up with a couple of more key base hits than Livonia Stevenson did Monday and that was the difference in a KLAAs crossover baseball game. The visiting Chiefs scored

twice in the top of the sixth to go up 5-3 and senior pitcher Tyler Newsom made it stand up as he retired the Spartans with little trouble over the final two innings.

"We played a crisp, clean game," said Canton head coach Mark Blomshield, whose team improved to 11-5 overall.

His Stevenson counterpart, Rick Berryman, struck a similar key.

"When we play Canton, it's

always a good game, it's competitive, just good high school baseball," Berryman said. "Sometimes they win, sometimes we win."

Berryman lamented getting only one run out of a bases-loaded situation in the bottom of the first, against Canton sophomore starting pitcher Ben Spencer.

But then the Chiefs took a 3-1

See CHIEFS, Page B2



JULIE BAECHLER

The throw to Canton first baseman Lou Baechler (right) is in time to retire Livonia Stevenson runner Jacob Way during Monday's contest.

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GIRLS SOCCER

Garden City downs Redford Thurston, 9-0

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Garden City's soccer machine clicked on all cylinders April 19 in a 9-0 win over Redford Thurston.

Scoring two goals each for the host Cougars were Ashley Hahn, Brooke Collins and Summer Sultana. Adding one goal each were Sydney Baker, Faith Staley and Angie Dimopoulos.

The Western Wayne Athletic Conference game was halted after one half due to the

MHSAA eight-goal mercy rule. "We were able to control the game from the beginning and did a good job of finishing our opportunities early in the game," Garden City head coach Jeff Szypula said. "I was happy to see the girls make good decisions in maintaining possession and creating quality scoring chances."

"The communication on the field is improving and the girls are starting to work well together."

Szypula added that his team managed to overcome some

nagging injuries as it improved to 3-3-1 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

"The girls are coping well and doing an excellent job with having to play more minutes than usual," Szypula said. "I love the mentality of this team and expect that everyone will step up and get the job done."

STEVENSON 1, SALEM 1: Kayla Gacioc scored in the 54th minute Tuesday to lift Livonia Stevenson into a tie with Salem. Setting up the equalizer was Yasmine Jaafar

as the Spartans improved to 4-0-1 overall and 1-0-1 in the KLA Central Division.

For the Rocks (2-2-1, 1-0-1), Katie Coleman scored in the first half.

Combining to stop four Salem shots were goalkeepers Haley Demers and Mackenzie Fifer; Salem's Skyler Brant stopped seven Stevenson attempts.

OTHER GAMES: Also Tuesday, Canton defeated Livonia Churchill by a 3-1 score. Plymouth routed Livonia Franklin 8-0 on Monday.

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

lead in the third, with the help of walks, a wild pitch and a two-out, two-run single to right by senior first baseman Lou Baechler.

"(Baechler) had a big two-out hit. We had a couple of them," Blomshield said. "We tried to play some small ball."

Canton's lead vanished in the bottom of the fourth, when Stevenson (11-3) scored two runs on a double by Dan Bos and a sacrifice fly to center field by Chris Tanderys.

Stevenson starting pitcher Brenden Posky got through the fifth unscathed, but when Aaron Dolney led off the sixth with a sharp single to center, Berryman brought in Josh Marquardt.

After a sacrifice bunt and a groundout, it was Canton senior second baseman A.J. Brazleton's turn to come up clutch with two outs. He roped a base hit up the middle to score courtesy runner Preston Sokol and Brazleton went to second on the throw home.

Canton tacked on an insurance run following a balk and infield error.

STEVENSON 13-2, SALEM 2-5: These KLA Central Division rivals split a makeup doubleheader Sunday.

Livonia Stevenson had the hitting shoes on in the first contest, with George Ferguson, Mark Pettersen, Dan Bos and Devin Dunn each collecting two hits. Ferguson was the winning pitcher, fanning seven over five innings.

The Rocks bounced back in Game 2, with Jack Savage throwing a complete game, allowing just one earned run and striking out eight. Adam Pitkol went 2-for-3 to pace Salem's attack.

PLYMOUTH 2, NOVI 1: Brenden Lacorato threw a complete-game shutout April 17, leading host Plymouth (4-2, 4-0 KLA South) to a Kensington Conference victory over Novi (6-5-1, 2-2 KLA Central).

Lacorato, a senior, scattered six hits, walked one and struck out eight in seven innings.

Michael Wischer went 2-for-2 and scored a with a run on a bunt single. Chase Every also had an RBI.

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Celebrating after winning Sunday's gold medal game against Finland is the U.S. Under-18 Men's Hockey Team.

USA HOCKEY

GOLD

Continued from Page B1

struck again to make it 3-0.

Logan Cockerill of Brighton threaded a backhand pass to Farabee and the Cicero N.Y. native made no mistake.

Also drawing an assist was

St. Cyr.

The lead was 4-1 after two periods, with Mismash scoring on the power play. Quinn Hughes assisted.

In addition to St. Cyr's goalkeeping, a big reason for Team USA's success was stellar penalty killing.

Finland could not find the mark on any of its seven pow-

er play opportunities.

NOTES: St. Cyr, Sean Dhooghe and Max Gildon were named to the Media All-Star Team.

The U.S. has captured gold in the first four major International Ice Hockey Federation championships of 2016-17.

Those included the IIHF

World Junior Championship, IIHF U18 Women's World Championship and the IIHF Women's World Championship held at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

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RELAYS

Continued from Page B1

Plenty to like

Plymouth head girls coach Ricky Styes saw plenty of positives, beginning with high jumpers Gabby Chouinard, Kennedy Chastang and Amanda Radke, who finished 1-2-3.

"Our distance kids ran really well today. They took second place in all the distance events with a lot of good splits and PR times," Styes said. "We've scored in every event except the sprint medley relay."

More than results, however, coaches agreed that the Patriot Relays are good to take part in because of the variety of events usually not on the menu at traditional meets.

"We like the format of the meet," Styes said. "It's a little different, with all the relay events vs. the normal regional format. So the kids get to have more fun here — the co-ed relay, the throwers relay, just changing it up in the middle of the season."

Concurring was Franklin first-year girls head coach Megan Wilson, who also ran the Patriot Relays during her high school career a decade ago.

"This meet is very unique and the events they do, the shuttle hurdles, co-ed relay, throwers relay ... they don't have that in most invitationals," Wilson said. "So it's really fun to kind of mix things up."

Wilson added that her athletes "exceeded my expectations in almost every event. Everyone was PRing. I think they're really getting into it."

Chance to shine

Livonia Stevenson head boys coach Scott Shaw, whose team finished third with 80 points, likes the format because younger team members get a taste of varsity competition.

"I like the relay event part of it," Shaw said. "So all the kids, the high jumpers all the scores are combined, the long



Plymouth's James Rubio hits the 10-foot mark during the pole vault event.

TOM BEAUDOIN

jump and throws, all that kind of stuff. It lets us get a little bit more of the younger kids involved."

One of the Spartan veterans also was on the mark, too.

"Ian Knoph, our high jumper, did pretty well today, he went 6-4," Shaw said. "And our relays are getting better. Today really is the first day we started putting together some true varsity relays. They're looking a little better than we have the last couple dual meets."

Meanwhile, athletes like Plymouth sophomore Malcolm Caldwell also enjoyed the meet. "It's a lot of fun because it's all about teamwork, everyone has to work together to place really high."

FRANKLIN PATRIOT RELAYS
April 22 at Livonia Franklin H.S.
GIRLS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Plymouth, 98 points; 2. Livonia Franklin, 94; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 90; 4. Dearborn, 59; 5. North Farmington, 38; 6. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 20; 7. Garden City, 18; 8. Dearborn Fordson, 9; 9. Redford Union, 8; 10. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 6; 11. Lincoln Park, 4.
BOYS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 80 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 78; 3. Plymouth, 72; 4.

Dearborn Edsel Ford, 53; 5. Garden City, 45; 6. Dearborn Fordson, 26; 7. (tie) Lincoln Park, North Farmington, 25; 9. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 24; 10. Dearborn, 21; 11. Summit Academy, 10; 12. Redford Union, 6.
GIRLS 4-BY-1600 RELAY: 1. Stevenson (Emily Lauzon, Erin McAllinden, Bri Leebos, Cassie McDougall, Kayla Senczynski), 23:21.00; 2. Plymouth (Annie Bonds, Isabelle Tiplady, Lily Tiplady, Emily Britton), 23:38.92; 3. Dearborn, 23:45.70; 4. Franklin (Erin Seibert, Camryn Zurawski, Ashley deGuise, Hailey Kutruks), 23:47.83; 5. Crestwood, 25:09.38.
BOYS 4-BY-1600 RELAY: 1. Plymouth (Brandon Boyd, Carter Solomon, Jarrett Warner, Ethan Byrnes), 18:52.95; 2. Stevenson (Jack Balint, Alex Brauer, Ben Griffith, Nathan Wilson), 18:54.22; 3. Franklin (Grant Rudd, Jackson Nordbeck, Joseph Nichol, Logan Evanckuk), 20:19.33; 4. Lincoln Park, 20:32.88; 5. Crestwood, 21:00.66.
GIRLS 4-BY-100 SHUTTLE HURDLES: 1. Plymouth (Kayla Dudek, Olivia Dillaha, Allison Range, Erin Bradley), 1:11.81; 2. Dearborn, 1:15.24; 3. Stevenson (Emily Nettie, Jenna Chmura, Alexa Locoate, Beth White), 1:17.26; 4. Franklin (Kelly Peyton, Sarah deGuise, Riley Shine, Sarah Chaney), 1:19.98; 5. Garden City (Tionna Thompson, Claire Wandoff, Ilyana Collazo, Emily Tudosa, Sydney Charlton), 1:20.60.
BOYS 4-BY-110 SHUTTLE HURDLES: 1. Franklin (Marcus Martin, Ian Hogg, Hunter Klotz, Mason Hart, Greg Fox), 1:09.68; 2. Plymouth (Malcolm Caldwell, Martino Deltoro, Binyah Howard, William Jones), 1:12.23; 3. North Farmington (Donald Wrench, Myles Lewis, Kiarc Crockett, Charlie Steward), 1:13.20; 4. Edsel Ford, 1:14.13; 5. Lincoln Park, 1:14.48.
GIRLS 4-BY-800 RELAY: 1. Stevenson (Lauzon, Lexi Jenkins, Kylie Callison, Gracie Droz), 10:31.35; 2. Plymouth (L. Tiplady, Natalie Grasso, Britton, Ana White), 10:45.94; 3. Franklin (Paityn Santti, A. deGuise, Kutruks, Courtney Kostielny), 11:19.43; 4. Garden City (Lauren Marshall, Kacey Szymaniak, Sarah Lopez, Erin Marshall), 11:28.49; 5. Fordson, 11:44.35.
BOYS 4-BY-800 RELAY: 1. Plymouth (Matt

Weiner, Alex White, Basil Syed, Timothy Hoang), 8:47.60; 2. Franklin (Gregory Thaxton, Michael Mackiewicz, Andrew Ulaszek, Russell Rusnell), 8:53.80; 3. Stevenson (Matthew Donehue, Trevor Tillman, Ryan Maisonneville, Hunter Satz), 8:56.90; 4. Lincoln Park, 9:06.40; 5. Summit Academy, 9:09.20.
GIRLS 4-BY-100 RELAY: 1. North Farmington (Chasadie Seary, Mackenzie Cleaver, Alyssa Murphy, Raven Tatum), 52.02; 2. Franklin (Mikaela Hille, Brooke Gietzen, Alaina Herrera, Cierra Echelle), 53.25; 3. Dearborn, 53.30; 4. Redford Union (Jalayah Gray, Ariel Clemons, Jalia Plair, Nekold Jones), 53.56; 5. Plymouth (Delia Brennan, Sarah Dottovio, Ally Niemiec, Kennedy Chastang), 54.81.
BOYS 4-BY-100 RELAY: 1. Franklin (Nyassinu Crowell, Brandon Smiley, Jacob Clark, Christian Bagnall), 43.27; 2. Garden City (Jacob Sears, Darius Benson, Dylan Rayburn, Eian Castonguay, David McDaniel, Chase McGraw), 43.67; 3. Fordson, 44.65; 4. North Farmington (Klajuan Tobe, Matt Coleman, North Allen, Charlie Steward), 45.01; 5. Stevenson (Dalen Cobb, Nick Broome, Michael Jaafar, LaDanus Sharp), 45.72.
GIRLS SMR (100-100-200-400): 1. Franklin (Jessica Huddleston, Hollie Reynolds, Christianna Benson, Hille), 2:01.20; 2. Dearborn, 2:03.20; 3. Fordson, 2:10.70; 4. Redford Union (Gray, Jones, Jakyla Jackson, Kayla Dixon), 2:11.06; 5. Stevenson (Tezsanee Sharp, Gillian Terry, Mavis Asante, Madi Downs), 2:13.20.
BOYS SMR (100-100-200-400): 1. Edsel Ford, 1:36.56; 2. Garden City (Castonguay, Rayburn, Benson, Dylan White, McDaniel, McGraw), 1:39.77; 3. Franklin (James Carpenter, Clark, Fox, Khalil Pasha), 1:41.04; 4. Crestwood, 1:41.89; 5. Plymouth (Michael Mathias, 2. Kevin Dorsey, 3. Emmanuel Lloyd, 4. Joseph Ahearn), 1:42.17.
GIRLS SMR (200-400-800-1600): 1. Stevenson (Jenkins, Julia Kozler, Stefana Koon, Julia Cercone), 13:42.10; 2. Plymouth (White, Gabby Chouinard, I. Tiplady, Bonds), 13:53.40; 3. Dearborn, 14:02.00; 4. Franklin (Santti, Olivia Melville, Zurawski, Seibert), 14:11.70; 5. Crestwood, 14:29.20.
BOYS SMR (200-400-800-1600): 1.

Plymouth (Boyd, Cade Ahlijian, Byrnes, Solomon), 11:00.33; 2. Stevenson (Ben Griffith, Jaafar, Balint, Brauer), 11:26.37; 3. Summit Academy, 11:42.68; 4. Franklin (Mackiewicz, Gregory Thaxton, Rudd, Evanckuk), 11:58.66; 5. Fordson, 12:04.45.
GIRLS 4-BY-200 RELAY: 1. North Farmington (A'Jani Williams, Cleaver, Kiara Crockett, Tatum), 1:46.24; 2. Dearborn, 1:53.68; 3. Franklin (Kerry Peyton, Herrera, Hannah Strasser, Emily Esker), 1:53.82; 4. Plymouth (Chastang, Brennan, Allison Range, Dudek), 1:54.42; 5. Stevenson (Hope McMullen, Emily Ehrheart, Allie Terry, Szabelski), 1:56.25.
BOYS 4-BY-200 RELAY: 1. Franklin (Pasha, Smiley, Clark, Bagnall), 1:31.48; 2. Garden City (Benson, White, Rayburn, Castonguay, McDaniel, McGraw), 1:34.00; 3. Edsel Ford, 1:34.60; 4. Fordson, 1:36.80; 5. Plymouth (Lloyd, Ivan Davis, Eric Knudson, Ahearn), 1:37.80.
MIXED 4-BY-100 RELAY: 1. Plymouth, 48.28; 2. Franklin, 49.50; 3. Redford Union, 49.54; 4. Edsel Ford, 49.76; 5. Stevenson, 52.31.
GIRLS 4-BY-100 THROWERS RELAY: 1. Plymouth (Jenna Ammar, Katarina Jostofski, Sydney McCaig, Madalyn Harden), 40.20; 2. Stevenson (Jenna Serazio, Jenan Shareef, Emma Ryan, Alexa Pierzynski), 42.30; 3. Franklin (Peyton, Alexis Browning, Emily Thompson, Anna Lauber, Paige Rivait), 45.70; 4. Edsel Ford, 52.30; 5. Garden City (Alexis Lehman, Tina Fenner, Kyana Morris, Jordan Rice, Jillian Denison), 55.40.
BOYS 4-BY-100 THROWERS RELAY: 1. Edsel Ford, 51.00; 2. Lincoln Park, 51.30; 3. Crestwood, 52.10; 4. Stevenson (Spencer Eddings, Taylor Garpow, Asa Hassan, Nicholas Leginza), 52.70; 5. Summit Academy, 53.00.
GIRLS 4-BY-400 RELAY: 1. North Farmington (Williams, Alyssa Murphy, Tatum, Crockett), 4:09.50; 2. Plymouth (Chastang, Radke, Brennan, Adayn Roms), 4:20.10; 3. Franklin (Esker, Hille, Strasser, Echelle), 4:24.90; 4. Stevenson (Callison, Natasha Mwila, Alyssa Bergman, Terry), 4:31.20; 5. Crestwood, 4:44.30.
BOYS 4-BY-400 RELAY: 1. Franklin (Thaxton, Mackiewicz, Pasha, Smiley), 3:33.42; 2. Garden City (Sears, Castonguay, Benson, White, McDaniel, McGraw), 3:38.00; 3. Stevenson (Jaafar, Balint, Griffith, Trevor Klatt), 3:40.19; 4. Edsel Ford, 3:41.70; 5. North Farmington (Marshall Miller, Quentin Ross, Donald Wrench, Charlie Steward), 3:45.23.
GIRLS DISCUS: 1. Alexis Browning (LF), 99 feet, 0.5 inches; 2. Layall Mustafa (D), 93.10; 3. Jessica Mancini (LS), 85.01; 4. Ammar (P), 82.05; 5. Thompson (LF), 81.09.
BOYS DISCUS: 1. Franklin, 261.04; 2. Stevenson, 229.06; 3. Dearborn, 226.03; 4. Plymouth, 216.09; 5. Crestwood, 182.06.
BOYS HIGH JUMP: 1. (tie) Robert Allen (NF), Ian Knoph (LF), 6-04; 3. (tie) Cameron Knight (P), Robert Tatum (EF), 6-00; 5. (tie) Justin Jacobs (LP), Jared Weigand (EF), Demetrius Davis (LP), 5-10.
GIRLS LONG JUMP: 1. Paige Sanders (P), 16-02.5; 2. Williams (NF), 15-02.75; 3. Tia Phifer (EF), 14-10.5; 4. Hille (LF), 14-10.0; 5. Emily Caragay (P), 13-10.0.
BOYS POLE VAULT: 1. (tie) Ian Teszar (GC), Collin Bowersox (LS), 12-00; 3. (tie) Samuel Bonser (LS), Logan Delonis (LS), 11-00; 5. (tie) Calvin Vos (P), Zackary Alabakoff (D), 10-06.
GIRLS SHOT PUT: 1. Mustafa (D), 34-11; 2. Anna Lauber (LF), 30-10; 3. (tie) Browning (LF), Pierzynski (LS), 30-04; 5. Sydney McCaig (P), 28-09.
BOYS DISCUS: 1. Mohamed Khatib (D), 134-06; 2. Jalen Covington (GC), 123-06; 3. Mohammed Amen (DF), 116-00; 4. Nicholas Leginza (LF), 107-05; 5. Taylor Garpow (LS), 107-00.
BOYS LONG JUMP: 1. Aaron Simmon (LS), 19-07.50; 2. Tatum (EF), 19-05; 3. Justin Jacobs (LP), 19-01; 4. White (GC), 18-01.25; 5. Christian Neff (LP), 17-10.
GIRLS HIGH JUMP: 1. (tie) Chouinard (P), Radke (P), Chastang (P), 4-08; 4. Madi Droste (LS), 4-06; 5. Dasia Boyd (LF), 4-06.
BOYS POLE VAULT: 1. Caragay (P), 10-00; 2. Natalie Janke (P), 9-00; 3. Kyra Gorman (LS), 8-06; 4. Rachel Domzalski (LF), 8-00; 5. Katie Engler (LF), 7-00.
BOYS SHOT PUT: 1. Mustafa Khaleefah (D), 52-03; 2. Bobby Madley (LF), 50-03; 3. Jalen Covington (GC), 48-03; 4. Zac Darwiche (DF), 44-10; 5. Brandon Plub (LS), 40-05.

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PREP ROUNDUP

Girls soccer

SPARTANS WIN TWO: Livonia Stevenson (6-0-1), posted a 3-0 win Friday over Livonia Churchill, one day after routing South Lyon East, 7-0.

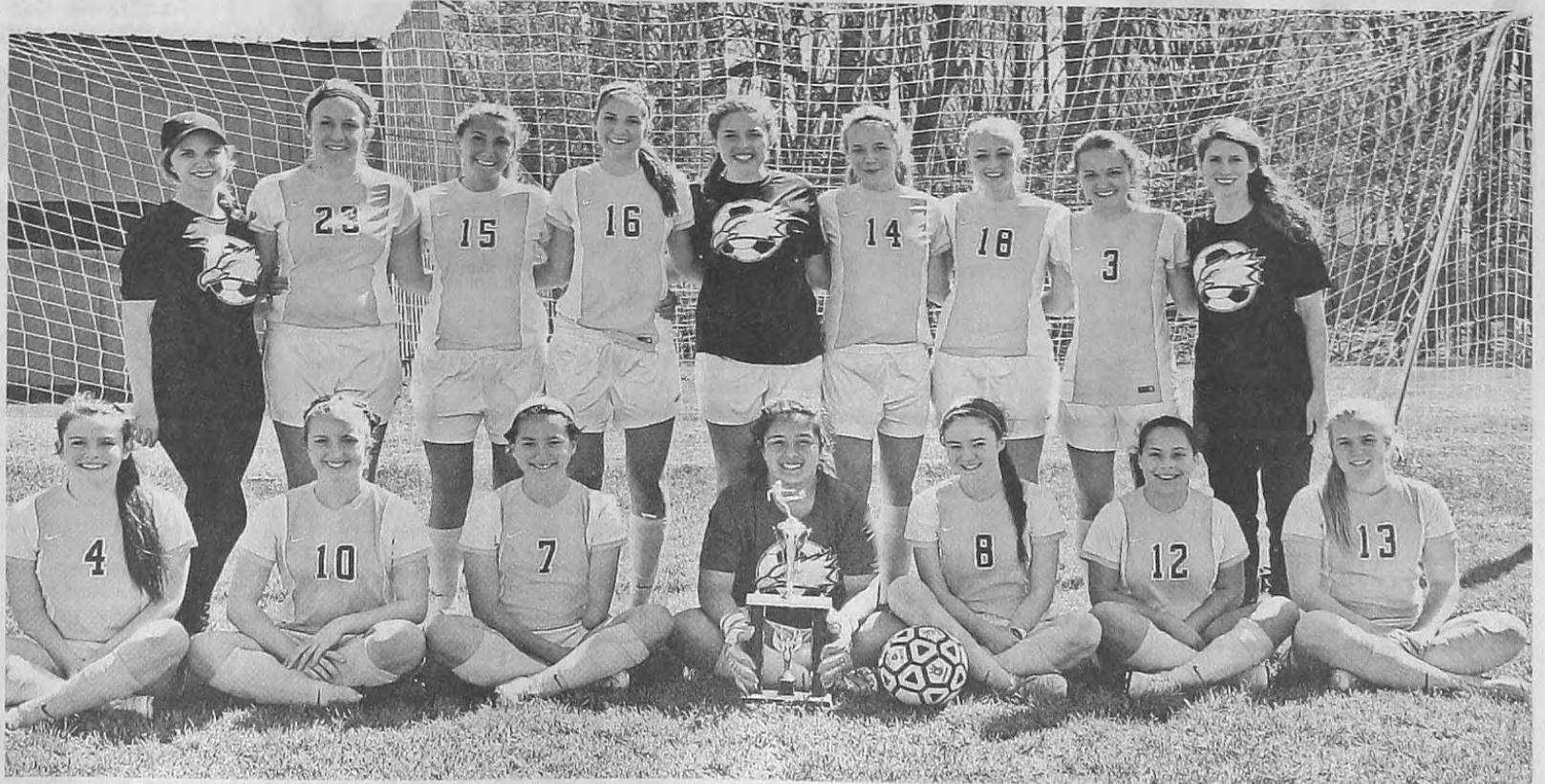
For the No. 13-ranked Spartans, Kennedy Thurlow scored twice within the first seven minutes of the game against the Chargers and Stevenson added an insurance goal from Audrey Kopitz with about 10 minutes left in the contest.

Assisting on Kopitz's goal was Kayla Gacoch. "Today topped off a nice week for the girls," Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker said. "Getting the two early goals was key. We controlled the tempo from there."

The loss dropped Churchill's record to 2-4.

Against the Cougars, goal scorers were Kopitz, Thurlow, Sarah Monte (two goals), Gacoch, Abby Werthman and Maria Bayyouk.

REDFORD UNION 4, MELVINDALE 2: Maggie Osowski scored a pair of goals and Cassidy Sandelin added a goal and three assists as Redford Union (1-3) notched its first win of the season with a non-conference triumph Friday over the host Cardinals.



Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity girls soccer team won the Jackson Royal Cup on Saturday. The Eagles, coached by Annette Somercik, defeated Calhoun Christian 4-2 and then came back to defeat Lenawee Christian 2-0 in the championship game, with both goals by freshman Danae Moriarty. Helping preserve the win with an outstanding save on a penalty kick was Izzy Nunez. "The girls are really united and it's fun to see how much they are pushing for each other," Somercik said.

PCA SOCCER

Girls tennis

PLYMOUTH INVITATIONAL: Plymouth scored 21 points Saturday to win the Plymouth Invitational.

The Wildcats edged second-place Salem and third-place Livonia Stevenson, which scored 19 and 18 points, respectively.

Livonia Franklin and Canton tied for sixth with 11 points.

Plymouth took home medals in eight out of nine flights, with No. 1 singles Jessica Braun, No. 4 singles Allie Baker and No. 2 doubles Arwa Harawala-Manasi Sharma bringing home the flight champion gold medals.

Stevenson was sparked by Molly Cormier, who was champion at No. 3 singles. The Spartans also had second-place finishes (good for silver medals) by Natalia Roznowski-Allison Malkowski at No. 1 doubles, Jillian Cormier-Shannon Ward at No. 3 doubles and the No. 5 doubles tandem of Mackenzie Pisko-Alyssa Engle.

Collecting bronze for third place were No. 2 singles Jill Weiland and No. 4 singles Natalie Hay.

"We had a very good day today, I was very pleased with our overall team performance," Stevenson head coach Don McCathney said. "Our

doubles were stellar today, garnering 10 of our 18 points. They led us by getting three of the five teams to finals.

"Our singles players ran into some very tough high level competition today but played very well."

RU TENNIS SPLITS: Haley Hebner earned a 6-1, 6-1 win at No. 4 singles and the Panthers took three of four doubles flights including Nos. 2, 3 and 4, in a 4-4 non-conference draw Friday at home against Fern-dale.

On April 18, host RU and Romulus battled to a 4-4 draw in a WWAC match as the Panthers took the No. 4 singles match along with the first three doubles. Tiebreakers decided No. 3 singles, along with Nos. 3 and 4 doubles matches.

Boys golf

PCCS CLASSIC: Pontiac Notre Dame Prep edged Plymouth, 320-323, to win Sunday's annual PCCS Classic, held at the par-72 Fox Hills Golden Fox course.

The rest of the top 10 finishers included Detroit Country Day, 326; University of Detroit-Jesuit, 331; Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood, 331; East Grand Rapids, 335; Novi, 335; Livonia Stevenson, 337; Ann Arbor Skyline, 339;

and Canton, 346.

Other area teams included Salem (14th, 357), Livonia Churchill (15th, 362), Northville (18th, 379) and Livonia Franklin (21st, 389).

For Plymouth, top performers were Joe Fontana (80), Jack Boczar (81), Matt Decker (81), Ian Smith (81) and Justin Kapke (82).

Canton's Suhas Potluri was 10th out of 115 golfers with an 80 score. Other solid performers for the Chiefs included D.J. Jablonski (82) and Dominic Dimaya (87).

Salem's top performer was Bryce Henderson, who scored 80. The Rocks also received 86 score from Shawn Weldon.

Leading Stevenson with 80 score was Trevor Lopus, with Griffin Mattick (84), Connor Jakacki (86) and Easton Schlatterbeck (87) also doing well.

Churchill was paced by John Doyle and Aaron Walton, with respective scores of 84 and 86. Brandon Tirador shot 84 for Franklin.

EDSEL TOPPLES RU: Senior Ben Tratar took medalist honors with 39 as Dearborn Edsel Ford defeated Redford Union, 197-217, in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference match April 19 at the Woodlands in Van Buren Township.

Senior Evan Albright led RU (1-1, 0-1) with 40.

Softball

CHURCHILL WEEKEND RESULTS: On Saturday, Livonia Churchill routed Holt 19-1 in the first game of a tournament, but the Chargers then dropped 7-5 and 6-3 decisions to Grass Lake and Chelsea, respectively.

Madison Christensen was the winning pitcher against Holt and went 3-for-5 at the plate. Other key Chargers in the victory were Colleen McGowan (three runs), Paige Hanson (3-for-3, five runs), Rachel Klisz (4-for-5, four runs), Julie Colling (3-for-4) and Kelsie Nowicki (2-for-3, three runs).

Brooke Hanson (2-for-3, two runs) and Klisz (2-for-4, two RBIs) had good games against Grass Lake, while Jenna Kwiecinski (2-for-3, two runs) and Colleen McGowan (1-for-3, two RBIs) chipped in against Chelsea.

The Chargers now are in the midst of a busy week, including doubleheaders against Livonia Franklin and Wayne Memorial.

Girls lacrosse

PLYMOUTH 10, NOVI 8: Michelle Cirino scored seven goals and Cathryn Vandembosch scored the other three as Plymouth prevailed in a Saturday match-up.

Prep grid meetings

» Plymouth's football program is holding its 2017 Meet the Coaches informational meeting for incoming ninth-graders 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, in the Plymouth High School cafeteria.

The meeting is to give incoming freshmen and their parents a jump on what expectations are for the upcoming season.

Also, a mandatory parent/player meeting is set for 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23, also in the Plymouth cafeteria. The session is for players entering grades 10-12 in 2017-18.

"We will talk about player and parent expectations, as well as booster club information and responsibilities," Plymouth football coach Mike Sawchuk said. He can be reached at michael.sawchuk@pccsk12.com for those with any questions about either meeting.

» Canton's football program will have a mandatory meeting for the 2017 season Thursday, May 4 in the gymnasium (North Building).

Players new to the program and their parents should meet in the gym at 6 p.m.; returning players and their parents should meet at 6:30 p.m. Canton Chiefs spirit wear will be available for purchase.

COMMUNITY-MINDED GRIDDERS

Chargers bowl, bond with Special Olympians

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Livonia Churchill football players love to score touchdowns.

They also love to touch hearts of kids who maybe aren't as big, strong or fast as they are.

But for those Chargers who shared laughs, strikes and spares April 8 with Special Olympians at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth, they found out why they gravitate to the gridiron rather than the bowling alley.

"Just about everyone there was bowling better than I was," Brennan Mikel said. "They're absolutely amazing and so much fun to watch. And they're very, very talented."

It was the sixth year that the Chargers participated in the Special Olympics Area Bowling Tournament, assistant football coach Allen Feigel said.

"Our football program does quite a bit of community outreach," said Feigel, Churchill's offensive line coach.

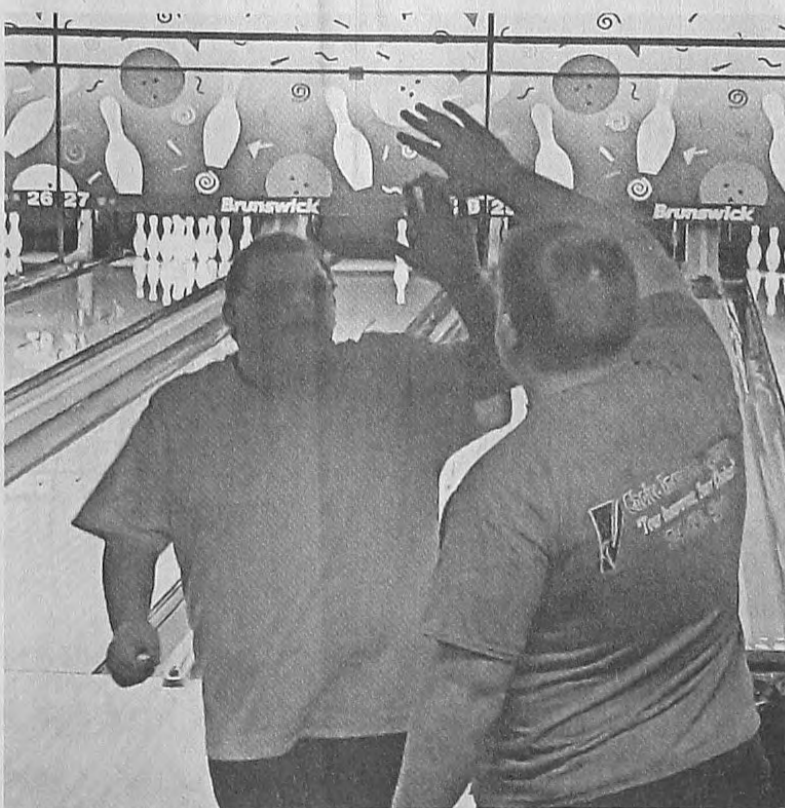
Mikel is glad that Feigel continues to schedule the team for such events.

"They're all there to have as much fun as they can," Mikel said. "So just being there and helping cheer them on, their faces just light up and it's just amazing to see."

"A couple of us went up to Special Olympics basketball and reffed for them. It was about six of us. It's the same thing. No matter what sport they're doing, they're just happy to be doing it. They love it."

In the pocket

Ja'Vante Van Buren said the Special Olympian he partnered



LIVONIA CHURCHILL ATHLETICS

Exchanging a high-five are a Special Olympian bowler (left) and Livonia Churchill's Brennan Mikel.

with (each Churchill player had a bowling buddy for the day) knocked over more pins and good-naturedly knocked him down a peg in the process.

"I mean, I didn't believe he was going to beat me, but he did," Van Buren said. "He got more strikes than I did."

But as far as the Special Olympians were concerned, the Churchill players all were just perfect from the line — for no other reason than they were spending time with them.

"I got mauled," Van Buren said. "The kid told me he was thankful I came to help him. A

football player came to help him."

He noted that, to the youngsters in Special Olympics (who have various intellectual disabilities), it seemed inexplicable and out of the realm of possibility that high school football players actually would be there for them.

"That's what they thought," that the Chargers wouldn't take the time, Van Buren explained.

But after an afternoon of fun, friendship and camaraderie, he added that "They want to play football now."

Churchill's Drew Also-brooks said the team really enjoys hanging out with the Special Olympians, too.

"We've been helping out with Special Olympics the past couple years and we've had a lot of fun," Also-brooks said. "The athletes there really love having us there, cheering them on and helping them out."

"Some of them actually are pretty good bowlers, too."

Coming together

There were 24 Chargers players who volunteered for the outreach and just seeing how their bowling buddies responded to their participation was more than enough reason to do the event.

Yet the team gets a different kind of benefit for doing community service.

"Helping out with this event really brings our team together and creates a bond," Also-brooks said.

Concurring was Van Buren, who said Churchill's football team can't help but become tighter on and off the field.

"This is a group," Van Buren said. "We didn't have to do this, but we chose to do this because we're one big family."

"We just decided we should go up there and give back. It was good, you know?"

Their efforts were applauded by Terry Jobbitt, competition and volunteer director for Area 23 of Special Olympics.

"I think it is great how these young men take time out of their day off to spend time with our athletes," Jobbitt wrote in an email to the Observer. "It makes our event be a success as too many people today do not want to volunteer."

"The Churchill boys did a fabulous job and were very

hands-on and encouraged our special athletes. I always enjoy watching these young men step up. It is a very rewarding day for the Churchill students, too, as they can see how our much our athletes enjoy this event and learn that life is not always about winning."

"Special Olympics' oath is: 'Let me win, but if I can not win, let me brave in the attempt.'"

Giving back

Jobbitt added that Churchill athletes aren't the only ones from area schools who go the extra mile to help Special Olympics.

He noted that Livonia Franklin has hosted Special Olympics spring games for more than a quarter-century. This year it will begin at 8:30 a.m. May 5.

Plymouth High School boys and girls basketball players volunteer each February for a Special Olympics basketball tournament and, each March, Northville students chip in to help with a regional hoops tourney.

According to the Special Olympics website, there are more than 4.7 million athletes in 169 countries with intellectual disabilities.

That term is used to describe those "with certain limitations in cognitive functioning and other skills, including communication and self-care. These limitations can cause a child to develop and learn more slowly or differently. Intellectual disability is the most common developmental disability."

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CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 30623 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, 48334 between Orchard Lk Rd & Middlebelt. Friday, April 28th, 9am-4pm. Clothing, kitchenware, furniture, etc.

Dyer Senior Center Rummage Sale 36745 Marquette, Westland. April 24-28, 9-3pm. 734-419-2020

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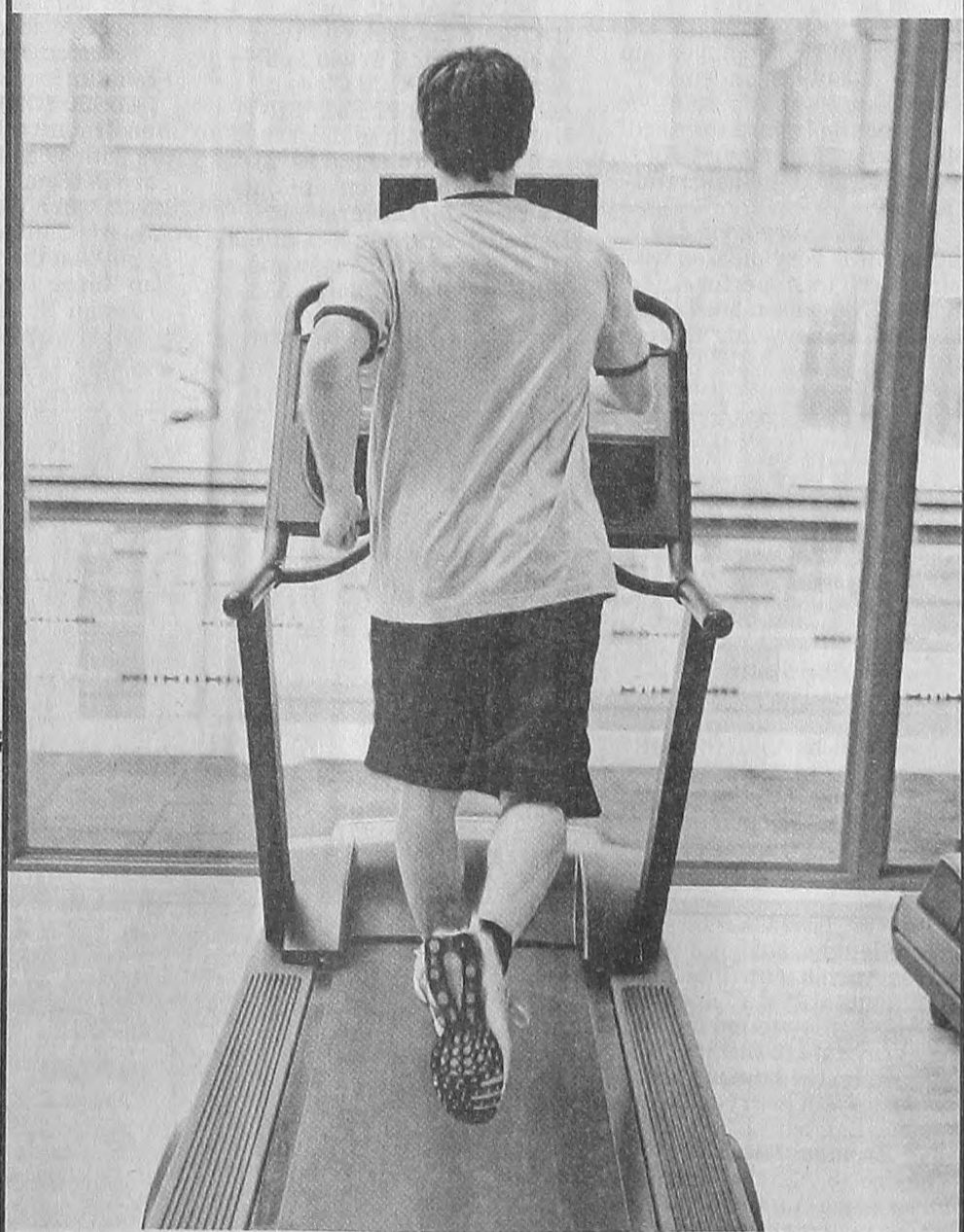
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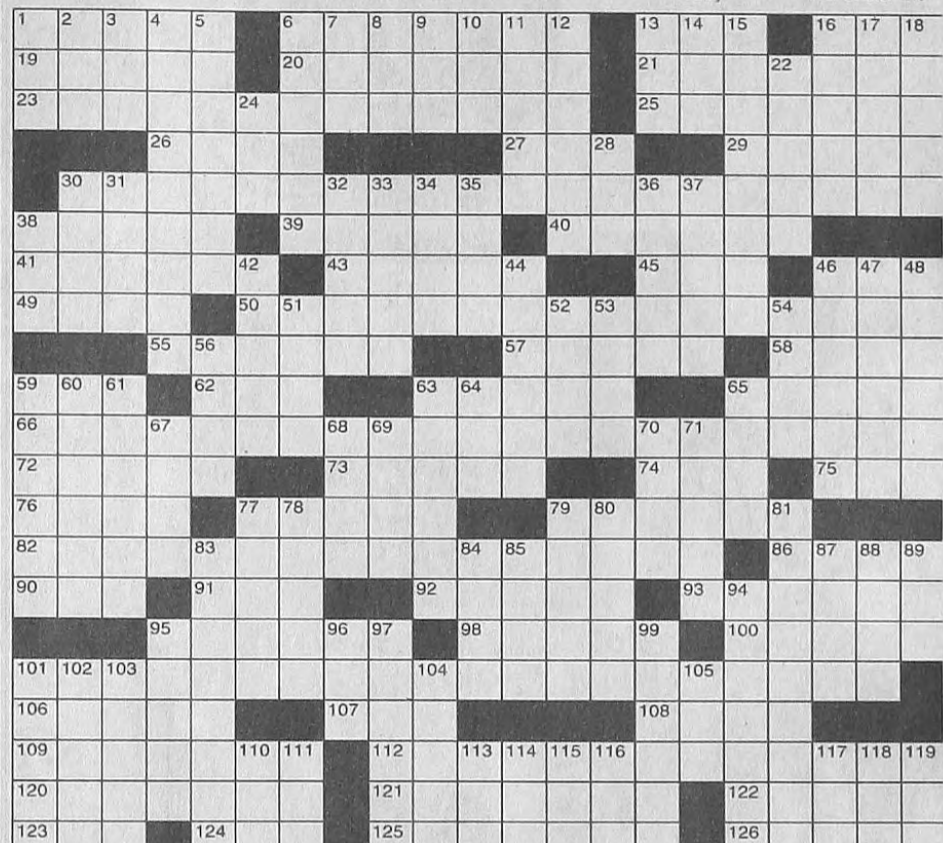
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 - 21 Measure in Ohm's law
 - 23 See 112-Across
 - 25 Metallic marble
 - 26 German GM subsidiary
 - 27 Ernie of the PGA Tour
 - 29 Put forth, as effort
 - 30 See 112-Across
 - 38 Lake vessel
 - 39 "I Go —" (Peter Allen song)
 - 40 Hindu masters
 - 41 Spies, e.g.
 - 43 Kind of violet
 - 45 — kwon do
 - 46 With 87-Down, collectively
 - 49 TV's Amaz
 - 50 See 112-Across
 - 55 Singer King of "Tapestry"
 - 57 Barmaid on "Cheers"
 - 58 Name of five Norse kings
 - 59 Profs.' helpers
 - 62 "Man" or "12" lead-in
 - 63 Gulf War missiles
 - 65 Mold, as clay
 - 66 See 112-Across
 - 72 "The Wild Swans at —" (poem by Yeats)
 - 73 Lawyer on "Ally McBeal"
 - 74 H.S. math class
 - 75 Blaster's stuff
 - 76 Like much music of the '90s
 - 77 "You — both!"
 - 79 Many a Muslim
 - 82 See 112-Across
 - 86 Debussy's "Clair de —"
 - 90 Bundy and Unser
 - 91 "Mazel —!"
 - 92 "— is human ..."
 - 93 Like a perfect place
 - 95 School skipper
 - 98 Like back-in-fashion
 - 100 Buddy
 - 101 See 112-Across
 - 106 Microsoft ad campaign
 - 107 Ear-relevant prefix
 - 108 Paula once on CNN
 - 109 Sleep-inducing drug
 - 112 Not sharp, as a picture on a screen (and what 23-, 30-, 50-, 66-, 82- and 101-Across are, literally)
 - 120 Comic actress
 - 121 Alcohol in liquor
 - 122 Comaneci of gymnastics
 - 123 DOS part: Abbr.
 - 124 "Assuredly!"
 - 125 Wet outside
 - 126 Clearing in the woods
- DOWN**
- 1 Alien of TV
 - 2 Stoooge of TV
 - 3 Get riper
 - 4 Very wise
 - 5 Brief excerpt
 - 6 Little oinker
 - 7 "Holy cow!" in a text
 - 8 Singer Tillis
 - 9 — Zedong
 - 10 Brian of electronica
 - 11 Treated with calcium compounds
 - 12 Fashion trends
 - 13 ICU sights
 - 14 "— fair!"
 - 15 More woolly
 - 16 Novelist Carr
 - 17 "It's —" (delivery cry)
 - 18 Calvin of golf
 - 22 Dallas locale
 - 24 "— Blu Dipinto di Blu"
 - 28 Dallas-to-Austin dir.
 - 30 Gerbil holder
 - 31 Singles
 - 32 "Fiddler on the Roof" star
 - 33 Obliterate
 - 34 Quick note
 - 35 Ned who manages the Royals
 - 36 Plate for the Eucharist
 - 37 Picture
 - 38 Blackguard
 - 42 Scuffle
 - 44 "Hey, bro"
 - 46 Phrase after "café"
 - 47 Fasten with a click
 - 48 Onset
 - 51 Nessie's waters
 - 52 Lunar effect
 - 53 Door fixture
 - 54 Big-top cries
 - 56 Church area
 - 59 Port near Seattle
 - 60 Musically keyless
 - 61 Artists' wear
 - 63 Tight-lipped
 - 64 Quarter of M
 - 65 USMC rank
 - 67 Merrie — England
 - 68 Inner: Prefix
 - 69 Do, —, fa ...
 - 70 Sprinkle, say
 - 71 Skip over
 - 77 Love, to Gigi
 - 78 Kim of "Pal Joey"
 - 79 Kinda maybe
 - 80 Rush
 - 81 Rudimentary
 - 83 Horrible thing
 - 84 Like slasher films
 - 85 Look like
 - 87 See 46-Across
 - 88 Nearly here
 - 89 Prefix with law or chic
 - 94 Debonair
 - 95 Sorts
 - 96 Cpl., for one
 - 97 Epithets
 - 99 How slimy stuff seeps
 - 101 Tiny wounds
 - 102 University in Atlanta
 - 103 Seasonally dry ravines
 - 104 Molar, e.g.
 - 105 Tore
 - 110 Born, to Gigi
 - 111 Lt.'s inferior
 - 113 "— is it?"
 - 114 Crow relative
 - 115 Phenyl ender
 - 116 FWIW part
 - 117 Ore — (food brand)
 - 118 Meteor tail?
 - 119 Scots' "no"



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

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

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!

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

HOME DECOR WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACCESSORIES MODERN ANTIQUING MONOCHROMATIC ARMOIRE MULLION BEVELED OTTOMAN BLINDS PRIMARY BOLSTER RUNNER BROCADE SCENCE CHAISE SETTEE CHENILLE CONTEMPORARY CREDENZA SOFA ETAGERE THROW FAUX TOILE FINIAL TRADITIONAL FUTON TUFFING HARDWARE UPHOLSTERY LAMINATE VINTAGE LOUNGE WAINSCOTTING

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

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

AMASS POMMELS INF CAP
 LOGON IMEANIT VOLTAGE
 FEELINGGLOOMY STEELIE
 OPEL ELS EXERT
 COMPLETELYDESPIicable
 CANOE TORJO SWAMIS
 AGENTS PANSY TAE ASA
 DESI CLOSETOTHEGROUND
 CAROLE DIANE OLAV
 TAS PAC SCUDS SHAPE
 ATMOSPHERICDEPRESSION
 COOLE NELLE ALG TNT
 ONCD ANDME SHITE
 MAKEAMOINGSSOUND LUNE
 ALS TOV TOERR EDENIC
 TRUANT RETRO AMIGO
 NEWYORKCITYMAYORSETH
 IMAPC OTO ZAHN
 CODEINE LOWDEFINITION
 KRISTEN ETHANOL NADIA
 SYS YES SHOWERY GLADE

Word Search Answers

ACCESSORIES MODERN ANTIQUING MONOCHROMATIC ARMOIRE MULLION BEVELED OTTOMAN BLINDS PRIMARY BOLSTER RUNNER BROCADE SCENCE CHAISE SETTEE CHENILLE CONTEMPORARY CREDENZA SOFA ETAGERE THROW FAUX TOILE FINIAL TRADITIONAL FUTON TUFFING HARDWARE UPHOLSTERY LAMINATE VINTAGE LOUNGE WAINSCOTTING

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88¢ ea



A single serving contains an entire day's worth of Vitamin C!

California Sweet Strawberries
1 lb.

4\$5 for

Fresh Natural Boneless English Roast

2\$11 lb

CHOICE All Natural BEEF

VIDALIA

Jumbo Vidalia Sweet Onions or Sweet Potatoes

77¢ lb

Bagged Russet Potatoes or Yellow Onions

5 lb. bag

3 lb. bag

88¢ ea

Jalapenos, Jicama or Mexican Papaya

77¢ lb

Premium Gala Apples or Fancy Jumbo Navel Oranges

99¢ lb

Baby Peeled Carrots or Green Beans

99¢ lb

USDA ORGANIC NON GMO

Organic Trimmed Green Beans
12 oz. pkg.

1\$99 ea

USDA ORGANIC NON GMO

Organic Girl Organic Salads
Assorted Varieties
3.5-5 oz.

2\$6 for

USDA ORGANIC NON GMO

Organic Valencia Oranges or Grapefruit
4 lb. bag

2\$99 ea



Icelandic Provisions Icelandic Yogurt
Assorted Varieties
5.3 oz.

5\$5 for



Sauder Cage-Free Jumbo Brown Eggs
1 dozen, Grade A

2\$5 for



Fresh Thyme Cookies
Assorted Varieties
12 ct.

1\$99 ea



Volpi Sliced Meats
Select Varieties
3-5 oz.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Save up to \$6.99



Essentia Enhanced Water
1 Liter

5\$5 for



RX Energy Bars
Assorted Varieties
1.8 oz.

2\$3 for



Good Health Veggie Chips or Stix
Assorted Varieties
6.75 oz.

2\$5 for



Fresh Thyme Fresh Roasted Coffee

6\$99 lb



Fresh Natural Chicken Tenders Value Pack

1\$89 lb



Fresh Thyme Natural Pork Sausage Assorted Varieties

1\$89 lb



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