

New pathway to improve safety in Cherry Hill Village

Darrell Clem

hometownlife.com

Brian Clayton worries when he and his children, ages 4, 6 and 7, risk riding their bikes along Cherry Hill Road to visit the Canton Farmers Market or get an ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery.

His River's Edge neighborhood, west of Ridge Road, has no safe path to con-nect it to the rest of Cherry Hill Village on Canton's far west side. "I just don't want to see anybody get

hurt," Clayton said.

His worries will soon be over. A 10-foot-wide asphalt pedestrian pathway, complete with a steel and wooden bridge over the Rouge River, is set to fix the problem after the plan won sweeping approval June 27 from the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

The project also complements the emerging Village Arts Factory, an arts and education complex that also will house veterans programs on the former site of a Henry Ford factory.

The pathway work is expected to

occur from August to October, Wayne County has said.

Dubbed the Historic Henry Ford Factory Pathway, the project has re-ceived a \$202,700 grant from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. The money comes from the Michigan Department of Transportation and is

funneled through Wayne County. The grant covers a big chunk of the \$412,716 cost, with Canton paying the remaining tab.

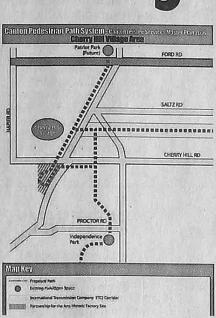
Trustee Steven Sneideman is among those who said Canton should invest money to connect pedestrian pathways and trails where possible.

"There are safety issues in a lot of places in our community," he said. Treasurer Dian Slavens agreed and

said, "We want a walkable, safe community.

Trustee Anne Marie Graham-Hudak supported the measure, but she was among those who said Canton needs to better prioritize which areas of the

See PATHWAY, Page A2



CANTON TOWNSHIP A new plan to install a pathway in Cherry Hill Village is part of a broader plan to connect Canton's system of trails and pathways.

Williams elected to serve on SEMCOG committees

Canton Supervisor Pat Williams was elected to serve on both the Regional Clearinghouse Review Committee and Transportation Coordinating Council

for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments at its annual meeting last month. "I am very pleased

and honored to have the opportunity to represent Canton on these two very important committees,"



Williams

Williams said. "My par-ticipation on these committees should help to guide projects and funding for our region's needs." The RC2 oversees applications for

federal and state assistance in southeast Michigan. The applications are reviewed for consistency with adopted regional plans and policies. RC2 also selects projects to be funded annually by the Transportation Alternatives Program - approximately \$5 million per year.

The TCC works to develop and im-

See WILLIAMS, Page A2



Joey advances to second base with Chandan Singh.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Sikhs play ball with special-needs children at Miracle League **Darrell Clem**

hometownlife.com

They play baseball with special-needs children in Plymouth.

They feed the homeless in Detroit.

They go to Inkster to mentor youngsters living in foster homes or homeless shelters.

Across metro Detroit, a group of young Sikhs from the Plymouth-Canton area is making a tangible difference by helping others in need. They are called Seva4Ev-erybody — seva being a word that means selfless service.

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"We feel like we can help everyone in our community," said Harman Singh, the group's director of opera-

tions. "It is our responsibility as human beings. Our goal is to make a positive impact.

One recent Saturday, Seva4Everybody volunteers once again returned to the Miracle League of Plymouth to play baseball with special-needs children. It's a visit Deb Madonna, the league's president and commissioner, said makes a huge difference.

'We can't really have a game without volunteers," she said. "The kids get to go out and play baseball and the volunteers get a chance to help somebody play. It's good for them, too. I think the helpers sometimes get more out of it than the kids do.'

Singh called Seva4Everybody's work "amazing, trans-

See SIKHS, Page A6

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Obituaries. B4-6

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LOCAL NEWS

WILLIAMS

Continued from Page A1

plement the region's long-range transportation plan. This includes monitoring and implementing the plan through the Transportation Improvement Program and recommending transportation projects and amendments. This work

is enhanced by including a diverse set of stakeholders on the council, including those with expertise in local economic development, the environment, workforce development, and education. Goals are to align planning initiatives, improve project coordination, and enhance regional performance measures.

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Local mathletes win big in national contest

The Michigan All-Stars Math Team's A1 team came in 12th place out of 140 teams June 3 in the American Regions Math League team competition.

The All-Stars are recruited from the top students in the Michigan Math Prize Competition, a statewide high school contest taken by about 8,000 students, sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, Michigan Section.

The ARML contest gives students leadership and teamwork skills, in addition to honing their math and problem-solving skills.

Students compete in teams of 15. Michigan the A1 Reals, the A2 Naturals and the A3Primes. There were 74 'A' teams and 66 'B' teams.

emy East.

Students on the Miv-

PATHWAY

Continued from Page A1

community need help with sidewalks or pathways to improve public safety. She has cited areas of Michigan Avenue on Canton's southeast side as one place where safety is an issue. The latest project



Students from local schools who participated in the American Regions Math League team competition included (from left): Neel Modi, Ishaan Sabnis, Vishal Nayak, Ankan Bhattacharya and Aneesh Sabnis.

higan teams from the area included Neel Modi and Vishal Nayak of Canton High School, Aneesh Sabnis and Ishaan Sabnis of Salem High School and Ankan Bhattacharya of the International Acad-

Ankan and Neel were on the A1 Reals, Vishal and Ishaan were on the

comes as Canton continues to seek money to expand its recreation trails and pedestrian pathways. The township already has drawn accolades for nature amenities such as the Lower **Rouge River Recreation** Trail.

Canton's latest grant was among \$6.2 million in so-called TAP (Transportation Alternatives

A2 Naturals and Aneesh was on the A3 Primes. Ankan qualified for

national ranking with 9 out of 10 in the individual round

Also, for the second year in a row, Ankan will be one of six students to represent the U.S. in the International Mathematical Olympiad, which will

Program) funding for 15 projects in seven counties - projects intended to provide safer walking and bicycling paths, im-prove regional trail systems and boost pedestrian options.

Long term, Canton officials hope to secure the money needed to better connect the Lower Rouge trail system to Cherry Hill Village, pro-

be held in Brazil in mid-July.

Ankan will attend **Ohio State University** and Ishaan will attend the University of Michigan in the fall.

All students were in the top 100 of the MMPC Ankan and Neel ranked third and fourth.

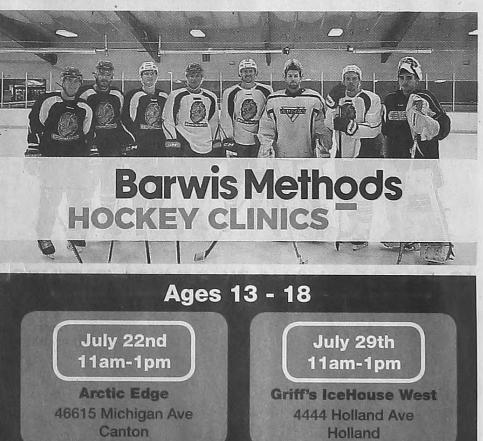
Teams come together at four sites: Penn State University, University of Iowa, University of Nevada-Las Vegas and University of Georgia. The Michigan team traveled by charter bus to the Iowa site.

There are four rounds: Team (10 questions, 20 minutes); Power (full proofs written, one hour); Individuals (10 questions; 10 minutes for each group of two questions); and Relays (five threeperson relay groups per team, answers passed back to next teammate).

viding a seamless recreation path across the community.

Canton residents have long placed recreation trails and pathways at the top of their wish list on community surveys conducted by outside consultants for Canton Leisure Services.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver





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Wayne mental health court graduates 22

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

It wasn't a traditional graduation ceremony that took place last week at Atwood Park in Wayne.

There were no mortarboards or gowns worn. But there was a sense of accomplishment among the 22 individuals, all of whom had completed or nearly completed the program in the Western Wayne County Regional Behavioral Treatment Court.

The individuals were all recommended to take part in the program, an intensive program that takes about a year to complete. The court pulls participants through recommendations in courts from communities such as Wayne, Westland, Livonia, Redford, Plymouth, Canton and Northville, among others. It's designed for offenders charged in non-violent crimes with serious mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and/or co-occurring disorders.

One such graduate was Emmanuel Dunham, a Westland man who got into some trouble using alcohol. He said the past year has been challenging, but he's come out a better man because of it.

"It's a positive program. You've got the support, the tools you need if you're really trying to change," he said. "That's how I looked at it and I took advantage of the tools.

The 22 graduates, the largest such class since the program started in



Mark Jaros tells his story. Judge Laura Mack listens.



BILL BRESLER HOMETOWNLIFE.COM Emmanuel Dunham tells his story.

2013, each received a certificate, a gift card and positive words from 29th District Judge Laura Mack as each stepped up to be recognized.

Mack said the purpose of holding such a public event is a way to showcase the hard work the participants put into turning their lives around

"I did come to the

conclusion that a graduation is a wonderful way to publicly congratulate our participants for their hard work," she said. "It's not easy to get through this program. It's rigorous, it's demanding. Not everybody can do it."

Another one of those graduates was Westland resident Mark Jaros. He said it took a while for him to buy into what the court was offering him, but said he's glad he final-

ly was all in. He said he was placed on a tether for what was supposed to be 60 days. When those 60 days came and went, with the tether still on, he said he was ready to move forward so he could be free of the tether.

"That bothered me," Jaros said. "I stopped fighting and decided to go with, do the best I could."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com 734-678-6728 Twitter: @DavidVeselenak





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Year's mid-point a good time to assess your financial picture

t's hard to believe that we're already halfway through 2017. It seems the older I get, the faster time goes by. Before you know it, kids will be going back to school and the days will be getting shorter.



review your estate planning documents to make

cations and make sure your portfolio continues to match your goals and objectives. Don't focus on what is currently happening in the market, but focus on your individual goals and objectives. Don't be afraid to sell

When I was a kid, it used to be that things slowed down in the summer but that is no longer the reality. We live in a 24/7 world where the pace of change never seems to slow down. That being said, it is important that we all find time to deal with our personal finances. All too often, because it seems that most of us are constantly putting out fires, our personal finances take a back seat. The problem is, when you put off addressing your personal finances, all you're doing is kicking the can down the road. It doesn't solve the issue; in fact, it just makes resolving the issue more difficult and complex. It is important to find time to look at your personal finances and it can't be just once a year. This is an excellent time to do that because, if nothing more, over the next few weeks, you will be receiving financial statements from all your investments.

When I talk about personal financial planning, it is more than looking at your investments. It is looking at your entire financial picture. As far as I'm concerned, when you talk about personal finance, the areas that you need to consider are estate planning, taxes, risk management, investing and debt. You need to look at all these areas on a regular basis to make sure that your affairs are current. From an estate planning standpoint, it is important that at least once a year you

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sure they are current and reflect your current thoughts. In addition, you need to check your beneficiary designations and how your accounts are titled. Family dynamics and situations constantly change and that's why it's important to periodically review your estate planning situation to make sure it's current.

From a tax standpoint, let's never forget your goal is not to lower your taxes, but to have more money in your pocket. If you haven't started a 2017 tax file, you need to do so. In addition, you don't have to wait until the end of the year to do 2017 IRA contributions. The sooner you make it, the longer your money can grow on a tax-efficient basis.

From a standpoint of risk management, when is the last time you had your automobile and homeowner's policy looked at? If it's been a while since you've had your policy shopped around, there is no time like the present to do so.

As you look at the area of risk management, don't forget to look at your life insurance policies. My philosophy has always been, if you don't need it, why pay for it? Just because you've had a policy for a number of years doesn't mean you should keep it. The insurance companies may want you to keep it, but that doesn't mean it works for you.

From an investment standpoint, this is a great time to look at your allo-

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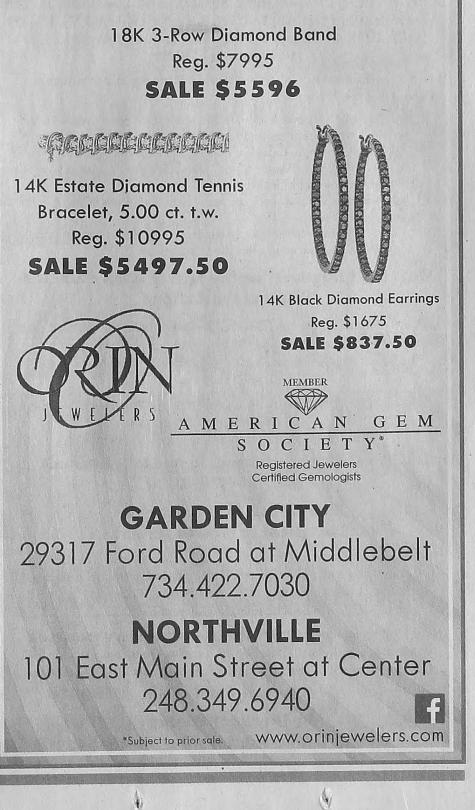
investments that are either under-performing or no longer match your goals and objectives.

Lastly, we all need to look at our debt situation to make sure that we are being as efficient as possible. It's important when you look at your debt situation to recognize that not all debt is the same. Not only is the interest charged dramatically different between different types of debt, but also the tax conse-quences. Obviously, when you have outstanding debt, the goal is to pay the least amount of interest possible and to make as much of it taxdeductible as you can.

It seems that everything in our society changes at a lightning-fast pace. It is easy to put issues that don't require your immediate attention, such as personal finance, on the back burner. The problem is, if you don't allocate time to your personal finances, over a short period of time they will be totally out of whack and will cause you all sorts of aggravation. Therefore, to make sure that your personal finances are always in order, you do need to spend time with them. As far as I'm concerned, there's no time like the present. Good luck!

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

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Attention Back Pain and Sciatica Sufferers!



Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop Reveals How to Naturally Heal Back Pain and Sciatica For Good.

Do you suffer with back pain or leg pain when you stand or walk?

Do you have pain when you sit for long periods or drive?

Do you experience pain, numbness or tingling into your butt, groin or down your leg?

Does your back ever "go out" if you move the wrong way?

Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don't do anything about it?

If you have answered YES to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse who is in denial) - the Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop may be a life changing event for you...

Testimonial: Debra Says: I was in tremendous pain in my back until I came to Mehul for treatment, I was having hard time getting in and out of car, wake up with pain and stiffness, and cannot walk longer. Everything seems to be getting back to normal after treatment, I started feeling whole again and I'm grateful for this place.

Hello,

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Back pain and sciatica can completely ruin your life... I've seen it many times.

- ✓ It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store (how embarrassing)...
- It can take your focus away from enjoying your life...like spending time with your children or grandchildren...
- It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don't want to do... 1
- It can ruin your travel plans...
- And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others... or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.

And less movement and enjoying of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much) which leads to bigger health problems...and life problems.

We are Sciatica and Lower Back Specialists at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY, we've helped 100's of people from right here in Livonia, MI...and the rest of Wayne County...who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica...it's our specialty.

So by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain

Fox Hills to host American FootGolf regional qualifier

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth will host a golf tournament of a different sort Sunday, July 9: the American FootGolf League Midwest regional qualifier.

FootGolf, a hybrid mix of golf and soccer, is played by the same rules as golf, but players use their feet and a soccer ball, instead of clubs and golf balls, to drive and putt their way through a course of shortened holes and larger 21-inch cups. The Midwest qualifier at Fox Hills will give local players a chance to earn a berth into the U.S. Foot-Golf National Championship at Dessert Willow Golf Resort in California this November.

The sport is taking off around the world, with more than 10,000 players from 30 countries participating in 230 Federation

for International Foot-Golf World Tour competitions this year, plus more than 60 qualifying American tournaments for the U.S. FootGolf Nationals. Fox Hills was the first

course in Michigan to introduce FootGolf to the greens in 2014. Since that launch, the sport has drawn players of all ages to the course.

"The game has skyrocketed here and around the world, too," said Julia Grelak, director of sales and marketing at Fox Hills. "It definitely takes some fancy footwork, skill and strategy to com-pete at the sport's highest levels. FootGolf is a great golf alternative for individuals, families and corporate outings, because you don't have to be an avid golfer and you don't have to purchase traditional golf equipment. It's also a wonder-

ful way to get some exercise and have fun on a beautiful course.'

The AFGL Midwest qualifier is open to AFGL members and non-members in four categories: junior (ages 12-17), men (ages 18-45), women (ages 18-45) and senior (ages 46 and up). The cost for registration is \$30 per player for AFGL ,embers and \$35 per player for non-members. Tee times will start at 11 a.m. and the top 30 percent of the players in each qualifier. category at Fox Hills will earn the right to partici-pate in U.S. FootGolf National Championship 2017.

The qualifier will be held on the Strategic Fox course at Fox Hills, 8768 N. Territorial Road. For more information and to register, go to http://www. footgolf.us/calendar or www.FoxHills.com.

WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@ hometownlife.com.

Golf outing for pancreatic cancer research

The fifth annual Charles Cobb Foundation Golf Outing will be held Saturday, July 22, at the Inn at St. John's in Ply-mouth. All proceeds will be donated to the pancreatic cancer research team at Karmanos Can-

cer Institute Registration and continental breakfast will

begin at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$100 per person, which includes breakfast, scramble golf, BBQ buffet lunch and awards. The event will also include gaming holes, a 50/50 raffle and 20 themed raffle baskets.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to register for the golf outing, contact Denise Cobb at 734-673-9428 or denise@charlescobbfoundation.org. To register or donate online, go to www.charlescobbfounda-tion.org. Registration deadline is July 15.

Canton library's front porch Lemonade on the front

community that you may not already know, in addi-tion to reconnecting with old friends. At the table outside, there's even a jar of conversation starter suggestions to help you out.

and connect with your neighbors.

Dates: 6-7 p.m. July 6; 1-2 p.m. July 10; 4-5 p.m. July 13; 1-2 p.m. July 24; 7-8 p.m. July 27; and 10-11 a.m. July 31.

Any questions about Canton's Front Porch can be directed to Laura Fawcett, program librarian, at fawcettl@cantonpl.org or 734-397-0999. ext. 1079.

Thursday concerts at **Canton's Heritage** Park

encouraged to bring blankets or folding chairs for optimal enjoyment on the amphitheater lawn. Participants are also encouraged to take part in weekly theme nights, raffles and kids activities. In addition, summertime food items will be available for purchase on-site from Cruisin' Custom Coneys and Good Humor Ice Cream. Canton Leisure Services will be collecting donation items for Operation Care Package, a Michigan nonprofit group that distributes items to U.S. troops, during concerts in July.

The schedule includes: July 6: Magic Bus - Music from the late '60s that will take you on a psychedelic musical journey to Woodstock and back; July 13: Crossroads - A family band playing contemporary hits, Motown, jazz, funk and more; July 20: Saints of Soul - Featuring a repertoire of vintage soul music with infectious grooves and explosive power; July 27: Together Band - Enjoy high-energy hits in a wide range of classic rock, funk and "feel good" music; Aug. 3: Timbre of Cedar – A play list of the greatest '90s covers that showcase the talents of these band members; and Aug. 10: First Call - Enjoy electrifying pop hits from yesterday and to-

LOCAL NEWS



Throughout the month of July, the Canton Public Library

invites to stop by its front porch, relax, sip some lemonade

Workshop here at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY ON 15TH JULY 2017 at 32858 5 mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154 at 10:30am - 11:30am.

If you're confused about what to do and looking for answers, here's some of what you'll learn:

- The Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which
 actually stops them from healing...
- The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica...
- A Sure-Fire Way to Pick the Right Treatment for the Cause of Your Pain (and save you a ton of time and money)
- How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in 1 your leg...
- What successful treatment and permanent relief looks like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and **Sciatica Workshop?**

Call our office to register at 734-525-3000 talk to Jessica or Nancy and reserve your spot today!!!!When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet which you will bring with you to the event.

We only have 15 seats available for the event ... and this will be going out in our Newsletter and Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Ally-Physical-Therapy).

So if you would like to attend, be sure to register now ... Call 734-525-3000.

How Much Is It to Attend? The Event is Free to attend.

As a Special Bonus...the first 10 people to call, register and attend for the event will receive 15 min one on one time to discuss with Physical Therapist regarding their low Back Pain (to be scheduled on different day).

All 15 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report: "The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica". Looking forward to seeing you there on 15th July 2017 at 10:30am.

Mehul Vaidya, PT /Founder.

Ally Physical Therapy, 32858 5 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154.

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porch, friends next to you in rocking chairs, perfect weather ... sounds good, doesn't it? That's what's happening at the Canton Public Library this summer on Canton's Front Porch.

Throughout the month of July, you're invited to stop by our front porch, relax, sip some lemonade and connect with your neighbors.

As part of the library's mission to Connect Your Community, Canton's Front Porch provides the opportunity to get to know members of your

"Where we walk by Faith

and tell the Truth!"

Services are inside the

Holiday Inn Express

Sunday School 10:00 AM

Morning Service 11:30 AM

Prayer Service

Continuing a more than 20-year tradition, the Thursday Night Concert Series will fill Canton's Heritage Park with a wide variety of musical entertainment and plenty of family fun during these free weekly concerts, .sponsored by Canton Community Financial.

Concerts will be held 7:30-9 p.m. each Thursday through Aug. 10 in Heritage Park, adjacent to the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Audience members are



Wednesday 6:30-7:00 PM Wednesday 7:00-8:30 PM

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NOTICE **CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN** 2017 SUMMER TAXES

Summer taxes are due July 1, 2017 and payable through August 10, 2017 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAY ABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Cash, Checks and Credit Cards (a convenience fee applies) are accepted for payment during business hours. After hours, payments (checks only) can be placed in the DROP BOX located in the Church Street lobby of City Hall or use the DROP BOX located next to the book return behind the Library. Additional payment options are on the City website@ ci.plymouth.mi.us.

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Teresa Cischke, MiCPT/CPFA **City Treasurer**

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Publish: July 2 and July 6

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day All concerts are weather dependent. To receive text weather updates, join our free RainedOut service by texting "cantonconcerts" to 84483. For additional information about this concert series, call 734-394-5460 or go to www.cantonfun.org.

hometownlife.com

LOCAL NEWS

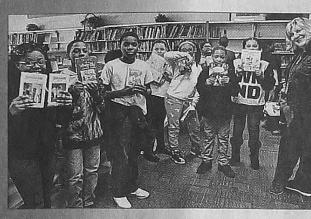
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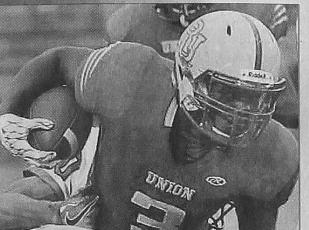




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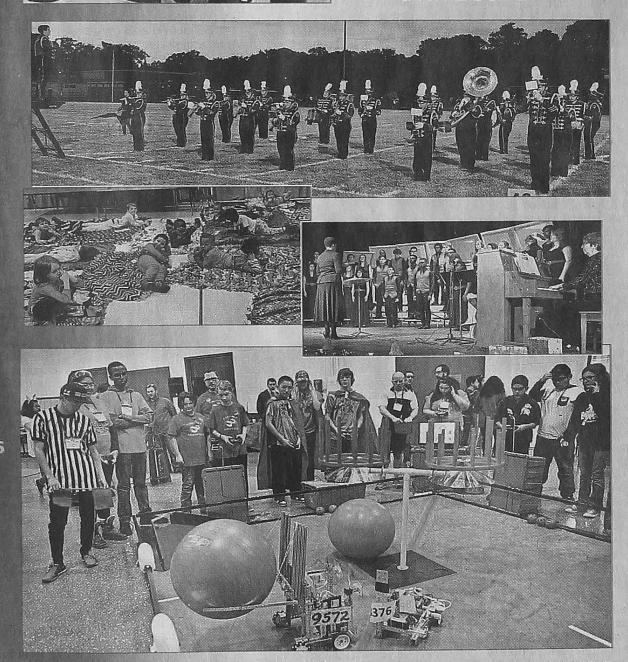
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Brighton man walks away with top prize at Big Brew Day finale in Milford

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

It was just going to be another night June 28 at River's Edge Brewing Co. for patrons Jackie Pyles, her father Bob Pyles and her fiance Ethan Krenning.

That was until they were offered several samples of home-brewed beer, brewed by participants during Big Brew Day back in May.

The first sample they tried was a black IPA. Jackie Pyles, who just bought a house in Milford with her fiance, said it tasted pretty good.

"It was, like, citrusy, fruity," she said.

That night was the culmination of Big Brew Day, where patrons at the brewery, 125 S. Main St., in Milford, got a taste of the brewers' works. Fifteen beers were sampled by the crowd, which included a brew created by editorial members from hometownlife.com and and coach Jeff Rankert, a cream ale with a coffee infusion

Judging had taken place several days before by celebrity judges, including Rex Halfpenny from the Michigan Beer Guide and Bill Wamby, a brewer at River's Edge. Winners were announced June 28, with Brighton resident Gregg Gustafson taking the top prize for his saison.

He said he didn't have to look far to find a recipe: Gustafson said he decided to make the brew recommended by the American Homebrewers Association for the event.

With some inspiration from

SIKHS

Continued from Page A1

formative." Since the group

more than 100 volunteers

formed in March of last year,

high school students, college

students and recent college

graduates — have volunteered their time. "It's something from your own heart and it changes your personal perspective of world," Singh said. The volunteers mostly come from the Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib of Plymouth, dubbed Hidden Falls, and the Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha of Michigan in Canton. Seva4Everybody has partnered with the United Way. Salvation Army, Miracle League, Covenant House and Starfish Family Services, among other organizations. Aside from helping people, the work also gives the group a way to build bridges in the community and help others better understand their culture. They often get questions about the turbans Sikh men wear as a humble, religious expression. Sikh volunteers are hopeful their efforts will lead to good relations in the community. Singh said Sikhs in America have often been victims of harassment, hate crimes and school bullying. He said one study conducted by the Sikh Coalition found that turbaned Sikh children experience bullying at more than double the national rate. "By proudly serving our community," Singh said, "we hope to disassemble the differences that separate us." The special-needs baseball field in Plymouth seems the perfect place to do it. It's a place where getting a hit and making it to base is more important than focusing on differences. It's volunteerism that makes a difference. Just ask Madonna

South Lyon home brewing supplies store Scrooge and Barley, he picked up some different ingredients to brew the tasty drink.

"I actually made the beer that they inspired us to make," said Gustafson, who started homebrewing back in 2014. "What was different was, I used Scrooge and Barley for my supplies. "And they recommended an

Omega yeast I've never used before.

Drink local

Big Brew Day is held the first Saturday in May each year and celebrates home brewing, a hobby that has taken off in the United States. The American Homebrewers Association estimates about 1.2 million people in the U.S. home brew, producing more than two million barrels of beer each year. That accounts for about 1 percent of all beer made in the U.S

Gustafson's prize was one all local beer enthusiasts would clamor for: a mug club membership or renewal at four area breweries - River's Edge Brewing Co., Kickstand Brewing Co. in Commerce Township, Drafting Table Brewing Co. in Wixom and Draught Horse Brewery in Lyon Township

He admitted two of those awards will go to renew an already-existing membership at a brewery

"I think it's important for home brewers to support the local breweries that we have here," he said. "And the way to support them is through their

mug club programs, so that you can invest in them so they can invest in you.'

cream ale, was the product of the team's effort.

BILL BRESLER |

Chloe Pettit plays catch

with

buddies

Singh and

b

Tushar

Andrew

Packard.

HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

In addition to the judged beers, everyone in the brewery that night had the option to vote for their favorite brew. That distinction went to Ferndale resident Bob Hart, whose American porter proved to be

the crowd-pleaser.

"It doesn't suck," says Jeff Rankert, brewing coach for hometownlife's team. Newshound Ale, a coffee-infused

He said he originally used a peanut butter toast malt in his brew, though it turned out to create a different ale than expected.

"I put a bunch of it in ... but the peanut butter didn't come through," he said. "So it made it like an American porter."

has for anyone looking to begin home brewing is simple: educate yourself on the techniques and ingredients. "Do your research," he said.

He said the best advice he

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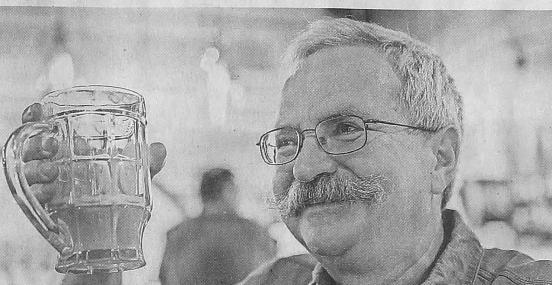
Canton Cornshuckers to host vintage baseball games

Area residents are invited to step back in time and experience a series of Civil War-era base ball games featuring the Canton Cornshuckers. They will take on several metro Detroit challengers in the base ball style of the 1860s, which at comparison to modern baseballs, which have a circumference of 9.25 inches and weigh in at 5.25 ounces.

The pitcher will deliver the ball with an underhand pitching style to the batter's request, in an effort to ensure

Emcee Isaac Perry pours samples of the competing brews.

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COMMUNITY LIFE



"We couldn't do anything without our volunteers," she said.

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dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919





Jaspreet Singh offers batting advice to Carlos Teran.

the time was considered a gentlemen's game of friendly competition.

The Canton Cornshuckers will host home games at 2 p.m. several different Sundays at 2 p.m. in Canton's Heritage Park, adjacent to Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. The schedule includes: July 9 vs. Taylor Wolverines; Aug. 20 vs. Wyandotte Stars; Aug. 27 vs. Rochester Grangers; and Sept. 10 vs. Plymouth Red Rovers.

The players, also known as "ballists," will wear reproductions of period uniforms and recreate the game based on rules of 1867. The game will be played using original rules of base ball, which include no gloves, no bunting, no foot-first sliding or over running first base. The team to bat first will be determined by a coin flip or bat toss prior to the match. Nine full innings will be played, regardless of which team is ahead in runs. The match will use a lemon peel base ball, measuring 9.75 inches in circumference and 5.75 ounces in weight. These vintage base balls are larger in



that the player at-bat will be able to hit the ball. Modern-day balls and strikes are not called unless a pitcher/hurler fails to deliver the ball fairly. The player/ballist will then be warned by the umpire. If the batter/striker fails to swing at fair pitches, he will also be warned by the umpire. Foul balls or "foul ticks" may be caught in the air or on a single bounce for an out. Fair balls must be caught out of the air for an out. Match errors are recorded as "muffs.

In modern baseball, a ball must cross either third or first base in fair territory to be a fair ball. In 1860s rules, balls are determined fair or foul, based on where they first land. So a ball may land in fair territory first, then roll 15 feet into foul territory and still be a fair ball. All bats are hand made out of ash, maple or birch, often made by members of the team.

Catch all the 1860s action and cheer on these ballists with shouts of "striker to the line" (batter up) or "well held" (good catch) during this upcoming matches.

> CANTON CORNSHUCKERS The Canton Cornshuckers are a vintage base ball team that plays by 1860s-era rules.

Band continues Kellogg Park legacy

The Plymouth Com-munity band, formed in 1960 as a German "oompah" band, continued its legacy of summer con-certs last week by help-ing the city of Plymouth celebrate its 150th anniversary.

The band played its patriotic tunes in a pre-Fourth of July concert June 29 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, drawing its usual large and enthusiastic audience.

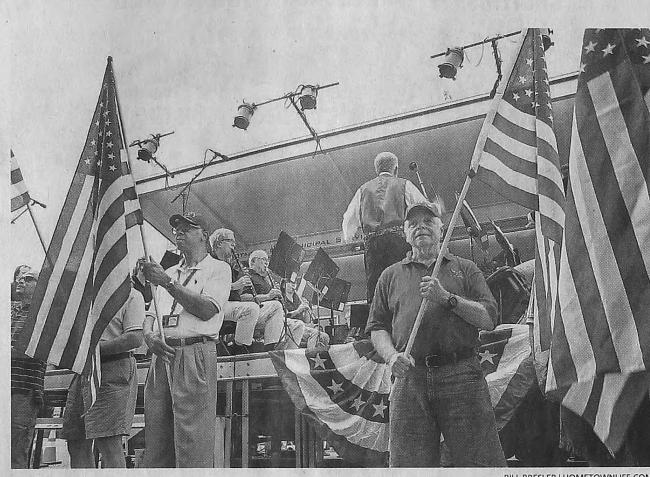
The band, under the direction of Carl Battishill, is composed of 55-75 volunteer, amateur musicians (winds and

percussion) who "enjoy coming together to make music in a 'concert band' arrangement," according to the group's website. Members come from all walks of life, have diverse backgrounds and experiences and range in age from teenagers to octogenarians.

Battishill has directed the band since 1979 and is only the third conduc-tor the PCB has ever had. Battishill is a music educator in the West Bloomfield School District and is one of several PCB members who are music educators.



BILL BRESLER HOMETOWNLIFE.COM **Carl Battishill has** conducted the band since 1979.



Veterans present flags as the band plays the first tune.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM







BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM George Harvell dances to the music of the Plymouth Community Band.



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INSIDE: PURDUE FRESHMAN ENJOYS BANNER TRACK SEASON, B3

SPORTS

SECTION B (CP) THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PRO BASEBALL

Pittsburgh pursues Manasa's potential

Farmington grad drafted to be groomed as a pitcher

Marty Budner hometownlife.com

Alex Manasa proudly repre-sented Farmington High School last June in the annual prep all-star game at Comerica Park in Detroit.

Manasa now has his sights set on some day showcasing his talents in another major league stadium. The 2016 Farmington grad hopes it's at plush PNC Park in Pittsburgh, whose hometown Pirates selected him in the 11th round of the recent Major League Base-ball entry draft. "Playing at Comerica Park

was definitely a neat experience," Manasa said. "Me and my parents (Melissa and Richard) were talking about it and saying, 'Wow, last year we're playing in the high school all-

NHL HOCKEY

star game at **Comerica** Park and now it kind of becomes the real thing that we're playing on pro fields every

Manasa

day.' "I was in Pittsburgh when I was little, but do not remember it and now everything there is new to me. They took me downtown and it's a beauti-ful city," he added. "I was tak-ing it all in and (PNC Park) is a beautiful place with the river and the city in the background. It's a cool stadium in the down-town area and it has a very cool vibe to it."

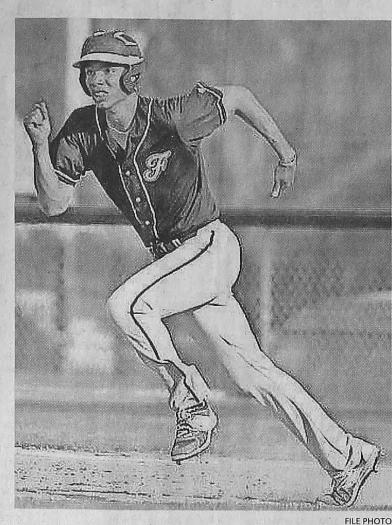
Pitching his talent

Manasa, 19, is currently playing for the Bristol Pirates, Pittsburgh's Virginia-based advanced rookie squad, which plays in the 10-team Appalachian League.

The Pirates were attracted to the lanky 6-foot-5 righthander's pitching potential, even though he wasn't a fulltime hurler at either the high school or college level. The converted outfielder tossed his first game June 19 at DeVault Memorial Stadium in Bristol against the Greenville Astros and allowed a pair of earned

runs in two innings of work. "(The Pirates) liked my height. They liked my athletic ability and the fact that I am very projectable," said Mana-sa, who also played high school basketball. "They are not going to rush me into anything. They want me to take my time and just see where it takes me. 'They see me getting a lot

See MANASA, Page B2



Fleet-footed Alex Manasa was a two-time all-state standout who played four years of varsity baseball at Farmington High School under head coach Pete Finn.



Intensity helped Zebras' Battle earn her stripes

TRACK AND FIELD

Wayne Memorial state champion credits summer track club for her growth

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.com

Anavia Battle missed the Intensity Track Club practice June 22 because she was on a campus visit to Onio State University, where she wants to become a Division I athlete. Although she was in Columbus, Ohio, the recent Wayne Memorial graduate's thoughts remained with her summer team, now gearing up for the AAU regional qualifier June 29 through July 2 at Detroit Ren-aissance High School. Now in her fourth year with the club team, coached by Jamal Johnson (who coaches the Wayne boys track and field team), Battle wrote an email to the Observer about how much she has gained from that experience. "Intensity has helped me mature into a strong, secure young lady," Battle wrote. "Running for this team has given me confidence on and off the track." Battle closed her outstanding high school career June 3, winning the 100-yard dash with a time of 11.95 seconds at East Kentwood High School. She



TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-926-2237

Novi resident Jack Studnicka was taken in the second round of the NHL Entry Draft by the Boston Bruins.

See BATTLE, Page B2

Bruins make Studnicka high draft priority

Novi resident played in the U18 World Championships for Team Canada

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Playing in the National Hockey League one day is the ultimate goal for Jack Studnicka

And the Novi resident got a little closer to that dream June 24 when he was selected in the second round of the NHL Entry Draft (53rd over-all) by the Boston Bruins.

The 6-foot, 171-pound Studnicka, who finished with 18

goals and 34 assists in 64 regular season games for the Ontario Hockey League's Ottawa Generals, drew attention from NHL scouts with his standout play as a two-way

center "I'd be honored to play anywhere in the NHL, but I think Boston is a great city and has great fans," the Ontario native said. "It's a tremendous organization that I'd love to play with. And to play alongside Torey (Krug) would

be pretty cool."

Krug, a Livonia native and former Michigan State standout, just completed his fourth full season with the Bruins. The defenseman has logged a total of 322 games and played in the Stanley Cup Finals his first season.

Torey's father Kyle coached Studnicka during his 2014-15 midget season with Belle Tire's U16 team, scoring 31 goals and adding 58 assists in 71 games.

And it was there where Krug made quite an impact on Studnicka.

Kyle really developed my defensive game," Studnicka

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said. "He was kind of telling me, 'I won't tell you how to play offense because it will take care of itself,' but as long as I'm taking pride in the defensive zone, that the offense will come. He really got it through my head that the defensive zone is important.'

OSHAWA GENERALS

After his season with Belle Tire, Studnicka was selected by the Generals in April 2015 during the first round (21st overall) of the OHL draft.

"A lot of times you're set on college and a lot of times you're set on the OHL, but I'm fortunate enough that Oshawa

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See STUDNICKA, Page B2



MICHAEL VASILNEK Wayne Memorial's Anavia Battle credits Intensity Track Club for helping her become a state champion sprinter.

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LOCAL SPORTS

NHL HOCKEY

Dallas Stars select Northville's Robertson in second round

Left winger taken 39th overall in NHL Entry Draft

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Northville's Jason Robertson didn't have to wait long to have his name called the second day of the National Hockey League Entry Draft.

The 6-foot-2, 196pound left winger from the Kingston Frontenacs did not make the podium the first day June 23 at the United Center in Chicago, but he was taken in the second round (39th overall) June 24 by the Dallas Stars.

"I was pretty excited," Robertson said. "I know they're a team that I can really fit in. I know it's a great city and a great

MANASA

Continued from Page B1

bigger and stronger and seeing my velocity go up. They just want to see me become a better pitcher, since I haven't been doing this too long. I've always been a two-way player, so they just want to see me develop as a pitcher.

"It didn't surprise me that they wanted me as a pitcher," he added. "I had a lot of scouts coming out to see me pitch off the mound and they were very interested in my arm.'

Although he's being groomed as a pitcher, Manasa relishes the thought of playing for the National League-based squad, where he would be allowed to display his offensive skills since there is no designated hitter.

"It's definitely going to be different not playing in the outfield every day," he said. "But I'm excited for the opportunity to be a pitcher and I'm focusing on that. It's another exciting thing that at least I'll get to bat.'

Learning in Farmington

Manasa, who grew up



Northville's Jason Robertson was taken in the second round (39th overall) by the NHL Dallas Stars.

high school all-star who twice made all-state and earned first team all-Observer honors.

Called up to varsity midway through his freshman year, the fleetfooted Manasa — who bats left-handed and throws right-handed quickly became a standout for head coach Pete Finn's Falcons.

As a junior, Manasa hit .398, clubbed three home runs and scored 39 runs. Farmington's leadoff batter was named second team Division 1 all-state that year.

In his final varsity season, Manasa hit .391 with five home runs and 28 RBIs. He also scored 56 runs and stole 20 bases en route to Division 1 first team all-state recognition and an East-West all-star appearance.

In the all-star game, which was his first time playing at Comerica Park, Manasa was one of the only players on either roster to go all nine innings. He was the lone East player with two hits and he also had four put-outs in the outfield.

Manasa had committed to play college baseball at Oakland University. However, he never made it to the Golden Grizzlies program and instead, as fate would have it, wound up at

JUCO, which gave me a few more options," Ma-nasa said. "It worked out for the better. It was like a blessing in disguise because I was able to get drafted this year.

'If I would have went to a Division I program, I would have had to wait three years to get drafted after my junior year," he added. "So all these other options became available because I went JUCO. It just worked out that way; it wasn't really in my plans. It worked out for the better."

Jackson helps pave way

Manasa led Jackson CC with a .410 batting average, including three triples and three home runs. In his first college season, he finished with 55 RBIs and 25 stolen bases.

Manasa also made 16 appearances on the mound, with five saves and a 1.27 earned-run average in 211/3 innings of work. He allowed just three earned runs.

"I enjoyed Jackson a lot. It was a great program and I had a great year there," Manasa said. "I was able to hit there, too, and had a pretty good year hitting. The coaches were very nice and I loved the team.

"It was a great experi-

town. When I heard my name being called up there, I'd say it was a sigh of happiness and relief between my family. And then going up and walking up there realizing that I'm a Dallas Star is pretty special.'

Robertson's stock climbed during his second Ontario Hockey League campaign as he scored 42 goals and to go along with 39 assists in 68 regular season games before adding five goals and 13 assists in 11 playoff games.

'I was more anxious," Robertson said of the two-day draft process. "You want to hear your name get called up there. Finally, when you are called, it's a just a sigh of relief. You're no longer anxious and you can just enjoy where you go in the process."

Robertson said he was not shocked he was taken by the Stars, although "they kept it pretty quiet on me.'

"I had already met them at the (NHL) Combine," Robertson said. "They obviously knew who I was and wanted me, so I guess they picked me up and now I'm there."

Robertson, who returned to his family's second home in Sierra Madre, Calif., to continue to train, will attend a Dallas development precamp next week, where he'll meet and greet Stars front office and coaching personnel along with other prospects.

Robertson's summer will be filled with plenty of hockey.

He'll be among 42 invitees July 29 through Aug. 25 for USA Hockey's World Junior Summer Showcase at Plymouth. He will also take part in a prospects tournament in Traverse City before reporting to a preseason training camp in September with the Stars

Dallas, which did not make the Stanley Cup playoffs, made a coaching change after the season. Ken Hitchcock returns to the Stars for his second stint behind the bench, replacing Lindy Ruff.

'I know they're a good team," Robertson said. "I've heard they've gone with a new head coach, so they're making a lot of changes there and (I'm) very excited for it."

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words.

"It's very neat to be playing for the Pirates organization," he added. "I could imagine getting there, but this whole concept is new to me. I'm just taking it all in right now and it's a great opportunity.

It didn't take him long to say good-bye to Kenosha and hello to Bristol, which is just starting its season.

And it's safe to say Manasa is looking forward to climbing his way to the major leagues and someday running the bases as a professional like he did at Shiawassee Park as a Little Leaguer, like at Farmington as a prep standout and at Comerica as a high school all-star.

"I just have to continue to work hard, be myself and compete and keep working at my craft," Manasa said. "This is my job now and I have to work hard to achieve my dreams.

(Getting drafted) was definitely a dream come true for me. It's something I've been working towards my whole life, since my T-ball days. It's been the thing I wanted to do and now it's become a reality and that's excit-

"The goal is to be playfully, in a couple of years," he added. "I'm excited for the opportunity."



Farmington graduate Alex Manasa excelled offensively, but was recently drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates for his pitching ability.

position in order for me to get seen by all the scouts and I appreciate them for that."

After the Jackson CC season concluded, Manasa went to play for the Kenosha Kingfish of the Northwoods League (a summer baseball program for elite college players). It was there in Wisconsin, at his host family's house, that Manasa learned he was the 13th player and sixth pitcher taken by the Pirates.

MARTY BUDNER

"T'm very excited. It was crazy," Manasa said. "I thought I would have fallen a couple rounds later, but I kind of expected it to be that day

playing Little League baseball in Farmington and travel ball with the Michigan Bulls, was a

Jackson Community College.

"A couple things changed. I decided to go

ence overall and I was glad I went there," he added. "The coaches there put me in a great But hearing my name called that early was definitely exciting and I'm still at a loss for

STUDNICKA

Continued from Page B1

organization took me and they made the decision easy at the end of the day," Studnicka said.

In his first OHL season with the Generals, Studnicka posted modest offensive numbers with four goals and 22 assists in 62 games before blossoming during his second OHL campaign.

"As a team, we had a successful season," Studnicka said. "I think we did a lot more than people had expected us to, which was huge. And with team success is going to come individual success, so as long as the team was doing good, I knew it was good things for me."

And that good thing

Studnicka

was hearing his name called at the United Center the second day of the NHL draft.

"On the personal side, being in my second sea-son in the OHL, I was able to contribute and relied on consistently by

the coaches," Studnicka said. "And, obviously, it paid off with Boston picking me in the draft this year.'

After scoring five goals and adding 12 assists in 11 OHL playoff games, Studnicka flew to Slovakia to join Team Canada for its final three games in the U18 World Championships, scoring three goals.

'It was a unique experience," Studnicka said. "They were already two games into the tournament when I had flown over, but all my teammates and coaches and hockey Canada management were very welcoming. For them to have the trust to bring me over mid-term, it gave me confidence, which I think played a huge part in me being able to contribute offensively to be there. I

think with the confidence I had coming off the playoffs and being trusted to be brought in midterm really helped.'

Like his older brother Sam, who enjoyed OHL stints with both Ottawa and Sarnia, Jack Studnicka had an allegiance growing up to one NHL team.

"I just kind of stayed with what my older brother did," he said. "The Maple Leafs, Toronto, were his favorite team, so I guess you could say they were mine, too,

Studnicka tries to emulate a number of different NHL players, but two stand out.

"I like to take different pieces from a lot of two-way centers in the game," he said. "Offensively, Jonathan Toews (Chicago Blackhawks) is fun to watch and learn from him. And Tyler Bozak on Toronto, because of the way he takes pride in the defensive zone and still be an offensive player, is something I strive to do as well.

Taking online classes for his final semester. Studnicka was able to graduate from Northville High School after moving to Novi in 2013, when his father Todd took a job

with DTE Energy. "It wasn't really hockey-related," said Studnicka, who was born in Tecumseh, Ontario. "I wanted to be with my dad during the OHL draft and everything. Obviously, it worked out well. Compuware and Belle Tire took me for two years and developed me great, so

Studnicka was scheduled to report to the Bruins' development camp July 5 in Boston. He will also play for the Bruins this summer in a rookie showcase tournament.

"After that, just getting stronger and skating a lot and preparing for my season with Oshawa for a week (Aug. 21-25),' Studnicka said.

The Bruins draftee does admit to having one hobby during the offseason.

"I'm a big golfer in the summer," he said. "Me, my dad and my brother like to get out and play a lot. But (hockey is) kind of a strict schedule, I say. I wouldn't say I don't do any other things, but I primarily focus on training and hockey."

Spoken like a true two-way center.

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BATTLE

Continued from Page B1

nearly was a doublewinner, finishing second in the 200 dash (24.27).

11

Although Battle's all-state talent is undeniable, she continues to give props to Johnson and Intensity Track Club for her track and field prominence.

That's because she didn't become serious

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about the sport until she met Johnson and assistant coach Jana Hughes in summer 2014, shortly after Battle's freshman year

"The workouts were hard and very demanding for me because it was my first time running really," Battle said. "Not only were the workouts hard on me, but the coach, Jamal Johnson, was hard on me.

"I believe that he was hard on me because he

saw my potential and he knew what I was capable of. I came into the program running slow times and, at the end, I was the top of my age group."

Always striving

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Battle, with nurturing and encouragement from Johnson, kept paring seconds off her times. With each step in her development, she wanted to do more and achieve greater success. "Having a coach that

has faith in you and takes the time to make you great is something that every athlete needs," Battle said.

Another key, she stated, was getting help in the personal goal-setting department from Hughes.

'She had each athlete create a goal sheet, with times they wanted to meet by the end of the season and what they'd do to get there," Battle said. "Each season we

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had new people on the team, each team was full of kids that set goals and made sure they met them before the season ended.'

Three years after joining Intensity Track Club, Battle is an accomplished athlete and person with a bright future.

"Overall, Intensity has helped me mature into a strong, secure young lady," she said. "Running for this team has given

2

me confidence on and off the track.

"My priorities were track and school; that's all that was on my mind. I worked hard in the classroom and on the track. Doing all that made me successful. I liked winning, which is what pushes me each day to strive to be great.

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hometownlife.com

LOCAL SPORTS

NHL HOCKEY

Minnesota draftee Lodnia parlays big OHL season

Novi resident youngest player taken in NHL draft

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Vanya Lodnia made the most of his second season in the Ontario Hockey League - and more.

The 5-foot-10, 176pound



from Novi not only helped the Erie Otters capture the coveted Rob-

ertson

forward

Lodnia

Cup, the OHL championship, but he was also taken in the third round of the National Hockey League Entry Draft (85th overall) by the Minnesota Wild.

Lodnia, who doesn't turn 18 until Aug. 31, was also the youngest player to go in the 2017 NHL draft.

He finished with 24 goals and 33 assists (57 points) during 66 regular season games, while also adding a pair of goals in 22 playoff games as the Otters reached Memorial Cup championship game last month before falling in a heart-breaker to the host Windsor Spitfires, 4-3

Playing more than 90



MATT MEAD PHOTOGRAPHER LLC Novi's Vanya Lodnia, a third-round pick of the NHL's Minnesota Wild, helped the Erie Otters win the OHL title and reach the Memorial Cup final.

games last season proved to be a long grind, but it paid off handsomely for Lodnia.

"I thought the year went really well for myself and the team," he said. "We had a lot of veteran guys, so every game, a guy on our team was breaking some sort of record for the franchise, so it was fun to be a part of. We had a really long season, which makes you a better player." Lodnia was a firstround pick of the Otters

after playing Minor Midget hockey locally for both Honeybaked and Erie. Belle Tire.

Lodnia also won a gold medal with USA Hockey at the 2016 Under-17 Five Nations tournaments in Plymouth and Arosa, Switzerland.

In 128 career OHL regular season games, he has accumulated 40 goals and 56 assists (96 points). He had 16 goals and 39 assists his first season in

"When you go into the playoffs the next year, you really know what to expect and what to do to take care of your body to keep playing that well,' Lodnia said. "We had a really good group of guys, so I think the season went well.

Although the ending was bittersweet, Lodnia reflected favorably upon his second season with the Otters.

"Even though we lost in the finals, I think that we played really well that game," he said. "It was a really close game. Kudos to Windsor, because they played us really hard and they were really a fast team and a good team. And even though we lost in the finals, we should still think of about how we won the OHL, which is also really good.

Lodnia will begin a busy summer schedule, when he reports July 6 to Minnesota's development

camp. "I've been to Minnesota when I was a kid a lot and so I'm really excited that Minnesota drafted me," said Lodnia, who also goes by the first name Ivan. "They're a really good team and the city is really nice."

Lodnia is also one of the 42 participants invited to USA Hockey's 2017 World Junior Summer Showcase in Plymouth. It's part of a selection process for the 2018 World Junior Championships later this year in Buffalo, N.Y.

He'll also attend a camp in Traverse City for NHL rookie teams, along with Erie's main camp, while possibly earning a look by the Wild during their preseason training camp in September.

'We had an older team last year, so we're going to lose a couple of really good players," he said of the Otters.

Lodnia tried other sports as a youth, but hockey quickly became his main interest.

"The season just ended, so I got to rest a little bit," Lodnia said. "No real hobbies, just relax and see family and friends. I've played soccer, basketball, hang out at the beach, keep myself in shape, but still have a little fun."

Lodnia moved along with his parents, both born in the Ukraine, from Los Angeles to Michigan three years ago in a hockey-related move. He completed high school online while playing for Erie.

Growing up in Cali-fornia, Lodnia didn't have a particular rooting interest for any NHL team, but he tracked one NHL player very closely.

"I just like to watch big games, but my favorite player was Pavel Datsyuk (Detroit Red Wings), just because how skilled he was in the offensive zone and how reliable he was in the defensive zone," Lodnia said.

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PREP ATHLETICS

Huron Valley A.D. makes the jump to South Lyon East letes and Michaels served coaches,' in dual role at Maureen

Milford, Lakeland high schools

> **Brad Emons** hometownlife.com

South Lyon East High School sports is turning the page and headed in a new direction following the appointment June 27 of Greg Michaels as its new athletic director.

The 45-year-old Mi-



Michaels

services for the South Lyon Community Schools, said in a press release.

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Michaels, an Okemos native, is a 15-year resident of South Lyon with two of his sons attending South Lyon High. He also has a younger son attendbeginning for their sports program.

"I have always been impressed with the operations and the support given by the community and the school district in South Lyon towards their academics and athletics, a supportive board, a supportive administration.

Michaels was the Huron Valley Schools district athletic coordinator beginning August 2015, responsible for management and oversight of both Lakeland and Mil-

'Greg is excited about becoming a Cougar, stat-08. ing that he is ready to jump in and get to work and looks forward to meeting athletes and their families, as well as East coaches," Altermatt added in the press release. "Greg has shared a desire for East athletics to 'circle the wagons' with pride, recognize and celebrate small victories on the way to larger accomplishments and focus on building 'family' among all its athletes and programs. Beginning this fall, both East and South Lyon will be joining the new nine-school Lakes Valley Conference, which will also include Milford, Lakeland, Waterford Mott, Waterford Kettering, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake West-

Lakes Activities Association dating back to 2007-

"It's in my backyard," said Michaels, who helped author and initiate the move by Huron Valley into the LVC. "And again, it's a growing com-munity, a thriving community. The future bodes well for growth and support and maintaining sports programming here. And I think I have a lot to offer in helping that South Lyon East grow into new era of athletics in the LVC." Michaels, who graduated with a B.A. degree from Albion College in 1995, also has a master's in the art of education from Marygrove College (1997), as well as an educational special degree from Oakland University (2007)

Jim Marszalek (Milford) and Brad Farquhar (Lakeland) serve as the high school athletic liaisons and building coordinators.

"There's a lot of good people there and lots of success with wins and losses, tremendous coaches, very, very loyal parents, quality sports programming," Michaels said of his 15-year run in Huron Valley. "I put my thumbprint on a lot of initiatives, whether it was facility enhancements, restructuring

chaels succeeds Adam Beutel, who resigned unexpectedly earlier this month to "pursue other opportunities," according to the district, after serving as the school's A.D. since 2007.

"The interview committee was impressed by Greg's passion and energy, vision for the East athletic programs and total commitment to developing excellence in and supporting East ath-

ing Bartlett Elementary School.

"My wife and I did some soul-searching and it was time that we took my skill set and brought it to South Lyon," Michaels said. "And we want to help with South Lyon and their new opportunity with South Lyon East in the (new) LVC (Lakes Valley Conference) and watch this community grow into a new league and a new

ford high schools, the HVS International Academy, as well as Muir, White Lake and Oak Valley middle schools.

He was also Lakeland High's A.D. from 2002-15 and worked in the Farmington Public Schools from 1995 to 2002 as a teacher, coach and athletic coordinator.

Michaels will report to new East Principal Karen Fisher, who is succeeding the retired David Phil-

ern All nine schools were previously members of the 24-school Kensington

Michaels called his move from Huron Valley to South Lyon East "bittersweet." During his two-year stint as districtwide A.D., Michaels had

procedures and practices or helping coaches grow.

"But I feel I've left Huron Valley in the good spot, both Lakeland and Milford, to also succeed and move forward in the LVC. It boils down to those relationships, so it's hard leaving so many quality people. And they stuck with you for a very long time."

bemons@hometownlife.com Twitter: @BradEmons1

COLLEGE TRACK

Purdue University freshman sprinter caps banner season

Northville grad is second team All-American

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Purdue University's Chloe Abbott capped a banner freshman season by earning second team All-America honors as a member of the outdoor 1,600-meter relay team that finished 11th at the NCAA Championships last month in Eugene, Ore.

At the Big Ten Out-door Track and Field Championships, held May 12-14 at Penn State, the Northville High grad scored nine points to help the Boilermakers earn their first team crown since 1999 by placing fifth in the 400-meter dash (53.64) and sixth in the 200 (23.20, second all time)

Abbott also teamed with Jahneya Mitchell,



BRAD EMONS **Purdue freshman Chloe** Abbott earned All-American honors in track and field.

Symone Black and Brionna Thomas in the 1,600 relay to finish the meet with a time of 3:33.13 to finish second, which time ranks third in school history.

At the NCAA East Preliminary Round qualifier, Abbott placed 16th in the 400.

Her best time this season in the 400 (52.88) is a Purdue freshman record and ranks second in school history.

She was also a member of the Big Ten indoor 1,600 relay team that set a conference record (now No. 2) and a school record with a time of 3:31.90. She also placed sixth individually in the 400 (53.50) at the Big Ten meet in Genoa, Ohio.

Abbott was a member of the Boilermakers' indoor 1,600 relay team that placed 10th in the NCAA last March in College Station, Texas, while earning second team All-America honors.

Uhlian takes eighth

University of Michigan junior pole vaulter Sarah Uhlian, a junior from Plymouth High

School, placed eighth to score a point in the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field Championships, held May 12-14 at Penn State

Uhlian cleared 3.88 meters (12 feet, 8.75 inches) for the Wolverines. who placed fifth in the team standings with 79 points

Indiana's Sydney Clute captured the event by clearing 14-6.25 As a sophomore, Uhlian posted a personal outdoor best of 12-9.5. She is a two-time academic all-Big Ten award winner.

The event also featured two other Plymouth High grads: University of Wisconsin junior Jane McCurry and Michigan State sopho-more Kayla Janevski.

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Plymouth High grad Sarah Uhlian (left) placed eighth in the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field championships in the pole vault.



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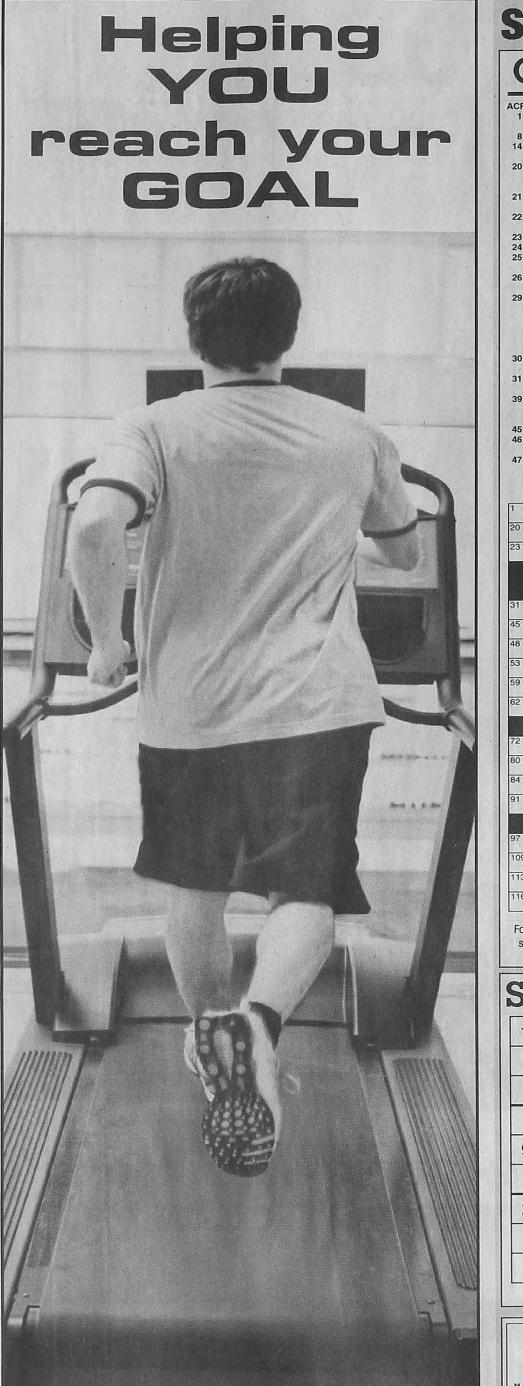
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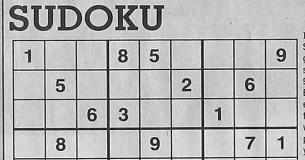
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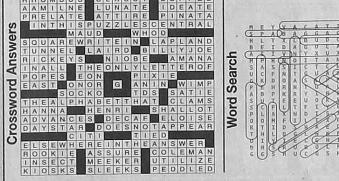
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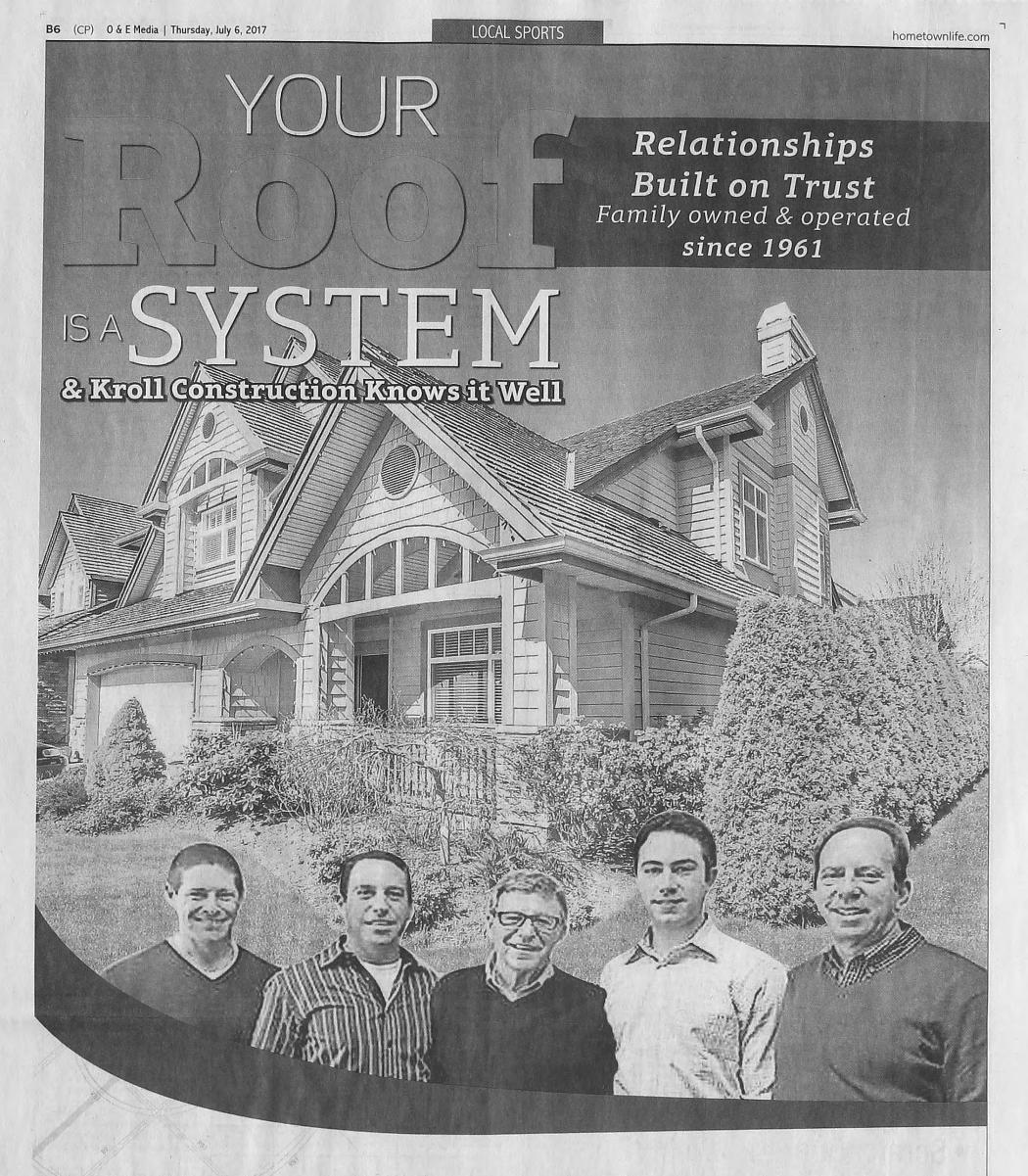


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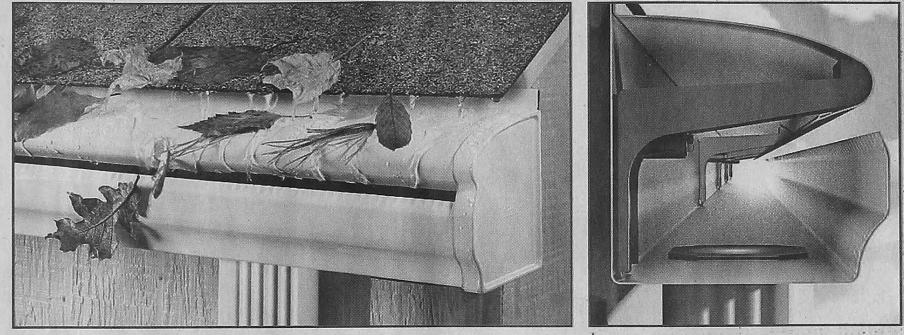
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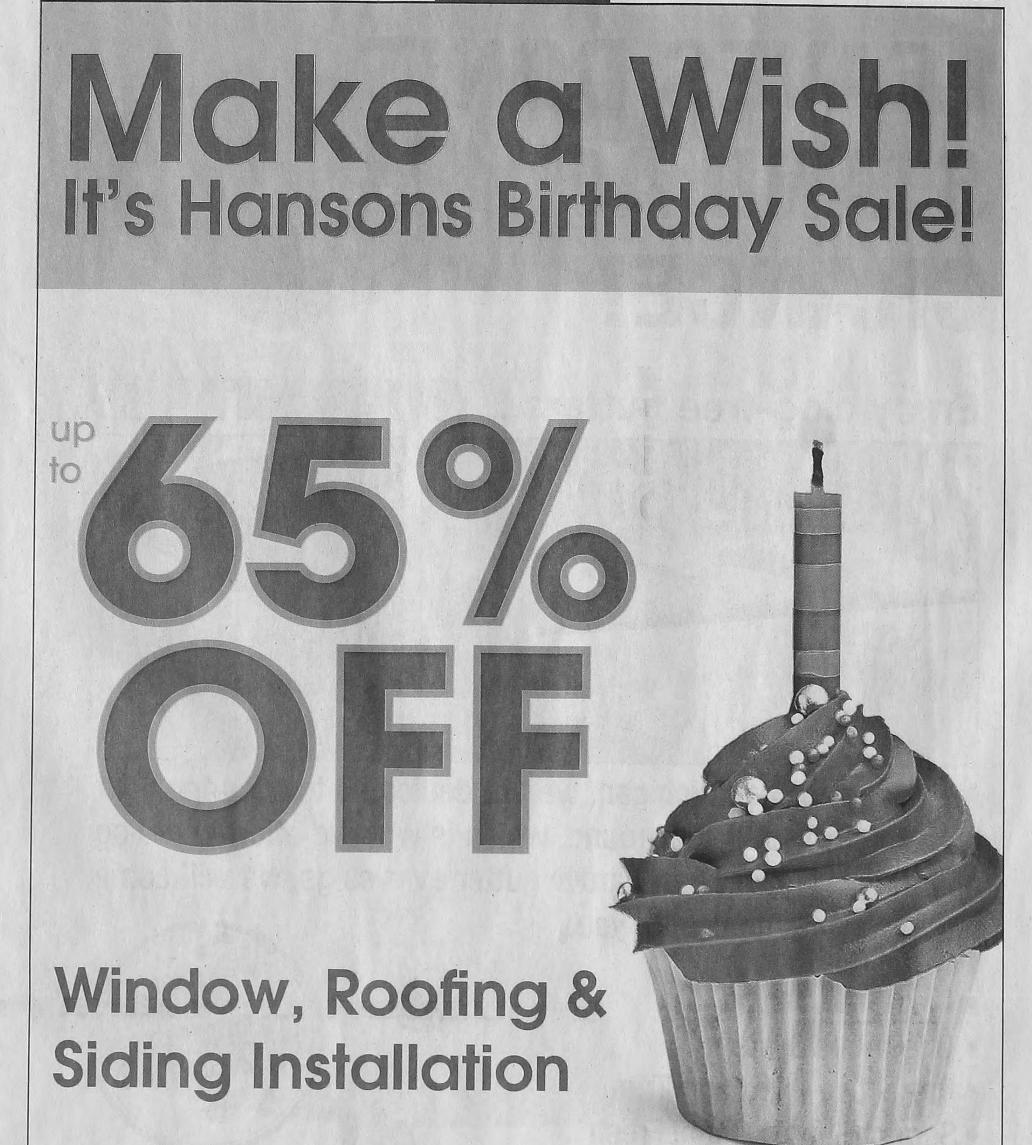
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