P-CCS STAFFER WINS EXTRA MILER AWARD LOCAL NEWS, A5





Canton's Grub Crawl 'one of biggest'

Annual chamber event features local eateries

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

It's a food lover's deal that's hard to beat.

Canton's Grub Crawl returns next week, giving food lovers a mouth-watering way to sample local cuisine, sweet treats and craft beer from 24 local establishments — all for just \$35.

That averages about \$1.45 per place, though even the heartiest eater could hardly make all the rounds 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 18.

About 500 people are expected for what Canton Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden called "one of the biggest" number of eateries in Grub Crawl's 16-year history. Special T-shirts that serve as admission still are available by going to http://www.cantonchamber. com, calling 734-453-4040 or

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ALLY FOCUSED. LOCALLY CONNECTED.



Grub Crawl participants load up their plates during a previous event.

E. THRIVE.

stopping by the chamber office, 45525 Hanford.

"It's always great when we can bring the community together for a fun night out," Paden said. "The bigger reason is this gives us a platform to showcase the great restaurants we have. We have mom-andpop restaurants and chain restaurants, as well."

Restaurants and local business officials hope Grab Crawl participants will like what they taste and return to patronize local eateries. This year's lineup includes 502 Grill, Bagger Dave's, bd's Mongolian Grill, Black Rock, Blimpie's Sub Shop/Cold Stone, Buffalo Wild Wings, Canton Brew Works, Carvel Ice Cream, Chili's, Crow's Nest, Hayden's, J.B.'s Smokehouse, MOD Pizza, Qdoba Mexican Eats, Szechuan, Super Bowl Pizzeria, Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza, Vintner's Canton Winery and World of Beer.

Canton Brew Works will host four other participants: Edible Arrangements, Everyday Edibles, Katherine's Catering and Twisted Rooster.

Grub Crawl draws food lovers not just from Canton, but also from communities such as Plymouth, Westland and Livonia.

Participants can drive themselves among the restaurants or board buses that make the rounds. They must be 21 or older.

For a second year, Paden said one of those buses will be patterned after the television show "Cash Cab," allowing riders to win money if they correctly answer a series of trivia questions.

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



Darrell Clem hometownlife.com

They're cute and cuddly and they are being used to fraudulently obtain money online.

Scam artists are using puppies to steal victims' hearts and money.

Canton police say several residents have reported trying to buy canine companions



BRAD KADRICH

New Plymouth-Canton Board of Education President Kate Borninski (left) and the woman she succeeded, Kim Crouch. Crouch was elected vice president.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brad Kadrich hometownlife.com

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education is under new manage-

ment.

 Kate Borninski, first elected to the board in 2015 and the former secretary, was unanimously elected as the board's new president. She was nomi nated by the woman she's replacing, outgoing President Kim Crouch.

Kim Crouch. Borninski was the only nomination. She was elected on a 6-0 vote (Trustee Patrick Kehoe was absent).

"I really appreciate your confidence and trust in me," she told board members. "I look forward to continuing the good work of (Crouch)."

Borninski and the other three officers were elected at the board's organizational meeting Tuesday at the E.J. McClendon Education Center in Plymouth. The organizational meeting was held in July rather than January as the result of a change in board policy.

The switch allows board elections to sync with the school year. Board officer terms run July 1 through June 30.

"With four new board members, we thought it would be a good time to return to the past, when we chose officers to correspond with the school year," Superintendent Monica Merritt said.

Other officers elected included:

Vice president — Crouch (nominated by Trustee Doug Brooks).Crouch has been a board member since 2015.

Secretary — Patti McCoin (nominated by Trustee Anupam Chugh Sidhu). Brooks also

X

nominated Chugh Sidhu, who declined the nomination. The vote was then 6-0 in favor of McCoin, who was first elected to the board in 2017.

Treasurer — Kehoe (nominated by McCoin). Kehoe has been on the board since 2017. He was absent Tuesday, but elected on a 6-0 vote.

The board also approved district bylaws and set the board meeting schedule, normal activities for the organizational meeting.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich from out-of-state websites, only to learn they fell victim to a scam.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said most victims lost between \$800 and \$1,200.

"It's just baffling that people would want to spend money without seeing the dog," he said.

But that's exactly what is happening — and police are warning buyers to beware of buying dogs online, especially when the would-be seller asks for payment by MoneyGram or prepaid cards such as iTunes and Green Dot.

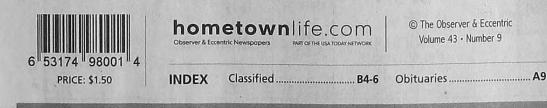
Police say honest companies won't ask for such payment methods, which are nearly impossible to recover. Traylor said one website posted photos of dogs supposedly from a Virginia kennel.

Once the scam artists get money, Traylor said, they often make up reasons they

See SCAM, Page A2



DON EMMERT | GETTY IMAGES Police are warning people about paying money for pets without seeing them.



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CONTACT US

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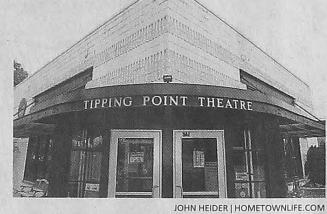
Call 866-887-2737. Press 1) for Classified, Death Notices; 2) Retail Advertising ; 3) Billing, Subscription, Back Copies, Delivery Issues; 4) leave message for newsroom. Send press releases, calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com

Tipping Point Theatre sets 2017-18 schedule

Tipping Point Theatre in Northville has announced its schedule for 2017-18, the theater company's 11th season.

TPT is located at 361 E. Cady Street in Northville, just one block off of Main Street. Founded in 2007, it is a not-forprofit, professional live theater company, dedicated to producing plays that excite, enlighten and enrich audiences. For more information call 248-347-0003 or go to www.tippingpoint

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Northville's Tipping Point Theatre is on Cady Street.

theatre.com. Season passes are on sale. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. It also offers one or two Wednesday matinees for each of its six produc-

tions. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$46. Plays for the upcoming season include: » "Boeing Boeing," by Marc Camoletti (translated by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans), Sept. 14 through Oct. 22. A Tony Awardwinning non-stop comedy.

» "Office Hours," by Norm Foster, Nov. 16 through Dec. 23. A madcap race toward quitting time. Michigan premiere.

» "Every Brilliant Thing," by Duncan Macmillian with Jonny Donahoe, Jan. 18 through Feb. 25, 2018. A hopeful tale of overcoming life's hurdles. A Michigan premiere. » "Ripcord," by David Lindsay-Abaire, March 22 through April 22, 2018. A dangerously funny battle of wills.

» "Northern Aggression," by Joseph Zettelmaier, May 17 through June 24, 2018. A not-so-Civil War for two Yankees from Detroit. A Michigan premiere.

» "The Impossibility of Now," by Y. York, July 19 through Aug. 19, 2018. A new play about forgetting and remembering.



method such as a MoneyGram," Traylor said. One fraudulent dogselling website already has been shut down, he said.

The police department suggests online consumers follow these tips to best avoid becoming a victim of scams in general:

» Spot impostors. Scammers often pose as someone trustworthy, such as a charity or government official. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request.

» Do online searches. Type a company name or product in a search engine with "review" or "complaint."

» Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to program fake caller IDs.

» Consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection, but MoneyGrams and prepaid cards do not.

» Talk to someone. Before giving up money or personal information, talk to someone or do some research; scammers usually want quick, rushed decisions and payments. Avoid that.

» Hang up on robocalls. If you hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up; these calls are often illegal and the products are often bogus. Never press "1" to speak to someone or be taken off a list during a robocall. That usually results in more calls.

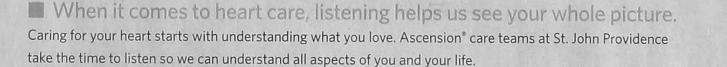
» Be skeptical about free trial offers. Many sign up would-be customers for products and then bill monthly.

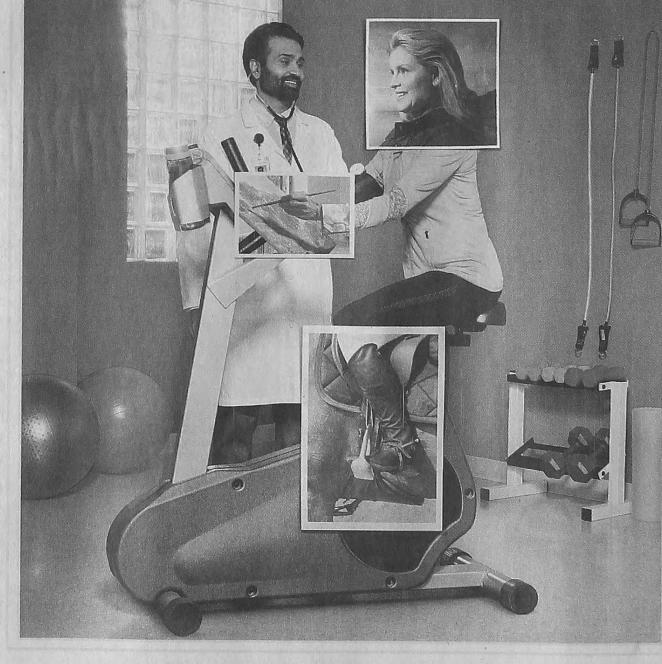
» Don't deposit a check from a stranger and wire money back. Often it can take banks weeks to discover a fake check and by then funds sent have been spent.

» Go to the Federal Trade Commission website to sign up for scam alerts or report scams.

"It is nearly impossible to keep up with new scams that are continually surfacing," Traylor said, but "the best defense against falling victim to fraud is to be an educated consumer."

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





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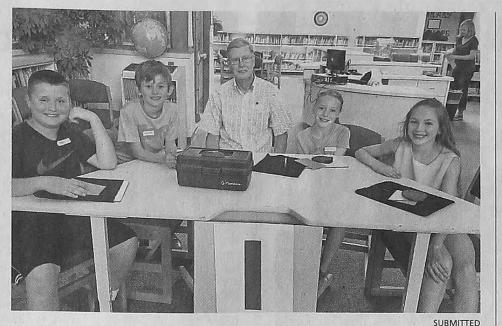
LOCAL NEWS

Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club sponsors Math Jeopardy

On June 8, Optimists Club volunteers Noel and Shelley Hansen, Julie Kulp, Terri Keski-Hynnula, Cheryl Klobuchar and Charlie Roebuck as-sisted with lead teacher Gail Maloney in a Math Jeopardy competition at

Dodson Elementary in Canton. Three fifth-grade teams (one team from each class) answered the questions while all 90 of their classmates worked together to provide the full written problems to them. All three teams were very competitive and the final score was very close, but team Maloney emerged as the winner.

Roebuck said afterward: "Dodson School's fifth-grade math seemed more advanced than my fifth-grade teachings. Math Jeopardy included some geometry problems and some simple algebra 'story problems.' In my school days, these concepts were



Team Maloney won the Math Jeopardy contest sponsored by the Plymouth-Canton Optimist Club.

taught in later grades."

Congratulations to all who competed and thanks to Dodson Elementary and Maloney for organizing the event.

Contact Pamela Batcho at 734-502-

5776 or PlymouthCanton Optimists@gmail.com for information

about how you can volunteer with the Plymouth-Canton Optimists to "Bring Out the Best in Kids!"

Metro West seeks grant applications from nonprofits

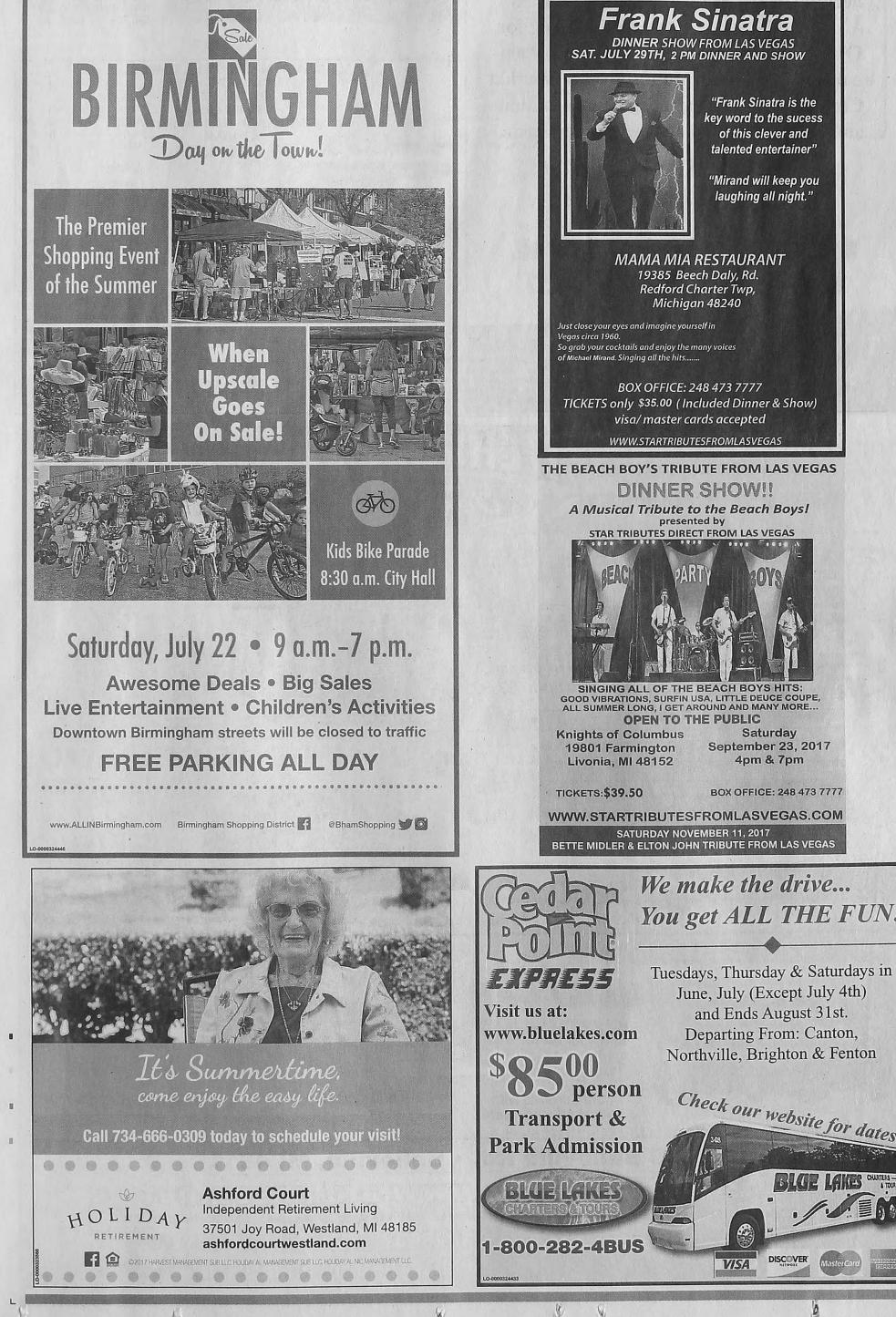
Michigan's Metro West Chapter of Credit Unions is seeking applications from nonprofit organizations in need of financial grants of up to \$2,500 to support local community improvement activities in Wayne or Washtenaw coun-ties. This year, the chapter will award a total of at least \$17,700. Nonprofit organizations that did not receive a grant in 2016 are eligible to apply and must complete an online

apply and must complete an online apply and must complete an online application at http://metrowest. mcul.org/2017-charity-grant-application by Aug. 4. Email any questions to charities@michiganlegacycu.org. Grant recipients will be notified by

Aug. 11. Top recipients will be invited to attend and be recognized Aug. 18 at the Metro West Chapter charity golf outing.

The mission of the Metro West Chapter of Credit Unions is to support educational needs, community improvement and political advocacy of credit unions in the Metro West Chapter.







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Canton to hold ADA meeting

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Translation) services will

this meeting that include

real-time captioning and

transcription. In addi-

tion, Canton residents

who are currently regis-

tered with Canton Com-

munity Mobility Trans-

portation Services may

from this meeting by calling 888-539-9879 by 2

dents are encouraged to

complete an online sur-

www.canton-mi.org,

which will collect input

vey that will be available

In addition, area resi-

schedule a ride to and

p.m. Aug. 2.

Aug. 3-31 at

also be provided during

Canton Township will . hold a special public meeting to collect community input for its Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at the Canton Administration Building Board Room, 1150 S. Canton Center. All individuals who currently reside in Canton Township or who utilize a Canton facility or service are encouraged to attend. Participants planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP by calling 734-394-5360.

Comments may be submitted in writing through July 31 or made in person at the public hearing. Written comments may be emailed to bsharp@canton-mi.org or

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

addressed to Brad Sharp, identifying possible barriers that may limit acfacility services manager, 1150 S. Canton Cencess to Canton Township ter, Canton, MI 48188. programs, facilities and CART (Communicaservices.

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon a two-week notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing: Kerreen Conley, human resources manager, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. Accommodations may also be requested by calling 734-394-5260.

For additional information about this public meeting, go to www.canton-mi.org or call 734-394-5360.

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Published: July 16, 2017

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hometownlife.com



Double duty earns staffer Extra Miler Award

Brad Kadrich hometownlife.com

Alicia Fenstermacher hired into the Plymouth-**Canton Community** Schools district two years ago as a part-time worker in the print shop at Canton High School.

Two years later, she'd earned a promotion to become the community education coordinator. And when Fenstermacher's old position became vacant once again, district officials tapped her to fill the job for the rest of the school year.

Fenstermacher's willingness to do both jobs for seven months paid off Tuesday when the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education honored her with the Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award.

"Needless to say, Alicia was a success with both positions, all while taking care of her home, family and two children," board President Kate Borninski said of Fenstermacher.

Fellow staffers, in helping make the nomination for the award, noted Fenstermacher's willingness to help.

"Alicia Fenstermacher is absolutely awesome," wrote Cory Chambless, administrative secretary at Tonda Elementary School. "The print shop is a valuable resource to the district and so is Alicia.'

Fenstermacher said she was happy to help when asked to fill both positions in December.

"When the need arose, I was happy to jump in and help," Fenstermacher told the board. "One of the reasons I enjoy coming to work is I get to work with wonderful people. If I can make



Mary Beth Carroll Extra Miler Award winner Alicia Fenstermacher (right) accepts the award from board President Kate Borninski.

their load lighter, I'm happy to do that.'

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich





Secure your independence at home.

Woodhaven at Home is a new and unique member program that helps residents of Southeast Michigan maintain as much independence and financial security as possible so they can age in place.

Designed for healthy, active adults between the ages of 55 and 81 who value vitality and aging independence, Woodhaven at Home is structured to provide asset preservation, the support and advocacy of a Wellness and Care Coordinator, and care at home if and when it is needed. Membership in Woodhaven at Home is offered by Livonia's first full-service retirement community, Woodhaven Retirement Community.

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Westside



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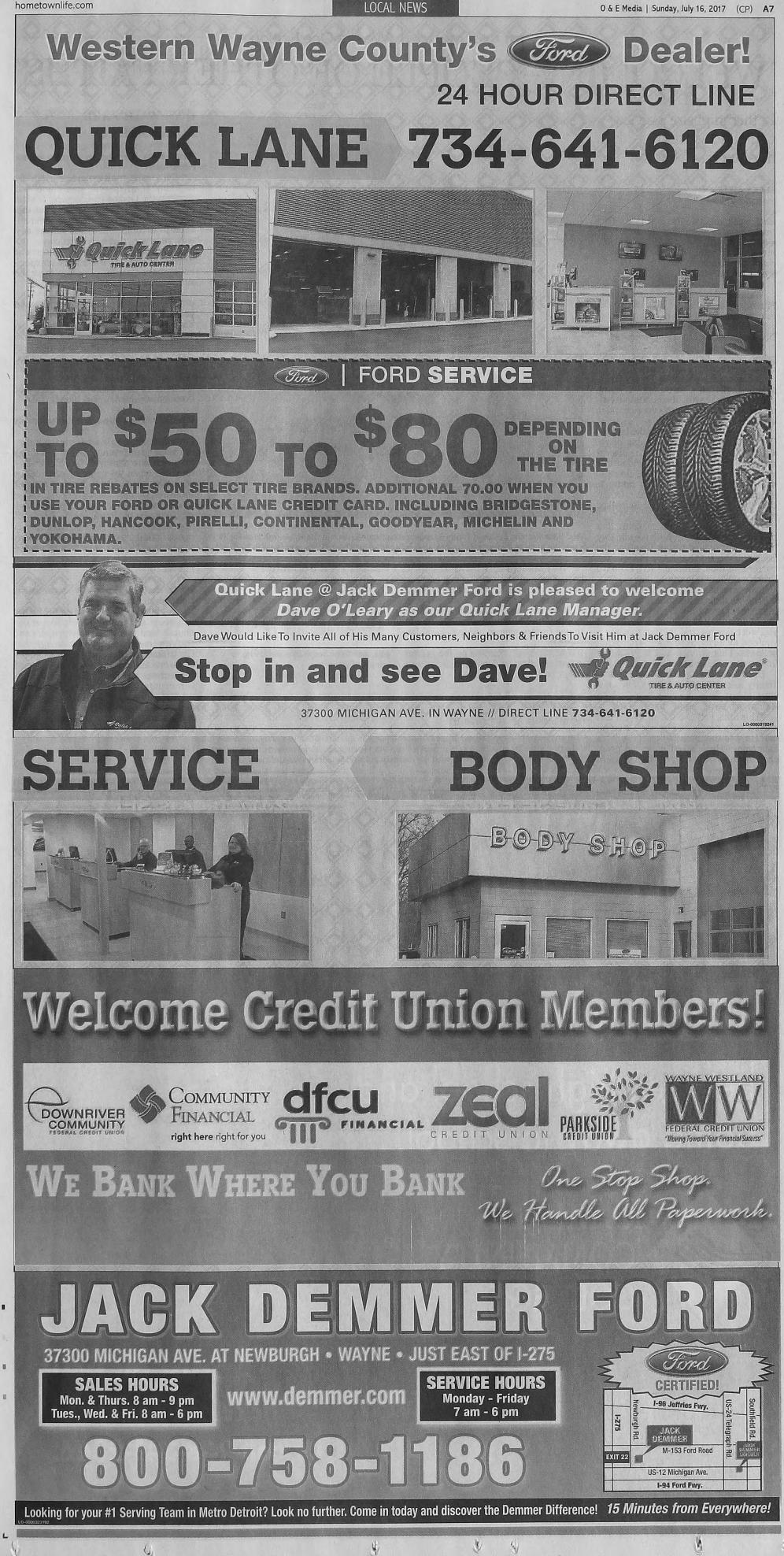
5:45 p.m. - Check-in · 6 p.m. - Presentation Presentation is free but registration is required. Please call 734-655-1980.

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LOCAL NEWS

I am an American We are One Nation WELCOMING PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS

Lutheran pastor opened church to Muslims as their mosque was being built

BECKY METRICK USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this USA Today series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about average Americans doing exceptional things, visit onenation.usatoday.com.

Walking the building's bare bones, Pittsburgh-area Pastor Fred Schenker listened and joked with his friends of another faith while they described their un-finished mosque, 12 years in the making.

Schenker and his Muslim friends are proud of the mosque that has slowly come together in recent years.

Schenker, the pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church for 31 years, grew to know the Muslim community after he opened the church's doors to them in 2007

At the time, Muslims with the Islamic Center of Western Pennsylvania drove at least 40 minutes to get to the closest mosque. The organization decided two years earlier to build a mosque closer to home and needed a place for members to worship in the meantime. Other churches rejected them, but Schenker and Trinity welcomed them.

"Honest to God, it was inspiring that people of two different faiths — and that humanity prevailed rather than just the Islamophobia that has taken place in the current political climate," ICWP Board President Khalid Chatta said.

Schenker has fond memories of hav-ing the Muslims in his church and listening to them pray.

"Even if they're praying upstairs and you were downstairs, the call to prayer, you can experience that vibration, that

you can experience that vibration, that holiness. That energy that is good and life-giving," Schenker said. Upon Schenker's recent retirement, Trinity asked the Muslims to leave the church, but "in a nice way," said Ubaid Akhtar, a board member of the ICWP. "This man just to put it simply is just

"This man, just to put it simply, is just a very, very nice, open-hearted individ-ual. He was the main factor for all this happening. He allowed us in his presence there, kept us there," Akhtar said.

NOELLE HARO-GOMEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK Fred Schenker was pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Pittsburgh area for 31 years. He grew to know area Muslims after he opened the church's doors to them in 2007.

Pennsylvania

people of all faiths.

Age: 65

Church

Pastor Fred Schenker

Location: Pittsburgh metro area,

Profession: Pastor in a Lutheran Evangelical

Mission: To be hospitable and loving to

'It's faith at its best. It's America at its best. Some of the stuff going on right now is unfaithful and un-American,' Schenker said.

Back to making long commutes to worship, the Muslim congregation continues fundraising in order to complete the mosque.

For more information on the organization and how to donate, visit its website, icwpa.org.

ONE NATION

Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at onenation.usatoday.com or via email to onenation@usatoday.com or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

Q&A WITH FRED SCHENKER

What does it mean to you to be an American?

America is the great experiment. It's the experiment where you can come and worship the God of your choice. It's the place where you can come and have disagreements but work together, to come even to a compromise and maybe my way, your way, there's a third way.

That's the ideal. And I think America at its best promotes that. It's a great experience where people can come together and work together in community.

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

There was a group of Muslims, a congregation, and they were trying to find a space to pray. They had been to different churches, trying to find a space just for Friday, and they got nos. And they came to Trinity, and I said well sure. Christ tells us to love all people, and

these guys want to pray? Wonderful.

What gives you hope or what concerns you?

I'm hopeful we can learn to view our similarities and differences as opportunities to enrich one another's lives. Not only that, but when we grow in respect for each other, and truly look again, respect the other, we may even grow to love the other tradition and fall deeper in love with our own tradition.

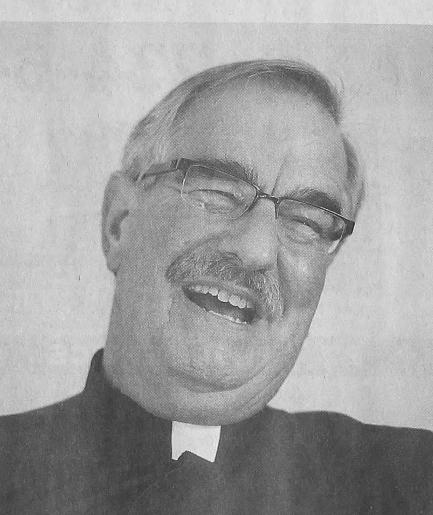
My concern is that rather than embracing our similarities and our differences to promote the best in humanity, we see the other as a threat or, worse, less than human.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

In our church family, loving our Muslim neighbors and inviting them to use our church facilities for Friday prayers and activities sends a strong message that Christians and Muslims not only can tolerate one another, but they can love and respect one another.

Our country can be a place for our citi-zens of all races and faiths to come together and strive for the common good. My congregation, in our small way, has done just this.





PLACE between high school and going away to school.

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WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

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

Animal rescue fundraiser

An Animal Rescue Fund Raiser, sponsored by Lake Erie Metro Animal Hospital (LEMAR) which is an independent "no kill" shelter, will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 16, at the Wilson Barn at 29350 W. Chicago (at the northeast corner of Middlebelt) in Livonia.

There will be pet adoptions with all animals already being spayed and neutered, and with some preventative shots. Cats will be \$25 and dogs \$125. Donations in the form of money, unopened food or litter to help care for the animals would be greatly appreciated. At this event there will also be a yard and bake sale to raise money for the shelter.

For more information, call 734-286-5063.

Flying Pancakes

Livonia Historical Commission at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh Road, is hosting a Flying Pancake Breakfast, Tours & Family Fun Run/Walk event Sunday, July 16.

The run/walk starts at 9 a.m. Pancakes will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring Chris Cakes of Michigan, which is known for their flying pancakes. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 day of the event, cash only. For more information, call 248-477-7375.

Meet county executive

Interfaith Community Outreach and the Canton Democratic Club are holding a Community Conversation event with Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20, at Cherry Hill Village, 50430 School House Road, Canton.

Evans and his staff will be available to answer questions about county issues, including road repair funding, refugee status in Wayne County and hate crime status in Wayne County.

DIA director to speak

Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex is hosting a presentation by Detroit Institute of Arts Director Salvador Salort-Pons from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20. As part of his continuing focus on community engagement, Salort-Pons will discuss his vision for the museum, explore some of his favorite works of art and answer questions about the DIA.

This event is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and there will be complimentary light appetizers and beverages. PARC is at 650 Church St. in Plymouth. For more information, call 734-927-4090.

Road cleanup

Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 22, help pick up litter and man-made debris from the roadways and shoulders of Beck and Geddes.

Orange plastic collection bags and green visibility vests will be available to wear in green tubs at several locations along Geddes Road, including: Sheldon Road (south side, former PNC Bank lawn by the parking lot); Sarah Ann Drive (Kimberly Meadows Sub); River Meadow Boulevard; and Riverside Drive and Beck Road (southwest corner by the sign).

Volunteers should be age 13 or older. For more information, contact Greg Greene at 734-855-6192 or g4greene@aol.com.

Maker Fun Factory

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will offer Maker Fun Factory VBS from 9 a.m. to noon July 24-28. All children ages 3 (must be potty trained) through fifth grade are welcome. Cost is \$25 and includes

How to reach us:

Passages Doltaries & Rememberances

a T-shirt (if registered before July 1). Register at www.holytrinity livonia.org/vbs.aspx or at the church. Availability is limited for preschool children.

Holy Trinity is at 39020 Five Mile Road in Livonia. For more information, call Deb La-Fontaine at 734-464-0211 or email VBS@holy trinitylivonia.org.

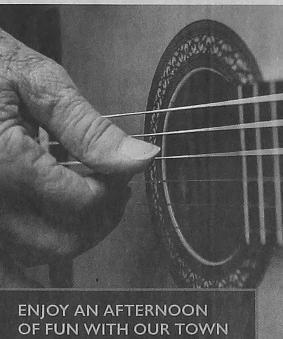
VegMichigan Summerfest

VegMichigan SummerFest is set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, at Madonna University. An array of plant-based fare, including grilled burgers, wraps, salads, nachos, coneys, mac 'n cheese, fresh fruit, raw juices, smoothies, ice cream, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, shakes and more, will be offered by local vegan-friendly restaurants and food trucks including Chive Kitchen, Shimmy Shack and Nosh Pit food trucks, ChiliMustardOnions, El Cardenal Vegan Tamales, Tumerican Indian Restaurant, Urge Raw Juice, Ben & Jerry's new dairyfree ice creams and many others.

Live music, carnival games, henna tattoos, face painting and shopping a variety of merchandise from vegan, cruelty-free vendors round out a day of fun for the whole family.

VegMichigan SummerFest takes place at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. Admission and parking are free.

A few exhibitor spaces and sponsorships are still available. For more information, call 248-867-2155 or go to www.vegmichigan.org. VegMichigan is a nonprofit organization promoting awareness of the health, environmental and ethical benefits of a plant-based diet. Senior Living Options: Independent and Enhanced



OF FUN WITH OUR TOWN FULL OF TALENT.

Clearly, the creative spirit is alive around our community, and we want to celebrate it. At our annual Art and Talent show, we're showcasing all the talent that lives nearby and we'd love to have you join us. We'll have artists, musicians, craftsmen, and performers of all kinds showing off their skills. This family friendly event is sure to be an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment, so be prepared to applaud.

Join us at our annual Art and Talent Show Local Artists • Kids Crafts • Street Food

Independence Village SHINE EVERYDAX

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SATURDAY, JULY 22ND 3 - 6 PM

INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF PLYMOUTH 14707 Northville Road Plymouth, MI 48170 RSVP by July 17th so we know you're coming 734-447-5779

60

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICAID AND LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING

> JOIN US FOR A FREE WORKSHOP

The event is open to the public from throughout the county. For more information, email cantondemclub@gmail.com.

Wellness, heart attack survivors' event

On July 19, Garden City Hospital is hosting a free health, wellness and heart attack survivors' recognition event at the City of Westland Building, 36300 Warren Road in Westland. The event starts at 1 p.m. and will include a special recognition ceremony, "Meet the Experts" panel discussion, health screenings, a heart-healthy cooking demonstration and free refreshments for participants.

The event is open to members of the public touched by heart disease or who are interested in learning about reducing risks. Attendees will be eligible for a drawing for a door prize.

The event follows the ribbon cutting for the hospital's new elective interventional cardiac angioplasty, or PCI program in May of this year. Heart disease remains the top cause of death in southeastern Michigan, making the availability of quality, timely access to PCI important in community hospital settings. Garden City Hospital

is a 176-bed community hospital located in Garden City with a full range of services and off-site locations. For more information, go to gch.org.

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David "Dave" C. 88, of Petoskey, Michigan, formerly of New Boston, Michigan, passed away on July 12, 2017 at the American House in Petoskey. Dave was born October 26, 1928 in Detroit, the son of David and Madeline (Cooper) McIntosh. He graduated from Plymouth High School. Dave proudly served our country in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954. He enjoyed watching U of M football, working in his yard and garden, and traveling when he was able to do so. Dave was preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Evelyn in 2015, his parents and sister, Barbara. He is survived by his children, Michael (Darci) McIntosh, William (Vicki) McIntosh, David (Julia) McIntosh, Mary (Michael) Jablonski and Sara McIntosh, stepson Dennis (Jennifer) Davidson, 13 grandchildren and 14 greatgrandchildren, and sister Nettie McIntosh. Dave's family sends a heartfelt thank you to all of the caring staff at the Everett Kircher Dialysis Center and the American House. Visitation will take place on Monday, July 17, 2017 from 5pm until 8pm. Funeral service will take place on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at 10am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth, Michigan. Entombment will take place at Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park, Livonia, Michigan following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made in memory of David C. McIntosh to Disabled Veterans at DAV-114, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150. Paying tribute to the life of your

loved

one.

Wednesday July 26, 2017 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Northville Library in Meeting Room B

TOPICS

- How to protect assets from long term care costs and qualify for Medicaid.
- How to plan ahead to ensure peace-ofmind.
- VA benefits and how your loved one can qualify.
- Is your Estate Plan effective? What you need to know!
- The tools and resources you need to avoid probate.

WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY

The Law Office of Erin E. Mortenson, PLLC (248) 924-9550 436 North Center Street, P.O. Box 611 Northville, MI 48167

> RSVP To: (248) 924-9550 or chelsey@mortensonelderlaw.com

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Lower Rouge Trail awarded grant

Avenue.

the recent recipient of a \$40,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund for Design and Access, which was awarded by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. These grant dollars will be used to fund the design of additional Lower Rouge Trail pathways and pedestrian bridges. The Lower Rouge Trail is a popular trail system which offers three miles of non-motorized trails in Canton. In addition, this grant will also be utilized to design additional hybrid pedestrian beacon crossings, also known as the high-intensity activated crosswalk (or HAWK) signals, located at the trail crossings on Sheldon, Lilley and Lotz roads, north of Michigan

Canton Township was

The Lower Rouge Trail, along with the ITC Corridor Trail, currently interconnects Canton's Heritage Park with the Michigan Department of Transportation's I-275 Metro Trail. The trailhead for the Lower Rouge Trail is located off of Morton-Taylor Road, north of Michigan Avenue.

"We are truly grateful to receive this significant grant for Canton's trails, which continue to be a popular attraction in our community for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts," said Greg Hohenberger, director of Canton Leisure Services. "These funds, which honor the legacy of Ralph C. Wilson Jr., will assist in expanding connectivity within the greater southeast Michigan trail system."

Future expansion of the Lower Rouge Trail will include the development of approximately one mile of trails from I-275 east to Hannan Road, which will consist of the future installation of fabricated pedestrian bridges and HAWK signals.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. For more information about the CFSM, go to www.cfsem.org.

For more information about the Lower Rouge Trail, go to www.canton fun.org or call 734-394-5310.



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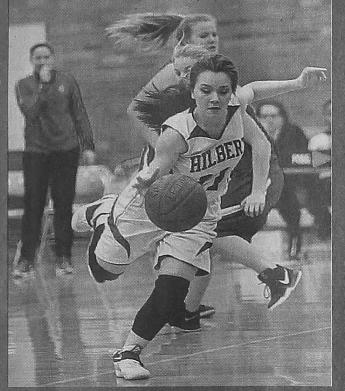
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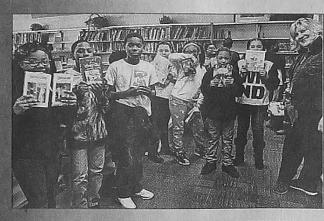
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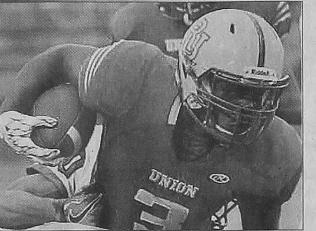




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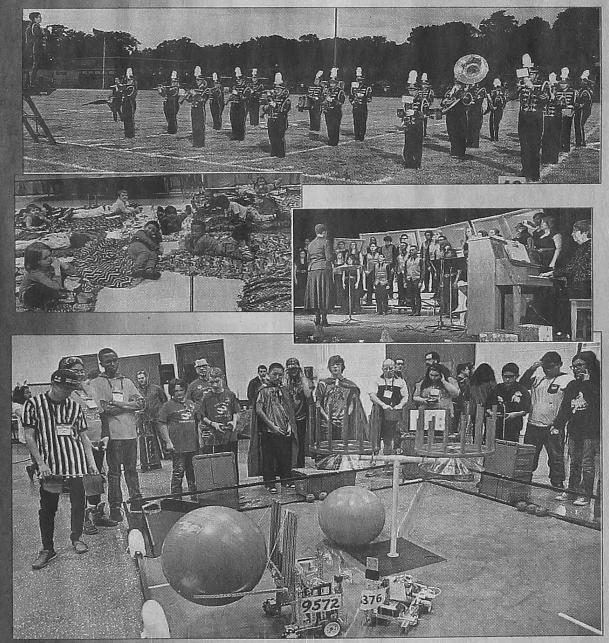






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INSIDE: AREA PREP ATHLETES NAMED TO ALL-STATE TEAMS, B2 AND B3

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

GIRLS SOCCER

Burnette appointed new coach for Churchill program

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Take what the other team gives you and be patient on the pitch.

That will be the mantra Livonia Churchill varsity girls soccer players will regularly hear from their new coach, Chris Burnette, when he begins working with the 2018 Chargers. He was named to

HOCKEY

succeed Reid Friedrichs, who recently stepped down from the post.

"I am not sure what differences in philosophies there will be between Reid's approach to the game versus mine," the 43-year-old Burnette wrote in an email to the Observer. "But my philosophy is simple — play with confidence, be patient and keep the ball.

"What I mean by that is don't be afraid to take people on or simply knock a ball back if needed, just be patient and keep the ball."

The 2017 Chargers finished with a record of 7-9-0 overall and 6-4-0 in the KLAA South Division, according to the KLAA website.

Burnette is no stranger to the Livonia area, having graduated in 1992 from Livonia Franklin (he graduated with then-Jennifer Karwowski and ultimately married her). He played soccer, football and basketball during his high school years.

The Burnettes' youngest

See BURNETTE, Page B2



Josh Norris, shown playing last season for the USA Hockey NTDP Under-18 team, recently was drafted in the first round by the NHL's San Jose Sharks.

A CAREER PATH WITH BITE

NTDP alum Josh Norris begins U-M career

selected by the Quebec Nordiques in the seventh round. now and a bigger spectacle." Norris was smack in the middle of the June 23 festivities at Chicago's United Center this year, joining his son Josh, a top American forward prospect, and roughly 40 family members. The Norris contingent, some of whom made the 2,200-

Local golf pro featured

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

248-926-2237

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Stephanie Jennings, a PGA assistant professional at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, will be featured on a CBS Sports golf special Sunday, July 16.

The hour-long show, titled "Turning Passion into Profession," will be narrated by PGA professional Gary McCord and will highlight the diverse roles PGA pros nationwide play as experts in the game and business of golf. The special will air at 2 p.m., prior to final-round coverage of the John Deere Classic.

Jennings has helped build the women's golf program at historic Meadowbrook Country Club. She has been involved in all aspects of golf, from working as a PGA assistant professional to executive management at the Executive Women's Golf Association to program administrator with the Middle Atlantic PGA Section.

The special is designed to inspire men, women and children of all ages who are enthusiastic about the game to turn their passions into careers in golf.

Lacrosse Classic

Several area athletes will participate July 18-21 at the National Lacrosse Academy and National Lacrosse Classic in Virginia.

Among participants who will represent the state of Michigan are Elizabeth Czerniak, a seventhgrader at Meads Mill Middle School in Northville; Rachel Costello, a ninthgrader at Plymouth Christian Academy; Zoe Weber, a ninth-grader at Plymouth High School; and Mallory Brophy, from Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

Czerniak, whose parents are Jeff Czerniak and Heidi Zimmer, owes her success to performing on several different teams and organizations, including Northville Parks and Recreation, Triumph Lacrosse and Dwayne Hicks/

knowing Sharks are his future NHL team

Mark Spezia Detroit Free Press

Dwayne Norris probably found his son's NHL draft experience more satisfying than his own. When Vancouver hosted the 1990 NHL Entry Draft, Norris was on the opposite side of Canada, fishing with his late father near his hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland.

It took time for the news to reach Norris, then a Michigan State sophomore, after being "I don't think I found out until two days later, when a friend called to let me know," said Norris, who now lives in Oxford. "Now, of course, it's totally different with the buildup, many mock drafts, social media and everybody knowing instantly when they're drafted. It's much more of a production

See NORRIS, Page B2

Total Sports.

Costello, whose parents are Michael and Gail Costello, enters the academy having been named a 2017 Brine National High School Lacrosse All-American.

That's the Spirit

The Plymouth Canton Spirit Fastpitch Travel Softball Organization will hold tryouts for its inaugural 2018 season Aug. 5-9. All tryouts will be at the Plymouth High School varsity and junior varsity softball fields.

softball fields. Tryouts will be held as follows: 10U and 12U players, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 5, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7; and 14U, 16U and 18U players, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 8-9.

Participants are asked to try out for the age group that they will be as of Jan. 1, 2018. More information can be found at plymouthcantonspirit.weebly.com and questions can be directed to pcspiritsoftball@gmail.com.

Birmingham U11 team captures district crown

Marty Budner hometownlife.com

Chalk up another district championship for the Birmingham Little League.

The U11 baseball team, managed by Dave Palmeri, brought home the BLL's 30th district crown since 2002 July 8 in Commerce Township. The Birmingham boys capped a challenging week on the diamond by winning all four games they played in the newly-created double-elimination tournament.

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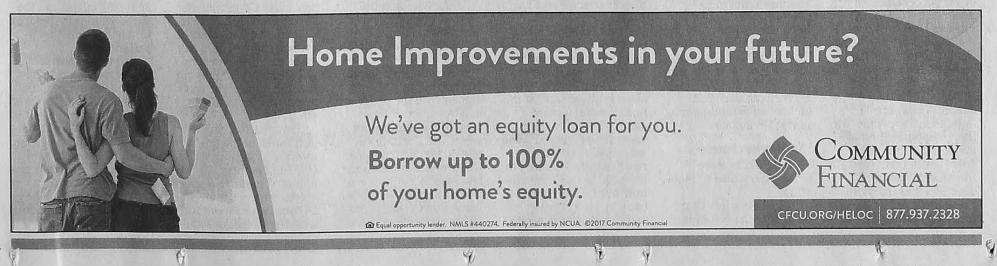
"It was good. The kids played really well," Palmeri said. "We were so tight defensively that we didn't really give an inch. Once we got the leads in our games, we were just able to systematically put (the other teams) away defensively and that was good to see. It is something that's certainly going to help as we go on in this trek."

Following is a recap of each District 4 tournament game: BIRMINGHAM 21, COM-

See DISTRICT, Page B3



The Birmingham Little League U11 baseball team captured the district 4 championship. Team members include (kneeling, from left) Jamie Hubacker, Louie Sullivan, Davis Nystrom, Andrew Pedersen, Cooper Jurkovich and Michael Tang; (second row, from left) Colton Kinnie, Garrett Dudlar, Granden Kinnie, Blake Baldner, Jack Grabel, Wagner Carrel and Jack Kelly; and (third row, from left) Brian Kinnie, Dave Palmeri (manager) and Paul Ferguson.



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Forest Hills Northern); Isabel Hayes (Bloomfield Hills Marian) **THIRD TEAM FORWARD:** Kennedy Bearden (Detroit Country Day); Morgan Esch (Dexter); Angela Boyce (Farmington); Madelina Zavan (Linden): Benan Corono (Lowell)

Angena borce viniting Oily, inductina Zayan (Linden); Regan Coxon (Lowell) MIDFIELD: Laura Silverman (Auburn Hills Avondale); Sophia Terzes (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern); Claudia Schilling (Bloomfield Hills Marian); Justina Gaynor (Pontiac Norte Dame Prep); Maura Churse (Pontiac Norte Dame Prep); Maura

Kruse (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Aubrey Flippo (St. Joseph); Angela Davis (Trenton); Brinley Nieuwenhuis (Wayland)

DEFENSE: Carlee Long (Marshall) GOALIE: Taryn Meiste (Hamilton); Elysia Mattos (Muskegon Reeths-Puffer)

AREA HONORABLE MENTION FORWARD: Kaela Mali (Bloomfield

Hills Cranbrook Kingswood); Casey Borden (Farmington); Amy Bobon (Livonia

MIDFIELD: Elle Hartje (Detroit Country Day) DEFENSE: Maria Kaschalk (Bloomfield

GOALIE: Alex Heffner (Bloomfield Hills

Plymouth forward Kennedy White (14) earned a spot on the

first all-state team for Division 1.

Wisser (Richland Gull Lake); Jansen Eichenlaub (Bloomfield Hills Marian);

Morgan Otteson (Grand Rapids North-view); Celia Gaynor (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Sara Vince (Trenton); Bria Schroten-

MIDFIELD: Danielle Stephan (DeWitt); Natalie Belsito (Grand Rapids Forest Hills

Northern); Alia Fredrick (Linden); Kate Face DEFENSE: Emily Ashby (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern) GOALIE: Madison Paige (Linden);

Cecella Muskovac (Warren Regina) SECOND TEAM FORWARD: Delaney Krause (Chelsea); Rylee Michaels (Ada Forest Hills Eastern); Ellie DeConinck (Bloomfield Hills Marian); Betsy Lueck (Warren Regina); Margaret Berry (Fenton)

MIDFIELD: Dagny Hill (Detroit Country

(Mason): Nadia Burbank (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Haley Dehaan (Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg); Madie Knaggs

DEFENSE: Jaedyn Shelton (Spring

Cecelia Muskovac (Warren Regina)

Berry (Fenton

2017 GIRLS SOCCER ALL-STATE TEAMS

MS. SOCCER: Danielle Stephan (DeWitt) DREAM TEAM

FORWARD: Bailey Korhorn (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Jansen * Eichenlaub (Bloomfield Hills Marian); Cecilia Steinwascher (Sterling Heights Henry Ford II); Ashley Leonard (Troy Athens); Kasey Jamieson (Lansing Chris-

MIDFIELD: Gabriala Jodzis (Utica

Elsenhower) DEFENSE: Emily Ashby (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern); Rachel Phillpotts (Flint Powers Catholic) NO POSITIONS SELECTED: Maia Perez (East Kentwood); Madeline Becker (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central)

DIVISION 1 FIRST TEAM FORWARD: Ashley Leonard (Troy Athens): Bailey Horhorn (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Cecilia Steinwascher (Sterling Heights Henrd Ford II); Reagan Car (Musteagn Mona Shore): Konochu (Stering Heights Henrd Ford II); Keagan Cox (Muskegon Mona Shores); Kennedy White (Plymouth); Audrey Kopitz (Livonia Stevenson); Emily Solek (Rochester Hills Stoney Creek); Danielle Wolf (Walled Lake Northern); Madeline Becker ((Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central) **MIDFIELD:** Gabriala Jodzis (Utica

MIDFIELD: Gabriala Jodzis (Utica Eisenhower): Morgan Metzger (Grand Blanc): Morgan Jones (Saline) DEFENSE: Lindsay Shira (Anchor Bay); Jacalyn Schubring (Novi) GOALIE: Maria Perez (East Kentwood); Gina Cerney (Rochester Hills Stoney Creek) SECOND TEAM FORWARD: Emma Shinsky (Brighton); Julie Ann Piechocki (Sterling Heights Henry Ford II); Sydney Schembri (Northville); Gabrielle McCaslin (Plymouth); Jillian Winarski (Utica Eisenhower); Stephanie Currie (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Tatiana Mason (Ann Arbor Skyline) MIDFIELD: Grace Doran (Dearborn); MIDFIELD: Grace Doran (Dearborn); Darline Radamaker (Sterling Heights Henry Ford II); Sarah Mikesell (Muskegon Mona Shores); Annika Dahlmann (Saline); Zoe Gaffney (Birmingham Seaholm); Sofanit Fisher (Walled Lake Northern) DEFENCE: Davis Joney (Dedage DEFENSE: Devin Jaqua (Portage

GOALIE: Emma Yoder (Grand Rapids

GOALIE: Emma Yoder (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Maggie Rogers (Rochester Adams) THIRD TEAM FORWARD: Rachel Russo (Anchor Bay); Olivia Elby (North Farmington); Josie Sibley (Portage Central); Hannah Crum (Waterford Mott); Katlyn Varney (Wood-haven); Samantha Ferry (Bloomfield Hills); Christina Hickson (Bloomfield Hills); Madi Medalle (Clinton Township Chippewa Valley)

MIDFIELD: Alli Leonard (Troy Athens); Ava Cook (Battle Creek Lakeview); Jessie Bandyk (Novi); Hailey Wentzloff (Rochester

DEFENSE: Natalie Lunt ((Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Ashley Potsma (Caledonia)

GOALIE: Rebecca Przybylo (Plymouth); istina Tamer (Walled Lake Western) AREA HONORABLE MENTION

FORWARD: Sydney Huston (Bloomfield Hills); Sydney Smith (Salem); Cate Brown

BURNETTE

Continued from Page B1

daughter Riley currently

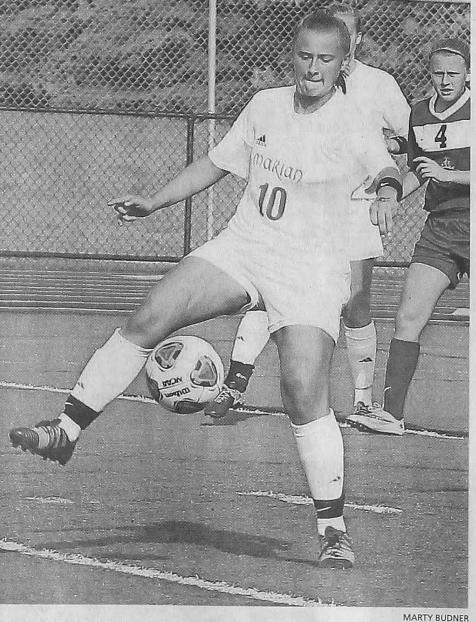
Emerson Middle School.

girls soccer in the area,

He also coaches club

with the Michigan Hawks

is an eighth-grader at



Junior midfielder Claudia Schilling was one of a number of plays who earned all-state honors this spring for Division 2 state champion Marian.

Alyssa Benvenuti (Livonia Stevenson) GOALIE: Becka Hancock (Bloomfield

Hills)

Day); Sammi Corcoran (Dexter); Abby Koops (Holland Christian); Natalie Stampfly (Stevensville Lakeshore); Caitlin Rebera

DIVISION 2 FIRST TEAM FORWARD: Katelyn Mather (Auburn ills Avondale); Mackenzie Dawes (DeWitt); Emily Zeitunian (Dexter); Reagan

> nette, he is confident his experience with the Hawks will pay dividends at the high school level.

"I believe my years of coaching club offer great experiences to lead the Churchill girls to success," Burnette wrote. "Having worked with and learned from great coaches gives me a broad view of technical and tactical approaches to the game.'

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Anaheim Ducks before

NORRIS

Continued from Page B1

mile journey from Newfoundland, did not have

'04 team. In the fall, Burnette will helm the Franklin junior varsity boys soccer team.

(Birmingham Seaholm)

MIDFIELD: Megan Williams (North-ille); Vera Razburgaj (Novi); Anna Faybrick

DEFENSE: Madelyn Rush (Plymouth);

Burnette plans on continuing his other coaching endeavors, but is revved up to add the Chargers to his soccer resume.

"Joining this program

is very exciting for me for several reasons,' Burnette wrote. "I enjoy the high school atmosphere where players are proud to represent their school both off and on the field.

"I am looking forward to working with (Churchill JV girls soccer

coach) Eric Puroll and (Churchill athletic director) Marc Hage, both top-notch guys who have great pride in the program. I am excited to continue a legacy of great soccer at Churchill, as well as continuing to grow our program.' According to Bur-

his college career.

"Michigan was my first college choice due to the quality of the program and the education," said Norris, who will face older brother Coale when U-M plays Ferris State this season. "I was excited about playing for a legend like Red, but Mel Pearson is a great coach. I've spoken to him several times and can't wait for college hockey. I'm not sure what to expect, but just want to help the team have a better year in any way I can.' Michigan, with only six seniors, finished 13-19-3 last season, its lowest win total in 31 years. 'Josh is capable of helping Michigan right away and being a top-line player," Wroblewski said. 'Mel is going to appreciate Josh's ability to win face-offs and how strong and quick he is in transition. He seems to tilt the ice in his favor and move the puck out of his own zone in no time.

beginning an 11-year career in Germany.

Josh Norris spent the first 10 years of his life there, getting his start with the Frankfurt Young

GOALIE: Amanda Young (Grand Rapids

Cranbrook Kingswood);

o wait long for NHL **Commissioner** Gary Bettman to call Josh Norris to the podium. He was drafted 19th overall by the San Jose Sharks, becoming the state's only first-round pick in the past two drafts.

Norris will begin his college career at Michigan next season.

Rooting him on

"It was really surreal, one of those moments every player dreams about and certainly one of my all-time proudest moments as a dad," said Dwayne Norris, a first team All-American at MSU who spent portions of three seasons in the NHL. "We were all on pins and needles before Josh's name was called, but it was amazing to see Josh take the stage and to share the moment with my other two sons, wife and all the family members. I think we had the biggest group there.'

The sizable rooting section made the moment even more special for 18-year-old Norris.

"That was pretty incredible, because it's been such a dream of mine to hear my name called on draft day," said Norris, who spent the past two seasons with the Plymouth-based U.S. National Team Development Program. "To have so many people there supporting me, including all the ones who flew in from Newfoundland, was very special. I was happy to make them proud. I had a feeling I might go in the



DAVID BANKS | USA TODAY

Josh Norris, recently drafted by the San Jose Sharks, is flanked by coach Peter DeBoer (left) and General Manager Doug Wilson. DeBoer formerly coached the OHL's Plymouth Whalers.

"To have so many people there supporting me. including all the ones who flew in from Newfoundland, was very special." **JOSH NORRIS** NHL draft pick

first round from the feedback my agent was getting and I had a good combine."

Did he ever. The 6-foot-1, 192pound Norris topped all 104 draft-eligible players at the NHL combine in Buffalo in five of the 14 fitness tests — pro agility left and right, peak power, vertical leap (26.19 inches) and standing long jump (118 inches).

Shines in clutch

The Sharks were among the teams to take notice.

"(Josh) is a guy that came into the combine

and just blew it away," Sharks General Manager Doug Wilson told the San Jose Mercury News. "His athletic ability and his interview were impressive and he's a kid that, in big games, plays his best hockey. He's got a lot of Logan Couture's (current Sharks all-star) attributes to him in terms of style and hockey sense."

After his name was called, Norris, who finished with 61 points, including 27 goals, for the NTDP team last season, donned a Sharks jersey and cap and stood between Wilson and Sharks coach Peter De-Boer.

"I was really excited to be taken by the Sharks and to be on stage with those guys and meeting them," said Norris, who already spent time at the team's development camp. "I went to their hotel suite afterward and we talked more. They really seemed excited to have me in the organization, but I went right back to work. I really want to prove my worth

to them." That should not be an

issue, NTDP coach John Wroblewski said

"I was expecting Josh to go in the first round because of his combine showing, especially in the lower-body tests and how he can spread himself around the ice, hammer the puck and score from anywhere," he said. "He's been dominate in world tournaments and very clutch. Josh rose to the occasion whenever we needed a goal or big play.'

Ready to help U-M

Before joining the Sharks' organization, Norris will take that big-play ability to Michigan.

He committed to the Wolverines in 2014 and signed with the program in November. He honored that commitment when Mel Pearson replaced legendary coach Red Berenson following last season.

The Sharks will retain the rights to Norris until 30 days after the end of

1

Josh has inherited his father's fluid skating ability, but Dwayne is quick to admit his son is a more complete player.

'Skating was my biggest asset, but Josh certainly has a more wellrounded game," he said. "Skating is only part of what he brings to the table and I think scouts recognized that. Josh is valuable on both ends of the ice and will help any team on the power play and penalty kill. Playing the game the right way also lifted his draft stock.'

Dwayne Norris, who still ranks in the top 10 all-time at MSU in goals (105) and points (218) helped Canada to a silver medal during the 1994 Olympics and spent time with the Nordiques and

X

Lions.

"I appreciate the time in Germany and being able to watch my dad play every day and being around professional players," Norris said. "He would take me on the ice after games and taught me a lot of hockey skills, of course, and the importance of a strong work ethic. However, things like being a good teammate and conducting yourself in the right way are the most important lessons he taught me."

American pride

Norris's father became his coach with the **Oakland Junior Grizzlies** program after the family returned to the United States in 2010. He remained with the Grizzlies until joining NTDP in 2015.

Norris says his greatest on-ice moment was helping Team USA capture the U-18 World Championship last April in Slovakia. He finished with three goals and four assists in seven games, scoring the first goal of the gold medal game against Finland and the game-winner in the quarterfinals against Switzerland.

"At those tournaments, you want to improve with every game and we did that," Norris said. "What a moment it was to win the gold, because we had worked so hard for two years for it. We were playing our best hockey at the end."

Norris's best hockey likely lies ahead, starting at Michigan.

SUMMER BASEBALL Michigan Rams continue hot streak with twinbill sweep

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

The Michigan Rams are just as hot as the summer weather, winning a doubleheader July 9 against A. Green Baseball at Ford Field in Livonia

Sparked by stellar pitching, the Rams

earned a pair of Livonia Men's Collegiate Baseball League victories and improved to 17-4.

In the opening contest, a five-run second inning set the tone as the Rams went on to a 9-2 triumph.

Swinging big bats for the Rams were Tristen Jorah (2-for-5), Schoolcraft College commit Anthony DiPonio (2for-5) and Frankie Lucska (3-for-4). Jorah and DiPonio both drove in three runs

Addison Pawelek was the starting and winning pitcher, going four innings and striking out nine batters. Closing out the win with three innings of scoreless relief was Brendan Wetmore. In Game 2, Dylan

Dzendzel and Zack Schmidtke combined to throw a five-hit shutout as the Rams prevailed, 2-0.

Dzendzel was the starting (and winning) pitcher and gave up just three hits and two walks

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over six innings. Finishing the shutout with one inning was Schmidtke, who gave up two hits but navigated

his way out of the jam. The Rams made the most of a five-hit attack against A. Green pitcher Sam Brace (11 strikeouts)

DiPonio ripped an

RBI double, while Jorah also collected a runscoring hit. Alex Nicholson (Salem) went 2for-3 (including a triple) and scored both Ram runs. Also chipping in a base hit was Gary Turnbull.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith Sports

BOYS LACROSSE ALL-AMERICA, ALL-STATE TEAMS

2017 All-America team ATTACK: Hub Henja (East Grand Rapids); Bryce Clay (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Erick Schmidt (Brother Rice); Ben Keller (East Grand Rapids); Drew Billig (Brighton); Jake Lining (Troy Athens); Nick Dudley (Brother Rice); John (Jack) Reid (Ann Arbor Pioneer); Tanner Hallock (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central) MIDFIELD: Jack Kelly (Brother Rice);

Peter Thompson (Detroit Catholic Central); Daniel Reaume (Brother Rice); Brennan Kamish (Detroit Catholic Central); Jack Johnson (Brighton); Reece Potter (Hartland) DEFENSE: Carson Cochran (Brother

Rice): Nick Andoni (Brother Rice) GOALIE: Hunter Braun (Detroit Catholic Central); Teddy Lievois (Brother Rice); Nick Malinowski (East Grand Rapids)

2017 All-State teams DIVISION 1

DIVISION 1 FIRST TEAM ATTACK: Cam Kostus (Rockford); Nick Dudley (Brother Rice); Drew Billig (Brighton); Cole Gingell (Northville); Cameron Gould (Brother Rice); Jake Lining (Troy Athens); Erik Schmidt (Brother Rice); (Jack) Reid (Ann Arbor Pioneer SECOND TEAM ATTACK: Joey

Kamish (Detroit Catholic Central); Garnet Potter (Hartland); Conner Gillis (Rockford); Chris French (Lake Orion); Zach Tardich Northville); Silvio Scappaticci (South Lyon) THIRD TEAM ATTACK: Noah Gago (North) (Ann Arbor Pioneer); Paul Mucci (Bloomfield Hills); Jacob Flood (Belleville); Ethan Harding (Ann Arbor Skyline); Ian Pattersor (Novi); Nick Ianuzzi (Henry Ford II)

HONORABLE MENTION ATTACK Chris Kondolen (Troy); Scout Ciora (Lake Orion); Anthony Zugaro (Novi); Spencer Petoskey (Oxford); Tanyr Krummenacher (Saline); Landon Macco (Grand Blanc) FIRST TEAM MIDFIELD: Brendan

Kamish (Detroit Catholic Central); Peter Thompson (Detroit Catholic Central); Reece Potter (Hartland): Jack Johnson (Brighton): lan Rodriguez (Rockford); Ty DeGraff (Rockford); Jack Kelly (Brother Rice); Daniel

SECOND TEAM MIDFIELD: Ryan Nelson (Brother Rice); Michael Burwell (Brother Rice); Nick Capatina ((Detroit Catholic Central); Jake Gallagher (Hartland); Ryan Flaherty (Birmingham United); Andrew

THIRD TEAM MIDFIELD: Vincent Lobo (Midland); Nolan Ouellette (Ply-mouth); Shane Miciek (Brighton); Anthony Salamone (Northville); Cario Zoratti (South Lyon); Dakota Locher (Clarksto HONORABLE MENTION MID-FIELD: Nathan Yuhas (Ann Arbor Pioneer) Carson Miller (Plymouth); Dylan Sutton (Birmingham United); Devon Lynch (Bloomfield Hills); Jack Loveland (Saline)

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE: Nick Andoni (Brother Rice); Joey Royer (Brother Rice); Jeffrey Putz (Hartland); Jake Hodges (Clarkston); Nolan Derby (Rockford); Abe

Charlie Shaver (Plymouth); Mitchell Gorski (Troy Athens); Tucker Martinez (Zeeland); Kyle Diton (Salem): Brandon Schick (Rochester Adams); Brody Fitzpatrick (Troy

Catholic Central senior Brendan Kammish (left) unleashes a shot on Brother Rice goalie Teddy

Lievois during the recent state championship game. Both earned Michigan High School

Lacrosse Association Division 1 all-state recognition.

FIRST TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS: Justin Parry (DM/LSM, Troy); James Don-aldson (DM/LSM, Brother Rice); Connor Marsh (DM/LSM, Brother Rice): Cole

Scheffler (F/O, Rockford); Jake DeYoung (F/O, Hartland) SECOND TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS: Sheldon Bourdeau (DM/LSM, Clarkston); Braydon Ebbeskote (DM/LSM, Brighton);

Jack Crosby (DM/LSM, Brother Rice); Drew Neller (F/O, South Lyon); Quinn Dobrzelwski (F/O, Clarkston) THIRD TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS:

Nate Czarnota (DM/LSM, Northville); Kyle Kohl (DM/LSM, Troy Athens); Zachary Kiel (DM/LSM, Huron Valley); Matt Auer (F/O, Ann Arbor Pioneer); Zac Taylor (F/O,

HONORABLE MENTION SPECIAL TEAMS: Jack Hinkin (DM/LSM, Zeeland); Derek Sanchez (DM/LSM, Hudsonville); Derrick Lynch (DM/LSM, Bloomfield Hills); Chase Sparling (F/O, Novi); Brenden

Bettelon (F/O, Troy Athens FIRST TEAM GOALIES: Hunter Braun (Detroit Catholic Central); Teddy Lievois (Brother Rice); Ben Stoklas (Rockford) SECOND TEAM GOALIES: Josh Luketic (Brighton); Gabe Liebetreu (Grand Haven); Jeff Varner (Northville) THIRD-TEAM GOALIES: Jacob Pokriefka (Midland); Jack Maher (Bloom-field Hills); Max Cavellier (Troy Athens) HONORABLE MENTION GOALIES: Zach Tykocki (Grandville); Jacob Steele (Howell); Joel Trent (South Lyon)

DIVISION 2 FIRST TEAM ATTACK: Hub Hejna (East Grand Rapids); Bryce Clay (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Ben Keller (East Grand Rapids); Brendan Dolan (Detroit Country Day); Tanner Hallock (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Drew Bailey (Grand **Rapids Forest Hills Central**

SECOND TEAM ATTACK: Grant Coleman (Cranbrook Kingswood); Luke Elder (East Grand Rapids); Luke Harbottle (Holland Christian); Ryan Genord (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Evan Jamieson (Okemos); Jake Cook (Cranbrook Kingswood) THIRD TEAM ATTACK: Jace Conley (Orchard Lake St. Mary's); Joe Fitzgerald (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard); Zach Yerian (De La Salle); Max Payton (Grosse Pointe North); Dylan Day (Tecumseh); Thomas

avey (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern) HONORABLE MENTION ATTACK: Gavin Amezaga (Ann Arbor Greenhills); Spencer Warezak (GP University Liggett); Will Buhl (Grosse Pointe South); Tim Carpenter (Ann Arbor Greenhills); Tim Gearig (Vicksburg); Brock Bandenberge (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern); Jacob Purcell (Un Arber Gabriel Bisbert) Russell (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard) FIRST TEAM MIDFIELD: Dylan Prime (Detroit Country Day); Joe Bolea (East Grand Rapids); Jackson Ueker (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Grant Chaffee (De La Salle); Joey Luciani (Cranbrook Kingswood); Ian Rush (Orchard Lake St.

Mary's) SECOND TEAM MIDFIELD: Patrick

English (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Mario Gonzales (Okemos); Davis Schiller (Cranbrook Kingswood); Tommy Hernandez (De La Salle); Logan French (Haslett); Zach Talovich (Flint Powers Catholic) **THIRD TEAM MIDFIELD:** Cam

Gauger (Ann Arbor Greenhills); Jerry Haadsma (Battle Creek Lakeview); Tommy VanPelt (GP University Liggett); Beau Yabs (DeWitt); Josh Boverhof (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern); Blake Rankin (Vicks-

HONORABLE MENTION MID-HONORABLE MENTION MID-FIELD: Beck Benson (Royal Oak Shrine); Steve Koenigsknecht (Orchard Lake St. Mary's); Will Mehney (Grand Rapids Christian); Brendan Bergeron (Grosse Pointe North); Matt Alati (Walled Lake Western); Weston Hauff (L'Anse Creuse) EIDET FEAM DEEENSE: Andraw FIRST TEAM DEFENSE: Andrew Trapp (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central)

Noah Verlinde (Spring Lake); Drew Thomas (East Grand Rapids); Andrew Baguley (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Michael Stebbins (Detroit Country Day); Jack Shenkenberg (Detroit Country Day) SECOND TEAM DEFENSE: Kelson Conners (Flint Powers Catholic); Alex Wilder (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard); Aidan Hutchinson (Divine Child); Ethan Harrington (De La Salle); Tag Bertuzzi (Cranbrook Kingswood); Joe Frangie (Okernos) THIRD TEAM DEFENSE: Austin Albrecht (Grosse Pointe North); Key Alward (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern); Nick Seurynck (Divine Child); Jack Gaderick (Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard); Caleb Kropp (Vicksburg); Keltin Langdon (DeWitt) HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE: Mario Lorelli (Grosse Pointe North); Victor Wagner (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Ryan Lake); Mike Burns (Tecumseh); Owen Reus (Caledonia)

FIRST TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS: Paul Manuzak (DM/LSM, De La Salle); Grant Petrucci (DM/LSM, Detroit Country Day); Owen Bruinius (DM/LSM, (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern); Fernando Robinsc (F/O, Tecumseh); Darren Huang (F/O, GP University Liggett)

SECOND TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS: Cole Stenstrom (DM/LSM, Grand Rapids Christian); Nick Carter (DM/LSM, (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Trey Feldeiser (DM/LSM, Ann Arbor Greenhills); Jacob Prinz (F/O (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Jake Dively (F/O, Temperance

THIRD TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS: Noah Pipper (DWLSM, Okemos); Ty Collins (DM/LSM, Grand Rapids Forest Hills (DM/LSM, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central); Nick Clark (DM/LSM (Grand Rapids) Forest Hills Northeny; Jacob Rodgers (F/O, East Grand Rapids); Sebastian Carrier (F/O,

HONORABLE MENTION SPECIAL TEAMS: Dominic Ciarelli (DM/LSM, Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard); Daniel Levin (DM/LSM, Cranbrook Kingswood); Gerrit Groenendyk (F/O, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern); Patterson Alward (F/O, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern); Krew Konroy (F/O, Vicksburg)

FIRST TEAM GOALIES: Aiden Papineau (Detroit Country Day); Nick Milanowski (East Grand Rapids); Joey Cluk

SECOND TEAM GOALIES: Jon Kowynia (De La Salle); Patrick Wells (Orchard Lake St. Mary's); Vincenzo Jean (Divine Child)

THIRD TEAM GOALIES: Jake Allen (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern); Max Christides (Cranbrook Kingswood); Jamison Daley (Grosse Pointe South) HONORABLE MENTION GOALIES: Kobe Jennings (Tecumseh); Brant Verlinde (Spring Lake); Anthony Leone (L'Anse Creuse)

2017 GIRLS LACROSSE ALL-STATE TEAMS

DIVISION 1 FIRST TEAM: Erin Kloostra (Forest Hills); Emily Beazley (Hartland); Grace Fischer (Birmingham United); Hannah Kelly (Brighton); Brooklyn Neumen (Rockford); Mekenzie Vandermolen (Rockford); Karrington Vandermolen (Rockford); Olivia D'Angelo (Bloomfield Hills); Sarah Chase



SCOTT CONFER

FILE PHOTO Senior attack Olivia D'Angelo made Division

(Northville); Morgan MacDonald (Troy); Jordan Bloch (Brighton); Cameron Stilson (Brighton); Molly Mullett (Forest Hills); Meghan Economou (Hartland). SECOND TEAM: Emma Dietrich

(Northville); Bailey Banfield (Rockford); Grace Dillon (Bloomfield Hills); Alyssa (Bloomfield Hills); Jessica Roth (Portage); Mackenzie Kelbert (Brighton); Sam Campanella (Hartland); Grace Murray (Birmingham United); Molly Crusse (Troy); Autumn Eslick (Grand Haven); Teagan Laier (Hartland); Claire Kelly (Bloomfield Hills).

HONORABLE MENTION: Aliyah Smukala (Walled Lake United); Stephanie Miller (Salem); Jessica Daniels (Brighton); Maddie Johnson (Salem); Sofia Johnson (Birmingham United); Caroline Wineman (Birmingham United); Zoe Chapman (Birmingham United); Margaret Reilly (GP South); Elizabeth Plowman (Grand Haven); Lia D'Angelo (Bloomfield Hills); Kendall Wasik (Northville): Alexa Wild (Midland) Grace Middleton (Midland); Kelsey Simpson (Grand Blanc); Lauren Rippy (Canton); Taryn Raisanen (Walled Lake United); Alexandra Lazarra (Lake Orion); Paige Yerian (Grand Blanc); Kady Waits (Huron Valley United); Michelle Capetto (Troy); Lauren Plave (Canton); Taylor Carleton (West Bloomfield); Abygai Barewold (Lake Orion); Charleton Abygai Barewold (Lake Orion); Charletote Beaudoin (Northville); Alexis Kuhns (Portage); Izzy Murphy-Morrow (Salern); Hannah Marick (South Lyon); Elise Whitney (GP South); Sydney Woods (Bloomfield (Gr South), Syoney Wolds (Bioomileid Hills); Ashley Boresma (Forest Hills); Kay Zubkus (Forest Hills); Allison Falk (Brighton); Riley Browne (Brighton); Bella D'Arcy (Hartland); Maddie Mince (Hartland); Julia Fortino (Bloomfield Hills); Amanda Bearden (Bloomfield Hills); Isabelle Holmes (Rock-ford): Sydney Zimmerman (Bockford); ford); Sydney Zimmerman (Rockford); Mariah Smythe (Novi); Katie Novell (Novi)

Grand Rapids); Mary Schumar (East Grand Rapids); Rachel Madar (DeWitt); Kate DeYoung (Grand Rapids Christian); Aaliyah Miller (Mattawan); Melaina Grewal (Okemos); Mallory Keenoy (Okemos).

DIVISION 2

Maggie Kane (Catholic Central); Courtney Pontious (Caledonia); Constance Stormzand

(Catholic Central); Audrey Whiteside (East

FIRST TEAM: Angelina Wiater (Blooomfield Hills Cranbrook); Isabella Scane (Blooomfield Hills Cranbrook);

Khoury (Northville); Carson Cochran

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE: Jack

Miling (Ann Arbor Pioneer); Mike Molchan (Detroit Catholic Central); Eric Dietz (Lake

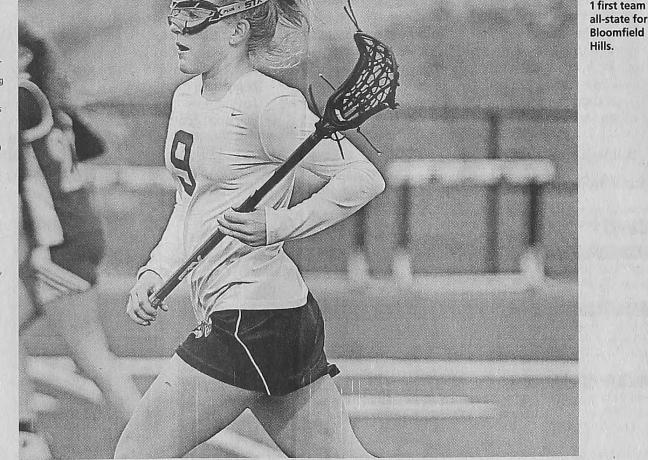
Orion); Connor Wright (Northville); Andrew Mills (Ann Arbor Pioneer); Gary Cutler

THIRD TEAM DEFENSE: Ben Bickford

(Hudsonville) modernose: ben bickiolo (Hudsonville) Drew Hubbard (Lake Orion): Mitchell Baggett (Grand Blanc); Mitchell Rolfe (Rochester Adams); Adam Bell (Oxford): Nate LaLumia (Grand Ledge) HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE:

SECOND TEAM: Mia Bowen (Farming-ton Hills Mercy); Lauren Cosgrove (Bloom-field Hills Marian); Kate Vinkemulder (Spring Lake); Sophia Yzerman (Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart); Reilly Noble (Mattawan); Sophia Milia (Blooomfield Hills Cranbrook); Kate O'Connell (East Grand Rapids); Sophia Conroy (Grand Rapids Catholic Central); Grace Beilby (Okemos); Reagan Russell (Haslett/Williamston); Sierra Dietz (DeWitt); Danyelle Hardy (Grand

Ledge). HONORABLE MENTION: Emilie Ascione , Anya Nayak, Anagha Nayak (Detroit Country Day); Darby Baird, Skylar Waddington, Marin Waddington (Dexter); Maddie Mathenia, Natalie Ragnone, Grace Andreski (Flint Powers Catholic); Grace Tenbusch (Fr. Gabriel Richard); Claire Hasse Katie Sullivan, Victoria Pilut, Colleen Lynch (Livonia Ladywood); Laurel Frederickson, Ella Doughtery (Lowell); Kellie Dugan (Bloomfield Hills Marian); Anna Grace Agro, Isabelle Case, Alexis Barker, Jacke Lee (Pontiac Notre Dame Prep); Kendall Jordan Claire McPherson, Kyleigh McCarthy (Rochester); Meg Ready, Grace Vanden-bosch, Mckenzie Ely (Spring Lake); Melanie Stoughton, Emily Galli (Walled Lake Northem); Morgan Boothby, Addie Pastor, Maddy Beauchamp (Mattawan); Alyssa Karber, Lauren Foltz, Allison Schloss, Emily Renfrew (Okemos); Jordan Markowski, Adison Salisbury, Delaney Kirinovic, Ashley Setter (DeWitt); Lydia Hoff, Rebecca Scobell (East Grand Rapids); Brigette Ballard, Dataset Joachan, Courtese Paulyr Delaney Langdon, Courtney Paulus (Blooomfield Hills Cranbrook); Chloe Alverson, Biance Kinder (HaslettWilliam son); Kelleigh Keating, Colliscia Williams (Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart); Evie Drukker (Farmington Hills Mercy).



DISTRICT

Continued from Page B1

MERCE TOWNSHIP 16:

On June 28 in an epic opener, Birmingham slugged its way past the host squad. Birmingham was down early, but pushed across six runs in the fifth and sixth innings en route to the eventual five-run triumph. Louie Sullivan led the offense with a perfect 4-for-4 performance, including a home run. Jamie Hubacker and the

Kinnnie twins - Colton and Granden - had three hits each. Cooper Jurkovich was on base three times and Garrett Dudlar added two hits and two RBIs. Michael Tang and Colton Kinnie also blasted a round tripper apiece

BIRMINGHAM 26, HOLLY 5: Birmingham found itself down by a run early in its second straight game June 29. The team, however, exploded for 22 runs over the next two innings in a game called after five innings for the mercy

6

rule. Andrew Pederson went 2-for-3 and knocked in a pair of runs and Jack Grabel hammered a three-run homer. Tang scored four runs and the Kinnie twins combined to score seven runs. Blake Baldner and John Kelly each registered a double.

BIRMINGHAM 7, WA-TERFORD 2: On July 6 in the winner's bracket game against Waterford, which also entered undefeated after two games, Birmingham finally played with an early lead. Birmingham scored five times in the

first two innings as Kelly and Colton and Granden Kinnie combined to score all seven runs. Wagner Carrel made a couple of great catches in center field, while Davis Nystrom blocked everything in sight be-hind the dish. "It was one of the best catching performances this experienced group of coaches has ever witnessed," Palmeri said. Tang hurled two scoreless innings of relief to snuff out Waterford's comeback hopes. **BIRMINGHAM 10,**

WATERFORD 2: In the

championship game July 8, just like the first meeting, Birmingham registered a methodical victory to go undefeated in the district for the second straight season. Granden Kinnie twirled a complete-game gem that included eight strikeouts and one earned run. Birmingham struck early and took charge by scoring seven runs over the first two innings. Colton Kinnie, Hubacker, Carrel and Nystrom paced the offense with two hits apiece.

Birmingham finished with a hefty .491 team batting average with 15 extra-base hits. The Kinnie twins, Sullivan and Kelly all batted over .600 for the tournament. The team defense was superb with just four errors in four games.

Birmingham was scheduled play this past weekend in a best-ofthree sectional series against the District 16 champion in Commerce Township. The winner will advance to the state tournament.

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Making your resume ATS-friendly

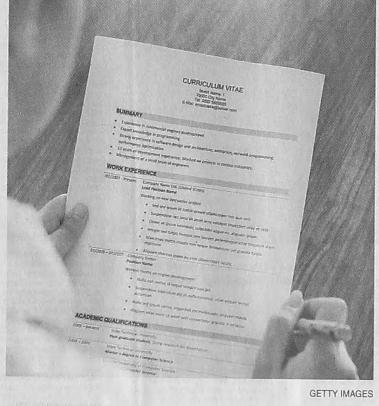
BY MATT TARPEY CAREERBUILDER

hen looking for candidates to potentially fill an open position. the majority of employers use something called an applicant tracking system (ATS) to find, collect, organize and screen all of the applications they receive. This means your resume will likely need to pass through an ATS before ever reaching human eyes. Here are a few essential tips to make sure your resume is ATS-friendly.

Simplify contact information

Many job seekers are so focused on the professional information included in their resumes that they overlook even more basic information - their contact info. When optimizing your resume for an ATS, make sure that the system will have no problem identifying your name, email address and phone number.

"Do not put your point of contact information in the headers - some ... ATS soft-



and footer because the system doesn't know where to put header info. It also takes up way too much white space and page space on pages two and three (or four)."

Use keywords

ATSs are continually growing in sophistication, but key-

"Recruiters and hiring managers are busy and many rely on applicant tracking systems or databases to search through resumes based on Boolean searching," says Sarah Connors, principal staffing manager at recruiting firm WinterWyman. "You might think it's obvious

ers' keyword searches."

Wendi M. Weiner, an attorney, certified executive resume writer and career coach, suggests using the employer's description of the open position to identify keywords you should be using.

"Look to the job posting and highlight the keywords that stand out and include those keywords in your resume," says Weiner. "At the same time, avoid keyword stuffing, which means just throwing in as many keywords as possible, including ones that may not match your skill set."

Use simple formatting

While you might think that a unique or unusual resume layout will help it stand out from the pack, it may actually make your resume more difficult for an ATS to make sense of, and hurt your chances of getting hired.

"Applicant tracking systems cannot decipher graphs, charts, columns or even text boxes. Therefore, make sure your resume does not contain those items," says Weiner.

that easily converts to text in the parsing process," says Boyer. "I recommend Arial or Times New Roman, but as a recruiter, my preference is Arial on the original resume."

"Plainer [font] eliminates issues with the parsing engine and makes it easier for the recruiter to read the important parts without the visual interference," adds Boyer.

Complete the application

Some online application processes require you to manually enter some information that may also appear on your resume. While this may seem unnecessary or redundant, do not skip over these steps.

"When filling out online applications, make sure to complete all portions of online submission forms," says Valerie Streif, senior advisor at The Mentat. "Answer all the filtering questions thoroughly and don't leave anything blank. The ATS could automatically eliminate resumes that leave portions of the forms blank, guaranteeing that your resume won't be seen by

5

ware doesn't know where to put this information when they convert the resume from the Word doc. (or PDF) into a 'text' parsing into their database," says Dawn Boyer, CEO of Boyer Consulting. "Many ATSs will simply dump the header	word identification will always be an essential component. Employers don't have time to carefully read every single resume they receive, and keywords help them quickly identify resumes that deserve a closer look.	that as a salesperson you cold called companies, closed deals, followed up and so forth. However, if those tasks aren't listed on your resume, companies might assume you haven't done them. Moreover, you won't come up in recruit-	Use a standard font Even the font you choose can impact the ATS's ability to read your resume, so stick with a very basic, standard font. "Use one font throughout the resume – preferably a font	Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He research es and writes about job search strategy, career management, hi ing trends and workplace issues				
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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

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Car Report

MAZDA CX-9 LARGE SUV SHOWS WHY BRAND DING IN ITS PUSH FOR PREMIUM IS SUC BEE



Mazda unique a straddling strategy to survive as a small brand in a U.S. market that has reached a number of inflection points.

By Dale Buss

It's an approach to product development, sales and marketing that combines hedging Mazda's bets -- and being downright contrarian in places. The No. 12-selling marque in America is highlighting the importance of the driving experience at a time when most of its rivals are scrambling to be ready for the coming era of self-driving. And it is attempting to gain a premium cachet for its products but at value prices.

Mazda's 2017 CX-9 seven-passenger

is SUV is a great illustration of why this attempting strategy is working out so far. I put a Grand Touring version of CX-9 through its paces in a demanding week around Michigan, from north to south, and it delivered as required.

> CX-9 demonstrated the premiumness that Mazda has promised so that it can stand up to competitors from Acura and Infiniti. Yet the version I drove checks out at only \$43,610.

> Start with the exterior: CX-9 stands out in part because of a prominent proboscis which makes its styling unique in its class. This is definitely not a "me-too" approach for Mazda.

Also, the vehicle displayed all of the versatility that I could ask for, in holding vast amounts of vacation cargo but also in transitioning easily to comfortable and highly accessible seating for seven.

Its all-wheel-drive platform came in handy when plowing through sudden thunderstorms that had a small sedan



AMazda's CX-9 styling lends much of its premium feel. just in front of me on I-75 go into a have, but most people are driving in the dangerous spin. The ride was smooth, front seat and care about what they see, although not Lexus-level.

This CX-9 also boasted plenty of premium touches, including alloy wheels, aluminum and leather interior trim, an eight-inch color-display rear camera and heated power mirrors with turn lamps. Its automated-driving features were top-notch, including cruise control that comfortably kept me in line with the changing speeds of the traffic ahead of me.

But I found it interesting that Mazda doesn't include a panoramic sunroof of the type that has become very popular in premium vehicles, stretching wide across the vehicle and back across the second row of seats. Even the top version of CX-9, which offers rosewood and napa leather trim, doesn't boast a panoramic sunroof. They all have the more traditional, smaller design for a sunroof.

"A panoramic sunroof is a nice-to- the vehicle he drove - which he later Mazda.

and the sunroofs we have accomplish that," Mazda Vice President of Marketing Russell Wager told me. In that specific feature, he said, the tradeoff between payback and price isn't worthwhile.

After a week with CX-9, I found myself agreeing with one of the commercials in Mazda's new "Driver's Choice" ad campaign in which the brand features real people - and premium car owners - participating in a sort of blind taste test of Mazdas versus other vehicles in their segments.

Mazda conceals the identities of its own models and identifying marks of the competitors. The upshot: After putting them through their paces, the majority of those surveyed preferred Mazda vehicles when they didn't know the identity of the brands.

In the CX-9 ad, one driver called

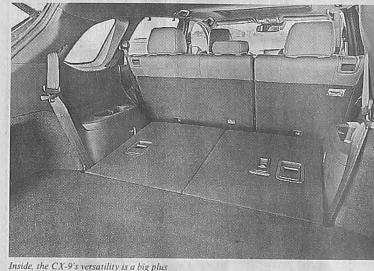
found out was a CX-9 - "nice and responsive" and "one I'd want to drive every day." Another driver mentioned that, because of leather and other interior materials, CX-9 "feels very well-crafted."

CX-9 also demonstrates Mazda's strategy for nurturing a number of sub-brands and subsidiary concepts as important elements of its premiumness formula.

These include Skyactiv, a suite of technology and weight-saving features across all Mazda vehicles, optimizing everything from the powertrain to the materials in structural elements. And CX-9's long nose is a manifestation of "Koda," Mazda's name for its dynamic exterior design language that has resulted in a highly streamlined family of vehicles that make a statement with their styling.

Wager said that Mazda knows its attempt to move upscale in consumer perceptions is working, for a few reasons. For instance, transaction prices "are continuing to increase across the lineup," he said. And in consumer research, Mazda has seen an increase over the last couple of years in affirmative answers to questions such as, "Are you willing to pay more for a Mazda? Do you consider Mazda to be premium?"

In other words, Mazda's move upscale is nicely aligned with what's happening in the U.S. market overall as there has been a significant decline in sales of economic, gas-sipping sedans of the type that used to characterize





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