5 REASONS TO HATE START OF SCHOOL YEAR LOCAL NEWS, A4





Rotarians getting chickens ready

Annual barbecue a highlight of Plymouth Fall Festival

Brad Kadrich hometownlife.com

You'll know the chicken is

hitting the racks when you hear the music blaring from 88.1 The Park.

That's the chosen radio station for the folks who will be cooking up some 10,500 chicken dinners Sunday, when the Ply-mouth Rotary Club hosts its 62nd Rotary Chicken Barbecue in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

The process of putting to-gether the barbecue culmi-

nates with the sale - and the eating thereof - of the chicken dinners. It's a process that's a long time coming. Organizers begin meeting in April and meet every other week through the event.

"It's a systematic process, that's for sure," said this year's chairman, Rich Eisiminger. "We figure 10,500 (chickens) is an optimum number that will keep the pit guys from falling out. It gets pretty brutal for them at times." Consider:

» Rotarians and their volun-

teers cook some 10,500 chickens.

» Some 12,000 pounds of charcoal is used.

» Volunteers shuck some 11,000 ears of corn.

There's a reason they do it, though.

"Last year, we were able to put \$132,000 toward charitable causes in Plymouth and worldwide, including \$60,000 that went into scholarships," Rotari-an and Plymouth attorney Cam Miller said. "None of it happens without (community) support."

According to Eisiminger, the barbecue provides "about 50

See BARBECUE, Page A2



The Rotary chicken barbecue — that's Brad Westfall (left) and Jim Davison working a recent event — is a Fall Festival favorite. This year's dinner is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until sold out) Sunday, Sept. 10.

'Bicyclists don't have fender benders, they have funerals'

Some no longer feel safe on roads; lawmakers consider legislation

Jay Grossman hometownlife.com

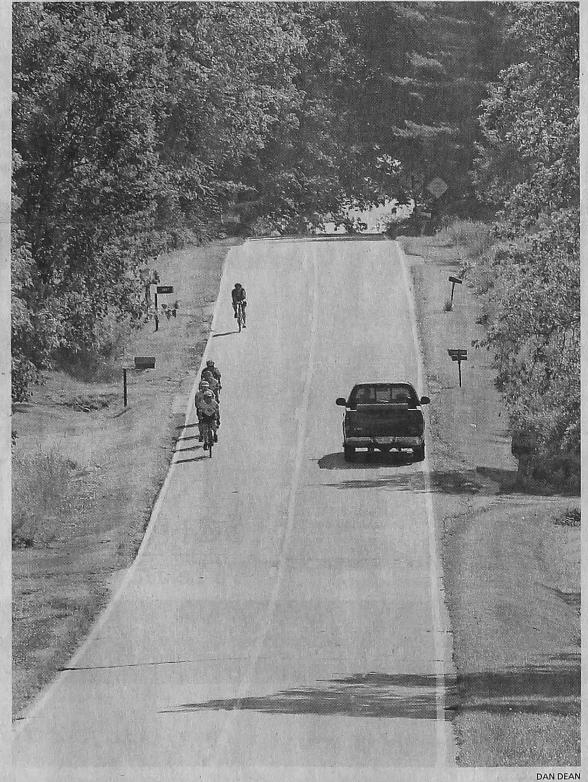
Avid cyclist Paul Eddleston knows all about near misses between bikes and cars on busy roads.

The Birmingham resident was nearly sideswiped by a large SUV making a left turn on a street in Berkley last month. His helmet camera recorded the entire incident.

"As someone once told me, bicyclists don't have fender benders," he said. "They have funerals.

Long-distance cyclist Mike Surnow tries to avoid riding on roads altogether.

'My views have changed since my brother died," he said. "Speaking for myself, I



Former priest accused of stealing from Resurrection Parish

The Rev. Eugene Katcher, former pastor of Resurrection Parish in Canton, has been charged by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office with three counts of larceny in a building.

Katcher, 71, was arraigned Aug. 31 before Judge Ronald Lowe in 35th District Court in Plymouth. A probable cause conference is

set for 8:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 8, before Judge James Plakas, while the preliminary exam is set for 8:30 a.m.



Friday, Sept. 15, Katcher before Judge Michael Gerou,

also in 35th District Court. Katcher received a personal

no longer feel safe riding on the roads. I ride my mountain bike exclusively on trails free of cars.'

Whether it's a growing number of cyclists or a growing number of cellphones, bicyclist fatalities in Michigan have spiked through the roof in recent years. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning reported 38 bicyclist fatalities across the state in 2016. That's up 81 percent from 2014, when 21 deaths were reported.

In 2017, there were 14 bicy-clist fatalities reported in Michigan through the third week of August. Bicyclist fatalities nation-

wide increased about 12 percent between 2014 and 2015, per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's most recent statistics.

'I've been an amateur racing cyclist since I was 13 years

> By law, vehicles must share the road with bicyclists in Michigan. See BICYCLISTS, Page A3

bond

The charges, felonies carrying a maximum penalty of up to four years in prison, stem from a preliminary investigation begun by the Archdiocese of Detroit in the spring, after an allegation was made against Katcher.

After uncovering evidence of possible improper activity, archdiocese officials contacted civil authorities for further investigation. According to a release from the archdiocese, Katcher allegedly stole money and numerous items of property from the parish.

Having reached what the archdiocese calls senior priest status, Katcher retired, as had been previously scheduled, in July. Following his arrest, he was restricted from public ministry, meaning he may not celebrate Mass or the sacraments in a church setting, may not wear a Roman collar or

See PRIEST, Page A2



things that's a piece of

Eisiminger said. "The fall festival wouldn't be

opens Friday, Sept. 8, and

» The Plymouth-Canton Little League spon-

bingos will be held at 6:45

p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 8:45

(Plymouth) history,"

the same without it."

runs through Sunday, Sept. 10. Some of the highlights this year:

sors bingo 6 p.m. to 9

p.m. Friday, Sept. 8. Three special grand slam

BARBECUE

Continued from Page A1

percent" of the Plymouth Rotary Club's funding every year (the annual golf outing is the club's other big fundraiser).

He said organizers are praying for sunshine" (an early look at a weather app shows a forecast of sunny and 70 degrees) for the well-attended event.

"It's a very popular event ... just one of those

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p.m.

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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» The antique and classic car show (preregistration cruise Friday, Sept. 8) takes place Saturday and Sunday. Speaking of the annual Plymouth Fall Festival, it

» The Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast is 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 9, in The Gathering in Kellogg Park. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door, and can be or-dered in advance by calling Mark Riegal at 734-718-6176 or email markriegal@gmail.com

» The Plymouth Civitans host the annual taste fest 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at Station 885 (885 Starkweather) in Old Village. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-10 (chil-dren younger than 5 eat free). Advanced tickets are available at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, or at Station 885.

» Rotary Club of Plymouth AM hosts its annu-al spaghetti dinner 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, in the lot behind E.G. Nick's, off of Harvey, in downtown Plymouth. Tickets are \$9 pre-sale, \$10 the day of the dinner. The menu includes spaghetti noodles, marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, roll, Jimmy John's chocolate chip cookie and a bottle of water.

pet show and more at the Plymouth Fall Festival. Find details at www. plymouthfallfestival.com

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich

present himself as a priest and he is not allowed on parish property at Resurrection.

officials said the archdiocese "takes seriously

every allegation involving inappropriate conduct of clergy, church personnel or volunteers." It is the policy of the archdiocese to conduct a financial audit of parishes every three years. Additionally, each parish is required to have a finance council, led by parishioners, that assists

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3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, see Cirque Amongus

A Cirque Amongus

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ence participation - fun

circus skills and audi-

for the entire family.

Library officials are

perform on stage at

show is a surprising

Kellogg Park.

and advises the pastor in oversight and control of parish financial affairs.

Parish employees, parishioners, volunteers, vendors and other parties can report confidentially any concerns related to financial matters to EthicsPoint, an independent, third-party company, at 855-234-9774.

edge of any misconduct by a member of the cler-gy, church personnel or volunteer may also contact the Archdiocese of Detroit at 866-343-8055. Matters involving possible criminal activity are reported by the archdiocese to civil authori-

ties.



The Plymouth District Library is bringing Cirque Amongus to Kellogg Park during Fall Festival

Library brings Cirque Amongus to Fall Festival

southeast Michigan,

Cirque Amongus fea-

organizers say is "guar-

We are delighted

anteed to amaze and

that the Friends are

Carol Souchock said.

making this event pos-

sible," Library Director

"We are excited to join

delight.'

Appearing throughout the community in this annual Plymouth tradition, the Fall Festival." tures a display of team-In the event of rain, work and perseverance

the show will be moved down the block to the library. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. There is no registration required for this program.

Anyone with knowl-

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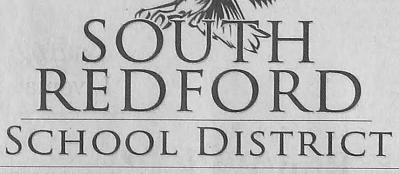
PRIEST

Continued from Page A1

In its release, church

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BICYCLISTS

Continued from Page A1

old. I actually came to this country to race bikes in 1989," said Eddleston, a native of Manchester, England. "I've always trained on roads with tons of cars and everything, but in the last few years it's gotten crazier and crazier."

Roads vs. trails

Surnow believes distracted drivers shoulder much of the blame for the spike in bicyclist accidents.

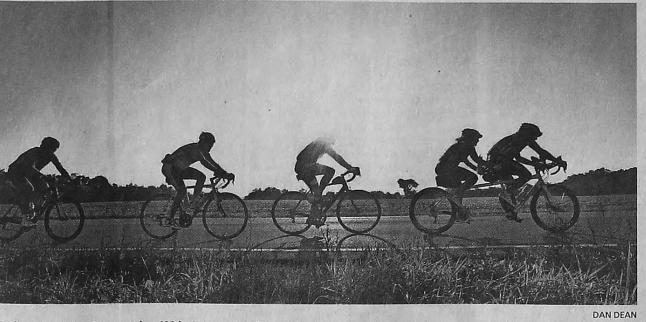
"The issue today is with cellphones," Surnow said. "Drivers are far more distracted and a lot of them feel cyclists have no right to be on the road, even though Michigan law makes it clear that cyclists have an absolute right to public roads."

Surnow, who was biking in Colorado during the phone interview, will cycle anywhere from 25 miles to 100 miles a day. He's participated in 16 different Make-A-Wish charity rides, a three-day event in which cyclists ride an estimated 100 miles a day from the Michigan International Speedway to Traverse City.

He helped organize a bike festival in Birmingham for several years with his brother, Jeffrey Surnow, who was killed on his bike by a motorist in 2015. Surnow also lost a friend recently who was training for a ride when his bike was struck by a young driver.

"Every time I hear a car coming, I'm uncomfortable," he said. "So why should I ride in the street when I'm in this constant state of being uncomfortable? I can ride in the woods, where I'm safe."

Surnow, who also volunteers on Birmingham's



Cyclists ride in the Assenmacher 100 in August near Swartz Creek.



PAUL EDDLESON

Paul Eddleston, with wife Lori Pile in Mackinaw City, survived a near-sideswipe by a large SUV making a left turn in Berkley last month.

multi-modal transportation board, said all bike lanes should include a physical barrier from vehicles, such as "turtle bumps," or raised pavement markers that alert drivers whenever they start drifting into the bike lane.

Other communities, like Milford have created "sharrows," which designate on the roadway that it's intended to be shared between autos and bikes.

'Take the lane'

Michigan lawmakers are considering legislation that would provide a little breathing room between cars and bikes. Senate Bill 0123 would require drivers to maintain a safe distance of at



Michael Surnow, with daughter Hannah, said, "Drivers are far more distracted, and a lot of them feel cyclists have no right to be on the road."

least five feet whenever they're passing a bicyclist. The bill is now before the judiciary committee for review.

While Michigan law states cyclists should ride as close to the curb as practicable, they include a number of exceptions:

» When overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction

» When preparing to turn left

» When conditions make the right-hand edge of the roadway unsafe or reasonably unusable by bicycles, including surface hazards, an uneven roadway surface, drain openings, debris, parked or moving vehicles or bicycles, pedestrians, animals or other obstacles

» When operating a bicycle in a lane in which the traffic is turning right, but the individual intends to go straight through the intersection

» When operating a bicycle upon a one-way highway or street that has two or more marked traffic lanes, in which case the individual may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of that roadway as practicable

Eddleston said cyclists need to feel comfortable riding in the middle of a traffic lane rather than off to the side.

"The whole idea is to take the lane and control the lane," he said. "Unless you ride big and make your presence known, drivers don't know you're there or they try to squeeze by you. But if you take up lane, they must decide whether to go around you or move into another lane. You're forcing them to deal with you on equal terms."

Rules for all

It's not always the car's fault. Farmington Hills police reported two major bicycle accidents over a seven-day period in July, one of which killed the bicyclist. In both cases, police say the cyclists caused the crashes.

"Cyclists are dutybound to follow the traffic rules," Surnow said. "You can't run red lights and ignore stop signs just because you're riding a bike."

While Michigan law requires cyclists to follow traffic rules, it does not require them to wear a helmet — or prevent them from talking on cellphones while riding.

"T'll see families riding in the street and mom and dad aren't wearing helmets and neither are their kids," Surnow said.

Eddleston said more awareness and education is needed to make cyclists feel safe while riding on roads.

"I've lost some close friends to bicycling accidents," he said. "Motorists need to be aware that bicyclists have a right to travel lanes."

At the end of the day, Surnow said he'd like to see more people riding on the trails and less on the roads. He recently cycled the White Pine Trail in Michigan, a 92mile route that extends from Grand Rapids to Cadillac.

"It was sheer bliss," he said. "No cars, no horns ... just beautiful woods and serenity."

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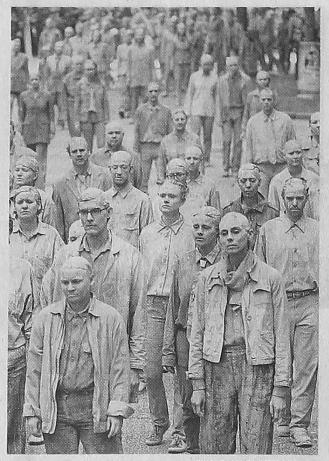
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SEAN GALLUP | GETTY IMAGE School employees act eerily similar to these zombie-like performance artists after the first day of school.

5 reasons (non) parents hate the start of the school year

Philip Allmen hometownlife.com

Tuesday was the first day of school for most students around here. Some, though, were al-

ready back in session. Parents are celebrating and school staffs are

groaning.

But whether or not

B

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you have school-age kids of your own, the start of school impacts just about everybody. I have no children of my own, so getting thrown into the turmoil of the back-toschool frenzy is enough to make my hairs stand on end

And while you "know" the school year is about



Shopping for school supplies.

to start, not having a munchkin or four to actually get out the door and onto a school bus, it's pretty easy to forget in the moment what the day actually means ... at least until you've had a few cups of coffee.

Here's some of the worst things about this time of year:

1. Changing traffic patterns. There's nothing like timing everything just perfect so you arrive at work just minutes before you're scheduled to start. Then you pull out on to the main road and, a few minutes later, traffic is stopped. What's that? Dagnabbit. School bus. Well, there goes being on time today. And it's not just school buses. It's remembering the slow-speed hours by those four schools you pass each day. Which one



Trees in northern Michigan are already turning colors.

starts at 8:15 a.m.? If I go by at 2 p.m., will I get stuck behind all those high schoolers racing to get out of the school parking?

2. Back to school pictures. It's a timehonored tradition to snap a photo of your kids the first day of school. Nothing says "cheers" like forced smiles through still-groggy eyes. But now, everyone gets to see those opening day photos. Thanks, Facebook. My feed is inundated for



GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO School bus

you probably know that no matter how much preparation, how much sleep the night before, your teacher friends won't be ready for what's coming. So by evening, they're stumbling around like a zombie, also known as school drunk. The energy it takes to keep up with hundreds of kids locked up in a single building after months of freedom is massive. And no one's built up their stamina yet.

5 Where go? Once the school year starts, our day-to-day lives change. No more trips up north. And it's getting cold. This was going to be the summer of adventure. What? It's over? Where did it go? Why are those leaves looking yellow already?



days with the pics. Great if you're a grandparent, but seeing 207 photos of backpacks, school uniforms and toothy grins is more than enough.

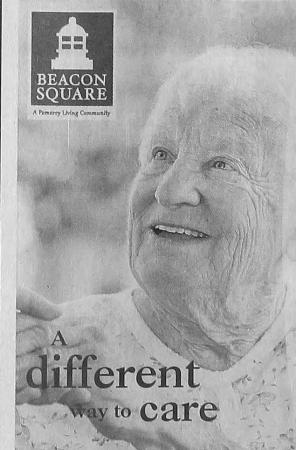
3. Quick run to the store. Back to school sales started a month ago. So why are Meijer, Target and Walmart all so busy? Really? School already started. Now you're thinking about folders, colored pencils

and lunch boxes? Don't blame the store employee that the only selections left are Teddy Ruxpin and the Hamburglar, Great. Now, I've got to maneuver around some frantic moms and dads so I can stock up on Doritos and LaCroix.

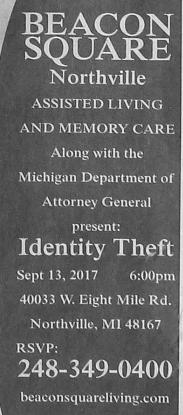
4. Throngs of the walking dead. Even if not a parent, most people have family or friends in the education field. So

Philip Allmen is the consumer experience director for hometownlife.com.

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X,



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CASINO . HOTEL BATTLE CREEK

Fall colors look to peak earlier, longer statewide

Elissa Robinson Detroit Free Press

Put away the bathing suits and sparkling lemonade.

Millions of Michiganders are eager for the cool breezes of fall, long sleeves and that pumpkin spice latte. But more than anything, it's the changing of the leaves that really makes Michigan's fall feel special.

And while it feels a little early to be talking about fall colors, heavier precipitation during the summer months points to an earlier-than-usual peak season.

"Other than the Pacific Northwest, we are expecting warmer-thanaverage fall temperatures during the during the September through November time period. These warmer temperatures are expected to prolong the color season," said data scientist Wes Melton, creator of an interactive map, SmokyMountains.com.

Here is a look at the biggest weeks to capture the best of Michigan's fall colors:

» By early September, parts of the Upper Peninsula will be seeing near peak conditions. Meanwhile, the northern Lower Peninsula will see some partial color.

» If you're planning a trip to the U.P., the week of Sept. 17 may be the best time. Fall foliage will be at its peak from Copper Harbor and Marquette to Munising and

Sault Ste. Marie.

» The northern tip of Michigan and the lower southwest portion of the U.P. will see peak colors during the week of Sept. 24. Meanwhile, most of the Lower Peninsula will be brightening up, with near peak colors showing

» If the scenery of the M-22 highway is in your fall plans, the week starting Oct. 1 could be the perfect time to go. During this week, the Lower Peninsula, all the way up

Heavier precipitation during the summer months points to an earlier-than-usual peak season.

to about Frankfort, will be lit up with the most beautiful colors the Mitten State has to offer. North of Frankfort, we'll be past the fall's peak colors.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

» By Oct. 8, the entire state will be past its peak foliage.

Time to stop gerrymandering

Citizens: Be aware the Supreme Court will be hearing cases about how voting districts are created by the political party which has the power at a specific time. This practice is called gerrymandering. Thus many voters lose their right to vote.

In Michigan and throughout the U.S., members of an organization called VNP (Voters Not Politicians) are circulating petitions to get on ballots in the 2018 election cycle to have a bipartisan panel draw the voting districts. Research VNP in Michigan. Sign the petition and join the this fine group if you have the time. Make a donation, too!

The November 2016 nation election was a travesty of justice. Let's exist to resist and restore what is left of our democracy

Hannah Provence Donigan Commerce

Can't hide hate

"I wish to begin this summer well," wrote Thoreau, "to do something in it worthy of it and of me; to transcend my daily routine; to have immortality now in the quality of my daily life."

You can't hide hate. You can't put in a crate and take it out later and expect it to be something different.

You can't hide hate. You can't bury it down and hope it will grow up

You can't hide hate. People often wear it on

following: a Nazi lover, KKK fan, Racist, Gay basher, a greedy rich person or a shill for the rich, a vile corporate leader, a Pimp for Wall street or just an out and out hater.

So, to Trump and his minions, the majority of our people will not stand by and watch anyone being loaded into box cars or someone lynched while a crowd clad in hoods and white dresses cheer.

Please, Alt-right, do the country a favor and crawl back in the rat holes where you belong. And I am deeply sorry if I insulted any members of the rodent family by comparing them to these people.

James Huddleston Canton

Gone to the dogs

It's a rare person who can claim to be a bigger animal lover than I am, and this includes wild animals and domestic pets. Animals can cause problems though.

I don't mean to 'bark up the wrong tree' but as far as domestic pets go, cats are usually out of

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your sight whereas dogs can be trouble-makers. My complaint is less against the brainless brutes and more with the two-legged morons who are incompetent dogowners.

A dog's brain is limited compared to the human variety (even those of moronic level) and they can't really be blamed for following their instincts, but their owners should be faulted in how they govern them. A big 'pet peeve' of mine is how some people will let their brutes stay outside to endlessly bark at trivial issues or nothing, creating a constant annoyance of noise. Often their innocuous targets of noise-making are the postal carriers, pedestrians, school children or

other dogs. I'm sure a barking dog is enjoying himself, and the owners may think that everything he does is cute, much the same way that new parents admire a baby's every drool, and it may come as quite a surprise, but not every human ear within listening range is thrilled by your four-legged noise-

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makers! Suburban cities like Livonia have really

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'gone to the dogs' and deteriorated over the years with streets now filled ad nauseam with noisy junk-yard dogs, cultivating a real ghetto-

Some of these dogs are horse-size monsters, and I've even seen some homes which own two or three of them! You must wonder what people were thinking! Surely you an animal for security purposes but an alarm system would be quieter.

stay outside to continuously bark at your neighbors or others, you are showing a real contempt and disrespect of your fellow man. A dog doesn't have a soul, but your fellow man does, and he deserves more regard than an animal. For example, when someone comes to your front-door, be it the post-man, Fuller Brush-man, 'Jesus freak' or politician, you shouldn't force that person to conduct a conversation through a noise barrage of your barking dog, nor do you let un-leashed dogs chase bicycles, and you don't clog up main thorough-fare sidewalks with dog-walking.

Leo Weber Livonia

Speak out against Trump

Well now, that didn't take long did it? On about Trump's 200th day in office, and his 60th vacation day, whilst during his 41st day of golf, we had Nazis and Klansmen terrorize a Charlottesville synagogue and murder an American citizen on our own streets with the support of the police and the blessings of the president.

The divisiveness, corruption and incompetence of this presidency is simply staggering, a true constitutional crisis and yet this newspaper stays silent. Why? I've delivered the O&E as a kid and have read it for decades and can remember when your voice was a weekly occurrence. What's the point of this paper when you turn a blind eye to the chaos

that threatens our American way of life? Just because Trump is your and Livonia's guy doesn't mean you get a free pass on this. At this point you're not much better than the free shoppers weekly and serve no real community service at all. Grow a spine, find your voice or close up shop. Your silence is deafening. **Mitch Dubanik** Livonia

No more taxes

As a longtime resident and a condo owner, I am not in favor of the pending mileage that city council is trying to enact. Condos by law must maintain their own roads with no help from the city. We have completely rebuilt our road system without city involvement.

I thought we had already passed a mileage for roads a year or so ago. Anyway, I will not vote for the councils proposal and hopefully no other condo owner will either. A tax to maintain sub division roads would be unfair to any condo owner.

Dick Isham Farmington Hills



like vibe.

wouldn't want babies, cats or smaller dogs around such beasts. I suppose some people use

When you let a dog

their face. You can't hide hate.

The heart will will tell the dark tale that within it dwells.

You can't hide hate. Make a sweet speech and sing a song of destruction.

You can't hide hate. Some wave the flag and some some smile upon it. You can't hide hate. Some weave it in a contract or write it on a wall. You can't hide hate. It will lead to your fall. For union, for all. Alfred Brock Wayne

Presidential support surprises

The violent events that took place in Charlottesville should come as no surprise. President Donald Trump's political rhetoric has unleashed the dregs of society, who, until recently were content to stay in their rat holes and preach to like minded idiots.

Now, embolden by their President, they proudly march and goose-step in broad daylight, waving Nazi and Confederate flags and shouting hatred.

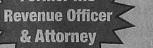
Sunday, Trump refuses to call out the hate groups by name. Monday he reads from a script that condemns Nazis and the KKK. Tuesday, with no script, he shows his true self by taking the heat off the Alt-right and coining a new phrase that puts the blame on the Alt-left. (Alt-left?) If anyone who voted for Trump and is still a

fan, they are one of the

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Be wary of scam artists during time of natural disasters

e have all seen the photos and the videos of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. The numbers are staggering. According to reports, by the time the storm ends, 25 trillion gallons of rain will have been dumped on Texas. It's also estimated that nearly 500,000 people will be asking the federal government for disaster assistance and more than 30,000 people will need temporary shelter. The numbers are mind-boggling

Whenever there is a natural disaster, no matter where it is in the world, Americans open up their hearts and checkbooks to the victims. Unfortunately, whenever there is a natural disaster, the lowlifes in our society come out of the woodwork seeking to take advantage of our



good nature. The number of scams regarding charities increases dramatically in times of crisis. In fact, you are already starting to see bogus websites and bogus charities attempting to solicit money because of Harvey. Because the lowlifes know the generosity of the American people, it is important that if you are thinking about helping the victims in Texas, before you contribute your hard-earned money, you think with your head and not just your heart.

With the technology that exists today, scam artists don't have to be in the United States to take advantage of you; they

can be anywhere around the world. It doesn't take much to establish a website that looks professional with pictures of children, the elderly and pets in need. These pictures are meant to pull at your heartstrings and get you to think with your heart vs. your head. I cannot stress enough that you cannot let these pictures sway you to let down your guard. This is exactly what the scam artists want

I believe that before you contribute to a charity, you need to make sure the charity is legitimate. What many of these scam artists do is use a name that sounds like a legitimate charity, but it's not. That is why you have to check out charities independently before you write them a check. Two websites I use with a wealth of information about charities are www.charity navigator.org and www.give.org. Both are independent and have a wealth of information regarding charities.

It's important to realize that when it comes to charities, it's not sufficient just to prune out the illegitimate from the legitimate. Unfortunately, you can have a legitimate charity that is not run efficiently in that most of its money goes for administrative and marketing purposes rather than charitable purposes. My view is that those charities should also be avoided because, after all, you want the bulk of your money going toward the charitable purpose itself, not other areas. Even if you know you are dealing with a legitimate charity, it is important to do your homework to make sure it is spending your mon-

ey wisely.

One of the methods that these scam artists use is to send an email solicitation with graphic pictures hoping that you will link to their website. When you link to their site, they attack your computer, allowing them to steal sensitive information. If you think it's a legitimate charity and you want to pursue it, you still should not directly link to that site. It would be much more prudent to type the information into your browser. By doing it this way, you are providing yourself a level of protection if the charity is not legitimate.

It is a shame that people take advantage of others' good nature. We see it after every natural disaster and, unfortunately, it is going to continue. It is important to protect yourself and

think with your head when it comes to charities, not with your heart. Americans are the most generous and charitable people on Earth. It's in our DNA as Americans to want to help others. Unfortunately, the crooks and the lowlifes also recognize this and come out of the woodwork whenever there is a natural disaster. It is important that we don't let down our guard and do our homework, so our hard-earned money helps those who are truly in need.

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@ bloomassetmanagement.com.

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@ hometownlife.com

Dinner, silent auction

A Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia, Oct. 6. From 5-8 p.m. food will be served and the auction ends at 8:15 p.m. Presale tickets only. Ticket sales end Sept. 22.

Funds go to the general budget at St. Matthews to be used as necessary by the finance committee. Spaghetti, salad, dessert and beverages. Adults \$10, children 6 and under \$5

Contact Peg Besecker

for tickets at 734-718-5040.

Theater auditions

Fall 2017 theater season auditions will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Plymouth Uptown Play-ers Youth Theater is a cooperative program hosted by the Plymouth Community Arts Council featuring directors from Tipping Point Theatre in Northville. The fall program is for ages 6-15 (grades 2-9).

Families may register online or in person or by phone during PCAC business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Actors will meet in small groups for 20-25 minutes

with the director, Sonja Marquis.

Call the office at 734-416-4278 to pre-register and make your appointment for 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. or 7 pm.

For more information, go to www.plymoutharts.com or email lisa@plymouth-

arts.com. PUPS is an experimental theater program that is actor-centered. All actors will have a role in final production to be held at Northville's Tipping Point Theatre.

Cost is \$215, with current PCAC student membership (\$30), good for a year. Tuition includes two tickets per actor for the final performance.

PARC Social Event

AREA EVENTS

PARC-Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex is excited to announce its inaugural PARC Social Event, a day of free activities for ages 55-plus, Tuesday, Sept. 12.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a multitude of fun and exciting activities to choose from and experience such as line dancing, cooking demonstration, pickleball, aquatic classes and much more. Some activities require preregistration.

For more information, call 734-927-4090 or go to plymouthparc.com.

Raku workshop The Village Potters Guild in Plymouth announces a Raku workshop Sept. 22-23.

Raku is an ancient Japanese pottery technique.

Purchase a piece of bisque pottery, glaze it, watch it being pulled red hot from the fire and take home a treasure.

Registration is \$10. Call 734-207-8807 to register.

CCS open house

The College for Creative Studies is bringing its internationally recognized art and design college to Plymouth. Thanks to a generous grant from the Dunning Foundation, CCS will begin offering pre-college and continuing studies classes and workshops to students of

all ages at the new location at PARC (Plymouth Arts & Recreational Complex) at 650 Church St.

An open house is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16. See classroom spaces and learn more about the scholarship opportunities available to students in western Wayne County, including dual enrollment.

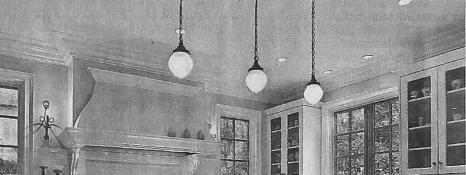
For a list of upcoming fall classes, go to https://ccsclasses.com/ collections/parc.

Detroit United Railway slideshow

At 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, the Livonia Historical Society will pre-

See EVENTS, Page A7







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10



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or go to : TransitionsRemodeling.com

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EVENTS

Continued from Page A6

sent a slideshow on the history of the Detroit United Railway narrated by local historian Brian Golden.

The inter-urban line connected Wayne, Plymouth and Northville to Livonia. This line serviced the Newburg-Ann Arbor Trail intersection area until 1927 and the waiting Room is now at Greenmead.

The meeting will be held at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, Livonia's Historical Park, which is off Newburgh Road just south of Eight Mile Road.

For more information, call 734-416-3848.

Help a neighbor

On Saturday, Sept. 9, the FRIENDS program will once again come together to help a resident spruce up their home.

The program was started in 1998 to help a Wayne resident whose home needed some tender loving care. Homes are usually chosen based on the homeowners' inability to handle the work themselves, due to either financial or health reasons. The FRIENDS committee coordinates with willing volunteers to complete the task. This program is completely funded through donations and volunteers.

For more information, to donate or to volunteer, call the Wayne's Community Development department at 734-722-2000, ext. 1032.

Church celebrating 60 years

Timothy Lutheran Church is celebrating 60 years of service at its 10 a.m. worship service, which will be followed by an open house and luncheon, on Sunday, Sept. 10. The church is at 8820 Wayne Road at Joy Road. For more information, call 734-427-2290 or email timothylivonia @yahoo.com.

Stinson Aircraft program

The Wayne Historical Society will present a program about the Stinson Aircraft Company that had factories in Detroit, Northville and Wayne. Aircraft historian Carl Shemwell and members of the Stinson Family will share their history of Eddie Stinson, his life and accomplishments on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Wayne Public Library. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. but come early to view an artifact table and enjoy refreshments; doors open at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome, there is no charge to attend. Books from the Wayne Historical Museum store will be for sale.



Choir performs at farmers market

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choir members Marvin Lopez (back), Saanya Advani (front, from left), Marquette Winston and David Garvey performed at the Plymouth Farmers Market last weekend, part of a tour choir members have been making at farmers markets to raise awareness of the choir program and to collect donations and sponsorships for its upcoming trip to Austria and Germany. Choir members will also perform at the Fall Festival, and at the farmers market Sept. 16 and Oct. 14. Anyone interested in sponsoring or donating to the Germany/Austria trip can email choir booster Michael Klozik at framgk@gmail.com.

St. Colette Church is hosting a blood drive from 1-7 p.m. Sept. 14 in the Activity Center behind the church at 17600 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Donations supply local hospitals. Walk-ins are welcome. First-time Michigan Blood donors receive a blanket or umbrella while supplies last.

If you prefer an appointment, call Dan at 734-464-1610.

Griffin Golf Classic

The 16th annual Emily Ann Griffin Golf Classic will be held at Livonia's Idyl Wyld Golf Course, 35780 Five Mile Road Livonia, at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, with a shotgun/ scramble start at 2:30

p.m. The fee of \$100 buys 18 holes of golf with cart, snacks, pop and water on the course, and dinner with chances to bid on silent auction items at Sacred Heart Banquet Center, 29125 W. Six Mile, Livonia. For guests wanting dinner only, the price is \$60 and approximate meal time is 7-7:30 p.m.

The Emily Ann Griffin Foundation was founded in memory of Emily Ann Griffin by her parents, Matt and Inger Griffin, longtime Livonia residents. The foundation benefits families of spetic bags must be removed.

Residents participating must also provide proof of city or township residency, which can be done with a driver's license, voter ID card, water bill or property tax bill.

Michigan Mobile Hard Drive Shredding will also be on site to securely dispose of old and unused hard drives.

For more information, email the city at shred@ci.plymouth.mi.us or the township's Sarah Visel at svisel@ plymouthtwp.org.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

A Mom 2 Mom Sale is set for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Cost is \$2 for early bird admission, \$1 after 9 a.m. and free at noon. Strollers are welcome.

For more information, email newburgmom2 mom@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/ NewburgMom2Mom.

Church rummage sale

Newburg United Methodist Church's upcoming rummage sale is set for 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5; 9 a.m. to noon free and the reception is open to the public.

In August 2016, a group of photographers and other artists met in Plymouth's Kellogg Park to collaborate on creating a series of photographs which would subsequently be interpreted in various forms of media for a unique exhibition at the Plymouth Community Arts Council as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebration. From the 18 chosen photographs made by the nine photographers par-

ticipating in that event, more than 40 interpretative works of art were created for the exhibit by a dozen artists from throughout metro Detroit.

"Interpretations III: Small Town Living in Plymouth — A True Collaboration" is the third in a series of exhibits cocurated by photographer Tim Tonachella, a native of Plymouth, and photographer Jim Aho of Farmington Hills.

'Understanding Islam'

The Citizens for Peace invite the public to a lecture on "Understanding Islam" at its meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile upright bass, Eric Schabo on sax, and Erik Alderink on guitar.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, Sean Dobbins' Rising Star Program will feature Peyton Miller. This 17year-old vibraphone expert will be joined by Sean Dobbins on drums, Corey Kendrick on keyboards and Jeff Pedraz on bass.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks @gmail.com.

Patriot Golf Day

The inaugural Patriot Golf Day will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, to benefit Folds of Honor.

Tickets are \$125 and include 18 holes of golf with a cart, open driving range, lunch at the turn, event dinner with open bar and awards. Contests include hole-in-one, longest drive, closest to the pin, gift raffle, 50/50 raffle, mulligan and skins.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. Lunch at the turn is 10:30 a.m. and dinner and awards are at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, email foldsmichigan @gmail.com.

Suicide prevention conference

The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide is scheduled for Nov. 9-11 at the Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth.

Join ranking mental health professionals, employee and union leadership, clergy, people who have lost their loved ones to suicide and people who have survived suicide attempts at this three-day event focused on suicide prevention and healing.

This year's conference is focused on five key themes: research and therapeutic modalities, youth and education, veterans and active military, suicide prevention

Livonia Farmers Market

The Livonia Farmers Market is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday at the Wilson Barn. Local crafters selling unique handmade items, local vendors and farmers with a variety of goods to the community at great prices. Wilson Barn is at 29350 W. Chicago St.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

A Mom 2 Mom Sale is set for Sept. 9 at SS. Simon & Jude, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland.

There will be an early bird sale 9-10 a.m. for \$2 admission. From 10 a.m. to noon admission is \$1. There are eight-foot tables for \$15 per table; there are additional charges for card tables and racks.

For more information, call Sandy at 734-721-4867 or Carolyn at 734-728-1559.

Blood drive

cial needs children with assistance to purchase costly medical equipment often prescribed to support and enhance their child's lives, but too often not covered by insurance. For more information, contact the Griffins at 734-542-0469.

Fall book sale

The Friends of Westland Library is preparing for its Fall Book Sale.

The Friends Preview Sale day is set for 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14. Regular sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16. From noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, is a \$4 Bag Sale day.

Shred Day in Plymouth

The city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township will offer a Shred Day for all residents of both communities on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon (or until trucks are filled) at the Plymouth Township Hall parking lot, 9955 N. Haggerty Road.

This marks the second Shred Day event to be hosted jointly by the township and the city this year, something leaders of both communities cite as part of their new cooperative relationship.

Paper to be shredded shall be limited to five banker boxes on each trip. Residents can, however, make multiple trips throughout the morning. Documents can be in paper bags or boxes when brought to shredding. Documents in plas-

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Friday, Oct. 6; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 7.

The church is located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia between Newburgh and Wayne roads.

Cost is \$2 admission per adult Thursday only; and admission is free Friday and Saturday. Saturday will be a halfprice sale.

For more information, call the church office at 734-422-0149.

Livonia Towne Club meetings

Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization that brings together women for social interaction, will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November & December when it's held on the second Thursday).

The club meets for lunch and a program at different restaurants in Livonia and surrounding areas. Our program could be an informative speaker, bingo, fashion show, music entertainment and more. Plus an occasional local day trip.

For more information, call Carolyn at 248-478-6933.

Plymouth art exhibit

The exhibit "Interpretations III: Small Town Living in Plymouth — A True Collaboration" will run Sept. 9-28. An opening reception is set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Admission is Road. Dr. Saeed Khan will share his extensive knowledge of Islam: a 14-centuries-old religion and civilization for 1.7 billion people.

Dr. Khan teaches courses on Islamic and Middle East History, Politics and Culture at Wayne State University. He is a founding member and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding: a Michiganbased Think Tank promoting the study and analysis of US social and domestic policy. He is a regular contributor to C-Span, NPR, Voice of America and the National Press Club, and is also a consultant on Islamic and Middle East affairs for the BBC and

CBC. "Understanding Islam" will help unpack the beliefs, history and complexities of this global phenomenon. All are welcome.

For more information, call 734-425-0079 or visit www.citizens4peace.com.

2017 Citizens Academy

The 2017 Wayne County Prosecutor's Citizens Academy is a free sevenweek program that seeks to educate and inspire citizens by providing insight into the criminal justice system in Wayne County. The program will explore some of the emerging threats to individuals, families and the community at large and provide a look at what is being done to address them. The academy will

Tuesday, Sept. 12, for the first time at the Elks will be the seasoned great sounds from JC and the Royal Keys. This group has been together for several years and blend great sounds to bring us blues, rockabilly and jazz. Leader Jarrod Champion plays keyboard and sings. Joining him are Loney Charles on drums, Rudy Varner on

include discussions on

protect the most vul-

nity to weigh in with

crime investigation, spe-

cialized units designed to

nerable members of our

county, and the opportu-

experts in the criminal

justice system. Topics include sexual assault,

child abuse, illegal drugs,

The academy will be

forensics and homicide.

held set for 6:30-9 p.m.

each Tuesday at Henry

Ford College in Dear-

born. The course runs

from Sept. 12 through

Oct. 24. The number of

120 and Wayne County

residents are preferred.

The goal for the Citizen

Academy is that gradu-

ates will help to create a

safer and stronger com-

crime.

academy.htm.

munity-based response to

To apply online, go to

Blues @ The Elks hap-

pens 7-10 p.m. the second

Tuesday of each month at

the Plymouth Ann Arbor

society.org). There is a \$5

donation at the door and

Elks Lodge No. 325 in

partnership with the

Detroit Blues Society

(www.detroitblues

bring your dancing

shoes.

http://www.waynecounty.

com/prosecutor/citizens-

Music at the Elks

participants is capped at

in the workplace and Surviving Suicide: a Journey of Healing and Hope. Single-day registrations and Continuing Education credits are available.

Registration is \$75 (one day) or \$200 (three days) before Sept. 30 and \$100 or \$300 after. For more information or to register, go to https:// kevinssong.org/conference/.



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

Kardel

De

Freeman



Catherine E. age 89, of Plymouth, passed away August 4, 2017. Born in Detroit to her late parents Francis and Agnes (nee Gallagher) Dolan. Catherine was the beloved wife of the late William Kardel for 37 years. Survived by her children Daniel (Laura) Kardel, Mary Kardel, Kenneth (Linda) Kardel, and Thomas Kardel (David Weidman), and grandchildren Matthew (Rachel), Kevin (Anjali), Steven, Scott, Christine, Kenneth Jr., and Erin. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, August 8. To view full obituary and leave a condolence, please visit

schrader-howell.com

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Bernard 84, of Glen Arbor, died Aug. 26, 2017. Barney was born on Dec. 10, 1932 in Highland Park, the son of George and Margaret (Downie) Freeman. On June 27, 1959 in Detroit, he married Evelyn Miller, who survives. As a young man, Barney served in the U.S. Army, He worked for Ford Motor Co. and was a member of the UAW. He was preceded in death by a son, John Downie Freeman, on May 24, 1993, and a brother, David Freeman. Private family interment will be held at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden, Novi. Please share memories and condolences at www.martinson.info. Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Leelanau.



A8 (CP) 0 & E Media | Thursday, September 7, 2017

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INSIDE: NOVI TENNIS SINGLES PLAYERS PACK A REAL PUNCH, B5

SPORT

SECTION B (CP) THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Leaving home: Mack can't pass up OHL

South Lyon resident heading to play for Erie

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Joseph Mack decided the time was sooner rather than later to get a jump-start on his hockey career.

Instead of staying locally and finishing his senior year of high school at South Lyon East, the New Hudson resident will find himself in Erie, Pa., the next three years trying to showcase his skills to National Hockey League scouts.

The 6-foot-3, 190-pound

PREP FOOTBALL

center, who helped Compu-ware to a USA Hockey Tier-I 16U national championship last April, signed a three-year contract with the Erie Otters, the defending Robertson Cup champions of the Ontario Hockey League.

Mack, who was an eighthround pick by the Otters in the 2016 OHL Priority Draft, will be living with a billet family in Erie and finishing his high school requirements through online courses with some of his teammates.

'I felt like this was the best

junior option," Mack said. "A lot of guys go from the OHL to the NHL out of this league. The OHL pretty much guarantees you pretty much the college scholarship. If you go the other route, you're not guaranteed to get a full ride because you might get hurt and they might cancel it."

Mom Jen Mack has mixed emotions about the move. "I will say that I'm ex-

tremely proud and excited for him but, at the same time, I'm heartbroken to say good-bye to my son a year or two earlier," she said.

The Otters, who produced

Edmonton Oilers star Connor McDavid, the NHL's Hart Trophy MVP winner, will be in a rebuilding mode under new coach Chris Hartsburg.

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

248-926-2237

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mack is described as hav-ing excellent size, long and rangy, with the ability to work best below the dots while controlling the puck. He also can dominate the physical battles.

Mack's favorite NHL player is Chicago's Jonathan Toews, while his favorite teams growing up were the Blackhawks and hometown Red Wings.

During Compuware's 5-0

See MACK, Page B4



Joseph Mack is making the jump for his senior year of high school to the **Ontario Hockey League.**

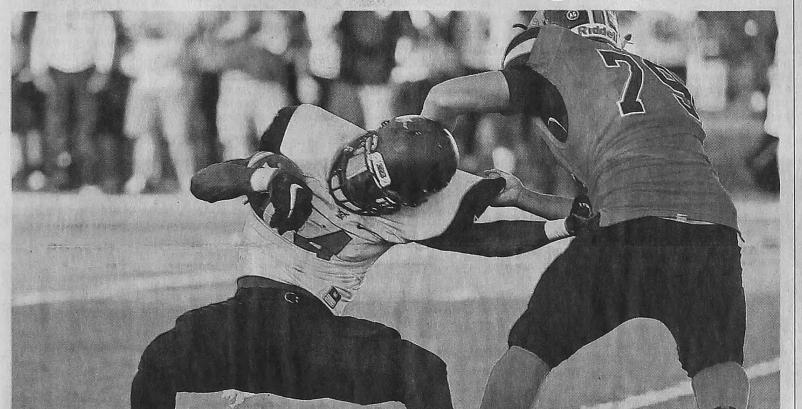
New

coaches

look

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Alsobrooks sparks Churchill's big win



ahead Canton powers past Plymouth in first meeting of campus rivals

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.com

There are three new varsity volleyball coaches at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park this year and two of them went head-to-head Aug. 31

Canton's Cricket Hughley got the last word against Plymouth's Sheila Weber, as the Chiefs earned a 25-21, 25-13, 25-10 victory over the host Wildcats.

Although wins and losses are nice, both coaches talked about the importance of team chemistry and work ethic in just how successful their programs can be.

Hughley (nee Colby), who graduated from Garden City in 2006 and played volleyball there for longtime coach John Pace, smiled when asked what she learned in those years. "A lot of sportsmanship, obviously," she said. "Just being a good teammate ... and definitely working hard." After high school, Hughley played at Concordia University and got her feet wet in the coaching arena at Willow Run Middle School and at Canton last year, coaching the freshman team.



Churchill's Darrell Mason Jr. (left) gets taken down by Northville lineman Patrick Long.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Chargers bolt out to 28-0 halftime lead and never look back

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

There's another Alsobrooks starting at quarterback for Livonia Churchill and he's already starting to carve an identity of his own.

Drew Alsobrooks, a 6-foot-1, 191-pound junior in only his third career start, ran for three touchdowns and was an efficient 10-of-15 passing for 180 yards as the Chargers opened KLAA Gold Division play with a convincing 34-14

8

win Aug. 31 over host Northville at Tom Holzer Field. Alsobrooks, who rushed nine times for 103 yards, is following in the footsteps of his older brother Brian, a standout of his own both as QB and kicker for the Chargers.



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM Churchill's Drew Alsobrooks (left) ran for three TDs during Churchill's win over Northville.

Last season, Alsobrooks backed up starter Evan Cummins (Ferris State), while also kicking and punting as a sopho-

Our high school football

Week 3. Remember to follow

us on Twitter @HTLSports or

covering games listed below.

follow individual reporters

www.hometownlife.com/

sports will feature tweets

dates on coverage can be

@hometownlifesports.

throughout the night Thurs-day starting at 5 p.m. Up-

found on our Facebook page

Game of the Week

Friday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.:

A live scoreboard at

coverage continues with

#HTLSPORTS GAME OF THE WEEK 3

more. He had one start late in the year against Wayne Me-

South Lyon at White Lake

Friday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.: Livonia Churchill at Livo-

nia Stevenson. Follow Tim

Smith @TimSmith_Sports

Predictions

Smith: Lakeland, Ste-

Budner: Lakeland, Ste-

Emons: Lakeland, Chur-

IT'S WHAT evervone's talking about.

venson

venson

chill

Other games

Lakeland. Follow Brad

Emons @BradEmons1

See FOOTBALL, Page B2

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO Canton's new volleyball coach is Cricket Hughley, all smiles near the end of the win at Plymouth.

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hometownlife.com

PREP FOOTBALL Stevenson stays undefeated with big victory over Novi

Marty Budner hometownlife.com

Home or away, it doesn't seem to matter so far for the Livonia Stevenson football team.

The Spartans squeaked out a seasonopening 14-13 win over district rival Franklin. In what turned into a highscoring affair Aug. 31, Stevenson took to the road and toppled Novi, 44-21

While Stevenson kept its record perfect at 2-0, Novi fell for the second straight week and is 0-2. The Wildcats opened with a 42-21 Week 1 loss at Birmingham Groves.

Here are a half-dozen takeaways from the game:

THROUGH THE AIR

Senior quarterback Parker Graham had another big game for the Spartans. After throwing for a pair of touchdowns in the opener, Graham threw for two more against the Wildcats. He also ran for three touchdowns: 5 yards at the end of the first half, 57 yards in the wild third quarter and 40 yards in the fourth. His stats for the night were impressive: 9-of-17 passing for 221 yards and 14 rushes for 125 yards. In addition, senior George Ferguson



Stevenson running back Tyler Whiteside looks for running room against Novi defenders Landon Green (left) and Jordan Castleberry.

caught a touchdown pass and Joe Kubeshesky caught another touchdown pass. Stevenson's other three points came on a 30-yard field goal by Griffin Matick.

BEND, NOT BREAK

Stevenson allowed 21 points, but it did have a few standout defensive players and finished with four turnovers -all interceptions. Ferguson had two and Roman Klenk and Nate Garcia had the others. Devin Dunn paced the Spartans with 6.5 tackles, including 3 yards in losses. He also was credited with

three pass breakups. **NOVI HIGHLIGHTS**

Novi actually had more first downs than Stevenson, 17-15. Wildcats touchdowns were scored by senior tailback Kyle Klosterman, on runs of 23 and 31 yards, and Traveon Maddox, on a 14-yard pass from senior southpaw Sean Gilliam. Klosterman led Novi with 14 carries for 96 total yards.

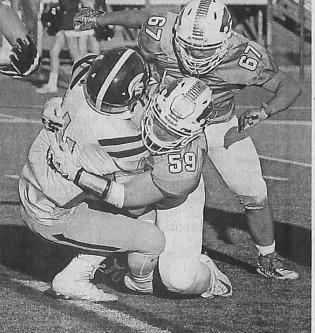
NEW YEAR, NEW DIVI-SION

Novi and Livonia Stevenson are members of the newly realigned Kensington Lakes Activities

Association and they put on quite a show for the fans in their inaugural Black Division battle. The teams combined for 27 first-half points and kept the offense going in the second half with 38 more points. If anything, it kept the fans warmly entertained on what turned into a chilly late August night. The teams previously played in the KLAA Central Division.

COLORS GALORE

It was certainly a colorful setting at Wildcat Stadium. Stevenson was decked out in its visiting pale blue and



MARTY BUDNER

hometownlife.com

Novi senior defensive lineman Chad Howell wraps up Stevenson quarterback Parker Graham (left) for a first-half sack.

white uniforms. The

Wildcats sported their

customary green and

white uniforms. And the

The teams combined for

22 penalties - 14 to Ste-

venson for 120 yards and eight to Novi for 71

It's safe to say these

two teams have an even

history against one an-

NO ADVANTAGE

yards.

refs chipped in yellow.

other. The series was deadlocked at 5-5 heading into the game, so it was visiting Stevenson that took the lead with its sixth victory. Novi won last year's match-up, 38-17, but Stevenson had taken the two previous games, both by three points (28-25 in 2015 and 31-28 in 2014). Stevenson has now won three of the last four meetings against Novi.

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

morial, when Cummins was hurt.

"They're cut from the same cloth," said Chur-chill coach Bill DeFillippo, who watched Alsobrooks expertly run the read option, scoring on TD runs of 2, 49 and 8 yards. "He's probably a little more energetic. Brian was a little more cerebral at this point, I think. But I think when



ou're the younger brother, that comes out sometimes. He is used to playing with the older kids, competing and doing that. So he's great to have around."

Here are five other takeaways from the game:

BIG BROTHER, LITTLE BROTHER

Brian Alsobrooks started his college football career at Eastern Michigan, but transferred this year to NCAA Division II power California (Pa.) University to concentrate on being a QB as opposed to being a kicker.

"Brian was a really great player," Drew said. 'He works with me all the time. All winter, all off-season he was on me. He watches my games every week, fixes me and tells me what I did wrong. He's a great brother."

IMPRESSIVE METRICS

Churchill finished with 420 yards total offense, 240 on the ground, as senior Tyrese Williams added 57 yards 11 carries. The Chargers showed balance by adding 180 in the air.

"(Alsobrooks) always has trust in his receivers to catch it,' said Chur-chill running back Michael Parrish, who finished with 45 yards on eight carries.

TIGHT DEFENSE

Parrish, a 5-10, 196pound middle linebacker, also starred on the defensive side with a fumble recovery after a sack

by teammate Alregio Sanders in the second quarter. Joel Forgacs also had a fumble recovery to set up Churchill's

"I have to give a shout-out to the defensive ends because, without them, we couldn't get those tackles," the senior said. "They closed, let the quarterback and receiver come to us. They did their job and we count on them."

FAST START

2

final TD.

Churchill, which bolted out to a 28-0 halftime lead, also got 1-yard TD

run from Parrish and a 6-yard TD run from Avery Grenier.

The Churchill defense also did its part in the first half by blanking the Mustangs.

'We made a lot of good stops and we played disciplined," Churchill senior strong safety Jaren Carble said. "That's what we try to do every day in practice. We're a hard-working group and we're going to try out best to get our

DeFillippo's halftime speech was direct and to the point.

B

"He just said stay disciplined, but our main key was to come out the second half with it being 0-0 and having no mindset what the score is," Carble said.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

Northville (1-1, 0-1) was unable to recover from a 28-0 halftime deficit.

'We were not good at all," Northville coach Matt Ladach said. "We did not compete. We came out flat and credit to Churchill, to their staff and to their players. They were fired up and

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they punched us right in the mouth.'

After going down 28-0 at the half, Northville got a 10-yard TD run from Abe Khoury and a 34yard scoring pass from Jon Michalak to Ben Schmidt in the final quarter.

The Mustangs finished with 240 yards total offense.

'Our energy was better," Ladach said. "Our effort was better and our execution was better. Churchill did some good things defensively in the first half, taking away our option. With what

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JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

they were running, that outside backer out wide, and we started running our counter play and had some good success on that drive in the second half.'

But the Mustangs were unable to contain Alsobrooks, especially in the first half.

"We watched him on film last week against Monroe and he runs their offense really well,' Ladach said. "He had a great night tonight."

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Northville's Ben Schmidt (left) hauls in a 34-yard fourth quarter TD pass vs. Churchill.

PREP.FOOTBALL Franklin mantra: Be toughest team on the field

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Full-throttle football is Livonia Franklin's calling card, especially in recent playoff seasons.

And veteran Patriots head coach Chris Kelbert expects nothing to change this time around.

"We always want to be prepared for every game we play in," Kelbert said prior to that game. "And we're always going to try to be the most physical team on the field. "That's something we've

been preaching all summer long. We're tough, we're phys-ical. That's who we are and that's what we want to be."

The Patriots won't change their approach, even with a new division to call home. With the downsizing of the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association from 24 to 14 teams, Franklin is moving from the KLAA South Division to the Gold Division.

"Football is football and we're still playing the same teams we've always played," Kelbert said. "We don't have Canton this year and that's a

game that we always look forward to. They're one of best programs in the state and we like playing them. We're going to miss that rivalry with those guys.

"But for the most, part it's still the same. We played Northville back when it was the Western Lakes; they used to be in our division, so very familiar with those guys. Grand Blanc's the only one that we don't know much about. The South is pretty much intact."

After a tough 14-13 loss to Livonia Stevenson in the opener, the Patriots bounced back on Aug. 31 with a 35-6 rout of Wayne Memorial.

Back to battle

Here's how tough the Patriots are: Brad Gibson, a defensive back and slot receiver who missed the entire 2016 regular season due to a torn ACL, rehabbed tirelessly to be back at full strength for his senior season.

"He's a great football player," Kelbert said. "He started as a sophomore in our semifinal run, played the whole 13 games at corner. And we



Livonia Franklin seniors Jacob Mass (left) and Keion Harris are pumped up to lead the Patriots back to the playoffs.

missed him last year, for sure."

After the postseason run in 2015, the Patriots went 6-3 during the regular season last year to qualify for a playoff spot. They then went 1-1 in the postseason, with Gibson able to get back on the field for those contests.

There are other stellar, versatile seniors who are determined to not only lead

Franklin back to the playoffs, but to some victories once they get there.

Two of the key catalysts figure to be a pair of seniors who already are getting looks from colleges - senior linebacker/tight end Jacob Mass and senior defensive back Keion Harris.

"Jacob Mass has been a three-year starter for us and, ever since he was a sophomore, he's always been one of our emotional leaders," Kel-bert said. "A hard-working kid and a kid that people just follow based on his hard work.

"And same with Keion. Keion's a real quiet, kind of laid-back guy, but he's been in a real key contributor to our program. Both are really good football players for us and they're going to be important parts to our success on both sides of the ball.'

Whomever the coach opts to play quarterback (he plans to start the year giving play-ing time both to senior Keegan Flaherty and sophomore Jacob Kelbert), he knows he'll have a physical force in the backfield

Senior running back Isaac

Moore (6-0, 210) will keep defenses honest.

We also have, Isaac Moore, who's our running back," Kelbert said. "And he's a bull. He's slimmed down, gotten faster and is still very, very physical."

Time to rock

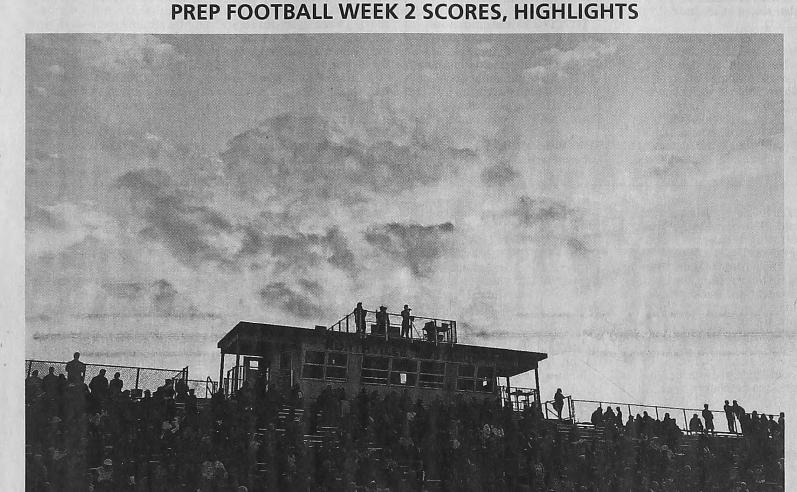
That hard-hitting approach is shared by many others throughout the roster, particularly Mass and Harris.

"It feels great, we're look-ing (to) another playoff sea-son," Mass said. "We're really close-knit, the class of 2018 has been really close-knit all coming up through high school and now we have the class of 2019 with us now. We're just one big family."

Concurring was Harris, noting that the Patriots have a simple but successful recipe that will lead to plenty of victories

"We just need to be physically tough and mentally tough," Harris said. "That's the biggest thing I think to overcome your opponents."

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PREP ATHLETICS Northville ace kicker Moody Athlete of the Week

> **Brad Emons** hometownlife.com

The votes have been tabulated for the first Athlete of the Week

And it's Northville kickerpunter Jake Moody, who put on a show to remember Aug. 24 during a 44-14 season-opening football win over Dearborn.

The 6-foot, 177-pound senior, considered one nation's top kickers, started the game with a school-record 57-yard field goal, tied for third longest in MHSAA history while breaking his own mark of

52 set during his junior year. "There was a little bit of breeze," said Moody, who cleared the crossbar with plenty of room

to spare. "I



Moody

didn't have enough time to

Northville's Tom Holzer Ford Field near sunset.

Thursday, Aug. 31

Birmingham Seaholm 49, **Berkley 6**

Seaholm registered its first victory of the season at Berkley's Hurley Field. The Maples had three touchdowns from junior running back Chase Mentag and two from senior back Max Schumaker. Seniors Nick Lang and Ben Barton accounted for the other two Maples touchdowns. Seaholm quarterback Joel Mitchell completed seven passes for 57 yards. The Ma-ples totaled 366 total yards, while Berkley had 200 yards total

Birmingham Groves 14, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek

Groves grabbed its second straight victory at home in its OAA White Division opener. Senior running back Chaise Ford continued his fine play with 120 yards rushing on 18 carries with a touchdown. The other Falcons score was by Khalil Dorsey. Defensively, Charlie Riddle had four tackles and a pair of sacks, Damont McCurdy finished with seven tackles and one pass breakup, while Dawsey had four tackles and one interception

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood 37, Detroit **University Prep 0**

Crestwood 32, Clarenceville 6

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de.

Despite a 69-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Terrence Ealy to wide-out Kyle Nolan, the visiting Trojans (0-2) were stymied by Dearborn Heights Crestwood. Nolan also had a big night on defense with four tackles,

14

while Jordan Wutka sparkled with seven tackles, four assists, three tackles for loss, a tipped pass and blocked extra point. Also with four tackles each were Will Brown and Demond Scrutchions.

Detroit Country Day 41, Detroit Collegiate Prep 0

Ferndale 37, Farmington 7 Ferndale's Zosier Little rushed for 103 yards, leading Ferndale. Roger Motley scored Farmington's lone touchdown on a 1-yard pass.

Garden City 28, Dearborn **Heights Robichaud 14**

The Cougars parlayed a strong all-around game into a victory. Quarterback Chase McGraw completed 6-of-9 passes for 194 yards and three TDs. Eian Castonguay scored three TDs (one rushing, two receiving) and notched 243 combined yards. On defense, Hunter McDaniel and Jay Castonguay had two sacks each.

Grand Blanc 26, Westland John Glenn 21

Salem 40, Howell 12

Salem rolled behind an impressive performance from senior running back Andrew Davis and a strong defense led by Parker Selby and Sean McCormack. Offensively, the Rocks pounded the Highlanders on the ground for 403 yards. Davis lead the way with 310 total yards (279 rushing, 31 receiving) and four TDs. QB Ryan Young was 5/-of-11 passing for 109 yards and rushed for 61 yards on 13 carries with a touchdown. Cody Tapp added 60 yards on three carries. Travell Hale added 59 yards receiving. Defensively, JaQuan Baker and Davis both had a fumble

recovery. Alex Dubinski, Ali Kobeissi and Tapp each had six tackles

Livonia Franklin 35, Wayne Memorial 6

QB Jake Kelbert ran for 164 yards, scoring from 13 yards out and passing to Matt Elrod for another TD. Julius Simmons scored on runs of 5 and 8 yards and Isaac Moore contributed a 6-yard TD run as Franklin racked up 348 rushing yards to move to 1-1 on the season.

Clarkston Everest Collegiate 36, Lutheran Westland 0

Belleville 55, Redford Union 6

The Panthers (0-2) got a 94-yard first quarter TD kickoff return by Thorton Cain for their lone score, while Kenny Perry had a team-best seven tackles, including one for loss in a loss against the Tigers (2-0). Belleville's Khalid Crawford ran for 104 yards on TD runs of 2 and 14 yards, while **OB** Christian Dhue-Reid threw a 92-yard TD pass to Jalen Williams and ran for another score.

"Belleville was very big and strong up front and presented some issues to our inexperienced line," RU coach Miles Tomasaitis said. "We had plays that were there for the taking, but we cannot seem to get that one block the springs our backs.

Walled Lake Western 44, Milford 8

Livonia Churchill 34, **Northville 14** Livonia Stevenson 44, Novi 21 Royal Oak 38, North Farmington 6 Waterford Kettering 35,

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South Lyon 17

Ryan Nolan was 11-of-17 passing for 243 yards and three TDs of 19, 39 52 yards as Waterford Kettering (2-0, 2-0) stopped the host Lions (0-2, 0-2) in an LVC clash. South Lyon QB Connor Fracassi was 16-of-29 passing for 183 yards. He connected with Ian Goins and Will Kelley on TD passes of 20 and 11 yards in the final period. Goins had five catches for 91 yards. Brendan Lach also booted a 37-yard field goal and two PATs. Jack Schafer, David Rende and Michael Dancer each were in on six tackles. The Lions committed three turnovers.

Walled Lake Central 14, South Lyon East 10 **Farmington Hills Harri-**

son 30, Troy 3 Roderick Heard scored

on two 3-yard runs and QB Noah Hendricks completed TD passes to Moet Andrews and Ovie Oghoufo to lead Harrison to its first victory of the season

White Lake Lakeland 29, Waterford Mott 27

Senior Dylan Kutzleb scored on TD runs of 21 and 45 yards and also caught an 81-yard scoring pass as host White Lake Lakeland (1-1, 1-1) upended Waterford Mott (1-1, 1-1) in a Lakes Valley Conference game. Junior Robbie Tracy also ran 55 yards for a score as the Eagles overcame a 14-0 deficit. Sophomore Leo Skupin also added a key late interception. David McCullum threw two TD passes and ran for another for Mott.

4

actually understand what situation I was put in, so I just went in there and kicked the ball before I actually knew how far it was.'

Moody also went 5-for-5 on extra points and all eight of his kickoffs went for touchbacks.

He is now taking aim at Warren Woods Tower's Doug Kochanski, who booted a state record 59-yarder in 1994. Former Michigan State kicker John Langeloh (Utica) is second with a 58-yarder in 1985.

Moody believes he's within range of Kochanski's mark. His best in practice is a 67-yarder.

"Maybe with a little bit of a breeze behind me and giving me a little more confidence, I feel like I can break the state record," he said.

Moody, however, proved he was human by missing wide left on a 47-yarder late in the game

"I had a lot more time to think and I was still thinking about the 57, probably," he said.

But Moody made up for that missed field goal try when he knocked a beautiful, 44-yard NFL hang-time punt that looked like a Phil Mickelson lob wedge.

"That's the first time I've ever had a punt like that get downed at the 1, so that was pretty cool having my first punt of the year," he said.

Moody's opening night performance certainly should turn some heads at the next level. He's had a couple of preliminary college offers so far.

"I've had a few of the same schools that have contacted me saying nice job," he said. "And I've had a few other coaches follow me. They haven't said anything yet, but hopefully they will.'

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CLUB SWIMMING

Northville Swim Club sets seven records during league five-peat

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

What a way to celebrate your 50th anniversary.

The Northville Swim Club scored a record 444.5 points en route to its fifth consecutive Summer Independent Swim Club championship last month at Livonia's Burton Hollow Swim Club.

The Penguins, who earned their 13th overall title since 1973, took home 26 first-place finishes while setting seven league records in the process.

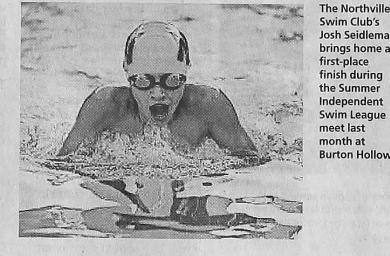
Colony Swim Club was a distant second in the team standings with 238.5, followed by Fairway Farms (236), Newburgh Swim Club (207) and Burton Hollow (193)

Northville has more than 200 swimmers ages 7-18. New swimmers and competitive high school swimmers participate in meets from the end of June through the end of July.

During the past five years, the Penguins have won 32 straight dual meets.

"It is exciting to see us build a long-standing tradition of winning as a club," Northville coach David Rembiesa said. "We are trying to shoot for longevity and highlight all the talented swimmers in the Northville and Novi area. Many of our swimmers swim year-round for area USS club teams or their middle school and high school teams. But they all got their start at Northville Swim Club and they love coming back every summer to defend their title.

The Penguins continue to



build their legacy as evidenced by setting five individual and two SISL relay records.

Among individual girls record-setters were Laura Westphal, open, 100-meter individual medley (1:09.18); Lauren Heaven, 13-15, 50 butterfly (30.68); Emma Phillips, 13-15, 50 breaststroke (36.54); Emily Roden, 11-12, 50 backstroke (33.57); and Maggie Patterson, 11-12, 50 freestyle (29.53).

The Penguins' open mixed 200 medley relay team of Arthur Greenlee, Travis Nitkiewicz, Jason Nitkiewicz and Westphal also set a league record in 1:55.71

Another league record fell in the 11-12 mixed 200 medley relay as Emily Roden, Lavney Barritt, Maggie Patterson and Nolan Ebel were clocked in 2:17.96

"I am so proud of our older kids," Rembiesa said. "I remember back in 2011, we didn't even have a 16- to-18-year-old

on the team. But that's what I mean about staying with the program. Some of these families have stayed 10-plus years and that is how you can win so many championships.'

Swim Club's Josh Seidleman

brings home a

finish during

the Summer

Independent

Swim League

Burton Hollow.

meet last

month at

first-place

The Penguins currently list 30 swimmers on their roster that either swim for Northville or Novi Detroit Catholic Central high schools.

Every summer, each of the clubs compete in eight head-tohead dual meets, both home and away. The season ends with an all-day league championship the last Saturday of July.

With a rich swimming tradition, several noted world-class athletes got their start at a young age while competing for an SISL club, including Olympic gold medalists Allison Schmitt (Colony) and Sheila Taormina (Burton Hollow).

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Union '01 Black wins national title



The National Union '01 Black U-16 girls soccer team recently captured the U.S. Youth National Championship in Texas. The 18-member squad went undefeated (with one tie) in five games to win the crown. In the title game, Union '01 Black defeated Legends FC '01 Academy, 5-0. Team members included Emily Brown (Franklin), Lauren Fleming (Northville), Emma Boutorwick (Sterling Heights), Marcella Clark (Macomb), Katherine Felton (Saginaw), Justina Gaynor (Macomb), Skyla Gebauer (Troy), Isabella Hunter (Anchor Bay), Arianna Jalics (Utica), Allison Leonard (Troy), Kaitlyn Maciejewski (Macomb), Emma McCaughtry (Rochester), Madison Medalle (Macomb), Eva Papista (Grosse Pointe), Morgan Restaino (Lake Fenton), Brooke Russell (Troy), Paige Webber (Grand Blanc) and Alana Wood (New Baltimore).

PREP ROUNDUP

Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LIV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.

Boys soccer

CANTON 8, WAYNE 0: Kyle Kulas scored three goals Aug. 31, while Jordan Forney contributed two goals and an assist for the Chiefs (3-2-2, 2-0-0). Also scoring were Tyler Turko, Alex Hyde and Diego Galvin. Brett McGue chipped in three assists.

NORTHVILLE 7, JOHN GLENN 0: Senior Andrew Mitchell notched a hat trick, while senior Felipe McCarthy chipped two goals and one assist as the Mustangs (4-0-1, 1-0) rolled to a KLAA

crossover win Aug. 31 at Westland John Glenn (1-2, 0-2). Also getting into the scoring ledger for Northville were Owen Marshall (one goal, one assist), Omar Labiki (two assists) and Shane McHugh (one goal).

Girls golf

P-CCS CLASSIC: Brighton and Saline shared first-place honors Aug. 31 at the P-CCS Classic at Fox Hills, with 319 strokes. Northville (336) and Plymouth (337) finished third and fourth, respectively. Plymouth was sparked by Erin Johnson, with an 18-hole score of 76. Shae Zydeck tallied 82.

BRIGHTON 153, SALEM 189: The Rocks fell short despite 46 by Ryleigh Reed. Chipping in 47 was Nicole Hahn, while both Megan Kozlowski and Julianne Small registered 48.

MACK

Continued from Page B1

run to the national title in Pittsburgh, Mack scored two goals and had one assist. He scored a power-play goal in a 5-0 semifinal win over Detroit Honeybaked as Compuware went on to capture the championship with a 2-1 victory over Shattuck (Minn.) St. Mary's.

'I'm a skilled big guy that

likes to score goals," Mack said. "I've played right wing, left wing and center, but mostly center."

The Otters' official training camp began Aug. 29 with fitness testing. Mack attended three mini-camps in Erie be-

fore signing. "It's my fourth time here," Mack said. "It should be an easy adjustment, but the game should be a little harder, a little faster than normal."

The 17-year-old Mack, who

Mack

rival Oakland Junior Grizzlies in the same High Performance Hockey League. Meanwhile, his biggest

advocate and supporter is his father Michael, a tool and die maker who is a Canadian citizen

"His dad is the one who is behind his determination and motivation to where he's gotten himself today as a hockey player," Jen Mack said. "My husband devoted so much of his time. He hasn't been able to go to a lot of the hockey tournaments out of town due to his hard work and trying to get them where they're at. I really believe he's the main guy behind all the determination and motivation that has gotten my sons to where they're at right now."

Mack is looking forward to the challenge of taking the next step in his hockey career without any hesitation.

"I've always played hockey, nothing else, since I was 4," he said. "I'm going to miss my friends, but this is a good op-portunity for me."

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likes to hang out

with friends and

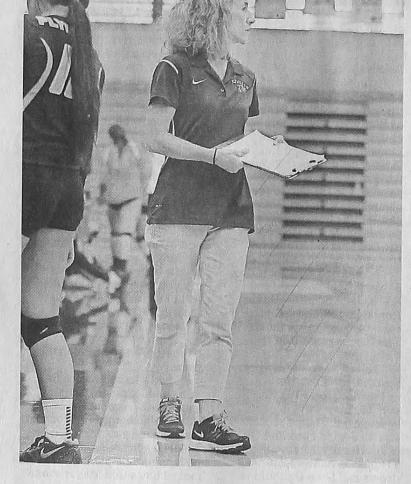
he's away from

hockey, also has

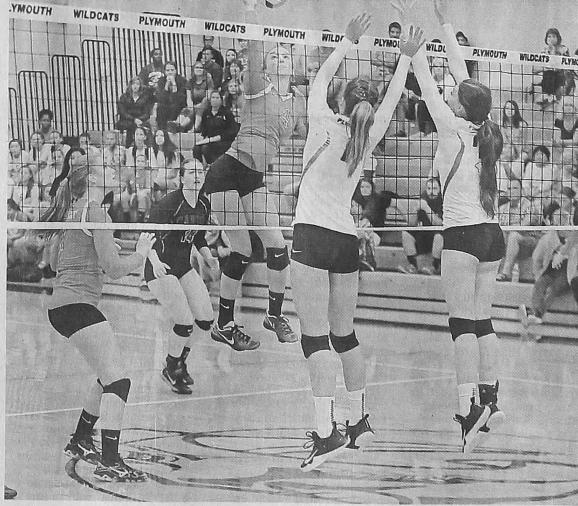
a younger broth-

er Jake, 15, who played for the

family when



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO Surveying the action is new Plymouth varsity volleyball coach Sheila Weber.



Slamming the ball over Plymouth defenders is Canton's Kaylin Collins.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page B1

"I have eight seniors, which is awesome," Hughley said. "And I have a good class coming up for next year. They're all just great athletes, honestly. "They work really hard for me and they're passionate about the sport, which I am

also. That's what I'm excited about being at Canton - having good athletes that are passionate like I am about volleyball."

Canton's strong nucleus is spearheaded by seniors Emily Meredith, Abby Zelenak, Kassie Tanana, Tia Cucuz, Sammy Pashigian, Olivia Smith, Hailey Domzalski and Morgan Holmlund

Weber was Plymouth's ju-

t'

nior varsity coach last year and she was moved up a notch after Dave Nichols left.

This, for me, was kind of in my five-year plan, then I got moved up a bit because Dave Nichols left the program last year," Weber said. "So it became my three-year plan and I'm excited to be coaching this year at Plymouth as the varsity coach.'

The lone senior for the Wildcats is setter Lauren Wheeler; juniors Kenna White, Kayla

3

Courtney and Grace Balch will be called upon to play key roles.

"Our team is very young and I expect that most teams are going to overlook us," Weber said. "And we got a lot of kids that are going to really get a chance to shine this year."

UNFORCED

Plymouth came unglued a bit in the final two games, with a lot of the team's woes due to unforced errors (52 for the

evening).

DIG IT

Both Kenna White and Gabby Diamante had seven digs for Plymouth, with Gabi Kuchka chipping in six.

ALSO NEW IN TOWN

Salem's volleyball team is now coached by Brian Theut, making it a year of change all across the Park.

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Novi's top two singles duo packs a real punch

Brad Emons hometownlife.com

Alex Wen and Sid Amarnath, Novi's top two singles players, can come at you from different angles.

Wen, a senior, uncoils himself with what appears to be a violent and unorthodox topspin forehand, while Amarnath, a junior, can dissect opponents with his precisionlike and well-placed left-handed ground strokes.

The two veterans, who were instrumental in Novi's back-to-back MHSAA Division 1 state titles in 2014 and 2015 before placing fourth in 2016, are off to another strong start as Novi has captured three tournaments to go along with a 9-0 dual match win over Saline.

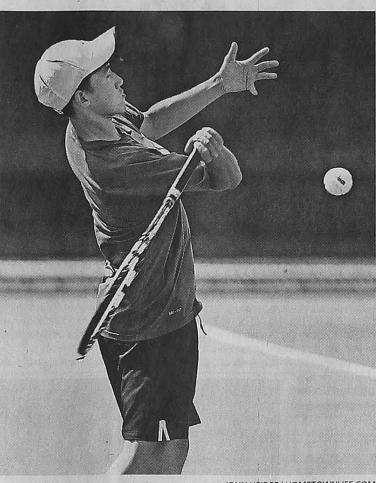
Wen was the No. 3 singles champ as a freshman (going 36-0) and the No. 2 singles champ as a sophomore (going 26-4) before reaching the state semifinals at No. 1 a year ago with a 26-4 record.

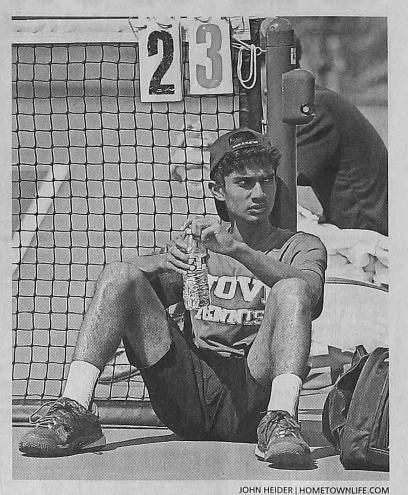
Wen, who suffered his first loss Aug. 31 to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook's Benji Jacobson in a three-set super-breaker, is 9-1 so far in 2017 at the No. 1 flight using what can termed "an extreme Western grip" on his forehand.

"Not many people use it," Wen said. "My brother (Raymond) taught me it when I was around, like, 8 and he didn't really know tennis that well. Somehow, I caught onto it and no coach corrected me. It was kind of a joke and I guess it just stuck with me."

Amarnath's game is no joke, either, as he returns at No. 2 singles for the five-time defending KLAA and regional champions. He has posted back-to-back 22-4 seasons, reaching the 2015 state finals at No. 3 as a freshman and the second round at No. 2 as a sophomore.

"My cross court ball, I can get them off the court, especially to their backhand, which is usually their weaker side," said Amarnath, who is





JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM Novi's Alex Wen uses his forehand during an Aug. 30 match.

undefeated so far this season. "I feel like I have an advantage from the start."

Longtime assistant Dan Lowes, who took over this fall for longtime Novi coach Jim Hanson, is happy to return his top two singles players.

"Alex is a competitor, he battles, he never gives up," Lowes said. "He's going to fight to the very end. Sid's game has improved from where he was last year. He's hitting the ball a lot better. He's becoming a battler, too. I like what I've seen out of Sid this year."

Senior Tim Tanaka, who played doubles last year, moves into the No. 3 singles spot, while Florida transfer Mateo Ponton, a junior, takes over at No. 4.

Seniors Aditya Chitta and

Robert Chen, the Wildcats' No. 1 doubles team, reached the quarters in 2016 at No. 1 and the semifinals at No. 2 (2015) and No. 4 (2014) at the state finals.

"Chitta and Chen have played together for four years," Lowes said. "They know one another really well. I love their consistency. I'm looking for them to become a little more aggressive."

The rest of Novi's strong doubles lineup includes seniors Chris Kwederis and Venkatesh Nagalla at No. 2; senior Ryan Krawec and junior newcomer Dilan Patel at No. 3; seniors Robert Xu and Andrew Lu at No. 4; and seniors Nikhil Yadati and Sanjit Johri at No. 5.

"This year, I mean, the the goal is always to go for big Novi's Sid Amarnath looks intense during a brief break.

trophy," Wen said. "As long as we work hard, I see us doing that."

Wen, who carries a 3.92 grade-point average, is undecided where he'll go to college.

This summer, he spent time as part of youth research team at the University of Michigan investigating topics such as internal bowel disease.

"Mostly, like, go into the medical field," he said. "Probably go pre-med.

Amarnath, who carries a 3.8 GPA, also prefers the sciences. His favorite subject last year was biology.

"Even though I wasn't too great at it, I'm still interested it," Amarnath said.

Off the court, the junior stays active doing volunteer

work in the community.

"Last year, I did the Relay for Life where we raised money for cancer (research)," he said. "This year, I'm going to start tutoring kids in Detroit, so I think that will be a great experience."

Wen and Amarnath will try to motivate each other throughout the season as Novi guns for its third Division 1 stae title in four years.

"When one gets down, the other gets back up," Amarnath said. "It's not just me. It's the whole team who is pushing each other.

"We have a lot of talented players with a lot of potential and I see ourselves doing well this year."

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South Lyon senior Harding off to strong start

Brad Emons hometownlife.com Peru, where she visited five different cities, including Cusco and Lima.

For senior season, South Lyon's Elizabeth Harding wants to take her golf game to the next level.

And even before she heads out to the links, Harding can be usually found at Cattails Golf Course on either the practice green or the driving range an hour before practice starts, working on her game.

"I've been trying really hard to shoot under par," she said. "And I haven't accomplished that yet this year, so hopefully I'll be able to do that. Mostly it is putting and short game."

Harding is already off to a fast start for the Lions, who return four of their top five players from last year's thirdplace MHSAA Division 2 state finals squad, including Sophie Yergin, Kendall Skore and Julia Vess.

She captured the inaugural Lakes Valley Conference pretourney Aug. 24 at Hartland Glen with 73, while also adding a runner-up finish Aug. 16 with even-par 72 at the Orange Theory Fitness tourney at Hudson Mills Metropark.

Harding also tied for fifth Aug. 18 at the Lapeer Lightning Summer Tune-up at Lapeer Country Club with 5-over 79, while also taking medalist honors with 36 for the Lions (2-0) in an LVC dual match against Lakeland.

Standing 5 feet, 10 inches, Harding drives the ball 240 yards on average off the tee, but her game is well-rounded.

"She's long, obviously, but I'm super impressed with her short game,"first-year South Lyon assistant coach Christina Cibrario said. "That's what a lot of the kids struggle with the most and she's up-and-down 90 percent of the time."

Cibrario, who teaches math at South Lyon's Centennial



South Lyon senior golfer Elizabeth Harding is already off to a strong start this season.

Middle School, played golf at Oakland University and has competed in Golf Association of Michigan events with all three Harding sisters, including Caroline, a red-shirt sophomore on Michigan State's women's team, and Priscilla, a true sophomore on the MSU roster.

"She's a stud, she's a rock star," Cibrario said of Elizabeth. "She's very talented, can really play the game of golf. She's quiet and humble and she's fun to watch. Doesn't get too upset, stays maintained, good composure."

Both of Harding's parents have extensive golf experience at a high level.

Her father Tom, who played at MSU from 1985-87, qualified for the U.S. Senior Open in June (where Priscilla carried his bag for the first round). The teaching pro is a two-time Michigan PGA Player of the Year (1997 and 2001).

Mother Joal was a two-time All-American at Auburn University and played on the LPGA Tour (1992-94). "Because both of our parents know a lot about golf, then we got most of our instruction from them, of course," Harding said. "We help each other out a lot. I'll try and help my sisters out and they'll try to help me out just with swing tips and stuff like that."

Harding, who carries a 3.6 grade-point average, is more than likely bound for MSU, where she plans to study business and study Spanish. In June, she went on a 10-

day class-sponsored trip to

"It was really fun to see all the culture and to see the Peruvian people," Harding said. "We stayed with host families and our host mom was really nice to us. We tried speaking Spanish to her, which was a struggle, but we tried our best and we also got to see Machu Picchu and that was really fun. We also climbed a few mountains. We went to Lake Titicaca, which is really blue, then the Floating Islands."

During the winter, Harding will continue to play basketball. She began playing hoops in sixth grade on a club team and has progressed through middle school and high school.

"It keeps me in shape, for sure, because of course we do a lot of running and conditioning, which is really helpful for golf and endurance," she said.

Harding, who was regional runner-up last year, has helped the Lions to a back-to-back third-place finishes at the D2 state finals. As a freshman, along with her two older sisters, South Lyon finished runner-up.

This summer, she stayed sharp competing in American Junior Golf Association events while also playing in the Michigan Women's Amateur.

This year's Division 2 finals with be held Oct. 20-21 at Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek.

"One of my expectations is to probably place top five at states, but first get to states and win regionals ... that would be a lot of fun," said Harding, who was 11th at last year's D2 finals and 10th in 2015. "And, obviously, I'd like to get my scoring average down, which would be great."

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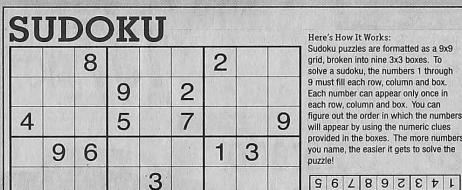
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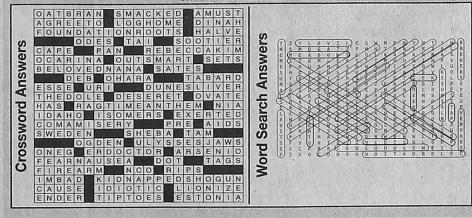
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