

Maten eyes NBA after ending stellar career at Georgia

SPORTS, 1B



CANTON UBSERVER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Meeting spotlights student safety

District gathers experts to brainstorm new ideas

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Columbine. Sandy Hook. Virginia Tech. Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

The ever-increasing number of school shootings have pressed on the hearts of educators everywhere and officials in Plymouth-Canton are no different. After the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Fla., Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Monica Merritt was troubled nightly by thoughts like, "What if that happened here?"

"Parkland, for all of us, weighs so heavily on our hearts. Each time we have this conversation, you think about students who shouldn't have to worry about safety," Merritt said. "It's that unsettling feeling that, yet again, something has threatened the safety of our students.

"You couldn't stop thinking about that as you look to say, 'How can we come together?' We know we're doing great things (for safety), but how can we get better?" Merritt added. "It was every night. I was coming in here in the morning and writing down the thoughts of the night.'

Those thoughts coalesced into an See SAFETY, Page 2A

idea and Merritt put it into action with a March 9 safety and security summit designed to figure out where the district could improve its plan for handling active threats.

The district is already ranked the seventh-safest district in Michigan by the website niche.com, but Merritt believes there's always room for improvement.

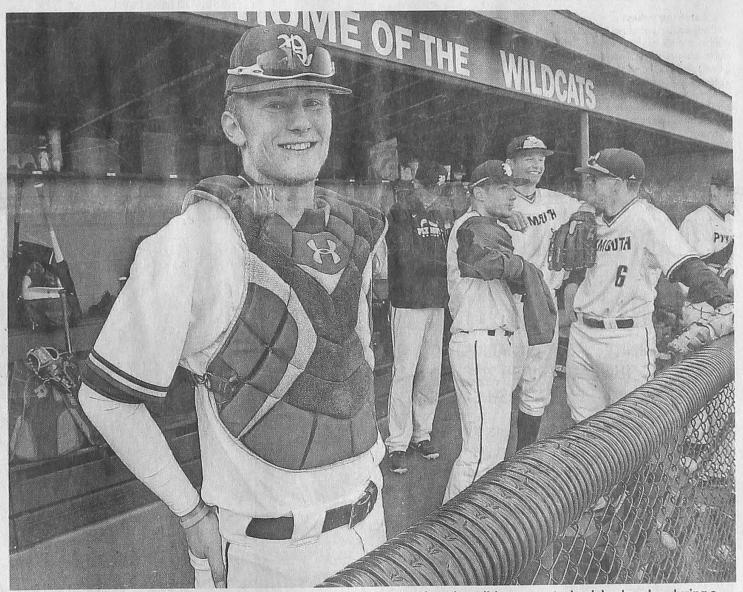
'We're very proud of that, but you know I'm always chasing 'champion-

BACK IN THE GAME

Months after broken leg, Beadle is on the diamond

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Zach Beadle's right leg was broken in two on the football field Sept. 29 at Livonia Churchill. For a while, so was his heart.



For 20 minutes - which seemed like an eternity, while Beadle, his family and the whole Plymouth High School community waited and wondered whether a misdirected ambulance would ever reach the injured senior quarterback he worried that his dreams of playing his final season of baseball for the Wildcats were as shattered as his right tibia and fibula.

"Oh, I was thinking how that would impact my baseball season," Beadle, 17, said. "How I've been waiting for my senior year for baseball since I came up as a freshman. I thought it was over."

And forget about college baseball, at the top of his to-do list.

Miraculously for some, but not for Beadle, who by all accounts is as driven a young athlete as they come, here he was March 26. Five months after "The Broken Bone Heard Around Plymouth-Canton" he was catching a full game for the Wildcats against Northville.

"To be back now, it's pretty much a dream come true," he said. "I've been praying, I've been doing everything I

Catcher Zach Beadle is back on the baseball diamond, seven months after the Wildcats quarterback broke a leg during a Sept. 29, 2017, football game against Livonia Churchill. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

can to get myself in this situation."

Beadle actually got his first taste of 2018 baseball action during a March 24 twinbill against the University of Detroit-Jesuit (the second game was a scrimmage). He pitched three innings and caught a couple of innings.

"Physically, I felt fine," Beadle said. "Mentally, it just felt good to get back in

the action behind the plate in a real game situation."

Knowing his limits

The only thing, according to his mom Rosie, is "he kind of runs goofy."

For sure, Beadle runs deliberately, almost bow-legged. A line-drive hit See BEADLE, Page 6A

against the Cubs would have been a double last spring, but he now knows he'd better not push it too much. Not yet, at least.

"I hit a ball that last year I would have got two (bases) on," he said. "But due to my injury and how slow I am now, I was

Plymouth teen pleads guilty to P-CEP bomb threats



Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brendan J. Sibel, the teenager accused of making bomb threats that shut down the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park on March 1, has pleaded guilty to four felonies.

The 17-year-old Plymouth resident appeared

March 23 in Wayne County Circuit Court for a formal arraignment on the charges and pleaded guilty to them and his pleas were accepted by Judge James R. Chylinski, court records show.

Sibel pleaded guilty to two counts of making a false bomb threat and two counts of making a false terrorist threat. He is to be sentenced Friday, April 13, by Chylinski.

The bomb threats were found March 1 See THREATS, Page 2A

scrawled on a wall at two Canton High School restrooms. That led to a lockdown at the 6,200student campus, followed by an 11 a.m. dismissal as police continued an investigation.

Police and school officials said at the time that the threats had been found to be not credible and that students were safe. In addition to Canton

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Safety

Continued from Page 1A

ships," Merritt said. "We want to be No. 1. So we figured the best way to get better was to bring all the expertise to the table."

All that expertise included representatives from a variety of law enforcement agencies, including the Canton Township Public Safety Department, the Plymouth Township and city of Plymouth police departments, Northville, the police department at Schoolcraft College, the Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The idea was to get the experts to the table to talk about best practices and help improve Plymouth-Canton's plan.

"We thought, 'Let's get bigger," Merritt said. "We had a lot of big thinkers in

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Plymouth-Canton school officials convened a summit of many local and regional law enforcement and security experts in an effort to improve the district's school security plan. PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

the room, but a lot of resources in the room, as well."

Josh Meier, Canton Township's public safety director, was one of the experts involved in the meeting. His police department provides school resource officers for each of Plymouth-Canton's three high schools.

Meijer was happy for the chance to take part in the meeting.

"We have a unique campus, with the three high schools, and anything we can do to help keep it safe, we're happy to do," Meier said. "They have a good plan there. We as a police department and as a school district hope we never have to face a situation like they had in Parkland, but we're going to make sure we're ready if it does."

Because of the uniqueness of the campus situation at Plymouth-Canton, participants were looking to apply best practices from other departments to the district's plans to see if they can be improved.

Merritt said the group came up with four areas that could be collaborted on: Threat assessments within each of the district's school buildings. ■ Looking at equipment and facilities. The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education is currently reviewing recommendations for security cameras and swipe cards for entrances.

Environmental designs that could improve safety.

Training, training, training.

"Even with the best training, you get into a situation, fear can take over and sometimes people may not remember exactly what they've been taught," Merritt said. "Training allows you to say all of the time, 'Keep it fresh on your mind."

Tadarial Sturdivant, director of the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, called scheduling the meeting a "great call" by the district.

He said his department was glad to be part of the meeting, because it has the responsibility "to provide the equipment, the communications and the tools they need to handle such a situation."

"It was a great meeting ... to bring all the first responders together to look at how we can advance the security in the face of an active threat," Sturdivant said. "The district has buildings in three jurisdictions ... to get all the first responders in a room so they could look at a unified strategy for an active threat, that's a great meeting."

Merritt agreed with Sturdivant's assessment, saying the Plymouth-Canton officials were there less to participate and more to hear what the experts had to say.

"Educators love to talk, but in that room, we were there to listen and learn," Merritt said. "Seeing that networking taking place, talking about conferences and forward-thinking ideas on the horizon for safety and security and these folks are already plugged in because of the nature of their work.

"Hearing them being able to dialogue about that and saying, 'If that's the best practice, we want that for Plymouth-Canton' and 'How do we work together to make that happen?' I can't even describe it. It was amazing."

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Threats

Continued from Page 1A

High School, P-CEP is shared by Plymouth and Salem high schools.

The March 1 threats followed a Feb. 23 rumor, later proved to be unfounded, that a student had brought a gun to school at P-CEP. Police said the two incidents were not related.

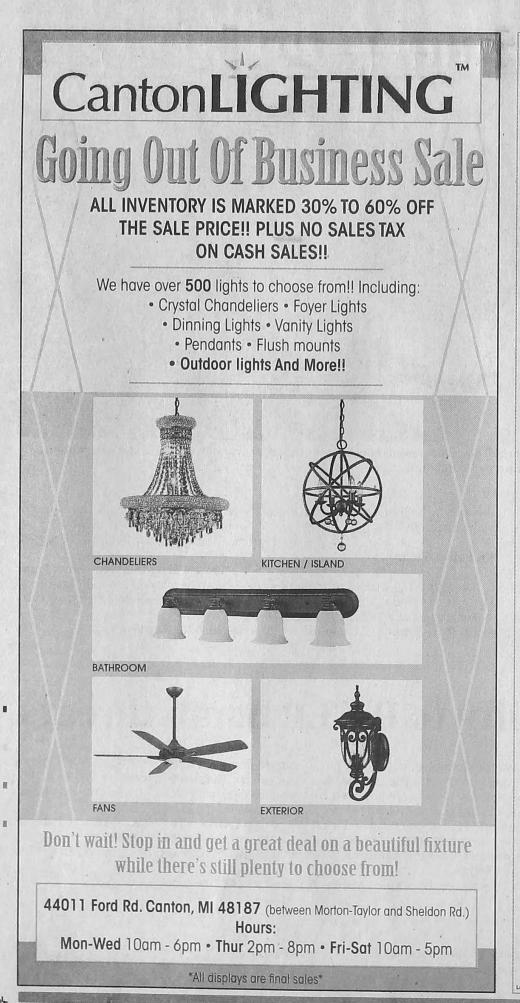
Sibel was arrested March 6 and is being held in the Wayne County Jail on a \$250,000 cash bond.

After his arrest, Sibel told 35th District Judge Ron Lowe that he made the threats because he wanted to "potentially get the day off from school," according to a statement Lowe made during Sibel's March 8 bond hearing.

Sibel later waived a district court preliminary hearing, meaning the case was sent directly to circuit court for the March 23 arraignment.

A charge of making a false terrorist threat carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, while a charge of making a false bomb threat carries a charge of up to four years in prison.

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Dance fever: Mom Prom for charity sells out

Brad Kadrich

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Betsy Crapps originally started the Mom Prom back in 2006, the Canton event would typically get a pretty good turnout, often between 120-150 women.

The event became popular enough that Crapps, who trademarked the name, has seen similar proms pop up all over the country (about 100 of them will happen this year).

And the Canton event has become so. popular that, for the first time, it sold out, with some 180 women turning out March 24 for the 2018 Mom Prom at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton, a change from the previous venue at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton.

"St. Thomas is a great place, (but) we'd get mostly parishioners or friends of parishioners," said Crapps, a South Lyon resident who serves as director of religious education at the church. "I think women are more comfortable partying somewhere other than a church."

The idea is to have women come out wearing their old prom gowns, wedding dresses, etc., and raise money for charity. While the national groups pick their own charities, the Canton Mom Prom raised money for a charity called Live Like Max.

This year's charity raised more than \$4,000.

Live Like Max was founded by John and Lisa Pardington, who own the popular Holiday Market in Canton and who are heavily involved in the community. The charity is named for their son Max, who died at age 20 in June 2014 from hypertropic cardiomyopathy (an enlarged heart).

The charity partners with Beaumont Hospital to provide healthy heart checks.

"Max had so much support and the Pardington family has so much support in Canton, that people wanted to support it," Crapps said. "The Pardingtons do a lot for the community."

Mom Prom is a burgeoning phenomenon that has drawn heavy media interest. ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" came out one year and the group was



Prom Queen Lynn Shock has the wave perfected. She is from Canton. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Betsy Crapps of South Lyon founded the Mom Prom back in 2006 at St. Thomas a'Beckett Catholic Church in Canton. Women wear old prom gowns, bridesmaid dresses, even wedding gowns. This year's charity is the Live Like Max foundation.

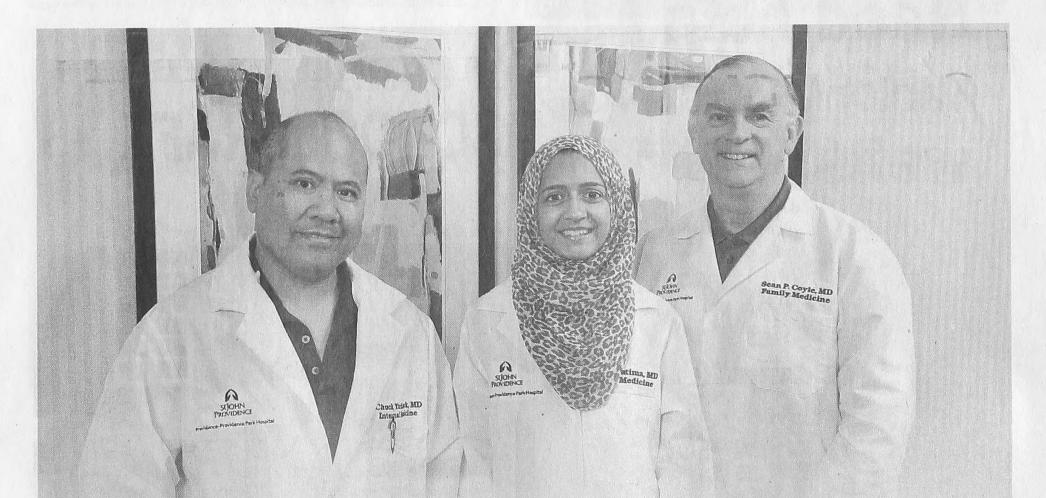
skewered good-naturedly once during the Weekend Update segment of NBC-TV's "Saturday Night Live."

"Seth Meyers made fun of us on 'Saturday Night Live," Crapps said with a chuckle. "That's when we knew we'd made it to the big time."

Contact Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.



Debbie Reeves poses with her prom date, James Dean. Debbie lives in Plymouth. Dean's whereabouts are unknown. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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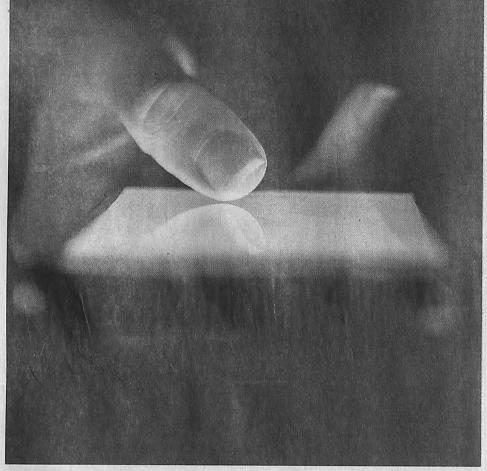
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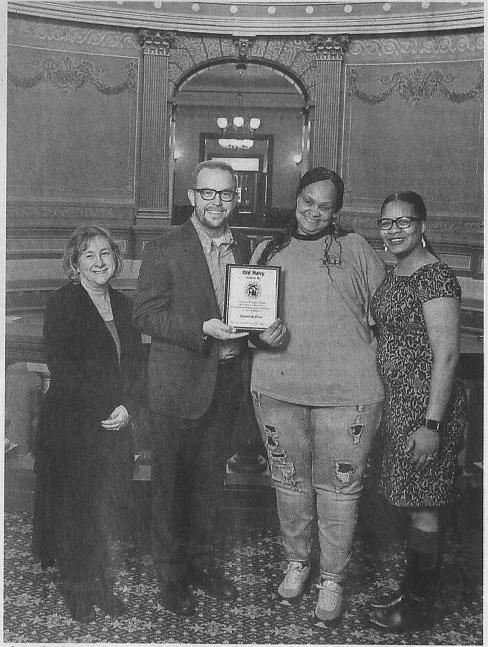


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OLD NAVY HONORED FOR DIVERSITY IN HIRING



The third annual Statewide Employment Celebration, which recognizes partnerships between businesses and community mental health center programs known as Clubhouses, was held March 7 at the state Capitol building. Eighteen companies were recognized for choosing to diversify their workforce by employing adults who have mental illness with the support of Clubhouse employment and recovery centers across Michigan. The awards were presented in front of a crowd that included more than 120 people, including Clubhouse members, employers, legislators, family members and allies. Old Navy in Canton was awarded for its commitment to hiring members from Gathering Place Clubhouse, which is located in Redford and has been servicing mental health consumers in Wayne County for 23 years. The group from Old Navy included (from left) Joy Kornspan, state Sen. David Knezek (presenter), Cynthia Matthew and Michelle Lewis St. John.

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The P-CEP management team included (from left) Samuel Macdonald, Mitchell Bates, Samuel Pennock and instructor Diana Woodward.

The P-CEP nutrition team included (from left) Noah White, Madison Ray, Michael Dazer, instructor **Polly Brown** (rear) and instructor Diana Woodward.



P-CEP team fares well at state culinary contest

The Michigan Restaurant Association Educational Support Foundation will send the culinary team from Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northwest and the management team from Saginaw Career Complex to compete April 27-29 against teams from across the country at the 17th annual National ProStart Invitational in Providence, R.I. Both teams were awarded first place in their respective disciplines at the Michigan ProStart competition, held March 18-19 at the Lansing Center.

Sixty-two teams representing 23 career and technical centers from across Michigan - a total of nearly 250 students - competed at the Michigan ProStart competition, an annual culinary and management competition hosted by the MRAESF. Student teams competed in culinary, management, menu design, nutrition, table top design and the ServeSafe Knowledge Bowl and were judged by top industry professionals as well as leading college and university instructors who observed and rated all portions of the competition.

In addition to the overall winning teams, a team from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park was awarded first place in nutrition and second place in both culinary and management.

The top teams shared in more than \$1.8 million in scholarships to help the students pursue careers in the food service industry.

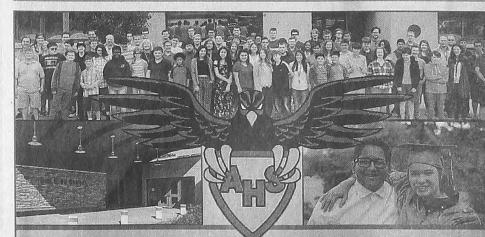
Annually, more than 5,000 Michigan students at 68 high schools and career centers participate in the ProStart curriculum, a two-year program that unites the classroom and the industry to nurture the talent and passion of restaurant and food service industry's future leaders. Each spring, ProStart students from across Michigan compete in the Michigan ProStart competition, an annual culinary and management competition hosted by the MRAESF.

For more information, call 800-968-9668 or go to mraesf.org/events.



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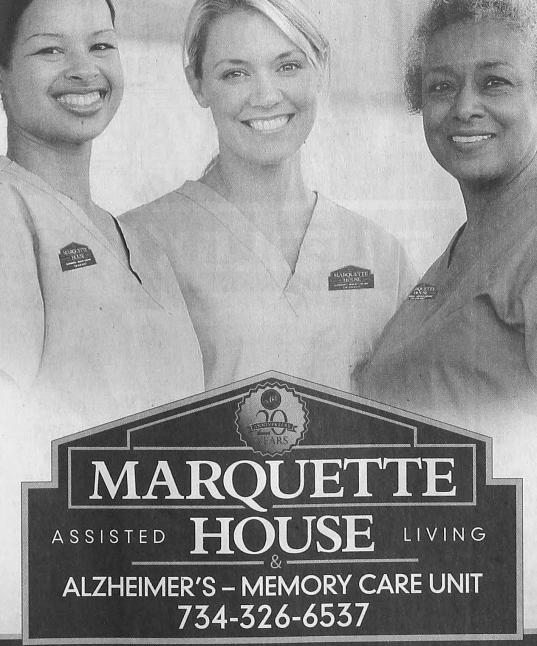
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Beadle

Continued from Page 1A

running and I saw there's no way I'm going to make it. So it's going to be a struggle all year.

"A little soreness here and there; there's going to be pain all year. It's just what comes with the injury, but nothing I can't deal with."

Beadle found out pretty fast the night of his injury that he had amazing coping skills.

Plymouth High School athletic trainer Joe Durocher held Beadle's blown up leg in place until medical help could reach the field — not far from the exact spot where a Churchill lineman landed on the limb as the quarterback tried to plant and run up field.

Also there in a flash were Plymouth assistant coach Scott Murray (a retired police officer) and Churchill medical staff members to help keep the prone athlete alert.

Parents Rosie and Steve Beadle rushed to him from the bleachers.

"To be honest, it seemed like a million years for the ambulance to get there," Rosie Beadle said. "But I can't even tell you how long it took them to get there, because I was so focused on what was going on and trying to keep myself together when it happened.

"They said it was 40 or 45 minutes that they stopped the game, from the time of the incident until the time they started the game back up.

"I only talked to him (on the field) for a very few minutes, because I was trying to keep it together. His words to me were, 'Mom, do not cry, I'm going to be fine.' And he *was* fine."

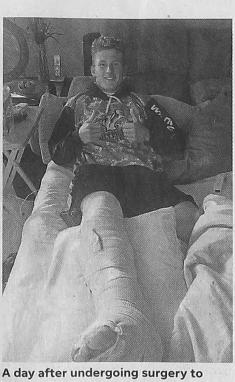
Strength in numbers

Beadle had a lot of help to get from Point A to Point B.

The quick-thinking efforts of Durocher, Murray and others helped stabilize Beadle that night. Then, doctors at Livonia St. Mary's Hospital decided to operate immediately rather than wait until morning.

"They called the doctor in and he had emergency surgery," Rosie Beadle said. "Because he was on the turf ... they were worried about infection."

During the hours-long surgery, a metal rod and two screws were inserted between the right knee and ankle. Those remain as Beadle goes about



A day after undergoing surgery to repair his broken right leg, Zach Beadle was in a cast and already thinking about making it back for the baseball season.

blocking pitches in the dirt or throwing out runners from his knees.

Seemingly the entire high school then began a pilgrimage to the Beadle's Canton home, bringing goodwill and good vibes that were essential medicine in the long run.

"His friends were a huge support system," his mom said. "He's a 17-year-old high school senior and, this time in their lives, it's all about the friends.

"His friends were his strength. They were at our house constantly. Homecoming was a week after his injury. I had 30 kids spend the night at my house and I didn't care."

PT and Ultra-G

Phase 2 for Beadle was getting his cast removed, followed by important work with Greg Moore, a physical therapist at ATI in Plymouth. His visits to Moore began shortly after the start of the new year.

"When he was finally cleared in January to come into physical therapy, he was ahead of the curve," Moore said. "It's nice to work with a Zach Beadle. I kind of was his tour guide or mountain guide and just kind of helped him

See BEADLE, Page 7A





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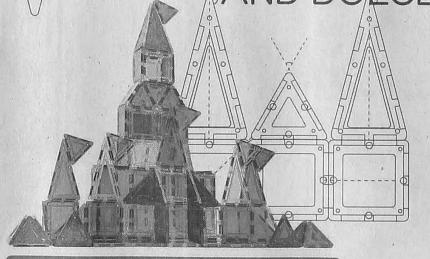
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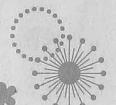
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Beadle

Continued from Page 6A

through the process ... was there to push him.

"I didn't have as much work to do as I would have expected to do, so it's really nice when someone is healing well and dealing with pain well."

Because Plymouth ATI is adjacent to Barwis Methods Training Facility, Moore and others were able to 'put him under a high load and kind of desensitize him to getting under a high load."

Still, at least early on, Beadle had some qualms about whether he could recover in time to play baseball this spring.

There were some ups and downs in physical therapy," Beadle said. "As soon as I got there, Greg wanted to see where I was. He made me run ... four or five days out of a cast, I thought, 'This is going to be a long road.'"

Moore also sent Beadle over to ATI's Northville facility for training on an anti-gravity treadmill (the Ultra-G), which helps athletes jog without putting intense weight and pressure on injured ankles and knees.

"You zip into a treadmill, they blow it up with air and it unloads you," Moore said. "It would be more like underwater running.

Beadle, meanwhile, said he felt OK while running on the machine.

"But then you step out and it was weird," Beadle said. "It felt like you weren't walking on your feet. It felt like you were walking on air. And then it takes a minute or two discovering that you're limping again and all that stuff.

There was some pain I had to push through (in the machine), but there's pain I had to push through with all of this."

Ahead of the curve

That's exactly what Beadle did. With Moore's encouragement and medical skill, the PT accelerated ahead of schedule.

Augmenting his physical therapy schedule (three two-hour sessions every week) were baseball workouts at a new training facility opened by Plymouth baseball coach Jason Crain.

Other Wildcats players (including Chase Every and Jake Cain) joined him for those outings, as did one of his best friends, Salem's Trevor Genaw.

And Beadle, lo and behold, was given the green light in early March to begin official practices with the varsity squad.

There was no surprise in Crain's voice following the Northville game, when discussing that quicker than expected return.

"Oh my gosh, it's a testament to how hard he's worked," Crain said. "He was hitting, throwing, physical therapy every day. ... You can see it. How many kids can go through what he went through, snap your leg in half and be out there catching a whole game in March? What is that, five months later?



Plymouth's Zach Beadle reaches for a pitch against Northville. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"He's a determined young man and I think he's going to do phenomenal things."

Positive mindset

Modern medical technology and the best practices in physical therapy brought to the forefront by Moore and ATI might bring an athlete to the cusp of recovery.

But then it's up to the Zach Beadles of the world to help get to the finish line and beyond, which is exactly what he did.

'Zach was determined from day one that he was going to do whatever it needed to be to get him back to play baseball," his mom said. "That's his dream, to play baseball, and he had no intention of (the injury) stopping him.'

Beadle's refusal to give up proved to be just as important a component. He had no doubt that he'd be back on the baseball field, yet he had family and friends who nudged him along, just in case.

"That was big," he said. "There were a lot of times where I felt, like, 'Am I going to be able to do this?' That's where all the support came in, from everyone around me.

'They're saying, 'You got this, you can do this.' And that kind of helped me stabilize in my mind, just kept that positive mindset in me the whole time.'

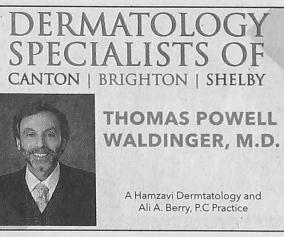
For Rosie Beadle, the entire experience has been as much an eye-opener for her as it has been emotional.

"What have I learned? That I have a very strong son and he's very determined," she said. "We're very, very, very proud of him. He had a lot of challenges, right? It's his senior year, he loves to play sports. And it was a quick ending to a sport he loved with football. He didn't have an opportunity to play his senior year in basketball.

"So his determination and how strong he was through all of this and positive, that he was determined to be back and ready to play baseball, was amazing to watch. He's a lot stronger than I thought he was, as a 17-year-old kid."

Just wait until he straightens out his form on the base paths.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.





WHY BE **CATHOLIC?** Season 9

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The exciting series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 9th season with an outstanding roster of new speakers.

Wednesday, April 11th, 2018 7 PM

Fr. William Tindall, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, again headlines a change-up program for Why Be Catholic called "Ask the Pastor", an opportunity for everyone to ask an informed panel any and all questions regarding Catholicism, its theology, practices, liturgies, or beliefs.



St. Michael the Archangel School Cafeteria 11441 Hubbard Rd., s. of Plymouth Rd., Livonia 734-261-1455 www.livoniastmichael.org ALL ARE WELCOME!

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3

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A Hamzavi Dermtatology and Ali A. Berry, P.C Practice

DERMATOLOGY SPECIALISTS CENTER FOR MOHS AND DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY Welcomes

If you could have anything, what would it be?

Cultural Relevancy Dean Johnson

USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

standing

front of you and asked,

'What do you want me to

do for you?" What would

you ask for? I guess it

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Offer Expires 4-30-18

hat would you comes down to what you say if Jesus was want most in life. Luke, Chapter 18, tells in

the story of a blind man in the city of Jericho. He's begging, so you assume he wants money. The blind man hears some commotion, SO asks what's going on and the crowd tells him "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." The man immediately cries out "Son of David!" That's a messianic title from the Old Testament. The crowd refers to Jesus by his human name and hometown, but the blind man believes he is the savior sent from God.

The man cries out "Have mercy on me!" Jesus approaches the man and asks, "What do you

want me to do for you?" How I wouldn't love to have Jesus ask me that question! What would I sav? What would you say? What do you desire most in life?

Years ago, my wife and I were walking down a sidewalk in San Francisco when we encountered a blind woman, screaming and wildly swinging her white cane. People were just walking around her, ignoring her. As we got closer, we could hear her yelling, "Help me! Won't somebody help me!" What does she want, we wondered? Should we get involved? We did and it turns out she had just gotten turned around and wanted someone to tell her where she was. We walked her to the next corner and told her the street names and she was fine.

What does a blind man want? The man in Jericho asked Jesus to heal his eyesight, which Jesus did. (God really is concerned about our physical ailments.) And then he follows Jesus. It turns out that that's what he wanted most.

Money isn't bad - we need it to live. And it's not wrong to ask for physical healing. But I suspect we all want something even more than that, something spiritual. We are spiritual beings, made to live in right relationship with God. I don't want to settle for anything less. You can learn a lot from a blind man.

The Rev. Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at DeanLPBC@sbcglobal. net.

PCA TEAM WINS ROBOTICS DISTRICT



Team 4405, The Atoms Family of Plymouth Christian Academy (above), competed March 24-25 in the Belleville District event for FIRST Robotics, featuring 41 teams from throughout Michigan. The Atoms Family, led by an all-senior drive team of Hadlee Chubb, Chiren Moore and Zach Racho, finished in third place after its 12 qualifying round matches. After the qualifications are complete, the teams then pick their "alliances" of three teams to compete for the championship. The Atoms Family was teamed up in the second alliance with Team 1189, The Gearheads from Grosse Pointe, and Team 5915, The Mercy Midnight Storm from The Mercy Education Project of Detroit. The Atoms Family, along with their alliance members, won 2-0 in a best-of-three final round. Additionally, The Atoms Family was able to capture the Creativity Award. This placed The Atoms Family in eighth place in the state and advanced it to the state championships at Saginaw Valley State University. The team also had to nominate two students as dean's list semifinalists: juniors Elise Miera and Taylor Maxwell.



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Thomas Powell Waldinger, M.D. has been a practicing dermatologist since 1985. He specializes in the diagnosis and management of skin cancer and geriatric dermatology.

Dr. Waldinger earned his Bachelor of Science degree with High Distinction from the University of Michigan. Dr. Waldinger received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Michigan Department of Dermatology.

Dr. Waldinger is the author or co-author of 10 peer-reviewed publications in the field of dermatology. He is also the author of three books. His honors include, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan in 1976 and being named a Paul Harris fellow, Dearborn Rotary Club, in 1986. Dr. Waldinger has been selected by his peers to be included in The Best Doctors of America® from 1996 through 2018.

Dr. Waldinger received the Arnold P Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award in 2012. He is one of eight dermatologists in the nation to receive this award. The American Academy of Dermatology wrote this about Dr. Waldinger: "His peers indicate that he is a role model for compassion, honesty, integrity, respect, dignity, diversity, and selfless dedication to excellence. He's a great communicator to patients, staff, and colleagues. " He looks forward to meeting you at Dermatology Specialists of Canton and the Serenity Canton location.

DERMATOLOGY SPECIALISTS CENTER FOR MOHS AND DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY Serenity Health | 6300 N. Haggerty Rd., Suite 220 Canton, MI 48187 | (734) 495-1506

> DERMATOLOGY SPECIALISTS OF CANTON 285 North Lilley Road, Canton, MI 4818 | (734) 495-1506

April 15, 2018 · 7 pm · \$28

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Love across cultures ... in your own backyard!

Bookstock sale set for April 22-29 at **Laurel Park Place**

Bookstock, metro Detroit's biggest used book and media sale, which benefits literacy and education projects, is scheduled for Sunday, April 22, through Sunday, April 29, at Livonia's Laurel Park Place. Detroit Free Press columnist Rochelle Riley and Detroit News columnist Neal Rubin are honorary co-chairs of Bookstock and the Mike Morse Law Firm is presenting sponsor.

A pre-sale will kick off 8:15 a.m. Sunday, April 22. There is a \$20 admission charge for the pre-sale only, which runs through 11 a.m. and offers shoppers and collectors first crack at Bookstock's treasure trove of bargains. Bookstock has more than 300,000 donated used books, DVDs, CDs, books on tape, magazines and vinyl for sale at bargain prices. The sale will continue through Sunday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

This year, Bookstock will feature seven days of special sales:

🛿 Monday Madness – Monday, April 23: The first 1,000 shoppers will receive giveaways, including a \$50 VISA gift card every hour, and one shopper will receive a \$500 VISA gift card.

I. Teacher Appreciation Day - Tuesday, April 24: Bookstock is celebrating teachers 3-9 p.m. by giving 50 percent off to all teachers with a valid ID. At 5 p.m., the Bookstock B.E.S.T. Awards, (Bookstock Extraordinary Student/ School/Teacher) will be presented to fourth-grade students from Detroit Public Schools Community District who write the top essays titled, "My Favorite Book Character ... and Why." A WDIV-TV personality will present the awards live and cash prizes will be given to five students, their teachers and their schools.

Cookstock - Wednesday, April 25: Cookstock will feature the area's largest collection of gently used cookbooks and the winners of the Cupcake Recipe Contest will be announced by local news anchors Carolyn Clifford (WXYZ-TV, Channel 7) Sherry Margolis (WJBK-TV, Channel 2) and Tati Amare (WDIV-TV. Channel 4) at 5 p.m. The winning cupcake will be featured at Good Cakes and Bakes, Detroit's hottest new bakery, and appear on "Live in the D" on WDIV-TV.

Also, the \$25 snag bag, all the books you can snag in our bag for \$25 (quantities limited — some exclusions apply).

Bookbuster Special Days - Thursday and Friday, April 26-27: Buy three books and get the fourth book free (least expensive item) 3-9 p.m. Spend \$25 or more either night and be entered in a drawing for sports memorabilia, event tickets and other prizes.

Children's Day – Saturday, April 28: Special children's activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring Toyology, Arts and Scraps and Goldfish Swim School.

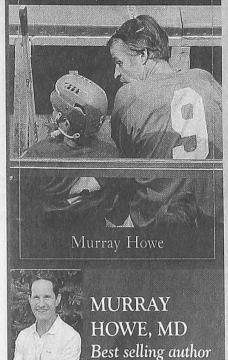
Half-Price Finale — Sunday, April 29: All books and media will be sold for half-price.

Bookstock has generated more than \$1.8 million for literacy and education projects throughout Oakland County and Detroit. More than 800 volunteers work together throughout the year to organize and staff the sale.

Bookstock is brought to the community by the Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC and a consortium of nonprofit organizations that support education and literacy projects throughout metro Detroit. For more information, call 248-645-7840, ext. 365, or go to bookstockmi.org. Laurel Park Place is located on Six Mile Road, east of I-275, in Livonia.

AN AFTERNOON WITH MURRAY HOWE Nine Lessons I Learned From My Father

Nine Lessons I Learned from My Father



YOU'RE INVITED April 14th 2 - 3 p.m.

Join us for a son's intimate account of the love, lessons and legacy of the man behind the legend of Gordie Howe.

Murray Howe will be here to do a few readings, answer questions, and sign copies of his book.

Books can be purchased at the event at the cover price of \$25 (cash or check only), with a portion of book sales going to the Alzheimer's Association.

Appetizers and desserts will be served.

Community tours will also be offered.

Seating is limited. CHERRY HILL Redefining Retirement Living®

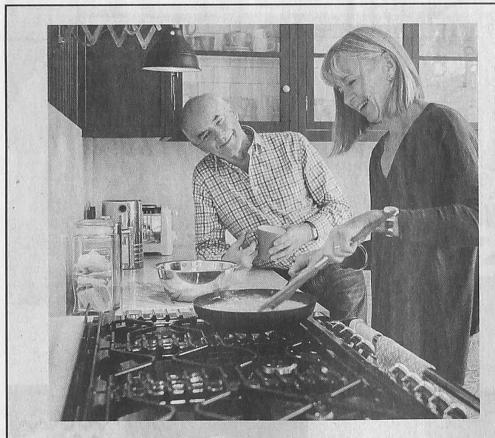
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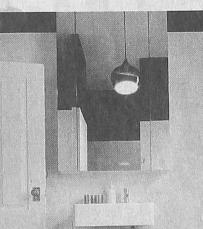






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Take a look inside new Amazon fulfillment center

David Veselenak

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright remembers when he first heard of the Amazon facility looking to locate to the city during the early part of his term.

"We were so excited, but we had to keep it a secret," he said. "We couldn't talk about it, we couldn't even ask Alexa about it.

"But this was such great news for Livonia."

That secret then blossomed into a 1 million-square-foot fulfillment center for the Seattle-based e-commerce giant, the first of its kind in Michigan. Wright, along with other state, county and business leaders, celebrated the facility March 23 during a grand opening event and tour of the building at 39000 Amrhein.

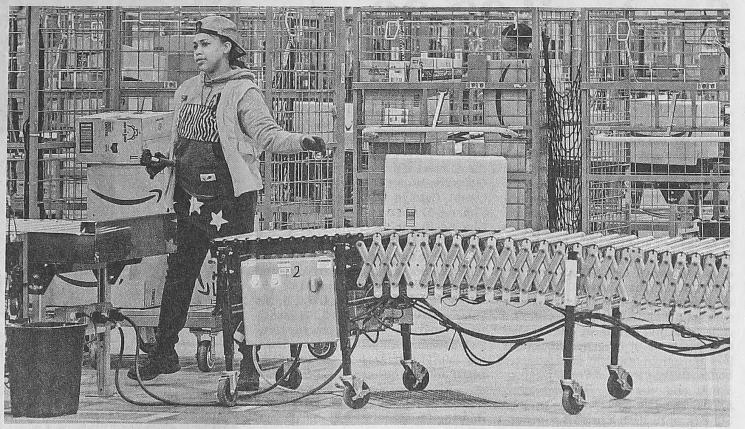
The company opened the facility for tours for local officials and members of the media. The building was much more jam-packed with goods than during the last media tour, which took place in July while the facility was under construction. It opened in September and shipped its first product in October.

Gov. Rick Snyder, who was in attendance for the event, said Amazon's arrival in Michigan is part of what he's called "Michigan's comeback." It's gotten to a point though, Snyder said, where that term just doesn't fit anymore.

"We're going to stop that terminology, because we're back," he said. "We should be proud of that. Let's just talk about how we can get to the next level."

Snyder presented the facility's general manager, Shawn Westlund of South Lyon, with plaques from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and from the Legislature, along with state Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, commending the center.

Of course, plaques weren't the only items the state and local community granted for the facility. The announcement that Amazon would come to Livonia came in December 2016, after it was revealed the company received a \$7.5 million grant from the MEDC to aid in recruitment efforts for the center. In ad-



Boxes on the way to the truck. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

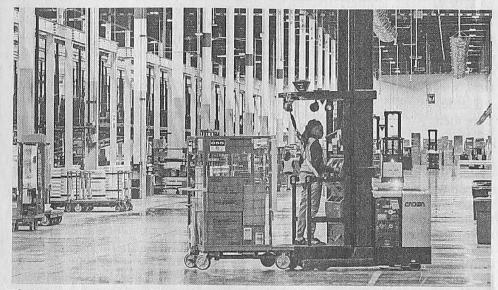
dition, the city of Livonia granted the company an industrial facilities exemption certificate for the center last summer, providing an exemption from ad valorem real and/or personal property taxes on the property.

There are currently more than 1,000 full-time employees at the center, which ships goods bought online.

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, a self-proclaimed "Amazon freak," said having the facility close by will satisfy his spending habits much more.

But he also said the work put in by other leaders to secure the facility for Livonia and Wayne County came as a result of working together with officials from the state, county and city.

"These things don't happen unless you have partnerships and partnerships aren't partisan," Evans said. "It's because (Snyder) has decided to put the state first and we've decided to follow as best we can. And Wayne County has turned around."



The products are picked by an employee driving hydrogen fuel cell-powered lifts that raise the operator to the top of the 28-foot tall shelves. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-

6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidve-selenak.

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Obituaries

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Holly Spurlock

BLOOMFIELD HILS - (January 4, 1925 - March 23, 2018) - Holly integrated his commitment to God, family and work in remarkable ways. He grew up in Detroit, the youngest of seven children of working class parents from Tennessee, served as a pilot in the Army Air Corp in 1944 and 45, married Esther Rose Orrin (d. 1999), and founded Monarch Tool and Gauge, a tool and die shop shortly after demobilization; all the while he was a committed Christian and attended The Covenant Community Church in Redford. He then spent the next 40 years in leadership positions at Highland Park Baptist Church



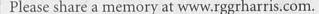
in Southfield and was one of the founders of Southfield Christian School.

Holly's friendships revolved around other men who also were committed to God in the workplace and church: Harold McDonald, Paul Johnson, Don Woodworth, Ralph Londal, Casey Rost, Al Kuhnle, Dave Pelton, Bill Outland Jim Root, Bill Pew, Braz Pryor and many others were stalwart friends who, together built and supported, Christian ministries throughout the Detroit area.

Integrating that faith with his family life with Esther and children, Sue, Doug, and Rick (plus 13 grandkids and 13 great grandkids) was one of the most significant accomplishments of his life as he provided a model of how to love his wife, Esther; how to work diligently with integrity in running Monarch Tool; and how to flesh out his commitment to Jesus Christ in the ministries of Highland Park Baptist Church and Southfield Christian School.

A few years after Esther's death, Holly was introduced to a beautiful woman, Evelyn Miller. They were married in 2005 and spent wonderful years together first in Naples, FL and then in Gainesville, GA. Evelyn's delightful family, Melanie, Terri, Cheryl and Philip and their families, welcomed Holly into their hearts and it was their tender, loving care that carried Holly during his last few years of failing health.

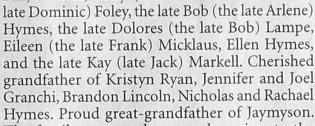
We will be celebrating Holly's life at a memorial service in the Fellowship Hall at Highland Park Baptist Church at 11:00 AM Saturday, April 7. The family will be there at 10:00am to greet and welcome all old friends and reminiscence. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Southfield Christian School, a fitting memorial for Holly's lifetime work.





John F. Hymes Jr.

REDFORD - passed away March 26, 2018 at the age of 90. Dear son of the late Louise and John F. Hymes Sr. Beloved husband of the late Audrey of 60 years. Loving father of Kenneth, Carol (Andrew) Lincoln and Ronald (Bernadette). Dear brother of Betty (the late Bill) Darish, Polly (the



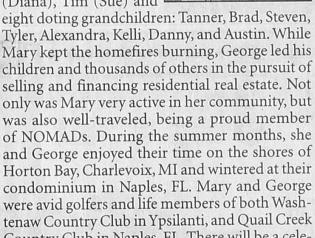
Alex L. Modreski

NORTHVILLE - Alex L. Modreski, of Northville, formerly Redford Township, died of natural causes, surrounded by his wife and children, on the morning of March 9, 2018. He was just a few months shy of his 100th birthday. Al was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grand-

father and uncle. Family was both his focus and joy. He was a Navy veteran who proudly served during World War II where he was a Seaman First Class working as a mechanic on Navy aircraft carriers. After his honorable discharge, Al worked in the Aero-Space Tool and Die industry. However, his favorite job was after retirement when he served as a member of the teaching staff for Focus Hope helping young people learn the tool and die craft until he was 89 years young. Alex is survived by his sweetheart and wife of 67 years, his two children, six grandchildren, and 5 greatgrandchildren. He was predeceased by his mother and father, his two brothers and their wives. An open celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, April 7 at Glen Eden Memorial Park, The Chapel Mausoleum, in Livonia, MI at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name online or directed to Focus Hope 1200 Oakman Blvd. Detroit, MI 48238 or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, 875 North Randolph St., Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203.

Mary Elizabeth Smith

PLYMOUTH - Mary passed away on March 27, 2018 at age 86. She was a long-time resident of Plymouth, MI and the wife of George B. Smith, who preceded her in death. She leaves behind five devoted children: Greg (Pam), Barbara, Thomas (Marilyn), Dan (Diana), Tim (Sue) and





Elaine M. Theisen

LIVONIA - March 25, 1924~March 10, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Gerard Theisen. Loving mother of Chris (Jim) Hathaway, David (Kathy) Theisen, Denise Fedrigo, the late Paul Theisen and mother-in-law of Marie Theisen. Also survived by 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice 333 N. Summit St. Toledo, Ohio 43699-0086 (notate Southfield location in donation) Capuchin Soup Kitchen Development Office 1820 Mount Elliott Street Detroit, MI 48207

Marilyn K. Gordon

LIVONIA - Marilyn passed away on March 21, 2018 at the age of 75. Beloved wife of the late Jack. Loving mother of Grant (Lisa) Gordon. Dear sister of Elaine, Barbara (Steve), Sue and Michael (Judy). Cherished grandmother of Ryan. Also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Local care and services were entrusted to the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, (734) 522-9400. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at www.griffinfuner alhome.com



May you find peace in your time of sorrow. The family entrusted care and services to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home-Westland, 734-522-9400. Share "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.

GRIFFIN LJ. GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, INC. Country Club in Naples, FL. There will be a celebration of Mary and George's lives on May 8, from 5-8pm at the Post Bistro (www.postbistro.com) in Plymouth, MI as instructed in their last wishes.

Schrader-Home







AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Salvation Army rummage sale

The Plymouth Salvation Army will hold a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Salvation Army Community Center, 9451 S. Main Street. Tables rent for \$20. For more information, call 734-453-5464.

Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluessociety.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

On Tuesday, April 10, the Kathleen Murray Band returns. Joining Murray on vocals are Mike Ferencz on guitar, Craig Scott on bass, Bob Bowman on drums and Evan Mercer on keyboard.

The West Side Ramblers will provide a free concert of Dixieland/bluegrass 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at Burger Night. A limited menu is available.

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.

Mom to Mom Sale

Canton Leisure Services will host its annual Mom to Mom Sale from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Summit on the Park,46000 Summit Parkway.

More than 60 booths will be on-site, offering great deals on everything that is baby, child or maternity related. Moms will be selling gently used children's clothing and shoes, plus toys, books, DVDs/videos, baby gear, Halloween costumes, water and swim gear and more. Shoppers will also be able to find great deals on furniture, strollers, high chairs and more in the large item area.

Admission is \$28-9 a.m. and \$1 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All sales are cash only (note that there is no ATM on the premises). For more information, call 734-394-5460 or go to www.cantonfun.org.

All-sports equipment sale

The city of Plymouth Recreation Department is holding an all-sports equipment sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 2, inside the Plymouth Ice Arena. 525 Farmer Street. Each 10- by 10-foot spot is \$20 and space is limited. You may purchase multiple booths and we will ensure that your spots will be next to each other.



The West Side Ramblers will provide a free concert of Dixieland/bluegrass 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge.

Admission is free. For more information or to register, go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or call 734-455-6620.

Plymouth H.S. reunion

The Plymouth High School Class of 1963 is celebrating its 55th class reunion Saturday, Aug. 18, with a dinner at The Summit in Canton. Other activities include a golf outing, a night mixer Friday, Aug. 17, at Karl's Cabin and an indoor picnic Sunday, Aug, 19, at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex. For more information, contact Nancy Richard Earle at 734-634-8974 or nancyearle@comcast.net.

Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 2018 season, at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road. Performances include 10 open-mic artists and then the feature act at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

The season schedule is available on its Facebook For page. more information, email bfspresident4u@gmail.com.

Diabetes support group

A diabetes support group meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street. Facilitator is Fern Vining, R.N., a diabetes educator. The group is sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club.

the care of children, teens and adults with skin disorders.

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Children's ear problems can derail travel plans

Susan Peck Special to Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Vacation getaways are some of the best times spent with children, but a child who experiences ear problems during air travel can make things stressful for the whole family.

Most adults have felt the sensation of their ears popping during takeoff and landing on an airplane. For a child, this sensation can become unbearable. Infants and toddlers have the greatest difficulty because of their underdeveloped anatomy, plus cold and flu symptoms can add to the problem.

"When we change altitude in an airplane, our ears react to the change in pressure," said Dr. Robert Standring of Southfieldbased Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants. "The eustachian tube leading from the middle ear to the back of the nose and throat tries to equalize the pressure on our eardrums, but in children the tube is smaller, so regulating the pressure is more difficult and can result in severe pain."

Parents can help prevent or relieve that discomfort with some simple measures, but it's best not to wait until boarding a flight to consider the possibilities. Consulting with the child's doctor before the trip will allow parents to set up a travel plan.

Standring suggests these tips for air travel: Swallowing opens

the eustachian tubes and relieves ear pressure, so have your child take frequent sips from a bottle or cup during the flight especially at descent, when the pressure is the greatest. Place a pacifier in your baby or toddler's mouth if they don't want to drink — the sucking motion helps keep their ears clear.

Give your child over age 3 gum to chew or a lollipop to suck on when the plane moves away from the gate and during descent. The movement and swallowing help to reduce ear pressure.

Wake your child before takeoff and landing. We don't swallow as much while we're asleep and your child will feel less pain if she stays awake when major pressure changes are occurring during the flight.

If you already have evidence from past flights that your child will experience ear problems or there is a mild cold present, you can give ibuprofen or acetaminophen a

half-hour before taking off to reduce discomfort. Corticosteroid nasal sprays like Flonase and oral decongestants can help to relieve inflammation and pressure symptoms as well. Talk to your doctor about the right type and dosage for your child.

Consulting specialist

If there are recurrent ear problems each time your child travels by airplane, it may be an indication that you need to consult with an ear, nose and throat specialist.

"Pronounced pain every time you fly can be a red flag for a condition known as eustachian dysfunction." tube Standring said. "The eustachian tube does the important job of letting fluid drain from the middle ear, but when the tube becomes blocked by congestion or mucus, fluid can build up, causing discomfort, pressure and infection."

The typical treatment

PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting April 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

> Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street; Plymouth, MI 734-453-0750 x 217

Published: April 1, 2018

for eustachian tube dysfunction that leads to middle ear infections is a round of antibiotics. Unfortunately, many children don't respond to antibiotic therapy and, after repeated infections, are at risk of hearing loss or speech problems due to constant fluid in the ears. In this case, an ENT specialist will often recommended the placement of ear tubes to restore the middle ear to normal functioning.

"Ear tubes, or tympanostomy tubes, are tiny cylinders placed through a small incision in the ear drum," Standring said. "The tubes reopen and replace the function of the eustachian tube, al-

lowing the removal of fluid from the middle ear and eliminating the pain."

According to the American Academy of Otolaryngology, three or more ear infections in six months or more than four in a year should signal an evaluation for the placement of ear tubes.

"The goal of the tubes is to end the frequent infections that can lead to antibiotic overuse, hearing loss, nerve damage in the ear and face and, although rare, an infection that migrates to the brain," Standring said. "The procedure lasts about 10 minutes, requiring a short general anesthetic, and there is a quick recovery."

Generally, the tubes will fall out on their own after about 12-18 months. In a few instances, however, an ENT specialist must remove them.

"One of the biggest benefits of ear tubes is the reduced use of oral antibiotics," Standring said.

When it comes to planning your family's next dream vacation, it's easy to agree with experts who say traveling with healthy children provides the best opportunity to have happier moments, with memories you can treasure for a lifetime.

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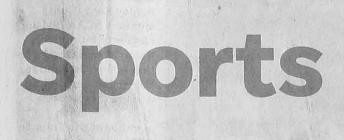


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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maten completes stellar career as Georgia great

Marty Budner hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When it comes to Georgia men's basketball, Dominique Wilkins, Litterial Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope are three of the most heralded players ever to come out of the university in Athens.

You can add Bloomfield Hills High School graduate Yante Maten to that elite list. Maten recently finished a phenomenal four-year collegiate career as one of the top Bulldogs in program history.

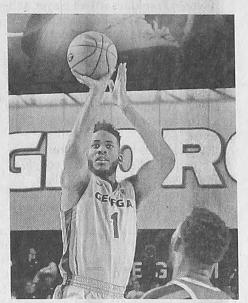
The 21-year-old power forward was named the AP's Southeastern Conference's Player of the Year — Wilkins and Caldwell-Pope were the only others from Georgia to have achieved that distinction. He also last week was named co-Georgia Men's College Basketball Player of the Year by the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

In addition, Maten motored into the

top 10 of seven different career statistical categories, most notably points (second behind Green), rebounds (fourth) and blocked shots (third). He also ranks among the SEC's top 10 in rebounds (third), minutes played (third), fieldgoal percentage (eighth), blocked shots (10th) and free-throw percentage (10th).

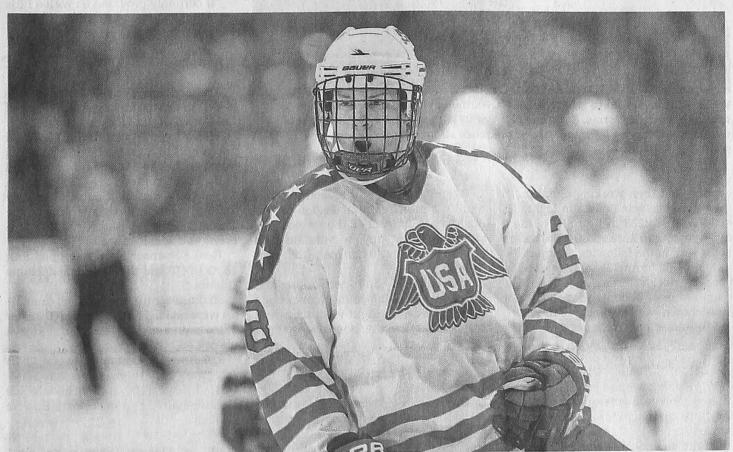
The accolades go on and on - UGA's first three-time all-SEC player in more than 25 years; fifth Georgia player to

See MATEN, Page 3B



Yante Maten hopes to hear his name called in the upcoming NBA Draft, scheduled for June 21 in New York. JOHN KELLEY

USA HOCKEY



Joel Farabee rocks the stunning military uniform the U-18 team wore March 23-24 against the Chicago Steel. The uniforms were auctioned off. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

STAR-SPANGLED CELEBRATION

PREP ATHLETICS Malek receives Michigan's Award of Merit

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Sal Malek is a fun-loving, affable, opinionated and highly-talkative personality. The 68-year-old athletic director at Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart is also very grateful for everything he has in life.

A native of Baghdad, Iraq, Malek is extremely thankful to be an American who unquestionably appreciates the freedom and opportunities afforded in the United States. He is thankful for his educational background and all the people who helped mold his administrative acumen. He enjoys his profession while helping to shape the minds



Bingo night at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital brought U.S. players such as Trevor Janicke and military veterans together. PAIGE SLINEY | USA HOCKEY

Patriotism on display as veterans watch U.S. play Chicago Steel

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Every day is a great day to put on the hockey uniform if you play for the U.S. National Team Development Program, but wearing the country's colors took on a new meaning during Military Appreciation Weekend.

The NTDP U-18 team wore special and stunning red, white and blue uniforms during a two-game set at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth against the Chicago Steel.

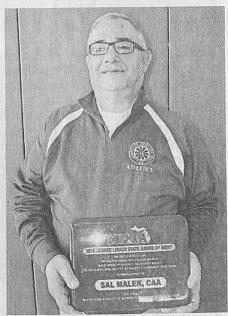
If fans didn't look to hard, and al-

See MILITARY, Page 2B

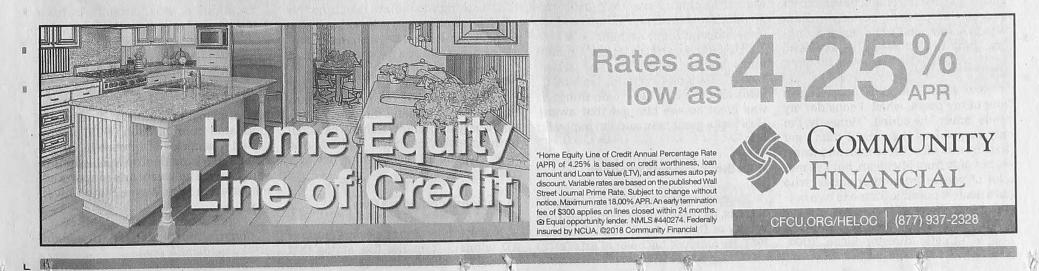
of today's youth.

Malek is also thankful for the latest

See MALEK, Page 2B



Sal Malek, athletic director at Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart for the past five years, holds the plaque honoring him as Michigan's Award of Merit winner. MARTY BUDNER



COLLEGE RECRUITING Franklin's Kent earns **Division I scholarship**

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin softball player Ashley Kent will be soon be changing nicknames, switching from a Patriot to a Colonial.

The infielder-outfielder, who enters her senior season this spring, was one of six players to sign an NCAA letter of intent last November with Robert Morris (Pa.) University of the Northeast Conference.

The Colonials have signed two pitchers, a pair of infielders and a couple of utility players for the 2018-19 class.

As a junior at Franklin, Kent batted .522 (47-for-90) and posted a .409 average and a .987 on-base slugging percentage for Finesse, a summer softball travel organization based out of Wixom.

"Ashley can literally play every infield and outfield position defensively, which adds great flexibility to our roster," Robert Morris head coach Craig Coleman said. "She has great foot speed and can hit from both the right side as well as execute the slapping short game from the left side."

In 2015, Kent helped her club team to the Michigan Amateur Softball Association state championship and a thirdplace finish in the Premier Girls Fastpitch Midwest Regional.

Kent, who carries a 3.55 grade-point average, also earned the Kensington Lakes Athletic Association Scholar-



Athlete Award. She plans to study cyber forensics at Robert Morris.

Robert Morris, off to a 7-21 start this season, has won six Northeast Conference tournament championships and eight regular-season titles. The Colonials have reached the NEC playoffs in 26 of 31 seasons, including nine of the last 10 years.

Half of the Colonials' class is composed of talent from the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Livonia Franklin's Ashley Kent (right) signed a NCAA Division I letter of intent with Robert Morris)pa.) University. On hand for the November signing was brother Andrew Kent, a freshman member of the Franklin JV baseball team.

League, including Brittney Seibert (Montour), Madison Shiderly (Mohawk) and Dana Vitakis (Monessen).

They are joined by three out-of-state players: Erika Bell (Manchester, Ohio), Katie Gasvoda (W.V. Madonna) and Kent.

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmonsl.

Closing out the weekend was Saturday's USA Salute to Heroes Night. Veterans of all eras were recognized and honored.

"It was an honor to look up in the stands and see the military members and veterans have such a strong presence in our building," U.S. coach Seth Appert said. "Our guys are proud to put on the USA sweater every night, but I know this weekend, we all felt a little more connected to the colors we wear.

"It certainly provided us with a little extra jump and we were happy to get the wins in front of that crowd."

Triumphs clinch division

Those victories enabled the U.S. (38-15-0-1) to clinch the Eastern Division of the United States Hockey League.

Friday's game (attended by 1,355) did not get off to a great start for Appert's team, as the Steel took a quick 3-0 lead in the USHL contest.

But the U.S. fought back, ultimately forcing overtime on goals late in the third period by Jonathan Gruden (Rochester) and Joel Farabee.

Goalie Spencer Knight stopped four shots in OT and then won the deciding shootout.

In the second game, no such dramatics were needed as the U.S. led 3-0 after one period and went on to earn an 8-4 victory before 1,267 fans.

Leading the charge with two goals each were Jack Hughes and Jake Wise, with single goals by Gruden, Bode Wilde (Birmingham), Patrick Giles and Cole Caufield.

Notching two assists each were Adam Samuelsson, Gavin Hain, Oliver Wahlstrom, Alex Turcotte, Gruden and Farabee.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@home-

Military

Continued from Page 1B

lowed themselves to dream a little bit, it seemed as though six American flags were twirling and dashing all over the ice, with abundant stars and stripes on the shirts, pants and socks - not to mention an iconic bald eagle as part of the crest.

"We were excited for the weekend," defenseman and captain Mattias Samuelsson said. "Not just because of the specialty jerseys that we all loved, but for what an event like this means to a team like ours, a team that represents the U.S.

"Having all the military members and veterans in the crowd meant a great deal to us and it certainly helped us get the wins. We're also happy our jerseys will be auctioned off to benefit local veterans. Couldn't think of a better way to cap off the weekend."

Although the home team prevailed both games (5-4 in a comeback March 23; 8-4 March 24), the real bar-down moments took place off the ice.

Time to celebrate

The celebration of the men and women who have served the United States got an early start. On March 22, the squad visited VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, a veterans hospital, to play bingo with the American heroes.

And special events and activities took place both nights at the arena to show support and celebrate veterans, active military and first responders.

Friday was USA Military Appreciation and Family Night, with a reception, patriotic face painting (for the kids) and scores of information tables all around the arena concourse.



While U.S. players skate during pregame warmups March 23, wearing their special military uniforms, Benjamin Light of VFW Post 2233 in Detroit greets veterans looking for information and guidance about available resources. TIM SMITH

ception and then working a station in the concourse was Benjamin Light, 38, of VFW Post 2233 in Detroit. He did a two-year tour in Korea (2004-05) before being sent home following an injury.

Light said he and Sean Kelly were on hand to greet veterans and also make them aware of benefits they might not have known were available to them.

"You don't need to be a member to have us help you (with benefits)," said Light, a Ferndale resident. "But this is just one of the other services that the VFW provides. We are veterans service officers who help veterans get benefits they are applying for and that they earned.

"If the VA ends up denying the veteran and we don't agree with that decision, we represent them in a veterans board of appeals. We're their advocates."

According to 35-year-old Jessica

VFW and member of the Veteran Community Action Team for Region 6, "We really try to connect all the service providers together, anyone veterans and service providers, just to make that connection.

"So it's really about networking and promoting and informing, connecting veterans with the right resources. And we do assist veterans on a case-by-case basis."

All-America buzz

Vancleave, who served in the Indiana Army National Guard (and who was deployed one year in Kuwait), added that "response was really positive" to attending the USA Military Appreciation and Family Night, with more than 700 registered and a long wait list.

"It's a really good sign that people want to stay connected, they want to be

Taking part in the pregame family re- Vancleave, of the Grass Lake (Mich.) engaged in this way," she said.

townlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.

Malek

Continued from Page 1B

acknowledgment that's come his way, courtesy of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Malek is the 2018 George Lovich State Award of Merit winner. The award recognizes meritorious achievement and leadership for high school and middle school athletics.

Malek was officially acknowledged at the MIAAA awards banquet March 18 at the Grand Traverse Resort. He is the 31st recipient, the first of whom was Westland John Glenn's Don Domke in 1988.

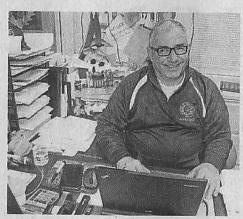
"I am absolutely very humbled by it. It's a wonderful award," said Malek, who has been an athletic director for 25 years. "It's an award that really speaks about the man himself, George Lovich, who typifies what you should do with being an AD and is now an executive director of the MIAAA.

"And I think what you have to look at mostly - and I said this at my (banquet) speech — is you have to look at me and wonder how this country works. Because a guy like me would never expect to be on that podium. Coming in from Baghdad, Iraq, and not speaking English, going to U-D Jesuit, legally here, being vetted. The whole shooting match.

"Now, here I am at 68, standing in front of my peers, which I consider my whole family," he added. "Honestly, I'm only as good as they are. I didn't get there by me. All of these men and women, not only from Michigan, but I've met a lot of people from other states, who have made it possible for me to be a better athletic director."

Vic Michaels, Detroit Catholic League athletic director since 2003,

1º



A high school athletic director for 25 years, the affable Sal Malek recently received the 2018 George Lovich State Award of Merit given by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. MARTY BUDNER

said Malek is a well-deserving award recipient. He has known Malek since their days at U-D in the 1970s.

'The first thing with Sal is compassion. He is so compassionate for his students and his school community," Michaels said. "I always like to say about Sal that he is a man of great faith and he wears it on his sleeve. He's just a tremendous role model for girls. They look up to him and they love him.

"He's done so much for the communities he has worked in," he added. "Other ADs look to him for leadership, ideas and ask him how to do things. It was great so see him get that award. He's just a great man and I'm happy for him."

A Catholic schools product

Malek is a product of Detroit Catholic schools, having graduated from the University of Detroit-Jesuit High School in 1967. He received bachelor of arts (1972)

and master of arts (1974) degrees from neighboring University of Detroit.

He went on to work at Livonia Ladywood as athletic director for 20 years before heading to Sacred Heart in 2013.

Malek is a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic High School League and the U-D-Jesuit Dad's Club. He has also been honored as the Catholic School League Athletic Director of the Year, the Catholic League Hall of Fame (2006) and the MIAAA Region 13 AD of the Year in 2002. In 2012, the University of Detroit named him Alumnus of the Year.

Malek says people like Bob Calihan, Dick Vitale and David "Smokey" Gaines from the University of Detroit and such high school athletic directors as Diane Laffey (Warren Regina) and the late George Sahadi (Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher) and Mike Popson (Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice) were huge influences in his life.

"They all taught me how to be a better AD. I learned from them," he said. "They made me who I am today. I think that's the one thing you have to take from this job. You're only as good as the people before you who taught you and the people who are with you right now, because they mold you.

"They make you think outside the box. They show you other ways of how to be a better athletic director. I think that's very important. Nobody can do it by themselves," he added. "Nobody. And now this job is bigger than it's ever been."

In national consideration

Malek is now among a select group of AD winners from the five states that comprise Section 4 of the NIAAA who will be nominated for the national Award of Merit. Section 4 includes Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan. That nominee will be announced later this year.

"If they decide you're the best from the section, then they'll send you're name to the national," Malek said. "I assume I was nominated because I don't have an issue helping anybody. I think you have to be open to anybody who needs help. You have to be in service. The model I grew up with at U-D high was 'men for others.'

"You learn you have to serve and be there for other people. When I help other people, I feel better," he added. "I feel like I'm contributing to a better society, a better community. And I love it, especially here at Sacred Heart. I love my job and I love the mission."

Previous winners of the George Lovich State Award of Merit from the area include John Fundukian (Novi, 1991); Chuck Jones (Royal Oak, 1992); George Lovich (Livonia, 1995); Chuck Nurek (Avondale, 2004); Jim Feldkamp (Troy, 2006); and Marc Hage (Livonia Churchill, 2014).

In addition, Novi Athletic Director Brian Gordon was named the 2018 Region 11 Athletic Director of the Year.

Gordon has been AD at Novi for the past five years after having been at Royal Oak Kimball for 15 years as a baseball head coach and later the school's assistant principal and athletic director. He graduated from Clawson (1985) and received a bachelor of science in education degree from Central Michigan University and a master of arts in sports administration from Wayne State University.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Maten

Continued from Page 1B

lead the SEC in scoring average (19.3 this year); an alldistrict player by both the U.S. Basketball Writers Association and National Association of Basketball Coaches for the second straight year.

In keeping with his character, Maten is humbled by all the acclaim.

"It's an honor. I give all the glory to God," Maten said. "My mom, she is the one who gave me my love for basketball. She helped developed that.

"It was hard work and just, really, believing in myself. I just tried to perform in any situation my coach put me in and I just tried to represent right and it all worked out very well.

"I just wanted to give everything I had to the University of Georgia while I was here," he added. "I try to give everything to wherever I'm at at the time. That's what I tried to do here."

A late commit

Maten did not commit to Georgia until late in his senior season at Bloomfield Hills, when he helped lead the Black Hawks to the 2014 Class A state championship game. Maten was named the Gatorade Player of the Year and to the all-state Dream Team that year.

Maten had some early offers from Oakland University, Central Michigan Western Michigan, Colorado State and Utah State. As his prep career flourished, Maten commanded attention from Indiana, Texas Christian and Georgia.

At Bloomfield Hills Lahser, where Maten played varsity basketball for three years before it consolidated with Andover to form Bloomfield Hills, he helped the Knights capture back-to-back district championships in his sophomore and junior campaigns.

Duane Graves, Maten's high school coach, has intently followed his prized recruit's college career. Graves couldn't be prouder of the way Maten's career blossomed in The Peach State.

"Yante got snubbed by so many people because, 'He's at Bloomfield, so he's not very good' type of mentality," said Graves, who recently concluded his third season as Clawson's varsity head coach. "People didn't realize how talented he was. They never gave him his fair shake.

"I'm not surprised at all about how well he's done. I knew it was going to happen. We as a coaching staff knew that he had that potential, but it's up to every kid to go out there and reach that potential. He is one of the few who sacrificed so much to reach that potential.

"When he graduated, we knew he was only scratching the surface of what he could become. I think what he had to learn was the physicality of the game. The high school game is not half as physical as the college game.

"I think he struggled with that physicality early in his freshman year," he added. "Now I think he still has room to become even better. His game is still evolving."



Bloomfield Hills High School graduate Yante Maten soared to new heights as one of Georgia's all-time leading players. JOHN KELLEY

Model of consistency

Maten started just two games as a freshman at Georgia, but started 86 of 88 games over his final three seasons.

Maten was a model of consistency in college, with 87 double-digit scoring games, including 30 games of at least 20 points and five in which he managed at least 30 points. He also had 29 career double-doubles.

This year, Maten played in all 33 of Georgia's games, scoring a season-high 30 points against Temple and managing a season-high six blocks against Louisiana State University. He hit for double figures in 31 games and posted a league-high 14 double-doubles.

"I just tried to be consistent. People kind of gravitate to people who are consistent, because they can kind of count on them," said Maten, who is majoring in wildlife biology. "That's what I tried to be from day one.

"In college, I improved my inside game a lot more, because I learned how to score over large defenders, players with great wing span and height," he added. "Sometimes with those big defenders, it would stop me from getting to the rim. So it taught me how to score in other places, like mid-range, post-ups, and it ended up developing my three, too."

Working hard for the NBA

Now it's on to the next chapter of his life.

Maten, who had declared for the NBA after his junior season but later removed his name from consideration so that he could return as a senior, continues to work hard to make it as a pro.

The 2018 National Basketball Association draft will be held June 21 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. Maten is hoping to hear his name called.

All-star game, jersey retirement

Yante Maten, a 2014 Bloomfield Hills High School graduate, continues to pile up the accolades after a stellar basketball career at the University of Georgia.

Maten was selected to play in the National Association of Basketball Coaches Reese's College All-Star Game, which was held Friday in San Antonio. He is the third Georgia player in the last decade to be chosen.

Also, Maten is scheduled to have his jersey retired April 24 at a ceremony to be held at the Bloomfield Youth Assistance dinner at Bloomfield Hills High School. The dinner, set for 7 p.m., is designed to recognize outstanding Bloomfield Hills students.

"During my whole time at Georgia, I really only thought of three people — my mom, my sister and God. They were really the driving force behind me playing," Maten said. "I wanted to try and do my best so, one day, I could make the NBA so I would be able to provide for those two.

"To make the NBA, I know I will have to defend, defend and defend some more. That's one thing I know the NBA loves — someone who can defend multiple positions, someone who can make threes and can contribute in rebounds and make others better. I think those are really the main things.

"Georgia helped prepare me (for the NBA) by showing me how to score when I get the ball in my hands and passing it over defenders and things like that," he added. "The NBA is my goal now."

Graves said Maten is living out the dream of every kid who picks up a basketball.

"Once their coach, always their coach," Graves said. "There's nothing better than watching a kid chase his childhood dreams, to go play college basketball and go to the NBA.

"Every kid in America lives out that dream on a playground somewhere. Yante is a living aspect of that," he added. "That's why you coach — to help a kid realize their potential."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.



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Kruk leaving Birmingham to coach junior team

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Steve Kruk has gone Wild.

A longtime coach in the Birmingham Unified boys hockey program, Kruk has joined the Gillette Wild, a junior team based out of Gillette, Wyo. The Wild are one of 42 teams, in eight divisions across the country, that compete in the North American 3 Hockey League.

Kruk, after meeting with the Birmingham Unified hockey team's board members, decided March 12 to become the general manager and head coach of the Wild. He said it was a hard decision, but a necessary one to further his coaching career.

"Ever since I've been coaching, I fell in love with it right away and I knew it was a career path that I wanted to tackle," said Kruk, who also worked as director of hockey for the Birmingham Ice Arena. "For at least the last two or three years, I got different job offers, but they worm?'t the right for



or three years, I got differ- Kruk ent job offers, but they weren't the right fit whether logistically, financially or they

whether logistically, infancially of they weren't the right things for my family. There were a lot of things.

"So meanwhile, I just tried to continue to do the best job I could (in Birmingham) and, when the right opportunity came around, I could have some serious considerations about it. And that opportunity, obviously, came this year. "They didn't want me to leave and it

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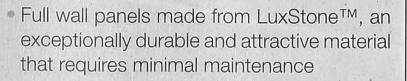
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Kruk

Continued from Page 4B

was an extremely hard decision for me, but (the board members) were supportive," he added. "I just wanted to make sure I kept them in the loop and made them aware of things."

Beginnings in Birmingham

Kruk began his coaching career with the Birmingham Unified hockey program eight years ago.

The 29-year-old Kruk served as a junior varsity assistant and junior varsity head coach for both John Weidenbach and John Chateau. He took over varsity head coaching duties from Chateau three seasons ago. During his tenure, Kruk led Birmingham Unified to a

pair of winning seasons and a 42-31-5 overall record.

The Kings skated to one of their best seasons in program history this past winter. They went undefeated through their first 16 games (15-0-1) en route to an 18-4-2 record, winning the OAA White Division championship with a perfect 10-0 mark.

Their season ended, as it has in each of his three seasons as a head coach, in a first-round state tourney game. This year it was to neighboring Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, 4-0. Although BU was competitive against the perennial state-power Cranes, it was a disappointing end to an otherwise memorable season.

Kruk said the highlights of his BU coaching career came this past year, when the team opened the season with that long undefeated streak and captured the OAA White Division crown. He believes he has left the program on a positive note and in good shape for the future.

"I think it was a mutual belief with myself and the community that I left the program program better than I found it," said Kruk, who grew up in Clinton Township and graduated from Chippewa Valley High School. "That was my intention all along. Obviously, I had dreams of delivering a state championship. But

time in Birmingham. It's been extremely good to me.



Like I said, it was an extremely emotional decision for me to leave. I have a lot of good memories.

"I've worked with a lot of good people - players, coaches, board members, athletic directors, principals," he added. "I had a lot more to say at our (yearend) banquet, but I just couldn't get out the words."

Ready for next challenge

Kruk played minor professional hockey for the 1000 Islander Privateers of the Federal Hockey League. He also played junior hockey with the Motor City Chiefs, Wallaceburg Lakers, Sarnia Blast, Leamington Flyers and Chatham Maroons. In his final season at Learnington, he was named team captain.

After his playing days, Kruk entered the coaching ranks. In addition to coaching in Birmingham, he also was a co-head coach with the Oakland Junior Grizzlies 16U Tier II team and won consecutive USA Hockey National championships in 2016-17.

Kruk, whose family includes wife Jessica, daughter Hailey and sons Aiden and Grayson, will coach a Wild team that plays in NA3HL's six-team Frontier Division. Gillette finished with a 21-21-3-2 record last season after setting a franchise record of 35-11-1 during the 2016-17 season under former head coach Brendon Hodge.

Kruk's job is to find the right players and help them

realize and reach their respective talent levels. He's ready to accept the new challenge in his life.

"It's exciting. There are a lot of different emotions," said Kruk, the third head coach in Wild history. "I actually didn't accept the job for several weeks after I was offered. I just wanted to make sure it was the right fit for me and my family.

"High school hockey has definitely become way more competitive and is on the map now. I'm going to miss it. But I'm also going to miss the team, the community and the people. I've surrounded myself with a lot of good people in eight years and I'm going to miss being part of that, for sure.

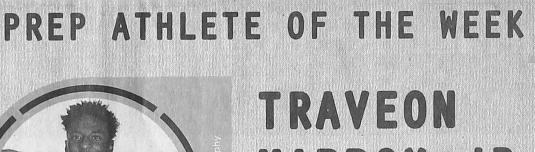
"Part of me wanted to coach (in Birmingham) forever. I really did," he added. "But, obviously, at the end of the day, you have to take the opportunity to advance in your own career and that's what I felt I was doing tenfold. It's a new challenge for me and I'm ready.

In the meantime, the Birmingham Public Schools district is accepting applications for a new boys hockey head coach. Anyone wishing to apply can send Birmingham Groves athletic director Tom Flynn a resume and cover letter to tflynn@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

you know what? I hope the next coach can carry the torch and move forward with it. "I have nothing but good things to say about my





(CP) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018 I 5B

After eight years with the Birmingham **Unified boys** hockey program - the last three as head coach -Steve Kruk has accepted a position as general manager and coach with the Gillette Wild of the North American 3 Hockey League. DAN DEAN I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Novi's Traveon Maddox, Jr. has proven this boys basketball season he has ice in his veins.

The 6-foot-5 senior guard, who was voted Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week, made the game-winning shot with only 2.8 seconds left to give the Wildcats their first-ever Class A regional title to beat previously unbeaten Ann Arbor Skyline, 61-59, March 16 at Salem.

And he did it again Tuesday night with a buzzer-beater in the state quarterfinal at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall to knock off Belleville, 75-73, as Novi earned its first trip in school history to the state semifinals on Friday at Michigan State's Breslin Center. (Game time is 2 p.m.)

In the five games during Novi's state tourney run, Maddox is averaging 18.6 points with highs of 22 each against Belleville and Northville (in the district final when he had five dunks).

"He's a special player," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said following Maddox's clutch performance in the quarterfinal. "I've mentioned it before, he's made big-time plays in big-time games and is a big-time player. He's a Division 1 player who is going to do a lot of great things at the next level."

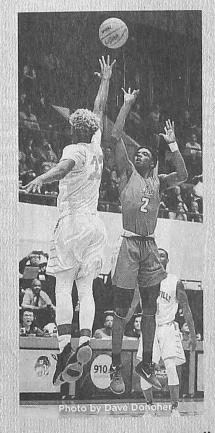
Maddox, who was also a threeyear standout wide receiver for the Novi varsity football team, is headed to play basketball next year at Oakland University.

ADDOX, JR.

SENIOR **BOYS BASKETBALL** NOVI WILDCATS

This season he's averaging 19.5 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game. He's shooting 48 percent from the field, including 33 percent from three-point range, and is a 75 percent free throw shooter.

"My favorite player is Kobe (Bryant) and I try to pattern my game after Kobe," Maddox said of the



retired Laker great. "So, I watched so much of Kobe Bryant . . . I've seen he plays inside and outside. He can go to the basket whenever he wants to. He can shoot the jump shot whenever he wants to. His pull-up game is nearly unstoppable. And that's one thing I really, really worked on in the off season was my pull-up game, attack the basket a lot stronger and finish over people."

WEEK

Maddox credits his family and fellow Novi senior classmate Xavier Martin for putting him in the position where he is today.

"I have a sister, but he's my best friend, I call him my brother,' Maddox said. "Outside of basketball he keeps me level headed and supports me through everything. I really appreciate him for that. My mom (Alisha Thomas) and my dad (Traveon Maddox, Sr.) have also pushed me all the time."

A preseason top 20 team, Novi stumbled out of the gate going 1-5 at the start, but has now won 11 of its last 12 and stands 17-8 overall heading into the Final Four matchup Friday against Holland West Ottawa (24-2) at Breslin.

And Maddox believes there is one big reason why the Wildcats turned their season around and have earned their first-ever Final Four berth.

"Just getting our brotherly connection, trusting each other," he said.

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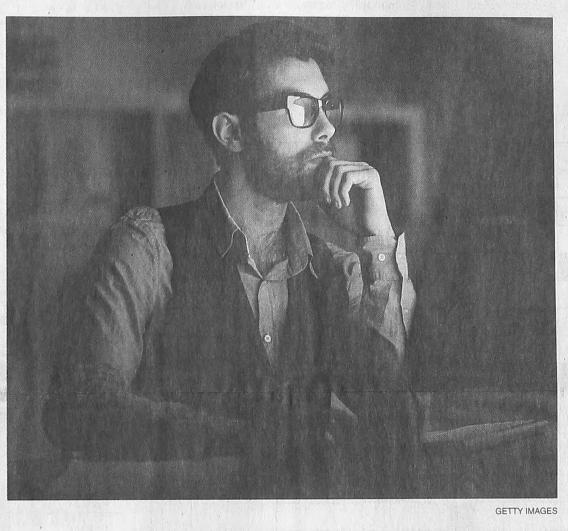
How to job hunt without your boss finding out

BY KATE LOPAZE THEJOBNETWORK.COM

earching for a job can be a bit weird if you already have one everyone does it, or no one would ever have a new job. But it has to be done in secret, because you can't let your manager know what's going on. Even if he or she knows you're unhappy, you don't want this person knowing that you tried to leave - especially if you don't get a new job right away. And even if you have a great, open relationship with your boss and she wants you to do what's best for yourself, it's still awkward. You don't want to be marked as a flight risk. So how do you manage the process without tipping off the boss?

Don't check out from your day-to-day work

If you're clearly not putting time and effort into your daily work, it'll be a first sign that something is off. It's not only bad practice in general to let your performance suffer,



they have to use their current

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issue as well. So, make sure you're doing your job hunt on your own time, using your own devices.

Don't shout about your plans on social media

If you're not Facebook friends with your boss or connected on LinkedIn, you might think it's safe to talk about your job search or send out a "hire me!" blast. Don't count on that "friends only" post to stay private. There's nothing stopping one of your other contacts from letting it slip that you're hunting, or from sending your employer a screenshot of your "I hate this place, get me out of here" rant. If you really don't want your manager to know you're looking elsewhere, don't post anything on social media that you wouldn't want him or her to read.

Ideally, your boss won't know about your job search until you have an offer in hand and a resignation letter ready to go. But if you practice some basic discretion, it doesn't have to feel like a Cold War



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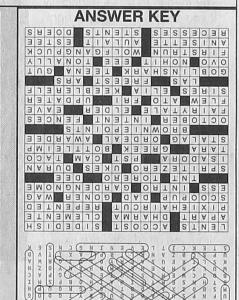
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Car Report

HYUNDAI COMES TO COMPETE IN SMALL-SEDAN SEGMENTS WITH VERSIONS OF ELANTRA COMPACT, ACCENT SUBCOMPA

lost market share in the United States lately because the brand slow to was recognize and react to the primacy of sport-utility **By Dale Buss** vehicles in

the American market as consumers reacted en masse to the quiescence in gasoline prices and to the increasing appeal of SUVs and crossovers compared with traditional sedans.

But even as Hyundai comes forth with new models for utility segments that provide hope for a market-share comeback, the brand continues to hold faith with its sedan buyers by ensuring that the models that got Hyundai a significant chunk of the U.S. market – as well as the pinnacle of manufacturing quality, according to J.D. Power surveys - are very much

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Hyundai has worth consideration and purchase.

fully redesigned Hyundai Elantra and also the manual-transmission version of the Hyundai Accent, both of which I've driven recently.

for the current model, three new engines, a new seven-speed dualclutch transmission, a more refined interior and a variety of impressive technology features.

that's offered at four trim levels that start at around \$17,000 and can stretch into the mid-\$20,000s. It competes tooth-and-nail with other staples of the sedan market that have had decades more to build brand equity with American consumers, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla.

Among the biggest improvements in the 2017 version is ride quality, making Elantra a better bet for commuters. It's also got three new powertrain offerings: a new, base 2.0-liter; a turbocharged 1.6-liter

That's certainly the case with the

Elantra got a fresh new look

The car is a four-door compact

four-cylinder; and a sporty 1.6-liter,

The new 2018 Hyundai Accent is a subcompact worth considering

turbocharged four-cylinder.

Inside the cabin, at top trim levels Elantra offers a very competitive menu of tech features including adaptive cruise control, lanedeparture intervention and forwardcollision mitigation.

Expressed in their highest form in the 2017 version, two of the most important attributes of Elantra are that it's comfortable cabin and practicality make it a great value in its class. Its interior is spacious and wellbuilt with good seats, and it has more trunk space than many rivals:14.4 cubic feet of storage.

Elantra's low liftover height makes it easy to load cargo into the trunk, which is crucial for those frequent occasions when the owner is wondering whether he or she can really tote, say, that lawn mower to the shop for repairs or fit a few bags of golf clubs in a compact car.

Hyundai's winning sedan can hit 40mpg on the highway in Eco versions, about matching the Corolla's fuel economy, and its comfort and interior Elantra's trunk is yawning compared with many competitors

hold up well to Elantra's main rivals. But Elantra has a lower starting price and better handling. And it makes Apple CarPlay and Android Auto available, which Corolla doesn't.

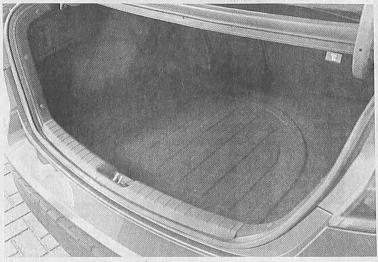
If you're looking for a sedan at an even lower price point but still offering Hyundai's level of

comfort and amenities, the manualtransmission Accent could be a good choice. It's been redesigned for 2018. Accent is a subcompact model that competes well with competitors such as the Honda Fit and Ford Fiesta.

Like all Hyundai designs, Accent offers a nice-looking interior with spacious seats, user-friendly tech features, and pretty good trunk space for a small sedan - nearly 14 cubic feet, a good total for the segment. Accent seats five more comfortably than you might think at first glance.

It handles well on the road and gets acceptable fuel economy, and the manual transmission is smooth and well-matched to the engine, though acceleration and ride quality leave something to be desired.

Base prices for Accent start at a very attractive \$15,000, with the midtier SEL trim level reaching \$17,000 and above, and the top-of-the-line Limited trim beginning at prices just under \$19,000.







The redesigned 2018 Hyundai Elantra is a worthy competitor in the compact-sedan segment.



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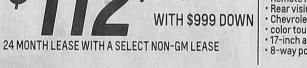
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