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Whitmer visits Livonia Stevenson to talk roads in her town hall tour

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Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visited Livonia on Thursday, reminding hundreds she wants to "fix the damn roads."

As part of her proposed 2020 budget, the Democratic governor has proposed a 45-cent increase to Michigan's fuel tax that potentially could raise about \$2 billion for road repairs.

The fliers handed out in the latest stop of her Budget Town Hall Tour said Eight Mile and Ecorse roads, along with Ashton Avenue, are some high-priority Wayne County thoroughfares that

could benefit.

"Let's just jump right in," said Whitmer, who took office in January. "Of course, I call the budget the road to opportunity because well, I hope you've learned by now, I just can't stop talking about those damn roads, right?"

Laughter filled the Livonia Stevenson

High School performing arts center, where Whitmer and state transportation director Paul Ajegba emphasized that fixing Michigan's roads - and fixing them properly with quality materials — is a fundamental need.

See WHITMER, Page 3A



Communities face shortage of firefighters

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

On Easter Sunday, Lyon Township firefighters responded to four separate emergencies, including a structure fire in which four dogs died.

The township has only four fulltime fire department staff and relies on paid on-call firefighters, a challenge in a growing township in which the department responded to more than 1,400 calls last year.

Lyon Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak wants to change that.

Barbara Lindlbauer, left, her son, Jesse, and Emily Britton will join hundreds of others Sunday at the PCEP varsity track to raise funds for the SJ5K, which will be dedicated to area families dealing with recovery from traumatic illnesses. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ninth annual SJ5K set

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

A few nights ago as Barb Lindlbauer watched her 24-year-old son Jesse plug a charger into his phone, she marveled at how far he had come since the horrifying December day in 2010 when he nearly died.

When Jesse Lindlbauer was 16 and a sophomore at Canton High School, an abscess burst near his brain, erasing most of the physical and cognitive skills he had perfected since birth.

The awesome student with a million friends, a passion for sports and a loving family has been climbing an obstaclecovered mountain ever since, but doing so with an unyielding spirit that has earned him the nickname Super Jess.

"Even though he was doing something so simple, plugging a cord into a phone, it made me think back to the days when he had no fine motor skills at all," Barb Lindlbauer said. "For the longest time, he couldn't pick up even a big, light object.

"It's been a lot of hard work and ther- See SJ5K, Page 10A

apy, therapy, therapy."

"I wasn't always gung-ho (about the therapy sessions), but my mom was, so I went along with her," Jesse said, generating a smile from his mom.

Emotions ran high in the Lindlbauer home the day Jesse spoke his first post-injury word, simply because there were doctors who doubted he'd ever talk again.

"He used to call me 'ma', so when we'd work on his speech together, I'd

"We do the best with what we have, and usually that works out, but it's like turning on a faucet and people expect water," he said. "It's the same when calling 9-1-1, they expect a fire department response. It may not be as fast as the community they came from. We are making strides to meet the demands of the community and we have some catching up to do."

Paid on-call not a sure-fire thing

Like Lyon, Milford relies almost solely on paid on-call firefighters. Fire Chief Tom Moore is the only full-time employee.

Those paid on-call firefighters respond to emergencies in the 36square-mile village and township with about 16,500 residents. In 2018, they went on 1,711 calls, including 1,148 for medical emergencies. Other calls include vehicle accidents, grass fires and "citizen assists." When Moore first came on board in 1986, the department responded to about 325 calls, 40 of them for grass fires.

"We are getting into an era now where there are multiple calls," he said. "They are heading to one call, and before or after they get there, we have another call, then another. And that starts taxing the system."

Farmington Hills, a city of more than 80,000 residents, has about 50 full-time firefighters, but also relies on paid on-call firefighters to respond to the roughly 10,000 calls they receive per year.

Up to 21 full-time firefighters work any given day, but with multiple calls coming in at the same time it doesn't take long to run out of full timers.

See FIREFIGHTERS, Page 4A

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Police seek driver who tore up sod

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia police are looking for the white Jeep witnesses say tore up the sod north of Botsford Elementary School, 19515 Lathers St.

Police said in a report they were dispatched to the area at 8 p.m. April 21 because witnesses said the Jeep was doing doughnuts and driving carelessly across the grass.

Police weren't able to locate the vehicle, but they noticed a single set of tire tracks running across a sod infield.

Witnesses said the white Jeep had a black top and over-sized wheels. Three black males with short hair and two white females were inside.

Call the Livonia Police Department at 734-466-2470.

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Driver critically injured when semi, car collide on Interstate 96

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Detroit man, 28, was in critical condition after crashing Friday morning with a semitrailer on westbound Interstate 96 at the Newburgh Road exit ramp.

Livonia police said in a statement

they were dispatched to the crash around 7 a.m.

An initial investigation found an unidentified driver cut off the semitrailer.

The semitrailer driver - a Dearborn Heights resident, 31 - lost control and struck a freeway barrier wall and a Pontiac, injuring the driver.

He was taken to a local hospital. The

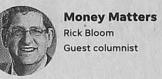
semitrailer driver was not injured.

Drugs and alcohol do not seem to be involved but an investigation continues.

If anyone has information about the crash, call the Livonia Police Department at 734-466-2683.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.

Watch out for charity scam requests



It's unfortunate that I have to write this; however, it's the reality of the world that we live in. What I'm writing about is scams regarding charity where there has been some disaster.

Even before the fires were extinguished at Notre Dame in Paris, the call went out to begin to raise money to rebuild the Cathedral. Unfortunately, it was also a call to thieves to take advantage of the situation.

These scammers send out emails and set up websites that pull at your heart. In addition, many of these thieves begin phone solicitations in an attempt to raise money. It is up to us to make sure that before we give to any charitable cause, we do our homework ahead of time.

The key to making sure your money goes to an honest charity is to research the charity. Going to charitynavigator.org or bbb.org are great ways to begin your search. It is important that when you do your research you make sure that you use the exact name of the charity. If the charity you're researching is not covered under the two aforementioned websites, it's a good sign that there may be a problem.

It's not only scam artists, but also identity thieves who come out in force when there has been a disaster. That is

why it is important to remember that if you get an email from an organization seeking to solicit money that you do not click on the link in that email. All too often, crooks will attach viruses to these emails.

To also protect yourself, never give to a phone solicitation, especially when you're not familiar with that charity.

Even if I'm familiar with the charity, I still don't give through phone solicitations. Even with legitimate charities that use phone solicitations, up to 50 percent of your contribution may to go to the phone solicitor, not to the charitable organization.

When it comes to charitable scams, the scam artists are around the world. Because of this, it is more important than ever that if you're going to make a charitable contribution, that you check the charity out before you give.

Even if you give money to a legitimate charity, it doesn't necessarily mean that you can write it off your taxes. Typically, if you give money to a foreign charity, that money is not tax deductible to you. In order to be able to deduct a charitable contribution, you need to make sure the organization is listed as an IRS tax exempt organization.

Good luck!

Rick is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Catalytic converter thieves strike again

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Some Livonia neighbors woke up April 15 to find someone stole their vehicles' catalytic converters, which frequently are taken because of their precious metal content.

Police said in their reports they were called to the 30000 block of Bretton because a resident walked to his vehicle and found the muffler laying on the ground.

It was the same for his neighbor, along with a Flamingo Boulevard resident.

Police say catalytic converters are worth about \$500.

Also that day, a Glengarry Drive resident visited police headquarters to say someone took \$200 sunglasses, a wallet and about \$50 in cash from his vehicle.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@ hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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Roads millage work starting in Canton

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Orange-and-white construction barrels are lined up as far as the eye can see along Hanford Road in Canton - the first visual evidence of the roads-improvement millage township voters approved last August.

Township road crews will ultimately repair Hanford from Haggerty to Beck Road. The first phase, which is prepared to start this week, will run from Haggerty to Lilley Road.

The projects are divided into sections due to the length of the roads being repaired.

The first phase of the project also in-

cludes repairs to a stretch of Saltz Road they need to use those roads. from Beck to Lilley.

Motorists on Saltz will be limited to one lane during the first phase of its repairs that will include a stretch just west of Beck.

Motorists are urged to avoid the sections of roads that are being repaired if at all possible and to drive cautiously if

A tentative construction schedule is available on the township's website.

To view the list of 2019 Major County Road Projects as well as a tentative construction schedule, visit www.cantonmi.org/roads.

Contact Ed Wright at eawright@ hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Whitmer

Continued from Page 1A

The governor spoke of the state's general fund and a "shell game" that happens in Lansing, According to Whitmer, potholes are being filled by borrowing money from the general fund. Money from the school aid fund is shoring up the general fund.

'We're not rebuilding roads like we should be," Whitmer said. "We're just filling potholes. Our kids are ultimately the ones that are paying for this because it's all balanced on the school aid fund."

The governor prompted another round of laughter and applause during the question-and-answer session when she said it wouldn't be realistic to use marijuana sale proceeds for roads since there wouldn't be enough dollars to cover the necessary repairs.

"Yes. I love it! Thanks for going right to it," she said. "It comes up every single time. I know ... pot for potholes sounds good."

Potholes are an obvious problem throughout the region. Whitmer and those behind the fuel tax increase hope taxpayers would have fewer car repair costs as the roads get better.

Livonia resident Jacquelyn Dygert avoids right lanes that seem to be more damaged. She's glad she was part of the Town Hall Tour that began in March.

"I'm a Democrat, and I'm a supporter of Gov. Whitmer," she said. "I know that we're in a huge hole, no pun intended, but I have a lot of questions on how the money is going to be distributed to counties and how that's going to be managed."

Scott Sobas said he likes that Whitm-



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer brought her Budget Town Hall Tour to Livonia Stevenson High School on April 25. To her left is state Transportation Director Paul Ajegba. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

er is concerned about Michigan's roads. However, he's worried about the potential impact on his family's travels.

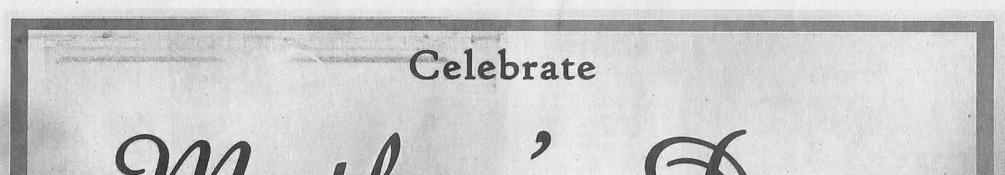
"I hope that there's a progression to it and it's not all at once," he said of the potential fuel tax jump. "We'like to travel. We take advantage of all these roads here in Michigan and the state parks. It may put a damper on travel."

The state fuel tax is 26.3 cents per gallon for both regular and diesel fuel, according to the American Petroleum Institute. If approved, Michigan would have the highest fuel taxes in the country. The increase would be phased in over a one-year period.

Whitmer's commitment to fix the roads speaks to Clinton Township resident Toni McIlwain

"It's very bad," McIlwain said of driving conditions. "It's across the state. It's across the city. The bottom line is they ... need to be fixed properly."

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



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Firefighters

Continued from Page 1A

It can be a particular strain in the winter, with expressways surrounding the city including Interstate 696, I-275 and M-5.

For each highway crash, the department sends a truck with at least two firefighters to block traffic, as well as a fire truck and a medical truck with multiple firefighters as well. Capt. Jim Donovan said the department could be out of full-timers just on that call. Meanwhile, the rest of the city still has to be covered.

Where did all the volunteers go?

The highest number of paid on-call firefighters in the city reached it's high of about 120 more than five years ago. Donovan said the city would be comfortable with averaging between 80-100. Currently, they have about 65.

"People aren't coming in, and we don't know why," he said. "We don't have people applying. Is it because the economy is good and a lot of people are still working? Or is it because it's not what they expect?"

Paid on-call firefighters in Milford and elsewhere, receive a "tone" on a pager when there is an emergency in the community they serve. Donovan said that tone will wake anyone from a dead sleep, but there is no mandate that they must respond to that call.

The only expectation of a paid on-call firefighter is that they will respond to a certain quota per month. In Farmington Hills, that is about 35% of all calls. In Milford, that number is even lower — 15% of all calls.

"That takes into account that they have jobs and family obligations," Moore said. "Somewhere in there, you fit 15%."

The Milford fire budget accounts for funding a maximum of 40 paid on-call firefighters. Currently, the department has 30, but it has been as low as 19, just three years ago.

Moore, who has been a firefighter for 33 years, said it is getting harder and harder to find individuals to answer the call to serve the community. He attributes that to a difference in generations, in which those in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s had a stronger sense of community



Jim Wren, right, works with trainees April 13 at the Farmington Hills DPW training house. Farmington Hills, along with fire departments in Milford and Lyon Township, are seeking paid on-call firefighters. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

and desire to help. Now, he said, no one wants to volunteer their time, even with compensation.

"About 10-15 years ago is when the attitudes started to change," he said. "A lot of new kids have no mechanical aptitude unless you want them to program your smartphone. The sense of community has taken a back seat. It's 'me, myself and I' instead of community."

Moore acknowledges that the "stereotypical" family of the '40s and '50s, in which fathers worked and mothers stayed home, is also "out the door" with both parents having to work now, leaving little time for anything else.

"This is a very large commitment, I will admit that," he said.

Wanted: Paid on-call firefighters

That commitment involves extensive training: about one year to obtain firefighter I and II certificates and an emergency medical technician basic license. But not only is it a free education, students are actually paid for attending classes, which run for two nights per week from 6-10 p.m. and a Saturday class from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for several months.

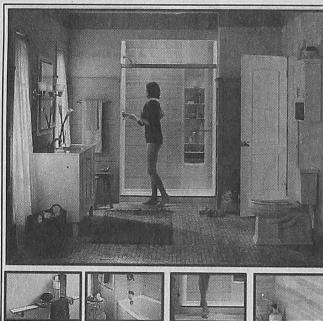
To be eligible to be a paid on-call firefighter are the same as many other public service jobs — you must be at least 18 and a high school graduate; able to pass drug tests, physical and psychological exams and a background check with no criminal convictions.

Moore said the most frequent problem he runs into with applicants is their driving record, but exceptions can be made depending on the situation. As an example, he points to a 21-year-old who might have had points on a driving record from mistakes made when 16 and "their frontal lobe had not developed."

"We will look at what happened since," Moore said. "Did that brain develop and they didn't repeat the mistake? OK. But if your driving is horrendous, I can't put a reckless driver behind a million-dollar fire truck. I can't and I won't."

Donovan, who trains firefighters for departments all over the area, said the biggest class he ever had was 38. Some will start but not make it to graduation in what he calls a "tough class." Currently, he is training 12. The goal is 20.

See FIREFIGHTERS, Page 5A





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Firefighters

Continued from Page 4A

When he interviews applicants, he asks why they want to be a firefighter. The response is always the same: "Because I want to help people." Donovan says that is a great answer, but when he asks the follow-up question, "What have you done to help people so far?" they are often stumped.

Still, that desire to help is what is needed.

"Come help your community, come make a difference," Donovan said. "You have an opportunity to make a difference in somebody's life. We need people."

Moore agrees and said the day will come when paid on-call is not enough for Milford, although it is unknown how far in the future that day will be.

As the community ages and senior community housing and assisted living facilities grow, he expects call volumes to increase.

"We have two primary age groups (that are serviced) - the young who do something really stupid, and the old, who are just old," Moore said. "If your community as a whole is younger, you don't have that many calls, but as a community ages, the run volume goes up."

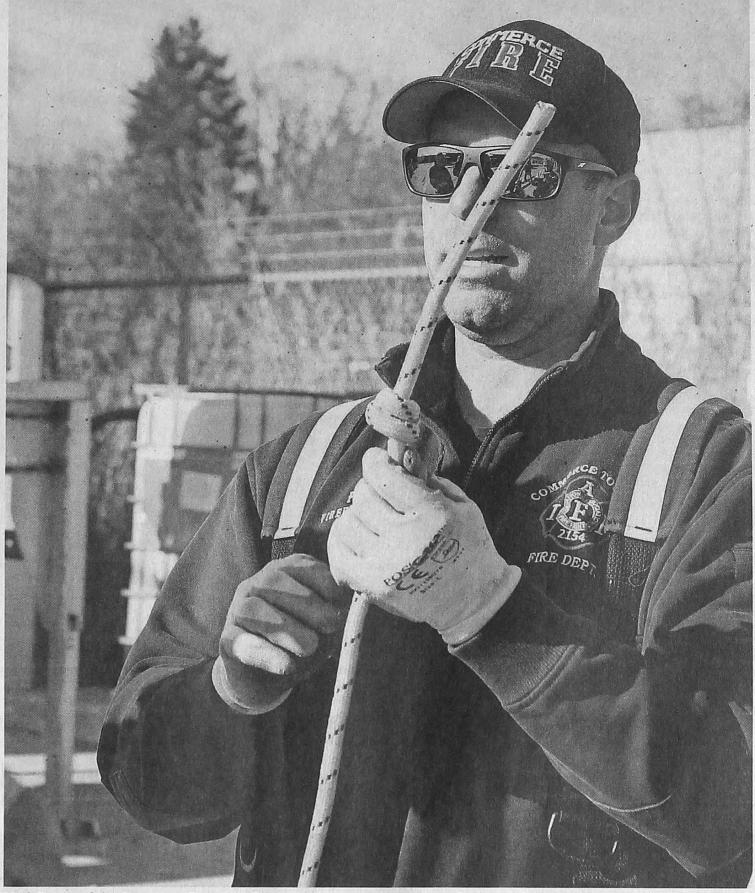
Moore currently predicts Milford has about five years until it will need to transition to a combination fire department, adding full-time firefighters to the current paid on-call, although he said it could be longer, perhaps 8 years.

"If we get to the point where I can't recruit and maintain 20-25 people, that is where we need to have a good heartto-heart, but that will require extra funds," he said. "I will not lower hiring standards just to say I have to numbers. We go in people's homes and if I want a quality product, I have to hire quality people.

At the end of the day, Moore says the level of service will be dictated by the taxpayers and what they are willing to pay for a millage.

An informational meeting for paidon-call (part-time) firefighter recruitment is planned for 7 p.m., June 19, at Farmington Hills Fire Station #5, 31455 W. Eleven Mile. For details, visit Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



Mark Peters of the Commerce Township Fire Department teaches trainees how to tie knots and secure webbing April 13 at the Farmington Hills DWP training house. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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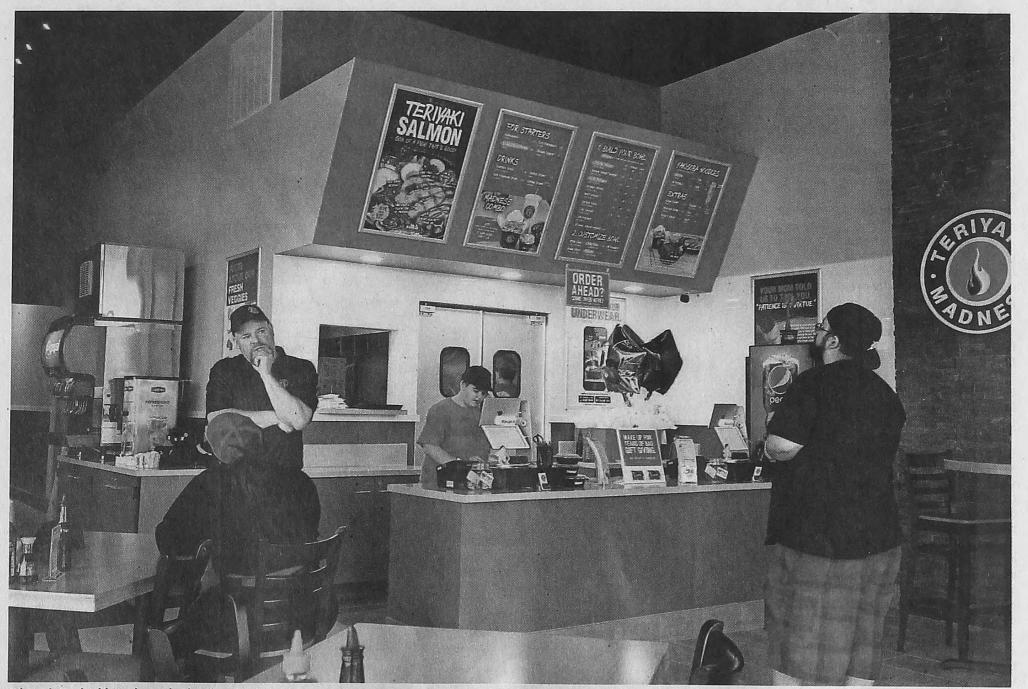


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Wixom's Teriyaki Madness is the first business venture for owner Matt Jones, of Plymouth, a former insurance claims manager. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Teriyaki Madness brings fast-casual **Asian food to west Oakland County**

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

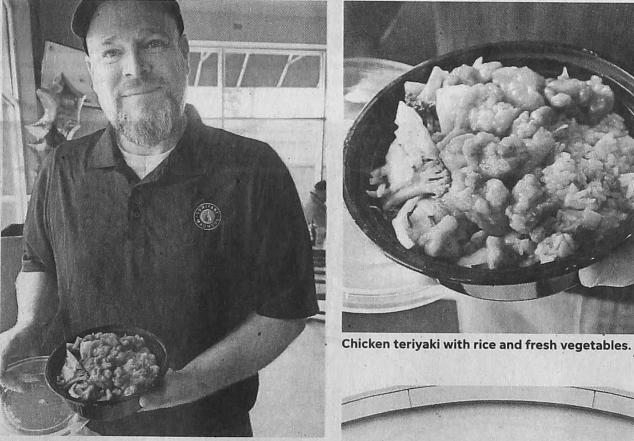
Teriyaki Madness, offering fast-casual Asian food, opened last week in Wixom.

The restaurant is only the second franchise location in the state and offers fresh, made-to-order teriyaki.

It is the first business venture for owner Matt Jones, a Plymouth resident and former insurance claims manager.

"In this area, it is pretty unique and I think it will do really well here," Jones, 47, said. "You don't see this on every corner like you do a burger place. With fast-casual Asian food, there is Panda Express, but our food is prepared to order. It isn't sitting under a heat lamp."

In building their own bowls, customers can choose a base of rice or Yakisoba noodles, and add fresh vegetables including cabbage, broccoli, zucchini, and onions. Proteins are fresh chicken, beef, salmon and tofu. Nearly all sauces are made in house and include teriyaki, spicy, sweet and sour, stir-fry, orange, goyza and katsu. The restaurant offers appetizers including crab Rangoon, chicken egg rolls, chicken pot stickers, and edamame, as well as side salads. Rice options, which include stir-fried, brown, and white, as well as noodles, can also be ordered as sides.





The first Teriyaki Madness restaurant opened in 2003 in Las Vegas, and there are currently about 150 franchise agreements in 14 states. The only other location in Michigan is in Macomb County.

"I am excited to be a part of this community and to watch the business grow," Jones said. "It's a great place to be and I'm excited for customers to experience the food and service. We've only been open a couple days and have had several repeat customers. Come in for some fresh, delicious Asian cuisine."

Teriyaki Madness, at 28880 Wixom Road, Wixom,

Jones displays a bowl of the restaurant's popular chicken teriyaki, rice and fresh vegetables.

is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Call 734-892-6850 or visit teriyakimadness.com.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.





Teriyaki Madness is at 28880 Wixom Road in Wixom.



Michiganders excel at robotics championship

Micah Walker Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

A number of teams from Michigan won awards in the four-day FIRST Robotics Competition and the FIRST Tech Challenge world championships, which concluded with final matches Saturday night at Ford Field.

More than 17,000 students ages 6 to 18 from 37 countries competed, according to a news release from For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST).

Teams used robots to complete tasks such as sealing a chamber with a hatch, inserting a large dodge ball into a cylinder and climbing a step 19 inches high under the theme "Destination: Deep Space."

Participants also learned how to develop skills ranging from engineering and coding to marketing, fundraising, brainstorming and teamwork.

In addition to the robotics competitions, FIRST held a Lego League World Festival, which had younger students build LEGO-based autonomous robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface.

"This is the age when a passion for innovation starts with STEM," said Angela Baker, director of Corporate Responsibility at Qualcomm, the event's presenting sponsor. "We are committed to giving today's students the foundations they need to invent the future and are proud to support FIRST."

Michigan winners, FIRST Robotics Competition Championship

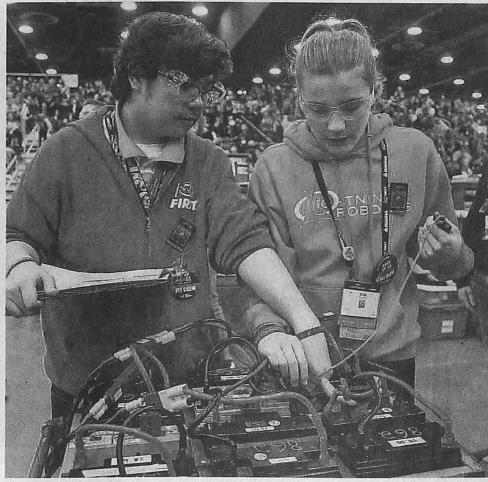
Paige Drob of Team 1718 from Armada won the Dean's List Award, which celebrates outstanding student leaders.

The Brighton TechnoDogs and the ThunderChickens of Sterling Heights, were two of the several teams that were a part of the Winning Alliance team

Subdivision Winners

Archimedes Subdivision

Team 4004, M.A.R.S. Rovers, Muskegon



Shane Painter, left, and Ava Gullitti from Team 862 Lightning Robotics of Plymouth-Canton, work on batteries in the FIRST Robotics World Championship semifinal at Cobo Center in Detroiton April 27. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Curie Subdivision

I Team 3538, RoboJackets, Auburn Hills

Daly Subdivision

Team 4003, TriSonics, Allendale

I Team 862, Lightning Robotics, Canton

Darwin Subdivision

Team 3707, Brighton TechnoDogs, Brighton

Team 217, ThunderChickens, Sterling Heights

Tesla Subdivision

I Team 548, Robostangs, Northville

Engineering Inspiration Award

I Curie-Darwin Division: Team 2834, **Bionic Black Hawks, Bloomfield Hills**

Autonomous Award sponsored by Ford

Archimedes-Daly Division: Team 910, The Foley Freeze, Madison Heights

Carson-Tesla Division: Team 4362, Gems, Brighton

Entrepreneurship Award sponsored by **Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers**

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Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi

Carson-Tesla Division: Team 548, Robostangs, Northville

Curie-Darwin Division: Team 2767, Stryke Force, Kalamazoo

Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen

Carson-Tesla Division: Team 1481, The **Riveters**, Farmington

Michigan winners, Lego **League Junior World fest Team Choice Award**

Team 16, BeeCoders, Memphis

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Team 9, Mercury, Rochester

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Team 60, Stadium Drive Dragons, Lake Orion

Cooperative Poster Award

Team 28, Milky Ways, Ann Arbor

Explore and Discover Award

Team 10, Moon Muskrats, Algonac

Team 16, BeeCoders, Memphis

Team 54, Flat Rock 2, Flat Rock

Creative Explorers Award

Team 21, Bulldogs Eating Moon Rocks, Oakland

Explore and Design Award

Team 7, Team Laser, Ann Arbor

Cooperative Explorers Award

I Team 38, MooMerangs, Port Huron

Team 15, A.P.I.G: - Awesome People in a Group, Harbor Springs

Creative Model Award

Team 17, Awe-Sum LEGO Creators. Almont

Team 55, Space Glam, Detroit

Cooperative Model Award

Team 40, Andrea's Asteroids, Detroit

Team 30, Bep Beep Robotics, Detroit

Innovative Programming Award

Astro Aliens, Detroit

Team 53, St. William Crusadernauts, Walled Lake

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Team 32, CBA Robokings, Midland

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INTEREST

PCEP robotics team wins states, world subdivision

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Like a bolt of brilliance-coated lightning, Plymouth-Canton's robotics team lit up the competition in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics event hosted earlier this month by Saginaw Valley State University.

Working with two other high school robotics teams that were merged via a random draw — one team from Brighton, another from Woodhaven converged with PCEP's Lightning Robotics squad — the crew of 140 Plymouth, Canton and Salem high school science and technology aficionados placed first in the 160-team competition.

The state champs' radar next focused on the FIRST World Championship this past weekend at Cobo Center in Detroit. There, the Lightning Robotics contingent battled teams from around the globe, including China, Australia and Great Britain. The Lightning Robotics team won the Daly Subdivision in the competition.

Pressure? What pressure?

Drama apparently brings out the best in the PCEP squad, which persevered through a series of overtime matches to win the program's first state title since the prestigious award was initiated in 2009.

Participating schools spent six weeks preparing their robots for April's ultimate showdowns.

The 20-year-old Lightning Robotics club is guided by mentor Jay Obsniuk, who praised all of his team's members, but especially the larger-than-normal class of 40 seniors.

"It helps to have the large number of seniors that we have this year because most of them have been involved in the program since their freshman year," Obsniuk said. "They've been able to something new each year as they move up and now they're in a position where they can help their younger teammates."

he state competition was aired on ESPN3.

Obsniuk dispelled the myth that to be a part of a robotics program, you need to



Kristen Gury, left, Brian Derry, and Aidan Milewski, a few of the leaders of Canton High's robotics team, look over their practice robot April 22 at the school. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

be a prodigy. The club is also way more than just working on a robot, he added.

"It seems like everybody outside the program thinks that you have to be incredibly smart to be on the team, but that's not true," he said. "We have a wide variety of academic achievers and about 10 percent of our team is made up of special education students.

"Also, the students learn a lot more than just robotics. There are business and communications parts to it and, most importantly of all, everyone on the team learns leadership skills that they'll be able to use after high school."

Teams are required to develop a new robot every season based on a new set of rules developed at the start.

This season's topic is "space" and the objective during meets was to pick up more balls than your opponent in a 2minute and 30-second time frame.

Lightning Robotics' pilot is Luke Fenstermacher while the co-pilot is

Nick Lipcsik.

Canton junior Kristen Gury joined the club her freshman year "as a way of meeting new people."

She's done that and more.

"I've learned a lot of important things other than robotics," she revealed. "You learn time management and teamwork skills, among other things. Last year I got up and spoke in front of 150 people, including eight state governors and two premiers, at an event in Detroit."

Joining the club has even changed Gury's future career path.

"Before I joined, I was thinking about getting into the medical surgery field," she said. "Now, I'm leaning more toward biomedical engineering. I'd like to help make prosthetics and things like that."

Canton senior Aidan Milewski serves as one of Lightning Robotics' two vice presidents along with Salem senior Brian Derry. Milewski oversees the engineering section, which includes six subgroups of students, while Derry is in charge of communications and marketing.

"Basically, my job is to make sure the robot is on schedule," said Milewski, whose post-high school plans include attending Michigan Tech to pursue a career in electrical engineering. "Our schedule really picks up during build season. We'll be in here eight to 12 hours some days along with our mentors, making sure the robot is ready."

Derry helped develop an operating manual for the program.

"While Aidan is more hands-on with the robots, I do a lot of communications-type projects to let people know what we're doing," he said.

Lightning Robotics won its division's Entrepreneurship Award sponsored by Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. The award recognizes the entrepreneurial spirit teams develop.

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Obituaries

Nan W. Goshorn

NOVI - Nan W. Goshorn, age 93, of Novi, passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2019. She was born March 6, 1926 in Avon Lake, Ohio; daughter of Burton and Irene (nee Wilson) Weidenkopf. Nan was a 1944 graduate of Avon Lake High School and a 1948 graduate of Indiana Uni-



versity. She was united in marriage to Robert A. Goshorn on September 19, 1948; devoted to each other for over 61 years until his death in 2009.

Nan lived in Farmington from 1958 until moving to Novi in 2004. For a brief 3 years she lived in Hong Kong with her husband but came back home to watch her grandchildren grow. She was a wonderful homemaker and loved her family deeply. Nan was active with the AAUW, the Farmington Genealogy Society, and the First United Methodist Church of Farmington. She enjoyed travelling and playing cards, especially bridge. Nan loved the outdoors and fishing. Her favorite fishing hole and vacation spot was at the Northernaire Lodge on Manitoulin Island in Ontario, Canada. Nan wrote two memoirs dedicated to her family and was thinking about writing a third. She was a loving and cherished mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She is survived by her children, Gregg (Bernadette) Goshorn, Kevin (the late Andrea) Goshorn, and Tedi (Robert) Lojewski; 9 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter-in-law Andrea Goshorn, her brother Burt Weidenkopf, and her sister Janet Lipski.

A private service will be held. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Fox Run Scholarship Fund, attn: Maryann Mikkelsen, 41200 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377.

Audrey Nesbitt

LANSING - Audrey Hough Nesbitt has passed from this world into eternal life with her Lord at the age of 100. Audrey died of a heart attack just after midnight on April 22, 2019, in Lansing, Michigan.

She was born on June 2, 1918, to Ivan and Ruth Hough in the town of

Canastota, New York. After attending Syracuse University, and obtaining bachelor's degrees in

Patricia Ann Smith

BIRMINGHAM - Patricia Ann Shepherd Smith, age 95, of Birmingham, Michigan, died peacefully on February 24, 2019. She attended Eastern Michigan University and worked for years in the Birmingham Schools. She was very active in Questors, Garden Club and St. James Episcopal



Church. She is survived by her loving children Patricia (David) Smith Bostwick, Dr. Richard (Rebecca) Smith II and Carolyn Smith Sandy; cherished grandchildren Anne (Carl) Bostwick Lally, Katherine (Todd) Bostwick Glass, Kelly Smith Lorenz, Richard (Leigh) Smith III, Kathleen Smith Simmons, Charlotte (Steven) Sandy Rowe, Paul (Lizelle) Sandy, Jacob Sandy, and 12 great-grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 pm at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009.



May you find loving comfort in your time of loss.

Roy L. VanAlsten

WEST CHESTER, OH - Roy L. VanAlsten, a former resident of Redford Township and retired research engineer at Ford Motor Company, passed away on Wednesday April 24, 2019 in West Chester, Ohio. He retired to Midland, Michigan in 1995

Born in Oneida, March 28, 1925, he was the son of J. Roy and Margaret VanAlsten, employees of Oneida Silversmiths. He was a good athlete and student, graduating from Sherrill High School in 1943. He was drafted and, within five days, he was in the U.S. Infantry. His 33-month tour of duty took him from Normandy (3 weeks after D-day)

to the Rhine and later to occupation duty in Selb, Bavaria. He earned the Combat Infantry badge and a Purple Heart and was discharged as a First Sergeant in March 1946.

Roy then enrolled in the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred

University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1950. His career was devoted to the development of high-temperature materials, first at the McDanel Refractory Porcelain Company, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, then at the Scientific Research Laboratory of Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan, where he worked 35 years, retiring in 1987. He was co-author of several patents and earned three Innovation Awards in the course of his research.

While living in Redford, he was active in the Redford Township Junior Athletic Association and the athletic and academic activities at Thurston High School.

Roy was married for 63 years to the former Mary Forrest, whom he married in Alfred in 1950 and predeceased him in 2013. He is survived by his three children, William Roy VanAlsten (Holly Cassidy), West Chester, OH; Janet S. VanAlsten (Dr. Robert Dion), Charlevoix and Thousand Oaks, CA; and Dr. John VanAlsten (Pam Helinek), Framingham, MA. He is also survived by his nine grandchildren: Andrew VanAlsten, Baltimore, MD; Dr. Laura

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.





French and library science, Audrey married Daniel Nesbitt on November 24, 1945, shortly after his return from the war in Europe.

Audrey taught French and English before and during World War II, and later worked as an elementary school librarian in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

A lover of words and languages, Audrey was an extraordinarily cheerful person with a wonderful sense of humor, a warm smile, and a lively mind.

Despite challenging circumstances during the final year of her life, 100-year-old Audrey was described by her caregivers as being "sprightly," "witty," and "the life of the party."

Audrey is survived by her three children, David (Sylvia), Deborah Cummings (Bruce), and Stephen (Brenda), along with 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Audrey will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 29, at Grand Ledge Baptist Church in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Burial will be at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Jordan, New York. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 2140 University Park, Suite 210, Okemos, Michigan 48864. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com

VanAlsten, La Jolla, CA; Abigail and Kenna Cassidy, West Chester, OH; Dr. Christopher Dion, Clinton Twp.; Elisabeth Dion, East Lansing; Dr. Stephanie VanAlsten, Kalamazoo; William Craig VanAlsten, W. Hartford, CT; and Sarah VanAlsten, University City, MO.

His cremains will be buried in the VanAlsten family plot in Valley View Cemetery, Sherrill. Arrangements are under the care of Wilson MILLER Funeral Home 4210 N. Saginaw Rd Midland, Michigan.



May you find peace in this time of sorrow.



Three weekend events worth checking out

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

May has to be one of the busiest months on the calendar. The weather's warmer, organizations want to get activities in before school gets out and most people are just ready to be outside after a long winter.

Get a head start on all the activities this month across the Hometown Life area by checking out these events this weekend.

Women's show in Novi

Head to the Suburban Collection Showplace this weekend for a celebration of all things for women.

The 24th annual International Women's Show will take over the showplace at 46100 Grand River Ave., Thursday through Sunday. Events and highlights at this year's event include a charity fashion show Friday and Saturday by Ann Arbor firefighters modeling their dress blues and bunker gear. Several chefs, including Yachecia Holston will showcase their skills. Hair and makeup experts will also be on hand to show new trends and tips.

The show opens at 10 a.m. Thursday and runs until 7 p.m. that night. In addi-



William Verrill shares his wagon with flowers at Plymouth's farmers market. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tion, the show will open at 10 a.m. each day and close at 8 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 with a coupon or if bought on the website. Children ages 6-12 are \$6 and children under six are free.

More information on the show is at

internationalwomenshow.com.

Farmer's market openings

Several farmer's markets will kick off the 2019 season this weekend.

Plymouth opens its annual market at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Gathering across from Kellogg Park. The market will continue showcasing fresh produce, herbs, and homemade items for sale. The market in Plymouth runs each weekend except during Art in the Park and the Fall Festival until Oct. 26.

South Lyon's farmers market opens Saturday as well. The market opens at 9 a.m. Saturday at the corner of Pontiac Trail and Liberty. Birmingham's farmers market opens at 9 a.m. Sunday in parking lot no. 6 at 660 N. Old Woodward.

Public works open house in **Birmingham**

If your kids (or you) love trucks, the city of Birmingham has just the event for you this weekend.

The annual department of public service open house takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the city's DPS facility, 851 S. Eton. Attendees can get a close-up look at the fire trucks, plows and other vehicles that help the city run. Those who attend will have a complimentary hot dog lunch with activities for kids.

For more information, call the department of public services at 248-530-1700.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Twitter: @davidveselenak.

SJ5K

Continued from Page 1A

say, 'say ma, say ma'," Barb Lindlbauer remembered. "It was about seven months after his brain injury that he said 'Noah' (the name of his younger brother). Throughout the rest of that weekend we kept telling him to say Noah over and over again because, we were like, 'Are we imagining this?'

"By the end of that weekend, Jess was saying the names of all of his siblings after not being able to say anything the previous seven or eight months. It was amazing."

Barb Lindlbauer said her pride and esteem for her middle son is boundless. "Jesse's amazing; he inspires so

many people," she said. "He's been dealt some crappy cards in life and he keeps a good spirit and still finds enjoyment out of life. He keeps at it. He never gets depressed."

During the daunting weeks after Jesse's health emergency, his now-brotherin-law Tommy Halewicz came up with an idea to help offset the Lindlbauers' mounting medical bills: let's organize a 5K run, with the proceeds going to the family.

They called it the Super Jess 5K, or SJ5K. At the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity stadium, the ninth annual SJ5K will unfold 7:30 a.m., Sunday, with the proceeds - expected to be in the neighborhood of \$70,000 - being split between five families who, like the Lindlbauers in 2011, are struggling with a life-altering health emergency.

> security company in the U.S.

"People who knew about these events told us we'd be lucky to get 200 people out for the first one," Barb Lindlbauer recounted. "But we ended up getting a lot more than that. The support was amazing.

"What amazes me is that there hasn't been a Lindlbauer at the (Plymouth-Canton Educational) Park in four years, but the interest in this event continues to remain strong."

The race has already raised north of \$500,000 for families in need since its inception. Much of the credit for that, Barb Lindlbauer emphasized, goes to the selfless group of student volunteers who step up each year to help organize the event.

One of this year's main organizers is Plymouth High senior Emily Britton, who decided to get involved in the event after seeing videos of prior SJ5Ks and hearing inspiring stories about Jesse.

"I've never run in the race or attended a race, but everything I had heard about it made me want to get involved," Britton said. "I help run the promotions. The types of things we do are create a video about the history of the event, we make a general poster and we promote the events to the high schools.'

The event is much more than a fundraiser as far as Jesse is concerned.

"I'm very proud that it has done so well," he said. "I'm very inspired and happy that people are willing to help out with it."

Registration is open for the 2019 SJ5K up until race day. For more information, visit the event's website.

Contact Ed Wright at eawright@ hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.







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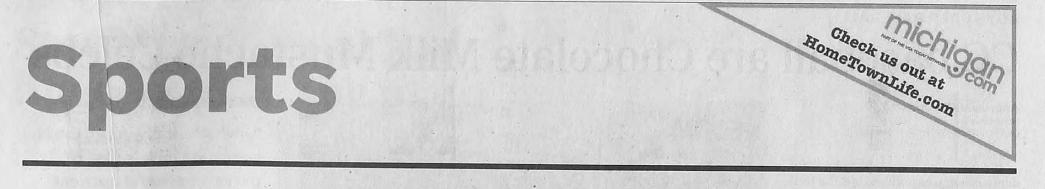








USA TODAY SPORTS



GIRLS PREP SOCCER South Lyon beats Milford in charity game

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The fight against childhood cancer had the support of both the South Lyon and Milford girls soccer teams Tuesday night at South Lyon High School.

The two squads used their game as a way to raise funds and awareness for Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

South Lyon won the game, 1-0, after a goal by sophomore Lexi Nabozny with two minutes remaining.

With the win, the Lions remain undefeated with a record of 7-0-1. Milford drops to 4-2-1.

The evening, which featured an entertaining game, was an overall success with more than \$2,000 being raised. None of that would have been possible if it weren't for the efforts of South Lyon senior goalie Carmen Sweigard, who was the mastermind behind the fundraiser. She had help from teammates, coaches and members of the Milford team, but led the way after coming up with the idea at the beginning of the season.

"I think it came together perfectly," Sweigard said. "We had a great turnout. The game was really close, but we came out with a win so that was awesome."

Money was raised through gift baskets and other giveaways, face-paint, cotton candy, bracelets and more.

"I'm super proud of her and all the work she did," South Lyon coach Brian Elliott said. "I think if you were to add up all the hours that she put in, it would be staggering. This has been in the making for months."

At halftime, the South Lyon boys soccer team performed a dance routine to Britney Spears music and rising boxing star Joey Spencer was interviewed.

Spencer, who trains in Linden, is undefeated in his professional boxing career and has long been a supporter of children's hospitals. He has a young man that travels with him to all his matches who is a cancer survivor.

South Lyon East, which was originally asked to play South Lyon in the contest but had to decline due to scheduling conflicts, gave a check to Sweigard on behalf of the team to show its support.

"I thought the event was awesome," Elliott said. "It was a great turnout. ... It was an incredible event. I can't remember the last time we've had more people at a soccer game. It was fun and good to have everybody out for a great cause."

On the field, it was largely a defensive

See CHARITY, Page 3B



Regan Dancer, right, tries to turn towards the Milford goal. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS PREP TRACK

Northville track and field starts season strong

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville boys 400 meter relay broke the Northville High School stadium record on last week as the host Mustangs defeated Howell in a KLAA West Division dual meet.

Seniors Ben Shuart, Zack Phillips,



Demetri Zervos, and Brandon Kearney teamed up to best the mark in the relay which was set last year by Novi.

"It's nice to break records, especially when they're held by another school, particularly our rival," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "I'm really happy for these four young men and I think the best is yet to come for them this season."

Howell proved to be no match for the Mustangs, as Northville won the meet 128-9 and improved to 3-0 in their division this season.

Senior Ben Shuart continued his impressive season by setting personal bests in the 110 and 300 meter hurdles with times of 15.51 and 41.38, respectively.

Junior Demir Tagani had a big day in the throwing events, tossing personal bests in the shot put (44.-7.00) and the discus (123-06).

Sophomore Zach Helner won the high jump clearing the bag at 5-8.00 for his best performance in the event, and junior Jacob Pichler set his best mark in the long jump with a leap of 19-10.75.

"We had a lot of really, really good performances in all of the events today," Dalton said. "If these boys continue to work hard and we keep on improving, this will be a successful season."

The girls track team downed Howell 99-38 in a KLAA West Division dual meet last week as well, improving to 3-0

See TRACK, Page 5B

NFL draft prospect and Plymouth High graduate Michael Jordan greets a friend on April 26 at Canton's Hampton Inn as he awaits possible good news from a team that wants his talents. Jordan was an offensive guard and center at Ohio State University. Jordan's girlfriend Dominique Clark is at right. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth's Michael Jordan drafted by Bengals in 4th round

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The long wait was worth it. Michael Jordan, an offensive guard/ center from Ohio State and graduate of Plymouth High School, was selected by the Cincinnati Benagls in the fourth round of the NFL Draft Saturday afternoon at pick No. 136.

The Bengals traded up with the Dallas Cowboys to take Jordan.

To make it even more perfect, Jordan was born and grew up in Cincinnati and rooted for the Bengals. He said before the draft began that he'd love playing in Cincinnati and it would mean he'd be pretty close to a lot of family members. He gives his family a lot of credit for helping him succeed.

"I have such a great support group so being around them makes it easier to go through this entire process," Jordan said.

See DRAFT, Page 2B



CC baseball are Chocolate Milk Mustache Celebs

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

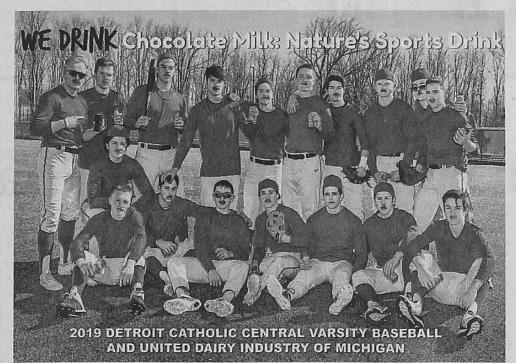
It's not often local high school students become celebrities, but the United Dairy Industry of Michigan is out to change that.

The Detroit Catholic Central baseball team has been named Chocolate Milk Mustache Celebrities by the UDIM after the team received the Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink grant, which gives money to state high schools to promote good nutrition.

This spring, 64 Michigan high school sports teams were awarded funds to purchase and provide low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk to help their student athletes get the nutrition that they need after practices, games and competitions.

Chocolate milk is one of the most nutritious choices that students can make at home or at school, says the UDIM. It's a natural, nutrient-rich beverage and an excellent source of nine essential nutrients – calcium, potassium, protein, phosphorus, vitamins A, D and B12, riboflavin and niacin – nutrients that students need for good health.

"According to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines, Americans of all activity levels over the age of eight should include



The Catholic Central baseball team has been named Chocolate Milk Mustache Celebrities by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. COURTESY OF MARY HARDENBERGH

three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk or milk products in their diet every day. Chocolate milk is a nutritious option to help meet these recommendations," UDIM registered dietitian Melissa Gerharter said. "And what's really great about chocolate milk is that it packs a powerful nutrient punch, it's affordable, and it tastes great."

UDIM has awarded more than 800

"...what's really great about chocolate milk is that it packs a powerful nutrient punch, it's affordable, and it tastes great."

Melissa Gerharter UDIM registered dietitian

grants to state high school teams since 2011, and hopes to continue the program. Catholic Central's baseball team will receive promotional posters and educational materials, as well as chocolate milk.

"CC varsity baseball is proud to take part in this initiative to bring awareness of the benefits of chocolate milk and the importance of proper nutritional recovery after practices and games," Catholic Central coach Dan Michaels said. "The team is excited to represent the Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink grant and plan to have chocolate milk in the cooler to grab instead of sugary energy drinks after competitions."

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.

Draft

Continued from Page 1B

He joins an offensive line group in Cincinnati that features another former Ohio State lineman, Billy Price, who the team took in the first round last season.

He celebrated the next step in his football career at a draft party at a Hampton Inn in Canton Friday night, surrounded by friends and family, and had a private draft gathering with family on Saturday.

"I'm looking forward to competing against the best football players in the world," Jordan said. "To me, that's fun and embodies who I am. I'm a competitor."

He declared for the draft following the conclusion of his junior season, in which he was named an All-American by Sports Illustrated and the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

At Plymouth, he played for coach Mike Sawchuck and had an outstanding career with the Wildcats, leading to plenty of college attention.

"Coach Sawchuk was such a fierce, hard-working coach," Jordan said. "He really instilled what you want in a football player, and that's does he want to win, is he a competitor and is he tough. You have all three of those and you're going to do well in football. So I think that coming from Plymouth High School kind of started that up and Ohio State, they really polished it off."



The build up

At the beginning of the draft, Jordan mother welcomed everyone there and told a story about how her son had decided he was going to play in the NFL at age 6, and at age 8, he knew he was going to Ohio State.

That determination has helped get him to this point, and now he'll have the chance to build on his football success.

There were more emotions than just excitement, however, before the night began.

"I'm really nervous, because you don't know who is going to choose you," Jordan said. "I know I'm excited to play in the NFL."

During the pre-draft process, he learned from several former Buckeyes who have gone through the process before. He said he learned the most from offensive lineman Pat Elflein of the Minnesota Vikings, who played center at OSU during Jordan's freshman year.

Thursday night during the draft's first round, he watched as former teammates Nick Bosa and Dwayne Haskins were picked No. 2 and No. 15 overall by the San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins, respectively. He was close with Haskins, given the fact he handed him the ball on every offensive play this past season.

"Watching Dwayne go No. 15 was really incredible because he's had this dream to play for Ohio State since he was a kid and to see him get drafted in the first round is a huge accomplishment and a milestone," Jordan said. "For Nick Bosa to go No. 2, that's a huge accomplishment too. Nick's worked hard his entire life. From knowing him personally, I can't wait to see what he does

Ohio State University center Michael Jordan watches Indiana Hoosiers during game action at Ohio Stadium last season. JOE MAIORANA/USA TODAY SPORTS



Michael Jordan, left, poses for a selfie with his pee-wee football coach from Florence, Kentucky, Chuck Hendrix, on April 26.

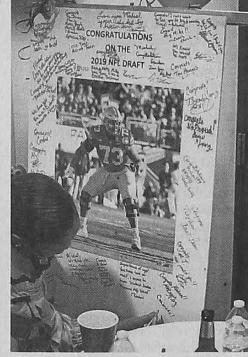
in the NFL."

Several other Ohio State players were selected Friday night, including wide receiver Parris Campbell, defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones and wide receiver Terry McLaurin.

On Saturday, Ohio State's Kendall

Sheffield was taken early in the fourth round. Jordan was the seventh OSU player to be picked overall in the draft.

To land with the Bengals is simply a dream come true. It's not often a player gets to play for his hometown team. He



Friends and family sign a photo of Michael Jordan, wishing him well in the NFL draft. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

lived in Cincinnati for about 11-12 years before moving to South Carolina for two. He moved to Plymouth when he was 14.

His first NFL contract is expected to be for four years and \$3,006,531 with a signing bonus of \$486,531. Drew Rosenhaus is his agent.

He already has one big purchase in mind.

"One of the things I look forward to is switching from Sprint to Verizon or AT&T," Jordan said.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Stevenson's Reed had huge week at the plate

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was an Athlete of the Week poll for the ages.

Livonia Stevenson softball player Autumn Reed was voted the winner, just topping Novi soccer's Abbey Pheiffer. Nearly 87,000 votes were cast — the most ever in a Hometown Life Athlete of the Week poll.

Reed earned the honors thanks to a huge week at the plate, going 8-for-9 against rival Churchill, hitting seven doubles and collecting nine RBIs.

She received 35,337 votes (40.62%) edging Pheiffer, who totaled 33,476 votes (38.48%). Both players would have normally won in a landslide with that many votes, therefore, due to the unprecedented turnout and support both girls received, we will be posting a story on each girl.

Alas, Reed was the victor and helped move Stevenson closer to a division title with a pair of wins.

We caught up with her and asked her a few questions:

Your team recently helped raise money for Gift of Life, what made playing in those charity games against Churchill so special and what was your favorite part of the experi-

ence?

"Playing for a great cause, having a team with such great coaches and teammates makes the experience the greatest."

Who is your favorite sports role model or athlete and why?

"Miguel Cabrera is my favorite athlete because he's a great hitter in the MLB, and a great team player."

Who is your favorite musical artist/band and why?

"My favorite musical artist is dan + shay. I really like their music because it's my favorite type of music and the songs are great."

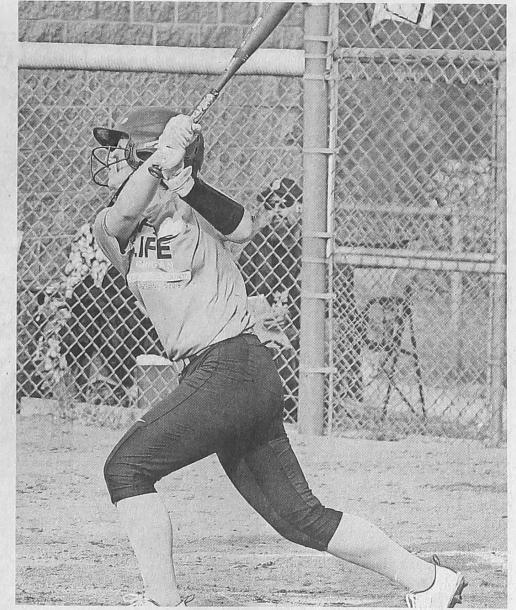
What is your all-time favorite movie (or series) and why?

"My favorite show series is Grey's Anatomy because when I'm older I want to go into the medical field and it's very addicting to watch and keeps you on your toes."

What are your future plans after high school and do they include softball? What year in school are you?

"After high school I plan to attend college and play at the collegiate level and pursue a nursing career. Currently I am a junior in high school."

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Livonia Stevenson's Autumn Reed had a big game with some big hits. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



South Lyon East's Rachel Craig, girls soccer booster VP, presents a \$100 check on behalf of the team to South



Lyon senior captain Carmen Sweigard for their upcoming Gold Out to support Mott's Children's Hospital. COURTESY OF JILL OHLAND

Charity

Continued from Page 1B

struggle. Neither team was able to generate many scoring chances. It was 0-0 at halftime and remained that way until late in the second half.

The best scoring chance of the first half came with 11:45 left to play.

After a scramble in the Milford box, the goalie fell down and was unable to grab the ball, leaving a wide open net with two South Lyon players nearby. However, the Lions weren't able to get to the ball before a defender got a foot on it, and the ball sailed wide right of the open goal.

"It wasn't our best game," Elliott said. "From a coaching standpoint, that was probably the worst game we've played all season in terms of our first touch on the ball, our movement off the ball, our passing accuracy up and down the board it was bad on our part. Being able to squeak out the win at the end is just a testament to the fact that we didn't give up. Credit to Milford for making everything we tried to do difficult."

Things heated up a little bit in the latter portion of the second half. South Lyon started to get a few more opportunities before Nabozny found the back of the net with 2:03 left to play after the ball slipped free of the Milford goalkeeper. The crowd went crazy and the Lions went on to earn the victory.

"It was amazing,"Sweigard said. "Yeah it wasn't our prettiest game, but when we got that, it was just relief. With two minutes left, we knew we had to keep it that way."

South Lyon star freshman Regan Dancer didn't record any points in the

South Lyon Lions begin to converge on Lexi Nabozny, second from left, after she scores the game-winning goal April 23 against Milford. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The South Lyon and Milford girls soccer teams pose together after their game that raised money for Mott Children's Hospital. ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

game, but still had several chances. Before Tuesday's game, she had scored 11 goals and recorded six assists in just seven games. She's nominated for this week's athlete of the week award.

"She's a game changer," Elliott said. "I think if she sticks with it and continues to work, there's no doubt in my mind that she'll shatter every record here."

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No. 1

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK Novi girls goalie Pheiffer named runner-up in poll

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Unprecedented could almost be an understatement.

This week's Hometown Life Athlete of the Week poll totaled nearly 87,000 votes, with almost 80% of them going to two candidates: Livonia Stevenson's Autumn Reed and Novi's Abbey Pheiffer.

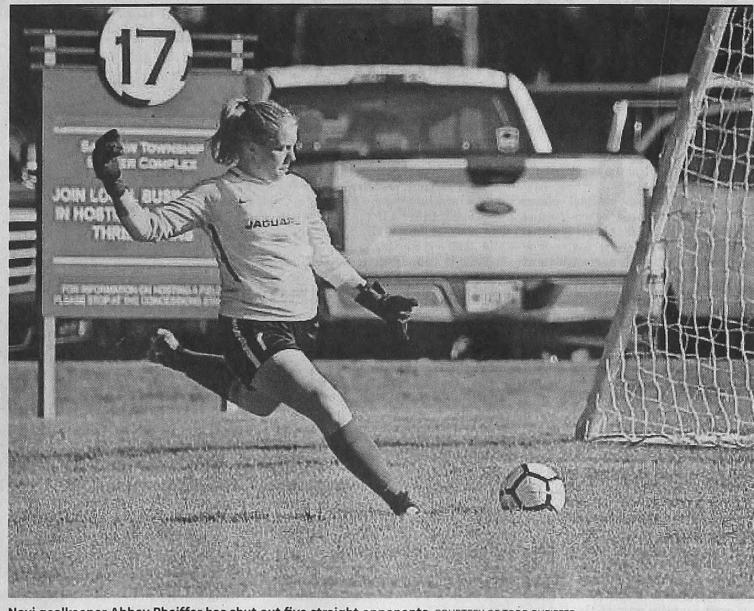
Usually, we only do a write-up on the winner; however, this week's poll had the most votes in the history of the honor, so we decided that both girls deserved a story.

Reed edged out Pheiffer, taking 35,337 votes (40.62%). Pheiffer recorded 33,476 votes (38.48%) which was more than 23,000 votes more than Livonia Churchill's Alex Forry, who took third-place.

Pheiffer, who plays goalie for the No. 1 ranked Novi soccer team, earned the honor after posting a five-game shutout streak, with all five games coming against top 20 teams in the state. Three of them came against top 10 teams (No. 6 Hartland, No. 9 Plymouth and No. 10 Brighton). Over the five games, Pheiffer saved all 30 shots she faced (including two penalty kicks). To make it all even more impressive, she's only a sophomore.

We caught up with her and asked her a few questions:

What are your personal and team goals for this season? Can this Novi



Novi goalkeeper Abbey Pheiffer has shut out five straight opponents. COURTESY OF TODD PHEIFFER

team win another state championship?

"My personal goal is work together with my back line to prevent as many goals as possible. My team goal is for our team to make it back to the state finals. I think if we give 110% every game and play together as a team, things can go our way.

My coach always says, 'when you work hard and do things the right way, good things will happen.' We have some really good competition and will have to work very hard and play well every game."

Who is your favorite sports role model or athlete and why?

RE BATH

"Mallory Weber, Portland Thorns Professional Soccer Player, Northville High School graduate and Penn State Alumna. Mallory would help coach and train me when I was young and I have always looked up to her. She is one of the hardest working players I have ever watched play the game and she's the perfect example that hard work pays off."

Who is your favorite musical artist/band and why?

"Thomas Rhett because he has really good and relateable music and I'm a country fan."

What is your all-time favorite movie (or series) and why?

"I don't watch very many movies but I'd have to say Wonder. The movie just has a great message and its really cute and pulled on my heartstrings."

What are your future plans after high school and do they include soccer?

"I'm not one hundred percent sure on what I want to be when I'm older but i know I want to do something with athletics and be involved with sports in some way. (Playing soccer) is definitely the goal. I would love for an opportunity to play in college one day."

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



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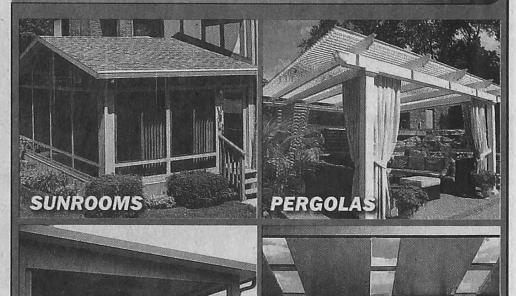
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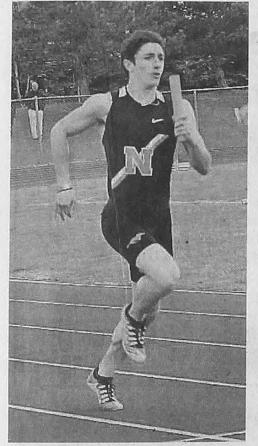
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Demetri Zervos was on the winning 400 and 800 meter relays for Northville in the team's meet against Howell. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK DALTON

Track

Continued from Page 1B

on the season.

The Mustangs took first place in 13 events and swept all points in five events.

"We tried out some different things today's meet," Dalton said. "We have some things to work on but we have a strong team with contributors in all areas.

Junior Lauren Marshall set a personal record in long jump with a mark of 15-3.50

"I'm really happy for Lauren," Dalton said. "We ask a lot of her because she is so versatile. She is a huge piece of our varsity team."

Sophomore Delaney Hopkins had her best showing in the discus 102-3.50 and Anna DeHenau cleared the crossbar at 6-6.00 in the pole vault for her best

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Abby Dunn won both the 100 and 300 meter hurdles for Northville against Howell.

vault ever.

The success for both team's continued over the weekend.

The Northville boys track and field team notched four first place finishes en route to winning the Spartan Classic hosted at Michigan State University.

The Mustangs, scoring 206 points, outdistanced second place Greenville who scored 155.

"It was really exciting for the boys to win tonight," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "We're keeping it in perspective, though. We have bigger goals we want to accomplish this season. There's a lot of work still to do."

Kearney won the 100 meter dash before teaming up with Nolan Knight, Zervos, and Phillips in the 800 relay for another first place finish, while Nick Couyoumjian, Raymond Jiang, Alex Beloui, and Ryan Vig won the 3,200 relay.

Shuart won the 110 meter high hur-

dles in a time of 15.70 and also took second in the 400 relay with Phillips, Zervos, and Kearney.

'Our senior sprinters have grown and improved since they began high school," Dalton said. "They are a lot of fun to watch.'

Other top finishers for the Mustangs included Couyoumjian, second, 800 (1:57.46); Jacob Pichler, second, long jump (20-4.25); and Knight, second, 400 (51.09).

In the women's meet, Northville finished runner-up for the second year in a row.

Rockford won the team title with 328 points. Northville scored 188.

"We had a very high score tonight," Dalton said. "To finish second after scoring 188 points shows how good and deep of a team Rockford has.'

Northville's 400 relay of Claire Wan, Angel McCray, Marshall, and Melanie Sarafian finished in 49.82, their best this season and the third fastest time in school history.

McCray also anchored the winning 1,600 relay of Wan, Abby Dunn, and Alia Bournay.

"We had a number of girls really step up tonight," Dalton said. "We have some young girls who are realizing how good they can be this year."

Other top finishers for Northville included Sarah Herring, third, high jump (4-10.00); Sarafian, second, 100 (13.06), and third, 200 (27.52); Dunn, second, 100 hurdles (16.80) and third, 300 hurdles (48.86); and the 800 relay of Wan, McCray, Marshall, Sarafian, second (1:51.32)

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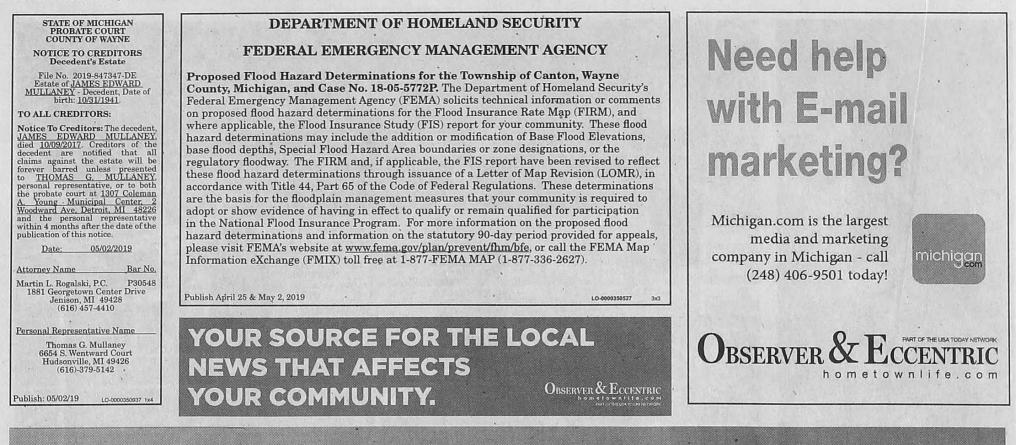


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