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'OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME'



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Leslie Greeneisen opened a pottery studio, Glazed & Amused Pottery, for adult and child students.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
At left: New murals decorate the pool area.

PARC GAINS OCCUPANCY, POPULARITY AS LONG-TERM FUNDING QUESTION REMAINS

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

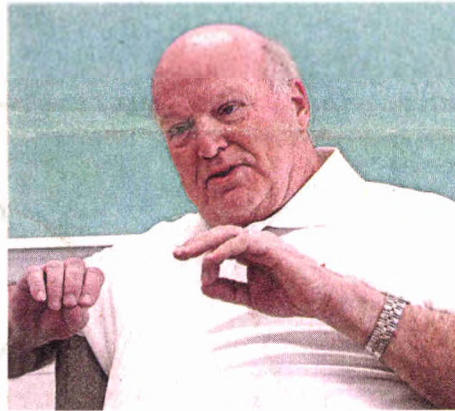
Artist Leslie Greeneisen has been a tenant for just six months at the new Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex in the 99-year-old former Central Middle School building. It didn't take long for her to dig in and feel right at home in what is being billed as "an opportunity of a lifetime."

"There is a lot of art going on here," said Greeneisen, whose studio, Glazed and Amused Pottery, is in the arts wing of the 160,000-square-foot center. "There's a lot of creativity and with it

being downtown it is good for the community."

Greeneisen's studio is just one of the total 55 classrooms of varying sizes that have been available since last August, when PARC took occupancy of the building. The Michigan Philharmonic was among the first tenants last summer.

But businessman Don Soenen, who runs the nonprofit facility – while hiring an executive to run his own company – said marketing wasn't necessary as a good number of nonprofit arts organizations were ready to take up residence and help create a cultural center in downtown Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Don Soenen is a key mover and shaker of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

WHO'S AT PARC?

Michigan Philharmonic, Better Than Ever Productions, MP Youth Orchestra, Cornerstone Productions, Forever After Productions, Plymouth-Canton Steelers, Main Street Opera Theatre, Our Lady of Good Counsel sports, Central PARC Pottery Studio, Flag Football League, Art Formed at the PARC, T3 Sports-Basketball, In the Band Music Appreciation, Voltage Elite Training-Football.

Also joining the PARC are Heartbeat Music, Men's Basketball, Qyteti Music Studio, Michigan Football League, Kriskraf Photography, Youth Soccer, Plymouth-Canton Cruisers, Little League Baseball, Z Spot Fitness, Kona Running Group, Plymouth Christian Academy, P-CCS Space Rental, Autism Compass Consulting, P-CCS Kids Time, AM Rotary and PCA Tennis.

Plymouth artist takes second place at arts fest

Out of more than 200 artists, Plymouth artist Sue Mallick has taken second place in the annual Festival of the Arts hosted by the Farmington Art Foundation.

The arts festival will run April 14-16 at the Costick Center, 28601 11 Mile Road, in Farmington Hills. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 14-15 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 16. The public is invited to view and purchase the artwork displayed at the festival.

Juror Shirley Woodson recently selected a wide variety of artwork to be displayed at the Festival of the Arts exhibit. She awarded first place to Kitty Weaver of Livonia for her painting titled "Goddess I"; second place to Mallick for "Thin Red Line," third place to Richard Adams of Farmington for "Looking Down on Chicago" and fourth place to Dean Racke of Farmington for "Ladyslipper in Vase."

Cash prizes will be awarded to the place winners at the awards reception Friday, April 15, at the Costick Center. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Costick Center.

Oil, watercolor, pastel, collage, acrylic, colored pencil, encaustic, graphite,



FARMINGTON ART FOUNDATION
Sue Mallick of Plymouth was awarded second place for "Thin Red Line."

ink collage, mixed media, oil on copper and wood block print paintings will be represented. A variety of unframed paintings will also be available at very reasonable prices. Come and enjoy the paintings and take several along with you to enhance your home, office and cottage.

Learn more about the Farmington Art Foundation and meet the artists to find out just how the artwork was created.

Visit the Costick Center gym, where 50th anniversary scrapbooks, photos, awards and memorabilia will be displayed.

New School High economists place in state competition

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

New School High students finished in seventh place in the David Ricardo division of the National Economics Competition March 24 at Walsh College in Novi.

All team members were ninth-graders, which was unusual because freshmen rarely study economics until later in their high school careers.

"We knew that we had several students who are already very interested in business and economics, so it was easy to decide to start a team," first-year history teacher Hillary Hanel said. "It was something new that none of our teachers or students had experience with and it sounded like an exciting, new opportunity."

New School High prides themselves on being one of a very few teacher-led schools in the nation.

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Plymouth solo artist gaining in popularity

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Born and raised in Plymouth, 24-year-old Matthew Sauter is a familiar solo artist in both his hometown and throughout the surrounding area.

Sauter, whose stage name is Adventures with Vultures, had always written hip-hop music until 1½ years ago, when he went through a "bad breakup."

"I couldn't really

write what I wanted to say via hip-hop, so I learned to play the guitar," said Sauter, who describes his current music as folk blues or Americana.

In second grade, Sauter began playing drums and later continued percussion while his older brother of four years, Danny, played guitar and sang.

"I would observe how much my parents and uncles listened to him where, with my hip-hop

music, they would say, 'What is this crap?'" Sauter said, laughing. "Eventually, I thought that maybe I should be doing what Danny's doing."

Sauter is currently in the process of obtaining his bachelor of arts in honors creative songwriting at the Detroit Institute of Music Education. His single, "Skies of Gold," will be featured in the school's annual album.

Currently, he performs at school and

open-mic each Monday at Plymouth Coffee Bean ("The Bean"), as well as other local venues.

"You have to make a fan base in your hometown before you leave it," Sauter said.

For upcoming news and performances, like Adventures with Vultures on Facebook or follow adventureswithvultures on Instagram.

dnalexander@hometownlife.com
248-860-4183



Matthew Sauter, 24, whose stage name is Adventures with Vultures, is a familiar folk blues/Americana solo artist in Plymouth, as well as the surrounding area.

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NEW

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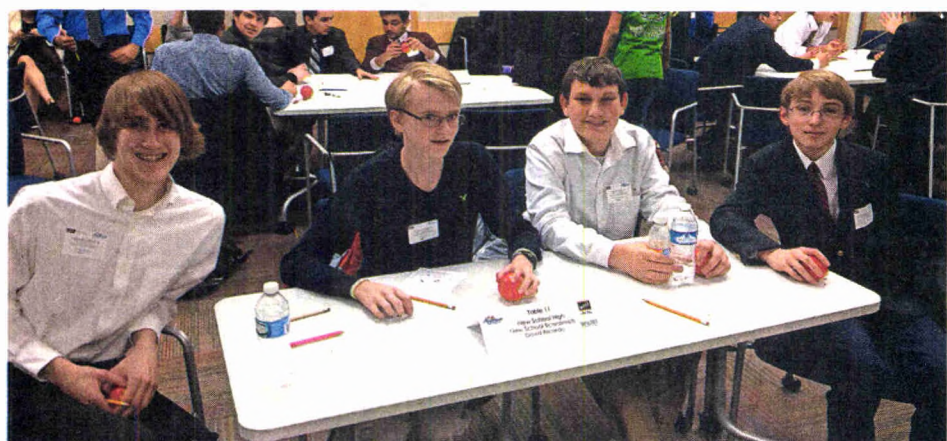
"Our philosophy is quite different from other schools in that we teach our students to be highly active in their own educations," New School High school leader Cynthia Burnstein said. "We believe high school students are capable of much more than they are often allowed to pursue."

Only several days before the first level of the competition, Hanel paired with English teacher Amy Trombley to act as coaches for the team by meeting with members after school, aiding in discussions and providing resources to study. Math teacher Mario DiNicola also helped to prepare the team by reviewing important facts and figures and going over graphs.

"To qualify for the state event, they had to take an online examination," Burnstein said. "We were thrilled that their scores on the online test were high enough to qualify them for the state finals."

Once the team found out it made it to states, it then had two short weeks to get ready for that part of the competition.

"Our students and



Zach Doering, Jackson Rogers, Jared Petzold and Maks Jurasek placed seventh at the National Economics Competition.



Jackson Rogers, Jared Petzold, Maks Jurasek and Zach Doering placed seventh at the National Economics Competition.

teachers were all proud of the team for finishing seventh," Hanel said. "Immediately following the state finals, the team

was already reviewing their notes and making plans for future competitions. They even took home economics books

over spring break."

The students plan to compete in the Personal Finance Challenge in April.

New School High, which opened September 2015 with ninth-graders and a small number of 10th-graders, is at 46250 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. It is a public school academy (charter school) authorized by Central Michigan University and composed of students from Plymouth and surrounding communities. For more information, go to www.newschoolhigh.org or like it on Facebook at New School High.

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Monday, April 11
4:30PM - OR - 6:30PM
Plymouth Cultural Center Card Room
525 Farmer Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Wednesday, April 13th
4:30PM - OR - 6:30PM
Taylor Community Library
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PARC

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A destination

"We are way ahead of schedule," Soenen said. "There has been a tremendous demand for arts, education and recreation. It is a place they can call home."

In fact, he said the PARC is now in good enough financial shape – thanks to donations – to perhaps apply for grants to continue to grow the center as a destination.

Furniture left over from its use as a school is being reused and donations of other furniture are coming in. Even the hardware on the classroom wooden doors is being refurbished back to gleaming brass. The former cafeterias, which have stages, are used for performances by the Main Street Opera, Forever After Productions and Better Than Ever Productions. There is practice space for the Michigan Philharmonic, as well as space to store music.

"There have been 62 performances and four operas since last August," Soenen said.

The theater groups also have room to store costumes and build sets. The former home economics classroom – complete with refrigerators, stoves and ovens and plenty of counter space – is being refurbished to provide catering services and to hold cooking classes. Even the old student lockers are used by theater members.

In the former counseling offices, a music teacher has renovated the area and, according to Soenen, her student load is on the increase.

And just like at the mall, the PARC offers indoor walking – with arrows directing the path – through the hallways. Programs are also available for senior citizens.

Public funding

While Soenen said the demand for arts and recreation space is self-evident, he has no illusions about a tough effort ahead to garner community financial support to turn the facility on 16.5 acres into a cultural centerpiece.

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district sold the facility to Mark and Patty



The 99-year-old former Central Middle School is now the PARC.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Malcolm in 2015 for \$3.3 million, which some community leaders, such as Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price and others, claim is below market value.

There was some hope among community members that the facility would be purchased by a developer who would turn it into perhaps a mixed-use endeavor with lofts, retail and office – generating taxable value.

The purchase agreement calls for payment in three installments, beginning with a \$1.5 million payment last year, another \$1 million this year and \$800,000 in 2017. Until that last payment is made, the school district owns the building and PARC operates the facility. The plan is for the Malcolms to donate the building to PARC as a nonprofit, Soenen said.

In January 2014, the township board adopted a resolution that bars the township from participating in any taxing authority type agreements with the city until November of this year, which is after the next township election. The Plymouth City Commission has publicly supported the PARC effort.

The facility operates on rental income and donations, but Soenen said total restora-

tion and other projects to the tune of \$20 million to \$25 million need to be completed. Soenen and his board have suggested a property tax, of up to 1 mill (\$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value), to raise that money.

Long-term plans include new windows, heating systems and updating the pool, as well as projects like building an 800-seat auditorium. Still, plans for PARC have been scaled down some, he said, and amenities such as a new pool and a new gymnasium set aside.

"We would like to see the city and township get together on this," Soenen said.

It's questionable whether that will happen – because of a number of contentious issues between the two local governments – but some PARC board members are counting on a change in the makeup of the township board following the November election.

Unanswered questions

Price, offering his own opinion rather than that of the full board, said there are still too many unanswered questions. "I like the idea – the concept has a lot of potential," he said. "But I'm not there yet. I am willing to sit at the table."

"But are these things that

government should do in competition with private enterprise? Before we go to residents and ask for money, we have to have a full understanding of what PARC wants to be, before we subsidize it."

Another concern for Price is that an authority, which is what he believes will be required for taxing purposes, means the township and the city will lose control. Because the township has a larger taxing base, Price said his residents will pay 75-80 percent of PARC's costs compared to the city. "I have a lot of questions about subsidizing rents for nonprofits," he said.

Still, Soenen has no intention of giving up. He believes there is a way to make PARC work with tax dollars. "This is a big attraction for the community, with all arts under one roof," he said.

Today, occupancy on the facility's first floor is just below 100 percent (one room waiting to be rented). Of 20 rooms available on the second floor, 10 are occupied. Work hasn't started on the third floor. Meanwhile, the pool and gym were the first to be used last August, when PARC opened.

As soon as the Malcolms signed the purchase agreement and made the first in-

stallment, the swimming pool, gymnasium and fields were filled with activity. The fields behind the facility continue to be used for athletics, such as flag football, Our Lady of Good Counsel sports and the Michigan Football League.

'No magic dust'

Nonprofits in the PARC refurbish and renovate space according to specific needs, while volunteers and donations help with improvements throughout the building. Each nonprofit pays rent in the \$600 range, some higher, some lower, depending on space.

"It's a case where everything came together," Soenen said. "There is no magic dust."

Soenen received \$150,000 in donations for the facility's common areas. Volunteers, including Patty Malcolm, are in the building almost daily, painting, fixing and cleaning. Malcolm, for example, is now working on refurbishing what is called a party room – space that can be rented for small events.

"I have done a lot of painting and cleaning," said Malcolm, who brought in artist Jenisse Larson to paint murals in some of the common areas.

PARC is run by a board of directors, which includes Soenen and Plymouth Township Trustee Bob Doroshewitz, as well as area business owners. "We have a board that gets things done," Soenen said.

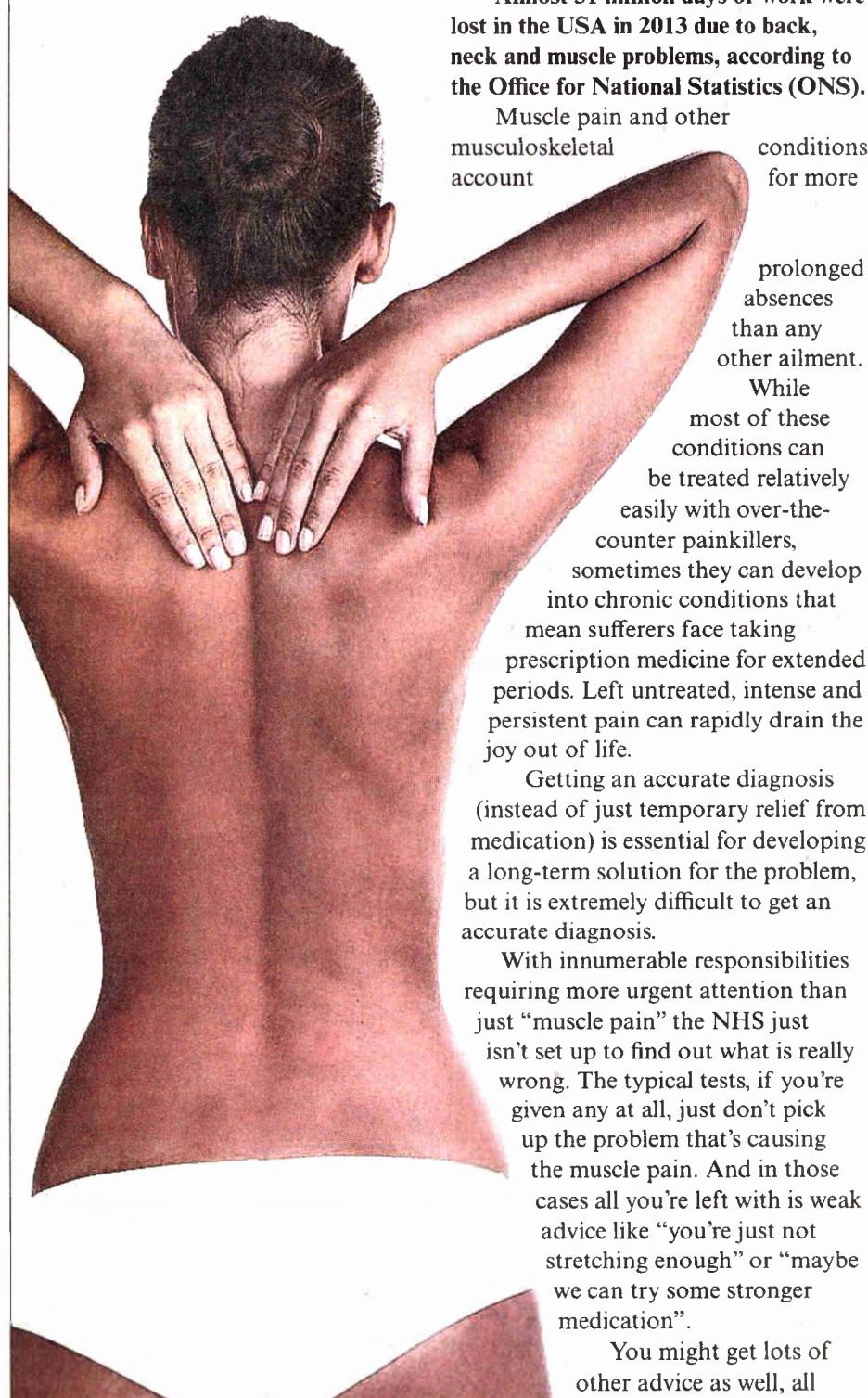
Deb Madonna, a former school board member and the force behind the Miracle League, joined forces with Doroshewitz some years ago and approached Soenen asking for help to save the former school as a center for arts and recreation. Soenen got the ball rolling and demanded a meeting with school district officials.

"You need people who can get behind it," she said. "You need connections and money."

"I knew all the arts organizations in this community," added Soenen, a longtime member of the Michigan Philharmonic board. "Many of the folks who came here came because of relationships. We had 10 tenants before the building was purchased. That's a leap of faith."

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How to find long-term relief from muscle pain



Almost 31 million days of work were lost in the USA in 2013 due to back, neck and muscle problems, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Muscle pain and other musculoskeletal conditions account for more

prolonged absences than any other ailment.

While most of these conditions can be treated relatively easily with over-the-counter painkillers, sometimes they can develop into chronic conditions that mean sufferers face taking prescription medicine for extended periods. Left untreated, intense and persistent pain can rapidly drain the joy out of life.

Getting an accurate diagnosis (instead of just temporary relief from medication) is essential for developing a long-term solution for the problem, but it is extremely difficult to get an accurate diagnosis.

With innumerable responsibilities requiring more urgent attention than just "muscle pain" the NHS just isn't set up to find out what is really wrong. The typical tests, if you're given any at all, just don't pick up the problem that's causing the muscle pain. And in those cases all you're left with is weak advice like "you're just not stretching enough" or "maybe we can try some stronger medication".

You might get lots of other advice as well, all

of which is just as deeply flawed, and you're likely to get something different from every healthcare provider that you speak to. They all have their own opinions.

But opinions won't help you stop the muscle pain. *Only a proper diagnosis can lead to the solution to fix this problem...*

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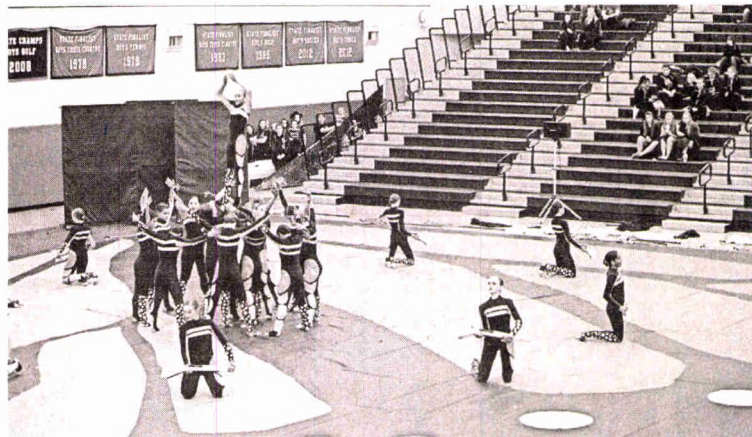
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KEN PYKO

In its preliminary performance, the Plymouth-Canton Winter Guard sweeps into finalist contention at the regional competition.



KEN PYKO

Flags, rifles and sabres weren't the only things flying through the air. Freshman Hunter Martin takes flight as a monarch as the team perfects a basket toss.

P-CEP Winter Guard places as regional finalist

Dawn Pyko
Correspondent

The P-CEP Winter Guard placed second in a power regional March 12 at Grand Blanc High School.

The event was sponsored by Winter Guard International.

There were 40 other color guards in attendance and Plymouth-Canton took second in its class with 74.7 points. The regional title went to Centerville (Ohio) High School with 75.5 points.

The following weekend, the P-CEP Winter Guard brought

yet another first-place finish with its show "The Flight of the Monarch" at the Lakeland High School Invitational, sponsored by the Michigan Color Guard Circuit. As the season winds down, the team is positioned to be successful when it enters the state championship April 2 at Saginaw Valley State University. The team then heads to the WGI championship competition, April 6-10

in Dayton, Ohio.

"They have worked incredibly hard and will be making their first performance at WGI in nine years. I am extremely excited to see how they wrap up the season at the national level," said Rachel Nelson, director.

Team members lauded Nelson for "being such a positive influence and instrumental in recreating the guard program

at the park. She is constantly pushing the team to do better and holding them accountable for every performance; she really inspires them to improve with each competition."

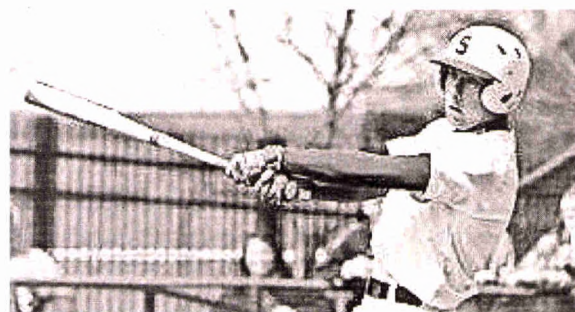
Nelson is an alumnus of the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, where she was first introduced to color guard. She has performed with the nationally recognized color guard The Pride of Cincinnati.

Salem senior awarded NROTC scholarship

Shane Prevo, a Salem senior football and baseball player, has been awarded a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Scholarship.

The scholarship provides full tuition, book stipend and other financial benefits and educational fees. The NROTC Program was established to develop midshipmen mentally, morally and physically.

After graduation, the mid-



Shane Prevo is a baseball player at Salem High School.

shipmen are commissioned into the U.S. Navy as an officer. The commanding officer of the NRD Michigan can select a few applicants and award them immediate selection of the scholarship. These few applicants must be highly qualified for the scholarship and are immediately awarded the scholarship.

"Over each summer, I will go off on midshipmen cruises,

spending time in each of the different communities within the navy, including aviation, surface warfare and submarines," Prevo said. "Also, over the summer I did enlist in the navy, but I was in a program called dual processing. This means that I am enlisted in the navy, but can opt out of my enlistment because I was awarded the scholarship."

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Eastern Michigan University

Jacquelyn Jones of Canton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Jones is pursuing a degree in accounting.

Azusa Pacific University

Caroline Bartes of Canton made the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

Alma College

Canton residents Zane Berlanga, Ashley Bonam, Laurel Demarais, Megan Finkbeiner and Plymouth resident Hannah Tardiff were named to the dean's list

for the fall 2015 semester.

» Phillip Commissaris, a student from Plymouth majoring in music, will perform his senior recital at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the Remick Heritage Center. Admission is free and open to the public.

Commissaris, an oboist, will perform "Sonata in G, BWV1020" by J.S. Bach and "Sonata for Oboe" by C. Saint-Saens. He will be accompanied by pianist Tony Patterson.

The concert fulfills a requirement for his bachelor of arts degree in music. He is the son of Randall Commissaris of Plymouth and Mary F. Webster of Plymouth.

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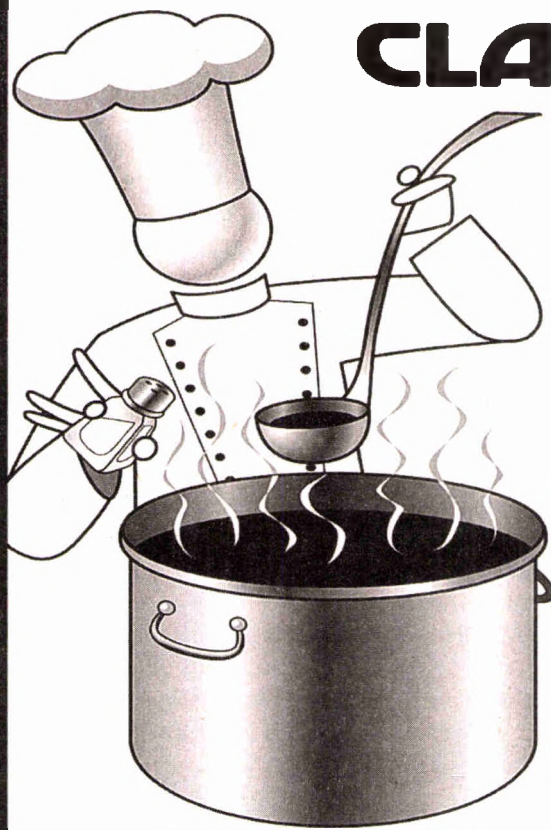
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Village Theater seeks exhibition proposals

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is now accepting proposals for solo or group exhibitions for the 2017 exhibition season. Both local and regional artists are encouraged to apply and all media will be considered.

The deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. April 18.

Canton's Village Theater showcases established as well as emerging artists who have been recognized for their exceptional talent. On average, 5,000 patrons visit the theater each month.

To apply for a solo or group exhibition, artists must submit an entry form, a CD of high-quality JPG or TIFF digital images, contact information, current resume/biography, artist statement and availability. Artists' submissions can be sent via email to village@cantontheater.com.



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is taking proposals for exhibitions for 2017.

mi.org or delivered directly to The Village Theater. For more information or to download an application, go to www.cantontheater.com.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill's exhibition committee, composed of local artists and

art educators, will determine the final 2017 exhibition season's schedule.

The Village Theater's gallery is free and open to the public 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, during public performances and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300.

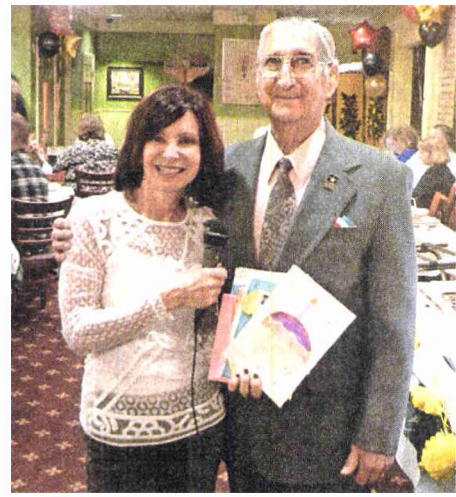
Family fetes World War II vet on 95th birthday

World War II veteran Joseph Girolamo, a longtime resident of Livonia, recently celebrated his 95th birthday, joined by more than 80 family and friends at a party at DeLuca's of Westland.

His niece, former Farmington Hills resident Diane Mehan, and her daughter Gabrielle came in from Colorado, while former Livonia resident Eileen Taylor Sigsbee arrived from Washington, D.C. In addition, friends Bill and Annette Mann drove from Sarnia, Ontario, to share in this special celebration.

A special surprise was having Girolamo's niece, country radio disc jockey Karen D'Alessandro, and her husband Doug fly in from Milwaukee. D'Alessandro was inducted in 2015 to the Country Music Radio Hall of Fame in Nashville. D'Alessandro delivered more than 60 birthday cards from loyal listeners.

There were also many beautiful handmade birthday cards that a class of Milwaukee elementary school children sent along to "Uncle Joe."



Country radio DJ Karen D'Alessandro presents her uncle, Joe Girolamo, birthday cards from radio listeners.

Girolamo's nephew Dominic and niece Viviana Buzzelli of Plymouth led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Girolamo's daughter Joyce Hermann and husband Michael of Plymouth organized the party and also arranged for special birthday greetings to come from Gov. Rick Snyder, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, state Rep. Laura Cox, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and President Barack Obama.

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn Anderson presented Girolamo with a resolution honoring him on his 95th birthday.

Girolamo still participates in veteran events throughout the state and acts as patriotic instructor for the American Legion Post 32 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3941. Besides giving talks on his role in World War II, he also conducts classes on flag etiquette for local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops.

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Local students perform with DSO

Six eighth-grade students from the Discovery Middle School Band program were selected to perform in the DSO Middle School Honor Band for 2016 and performed March 21 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

These students are Loren Campbell (flute), Jordan Cleveland (baritone saxophone), Nathan Draper (bass clarinet), Bobby Milleville (euphonium), Stephen Nagy (bass clarinet), and Be-

thany Sandburg (French horn).

The students received the music that day, rehearsed for eight hours and performed the concert that night. A true Herculean effort, to say the least, and the students are very proud to have represented Discovery Middle School, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Canton community at this esteemed musical event.

The DSO's Middle

School Honor Band is an opportunity for middle school-aged musicians to rehearse and perform with renowned directors in historic Orchestra Hall. In the course of one day, students work together to learn challenging Wind Ensemble repertoire alongside Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians, before performing the same evening for family, friends, Michigan music educators and the public.

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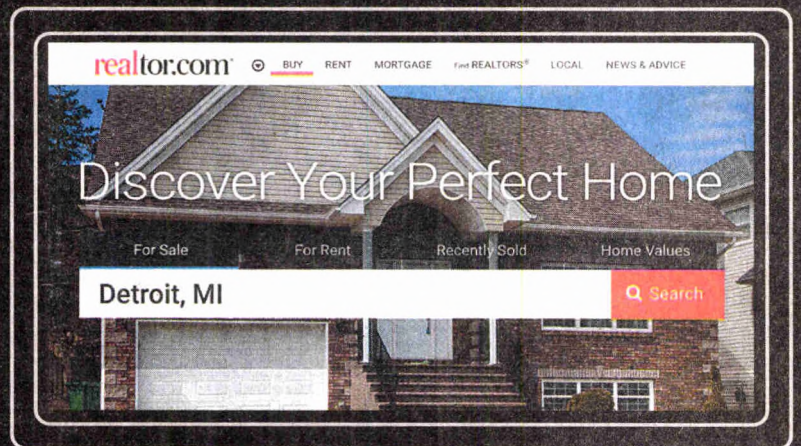
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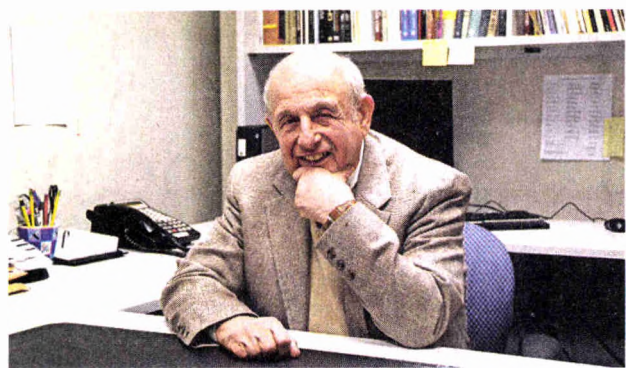
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Guy Stern, from the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington, tells his story on the American Heroes Channel airing April 9.

Holocaust expert set to be on American Heroes

Guy Stern, director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, will appear at 10 p.m. Saturday, April 9, in an episode of "What History Forgot" on the American Heroes Channel.

The segment will highlight his participation in a special intelligence unit of the U.S. Army in World War II, nicknamed The Ritchie Boys.

Formerly the Military Channel, the American Heroes Channel is owned by Discovery Communications and features a variety of programs covering the great historical events that shaped our world. "What History Forgot," hosted by history buff Joe Moniaci, shares legendary tales from American history that never made it into the textbooks, but made an impact on our world today.

On this episode, Stern will share his experience of serving with The Ritchie Boys. Named after the camp where they trained, The Ritchie Boys were composed primarily of German-speaking immigrants, most being Jews who fled Nazi Germany.

The team was utilized

for interrogation of prisoners on the front lines and counter intelligence in Europe. Stern served as a master sergeant and was awarded a Bronze Star for his innovative interrogation techniques. The Ritchie Boys also were the subject of a 2004 documentary of the same name by late German filmmaker Christian Bauer.

"It is wonderful to know the story of The Ritchie Boys still resonates with people today," Stern said. "It is programs like 'What History Forgot' that keeps experiences like mine alive and teaches others how to stand up for what they believe in."

Stern was born in Hildesheim, Germany, in 1922 to Jewish parents. Out of five family members, he was the only one to escape Nazi persecution in 1937 and make it to the United States. After being rejected from U.S. Naval Intelligence in 1942, he was drafted in 1943 and the following year took part in the Normandy invasion.

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus is a 55,000-square-foot museum and Library Archive in Farmington Hills.

Finding a financial adviser best for your situation

A couple weeks ago, I sat down with a potential new client. The individual had contacted me after attending one of my seminars and wanted me to manage his money. He came into my office and we had a nice conversation about the type of investor he is and his goals and objectives.

After the conversation, much to the shock of the potential client, I told him that our firm was not the right firm for him and that he should consider using a different adviser. Needless to say, the client was somewhat shocked that I would turn down his business. As I explained to him, I didn't want to turn down his business. As a professional, I know it's important to remember not every adviser is good for every individual. I explained to him that the things he wanted to do were not within my expertise and the reason I was referring him to a different firm was because I wanted him to have the best professional advice available. It is important for people to recognize there are different types of financial advisers in the market and it's not one size fits all.

Financial advisers — or, sometimes as they're called, wealth managers



— can be categorized in a number of different ways. Because I believe that professionals should be independent and work solely for the client, I believe one of the ways you should categorize an adviser is how they are compensated.

Some advisers are compensated by commissions. They receive compensation in a couple different ways. First, by selling you a product. Second, by receiving additional compensation year-by-year through higher fees associated with your product in many of those commission products they provide. My problem with commission salespeople is they have dual loy-

alties, the client and the company's product they represent.

The second type of adviser is what is known as a fee-only adviser. A fee-only adviser only receives compensation directly from you. Most fee-only advisers will either work on a set fee or a percent for money under management. These advisers receive no compensation from anyone other than their clients. One of the reasons that I am a fee-only adviser is because I want to eliminate as many conflicts of interest as possible.

The third type of adviser charges fees and at the same time accepts commissions. Sometimes these advisers will offset the commission with the fee, other times they will not. The same objections I have to the commission-only salespeople apply to these types of advisers as

well. In addition, I think in many cases these advisers are double dipping on fees.

Another way that you categorize advisers is based upon their expertise. Some advisers will specialize in mutual funds, others in individual stocks. Some advisers will implement more aggressive trading strategies than others.

As far as I'm concerned, in selecting an adviser you not only have to look at how they are compensated, but also what their expertise is. Just like medicine, where doctors can't be a jack of all trades, the same thing applies to financial advisers. The key is just not finding a good adviser; but finding a good adviser for you.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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EGGS-TRAORDINARY

More than 400 kids hunt for eggs at annual Lions event

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

More than 400 kids had an eggs-traordinary time Saturday collecting eggs at the annual Plymouth Lions Club Easter egg hunt for children 10 and under at Plymouth Township Park.

Event chair Jo Ellen Hincker said the event went "very well" and had more than 400 children in attendance.

The children, who were encouraged to bring baskets for their findings, were divided into age groups of 3 and under, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10.

In addition to the egg hunt, the KidSight program set up a special high-tech camera to take pictures of children's eyes to detect early eye diseases for free immediately after the event. To attract more parents and children, this was located near the prize tables this



KELLY DOBSON

With his dad's help, Gibson Stemen, 4, counts the eggs he collected.

year and 18 children took advantage.

"KidSight is a wonderful, wonderful program," Hincker said. "They've done it at the library and gone into schools, too. It's really something."

The hunt was free, but donations were welcome.

Collection boxes were also available, since the Lions Club collects used or unwanted eye glasses, cellphones and hearing aids.



KELLY DOBSON

Who will get the egg first?



KELLY DOBSON

Brooklyn Pennebaker, 4, gets a quick picture with the Easter Bunny.



KELLY DOBSON

Plymouth Lions Club member Cheryly Kaley and pet chihuahua Zuma worked hard as they escorted the Easter Bunny around the park to greet all his fans, young and old.



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Gillian Barton, 2, braves the chilly morning with her parents and had big smiles for everyone.

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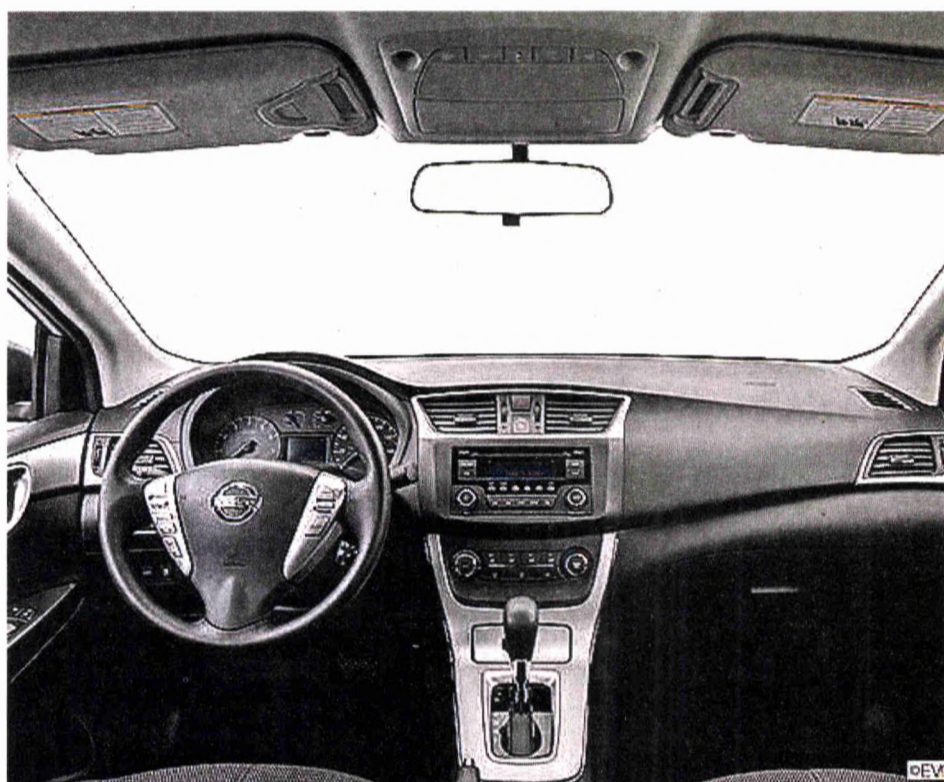
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Yankee Air Museum features Waco biplane

The Yankee Air Museum's newest aircraft, a beautiful 1992 Waco YMF-5C biplane, will make its first appearance of the year Saturday, April 9, at the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show at Willow Run Airport.

The three-seat, open cockpit aircraft will be on display, in addition to offering air tour rides 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Hangar 1, Bay 7 at 801 Kirk Profit Drive, Ypsilanti.

"This is our first ever Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show and having our brilliant red Waco Biplane there, ready to fly, is sure to be a crowd pleaser," said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum.

The Waco YM series pays tribute to the 1930s barnstorming-era, a revolutionary time in aviation history when airplane rides became increasing popular, helping pave the way for the modern day air show. Often featuring biplanes



The Waco YMF-5C biplane.

(aircraft with two wings stacked one above the other) similar to the YMF-5C, pilots performed stunts and aerobatics that were sure to amaze bystanders.

As time progressed, modern improvements were made to these aircraft, but the basic style and heart of the 1930s remains. One of the most recognizable features is the open cockpit design.

This concept was adapted not only for appearance and audience appeal, but it allowed the pilot to have increased vertical visibility while flying close to the ground, or during "low-level" aerobatic maneuvers. To this day, biplanes such as the YMF-5C, continue to implement this arrangement, allowing its occupants to become one

with nature, and experience flight in a new, and exciting, manner.

Powered by a 275 HP engine and given a 30ft upper wingspan, the Waco is the perfect combination of speed and style. Flying under Visual Flight Rules, lower altitudes are possible, and passengers are presented with a view of the expansive landscape. The Waco will be avail-

able April 9 for people wishing to experience the thrill of a 1930s inspired biplane ride, weather permitting. This is also a good time to visit the ramp and watch flight operations to learn more and perhaps plan flight later in the year.

"Yankee Air Museum is committed to education about flying and the Waco biplane is an immersive adventure for

people taking their first vintage flight," Walsh said. "Our pilots are alert to weather conditions, and will ensure a comfortable, level flight. This is the plane that will let your 'inner pilot' discover you!"

Although "on site" openings may be available, reservations for Waco rides are highly recommended. Anyone wishing to reserve a ride, view additional information, is encouraged to go to the YAM website at <http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/waco-biplane>, email: biplanerides@yankeeairmuseum.org or contact Geof Bush at 734-776-7569. Pricing on the WACO is one person (not to exceed 350 pounds in passenger weight): \$195 for YAM member; \$225 for non-YAM member; two persons (not to exceed 350 pounds in combined passenger weight): \$295 for YAM members; \$325 for non-YAM members.

Northville, Plymouth to host health expo in April

Plymouth, Northville and surrounding communities are invited to take part 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 19 in the Northville-Plymouth Health Expo at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main Street.

The event is hosted by the Plymouth Community United Way, in partnership with Northville Parks & Recreation and Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

The public is invited to learn about your health and your health care community. Free

health screenings, prizes, free product samples and information galore will be offered.

Vendors are invited to contact Suzie Johnson, Northville Senior Services, at 248-349-4140 ext. 2852, to register a display table for the event.

For more information, go to www.plymouthunitedway.org. Serving the Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County area since 1944, Plymouth Community United Way addresses human service needs of individuals and families.

Plymouth United Way to host annual public meeting

The Plymouth Community United Way will host its 2016 annual meeting at 8 a.m. Friday, April 15, at Comcast, 4112 Concept Drive, Plymouth.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Those in atten-

dance will have a continental breakfast and networking with business associates and agency representatives.

The meeting will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and will include reports on the PCUW 2015 finances and programs. PCUW

will also recognize key contributors and special awardees.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting needs to RSVP to Jacinta at 734-453-6879, ext. 2.

For more information, go to

www.plymouthunitedway.org. Serving the Plymouth, Canton and western Wayne County area since 1944, Plymouth Community United Way addresses human service needs of individuals and families.

Applications now available for Damaris Award

Applications are available for the Damaris Fine Arts Award 2016. The Plymouth Community Arts Council will award two scholarships, \$500 and \$1,000. Plymouth-Canton seniors who attend Salem,

Plymouth or Canton high schools or Starkweather and who have displayed "outstanding abilities in visual arts" and plan to continue education in the field are eligible to apply.

Portfolios will be

accepted April 11-21, with artwork juried April 24 through May 1.

The Damaris Fine Arts Award was established in memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family. The award honors Schulte

for her work as an artist and for her contributions to the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

For more information, contact Lisa Howard at the arts council at lisa@plymoutharts.com.



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Earth Day event at Schoolcraft College promotes small steps, making difference

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Stephan Brown is a second-year Schoolcraft College computer science student and member of the Math & Physics Club. On Wednesday, March 30, at the college's VisTaTech Center, he was demonstrating "how to get energy from kinetic energy."

Brown, a 2013 Churchill High School graduate and Livonia resident, was at a Schoolcraft Earth Day event focused on "Energy: The Power To Change." He used slight hand pressure to store an electric current in a capacitor.

"I'm generating electricity, slowly and surely," Brown said, adding the technology is now used in doorbells. It's being studied for more advanced use in generators and traffic control.

"I've always loved computers and anything with electronics, really," said Brown, who hopes to transfer to a university to study chemical engineering. He noted the Math & Physics Club is active at Schoolcraft and that the math department publishes a weekly newspaper, the "Right Angle."

'Make a huge difference'

Nearby was second-year Schoolcraft student Katy Robinson, who's studying biology, sciences and social science and is a 2011 Redford Union High School graduate. The Redford resident was helping Earth Day event attendees with a computer simulation on their Earth footprint.

Robinson noted recycling more, buying products with less packaging and even turning off room lights when not in use all add up. "If everybody were to do it, it would make a huge difference," she said. "My parents really pushed turn off lights when you leave the room."

When Robinson drives on the freeway, she slows down as much as she can safely and sees fuel econ-

omy improve. "Little things make a huge difference. A huge difference in just that little amount of speed," she said of her driving 60 mph.

Robinson plans to transfer to Northern Michigan University, where her sister is enrolled. "Super-excited," Robinson said of her future. "I'm actually going to go into environmental science." As she learned more about ecology at Schoolcraft, her enthusiasm grew.

"I want to do something that's going to help, even if it's helping my community," she said. "Try to do what I can and inform people."

The event had some 40 student exhibits, 23 of which were being judged. Ideas ranged from wind farms, LED lights, electric cars, pros and cons of nuclear power and the link between energy and environmental health.

Second-year Schoolcraft student Samuel Berger, a Livonia resident in environmental science, was demonstrating slot cars wired with a hand-cranked generator. "That is to showcase how wind turbines and water turbines work," said Berger, who was home-schooled.

'Really took a liking'

He grew up active in Boy Scouts, including an environmental badge. "I just really took a liking to the field," Berger said. "I want to do my part to help out. It's a fast-growing job market. The jobs will be there in demand in the future," he added of the relatively young job field.

Berger noted people can plant trees (which were available at Schoolcraft that day), turn off lights and take other steps to conserve energy. "There's really a lot of small ways you can make a difference," said Berger, who plans to transfer out of state to continue his studies.

College support staff specialist Susan Adams, a Westland resident, was



Bill Craig, with the Holliday Nature Preserve, speaks about activities at the Preserve with student Brady Hooker of Redford.

judging student displays that day. She assists students with online and blackboard systems in her regular job.

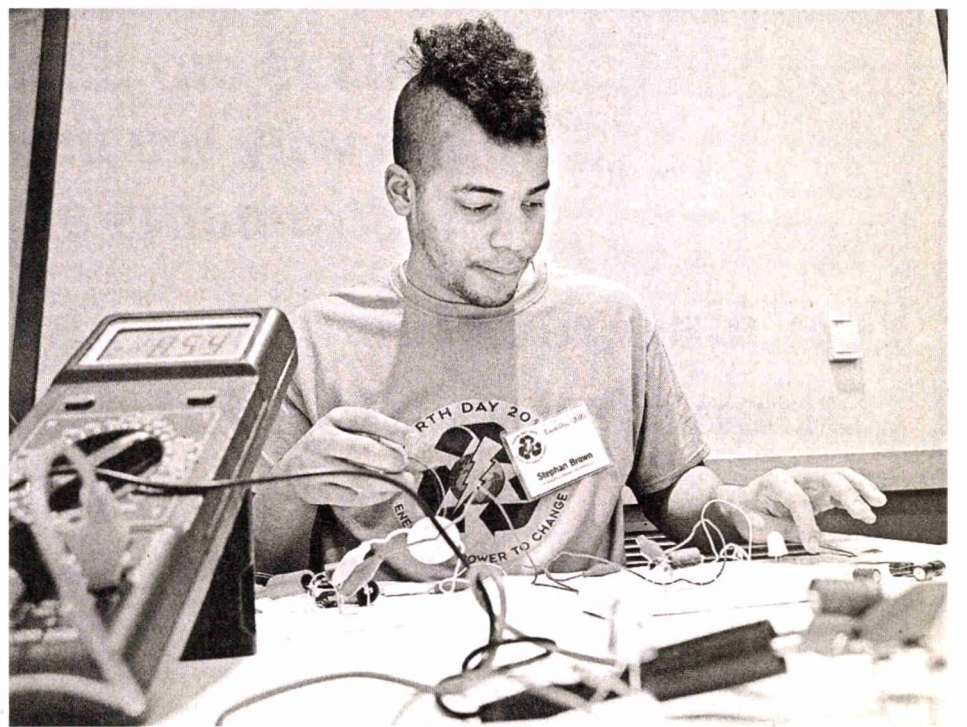
"We look at the layout, how the content relates to the topic," Adams said of judging. "And how it relates to the content topic they were given." She's judged for several Earth Days now.

"I love it. You get to see the creativity with the students," said Adams, whose daughter just graduated in environmental studies/political science from Adrian College. "It's a growing field," Adams said. "This generation coming up, they are very conscious of their role and to make it better."

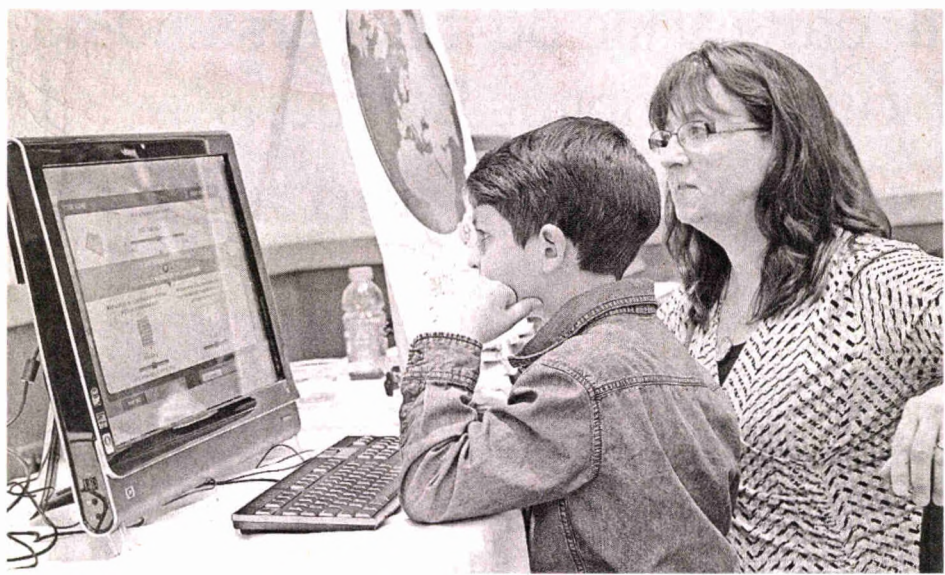
Biology faculty members Michael Orick of Commerce Township and Caroline McNutt of Ann Arbor were busy keeping things running smoothly. The event has been held some 17 years, McNutt said.

It promotes awareness, she said, with Orick adding, "And also to encourage people to take action."

He noted a "Meatless



Schoolcraft student Stephan Brown, a member of the Math & Physics Club, wires up piezoelectric discs that generate electricity from physical pressure. A road in Israel is planned that will have a piezoelectric surface. The weight of cars passing over the roadway will generate electricity.

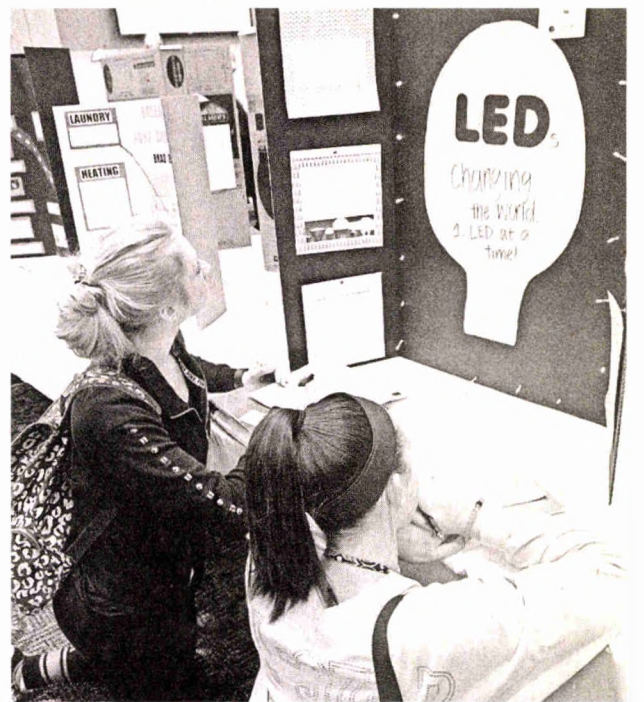


Kelli Oliver and 7-year-old son Eli Oliver find out about their family's carbon footprint.

Monday," for example, nationwide in the U.S. would be the equivalent of removing millions of cars from the freeways. The professors are grateful to community partners, including local nonprofits, that participated.

"They actually talk to the representatives, instead of passing by," McNutt said, noting some volunteers get recruited. "Students are definitely very motivated. This is something within the sciences that engages the whole community."

The Earth Day event is an extension of Schoolcraft's Natural Sciences program. Students can earn either an associate of arts degree in environmental studies or an Environmental Science Technician certificate.



Schoolcraft students learning at Earth Day celebrations.

Community partners tout message at Schoolcraft Earth Day gathering

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Ruth Johnson, assistant director of Transportation Riders United, a nonprofit advocacy group, was glad to be at Schoolcraft College's Earth Day event March 30.

TRU, organized in 1999, works toward "good local service and regional because it actually works together," said Johnson, who can take the bus between her Warren home and Detroit workplace.

She compared local and regional mass transit as the skeletal and circulatory systems of the body, both vital.

"We're the ones that are really going to cause this to be a great system," Johnson said.

She noted Livonia's not current in the SMART (Suburban Mobility Au-

thority for Regional Transportation) system, which affects those who wish to enroll at Schoolcraft's main campus there. "It needs to work for more people, more easily, more affordably," Johnson said of the system, adding TRU isn't anti-car.

She's enthused about the relatively new Regional Transit Authority and efforts to coordinate routes between SMART and the DDOT system of Detroit. "It's a very convenient option," Johnson said of her own bus commute. "For me, it's a choice because I have a car."

She noted some lack cars and some can't drive for health reasons. Johnson encourages a visit to TRU's website at www.detroittransit.org.

The Friends of the Rouge were also present, along with other commu-

nity partners, including the Holliday Nature Preserve Association. Bill Craig of Livonia, an environmental activist, was manning the Holliday Nature Preserve booth at Schoolcraft.

The preserve is mainly in Westland and extends to Canton and Livonia, he said. Craig differentiates recreation from natural areas, noting his group works "to keep a nature preserve from becoming a park. You only have 500 acres of a nature preserve," Craig said.

He noted the park use of lengthy Hines Park and pointed on a map to narrow green river corridors of western Wayne County. The nature preserve is also linear along Tonquish Creek.

"So there are pressures, there are stressors," Craig said, noting some are natural like erosion as well as some

poor use by humans. "We try to help them, a stewardship group."

Of early 1970s Earth Day observances, he noted, "That was a time of certain upheavals," including anti-war protests. "That was an interesting time to live in. Over time, I think it's been dulled," he said of the Earth Day message.

"It's a struggle and it's going to be an ongoing struggle," Craig said of

the environment, pointing to awareness vs. action.

"Where do you take action in your own home and your own community?" he asked. Craig believes hazardous waste collection days have had the greatest impact.

"That is my commitment to local government," he said.

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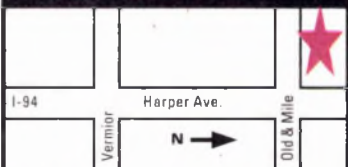
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SOFTBALL PREVIEW — PART 3

Sky's the limit for young Rocks

Led by U-M bound Overaitis, Salem could be a team to watch

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Enthusiasm is through the roof for Salem varsity softball coach Bonnie Southerland and the Rocks as the 2016 season unfolds.

There is plenty of reason why the veteran coach is almost giddy with excitement about what this year's season

could bring for the program. Start with a player already scooped up by the University of Michigan in sophomore pitcher/shortstop Morgan Overaitis and it is easy to understand why Southerland sees the team making another jump in the KLAA Central Division standings. Salem did post a strong record last season (27-11 overall, 11-5 in the division, second to Novi).

"We had an outstanding season and are eager to pick it back up and keep building on our success," Southerland said. "We were very young last year

and I have to say we are still young again."

Last year's squad had only one senior in Maranda Armstead, meaning that it was a season where underclassmen could gain valuable playing experience.

Stellar seniors

Likewise, the 2016 roster only includes two seniors in fleet-footed outfielder Jamie Squires and hard-hitting catcher Kara Hutchison — who, incidentally, will play college

See **ROCKS**, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Michigan verbal commit Morgan Overaitis again will be a key cog for Salem, whether the sophomore is pitching or playing shortstop.

USA HOCKEY



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

NTDP Under-18 forward Casey Mittelstadt beams after scoring one of his two goals in the third period against Muskegon.

HOME COOKING

NTDP U18s honor billets, win regular season finale over Lumberjacks

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The United States NTDP Under-18 team has been away from Plymouth Township so much the second half of the season that Thursday night must have felt like a pit stop.

Yet the team's USHL finale against Muskegon at USA Hockey Arena proved to be a special night for players, fans and their billets — the families who were honored before the game for providing players a home away from home all season.

And sparked by two goals from forward Casey Mittelstadt, playing just his fourth game for the U18 team (including USHL and college contests), Team USA rolled to a 5-3 victory and improved to 22-28-4-2 in the league (factoring in games played by the Under-17 squad).



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Team USA forward Casey Mittelstadt (right) scores one of his two third-period goals. Trying in vain to stop him are Lumberjacks goalie Joey Daccord and defenseman Bo Hanson (left).

"There was a lot of emotion in the game," said forward Kieffer Bellows, who opened the scoring with a power-play goal at 10:04 of the first period. "We came out really hot, we started off

really well. "The fans were into it from the start; we brought the game to them. We felt it was the right thing to do to go out on a good note, especially in our last home game here."

See **HOCKEY**, Page B3

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Eagles ready to fly again

PCA back for more after successful 2015

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Christian Academy baseball team experienced a noteworthy uptick in 2015, capturing division and district titles.

And despite the graduation of pitcher Mike Slater — who was Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division Player of the Year — the Eagles aren't about to suffer a setback in 2016.

According to seventh-year head coach Joe Bottonoff, PCA returns a number of players who gained valuable experience during last season's 12-5 showing.

"We have very solid senior and junior classes and several new players that should contribute right away," Bottonoff said. "We lost two-thirds of our innings pitched with the graduation of Tanner Hay and Mike Slater, but we have several capable pitchers primed to fill that void."

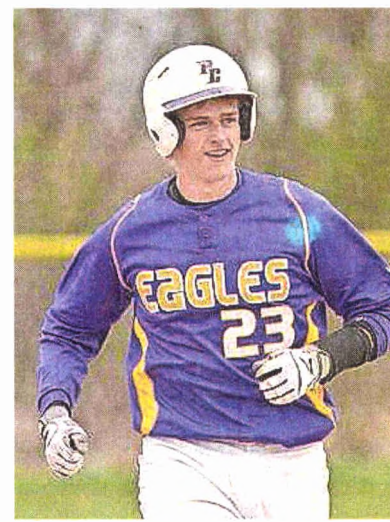
A key to the Eagles' hopes will be senior Josh Slater, a versatile player slated to pitch, catch, play first base and bat cleanup.

Behind the plate will be senior Nick Andres, who keyed the Division 4 district championship victory.

"Nick will do the majority of the catching," Bottonoff said. "But we have other catchers to give him a break. On those days, (Andres) will be the DH."


Jake Shook will start at third base, while Will Crecelius and A.J. Greuber are back to man

See **EAGLES**, Page B2




BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of PCA's key returnees is Josh Slater, shown from a 2015 contest.



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BASEBALL PREVIEW — PART 3

New-look Rocks open season strong

Salem to rely on talented senior, junior classes

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Although Salem's varsity baseball team lost some big-time players to graduation in Tyler Brooks, Brandon Gillen and Josh Penn, among others, hopes are strong for another winning year in the KLAA South Division.

The Rocks finished 2015 with a 17-12 overall record, going 11-5 in the division to trail champion Northville. For second-year head coach John Wright, this season opened March 29 with a 5-0 victory at

Walled Lake Western, sparked by two hits and two RBIs from junior shortstop Danny Diaz and 3½ shutout innings by junior pitcher Matt Brooks.

Diaz and Brooks — who also can play outfield and infield — spearhead a deep junior class. Other juniors include infielder Gage Moyers, outfielder Kevin Amell, catcher Noah Haran and infielder/pitcher Erich Payne.

But whether the Rocks are able to challenge the Mustangs will undoubtedly hinge on the performance of the senior class, headlined by outfielders Griffin Shiminski and Shane Prevo (both all-

Observer honorable mention picks in 2015).

Also slated for outfield duty are seniors Alex Nicholson and Gavin McAuliffe, while remaining seniors on the roster include catcher Logan Marshall, infielder Elijah Peppers and pitchers Jordan Heaslip and Eric Scott.

Meanwhile, youth will be served with three sophomores looking to make an impact.

Those players include infielders Jake Seipenko and Jeremy Armstead and outfielder Trevor Genaw.

Wright's pitching options also will include Seipenko, Armstead and Shiminski.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Salem's pitching staff includes senior Eric Scott, shown facing Canton in 2015.



Back to close out a stellar Salem career is senior catcher Kara Hutchison, shown ripping another hit last season.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

softball in 2017 at Oakland University and Davenport University, respectively.

Both are all-region, all-district and all-KLAA players entering their fourth season with the Rocks and will lead on and off the field.

"Jamie (an honorable mention all-state pick) has one of the best arms in the game," Southerland said. "Jamie's quickness and ability to make the long throw from center will certainly be a factor in any team trying to stretch things."

And Hutchison will be key for her strong defense, ability to work well with the pitchers and a sizzling extra-base bat.

"Kara has a good bat and can really hurt the opponent when she's in that three or four spot," Southerland said. "Kara blocks well and, with her reaction time, not much gets past her."

Two juniors expected to help carry the load are pitcher/outfielder Emily Stewart and infielder/catcher Kristin Mihalic.

"Emily is just a good down to earth hard-working athlete," Southerland said. "The kind of player every team loves to have. Emily has a great attitude, which allows her to excel beyond all expectations."

Mihalic will spark the squad with speed and aggressiveness on offense.

"Kristin has a great slap and with this speed she leaves them (opposing infielders) in the dust," she said. "Look for Kristin to continue being that go-to player and difference maker all season long."

Young stars

Meanwhile, although there are 10 sophomores and freshmen on the roster, that hardly is a shortcoming as many of



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Spectacular catches by outfielder Jamie Squires are becoming routine for the Salem Rocks.

the youngsters bring strong experience at the club level.

At the top of the list is Ove-raitis, an all-state player as a freshman.

"Morgan's really the whole package with amazing ability," Southerland said. "One of the hardest workers I've ever coached and a real team leader. She's a player to see, a real gamer."

Also stellar as a freshman and ready to keep improving is sophomore pitcher/second baseman Maddy Rosiewicz (all-district, region and conference honors).

"This year, she is the ace, no question about it," Southerland said. "Great mound presence, good fielding pitcher and smart player. Amazing attitude and work ethic, she will also be one of the keys to our success this season."

Three other returning sophomores also made an impact in 2015 and are expected to do so again. They are Caroline Miller (infield/outfield), Makayleigh Silverman (infield) and Jenna Taylor (pitcher/first base).

Miller is "a little spitfire, she can cover a lot of ground"

in the outfield. She also will push the envelope on the base paths, going after plenty of stolen bases, Southerland said.

Silverman and Taylor both worked hard during the off-season and are being counted on for their all-around games.

New to the Rocks are sophomore outfielders Averie Haus-er and Morgan Renom and freshmen Hailey Dechalk (catcher/infield), Jordan Hazel (first base/catcher) and Amy Hines (infield). All five bring strong work ethic and great attitudes.

"We've been fortunate enough to have a catcher for four years," Southerland said, referring to Hutchison. "The plan is to give these two (Dechalk, Hazel) some time behind the plate and prepare them for things to come."

Plenty of talent

Provided the team stays healthy, Southerland is confident the Rocks have what it takes to be contenders.

"It's pretty early to really know who will end up," she said. "But what I do know is I have 14 girls ready to take on any opponent this season and ready to take it to the top. They really want to show their stuff."

"We've got a lot of weapons this season. I've got some of the best offensive and defensive players around. The talent we gained this season is even stronger than last year's team."

The Rocks also will be on a mission to honor the memory of longtime junior varsity coach Frank Szczepanski, who died New Year's Day.

"Frank was a huge asset to this program and touched the lives of many softball players who went through this program over the years," Southerland said. "Frank will truly be missed."

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BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW — PART 2

Salem lineup is taking shape

Players moving into bigger roles to offset graduations

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One of the immediate challenges for Salem varsity boys lacrosse coach Corey Mattingly is replacing the bushel-full of goals lost due to the graduations of Noah Willer and Joey Krause.

How well the Rocks fare in the Kensington Conference might be as simple as finding out who can step up and sling the ball into the opponents' net during 2016.

"We lose a lot of firepower on the offensive side of the ball," said second-year coach Mattingly, whose 2015 squad finished 9-9. "However, we return some key leaders defensively. Being a very young team this year, we will see a lot of players start to fill roles as the season progresses."

Mattingly does have some players who can score, however. Back from last season are senior attackman Lucas Martin and junior attackman Marty Mills. Although the lineup is still taking shape, another potential for offensive output could come from freshman attackman Walker Sievers.

Salem also took a hit elsewhere in the lineup, with goalie Mack Baker and defenseman Adam Cousineau graduating and moving on to



MICHAEL VASILNEK
Salem's varsity boys lacrosse team will bank on the talents of returning attackman Marty Mills.

Aquinas and Alma, respectively.

But the Rocks still return junior defenders Noah Fleming and Andrew Fedel.

Meanwhile, the coach is enthusiastic about Sievers joining the lineup, not to mention freshman midfielder Brandon Bergevin and freshman goalkeeper Blake Pospny.

"The boys have been working very hard and have completed their season opening conditioning showing the coaches that they can run with the best of them," Mattingly stressed. "Our transitional game will be heavily relied on, our biggest feat will be controlling tempo and beating teams in half-field sets."

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EAGLES

Continued from Page B1

two of the outfield positions.

Outfield is back

Crecelius and Greuber will flank junior center fielder (and No. 3 hitter) Austin Andres, as the Eagles return the entire starting outfield from last year.

PCA's chances will be bolstered by five juniors — led by Austin Andres. Also heavily in the mix will be pitcher Josh Mason (who also can play third base, right field and catcher), Adam Albert (pitcher, IF-OF), speedy utilityman Matt Cusumano and Nathan Bishop (catcher, DH, infield).

"(Albert) is very versatile," Bortorff said. "I can plug him in anywhere and

can see him playing every position except catcher at some time during the season."

Younger players who Bortorff envisions chipping in include sophomore Phil Morby (pitcher, shortstop, outfield) and freshmen Norby Fernandez and Elijah Grit.

"Phil has developed into a great all-around player," Bortorff said. "And he gives us a solid bat from the left side of the plate."

Both Fernandez and Grit "bring some travel ball experience with them and will contribute immediately."

Rounding out the team are Caleb Godin, Andrew Fernandes, Conner Smith, Gavin Goerke, Brien Schlienz, Aaron Geisler, Tyler Joseph and Evan Wright.

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Head injuries focus of MHSAA informational meeting

An increased effort to ensure that student-athletes and their parents or guardians receive concussion education information was among topics that generated the most attention from the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association during its annual winter meeting March 24 in East Lansing.

Most of the council's discussion pointed toward possible actions at its spring meeting in May, with possible additions to the MHSAA physical exam/clearance/consent forms among those that may be voted upon

when the council reconvenes.

The council did take a first step, approving a requirement at its winter meeting mandating all students and their parent/guardian to sign a post-concussion consent form signifying they have received information on potential risks prior to returning to activity following a concussion.

Continuing its emphasis on the importance of collecting in-depth student-athlete health histories, the council approved PRIVIT on a two-year trial basis as an electronic-based health history record-keeping

tool to serve as an alternative to written communications and forms that accompany pre-participation physical examination of athletes.

The council also discussed for possible action in May standardizing MHSAA rules/risk management meeting content for assistant and sub-varsity coaches and increasing the frequency of in-depth concussion information within those meetings while still giving adequate attention to a variety of other important health and safety topics, including heat illness, sudden cardiac arrest

and overuse injuries.

In other business, the council reviewed necessary modifications to the MHSAA Membership Resolution and handbook in advance of a change to the MHSAA constitution that will permit schools to join the MHSAA at the sixth-grade level beginning in 2016-17.

The amendment will allow schools that join the MHSAA at the sixth-grade level to let sixth-graders participate with MHSAA services and support with and against seventh- and eighth-graders without executive committee approval.

It allows all districts, but requires no districts, to provide athletic opportunities for sixth-graders under the auspices of the MHSAA, either on separate teams or with seventh- and eighth-graders.

The council considered one sport matter (in track and field), voting to begin the 2016 season to eliminate one preliminary round of the boys 110-meter hurdles, girls 100-meter hurdles and boys and girls 100- and 200-meter dashes at all Lower Peninsula regionals that use fully automatic time to determine race results.

USA HOCKEY

Granato leaving NTDP position for Badgers

Coach of Under-17 team to join brother's staff at Wisconsin

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Five years ago, when Don Granato joined USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, his older brother Tony helped him out.

Wednesday morning, it became official that the roles are being reversed. Don Granato is leaving his job as head coach of the NTDP Under-17 team to work on the staff of his older brother, new Wisconsin head coach Tony Granato.

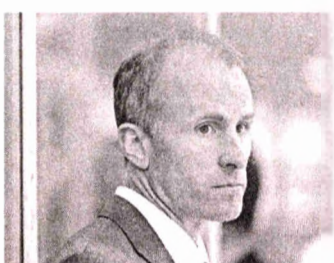
"It will be interesting to see those two guys working together," said Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for the Plymouth Township-based NTDP. "You know they worked together in an opposite capacity here at one point."

"Tony was kind of volunteering for Donny his first year or two and helping him out and here it's flipped and Donny will be working for Tony. It should be great. Both are outstanding coaches and so is Mark Osiecki (also named to the Wisconsin staff). They'll do a great job together. They're all Wisconsin alumni, too, so they have a lot of ownership in the program."

A national search for Granato's successor is now underway and a new coach should be brought in by mid-May, Monaghan said.

"It's always tough losing a head coach," Monaghan said. "But we're about development for our coaching staff, too. And if Donny has a great opportunity, we want him to take it."

Granato could not be reached for comment.



Don Granato is leaving the USA Hockey NTDP to become associate head coach at Wisconsin. His brother Tony is the Badgers' new head coach.

It is expected that Granato will shuttle between his current and future homes over the next couple of weeks during a transitional period, while current U17 assistant coach Nick Fohr takes over as interim head coach.

The NTDP coaching staff also includes Danton Cole, who in 2015-16 is heading up the Under-18 squad.

In 2016-17, Cole will take over the U17 team, with Granato's replacement stepping in to guide the players who will move up from U17 to U18 (in the NTDP, coaches stay with players for a two-year cycle, culminating with the Under-18 Worlds).

Monaghan said Granato addressed the team Tuesday; media reports leaked over the weekend that the Granato brothers would be leaving for the NCAA Division I men's hockey program.

"Donny met with the kids and talked to them and we laid out what the plan is going forward," Monaghan said. "They're pretty clear on it."

U17 goalie and Northville

native Dylan St. Cyr said players understood why Granato made his decision to become a Badger associate head coach with a couple of weeks to go in the United States Hockey League season.

"We were all happy for him, for sure," St. Cyr said. "It's a great opportunity for any coach to achieve that and, obviously, that's something that he loves to do. He's a great coach."

With Granato in transit from Wisconsin following his introduction there, St. Cyr and his teammates were coached at Wednesday's practice by Fohr and assistant coach Greg Moore.

"Our team felt there was a piece of the puzzle gone," St. Cyr said. "But at the same time, we're here to work. That's the business of hockey."

Tony Granato, an assistant coach the past two seasons with the Detroit Red Wings, reportedly will close out the rest of this season with the NHL team.

Many triumphs

According to the NTDP website, Granato's successes with Team USA were many.

Don Granato coached his teams to gold and silver medals in 2015 and 2013, respectively, at the International Ice Hockey Federation Men's Under-18 World Championship. He also won U17 titles at the Four Nations Tournament in 2011 and 2013.

In 2014, Granato coached the U18 team to a Four Nations title, while also guiding the team to victory at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

"He was tremendous," Monaghan said. "I think I mentioned to one of my supervisors the other day, he won every major event that he participated in as a head coach. He won the Under-17 challenge, he won the Under-18 worlds, he won a number of the bigger mid-season events. And the biggest thing with him, he did a great job with players, developing them."

"His numbers of players in the draft have been outstanding and that will still unwind over the next year or two. Particularly Auston Matthews, this year, will probably be the No. 1 or No. 2 overall pick. And that's a tribute to what he does with players."

St. Cyr — who is a verbal commit to play at the University of Michigan — pointed to Granato's strong hockey knowledge and work ethic in helping him progress this season.

"Just really learning the game, really helping me get to the next level, what you need to know to get to the next level," St. Cyr said.

"He's a very dedicated coach and he was always hard at work. Seeing that, you want to do the same."

The 5-foot-7 goaltender, meanwhile, trusts Monaghan and the NTDP decision-makers as far as bringing in a top-quality coach for his second season with the program.

"I know that, whoever it is, USA will bring in somebody that's good," St. Cyr said.

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BOYS TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW — PART 1

'Cats are reloading and not rebuilding

Influx of freshmen could give Plymouth boost

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Plymouth varsity boys track and field coach Jon Mikosz laments losing 2015 graduates Jonny Dalton, Matthew Pahl, Michael Jordan and Nathan Harris.

With good reason. All Pahl did was set a new Plymouth-Canton Educational Park record in the 3,200-meter run, while the others were all-state performers during their senior seasons.

Still, Mikosz likes the talent of his top returnees and can't wait to plug a promising group of freshmen into the lineup.

"We lost a lot of all-state talented guys last season," Mikosz said. "With that being said, this team has a lot of potential this season."

"This is one of the more talented freshman classes that we have had, so we are hoping once they get some experience they will settle in nicely."

Of course, carrying the load will be holdovers Matt Weiner, Ethan Byrnes, Lucas Kapala, Binyah Howard, Victor Abraham, Cameron Kight, Brennan Brooks and Rafael Marquez.

But the newcomers will keep things really interesting as the Wildcats look to put some pressure on KLA South Division rivals.

The list of youngsters Mikosz is high on includes Brandon Boyd, Jacob Steward, Ryan Schmatz, Cade Ahljian, Tyler Triplett and Joey Ahern.

"Because we are a younger team you never know how that is going to work out," Mikosz said. "So if they can handle the workload and catch on early, then I think we can be pretty successful."

"With the addition of the new guys and a good group of returning guys, I think it will be a good season."

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Byrnes

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, April 4
PCA at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Skyline, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5
Hartland at Canton, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 7
Salem at Lakeland, 4 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 8

Catholic Central at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
Romulus at Salem, 1 p.m.
Canton at Catholic Central, 3 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 7
Wayne at HVL, 4:30 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Thurston, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Tuesday, April 5

G.P. South at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6
Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 7
Ladywood at Regina, 6 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 8
Plymouth at Salem, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Thurston, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD
Wednesday, April 6
Hartland at Salem, 4 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, April 7
Gabriel Richard at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
Salem at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Plymouth at Hartland, 4 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Tuesday, April 5

Marian at Ladywood, 4:30 p.m.
Northville at Plymouth, 8 p.m.
Friday, April 8
Canton at Salem, 1:30 p.m.
at Canton at Plymouth, 8 p.m.
BOYS LACROSSE
Friday, April 8
Canton at Howell, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
Royal Oak Shrine at Salem, 4 p.m.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

Helping get the night off on a good note was Bellows, who scored his 41st goal overall (and 16th in league play). Drawing assists were center Clayton Keller and defenseman Adam Fox.

The Bellows-Keller-Joey Anderson line put plenty of pressure on Lumberjacks goalie Joey Daccord (who made 33 saves).

"Clayton's a fantastic playmaker, just a great player," Bellows said. "Joey's one of the hardest workers, he's a complete 200-foot player, he's unbelievable."

"We have great chemistry and our coach has kept us together the whole year and I feel coach has done a really good job making sure that chemistry stays."

Forward Graham McPhee then scored an even-strength goal with 5:32 remaining in the first to put the U.S. up 2-0. Assisting was Keeghan Howdeshell of Brighton.

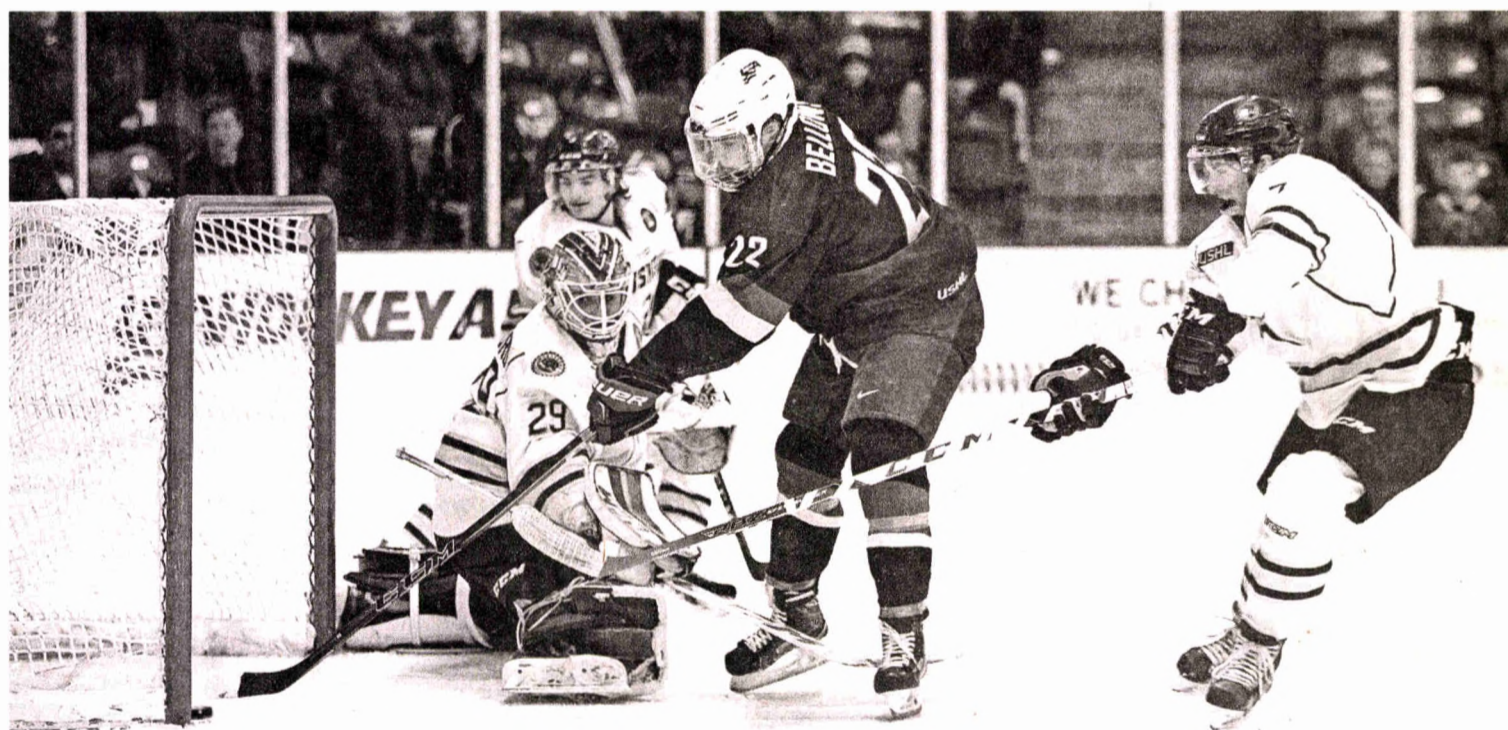
Powering up

Muskegon managed to get one back when Dante Palecco scored against Team USA goaltender Joseph Woll (18 saves) with just over a minute to play in the opening period.

The U.S. got it back about nine minutes into the second period, however, when Keller scored the team's second of three power-play goals on the night. Fox and defenseman Ryan Lindgren assisted.

For Keller, the goal was his 30th of the season (13th in the USHL) and he leads the team with 87 points. Individual stats include tournaments and games against league and college opponents.

After the Lumberjacks pulled to within 3-2 at 12:38 of the period on a goal by Rem Pitlick, the U.S. answered on Mittlestadt's goal with 17:29 to play in the contest. Setting up the goal were forward Scott



Scoring on the power play during the first period is U.S. forward Kieffer Bellows, sending the puck behind Muskegon goalie Joey Daccord.

RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Reedy and defenseman Chad Kry.

Middlestadt darted from the right side into the slot and ripped a shot off Daccord's trapper that bounced in. It was his first USHL goal.

"I just kind of looked up and I didn't have much of an angle left, so I kind of just threw it at his glove," said Middlestadt, who played high school hockey in Minnesota this season. "I got lucky and it hit off his glove, bounced up and trickled in."

Muskegon (25-24-3-4) cut the deficit to 4-3 on a Palecco's second goal, but Middlestadt answered again with 8:35 left to close out the scoring.

The 5-11 center bolted out of the penalty box, took a pass from forward Trent Frederic and broke in up the middle against Daccord. He couldn't get his initial shot attempt off, apparently due to a slash. But

he stayed with the play and slipped a low shot inside the post.

Full marks

"I got a lucky bounce," Middlestadt said. "It was a good play by (Frederic) and he chipped it up to me. I got slashed and lost it for a second, then I just pulled it. ... The goalie bit on that and I put it in."

He smiled about finally getting his first USHL goal and would like to stick with the team as it moves on to North Dakota.

"It's definitely good just to get the first one. I had a few chances I kind of missed," Middlestadt said. "I was a little jumpy, I think. It's definitely fun to come out here and catch up with some guys I used to know pretty well and just play and have fun."

Other players on the team from Minnesota include Bel-

lows, Anderson, Reedy, Lindgren, defenseman Matthew Hellickson and goalie Jake Oettinger.

According to Cole, the relative newcomer made a big impression with his two-goal showing.

"Casey played high school in Minnesota and he's a good player," Cole said. "He's going to represent the U.S. a lot in his future."

"We still haven't finalized the roster, but he certainly made a good push and (has) done some good things, brings a lot of speed and scoring to our lineup."

Saying thanks

The final outcome was a perfect way to treat the billet families who were among 1,145 in attendance.

"We got to honor the billets. It was an unreal experience and

I was so glad to be part of it," Bellows said. "It was a great move by USA Hockey to come to Plymouth. I know the '99s are excited for their U18 year coming up and I know the 2000s will be very happy when they come in next year to the great facilities here."

Concurring about honoring the billets was Cole.

"It's nice, there's people that have sacrificed and done stuff for these young men that I'm sure they appreciate," Cole said. "But as they get older, they'll appreciate it more and more that somebody opened their homes to them and had them in."

"They've just been a really great bunch of people. I've known a lot of them for a long time."

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SCHOOLCRAFT MEN'S CLUB HOCKEY

Final shift a winning one for Ocelots

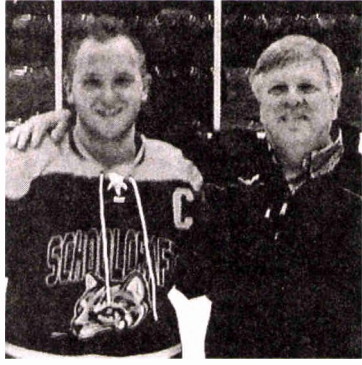
Schoolcraft closes out first season with sweep at LSSU

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The first season of Schoolcraft College men's club hockey unfolded like a practice drill. There were plenty of starts and stops, along with a couple of infusions of new talent to jump over the boards from time to time.

Still, Ocelots head coach Rob Lindsay liked the way it all came together at the end of the season with a pair of road victories March 19-20 over Lake Superior State University to cap off the season.

Schoolcraft earned 5-1 and 7-5 victories in the weekend



SCHOOLCRAFT HOCKEY

The first season of hockey at Schoolcraft College ended on a winning note for the Ocelots, led by captain Andrew Lindsay (left) and his dad, head coach Rob Lindsay.

series and now Lindsay will focus on building into a potential NCAA Division III program.

"We had a flat start at the beginning of the season, but

we had a great run from January to March," Lindsay said. "As we added more skilled players to the roster, we became more competitive and surprised a lot of teams."

Moreover, the team — which includes a number of players who hail from Oberlin and high schools — played as an independent this season, but in 2016-17 is looking to join the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

Moving forward

"We are actively recruiting to replace players that will be graduating and I feel we will have a real powerhouse next season," Lindsay said. "We are in the hot-bed of hockey and have a lot of talent coming to Schoolcraft College."

The March 19 game showcased the team's resiliency, bouncing back from a 1-0 deficit in the first period to score

five unanswered goals.

Scoring two goals each were forwards Jacob Stanley (Westland John Glenn) and Vinnie Glenn, with sophomore forward and team captain Andrew Lindsay (the coach's son) also scoring.

Helping the cause with two assists was winger Derek Klisz (Livonia Churchill/GC Stars), while goalie and Canton alum Nick Borg stemmed the LSSU tide.

"This team came a long way since our first game," coach Lindsay said. "There was a lot of movement of the puck and our regroupings were great. LSSU spent most of both games chasing the puck."

"The boys didn't take their foot off of the gas and were rolling and firing great quality shots from the top of the circles all night long."

Strong work on the penalty kill, augmented by outstand-

ing goaltending also keyed the victory. "Your penalty kill is only as good as your goalie and Borg did a great job keeping the biscuit out of the net," Lindsay said.

The rematch was more of a back-and-forth affair, although two goals each by Glenn, Klisz and forward Mike Lesko proved just enough.

Schoolcraft scored five power-play goals to spark the win.

Earning the victory in net was Corey Debrowski, who Lindsay said "did a very nice job keeping the puck out of the net. Goaltending was huge in both of these games and our team did a great job in the defensive zone as well as the offensive zone producing enough goals to win the game."

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

With Teskey, Madonna program ready to take off

Tim Johnston
Correspondent

Madonna University director of athletics Bryan Rizzo announced recently that Dan Teskey has been named head coach of the recently added women's lacrosse program.

Teskey, who will begin duties at Madonna immediately, arrives on the Livonia campus after spending the past six years as an assistant and head coach of Grand Valley State University's women's lacrosse club program.

"I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity Madonna University has provided me," said Teskey in a recent interview regarding his appointment as head coach. "Growing up in the Metro Detroit area, I've always known about Madonna's excellent academics



Teskey

and fantastic athletics history. "Succeeding in athletics, as well as academics, is tradition at Madonna and I am excited to continue that legacy with the new women's lacrosse program."

Teskey's excitement is shared by Rizzo as the athletics department gears up for a new era with lacrosse.

"Coach Teskey comes to us with a wealth of experience, including six quality years in a collegiate setting," Rizzo said. "He, along with all of our new coaches, have a unique opportunity to build and guide a program from the ground up."

"I am looking forward to watching the women's lacrosse program grow and thrive under Coach Teskey's leadership."

On the rise

The appointment of Teskey as head coach comes less than five months after Madonna University President, Michael Grandillo, announced Crusad-

er athletics will expand from 11 to 19 sports.

Also starting up are programs for men's lacrosse, men's and women's bowling, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field.

All eight programs are slated to begin Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) competition during the 2016-17 athletics season.

Teskey, head coach of Grand Valley's women's club team for the past four years, brings 18 years of lacrosse experience to the fold as a player and coach. While at the helm of Grand Valley's team, Teskey compiled an overall record of 41-20 while coaching 17 All-American and All-League student-athletes — including the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League (WCLL) Freshman of the Year in 2014.

The newly-hired head coach will look to continue building a winning model on-and-off the field at Madonna.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Walter to guide fledgling MU program

Tim Johnston
Correspondent

With the inaugural season of Madonna University men's lacrosse set for spring 2017, director of athletics Bryan Rizzo announced the hiring of Mike Walter as the program's first head coach.

The appointment of Walter rounds out Rizzo's head coaching hires for all eight new sports added to the 2016-17 athletics slate. The Crusaders announced the addition of men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's and women's bowling and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field in August 2015.

"Coach Walter is a perfect fit for Madonna men's lacrosse," Rizzo said. "He is passionate about the game, understands what it takes to be a student-athlete and has strong recruiting ties throughout the lacrosse community."

Walter, now entering his

first stint as a collegiate head coach, previously helped build a pair of men's lacrosse programs after enjoying four years of playing experience at the NCAA level.

"I am honored and very excited to be able to start the program at Madonna University," Walter said. "Starting a collegiate lacrosse program is something I am very comfortable doing after helping oversee a pair of start-up programs over the course of my prior two stops."

While winning is important to Walter, building character-driven young men remains paramount. "I don't only want to build winners here at Madonna, but good men — men who will be leaders in the classroom, in the weight room, on the field and at home."

Walter most recently helped launch the program at NCAA Division III Methodist University.



Walter

NEED MORE CUSTOMERS?

EDUCATION

Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

By Brad Cochran

When Canton Community Foundation last year handed out the 2015 scholarship awards, it was a tradition that has been going on for over 20 years. The foundation will hand out awards this year to nearly 200 students who will be attending college in the fall.

The foundation has a long history of providing financial aid to students who are pursuing higher education. In the last 25 years, the foundation has handed out over \$10 million in scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in the area.

The foundation has a long history of providing financial aid to students who are pursuing higher education. In the last 25 years, the foundation has handed out over \$10 million in scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in the area.

ON CAMPUS

The list included six Canton students: Sara Ballard, Anne Bonville, Cheyenne Brown, Lauren Brown, and Kaitlyn Brown. The students are receiving awards for their academic achievements and leadership skills.

The foundation has a long history of providing financial aid to students who are pursuing higher education. In the last 25 years, the foundation has handed out over \$10 million in scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in the area.

2/3

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A GARRETT COMPANY

Canton hiker writes about walk across state

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

What about bears?

It's the question everyone asks Will Swartz when he talks about his book, "A Walk Across Michigan: Hiking the Michigan Shore-to-Shore Riding and Hiking Trail." It was inspired by his 2014 hike from Oscoda to Empire.

"Bears are pretty safe. There are very few bear encounters in Michigan. My wife did make me carry bear spray, but I think most bears prefer butter," he said, during an interview last week.

"Here's one of my favorite bear jokes. What is the best way to warn bears? Wear bells on your shoes. How do you know that is bear scat? It has bells in it."

Swartz, a Canton resident and former administrator in Wayne-Westland schools, will field questions about his hike and his book during a presentation at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 17111 Haggerty, at Six Mile, in Northville. He'll also sign books and will give away copies that are meant to "travel" from reader to reader. Recipients can note online where the book has been.

"People are recording where they read the book. They can see where it went from the person they gave it to," he said. "One of the things I did with the book that is different from other hiking books is you can sign in at trail registers. I do virtual trail registers."

Three prompts throughout the book encourage readers to visit a website and sign in on a trail.

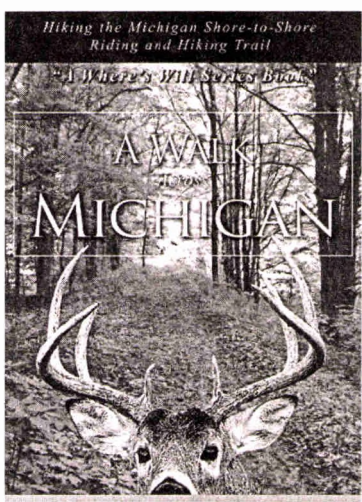
"I've always thought when you write, it's like a teacher's lecture. You're not getting feedback from the audience. This is kind of fun. It's a fun engagement thing."

Hiking, writing

Swartz wasn't thinking about audiences and readers when he embarked on his 19-day, 233-mile hike from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan in July 2014. Turning 60 just a few months before had prompted a mild mid-life crisis. He wondered if he was up to the challenge of a lengthy hike, one of his bigger "bucket list" goals, and he wasn't sure about his next career move.

Swartz, a racquetball player, joined a fitness club and trained for a few months before hitting the Shore to Shore Trail in Oscoda.

"I was half-way into the hike when I decided not to go back to school that fall. I



WILL SWARTZ

Submitted
The cover of Canton author Will Swartz' book about a trail that stretches from Oscoda to Empire.



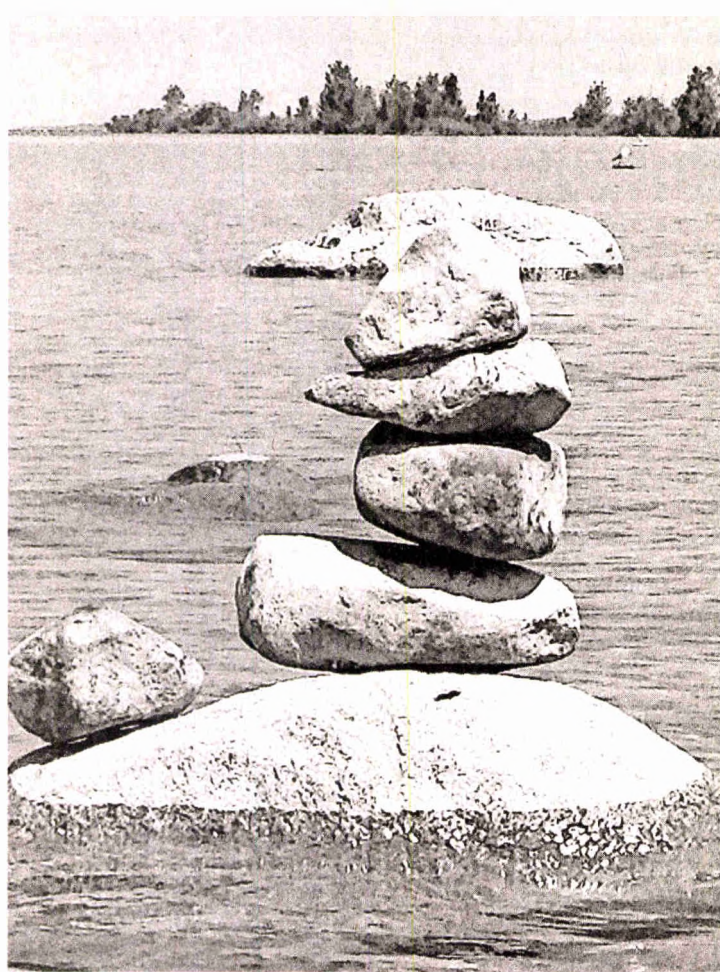
Submitted
Will Swartz will talk about his book April 12 at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Northville.



A trail marker keeps hikers on the right path. Will Swartz says the Shore to Shore Trail is easy to follow, although it can be sandy.



The sandy Shore to Shore Trail runs from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.



Will Swartz photographed scenery as he hiked the Shore to Shore Trail.

said, I'm going to write a book and it will be about this trail."

He didn't take notes along the way, but shot lots of photographs that during the research phase of his writing would help him remember trail details. Four of his five adult children, his wife, Kate, and two brothers walked with him on portions of the trail. He hiked the last five days alone.

Research

After the trip, Swartz got in touch with another Shore to Shore hiker and compared notes. He also interviewed riders. Some had taken their horses across the trail 50 times.

With a masters degree in library science and experience running school libraries, the research came easily to Swartz, who enjoyed digging up historical facts and stories related to the trail and its nearby communities.

But when he started writing, Swartz realized he had two different books in mind.

"One was everything you need to know as a hiker ... where to get water, all those things hikers needs. And the other was the Bill Bryson kind of book," he said, referring to the travel book author.

In the end, the storyteller in Swartz won out and he took an offbeat, humorous, and con-

versational approach to his work. In chapter one, he tells readers that have skipped the "bonus page" disclaimer, author's note and introduction to go back and read them while he and the other readers "wait here" for them to catch up. Swartz performs portions of his story, which was released last year, at speaking engagements called "Tales from the Trails."

He's in the process of recording an audio version of the book and is nearly finished with an online hiker's guide to the trail. It will include maps and need-to-know information.

His next project will include detailing the north-south spur

of the Shore to Shore trail, which he plans to hike this spring.

In July, he and his wife will head to China for a year-long teaching assignment that Swartz has accepted in Qingdao. Travel is another bucket list item.

And after that? "Maybe another book ... 'a walk across China' or 'a walk on the wall.'"

Find Swartz' book at amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble.

sdargay@hometownlife.com
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Writer goes curly after 38 years of straightening hair

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Curly versus straight.

It was an easy choice for Courtney Conover of Wayne, who spent 38 years straightening her naturally-curly tresses, hot ironing, chemically-treating and blow-drying them into submission.

The former deputy mayor of Westland, mother two and wife of Scott Conover, former Detroit Lions offensive lineman, has detailed her struggle to maintain straight hair — and her recent decision to set her natural curls free — in an e-book, "Mommie Straightest: On frizz, frustration and how my baby girl taught me to finally embrace my naturally curly hair." The book includes her hair regimen and a list of products she likes. She published it this year on Amazon.com. It generally costs \$3.49 but is being sold for 99 cents through midnight, Sunday, April 3, in celebration of her 39th birthday on April 1.

Conover, who describes herself as a "Type A, go go go" personality wrote the book to share her journey from straight to curly, and help others who are wrestling with self-image.

"Straight hair is not bad. The problem is when your pursuit of straight hair alters your quality of life. That's the

problem," Conover said. "When you do everything in your power to change your hair to the point it affects your life, and you're putting bad chemicals on your hair and you are depressed. That's a problem."

Straightening became a time-consuming habit that sometimes took priority over other tasks.

If it began to rain during a shopping trip, Conover quickly drove home, leaving her melting foods in the car while she headed inside to fire up the flat iron and keep her hair from frizzing.

If it began to drizzle while she and her children were on the playground, she'd scoop them up and quickly head home to fix her hair.

She didn't mind if a blow-out took four hours as long as it made her hair straight.

Ponytails, braids

"I tried to go natural in the summer of 2014. It lasted two weeks. I got so exasperated. I never really gave it a fair shot," she said, adding that heat and chemical damage caused her hair to break. "But that was the longest I had done it in my 38 years. My mom never allowed me to wear my hair curly."

Conover said she grew up wearing her hair in braids, a pony tail, sectioned off by



Submitted
Courtney Conover of Wayne spent 28 years stressing over her straightened hair. In November 2015, she let it go natural.

barrettes and, when freed from hair accessories, straight. She doesn't blame previous generations for their focus on straight or tamed curly hair. In fact, she praises her mother for having the patience to keep her hair looking well-coiffed.

"They did the best they could with what they had," she said. "I was so married to the appearance of straight hair. I know society plays a role, but I don't want to say I blame society. I don't blame anyone." She realized she had to

COURTNEY CONOVER



Mommie Straightest

On frizz, frustration, and how my baby girl taught me to finally embrace my naturally curly hair

Submitted
The cover of Courtney Conover's book about going from straightened hair to natural curls.

make a change last fall when an aunt pointed out that Conover's daughter Kennedy, 2, always wore her hair in a tight ponytail.

A few days later she let her daughter's hair down and watched Kennedy kiss her own reflection in the mirror. Conover praised her toddler's curls, a light bulb moment that made her reflect on her own obsession with straight hair. She mustered the courage in November 2015 to go natural and documented the process and

products she used along the way.

Blogger

"Mommie Straightest" is Conover's first book, although she is a longtime freelance writer. The Westland native is a former broadcast reporter in South Carolina, has contributed nearly a dozen stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books, penned columns for media outlets including the Observer & Eccentric, and has blogged on a regular basis for several years, including for USA Football.

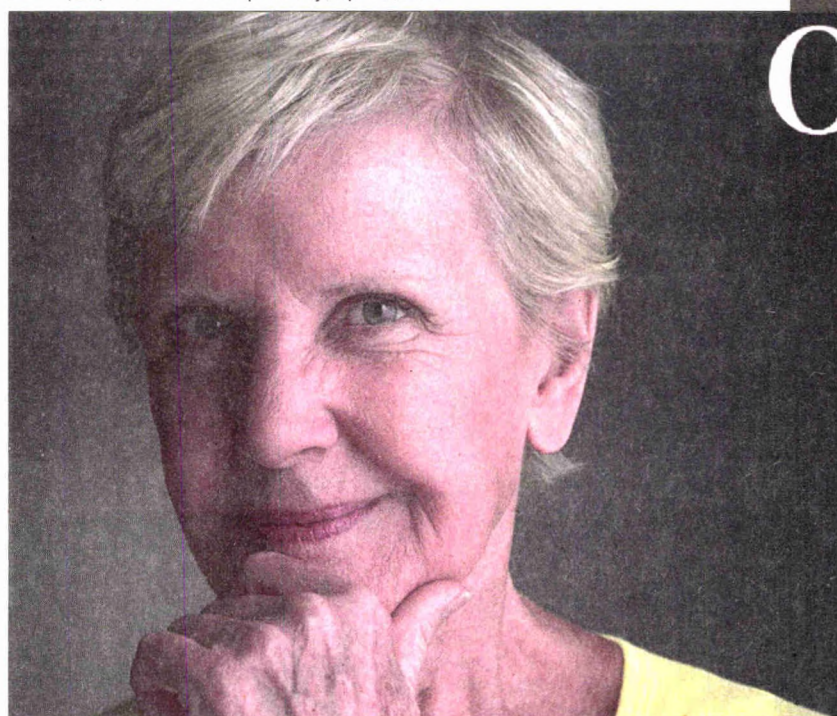
At courtneyconover.com she blogs about everything from yoga — she's a certified instructor and has designed yoga curriculum — to NFL football, parenting, shopping and hair.

Conover said she is enjoying the freedom that comes with wearing naturally-curly hair.

"I'm not always scared about rain. I'm not always scared about working out and sweating. I was tired of living in a self-imposed prison because my hair wasn't straight. I wasn't born with straight hair. And there is so much life to be lived without having to consider your hair. It was too much work. Those four-hour blow-outs are for the birds."

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11:40 - 12:35
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Make your cover letter stand out

BY MATT TARPEY
 CAREERBUILDER

Writing a résumé can be tricky, but it seems like a walk in the park compared with writing a cover letter.

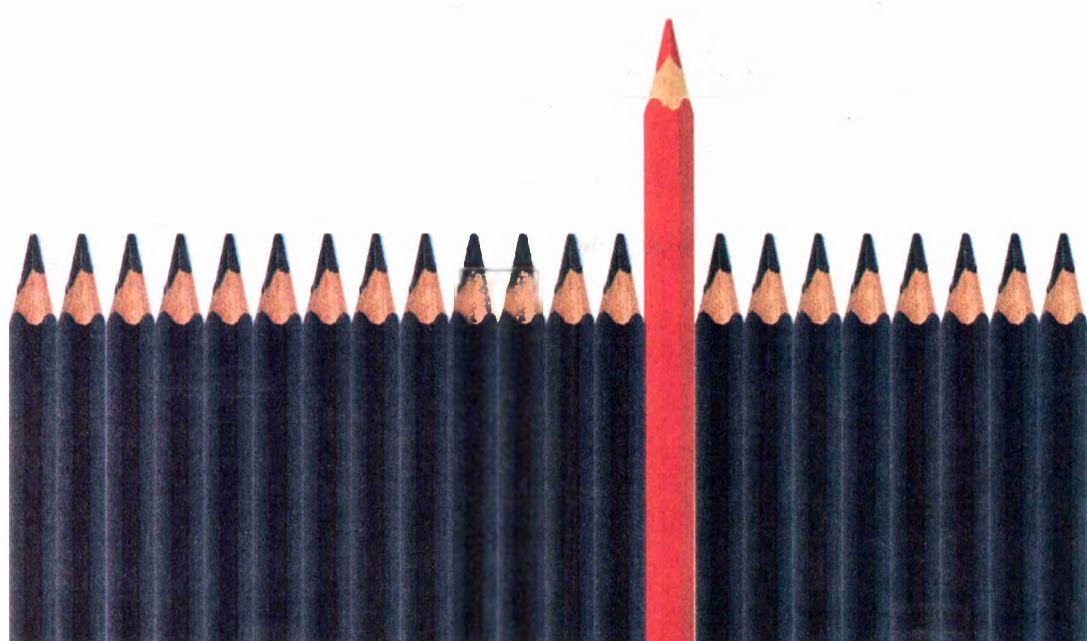
What's the secret? Here are five tricks to writing a standout cover letter — and getting it noticed by hiring managers.

1. Get rid of the fluff.

A cover letter gives you the opportunity to speak more expansively than you can on a résumé or application form, but there are still limits. Remember, hiring managers aren't obligated to read your cover letter — it's up to you to grab their interest.

"Keep it concise and focus on areas of your background that are connected to the opportunity," says Allie Basilica, social media director at Atrium Staffing. "Recruiters (and) managers rarely look at résumés and cover letters for more than one or two minutes.

"Often when people are trying to sell themselves, they use more verbose language than they ever would in another setting," she says. "Most positions in the business world require candidates who are succinct and efficient, and a wordy cover letter portrays the opposite message."



THINKSTOCK

2. Tell them something new.

If your cover letter doesn't add anything that hiring managers couldn't find on your résumé, then it's not worth their time or yours. "Use the cover letter as an opportunity to sell attributes that would make you a good fit for the position you are applying for that cannot be seen with a quick glance at your résumé," Basilica says.

This is your chance to make the case for why you are the best fit for the position. Connect the dots laid out on your résumé, and give examples of how you've implemented the

skills necessary for the job and the results you've attained from past experiences.

3. Research the company.

Personalizing your cover letter means more than just replacing the company name. It's important to tie the skills and experience listed on your résumé to the position you're applying for — and to do that, you need to know something about the company.

"Demonstrate that you've done your research," says Trevor Simm, founder and president of OpalStaff and

Talos Solutions. "Take some time to thoughtfully review the company's website and media coverage to get a feel for its solutions, services, culture and operations, and then find a way to reference this in your cover letter as a reason you are the perfect fit for the job."

4. Don't make it just about you.

Another key difference between a résumé and a quality cover letter is the focus. Your résumé should be all about you — the skills you've acquired and the results you've achieved. Your cover letter,

on the other hand, should tie it back to the company and explain how you can address its specific needs.

"Focus on how the company will benefit from your expertise and not (on) selling yourself," Simm suggests. "Your cover letter should show how you're a skilled and qualified candidate, but it's more important to explain what value you bring to the company. Avoid using 'I' or 'me,' and instead (share) how you'll provide solutions for the company's challenges. Doing this will illustrate why you're the best candidate for the job without you having to explicitly say so."

5. Take your time.

Above all, it's important to be patient and careful when writing your cover letter. "Avoid being in a rush to send off a letter," says Crystal Olivarria, a writer for CareerConversationalist.com, an online community and resource center for students. "Your cover letter is often the first impression a potential employer has of you. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Take the time to do it right."

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 In boots, e.g.
 - 5 Accident
 - 11 Leaf-cutting little colonist
 - 14 Lend — (assist)
 - 19 Roof border
 - 20 Pungent yellow cheese
 - 21 Corp. leader
 - 22 Go-kart, say
 - 23 Nickname for a really strong novelist?
 - 26 The Carolinas, e.g., in Caen
 - 27 Wings for women
 - 28 Many a flower girl
 - 29 Fen plant
 - 30 Wilhelm's "the"
 - 31 Return to get H.G. Wells' title Dr.?
 - 36 Eschew
 - 38 Topped party appetizer
 - 39 "— won't!"
 - 40 Prefix with 81-Across or 31-Down
 - 41 British poet as a young badge
 - 45 "The Streak" singer Ray
 - 48 "— a living"
 - 49 Company IDs
 - 50 Arthur of old TV
 - 52 Sister record co. of Virgin
 - 53 Nudge
 - 54 Neoprene produced at an Alabama university?
 - 60 Italicize, e.g.
 - 63 Whitman or Disney
 - 65 Some HDTVs
 - 66 Singular Chicago airport
 - 68 Baby kangaroo living on a Pacific island nation?
 - 70 "Friday the 13th" villain
 - 71 Ariel is one
 - 72 Potter's dirt title Dr.?
 - 73 Shred up
 - 74 Most daring
 - 75 Very breezy summer month?
 - 78 Jay replaced by Jimmy Fallon
 - 79 Greek letter
 - 80 Min. fraction
 - 81 Handed out playing cards
 - 83 Item in a nest
 - 86 Dunce
 - 90 Convertible carriage used to transport popes?
 - 94 Suffix in sugar names
 - 95 Give support
 - 97 Port in Italy
 - 98 Greasy
 - 99 Boyfriend who's always upbeat?
 - 104 — -rock (music style)
 - 105 Hebrew letters after alephs
 - 106 Exit opposite
 - 107 Pilot planes
 - 110 Opinions offered
 - 111 Singer Gene who should never be forgotten?
 - 116 Black, in Bordeaux
 - 117 Blvd. or rd.
 - 118 Limited summer release?
 - 119 — Sous-le-Vent (the Leewards)
 - 120 Affirm
 - 121 Cold War-era state: Abbr.
 - 122 Train base
 - 123 Safari shelter
- DOWN**
- 1 Late-night host Meyers
 - 2 "How funny!"
 - 3 Adds vocals to, maybe
 - 4 Denigrates
 - 5 Cosmo, O and GQ
 - 6 Suffix with fool
 - 7 Grab a chair
 - 8 Stable feed
 - 9 Turkish title
 - 10 Attacked like a lion
 - 11 "The Mind of —" (PBS cooking series)
 - 12 Former liberal, briefly
 - 13 Many "Ole!" recipients
 - 14 "Am not!" rejoinder
 - 15 Spiteful sort
 - 16 College life
 - 17 Final profit
 - 18 Creator of the Lorax
 - 24 Private AOL exchanges
 - 25 — Tok (Kesha hit)
 - 31 Estimate
 - 32 Not falling for
 - 33 Ovine calls
 - 34 Springfield storekeeper
 - 35 Bishops' hats
 - 36 — -fi film
 - 37 Crude home
 - 38 Diner hirees
 - 42 Almost there
 - 43 Dwindle
 - 44 Axon's place
 - 46 Aussie bird
 - 47 Tremolo's kin
 - 51 Bowed
 - 53 Fluster
 - 54 Resembling
 - 55 One-eighty
 - 56 Con's vote
 - 57 Groundwork
 - 58 Greek Cupid
 - 59 Pay to live at
 - 60 Large couch
 - 61 What you used to be?
 - 62 Bonged
 - 63 Ragamuffins
 - 64 100% wrong
 - 68 — -bah
 - 69 Pa Clampett of TV
 - 70 Interim ruling group
 - 72 11th-cen. king of Norway
 - 74 Prison parts
 - 76 Mu — shrimp
 - 77 Wilhelm's "I"
 - 78 Cake tier
 - 81 Dunce
 - 82 Allure rival
 - 83 Fit to print, after revisions
 - 84 Missy
 - 85 B4-Down's counterpart
 - 86 Working farm horses
 - 87 "It's finally clear to me"
 - 88 Pork-filled pastry, e.g.
 - 89 Rabbit head features
 - 91 Put in cipher
 - 92 "I knew it!"
 - 93 Absence of restriction
 - 96 Krispy Kreme inventory
 - 100 One of Kirk's lieutenants
 - 101 Blender brand
 - 102 Ferret's kin
 - 103 Wilhelm's "the"
 - 104 Parade place: Abbr.
 - 107 City in Iowa
 - 108 Driving exam taker, often
 - 109 Lead-in to "while"
 - 112 Road topper
 - 113 — Mac "PC?"
 - 114 Fabled flier
 - 115 Reindeer cousin

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:
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!

		6		2	8			5
2			7				1	
	3			6				7
	2				6			3
6				9		8		
	5	4					9	
	8	3				4		
	9				1			8
5				4			6	

1	9	2	6	4	8	3	7	5
8	3	5	1	7	9	2	6	4
6	7	4	2	5	3	8	9	1
2	6	9	7	1	4	5	8	3
5	1	8	3	6	2	7	4	9
3	4	7	9	8	5	1	2	6
7	2	6	5	9	1	4	7	3
9	8	1	4	7	6	5	2	3
4	5	3	8	2	7	9	1	7

VEHICLE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

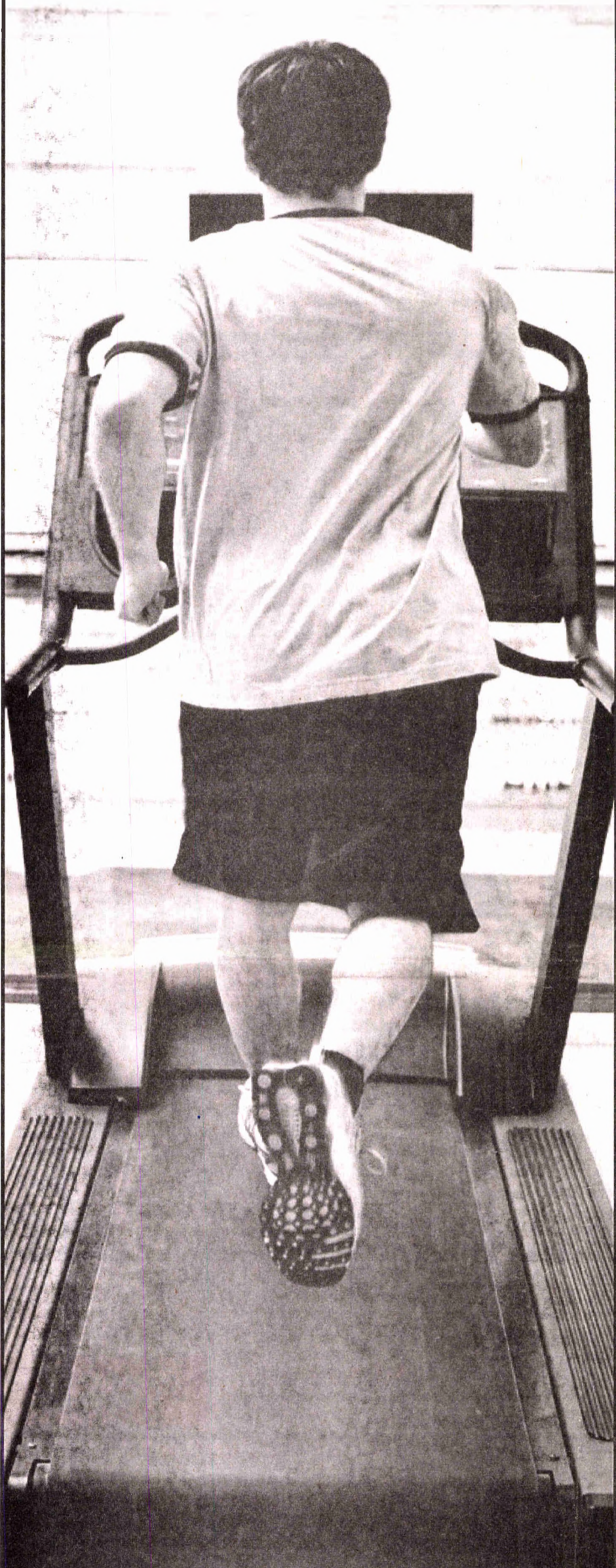
- ACCELERATE
- ACCIDENT
- AIRBAG
- ASPHALT
- AUTOMOBILE
- CAR
- CONSTRUCTION
- DEFENSIVE
- DETOUR
- DISTRACTED
- DRIVER
- EMERGENCY
- EXHAUST
- EXPRESSWAY
- FENDER
- FREEWAY
- FUEL
- GARAGE
- HYBRID
- INTERSECTION
- LIGHT
- MILES
- MOTORCYCLE
- PARKING
- PASSING
- PATROL
- ROLLER
- SCENERY
- SEAT
- SIGNS
- SPEEDING
- SPEEDOMETER
- STOP
- TICKET
- TOLL
- TRAFFIC

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