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New fountain for Kellogg Park will celebrate Plymouth's 150th birthday

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The city of Plymouth will celebrate its 150th birthday in 2017 with a spanking new fountain and an updated Kellogg Park — thanks to a sizable donation from the Jack Wilcox

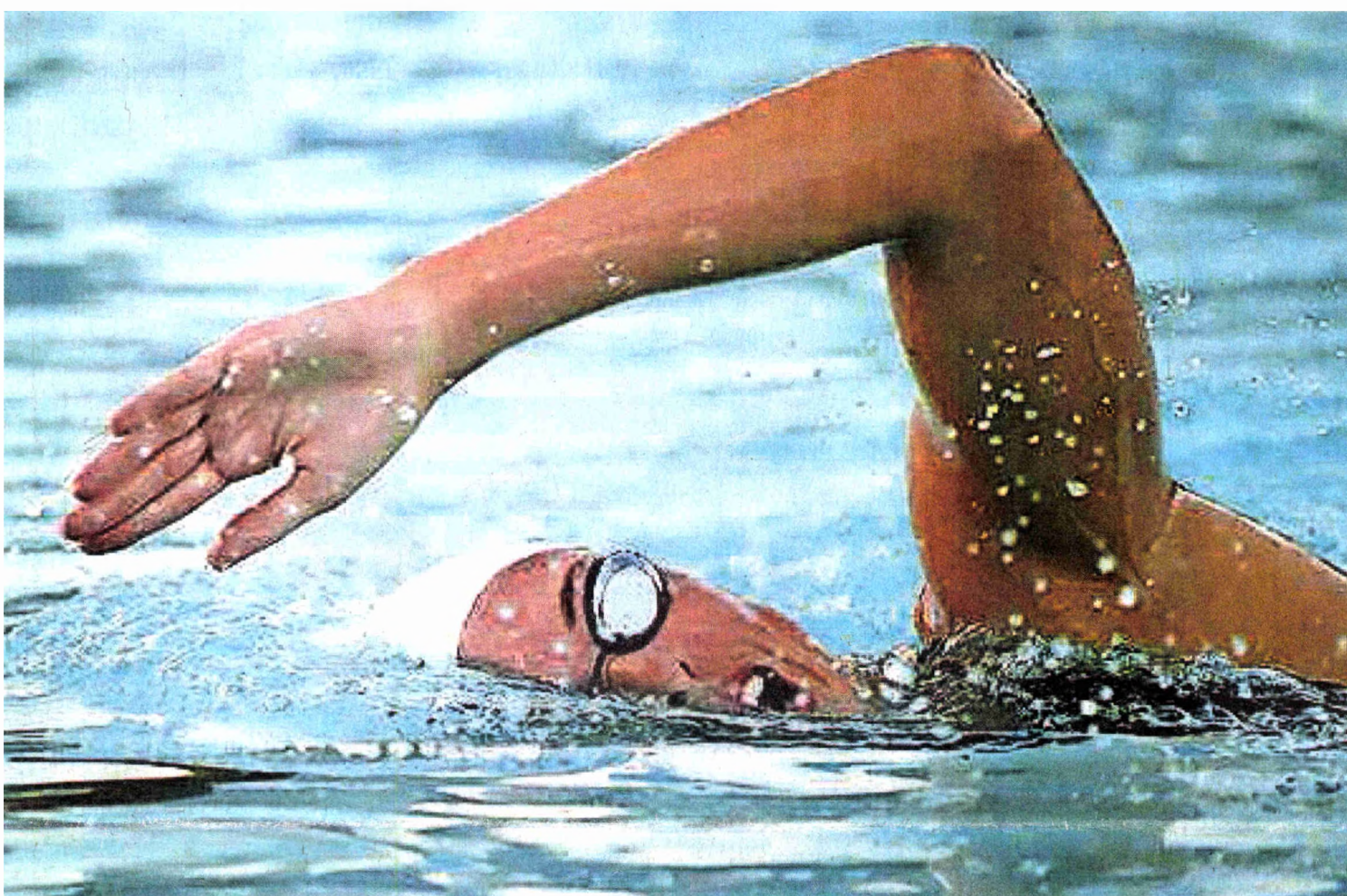
Foundation and a significant fundraising effort. "The fountain we have now is about 50 years old and certainly can use an upgrade," said Tony Bruscati, Plymouth Downtown Development Authority executive director. "With the 150th anniversary

next year, it will be a great addition to have a new foundation and upgrades to Kellogg Park." The city and the DDA are working together on the proposed \$1.2 million in improvements — including the new fountain. The Wilcox Founda-

tion provided a grant of \$700,000 that will be used specifically for the fountain — a request made by the late Jack Wilcox. "He loved downtown Plymouth and Kellogg Park," said Dan Herriman, a foundation board member and owner of

Herriman & Associates. "He had indicated that he wanted a future fountain funded by his estate in honor of his parents." Plymouth was Wilcox's hometown and in 1980 he established a charitable trust to

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Olympic medalist Allison Schmitt will get a warm welcome home from Rio.

MELISSA LUNDIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Canton ready to welcome home its Olympic star: Allison Schmitt

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Olympic gold medalist Allison Schmitt will get a rousing welcome home as Canton celebrates her accomplishments in Rio de Janeiro during a rally in Heritage Park. "It's an extremely huge

accomplishment to make it to the Olympics — and then to be able to medal takes a huge commitment and dedication," Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz said. "It's rare that a community has an Olympic athlete, so we should be able to honor their hard work and commit-

ment as they represent the United States." Schmitt's fans will have a chance to see her as she appears at the rally set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Heritage Park amphitheater. If inclement weather douses the celebration, it will be moved inside the nearby Summit on

the Park recreation center's gymnasium, but only the first 400 people would be admitted. A community celebration in 2012 drew an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 fans to Heritage Park after Schmitt won

See SCHMITT, Page A2

Assault at mosque in Canton leads to charges

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton police say an assault that allegedly occurred at a mosque on Canton's west side was not a hate crime. "It is not a hate crime — nothing close to that," Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said. "It's an isolated incident. There are no racial issues involved in it."

A 65-year-old Hamtramck man who police believe attended the mosque is charged with assaulting a juvenile male on Aug. 10, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.



Rahman

The juvenile was not hospitalized, Traylor said. Police disclosed the assault Wednesday night but haven't revealed a possible motive. The incident occurred at the Masjid Bilal mosque on Ridge Road, north of Cherry Hill.

The defendant, Hobibur Rahman, turned himself over to police and was arraigned this week in 35th District Court on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault. If convicted, he could face up to four years in prison.

Police haven't said what kind of weapon was used. Magistrate Frank Wren released Rahman on a \$10,000 personal bond and ordered him back in court Aug. 26 for a probable cause hearing that could determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Police said no other charges are expected against anyone other than Rahman.

dclm@hometownlife.com
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Schoolcraft chef cooks up a national honor

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Competitors came from big cities and big markets like Las Vegas, from New York City and from Orlando, Fla. But it was a man from tiny Posen, Mich., who walked away a winner. Chris Misiak, who hails from Posen (population 234 in the 2010 census) and is now a Certified Executive Chef at

Schoolcraft College in Livonia, was named National Chef Educator of the Year during the American Culinary Federation national convention. The ACF National Chef Educator of the Year Award, established in 1998, pays tribute to an active culinary educator whose knowledge, skills and expertise has enhanced the image of the professional chef, and who, by example, has provided guidance to students

seeking a career in the culinary profession. Misiak is the first Michigan chef to win it. "I was overwhelmed," Misiak said. "To be able to compete against New York, Las Vegas and Orlando ... was really special to me. I believe that as educators, we are not in the business of simply teaching; we are in the business of changing lives. It has been a very satisfying experience,

and I will continue to do my best to change lives." In addition to his duties as the Culinary Arts department program coordinator, Misiak teaches storeroom operations and culinary chemistry and oversees the department's computer lab, as well as the teaching of software used to manage both front- and back-of-the-

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Tony Sacco's, United Way offer beer, wine tasting

Tony Sacco's and Plymouth Community United Way are joining forces once again for a unique fundraising event — a Craft Beer and Wine Tasting on Friday, Oct. 14 at the restaurant.

The event will run from 8-10 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person (must be 21 years or older). The Plymouth Community United Way will receive 50 percent of each ticket sold. Tickets may be purchased by calling PCUW at 734-453-6879 x7, or at the PCUW office, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth.

Each ticket includes: a variety of red and white wine samples; a selection of craft beer samples; wife and craft beer experts; appetizers and food samples; and entry for a grand prize Chicago Basket Raffle.

During the tasting there will also be a Tin Can Raffle for a variety of gift cards, gifts and baskets. Raffle tickets will be sold 10 for \$10, or 30 for \$20. Raffles will close, and winners will be drawn at 9:30 p.m. The Grand Prize Chicago Basket will be given away at the end of the night. All ticket holders will be entered to win the basket with the purchase of their ticket to the event.

Tony Sacco's is at 1663 N. Canton Center Road, Canton.

For more information, to purchase tickets or if you would like to participate by donating a gift card, gift basket or other raffle item, contact Randi at 734-453-6879 x7.

FOUNTAIN

Continued from Page A1

benefit the community. In addition to his home — the white Wilcox House — at the edge of Kellogg Park, Wilcox was all about Plymouth and was involved in just about all facets of the community.

The Wilcox Foundation has provided some \$1.5 million in grants to the community since its creation in 1980. The \$700,000 for the fountain, is among the largest, Herriman said. "The city actually approached us with the project and the plans. We think Jack could be a bit surprised about the price of a new fountain."

In addition to fulfilling Wilcox's wishes, the existing fountain has had plenty of repairs. "The design is difficult to maintain and there have been a number of temporary fixes," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said.

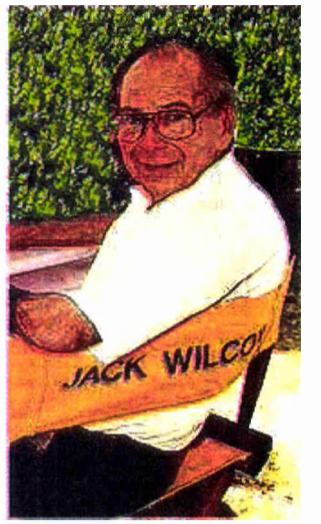
While plans are still in the works for the new fountain and an upgraded park, the fountain will be placed in a more central location — after all — it has long been an icon for Plymouth. It will feature lighting and the ability to provide a number of different sprays, including turning it down during events — about 150 of them annually — in the park, Sincock said.

"The new one will also be a lot easier to main-



FILE PHOTO

The iconic Kellogg Park fountain has personal memories for some, including Rachel, Avery, Emerson and Jasper Recto.



WILCOX FOUNDATION

The late Jack Wilcox.

tain," he added.

The fountain's new placement and upgraded walkways in Kellogg Park will allow it to be seen from all sides of the park, said Mike Wright, Plymouth city commissioner, and leader of the fundraising effort.

Beautifying Kellogg Park will include pathways and paver plazas that will serve as smaller gathering spots. Brick sculptures will be added to the plaza areas. An arborist has already visited the park to determine which of the mature trees can stay and which of the less healthy ones will go. Trimming the trees will also allow more sunlight in to help the trees and shrubbery, Wright said.

A short wall with pillars will be installed to

delineate the park from the adjacent sidewalk.

Though many people may not realize it, the space in front of the Wilcox House is part of Kellogg Park and will become an official part of the area. "The design includes a different elevation of that corner," Wright said. "The street will still be open but it will create a fourth gathering spot or plaza."

The fundraising effort will dovetail with the new park design. Pavers of varying prices will be sold, as well as plaques at the gathering areas, and for trees and shrubs. "We are creating opportunities for individuals, families, groups, foundations and businesses to help support the improvements with sponsorships."

fundraising will begin when the park and fountain plans are completed. "We need to see how it will be executed. We hope it will be by the end of the month."

The committee is still mulling over sponsorship prices, but Wright said they could range from \$250 up to as high as \$50,000 for a major sponsorship of plaza areas. Sponsorships will also be available for the pillars — part of the wall along Main Street.

While the \$500,000 fundraising goal is hefty, Wright said, "we can ratchet plans back if the money is not available. We are hopeful though of being successful."

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com
248-396-6620
Twitter: @jmaliszews

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Editor: Joanne Maliszewski
248-396-6620
Email: jmaliszews@michigan.com

Sports: Tim Smith
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Email: tsmith@hometownlife.com

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SCHMITT

Continued from Page A1

three gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the London Olympics.

In Rio, she was one of the U.S. Olympic swim captains and with the women's team brought home gold in the 4x200m freestyle relay and silver in the 4x100 freestyle relay. After one win, she embraced her parents, Gail and Ralph Schmitt

of Canton, in an emotional moment.

"They've seen it all," Schmitt said. "It's been a long journey the last four years. They've been there every step of the way. To see them, to be able to give them a hug, it was very emotional."

When she addressed her fans four years ago in Canton, she had said then that she hoped to repeat after she won medals in London.

The celebration Aug. 25 will be hosted by

WDIV-TV (Channel 4) news anchor and reporter Kimberly Gill and WJR-AM 760's Paul W. Smith. The rally will include a special presentation to Schmitt by Canton's top elected official, Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

Rally attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating. Commemorative miniature flags will be handed out.

Schmitt, a Canton High School graduate, competed in Rio in her

third Olympic Games that featured more than 10,500 world-class athletes from around the globe participating in more than 300 events. Her first medal was a bronze in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Jeff Seidel of the Detroit Free Press contributed to this story.

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Parish installs digital artwork

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Parish in Plymouth has installed a divinely inspired digital artwork print on the ceiling of its Adoration Chapel.

The print, which was funded by a private donor and took more than a year to create, shows Jesus, in the form of the Lamb of God, surrounded by angels and the four Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) in the form of medallions. It will be placed on the 25-foot diameter circular ceiling, with the Lamb in the

center.

OLGC Pastor Fr. John Riccardo said the purpose of the installation is to “help us, through our senses, lift our hearts and souls to God so that we may more deeply contemplate the gift of His only Son, Jesus, who was crucified and died for our salvation and who offers Himself to us in the Eucharist.”

Eucharistic Adoration, put simply, is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves “the contemplation of the

Mystery of Christ truly present before us.” During Eucharistic Adoration, we “watch and wait,” remain silent in His Presence, and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist, Riccardo said.

He added that it is much like “radiation therapy for the soul,” as God “draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. Bishop Fulton Sheen often used to say that just as sitting in the presence of the sun has an effect on your skin and gradually makes you tan, so sitting the pres-

ence of the Son gradually changes our soul and enables us to grow more and more into the image of Jesus.”

The project, which was inspired by prayer in the chapel, was art directed by Jeanne Stevenson, who collaborated with Mary Beth Wilson, an interior designer. Both are OLGC parishioners. The artwork was created digitally by Andi Kubacki of The Detroit Wallpaper Company, and will be installed by Cosmopolitan Wall Covering in the form of high-resolution prints.



The digital artwork was installed in the OLGC chapel.

SUBMITTED

CHEF

Continued from Page A1

house operations.

A Certified Executive Chef and Certified Culinary Educator, Misiak, a graduate of Schoolcraft College, has been at the school 31 years. He credits the success of the school's culinary program, which he has helped build, to the support from the school.

“It's just proof that me, starting at Schoolcraft, getting my education here, staying on staff ... It says a lot about Schoolcraft's commitment to the culinary program,” Misiak said. “The program is renowned because of the college's commitment to this program and the people in it.”

Certified Executive Chef Shawn Loving, chair of Schoolcraft's culinary program, said Misiak's success is a testament to the college's “commitment to students,” and the strength of the curriculum and faculty.

“We are very proud of how Chef Misiak represents Schoolcraft College and the quality of teaching he provides,” said Loving, who is currently also serving as the per-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chef Chris Misiak received this medal for his award as Chef Educator of the Year.

sonal chef to the U.S. men's basketball team at the Rio Olympics. “This type of award allows me to feel confident that our tradition and consistency remains relevant and important with the many changes in the culinary arts profession and hospitality field. We proudly continue to be one of the most prominent culinary schools in the country.”

In his career, Misiak has cached the national champion Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts

Knowledge Bowl team and now serves on two National ACF committees including College Course Assessment and CCE Certification.

He parlayed that commitment to ACF, his 31 years of experience at Schoolcraft and the lesson plan he submitted into this national honor, the first for a Michigan educator in the award's 19-year history.

He even built a curriculum of his own — the first-of-its-kind culinary



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chef Chris Misiak holds concord grapes from the culinary program garden.

chemistry class — from the ground up.

“I did all the research, I did the labs and I basically wrote the book,” Misiak said.

He's not the only successful chef at Schoolcraft; Misiak has worked with five certified master chefs (Leopold Schaefer, Dan Hugelier, Jeff Gabriel, Kevin Gawronski and Brian Beland) and a certified master pastry chef (Joe Decker).

Misiak said that level of staff — “It's no different than any other res-

taurant,” he said — creates pressure to perform “at such a high level” at Schoolcraft.

“That's what keeps me going,” Misiak said. “Those guys ... keep this

place vibrant.”

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Plymouth Christian welcomes new principal



Ryan Batson is the new principal at Plymouth Christian Academy.

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Students at Plymouth Christian Academy can look forward to a new principal as the 2016-2017 school year prepares to kick off next month.

Ryan Batson, the incoming elementary principal, officially started June 1. He replaces Caryn Huntsman, who served in that position for 21 years at PCA and moved on to become school superintendent.

Batson lives in Canton with his wife Sarah and their three young children, two of whom attend PCA.

He met Huntsman three years ago, during an initial interview when his family first joined the school. The two kept in contact, and recently, Huntsman asked him to consider an administrative position at the private K-12 Christian academy.

For Batson, it was a natural fit. "My kids go here, I go to church here, and I really value a Christian education," he said.

Batson joins the PCA administrative team with 10 years of experience in public education. "We are overjoyed that he has made the decision to join the PCA staff. He brings a wealth of experience, is a highly qualified master teacher, and is state-certified in professional development," Huntsman said.

Prior to this position, Batson worked as a classroom teacher at Dearborn Public Schools and a school administrator in Warren. He has a bachelor's in business administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University, with a focus on early childhood development.

Batson was introduced to

the PCA school community at a meet-and-greet at last year's sixth-grade graduation. His first day of school will be Sept. 6.

As principal, Batson plans to focus on incorporating 21st century skills into the school's curriculum, with a strong focus on literacy: for example, combining technology and collaboration, "so they can communicate overseas or across Canton, whichever is required" as their careers take shape.

Batson is excited for the opportunity to transition from the public schools to private Christian education. "I'm looking forward to the biblical worldview that we can teach the kids, and the kids can learn from us," he said.

In addition to his role as principal, Batson will also serve as the PCA's professional development coordinator.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Local grad starts medical school

Kylie Miller, a 2010 Canton High School graduate, began in the third class of the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, Class of 2020, this month. Her goal is to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.

Miller holds a bachelor of science degree in cell molecular biology with a minor in women studies, from the University of Michigan in 2014. While at the university, she was a member of the ballroom dance team and competed for four years. She also served as a resident assistant and resident coordinator.

She was awarded a four-year U.S. Navy scholarship to fully cover all medical school costs, including a monthly living stipend through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. The U.S. Navy awards only 192 HPSP scholarships annually.



Miller

Played lacrosse and volleyball for Canton High School.

Miller is an inactive reserve officer in the United States Navy (ensigns in the United States Navy Reserve) until she completes her four-year medical degree. After she graduates from medical school, she will be placed in active duty and promoted to lieutenant. She will complete a four-year Navy residency program and then a four-year Navy tour to fulfill her scholarship requirements.

"Kylie told her mom and I — after we asked why she thought of going into the Navy — and she said 'Grandpa Miller flew in the Navy in World War II and I can't think of any higher purpose than helping those that help protect us every day. Oh, and I love being on and near the water!'" said her father, Kevin Miller.

Canton students participate

Thirty-two Saginaw Valley State University students demonstrated a practical approach to mechanical engineering design during the SVSU Summer 2016 Engineering Show-

case recently.

The showcase featured students who engineered products in collaboration with companies such as Duroper Corp., Duro-Last, Euclid Industries and Means Industries.

Mechanical engineering majors collaborate with outside agencies as part of a senior project required before graduation.

Bernabe Salinas of Canton, was among the students featured in the showcase. Salinas is a mechanical engineering major. Salinas is working on a project for a local entrepreneur named Jay Allen.

The project involves building a pump-action handle that controls the speed and brakes on wheelchairs.

Anthony Brown of Canton, is also featured.

Brown is a mechanical engineering major. Brown is working on a project for Duro-Last Roofing in Saginaw.

The project involves designing technology that helps contractors fasten large-scale roofing material to clients' roofs.

Fox Hills announces scholarship recipients

Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth has announced its five recipients of the 2016 Dul Foundation Scholarship Awards.

The scholarships are part of Dul Foundation's mission to use its resources to improve the lives of people through education and other charitable endeavors. The scholarships are awarded to employees and family members of Fox Hills and their other family-owned manufacturing business, Clips & Clamps Industries.

"Since the Foundation's resources come from the ongoing operations of our family businesses, it makes sense that the beneficiaries of the foundation should be the employees and families of those companies," said Kathleen Dul Aznavorian, president of Dul Foundation.

This year's Dul Foundation Scholarship Award recipients include:

» Rachael Alholinna of

Westland. Alholinna is a John Glenn High School graduate. She is currently attending Schoolcraft College, studying Cosmetology Management; Small Business for Entrepreneurs.

» Garret Goyette of Livonia. Goyette graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School, and is currently attending Schoolcraft College, studying Mechanical Engineering.

» Emily Seymour of Plymouth; Seymour is a Salem High School graduate who is currently attending Grand Valley State University, studying Advertising/PR.

» Zoe Maki of South Lyon. Maki graduated from South Lyon East High School and is currently studying Elementary Education at Schoolcraft College.

» Kallie Krueger of South Lyon. Krueger graduated from South Lyon High School. She is currently studying Nutrition/Dentistry at Wayne State University.

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Plymouth Rotary welcomes Finnish student

The Rotary Club of Plymouth is hosting a Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship Student from Finland.

Olivia Paasi is from the town of Kotka, Finland, and is being hosted in the United States by the Rotary Club of Plymouth. She will attend Salem High School as a senior and will be in the country for one year.

Paasi was welcomed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Thursday, Aug. 11, by members of the Plymouth Rotary and her new host family.

Paasi wants to learn and experience new cultures and she will participate in a number of Rotary Club Activities and school activities. Each Rotary Youth Exchange Student is "adopted" by a local Rotary Club and stays with local host families.

The Rotary Club arranges host families, provides a monthly stipend to the student and plans activities with Rotarians and other exchange students within Rotary District 6400, which covers southeast Michigan and Windsor-Essex in Canada.



From left, host mom Lynn Zeleck, Plymouth Rotary Youth Exchange Officer Mike Muma, former Outbound Exchange Student Eryn Zeleck, Exchange Student Olivia Paasi, Rotary Club members Tim and Penny Joy.

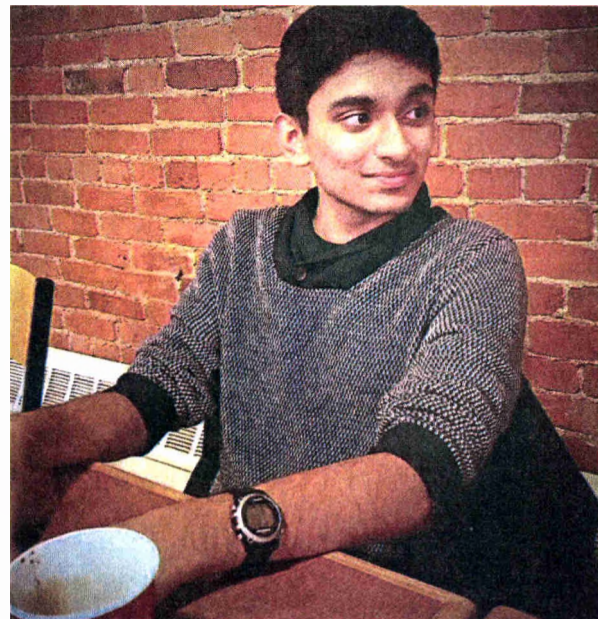
The Rotary Outbound Scholarship Exchange Program provides students ages 16-18 the opportunity of a lifetime. It's a chance to spend 11 months in another country learning the language and culture. Student administrative costs are approximately \$3,000 plus the cost of a round-trip airfare. Expenses for

housing, school and monthly activities are covered by the local Rotary Club.

Students will also receive a monthly stipend from the Rotary Club for expenses while on exchange. Rotary Youth Exchange outbound students need to be above average students who are eager for

the chance to try new things and meet new people.

Applications and information for students thinking about going on exchange in August of 2017 can find out more information by going to www.csrye.org or by contacting a local Rotary Club.



Canton native Shashank Keshav Rao, a University of Michigan sophomore, was honored for his essay.

Student's social media essay wins national contest

A young Canton man who wrote an essay about how social media tools serve the greater public good was chosen from among more than 300 peers for a scholarship.

Shashank Keshav Rao, a University of Michigan sophomore, has become the sixth winner of the Spokeo Connections Scholarship for his essay, called "brilliant" in a Spokeo blog.

"The winning scholar's essay provided an insightful look at the incredible impact that social media platforms have on people by raising awareness, prompting important discussions and forming communities," the blog said.

His essay was chosen for a fall scholarship. Rao is double-majoring in English and creative writing with a minor in Japanese stud-

ies. Rao told Spokeo that his loves to read and write, take bike rides and long nature walks. The blog said he is the grammar editor for a campus literary magazine called "RC Review."

Spokeo reported that Rao hopes to become a novelist, teach English abroad and get involved with organizations related to social justice and politics.

Applicants for the scholarship had to be either a recently graduated high school senior enrolling as a freshmen at a four-year or two-year college or university for fall 2016 or currently enrolled full-time basis at an accredited university.

Applicants also must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher and be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.

Friendship walk benefits special-needs centers

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Bassie Shemtov and her husband, Levi, knew they wanted to get involved in some sort of outreach that would help people.

Once they decided the people they were going to help included special-needs kids, they established the Friendship Circle, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance and support to 3,000 individuals with special needs and their families by providing recreational, social, educational and vocational programming.

The work started at the Farber Center in West Bloomfield, and focused on kids under 18 years old. Then the couple wondered what happens to the kids once they turn 18? To make sure those kids had a helping hand as they moved into adulthood, the Shemtovs opened the

Soul Center, also under the Friendship Circle umbrella, in April.

All of those facilities will benefit when the Friendship Center sponsors the 11th annual Walk 4 Friendship Sunday, Sept. 4. The event will start at the Friendship Circle's Meer Family Friendship Center, 6892 W. Maple in West Bloomfield.

"We want this to be a community-wide event where everyone is welcome," Bassie Shemtov said. "The energy at the walk is amazing. It's a very powerful way to get the community together."

Friendship Circle also provides support to individuals and families struggling with isolation, addiction and other family-related crises. It creates friendship in the lives of individuals with special needs and those facing isolation while providing an opportunity to become a contributing member of the communi-

ty. Through its programming, Shemtov said, Friendship Circle aims to promote an inclusive community that values all individuals regardless of the challenges they face.

"That's who Friendship Circle is," she said. "The bottom line of who we are is we believe every single person is all the same on the inside."

The Shemtovs are giving special-needs adults the chance to prove that with the new Soul Center. The center, located at 5586 Drake in West Bloomfield, draws people from all over the Oakland and Wayne county areas.

The Soul Center includes the Soul Cafe, an eclectic restaurant in which some 40 percent of the staff has special needs of varying degrees. The idea, Shemtov said, is to allow those staffers the chance to succeed.

"It's a safe environment where we allow them to fall occasionally, and help them succeed," Shemtov said. "We expect them to do a good job."

The Soul Center also has centers where artists can draw and painters can paint. There's a weaving room and an art gallery. In short, it's a place, Shemtov said, where special needs adults can create.

Akiva Pollack, a 21-year-old, self-described nerd, was working on a poster about, predictably, nerds.

"I like everything about coming here, really," Pollack said. "It's really friendly, really open. The staff is super friendly, and everyone is really patient. I've learned that I can do things I never thought I could do."

Barry Roth of Huntington Woods is a volunteer at the Soul Center. He said working at the

center gives him a chance to give back.

"The center is amazing," Roth said. "They're helping people, and I love being a part of that. It makes for a stronger community in a very real way."

The Sept. 4 Walk 4 Friendship is the Friendship Circle's largest fundraiser. Shemtov said she hopes the walk will draw some 5,000 walkers and raise more than \$600,000.


Register for the walk at www.friendshipcircle.org, or call 248-788-7878.



Abigail Rebenfack and Aislinn Wendrow working on a rug in the Soul Center's fiber studio.




Self-proclaimed nerd Akiva Pollack works on a poster at the Soul Center in West Bloomfield.



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Freeing outdoor dogs from 'the chain' takes heart, hope, persistence

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Rusting metal, broken window glass, used paper plates and other debris anchor the corner of a backyard in southwest Detroit.

A few feet away, Lesa Whitley and Wendy Leach are busy creating shade. The women are members of C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., an organization that helps outdoor, tethered dogs and their owners with free pet food, straw, doghouses, spay and neuter costs, vaccinations and fencing, with an ultimate goal of freeing dogs from their chains. On this sweltering Friday afternoon, the mission is seemingly simple, stretching a tarp from fence to fence over a doghouse.

The women improvise the structure, working quickly in the relentless sun, while their team leader, Dawn Lamsa, picks up a rake and begins to corral the surrounding garbage into a heap.

"This will make it a little cleaner for him," Lamsa tells the dog's owner. He holds the white and tan, blind pit bull by a chain at the side of the yard, allowing the women to work unhampered.

"You leave lots of water for him because it's super hot out," Lamsa advises. "Do you bring him inside? Do you need a crate or anything for him, to bring him inside the house?"

"Oh yeah. We do it in the winter when it's real cold," the man replies, adding that his dog — which knows only life outside on a chain — has on occasion "messed up" the basement when brought indoors.

"When we get one in we'll give you a nice, big crate," Lamsa promises. "Then he can go in that inside."

The volunteers heap straw in and around the doghouse, then fetch treats and a bowl of food, while the owner refreshes his dog's water. They snap a few photos and take notes to inform other C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc. teams that return regularly to check on the animal's welfare.

Before they leave, Whitley squats and stretches her arm in a friendly gesture. "I don't think he's aggressive, but he is blind and he gets scared," she says, petting him as he gnaws playfully on her hand, soaking up her attention. "Good boy. Such a good boy. It's okay. It's okay."

BBQ FUNDRAISER

What: Raises funds for C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., Good Juju Rescue in Plymouth, and Dog Aide, based in Fenton
When: 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27
Where: Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, in Oakland Township
Details: Choice of pulled pork, smoked chicken or veggie wraps, along with baked beans, coleslaw or doughnut. Music by Jillian Linklater and Just Lookin' for Places to Play. Includes kids' activities, bounce house, raffles, silent auction. Dogs welcome
Tickets: \$20 for adults; \$10 for children, 10 and under. Visit eventbrite.com and search Paint Creek Cider Mill BBQ Fundraiser

Living blind, on a chain 24/7, outdoors, sheltered only by a tarp and a doghouse, with straw for comfort, is not ideal. But C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., volunteers keep in mind the mantra "Don't let perfect get in the way of better."

Red to green

The half-hour stop is one of several listed on the team's itinerary that includes a few first-time assessments and welfare re-checks. Initial visits are based on owner requests or calls from neighbors. Volunteers also notice needy dogs in backyards and residents sometimes approach C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc.'s truck. It's easy to spot and piled high with supplies.

Convincing owners to bring their dogs indoors can take months of education and trust-building. Dog owners who are eager to keep water bowls full, their dogs well-fed, inoculated and who permit their pets to be spayed or neutered, earn a "green" or "good" rating and are more likely to receive help with backyard fencing or kennels. A "red" rating may indicate abuse or neglect and sometimes merits a call to cruelty investigators or a request to surrender the dog. Volunteers work with owners on their dog care skills and look for improvement in the pet's health and environment. A "yellow" rating is average.

"It's sad, but while you are there you are doing a good thing for these dogs," says Leach, a Wyandotte resident who works for a manufacturing company in Detroit. "There are owners you can really talk to and they seem to get it. They'll get the dog off



Goldie says hello. A new pooper-scooper hangs on the kennel built by C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., a few months ago.



Dawn Lamsa spends a little time with Goldie before heading to the next stop.

the chain and into the house.

"If they just don't get it, they get very regular visits to see what has changed and what we can do to help. A lot is they don't care. These dogs are a security system, not a pet they care about, and that is frustrating to those of us who love dogs."

Whitley, a Trenton resident who works for a financial services firm in Canton, became a C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., volunteer two years ago. Her most rewarding experience is taking a dog and owner from a red rating to green.

"That is what makes your heart melt," Whitley says. "They take the dog in at night. I don't know if it's because they are being held accountable or if their attitude changes ... their dog becomes a part of their family."



C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc.'s truck is piled with straw, a dog house, treats, food, water and other supplies as volunteers head out for their first stop.

Lamsa says family and cultural attitudes, an inability to pay for fencing, apathy about dog training and the desire for protection compel owners to keep dogs chained in their backyards.

The Sterling Heights woman calls herself a "crazy cat lady," who initially was "petrified" of dogs before joining C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc.

"When I see them chained I can't sit here. I have to do something," she says.

Annual fundraiser

In addition to volunteering, Lamsa is coordinating a third annual barbecue fundraiser for C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., and two other animal welfare

groups, from 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Road, in Oakland Township.

Proceeds will help C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., pay for supplies and vetting. Gina Freemon, founder and president, figures her organization spends approximately \$250 per dog at each initial assessment. The cost includes a doghouse, straw, flea and tick preventative, food, and treats. The nonprofit organization also assists with spay and neuter, vaccinations, deworming and heartworm preventative.

C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., targets southwest Detroit neighborhoods, one neighborhood on the city's east side, and

downriver communities. Freemon says her group has helped more than 1,600 outdoor dogs over the past five years, working with owners in baby steps.

"We try to take the homes we currently have and make them better," she says, adding that at least half of them improve significantly.

"The chained dog is the most miserable dog of all in existence. It's horrendous. They live in horrible conditions in dilapidated houses with no interaction. They are more likely to bite because they are not socialized. It's just the worst form of animal abuse ... the worst form of neglect."

Freemon, a registered nurse from Brownstown Township, saw her first chained dog five years ago while coming home from work on a snowy January evening.

There was no answer when she knocked on the homeowner's door, intending to offer her help. Freemon returned with straw, food and help from the dog owner's neighbors. The dog remains involved with C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., but has been freed from the chain.

Goldie and Duke were tethered outdoors in their southwest Detroit neighborhood until volunteers built a kennel for them a few months ago. They are the highlight of Lamsa's route. She tells green-rated owner Gloria Correa she'll look into getting a play pool and indoor crates.

"I had them inside yesterday. It was so hot," Correa explains. They stay indoors in cold weather, too.

Correa is grateful for the help, especially the kennels.

"I like to see them run around," she says. "It's a lot easier for me and a lot safer for them."

For more about C.H.A.I.N.E.D. Inc., visit chained2011.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

You are hereby notified that there will be a hearing in the matter of, James Burton vs. Allied Waste, et al, Case No.: 14-NW-CV01873, as a result of the wrongful death of John Porter Burton, born on October 6, 1938, formerly of Seneca, Missouri, on August 26, 2016 at 11:15 a.m. at Newton County Courthouse, 101 S. Wood, Neosho, MO 64850, pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.095. All persons who are members of the class entitled to sue or join in this action are entitled to be present and to present evidence. Contact Katrina Richards of The Hershewe Law Firm, PC, 417-782-3790, for more information.

Published: July 31, August 7, 14 & 21, 2016

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

- Z 16-16 199 Hamilton
Non-Use Variance Requested
Front Yard Setback
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Ty Sasena
- Z 16-17 898 S. Main
Use Variance Requested
To Allow a Used Car Dealer License
Zoned: B-1, Local Business
Applicant: Jeffrey Bejma

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: August 21, 2016

Sewer line blockage caused ramp flooding

Problem was isolated incident and repaired

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Flooding over an exit ramp off Interstate 275 in Livonia was caused by an error near the sewer drain some in recent years, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Diane Cross, a spokeswoman for MDOT, said the ramp on southbound I-275 to Six Mile in Livonia became flooded after the torrential rains fell earlier in the week and the sewer didn't accept the runoff. That caused the exit ramp to overflow with water and make it impassable.

"Somehow, the sewer pipe was drilled into by some other conduit," she said. "Until we had the flood, we didn't know the sewer drain was blocked."

The National Weather Service in White Lake Township said Livonia reported receiving 1.6 inches of rain over a 12-



The ramp to Six Mile from southbound I-275 Wednesday morning. It was closed after flooding overtook the ramp for about 24 hours. The ramp reopened Wednesday.

DAVID VESELENAK | STAFF WRITER

hour time span Monday and Tuesday.

Cross said it wasn't a problem known to MDOT until the rainstorm, and was not sure when the blockage had taken place originally or what agency had done it. Cross said the issue may have stemmed from a utility company doing work in the area, but did not know what agency may have been responsible. It was not a result of the construction currently taking place along I-275, Cross said.

She said it should not be an issue again after

crews made the repair.

"That was an isolated incident," Cross said.

She said the ramp was closed Tuesday and reopened during the day Wednesday after crews repaired the sewer line, allowing for drainage to take place and the freeway to dry up. The foot path along the freeway saw some water still running off into the runoff ditches along the exit ramp Wednesday morning.

The ramp flooding appeared to be the biggest issue in Livonia to

happen related to the recent weather. Brian Wilson, assistant superintendent of public works for the City of Livonia, said city crews were out taking care of a few downed trees and tree branches in city right-of-ways.

Those were only to only weather-related issues the city saw, he said.

"They may have been weakened before then," he said. "A dozen of those incidents ... occurred overnight."

No effect on construction

Despite the large amount of rain in the area, Cross said construction hasn't seen much in the way of delays on the \$75 million project between Five Mile and the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange.

Northbound lanes remain closed, as they have been since early July. Cross said the entire project is roughly 72 percent complete, with the deadline for the freeway to reopen taking place sometime in mid-September.

Wixom-based Toebe Construction, the contractor doing the I-275 work, continues to move forward with the work, Cross said, and hopes to potentially reopen the freeway earlier. That would earn the company an incentive bonus depending on what day it wraps up. Beginning Sept. 2, the contractor can earn a \$150,000/day bonus once the freeway re-opens.

Cross said it's possible

the freeway could be reopened by Labor Day, but said that would only be if conditions line up properly.

"That would be all the stars lining up," she said.

The contractor has until mid-September to get the freeway re-opened. Penalties are assessed to the contractor to the tune of \$150,000 per day if not reopened by the deadline day Sept. 15.

Other ramps still remained closed, including M-5 eastbound toward the I-696 ramp in Novi. MDOT says those ramps will remain closed until mid-September. Cross said it was not a guarantee that the ramps would reopen at the same time northbound I-275 re-opens, and that the contractor still has until mid-September to finish work to reopen all portions of the affected freeways.

"I'm still saying mid-September, hopefully sooner," she said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728

Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

City, PARC offer Buddy Up Fitness Challenge

Z Spot Fitness, in conjunction with the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex and the city of Plymouth, announces that they are bringing the insanely popular Buddy Up Fitness Challenge to Plymouth in October.

The Buddy Up Fitness Challenge is a life-changing and innovative community health program that has helped hundreds of individuals in Wayne, Westland, and other nearby areas over the past four years. The smash hit TV show "Biggest Loser"

finalist, Buddy Shuh, leads the program and uses his life experiences to help individuals make reasonable, sustainable, and meaningful changes toward achieving a healthy lifestyle.

Participants are divided up into teams, led by volunteer "Team Captains," who will mentor, inspire, and support their teammates to success throughout the program. Research has consistently shown that support from others, i.e. "buddy-ing up" can make the

difference between success and failure with any fitness plan. Community support is the key component to the program.

Participants will meet every Saturday morning 9-10 a.m., Oct. 1-Nov. 19, in the Main Gym at PARC, 650 Church Street, in downtown Plymouth.

The cost to participants is \$50 and includes: five workouts led by professional trainers; eight weekly meetings providing information about fitness and nutrition along with healthy

food samples led by Buddy Shuh; Aa fun "warehouse" boot camp style workout; a before and after physical assessment; support provided by your teammates, and led by your incredible captain; a t-shirt; a binder compiling your program information and special offers provided by local business; discount on fitness classes from the Z Spot during the program.

For questions, contact Gail Grieger at 734-474-6792.

Pobur gets regional chamber endorsement

Colleen Pobur, a member of the Plymouth City Commission and Democratic candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives in the



Pobur

20th District, has received the endorsement of the Detroit Regional Chamber

of Commerce. Pobur shares the organization's goal of helping businesses create good paying jobs throughout the region.

"Michigan's economy is improving, but too many people are still struggling to find a job that will allow them to support their family. The way the state is investing our money is not working. I think we can do better," Pobur said. "If

I'm elected as the next state representative for Canton, Northville and Plymouth, I look forward to working with the Detroit Regional Chamber and other groups to create an economy that works for everyone."

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Pobur worked for a computer company selling hardware and software and then for Ameritech.

"Michigan's continued comeback requires leaders on both sides of the aisle who will come to Lansing to get things done," said Brad Williams, vice president of government relations for the Detroit Regional Chamber. "Colleen Pobur has the right experience, the right temperament and the right vision to make sure Michigan's prosperity continues and grows."

Farmers Market pairs with Ann Arbor orchestra

The Canton Farmers Market is partnering with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra (A2SO) to present a "Taste of Music," featuring a small ensemble performance, as well as an instrument petting zoo.

Area residents are encouraged to visit the Canton Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, to experience the program.

"Taste of Music" is an Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra program funded by the Community Foundation of Southeast

Michigan that moves music out of the concert hall and into the community at area farmers markets in Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, and Livingston counties.

A special A2SO ensemble performance will be held at 11 a.m.

Throughout the market day, an A2SO instrument petting zoo will also be held. Please note that instrument petting zoos may stop during performances and will resume shortly thereafter.

Children of all ages and children at heart will

have the opportunity to try out real violins, cellos, trumpets and clarinets. Child-sized instruments, along with trained "zookeepers" ensure that even the smallest child will have a successful first instrumental experience.

The A2SO will also offer complementary concert tickets for the 2016-17 concert season to market customers who use food assistance programs. For additional information about the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's "Taste of

Music," please call 734-994-4801 or visit www.a2so.com.

The Canton Farmers Market is currently held every Sunday, now through Oct. 16, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Preservation Park, located at 500 N. Ridge Road.

For additional information go to www.canton-mi.org/496, pick up a brochure at the market or contact market Coordinator Amanda Campana at cantonfarmersmarket@canton-mi.org.

Civitans double tent size for annual Taste Fest

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club's annual Taste Fest tent has been doubled in size.

"Weather is a major factor in this decision. We have experienced torrential rain, stifling heat, and high winds. In the past and in spite of the weather predictions, all the restaurants have shown up and people

have come to experience the great food and music," according to the Civitans. "But for everybody's comfort, we can now all fit under the tent"

This year, the Civitans has new participants. They are b.d.'s Mongolian Grill, Beyond Borders - Latin Street Food, C.A.Y.A. Smokehouse Grill, Olga's Kitchen,

41725 Ford Road Canton, Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza and Wok Asian Bistro of Northville.

The Civitans will have its core of participants: Grand Traverse Pie Company, Bahama Breeze, Rocky's of Northville, Cupcake Station, Happy's Pizza & Ribs, My Rusty Bucket, La Bistecca Italian Grille and our host,

Station 885.

Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids aged 5-10, and under 5 are free. There will also be a live band and a cash bar. The date is Friday, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m. Station 885 will hosting a party afterward.



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Red Shield promotes Salvation Army

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A little rain, or even more than a little, couldn't dampen enthusiasm at The Ride for the Red Shield - Plymouth/Downriver of The Salvation Army on Saturday, Aug. 13.

Sandy Kollinger, Volunteer and Special Events coordinator, said in an email: "Despite the rain we had a great day. We had six volunteers from the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club that assisted with registration and breakfast in the morning. The Wayne County Sheriff Motorcycle Unit had seven officers that assisted with our ride, and did a fantas-

tic job helping get through intersections. "It rained up until it was time to depart the parking lot and held off until we were done with lunch. There were 17 motorcycles (not counting escort) and 23 riders/passengers come out and join us for the ride."

Kollinger, a rider herself, noted the ride started at The Salvation Army on Main Street in Plymouth and made the 23-mile trek to The Salvation Army Downriver/Wyandotte office for a quick stop and then went another 10 miles to Bagger Dave's in Woodhaven for lunch.

This was the second year of The Ride for the Red Shield - Plymouth/

Downriver. "It's a nice, leisurely ride going from our building here Downriver," Kollinger had said. A partnership with the Christian Motorcycle Association helps boost the event.

"So it's not your typical rough-and-tough stereotype. We do have riders who are Christian and express their faith," Kollinger had said.

Sponsors for this year's ride include Thunder Valley Powersports of Plymouth, Kroger Plymouth on Ann Arbor Road and Bagger Dave's. Both Dunkin Donuts and Einstein Bros. Bagels on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth helped with items for breakfast.



Riders in the storm? A little rain didn't bother these folks at The Salvation Army charity, fellowship and fun event.

ER nurse rescues twin teens from drowning

The perfect summer Up North getaway — camping at a remote site in the Upper Peninsula on Lake Michigan with five of your best buddies, most of whom work with you. That's how this story starts for Matthew Whitcomb, R.N., of Westland, an emergency nurse at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills.

As Whitcomb tried to teach his Golden Lab to sit in his kayak while on the beach, he and his friends took notice of a man swimming toward them from the open water on Lake Michigan. The man yelled something like, "Hey, would you let me rent your kayak for \$20 because I have to rescue my sons out there."

Whitcomb jumped into his kayak while the man jumped into the only other kayak Whitcomb's group brought camping. Whitcomb quickly took the lead because the other man had just spent the past 40 minutes swimming to shore.



Matthew Whitcomb of Westland, an R.N. at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills, with the teens he rescued from drowning in Lake Michigan.

All alone in open water, Whitcomb paddled on, feeling disoriented until he heard what sounded like someone yelling. He had to stop paddling in order to figure out from what direction he heard the voice. Then, he started paddling as hard as he could in that direction until he saw what looked like a head bobbing in the chop-

py water. The boys were disoriented and swimming further away from shore. Their muscles were cramping from the hour that they'd been treading water after the family's inflated inner tube blew away from them.

There was no room in the kayak for passengers, so he told the first boy to grab and hold onto

the kayak's front handle. Then, with difficulty, Whitcomb paddled over to the boy's twin brother and had him grab hold of the watercraft's back handle.

With a physically exhausted teenager dangling from each end of the kayak, Whitcomb paddled them safely to shore within about 20 minutes.

"I guess I was in the right place at the right time," said Whitcomb, who began working at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills six years ago.

All during this time, Whitcomb's friends stood on the beach with no way to help except to call 9-1-1. The emergency dispatcher in that area between the towns of Gould City and Naubinway alerted the U.S. Coast Guard.

"All I could think is that the rescuers would need to be rescued along with the boys," said Michelle Kearns, R.N., who works with Whitcomb in the Emergency & Trauma Center at Beaumont, Farmington Hills.

Paramedics checked the boys' vital signs. Aside from being exhausted, they were fine. Their dad was so wiped out by the ordeal, that after thanking Whitcomb profusely, he returned to his campsite for a 20-hour nap.

Later that day, Whit-

comb bumped into the twins at the campground. They came over to his campsite and hung out with his group for about an hour. As a token of their deep gratitude, the boys presented Whitcomb with a buck knife that their grandfather had given to them when they were just 9 years old.

Whitcomb told the boys that he appreciated their knife very much and may actually use it for its intended purpose when he goes deer hunting.

In all the excitement, formal introductions were never made. The family will never know the name of the man who rescued their kids from certain death and Whitcomb will never know the names of the kids he saved.

"It was a good ending, though," Whitcomb said. "What an awesome day even if I couldn't get my dog to sit still in the kayak."

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Amateur memorable for local golfers

Canton's Josh Heinze leads area players with a two-round total of 146

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

Nine Michigan players teed off in the prestigious U.S. Amateur tournament Monday at Oakland Hills Country Club.

Only one of them, Nick Carlson from Hamilton and a sophomore at the University of Michigan, advanced to match play. The Amateur experience was over by Tuesday evening after 36 holes of stroke play for the remaining eight Michigan participants.

While the tournament was short lived for Novi's Ben Smith, Canton's Josh Heinze and Birmingham's David Hall, the memories they made will

remain forever.

Heinze led those area players with a two-round total of 146, including a 74 on the South Course and 72 on the North Course. The six-over par showing left him tied for 144th place overall among the starting field of 312 players.

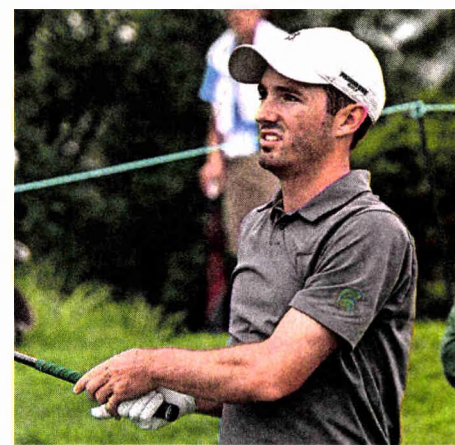
"It was amazing. It was an incredible experience," said Heinze, who golfed four years at Plymouth High School. "I didn't play the greatest, which kind of stunk. But, just to play the U.S. Amateur in Michigan and playing at Oakland Hills was an amazing experience.

"I wasn't as sharp as I needed to be to qualify for match play and make some noise there, but I guess all things considered I played all right," he said.

"I was disappointed to miss out on match play."

Heinze's total score included five birdies and 20 pars. The 22-year-old linker said his fondest memory will be rolling in a birdie putt on the South Course's signature 16th waterside green in his opening round.

"That's the scenic hole where everyone likes to take pictures at," said Heinze, who has been working an internship in Lansing this summer which did not allow for much practice time. "I hit a nice little nine iron down to the middle right portion of the green and rolled in a putt which kind of got me



DAVID REED
Michigan State University's Josh Heinze, a Canton resident, carded a 146 (74-72) in two rounds of stroke play at the U.S. Amateur.

See GOLF, Page B4

PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW - PART 1



Julian Thornton, shown carrying the football during a recent scrimmage, is one of Canton's top offensive threats.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

Rocks hope good early vibe has legs

Salem banking on improved camaraderie as season unfolds

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Salem Rocks varsity football coach Kurt Britnell has a formula that he is hopeful will bear fruit during the 2016 season.

Take a high school football team to a college campus in Ada, Ohio, for a few days, incorporate togetherness and fun into the two-a-days, and return home to Plymouth-Canton-Educational Park ready to hit the sled running.

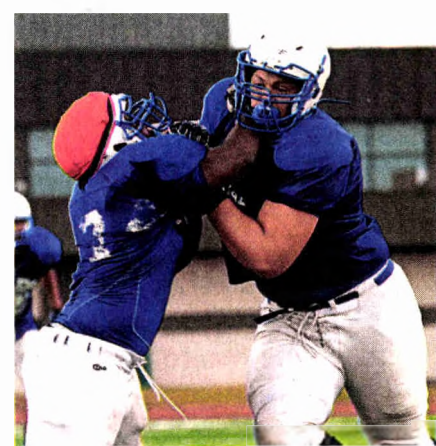
"Sunday we do our conditioning test, have some leadership activities," said Britnell, whose team opens at 6:30 p.m. Friday against Belleville on the junior varsity field at the Park. "Monday it's the same we'd do here, we're in helmets two days, multiple practices throughout the day, Wednesday shoulder pads.

"Same thing we'd do here, except we're staying on campus (at Ohio Northern) and using their facilities. We eat together, walk to the field together."

Whether or not the team-bonding trip pays dividends remains to be seen; Britnell has taken his teams to preseason camps before and only in 2012 did the team contend for a state playoff berth (the Rocks went 5-4 that season). Last year, Salem finished 3-6.

"That's always the hope of it," Britnell said. "In the past it hasn't really carried over as much as we'd like to, but this group seems close like the 2012 team so hopefully we'll get some similar results."

See ROCKS, Page B2



MICHAEL VASILNEK
Powering his way through the line is Salem junior lineman Alex Howie (right), who is expected to be a key contributor on both sides of the ball.

ON A MISSION

Chiefs look to take final step toward Division 1 title

Evan Paputa
Correspondent

Every August, Canton head coach Tim Baechler has to fill oodles of roles left open due to graduation.

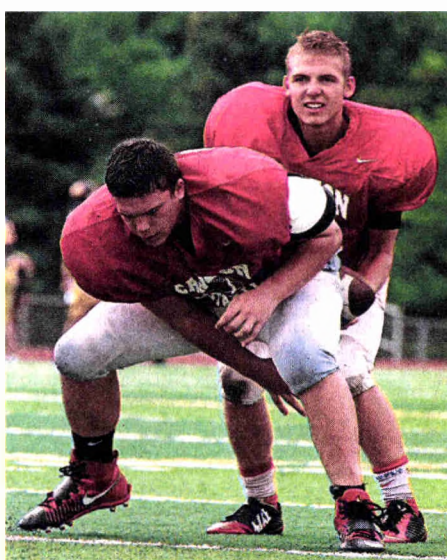
This year, however, Baechler has very few holes to fill with 13 starters returning from the Chiefs' best season since 2006.

"I think what's exciting is that we have a lot of guys back with experience," Baechler said. "They're smart, tough, competitive guys. Those guys win most of the time.

"I love that intelligence coming back, I love that we have a lot of experience from last year, they played a lot of football games. We are ahead of schedule mentally compared to last year."

That collage of experience comes from Canton's run to the Division 1 state semifinals in which it lost to Cass Tech by a touchdown. The Chiefs finished with a 10-3 record and won both district and regional championships for only the third time in school history.

"I think they had so much fun on that run last year that 'who wouldn't want to repeat that?' I'm sure that's been motivation. It was close enough that they got a taste of it," Baechler said.



MICHAEL VASILNEK
Canton quarterback Jake O'Donnell and center Max Mulvaney practice snaps.

Road graters

Although quarterback Jake O'Donnell counts as a returning starter, he will not be entering preseason practice as number one.

He took over as the starter for Joel Foster in the seventh game of last season, but Foster has a chance to redeem himself, according to Baechler.

"There's a little bit of a quarterback competition with him (O'Donnell) and Joel Foster, it's open," Baechler said.

"They're getting equal reps and will again in the scrimmage. Joel started the first six games and we decided to make the switch. He's a great kid, works his butt off; he can run and throw. He's a senior and deserves another chance."

Whoever wins the quarterback battle will have an experienced offensive line to protect them.

That offensive line, which includes two tight ends, returns four starters from a fruitful offensive campaign from a year ago in which they averaged 37 points per game.

O'Donnell gave credit to the offensive line for leading the charge of Canton's yearly offensive success. Without the offensive line, Canton's staple running game wouldn't be as effective as they have been in recent years.

"It all starts with our line," O'Donnell said. "They block hard all day long, but never get any credit."

Seniors David Gunnis, Jake Warner, Michael Maes, and tight end Brennon Pelland are the returners that are set to anchor the line this year.

Baechler noted that seniors Tyler Santoro and Max Mulvaney will add depth to the offensive line. Juniors Lou Baechler, Chase Meredith, and Noah Brown will compliment Pelland at tight end.

"We're happy with a 3- or 4-yard gain; we're never bored with a 3- or 4-yard gain; we love it and we celebrate it. We celebrate first downs and not fumbling the ball," Baechler said.

See CHIEFS, Page B2

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BOYS SOCCER PREVIEW

Ready to get their kicks

Canton eyes another big year; Plymouth's fired up to challenge

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Canton Chiefs varsity boys soccer players Matt Rockafellow and Mohamad Miri bounced around the practice field, with smiles on their faces and T-shirts on their backs adorned with the proclamation they were part of the 2014 Division 1 State Champions.

"I believe it does (help motivate teammates)," fourth-year head coach Mark Zemanski said, about the statement-making tees. "The success we've had the last couple years helps these guys realize if they work hard they have an opportunity to be there."

Last season was no slouch, either, as the Chiefs went 21-6-3 and made it to the D1 finals before bowing out 2-0 to unbeaten Forest Hills Central.

"They know how close they were and they would like another opportunity to do that," Zemanski said.

Led by senior co-captains Rockafellow (defense) and Miri (forward), the Chiefs will field a squad with 12 players who were part of the 2015 postseason run. But the coach added that Rockafellow and Miri are his top two players.

"Matt reads the game very well," Zemanski said. "He's very quick and he's a very determined player with good skills."

Miri brings speed, physicality and a scorer's touch. But he won't need to carry the offensive load, thanks to the presence of talents such as seniors Luke Kurilli, junior Jordan Forney and senior Matt Eastman.

"And we have (senior) Aidan Hurley as a forward coming off the bench," Zemanski added. "He's a very exciting, dynamic player."

Zemanski said the makeup of the 2016 Chiefs will be noticeable.

"We have a pretty big squad, we have a lot more size, both physically and in numbers," he explained. "Our team last year was average size, we're probably above average (now). We have a big, fast, strong forward line this year. Last year we were small, quick and fast."

"They'll be very hard to get knocked off the ball and we'll be better in the air than last year."

The midfield will be led by senior co-captain Ryen O'Meara, who was instrumental to last season's success.

Augmenting O'Meara will be seniors Caleb Moraw, Joey Chung, ju-

nior twins Jake and Brett McGue, juniors Avery Olson, Nick Avram and senior Alex Spratte (who also plays forward and comes over from the Michigan Wolves Academy Team).

"Caleb is fast as lightning, he's a track man," Zemanski said. "He made an 80-yard run in our regional game to get the assist from the back."

Canton's back line will be a tough one to crack, with Rockafellow and Eastman (who can play all over the pitch) ready from the opening whistle. "He (Eastman) also got to start half the games last year, he has a lot of experience coming back."

Also in the mix will be senior Cameron Waller, junior Ethan Schiffour, senior Ryan Page and junior Tyler Avram.

Goalies include senior Steven Page, juniors David McGrath and David Sadanowicz.

Rounding out the roster are senior midfielder/forward Collin O'Keefe, junior defender Jake Green, senior defender Matt Tenglin and junior defender Luke Lyold.

Following Saturday's annual Gary Balconi Invitational, the Chiefs open KLAAs action 7 p.m. Wednesday at home against Northville.

Plymouth preview

Veteran Plymouth soccer coach Jeff Neschich plans on giving defending division champion Canton all it can handle as the Wildcats look to improve upon last season's 14-6-1 record (7-3-0 in the division).

Plymouth opened up with Saturday's Balconi Invite and will host Novi 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"I am very excited to get the season started," Neschich said. "The 2016 team has good chemistry and a strong desire to succeed."

Leading the squad will be senior captains Adam Saunders, Van Nguyen and Anthony Iacopelli.

Nguyen will spearhead the defense along with senior goalkeeper JD Visnaw, with seniors Matt Weiner and Erli Metko at outside back.

"Anthony and Adam will control the center in the midfield," Neschich noted.

Up front, the Wildcats' attack will be spearheaded by seniors Ryan Dickerson and Keaton Hegarty.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

During this 2015 contest, Plymouth's Adam Saunders (No. 6) tries to get a step on Canton's Joey Chung (No. 14) and Matt Rockafellow (No. 12). All are being counted on by their respective teams as key players for the upcoming season.

New Salem coach to preach patience

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

There's a new coach and a new vision for Salem's varsity boys soccer team, with Kyle Karns taking the reigns.

Karns, who coached junior varsity boys and junior varsity girls soccer teams at Plymouth High School over the past four years, takes over from veteran Scott Duhl (who is in charge of the Michigan Wolves Academy Program Under-16 team).

"I am looking forward to having an opportunity to be a part of a historically successful soccer program," Karns said. "For us this season, it will be important to build possession and be patient for our chances."

"The team has a lot of veteran leadership from front to back, so we will rely on that when it comes to our decision making."

He inherits a very successful team; the Rocks went 17-5-1 overall last season and finished second in the ultra-tough KLAAs Central Division with a mark of 8-2-0 (trailing Kensington Conference champion Northville).

Helping during the transition period will be captains Mikey Schwartz and Jake Wymer, who are slated for midfield and defense, respectively.

At forward, senior returnee Jamie Crosby "will look to finish his school career with a strong season," Karns said. "With his field vision and timing, Crosby has the awareness up top to be very productive."

Another key Salem attacker will be

junior newcomer Jason Warras, who Karns described as bringing "a great combination of speed and ball control and will create plenty of scoring chances for us."

In the midfield, the Rocks will be paced by Schwartz, junior returnee Christian Freitag and sophomore newbie Josh Stevens.



Karns.

"Mikey's veteran leadership and his ability to add to the attack makes him a key piece of our offense," he said. "Freitag will contribute to the attack with his ability to challenge defenders and (make) great play-making decisions."

Stevens is quick, sees the action ahead of him well and "has the ability to distribute the ball quickly."

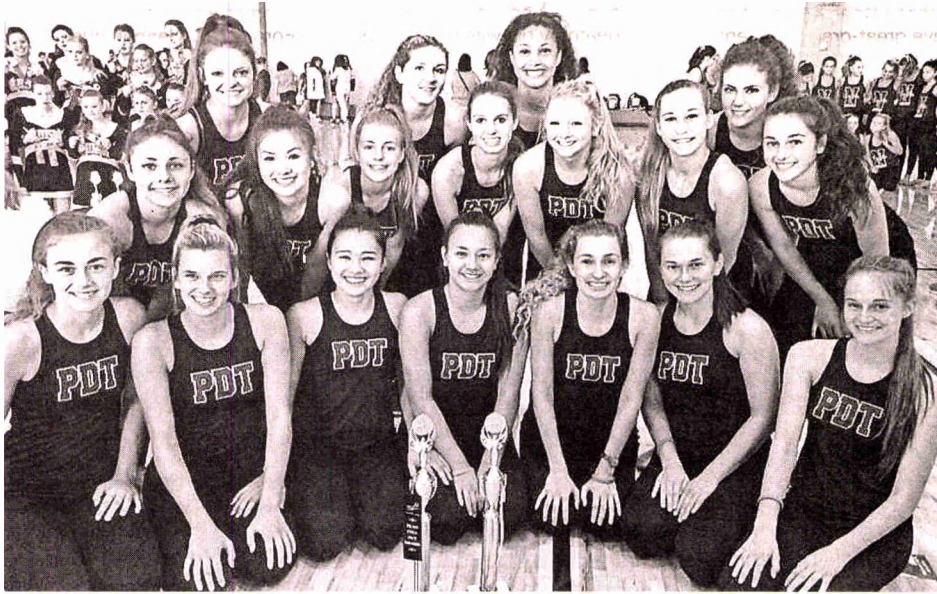
Salem's back line will feature senior returnees Jake Wymer, Adam Graunke and Shane Rusinek with sophomore Jeremy Pascarella an impressive newcomer.

"Pascarella not only defends well but can add to the attack with his speed and his ability to create offense as an extra attacker," Karns noted.

Senior Andrew Kozan is penciled in as the starting goalkeeper.

Salem opens the KLAAs season Aug. 29 at Brighton, following participating in Saturday's annual Gary Balconi Invitational.

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COURTESY GINA HILDITCH

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity dance team excelled at the recent UDA Elite Dance Camp at Oakland University. Top row (from left) are Hannah Udell, Olivia Antal, Jenna Dae Hill and Anna Colaianne. Middle row (from left) are Sydney Bramlett, Mia Hagemann, Alexis Good, Alexandria Cox, Madison Meloche, Natalie Meloche and Madison Hubbard. Bottom row (from left) are Julia Kelm, Abby Van Hauen, Alyssa Wioncek, Claire Binguit, Marisa Petrarca, Kaye Hubbard and Christina Gonzalez. Not pictured are Madison Tenant and Sarah MacIntyre.



COURTESY GINA HILDITCH

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's JV dance team excelled at the recent UDA Elite Dance Camp at Oakland University. From left are Emily Harrison, Olivia Mulhern, Lily Carney, Sierra Hilditch, Isabella Talan, Sarah Mei, captain Natalie Messer and Chole Cox. Not pictured is Kimaya Rafai.

P-CEP dancers in winning stride at UDA Elite Camp

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

They know the routine, and they know it pretty well.

In fact, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's dance team is off on the right foot, literally, as it gears up for a championship push in 2016-17.

At the UDA Elite Dance Camp July 25-28 at Oakland University, the PCEP dance squad — including varsity and JV performers — made enough of an impression to be invited to nationals in Orlando, Florida.

"Each year the coaches ask the teams

to push themselves to be better," coach Brittany Lyons said. "As coaches, we are amazed at how far they've already pushed themselves at camp to improve."

"This shows dedication and a work ethic that says they are ready for the big leagues. We are privileged to coach such an incredible group of young women, and can't wait to see how far they will go this season."

The varsity and JV teams each collected the Superior Trophy, Home Routine Trophy and Spirit Stick. P-CEP dancers attend Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools.

Earning All-American honors from

varsity were Natalie Meloche, Jenna Hill, Kaye Hubbard, Marissa Petrarca and Mia Hageman; JV All-Americans include Emily Harrison, Natalie Messer and Sierra Hilditch.

Meanwhile, Hilditch received the Pin it Forward Award, presented to one dancer that staff members thought went above and beyond the call of duty, "gave 110 percent all the time and worked hard."

The dancer is then responsible for passing it on to another dancer at camp doing the same thing.

"We are planning on attending nationals for the first time this year and that

has been a longtime goal of the team," coach Maria Lloyd said. "When we talked about their goals for the current season, the main goal for the girls was to be a cohesive team."

"As a coach, that told me that they were finally ready to take the next step to competing at the national level."

Lloyd added that people can check out the team's Facebook page to find out how the group is progressing as it prepares for the national dance team championships.

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GOLF

Continued from Page B1

going for the round. That was kind of a cool hole to get a birdie on."

Cheers from all over

Heinze, who will be a senior at Michigan State University this fall, said meeting golfers from around the world and hearing cheers from Spartan fans are other great memories he will cherish.

"It seemed like every time I went up

to the locker room or went to get lunch, or whatever, you ran into people from Spain, Scotland, just all over the place, and all over the U.S. too," he said. "And to walk all over the grounds and see all the different colleges represented. It was really cool just to talk to different people and hear their stories and welcome them to Michigan."

"It was by far the best tournament I've ever played in," he said. "I was wearing my Michigan State stuff and I'd hear 'Go Green' like 50 to 100 times every round and that was pretty cool to hear all that support, just kind of supporting Michigan State and Michigan in

general. It was an awesome experience."

Like Heinze, Smith qualified for the Amateur last month at Michigan State University's Forest Akers golf course. The 16-year-old senior to be at Catholic Central completed his two rounds with a 147, including a 74 on the South Course and 73 on the North Course.

Smith's two rounds included four birdies and 22 pars. He tied for 161st overall.

"It was awesome. Just going out there and being able to play along side the best amateurs in the country was a very cool experience," said Smith.

"And, having my friends and family out there supporting me was pretty awesome."

"The whole goal at first was to just qualify (for the U.S. Amateur) and that would be a pretty good accomplishment, which is what happened. I got there and expectations kept getting higher, but unfortunately it stopped at stroke play."

"As much as I wanted to qualify for match play, I think going on that South Course and shooting four over wasn't bad," said Smith.



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Morning routines can set you up for success

BY DEANNA HARTLEY
 CAREERBUILDER

Waking up early and getting a head start on the day can be an uphill climb — but mornings don't always have to be so cumbersome. Some professionals stick to specific morning routines that help them get the most out of their workdays.

Here are some practical tips you can try to turn your morning around and set you up for a more productive day.

Wake up early. This can be difficult if you're not a morning person, but a lot of successful professionals wake up early to maximize their time. "An extra hour in the morning allows me to squeeze more into my day, especially while the office is still fairly empty," says Arsineh Ghazarian, co-founder and CEO of Zveil, a bridal veil design company and online retailer.

Get some exercise. One of the last things you may feel like doing when you wake up is working out, but some professionals swear by it.

Daisy Jing, founder of the beauty product line Banish, says she has found a way to make herself accountable and help her stick with her plan. "Book early morning fitness



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classes. I actually pay ahead of time — (for example,) I pay \$20 to book the 7 a.m. class," she says. "Once you invest in something — even \$20 — you are afraid to lose it. I have never missed a morning fitness class I've already paid for. It's my way of giving myself an artificial deadline so I don't waste time in the morning, go to sleep earlier the night before and accomplish more things throughout the day."

Get your daily dose of news. Paige Arnoff-Fenn,

founder and CEO of strategic marketing firm Mavens & Moguls, says she listens to NPR on the radio while getting ready for work so she can catch up on the latest news around the world.

Similarly, other professionals find it helpful to consume the news as part of their morning routines. "Upon getting to my office around 8:20 a.m., I spend 30 minutes reading news sites and business blogs to catch up with current developments and remove any temptation to be distracted later on," says Noel

McCann, a marketing analyst at HomeSuite, an online marketplace dedicated to short-term furnished rentals.

Strategize and organize your day. One way to get the good ideas flowing is to plan and strategize the rest of your day to be more efficient and productive.

"I am in the office every day usually by 7 a.m., so I am able to chart out my schedule for the day uninterrupted," says Lukas Krause, CEO of Real Property Management. "I prioritize the things I know

I have to get done based on our strategic objectives and key milestone dates, and then jump right into the day."

Check work email — or not. There are mixed feelings on whether you should check your work email before arriving at the office.

Some say it's a good practice because it helps avoid surprises. "The very first thing I do is check my work email inbox. This helps me plan for the upcoming workday, not to mention avoid surprises that could disrupt my productivity," McCann says.

On the other hand, there is a case for saving this task for later.

"No work-related emails first thing — the day will have plenty of opportunities for work," says Marty Fukuda, chief operating officer at N2 Publishing, a company that produces custom magazines. "I prefer to ease into the day by catching up on news or sports while eating breakfast. It helps to minimize stress by taking a few moments just to relax first thing."

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

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American Axle & Manufacturing has openings for Controls Engineers of its facility in Detroit, Michigan. Job duties include:

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2. Managing continuous improvement projects as required;
3. Design, review and troubleshoot hydraulics, pneumatics, lube and coolant systems;
4. Integration of robot automation systems such as Fric, Nachi, and ABB to assembly or CNC equipment;
5. Utilizing knowledge of National Electric Code (NEC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) codes;
6. Verifying adherence to global AAM control specifications;
7. Designing and coordinating maintenance of electrical schematics;
8. Preparing specifications, evaluating design, drawings, and construction of new and rebuilt machine controls;
9. Providing technical assistance and engineering solutions to manufacturing;
10. Review electrical equipment and components for adherence to safety and electrical standards/code;
11. Reviewing and approving electrical designs;
12. Designing electrical and mechanical systems and sub-systems;
13. Developing, deploying and validating Transaction Express used to integrate the Logix 5000 Controller to MS-SQL.

Position requires:
 Bachelors Degree in Electrical or Electronics or Computer Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and 6 months experience working in electrical or electronic systems or computer engineering positions. 6 months experience is required in each of the following:

1. Machine controls design, development, component selection, programming, testing, evaluation, implementation, installation, and troubleshooting;
2. Develop and edit ladder logic programs and HMI operator screen for new projects;
3. Development and deployment of MS-SQL databases including writing queries and integration to plant floor control systems;
4. Creating project network drawings, configure program network components to support multiple manufacturing and networking clients.

Experience may be obtained concurrently.

Applicants should apply online at AAM.com/careers and reference job ID 1444.

Engineering & IT

American Axle & Manufacturing has openings for Mechatronic Engineers of its facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Job duties include:

1. Leading the design, development, testing and control of mechatronic systems using wet clutches, pumps, and motors for AAM product portfolio;
2. Leading GD&T and stack analysis of mechatronic systems using wet clutch system, pumps and motors to create best design practices;
3. Providing technical direction related to advance fluid mechanics for motor pump design development;
4. Leading the design and development of sealing solutions for sealing interfaces during the product development of servo hydraulic subsystems;
5. Leading the release of components, models, drawings, and product specifications for servo hydraulic and wet clutch systems;
6. Creating and simulating mathematical models for servo hydraulic subsystems in matlab/simulink to support the analytical DV&R;
7. Analyzing the system response and correlating it to experimental data for better product development and system level integration.

Position requires: Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education and one year experience working in the mechanical engineering field. One year experience is required in each of the following:

1. Development and testing of mechatronic systems utilizing wet clutches, pumps and motors;
2. Using analytical skills in Matlab/Simulink and Matlab for calculations of components including pumps and motors;
3. Using GD&T and stack calculation to design mechatronics components;
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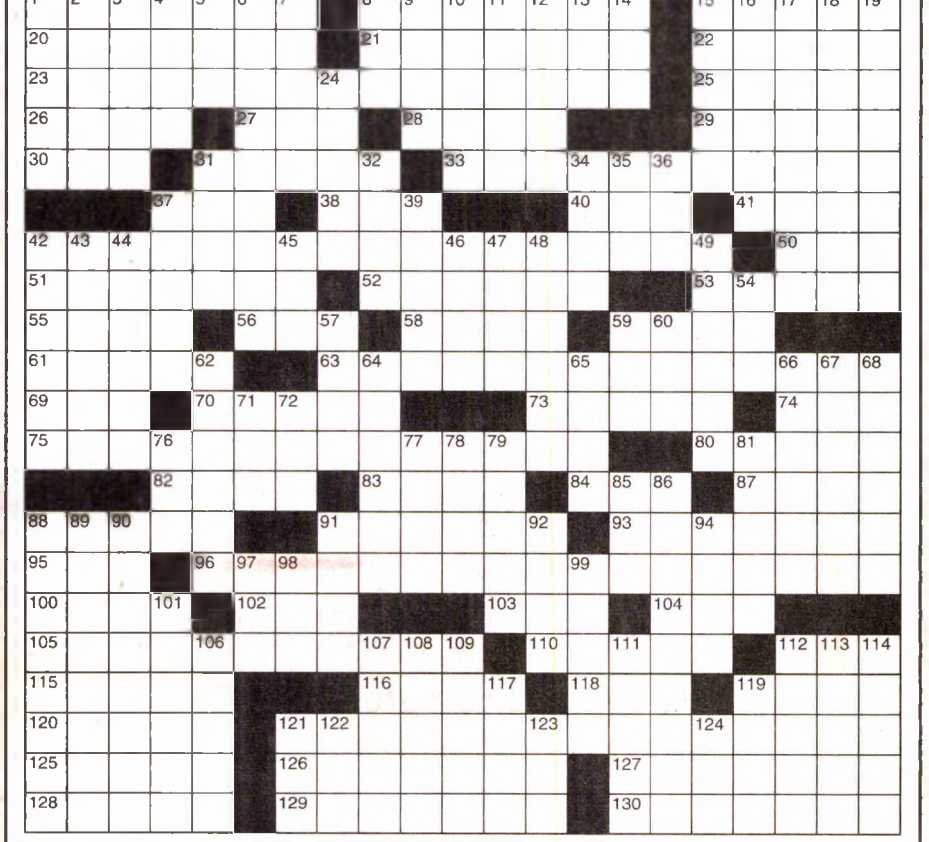
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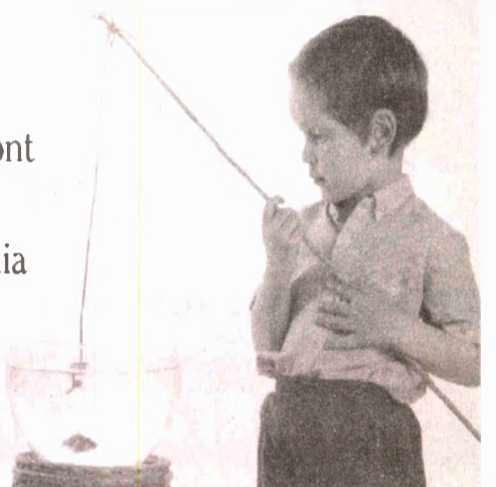
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