

CANTON TO HOST COACHES VS. CANCER GAME

SPORTS, B1



PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Kellogg Park redesign too generic, critics say

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

It was no picnic Monday evening for plans for a \$1 million redesign of downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Opponents of the latest proposal — which includes widening walkways, moving the fountain westward and

adding a seating wall on the park's Main Street side — turned out in force to urge city officials to lighten their approach and keep the park's character intact and the fountain where it is. At least 160 people crowded into the Community Cultural Center auditorium for a Downtown Development Authority workshop Monday, applaud-

ing in support of many of the approximately 20 critics who stood up to say the redesign would leave the park generic, unappealing and with too much brick and concrete at the expense of open space and trees. "It's our quirky park" and residents want to keep it that way, said David Rucinski, a leader of a petition drive

calling on officials to retain the feel of the park in any redesign and not move the fountain. "The DDA board should not miscalculate the citizens' very strong attachment to Kellogg Park," Rucinski added. The petition drive has collected

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TOM BEAUDOIN

Redford resident Sonya Gray concentrates on her "Panther in the Jungle" as she creates art in a relaxed setting of the Redford Township District Library this past Monday.

COLORING NOT JUST FOR KIDS ANYMORE

Scott R. Daniel
hometownlife.com

Like most adults, Gloria Rhodes has a very busy life. While her home should be a place to take a breather from those rigors, it instead is just another source for her never-ending to-do list.

That's why she pulled herself away from those responsibilities Monday evening to spend a little time not checking items off the list. Along with about a dozen other folks, Rhodes colored for a few blissful hours at a Redford Public Library class.

"When you're at home, you're looking at the lawn and the dishes," Rhodes said. "It's nice to come here and say the only thing I can do is color. It's very relaxing. You get a certain gratification from creating something that doesn't take as long as making a big project."

Popularity growing

The popularity of adult coloring has grown in recent years across the country. And Redford is just one of numerous Wayne County communities embracing the activity.

According to Nielsen BookScan, 12 million copies of coloring books were sold in the United States in 2015, up from just 1 million the year before. Nielsen, which tracks consumer buy-

ing and watching habits in more than 100 countries worldwide, said more than 2,000 coloring books were published last year, compared with just 300 in 2014.

None of which comes as a surprise to Misty Helm of Livonia's "The Book Connection." The store, which sits at Five Mile and Merriman roads, sells a variety of adult coloring books, from Johanna Basford highly detailed "Secret Garden: An Inky Treasurer Hunt and Colouring Book" to titles that call for more modest skills.

"I think a lot of people have been coloring for years," said Helm, "but the trend really shot up about a year and a half ago."

Basford's work might have been the catalyst, she added, but new frontiers are reaching into pop culture. Characters like Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland are best sellers at the book store while Game of Thrones and Star Wars coloring books are gaining traction.

"I'm hoping this Christmas they'll come out with designer coloring postcards," said Helm, who spends hours coloring herself.

As for Rhodes, she attended the Redford library's class for the first time on Monday. While animals, flowers and landscapes are popular among

adult's who color, Rhodes' tastes are a little more eclectic.

"I like very unique things," Rhodes said. "I like everything that's a little off-beat, more abstract than the usual."

Redford Public Library Adult Services Librarian Linda Pride said the coloring class started in May.

"We had 12 to 14 people for that first meeting," she said. "They asked, 'when's the next one.' I hadn't scheduled another one, but on the spot I scheduled a series. So now, we do it monthly."

The library holds the class on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. It provides coloring sheets and colored pencils.

"We get new people each time," said Pride, "but we do get some returnees, too. People just like to have this opportunity to get away and have some down time. Obviously, you could do this at home, but there may be more distractions at home. It's easier to come here and it's social as well."

Family and a good friend got Redford resident Joan Lambert into coloring. She said her daughter bought her a coloring last Christmas

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Township junks automated trash pickup

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Plymouth Township residents will keep their traditional garbage cans after officials Tuesday junked a plan to automate trash pickup with the use of either 64- or 96-gallon wheeled carts.

With no consensus on the Board of Trustees, and residents who spoke at Tuesday's board meeting largely against using the carts, the board declined to vote on a measure that would have allowed its waste hauler, Rizzo Environmental Services, to begin automating trash pickup.

The move would have raised the cost of trash pickup by 76 cents a month per household, to \$8.36 per household per month. Supervisor Shannon Price said the higher cost would include the lease of the trash carts, which would belong to Rizzo.

There are about 8,600 Rizzo trash and recycling pickup stops in the township, most of them single-family homes.

Opponents objected to the price increase and said the carts can be unwieldy, especially for smaller people and elderly people. Several said that, in their one- or two-person households, they don't generate much trash and wouldn't fill the cart every week.

"As far as I'm concerned, things should stay status quo," resident Susan Bondie said.

"It's not broken. Keep it as it is," resident Bill Carter said.

The option of automating trash pickup this year was kept open in 2015, when the township agreed to a seven-year, \$9.2 million contract with Rizzo. The new contract automated the pickup of recyclables; households were issued 64-gallon recyclables carts, which Rizzo picks up using trucks with robotic arms that grasp, lift, empty and set down each cart.

Recycling was automated over concerns that 18-gallon orange bins residents had been using for years were too small and, as they did not have lids, sometimes left recyclables littering the streets.

Several people who spoke Tuesday said they like the recycling carts — although they take up garage space and, some said, can be clumsy to move — but also said they couldn't see extending automation to trash pickup.

"It's a great system. Keep it the way it is," Trustee Chuck Curmi said.

The board discussed voting on the proposal, with Curmi saying he wanted to "definitively kill it." But Price and Clerk Nancy Conzelman pointed out that, no matter the result of such a vote, the issue could be returned to the board's agenda.

No board members, however, said they'd be inclined to do that.

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Hometownlife.com announces several leadership changes

As the landscape changes for print journalism, hometownlife.com/the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has gone through some internal changes to improve structure and workflow.

Dan Dean has been named managing editor. Philip Allmen has been named consumer experience director. Allmen will oversee the programming, production, packaging and promotion of all newsroom content. Brad Kadrich and Joanne Maliszewski have been named county editors. Kadrich is Oakland County editor, overseeing coverage of Farmington, Birmingham, Novi/Northville, South Lyon and Milford. Maliszewski is Wayne County editor, overseeing the communi-

ties of Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Wayne, Westland, Redford and Garden City. Julie Brown has been named planning editor.

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 At the end of stories for each staff writer, an email and/or phone number is listed to contact that writer.

Star Wars returns to Plymouth library

The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will make sure the community is thinking Star Wars this month as the library hosts its third annual Star Wars Reads Day on Saturday, Oct. 15.

The library will join other libraries, schools and bookstores around the world in this global event. Attendees will find Star Wars collectibles, posters, decorations and more. All are encouraged to dress as a favorite SW character

and enjoy the following free activities, thanks to the support of the Friends:

- » Face painting: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Located on the library's lower level.
- » Star Wars crafts: Library staffers have created some super Star Wars crafts for children ages 5-12 with their families. Choose one of the craft sessions: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Call 734-453-0750, ext. 5.
- » Star Wars Trivia: 1:30 p.m. There is always a spirited competition among local Star Wars experts. Grab some friends and create your own team. Prizes will be awarded. Drop in; no sign up required.
- » Star Wars Snacks - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or while supplies last). No one will be hungry or thirsty on Star Wars Reads Day - in the main level meeting rooms.
- » Photo Booth - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Right inside the front door,

folks will find the Star Wars photo booth. All are encouraged to snap a photo and post it to Instagram.

» Star Wars Reads Give-aways - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or while supplies last). The Friends of the Library have been saving Star Wars books from the used book sale all year in preparation for Star Wars Reads Day 2016.

For more information, contact the library at 734-453-0750, ext. 4, or go to plymouthlibrary.org



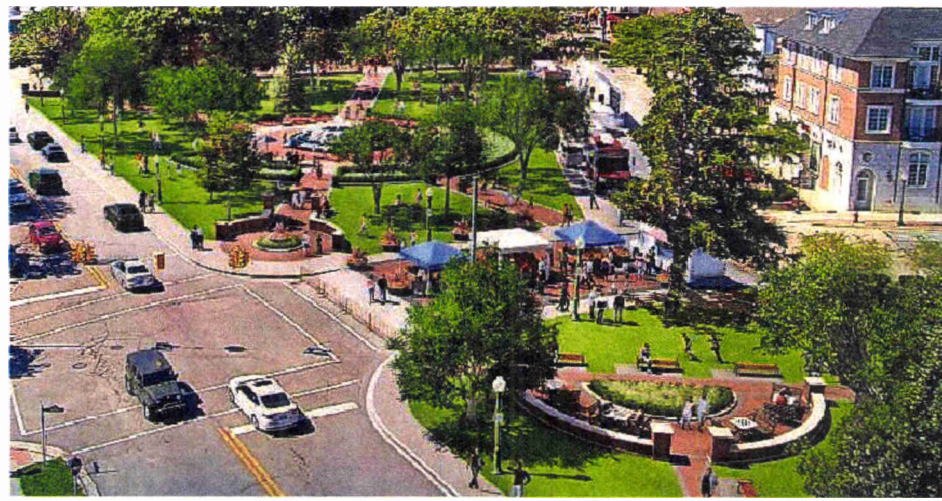
A redesigned Kellogg Park fountain would be 35 feet in diameter with an 18-inch wall, have a dome in the center and a six-foot water jet encircled by smaller jets.

KELLOGG

Continued from Page A1

more than 1,000 signatures, he said. "I don't want walls up. I don't want any more walls," Denise Burrows said. "I want the free flow that we have." Designers said they want to bring more definition to the park, but Jeff Sisolak said the look proposed would make him feel "like a hamster on a Habitrail" while at the park. "It would make me feel corralled in there," Sisolak said.

With the DDA taking the lead, city officials are planning a redesign and restoration of the



An artist's rendering of a redesigned Kellogg Park, with a view from Ann Arbor Trail, west of Union, looking west.

park, including a new fountain, in time for next year's 150th anniversary of Plymouth's incorporation as a village. There is no firm deadline, but City Manager Paul Sincoc said a construction period of about four months will be needed.

The project is estimated at up to \$1 million and officials say it will be paid for through private donations, not tax dollars.

Back to drawing board?

DDA chairman Oliver Wolcott said a DDA "working group" reviewing the plans would soon meet to go over the points made Monday.

"The feedback we're getting here will be taken into account," said Wolcott, who is also a city commission member. "If we need to modify, we will."

The park plans were developed by Russell Design of Northville and the fountain plans by WESCO Fountains of Venice, Fla.

Landscape architect Marc Russell said the intent included connecting the park more strongly to the surrounding streetscape, particularly the commercial area along Main Street; upgrading green space by improving the soil and replacing trees; moving the fountain 21 feet to the west in order to bring it to the park's

center; and connecting the park to the green space just east of it, across Union Street in front of the Wilcox House, which is also city parkland.

"The park is tired," Russell said. Some of the 33 trees on the site, he said, are weak and diseased and would have to come down eventually. Most of the park's trees are Norway maples, he said, and are not suited for conditions there.

"We need to introduce new species," he said. Russell also said the park needs more definition; to accomplish that, in part, he proposed a low brick wall, which would invite people to sit, extending from the crosswalk across Main Street south nearly to Ann Arbor Trail.

In addition, Russell's plans call for new park entry features, canopied tables and chairs east of the fountain and gaming tables, such as for checkers or chess, in the space in front of the Wilcox House.

Union Street at Ann Arbor Trail, Russell said, would be rebuilt with the ability to close it, through the use of large planters that could be easily moved, for use during special events. That, he said, would link the green space in front of the Wilcox House with the larger park. (Sincoc said that Union Street was dead-ended in that spot, at Ann Arbor Trail,

until 1973.) Most at the meeting, however, were not buying the proposed changes.

"It seems to me that what we're being told here is we have to destroy the park to save the park," Tim Herman said.

Some, though, spoke in favor of changing the fountain — in its current location.

"The fountain is broken. Let's fix it. The park is not broken. Let's leave it alone," Joe Elliott said.

Current plans for the fountain would increase its total diameter by four feet to 35 feet, lower the wall that surrounds it to 18 inches to make it more comfortable for sitting and upgrade the plumbing and electrical systems. The water feature itself would have a round platform, of several tiers, in the center, with a six-foot center water jet, encircled by a variety of smaller jets. The jets' sprays would be remotely controlled and would have a number of variations.

For more information on the project, go to downtownplymouth.org/DocumentCenter/View/381; for a look at the latest renderings, go to downtownplymouth.org/DocumentCenter/View/382.

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COLORING

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and she started working on it in January.

"She thought it would be something to do when you're not outside during the winter months," Lambert said. "I like to be artistic, but I don't have the talent to draw my own. I just like to combine the colors and make them pretty like you would in the garden with flowers that are growing."

Unlike Rhodes, Lambert enjoys coloring

flowers and other worldly subjects — like dragonflies. She used a variety of colors and shades to create a unique dragonfly on Monday.

"When you see them in the wild, they're very colorful," Lambert said.

Friend Judy Laswell introduced Lambert to the library class.

"We use to do yoga together," she said. "I dropped out of the yoga, so to have some place mutual to go, we met here."

Where to color

Redford's library isn't the only one in the area

to host adult coloring classes. Others include: » Plymouth - "Mellow Monday" adult coloring will be held Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. The library provides supplies. The class is free.

» Livonia - "Coffee and Coloring" classes will be held Nov. 1 and Dec. 13 from 6:30-8 p.m.

» Garden City - Classes will be held Oct. 18, Nov. 1 and Nov. 22 in the library's programming room.

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Good clown vs. bad clown: WCA is fighting back

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

The World Clown Association is fighting back.

"Whoever is doing this is not a clown," WCA president Randy Christensen said about the growing hysteria over the so-called creepy clowns. "A person wearing a mask and jeans — that's not a clown. If somebody dresses like a doctor and is in a haunted house and is coming at you with a chainsaw, he is not really a doctor."

Indeed, these are troubling times for legitimate clowns. The WCA, headquartered in Berrien Springs, represents more than 2,000 clowns from 30 countries. It has been around for more than 30 years and the last thing it wants to see is clowns' reputation tarnished by a few bad apples.

"A number of our members aren't sure what to do," Christensen said in a phone interview from his home in Minnesota. "There's a grandma who was about to do a clown show for a first-



Randy Christensen as Simon De Clown (left) with Leon "Santa" McBride.

grader's birthday party ... but now she's afraid to do the party

because she's getting prank calls from people who are saying

they want to hunt her down because she's a clown."

Christensen said most of the WCA members decided to become clowns because they love making people laugh and smile.

"These are professional performers who visit children in hospital wards ... they go to senior homes and they perform for veterans," he said. "We have people who do rodeos, circuses and charity work. Most of them take it up as a hobby."

His son, Ben Christensen, lives in Canton and is the Midwest director for the WCA. His two other children, Brooke and Shane, also do clown performances. It's a family tradition that dates back for decades.

"I began performing in 1980," said Christensen, whose main character is Simon De Clown. "A friend taught me how to juggle and, one day, I went with him to a children's ward at a hospital and saw the joy and hope he was bringing to these kids. I knew right away it was something I wanted to do."

Incidents around the country involving the

so-called creepy clowns have everyone on high alert. Christensen read a story online where a clown was spotted lurking in the woods. It turned out to be a high school student taking photographs.

"The whole thing is driven by social media and mob hysteria," he said. "Sadly, in our culture right now, we're in a place where people are reacting violently to all kinds of things. It kind of breaks our hearts ... and I don't want to be a clown with a broken heart."

Most of all, he wishes people would quit describing the pranksters as clowns.

"We're the good, clean fun wholesome characters," he said. "Almost all the clowns I know got started in this business because they wanted to give back to their community and bring a smile. Just because someone is wearing a Halloween mask does not make them a clown."

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Woman admits to mulch thefts

A 68-year-old admitted mulch thief from Ann Arbor was caught re-handed trying to steal bags of cypress mulch from the Great Lakes Ace hardware store at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon the night of Oct. 2.

A Plymouth Township police officer who was near the store on another call at about 9:30 p.m. spotted the woman in back of the store walking between a pallet of mulch bags and a GMC Safari van with an open side door, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. The woman appeared to be hiding something, the report said.

When the officer approached, the woman admitted she hadn't paid for nine bags of mulch that had been loaded into the Safari, police said. The bags were priced at \$3.99 each.

The woman said it

wasn't the first time she had stolen mulch from outside stores. She was arrested and released on a \$75 bond after a court date was set on a charge of petty larceny.

Tire thief

A man who was attempting to steal five used tires was chased away from a gas station in Plymouth Township the evening of Oct. 5.

The attempted theft occurred at the Shell station on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275, just before 8 p.m., a police report said. A station employee told police the man was discovered in an alley behind the building, rolling the five tires, and was confronted and then fled south on Tavistock Drive on foot.

A security camera at the station did not show the theft attempt, police said.

Drunken driver

A 28-year-old Canton Township man was taken to St. Mary Mercy Hospi-

tal after registering an extremely high blood-alcohol level Sunday afternoon, police said.

The man had been driving a Buick LeSabre on southbound I-275, near Ann Arbor Road, at around 4 p.m. Sunday when police were dispatched to the area on a report of a Buick that had struck the freeway dividing wall and possibly another vehicle, a police report said. Police followed the LeSabre as it exited the freeway at Ann Arbor Road, almost striking another vehicle and traveling erratically, police said. Police pulled the driver over in a parking lot.

The man performed poorly on field sobriety tests, registered a high blood-alcohol level on a breath test and was arrested and taken by ambulance to the hospital, police said. He told officers he had consumed two shots of liquor.

— By Matt Jachman

Shinola president talks about revival

A strong message of Detroit pride and re-emergence from Detroit by Shinola president Jacques Panis inspired a crowd of regional business and political leaders gathered last week in Dearborn.

Some 370 convened at the Ford Motor Co. Conference and Event Center for the fourth annual Western Wayne Business Leadership Banquet, a program coordinated by the 18 western Wayne County communities and their chambers of

commerce.

Panis was the keynote speaker, who shared the story of the popular rise of the young company that has manufactured 457,000 trendy watches in four years and is expected to top \$100 million in revenue in 2016.

In his blunt, irreverent style, Panis detailed the energy used to produce the quality work and branding of Shinola products. He captivated the audience with his passion for living and working in Detroit.

"I travel all over the world and I will get some

cross-eyed looks from people when I tell them I am from Detroit," Panis said. "But I am proud to say I run a business in the city of Detroit, I live in the city of Detroit and I hang out with great people in the city of Detroit."

The event was attended by elected leaders from Livonia, Plymouth, Westland, Northville, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne and neighboring townships. U.S. Reps. Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn, and Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, also attended the event.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Woman, 81, loses \$2,000 in iTunes phone scam

An 81-year-old Canton woman, worried that her grandson had been arrested for texting while driving, was swindled out of \$2,000 by a caller who fabricated the story.

The woman told police Friday that she received a phone call from a woman who asked her to buy iTunes cards totaling \$2,000 and to call back and provide the code numbers.

She did, apparently believing it would free her grandson.

Canton police Lt. Craig Wilsher warned against falling for the iTunes and similar scams.

"Don't send money to just anybody," he said. "If you have any concerns or suspicions, just don't do it."

Wilsher said anyone receiving such calls should verify with a family member that it is legitimate before sending money. He said some elderly people can be particularly vulnerable to scam artists.

"A lot of times (scam artists) prey on the elderly because they are a little more vulnerable and trusting," he said.

Choking incident

A dispute over Halloween costumes bought at a Canton Walmart led to an altercation in which a 27-year-old woman said a man she knows grabbed her by the

throat, pushed her up against a car and held her there for several minutes.

The incident unfolded about 8:30 p.m. Oct. 5, when the suspect, a 28-year-old Westland man, became upset that the victim had bought princess dress costumes at Walmart. It wasn't clear in a police report why he was angry. A police report said the two knew each other, but had no romantic involvement.

The suspect, driving a car near Michigan Avenue and Morton Taylor, suddenly pulled off the road into a restaurant parking lot, pulled all the Walmart items from the trunk and tossed them in a roadside grassy area. He then grabbed the victim by the throat and choked her, with red marks still visible when police arrived.

The victim told police she nearly lost consciousness and had difficulty breathing, even after the suspect released his grip on her. An employee of the nearby restaurant saw what happened and said the suspect drove off without the victim.

Paramedics arrived and took the woman to a hospital for evaluation after she complained of neck and back pain.

Neighbor confrontation

It's a turbulent day in the neighborhood.

A 39-year-old Canton man notified police after he and his wife got into a

dispute with a 40-year-old neighbor who was accused of trespassing on their property the evening of Oct. 4. He told authorities it wasn't the first time the neighbor confronted them on their property in the 1700 block of Tannytown Road, near Ridge and Proctor.

Police spoke with the neighbor, who said the argument started because the man and his wife parked their vehicle in a fire lane, in an area that made it difficult for school buses to maneuver.

Police issued the neighbor a citation for trespassing, but warned the couple not to park in the fire lane.

Stranger in van

A woman arriving at a dry-cleaning business notified police after she saw a 38-year-old man inside a company van parked on the site, a police report said.

The incident unfolded about 5 a.m. Oct. 7 in the 7200 block of Sheldon, near Warren. The woman said the man had broken into the vehicle.

Police arrived while the man was still on the scene. He told police he had gotten drunk at a nearby bar, blacked out and woke up to find himself in the van. He also claimed he was missing \$700.

Police arrested the man for breaking and entering an automobile.

— By Darrell Clem

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Calley, lawmakers advocate for special education reforms

R.J. Wolcott
Lansing State Journal

The next great step of the civil rights movement in America.

That's how Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley described ongoing efforts to improve how students with special needs are treated in public schools.

Calley was one of a dozen speakers assembled at the Capitol Wednesday, Oct. 5. Under a banner reading "Michigan kids with IEPs count" speakers told a crowd of about 100 that seclusion and restraint policies in schools need to be reformed and educational outcomes of students with special needs need to improve.

"We need true inclusion, where a person has every opportunity to explore their potential and have the same access (to education)," Calley said.

Speaking about the potential parents see upon first holding their newborn child, Calley said the world needs to see that same potential in students with special needs, rather than limiting expectations of them. Calley, who has a child with special education needs, was one of several speakers who talked about the challenges parents of children with special needs face in sending their kids to school.

Another was Rep. Frank Liberati, D-Allen Park. He spoke about his son, Antonio, and how the family was told he wouldn't be able to attend Lindemann Elementary, the same school as his older siblings.

"We were told he'd have to go to another school district," Liberati recalled.

That didn't sit well with Liberati. His son was ultimately able to attend Lindemann and



Calley

Liberati successfully ran for school board the following election. He served on that board eight years, including six as the board's president.

Wyatt Smith was preoccupied with drawing the solar system's planets during the event. His mother, Carol Smith, said she and her husband faced an uphill battle to have Wyatt treated the same way as his peers by school officials. Wyatt, 8, has been diagnosed with ADHD and autism spectrum disorder.

"Why should I have to fight when other parents don't?" Smith asked. "Why should I have to pay for an advocate for my child when I pay taxes to the schools?"

Smith ultimately prevailed after hiring Marcie Lipsitt, a special education advocate and co-founder of the Michigan Alliance for Special Education. Lipsitt organized Wednesday's event. More than 211,000 students in Michigan have IEPs, a document which outlines educational plans for students who need special education services.

Advocates want seclusion and the use of restraints in Michigan public schools eliminated, and changes made to how complaints filed by parents with special needs students are resolved.

"I don't want discrimination to be an issue," Smith said. "I want all students treated with respect."

Liberati successfully ran for school board the following election.

Billiards trick shot star overcomes autism

Scott R. Daniel
hometownlife.com

The way William DeYonker makes a cue ball dance, the way he makes it seemingly defy the laws of gravity and bend its trajectory to his will, is nothing short of amazing.

Yet for the 24-year-old Madonna University student, the real magic of all his trick shots on the billiards table is how it has set him free. Diagnosed early in life with Asperger's syndrome, which is considered to be on the high-functioning end of autism spectrum disorder, DeYonker has emerged from an often lonely world.

"Over the last year and a half, since he started achieving success in tournaments," mother Susan Blaskay said, "he has arrived. He just has to be around other people. I have no words."

Like many people his age, DeYonker juggles a busy schedule. He carries a near full load of classes at Madonna, works a part-time job and squeezes in about 20 hours of practice time each week on the pool table.

The Livonia native, who now lives in Ann Arbor, is on track to graduate next spring with a degree in videography and broadcast cinema arts. While he's used to working behind the camera, DeYonker recently spent some time in front of it.

He competed for a national title in Atlantic City last weekend at ESPN's "Trick Shot Magic" tournament.

"I had competed in a lot of tournaments," DeYonker said, "but never in front of the camera. It was a little nerve-wracking."

Because the tournament won't air until December, he can't disclose exactly where he finished.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

William "The Gentleman" DeYonker chalks his pool cue.

"Let's just say I did very well," DeYonker said.

He is currently ranked fifth in the world in "artistic pool" by the World Pool-Billiard Association. "Will," as he is known to family and friends, would like to work for the organization one day. Until then, he has a few other goals.

"I'm going to keep on competing until I'm No. 1 in the world," DeYonker said.

Getting to the point where he could make such a statement is an accomplishment unto itself. Diagnosed with autism at age 4, DeYonker didn't speak until he was 7 years old. Then it was with just one or two words at a time, Blaskay said.

DeYonker also displayed typical behaviors associated with the disorder, such as making

little eye contact with others, being aloof and absorbed by his own inner world. He attended public school in Ann Arbor with an aide at his side. Making academic progress was challenging for DeYonker, in part because he simply learned differently than most students.

"He learned visually," said Blaskay, a Livonia chiropractor for the past 25 years. She took it on herself to be her son's biggest advocate and learn as much as possible about autism. "Parents need to be educated about it. William's biggest aide was us."

Together, the family made important discoveries along the way. Like when she walked in on DeYonker watching TV with closed captioning on at 10 years old. Unable to pick up on the meaning of facial ex-

pressions, body language and social cues, he told his mother, "I understand it better if I read the words."

"It was a very hard road," Blaskay said of her son's education. Still, DeYonker graduated on time from Ann Arbor Huron High in 2010.

During those years, DeYonker's interest in pool came in spurts.

"The Gentlemen," as he is now known on the professional circuit, was first mesmerized by the sport back in 2002 by watching "Trick Shot Magic" on ESPN. He took a particular interest in Mike Massey and Tom Rossman — or the "Tennessee Tarzan" and "Dr. Cue."

DeYonker tried to imitate their shots, but quickly learned just how difficult it was and his attention waned. Then, in 2006, he started following another top trick shot artist, Pavel Paledono. He studied his Internet videos and began practicing again.

"He made shots I had never seen before," DeYonker said.

DeYonker hasn't put down his pool cue since. He admits the sport didn't come easy to him at first, but through practice and determination, he has made himself into one of the best.

He enjoys the creativity of devising his own trick shots. DeYonker believes his autism actually helps him in the sport, because he tends to think geometrically, perhaps more naturally than other players.

"Being a trick shot artist," he said, "you've got to have a three (dimensional) mind."

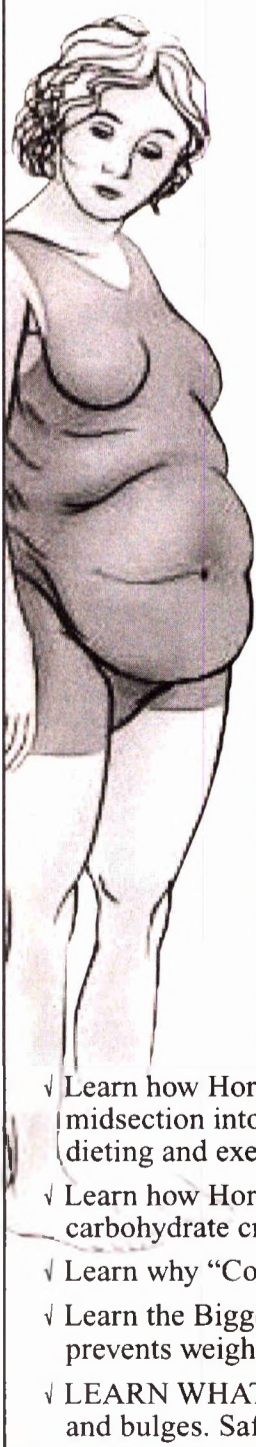
That and a little fearlessness.

"I have an instinct for doing what hasn't been explored before," DeYonker said.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAYNE COUNTY

Is Bigfoot real?

Bigfoot: Is the creature real? Or is it a myth? Find out about Bigfoot sightings from all over the country and learn about Bigfoot's ties to Michigan with a Bigfoot researcher 7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at Canton Public Library 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton. Bob Daigle, a native Detroit, author and researcher, will bring his Bigfoot research and findings from over a decade. The program is free.

Garden City art show, sale

The Garden City Fine Arts Association will hold its 33rd annual art show and sale Oct. 20-22 at First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman at Maplewood in Garden City. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, with a reception and awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Halloween open house

Join the fun at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center Halloween Open House, 15100 Hubbard, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15. Enjoy the pool, climbing wall, and a variety of gym activities. The gyms will be set up for roller hockey, pickleball, volleyball and basketball. Guests will also have a chance to learn about organizations and business in their community. As a special treat, youth are invited to trick-or-treat at the participating organizations and businesses. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Admission is free for the day for residents and \$3 per

person for non-residents. For more information, contact the Kirksey Recreation Center at 734-466-2900.

Scrapbook away

Scrapbooking event at 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at SS. Simon & Jude, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. Vendors will be available. Snacks, beverages, a light breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served. \$35 for a full day and \$20 for a half day. Contact Karen and Sandy at 734-721-4867.

Livonia library meets

The Library Commission of the Livonia Public Library will hold its regular meeting at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

A fall concert

P-CEP Choirs and Orchestra presents "A Fall Concert" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School in Canton, the P-CEP Choirs and Orchestras will perform an eclectic array of music presented by almost 400 student musicians.

Suggested donation is \$5 per person. All proceeds are used to support the choir and orchestras.

Autumn Labyrinth

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, will offer an Autumn Labyrinth Walk & Gathering from 7-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15. The church is on the north side of Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt. Enjoy a quiet, meditative walk from 7-7:20 p.m., followed by refreshments, music and fellowship. Contact 734-427-1414 for

more information.

Howl at the moon

Halloween goes to the dogs as Canton's Dog Park invites its members and their pets to "Howl at the Moon" 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the off-leash Dog Park on Denton Road, north of Cherry Hill Road. Attendees along with their four-legged friends can enjoy fall activities, a dog Halloween costume contest, as purchase merchandise and receive free giveaways from local pet supply and service vendors, while supplies last will be available. No preregistration is required for this free event. Dog licensing through the Canton Township Clerk's Office is required for admission. For more information, contact the Canton Park Office at 734-394-5310.

Legion craft show

The Garden City American Legion Auxiliary Unit 396 will host a craft and vendor show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at St. Mel's Church, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$1 to benefit local veterans and families. A baked goods sale and basket raffles will be available. For more information, call 734-756-6109.

Holiday bazaar

St. Colette Catholic Church Women's Guild will host a Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at the church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia. The bazaar will feature handmade craft items, baked goods, raffles and lunch during the day. Proceeds benefit local charities. For more information, call 734-464-0476.

Wedding survives visit by guest named Matthew

Susan Bromley
hometownlife.com

Lauren Sugg was prepared months in advance for her Oct. 8 wedding to Brian Conley in Orlando, Fla. — she even had an Excel spreadsheet with all the details: flowers, photographer, music, caterer and more.

What she didn't plan on was Hurricane Matthew, an uninvited guest barreling up the Atlantic with an eye on Florida.

"We heard about Matthew the weekend before, but it wasn't a big deal. We didn't really start to worry until Tuesday (Oct. 4)," said Sugg, 29, a 2005 Novi High School graduate. "And on Tuesday, they were, like, 'It's probably going to hit Florida' and I thought, 'Oh, crap.'"

Brian Conley, 35, has lived most of his life in Florida and has faced hurricanes before — most notably in 2004, when hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne all hit the state within weeks of each other.

The Polk County firefighter has also trained for emergency response to natural disasters, but Lauren is still fairly new to it. She moved to Florida to work for Disney several years ago after earning a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management from Grand Valley State University. She currently works in administrative support for Disney University. After meeting Conley on a dating app, their first date was at the Food and Wine Fest at Epcot two years ago, Oct. 8.

That date was how they chose their wedding date when they became engaged after seven months, allowing them 17 months of planning, but no long-range forecast for Hurricane Matthew, which formed Sept. 25 as a tropical depression off the coast of Africa, was named a few days later and then wrought destruction with direct hits on Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas before aligning itself parallel to the east coast of Florida.

Guests expected

Lauren and Brian had invited more than 100 guests to



Lauren Sugg and Brian Conley were married Oct. 8 in Orlando, the day after Hurricane Matthew threatened to make landfall with Florida.

their wedding and, at last count before the hurricane's arrival, were expecting 92. The Wednesday before the wedding was set to take place at the historic Dubsdread, a golf course and ballroom in Orlando, they found themselves scrambling to help family and friends rearrange flights.

"Wednesday was when I was most stressed, that was when we heard it was going to be a category 4 when it got to us and do a lot of damage," Lauren said. "Pretty much all day, it was go, go, go. It ended up being a whirlwind of hurricane prep."

Lauren's mother and stepfather, both Novi residents, had already arrived in Florida, but most family and friends from out of state had flights planned for Thursday or Friday, with airlines quickly canceling those plans.

Some understood the gravity of the situation, some did not.

"On Wednesday, I was trying to make my dad understand, we need to make

changes," Brian said. "My dad was, like, 'I'm just gonna wait 'til Friday when I get to the airport and see what is going on' and I said, 'No, you're not going to do that.'"

He would end up getting a flight to Tampa and flew in Friday night from Texas.

On the road

Lauren's father's flight got canceled, so he decided to drive from Michigan with his wife and youngest daughter, leaving about 3 p.m. Wednesday and driving through the night — only stopping for a three-hour nap — and arriving in Orlando at 4 p.m. Thursday, just before curfew.

"It was like something out of a movie," Lauren said. "He's going south toward the hurricane and everyone else is driving north to get out of Florida."

Aaron Martinez, Lauren's brother and a 2011 Novi High School graduate, was desperately trying Wednesday to change his flight from Thursday evening.

"It was 12 hours of not

knowing whether I would make the wedding or not," said Aaron, who finally managed to get a flight out of Lansing at 4 a.m. Thursday and, after multiple layovers, arriving in Orlando about 1 p.m. to go straight from the airport to a tux fitting.

He then set to work helping with contingency plans for food for the immediate family and bridal party for Thursday night and Friday after learning a catering company booked for the rehearsal and other pre-wedding plans had canceled all orders because of the curfew put in effect.

Supplies needed

Aaron and his mom went to the supermarket to pick up supplies and Chick-fil-A for more food.

"This was the first hurricane for everyone except for the bride and groom," Aaron said. "The forecasts were a doomsday scenario; we weren't sure what to expect. The forecasts kept getting more and more dire. My mom, being the

proactive lady she is, bought as much as she could. We bought a couple bottles of rum, too, because mom said that was the most important thing."

By Thursday night, they knew who would be there for the Saturday wedding and who wouldn't make it. Only 19 confirmed guests didn't attend. They were disappointed, but had done everything they could. For Lauren and Brian, there was nothing else to be done except "hunker down" at the Lake Buena Vista Resort where they were staying, along with her mom and stepdad, Aaron, Brian's daughters Chloe, 10, and Emma, 8, and more members of the bridal party.

They threw a hurricane party in the presidential suite.

"We had board games and enough food for 12 countries," Lauren said with a laugh. "I was pretty calm at that point, my stress level went down, there was nothing else we could do. Everyone that was coming was here and safe."

On Friday, they continued the hurricane party in their hotel, waiting for the storm to pass and Matthew did, going straight up the coast of Florida and declining in strength, making landfall Saturday in South Carolina as a category 1 hurricane, the same day Lauren and Brian were marrying outside in Florida, under sunny skies.

Unforgettable

"We had a great dramatic pre-cursor story to our wedding and no one will ever forget Hurricane Matthew or HurriConley," Brian said, referring to the hashtag their guests dubbed the wedding. "It was stressful, but everything played out and the day was just perfect on Saturday. Lauren is the kindest, sweetest, gentlest soul I've ever known and I am proud and honored to be her husband."

Lauren and Brian are hoping for a calmer future, but feeling confident that after a hurricane, their marriage can weather any storm.

Susan Bromley is a hometownlife.com reporter and mother of a daughter who was hunkered down at a Disney hotel for Hurricane Matthew.

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At MSU, the region's largest contingent of K-9 cops

R.J. Wolcott
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING - The newest member of the Michigan State University Police Department arrived on campus Wednesday, Oct. 5, after months of training that included a stint inside an Alabama state prison.

Her first task: playing tug-of-war with her fellow officers.

Cora, an 18-month-old yellow Labrador retriever, is the 34th MSU police K-9 officer since the unit was founded in 1984.

Cora brings MSU's K-9 total to 10, the most ever active at one time, said Sgt. Dan Munford, who oversees the unit.

MSUPD was the first local department to have a K-9 officer, and its K-9 unit is the largest among local police departments. Because of mutual aid agreements, the department's K-9 officers track suspects to search vehicles and schools across the region, answering hundreds of calls for assistance in recent years.

And they have resources other departments don't, like Cora, whose specialized training in detecting body-worn explosives raised her price tag to \$49,000. A normal K-9 officer costs about \$10,000.

"We're lucky to have the tools we have at a time when other departments are running short," Munford said.

MSU's K-9 unit was spearheaded in the 1980s by retired Cpt. Dale Metz, who saw the potential of canines first hand during his time in the U.S. Army.

"Wanting to see how you could train dogs to do a number of different things that got me interested," Metz said.

If police needed a K-9 in the 1970s or early 1980s, it would usually take more than an hour for a Michigan State Police dog to arrive, Metz recalled. But once other departments saw MSU's first K-9 in action, they were quick to want their own.

"We made so many calls in Lansing that first year, the next year we trained 3 dogs for them," Metz said. "Once those dogs hit the street, Lansing's chief wanted six more."

The Lansing Police Department, by contrast, has five



Officer Shawn Porter, with the Michigan State University Police Department's K-9 Unit, rewards his dog Justus after a training exercise on Wednesday at the MSU Observatory.

dogs currently active and will have a sixth by the end of the month, said Sgt. Sean Mills, the K-9 unit supervisor. The Ingham County Sheriff's Department has four dogs currently, said Detective Sgt. Greg Harris.

All three departments have mutual aid agreements with other area police agencies, ensuring K-9s are available to assist as needed. Last year, MSU had 350 calls for K-9 help, more than 200 of which were for other departments, Munford said.

On a sunny Wednesday afternoon, Cora and three other MSU K-9 officers traveled to the MSU observatory for bi-weekly training.

Sifting through the trunk of his patrol car, Sgt. Munford grabbed a pair of keys and a folding knife. He ventured onto into a nearby field, placed the items in the deep grass, and circled around in an effort to throw off the K9s.

Justus, a five-year veteran of the department, sprinted into the field the moment his handler, Officer Shaun Porter, gave the signal. Within 10 sec-



From left to right, officers Adam Atkinson and Shawn Porter and Sgt. Dan Munford of visit with the latest addition to the K-9 squad, Cora, on Wednesday.

onds, The German shepherd was sitting on the ground, ears perked, signaling he'd found one of the items.

K-9 officers and their human partners are always together, whether at work or at home. Assignments are made based on a dog's traits: whether they play well with children or

if they can coexist with other pets.

Justus "knows when work starts," Porter said. "He sees me put on my work clothes or grab a certain water bottle, and he knows it's time to go to work."

If an officer goes on leave for medical reasons, as Mun-

ford did recently, the K-9 partner is also out of commission. Zilla, Munford's third dog, is one of two female dogs and the lone Dutch shepherd in the department.

"They're part of your family as well as being your eyes and ears at work," Munford said. "It's a pretty solid bond."

Ensuring the dogs are properly socialized is key, he added, particularly since MSU's dogs are often surrounded by hundreds, if not thousands, of people on football game days and during graduation ceremonies.

Inside the observatory, Cora and Officer Adam Atkinson were testing the detection skills the K-9 spent months honing. After spending five weeks in Alabama getting to know the department's newest K-9, Atkinson wanted to see how Cora would fare in a real-world environment.

Cora is one of four K-9 officers in the state trained as vapor wake dogs, Munford said. Vapor wake dogs are capable of identifying the smell of explosives and tracking potential bombers through dense crowds of people. The relatively new training grew out of research conducted at Auburn University with a goal of training dogs to identify and track people wearing explosives under their clothes.

The dogs spent up to half a year inside state prisons in Alabama as part of their training, where they are socialized and are taught the basics of detection.

Cora didn't come cheap. A typical patrol K-9 costs about \$10,000. Cora cost \$49,000, said Cpt. Doug Monette, MSU police's Public Information Officer.

It's worth it to keep the university's large venues such as Spartan Stadium safe, Munford said.

MSUPD typically gets six to eight years of work from each K-9, Munford said.

Atkinson said he'd recommended departments get "as many K-9s as possible," as a community relations tool.

Unlike some service animals, MSU's K-9s welcome attention from the public, though police prefer if people ask before petting them.

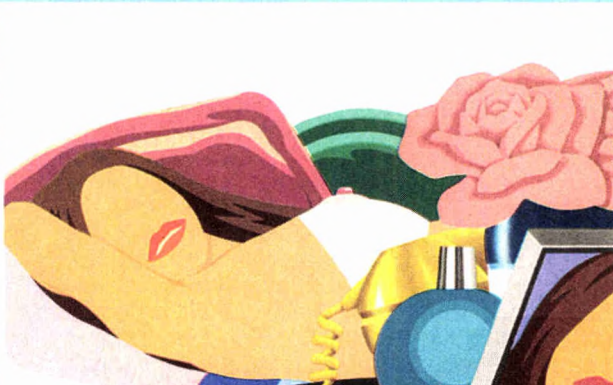
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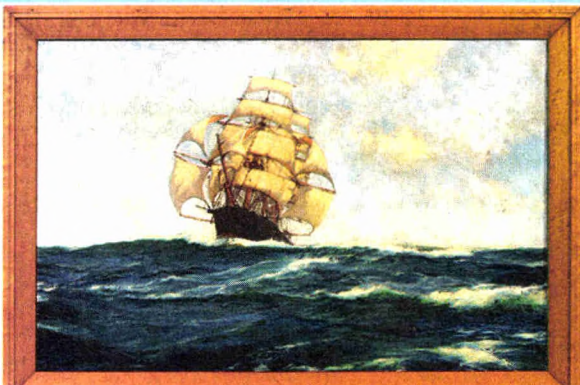
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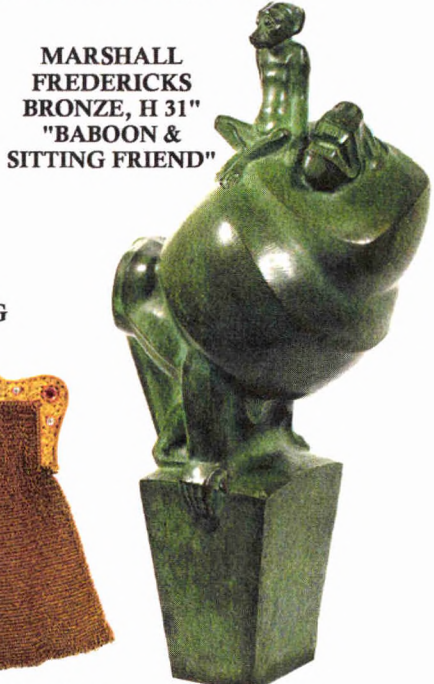
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'Maire's Journey' complete as ashes reach eastern shore

Lisa Roose-Church
Livingston Daily

A young woman's final wish and the people who made it possible are featured in a new documentary, partially filmed in Livingston County.

"Maire's Journey" tells the story of Maire Kent, who was diagnosed with cardiac sarcoma, a rare cancer of the heart. The 24-year-old woman, whose name is pronounced "Mary," died in 2013 and her dying wish was to have her ashes placed in a wooden sailboat so she could "go to the ocean."

"It was a big surprise to me and it's completely changed how I expected my life to be," Kent said in the movie about learning she had cancer.

The documentary, a portion of which was

filmed at Borek Jennings Funeral Home in Howell, has toured film festivals and makes its Michigan premiere Oct. 15 at the Royal Starr Film Festival. It also will be featured at the Indie Lounge at Sundance.

Director Keith Famie of Visionalist Entertainment Productions will also release his companion book, "Maire's Journey to the Sea," at that time. The book has a detailed story about Kent's fight with cancer and what Famie learned from her. Two dollars of each sale go to the University of Michigan's Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Sarcoma and Cardiac Tumor Research.

In the documentary, Kent shares her fears and she explains that her final wish is based on a childhood book, Paddle-to-the-



A Visionalist Entertainment Productions film crew films a scene from the documentary "Maire's Journey." The film is about Maire Kent, who died of cardiac sarcoma.

Sea," which is a story about an Indian boy who carves a boat he wanted to reach the ocean.

"It's about how people pick him up and set him free," Kent explains in the movie. "I want to do

that. I want to go to the ocean."

The documentary follows Kent's boat's 14,000 mile journey from the Great Lakes of northern Michigan to the eastern seaboard, and the

"many people" who made it possible, including George Wurtzel, a blind carpenter who built the 3-foot wooden boat carrying Kent's ashes. Also in the boat were photographs of others who lost

their lives to cancer and on the boat's sail was Kent's posthumous message:

"My name is Maire. I died of cardiac sarcoma cancer. This boat has my ashes in it and I'm making my way to the ocean. If you find me, please let me back on my path. I will bless you from Heaven. If I have reached the ocean, please let my brothers and sisters know. You can reach them on my Facebook page, 'Maire's Journey.'"

In addition, Famie's movie, "Death is Not the Answer," will debut Nov. 6 at Emagine Royal Oak on North Main Street in Royal Oak. The two-part film debut, which includes scenes of veterans with the Pinckney High School cross-country team, will air 8 p.m. Nov. 11 on PBS.

LETTERS

One bad apple

During my campaigning for the August primary election and throughout the days before the November general election period, I will have had nearly 3,000 conversations with Redford voters. I've met a wide range of good people who truly care about the future of our community. I would give all of them a five-star rating.

Unfortunately, the saying that one rotten apple can spoil the whole bunch seems to have come true as Election Day draws near. Someone decided to remove some of my campaign signs that had been legally placed on properties with the owner's approval. Perhaps the motivation was fostered by the view that I was a threat to the other candidates or perhaps it was just moronic behavior or something in between.

One sign after removal was placed on another property without permission, which has created a community member's aggravation and led to threats against my personal integrity.

I am grateful for all of my new five-star friends and their support. With the support of the community, I will continue to work to do what I can to make Redford Township a better place to live and work.

Jim Brenner
township board write-in candidate
Redford Township

Totally unacceptable

Here is the wonderful "Home Town" story I had delivered to my home on Sunday morning. I was shocked and appalled that you, being the paper's editor, would approve of such a photo for your front page. Page 3 had another photo of the couple's son wearing a creepy mask.

There is a reason this type of horror depiction is behind doors at a haunted house. People choose to go to these places to see this stuff.

That is their business. To put it on the front page of a local newspaper where small children see it is totally unacceptable. I would consider canceling the paper if I didn't think the other information the paper provides is useful.

I would have posted this on your letters to the editor page, but I didn't see a way to do that using your website.

Jim Keimig
Livonia

Clerks shouldn't endorse

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that a candidate for public office had the endorsement of my township clerk. You see, Linda Obrec, conveniently a candidate for the job, has been boasting about being endorsed by Terry Bennett, the clerk who is retiring after two decades.

The reason I am so concerned, is because I have worked in the Wayne County Clerk's Office and know how important it is that the role of elections administrator is above reproach. I have heard Cathy Garrett say it after turning down numerous candidates for endorsements: "Clerks don't endorse."

People love looking to Detroit and Wayne County for corruption, nepotism and dysfunction; however, here we have an example in our own backyard. I don't like setting this precedence and hope Clerk Bennett's successor does not continue it.

"Clerks don't endorse."

This country can't agree on the color of the sky right now. However, I think we can all agree that those who are counting our votes owe it to the residents to stay neutral. We elect clerks to oversee and safeguard voting rights. Establishing trust in the process and ensuring it is run well and with integrity is the job of a clerk, and our current one is eroding that on her way out.

Trevor Tutro-Anderson
Canton

Trump tactics in Canton

If I had to describe the 2016 election season in three words, I'd say: divisive, negative and hurtful. As a recent graduate of Salem High School, this will be the first general election I'm eligible to vote in. Growing up, I was taught to treat people the way I'd like to be treated, respect people even when we disagreed and, as Proverbs 18:21 says, I learned that "the tongue can bring death or life."

I'm particularly disgusted that the divisiveness, negativity and hate isn't just at the national level, it's infected politics here in Canton. Recently, respected community leader Michael Siegrist was attacked. The charge? Being someone who struggled with substance abuse as a young man, Siegrist sought help, made amends to his community and has been sober for nearly 13 years.

Since then, he's spent his life trying to make a difference in his community, including mentoring young people who are struggling just like he did. The way he uses his life for the betterment of the community, how he conducts himself and his unwavering integrity and kindness serve as a model for me as a young person. This wasn't just an irrelevant attack, it's a insult to everyone in our community who's struggled and overcame. It tells young people that they can never escape their struggle. Is this who we are as a community? It's sure not the Canton I know.

Instead of sticking with the issues, it appears that the party of Trump is relying on scare tactics, disgusting and vile attacks and dividing people against people from the top of ticket all the way down to the township level. At the national level, Donald Trump is mocking people with disabilities, inciting violence, bullying anyone who disagrees with him

and degrading women, Muslims and racial minorities. At the local level, the Republicans are attacking people who've struggled but come back! It's disgusting and vile.

As a young person, I often think about the community I'd want to raise my kids in. It's one where we treat each other the way we'd like to be treated, we respect people who disagree with us (or who look different than us, live different than us, have different abilities or have had different struggles) and realize that what we say can bring life or death. Our words and actions matter, even in a political campaign. Our children are watching and actions speak louder than words. If we teach our kids to not bully someone and then adults running for public office choose to bully their opponents, what example are we setting?

I believe Canton is an exceptional community because of our people. We practice different faiths, we look different, have different backgrounds, have our own strengths and weaknesses, our own unique struggles and victories, yet we are united as one, stronger together than we would be without each other.

I pray that in Canton love will trump hate, unity will trump division and we'll build a community based off of mutual respect. And on election day, I'll vote for a team with a vision to move Canton forward TOGETHER focused on important issues like smart planning, financial management and transparency. I'm voting for Dr. Syed Taj for supervisor; Dian Slavens for treasurer; Michael Siegrist for clerk; and Sommer Foster, Steven Sneedman, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak and Dhaval Vaishnav for trustees.

Ethan Petzold
Canton

Disappointed in opt-out

It was disappointing when Livonia opted out of the SMART system years ago. Although many Livonia residents did not feel the impact of this decision, so many other people did and still do. In November, we have an opportunity to support public transportation by voting yes for the Regional Transit Plan for southeast Michigan. This plan will provide much needed rapid, reliable and regional public transportation that connects riders across many cities and four counties. Everyone is entitled to be able to get where they need to go, especially if owning a car is not an option. A yes vote is a step in the right direction for Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties.

Mary Edwards
Livonia

Choose Michael Siegrist

I've been a resident of Canton for 28 years. I

have seen elected leaders come and go. I've seen games of all kinds. But I must say that I have never seen such a disgusting smear campaign than the one being waged against Michael Siegrist. Michael grew up in the same community I choose to raise my children. He was elected to the Canton Public Library board at the age of 24. He was made chair of the library board two years later by his colleagues, who were nearly twice his age. Michael is on the school board for the same district he graduated from, chairing the bond oversight committee and serving on finance and operations. This township has said yes to Michael Siegrist two times before and he has illustrated his character. I look forward to casting my vote for Michael Siegrist for Canton Township clerk.

Barbara Fanning
Canton

Stooped too low

So, we picked up the Livonia Observer on Sunday morning. You have stooped to a level of reporting we cannot believe.

The "clown" robbery which happened within our city limits this past week, where police officers were SHOT at, received LESS front page coverage than a ridiculous story about a "CREEPY CLOWN" couple who dress up for a haunted house.

What kind of editor are you?

Shame on you. We cannot verbalize how poor this decision was. Bad taste. No more Observer for us.

The Tanderys family
Livonia

Vote Kristy Pagan

When my family moved to Canton in 2005, we found a community that respected racial and ethnic diversity, supported strong public institutions and nurtured a vibrant local economy. State Rep. Kristy Pagan has championed these same priorities in her first term, which is why she enthusiastically has my support in this election.

Kristy Pagan has been a strong voice in Lansing, fighting against misguided and harmful Republican-led legislation that has undermined our well-being. Take for example, Michigan's so-called "right-to-work" law. This was never about jobs. This was about political agendas and corporate special interests. Are we expected to yield to Republican pandering to big businesses at the expense of hard-working families?

Thankfully, we have state Rep. Kristy Pagan, who doesn't sit back but battles any policy that hurts working families. I'm supporting Kristy Pagan because she represents and fights for our best interest: a government that works for all of us, not just corporations.

If this is important to you as it is for me, then please join me in reelec-

ting state Rep. Kristy Pagan by voting absentee or at the polls Nov. 8. Let's keep Kristy in Lansing to continue her exemplary leadership as our state representative.

Mahima Mahadevan
Canton

His quest

Having had the honor to serve as a past president of the Absentee Voter Counting Board, I can take pride in working to protect every vote. If the right to vote is the foundation that all our liberties rest on, we have a vested interest in ensuring that everyone feels their voice is heard.

Working with our current clerk and supervising almost two dozen election workers, we oversaw the administration of all 42 precincts for the primary and general elections in 2010. As a team, we counted 5,093 ballots in August and 8,065 in November.

I am happy to read Mrs. Pierson's letter last week and know that she had a great experience voting absentee! I was sad to hear that not all members of our community have felt the same confidence. Placing principals above personalities, I will focus not on the politics of personal destruction, but rather commit to work every day to provide high quality service to all our voters. I will leave no stone unturned in my quest for integrity, accountability and transparency.

Michael Siegrist
Canton

Elect Kristy Pagan

I personally know the commitment and dedication Rep. Kristy Pagan has shown for the residents of the 21st District that includes Belleville, Canton and Van Buren Township.

As a Canton retiree myself and someone who has worked my entire life helping others as a social worker, I will be voting for state Rep. Kristy Pagan because she understands we must stand up for our most vulnerable citizens. Rep. Kristy Pagan is a strong advocate for seniors. She has sponsored a bill to repeal the senior pension tax, supports policies that protect seniors from fraud and abuse and works to keep seniors in their homes by restoring the homestead property tax credit.

As a graduate of Plymouth-Canton schools, Rep. Kristy Pagan also works diligently to improve public education. I am inspired by her determination to ensure that all students receive a quality and equitable education and she has shown her commitment to our public schools by introducing legislation to fully fund them and restore cuts made to the school aid fund.

Please join me in voting for Rep. Kristy Pagan when you fall out your absentee ballot or vote for her at the polls Tuesday, November 8.

Elaine Thomas
Canton

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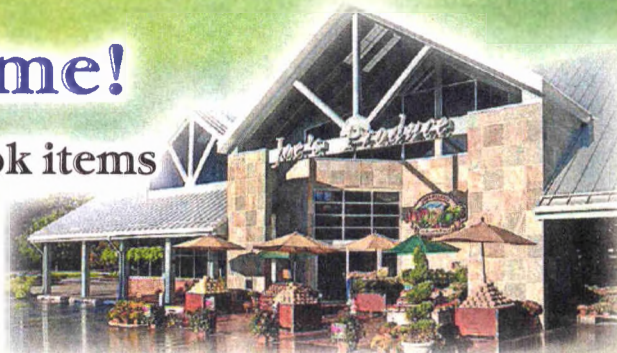
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SPORTS

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PREP FOOTBALL

Salem spoils Novi homecoming, 27-23

Rocks move closer to elusive playoff berth

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Salem hasn't been to the football state playoffs since 1991.

But the Rocks looked like a team Friday night that would break that futility as they stormed back from a 23-13 third-quarter deficit to score 14 unanswered fourth-quarter points and spoil Novi's homecoming, 27-23.

Salem, which improved to 4-3 overall and 2-2 in the KLAA's Central Division, still

needs two wins in its final two games to earn an automatic berth to end the 25-year drought.

And it certainly took a step in the right direction when Andrew Davis, who was stymied most of three quarters, scored on touchdown runs of 5 and 39 yards in the final quarter, with final TD coming with 7:21 remaining.

Junior quarterback Ryan Young was an efficient 8-of-10 passing for 220 yards and two TDs, including a 73-yard pass to Davis with only 2:22 left in the opening half to get the Rocks on the board. That play, ironically, was the only first down Salem would get during the first half.

Young also connected with Mason Phillips, who had four catches for 117 yards on the night, with a 64-yard bomb to pull Salem within four, 17-13, with 4:53 left in the third.

"They knew we were going to run the ball early and that was our scheme, so we tried to come out and do some different runs, different formations, pass it deep and it worked out," Young said of the second half. "That was the whole plan for them to take Andrew (Davis) away. They did a good job of that the first half."

While Davis (16 carries, 63 yards) was held in check for the most part by Novi's de-



Salem quarterback Ryan Young (right) scrambles away from Novi's Ethan Carter.

See FOOTBALL, Page B2

COACHES VS. CANCER



The Canton Chiefs burst out onto the field during last year's Coaches vs. Cancer benefit game. They will do the same at 7 p.m. Friday.

BOYS SOCCER

Canton takes Kensington Conference

Chiefs defeat Northville to earn third straight title

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Following Canton's 3-2 boys soccer win Monday night over host Northville at Tom Holzer Field, the loud speaker piped in music from Kool & the Gang's famous rendition of "Celebration."

And the Chiefs (15-1-2), ranked No. 2 in Division 1, had reason to sing right along as they secured their third straight Kensington Conference championship while earning a spot in the upcoming KLAA Association championship against Lakes Conference winner Grand Blanc (8-4-5). Game time is 7 p.m. Thursday at Canton.



Rockafellow

"I thought it was wide open, I thought both teams attacked and did a nice job of creating opportunities up top," Canton coach Mark Zemanski said. "There was probably a little too much space we were giving them and they took advantage and they have some good speed. We'll have to clean it up a little going forward. But overall, it was a good match and they're a good team. And I think we're a good team, too, so I was glad we got the win, obviously, for the boys."

The Chiefs went on the offensive early and took a 1-0 advantage just 5:08 into the match, when Matt Rockafellow scored off a corner kick from Aidan Hurley.

But Northville (9-3-6) would answer with 9:49 left in the opening half, when Zach Komejan scored after a long throw-in from Ben McCauley that was double-touched by

See SOCCER, Page B2

THEY WANT TO SACK CANCER

Canton football community straps it on to help raise awareness

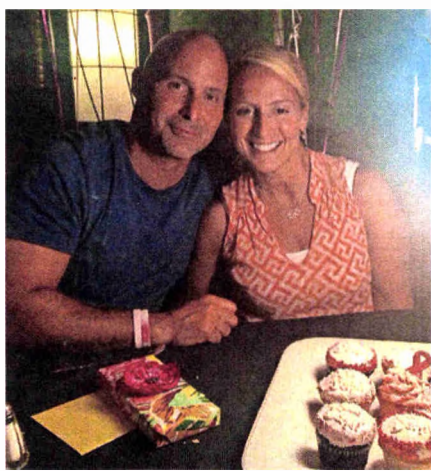
Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

They're seeing red at Canton High School about the ongoing ravages of cancer — enough for football players to wear pink Friday night, Oct. 14.

That night, the Chiefs' home contest against Westland John Glenn is the annual "Coaches vs. Cancer" charity game, with proceeds to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Players, along with cheerleaders and pom pon girls, are all in on the mission to help raise awareness and dollars to fight the dreaded disease.

Plymouth-Canton Steelers coach Angelo Lanava knows that from personal experience. His wife Enza was diagnosed with



Football coach Angelo Lanava (left) and his wife, breast cancer survivor Enza Lanava.

See CANCER, Page B2

COACHES VS CANCER

What: The Canton Chiefs will host Westland John Glenn for the annual Coaches vs. Cancer benefit game.

When/where: Kickoff is 7 p.m. Friday at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity turf field.

Why: Canton football players, cheerleaders and members of the pom squad all are joining efforts to help raise awareness and money to fight cancer. Proceeds will be earmarked for the American Cancer Society.

Activities: There will be a memory honor walk before the game, ribbons with the names of loved ones will be attached to the stadium fence and players will wear pink on their cleats. Announcements also will be read over the public address system during the game. Folks can donate spare change at the gate.

To help: Email Canton athletics director Vernon Crump at vernon.crump@pccsk12.com.

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Plymouth Christian Academy celebrates after winning its division at the Wayne County Championship.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Plymouth Christian wins county meet

The Plymouth Christian Academy boys cross country team repeated as winner of the Wayne County Championship for Divisions 3 and 4, Saturday at Willow Metropark in New Boston.

Aaron Vicars earned a medal, finishing 29th overall with a time of 16:53, to lead the team. Junior Seth Windle (17:24), sophomore Quinn

McLaren (18:24), senior Ian Hay (18:32), and sophomore Caleb Godin (20:40) rounded out the scoring for the Eagles to secure the victory.

Sophomores Kyle Sedgewick (23:59) and Aaron Geisler (24:24) finished in the sixth and seventh positions for the Eagles.

The Eagles now hope to make a run at the MIAC

championship and defend their regional championship in two weeks as well.

"I am really happy with the way our team has been working up to this point," coach Rod Windle said. "We are the top-ranked team in the region due in large part to the returning one-two punch of Aaron Vicars and Seth Windle, who are ranked No. 1 and

No. 2 in the region.

"We lost three key runners, including graduates Gareth Matson and Paul Chamberlin and junior Ben Fuller who was sidelined with an injury. Despite these losses, significant improvement by senior Ian Hay and new additions of sophomores Quinn McLaren and Caleb Godin have made us a contender once again."

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

fense, Young also scrambled his way for 27 yards to help augment the run game in the second half. He also came up with two interceptions as well.

"We made adjustments with our O-line, we had to fix some things ... Andrew with his steps and me with my fakes and my throws," the 6-foot, 180-pound QB said. "But we came out the second half firing and got the win."

Novi (4-3, 3-1) led 10-7 at halftime, getting a 20-yard field goal from Blake King and a 2-yard TD run from fullback Ian Patterson.

The Wildcats then went up 17-7 with 7:08 left in the third on a 30-yard TD run by Anthony D'Annibale, who had an outstanding night offensively with 10 catches for 149 yards to go along with six carries for 48 yards.

"Great player," Young said. "He was beating us early in the game, first quarter, first half, so we put a corner on him, pressed him and me over the top kind of playing zone coverage and that kind of shut them down

and shut their team down."

It appeared the Wildcats had control when senior quarterback Alec Bageris (15-of-28 passing, 193 yards) connected with D'Annibale on a 68-yard TD play with 4:35 left in the third to make it 23-13. (Both teams blocked an extra point.)

But the Wildcats, who had the slight edge in total yards (334-302), couldn't get a key stop down the stretch.

"We lost a free safety (Drew O'Connor) and we had to move some people around. Guys were playing a little out of position, unfortunately," Novi coach Jeff Burnside said. "When he goes down and multiple guys in the secondary are going both ways, they're real gassed. We had a couple of missed tackles on that big (Davis 39-yard TD) run. If we don't miss the tackles, we're probably OK. I give them credit. They kept pounding at us and pounding at us and we missed a couple of tackles."

Novi went only 5-of-13 on third-down conversions and was 0-of-4 on fourth downs.

"We struggled a little bit on third downs tonight. I'm not really sure what it was," Burnside said. "We obviously will go back and watch some

film and really see what happened. It really seemed we were a little discombobulated at times, especially on third down."

Penalties were flying on both sides as Novi had eight for 73 yards, while Salem had six for 51.

"It seemed like every time somebody had a big play there's a penalty," Burnside said. "They had a big play and a penalty. They had a couple and we had a couple brought back by penalties. I don't know what it was. But sometimes it happens in hard-hitting football games. That was a physical football game and sometimes that happens. You start to lose yourself a little bit. Guys are tired, sometimes they grab a cloth or forget to go downfield when you're not supposed to. It happens."

Meanwhile, Salem coach Kurt Britnell was pleased with the way his team came on during the second half offensively.

"They were slanting and doing stuff to us up front and I think it took us a little time to get used to that," Britnell said of Salem's defense. "Obviously they keyed Andrew (Davis) and they were coming hard on the edges with

our mesh point and made things difficult. But we handled adversity well, made a few minor adjustments, especially late in the third and early in the fourth, where we placed Andrew, so they couldn't figure out what side he was going and it seemed to help. He ran hard, we got off the ball and made good throws and timely decisions with Ryan."

For Salem, the regular season ends with two home games, including South Lyon on Friday and the conference crossover against a KLAA South opponent (Oct. 21).

"We're playing for ourselves more, not for anything else, playing for Salem, playing for a family," Young said. "Second half of the season, we're playing for each other now. We haven't made the playoffs in over 20 years. That's been the goal for a while, but our next opponent is our sight right now."

Novi, which also has to win out to qualify, faces KLAA Central leader Northville this week, followed by a Kensington Conference crossover.

bemons@hometownlife.com
bemons1@twitter.com

SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

teammates Omar Lahbiki and Owen Marshall.

Meanwhile, the Mustangs seemed poised to go up 2-1 with only 2:04 remaining in the half, when Canton goalkeeper Steven Page, coming off his line, fouled Felipe McCarthy in the box, resulting in a penalty kick.

But Northville's Ben McCauley was unable to take advantage as his shot sailed high over the crossbar, leaving the score deadlocked at 1-1.

And just 5:42 into the second half, Canton took the lead for good on Hurley's goal from Alex Spratte.

The Chiefs then increased their lead to 3-1 with only 15:59 remaining in regulation, when senior Mohamad Miri, who had been dangerous all night, scored on a rebound off a cross into the goal area by teammate Ethan Schiffour.

The Mustangs, however, refused to fold and got within one again with only 10:07 remaining, when Marshall scored following a long throw-in by Andrew Mitchell.

But Northville was unable to pull even, despite some heavy pressure on Page late in the match.

"Overall, I thought they took it to us the first half, for sure, with their speed," Northville coach Henry Klimes said of Canton. "But I thought we recovered after we gave up the early goal to get in the match and then get the equalizer. Missing a PK doesn't help the situation, but I give a lot of credit to Canton. They're a good team. That's why they're No. 2 in the state."

The return of Rockafellow to the lineup certainly helped bolster Canton's defense.

"I sprained my ankle pretty badly against Plymouth about three weeks ago and this is my first full game back," said Rockafellow, a senior co-captain who plays center back. "At first it was a little bit rough, but once after I got into it, I felt a lot better once I got into the game."

Canton beat Northville, 2-1, in an earlier meeting Aug. 24 and the Chiefs' game plan didn't deviate much.

"Just hard work, we just had to get out wide, just hard pressure, don't let them have time to play and just hammer it down their throats," Rockafellow said.

Zemanski was pleased to see Rockafellow's return to the lineup.

"I was glad to have Matt," he said. "He's been missing for two-thirds of the season. He's my center back. That's helped a lot, too."

Klimes, whose team plays Thursday at home against Walled Lake Central in a KLAA crossover, liked the way his team fought until the final horn.

"The second half, we got down 3-1 and never stopped, came back to get the second goal and certainly had two or three great opportunities to tie the game," he said. "I was happy and proud of the boys, even though it was a loss. But it really prepares us for the district run."

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CANCER

Continued from Page B1

breast cancer in 2014; she now is cancer-free.

"Unfortunately, no one is immune," Angelo Lanava said. "We all know someone who has had it or is going through it now. Hopefully, the student-athletes will know there is something we can all do to help and that is donate to research."

"Wearing pink in October isn't enough. Everyone needs to donate."

Not just October

Enza Lanava, president of the Canton Football Boosters Club, only recently finished radiation treatment.

"Enza was diagnosed a little over two years ago," her husband said. "She finished her treatments two years ago. She is currently cancer-free and follows up with her doctors every three months."

"I think all survivors appreciate the support given by so many, especially in October, but we need to think of all cancers and throughout the year."

Following the theme of how cancer impacts everybody, Julie Baechler (wife of Canton Chiefs varsity coach Tim Baechler and a football boosters member) noted that lung cancer claimed her dad eight

years ago.

Moreover, she continued, two of her best friends with ties to the football program (Enza Lanava, Tracy Boucher) have both dealt with breast cancer.

Baechler stressed that the Coaches vs. Cancer event also is a good way for students to get involved and make a difference.

"The event brings awareness to this horrible disease," she said. "Even more importantly is the fact that the coaching staff participates in this event, which tells all these players that helping other people is the most important thing in life."

"Yes, of course, they want to win games. So for them to allow this distraction to occur during a game, shows the kids how important it is with action, not just words."

More than words

Football players will wear pink shirts to school Oct. 14 (so will cheerleaders and pom squad members).

Players will make optional donations to the American Cancer Society. They will don cleats adorned with pink tape for the 7 p.m. game at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park against John Glenn.

Also, announcements (\$2 each) are being sold. Parents, relatives and friends can write

the announcements at a table that will be set up, and JV and freshman players will run those up to the press box to be read over the public address system.

Baechler said cheerleaders will honor survivors and the memories of those who died in several ways. They will sell ribbons, complete with names of loved ones, and those will be hung onto the fence around the football field.

Also, they will do a memory honor walk around the track before game time.

Meanwhile, the pom squad will do a 50/50 raffle for ACS.

Lanava said he and his wife are grateful to the Canton Football Boosters Club and everybody involved in putting together the Coaches vs. Cancer event. But much more needs to be done.

"I am grateful to them for spreading awareness," Lanava said. "Women who were diagnosed prior to my wife (and donations) determined the course of treatment (Enza) should receive. It's all about the research."

To help donate time or money for the Oct. 14 Coaches vs. Cancer event, contact Canton athletics director Vernon Crump at vernon.crump@pccks12.com.

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Canton cheerleaders, all wearing pink shirts, perform a routine during last year's Coaches vs. Cancer benefit game.

PREP FOOTBALL

Catholic Central wins big at St. Mary's

Shamrocks stay perfect with 28-7 division victory

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The one-two offensive punch of Nicholas Capatina and Austin Brown proved potent Friday night as state-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central earn a crucial 28-7 football win at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

The Shamrocks, who improved to 7-0 overall and 2-0 in the Catholic League's Central Division, racked up 361 yards total offense. Capatina, a senior running back, rushed for 121 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns, while Brown, a sophomore quarterback, completed 12-of-18 passes for 218 yards and a TD as CC took over sole possession of first place in the Central.

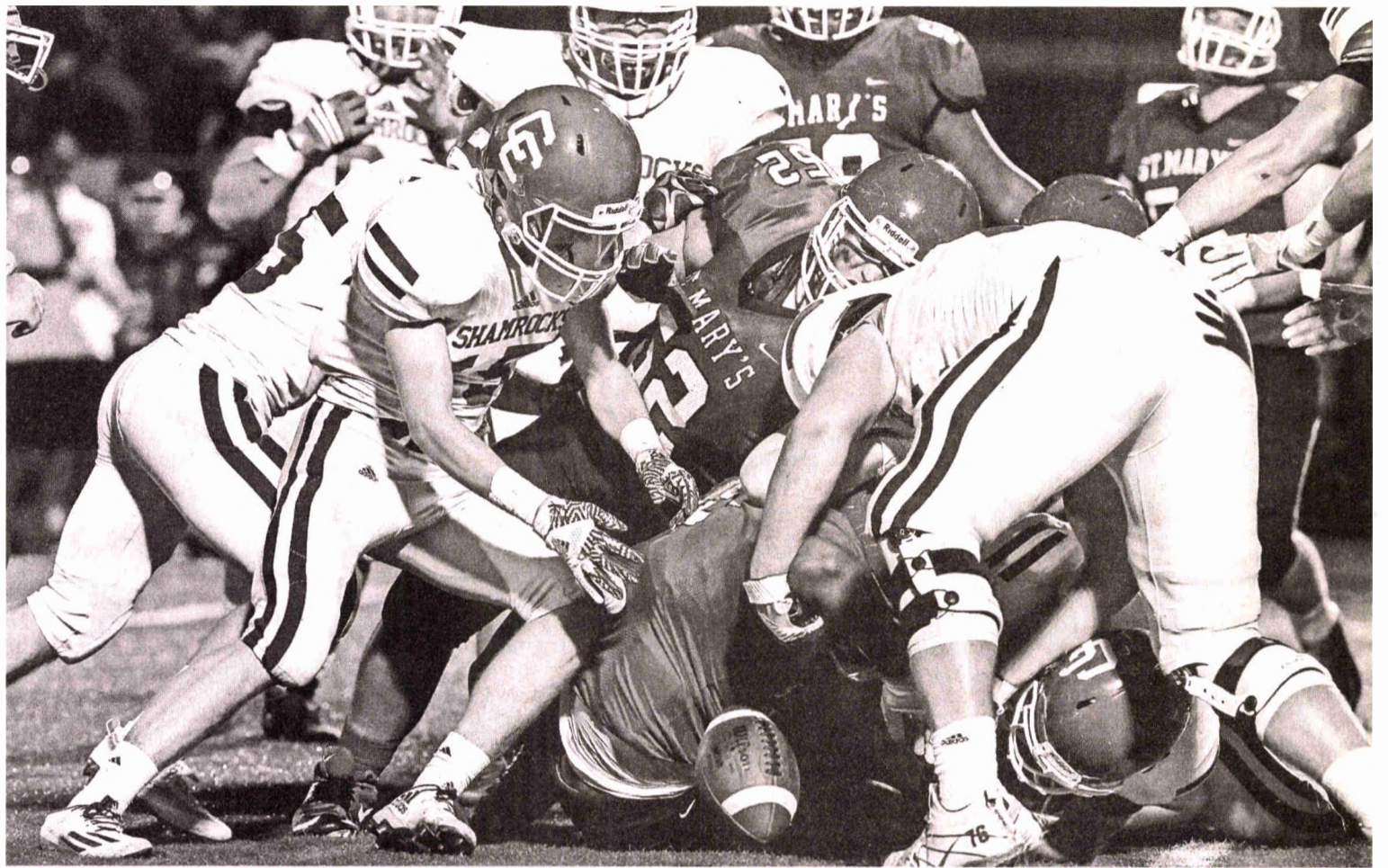
St. Mary's (4-3, 2-1), two-time defending MHSAA Division 3 champ, jumped out to a 7-0 lead with 4:04 left in the second quarter on a 1-yard run by Rashawn Allen.

But CC answered with 1:32 left until halftime, when Brown hit Isaiah Popp on a 53-yard scoring pass.

The Shamrocks then took control by scoring a pair of TDs within a 20-second span in the third quarter.

Capatina gave CC the lead for keeps with a 72-yard scoring run with 4:40 to go. Then, on the ensuing kickoff, Matt Harding recovered an Eaglets fumble and ran 25 yards to the St. Mary's 2. From there, fullback Cameron Ryan scored with 4:20 left to make it 21-7.

With 6:04 left in the final quarter, Capatina's 9-yard TD run and kicker Jacob Nichols' four straight extra points capped the scoring.



SCOTT CONFER
Catholic Central's Matt Harding (left) picked up a St. Mary's fumble and ran 20 yards to set up a TD.

CC's defense limited the Eaglets to 183 total yards, including just 61 on the ground. The Shamrocks had 15 first downs to St. Mary's 10.

Each team had a turnover as the Eaglets picked off a Brown pass in the first quarter.

Isaac Darkangelo was CC's leading tackler with five solo and nine assists, while Matt Young added one solo and four assists. Jack Downs, Capatina, Carson Kovath, Tyler Morland, Blake Bueter (sack) and Jackson Ross (sack) added four apiece.

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SCOTT CONFER
Catholic Central's Nicholas Capatina (left) races to the end zone in front of St. Mary's Josh Ross.

GIRLS GOLF



Plymouth's golf team won its eighth straight KLAASouth Division title Monday.

Wildcats repeat reign in South Division

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Plymouth's girls golf team captured its eighth consecutive KLAASouth Division championship during Monday's KLAASouth Division Championship Tournament hosted by Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth Township.

The Wildcats also earned a second-place tie with Livonia Stevenson in the KLAASouth Division Conference standings and placed third in the Association behind only Novi and Brighton.

The Wildcats were paced by senior Rachel Kristian, who carded a personal-best round of

78. Also making major contributions to the banner performance were junior Erin Johnson (81), sophomore Shae Zydeck (84), senior Heather Muir (84), sophomore Kaitlyn Elledge (85) and junior Sara Vohra (97).

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GIRLS SWIMMING

Canton prevails against rival Plymouth

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Two Park varsity girls swimming and diving teams met Oct. 6 and Canton came away victorious, 113-73, over Plymouth.

The Chiefs improved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLAASouth Division with the triumph.

"I'm proud of how the girls are working together as a team," Canton coach Ed Weber said. "They are great supporters of each other and work

hard to accomplish a common goal — fast swimming."

Earning two individual wins for the Chiefs were senior Meghan Mans (100 butterfly, 100 backstroke) and freshman Jenna Leppek (100 freestyle, 200 freestyle).

Also posting Canton wins were sophomores Ellie Caruso (50 freestyle) and Jessica Clark (500 freestyle).

Canton also swept the relays, winning the 200 medley and 200 and 400 freestyles.

Weber said other standouts

for his team included Mallory Marsac and Meadow Maturen (200 free), Danielle Tabar and Sophia Balow (200 IM, 100 backstroke), Zoe Shimones (50 free), Annika Wang, Rachel Socha and Alaina Smith (1-meter diving), Hailey MacDonald (100 free), Ruthie Seltz, Grace Warmann and Emeri Rutman (500 free).

Canton next hosts Northville at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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USA HOCKEY

Buccaneers double up NTDP U17s in 6-3 decision

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

If nothing else, the U.S. National Team Development Program's Under-17 squad is a pesky bunch that doesn't give up without a fight.

On Friday night before 1,066 fans at USA Hockey Arena, the U17s battled back from an early 2-0 deficit to tie the Des Moines Buccaneers at 5:51 of the second period on a goal by Birmingham's Bode Wilde.

But the team from Iowa answered with three goals before the end of the period and went on to post a 6-3 victory.

"The problem when you play older guys, you just can't give them as many easy chances as we did," NTDP coach Danton Cole said. "They're going to bury them and that's what happened."

After defenseman Wilde snapped a shot from the blue line that cleanly beat Des Moines goalie Nick MacNab to even the USHL game at 2-2, the Buc responded with the go-ahead goal just over two minutes later, when David Keefer banged in a cross-crease pass from Mario Ferraro.

It was 4-2 at 10:33 when Keefer tipped a shot in front of U.S. goalie Ryan Ullan to give Des Moines a short-handed goal.

The Buccaneers took a commanding 5-2 edge with 1:07 to go in the second, connecting moments after going on the power play.

Chris Berger threaded the puck to Kobe Roth in the right circle and he blasted a shot past Ullan.

Despite the three-goal cushion after 40 minutes, Des Moines only owned a 16-14 edge in shots on goal. The U.S. upped its offensive attack early in the third, only to be denied several times by MacNab, who stopped 23 shots. In the period, the U.S. had a 12-6 shot advantage (26-22 for the game).

"I thought the effort in a lot of areas and our understanding of things was a lot better tonight," Cole said. "We got to keep getting better. That's why we play these games."

Cole said there were some positives that came out of the defeat, such as the goal by Wilde (his second of the season) and forward Tyler Weiss' first of the year with 6:21 remaining (the final goal of the night).

"That was good to see (Wilde) get a goal," Cole said. "At that time, it was pretty big for us; it tied the game. We felt like we had a little bit of momentum, but it got away from us."

"And Tyler Weiss getting his first goal of the season was good."

Getting the U.S. on the scoreboard with an unassisted goal late in the first period was forward Gavin Hain, which at the time made it a 2-1 Des Moines lead.

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Schoolcraft's men's soccer team went on a scoring rampage in the second half, scoring five goals en route to a 5-0 victory Oct. 5 over visiting Jackson College.

Scoring two of the goals for

the Ocelots in the MCCAAMatch-up was Felipe Lupion. Other goal scorers were Michael Machila, Francesco Cusumano and August Hunter.

Helping the cause with an assist was Hector Morales,

while goalkeepers Cameron Gwinn and Jad Elarab combined to make four saves.

Schoolcraft improved to 7-3-0 overall and 5-1-1 in the conference; Jackson fell to 4-5-0, 2-4-0.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Schoolcraft earned a 3-0 victory Oct. 6 over host Mott Community College, prevailing 25-21, 25-21 and 25-20.

Erin Parrinello and Gabrielle Maciag both collected 11

kills, while Madison Dest had nine kills and 10 digs. Other Lady Ocelots to chip in were Amanda Rybak (40 assists, seven digs), Marissa Simms (11 digs) and Allison Lynn (nine digs).

GIRLS GOLF

Novi captures KLAA Association crown

Wildcats cap undefeated season with one-point triumph over Brighton

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Abby Livingston tied for runner-up honors and Alexa Hatz took fourth as Novi capped an undefeated girls golf season in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association by winning the KLAA tournament held Monday at Plymouth's Fox Hills G.C.

The Wildcats, who also captured the Kensington Conference pre-tourney, edged Lakes Conference champion Brighton by a stroke, 316-317, based on a four-player total.

Rounding out the top 10 in the 22-school field were defending Association champion Plymouth (327), Hartland (334), Livonia Stevenson (342), Northville (354), South Lyon (362), South Lyon East (365),

Livonia Franklin (373) and Howell (374).

Brighton's Annie Pietila took individual medalist honors with 71, while Livingston and Brighton's Abby Fortushniak tied for second with 73 each. Hatz claimed fourth with 74.

Novi's other two scorers were Leah Kiura and Lauren Henry, who tied for 16th with 84.

The Wildcats' other two players were Kirsten Kroetsch (tied for 55th, 96) and Reika Fujiwara (tied for 73rd, 102).

Northville was led by Gabby Jaszczur, who tied for 12th with 82. She was followed by Hannah Dygert, tied for 25th (87); Taylor Rathwell, tied for 41st (92); and Paige Rosinski, tied for 44th (93).

The Mustangs other two

players were Mariella Simoncini (tied for 49th, 94) and Megan Stein (tied for 60th, 97).

Regional runner-up

On Oct. 5, Novi's showing in the Division 1 regional tournament at Washtenaw Country Club proved to be bittersweet.

The Wildcats earned their fourth consecutive trip to the MHSAA state finals, but the regional title eluded them as host Saline won on a fifth-player tiebreaker after the two teams both finished with 351.

Plymouth also earned a trip to East Lansing by taking third with 354.

Northville, which had qualified the past two seasons, found itself on the outside in fourth place with 356, followed by Salem (374), Ann Arbor Pioneer (380), Ann Arbor Skyline (389), Canton (406), Temperance Bedford (420) and Ann Arbor Huron (423).

Saline junior Catherine

Loftus was individual medalist with 76, while Hatz and Salem senior Darby Scott tied for second with 79 each.

Saline's other four scorers included Sydney Page and Stephanie Schick, tied for 16th (91 each); Molly Pribble, 20th (93); and Margaret Wood, 33rd (102).

Livingston, a junior, and Henry, a senior, placed eighth and ninth with 86 and 88, respectively, while Kiura (26th, 98) and Fujiwara (36th, 106) rounded out the Wildcats' scoring contingent.

Henry came on strong over the final four holes with a plus-2 to force the tie.

"This is a really tough course, so I expected the scores to be high across the board," first-year Novi coach Megan Henry said. "As much as it is heartbreaking to lose the regional tournament that way, we are still advancing to the state tournament, which is one of our goals every year

and that is something I am very proud of."

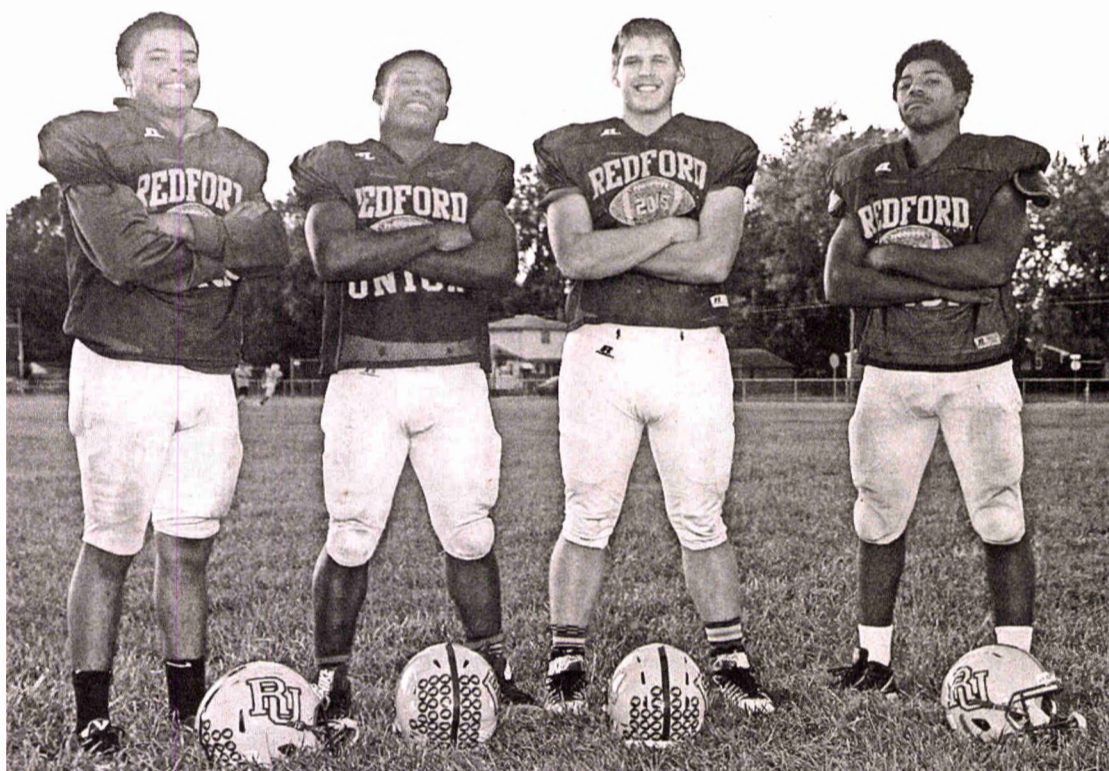
The Wildcats now advance the state finals Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15, at Michigan State University's Forest Akers East Course. Novi is coming off three straight top 10 finishes, placing fifth (2015), fourth (2014) and ninth (2013).

"The best part about my team this year is that they really hate to lose," coach Henry said.

Northville's top four scorers included Simoncini, seventh (84); Dygert, ninth (88); Jaszczur (89); and Rosinski, 24th (95). Stein took 26th with 98.

The three additional individual state qualifiers from the Washtenaw C.C. regional were Salem's Scott (79), Skyline's Jami Laude (80) and Pioneer's Katie Mina-Lee (83).

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Pictured (from left) are Redford Union football players Brandon Hartsfield, Isaac Grant, Jacob Gagnon and Thorton Cain.

ED WRIGHT

PREP FOOTBALL

'Family-first' values motivate Redford Union

Panthers' incredible turnaround inspired by brotherly bond

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com

Several core players on Redford Union's revitalized football team learned a valuable lesson during this past off-season: The grass isn't always greener on the other side.

And they weren't talking about the plush, real-grass surface of Kraft Field.

In the wake of the rebuilding program's steady momentum surge under new (and former) coach Miles Tomasaitis — the Panthers improved from 1-8 in 2014 to 3-6 last season — the roster started unraveling.

Two-way standouts Isaac Grant and Marquise Hathaway transferred during the latter part of the 2015-16 school year to Macomb Dakota and Detroit Loyola, respectively, and twins Brandon and Blake Hartsfield's family moved to Alabama, just to name a couple of defections.

"But we all found out real fast that Redford Union was home for us; we couldn't stay away," said Grant, one of the team's glue guys. "I transferred back to RU, Marquise came back and the Hartsfield family came back from Alabama.

"Our motto now is, 'One team, one family.'"

Instead of a depleted roster, the Panthers actually became fortified in the weeks leading up to the 2016 season when senior baseball and basketball player Jacob Gagnon joined the program for his first-ever season of football.

RU was also bolstered by the addition of former Detroit Cody running back Thorton Cain, who quickly earned the respect of his new coaches and



Thorton Cain busts through a hole during a practice drill Monday afternoon.

ED WRIGHT

teammates. Put it all together and you get a resurgent team that heads into Friday night's homecoming game against Dearborn Heights Annapolis with a 5-2 record and a legitimate chance of qualifying for the MHSAA state playoffs, which requires six victories.

"I grew up in Detroit and I moved around a lot because my family is a military family," said Brandon Hartsfield, a key lineman on both sides of the ball for RU. "Last year was my first at RU and it felt like home right away. When we moved away this summer, it felt like I was leaving home, leaving my brothers. Sometimes you don't realize how much you love a place until you're not there anymore."

Asked for a one-word description of how this season has felt, Grant's response: "Sensational."

"It's fun coming to practice," Grant said. "We've worked extremely hard to get to this point, so it's not like we don't deserve the success we're having now."

The Panthers' turnaround

has made widespread skepticism of the program — especially within the school's student body, the players noted — diminish.

"Last year, I'd look up at the stands and see a lot of empty seats," Hartsfield said. "Now, we need a police escort to get us off the field after games."

"I think people are starting to believe in us. There was a poll on Twitter before our game against Thurston (a 22-15 RU victory) and 72 percent of the voters thought Thurston would win and 27 percent picked us. Winning that game changed a lot of people's minds, I think."

Cain needed some convincing during the early days of his tenure at RU.

"I lived in Detroit, but my mom didn't want me to go to DPS anymore, so I moved right down the street from the school," Cain said. "The first couple of days with the football team, I wasn't sure how good we'd be because there weren't a lot of players here."

"But slowly, more people came out and we started to get it together."

The Panthers have found success the old-fashioned way, by running an old-school offense that includes a full-house backfield and two tight ends.

"We like to say that we take the punch right to the defense," Hartsfield said.

The team's success has spilled over beyond the football field, Grant said.

"It seems like the atmosphere in the school is better now that the football team is winning," he said. "A lot of us thought that last week's game was the biggest we'd ever played in our lives, but this week's is even bigger, because if we win, we're in the playoffs."

And if that happens, the never seem greener.

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EXTREME SPORTS

Area snowboarder Mack on high-flying track to pro ranks

Ex-Brother Rice student turning some heads

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

Soft-spoken Kyle Mack lets his courageous craftsmanship do his talking.

A rising young athlete in the world of snowboarding, Mack appears to be on a fast track to fame. The 19-year-old West Bloomfield resident is quickly gaining recognition on the World Snowboard Tour, the X Games and the Grand Prix circuit with his amazing, in some cases unprecedented, exploits.

Mack heads into the 2016-17 season on the heels of his most successful year since he abandoned downhill skiing for a snowboard as a toddler. Last season, for example, Mack captured first place in the prestigious Burton U.S. Open in Vail and soared to second-place finishes at the World Championships in China and the Air + Style competition in Los Angeles.

"Last season started off kind of rough for me, but as the contests went on, things got better," said Mack, who spent his first three years of high school at Brother Rice. "I wasn't landing the best runs I could. But it was like a stepping stone and I finished stronger than I started."

"It was fun and it was a pretty crazy feeling to win (the U.S. Open) because the format changed on how the semifinals and finals happened," he added. "That was a whole different kind of pressure put on everyone. It was cool to win a prestigious contest like that. I've been trying to win that event for 11 years now."

Victory in Vail

Mack competes in slopestyle (maneuvering over jumps and rails) and big air (taking off from a ramp a la ski jumping) and is mastering both disciplines.

The victory in Vail, for example, was significant since it was the first time an American male won the slopestyle competition since Eric Willett finished first in 2011. In addition, Mack's winning effort marked the first time any competitor had landed back-to-back triple corks, including the arduous triple cork Japan.

"I like the slopestyle a little more than big air, because it challenges you more," Mack said. "You have to do, like, six features and not just one (as in slopestyle). And you have to like put them all together. Big air is just, like, two jumps and it all looks the same."

"Most of the tricks out there have been done. Everything out there seems so robotic and everyone who does a trick makes it look the same," he added. "I like to go



Kyle Mack, who spent his first three years of high school at Brother Rice, is fast becoming one of the country's top snowboarders.

out there and put my own style to it. I want to become more unique with my tricks and, like, more out of the box and not do the same things as everyone else."

Mack started snowboarding at 3 years old after he kept crashing on his skis. He hasn't stopped since. He competes in some 15 contests a year all over the world and is quickly climbing the rankings.

Mack simply loves to compete, having first been a contestant at the age of 7 in the USASA nationals. Two years later, he boarded in the U.S. Open. By 2010, after turning pro at 13, he took top honors in the U.S. Open Junior Jam.

U.S. National Team member

Mack, who bagged \$45,000 for winning in Vail, is not hauling in millions, but he is surviving on the pro circuit with all of his top-tier finishes. The top snowboarders, with endorsements, make maybe a half-million dollars per year, according to Mack. The low end of the scale is somewhere around \$20,000. Mack estimates he makes somewhere in between.

"There really aren't a lot of people making a ton of money, like Sean White, but I do see it as a career and something I can focus on," said Mack, who is sponsored by Oakley sunglasses and Rockstar Energy Drink. "Out of all the sports I've tried, this is the one I really wanted to do. It's a little more natural for me."

Mack said while he hopes to get paid and recognized like snowboarding superstar White one day, he hopes to carve out his own path in the sport. His goal is to create his own identity on the slopes.

"The only way for me to go is up," he added. "I want to see where my talents are and where I can push it."

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 Bingham Farms, 48025 Condo, 3 bdrm, 4 ba, 2728 plus finished basement of 2000 sq. ft. built in 1996. keltto@comcast.net \$485,000 (248)890-1017 24062 Bingham Pointe Drive. Go to www.rezom.com and type in the address for additional information. Will consider a lease.

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Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.25	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.25	0	2.625	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.5	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.625	0	2.875	0
Lenderful.com	1326443	lenderful.com	3.5	0	2.75	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.375	0.25	2.625	1
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	2.875	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.5	0.25	2.875	0

Above Information available as of 10/7/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

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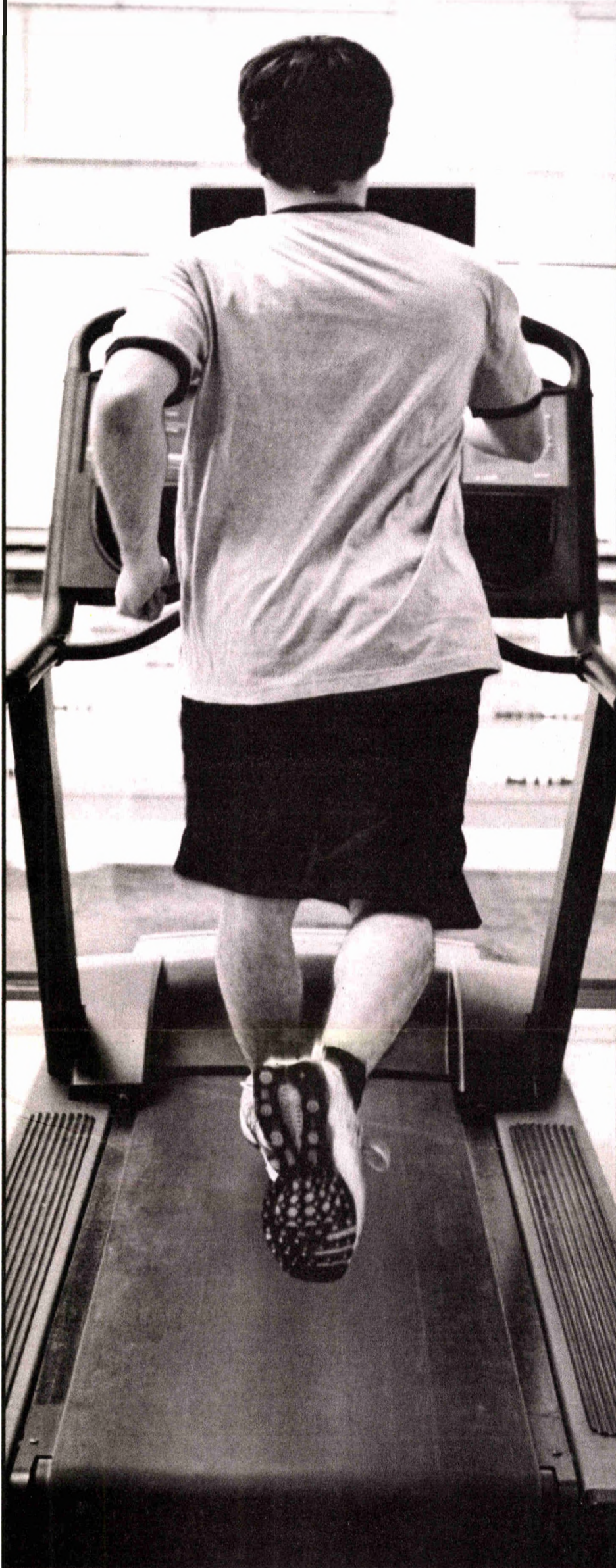
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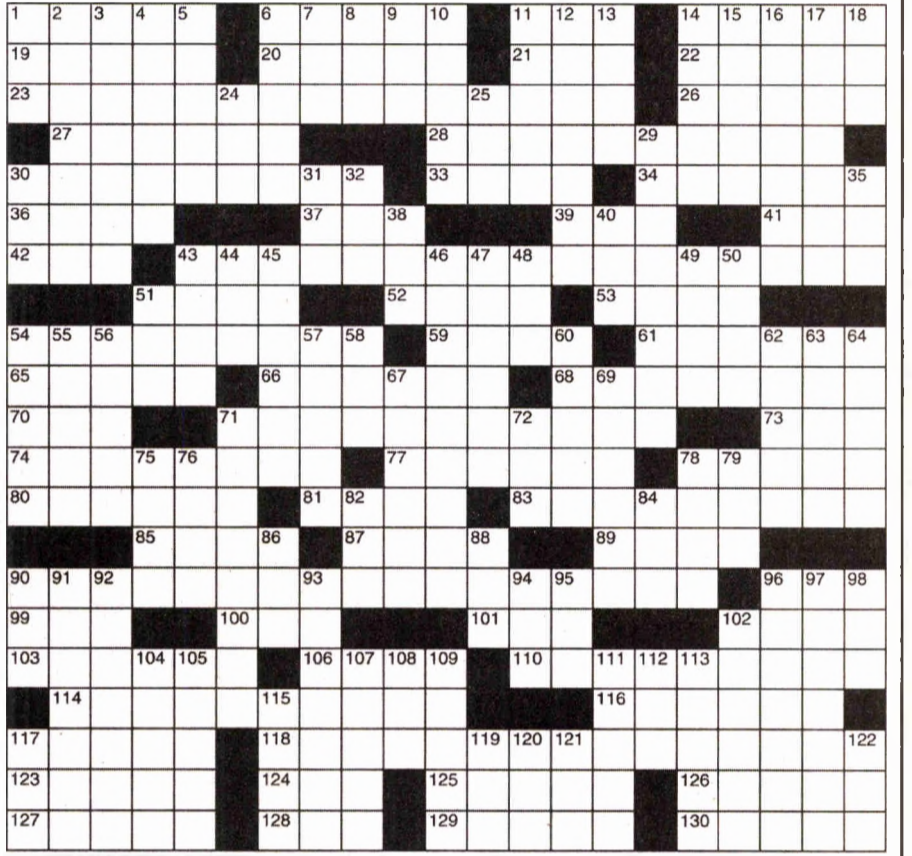
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Stole, e.g.
 - 6 Stoles, e.g.
 - 11 Many a yellow ride
 - 14 Kickoff
 - 19 Pertaining to pitch
 - 20 Hits upon the answer
 - 21 Uplifting verse
 - 22 Pointer
 - 23 "Cleopatra" star
 - 26 "E pluribus unum," e.g.
 - 27 Horse-race bet taker
 - 28 Defeater of Al Gore in 2000
 - 30 Orator called "The Great Pacificator"
 - 33 Knitting supply
 - 34 Crooner Johnny
 - 36 Camera part
 - 37 Stew holder
 - 39 H lookalike
 - 41 Genoa gold
 - 42 Abbr. that saves space
 - 43 "Dallas" actress
 - 51 Triscuit alternative
 - 52 Liking a lot
 - 53 Bert who had a lion's lines
 - 54 "East of Eden" actor
 - 59 Walked over
 - 61 Mexican dish
 - 65 Vocalist
 - 66 Close-fitting, bell-shaped hat
 - 68 Keeps repeating
 - 70 Wee, briefly
 - 71 "Concord Sonata" composer
 - 73 Bit of ink art
 - 74 Put on the air
 - 77 "3 Women" director
 - 78 Ginger, e.g.
 - 80 One wooing
 - 81 J.D. Salinger title heroine
 - 83 "Wag the Dog" actress
 - 85 Mater
 - 87 Advance
 - 89 Go out
 - 90 "Lucy Gray" poet
 - 96 Booster for a rock band
 - 99 Punk rock variant
 - 100 China's Chiang —shek
 - 101 Patriots' Day mo.
 - 102 Ending for buck
 - 103 Dirty mark
 - 106 Keep going
 - 110 "The Great Lie" Oscar winner
 - 114 "A Book of Nonsense" author
 - 116 Of a big artery
 - 117 Arbor array
 - 118 Namesakes of the 10 people featured in this puzzle
 - 123 Some equines
 - 124 Me, to Luc
 - 125 Vowel run
 - 126 Hay-bundling machine
 - 127 Just manage
 - 128 FWIW part
 - 129 Stickpin site
 - 130 Yukon vehicles
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Reversed Fr. woman
 - 2 Stephen who replaced Letterman
 - 3 Like negatively charged atoms
 - 4 Shaving tools
 - 5 Like many piecrusts
 - 6 See 11-Down
 - 7 Act the fink
 - 8 Guitar wood
 - 9 Mine shaft
 - 10 Like a ham
 - 11 With 6-Down, circular diagram of the spectrum of the spectrum
 - 12 Decorator
 - 13 Arctic mass
 - 14 Latin dance
 - 15 Game fish
 - 16 Place to buy paintbrushes
 - 17 Tax shelter named for a U.S. senator
 - 18 Binary base
 - 24 Brand of 4-Down
 - 25 "For" vote
 - 29 Gives out
 - 30 Hurry, old-style
 - 31 Well-chosen
 - 32 "— hoo!"
 - 35 Note below la
 - 38 Prefix with angle
 - 40 Up to, in brief
 - 43 MasterCard rival
 - 44 "— help a lot if ..."
 - 45 Prague natives
 - 46 Winning
 - 47 Stationary
 - 48 Cutesy—
 - 49 Burn a bit
 - 50 Food writer
 - 51 Pal of Stimp
 - 54 Drops callously
 - 55 "Later, Luc!"
 - 56 Prefix with second
 - 57 Off to — start
 - 58 Here-there connection
 - 60 Armless sofa
 - 62 Cobwebby storage site
 - 63 Extract by percolation
 - 64 Perfumer
 - 67 Uproar
 - 69 Bill equal to two fins
 - 71 Toyota or Kia
 - 72 "— bad boy!"
 - 75 Abbr. ending many a list
 - 76 E. — (bacteria)
 - 78 — Tzu
 - 79 Pig, to some
 - 82 — -mo
 - 84 Interoffice phone no.
 - 86 Doc's org.
 - 88 Secret org.
 - 90 Director
 - 91 Craven
 - 92 Most noisy
 - 93 Refuses to
 - 94 Typing meas.
 - 95 "... man — mouse?"
 - 96 "A" or "an"
 - 97 Sponged
 - 98 "— favor"
 - 102 Star-related
 - 104 Uncool type
 - 105 Long-winded
 - 107 Auspices
 - 108 "My Gal —"
 - 109 Juror's event
 - 111 Artist Dufy
 - 112 Over there, in poetry
 - 113 Most Iraqis
 - 115 Pop's Lovato
 - 117 Dog's ID site
 - 119 Briny body
 - 120 With it
 - 121 Singer
 - 122 Most coll. applicants



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

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

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!

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

CANINE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

AFFENPINSCHER COLLIE
AIREDALE COONHOUND
AKITA DALMATION
AUSSTEDDLE DOBERMAN
BASENJI GOLDEN
BASSET HOUND GREAT DANE
BEAGLE GREYHOUND
BERNESE HAVANESE
BICHON HUSKY
BLUE HEELER IBIZAN
BOLOGNESE LABRADOR
BOXER MALAMUTE
BRIARD MALINOTS
BULLDOG ROTTWEILER
CAIRN SHARPEI
CANE CORSO SPANIEL
CHIHUAHUA SPITZ
CHOW TERRIER

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

SCARF WRAPS CAB START
TONAL HASIT ODE ARROW
ELIZABETH TAYLOR MOTTO
BOOKIE GEORGE BUSH
HENRY CLAY YARN MATHIS
IRIS POT ETA ORO
ETC VICTOR APRIL PAL
RIITZ INTO LAHR
JAMES DEAN TROD TAMALE
IDINA CLOCHE TITERATES
LIL CHARLES TIVES TAT
TELECAST ALTMAN SPICE
SUITOR ESME ANNE HECH
ALMA LOAN EXIT
WILLIAM WORTH AMP
EMO KAIT APR AROO
SMUDGE LAST MARY ASTOR
EDWARD LEAR AORTIC
TREES ENGLISH MONARCHS
ASSES MOI AETOU BALER
GETBY TITS LAPEL SLEDS

Word Search Answers

COONHOUND
DOLBY DIGITAL
DOBERMAN
GOLDEN
IBIZAN
LABRADOR
MALAMUTE
MALINOTS
ROTTWEILER
SHARPEI
SPANIEL
SPITZ
TERRIER

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