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**RARE
CLASSIC
CARS
DRAW BIG
CROWD**
PAGE A5

Rebuilding Grindstone Smokehouse

Process has been 'slow, frustrating' for owner since fire

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Fire heavily damaged the Grindstone Smokehouse in Westland last May and moving forward to rebuild the building hasn't been quick.

"It's so slow-moving, so frustrating," owner James Raptoplous said. "The insurance company has us doing inventories and a bunch of

depositions. We're getting all the documentation on the money we spent on furniture and other things."

All that documentation is needed before the insurance company will sign off on work being done to repair the building, Raptoplous said.

"We started to clean up. I don't understand why it is taking so long. I've chewed off all my fingernails," he said. "I

want to get open right away. I'd go in with a power washer and open tomorrow, but my hands are tied."

Getting the building ready to house a restaurant will take more extensive work, with a health department requirement to clean out the creosote from the fire, Raptoplous said.

The Grindstone Smokehouse opened late in 2015 after extensive remodeling of the former Beaver Creek. Rap-



SUBMITTED

A fire May 6 heavily damaged the Grindstone Smokehouse, and the owner says the rebuilding process has been slow.

See FIRE, Page A2



WLND

Singer Thornetta Davis will be the headliner for the 2017 Westland Blues, Brews and Barbecue.

Thornetta Davis to headline Blues, Brews, Barbecue; fireworks to follow

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

The air will be filled with the smells of barbecue and the sounds of live blues music as Westland's Blues, Brews and Barbecue returns Friday and Saturday.

Like last year, the two-day event will be capped off with a headlining performance by singer Thornetta Davis followed by fireworks. The seventh annual event will take place along Ford Road at Carlson, just north of its former location to provide more park-

ing and shady areas for guests. Blues, Brews and Barbecue starts at 5 p.m. Friday as the first band takes the stage. Kicking off the event will be Roadside Rick and the Break-downs, followed at 7 p.m. by the Boa Constructors. The Detroit Soul Revue closes the

night at 9 p.m.

On Saturday, the music starts at 4 p.m. with Front Street, followed by the Bobby Murray Band at 6 p.m. and Thornetta Davis at 8:30 p.m. The fireworks are set to go off

See EVENT, Page A2

Wayne man charged with child abuse, murder

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

A Wayne man faces murder and child abuse charges after police say he was responsible for the death of his toddler last fall.

Marc Minter, a 30-year-old Wayne resident, was charged July 28 with felony murder and two counts of child abuse stemming from an incident reported to police late last year. Wayne police say they were dispatched Oct. 19 to a home near Williams and Annapolis Avenue on the report of Minter's child, who was not breathing.



Minter

The boy was taken to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed the boy was the victim of a homicide: the cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma to the back, according to Wayne police.

After more investigation, police found the boy's seven-month-old sister had multiple fractures to her legs.

Lt. Ryan Strong of the Wayne Police Department said it took the department several months to investigate the case, which is why Minter was not arrested and charged until late last week.

"It was a lengthy investigation," he said.

See CHARGED, Page A2



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FIRE

Continued from Page A1

toplous had operated Beaver Creek for about 18 months prior to opening the new restaurant.

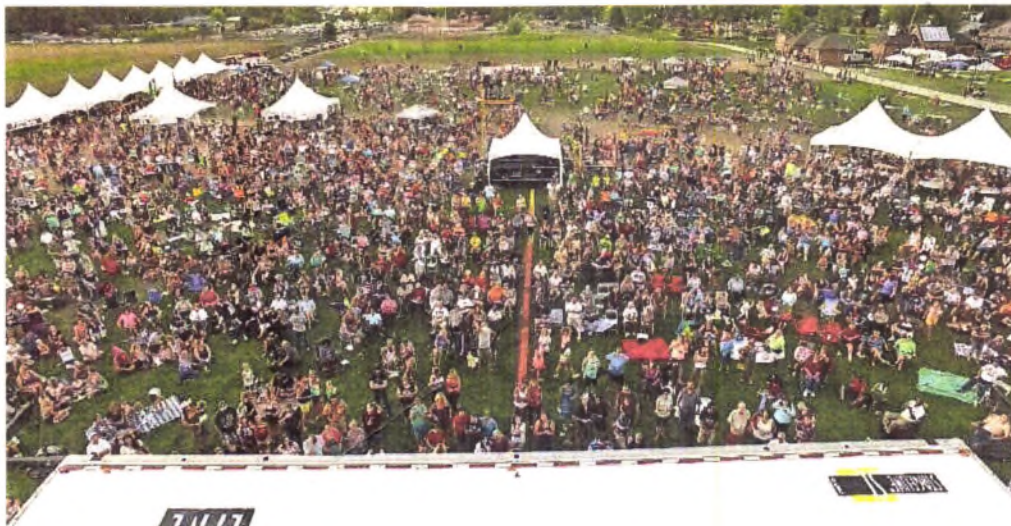
The cause for the early morning May 6 fire is undetermined. Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner said the fire department investigation has been completed and the property turned back over to the owner.

With a meeting scheduled next week

with insurers, Raptoplous said he is hopeful he'll soon get the go-ahead to start working to restore the building, located on Wayne Road, south of Ford.

For those wanting a taste of Grindstone's food — or those wanting a first sample — look for the Grindstone booth at Westland's Blues, Brews and Barbecue on Friday and Saturday at Ford and Carlson.

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An overview of a previous crowd at Westland's Blues, Brews and Barbecue, which is returning Friday and Saturday.

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EVENT

Continued from Page A1

at 10 p.m.

"We have a mix of old favorites and new bands this year," Westland Chamber of Commerce President Brookellen Swope said.

Admission to Blues, Brews and Barbecue is free, as is parking. Barbecue, beer and other food are available for purchase during the event.

Professional barbecue pit-masters will offer slow-cooked, authentic barbecue and tasty finger foods as well as some non-barbecue favorites. Vendors who have signed on to participate include Heaven on a Roll, Hill Billy Bone BBQ, Smoke Ring BBQ, Stick a Pig in it, Uncle Bebe's Barbecue, Grindstone Smokehouse, Famous Dave's, the Grill Fathers Ribs & BBQ, Harold Ole Daddy BBQ, Detroit Mini Donut and Lemonade, Harvest Kettle Corn, Heavenly



There will be plenty of Brews, Blues and, of course, Barbecue in Westland Friday and Saturday.

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Hot Dog, Maniaci Pizza and On the Border.

"We switched last year to having the vendors collect their own cash (instead of tickets)," Swope said. "I don't know what they collected but all the vendors were excited to come back, so they were making a profit."

The majority of the vendors are caterers without a storefront location, she said, but an event like Blues, Brews and Barbecue also gives them a marketing opportunity as guests try their food.

Returning this year will be Grindstone Smokehouse, which participated in the event the last two years and had a restaurant until the building on Wayne Road was damaged by fire earlier this year.

"I don't want to brag, but I think we were a crowd favorite. We had a big line for the whole event," Grindstone owner James Raptopoulos said. "A lot of people came into the restaurant weeks afterward saying they hadn't known we were here."

A lot of participating in Blues, Brews and Barbecue is being part of the community and talking to people, he said.

"We definitely want to do it again. It keeps us alive and makes sure we are part of the community," Raptopoulos said.

This year, he said the menu will include a meal of ribs, baked beans and grilled corn on the cob, fresh off the stalk from Block's Farm Stand in Romulus.

"I want to keep it simple with a \$10 meal deal. We'll have a smoker out there and put the ribs in to cook for three hours," Raptopoulos said. "Then we will finish them on two big grills. I like skin on my ribs to be crispy. We sear the ribs. It's so good. We'll cook the corn on the grill."

On tap

The food vendors pay a fee to participate in Blues, Brews and Barbecue. The chamber continues to sell tickets required to obtain beer.

There will be taps pouring eight different craft and domestic beers. If you hate standing in

line, this year a new fast tap pass that lets you be served at a designated tap will be available for \$10.

New this year is access to the House of Blues, which includes an upgraded event experience complete with private seating with restrooms and prime view of the stage. Tickets for the House of Blues can be purchased for \$20 at the event.

About 13,000 people attended the event over two days last year. There is some seating available but guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs.

There is onsite parking but Swope recommended that guests utilize the free shuttle service from parking at John Glenn High School, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and the former Department of Public Works building, all on Marquette, or the Friendship Center on Newburgh, just south of Ford.

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CHARGED

Continued from Page A1

Minter was arrested and charged with the three felony counts and faces up to life in prison

if he is convicted. He was arraigned last week in Wayne's 29th District Court and remanded to jail without bond.

A probable cause conference is scheduled to take place Aug. 8 and a preliminary examination

is scheduled to happen Aug. 15. Both will take place in 29th District Court.

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Elderly Westland woman dies trying to rescue cat during fire

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

An elderly Westland woman died July 25 trying to rescue her cat during a fire at her home.

The fire was reported about 11:30 p.m. at a second-floor condominium

unit on Colonial Drive. The fire originated in the living room and was likely caused by smoking, Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner said.

The woman, 84, escaped the fire and was outside talking to neighbors, Stradtner said, as

her unit was filled with smoke and flames.

"The smoke detectors were going off and she made it out. She told her neighbors that she was going back for her cat," Stradtner said.

Firefighters found the woman inside the apartment still alive, but

Stradtner said she died while being transported to the hospital. The death is expected to have been the result of smoke inhalation. The cat didn't survive the fire.

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Police: Wayne man threatened women with gun

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

An 18-year-old Wayne man could face prison time after police say he threatened women with a gun at an apartment complex.



Kahlil Williams was arrested Saturday after police were called to an apartment complex in the 33000 block of Michigan Avenue in Wayne. Three women told police Williams threatened them with a gun.

Police searched the area and located Williams in an apartment complex in the 35000 block of Michigan Ave-

nue. When police arrested him, they reportedly discovered he had a handgun in his possession that was reported stolen earlier in July.

Williams was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and two counts of felony firearm. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison.

He was arraigned Monday in Wayne's 29th District Court on the charges and given a \$200,000 cash bond. A probable cause conference is scheduled for Aug. 8, and a preliminary examination will take place Aug. 15.

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Westland police reportedly bust meth lab

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

A methamphetamine lab operating in Westland was shut down this past weekend by police.

Police say they were able to locate and shut down the lab Sunday, which was located in the 34000 block of Decatur Court. Police say they

went to the scene after receiving a call regarding suspicious activity at about 3:15 p.m. Sunday.

Once officers arrived, they discovered a laboratory that appeared to be manufacturing meth. An individual was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

The Michigan State Police were called and

the agency's Methamphetamine Response Team arrived, dismantling the lab and eliminating any danger to public safety, according to a press release from the Westland Police Department.

Sgt. Robert Wilkie of the Westland Police Department said such shut-downs have happened in

Westland before, but are rare.

Police say the investigation remains ongoing. Police did not release the suspect's identity Monday afternoon.

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Reeves appointed to Westland Civil Service Commission

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

A retired police officer and former member of the Westland City Council has been appointed to the city's Police and Fire Civil Service Commission.



Reeves

Dewey Reeves served as a Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputy, retiring after 32 years with the department. Reeves also served on the Westland City Council from 2007 to 2016

when he lost a reelection bid.

Reeves and his wife Gail have been Westland residents for 24 years. Appointed by Westland Mayor William Wild, Reeves' appointment was confirmed by the city council.

"A respected and highly-skilled professional, Dewey has committed the majority of his life to public service," Wild said. "He will bring an important and unique perspective to the body. We thank him for his continued service."

Over the years, Reeves has been active in the South East Westland Homeowners Associa-

tion; the Westland Downtown Development Authority and the Nankin Transit Commission, both as council representatives; a Westland Compassionate City Volunteer; Westland Diversity Committee Volunteer; and volunteer assisting at the Westland Senior Resource Center.

Owner of Sartorial Impressions, Reeves works as a custom clothier, wardrobe consultant and personal shopper.

The Police and Fire Civil Service Commission is a three-member commission with one appointment by the mayor, one appointed by the fire and police employees, and

one appointed by the Commission. P. A. 78 of 1935 established this three-member commission to oversee the testing and hiring of police officers and fire fighters for the City of Westland.

Reeves replaces retired fire chief Mark Neal as the mayoral appointee to the civil service commission. Neal, who came under fire as Faust Library Board president and resigned, had a term expiring on the civil service commission. Wild didn't reappoint Neal.

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Westland man charged in home invasion case

A 26-year-old Westland man has been arraigned on charges of home invasion after being arrested for allegedly breaking into an apartment complex.



Weaver

Gregory Weaver was arrested after Wayne police responded to an apartment complex in the area of Forest and Venoy shortly before noon Monday, Wayne police said in a press release.

Officers arrived and determined the suspect

broke a window to gain entry into the front door of the apartment building. Once inside, the suspect forced entry into an apartment. The suspect entered the apartment and assaulted a 19-year-old Taylor resident.

Weaver was arraigned Wednesday in front of Magistrate Linda Gable of the 29th District Court on the charge of first-degree home invasion.

Weaver's bond was set at \$100,000/10 percent. He's due back in court Tuesday for a probable cause conference. His preliminary exam is set for 9 a.m. Aug. 8.

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Retail fraud reported

Livonia police were called July 26 to Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody.

An employee told police they saw the suspect walk through the store with goods on a flat bed cart, which included a chainsaw. He was seen selecting a gable vent and put it on the cart. He tried to leave the store without paying for them, but was stopped by an employee. He was detained until police arrived and arrested him.

Shoplifting suspects

An employee at Kohl's, 29580 Seven Mile, called police to the store July 26 on the report of several retail fraud suspects who left the store.

The employee told the police the suspects fled the store in a vehicle, which was located by police on Middlebelt, near Morlock. The suspects were then arrested. Police spoke to the employee at the store, who said the three suspects came into the store and selected some clothing. They went to the dressing room area, each went to a

changing room and later walked out. The employee believed the suspects were wearing some merchandise under their clothing, as they did not walk out with the items. They then left without paying. Police were able to recover the merchandise from the suspects.

Kids clothing items taken

Police were called July 25 to Kohl's, 29580 Seven Mile, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody at the store.

An employee told police they saw the suspect come in with a friend as well as the suspect's infant child. She was seen selecting some children's clothing and merchandise and ripping the tags off of them. She then placed them into a diaper bag. She tried to leave without paying, but was stopped by an employee and detained until police arrived. Officers arrested her and the child was turned over to the friend, who was not involved with the incident. She was taken to the police station for processing.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.



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Zeal Credit Union kicks off annual Backpack Drive

Zeal Credit Union is partnering with Pathways to Potential, a program of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, to collect new backpacks and new school supplies for needy students in Michigan.

"This is our ninth year to hold a backpack drive that helps students be better prepared for the start of school," said Tiffany Sweet, youth and community development coordinator for Zeal Credit Union. "We want to help children by giving them the tools they need to be successful in school and to feel good about themselves."

In addition to new backpacks, everyone is welcome to donate new folders, notebooks, pens, scissors, pencils and other school supplies. All of Zeal Credit

Union's 12 branch offices in metro Detroit will have collection boxes available through Friday, Aug. 18. For more details and location information, go to www.ZealCreditUnion.org/backpack.

All of the supplies will be distributed through Pathways to Potential, which removes barriers to success for students and families and delivers services where people need them by stationing MDHHS caseworkers called success coaches in schools.

Monetary donations are also welcome and can be made at Zeal Credit Union branch locations.

"Community partners like Zeal Credit Union are invaluable to Pathways to Potential as we work to keep children in school," MDHHS Direc-

tor Nick Lyon said. "It is difficult for students to succeed if they don't have proper school supplies and our success coaches have seen that children are more likely to miss school if they don't have the proper supplies."

Sweet said, "The backpack drive is another of many ways in which Zeal demonstrates the credit union's values of character, empathy and passion for members and the community-at-large."

For more information about Pathways to Potential, go to www.michigan.gov/pathwaystopotential.

Zeal Credit Union is a full-service, non-profit financial institution with more than 61,000 members, assets exceeding \$555 million and 12 full-service branch offices in



Staff members of Zeal Credit Union's Livonia West branch on Newburgh Road display some of the new school items being collected for the annual Backpack Drive.

metro Detroit. Members also have access to more than 5,000 shared branches and nearly 30,000 ATMs nationwide.

Member deposits are insured to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency.

For more information about Zeal Credit Union, go to www.ZealCreditUnion.org or call 800-321-8570.

Fireworks show prompts Plymouth woman's invention

Attending the Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Salute to America" concert and fireworks show at Greenfield Village over the Fourth of July holiday in Dearborn turned into a business for Stephanie Saia, 58, of Plymouth.

Saia and her family, like so many, look forward to the annual event that pays tribute to America and celebrates the armed forces. There is a considerable walk from the parking lot to the show, about a half-mile, for some.

Now Saia attends with little effort — thanks to her idea.

"I saw thousands and thousands of people car-

"I'd love for it to become a household name, since it really makes life so much easier."

STEPHANIE SAIA

rying their chairs while pulling their cooler and wagon on wheels and it made me think why there wasn't something to make it easier to take portable chairs to outdoor events," Saia said.

After doing some research, she found there wasn't such a product — so she decided to create one herself. Once she

came up with the idea, it then took a full two years to make her idea become a reality.

After countless hours spent on research, 10 prototypes, two trademarks, a patent and launching manufacturing, she affectionately calls her product invention, the "Chair-iot." Simply put, the Chair-iot is a weather-resistant creation of a wheeled carrier for portable bag sport chairs. And as her husband Steve said, "Why carry it, when you can Chair-iot?"

Chair-iot has become popular not only for families attending outdoor concerts but on baseball and soccer fields and at

the beach. There is ample room for sporting equipment, jackets, umbrellas, even toys. Pockets were designed to carry beverages and snacks. The cost is \$59.95. For \$15 more you can get your bag embroidered with a company logo or family name.

"My goal is to have the Chair-iot sold in retail stores so people can easily purchase one as they would a portable chair," Saia said. "I'd love for it to become a household name, since it really makes life so much easier."

It is also a source of pride that this St. Clair Shores native has developed a fundraising program for the Chair-iot, in which a team, group or club will receive \$10 in return for each Chair-iot sold.

"I want to give back and help organizations and schools," Saia said. Those that have participated thus far are grateful that they can make more money for their cause than selling pizza kits, for example. As an additional benefit, any purchase by that organization benefits the group on an ongoing basis.



Plymouth's Stephanie Saia with her Chair-iot.

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Rare classic cars at Concours draw big crowd

John Wisely
Detroit Free Press

Joe Grasso likes cars enough that he was willing to take a train from his home near Philadelphia to Toledo, where he rented a car and drove to Plymouth for the Concours D'Elegance auto show.

"I was overwhelmed," said Grasso, 70, of Uwchland, Pa. "I come specifically to see the old cars, the Duesenbergs and things like that. I'm surprised at the number of museum-quality restored automobiles."

Grasso was one of thousands of people who enjoyed near perfect weather last weekend to visit the show at the Inn at St. John's on Five Mile Road in Plymouth. Crowd numbers were still being tallied, but executive director Diane Flis-Schneider said it was the largest crowd the show had seen since moving to Plymouth six years ago after years at Meadow Brook in Rochester Hills.

"We certainly set a record," she said. "We are the second oldest Concours and third largest."

This show was the 39th in metro Detroit. The show in Pebble Beach, Calif., is the oldest and largest. The Concours in Amelia Island, Fla., near Jacksonville, also is bigger.

The show features about 300 cars, which are selected based on their rareness and beauty, and about 400 volunteers to make it all work. The crowds are too large for the parking lot at St. John's, so visitors parked at Plymouth High School and rode shuttles to the event.

Flis-Schneider said the show draws a variety of car buffs, from young kids to old-timers who remember owning or driving some of the models now on display.

Milton Antonick, 81, of Royal Oak, got his start in the automotive industry designing Studebakers in 1960 before moving to Chrysler, where he was able to work on the Plymouth Barracuda and Roadrunner models, among others.

"For me, it's mostly about the memories you get," he said, noting he can point to different cars that friends or others he knew worked on.

Terry Drosz, 75, of



KELLY DOBSON

The Concours d'Elegance drew good crowds in excellent weather to see classic cars.



KELLY DOBSON

Scores of people walked the Inn at St. John's grounds, enjoying the cars and the great weather.

Lake Angelus, volunteered at the event, but also brought his 1955 Chevrolet Bel Aire convertible.

He owned a hardtop version of the car when he was 19 and bought a beat-up one in 2004 to restore. He spent six years refurbishing it so that now it's a gypsy red and shoreline beige.

He's upgraded the car from its original state, including adding air conditioning, power brakes and radial tires, which make it safer and more enjoyable to drive, he said.

"My goal in restoring the car was that from 10 feet it looks original," Drosz said.



KELLY DOBSON

Attending his first car show with his grandfather, Garrett Gmerek of Oxford takes a peak at this Ford Model A.



KELLY DOBSON

Mark Leiberman shares some history about his restored Tucker, which took Best in Class in American Post War Closed car category and also received an Engineering Excellence Award.



KELLY DOBSON

State police show off their classic and pose for pics with car enthusiasts.



KELLY DOBSON

Awards were passed out and cars paraded in front of the crowd for all to see.



KELLY DOBSON

Some of the crowd avoided the sun at the Inn at St. John's.



KELLY DOBSON

Students from the Center for Creative Studies were in attendance designing cars of the future. Christopher Hendricks of Detroit, inspired by all the cars around him, works on a new design.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2017-22
July 27, 2017

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. The City Council interviewed candidates to fill the at-large position to fill R. Sutton's vacant position. Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Published: August 3, 2017

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2017-21
July 25, 2017

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. The City Council interviewed candidates to fill the at-large position to fill R. Sutton's vacant position. APPROVED: calling a Special Meeting for Thursday 6/27/17 @ 6:00 p.m. Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Published: August 3, 2017

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Day trip? History, nature abound across border in Ontario's Point Pelee

Bill Emerick
hometownlife.com

When people think of heading south for a vacation, the usual destinations include Florida, the Carolinas or maybe even Texas.

Not many consider Ontario's Essex County as a trip south — unless, of course, you're a Canadian.

Truth is, the flat, rolling farmland of south-west Ontario is the southernmost part of Canada, making it a prime vacation spot for our neighbors to the north during the summer months.

However, Essex County is an ideal area for an extended day trip or a long weekend, especially for Detroit-area residents who are fortunate enough to have easy access to Canada via the Ambassador Bridge or the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel.

And because our hockey-loving brethren are celebrating this year the 150th anniversary of their country's founding, it's a particularly exciting time to make Canada part of your travel itinerary in the coming months.

The smartest way to start a tour of Essex County is to stop at the tourist information center at 110 Park St. East, just a stone's throw from the end of the tunnel. The Ontario Travel Association has countless maps, brochures and guides to everything from country inns and antique shops to local wineries and historic sites. The workers are extremely knowledgeable and eager to share insider tips or off-the-beaten-path gems.

Currency can be exchanged there, too, and with the favorable rate, it's a good idea to use Canadian funds while in Ontario.

Once you have all your tourist literature, head south on Huron Church Road and then go west on the E.C. Row Expressway. From there, you can follow the signs toward LaSalle, the first town south of Windsor. It is not the most direct route to Point Pelee National Park, but it does offer a fine view of the Detroit River and the many marinas that hug the shoreline.

Motoring along, the first place of interest is Amherstburg, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Windsor. A

quaint town of about 20,000, it is best known as the mainland stop for the ferry that takes cars and pedestrians to Bois Blanc Island. Although the amusement park (known as Boblo) is long closed, the island is now home to upscale homes and restaurants. A few remnants of the rides (including the space needle) can still be seen.

Amherstburg is home to many historical attractions, including Fort Malden, the Park House Museum and the North American Black Historical Museum. In addition, the downtown has many interesting shops and eateries, along with the King's Navy Yard Park near the waterfront.

Fort Malden was established when the British were driven from Detroit in 1796 following the Revolutionary War and was an important military installation during the War of 1812 and the Patriots' Rebellion of 1837-38. The fort is open all year and includes a restored barracks and other buildings. Costumed guides roam the grounds and give demonstrations of army life in the 19th century.

Amherstburg was one of the final destinations of the Underground Railroad, which enabled thousands of slaves to escape prior to the Civil War, thus the North American Black Historical Museum. The Park House Museum is a former residence restored to its 1850s appearance. Both are open all year.

Continue south along provincial Highway 20 through some of the richest, most fertile farmland on the continent. The land is monotonously flat, dotted by silos and occasional stands of trees.

Passing through Harrow, an inviting stop is the Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery, one of several in the immediate area. It offers tastings, as well as tours Monday through Friday.

A bit further along Highway 20 brings you to Kingsville. Along with being the jumping-off point for the ferry to Pelee Island in Lake Erie, Kingsville is also home to the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary, just north of town.

Jack Miner was an internationally known naturalist, author and lecturer who established a bird sanctuary on his



Sprucewood Shores Winery is one of many in Essex County, Ontario.

TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX PELEE ISLAND



An aerial view of Point Pelee, Canada's southernmost point on the mainland of Ontario.

TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX PELEE ISLAND

former estate in 1904. Visitors can hand-feed many species of birds, including ducks, geese and swans. The Jack Miner Museum, where admission is also free, allows visitors to view 150 years of historical Miner archives and artifacts. The flocks that visit during the migration seasons are truly spectacular.

Just three miles away you'll find Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, an eclectic outpost that attracts throngs of locals as well as tourists. Here, visitors can view an exot-

ic bird from South America, wander through a petting zoo (including pony rides for the kids), play arcade games, grab a bite to eat and select for purchase from an incredible array of plants — everything from cactus to flowers to shrubbery (be sure to check on customs regulations if you plan on transporting any live plant back to the U.S.). Admission is free, although some activities have a fee.

Get back on the road and head through Ruthven and into Leamington, the self-proclaimed "To-

mato Capital of Canada." Once home to a massive H.J. Heinz Co. ketchup bottling plant (it closed in 2014), the roads leading into town are lined with huge greenhouses. Leamington is also the gateway to Point Pelee National Park, the southernmost mainland point in Canada.

In honor of Canada's 150th birthday this year, admission fees have been waived at all national parks (there are still fees for activities and rentals). All that's required is a 2017 Discovery Pass, which can be obtained at the entrance.

Point Pelee is one of Canada's smallest national parks, especially considering two-thirds of it consists of marshlands. The 42nd parallel passes through the park and there is a marker at the spot, indicating it's on the same latitude as Rome and Barcelona.

The most fascinating aspect of the park is the extensive marshland, which stretches as far as the eye can see along the eastern shore. An observation tower overlooks the marsh and a 1.5-kilometer boardwalk snakes over the water through the cattails, another favorite stopping point for

many species of migrating birds.

From the visitor's center, a marked trail leads hikers to the southern tip, a beach where sunsets are spectacular and stone-skipping is irresistible. There is also a motorized tram that will take riders most of the way.

The park includes several beaches, trails and picnic areas, the visitor's center houses a library and exhibit hall and canoes, kayaks and bicycles can be rented. Expect crowds on the weekends at one of Canada's most popular destinations.

If you still have any energy left, hop back on Highway 3 for the more direct, 45-minute drive back to Windsor. The downtown area bustles with nightlife, particularly along Ouellette Avenue when the sidewalk cafes are in full swing.

Halfway between Leamington and Windsor, the Detroit skyline looms in the distance, with the Renaissance Center visible between the barns and houses of Essex County. It's hard to believe the city is so close, but — as always — civilization beckons.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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**Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**

Nelson

Catherine Saunders died on July 20, 2017 at the age of 81. Beloved wife of Robert for 57 years, mother to Robert Jr. and grandmother of 2. Avid sculptor and member of St. James Church, the Birmingham Athletic Club and the Village Club. There will be a memorial service for Catherine at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 West Maple Rd. Birmingham on Friday, August 4 at 10:00am. Memorial tributes to St. James Episcopal Church.

Sundberg



Sandra Lynn 48, of South Lyon, passed away at home on July 29 after a long illness. Sandy was born in Southfield, Michigan on November 13, 1968, the second daughter of James and Carol Sundberg. She was a 1986 graduate of Northville High School. Sandy is survived by her father James and her two sisters - Jaclyn (Jeff) Anderson of Harbor Springs, Michigan, and Jill of South Lyon. She was a proud aunt to her niece and nephew, Carly and Brady Anderson. Sandy was preceded in death by her mother Carol, who entered into eternal life on September 22, 2016. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 3 from 4:00PM to 8:00PM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake Street, South Lyon. Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 4 at 1:30PM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Harbor Hall Foundation, P.O. Box 376, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. www.phillipsfuneral.com



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Take some precautions ahead of vacation

It is vacation time, which means many will be leaving town for a little rest and relaxation. One of the nice things about going on vacation is you can slow down a little from the hectic pace that most deal with on a day-to-day basis. Unfortunately, one thing you cannot afford to do is let your guard down when you travel. Thieves and lowlives in our society know that people are less on guard when they travel and they look at taking advantage of that. It is important to take some precautions when traveling in order to protect yourself. Here are some things to consider that will protect you and make it more difficult for the lowlives to take advantage of you.

Public Wi-Fi has allowed people to access the Internet virtually anywhere they are. This can be invaluable, particularly when you're out of town and looking for



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

information. However, identity thieves and the lowlives are also out there trolling public Wi-Fi to attempt to hack into information stored on your phone or laptop. Use extreme caution when you use public Wi-Fi. At a minimum, never use public Wi-Fi to transact business and that applies whether you're on vacation or at home.

I'm amazed at the number of people who go out of town and post that information on Facebook or Twitter. It is nice to share pictures with friends and loved ones, but let's not forget that you're giving a wealth of information to thieves. The last thing you want to do is let them know where you are and what your itinerary is. After

all, you're making it easier for them to take advantage of you. My advice: Wait until you come home to post your pictures and talk about your trip. Don't make life any easier for the crooks.

When you travel, there is no need to take every charge card you own. The more you take, the greater the risk you are going to lose something. Limit the number of charge cards you take on your vacation. In addition, it's important to make copies of the charge cards you are taking, so that if there is a problem — such as one of your cards is stolen — you have the information to immediately notify your charge card company. One other note regarding charge cards: If you are leaving the country, it may be a good idea to let your credit card company know where you are going, so there will be no problems using your card.

One last note: When

you do go out of town, make sure you stop your mail. An overflowing mailbox is a clear sign to the thieves that you are out of town. It is very simple to hold your mail and you can do it online by at usps.com.

Going on vacation is wonderful and I recommend it for everyone. But in today's world, it is important to put some precautions into effect to protect yourself so you can enjoy your well-earned vacation. It would be nice if you didn't have to worry about these things, but that is not reality. Remember, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.



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Chef's Feature
 Grilled Salmon with Kiwi Salsa



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COLLEGE TENNIS

Johnston makes doubles play his calling card at U-M

Northville grad wins two ITA events after making NCAAAs

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

It's safe to say that Connor Johnston has made a smooth transition into the world of collegiate tennis.

The 2016 Northville High grad, made his mark during his freshman season for the University of Michigan, teaming with partner Jathan Malik to reach the NCAA doubles championships round of 32 on May 25 at the University of Georgia's Dan Magill Tennis Complex.

Johnston, who was Michi-



Johnston

gan's Mr. Tennis as a senior at Northville, and Malik, a senior from London, England, became the first U-M doubles team since 2011 to earn a berth in the NCAA championships.

Seeded 29th, Johnston and Malik lost in a three-set heartbreaker to No. 25 Jerry Lopez and Reese Stalder of TCU, 6-3, 3-6, 10-8.

See JOHNSTON, Page B2



Northville's Connor Johnston (left) and U-M teammate Nick Beaty won an ITA summer event last weekend in East Lansing.

Little League fall registration

The South Farmington Little League is currently conducting registration for its fall season.

Fall ball is an opportunity for players ages 4-15 to play baseball or softball for six weeks starting Sept. 4. All games are scheduled for Saturday, with one practice each week through Oct. 14.

Limited spots are available, so some divisions may fill up quickly. The fee is \$50 for T-ball and \$90 for baseball and softball.

Registration ends Aug. 20 and is open to residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills and surrounding communities.

South Farmington baseball and softball also offers travel team opportunities.

To register or for more information, go to southfarmington.org.

Lady Bombers to hold tryouts

The South Farmington Little League Lady Bombers are hosting tryouts next month.

The Lady Bombers are a competitive softball program that plays spring house ball and tournaments at an affordable cost.

The tryout dates are 1:30 p.m. Aug. 6 for 8U and 14U players; 6:30 p.m. Aug. 8 for 12U; and 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9 for 10U.

Eligible players must live in the following zip codes: 48336; 48335; 48334; 48331; 48167.

All tryouts will be held at Drake Park (23500 Drake Road) in Farmington. If interested, but unable to attend tryouts, contact Steve Dickson at southfarmingtonladybombers@gmail.com or call 313-671-5214.

S.L. United lacrosse clinic

South Lyon United girls lacrosse program will host a free clinic for youngsters in grades K-8, 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at the South Lyon High School Stadium.

Check-in starts at 4:30 p.m. and an alumni game will follow 6:45-8 p.m. for the fourth annual event.

South Lyon United alumni, along with current high school players and coaches, will share their knowledge and skills. No experience is necessary and sticks will be provided.

For more information and to register, email slunited@gmail.com. You can also contact South Lyon United coach Rachel Curmi at curmi1r@gmail.com.

Hole-in-one club members

Several holes-in-one recently were tallied at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth Township.

On July 24, Jeremy Jenkins, 14, of Farmington Hills aced the 84-yard No. 11 hole at the Strategic course. He used a Taylor Made Wedge and Titleist Pro VI ball for his ace. He finished with 50 for the day.

On July 21, Diane Benne, 57, registered a hole-in-one on the 100-yard No. 3 hole at the Strategic course. She used a 5-iron and Srixon ball for the feat.

Canton's Denis Burke, 44, aced the 131-yard No. 3 hole at the Golden Fox course July 17. He used an 8-iron and Maxfli ball and finished with 40 for the day.

'SUNSHINE'S' SKILLS AND DRILLS CLINIC



Sunshine's camper Alex Banko outraces his buddy, Plymouth football player Jonah Brafford.



Flexing their muscles after a "touchdown" are Sunshine's buddies David Bilson and Plymouth football player Brad Miller.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Kids with special needs bond with Plymouth football players during annual event

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Nicolas Cetnarowski had so much fun at last year's Sunshine's Skills and Drills Football Clinic that there was no way his mom wouldn't bring him back for the fourth annual event.

"He just wanted to play football more (after last year's camp), he loves it here," said Lisa Cetnarowski, formerly of

Canton, whose 13-year-old son was paired up with Conner Bell. "It's just fun, watching all the kids have a great time."

Nicolas, who has autism and is non-verbal, made the rounds with Bell — a Westland resident who is entering eighth grade at St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia.

"He loves to catch and throw," Lisa said. "Oh gosh, he just loves he socialization part of it. Besides, he loves football

and baseball in general."

Judging from the smile on Bell's face, it looked like he was having just as much fun during the two-hour event held on the varsity turf field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"It's just a really great thing for them, there's not a lot of things like this around," said Conner, whose dad Ryan Bell is an assistant varsity football coach for Plymouth High

School. "It's just a great experience."

There were about 60 boys and girls with special needs on hand for the clinic, the brainchild of now-13-year-old Connor Sherman (a.k.a. Sunshine) and hosted by the Plymouth High School football program.

Each youngster went around to four non-contact stations with their Wildcats

See SUNSHINE'S, Page B2

WORLD JUNIOR SUMMER SHOWCASE

American teams off to rousing start at tourney

Split squads go combined 3-1 as international tourney opens in Plymouth

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

They uncapped a refreshing weekend of "summer shinny" at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

The 2017 Under-20 World Junior Summer Showcase opened Saturday and Sunday with a quartet of games, three

of which either USA White or USA Blue came away with a victory.

And for the fans watching games featuring a plethora of NHL prospects, they were rewarded with some splendid hockey by the cream of the prospect crop — including



USA White Team forward Ivan Lodnia (left) of Novi fends off a check from Team Sweden's Axel Jonsson Fjallby during Sunday's game at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

See TOURNEY, Page B2

SUNSHINE'S

Continued from Page B1

"buddy."

At the conclusion of the event (coordinated by Sherman, his parents, sponsors and coaches such as Plymouth assistant Brian Rochon), each camper ran through the inflated Wildcats head, crashed through a paper banner and received a trophy.

Campers and their families then were treated to refreshments and listened to a brief speech by Monica Merritt, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Gratifying

"It's definitely amazing," said Sherman, a quarterback for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers and entering eighth grade at Pioneer Middle School. "Just to see the kids run around and they get a shot, too, because every kid gets an opportunity to play the sport of football."

"It just makes you feel good, giving every kid an opportunity to succeed."

Now a few inches taller and with his hair cropped shorter than it was at the debut "Sunshine's" in 2014, he loved making the rounds.

"I'm kind of roaming around right now, stopping in with a bunch of kids saying hi," Sherman said. "They definitely love it. The No. 1 thing is when they knock over their buddy. They love that drill the most out of all of them."

Over near the station where campers improved their agility by running through a rope ladder, Plymouth JV wide receiver Jacob Smith encouraged his buddy, Emily.

"I think she loving it. She's learning so many new things, even though she's been here (Sunshine's) for three years now," said an enthusiastic Smith, soon to be a sophomore. "She's so fun to be with, she always makes me laugh."

Fun is contagious

Asked for an example, he recalled an exchange. "She's, like, 'Wow, this is fun.' I'll be, like 'You think it is? We can do it again if you want.' She's, like, 'Yeah!'"

Smith then shook his head at what he witnessed from Emily as well as the other campers as they threw and caught passes, "tackled" their buddies or found a seam with a run.

"It's just amazing, the kids are always energetic, they're always happy," Smith said. "I just love to do it. I do it for the kids, that's why I'm here."

That sentiment was prevalent all over the field, including from Plymouth varsity coach Mike Sawchuk.

"This is something I want to do as long as I'm here," Sawchuk said. "I said two things this does in my mind. One, I don't think kids get outside as much as they used to. So for them to come outside and just have fun playing the game of football is awesome for



Plymouth player Seth Thompson holds up the blocking bag for Sunshine's camper Max Dean. In the background is Pat O'Connell, assistant coach for the Wildcats.



Conner Bell (left) and Nicolas Cetnarowski enjoy each other's company. Bell, 13, is a Westland resident and son of Plymouth assistant coach Ryan Bell.

the campers.

"And the second thing is, as I started doing this, I see our kids having just as much fun, but I also see their brains spinning, going, 'Wow, how resilient are the parents that do this 24/7?'"

Sawchuk added that the high school athletes "learn something from it, they learn how good they have it. Now they can give back and let these kids have a great day."

The older folks working with the kids also seemed to be having a blast.

"You can see my brother (Terry Sawchuk) and our O-line coaches are into it and having a good time," Sawchuk said. "They're enthusiastic."

Then with a nod in the direction of Connor Sherman, Sawchuk said, "He cut his hair, so he doesn't really look like Sunshine anymore."

Maybe so. But "Sunshine's" clinic maintained its usual look of undeniable fun, friendship and football.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



All smiles during the Sunshine's clinic are buddies Bradley Tyszkiewicz (left) and Ryan Fox.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page B1

Sweden defenseman Gustav Lindstrom, Detroit's second-round pick in the recent NHL Entry Draft.

Despite some nifty stretch passes by Lindstrom to spring offensive chances for Swedish teammates, the Team USA White split squad prevailed 4-3 Sunday afternoon before just under 600 fans.

Local players such as goalie Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) and forward Ivan Lodnia (Novi) made important contributions against Sweden.

St. Cyr, a Notre Dame commit, made 27 saves for the victory.

"It's a great opportunity to even be here with a bunch of great players," St. Cyr said. "Basically, I just want to play my game, don't want to change anything and I think everything else will take care of itself."

The 5-8 goalie, a two-year veteran of the U.S. National Team Development Program, came up with some timely stops, including one with about five minutes left in the middle period with USA White up 2-1 (on first-period goals by Max Gerlach and Quinn Hughes).

Lindstrom fed a stretch pass from his own end right onto the tape of Isac Lundestrom, who slid the puck over to right wing Jesper Boqvist for a one-timer that St. Cyr sprawled to block.

"We knew they had a good D-core there, they were getting pucks to the net," St. Cyr said. "We just had to make sure we played good team defense and I think we did that really well."

About two minutes later, Lodnia put USA White up 3-1 when he banged in the rebound of Jack Badini's shot. The goal made up for an earlier tripping

penalty that his teammates killed off.

"I took a couple penalties here and they're not the greatest feeling," Lodnia said. "But once you get to finally bounce back with a goal, it feels nice."

Sweden cut the lead to 3-2 before the end of the period on a power-play goal by Boqvist, but the two-goal lead was restored again at 32 seconds of the third period, when Kailer Yamamoto jammed the puck past goalie Isak Wallin (20 saves).

Feeling trusted

A power-play goal by Sweden's Linus Hogberg closed the gap to 4-3 with 7:31 left, but St. Cyr and his teammates were strong the rest of the way.

In the final minute, with Wallin pulled for an extra attacker, Lodnia was out for an extended shift and kept the puck deep in Sweden's zone — preventing any chance at the equalizer.

"It means a lot, it definitely shows the coach trusts you in the D-zone," Lodnia said. "I've been trying to emphasize being an offensive threat in the O-zone and be reliable in the D-zone."

Lodnia, who played last season for the Ontario Hockey League champion Erie Otters, added that it's great to be part of a tournament not too far from his home.

"I'm just down the street on Beck Road, so it's really nice to be here," said Lodnia, a 2017 draft pick of the Minnesota Wild. "I've been here a lot, watched a lot of games and played a lot of games here. To be playing at this rink in such a high competition it means a lot."

The Showcase — essentially an audition for the 2018 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championship — continued with each U.S. split squad playing Tuesday games against Canada.

Fletcher (George Washington University) took another ITA doubles crown.

Johnston is tied for the seventh most doubles wins (19) by a freshman in program history. His goal is to crack U-M's singles lineup full-time in 2017-18.

"It's going to be tough again, because we're only losing two singles players," said Johnston, who is training this summer under former U-M player Justin Rossi at the Novi Sports Club. "I should be fighting for that sixth spot. We're getting four people (recruits), so we'll see."

As an added bonus to the 2016-17 season, the U-M men's tennis team took a trip in June to France. It got a chance to play a French club team made up of college-age players.

"It was low-key, not that serious," Johnston said. "We played a set of doubles and then an eight-game pro set of singles. The trip was kind of more to have fun."

The U-M squad took a sight-seeing

trip to both Nice and Paris during its seven-day excursion.

There were several highlights on the French trip for Johnston, but two stand out.

"Hitting at the Monte Carlo Tennis Club or going to the French Open, both of those were equal," Johnston said.

"We went for a whole day (to Roland Garros Stadium). It was cool. Very different. It was awesome. We watched the round of 16. We saw everyone: Andy Murray, (Kei) Nishikori, (Fernando) Verdasco, bunch of doubles players."

Johnston reached most of his expectations last season as he helped the Wolverines finish with a 23-7 overall record as they earned their second consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament.

"Maybe play more singles matches, but other than that it was awesome," Johnston said of his inaugural collegiate year. "I was getting playing time in doubles, playing pretty much every match and working hard. So it was a lot

of fun."

Johnston came to U-M with high credentials as five-star recruit who was ranked the No. 23 senior by Tennis-Recruiting.net.

As a senior at Northville, Johnston took the coveted the MHSAA Division 1 individual No. 1 singles state title to cap a perfect 29-0 season after finishing runner-up to Novi's Tim Wang (Columbia University) the previous two years (2013 and 2014).

"I'd say the biggest adjustment was just the overall intensity and work rate of just the whole thing," Johnston said of his inaugural year in Ann Arbor.

"The intensity is way higher in college and the players are just hitting hard, moving their feet harder, just working that much harder."

Goalies Jake Oettinger and Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) divided time between the pipes with St. Cyr stopping 18 shots for the win.

After a scoreless first period, Max

Gildon scored just two minutes into the second period, on a play set up by Brady Tkachuk.

Sasha Chmelevski and Jason Robertson then scored goals just 34 seconds apart midway through the period to stake goalie and Detroit Red Wings draft choice Keith Petruzzelli to a comfortable lead.

The 6-5 Petruzzelli (Detroit's third round choice in the 2017 NHL Entry Draft) held the fort the rest of the way, other than Finland's goal by Aarne Talvitie early in the third. He finished with 27 saves.

Closing out the win for USA Blue was Tim Gettinger, with a goal at 7:06 of the third.

SWEDEN 4, USA BLUE 3: In front of 559 Saturday at USA Hockey Arena, the USA Blue team jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period, but could not hold on as Sweden rallied with three unanswered goals.

For the U.S., goals were scored by Brady Tkachuk, Sean Dhooghe and Brighton's Logan Cockerill.

In net for the home team, Sweden victimized goaltender Keith Petruzzelli, who allowed three goals on 21 shots down the stretch.

USA WHITE 4, FINLAND 2: In the week-long tournament opener Saturday afternoon, goals by Max Gerlach and Casey Mittelstadt in the third period snapped a 2-2 tie and propelled the USA White squad to victory.

Other U.S. goals were scored by Evan Barratt (from Mittelstadt) and Jack Badini.

Goalies Jake Oettinger and Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) divided time between the pipes with St. Cyr stopping 18 shots for the win.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

JOHNSTON

Continued from Page B1

"We did really well," said Johnston, who finished the year at 19-9 overall at No. 1 doubles and 3-0 at No. 3 doubles. "We got up to No. 10 in April. Lost 10-8 in a super tiebreaker to guys (Lopez and Stalder) who made the final four. It was so close. We were up 7-5 and lost 10-8."

Johnston, a Novi resident, also posted a 6-2 doubles record in the Big Ten and finished with a 10-2 singles mark, where he played in the Nos. 5 and 6 flights.

Meanwhile, Johnston's doubles success continued last weekend when he and U-M teammate Nick Beaty (Wayzata, Minn.) captured a summer Intercollegiate Tennis Association doubles event at Michigan State.

The previous weekend at Notre Dame, Johnston and partner Chris

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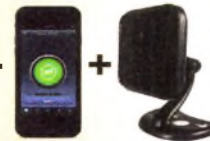
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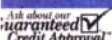
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