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Second protest planned in jail death

Police still investigating circumstances of case

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A second protest over the death of a prisoner at the Westland Police Department has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 3.

William Marshall, 35, died in police custody Dec. 10. The investigation into Marshall's death was handed over to the Michigan State Police.

"We've got the Westland material. It is being reviewed. We just got it, so we don't know if extra work will be needed," said Maria Miller, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman. "We are going to look at it carefully to see what it needs. We'll make a decision one way or another."

There is currently no timeline for when the investigation will be completed, she said. Autopsy results are being



A second protest over the death of William Marshall while in Westland police custody is scheduled for Saturday morning. FILE PHOTO

awaited on Marshall, who had been arrested for driving with a suspended license and marijuana and cocaine possession.

During the earlier protest, Marshall's family members and supporters marched in front of the police depart-

ment, carrying signs and chanting for justice for Marshall, who family members allege was denied medical treatment while in custody for several hours. He was examined by fire rescue twice and, the second time, taken to an area hospital, where he died.

Marshall's family members and their attorney have called on police to release video of Marshall's time in the city lock-up, but Westland police reported being unable to do that due to having turned the investigation over to Michigan State Police.

Family members and supporters described Marshall's death as murder. That conclusion was based on statements made by two unidentified people who had been in the city lockup at the same time as Marshall. Those people alleged police had denied medical treatment to Marshall.

As protesters called for answers in Marshall's death, Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said he also wanted answers — something he said would require patience to await the completion of the investigation.

Contact LeAnne Rogers at lroggers@hometownlife.com or 734-883-9039. Follow her on Twitter: @LRoggersObserver.



WATCH OUT!
Drivers see more potholes forming along area roads

Joy Road, just east of I-275. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I had to buy all new tires. First week here, I ended up having to spend \$700 on new tires."

Dan Heintz
newcomer to the area

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Dan Heintz got quite the welcome from southeast Michigan during his first week of work earlier this year.

Heintz, who recently moved to the Farmington area, was on his way to his new job in Livonia when he hit a pothole at the Grand River/10 Mile/M-5 interchange area. That pothole ate up a tire

and, because his car has four-wheel drive, he needed to replace all four tires.

"I had to buy all new tires," he said. "First week here, I ended up having to spend \$700 on new tires."

Everyone probably has a similar story to Heintz's, especially in years like this one, when potholes have cropped up everywhere along area roads.

Both Wayne and Oakland counties

See POTHOLE, Page 3A

Westland murder suspect found competent

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A Westland man accused of killing his roommate has been found competent to stand trial on first-degree murder charges.

Jovica Nikoloski, 22, was back Jan. 25 in Westland's 18th District Court for a probable cause conference. A preliminary examination date was set at the hearing, meaning his case will continue through the legal system after he underwent a competency exam this past fall. Moving forward indicates Nikoloski had been found competent to stand trial on the first-degree murder charge he faces.



Nikoloski

Nikoloski was charged back in September in the death of his roommate, 25-year-old Spase Grazhdani, at their residence in the Skygate Apartment complex in the 6500 block of Yale in Westland. There, Westland police say Nikoloski said the two of them got into an argument during which a knife was produced. Police say Nikoloski then stabbed Grazhdani before the two struggled for the weapon. Police say Nikoloski then stabbed him again.

He left the apartment for a few hours before returning and calling authorities to report the incident. He was arrested and later charged with first-degree murder. He was referred to the state for a competency exam last fall.

See SUSPECT, Page 2A

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Volume 53 | No. 75
Home delivery pricing inside
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Suspect

Continued from Page 1A

He was originally scheduled to return to court in December, though officials told the court they needed more time to complete the report and scheduled the hearing for late-January.

A preliminary examination in his case will take place at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, in Westland's 18th District Court before Judge Sandra Cicirelli. Prosecutors indicated they would call about four witnesses, including several Westland police officers. That hearing will determine whether there is enough evidence for

Nikoloski to face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. Nikoloski remains locked up in the Wayne County Jail without bond. If convicted on the charge, he faces a maximum of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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



Hearing for Jovica Nikoloski, accused of murdering his roommate. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737

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Beaumont

Potholes

Continued from Page 1A

have seen an increase in pothole activity early this year, thanks to deep-freeze temperatures that evolve into warmer weather within a span of a few days.

Those sudden temperature swings, coupled with plenty of precipitation this January, have county road workers out in full force, shoveling cold patch into craters all over roads in the region.

The weather has crews working more than usual at this time of year. Bill Bantom, director of the Department of Public Services road maintenance division for Wayne County, said the county has used roughly 800 tons of cold patch so far this season. That's more than double what it used at this point in 2017, at 350 tons.

"I'm running probably eight to 10 crews a days patching potholes on various roads," Bantom said. "Based on our calculations, we've probably cold-patched 27,000 potholes."

Poor roads see potholes faster

Oakland County is also seeing plenty of activity. Craig Bryson, senior communications manager for the Road Commission for Oakland County, said crews are ahead on overtime hours usually budgeted for this time of year, a sign that they're out patching potholes on a frequent basis.

"Right now, it's a bit ahead of where we expected," he said. "We always plan for the worst and hope for the best."

Bryson said roads that are in worse shape are the ones seeing more potholes. But he said the county improved 40 miles of roads last year, including Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Even with recent improvements, he said there are more than 60 miles of roadway marked as "poor" in PASER, which usually see potholes sooner.

"It's really widespread from Holly to Ferndale and from Addison to Lyon," he said.

The potholes are being noticed by residents like Heintz, who grew up in Grand Rapids, lived in Lansing and recently came to metro Detroit. He said he doesn't recall roads being nearly as bumpy in west and mid-Michigan as



Water in the pothole can fool you. It's deeper than it looks. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

he's found in the last month here.

"The roads over here are much worse," he said.

Crews in Wayne County have been out six days a week, filling potholes from Detroit to Canton, Bantom said. One recent Saturday, Bantom said crews filled more than 3,900 potholes and 100 service calls were completed.

When it comes to reporting potholes, both counties have a hotline for drivers to call. Potholes in Wayne County can be reported by calling 800-762-3273 or online at waynecounty.com. Oakland County potholes can be reported to the road commission by calling 877-858-4804 or online at rcocweb.com.

While crews try to fill potholes this season as soon as they come in, Bantom said, it's not always possible to get crews there right away and drivers need to be wary of where they are on the road when dealing with potholes.

Such driving tactics can be compared to driving with several inches of snow on the road.

"To some degree, we have to look at potholes the same way as snow and ice," he said. "It causes us to have a need to drive a little differently."

Heintz has learned the hard way to avoid such calamities. The next day after damaging his tire, he drove in another lane and went slow enough so other drivers could pass him.

He said the best way to avoid pothole damage? Avoid potholes altogether.

"I'm definitely more cautious now," he said. "I know now which roads to avoid."

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

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LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Jewelry taken from Meijer

Livonia police were called Jan. 25 to Meijer, 13000 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody.

An employee told police he saw the suspect select some jewelry and place it into his cart. He later removed the jewelry from its packaging and concealed it

on him. He went to the checkout and purchased several items, but never paid for the jewelry. He was stopped before leaving the store and detained until police arrived. He was issued a citation and released at the scene by police.

— By David Veselenak

Dead body found by school in Westland investigated

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Westland police say they indeed found a dead body at a property near an elementary school this past weekend.

Sgt. Robert Wilkie of the Westland Police Department said Monday morning police did discover a body at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday in Maple Grove Cemetery, west of Cooper Upper Elementary School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail.

Wilkie declined to share more details regarding the incident, but did say that, despite the body being found in a cemetery, it did not appear the body was part of any normal operations of the burial ground.

Wilkie did not say whether the body's appearance in the cemetery was suspi-

cious, but said investigators are looking into the incident.

"It's definitely causing an investigation," he said. "I can't really get anymore specific with that."

Livonia Public Schools, which operates Cooper Upper Elementary School, put out a notice Sunday regarding the incident and what was available to students if need be.

"With the best interest of our students always at the forefront, we will have resources on hand to support any questions or concerns Cooper students may have regarding this incident," the statement said.

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

Library Friends offer used books for sale

There has been a January thaw lately but Michiganders know that winter won't really be over for at least a couple of months.

Stock up on some bargain reads in time for the next cold spell at the Friends of the Westland Library Winter Warm-up Book Sale Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 8-11.

The sale opens 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 with a preview sale open to Friends members only.

The full sale gets underway 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9-10. The sale wraps up noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 with a \$4 bag sale.

During the sale, the Friends are offering some specials: biographies are three for \$1 and hardcover adult fiction will be buy one, get one free.

The William P. Faust Library of Westland is located on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road. Money raised by the Friends of the Library is donated to the library to support programs.

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Man charged after crack cocaine found in car

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A Detroit man faces several decades in prison after the Wayne police chief spotted him drinking a beer and hopping into a vehicle that contained bags of drugs.

Wayne police say Chief Alan Maciag was driving at about 2 p.m. Jan. 27 near Michigan Avenue and Hannan, on the Wayne/Canton border, when he saw a man sitting on the curb drinking a beer,

according to a Wayne Police Department news release. Maciag then saw the man get into a parked vehicle with tinted windows and a broken taillight.

Police officers were called to the area and pulled over the man. The driver, 22-year-old Loran Cohen, was seen in the car with several small bags containing crack cocaine, along with marijuana, sitting on a seat in the vehicle. He had a loaded AK-47 with an extended magazine in the seat as well.

Wayne officers arrested him and took him to the police station for processing.



Cohen

He was later charged by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office with several criminal counts, including delivery/manufacture cocaine less than 50 grams, delivery/manufacture marijuana and two counts of felony firearm.

He was arraigned Monday before Judge Laura Mack in Wayne's 29th District Court and given a \$100,000/10-percent bond. There was no record of

Cohen's lodging in the Wayne County Jail online inmate search as of Monday evening.

He is due back in court at 9 a.m. Feb. 6 for a probable cause conference and his preliminary examination is scheduled for Feb. 13.

If convicted, Cohen faces up to 20 years in prison.

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

Police seek suspect who sexually assaulted woman

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Wayne police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect accused of sexually assaulting a woman in the city.

Police say the woman, a Wayne resident in her 40s, arrived at her home at about 7 p.m. Jan. 25 near Merriman and Michigan Avenue after walking there. The suspect entered her home without her permission and assaulted her, both sexually and physically. He then fled on foot.

Police say the suspect is male, ages 18-20, about 6 feet, 2 inches, and 200 pounds and had shorter curly or twisted hair. Michigan State Police completed an artist sketch of the suspect and released it in hopes of identifying the suspect.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Lt. Ryan Strong at the Wayne Police Department at 734-721-1414, ext. 1503. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may also call Crime Stoppers of Michigan at 800-SPEAK-UP.



This sketch, done by the Michigan State Police, is a suspect wanted in a sexual assault of a Wayne woman Jan. 25. WAYNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Sewer backup reported in Livonia

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Department of Public Works crews headed home from the job Friday were called back to deal with a reported sewer backup in a neighborhood near Six Mile and Farmington.

Crews were called just after 3:30 p.m. Friday afternoon to a residence in the 34000 block of Burton Court on the report of a sewer overflowing. The resident told the city they noticed some remnants of overflow from the manhole, though it was not overflowing at that time. It was apparent some sewage had begun flowing toward the tributary stream nearby.

Jacob Rushlow, the city's superintendent of public service, said the sewer drain appeared to resolve the blockage on its own before crews arrived. He said it's possible the pressure associated with the drain may have rendered loose any material blocking the line.

"This particular pipe is a sewer siphon, so it's basically under pressure," he said. "It pushes the sewer with force. When we went out, we did not see or observe any discharge or overflowing."

Rushlow said crews spend the next few hours cleaning the sewer line with a hydro-jet sewer cleaner as a precautionary measure. The line continued to operate as normal beginning Friday evening.

Rushlow said that kind of backup is fairly rare and does not happen in the city all that often. When it does, the city is required to notify the state and other shareholders. He said there is no risk of basement backups in that area of Livonia.

The backup occurred between a usual tri-monthly cleaning schedule the city has for that drain, Rushlow said. Moving forward, he said crews will monitor that drain more often.

"We're going to increase that to every month," he said. "It should be OK going forward."

Anyone experiencing a potential sewer backup in Livonia is encouraged to call the DPW at 734-466-2655. If the backup is happening after regular business hours, Rushlow said callers can call the Livonia Police Department at 734-466-2470 and it will connect with the DPW to resolve the issue.

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

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AREA EVENTS

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Railroadiana Train Show

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club is sponsoring a buy-and-swap Railroadiana Train Show from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Ss. Simon & Jude Catholic Church Social Hall, 32500 Palmer Road, in Westland.

There will be approximately 100 dealer tables available. The cost is \$10 for an eight-foot table. Dealer setup is 9 a.m. the day of the show and complimentary coffee and doughnuts will be available to the dealers until 10:30 a.m. Food also will be available. Admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family. Parking is free.

For more information or table reservations, call Bob at 734-728-1247.

Inspire Theatre to present 'Breeze'

The Inspire Theatre, located at Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road, will present "Gone With The Breeze" throughout the month of February. The play is a behind-the-scenes musical/comedy set in Hollywood in the 1990s.

"Gone With The Breeze" will run Friday through Sunday, Feb. 9-25. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, with a 3 p.m. matinee scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at inspiretheatre.ticketleap.com. For more information, call at 734-751-7057.

Widowed Friends bereavement series

Widowed Friends, a peer support group, will host a bereavement support series to help deal with the emotions and other issues often experienced following the loss of a spouse.

This six-week session is facilitated by a trained member of Widowed Friends and will be held 1-3 p.m. each Sunday, Feb. 4 through March 11, at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, in Livonia. Registration is required. Call 734-591-7879 for details.

Livonia Friends used book sale

The Friends of the Robert and Janet Bennett Library is sponsoring a three-day used book sale Friday through Sunday, Feb. 2-4, at the library, 32777 Five Mile Road. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

There will be hundreds of books, including crafts, mysteries, fiction, non-fiction and math, as well as children's books. There is a designated room for collectibles. On Sunday, a bag of books can be purchased for \$5. All proceeds support the Livonia libraries. For more information, call 734-466-2495.

Wayne Memorial parents night

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an eighth-grade parents night at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium, 3001 Fourth Street.

This evening is for current eighth-grade students and their families or families interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2018-19 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to participate in this event.

Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.

Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For questions, contact the Wayne Memorial counseling department at 734-419-2215.

Livonia Republican Club

Join the Livonia Republican Club for its next meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Livonia Victory Center, 33462 Seven Mile Road, in Livonia. Guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski, candidate for the U.S. House in the 11th District.

Ladies night at Crossroads Church

Crossroads Church, 34500 Six Mile Road, in Livonia will host an event called A Night for Ladies at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. The event is for those ages 8 and up.

Bring one pair large scissors (if you have them) and new or gently used ladies turtlenecks. Cost is \$5. RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 7 to www.CrossroadsNow.org.

www.CrossroadsNow.org.

Crossroads Church clothing drive

Crossroads Church, 34500 Six Mile Road, in Livonia is conducting a winter clothing drive to benefit homeless men and women in Detroit. The church will be collecting new or gently used winter-weather clothing from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Sunday through Feb. 11.

Contact info@CrossroadsNow.org or 734-338-5149 to arrange an additional drop-off time. The drive is in partnership with Moe's Market Shoe Repair, Detroit's Eastern Market and Second Chance Ministries, Detroit.

Classes at St. Michael

St. Michael's, 11441 Hubbard Road, in Livonia will present several classes. For more information, contact the parish office at 734-261-1455, ext. 200, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org.

■ Revelation Bible Study continues 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the school cafeteria. The series is taught by Michigan Catholic columnist Gary Michuta.

■ Why Be Catholic series continues at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20. Speaker will be Nick Russell. There is no charge or reservation requirement. All are welcome.

Diabetes support group

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will offer a diabetes support group 1:30-2:30 p.m. the third Friday of each month in 2018. The group meets in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 11. The support group will offer participants an opportunity to meet others living diabetes and learn from one another. To learn more about the program, call 734-655-2868.

Westland Friends book sale

Friends of the Westland Library will host a book sale Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 8-11. Hours are 3-6 p.m. Thursday (Friends only), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday (\$4 bag day). Other specials include biographies, three for a \$1, and hard cover adult fiction, buy one get one free.

Relay For Life kickoff

The American Cancer Society will host a free kickoff event open to the public for a celebration of the Relay For Life of Westland-Wayne, set for 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road.

The event will start with music, light appetizers, drinks and will include a short program and a talk from a local survivor on how ACS efforts have impacted their life. Information on how you can join the American Cancer Society and participate in Relay For Life will be available.

The Relay For Life event will be held June 9-10 in Central City Park in Westland. This season, the event is looking to raise more than \$53,000 and celebrate more than 80 survivors and their caregivers.

Go to relayforlife.org/WestlandWayneMI to learn more about the kickoff event or Relay For Life event or contact Megan Schaper at 248-663-3417 or Megan.Schaper@cancer.org.

St. Michael Lenten fish dinners

St. Michael the Archangel Parish invites the community to its annual all-you-can-eat Lenten fish fry, scheduled for 4:30-7 p.m. each Friday from Feb. 16 through March 23, in the St. Michael School cafeteria. There will be no dinner Good Friday.

The dinners will all feature baked or fried, hand-dipped fresh Atlantic cod, mac and cheese, green beans, cole slaw, French fries or baked potato, rolls, beverages and ice cream. Prices are: adults, \$10; seniors, \$8; children ages 3-13, \$5.50; and under age 3, free. Take-out service is also available at \$9 per dinner. Lenten Stations of the Cross services will be offered in the church at 7 p.m. each evening following the dinner.

St. Michael is located at 11441 Hubbard Road in Livonia. For more information, call 734-261-1455, ext. 200, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org.

Indoor triathlon at Kirksey Center

Registration is underway for the annual indoor triathlon, which will take place Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, in Livonia. Participants compete in a 20-minute swim, 20-minute bike and 20-minute run, with 10-minute transition times between each event. Swimming takes place in the 25-yard lap pool. Biking will be on upright stationary bikes. Running will be done on

treadmills in the fit hub. Scoring is determined by the total distance covered in all three events.

The registration fee of \$35 includes a participation T-shirt and refreshments. Awards will be given to the top male and female in each of the following age groups: 18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60 and 61 and over.

Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 16. For more information, call 734-466-2900 or go to www.livoniaparks.org.

Polish Night at K. of C. hall

The Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, in Livonia will host a Polish Night scheduled for 5:30-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. The event will include Polish food and dancers, as well as music by the Kielbasa Kings. Tickets, \$30 each, are available at the bar.

Bats event at Livonia library

The Friends of the Robert and Janet Bennett Library is sponsoring a free program on the importance of bats in our ecosystems at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Livonia Library, 32777 Five Mile Road. A presenter from the Organization for Bat Conservation International Headquarters will provide the program.

Facts about bats that will be covered include native bats, as well as bat houses, how bats are helpful in our world, conservation issues such as habitat loss and the White Nose Syndrome and how we can help to save the bats.

For more information, call 734-466-2495.

Distinguished Young Woman program

The next Wayne-Westland Distinguished Young Woman program meeting will take place Friday, March 9. Any high school junior girl, who lives in Wayne or Westland, may register at anytime. Go to www.distinguishtydw.org and click on "apply now." The information will be forwarded and the applicant will be contacted with orientation details.

St. Mary Mercy weight management classes

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host a weight management program titled Weigh Your Options. Classes are scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. both Thursday, March 22, and Thursday, May 24.

Registered dietitians will provide attendees with information to help individuals begin a weight loss program. Attendees will learn about successful weight management programs, where to find reliable resources and healthy activities in the community and what is needed to create a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn how to read food labels, write SMART goals and how to determine their healthiest weight.

The class will take place in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 10, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, accessed from the South Entrance. There is a \$5 fee for this class and registration is required. Register online at www.stmarymercy.org and click on "Classes and Events."

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. Special activity groups meet year-round.

For more information, go to <http://livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com>.

Livonia Towne Club meetings

Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization that brings together women for social interaction, meets the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November and December, when it's the second Thursday).

The club meets for lunch and a program at different restaurants in Livonia and surrounding areas. The program could be an informative speaker, bingo, fashion show, music entertainment and more, plus an occasional local day trip.

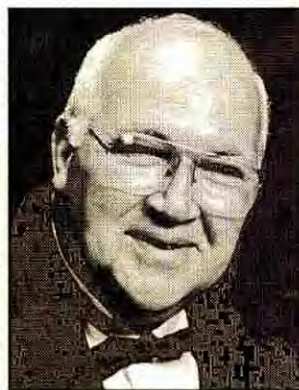
Obituaries

Charles C. Thompson

WESTLAND - age 81, born June 19, 1936 in Chesterfield, PA. Passed away January 20, 2018 in Brighton, MI.

As a Michigan resident, Charles lived in Plymouth while raising his family, then eventually moved to Westland. Though he spent most of his time at his cottage on Houghton Lake. He was a man of character, loved by many people. As a young man, while raising his family, Charles enjoyed having his landscaping company for many years. He was a Plant Foreman at Ford Motor Company, Michigan Truck Assembly, he retired in 1994. Charles was also a master woodworker and after retirement, cleared land in Northern Michigan for the State, milled and planed the fallen trees and sold furniture grade lumber throughout the tri-state area. He also cut and bundled firewood, which he sold throughout the Houghton Lake area, that kept many homes warm and campfires burning. Charles enjoyed fishing in his spare time, spending time with his beloved dog, Shane and making his special (too beautiful to use) cutting boards, which he sold at numerous fairs and trade shows. Charles is survived by son Michael (Lena), daughters Denise (James) Kelly and Tracy (Ronald Jr.) Buckley. His brothers Richard, Clifford and sister Joyce (Lloyd) Dell, along with 4 beloved grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private Celebration of Charles' Life will be held at a later date. The family asks for donations to, Hartland Hospice of Ann Arbor. Cremation services entrusted to the Uht Funeral Home, Westland, MI.



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Premium Fresh All Natural BABY BACK RIBS
\$2.99 lb
save \$2.00



Premium Fresh All Natural BONELESS PORK CHOPS
\$2.99 lb
save \$2.99



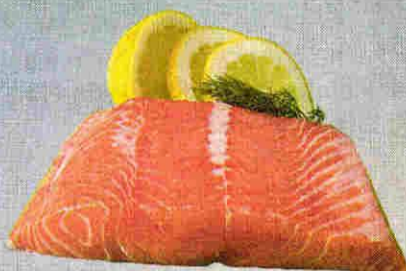
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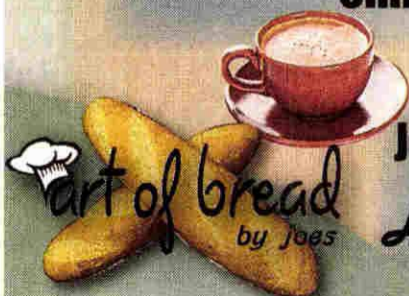


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Sports

PREP WRESTLING

Monroe Jefferson wins Observerland tourney

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill's Drew Bush didn't want to disappoint the home crowd when he stepped onto mat for the 135-pound finals early Saturday against Waterford Mott's Darian Lindemier at the 27th annual Observerland wrestling tournament.

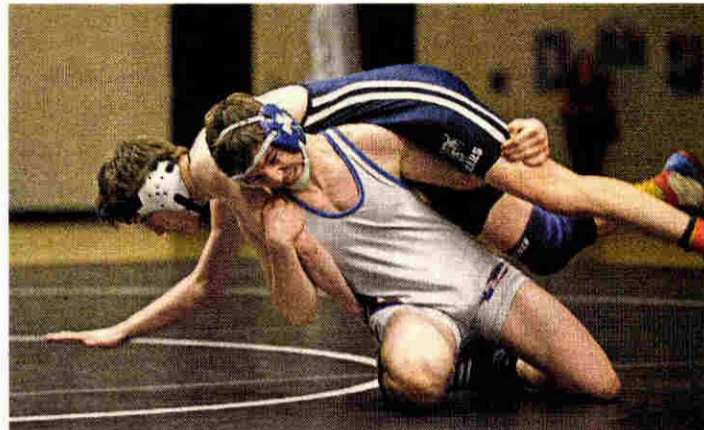
The junior was the only Charger to reach to the finals, but found himself in a 4-2 hole during the final stages of the third period.

"I'm thinking, I'm gassed, but this kid (Lindemier) is more tired than I am and I'm going to keep coming at him, so I kept coming at him and he broke before me," Bush said.

With his teammates urging him on, Bush tied the match with a late two-point move and then sealed the deal with another two-pointer in overtime to score a 6-4 decision, while also earning the lower weights MVP honors.

"It feels pretty nice, honestly," Bush said. "It's good to put all that hard work

See **WRESTLING**, Page 2B



Jacob Bisdorf of Catholic Central (bottom) and Luke Borman of Berkley compete in the 125-pound championship match. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

NFL FOOTBALL

A CINDERELLA STORY



Novi High grad and former Ferris State player Brady Sheldon made the Oakland Raiders 53-man roster at the end of the season. OAKLAND RAIDERS

Novi's Sheldon got call from Oakland for last two games

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Brady Sheldon might only have two NFL games under his belt, but his journey to land a spot on the Oakland Raiders active 53-man roster is a lesson in perseverance.

The 24-year-old undrafted free agent, an edge-rushing linebacker out of Novi High School and Ferris State University, made his debut in a 19-10 Christmas night loss in Philadelphia and also played special teams in a season-ending 30-10 New Year's Eve setback to the host L.A. Chargers.

"It was a dream come true, from the ups and downs of the combine process and not being signed, getting called back and getting cut after training camp ... it was the best feeling ever, such a relief," said Sheldon, who turns 25 next month. "It was just a little taste, so I'm excited to get back, working out. I know

what I need to work on, I know what I need to get better."

After Raiders head coach Jack Del Rio was let go following a 6-10 season, Sheldon knows he'll have to prove himself all over again. That's because nothing in the NFL is guaranteed. He'll have to fight for his position under a new regime.

"I'm excited," Sheldon said. "I like (coach Jon) Gruden, I like his passion. I think he's gonna to shake some things up in the organization, which is going to be good for us."

Another chance

Sheldon, who signed a two-year deal with Oakland after earning a call-up to the Raiders practice squad prior to the Week II game against New England, can be found during the off-season training at Total Performance in Wixom.

Under the direction of Total Perfor-

See **SHELDON**, Page 3B



Novi's Brady Sheldon showed his NFL potential during his days at Ferris State. FERRIS STATE ATHLETICS

PREP ATHLETICS

Canton High rolls out red carpet for best of the last 45 years

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The best athletes to come out of Canton High School during the first 45 years of its existence have gone on to stardom at the collegiate and professional levels — not to mention U.S. freestyle swimmer Allison Schmitt of Olympics fame.

That rich tapestry of excellence finally will be officially recognized with the inaugural class of the Canton Athletic Hall of Fame. Fourteen athletes or coaches, plus the 2005 football team, will be enshrined Saturday, Feb. 3, at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton, during the induction ceremony and dinner.

What's more, the Class of 2018 were recognized at halftime of Tuesday's Canton-Salem boys basketball game.

"There have been many great athletes, coaches and teams over the past 45 years and there will be so many more in the future," Schmitt wrote in an email. "To be able to stand among them is quite an honor."

In addition to Schmitt, a 2008 grad, nine-time All-American and eight-time Olympics medal winner, members of the debut class include National Football League player Devin Thomas, former professional baseball player Thomas Close and Tim Baechler, the recently retired football coach who already is in two halls of fame.

"I am honored to go in with the first class," said Baechler, who built a state power during his 20-year coaching career, which just ended in November. "I have so much respect for these athletes and fellow coaches. We are just a few of many who have set a high standard of success for Canton athletics."

One of Baechler's Canton teams was the 2005 squad that reeled off nine wins in a row to advance to the state title game against Rockford at Ford Field in Detroit.

Baechler isn't the only coach to make the prestigious honor roll. Also inducted will be longtime gymnastics coach John Cunningham, veteran basketball coach Bob Blohm and legendary baseball coach Fred Crissey.

Crissey was the first baseball coach in school history, taking that job the year Canton High School opened (1972-73) and racking up a 348-147 record over 22 seasons. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993.

Two of Crissey's players were drafted by major league teams: Brian Stemberger (1975) and Close (1976).

Close played minor league baseball in the Kansas City Royals farm system, but he also was an all-league performer in football and basketball. Stem-

See **HALL**, Page 3B

PREP WRESTLING

Brighton senior's dramatic pin clinches KLAA

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Quitting was never an option for Jack Ireton.

The thought never crossed his mind at any point during his Brighton wrestling career, despite not having a regular spot in the lineup.

And after four years of grinding it out in the Bulldogs' demanding program, it certainly didn't cross his mind Jan. 25 when he was being dominated by Chase Kersten of Westland John Glenn.

Ireton figured he had Kersten right where he wanted him.

"A lot of my matches seem to end up like that," Ireton said. "I'm a come-from-behind kind of guy, I guess."

Down 5-0 in the second period, Ireton suddenly turned the tables and got a pin in 2 minutes, 46 seconds, at 171 pounds to clinch the team title for Brighton in the next-to-last match.

The third-ranked Bulldogs' 38-25 victory over second-ranked John Glenn gave them the KLAA championship and possibly the No. 2 seed for the Division 1 state tournament. The latter is of considerable significance, because no team wants to face powerful Detroit Catholic Central until as late as possible.

"Last year, we were the eighth seed and wrestled C.C. in the first round (of the state finals)," Brighton coach Tony Greathouse said. "It was tough, a nationally ranked team. It's tough going there and wrestling the best team right out of the gate."

Ireton is a holdover from three seasons ago, when Brighton was the best team in the state. He was a freshman on the junior varsity, but still cherishes the memory of watching the Bulldogs beat arch rival Hartland for the title.

"Even though I wasn't even wrestling there, it was still the best wrestling memory of my life," Ireton said. "It was incredible. Nothing can compare to that."

Ireton never had a secure spot in Brighton's lineup until this season. He's gone 20-8, but his confidence was rattled by some recent losses.

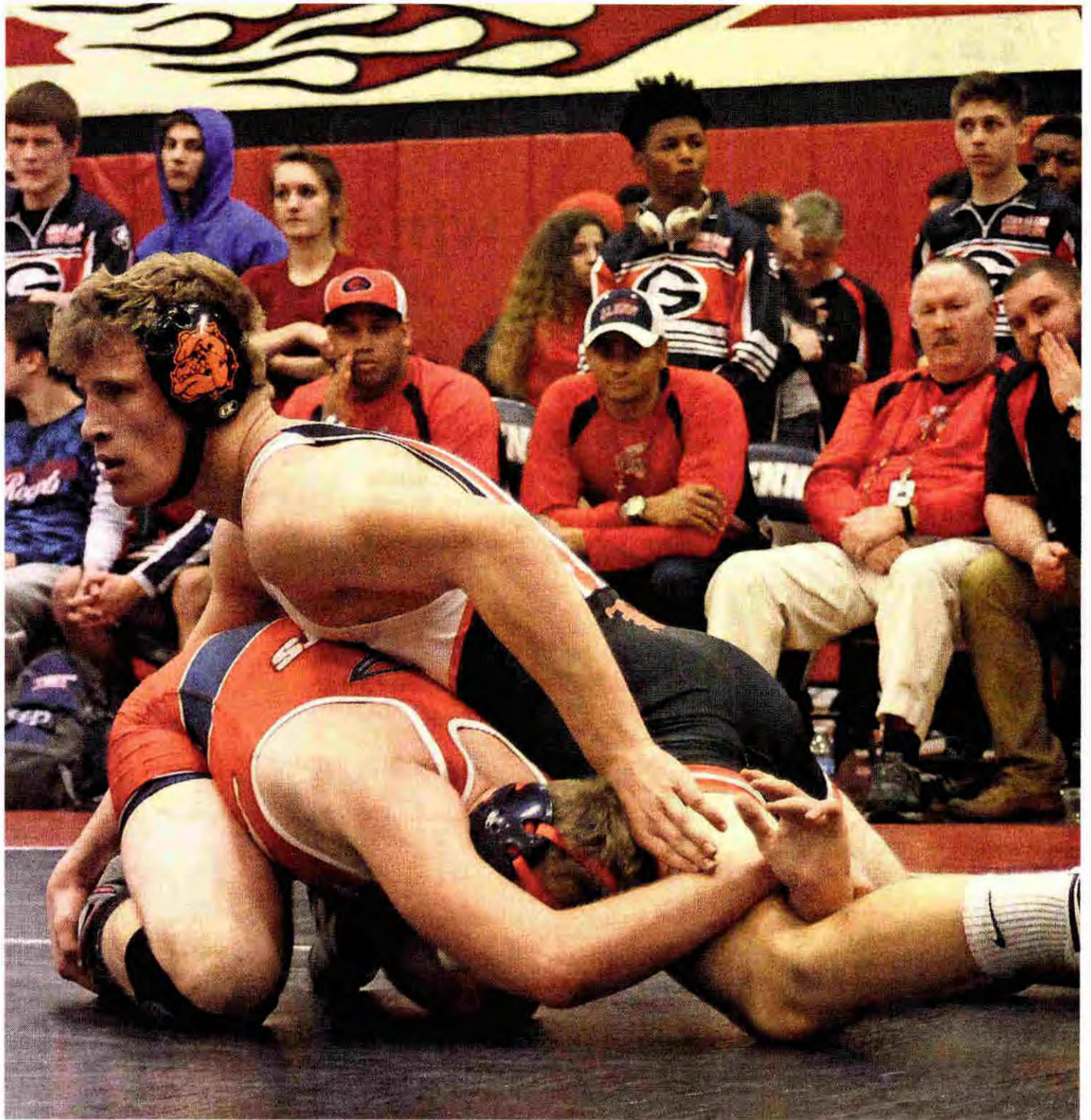
Sensing that, Greathouse tried to take pressure off Ireton before he took the mat. The Bulldogs needed to win only one of the final two matches. They were in a good position with Greyson Stevens, the eighth-ranked wrestler at 189 pounds, going into the final match.

"I think he knew I was a little worked up over this match," Ireton said. "I just came off a couple big losses. I was worried, I was kind of in a slump. He came out and told me I didn't have to win this one. I said, 'That doesn't matter, because I'm just going to go out and stick this guy.'"

It was Ireton who was getting worked over until he used his favorite move, a cross-face cradle, to turn the tide and pin Kersten.

"When you're in that dark place, you've got to just think, 'One more second, one more second,'" Ireton said. "Then the seconds start getting easier. Then eventually there's that time when he's thinking, 'One more second, one more second.'"

Greathouse admires Ireton for never



Brighton's Greyson Stevens capped off the Bulldogs' victory over Westland John Glenn with a 2-0 victory over George Schwemle. BILL KHAN | LIVINGSTON DAILY



Ireton

"When you're in that dark place, you've got to just think, 'One more second, one more second.' Then the seconds start getting easier."

giving up wrestling when he kept getting passed over in Brighton's lineup.

"He hasn't really been a full-time starter in his whole career," Greathouse said. "In today's day and age, you don't see that a lot, especially in wrestling. A lot of kids, if they don't start when they're freshmen, sophomores or juniors in the varsity lineup, a lot of time they find something else to do, because wrestling's a hard sport if you don't get a lot in return."

"But he's been a really valuable guy we've plugged in a lot this year. He's kind of got his own spot in the lineup. He's been doing great. He's been winning a lot of big matches. It's pretty cool for him tonight as a senior to win the dual."

Ireton understood his role in previous seasons and continued working hard in the wrestling room to get the opportunity he has earned as a senior.

"A lot of time, I've been a backup," he said. "You know that it's for the good of the team and you're just gonna get better and next season you're gonna try again. I've been stuck behind some good guys in my weight classes, putting me back in the lineup a bit. Just got to keep at it."

Ireton, who has been wrestling since third grade, can't imagine doing anything else.

"Wrestling's always been my one and only," he said. "I've tried everything else, like every kid does, but wrestling's the only thing that stuck."

The turning point in the match may have been the coin toss, which allowed Brighton to avoid putting one of its top wrestlers out against John Glenn's Mikey Mars, a two-time state champion. When Mars was sent out at 125 pounds, the Bulldogs took a void.

One of Mars' possible opponents, Eddie Homrock, won 10-6 over Kyle Borthwell at 130 in the only match featuring two state-ranked wrestlers. Another possible opponent for Mars, Zach Johnson, lost a 10-2 decision to state-ranked Isaac Leffer at 135.

"We figured out a million different ways and, really, on paper, the winner was winning the coin flip," John Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "We lost the coin flip, so we had to win a match or two that we weren't supposed to and it didn't happen. We needed Mikey Mars ... and Anthony Gibson, the two best kids on my team, to take out two of their best kids. They were able to avoid them. They won the coin flip. It's smart wrestling."

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

up in the room into the mat. It felt really nice."

It was the signature victory this season for Bush, who improved to 22-13 overall.

"My goals are to get out of districts, wrestling well at regionals and hopefully get out of regionals and go to states," Bush said. "Definitely this is our most competitive tournament, the most fun, home crowd advantage ... feels nice winning, looking up in the crowd, seeing all your family members and all the guys have wrestled with you the whole year and look at you to get the win."

Observerland newcomer Monroe Jefferson, placing seven individuals in the finals and coming away with four titles, captured the team championship with an even 200 points.

The defending champion Novi Detroit Catholic Central varsity White squad was runner-up with 173.5, while Westland John Glenn's 'B' team took third with 169.5.

Host Churchill and another newcomer, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, tied for fourth with 152 each in the 18-school field.

"I actually liked the tournament," Jefferson coach Mike Humphrey said. "We

didn't know what we were getting into even when we got up here the day coming in. We wanted to have a good tournament where the kids could just get some good matches, not every match be killer, but all the kids work into some tough competition, whether it be in the finals, consolation finals or whatever it might be. This time of the year, we're not wanting to get beat up every match, but we want to see just one or two good matches."

Individual champions for Jefferson, a Division 3 school with an impressive 19-3 dual match record, included Dawson Gessner (112), Greg White (130), Caleb Garro (140) and Justin Duvall (160), the upper weights MVP who decided Canton's Chris Little in the finals, 6-2.

"Forest Hills Central, Catholic Central had some good kids," Humphrey said. "Our 140-pounder (Caleb Garro) beat the kid who was third in the state last year (Catholic Central's Rhett Newton), so that was a great win for him because he was just a regional qualifier. A lot of good competition once you get to the end."

While Catholic Central's top-ranked varsity Blue team, defending Division 1 team state champion, was competing in the Lowell Duals, the Shamrocks varsity White turned in another strong Observerland performance.

"Overall, it was a good day," CC assistant coach Mike Carrier said. "I thought

the guys who came in here and were supposed to get the job done did just that. We had a lot of young guys, too, that showed some promise. We probably could have won a few more closer matches in the semis and consolation semis, where could have had some other placers or seen some other finals qualifiers. But overall, pretty good job."

Individual winners for CC included Caleb White (103), who got past Franklin's Jager Kwiatkowski, 3-2; Jacob Bisdorf (125), who decided Berkley's Luke Borman, 9-5; Logan Sanom (145), who pinned Mott's Mystyr Sanders in 1:16; and Camden Trupp (130), who decided Jefferson's Greg White, 7-0.

"Logan Sanom was a killer all day at 145 today, tech falls and all pins ... that was great," Carrier said. "Jacob Bisdorf at 125, a sophomore, did a phenomenal job for us. And Camden Trupp, a freshman at 130, was great. Caleb, a sophomore at 103, was outstanding all day. And then Rhett Newton at 140, unfortunately, lost in the finals. He had a thumb injury, but overall, a really nice day. It's kind of setting us on a good track here as we go to the postseason."

27th annual
OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING INVITATIONAL
Jan. 27 at Livonia Churchill
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Monroe-Jefferson, 200 points; 2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central (White), 173.5; 3. Westland John Glenn (B), 169.5; 4. (tie) Livonia Churchill and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, 152 each; 6. Canton, 91.5; 7. Wayne Memorial, 84; 8. Farmington, 80; 9. Livonia Franklin (B), 77.5; 10. Berkley, 67; 11. Farmington Hills Harrison, 63; 12. Waterford Mott, 60.5; 13. Garden City, 59; 14.

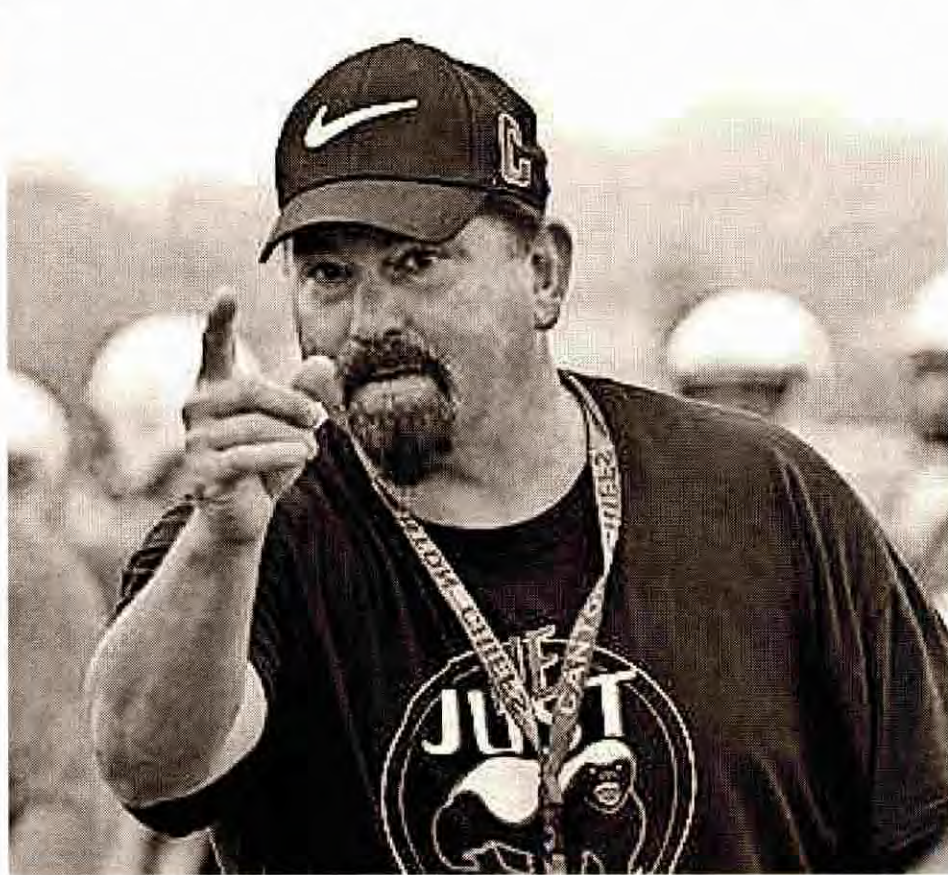
Houghton Lake, 49.5; 15. Bellevue, 23; 16. Romulus Summit Academy, 22; 17. Detroit Mumford Academy, 17; 18. Salem (B), 9.5.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS
103 pounds: Caleb White (CC) decisioned Jager Kwiatkowski (LF), 3-2; third place: Aidan Haupt (LC) dec. Ethan Brabant (Jeff), 3-2; fifth place: Trevor Avierette (Farm.) dec. Dominic Megdanoff (WJG), 5-2.
112: Dawson Gessner (Jeff) pinned Anthony Avierette (Farm.), 3:20; third: Anthony Marchione (LC) p. Valentino Scicluna (CC), 2:30; fifth: Darnyn Smith (WJG) dec. Nathan McCollom (WJG), 5-4.
119: David Johnson (Houghton Lake) dec. Josh McGee (Jeff), 7-2; third: HanTing Wong (FHH) dec. Philip Burney (CC), 5-4; fifth: Rocco DiPonio (LF) p. Casey Tennant (WJG), 0:53.
125: Jacob Bisdorf (CC) dec. Luke Borman (Berkley), 9-5; third: Ian Abel (FHC) dec. Charles Kersten (WJG), 5-0; fifth: Jack Higley (Farm.) p. Dylan York (GC), 3:13.
130: Camden Trupp (CC) dec. Greg White (Jeff), 7-0; third: Jake Justice (Farm.) p. Brandon McCollom (WJG), 2:06; fifth: Garrett Englehart (LC) dec. Nick Jaynes (LF), 6-2.
135: Drew Bush (LC) dec. Darian Lindemier (Mott), 6-4 (OT); third: Mitchel Winnie (Canton) dec. Scott Lange (Summit), 10-8; fifth: Chase Moscovici (CC) won by major dec. over Alex Nesovski (Canton), 9-0.
140: Caleb Garro (Jeff) dec. Rhett Newton (CC), 6-3; third: Mike Bragiel (LC) dec. Pierre Slesbodnik, 7-4; fifth: Cole Bagwell (WJG) dec. Michael Watson (Mumford), 13-10.
145: Logan Sanom (CC) p. Mystyr Sanders (Mott), 1:16; third: Zack Dehnke (Canton) dec. Tomy Ujkaj (GC), 8-5; fifth: Alek Poremba (Jeff) p. Jack Fowler (Farm.), 2:16.
152: Tyler Haggart (Houghton Lake) dec. Dylan Weiss (WJG), 15-12; third: Dylan Slowik (Canton) dec. Nolan Ott (FHC), 4-0; fifth: Keith Thompsons (GC) p. Connor McAnalley (LC), 4:36.
160: Justin Duvall (Jeff) dec. Chris Little (Canton), 6-2; third: Jalen Adams (Wayne) p. Jamison Irwin (LC), 1:26; fifth: Davis Gausden (GC) won by injury default over Logan Valente (WJG).
171: Isaac Torrey (FHC) p. Justin Morrison (WJG), 0:51; third: Luke Losie (FHH) p. Preston Dixon (LC), 1:11; fifth: Zack Beckett (LF) won by major dec. Jayvon Johnson (Wayne), 10-0.
189: Keagan Moore (FHC) won by injury default over Adam Heneveld (FHC); third: KeVaughn Henderson (Wayne) p. Hayden Rhoades (WJG), 2:21; fifth: Grant Imus (Mott) p. Jeremiah Loewen (Farm.), 2:23.
215: Thomas Eads (Jeff) dec. Trace Schimmers (FHC), 6-3; third: Jacory Scott (WJG) p. Matt Wilson (LC), 1:41; fifth: Seth Udell (FHC) p. Niko Przeslawski (FHH), 0:50.
285: Bobacar Diop (Berkley) p. Tyler Hattley (Jeff), 5:10; third: Justin Anagonye (Berkley) p. Doug West (Bellevue), 2:08; fifth: Chad Reeves (LF) dec. Devonte Miller (Mumford), 5-1.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com.



Allison Schmitt wipes away tears during the medal ceremony after the U.S. won the gold medal in the women's 800-meter freestyle relay at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. MARTIN BUREAU | AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Tim Baechler, who recently retired after 20 winning seasons as Canton football coach, is among the first group to be inducted into the Canton Hall of Fame. FILE PHOTO

Hall

Continued from Page 1B

berger originally was picked by the Chicago White Sox in 1978.

Posthumously honored will be John Young, a 1977 graduate who was a three-year varsity starter and team captain in football and baseball. Young, who graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a first lieutenant, tragically lost his life piloting a C130 transport jet.

Other than Schmitt, arguably the honoree with the highest profile is Thomas — a standout wide receiver and track star. Thomas was captain of the football team as a senior in 2004, when the Chiefs went undefeated.

He went on to star at Michigan State University and played from 2008-12 in the NFL, including with the New York Giants team that won Super Bowl XLVI

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

What: The first induction class of the Canton Athletic Hall of Fame, celebrating 45 years of athletic excellence.

When: After honorees were introduced at halftime of the Tuesday, Jan. 30, boys basketball game between Canton and Salem (tip-off about 7:30 p.m.), they will be formally enshrined Saturday, Feb. 3.

Induction ceremony: The Canton Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner will take place beginning at 6 p.m. at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 S. Lotz Road, in Canton.

Who: Honorees include the state finalist 2005 football team, coaches Bob Blohm (basketball), Tim Baechler (football), John Cunningham (gymnastics) and Fred Crissey (baseball) and athletes Allison Schmitt (swimming), Anne Morrell (soccer), Brian Stemburger (baseball), Dave Visser (basketball), Devin Thomas (football and track), John Young (baseball), Katey (Gilles) Branson (gymnastics), Katie Cezat (basketball), Paul Petersen (swimming) and Thomas Close (baseball).

Info: Go to www.cantonathletics.net or [Twitter@CantonHSCchiefs](https://twitter.com/CantonHSCchiefs).

over New England.

The red carpet also will be rolled out for Anne Morrell (soccer, 2001); Katey

(basketball, 1980).

"It's such a great honor to have my name included with these other amazing inductees," Morrell said. "All of us are unique in our own little ways and when you piece all our different qualities into one you get a group of true excellence."

A committee led by athletic director Vernon Crump led the process to choose the inductees.

According to an announcement about the induction, "We look forward to celebrating 45 years of rich athletic history with this prestigious honor. The Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports at Canton High School."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: [@TimSmith_Sports](https://twitter.com/TimSmith_Sports).

(Gilles) Branson (gymnast, 1997); Katie Cezat (basketball, 2005); Paul Peterson (swimming, 1979); and Dave Visser

Sheldon

Continued from Page 1B

mance's Jim Kielbaso, the 6-foot-5, 236-pound Sheldon and a handful of several NFL hopefuls, including Ferris State teammates Tavierre Thomas, Jevonte "Book" Alexander and Brandon Walker, train weekly with the hope of just earning a spot in an NFL pro day and eventually getting a tryout.

"I actually trained Brady when he was in high school at Novi," Kielbaso said. "And when he came back, before his senior year (at Ferris), he was bigger, taller, stronger, faster ... like he had just completely, like, blossomed. It was, like, that late bloomer thing and right away your could see his explosiveness was crazy. For his size, to be able to move that smoothly and that quickly — just not a lot of people have that quality."

Sheldon was first discovered by NFL scouts during Central Michigan's pro day last spring.

"I didn't have as good of a senior season as my junior year," Sheldon said. "I knew if I just had a good combine, that maybe I'd get looked at."

Strong pro day

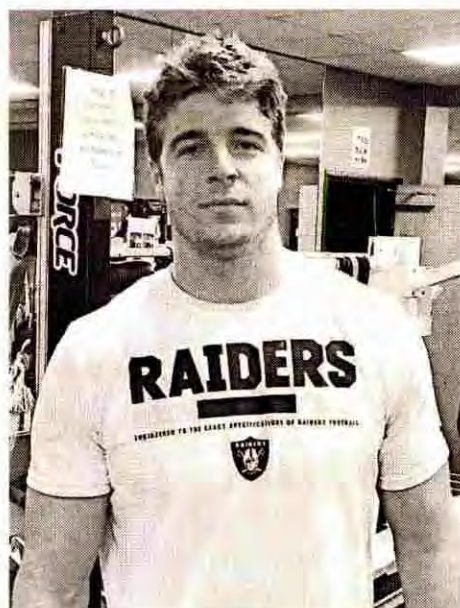
Sheldon weighed 228 entering the CMU combine, but caught a stomach bug and his weight dropped to 215.

"It ended up being a blessing," Sheldon said. "I ran a 4.47 (40-yard dash), jumped a 10-5 broad jump, 37-inch vertical (jump). They cut me short on bench (press) because I hit 19, but they only gave me 15. So that went really well and Jim got me super-prepared. These guys at Total are the best of the best for the combine and getting us ready."

The Raiders were the first to call, inviting Sheldon to their rookie mini-camp. He also received invites from the Baltimore Ravens and Kansas City Chiefs.

"I went with the first one," Sheldon said. "I was a nickel, strong safety in college, then (the Raiders) moved me to (strong side) linebacker, which is a glorified defensive end. I weighed 230. Bruce Irvin and Shilique Calhoun are 260, 265. I felt a little underweight, but I felt I could use my speed and, basically, it was a little rough putting my hand in the dirt. Coach Ken Norton Jr. was coaching me up a lot on my stance and, by third and fourth day of mini-camp, I was getting to quarterback and I was thinking, 'Maybe this is my calling.'"

But the Raiders didn't sign Sheldon



Brady Sheldon works out. BRAD EMONS

and he went back home for a month of training again at Total. Oakland then invited him back to mandatory mini-camp, where he was stationed at the same spot on defense.

Back-and-forth

"I said, 'This is it, this is my position, let me gain some weight and see if I can do it at this position,'" Sheldon said. "And obviously, special teams is where I'd be the most valuable. They didn't sign me, but it was a six-week period before training camp and I came back home. They talked to me like I was going to be in training camp and 10 days before they signed me. In training camp ... I did OK, but they saw me as a bigger value on special teams. I was there up until the last day and they cut me Sept. 2."

Sheldon returned home for 10 weeks and switched up his lifting techniques and performed Olympic-type workouts each day at 6:30 a.m. at Total.

Sheldon, who earned a small business management degree at Ferris, took a job with Precision Satellite, going door-to-door for Direct TV dish sales to help pay the bills during his 10-week hiatus.

"Jim's really good at keeping our mentality high and our attitudes up and just make sure ... just keep us level-headed, basically," Sheldon said. "And that helped a lot. That allowed me to keep my head down and just kept on grinding. I trusted the process and it ended up working out."

Prior to the Oakland-Patriots game Nov. 19 in Mexico City, Sheldon was signed to the Raiders practice squad.

Making his way

"I fly in on Monday and they put me on the practice team ... the best feeling ever," Sheldon said. "They put me at inside linebacker, which is where I wanted to be, with more space behind the line where I could run. And that's my strength. I think they liked me a lot there and, in four weeks, they moved me up to active roster."

Sheldon was one of four Ferris State players to suit up in the pros this season, joining Jason Vander Laan (Indianapolis Colts), Jake Lampman (Tampa Bay Bucs practice squad) and Justin Zimmer (CFL Montreal Alouettes).

Sheldon began playing football in the fifth grade at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth before moving to the Novi Bobcats as a running back.

"In the sixth and seventh grade, I was on par with everyone else, but eighth, ninth and 10th (grade), everybody was way bigger than me," Sheldon said. "Then continuously, I kept growing, but it was never a big growth spurt, so I never grew three inches at once. It was just gradual. As a sophomore, when I was 16, I was 6-foot, 140."

Sheldon's mother Angela was athletic and his late grandfather Bob Armstrong played football at Michigan State. His three uncles were all athletic as well, one playing for the USFL's New Jersey Generals and at Penn, another at Duke, while another was an Olympic decathlete.

Prep career

At Novi, Sheldon played both football and basketball. In football, he was a 6-3, 183-pound slot-back and safety.

The only school to recruit Sheldon, who was an all-Oakland County selection his senior year under coach Todd Pennycuff, was Ferris State.

"Truthfully, he was recruited by the previous coaching staff (under Jeff Pierce) and when we got there, we thought there would be a very solid plan over time and that came into fruition," current Ferris State coach Tony Annese said. "When we first got there, we didn't view him as a for-sure guy right then, but he kept on growing, kept on working hard ... he was just a joy to coach with a great personality, always smiling, always happy and he, obviously, ended up being a big force for us."

In 2011, Sheldon received a medical red-shirt and, in 2012, he got his first taste of action for the Bulldogs, appearing in five games as a reserve and on special teams.

In 2013, he played in just two games, recording 13 tackles. After not playing in 2014, when he red-shirted again, the linebacker began to take off 2015 as Ferris captured its second straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title and reached the NCAA Division II playoffs, as he finished with a total of 43 tackles, including 21 solo stops. He also intercepted a pass for a 51-yard pick-six touchdown in the postseason. He also recorded a total of 12 pass break-ups.

Total training

Prior to his final season (2016) at Ferris and just six credits shy of graduating, Sheldon took the spring semester off to go back and train at Total with the 2016 NFL Draft hopefuls.

He returned in the fall and the Bulldogs finished 12-3, reaching the semifinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs before falling to Northwest Missouri State, 35-20.

Sheldon finished the year with 54 total tackles, including 28 solo in 14 games.

"He was a guy when we took over there that was a little bit thinner, tall with not a lot of muscle mass," Annese said. "He just continued to grow and work hard and all of a sudden became one of the fastest guys on the team — 6-5, 225, and could really run around. So over time, it was, like, 'Wow, he's grown into a big old guy that can cover, close down space very effectively and tackle in open space, bring him off the edge to rush the quarterback.' He became the full package for us as time progressed."

Sheldon keeps in constant contact with his former coach.

"I talk to him all the time," Annese said. "He's one of those guys that Face Times me all the time. When we get off the phone, he always says, 'I love you, coach' and I say, 'I love you, Brady.' He's a very good young man and (I'm) very proud of him."

"He's got just such a positive attitude," Kielbaso said. "He's not a different person, so he's still very humble, but he's got a little more confidence now. He realizes what he has to do so that he knows he can fit in. And you can just see he's just got a little bit more confidence, not that he was shy or anything before, but now he knows. It's interesting, he still acts like the same kid even when he was back at Novi. Just a down-to-earth guy."

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com.

BOY BASKETBALL

MSU recruits spark Belleville to win vs. Thurston

Brown, Williams spur Tigers to 80-37 WWAC Blue Division victory

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICH.

Asked if Belleville was the best team he's faced this season, Redford Thurston boys basketball coach Brian Bates didn't hesitate.

"Absolutely, by far," said Bates, whose team fell 80-37 to the highly-regarded Tigers in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference Blue Division clash Friday.

Visiting Belleville, a preseason top 20 team, was led by two Michigan State signees.

Gabe Brown, a 6-foot-7 senior hoop recruit, finished with a game-high 15 points to go along with eight rebounds and three blocks, while 6-2 senior guard Davion Williams, a football signee, wound up with 14 points.

Eight different Belleville players had scored by halftime as the Tigers (7-4, 4-0) roared out to a 43-23 advantage.

"They're so athletic," Bates said of the Tigers.

"Everybody they brought in was athletic. That's what stood out to me."

Senior Kaevon Merriweather and junior Andrew Leamy both added 10 points as Belleville made it a rout in the second half by outscoring Thurston in the third quarter, 27-9.

The Tigers stretched their lead to 40-point mark midway through the final quarter to invoke a running clock.

Thurston was coming off a 76-73 loss Jan. 23 to WWAC Blue Division co-leader Romulus, but couldn't keep up with Belleville's frenetic pace.

"We work on transition defense and we just didn't back in transition," Bates said. "And they ran floor well and they leak people out because they know they're going to get the rebound. They're just so athletic — even when we got back in transition, they're going over us and they're bigger than us."

Thurston (6-5, 1-3) also committed a total of 20 turnovers.



"Things are coming together. We still have to work on things every day."

Gabe Brown

Brown

"It's the best defense we've played against all season long," Bates said. "They got out, they play fast-paced and they even sped us up even more than that. They had that one stretch where they really sped us up and we had turnovers in there."

Brown's style of play reminds some of former UNLV and NBA player Stacey Augmon, nicknamed "Plastic Man," who was a long-armed lefty, too, with graceful and slashing-style moves to the basket.

"Gabe played well," Belleville coach Adam Trumpour said. "We've challenged him to go to the basket a little bit more, not settle for his jumper, even though he's an excellent shooter. We want that balance out of his game. He attacked well tonight. Good solid game for him, especially on that end of the floor from Gabe."

"What got things rolling for us was defense and our coach pushing us hard on the sidelines," Brown said. "And us just running in transition and showing that energy that we have."

Brown was an efficient 6-of-9 from the floor and, as a team, the Tigers shot a blistering 54.6 percent (35-of-64), with many coming on layups.

"Things are coming together," Brown said. "We still have to work on things every day. Our energy is still going up and down every day. We've got to correct that if we want to be a state championship team. But it was real good tonight."

Here are four other takeaways:

PLYMOUTH TRANSFER

Belleville has added forward Connor Bush to the starting lineup. He became eligible Jan. 16 after transferring from Plymouth. It was Bush's fifth game for the Tigers.

He finished the night with four points against Thurston after scoring eight in a lopsided 71-29 win Jan. 23 over Dearborn Fordson.

"He's a great kid," Trumpour said. "Even off the basketball court, I've had him in class. High-character kid and works hard. He's a really good human being and, obviously, on the basketball court, he's competitive, great athlete and wants to be really good. He's really worked on his left hand,

worked on his shooting. Hit a couple of threes the other night for us, just gives us another piece to the puzzle and, obviously, we're fortunate to have him the next two (years) as well."

SHOOTING WOES

The Eagles shot only 13-of-46 from the floor (28.2 percent) and leading scorer Karlos Berry, a senior guard, finished with just six points on 2-of-8 shooting. (Darrell Anderson also had six points off the bench.)

"He did struggle," Bates said of Berry. "Karlos is having a good year. We talked about a few things at halftime. And they're long. He got in there a few times and he's not used to playing against that. They'd come from the weak side and block his shot and he's just not used to that at all."

FALLING BEHIND

Belleville spotted the Eagles a 9-4 lead at the start before outscoring Thurston 18-3 to end the first quarter.

"Losing the tip right away kind of set us back a little bit," Trumpour said. "(Brian Bates) had those guys ready to play and it was a big Friday night game for them and they

were excited to play us."

But before long, it was off to the races for the Tigers.

"We got a little more up-tempo and pushed the pace and got it going a little bit," Trumpour said. "We're fortunate. We're very blessed with a lot of talented guys right now. They're good kids, they're sharing the ball right, they're playing both ends. When we get on a roll, we're difficult to deal with when we play that hard together."

MSU FALLOUT?

In the wake of the Larry Nassar sentencing last week and more revelations by ESPN's "Outside The Lines" about accusations of the Michigan State's handling of sexual assault allegations against members of the football and basketball program, Trumpour decided it was best for his two players, MSU-bound Brown and Williams, not to comment on the situation.

"Go green, that's all I'm going to say," said Trumpour, who has ties to Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo having worked at his summer camps. "Obviously, there is some stuff up there that you don't want to see occur. I'm not in the know enough to make an intelligent comment on it."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI, February 21, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2868-S. Sanini-39338 Surrey Heights

Req. for a side yd. fence location variance from Art. X of the City Code to install a 4' high chain link fence in the south side yd. of the home; whereas Sec. 22-304(a) states that only rear yds. may be enclosed with a fence.

Published: February 1, 2018 LO-0000338200 2x2.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Livonia Public Schools (LPS) will receive sealed proposals for:

2018 Move & Technology Move Management Services

Until 11:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, February 15, 2018, bids will be received by Phillip Francis – Director of Operations, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154 at the Administration Building at which time, and place, all proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.

On or around Friday, January 26, 2018, Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=da5e817620b3409a9172162d202cf84a>

Please contact LaMerra Hobbs at lamerra.hobbs@plantemoran.com if you have any questions regarding obtaining this information.

All interested firms are requested to attend a pre-proposal meeting on **Thursday, February 8, 2018 beginning at 3:00 p.m.** at Livonia Career Technical Center (LCTC) located at 8985 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI. Tours of other facilities will immediately follow. It is strongly suggested that interested bidders make arrangements to attend.

All proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by Plante Moran Cresa and comply with the requirements of the RFP. Bid Security in the amount of 5% of the bid is to be included either in the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, payable to Livonia Public Schools.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or District Administration, a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012, and the Equal Opportunity Statement. No bid shall be accepted that does not include these documents.

Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals. LPS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Phillip Francis
Director of Operations
Livonia Public Schools

Published: February 1, 2018 LO-0000338214 3x6

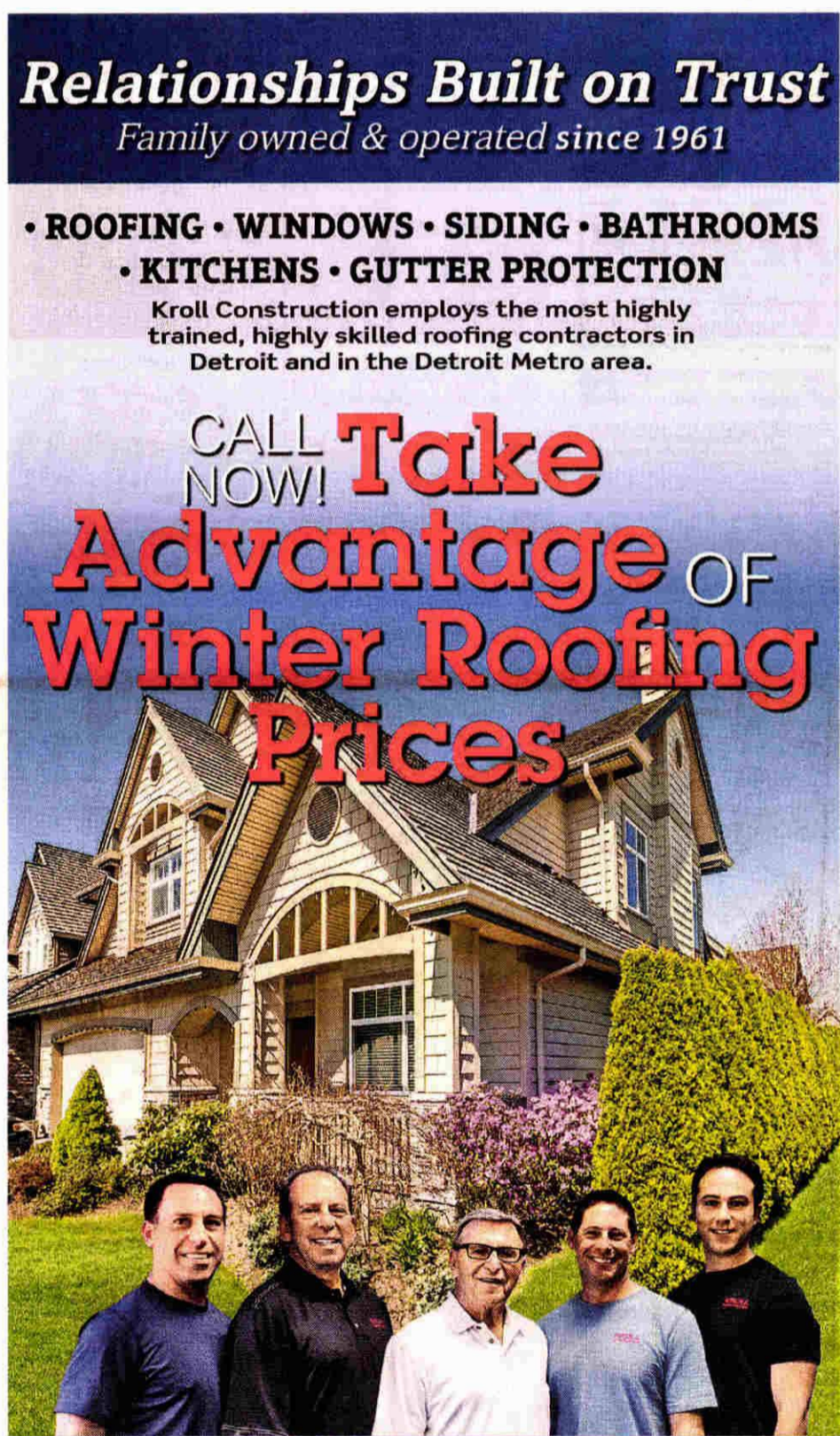
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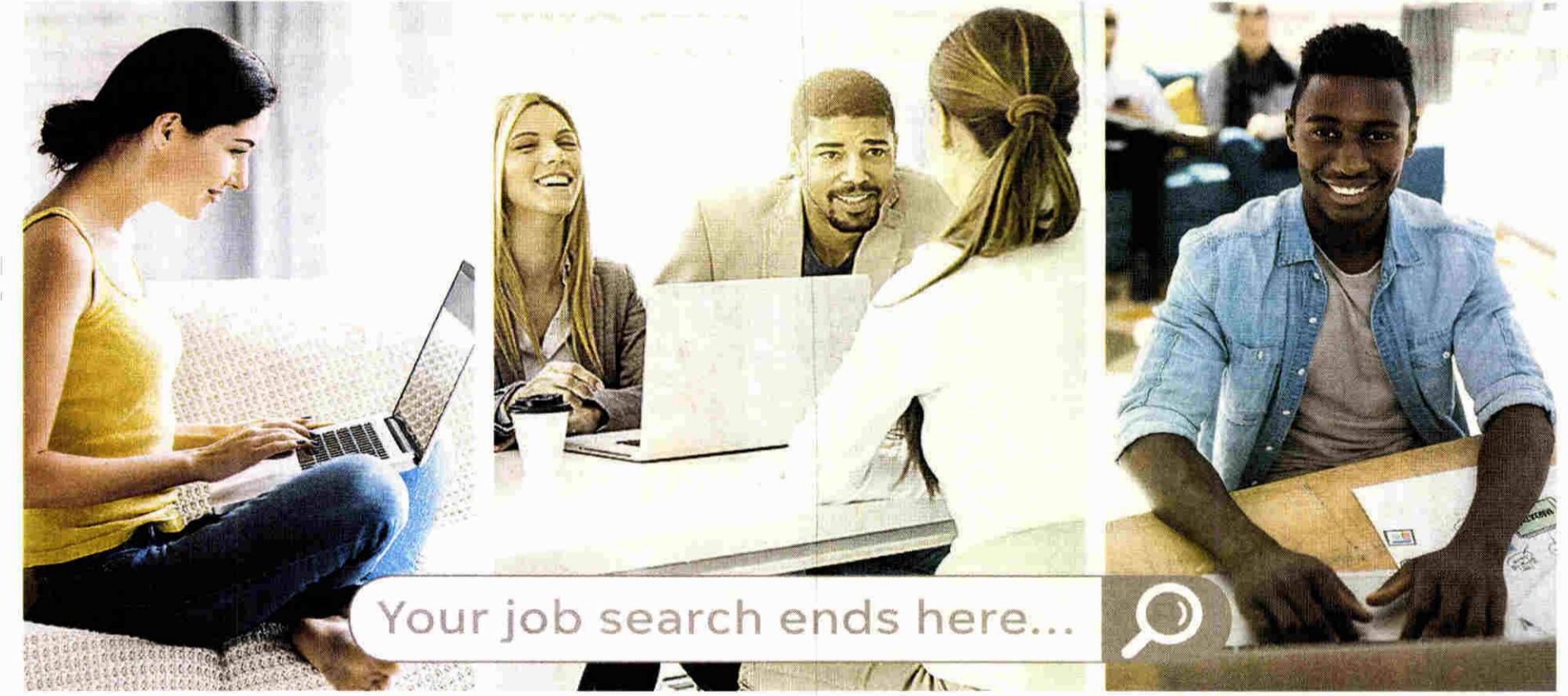
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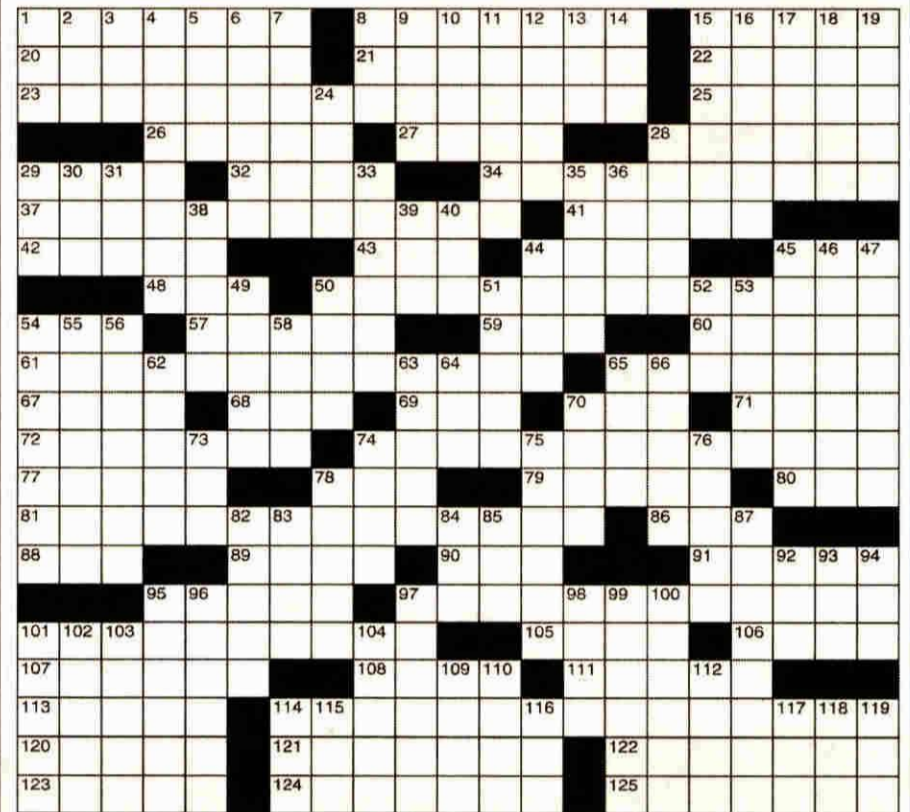
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Live online workshop
 - 8 Public poster
 - 15 Malcolm — Warner ("The Cosby Show" actor)
 - 20 14th-century music style
 - 21 Arrives leisurely
 - 22 Belittle
 - 23 Certain frat member receiving his diploma?
 - 25 Sing sweetly
 - 26 Cove
 - 27 Assuage
 - 28 Muddy mixture
 - 29 Met melody
 - 32 Took way too much, for short
 - 34 Gyro bread with lots of extra hidden calories?
 - 37 Heavenly food made from very hot peppers?
 - 41 — garde
 - 42 Sauna stuff
 - 43 Singer Acuff
 - 44 Stew
 - 45 Toon pic
 - 48 San Francisco's — Hill
 - 50 Target number of coverage policies?
 - 54 Download for an iDevice
 - 57 Denmark's — Islands
 - 59 High trains
 - 60 Detach, as a lapel mic
 - 61 Randomly mixed stack of Bing Crosby and Bill Haley albums?
 - 65 Folded a line into, say
 - 67 With 24-Down, reduced-cost product
 - 68 Glam rocker Brian
 - 69 Lay
 - 70 Aviary locale
 - 71 Bridge, in France
 - 72 Florida city
 - 74 Fish dish that's a chef's specialty?
 - 77 Rizzo in "Midnight Cowboy"
 - 78 Platform that runs on iDevices
 - 79 Ran easily
 - 80 La. neighbor
 - 81 Brass instrument with a dental product smeared all over it?
 - 86 "O Sole —"
 - 88 Sheepish
 - 89 "— well that ends well"
 - 90 Alias initials
 - 91 Idiot box
 - 95 Provide
 - 97 Hair dye produced in a county in southwest England?
 - 101 Chatty bird with shiny gray plumage?
 - 105 Pirate chant starter
 - 106 Took a train, e.g.
 - 107 Pilot a plane
 - 108 Prefix with skeleton
 - 111 Thin iPods
 - 113 Swiss chocolate brand
 - 114 Sitcom title woman living in a wasteland?
 - 120 Actor Jason
 - 121 Energize
 - 122 Algebra rule
 - 123 Totally love
 - 124 Toronto Blue Jays' stadium, before 2005
 - 125 Salzburg site
- DOWN**
- 1 Joking sort
 - 2 Be mistaken
 - 3 Gp. with merit badges
 - 4 Hoosier
 - 5 Verb go-with
 - 6 "Why" singer Frankie
 - 7 Like a very clean film
 - 8 Maven
 - 9 Solitary
 - 10 — Seltzer
 - 11 Top-level
 - 12 Fluttery tree
 - 13 Tear
 - 14 Stuff in the gene pool
 - 15 "Charlie's Angels" co-star Smith
 - 16 Rudeley brief
 - 17 Native New Zealander
 - 18 Of — (somewhat)
 - 19 Lotte of film
 - 24 See
 - 67-Across
 - 28 Glide (over)
 - 29 Belly muscles
 - 30 Groove
 - 31 Fury
 - 33 Mended, as a sock
 - 35 Works to get
 - 36 With, to Luc
 - 38 "Toodles!"
 - 39 Rebels' yells
 - 40 Sch. in the Big Apple
 - 44 FDR's terrier
 - 45 Reneges
 - 46 — Aigner (fashion brand)
 - 47 Real-estate levy
 - 49 Bundled up, as hay
 - 50 Prefix for an element used in antiseptics
 - 51 Mission to gather intel
 - 52 "— pasa?"
 - 53 Not likely
 - 54 Classifies for one
 - 55 Ramses II, for one
 - 56 Plaything dragged on a string
 - 58 City in Nevada
 - 62 Mega-meal
 - 63 "Für —"
 - 64 Gear piece
 - 65 Brilliant move
 - 66 Composer Ned
 - 70 Reverse alphabetical order
 - 73 Japanese drama style
 - 74 Tossups
 - 75 New York's capital
 - 76 Singer Piaf
 - 78 R&B's — Brothers
 - 82 San Diego ballplayer
 - 83 One rearing
 - 84 Asian "way"
 - 85 Loc. of Kiev
 - 87 Exceeded, as a target
 - 92 — Cat
 - 93 Put a stop to
 - 94 — Bo
 - 95 Dodging type
 - 96 Irk
 - 97 Forthright
 - 98 Sky of film
 - 99 California mountain
 - 100 Japan's largest island
 - 101 Zesty dip
 - 102 Vine-covered
 - 103 Group
 - 104 Nervous — (worrywart)
 - 109 "Whip It" rock band
 - 110 City in Utah
 - 112 Iron sources
 - 114 Film director Craven
 - 115 Ballpoint fill
 - 116 La.-to-ILL. dir.
 - 117 Bruin Bobby (Mass part)
 - 118 Agnus —
 - 119 Drs.' org.



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

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

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

BAKING FUN WORD SEARCH

Y E W A S W F L O U R M F N C G T K V S
 R N G Y C N D W T P E U A O O B L E N D
 E I N C R W S H L R U P C W W K R A T B
 T R I A A T E O U O U O P I D O I G W R
 T A T K T F O T B T A L W I S I C N S O
 U G A E C C A O C E Y K S S N O M I H W
 B R E I H R N I H I Y S E G B O E D E N
 V A B Y E W U L F N O C R A L E U A E I
 L M H P I K T S Y L O E K Y R S P E T E
 K H M P E M A F V R D I D T E A C N K S
 B E P H S S K E P I N E O I N I O K C C
 T T A A E U E G Y C K S M A N V T P
 E P S N E V U N P V F O D L K O V R T C
 G R T T R D T O N P O I S D K L E I S O
 I A R E G S W Y O C S B U P B V C T N R
 F G Y V C D C O M B I N E K B K T S O N
 S U C V E M P C F W U V O B S S I A N M
 Y S F R U D R Y D I C A H K W I O E L E
 E R U S A E M E S I R I H N B H N Y I A
 V B H Y R L L M V V V W C H S W W B D L

WORDS

- ACID
- BAKING POWDER
- BEATING
- BLEND
- BROWNIES
- BUTTER
- CAKE
- COCOA
- COMBINE
- CONVECTION
- COOKIES
- COOL
- CORNMEAL
- DISSOLVE
- DRY
- FLOUR
- GREASE
- INGREDIENTS
- KNEADING
- MARGARINE
- MEASURE
- NONSTICK
- OLLIS
- PANS
- PASTRY
- PROCESSOR
- PROTEIN
- RISE
- SCRATCH
- SHEET
- STIR
- SUGAR
- TEMPERATURE
- WET
- WHISK
- YEAST

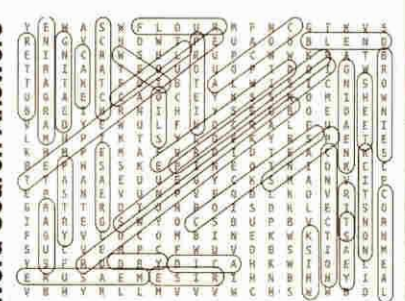
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

WEBINAR	PLACARD	JAMAL
ARSNOVA	ROLLSIN	ABASE
GRADUATION	KAPPA	CROON
INLET	EASE	SLURRY
ARIA	ODED	SNEAKYPITA
BURNINGMANN	AVANT	CEL
STEAM	ROY	FRET
NOB	INSURANCE	QUOTA
APP	FAROE	ELS
SHUFFLE	DEDECCA	CREASED
SALE	ENG	LOO
ORLANDO	SIGNA	TUBISTUN
RATSO	IOS	LOPED
TOOTH	PASTETUBA	MIO
SHY	ALLS	AKA
ENDUE	CORN	ISHHENNA
SILVERMYNA	YOH	RODE
AVIATE	ENDO	NANOS
LINDT	WILDERNESS	SRHODA
SEGEL	ENLIVEN	THEOREM
ADORE	SKYDOME	AUSTRIA

Word Search Answers



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