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The Northville Chamber of Commerce will host the fourth annual Ford Field Festival from noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at Ford Field, 150 Griswold.

The food trucks scheduled to attend from 1 p.m. until they sell out include: Chicken Coupe, Mystic Kettle, Time2Chill Gelato, Total Sports, Brown-dog Creamery, Monty's Beef Truck, Matt & Mo's, Marconi's Pizza and Smoky Rhodes BBQ. Each truck will carry a variety of menu options.

Beverage selections at the Beer Garden will include beer, wine and hard cider. Admission to the festival is free, but there is a charge for food and beverages. Live music throughout the afternoon is the perfect complement to food, beer and fun.

For more information festival, call 248-349-7640 or visit www.northville.org.

ELECTION 2016

Twp. incumbents rack up wins

Four trustees face lone Democrat in November

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Northville Township incumbent township board members gathered at a friend's home Tuesday night waiting for election returns and finally, to celebrate their victory in the primary election.

"The numbers were very small at the polls," said trustee Fred Shadko just before 10 p.m. "Now, we haven't seen the absentee (ballots) yet."

Shortly after 10 p.m., the numbers were in, showing turnout came in a 23.83 percent or 5,001 ballots cast. The township

has 20,990 registered voters. More Republicans Tuesday cast ballots totaling 2,919 compared to Democrats at 1,502.

All seven of the township board's seats are open. But only the four Republican trustees, including Shadko, Marvin Gans, Mindy Herrmann and Symantha Heath had opponents in the primary. Opponents were Republicans Sonia Scappitucci and Dan Beidzen, who ran as a write-in. Republican Township Supervisor Bob Nix, Treasurer Marjorie Banner and Clerk Sue Hillebrand

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Pobur, Noble to face off in state House race

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer



Noble



Pobur

Democrat Colleen Pobur and Republican Jeff Noble made it to the finals Tuesday in the battle to replace a term-limited state representative in representing the Plymouth-Northville area.

Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member, and Noble, a Plymouth Township resident and a pastor at Praise Baptist Church, won their respective primaries Tuesday in the 20th District Michigan House of Representatives race. Each hopes to succeed Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who is term-limited in the House and won the Republican nomination for Plymouth Township supervisor.

Pobur bested attorney John Sullivan, a former

See HOUSE, Page A2



The Sorting Hat Station tells Kristin Trame of Canton that she's a Ravenclaw.

MARIA TAYLOR

HOGWARTS HEAVEN

Caped fans celebrate latest Harry Potter release

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Harry Potter fans may have outgrown their robes, but never their enthusiasm.

This week, thousands of J.K. Rowling fans will be burying their noses in her latest book, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts I and II." The eighth in the bestselling series, it was released at 12:01 a.m. July 31 and tells the story of the legendary boy wizard's later years.

At Northville's Barnes & Noble, capes swirled, wands twirled and pointy hats were aplenty as metro Detroit-area Muggles turned out to celebrate with a midnight book launch party.

For longtime fans like Kristin Trame of Canton, it was like reliving the old days. "I got into it a little late, but after I started reading them, I was hooked,"



MARIA TAYLOR

Keira Middleton, 9, answers a question to get her wand: "What book was Buckbeak introduced in?"

she said. Like other Potter die-hards, she remembers the mid-night launch parties of the 2000s: holding your breath as you waited in line at the bookstore — freaking out with other fans as the seconds ticked toward midnight — and those late-night, early-morning reading sessions that left you know-

ing it would be at least another year before the story could continue.

That all ended in 2007, when the series closed with "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Unlike the previous seven Harry Potter books, "Cursed Child" isn't a novel. It's actually a two-part play script in book

form, written collaboratively by J.K. Rowling, screenwriter Jack Thorne, and John Tiffany, director of the London-based production.

"Cursed Child" picks up where the "Deathly Hallows" epilogue left off, with Harry, Ginny, Ron and Hermione dropping their kids off at King's Cross for their first year at wizarding school. It's 19 years after the Battle of Hogwarts. Harry is in his 30s, an overworked civil servant for the Ministry of Magic. His son, Albus Severus, is an unpopular kid struggling to live up to his family's famous legacy.

Even before books hit the shelves, "Cursed Child" had already become a best-seller. It's the number-one Amazon seller on Kindle and in print, and Barnes & Noble's most pre-ordered book since "Deathly Hallows." And there's a chance it could be the top seller of 2016.

It certainly looked that way in Northville Township, where

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Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold Ave., north of Main Street near Ford Field. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the Village. Visit www.mill-racenorthville.org for details.

Upcoming events

Buildings Open to the Public: 1-4 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 16.

Grounds Closed for Weddings: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Aug. 6.

Victorian Clothing Sale: 1-7 p.m. Sept. 7-9.

General Info

Website: www.mill-racenorthville.org
Volunteers: The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volun-

teers in many different areas. They are in need of Sunday store clerks and help with fundraising teas. Students, can have volunteer hours verified for school or scouts. Please contact the office for more information.

Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available. More information on our website.

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Office: The office is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Northville Township trustee Fred Shadko, at left, checks in with the township's Precinct 5 at township hall around 9:30 a.m. Aug. 2.

PRIMARY

Continued from Page A1

did not have primary opposition and will not have opponents in the general election.

The four trustees will now face Democratic opponent and political newcomer Dr. Ghulam Qadir in the Nov. 8 general election. Qadir is the only Democrat in the race. In Tuesday's primary he received 1,074 votes.

Unofficial results show Herrmann captured 25.78 percent or 2,001 votes, followed by Shadko with 22.17 percent or 1,721 votes. Gans came in third with 20.11 percent or 1,561 votes, followed by Heath with 19.63 percent or 1,524 votes.

For a newcomer, Scappitucci did fairly well,

coming in fifth place in the Republican tally with 11.75 percent or 912 votes. Under write-in candidate, the total was 44 votes on the Republican ballot and 36 on the Democratic ballot.

"I am so new to this," Scappitucci said, as the vote totals came in Tuesday night. In her campaign, Scappitucci said she used signs and a lot of social media to get her name out.

While running unopposed Supervisor Nix, Treasurer Banner and Clerk Hillebrand rounded up a healthy amount of votes. Nix garnered 99.69 percent of the vote or 2,218 votes. Banner earned 99.82 percent or 2,159 votes. Hillebrand took 99.87 percent or 2,386 votes.

"I believe it's because we are doing a good job," Shadko said, referring to the wins. "I think we are



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Northville Township Precinct 5 Chair Regina Ferguson tests out the ballot counting machine at the township hall location about 9:30 a.m. Aug. 2. Things were a bit slow with only seven voters casting their votes by that time.

doing a good, conservative job."

Nix weighed in with his thoughts on the primary: "Everyone has a right to run," he said, referring to the newcomers. "But we have A players on the board. There's no reason to

switch. Everyone is committed to the best interest of the township."

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HOUSE

Continued from Page A1

Wayne County commissioner, 2,937 votes to 1,376, in the Democratic primary, while Noble won 3,317 votes on the Republican side, outpolling Chris Roosen, who won 3,201 votes, and Jeffrey Neilson, who won 1,834.

The 20th District is made up of Plymouth, Plymouth and Northville townships, a portion of eastern Canton Township and the Wayne County

portion of the city of Northville. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Pobur credited teamwork by her supporters for the win.

"I'm feeling great. It was a significant team effort," Pobur said.

Her conversations with voters showed that education, state infrastructure and what state government is doing with tax dollars are the primary issues for voters in the district, Pobur said. "Those are the issues I'm talking to people about," she said.

Noble said he had met "a lot of wonderful people" on the campaign trail and is looking forward to November.

"We knocked on a lot of doors," he said. "Had a lot of conversations on front porches that just really gave me a good feel for what's going on in our community."

Both Noble and Pobur said they were optimistic about their chances in the November election.

"I think we have a real good shot," Noble said. "It's not a cakewalk, obviously, but we're going to listen to the peo-

ple."

Pobur said that the 20th District has the highest percentage of independent voters among Michigan's 110 House districts, and that her chances of winning many of them over are good. "I'm going to continue the hard work I started in the primary," she said.

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Riding stable horses are ‘part of the family’

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

It's a Tuesday morning in early July, overcast and humid. Seven kids in black or white helmets line up along a fence in the dusty corral at Maybury Riding Stable, while their ponies get a drink from a large trough in the center of the yard.

Behind them, eager parents line up, smart-phones in hand, waiting to snap a photo as the next group of youngsters comes riding down the trail on horseback.

The kids are there for a four-day summer camp. Most of them are teens, says Leila Daniel of Royal Oak. At age 8, she's one of the youngest in the group. Leila's been working with Oreo, the horse she was matched with at the beginning of the week, learning the basics of horse safety from the ground up: grooming, saddling, riding, and feeding. "They eat a lot of apples and carrots — and hay," she recalls from the morning's session.

Oreo is one of about 50 horses that make a living trotting the trails of Northville's Maybury State Park, located on Beck Road between Seven Mile and Eight Mile. The riding stables are run by Kim and LeRoy Hone, who assumed ownership in 2007.

Horses have been a part of both their lives since a young age.

Growing up in Waterford, Kim was a horse enthusiast. As a child, she learned to ride at local riding stables. As an adult, her first big investment was a horse: Whiskey. Kim was 18, and Whiskey would be with her for the next 30 years. "She taught all my three children how to ride," says Kim. "She was a good horse."

Kim was a city girl. LeRoy, she says, was the real deal: He grew up on a farm in Manchester, where his father worked a couple hundred head of cattle. For LeRoy, working with horses was a way of life. He and Kim met — appropriately — at a horse auction. "I went to buy horses," she says, "and ended up taking home a husband."

After they married, the two decided to turn their passion into a job. Opening a riding stable of her own had always been a goal for Kim, who's worked at stables for much of her life. She and LeRoy took ownership at Maybury about 10 years ago. Prior to that, they owned Highland Riding Stable for 16 years.

Maybury Riding Stable is tucked away down a gravel lane in the park, but business is brisk. The Hones usually get to the stables around 8 a.m., hauling a load of hay or grain in the pickup. They get the stalls set up and the horses fed and saddled, and then wait for riders to start showing up.

Kim's daughter Cody Bo helps her parents run the family business. "I've been helping out since I could walk, in one way or another — hauling water buckets, pitching hay," she explains. She serves as a manager, which frees up Kim and LeRoy for other jobs — like working their farm in Manchester, where they grow their own hay for the horses at Maybury.

Farming and ranching together makes for long hours, especially during the growing season. "We work till midnight for several months," Kim explains. "When work here is done, we go home and work the farm." Kim jokes that the local McDonald's knows her coffee order by heart. But she's not complaining: Being outdoors is her favorite part of the job.

And, of course, she loves working with her horses. "Once we buy them and they work out, we keep them," she says. "They're part of the family — they're lifers."

All the horses at Maybury go through intense



Trail hand Miranda Comen adjusts a horse's halter, getting it ready for a ride.

training before they're pronounced safe for the public to ride. The Hones ride new horses themselves for two or three months or longer—sometimes up to six months — until they've gotten a feel for how they will react. Then, they have the trail guides ride them, to see how they behave around other people and other horses. (Those that are too spirited for renters sometimes end up as guide horses, ridden by the staff.) By the time the horses are fully trained, their handlers know them well enough to pair riders with horses that match

their size, age, and experience.

Rides at Maybury are about an hour long, winding through the grassy trails of the 1,000-acre state park. Just about anyone over age 8 can ride, regardless of experience, as all riders are accompanied by a trail guide. Regular rides are a walking pace, Kim explains, and private rides are a bit faster: a walk/trot.

The stable complex also includes a pavilion that can be rented for parties and group activities. Their other special offering, the hands-on



Riding camp students trek on the trails.



Trail hand Jamie Vittorelli heads out on a ride with a group.

summer camp series, runs June through Au-

gust, Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Fourteen-year-old Sydney Ryan of Commerce has been a horse-lover ever since she was a little girl, but never had the money to get a horse of her own. She's on her second day of camp at Maybury. "I've actually asked them when you can start working here," she says. "I love horses — I love the horse environment. Plus, all the people here seem like sweethearts."

Maybury Riding Stable is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 3:30 p.m., with rides leaving every 30 minutes on a first-come, first-served basis. Private rides are available by appointment at 248-347-1088.

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POTTER

Continued from Page A1

hundreds of fans queued for tickets to be first in line when the books went on sale. Inside, the store was a Hogwarts haven. Pitching in to help with the festivities were 17 volunteers from the Livonia Public Library Harry Potter Club and the Harry Potter Club of Schoolcraft College — all dressed in black robes, striped ties, and plenty of Hogwarts spiritwear.

“I can’t contain my excitement. It feels like it’s Hogwarts,” said Grace Schunot, 11, of New Hudson, as she waited at the Sorting Hat station. Grace was dressed the part, in a red robe with a red lightning-bolt scar drawn on her forehead.

Her stepsister, Rianne Andrews, came dressed as Hermione Granger, even braiding her hair the night before to achieve Hermione’s signature waves. “I’ve never actually read any of the books, but I could already tell this was going to be really cool,” she said. “I was really excited to come.” Either way, she knows Harry Potter backward and forward: Grace has been keeping her up to date as she reads the stories, and quizzing her on trivia.

As “Hedwig’s Theme” boomed from the loudspeakers, the girls climbed one after another onto a high stool, where a witch in trailing emerald robes placed the floppy Sorting Hat on their heads and asked them a secret question to determine their house at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Both ended up in Gryffindor, “where dwell the brave of heart.”

Nearby, Julia Kubus, 13, of Livonia stood in line with her mom by an archway marked Diagon Alley, pen in hand. “My mom got the books before they were cool,” she said. She pointed to a

counter where limited-edition books, with the original covers, were for sale. “We own the books with limited-edition covers.”

Julia and her mom, Cynthia, had just been through the Sorting Hat station and were filling out a Harry Potter worksheet, with activities like a crossword puzzle and matching the quote to the person who said it. Julia is a Hufflepuff. Her mom Cynthia is a Gryffindor. Later that evening, two people from each house would be chosen to compete at the Triwizard Tournament, so Julia was careful to keep her answers hidden from prying Slytherin and Ravenclaw eyes.

More trivia was in order toward the back of the store, where Brianna Hodge and Caroline Valdez of Canton were picking out their wands. First, they had to close their eyes, wave a hand over the display of wands, and answer a question — like “Who is it that haunts the first floor girls’ bathroom?” After that came glitter, beads, sequins, and ribbons for a personalized touch. Brianna, 10, dressed in Hogwarts tie and gown, embellished her wand with a white feather.

Their parents got in on the fun, too — although one dad was a bit skeptical about the selection process. “It’s more magical if you close your eyes,” he was assured.

When books went on sale at midnight, Kate Bonk of Livonia and Alex Steinke of Farmington were among the first to get their hands on a copy. The two had been staked out in front of the store since 7:30 that morning — and stayed all day, despite an on-and-off drizzle.

“We sat outside in lawn chairs, in the rain, and read Harry Potter books,” Bonk said. “It’s been a long day.” All afternoon, friends stopped by with snacks to reinforce them while they held down the fort.



Fans put their entries into a vase at the Sorting Hat station.

MARIA TAYLOR



Kate Bonk of Livonia (left) and Alex Steinke of Farmington celebrate the latest Harry Potter release.

MARIA TAYLOR



Guests line up in Diagon Alley.

MARIA TAYLOR

Things started getting crazy around 5 p.m., Bonk reported. By 8:30 p.m., the line was at least 150 people long, snaking down the sidewalk and around the side of the building. Bonk and Steinke didn’t have to stand in it, though. As the very first to arrive, they’d already gotten tickets to cut straight to the registers at midnight and buy the first two books pulled from the boxes.

The two diehards met in 2011, at the midnight premiere of the last Harry Potter movie, and have been friends ever


since. For Steinke, memories of Harry and the Hogwarts crew run deep. “We spent 10 years of our childhood growing up with them,” she said.

Bonk was introduced to Harry Potter by her aunt, who thought the books were cool and bought them for her. The night after the first movie came out, her mom started reading them out loud with her. “It’s just the most outstanding series I ever read — and I read a lot of series,” said Bonk. “You can read or watch it over and over again, and it doesn’t get old.”



Canton resident Caroline Valdez, 10, and Brianna Hodge, 10, decorate their wands.

MARIA TAYLOR




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LO-0000292220

Pit bulls suspected in attack on donkey

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Two pit bulls are suspected of attacking a donkey recently in the area in which a goat was killed earlier this year, under similar circumstances.

Novi Police were called at about 6:18 a.m. July 15 to a home in the 22000 block of Garfield Road, south of Nine Mile and west of Beck, where a woman had found two pit bull dogs on her property overnight and then discovered one of her donkeys was injured.

The woman told the officer she believes the dogs first came on to her property at about 1:30 a.m. Roughly three hours later, they were on her doorstep and she secured them in a pen. When checking on her donkeys in a fenced area, she found that one of them had suffered a laceration to the left side of its face/ snout that will likely require stitches.

The woman alleged the stray dogs, one of

which was a gray and white female with an identification tag on her collar, live in the area as she has seen them loose before.

The owner of the dogs, who lives in the 49000 block of Nine Mile Road, was contacted and responded to pick up the dogs. She said the brown male was also licensed, but not wearing his collar. She acknowledged the dogs have previously been loose. The officer issued her a citation for dog at-large.

Police Chief David Molloy could not confirm whether this attack involves the same dogs that killed a goat in April, but said both incidents occurred in the same area.

The goat's owner, who lives off Nine Mile Road, saw two dogs, one a gray pit bull and the other a brown pit bull mix by the barn the afternoon of April 11. The gray dog was attempting to dig its way out of a corral attached to the barn. Inside, her goat was dead,

with blood around its neck and face.

The owner of the dogs in that case was also cited for dogs at-large. Oakland County Animal Control supervisor Ron Shankin said at that time livestock attacks by domesticated dogs are rare in Novi and owners of dogs that kill farm animals may also be liable for compensation. Dogs are not necessarily euthanized for attacking livestock.

In the case of the donkey, Molloy said the pit bull owner will have an Aug. 8 appearance date at 52-1 District Court on the civil infraction.

The city ordinance regarding at-large dogs stipulates that violations shall be punishable by a \$750 fine for first offense, \$1,500 for a second offense and \$3,000 for a third or subsequent offense. Additionally, the owner shall be responsible for any impound fees and/or fees for the destruction of the dog.

sbromley@hometownlife.com

Slain jogger was nurse at Novi hospital

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Alexandra "Ally" Brueger was a humble woman who would have been embarrassed by the attention her death has caused, says the father of the 31-year-old Holly woman shot to death as she jogged over the weekend on a rural road in northern Oakland County.

"Ally was our beloved, only child. She was kind, thoughtful, considerate," her father Franz Brueger wrote on a gofundme.com page set up to raise money for her funeral expenses. "She had a witty sense of humor, but she was also a very serious-minded individual."

His daughter was a registered nurse at Providence Park Hospital in Novi and was working on her master's degree in creative writing, the father wrote.

Michigan State Police are investigating the slaying, but have not made any arrests.

Brueger was found Saturday afternoon shot on the front lawn of a residence along Fish Lake Road, south of Rattalee Lake Road, in Rose Township.

Brueger said his daughter was shot while on her 10-mile daily run on a dirt road near her home in Holly.

"Her wish would have been to have all of her organs donated, but because of the senseless way she perished, that was not possible," the father said. "She was very humble and would have been quite embarrassed by all of the attention this has caused."

A patient who posted on the gofundme site called Brueger "one of my all-time favorite RNs."

"HUGE heart, always smiling and so good at her job," wrote the woman who identified herself as Beccie Oltesvig. "I barely knew her and can't stop crying. ... I can't imagine what you must be going

through. Sending love and prayers your way."

Troopers and detectives from the Second District Special Investigation Section are currently canvassing the area, according to MSP, and gathering evidence from the crime scene.

Police are also continuing to ask the public to come forward if they spotted an unknown sedan seen in the area between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday. According to MSP, the vehicle may have appeared suspicious or was traveling at a high rate of speed.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call 877-MICH-TIP.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday, about \$6,000 was raised on the gofundme account (www.gofundme.com/2hgkdd8), with a goal of \$30,000 to help cover funeral and medical costs.

The Detroit Free Press contributed to this report.

Vehicles near Eight Mile entered illegally

Vehicles in an area north of Eight Mile, between Taft and Novi roads, were entered illegally early July 28. The vehicles were parked in driveways and on the streets, Northville police reported.

Early that morning, suspects enter several vehicles that were parked in driveways and on the streets. The suspect went from vehicle to vehicle looking for unlocked vehicle doors.

It's believed the culprit went from vehicle to vehicle checking for unlocked car doors. Residents who discover their vehicle was entered – even if nothing was taken – are asked to call for a patrol officer to investigate at 248-349-1234. There could be evidence in the car that helps identify the suspect.

To minimize chances of becoming a victim of vehicle break-ins follow these tips:

- » Park in well-lit areas. If possible, leave garage light on.
- » Park in your garage and close and lock the garage door.
- » Don't become complacent. Be aware of your surroundings.
- » Don't leave valuables unattended in your vehicle. If this cannot be avoided, at least secure them where they are not in plain view, such as your trunk or glove box.
- » Lock your vehicle and take your keys with you.
- » When going to work out, carry only the items needed (license, membership card, car keys). Do not carry valuables.



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RTA board can't muster votes to OK transit plan

Matt Helms

Detroit Free Press

It's up to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and top leaders in four counties

to see if they can salvage a \$4.7 billion plan for expanded public transportation for the region after the Regional Transit Authority of South-

east Michigan board couldn't come up with the votes to put the proposal before voters. The board Thursday couldn't overcome ob-

jections from Macomb and Oakland counties, leaving the proposal's fate in limbo even as time runs short for the plan to appear before voters in November.

Sending the proposal to voters required approval from seven of nine members of the RTA board, with at least one representative from each of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties on board with it. But the representatives — two each — from Oakland and Macomb counties voted no, leaving at most two weeks for the leaders of the counties to try to rescue the ambitious 20-year proposal to expand transit in a region that has underfunded public transportation for decades.

"This isn't the plan that we're looking for," Chuck Moss, an Oakland County representative, said during an RTA committee meeting Thursday morning. "It does not provide regional transit. ... What we have now is a regional taxation plan without transit."

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel say they can't support the plan unless the governance structure of the RTA board is changed and more services are provided to outlying parts of their counties that wouldn't be served by the centerpiece of the plan, bus rapid transit lines along Woodward, Gratiot and Michigan avenues between Detroit and the suburbs. The plan also calls for express service to Metro Airport and a commuter rail between Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Patterson and Hackel say the structure of the RTA should be adjusted so that decisions on where to deploy funding and service require super-majorities or unanimous board votes and not simple majorities. That would make it more difficult for the RTA board to make major changes to the 50/50 split of federal transit funding now shared by the Detroit Department of Transportation and the suburban SMART system.

Moss said residents from northern and western parts of Oakland are "screaming bloody murder that they're going to have to pay" for transit that won't benefit their areas.

Voters in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties would be asked to approve a 20-year, 1.2-mill property tax to pay for the transit expansion, costing the average homeowner about \$95 a year.

Fremam Hendrix, Detroit's representative on the board, said the plan should be approved.

"We've waited way too long and it would be unfair to the ... to the riders and the citizens in this region" if the plan isn't put before voters, Hendrix said.

Hendrix said Duggan told him that city leadership will do whatever it takes to reach a compromise with Oakland and Macomb's leaders, including extending rapid transit and bus routes, adding more stops and offering more on-demand and dial-a-ride options for outlying areas of the counties.

"Our eagerness is to do whatever is possible



REGINA H. BOONE | DETROIT FREE PRESS

This is the Louis Stokes Station at Windermere in East Cleveland where passengers are waiting by the RTA's HealthLine. It is a state-of-the art bus-rapid transit system that offers rail-like convenience with the flexibility of a bus.

to work things out in a positive manner," Hendrix said. He expressed optimism that the Big Four regional leaders could work out their disagreements in time to salvage the plan.

Board chairman Paul Hillegonds said there could be as little as one week left to come up with agreements that overcome Patterson's and Hackel's concerns.

The RTA board "has taken this as far as it can and ... we essentially have one more week in which we could call an emergency meeting and I think it will be up to the four leaders — the three county executives and the mayor of the city of Detroit — to work through the governance issue, which is a stumbling block right now," Hillegonds said.

Hillegonds said RTA lawyers are still studying what it would take to adjust the RTA's governance without running afoul of the state law that created the agency.

"We're still working on that," he said. "That's partly a legal issue, but it's also a political issue. Will the four leaders of Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and Detroit be able to agree on governance?"

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said allowing residents to vote on the transit plan is critical.

"While individual concerns must be addressed, we cannot afford to once again delay development of true regional transit," Evans said in a statement. "Failure to place this millage on the ballot in November could impede the progress we have made in the region. I'm committed to working to address the concerns of our regional partners to bring them on board."

It was a stunning turn for a plan that appeared to have broad political support until the last couple of weeks, when Patterson and Hackel made their concerns public, taking some RTA board members and transit advocates by surprise, given that there had been years for either county executive to bring up objections.

Hackel and Patterson released a 19-page critique of the plan, but the two main objections now center on veto power over major funding changes and providing a greater amount of localized transit service and routes that would move residents from more rural parts of Oakland and Macomb into the southern parts of their counties, where bus rapid transit lines run.

The bus rapid transit routes would run from

Detroit to Mt. Clemens along Gratiot, to Pontiac along Woodward and to Metro Airport on a route that includes Michigan Avenue. The BRT routes wouldn't directly serve large swaths of the tri-county area, but RTA CEO Michael Ford said there are creative alternatives, including large vans that feed into major bus lines or BRT stops and enhanced localized services such as on-demand and dial-a-ride services that could be provided to areas where BRT and fixed bus routes aren't justified.

Patterson said he could not support the plan as it stands.

"The current regional master transit plan abandons more than half a million Oakland County residents in 40 of our communities, leaving them with little or no transit services but demanding they pay more than \$700 million in taxes over 20 years," Patterson said. "I support regional transit, but I won't be stampeded into a bad deal."

Patterson said the region will get only one chance to approve a transit plan and it has to be done right.

"I'd rather take the time to get the details right than be saddled with a system that doesn't work well because some were willing to abandon the interests of almost half of Oakland County's residents," he said.

Vicki Barnett, a Farmington Hills resident running in Tuesday's primary for a shot at challenging Patterson in the fall, called for the plan to be put to voters.

"A reliable, coordinated, regional transportation system is the key to the future success of our region," Barnett said in a statement released before the vote. "Millennials want it, workers need it and our growing senior population deserves it so that they can spend their golden years living independently in the community of their choosing."

"Add to that the clear economic benefits including increased community investment around transit hubs, connecting workers with jobs and making our region much more attractive to talented workers and the growing businesses who need them and the need for a dramatic improvement in our transit system is clear," she added. "It is time for adults to get it together, come to the table and reach an agreement to put the RTA proposal on the ballot."

Staff writer Brad Kadrich contributed to the story.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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www.hometownlife.com

AYERS



CHARLES M. age 77, of Northville, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2016. He was born in Wellston, Ohio on July 14, 1939; son of Arthur and Margaret (nee Gregory) Ayers. Chuck received a Bachelor of Science from Purdue University in 1961. He was united in marriage to Carolann Eickmeyer on January 23, 1961; lovingly married for over 55 years. In 1969 Chuck and Carolann moved to Northville to raise their family. He was the owner and operator of C. Ayers Ltd. from 1987-2014. Chuck was a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit, the American Concrete Institute, and a proud Purdue Alumni. He enjoyed fly fishing, upland bird hunting, and golfing. Chuck was a bright, interesting person who loved telling "boy scout" jokes. Friendships came easily to Chuck because he was so kind and selfless. Family was his main priority; he was a supportive and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Carolann; his sons, Gregory (Patricia) Ayers and Douglas (Rachel) Ayers; and his grandsons, Joshua, Jordan, and Jeremy. He was preceded in death by his parents. A private service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be appreciated to The Engineering Society of Detroit Educational Outreach, 20700 Civic Center Drive, Suite 450, Southfield, MI 48076 or the Ayers Family Scholarship - Purdue University, 403 West Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

BLAIR



THOMAS B. age 61, passed away July 28, 2016 at home surrounded by his family. He was born March 25, 1955 in Detroit, son of the late Ernest and Margaret Blair. Thomas is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela; his son, Justin; his sisters: Linda (Chris) Richardson and Janet Blair. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Irene Burnham; brother-in-law, John (Vicki) Burnham; sister-in-law, Barbara (David) Baldwin and his nieces and nephews: Pamela (Josh) Crites, Nicole Richardson, Daniel Burnham, and Jamie (Justin) Bourland. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law. Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 4 from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and on Friday, August 5 from 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with a memorial service being held on Saturday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Memorial donations may be made to Angela Hospice or Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

www.phillipsfuneral.com

May the memory of your loved one...
...bring you peace.

BREAULT

FRIEDA age 96, passed from life on Earth to life with Christ in Heaven on July 30, 2016. She was born on July 12, 1920, in Gladwin, Michigan, daughter of the late Gustav and Lena Yerke. Frieda deeply loved her family. She enjoyed living in Michigan and appreciated each of its seasons. Her hobbies included gardening, sewing, bowling, social events, and class parties. Frieda was a member of Berean Baptist Church for 62 years where she served as Missionary Treasurer, President of the Women's Missionary Society, and Sunday School Teacher. She is survived by her loving children: Errol Breault, Steve (Marge) Breault, and Jean Poston; her grandchildren: Kelly (Shane), Nick (fiancée - Emily Miles), Melanie (Jeff), Abe (Trina), and Grace; and her great-grandchildren: Kaden, Brennen, Tanner, Connor, Jeffery, Abe, and Mailey. Frieda is also survived by her siblings: Gertrude McGlothlin, Clara Schmidt, and Gordon (Dee) Yerke; and sister -in-law; Pat Gleason. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 71 years, Wilbur J Breault; her son-in-law Col. Dr. John Poston; and her siblings: Alvin, Esther, Elsie, Velda, Paul, Lawrence, and John. Visitation was held on Wednesday, August 3 from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, August 4 at 11:00 a.m. at Berean Baptist Church, 38303 8 Mile Rd, Livonia. She will be laid to rest in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens.

www.phillipsfuneral.com

BROWN

VINCENT
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CULBERTSON

SHARON
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GREENWOOD

PATRICIA
April 23, 1927-July 22, 2016
obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

LaBEAN

ELIZABETH "TERESA" age 88, of South Lyon, formerly of E. Dearborn, passed away July 28, 2016. She was born September 26, 1927 in Clay Township, Ohio, daughter of the late Benjamin and Leona Born. Teresa enjoyed crocheting and also liked to garden. She is survived by her children: Marie "Tootie" (Bob) Petrovich, Jeanne LaBeau, Ray (Ann) LaBeau, and Denise LaBeau; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and two sisters. She was preceded in death by four brothers and four sisters. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, August 13 at 11:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon.

www.phillipsfuneral.com

MATSON

PATRICIA JANE "PATSY"
A long time resident of Milford, died peacefully at her home on July 30, 2016. She was 78 years old. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gerald S. "Jerry" Matson in 2000 and is survived by her son, John Matthew (Katherine) Matson; her daughters, Terri Matson, Julie Matson, Lynn (Kevin Clift) Matson, and Tricia (Jim) Pawloski; grandchildren, Emilia Navazio, Natalie Matson, Katelyn Kazanowski, Zea Navazio, Julia Matson, Ali Kazanowski, Lydia Matson, Elliott Pawloski, and Nikki Pawloski; siblings, Nancy Elliott Tamny, Sue Elliott Dacey, and Steven Douglas Elliott; grandpups, Gracie, Martha, Murphy, Moose, and Tootsie. She was preceded in death by a brother, John Carl Elliott. A Funeral Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Saturday, August 6, at 12 noon. Burial will follow in Milford Memorial Cemetery. Friends may visit on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Memorials may be made in her name to the Autism Society of Michigan. For further information please phone, 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

SIEGGREEN



MARCY J. age 43, of Lake Orion passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on July 26, 2016. She was born on June 30, 1973 in Westland, Michigan; daughter of Dwight and Mary (nee Larson) Sieggreen. Marcy graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a double Bachelor's degree in Earth Science, Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems and Geography and earned a Master's Degree in Biological Science from Wayne State University. She was currently working toward a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Antioch University. Marcy worked as the Curator of Amphibians for the Detroit Zoological Society since 2008. She was responsible for overseeing all programs and operations at the Detroit Zoo's National Amphibian Conservation Center, which included animal care, breeding, conservation programs, guest experience and research. Marcy was passionate about amphibian conservation; she led the Detroit Zoological Society's cooperative breeding efforts for many endangered amphibian species and was a leader in the assessment of amphibian populations in the Peruvian Amazon. She conducted field surveys to document species living along the Amazon and Napo rivers and tested for chytridiomycosis, an amphibian disease that is wiping out amphibian populations in parts of the world. She served on the board of the International Amphibian Survival Alliance and several Association of Zoos and Aquarium committees. Prior to working at the zoo she was an Administrator at the Michigan Humane Society. Marcy had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed travelling to many exotic places throughout the world. Her frequent travel partner was her father. She often expressed her creativity through photography and drawing. Marcy also enjoyed both flower and vegetable gardening. She was an incredibly positive person who left an impression with everyone she met. Marcy will be truly missed by everyone who loved her. She is survived by her loving parents, Dwight and Mary Sieggreen; her partner of 6 years, Jeff Jundt and beloved dogs, Kaiser and Willy; her sister Marisa (Jeff) Cullens; her niece Aili Cullens; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Harold and Eleanor Sieggreen and Vaughn and Margaret Larson. Visitation will be held Saturday, August 6, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions in her name to the Detroit Zoological Society, 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48067.

STRATTON



RANDEL Age 82 July 31, 2016. Beloved husband of Phyllis. Dear father of Monica (Mark) Baughman and Denise (Gary) Stupyra. Grandfather of Chad (Kate), Leah (Scott), Erika, Trevor (Sandy) and Carter. Great grandfather of Sawyer. Visitation Tuesday 2-8 p.m. with the Funeral Service Wednesday 11:30 a.m. at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (Between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Family suggests memorial to the American Heart Association.

www.santeiufuneralhome.com

TABOR

BETTY passed away on July 27, 2016 at the age of 86. A long time, devoted resident of South Lyon, she is survived by five daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Phillips Funeral Home on August 3, 2016.

Send Novi items to pullmen@hometownlife.com or Northville items to jmaliszews@hometownlife.com by 9 a.m. Monday for consideration for the Thursday edition.

Skin Deep: Keeping Your Skin Healthy, Beautiful

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16
Details: Providence Park Hospital will hold

UPCOMING EVENTS

this program at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Road, in the West Room. Learn how to protect your skin from damage; recognize the signs of skin cancer; and latest products for healthier skin. It is presented by Aaron Cetner, M.D. FAAD, FACMS, Dermatologist. Free. Register by calling 888-751-5465.

Networking workshop
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16
Details: Free lunch, networking and workshop for business owners, hosted by Tom Powers with Insight Business Coaching at AmeriCenter of Novi, 28175 Haggerty. Is your business thriving or just surviving? Learn the four pieces to a great business. Register at tinyurl.com/insightnovi.

Colorfest promises full day of music, concerts, colors

Michigan is all set to witness its third annual Colorfest from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 6.

This much-awaited Festival of Colors brings the very exuberance of the Indian cultural festival as an occasion for fun-filled indulgence for thousands of people from all over the region. The vivacity of the gathering

is enhanced with live music, yoga, dance and throwing of organic colored powders.

“Colorfest Michigan is a harmonious celebration of life,” said Prafulla Kharkar, event promoter of Colorfest Michigan. “Just imagine the sight of 5,000-plus happy participants dancing and singing in a lively atmosphere full of lilting and rocking music and throwing of colors at each other. This full day event, filled with live concert with rock bands playing music, presents a memorable experience of spicy food, ethnic shopping and much more.”

Highlights include:

- » Music: Live rock bands from Utah, Los Angeles and New York with powerful Mantra meditation to keep you on your feet.
- » Dance: Kids and adults performing a wide range of live dance performances (Bhangra, Bollywood Dance, Zumba, etc.).
- » Food: A wide range of authentic spicy Mexican, Italian, Indian and American cuisines.

- » Exhibits: Ethnic selling/showcasing Indian jewelry, arts and crafts, sand arts, LEGO and personalized items and, of course, stain free colors thrown every 45 minutes in the air.

The Colorfest is a family-friendly event. Kids under 10 are free.

For more details and for tickets, go to www.colorfestmi.com or contact Shivani at 734-716-1936. Entry is graded: basic for \$8, premium for \$20 and signature for \$30 with free parking, five color packets, festival T-shirt. You can pay through credit card with PayPal.

Fuerst Park is at 45175 10 Mile Road in Novi.

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Fr. Bob LaCroix, Pastor
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Parish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

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milfordumc.net

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NOVI**
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Parish Office: 347-7778

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Northville, Michigan

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Explorers learn the ropes of firefighting

Two teenagers and one young adult who are learning the ropes of firefighting through the city of Northville Fire Department's Explorer program recently attended a firefighting and search-and-rescue training program at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign, Ill.

Participants Lucas Calandro, 17, of Livonia, Emily Diller, 17, of Wixom and Abbas Ayoub, 20, of Dearborn Heights, were supervised by Northville firefighters Austin Conway and Tyler Vermeesch and adviser Shari Allen.

Staged fire and rescue scenarios at the five-day camp included fighting a fire on the fourth floor of a high-rise building; using the jaws of life and ropes to extract a person from a car crash; extinguishing a single-family house fire; and searching the second floor of a house on fire using a thermal imaging camera for people who may be alive. The victims in these scenarios were dummies but it felt like real-life episodes for those who were challenged with putting out fires and practicing techniques to save lives.

A tricky scenario was the "trapped and disoriented firefighter rescue" where the Explorers crawled through a smoky passageway and their gear got entangled on ropes and wires. They had to free their gear and move on to get to the fire.

"These scenarios help build confidence and endurance, and teach good decision-making, among other skills and traits," Allen said. "This school is phenomenal. The best researchers in the country teach fire dynamics — newer ways to fight fire — at this research institute."

"Kids in both the basic and advanced program see more fire in one week than a small town fire department sees in a year," Conway said. "Being an adviser and watching them go through the training is just as good for us as it is for them."

Twelve kids, ages 14-20, are currently in Northville's Explorer program, which meets twice a month and holds monthly drills. It is chartered through Learning-for-Life's Explorer program (a division of Boy Scouts of America) and is funded entirely by grants and donations. This is the ninth year the fire department has taken Explorers to the IFSI program.



Participants Lucas Calandro, 17, of Livonia, Emily Diller, 17, of Wixom and Abbas Ayoub, 20, of Dearborn Heights were supervised by Northville firefighters Austin Conway and Tyler Vermeesch and adviser Shari Allen.

"The kids were so excited about learning. They got to practice what they were taught at bi-weekly trainings at the fire house. It was clicking for them," Conway said.

The Explorer program offers hands-on experience throughout the year, as kids help conduct fire drills at Allen Terrace, the city's senior housing facility; assist at festivals; play victim for

mock disaster drills and help other community groups. About 80 percent of the Explorers who attend the Northville program pursue a career as a firefighter or in a related

capacity. "It is a window into how the fire service operates," said Conway. "It helps prepare kids for what they will learn when they attend the Fire Academy."

"Many participants in the Explorer program begin their fire and EMS careers with the city of Northville Fire Department and go from there to hold good positions in fire departments across the country," Northville Fire Chief Steve Ott said.

Conway and Allen keep in touch with graduates of the program, whose firefighting careers have taken them to jobs at Metro Airport, throughout Michigan and across the country. Whenever they come back to town, they often stop at the fire station to share stories about their new adventures and reminisce, Conway said. The graduates also give back as advisors and mentors.

There were two fun stops en route for the kids who rode in Allen's vehicle. They went for a swim in Lake Michigan and stopped at the Fire Museum in Kankakee, Ill. Allen has been an adviser for the program since her father Jim Allen, former fire chief for Northville, started the program in 1994.

Northville Art House to host Assemblage Invite

Be a pART of it! The Northville Art House present the work of six compelling and award-winning artists in its first Assemblage Invitational, Piece by Piece.

Rick Cronn of Ann Arbor, Cre Fuller of Ypsilanti, Ozie of Wixom, Catherine Peet of Royal Oak, Stephen Palmer of Traverse City and Mike Sivak of Ann Arbor each bring a unique perspective to the art of assemblage.

The public is invited to celebrate the work of these talented artists 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, at the Northville Art House, 215

Cady. The exhibit will continue through Aug. 27, during regular gallery hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 248-344-0497.



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OUR VIEW

Seniors can often stay behind wheel with help

Despite a growing number of senior drivers on the road, researchers have found that they are crashing less often than just a decade ago. They're also less likely to be injured or killed in a crash, compared with aging drivers of yesterday. That's because seniors are living longer, healthier and more active lives than ever before.

Normal aging does affect driving, but there isn't a set age when a person is no longer safe behind the wheel. In fact, most people can safely drive well into old age. When people become unsafe to drive, it's generally the result of an underlying medical condition or medications, not reaching a certain age, the website www.SeniorDriving.AAA.com notes.

Get involved by regularly checking the driving of your parent or other senior driver in your life. Here are two common warning signs:

» **The senior driver has been issued two or more traffic tickets or warnings in the past two years.** Tickets can predict greatest risk for collision.

» **The senior driver has been involved in two or more collisions or "near-misses" in the past two years.** Rear-end crashes, parking lot fender-benders and side collisions while turning across traffic rank as the most common mishaps for drivers with diminishing skills, depth perception or reaction time.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion lists on the AAA website warning signs related to older drivers. When you ride along with an older driver to look for signs of poor driving, keep in mind it doesn't necessarily mean the person should not drive. Often, poor driving behaviors can be improved with training or by addressing an underlying medical condition that affects driving. A trained medical professional can help identify treatment options that may help improve – not limit – safe driving ability. A driving assessment from an occupational therapy driving rehabilitation specialist can be a big help, for example.

Here are common warning signs:

» **Does the senior driver confuse the gas and brake pedals or have difficulty working them?** Drivers who lift their legs to move from the accelerator to the brake, rather than keeping a heel on the floor and pressing with the toes, may be signaling waning leg strength.

» **Does the senior driver seem to ignore or miss stop signs and other traffic signals?** Perhaps the driver is inattentive or cannot spot the signs in a crowded, constantly moving visual field.

» **Does the senior driver weave between or straddle lanes?** Signaling incorrectly or not at all when changing lanes can be particularly dangerous, especially if the driver fails to check mirrors or blind spots.

» **Do other drivers honk or pass frequently, even when the traffic stream is moving relatively slowly?** This may indicate difficulty keeping pace with fast-changing conditions.

» **Does the senior driver get lost or disoriented easily, even in familiar places?** This could indicate problems with working memory or early cognitive decline.

If you ride with a driver who exhibits one or more of the warning signs, consider discussing the benefits of getting a comprehensive driving assessment to help identify and address any risky driving behaviors and maximize safe driving.

Most people know when their driving skills and abilities aren't as sharp as they used to be. Two of the most common coping mechanisms used by unsafe senior drivers include:

» **Using a "co-pilot" to help respond to situations in the driving environment.** Anyone who cannot drive safely and comfortably without a co-pilot should not drive at all.

» **Driving too slow or too fast for conditions.** Driving too slow can be a sign that the driver is compensating for slowed reflexes or reduced reaction time. Those who drive too fast may not realize how fast they are traveling or be overcompensating due to a fear of being noticed for driving too slowly.

Homeowner: Six Mile Road requires truck route ban

It is imperative that our residents of the subdivisions who border Six Mile Road know the classification given by Wayne County to the road. Six Mile is the primary road going through the heart of Northville Township.

We have subdivisions exiting to Six Mile Road from Cross Road, just west of Haggerty to Ridge roads. The entire community of Northville Township was zoned all residential. In light of the



Ronald Pawlak
GUEST COLUMNIST

zoning, subdivisions were built on both sides of Six Mile, beginning in the late 1960s and into 2000.

We did not have any industry in Northville Township and, to this day, Six Mile is primarily a county road with sub-

divisions built on both the north and south sides. We do not have any commercial enterprises on Six Mile requiring trucks. We do have two churches: Ward Presbyterian and Northville Christian Community Church. We have five schools bordering or adjacent to Six Mile: Northville Christian Grade School, Winchester Elementary School, Meads Mill Middle School, Northville High School and Ridge Elementary School. Our Northville Township Hall is on Six Mile at Sheldon, our Fire Department is on Six Mile across from Northville High School, and our Police Department is located adjacent to Six Mile and Winchester. Six Mile, after years

of neglect by Wayne County, has been classified as a Primary "Class 'A' truck route." This is absurd. Ron Arnett of the Wayne County Road Commission has made the following statement to me: "I first would like to help you understand that Six Mile Road east of Sheldon is considered an "unrestricted truck route." This does not mean that the trucks are not required to adhere to weight limits, but are allowed to carry the maximum allowable load."

Previously Six Mile was a gravel road, from Sheldon to Napier, until they started to develop subdivisions west of Sheldon along with building Northville High School and the new Northville Township Fire Station. It was then

paved as a two-lane county road still classified as residential. Today, Arnett states that "Six Mile Road, west of Sheldon Road, allows for trucks of a lesser weight, but still considered normal loading."

Arnett agrees the frequency of trucks driving Six Mile has increased but there really isn't any law prohibiting them from using Six Mile. My question is why not? This makes absolutely no sense at all. We are a residential community on both sides of Six Mile, from the border of Northville Township to Washtenaw County. Our quality of life and the safety of our residents are at stake, plus when the subdivisions were built we were zoned all residential, and not com-

mercial all along Six Mile. Who lobbied for the road to be a Primary Class "A" Truck route? The trucking companies or the landfill?

Six Mile is now being reconstructed and repaved after years of neglect. The railroad bridge over Six Mile and Northville Road is over 100 years old and neglected and is in desperate need of reconstruction. The reconstruction and repaving will stop at the bridge and remain a two-lane bottle neck traffic mess. Now is the time to address the truck route issues.

Ronald J. Pawlak is a 38-year resident of Northville Colony, and a member of the subdivision association.

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Highland Games return this weekend

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Peg Dunlop doesn't think the continuing construction along Interstate 275 will impact one of the area's biggest Scottish events in Livonia this weekend.

She said she and others are optimistic it won't damper the 167th annual Highland Games, taking place Friday and Saturday at Greenmead Historical Park at Eight Mile and Newburgh in Livonia.

"I sure hope it doesn't," said Dunlop, co-chairwoman for the games and a Center Line resident, on the construction. "Advance ticket sales seem to be holding steady."

There will be several new features at the games this year, including a Scottish fiddling competition. The event, which begins at 10 a.m., will happen for three classes of fiddlers: novices, juniors under 18 and

open, which is open to everyone. A fiddling workshop with the competitors will take place at 9 a.m. with Dr. Melinda Crawford Perttu, a U.S. National Scottish Fiddling Champion and competition judge. Entry cost is \$15 and the winner in the junior and open categories will qualify to participate in the U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championships in Pennsylvania next month. Cash prizes for first-, second- and third-place finishers will also be available.

Dunlop said the idea for the contest came from a board member, whose daughter participates in Scottish fiddling.

"They brought it to our attention and we thought it would be great for the youth," Dunlop said.

Several music groups will return this year, including Mudmen, Stone Clover and Albannach. With many groups playing Celtic rock, Dunlop said one new performing



FILE PHOTO

The Highland Games return to Livonia this weekend. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

duo to the games will bring some of the traditional songs. That group will be Alan and Polly Beck, Scotland residents who will come and perform traditional songs.

"They'll be singing the traditional Scotch songs that everybody knows and loves," Dunlop said. The annual games begin Friday night with the Ceilidh, a gathering

5-11 p.m. at Greenmead with music, food and drink. Tickets to the Ceilidh, which is an adult event, go for \$25. The games begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the

park and will feature several dozen Scottish clans and vendors. Opening ceremonies will kick off at 11:30 a.m. on the grounds, and games will go all day, including favorites such as the tug o' war, as well as piping and drumming, among other events. Dunlop said attendees should take note that the St. Andrew's Society will be filming the games via an aerial drone for future promotional videos.

Free parking will be available at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, in Livonia, with shuttles taking attendees over to the games. Tickets will still be available at the door and cost \$20. Children under 12 are free. More information on the games can be found at highlandgames.com.

"It's just a great time. Music's good, the beer is good," Dunlop said. "It's a good time."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
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Chain-reaction builders break world record

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A team of builders worked for 10 days setting up the Incredible Science Machine, a string of more than 250,000 dominoes, at Westland Shopping Center.

And it took about 20 minutes for it to all come tumbling down.

When it did, all 18 builders were jumping for joy, having just set a world record for a circle field and an American record for total toppled dominoes.

The records came as hundreds of people circled an area of Westland Shopping Center and watched in alternating hushed silences and whoops of appreciation.

And when it was over — and everything had gone pretty much as planned — chain reaction expert Steve Price of Canton, who organized the build, jumped the highest.

"It's so great," said Price, a recent graduate of Michigan State University who earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. "There were no breaks, it

was really amazing and we got a world record."

This year's theme focused on world cultures and incorporated all seven continents. It included designs of Chinese scrolls representing Asia, soccer balls for South America and a tribute to Route 66 for the United States, among other segments.

The builders came from across the United States, Canada, Austria and Germany. They all met on YouTube, where all of them have channels dedicated to chain reaction-building.

There are two Canadians, two from Germany and an Austrian.

"We met because we watch each other's (YouTube) videos," Price said. "We've all become good friends. Last year was the first time we got to work together on a project."

The youngest builder is Brady Dolan, a 12-year-old middle school student from Ann Arbor. He said he started working with dominoes when he was perhaps 6 and started really developing an affinity for them about a year later.

When he started post-



TOM BEAUDOIN

The entire east end of Westland Shopping Center was part of the backdrop for the Guinness world record as more than 250,000 dominoes fell July 23.

ing videos of his work with dominoes to his YouTube channel, Brady said, he "started getting noticed more."

"I just like creating things," he said before

the fall, of which he said, "It's going to be amazing."

The event was sponsored for the second year in a row by Zeal Credit Union. Lisa Fawcett, the

credit union's director of marketing, said the event fits in with what Zeal believes.

"(Zeal) is all about hard-working Americans," Fawcett said. "Passion is one of our key values. When we came across this group of builders, it fit what we're all about. We were eager to get behind it."

The builders ran a pool guessing how long the process would take. It ranged from 16:23 to 19:46, the guess from Dolan, which appeared to come closest. The official time wasn't available, but one media member timed it right at 20 minutes.

The fact the new venue — it was at the Michigan Science Center last year — brought out hundreds of spectators was exciting for Price and the other builders. Those who couldn't be there will be able to see a video on YouTube.

"It's amazing to see you can plan something like this," Price, 22, said. "You have that amazing video you can show off to people afterward. It's something not a whole lot of people know about. It's great to do a big event and introduce this to people. It's pure excitement."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

ON CAMPUS

Phi Kappa Phi

The following local residents recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Connor Daly of Novi initiated at Michigan State University; **Abby Dolan** of Northville initiated at University of Michigan; **Nicole Delaney** of Commerce Township initiated at Michigan State University; **Molly Williams** of White Lake initiated at University of Michigan; **Rubini Naidu** of Novi initiated at Carnegie Mellon University; **Courtney Quinn** of Walled Lake initiated at Grand Valley State University; and **Erin Dunne** of Northville initiated at University of Michigan.

Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors, having at least 72 semester hours, are eligible.

Belmont University

The following students achieved the dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade-point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C: **Elizabeth Boutin** of Northville, **Leah Bruce** of Novi, **Kaitlyn Russell** of Highland and **Meg Bruce** of Novi.

Baylor University

Baylor University conferred degrees on more than 2,500 graduates during spring commencement exercises. **Catherine Sheets Langford** of Commerce Township, bachelor of business administration, marketing, management, was among them.

Carthage College

Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., has named **Kaylie Vanord** of South Lyon and **Aaron San Juan** of Novi to its dean's list for academic excellence during the spring 2016 semester. Dean's List honors are accorded to students who achieve a 3.5 grade-point average while carrying at least 14 credit hours during a semester.

Lehigh University

Dean's list status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to **Da Hyun Ko** of Novi in the fall and spring 2016 semesters.

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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi MI 48375 and must be received prior to **August 24, 2016**.

Published: August 4, 2016

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SECTION B (NNNR)
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SPORTS

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2016 RIO GAMES



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With help from friends, Canton native Allison Schmitt has persevered through some rough patches on her road to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

AT PEACE IN THE POOL

With help, Schmitt set for third Olympics appearance this month in Brazil

Peter Baugh
Correspondent

The University of Georgia swimming team was nervous. The Bulldogs were sitting on the Texas A&M pool deck in College Station, anxiously waiting for the 2009 NCAA Championships to begin. As head coach Jack Bauerle looked around, his eyes fell on Allison Schmitt. To his surprise, the star freshman was giggling. “Schmitty, did someone tell you a joke?” he called out. “What’s going on?” “No, I’m just so happy,” she told her coach. “I can’t wait to just start.” Schmitt won the NCAA title in the 500-yard free-style that year and went on to have one of the most successful careers in the history of Georgia athletics.

“It’s OK to not be OK. It’s OK to ask for help and I think asking for help shows that you’re human, shows that you’re strong.”

ALLISON SCHMITT
Olympic swimmer who’s battled depression

Looking back, Bauerle clearly remembers Schmitt’s joy before her first NCAA Championships. “That’s how she viewed competition,” Bauerle said. “She looked at it in a good anxious way ... she just had fun with it.” The same love of competition carried Schmitt, now 26, far beyond her hometown of Canton Township and the University of Georgia campus. The passion has brought her American records. It has made her one of the greatest swimmers in U.S. history. And, beginning Aug. 5, it will take her to her third Olympic Games. Her competitive spirit has given her the highest of highs — and it’s shown her how far she can fall.

See SCHMITT, Page B4

BASEBALL

Longtime Mariners scout Madeja finds slew of talent

Novi resident started scouting career in 1978 with Detroit Tigers

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When it comes being a Major League Baseball scout, Ken Madeja has stood the test of time. His resume includes 28 years with the Seattle Mariners, with whom he now serves as a special assistant to general manager Jerry Dipoto, as well as 10 seasons previously with the Detroit Tigers. Residing in Novi since 1988 with his wife Deborah and two children, Mark and Lauren, Madeja has signed 17 major league players, mostly notably Hall of Fame member John Smoltz, Derek Lowe, Chris Hoiles, J.J. Putz and Matt Thornton, to name a few. Madeja wears a variety of hats with the Mariners’ organization, focusing on both domestic and international scouting. Since February, he worked exclusively toward the annual June amateur draft before transitioning

over to big league and minor league scouting for the rest of the 2016 season. After surviving seven different GMs and countless days on the road while traveling the globe, what keeps him going at age 64? “Every day is different,” said Madeja, who played baseball at Wayne State and was inducted into the school’s hall of fame in 2006. “The travel can wear you down, but you’re in a different city. You may stay there two, three days. You’re exposed to different ball-parks and people, different players.” **Career path** After graduating from Wayne State in 1975 with a B.A. degree in education, Madeja got his start as an assistant baseball coach at Redford Bishop Borgess High School, before becoming the varsity basketball head coach at Dearborn St. Alphonsus. He also managed the Detroit West Seven Youth baseball teams which captured state, regional and national

See MADEJA, Page B2

BOYS LACROSSE

Boughton latest to answer call for South Lyon Unified

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Justin Boughton hopes his success the past two seasons at the JV level will bode well with the South Lyon Unified varsity boys lacrosse program. Boughton, who coached the South Lyon junior varsity to a 17-0 record last spring after going 10-4-1 in 2015, officially became the unified varsity team’s fourth coach in four seasons after Nick Diegel resigned unexpectedly in June for undisclosed reasons after going 10-8 overall. Diegel was preceded by Tyler Kilpatrick in 2014 after he replaced Jeremy Napier, whose contract was not renewed by the school district in 2013 despite strong protests from players and parents at two board meetings after he guided South Lyon to an MHSAA Division 2 regional title and a final four berth. “Beyond excited to receive the job,” Boughton said. “Obviously, it’s a strange situation that we’ve become in the last two seasons of coaching changes. Obviously, excited to bring some stability. The seniors on the

(2017) team, it will be the fourth year of actually having some kind of different influence coaching-wise. It’s a second year for me actually coaching full time. We have a tremendous amount of talent on the team. We hope to make a long and extreme playoff run, because I want to see these kids go out in style.” South Lyon East athletic director Adam Beutel recommended Boughton after the job posting period ended in June. The district uses Professional Contract Management, Inc. to assist in the hiring and evaluation of coaches, while making it official in early July. “Last year he led the boys JV team to an undefeated season,” Beutel said. “Justin brings the skill and knowledge needed to help our kids succeed. We look forward to working with Justin as he continues to grow the lacrosse program.” Boughton graduated in 2006 from Romulus High School, where he played four seasons of lacrosse. He served as team captain three of those years and was the team MVP, as well as earning the U.S. Army All-American award for athletics and academics his senior year. Boughton also lettered in varsity

See BOUGHTON, Page B3

PDL SOCCER

Bucks defeat Sockers 3-0, roll into championship match

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The most successful team in Premier Development League history is on the cusp of a third North American title.

The Michigan Bucks put on another signature performance Saturday night with a convincing 3-0 semifinal victory over the visiting Midland/Odesa (Texas) Sockers at Pontiac's Ultimate Soccer Arenas.

The 2006 and 2014 PDL champs will get a chance to earn their third crown before the home fans, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at Ultimate when they face Calgary (Alberta) Foothills FC, which advanced with 3-0 semifinal win over the Ocean City (N.J.) Nor'easters.

The Bucks, who improved their overall PDL record to 15-2, have allowed just seven goals in 17 matches as goal-keeper Drew Shepherd (Ann Arbor/Western Michigan University) notched his seventh shutout and improved to 9-1.

Birmingham, England, native Andre Landell, who plays collegiately at Tiffin (Ohio) University, scored a goal in each half to catapult the Bucks' offensive attack.

"I thought we played really well tonight," said coach Demir Muftari, who guided the Bucks to the 2014 PDL championship. "That's a really good team. I thought we came out really strong, played excellent in the first half, especially that first 25-30 minutes, and got a great goal by Andre. It was a great build-up all the way around."

Landell, whose favorite team is Manchester United, scored on a beautiful header in the 17th minute off a pin-point pass from defender Brad Ruhaak to make it 1-0.

"Great play Brad Ruhaak made with a cross and the easy part for me was the finish," Landell said. "It was a great ball and a build-up play and we got good players in the mid-field that can move the ball, so it makes my job a lot easier."

Midland/Odesa, the PDL's Southern Conference champ, was under siege by the Bucks during a majority of the first half.

"We talked about breaking their pressure," Sockers coach Matt Barnes said. "It took us a little while to get our legs under us. Actually, once we gave up the goal, I thought we started playing much better. And then I kind of thought we came out and made some good adjustments at halftime. Second half, I actually thought we started out really playing well."

But Landell made it 2-0 in the 61st minute, when he boot-ed home a rebound after the initial shot was taken inside the box by Russell Cicerone (Birmingham Brother Rice/University of Buffalo), the Bucks' leading scorer.

Sockers goalie Russ Klabough had no chance on the second attempt.

"I was just trying to make a



JAY DUNWELL

The Michigan Bucks celebrate after getting their first goal against the Midland/Odesa Sockers at Pontiac's Ultimate Soccer Arenas.



JAY DUNWELL

The Michigan Bucks' Andre Landell (left) goes high to score on the header in the first half.



JAY DUNWELL

Bucks defender Brad Ruhaak (top) gets to the ball first in the PDL semifinal match.

front post run and be dangerous and, thankfully, it fell to me and it was an easy tap-in," Landell said. "My favorite one is actually the easy ones. They work so hard for it and it's a tap-in."

Midland/Odesa, forced to push up after being down 2-0, yielded a third goal when Ruhaak's corner kick was flicked into the box by Lalas Abubakar before landing at the feet of Francis de Vries, who scored in the 66th minute.

"I think the third goal really took the sting out of the game," Muftari said. "Guys were great, (I'm) really proud of the group. They come together really well. That's it — one more to go."

The Bucks, who have won 10 straight and have not lost since June 18, seem to be peaking at the right time.

"I think the depth, the unity ... we're all for one," Landell said. "We're all working hard. You can see there in the 90th

minute, there are still players chasing the ball down. There's no sort of so-called superstars. Everyone is just buying into the system."

Nick Wysong, de Vries and Ruhaak were all members of the Bucks' back line during the 2014 PDL championship run.

"Knocking on wood, don't want to jinx it," Muftari said of the seven-match shutout string. "We've got Lalas (Abubakar) and guys like Alexis (Souhay) and Zach Bock coming off the bench who are fantastic players. On top of that, I think the team really does a good job of defending together. All the guys buy in to work for one another. The guys in front of them, the midfielders and forward lines, put pressure on the guys in front of them and make the defenders' job a little easier. They've been sensational all season."

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MADEJA

Continued from Page B1

championships from 1976-78.

In 1978, Madeja was hired as a scout by Bill Schudlich, who was an area supervisor under then-Detroit scouting director Bill Lajoie, who later became the Tigers' GM.

"Once I was done playing after college, I started coaching and then got interested in scouting," Madeja said. "I had sandlot teams that won state, regional and national tournaments and Schudlich approached me about scouting."

Madeja remained with the Tigers through 1987 before going to Seattle.

The scouting landscape has change dramatically since Madeja first began "bird dogging" for the Tigers at area high school and sandlot games, where he became a fixture at places like Livonia's Ford Field during the summers.

Scouting changes

"In the old days, there were 18 or 20 Connie Mack teams, just in the city of Livonia," said Madeja, who played high school baseball at Dearborn Heights Riverside. "Nowadays, very, very few cities have any of that anymore. The biggest change is that there are a lot fewer summer leagues. The kids are involved in travel ball and playing on a team that travels all around in any one week."

And like football, baseball combines have become another avenue when it comes to evaluating talent.

"There's a lot of these national showcases now where the better kids all end up at these showcases, so scouts aren't digging them up on their own," Madeja said. "They go to these showcases and the kids are right there for them. You can't hide out a Derek Lowe anymore like you used to be able to."

Madeja, who served as Midwest scouting coordinator for the Mariners, was honored in 2015 at the 13th annual Pro Baseball Scouts Foundation dinner in Beverly Hills, Calif., with the Legends of Scouting Award. He was also named Seattle Mariners Scout of the Year in 2003 and was twice named Topps Baseball Cards Scout of the Month.

Global game

Since he is involved in all aspects of scouting, Madeja has branched out over the years to destinations such as Canada, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Japan ("Where they treat you very well and are gung-ho about baseball.").

In the Dominican Republic, the Mariners established a state-of-the-art training facility, which also offers schooling for prospects who are eligible to sign pro contracts as early as age 16.

"It's a total complex that houses up to 75 players during the season," Madeja said. "They teach English. Most clubs have an academy there. We built one two years ago and it's one of the finest ones down there right now. It's four months for the season. The kids just love it."

Madeja said that there is no mystery why there are a high number of Dominican players that make it and thrive in the majors.

"With the climate there, they can play all year round," he said. "The kids don't have the money to be sitting with iPhones or iPads or things like that. They're out there playing baseball from the time that they're little kids. That's their way off the islands down there, to make something of themselves. The poverty is very, very bad down there."

Scouting tips

As a scout, Madeja looks for some basic physical attributes when evaluating a young player.

"The first thing you're looking for is the athleticism in the kid," he said. "Almost

all of your big leaguers were the best athletes on their team in high school, for the most part. And most were able to play more than one sport. People like Derek Lowe or John Smoltz or kids like that, they could do anything. You could throw them a tennis racket, soccer ball or football ... they could do it all. So athleticism is No. 1.

"Then you start looking at the size of the kid. If he's 16 years old and he's 5-10, 190 pounds, that's probably what you're going to get. He's not going to grow to 6-3 or 6-4. You might have a kid 6-foot, wiry built ... you look for the bone structure. Eyes are important, too. Especially at night, when you have depth perception problem, which can cause a lot of problems."

Madeja will then go out and evaluate a prospects' baseball skill set.

"Can he run? That's something you basically can't teach," Madeja said. "Can he throw? That can improve, but you look at both of those tools right away. Can he throw and can he run? Then you look at can he swing the bat? Can he make contact? Can he get the bat through the zone without dragging it through the zone? Does he have power in his swing? Will he develop power in that swing?"

"Can he catch the ball and how are his actions with his feet and hands? Do they work in concert together when you see him on a ground ball or fly ball? And you look at the aptitude of the kid. Can he learn? Does he have baseball instincts? There's whole slew of things you look for."

Age of metrics

Analytics have recently become the wave of the future in all professional sports, but it most notably started in baseball. And major league scouts are using it more and more, even at the collegiate and high school levels.

"The higher up you go, the more analytics you have on them, of course," Madeja said. "High school, there's some. We've always looked at some stats with a kid. Those can help, but they're not the end all. They talk about 'range' all the time. You got to be there to see where the kid starts from and where he ends up. Stats are just another tool in putting together the whole package in a player."

The age of specialization — one-sport athletes — has also become a trend.

"Personally, I think a kid should play a sport every season," Madeja said. "Football or cross country in the fall, basketball or whatever else you got in the winter time, baseball in the spring. That's the way I think it should be."

"But especially in the southern states, they don't let them play football or basketball. They concentrate on baseball all year round. I think the kids need that break from a sport. I don't think they should play year round. That's why you're ending up with a lot of kids getting hurt nowadays."

Family support

Madeja, meanwhile, had the backing at home as he moved up the ranks in the Seattle organization.

"My wife Deborah was a school teacher and principal," Madeja said. "When I started scouting, my kids were young and I elected to stay an amateur area scout for 25 years as they grew up so I wouldn't be gone as much. Deborah was supportive throughout my career. The scouting and her career in education actually meshed quite well, due to the baseball and school off-seasons."

Madeja, meanwhile, doesn't have any plans to retire or cut short his scouting career, which has spanned 38 years.

"If my contract is extended, I'll probably go a few more years anyway," he said. "Sixty-four is not that old anymore."

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World Series champs



DAWN MIFSUD

The 9-and-under South Lyon Thunder baseball team, coached by Don Mifsud, posted a 6-0 record, capped by an 8-7 victory in the finals over the Michigan War Dogs, to capture the USSSA World Series held July 21-24 at Canton's Victory Park. The Thunder also defeated the Motor City Bulldogs (19-1), Anchor Bay Angels (17-3), Canton Cardinals (10-1), Precision Patriots (9-2) and War Dogs (14-6) en route to the title. Team members: Drew Mifsud (tourney MVP), Andrew Verona-Kerley (offensive MVP), Josh Walther (Walled Lake), Braden Fox, Sam Stoll, Jack Cumberland, Michael Stack, Michael Jankowski, Ryan Hurshe, Aiden Robinson and Jacob Gusick. Assistant coaches are Dan Stoll, Rich Robinson and Scott Cumberland.

"The first thing you're looking for is the athleticism in the kid. Almost all of your big leaguers were the best athletes on their team in high school, for the most part. And most were able to play more than one sport. ... You could throw them a tennis racket, soccer ball or football ... they could do it all. So athleticism is No. 1."

KEN MAJEDA

longtime Major League Baseball scout and Novi resident

JUNIOR GOLF

Payne tops Taylor Meadows Junior Open girls field

Marybeth Dillon
Correspondent

Long-hitting Kendall Payne of Livonia birdied a par-3 and shot 79 to win the Girls 15-18 age division Friday at the Kensington Tour Taylor Meadows Junior Open.

"I three-putted the first two holes and then I got my stuff together," said Payne, who will compete for the University of Detroit Mercy in the fall. "I used a gap wedge (on the par-3) and hit it softer than I usually would. It went right up on the green. Then I hit it maybe 15 feet into the hole. It felt awesome."

Payne, a Franklin High grad, shot 2-over-par 38 on the back side.

"I had a birdie on a par-5, which was cool, and I had a lot of pars to put it all together," she said.

Kiersten Van Norden, playing with new clubs, carded 83 to take second place.

"I just got them two days ago and I really like them," the South Lyon East High incoming junior said. "I've been practicing a lot."

A highlight came on the par-4 15th hole, where she rolled in a par putt.

"I drove it off the tee into a fairway bunker," Van Norden said. "I used a 4-hybrid to hit out of it and landed just off the green. I did a pitch-and-run with a pitching wedge and it hit the flag stick and landed right next to the hole. So I almost chipped it in."

Van Norden drove the ball almost 230 yards off the 13th tee.

"I got up and down on that hole for par," she said.

Andrew Lack of Northville conquered the Boys 15-18 field with 2-over-par 73. It marked the third time he has shot 73 on the Kensington Junior Tour.

Lack, multiple-time tour winner this summer, started off strong.

"I was hitting good shots and my putter was working, although I had a couple three putts," said the Novi Detroit Catholic Central High junior, who parred the front nine with 35. "I had two birdies, one on the front and one on the back."

"I started off on the back nine with a



Livonia Stevenson High incoming senior Madison Maurier had a hole-in-one at the Whispering Pines Junior Open.

par. I had a double-bogey on No. 11, because I had to punch it out from under the trees and then I three-putted. I bounced back with a birdie after that and parred most of the holes after that."

Wayne Memorial High incoming junior Andrew Aigeltinger hit a spectacular tee shot and drove the par-4 10th green to record a rare eagle.

Aigeltinger, who carded 38 on the back nine, was runner-up with 79.

"I was pretty accurate with my driver today," he said. "It felt pretty good. I started out pretty rough, but got better as I went on."

Novi's Dhruv Kumar overcame "a lot of ups and downs" en route to 83 and a victory in the Boys 12-14 division.

The 12-year-old challenged himself by shooting from the championship tees – tacking 437 yards onto the course – and still managed 40 on the front nine.

"I started with a double-bogey and then bounced back with a birdie on No. 2. I had a decent front nine," Kumar said. "On the back, I started out with a double-(bogey) again. I birdied the fourth or fifth hole, but I didn't close too good. I shot 83 because of that. I had some three-putts and some bad drives."

Howell's Chandler Hollister finished second with 101.

Gearing up for the Kensington Moose Ridge Junior Open on Aug. 8, Pinckney's Nolan Doersch shot 67 to capture the 11-and-under division.



The Taylor Meadows Junior Open top finishers included Novi's Dhruv Kumar (right), who took first, and Howell's Charles Hollister, the runner-up.



The Taylor Meadows Open Girls 15-18 winners included Livonia's Kendall Payne (left), who took first, and South Lyon's Kiersten Van Norden, who was runner-up.



The Taylor Meadows Junior Open Boys 15-18 champs included Northville's Andrew Lack (left), who took first, and Wayne's Andrew Aigeltinger, who was runner-up.

JUNIOR GOLF

Maurier's ace seizes day at Whispering Pines Junior Open

M.B. Dillon
Correspondent

Madison Maurier couldn't have scripted a better day of golf than what she experienced July 27 at the Kensington Junior Tour Whispering Pines Open.

Not only did the incoming Livonia Stevenson High senior record her first hole-in-one, she fired 86 to win the Girls 15-18 age group on the tricky, par-72 Pinckney course.

Her ace came on the 102-yard third hole.

"My playing partner went over, so I clubbed down," Maurier said. "I hit it decent. It hit a ridge on the green. Once it started to go down, I thought it went off the green. My partner was watching my ball and she said, 'You are going to like this.' It was a foot from the pin. I got to see it roll in. It was crazy. When I saw it go in, I was in shock."

Maurier posted three sevens on the front nine, but still carded 45.

"I ended up shooting 41 on the back with almost all fives across the board," the 17-year-old said. "I played decent, even though I was still in shock."

PGA professional Nathan Oake, who directs the Kensington Junior Tour, was surprised as well.

ton Junior Tour, was surprised as well.

"I only remember one hole-in-one in the last 11 years," he said. "So far in the last month, we've had three, which is incredible. People are living right, I guess."

Maurier's dad Matt and sister Sydney, 13, who was competing, were on hand to savor the accomplishment.

"I was happy for the tournament win, but I was ecstatic for the hole-in-one," Matt said. "Some people go their whole lives without one. It's a nice reward for all the hard work Madison has put in the past few years. Syd just wishes she was in the same group to see it."

Alyssa Snider, who will be a senior at Howell High, finished just one shot off the pace for runner-up honors with 87.

Brighton's Brendan Britz, 16, tore it up with 79 to conquer the Boys 15-18 field.

"I feel like I didn't play bad, but I had a lot of unlucky breaks on the hills," said Britz, who was Novi Detroit Catholic Central's No. 1 JV player last year. "I'd make what looked like a good tee shot and I would end up in a bad spot. I had one bad double-bogey on the third hole. I was about 100 yards out

and thought I hit a good wedge shot. It landed in a crevice to the left side of the green, pole high, and it was buried in the grass below my feet."

Britz shot 39 on the front side followed by 40 on the back, highlighted by a birdie on No. 17.

"My putter was better today and I had a couple of bunker shots I hit pretty good," he said. "The course is very hilly and it slopes a lot. If you don't hit it in the right spots, it's a hard course."

Maxwell Grant, who plays hockey and golf at Brighton High, finished in second place with 81.

Brendan Aughe, 13, of Clarkston captured the Boys 12-14 age division a career-best 78, while Novi's Dhruv Kumar was runner-up.

"I drove the ball straight and I still shot 88," Kumar said. "Every second shot, I topped. I made par on the last hole, one of my four pars of the day. The course has tight fairways and the greens are tough to read."

Ann Arbor's Ieuan Jones, 10, captured the nine-hole division with 47, while Hartland's Keller King, 9, was runner-up with 50 as the par-4, No. 5 hole stood out.

Prestwick ladies aid causes



BRENT GOULDING

Fifty-eight women who participated July 14-16 in the Prestwick Village Golf Club Ladies Invitational in Highland helped raised just under \$3,000 to help support two charities, including the Milford High School Golf Scholarship Fund and Shades of Pink. The women hosted a par-3 challenge and a 50/50 drawing each day.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Benham wins Publinx

Novi's Dave Benham shot a low gross round of 73 on the day to win Flight A in the Michigan Publinx Seniors Golf Association tournament held July 23 at Dunham Hills Golf Club in Hartland.

Benham also finished with a low net of 67 in the 10th Publinx senior tourney, which produced 23 winners from a handicapped field of 91 players 50 years and older who represented 17 communities throughout southeast Michigan.

Other winners included: Flight B: Jeffrey Prince, Waterford (76/62); Flight C: Chuck Hirschert, Hartland (83/63); and Flight D: Jerry Shereda, Oxford (96/64).

For more information, go to www.mpsga.org, or call 734-207-7888.

Hole-in-one club

South Lyon's Derek Wilcox used a 5-iron to ace the 182-yard, No. 2 (West Course) hole July 23 at Tanglewood Golf Club.

Nicklaus coming

Jack Nicklaus, the Golden Bear, perhaps the greatest golfer to ever play the game, will be joined by other PGA winners and past U.S. Amateur champions beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15, at Turning Point Invitational at Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The pro-am event, sponsored by PwC and Lear Corp., will help expand Cornerstone Schools' goal to educate 5,000 children in Detroit. Gallery passes are available for \$125.

Also scheduled to play are Mark O'Meara, Tom Lehman, Matt Kuchar, Jerry Pate, Fred Ridley, Gary Koch, Andy Bean, William McGirt,

John Harris and Nathaniel Crosby.

Nicklaus will also appear beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14, at Country Club of Detroit for a dinner and evening of golf memories sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. Seating is limited and dinner with Nicklaus is \$2,500 (includes one gallery pass).

For more information or to donate, call 313-662-7575.

Women's scramble

The Golf Association of Michigan is celebrating its 100th Michigan Women's Amateur (Aug. 8-12) at Spring Meadows Country Club, 1129 Ripley Road, Linden.

In conjunction with the tournament, the Michigan Women's Golf Association will host a breakfast and scramble Monday, Aug. 8, followed by a dinner and program at Tyrone Hills Golf Course, 8449 Old U.S. 23, in Fenton.

Many past Michigan Women's Amateur champions will be featured on a video depicting the 100-year history of the event.

Among the featured panel of champions are moderator Joan Garety, Shirley Spork, Joyce Kazmierski, Patti Shook Boice, Mary Jane Anderson Heistand, Stacy Slobodnik Stoll and Allyson Geer, last year's winner.

For more information about the MWGA, go to www.mwgolf.org.

Baseball tryout

The West Oakland Wings travel baseball team is expanding the roster for its 15-and-under team for the 2017 season.

For more information or to schedule a private workout, call Jeremy Krol at 248-830-2307.

BOUGHTON

Continued from Page B1

golf two seasons.

Boughton went on to play two seasons at Adrian College before a knee injury sidelined him his final two years. He remained connected with the program as a coaching assistant before graduating with a B.A. degree in criminal justice.

"That really helped me out and that's where I learned how to coach," said Boughton, who after graduation took a job with the Wyoming Department of Corrections.

Boughton, who has been coaching lacrosse for almost

a decade, started with the South Lyon youth lacrosse eighth-grade team before moving over to the unified program, which consists of players South Lyon and South Lyon East high schools.

"It's always been a goal of mine to get to the varsity level, especially with South Lyon," said Boughton, who is a plumber and pipe fitter for Local 190 in Ann Arbor. "I lived in South Lyon for 27 years. My grandparents have been here for 42, so South Lyon is in the blood. We'll keep the face of it nice and tight. It's just a pretty cool, humble feeling."

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COLLEGE SPORTS

Schoolcraft College fishing club is the ‘reel’ deal

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

In a modern-day “David vs. Goliath” showdown, diminutive Schoolcraft College actually tied mighty Big Ten powerhouse Penn State University in an athletic event last month — and that’s no fish story.

Well, actually it is a fish story, given that the eye-opening draw unfolded on Lake Chautauqua in upstate New York during a College Fishing Western Conference event.

The Schoolcraft Fishing Club’s duo of Anthony Gilmore and C.J. Hatton reeled in five bass with a combined weight of 13 pounds, 3 ounces — the iden-

tical result registered by Nittany Lions Derek Horner and Clayton Frey.

The Ocelots ultimately came out on the short end of a fine-print, tie-breaking formula — Penn State entered the tournament before Schoolcraft, thus, giving it the first-place prize of \$2,000 — but it didn’t diminish the performance of Gilmore and Hatton, who earned a second-place prize of \$1,000, which will be deposited into the two-year-old club’s bank account.

There were 64 boats (with two fishermen per craft) entered in the event, making the Ocelots’ effort even more impressive.

“It’s pretty intense waiting

for all the boats to come in when you’re in first place like we were,” Gilmore said. “Our flight (there were four flights of 16 boats) came in around the middle, so we had to wait a while. You just keep your fingers crossed and hope for the best.”

Gilmore, a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, founded the club in 2015. Hatton is a graduate of South Lyon High School.

The team also includes Garrett Paquette of Canton, Zach Fadden of Plymouth and Shamus O’Hare.

“In order to compete in the FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) college tournaments, you

have to be recognized by your school, so I approached someone in the student activities department at Schoolcraft and they agreed to do it,” Gilmore said. “Schools aren’t restricted as far as the number of participants they can enter in a tournament; it’s just a matter of having enough boats.”

The Ocelots have two boats at their disposal — both owned by members of the team. The newer of the two vessels carried a price tag in the neighborhood of \$60,000, Gilmore said.

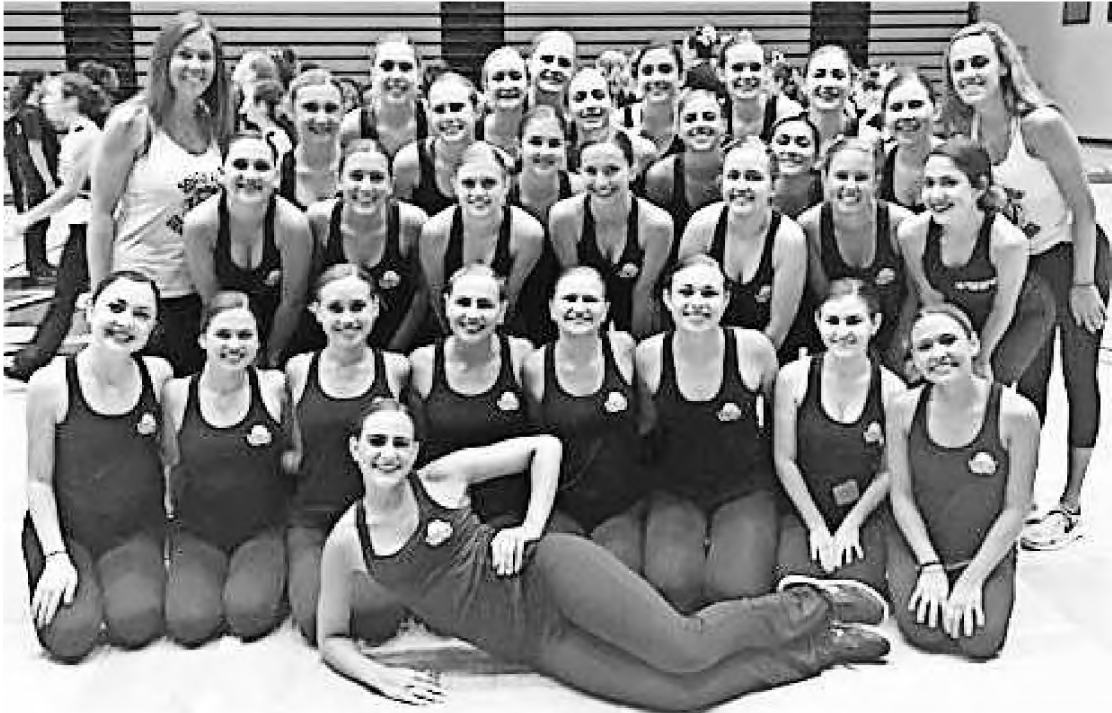
“The best advice I’d give to a young kid who is thinking about getting serious about fishing is to join a youth club like I did,”

Gilmore said. “You really have to get dialed into your equipment, too. A bad cast is a wasted cast and time management is important, because you’re only out there eight hours. There’s a lot involved, including line sizes and weights. And decision-making is really important.”

College Fishing is free to enter. All participants must be registered, full-time students at a college, university or community college and members of a college fishing club.

Gilmore said the club has received sponsorships from Lesley Hodge of Remax, Chris at Lagoon Marine, Mizmo Baits and Cruncher Baits.

Lyon pom excels



DONNA JAKUBIK

Under head coach Katee Buddenborg and assistant Emily Thomas, the 2016-17 South Lyon High School varsity pom squad earned a first place for original performance and seconds in kick line and speed learning at the Mid American Pom camp held June 25-28 at Davenport University in Grand Rapids. Team members include: seniors Callie Manasco (captain), Leah McIlreavy (captain), Brittany Zabinski (captain), Lauren Bunker, Jessica Ellis, Olivia O’Connell, Natalie Perrone, Caroline Perry, Lauren Savanyu and Sydney Smith; juniors Emma Campbell, Katie Jakubik, Bailey Papich, Jenna Potter and Lexi Resnick; sophomores Evelyn Arnold, Caroline Badrak, Ashley Cox, Kamdyn Price, Nina Ravindran, Bella Ruddy, Molly Thomas and Taylor Vitori; and freshmen Emily Manriquez, Izzie McKercher, Shannon Richardson, Jenna Stanfield, Lilliana Vangelov and Kimberly Wyman.

Pom All-Stars



DONNA JAKUBIK

Ten members of the South Lyon varsity pom squad earned spots on the 2016-17 Mid American All-Stars Team June 25-28 at Davenport University in Grand Rapids: Jenna Potter, Kamdyn Price, Molly Thomas, Caroline Badrak, Bella Ruddy, Caroline Perry, Callie Manasco, Brittany Zabinski, Leah McIlreavy and Lauren Savanyu.

SCHMITT

Continued from Page B1

Personal

Looking through Schmitt’s Instagram account, there is no indication that something was once wrong. She wears a friendly smile in many of the photos. Other images show beautiful scenery, swimming pools, family and friends.

What the photos do not display is the pain that Schmitt was hiding. She kept that to herself.

“To me, it seems like everything has gone right in my life,” Schmitt said. “I’ve had a perfect family, perfect friends, I graduated from college, I had successes in my sport. Everything seemed to be going right and something didn’t feel right. And I didn’t understand. I didn’t think depression. I didn’t think that was even a possibility.”



Schmitt

It turned out to be a reality. Schmitt began to struggle emotionally after the 2012 Olympics. Fearing that she would sound ungrateful, she did not talk about her feelings.

“She kind of went through every day just feeling like she had to go through it, not because she wanted to go through it,” said Michael Phelps, one of Schmitt’s closest friends.

The depression affected Schmitt’s swimming. Since the 2012 Olympics, she has not competed at a major international competition.

“She was so far down, really struggling both in her performances and also outside of the pool,” said Bob Bowman, Schmitt’s coach at North Baltimore Aquatic Club. “It was a very long process to work through those issues.”

At a meet in Austin, Texas, in January 2015, Phelps approached Schmitt. Phelps and Schmitt have trained with each other for 10 years and Bowman says the two are “like brother and sister.”

Phelps could see that Schmitt wasn’t herself. The 22-time Olympic medalist told her that he would listen when she was ready to talk about her feelings. If she didn’t want to open up to him, he would find someone else to help her.

Schmitt remembers beginning to cry on the pool deck.

“The way he said that really

got to me,” she said.

Two days later, Schmitt was on her way to a psychologist. Schmitt’s mood began to improve and she realized that asking for help was not a sign of weakness.

Going public

After her cousin died by suicide in May 2015, Schmitt has made her struggles known to the public. She hopes it can help others going through similar struggles.

“It’s OK to not be OK,” she said. “It’s OK to ask for help and I think asking for help shows that you’re human, shows that you’re strong. Because I think life is a bigger thing than anything we’ve ever experienced and it’s something that we can’t get through alone and we’ll always have to ask for help, in some sense.”

When Bowman took the head coaching job at Arizona State, Schmitt and Phelps moved with him to continue their training. The two swimmers live together in Tempe, along with Phelps’ fiancé and son.

Like Schmitt, Phelps has also gone through rough times since the London Games. He went to rehab after a DUI and has been public about his emotional struggles. Now, the two are able to help each other.

“I can trust him with anything,” Schmitt said. “I’m able to ask him for help and I think that now we both have good days, we both have bad days. We’re able to see that in each other and help each other out. Sometimes, I think that he can read me more than I know myself.”

“Her and I are pretty much an open book for one another,” Phelps added. “If I’m in a bad mood and she sees it, it’s kind of like she cries whatever it is out at me. And it’s the same for her. She pretty much wears it across her forehead and I can always tell when something’s going on.

Bowman agrees that Schmitt and Phelps’ friendship is mutually beneficial. He said that the two hold each other accountable and are supportive.

Phelps feels that he and Schmitt are both bad about compartmentalizing their problems and it’s something that they help each other with.

“I think I’ve kind of helped her make sure that she gets everything in the open and doesn’t sit on it and let it keep eating her until she kind of puts herself in a dark hole again,” he said. “I think that’s someplace

that neither of us want to get back to.”

Looking back at what Schmitt has gone through, Bowman notices major changes.

“She’s just so much more at peace now,” Bowman said. “And I think she’s learned quite a bit about herself, about life, and has been able to deal with some very difficult things in a very positive way.”

Rio de Janeiro

Moments after touching the wall in the 200-meter freestyle at 2016 Olympic Trials, Schmitt smiled and grabbed Katie Ledecky’s outstretched hand. The two hugged. It was official: They would be teammates at the Rio Olympic Games.

Schmitt finished fourth in the event, giving her a spot on the 800-meter freestyle relay with Ledecky, Missy Franklin and Leah Smith.

“Just looking up and knowing that I’m going to yet again represent the U.S. at my third Olympic Games was definitely happy tears,” Schmitt said. “I was grateful that I was able to share it with the people that have helped me get to where I am today.”

Though Schmitt won the 200-meter freestyle at the 2012 Olympics with an American record, she will not swim the event in Rio, as only the top two finishers at Olympic trials qualify. While she would have liked to defend her title, she is excited for the relay.

Schmitt enters the games with six Olympic medals — three gold — and has a good chance to add to her total in Rio. The foursome of Ledecky, Franklin, Smith and Schmitt is a heavy favorite in the 800-meter freestyle relay and they have a legitimate shot at setting a world record.

Bowman, who is also head coach for the U.S. men’s team, feels good about the relay’s chances in Rio. He has watched Schmitt practice going into the Olympics and likes what he has seen.

“She’s training very, very well,” he said. “She’s in a good place mentally, so I feel good about it.”

Like Bowman, Phelps believes Schmitt is in a good place going into Rio.

“She’s positive, she’s happy, she is swimming well,” he said. “And that’s when she swims her best, is when she’s in a good mood.”

Schmitt also qualified for the 400-meter freestyle relay team and is “ecstatic” about

having the chance to compete in two of the three relays at the Olympics.

“I love relays,” she said. “I think it’s so much more fun when there’s a team of four of you going into the ready room and swimming together and cheering around. We all know all the dedication, sacrifices we’ve made throughout the years and to be able to come together and represent your country together is an amazing feeling.”

It is likely that Schmitt will leave Brazil with two new medals, adding to her already impressive resume.

Bauerle says her veteran presence will be vital in Rio.

“To have her on the relays, the experience of her on the relays, is a little bit comforting for all of us,” he said. “She’s such a great team person.”

Helping others

Bauerle, who will serve as an assistant coach for Team USA at the Olympics, remembers Schmitt’s personality on the Georgia team. He can look back on her leadership and strength in and out of the pool.

“She’s an amazing person,” he said. “She was the star of our team, but she didn’t act like it and she was as friendly to the best kids on the team as she was to the (other) swimmers on the team. It didn’t really matter to her.”

Schmitt’s caring personality didn’t stop once she graduated. She has continued to lead and was named a captain of the women’s Olympic team.

“She’s a very positive influence on people around her,” Bowman said. “She’s very sensitive to how other people feel and, if she senses somebody needs some help, she’s the first one to offer it. And she’s also a good example of what to do and how to behave and how to go about your business on these national team trips.”

Bowman has noticed Schmitt help first-time Olympians like Abbey Weitzel and Caeleb Dressel.

Bauerle says that he and Bowman weren’t the only people happy that Schmitt made the team. He feels her experience and personality will be invaluable to the swimmers around her.

“I think the biggest gift she has is just making others feel good,” he said. “She’s great; she’s great for this team.”

Bowman does not hesitate to say that Schmitt is one of the best female swimmers in American history.

“Not only will she have three Olympic Games on her resume, but she’ll have a very impressive medal tally,” he said.

“Even if she doesn’t win a medal this time, it would be impressive. But I have a feeling she’s going to add to that maybe a couple times.”

Legacy

Bauerle is constantly reminded of Schmitt’s legacy at Georgia. A donor endowed a scholarship to the school in her name and Bauerle expects her to someday be inducted into the school’s Circle of Honor.

The Bulldogs coach calls swimming a rugged sport. He feels that it’s a grind and that success is nearly impossible without hard work and dedication. He sees Schmitt’s longevity in the sport as an accomplishment.

“If you make it (to the Olympics) one time, you’re a great swimmer,” Bauerle said. “If you make it twice, you’re exceptional. If you make it three times, it’s an absolute achievement.”

Coaches have a tremendous impact on athletes, but Bauerle says that athletes help the coaches grow, too. He describes Schmitt as fun to coach and is thankful for the attention she has brought the Bulldogs’ program.

For Schmitt, each trip to the Olympics is unique. She has her eyes on making the podium, but she sees the experience at the Games as something more than success in the pool.

“Looking back at the past two Olympics, the memories I have ... (are) beyond medals or records and more the friendship and the memories that we’ve created with our teammates,” she said. “I’m looking forward to the journey.”

At age 26, Rio is likely the last stop in Schmitt’s Olympic journey. Through all the medals and records, all the disappointments and failures, Bowman is thankful he had the chance to coach Schmitt.

“Allison is just such a great representative of the sport and one of the most special people I know,” Bowman said. “It’s just been an honor, really, to have coached her for so long. It’s just a thrill for me to be able to help her go to one more Olympics and I’m really excited for what happens next for her, because I think she’s got a good plan and has her life in a very good place.”

Peter Baugh is a student journalist at the University of Missouri.



Novi Mayor Bob Gatt joins Jeff and Theresa Wainwright last month as they open up a 500-seat pavilion at their Paradise Park business on Grand River Avenue. Construction of the pavilion, which will be available for rental, began three months ago.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paradise Park adds banquet facility in Novi

Paradise Park in Novi continues to expand its offerings to the public.

Its newly-constructed banquet facility offers an additional 5,000 square feet of luxurious event space, with a patio, two fireplaces and a full-service bar, offering the perfect setting for events and socialization. Menu options range from gourmet to casual, with or without private bar service.

Paradise Park is open year-round, offering fun for the whole family with both indoor and outdoor venues. The facility features an award-winning 18-hole miniature golf course, simulation spaceship, formula-style go kart track, a kiddie go kart track, 26-foot climbing walls, Olympic-style trampoline center, automated soccer cages, an interactive laser tag arena, AMF mini bowling, an awesome arcade center, restaurant, bar and party rooms.

It also hosts group



Paradise Park's new pavilion.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

events, from birthday parties and field trips to corporate events and wedding rehearsals. It can accommodate as many as 2,500 guests. Business officials said Paradise Park is the only entertainment center that is 100-percent handicapped compliant.

Owners Jeff and Theresa Wainwright said they are very excited for the opportunities the pavilion offers to both Paradise Park and the community.

Paradise Park has received numerous awards, including Best Entertainment Facility by the Novi News, Best Amusement Facility by WDIV-TV (Channel 4), Best Place To Go While Vacationing in Novi by Novi Patch and Best Miniature Golf by Click on Detroit.

Paradise Park (paradiseparknovi.com) is at 45799 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Call 248-735-1050 for more information.

Reverse mortgage works for some, but not everyone

I recently received an article from a reader who asked my opinion on it. The article was about reverse mortgages; in general, the article was very critical. The reader was contemplating getting a reverse mortgage, but was very concerned about what he read and questioned whether he should or not.

The gist of the article was that a reverse mortgage is a sham and no one should get one. The article cited three people who did get a reverse mortgage and then, a few years later, lost their home. As I read the article, one thing that was clear to me was that in each of those scenarios, the people were not good candidates for reverse mortgages. As far as I was concerned, they should not have gotten a reverse mortgage.

A reverse mortgage is not for everyone, I would certainly agree. In fact, all the reputable people I know in the reverse mortgage industry would also agree. However, the article basically said that reverse mortgages should be avoided at all costs and that is something I don't agree with. A reverse mortgage can, when used correctly,



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

be a very effective financial tool that benefits seniors. On the other hand, when a reverse mortgage is not used correctly, problems will develop.

In today's world, we are bombarded with offers, deals and opportunities. All too often, because of the nature of sales and advertising, it appears that every one of these products or deals is good for everyone. When it comes to the financial world, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Everything depends upon your individual situation. For example, one mutual fund may fit your situation while that same mutual fund would be inappropriate for your next-door neighbor.

When it comes to personal finance, everything is dependent upon your individual situation. Never let anyone tell you that some investment, product or strategy fits everyone, because it does not. When it comes to personal finance, everything is always depen-

dent upon your individual situation and your goals and objectives.

As to a reverse mortgage, when does it make sense? They make sense for people who plan to be in their homes long term and need some extra cash either to retire debt (such as pay off a mortgage) or for someone who needs some extra cash flow to maintain their lifestyle. On the other hand, a reverse mortgage doesn't make sense if you're going to use the money for investment purposes such as buying an annuity or use the proceeds to loan to someone.

Like all financial products and strategies, it is important to use them wisely. For something like a reverse mortgage, it is important that you take your time, not let salespeople push you in one direction and never be afraid to seek independent advice. Remember, time is on your side and nothing has to be done yesterday.

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

Schostak to host fundraiser for JDRF

TEAM Schostak Family Restaurants, a Michigan-based family-owned restaurant group, is helping to fight Type 1 diabetes by hosting a statewide Dine to Donate event Thursday, Aug. 18. The event will take place at all of TSFR's Michigan

Applebee's, Olga's Kitchen, MOD Pizza and Del Taco restaurants, with the funds benefiting the JDRF (formerly known as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation).

Throughout the day, 10 percent of all food sales from TSFR owned and

operated 66 Applebee's, 25 Olga's Kitchen, five MOD Pizza and four Del Taco restaurants will be donated to JDRF.

For more information, as well as a complete list of all TSFR restaurant locations and hours, go to www.teamschostak.com.

American Girl to open temporary location

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

No more trips to Chicago for the latest American Doll accessories.

The popular premium brand of dolls is coming to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, but don't wait too long to stop in. The storefront won't last forever.

American Doll is opening this weekend and there's an opening weekend celebration Saturday and Sunday.

Kids will receive a free gift and craft while supplies last and can enter to win Lea, American Girl's 2016 Girl of the Year. Kids and adults are invited to grab their favorite doll and head over to the store to help welcome it to the community.

Officials said the American Girl store will remain open until early 2017.

American Girl is a premium brand for girls and a wholly owned

subsidiary of Mattel, Inc. Headquartered in Middleton, Wis., American Girl offers a world of dolls, experiences and entertainment to empower and unite girls of all ages. www.americanangirl.com.

Twelve Oaks Mall is a major regional shopping center located at the intersection of three major highways, I-96, I-696 and I-275, at Novi and 12 Mile roads in Novi. Go to www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

Casa Loma development opens

Interphase Land Development of Novi, in partnership with Lake Michigan Credit Union, recently held the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newest development, Casa Loma in Novi. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included owner David Compo with his wife Michele, his brother and business partner for Compo Builders, Chris Compo, with wife Lisa and Novi Mayor Bob Gatt.

Members of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Northville Chamber of Commerce, building industry peers, prospective and current clients, as well as area Realtors, were also in attendance. Food and beverages were catered by Steve & Rocky's of Novi.

Casa Loma, a private, gated community of 10 exclusive lots on 15 acres, is the longest boulevard neighborhood in southeast Michigan. Adjacent to the presti-



Chris Compo (from left), Michele and David Compo, Novi Mayor Bob Gatt and Lisa Compo at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Casa Loma.

gious Bellagio community on the west side of Beck Road, between Nine and Eight Mile roads, it offers wooded lots, private sidewalks, west-facing garages, north/south orientation to the homes, fountains, ponds and water features throughout. It includes a wetland-protected preserve, underground utilities and is close to major freeways, schools, shopping,

hospitals, fine dining and entertainment venues.

Each home will be custom designed by award-winning architect Todd Hallett, president of TK Design and Architecture. Other architects may be allowed to submit home designs for developer approval.

For more information on Casa Loma lot availabilities, call 248-513-4170 or go to www.compoinc.com.

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The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit will hold its annual Housing Leadership Awards on Sept. 22.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Fair housing director: ‘We encourage people to participate in conversation’

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit will hold its 19th annual Housing Leadership Awards on Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Federal Reserve Conference Center, 1600 E. Warren Ave. in Detroit. Advance sale tickets are needed to attend, with information available online at www.fairhousingdetroit.org. The Fair Housing Center can be reached at 313-963-1274 or on Facebook. Photo ID will be needed for those attending the Sept. 22 awards dinner. “We encourage people to visit us on our Facebook,” said Margaret L.M. Brown, who’s served as the center’s executive director since 2013. “That’s a good way for them to keep up to date. We encourage people to participate in the conversation.” Brown, who holds a law degree from the former Thomas M. Cooley Law School, now part of Western Michigan University, noted the website isn’t updated as frequently as Facebook. On Sept. 22, James Bush of the Detroit Metropolitan Apartment Association will receive the Leadership Award. Attorney Otto J. Hetzel and William Eargle Jr. will receive the Clifford C.

Schrupp Award. Cheryl Bukoff will receive the Marvin Thomas Service Award. “Its purpose is twofold,” Brown said of the dinner, which is a fundraiser. “We strive to recognize people who have had a significant contribution.” That includes civil rights and liberties, she said, including those active “who meant something to the whole area on a national scale.” Brown noted attorney Hetzel worked for the federal government, and was a key figure in the earlier fair housing efforts nationally. The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children, the website of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development notes. According to the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit website, the evidence from the housing discrimination complaints filed with FHCMD by home seekers, from the “testing” conducted



Brown

by the FHCMD, and from the statements provided by many housing providers who support fair housing laws and are willing to step forward to help expose violations of those laws, demonstrates that practices of unlawful housing discrimination continue and the services of FHCMD are needed. “We enforce housing discrimination law and train people on what the law is,” Brown said. Of any improvements in fair housing awareness in the real estate field, she finds, “Generally, no.” Real estate industry staffers “seem to think it’s a thing of the past and it is not. The need’s still there. There’s still a lot of discrimination. We get cases involving mortgage applications, mortgage refinancing.” She and center colleagues hear more about rental discrimination cases, “more obvious, I think, to the consumer,” Brown said. She noted mortgage denial is harder to prove. “You know that there’s something wrong” if an apartment visited by testers is still advertised the next week, she said. “There’s a lot of work still to do,” added Brown, noting the center served about 100 people last year. “We could have served more if they

knew we existed,” she said. On April 27, the Fair Housing Center hosted its annual Attorney Appreciation Awards at the Detroit Historical Museum on Woodward. This year’s honorees were attorney John A. Obee and Judge Linda V. Parker. Each April, in recognition of national Fair Housing Month, the FHCMD holds its annual bench and bar awards reception honoring both judiciary and trial lawyers. Those interested in attending next April’s event should call 313-963-1274 or email info@fairhousingdetroit.org. The FHCMD website says, by law, to rent, purchase or obtain financing or insurance for housing without discrimination based upon race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, marital, familial or disability status. Both State of Michigan and federal laws apply to the actions of owners, real estate brokers or agents, apartment managers, cooperatives, condominiums, mortgage lenders, appraisers or residential insurers, and they prohibit, with few exceptions, any differences in treatment based on any of the protected characteristics, the website adds.

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Twitter: @248Julie

Pit bull as support animal may stand legal test

Q: I am trying to rent a unit in an apartment building and I told the landlord that I need an emotional support animal, which happens to be a pit bull. The landlord seems to be suggesting that his policy is not to allow pit bulls in the apartment. Do I have any standing?

A: Yes, you certainly do, if you can establish that you need an emotional support animal even though it is a pit bull. By way of example, a recent case out of New Jersey, on similar facts, found that a pit bull used as an emotional support animal may not be barred based on the breed, but rather, the landlord must make an individual assessment of the specific service animal’s conduct. In that regard, the court referenced the fact that whether an accommodation is reasonable is a question of fact determined by a close examination of the particulars of the circumstances.

The court further stated that whether the tenant’s specific pit bull poses a direct threat that cannot be mitigated by another reasonable accommodation is distinctly a question of fact and that such factual assessment might determine that the dog has no aggressive or socialization issues. The court then acknowledged that allowing a pit bull to remain on the premises was a potentially reasonable accommodation.

In short, your landlord cannot base his decision on pure conjecture without a substantial evidential basis. You are best advised to retain an attorney familiar this type of law to assist you in dealing with the landlord.

Q: We own a two-acre piece of property and our neighbor has been using a dirt road over our property for about 16 years. The neighbor is now selling his house and refuses to have an agreement with us in terms who is responsible for the maintenance of that roadway which he continues to expand. What can we do?

A: It is important that you iron out the legal details with your neighbor before he sells his house and give him or her notice that you will make a legal issue out of it, including the institution of legal proceedings to assert your rights as it relates to that driveway/roadway before he sells his house. You need to be concerned about adverse possession, an easement by necessity and other legal theories that he or his successor in interest may assert, and it is better to get the matter resolved now rather than later.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of “Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium.” He is also the author of “Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track,” second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn’t be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Benefit Estate Sale

Hall & Hunter Realtors will hold its 13th annual Estate Sale of Antiques, Collectibles and Treasures to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Hall & Hunter Realtors, 442 S. Old Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. All year long, Hall & Hunter Realtors collect antiques, gently used furniture and collectibles. Since Hall & Hunter started this tradition 11 years ago, the firm has donated \$250,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County. Sponsored by: Changing Places Moving Company, Devon Title Agency, Stefek’s Auctioneers & Appraisers, Bank of Birmingham. For more information, visit HallandHunter.com or call 248-644-3500.

Home sales in U.S. climb a bit, including Midwest

Pending home sales were mostly unmoved in June, but did creep slightly higher as supply and affordability constraints prevented a bigger boost in activity from mortgage rates that lingered near all-time lows through most of the month, according to the National Association of Realtors. Increases in the Northeast and Midwest were offset by declines in the South and West. The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, inched 0.2 percent to 111.0 in June from 110.8 in May and is now 1.0 percent higher than June 2015 (109.9). With last month’s minor improvement, the index is now at its second highest reading over the past 12 months, but is noticeably down from this year’s peak level in April (115.0). Lawrence Yun, NAR chief

economist, says a solid bump in activity in the Northeast pulled up pending sales modestly in June. “With only the Northeast region having an adequate supply of homes for sale, the reoccurring dilemma of strained supply causing a run-up in home prices continues to play out in several markets, leading to the last two months reflecting a slight, early summer cool-down after a very active spring,” he said. “Unfortunately for prospective buyers trying to take advantage of exceptionally low mortgage rates, housing inventory at the end of last month was down almost 6 percent from a year ago, and home prices are showing little evidence of slowing to a healthier pace that more closely mirrors wage and income growth.” Adds Yun, “Until inventory

conditions markedly improve, far too many prospective buyers are likely to run into situations of either being priced out of the market or outbid on the very few properties available for sale.” One noteworthy and positive development occurring in the housing market during the first half of the year, according to Yun, is that sales to investors have subsided from a high of 18 percent in February to a low of 11 percent in June. Yun attributes this retreat to the diminished number of distressed properties coming onto the market at any given time and the ascent in home prices, which have now risen year-over-year for 52 consecutive months. In spite of the slight slowdown in contract signings from April’s peak high, existing-home sales this year are still expected to be around

5.44 million, a 3.6-percent boost from 2015 and the highest annual pace since 2006 (6.48 million). After accelerating to 6.8 percent a year ago, national median existing-home price growth is forecast to slightly moderate to around 4 percent. **Regional breakdown** The PHSI in the Northeast advanced 3.2 percent to 96.0 in June, and is now 1.7 percent above a year ago. In the Midwest the index increased 0.8 percent to 108.9 in June, and is now 1.6 percent higher than June 2015. Pending home sales in the South decreased modestly (0.6 percent) to an index of 125.9 in June but are still 1.8 percent higher than last June. The index in the West declined 1.3 percent in June to 101.3, and is now 1.8 percent below a year ago.

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Take steps toward better communication

BY MARY LORENZ
CAREERBUILDER

Look under the list of requirements on almost any job advertisement posted today, and you will inevitably see some variation of this phrase: "strong communication skills."

The ability to communicate effectively is an in-demand skill in any professional setting. In a 2014 CareerBuilder survey, employers named "effective communicator" among the 10 most important soft skills they look for in prospective employees. It isn't difficult to see why this skill is so highly regarded: Poor communication in the workplace has been shown to slow down productivity, hurt morale and even take a toll on business.

But while communication is one of the most crucial business skills a person can have, very few of us receive formal training for it. Whether you're new to the workforce or have years of experience under your belt, taking steps to improve your communication skills is always a worthwhile endeavor.

You will build stronger relationships with colleagues and clients and be more effective at your job as a result. Follow these tips from career experts to become a better communicator.

Err on the side of communicating too much. Communication is one of the few areas where less does not equal more. "There is no such thing as being too clear," says Meg O'Hara, a communications specialist with A. Bright Idea, a California-based public relations firm. "Practice over-communicating in all instances and avenues to make sure your message is delivered."

Know your audience. To be effective, it's important to understand that communication styles vary among individuals. "Most of the conflicts I have seen in the workplace that are the result of poor communication really stem from communicating in a way that we would want to be communicated with, as opposed to truly understanding how the person



THINKSTOCK

we are interacting with wants to be communicated with," says James Sudakow, author of the book "Picking the Low-Hanging Fruit ... and Other Stupid Stuff We Say in the Corporate World."

Check in early and often. The best way to ensure that you are communicating clearly is simply to ask. Sudakow has avoided confusion by saying, "Here is how I typically communicate. Does that work for you? If not, what are your preferences?"

Not only does this approach tell you what you need to know, but it shows you are considerate of the other person.

Stay away from jargon. In the corporate world, certain companies, teams or industries have their own language — something we tend to forget when speaking with "outsiders." Be aware of any idiosyncratic terms, corporate jargon and acronyms you may be using, which can create an unnecessary boundary to communication, Sudakow advises. Speak as generally and "normally" as possible.

Practice active listening. "The most important aspect of communication isn't actually speaking — it's listening," says Sabrina Balmick, a marketing manager at the recruiting firm ACA Talent. She says people often get so caught up in waiting for their turns to speak, they don't actually hear what the other person just said. To prevent that, try active listening. Paraphrase what you've

just heard to the speaker and ask if you've understood correctly.

Help them help you understand.

If you are having trouble understanding what a colleague is trying to say or ask of you, don't just say, "I don't understand," O'Hara advises. Go further and try to identify exactly what it is that is confusing you. "This can avoid talking in circles and promotes a solution," O'Hara says.

It can also help to ask open-ended questions to draw out more information, says Leigh Espy, a workforce-management expert who provides leadership advice on her blog, projectbliss.net. A question as simple as, "Can you share more about that?" not only invites others to elaborate on their ideas, it also shows you are genuinely interested in what they have to say.

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

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Car Report

MINI Goes Big with Olympics Advertising Campaign, ‘Takes the States’ Tour and Large Footprint of Clubman



By Dale Buss

MINI's brand seems to be thriving, but its U.S. sales sure could use a boost. That's where the car brand's new advertising campaign featuring American Olympians could come in handy.

So is the latest version of its "MINI Takes the States" group-drive and promotion.

In an extension of the "Defy Labels" platform that MINI launched during a Super Bowl ad this year featuring the iconoclastic actor Harvey Keitel, as well as athletes Abby Wambach and Serena Williams, and others, the BMW-owned marque has shot eight commercials featuring U.S. Olympians such as boxer Claressa Shields, swimmer Cullen Jones -- and, again, Williams.

The commonality is that each of these athletes has defied labels, and early expectations, and has succeeded on his or her own terms, just like the brand. Rugby player Carlin Isles, for instance, was a "special-ed kid," and volleyballer Jake Gibb is a two-time survivor of cancer.

"We figured we'd really like 'Defy Labels' to carry on throughout the



MINI counts on the spacious Clubman to counter its tiny-car image

year and have a consistent message because it was very successful coming out of the Super Bowl," Tom Noble, head of MINI brand communications, told me. "And we figured there were probably a lot of Olympians who had stories about defying labels to get where they were going."

While MINI's bring arguably is as well-defined as ever, MINI sales could use a boost from associating with the imminent games in Rio de Janeiro -- or from anything else. At at time of \$2-a-gallon gasoline and no prominent news from MINI on the new-product front, its sales were down in the U.S. by 17 percent for the first half of 2016.

I talked with Noble about the Olympics and the MINI Takes the States tour that just concluded this week, a biennial trek which attracted a record 4,000-plus MINI owners over two weeks as it moved from the Atlanta Motor Speedway around the country to end in Palm Springs, Calif.

Q: Where did you come up with the insight to apply your "Defy Labels" positioning to an Olympics campaign? Was it the natural outcome of looking for more places to use this campaign idea, or were you committed to marketing via the Olympics and the fit made sense?

Tom Noble: There was no commitment to the Olympics. There's a BMW Group commitment but I had no obligation to do things with the Olympics. But with the Super Bowl ad, we had over 40 million views online and an increase in brand consideration.

So we were looking for opportunities. Last year we weren't thinking about the Olympics as a vehicle. Then after the Super Bowl we said what other potential opportunities do we have? What other tentpoles? And the Olympics



MINI and owners celebrate completion of the latest "MINI Takes the States" tour.

came up. And the BMW relationship gives us access to a relationship with the US Olympic Committee.

Q: As a marketer investing in the games in Brazil, are you concerned about any of the reported problems and background noise surrounding them? They seem to exceed, say, the runup to London 2012, where there were concerns about terrorism but not many other things.

Noble: London was a dream run; Sydney [2000 Summer Games] was really easy. When you think about the last Olympics that had issues of getting things fixed and done on time it was Athens in 2004. What normally happens is there's a giant rush up to the Olympics; everyone is concerned; and then the world gets together for two weeks and celebrates how good humans can be. Those problems get fixed. Our hope is that happens again.

Q: What is your take on MINI Takes the States. What does that do for the brand?

Noble: It's the sixth time we've done it and we started it 10 years ago. We had the highest level of participation we've had. Nine hundred people registered to go the full distance. The level of interest in the brand and in driving doesn't seemed to have cooled off; if anything it's gone in the other direction.

From a brand point of view it does a couple of things. When you have a lot of MINIs rolling into a market that may not have seen a lot of them in the past, you have an instant boost in awareness and interest in what's going on here. MINI has always had a strong community of owners. Most owners didn't know each other, but by the end of it they did and got along. It's a way to talk to that community and get a lot of like-minded people, if people who are not alike demographically.

It's hard to pin a MINI driver down on how old they are and where they live. It's much easier to pin them down on mindset: "Defy Labels."

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- Two pages of ideas and advice for having a great garage sale
- Coupon for a FREE 4-square Buddy's Pizza
- Printable Price Stickers
- Buddy's Pizza food discount card

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- Four bedroom, two and half bathroom on 3.03 Acres
- Dream kitchen with granite counter tops and custom cabinets
- Beautiful master suite with claw foot tub
- 30 foot natural fireplace wrapped in stone

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Beautiful Cape Cod!

- Three bedroom, three and half bathroom with amazing views
- Gourmet kitchen with seating island and cozy nook
- Finished walk out with family room, game zone, wet bar and full bathroom
- Beautiful landscaped with two decks and stamped patio

MLS 216065653 248.684.1065 \$449,000

Charming Colonial!

- Four bedroom, two and half bathroom on 10 acres
- Rosewood floors, see through fireplace, Silestone Quartz counter tops
- Two Outbuildings- One Pole Barn (32 x40)
- A Must See!

MLS 216059086 248.684.1065 \$479,900

Move in Ready Condo!

- Two bedroom, two bathroom with covered balcony
- Master bedroom with walk in closet
- Private entry front and one car garage
- A Must See

MLS 216062494 248.684.1065 \$175,000

Gorgeous Colonial is Desirable Mystic Ridge!

- Five bedrooms, four and half bathroom
- Move in ready with updates throughout
- Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, wood floors and large island
- Spacious back yard with private patio

MLS 216073376 248.684.1065 \$424,900

Immaculate Home!

- Four bedrooms, two and half bathroom, beautiful Colonial
- Kitchen with new granite and hardwood floors
- Master bedroom with huge walk-in closet and private bath
- Great private yard

MLS 216071707 248.684.1065 \$324,900

Beautiful Colonial in Desirable Subdivision!

- Four bedroom, two and bathroom
- Open floor plan, updated kitchen
- Master suite with walk in closet and soaking tub
- Stamped concrete patio with mature trees

MLS 216070200 248.684.1065 \$284,900

Perfect Location; the Village of Milford!

- Four bedroom, two and half bathroom, beautiful Cape Cod
- Over 2,000 SQ feet of living space
- Natural fireplace, first floor laundry
- Spacious fenced in back yard

MLS 216074680 248.684.1065 \$250,000

Spacious Lake Front Home!

- Four bedroom, four and half bathrooms, on 1.25 Acres
- Large deck overlooking lake
- Finished walkout with wet bar, wine fridge and maple cabinets
- Enjoy your summer at your own lake

MLS 216073505 248.684.1065 \$545,000

Luxury Nestled in Over 2 Acres!

- Four bedroom, three and half bedrooms, gorgeous Cape Cod
- Perfect for a large family, 4,128 Sq. ft
- Three car attached garage, plus an extra two and half car garage for additional cars or toys
- Gorgeous sun room

MLS 216057786 248.684.1065 \$699,500

Perfection in Desirable Lakes of Milford!

- Four bedrooms, two and half bathrooms, on 1.16 Acres
- Charming library, breakfast room, great room and spacious kitchen
- First floor laundry, three car garage
- Beautiful cedar lined room with bar fridge and Sauna

MLS 216051000 248.684.1065 \$480,000

Over 13 Acres of Peace and Quiet!

- Four bedroom, two bathrooms, beautiful Colonial
- Master suite with sitting/reading area and fireplace
- Gourmet kitchen with industrial size refrigerator
- Huge walkout basement

MLS 216055994 248.684.1065 \$379,000

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