

**SPORTS, SECTION B**  
**AREA**  
**RESIDENTS**  
**SCORE BIG**  
**IN NHL**  
**ENTRY DRAFT**

# Police: Playground dragon was turned into pipe

**David Veselenak**  
 hometownlife.com

A 19-year-old Wayne man faces criminal charges after police say he stole a dragon head from a playground and turned it into a marijuana pipe. Wayne police say Nathan Richard Pearson was recently arrested and charged with larceny — \$1,000 or more and

malicious destruction of property — \$1,000 or more. The charges stem from an incident Wayne police responded to on Christmas Day in 2015. On that day, police were called to Rotary Park II at 5000 Chamberlain. A caller reported someone had taken a large green dragon head that was a part of a play structure. After receiving a tip, police



Pearson

had been turned into a large pipe used to smoke marijuana.

reportedly recovered the dragon head from a Wayne residence in May 2016. When police located the dragon head, they reportedly discovered it

A warrant request to arrest Pearson was submitted to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for review. The warrant was granted, though Pearson was not located for more than a year and was just recently arrested, said Lt. Ryan Strong of the Wayne Police Department. He was arraigned June 17 and given a \$10,000/10 percent

bond. He's scheduled to return to court for a preliminary examination the morning of July 11. That hearing will take place in Wayne's 29th District Court. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison.

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# Video chat device gives hospice patients peace of mind



Karen Gugala of Northville works the triage center at Angela Hospice. A new "telehospice" program allows patients to video chat with nurses.

## Angela's Virtual Assist funded with \$2.1 million grant from Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

**Sharon Dargay**  
 hometownlife.com

A computer tablet capable of connecting its user to a nursing station for face-to-face communication is changing the way one local hospice reaches out to its patients. Angela Hospice in Livonia received a \$2.1 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation to start a "telehospice" program that allows patients to video chat with nurses via computer tablets. Dubbed Angela's Virtual Assist, the devices have been available since January for patients who live at home or in senior living centers. The hospice added another 25 tablets this month, bringing the total to 75. Angela Hospice serves approximately 270 patients, some of whom live in skilled nursing centers and the hospice's care center in Livonia. AVA users live throughout southeast Michigan. Karen Gugala, AVA coor-



Angela Hospice's computer tablet, AVA, offers video communication between patient and nurses.

inator and a Northville resident, says Angela Hospice is the first organization of its kind in southeast Michigan to use video chat with patients. "The reason we're doing this is to be able to help the patient more efficiently before

we get to their home. It's a way for us to do bedside nursing until we can have a person physically there with them," Gugala said. "The family is able to send a signal to a triage station and a nurse calls back. If a patient has a wound or a

family member is having trouble knowing how to care for a symptom, we can guide them. "It has helped in giving families a quicker response. Trying to explain something over the phone is very hard to do. Just being able to see them has helped us to guide them. It has exceeded our expectations." The AVA tablet is meant to enhance weekly visits from hospice nurses, as well as lower patient anxiety. "Just having it in the home is a huge decrease in anxiety," Gugala said. One recent holiday, an at-home caregiver needed help changing a patient's dressing. A hospice triage nurse guided the caregiver through the necessary steps, communicating via AVA. Another occasion, the staff connected a patient's AVA tablet to cellphone users at a family wedding. The patient was able to "attend" the

See CHAT, Page A2

# Candidate for governor stresses 'shared future'

**Matt Jachman**  
 hometownlife.com

With a critique of "a culture of fear that tells us we cannot reach across our divides," gubernatorial candidate Abdul El-Sayed introduced himself June 29 to several dozen Livonia voters. A physician, former public health professor and director of the Detroit Health Department following the city's bankruptcy, El-Sayed mapped out a broad progressive vision for the state during an informal talk to about 40 people at the Civic Center Library. He had been invited by the Livonia Democratic Club.



El-Sayed

Michigan, he said, needs a more active democracy that unites people around solutions to common problems such as the economic stagnation that many experience and inadequate schools and public health programs. "We are suffering under a system that tells us government is just another business," he said. The result, he says, has been underfunded schools, public health and infrastructure, plus a work force that isn't developing the skills to find and maintain meaningful careers in the economy of the future.

El-Sayed, 32, of Detroit, has been barnstorming the state, appearing in more than 60 communities in 30 counties since February. A University of Michigan graduate who also earned a doctorate in public health at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and a medical degree from Columbia University, he is among at least six Democrats in the race to succeed Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican who is barred by term limits from seeking re-election.

Using his diverse family's story — El-Sayed's father, Mohamed, an engineering professor, is an immigrant from Egypt, while his stepmother, Jacqueline, a college administrator and also an engineering professor, grew up in Gratiot County — El-Sayed stressed a "shared future" that he said can bring people together. His mother, Fatten Elkomy, also from Egypt, is a nurse practitioner in Missouri.

"If my family can do it, I

See EL-SAYED, Page A2



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**CHAT**

Continued from Page A1

event virtually and talk with the wedding party. "The surprising thing is even if they are not using it, they feel it's a fantastic tool that gives them peace of mind," Gugala said.

**Easy to use**

Nina and Edmund Knittel of Plymouth Township have kept an AVA tablet at home since May, when Edmund was released from the hospital and began receiving hospice services.

Nina hasn't used the tablet's video capabilities, but she dutifully responds to a set of patient questions she receives via the device

every week. Using a stylus, she indicates if her husband needs more medication and describes how he is feeling. Anything out of the norm triggers a call from a triage nurse.

"I think it's a wonderful thing," Nina said. "It's not that complicated. It's like FaceTime."

Patients who use AVA at home may take the device with them if they are admitted to Angela Hospice's care center. The tablet runs on a 4G network system rather than Wi-Fi.

"We don't feel we need to use it in skilled nursing facilities because nurses are already there. But we've looked at assisted living homes," Gugala said. "We are branching out."

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**EL-SAYED**

Continued from Page A1

know we as a state can do it," he said.

Without going into specifics on how the goals would be reached, El-Sayed said he favored increased funding for public schools and public health programs and single-payer health insurance in the state, or a public option, which would have a state-run insurance program competing with private insurance.

He advocated more support for higher education — or even free tuition at public colleges and universities. The value of letting more people pursue higher education would outweigh the costs, he said, and would also be an incentive for young people to stay in the state.

He said he sees three areas of growth in the future economy: 1) human care, such as in teaching, medicine, child care and care of the elderly; 2) craft manufacturing, such as the production of specialty food products, which he said should be tied to Michigan's agricultural sector; and 3) small businesses and entrepreneurship, which he said should be supported and encour-

aged.

El-Sayed also said he'd like to see more emphasis on and opportunities for vocational training.

Asked how such a lofty vision can be achieved given the state's political climate, El-Sayed listed four steps that, he said, could start the process:

» Ending the gerrymandering of legislative districts that favors the party in power, with either bipartisan or independent redistricting.

» Achieving more openness in state government.

» Ending state term limits, which, he said, turns legislators into "babysitters for government."

» Appealing directly to voters, as governor, rather than to legislators, when advocating policies. The Michigan Constitution says that political power rests with the people and, if legislators hear from an engaged citizenry, they will respond to its wishes, he said.

El-Sayed also said he'd like to reduce the impact of corporate donations on state politics. A government in which elected officials rely on corporate money "is never going to be responsive to the needs of the people," he said.

Afterward, El-Sayed said his campaign will focus heavily on appear-

ances around the state to small groups such as the one in Livonia.

"We are going to go everywhere and we want to talk to everyone," he said. "We are not going to shy away from any conversation on any issue."

So far, wherever he goes on the campaign trail, he added, "people are talking about the same challenges."

Other Democratic

candidates for governor are retired businessman Shri Thanedar, former state Senate minority leader Gretchen Whitmer, retired executive William Cobbs, emergency medical services driver Kentiel White and Justin Giroux.

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**City of Wayne  
Public Notice  
2017 July Board of Review**

The City of Wayne Board of Review will be conducting the 2017 July Board of Review and will convene in City Hall at 3355 South Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:  
Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 9:00 AM

This is a correction Board of Review and will cover all clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact during the meeting.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 722-2000 Ext. 1014

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

Publish: July 6, 2017

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# Redford woman celebrates life with more than 135 fellow cancer survivors

Angela Hardick, a stomach cancer survivor from Redford, joined more than 135 fellow five-year cancer survivors at Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) at Midwestern Regional Medical Center for its 29th Annual Celebrate Life event in June.

Celebrate Life is an annual event that brings together both cancer survivors and caregivers for a day of empowerment and celebration. Survivors stand united to support one another, celebrate the moments they've gained, and encourage those who are amidst their own cancer journey. While some cancer rates continue to climb, medical treatments are also advancing, providing more patients with the hope and resources they need to battle this disease. Survivorship is the new frontier in cancer care, and hospitals, like CTCA, offer dedicated survivorship programs to help patients achieve a high quality of life post-cancer treatment.

The day began with the Celebrants and caregivers entering the CTCA at Midwestern campus on seven large coach buses. As they disembarked, many with loved ones by their side, they took a momentous walk down a lavish red carpet, which was lined with hundreds of cheering family, friends, caregivers and hospital care team members who attended to help these individuals celebrate their five years of cancer survivorship.



Five-year cancer survivor Angela Hardick stands alongside her commemorative tree with Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Midwestern Regional Medical Center President and CEO Scott Jones.

After the red-carpet walk, Hardick took part in a commemorative tree-planting ceremony, symbolizing the wonder of life and growth.

"In the last five years, my cancer journey has taught me to be more honest, compassionate and empathic towards others," Hardick said. "I have also made sure to take time for myself by going on a few vacations."

Many of the five-year survivors also took time

to walk through the hospital, offering comfort, support and the traditional "Hope" pin to other patients and family members who are currently battling cancer. Before the day concluded, each celebrant was personally honored and revered, on stage, in front of and along with their fellow five-year survivors.

For more information on Celebrate Life or CTCA at Midwestern, visit [www.cancercenter.com/midwestern](http://www.cancercenter.com/midwestern).

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Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don't do anything about it?  
If you have answered YES to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse who is in denial) – the Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop may be a life changing event for you...

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- ✓ It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store (how embarrassing)...
- ✓ It can take your focus away from enjoying your life...like spending time with your children or grandchildren...
- ✓ It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don't want to do...
- ✓ It can ruin your travel plans...
- ✓ And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others... or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.

And less movement and enjoying of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much) which leads to bigger health problems...and life problems.

We are Sciatica and Lower Back Specialists at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY, we've helped 100's of people from right here in Livonia, MI...and the rest of Wayne County...who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica...it's our specialty.

**So by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop here at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY ON 15TH JULY 2017 at 32858 5 mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154 at 10:30am – 11:30am.**

If you're confused about what to do and looking for answers, here's some of what you'll learn:

- ✓ The Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which actually stops them from healing...
- ✓ The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica...
- ✓ A Sure-Fire Way to Pick the Right Treatment for the Cause of Your Pain (and save you a ton of time and money)
- ✓ How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in your leg...
- ✓ What successful treatment and permanent relief looks like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

### How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop?

Call our office to register at **734-525-3000** talk to Jessica or Nancy and reserve your spot today!!!!When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet which you will bring with you to the event.

We only have 15 seats available for the event...and this will be going out in our Newsletter and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ally-Physical-Therapy>).

**So if you would like to attend, be sure to register now... Call 734-525-3000.**

**How Much Is It to Attend?  
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As a Special Bonus...the first 10 people to call, register and attend for the event will receive 15 min one on one time to discuss with Physical Therapist regarding their low Back Pain (to be scheduled on different day).

All 15 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report: "The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica". Looking forward to seeing you there on 15th July 2017 at 10:30am.

Mehul Vaidya, PT / Founder.

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32858 5 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154.**

# Home run! Sikhs play ball with special-needs children at Miracle League

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

They play baseball with special-needs children in Plymouth. They feed the homeless in Detroit.

They go to Inkster to mentor youngsters living in foster homes or homeless shelters.

Across metro Detroit, a group of young Sikhs from the Plymouth-Canton area is making a tangible difference by helping others in need. They are called Seva4Everybody — seva being a word that means selfless service.

"We feel like we can help everyone in our community," said Harman Singh, the group's director of operations. "It is our responsibility as human beings. Our goal is to make a positive impact."

One recent Saturday, Seva4Everybody volunteers once again returned to the Miracle League of Plymouth to play baseball with special-needs children. It's a visit Deb Madonna, the league's president and commissioner, said makes a huge difference.

"We can't really have a game without volunteers," she said. "The kids get to go out and play baseball and the volunteers get a chance to help somebody play. It's good for them, too. I think the helpers sometimes get more out of it than the kids do."

Singh called Seva4Everybody's work "amaz-



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
Jaspreet Singh offers batting advice to Carlos Teran.

ing, transformative." Since the group formed in March of last year, more than 100 volunteers — high school students, college students and recent college graduates — have volunteered their time.

"It's something from your own heart and it changes your personal perspective of the world," Singh said.

The volunteers mostly come from the Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib of Plymouth, dubbed Hidden Falls, and the Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha of Michigan in Canton.

Seva4Everybody has partnered with the Unit-

ed Way, Salvation Army, Miracle League, Covenant House and Starfish Family Services, among other organizations.

Aside from helping people, the work also gives the group a way to build bridges in the community and help others better understand their culture. They often get questions about the turbans Sikh men wear as a humble, religious expression.

Sikh volunteers are hopeful their efforts will lead to good relations in the community. Singh said Sikhs in America have often been victims of harassment, hate crimes and school bullying. He said one study conducted by the Sikh Coalition found that turbaned Sikh children experience bullying at more than double the national rate.

"By proudly serving our community," Singh said, "we hope to disassemble the differences that separate us."

The special-needs baseball field in Plymouth seems the perfect place to do it. It's a place where getting a hit and making it to base is more important than focusing on differences.

It's volunteerism that makes a difference. Just ask Madonna.

"We couldn't do anything without our volunteers," she said.

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## WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

## Car damaged at movie theater

A patron at the MJR Westland Grand Cinema 16, 6800 Wayne, came to the police station June 19 to report damage done to his vehicle while it was parked there.

He said he parked his vehicle and came back a few hours later to find it vandalized. He said someone had written "Next time leave a can opened (expletive)" in permanent marker on the rear side driver door. The patron said he spoke to a manager at the theater, who said the incident was on video.

## Tools taken from business

An owner of Great Lakes Air, 1515 S. Newburgh, came to the police station June 19 to report a burglary of his business.

The man said someone broke into the business sometime overnight between June 16-17. The

suspect or suspects went through vents and got into the workshop area, taking hand tools. The suspect or suspects then exited through a different main door.

## Bicycle stolen

Police were called June 19 to a home in the 400 block of Pineapple on the report of the theft of a bicycle.

The caller told police said someone entered his sister's yard about three hours earlier and stole her son's Mongoose bicycle. Police checked the area but did not locate the bicycle.

## Vehicle window damaged

A motorist driving near Middlebelt and Warren came into the police station June 21 to report damage done to one of the vehicle's windows.

She said she was going southbound on Middlebelt and was preparing to turn

onto westbound Warren when she heard a loud pop. She then noticed the rear window of her vehicle suddenly had a hole in it. She said the window had "spidered" and appeared someone had shot something at the window. She said she did not know who had done this.

## Package stolen

A resident in the 900 block of Fairlane came to the police station June 24 to report the theft of a package from his doorstep.

He said he made a purchase on Amazon that included a camera lens, filter and a speaker. The item was to be delivered to his home, but never arrived. He contacted the sender and found the package had been delivered and left on the porch back on June 21.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Westland Police Department.

## WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

## Worms stolen

An online report filed with the Wayne Police Department on June 19 stated several dozen worms were taken from a residence in the 4600 block of Gloria.

The victim said he stored 80 dozen night-crawler worms in a cooler in his backyard to launch a worm farm for fishing. He went to the cooler on June 18 and found all the worms

missing.

## Vehicle damaged

An online report was filed with the police department on June 26 regarding damage to a vehicle parked in the 3700 block of Mildred.

The owner of the vehicle said they woke up to damage down to their vehicle.

The windshield on the truck was hit with an item and was cracked in two spots.

## Car damaged

An online report filed June 18 reported damage done to a vehicle parked in the 32100 block of Carlisle Parkway.

The report stated a rock was thrown through the back window of the truck.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Wayne Police Department.

## LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

## Necklaces stolen

A resident in the 9600 block of Garden came to the police station June 29 to report the theft of two necklaces from a vehicle.

She said she parked her vehicle on the street on June 26. She said she did not lock it and went

inside. She came out the next day and found the center console opened with a necklace sleeve holder on the ground. She discovered two necklaces were missing.

She later went into Great Lakes Pawn, 27675 Grand River, and reportedly found one of her

missing necklaces. The employee told her she would need a police report in order to receive her necklace and pendant back.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

## CITY OF LIVONIA

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held in the Auditorium at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017, at 7:00 P.M.** on the **NECESSITY FOR A PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT IN THE WASHINGTON PARK SITE CONDOMINIUMS, SOUTHWEST ¼ OF SECTION 31, located south of Ann Arbor Road and west of Hix Road**, in the City of Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, pursuant to Chapter 08 of Title 3 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, entitled "Special Assessment Procedure Ordinance."

You are further notified that the City Engineer has filed with the City Clerk plans and specifications for the proposed improvement, together with a statement showing a description of the proposed district, the estimated cost of the improvement, ownership of parcels within such district, the assessed valuation of such parcels, his recommendation as to assessment for such improvement and other information required by Section 3.08.060 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, which statement is available for your examination in the office of the City Clerk.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

PUBLISH: THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

LO-0000227198 3/4

## CITY OF LIVONIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR  
SAVILLE ROW SITE CONDOMINIUMS  
STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the proposed **ASSESSMENT ROLL** for the **SAVILLE ROW SITE CONDOMINIUMS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT**, located north of Joy Road and west of Wayne Road, in the Southeast ¼ of Section 31, has been duly filed in the Office of the City Clerk and is now open for public examination and inspection.

The City Council has adopted a resolution setting the evening of **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.** in the auditorium at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan as the time and place for reviewing the said Roll and hearing all objections or suggestions relative thereto.

At this meeting any persons deeming themselves aggrieved by the Special Assessment Roll, may file their objections thereto in writing with the City Clerk prior to the close of such hearing, which written objections shall specify in what respect they deem themselves aggrieved.

The amount of the assessment of any individual property owner may be determined prior to the hearing by inquiry at the Office of the City Clerk, where such Roll may be personally examined.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal if an appeal should be desired. A property owner or party of interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his or her appearance by letter delivered to the City Clerk by the time and date of the hearing and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. The property owner or any person having an interest in the property subject to the proposed special assessments may file written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within thirty-five days after confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at this hearing.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Publish: Thursday, July 6, 2017

LO-0000227198 3/4

## WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

Send calendar items to  
LIV-OFNewstip@  
hometownlife.com.

## Canton library's front porch

Lemonade on the front porch, friends next to you in rocking chairs, perfect weather ... sounds good, doesn't it? That's what's happening at the Canton Public Library this summer on Canton's Front Porch. Throughout July, you're invited to stop by our front porch, relax, sip some lemonade and connect with your neighbors.

As part of the library's mission to Connect Your Community, Canton's Front Porch provides the opportunity to get to know members of your community that you may not already know, in addition to reconnecting with old friends. At the table outside, there's even a jar of conversation starter suggestions.

Dates: 6-7 p.m. July 6; 1-2 p.m. July 10; 4-5 p.m. July 13; 1-2 p.m. July 24; 7-8 p.m. July 27; and 10-11 a.m. July 31.

The rocking chairs will be on the porch, along with the conversation starter jar, throughout the month of July. So even when we're not there with lemonade, you're still invited to kick back and enjoy.

For more information, contact program librarian Laura Fawcett at fawcettl@cantonpl.org or 734-397-0999, ext. 1079.

## Church yard sale

Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman Road in Livonia, will hold a yard sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 8. A space with table is \$15. A space without table is \$10. Tables are limited. For more information, call 734-765-1827.

## Zeal presents Social Security and retirement seminar

Zeal Financial Advisors of Zeal Credit Union is holding a Social Security and Your Retirement workshop at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland.

Topics will include important "rules of the road" for receiving Social Security benefits; recent rule changes that may affect your retirement benefits; and how to evaluate options to manage your Social Security benefits.

There is no cost to attend the workshop. There will be light refreshments, along with prize giveaways and the opportunity to enter a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card provided by Zeal Credit Union.

For more information and to register, call Jennifer Shelton at 734-466-6108.

## Jaycees networking night

Join the Livonia Jaycees for an evening of networking with other local young professionals 6-8:30 p.m. July 12 at BRAVO Cucina Italiana, 17700 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

The \$25 cost includes: two head shots by a professional photographer; a binder with business card pages; appetizers and drinks (cash bar available); and networking opportunities in a speed "dating" format. Space is limited. To purchase tickets, visit <http://bit.ly/2stxa0s>.

## Drop-in art workshop

A free DIA Creative Drop-In Art Workshop for Kids in Wayne is set

for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 14. The DIA is bringing a drop-in art workshop to downtown Wayne, Knights of Columbus No. 3021, Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Road.

This is the perfect opportunity for kids, creatives and those young at heart to get out and be part of something cool in our own backyard. Space and supplies may be limited. To RSVP, go to <http://bit.ly/2rZ8s9I>.

## Thursday concerts at Canton's Heritage Park

The free weekly Thursday Night Concert Series will fill Canton's Heritage Park with a variety of musical entertainment and family fun.

Concerts will be held 7:30-9 p.m. each Thursday through Aug. 10 in Heritage Park, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or folding chairs for optimal enjoyment on the amphitheater lawn. Participants are also encouraged to take part in weekly theme nights, raffles and kids activities. In addition, summertime food items will be available for purchase from Cruisin' Custom Cones and Good Humor Ice Cream. Canton Leisure Services will collect donation items for Operation Care Package, a Michigan nonprofit group that distributes items to U.S. troops, during concerts in July.

The schedule includes: July 6: Magic Bus - Music from the late '60s that will take you on a psychedelic musical journey to Woodstock and back; July 13: Crossroads - A family band playing contemporary hits, Motown, jazz, funk and more; July 20: Saints of Soul - Featuring a repertoire of vintage soul music with infectious grooves and explosive power; July 27: Together Band - Enjoy high-energy hits in a wide range of classic rock, funk and "feel good" music; Aug. 3: Timbre of Cedar - A play list of the greatest '90s covers that showcase the talents of these band members; and Aug. 10: First Call - Enjoy electrifying pop hits from yesterday and today.

All concerts are weather dependent. To receive text weather updates, join our free RainedOut service by texting "cantonconcerts" to 84483. Weather updates will also be available by contacting the Summit on the Park front desk at 734-394-5460 or watch for updates online at [www.facebook.com/cantonfun](http://www.facebook.com/cantonfun). For more information, call 734-394-5460 or visit [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org).

## Vacation bible school

Vacation Bible School will be held from 9 a.m. to noon July 10-14 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia.

At "Hero Central" kids will discover their strength in God. There will be crafts, recreation, drama, music, science experiments, super snacks, and "Flame" the red panda. Heroes that are 3 years old and potty-trained through sixth-graders are welcome. Cost is \$10 per child for the week, \$30 maximum per family.

For more information, call the church office at 734-422-6038.

## Golf outing for pancreatic cancer research

The fifth annual Charles Cobb Foundation Golf Outing will be held Saturday, July 22, at the

Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. All proceeds will be donated to the pancreatic cancer research team at Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Registration and continental breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$100 per person, which includes breakfast, scramble golf, BBQ buffet lunch and awards. The event will also include gaming holes, a 50/50 raffle and 20 themed raffle baskets.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to register for the golf outing, contact Denise Cobb at 734-673-9428 or [denise@charlescobbfoundation.org](mailto:denise@charlescobbfoundation.org). To register or donate online, visit [www.charlescobbfoundation.org](http://www.charlescobbfoundation.org). Registration deadline is July 15.

## Youth coed T-Ball and Coach Pitch

New this fall, Livonia Parks and Recreation will offer youth coed instructional T-Ball and Coach Pitch. Registration for T-Ball, ages 5-6, and Coach Pitch, ages 7-8. The program is an introduction to the concept of baseball. Youngsters get instruction and scrimmage with other teams. Youth will learn the importance of good sportsmanship and the joy of the game.

The season will take place from mid-August through early October, with T-Ball scrimmages on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Coach Pitch Scrimmages on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Fees are \$40 per child for Livonia residents and \$50 per child for non-residents. Registration runs through Friday, July 14, at the Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. For more information, call 734-466-2900.

## Wayne Concerts in the Park

The Wayne Rotary Club will again be sponsoring the Concert in the Park series, which takes place at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday from July 26 through Aug. 30 at Goudy Park in downtown Wayne. There will also be a special show for Downtown Days at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 14, featuring Steve King and the Dittilies.

The schedule includes: July 26, Toppermost, Beatles tribute band; Aug. 2, War Machine, KISS tribute band; Aug. 9, Kung Fu Diesel, rock 'n' roll; Aug. 16 - The Magic Bus Tour, Woodstock era; Aug. 23 - Your Generation in Concert, tribute band; and Aug. 30, Dirty Deeds Extreme, AC/DC tribute band.

All concerts are free and vendors will be available selling food and drinks.

## Faust Public Library events

» Magic The Gathering from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 6: Sometimes free play, sometimes a tournament, always snacks and prizes. Bring your own deck if you have one. Beginners are welcome and we have library decks you can use if you don't have your own cards yet.

» Teen Minecraft Club from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, July 11. Play Minecraft with your friends on the Westland Teens' multiplayer server. You don't need your own Minecraft login to play - we have library accounts you can use.

» Capture the Flag from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, July 13. Strategy, teamwork, stealth, and crazy running around outside - it must be capture the flag! After the games we'll have some light snacks. Please Note: This is a teen event.

# Band continues Kellogg Park legacy

The Plymouth Community band, formed in 1960 as a German "oompah" band, continued its legacy of summer concerts last week by helping the city of Plymouth celebrate its 150th anniversary.

The band played its patriotic tunes in a pre-Fourth of July concert June 29 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, drawing its usual large and enthusiastic audience.

The band, under the direction of Carl Battishill, is composed of 55-75 volunteer amateur musicians (winds and

percussion) who "enjoy coming together to make music in a 'concert band' arrangement," according to the group's website. Members come from all walks of life, have diverse backgrounds and experiences and range in age from teenagers to octogenarians.

Battishill has directed the band since 1979 and is only the third conductor the PCB has ever had. Battishill is a music educator in the West Bloomfield School District and is one of several PCB members who are music educators.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Veterans present flags as the band plays the first tune.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

George Harvell dances to the music of the Plymouth Community Band.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Carl Battishill has conducted the band since 1979.



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Ages 13 - 18

July 22nd  
11am-1pm

Arctic Edge  
46615 Michigan Ave  
Canton

July 29th  
11am-1pm

Griff's IceHouse West  
4444 Holland Ave  
Holland

### On & Off Ice Training

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- Functional Flexibility
- Injury Prevention

REGISTER: [www.barwismethods.com/events](http://www.barwismethods.com/events)

"Mike Barwis and the Barwis Methods team have been an impactful addition to my physical conditioning. The science they use in training is world class, and the caring environment they provide is unmatched."

-Pavel Datsyuk, former Detroit Red Wings Captain, 2x Stanley Cup Champ, KHL Champ

"Mike Barwis and Barwis Methods are second to none when it comes to strength & conditioning for ice hockey." -Mike Babcock, Toronto Maple Leafs Head Coach

"I not only feel stronger and faster, but also just a better all-around athlete after training with Barwis Methods." -Jack Johnson, Columbus Blue Jackets

**\*\$50**  
per person

\*Team discounts are available



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### PRODUCE

- Washington Crisp & Sweet Cherries **\$3.99 lb.**
- Southern Peaches **\$1.49 lb.**
- Georgia Sweet Corn **10/\$3**
- Michigan Cucumbers **3/99c**
- Michigan Bunch Radishes **2/98c**
- Tomatoes On the Vine **99c lb.**

### ORGANIC Organic

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- Red Grapes **\$2.49 lb.**
- Beefsteak Tomatoes **\$1.79 lb.**
- Green Leaf Lettuce **\$1.99 lb.**



### Joe's Meat & Seafood

### DELI

- Boar's Head Beechwood Black Forest Ham **\$6.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*
- President Swiss Cheese **\$4.99 lb.** *save \$1.00*
- Dearborn Brand Oven Roasted Turkey **\$5.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*
- Old Tyme Hard Salami **\$3.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*
- Boar's Head Baby Swiss Cheese **\$6.99 lb.** *save \$4.50*
- Dearborn Brand Smoke House Ham **\$4.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*
- Boar's Head Everroast Chicken **\$6.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*
- Old Tyme Hot Pepper Cheese **\$3.99 lb.** *save \$2.00*
- Old Tyme Sandwich Pepperoni **\$3.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIAL!  
Pickled Turnips **\$2.99 ea.**



USDA Premium Choice Angus Top Sirloin Steak **\$7.99 lb.** *save \$2.00*

USDA Premium Choice Angus Ground Beef from Chuck **\$3.49 lb.** *save \$2.00*

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Bacon Muenster or Cordon Bleu Stuffed Chicken **\$4.99 lb.** *save \$1.00*

Premium Fresh All Natural Pork Sirloin Chops **\$2.49 lb.** *save \$1.00*

Premium Fresh Housemade Sausage Sheboygan Bratwurst or Jalapeno Cheddar Brats **\$3.99 lb.** *save \$1.00*

Premium Fresh All Natural Pork Butt **\$1.99 lb.** *save \$1.00*

Fresh Wild Caught West Coast Dover Sole **\$10.99 lb.** *save \$2.00*

Fresh Wild Caught Alaskan Sockeye Salmon Fillets **\$17.99 lb.** *save \$3.00*

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- Grilled Salmon **\$18.99 lb.** *save \$1.00*
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### Chef's Feature Grilled Pork Chops

### CAFE

Joe's Fresh Roasted Weekly Coffee Special  
Super Sundae **\$6.99 lb.** *Save \$2.00*

Messori Cono Snack  
Hazelnut Cream, Caramel Milk, or Original **99c ea.**

Wild Cherry or Reckin' Raspberry Gummy Bears **\$3.99 ea.**

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Two-Bite Lemon or Strawberry Drop Cupcakes **\$3.99 pkg.** *save \$1.00*  
Cherry Chocolate Chip Bread (Large Only) **\$6.99 ea.** *save \$1.00*

Best of Both **\$16.99**  
**\$26.99**  
Peanut Butter Truffle Bar **\$1.99 ea.** *save \$0.50*

### WINE CELLAR

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- Garlic Cheddar **\$3.99 ea.**
- Bear Claws **2/\$3**
- Black Cherry Pie **\$10.99 9 in.**
- Clos du Bois Wines **\$8.99 int.**
- Alaskan Brewing **\$9.99 6 Pack**
- Dark Horse Wines **\$7.99 int.**
- Mike's Hard Lemonade **\$9.99 6 Pack**



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PRO BASEBALL

## Pittsburgh pursues Manasa's potential

Farmington grad drafted to be groomed as a pitcher

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com

Alex Manasa proudly represented Farmington High School last June in the annual prep all-star game at Comerica Park in Detroit.

Manasa now has his sights set on some day showcasing his talents in another major league stadium. The 2016 Farmington grad hopes it's at plush PNC Park in Pittsburgh, whose hometown Pirates selected him in the 11th round of the recent Major League Baseball entry draft.

"Playing at Comerica Park was definitely a neat experience," Manasa said. "Me and my parents (Melissa and Richard) were talking about it and saying, 'Wow, last year we're playing in the high school all-

star game at Comerica Park and now it kind of becomes the real thing that we're playing on pro fields every day."

"I was in Pittsburgh when I was little, but do not remember it and now everything there is new to me. They took me downtown and it's a beautiful city," he added. "I was taking it all in and (PNC Park) is a beautiful place with the river and the city in the background. It's a cool stadium in the downtown area and it has a very cool vibe to it."

**Pitching his talent**

Manasa, 19, is currently playing for the Bristol Pirates,



Manasa

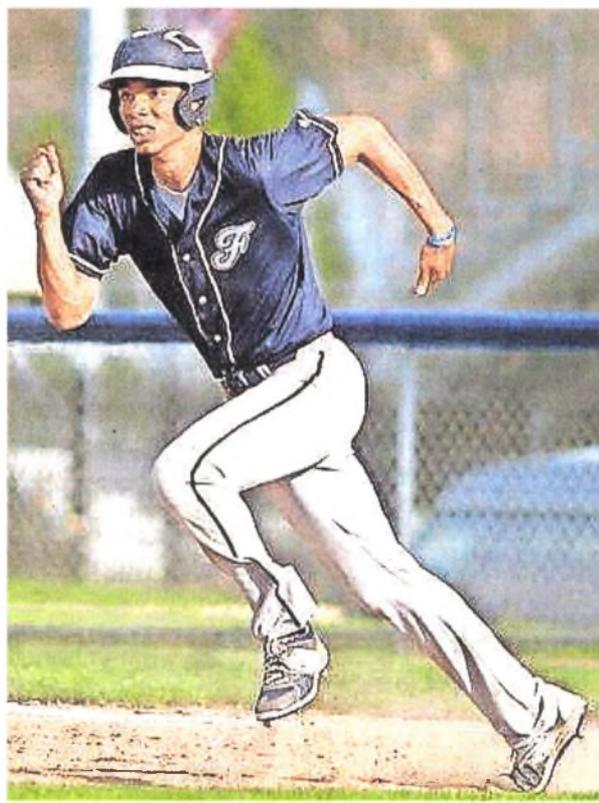
Pittsburgh's Virginia-based advanced rookie squad, which plays in the 10-team Appalachian League.

The Pirates were attracted to the lanky 6-foot-5 right-hander's pitching potential, even though he wasn't a full-time hurler at either the high school or college level. The converted outfielder tossed his first game June 19 at DeVault Memorial Stadium in Bristol against the Greenville Astros and allowed a pair of earned runs in two innings of work.

"(The Pirates) liked my height. They liked my athletic ability and the fact that I am very projectable," said Manasa, who also played high school basketball. "They are not going to rush me into anything. They want me to take my time and just see where it takes me."

"They see me getting a lot

See MANASA, Page B2



FILE PHOTO

Fleet-footed Alex Manasa was a two-time all-state standout who played four years of varsity baseball at Farmington High School under head coach Pete Finn.

NHL HOCKEY



OSHAWA GENERALS

Novi resident Jack Studnicka was taken in the second round of the NHL Entry Draft by the Boston Bruins.

## Bruins make Studnicka high draft priority

Novi resident played in the U18 World Championships for Team Canada

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

Playing in the National Hockey League one day is the ultimate goal for Jack Studnicka.

And the Novi resident got a little closer to that dream June 24 when he was selected in the second round of the NHL Entry Draft (53rd overall) by the Boston Bruins.

The 6-foot, 171-pound Studnicka, who finished with 18

goals and 34 assists in 64 regular season games for the Ontario Hockey League's Ottawa Generals, drew attention from NHL scouts with his standout play as a two-way center.

"I'd be honored to play anywhere in the NHL, but I think Boston is a great city and has great fans," the Ontario native said. "It's a tremendous organization that I'd love to play with. And to play alongside Torey (Krug) would

be pretty cool."

Krug, a Livonia native and former Michigan State standout, just completed his fourth full season with the Bruins. The defenseman has logged a total of 322 games and played in the Stanley Cup Finals his first season.

Torey's father Kyle coached Studnicka during his 2014-15 midget season with Belle Tire's U16 team, scoring 31 goals and adding 58 assists in 71 games.

And it was there where Krug made quite an impact on Studnicka.

"Kyle really developed my defensive game," Studnicka

said. "He was kind of telling me, 'I won't tell you how to play offense because it will take care of itself,' but as long as I'm taking pride in the defensive zone, that the offense will come. He really got it through my head that the defensive zone is important."

After his season with Belle Tire, Studnicka was selected by the Generals in April 2015 during the first round (21st overall) of the OHL draft.

"A lot of times you're set on college and a lot of times you're set on the OHL, but I'm fortunate enough that Oshawa

See STUDNICKA, Page B2

TRACK AND FIELD

## Intensity helped Zebras' Battle earn her stripes

Wayne Memorial state champion credits summer track club for her growth

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

Anavia Battle missed the Intensity Track Club practice June 22 because she was on a campus visit to Ohio State University, where she wants to become a Division I athlete.

Although she was in Columbus, Ohio, the recent Wayne Memorial graduate's thoughts remained with her summer team, now gearing up for the AAU regional qualifier June 29 through July 2 at Detroit Renaissance High School.

Now in her fourth year with the club team, coached by Jamal Johnson (who coaches the Wayne boys track and field team), Battle wrote an email to the Observer about how much she has gained from that experience.

"Intensity has helped me mature into a strong, secure young lady," Battle wrote. "Running for this team has given me confidence on and off the track."

Battle closed her outstanding high school career June 3, winning the 100-yard dash with a time of 11.95 seconds at East Kentwood High School. She

See BATTLE, Page B2



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Wayne Memorial's Anavia Battle credits Intensity Track Club for helping her become a state champion sprinter.

## NHL HOCKEY

## Dallas Stars select Northville's Robertson in second round

Left winger taken  
39th overall in  
NHL Entry Draft

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Northville's Jason Robertson didn't have to wait long to have his name called the second day of the National Hockey League Entry Draft.

The 6-foot-2, 196-pound left winger from the Kingston Frontenacs did not make the podium the first day June 23 at the United Center in Chicago, but he was taken in the second round (39th overall) June 24 by the Dallas Stars.

"I was pretty excited," Robertson said. "I know they're a team that I can really fit in. I know it's a great city and a great



Northville's Jason Robertson was taken in the second round (39th overall) by the NHL Dallas Stars.

town. When I heard my name being called up there, I'd say it was a sigh of happiness and relief between my family. And then going up and walking up there realizing that I'm a Dallas Star is pretty special."

Robertson's stock climbed during his second Ontario Hockey League campaign as he scored 42 goals and to go along with 39 assists in 68 regular season games before adding five goals and 13 assists in 11 playoff games.

"I was more anxious," Robertson said of the two-day draft process. "You want to hear your name get called up there. Finally, when you are called, it's a just a sigh of relief. You're no longer anxious and you can just enjoy where you go in the

process."

Robertson said he was not shocked he was taken by the Stars, although "they kept it pretty quiet on me."

"I had already met them at the (NHL) Combine," Robertson said. "They obviously knew who I was and wanted me, so I guess they picked me up and now I'm there."

Robertson, who returned to his family's second home in Sierra Madre, Calif., to continue to train, will attend a Dallas development pre-camp next week, where he'll meet and greet Stars front office and coaching personnel along with other prospects.

Robertson's summer will be filled with plenty of hockey.

He'll be among 42 invitees July 29 through

Aug. 25 for USA Hockey's World Junior Summer Showcase at Plymouth. He will also take part in a prospects tournament in Traverse City before reporting to a preseason training camp in September with the Stars.

Dallas, which did not make the Stanley Cup playoffs, made a coaching change after the season. Ken Hitchcock returns to the Stars for his second stint behind the bench, replacing Lindy Ruff.

"I know they're a good team," Robertson said. "I've heard they've gone with a new head coach, so they're making a lot of changes there and (I'm) very excited for it."

bemons@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @BradEmons

## MANASA

Continued from Page B1

bigger and stronger and seeing my velocity go up. They just want to see me become a better pitcher, since I haven't been doing this too long. I've always been a two-way player, so they just want to see me develop as a pitcher.

"It didn't surprise me that they wanted me as a pitcher," he added. "I had a lot of scouts coming out to see me pitch off the mound and they were very interested in my arm."

Although he's being groomed as a pitcher, Manasa relishes the thought of playing for the National League-based squad, where he would be allowed to display his offensive skills since there is no designated hitter.

"It's definitely going to be different not playing in the outfield every day," he said. "But I'm excited for the opportunity to be a pitcher and I'm focusing on that. It's another exciting thing that at least I'll get to bat."

## Learning in Farmington

Manasa, who grew up playing Little League baseball in Farmington and travel ball with the Michigan Bulls, was a

high school all-star who twice made all-state and earned first team all-Observer honors.

Called up to varsity midway through his freshman year, the fleet-footed Manasa — who bats left-handed and throws right-handed — quickly became a stand-out for head coach Pete Finn's Falcons.

As a junior, Manasa hit .398, clubbed three home runs and scored 39 runs. Farmington's lead-off batter was named second team Division 1 all-state that year.

In his final varsity season, Manasa hit .391 with five home runs and 28 RBIs. He also scored 56 runs and stole 20 bases en route to Division 1 first team all-state recognition and an East-West all-star appearance.

In the all-star game, which was his first time playing at Comerica Park, Manasa was one of the only players on either roster to go all nine innings. He was the lone East player with two hits and he also had four put-outs in the outfield.

Manasa had committed to play college baseball at Oakland University. However, he never made it to the Golden Grizzlies program and instead, as fate would have it, wound up at Jackson Community College.

"A couple things changed. I decided to go

JUCO, which gave me a few more options," Manasa said. "It worked out for the better. It was like a blessing in disguise because I was able to get drafted this year."

"If I would have went to a Division I program, I would have had to wait three years to get drafted after my junior year," he added. "So all these other options became available because I went JUCO. It just worked out that way; it wasn't really in my plans. It worked out for the better."

## Jackson helps pave way

Manasa led Jackson CC with a .410 batting average, including three triples and three home runs. In his first college season, he finished with 55 RBIs and 25 stolen bases.

Manasa also made 16 appearances on the mound, with five saves and a 1.27 earned-run average in 21½ innings of work. He allowed just three earned runs.

"I enjoyed Jackson a lot. It was a great program and I had a great year there," Manasa said. "I was able to hit there, too, and had a pretty good year hitting. The coaches were very nice and I loved the team."

"It was a great experience overall and I was glad I went there," he added. "The coaches there put me in a great



Farmington graduate Alex Manasa excelled offensively, but was recently drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates for his pitching ability.

MARTY BUDNER

position in order for me to get seen by all the scouts and I appreciate them for that."

After the Jackson CC season concluded, Manasa went to play for the Kenosha Kingfish of the Northwoods League (a summer baseball program for elite college players). It was there in Wisconsin, at his host family's house, that Ma-

nasa learned he was the 13th player and sixth pitcher taken by the Pirates.

"I'm very excited. It was crazy," Manasa said. "I thought I would have fallen a couple rounds later, but I kind of expected it to be that day. But hearing my name called that early was definitely exciting and I'm still at a loss for

words.

"It's very neat to be playing for the Pirates organization," he added. "I could imagine getting there, but this whole concept is new to me. I'm just taking it all in right now and it's a great opportunity."

It didn't take him long to say good-bye to Kenosha and hello to Bristol, which is just starting its season.

And it's safe to say Manasa is looking forward to climbing his way to the major leagues and someday running the bases as a professional like he did at Shiawassee Park as a Little Leaguer, like at Farmington as a prep standout and at Comerica as a high school all-star.

"I just have to continue to work hard, be myself and compete and keep working at my craft," Manasa said.

"This is my job now and I have to work hard to achieve my dreams.

"(Getting drafted) was definitely a dream come true for me. It's something I've been working towards my whole life, since my T-ball days. It's been the thing I wanted to do and now it's become a reality and that's exciting."

"The goal is to be playing in Pittsburgh, hopefully, in a couple of years," he added. "I'm excited for the opportunity."

## STUDNICKA

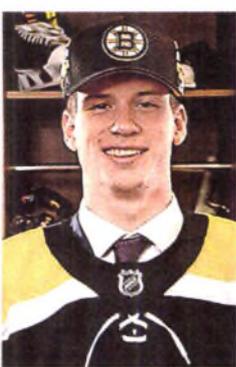
Continued from Page B1

organization took me and they made the decision easy at the end of the day," Studnicka said.

In his first OHL season with the Generals, Studnicka posted modest offensive numbers with four goals and 22 assists in 62 games before blossoming during his second OHL campaign.

"As a team, we had a successful season," Studnicka said. "I think we did a lot more than people had expected us to, which was huge. And with team success is going to come individual success, so as long as the team was doing good, I knew it was good things for me."

And that good thing



Studnicka

was hearing his name called at the United Center the second day of the NHL draft.

"On the personal side, being in my second season in the OHL, I was able to contribute and relied on consistently by

the coaches," Studnicka said. "And, obviously, it paid off with Boston picking me in the draft this year."

After scoring five goals and adding 12 assists in 11 OHL playoff games, Studnicka flew to Slovakia to join Team Canada for its final three games in the U18 World Championships, scoring three goals.

"It was a unique experience," Studnicka said. "They were already two games into the tournament when I had flown over, but all my teammates and coaches and hockey Canada management were very welcoming. For them to have the trust to bring me over mid-term, it gave me confidence, which I think played a huge part in me being able to contribute offensively to be there. I

think with the confidence I had coming off the playoffs and being trusted to be brought in mid-term really helped."

Like his older brother Sam, who enjoyed OHL stints with both Ottawa and Sarnia, Jack Studnicka had an allegiance growing up to one NHL team.

"I just kind of stayed with what my older brother did," he said. "The Maple Leafs, Toronto, were his favorite team, so I guess you could say they were mine, too."

Studnicka tries to emulate a number of different NHL players, but two stand out.

"I like to take different pieces from a lot of two-way centers in the game," he said. "Offensively, Jonathan Toews (Chicago Blackhawks) is

fun to watch and learn from him. And Tyler Bozak on Toronto, because of the way he takes pride in the defensive zone and still be an offensive player, is something I strive to do as well."

Taking online classes for his final semester, Studnicka was able to graduate from Northville High School after moving to Novi in 2013, when his father Todd took a job with DTE Energy.

"It wasn't really hockey-related," said Studnicka, who was born in Tecumseh, Ontario. "I wanted to be with my dad during the OHL draft and everything. Obviously, it worked out well. Compuware and Belle Tire took me for two years and developed me great, so ..."

Studnicka was scheduled to report to the Bru-

ins' development camp July 5 in Boston. He will also play for the Bruins this summer in a rookie showcase tournament.

"After that, just getting stronger and skating a lot and preparing for my season with Oshawa for a week (Aug. 21-25)," Studnicka said.

The Bruins draftee does admit to having one hobby during the off-season.

"I'm a big golfer in the summer," he said. "Me, my dad and my brother like to get out and play a lot. But (hockey is) kind of a strict schedule, I say. I wouldn't say I don't do any other things, but I primarily focus on training and hockey."

Spoken like a true two-way center.

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## BATTLE

Continued from Page B1

nearly was a double-winner, finishing second in the 200 dash (24.27).

Although Battle's all-state talent is undeniable, she continues to give props to Johnson and Intensity Track Club for her track and field prominence.

That's because she didn't become serious

about the sport until she met Johnson and assistant coach Jana Hughes in summer 2014, shortly after Battle's freshman year.

"The workouts were hard and very demanding for me because it was my first time running really," Battle said. "Not only were the workouts hard on me, but the coach, Jamal Johnson, was hard on me."

"I believe that he was hard on me because he

saw my potential and he knew what I was capable of. I came into the program running slow times and, at the end, I was the top of my age group."

## Always striving

Battle, with nurturing and encouragement from Johnson, kept paring seconds off her times. With each step in her development, she wanted to do more and achieve greater success.

"Having a coach that

has faith in you and takes the time to make you great is something that every athlete needs," Battle said.

Another key, she stated, was getting help in the personal goal-setting department from Hughes.

"She had each athlete create a goal sheet, with times they wanted to meet by the end of the season and what they'd do to get there," Battle said. "Each season we

had new people on the team, each team was full of kids that set goals and made sure they met them before the season ended."

Three years after joining Intensity Track Club, Battle is an accomplished athlete and person with a bright future.

"Overall, Intensity has helped me mature into a strong, secure young lady," she said. "Running for this team has given

me confidence on and off the track.

"My priorities were track and school; that's all that was on my mind. I worked hard in the classroom and on the track. Doing all that made me successful. I liked winning, which is what pushes me each day to strive to be great."

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## NHL HOCKEY

## Minnesota draftee Lodnia parlays big OHL season

Novi resident  
youngest player  
taken in NHL draft

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Vanya Lodnia made the most of his second season in the Ontario Hockey League — and more.

The 5-foot-10, 176-pound forward from Novi not only helped the Erie Otters capture the coveted Robertson Cup, the OHL championship, but he was also taken in the third round of the National Hockey League Entry Draft (85th overall) by the Minnesota Wild.

Lodnia, who doesn't turn 18 until Aug. 31, was also the youngest player to go in the 2017 NHL draft.

He finished with 24 goals and 33 assists (57 points) during 66 regular season games, while also adding a pair of goals in 22 playoff games as the Otters reached Memorial Cup championship game last month before falling in a heart-breaker to the host Windsor Spitfires, 4-3.

Playing more than 90



MATT MEAD PHOTOGRAPHER LLC

Novi's Vanya Lodnia, a third-round pick of the NHL's Minnesota Wild, helped the Erie Otters win the OHL title and reach the Memorial Cup final.

games last season proved to be a long grind, but it paid off handsomely for Lodnia.

"I thought the year went really well for myself and the team," he said. "We had a lot of veteran guys, so every game, a guy on our team was breaking some sort of record for the franchise, so it was fun to be a part of. We had a really long season, which makes

you a better player."

Lodnia was a first-round pick of the Otters after playing Minor Midget hockey locally for both Honeybaked and Belle Tire.

Lodnia also won a gold medal with USA Hockey at the 2016 Under-17 Five Nations tournaments in Plymouth and Arosa, Switzerland.

In 128 career OHL regular season games, he

has accumulated 40 goals and 56 assists (96 points). He had 16 goals and 39 assists his first season in Erie.

"When you go into the playoffs the next year, you really know what to expect and what to do to take care of your body to keep playing that well," Lodnia said. "We had a really good group of guys, so I think the season went well."

Although the ending was bittersweet, Lodnia reflected favorably upon his second season with the Otters.

"Even though we lost in the finals, I think that we played really well that game," he said. "It was a really close game. Kudos to Windsor, because they played us really hard and they were really a fast team and a good team. And even though we lost in the finals, we should still think of about how we won the OHL, which is also really good."

Lodnia will begin a busy summer schedule, when he reports July 6 to Minnesota's development camp.

"I've been to Minnesota when I was a kid a lot and so I'm really excited that Minnesota drafted me," said Lodnia, who also goes by the first name Ivan. "They're a really good team and the city is really nice."

Lodnia is also one of the 42 participants invited to USA Hockey's 2017 World Junior Summer Showcase in Plymouth. It's part of a selection process for the 2018 World Junior Championships later this year in Buffalo, N.Y.

He'll also attend a camp in Traverse City for NHL rookie teams, along with Erie's main camp, while possibly earning a look by the Wild during their presea-

son training camp in September.

"We had an older team last year, so we're going to lose a couple of really good players," he said of the Otters.

Lodnia tried other sports as a youth, but hockey quickly became his main interest.

"The season just ended, so I got to rest a little bit," Lodnia said. "No real hobbies, just relax and see family and friends. I've played soccer, basketball, hang out at the beach, keep myself in shape, but still have a little fun."

Lodnia moved along with his parents, both born in the Ukraine, from Los Angeles to Michigan three years ago in a hockey-related move. He completed high school online while playing for Erie.

Growing up in California, Lodnia didn't have a particular rooting interest for any NHL team, but he tracked one NHL player very closely.

"I just like to watch big games, but my favorite player was Pavel Datsyuk (Detroit Red Wings), just because how skilled he was in the offensive zone and how reliable he was in the defensive zone," Lodnia said.

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## PREP ATHLETICS

## Huron Valley A.D. makes the jump to South Lyon East

Michaels served  
in dual role at  
Milford, Lakeland  
high schools

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

South Lyon East High School sports is turning the page and headed in a new direction following the appointment June 27 of Greg Michaels as its new athletic director.

The 45-year-old Michaels succeeds Adam Beutel, who resigned unexpectedly earlier this month to "pursue other opportunities," according to the district, after serving as the school's A.D. since 2007.

"The interview committee was impressed by Greg's passion and energy, vision for the East athletic programs and total commitment to developing excellence in and supporting East ath-

letes and coaches," Maureen Altermatt, assistant superintendent for administrative services for the South Lyon Community Schools, said in a press release.

Michaels, an Okemos native, is a 15-year resident of South Lyon with two of his sons attending South Lyon High. He also has a younger son attending Bartlett Elementary School.

"My wife and I did some soul-searching and it was time that we took my skill set and brought it to South Lyon," Michaels said. "And we want to help with South Lyon and their new opportunity with South Lyon East in the (new) LVC (Lakes Valley Conference) and watch this community grow into a new league and a new



Michaels

beginning for their sports program.

"I have always been impressed with the operations and the support given by the community and the school district in South Lyon towards their academics and athletics, a supportive board, a supportive administration."

Michaels was the Huron Valley Schools district athletic coordinator beginning August 2015, responsible for management and oversight of both Lakeland and Milford high schools, the HVS International Academy, as well as Muir, White Lake and Oak Valley middle schools.

He was also Lakeland High's A.D. from 2002-15 and worked in the Farmington Public Schools from 1995 to 2002 as a teacher, coach and athletic coordinator.

Michaels will report to new East Principal Karen Fisher, who is succeeding the retired David Phil-

lips.

"Greg is excited about becoming a Cougar, stating that he is ready to jump in and get to work and looks forward to meeting athletes and their families, as well as East coaches," Altermatt added in the press release. "Greg has shared a desire for East athletics to 'circle the wagons' with pride, recognize and celebrate small victories on the way to larger accomplishments and focus on building 'family' among all its athletes and programs."

Beginning this fall, both East and South Lyon will be joining the new nine-school Lakes Valley Conference, which will also include Milford, Lakeland, Waterford Mott, Waterford Kettering, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Western.

All nine schools were previously members of the 24-school Kensington

Lakes Activities Association dating back to 2007-08.

"It's in my backyard," said Michaels, who helped author and initiate the move by Huron Valley into the LVC. "And again, it's a growing community, a thriving community. The future bodes well for growth and support and maintaining sports programming here. And I think I have a lot to offer in helping that South Lyon East grow into new era of athletics in the LVC."

Michaels, who graduated with a B.A. degree from Albion College in 1995, also has a master's in the art of education from Marygrove College (1997), as well as an educational special degree from Oakland University (2007).

Michaels called his move from Huron Valley to South Lyon East "bittersweet." During his two-year stint as district-wide A.D., Michaels had

Jim Marszalek (Milford) and Brad Farquhar (Lakeland) serve as the high school athletic liaisons and building coordinators.

"There's a lot of good people there and lots of success with wins and losses, tremendous coaches, very, very loyal parents, quality sports programming," Michaels said of his 15-year run in Huron Valley. "I put my thumbprint on a lot of initiatives, whether it was facility enhancements, restructuring procedures and practices or helping coaches grow."

"But I feel I've left Huron Valley in the good spot, both Lakeland and Milford, to also succeed and move forward in the LVC. It boils down to those relationships, so it's hard leaving so many quality people. And they stuck with you for a very long time."

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## COLLEGE TRACK

## Purdue University freshman sprinter caps banner season

Northville grad is second team All-American

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Purdue University's Chloe Abbott capped a banner freshman season by earning second team All-America honors as a member of the outdoor 1,600-meter relay team that finished 11th at the NCAA Championships last month in Eugene, Ore.

At the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field Championships, held May 12-14 at Penn State, the Northville High grad scored nine points to help the Boilermakers earn their first team crown since 1999 by placing fifth in the 400-meter dash (53.64) and sixth in the 200 (23.20, second all time).

Abbott also teamed with Jahneya Mitchell,



BRAD EMONS  
Purdue freshman Chloe Abbott earned All-American honors in track and field.

Symone Black and Brionna Thomas in the 1,600 relay to finish the meet with a time of 3:33.13 to finish second, which time ranks third in school history.

At the NCAA East Preliminary Round quali-

fier, Abbott placed 16th in the 400.

Her best time this season in the 400 (52.88) is a Purdue freshman record and ranks second in school history.

She was also a member of the Big Ten indoor 1,600 relay team that set a conference record (now No. 2) and a school record with a time of 3:31.90. She also placed sixth individually in the 400 (53.50) at the Big Ten meet in Genoa, Ohio.

Abbott was a member of the Boilermakers' indoor 1,600 relay team that placed 10th in the NCAA last March in College Station, Texas, while earning second team All-America honors.

Uhlian takes eighth

University of Michigan junior pole vaulter Sarah Uhlian, a junior from Plymouth High

School, placed eighth to score a point in the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field Championships, held May 12-14 at Penn State.

Uhlian cleared 3.88 meters (12 feet, 8.75 inches) for the Wolverines, who placed fifth in the team standings with 79 points.

Indiana's Sydney Clute captured the event by clearing 14-6.25.

As a sophomore, Uhlian posted a personal outdoor best of 12-9.5. She is a two-time academic all-Big Ten award winner.

The event also featured two other Plymouth High grads: University of Wisconsin junior Jane McCurry and Michigan State sophomore Kayla Janevski.

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Plymouth High grad Sarah Uhlian (left) placed eighth in the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field championships in the pole vault.

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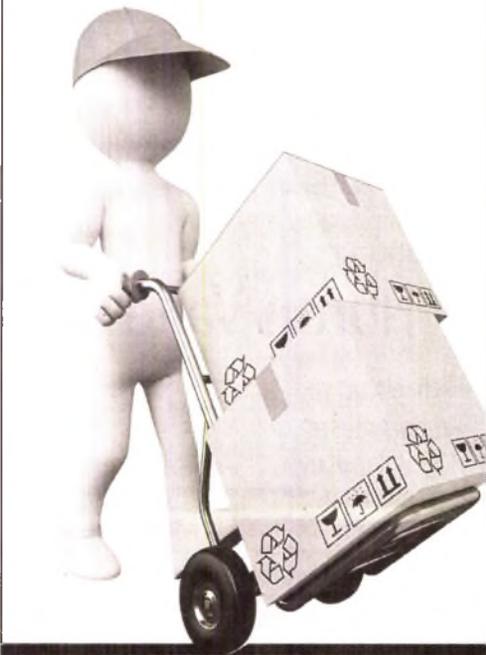
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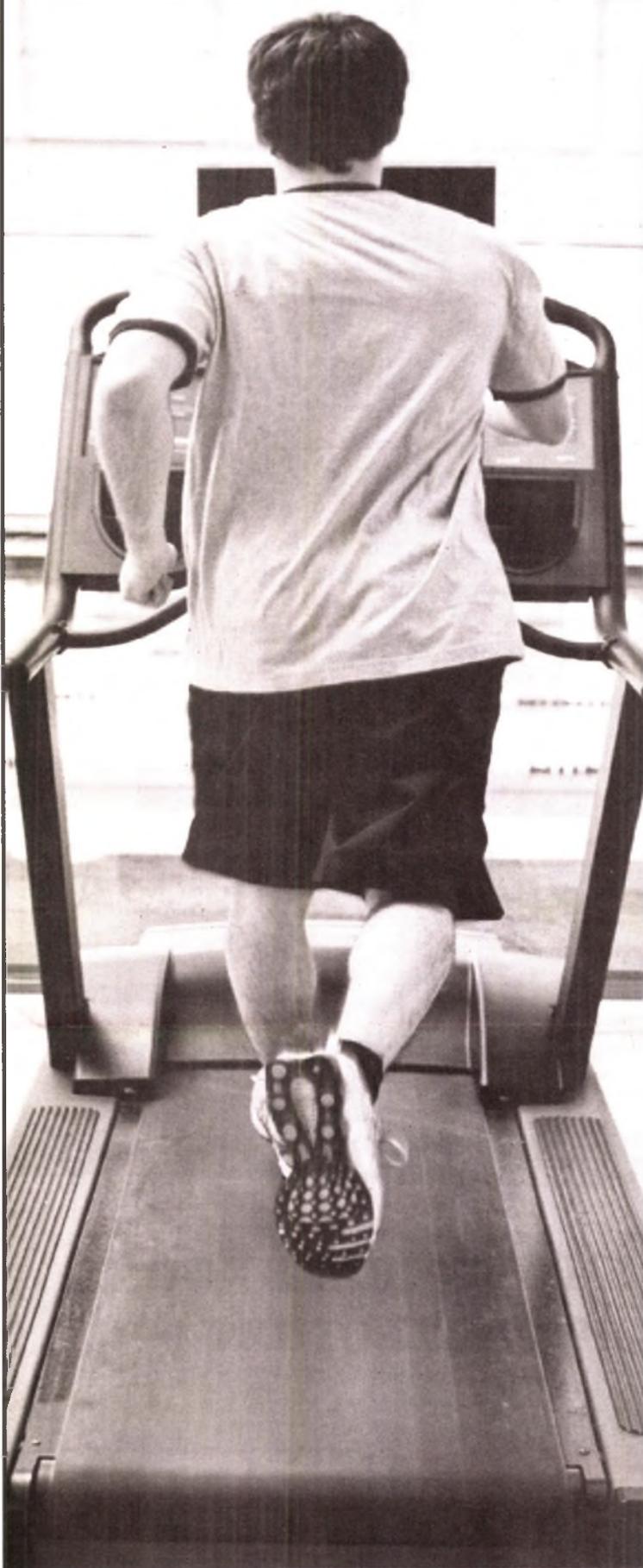
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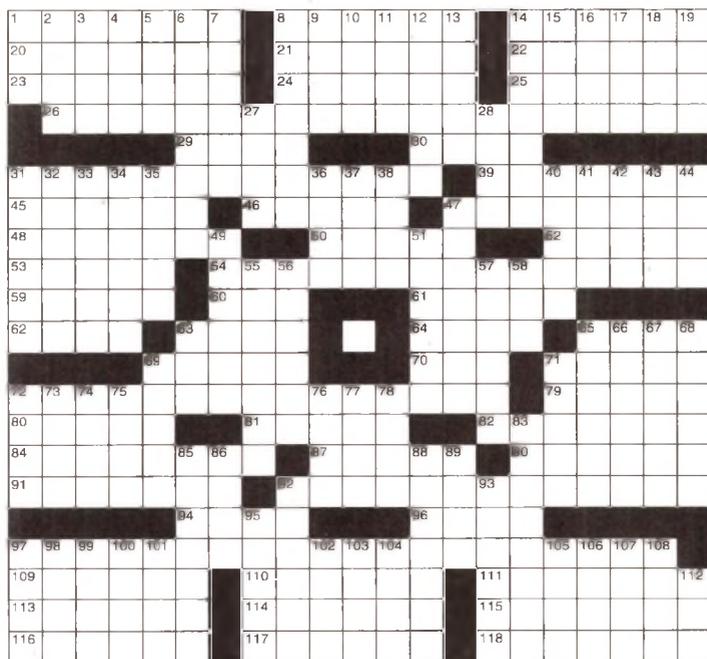
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## SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Diamond shape
  - 8 Swank
  - 14 Hit on the bean
  - 20 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author
  - 21 Crescent-shaped
  - 22 Have a thought
  - 23 Bishop, e.g.
  - 24 Apparel
  - 25 It's hung and hit at fiesta
  - 26 Start of an instruction
  - 29 "Anne of Green Gables" novelist Lucy — Montgomerie
  - 30 "— have thought it?"
  - 31 Instruction, part 2
  - 39 Reindeer herders' region
  - 45 Burrow
  - 46 Scottish estate owner
  - 47 1976 title film role for Robby Benson
  - 48 Gin-and-lime cocktails
  - 50 Weeper of Greek myth
  - 52 Kitchen appliance brand
  - 53 Everything considered
  - 54 Instruction, part 3
  - 59 Catholic bigwigs
  - 60 Huge time unit
  - 61 Elf
  - 62 With 41-Down, town near New London, Connecticut
  - 63 — about (rear)
  - 64 Have — (know someone with clout)
  - 65 Weak type
  - 69 Terrific
  - 70 NFL goals
  - 71 See 97-Down
  - 72 Instruction, part 4
  - 79 Steamers, e.g.
  - 80 Barbera's partner in cartoons
  - 81 Artist Rousseau
  - 82 Onion's kin
  - 84 Proceeds
  - 87 Coffee option
  - 90 Plaza Hotel girl of kid-lit
  - 91 Venus, just before dawn
  - 92 Instruction, part 5
  - 94 — Field (Mels' home)
  - 96 One all, e.g.
  - 97 End of the instruction
  - 109 Team novice
  - 110 Warrant
  - 111 Actor Gary
  - 113 Bee or ant
  - 114 More timid
  - 115 Put to use
  - 116 Mall stands
  - 117 Shines and smooths
  - 118 Vended
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Musical talk
  - 2 Mata —
  - 3 It's a sign
  - 4 Vibraphonist Jackson
  - 5 Ho-hum
  - 6 Inopportune
  - 7 Shilly-shally
  - 8 Model Schiffer
  - 9 Skating jump
  - 10 Animated bug film
  - 11 Go via sea
  - 12 Scattered, as seeds
  - 13 "For cryin' out loud!"
  - 14 Two-footed
  - 15 Aesir god
  - 16 Confined, with "up"
  - 17 Jack of early late-night TV
  - 18 Bluesy James
  - 19 Merger, e.g.
  - 27 Knitting stitch
  - 28 E. — (gut bacteria)
  - 31 Band
  - 32 Couscous alternative
  - 33 Opens, as a gas tank
  - 34 Sock variety
  - 35 Film units
  - 36 Baseball's Martinez
  - 37 Shamrock's land
  - 38 Reversed one
  - 40 Dinner piece
  - 41 See 62-Across
  - 42 Open a bit
  - 43 Taboo thing
  - 44 Unhearing
  - 47 Carlisle of the Go-Go's
  - 49 Awful smell
  - 51 Indirect route
  - 55 Tobacco pipes
  - 56 Get clothed
  - 57 Is
  - 58 Material for some cans
  - 63 Alley —
  - 65 Lambaste
  - 66 Rome's land, in France
  - 67 Acacia relative
  - 68 Badger
  - 69 Incline
  - 71 Resell tickets
  - 72 Mississippi senator Cochran
  - 73 "Mary — Little Lamb"
  - 74 One of the deadly sins
  - 75 Santa — (some winds)
  - 76 Lead-in to spore
  - 77 67-Down, for one
  - 78 Personal quirks
  - 83 Article-preceding summary
  - 85 Marks of distinction
  - 86 Cat Nation tribe
  - 88 Pollination organs
  - 89 Pate de — gras
  - 92 Truck fuel
  - 93 Vessel with a bag, maybe
  - 95 Streetcars
  - 97 With 71-Across, French avant-garde composer
  - 98 TV actress Anderson
  - 99 Ho-hum
  - 100 — out (barely earns)
  - 101 Lit candle bit
  - 102 "Hmm ... yes"
  - 103 Zap, as leftovers
  - 104 Arduous hike
  - 105 Lost traction
  - 106 Solder, say
  - 107 Jannings of old films
  - 108 Demolish
  - 112 Actor Romero



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

## ON VACATION WORD SEARCH

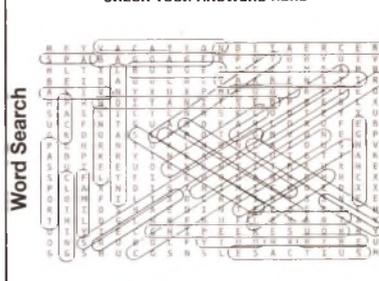
M E Y V A C A T I O N O I T A E R C E R  
S P A B A G G A G E R P O T D H Y U I V  
H L T X L B U D G E T N E I Y M E A M B  
B E I D A G O C A L Y R A R E N I T I R  
A S I V N O Y X U X I M P P O O L R F L E D  
M P H N O I T A N I T S E D P B E S L X  
S A S S I C T C N N S K L O D T E Y X U  
U C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

### WORDS

- AIRPORT
- BAGGAGE
- BOOKING
- BUDGET
- CLOTHING
- CONFIRMATION
- CURRENCY
- DESTINATION
- DUTY
- EXCHANGE
- FAMILY
- HOTEL
- HOUSEKEEPING
- INTERNATIONAL
- ITINERARY
- MOTEL
- PACK
- PASSPORT
- PLANNING
- POOL
- RECREATION
- RELAX
- RENTAL
- RESERVATION
- SHIP
- SIGHTSEEING
- SNORKEL
- SPA
- STAY
- SUITCASE
- SUNSHINE
- TERMINAL
- TICKETS
- TRAVEL
- VACATION
- VISA



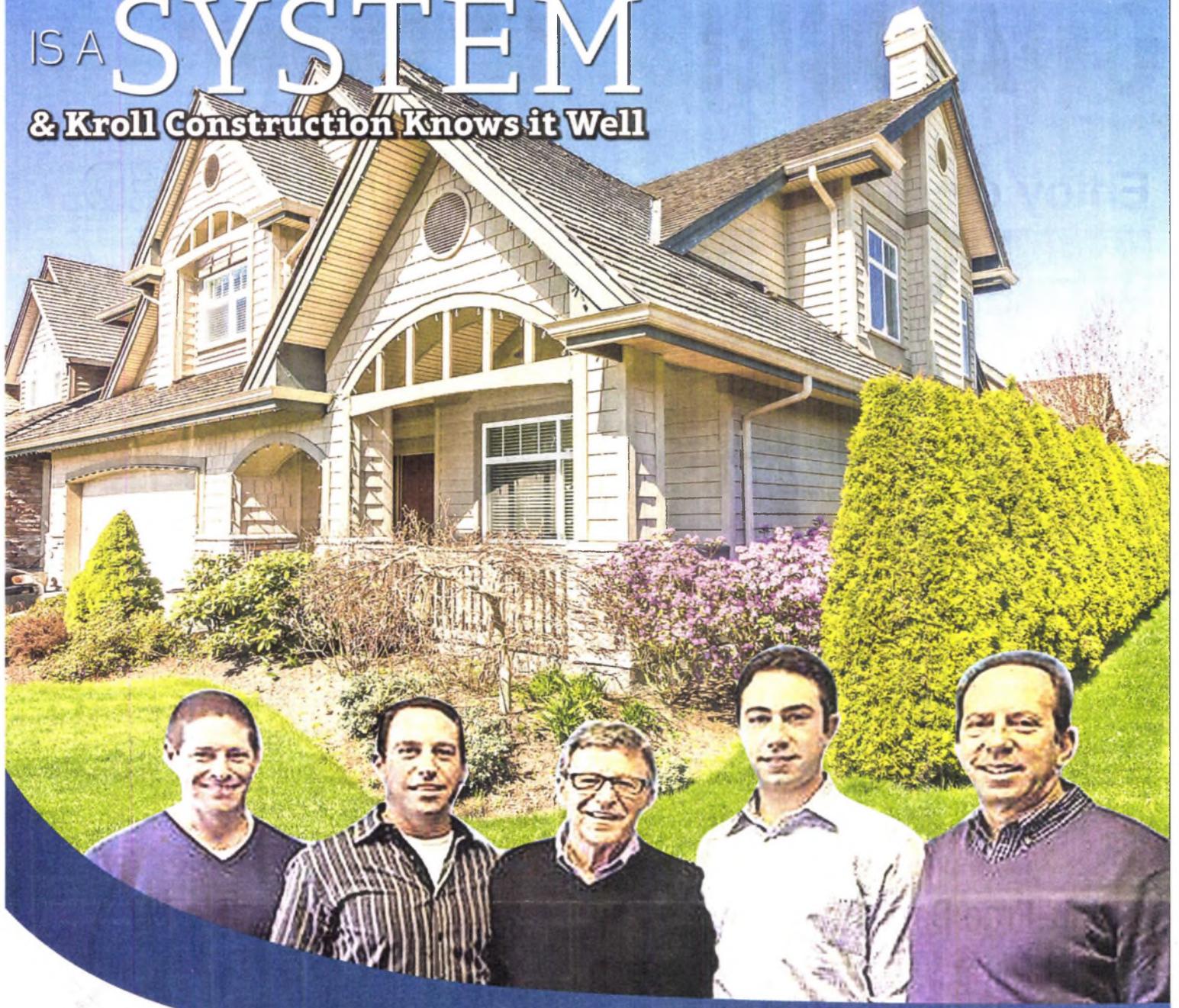
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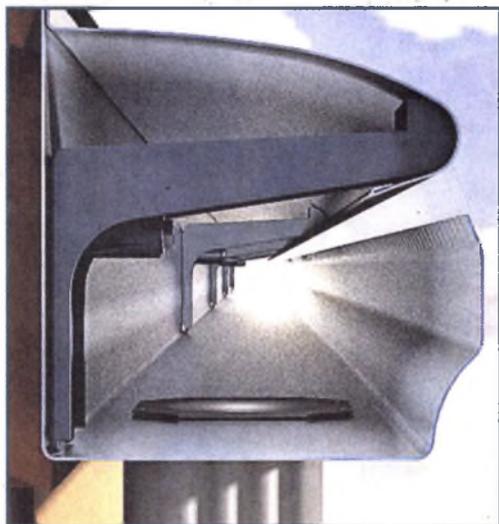
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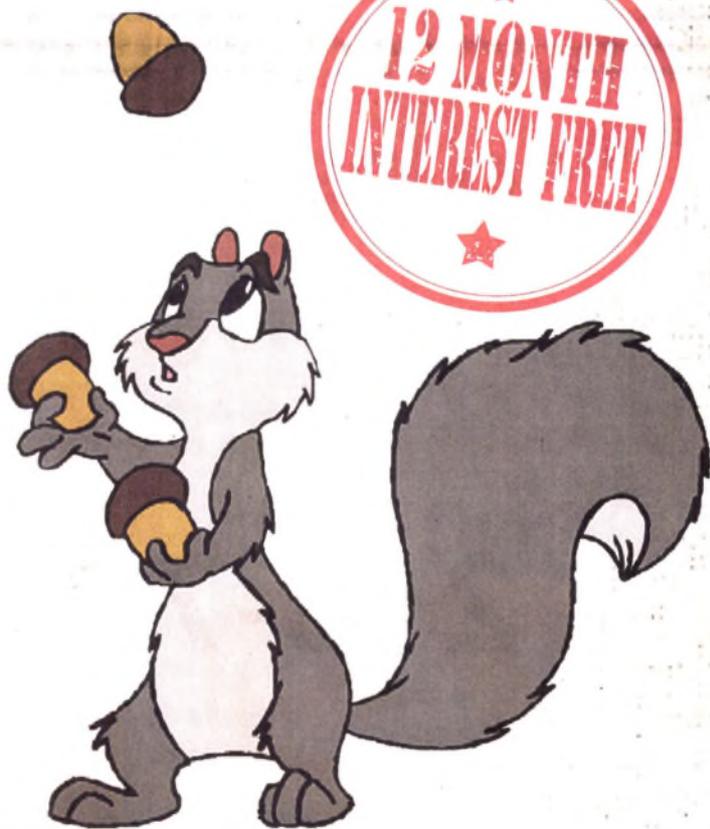


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