

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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3-DAY WALKERS INVADE DOWNTOWN PLYMOUTH
LOCAL NEWS, A6

Stabenow visits downtown Wayne

She highlights success in improving state's waterways

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Stopping in Wayne to highlight success stories like the federally funded Rouge River improvements, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow noted the calming influence of the flowing water.

"After the last few months I've had, the idea of sitting by the river is alluring," the Michigan Democrat said. "It's great to be here on a beautiful Pure

Michigan day. Everyday is a Pure Michigan day."

Traveling around the state this month, Stabenow is highlighting success stories under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative — federal legislation she authored which has brought more than \$400 million in funding to Michigan to improve and protect lakes and waterways.

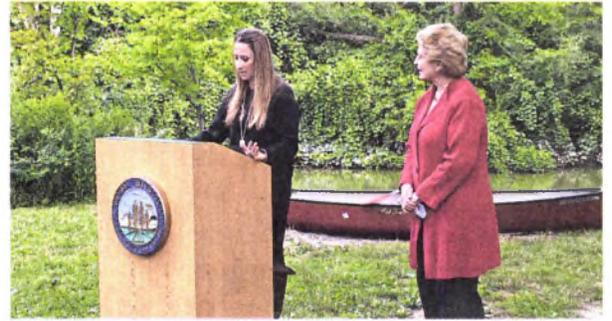
"I've lived my whole life in Michigan. We are very blessed to live in the most beautiful

state. Water is a big part of it," Stabenow said. "Forty million people get their drinking water from the Great Lakes. We are surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh water. It's in our DNA to protect water. It's a special responsibility."

That special responsibility means fighting to keep GLRI funded, she said, noting the current federal budget director proposed no funding, dismissing the GLRI as a local issue.

Eight states and officials

See STABENOW, Page A2



Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini (left) introduces U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, at a program along the Rouge River.

LEANNE ROGERS



Mary Brooks spent much of the morning giving and receiving hugs. Friends say she's "a joy."

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

'I CAN'T STAY HOME'

Redford woman, 90, celebrates birthday with McDonald's co-workers

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Mary Brooks has had nothing but surprises the last two weeks.

The 90-year-old Redford woman recently traveled out west with her family, visiting relatives in California and Alaska. She had several birthday celebrations there with them.

When she got back to work Aug. 2, another surprise was waiting for her: a dining room filled with family, friends and co-workers and cake to celebrate her 90th birthday.

"It was really, really something," Brooks said. "What a

surprise."

Wearing her uniform and ready to start work for the day, she instead spent part of the morning hugging family and enjoying refreshments.

Brooks showed up wearing her uniform, ready to work for her typical weekday shift at the restaurant. She said she's always had to keep herself occupied, only staying out of the workforce for a year before joining the fast-food company.

"I put in 37 years at Western Union. And I took my pension and everything, and I told my husband after I do my



A customer and friend Nayef Samhat presents Mary Brooks with flowers for her big day. She says she considers him one of her "adopted relatives."

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

'The Drowsy Chaperone' coming to O'Leary Auditorium

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

If you're looking for a different kind of summer fun, stop by Garden City's O'Leary Auditorium for a production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 10-13.

Known as a musical within a comedy, "The Drowsy Chaperone" is production of a summer community theater program offered through Garden City Schools.

"Last year was our inaugural year. The community is crazy about theater. People were looking for community theater, but there was nowhere for a creative outlet," director Greg Wiklanski said. "Last year, we did 'Fiddler on the Roof.' It exceeded our expectations."

Wiklanski, theater teacher at Garden City High School, saw a need and proposed the summer community theater program. The 46-member cast includes students from the high school and middle school, but also school alumni and other adult residents.

Rehearsals have been in the evenings — usually 6-9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with longer rehearsals Saturday and Sunday — since early May after auditions were held.

A Tony Award-winning show, "The Drowsy Chaperone" is a parody of a 1920s American musical. The play-within-a-play comes from its structure. A musical comedy fan sits down to play a record of his favorite show, "The Drowsy Chaperone," which comes to life on stage along with his commentary.

"It's a perfect summer show."

See PLAY, Page A2



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Volume 53 • Number 25

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STABENOW

Continued from Page A1

from Canada are involved in bipartisan efforts to protect the Great Lakes from a variety of threats like Asian carp, along with improvements like the Wayne Road dam removal.

"I never thought an ugly fish would keep me up at night," Stabenow said. "The bad news is that the budget proposes to eliminate the funding. People around Michigan rose up. At the moment, the funding is back in."

During her visit Friday, Stabenow was joined by Wayne city officials, representatives of the Alliance of Rouge Communities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on

the Rouge River to see the completed Wayne Road Dam Removal and Habitat Improvement Project.

Completed in 2013, the Wayne Road Dam Removal and Habitat Improvement Project received more than \$1 million in GLRI funding through NOAA. The project reconnected approximately 121 miles of river and tributaries to the Great Lakes system for the first time in more than a century.

The three-foot tall Wayne Road Dam no longer served a public purpose and acted as a barrier to fish and promoted the accumulation of sediment and debris behind the dam. The dam removal opened up new opportunities for canoeing and kayaking and restored passage for a

variety of fish, including trout, small mouth bass, northern pike and wall-eye.

"It's a miracle you got the Wayne Road Dam out without collapsing the road," Stabenow said. "The dam was built in the 1900s to hold water to fight fires. There are more efficient ways to fight fires today."

With the Rouge River running through the city just north of Wayne City Hall on the edge of Goudy Park, the free-flowing river is providing a focal point for activities in the city.

In visits to various communities and through stories posted

online, Stabenow said she wants to focus on the success stories regarding Michigan lakes and rivers.

"One in five Michigan jobs are tied to water. It is more important than ever to continue investing in the health of our Great Lakes and waterways," said Stabenow, co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force. "This successful project is an excellent example of how Great Lakes funding is helping more Michigan families and visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking and canoeing in the Rouge River."

The 41-community member Alliance for

Rouge Communities has done 15 projects, stretching all the way south to the Raisin River, principal engineer John O'Meara said.

"This shows the importance of what we are all doing. I want to thank Senator Stabenow for her efforts to keep the GLRI funded," O'Meara said. "We are in the process of connecting waterway trails. This would connect with the Detroit River."

Improvements to waterways are a quality of life issue, he said, but also improve property values and result in jobs being created.

"Habitat restoration

creates a big return on investment," said Julie Sims, Great Lakes regional coordinator, NOAA Restoration Center. "It's more than just better fishing—restoration projects can improve local property values, aid in flood control, improve access for recreation and add jobs to the economy."

Following the program along the Rouge River, Stabenow stopped to visit local businesses Karma Kitchen and Coffee and ICON Computers.

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PLAY

Continued from Page A1

You go in and you don't have to think too much. You laugh," Wiklanski said. "It's a hilarious, hilarious show."

Along with the cast, Wiklanski said there is very dedicated technical staff behind the scenes, including a technical director designing and producing sets and a costume person.

"We rented some costume that are very elaborate, borrowed some and made others," Wiklanski said, adding the production also has a professional choreographer and musical director.



The cast of "The Drowsy Chaperone," which is being produced Aug. 10-13 at Garden City's O'Leary Auditorium.

Performance are a 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 10-12 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13.

Tickets are \$10 at the door and will be available 90 minutes before curtain. Seating is general admission. O'Leary Auditorium is located at Gar-

den City High School, 6500 Middlebelt.

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BIRTHDAY

Continued from Page A1

unemployment, I'm going to get a job," she said. "I can't stay home."

It was difficult, she said, trying to find work after her stint at Western Union. She would apply places but get told she was overqualified.

The McDonald's restaurant at 19311 Farmington in Livonia was her next choice. She turned in an application and she got the job.

"They called me and put me to work," she said.

Working five days a week

These days, she can be seen taking care of the

dining room, making coffee and keeping supplies freshly stocked.

Teresa Brown, manager at the store, said Brooks has seen a wide range of co-workers during her time at the restaurant. From 15 years old and on, Brown said the workers have connected well together with Brooks, who helps keep employees on the

straight and narrow.

"It is a good environment. It is a good family environment," Brown said.

Longtime friend and Denise Necker came to support Brooks from knowing her as a neighbor for many years. The Livonia resident said Brooks is always on the go, recapping a story of when she ran into her at Kroger last summer and Brooks listed off everything she needed to finish that day after getting off of work.

It's something that's always impressed Necker about Brooks.

"She's awesome. I call her a hoot," she said. "Because she makes you laugh. She really is. She's just a joy."

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ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2017-23 August 1, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3855 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED: agenda; minutes of Regular & Special City Council meetings of July 18, 25 & 27; bid to Konica Minolta for Police copier; bid to Camtronics for Police surveillance system; change order for Sims; lot split for 35000 Van Born; accept HAVA grant for new election equipment; Senior Alliance 2018 Annual Implementation Plan; appointment of Jeremiah Webster to City Council; Rowe as MML voting delegate. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 10:25p.m.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Published: August 10, 2017

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Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Warrant denied after utility worker shoots dog

Livonia police say a warrant request submitted to the Livonia city attorney's office has been denied in a case where a utility worker shot a dog last month. The incident took place July 28 in the 19900 block of Angling, after a utility worker was in the area doing work. Police say the worker was walking to the front door of a home via a front yard when a dog came running toward him. Police say the worker, a licensed CPL holder, then pulled out a gun and shot the dog, killing it. Police say the request was refused, with prosecutors saying the incident appeared to be a

self-defense case and no criminal conduct was involved.

Items stolen from Home Depot

Police were called Aug. 3 to Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody. A loss prevention employee saw the suspect select several items, including some Cross Tees, and place them in a cart. He then went and got a flat cart before selecting some pea gravel. He went and paid for the gravel, but did not pay for the Cross Tees or several other items. He tried to leave without paying, but was stopped by an employee. He was detained until police arrived and issued him a retail fraud citation.

Fraudulent check passed

An employee at Check Into Cash, 30218 Plymouth, came into the police station Aug. 2 to report a fraudulent check had been passed. The employee said the suspect came into the store July 13 to cash a check for more than \$2,100. The company got a call about 10 days later that stated the check was counterfeit. The employee tried calling the man at his provided number, but always got hung up on. His phone eventually was disconnected.

Catalytic converter stolen

A victim came in to the police station Aug. 2 to report the theft of a catalytic converter in the

19400 block of Farmington.

He said he lent his vehicle to his daughter while her car was having problems. She told him she went to start the car July 31 and noticed it was running loudly. Her father came over and found the catalytic converter had been taken.

Tools taken from garage

Police were dispatched Aug. 1 to a home in the 20100 block of Maplewood on the report of a break-in of a garage. The owner said it appeared someone entered the garage through the pedestrian door and took several ratchets and sockets from the garage. Their vehicle was also gone through, though nothing appeared miss-

ing. Another resident in the 20200 block of Maplewood had also contacted police to tell them someone had gone through their vehicle, though nothing appeared missing.

Car stolen

Police were called Aug. 3 to the 8900 block of Louise on the report of a stolen vehicle.

The owner said the car was parked in front of his house the night before. When he came out the next morning, he discovered it was missing. He said he had both sets of keys and was up-to-date on the payments. No suspect information was available.

— By David Veselenak

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

WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Burglary at animal clinic

Police were called July 26 to Ace Animal Clinic, 2340 S. Wayne, on the report of a break-in. Police arrived after getting an alarm notification. Police found a window screen cut and the window slid over. A side door also had its door knob busted off. Police checked the interior of the building for suspects, but did not locate any. Two footprints of different sizes were located in the dirt outside of the building. The building's owner walked the premises and found nothing missing. He said he closed the clinic the day before and secured it.

License plate taken

A resident in the 7400 block of Central Avenue

came to the police station July 24 to report her license plate was stolen.

She said she parked her car in the apartment complex on July 21. Three days later, she found the plate missing. She said she did not know who took the plate and did not have any evidence.

Vehicle keyed

A resident in the 37000 block of Lakewood Circle called police to her home July 25 to report damage to her vehicle.

She said she left town for a few days beginning July 21 and left her vehicle in front of her address. When she returned later on from her trip, she found both sides of her car had been scratched, apparently with a key. Police observed the damage, which ran along the entire side of

the vehicle. No suspect information was available.

Bicycle stolen

Police were called July 26 to Kroger, 200 S. Merriman, on the report of a stolen bicycle.

When police arrived, they spoke to the victim, who said he rode his bicycle to Kroger earlier that night and parked it on the rack. When he came out a little later, he found his bicycle was missing. He said he did not know who would have stolen the bicycle, and was unsure if there was any video footage showing the exterior of the building.

Tires stolen

Police were dispatched July 27 to the 31000 block of Sandra Lane on the report of stolen wheels and tires.

Police spoke to the vehicle's owner, who said the car was parked in front of the home in the street the day before. He came outside that morning and found the vehicle missing its four wheels. The car was sitting on cement blocks and the lug nuts were on the ground nearby.

iPod stolen from car

A resident in the 3000 block of Nelson Circle filed a police report July 27, reporting someone had entered her vehicle and stolen an iPod.

She said she left the vehicle unlocked in her driveway the night before. She returned to the vehicle the next morning and found someone had taken her iPod Touch and its case.

— By David Veselenak

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Michigan State Police hosting recruiting seminar in Livonia

The Michigan State Police will host an informational recruiting seminar from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 19, at Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center, Kehrl Auditorium, 18600 Hagerty Road, Livonia. Attendees are asked to arrive by 9:45 a.m.

Recognizing the importance of a diverse workforce, the MSP is committed to reflecting the communities it serves. This free seminar will explain the variety of career opportunities available. Troopers, supervisors and command officers will

provide insight and answer questions on recruit training, the lifestyle of a trooper and positions available, according to a press release.

The minimum requirements for consideration of employment, according to the press release, are as follows:

» Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, of good moral character and have no felony convictions.

» You must be a U.S. citizen and a Michigan resident at the time of appointment to the academy.

» Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED.

» A good driving record and stable credit history is required.

The starting salary at the beginning of recruit school is \$44,000 annually, with a \$7,800 raise upon completion of one year, the press release says.

To attend the seminar, email Trooper Marjorie Phillips at Phillipsm7@michigan.gov. The attire for this event is business casual. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mspjobs.



FILE PHOTO

The Wayne Bike Club meets up for weekly rides through the city.

Wayne Main Street raising money for biking grant match

Wayne Main Street recently announced a new crowd funding campaign through Michigan-based crowd funding platform Patronicity.

The campaign will support the project to install new bike racks throughout the downtown and run Pop-Up Bike Repair & Safety workshops in partnership with the Wayne Bicycle Club.

If the campaign reaches its crowdfunding goal of \$5,500 by Aug. 31, the project will win a matching grant with funds made possible by MEDC's Public Spaces

Community Places program. For project details and to donate, go to www.Patronicity.com/WayneMainStreet.

The Downtown Bike Rack Program will promote cycling in Wayne and help the downtown continue to prosper. The project plans to install 20 brand new, custom bike racks in downtown Wayne, refurbish existing bike racks, hold Pop-Up Bike Repair & Safety events launching in fall and promote biking throughout the community.

This project also aims to promote Wayne as a

bikable community.

"Wayne has an avid biking community and we want to do whatever we can to promote Wayne as a bike-friendly city, including providing options for secure bike parking throughout our downtown," said Theo Brooks, a Wayne Main Street board member.

In addition to this project, Wayne's Bicycle Club is also gaining in prominence. The club is currently in the running to receive the Michigan Municipal League Community Excellence Award.

Behind the Seen DIA program scheduled for Aug. 15 at Wayne Library

Behind the Seen, an in-depth look at some masterpieces from the Detroit Institute of Arts' world-class collection will be at the Wayne Library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15.

It's a continuation of DIA events in Wayne, which hosted the return of the Inside | Out Project April 13 to July 15, bringing art to the city.

Funded by the Knight Foundation, Inside | Out brings museum masterpieces to the public for communities to share in the creative beauty of art

in an urban outdoor setting.

"The DIA Inside | Out program was great for our community. It was a unique way to build excitement for Wayne and our business and customer-friendly downtown," said Breeda O'Leary, Wayne Main Street Board of Directors, vice chairperson.

Wayne Main Street in partnership with the city of Wayne and community organizations hosted a slate of exciting events in order to promote this project. Events included

the opening gala at Helium Studios, a scavenger hunt, a bike tour hosted by the Wayne Bicycle Club and a Drop-In Art workshop hosted by the DIA.

The grand finale for the DIA Inside | Out project in Wayne was anchored by Downtown Days, which featured sidewalk sales, a 25-cent hotdog sale, flea market, record show, a car cruise and many more exciting activities.

For more information, go to downtownwayne.org.

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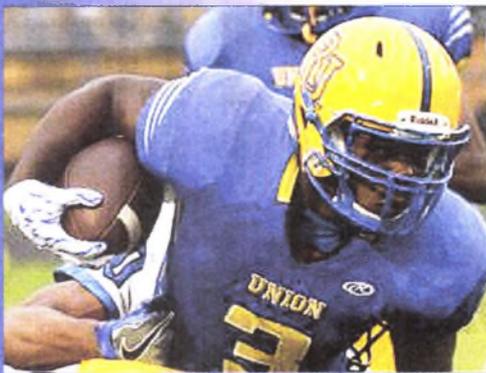
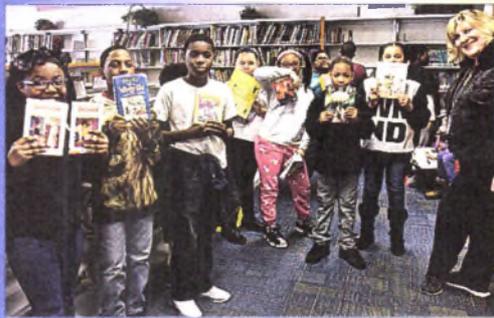
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Wearing pink for a worthy cause

3-Day walkers hope to beat cancer

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Denise Mintz of Canton ruffled through the more than 30 tiny ribbons on the bracelet around her right wrist while taking a break Saturday from the Michigan 3-Day in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Every one of the ribbons represented a family member or friend in Mintz's life who's been impacted by cancer.

And so she walked, 60 miles in three days, "for all of these people."

"They're all friends and loved ones of friends who've been touched by cancer," said Mintz, walking in her fourth 3-Day. "If by chance (walkers) pass a woman who then says, 'I should go get a mammogram,' it's worth it."

Mintz was one of hundreds of walkers who took part in the annual Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day, walkers who spent months raising funds and training to walk 60 miles over the three days of the event.

Walkers gathered Friday at the starting point at Walled Lake Western High School in Commerce (it moved from the Suburban Showplace Collection in Novi this year) to get started.

They then walked an average of 20 miles a day in support of cancer research and awareness in a walk that has raised more than \$56 million since 2004.

With a dwindling number of events — there were seven this year — walkers came from all over the country to take part.

Karen Rush and Ellen Banta both came from Phoenix, Ariz., to walk in Michigan's event. Both women are doing all seven walks; Rush has walked 53 times, while Banta has made 25 walks.

Ironically, they didn't meet at home; they met at a Komen walk.

"We do all seven of the walks because we can, because we have to," Rush said. "We need to get rid of this disease."

Jeremy Wallace of Akron, Ohio, hasn't ever had cancer, but he knows people who have. He figured walking 60 miles in three days — even wearing a bright pink bra — wasn't nearly as tough as cancer patients have it.

"They've got a lot longer, rougher road than this," said Wallace, walking in his third event. "This is the least I could do for my friends."

Amanda Boyd of Dearborn was in Plymouth to support the walkers. A first-timer, Boyd has watched five aunts battle cancer.

"I've watched it for too long," said Boyd, who was dancing at the corner of Main and Ann Arbor Trail. "It was time for me to do something."

For Barbara Boone, "doing something" involved riding her motorcycle all the way up from Atlanta, Ga., to show her support. Boone danced along with Boyd as the walkers paraded through Plymouth.

Boone, affectionately known as "BB," has beaten cancer twice and watched other family members fight it, as well.

"I'm doing this so my daughter won't have to



Walkers Ellen Banta (from left), Karen Rush and Denise Mintz take a break at the fountain in Kellogg Park during last weekend's Michigan 3-Day.

BRAD KADRICH



The Plymouth Wildcats cheerleaders were on hand to support the walkers.

BRAD KADRICH

do it," Boone said. "I didn't make it through cancer alone. This is my way of paying it forward."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



Jackie Pauls (left) of Chicago and Betty Deputy of Indiana dressed up for the occasion.

BRAD KADRICH



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- ▶ Giveaways, gift baskets, and more!
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WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

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

Family Field Day & Movie in Park

The third annual Family Field Day & Movie in the Park is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11, in Heritage Park, west of Canton Center Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer roads.

Featured activities on the north side of Heritage Park include classic favorites such as potato sack races, shoe kicks and distance throw. Learn about family fitness opportunities that take place throughout the year through the Fit Family Challenge.

No pre-registration is required. Registration fees are \$11 per family for Canton residents and \$13 per family for non-residents and can be paid on-site; cash only. Food, snacks and popcorn will also be available for purchase. This event is open to the public, and all ages are encouraged to attend.

Following the Family Field Day events, a special showing of the animated movie "The LEGO Batman Movie" (rated PG) will be held outside in the park on the big screen starting at dusk. Food, snacks and popcorn will be available for purchase.

For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Blues great to perform

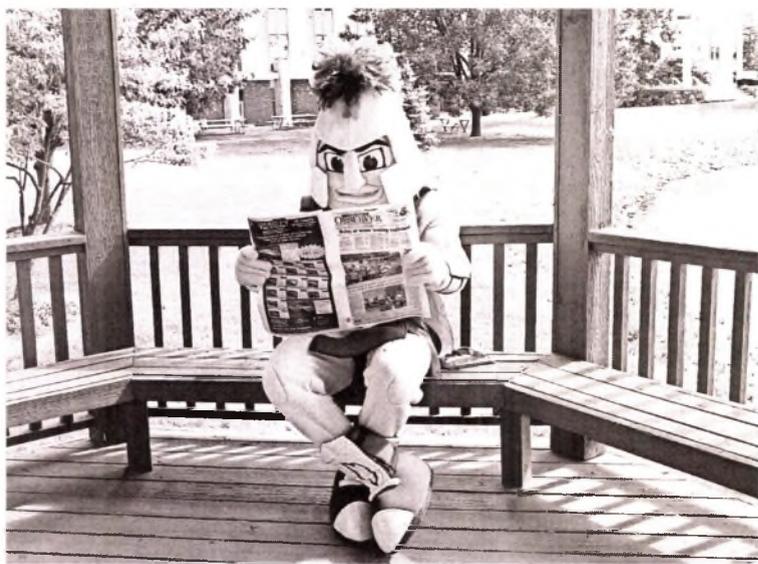
Josh White Jr. will perform a benefit concert for Barefoot Productions at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.

Proceeds from the show will help with funds for relocation of the theater company due to redevelopment of the current location. General seating is \$20. For tickets, go to justgobarefoot.com or call 734-404-6889.

Barefoot Productions is located at 240 N. Main St., Plymouth.

Flea market

Newburgh Village in Livonia will host a Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 12. Newburgh Village is located at 11999 Newburgh Road.



MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Madonna University's new mascot Cruz the Crusader took a staycation this summer and enjoyed campus life. In between studying for classes and picnicking by St. Francis Pond, Cruz kept up with local news by reading the Observer. During the academic year, Cruz can be found pumping up school spirit at athletic events, congratulating students on their academic achievements, thanking donors for their support or helping out at a community service project, the university says.

RCL meet and greet

The Republican Club of Livonia will host a gubernatorial candidate meet and greet event from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Livonia Victory Center, 33462 W. Seven Mile Road. For more information, call 734-679-7757.

Polish folkdance enrollment

PNA Centennial Dancers, a Plymouth-based children's Polish folkdance ensemble serving the Polish-American communities in Wayne, Oakland and Livingston counties, is offering open enrollment through August.

Formed in 1980 by the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 53, formerly PNA Lodge 3240, the dance ensemble has been educating students ages 3-18 and sharing Polish heritage and culture through music, dance and language for over three decades.

Beyond the regular dance classes and recital, students can participate in a variety of additional performances. For more than 30 years, Centennial has participated in events and won awards from across the state: Polish American Night at Comerica Park, Ply-

mouth and Northville Fourth of July parades, Plymouth Fall Festival, Polish Folk Dance Festival in Troy, Milwaukee Polish Festival, Polish Festival at Buddy's Pizza, the PNA Youth Jamboree and more.

For more information on registering, go to https://pnacentennialdancers.wordpress.com/registration/.

Farmers market

The Westland Farmers Market runs 3-7 p.m. each Thursday through Oct. 13. The market is at 1901 N. Carlson, south of Ford Road. The market features produce, plants, fresh foods, crafts and live music weekly. EBT is accepted. For more information, email westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

St. Monica's support group

St. Michael's new St. Monica's Support Group, an outgrowth of the series "Calling Them Home" for parents and others praying for the return of their children, grandchildren and other loved ones to the Catholic Church, will meet again at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14, in the Convent Living Room, located behind the parish office at 11441 Hubbard Road, in Livonia.

noon Saturday, Aug. 26, at 520 Blunk, Plymouth. Baths are by donation. All proceeds benefit WAA. For more information, go to wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Bowling fundraiser

A bowling event, with proceeds going to the building fund at VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth, will be held 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at Plaza Bowling Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

There will be bowling, desserts, 50/50 drawing and a full tin can basket raffles. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for kids. Tickets includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop.

Sign-up by Aug. 12 by calling 734-265-7908 or emailing strawjazz@yahoo.com.

Jazz concert series relocated

The 2017 Canton Color Block Jazz Concert Series continues this summer with its remaining concerts scheduled to take place at a new location in Canton's Heritage Park. The outdoor concerts will now be held 7-9 p.m. each Friday evening through Aug. 25 at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

To allow larger audiences the chance to experience these free jazz concerts, this popular series has been relocated from the Super Bowl to Canton's Heritage Park. The concert lineup and schedule remain the same:

» Aug. 11: Rayse Biggs

» Aug. 18: RYZ Mr. Gerard Gibbs

» Aug. 25: Greg Nagy Audience members are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket and then sit back and enjoy. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be canceled.

For more information, go to

www.shopcanton.org.

Shoe drive for homeless

Orangetheory Fitness-Canton, in partnership with HERO and Midwest Recycling, will conduct a shoe drive for the homeless throughout August. HERO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless people or those at risk of homelessness.

Orangetheory Fitness, 41818 Ford Road, will be an official shoe collection site. If you would like to donate a pair of shoes, come by during hours of operation. All shoes are welcomed.

Scavenger Hunt

Garden City Business Alliance and the DDA are hosting a citywide Scavenger Hunt through Aug. 18. Get a clue packet at gardencitybusinessalliance.org/clues and gcdda.com/clues.

Solve all clues correctly and visit all businesses to fill out your entry form at each business to be entered into a drawing for cash prizes. First-place prize is \$250.

Winners will be drawn Aug. 24 at Music in the Park at Garden City Park.

For more information, call 734-261-2830 or email theresa@downtowngardencity.com.

Music in the Park

Garden City Business Alliance and the DDA present Music in the Park featuring Steve King & the Dittilies from 6-9 p.m. Aug. 24 at Garden City Park's main pavilion.

The free event is open to all. Food trucks will be available. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and coolers. Donations of nonperishable and canned food will be accepted for Garden City H.O.M.E. pantry.

For more information, call 734-788-1319 or go to gardencitybusinessalliance.org.

nia.

Taught by Catholic author, apologist and life-long parishioner Gary Michuta, the series was attended by approximately 60 folks and there was great interest in continuing to meet monthly as St. Monica's Support Group. Michuta will continue to lead the group in prayer, discussion and presentations geared to the successful return of the fallen away to Catholicism. The group will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month, year-round.

For more information, call 734-261-1455, ext. 200.

Free ice cream

Mt. Hope Church (30330 Schoolcraft) will be handing out free ice cream 6-7 p.m. Aug. 23 and 30. Enjoy a cool treat in the summer heat!

Dog wash

A dog wash event to benefit Wreaths Across America will be held at

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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GARFIELD SKILL CENTER RENOVATIONS

The Board of Education of Livonia Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor bids for all labor, material, equipment and all other services to complete the work at Livonia Public Schools - Garfield Skill Center Renovations.

Plans and specifications may be obtained electronically via Pipeline Suites through George W. Auch Co. and are available for review at the office of the George W. Auch Company, 735 S. Paddock Street, Pontiac, MI 48341, 248-334-2000, on or after August 3rd, 2017. The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by French Associates. Complete sets of printed documents may be purchased from ARC Document Solutions, 1009 W. Maple St., Clawson, Michigan 248-288-5600 or email michigan.troy@e-arc.com.

The envelope bearing your proposal must identify your company and the proposal being bid and addressed to the attention of Mr. Phillip Francis, Director of Operations, Livonia Administrative Offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Bids must be delivered no later than 12:00 noon, August 22nd, 2017 to Livonia Administrative Offices (address above), Attn: Phillip Francis, Director of Operations. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms furnished by the construction manager and must be completed in full. Each proposal shall be sealed in an opaque envelope and marked with the name of the bidder. Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays. No bids will be received at the George W. Auch Company Office; all bids must be sent to the Livonia Administrative Offices.

A Bid bond executed by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the owner, or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Livonia Public Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of \$23,417.00. All proposals shall be firm for a period of ninety (90) days. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

Contractors will be required to meet the Prevailing Wage requirements which are provided with the project manual.

A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th, 2017 at 3:30pm at Garfield Skill Center (10218 Arthur St., Livonia, MI 48150). This walk through is not mandatory, but highly recommended. Please meet in the main entrance/lobby.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a meeting convened at the Livonia Administrative Offices Lower Board Room starting at 2:00 pm on August 22nd, 2017. Post-bid interviews will be held on August 28th - September 8th at the office of the George W. Auch Company OR Livonia Administration Office; the low responsive bidder must be prepared to meet on these days.

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of the Bond shall be included in each proposal.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or Superintendent of the Livonia Public Schools. All bids must be accompanied by a signed and notarized statement to comply with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act of 2012 and the Equal Opportunity Form.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Phillip Francis
Director of Operations

Published: August 10, 2017

LO-0000327222 3x7.5

Greenfield



Marian August 3, 2017. Age 88 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Henry. Loving mother of Irene (Dan) Eddy, Robert, Thomas (the late Pam), James (Connie), Richard, Kathleen, Neal, Mary (Gary) Richmond, and the late Timothy. Dear grandmother of 18 and great grandmother of many. A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 12. Instate 10:30am with the service at 11am at St. Richard's Catholic Church, 35637 Cherry Hill Rd., Westland. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Angela Hospice or the ASPCA. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com.



Lockwood

Barbara Barbara July 30, 2017 age 97. Beloved wife of the late Orville (Pat). Loving mother of James (Gayle), Thomas (Janet), late Michael (Bonnie), Mary (Ken) Tyburski. Loving grandmother and great grandmother. Barb was a resident of Plymouth, MI for 59 years and a teacher there for 23 of those years.



Payette



Jane M. died Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the age of 84 in her home in Lake Chapala, Mexico from natural causes. Jane was born Jane M. Timmers in Dayton OH on September 1, 1932 to her mother M. "Timme" Timmers and father Reed B. Timmers. Jane married William "Bill" H. Birkett in Kahoka MO in 1948, and then married Earl William "Bill" Payette in Livonia MI in 1974. Jane owned Trade Graphics, Inc., a successful business she started in 1957 and sold in 1993. She was well known and respected within the Detroit printing industry. Jane is survived by her son William "Bill" B. Birkett and his wife Oda Katherine "Kay" Birkett of Plymouth MI, son Richard "Rich" J. Birkett of Lake Chapala, granddaughter Katherine "Katie" Ross-Birkett and Katie's husband Matt Ross of Big Flats NY, grandson William "Bill" C. Birkett of Plymouth MI, great-grandsons Henry Ross and Charles Ross of Big Flats NY, nieces Merrill Gillaspay of Berkeley CA and Michelle Gillaspay, nephews Tait Gillaspay of Boston MA, Scott Gillaspay, and Clayton "Clay" Gillaspay, and her cats Sheba, Miz, Tyler, Buddy and Poochie II. Jane requested she be cremated, and not have a funeral. A memorial reception is planned for Jane's 85th birthday on Friday, September 1st, at a place to be determined near her home in Mexico. If you knew Jane and/or wish to attend, call Rich at 734-757-8000, or email rich@lakechapalaguide.com.

Tompson



Christian "Chris" Anthony of Farmington Hills, aged 52 passed away unexpectedly on August 2, 2017. He was a honorably discharged Army veteran, where he proudly served in the 10th Special Forces Group. He leaves behind his cherished mother Sue Leavy Tompson of Farmington Hills, brother Robert Tompson and his wife Gina, and his nephew Jamie of Monterey Park, CA, brother Peter Tompson and his wife Kim and his nephews Tyler and Jake of Farmington, MI, sister Jennifer Tompson Fellows and his niece Julia of Hollis, NH and Krystal Worek and her husband Dan of Tampa, FL. We are comforted in knowing our loving dad Robert C. Tompson welcomed him home with open and loving arms. Burial will be in Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Arrangements entrusted to Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. (248) 474-5200 heeney-sundquist.com

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FIRST DAY OF FOOTBALL

Every day is a tryout for Plymouth gridders

Varsity and JV teams practice together to spur competition, camaraderie

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The alarm sounded at 6 a.m. Monday for Plymouth sophomore quarterback Nick Downs, but he already was wide awake.

Soon he would be on the practice field at Plymouth High School, competing in the first day of practice for the 2017 football season.

But unlike the set-up in previous years, Downs and other players ticketed for the junior varsity were getting reps in with the varsity squad.

"It's good practicing together, because I kind of get some knowledge from Zach (Beadle)," said Downs, referring to the varsity's starting quarterback. "It's good because when I get in reps on seven-on-seven, I'm playing

against our varsity starters. I get the speed of the game, so next year I'll be prepared for it."

Beadle, a senior entering his third year with the varsity, said the Wildcats will benefit as a program this year and beyond because of the new set-up.

"We saw first hand at practice today that it's already better, because we got more guys and more fresh legs on offense," Beadle said. "So when we run the scout offense for our starting defense, it's just a lot quicker, a lot more reps, a lot more plays. A lot more efficiently, too."

"It will prepare (JV players) for the speed of varsity and help get them ready for next year (2018), when they're on varsity — or even if they get pulled up this year."

Upping the ante

According to veteran varsity head coach Mike Sawchuk, fewer players on the roster is one factor in combining



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth football coach Mike Sawchuk works with the combined varsity and junior varsity teams during the first day of practice.

See PLYMOUTH, Page B3

PRO BASEBALL

Cameron continues career Down Under

Churchill grad signs contract with Australian team

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Even after a successful high school and college career, Daniel Cameron can't quite get baseball out of his system.

The 2013 Livonia Churchill grad, who recently earned a degree in finance and economics from Shenandoah (Va.) University, is taking his talents Down Under to the Carine Cats, a feeder team for the Perth Heat of the Australia Baseball League, which is affiliated with Major League Baseball.

Perth, the capital of Western Australia, is the country's fourth largest city with 1.9 million people.

"The real world — you could say — I'm not ready for yet," said Cameron, a catcher who batted .347 with 37 RBIs for Shenandoah, which earned a school-record 41 wins and was ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division III for six weeks. "The beaches are gorgeous. I'll be living right on the beach. There's Starborough Beach, world-renowned. It's pretty cool."

The 22-year-old Cameron signed a pro contract with the state minor league team July 8 and will leave Sept. 26. The season begins Oct. 1 and will run through March and possibly into April (depending upon the play-offs).

Former Shenandoah player Greg Van Sickler, who started with the Carine Cats and played for the Perth Heat, helped make the connection for Cameron.

"One of my coaches contacted me and asked, 'Hey, want to play semi-

See CAMERON, Page B3



ART CAMERON

Catcher Dan Cameron batted .346 his senior year at NCAA Division III power Shenandoah (Va.) University.

WORLD JUNIOR SUMMER SHOWCASE



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Vying for a loose puck along the boards Saturday night are Team USA's Brady Tkachuk (right) and Team Canada's Kale Clague.

SUMMER SPARKS

Hot power play lifts Team USA to win over Canada in Showcase finale

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

It wasn't quite the Olympics — or World Juniors, for that matter.

But Saturday night's contest at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth between the United States and Canada was pretty close — a thrilling tour de force in front of more

than 2,750 fans to close out the week-long 2017 World Junior Summer Showcase.

Fans, as well as a bevy of National Hockey League scouts and front office personnel, were on hand to catch the fast and physical tourney finale. Team USA prevailed 7-5, sparked by four power-

See HOCKEY, Page B2



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Celebrating his goal early in the third period is Team USA forward Patrick Harper.

PREP FOOTBALL

Farmington-area teams gear up for new season

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

The 2017 Oakland Activities Association media day took place early Friday afternoon at the Rochester Board of Education building.

That can only mean one thing: the prep season is about to kick off.

While coaching staffs from the trio of Farmington Public Schools were present, there was a notable difference in two of them.

Farmington and North Farmington high schools entered the fifth annual



MARTY BUDNER

The trio of (from left) John O'Connor, Caleb Sparks and Noah Hendricks will be key players at Farmington Harrison this season.

event with first-year head coaches addressing the assembled media and ambas-

sadors from the other 19 OAA football programs. Kory Cioroch was at the

podium representing the navy and white of Farmington after taking over for John Bechtel. Bob Chiesa introduced himself as the new head coach for the brown and gold North Farmington Raiders after replacing Todd Schultz.

There was, however, no change at the Harrison table. Legendary head coach John Herrington still presided stoically over the storied green and gold Hawks program.

Whether new or old, the

See SEASON, Page B2

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

play goals.

Leading the charge were U.S. National Team Development Program alums Adam Fox (goal, four assists), Joey Anderson (three goals, assist) and Brady Tkachuk (two assists).

"Sometimes, it's tough in the middle of summer to perform," said Anderson, who will play hockey at University of Minnesota-Duluth between now and December, when the U.S. World Juniors squad reconvenes in advance of the 2018 World Juniors in Buffalo, N.Y. "But we had guys going out there and everyone was giving their all; that's all you can ask for."

"Tonight was probably our most complete game of the whole week. All four lines were moving. A couple penalties we probably didn't like, but we did our best to kill them and make sure they didn't cost us too much."

Work to do

U.S. head coach Bob Motzko said it was a good, competitive week for his group.

"Last year, there were a lot of pieces we thought were concrete," said Motzko, whose 2017 World Junior team defeated Canada in the gold medal game. "Right now, there are a lot of pieces, there's so many pieces that are still in the mix. We got a lot of work to do through December."

Among players who did not face Canada, but who could find themselves on the final World Juniors roster, are goalie Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) and forward Logan Cockerill (Brighton).

Forward Ivan Lodnia (Novi) played earlier in the tournament, while forward Will Lockwood (Bloomfield Hills) missed the showcase due to injury.

Motzko praised Anderson and Fox for their work on the power play and said Tkachuk "plays at such a hard level every single shift. ... He's going to be an outstanding player. You got to learn to pick



Team USA's Joey Anderson (left) and linemate Brady Tkachuk celebrate after scoring against Team Canada. Anderson registered a hat trick and added an assist in a 7-5 victory.

and choose your spots a little bit. Right now, it's just full-speed every second he's out there."

Another NTDP alum who made his mark Saturday was forward Josh Norris (Oxford).

"I think it's a huge honor to be at this camp and wear these colors. I, obviously, got a chance to do it the last two years," Norris said. "So to get invited back to this was a huge honor."

"Obviously, there's a lot of talent here. To just kind of see where you fit in, I think I took some good steps this week."

Norris added that playing such an intense game in summer time was "a little different."

"I really haven't played in a game like that before in August," Norris said. "But it's always a huge rivalry when you play those guys, you know you want to beat them. For us to do that tonight was a huge confidence booster."

Off the hop

Anderson got the night off to a rousing start for Team USA when he scored a power-play goal at 5:33. He tipped in Patrick Harper's shot over the stick side of Team Canada starting goalie Carter Hart.

But Canada bounced back to go up 2-1 on goals by Jordan Kyrou (on the power play) and Givani Smith, a Detroit Red Wings prospect who many area fans wanted to

see.

Smith found the mark at 16:39, when his harmless shot from above the circles hit a body and changed direction in front of U.S. goaltender Joseph Woll (16 saves).

"I'll take it," said Smith, a power forward who likely will play a second season for the Guelph Storm of the Ontario Hockey League. "But I love to score pretty goals."

Smith added that he was overall pleased with his performance Saturday and throughout the tournament.

"I was happy with my physical play," Smith said. "They want me out here being a physical presence, finish my checks, do what I do, play good down low and move the puck."

Less than a minute after Smith's goal, Fox tied the game on a play started by dynamic forwards Casey Mittelstadt and Kailer Yamamoto.

Taking the lead

Team USA went up 4-2 when Anderson and Yamamoto found the back of Canada's net in the first nine minutes of the middle period.

Pierre-Luc Dubois then cut the deficit to 4-3 at 12:45, finishing off a beautiful tic-tac-toe sequence of passes on the power play.

"They had great looks," Motzko said about Canada's power play. "We blocked a lot of shots

before they got to our goalie, so we did a few good things on it (PK). But that's what dictated the score, was all the power-play goals."

Patrick Harper and Ryan Poehling padded the U.S. margin to 6-3 early in the third period, against Dylan Wells (who replaced Hart midway through the second).

But Canada got to within 6-5 when Sam Steel and Jonah Gadjovich scored less than two minutes apart.

There were a few anxious moments for the home fans, until Anderson scored into an empty net with 47 seconds to go, to provide the insurance that Team USA needed. Defenseman Dylan Samberg recorded his second assist of the night on the play.

About the quality of play demonstrated during the Summer Showcase, Motzko said there was a lot to like. But he emphasized that it's just the start of a long, challenging process.

"It's so hard for these guys to come together in the summer and try to crank it up to game shape, game speed, because none of the four teams were there," he said. "They're going to be so much better when (they're) in shape."

"But this gives us a blueprint, it gives us the start of a foundation."

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WORLD JUNIOR SUMMER SHOWCASE

Fans relish chance to watch future NHL players

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

With Givani Smith at the top of the list, potential National Hockey League stars filled both the American and Canadian rosters for the World Junior Summer Showcase twinbill Aug. 1 at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

So there was no way fans such as Brian Evans and his 13-year-old son Tyler weren't going to drive an hour or so from Macomb Township for the experience.

"Pretty much all the kids have been drafted or will be drafted in the early rounds of the NHL draft," Evans said. "So you kind of figure when you get the game program and you throw it away in the drawer, pull it out five or 10 years from now and you look and say, 'Look at all these guys that we saw.'"

"I kind of equate it to seeing an up-and-coming rock band before they make it big, in a really small venue. To be able to say you saw some of these kind of players in a venue this intimate with so few people watching, it's kind of a cool experience."

Givani Smith was in the lineup for Canada White for the evening game against USA Blue (the USA White team defeated Canada Red 8-2 earlier Aug. 1) and the 6-2, 209-pound power forward showed why the Detroit Red Wings drafted him in the second round in 2016.

In the first shift of the nightcap, won 2-1 by Canada White, Smith threw a heavy check in the corner and then fed a perfect outlet pass for good measure. He also was a net-front presence for Canada during several power plays.

Two other recent Detroit draft picks, defenseman Dennis Cholowski (first round, 2016) and forward Michael Rasmussen (first round,



TIM SMITH

Robert Garcia and son Sean of Ann Arbor were pumped up about games between the U.S. and Canada.

ninth overall in 2017), skated for Canada Red, with Cholowski earning an assist.

"We're looking forward to seeing (Smith)," Evans said between games. "It was good to see Rasmussen and Cholowski play in the first game."

Also happy to be at USA Hockey Arena to watch both games were Ann Arbor's Robert Garcia and his 8-year-old son Sean.

"We're just hockey fans and we wanted to come out," Garcia said. "USA Hockey used to play in Ann Arbor at the Cube. That's where (Sean) plays. We kind of miss seeing those guys, so we thought we'd come out and catch a game."

Garcia concurred that it's a hockey fan's dream to get to watch so many up-and-coming players in one day. Out of 132 players participating in the Summer Showcase, 111 are NHL draft choices.

"Yeah, I think it is (unique), especially if you consider that a lot of these guys are going to be playing at the next level in the next two or three years," Garcia said. "And there's the success that USA Hockey's had in particular, with guys moving on to the NHL and having a lot of success at that level (such as current Red Wings player Dylan Larkin). It's pretty fun to watch them."

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SEASON

Continued from Page B1

excitement that August brings was visibly evident among all coaches seated in the old building.

Following is a short glimpse into each of the Farmington-area prep grid programs as practice sessions officially open this week:

Farmington

Farmington stumbled through a 2-7 campaign last year, winning its opener against Waled Lake Western (41-14) and stopping district rival North Farmington in Week 7 (40-9) to snap a five-game losing skid.

As a result, the Falcons were moved down from the OAA White to the OAA Blue Division for this season.

No matter what division they're playing in, Cioroch is happy to finally get his first season underway. He was an assistant under Bechtel for seven years and does not plan to stray too far from the program the respected former coach built.

"We're going to do a lot of things similar to what John did," Cioroch said. "He ran such a class program over the last 20 years and we're going to try and continue a lot of things that he's done."

"We will play teams that are more like us in terms of enrollment and numbers in the Blue and we embrace that," he added. "We know it is still very competitive down there and we are

excited to get ready and compete. They are just ready to get started."

The Falcons have nine returning starters, including seniors Calvin Whitlow (OL/LB) and Oscar Glenn (RB/DB) and junior Kendall Williams (RB/DB), who proudly represented their school at media day.

Cioroch likes the fact that his group of some 15 seniors remained loyal to the program and has returned to lead the squad this season. The core of the Falcons, however, is a large group of juniors who gained a great deal of experience playing in the White Division last year.

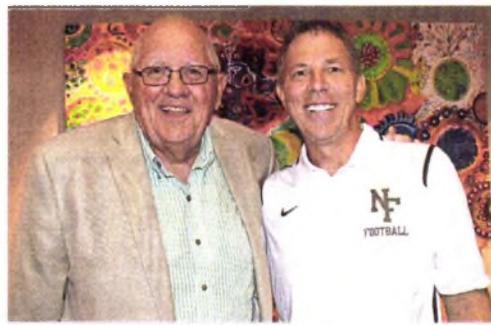
"We really like our seniors. They are the ones who stuck it out and they have a lot of talent there and they give us a lot of leadership," Cioroch said. "But we're pretty young overall. Our juniors got thrown into the fire a bit last year as sophomores playing in the White, but they will play a big role for us this year."

"Camp is here now and we finally get to do what we came out to do," he said. "Obviously, all the summer stuff and all the off-season pays off in the end, but I'm excited we're here now and we're ready to rock."

North Farmington

North Farmington suffered through only its second winless season in the program's 66-year history last year (2004 the other).

Chiesa prefers to bury that painful notoriety. His only goal right now is



Longtime Harrison head coach John Herrington (left) poses with first-year North Farmington head coach Bob Chiesa.

to keep the current group of Raiders focused on the future.

"I told our young men from the beginning that you can't change the past," Chiesa said. "Let's learn from the past and move on. It's unfortunate for the seniors and juniors on the team that they can't change history."

"But we've been preaching from day one that they can also be part of a group that has turned around an 0-9 program," he added. "So that senior class is doing what we're asking of them. I hate the word 'buying.' We are not selling it to them. They are believing in what the future can hold for them and we're excited."

The Raiders coaching staff believes it is already steering in a new direction as numbers have increased two-fold, from 22 at the end of last year to 50 so far this season.

North Farmington, which scored just 32 points in eight games (it forfeited a Week 8 game

to Harrison) last season, will be led by seniors Dylan Gordon (RB), Justin Mayes (OL), Lamar Pope (LB) and Justin Freeman (DL).

Although they will be young overall, Chiesa believes team maturation and teamwork will be keys to the season.

"It's exciting to finally get going. It's the unknown element," Chiesa said. "We have the numbers. We will be led by a few key seniors and a very good sophomore and junior class. This sophomore class is going to be something special, followed by an incoming freshman class which will be coming from a very successful North Farmington-West Bloomfield Vikings program and then from Warner Middle School."

"We're excited," he added. "We're taking it one day at a time and we've put together what I think is one of the best coaching staffs. We have an experienced staff."

Farmington Harrison

The countdown is on. Harrison's storied program is slated to end after the 2018 season as the school district will shutter Harrison High School.

The emphasis on winning football, however, continues to permeate the coaching philosophy. Albeit, it is a bit harder as the school's attendance figures shrink, which is affecting the program's numbers.

"There's no question that (closing) is kind of the elephant in the room, but the kids have adapted real well," Herrington said. "Our seniors will graduate, of course, from Harrison and so will the juniors. So they are all putting in a great effort. We're just going to make it the two best years that we can make."

The young Hawks return to the gridiron with 10 returning players, including seniors Noah Hendricks (QB/S), Caleb Sparks (lineman) and John O'Connor (LB/C), who were all on hand Friday. Senior Ovie Oghoufo, an outstanding defensive end who will be going to Notre Dame, and senior Divine Filemu (LB/FB) are also expected to play key roles in any success the Hawks have this season.

"I really think that this year's team will have one of the bigger offensive lines that we've ever had and we're going to need that," Herrington said. "I think our secondary will be very good. It's very fast."

"And, like I said at the podium, we will have great special teams," he added. "We have a lot of guys who are playing on special teams who can really do the job. And we have a great kicker. I think we can put it all together."

Harrison defeated Oxford in its season-ending game last year to finish with a 5-4 record to secure its eighth straight winning season. However, the Hawks, proud owners of 13 state championships under Herrington's impressive coaching career that this year reaches 48 seasons, did not make the playoffs for the first time in seven years last fall.

Herrington emphasized the coaching staff will continue to demand the tradition of excellence that Harrison has enjoyed, even though the program will cease to exist two years from now.

"It's a little tougher to keep (the success) going, but we have a great coaching staff and we have some consistency," Herrington said. "We are keeping our program the same, doing the same things and the kids buy into it. I think we can keep it going for two years."

"The last two classes of freshmen have had their choices of whether to come (to Harrison) or not. Some have opted to go to other high schools to finish their careers," he added. "But all the others who have been in our program have stayed and that's a good thing."

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