

An exhibit at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill features the works of Nicholas R. Wilson.

## Village Theater to host Wilson works

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents "Technology and the Immortal Condition," a mixed-media show featuring the works of Nicholas R. Wilson, which will be on display through Sept. 29 in the Gallery@VT.

This mixed-media show is composed of paintings and half-screen printed wood box panels created by this talented artist, who originally hails from Trenton.

As a child growing up in a small subdivision near Lake Erie Metropark, Wilson pursued his interest in drawing, painting and music with the encouragement of his family.

After pursuing music and designing other band-related merchandise, Wilson's passions lead him to study fine art and graphic design at both Monroe County Community College and Siena Heights University.

"I believe art is a universal language; through generations and cultures, it can be interpreted now and for many years after-

ward," Wilson said. "Visual communication has always been an interesting concept, considering that words may not perfectly communicate what we want to say to each other. As music communicates a feeling through sound, art communicates through sight and the two composed together is what drives my work."

This mixed media exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday; during public performances at the theater; and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300.

The Gallery@VT is closed holidays. View more of Wilson's works at nichoasrwilson.tumblr.com or at www.flickr.com/photos/nicholasrwilson.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information about this latest exhibition, please call 734-394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org.

# Local shooter places first in 'Top Shot' competition

Milford man wins \$100,000, special edition speedboat

By Philip Allmen  
Staff Writer

Mission accomplished. Phil Morden wanted to improve on his first foray into reality television, appearing two years ago on the third season of *Top Shot*, a marksmanship-based competition on The History Channel. The Milford man placed fifth.

Last week on *Top Shot All Stars*, he did better. Much better. He won the fifth season against 15 other returning contestants.

Morden, a self-taught gun enthusiast and videographer, bested three other finalists Aug. 28 in three elimination challenges.

In addition to winning the title of History's *Top Shot*, Morden won \$100,000 and a special edition speedboat.

Filming for the show took place in California, running Aug. 16, 2012, to Sept. 25.

"It was almost a year before they aired it," Morden said. "Everyone knew the length of time I was out there was about the time to make it to the finals. I tried so hard not to slip up."

Morden said now that the cat's out of the bag, he and his wife will take an anniversary trip and buy some nice things for their home. He hasn't really seen the boat, either, which was shown to contestants at the start of the competition's finale.

Morden's family still lives in the Huron Valley area and members were together for last week's finale, along with friends and neighbors.

And even though he knew how things were going to turn out, "it was still pretty exciting to watch," he said.

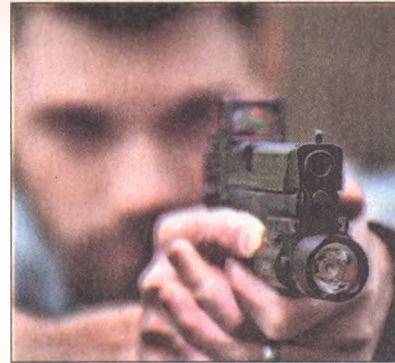
This season's finale played to Morden's strengths, requiring more physical work. Morden, 26, was the youngest of the last competitors.

The first challenge pitted the four finalists in an obstacle course, firing at targets after climbing through a pipe, water, under netting and under barbed wire.

The second challenge required



Phil Morden won the title as well as \$100,000 and a special edition speedboat.



Phil Morden won the title on the History Channel's reality competition "Top Shot All Stars." PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the top three to fire different weapons from various stations up a hill. In both cases, Morden was the fastest competitor.

In the finale, the contestants had seven different challenges: firing a Remington 1875 at six targets, a Ruger rifle at 20 bottles, a revolver for two perfect six-shot runs at targets, a crossbow at three moving targets, a World War II rifle at a long-range target, a pistol shot through a 2-inch tube downrange and a

cannon. "I couldn't ask for a better final three challenges," Morden said.

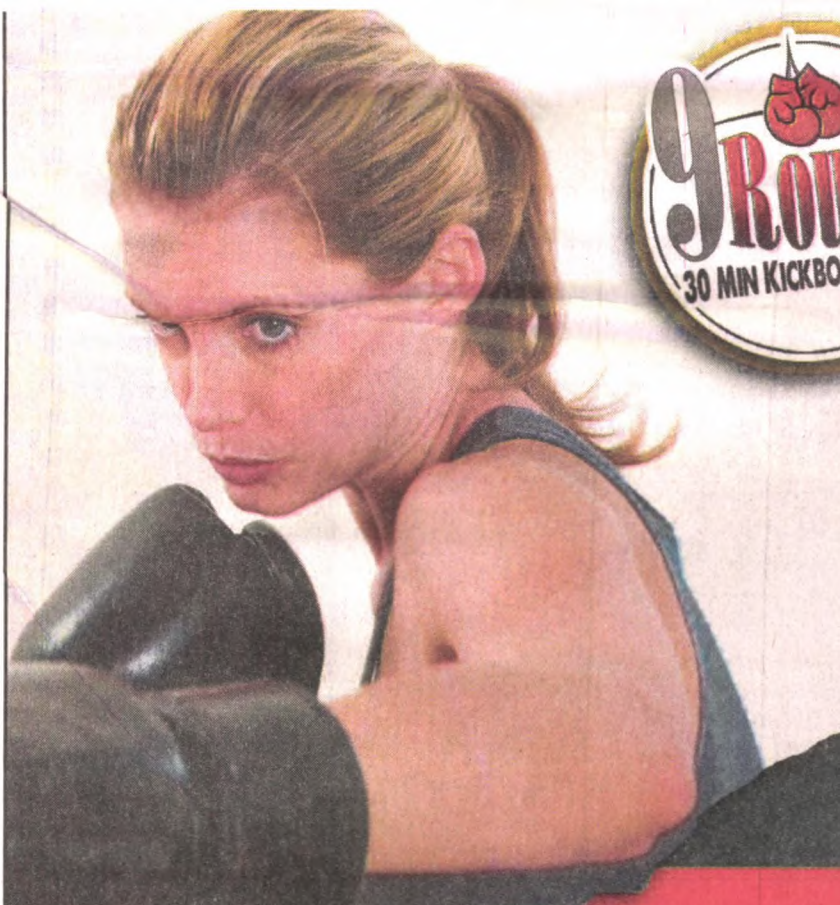
Morden struggled a bit at the perfect-run shot, where competitors had to start the round over if they missed, but he caught up with the crossbow and never looked back.

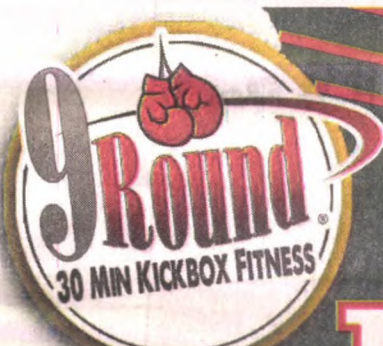
Morden said several of the show's challenges were memorable, including the spinning wheel, where he had to shoot strapped to a contraption that spun him around. In Season 3, he was eliminated just before that challenge. "It was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be," he said.

The World War II half-track was another highlight, shooting exploding targets while it drives along a course. "That's something you're not going to do anywhere else," he said.

Morden said since he returned from filming the latest *Top Shot* season, he started teaching firearms classes. Contact him at philrunngun@yahoo.com.

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