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**GOOD
TIMES
ROLL
AT SPREE**
PHOTOS, PAGE A5

THURSDAY 06.29.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ROAD OFT-TRAVELED



Getting through traffic in metro Detroit can be horrendous at times. Those who weekend up north hope they won't experience similar traffic once they're past the suburbs.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Traffic hassles worth every chance to get up north, drivers say

Philip Allmen
hometownlife.com

Maybe it's the turquoise water of Torch Lake or heavy forests surrounding Grayling that draws them in. Or perhaps the cute boutiques that bustle in the waterfront downtowns like Traverse City, Alpena and Petoskey in northern Michigan.

For tens of thousands of people, heading up north is a summer ritual. Load up everything in the car after work Friday, drive four or five hours until you get up north. Then Sunday afternoon, you get things packed up in the car for the adventure back home to reality.

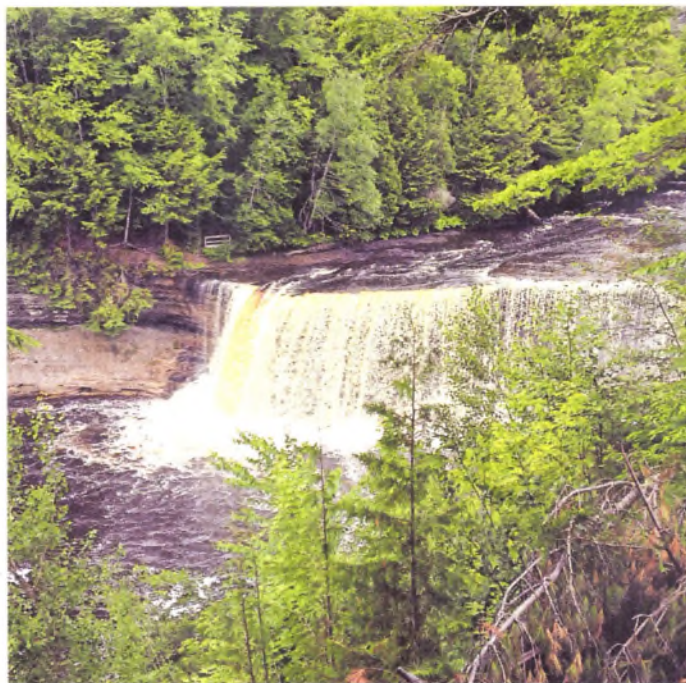
Michigan is a state where distance is usually measured with time, but "up north" has a flexible definition.

Just where is "up north"? Depends on who you ask. Steve Wisinski, a Hartland dad, thinks that moniker best applies to areas north of the Mackinac Bridge. He and his wife Karen bought a cottage on Drummond Island in Lake Huron about five years ago. If they time it just right, it's a 5½-hour drive and ferry ride.

But for Adam Daniels, a day trip to Kensington Metropark will suffice for his up north experience. Daniels, of Romulus, said he'd rather go to Kensington, Hines Park or Belle Isle for an afternoon, then go back to the comforts of home and suburban life.

"Why would I take all that time (to visit

See UP NORTH, Page A4



Tahquamenon Falls is found near Newberry in the eastern Upper Peninsula, as shown from this 2015 Pure Michigan Moments photo contest entry.

ALLISON STOCK | PURE MICHIGAN

Property to be put up for sale

Former Hawthorne Valley site already has suitors

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

There have been several proposals to purchase and develop the former Hawthorne Valley site over the years, but now the property will be officially getting a "for-sale" sign.

"Basically, the property disposition committee asked for the ability to put out a for-sale sign," Westland Mayor William Wild said. The city council approved a motion to have the for-sale sign put up.

A former golf course, restaurant and banquet center on Merriman north of Warren Road, Hawthorne Valley closed in 2011.

When the property went to tax foreclosure, the city ended up owning 14.75 acres of the 57-acre property, including frontage along Merriman. The city-owned part of the property includes five acres zoned commercial that contain the restaurant and parking lot with the balance zoned single-family residential.

Even without a for-sale sign on the property, the city has received proposals for redeveloping the property.

"We received interest for an indoor storage facility, a small residential development and the most recent, a skilled nursing facility — but nothing is pending," Wild said. "We have no offer for skilled nursing at

See PROPERTY, Page A2

Yearly picnic, parade salute summer

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

The fireworks are gone, the grills are fueled by propane now, not charcoal, and the parade is led by polished marchers and musicians in colorful uniforms instead of neighborhood children playing assorted instruments.

But the parade and picnic in Rosedale Gardens, held yearly as the Fourth of July approaches, remain fixtures in the historic Livonia neighborhood and unofficial heralds of summer's arrival.

This year's events — a parade featuring the Plymouth Five and Drum Corps and a couple dozen kids on decorated bikes, trikes and strollers, then a picnic at Mies Park — was June 22, and brought longtime Rosedale residents together with relative newcomers. Hot dogs, sausages, pop and other picnic foods and games like

See ROSEDALE, Page A2



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NANKIN MILLS EVENTS

Local history is the focus for interpretive programs at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in July. Join us to try hands-on pioneer activities or discover the fascinating history of Belle Isle and Henry Ford's Village industry project in southeast Michigan. There is so much history to explore in our region.

All programs are held at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center and require pre-registration by calling the Parks Division at 734-261-1990. Please note program fees listed, payable by cash, charge or check made payable to Wayne County Parks. Payment can be made in advance or at the door. The center is at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For more program information, contact Carol Clements at 734-261-1850.

Our Island Jewel – Detroit's Belle Isle Park

When: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, July 13

Details: A presenter from the Detroit Historical Society Speaker's Bureau will join us at Nankin Mills to discuss the history of Belle Isle, the crown jewel of Detroit's riverfront. Learn about world-class sporting events, military in-



Learn the old-fashioned art of candle making Saturday, July 15, at Nankin Mills.

cursions and much more of the rich history associated with this island. Recommended for ages 12 and older, \$3 per person; add \$1 per person for non-Wayne County residents.

Make it at the Mill – Butter and Candles

When: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 15

Details: Join us for a hands-on opportunity to learn how pioneers churned their own butter and made hand-dipped candles. All supplies will

be provided for you to try making your own the old-fashioned way. Fun for the whole family! Recommended for ages 7 and older, \$6 per child, \$2 per adult; add \$1 per person for non-Wayne County residents.

Henry Ford's Village Industries in southeast Michigan

When: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 22

Details: Henry Ford is famous for many accomplishments in our

state, but do you know about his Village Industry project? Ford developed 20 sites in southeast Michigan to decentralize industry and utilize water power. Join us to learn more about this fascinating piece of Ford history that included Nankin Mills and several other sites in Hines Park during the 1920s through '40s. Recommended for ages 12 and older, \$3 per person; add \$1 per person for non-Wayne County residents.

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Tools taken

A man who left his work truck parked at the Hyatt, 19300 Haggerty, came to the Livonia police station June 21 to report the theft of tools.

He said he left his truck parked in the lot overnight. When he came out that morning, he noticed the tool box in the truck was unlocked. He said several tools were missing. No damage was done to the vehicle, and no damage was done to access the tool box. Tools taken included a circular saw and a hammer drill.

Shoplifting suspect drops purse

An employee at Kohl's, 29580 Seven Mile, came to the police station June 20 to report a retail fraud.

The employee said the suspect came to the store with someone else and began selecting several items, including shorts, sports bras and

capris. She went to a fitting room. The employee followed her into the area and reportedly noticed she did not have all the items when she left. They were not left in the fitting room. As she walked through the stores, the suspect's purse appeared to have a bulge in it. She allegedly went through and did not pay for any concealed item.

The employee approached her to try and stop her, but she ran from the store, the report said. The suspect dropped the purse as she ran. The employee picked it up and brought it inside, reportedly recovering clothing items in the process. Later, the suspect called to ask if she could pick up her purse, though the employee said she could pick it up at the police station after a retail fraud report was filed.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

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Spree delights enthusiastic crowds



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Spree rides thrilled the youngsters.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Three-year-old Hunter Major does a good job hanging on while riding the carousel.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The Spree fireworks, launched near the Livonia Family YMCA, light up the sky.



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Allison and Dan Pawlak introduce 5-month-old Ava to SpongeBob SquarePants.



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Karen Billings of Livonia danced to the music of Steve King and the Ditties.

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PREP BASEBALL

East-West all-stars soak up Comerica Park

Players, coaches all take home personal memories

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Grant Smith still has a lot of baseball left in his career, but he was already able to check off one thing on his personal bucket list June 20. And although the White

Lake Lakeland senior second baseman was on the losing end, 7-5, against the East, the opportunity to play in the 36th annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game at Comerica Park will resonate forever.

"It was more than what I could ask for," said Smith, who got the start and went 0-for-2 at the plate. "This experience is once in a lifetime."

Smith admitted to nerves, but those quickly dissipated. "At first there were some,

but as the game went on, it all went away," said Smith, who will continue his baseball career this summer with A Green before heading of to play at Northwood University. "It was just all having fun."

The victorious East team featured area players Kolby Dewhirst (Livonia Franklin), Branden Posky (Livonia Stevenson), Kevin Morrissey (Northville) and Scott Combs (Dearborn Divine Child/Northville).
Morrissey, just coming off

a Division 1 state runner-up finish with the Mustangs, entered the game at shortstop in the sixth inning and made an immediate impact when he drew a walk and scored on a double by East MVP Sam Cross (Grosse Pointe North) to make it 2-0.

Morrissey, who helped Northville reach its first ever MHSAA Division 1 state final June 17 before losing to Saline, 5-2, followed with two singles,



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
Northville's Kevin Morrissey paces in the dugout between innings during the MSCBA All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

See ALL-STARs, Page B4

PREP BASEBALL



Kolby Dewhirst of Livonia Franklin throws a pitch from the Comerica Park mound during the MHSBCA East-West All-Star Game.

WENDY DEWHIRST

STARRY SENDOFF

After Comerica Park stint caps stellar Franklin career, Dewhirst ready for Eastern Michigan chapter

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Just one night earlier, Kolby Dewhirst threw from the mound at Comerica Park during the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game.

He still had a smile on his face just thinking about throwing from the same slab that Justin Verlander does.

Yet, as thrilled as the recent Livonia Franklin grad was about playing in the coveted game, he seemed more proud

about the legacy he built the past four years with the Patriots.

The four-year varsity performer and co-captain — both in baseball and hockey — sat on a bench at Alumni Field and let his mind wander to all the times he graced the neatly manicured infield.

"Obviously, going to Comerica was really cool," said the 17-year-old Dewhirst, who at the start of his senior year signed to play NCAA Division I baseball at Eastern Michigan University. "But I think I'm



TIM SMITH
Kolby Dewhirst reflects on his Livonia Franklin career while looking out at the Alumni Field diamond.

See DEWHIRST, Page B4

REC SPORTS

Novi Fantasy Football Camp a big hit

More than 80 participants turn out for fun-filled evening

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Novi Wildcats Fantasy Football Camp is rapidly becoming a real happening.

Just ask the more than 80 children and young adults between the ages of 4-26 with physical or cognitive disabilities, along with their families, who participated in the second annual event June 19 at Wildcat Stadium.

The free event was spearheaded by the Novi High football players and coaches, who also worked in conjunction with the Easter Seals' Miracle League of Michigan and the Detroit Sports Commission.

Novi head coach Jeff Burnside set up six different stations for the participants to go through a simulated practice session, which included cone and bag drills to increase agility, while learning the basics about blocking, tackling, passing and catching.

The campers also had the thrill of entering Wildcat Stadium through the same inflatable tunnel that the Novi players use to run onto the field each Friday night during the fall.

Campers then finished the 90-minute session by demonstrating their own touchdown end zone and dance celebrations.

Detroit Lions fifth-year punter Sam Martin and NFL free agent linebacker Brandon Chubb, who had practice squad stints last year with the Rams, 49ers and Lions, also took part.

Members of the Livonia Stevenson football team also joined forces with their

See CAMP, Page B2

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

They keep up the 'Intensity'

Area high school runners combine talents for Intensity Track Club, gear up for AAU meets

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Just because the school year is over doesn't mean track runners such as Brandon Smiley shut it down over the summer months.

Smiley just finished his prep career at Livonia Franklin, but the standout sprinter was out on the track at Wayne Memorial High School with

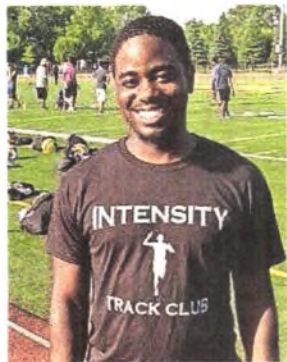
his new teammates — those on the Intensity Track Club.

Based at Wayne, under the guidance of Intensity coach Jamal Johnson (who also coaches the Zebras), the group of athletes from several KLAA schools works on shaving seconds and getting ready for the Amateur Athletic Union regional qualifier June 29 through July 2 at Detroit Renaissance High School.

"We're all in the same conference, so we all know each other," Smiley said. "Because it's a smaller team, it's more of a family."

"The people you're working with, you've raced them before and so you know what they run, if they're faster than you or slower than you ... everybody's competitive, but in a

See TRACK, Page B2



TIM SMITH
The Intensity Track Club is based out of Wayne Memorial and is coached by Jamal Johnson.



BILL ROOSE | NCSO
NFL free agent Brandon Chubb (left) gets ready to take on a young tackler at the Novi Fantasy Football Camp.

CAMP

Continued from Page B1

KLAA Central Division counterparts from Novi to work with the campers.

"It looked like everything came out really well," said Burnside, who worked alongside Chubb as they took turns getting tackled by campers. "It looks like the kids had fun. There was a rain shower in the middle but, hey, football is meant to be played in the rain. I saw a rainbow real briefly — that was good."

Novi junior middle linebacker Ryland Bennett partnered with 8-year-old Jonathan McSween, who attends Vandenberg Elementary in Southfield, going station-to-station during the various drills.

"I think it was amazing," Bennett said. "Such a great opportunity, not only for the kids, but for us. We're so fortunate to be able to play this great sport and such a great opportunity for these kids to come out and have a great time."

McSween, who has a form of muscular dystrophy, loves sports and counts Odell Beckham Jr., Steph Curry and LeBron James as his favorite athletes. He is currently playing Miracle League baseball.

"This is emotional for me, because he wants to play football," said Vivian McSween, Jonathan's mother. "And for me to just see him out here is just a blessing. I like the effort they made to put this together and the work of Easter Seals put in with the kids. They enjoy seeing the football players. They're passionate about being with the kids. I just think it's a good thing. They're thinking about doing a Miracle League football game, so I think that will be wonderful for him."

Jacob Louk, 21, of Farmington Hills, who has Fragile X syndrome, a genetic disorder, was attending his second Novi Fantasy Football Camp. He partnered this time with Stevenson lineman Brandon Plue, who will be a senior this fall.

"We were here last year also," said Andy Louk, Jacob's father. "Verbally, he's not that great, but he has a blast with it and once he figured out where we were and when we pulled back up, he was all for it again. He was yelling for the guys."

Louk is the team mascot and a big fan of both the Farmington Hills Harrison varsity football and North-Harrison (Flyers) hockey teams.

"He has a blast with them," Andy Louk said. "They take care of him and he takes care of them. It restores my faith in the next generation that the way they accepted him with all their programs and stuff."

South Lyon's Tyler Glaszek, 7, who has cerebral palsy, was a first-time participant.

"This is awesome," said Tyler's father, Tom Glaszek.

"Tyler likes to play sports and likes watching his (twin) brothers (Joshua and Owen) play baseball and football and to come out and do this with a lot of these great coaches and



BRAD EMONS

Novi junior middle linebacker Ryland Bennett (right) partnered with Southfield's Jonathan McSween.



BRAD EMONS

Farmington Hills' Jacob Louk (left) found a new friend in Stevenson lineman Brandon Plue.



BILL ROOSE | NCS D

Novi varsity football coach Jeff Burnside braces for the hit during a practice drill at the Novi Fantasy Football Camp.

players is awesome.

"You see all the camaraderie and the high school kids do an awesome job. We did another one of these last year, Victory Day, in South Lyon. Seeing the high school kids warm up to these guys is really cool. They all learn a lot, take selfies with them and I think it's something that's a real education for them."

And if it was only for a day, Stevenson junior safety Hunter Satz was glad to team with the rival Novi players to volunteer his time.

"We really got them going and getting around the pads, kind of showing them what we do out there, too, so they got to

experience it themselves," Satz said. "It's a little different, but no hard feelings going on here. We're all friends here, all getting along and we're all OK. It's all one community."

Martin, the Lions' punter from Appalachian State, was invited to the event by WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) sportscaster Justin Rose.

"This is really neat. It's the first time I've obviously been to this one," Martin said. "This is amazing, just the way both teams came out from different high schools and collaborated. Every kid I saw today had a smile on their face, no matter what activity they were doing,

whether it was something as simple as throwing and catching a ball or going through a drill. Everybody had a good time. This is awesome. I think they should continue this for years to come."

Meanwhile, Burnside said the camp participants will be invited back to join the players and coaches on the field for the pregame national anthem and run through the inflatable tunnel for the Week 2 match-up between Novi and Stevenson.

"We live in a world where a lot of times it's about 'me, me, me' and I want our kids to start giving back to everybody else," Burnside said.

Burnside and Chubb, it seemed, had the most fun, getting tackled by the campers as they braced to get hit with their blocking pads.

"I was taking some punishment, but all in the name of fun," Chubb said. "These kids, to be able to tackle an NFL player or to be able to punt with an NFL player or play catch ... it means the world to them, so I'm just using my platform to give back. I'll take a little hit for their fun, so it's a good time."

bemons@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @BradEmons1

TRACK

Continued from Page B1

friendly way, so everyone wants to outwork each other."

Those finishing in the top eight per event at Renaissance will make the cut for the Eastern Michigan University-hosted AAU Junior Olympics, slated to take place July 29 through Aug. 5.

"I want to qualify for the Eastern JOs and I want to run under 21.8 (seconds) in the 200 dash," Smiley said. "And in the 100, I want to get a better time just for myself. I know I can run under 11, I know I can run 10. That's a goal for me, too."

Keeping things fresh

Running hard side-by-side during practice were Wayne Memorial distance runner Jon Boland and Franklin's Greg Thaxton.

"It's so I can get better with my running," Boland said about what prompted him to essentially extend his track season into June, July and August. "I would like to im-

prove my time as much as I can."

Boland competed during the high school season in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs; some races are different in the AAU, he'll run the 1,500, for example.

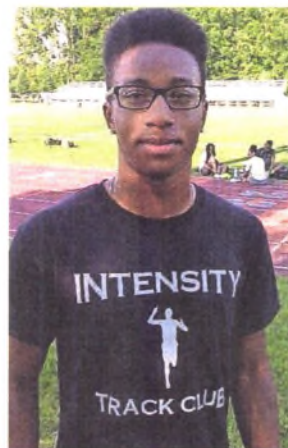
One concern about the Intensity season immediately following high school tournament season is the "burnout" factor.

But Johnson insists he tries to give the 18 young men and women on his squad (mostly grades 9-12) some variety to help them stay focused and energized.

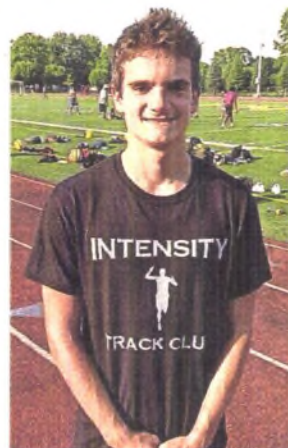
"We don't run every single day," Johnson said. "Yesterday, we did a whole bunch of jumps into the high jump mat. We were doing medicine ball tosses. Just to give the legs a rest from the pounding on the track. It's a little different. And our practices only last an hour and 20 minutes, so we aren't doing too much work."

Hot spot

According to Johnson, who started Intensity Track Club in 2014 (with only a handful of runners, all from Wayne at that



Smiley



Boland

time), the program continues to grow and attract athletes from all over southeast Michigan.

On the 2017 team, there are six members from Wayne, five from Franklin, two from Plymouth and one each from Livonia Churchill, Salem, Ann Arbor Huron, Monroe St. Mary's

and Dearborn Fordson.

"It's all word of mouth. Different kids being in different schools, they see them with the (Intensity) shirts on," Johnson said. "They've had success in their high school season so (they ask), 'How did you get fast? Who got you fast?'"

Johnson said he takes a bit of a different approach to coaching the club, too.

"There is an adjustment, because at this point in the summertime, I'm not really looking to get people in shape," he said. "The summer season is so short. So it's really just fine-tuning everything, putting everything together and try to run fast at certain meets."

With a chuckle, Johnson said if club members "aren't in shape after running the entire spring with their team, then you know that's a different story and we'll go from there."

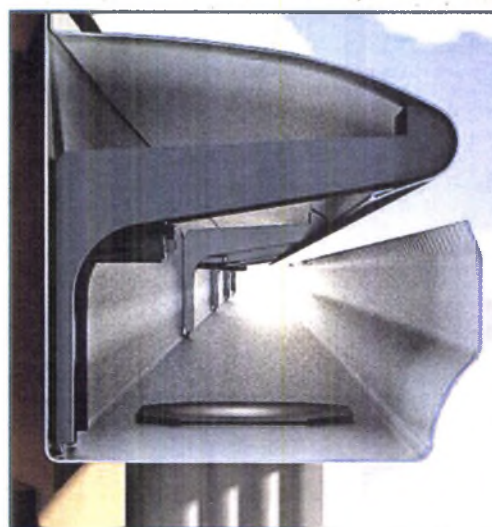
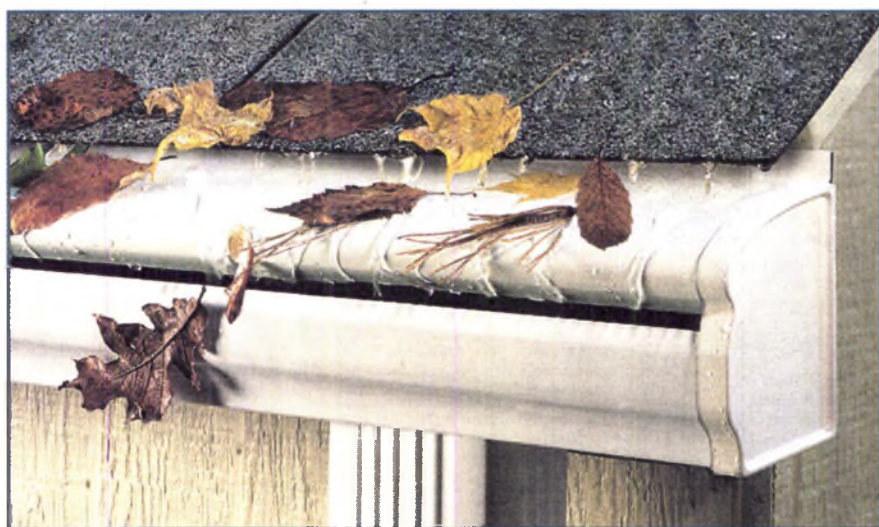
This year's Intensity squad includes: **Wayne:** Boland, John Gatton, Kyle Osborne, Raymon White, Reanna Brown-Deacon, (state champion) Anavia Battle; **Franklin:** Smiley, Thaxton, Khalil Pasha, Michele Joyner, Christian Bagnall; **Plymouth:** Malcolm Caldwell, Faith Washington; **Churchill:** Niguel Smith; **Salem:** Berry Matthews; **Huron:** Kyle Martin; **St. Mary's:** Caden Smith; **Fordson:** Abe Jafaar.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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