



Detroit auto show one of the top events in area this weekend

LOCAL NEWS, 6A

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Protest calls for justice in death

Group draws attention to prisoner who died

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Braving wind-blown snow and dropping temperatures, a large group of protesters marched Jan. 12 in front of the Westland Police Department, calling for answers in the death of William Marshall while in police custody.

Armed with signs that ranged from “We are not anti police, we are anti police brutality” to “Blue Lives Murder” and references to the KKK, the group chanted calling for justice for Marshall, who family members allege was denied medical treatment while in custody Dec. 10. He was examined by fire rescue twice and the second time taken to an area hospital, where he died.

“We heard about the protest on social media, the family started it. We were planning something. We’ve had a fair number of complaints about Westland

police,” said Crystal Linton, executive director of the Inkster-Western Wayne National Action Network chapter. “The family reached out to us — it was a murder.”

That conclusion was based on statements made by two unidentified people who had been in the city lockup at the same time as Marshall. Those people alleged police had denied medical treatment to Marshall, who had been arrested for driving with a suspended license

See DEATH, Page 2A



Westland protesters carry on in spite of the weather.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Long-time volunteers Carol and Steve Lawrence package items from the food pantry for clients. They are from Northville Township. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Saving food pantry just the start of new mission

Group raising money for church community center

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Todd Lipa grew up at St. Alexander Church in Farmington Hills, following pastor the Rev. Jim Wright around, playing games inside the church and base-

ball outside.

So when Lipa — who admits he and the church “grew apart” — found out St. Alexander was going to close, along with the food pantry it had hosted for three decades, he and others connected with the pantry knew something had to be done.

So Lipa, along with Farmington Hills Mayor Ken Massey, Hills-based attorney Jerry Ellis and others, did something. Working under the umbrella of Massey’s nonprofit, The Graham E. Smith Memorial Fund for Suicide Prevention, the group formed CARES (Community Action Resources Empowerment Services) of Farmington Hills, a nonprofit that wound up buying the church, saving the pantry and develop-

ing a vision that will transform the church into a community service center that will serve hundreds of clients.

“The pantry started out as a small operation and got bigger and bigger over the years,” said Lipa, who serves as executive director of CARES. “(Wright’s) philosophy was feed and clothe the people, not only his parishioners, but any-

See PANTRY, Page 3A

Neighborhoods, economic development are 2018 focus

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As the new year starts, Westland will be putting emphasis on the improving neighborhoods — an initiative that began last year.

“Our biggest thing this year will be the continuation of the Neighborhood Makeover Program,” Westland Mayor William Wild said.

The program kicked off in May 2017 to address a range of neighborhood needs, from tree trimming, road repairs, sewer inspection and cleaning, sign replacement and water system work to replacing broken trash and recycling carts.

To start the program, the city was divided into 50 sections. Wild said that, so far, six sections have completed makeovers.

“The big thing is to identify road re-



Wild

pairs and sewer and water needs. In recent years, we’ve done a lot of big road projects,” Wild said. “We’re going to more smaller sidewalks, curbs and street repairs.”

The neighborhood makeovers focused on the area around P.D. Graham Elementary School, which is on John Hix, south of Avondale, and Edison Elementary

School, in the Tonquish Subdivision.

“We did a lot of road repairs between Glenwood and Palmer, Wayne Road to Venoy. Areas of older streets, older homes which have not seen a lot repair work,” Wild said. “We focused heavy on that last year.”

Newer subdivisions may not need some of the same work as older neighborhoods — the infrastructure is newer

See FOCUS, Page 2A

Death

Continued from Page 1A

and marijuana and cocaine possession. "The family wants the officers suspended and, ultimately, wants them fired," Linton said. "We also want training for officers. We also want the department to look more like the community they patrol, especially with them coming into and bordering Inkster."

Another Inkster resident, Connie Mitchell, said she saw the protest as a way to stay informed and was pleased with the turnout — estimated at more than 50 people at its peak — despite the snow and plummeting temperatures.

"It's a wonderful way to show displeasure with the way people are treat-

ed, not just African Americans," said Mitchell, a retired teacher and administrator. "We do respect the police, but often there are rogue police officers, as we know. I want to make my voice heard."

When the protesters arrived, Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik met with the group, which he said held a peaceful protest.

"I did talk with them first thing; the group was a little smaller," he said. "I told them we support their right to protest. I just asked them to make sure not to block the path for citizens who might need access to police services. They assured me they would."

The investigation into Marshall's death is being handled by the Michigan State Police. Information from the investigation has been turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Lt.

Michael Shaw said.

Marshall's family and attorney have been demanding that Westland police release video of Marshall's time in police custody, but Jedrusik said that's not possible due to the ongoing MSP investigation. Autopsy results are also being awaited.

Having information submitted to the prosecutor's office doesn't mean the investigation isn't ongoing, Jedrusik said, noting there is often back and forth between prosecutors and police, along with work by investigators from the prosecutor's office.

"The protesters want answers — we all want answers. We have to be patient. All of our contacts with Mr. Marshall are on video and at some point will be released to the family and the attorney," Jedrusik said. "The prosecutor met with

the family to explain that Westland police were not allowed to release the video."

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Organizer Aaron Sims cautions that the protest will be peaceful and humble. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Focus

Continued from Page 1A

and the trees not as established — but Wild said residents in those areas may have seen fire hydrants being inspected and repainted.

Residents can check the city website, www.cityofwestland.com, to find their neighborhood and check on the work that's being done.

The city is keeping a running tally of the neighborhood work as it is completed. Currently, 22 percent of the planned work on trees has been completed — that translates to tree trimming and dead tree removal from 28,461 homes.

Identification of areas of more than 217 miles of road needing repair, along with inspection and cleaning of storm drains, brings that work to 36 percent of the goal.

Part of the work also included maintenance and other improvements to 19 parks around the city.

The city will also be hiring inspectors who will work to address blight, high grass, debris and making sure vacant homes are secured and safe, Wild said. That also includes removing illegal signs, inspecting for illegal outside storage and non-permitted construction activities. These inspectors will be assigned specific areas of the city where they will work.

"We'll divide the city. The inspectors

will get to know their areas. We have data compiled over the last couple of years. We can take a more strategic approach," Wild said. "We want to put together a plan and talk to council. We may need to ask council to change the budget so we don't have to wait until after July 1."

Working in residential and commercial areas of the city, Wild said the top ordinance enforcement issues will be identified.

"We will also look at the top complaints and identify areas where there are problems like rodents," Wild said. "People need to let us know where they have rats."

As part of this emphasis on addressing blight, Wild said the city's beautification committee will be restarted to recognize those who make an extra effort on their property.

Other goals this year will be working on economic development, as Wild said he is hoping to hire a new director within 30 days. He also said he expects to hire a new human resources director shortly.

"The new economic development director will oversee redevelopment of the former city hall site," Wild said.

With previous projects largely completed, Wild said the Downtown Development Authority and Tax Increment Finance Authority will be working to develop new projects. That would include an economic study for the DDA.

"It's been a while since we had one. It would look at what businesses we need or don't need. The last one was probably

in the early 2000s," Wild said.

Thanks to the Livonia Public Schools district closing unneeded buildings and selling those sites, Wild said some new residential developments are expected in Westland this year.

Administration will be working with council to find ways to stabilize water and sewer rates, Wild noted, with an eye on reducing rates.

"Canton made a lot of infrastructure investment for water. We'll take a look at if that was effective," he said. "Canton built a reservoir, filled at non-peak hours. We're looking to see if there is some savings from that."

Over the last couple of years, Wild said the city has invested in municipal buildings and the upcoming fiscal year will focus on the Friendship Center. A new roof and flooring has already been installed at the center.

"We've already done a capital needs assessment. We'll keep modernizing it," he said.

Another project that will get an extra push will be the completion of the Eloise Museum, which is being developed at the Westland Historic Village Park.

"We will kind of double down to get the Eloise Museum open. They are getting close. We can help with things they need to for the building, like a security alarm and Internet services. They have a want list," Wild said.

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Pantry

Continued from Page 1A

one off the street. We're just taking his philosophy and expanding on it."

Next meal

Massey knew how important expanding on that mission was when he heard the church and the pantry were earmarked for closing. The discussion among the leaders quickly turned to how to save it.

"We knew we needed a community foundation that could handle the food pantry, because people needed it," Massey said. "I can't think of anything more mentally stressful than not knowing where your next meal was coming from. We decided we'd take over the pantry."

The pantry serves some 300-400 people a month, including seniors and needy families from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford and Livonia. The CARES group heard in November 2014 the church — and thus the pantry — would be closed and began putting together an offer to buy it.

The property, including the 10.5 acres on which St. Alexander sits, transferred to the control of St. Gerald's Church. An original offer to buy it fell through and a developer appeared set to put a senior residential complex on the property.

According to Lipa, that didn't sit well with neighbors. "The community around (St Alexander) didn't want another building like that in the neighborhood," he said.

Roller-coaster ride

All that uncertainty made for nerve-racking times. Carol Greening, pantry supervisor the last six years, remembers clients and volunteers alike being crestfallen at the possibility the pantry would close.

"We were told we could stay here until the property sold. ... It was a roller-coaster, with developers looking at it," Greening said. "Everyone was scared we were going to lose this. The people here were so excited it was going to be saved. (Clients) trust us and they were so fearful. It was a celebration."

A second donor had generously stepped up and when the new pastor at St. Gerald's, the Rev. Kris Nowak, told



Carol Greening standing in the clothing bank, located in the former sanctuary of St. Alexander, began running the food pantry when it was a parish mission. She's happy that the food pantry will continue, with more services planned. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Shoes are lined up in the pews of the former sanctuary, now serving as the clothing bank. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the CARES group its offer was acceptable, plans for the church property began developing.

"I thought it would be the best organization to serve the people of this area," Nowak said. "Everything will stay the same, the food pantry will remain the same and they can expand their activity and offer much more to the community."

That's certainly the plan. With 40-50 volunteers, led by Greening, making it a success, the food pantry remains a big part of what CARES wants to do. But it's not the only part.

One-stop shopping

CARES officials envision a sort of "one-stop shopping" center where folks can get nearly anything they need. The

food pantry and clothing bank are certainly part of that — part of the church's rectory will be remodeled to accommodate the clothes closet and Lipa hopes to make the food pantry look more like a grocery store to soften any negative connotations coming to a pantry might hold.

Lipa said Rebuilding Together is looking at using the first floor of the convent on the property. The Farmington Public Schools district could conceivably use the catechism classrooms for educational classes, plus another part of the building for an early childhood center.

The future vision for the property includes:

- Social services
- School district
- Oakland County
- Neighborhood House
- Health center

"The whole idea is to bring as many services as possible into one campus," Lipa said. "We don't want people to travel all over the county to get help. Our hope is to give them one place to go to find the help they need."

More changes coming

Some of those changes are already done. For instance, Lipa noticed that when CARES took over the pantry in November 2016, many of the parents and grandparents would come in with their

children or grandchildren in tow, but there was nothing for the little ones to do.

They immediately put out a call for furniture and donations — furniture, a big-screen TV, toys and books — started flowing in.

"Now they can play here in the toy area," Lipa said. "It's not a sad place to come anymore."

To make the rest of the renovations happen, CARES hopes to secure grants from one or more of three private foundations. To do everything the group wants to do, Lipa figures it'll cost about \$20 million.

The vision is to remodel the sanctuary, part to be the clothing closet and the other part to be an education center.

Partnering with Beaumont Hospital Farmington Hills to do a community-needs assessment, CARES wants to offer classes on things like healthy eating and healthy preparation of food. "They'll take food right off our shelves and teacher (pantry clients) how to prepare it," Lipa said.

Down the road, the center will offer classes in reading and writing, in resume writing and job training.

"We know there are people who have worked and can't go back to work," Lipa said. "We want to be able to educate and help them get back on their feet. We want to help them find a better path to travel."

"We know the changes in our community and we know where we want to be in five to seven years," he added. "We know the beginnings, we know where we are and we know where we want to be. We feel there will be support for our vision, it's just a matter of being patient. God is teaching me patience."


Building the vision and putting it into motion is a dream and Lipa can tell you the exact moment the dream came true: 1:52 p.m. June 29.

"We got an email saying, 'Your property is now owned by CARES,'" he said with a huge smile.

And now that the groups owns the property, Lipa believes CARES is going to make it all happen, though he knows the it will need a lot of support.

"I really believe we can get it done," Lipa said. "And I believe it can be a place of pride for the community. But it can't happen unless an entire village believes it can be done."

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New Hope for Those with Vision Loss: Ask the Doctor

Dr. John P. Jacobi, OD, FCOVD

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Dr. John P. Jacobi, OD, FCOVD, is the Clinical Director of Suburban Eye Care. For over 25 years, he and his team have been serving patients in the Livonia area. Dr. Jacobi is a Fellow of the College of Vision Development and the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, a member of the Michigan and American Optometric Associations.

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Vehicle window smashed

Westland police were called Jan. 1 to a residence in the 7000 block of Nankin Boulevard on the report of some damage done to her vehicle.

The victim said she came outside that day to find a passenger rear window smashed out. She said she drove the car two days before and parked it. She saw the car the day before and said it was intact. No suspect information was available.

License plate stolen

A resident who lives in the 2000 block of Cottrill Lane came into the police station Dec. 31 to report a license plate had been stolen.

She said she discovered the plate missing the day before. No other information was available and it was listed as missing.

— By David Veselenak

WESTLAND LIBRARY EVENTS

Job Seekers Lab

When: 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, and 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22 and 29

Details: Do you need help filing for unemployment, creating an email address or searching job boards and websites? We can help.

Hot Reads for Cold Nights

When: Each Monday, through Feb. 19
Details: Win a prize for what you're

already doing – reading. For the time period, fill out a raffle slip for each book, eBook or audiobook you read or listen to. Each week, you'll be entered to win a prize.

Friday Night Movie

When: 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19
Details: Join us for a Friday night movie. Snacks/refreshments are provided — donations accepted and appreciated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigration talks a charade

In a carefully choreographed, scripted and rehearsed infomercial, President Donald Trump met with select members of Congress to discuss immigration. This was simply a White House "Reality show" production to demonstrate Trump punctuality in an attempt to neutralize changes made in the recent book, "Fire and Fury" by Michael Wolf. Nothing can be accomplished in an opened recorded and televised meeting with some 30 people.

During this 55-minute White House production, Trump stated he would sign any bill presented to him by Congress which clearly demonstrated Trump is only interested in "victories" and not substantive legislation.

Gerald Maxey
Farmington Hills

Red Box thanks

The Highland White Lake Business Association held its annual Red Box Food Drive in November and December. Once again Szott Automotive sponsored this community-wide event. The Highland and White Lake fire departments partnered with the HWLBA to pick up Red Boxes making participation easier and the event successful.

Donations of food, hygiene products, diapers, and first aid were given to the Highland Goodfellows and Open Door Outreach Center. Due to an overabundance of donations, the unused portion of food was re-distributed to Community Sharing to benefit the community.

The HWLBA would like to thank our



The community stepped up to help spread some holiday cheer through the annual Red Box campaign.

HIGHLAND-WHITE LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

members who participated in our Red Box Food Drive: Szott's M-59 Dodge in Highland, Highland Station Orthodontics,

Szott's Chrysler Jeep in White Lake Odds & Ins,

Highland Township, Huron Valley State Bank – Highland and Milford, Freedom Works, Building Blocks Preschool, White Lake Township Library Kids in Motion, Highland Activity Center, Highland Township Library, Huron Valley Council of the Arts, LeVasseur Dental, Colasanti's, General RV, Huron Valley School Board Office, Jeni's Ugly Pies, Allstate – Shirl Crowe, Age with Grace and Apollo Center.

We are grateful for the willingness of our community to open up their arms and hearts to give during the holiday season and year-round. This is such a worthwhile program and makes such a difference in the lives of others.

Suzanne Gabli
HWLBA president

What are sanctions for?

A lot has been made on international sanctions and international pressure being brought on rogue nations in order to curtail what appears to be some very violent inclinations. For example, Iran has threatened to eliminate Israel which has caused worries about their nuclear program.

I don't need to add much about North Korea. They have an atom bomb, apparently, and they are trying to build missiles that can drop one of them anywhere in the United States.

Not very pleasant thoughts.

International cooperation has been offered to us in the news as the answer to this madness and to help us all feel safe even in the face of the fact that nine countries alone hold about 15,000 ready-to-use nuclear warheads. Creepy.

I was saddened the other day when I read about a maritime disaster off the Peoples Republic of China's coast. 31 sailors are missing. An oil tanker is burning.

Then I was shocked as I read that the oil tanker is owned and operated by a company in Iran that apparently is a government agency. The ship is registered in and flies the flag of Panama. The oil was bound for South Korea. The ship was well within the 200 mile limit of PROC. The ship that hit the tanker is a PROC freighter that was carrying grain from the United States. Some of the sailors on the ship were from Bangladesh.

A human tragedy. A gigantic oil spill. Confusion and chaos.

So what exactly are international sanctions?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

School board is appreciated

January is School Board Recognition Month – a time to formally honor the crucial role Northville Public Schools Board of Education members play in the lives of our children, our schools and our community. Public education is the backbone of American society and local school boards are rooted in this tradition. They ensure that decisions on school programming are made by people elected to represent our community's values, culture and circumstances. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Our Board of Education establishes the district's vision, mission and goals and develops policies to achieve them; they encourage continuous improvement in student learning; and advocate at the local, state and national level in support of public education. This work includes an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other documents to read and study; and a never-ending commitment to thoughtful consideration of the issues, balancing perspectives, and making difficult decisions that are both fiscally respon-

sible and focused on what is best for students.

As a community, we are fortunate to have an actively involved, deeply committed Board of Education dedicated to leading and supporting our ongoing quest to open a world of possibilities for and with our students that will prepare them for work and life in the 21st century. The seven members of the Northville Board of Education develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our school district. Together with district leaders, our educators and staff, they bear the responsibility and oversight for an annual general fund budget of approximately \$78 million, 7,470 students, 850 employees, and 11 buildings.

While we make a special effort in January to show appreciation to our school board members, we realize their many contributions reflect a year-round commitment. With this in mind, we invite our community to join us in taking a moment to let our Board of Education trustees know that their hard work, dedication and commitment of time on behalf of our community's children has been noticed, and is truly appreciated and valued.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who voluntarily offer their time, energy, perspective and commitment to the work of the Board of Education, along with noting their length of service thus far: James Mazurek, seven years; Cynthia L. Jankowski, six years; Matthew Wilk, five-and-a-half years; Ann Kalass, four years; Roland Hwang, three years; Sarah Prescott, two years and four months; and Laurie Doner, one year.

Mary Kay Gallagher
Northville superintendent

Supports Whitmer

Though the elections are months away, I will focus on the Democratic primary. During her years in public office, Gretchen Whitmer has fought for those at the bottom of the economic scale, the disadvantaged, the elderly and the working class. She has had no problem fighting against, and calling out, the chauvinists, the bigoted and the fools who bend over for the rich, many of who are still serving as lackeys in Lansing.

A millionaire, Shai Thanedar, has entered the primary opposing Gretchen Whitmer. This man has taken a page from Rick Snyder's playbook by buying ads during the Super Bowl. Lets remember Snyder's biggest accomplishment has been to make sure he gets richer when he leaves office. It is hard to believe that would be any different.

I have no comment on the Republican except to say that this new breed in Lansing and DC are to despicable to describe.

James Huddleston
Canton

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Livonia man named top Scouting alumnus

The Great Lakes Field Service Council of the Boy Scouts of America has announced the selection of Gordon W. Draper of Livonia as the 2017 recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award by the council's Eagle Scouts of Metro Detroit committee. The award is the Scouting Alumni Association's highest council recognition. The award was established to recognize alumni of the Boy Scouts of America who, over a sustained period, have used the skills and values they learned through their association with Scouting to make significant and long-lasting contributions to their local communities through their careers, avocations and Scouting.

Long active in community affairs, Draper has served in the Boy Scouts of America for more than 72 years. In commemoration of his 50th year in Scouting, the council named a cabin in his honor at the Michigan Crossroads Council's D-bar-A Scout Ranch. Also, the council named a conference room at its Detroit office in his honor. He was named an Outstanding Eagle Scout, which recognizes people who attained the Eagle Award and then went on to make significant contributions to their communities in their adult lives. Draper is a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout Association and active sitting member of the Eagle Scouts of Metro Detroit Committee. He recently contributed \$1,000 to the NESAs Legacy Society Fellowship, which provides funds to future NESAs Scholarships to deserv-

ing Eagle Scouts requesting grants to further their education or vocation.

Draper has maintained a humble approach to scouting and has developed long and loyal relationships with many of the youth he served as an adviser. He often reaches out to them for assistance on projects related to Scouting, especially with his passion of the Trail to Eagle Camp at D-bar-A Scout Ranch. Draper previously served as chair of the Eagle Scout committee for the Detroit Area Council. Under his leadership, Draper developed a strong Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner program, which not only recognized thousands of metro Detroit Eagle Scouts, but also provided mentors for each Eagle Scout in their chosen career vocation.

He is the bylaws chairman for the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel and was president of the Northwest Chapter of the same organization for 11 years. He was director of Area 25 of MARSP for six years. After six terms as chairman of the city of Livonia Youth Commission, he now serves as Livonia's traffic commissioner. He had a four-year term on the Michigan Builders' and Contractors' Board, serving three years as chairman. He has served 24 years as president of his church choir at Newburg United Methodist. He is a long-time board member of his civic association and is now vice president. He has served as president of the Investment Scouts Stock Club since its in-



Gordon W. Draper of Livonia is the 2017 recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award.

ception.

He is a life member in the Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army and now serves as vice president of Outpost 13, located in southeast Michigan. His active service was in Germany from 1957-59 as a reporter/photographer for the Marne Rock, the division newspaper. He then served three years in the 70th reserve unit as a classification and assignment specialist.

Draper will receive his award at the council's awards dinner in May.

AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Classes at St. Michael

St. Michael's, 11441 Hubbard Road, in Livonia will present several classes. For more information, contact the parish office at 734-261-1455, ext. 200, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org.

» "Calling Them Home," for all parents, grandparents, siblings and others who are interested in helping loved ones find their way home to the church in which they were raised. Four-week series meeting each Wednesday, through Jan. 31, in the cafeteria.

» Revelation Bible Study continues 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the school cafeteria. The series is taught by Michigan Catholic columnist Gary Michuta.

St. Michael open house

St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard Street, in Livonia invites the public to its open house 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28. You will have the opportunity to speak with both teachers and students, ask questions and tour the facility.

St. Michael is a MANS Accredited School of Distinction and a Michigan Green School. For more information, call 734-261-1455, ext. 225, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org/sms.

St. Mary Mercy weight management classes

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host a weight management program titled Weigh Your Options. Classes are scheduled for 2:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, and 6:30-8 p.m. both Thursday, March 22, and Thursday, May 24.

Registered dietitians will provide attendees with information to help individuals begin a weight loss program. Attendees will learn about successful weight management programs, where to find reliable resources and healthy activities in the community

and what is needed to create a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn how to read food labels, write SMART goals and how to determine their healthiest weight.

The class will take place in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 10, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, accessed from the South Entrance. There is a \$5 fee for this class and registration is required. Register online at www.stmarymercy.org and click on "Classes and Events."

Livonia Towne Club meetings

Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization that brings together women for social interaction, meets the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November and December, when it's the second Thursday).

The program for Jan. 25 will be speaker Barbara McQuade, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Call Vicki at 734-591-3254 for more information.

Wayne Memorial parents night

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an eighth-grade parents night at 6:30 p.m. Tues-

day, Feb. 6, at the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium, 3001 Fourth Street.

This evening is for current eighth-grade students and their families or families interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2018-19 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to participate in this event.

Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.

Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For questions, contact the Wayne Memorial counseling department at 734-419-2215.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September

through May. Special activity groups meet year-round.

For more information, go to <http://livonia.neighborsandfriends.tripod.com>.

Savior Christian neighborhood program


Savior Christian Church of Redford, a mobile ministry, has started a program called "Redford Neighbors Helping

Neighbors." It is offering assistance to the elderly and disabled in the community who may need help with taking out their trash and recycling bins. This will not cost any money nor will any donations be accepted.

Elderly Redford neighbors ages 65 and older who are unable to take their new bins to the road or the disabled of any age living in Redford may call 734-469-7910 and ask for Stacey, Savior Christian

Church's service minister, to schedule a trash take out. It can also be reached by email at SaviorChristianChurch@yahoo.com.


Savior Christian Church would love to have volunteers, as well. Residents that are willing to donate one evening a week, for an hour or so, contact Savior Christian Church to sign up to lend a hand.



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Towers on the Grove Vacation Owners Association, Inc. v. Hosia D. Usher, Sr., et al
Civil Action No. 2017-CP-26-07463
Court of Common Pleas, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Horry County, South Carolina

TO: KIRSTIE M. KING

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above referenced Civil Action within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Summons and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney at the following address:

Butler Law, LLC
Attn: Dan V. Butler, Esq.
4420 Oleander Drive, Suite 202
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

For your information, the Complaint was filed November 13, 2017 with the Clerk of Court for Horry County, South Carolina. You can obtain a copy of the Complaint from the Office of the Horry County Clerk of Court located at 1301 2nd Ave, Conway, South Carolina.

If you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Answer must be in writing and signed by you or your attorney and must state your address, or the address of your attorney if signed by your attorney.

Dan V. Butler, Esq.
Phone: (843) 808-9224
Email: dbutler@butlerlaw.net

The Detroit auto show and other things to do this weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The world's eyes turn toward Detroit this week. All the world, and especially those interested in cars, will head to Detroit this upcoming week. Lucky for us, we're close by, so there's plenty of options to head downtown to see the latest crazes in the auto world.

But if cars aren't your thing, there's still plenty to check out this weekend. Here are three things happening in the hometownlife.com communities and beyond for this weekend.

North American International Auto Show

The top automobile show in the world returns to Cobo Center in Detroit this week, with plenty to see and do when it opens to the public Saturday.

Patrons can begin checking out the latest models and technology from automakers such as Ford, Chrysler, GM, Toyota and many more. More than 750 vehicles will be on display.

The show runs through Jan. 28, with hours being 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Jan. 27 and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., in Detroit.

Tickets for the show cost \$14 for adults, with children ages 6-14 at \$7. Senior tickets are \$7 and children under age 6 are free. For more information, go to naia.com.

Play performance with discussion in Northville

It's not often a play performance comes with an in-depth conversation afterward. But that's just what's taking place this weekend in Northville.

The Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., will present "Every Brilliant Thing" this weekend, with a panel discussion on mental health taking place after the show at 8 p.m. Saturday. The show features a 7-year-old who makes a list of what's worth living for while dealing with his mother's depression.

After the Saturday performance, a panel of mental health experts from St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia will take the stage to discuss issues surrounding mental health and depression.

"We are proud to partner with Tipping Point Theatre to highlight the importance of mental illness," Pamela McCullough, director of behavioral health services at the hospital, said in a statement. "Making behavioral health relatable through a compelling and humorous story can begin to eliminate the stigma of mental illness and bring about meaningful conversation within our community."

The show opens Saturday, though two preview performances will take place today and Friday. It runs through Feb. 25 with performances Thursday through Sunday and some Wednesdays. Tickets start at \$25 and are available at tippingpointtheatre.com, by visiting the Tipping Point Box office or by calling 248-347-



Luke Ehrich grooms Peter, his Shih-tzu, at the Michigan Dog Show at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. FILE PHOTO

0003.

Winter dog show in Novi

If the cold temperatures have you longing for a day out with your pooch, look no further than Novi this weekend, where the Michigan Winter Dog Classic returns.

The show, taking place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, runs all weekend and is billed as the state's largest dog show. More than 7,000 dogs and more than 160 breeds will be at the show. The show will feature demonstrations, breed seminars and other exhibitions.

The show runs through Sunday at the showplace, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$10, with children, active military and seniors costing \$8. Children under age 12 are free. A family plan, which costs \$35, covers admission for two adults and up to three children.

For more information, go to themichiganwinterdogclassic.com.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



James Bracken and Laura Parsons travel from New York City to see the auto show. They have no ties to the industry, they just like automobiles. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New tax law might help seniors come out ahead

Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK — Michigan

The holidays are behind us and by now most of us have forgotten about our new year's resolutions — I know I have. Therefore, it's time to get back to the normal craziness of our lives. As most of you know, we have a new tax law that will have some impact on the great majority of us. The tax law is very comprehensive and it will take a while for even people like me, who follow tax laws, to understand it and to be able to work with it. That being said, there is one change in the tax law that I do want to discuss.

One of the major changes in the tax law deals with the standard deduction. The standard deduction has been raised to \$24,000 for a married couple and \$12,000 for a single person. The effect of this is that more people will find that taking the standard deduction as opposed to itemizing their deductions is a much better strategy.

I bring this up because many seniors will soon be taking the required minimum distribution from their retirement accounts. Because of the new higher standard deduction, some seniors who deducted their charitable contributions in the past will no longer itemize their deductions, so they will not be able to deduct their charitable contributions. For those who will now be taking the standard deduction and who still plan to make charitable contributions, a strategy they should consider is to make their charitable contributions directly from their minimum required distribution. By doing a qualified charitable distribution, many

seniors will find that they receive a significant tax savings.

When you take a MRD, the money you receive is subject to income taxes. If you donate your MRD by doing a QCD, you are not taxed on that money. By avoiding the tax on the distribution and by receiving the new higher standard deduction, seniors can be one of the big winners in the new tax law. In addition, there can be other benefits to seniors, such as potentially keeping your income below the threshold for being subject to the high-income surtax on Medicare.

The key to donating your MRD is that the money must be issued directly from your IRA custodian to the charity. If you take your MRD and have the money sent directly to you, you cannot take advantage of this strategy. Before taking the MRD this year, seniors who make charitable contributions and want to continue doing so should consider this strategy.

This strategy only works if you are over 70½ and only

deals with distributions from your retirement account. If you are charitable in nature and because of the increased standard deduction you find that your charitable contributions are not deductible, there are still ways to make that contribution on a tax-efficient basis. For example, you can donate appreciated securities to a charity and, even though you may not get the charitable deduction, you would avoid the tax on the gains on that investment.

There will be winners and losers in the new tax law. If you look at taking advantage of opportunities created by the new tax law, you may find that you are one of the winners.

Good luck!

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

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Ice festival offers up weekend of frozen fun

For Gerneil Franklin, the cold temperatures Saturday were "almost perfect."

The coach of the Oakland Community College ice sculpting team was out in Plymouth's Kellogg Park in below-freezing temperatures as his five-member team carved ice blocks as part of an ice carving competition at the 2018 Plymouth Ice Festival.

"And we're probably the only people that beg and pray for cold weather," Franklin said.

The low was 11 degrees Saturday morning at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, said Jordan Dale, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in White Lake.

Many of the ice sculptures Franklin's team worked on included different kinds of wildlife: a dog, salmon, a scorpion and turtles.

The most difficult part of the process, Franklin said, was "fusing" or cutting ice outside the ice block and connecting it to another piece, which earns more points. He said his team is at the festival every year.

"The favorite part is actually watching these kids get surgical with it," Franklin said. "Taking that chainsaw, just going to work. ... I get the biggest joy out of that."

John Wrobel, 69, of Canton said he comes to the festival every year and enjoys photographing the sculptures.

"I love to come here and get different angled shots, like the sun through the back of it and whatnot," Wrobel said. "And it's just a great event. It's a little cold but, you know, the sun's out — and so what?"

Attendance was down that day compared to past Saturday mornings, but as temperatures warmed in the afternoon it "seems to have picked back up to a little bit above normal," festival director James Gietzen said. He didn't have a specific number for attendance.

Weather permitting, the sculptures will be available for viewing 24 hours a day after the event, according to the festival's website.



John Brennan hoists his son Jay, 7, so mom Stephanie can take a picture. Three-year-old Grace will be next. They are from Ypsilanti and are regulars at the ice fest. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Friday night crowds braved wind chills of minus-10 degrees at the ice festival.



Tiffany Zabinski and Luna brave the cold to see the ice carvings at night. Tiffany and Luna are from Canton.



Ashley Rathbun peeks through an ice sculpture. She is from Monroe.

Obituaries

Jane Buell (nee Eckenrode) Mills

TAMPA, FL - formerly of Birmingham, died peacefully in her sleep on October 4, 2017. She was born to the late John Eckenrode (Helen) and Theresa Harris, January 19, 1929 in Detroit, MI.

A resident of Birmingham for 70 plus years, she graduated from Michigan State University in 1950 making the dean's list as an all-A student in addition to being voted one of the "50" most outstanding graduates as only a two year student. She received her BA degree in education and would continue on as an elementary teacher in Bloomfield Hills and Royal Oak for the next six years.

During her years of raising children, she modeled and did commentary work for various stores. Also during this time, she began volunteer work at Children's Hospital of Michigan, thus beginning her love for helping kids in need. From then on, Jane worked tirelessly on charitable events raising millions of dollars not only for Children's Hospital, but also for Variety, The Children's Charity. She sat on countless Boards, i.e. as a Trustee for Children's Hospital for over 20 years, Gold Heart Ball Chairmen for Variety as well as Board of Director, Vice-President and first woman President of Variety in 1996, the first in their 65 year history. She served on various other Executive and Finance Committees as well.

In 1977, Jane entered the real estate business, and joined Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Ranke thus beginning her extensive and successful real estate career. Known as the "Hat Lady", she became a top selling realtor in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and was named by her peers Realtor Associate of the Year in 1989. She had a strong passion for the industry as she felt she could really help people in the area or relocating to Michigan since she



had lived in Birmingham her entire life. She worked hard and many long hours during her career as well as serving on a number of Boards with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Board of Realtors and in 1977, she was the first recipient of the Community Service Award presented by the Birmingham, Bloomfield, Rochester, South Oakland County Associate of Realtors.

In 1958, Jane married Webster and together they raised six children. They enjoyed family time as well as time spent alone traveling, dancing, playing tennis or golf and attending charitable events.

In 1999, Jane became a widow and two years later met another wonderful man, Emmett Mills. They, too, would spend the next few years traveling and enjoying time with each other and their families. Upon Emmett's death in 2005, Jane would spend a few more years in the Birmingham area and then move to Tampa, FL to live out her remaining years. She leaves behind her children, Webster, Jr., Mardi, Mike, Robin Whaley (John), Scott (Cindy) and Beth Johnstone, as well as 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents and step-mother (Helen), brother Jack and his wife, Marilyn, daughters-in law Alice (Webb), Pam (Mike) and son-in-law Jeff (Beth Johnstone).

Jane was not only a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and friend, but she never took life for granted and felt it her calling to give back to those whose lives she could make a difference in. She felt very strongly about this quote "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say "I gave everything you gave me."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Children's Hospital of Michigan or Variety, The Children's Charity.

A Celebration of Life will be held January 20, 2018 at 10:30 AM the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.



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Sports

USA HOCKEY

For Olympian Wisniewski, it's icing on the cake

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With a new lease on his hockey life, James Wisniewski feels rejuvenated.

The 33-year-old Canton native and former Plymouth Whalers defenseman is among 15 former NHL players who will skate for 25-man U.S. squad next month in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games at PyeongChang, South Korea.

The door was opened last April, when NHL players and owners couldn't resolve scheduling issues, among others, during the 17-day February Winter Olympic break with the IOC and International Ice Hockey Federation. That ended a streak of participation by NHL players for five Winter Olympics.

But for players like Wisniewski, who is currently playing for the EC Kassel

Huskies of the Deutschland Elite League 2 in Germany, it's become the opportunity of a lifetime.

Wisniewski played a total of 552 NHL games, scoring 53 goals and totaling 274 points with stops along the way in Chicago, Anaheim, Columbus, Montreal, the New York Rangers and Carolina.

Career highlight

"It's got to be right up there with my first call-up to the NHL, my first game, my draft day, World Junior gold medal," Wisniewski said. "But I think it's even got a little bit more special aspect to it, because of what I have been through the past 2½ years of almost retiring a couple of times. Just having the perseverance, dedication and drive to keep on moving and keep on going ... so everything has happened for a reason and I couldn't be

happier and more blessed."

The official announcement for the U.S. team came Jan. 1, but Wisniewski was notified three days earlier.

"I actually missed the call from Jim Johannson (U.S. general manager) and I got a text and he said, 'Call me back, this could be a fun phone call,'" Wisniewski said. "I got the family together and told them that, called them. I got the news of a lifetime."

How Wisniewski made it all the way back to a spot on the Olympic team is nothing short of remarkable.

In the 2015-16 season opener with the Carolina Hurricanes, Wisniewski tore his anterior cruciate ligament, which scrapped him for the entire year. It was his fourth ACL surgery, but the first on his left knee.

See **WISNIEWSKI**, Page 2B



Canton High grad and former Plymouth Whalers defenseman James Wisniewski is headed to the Winter Games for the U.S. team in men's hockey. COLUMBUS BLUEJACKETS

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Three of the Mackay quadruplets (from left), Austin, Ellie and Brett, are members of the Novi varsity basketball teams. BRAD EMONS

Novi quadruplet Mackay born to be a hoops standout

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Novi's standout standout point guard Ellie Mackay calls being a quadruplet "a good conversation starter."

"I'd say it's definitely something special and something that's pretty rare and I really enjoy it, actually," said the 5-foot-6 senior, who last month passed current St. Louis University guard Kerri McMahan as the school's all-time leading scorer with a 37-point effort in a 61-57 loss to Canton.

When Mackay broke the mark of 1,069 career points held since 2014 by McMahan, Ellie's brother Austin — who along with fellow quad Brett is a member of the Novi boys basketball team — was not surprised.

"She's definitely tough," Austin Mackay said. "We go at it when we're in the driveway and she holds her own, for sure. She beats me a lot. It gets close, but I always admire her competitive spirit and how hard she is."

The other quad is Ellie's sister Kamryn, who is not a basketball player, but

"We were all involved in sports. We were in T-ball, soccer, basketball ... all of that. We all played together, whether it was football in the backyard or wrestling ... in the living room."

Ellie Mackay
Novi High School standout

plays adult recreational volleyball, along with tennis.

Ellie, who set the Novi single-game scoring record last year with 40 points in a KLAA playoff win over Canton, plays with a competitive edge that goes back to her infant stages.

Backyard games

"We were all involved in sports," said Ellie, who has accepted a basketball scholarship to Michigan Tech. "We were

in T-ball, soccer, basketball ... all of that. We all played together, whether it was football in the backyard or wrestling on the carpet in the living room. We were all into it. Very competitive, especially me and the boys. Sometimes they let us do our thing, but when it got too aggressive and competitive, they had to split it up at times."

Mackay was coached her first three seasons at Novi by Bill Kelp, who accepted a job this fall as an assistant coach at Hope College.

Novi coach C.J. Aro, who previously served as Kelp's assistant, has taken over the head coaching reins and marvels at Mackay's competitive drive that constantly flows.

"I think what makes her special first as a player is that she wants to win at everything," the first-year varsity coach said. "She wants the ball first when we go five-on-five half-court. She looks at me funny if the ball goes out of bounds and she thinks it was on the other team. She'll just bug me until

See **MACKAY**, Page 3B

PREP GYMNASTICS

Farmington United looking strong for 2018 season

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jeff Dwyer likes what he sees so far from his Farmington United gymnastics squad.

Farmington United is undefeated after four dual meets and placed second in the Flip-Flop Invitational held Jan. 6 — its first invite of the season — to defending state champion Rockford. The host Rams won with 142.90 points, while Farmington was mere tenths of a point behind at 142.05.

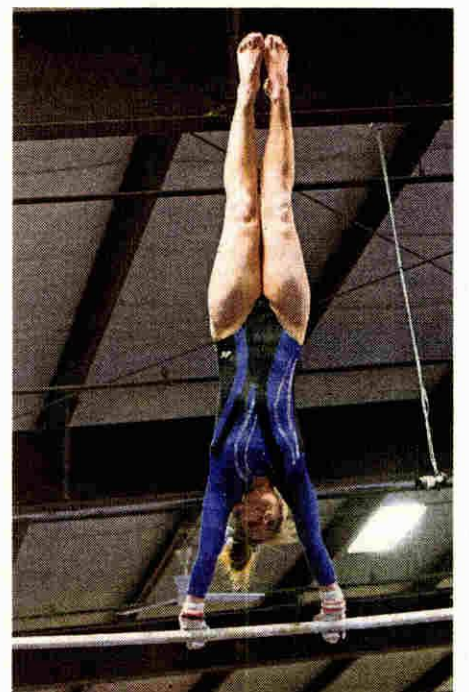
"I like where we are at. We haven't peaked yet, that's for sure, because there are a lot of things we are still working on," veteran Farmington United head coach Jeff Dwyer said. "And we have to wait on things, like, kids with injuries coming back and how our rookies can do."

"But you throw in all the experience we have and I like this team," he added. "It's exciting to know that you have a team (that can score 143 points) and, when you have that, anything can happen."

Captains lead talented roster

Dwyer's excitement centers around the 12 returning members from last

See **FARMINGTON**, Page 2B



Emily Stecevic is a four-year varsity veteran who earned Division 2 all-around all-state recognition last year. KATHY BURNS

Farmington

Continued from Page 1B

year's squad, which posted a strong regular season, won its regional and had achieved a No. 1 state ranking. However, because of a couple of key late-season injuries, Farmington entered the state meet a bit shorthanded and settled for fourth place.

Dwyer's team is loaded with both talent and experience, beginning with senior all-state captains Elisa Bills and Emily Stecevic, plus junior captain Ava Farquhar.

Bills is the defending Division 2 all-around state champion (37.550), who captured the individual balance beam (9.40), vault (9.575) and floor exercise (9.525) events. The four-year varsity gymnast is again showing she's serious about defending her state crown after placing second all-around at the Flip-Flop Invitational with a score of 36.350.

"Elisa is just a talented, tough gymnast, which I think any team would like to have," Dwyer said. "Her strength is that she can hit a mid-9 on three events: vault, beam and floor. She kind of makes it look effortless and I think that's where she scores."

"She is really clean. She's had some good background in dance and that stuff shows up," he added. "She's just hard-working and she's a polished gymnast. She has that experience of taking one event at a time."

Stecevic earned her all-state designation by placing sixth in all-around (35.700) at last year's D-2 state meet. Her best individual events at state were the floor exercise and uneven bars, where she tied for seventh overall.

Stecevic, also a four-year varsity gymnast, was sixth all-around at the Flip-Flop invite.

"Emily is a gamer. She showed that last year," Dwyer said. "She has kind of a wild spirit when it comes to competition. She loves competing and she enjoys it, so I don't think there is a lot of pressure on her. She just comes through in big meets."

Farquhar, in her third varsity season, excels on the balance beam.

"Ava's probably one of the hardest workers on the team day in and day out



Farmington United placed second at the recent Flip-Flop invite at Rockford. KATHY BURNS

and it's starting to show in her scores," Dwyer said. "She's becoming very dependable on vault and floor and beam has probably always been her best event. Her work ethic in the gym is unbelievable."

Depth is a team strength

Farmington United's talent does not end with its trio of captains.

Junior Kasey Noseworthy, who injured an ACL last season and did not compete in the state tourney, is back in the fold and expected to add depth. Dwyer believes Noseworthy has "not reached her potential yet" and she's expected to get stronger as the season progresses.

Junior Shelby Smith is known for peaking at the end of the season, when she's needed most. Smith is working hard on tougher tricks to add to her scoring repertoire.

Seniors Margaret Amshay and Abby

Coleman are both concluding their fourth year on varsity. Freshman twins Sydney and Allison Schultz are showing great scoring potential.

"What I like about this team is we have experience, with some juniors and seniors who have been around the block," Dwyer said. "I always like that, because they seem to handle the pressure situations a little better."

"And we have some rookies with potential and that helps create healthy competition in the gym for my top five spots and I love it," he added. "I think we have a good solid, group."

A tradition-rich program

Farmington has traditionally been a state power under Dwyer, who led the squad to three consecutive state championships from 2004-06. Since then, Farmington United has brought home a pair of state runners-up trophies and placed third on four other occasions.



Senior Elisa Bills enters the 2018 season as the defending Division 2 all-around state champion. KATHY BURNS

Dwyer is hoping for another big state meet showing this year in early March at Rockford.

"What's nice about having a strong tradition is the girls don't want to let the program down. They know what the girls have accomplished in the past and they work hard to reach that goal," Dwyer said. "Our kids know that we are usually among the top five, the top 10, in the state and they work hard to keep the program going."

"Every year (the state tournament is) kind of wide open, but we're scoring good right now. We had a good tournament at Rockford and that told me we're in that 143-144 scoring range and that's a pretty competitive team," he added. "I like that, but I don't know how far that will take us, because I just don't know about all the other teams across the state at this point of the season. I think we are in a good position."

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Wisniewski

Continued from Page 1B

His contract was then bought out by Carolina and, after rehabbing and getting back into shape that summer, Wisniewski landed in Tampa Bay's training camp in fall 2016, only to be released.

Change of scenery

His NHL job search all but ended, but after four weeks off, he found himself in Russia with Admiral Vladivostok of the Kontinental Hockey League, where played in 16 games, scoring a goal and totaling 39 penalty minutes.

"Russia is different, it was good," Wisniewski said. "The language barrier is a little bit tougher there. English is not such a common language as you can call it. (Vladivostok) was actually right there where we're going to play in Pyeong-Chang. It was, like, a 2½-hour drive to North Korea. For me, it was just about really getting in shape and knowing that I could still play. So after missing a full year, I did my best, enjoyed the time and actually got to know the guys."

Just before Christmas 2016, Wisniewski decided to leave the KHL and then found his way to Switzerland.

"I was really having a good time (in Russia) and moved on to play in the Spengler Cup with HC Lugano, which was an unbelievable city," said Wisniewski, who is nicknamed "The Wiz." "We lost in the finals to Canada. I made the all-star team and after that came back home."

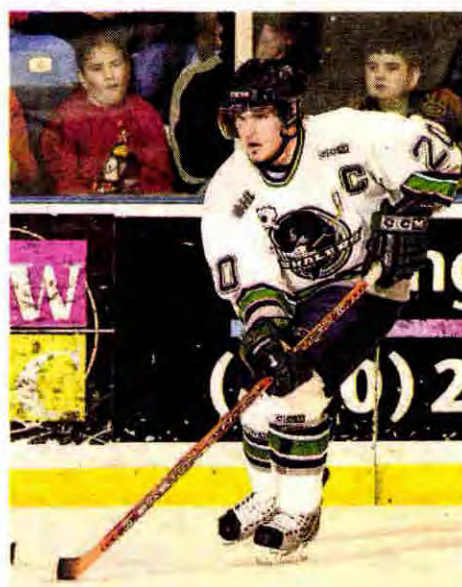
Job searching again, Wisniewski signed a minor league deal the Chicago Wolves of the American Hockey League, the NHL's St. Louis Blues affiliate team. He finished the 2016-17 season with the Wolves, posting 11 points in 21 games (along with five in the playoffs).

Bouncing around

"St. Louis, they kind of wanted their guys to play," Wisniewski said. "I had a great time there and the guys were unbelievable to me. But again, still it's a development league. I kind of got pushed around there."

Once his AHL season ended, Wisniewski rejoined his family in Columbus, contemplating his next move.

"After playing a year, maybe I can get a tryout with an NHL team," Wisniewski said he thought. "I'm waiting and waiting and I'm hearing about NHL and



Olympian James Wisniewski started in the Compuware youth program and played for the Plymouth Whalers. WALT DMOCH

Olympics and the guys not able to go. So got a call from Jim Johannson and Chris Chelios (assistant coach) telling me they want me to go over there (Germany) and play overseas.

"I told them I want to wait and make sure I exhausted every option of going to the NHL. After that didn't happen, I tried to get a job and it wasn't as easy as I thought it was going to be. So I waited around and, finally, Jim actually helped me get a job with Kassel Huskies of DEL2 League. The owner and GM Joe Gibbs treated me very well. I called them up and got this gig."

Wisniewski, who started the season in Kassel, thought he'd get an invite for the U.S. in the Deutschland Cup, the world's oldest international ice hockey tournament. Seven days prior to the Nov. 10-12 tourney in Augsburg, Germany, Wisniewski's name was nowhere to be found on the U.S. roster.

Crack in the door

"From what I heard, it was going to be hard to make the Olympic team if you're not on the Deutschland Cup team," he said. "They announced the team and I'm not on it, so I'm devastated. Beginning in November, I went back home to visit the family during the seven-day break."

"I was just thinking I got to know if I'm going to go back over. My wife (Nicole) convinced me, 'Hey, you don't want to leave any stone unturned. Go back over, play your heart out.' I called

Jimmy and said, 'Is there any way possibly I can still make the team and get an evaluation?' He said, 'I already know you, so go back over, get in shape and see what happens.'"

The 5-foot-11, 203-pound defenseman returned to Kassel and made the most of it. He's scored eight goals and added 31 assists during his first 25 games (through Jan. 7). He was also selected the DEL2's Player of the Month in November.

"I just kept on grinding, kept on grinding," Wisniewski said. "And sure enough, I got a phone call around Dec. 29 that I made the team. Quite of a whirlwind of an experience."

The U.S. roster, which also includes four current collegiate players, is a mixture of former NHL, minor league and European talent. Wisniewski, one of the team's elder statesmen, is one of three Michigan players on the roster, joining Jim Slater, who played a Michigan State, and Chad Billins, who played at Ferris State.

New itinerary

Wisniewski will leave Kassel on Feb. 7 and then take part in the Olympic Games opening ceremonies. The 12-team men's hockey tourney competition on Feb. 14, with the gold medal game set for Feb. 25.

The U.S., coached by Tony Granato, will play three preliminary-round games against Slovenia (Feb. 14), Slovakia (Feb. 16) and Russia (Feb. 17) before the quarterfinal elimination round starts (Feb. 21).

"They said make sure you play every game like it's the Olympics," Wisniewski said, "You're playing for the red, white and blue jersey and make sure you're ready to come, because I trust all you guys will be professionals and we'll be in contact with the type of style that we'll have and what not. It's a lot of pressure on us to make sure we're ready to go and ready to move on, because we only actually have three days of practice before the first game."

Gold medalist twice

After becoming the highest scoring defenseman in Whalers history with 187 points from 2000-04, Wisniewski was drafted in the fifth round by the Blackhawks in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft.

He won a gold medal at the 2002 IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship and was part of the first-ever U.S. gold medal at the 2004 IIHF World Junior

Championship.

Wisniewski has appeared for the U.S. four times, including the 2008 IIHF Men's World Championship, appearing in six games with a goal and assist as the U.S. finished sixth.

Wisniewski will have a strong cheering section supporting him in Pyeong-Chang.

Along with his wife Nicole, daughters Jamie, who will be 5 next month, and Sadie, 3½, will be in attendance, as well as his mother Sharon and father Jim.

Wisniewski will stay and play in Kassel, a city located on the Fulda River in northern Hesse, Germany, until embarking on his first Olympics.

"The good thing is that I've been seeing the world," Wisniewski said. "Not many people can say they've been as many places as I have. It's been fantastic. The people over here have been unbelievable. The team and everybody on the coaching staff and in the locker room welcomed you with open arms. The organization has been absolutely fabulous. For me, it's been pretty easy of a turnaround and it's been real enjoyable because, actually, it's gotten me to enjoy hockey again because the last 2½ years has been really tough. I was ready to turn the page on my career and move on, but this year has actually lighted another spark. And I still feel I have a lot more hockey left to give."

Strong on links

This won't be the first time Wisniewski has been to South Korea.

A scratch golfer with a plus-two handicap, he won the club championship at Jack Nicklaus's Muirfield Village in 2012, which earned him a spot in the World Golf Club Championship.

"They take 24 of the top 100 private clubs in the world," Wisniewski said. "The winner of the club championship brings a partner, so I went to Seoul for three days, then played at Nine Bridges, where they had a PGA Tour stop, on Jeju Island."

Winning a gold medal for the U.S. in South Korea would certainly be frosting on the cake for Wisniewski, who feels he's been reborn as a hockey player.

"Honestly, every day at the rink I have fun," he said. "Next month is going to be one of the best birthdays of all time. I'll be 34 on Feb. 21 and, I'll tell you, I'll never forget that birthday in Pyeong-Chang and being an Olympian for the best country in the world."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Hankerson's return gives Novi shot in arm vs. Northville

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Trendon Hankerson's return to the lineup Jan. 9 was a sight for sore eyes as far as the Novi boys basketball program was concerned.

The 6-foot-4 senior point guard, who broke his foot the opening day of practice Nov. 13, made a triumphant return as he scored 16 points in a 61-50 KLAAGold Division win at home over Northville.

The two-year starter was surely missed by the Wildcats, a preseason top 20 team that had gotten off to a rough 1-5 start during a challenging early season non-conference and division schedule.

"My foot was fine," Hankerson said. "They said don't play until it feels like it's under you. My conditioning ... it's been OK, because I practiced the last couple of days and over the weekend. But it definitely has to get back where it used to be, so it can use some work."

But now that Hankerson is returned, some sense of order has been restored to Wildcats' lineup.

"He's our quarterback, a very important piece to what we're trying to put together," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi

said. "We had some hard times without him and I joke that it's a good thing to put his name on the board again knowing he was going to start today. He means so much to our team, not just for his skill, but his leadership, his commitment, his work ethic."

With Hankerson back in the fold and 6-foot-9 Plymouth transfer Tariq Woody set to become eligible next semester, Novi (2-5, 2-2) could resemble the team that reached last year's Class A regional final.

"Since he's been practicing, all of our practices have been much more competitive and harder," Sinawi said. "He does so much more than just putting the ball in the hoop. He controls the tempo of the game defensively. He's a real good defender and demands a lot of respect which opened up the gates for Traveon (Maddox Jr.) a little bit and Jiovanni (Miles) a little bit. It worked in our favor tonight."

Maddox, a 6-3 senior guard headed to Oakland University, finished with a game-high 21 points, while the 6-3 Miles, a junior, added 15, including an eight-point spurt during the third quarter when Novi outscored Northville, 18-11, to take control of the game.



Hankerson

"My job, like always, is to distribute and then score buckets," Hankerson said. "It's not always to score a lot of buckets, that's not my job. I'm a willing scorer when I'm open. I thought we played well tonight. It was a good team win."

But just being back out on the floor was a victory in itself for the senior.

"It felt great, just the environment of the game," Hankerson said. "Practice is completely different than the game, because you have that nervous energy coming into the game. As far as playing well and going out there ... I just try and go out there and do what I normally do. It just felt great to be out there."

Here are some other takeaways:

MINUTES RESTRICTION

Hankerson had a bag of ice on his foot afterward and Sinawi wanted to limit his minutes to around 16, but he was forced to log more time after Northville made a game of it late.

Hankerson went 7-of-10 from the foul line during the final 4:10 to help seal the victory.

"He's a tough kid and we know he's going to have pain, so every game he's going to play, he's going to play through

some pain," Sinawi said.

MUSTANGS MISFIRE

Northville (6-3, 2-2) certainly had its chances, but wound up shooting only 32.6 percent from the floor (17-of-51) and 55 percent from the foul line (11-of-20), while committing 18 turnovers.

SCORING LEDGER

Senior Niko Barach paced Northville with 12 points, while juniors Steven Morrissey and Ryan Pumper both added 11.

Junior Paul Kearis chipped in nine, while senior Brandon Stevens also came off the bench to contribute nine.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Trailing 40-29 after three quarters, the Mustangs came out with pressure down the stretch and cut the deficit to 55-48 on a basket by Pumper with 2:22 remaining.

But Miles answered for Novi on the next possession with a triple to make it a 10-point bulge.

Novi shot 18-of-39 from the floor (48.7 percent), but also struggled at the foul line, going 18-of-28 (64.2 percent).

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Mackay

Continued from Page 1B

... she's the ultra-competitor. She wants to win at everything she does."

A season ago, Mackay led the Wildcats by averaging 19.9 points per game. Her season total (461 points) established a single-season school record in addition to her single-game mark of 40.

Premier scorer

"I love scoring," she said. "Definitely when you get in that mindset and that mentality, you're going to score and nobody is going to stop you. In those (37- and 40-point) games, I felt that. I wanted the ball and wanted to score. It's that mentality that nobody is going to stop me and it really set in."

Mackay also ranks among the top 10 in the Michigan High School Athletic Association record books as a prolific free-throw shooter.

She is second all time for most free throws made in a single game (22 in 2016 vs. Walled Lake Western) and is tied for fifth for consecutive foul shots made in a game (17-of-17 in 2016 vs. Livonia Stevenson).

"My dad (Tim) is a big stickler on the free throws," she said. "He always makes me practice my free throws ever since he was my coach in the third grade. I'd stay after practice and shoot my 20 free throws and I just kept that going the rest of my career."

Tim Mackay played high school basketball at Stevensville Lakeshore. He is a senior vice president of Level One Bank.

"With my dad, he's a very competitive person," Mackay said. "And I feel like that transfers to us as well."

Competitive gene

Tricia Mackay, Ellie's mom, said toughness is a family trait.

"It comes naturally being a Mackay. I think everybody on the Mackay side is competitive," Tricia said. "Anything in our home is competitive. I think that's why Ellie is so strong. You can push her, but she doesn't cry. She's been wrestling with her brothers forever."

Austin and Brett, both of whom stand three inches taller at 5-9, have also fueled Ellie's fire over the years.

"I'll give them some credit, especially one-on-one in the driveway," Ellie said with a laugh. "That gets really competitive and they always want me to push my hardest. The worst thing is when one of them beats me. That just gets me going. They definitely pushed me and they give me advice here and there, even though I might not like it at times. They do."

Added Brett: "We play one-on-one a lot in the driveway, so depending who I go up against, they're both rivals."

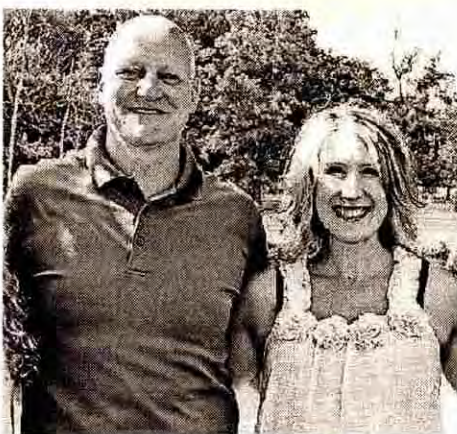
The Novi girls basketball team is 6-2 overall and 3-1 in the KLAAGold Division as Mackay is off to another strong start.

Going forward

"What's driving me is that it's my last year to play high school basketball and not fully have I let that sink in yet, but definitely want to go out strong, definitely go out and do the best for my teammates, be the best that I can be and



The Mackay quadruplets from Novi were born prematurely at 27 weeks. MACKAY FAMILY PHOTO



Tim and Tricia Mackay are raising four teenage quadruplets. MACKAY FAMILY PHOTO

make coach Aro proud," she said.

But while Mackay may seem come across as a silent assassin on the basketball court, she has a giving side as well, both as a teammate and friend.

"I think the best example I can give is that we have a new kid (Amora Wilson) that moved in from Kalamazoo, doesn't know anybody, brand new to the school ... Ellie is her shooting partner," Aro said. "I didn't make her do it, she went over and said, 'You can be my partner' and took her. I think that's a big deal in high school. Not a lot of kids do that and that's a good example."

Brett and Austin, both reserve guards on the Novi boys team, have similar qualities.

"They're very appreciative, hard-working," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said of the Mackay boys. "They come to practice every day and will bust their butt. They understand their roles and their commitment has been unwavering for four years. They'll shake your hand and thank you. Just great kids and a great family."

Splitting time

The Novi boys and girls basketball teams play at opposite sites most nights. The parents have had to split allegiances, but it works out well.

"My husband is an angel. He takes all the away games and let's me go to all the home games," Tricia said.

The four Mackays were born prematurely at 27 weeks Nov. 1, 1999, in Grand Rapids. Tricia went into labor with the quads Oct. 31 and there were complications from the start.

"It was very scary, actually," Tricia said. "We didn't want their birthday to be Halloween. I said to the doctors, 'Is there any way you can push it back past midnight so they could have an All Saints Day birthday instead of a Halloween birthday?'"

"It was scary, because they were actually born at 27 weeks gestation, which is about three months early. The normal pregnancy is 40 weeks. Austin weighed 1 pound, 11 ounces. Brett weighed 2 pounds, 2 ounces. That day was very scary, because nobody cried. There were 20 extra people in the room to deliver the quads and it was silent. All you could hear were the machines getting ready to take care of them, but no baby cried. We didn't even know if they made it. They spent the next three months in the NICU."

Ellie, at birth, weighed 2 pounds, while Kamryn was 1 pound, 13 ounces.

Touch-and-go

"Both the boys had a difficult time," Tricia said. "The girls persevered pretty much the way you'd think born at 27 weeks would."

With the quads remaining in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit on Dec. 31, 1999, there were also concerns about computers shutting down amid concerns about the infamous Y2K at the DeVos Children's Hospital.

"Thankfully, nothing happened," Tricia said. "Ellie was the first one home at day 72; like a four-pound peanut, no equipment. She's kind of a fighter. Brett and Kamryn came home together at 81 (days), Austin 90 days. He came home with an oxygen tank and heart monitor."

"We were so fortunate. We were very careful with them. Austin had lingering lung issues, treatments. We took them to a developmental assessment clinic until they were 2 years old. We did occupational and physical therapy. We're really, really fortunate nobody has any lingering health issues, learning issues or anything like that."

Tricia, who was an elementary school teacher, got plenty help caring for the quads during those early months and years.

"We were so lucky," she said. "We lived in the Grand Rapids area and had a phenomenal church. Lovely women coordinated volunteers for us for about about nine months. We'd send a month-by-month calendar with the volunteers

who could come during the week days, two ladies from 9-11 and two ladies from 1-3. We'd man it on the weekend ourselves. They were phenomenal. They were lovely to us."

All grown up

Today, you'd never know the Mackay quads were born prematurely by 13 weeks. They're all healthy, happy and well-adjusted. The family lived in the Kalamazoo area before moving to Naples, Fla., where they spent seven years. They eventually landed in Novi when the quads were seventh-graders.

Tricia, who sometimes had to don a referee's shirt during the backyard games, said raising four teenagers is somewhat easier now than when they were raised as infants.

"It's difficult, in a different way," she said. "They're actually really good kids. We haven't had any problems as teenagers, no big bumps in the road, they're really good. Having them driving and having their independence is the biggest fear right now. It was much more difficult when they were younger."

Both Brett and Austin run track and cross country. Ellie was also on the track team last year. And when there's a family game in the backyard or driveway, Kamryn, who started in basketball as a youth with Ellie before going into volleyball, won't shy away.

"Whenever we play competitive games, she'll join in, too," Ellie said. "She's pretty competitive herself."

Separate paths

While Ellie will be heading next fall to play at Michigan Tech, Kamryn will be off to Ferris State. Brett has chosen MSU, while Austin will attend Grand Valley State.

"It's going to be different," Brett said. "A lot of times, I rely on them to talk about stuff. I'll have to call them instead of being face-to-face. I think to be cool to have more independence and have our own identities, because we're so much of a group right now. I think it will be really cool."

However, there are more advantages than disadvantages of being a quadruplet.

"It has its ups and downs, for sure," Austin said. "But it's always nice because you always have, like, a group of friends to hang out with. But spending all that time together ... that can definitely get on your nerves. But we're all definitely pretty close. We all pretty much do all the same things, so that definitely helps."

Not surprisingly, all four share similar SAT-ACT test scores and grade-point averages (ranging from 3.4 to 3.8).

"Straight out of the womb, we were all together," Ellie said. "We've always been together and this will be the first time going our separate ways, but it's probably what it's going to be like the rest of our lives. It's definitely going to be different, but I'm looking forward to it."

"We're all very close, which many siblings don't get to say. We all tell each other our secrets and stuff. The boys are very close, Kamryn and I are very close. It's one of those things where we all have that special bond."

And a good conversation starter, for sure.

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GIRLS HOCKEY

Livonia United wins one, loses one

Flu bug, lack of depth hurt in 5-1 loss to PCS Penguins

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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Things are starting to look up for Livonia United, the first-year high school girls hockey team.

Getting the 2018 portion of the schedule going on a positive note was a 5-1 victory Jan. 8 against Detroit Country Day.

But then came a Jan. 10 contest at Eddie Edgar Arena, when Livonia United battled but could not overcome the depth and talent of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins, losing 6-0.

"Due to the flu bug, we were missing two players and the (remaining) eight players skated hard and never gave up," said Janine Martinez, head coach of the Livonia squad. "Our goalie (Maddie Marciw) stood on her head."

PCS led 1-0 after one period and then broke open the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game with four goals in the middle period.



Livonia United goalie Maddie Marciw makes a stop against PCS player Anna Otte. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

"Took a timeout in middle of the second period to give the team a break and tell them hang in there and keep it up, never give up and they didn't," Martinez

said, noting that her team gave up just one goal the rest of the way.

Spearheading the Penguins (5-4-0 overall, 4-0-0 in the Michigan Metro)

were defensemen Morgan Gagnon (goal, two assists) and Grace Balch (goal, assist).

Also on the scoreboard were forwards Brooke Gauthier, Brooke Kalis, Jessica Carpenter and Marnie Waggoner (one goal each).

Contributing single assists for the Penguins were defensemen Amelia Christie, Grace Duerr and forward Piper Keranen. Posting the shutout win in goal was Savina Osann.

The loss dropped Livonia United's record to 2-7-0 overall and 0-6-0 in the league.

That second win was collected against Country Day.

It helped to get out to a 2-0 lead after one period and the Yellowjackets never were able to catch up.

The score was 3-1 after two periods, with a couple of insurance goals tacked on in the third.

"The girls passed well and gained a lot of confidence," Martinez said. "They're improving each game. It's exciting to see."

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Novi gets lift from unexpected sources

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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Conventional wisdom says when you stop Ellie Mackay, Novi's all-time career scoring leader, then the odds for victory are greatly enhanced.

But that wasn't the case Jan. 9 as Northville held the 5-foot-6 senior, a 1,000-point plus scorer, to 10 points, but still came up on the short end against the host Wildcats, 40-29.

"When is the last time she only scored one basket in a game?," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "Go back to her four-year career. She's a heck of a player and we know she's their main offensive threat. You tell me we hold her to one basket and 10 points total and lose by 11 — I'd say you're out of your mind."

The Michigan Tech-bound Mackay, one of the MHSAA's all-time prolific free-throw shooters, still went 8-of-9 from the line and finished with a game-best 10 points in what turned out to be a defensive battle.

Sophomore guard Jenna Daschke, all of 5-4, chipped in an all-important eight points, while 5-11 junior Anna Bieberstein contributed six as Novi improved to 6-2 overall and 3-1 in the KLAA Gold Division.

"That might be my high (game)," Daschke said. "I did surprise myself a little bit."

One person that wasn't completely surprised by Daschke's effort was first-year Novi coach C.J. Aro, who inserted the 10th-grader into the starting lineup.

"We've been pushing for Jenna to be more aggressive, be more aggressive," Aro said. "I will say for Ellie's case — she makes Jenna so much better in practice because Jenna gets to play against the best. So she's finally started to really pick it up. Over the (holiday) break, she was very aggressive on offense and she can guard a little on defense. She's a young kid, a sophomore, which is great and what we need."

Novi trailed 14-10 midway through the second quarter before going on a 9-0 run to end the half, capped by a pair of

free throws by Mackay with 38 seconds left to lead, 19-14.

The Wildcats kept Northville (6-3, 1-3) at arm's length after three quarters, 32-22, thanks to a pair of free throws by senior forward Julia Lalain with 0:00 on the clock.

Novi stretched its lead to 40-24 with 3:15 remaining in the fourth on two more free throws by Mackay to help seal the victory.

"Ellie is, obviously, one of our key offensive players and when she's struggling or getting guarded, as she will this season, everyone else has to step it up and I think we did really good job today," Daschke said. "Their defense — it was strong. It was definitely well-played by them and I think that we really moved the ball well and shared it like a team."

Northville made only 6-of-37 shots from the floor over the final three quarters and hit 11-of-18 free throws for the game.

"We're trying to attack the basket and Novi does a nice job of clogging things up," Gudith said. "I think our kids were looking more to drawing the contact and expecting a whistle than concentrating on just finishing. That's what we told them at halftime, but it still didn't work in the second half."

No Northville player reached double figures, with Jasmin Prince and Roan Haines both scoring seven.

"The biggest thing we knew is that we had to get under screens on most kids and over screens on (Kendall) Dillon," Aro said. "We couldn't let Dillon shoot threes and can open threes. And once the kids went over that, they understood what they were doing. I thought help-side was there. I thought they played well and helped each other again. The same way we beat Brighton. They help each other. We're not that good individually on defense, but when we play together, we're pretty damn good."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Highly-ranked Hazel Park dominates OAA Red foe North Farmington

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Hazel Park's undefeated boys basketball team is No. 2 in the Class A state rankings, trailing only fellow Oakland Activities Association Red Division member Clarkston. North Farmington found out why Jan 11.

Hazel Park led from start to finish and completely dominated visiting North Farmington, 67-34.

Hazel Park played without two injured starters in hiking its record to 8-0 overall, 2-0 in the Red. North Farmington fell to 4-3 and 0-2.

Hazel Park head coach Brendon Barrett, who returned all five starters, felt his team played a little out of sync with its shorthanded lineup.

"We didn't have two of our starters tonight, so that slowed us a little bit as far as our continuity and our chemistry with our regular style of play," Barrett said. "It was kind of a sloppy game to me and I kind of credit that to us not having our starters in."

"Anytime you bust up a unit, especially two starters out, that's heavy," he added. "But guys battled back and we got the win tonight, so I'm grateful for that."

Turnovers hurt young Raiders

North Farmington head coach Todd Negoshian said his young squad just didn't have enough experience to play with the Vikings, who caused numerous turnovers with their backcourt quickness. Hazel Park finished with 17 two-point field goals and seven treys.

"When you have kids who are athletic as Hazel Park and shoot it the way they shoot it and play as hard as they do, it's tough to defend," Negoshian said. "They apply pressure and we don't have guys that can handle it right now because we're so young."

"It's kind of going to be like that probably the whole year for us, with

our league," he added. "It's going to be a baptism by fire for us right now. Guys are going to have to grow up on the spot."

The hosts scored the game's first four points and eight of the first 10 for an early 8-2 lead. They went on to take a 20-6 advantage after the opening quarter.

North scored the first bucket on the second quarter to cut the lead to 12 points, but that's as close as the Raiders would get the rest of the game. Hazel Park held a 33-16 halftime lead and was up 53-26 after three quarters.

Hazel Park had three double-digit scorers: seniors Devin Pettus (19), Carl Bow (17) and David Hearn (13).

North Farmington's top scorer was senior center Donny Dreshaj, who earned a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Junior Yusuf Jahid finished with six points and six rebounds. Senior Kevin Edwards contributed four points and five rebounds.

"I learned that we're not real coachable yet and we need to get there," said Negoshian, whose team won three of its first four games. "For these kids to be successful, they have to be coachable. And if not, it's going to continue to be this type of year for us."

Barrett's team captured the OAA White Division title last year and believes his squad can be competitive in the Red Division.

"I thought we would be pretty good this year. We had a good summer and guys were in the gym and we played pretty good all summer," Barrett said. "I thought leading into the beginning of the season we would do OK."

"We had a very tough non-league schedule and I wanted that to test us out," he added. "I think we can compete in the OAA Red, but we just take one game at a time and we just come to play the game and what happens is what we take."

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BOYS SWIMMING

Northville splashes past Novi in state-ranked showdown

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Northville swimming and diving team apparently hasn't seen the best yet from Travis Nitkiewicz.

But if his early season returns are any indication, the junior is going to loom prominently when the Division 1 state finals commence March 9-10 at EMU.

Nitkiewicz, a state placer last year in the 100-yard breaststroke (fifth) and 200 individual medley (10th), figured in four first-place finishes Jan. 11 as the Mustangs topped rival Novi in a KLAA

Gold Division dual meet, 106.5-79.5.

"I thought it was a very solid team performance," said Nitkiewicz, who broke his own pool record in the breaststroke (58.58). "We definitely had errors that we could still work on, but I think we really came together as a team and pulled through. Had some good and some bad swims, but we're working hard and it was nice to see us do well."

Fifth-ranked Northville improved to 8-0 overall and 3-0 in the division as Nitkiewicz also captured the 200 IM (1:56.72). He teamed with Arthur Greenlee, Kirk Maibach and Craig Maibach for a win as well in the 200 medley relay

(1:37.59).

"He's a talented kid, he really is," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "He works hard and stays humble. And if he stays on the trajectory he's going, he could be one of the best we've ever had."

Nitkiewicz also swam a 22.7 split in the 200 freestyle relay, combining with brother Jason Nitkiewicz, Cameron Heaven and Trevor DeGroot for a first-place time of 1:30.93.

"I was very happy with my times," Travis Nitkiewicz said. "Those are season bests in the individuals and leading off the relay, so I was very happy and I

hope to build on those."

Other individual double-winners for Northville included DeGroot, who swept the 200 and 500 freestyles in 1:47.25 and 4:53.34, respectively, and Kirk Maibach, who captured the 50 and 100 freestyles in 22.46 and 49.68, respectively.

Jason Nitkiewicz added a win in the 100 butterfly (53.62), while Greenlee took the 100 backstroke (55.95).

The foursome of DeGroot, Jason Nitkiewicz, Heaven and Kirk Maibach capped off the meet with a victory in the 400 freestyle relay (3:17.53).

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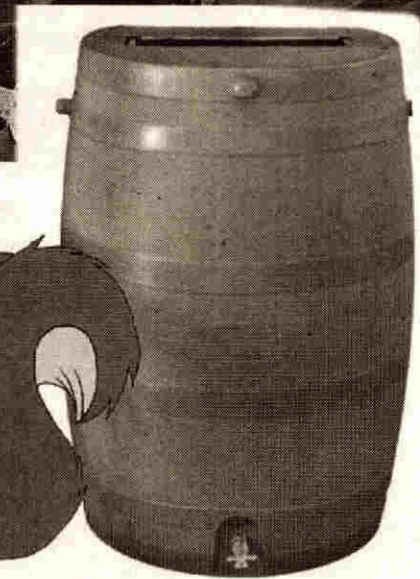
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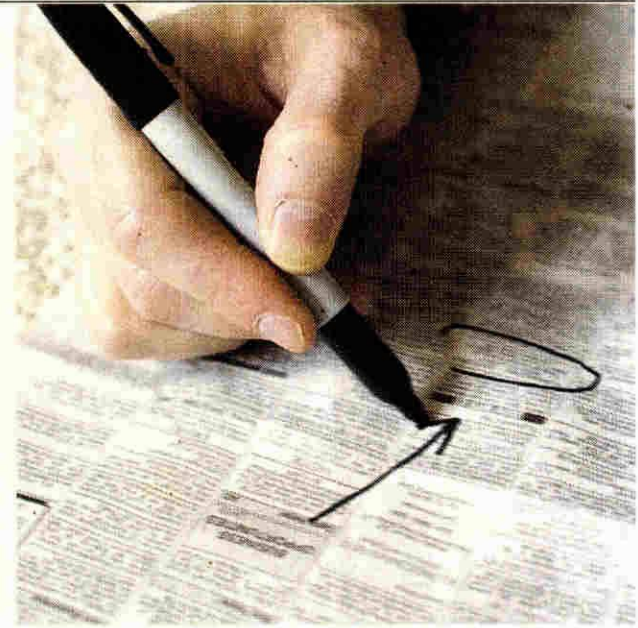
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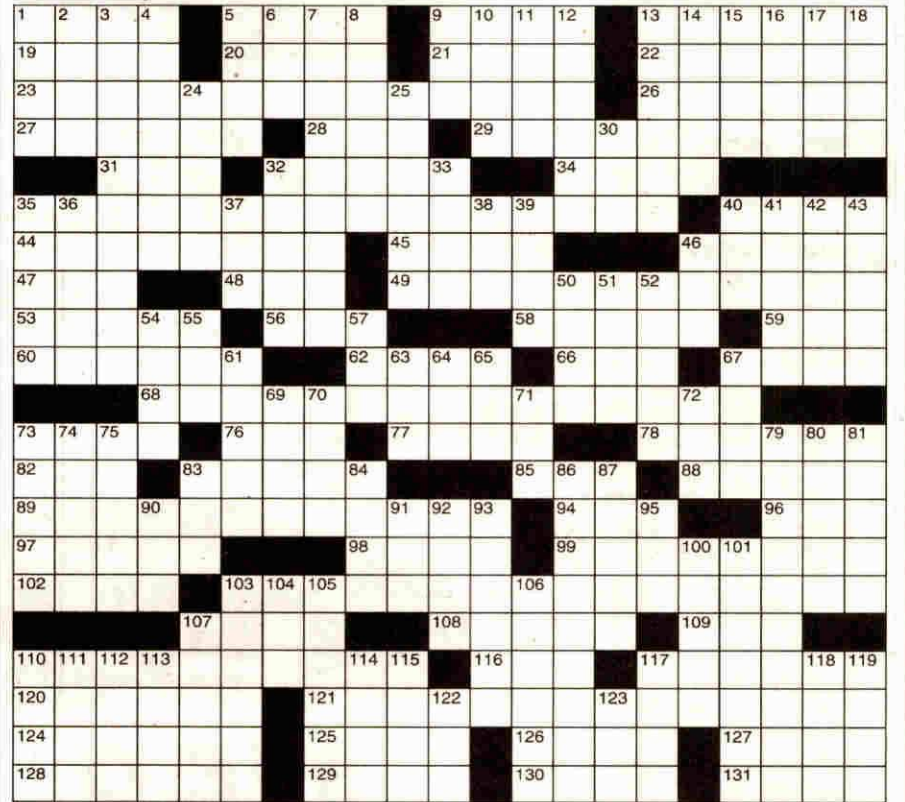
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Opera start
 - 5 "Yes, yes, Juan!"
 - 9 Take — (taste some)
 - 13 Cheeky type
 - 19 Road, in German
 - 20 Foretoken
 - 21 Lovett of country
 - 22 No longer surprised by
 - 23 Ram forcefully?
 - 26 Frito Lay chip
 - 27 December mall hirees
 - 28 Teeny
 - 29 Greeting sent by a cosmetics company?
 - 31 "Agnus —"
 - 32 Cache
 - 34 Southeast Kansas city
 - 35 Where lots of mail deliverers scuba-dive?
 - 40 Not at all night
 - 44 Most robust
 - 45 Kazan of film directing
 - 46 Hilo "hello"
 - 47 In days past
 - 48 "Lo-o-ovely!"
 - 49 Set crossword hints to music?
 - 53 Prefix with pathology
 - 56 The Big Apple, briefly
 - 58 Fissile rock
 - 59 Middy sleep
 - 60 Divide by type
 - 62 Contract out
 - 66 TV title alien
 - 67 Water whirl
 - 68 Required maintenance items?
 - 73 Face cover
 - 76 From — Z
 - 77 Big fair
 - 78 Character
 - 82 "Scat!"
 - 83 Prologue
 - 85 Upsilon's follower
 - 88 Qdoba treats
 - 89 Inelegant five-member band?
 - 94 66-Across et al.
 - 96 Salt's "Help!"
 - 97 Muslim palace area
 - 98 Haul around
 - 99 Number of magazine subscribers, e.g.
 - 102 Writer Haley
 - 103 Long to look at a periodic table?
 - 107 Feng —
 - 108 Poetry Muse
 - 109 White-haired
 - 110 Library cubicle in which Chablis is served?
 - 116 Jackie O.'s "O"
 - 117 New York state prison
 - 120 Is wild for computer programs?
 - 121 Writes hacky
 - 124 Chemist's "I"
 - 125 Nursing school subj.
 - 126 Bit of help
 - 127 In awe
 - 128 Naval units
 - 129 Car-lot sticker abbr.
 - 130 Barley brews
 - 131 Guru's discipline
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Essentials
 - 2 "Fame" star Irene
 - 3 Very loud
 - 4 Alternately
 - 5 —chef
 - 6 Unruly kid
 - 7 Fit for sailing
 - 8 Ready to be driven
 - 9 Pugilist Muhammad
 - 10 Harmony
 - 11 1942 role for Ingrid
 - 12 "The Dick Van Dyke Show" surname
 - 13 Ballet dancer Nureyev
 - 14 "Sitting on —..." ("Mrs. Robinson" lyric)
 - 15 Blood bank fluids
 - 16 Nero's 404
 - 17 Quintillionth: Prefix
 - 18 "Crazy" bird
 - 24 Aristide's land
 - 25 Eagles' nests
 - 30 Female deer
 - 32 Is sporting
 - 33 Hoagie shop
 - 35 Its capital is Accra
 - 36 Is very angry
 - 37 Co. kahuna
 - 38 — Tin Tin
 - 39 Tatty cloths
 - 40 Exclusively
 - 41 Ran across
 - 42 In the future
 - 43 Harsh-toned
 - 46 Top gun
 - 50 Spicy cuisine
 - 51 Stop moving
 - 52 Pixieish
 - 54 Stone
 - 55 — pro nobis
 - 57 Amigo of Fidel
 - 61 Sedative drug, informally
 - 63 Berg stuff
 - 64 Stout of mysteries
 - 65 Seer's skill
 - 67 This, to Pedro
 - 69 Dying rebuke
 - 70 "Me neither" kid
 - 71 Sponge up
 - 72 Scarf down
 - 73 Coffee flavor
 - 74 Auditory
 - 75 Rubberneck
 - 79 West Coast coll. in La Jolla
 - 80 Hen's perch
 - 81 Swirly letters
 - 83 Suffix with 90-Down
 - 84 Being aired, in a way
 - 86 Like religious dissenters
 - 87 Writer Calvino
 - 90 Gender
 - 91 Tip of a sock
 - 92 Suffix with major
 - 93 Azadi Tower locale
 - 95 Holy Fr. woman
 - 100 Ham it up
 - 101 City-circling route
 - 103 Goes after
 - 104 1921 Karel Capek play
 - 105 Stability-improving auto part
 - 106 Vocalist Kitt
 - 107 Hound's trail
 - 110 Homeless kid
 - 111 Sacred cow
 - 112 Center point
 - 113 The "E" of HOMES
 - 114 Practically forever
 - 115 Jet name
 - 117 Gets the total
 - 118 Stop up
 - 119 Kelp, e.g.
 - 122 Brand of motor oil
 - 123 A single



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

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

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!

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

CREATIVE CRAFTING WORD SEARCH

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

- ACRYLIC
- ADHESIVE
- AIRBRUSH
- BEADWORK
- BLADES
- CALLIGRAPHY
- CANVAS
- CHARCOAL
- CLAY
- CLOTH
- CUTTING
- DECORATIONS
- EASEL
- EMBOSS
- FABRIC
- FLOSS
- FOLIAGE
- FRAMING
- GLUES
- JEWELRY
- JOURNAL
- KNITTING
- KNOTS
- MAT
- MOLD
- PAINT
- PASTELS
- PENCILS
- POTTERY
- RUSTIC
- SCRAPBOOK
- SEWING
- STICKERS
- WAX
- WOOD
- YARNS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

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

Word Search Answers

ACRYLIC
 ADHESIVE
 AIRBRUSH
 BEADWORK
 BLADES
 CALLIGRAPHY
 CANVAS
 CHARCOAL
 CLAY
 CLOTH
 CUTTING
 DECORATIONS
 EASEL
 EMBOSS
 FABRIC
 FLOSS
 FOLIAGE
 FRAMING
 GLUES
 JEWELRY
 JOURNAL
 KNITTING
 KNOTS
 MAT
 MOLD
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GM Lease Loyalty

2018 Equinox LT

MSRP \$27,745
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$21,841**



STOCK #181167

\$168/MO*

- 1.5L Turbo Engine
- 7" Color Touch Screen Radio
- Rear Vision Camera
- 4 Wheel Anti-Lock Brakes
- Push Button Start
- Blue Tooth for Phone

24 Month Lease with \$999 Down With a
Non-GM Lease

2018 Silverado LT 4x4 Double Cab

MSRP \$42,470
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$31,440**



STOCK #180930

\$188/MO*

- 4.3L V6 Engine
- Spray in Bedliner
- 3.42 Rear Axle Ratio
- Rear Vision Camera
- Locking Tailgate
- 4 Wheel Anti Lock Brakes
- 8" Color Touch Radio with HD Radio

24 Month Lease with \$999 Down with
GM Lease Loyalty

2018 Silverado Double Cab All-Star 4X4

MSRP \$44,020
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$33,794**



STOCK #180929

\$209/MO*

- Ecotech 4.3L V6 Engine
- Allstar Package incl:
- Trailing Equipment with Locking Diff
- Power Seat
- LED Fog Lamps & more
- Spray On Bedliner

24 Month Lease with \$999 Down with
GM Lease Loyalty

2018 Malibu LT

MSRP \$26,060
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$19,882**



STOCK #181127

\$215/MO*

- 1.5L Turbo Engine
- 6 Speed Auto Transmission
- Color Touch Screen Radio
- Blue Tooth for Phone
- Rear Vision Camera
- Aluminum Wheels
- Power Driver Seat

24 Month Lease with \$999 Down with
GM Lease Loyalty

2018 Traverse 1LT FWD

MSRP \$35,565
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$29,324**



STOCK #180344

\$279/MO*

- 3.6L V6 engine with stop/start technology
- 9-speed automatic transmission
- Dual-outlet exhaust
- Rear vision camera
- 7-passenger seating with second-row captain's chairs
- 8-way power driver seat with power lumbar control
- Fog lamps
- Previous Courtesy Vehicle

36 Month Lease with \$999 Down With
GM Lease Loyalty

2017 Suburban 4x4 LS

MSRP \$56,675
**STARTING AS LOW
AS \$45,881**



STOCK #173033

- 5.3L V8 Engine
- Rear Back up Camera
- Power Adjustable Pedals
- Lane-Keep Assist
- 20 Inch Polished Aluminium Wheels

**SAVE OVER
\$10,000 OFF MSRP**

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Saturday	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



CHEVROLET

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All payments & pricing require the GM Employee & Family Discount and include the GM Lease Loyalty incentive. All payments are plus tax, title, CVR & DOC Fee's, no security deposit is required, 1st payment due at signing and are with approved A1 or A+ credit through GM Financial and are calculated at 10,000 miles per year. For purchase pricing, must finance through GM Financial. See dealer for final details, photos may not represent actual vehicle, you must take delivery before 01/24/2018