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## **Planet Fitness plans two new sites**

### Health club to open locations in Garden City, Wayne

#### **Darrell Clem**

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -- MICHIGAN

Planet Fitness is muscling its way into the gym market in Garden City and Wayne and investing \$5 million in makeovers of two vacant buildings.

PF Michigan Group, one of the nation's largest franchisees of Planet Fitness health clubs, hopes to open by late July or early August inside the former Kroger store on Middlebelt, north of Ford Road, in the Garden City Town Center.

Mary Scott, director of marketing, also confirmed the company expects to open as early as June in the former Save-A-Lot store on Michigan Avenue, east of Wayne Road, in Wayne.

Scott said Planet Fitness is investing about \$2.5 million in each site and filling vacant buildings - a move welcomed by local officials.

"Absolutely at no time does the city want a vacant building." Garden City Mayor Randy Walker said. "We want a thriving downtown. We're excited to have Planet Fitness in our city. It will bring people to the center of our town. It's a good thing."

Walker said the former Kroger closed less than a year ago. The former Save-A-Lot site in Wayne has been empty for several years.

Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe said work crews for Planet Fitness have been doing "such a beautiful job" on the building.

See FITNESS, Page 3A



Planet Fitness is giving a makeover to the former Save-A-Lot site in Wayne. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **AND THEY'RE OFF!**

### Northville Downs needs help to defy long odds for survival

#### Ed Wright

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Angling a baseball-sized magnifying glass over the fine print of a racing form early Friday night, silver-haired Granville Bowling was studying to beat the odds in the enclosed viewing area just a stone's throw from the Northville Downs harness racing track.

A 40-year regular at suburban Detroit horse racing venues, the Kentuckyborn resident of Livonia had no inten-



tions of breaking the bank.

"If I win \$20 tonight, fine; if I lose \$20, that's OK, too," he said, his voice dripping with a syrupy southern accent. "I've been coming here since I was 20, because I love the action, I love the horses, not necessarily to win a lot of money.'

On the day after Hazel Park Raceway abruptly shuttered its doors - making Northville Downs the last live horse racing venue in Michigan — Bowling didn't need a magnifying glass to see what the future may hold for his No. 1 source for entertainment.

"Fifteen, 20 years ago, this place was packed with people as far as you can see," Bowling said, gesturing toward a sparsely filled grandstand area. "Back then, if you wanted to gamble, this and the lottery were the only places to do it. Now, with the casinos, there's a lot of competition for the gamblers' dollars.

"As much as it hurts me to say it, I'd be surprised if this isn't the next one to go."

See HORSE RACING, Page 7A

Jerry Mihelich has a day job, but spends his evenings driving and training horses at Northville Downs. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Family says goodbye to crash victims

#### Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A fatal crash in Redford Township late last month was a compound tragedy for Karlos Dillard and his brothers.

The crash on Telegraph at West Chicago, which occurred about 2 a.m.

March 29, claimed the lives of of their mother, Mia Dorris, and their sister, Jatia McGough. Raeniquah Watson was also killed; all three women were from the Muskegon area.

Dillard and his brothers, Timothy McGough and Alex McGough, said their goodbyes Tuesday at a funeral home in Detroit.

"She was a good person," Dillard said of his mother, who was 50. "She always had a lot of laughter. She was funny."

Dillard and his siblings were former foster children, separated from their mother at a young age. Dillard was able to reunite with Dorris about six years ago, he said.

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Despite a long separation, Dorris



kept the letters and school records he had sent her over the years,

McGough

something

that impressed Dillard. "She was just really an awesome person," he said. His sister Jatia, he said, was a cloth-

See CRASH, Page 2A

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## Crash

#### Continued from Page 1A

ing designer with a line of T-shirts, jogging suits and other sports apparel that she sold online and at festivals. She was planning to open a clothing store.

She also sponsored regular fundraisers, like barbecues, raffles and auctions, that raised money to support causes that helped children, Dillard said.

Jatia, 30, the oldest sibling, "played a huge part in

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#### **Newsroom Contacts:**

Dan Dean, Managing Editor Mobile: 248-396-0706 Email: ddean@hometownlife.com Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach

Mobile: 586-262-9892 Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

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Ask for Lori in Canton (734) 221-5079 For a free online hearing test and hearing guide: www.mosaaudiology.com our lives" when she and her brothers were children, Dillard said. She taught them to be entrepreneurs who would rake neighbors' yards for money or take out the recycling in exchange for the cash they got from redeeming returnable bottles and cans, he said.

"She just kept an eye out and made sure she knew where all of us were," he said.

Dillard was grateful that he had been able to spend time with Jatia when they visited New York City last September for Fashion Week.

And he remembers fondly when he flew his mother to Florida a few years back, a trip that gave Dorris her first look at the ocean.

"She had never been in an airplane. She was very excited," he said. "She said she'd never been that close to God before."

Dillard said he is still trying to understand what that led to the crash. He believes his sister was driving; the Kia Optima was hers, Watson only drove occasionally and Dorris didn't drive at all, he said.

Police said the crash occurred when the Optima's driver lost control while heading south on Telegraph, went slightly airborne and struck a pole. The crash closed the intersection for several hours. A witness told police the Optima was traveling at a high speed shortly before the crash, which remains under investigation.

The three women had just left a party thrown in celebration of the release of an album by Timothy McGough.

Their status as former foster children complicates the picture as the brothers plan their mother's and sisPolice said the crash occurred when the

**Optima's driver lost control while heading** 

south on Telegraph, went slightly airborne and

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struck a pole. The crash closed the

intersection for several hours. A witness told

police the Optima was traveling at a high

speed shortly before the crash, which remains

#### under investigation.

ter's services, said Dillard, because they don't have the family structure and resources that many people faced with such a burden might have.

"At the end of the day ... that's still our family and that's still our responsibility," he said.

Insurance from her job as a school janitor was expected to pay for Dorris's arrangements, but a Go-FundMe page has been set up to help defray the cost of McGough's funeral.

Visitation for Dorris and McGough was Monday and a service was scheduled for Tuesday. A service for Watson, 22, was held for April 7.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.

#### HYPE RECREATION CENTER EVENTS

All classes take place at the HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, in Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7460. Classes are free unless noted.

#### Matter of balance

When: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday Details: An award-winning program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase their activity level. Learn practical strategies to manage falls, make changes to reduce fall risks at home and improve balance and flexibility. Call Nancy at 734-721-7460 to register.

#### **Cooking for diabetes**

When: 6-8 p.m. each Tuesday through May 9 Details: This six-week workshop is a commitment of fun, interactive sessions presented by a trained culinary and nutrition instructor. Hands-on presentations demonstrate the link between nutrition and health, the affordability of healthy eating, healthy meal planning and cooking tips.

Free groceries and cookbooks are included to practice new skills at home. This workshop provides specialized recipes and information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers. Class is free and open to adults who have not previously enrolled in a Cooking Matters course.

Go to https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/ TWWHC68x3RHqRjkPf6Tv-c?domain=beaumont. org or call 800-543-9355.

#### **Sometimes Travelers Club**

Stop by the office or city hall to pick up trip fliers, which will have further trip details, or call Nancy at 734-721-7460. The club is offering the following trips:

■ Memory Lane/Grand River Avenue, Wednesday, April 25. Guided tour of the Redford Theatre (opened in 1928), currently owned and operated by the Motor City Theatre Organ Society. Lunch at the Stillwater Grill. Shopping at Heart of Michigan and Sweet Sensations.

Spring Mystery Tour, Thursday, April 26. This trip has something for everyone. Four planned stops, plus lunch. Travel approximately two hours away. In which directions, we cannot say. Proof of citizenship is not required.



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## Fitness

Continued from Page 1A

"I think it's going to be a very good new business for our downtown area," she said. "We're hoping it will draw some new people in and they will venture out to the restaurants and shops in town."

The two new fitness centers bring to 41 the number of gyms operated by PF Michigan Group. The company intends this fall to open other locations in Lake Orion and Auburn Hills and also is expanding in the Toledo market.

Scott said Planet Fitness continues to grow because

it offers affordable, clean, judgment-free fitness centers.

"A lot of people who come to our gyms haven't gone to gyms before," she said. "It's very comfortable to come into our locations. We want people to feel welcome."

Company owner Bryan Rief said the Garden City fitness center will be located amidst the city's dining and shopping area, allowing residents to "easily incorporate a fitness regimen into their routine."

The Wayne site also is located along the city's main commercial corridor.

With the new sites, PF Michigan will employ more than 500 people, company officials say. Planet Fitness gyms are best known for memberships starting at \$10 a month.

Before opening a new gym, Scott said Planet Fitness officials look for areas with enough population to support it. She said customers have ranged in age from teens to more than 90 years old.

"We look at who lives around there, who's not being served currently and who's going to benefit from the service," she said.

Scott said the closest location to those two sites is miles away at Warren and Wayne roads in Westland.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclem@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.



Work is underway on the site of the new Planet Fitness in Wayne. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Planet Fitness will occupy the former Kroger store on Middlebelt Road, north of Ford, in Garden City. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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## Firefighter injured during Livonia garage fire

Matt Jachman hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Crews from five Livonia Fire Department stations responded Sunday evening to a blaze that severely damaged the attached garage at a house on Norfolk, west of Merriman.

The accidental fire broke out around 6 p.m., Livonia Fire Marshal Keith Bo said. No occupants were injured in the fire, but a firefighter suffered a minor injury and was treated at a local clinic, Bo said.

"Our crews got there extremely fast and they knocked it down extremely fast," Bo said.

There was no one in the garage at the time and a neighbor knocked on the door to tell the home's residents — a couple and two children — that their garage was on fire, Bo said.

"They were not aware their garage was on fire until the neighbor alerted them," he said.

The house was not damaged by the fire, but sustained some smoke damage, Bo said. He did not detail the cause of the fire, except to say that it was accidental.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.



30500 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 410, Farmington Hills



A fire Sunday damaged this garage at a house on Norfolk, west of Merriman. LIVONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Woman arrested following \$1,100-plus shoplifting try

### Matt Jachman

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A woman was arrested the evening of April 5 after trying to leave a Livonia store with more than \$1,100 worth of merchandise, including a computer tablet, a camcorder, jewelry and clothing.

The shoplifting attempt took place at the Meijer on Middlebelt, south of Schoolcraft Road, shortly after 7 p.m. The woman, who police found had three outstanding warrants, was arrested on a first-degree retail fraud charge.

A Meijer security employee confronted the woman when she tried to walk out with the merchandise, some of it in a shopping cart and some in a beach bag that had also been taken from the store, a Livonia Police Department report said.

The employee told police he had seen the woman push the cart, plus a stroller with her daughter in it, into a restroom, then emerge later with some of the items missing from the cart and a beach bag — which had been empty when she entered the restroom — with things inside it.

He then watched as she obtained a tablet and a camcorder from the electronics department, returned to the restroom and then exited without those items in the cart, he told police. An employee found the camcorder and tablet boxes in the restroom, the police report said.

After the woman paid for \$23.33 worth of goods at a self-checkout kiosk, the report said. The security worker confronted her, asking for receipts, and police were called.

The woman was allowed to phone someone to pick up her daughter. Police arrested her on a first-degree retail fraud charge and said she would also faces two charges of reporting a fictitious crime and one charge of malicious use of a telephone, misdemeanors for which warrants against her had been issued.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.



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## **CC** robotics teams headed to world championships

#### **David Veselenak**

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Catholic Central High School senior Paul Schulte has been been working on robots the last four years at the Novi school. It's a passion he's had for years.

"I've always been interested in robotics and how this stuff works," the Livonia resident said. "I've been learning a lot the past four years and I've been loving it ever since."

Now Schulte, along with several other students at the school on Wixom Road, will take their robotics knowledge to Louisville later this spring to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championships, the fourth time the school has had a team there the last six years.

Two teams from Catholic Central will head to the tournament, set for April 25-28. There, they will use their robots to compete in alliances with other teams to stack cones into specific zones on the playing field to score the most points. The competition lasts two minutes per round, with the first 15 seconds relying on programming the robot to move autonomously and the reminding time being driven by a team member.

It's a competition that truly puts stu-



dents' wits to the test, said coach Larry Schulte, Paul Schulte's father and a theology teacher at the high school.

"Every team has access to the same standard parts, which would be different from FIRST (Robotics), where they can machine their own stuff," he said.

The two teams from Catholic Central are not the only Michigan students to compete. Sixteen total teams from the state are headed to Louisville that week, including five teams from Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills.

The teams get together and begin work at the beginning of the school year, meeting for several hours a week working on their robots. Because everyone

Ryan, of Novi makes an adjustment to his team's robot. BILL BRESLER I HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Patrick



That progression is evident in the spring after teams have competed in several contests, sophomore Patrick Ryan said.

'Toward the end of the year, everybody has a very similar design," the Novi resident said.

Ben Ahromheim, another coach and a math and computer science teacher at the school, said the program is one the students take complete control of. They're the ones responsible for construction and for figuring out the proper



Grant Zydeck of Farmington Hills, Justin Sanderson of Plymouth, Wesley Campbell of Wixom and Rahul Sethi of Northville prepare to tear down their robot for modifications. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

mechanics of the robot, while he and other coaches let them figure it out.

"I don't believe I ever really have laid hands on either robot. I don't touch them," he said. "The programming, the design, everything, is entirely done by the students."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

## Chase ends when police ram suspected getaway car

#### Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Police used a specialized ramming move to stop a car in which two suspects in the attempted break-in of a Livonia gun shop were fleeing last week.

The PIT – or pursuit intervention technique – occurred around 4 a.m. March 29 on the ramp from Ann Arbor Road to northbound I-275 in Plymouth Township.

Police video shows the front of a patrol car striking the left rear of a Chevrolet Impala and spinning it; the maneuver sent the car onto the grassy area between the ramp and the freeway.

Two male teenagers fled the Impala,

but were caught by police in foot pursuits, Livonia Police Capt. Ron Taig said. No injuries were reported.

The incident began at Shooters Service, a gun Allen shop on Six Mile, west of

Middlebelt. It was about 3:45 a.m., Taig said,

when the owner, who happened to be in the store, heard the sound of breaking glass and called police.

Security video from Shooters Service shows someone repeatedly hitting the storefront, first with a crowbar and then with an axe.

The store owner scared off the would-be intruder and a responding of-



ficer saw an Impala leaving the area, Taig said. The Impala sped up and police started the pursuit, he said.

The chase headed south on Middlebelt and west on Plymouth Road

to Ann Arbor Road, where the Impala's driver tried to enter the freeway before being stopped by the PIT maneuver.

Suspects Germaine M. Jackson, 17, and Gerrick G. Allen, 18, were arraigned March 30, each charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny, possession of burglary tools and assaulting, resisting or obstructing police. Allen, the suspected getaway driver, was also charged with fleeing police

and driving with a suspended license.

Judge Vesta Svenson entered notguilty pleas for them during their holiday arraignments and set a bond of \$7,500 for each. Jackson was released April 2 from the Wayne County Jail after bond was posted for him, but Allen was still being held Friday, according to jail information.

The two are scheduled for Thursday, April 12, probable-cause conferences in 16th District Court in Livonia.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.



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## Check out these fun events happening this weekend

#### **David Veselenak**

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Art lovers rejoice: This is the perfect weekend to check out some of the local culture happening in the hometownlife-.com area this weekend:

#### **Freep Film Festival**

If you're a film snob, this is the best event to check out in metro Detroit when it comes to movies. The Freep Film Festival, put on by our colleagues at the Detroit Free Press, began Wednesday and runs through Sunday at various theaters across the region.

More than 70 events will take place at more than a dozen venues during the festival, including some at the Emagine Novi, 44425 W. 12 Mile; and the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, in Detroit. Movies playing at the Emagine Novi will include: "Pick of the Litter," "The Joe," "12th & Clairmount," "Dark Money" and "The S Word." These films will play Saturday and Sunday.

The Redford Theatre will show a few double features, including "Filmmaker" and "The Shining" Friday night; "The Pretender" and "Rocky III" Saturday afternoon; and "Plimpton!" and "Paper Lion" Sunday afternoon. In addition, "The United States of Detroit" will play early Saturday afternoon at the theater.

Several other venues around town will show films, including the Detroit Historical Museum, the DIA and Wayne State University. For show times and ticket information, go to freepfilmfestival.com.

#### 'Little Women' at Madonna University

If live stage plays are your thing, head to Madonna University in Livonia to check out a performance of "Little Women."

The show, a coming-of-age story of four sisters during the Civil War, will be



Madonna University in Livonia will present "Little Women" this weekend. MADONNA UNIVERSITY

performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in Kresge Hall, at Schoolcraft and Levan. The show mostly features Madonna University students, along with a few community members.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. They can be purchased at the door or online at madonna.edu/lyric-theatre.

#### Eggstravaganza in Northville Township

Easter may be over, but the hunt for eggs continues at Maybury Farm in Northville

The farm, 50165 W. Eight Mile, will hold its annual spring event beginning at 11 a.m with an egg hunt for children ages 2-10. Children who participate in their age bracket egg hunt will be able to redeem their eggs for a prize bag.

Admission is \$5 per car and is limited to the first 700 children. The gates open at 9:30 a.m. Limited parking will be available at the farm; additional parking will be available at nearby Maybury State Park. A Recreation Passport is required for vehicles to park at the state park.

For more information, go to mayburyfarm.org.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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## **Horse racing**

Continued from Page 1A

#### The future is her

A couple of furlongs east of where Bowling sat, 21year-old groomer/trainer Jessica Otten walked briskly through the bustling Northville Downs stables just over an hour before post time, exchanging greetings and smiles with jockeys, attendants and trainers.

A self-proclaimed third-generation horseman, Otten was introduced to the sport by her dad Peter, a harness racing driver/trainer/owner.

It's been in her blood ever since.

"My parents built a horse barn in Lennon (Mich.) the year I was born, 21 years ago," she said. "It held 30 horses. Now, we have four horses. That shows you how far the industry has declined, at least in Michigan.

"We have to travel a lot now — to Canada, Ohio and Indiana - because racing is still doing well in those areas."

#### 'Racino' royale

Everyone interviewed Friday at Northville Downs agreed on one thing: Michigan's Legislature needs to legalize the use of slot machines in horse racing venues to keep the business afloat.

Ohio's horse tracks were infused with new life when "racinos" — race tracks combined with slots-only casinos - were added a few years ago.

According to Cleveland.com, revenue at Northfield's Hard Rock Racino was up \$38.2 million over a 12-month stretch beginning in July 2016.

"We need the racinos or everybody is going to be closing up shop here and going to Ohio," veteran trainer Ed Zubkoff said. "I hope we get a governor in office who backs us up. They have no idea how many people are active in this business. It's not just the people you see here, it's the feed mills, the farmers who grow the hay.

"Look at all the trucks that are pulling in and out of here today. Look at all the maintenance guys. They all depend on this."

More and more Ohio horse racing tracks are appealing to younger consumers by diversifying their entertainment, adding comedy clubs, concerts and gaming lounges that appeal to millennials.

Novi resident Thomas Barrett, president of the Michigan Harness Horseman's Association, said the potential for a significant influx in funding for horse racing in Michigan is real – and it's not too late to turn things around.

'Other states are bringing in millions of dollars in revenue from people betting on their phones," Barrett said. "Unfortunately, this is illegal in Michigan. We're hopeful that the Legislature will pass a new bill that would create more options for people who want to bet on horse racing.

"If we could get something like this legalized in Michigan, we could even re-open some of the tracks



by a length. BILL BRESLER HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Winning

that have closed, as long as they're not plowed over by then."

#### Mood-changer

The news April 5 that Michigan's lone surviving thoroughbred horse racing track in Hazel Park was closing for good affected a large percentage of the people in the Northville Downs prepping areas.

"I was at a loss for words when I heard Hazel Park was closing," Otten said. "I grew up in this business and, along with Sports Creek and Jackson closing, it's like watching my childhood disappear."

Like most industries these days, drawing millennials like Otten is a key component to thriving.

"It's tough getting people my age here, because not a lot of them gamble," she said. "But once I do get them here, they're amazed by the place, the horses, the competition and they want to come back.

"I get an adrenaline rush to the max every time a race starts, even if one of my horses isn't running."

#### **Timing is everything**

As Otten tended to her horse, Master House, veteran driver Charles Taylor pulled a turtle-neck sweater as high as it would go around his neck in preparation for a qualifying run through the night's bitter cold air.

As he pulled on his green-and-red-highlighted helmet, a smile creased his face, evidence of the passion he's developed for the night of racing he was about to dive into.

When asked for suggestions that would help his sport thrive, Taylor said that timing is important.

"I'd like to see us start earlier, say 5:30 or 6 (p.m.), like a lot of the tracks in Ohio and Indiana do," he said. "We start at 7:30, which isn't late, but we try to get 12 races in each night and it's hard for people to stay that long

"I think running faster might help, too. Instead of having 20, 25 minutes in between races, let's run them closer together. People don't like sitting around like they used to."

A horse enthusiast since he was 12, Taylor's livelihood depends solely on harness racing.

"This is my real job," he said with a smile. "This is

my life. I still get charged up to race. I hope they can figure something out to keep this going."

For semi-retired veteran trainer Karen Tkaczyk, it's not all about the money.

"I love the competition of horse racing; it's a thrill for me and always has been," she said. "It's almost like a disease, like smoking or alcohol ... I can't quit."

Tkaczyk points to the rise in smart phone usage and high-tech alternatives to attending the track as a primary reason for her industry's hard times.

"A lot of it is technology," she said. "People are on their phones, you can bet online. It keeps a lot of the young people from coming out and the old-timers are dying off. People would rather go to casinos and play cards.'

Veteran driver Jerry Mihelich admits he still "gets butterflies" during the moments before a race.

"It's still a little scary, too, when everybody is going for the lead and we all come together like this (he brings his two hands together, forming a point)," he said. "If you're in the middle, the wheels are right there and you don't want to hook wheels.

Michigan's horse racing demise has reached all the way down to the first step of the process, Mihelich said.

'There are no breeders left in Michigan, there are no horse auctions anymore," he said. "There used to be auctions with 120 horses. Now there are none."

#### Telling it like it is

The face of today's horse racing fans may belong to retired University of Michigan janitor Vernon Blackburn, who sports a neatly-trimmed white beard and boasts a robust level of enthusiasm for the sport that its supporters want to spread.

"The people have always been nice to me here," said Blackburn, a 52-year regular who walks with the aid of a cane after suffering two strokes.

'My wife and I still like to come here. It's something to do. I used to come with my two sons all the time, but they moved to Saline and they bet on the races on their computers."

Contact Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.



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#### AREA EVENTS

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

#### **Blessings in a Backpack trivia** night

The Livonia chapter of Blessings in a Backpack will host its third annual trivia night fundraiser at 7 p.m. Friday, April 13, at One Under Bar, 35780 Five Mile Road, in Livonia. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Your sponsorship, donation and/or participation in this event will help feed at-risk students in Livonia. Each week, backpacks are packed by volunteers and distributed to more than 300 children in eight elementary schools in the Livonia Public Schools.

Tickets are available online at https://guestlist/498396. Go to https://www.biablivonia.org/ to learn more about sponsorship and donation opportunities.

#### Health and business expo

The Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, will host the 2018 health and business expo from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Held in the East Court, it will feature businesses, health care providers and nonprofit organizations. Participants will have info and handouts for interested shoppers.

For more information, contact the Westland Chamber of Commerce at 734-326-7222

westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

#### 'Ladies Foursome' at Livonia theater

Livonia Community Theatre will presents "The Ladies Foursome," a comedy by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, with performances scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15. Saturday show time is 7:30 p.m., Sunday is 2 p.m.

All performances are at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for ages 18 and under. Go to livoniacommunitytheatre.org to order online or call 248-252-1940 to reserve by phone. Tickets are also available at the door.

#### **Food drive**

The Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) is collecting food and funds for the poor and homeless. Collection boxes for non-perishable items will be at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, until Sunday, April 15. Drop-off times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Monetary donations can also be made by cash or check. Make checks payable to Unity of Livonia and include "Fast for Food" on the notation line.

are having a fundraiser dinner 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 15. Cost is \$10 and is open to the public. Proceeds go to veteran and community programs.

#### Western Wayne Genealogical Society

The Western Wayne Genealogical Society will host its next meeting Monday, April 16, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. Note the new format: 5 p.m., volunteers needed to help set up tables and chairs; 5:30 p.m., bring your dinner and enjoy conversations with other members; 6:15 p.m., announcements and pre-program round table with Todd Bredin; 7:30 p.m., Don Hengen will present Lesser Used Search Options in Find-A-Grave.

Meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcome. For more information, go to www.wwcgs.org.

#### Addiction treatment series

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia offers an ongoing series titled "Addiction: What you need to know and what you can do." Classes are scheduled 7-8:30 p.m. the first three Tuesdays of each month through May (April 17 and May 1, 8 and 15) in Classroom 11.

Focus is on understanding addiction and the impact of addiction on families. No registration necessary. For more information, contact Karen Bonanno at kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org or 734 338-9580.

#### **Belle Isle at Wayne library**

or

The Friends of the Wayne Public Library will host Belle Isle Conservancy president Michele Hodges for a talk at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at the library, 3737 S. Wayne Road. To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7832 or visit the Adult Services Desk.

#### St. Michael meet and greet

St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard Road, in Livonia is hosting a meet and greet 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, for all students entering preschool and kindergarten in the 2018-19 school year and their families. There will be many different activities, including crafts, face painting, refreshments and much more. Parents will be able to ask questions and meet teachers, other school families and current students.

Reservations can be made at school@livoniastmichael.org or by calling 734-421-7360, ext. 225.

#### **Funding college workshop**

A workshop on funding your child's college education will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Livonia Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road. The speaker will be Robert Hoger, certified college planning specialist with Michigan College Funding LLC. He will be discussing such topics as how to increase your eligibility for aid and how to find scholarships and grants you've never even heard of.

in Livonia, to raise funds for the Crossroads Youth Summer Missions Trip. Meal includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

All donations go toward the youth mission trip Hope for the City 2018 in Detroit Urban Harvest Ministries. For more information, go to www.CrossroadsNow.org, or call 734-338-5149.

#### Dog park grand opening

Livonia's first dog park will celebrate its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21. Pet Supplies Plus will be on-site with giveaways and treats.

The Bicentennial Dog Park, at Seven Mile and Wayne roads, is open daily from dawn to dusk, not before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. The dog park features waste stations, a doggie drinking fountain, benches, agility stations, areas designated for small and large dogs, as well as an open area to allow for rotation.

Livonia residents with licensed dogs may access the park for a \$30 annual fee for the first dog and \$10 for each additional dog. There is a maximum of three dogs per household. For application information, go to www.livoniaparks.org.

#### St. Micheal open house

St. Michael Lutheran School, 3003 Hannan Road, in Wayne, is hosting an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21. It offers a Christ-centered environment with small class sizes for preschoolers through the eighth grade.

For more information, call 734-728-3315 or go to www.stmichael mustangs.org.

#### Wayne to host clean-up event

Wayne Main Street, in conjunction with its community partners, will be hosting the third annual spring cleanup day in downtown Wayne from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21. Registration opens at 9 a.m. at the 29th District Court parking lot, 34808 Sims Street.

Volunteers can sign up to participate at downtownwayne.org; click on the "Registration" link. All pre-registered volunteers will receive an event T-shirt

## Obituaries



**PLYMOUTH** - April 4, 2018 age 83. Beloved wife of Richard. Loving mother of Carla (David) Weier. Sister of Doris Williams. Dear

#### **Richard Jacques**

1

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Faithful husband of Wendy (nee Glick) passed away April 6, 2018, age 65. Survived by brother Thomas Jacques (Barbara), un-

cle Robert S. Rooke

and snacks will be served at registration. Bags and other implements will be provided; volunteers are encouraged to wear older clothing and bring work gloves.

#### **Old Testament class**

Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, in Livonia is hosting a Bible Old Testament event from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 21. You will learn 77 hand signs designed to help you understand the big picture of the Old Testament.

Class is \$15 (\$1 will be added if paying through PayPal to cover fees) On-site childcare is available, \$10 per child, limited spaces available. Call ahead of time to register your child. Go to www. timothylutheranchurch.com/walkthru thebible.html for more information and to register.

#### **Rotary Club reverse raffle**

The Rotary Club of Livonia is hosting its annual reverse raffle at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 23, Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road. The proceeds benefit Livonia Rotary Park and the Rotary Charitable Foundation. This year, the charitable foundation gifted more than \$24,000 to organizations locally and globally.

A \$130 ticket buys dinner for two, four drink tickets, dessert and several chances to win. The top five prizes range from \$350 to \$3,000, with 22 random winners of \$100. Appetizers are at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and the drawing begins at 7 p.m. For more information, go to www.livoniarotary.org.

#### A Night Out at Livonia Elks

The Livonia Elks Post 2246, 31117 Plymouth Road, will host A Night Out dinner and entertainment at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 28. This is event is open to the public. Tickets are \$25 and include your choice of ribeye steak or salmon dinner, with entertainment by the Sinjon Smith Acoustics Band.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 734-425-2246 or stopping by the lodge after 3 p.m.

Checks can be mailed to Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Cash donations need to be delivered to the church.

On Saturday, April 14, the Youth of Unity (Y.O.U.) will fast for 24 hours to raise awareness of hunger and nutrition challenges within our community. Donations will be delivered to Redford Interfaith Relief, a local hunger organization, and ChristNet, a partnership of local churches serving southeast Michigan's homeless community.

#### **Livonia GOP Club**

The next meeting of the Livonia Republican Club is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Livonia Victory Center, 33462 Seven Mile Road. The guest speaker will be Lena Epstein, candidate for the U.S. House in the 11th District. All meetings are free and open to the public.

#### Livonia Montessori School open house

Families with children entering preschool or kindergarten are invited to attend an open house at Livonia Montessori School, set for 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the school, 31840 W. Seven Mile Road. LMS teachers and staff will provide classroom tours and enrollment information for the 2018-19 school year.

Livonia Montessori School is an independent non-profit educational community that provides an individualized learning environment for children ages 2-6. Children are welcome to attend the Open House, and refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to schedule a personalized tour, call 248-474-4764, email livoniamontessori@att.net or go to www.livoniamontessori.org.

#### **American Legion dinner**

The Sons of the American Legion of Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia

Admission is free, but seating is limited, so call 248-662-1300 to reserve your a seat.

#### Vaping 101 programs

The Livonia Public Schools district, Livonia Police Department and Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition will sponsor a pair of Vaping 101 programs, designed for for adults and adolescents to learn the facts about vaping. Participants will learn what a vape is and how it is used, the effects of its use and what the legal issues are surrounding vaping.

They are scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Riley Upper Elementary School, 1555 Henry Ruff, and 7-8 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at Madonna University, Franciscan Center Lecture Hall, 36600 Schoolcraft Road.

For more information, call 734-338-9580.

#### **'23rd Floor' at Inspire Theatre**

Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor" will be presented at the Inspire Theatre, located inside the Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road, from Friday, April 20, through Sunday, May 6. The play is directed by Inspire Theatre founder Len Fisher of Wayne.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased online at inspiretheatre.ticketleap.com or by calling the box office at 734-751-7057.

#### **Crossroads dinner fundraiser**

Crossroads Church will host a benefit spaghetti dinner 5-7 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at Alpha Baptist Church's Family Life Center, 28051 W. Chicago Street,



#### **Aaron Moeck**

**REDFORD** - Aaron Michael Moeck was born in Chicago, IL on February 7th, 1976 to parents Kathryn and Steven Moeck. Aaron enjoyed attending New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford, MI.

Aaron passed away on April 6, 2018 at age 42. Aaron is survived by his mother, Kathryn, father Steven and siblings: Sarah (Simon), Jon (Jessica), Andrew, and Rebecca.

A memorial service for Aaron will be held at New Beginnings United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 14th at 1:00pm.

daughter of the late Leonard & Doris Hill. Visitation Friday April 13th 10 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at Trinity Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Rd. W., Plymouth, MI 48170. Memorial contributions may be made to Cycle for Survival. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

> VERMEULEN-SAJEWSKI FUNERAL CREMATION HOMES Fr SERVICES

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Sr. (Winifred), cousin Kathleen Walser (Kurt) and cousin Robert S. Rooke Jr. (Susan). No ceremony planned. Donations to Salvation Army: https://give.sal vationarmyusa.org







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USA TODAY SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric Media I THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 I 1B (WERL)

### **BOYS LACROSSE** CC tri-captains blazing a new trail **Brad Emons** Catholic

#### hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Is this the season when Novi Detroit Catholic Central's lacrosse team finally breaks down the door?

Sports

The Shamrocks certainly came close last year, falling one goal short to 13time state champion and nemesis Birmingham Brother Rice in last June's MHSAA Division 1 state final, 8-7.

Catholic Central finished with a 15-6 record a year ago, with three of those losses coming against Rice, including a 15-14 overtime setback.

CC, led by senior tri-captains Liam Cunningham, Peter Thompson and Ethan Pattinson, is already off to an impressive 3-0 start this season with road victories over Huron Valley United (25-4), Birmingham (23-0) and Division 2 runner-up East Grand Rapids (10-4).

"The goal this season is to take one game at a time," said Cunningham, who returns as a midfielder. "Every game is just as important as the other and we're just looking for that team that's going to test us and show us what we've got this season."

See LACROSSE, Page 2B



Central lacrosse senior captains (from left) Liam Cunningham, Peter Thompson and Ethan **Pattinson** lead the way. BRAD EMONS

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## Stevenson's **Mitchell** joins state **Hall of Fame**

**Brad Emons** hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

The night of the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association All-State banquet, Livonia Stevenson's David Mitchell got another unexpected surprise.

On the heels of being named the state's Division 2 Coach of the Year on March II at USA Hockey Arena, the site of the state finals, the 43-year-old Mitchell was also one of four inducted March 18 into the MHSHCA's Hall of Fame at the Farmington Hills Manor.

"Extremely honored, humbled, overwhelmed," Mitchell said. "I sent them a text back and said, 'Are you sure?' I did not see it coming, especially when you look at other people that have been inducted and received this

At left, Canton grad Greg Williams came off the bench for NCAA Division II champ Ferris State. At right, Northville grad Andrew Meacham launches a jumper for Division II national champion Ferris State. FERRIS STATE ATHLETICS

# **Bulldogs off the bench**

## Williams, Meacham soak in Ferris State's first national title

#### **Brad Emons**

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Greg Williams and Andrew Meacham may have played bit roles this season in Ferris State's run to the NCAA Division II men's bas-Williams ketball championship.

But the area duo proved to be unsung heroes as they helped the Bulldogs to their school's first NCAA title in any sport following a 71-69 win March 24 over Northern State

(S.D.) before a jam-packed and highly partisan crowd of



Meacham

3,538 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls. Williams, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound sophomore guard from Canton High, and Meacham, a 6-7, 230-pound junior center from Northville High, both took on a limited role this season for the greater good of the team.

After red-shirting as a freshman walk-on, Williams earned a scholarship his second year

and appeared in all 33 games for the Bulldogs during 2016-17, making two starts, while averaging five points per game. Af-

See BULLDOGS, Page 3B

honor. Very humbled to be mentioned in the same breath with some of those guys."

See MITCHELL, Page 2B



**Stevenson's David Mitchell was** named Division 2 Coach of the Year and inducted to the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



## Mitchell

Continued from Page 1B

Mitchell is joined in the latest Hall of Fame coaching class by Livonia native Todd Johnson, who was part of five state titles at Detroit Catholic Central; Dan Barry, Warren De La Salle; and Tony Byers, Alpena.

Mitchell, a 1992 Churchill High grad who played goalie at Western Michigan University, comes from a hockey family. His father Adam coached at Churchill and the University of Michigan-Dearborn and has been a longtime statistician for the Detroit Red Wings. Mitchell's brother Paul serves as the team's videographer and announcer at Stevenson home games.

David Mitchell served one season as an assistant coach at Churchill under Pete Mazzoni, while also spending eight years with the Compuware youth hockey program.

In his 10 seasons at Stevenson, Mitchell has compiled a 193-69-15 record, including one Division 2 state title (2013) and two other runner-up finishes (2014-15). He also guided the Spartans to five regional crowns and two Kensington Lakes Activities Association championships.

This season, the Spartans finished 23-6, capturing the KLAA Black Division and KLAA titles, as well as the regional before being ousted by Trenton in the state quarterfinals, 3-1.

"It's by no means an individual honor," said Mitchell, who resides in Livonia with his wife Kim and two children, Emily, 14, and Justin, 13. "It just also shows the great people that have surrounded me and I've been very, very fortunate to be surrounded by a number of great staff members, administrators, families and, of course, players."

Several Stevenson players earned MHSHCA all-state honors this season,



Several Stevenson players were honored by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

including defenseman Jake Beaune, who was named to the Dream Team after scoring 23 goals and adding 26 assists.

Also named first team Division 2 allstate were senior goalie Will Tragge, who posted a 23-6 record with 1.81 save percentage, and forward Julian Decina, who had 10 goals and 20 assists.

Tragge has spent the past 15 days as an emergency backup goaltender for the Corpus Christi (Texas) IceRays of the North American Hockey League and will make his first start Friday night against the Lone Star (Texas) Brahmas. Beaune and Julian Decina have also signed tenders to play next season with

the NAHL's Aberdeen (S.D.) Wings. Also earning second team all-state

honors for Stevenson were forwards Cole Parkhurst and Vincent Decina and defenseman Kevin Stefanick. Meanwhile, Jack Williamson earned academic all-state and the MHSHCA Perseverance Award.

"In terms of the year, it was truly a memorable, very successful year for the team, as well as some individuals," said Mitchell, who teaches computer technology and social studies at Livonia's Holmes Middle School. "Those guys all competed at a very high level. They did the things that were necessary to be elite players on an elite team on a daily basis, day in and day out. They gave it absolutely everything they had, each and every day. That was reflected in the success that we had."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

## Lacrosse

#### Continued from Page 1B

The Shamrocks were scheduled face their first litmus test April 10, when they traveled to Rice, which has lost to only one Michigan opponent (2014 in overtime to Detroit Country) during the past 13 seasons.

"Everything is different," said Pattinson, a midfielder who has signed with NCAA Division I school Bellarmine (Ky.) University. "We have new guys stepping up. We've got guys returning and everyone has a really good spot on this team. The first three games were, basically, all good games. Everybody stepped up and a lot of the starters showed what we could do. And we're getting to know each other. We're developing chemistry and we're really starting to work well together and we're going to show that more the next couple of games." Due to poor field conditions and impending poor weather, CC had to postpone its April 5 Catholic League road opener against Warren De La Salle, while a non-league game at North Allegheny (Pa.) was also scratched.



CC coach Dave Wilson, in his 13th season, gave the Shamrocks four days off during the Easter holiday weekend, but his team was back at it, practicing early in the week in preparation for Rice.

"We're young in a few spots and we need to improve in a few areas," said Wilson, who has guided CC to four straight state runner-up finishes and seven overall. "We have some good seniors and we're in constant attack mode."

Catholic Central lost five seniors off last year's squad, including Brennan Kamish (University of Detroit Mercy), who finished with 126 career goals and 64 assists in four varsity seasons.

First team All-America and all-state goalie Hunter Braun (UMass-Lowell), who was recently named America East Defensive Player of the Week, was another notable graduation loss.

"It's tough when you lose somebody like Brennan Kamish and Hunter Braun," Wilson said. "Those are big roles to fill, but we have a nice balance of offensive leaders."

Thompson, a Georgetown University signee, will pick up some of the scoring slack.

"I don't think anybody has like a specific role," he said. "Kamish, that was just in his wheelhouse. He was a really great shooter, but that was really his strongest suit. Other guys are stepping up that were plenty capable last year. We loved him while we had him, but we're not trying to think about the past. And I think this team is just as good, if not better than last year — to be quite honest — in terms of talent and potential.I think we're not worrying about that too much."

Thompson, who wore a brace all last

Catholic Central's Joey Kamish (right) unloads a shot during last year's Division 1 state final loss vs. Brother Rice. SCOTT CONFER

"We're young in a few spots and we need to improve in a few areas. We have some good seniors and we're in constant attack mode."

#### Dave Wilson

Catholic Central coach

season, was coming off a meniscus injury. But he now feels unencumbered and has already shown he can score from not only from his natural left side, but also from the right.

"Just trying to diversify my game and just try and help my team, whether it be if they need me to score one day or be more of a distraction or assist guy," Thompson said. "I just love winning. That's what I'm all about."

Junior Johnny O'Shea, who started the first two games at goalie, will share duties with sophomore Jakob Hemme and senior Zach Downey. Returning on defense is senior Brendan Martin, along with juniors Jeffrey Trainor and Nick Matuszak.

The team's face-off specialists include junior Connor Beals, along with sophomores Connor Baratta and Nick Abdelnour, while juniors Justin Petouhoff and Kyle Love return as long-stick midfielders. Junior Patrick Brandemihl also returns at midfield.

Among the returning attackers are junior Joey Kamish, Brennan's younger brother, and sophomore Ryan Sullivan.

"I think every year a team always loses good players," said Cunningham, who will play next year at Hope College. "I think a lot of our younger kids are stepping up. A lot of our older kids are showing their dominance over everyone and I think we've got some good leadership and some good players."

Wilson likes what he sees from his three senior captains.

"They have great intensity and they

have very good leadership, which has been great for our team, especially the young guys," Wilson said. "They're very good servant leaders. They get the water or they'll pick up the balls. I encourage them to do that and just not pass it off to the low man on the totem pole, so to speak. I think they've done a great job with that and their attitudes are fantastic."

With those three seniors leading the way, this could be the year the Shamrocks get over the hump.

"Our job is just try and keep everybody positive," Pattison said. "The main goal for us is to always try and keep each others' heads up. I know sometimes we get really heated in practice, but we just know we have each others' backs. We always come back harder and better than before."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com.

# United Farmington enjoys strong season

#### Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

#### Small and mighty.

That certainly was an accurate mantra for the United Farmington figure skating team.

The squad consisted of just six skaters — four from North Farmington High School and the other two from Farmington — coached by Liz LaBurn. But those halfdozen team members made their mark on the recently completed high school figure skating season.

United Farmington finished first in each of the three Level C district competitions leading up to the Michigan high school skating state championship meet.

The girls won outright in the December district held in Birmingham and the January district in Farmington. At the third competition held in mid-February, UFFST tied for first with Livonia.

"A lot of (other school districts) have A, B and C teams, but we call ourselves 'small and mighty,' because we just have a (Level) C team," said LaBurn, who also coaches at the Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club out of the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. "We were pleasantly surprised at our first competition and that kind of laid the ground work for us. And we were thrilled at the second one.

"After we won the second competition, we didn't totally seal (a trip to the state meet), but we knew we had a good chance to get there," she added. "If we just performed in the third competition like we did in the first two, we knew we would definitely be going to states. And I knew what the girls could do, so we were pretty excited heading into that third competition."

#### Competing in Level C

As a result of those three district showings, United Farmington was one of 13 Level C teams across the state that qualified for the state championship meet, held March 3 in Bay City.

The state finals did not go as well as the regular season.

Ann Arbor United won the state crown with 38 points, followed by defending state champion Trenton (31) and Flint Area United (29). United Farmington and Bloomfield Hills tied for 11th in the final standings with 12 points apiece.

"We were just pleased to make it to states, because last year, with the same group of girls, we did not make it (to states)," LaBurn said. "I think the girls hoped for a better finish, but I think they were just thrilled to be at states for the first time and experience that with skaters from all over the state.

"We just put out the best skate that we could," she added. "Maybe it wasn't as strong as we did (during the regular season), but it's just figure skating. There was nothing earth-shattering that went wrong."



The United Farmington figure skating team, which qualified for this year's state championship meet, included (from left) head coach Liz LaBurn, Mindy Leidal, Elizabeth Niemenski, Hannah Zylman, Emma Choe, Julia Tatone and Tessa McGlashan.

LaBurn took United Farmington to the state championships for the second time in three years.

The only UFFST member who was on the statequalifying team in 2015-16 was junior Hannah Zylman, who attends North Farmington.

The remaining five skaters were state-meet rookies, including junior Tessa McGlashan (North Farmington) and sophomores Emma Choe (North Farmington), Elizabeth Niemenski (North Farmington), Mindy Leidal (Farmington) and Julia Tatone (Farmington).

#### Equal in skating skills

All of the skaters competed last year and, according to LaBurn, were equal in their ability to execute the required elements of spins, moves and jumps.

"The girls improved overall with a year under their belts," LaBurn said. "With all their private skating lessons, they all improved on their skating skills over the past year. They are the same elements that they have to perform every year, so they know what they have to do. "The girls get up and practice Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. and are always on time. All the girls participated in all the competitions and pretty much the elements were distributed fairly evenly throughout the team. They were all supportive of each other, whether they were skating well or had a bad day.

"I was mainly thrilled for the girls that they had such a good season," she added. "They are a lovely group of girls who work hard, have great attitudes and show great sportsmanship. They excel in school and they really love to skate."

The good news for LaBurn is that all six skaters figure to return tnext year.

"I was elated with the season we had and their parents were elated," LaBurn said. "It was just a really exciting season. We look for them all to come back and we are hoping that we might have some other skaters join us and we will be happy to have any new people come on board."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

## Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

ter suffering a fractured foot in early August, Williams saw his playing time scaled back to nine minutes per game this season while appearing in 28 of the Bulldogs' 39 games. "Both these guys have bright futures in the next year or two to come in our program. Those two stories of sacrifice are the reason we win." "Next year, I'm going to put in the work to get minutes at the center because we're losing Zach Hankins, who was a big part of the team," Meacham said. "And those were big minutes to fill. Hopefully, I'll be getting minutes next year."

Ferris State opened its season last November by taking Michigan State down to the wire before losing at the Breslin Center, 80-72. Next season, the Bulldogs have accepted an invitation to take on Duke in an exhi-

"Greg struggled through injury, easily could have selfishly red-shirted, but I kept telling him we needed him and this was the year," Ferris State coach Andy Bronkema said. "And he believed in it and he played less minutes than the year before ... and was willing to do whatever it took for the team to win."

Meacham, who also red-shirted as a freshman, had a similar story. He was also a regular in the Bulldogs' playing rotation last season, appearing in all 33 games, but his minutes were reduced in 2017-18 as he played in 25 games.

"He took a little bit a lesser role this year after playing in every game for a record-setting 28-win team," Bronkema said. "He has a story of sacrifice like the rest of our guys do and that's why we won a championship, because of him and his character."

On Feb. 10, Meacham played a pivotal role in the Bulldogs' 97-91 overtime win at Ashland (Ohio). The host Eagles built a 10-point lead with 6:32 to go in the game before the FSU rallied at the end of regulation on Peter Firlik's 3-point bank shot, coming just across the mid-court line, to send it into OT.

"Meach has been a big part of our program since he's been here," Bronkema said. "He's part of that original class that has won all the conference championships here. He's been nothing but a winner since being here. And now one of his best stories this year was making the baseball pass at Ashland — comes cold off the bench — and making that play. And if he doesn't, we probably don't get the No. 1 seed and not able to host the tournament and who knows who far we can go without him doing that?"

Williams's role was to come off the bench and support senior guard Drew Cushingberry. Former Michigan Mr. Basketball DeShaun Thrower (Muskegon), a first-year transfer from Division I Stoney Brook, also gobbled up minutes at the guard spot.

"My role was really playing backup point guard behind a first team all-conference point guard," said Williams, who played three minutes in the championship final. "My role was kind of like, go out there, play defense, bring energy, rebound and move the ball and get us into our offense."

Williams played quarterback at Canton and was an all-state basketball player who averaged 21 points per game as a senior. He last won a title as an 8-year-old junior football player for the Canton Steelers.

"I won a Super Bowl when I was a little kid, but didn't win a state championship or anything like that," he said. "I've been playing sports since I was a little kid and it takes a really special team, a really special group

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#### Ferris State basketball coach

of guys, to accomplish something like that."

And winning the title on the road gave it added meaning.

"I think If that place held 3,500 people, we had 500 people and they had the rest," Williams said. "I think (Northern State) played there eight times already that year and they're three hours away. And their team has the best attendance of D-II. But even though it was kind of like an away game and a home game for them, it was still a great atmosphere and that's what you want for a national championship game. Being out there, it was super loud and the adrenaline was crazy. It was an awesome experience and the biggest game I've ever played in on a really big stage with a lot of people watching it."

Coming out of Northville, Meacham was the team MVP and all-KLAA player for the Mustangs who averaged 19 points, 11 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game.

"One of the reasons I came to Ferris is kind of a family atmosphere with the team," Meacham said. "We're all really close and we all hang out together off the court. It's really fun."

During past two years, he served as a backup to 6-10 junior center Zach Hankins (Charlevoix), who was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year.

"Last year, I played in every game," Meacham said. "This year, I struggled with my 3-point shot. Coaches took me out of my role as far as minutes every game. I played here and there. That was hard to deal with, but I always put the team first. I never let it affect my play. (I) shot better after I lost my role. I ended the year probably around 40-something percent, brought it up from what it was. I was always pushing my teammates in practice and just helping out when I could."

Meacham, who excels in the classroom, is currently completing his first of four years in FSU's pharmacy program.

"We basically have an exam every week," Meacham said. "It's all about time management, honestly. I've done really good managing my time between sports and school my four years here. It is a lot of work, but I get through it. My classmates help and my professors help, too, when we have study table. After I get the time management down, it's not that bad."

Meacham said he plans to return and use his fifth and final year of eligibility. Hankins, who also redshirted as a freshman, announced Thursday that he'll become a senior graduate transfer at NCAA Division I Xavier University, a power program from the Big East.

bition game.

Williams, while still recovering from his fractured foot, did not play in the exhibition game against MSU. But he intends to be ready next fall when the Bulldogs visit the famed Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"Going forward, I have two more years of eligibility," he said. "Three starting guards are graduating and Hankins is leaving, so there's four starting positions open and I'm going for one of those starting positions. The past two years, I've been a bench player coming off the bench, bring energy, be an at-role player, but I'm kind of ready to step up and be the leader, be more aggressive, get some more shots and more playing time."

Ferris State players and coaches were honored recently by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder during a ceremony at the state Capitol in Lansing as FSU became the first NCAA Division II men's basketball team from the state to win a national title.

"It's unbelievable, honestly," Meacham said. "That was one of the goals for the team coming into season. Our team as a whole put in the hard work and it paid dividends. We won 38 games, school record, we won the conference outright, back-to-back, and won the conference tournament for the fourth straight year, so it's really special. It's an experience I won't forget."

The road to the national title, however, didn't come without some bumps in the road, but Ferris was able to pull it off.

"We all had stuff going on, outside stuff, distractions ... and it's crazy how a group of people can come together, throwing all that out, just work hard," Williams said. "The head coach is an amazing guy and we have a great coaching staff. They just brought us in together and we had some really great team chemistry and it's just an amazing group of guys."

Although five seniors will graduate, nine return as Bronkema maps out his strategy next season to defend a national title. He has added another top-notch class of incoming recruits, including Schoolcraft College guard Walter Kelser (Walled Lake Central).

But he knows that selfless players like Williams and Meacham have proven to be invaluable in the program's new-found success.

"Both these guys have bright futures in the next year or two to come in our program," Bronkema said. "Those two stories of sacrifice are the reason we win."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

#### **ICE HOCKEY**

## Sorrows, seminarians play for 'fun as a faith community'

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As a man of the cloth, the Rev. Paul Graney's main goal is to spread the word of God. However, for a one-hour period Friday evening, his mission was to prevent a goal.

Graney played defense for the Our Lady of Sorrows parish hockey team, which skated against a squad representing Sacred Heart Major Seminary at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The game was a first-time activity meant to provide fellowship and camaraderie among the parishioners, while providing fun, not to mention a few bumps and bruises, for the players.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," said Graney, who started playing hockey at age 4 and still plays recreation hockey at Suburban Ice Arena in Farmington Hills. "It's a night for just getting together and having fun as a faith community. Also, it was a chance for the seminarians to come out here and meet the parishioners.

"It is a way to remind everybody that we have a seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit that puts out priests for the church," he added. "And that the priesthood is definitely a possibility for young men and that (the seminarians) are real and now you get to meet them. It's a good thing and it can increase our faith for everybody just by seeing all of them."

#### Associate's love for hockey

Graney, 33, grew up in Oxford, where he played high school hockey for the Wildcats before graduating in 2003. He later attended Oakland University and played for the university's club team. He entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary in 2010 and, after earning both a master's of divinity and baccalaureate in sacred theology, completed his calling to the priesthood in 2016, when he was or-

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The Rev. Paul Graney (left) skates the puck up the ice during Friday's game against Sacred Heart Major Seminary. MARTY BUDNER

dained.

Graney has worked at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington for the past 18 months as an associate to the church's pastor, the Rev. Mark Brauer. He also works with Deacon Mark Livingston, a seminarian at Sacred Heart during the week who tends to weekend duties at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Livingston is a defender on the SHMS squad, which plays "four or five" games yearly around the area.

Since Graney and Livingston both grew up playing the sport and are big

RKPT

hockey fans, they conceived a plan for Sorrows to lace up the skates against the seminary. Sorrows brought 15 players, while the seminarians had a larger squad of close to 25.

"Typically, we only play other seminarians, but this year we wanted to try something different by going out to the community and inviting folks from the parish in the local community to come and watch," Livingston said. "I have a rule on our team that, if you practice, you play. You don't have to have experience. I love it. I love seeing people come together and have a good time."

#### Sorrows earns 3-2 win

The game consisted of three 13-minute periods of running clock. Since there was time remaining in the rental fee, they played an extra 10 minutes.

After a scoreless first period, the visiting seminarians soared to a 2-0 lead with a pair of second-period goals from Mitch Logeais and Karl Hartman. Sorrows rebounded in the third period to tie the game on goals by Jason Zewatsky and Kevin Williams.

The extra time proved beneficial for the home team, as Sorrows received a goal by Alan LaTour, who pounced on his own rebound to smack home the eventual game-winner in a 3-2 outcome.

"I knew about (the game) for a long time, but just got asked to play on Sunday," said LaTour, who played house hockey in Grosse Pointe as a youth. "It was great. It was good for the church and it was a nice fellowship opportunity. It was great to play the seminarians and it was a fun night."

Friday's game was preceded by a free skate open to all parishioners — youngsters and adults alike — who not only took a few trips around ice, but enjoyed some pizza and pop as well.

After the game, Graney delivered a prayer and Livingston addressed the large crowd that came out to support both teams.

"We have a big parish and there are a lot of rinks around here. There are a lot of guys who like to play hockey," Graney said. "I knew a few guys and they knew a few guys, so we sent out messages and got a team together.

"This is a chance for all of us to work out and make our faith community just that much stronger," he added.

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@ hometownlife.com.



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#### PREP BASEBALL

## Novi earns sweep in frigid twinbill

#### Brad Emons hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's baseball team got a head start during spring break, playing a doubleheader Saturday as temperatures barely climbed into the upper 30s.

Regardless, the host Wildcats took advantage by sweeping Garden City, 7-6, and North Farmington-Harrison, 8-3, to improve to 3-2 on the season.

But the news wasn't all good as Novi returned to practice April 5 and suffered a damaging loss when standout junior center fielder Brian Wendt suffered a broken hand while batting in an intrasquad scrimmage.

"I don't know how anybody in the outfield can be better than him, he's so fast and smooth," Novi coach Rick Green said. "He's definitely got to be one of the top guys in our league, for sure."

Green said Wendt is more than likely lost for the season and he'll have to tinker with his lineup.

"We have (Evan) Yokie playing some first base, I can put him back in the outfield," Green said. "(Tyler) VanKirk runs down a lot of balls out in center field. He'll fill in well, I'm pretty sure. And then we have (Ryota) Torri can play some outfield as well as (Kyle) Klosterman, who is returning, too. Then we have a couple of younger kids like Alstone Mealy, who can play outfield, too. We're pretty solid in the outfield, even though we lost a pretty big player in Wendt."

Despite being out-hit Saturday, 11-7, Novi took advantage of five Garden City errors to win the opener as junior Ryan Farris had two hits and two RBIs, while Drew O'Connor went 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored.

Torri, a senior right-hander, went 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> innings to pick up the win. He allowed two earned runs, struck out three and walked two. Senior right-hander Johnny Bean got the final out to pick up the save.

Garden City's Jacob May suffered the loss, while Austin Even went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. The Cougars also got two hits apiece from Brandon Dicker and Jacob Grant.

As the clouds and wind picked up later in the day, Novi got a solid outing on the mound from senior right-hander Grant Pytel, who picked up the win against North-Harrison.

Junior Alex Choma was sharp, working 3% of scoreless innings in relief, allowing no earned runs on no hits and one walk to go along with four strikeouts.

O'Connor paced Novi's nine-hit attack, going 2-for-4 with two RBIs, while Pytel was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Torri also collected two hits and an RBI, while junior Aidan Rosinski had an RBI and scored three runs. Sophomore Joshua Erno also knocked in a run.

Before spring break, Novi opened its season March 23 at home with a loss to Walled Lake Northern, followed by a 10-0 KLAA crossover setback to Salem.

But the Wildcats rebounded March 28 at home by rallying from a 6-0 deficit to beat last year's MHSAA Division 1 runner-up Northville, 7-6.

Choma, in relief, did not allow a run in 4% innings to earn the victory.

Bean's suicide squeeze bunt tied the game at 6-6 in the bottom of the sixth. Novi got out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the seventh and won it on a Northville throwing error in the bottom of the seventh.

Northville led the second game, 2-0, when play was suspended because of darkness in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@ hometownlife.com.



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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



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the second	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1st Choice Mortgage	138560	(734) 707-8877	4.25	0	3.75	0
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	4.25	0	3.625	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	4.25	0	3.625	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4	0	3.5	0
York Financial, Inc.	137633	(248) 593-9900	4.25	0	3.625	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.5	0.25	3.875	0

FALTER FEED GAIT GAMBLE GRAZE HANDICAP HANDLER HOOF

HORSE

INJURY

JODHPUR

KICK MOVEMENT

ODDS

OFFICIAL

RACING

SKILL

TERRAIN WINNER



WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2018-09 April 3, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Presentation of Police Officer of the Year to N. Boruta. APPROVED: agenda; minutes of Regular and Special City Council meeting of Mar. 20; declare Earth Day; Bids to Dixon Landscape for Michigan Ave. mowing; Scooby's Landscape for Park mowing; Insituform Jech for sliplining; first A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2209, Proposed Land Division and Combination, Parcels #028-04-0042-000 and -0046-000, West Side of Executive Drive and East Side of Hix



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning

Road, North of Ford Road, Nancy Siwik

Landscape for Park mowing; Insituform Tech for sliplining; first reading of Chapter 838 Medical Marihuana TABLED second reading of the repeal of Chapter 836; Special Study Session for 4/12/18 at 7:00 p.m.; Library Ballot Proposal; Parks Committee/ Commission; PSA Hydro-Corp; budget amendment #2018-05; PSA Congress Collections; consent calendar Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 10:41 p.m. Matthew K. Miller City Clerk	Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting. Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman Westland Planning Commission	
	CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING	
Need help	A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:	
with E-mail	Case #1382L, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Little Caesers Restaurant with Drive-Thru, 31451 Cherry Hill Road, Parcel #065-99-0001-722, SW Corner of Cherry Hill Road and Merriman Road	
	NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018.	
marketing?	Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.	
	Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman Westland Planning Commission	
	Published: March 15, 2018	LO-0000340923 4x
michigan	CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING	
	A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:	I KINIK
Michigan.com is the largest media and marketing	Case #186A, Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Lucky Treat n Eat Drive Thru, 34230 Glenwood, Parcel #074-04-1057-000, Northeast Corner of Glenwood and Grand Traverse	
company in Michigan - call (248) 406-9501 today!	<b>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</b> that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018.	
	Written comments may be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.	
Observer & Eccentric	Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman Westland Planning Commission	
	Published: April 12, 2018	LO-0000340922 4x





Handling fee applies SENSORS: Up to 15 sensors free for pre-wired homes or up to 7 wireless sersors free. No substitutions allowed. Labor charges may apply. BASIC SYSTEM: 599 Parts and Install. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at 527.99 per month (51,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at 52.79 per month (567).76 for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic, system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The 527.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP). ADT's Extended Limited Waranty. ADT Pulse: ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarn system with monitored burgiary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse video: \$58.99 per month, (\$2,123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). GENERAL: For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply, Additional and monitoring fees required for an additional charge. Additional eduipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges and apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by maraket. Some insurance company is offer discounts

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NDOW REPLACEMENT

an Andersen Company



- years using Andersen's dual ball-bearing engineering
- Our 5-point locking system on our patio doors provides top-of-the-line security and peace of mind
- Our composite Fibrex<sup>®</sup> window material is twice as strong as vinyl so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight
- We handle the entire process; we sell, install and warrant our windows and patio doors, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered



The Better Way to a Better Window

Call for your FREE Window 734-224-5100 and Patio Door Diagnosis

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/6/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$300 off each window and \$700 off each patio door, with no money down and 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase 4 or more windows or patio doors between 4/1/2018 & 5/6/2018. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned an operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2018 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





- · ECOTEC\* 1.4L turbocharged engine Six-speed automatic transmission
- 10 air bags
- StabiliTrak<sup>\*</sup> Electronic Stability Control
- Rearview camera
- · Power windows and locks Chevrolet MyLink Radio with 7" diagonal
- color touch-screen
- Remote Keyless Entry



24 MONTH LEASE WITH A SELECT NON-GM LEASE

#### **2018 CRUZE LT SEDAN** LIMITED QUANTITY! MSRP \$22,385

STARTING AS LOW AS

\$17,321

- 1.4L Turbo 4-cylinder engine
  4-wheel antilock disc brakes
- 7-inch diagonal center stack touch-screen
- display 10 air bags
- · Rear vision camera
- Cruise control
  6-speaker audio system
- 16-inch alloy wheels Cruise control



### **2018 TRAVERSE LT** MSRP \$35,565 STARTING AS LOW AS \$29,286



· StabiliTrak\* Electronic Stability Control System with



- color touch-screen display
- 17-inch aluminum wheels
- 8-way power driver seat including power lumbar control

Rear visi Chevrolet MyLink Radio with 7-inch diagonal color

Dual-outlet exhaust

Traction Control

MO\*

24 MONTH LEASE WITH A SELECT NON-GM LEASE

- touch-screen 18" Bright Silver-painted aluminum wheels
- 7-passenger seating with second-row captain's chairs
- 8-way power driver seat with power lumbar control
- Previous Courtesy Vehicle



24 MONTH LEASE WITH A SELECT NON-GM LEASE

STOCK #180465

**WITH \$999 DOWN** 

TOCK #180748

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