

Theft ring case brings pleas by some defendants

One suspect still being sought by police

Darrell Clem hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A swift conclusion apparently is coming for three of five defendants charged in a theft ring case that police say involved stolen vehicles, credit cards and guns

A fourth defendant still is facing trial in February on counterfeiting and other felony charges, court records show, while a fifth suspect remains at large.

Canton Detective Lt. Mike





In a decision that averts a trial, defendants Kobie Tyree Richardson, Elliot Deshawn Montgomery and Carolyn Dan-ielle Hoskins are facing sentencing after pleas were made in Wayne County Circuit Court, records show.



Hoskins



Richardson, a 19-year-old

Jr.'s courtroom after pleading

ing a stolen vehicle, stealing

guilty to receiving and conceal-

financial transaction devices, or

credit cards, and breaking and

entering a vehicle causing dam-age. In all, 12 other felony

Montgomery, a 17-year-old

Ypsilanti man, is scheduled for

charges have been dismissed.



stealing credit cards and larceny from a motor Ypsilanti man, faces sentencing vehicle. Nine other charges have been dismissed, court records Jan. 5 in Judge Prentis Edwards

show. A court clerk said Hoskins, 19, of Ypsilanti, is facing sentencing Jan. 5 for one count of receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, fraudulent use of a financial transaction device, or credit card, and breaking and entering a motor vehicle.

sentencing Dec. 12 after he pleaded

guilty to re-

ceiving and

concealing a

stolen vehicle,

Meanwhile, 19-year-old defen-

dant Saviontray Antonio Scott of Ypsilanti is facing trial in February on charges of counterfeiting, receiving and concealing stolen weapons, larceny of weapons, stealing a car, receiving and concealing a stolen car and felony firearm, court records show.

Police say 19-year-old Destiny Capri Moore of Wayne still is being sought. She has a warrant for her arrest on multiple felony counts and already has been charged with a misdemeanor charge of larceny from an auto.

Except for Moore, the other defendants had their cases sent from 35th District Court to Wayne County Circuit Court

See PLEAS, Page A3

Athlete learning to walk again as disease strikes



Progress made on village factory

Brad Kadrich Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

From the outside, it doesn't look like a lot is happening with the Village Arts Factory project being built in Canton's Cherry Hill Village.

Sure, one building has been razed and the roof on another has been replaced. But most of the rest of the work has been on the inside — or in non-tangible area such as grant-writing — as the Canton Partnership for the Arts tries to create a monument to the arts and to veterans in the southwest corner of Canton

Township. So Jill Engel, the partnership's director, can understand why folks who pass by think there isn't much progress being made.

But she also knows they're wrong.

And she recently made a

Makenzie Carpenter (right) with her her father Doug, sister Chelsi, mother Lori and the family dog.

Family of 15-year-old trying to raise money so she can receive uncovered treatment

Darrell Clem hometownlife com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Makenzie Carpenter wanted to play basketball and volleyball in her sophomore year at Canton High School.

Instead, she is learning to walk again.

Makenzie, 15, was sitting on her bed and doing her home-work when her legs suddenly went numb Nov. 9.

"I was just really scared, honestly," she said. "I didn't know what was going on."

It's the latest of many hurdles she has faced since she was diagnosed in October with dysautonomia, a disorder of the autonomic nervous system.

She feels faint when her blood pressure drops low. She B. is fatigued. She has what her mother, Lori Carpenter, calls

"mental fog." She was diagnosed with a heart murmur. She has fluctuating body temperatures. She can't properly

digest food.

We're in week 10 of vomiting 30-40 times a day," her mother said.

Lori Carpenter and her husband Doug are facing mounting medical bills that prompted friends to set up a GoFundMe account to help Makenzie and her family.

Makenzie has undergone numerous medical tests, spent five days in a hospital and has made the rounds in metro Detroit to see a neurologist, a cardiologist, a gastroenterologist and a physical therapist. What she really needs, her mother said, is a dysautonomia clinic, where everything can be handled in one place by doctors who better understand the disease and work as a team to fight it.

The University of Toledo Medical Center has such a clinic, she said, but the family's insurance company has re-

See DISEASE, Page A4



Makenzie Carpenter is learning to walk again after being diagnosed with dysautonomia.

presentation to the Canton Township board, so that trustees - whose support the Partnership will need - know it, too. "I wanted (trustees) to

know all the Partnership did for Canton and not just Can-ton, but Plymouth-Canton," Engel said. "I think they were just stunned to see everything we've done and the things we're still doing.'

The Village Arts Factory is being refurbished out of the old Ford property on 14 acres at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads. One building has been

See FACTORY, Page A2



Volunteers painted the rooms in the dormitory, which will be used for programs by the Eisenhower Center of Ann Arbor. CANTON PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS



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LOCAL NEWS

FACTORY

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razed and the Partnership is currently rehabilitating the other three: an old World War II dormitory, a factory and a warehouse.

The project is being built on property originally built by Henry Ford to house and help veterans. The Partnership bought it for some \$22,500 in 2012 and has since razed one of the four buildings that were part of the original layout.

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Other things are happening. Work on the veterans dormitory continues, with an elevator and utilities installed. Dry wall has been hung, rooms have been repainted and are only waiting now for flooring.

Perhaps most importantly, the dormitory has its first tenant. The Ann Arbor-based Eisenhower Center, which specializes in traumatic brain injury care and rehabilitation, will house programs in the dormitory

the dormitory. The programs, according to Eisenhower Vice President Devin Hutchings, will focus on rehab and therapy for female veterans. Veterans to be helped include those who are part of the center's After the Impact program, which helps athletes who've suffered concussions and veterans suffering PTSD.

Hutchings said the Village Arts Factory is the perfect location for such programs.

"Most of the focus goes on male veterans and not so much for the females. ... Women lead the way in concussions," Hutchings said. "This history of the site ties in to what we're doing. Ford had the insight to make it a place to give back to veterans. It's perfect for us to do the same thing. It gets (veterans) back into the communities and gives them some of the therapies they need."

It looks like dormitory participants will have a parking lot for their cars. The partnership recently secured a \$90,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Culture Affairs.

"I literally started crying when I read how much we were getting," Engel said. Engel said the Ford

factory renovations have begun, with structural, mechanical and electrical engineering. The mansard roof was removed and elevator and utility work either has been done or is near being started.

Like with the dormitory, the focus is beginning to shift on finding a tenant for the factory. The Partnership is looking at potential education tenants, who could bring skilled trades programs to the factory.

Schoolcraft College took a brief look, but backed away. Engel said the partnership is now "full-force looking at others."

"These type of vocational programs are needed in our state," Engel said. "They would align more with the original use that Henry Ford started in 1944."

Once a factory tenant is found, the partnership will focus on getting tenants for the warehouse building along Cherry Hill. With housing construction beginning to boom in Cherry Hill Village, the partnership will focus on a food/beverage tenant. "We're looking at a

"We're looking at a brew pub or a microbrewery because that's what people out here want," Engel said. "We want to make it a destination location."

There's a lot of support for what the Partnership is doing. Grants have come from CDBG money (\$75,000), the Ford Fund (\$107,000) and from the state (\$45,000). Businesses have donated, too, the largest to date coming from Pulte (\$50,000) and Reliable Carriers and Pinnacle (\$35,000 each).

It's the kind of support the project needs, because it'll be good for Canton, according to former Supervisor Tom Yack, who is on the partnership's board.

"Cherry Hill Village would benefit from the completed project, because it would bring greater vitality to the village," Yack said. "People would come to the arts factory not only to take classes and be engaged in studios, but the idea is it would become a destination for tourists.

"The vitality of Cherry Hill Village would be enhanced by people coming to the village, not just during the day, but people from outside the village coming as a destination," Yack added. Yack said the project

hometownlife.com

Yack said the project will be a win-win. Veterans and others will have a place to explore the arts and Canton gets rid of what he called a "derelict building."

"It's in the top two or three, maybe No. 1, of our buildings that do nothing to enhance the community," Yack said. "What really needs to happen is that it all needs to be rehabbed and it'll take between \$1.5 million and \$2 million to get that accomplished.

"(But) it'll give us a place where people in Canton and outside Canton can experience the arts in a way they may not have been able to do before."

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Crews work on the roof of the arts factory on the old Ford property in Cherry Hill Village. CANTON PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS

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Three Cities Art Club to host exhibit at **Westland City Hall**

The Three Cities Art Club will present some of the finest artwork and photography this area has to offer during its sixth annual juried open call for artists exhibition at Westland's Gallery at City Hall. The best of original fine art, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, printmaking, air brush, collage, pencil and photography, were selected for inclusion in the show by well-known photographer, writer and teacher Monte Nagler. He had to narrow the field from 113 pieces submitted by 33 artists to about 60 pieces.

In addition to jurying the works for the exhibition, Nagler also chose the winners for prizes awarded for best of show. first, second and third place, plus three honorable mention prize winners in the two categories - photography and all others. Westland Mayor William Wild once again selected his favorite piece for his personal \$100 Wild about Art Award. These prizes total more than \$1,100. The public is invited to

attend the free art and appetizers reception 4:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, when many of the artists will be available to talk with attendees. Winning artists will receive their awards at 6 p.m. and Nagler will talk about why he judged selections to win prizes. Live music will be provided by Alvorada.

The Gallery at City Hall, 36300 Warren, is a beautiful venue for show-casing works of arts. The exhibition continues through the end of January and is open to the public anytime city hall is open. Free guided gallery tours are available for individuals or groups, which can be arranged. Art can be purchased by calling Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939. Book your next meeting, luncheon or special event to be held

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either in the Gallery or one of the banquet/conference rooms by contacting parks and recreation at Parks@citvofwestland. com or calling 734-722-7620

The event is sponsored by Michigan Chiropractic Center and D&M Art Studio. To learn more about the exhibition, attending the event or about Three Cities Art Club, go to www.three citiesartclub.org.



Dennis Koski's "Kirk in the Hills" won the award for Best of Show in Photography.

PLEAS

Continued from Page A1

after they voluntarily waived their preliminary exams in mid-November.

Steckel has said authorities began rounding up the defendants after catching three of them breaking into garages Oct. 21 near Sheldon and Cherry Hill. He has said police exe-

cuted search warrants and seized five guns, 17 stolen credit cards and, from a house in Detroit, the counterfeit money and printing press that led to charges against Scott.

Police recovered a Cadillac Escalade stolen out of Canton and a Jeep Liberty stolen in Ann Arbor.

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DISEASE

Continued from Page A1

fused, thus far, to pay for Makenzie to go there. "That's where we

would love to have her go," Carpenter said, "but the insurance company is not wanting to help us out."

She said she hasn't received a satisfactory answer for the denial. She didn't want to name the insurance company, because she still is trying to resolve the problem so Makenzie can be covered in Toledo.

She just wants her daughter to have the best chance possible to overcome a disease that has changed her life. She said some people do grow out of it.

Makenzie, who has a younger sister Chelsi, 13, has always been an active

child. She has played soccer since she was age 4 and has been involved with the Canton Soccer Club. This year, she joined the Canton Celtic team that made it to the state finals, but she had to miss some games. She was playing a

game in Indiana this year when her disease forced her off the field.

"She was so dizzy and out of it that she had to be carried off," Carpenter said.

Makenzie — known as "Kenzie" or "Zie" — has kept a good attitude despite her illness.

"I'm really working hard to keep doing good in physical therapy so I can get back on the field," she said, adding that she gets strong support from family and friends. "It keeps me going and keeps me positive. It's really important.'

Makenzie is learning to walk again using a walker for short distances, but she uses a wheelchair for longer distances. She can't at-tend school, but friends bring math packets to her and she can participate in some classes online.

She is missed by the likes of Canton volleyball coach Cricket Hughley, who said Makenzie is "still the most physically, mentally and strongest athlete I have ever coached."

Makenzie was on Hughley's freshman team.

"I"m going into my third year at Canton as a coach. She is still the most committed, passionate athlete I have had the pleasure of coaching," Hughley said.

Hughley recalls Makenzie diving over a set of bleachers to save a ball for her team, briefly



losing consciousness during her fall.

"When she came to, she said, 'Sorry, coach, I tried to save it.'' Hughley said. "That will stay with me for however long I coach. She embodies everything it means to be Makenzie some work. Friends who Carpenter set up the GoFundMe account began with a enjoys soccer and hopes to be able to play

\$5,000 goal, but the family's medical expenses could be much higher. Every day, it's frustrating for the family to know that a dysautono-

mia clinic is as close as Toledo, yet they're still trying to get insurance coverage for it.

Through it all, Car-penter said Makenzie stays positive.

"She is phenomenal," the mother said. "She has definitely always had a positive attitude. She has said she is going to crush this disease. She's an extremely strong kid.

"She's learning to stand and then walk," she added. "Hopefully, one day, she can run."

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919







her daughter can get the

medical help she needs to

fight dysautonomia and

"are trying to wake up

beat it. Doctors, she said,

the nervous system to get the muscles to work."

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Canton DPW schedules yard waste drop-off

Curbside pickup of residential yard waste for Canton Township residents ended last week and will not resume until April 2018.

Because the late fall has caused many of the trees to retain their leaves, Canton's Division of Public Works will be providing a dumpster for residents wishing to drop off yard waste. The dumpster will be placed in front of the DPW building, at 4847 Sheldon Road, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, until Dec. 15.

day, until Dec. 15. Note, only paper yard waste bags will be accepted, no plastic bags or trash. Any sticks placed in the bags must be less than 1.5 inches in diameter.

Canton's DPW would like to stress that the dumpster is for residential dropoff only, as yard waste will no longer be accepted at the curb.

For questions or more information on yard waste, refuse and recycling collection, go to www.canton-mi.org or call GFL at 844-464-3587.

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Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528 honor guard will be on hand for Thursday's Pearl Harbor Day ceremony. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Vets mark Pearl Harbor Day attack

The United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked Dec. 7, 1941, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously said "will live in infamy."

On Thursday, local veterans will gather in downtown Plymouth to mark the occasion with the city's annual Pearl Harbor Day observance.

They'll do it with a new master of ceremonies, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Krista McKinley.

The Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii was the hub of United States naval power in the 1940s. Its name came from the pearl oysters that once grew there. The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese military forced the United States into World War II.

Thursday's ceremony will be presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, with Cmdr. Clyde Rains; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, with President Richard Adis; and American Legion Post 391, with Cmdr. Johnnie Johnson.

The ceremony takes place at 1 p.m. at the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park on Main Street. "Remember, Pearl

Harbor Day is a day that should be a quiet memory of the military men and women who never asked questions, but followed orders — and died," said Frank Pawelak of American Legion Post 391.





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So here's just a quick touch on the Republican tax reform scam as I'm barely a third of the way through reading it.

Teachers can no longer deduct supplies they personally buy for their students but corporations can. Student loan interest no longer deductible and tuition forgiveness taxed as full income but private school tuition is fully deductible. Only one college in Michigan gets a huge tax cut, the De-Voses' favorite college (brother Erik is a grad there). Almost half a trillion gone from Medicare including not paying for chemo anymore. Remember that commercial showing the Republican pushing Grandma in a wheelchair over the cliff? Well they're finally doing it for real.

And the benefits Trump gets is simply staggering; massive welfare for golf course owners, private jet owners, commercial real estate builders, pass through businesses, no alternative minimum tax. Good lord, that's just the tip of the iceberg. I could fill this newspaper with all the ways we're getting screwed.

If everything goes according to the dynamic scoring, I'm in the hole a couple grand! But the best part is yet to come; Republicans want to install a trigger mechanism so if this redundant trickle down scam doesn't produce the desired growth results tax rates will go up ... not on the rich or corporations but on us middle class and poor folks, and social security benefits is top on the chopping block. Thanks Trump and Trott voters, for the life of me I can't figure out why

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you let rich folks lead you around by the nose.

Mitch Dubanik Livonia

Nessel video disappoints

A recent trashy campaign video created by Michigan Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel makes the Plymouth community famous for the wrong reasons. As a Bernie liberal, I cannot support Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel. A most glaring reason why, is that in the video, Nessel is tying gender identity as a primary qualifier for elective office, and has instantly offended and alienated half of the voting population of Michigan. The ad is just plain stupid, and I certainly hope a more worthy female or male Democrat runs for office of Attorney General

And yes, I think the sexual harassers of both parties in D.C. all need to go - especially the clown in the White House.

Let's be clear on this. The suggestion that members of the LGBT community, or any female gay or straight, are immune from abusing power while in political office by virtue of gender, is total hogwash. And Nessel knows this, being an attorney and former prosecutor in Kym Worthy's office.

As Nessel knows, Sexual harassment is not a gender issue, it is an abuse of power issue. Dana Nessel has instantly and forever branded . herself an opportunist demagogue and is using the awful abuse of sexual harassment victims in D.C. and Alabama as political tools. And I think that is just horrible and reprehensible, and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

instantly disqualifies her from holding any elective office, and especially disqualifies her for Attorney General, given her blatant bias against men. She places herself in the same category of the gender she has just offended with her broad sweeping generalizations.

I think Nessel should pull this ad immediately and apologize for grandstanding in the very same ways that pundits like Limbaugh or Hannity do, while they push their half-baked morally bankrupt political garbage on an unsuspecting public via the AM air waves. The vast vast majority of men, are good people and respect women and are not harassers, contrary to what her ad implies. And the same goes for good women.

Dan Sabo Taylor

Register to vote

Do you want to help improve the U.S.A.? Here's what to do: Step No. 1 - Be regis-

tered to vote. Step No. 2 - Make a promise to yourself and the country that you will vote in all future elections, whether it is for city council or President of the U.S.A. Have faith that there are hundred or thousands of similarlyminded people, but only voting counts. Your vote does count.

Hadyn Notestine Canton

Loss of scholar's program disappoints

It was announced the successful John Glenn Scholar's program would no longer continue. As a Scholar's board member I am deeply disappointed

the John Glenn students will be denied the opportunity to be challenged by this program. The decision to end the program was difficult, but necessary. As was reported, the founders and financial supporters of the Scholar's program, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, no longer received the staff support that was promised when approached to start the program. The Scholar's program was a collaboration of staff, students and parents. The success of the program can be traced to the leadership and enthusiasm of the John Glenn school psychologist and the scores of staff who served as mentors. The former superintendent, with the support of the Board of Education, was responsible for the demise of the Scholar's program. The withdrawal of staff support made it impossible to continue the program.

The success of the Scholar's program can't be denied. By any metric the program was not only improving student grade point averages, but also changing lives. One only had to attend an awards banquet to understand how meaningful and life changing the experience was for students and mentors. These banquets were the largest gathering of students, parents and staff outside of graduation.

This program realized significant student academic success through its 'all in' behavior by its founders, staff, students and parents. It is shocking that Board of Education members present at the banquets did not stand up for the program instead of acquiescing to the former superintendent

A former 11 year

school board member, I believed it was essential for each board member to think for themselves and make decisions in the best interests of students. The members of the Wayne-Westland School Board chose to follow the lead of the superintendent instead of supporting the students.

The Scholar's program has not only impacted academic grades, it has created a high school culture supportive of academic achievement. It is sad that half of Wayne-Westland's high school students will not have available to them this outstanding academic program. More than 600 John Glenn students/ semester will be denied the opportunity to have an academic and personal development men-

If as a school board member I was made aware of a high school program that produced significant academic results, engaged students, teachers, and parents, resulted in a positive change to the school culture and was accomplished with limited funds, I would have said I'm all in. Seldom does a program like John Glenn Scholars come along, it is a shame that the Wayne-Westland Board of Education wasn't all in. **Tom Yack**

Intersection is dangerous

Canton

It's no wonder there's so many accidents by Ford Road between Haggerty and Interstate 275. I have seen at least minimum of five cars every time I come through that intersection pull in front of people to get on the freeway.

People are not paying attention. You can see the sign by the traffic light at IKEA that the entrance to the freeway is on the right. If the police could sit there and watch them it's because they're on the phone or texting. It's ridiculous these people just are not paying attention and that's when the accidents happen **Diana Craig** Canton

Grateful for the Livonia Y

As a 22-year lifetime member of the Livonia Y, I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate the people who work there. Upon entering the building, in the morning, you are greeted by two genuinely, friendly people named Ashley and Nikki.

The executive director is Brian Wolverton. He and his staff have encouraged a "welcoming atmosphere" through many different programs. Walter Krause, manager on duty, has done a highly-efficient job of maintaining the equipment and the building for the Livonia Y.

Mike Kasbarian oversees the Wellness Center and will schedule a personal trainer at the request of any member. Suzan Marzec is a one-ofa-kind group instructor, who represents the highest degree of the Mission of the Livonia Y - Body, Mind, and Spirit.

The staff and members of the Livonia Y are a treasure for our community. It is my hope that you will consider a membership, by calling the Livonia Y at 734-261-2161. John C. Stewart Plymouth





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hometownlife.com

Williams appointed to state's Trial **Court Funding** Commission

Canton Supervisor Pat Williams has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to serve on the state's Trial Court Funding Commission.

The 12-member commission will be tasked with the following: » Review and recom-

mend changes to the trial court funding system » Review and recom-

mend changes to the methods by which the courts impose and allocate fees and costs

» Suggest statutory changes necessary to effectuate recommended changes

» File a final report with the governor, the

Ince 93 (A) 111 Williams

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act "I am looking forward to having the opportunity to work on behalf of Canton residents and all Michigan residents," Williams said. "It will be exciting to see what improvements might exist in the area of court funding.'

Moran joins American Cancer Society as executive director

The American Cancer Society has announced the appointment of Blythe Moran of Bloomfield Hills as executive director in Michigan.

As lead executive in the state, Moran's goal is to build relationships and partnerships across Michigan in support of the society's mission to save lives from cancer. Alongside a statewide team of staff and volunteers, Moran leads fundraising, mission and advocacy initiatives and engages local communities across the state. She also is in the process of building a new, volunteer leadership board in the state to help implement and drive regional strategic growth initiatives. Moran brings more



Blythe Moran is a Bloomfield Hills resident.

than 30 years of community development, volunteer management, event and fundraising experience. Early in her career, she worked in public health for metro Detroitarea health departments and hospitals in a variety of capacities. Most re-

cently, Moran served as head of advancement for Eton Academy in Birmingham. During her time there, she led the school's advancement department, including community development, enrollment and all fundraising efforts.

Moran received her bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University in public health education. She lives in Bloomfield Hills with her husband.

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of nearly 2 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. For more information, go to www.cancer.org.

February through April.

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online at aarp

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

Holiday tea event

The Canton Historical Society will host a holiday tea event 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the historic Bartlett-Travis House, 500 N. Ridge Road, while it is decorated for Christmas! Tickets are \$25 a person and include tea, sandwiches and small desserts. They are available at the Summit on the Park.

'Christmas

Memories' concert The First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, is offering a free Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 10. There will be two performances, at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., in the church sanctuary. Performers will include the Chancel Choir, Fifth Season women's ensemble and soloists performing familiar holiday music.

Parking is available in the church parking lot and on surrounding residential and downtown streets. Guests will be

Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzatthe elks@gmail.com.

A visit from St. Nick

St. Nicholas will be visiting Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth Township, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13. Bring children, grandchildren, friends and family to hear the story of the origin of Santa Claus.

3D Photography Club

The 3D Photography Club will hold its next meeting 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road

All are invited to come and see the award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

The meeting will begin with the annual holiday potluck dinner, with live musical performances from some members. There will also be an exhibition of stereoview cards made by members and many 3D items on display and for sale.

Friday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, at www.iheart foreverafter.com, by calling Shirley at Forever After Productions at 734-547-5156 or at the door. Enter via Door 24 from Adams Street parking lot at rear of building.

Go to www.iheart foreverafter.com for additional information.

88.1 The Park sponsors 'On the Beat'

Radio station 88.1 The Park will partner with local police departments to give the community a chance to understand how local law enforcement works. Officers have agreed to answer the community's questions on policing and law enforcement on the "On the Beat" program, which will air Monday, Dec. 18.

The station aired the first "On the Beat" in September. Community members submitted questions regarding traffic rules, police responsibilities and more. 88.1 The Park is accepting questions for the December program.

guage, sexual innuendo. mythical creatures, scenes of violence (including an extended death scene) and singing. For more information, go to MittenTheater.com.

AREA EVENTS

Barefoot presents 'Almost, Maine'

The nonprofit Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main St., in Plymouth will present "Almost, Maine" Dec. 8-17. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$17 to \$19, with student and senior discounts at www. justgobarefoot.com. For more information, call 734-404-6889, email admin@justgobarefoot. com or go to www. justgobarefoot.com.

Living Nativity at Lake Pointe Bible Church

Church, 42150 Schoolcraft, in Plymouth invites the community to come to a live Nativity scene 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. Included will be the babe in swaddling clothes in the manger, young shepherds watching over their flocks of sheep and goats and the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The hallelujah chorus will entertain visitors with song, while a roaring fire will keep them warm. Refreshments will be available during the free, interactive, family friendly event The living Nativity scene will take place in the field in front of the church and will proceed rain or shine. Visitors are advised to dress warmly. Parking is available in the rear lot. Overflow parking is available across the street at the Plymouth Senior Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road.

Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 13th season at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Shel-don Road.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

AARP TaxAide looking for volunteers

Every year, AARP provides free income tax preparation services for seniors and other moderate income families from



To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

son.

George B. Smith

NOVI, MI - Age 89, George died on November 12, 2017 in Novi, Michigan. He was a longtime resident of Plymouth. Formerly from Wayne, Michigan where he attended Wayne High School and played football on the 1945 and 1946 state championship "class B" teams. He loved football and was also on the track team winning the State Shot Put Championship in 1944 and 1945. George went on to Michigan State University and played football on the '47, '48, '49 teams. In 1949 he led the nation as an extra point kicker. He was also on boxing team. After college he spent two years in the Army due to his ROTC officer's commitment. During this time he married Mary Elizabeth Schlecht, his college sweetheart whom he loved and admired all his wonderful life. George started George Smith Realty and Mortgage Company, eventually founding Mayflower Mortgage which he sold to Republic Bank. George was a life member of the Washtenaw Country Club and belonged to Quail Creek Country Club in Naples, Florida. George spent many Christmases with his family in the Caribbean and traveled extensively with the Nomads. He enjoyed summers at his summer home in Horton Bay Club near Charlevoix and in the winter in Naples where he had a condo. George loved his children with all his heart: Gregory (Pamela), Barbara, Thomas (Marilyn), Dan (Diana) and Timothy (Sue). He had eight fantastic grandchildren: Tanner, Brad, Steven, Tyler, Alexandra, Kelli, Danny and AJ. Private Cremation Services have been entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. If you would like to make a donation in George's honor, memorials may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

greeted by church deacons at the doors adjacent to the church parking lot starting 20 minutes prior to the performance.

Christmas concert

The Harmony Singers. with the Canton Concert Band, will host a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church Street. Tickets are \$8 and available in advance and at the door. An afterglow will follow the concert. For more information, call 734-547-5156.

Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the **Detroit Blues Society** (www.detroitblues society.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, for its debut appearance with the Elks will be The Sax Maniacs Band. Performing will be Terry Burton on vocals, Ray Wise on guitar and vocals, Tom Hunter on bass and vocals, Joe Bruglio on drums and vocals and Dave "Dr. Z" Daniele on keys, sax and vocals.

Jazz @ The Elks hap-pens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor

For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591

Central City's Christmas Broadway spectacular

"The Most Explosive Christmas Show Around Town," Canton's Christ-mas Broadway spectacular, is scheduled for seven performances Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 14-17, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Times are at 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and noon and 4 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$24 and are on sale at the Village Theater box office or online at www.CantonVillageTheater.org. Tickets are reserved seating.

For more information, go to www.CantonVillageTheater.org or call 734-394-5300.

'Christmas Carol' at the PARC

'A Christmas Carol — The Musical" is being performed at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex, 650 Church Street, Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 14-17, by Forever After Productions

General admission tickets are \$10 and are on sale for all performances, set for 7 p.m.

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Questions can cover any topic effecting our local police departments. Your questions can be submitted at 881ThePark@ gmail.com by Dec. 14.

88.1 The Park is a local radio station that is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district.

Mitten Theater presents 'Knife **Before Christmas'**

The Mitten Theater will host the premiere of "The Knife Before Christmas," an original murder mystery production that runs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 and 22. The Mitten Theater is located inside of PARC (Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex), 650 Church St.

Tickets are \$45 at theknifebeforechristmas.brownpapertickets.com, but early bird tickets are available for \$40 while supplies last. They will be \$50 at the door. Groups of 10 or more can contact Vince Sabatini at 609-233-0226 or vince@mittentheater.com.

Ticket price includes a strolling hot and cold hors d'oeuvre and dessert buffet. Food may be limited for non-reserved tickets; door ticket prices will be reduced to \$25 in this case. A \$50 prize will be given to the best detective of the night. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Show is rated PG-13. This production is not appropriate for children. Contains coarse lan-

Hats for the **Homeless**

Plymouth Community United Way is gearing up for the annual Hats for the Homeless drive, scheduled to run through Dec. 29 in an effort keep our homeless community warm during the winter months. New and handmade items can be dropped at the PCUW office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday.

Should your company or group like to participate by hosting a drive on-site or like to sponsor items like coats or blankets, contact Randi at 734-453-6879, ext. 5. For more information, go to www.plymouthunited way.org.





Any year-end moves left? Now's the time to make them

t is hard to believe that 2018 is just around the corner. Because of that, I wanted to touch upon a couple of issues that may require your attention before the end of the year. Before I mention those items, I would like to address holiday spending again.

I cannot stress enough the importance of not overspending during the holiday season. This time of year, many of us get caught up in the spirit of the holiday and we succumb to endless advertising ploys to get us to spend, spend and spend some more. It is important that we act like adults and stay within our means. You can be fiscally responsible 11 months of the year, but that one month where you let your guard down can cause your finances to implode. It is important to set a budget for your holiday shopping and stay within that budget. The holiday is about spending time with family and friends and enjoying their company, not overspending and causing you financial difficulties. If you charge your holiday gifts and cannot afford to pay them off in full when the bill comes, it's probably a sign you're overspending.

The end of the year creates opportunities that many of us should explore. One of those is to convert an existing traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. The transaction must be completed before the end of the year, so there is not

1



much time left to take advantage of it. The beauty of a Roth conversion is you're taking money that is growing tax-deferred and converting it into money that will grow tax-free. For many, this is an opportunity to take advantage of. It is not for everyone, but there are many who should take advantage of it but don't. It's a good idea to look at your tax situation to determine if a Roth conversion makes sense for you

Another item that can be a significant tax saver is for those who are over 701/2 and by law are required to take a distribution from their retirement account. For those who are charitable in nature and who make charitable contributions, donating all or a portion of your minimum re-quired distribution can be a very good move. Particularly for those who do not itemize deductions, this strategy can result in significant tax savings. Like most dealings with our tax laws, it is important to always dot the I's and cross the T's; this transaction is no different. The money from your IRA must go directly to the charity. If you are going to do this, it is important to contact your IRA custodian as soon as possible to begin the process

The traditional year-

end tax plan strategy is to accelerate your deduction into this year. Although that works for some people, it is not for everyone. I want to remind you that when you hear year-end tax ad-vice, it is important to remember it may not apply to you. Each one of our tax situations is a little different; just because it is a strategy that works for your brotherin-law doesn't mean it will work for you. When it comes to accelerating deductions into this year, if you are itemizing your deductions, it's generally a favorable strategy. If you're taking the standard deduction, the strategy is generally meaningless. For those who have a

For those who have a flexible spending account through work, make sure you understand the terms of that program to determine whether you must use that money before the end of the year. In some plans, if you don't use the money before the end of the year, you lose it. You work too hard for your money to lose it, that's why it's important you understand the terms.

The holidays are rapidly approaching and there are not that many days left in 2017. If you plan to implement any year-end strategies, the time to act is now. Good luck!

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



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INSIDE: SCHOOLCRAFT'S TITLE BID IN MEN'S SOCCER COMES UP SHORT, B5

SPORTS

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PREP WRESTLING

Catholic Central returns three state champs

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If the phrase "Iron Sharp-ens Iron" doesn't apply to the Novi Detroit Catholic Central wrestling room, than nothing else does.

Even though they're facing a beefed up schedule, the Shamrocks should be the prohibitive favorite come Feb. 23-24 in Kalamazoo when the MHSAA Division 1 team state championships will be held for the first time at the Wings Event Center.

The defending champs, who

went 31-1 overall, lost individual state champions Tyler Morland (171 pounds) and Nick Jenkins (285), along with thirdplace finisher Jackson Ross (215).

But the cupboard remains fully stocked.

"When you have 12 seniors returning and slew of talent – all-staters, state champs - we'll have a pretty good wrestler at each weight," 11th-year CC coach Hancock said. "We're losing, obviously, Jenkins and Morlord up top clore with Morland up top along with Ross, but we have a nice little heavyweight in Steve Kolcheff, who is a sophomore.

He'll fill in nicely there. He's got to develop there a little bit. I'm excited to see what he's able to put out there. At 171, taking over for Morland will be Aidan Wagh. He's a state qualifier and I think he's going to surprise a lot of people this year. He's on a mission."

CC's returning individual state championship trio are senior Ben Kamali (119), junior Kevon Davenport (145) and Cameron Amine (152-160) – all going for their third straight titles.

Kamali finished 41-13 a year

See WRESTLING, Page B4



Among CC's contingent of returning wrestlers are (bottom row, from left) individual state champions Ben Kamali, Cameron Amine and Kevon Davenport and (back row, from left) Devon Johnsen, Stone Moscovic, Rhett Newton, Derek Gilcher and Josh Edmond. BRAD EMONS

USA HOCKEY HOCKEY HOMECOMING



BOYS BASKETBALL Novi favorite in KLAA Gold **Division** race

Hankerson foot injury could be setback for Class A regional finalists

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the state's topranked basketball teams will have to hold the fort a while. During tryouts, Novi lost

two-year starting point guard Trendon Hankerson to a broken bone in his foot.



The 6-foot-3 senior, the

team's primary ball-handler, isn't expected to return until mid-January, so fourth-year Novi coach Brandon Sinawi is going to have to come up with some creative lineups

The Wildcats, 18-7 year ago, won the KLAA Central Division and reached the Class A regional finals before losing to West Bloomfield on a controversial last-second

finish. Novi returns Oakland Uni-

Michigan's Quinn Hughes, formerly of the U.S. NTDP, gets a jump on Tyler Weiss during Saturday's game. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Former players return to Plymouth to help Wolverines earn 7-3 victory



Plymouth native Nick Boka was a defensive standout Saturday night for the Michigan Wolverines. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Saturday night's game at USA Hockey Arena resembled a homecoming of sorts, with 10 former U.S. National Team Development Program players now on the Michigan Wolverines.

And in front of an enthusi-astic crowd of 3,715, the Wolverines seemed right at home, defeating the NTDP U-18 team,

"The college games are awesome for us, because they're so hard, they're so competitive," U.S. head coach Seth Appert said. "And it's special with Michigan because they're right here, they're in our town basically, and half their team is from this program, right? It's a special

game for everyone involved." Sparking U-M with a hat trick and assist was winger Tony Calderone. Garnering two goals for the U.S. was forward Patrick Giles.

"It was definitely a little weirder walking in on the visiting side today," U-M forward Josh Norris (Oxford) said. "I really haven't been over here too much. But it was a great game and I had a lot of friends out there, but we ap-

3

See HOCKEY, Page B3

versity signee Traveon Maddox Jr., a 6-5 senior who averaged 20 points, six rebounds and five assists per game.

Also returning to the starting lineup is the team's second leading scorer, 6-3 junior swing man Jiovanni Miles, who has Division I offers from Central Michigan, the University of Detroit Mercy and North Dakota.

Nik Williams, a 5-10 senior who came off the bench to

See GOLD, Page B2



Novi's Traveon Maddox Jr. (right) has signed with Oakland University. FILE PHOTO



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BOYS BASKETBALL Milford could contend for title in LVC

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

If there was ever a "big three" when it comes to Milford boys basketball, then this must be it.

The Mavericks, under fifth-year coach David Gilbert, enter the 2017-18 boys basketball season with three proven scor-ers: 6-foot-3 senior guard Aiden Warzecha, 6-7 junior forward Gunnar Gustafson and 6-5 senior forward Kyle Soderberg, a transfer.

The trio

three of the

are just

reasons

why the

Mavericks,

coming off

a 12-9 sea-

son, could

be serious

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title in the

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Weidman



Thompson

nine-school Lakes Valley Conference. Warzecha, entering his fourth season in the varsity lineup, was named Class A all-state by the Basketball Coaches Asso-ciation of Michigan after averaging 16 points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals per game during his junior year.

'Aidan is an outstanding leader, has tremendous basketball IQ, who has led us in scoring the last two seasons," Gilbert said of the two-time all-KLAA selection.

Meanwhile, Gustafson is coming off a strong sophomore season when he averaged 11.2 points, seven rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game.

"Gunnar is an extremely talented young man who keeps getting



Milford senior guard Aiden Warzecha averaged 16 points per game last season. JERRY REA

better," Gilbert said. "He is going to be one of the better big men in the area. He's a strong interior player with underrated athleticism and has the ability to average a double-double."

Soderberg, a versatile forward who can play both inside and out, averaged 15 points per game after transferring from Lakeland during midsemester.

"Kyle is a gamer," Gilbert said. "He has the knack for the ball and can score in a variety of ways."

To complement the big three, Gilbert will rely two experienced guards in seniors Nolan Rand and J.T. Sarafa, both whom logged quality minutes on the varsity last season.

"Our juniors that are coming up from JV are buying into their roles nicely," Gilbert said.

White Lake Lakeland

The Eagles (7-14) will have a new voice on the bench as Ron Thompson moves a mile down the road from Walled Lake Northern to take the reins from Bob Brugger, who retired after 17 seasons

Thompson, who guided the Knights to a 15-7 record a year ago, will focus his attack around 6-foot-9 senior center Cass Phillips

tor like Cass is a big strength to lead our defense and an improved offensive game," Thompson said. Also returning from

last year's squad are senior guards Sean Cullen and Joe Rzeppa, along with 6-2 junior forward Patrick McDonald.

"We will play very hard and tough with everything starting on the defensive end," Thompson said. "We have a very deep team with the possibility of five or six guys leading us in scoring on any given night and, hopefully, a consistent rotation of nine to 10 players. Getting off to a fast start is key, but will be difficult to learn a whole new system on both sides of the ball. How fast we pick up on concepts will determine how our season goes."

South Lyon

The Lions (9-13), who lost in last year's Class A district final to Howell, hope to make it a smooth transition as junior varsity coach Troy Weidman takes over for Doug Host, who retired following last season.

Although leading scorer Nick Flynn (13 points per game) was lost to graduation, South Lyon returns 6-5 senior center Noah Grimes and 5-10 senior guard Ben Call from the starting lineup. Both are three-year

varsity letter winners who averaged seven points per game a year ago.

They will be joined by senior forwards Coleson White and Brian Averill, along with senior guardforward Will Kelley.

Meanwhile, 6-6 senior Jared Townsley, who sat last season with an injury, could also give the Lions added boost in their quest for an LVC crown.

South Lyon East

The Cougars (3-17) are looking for a turnaround season led by all-KLAA

TEAM CAPSULES

MILFORD Head coach: David Gilbert, fifth season

Head coach: David Gilbert, fifth season. League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's record: 12-9. Notable losses to graduation: Dominic Dawson (all-KLAA), Reid Sellers. Leading returnees: Aidan Warzecha, 6-3 Sr. G; Gunnar Gustafson, 6-7 Jr. F; Nolan Rand, 6-0 Jr. G; J.I. Sarafa, 6-0 Sr. G. Promising newcomer: Kyle Soderberg, 6-5 Sr. G-F (transfer from Lakeland). Gilbert's season outlook: "Most of the time when you lose nine seniors you are due for a year of growth, but we return an talented core of young men who understand the expectation set forth by the classes before them. Our success this season will be predicated on how well we can gel as a team and play selfless basketball, how we can develop our youth and depth, and how tough we can be on the defensive end. We have a ways to go in all three areas and how early we can get there will determine our overall success. This is a great group of young men who represent our program culture very well."

WHITE LAKE LAKELAND Head coach: Ron Thompson, first season. League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's record: 7-14. Notable losses to graduation: Joe Tingle, Justin Knox. Leading returnees: Cass Phillips, 6-9 Sr. C; Sean Cullen, 5-10 Sr. G; Joe Rzeppa, 5-7 Sr. G; Patrick McDonald, 6-2, Jr. F. Promising newcomposed Variation

Or Paronis incoman, G., Ji. r. Promising newcomers: Trent Farquhar, 5-7 Jr. G; Kyle Flowers, 5-10, Jr. G; Lucas Theaker, 6-3 Soph. F. Thompson's season outlook: "The first season of the Lakes Valley Conference

brings a lot of parity. The race should be wide open with the early league games meaning a lot to set the tone. It will be a grind with 16 league games determining the first champion. Strengths of our team will be experience, with two four-year players, one three-year player and five others that played some varsity last year."

SOUTH LYON

Head coach: Troy Weidman, first season League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's record: 9-13.

Last year's record; 9-13. Notable losses to graduation: Nick Flynn. Leading returnees: Noah Grimes, 6-5 Sr. F; Ben Call, 5-10 Sr. G; Coleson White, 6-3 Sr. F; Brian Averill, 6-1 Sr. F Will Kelley, 6-0 Sr. G-F. Promising newcomers: Jared Townsley, 6-6 Jr. F; Owen Deline, 5-11 Jr. G; Connor Feliks, 6-4 Jr. F; Daniel McDermott, 6-2 Jr. F; Luke Gomori, 6-6 Jr. C; Weidman's season outlook: "We'll be led by two three-year varsity lettermen, Noah Grimes and Ben Call who both averaged seven points per game last season. The Lions' hope are high complete with aspirations to compete for the conference title as a member of the inaugural season for Lakes Valley Conference."

SOUTH LYON EAST Head coach: Ron Levin, fifth season. League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's record: 3-17. Notable losses to graduation: Anthony Salter. Leading returnees: Chris Kaminski, 6-2 Jr. G; Zack Guietts-Stafford, 5-10 Sr. G; Marc Garland, 6-3 Sr. F; Promision

Promising newcomers: Nick Branton, 6-6 Soph. F; Zach Oprisui, 6-2 Jr. G; Nate Lewis-Newton, 5-10 Sr. G. Levin's season outlook: "I'm excited for this season to get going. We had a lot of players work hard in the off season to improve as athletes and basketball players. I'm excited for them to see there hard work pay off."

man year with a dislocat-

"Marc Garland is

ready for a big season as

Guietts-Staff proved last

well," Levin said. "Zack

bunches. Sharp shooter

ty last year as a sopho-

bemons@hometownlife.com

big junior season."

Twitter: @BradEmons1

more and is primed for a

Zach Oprisui split time between the JV and varsi-

year he can score in

ed shoulder.

selection Chris Kaminski, a 6-2 junior guard.

"Chris led the team in almost every statistical category and is expected to step up his game even more this season," fifthyear East coach Ron Levin said

Levin will also lean on 6-3 senior forward Marc Garland, 5-10 senior guard Zack Guietts-Stafford, 6-1 junior forward Zach Oprisui and 6-6 sophomore forward Nick Branton, the latter whom is primed to make an immediate impact after missing his entire fresh-

TEAM CAPSULES

NOVI Head coach: Brandon Sinawi, fourth season.

Head coach: Brandon Sinawi, fourth season. League: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Gold Division). Last year's record: 18-7. Titles won last year: KLAA Central Division and Class A district. Notable losses to graduation: Alec Bageris, Jonny Davis, Jostin Rodrigues. Leading returnees: Traveon Maddox Jr. 6-5 Sr. G-F; Trendon Hankerson, 6-3 Sr. G; Jiovanni Miles, 6-3 Jr. G-F; Nik Williams, 5-10 Sr. G; Blake King, 6-3 Sr. F. PromIsing newcomers: Tariq Woody, 6-9 Sr. F; Aryan Verma, 5-9 Jr. G. Sinawl's outlook: "We are returning a lot of key guys from last year's team and I'm really excited to see this group of seniors play out their last year of high school basketball. We have a great mix of talent and our kids really need to buy into their roles, which is going to be the key to our success. There are also a lot of expectations for our team and we have a long way to go if we are going to compete for our division and challenge for our district. With the new setup of the KLAA, there are a lot of good quality players and coaches and every game is going to be a challenge for our kids."

GOLD

Continued from Page B1

star last year in Novi's regional semifinal win over Walled Lake Western, will most likely move into the starting lineup.

"If we would have lost

us," Sinawi said. "He can stretch the floor, too. He's just not somebody that plays inside. There will be times where he'll be able to leak out a little bit and hit the 3-point shot, which he's capable of doing having scouted him the last three years over at Plymouth. It's something he can do an we're looking forward to having him when he's ready.'



"Having a rim protec-

Traveon, that would have been pretty bad as well," Sinawi said. "But losing Trendon, he's kind of our quarterback, so it's going be an adjustment for us. But we haven't known anything else the last two weeks. We've been practicing without him. The kids are adjusting, we're adjusting and hopefully ready to go by (the opener).

Once Hankerson returns to the starting lineup, the Wildcats could become a special team, with 6-9 senior center Tariq Woody, a transfer from Plymouth, providing an inside presence as well.

"Being 6-9, he's going to be able to rebound, hopefully, at will for us, both on the offensive end and defensive end," Sinawi said. "We're just, hopefully, going to jumpstart our fast break defensively if we can get some stops and, if he can get some rebounds, we'll push it up a little quicker."

Woody, who won't be able to play until the week of Jan. 15 under a 90-day MHSAA transfer rule, brings plenty of experience to the table as the Wildcats appear to be the clear-cut favorite in the new seven-school Gold Division alignment this season in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, which will also include Northville, Howell, Hartland, Brighton, Livonia Stevenson and Grand Blanc.

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"He's, hopefully, going to be a special player for

Northville

The Mustangs (13-10) are undergoing a major rebuild after losing all five starters to graduation, including leading scorers Jake Justice and Kevin Morrissey.

Despite the heavy losses, 13th-year coach Todd Sander remains optimistic.

"With no starters returning from last year's team, there is a tremendous amount of opportunity available to everyone on our roster," Sand-er said. "Our practices have been intense, with players constantly working hard and fighting for spots and minutes.'

The team's most experienced returnees are 6-4 senior Mark Grimes and 6-0 senior Niko Barach, along with 6-1 senior Brandon Stevens.

"All three of them are basketball-only studentathletes, so they have worked tirelessly on their strength, conditioning and skill sets," Sander said. "We will need to grow up fast. As always, defense and rebounding will be key for our team this year. We will need to play fundamental and unselfish on offense to give us the best chance as possible to score points."

Catholic Central

The Shamrocks (13-8), under 12th-year coach Bill Dyer, must replace their two top scorers lost

Novi junior Jiovanni Miles (left) returns to the starting lineup after an 18-7 season. FILE PHOTO

to graduation: forward C.J. Baird, who earned a walk-on spot at the University of Michigan, and 3-point shooting specialist Gio Genrich.

Catholic Central's returning front line includes seniors Mike Harding and Christian Girjis, who both stand 6-5, and 6-6 junior David Lukomski. Adding depth in the front court will be 6-4 junior forward Brendan Downs

A.J. Abdelnour, a 5-9 senior guard, returns in the back court, with 5-9 junior Keegan Kohler also moving up from the JV squad.

"We've spent a whole lot of time with each other since last season ended and, although we don't have a lot of returning experience, we did

play a lot kids last season," Dyer said.

Franklin Road Christian

The Warriors (4-18) made a coaching change during the fall, bringing in former Bowling Green State University player Roosevelt Barnes, who guided Redford Bishop Borgess to a Class C state title in 1997 (led by Sam Hoskin and Aaron Jes-

sup). Barnes, who replaced Matt Mikel, also coached at Monroe High, his alma mater, for four seasons, while also serving as assistant at Wayne State (under Ron Hammye) and Detroit Redford High (under Derrick McDowell).

Franklin Road lost two starters to graduation,

every game is going to be a challenge for our kids.

NORTHVILLE

Head coach: Todd Sander, 13th seas League: KLAA (Gold Division) Last year's record: 13-10. Notable losses to graduation: Jake Justice, Kevin Morrissey, Phil Jovanovski, Gustaf

Leading returnees: Mark Grimes, 6-4 Sr. F; Niko Barach, 6-0 Sr. G; Brandon Stevens, Troyer, 6-2 Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Steven Morrissey, 6-4 Jr. F; Daniel McLaughlin, 6-3 Jr. F; Paul Kearis, 6-0 Jr. 6; Gary Laskowski, 6-4 Jr. F; Arvind Ganeshram, 5-8 Jr. G; Nolan Knight, 6-4 J. F. Sander's outlook: "Our returning players' game experience is limited, so we will need to grow up fast in order to compete in our difficult division. We have a solid core of returning seniors who are doing a terrific job leading our junior class. Our juniors have played together for a long time, and they are adapting nicely thus far to the varsity level, and they will certainly be in the mix to start and play big minutes. No one can take anything for granted on this team, which is a tremendous problem for a coach."

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL Head coach: Bill Dyer, 12th season. League: Detroit Catholic League (Central Division). Last year's record: 13-8. Notable losses to graduation: C.J. Baird, Gio Genrich. Leading returnees: A.J. Abdelnour, 5-9 Sr. G; Mike Harding, 6-5 Jr. F; Christian Girjis, Sr. C.D. Paice Lukowski & G. Le. E. 6-5 Sr. C; Davis Lukomski, 6-6 Jr. F.

Promising newcommers: Keegan Kohler, 5-9 Jr. G; Brendan Downs, 6-4 Jr. F. Dyer's outlook: "Our roster is full of a lot of juniors this season. Our kids really want to keep the ball rolling from last season and our kids definitely pull for each other. Some gained even more experience as our rotations changed after we had a few season ending initiate late to as merce the season and our kids definitely pull for each other. Some gained even more experience as our rotations changed after we had a few season ending injuries last year.

FRANKLIN ROAD CHRISTIAN

FRANKLIN ROAD CHRISTIAN Head coach: Roosevelt Barnes, first season. League: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division). Last year's record: 4-18. Motable losses to graduation: Maxwell Holleman, Joshua Beck. Leading returnees: Mackenzy Blackwell, 6-5 Soph. F; Joshua Lynn, 6-3 Jr. F; Jake Schinzing, 5-9 Jr. G; Christian Banks, 6-0 Sr. G. **Bromising newcomers:** Blake Goodman, 6-3 Fr. G-F; Jarred Tate, 6-2 Jr. G. **Barnes's outlook:** "We're young. We've got two seniors, but we're going to compete. We're going to be competitive. That's all I can promise. Don't know much about the league. We're young, lots of juniors and sophomores. The jury is still out. I'm getting to know what apabilities they have. I'm placing some new demands on them. It's all itle more demanding than they've experienced before, but they're responding well and I'm looking forward to a good season."

along with top scorer Rahmon Scruggs, who transferred to Southfield Christian.

Leading returnees include 6-5 sophomore Mackenzy Blackwell, 5-9 junior Jake Schinzing, 6-3 junior Joshua Lynn and 6-0 senior Christian Banks. They are joined by promising newcomers Jarred Tate, a junior, and Blake Goodman, a freshman

"The A.D. (Glynn Blackwell) and I are friends," said Barnes, who hasn't coached since the 2007-08 season.

V

"(Blackwell) asked me to come 11 years ago, but I turned him down because I got a daughter who is 20 and she was young. He and I were working together at Faith Christian Academy. He used to come into Borgess and play against my boys. We played a lot a together. We have a real good history and I'm familiar with Franklin Road and the mission there. He called me up and asked me, so I came out.'

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BOYS HOCKEY

Beaune's hat trick lifts Stevenson past Northville

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Stevenson's Jake Beaune continues to prove that football's loss is hockey's gain. The 6-foot-3 senior

defenseman is also proving to be an

offensive

force as he

notched a

the Spar-

tans' 6-3

victory

hat trick in



Beaune

Friday over host Northville at Novi Ice Arena.

Stevenson, ranked No. 1 in Division 2, played its fifth straight stateranked opponent to improve to 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLAA Gold Division.

"This team is great," Beaune said. "Everyone has bought into the process and all of us work hard at practice every day and we're pretty good right now."

Nobody could argue Beaune is looking pretty good himself after scoring his second, third and fourth goals of the season.

Beaune's father Tony, a 1985 Stevenson grad, was a standout defensive end at Wayne State and had a brief stint in the NFL when he was invited to the Philadelphia Eagles' training camp under coach Buddy Ryan.

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Jake played football through the sixth grade, but then quit to concentrate on hockey.

After a scoreless opening period, Beaune got Stevenson on the board at 5:19 of the second, with Vincent Decina and Brenden Preiss drawing assists, but Northville countered just 10 seconds later on Brendan Lovett's goal from Alex Garbacik.

Beaune then found himself doubled-over on the bench while getting attention from the trainer after stopping a Northville breakaway attempt.

"They had a good chance. I went and skated at it, dove at it and my hand hit me right in the stomach," he said. "I felt like I was going to throw up. I happened to throw up and come out on the next shift. Had a good shift."

After Josh Suzio added a goal at 9:26 of the second from Kyle Siroky and Steven Hunt to make it 2-1 for the Spartans, Beaune scored his second just 30 seconds later from the Decina cousins, Vincent and Julian, to make it a two-goal cushion heading into the third. "The second period, I thought we came out pretty strong," Beaune said. "Obviously, they scored a little bit, but we bumped right back and popped a couple more. We were looking pretty good in the second."

Northville (3-1, 1-1 KLAA Gold) made things interesting at 2:34 of the final period, when Owen Finkbeiner scored from Jack Sargent and Jimmy Dales to trim the deficit to 3-2.

But the Spartans responded with three straight goals to put it away, including Beaune's third of the night with just 34 seconds remaining to make it 6-2. Julian Decina and Cole Parkhurst drew assists.

It was Beaune's second hat trick in as many years. Not too bad for the rangy defenseman.

"Last year, I scored 12. I'm hoping to get a little more this year," Beaune said.

Here are four other takeaways:

SPEED KILLS

The Spartans also got a pair of third-period goals, by Parkhurst on a power play at 5:02 from Julian Decina, followed by another at 10:57 from Preiss and Julian Decina (his fourth assist of the game).

"We put an emphasis on playing fast and having some team speed," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "And I thought you saw it go down with the goal by Decina, Preiss and Parkhurst – they just went fast. And so we try and do some things quick up the ice. Today we showed it at times, but we'll definitely need more consistency with that. But it was good at times and good to see. We work on it quite a bit."

QUALITY WINS

Stevenson has now defeated four stateranked teams: uding Northville, No. 4 in Division 1; Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, No. 5 in Division 1; Birmingham Brother Rice, No. 4 in Division 2; and Livonia Churchill, No. 6 in Division 3.

"It was a good game and we knew Northville was on a roll," Mitchell said. "They're seniorheavy and well-coached. First period, it was kind of a back and forth, one of those feeling out processes. But it was good to come away with the win and we're happy about that."

The Spartans' lone loss this season is to defending Division 1 state champion and top-ranked Brighton, 3-2.

Brighton, 3-2. "It's a tough league (KLAA), it's a tough schedule," Mitchell said. "There's no nights off ... Northville, Novi, Hartland and Brighton. Our league is loaded and then our non-conference is loaded. Michigan high school hockey is really healthy right now and it's in a good place."

MUSTANGS CORALLED

The Mustangs scored their final goal with only 1.5 seconds remaining, when 6-7 senior defenseman Cole Smith ripped a shot just inside the blue line past Stevenson goaltender Will Tragge, who had 18 saves on the night.

Nick Bogenhagen and Lovett assisted on the Smith goal, but it was too little, too late for Northville.

"I felt maybe our guys came out – and I don't want to say respected Stevenson too much," Northville coach Clint Robert said. "You should respect a good program like that, but maybe weren't playing our game and we were on our heels a bit. The second period, I thought we had a good start, 1-1. We made a couple of mistakes at their blue line and on our blue line and, five or 10 seconds later, the puck is in our net. We can't do that. That really kind of gave them the momentum a little bit there."

HOUSE CLEANING

The Mustangs were outshot 38-21, including 17-10 during the final period while yielding three goals.

"We've got to clean up the turnovers at the blue line," Robert said. "We've got to make sure we're thinking defensively first. We can't have any fly-bys by their defenseman without the puck. We just got to think defense and clean up the turnovers."

Northville goalie Nate Williams was extremely busy during the final two periods. The junior, who played AAA last year for Belle Tire, finished with 32 saves.

"Obviously, Stevenson is well-coached," Robert said. "They've got a lot depth, a lot a speed and just keep coming at you in waves, good forecheck, get back hard in the defensive zone. They do a good job getting bodies in front of the net. They play the game the right way."

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U.S. goalie Drew DeRidder and defenseman Spencer Stastney react as the puck bounces into the net. At left for Michigan is Josh Norris of Oxford. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

HOCKEY

Following are several takeaways:

After Michigan built a 4-0 lead, the Teddy Bear Toss moment finalNew coach looks to help Blazers raise profile

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Coaching has always been in Tom Bushart's blood, as he has coached Catholic Youth Organization teams for nearly 30 years — primarily at St. Valentine's and Our Lady of Loretto in Redford Township.

But finally, after several seasons helping coach lower level girls they can run similar offenses," Bushart said. "Make it easier for the girls.

"Hopefully, it will be a progression for the following years that they're going to move up to varsity. They'll already have an idea of what we got going on and they can improve their skill set upon that."

Ladywood opened Tuesday at Macomb North and plays Friday, Dec. 8, at home against how I like to coach."

The one player he was referring to was senior forward and returning captain Abbey Reppen, who already was a varsity player when she was a freshman.

Joining Reppen in the starting lineup will be two other seniors that Bushart coached three years ago, point guard Kate Roney and guard/ forward Amy Babbon.

The other four players from Bushart's 2014-15

Continued from Page B1

proached it like any other game and got the win. It was huge."

The experience and environment also was special for Will Lockwood, a forward from Bloomfield Hills. He enjoyed an extra treat when he scored Michigan's sixth goal of the game, early in the third period.

"We had a good forecheck there and I was luckily right in front and it popped right out to me," Lockwood said.

Another former NTDP players to score for Michigan was forward Michael Pastujov, who tallied the night's last goal midway through the third.

Michigan never trailed, although the U.S. did score three unanswered goals in the middle period to get to within 4-3.

The U.S. had the territorial edge for most of the first five minutes, but could not capitalize. And then the Wolverines struck first, when Calderone flipped a shot over NTDP goalie Drew De-Ridder (Fenton).

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That hole deepened to 3-0 after one period, although Appert thought his team played better than the score indicated.

"I liked our first period and yet we were down 3-0," Appert said. "I thought we were good, we had tons of chances. (Hayden) Lavigne made some good saves and they had two goals that bounced in off us."

One of the playe

One of the players on Team USA, defenseman and Birmingham native Bode Wilde, talked about playing against the Wolverines — the team he will be a member of next season.

"It was pretty cool to play against some of these guys and get a taste of the kind of hockey I'll be playing next year," Wilde said.

TOASTING A TITLE

Before the game, Michigan and U.S. players gathered at center ice to receive gold medal rings for winning the 2017 IIHF Under-18 World Championship.

The recipients included three current Wolverines and former U.S. players: Quinn Hughes, Michael Pastujov and Norris. Oliver Wahlstrom and Joel Farabee of the U.S. also received their awards.

"I thought it was really neat tonight to see the world championship presentation at the front end," Appert said. "You have coaching staffs and players on Michigan and players on (the) U.S. coming together and I thought that was a neat moment and what this place is all about - developing great hockey players and putting them on to the next step, which is usually NCAA Division I and then the NHL."

BEARY NICE

Fans waited patiently for the home team to get on the scoreboard so that they could launch teddy bears out onto the ice. ly arrived when Wahlstrom snapped a high shot inside the left post with 13:08 remaining in the middle period.

FAN ZONE

The large crowd, one of the largest at USA Hockey Arena since it took over the building in 2015 from the Plymouth Whalers, was pretty evenly divided between maize and blue fans and U.S. faithful.

But just having a full building with plenty of buzz and energy was worth it, said Plymouth resident Scott Merryfield, a former Whalers season ticket holder who now has season tickets for USA Hockey.

"It's great to see a lot of fans here for once. We haven't seen fans like this for years, except for a couple international games," Merryfield said. "It's more excitement, the fans get into it more, so you get a little energy in the building and things like that. We used to have that with the Whalers when they were here."

Mike and Char Dunn and Jim Gagleard, all of Canton, liked the atmosphere in the building.

"I think Yost is better, but this is cool," Mike Dunn said. "And I thought it was going to very Michigan-centered. I thought there'd be a lot more Michigan fans. But when USA Hockey scored their last couple goals, the whole crowd's excited, it's cool."

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports basketball teams at Livonia Ladywood, he is in charge of a varsity program.

Bushart, a high school boys basketball and baseball player at Redford Union in the 1970s, is the Blazers' new varsity coach. He takes over from Sam Lamb.

Last week, the 12 players on varsity practiced together with Ladywood junior varsity players (coached by Emily Frikken) as the 2017-18 regular season draws near.

"Due to the lack of numbers for the JV, we're trying to intertwine the knowledge of our offense together so Regina on Blazer Mania day.

"We're inviting students from area Catholic League schools to attend," Bushart said. "Hopefully, it will be a nice crowd."

Bushart is no stranger to the current varsity players, having coached most of them at the freshman and junior varsity levels.

"The senior group were my freshman girls, all but one," Bushart said. "They know me and I know them, I've watched them improve each year. They are ready to run with it.

"I just got to keep on them to keep the confidence level up. That's freshman squad now on the varsity are Natalie Stevenson, Jessie Drennan, Anna Francone and Natasha Strzelewicz.

Ladywood's two remaining starters are 5-10 junior center Catherine Ambrose and sophomore guard Elle Reppen (Abbey's sister).

Also expected to contribute will be junior forward Cate Charron and junior guards Bridget Rogers and Emily Pawlik.

"She's hopefully our 3-point specialist," Bushart said about Pawlik. "She shoots the ball well."

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Livonia Ladywood varsity girls basketball players listen to new head coach Tom Bushart during a recent practice. TOM BEAUDOIN

BOYS BASKETBALL Hurley hoping to stop the coaching carousel at Franklin

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Stability is good for a high school boys basketball program and that's what T.J. Hurley expects to bring to Livonia Franklin.

Hurley, who grew up in Redford Township and was a standout three-sport athlete at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, becomes the Patriots' third head coach in three seasons. Last year's coach, Gjon Djokaj, left to take a coaching job

at Walled Lake



Northern. Last year, Franklin posted an 11-12 record. The Patriots reached the district final "Every year,

Hurley

they're being taught

new things, new offenses, new ways that coaches want them to play defense," Hurley said. "And it makes it so they never can get comfortable and adapt to a system. You have seniors who are third-year varsity players and this is their third time learning a new system.

But with a group of resilient athletes, including several who were part of Franklin's recent drive to the Division 2 football state championship game, Hurley doesn't anticipating a long-standing problem of players getting acclimated to new coaches and

systems. "I'd like to say it's going to be shorter than you think, because it's just how great these guys are," Hurley said. "They do get along with each other, they are trying to buy in.'

Hurley also is new to the Franklin scene, taking the head coaching spot after serving as an assistant coach at Dearborn Heights Crestwood (where he remains a teacher).

'I can't really comment on why someone would choose to go one place or another," Hurley said. "I just went from (being) an assistant at Crestwood, where I loved the kids I coached and was assisting a great dude, a great coach, in Mike Bright.

"And I even chose to leave what I thought was one of the best situations. Guys make decisions trying to do what's best for them, give themselves new challenges."

Grid to gym

Senior stalwarts include forwards Mark Mettie (6-9), Ryan Celmer and Jacob Mass (6-4), along with Matt Elrod, called the



One of Livonia Franklin's top senior returnees is Mark Mettie (left), shown battling Canton's Noah Brown last season. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

team's best defender.

Mettie "puts the ball on the floor phenomenally, he does a lot of things well. He's an offensive stud."

Mass and Elrod missed the first few practices because they were still playing football. Also back from football are senior Roger Carpenter and junior Cal Four-nier, both slated for the back court.

But the night Franklin lost to Warren De La Salle at Detroit's Ford Field, Elrod texted Hurley saying he was "ready to get started" with the basketball team.

According to Hurley, the success enjoyed by the football team could have a positive impact on what transpires on the floor.

"I think success in the football program carries over to just about every sport in the school," Hurley said. "Not only do those players bring that attitude and that natural culture to a program, but it gets the entire school spirit up to support things like volleyball, things like hockey.

"It gets every sport and all the fans in every sport more involved in the school. I think it always starts with football no matter where you are.'

Franklin also has some juniors who are accomplished varsity players, definitely capable of helping the Patriots string together some victories.

Those juniors include shooting guard Jack Cronyn, point guard Dalton Gaisor and guard Ryan

Hoyer, all key returnees.

Another player to watch is 5-8 guard Chase Krespi, a spark-plug who Hurley said plays bigger than his size.

Blueprint for success

Hurley stressed that he will use a very deep rotation, perhaps eight or nine players, because Franklin players will be called upon to leave it all out on the floor.

"If I had to define it (team style) in three words, it would be 'defend, rebound, run,'" he said. "If you do those three things in that order, you can find a lot of success against teams that are supposed to be better than you, teams that are more talented than

"In basketball, it's about who can bring that special effort every single day.

And in order for the Patriots to hang around at or near the top of the KLAA Gold Division standings, it will need to be offense by committee.

We want everyone feeling ready with the ball, confident on the catch," Hurley said. "Last year, they had a different kid who transferred out and Mark (Mettie), taking a large majority of their shots. We want to get it moving, get everyone involved on both ends."

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COLLEGE RECRUITING

Morgan Overaitis is joined by family members as they celebrate her signing with Michigan. Standing (from left) are her mom Michelle, her brother Tyler and her dad Craig. SALEM ATHLETICS

Long wait over for Salem's Overaitis

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

Morgan Overaitis officially is a Michigan Wolverine and breathing a sigh of relief.

The Salem High School senior recently took advantage of an early signing period and committed to U-M, where she will play NCAA Division I women's softball.

It has been a stressful few years for Overaitis, just a freshman when she made the verbal commitment to go to the University of Michigan.

"I am so relieved to officially be done with the recruiting process," said Overaitis, a power hitter who pitches and plays shortstop for the Rocks. "I am beyond thankful to officially be a Wolverine and to represent the block 'M' on my chest for the next four years.

"I have been waiting for this day since I first committed my freshman year.'

Family helped her celebrate. She was joined for the ceremony by her parents (Michelle and Craig), brother (Tyler) and grandmother.

Others on hand included Salem softball coach Bonnie Southerland, athletic director Brian Samulski and teammates Hailey Dechalk and Jordan Hazel.

"This signing has been a long time com-



Salem's Morgan Overaitis, shown during a 2017 game, recently signed to go to Michigan. FILE PHOTO

ing," Southerland said. "When the verbal commit-ment to U-M was announced when Morgan was a freshman, it was practically unheard of.

"The last three years, this player has had to live up to some very high expectations and has proven to anyone who has seen her play why Michi-gan softball was interested in Morgan."

Southerland said Overaitis "challenges herself daily, she demonstrates outstanding softball skills, has an impeccable work ethic and leadership qualities.'

Three years after verbally committing, Overaitis obviously has no regrets.

"I am 110 percent happy with my choice to go to U-M," Overaitis said. "I love the coaches, love the facility and I just feel at home when I'm there.

'I'm not sure where I will be playing when I get there. I will be happy to play wherever the team needs me."

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WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

ago at 112 and moves up a weight class.

"We have a lot of guys returning and the new guys that came in they're really good, they're hard workers," Kamali said. "Reminds me a lot of last year's team ... just working hard, having fun and really bonding together. The team state championship is the end goal and everything else just falls in place."

Davenport goes from 130 up to 145 after finished 43-3 overall.

"I just see a lot of guys with a lot of talent, a lot of talent and a lot of hard workers," Davenport said. "Like Ben said, it reminds me of lot of last year's team. We had a lot of really good guys and I think we have the same thing this year. I think we have the ability to do the exact same thing we did last year and beat everybody in the state by 10-15 plus points."

Amine was the 145 champ last season, finishing 45-3 overall. His brother Jordan, currently out with an injury, is a senior on the University of Michigan team, while his cousins Myles and Malik Amine, are also Wolverines.

"I work with all of them all the time. They've gotten me far and pushed me a lot," Cam Amine said. "I've been working

on the small things, find my weaknesses and get up to par where I can be the best guy in the world."

Also returning off last year's championship team are three other state placers: junior Rhett Newton (130-135), who finished 36-6 while taking third at 112; sophomore Derek Gilcher (135-140), who finished fourth with a 32-10 record at 119; and senior Devon Johnsen (112), who went 35-12 and placed seventh at 103.

Other state qualifiers returning include senior Stone Moscovic (125-130), junior Joe Urso (145-152) and Wagh (171), a senior.

And as an added bonus, CC's top newcomer is Orchard Lake St. Mary's transfer Josh Edmond (140), who finished with a 53-1 record en route to Division 2 runner-up honors last year at 135.

The Shamrocks, who opened their season Wednesday home in the school assembly match against Grandville, have a loaded schedule during the months of December and January.

After competing Dec. 9 in the Westland John Glenn Rockets Duals, Hancock will send a split squad Dec. 16 to both the Oakland County Tournament and the Mishawaka (Ind.) Penn Duals.

The Shamrocks will also wrestle Dec. 22 at home against Brighton and Perrysburg, Ohio, before heading Dec. 29-30 to Ohio for the highlytouted Brecksville In-

TEAM CAPSULES

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL Head coach: Mitch Hancock, 11th year. League: Catholic League (Central Division). Last year's finish: first, Catholic League; first, Division 1 district, regional and state harmions: 311.1 overall

Notable losses to graduation: Tyler Morland (state champion, 171), Nick Jenkins (state champion, 285), Jackson Ross (state qualifier, third place, 215), Dane Flynn (state qualifie

qualifier),
 Leading returnees: Ben Kamali, Sr., 119 (state champ at 112): Kevon Davenport, Jr., 145 (state champ at 130), Cameron Amine, Jr., 152-160 (state champ at 145); Devon Johnsen, Sr., 112 (state qualifier, seventh at 103); Rhett Newton, Jr., 130-135 (state qualifier, tind at 112); Derek Gilcher, Soph., 135-140 (state qualifier, fourth at 119); Stone Moscovic, Sr., 125-130 (state qualifier); Joe Urso, Jr., 145-152 (state qualifier); Aidan Wagh, Sr., 171 (state qualifier).
 Promising newcomers: Josh Edmond, Soph., 140 (Division 2 state runner-up, 135); Dom Lomazzo, Fr. 112-119, Cam Trupp, Fr. 125, Steve Kolcheff, Soph., 285
 Hancock's outlook: "We have a very deep and talented team coming back. We open the season ranked No. 10 in the country. Our ultimate goal is team state champions. We have an extremely tough, national-type schedule."

NORTHVILLE

DOTIFICIELE Head coach: Tyler Schneider, second year. League: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Gold Division). Last year's finish: fourth, KLAA Central (2-3); 18th, KLAA tourney. Notable losses to graduation: Conrad Landis. Leading returnees: Nicholas Gattoni, Soph., 140 (regional qualifier): Adam Lewis, Sr., 12; orant Gattoni, Soph., 103; Joseph Nagy, Sr., 135; Brandon Liu, Soph., 103. Termising newcomer: Demir Tagani Soph., 285. Schneider's outlook: "As tough as the league is, I definitely see us performing better than we have in the past couple of years. This is my third year with the program and the bruises in a new league with Brighton and Hartland, who are both powerhouses. Grand Blanc is no slouch, either, but we're definitely going against tough tearns. I think we're to the point now where we are competitive and just not there to be there. We'll have a wrestler at every weight this year and right now we have 36 on the roster. Two years ago, when I started with the program, we had 12 kids at the end of the year. Last year, we finished with 22. Starting this year with 36 is huge for us."

NOVI

Head coach: Joel Smith, fourth season. League: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Gold Division). Last year's finish: first, KLAA Central (5-0); 14th, KLAA tourney; 14-6 overall. Notable losses to graduation: Lincoln Cleary (regional qualifier), Corey Grassmyer

Leading returnees: Chase Sparling, Sr. (captain); Eric Wright, Sr. (captain). Promising newcomers: To be determined.

Smith's outlook: "I'm looking forward to working with this year's team. We are a young team with a lot of promise. The energy in the room is exciting as the team is hungry and working hard. They are a great group of young athletes. Every year its fun to watch them become better wrestlers and individuals through desire and dedication."

WHITE LAKE LAKELAND

Head coach: James Tippin, sixth year. League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's finish: fourth, KLAA North (2-3); 10th, KLAA tourney. Notable losses to graduation: Nolan Klapec (state qualifier; eighth at 125), ichaal Lache.

Leading returnees: Miles Hill, Sr., 112; Jake House, Jr., 119; David Thickstun, Jr., 160; Brian McGrath, Soph., 140; Ryan Allen, Sr., 285.

vitational.

"We made a few changes this year," said Hancock, whose team is ranked 10th nationally. In January, the CC Invitational is set Jan. 6, followed by a dual match Jan. 10 at home against Macomb Dakota, an elite

eight team last year. Then it's the CC Super Duals and Alumni Day on Saturday, Jan. 13, at home featuring two national powers from Ohio, St. Paris Graham and Lakewood St. Edward's.

son on Senior Night Fri-

Promising newcomers: Aiden Calma, Fr., 103; Alex Simpson, Jr., 171. Tippin's outlook: "We're optimistic, but we're also young and a little inexperienced. We have 25 on our roster, the best numbers in my six years. We've got a few holes in the lineup, but enough seasoned guys to close the gaps that we have. I think the new league will be a nice fit for us as far as a little bit better parity. As far as competition-wise, I think we're a little bit better fit. Going into the league championships as a whole, it's a little bit better fit for us. for us."

MILFORD

Head coach: Mario Flores, second year.

Head coach: Mario Flores, second year. League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's finish: sixth, KLAA Central (0-5); 20th, KLAA tourney; 8-13 overall. Notable losses to graduation: Marc Sclabassi (regional qualifier). Leading returnees: Kameron Carter, Jr., 215 (state qualifier); Kayla Wojcik, Jr., 103; Josh Schroader, Soph., 125; Keegan McNamara, Jr., 160; Ryan Kolb, Sr., 171; Sam Haddad, Sonh. 180.

Promising newcomers: Zach Hebert, Jr., 119; Zane Carriveau-Jones, Fr., 125; Victor Smith, F., 135, Kris Hauser, F., 285. Flores's outlook: " A team that was missing a little luster in recent years has been

righted. And as participation numbers and experience rise, so will Milford wrestling. Led my state qualifier and seventh-ranked, Kameron Carter, the Mavs' young group is working hard and learning quickly. This team returns 18 freshmen or sophomores with a solid group of juniors to add to the room. Ryan Kolb is one of two seniors who hopes to make a run deep into the postseason. We moved some things around in our schedule this year, so we can see some teams we will need to compete with down the stretch. I'm very excited about what our wrestlers will do this year."

SOUTH LYON EAST Head coach: Glenn Adkins, first year.

League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's finish: sixth, KLAA Central (0-5); 22nd, KLAA tourney; 6-18 overall. Notable losses to graduation: Tony Cavotta, Mourad, Tossounian, Zack Parent. Leading returnees: Drake Lockard, Sr., 17; A.J. Garcia, Soph., 119; Jack Bowyer, Sr., 89; Dominic Albanys, Jr., 152; Griffin Schaeffer, Jr., 215. 189: Dom

Promising newcomers: Matt Cepek, Fr., 160; Bronc Read, Fr., 135; Jason Smith, Fr.,

Adkins's outlook: "We have a few new faces on the team this year that will help fill the lineup. Lockard, Garcia, Bowyer, Albanys and Schaeffer are the returning wrestlers from last season. We have a young team with the upperclassmen taking pride in building their team." team.

SOUTH LYON

Head coach: Zach Makowski, first season

day, Jan. 19, at home in a

Once the state tourney

rematch of last year's

commences Feb. 7, CC

will be gunning for its

13th state title in school

history and sixth under

team finals.

Hancock.

League: Lakes Valley Conference. Last year's finish: fifth, KLAA Central (1-4); ninth, KLAA tourney; 11-15 overall. Notable losses to graduation: Stone Ruffin, Justin Fadler, Brendon Goins, Luke Evangelista, Dylan Thieleman, Dawson Moll, Brandon Buchler. Leading returnees: Zachary Schams, Soph.; Valentin Schnitzel, Sr.; Vladimir Schnitzel, Soph.; Kyle Rutterbush, Sr.; Jake Fadler, Soph. Promising newcomers: Walter Alexander, Soph.; Quentin Stefanelli, Soph.; Jake Werner, Sonh: Lakkson Stewart, Sonh: Max Monier, Eri Lancer, Consert, Ethon Schame, Frie

Werner, Soph.; Jackson Stewart, Soph.; Max Honiss, Fr.; James Crame, Fr.; Ryan Schamp, Fr.; Donavin Rogers, Fr.; Wyatt Richardson, Fr.; Nicholas Dang, Fr.; Spencer Filarski, Fr.; Owen

Season outlook: The Lions, who move into the new nine-school Lakes Valley Confer-ence, were hard hit by graduation losses off a team that placed ninth in the KLAA tourna-ment and fifth in the Central Division.

got to stay healthy and humble," he said. "It's a long, long wrestling season. I know with our guys' focus, we'll be right in the picture come February."

bemons@hometownlife.com Twitter: @BradEmons1

"We're excited. We just

CC will also face Davi-

Ocelots' NJCAA title bid comes up two goals short

Schoolcraft 'sparkplugs' Whitt, Spratte, Hunter key postseason march

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It went as far as it possibly could, yet Schoolcraft College's men's soccer team didn't want the 2017 season to end.

The Ocelots lost their only game of the season in the NJCAA Division I championship game — a 2-0 setback Nov. 18 to defending champion Tyler in Prescott Valley, Ariz.

"There's something in a soccer season when you get to play on the very last day," veteran Schoolcraft coach Rick Larson said. "It's special. We knew when our season was going to end, we just didn't know how it was going to end.

"The guys were amazing to each other, they were amazing for each other and the fact that our season was over either way was something they had to come to grips with. I've never coached a team that enjoyed being around each other so much and the way they fought all year and through different adversity was remarkable to see."

Among standouts on the team, which finished 18-1, were defenseman Jordan Whitt (Livonia), midfielder Alex Spratte (Plymouth) and forward David Tetaj (Farmington Hills).

"Jordan Whitt was fantastic all tournament



The Schoolcraft College men's soccer team won the MCCAA, NJCAA Region XII and district titles. At the Division I national tourney, the Ocelots won three straight before falling 2-0 in the finals to Tyler. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Schoolcraft's Alex Spratte, a Plymouth alum, controls the ball during the NJCAA Division I final. SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE ATHLETICS

long," Larson said. "He was fantastic all season, but he was really, really special."

Others with ties to metro Detroit were midfielder Aldi Mehmetaj (Farmington Hills), forward Michael Machila (West Bloomfield), defender Nyle Ellis (Westland), defenseman Eimil Hennes (Farmington Hills) and defender Dehane Gnonrou (Garden City).

Venezuelan goalkeeper Juan Gomez reeled off five shutouts in a row during the postseason, dating back to the NJCAA Region XII tournament in late October. "The game (against Tyler) was back and forth and we ended up having a few chances to score," Larson said. "They had a couple chances and they got an opportunity late in the second half, in the 75th minute, and they were able to stick it home.

"(Then) we pushed forward (looking for the equalizer). You're either going to get one or you're going to get scored on. That's the risk of pushing forward, but if you don't, you're never going to score."

Semi sweet

Schoolcraft reached the final with a comeback 4-2 win Nov. 17 against Pima in the semifinal.

Down 2-0, the Ocelots got a boost before halftime when forward August Hunter (St. Clair Shores) scored.

"We have impact guys that can come off the bench and do things," Larson said. "August Hunter went in and he was really determined to get one before halftime and he scored a great bicycle kick over his head, off a corner kick."

Coaches then gave pep talks during the intermission and they were rewarded.

Scoring the equalizer was Spratte, then Hakeem Sadler booted home a penalty kick goal. Tavan Barnes added an insurance goal.

Larson said the Ocelots were the first college team he's coached to reach the national final.

Now he will begin thinking about 2018 and finding recruits to replenish a roster that will lose a number of sophomores.

"Every year, I plan on losing 17," Larson said. "We got a bunch of guys moving on and it's just based on the nature of the junior college. Kids move, parents move ... if I over-recruit, then I end up in a really good spot. Schoolcraft men's soccer's got a lot of things going for it."

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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!

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