

# CANTON OBSERVER

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**LOCAL FIGURE SKATERS MOVING UP U.S. RANKINGS**  
SPORTS, B1

## Human trafficking, opioid case ends in prison

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Four defendants, including a 27-year-old Canton woman, have landed in prison after authorities busted a human trafficking and opioid drug ring that spanned two counties in southeast Michigan.

Authorities have said the investigation revealed how organizers of human trafficking schemes can prey on victims of opioid drug addiction to make money. The scheme unraveled after the FBI and Oakland County Gang and Violent Crimes Task Force acted on a tip of a drug and prostitution operation in Madison Heights.

Jasmin Christine McGinnis of Canton is facing one to 20 years in prison



Cooper



McGinnis



Niblett



Rushton

after she pleaded guilty to one count of human trafficking involving allegations she provided forced labor for commercial sex and one count of possession of 50 grams of cocaine with intent to deliver, Oakland County online court records show.

Other counts against McGinnis, including prostitution/accepting earnings, were dismissed during her sentencing Dec. 19 by Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy Potts.

Three other defendants were sen-

tenced the same day.

Melvin Dwight Niblett, a 38-year-old Southfield man who authorities portrayed as the ringleader, was sentenced to 6½-20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to three

counts of human trafficking involving threats of physical harm and one count of conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance, court records show. Several other charges were dismissed.

Corey Michael Cooper, 45, whose place of residence wasn't known, has been sentenced to 5½-20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance.

Niblett and Cooper could have faced life in prison if they had had been convicted of a wide range of other, now-

dismissed charges including conducting a criminal enterprise.

Maurice Rushton, 57, whose residence wasn't known, has been sentenced to 19 months to 10 years behind bars for his plea to one count of human trafficking involving injury or sexual assault, according to court records.

Charges against the four defendants were announced in mid-August by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office, culminating an investigation that lasted a year. Schuette issued a statement condemning human traffickers for holding victims "hostage in their dark world."

After the investigation began, authorities said they received information that Niblett was using rooms at an un-

See PRISON, Page A2

## Auto supplier Hella relocating HQ from Plymouth to Northville



Joined by Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix II (from left), executives attend a groundbreaking for Hella's new U.S. headquarters and technical center: Hella's Sven Hommel, vice president of purchasing; Steve Lietaert, president of Hella Corporate Center USA; Joerg Weisgerber, chief executive officer at Hella Electronics Corp.; and Nathan Crist, facilities manager; plus David Haboian, senior vice president of operations at the development company Redico. ROSH SILLARS

### Firm building new office in Northville Technology Park

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Automobile industry supplier Hella is relocating its North American headquarters to Northville Township, where it is also planning to expand its work force.

The German company, which develops, builds and markets lighting and

electronic components for auto manufacturers and suppliers, recently broke ground for a 115,000-square-foot office and technical center on Technology Drive, near Beck Road.

The build-to-suit project is in the Northville Technology Park, which is being developed by Southfield-based real estate company Redico. Hella, which will lease the site, would not disclose the financial investment in the

project.

Its neighbors in the industrial park will include auto suppliers CW Bearing, ZF North America Inc. and Aisin World Corp.

"We're happy to welcome yet another high-quality business to Northville," said township Supervisor Robert Nix II, who attended the groundbreaking. "These are real quality companies, first-rate companies."

See HELLA, Page A3

## Wrong-way driver not drinking in fatal crash

Blood testing shows 0.00 blood-alcohol content of driver at fault during I-275 accident

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A wrong-way driver involved in a head-on crash that killed two people in Canton hadn't been drinking alcohol at the time, police say, even though open alcohol was found in his vehicle.

"Having an open bottle of alcohol in the car doesn't necessarily mean he was drinking that day," Michigan State Police Lt. Mike Shaw said.

With possible charges pending, authorities are awaiting toxicology results to determine whether the driver may have been under the influence of drugs, Shaw said. The investigation is continuing.

The crash killed Nicholas Pare, 33, of Wayne and Shannon McIntyre, 32, of Woodhaven. They were engaged to marry and left behind three children, ages 7, 13 and 15.

Shaw said the wrong-way driver's blood alcohol level was 0.00 percent when the crash occurred about 10:40 a.m. Dec. 12 on Interstate 275, near Palmer Road, based on some results authorities have received.

Shaw said Dec. 28 it wasn't known when the investigation might be concluded. Possible charges will be up to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

After the crash, the victims' family set up a GoFundMe account to help cover funeral expenses and for the three children.

Police have declined to identify the suspect, who was injured in the crash, but media outlets reported that Wolverine Lake Village Councilman Michael Stack was involved.

Council President John Magee addressed the incident at a council meeting, saying local officials had received "credible information that Wolverine Lake resident and council member Mike Stack was involved in an accident on I-275 in Canton Township on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and was treated for injuries."

Authorities have only said that the driver was a 59-year-old man from Wolverine Lake who was taken to a local hospital.

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# Michigan drinkers: Here's your ch

**Elisha Anderson**  
 Detroit Free Press  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Ridiculous. Over the top. Practical yet goofy. That is how Matt Thompson describes his creation: an Adirondack chair in the shape of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, an attached Upper Peninsula-shaped cooler and a chute that delivers drinks between the two. Just goofy enough and practical enough to go viral.

Thompson posted a video of his woodworking project on Facebook and it has generated nearly 9.9 million views and nearly 200,000 shares in four months. He estimated about 40 million more views came from other places.

"I had a feeling that it was going to go viral," he said. "I thought it would go viral in Michigan. I didn't realize worldwide it would go crazy."

Thompson, 48, of Garden City spent more than 100 hours on the creation dubbed the "Michigan beer/pop chair." He said the inspiration came from a similar Labatt Blue chair, but he came up with his own mechanism for the creation.

Thompson, a woodworker for nearly three decades, used pine to tinker and perfect the chair, then built the final version out of cedar.

"It was a lot of fun to make it," he said. "And I thought people would be

entertained by it."

The comments on the Facebook post, many from across the globe written in other languages, show he was right.

"I need a chair like

this," John Lappin wrote.

"This one has Michigan written all over it!" Yvonne Wiegand posted.

Feedback, Thompson said, has been about 98 percent positive, but not everybody gets it, some

pointing out it would be easier to just use a cooler.

"The whole thing is ridiculous," he said. "It's meant to be funny."

He posted the video Aug. 24 and it quickly

circulated around the country. It's still getting watched around the world.

"It seems to explode in one area," Thompson said. "Then a few weeks later, it will explode in a different country."

Hundreds of people have expressed interest in buying a duplicate of the handcrafted piece, but he said it's not practical to sell them, pointing out he spent about \$400 to \$500 for the cedar wood alone.

Thompson, who works fire protection maintenance at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor and runs Thompson Woodworks in his spare time, has just made one so far.

But he plans to make two more this winter to be used as fundraisers,

one for Life Remodeled, a Detroit-based nonprofit that invests in neighborhoods, and a second for World Vision, to help raise money for clean water in communities in Africa.

Meanwhile, he's working on a new creation: a wine chair with pulleys and springs. He hasn't publicly revealed many of the details yet but offers some clues. There are moving parts, he hopes to have it done by spring and the theme is designing something complex to do something simple.

"The most important thing is something you wouldn't expect," he said. "And I can't give that away because if you see it coming it won't be that exciting."



Matt Thompson, creator of the Michigan beer/pop chair, poses with his handmade design.  
 RACHEL WOOLF | SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

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**PRISON**

Continued from Page A1

named Southfield hotel to conduct a drug and hu-

man trafficking operation. Officials say it involved dozens of people and led to a flurry of felony charges against Niblett and the other three defendants.

FBI Special Agent David P. Gelios has said drug and human trafficking continue to plague area communities. He has urged anyone who has information about

such crimes to contact authorities.

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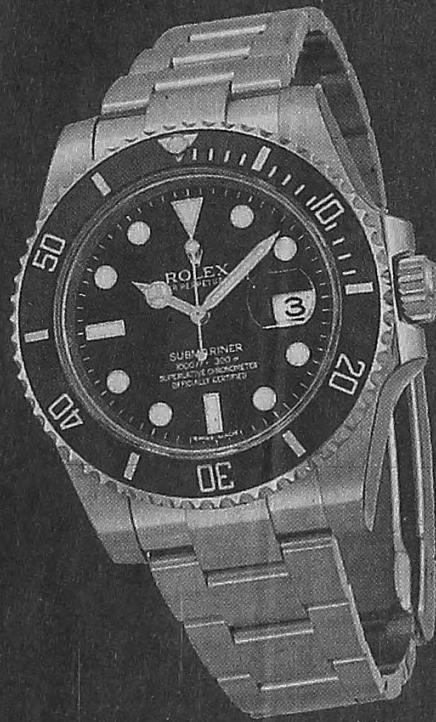
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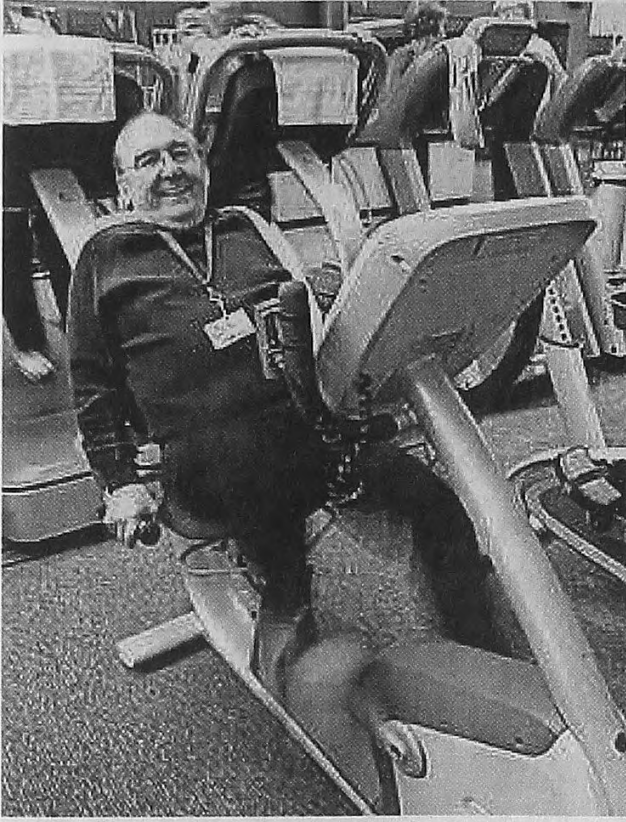
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# Three events worthy of checking out this weekend



The kickoff for the 100 Days to Health is Sunday morning at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center in Livonia. FILE PHOTO

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The lights are put away, the tree is out on the curb and the tinsel is ... in a box somewhere. Christmas is over, but there's plenty of fun to be had in the month of January.

Take a look at these three events taking place in the hometownlife.com area this weekend if you're looking to get out of the house.

### Bridal show in Novi

If that special someone popped the question over the holidays, it's definitely time to start planning that dream wedding. Luckily, there's a bridal show taking place the first weekend of the year in Novi.

The Novi Bridal Expo takes place from noon to

5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River. There, brides-to-be can check out the latest wedding trends when it comes to things like the dress, food, music and much more.

Come try food samples and talk to vendors. Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased at the door, though those who preregister are eligible to win prizes in a special drawing to take place over the weekend.

For more information on the show, go to [novibridalexpo.com](http://novibridalexpo.com).

### Hundred Days to Health in Livonia

Did you eat too many Christmas cookies this holiday season? (We sure did). Then pop in at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center in Livonia this weekend to

move forward on those fitness goals for 2018.

The center's annual 100 Days to Health event kicks off at 9 a.m. Sunday at the rec center, 15100 Hubbard, and will feature keynote speakers, refreshments and activities at the center. The several-months event will feature a wide-range of classes on topics such as fitness, healthy eating and more.

A weight loss challenge over the 100 days will take place, with prizes being awarded. A total of 578 pounds were lost by participants last year, with the top finisher losing 67 pounds.

More information on the program can be found at [livoniaparks.org](http://livoniaparks.org).

### Learn about chocolate in Bloomfield Hills

To completely negate

the previous event listing, let's take a trip to Bloomfield Hills to learn more about everybody's favorite delicacy: chocolate.

This weekend is the final weekend for a special exhibit on chocolate at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward. Learn about the ways chocolate began, as a spicy drink in the rain forests consumed by the Mayans, all the way to how it's become a \$13 billion commodity across the globe.

The exhibit runs through Sunday at the center and is a separate admission charge from the rest of the museum. For more information, go to [science.cranbrook.edu](http://science.cranbrook.edu).

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## HELLA

Continued from Page A1

Hella, which has about 38,000 employees in 35 countries, plans to move its current U.S. headquarters from a leased site in Plymouth Township to the new complex once the latter is completed in early 2019, statements from the company said. Hella will also be moving its work force from two smaller existing offices.

Employment is expected to grow from about 350 to 400 over the next two years, a Hella press release stated.

Steve Lietaert, president of the Hella Corporate Center USA, the current headquarters,

said the company will be adding employees in all capacities, especially in design, development, engineering and technology. The focus at the new site, the company said, will be on product development and on corporate functions such as purchasing, sales, information management and finance.

"With the new location, we will create an important foundation for further pursuing our growth path in the North American market," Lietaert said. "We will have more space for required additional resources while also being able to further optimize the work environment for our employees."

The new building will include flexible, open

office space with modern equipment, project and meeting areas, a lounge, a cafeteria and an employee fitness center. Lietaert said that even though the project has been started, building plans haven't been finalized and the headquarters could be more than 115,000 square feet.

In addition to its automotive segment, Hella has automotive after-market and special applications segments. The latter serves a variety of markets, including construction equipment makers, boat builders, municipalities and energy suppliers.

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An artist's rendering of the main entrance at the Hella headquarters under construction on Technology Drive in Northville Township. HELLA GMBH & CO.

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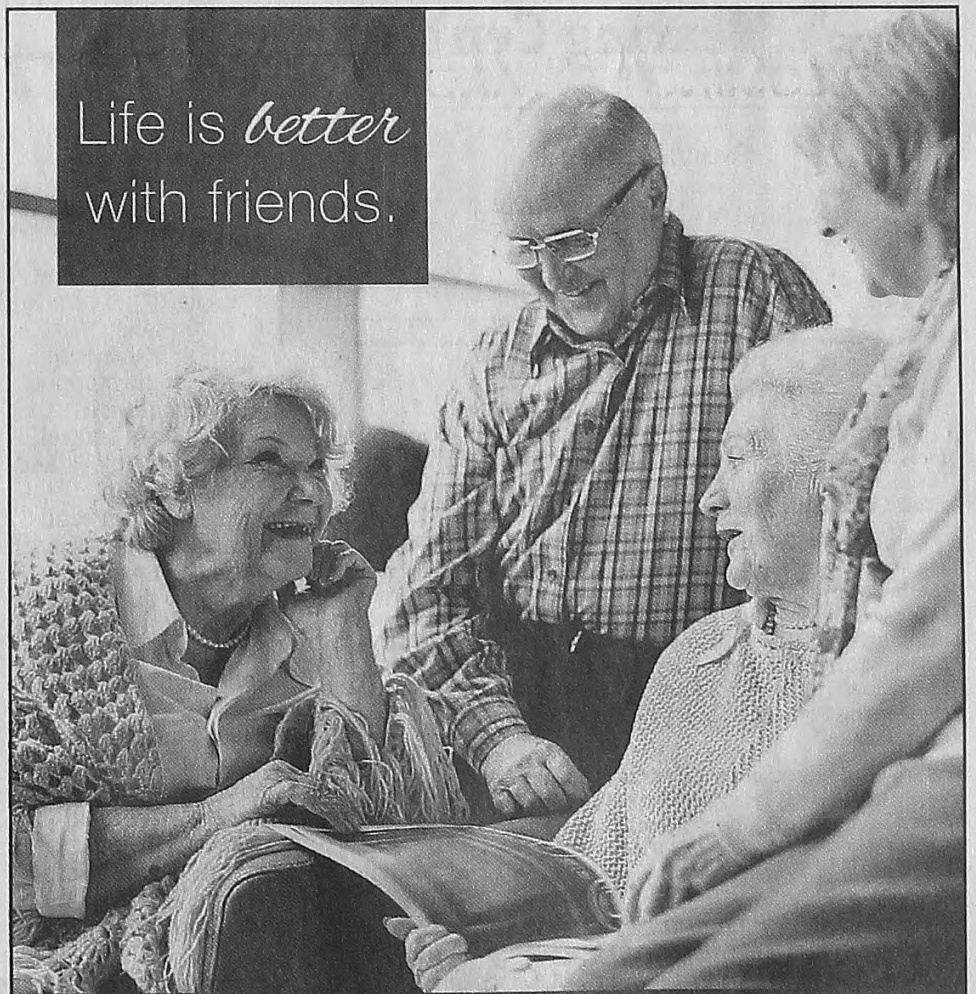
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# Sweepstakes discovery reveals dad's dementia

The man on the other end of the line told dad that he was a government official and wanted to release dad's sweepstakes winnings. He just needed dad to send him \$2,000 to pay a fee.

I listened over dad's shoulder for a couple of minutes. The man was agitated that dad did not show up at the drug store as instructed with the money. Time was running out and, if dad wanted his winnings, he needed to act fast.

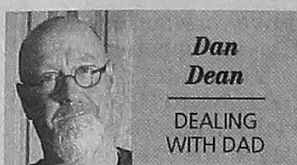
I could not stand it any longer. I took the phone from my dad and asked the scammer how he slept at night, preying on the elderly. How he lived with himself preying on hardworking individuals who have saved their entire lives building a nest egg, only to have scum like him try to steal it.

My chance to talk directly to a scammer came as my mom had called me, concerned that dad was going to go meet a man in person at the local drug store to give him money.

I saw this as my chance. It was fall 2015 and we were about to learn that dad's short-term memory loss was far more than a result of normal aging. I drove quickly to the parking lot where the scammer was to meet dad. Armed with my camera I was ready — but, of course, he never arrived.

### Talking to a scammer

I went back to my parent's house, where I



**Dan Dean**  
DEALING WITH DAD

had instructed dad to stay. As I arrived, the phone rang.

As I unleashed my furry over the phone, he played it cool. And for a short time, had me going as well — he was good, there is no doubting that — but I finally came back to my senses. And this time, Mr. Cool scammer lost his cool. With threats of "I know where you live and I will come over and kick your ass" I smiled, because I knew he realized he had failed, again.

Looking back, it was dad's interest in sweepstakes mailings that became the first clue he was dealing with something beyond normal aging memory loss.

Dad loved to invest. I think it was an extension of his engineer-trained mind. He probably could not stand the thought of interest working against him, so he always had it working for him. When he retired, investing became his main hobby. He was shrewd when dealing with finances and very protective of every dime.

It made our discovery of the sweepstakes mailings that much more eye opening — and sad.

It was not long after the phone incident that I remember going downstairs at my parents' home and finding a stack of sweepstakes mailings on dad's desk. Envelopes screaming "Rush, Rush,



Dan Dean with his dad, looking through old sweepstakes mailings. KEITH FAMIE

Rush" with wording like "immediate action required," "do not destroy," "certified & recorded" — all meant to separate dad from his money — were piled high.

If that was not maddening enough, dad had written notes asking for clarification on delivery of "his" money addressed to the sweepstakes companies. I also found a dozen or so \$20 checks my dad had written, ready to mail.

When I confronted dad about the checks, he responded that they were not sweepstakes, but his investments. That was the "Oh, boy" moment.

Technically, I guess most of these sweepstakes mailings are legal. But they certainly should not be. It was no coincidence that, as dad responded by mail, scammers then started to pounce by phone.

Dad had a couple of angels looking out for him before we fully realized just how bad it had gotten. The scammers were constantly calling him, trying to get him to send them money.

There was the drug store clerk who stopped dad from mailing a Green Dot card, as well as a post office clerk and her manager who stopped dad from sending a large check through the mail. When a scammer told my dad he was going to deliver his new Mercedes to the house, the local police also stepped in.

These ruthless individuals harassed my parents constantly and dad was a willing, unknowing participant, as every time he answered the phone, he thought he was dealing with legiti-



Sweepstakes mailings from late 2015 that help reveal that Dan Dean's dad was dealing with more than normal aging memory loss. DAN DEAN

mate companies.

### Never stops

We switched my parents' phone number, paid to have it unlisted and the calls would stop, but only temporarily. We then started forwarding all his mail to a P.O. box so we could monitor it. But if one or two slipped through, the phone calls would start again.

Sadly, despite our efforts, the scammers finally hit pay dirt this past October. Once again, it appeared an angel looking out for dad had stopped an attempt to withdraw money from his bank account. They called his bank armed with dad's account number and Social Security number, but the alert

teller suspected something was not right.

Investigators from state of Michigan and local police were notified and it appeared the attempts were thwarted, but in the end we discovered a large sum had been removed from his account.

Today, amazingly, when asked, dad recognizes that it was all a scam. But we move on to other areas of concern as the care for loved ones with dementia is constantly changing.

I appreciate all those who have shared their stories in dealing with dementia.

One thing is certain: my outlook on his disease has evolved from a lot of frustration to one of compassion. Thank you

to all who have reached out since my first column to help me better understand.

My oldest sister, who recently retired, has taken dad to doctor and dentist appointments and given mom breaks three to four days a week by taking dad home with her. My other sister pays their bills and, for the most part, we are managing care for our parents far better than even a couple of months ago.

Next up: Local filmmaker Keith Famie is on the front lines of dementia and Alzheimer's.

Dan Dean is managing editor of hometownlife.com and writes occasionally about dealing with dad and dementia.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting**

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The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

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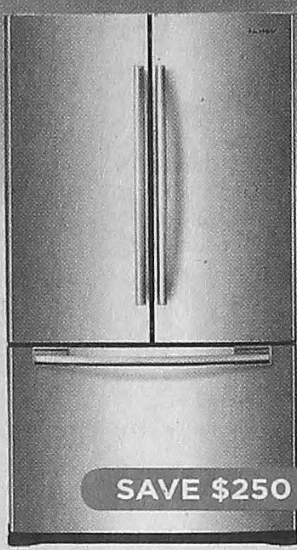


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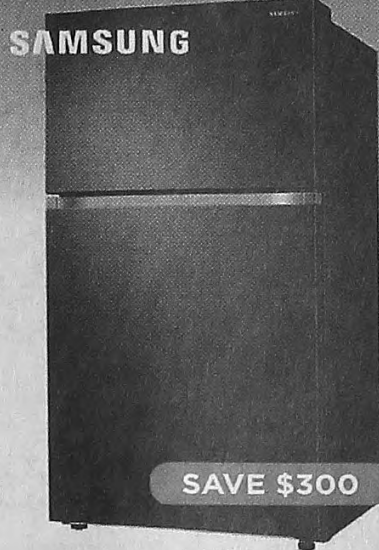
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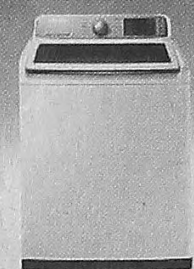
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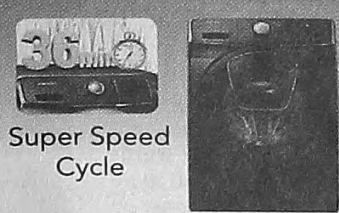
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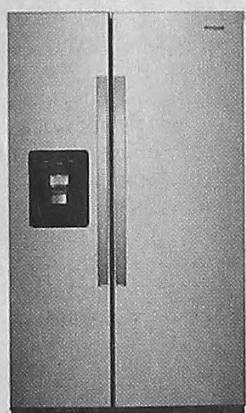
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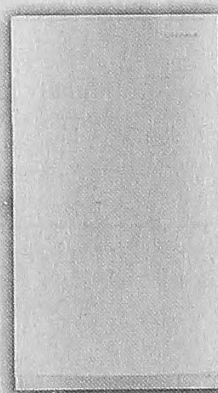
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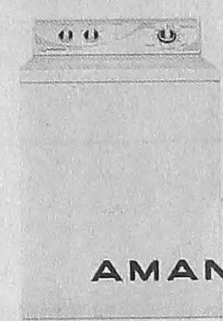
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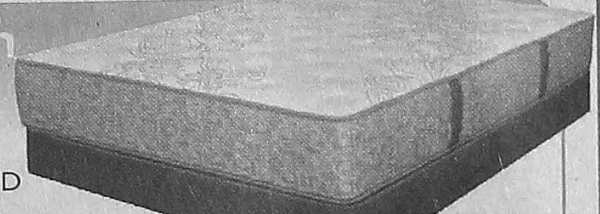


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# After 40 years, he still pursues his calling as music teacher

**LeAnne Rogers**

Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When he was 14, Wayne Mrdjenovich remembers his parents asking him what he wanted to do in life.

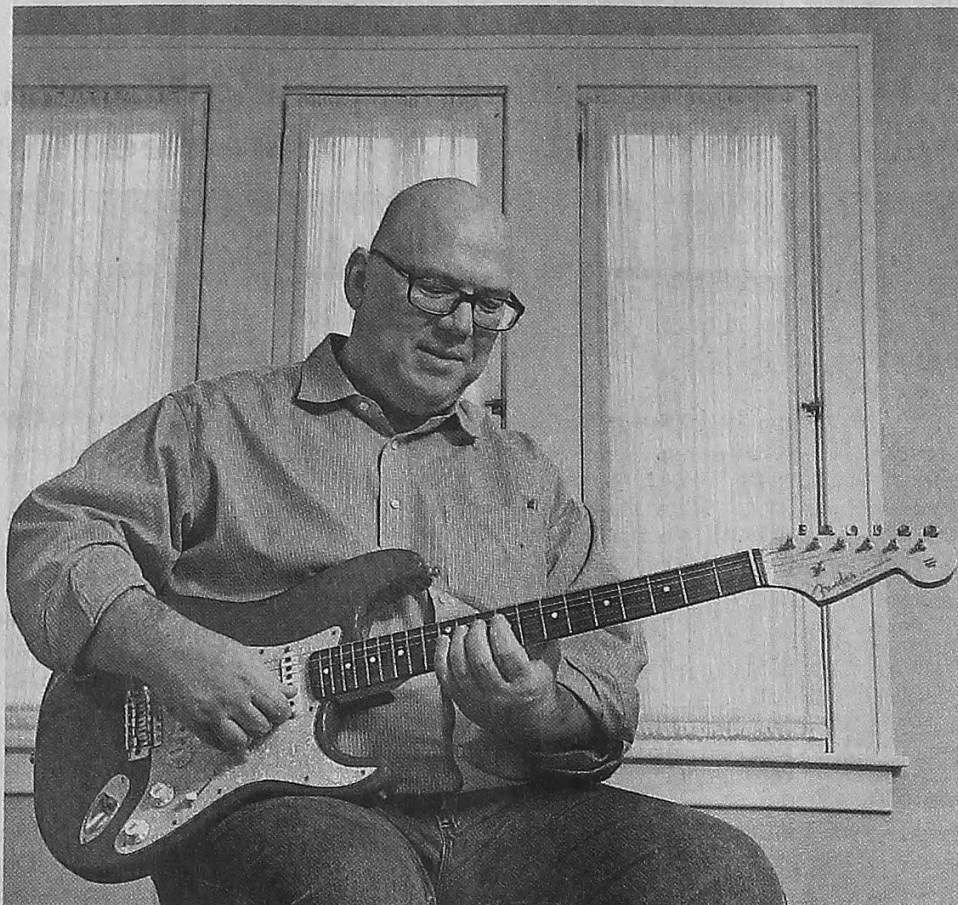
"I said I wanted to be a full-time musician. Mom and Dad said, 'What do you really want to do?' They wanted me to be a lawyer or a doctor or an engineer - to have a solid career," he recalled. "Since I was 3 years old I knew I loved music."

After studying business for a time, Mrdjenovich said he sought out to get the best music education in Michigan, studying with some excellent teachers and independently.

Early in the 1990s, Mrdjenovich, 53, made the decision to teach music full-time, giving private lessons. Over the years, he moved out of stores or storefronts to providing lessons at students' homes.

"My first piano teacher was an austere woman who scared the pants off me. I make it fun - I'm here for the students, not the other way around," said Mrdjenovich, a South Lyon resident.

During 20 years living in West Bloomfield, he said the in-home lessons were particularly popular with executive fam-



Wayne Mrdjenovich, guitar teacher and author. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Wayne Mrdjenovich's Fender guitar and his four books. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ilies with busy schedules and children involved in a lot of activities.

"There aren't a whole lot of teachers who go to the students. I take a proactive approach to building relationships," Mrdjenovich said. "I have students I taught 10 or 20 years ago who still keep in touch."

With students ranging in age from 6 to 86 years old, he said most tend to be teenagers. Mrdjenovich said he could have gone into a more finan-

cially rewarding career.

"It's my life's calling. My needs are met - sometimes with a check at the end of the month," he said. "There is nothing greater than when the light goes on for a student learning a song that they love."

Owner of the Music Studio and Conduire Music Publishing, Mrdjenovich has written three music instruction books since 2014. All of them are over 200 pages, which he notes is four or

five times the length of most similar books.

"I believe it is really important to make well-rounded musicians - the what, when, how and why," Mrdjenovich said. "It's like if you really teach someone to fish, they have fish for a lifetime. My father impressed upon me, if you are going to do it, do it well and with integrity."

Although he plays piano and drums, Mrdjenovich's primary instrument is guitar -

something he fell in love with 40 years ago. Over the years, he said he has played amateur and semi-professional bands.

After working for almost 20 years as a full-time music instructor, Mrdenovich decided to expand his teaching efforts to reach a wider audience by starting Conduire Music Publishing in 2010. "Conduire means 'to lead' in French.

Along with private lessons, Mrdjenovich offers music theory workshops for songwriters and has been looking into studio space around the South Lyon area. He can be reached at 248-366-8742.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com  
734-883-9039  
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# Soccer club helps Angela Hospice pediatric patients

More than 600 people headed out in the cold Dec. 16 for the Michigan Wolves-Hawks soccer club's Freezing Fun Charity Run at Schoolcraft's St. Joe's Sports Dome. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and sponsors, the Wolves-Hawks raised more than \$12,500 for Angela Hospice's My Nest is Best Pediatric Program, a special program for children living with a terminal illness.

"This event was whimsical and wonderful. But the most wonderful part was young people and their families who reached out with compassion and support to peers - other children and their families - going through the most challenging days of their lives," said Bob Alexander, director of development for Angela Hospice. "It was touching and remarkable to see that kind of heart and kindness so fully expressed toward children in our pediatric hospice program."

"My big thing was, let's keep it local," said Molly Midgley, a Wolverine Lake resident and parent volunteer who became involved with the Hawks when her daughter started playing five years ago. Now Midgley helps with the club's charitable outreach efforts.



Members of the Michigan Hawks '03 academy team were among those who participated in the Freezing Fun Charity Run back, from left: Maya Schueller of Northville, Maya Goudeseune of Wolverine Lake, Jaden Frigerio of Commerce, coach Doug "Santa" Landefeld, Brookelyn Steere of Dexter and Ella Young of White Lake and (front, from left) Macaira Midgley of Wolverine Lake, Claire Llewellyn of Lake Orion, Samantha Woods of Saline and Aiden McConnell of Dexter.

Midgley and Wolves-Hawks coaching director Doug Landefeld worked with partners from Schoolcraft College's Fitness Center, where the Wolves and Hawks practice, to plan the 5K and chose Angela Hospice to benefit from the event.

"We wanted to donate 100 percent of the money," Midgley said. "As we got going and we asked

all these companies to donate, every one of them, every single one, said, 'Oh, that's so great you're giving it to Angela Hospice. They are such a great organization.' It was amazing."

Trader Joe's in Northville donated all the food for the event and Casey Cook of Running Fit helped organized the 5K, which saw more than 300

runners participate. Schoolcraft Fitness Center was another of the top sponsors for the event.

"They were instrumental," Landefeld said. "Everybody helped to make it happen."

This isn't the first time the Wolves-Hawks club has shown charity to the community. Two years ago, it held a canned food drive for



The Freezing Fun Charity Run raised more than \$12,500 for Angela Hospice. From left are Megan Monthei of Schoolcraft College Fitness Center, Michigan Wolves-Hawks coaching director Doug Landefeld, Bob Alexander of Angela Hospice and Wolves-Hawks volunteer Molly Midgley.

Hospitality House. "We collected over 10,000 pounds of food," Midgley said. "It was great. We fed 500 families for a month. We started doing an outreach so the kids can give back, because these kids all have so much."

Midgley said that's why the group chose Angela Hospice's My Nest is Best Pediatric Program: So the Wolves-

Hawks would be helping other kids who were less fortunate.

The Livonia-based Michigan Wolves-Hawks soccer club is an elite club for players under age 18. For more information, go to [www.michiganwolveshawks.com](http://www.michiganwolveshawks.com). For more on Angela Hospice and the My Nest is Best Pediatric Program, go to AskForAngela.com.

## AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to [LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com](mailto:LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com). Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

### Veterans dinner

The V.F.W. Post No. 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, in Plymouth will host a welcome home dinner for all veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their family members 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7. Membership sign-up for the V.F.W. will be available, as well as hats and pins for sale, music from D.J. Koz, a 50/50 drawing, a tin can basket raffle and door prizes.

All Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, plus one guest, will be admitted free. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children at the door. All proceeds will go to V.F.W. Post 6695. For more information, call (989) 313-5407 or email [strawjazz@yahoo.com](mailto:strawjazz@yahoo.com).

### 11th District Debate

The Michigan Conservative Coalition and Lakes Area Tea Party will host a debate for Republican candidates to succeed Rep. David Trott, R-Birmingham, and to represent Michigan's 11th Congressional District at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Emagine Theatre, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road, Novi (Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk).

"This forum will be the first opportunity for voters to compare the candidates running for the open 11th District Congressional seat," event coordinator Maria Sheridan said. "Clearly we are excited to work with Lakes Area Tea Party to host such an important event for both the candidates and the voters."

For more information, contact Sheridan at 248-225-1846 or email [info@michiganconservativecoalition.com](mailto:info@michiganconservativecoalition.com). Event details on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/222510174539264/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/222510174539264/)

### Socks and underwear drive

Donations of new socks and underwear for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district clothing bank are needed and will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Day, at the Friends Board Room of the Plymouth District Library. All types and sizes of new socks and underwear for males and females of all ages are appropriate.

Volunteers from the Plymouth Democratic Club will be on hand to sort and transport all donations to PCCS. If you are unable to drop off Jan. 15, a collection box will be located in the lobby of the Plymouth District Library the entire month of January.

### PARC community forum

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex will hold a community forum at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., in Plymouth. PARC will update the community on its future plans to preserve and re-purpose the historic former Plymouth High/Central Middle School into an arts and recreation center and add a new Performing Arts Center as well as respond to questions.

Everyone is invited to witness the progress made since its inception and share in the vision for the future. Preliminary designs, site plans and renderings of the facilities will be on display and available for public review.

PARC is a 501(c)3 public charity. For more information, contact Don Soenen at 734-516-4053 or [dsoenen@gmail.com](mailto:dsoenen@gmail.com).

### 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. Sheldon 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.

### 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.detroitbluesociety.org](http://www.detroitbluesociety.org)). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 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 Road, Plymouth. For

more information, call 734-453-1780, go to [www.plyaa325.com](http://www.plyaa325.com) or email [jazzattheelks@gmail.com](mailto:jazzattheelks@gmail.com).

### AARP TaxAide looking for volunteers

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

February through April. AARP is looking for new volunteers to become tax counselors. You should know how to use a computer and the internet, and be experienced with income tax preparation.

Training will be provided to learn the tax software and tax law, to prepare you for certification. Training classes in mid-January are being scheduled now. Volun-

teers are expected to be active about one day per week during the tax season.

You can apply by completing an application online at [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call 888-227-7669.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers  
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

### TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Halliday, June K.	90	Williamsburg	28-Dec	Reynold Jonkhoff Funeral & Cremation Services

\* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/HometownLife](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/HometownLife)



June K. Halliday

**WILLIAMSBURG** - December 28, 2017. Age 90. Beloved wife of the late William Halliday. Loving mother of daughter, Sherry L. Granader; son, David (Karen) Halliday; grandson Christopher (Renee) Halliday; great granddaughters, Emery and Evelyn. A memorial service will be held at Franklin Community Church in Franklin, MI, on January 5, 2018 at 11 am. Please share memories with the family by way of her "On-Line Guestbook" [Reynolds-Jonkhoff.com](http://Reynolds-Jonkhoff.com).

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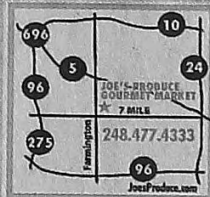
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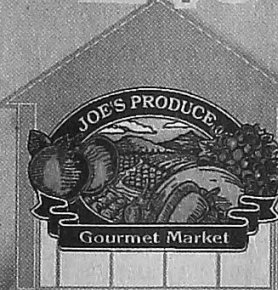
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<p><b>USDA Choice Beef</b> <b>USDA Premium Choice Angus Flank Steak</b> \$9.99 lb. <small>save \$1.00</small></p>	<p><b>Fresh Homemade Italian Chicken Cutlets</b> \$2.99 lb. <small>save \$3.00</small></p>	<p><b>Fresh All Natural Boneless Pork Chops</b> \$2.99 lb. <small>save \$1.50</small></p>
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<p><b>Rice Select Rices</b> \$5.99 ea.</p>	<p><b>Kind Granola</b> \$4.99 ea.</p>	<p><b>Pacific Soups &amp; Bisques</b> 2/\$7</p>

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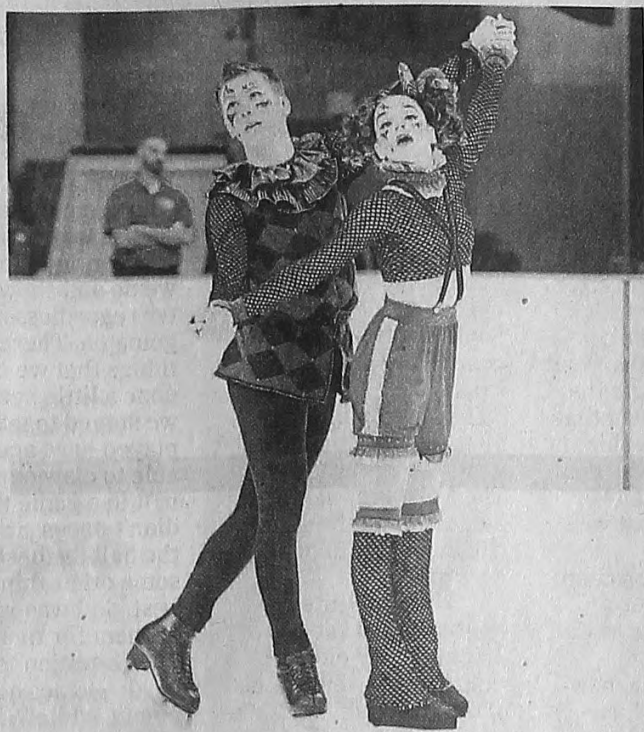
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The Junior Pairs team of Jacob Nussle (left) and Cora DeWyre have been together for 30 months.  
ROBIN DEWYRE



## FIGURE SKATING

## Pairs team DeWyre-Nussle climbing up the ranks

2018 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships this week in San Jose

Brad Emons

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Local skaters Cora DeWyre and Jacob Nussle have made their way to San Jose.

DeWyre, a 15-year-old freshman at South Lyon East High School, and her partner, the 22-year-old Nussle of Fenton, were scheduled to compete on Monday starting with their short program in Junior Pairs at the 2018 Prudential U.S.

Figure Skating Championships held at Solar4America Ice in San Jose.

They are among 13 Junior Pairs teams competing for the title, which culminated with the free skate program on Wednesday.

DeWyre and Nussle are coming off a fifth-place showing at the Midwestern Sectional Championships, Nov. 15-18, at the Bloomington (Minn.) Ice Garden.

The team, which has only

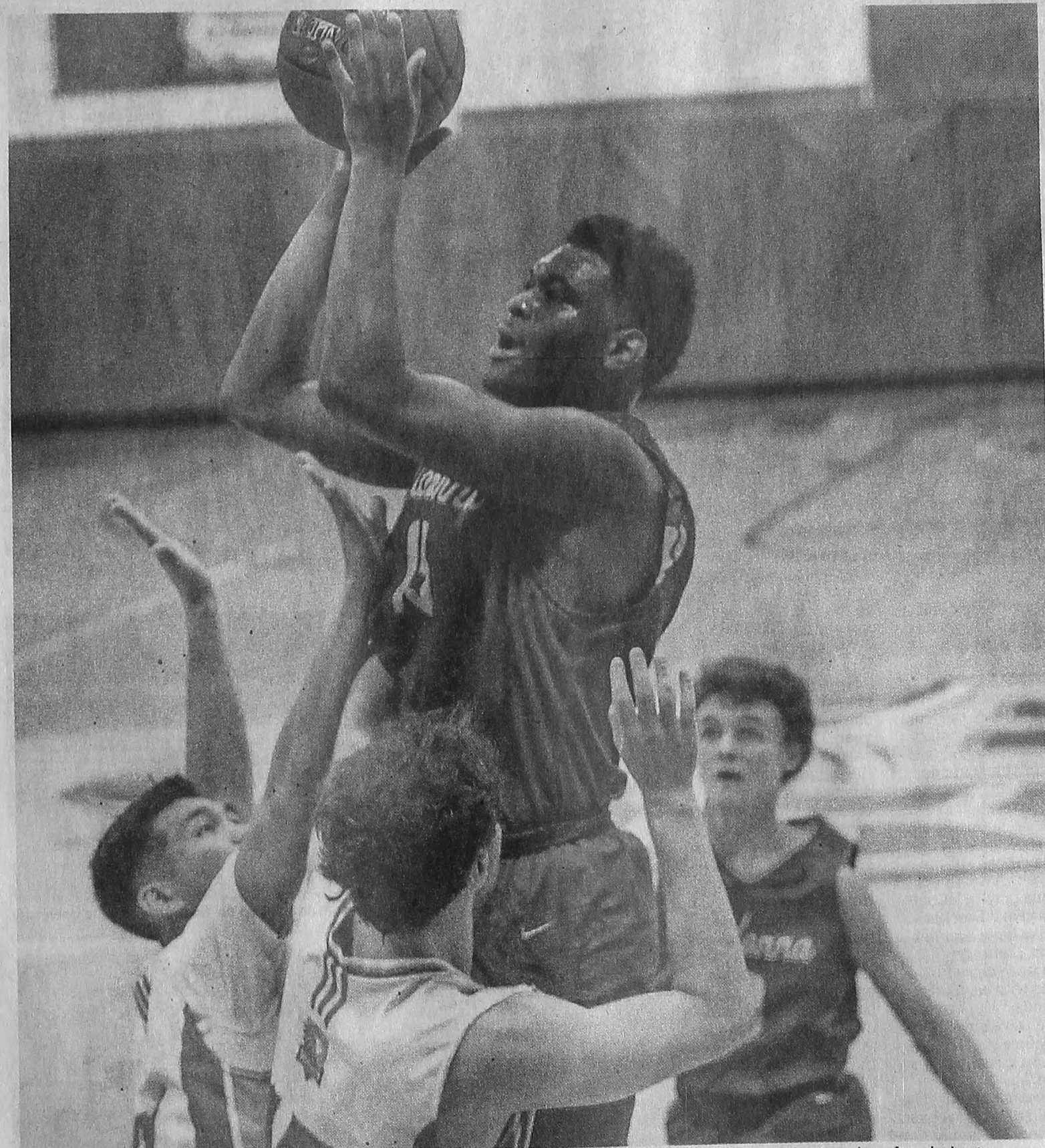
been together for 30 months, placed eighth a year ago in the Novice Pairs at the U.S. Nationals in Kansas City, Mo.

"It's definitely been a grueling year," Nussle said. "We're still learning new tricks, still putting new stuff out there. It's been put into practice every day. We're still definitely in the daily grind. We've turning up the intensity in our practices as we get closer to competi-

See PAIRS, Page B3

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Coaches finds basketball talent in own back yard



Eyeing the rim during a recent game is Madonna University forward Davon Taylor. The Canton alum came over to the Crusaders after playing two seasons at Schoolcraft College. KELLY CIESLAK

### Transfers helping with team's turnaround

Michael Rosenbaum

Special to Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After finishing 12-18 last season, Madonna University's men's basketball coaches didn't have to look far to find a fresh pool of talent.

Three Plymouth/Canton-area standouts transferred to the Livonia-based school this season and have played key roles in the team's turnaround, helping the Crusaders begin the season 9-5. Additionally, a pair of Livonia Stevenson recruits hope to help Madonna

maintain that improvement in future seasons.

The five newcomers join Salem grad Chris Dierker, a third-year starting senior forward who recently became Madonna's all-time leading rebounder, with 786 boards (all statistics are current through 14 games of this season).

Dierker, a three-time All-KLAA standout and an All-State selection as a Salem senior, has started all 14 games this year, averaging 11.9 points and a team-leading 6.5 re-



Going to the rack for Madonna University is Jon Swift, a Salem grad. KELLY CIESLAK

See MADONNA, Page B2

## BOYS BASKETBALL

## New Harrison boys cage coach aims to keep 'pedal to the metal'

Michael Rosenbaum

Special to Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Harrison's basketball team may have started the season 0-3, but if first-year coach Jarrell Hogan has anything to say about it, the Hawks will soon be in high gear — literally.



Hogan

Hogan, an assistant to Stefon Wilson last season, says that no matter the team's personnel, any squad he coaches will always "be defensive-minded first. So we're going to pressure the team from the jump. We have a very athletic team here at Harrison this year, so we're going to use that to our (advantage) and we're just going to keep the pressure on every team. Our offense is going to be up-tempo, continuous motion. Our goal is to just wear everyone down and just be more conditioned."

Despite having a new head coach this season, Hogan stresses that it's not a transition year.

Having coached and played with Wilson in the past, Hogan says the two coaches' styles are complementary. As a result, Hogan building on top of Wilson's foundation, rather than tearing it down.

"I just put a little cherry on the top of (Wilson's framework) and took it up another notch," Hogan explains.

Hogan first came to Harrison last season. Previously, he played high school basketball at Cass Tech and Murray Wright in Detroit, before moving on to Division II St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va., where he lettered in football as well as basketball.

Hogan went on to play basketball at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario — that's where he teamed with Wilson — and made his coaching debut at a Sault Ste. Marie middle school.

Hogan returned to Michigan, where he coached some local AAU teams, as well as coaching elite fourth-through 12th-grade talent at Joe Dumars Fieldhouse in recent years, before joining Harrison last season.

Hogan lists River Rouge head coach Mark White, a two-time state champion, as a key coaching influence and mentor. And, despite being a similar age, Hogan also mentions Wilson as someone he looks up to.

"He's a young coach well beyond his years. ... A lot of

See HOGAN, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Northville's 12 triples sink South Lyon in tourney final

Mark Grimes leads way with 19 points in 60-55 triumph against Lions

**Brad Emons**

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After getting limited playing time and minutes during his junior year, Northville's Mark Grimes is already making the most of his senior season just eight games in.

The 6-foot-4 senior guard scored a game-high 19 points as the 6-2 Mustangs connected on 12 three-pointers Thursday night en route to its fourth straight Northville Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament title with a 60-55 win over South Lyon.

"I think that was our best game of the year from the three-point line, for sure," said Grimes, who connected on four triples himself. "We were just looking to come off the down screens, swing the ball against the zone

... that was the main thing. I think the big thing is when they went to zone (defense), swinging it from arc to arc was the big thing, and wing to wing."

Grimes was coming off a 17-point effort in a lopsided 82-31 semifinal win the previous night over Lincoln Park. He also scored a career-high 25 in a 61-45 KLA Gold Division win Dec. 21 over Hartland.

"The off season I shot a lot, tried to work on my handles a little bit, work defensively getting low, get a little bit stronger," said Grimes, who made 6-of-9 shots from the floor and was 3-of-6 from the foul line.

Northville coach Todd Sander has noticed a big leap in Grimes' game early on in the season.

"He's always been a really good shooter, but over the last couple of weeks he's put a lot of time in with coach (Shaun) Dicken at attacking the rim and looking to score off of the dribble, so he's not just labeled a three-point shooter,"

Sander said.

Grimes had plenty of support as senior point-guard Niko Barach added 17 points, including five rainbow-like three-pointers.

Junior forward Steven Morrissey also scored in double figures with 11.

"Niko was big tonight," Sander said. "He has some experience going back to last year. We were a little bit short-handed, but Niko took control and hit a couple of big shots today, too. Niko shoots it up to the rafters, but it was working tonight. It was good to see. He had a good couple of days and we really needed it, and he stepped up big time."

Grimes connected on a three-pointer with 4:30 left in the final quarter to give Northville its biggest lead of the game, 52-35, but South Lyon refused to fold.

Helped by a late technical foul, the Lions (5-2)

implemented a full-court press and went on an 18-5 run pulling to within four, 57-53, with only 28.2 seconds left on a basket by senior guard Ben Call, who scored a team-high 18 points.

"It changed the game a little bit," Sander said of the technical assessed to Ryan Pumper, who after diving for a loose ball, shoved South Lyon's Noah Grimes to the floor. "It was unfortunate that it happened to Ryan that way. We didn't put him in a good spot with the decision that we made to throw the pass that we did."

South Lyon then came up with a steal, but couldn't capitalize as Call was whistled for a charge. Northville, however, missed two free throws with 15.3 seconds left.

Call drew a foul less than two seconds later and made a pair of foul shots closing the deficit to 58-55, but Northville's Daniel McLaughlin sank two free throws with only 12.3 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

"We're typically a very strong half-court man (defense) team, but the press certainly rattled them and we kind of put in a late game offense, too, where we tried to get Noah (Grimes) and Ben (Call) going downhill, get flatter and get some shooters in the corner even though we didn't make a lot of shots," South Lyon first-year coach Troy Weidman said.

Northville biggest blemish was committing a total of 20 turnovers. The Mustangs also struggled from the foul line late and went 10-of-18 (56 percent).

"Coleson White is really good at the top of that press," Weidman said. "He got three fouls in the first half. I wish he had a few more fouls so he could have been out there doing his thing. But he gave us some really good minutes from that standpoint."

Northville shot 51.3 percent from the field (19-of-37), including 12-of-18 from beyond the arc. The Mustangs went

8-of-12 from three-point range during the first half to lead 34-24 at half-time.

"I told my guys if they duplicate that the second half, great for them," Weidman said. "My encouragement to them was to just stay in the fight, just continue to do what we do and show character regardless of what's going on. There were things that we could have done a little better, but we stayed together, played hard and were able to claw our way back in it in a game that we didn't necessarily shoot the ball the best and do some other things the best. So I was just proud of them for that."

In addition to Call's 18, Noah Grimes added 13 points, while Will Kelley contributed nine. The Lions shot only 18-of-48 from the floor (37.5 percent), including just two 3-pointers, but made 19-of-24 free throws (79.1 percent).

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## MADONNA

Continued from Page B1

bounds per contest. He also helped open the area pipeline to Madonna by encouraging former Salem teammate Jon Swift join the squad.

After two seasons at Delta Community College, Swift was considering Madonna, along with some NCAA Division II schools. He was pleased to receive some texts from Dierker, suggesting that he check out Madonna. "Just knowing that he was interested in me coming and playing alongside of him his last year, that really helped my decision," Swift adds.

Swift was also impressed by his preseason visit to the school. He says that head coach Noel Emehiser and the rest of the Crusaders' staff "really made me feel at home and they really showed me that they cared more about my development as a person versus me just being a basketball player. And I really liked that a lot. It made me more comfortable with my decision because I felt like they were going to help me grow more as a person."

After committing to Madonna, Swift rapidly pivoted into a recruiting role, helping to convince Canton grad Davon Taylor and Plymouth High alum Josh Reynolds to join the Crusaders.

"When I saw that Jon Swift committed, I talked to him and he told me that I should come here too," Taylor recalls. "And then we also talked with Josh Reynolds and he said that he was going to come here too."

Swift is the only Crusader other than Dierker to start all 14 games. The junior guard is the team's ironman, averaging 28 minutes per contest. He's scored 10.9 points per game while shooting 48.8 percent from the floor.

Taylor, a junior forward, transferred after playing two years at Schoolcraft College. He's started three times this



Madonna University senior standout Chris Dierker goes in for a score. He is a Salem grad. KELLY CIESLAK

season, averaging 10.7 points and 6.2 rebounds per game. Reynolds is a sophomore guard who transferred from Wayne State. He's made eight starts and leads the team in scoring at 13.3 points per contest. Reynolds is the team's key outside gunner, shooting 48.5 percent overall, and 47.2 percent from three-point range.

The presence of the local group has helped Madonna play "a lot better this year," Dierker says. "We have a lot better team chemistry."

"We were already familiar with each other," Swift adds. "Me, Davon, Josh we were already close before we all committed, so it really helps out a lot."

The team also boasts a pair of Livonia Stevenson graduates. Freshman guard Ian Knoph has seen limited action in seven games so far, averaging a point per contest, while another freshman guard, Noah Campbell, hasn't played and will likely redshirt.

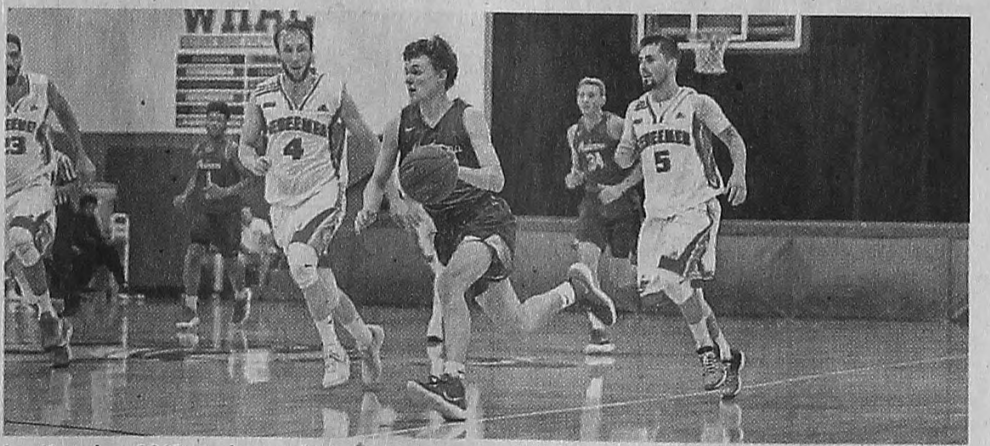
Madonna, which plays

in the NAIA, was a disappointing 7-15 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference last season, but the Crusaders are already 4-3 in conference play this year. That's thanks in part to Reynolds, who hit the biggest shot of Madonna's season so far, draining what proved to be the winning three-pointer in a 78-76 victory at conference rival University of Northwest Ohio.

As the team prepared to end a 10-game holiday break and return to action last week, Taylor predicted that the second half of the season will be even better than the first.

"We have huge potential," Taylor says, "I see it coming."

"I think we're growing more as a team, every day, every game that we play," Swift adds. "We're just still learning more about each other, just learning who works well with each other. ... We will gel more as a team. I'm very confident that we will have a great season."



Ian Knoph, a 2017 graduate of Livonia Stevenson, dribbles up the floor for Madonna University. KELLY CIESLAK



Madonna University's Josh Reynolds takes a jumper. He is a Plymouth alum. KELLY CIESLAK

## HOGAN

Continued from Page B1

our style reflects what he instilled in this program since he took over."

"We wanted to keep the things that we have from Coach Wilson," Hogan continues, "but we also started - from sum-

mer time voluntary shoot-around, the guys just working out playing against each other - we wanted to get back to the basics. So we just tried to wipe everything that we could out of the kids' memories and all the bad habits they picked up over the years, and get back to the basics. So we've gotten back to the

basics and now it's time to move forward and learn new things and more complex things that'll make us a team to be reckoned with in this league."

Despite posting a disappointing record in 2016-17, Hogan believes that "last year was a good year. I know our record didn't reflect it, but this

program took leaps and bounds. And because of that, the kids knew what to expect this year. And I'm so proud of them. I told them the other day, over Christmas, I was so proud of those guys."

So what does Hogan see from the Harrison program moving forward?

"I'm real excited to

see how everything plays itself out this year," he says. "Because I really just think this team is very smart, very fundamentally sound, and they're very athletic. So we're going to keep our pedal to the metal. We have a great group of guys, and good senior leadership - we have a couple of four-year guys,

Sean Nelson and Trey Walker, along with Chris Rexroth, who's an Ivy League prospect for football. So we have a lot of different guys at all different positions that are just solid players and good guys, and the younger guys are taken under their wings. And it's looking great."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Northville girls cagers stymie short-handed Skyline

Brad Emons

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sometimes being just O.K. is good enough.

And that was the case Thursday night as Northville repeated at home as the Holiday tournament girls basketball champion with a 35-29 win over a depleted Ann Arbor Skyline squad, which suited up only five players.

"We're 6-2 and we know we can compete with just everybody on our schedule if we're playing at our maximum capacity," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "And that's what it's going to take to finish out the season."

The Mustangs won despite 20 turnovers and 15-of-43 shooting from the floor (34.8 percent).

"Taking care of the basketball, taking high quality shots and trying to get to the rim more instead of settling for outside shots all the time," Gudith said of his team's laundry list of things to improve upon.

Nine different players for Northville scored led by senior point-guard Kendall Dillon, who in her fourth season on the varsity, finished with a team-high eight points. Sophomore center Morgan Thompson added six.

"All those seniors are three- and four-year varsity players," Gudith said. "Games like tonight - when it's kind of a drag on everybody - you kind of need those kids to step up and use their leadership to take over."

Dillon is one of three senior starters returning off last year's 17-4 KLAA Central Division championship team along with Roan Haines and Jasmin Prince.

"The transition has been really good," Dillon said. "We were a little bit



Fourth-year varsity guard Kendall Dillon had eight points in Northville's 35-29 Holiday Tournament win over Skyline. FILE PHOTO

shaky at first, but once we started playing more together in practice and in games, I think we all started to mesh pretty well. We've got some young players, but the older players are bringing it along pretty good, so it's going well."

Northville never trailed in the game leading 6-5 after one quarter, 19-15 at halftime and 27-17 after three quarters.

"I think just think we

tried to tire them out as much as we could since they had no bench, I guess," Dillon said. "We just tried to really take it to them in the first half. But they did really well for having only five players out there, so I give them credit."

Turnovers have been the biggest issue so far for the Mustangs.

"I think we just need to take care of the ball better, focus on passing and dribbling better,"

Dillon said. "I think our shots were a little off. We had trouble attacking the zone (defense) from the outside. I just think we need to break them apart a little bit more so they come out and man defense. Hopefully we get the shots straightened out in the future. We saw a 1-3-1 last week against Hartland and that was pretty tough up against them. Yes, zones are an issue."

Skyline (1-9) dressed

only six players in a 38-36 opening round victory Dec. 27 over South Lyon East, but lost another player to injury for the final.

Coach Johnnie Horne has a 10-player roster, but that number was cut in half during the two-day Northville Holiday Tournament.

"Two are hurt," he said. "We have a softball player... that's her number one sport, so she let us know coming in she

couldn't play here this week. Then we had a couple on vacation."

Horne opted to go with just five players instead of dipping down into the JV ranks.

"The reason I didn't is because we had eight JV girls playing," he said. "And then won (the semi-final), so they were playing for the championship today. So I didn't want to leave her (coach Jakeyla Ford) with five or six players on my account, so that's the reason why I didn't."

Freshman Lauren Courtright paced the Eagles with nine points, while sophomore Renee Faulkner added eight. Twin sister Janee Faulkner chipped in with six.

"I thought we did exceptional," Horne said. "South Lyon East is an exceptional team and Northville is a tough team. I was actually looking forward to this game... I want to be careful because I don't want to say we struggled the first eight, nine games. We did, but we had bright spots, so coming in we said, 'Let's see where at against a Northville team that's been pretty successful over the years.' And I thought we handled ourselves pretty well."

Horne took all of his allotted six timeouts to give his "Iron Five" some timely breathers.

"I tried to save the timeouts when I saw them gasping for air or when there was a dead ball situation where they gave me everything for loose ball, just to say, 'I've got your back,'" he said. "Those are the times I wanted to use them and I used them all."

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GOLF

# South Lyon's Hagenbach Super Senior Golfer of Year

Gregory Johnson

Special to Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Rick Hagenbach of South Lyon and Oak Pointe Country Club found more time to golf after age 50, and found competition in Golf Association of Michigan senior tournaments after age 60.

He has it figured out, and was recently named the Golf Association of Michigan's Super Senior Golfer of the Year by Ken Hartmann, senior director of rules and competitions for the GAM.

"I feel honored with the designation, it's great," said the 68-year-old Hagenbach, who has been retired from Gen-er-



South Lyon's Rick Hagenbach is the Golf Association of Michigan's Super Senior Golfer of the Year. GREGORY JOHNSON

al Motors for nine years. "I'm really pleased with the Golf Association of Michigan and the way

they run tournaments, and there is really great competition. There are so many good players and

good guys to play with in the tournaments."

Tom Werkmeister of Grandville and Aya Johnson of North Muskegon were previously announced as the men's and women's players of the year, while Randy Lewis of Alma and Julie Massa of Holt were named the top senior players of the year.

The winners will receive their awards in the spring at the GAM's annual meeting for 2017. Honorees are determined based on the GAM Honor Roll, which awards points for tournament accomplishments.

Hagenbach's key accomplishment among the Super Senior age 65-plus set was winning the Third GAM Super Senior

Championship at his home course. He used a hot putter to shoot a closing 72 and win by five shots.

He finished with 160 Honor Roll points for the season topping last year's Super Senior Player of the Year John French of Bloomfield Hills, who had 128.

Jim Russell of Stevensville and Point O'Woods Golf & Country Club, and Lawrence Hogard of Flint and the Michigan Publinox Seniors Golf Association rounded out the top four. See the complete Honor Roll at gam.org.

"Since I retired I've been able to focus on playing golf," said Hagenbach, who winters near Sarasota, Fla., and

plays golf multiple times each week. "I enjoy the competitive aspect. It gets the adrenalin going. It keeps me in better shape. I play in three or four GAM tournaments each year and I really enjoy the four-ball tournaments."

Hartmann called Hagenbach a personable, friendly golfer.

"He is a very consistent player," he said. "The Super Senior being at Oak Pointe helped him some, but he plays well at other places and is usually in the running. He is one of those regular top 10, top 15 guys who are that age, have their health and can really play. It's not a surprise that he is Player of the Year."

PAIRS

Continued from Page B1

tions."

DeWyre and Nussle, representing the Ice House Skating Academy under the direction of Michelle Hunt, train at three different venues including the Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton, the Hartland Sports Center and the Detroit Skating Club, "which has definitely helped out a ton," Nussle said.

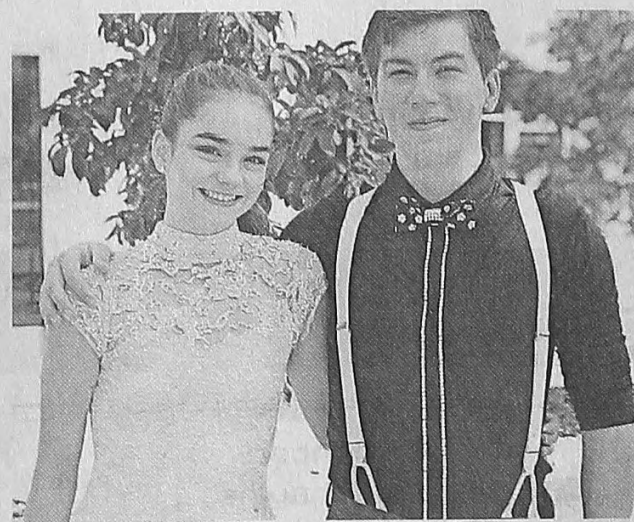
At the DSC, they have been under the direction of two coaches including Laura Lepzinski, a three-time Senior National competitor in pairs, along with Craig Joe-right, a seven-time National competitor who was on the U.S. Interna-

tional team from 1998-2000.

"Craig is our pairs coach," Nussle said. "He's a really good skater and has coached some pretty good teams. She (Lepzinski) helps clean up our program with our choreography. She does a lot more on the finishing touches on the programs and she does some similar things to Craig. Craig works more on our tricks and works more on the programs that we do."

DeWyre has been taking an hour's worth of online classes at East to allow her more time to practice each day between 2-4 p.m.

"It's just been kind of the same as last year," she said. "Our lifts are a little bit harder levels. Our double twists are getting a little bit bigger. We're working on the



The junior pairs team of Cora DeWyre (left) and Jacob Nussle competed in the Junior Pairs at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships this week in San Jose, Calif. ROBIN DEWYRE

height on them. We work on them at the DSC and then also with our main coach Michelle (Hunt). I've been working on jumps by myself and

then perfecting my spins, getting faster to match Jacob's."

Nussle recently switched to new skates and has switched his

off-ice workouts to Anytime Fitness in Hamburg.

"My expectations... it's our first year in Juniors and we're competing against some really good teams and skaters," he said, "but I think anything can happen."

"Do You Know the Way to San Jose" was the 1968 popular song written and composed for singer Dionne Warwick by Burt Bacharach, who composed the music, while Hal David, who wrote the lyrics. The song was Warwick's biggest international hit, selling over a million copies and winning Warwick her first Grammy Award.

DeWyre and Nussle hope to be a big hit next week in San Jose.

This year's U.S. Nationals also has an added significance.

It's also an Olympic year and much is at stake this week in San Jose for the Senior Dance, Pairs, Men's Singles and Women's Singles competitors hoping to earn spots on the U.S. team this February in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Meanwhile, the 2022 Winter Olympics is scheduled for Beijing, China and by that year DeWyre and Nussle hope make it on Senior stage as well.

This is just the first step and it will be their first appearance in the Juniors.

"We're hoping for the top 10, and to perform clean programs, and try our best," DeWyre said.

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Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and who showed me the way to reach my ideal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Say for 3 consecutive days without mentioning your petition and your prayer will be answered. Promise to publish this prayer. Also wish to thank Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and St. Jude. Thank you St. Jude for all favors received. J.M.

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