

Northville girls soccer collects KLAA title

**SPORTS, 1B** 

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Farmington Hills Sarah Fisher site set for homes, nursing facility

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON HILLS — After nearly three years of discussions, the old St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is poised to be redeveloped.

The 31.5-acre property at the corner of 12 Mile and Inkster roads will likely become the site of a 100-bed skilled nursing center and 51 single family homes. City council voted unanimously Monday, May 22, on the latest plans for the site brought by Robertson Brothers Homes and Optalis Group. The proposal still needs final review from the city's planning commission.

"We want everybody happy and we really want to get this development going," Mayor Vicki Barnett said.

The proposal, which originally included townhomes and apartments, was first brought forward in 2021. Developers have gradually scaled back the dwelling units on the property. Residents who live nearby and officials said they appreciate the flexibility Robertson Brothers showed with the neighborhood plans.

"I think what we have in this room is a bunch of people who really want this development and a bunch of people who are really thrilled with what you have done here," Barnett said.



Caleb Scarlett, project manager for Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser, removes pieces of broken stained glass from one of the century-old windows at Salem Bible Church in Salem Township on May 15. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **Century-old stained glass church windows require intricate repairs**

More commonly known as the Sarah Fisher center, the facility was built in 1929 to house and school orphaned children. The site has been empty since 2005, and multiple proposals made for the property over the years have fallen through.

Residents of the nearby Wood Creek subdivision have argued against a road that would connect the residential development at Sarah Fisher, named Villas of Pebble Creek, with Cheswick Drive. Residents said the connection, proposed to benefit public safety personnel during emergencies, would cause more traffic and pose risks to children.

"I think I can speak for everyone and say we're very happy with the work the developer has done to get to this point," resident Scott Lawrence said. "We have no issues with the care facility to the south. It's more the housing development. I can probably speak for most people here and say

#### See SITE, Page 3A

# 

#### Susan Bromley

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

SALEM TWP. — A small, brick church has stood on the corner of Six Mile Road and McFadden Street since 1888, most likely not drawing much attention from passersby.

But step inside the Salem Bible Church, and 17 stained glass windows create a jaw-dropping wonder to behold — works of art that have dazzled

worshipers and visitors alike with a brilliant array of colors for 135 years.

"We love history and architecture and appreciate what people sacrificed in the 1800s to do this," said Lance Rubringer, pastor of the non-denominational church.

One of the windows honors Alexis Packard, who has a descendant that attends the church now.

The windows bear the names of the now long-gone faithful, many who likely made the elaborate works possible, including "Father and Mother Lewis," and groups such as "Young People" and "Workers in the Vineyard."

"We are assuming, like in most projects, they raised money to put windows in and (the named people on the windows) are the ones that raised the money," Rubringer said. "They probably were saving up for this for years."

Congregants today appear just as devoted to the stained glass masterpieces.

See WINDOWS, Page 4A

# High bidders for 88,500 sports cards found some valuable winners

#### Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

SOUTH LYON — Carrie Cavanaugh couldn't stop smiling this week as she awaited the arrival of the buyers of 88,500 sports cards at the Center for Active Adults.

Three buyers, Brian Challenger, Ken Kramer and a third man who chose to remain anonymous, were the high bidders in the center's silent auction May 18 for four card collection lots (baseball, football, hockey, and basketball).

"We had calls from all over — Maine, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Arizona, even Canada," Cavanaugh said of the response to the collection amassed by William Squire over four decades. "It's wonderful... We didn't know what to expect." Squire died in 2009 at age 74. His daughter, Coreen, donated her late father's card collection to the Center for Active Adults, which sold them in the auction. When the bids were opened on May 18, Cavanaugh was delighted to find the auction raised \$6,326 to benefit the center.

While Cavanaugh doesn't know a lot about cards, she knew there were likely some gems in the massive collection. Brian Challenger knew it, too. He drove from Chicago with his father Mark Challenger last week to view the collection for about an hour and make their winning bid, and the single highest: \$3,001 for 50,000 baseball cards.

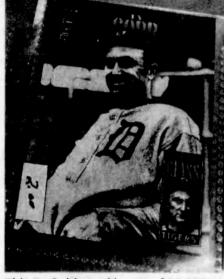
On Monday, Brian Challenger returned alone pick up the thousands of cards, including those that "really

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This Ty Cobb card is one of 50,000 baseball cards now in the possession of Brian Challenger, high bidder at \$3,001 for the collection that was auctioned by the Center for Active Adults in South Lyon.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# **Driver who maimed Westland teen sentenced**

#### **Shelby Tankersley**

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

DETROIT - Gianna Harris will spend 30 days in jail and two years on probation for hitting a John Glenn High School student with her car.

Wayne County Judge John Gillis sentenced Harris, who struck Aalyiah Rasheed-Wiley in December while running a red light, Thursday, May 25.

Harris has said she fled the scene believing she'd hit a deer and pled guilty to the charges. She tearfully expressed remorse during the Thursday sentencing at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in De-

troit. Harris received a three-day credit for the jail sentence, meaning she'll serve 27 days

She said she thinks of Rasheed-Wiley, who was 15 at the time of the crash, daily.

"I have racked my brain over and over on how to say just how sorry I am," Harris said. "This was a horrific, tragic accident that I can never forgive myself for."

Rasheed-Wiley's family was not present, but they have said the teen will bear scars from the crash for the rest of her life.

Prosecutors read a statement from Ayah Rasheed, the victim's mother, that details how the crash consumed the

family's life.

"I am so grateful that, after all that has happened, she is still able to smile," she wrote

According to Rasheed, her daughter reminds her often that "everyone makes mistakes."

Gillis said he believes Harris is truly remorseful, adding that he hopes she's able to find peace someday.

Get the latest headlines for metro Detroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby\_tankk.



Aalyiah Rasheed-Wiley, 15, was hit by a car while walking to John Glenn High School in Westland on Dec. 8, 2022. COURTESY OF TAMARA RASHEED

# Four-story hotel coming to empty Livonia property

#### **Shelby Tankersley**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA - An empty property at Schoolcraft and Merriman roads is set to become a four-story hotel.

City council narrowly approved plans for a Staybridge Suites Hotel at 31501 Schoolcraft Road with a 3-2 vote Monday, May 22. Councilwoman Kathleen McIntyre was absent and Council President Jim Jolly recused himself due to professional connections to the developer.

Developers will demolish the vacant building on the property, which was most recently used as a beauty school.

"It's an old building that's been sitting there for decades and has on and off been vacant," Councilman Rob Donovic said. "We have a successful family business that is essentially knock it down and build something new."

The proposal, brought by the Nofar Hotel Group of Novi, includes a 71,000square-foot hotel with 94 suites. The building's ground floor will include amenities like a pool, fitness center and



A rendering of a proposed hotel at 31501 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA

#### laundry.

**Council Vice President Laura Toy and** Councilman Brandon McCullough voted against the proposal. Toy and McCullough both told Hometown Life they think Livonia has "enough hotels," and Toy was concerned with the hotel's proximity to nearby homes.

Nofar Hotel Group owns a collection of hotels in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, including the Holiday Inn Express at 27451 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. According to Google Reviews, the hotel has a four-star rating from 440 reviews.

Developers have also requested the city extend a 2019-approved tax abatement for the property, citing pandemicrelated delays. Council will vote on the extension at its June 5 meeting.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

### hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

# **Retired Novi fire captain charged with sexual assaul**

#### Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

**CANTON TWP.** — A retired Novi Fire Department captain is facing felony charges after a recent incident in his

the police report made to Canton Police on May 22 has not yet been fulfilled. By law, a government agency has five days to respond to the request.

According to a heavily redacted May 18 police report obtained by neighbors and shared with Hometown Life. a woman told police she was sitting in her living room in her Willard Drive home when she saw Alvarez, her neighbor, walk by her front window, then heard him in her garage. She said she opened the door and asked him to leave, but "he forcefully pushed his way into her house," where he attempted to sexually assault her. The woman told officers she managed to push Alvarez back into the garage as she screamed for help while he continued to assault her. Neighbors heard her screams and pulled Alvarez off the woman just as police arrived, the report said, allowing her to escape into her home. The report says Alvarez pulled a knife and cut himself in the face or ear when confronted by police, refused police orders to drop the knife, and was "highly agitated and appeared aggressive" with officers. Police deployed tasers three times to control him, the report says.

A nearby neighbor told police Alvarez also caused damage to his or her home minutes prior to the incident. The specifics were redacted in the report. The officer noted damage to the neighbor's doorwall, frame and glass, and broken pieces of a landscape statue on the

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Canton Township neighborhood.

Ramon Alvarez, 56, was arraigned May 19 in 35th District Court on charges of first-degree home invasion, second-degree criminal sexual conduct during a felony, and assaulting/ resisting/obstructing a police officer. All three counts are felony charges.

Alvarez is due in court for a probable cause conference June 2 and a June 9 preliminary exam.

He remained jailed May 25 in lieu of a \$300,000 bond, according to court records.

Alvarez is represented by attorney Michael J. McCarthy, who said he did not wish to comment on the case.

#### **Police report offers details**

A Hometown Life FOIA request for

NOTICE **CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT** PTSLU23-0005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Dan's Excavating, Inc is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary Concrete Batch Plant for parcels 50-22-16-176-031 and 50-22-16-176-036, North of Grand River and East of Beck Road from June 21, 2023, through June 21, 2024. The properties are zoned OST (Office Service Technology) and the use is contrary to 3.1.23 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

A public hearing will be held at 10:00 am on June 21, 2023, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road in the Mayor's Conference Room. All written comments should be directed to Nina Schaffrath and must be received prior to Tuesday, June 20, 2023, by 3 P.M.

Publish: June 1, 2023

#### **CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE** FOR SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES **PSLU23-0002**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applicant Hotaru is requesting Special Land Use approval at 39723 Grand River, parcel number 50-22-24-476-025. The applicant is requesting approval to use a portion of the parcel for service of alcoholic beverages in accordance with Section 4.89 of the Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing will be held on June 21, 2023, at 9:30 AM in the Mayor's Conference Room at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375 to consider the request. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi MI 48375 and must be received by 3 P.M. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

ublish: June 1, 2023

Alvarez was hospitalized following the incident. At least one witness told police Alvarez had not been acting like himself lately.

ground

The report also indicates Alvarez called for help before the incident. An officer reported receiving a message at 2:30 p.m., saying Alvarez had called 911 and asked for that specific officer to respond to his home. When a dispatcher told him Canton police supervisors do not normally get dispatched to 911 calls, Alvarez hung up.

The officer suspected a problem, the report said, since Alvarez had never made such a request. The officer attempted to call and text Alvarez, then asked dispatchers to create a 911 welfare check and dispatch a second unit when Alvarez did not respond. The report indicates he was arrested about 3 p.m., 30 minutes after his own call to 911.

According to a 2012 press release from the City of Novi, Alvarez joined the Novi Fire Department in April 1987 as a paid on call fire fighter, was hired as a full-time fire protection officer in 1990 and was promoted to captain in 2012.

Novi Fire Chief Jeffery Johnson said he was not aware of Alvarez' arrest and could not comment.

### **MDOT plans \$130 million, yearslong** rebuild of I-96, M-14 in Livonia, Plymouth

#### **Shelby Tankersley**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not spring in Michigan without new road projects, and the work planned for major highways in Livonia and Plymouth promises to last three years, beginning in spring 2024.

Estimating costs at \$130 million, the Michigan Department of Transportation intends to rebuild three miles of Interstate 96 and M-14, between Sheldon and Newburgh roads.

Late 2026 is the target completion date.

"Pack your patience," said Jeff Horne, MDOT's project manager for the work. "The road is crumbling and needs to be replaced."

Horne said the project will include work on 17 bridges and multiple ramps.

"This is a full rebuild," he said. "This is not just a resurfacing. We are going to remove the old pavement and remove some of the old earth and put new stone, new sand and new pavement in."

With the exception of intermittent bridge closures, most of the affected area will remain accessible to drivers throughout the three years. MDOT will close one side of the road at a time, shifting all traffic to the unaffected side.

The project joins a hefty slate of road work in metro Detroit. When work on I-96 and M-14 begins next spring, MDOT's projects on I-275, I-696 and another portion of I-96 will still be ongoing

stankersle@hometownlife.com

# LGBTQ elders risk aging in isolation. A nonprofit is trying to change that.

Naina Rao and Justice Marbury New York & Michigan Solutions Journalism Collaborative

Carol Thompson began her journey to caregiving with an 18-day crosscountry trip. She drove from Rochester, New York, to California in 2021 to pick up her partner and best friend, Elizabeth Tilden. Tilden, 76, has a "moderate" form of Alzheimer's disease.

Thompson, 74, immediately assumed the role of caregiver, as Tilden's daughter lives in Sweden.

When it comes time to look for assisted living facilities, the couple hopes the facility has LGBTQ ally partnerships and a large community presence to support them.

"I think as far as the community, if you're stuck at home, which doesn't matter, gay, straight, or otherwise, if you're stuck at home, what are you going to do? You need that connection. I desperately need to be around people. That's who I am," Thompson said.

The history of anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment reflected in U.S. laws and policies has created a stigma that's caused painful experiences for LGBTQ+ patients seeking health care.

That fear was heightened in the HIV/ AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. But in 2023, post-COVID-19 vaccinations, LGBTQ+ adults have an additional concern: aging alone.

The assumed caregivers of older adults, immediate or close relatives, are often unavailable to members of the gay and lesbian community, said Scott Fearing, a community activist and educator on LGBTQ+ issues at the University of Rochester.

"If you look at elders in the world and who cares for them, it's usually children,



Carol Thompson, left, 74, serves as caregiver for her partner, Elizabeth Tilden, 76. Tilden has a moderate form of Alzheimer's disease.

JUSTICE MARBURY/DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE

grandchildren, siblings, something like that," said Fearing. "And oftentimes, for LGBTQ seniors, those connections don't exist. There aren't children. There aren't places to turn to."

The U.S. health care system has long stigmatized LGBTQ+ patients, said Meki Singleton, a doctoral candidate studying gerontology at the University of Southern California.

In the past, Singleton said, would-be health care providers denied treatment to HIV/AIDS patients. Today, medical discrimination looks like denying treatment of patients due to their sexual orientation or identity, she said.

"Having that historical nature of being discriminated against ... you may not be the first in line to want to access these (health care) services," Singleton pointed out.

#### Support to elders in Michigan

The Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network (MiGen) is trying to tackle challenges faced by older LGBTQ+ adults

during the pandemic, which has illuminated gaps and disparities in services.

MiGen saw a massive upswell of the need for basic assistance, programming, and social connection as the pandemic hit for the older LGBTQ adults it serves. It now has a whole pillar dedicated to direct services for older adults.

What the organization offers broadly falls into two buckets: education and direct services. The training and education department works directly with adult care providers, said MiGen executive director Angela Gabridge.

'We do culturally responsive training and education for nurses, nursing home administrators, social workers, receptionists, clerical staff - basically anyone in that older adult care space," Gabridge said.

MiGen also works with Michigan's area agencies on aging, long-term care facilities, and health care systems, she said

"We have a food assistance and tech assistance program, friendly caller reassurance, we have social programming both in-person and virtual opportunities," Gabridge said.

This year, the organization launched a community navigator pilot program that pairs older LGBTQ+ adults and their caregivers with community members who work to assist them with any challenges or hurdles they face. The members are part of the LGBTQ+ community and are positioned to help, Gabridge said.

The navigators can step in to assist with housing or provide resources, such as when an LGBTQ+ person says they are being bullied at their long-term care facility, she said. Even when MiGen is working with allies or people who want to be supportive, it's often difficult when there's an absence of significant experience within the LGBTQ+ community, or when allies come from a cultural background that views personal questions as offensive or invasive.

"That's one challenge that oftentimes folks don't think of," Gabridge said

Back in Rochester, Thompson said she would prefer to age in a community of other LGBTQ+ seniors

"I love it, because I can be there and be myself and not worry about pronouns or anything else," Thompson said. "And I don't have to worry about somebody asking about my gender identification or any of that stuff."

Thompson said she believes there is a major need for supportive housing and programs catering to older adults like her.

"There's just not a lot of social outlets here for senior gays."

#### About this story

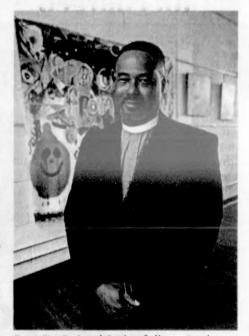
This coverage is provided in affiliation with the New York & Michigan Solutions Journalism Collaborative, a partnership of news organizations and community organizations dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about successful responses to social problems. The group is supported by the Solutions Journalism Network.

The collaborative's ongoing occasional series, Invisible Army: Caregivers on the Front Lines, focuses on potential solutions to challenges facing caregivers of older adults. Read related stories at nymisojo.com. The collaborative also has compiled a detailed Caregiving Resource Guide with links to online information about various issues of interest to caregivers.

## **Older LGBTQ+ adults in Michigan** face challenges finding housing

Naina Rao New York & Michigan Solutions Journalism Collaborative

Finding safe and affordable housing is a challenge for LGBTQ people, particularly elders who can face difficulty in securing a permanent place to live. A planned senior home in Ferndale, Michigan, will house older adults who encounter those housing struggles because of their identities. The Rev. Roland Stringfellow, who proposed the project, said he was inspired by a mixed-use affordable housing development in nearby Detroit that opened in October as a haven for gay and lesbian at-risk youth. "I have LGBT seniors within my congregation, and I was concerned about their particular stories and challenges around housing," said Stringfellow, senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. "There was clearly a need from those people who I currently serve." Construction was projected to begin in May.



# Site

#### **Continued from Page 1A**

there doesn't need to be an entrance on Cheswick."

Council agreed, making removal of the Cheswick connection a condition of approval. Councilman Randy Bruce pointed out that other neighborhoods in the city only have one entrance.

'The fact is that we have bigger developments in this city that have one The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher



#### How much will it cost?

The Raymond E. Shepherd House will have 53 one- and two-bedroom affordable apartments in a supportive environment for seniors who make up to 60% of the area median income, according to its developer.

Rents will range from \$441 to \$1,060 a month depending on income, with utilities included. The AMI for the suburban Detroit community of Ferndale is \$79,181 a year, according to the 2021 U.S. Census.

Additionally, the Ferndale Housing Commission will allocate eight of its public housing vouchers to Shepherd House. While there is a waiting list for vouchers for anyone who meets the lowincome requirements, seniors and those with disabilities are given preference.

Housing for LGBTQ seniors is a new but growing trend, with some of the first developments cropping up in the last couple of years in Boston, Seattle, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Sacramento, California.

#### Why is this solution being pursued?

Stringfellow's peer and colleague Kathleen LaTosch said there long has been a need for such housing in southeastern Michigan.

As chief administrative officer of the Ferndale-based LGBTQ+ community

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, Senior **Pastor at Metropolitan Community** Church, poses for a photo inside the lobby of Affirmations LGBTQ+ Community Center on March 31 in Ferndale. CLARENCE TABB JR./DETROIT NEWS

center, Affirmations, she conducted listening sessions and focus groups with LGBTQ+ older adults in Michigan to get a sense of their needs.

At one all-day strategic planning session in 2007, about 100 people showed up to talk about the desires of the older LGBTQ+ community.

"And out of that, we learned that housing was really up at the top," said LaTosch.

The attendees also told her about the concerns older LGBTQ adults have regarding mistreatment by care providers.

LaTosch formed with other organizations a volunteer-based collaborative to survey older LGBTQ+ adults on what they wanted in housing.

"Some structural elements, some safety elements ... and making sure that it was affordable," she said. "We talked about safe places to gather inside, outside, around that space."

They also decided that inclusive health care and case management services would be prerequisites for an LGBT-friendly senior home

Stringfellow said he hopes that the Shepherd House will be a safe space for LGBTQ+ adults, especially older BI-POC ones, which is why he approached the nonprofit Full Circle

See CHALLENGES, Page 6A

entrance and exit and it has worked out just fine," he said.

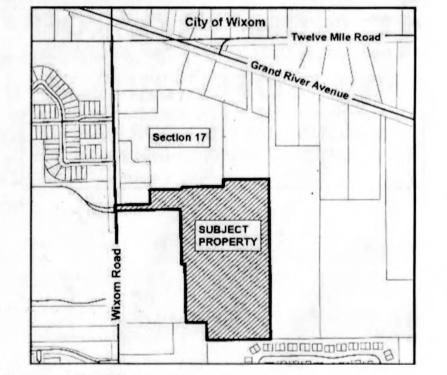
The development will have two openings onto Inkster Road - one for the neighborhood and another for the nursing facility.

Center, a former maternity hospital and children's village, at Twelve Mile and Inkster roads in Farmington Hills, was dedicated in 1929. Its site is proposed for a redevelopment. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

#### **CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider STATION FLATS JSP23-02 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A REQUEST TO AMEND A CONSENT JUDGMENT TO ALLOW FOR A HIGH-DENSITY, MID-RISE, MULTIPLE-FAMILY USE (RM-2 DISTRICT). The subject property totals approximately 24.77 acres and is located east of Wixom Road and south of Grand River Avenue (Section 17). The site is currently zoned I-1, Light Industrial, with a Consent Judgment that permits B-2 uses as listed in the judgment. The site is proposed to be developed with a 157-unit multi-family development that includes a co-working space/café, pool, putting green, and a clubhouse. The site has direct access from Wixom Road.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.).



#### Subject parcel IDs: 50-22-17-101-032

All interested persons are invited to attend this in-person meeting. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

Published June 1, 2023 Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: June 1, 2023

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# Windows

**Continued from Page 1A** 

Salem Bible Church's modern congregation of just 60 has raised \$50,000 to restore the windows, which suffered damage over the years from weather, stones from passing cars on Six Mile Road, and BB gun pellets. The total cost of restoration, which began earlier this month, is \$63,000. A gofundme is helping the church raise the final few thousand dollars.

"There's a real wave of mega churches, so these smaller churches, a lot of them are dying, and some of that history will eventually be gone," said Rubringer, whose traditional church can seat 140 worshippers. "But we are gonna stand against this wave and save these windows. It's a project worth doing."

Steve Roberts, chairman of the Salem Bible Church Board, loves the windows in the church where he has worshiped in since 1969.

"They raise a level of sanctity and solemnity, of awe," he said. "You think of a cathedral and these windows were the best we could do for a cathedral for Salem. They are nicely done. Most don't have a religious theme; they are just ornate and add class to the building."

He is glad to see them fixed properly. The church had some work performed on the windows in the 1930s or 1940s when birds were entering the sanctuary due to missing panes, Roberts said. But the company that did the work did not have the colors needed to match the original glass.

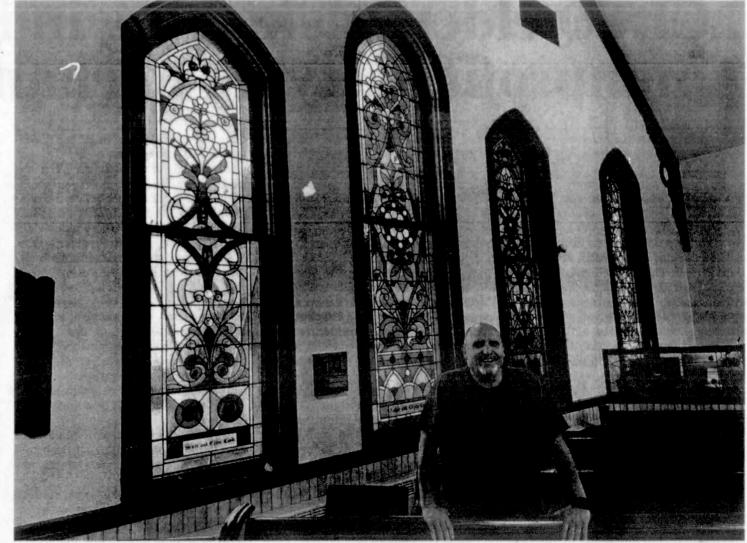
Bringing in outside experts

On a recent sunny Monday, color from a window reflected on Caleb Scarlett as he carefully removed broken, amber-colored panes from a leaded frame.

Scarlett is the project manager on the restoration through the largest stained glass studio in the world, Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser, based in Minnesota.

An Arizona resident, Scarlett specializes in restorations and is assigned to projects in Michigan, nearly all of which are churches.

He noted there are few stained glass window companies, and doing the work costs "a pretty penny" due to both material expenses and the length of the



Lance Rubringer, pastor at Salem Bible Church, is happy to see the stained glass windows at the 135-year-old church building being restored, thanks to donations from the congregation and other benefactors. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

process.

He marveled over what artisans in the 1800s accomplished with the windows at the church.

"It blows my mind they were able to do this," Scarlett said. "It takes us awhile even with technology."

#### Lengthy process underway

There are several steps in the process of repairing the windows, including recementing, reducing bulging panes, and securing loose braces.

It's evident that some of the stained glass pieces in the Salem Bible Church were replaced, because a few of the colored panes don't match. Whenever possible, Scarlett installs new glass that matches the original color. However, some of those colors aren't available because of health and safety concerns surrounding the chemicals needed to reproduce them.

Shattered glass panes are replaced, but if a pane has a crack that can be stabilized, the original glass is kept in place in order to retain historic value.

"The biggest challenge of restoring windows is trying to get them as nice as they can be without replacing every piece," Scarlett said. "We come to some churches and the windows are beat up real bad. It's hard to do them justice when they are in bad shape, but we take care of it."

Scarlett is scheduled to finish this week by installing acrylic coverings to keep the restored windows safe. He'll be assisted by his apprentice, Tanner Polley, who has been learning the trade for two months. During a break from working on the exterior of one of the Salem Bible Church's rose windows, Polley reflected on his new job.

"I like working hands on with history and working with all these different churches," he said. "It broadens my humanity on what is important to different people and places more beauty in my life. Another thing I love is, when else would I ever come to these little towns, to Salem, Michigan?"

He pauses and turns his gaze on the church.

"Here I am," he said, gesturing upward to the majestic windows, "to see this, and history."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.



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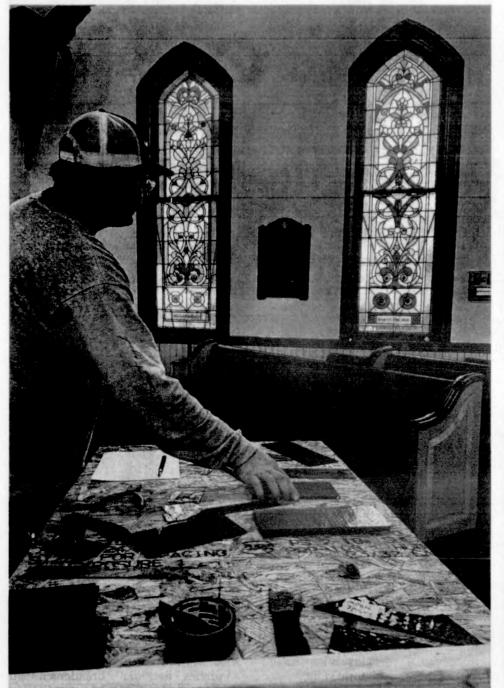
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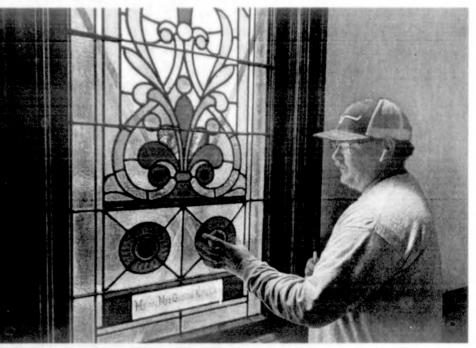
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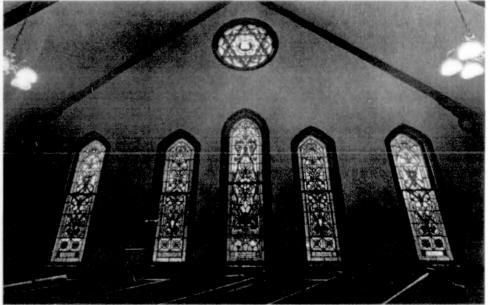
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Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser project manager Caleb Scarlett works at a table in Salem Bible Church in Salem Township, where he cuts stained glass to replace broken pieces in windows that are more than 100 years old. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Prisms from one of the many stained glass windows reflect onto Scarlett as he discusses restoration work on May 15.



The original stained glass windows on the front wall of the church, which was completed in 1888. The windows are being restored by artisans from Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser, the largest stained glass studio in the world.

"I like working hands on with history and working with all these different churches. It broadens my humanity on what is important to different people and places more beauty in my life." Caleb Scarlett Project manager, Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser



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6A | THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

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The Raymond E. Shepherd House in suburban Detroit will have 53 one- and two-bedroom affordable apartments for seniors who earn up to 60% of the area's median income. RENDERING COURTESY OF FULL CIRCLE COMMUNITIES

### Challenges

#### **Continued from Page 3A**

Communities to develop the housing development.

The Chicago-based developers built the Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center in Detroit which inspired Stringfellow's proposal and search for land.

They eventually found a vacant site in Ferndale to build the Raymond E. Shepherd House.

"There's going to have community space on the ground level and several units on the first level as well," said Stringfellow. "And then three floors that will house these units.

#### A welcoming environment

The apartments will also be barrierfree and adaptable to meet the physical needs of aging adults and will feature a library, community rooms for residents to spend time and on-site property management.

Full Circle Communities said it also will establish codes of conduct at the housing development to ensure a welcoming atmosphere, giving them the right to evict residents who aren't respectful or welcoming of their neighbors.

#### The bottom line

The project will be built on 31,850

square feet of vacant land, and funded with about \$13 million from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and a \$700,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

Cristian Yugsi, project manager for Full Circle Communities, described the development as a partnership between a nonprofit developer and a state agency. The City of Ferndale granted the Shepherd House project 45 years of tax abatements.

Yugsi projects there will be three fulltime staff running the facility: a property manager, a service coordinator, and a maintenance coordinator.

About this story

This coverage is provided in affiliation with the New York & Michigan Solutions Journalism Collaborative, a partnership of news organizations and community organizations dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about successful responses to social problems. The group is supported by the Solutions Journalism Network.

The collaborative's ongoing occasional series, Invisible Army: Caregivers on the Front Lines, focuses on potential solutions to challenges facing caregivers of older adults. Read related stories at nymisojo.com. The collaborative also has compiled a detailed Caregiving Resource Guide with links to online information about various issues of interest to caregivers.

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 | 7A



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### **Sports cards**

**Continued from Page 1A** 

caught our eye," he said, such as Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr.'s rookie card, multiple Derek Jeter cards, and an infamous Bill Ripken card that bears a profanity on the end of his bat.

Challenger scooped up those cards and dozens of other encased cards first, noting they were in really good shape. He may have those graded before he puts them up for auction on eBay, where he and his father are sellers who go by "LakotaInc" and have a loyal customer base.

Challenger said he amassed a lot of "niche knowledge" from researching the thousands of tobacco cards and other antiques his grandfather collected. He left his job as a political consultant to sell on eBay full-time because he can make more money and finds it more enjoyable than politics.

He has a lot of work ahead of him with 50,000 baseball cards. He plans to go through the cards one by one in stages, double-checking his research and slowly introducing them online in individual weekly auctions.

While many of the cards hold more "sentimental value," Challenger said he is happy to help the Center for Active Adults, a sentiment echoed by Kramer, who arrived as Challenger loaded the remainder of his haul into his car.

Kramer, who lost the bid for the baseball collection by \$500, scored on two others: 20,000 football cards for \$1,120, and \$805 for 8,709 hockey and miscellaneous cards that included NASCAR and wrestling stars, Olympians, Disney and Marvel characters, Pokemon, and even **Elvis Presley**.

The 60-year-old from Portland was inspired to bid after recently reopening boxes that hold his childhood collection of sports trading cards from the early 1970s, including the rookie cards of football Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw, Joe Green and Joe Namath, as well as a rookie card of baseball star George Brett, which appraised for \$300 and surprised him.

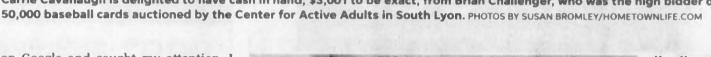
He decided to take a gamble on the center's collection with the added incentive of helping the nonprofit.

"I'm not a collector, I'm just an average guy," Kramer, president of hotelstands.com, said. "The story popped up on Google and caught my attention. I was just curious. Coming in here, I didn't think I had a chance, I just thought it would be fun and maybe I can make a profit while helping charity."

Cavanaugh said the \$6,326 raised from the auctioned collection, which also includes a Lake Orion man's \$1,400 winning bid for the basketball cards, will be used for a new refrigerator and new flooring for the center, as well as wage increases for underpaid fitness instructors.

"Every bit of this money will be put to good use to support our center and programs and members," she said. "We're so grateful to have this kind of opportunity."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromlev10.



Carrie Cavanaugh is delighted to have cash in hand, \$3,001 to be exact, from Brian Challenger, who was the high bidder on



holds just a few of the nearly 29,000 cards he is now the proud owner of after winning bids on football and hockey collections.

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Observer & Eccentric Media I THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 I 18 (NNNR)

**USA TODAY SPORTS** 

# SPORTS

# **Mustangs win KLAA championship**



Northville celebrates winning the KLAA girls soccer championship game Monday, May 22. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Northville girls powered by 2 goals from Helena McLellan

#### **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following Northville's 3-0 victory over Belleville in Monday afternoon's Kensington Lakes Activities Association girls soccer championship game, the Mustangs huddled for a team photo with the trophy.

And then someone shouted, "Dogpile!"

One by one, each player piled on, which was great for the photographers present to snap photos of the back-toback league champions enjoying the moment. But it was bad news for Helena McLellan, one of the smallest players on the team, who was buried at the bottom of the pile.

"Guys, I can't breathe!" the junior hollered

For someone who has never played high school soccer until this spring, McLellan sure is getting her money's worth.

The rookie scored two goals to push No. 2 Northville past the eighth-ranked Tigers with ease. That included her burying the Mustangs' first shot on frame for a score just 2 minutes into play.

Late in the second half, she booted in a penalty kick toward the left post for an insurance goal.

id team this year, and that is going to carry us forward."

So why hasn't she tried out for the varsity the past two springs?

She was busy playing year-round for the Michigan Hawks as an underclassman

But watching her schoolmates play for a state championship a year ago was quite alluring. Despite being a captain for the Hawks, she elected to play club soccer for only 7 months this school year, dedicating the other months to wearing the Orange and Black for the first time.



This is my first year playing high school, so it's definitely an experience," she said. "I'm just learning something new from each game, and I'm working well with the girls. We have a pretty sol-

"I wanted to see if I'd like it and if I'd want to pursue it my senior year or go back to my club for my senior year," she

See MUSTANGS, Page 2B

Northville's Helena McLellan, left, battles Belleville's Meghan Mihaly for possession.

## Northville bests Hartland for repeat KLAA title

#### **Bill Khan**

**Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Forty-four days later, Hartland's baseball team still couldn't solve Northville pitcher Joey Broughton.

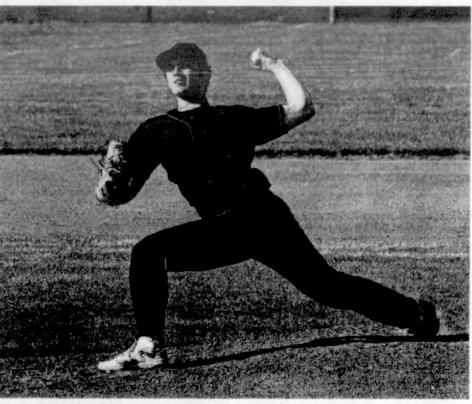
Broughton threw his second one-hitter against Hartland this season Wednesday in the Mustangs' 6-0 victory in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association baseball championship game.

A junior who has verbally committed to the University of Pittsburgh, Broughton struck out Il batters and walked only one, throwing strikes on 65 of 95 pitches. The only hit he allowed was a thirdinning single by Brady Quinn.

On April 10, Broughton allowed one hit and struck out 11 batters in a 5-1 victory at Hartland

Gavin Nash kept the No. 1-ranked Mustangs (28-2) scoreless for four innings before they scored one run in the fifth and five in the sixth.

Hartland is 19-9 this season, going 0-3 against Northville, which became the first repeat KLAA champion.



Northville's Joey Broughton threw a one-hitter in a 6-0 victory over Hartland in the KLAA baseball championship game. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

# **Spartans win** playoff opener with late goal

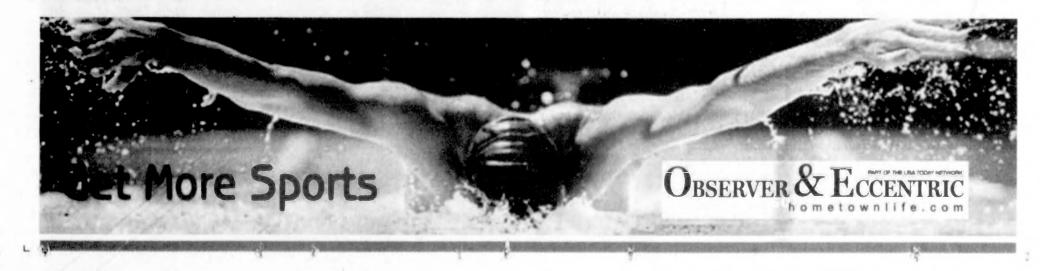
**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Kelsey Ware still isn't quite 100 percent after missing three games toward the end of the regular season due to an injury

But the Livonia Stevenson striker was determined to be on the field to help her team in the postseason. And she was a key reason the Spartans who suffered a pair of losses late in the regular season to Salem and Hartland — pulled out a win in their Division 1 girls soccer district opener on Thursday.

With the score knotted at 1 late in the second half Thursday against South Lyon East, midfielder Jenna Barbour sent a pass down the boundary line that only Ware could get to. Ware took the fastbreak to the corner.

See SPARTANS, Page 2B



# Hartland, Howell seek new girls basketball coaches

#### **Bill Khan**

**Livingston Daily** USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livingston County girls basketball landscape will look dramatically different next winter.

For seven seasons, Brighton, Hartland and Howell were models of stability as they combined to win 80 straight games against other members of the KLAA West with the same highly respected veteran head coaches leading the way.

But now all three programs have undergone a coaching change in the past year, Hartland doing so for the second time.

Howell's Tim Olszewski has stepped down for reasons he chose not to discuss publicly.

Reyna Luplow is no longer the coach at Hartland after just one season. Reasons were not given for her departure.

"It was a mutual decision where it wasn't a great fit either way," Hartland athletic director JD Wheeler said. "Since it's a personnel issue, I don't want to get into it that much."



Tim Olszewski has stepped down as Howell's girls basketball coach after posting a record of 129-43 and winning two district championships in eight seasons. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Luplow, who coached the Eagles to a 14-11 record, did not return a message seeking comment. She replaced Don Palmer, who retired after 13 seasons with the Eagles, having capped his career with a state Division 1 championship game appearance.

Luplow came to Hartland after coaching Saginaw Swan Valley to a 19-5 record in 2021-22 and its first trip to the regional final since 2006.

When Olszewski became Howell's coach in 2015-16, he was the program's fourth coach in four seasons. The Highlanders went 129-43 during his tenure, a .720 winning percentage that is the best in school history. Lee Piepho, who coached Howell to the 1996 state Class A championship game, was 204-115 (.639) in 15 seasons.

Olszewski's career was bookended by district championships in his first and final seasons. The Highlanders reached the district final in seven of his eight seasons, losing to powerful Hartland teams five times.

"For me, it was a great run," said Olszewski, a graduate of Howell. "The girls are awesome. We accomplished a lot. We've got this program stronger than when I found it. ... I look forward to seeing the continued success of the Highlanders."

While building Howell into a successful team, Olszewski developed strong relationships with the men he coached against in some fierce rivalry games, Palmer and Brighton's Paul Ash.

Ash stepped down as the Bulldogs' coach last year following an eight-season run that ended with four consecutive district titles.

"For me, it's an end of a very long era," Olszewski said. "Don was the boys Milford coach when I played high school basketball. Paul Ash and I have known each other for over 30 years.

"From (Mike) Griest and all those guys in Brighton, to all the Hartland and Milford connections, it's been a blast growing up with them, learning from them, competing against them and building friendships that will last forever. The camaraderie and respect that is garnered from everybody was just a wonderful time in my life.

One of the most rewarding benefits of coaching the Highlanders was developing bonds with players that continue long after they've graduated.

"There's just a slew of phenomenal individuals," he said. "I'm blessed."

Olszewski, who teaches at Howell, said he intends to continue coaching.

Prior to coaching Howell's girls, Olszewski coached boys basketball at Howell and Fenton.

# Spartans

Continued from Page 1B

When she tried to play the ball back toward the penalty box, she was absolutely flattened by a defender.

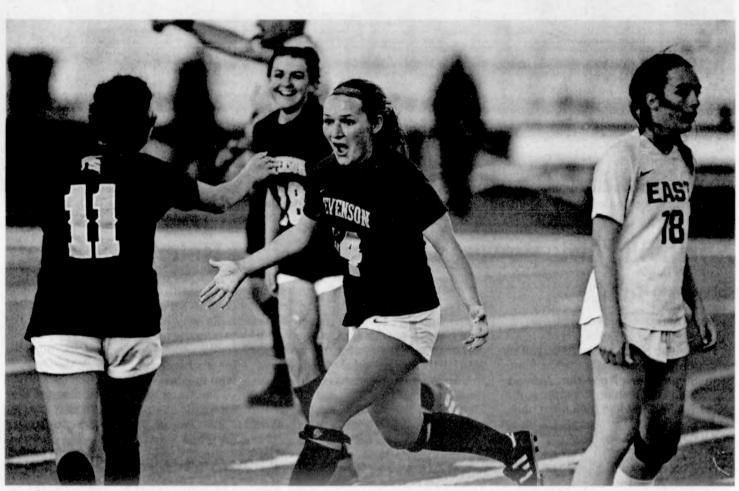
Yet she somehow, someway got a pass to Brianna Waranauckas as she was falling to the turf. And Waranauckas boomed a prayer that snuck just inside the crossbar from about 25 yards out, giving Stevenson (12-6) a 2-1 lead with about 16 minutes remaining, one it'd hold onto until the final whistle.

The Spartans advanced to the May 31 district semifinal against host Novi, and they don't survive and advance without that extra hustle from Ware.

"One hundred percent, there's no doubt," Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker said. "And that's the dirty work people have to do to make goals happen in the playoff time. I thought it was really, really good for her because we had to limp her back in a little bit (into the starting lineup), but she's been responding. The last couple of games, she's been playing really hard. And she has been all season. Not all the time do the goals happen, but the effort is always there."

Ware didn't have an easy night.





Livonia Stevenson's Brianna Waranauckas celebrates a goal during the Division 1 girls soccer district opener May 25. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ranauckas' goal, she was thrown to the turf while fighting for a 50-50 ball.

What's more, she battled East defender Olivia Jones on almost every trip deep into Cougars' territory. Jones acted as an aggressive enforcer along the back line and did a good job halting many of Stevenson's runs.

"It's a little tough, but, ya know what? You do what you gotta do," said Ware, who's committed to Tiffin University (Ohio). "Everything is on the line. And it was pretty tough coming back from the injury, but I had the drive and dedication to do it. You just gotta go out there and give it your all."

Also giving it her all was Waranauckas, whose goal was one of the most heads-up plays of the season for the Spartans.

Judging by the way that Ware was leveled while trying to deliver the pass on the game-winning play, many watching the match thought the referee was going to call a whistle and set up Stevenson with a free kick. Heck, even Waranauckas thought that was about to happen.

Yet she kept playing anyway, booming a moonshot that scraped the top of the net as it went in.

### **Mustangs**

**Continued from Page 1B** 

said. "I'm having a lot of fun this year, so I think I'm going to pursue it again next year, too."

That's great news for second-year coach Jeannine Reddy.

McLellan brings a skill set to the pitch you don't often see at this level. It's quite obvious she's a club player.

The way she threads passes through the midfield with pinpoint accuracy is something else. But she's also super fast with the ball on her toes. And she's aggressive as you can get. She can keep a possession alive with two or three de- has that drive and determination (to fenders draped on her. She showed that play as hard as she can)." against the Tigers a handful of times in



Livonia Stevenson's Kelsey Ware flexes during pre-game introductions.

"I saw her (Ware) on the ground, and the ref didn't blow the whistle, and I've always been told to play through the whistle, and I just ran up there without thinking and just booted it," said Waranauckas, a senior who recently transitioned from being a defensive midfielder to an attacking one.

But did you think it was actually going to go in?

Yeah, uh, no. I think it was kind of luck," Waranuckas said. "But as soon as I struck it, I knew it was a good shot. It was unexpected, but it really felt good coming off the laces of my feet."

But that's playoff soccer for you.



South Lyon East's Olivia Jones halts the attack.

Sometimes it takes second-chance hustle plays and a little luck to nab a gamewinner. And the Spartans are still dancing because of it.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

#### the first half.

What's more, she's on a scoring hot streak over the last three weeks. Some of that has to do with Reddy redefining everyone's roles on the team and asking McLellan to slow down just a smidge so her teammates can hang with her.

"She likes to play fast, and she is a very fast player, and really aggressive and just a really good soccer player all around, but sometimes slowing the game down will help her, too," Reddy said. "She's helping us slow the game down. She's able to play balls into her midfielders and get them open as well as create opportunities for herself vs. trying to do things on her own. So that has really actually helped her a bit. She just

Yeah, it's not surprising to hear about

a club player having success in high school. But here's a surprise for you: McLellan wants to play college soccer in Canada.

Because her parents have been transferred around North America for their jobs, she grew up living in Alberta and Toronto in Canada as well as in Tennessee and even in that town up north most Mustangs dislike, Novi. But the Canadian flag has her heart, and that's where she hopes to end up when she's done at Northville.

Hopefully, for the Mustangs' sake, she won't be done anytime soon this spring.

Monday was just the start of the trophy-collecting season for Northville. Up next is the Division 1 district tournament against a stacked field that includes the likes of rival Novi, Livonia **Stevenson and Farmington Hills Mercy.** Whichever team raises the championship trophy when it's all said and done will have definitely earned its berth into the regional semifinal.

And McLellan enters the postseason after getting her first taste of what it's like to win something special at the high school level. The KLAA is one of the best and toughest leagues in Michigan, and the Mustangs got to celebrate as champions once again.

"It feels great, it really does, especially to get two goals. That's definitely an experience I'm going to remember," McLellan said. "It's safe to say, yes, I'll be here again next year."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

# 2 years ago the Eagles were winless. Now they're MIAC-Red champions

#### **Brandon Folsom**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Abby McKarge has seen her classmates have success in seemingly every sport during her four years at Plymouth Christian Academy.

She's watched the volleyball team win league title after league title. She followed the girls soccer team as it went to the regional championship a year ago. And she was there as the girls basketball team made its run to the Breslin Center last year as well.

But that kind of success just hasn't been something she's experienced while playing softball.

Her freshman season was canceled because of COVID-19.

The following spring, the Eagles didn't win a single game.

And as a junior? They won just four games in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Red.

So can you blame the senior for cracking a big, bright smile every time she gets to sprint to first base? Because she's definitely earned the right to do so after coming up with timely hits for the Eagles this spring.

That's right, the program has turned things around.

They've gone from not winning once when she was an underclassman to them just completing the perfect season in their league. Thursday's doubleheader sweep of Sterling Heights Parkway Christian, 17-0 and 15-3, meant PCA had finished 8-0 in the MIAC-Red

As of this writing, the team is 17-6 overall and has its sights on upsetting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, last year's district champion, in the Division 4 district opener on June 2.

So how the heck did they do it?

They found the missing pieces they needed to fill out a lineup card.

Sure, that starts with pitcher Clara Groen.

The freshman has been a softball lifer, playing most recently for the South Lyon Stealth travel program. Already



Plymouth Christian Academy's Abby McKarge hits during a MIAC-Red softball doubleheader Thursday, May 18, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

this spring she has struck out 214 batters, and entering last week's league finale, she carried a 2.788 ERA and 1.159 WHIP.

So, yeah, she can pitch, and the varsity couldn't wait for her to wrap up her junior high career and get to high school. But while pitching is an important

part of the Eagles' success, Groen hasn't been doing it alone. A year ago, they actually added a

handful of first-year players who had the chance to get their feet wet with the sport. It was a lot of bumps and bruises along the way, but they garnered enough experience to become reliable players.

And two of those rookies are actually captains alongside McKarge this spring. That would be seniors Hailey Maulbetsch and Maddie Yeager. And if those names sound familiar to you, you are correct: Those are two of the four stars who led the Eagles' girls basketball team to the state championship in 2022.

"We have all these seniors who have been playing, but they were just missing a key part to the team," said first-year PCA coach Jori Green, who is also Clara's mother. "Now they're really able to play, do their thing and have all the pieces together. There are some key leaders on this team like Hailey, Maddie and Abby, and they want to win. They're competitive. They work hard. They're great leaders for the team, and that's huge. The senior leadership has been a key part of this team."

It's wild that Maulbetsch and Yeager are captains considering the team is lucky to even have them on the roster.

Maulbetsch joined the team because she wanted to play a spring sport a year ago. But Maulbetsch wasn't about to follow Anna Fernandez, Hometown Life's Player of the Year in girls basketball a year ago, to the soccer pitch.

"Yeah, I hate running, so I wasn't going to play soccer," said Maulbetsch, who finished her basketball career as a 1,000-point scorer this past winter. "I kind of just did it to be with my friends, and they told me to try it. I wanted to see how it'd go. It was very hard, but it was a good start because it was a learning year for everyone."

Yeager was another interesting addition

She had only played youth-level softball, but she wanted to continue playing alongside her friends following last year's basketball season. Plus, she actually missed playing the sport.

But when she signed up, she didn't realize what was in store for her. With Clara still in middle school, the Eagles didn't necessarily have a competent pitcher to throw out there.

So Yeager, who hadn't played in years, volunteered to be the starting pitcher. Though, she'd prefer to play an infield position over being the center of attention in the pitcher's circle.

"Yeah, I did not like it at all," the senior admitted. "Sometimes it was fun, but it's just a lot of pressure to be a pitcher. I know it's something Clara likes, and she's good at it, so I'm just going to let her do that, and I'll just be in the field."

Sprinkle in the bats of Kate Eldredge, Molly Parpart, Olivia Botosan, Morgan Harris and Kallie Brodhagen, among a few substitutes hanging in the dugout, and there's your turnaround for the Eagles

Which is amazing to think about. Four-year players such as McKarge could've called it quits after not winning a single game their first two seasons.

Instead, they're part of a foundational team that Coach Groen hopes can win a D-4 state championship before her daughter graduates from PCA.

"It's been really fun," McKarge said. "It was hard to be optimistic after last year, and I'm not really an optimist, but this year I have been more optimistic because we have that missing piece. We can actually win this (league and district titles) now, and we actually have a shot because last year we didn't have a shot."

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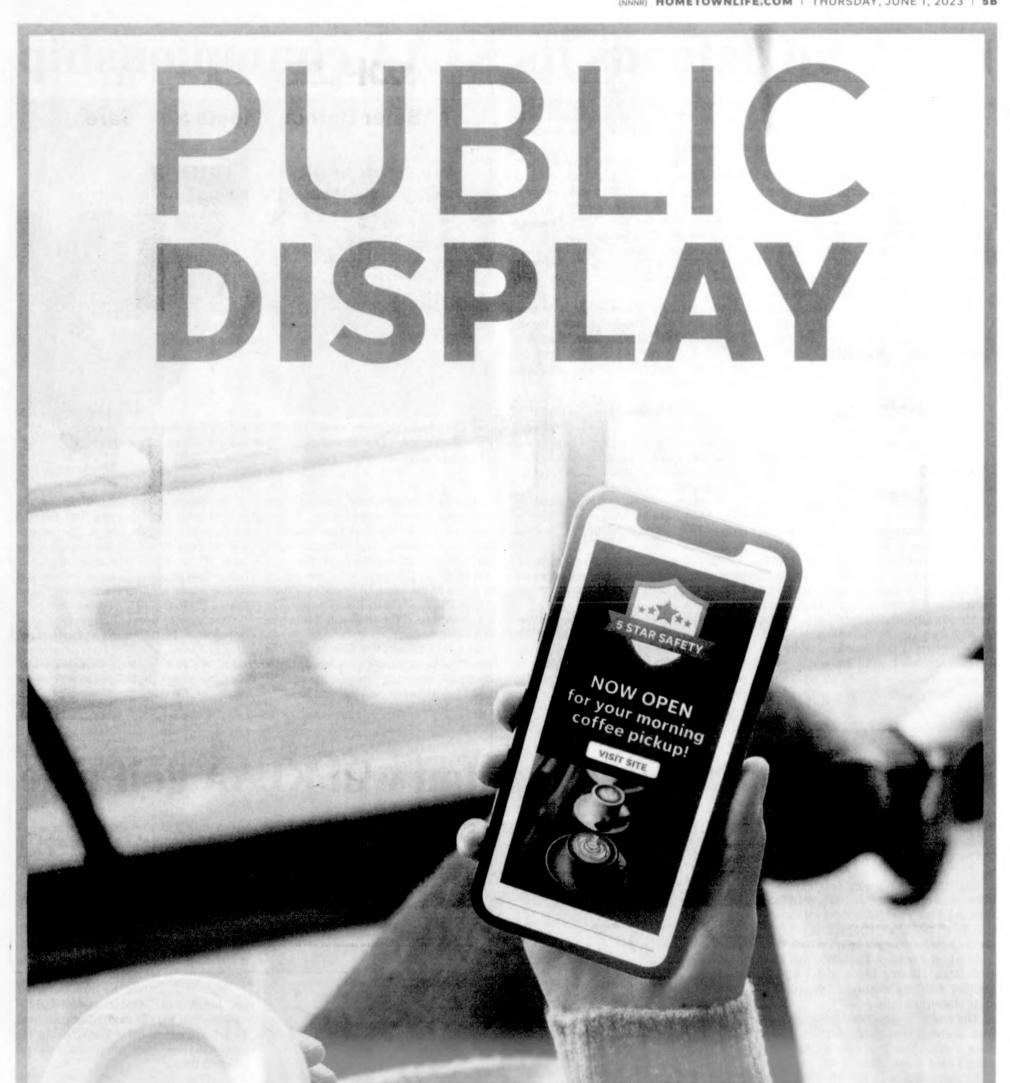


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# Hartland defends its KLAA championship

#### **Bill Khan**

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

NOVI — Abby Gardner was one of Hartland's top softball hitters, but she felt like she was struggling at the plate. Coach Taylor Wagner begs to differ.

"She felt like she was in a slump the last couple weeks," Wagner said. "Most people would argue it wasn't really a slump."

Gardner believes her swing has come around lately, as was proven Wednesday during the Eagles' 6-0 victory over Livonia Stevenson in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship game at Novi High School.

Gardner went 3-for-4 with a triple and double. She is hitting .370 since sitting at a respectable .349 on April 23.

"I think it's just the mental game," she said. "I'm finally starting to figure it out and getting the brain out of the way."

It's been a season of ups and downs for Gardner, who was hitting .403 on May 8 before dipping as low as .344.

"Mostly downs," she put it. "But I think it's starting to even itself out and my brain is starting to overcome some things. It's easy when the rest of the team has your back. If you have your downs, your team will pick you up."

Senior Kylie Swierkos continued to be the focal point of seventh-ranked Hartland's success, throwing a two-hitter with 11 strikeouts and no walks while delivering a two-run double to make it a 3-0 game in the second inning.

When Swierkos moves on to Grand Valley State University, she isn't sure if the Lakers' coaches will want her hitting. A .351 hitter, Swierkos wants to force the issue with her performance in the batter's box.

"I'm going to keep working on it to hopefully do that in college," she said. "I love hitting. It's kind of a break from the pitching aspect. I throw all the time, so being able to go out there and hit as well is another way to help my team."

In the circle, Swierkos kept the Spartans off balance the entire game. She threw 85 pitches, 67 of which were strikes.

"We actually knew what she was throwing to us," Stevenson coach Kevin Hannigan said. "She just had us on our toes all day, which is a credit to her. We know how good she is. We were guessing on some pitches."

Hartland (25-3-1) repeated as KLAA champion after never winning the title before last season. It's the second year in a row that Swierkos pitched a shutout in the championship game. She allowed only three hits in those two games, two of which were bunt singles.

"It's huge, because prior to that we've been in a few of the championship games, but we hadn't won it," Wagner said.

"This is awesome to do it back-toback and solidify our place and make sure people know they have to go through us."

Stevenson (27-6) was trying to become the first KLAA East team to win the championship. The Spartans are the only current East Division member to play in the title game. They lost 10-1 to Howell in 2019.



Hartland's Abby Gardner went 3-for-4 during a 6-0 victory over Livonia Stevenson in the KLAA championship game Wednesday, May 24, at Novi. BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Hartland opened the scoring with three runs in the second inning. Jaylen Nokovich scored the first run on a wild pitch on a strikeout and Swierkos doubled to left to deliver the next two.

A triple by Gardner and a groundout by Sadie Malik brought home two runs in the fifth. A single by Kate McIntyre in the sixth scored the final run. McIntyre was 3-for-4.

Swierkos retired the side in order in five of the seven innings, with only three Spartans reaching base. Stevenson didn't get a runner past second base. The Spartans are 3-3 in their last six games after a 24-3 start, but hope a beefed-up schedule late in the season will prepare them for postseason success. Their three victories are over teams that received honorable mention in the state rankings and their three losses are to top-10 Division 1 teams.

"We've seen great pitching from other teams — Hartland, Allen Park, Novi, Stoney Creek, Country Day," Hannigan said. "We've won some of those games. It's nice to see the pitching so we can get ready for districts next weekend."

# Lerch, Pennala help Brighton win KLAA golf title

#### **Bill Khan**

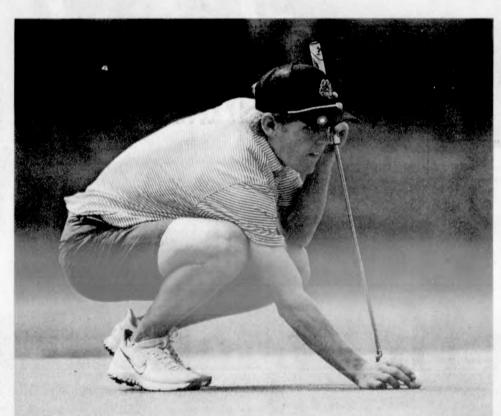
Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Winston Lerch and Levi Pennala of Brighton didn't have much time to grieve when they lost in the state Division 1 hockey championship game for the second straight year on March 11.

The first day of golf practice was two days later, offering Lerch and Pennala another realistic chance of winning a state championship.

The Bulldogs returned all five players from a group that finished third in the state tournament last season, the program's best finish since 2009.

Brighton dipped a little further back into its history to check off another box Tuesday, winning the Kensington Lakes Activities Association tournament at Kensington Metropark Golf Course. The Bulldogs followed a 294 in the preseason tournament on April 20 with a 293 in the final event. They won by eight strokes over Northville, which shot 297 and 298. It was the first conference championship for the Bulldogs since they won the Kensington Valley Conference title in the fall of 2007 at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea. Current coach James Dewling was a junior on that team. "It's a real good benchmark for our program," Dewling said. "The conference championship has always been on our to-do list. It was a great group of players who got it done today. A nice bounce-back, they battled back. They were under par as a group those final nine holes; that carried the day." A conference golf championship just adds to the legacies Lerch and Pennala have created at Brighton. They have been driving forces behind the success of their teams, Lerch making all-state in golf last season and Pennala twice making first-team all-state as a hockey goaltender with one season remaining. "It's been awesome," said Lerch, who shot 71 to tie for first place Tuesday. "I'm very thankful to play for Brighton. I'm glad I came here. Playing in the state championships and playing for things that mean something is really special." While golf isn't Pennala's primary sport, it was his fifth score that won a tiebreaker that enabled the golf team to head to the state tournament last season



ninth with a 75 and Howell sophomore Zach Spencer tied for 14th with a 76. Spencer tied for sixth in the overall tournament standings with a 150.

With the conference season completed, the focus turns to regionals. Brighton and Howell will play in a Division 1 regional May 31 at Salem Hills Golf Club in Northville, while Hartland will play in a Division 1 regional May 31 at Currie Golf Course in Midland.

"Now is definitely the time to turn it up," Lerch said. "We had a great day today, but you're only as good as your next round. We've just got to keep it going, focus on the next shot, the next round and go from there."

He came through with a 73 Tuesday playing as Brighton's fifth golfer, tying for fifth in the field, to help secure the overall championship.

"It's just super fun to be competitive in everything that I do," Pennala said. "Both teams have done really well. I've been fortunate enough to hit the high school at a time when there's been a supporting cast around me who helped a lot, especially here with the golf team. ... This team has really helped me and we've helped each other."

Although hockey and golf are totally different sports, from the temperatures

Brighton's Winston Lerch tied for first place with a 71 in the KLAA tournament Tuesday at Kensington Metropark Golf Course. Bill KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

in which they're played to the intensity level among competitors, Lerch and Pennala see similarities between their two teams.

"The successful guys are level-headed, they're gritty and they go out there and get done what needs to get done," said Lerch, who will play golf at Grand Valley State University.

"Just good team camaraderie," Pennala said. "We get along really well with everybody. It helps a lot when we're all just a big group of friends."

Pennala didn't play in the preseason KLAA tournament. He was in Minnesota playing for Team Michigan's junior squad in the CCM NIT tournament. He was eased back into golf upon his return.

"My coach gave me a little break when I got back," Pennala said. "He let me come back to practice instead of just throwing me right back into a tournament, so that was good. I kind of found my groove pretty quickly and the boys helped me get back in."

Brighton's top five golfers placed in the top nine in Tuesday's round. Lerch tied Novi junior Harshan Juttu for first place with par rounds of 71. Pennala tied for fifth with a 73, junior Riley Morton tied for seventh with a 74, and seniors Andrew Daily and Matt Doyle tied for ninth with 75s.

In the overall KLAA standings, Lerch was second with a 144, Daily was fourth with a 147, Morton tied for sixth with a 150 and Doyle tied for 10th with a 152.

Howell, which tied Novi for first place in the KLAA West dual meet standings at 6-1 for its first division title, shot 322 and finished fourth in the league with a 644. Hartland shot 327 to place fifth with a 655. Hartland junior Keller King tied for

#### **KLAA boys golf tournament**

#### **Team** scoring

 Brighton 294-293-587; 2. Northville 297-298-595; 3. Novi 304-302-606; 4. Howell 322-322-644; 5. Hartland 328-327-655; 6. Canton 339-319-658; 7. Livonia Stevenson 338-321-659; 8. Salem 329-331-660; 9. Livonia Franklin 334-345-679; 10. Plymouth 357-351-708; 11. Westland John Glenn 378-353-731; 12. Livonia Churchill 375-357-732; 13. Dearborn 385-361-746; 14. Belleville 451-472-923; 15. Wayne Memorial incomplete score.

#### Top individuals

Ryan Gallagher, Northville, 70-72-142 Winston Lerch, Brighton, 73-71-144 Harshan Juttu, Novi, 75-71-146 Andrew Daily, Brighton, 72-75-147 Gowtham Nalluri, Novi, 72-76-148 Riley Morton, Brighton, 76-74-150 Nick Tokarz, Northville, 78-72-150 Zach Spencer, Howell, 74-76-150 Greg Braun, Northville, 74-77-151 Matt Doyle, Brighton, 77-75-152



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# L during a job interview

A 2018 survey of more than 1,000 hiring managers and human resources professionals revealed some surprising things about modern hiring practices. The survey, conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of CareerBuilder provided a wealth of insight about the hiring process, including some of the unusual things people have done in interviews. Asked to share the most unusual things candidates have done during interviews, employers and hiring managers indicated job seekers had asked for a cocktail, broke out in song in the middle of an interview, asked to taste an interviewer's coffee, and even wore a costume of Darth Vader to an interview.

Though many of those replies undoubtedly elicited a laugh (and likely some shock), they indicate that many people aren't entirely sure about how to act during a job interview. Most professionals probably don't need to be told to avoid asking for a cocktail or to leave their costumes at home when leaving for an interview, but some might not know to avoid certain topics. Others may simply venture into uncomfortable conversational territory due to nerves. Though there might not be a formula for a successful interview, if there were it might include avoiding these four topics.



1. Negative experiences about current or past employers: Positivity should reign supreme during a job interview, so candidates should avoid any negative comments about a current or past employer. Such comments give interviewers the impression that a candidate could be difficult to work with. Negative comments about an employer also suggest a candidate is unprofessional.

2. Politics: Whether it's office politics or the goings-on in the political arena, this topic should not make it into a job interview. Politics understandably brings out a passion in many people, but candidates should emphasize their passion for the opportunity at hand and not their enthusiasm for a particular politician or political party during a job interview.

3. Personal life: Hiring managers and in fact anyone conducting a job interview is legally obligated to avoid topics that could be interpreted as discriminatory. Candidates who bring up their personal life in an interview could be putting interviewers in an awkward position, which may ultimately affect their impressions of the person being interviewed. Candidates can do their candidacy and their interviewers a favor by avoiding discussions of their personal life during an interview.

4. Salary: Bringing up salary might not be as big a red flag as political opinions or negative comments about past employers, but it's best to wait until the interviewer broaches the topic. Asking about salary before the interviewer brings it up could give the impression that a candidate is only interested in the money and not the opportunity.

Successful interviewing is a skill that candidates can cultivate. Knowing which topics to avoid during an interview is an important part of that cultivation process.



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