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NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Lyon Township fire chief to retire after 36 years of public service

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TOWNSHIP — Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak has seen both joys and tragedies in nearly four decades of responding to emergencies.

He said he helped deliver a premature baby in the back of an ambulance and celebrated the birthday boy at a

party a year later. He has mourned the loss of an entire family in a house fire. He has pulled an unconscious man from another blaze and rushed to render aid to countless other victims of accidents and medical emergencies.

In a career in which the pendulum swings wildly from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows, he is ready for a more even keel.

Van Sparrentak has announced his

retirement effective Sept. 1—his 10-year anniversary as chief of the Lyon Township Fire Department.

"I've been considering retirement for awhile," Van Sparrentak said. "But hitting the 10-year mark at Lyon Township and 36-year mark in fire service—both are milestones and it is time for someone else."

See FIRE CHIEF, Page 4A



Lyon Township Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak will retire effective Sept. 1.
JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Bob's Big Boy spinoffs set to open in Farmington, Plymouth Township

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — Two new Bob's Big Boy eateries are coming to metro Detroit and will feature all the classic favorites in a smaller, faster version of the iconic restaurant.

In Farmington, franchise owner Al Baydoun said he is hiring and training staff and putting the finishing touches in place at the new Bob's Big Boy at 32704 Grand River Ave. In Plymouth Township, his nephew, Habib Baydoun, plans to open a Bob's Big Boy at 40835 Ann Arbor Road sometime this fall.

Get a Slim Jim in the drive-thru

If everything goes according to plan, the welcome mat will go out at the Farmington location within the next two weeks.

"Every minute, there's a car going through the drive thru," said Al Baydoun, who also owns the full-service Big Boy restaurant in Garden City. "Every minute somebody walks to my door: 'When you gonna open? We can't wait anymore.' The feedback I'm getting is amazing, I think we should do really well here."

See BIG BOY, Page 9A



The Drip Don, left, and ConnorTV in their new luxury sneaker store on Grand River Avenue in Farmington.
SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Internet personalities open luxury sneaker store

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

FARMINGTON — For two local sneakerheads, SHOP on Grand River Avenue is a dream come true.

Social media personalities Hasan Habhab and Connor Gorman met through making videos for YouTube and TikTok and hit it off so well that they decided to go into business together. Habhab has owned The Smoke Don, which is in the suite next to SHOP, for six years.

"I have dreamed of owning a sneaker store since I was a kid, and I know it's something he's always wanted to do, too," said Habhab, who has over 600,000 followers on TikTok as The

See SNEAKERS, Page 9A

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Shoot-out at Livonia party store leaves one dead, two wounded

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — A 27-year-old Redford woman is dead after she was shot in an argument with a stranger at a Livonia party store early this morning, police said.

The suspect in the killing, a 24-year-old Detroit woman, is in custody after an acquaintance of the victim shot her in return.

According to a Livonia Police press

release, officers responded at 12:53 a.m. July 18 to a call of shots fired in the parking lot at 13820 Merriman Road, where Nicholas Party Shop is located.

Upon arrival, they found the victim dead from an apparent gunshot wound. The suspect and a male acquaintance of hers were also shot and wounded by a male acquaintance of the victim.

According to police, a preliminary investigation revealed that the two women had a verbal argument inside the store, which carried on when they exited and went to the parking lot. The sus-

pect fired a handgun at the victim, killing her.

An acquaintance of the victim, a 25-year-old Detroit man, then returned fire with a handgun, striking the suspect and her acquaintance, a 24-year-old Warren man, both of whom were treated at a local hospital and released.

The suspect, a concealed pistol license holder, was taken into custody without incident. The Detroit man who shot the suspect has an expired concealed pistol license and was also taken into custody at the scene without inci-

dent.

Livonia Police Lt. Charles Lister said it appears none of the persons involved in this incident knew each other. The names of the parties involved are being withheld at this time.

Weapons have been recovered and evidence is still being processed, Lister said. Once the investigation is completed, it will be turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

Tool and die shop in Westland to become marijuana business

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND — The owner of a tool and die shop is changing his business strategy to stay afloat.

His next venture? Marijuana.

"Times change," said Gregory Raymond, owner of Ray Industries, which is currently known as R&A Tool and Engineering Co. "The zoning on my property has changed so we're applying for this license to try and stay in business somehow. It'll keep some of my people going and keep that building occupied."

City council unanimously approved Raymond's request to open a marijuana microbusiness in his current shop at 39127 Ford Road. A microbusiness license allows the owner to grow and process up to 150 marijuana plants at the same time and sell directly to the consumer.

"This business is a little different from the traditional dispensary," Council President Pro Tem Andrea Rutkowski said. "This isn't an additional full retail dispensary going into Ford Road. It's a microbusiness, which is a different kind of business."

R&A Tool and Engineering Co. has been in Westland since 1968. Raymond said he's seen a changing community and has needed to trim staffing over the years. He is planning a roughly \$1 million investment into the new Ray Industries business and pledged to donate \$500 to the Lighthouse Home Missions nearby on 34033 Palmer Road.

According to Raymond, Ray Industries will open in roughly three months while the tool and die business gradually ceases operations.

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Legislator requests formal audit of Hawthorn Center

String of concerns raised over youth psychiatric hospital

Christina Hall
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A state senator from metro Detroit is requesting a formal audit of Hawthorn Center in Northville Township, the state's youth psychiatric hospital where an unannounced active shooter drill was held four days before Christmas.

State Sen. Michael Webber, R-Rochester Hills, said July 17 he sent a letter to Michigan Auditor General Doug Riegler requesting a formal audit after concerns about the unannounced drill, children escaping the facility and relocating youth in the center into an adult psychiatric facility while the center is razed and a new facility is built.

Webber held a listening session last week for families of loved ones who say they have suffered in the care of Hawthorn Center and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protective Services.

Last month, he sent letters to Senate committee chairs requesting a legislative hearing to investigate ongoing problems at the center.

'Too many young people are suffering'

The letter to Riegler also was signed by state Sen. Jim Runestad and state Reps. Tom Kuhn, Jamie Thompson and Mark Tisdell, all Republicans from metro Detroit, who also participated in the listening session.

In a news release, Webber said stories from families ranged from "heart-breaking to tragic; too many young people are suffering when they are supposed to be protected."

The most recent auditor general review of Hawthorn Center was conducted in 2014 on the effectiveness of its operations, including a timeliness of assessments, medication inventory monitoring and internal incident investigative processes, according to Webber's release.

That audit, the release states, did not focus on patient care or clinical decisions, staff opinions about patient treatment or the effectiveness of the Office of Recipient Rights at the Center, which is responsible for patient treatment complaints.

The lawmakers are seeking an updated performance audit of the center including reviews of:

- Patient care and staff opinions about treatment.



During the active shooter drill, Brandon Woodruff was met by police with their guns drawn. SARAHBETH MANEY/DETROIT FREE PRESS

- The effectiveness of the Office of Recipient Rights at the Center.
- Clinical decisions.
- The causes of patient escapes and the circumstances involving the active shooter drill in December.

In his letter, Webber added that it may be worthwhile to review whether communication delays between the center and the state health department have contributed to errors.

Review of drill finds no violations of policy

At least 17 patients have escaped from the center since 2020, according to the release from Webber's office and letters he sent to Democratic colleagues.

Center officials and the state health department are under fire in lawsuits stemming from the unannounced active shooter drill in December that terrified staff and brought a large police presence to the center with guns drawn.

An internal review of the incident found no policies or work rules were violated when the center held the unannounced active intruder drill, according to documents and emails obtained by the Free Press through a Freedom of Information Act request with the state health department.

A State Hospital Administration investigator who reviewed the Dec. 21 unannounced drill at Hawthorn Center said in a March memorandum that the

drill was conducted hastily — just a day after the decision was made to have it, with poor communication and inadequate staffing for the circumstances.

Two lawsuits have been filed by families and/or employees, including one who was tapped to roleplay one of the two active armed shooters.

The state plans to raze the center and temporarily is housing youth patients at the Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland, where adults are treated, while a new \$325 million inpatient psychiatric hospital for youth and adults is being built.

Hawthorn Center patients and staff were moved to a separate unit at the Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital at the end of June, Lynn Sutfin, state health department spokesperson, said in an email Tuesday to the Free Press. She said as of July 1, Hawthorn Center is no longer an accredited entity.

Webber said he has concerns about youth and adult being housed under the same roof.

In regard to the requested audit, Sutfin said, "The health and safety of our staff and patients is our top concern." She said Michigan's state hospitals are accredited by The Joint Commission "and are committed to providing evidence-supported, person-centered inpatient care to individuals in an environment that values compassion, collaboration and community reintegration."

Two charged in fatal shooting of Redford woman

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Two people have been charged in connection to the fatal shooting of Redford resident Markayla Sadler, 27, in a Livonia party store parking lot.

Lania Julieah Conn, 24, of Detroit is charged with one count of second-degree murder and one count of felony

firearm, according to a press release from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. Cory Leniel Campbell, 25, also of Detroit, is charged with one count of carrying a concealed weapon, the release said.

According to Livonia police, officers were called to a party store in the 13800 block of Merriman Road for a reported shooting shortly before 1 a.m. July 18. Officers found Sadler dead in the parking lot with an apparent gunshot wound

to the head.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the two women, Sadler and Conn, had an argument inside the store. The argument carried over into the parking lot, where Conn was accused of shooting and killing Sadler with a handgun.

Conn and Campbell are expected to be arraigned July 21 before Magistrate Barbara Scherr in 16th District Court.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com.

Mayoral bids could rearrange House

City wins would temporarily cost Dems the chamber

Clara Hendrickson
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Democrats could soon lose their majority in the state House without losing an election. At least temporarily.

Two Democratic state representatives are running for mayor in their respective cities: Kevin Coleman in Westland and Lori Stone in Warren. If they win, they'll vacate their seats in the Legislature early before finishing their terms.

Their mayoral bids come after they were both reelected to the state House with historic victories for their party: Democrats secured control of both chambers of the Legislature for the first time since 1983. Democrats used their new — but narrow — majorities to undo GOP labor laws, enact new gun safety measures and remove abortion restrictions.

City elections this fall could usher in another shift in state politics, one that hasn't occurred in nearly 30 years. If both Coleman and Stone win mayoral elections, they would leave behind a split state House with 54 Democrats and 54 Republicans. The last time the chamber was evenly divided along partisan lines was in 1994.

Both Coleman and Stone said Democratic control of the Legislature complicated their decisions to seek local office.

"It'd be an easy thing to stay at the state and continue the great track record that we have, but I'm not willing to let my hometown suffer because I didn't step up and do the right thing," Coleman said. He sees a "void in leadership" in Westland and decided to run following former Mayor Bill Wild's decision to step down after serving since 2007.

"I love what I do in the Legislature," said Stone. "And now I'm in the majority which I've worked so hard for." But she said she decided to follow calls from her constituents urging her to run because she said she didn't see her values reflected in the field of mayoral candidates.

If they win their mayoral primaries on Aug. 8 and general elections on Nov. 7, they'll be sworn into office after the results are certified. It's up to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to call a special election. She's expected to do so quickly. (Michigan election law doesn't stipulate a deadline for the governor to call a special election.) The Secretary of State's office estimates it will take approximately 120 days to hold a special election if there's a vacancy in a state representative's seat.

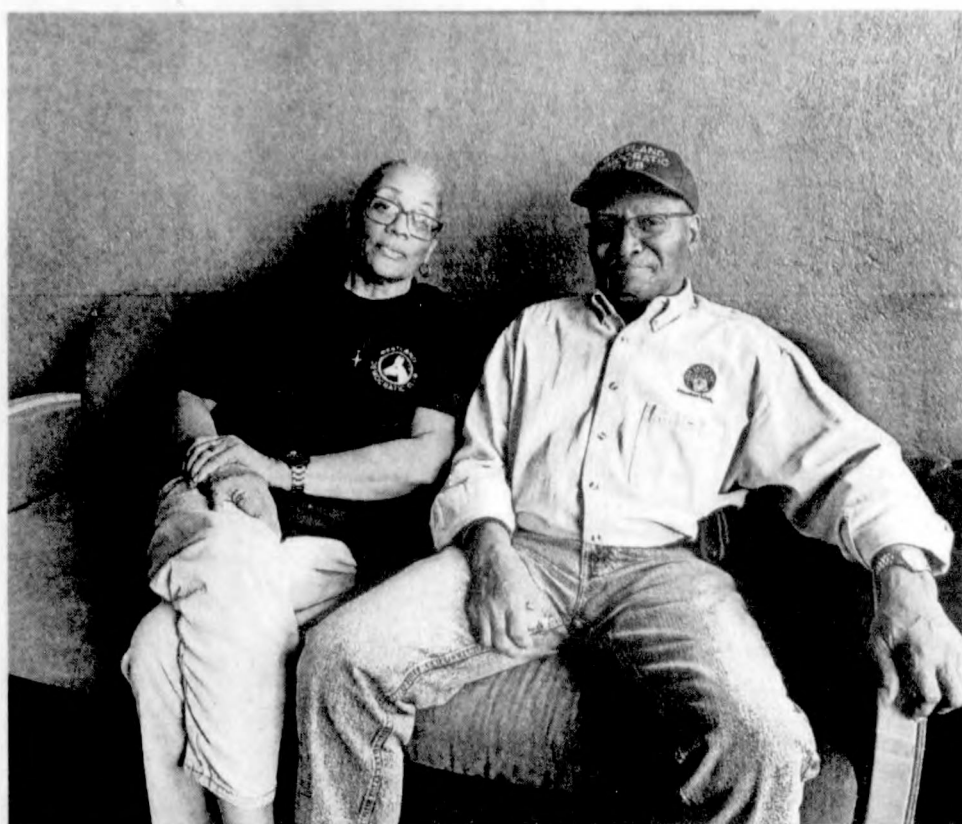
If Coleman and Stone win their mayoral races, leaving their seats in Lansing vacant for months will have little impact on state politics, they said. Both point out that their caucus has already moved quickly to pass key Democratic priorities and expect to see a greater focus on bipartisanship when lawmakers return after the summer break. But others see the potential loss of a Democratic majority — even if temporary — putting a damper on Democrats' legislative agenda.

What happens if they win?

For Coleman and Stone, the transition from state representative to mayor would come with upsides: a shorter commute, a higher salary and longer terms.

When it comes to the impact in Lansing, their bids set up a few different outcomes depending on the results of their elections. If Coleman and Stone both lose their mayoral races, they won't have to vacate their seats and can serve the remainder of their terms in the House, allowing Democrats to keep their majority without any interruption. If only one of them wins, that still leaves Democrats with a workable 55-54 majority. But if both win, that leaves Democrats with a 54-54 tie with Republicans. Under this scenario, Tate would continue to serve as speaker with Democrats chairing committees and deciding which bills come to the floor for a vote. (The House rules only allow a new speaker election to be called in the event of a 55-55 split.)

Losing both seats will fundamentally transform the political dynamics in the chamber, said Brandon Dillon, the for-



Lori Wilson (left), the recording secretary for the Westland Democratic Club, sits next to Arthur Warren (right), who chairs the club, on May 12, 2023.

CLARA HENDRICKSON

mer chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. "Everything will have to be bipartisan," he said. "That's just the reality."

While both Coleman and Stone would vacate seats in safe Democratic districts that would likely be filled by another Democrat, their absence could shorten the window for passing Democratic priorities ahead of House elections in 2024.

Gun control measures, environmental legislation, LGBTQ rights and protections for reproductive rights are among the Democratic policy proposals at risk of stalling, said Adrian Hemond, the CEO of the Lansing-based political consulting firm Grassroots Midwest who worked in the Michigan House the last time Democrats controlled the chamber.

"Anything that there is not some amount of bipartisan agreement on as an opening bid is potentially at risk," he said. "It's a pretty broad list of policy initiatives that at a minimum, this could cause some potential delay. And depending on the timing of special elections based on when the governor calls them, that puts them bleeding into an election year trying to get stuff done that you don't have bipartisan agreement on."

Coleman and Stone don't see their mayoral bids threatening to slow down things down much in the Legislature. "I definitely believe that regardless of how my race ends, it doesn't change the dynamics in Lansing," Stone said.

Some Democratic lawmakers have expressed support for the decision to seek local office. For instance, state Rep. Dylan Wegela, D-Garden City, wants Coleman to win because he expects Coleman to bring greater transparency in local bidding, government and policing. "Lansing's important, but so is local government," Wegela said.

But Lori Wilson, recording secretary for the Westland Democratic Club expressed concerns that Democratic priorities would be at risk in Lansing. She said in an interview in May that she would prefer to see Coleman finish his term in the state House. If he becomes mayor, "only time will tell what will happen," she said.

Democrats who might prefer Coleman and Stone stay put in Lansing can't do much to keep the representatives in state politics. Pushing back is almost impossible, said former Michigan Democratic Party chair Mark Brewer. Those interested in stopping their bids don't really have any leverage, he said.

House GOP Leader Matt Hall, R-Richland Township, celebrated Coleman and Stone's decision to run for mayor. "They both have my support, that's for sure," he said — followed by a brief chuckle — on a podcast interview with MIRS earlier this year.

A question from the Free Press on the mayoral campaigns posed to House Speaker Joe Tate, D-Detroit, also prompted laughter. But his may have signaled his discomfort with what lies ahead.

He said maintaining a Democratic majority is one of the most important jobs he has. Tate celebrated what Democrats have done with their new power in the Legislature so far. "But I think it will definitely slow things down," he said when asked about the potential even partisan split in the state House Coleman and Stone's mayoral bids could leave him.

'Warren is the biggest small town in Michigan'

Stone is a lifelong Warren resident and former teacher. She didn't specify exactly when she decided to jump into the mayoral race, but she said that she knew it was a possibility when voters reelected her last fall to a third term to the state House with 67% support.

Since then, Stone has been busy with no break from the campaign trail. When she's back home in Warren, she said she's knocking on voters' doors four days a week and phone banking when she's in Lansing. That's how to win an election without money, she said.

She's one of six candidates vying to serve as Warren's next mayor. The field became less crowded when longtime Mayor Jim Fouts was declared ineligible to seek a fifth term.

One of her opponents in the race — City Council President Patrick Green — questioned why Stone sought reelection to the state House if she was eyeing a mayoral bid the next year.

"Then why did you run?" he said. "Everyone I know in Lansing is concerned about it."

But Stone said she loves where she's from and if elected as mayor wants to prioritize investing in parks and recreation, economic development and senior services among other areas.

"I call Warren the biggest small town in Michigan," she said, on a brisk evening in June as she knocked on voters' doors. She came across one home with her mayoral campaign sign featuring her name in bold, purple text, her favorite color.

Stone stopped by to greet 88-year-old Genevieve Lane. "I'll support her as long as I can," Lane said. She said fixing Warren's roads is her biggest priority as a voter.

For others, like Stone campaign volunteer Gerald Hasspacher, environ-

mental issues top the list.

"Macomb County really is far behind Oakland County on environmental action, and we need to catch up," he said.

He said that Warren city leaders also haven't done enough to create a community feeling in urban planning. "I think we're more focused on making sure that we have malls, and that you can buy anything you want close to home," he said. Meanwhile, he said the city is failing to attract young people. "We've been stuck in the 1960s."

At 43, Stone is the youngest candidate in the race.

'My heart is here'

Unlike Stone — who hopes voters will elect her to local office for the first time after working in state politics — Coleman has experience serving at the local level. He previously served on Westland City Council, lost a bid to Wild for mayor in 2017 and went on to win election to the state House in 2018.

"I find statewide policy intriguing, and I enjoy the work that I do," he told the Free Press in May. "But I think my heart is here, in the community."

"There's a lot of need here, and I think I can make an even stronger impact leading the city as mayor," he added.

He's one of six mayoral candidates competing in the August primary.

From his post in Lansing, he has criticized one of his opponents in the race: interim Westland Mayor Mike Londeau who's finishing out the remainder of Wild's term. Coleman accused Londeau of sitting on videos showing the city's then-police chief verbally harassing and humiliating citizens as a patrol officer 20 years ago by asking detainees to sing, breakdance and perform a headstand to avoid jail time.

"Like they're in a minstrel show," said Wilson from the Westland Democratic Club.

Londeau ultimately supported the chief's resignation, but the fallout is continuing to play out in the mayoral race.

The next mayor will have to contend with the "perception of Westland as a non-welcoming city in regards to the police department," said Arthur Warren, chair of the Westland Democratic Club. "I think that's going to be a challenge for a lot of mayors. If they're truly talking about being 'An All American City,' they have to get rid of that perception," he said, referring to Westland's motto.

The upcoming mayoral primaries in Warren and Westland will decide whether Coleman and Stone advance to the November general election and what's in store for Democrats in Lansing.

But one thing is clear to the chair of the Westland Democratic Club from Democrats' first several months in power: their majority in Lansing is fragile. And even a safe Democratic seat is not certain to stay blue. "There's no guarantees of what will happen," Warren said.

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN AUGUST 8, 2023 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Novi, Novi Community School District:

Notice is hereby given that a special election will be held in the City of Novi on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

1	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
2	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	41415 W. Nine Mile Road
3	Village Oaks Elementary School	23333 Willowbrook Road
4 & 6	Church of the Holy Family	24505 Meadowbrook Road
5	Orchard Hills Elementary School	41900 Quince
7	Department of Public Works	26300 Lee BeGole Drive
14	Crosspointe Meadows Church	29000 Meadowbrook Road
15	Faith Community Church	44400 West Ten Mile Road
18	Novi Public Library	45255 West Ten Mile Road
19	Legacy Church of Novi	45301 West Eleven Mile Road
20 & 21	Novi Middle School	49000 Eleven Mile Road
23	Novi Meadows 6th Grade House	25299 Taft Road

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Novi Community School District voters will be voting for purposes of voting on the following proposals:

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL 19 MILLS FOR 11 YEARS EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW AND 5.49 MILLS FOR 11 YEARS ON ALL PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY OTHERWISE EXEMPTED BY LAW

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC RECREATION AND PLAYGROUNDS 0.9365 MILL FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the administrative office of Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, 48374-2423, telephone: (248) 449-1200.

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the City of Novi Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the City Clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Cortney Hanson, MMC, MiPMC II
City Clerk, City of Novi
(248) 347-0456
cityofnovi.org

Fire chief

Continued from Page 1A

Van Sparrentak, who turns 59 next month, found his calling right after his 1983 graduation from Aquinas High School in Southgate. While on a trip to southern California that summer, he met a friend's uncle and was intrigued by his stories of working as a forestry firefighter.

"It was fascinating to me that he could be gone for weeks at a time, and he managed prison crews, which blew my mind," Van Sparentak said. "Here they were giving prisoners sharp tools and axes to do hard grunt work to clear brush. I thought I would take classes and see how it went."

He enrolled in a fire science degree program at Henry Ford College and started looking for a job in the field but recalls that it was difficult to get into a department in those days. Unlike now, when departments struggle to recruit firefighters, Van Sparrentak was up against hundreds of applicants.

He felt lucky to be hired by the Fern-
dale Fire Department in 1987 as a fire-
fighter/EMT, where he stayed for 16
years before becoming the fire chief of
Walled Lake in 2003 where he stayed for
a decade before landing the top spot at
the fire department in Lyon Township, a
community that has been one of the
fastest growing in the county and in the
state.

"The township has grown and seen significant changes and he was instrumental in a lot of them," said Assistant Chief Reggie Madeline, who began his own fire career in Lyon Township in 2004 as a paid on-call firefighter.

Under Van Sparrentak, the department began hiring full-time firefighters in 2019, and now has 12 of them, for a total of 16 full-time employees in the department.

During his tenure, the department has also gone from basic life support to transport capability with two ambulances, as well as large improvements to apparatus, equipment and fire stations, resulting in a better ISO fire rating and reducing insurance rates in the township.

"These were all things he advocated for, he always wanted to make sure we had what we needed to do our jobs and remain safe while doing it." Madeline



Ken Van Sparrentak rappels down a building early in his career. The Lyon Township Fire Chief is retiring after 36 years of public service, the past decade in the township.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEN VAN SPARRENTAK

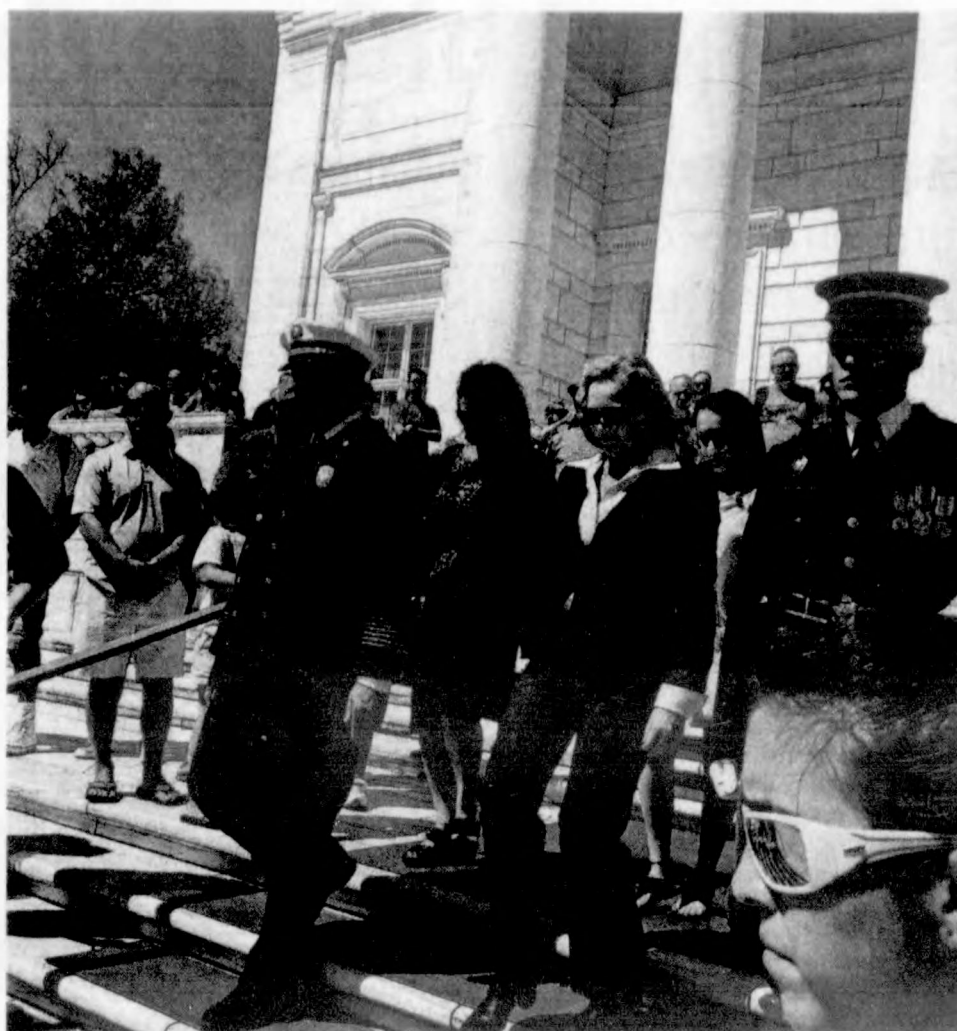
said. "He helped us grow and made us a stronger department. It's been a wonderful experience working with the chief. He's a great individual."

Van Sparrentak said he's happy to have had the support of the township board and firefighting staff buying into the vision and growth for the township. He's grateful for other changes including attitudes toward mental health and the need for support.

He recalls that when he began his career, he worked with a lot of Vietnam veterans who had been taught they should just deal with trauma, to suck it up and move on.

"Those were early messages, but we have learned a great deal in recent decades on addressing mental health stress," Van Sparrentak said. "We're bringing in crisis teams, just talking more directly with firefighters... With some of the most serious incidents, like a plane crash or a bad car crash with fatalities, we will make sure there are resources there for all firefighters involved. We are acknowledging post-traumatic stress or the potential for that."

A sense of humor and staying grounded is vital to staying in a career that revolves around high-stress situations, he added.



Van Sparrentak in Washington, D.C. for the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.

Administrative Assistant Mary Mossesso said the chief has that and more.

"In dealing with the public, sometimes peculiar things occur," she said. "But he is just steady as a rock with everything, nothing ruffles his feathers. He knows how to handle the situations and Chief Van's sense of humor is amazing. He's so quick-witted, he keeps us laughing daily. It's going to be such a loss (with his retirement)."

Van Sparrentak is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 32 years, Sandy, and their two daughters, Murphy and Lauren, boating at their new lakeside home in Fenton.

He will continue teaching at Oakland Community College as he has since 2009, with a new degree program this fall in homeland security and emergency management.

Van Sparrentak's own education was essential to his success and includes a

bachelor's in fire science from Madonna University, completion of the executive fire officer program through the National Fire Academy, and the honor of being the first member of Michigan's fire service to be accepted into the master's program at the Naval Post Graduate School's Center for Homeland Security and Defense.

Van Sparrentak already runs the OCC firefighter technology degree program and offers classes fully online, another way he hopes to attract young firefighters to the career to which he dedicated himself and which he said sped by.

"I'm going to miss it, but it feels like it's time for the next chapter," he said. "I've enjoyed the time here and what was accomplished by everyone."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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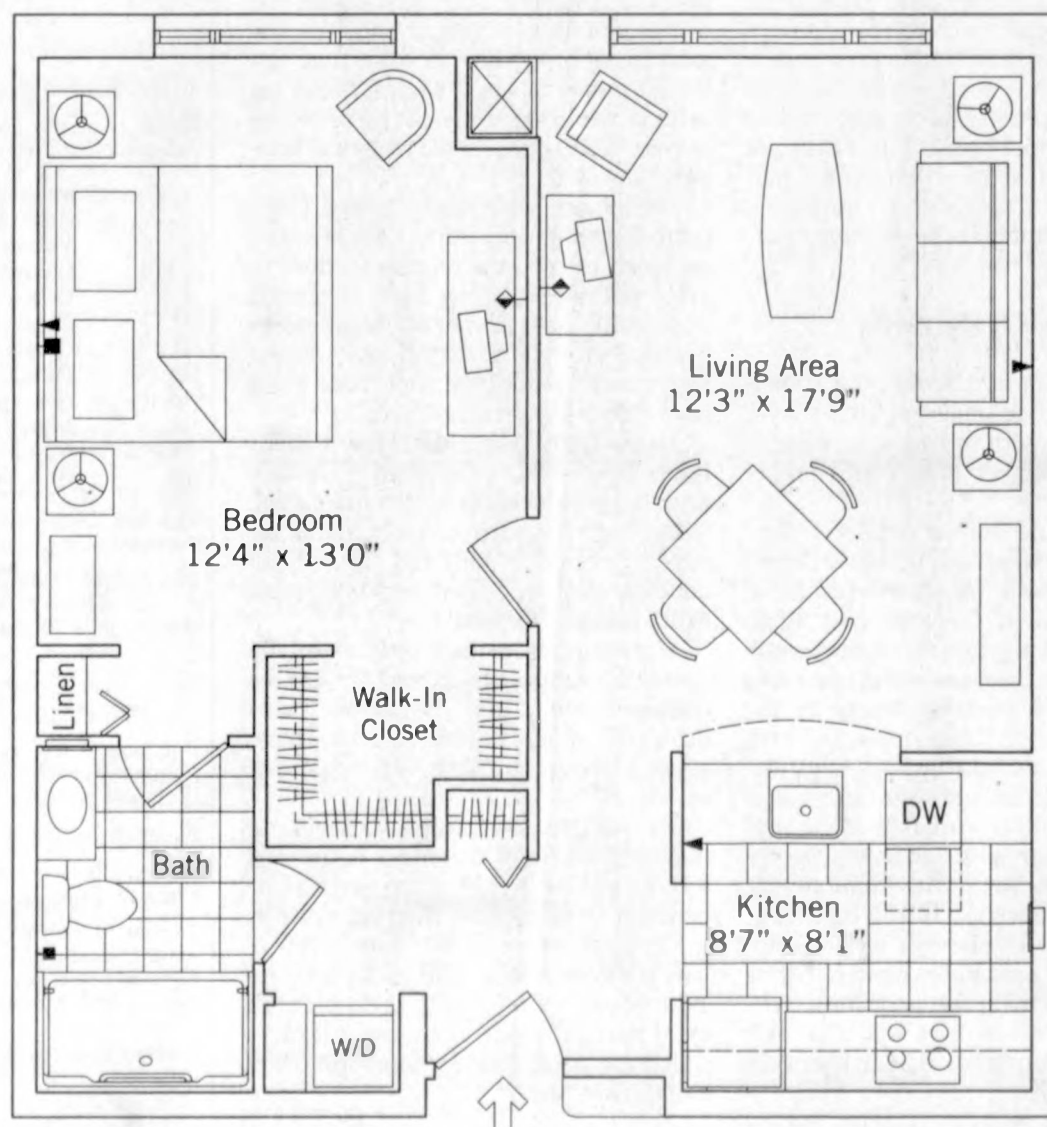
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Two longtime Northville Township firefighters eye new opportunities

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — Two of Northville Township Fire Department's three battalion chiefs recently retired and while officials say they will be missed, they believe qualified replacements could be close at hand.

Battalion Chief Chris Koth, 52, who started his career in Northville Township in 1992 as a reserve police officer, retired July 15 to begin a new career in boat repair.

Battalion Chief Brian Siriani, 46, is leaving the Northville Township community after nearly 27 years of service to begin a role as deputy chief of the Brighton Area Fire Authority. His final shift was July 16.

The vacancies created by the retirements could be filled from within the department, according to Todd Mutchler, Northville Township manager and director of public safety.

"We definitely have qualified individuals," Mutchler said. "In Northville Township, we invest in our folks with all kinds of professional development opportunities. We look to grow people from within, to prepare them for leadership roles within the organization."

Northville Township created the position of battalion chief about five years ago, Mutchler said. Koth and Siriani were two of the first three people to serve in the role, providing leadership, direction, motivation and training for each of the department's three 24-hour shifts, he said.

'I'm proud of all of it'

As a reserve police officer, Koth's early days in Northville Township included working in the motorcycle patrol unit and as a reserve field training officer while he rose to the rank of reserve sergeant, the township said in a press release.

"Battalion Chief Koth has dedicated more than 30 years to the Northville



Northville Township Fire Department Battalion Chief Chris Koth is retiring July 15.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

community," Northville Township Fire Chief Brent Siegel said. "We are grateful for the various roles he has filled and the leadership he has provided to those who have worked with him. He has done a great job developing the new officers who will fill his shoes."

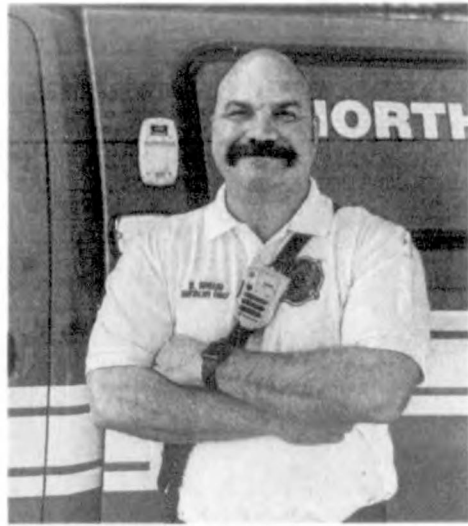
In 1996, Koth became an on-call firefighter and was hired as a dispatcher in 1998. He continued to work in all three roles until he transitioned to full-time firefighter in 2000.

"This suits my personality better and I felt like I could do more good here and experience less confrontation," Koth said.

In addition to his firefighter role, Koth worked as a paramedic, a lieutenant and, finally, battalion chief. He is a founding member and team leader on the Western Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue team.

Koth teaches rope rescue throughout the state for the Michigan USAR Training Foundation, a role he will continue after retirement.

"The chief asked me the other day what my proudest moment was," Koth said. "I'm proud of all of it."



Northville Township Fire Department Battalion Chief Brian Siriani is leaving the community after nearly 27 years of service.

In retirement, Koth plans to turn a hobby into his new career. He and wife Kendra will open a fiberglass boat repair service northern Michigan. Koth developed a love for the process when he bought a 40-year-old boat and made his own repairs as part of a complete rehab. He already has several customers lined up.

'I told my mom I was going to make a career change'

In the early days of his education at Wayne State University, Siriani planned to become an elementary school teacher and football coach, according to the township's press release.

But while visiting a friend one Friday night — a paid on-call firefighter for Northville Township — the friend was dispatched to a house fire and invited Siriani to observe the scene. That night changed the trajectory of Siriani's career.

"I got to see the camaraderie between the crews," he said. "I saw how they treated the homeowners with compassion, how the team environment re-

minded me a lot of a football team except I was watching them put out the fire. The next day, I told my mom I was going to make a career change and I enrolled in the Schoolcraft Fire Academy and left Wayne State."

Siriani joined Northville Township as a paid on-call firefighter in 1996 and became full time in 1999. During his tenure, he watched the fire department evolve from eight-hour shifts with two fire fighters, to 16 hours in 1999 with four firefighters. In May 2000, he worked the first 24-hour shift in Northville Township, a system that continues today with 11 firefighters.

Siriani became a team leader on the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team, which he served with for 19 years, was a hazardous materials specialist with the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue Task Force I, and served as both a local union president and on its executive board for 18 years.

"Battalion Chief Siriani will definitely be remembered as a great person, in addition to his extreme passion for the fire service," Siegel said. "He has been excellent in developing and maintaining relationships which has been key to his success as a leader."

"He was a major contributor to the growth of our department and will continue to use his strong skill set developed in Northville Township to serve the Brighton Area Fire Authority as their new deputy chief."

Siriani said he will always be grateful for colleagues who stepped up when his wife, Allison, had cancer surgery during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"I never felt alone," he said. "Every single person in the fire department, the township administration, the manager's office, literally every single person reached out to me and I'll never forget that."

"I hope to be known for ... I just hope people say I'm a good person," Siriani added. "I know that's simplistic, but really, I just hope people say, if they mentioned my name here, that I was a good person."

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NCUA

Hollywood couple from Michigan set to star in Carvana commercials

Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Actors Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell are tapping into their Motor City roots to sell used cars.

The couple, who are both from Michigan, will star in a new ad campaign for online used-car retail giant Carvana, the company said Thursday. In the ads, the couple will play themselves to show how Carvana's "simple online process has improved the car buying and selling experience making it fair, easy and fun," Carvana said in a statement.

Shepard and Bell, both known for comic wit, will star in a series of national commercials and social videos that will launch this summer featuring scenarios showing "how Carvana drives its customers happy," the company said.

"Carvana was conceived with the idea that people needed a better way to buy and sell a car, and over the last ten years, that's what we've worked to build," said Co-Founder and Chief Brand Officer Ryan Keeton in a statement.

Keeton said that Shepard and Bell starring in the new campaign will reach and resonate with more consumers.

Michigan couple in Hollywood at a Red Wings game

Bell, 43, who was born in Huntington Woods, is best known for her roles in "Frozen," "Veronica Mars" and "The Good Place." She also starred in the Netflix parody of thrillers called "The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window." Earlier this year, Bell donated \$2,500 to a GoFundMe campaign for a Detroit family who lost their home and everything they owned in a fire.

Shepard, 48, is best known for "Idiocracy," "Let's Go To Prison" and in the television show "Parenthood." In 2021, Shepard started co-hosting the motoring series "Top Gear America." He was born in Ypsilanti and raised in Highland and Milford, according to an



Vehicles sit parked inside the Carvana dealership in Novi in 2022.

DAVID RODRIGUEZ MUNOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

article in MLive. He graduated high school from Walled Lake Central in 1993.

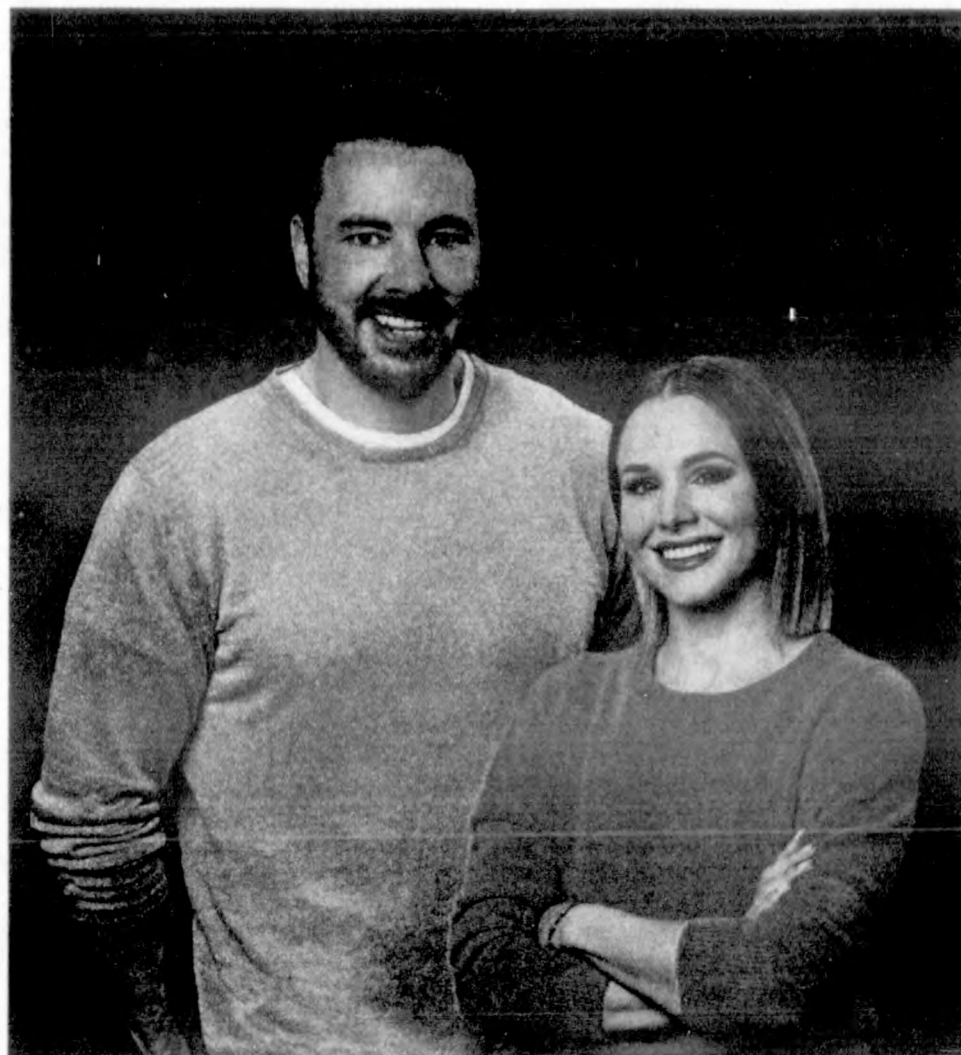
The couple met in 2007. First, briefly, at a dinner party and then again two weeks later at a Detroit Red Wings game against the Kings in Los Angeles, according to an article in InStyle magazine. They got married in 2013 and have two children.

The couple will introduce a new Carvana product feature

Carvana declined to share details about the ads with the Detroit Free Press, but spokesperson Kristin Thwaites said Shepard and Bell "will be in two TV national commercials and four social videos about online car buying and selling with Carvana, including to promote a new product feature, launching in the coming weeks."

People can check out the newest Carvana ad on TV and online, including social content when the national campaign launches next month.

Carvana, based in Tempe, Arizona, could use a marketing shot-in-the-arm from the Hollywood couple. It has struggled financially in recent months as used car prices dropped and it had high



Celebrity couple Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell, both from Michigan, will star in used-car retailer Carvana's upcoming ad campaign. PROVIDED BY CARVANA

debt. Since it went public in 2017, it has lost money most quarters because it pushed for sales growth instead of short-term profits, according to a CNN article.

But it has been doing aggressive cost cutting and inventory management to lower its debt and improve cash flow and stave off bankruptcy concerns. Wall Street rewarded it with a 40% surge in its stock price on Wednesday. But on Thursday its stock price fell as much as 17.5% in trading as analysts downgraded

the stock and "investors wondered if shares rose too high too fast," the Motley Fool reported.

Late Thursday, CEO Ernie Garcia told Bloomberg that Carvana was in "much better shape" than many believed before the restructuring of its debt, and it never neared bankruptcy.

Contact Jamie L. LaReau: jlareau@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @jlareauan. Read more on General Motors and sign up for our autos newsletter. Become a subscriber.

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Adelung	Dubbo	Laura	Ross
Alpha	Dust	Mail	Silos
Appin	East	Miles	Stanley
Bargo	Ebor	Moonbi	Vet
Bega	Eureka	Nimbin	Wagga
Cattle	Galga	Oberon	Wagga
Clare	Gold	Orange	Walcha
Coffs	Guyra	Pests	Wheat
Harbour	Hughenden	Plan	Winton
Cowra	Jandabup	Rain	Yamba
Crops	Karuah	Rice	
Dams	Kyogle	Rivers	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Feel like a road trip?

Country towns

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

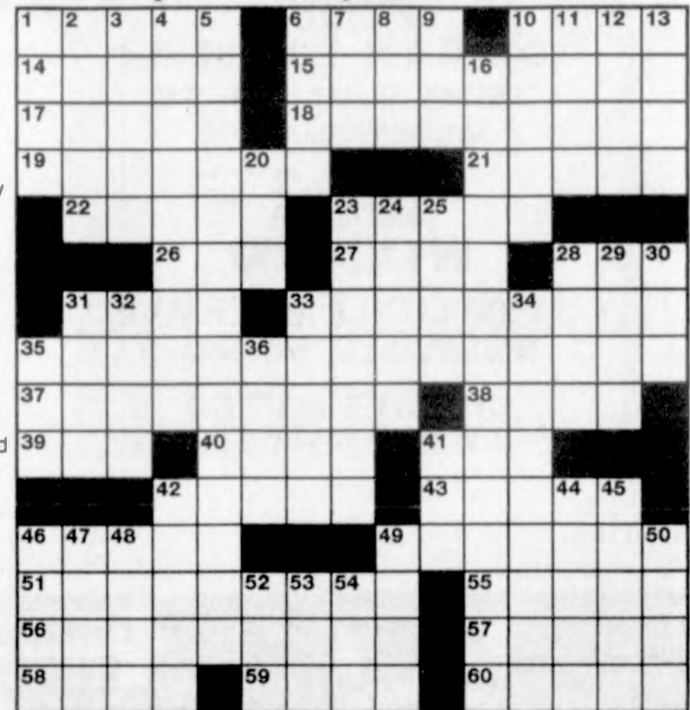
- 1 Last thing to be taken
6 Got tiresome
10 Letters on red, white and blue trucks
14 Artistic lamentation
15 All-year sport played on dirt
17 Better-chosen
18 Unauthorized absence
19 Overemotional oratory
21 L.A.'s "Mecca of bodybuilding"
22 Name on the ACC member list
23 Success succession
26 Harley-Davidson, on the NYSE
27 Possessive favored by Twain
28 Big deal for Saudi Aramco (2019)
31 Fool
33 Haydn opera
35 Symbol of proletarian solidarity
37 Disconcerts
38 Legislative coalition
39 Trepidation term
40 San ____ (Vegas hotel near the Excalibur)
41 Marbles for a Chinese checkers player
42 City often mentioned on M*A*S*H
43 Evidence of encryption
46 Hosts
49 Onetime big name in beverages
51 Conclude spring training
55 *Chambre* ____ (darkroom)

DOWN

- 1 Small row
2 Short-stroke goal in hockey
3 No longer out
4 Got delivery
5 Steamers, for instance
6 Large rolls
7 Lead ____
8 Thing in chambers
9 GPS reading
10 At the highest level
11 *Old Farmer's Almanac* topic
12 Take it slow
13 What George VI hadn't
16 Expression of lost love lamentation
20 MD's reading
23 Highlighted
24 Doesn't go straight
25 Panamanian pronoun
28 What you'd expect a press to be
29 Parts of a circle
30 It's like -like
31 Spoiler
32 Large Siberian city
33 Arabic name meaning "peace"

ACROSS

- 34 Comment before quitting
35 Chocolate or pistachio
36 Short courses
41 With 42 Down, Palme d'Or winner for 1993
42 See 41 Down
44 Common Uber arrival
45 What a loud barker might be called
46 Alabama A&M, for one
47 *Bruder von Moses*
48 Dali contemporary
49 Brisk
50 Face
52 Bear ____
53 Erenow
54 But not more



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/22/23

PUZZLES & POSERS

DOUBLE-UP

PLACE NUMBERS ON THE DOUBLE-UP SQUARES AS FOLLOWS:
ANY SQUARE IN THE MIDDLE OF TWO HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL SQUARES MUST BE EXACTLY HALF THE TOTAL OF THE TWO SQUARES. (EX: IF 25 IS PLACED IN SQUARE 'A', THEN 'B' AND 'C' MUST TOTAL 50 AND 'D' AND 'E' MUST ALSO TOTAL 50. SIX NUMBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN POSITIONED.



SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: GOLD


TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER







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Sneakers

Continued from Page 1A

Drip Don. "We're just so excited."

SHOP, 34781 Grand River Ave., opens 11 a.m. Saturday, July 22. People who attend the grand opening will have a chance to win luxury sneakers, a PlayStation 5 or be featured in a video.

The owners expect people to camp out overnight for a chance at the shoes and gaming console, and they're both looking forward to meeting fans in person for the first time.

Luxury sneaker fans will be able to find shoes at SHOP they can't get anywhere else. Some of the store's offerings include limited release shoes and vintage shoes.

The two buy from collectors and go hunting for rare sneakers. On opening day, they'll have about 1,200 sneakers in

stock.

"These are all very limited sneakers you can't find anywhere," said Gorman, who has over 1 million subscribers to his ConnorTV YouTube channel. "This is stuff you can't buy in stores or they sell out extremely quickly."

Plenty of the shoes displayed at SHOP sit on small shelves all over the walls. According to Habhab, the store is meant to feel like a gallery. The two hope people can come in and find shoes they love.

"I love that we can have people leave here looking fly," Habhab said. "That's a great feeling."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



Some of the sneakers displayed at SHOP at 34781 Grand River Ave. in Farmington. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Big Boy

Continued from Page 1A

The restaurant, he said, will feature a limited menu of Big Boy favorites such as the Big Boy Classic, the Slim Jim and the Brawny Lad. Customers will order at the counter, receive a number and find a spot in the 60-seat dining area, if they wish to eat in.

"We'll have a fish sandwich, a good chicken sandwich with real chicken breast breaded to order, chicken tenders breaded to order," he said, noting other popular items will be available as well.

The building, which formerly housed a Burger King and later, briefly, Detroit Eatz, also features a drive-thru, which Baydoun says will allow staff to serve customers faster.

"We are the first (Bob's Big Boy) with a drive-thru, the only one," he said. "The drive thru menu will be under two minutes. We don't want nobody waiting."

The scaled-down concept, he said, was developed in response to the pandemic and will require less staffing and overhead.

"I believe in the Big Boy brand," Al Baydoun said. "I grew up working for them in the '70s and '80s. It was a dream for me to actually own my own Big Boy

and live the American dream. It was a goal I set early in life.

'Customers love our food'

In Plymouth Township, Habib Baydoun also plans to open an "express" Bob's Big Boy, located in a 2,800-square-foot storefront in the retail plaza at the southeast corner of Ann Arbor and Haggerty roads, near the new Henry Ford Medical Center.

Like his uncle, Habib Baydoun is well acquainted with the Big Boy brand. He owns Big Boy restaurants in Woodhaven and Wyandotte.

"There was a Big Boy location in Plymouth before, and I knew the community would love a Big Boy again," he said. "It's a great location."

The Plymouth Township location will open sometime this fall.

"It will be a fast casual concept where customers can come in and have an option to sit down," Al Baydoun said, noting orders will be served in carryout packaging for customer convenience. The location will feature all the classic favorites, he said, and will also offer some new options designed to cater to hospital employees.

"We'll have some delicious fresh packaged salads and other items to-go in our coolers," he said, noting the menu



Bob's Big Boy will open at 32704 Grand River Avenue in Farmington.

LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

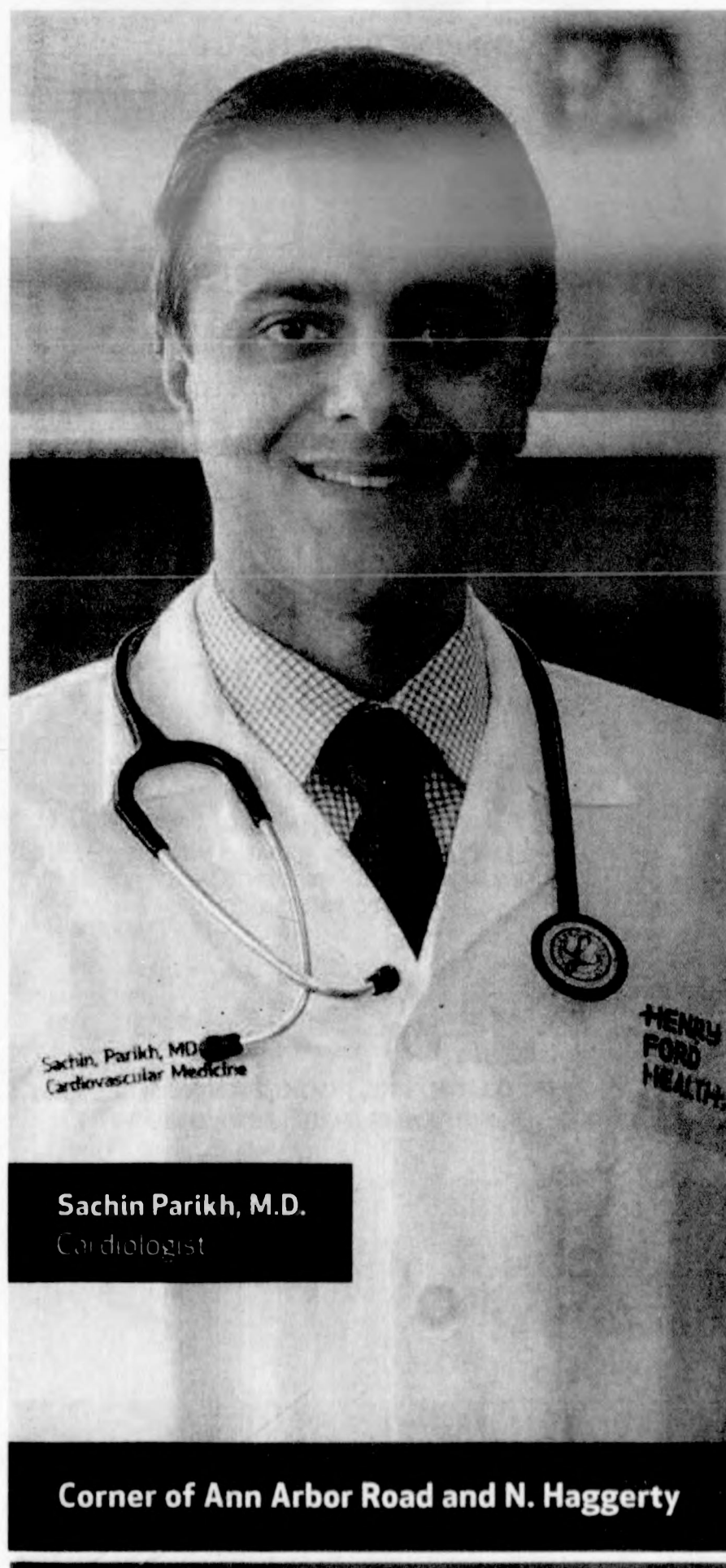
will also feature new burgers and wraps, for example.

Habib Baydoun said he and his family plan to open other similar smaller-concept drive-thru locations in the fu-

ture.

"We love the Big Boy brand," he said. "Customers love our food."

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com.



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COMICS



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PRE-1934



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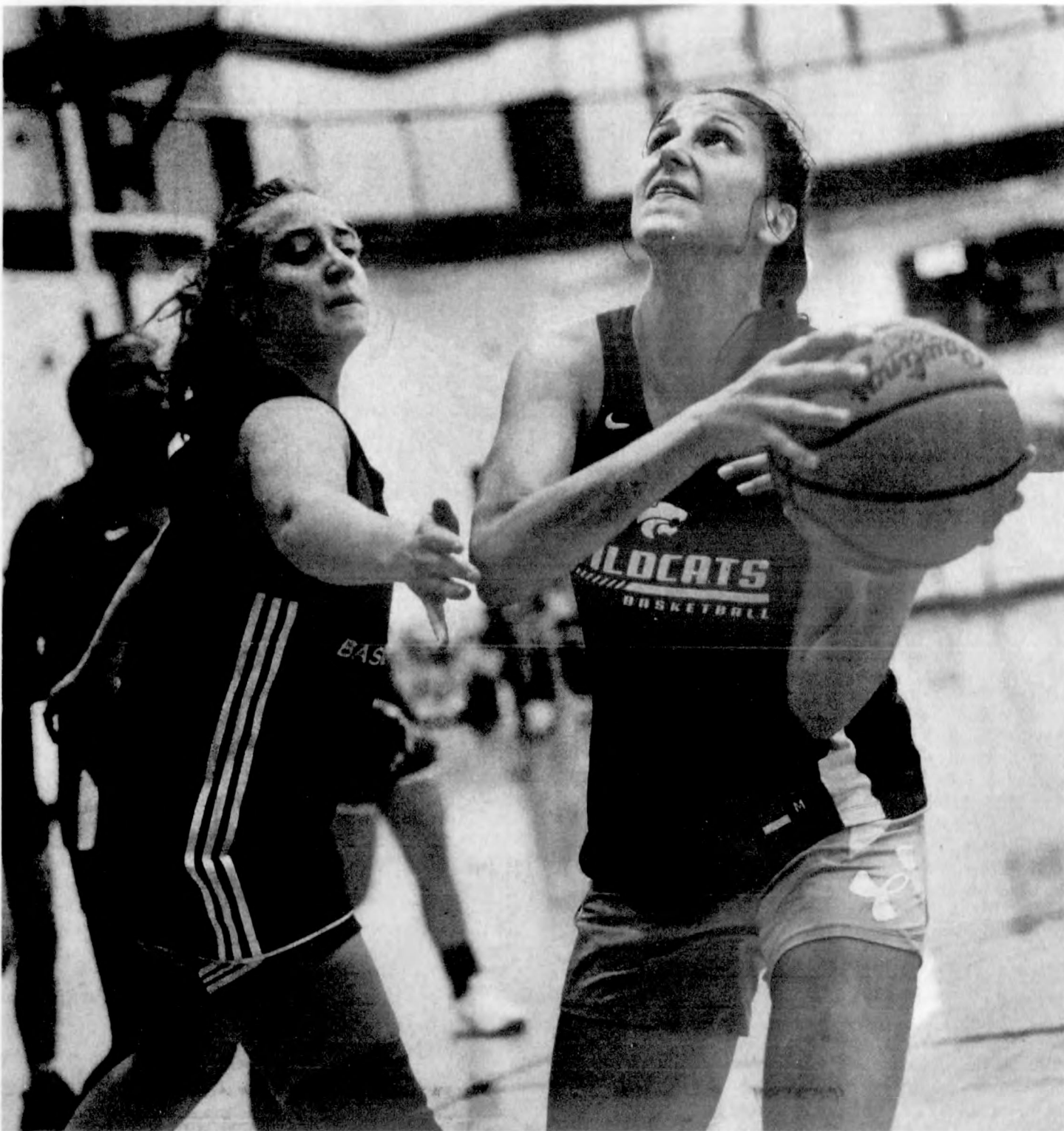
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SPORTS



Novi's Jordan Popyk scores down low during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game against Royal Oak on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at Novi Fieldhouse. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

How Novi girls basketball could win the KLAA-West

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the waning moments of the first half of one of last week's Summer League Shootout girls basketball games at Novi Fieldhouse, Anna Lindsey dribbled to the 3-point line, pulled up and drained a shot at the buzzer.

Naturally, the Novi point guard wore a disgusted scowl as she marched toward her team's bench for halftime.

This was a ho-hum, meaningless exhibition against Royal Oak. The season hasn't even started yet. She was *that* visibly upset that the Wildcats were trailing by a few points to the Ravens.

Maybe that speaks to the senior's competitive nature. Or, perhaps, it speaks to the chips on the shoulders of just about every senior and junior on this squad this offseason.

At the start of last winter, the Wildcats were picked to finish dead last in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West standings in the preseason coaches poll (to be fair, those same coaches picked eventual league champion and Division 1 state semifinalist Salem to finish fifth). And, for about a month or two during the regular season, the Wildcats looked like the worst team in the division. They lost 11 of 13 games throughout one stretch of the schedule.

But then Novi figured out things. In-

jured players finally got healthy. Team chemistry began to build. And the Wildcats wound up winning four of their final five games, which included upsetting rival Northville in the district semifinal, beating South Lyon East to win a district title and making an appearance against Dexter in the regional opener.

Novi went from being the division's least favorite to being one of three teams out of the eight to actually win a district championship. Of course that gave the Wildcats confidence coming into this summer. And, of course, that's what has been motivating

See WIN, Page 2B

One of the best in the KLAA is a Novi senior you've never heard of

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following the Summer League Shootout girls basketball games on July 13, Jordan Popyk could only laugh when she was asked how she got so great at shooting from long range.

She had no trouble knocking down 3-pointer after 3-pointer against Royal Oak and Bloomfield Hills Marian.

"I've had a lot of time for practicing form shooting while I couldn't do anything else," the 6-foot-1 Novi senior said with a smile.

It's true. The shooting guard has had plenty of time to work on her shooting form and mechanics.

In back-to-back seasons as both a freshman and sophomore, she tore her right ACL and missed all 40 games she would've played with the Wildcats. Last winter was her first chance to suit up and get onto the court.

Fortunately for Popyk, coach Kelsey Partyka didn't throw her to the wolves and expect her to lead the team. In fact, Popyk was surrounded by talent left and right. From seniors Natalie Spence, Tessa Long and Mya Vuljaj to juniors Anna Lindsey, Myah Mackerl and Danny Shimazaki Ito as well as everyone else who contributed.

The Wildcats, who were 9-16 overall a year ago, couldn't have had a worse start to their 2022-23 campaign. Losing 11 of their first 14 games was rough but so, too, was being picked to finish dead last in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West in the preseason coaches poll.

As Novi took time to figure out its identity, Popyk slowly eased back into playing basketball again. Part of it was mental, the other part was just her lack of varsity experience.

That giant brace on her right knee was a constant reminder of how tough the first two years of high school were for her athletically. Plus, there was the fact that she hadn't played competitive basketball since junior high.

But the Wildcats figured it out. They won four of their final five games, which included upsetting rival Northville in the Division 1 district semifinal, beating South Lyon East in the district championship and earning a berth in the regional tournament.

That experience was paramount for Popyk, who has done nothing but improve since then. She already looks like one of the best players in the

See SENIOR, Page 2B

Rockets should compete for KLAA-East title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Westland John Glenn boys basketball team ran the floor and showcased its athleticism all throughout Tuesday night's Summer Jam 2 East vs. West showcase at Romulus Summit Academy North.

There were some hiccups here and

there, of course, and, at times, the Rockets looked out of sync.

But you know what they didn't look like? A team that finished second to last in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East a season ago.

It's not surprising to see John Glenn absolutely loaded with talent right now. The Rockets had only five seniors a year ago, including two key contributors in Richard "Shooter" Williams, who signed

with Graceland University in Iowa, and 6-foot-5 center Dane Eggleston. For the most part, though, they were pretty green across the board.

Last season was more about getting their younger players experience in one of the toughest leagues in Michigan. Plus, it didn't help that two of their best players, brothers Bryce and Brayden White, were forced to sit out the season after transferring in from Brownstown

Woodhaven.

Yeah, John Glenn took its lumps. But now it looks poised to be a competitor in the league.

"It just let us know that we've got a lot to work on this summer," said senior Jalen Clark, John Glenn's lone first-team All-KLAA selection last winter. "But this year, we'll get it together. We've got stuff

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Win

Continued from Page 1B

Lindsey to grind out summer league games like it was the last game of her career.

"It definitely is, for sure," Lindsey said. "It hypes up the whole team and makes us excited for next season. A lot of people underestimated us last season. When the KLAA coaches rankings came out, we were ranked last, below everybody in our league. It was crazy, but I guess they figured that because we lost some of our seniors. But it was kind of a motivator when our coach shared it with us. And it did. It helped last season."

"I just don't know why everybody underestimated us so much."

Despite the Wildcats' 9-16 record, they were absolutely loaded with talent. Lindsey ran the team as the point guard, but they also had senior Tessa Long, a first-team selection on Hometown Life's All-Area team, senior Natalie Spence, a special mention, and Jordan Popyk, a 6-foot-1 shooting guard who was bouncing back from an ACL injury.

Plus they had other standouts such as forward Mya Vuljaj, rebounder and defensive specialist Myah Mackerl and fearless guard Danny Shimazaki Ito.

Eight girls are returning.

Yes, Salem is bringing back likely Ms. Basketball nominee Madison Morson, Hometown Life's Player of the Year in 2022-23, and Canton returns Justice Tramble, a college prospect who has picked up plenty of interest on the recruiting trail this summer.

But the KLAA-West is wide open. Salem graduated most of its contributors from its final four run while Northville lost plenty of starters as well. Plymouth point guard Averi Collins has transferred to Livonia Churchill. And Northville, Howell and Hartland each have brand new coaches.

Novi isn't just a darkhorse pick to win the division. It could be the favorite by the time the preseason poll releases.

"For sure, they see it," Novi coach Kelsey Partyka said. "Northville graduated 7-8 seniors. There are new coaches everywhere. I said to them it's a clean slate. We can't hang the district championship on our backs and think it's going to be easy, but the dedication I've seen this summer has been impressive as far as being in the weight room and doing summer workouts. We've had a higher commitment with girls showing up, and that'll just carry over into the season. They're already talking about things for the season and know what they want to do."



Novi's Anna Lindsey goes up for a layup during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game against Royal Oak on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at Novi Fieldhouse. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

It's one thing to win a championship on paper, though. Actually doing it is another, and it's not going to be easy for the Wildcats. This is a league that has sent three teams to the final four in the past two seasons.

But that doesn't mean they won't have the confidence to win the West when the season starts.

"We have a lot of confidence because we have a lot of seniors, and we're all friends outside of basketball as well," Lindsey said. "So our chemistry is really good. We work together well. We pick each other up well. Even if we're getting down, or the other team is scoring, making comebacks is a lot easier when you have good team chemistry and are friends outside of basketball. That really helps out. I'm really excited about the season, especially since a lot of the other teams have a lost a lot of their starting players, seniors and that type of thing."

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



Novi's Myah Mackerl battles for a rebound.

Senior

Continued from Page 1B

league now that she's had a full summer to play AAU basketball for the prestigious Michigan Storm and help the Wildcats during summer league.

"It's been a lot of work, mentally and physically," the senior said. "The last time I played was literally in middle school. Coming back to basketball and being on a varsity team, it was a little bit of a shock. It was an adjustment, but I feel like things are starting to click, which is good. And it's just in time for senior season to start."

Salem small forward Madison Morson, a likely Michigan Ms. Basketball nominee, should remain the top player in the KLAA-West, and Canton forward Justice Tramble, whose recruiting has been picking up this summer, is right behind her.

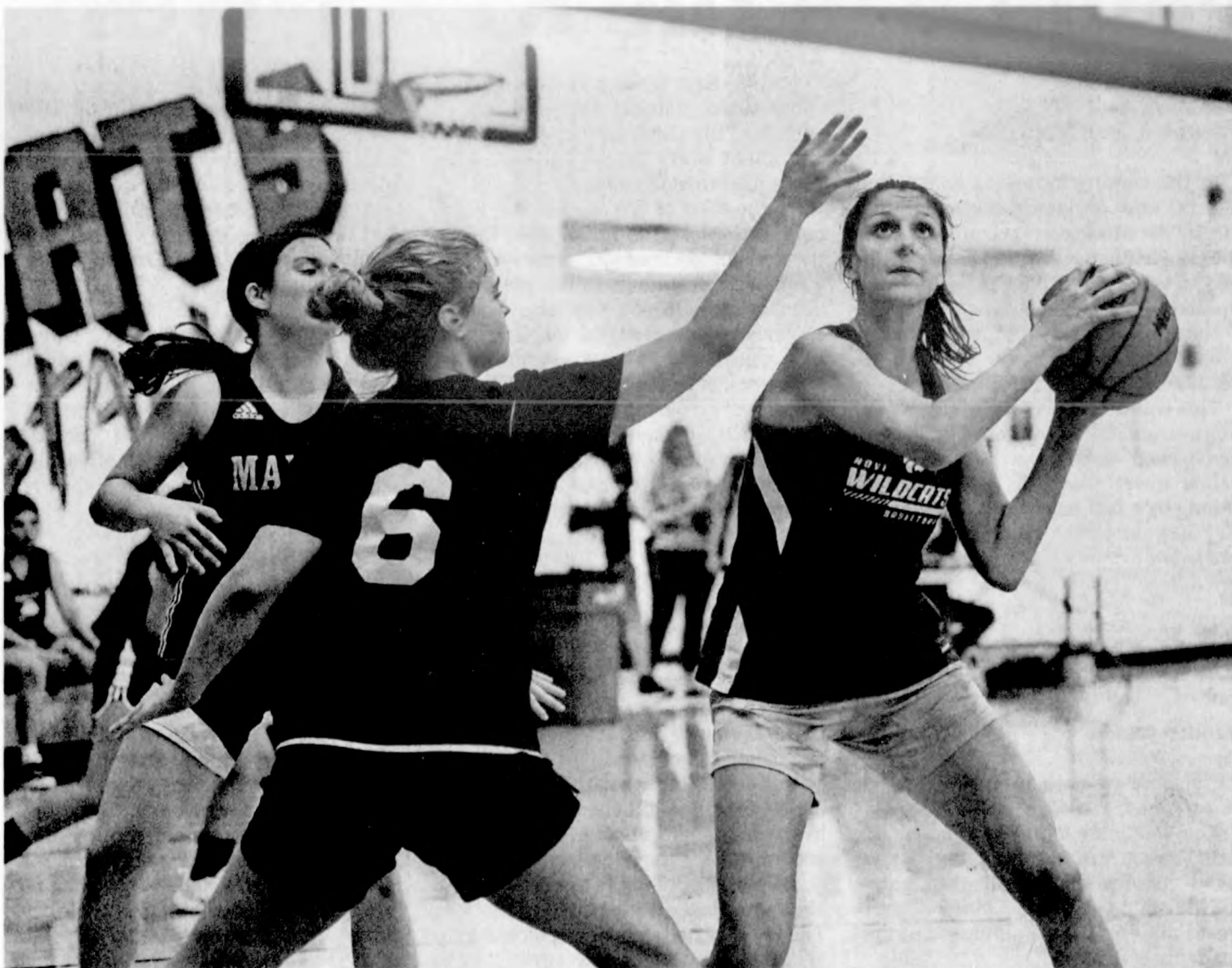
But don't count out Popyk from having a strong senior season that no one sees coming. She has the size of a post player but the handles of a surehanded point guard. She has a smooth shooting motion from outside the arc but can also battle down low for a hard-fought two points.

With Lindsey handling the ball for the Wildcats, Popyk should be on the receiving end of plenty of scoring opportunities. It'll be tough to defend her, too. Do you put a post player on her to stop her inside game? Do you throw a smaller guard on her to halt her from scoring on the outside? It'll truly take a player of Morson's size and skill level to keep up with Popyk.

And that's been fun for Partyka, who refuses to tip her hand on exactly how she'll use Popyk this winter.

"Jordan has really improved this off-season, and she's super versatile," said Partyka, a former Hope College basketball player herself. "Inside, outside, I just think she's grown more since last year. She's really hungry to play at the college level, so she's been dedicated with her travel team but also doing stuff on her own."

"So we're looking to use her in differ-



Novi's Jordan Popyk scores down low during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game against Royal Oak on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at Novi Fieldhouse. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ent ways next year."

Partyka couldn't help but chuckle about those *different ways* she mentioned.

But it'll, for sure, be frustrating for opponents in Novi's division.

Popyk prides herself on the fact she can play all five positions. Matchups will likely dictate just where Partyka lines her up each night. But she shouldn't have a problem scoring wherever she stands on the floor.

"Honestly, I just like doing every-

thing," Popyk said. "I like filling in where needed. I can play basically one-through-five. Obviously, they're not all my core positions, but I enjoy being able to do whatever I can. Whatever we're lacking as a team, I like being able to fill in that position. If we're missing a post, I can step in. If we're missing a guard, I can step in and just help my team out in general."

It should be an exciting winter for the Wildcats. Not only has Popyk improved but so have all of their eight returners.

The KLAA as a whole is wide open. Defending league champion Salem lost several seniors to graduation as has rival Northville. And teams such as Hartland, Howell, Northville and Livonia Churchill all have new coaches.

Novi believes it's a KLAA champion contender. Popyk should have a say in the Wildcats making it happen.

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

Rockets

Continued from Page 1B

to prove this year. This summer we're going to work on our chemistry and get on the right path so we can win the league, basically. That's what we're trying to do: Win the league and win the division."

That may sound laughable to some considering just how tough the KLAA-East was in 2022-23.

Livonia Franklin and Dearborn were tied entering the final week of the regular season. It took the Patriots winning a loser-goes-home matchup, 58-56, at a neutral site at Dearborn Fordson (thanks to that crazy storm metro Detroit endured in late February) for them to earn a berth into the KLAA championship, a game Canton wound up winning to secure the outright league title.

Alas, Dearborn avenged that loss by beating Franklin a week later in the Division 1 district championship.

But Franklin and Dearborn weren't the only tough teams in the East, and it's looking like the division is going to be just as challenging this coming season.

Livonia Stevenson still has sharp-shooter Mark Stein.

Wayne Memorial, John Glenn's in-district rival, has sophomore Jaylohn Allen returning. He's arguably one of the best underclassmen in the entire state. He averaged close to 20 points per game in his first season, and even the recruiting blog, The D Zone, considered him to be the Freshman of the Year. Not in the KLAA but in all of Michigan.

So, yeah, the KLAA-East is going to be a tough gamut of games for the Rockets. But Clark is right. They should be in the mix for the division title. That's not a joke. They have some dudes on this year's squad.

"We feel that way," said JV coach Bill Foder, who filled in for coach Jerret Smith during John Glenn's Summer Jam 2 doubleheader against Detroit Lincoln King and Detroit King. "It's been fun. Last year, we had only three people returning from the prior year so it was a developmental thing that we've been going through, but we're getting better. We expect to play a certain way so that when we get further in the (KLAA and district) tournaments, we can continue to progress further."

Of course, Clark, a 6-foot-3 small for-



Westland John Glenn's Kent Hill scores in traffic during a Summer Jam 2 boys basketball scrimmage against Detroit Lincoln King on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Romulus Summit Academy North. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ward, should lead offensively while senior guard Jordan Williams, an All-KLAA honorable mention pick a year ago, junior small forward Bryce White and junior guard Kent Hill are also good for a bucket.

Senior Brayden White has proved to be a steady point guard through John Glenn's 10 or so summer league games, while seniors Terrell Gibson and Cam Strother are tough rebounders in the paint.

Scoring points shouldn't be a problem for the Rockets. There's just one question mark they're worried about right now.

"We've just got to focus defensively and get that right," Clark said. "That's the first thing we've got to focus on, getting better defensively as a team and getting our chemistry up. Defensively, we've got to commit to playing basketball the right way."

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



Westland John Glenn's Jalen Clark attacks the basket.







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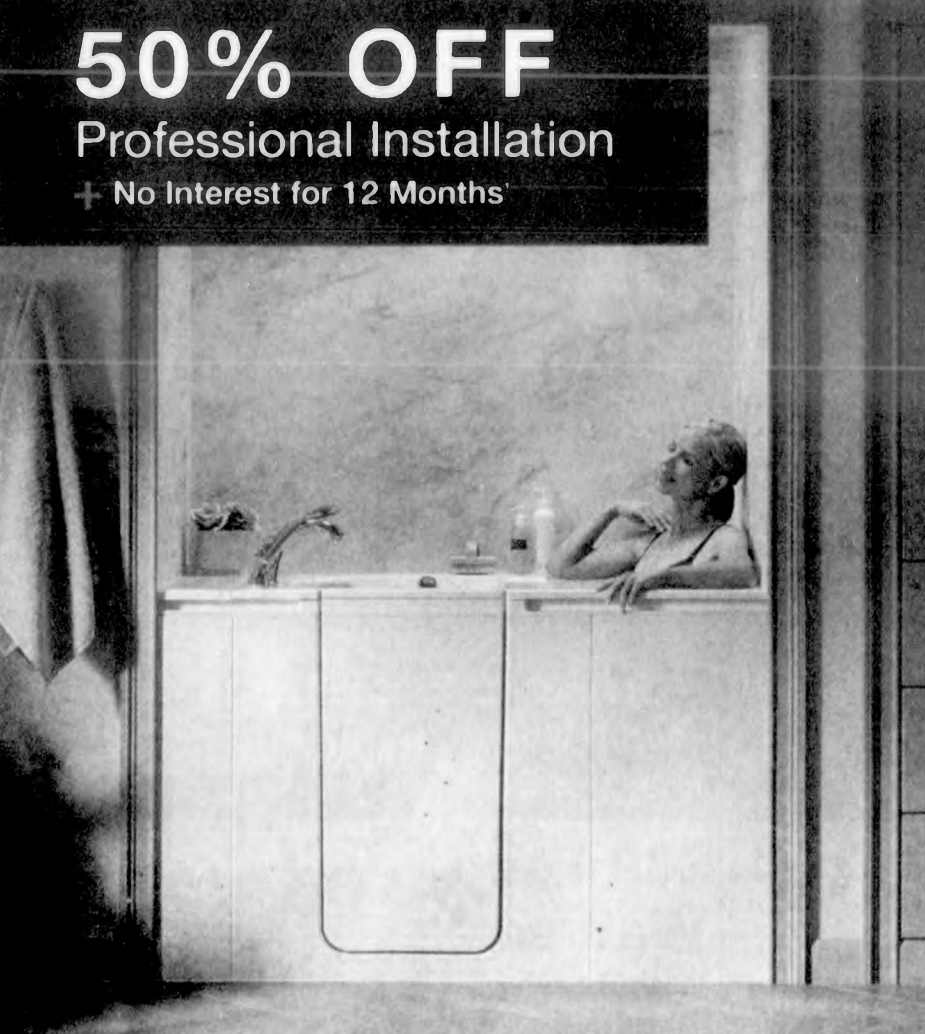
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This QB blames himself for the Raiders going 2-7 in 2022. Here's why

Brandon Folsom
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ryan Shelby blames himself for the North Farmington football team's 2-7 record last fall.

And that's saying something because the quarterback barely saw the field.

He was coming off his debut season under center as a sophomore, and the Raiders looked poised to compete for an Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship because of his leadership and athleticism. Heck, North Farmington was even predicted to win the league in the preseason coaches poll last August.

Except it never happened.

The problem?

Shelby wasn't even available to play until the final few weeks of the season.

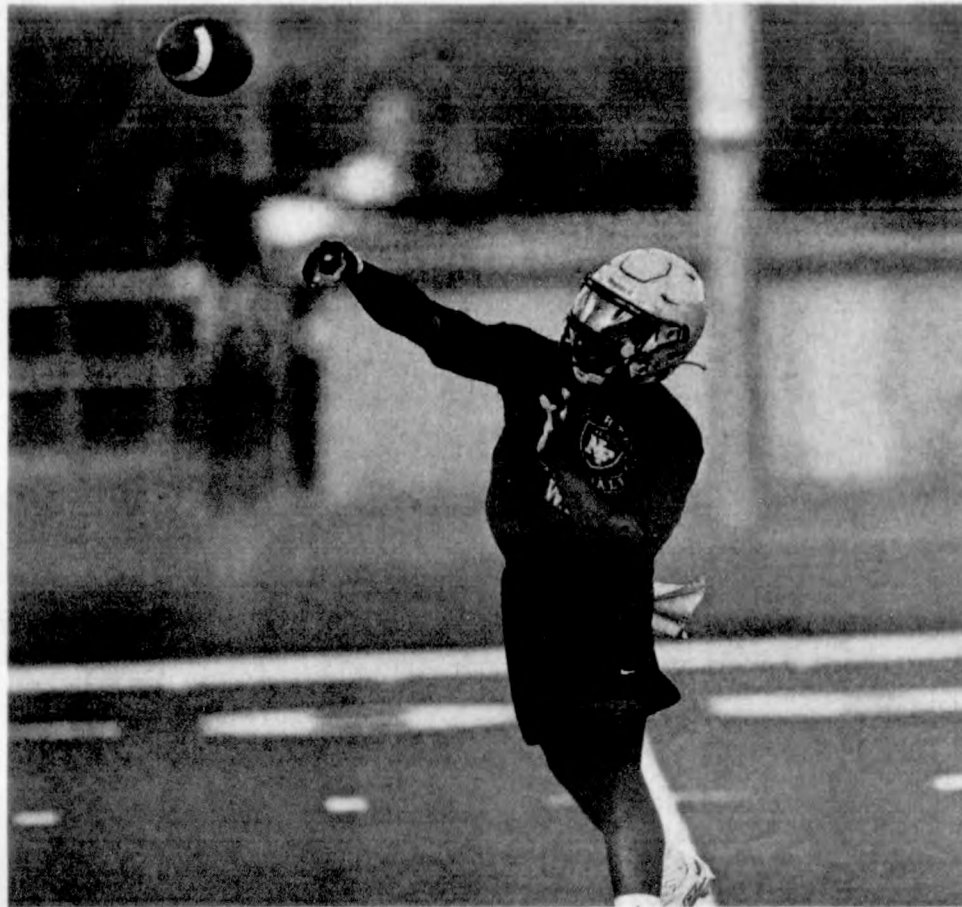
During a Legacy Midnight Madness tournament game in January 2022, he scrambled for some extra yardage, attempted to juke a defender and wound up tearing his right ACL. He spent the next six months sidelined, which meant he missed North Farmington's training camp and the beginning of its season.

"I felt my knee pop," Shelby said following Tuesday's 7-on-7 scrimmages with Ferndale and Novi. "I didn't know it was torn at first, so I just kept playing on it, and I probably made it worse. After that, I had my surgery and just did rehab."

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound dual-threat QB pushed as hard as he could to get back with the team.

But by the time he got into a game in Week 7, the Raiders were on the verge of being knocked out of the playoffs, which was tough because four of their losses were by a touchdown or fewer. A win here, a win there and Shelby might have helped them steal a playoff victory or two.

Not making the postseason has definitely motivated Shelby and the Raiders to improve this offseason. Not only does he want to make up for lost playing time but he wants to prove North Farmington isn't a two-win team.



North Farmington quarterback Ryan Shelby passes during a 7-on-7 football scrimmage Tuesday, July 19, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I'm super excited for this season," the senior said. "I can't wait to show everybody what we're doing this year. We've been working way hard because of how bad our season went last year. We've been working hard to get better. It was hard (watching the team struggle a year ago). I felt like I let the team down. I was still here, coaching and trying to help everywhere I could. But this year will be a whole lot different."

While Shelby can't be fully blamed for the Raiders' woes, he realizes they might have won more games had he been on the field and not been sidelined by injury. And that's what a true leader does. They take the blame.

His teammates have rallied around him this summer because of that kind of

attitude.

"I think the guys listen to him," coach Jon Herstein said. "They respond to his energy, for sure. He's definitely the emotional leader of the team, and you can see that, which is what you want out of your quarterback. And he's got a disposition of himself. He never gets too high. He never gets too far down, ya know? If he throws an interception, he still wants to come back and throw a touchdown. He never loses his composure."

That's going to come in handy when the season starts in about a month.

The Raiders remain in the OAA-Blue for another season, despite crosstown rival Farmington, last year's division champion, getting promoted to the OAA-White. But the competition is still

going to be tough.

Birmingham Seaholm, which opened its 2022 campaign with a 7-0 record before Farmington upset the Maples and stole the league title, should be the favorite to win it all. Especially with the depth it has coming back with its senior class, led by twin brothers Colton and Granden Kinnie in the backfield.

Plus, the division brings in Oak Park from the White. And the Knights could make things interesting. Over the years, they've churned out plenty of Division I college football players. And they're led by longtime coach Greg Carter, who was officially inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame during June's all-star game. He's been part of 12 state championship teams, including four as a head coach.

The Raiders will also have league games against Troy and Troy Athens.

It wouldn't be a surprise if North Farmington upsets the field and steals a league title like Farmington did a year ago. Especially with a leader like Shelby back in the mix.

"We've lost a lot of close games, but getting guys like him back and seeing the overall gel of the team improve, we should be able to close out some of those close games," Herstein said. "We've lost quite a few games by one score over the last couple of seasons, so I'm excited to see what these guys can do to get over the hump."

North Farmington opens the season Week 1 against Birmingham Groves, a Division 2 state semifinalist in 2022, and then it begins OAA-Blue action on Sept. 8 against Seaholm.

"We're working hard to get over .500 this year, and we want to get into the playoffs," Shelby added. "We want to get to at least the second round of the playoffs. That's the minimum standard for us, for sure."

As long as Shelby remains healthy, the Raiders could make it happen.

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

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How the Patriots are bouncing back from graduating 3 key starters

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Eric Hobson Jr. was in the gym for the Livonia Franklin Shootout boys basketball scrimmages last month.

The only problem? The 6-foot-3 combo guard was running the ticket table and not playing in the games.

The recent first-team selection on Hometown Life's All-Area team have moved on after signing with Indiana Tech. He graduated as one of the all-time winningest players in program history, finished with the school record for most steals in a career (215) and ended up in the top five for almost every statistical category you could think of.

Franklin doesn't clinch its first division title since 2004 without him, nor does it represent the East in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship without the likes of forward Kevin Davis and guard Adam Alokab as well.

Yeah, graduation and attrition can be brutal sometimes.

But coach TJ Hurley is taking a glass-half-full approach to replacing those three starters.

"We're not replacing anyone," the seventh-year coach said adamantly. "We're going to be just as good — in a different way. Those three all had different individual skill sets. As a team, we're going to move in a different direction, take the strength that this group has and use those skills in a better way."

It's easy to say that when you have senior guards Robbie Wynn and Mitch Cronyn returning.

As far as bringing up the ball, Wynn, a 6-footer, is about as surehanded as point guards come. Franklin plays in a tough league, and it needs a guy like him to limit the turnovers and get the ball into the hands of the playmakers. And Cronyn is definitely one of those playmakers. The 6-3 shooting guard is phenomenal at catching and shooting, no matter the spot. It's common for him to bury two, three or even four 3-pointers



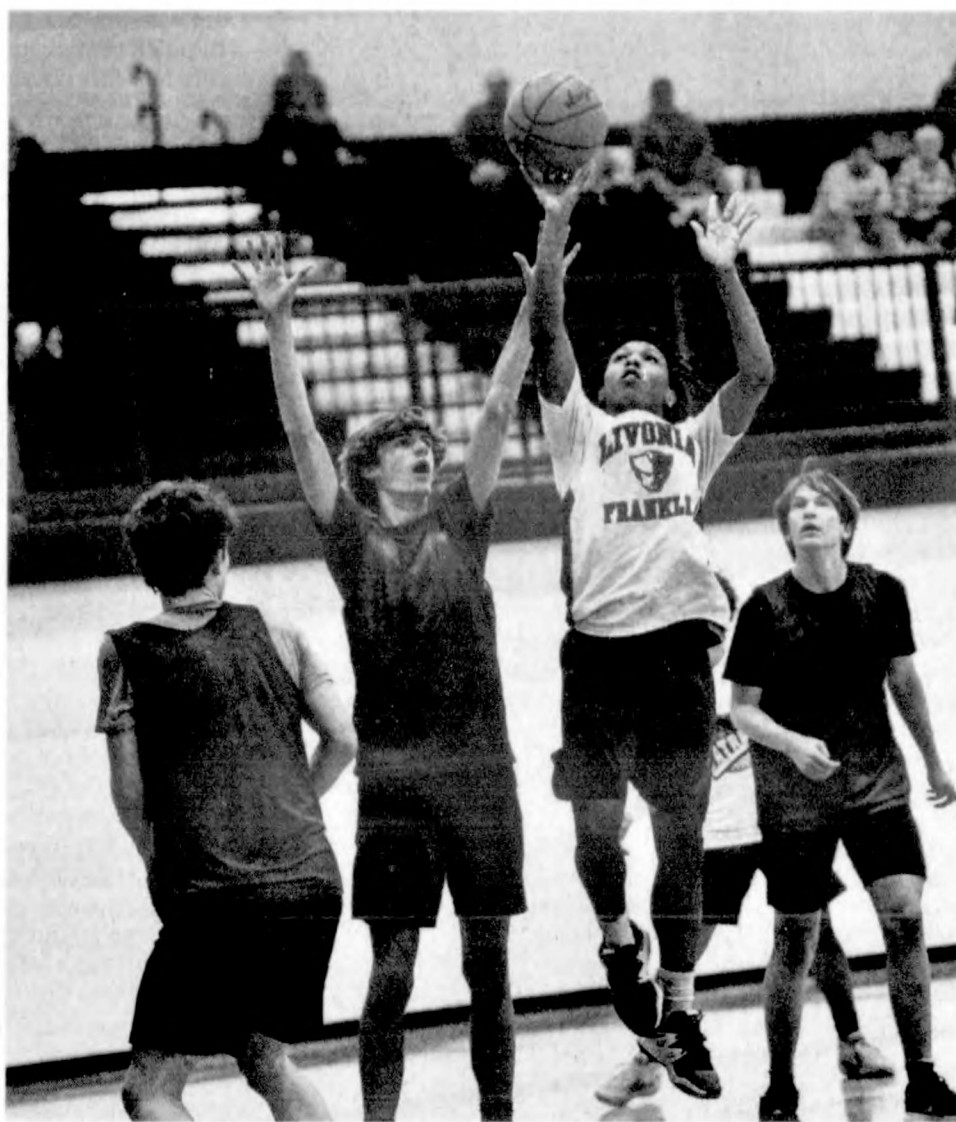
Livonia Franklin's Mitch Cronyn dribbles to the hoop during a Livonia Franklin Shootout boys basketball game June 27. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

in a quarter.

Hobson Jr. was a three-level scorer. Davis, a Lansing Community College baseball signee who recently was named the MVP of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association all-star game, gave the Patriots an inside presence, while Alokab could just run the floor and play defense like no other. They'll be missed.

But the team should still be a competitor in the KLAA-East. Plus, the Patriots have to avenge last season's loss to division rival Dearborn in the Division I district championship.

"The big message to our team has been we're not replacing those three," Hurley said. "We have a little bit of size inside now, and we can use those touches to get more kick-out 3s. We're a little more athletic now, so when we go smaller, we'll be able to pick up (on defense) from 90, 100 feet. It's not so much replacing them but adjusting to what we're doing now. Our studs, like Mitch and Robbie, they've really played extremely well for us all summer."



Livonia Franklin's Robbie Wynn shoots.

Those two have recognized how important it is for them to keep the program's trajectory pointed upward.

The Patriots had won fewer than 50 games the decade before Hobson Jr. joined the varsity. The four years he was on varsity? They won 48 games.

That might not be an impressive feat for the powerhouses around the state, but Franklin has worked hard to get out of the doldrums and become a competitor in its league.

"Me and Robbie are, for sure, putting pressure on ourselves," Cronyn said. "It's us now. We're the leaders of the team. We're seniors. It's our last year. We've got to get looked at by colleges, so we've really got to stay locked in this season. We, for sure, have had to step up, and I think we've been doing that. The whole summer we've been working, getting in the gym and we've been winning a lot, too. I feel like me and Robbie have stepped up a lot."

Added Wynn: "I've embraced it, especially bringing these kids from the JV up. I'm trying to make it feel like we're all one family. So it's so much bigger than basketball. It's more like a family. That makes it easier both on and off the court."

While losing three starters is challenging, the cupboard isn't bare for Hurley, Wynn and Cronyn.

In fact, a few of their returners were key rotational players for the Patriots a year ago. That includes sixth man Owen

Pittenger, who was a steady point guard when Wynn needed a breather. Big man Drew Kelbert, when he's not helping the football team make a deep run in the playoffs as their surehanded tight end, is expected to return as are a few other football standouts in Jon Jasionevski, Owen Phail and Mendale Broaden.

Franklin should be talented again. It'll all depend on who gives the extra effort and grit that the Patriots used to get from Davis and Alokab.

"We've for sure had role players step up," Cronyn said. "We've just got to have guys play defense. Kevin and Adam, they were both bulldog guys. Anyone can do that. It's just in your heart. Eric, he's a college basketball player, and he can't really be replaced, but me and Robbie have got to step up and fill in that role."

And are Wynn and Cronyn capable of doing that?

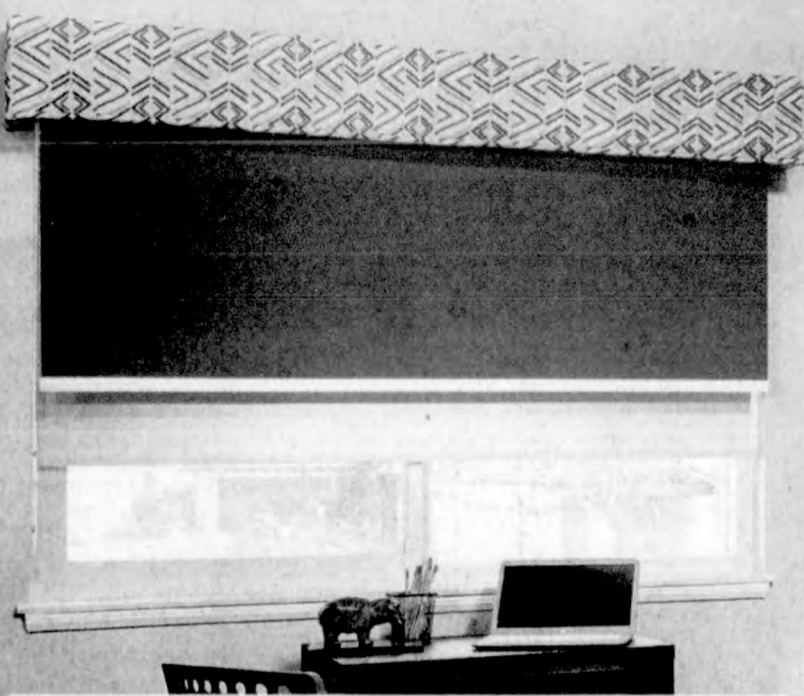
"The sky really is the limit for both of them," Hurley said. "It's a weird thing when you're a senior and you're expected to do so much. You're asking them to be the man out there, but it's still playing within themselves. We're not putting pressure on them to put up these giant numbers or have these big plays. It's just about being solid the whole way, and we'll be good."

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



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Star RB Cameron Pettaway leading Falcons as they move to OAA-White

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Monday night's 7-on-7 football scrimmage against Allen Park saw Cameron Pettaway pull down a pass in traffic, make one juke to evade three would-be tacklers and take off for an impressive first down.

"Come on, Deion Sanders!" Farmington coach Jason Albrecht yelled at Pettaway. "Put the ball away!"

That's an accurate comparison of Pettaway's game. The running back runs a 4.4-second time in the 40-yard dash and isn't even a sprinter on the track and field team. He's actually a baseball player. Like Sanders was back in his playing days in both the NFL and MLB.

Though that's not what the third-year coach was calling attention to on that play. Albrecht was getting on Pettaway's case because the senior was carrying the ball unprotected with one hand like Neon Deion used to while celebrating en route to the end zone.

And ball security is a must for Pettaway, who will likely be called upon to move the chains more than ever now that Farmington is without two-year starter Dominic Pesci at quarterback.

Pesci, who recently started behind center for the East during the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association all-star game, led the Falcons to an Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship a year ago. But he's now signed with Ashland University in Ohio. He's one of the handful of key contributors the team lost to graduation.

And losing Pesci places a lot more pressure on Pettaway.

"Definitely, there is," said Pettaway, who holds an

offer from Bowling Green State University and interest from a handful of Division II and III colleges. "There's definitely a lot more pressure on me this year. I've been working all offseason to make sure I can be in a position to step up and lead our team."

And that effort is going to be needed because the Falcons aren't surprising anyone this fall.

No one outside of their own locker room gave them a chance to do much of anything entering 2022. In fact, it was crosstown rival North Farmington that was predicted to win the division in the preseason coaches poll. Farmington was picked to finish third out of five teams.

And when Birmingham Seaholm entered Week 8 with a perfect 7-0 record, no one expected the Falcons to keep up with the Maples' unstoppable run-first offense. Especially with the division championship on the line.

Well, Farmington did keep up with the Maples. Pesci looked great through the air. The defense made play after play. And Pettaway hit for the cycle, catching a 79-yard TD pass, rushing for a 34-yard score and throwing a 14-yard TD pass to Owen Matteson to not only give the Falcons the upset win but help them steal the division title.

Farmington, 6-4 a year ago, played so well that it got promoted to the OAA-White for this coming season. Now it's in a division with some heavy hitters, and that includes conference games against Bloomfield Hills, which went 9-0 in the regular season two years ago, Birmingham Groves, which played in the Division 2 state semifinal in 2022, and Southfield A&T, which has three-star QB Isaiah Marshall, who's committed to Kansas.

Winning a second straight league title isn't going to

be easy. That's why the Falcons are placing a premium on Pettaway's leadership as a senior. Especially with the team breaking in two new QBs during training camp in junior Julian Johnson and senior Jeremiah Axe.

"He was a kid who kids looked up to last year as well," Albrecht said of Pettaway. "I always joke that captainship is something people look at as a title, but I just want leaders. I don't care if you're considered a captain or not. I just want you to lead. He led by example last year. Ultimately, that's what I look for in upperclassmen because we're going to have some sophomores up, and we're going to have some juniors playing a lot of minutes this year. They're going to look to those older kids like him for guidance."

Over the years, Farmington has lined up Pettaway as a tailback, put him in the slot at receiver and used him in its jet-motion series, basically putting him in space as quickly as possible. He's even started at defensive back.

Don't be surprised if he continues to do more of the same in his last hurrah with the Falcons. He's certainly talented enough to do so. Even the likes of Saginaw Valley State University believe he's capable of playing either running back or slot receiver when he gets to the next level.

Truthfully, he can play four or five positions. He's a commercial driver's license away from being talented enough to drive the team bus to away games.

But can he help the Falcons have success in the OAA-White? We'll find out when they open league play on Sept. 8 against Groves.

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

Obituaries

Margaret "Peggy" Toth

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Margaret "Peggy" Toth passed away on July 15, 2023, at the age of 59. Peggy was the President of Advanced Animations, Inc. Daughter of Steve Toth and late Margaret Toth. View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com



Elizabeth "Betsy" Wagner

GLEN ARBOR - Elizabeth "Betsy" Winslow Wagner, age 80, of Glen Arbor, Michigan (formerly of Birmingham, MI), passed away peacefully at home in Lake Forest, Illinois surrounded by family on July 8, 2023.

Born April 1, 1943 in New York City, Betsy was the daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Scudder Winslow, Jr. and the late Elizabeth Russell Winslow. Betsy grew up along the shores of the Hudson River in Riverdale, New York where she and her future husband, Bruce, would cross paths occasionally through family connections and even the same Kindergarten class. Betsy spent summers on the family island in the Muskoka Lakes, Ontario, Canada where she could be found paddling her canoe across the lake to visit friends or perfecting her barefoot water-skiing skills.

Filled with imagination and a zest for adventures, Betsy made lifelong friends while at the Riverdale Country School and during high school at Miss Hall's School. She graduated with distinction from Wells College, where she studied modern languages. At Wells she sang in the Wells College Choir and in the a capella group, Henry's VIII. During two college summers, Betsy traveled to Italy and France for work camps with the American Friends Service Committee, helping rebuild schools and roads in small towns. These experiences influenced Betsy spiritually and sparked an unending desire to help others.

After college, she joined Wells' friends in Boston where she worked at Harvard's East Asian Research Center. The following year Betsy moved to Florence, Italy where she helped set up and run a summer school for American college students, witnessed the terrible flood of 1966, and lived for two years. Upon her return to the United States, she earned a Master of Arts in Italian Literature from New York University. To know Betsy was to appreciate her deep love of Italian life and her passion for travel. This interest was given full expression during her years as a New York travel agent for which she explored the globe on scouting trips.

Betsy married Bruce S. Wagner in 1975 in New York City. Soon after their wedding, they moved to Washington D.C. where Betsy joined Bruce as he managed the advertising on President Gerald Ford's 1976 Primary Election campaign and she replied to voters' correspondence. Returning home to New York, Betsy worked as the Assistant to the Curator of the Gilbert & Sullivan Collection of original manuscripts and librettos in NYC's Morgan Library.

In 1978, they moved to Birmingham, Michigan for what was meant to be a two-year assignment for Bruce's work in Detroit, but instead, turned into their family's forever home. Here, Betsy happily balanced the joys of motherhood and raising her family with her many interests and talents. An avid viola player from the day her 6th grade music teacher handed her a viola, Betsy played with the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Musicale String Ensemble. Betsy supported the local arts as an active board member of the Cranbrook Music Guild. Forever an athlete and competitor



at heart, Betsy found time to keep up her squash game as a state-ranked women's squash player. She also enjoyed family ski trips and tennis - and would never turn down a game of bocce.

Betsy followed her love of books and languages to her children's school, Detroit Country Day School, where she was a language tutor and librarian. It brought her great joy to help the next generation discover the world through books and the many languages she tutored including French, Spanish, German and Latin.

Upon her and Bruce's retirement, they settled in Glen Arbor on northern Michigan's idyllic Leelanau Peninsula. Betsy spent many years dedicated to volunteering with Glen Arbor's local organizations in support of the natural beauty and wildlife surrounding their home next to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. An active board member for many years with the Glen Arbor Arts Center, Betsy was instrumental in establishing and growing the annual Manitou Music Festival and artist-in-residence program. During the frosty Michigan winters and delightful summers at their Lake Michigan beach cottage, Betsy enjoyed writing regular book reviews for the Cottage Book Shop.

Betsy cared deeply for her family, friends and neighbors by writing letters, sharing humorous stories or lending a helping hand. Betsy was so proud of her children, Sage and Alexander, and loved encouraging their careers and interests. She and Bruce rediscovered city life again as they spent time in Chicago visiting grandchildren.

All who knew her gentle soul were touched by her kindness, selflessness and the love she had for her husband, children, grandchildren and lifelong friends. Betsy was loved and respected by so many. Since her passing, friends near and far have reached out to share their memories of Betsy - her sweet smile and laugh, the adventures traveling and photographing through Europe, spending a winter in a remote Swiss Alps' village, and long walks (and talks) through the woods of Leelanau County.

Betsy is survived by her husband of 47 years Bruce, daughter Sage (Martin) Wodarz, son Alexander, brother Thomas (Sheila) Winslow, sister Gale Minot, as well as her grandson Owen Wodarz and granddaughter Parker Wodarz. Betsy is preceded in death by her beloved sister Wendy Lofting.

A memorial service will be taking place on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Glen Lake Community Reformed Church in Glen Arbor, Michigan. A time of visitation will be from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Graciously, the church has allowed for the Reverend Derek Quinn of Grace Episcopal Church to preside over the service. A private burial at the Maple Grove Cemetery in nearby Empire, Michigan will take place on a different day. Those wishing an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a contribution to the Leelanau Conservancy by visiting www.leelanauconservancy.org or to the Glen Arbor Arts Center by visiting www.glenarborart.org. Please share your memories and thoughts with Betsy's family by way of her online tribute page by visiting www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home

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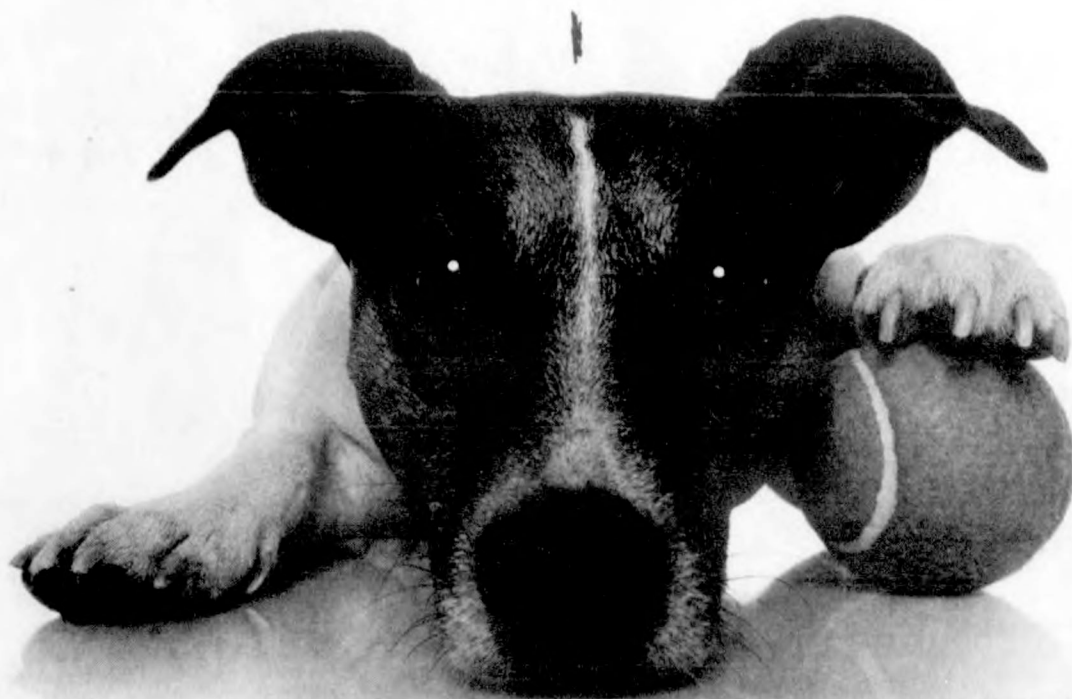


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