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Huron Valley Trail to get major facelift with Milford, Lyon grants

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford and Lyon townships will receive a combined \$250,000 for improvements to the Huron Valley Trail, thanks to the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Trails Maintenance Fund.

The Community Foundation of

Southeast Michigan awarded \$175,000 to Milford Township and \$75,000 to Lyon Township through the fund, which provides maintenance support to already developed trails and greenways.

The maintenance grant is new and exciting to township officials grateful to have an additional source of funding for the 12.2 mile trail that can be divided

into three sections, with end points Dixboro Road north of Londonderry Dr., west of McHattie Park (South Lyon) and Island Lake Pathway at Kent Lake Beach Rd.; Pontiac Trail at Lyon Oaks Park (Wixom city limits).

"For the past decade, we've been funding everything on our own," Milford Township Supervisor Don Green said.

"I'm glad to get the grant, every little bit helps."

Green said the grant funding will pay for half of the \$350,000 cost of the resurfacing the section of trail that extends from Old Plank Road to just shy of Pontiac Trail.

See GRANTS, Page 6A

Marines land in Novi to perform, swear in recruits

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon conducted an approximately 15-minute performance June 1 in front of a crowd at Novi's Fuerst Park, one stop on its nationwide tour.

The 24-man ensemble's synchronized routine, in which they wield 10-pound M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets is performed without cadence or spoken orders and ends with a sequence demonstrating spins and tosses of their rifles.

"I was impressed with two things — as a community, the respect we had in silence; and second, the discipline that was required to do all the moves in silent unison," Karen Bulbuk, who attended with her two grandchildren, said. "It was beyond impressive."

Following the performance, a class of 24 new Marine recruits reaffirmed the oath they had taken for enlistment.

Among them were John Knowles and Bradley Keown, both of whom are graduating from South Lyon High School and will be leaving for a 13-week Marine boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina on June 14.

See MARINES, Page 8A



A race gets underway at Northville Downs on May 21 as spectators press against the fence to get a good look.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Against long odds, Northville Downs overcomes shutdowns

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When your industry survives a pair of potentially devastating pandemic-induced shutdowns, even the foul odors in a horse barn can smell like a bed of roses.

On May 21, less than an hour before the first race of a 12-race card at Northville Downs — the only live-racing venue remaining in Michigan — lifelong harness-racing owner/trainer/driver Kim Pluta discussed the sloppy conditions his livelihood navigated since March 16, 2020, when the United States was locked down in an effort to contain COVID-19.

"This is how I make a living, so the beginning of the first shutdown was



Northville Downs Operations Manager Mike Carlo talks about his and his family's decades of ownership and management of Northville Downs.

See RACING, Page 4A

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Volume 151 | No. 45
Home delivery pricing inside
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South Lyon appoints school board trustee

Susan Bromley hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Stephanie Junkulis-Pierce finally has her chance to serve on the South Lyon Board of Education.

The attorney and mother of two was unanimously appointed to serve as a trustee by the board June 2 and was immediately sworn in.

"This is my third time around," Junkulis-Pierce laughed, who in the past two years mounted two write-in campaigns for open seats on the school board, but acknowledges such campaigns are "an uphill battle."

"I was very excited when the position came open again," she said. "I am passionate about education and want to bring South Lyon back to being a top school district in the state and I truly believe we really can be there."

Junkulis-Pierce's was one of nine applications the school board received to fill the spot vacated with the resignation of Bridgett McDowell, who was elected just this past fall.

Of the nine applicants, the board selected five to interview this week, but one withdrew. Besides Junkulis-Pierce, the board interviewed Ann Rimanelli, Patrick Maguire, and Pamela Najor.

Board President Craig Dashner said they ultimately selected Junkulis-Pierce "as the best fit for the group and community" and as someone who will bring "a different perspective and skills to the board."

Dashner cited Junkulis-Pierce's experience as an attorney as well as her active role in the South Lyon Educational Foundation, which he said shows a dedication to students. He also liked that she talked in her interview about trusting the administration.

"Not in a 'write a blank check' way, but in trusting them to do the right things and not micro-managing them," Dashner said. "I thought that was an important point that she shared."

Junkulis-Pierce said she is looking forward to working with the South Lyon team.

She plans to make decisions in the best interest of students, and assist teachers who have been restricted by legislation that forces them to teach to standardized tests. Junkulis-Pierce also cited concerns about a teacher shortage, and hopes to focus on teacher engagement and retention.

The challenge in one of the lowest foundation allocation districts will be money.

"What can we do to improve our financial position to pay teachers more, how can we attract and get students back in the district?" she asked. "The long-term goal is teacher pay. I would really like to create a wellness group for our teachers. ... I am trying to work on an engaging platform that energizes teachers."



Junkulis-Pierce

Northville teachers step up to make prom magical for senior

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Searching for an uplifting story during these challenging times? Meet Northville High School's "Fantastic Four": senior Cecilia "Ce" Richard and teachers Kelsey Mikiciuk, Stacy Sutter Katikos and Sabrina Palumbo.

Due largely to the agonizing inconveniences created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Richard, a student in Mikiciuk's cross-categorical classroom, did not have an escort for the district's May 27 Senior Prom, the details for which were not hammered out until early-May due to fluid social-distancing mandates.

The pandemic was especially hard on Richard, who also lost out on her final season with Northville's Unified basketball team, which uses general-education students as peers for Special Olympics athletes.

"Pre-pandemic, we always had general-education students working in the classroom with us and available to take our cross-categorical students to the prom," Mikiciuk explained. "But due to social-distancing restrictions, that wasn't possible this year."

"When I found out Cecilia needed an escort for the prom, it was a no-brainer to make plans so she could go. I've been her teacher for the past four years; I've gotten close to her. I know how much she loves Disney and fancy stuff. I called Stacy and Sabrina, who coached her Unified basketball team and are teachers in the high school, to see if they wanted to join us. They didn't hesitate. They're as fond of Cecilia as I am."

One afternoon in the days leading up to the prom, the trio of teachers orchestrated a surprise promposal for Cecilia.

"Ce was so surprised by the promposal, all she could do was smile and give a two thumbs-up sign," said Patty Vincent-Richard, Cecilia's mom. "When she walked out of the room, she told Kelsey that she was surprised, but it was a good surprise. Cecilia teared up and said, 'Miss M., I'm so happy you want to go to the prom with me.'"

Prom night couldn't have unfolded any better for Cecilia and her three escorts. Dressed in a stunning pink dress, Cecilia embraced the night like Cinderella, participating in everything from photo opportunities to games and activities that were strategically located throughout downtown Northville to ensure that all of the district's seniors enjoyed an unforgettable evening, despite the unique environment.

"It was kind of the last hurrah for Cecilia and her fellow seniors, so we wanted to make sure it was a special night," Mikiciuk said. "The entire night was a blast, but I think the highlight for Ce was when she



Pictured (from left) are Stacey Sutter, Kelsey Mikiciuk, Cecilia Richard and Sabrina Palumbo. SUBMITTED

kicked our butts in trivia. The highlight for me was seeing all of the students run up to Ce and give her a hug. I think we had as much fun as Ce did."

The foursome enjoyed an incredible meal at Table 5 in downtown Northville, Mikiciuk shared, before Cecilia was picked up by her parents, Patty and Rob, who chauffeured their daughter home.

"When we picked Ce up, I asked her to describe the night in one word," Patty Richard said. "She thought a little bit, then said, 'Magical.'"

"We cannot thank these teachers enough for what they did. They put in long weeks, they have families of their own and they're probably exhausted by the time the end of the week rolls around. But they were bound and determined to give Ce a night she would never forget and they delivered."

"I am so appreciative of the people who truly embrace Cecilia for who she is. These teachers who teach in the cross-categorical classrooms and in special-education classrooms are gifted; they have a calling."

And thanks to three thoughtful, big-hearted educators, Cecilia Richard enjoyed a night filled with memories she will never forget — like something straight out of an enchanted Disney movie.

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



The kitchen supply department of Twelve Oaks Mall's Crate & Barrel is the largest of the chain's 115 stores nationwide.

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Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Northville Record, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$65 per 12 months home delivery

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Twelve Oaks Mall's Crate & Barrel has a separate design center for its customers to peruse fabrics.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Crate & Barrel opens at Twelve Oaks in Novi

David Veselenak hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the most anticipated shops to open at Twelve Oaks Mall has finally arrived.

Crate & Barrel opened its full-size shop to the public June 3 in the Novi mall's second level near Macy's. Known for its home décor and other household goods, the upscale shop relocated from the Somerset Collection in Troy.

"We are so thrilled to open Crate & Barrel at Twelve Oaks," Head of Stores Sarah Casalan Bittle said in a statement.

Crate & Barrel operated in a smaller, temporary space while its permanent buildout was constructed. Construction was delayed several months.

The space is a bit smaller than what it occupied in Troy, but company officials say the Twelve Oaks store sports a new redesign, including the largest kitchen bedding department in the brand's portfolio, a reimagined bedding department and a prominent space for the services provided in its interior design service, Design Desk.

Crate & Barrel is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.



A customer checks out some salt and pepper grinders at Twelve Oaks Mall's Crate & Barrel.

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What to do about the tick boom in Michigan

Emma Stein Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pull out the bug spray, Michiganders, there are more ticks than ever in Michigan right now and this increase is showing no signs of slowing down.

Ticks may seem like innocent, pesky little insects but they can carry diseases that lead to serious health concerns.

Here's how to deal with the insurgence of ticks without letting it ruin your summer.

How do I prevent ticks?

- Perform tick checks on yourself and your pets after coming in from the outside, whether it's a hike or

playing with your dog in the backyard. Thoroughly check your hair, your clothes and every small crevice. Check your pets, too!

- Take a shower after being outside.
- Use EPA-certified insect repellent (but avoid ingesting it, and make sure to check with a veterinarian before spraying your pet).

I found a tick, now what?

The first thing to do is take a deep breath, there's no need to panic. Some ticks do not carry any diseases, and even if they do, it usually takes at least 24 hours for the pathogen to transmit.

- Remove the tick with tweezers at an even, steady rate to ensure it does not break off. The Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention warns against using your bare hands or methods of burning it off, as the goal is to keep the tick intact and remove it as quickly as possible.

- Clean the bite area with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.
- Dispose of the tick by wrapping it carefully and putting it in a sealed container or flushing it down the toilet.

They're just bugs, why does it matter?

Ticks can be vectors for a variety of diseases, from Lyme disease to Rocky Mountain spotted fever to the deadly meat allergy. If you notice any symptoms after removing a tick, call your doctor immediately.



Golfers take advantage of a sunny spring day at Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township.
GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

What you should know about recent Metroparks initiatives

Sara Kellner Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Livingston County Commissioners need to appoint a representative for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, but selecting a candidate has spurred conversation about the Metroparks' priorities.

During a May 24 meeting, commissioners and local residents questioned recent decisions by Steve Williams, the county's current representative on the Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners.

County Commission Chair Wes Nakagiri posted on social media and his website criticism of Williams' voting record on two issues: A partnership between the Metroparks Authority and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Metroparks' investment in a diversity, equity and inclusion plan that was adopted a year ago.

Nakagiri said he was troubled by the decision to fund what he considers to be "social justice" causes, rather than parks and recreation. But Williams argues that both decisions will make the Metroparks better for everyone.

Metroparks funding

A majority of the Metropolitan Authority's funding comes from property taxes, about \$34 million of its \$55 million budget. Another \$20 million comes from park operations.

There are 13 parks in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks system that includes Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. There are seven board members, one from each of the five counties and two appointed by the governor.

Property owners in all five counties pay the same tax rate, 0.2104 mills.

Livingston County has the highest home values and the smallest population. It contributes the least money of five counties.

According to the authority's 2021 budget, tax revenues from each county are:

- Livingston: \$2,038,199
- Washtenaw: \$3,854,737
- Macomb: \$6,237,818
- Wayne: \$8,817,507
- Oakland: \$12,941,291

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Partnership

Last fall, Huron-Clinton Metroparks announced a partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to build a 22-acre park in downtown Detroit.

Taxes from Detroit property owners contribute to the Metroparks, but there isn't a metropark in the city. The closest park is 25 miles from downtown Detroit. According to Detroit's millage information, Detroit residents contributed \$895,159 to the Metropolitan Authority in 2020.

Through the partnership, which was unanimously approved by the Metroparks board in November, Huron-Clinton Metroparks will contribute \$6 million over a seven-year period - an average of \$857,000 a year - to the Detroit conservancy.

Williams said he voted in support of the partnership because it aids in the Metroparks' goal to serve southeast Michigan.

"Metroparks are available for everybody, not just one county or one city," Williams said. "To characterize this as something only for Detroit is absolutely wrong."

The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park is expected to open in 2023. There will be basketball courts, a play garden and a lawn for events. The park is part of the conservancy's goal to develop

5.5 miles of riverfront for Detroit residents and visitors to enjoy. According to a press release from the Metropolitan Authority, the Detroit Riverfront sees 3.5 million visitors each year.

DEI initiatives include accessibility

Last March, the Metroparks board signed off on the authority's diversity, equity and inclusion plan, with goals to implement staff training and new hiring practices to accurately reflect the communities the Metroparks serve.

The board increased its investment in the department of diversity, equity and inclusion. In 2020, the authority allocated \$258,301 to DEI and budgeted \$481,338 for 2021.

There were no DEI expenditures listed in 2019 because the DEI director's salary and expenses were listed under the Metroparks director's office.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Director Amy McMillan said diversity expenses increased because the department added a part-time staff member to work with the DEI director, and funds were allocated to fund a speaker series that is open to the public.

According to demographic statistics in the Metroparks 2019 audit, residents in the five Metroparks counties are 68% white. Of 650 Metroparks staff members, 96% are white.

Metroparks staff closely resemble Livingston County, which is 96.5% white, according to 2019 Census Data. But in Macomb, Washtenaw and Oakland Counties, white people make up between 70%-80% of the population. Just over half of Wayne County residents are white; nearly 40% are Black or African American.

"A big focus of that ef-

fort is casting a really wide net so people are aware of the fact that we have full-time jobs open at the Metroparks," McMillan said. "We're working with news outlets to make sure people don't have to stumble over job postings by visiting our website."

McMillan said the DEI training is intended only for Metroparks staff.

Beyond racial diversity, McMillan said the plan is helping Metroparks become more accessible, like updating the website to make it easier for people with visual impairments to read and including the option to translate content to another language.

Kensington Park is also home to the new Maple Beach playground, which was built to be accessible and sensory-friendly for children and adults with disabilities.

"The segment that addresses accessibility is something families will notice right away," McMillan said. "As we focus our efforts in this direction, parks will become more usable for everyone."

New COVID-19 cases plummet across state

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 2,994 new cases. That's down 45.6% from the previous week's tally of 5,506 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 25th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 28.3% from the week before, with 100,804 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 2.97% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, five states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Many communities did not report data in a timely manner around Memorial Day, making week-to-week comparisons inaccurate.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 76 counties, with the best declines in Wayne, Kent and Macomb counties.

Wayne County reported 584 cases and 58 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 965 cases and 58 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 164,769 cases and 5,078 deaths.

Oakland County reported 387 cases and 27 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 619 cases and 27 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 118,174 cases and 2,383 deaths.

Michigan ranked 24th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 49.3% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 51.5%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 124,579 vaccine doses, including 56,423 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 247,925 vaccine doses, including 115,741 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 8,811,858 total doses.

In Michigan, 212 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 236 people were reported dead.

A total of 994,935 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 20,588 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 33,362,535 people have tested positive and 597,628 people have died.



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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2021, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., at Northville High School, Northville, Michigan, (and/or electronically through Zoom, with identification number 952 7998 9087) the Board of Education of Northville Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2021-2022 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at Old Village School, 405 W. Main Street, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Roland Harvey
Secretary

Racing

Continued from Page 1A

really, really tough," said Pluta, already decked out in his gold-and-white racing silks. "Most of us in here live (financially) week to week ... and the horses have to eat."

"When we came back the first time (in August), there was a lot of happiness, obviously. But at the same time, we didn't know if we'd be racing for a week, two weeks, whatever, and then get shut down again. I think that is why everybody here followed the rules so closely. We wanted to keep racing. We needed to keep racing."

Northville Downs Operations Manager Mike Carlo, whose great uncle started horse racing near the northeast corner of the intersection of Center Street and Seven Mile Road in 1944, acknowledged the robust return to racing required sacrifice, patience and teamwork.

Following protocols

Although the track lost half of its racing dates in 2020, it stayed the course and is once again a one-of-a-kind entertainment option for residents of southeast Michigan and beyond.

Strictly enforced protocols including mask-wearing, social-distancing and crowd-capacity restrictions in the grandstand and paddock areas were embraced by patrons and horsemen alike, Carlo said.

"When we reopened in August after the first (five-month) shutdown, one of our regular patrons came up to me and said,

"This is just my place to hang out. I'd do anything to just come back and hang out with my friends.' It was great to see that nothing — wearing a mask, social-distancing — was going to stop this guy from coming back."

"One of the nicest things I observed was that even though everybody had a lot to complain about when everything was taken away, these horsemen were so thrilled to be able to come back and say, 'Thank God we're racing again.' We didn't care who the governor was, who the President was; it was just, 'I get to go back to living my life again.'"

Reminders that the pandemic is still a dangerous contender are apparent to racetrack patrons the second they enter the doors to the clubhouse and are greeted by longtime employee Bess Thomas, who completes a forehead temperature check.

A safety-coated vibe also flows through the barns, which are far less crowded — with fewer horses and people alike — and less frenetic than normal times due to social-distancing guidelines.

"Before the pandemic, we ran a five-race paddock, so all of the horses who were running in the first five races could be in the barn," Carlo said. "Now, because of COVID, we're running a three-race paddock so that there are always open stalls between the horses."

"The number of people in the barns is also significantly reduced. Before COVID, on any given night there were up to six

helpers allowed for each trainer to help care for the horses. Now, each trainer is allowed one helper for every two horses. If they have a third horse running, they're allowed a second helper."

Carlo said the horsemen understand and follow the capacity rules, but they're not necessarily fans of the camaraderie-dissipating protocols.

"During normal times, the backside of the racetrack is so communal and friendly," Carlo said. "Sure you see a few arguments, but whenever you're back there you'll see people helping their neighbor in a stall."

"You'll hear, 'Can you put this line on the horse for me?' 'Absolutely!' And once the race starts, they're all lined up on the ramp (that leads to the barns), screaming at the top of their lungs as the horses head around the corner. We all miss that

part of it and we hope things return to normal soon."

Carlo said he doesn't have statistical proof that the pandemic created a financial burden too great to overcome for some horsemen, but he assumes there have been casualties.

"What's encouraging, though, is that we've had enough horses to run 10, 11 or 12 races a night, which is our aim," he said. "Most of the horses that run here are Michigan born or bred, too."

Love of racing

Arthur McIlmurray, 62, has been involved in the harness-racing industry for 46 years. His late father, Wally McIlmurray, was a driver in the first race ever run at Northville Downs in September of 1944.

The veteran horseman said the pandemic has generated the most daunting obstacles he's witnessed for all-in horse lovers like himself.

"March of last year was very hard because all of the horses had just

qualified and were ready to go," McIlmurray said. "We were able to stay afloat during the shutdown because of the county fairs that allowed us to race. There was no betting and no patrons, so we were racing just for the purses."

"I felt especially bad for all the young guys that are coming up. It's satisfying to be able to offer them advice when I can. I still love racing, too; I'm still competitive and love to win. I don't know how much longer I'm going to be able to drive, but I'm going to do it into my 70s, at least, God willing."

By the time the starting gate rolled down the dusty track for the first race May 21, an impressive crowd had gathered along the rail — not far from where \$2 beers and \$1 hot dogs were being sold from a makeshift concession stand — and inside the 50-year-old grandstand.


See RACING, Page 6A



The crowd watches the second race at Northville Downs on May 21. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM




A jockey warms up his horse before the first race of the night.





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MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES GO BROKE BECAUSE "EXPERTS" BROKE ESTATE PLANNING

ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM



Ever go to the zoo? Remember the Elephant House? Couple of big ole elephants in there... Elephants doing what comes naturally. Smelled strong, right? Tough to deny there is an elephant (or two) nearby. You can hear them breathing... moving around.



Now, if an elephant is sharing a room with you, wouldn't that be significant? I tend to think it would be an important fact, don't you? It is possible, perhaps, you would want to deal with your companion somehow. Well, I suppose you could pretend that there is no elephant. But wouldn't that be foolish? Dangerous, even. Not good. You might step in something. Something might step on you. Either way... Squish!

Let us say you figured this one out. Using your five senses, plus common sense. Do you really need Sherlock Holmes, Columbo, or MacGyver for this one? And yet, various people, who claim to be experts, are trying to tell you there are no elephants. These people covered up the elephants with bedsheet. They talk about everything else. Minor stuff. Distractions. Everything except what is most important. But you cannot hide an elephant with a bedsheet! Yet they try. Why? What is going on here?

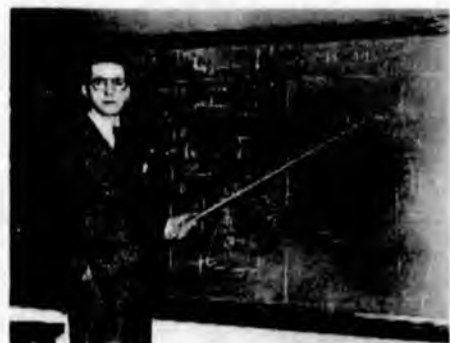


LONG TERM CARE - THE BIGGEST ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

What is the problem? Middle-class families go broke. All the time. Routinely. It is accepted and acceptable to the so-called experts. I think it is horrible. To work for a lifetime, saving, scrimping, economizing. And watch it all vanish in a matter of months. A nightmare.

"Do not worry!" say the experts, as they try to cover up that elephant. Trying to convince you that probate or interest rates or inflation or taxes

are the "real" problem. Long-term care, they say, is something that happens to someone else.



I am no great fan of government information. But even a blind squirrel gets lucky sometimes. Here are a few chestnuts from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. At www.LongTermCare.gov, quoting:

- Someone turning age 65 today has almost a 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services and supports in their remaining years
- Women need care longer (3.7 years) than men (2.2 years)
- One-third of today's 65 year-olds may never need long-term care support, but 20 percent will need it for longer than 5 years

You worked. You saved. You planned for your retirement. Time to relax. Travel. Spoil the grandkids. Not so fast. Not if you are like 70% of folks. You will probably need long-term care services for years. And leave your spouse destitute. And your legacy is...

By ignoring the biggest, noisiest, smelliest elephant in the room, the burden of your care falls (like a ton of bricks) on your loved ones. If the caregiver is your spouse, they are as likely to die first as you are. Stressed out. Exhausted.

And the experts ignore all this. They want you to think that the real problem is how your kids get your stuff. As if there will be any stuff to get. Yank the bedsheet off the elephant. Face the facts. Do not let fast-talkers distract you from the reality. Long-term care is the future for most of us. How are you going to deal with it?

DOES IT MATTER TO YOU? THE RICH, THE POOR, THE MIDDLE CLASS

Not everyone needs to worry about long-term care. Of the three large groups of Americans, only one really must be concerned. The Big Three are: The Rich, The Poor, The Middle Class.

DEVASTATING GUT PUNCH THE MIDDLE CLASS

Husband with some dementia. You can manage. Not much sleep. Stressful. But you can manage. Unfortunate fall. Broken hip. Hospitalization. Rehabilitation. Thank goodness for Medicare! And that Medicare Supplement insurance. Minimal out of pocket expense. Three weeks in rehab. Coming home? No.

You could barely handle him before. Now it is out of the question. He needs skilled care. At least for now... maybe he will get better... But Medicare is done. Insurance will not pay anymore. Now it is on you.

Letter in the mailbox. Looks like a bill. Return address: Nursing Home. First six weeks. \$18,327, plus tax. Your head hurts. You almost vomit. You have never seen a bill for this much. You have not spent \$18,000 since you bought

the house... What are you supposed to do? Better sit down. Quick.

IT DON'T MATTER TO ME... THE RICH, THE POOR

The Rich. Your spouse transferred from rehabilitation to long-term care at the nursing home. The first bill came in today's mail. Eighteen thousand dollars. Well. You did not think it would be cheap... actually pretty reasonable when you think about it. So, which account should you pay it from? The money market? Regular checking? Should probably ask the financial advisor... looks like this long-term care will be almost as expensive as maintaining the summer cottage and the ski condo, combined! Not counting the sail boat, jet skis or the golf cart, of course, let alone the horse boarding...

The Poor. Could not pay for the groceries without the Section 8 subsidized housing. Husband now in skilled nursing. How will you ever get transportation to visit? Hope there's a bus line around there somewhere. Looks like a nursing home bill in the mail. Wow. That place is expensive! Eighteen thousand... and that's just for the first six weeks. Sigh. Just put it on the stack with the other bills you cannot afford to pay. Have to prioritize... heat and groceries first. Good to know that with skilled nursing, his care is guaranteed. Even without Medicare or Medicaid or Medi-what-ever, he will get the care he needs.

LONG-TERM CARE REALITY RICH MAN, POOR MAN

It can be uncomfortable to look under the bedsheet and take a good hard look at the elephant everyone else is trying to hide. I do not apologize for that. Sometimes truth is not pretty. Facts can be inconvenient.

It is simply true that if you are wealthy, long-term care costs are manageable. You do not need me. Plenty of folks downtown in glass towers with expensive suits and ties are just dying to meet you. Original, incomprehensible art on the wall. Park in the ramp, bring your ticket for validation. Plan for long-term care or do not plan for long-term care, you are not going broke. Let those guys worry about your excess profits taxes, capital gains and all that...

It is also true that many families simply cannot begin to pay the costs of long-term care. A bill for \$1200 is as much out of their reach as a bill for \$12,000. And at that point, what does it matter? You cannot pay anyway. Social security cannot be taken from you. You will not be denied your housing assistance. Bills piling up are awful. Stressful. But at the end of the day, care will be given. Your personal property will not be taken. I cannot help you to preserve assets you do not have.

NOTE: The Medicaid system is extremely complex, with many variables, hurdles and hoops. It is not unusual for Medicaid to be denied to people who should qualify for benefits, often for technical reasons. Over the years, we have helped many such families resolve these issues and get the benefits. From time to time, we work with skilled nursing facilities to get the compensation they have earned by helping these families meet the legal requirements.

LIFEPLAN™ SALVATION FOR THE MIDDLE-CLASS

The rich do not need me. The poor I cannot directly help. That leave the middle-class. It is the middle-class savers, workers, builders that I can help. You get that bill: your guts turn to water, you are about to puke and you are desperately

searching for a place to sit down. Relax! Your LifePlan™ will take care of it. You saw the signs: 70% need long-term care services. One in Five need long-term care services for more than five years. You rejected nursing home poverty. You choose the path of reasonable optimism, while guarding against the potential downsides. Hope for the Best, Plan for the Worst.

The LifePlan™ approach is the least expensive, most effective solution to the harsh reality of long-term care. You opened your eyes when faced with long-term care costs. Accepted reality. Refused to allow your lifesavings evaporate like a snowflake on a hot griddle. Recognized the reality of the caregiver spouse dying first, almost half the time and fixed it. Rejected nursing home poverty.

NEVER TOO LATE

Sitting there with the nursing home bill in your hand, you say, "Coulda, shoulda, woulda... And now it is too late! Maybe that LifePlan™ Workshop or Webinar would have been a good idea."

It is never too late. There is nothing inevitable about losing your home, cottage, business, lifesavings, independence. Planning is the best route, but not the only one. Even if the dementia diagnosis was your wake-up call. Even if your attention was finally focused by the slip and fall broken hip. Do not give up the ship! It is never too late for you to be the hero... to fight and win!



NOT CHANCE, YOUR CHOICE UNCOVER THE ELEPHANT!

There is nothing inevitable about nursing home poverty. Peace of mind and security are waiting for you. Right now. It is a choice. Despite what "everybody else" says. Despite their attempts to disguise the elephants in the room. For over thirty years, people have told me, "I've never heard of this before!" "If this is real, why doesn't everyone do it?" "My lawyer/financial advisor/brother-in-law/accountant/tax person/banker/best friend/fill-in-the-blank never said anything like this..."

Well, here you are. Now you know. No excuses. Get the information, insight, inspiration. It is your turn. Ignore the message? Invite poverty? Or get the freely offered information. To make wise decisions. For you. For your loved ones.



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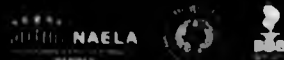
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Grants

Continued from Page 1A

The township will match the rest of the funds for the work which he said must be done by 2024.

In Lyon Township, the \$75,000 received from the grant will be applied to the second leg of a trail resurfacing project.

The township hopes to resurface the segment of the trail that extends from Milford Road to Lyon Township's border to the north, as well as a shorter segment from Milford Road west to the border with Atchison Park. Total construction and engineering for the project, hoped to be completed by this fall, is estimated at nearly \$400,000.

Last year's first leg, resurfacing the trail from 11 Mile to just short of Milford Road, was funded entirely by the township, at a cost of \$546,380. The portion of the Huron Valley Trail from 12 Mile Road north to Milford Road will be closed during the week of June 7th for some touch-up resurfacing work.

Lyon Township Treasurer Patty Car-

cone is happy to have some assistance with the second phase.

"A lot of people use our trail, it's money well spent and will touch a lot of our residents," she said. "Even if they are not residents, it is good for health."

JJ Tighe, director of parks and trails initiative for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, was pleased to grant the funds to Lyon and Milford, as well as to Auburn Hills, (Clinton River Trail) \$200,000; Flat Rock (Downriver Linked Greenways) - \$150,000; Michigan DNR (Belle Isle and start of Iron Belle Trail) - \$100,000; and Grosse Ile (Downriver Linked Greenways and Iron Belle Trail) - \$80,000.

"Parks and trails enrich a community's quality of life and economic vitality, and public and private funding for the long-term maintenance of these important assets is critical," Tighe said. "Our trails and greenways in southeast Michigan continue to connect people and communities to each other and provide recreational opportunities to get people moving while enjoying nature."

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



A cyclist uses the Huron Valley Trail north of I-96 near New Hudson on June 2. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Racing

Continued from Page 4A

The maximum capacity as of mid-May was 1,200, Carlo said.

"Horse racing is such a unique form of entertainment," he said. "A lot of patrons like it better than casinos because you can bet, but it's also a sporting event unto itself."

Good friends Lori Kartmann, Mary Suiter and Chelsea Chandler headed to the viewing area about 20 minutes before the first race, hoping for a big pay day, but ready to settle for a night of low-stakes gambling and high-caliber fun.

"I haven't been here for a long time," Chandler said. "But the second you walk in this place and look around, you remember why you wanted to come back: because you had so much fun the last time you were here."

"We're here to bet a little, drink a little and laugh a lot," Suiter added.

Winning isn't everything these days at Northville Downs — especially one



Livonia resident Lori Kartmann talks about the lure of attending live racing at Northville Downs, even amid the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

year after the iconic venue sat quiet and empty, waiting for the sound of pounding hooves to return.

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



Longtime Northville Downs employee Bess Thomas takes a visitor's temperature.

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John Knowles and Bradley Keown, both 2021 South Lyon High School graduates, have enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Marines

Continued from Page 1A

Knowles, 18, enlisted last June, inspired by traits he feels will be honed in the Marine Corps, as well as the brotherhood he will find.

"The loyalty and discipline factors will make me a better person," he said. "I will have brothers until the day I die."

Keown also cited the brotherhood of the Marines, and is following in the footsteps of his older brother, also in the Corps.

"I'm excited to be a Marine. It's a big change, a different experience, but I think I'm ready," he said.

Major Greg Veteto, commanding officer of the Marine recruiting station in Lansing, is ready to welcome them, particularly after a challenging year for enlistment efforts, with recruiters mostly not allowed in schools during the pandemic.

On average, he said about 30,000 new Marines join the Corps per year, with about 1,000 enlisting from Michigan.

We pride ourselves on being the few and proud," Veteto said. "The nation always needs Marines, and only about 30% of the population qualify for our standards. Of that, we narrow to less than 1% earning the title."

Based out of Washington, D.C., the



Corporal Albert Albillar, foreground, and Lance Corporal Benjamin Lagos toss their M1 Garand rifles into the air.

Silent Drill Platoon raises awareness and interest in the Marine Corps across the country. Veteto expects that as the pandemic improves, recruiters will be welcomed back into high schools and community colleges.

"If you see a Marine, assume that we are looking for the next generation," he said.

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



Marine Staff Sgt. Henry Truzy and members of the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon at the completion of their performance at Fuerst Park in Novi on June 1.



Twenty-four new Marine Corps recruits swear their oath of enlistment.

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Abby Ruiz,
Retention Specialist,
The Arizona Republic

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ONLINE COUPONS

Canton soccer stuns Salem for district title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton knew what it was going to get from its defense.

If anything, the Chiefs girls soccer team was going to try and emulate what it had done against Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rival Salem in each of

its regular season matchups: keep the Rocks scoreless.

The defense was not the worry of Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy. She knew Canton could stop Salem. The question was whether Canton could beat Salem's defense.

This had been a struggle all year for the Chiefs, who only allowed 12 goals in

17 games, but had finished the regular season with a record of 5-5-5. The balance of experience was heavily favoring the defense, something junior Emily Woods knew well.

In the final moments, Woods just wanted to give those seniors a chance to play again.

"We've had our whole senior back

line, they've been so good all season and our offense it took us a little bit — we don't have any seniors up there," Woods said. "I've just been wanting to step up for those seniors, with the year we didn't have last year, I just want to give them a long season."

See SOCCER, Page 2B

Plymouth overcomes adversity to win D1 district baseball title

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After enduring the immense challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and adapting to a late-season head-coaching change, overcoming a 5-1 deficit midway through Saturday's Division 1 District 16 championship game against Belleville must have seemed like a walk in the park for members of Plymouth's resilient baseball team.

Fueled by contributions from players throughout their roster, the Wildcats rallied for an emotional 8-6 victory over the Tigers to win a title few saw coming just a couple weeks ago.

The championship performance was orchestrated by interim head coach Matt Penn, who took the reins of the program on May 14 after former head coach Scott McGregor and Plymouth's athletics administration agreed to part ways.

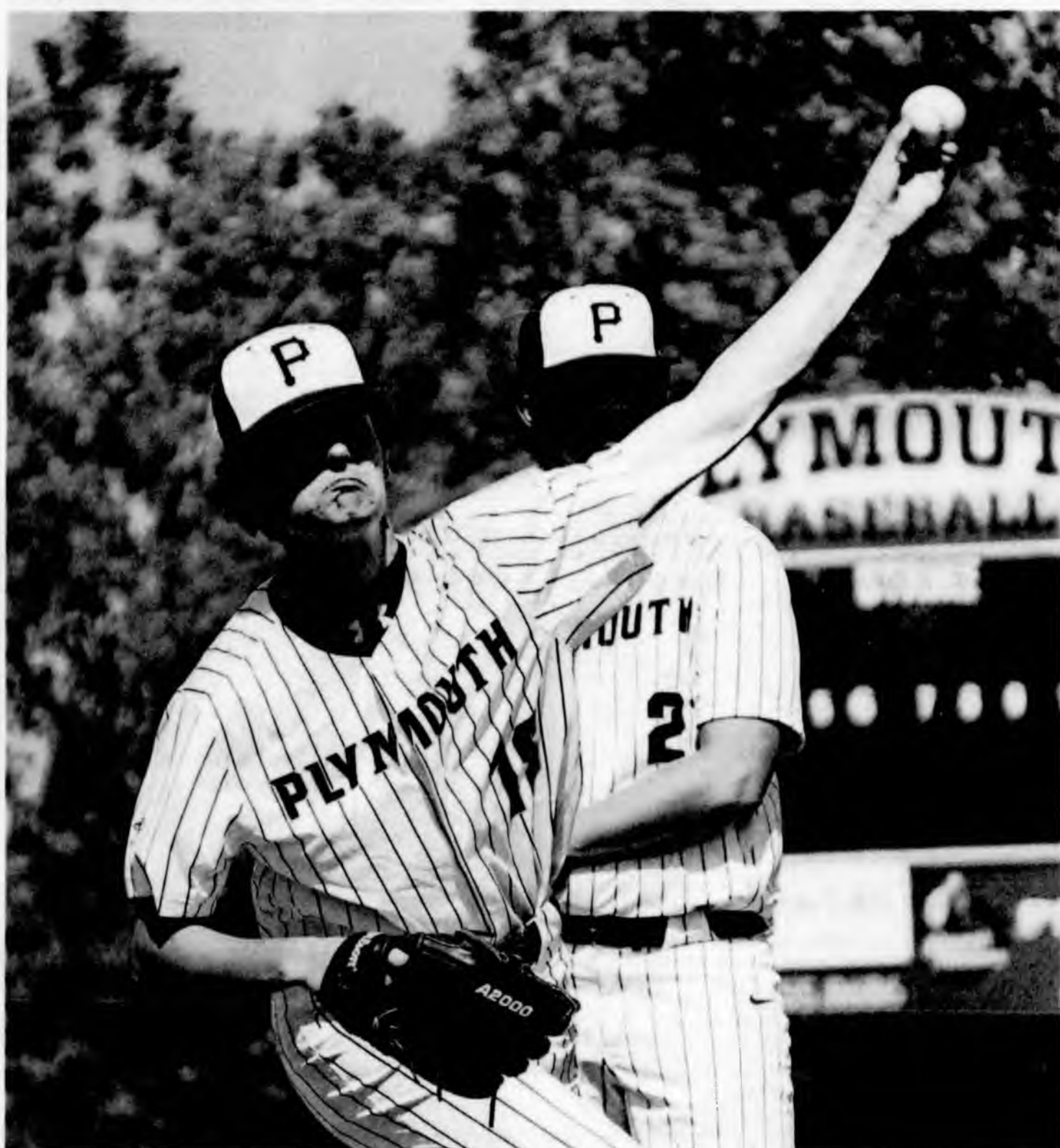
Penn, a former head baseball coach at Garden City High School, is an employee for the Plymouth-Canton Schools maintenance department and defensive coordinator of the Wildcats' varsity football team, but he was not part of the Wildcats' baseball coaching staff at the time of his hiring last month.

Plymouth was 7-21 before Penn took over. It has won eight of 10 games since.

"When I got the call from (Plymouth Athletic Director) Ray Miller on May 14, I thought I was in trouble at first," Penn said, smiling. "I thought, 'Uh, oh, what have I done.' When Ray offered me the interim job, I was shocked since it was so close to districts. I thought, 'OK, I'm a member of the community here, I think I can get them to districts and through districts because I've done it before (as head coach at Garden City).'"

Penn credited assistant coaches James O'Farrell, Ricardo Rojas and Shannon Withem with making the head-coaching transition as smooth as possible.

During a lengthy get-together in right field moments after the victory over



Wildcat William Holmes warms up to enter for Plymouth against Belleville. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See BASEBALL, Page 2B

Locals win 7 titles at Division 1 state track and field meet

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Udodi Onwuzurike was able to find his speed at the 2021 Michigan High School Athletic Association's Lower Peninsula Division 1 state final track and field meet at East Kentwood High School.

The Brother Rice senior took home

two first-place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

In the 100-meter race, a race he had not taken first place in since a dual meet against De La Salle May 3 in which he set a personal-best time, Onwuzurike finished .01 seconds away from that personal record, finishing in 10.55 — bringing him .02 seconds away from the Division 1 record set in 2017. The Brother

Rice senior's finish was .29 seconds faster than the second place runner.

Onwuzurike continued his momentum into the 200-meter dash. The senior set a new Lower Peninsula Division 1 record with a 21.01 in the preliminary race, .19 seconds faster than the record set in 2019 and .01 seconds away from the MHSAA record set in 1984.

The Stanford commit went on to win

the state title in the final, finishing in 21.23 and helping Brother Rice to a 10th-place finish as a team.

Novi was the top team finisher from the Hometown Life coverage area, finishing tied with Pinckney for fifth place, earning five All-State finishes and a state championship in the 4x800-meter

See TRACK, Page 7B



Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

In the final two minutes of a tie game against Salem (15-1-3), Woods took a pass from junior Avery Coykendall in stride, finding the left corner of the net past Rocks goalkeeper Ava Holloway to give Canton (8-5-5) the 2-1 victory and a district title.

The Chiefs earned its first district title since the 2018 season.

"It's hard being at a Park school, listening to everybody, 'Oh, you're not going to win, you're not going to win,'" Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy said. "I tell them 'Play your heart out and leave everything on the field,' and that's what they did."

But for Canton to end Salem's undefeated campaign, it had to come from behind.

With the Rocks controlling possession through most of the first half, Salem senior Macayla Harris struck first, taking a rebound off a Canton defender, adjusted and fired it past Canton senior goalkeeper Lauren Kubacki for the first goal scored between the two teams since May 28, 2019 — the last time these two teams faced off in the playoffs.

Nearly four minutes later, the Chiefs tied it up, using a combination set of Leah Truman and Woods to find Taylor Steinagel for the score.

The game remained scoreless until the final two minutes, but Kubacki and the rest of Canton's defense remained busy.

The Chiefs senior goalkeeper stepped up in a major way with 10:58 left: diving to her right and batting the ball away from her net off a strike from Salem senior Paige Skaff to keep the game tied.

"It was huge because any time you're down, you just have to move on," Kubacki said. "It's so hard not to get in your head, but you have to push past it and move forward to the next thing. The game happens so quickly. We could have been down three, but we are not. We have to keep pushing."

With multiple stops in the first 30 minutes of the second half, Kubacki watched as Woods finished the go-ahead score — Canton's 24th score of



The Canton girls soccer team celebrates its first district title since 2018. PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Salem's Ava Holloway tries to save a shot attempt by Canton's Emily Woods.

the season — with jubilee, but knowing she had to shut Canton down for the final 118 seconds.

"This is a team we have been so close to every single time," Kubacki said of Salem. "The talent is there, and it's on

our team too. It was a really great feeling when we scored that second goal. It's like all our hard work paid off."

This is how Reddy encouraged her players heading into her team's seemingly daunting task of beating Salem in a district final: the Rocks have beaten a lot of teams in 2021, but they had never beaten Canton.

After that seemingly daunting task was conquered in 80 minutes of play, that aspect was only part of the Chiefs reason for celebrating. The other part was what comes next.

"It's unreal," Woods said. "We get to go to practice Monday."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

Belleville, emotions ran strong, Penn said.

"I'm incredibly proud of how these guys came together," Penn said. "I don't think that — the way things were going early in the season — they had any inclination that they would be standing here today holding a district championship trophy."

The Wildcats advanced to the June 9 regional semifinal against Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Plymouth advanced to the championship game by dominating Canton, 9-0, in Saturday's 10 a.m. semifinal. Belleville squeaked by Salem, 7-6, in the 12:30 p.m. semifinal to punch its ticket to the title game.

The Wildcats trailed Belleville 5-1 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning before mounting a momentum-changing rally.

Plymouth loaded the bases with two outs when Jake Taylor and Lucas Powell sandwiched singles around a walk to Tanner Younglas. Devin Beauchamp and Ryan Ouellette delivered back-to-back two-run singles to knot the game at 5-all. Ryan Campbell and Kane Elmy followed with walks before Taylor — the 10th batter in the inning — ripped a rocket that Belleville left-fielder Garrett Meggison's snagged at the base of the left-center field wall.

Belleville responded with a go-ahead run in the top of the fifth when Meggison's two-out infield single-plated Cameron McKiddie, who led off the frame with a double and advanced to third on a wild pitch.

After Plymouth went down in order in the bottom of the fifth, Belleville put runners on first and second with one out in the top of the sixth before Wildcat reliever Tanner Coffey came in and struck out Riley Folks and DeMarion Owens, both on called third strikes.

Plymouth's championship rally started in the bottom of the sixth with an infield single by pinch-hitter Nate Cain, who battled back from an 0-2 count. Cain advanced to second on a balk by freshman southpaw Andrew Matheny and scored on Beauchamp's single, deadlocking the game at 6-6.

Ouellette followed with a single before Campbell stroked an RBI single down the left-field line. Evan Berger delivered an insurance run with a scorching two-out single, scoring Ouellette to make it 8-6.



The Salem High bench cheers its baserunners on against Belleville. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Coffey nailed down the win by striking out the side in the top of the seventh, generating a joyful wave of bedlam in the middle of the Wildcats' diamond — a sight no one affiliated with the program could have imagined even a month earlier.

Junior lefty William Holmes earned the mound win with four solid innings in relief of starter Ethan Todd. Holmes struck out three Tigers and allowed just one earned run before giving way to Coffey.

"We went through a lot of adversity, especially early in the season," said Ouellette, who reached base seven times Saturday. "We started the season by losing two games to Salem, then Belleville beat Salem, so we were a little nervous coming in. But sometimes you play better when you're nervous."

"Once one person gets a hit, it becomes contagious and the entire team starts hitting. That's what worked for us today."

Ouellette, who along with his fellow seniors saw his entire junior season wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic, said he was fueled by one recurring thought Saturday.

"I'm not playing baseball in college, so I didn't want this to be my last game," he said. "It was an emotional day, knowing each at-bat, each play could be your last. That's what kept me fired up."

'Cats thump Chiefs

Plymouth senior righthander Kane Elmy's final pitching performance on his home field was a masterpiece. After working out of a bases-loaded, one-out first-inning jam, Elmy slammed the door on Canton in Saturday's district semifinal, striking out five while allowing just two hits — both by No. 9 hitter Justin Kozdron — as Plymouth prevailed, 9-0.

After loading the bases in the first on a hit-by-pitch, walk and Wildcat error, Canton did not advance a runner past first base the final six innings.

Offensively, Plymouth struck early and often, scoring at least one run in every inning but the seventh.

Ouellette was 4-for-4 with two triples, three RBI and two runs scored while Younglas blasted a two-run home run and walked twice.

Campbell was 2-for-4 with two runs and a pair of stolen bases while Berger went 1-for-3 with a sacrifice fly and towering double that one-hopped the left-field fence.

Tigers edge Rocks

In a back-and-forth contest that never lacked drama, Belleville outlasted Salem, 7-6, thanks to Folks' seventh-inning single that plated Tyler Warren, who opened the frame with a triple.

Warren pitched the first six innings to earn the win. Matheny struck out three in the bottom of the seventh to pick up the save.

Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the first, the Rocks seized a 2-1 advantage on two-out RBI hits from Ben Cannon (triple) and Robert Ahlgren (single).

Belleville bounced back to grab a 5-2 lead with two runs in the third and fifth before Salem rallied to tie the game at 5-all with a three-spot in the bottom of the fifth. With two outs and the bases juiced, Ahlgren scolded a two-run single. Lucas Dieffenbaugher stroked a game-tying single, plating Cannon.

The Tigers regained the lead, 6-5, in the top of the sixth when William McCorry singled with one out, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt and scored on an error.

Undaunted, Salem made it 6-6 in the bottom of the sixth when Nick Kroll singled, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Dylan Fleming and scored on a single by Zach Salinas.

Belleville advanced to the district final on Folks' hitting heroics and Matheny's lockdown pitching.

Salem starting pitcher Mark Szymanski worked the first five innings, yielding six hits and one walk while striking out three Tigers.

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

Novi soccer silences Northville in district final

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Each season, Novi has prided itself on its defense, no matter the level of talent or experience in had at forward.

"If you talk to Eva (Burns), even when she was a freshman, we talked about defense, defense, defense," Novi head coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "Defense is what's going to win you championships. We keep the other team from scoring, we always feel like we'll get a chance."

Just like in the Wildcats' previous two matchups against KLA West rival Northville, all that separated Novi from a district title was one goal. The Wildcats (10-6-4) let the defense do the rest, beating the Mustangs (12-9), 1-0, for their fifth-straight district title.

This was nothing like we were two years ago, three years ago. This is brand new," Novi senior goalkeeper Abbey Pfeiffer said. "We were a fresh team, never having played together before. For us to come out and beat our rival in the district final, it feels great."

Holding firm on the mantra of "defense wins championships," a Novi defender proved the difference in the game



Novi celebrates after Eva Burns scores its only goal of the game against Northville.

JOHN KEMSKI/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

on the scoreboard.

Taking a free kick from the far right side of the field with 21 minutes left in the first half, senior Eva Burns sliced the ball above Northville senior goalkeeper Samantha Pendelton's fingertips, landing in the top left corner of the net for her first goal of the season.

While 1-0 matchups were familiar between these two teams, Burns said the message at half was to put some distance between Novi and Northville in the final 40 minutes.

"We talked about going out and try-

ing to get more," Burns said. "If not, just trying to hold onto that lead. I think it was really good teamwork to keep that lead."

In the final 20 minutes, Northville gave everything to take that lead away from Novi, replicating the comeback victory the Mustangs had against Livonia Stevenson in the district semifinal.

"It definitely showed that they had a sense of urgency, that the energy picked up," Northville head coach Eric Brucker said.

"My kids, they gave all they had."

Novi's goalkeeper made sure the zero stayed right where it was.

Facing an increased attack, Abbey Pfeiffer continued to make saves, making three in the final 20 minutes — including a free kick that she deflected away from the crowd in front of the net and a corner coming back the other way — to continue Novi's shutout streak to four games.

"They were definitely putting pressure on me in the end," Pfeiffer said. "I just knew I had to step up. I knew I was a senior and I've been here before. I know what it feels like. I just had to step up and play my game."

Coming into the season having lost 13 seniors from the 2020 season lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, Todd Pfeiffer didn't know what he was going to have in 2021.

Heading into districts with just a handful of players that had experienced playoff soccer before, he gave his seniors the voice, to give the sophomores and freshmen an idea of what to expect when it's time to win or go home.

But through three district games, outscoring their opponents collectively 5-0 and leaving Tom Holzer Ford Field in Northville ultimately with a trophy, Pfeiffer is reminded of what Novi girls soccer has built, and will continue to build well beyond 2021.

"We'll lose some people here or there, but the next group steps up," he said. "I hear from the freshmen, I get emails from the middle schoolers about our program: They can't wait to be a part of it."

"This is what you're leaving your legacy. That's why it's never about defending a title, but about you getting yours, adding to the legacy that's Novi soccer."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.

SL East girls soccer earns first district title since 2015

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East earned its first district final win since 2015, beating Pinckney, 3-1, to advance to the regional round of the 2021 Michigan High School Athletic Association girls soccer playoffs.

Fifteen minutes into the first half, Cougars junior Jessi Boulard found Annika Gilson at midfield, who dribbled the ball up the field, found a way through Pinckney's defense and took a shot on net, scoring the first goal of the game.

Less than three minutes later, Pinckney tied it, keeping the score tied heading into half.

Sophomore Alyssa Melquist gave South Lyon East the lead in the second half, taking a pass from Emma Pompo

for the score. Pompo answered herself later with the Cougars' third goal of the game.

"After a long and grueling conference season I felt like the girls responded extremely well after traveling over an hour to Tecumseh for both our games and playing on grass together for the first time in over two years," South Lyon East head coach Pete Stoyanovich said. "The girls had a very good week of practice and were extremely focused and confident heading into Districts facing two very good teams in Milan, then Pinckney. ...

"Very proud of our girls in the way they stepped it up and played, now turning our focus to the Regionals."

South Lyon East last made a district final game in 2016, losing to Livonia Ladywood, 2-0.



South Lyon East girls soccer won its first district championship since 2015 with a 3-1 win against Pinckney. COURTESY OF MELISSA SAMLUK

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Northville golf falls short in regional, wins KLAA

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville boys golf battled to a fourth-place finish at the Dunham Hills Regional. Host team Hartland finished first with a team score of 304. Brighton (306) and Catholic Central (317) were the other two teams advancing to the State Finals June 11-12 at Forest Akers.

The Mustangs totaled a team score of 320. Greg Braun led all Mustang golfers with a 77 (+6). Although he only managed seven greens in regulation during the round, Braun had the flat stick working and was able to card 10 pars and a birdie on the day.

"Dunham Hills and the greens a real challenge," Braun said. "My team and I fought all day but came up a little short. But I am proud of our performance and absolutely enjoyed the season."

Mason Sokolowski added a 78, but may have had the shot of the tournament.

In the 16th hole, Sokolowski glanced his "punch nine iron" off the flag stick, just missing a hole-in-one by two inches. He would tap in for the birdie.

Sokolowski, a newcomer this season, has been a big part of this team's success.

"Mason is on the cusp of taking his game to the next level, he'll be an exciting player to watch in the coming years," head coach Christopher Cronin said.

Playing in his last high school golf event, senior Griffin Blackman finished with an 81 on the day. Blackman had a tough start and end to his day, carding double-bogeys on his opening and closing holes.

"Even though he had a tough start and finish, Griffin stayed mentally locked in all day, playing the difficult front nine at Dunham Hills in one over par," Cronin said. "Griffin has always played the game with the knowledge that any shot can turn around a hole."

Jack Thallman finished the scoring for the Mustangs with an 83. After a slow start, that saw him five over par after four holes, Thallman made a birdie on the fourth hole to get his round back on track.

"Today was a struggle for Jack, but to his credit, he stayed with it and carded a score that contributed," Cronin said.



Northville's Mason Sokolowski played a big role in the Mustangs' KLAA win.
COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER CRONIN

Not scoring for the Mustangs was senior Michael Gallagher, who posted an 89.

"Michael has been key to our success as a team this season. It was his first year of high school golf, but he plays like a four-year player," Cronin said. "He has been a terrific role model for our younger players, and his play this season has been outstanding."

Northville golf wins KLAA

The Northville boys golf team earned the KLAA West and overall conference title, combining their first-place performance in the preseason tournament and second-place finish in the postseason tournament to take the conference title over second-place Brighton and

third-place Novi.

In the postseason tournament, the Mustangs used a balanced scoring attack with all six players scoring between 73-78, combining for a team score of 297.

"When we have found success this year, our depth as a team has been on display," Cronin said.

The Mustangs were led by Braun who carded a 72 (one over par) for a second-place tie with Brighton's Winston Lerch. Braun finished the day with an eagle on the No. 5 hole and two birdies.

Earning All-Conference honors, Braun was expected by his head coach to have this level of performance.

"Greg's game has become crisper in the past two weeks; his driver is finding the fairway and his irons have on point,"

Cronin said. "He really works at his game, and that effort is really paying off."

The Mustangs also saw a solid performance from Gallagher, who posted a 73 (two over par). Gallagher got off to a hot start playing his first seven holes minus three par, and, although he gave those strokes back to the course, he finished tied with Novi's Sam Lewinski for fourth place in the tournament.

"Michael is a natural athlete, but he has a champion's demeanor when he is competing," Cronin said. "He never allows a bad hole to faze him, and, conversely, if he finds success, he handles it in stride. Whether he was three under or two over par, his approach never changed. In my opinion, Michael's ability to manage his emotions has been a big part of his success this season."

Cameron Charles finished with a 75 (three over par), which was good for an eighth-place finish at the tournament. It was the first varsity tournament for Charles since May 1, but the talented sophomore was ready when he was selected for the lineup. Charles had a slow start and was three over par after three holes, but he was able to use three birdies to play the remaining 15 holes in one over par and make a huge contribution to the team's success.

"Cameron's ball striking has been really solid the past two weeks, and I could see his confidence growing in practice and matches," Cronin said. "I wasn't surprised that he was able to put it together today."

Jack Thallman was the final scorer for Northville, posting a 77 (six over par). It was a roller coaster for Thallman, who had four birdies and only five pars on the day.

Thallman, who earned All-Conference honors, got his score down to plus-three before carding an unfortunate triple-bogey on his final hole.

"Jack has been one of our top players all season, but today was a struggle," Cronin said. "He didn't have much working during the round, but he never gave up on it and kept battling. Jack's mental game has really improved this season, and today he never quit trying to figure things out."

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Sudden change leads to coach Aro's departure from Novi girls basketball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Charles Aro knew the Novi girls basketball team had a lot of uncertainty heading into 2021.

Along with the back-and-forth due to the COVID-19 pandemic teams everywhere were navigating, there was not a lot of experience on Novi's basketball court;

the team launching its season without much of a summer or a preseason to prepare.

"Once we got going, it became pretty clear that while the kids were playing hard, they were working, the missing of the summer — I'm going to call it the gelling of the team — it was struggling," Aro said. "New kids, new places, all those things. I think the older kids that were around were doing the best job they could, but it was clearly a very difficult year."

The Wildcats finished the 2021 season 4-13, with Aro pointing out that Novi held a lead in the second half of all but three games. He said he met with Novi Athletic Director Brian Gordon after the season was complete knowing that he had not met expectations, but he put together a performance improvement plan to start the process of understanding his own deficiencies and how to better them ahead of next winter.

But Aro would not get the chance. The head coach said Novi Community Schools informed him that his contract would not be renewed as the Novi girls basketball head coach, leading to his resignation from the program May 28.

"This was very surprising," he said. "We were not on the same page between myself and the administration, so they decided to go a different route."

"I'm not one to step in the way of that. I think it's important in high school athletics that it doesn't become about you. They wanted to go a different route,

so I said, 'OK, all right. I will step out of the way.'"

In four years as the head coach of the Wildcats, Aro finished with a record of 27-35 with three playoff wins.

Aro said that the school administration mentioned the numbers in his program as a reason for the change but that there wasn't one moment that led to the move.

As the former head coach reflected on the decision, he said former players and fellow coaches from around the state reached out to him after he announced his resignation on Twitter.

Over the past four years, he said, he had a "fantastic learning experience," fostering relationships with many of the players he has led in his head coaching role.

While he has received interest from other programs seeing if coaching was something he was still interested in, Aro said the sudden change had a silver lining: he had more time to spend with his 6-month-old son. He said he will wait until the fall to see where his head is at before deciding if he will take another coaching job.

"It was so sudden that I need to take a step back and figure out where we are going to go next," Aro said. "I think down the road, I probably would, but I don't know in what capacity."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.



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Obituaries

Evelyn Vera "Uppy" (Clark) Graham

HOLIDAY, FL - Our beloved Uppy-Age 82, passed away, in the arms of her son, Gregg, Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Uppy was born on the White Earth Indian reservation in NW Minnesota on May 15, 1938. She was an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/White Earth. Uppy was very proud of her Chippewa heritage. She learned to speak it quite well. She was the daughter of Jack and Pearl (Murray) Clark. They moved from Minnesota to Northville, MI when Uppy was 3. She was a 1956 graduate of Northville High School. She worked at Detroit Edison in Northville. Married Gerry Graham, lived in Plymouth, had two beautiful children, Leslee Pearl and Gregg Clark, and then they moved to Frederick, MI where they owned and operated a bar known as "The Swamp". She later moved to Holiday, Florida, where she spent the rest of her life. She was a devoted Christian and attended Saint Timothy of Tarpon Springs. She was so loved, had the best sense of humor, loved her family and loved her bubba teeth! She is survived by her son, Gregg Graham, grandchildren, Aidan, Lucas and Grace Graham, Robert and Nathan Napolitano, sisters, Maxine Lapham and Dolly Cook and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Leslee Graf, niece, Jackie Myers and partner of 30 years, John Marshall. Cremation has taken place. There will be a graveside service at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, 43300 W. 12 Mile Rd., Novi, MI (corner of Novi Rd and 12 Mile) at 1:00 on Saturday, June 26, 2021, friends and family are welcome. It will be followed by a celebration of her life at 2:00 at Border Cantina in Novi, MI



Darsie Hamilton Gregg

MILFORD - Darsie Hamilton Gregg, of Milford, passed away unexpectedly on January 19th, 2021. She was 82 years old.

Daughter of the late Alfred and Margaret Hamilton, Darsie is survived by her children, James (Debbie) Gregg, Sarah H. (Jack Reinhardt) Gregg, Mary M. (Dan Kloiber) Gregg, and Rebecca H. Gregg; grandchildren, Curtis and Shelby Gregg, Amber (Brian) Hatfield, Jamie (Ryan) O'Neil, Darsie Mason, Alison Kloiber, Anna Kloiber, and Storm Gregg; great grandchildren, Ryleigh, Alyssa, Charlee, Kayleigh, Colton, Dempsey, Irelynn, Darian, and Ry; sister, Sally Rice; many nieces and nephews; also many extended family and dear friends.

Darsie is preceded in death by her husband of 34 years, John Marshall Gregg.

A Memorial Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, 48381 on June 15th, 2021 at 11 AM. Gathering will begin at 10 AM until the time of service.

For further information phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



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Milford



Northville junior defender Jessie Belknap sets up a play against Livonia Stevenson. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville soccer roars back against Livonia Stevenson

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville found its stride late in the 2021 regular season.

The Mustangs girls soccer team won four of its last five games, seeping into the first round of the playoffs with a shutout win against South Lyon. In that time, Northville has become healthier than it's been all season, finding a stable and consistent lineup to turn to.

Head coach Eric Brucker still doesn't think the Mustangs have played a full 80 minutes yet this year. In this streak, the moments where his team has seemingly disappeared has lessened and lessened, but it showed up in the first 10 minutes of the District 8 semifinal against Livonia Stevenson.

Luckily for him, Northville didn't need a full 80 minutes to beat the Spartans.

Two goals in the final 20 minutes of the first half allowed the Mustangs (12-8) to get the best of Stevenson (11-3-2), 2-1, to advance to their first district final since 2015.

But the way that Northville beat Stevenson was something the Mustangs have not done all season: coming from behind.

Five minutes into the game, Spartans senior Mikayla Waranauck found an opening from the middle of the field, slicing the deep ball into the top left corner of the goal to take the lead.

But confidence flipped on one single free kick.

With 20:58 left in the first half, Northville junior defender Jessie Belknap lined up for a free kick. Instead of firing at the goal, she passed it to the open midfielder Emma Bowman, who fired and scored to tie the game.

When Bowman tied it, she knew coming back was possible, especially with the level of comfort she had in her teammates in the weeks leading up to the postseason tournament.

"I think we have just been able to really bond as a

team," she said. "I think we have done a better job at switching the ball more, which has been opening up so many more opportunities for us. We have also kind of found our set lineup, which is good because we have kind of meshed as a team."

This approach paid off before the halftime buzzer sounded, as senior forward Dana Clifton found senior forward Sophia Jeromsky to give Northville the one-goal lead, a lead that would stand.

Stevenson ended its 2021 season having not won a game in which it allowed more than two goals.

"I thought we were going to be just fine," Stevenson head coach Ken Shingledecker said. "We score an early goal and we made two big errors and got ourselves in all types of trouble and really could not break them down. They really set in at the end of the game, and we really couldn't break them down."

Brucker said Northville has had difficulties executing game plans throughout the season, but he saw a team that persevered and found a way to come out on top for the first time when it had previously trailed.

"That goal early made us nervous, but they persevered, they found a way and they listened," Brucker said. "Things happen when we are on the same page."

Northville will see a familiar opponent in the final: facing a rubber match against KLAA West rival Novi. The Mustangs beat the Wildcats, 1-0, April 8, ending their win streak that started May 21, 2018. Novi returned the favor nearly a month later with a 1-0 win.

Brucker isn't intimidated. The gauntlet of scheduling in the KLAA West has prepared him for games like this, he said. He knows what's coming in the district final, and knows what it will take to hoist a trophy.

"They don't have anything that we don't have and vice versa," Brucker said. "It's who's going to execute and make the least amount of mistakes is going to win."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

Track

Continued from Page 1B

relay from junior Mihir Gupta, senior Marvan Ramawickrama, senior Matthew Gustitus, senior Miles Brown, who just beat a charging Ann Arbor Skyline in the last leg to secure the win.

South Lyon East senior Drake Willenborg earned the state title in the discus throw, recording a throw of 183-03 — his second longest of the season — for first place.

Farmington placed 17th as a team, helped by a second-place finish in the 3,200-meter by junior Peter Baracco and a fourth-place finish in the discus by junior Jake Steslicki.

Here's a look at the All-State finishers from the Hometown Life coverage area.

100-meter dash

Brother Rice senior Udodi Onwuzurike — first place, 10.55

200-meter dash

Brother Rice senior Udodi Onwuzurike — first place, 21.23

800-meter run

Novi senior Miles Brown — second place, 1:54.45

Plymouth senior Patrick Byrnes — sixth place, 1:58.33

Canton senior Garrett Nagelhout — seventh place, 1:58.48

1600-meter run

Plymouth senior Patrick Byrnes — fourth place, 4:20.34

3200-meter run

Farmington junior Peter Baracco — second place, 9:08.81

Salem senior Talha Syed — third place, 9:13.85

110-meter hurdles

Novi senior Raymond Wu — eighth place, 16.15

300-meter hurdles

Detroit Catholic Central senior Tim Giese — fifth place, 40.39

Novi senior Raymond Wu — eighth place, 40.83

4x100-meter relay

Bloomfield Hills (senior David Adedapo, senior Kobe Reed, senior Charles Dickerson, junior Evan Knox) — fifth place, 42.86

4x200-meter relay

Bloomfield Hills (senior Kobe Reed, senior Charles Dickerson, sophomore Derrick Lee, junior Evan Knox) — fifth place, 1:29.56

4x400-meter relay

Novi (senior Miles Brown, senior Jonah Hood-Blaxill, senior Matthew Gustitus, senior Raymond Wu) — fourth place, 3:24.31

4x800-meter relay

Novi (junior Mihir Gupta, senior Marvan Ramawickrama, senior Matthew Gustitus, senior Miles Brown) — first place, 7:48.53

Northville (sophomore Brandon Latta, senior Jake Bulat, senior Nathan



The Novi boys track and field team remains undefeated with its regional championship. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hayes, senior Jacob Meek) — fifth place, 8:02.38

High jump

Groves senior Orion Kendra Groves — third place, 6-04.00

Canton freshman Nathan Levine — eighth place, J-6-03.00

Pole Vault

Plymouth senior Trey Welch — T-seventh place, J14-00.00

Discus

South Lyon East senior Drake Willenborg — first place, 183-03

Farmington junior Jake Steslicki — fourth place, 171-04

Detroit Catholic Central senior Connor Dewan — seventh place, 155-10

DaDamio shines in D1 state meet

Audrey DaDamio got her chance at a track and field state meet, and she took full advantage.

The Seaholm senior earned state titles in the 800-meter, the 1,600-meter and the 3,200-meter, helping the Maples to a fifth-place finish as a team at East Kentwood High School.

DaDamio set a personal record in the 800-meter race, recording the win with a 2:11.95, only a second ahead of Caledonia senior Lindsey Peters.

The Seaholm senior's other two wins were with a bit more distance between her and second place: finishing the

1,600-meter run in 4:44.38 — just over six seconds ahead of second place — and the 3,200-meter race in 10:22.11, winning by about four seconds.

Here's a look at who finished All State in the Hometown Life coverage area.

100-meter dash

Groves sophomore Lailah Palmer — sixth place, 12.47

800-meter run

Seaholm senior Audrey DaDamio — first place, 2:11.95

Plymouth junior Sarah Coyne — seventh place, 2:17.00

1,600-meter run

Seaholm senior Audrey DaDamio — first place, 4:44.38

3,200-meter run

Seaholm senior Audrey DaDamio — first place, 10:22.11

Northville junior Jennie Line — sixth place, 10:56.47

100-meter hurdles

Livonia Churchill junior Elizabeth Tracy — seventh place, 15.74

300-meter hurdles

Mercy senior Mackenzie Sullivan — fourth place, 44.87

Livonia Churchill junior Elizabeth Tracy — seventh place, 44.92

4x200-meter relay

Bloomfield Hills (senior Kalyn Mullens, sophomore Julia Allen, senior Gabrielle Jeffries, junior Grace Jenkins) — sixth place, 1:43.67

4x400-meter relay

Northville (senior Emily Gordon, senior Ella Slater, senior Yasmine Mansi, senior Angelique McCray) — sixth place, 4:02.06

Bloomfield Hills (junior Kate Jenkins, sophomore Julia Allen, sophomore Gabrielle Jeffries, junior Grace Jenkins) — seventh place, 4:03.71

4x800-meter relay

Northville (senior Emily Gordon, freshman Ella Christensen, junior Gina Couyoumjian, senior Yasmine Mansi) — sixth place, 9:29.19

High jump

Milford junior Taryn Marshall — fifth place, J5-06.00

Pole vault

South Lyon East sophomore Lilliane Aittama — fifth place, 11-03.00

Long jump

Bloomfield Hills sophomore Gabrielle Jeffries — fourth place, 18,09.50

Shot put

Farmington senior Valadian Pallett — eighth place, 38-11.50

Discus

Farmington senior Valadian Pallett — fifth place, 133-08

Milford senior Tatianna Verville — seventh place, 129-00

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

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How To Pick a Job Interview Outfit

By ZipRecruiter.com

We all make judgements about the people we come into contact with within the first few seconds of meeting them. In fact, we tend to assume that people who dress well are more competent, even if they aren't. Job interviews are no exception.

This may seem unfair, but it's a reality: your outfit will make a first impression before you even get a chance to introduce yourself. There is no one-size-fits-all rule when it comes to choosing an interview outfit, but following these steps will help you figure out the right choice for you.

- 1. Observe Others**
To get a sense of how you might want to present yourself, take a trip to a public space—like a park or coffee shop—and do some people-watching. For each person that passes, write down the first adjective that comes to mind. Use words like professional, confident, or stylish. Decide which words you'd like to be associated with and mirror that look.
- 2. Phone a Friend**
Now that you have an idea of how you want to dress, reach out to 2-3 people you trust and have them weigh in on some options. Ask them to share their thoughts on the outfit, whether it looks professional, and if it conveys the image you'd like to communicate.
- 3. Strike a Pose**
If you look good, you feel good. It's not just a saying, it's been proven. Studies show that when someone thinks they look good, their posture improves and they feel more confident. In the right outfit, you will instinctively strike a "power pose" by pulling your shoulders back, puffing out your chest, and placing your hands on your hips.
If you don't have an outfit that makes you feel great and will enable you to put your best foot forward, consider buying one. "Fast fashion" retailers have great clothes for any occasion at affordable prices. It may be worth the short term investment to secure a job that will pay off in the long run. If that's not an option, reach out to a friend or family member and ask to borrow an outfit. They may enjoy the chance to help.
The more prepared you are for an interview, the more confident you'll feel. The right outfit will help you make a strong first impression the second you walk in the door.

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Community Announce
announcements, events...

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Livonia 34713 summers. Subdivision Garage Sale. 7 houses participating! Fri. 6/11 - 9a-5p. Sat. 6/12 - 9a-5p.

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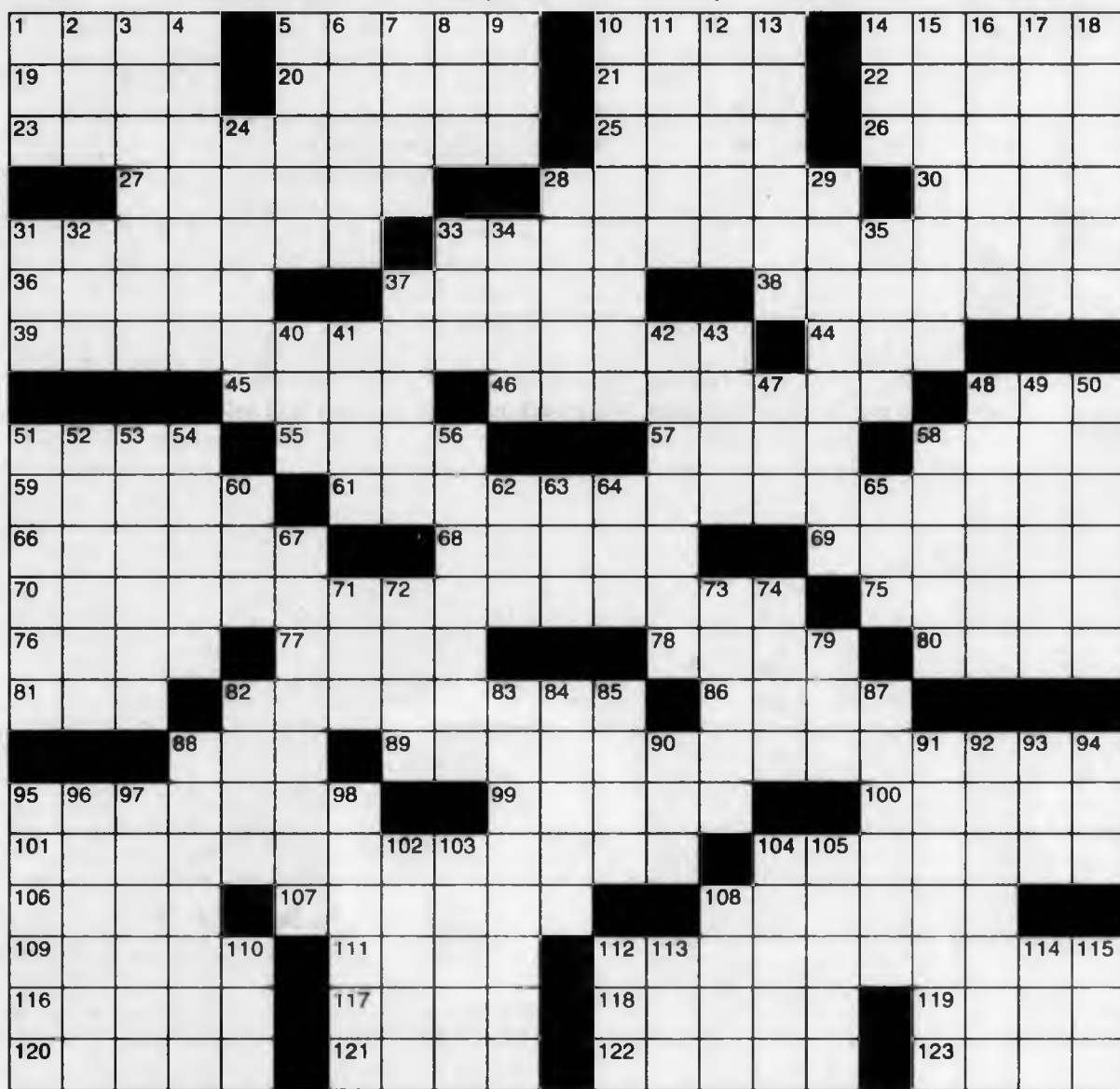
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

FRONT PAWS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Publisher Adolph
5 Pile up
10 Hit with an open hand
14 Mafia heads
19 Defrost
20 Fireside drink
21 Lead-in to byte
22 O. Henry literary device
23 Yore
25 Finks
26 City in France
27 Trickled out
28 Graduation cap dangle
30 Tickled Muppet
31 Entrees with pastry crusts
33 Wood-cleaning product
36 Forest array
37 Rich wall tapestry
38 Cholesterol-lowering drugs
39 Predecessor of Andrew Johnson
44 Naval vessel inits.
45 — Sea (Asian lake)
46 Gravy-train job
- 48 Take on moguls
51 Week's seven
55 Grouchy type
57 Zingy flavor
58 Hockey great Mikita
59 Japanese city
61 Australian territory in the Indian Ocean
66 Greek deity of wisdom
68 "Kate & —" (old sitcom)
69 Uncultured
70 Ivy League school in Providence
75 Backless sofa
76 Lavs, to Brits
77 Prefix with drama
78 Scots' refusals
80 Bird-built home
81 Kin of -ette
82 Left-leaners
86 "Tomb raider" Croft
88 Sister, say
89 2016 Best Director winner for "La La Land"
95 Zoo collection
99 Letters after alphas
100 Localities
- 101 Certain letter-shaped pattern, to Brits
104 Set free
106 Touch down
107 "Yes —!" ("You bet!")
108 Shortcoming
109 Compadre
111 Arctic bird
112 Ancestor ... or what the first word of seven answers in this puzzle can have?
116 Cab ticker
117 — Z ('80s Camaro)
118 Fountain of Rome
119 Architect Saarinen
120 People staring
121 Parched, old-style
122 Pfeiffer of "Cybill"
123 Drearly dull
- DOWN**
- 1 Baseball great Mel
2 — -Town (the Windy City)
3 Pet in an exercise wheel
4 "Popeye" tot
5 Compass
6 Color variations
7 Did superbly on
8 Corn core
9 Ell preceder
10 Attaches, as a seat belt
11 Dog tether
12 Chichi
13 Sporty 1990s Toyotas
14 U.S. snoop gp.
15 Nabs
16 Hoi — (the masses)
17 Like single-person bands
18 B-board overseers
24 Kimono-clad hostess
28 "Baywatch" actress Bingham
29 Of formal public worship
31 School org.
32 Space sphere
33 Med. scan
34 Big tea holders
35 Use a surgical beam on
37 God of Islam
40 Circle section
41 "I Need to Know" singer — Anthony
42 "Open this door!"
43 March Madness gp.
47 Little — (tykes)
48 Diet drastically
49 Oklahoma neighbor
50 Use the tab key, perhaps
51 Not too hard to carry out
52 Houston baseballers
53 Loutish types
54 Distorts
56 Display of great daring
58 Killed, as a dragon
60 Shaker Lee
62 Ending for project
63 35mm camera type
64 Seventh scale notes
65 Lawn turf
67 Quarterbacks' called changes
71 — Hill, San Francisco
72 Like cold tea
73 Powder room powders
74 "Awright!"
79 Mexican Mrs.
- 82 Fact falsifier
83 Aura
84 Manorial lord
85 Meyers of late night
87 Funnel-shaped flower
88 One leaving a smear
90 — "King" Cole
91 Built
92 Suede, e.g.
93 — Vegas
94 Ending for Siam
95 On fire
96 Capital of Niger
97 Set on fire
98 "You are right about that!"
102 — Jacques" (kids' song)
103 Misstep
104 Christopher who played Superman
105 Chaperrone in "The Hunger Games"
108 Historical plaintiff — Scott
110 Surgery ctrs.
112 Bouquet-bringing gp.
113 Tram cargo
114 Period
115 Rip off



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

6/10

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

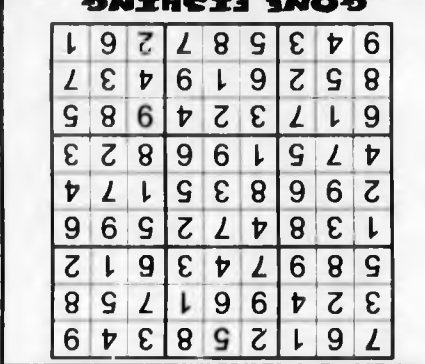
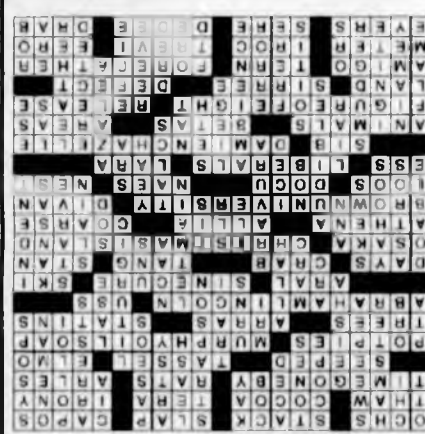
GONE FISHING

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

ANGLER

BAIT
BAY
BITE
BOAT
BREAM
CAST
CATCH
COD
CORK
CREEK
DEEP SEA
DOCK
FIN
FLY
GUT
HAT
HOOK
LAKE
LICENSE
LIMIT
LINE
LURE
MINNOW
NET
NIBBLE
PATIENCE
PERCH
PERMIT
PIKE
REEL
RIVER
ROD
SALMON
SHARK
SHORE
SINKER
SPINNER
STREAM
SWORDFISH
TACKLE BOX
TRAWL
TROUT
TUNA
WADERS
WEIGHT
WET
WORMS



SELL YOUR CAR
ADOPT A PET
GET A JOB
FIND A HOUSE
BUY A BOAT
FIND A TREASURE
GET A MASSAGE
HIRE A HANDYMAN

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LIVONIA | NOVI | PINCKNEY | PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE | ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD