

ORTHVILLE RECORD

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Residents can weigh in on plans for Erwin Orchards land

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The first in-person meeting for the Lyon Township Planning Commission in a year and a half will have a real bite to it.

Planned for the Aug. 9 agenda: a pub-

lic hearing on Orchard Crossing, a proposed planned development with 161 homes, an event center, agritainment

area, and restaurant and tasting room. Erwin Orchards is currently located on the 181 acres of land north and south of Silver Lake Road, west of Pontiac Trail. The proposed development would keep the operations of a cider mill and

orchard on a smaller section of the property

Greg Windingland, vice president of land development for Lombardo Homes, said it is the same conceptual plan presented in April to the planning commission, who gave overall positive feedback, particularly compared to plans for the property previously submitted by other developers including Cider Mill Village, which had nearly 500 housing units.

"We've already been a good partner in Lyon with several communities. We're excited to continue that relationship, and we're very excited about the

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Milford Labor Day 30K reborn with new race route, organizers

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Milford Labor Day 30K is back up and running.

Milford resident and Hall of Fame runner Doug Goodhue, along with the Ann Arbor Track Club, stepped up to the rescue a year after Doug Klingensmith, the founder and organizer of the 20-year-old annual event, vowed to cancel it "forever."

The race will be Sept. 4, the Saturday before Labor Day, with a new route and two new distances, a 5K and 17K (roughly 10.5 miles), in addition to the 18.91 mile main event. "This new course is perfect the way it is set up. Safety factors have been taken into consideration, and we have put on successful events for a long time," Goodhue said. "It's really year one for us, but this is the 20th year for this run. The timing is perfect for a fall marathon runner." The race was scuttled in 2020 like most events, but the primary reason for cancellation cited by Milford officials was not the pandemic but concerns over safety along the route with near misses in previous years between vehicles and runners. The new route will kick off from Bakers of Milford restaurant, a longtime race sponsor, but then will be entirely through Kensington Metropark and on dirt roads in Milford and Brighton. The route has received the blessing of all park and municipal officials. A bike race has been dropped from the event.



The Ann Arbor Track Club is the or-

See RACE, Page 3A

Grande Trunk owner Susan Stowe shows where on her building at 101 N. Lafayette artist Kevin Burdick will paint a mural in the coming months. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Murals are coming to South Lyon

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon is getting ready to paint the town with outdoor murals.

The first splash of color could appear this summer on a giant canvas the massive brick wall side of the Grand Trunke Home store, located at the corner of Lafayette and Lake streets downtown.

speaking with artist Kevin Burdick about completing the city's premiere outdoor mural before Pumpkinfest, which will return in late September.

"He is a really, really cool artist and he paints buildings all over Michigan," said Stowe, who first met with Burdick in 2019. "He sketched a rough draft and we talked about different things we could have, but I am giving him free range. That is what artists do. I want to draw

Store owner Susan Stowe has been attention to the downtown community and visitors can take a pic in front of the mural and make it fun for South Lyon."

Both the Downtown Development Authority and the Cultural Arts Commission for South Lyon have been working on mural policies and guidelines. Fundraisers likely will help bring the art to the city.

'People like artwork, and murals are

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Home Depot closes all its Michigan hot dog stands

Emma Stein and Sue Selasky

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Home Depot has found itself in a pickle after closing all its hot dog stands in the state.

The stands first closed temporarily because of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020. Now, more than a year later, during National Hot Dog month, they are closing permanently — and not by choice.

Both owners of the stands and Home Depot customers say they are confused and disappointed by the decision.

Dolores Guzman, who worked at the hot dog stand in the Woodhaven Home Depot for nearly 12 years before buying it in 2019, said the move came as a total shock to her.

Guzman's stand, called D&D, was only open for six months before being forced to close in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are so bummed out, I loved working with Home Depot," Guzman said. "We just purchased it and they didn't give us a chance."

Guzman said they were waiting to reopen after the COVID-19 shutdown. Even up until last month, she didn't think they wouldn't shut them out and



Dolores Guzman hugs her daughter Salina while in a hot dog costume one Halloween at the hot dog stand at the Woodhaven Home Depot. PROVIDED BY GUZMAN FAMILY

was just waiting to reopen.

Home Depot spokesperson Christina Cornell said the company wishes all their food vendors the best of luck.

"In March 2020, our in-store food vendors were asked to close for the safety of customers and associates, and the decision has been made to suspend food vendor operations in Michigan so we can focus on serving customers with their home improvement needs," Cornell said.

Some unhappy campers online suggested moving the business to Lowe's, instead, but Lowe's removed hot dog stands from its stores a few years back.

Hot Diggitty Dog LLC, the company that runs the stand at the Northville Home Depot, announced its closure in a Sunday Facebook post.

"Hot Diggitty Dog has officially closed down at Home Depot in Michigan," the post reads. "Home Depot has requested all hot dog stands in Michigan to close."

The post had over 7,000 shares and more than 1,000 comments early last week, demonstrating just how important these hot dogs are.

Some Facebook commenters expressed disappointment they didn't relish the hot dog stands enough while they were there.

"(I don't care) what anyone says, a those were the best hotdogs after your dad drags you to home depot around pa

lunchtime spends 3 hours looking at screws on a Saturday," one commenter wrote. "Super sad."

One user said the hot dogs were the only reason they went to the home improvement stores in the first place, while others said the food brought their families closer together.

"My son would always want to go with grandpa and get a hotdog at Home Depot. It was their thing on Saturday afternoons until the pandemic," the user said. "They were looking forward to doing it again. So sad."

A disheartened commenter even noted that the hot dog stands provided solid sustenance for contractors working on-site.

"Disappointing. Thanks for your years of service. You kept the contractors nourished during long hours of work. Always a great product and friendly service. Hope you can relocate to other outlets."

Guzman said she feels like she missed out — she was garnering a slew of regular customers and loved the workers.

"I am so disappointed," Guzman said. "I wish they would have given us at least a year."

Contact Emma Stein: estein@freepress.com.

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Murals

Continued from Page 1A

a great way to add vibrancy to a downtown. It generates excitement in people and gives another reason to come downtown," DDA Executive Director Nate Mack said, adding there is a small mural on the side of Corner Social, but nothing huge like what is planned for Grand Trunke. "Eventually, I would like to see three to four murals go up downtown."

Other mural locations, he added, could include the side of the former Draft Street Bar and Grill building at 106 S. Lafayette and a revamped pocket park between Bob's Barber Shop and 12 Kitchen Elves on E. Lake Street.

The goal, he said, is to find "professional mural artists with established portfolios who can bring quality artwork to the city."

During the city council's most recent meeting, Councilmember Rose Walton asked who would make the final decision on art.

Mack responded that sign ordinanc-





Shirley Spears of Oceola Township helps to paint a mural on the Howell Opera House cove area on May 8, 2018. SUSAN BROMLEY/LIVINGSTON DAILY

es would be followed, as well as guidelines established by the DDA, the arts commission, and the owner of the building on which murals will be placed. There will be no advertising for businesses in the murals.

"We will just ensure the artwork is of high quality and the art will look nice," he said. "As long as it meets the ordinance, it should be good to go."

Stowe said she and Burdick have discussed a mural for her building that would focus on themes specific to area landmarks, perhaps with a compass pointing to representations of horse farms or Erwin's Orchard.

"Because he is an artist, he will paint what he wants in the end, but we have a template to go by," she said.

She estimates that it would take about one week for Burdick to complete the mural at a cost of \$5,000-\$6,000.

Burdick was not immediately available for comment, but has painted murals locally, including inside of Huron Valley Guns and the Milford Opera House.

Social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook show a wide variety of themes in his art and locales, including recent murals in Flint representing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march on Selma and protests against housing discrimination, and one on the exterior of the Frankenmuth Cheese Haus that depicts a German family clad in lederhosen and dirndls with cattle in front of the Bavarian Alps.

Since its inception eight years ago, the Cultural Arts Commission of South Lyon has had a goal of bringing murals to the city, said Chair Ken Michalik. He is excited that time has finally arrived.

"It takes a while to do, and other cities have more funding, but it has to start somewhere," Michalik said. "It's igniting excitement... Murals are great. We love them and are working hard to get them. There are so many artists out there, it's nice that we can have an artist like this coming to South Lyon."

For more information on mural fundraising efforts, contact DDA Director Nate Mack by email at nmack@southlyonmi.org.

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



Artist Kevin Burdick created the murals on the walls of Huron Valley Guns in New Hudson. BILL BRESLER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Judge sends man to trial on 10 felony charges in South Lyon father-son deaths

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There were supporters for both the deceased and the defendant, but a Novi judge did not hesitate in sending Fadi Zeineh to trial on 10 felony charges stemming from the shooting death of a South Lyon son and father.

"I've listened very carefully to the testimony presented. I've reviewed the exhibits. It seems clear to me that the people have met their burden," 52-1 District Court Judge Travis Reeds said, concluding an hourslong July 29 preliminary examination without much elaboration. "I will bind him over to the Oakland County Circuit Court on all charges."

Kevin Stamper, 43, and his son, Dylan, 17, died from gunshot wounds they sustained in their Liberty Street home shortly after 9 p.m. on Dec. 30. Dylan died that night. His father surrendered to his multiple gunshot wounds and their complications on Jan. 26.

South Lyon Police Officer Travis Stevens was the first witness. He testified that he and his partner were in separate vehicles and about four blocks away from the Stamper home when they received a call about a possible break-in with shots fired.

The officers arrived to find a young female crying outside the home. Entering the home, they found the Stampers lying on the living room floor.

Stevens said the female who greeted them outside the home was Dylan Stamper's girlfriend. She had told the officers that the gunman was already gone.

Dylan would never regain consciousness because of a gunshot wound to his left upper chest.

Officers would track down a neighbor's security camera footage that showed an older Ford Escape pulling up to the Stamper home and parking. The driver leaves the vehicle, enters the home and, moments later, there are three loud pops. The same person runs from the home, fails at entering the driver's side because his passenger had changed seats and so he enters on the passenger side. The Ford Escape drives away

Stevens said she later identified him on Instagram According to his online obituary, Dylan attended South Lyon High School and then switched to Penn Foster, where he had a strong grade point average. He also was known for being kind, fun and loving while having a heart of gold.

He and his girlfriend were living together at the Liberty Street home, along with Kevin Stamper, his girlfriend and his girlfriend's daughter.

Together for at least two years, the girlfriend testified that she had known Dylan to sell marijuana since they began dating, including to Fadi.

The day before the murder, she said Fadi wanted to meet at a grocery store to buy a pound of marijuana. The deal didn't happen, but, the next day, they arranged for a deal at the Stamper home.

said. "He wanted to feel safe in his home. He didn't ny Porter, who police said drove away from the Stamp-



South Lyon Police Officer Travis Stevens recounts responding to a shooting in South Lyon on Dec. 30, 2020 at the Stamper house. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

stayed in the living room with Fadi. Conversations ensued about the pot while Kevin Stamper stayed nearby.

She testified Fadi pulled out a gun, pointed the weapon at Dylan and her and demanded the marijuana. The dad tackled the gunman.

"He said, 'You're not going to rob my son," the girlfriend testified.

Dylan tried to help his dad, who was wrestling for the gun. His girlfriend ran to one of the rooms, pleading for help. She went back to the living room and then heard "a bunch of gunshots."

"He looked at me. He had the gun in his hand pointing at me so I had to throw the bag of weed that I had in my hand to him. I just chucked it at him and he ran out the door," she said, moments before she started to cry while describing Dylan.

She didn't know what to do since Dylan had been attempting a drug deal. But she soon called 911 and waited for police.

Other testimony came from an Oakland County sheriff's investigator who examined a 9 mm bullet that could have come from dozens of models and spent shell casings from one firearm.

Also testifying was the person who arranged over Armslist a weapons swap with Fadi, which put a Remington R51 in Fadi's hands, and a friend of Fadi who mouthed an "I'm sorry" as he took the stand.

"I'm sorry because I care about Fadi," he said. "He was a great dude. He was a great friend. But the right thing is the right thing, you know."

He had just shared that he used to live with Fadi in "He didn't normally sell that amount," the girlfriend Ypsilanti and hung out and smoked weed with Antho-

An armed robbery apparently led to the Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, shooting at 347 E. Liberty St. in South Lyon. Dylan Stamper, 17, died. His father Kevin, 43, was critically wounded. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing Fadi planned to steal the weed to pay rent.

He said he knew Fadi had a pistol he had acquired over Armslist and agreed to be Fadi's partner until he backed out after learning the phony drug deal would happen inside the Stamper home.

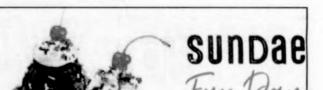
Fadi left for South Lyon the evening of Dec. 30. He returned at about 10:15 p.m. to say the robbery was done and that he had shot the Stampers.

He ultimately talked to investigators.

Zeineh, 20, of Washtenaw County faces two felony murder charges, three felony armed robbery charges and five felony firearm charges.

Porter, in his late 20s, waived a preliminary exam previously and was bound over to circuit court for trial on six felonies: three armed robbery and three felony firearm counts.

reporter Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



really trust Fadi. er home.

Fadi came to the door when Dylan didn't respond to messages to come outside. She and the Stampers the South Lyon homicide, the roommate testified, say-

Residents

Continued from Page 1A

Orchard Crossing project," Windingland said "We think that our layout, by ensuring orchard operations continued, listened to residents. This is a much less intense plan than prior plans, which we think the residents also wanted."

This plan features 121 single family homes valued at up to \$500,000, and 40 duplex homes on 77 acres, with another 104 acres used for the agricultural and commercial uses.

On Aug. 9, Windingland said another overview of the plan will be presented, and developers will answer questions and address any concerns. Also present at the meeting will be representatives from Blake's Orchard, whom the developers have been in negotiations with to run the operations at Orchard Crossing.

Peter and Paul Blake, owners of the orchard in Armada, were last in front of the Lyon Township Planning Commission in 2019 to discuss a year-round operation in Lyon working with a developer whose plan was ultimately shot down.

The Lyon planning commission is not the ultimate deciding body for the new Orchard Crossing development, but their possible recommendation for approval to the township board is a major

hurdle.

Katherine Des Rochers, planning department coordinator, said preliminary approval of the project is the most crucial step and why a public hearing is held at this point in the process. That way a developer can address any issues raised and then return for final approval.

She added that while she expects a very emotional and heated discussion, she believes Lombardo has made more effort at reaching out to neighbors and working to reduce community concerns than the previous developer.

"They don't want to storm in and get approval, they want to work with people and be a benefit and not an invasion," she said.

Des Rochers further noted that controversy over development of the Erwin property, brewing for more than three years, may be "easy going" compared to a new proposal in the township, a massive Hindu temple that would be located at 9 Mile and Napier. Contact reporter Su-

san Bromley at sbromlev@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her Twitter on

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Fadi began proposing a robbery about a week before local ice cream &- TOPPINGS LOTS TO CHOOSE FR **AT BUSCH'S** Integrity is the Difference **ONLINE COUPONS Quality Vehicle Repair & Service.** 248-349-5115 807 Doheny Dr. Northville, MI 48167

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Race

Continued from Page 1A

ganizer of several races, and after consulting with Klingensmith, Goodhue approached it to add this race to their portfolio. The Milford Labor Day 30K is expected to attract about 700 participants and already has 100 registered. Registration fees vary from \$30-\$55 depending on the race distance.

Goodhue, co-race director with Clint McCormack of Run Toledo, will not be running in the race, despite his status as a USA Track and Field Masters Hall of Fame runner who holds numerous age

group records.

The 79-year-old is giving himself time to recover from knee surgery but looking forward to running the race again in the future.

"I love this event," he said. "It has a great following of runners who are getting ready for fall marathons and this is a tune up - running on trails, shade, away from the craziness of a loop... It's a perfect course and exciting.

For more information, visit www.laborday30k.com.

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GFL waste pick up delays cause some to drop struggling company

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Garbage pickup has become messy lately.

Some homeowners are trashing their garbage pickup contracts with GFL Environmental amidst multiple missed or delayed waste collections over the past few months.

In Green Oak Township, the entire Greenock Hills subdivision - more than 140 homes — is dumping GFL after the company failed to pick up their yard waste.

"We had been with GFL for years," Erin Skyring, who has lived in the sub for five years, said. "About eight weeks ago, they did not pick up the yard waste... There was a lot of yard waste sitting out for multiple days and everyone was getting a different story."

Skyring said the situation escalated and then the company stopped picking up yard waste altogether and at the beginning of June there was pieces of trash strewn all over the street. She called the trash debacle "the biggest thing in Greenock Hills ever."

Joseph Munem, GFL Environmental USA director of government affairs, wrote in an emailed statement that the waste collection industry has been hit particularly hard by the current labor shortage and said "the company understands and shares in the frustrations caused by delays."

The problem is compounded, he explained, as the entire trucking industry experiences a shortage of parts needed to repair and maintain vehicles due to worldwide supply line disruptions. This interruption has affected GFL's fleet, reducing the number of trucks available for use

These issues are impacting not only homeowners or associations who have individual contracts with waste collection service providers, but also entities who have community-wide contracts with a single provider, including Livonia, South Lyon, and Novi.



A GFL employee picks up trash in Milford in this March 2020 photo. The company has come under fire from residents frustrated with delays in garbage pickups. SUSAN BROMLEY I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia, in the midst of an 8-year contract with GFL, has been receiving numerous complaints from residents during the past two months regarding delays in the company's collection of solid waste, recycling and yard waste. Those complaints were passed on to GFL regularly, but this week, Mayor Maureen Brosnan took it a step further and met with GFL to provide a map of all reported delays in the city.

"We certainly understand our residents' frustrations with these unprecedented delays in service," Brosnan wrote in an email, asking for continued patience in what she hopes and believes will be a short-term problem. "At the same time, we also know the hiring issues GFL is facing – we're facing them here in the city also."

Brosnan said GFL shared "aggressive strategies they are using to address labor shortages" and the city also agreed to a new strategy shortening truck travel to GFL's yard waste site.

As an alternative, a post on the city's

Facebook page reminded Livonia residents that they may take their own yard waste to a refuse disposal site Rat 32500 Glendale, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

South Lyon City Manager Paul Zelenak said residents have been experiencing collection delays from GFL for the past few weeks, but it's difficult to measure how many have experienced the problem or how many complaints have been received.

"Everything is still being picked up, it may just be a day late," he said. "It might be a slight inconvenience, that is the biggest thing, but it's not piling up week after week. We are trying to be understanding with employers who are providing services to us."

GFL's contract with the city, which expires in a year, currently costs each resident \$37 per quarter, equivalent to \$148 per year.

In an attempt to resolve issues, Munem said GFL had implemented "operational changes," including offering incentives to attract and retain employ-

He added that while customers may continue to experience a one-day delay this week, "we hope for a return to normal service levels by next week."

Munem added that subscription customers have been issued credits for delayed service and call center operations have been enhanced to reduce call wait times, although recent calls to numbers on the GFL website resulted in waits of at least 30-45 minutes without an answer

In Novi, where the city just started an eight-year contract with GFL, Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas said there have been 141 complaints on garbage pick-ups, 61 regarding yard waste pick-up, and 21 missed recycling pickups between July 1-27. He attributes this to new contractor hiccups, and also noted there has been larger than normal volume due to storms.

"We're happy with the new contractor and content with how they are working through issues we present, they seem quick to resolve them," Cardenas said. "Everyone can relate to the first month on the job, it's a learning process and as in August and into September and the fall, the number (of complaints) will drop dramatically."

Greenock Hills homeowners, longtime GFL customers, weren't waiting any longer.

Chuck Mason, the president of the Greenock Hills Homeowners Association, sent a letter to all the residents informing them of the HOA Board's decision to switch vendors, "After being very patient with GFL and trying valiantly to work our way out of the current trash/ recycling/yard waste situation."

They went with Dougie's Disposal, the only waste collection company that responded to their inquiries out of four that were contacted.

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





(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 | 5A



AUGUST 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 8.1

WISHFUL THINKING - GET OTHERS' SYMPATHY

DELIBERATE, THOUGHTFUL PLANNING REJECT PITY. DEMAND THE RESPECT YOU HAVE EARNED

Twelve years ago.

The year is 2009. On a hot summer afternoon, warm bright air, sunny, a bit of a breeze. Iwo men retiring from the same homegrown Michigan company. They were very much alike, these two older gentlemen. Team builders. Known for getting the job done. Both had better-than-average, thirty-year careers. Personable, well-respected, and secure. Paid-for home, nice cottage. Everybody likes the lake. Boating. Swimming. No debt. Conservative investments. No bad habits (except spoiling the grandkids). Respected. Accomplished.

As new retirees so often are, both were filled with dreams for the future. Time to spend more time with the important people. Wives, kids, grandchildren. At the cottage, on the golf course, traveling. Enjoying the retirement freedom and security they had anticipated, saved for, carned.

Last week.

July 2021. The company had its one-hundredth anniversary. Both men were invited to celebrate.

They were still very much alike. Both healthy. Each had three grandchildren. Still devoted to their wives of over forty years. Both primary caregivers. At home. Just a few short years into retirement, their wives were stricken with Alzheimer's.

The sympathetic support of family and friends has been gratifying and welcome.

But there were enormous differences.

One struggled to make ends meet. "On duty" 24 hours per day Exhausted Retirement savings, cottage, comfortable home - all gone.

loved ones, their greater circle of friends. Have you heard about PACE or the new COVID emergency rules anywhere else?

A PUBLICATION UNLIKE ANY OTHER - THE REST OF THE STORY

Why didn't your lawyer or financial adviser tell you?

The Michigan Elder Law Reporter is a unique publication. It is America's only state-wide elder law report, brought to you twice weekly. Our dedicated elder law experts sift the news, looking for vital information. Life-changing, life-affirming strategies and opportunities.



They cannot tell you what they do not know.

Traditional estate planning lawyers are only concerned with avoiding probate and getting your leftovers to the kids. Things that happen after you have both died. Good to do, of course, but you are not dead yet. Maybe it would be helpful to know how to keep your assets while you are still in the land of the living. LifePlanning^{1M} shows you how.

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YOU HAVE EARNED OTHERS' RESPECT KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, IF YOU USE IT

Emergency COVID rules gave you options without poverty.

Beginning last spring, we told you about an expansion of the Program All-inclusive Care for the Elderly - PACE. Emergency rules for the COVID pandemic. We told you: you up not have to sacrifice your life savings, your cottage, your property. Over the last year, through pandemics, vaccines, elections, protests, and general shenanigans, many, many families responded. And have benefited.

But the emergency rules were set to expire on November 1, 2020. Then extended to April 1, 2021! Bad news: you and hundreds more families were shut out. Not enough time. Too bad, so sad. Coulda, shoulda, woulda. Snooze and lose. A bitter pill. But... those rules were extended to April 1, 2021. And then?

The recent past has been full of surprises. Finally, a good surprise!

Good news: the emergency rules have been extended "until further notice." Thousands of families let the first opportunity slip through their fingers. You let the second chance expire. Now you have a third chance. Should you wait to see how long the government let this go? Are you kidding?

NO POVERTY, NO CHARITY, NO WASTE NOT PTTY... THE RESPECT YOU HAVE EARNED MAKE RULES WORK FOR FOLKS WHO PLAY BY THE RULES

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experts, attorneys, planners, financial advisors accept the status quo. They do what everyone else does. The LifePlanTM approach dives deep. Seeking out and securing your family's future.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

Safe and secure or broke and anxious?

About those older gentlemen I mentioned at the beginning. They retired at the same time and faced similar challenges. What made their lives so different? Knowledge. Useful knowledge. Action. Follow through. Better results. Why does one man, honorable and well-meaning. face a pathetic future... to be pitied by friends and relations? Why does the other man, with the same opportunities, face a secure future ... respected and admired by sons and daughters, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren? And his neighbors at the lake?

Sound planning or urgent need?

Are you facing an urgent need? A loved one who has received a diagnosis? Have you retired and watched your friends and neighbors go through long-term care impoverishment?

His wife gone to the nursing home. And with pension replaced by the 401(k), living on social security. Pitiful.

The other man recently hosted his granddaughter's wedding. At the lake. One hundred and twenty guests. Life savings intact. Independent, secure. Yes, he was his wife's primary caregiver. But she still lived at their home. And he had plenty of help. Using the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE). PACE provides services at home. No worries. Covid emergency rules let him keep the home, cottage, life savings. Respected.

WHY IS ONE DESPERATE AND THE OTHER SECURE? DO YOU WANT PITY OR RESPECT?

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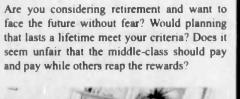
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WHERE WE LIVE HICKORY CORNERS

Get behind the wheel of a Model T

Eric Seals Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

"Tin Lizzie" was her nickname over 100 years ago and today, like she did back then, she's still bringing a sense of awe, fun and excitement for people taking the Model T Driving Experience at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

"You've watched that movie 'Back to the Future'? That's exactly what you get to do here," said Jim Hart, one of over 23 volunteers that help run the unique driving school. "People get their hands on a Model T and it becomes a memory for them."

"We want to introduce a new generation to something totally different. I like to cali it authentic time travel," said Jay Follis, the museum curator.

And driving a Model T is that totally different driving experience compared with today's cars. "Nowadays, you get in your car with a key fob and push a button to start it but with a Model T you're doing so much more and always having to pay attention," said Follis. "You're not going to put it on cruise control."

The car is operated with one hand lever, and two hand controls on the steering wheel one of which is the throttle on the right side so it takes some getting used too but all the students picked it up quickly though no one wanted to take it around at its top speed of 45 mph.

For \$125 per person, the two classes per day capped at 24 students spend three hours learning and driving the Model T with an instructor and two other students as they all take turns driving around the 3-mile paved road course on the museum property.

During the past 15 years, the museum has been teaching and letting people drive an authentic Ford Model T, made between 1908 and 1927. The sessions are so popular for those seeking nostalgia that all 30 classes running from May to October are sold out for 2021. The museum does expect registration at www.gilmorecarmuseum.org for 2022 to open up before Thanksgiving.

"We've had people in their 80s and 90s driving and they'll share their experiences of being in one when they were younger and how doing this really takes them back," said Follis, "Just talking to them you can see the memories on their faces after they've driven one."



Paul Ostoff, a Model T driving instructor at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, points out to Dave Corner, 64, of Kalamazoo, which way to go during his turn driving an authentic Ford Model T on June 10. The car museum hosts the popular driving experience between May and October on the museum's 3 miles of paved roads. People pay \$125 and spend up to three hours in groups learning the history of the Model T, then they take a step back in time driving a car made more than 100 years ago. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Jim Hart gives a lesson on how to drive the Model T. The driving classes are so popular that 30 slots for this year are already sold out, but the museum says registration for classes will open up for 2022 before Thanksgiving.



Donn Stowe, 66, of Kalamazoo listens to Paul Ostoff, a Model T driving instructor at the Gilmore Car Museum, as they drive around the short oval road course on the museum's property in Hickory Corners.



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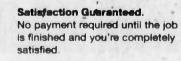


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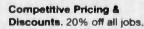
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PROTECTION

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Michigan soldier missing no longer

71 years after capture, **Hoogacker** funeral brings closure

Emma Stein Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Army Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker, 23, came home to Livonia, Michigan, in 1950 for his mother's funeral. Shortly after, he was sent to fight in the Korean War.

He never came back.

Seventy-one years later, Hoogacker has been accounted for and his family is able to honor him and get the closure they've needed for so long.

We always hoped that they would find him, and they did," said Helen Fennel, Hoogacker's sister.

Fennel and her brother, Edgar Hoogacker, submitted DNA in the 1990s to aid with the identification process, and they never gave up. She said she "hollered" with joy when the Army informed her that they were able to identify him.

Philip was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment when he was reported missing in action in July 1950. His unit was attacked near Anui, South Korea, and historians believe that Hoogacker was taken by the Korean People's Army, according to a news release from the Defense POW Accounting Agency. He was then taken to Seoul, and later Pyongyang, where they believe he died as a prisoner of war.

Although many decades have passed and the memories are fading, his family remembers him fondly - whether it's for his weird sandwich combinations or the paper airplanes he made with his siblings

Hoogacker's funeral took place July 23 at RG & GR Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. The Livonia Police Honor Guard and the U.S. Army Color Guard attended the service, giving a 21-gun salute and folding and presenting the flag to his family. He was buried Saturday in Livonia's Parkview Memorial Cemetery at the feet of where his mother was laid to rest in 1950.

'This is a celebration," said Ron Fennel, Hoogacker's nephew. "This is a closure of one family but a recognition of accounted for.



Members of the U.S. Army Color Guard start the ceremony of folding the American flag to be presented to the family of U.S. Army Pfc. Phillip Hoogacker at RG & GR Harris Funeral Home in Livonia on Friday. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

the government's commitment to the men and women who all throughout history have fought and defended this country. And they did so in service to a bigger cause."

Some are still waiting for their loved ones to be accounted for, including Patricia Ozybko, who wandered into the service after reading about Philip's identification.

Ozybko's brother, John Donovan, was killed in action in 1951 during the Korean War. She's still waiting, hoping that her brother will be brought home.

"When I saw this, I think I wanted to come to support them because, if I'm gone when they find my brother's remains, I would hope that people would still come," Ozybko said through tears.

Ozybko said meeting Helen, Edgar and the rest of Hoogacker's family gave her hope that her brother might still be

"A lot of people have not had this closure," Helen Fennel said. "And that's why I wanted people to know, because they're still searching. And there's still hope out there."

In 1954, the U.S. government was able to get the remains of unidentified lost soldiers from the Korean War. They were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, also known as the Punchbowl. About 7,500 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War, the release said.

Helen Fennel said she's hung a picture of her brother on her fridge since the day he disappeared.

"He died for our country," she said. "And we're so glad he's here, back home again."

Contact Emma Stein: estein@freepress.com and follow her on Twitter @_emmastein.





Hoogacker

8A | THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 | O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Local TikTok influencers make millions laugh with 30-second videos

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When the demand for laugh-out-loud moments escalated during the darkest days of the coronavirus pandemic, good friends and social media influencers Julian Savoury and Jalen Robinson delivered - like clockwork, so to speak.

Utilizing the humor-fueled platform TikTok, 20year-old Canton resident Savoury and Belleville's Robinson, 24, have used their quick wit and sharp social awareness skills to amass close to 3 million followers - people who subscribe to an individual's account to receive all of that person's social-media updates.

Savoury is approaching 1.7 million followers while Robinson is closing in on 1.2 million dedicated fans.

TikTok is a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share brief videos - generally 30 seconds or shorter - on any topic, according to influencermarketinghub.com, which explains the app offers users a wide selection of sounds and song snippets, along with the option to add special effects and filters.

As millions of TikTok users have discovered quickly - and Savoury and Robinson learned early in their influencing careers — all the high-tech tools in the world can't build a faithful following if you don't possess a few invaluable intangibles.

"First of all, it helps to have a sense of humor," said Savoury, currently a student and basketball player at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. "Putting together successful content is all about being relatable. My niche is making jokes out of everyday stuff. People gravitate to that. I've learned what people like, what people want to see. Once you find out what works, keep doing it."

Robinson said patience is one of the key ingredients to becoming a TikTok juggernaut.

"A lot of people will make a video that doesn't do well and they'll quit, just like that," Robinson said. "You have to keep posting; don't give up. You're not going to blow up overnight."

"I only had about 2,000 followers the first four months I was doing TikTok," Savoury revealed. "Then one day I posted a video that went viral and before long I was over 1 million (followers). You have to be consistent and keep grinding."

Both young men have managed to carve out styles that make people laugh with less-than-a-minute videos that depict typically mundane sequences.

"One video I made that a lot of people liked was when your mom tells you to clean your room while you're already in the process of cleaning it," Savoury said, flashing a million-dollar smile. "Simple, everyday



TikTok influencers Jalen Robinson, left, and Julian Savoury have combined to amass nearly 3 million followers for their whimsical video creations. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

things like that.

"My favorite is probably the one I made that most people can relate to: You're sitting in a restaurant waiting for your food, you're really hungry, and the waitress is walking toward your table with a tray of food ... and she walks right by you to another table. In the video, I get up and smack her in the back of the head."

Savoury played the roles of the hungry customer and the waitress, so no unsuspecting servers were injured, he added, smiling.

Approximately 4.6 million people reacted favorably to Savoury's restaurant-experience video while 54,000 commented.

'You know pretty quickly whether or not a video is going over well with people," Savoury said. "If it's good, you'll know in the first hour after you posted it."

Robinson's forte is creating popular call-you-back prank videos, some of which have piled up as many as several million views.

"And a lot of times I'll make videos that combine two things that don't make sense together," Robinson said. "Whatever comes to my mind I use for content. I've been doing it for seven months now, so I know what works and what doesn't. If I mess one up, I don't worry townlife.com or 517-375-III3.

about it."

Savoury said TikTok flourished during the coronavirus pandemic.

"People were bored at home and needed something to do," he said of the content producers. "And the world needed content that made them laugh."

Individuals who excel at TikTok can make a career out of producing the brief videos, Savoury said.

"I'm making more money with my videos than I did working a part-time job," he said. "There's the advertising part of it, plus TikTok will pay you if a video generates a certain number of views. If you're good at it, people will pay you to make promotional TikTok videos for them. There's definitely money to be made." The TikTok app is free to download.

Savoury, whose followers include Netflix actress Talia Jackson and a female UFC fighter, is not going to rest on his TikTok laurels.

"My goal is to get to two million followers by the end of the year, so I try to post something every day," he said.

In other words, like clockwork.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@home-

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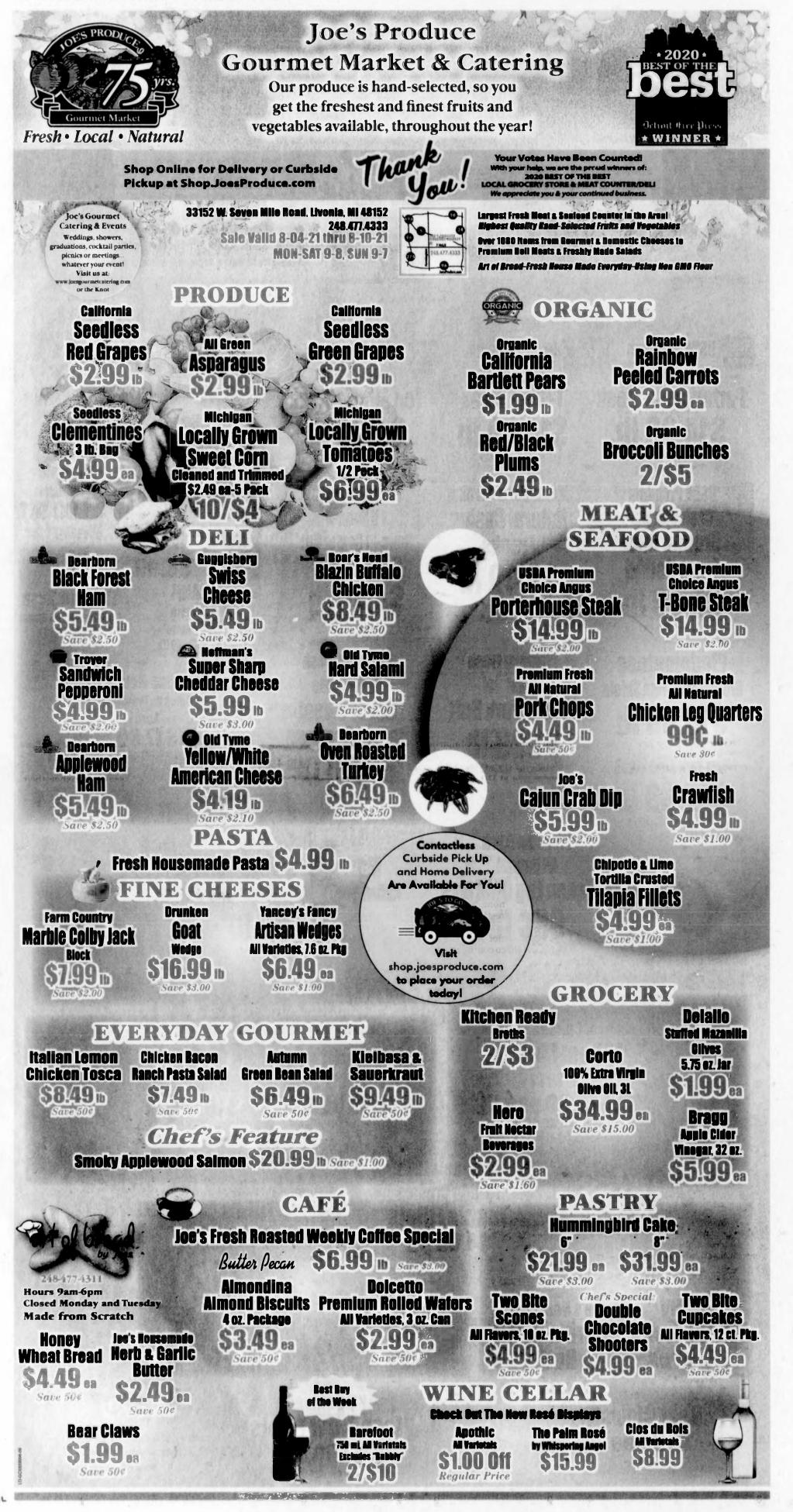
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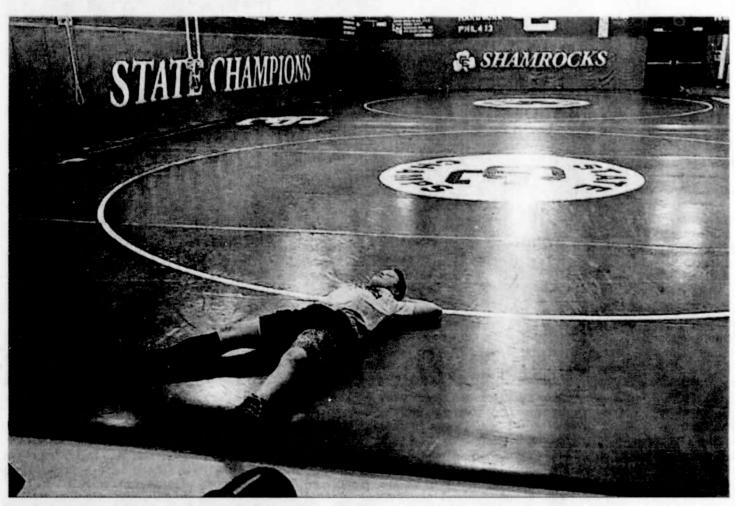


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SPORTS

Rojas looks to carry on CC wrestling's tradition



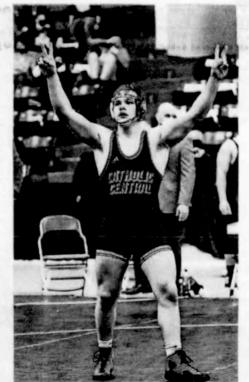
Manny Rojas' focus for his senior season at Detroit Catholic Central is to leave his legacy on those younger than him. COURTESY OF NATALIE ROJAS

Senior year offers shot to add more achievements to his resume

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

Manuel Rojas started to wrestle be-

that Rojas hasn't accomplished He's won two team state titles, two individual state titles at 189, a junior national title at 170 - something that no Shamrock has ever done - and a Super 32 title, all while earning a college schol-





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USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

James Calhoun thought being an assistant coach was the best job in the world

"If things go awry it's, 'he's the guy that runs the show," he said laughing, having spent the past 33 years as an assistant, his past four with Lakeland football

As the Eagles continued its summer workouts in July, it was Calhoun's show to run, taking over the program from former head coach Joe Woodruff who left Lakeland after six seasons to take the head coaching job at Zeeland East

Calhoun's transition to the head coaching role has not been too difficult, inheriting what he calls a stable, productive and quality program from the previous regime. But it's a program that has not been able to get over the hump

Despite winning seven games in each of the past four seasons along with securing its first Lakes Valley Conference title in school history in 2020, Lakeland has lost each of its last three district final appearances twice to Detroit Catholic Central and once to Clarkston - by an average of over three touchdowns.

Calhoun's focus for Lakeland ahead of his first season is to show them what they need to do to get further, building upon the foundation that Woodruff

cause of his brother.

Mike Rojas Jr. joined the wrestling team in eighth grade as offseason training for football, later helping Bay City Western to a regional title and spot in the team state tournament in 2014.

Manuel Rojas was always by Mike's side

"We pull out all of (Mike's) team photos and the tournaments, Manny's in every single photo with the whole team," Natalie Rojas, their mother, said. "He just loved it. He loved being around the other wrestlers. He was always smiling.'

The smiles continued when Manuel Rojas got on the wrestling mat himself, pinning opponents with that same confident grin.

He knew he was good. He knew he would fit right into the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling room, already holding his own with future Division 1 wrestlers as a seventh grader.

Now heading into his final year with the Shamrocks, there really isn't much See ROJAS, Page 3B

arsnip to restie at Iowa State starting in 2022

Tack on earning Hometown Life's Male Athlete of the Year award for 2020-21, and none of the accolades really shock Rojas

Pressure for him is minor. Confidence is always something he's embraced, learning to hone his ability with help from the wrestlers who came before him

In his senior year at CC, one of his only goals is to continue to pass that tradition on.

"I'm trying to set the expectation for the room," Rojas said. "'This is how it has to be. You do this, you will be good."

Learning from the best

Mitch Hancock remembers Rojas as an All-State talent from his first day in CC's wrestling room.

The head coach could see the fresh-

Catholic Central junior Manuel Rojas has won back-to-back state titles. SCOTT CONFER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

had already set.

"To me, there's no substitution for effort," Calhoun said. "You always have to turn it up a notch. Every day, you can do one of two things: you are going to be better or something less than better. That's what we're looking for. We're looking for small steps and the big word is effort and progress.

"If we get that, the other piece to the puzzle should fall together.

In terms of what Lakeland will look like on the field, Calhoun is still trying to figure that out. Bringing in a few new assistant coaches who have the same style, scheme and philosophy as the head coach, the Lakeland staff is focused on watching their players figure out what they do well and molding an offense and defense to fit their strengths.

To senior right guard and defensive lineman Dillon Gacki, the new faces on the field has led to an increased at-

See LAKELAND, Page 2B

Craggs commits to Oakland, shifts focus on CC legacy

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cooper Craggs loves the Bad Boys era **Detroit Pistons teams**.

The Detroit Catholic Central senior loves the toughness those players exuded each time they took the floor in the late 1980s and early 1990s, helping him

discover his own love for the game of basketball.

"They weren't supposed to be there, but they were," Craggs said. "That's what I really love about them, and they 'take everything even when it's not given.'

Starting with his freshman season on a senior-heavy Shamrocks team, Craggs made sure his coaches and teammates

knew he was meant to be there, blooming into the player Catholic Central could build around

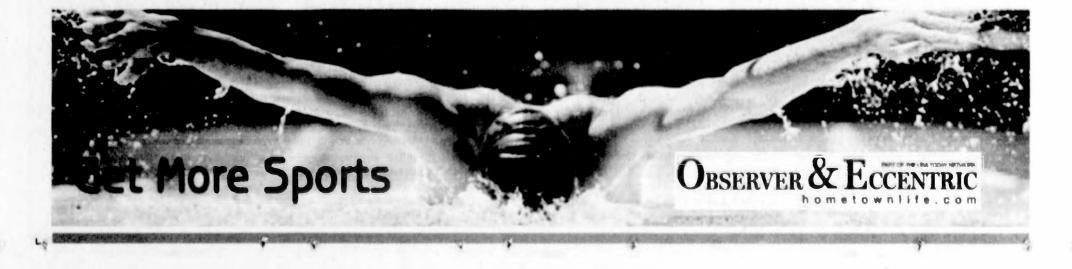
Heading into his senior season, Catholic Central is all Craggs has to focus on, securing his Division 1 path by committing to play basketball at Oakland University in 2022.

"I still know that I'm not done developing," Craggs said. "I'm going to get ex-

ponentially better in college. When I saw the potential I have, I was like I really should go all in on this and see where it takes me, and I'm really glad that I did.

Catholic Central head coach Brandon Sinawi knew from his first interaction with Craggs that he was someone he

See CRAGGS, Page 7B



2B | THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

Runners make connections, find camaraderie along streets, trails

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sara Bowman was first introduced to running by her father.

He was a "maintenance runner," never getting into the big races: the marathons or half-marathons. But he continued to run three-five miles multiple times per week. Bowman would go with him sometimes, taking the loop around Ridgewood and Farmington Rd. in Farmington Hills, talking, catching up on life.

Camaraderie was the thing that kept Bowman going, bringing those relationships to the middle school cross country and track meets before dropping running altogether in high school to focus on music. And when she returned to the sport, it's what she found waiting for her, even as she laced up her running shoes and left the house at 4:30 a.m.

"There's a whole subculture of runners out there. Every pace, every distance, every personality," Bowman said. "That's the thing that I love the most is you can be out running and you can have absolutely nothing in common with the person you are running next to except that one thing, that one common thing that you both enjoy running.

"Now you have this great opportunity to get to know somebody that in your real life, you would never stumble across. Like I would never cross paths with all these people that have all these interesting stories and all these interesting life adventures if we didn't have that one thing in common."

Even as Bowman's schedule filled up, running still serves a prominent role. If anything, it's expanded, having run over 30 half-marathons, 20 marathons, three 50K trail races and a 50-mile trail race since she began to run again in 2004.

For the past 10 years, Bowman ran with a group of women in Farmington for eight miles at 5 a.m. three days per week.

"I think I had this mind block that eight miles was the longest distance I would ever run," Bowman said. "It took me months and months with that run group from four miles to six miles to eight miles to feel confident. For years and years, I was like 'eight miles, that feels like plenty.

But as she continued to meet people, Bowman continued to hear encouragement that she could do so much more. One half-marathon was the lightbulb for the Farmington mayor, leading to running marathons in Detroit, Boston, New York City, Chicago, San Francisco and San Diego, starting to run a full 26.2 mile race every three or four months

"It became probably an obsession; I think that's a fair word," Bowman said with a chuckle.

Running was also something that connected Bowman with her sister Cory Paul, who share a training plan despite the distance between them, with Bowman living in metro Detroit and her sister living in California



Farmington mayor Sara Bowman poses with her son Nate and her husband John after her 50-mile run in Pinckney. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARA BOWMAN

got back into running, training together for races across the country, including a bucket-list goal of running a half-marathon through each National Park.

"Our mom, who is not a runner, keeps telling us, 'You know, people can just go on vacation. You don't have to run a marathon," Bowman said. "But these events, they take you to parts of the towns and neighborhoods that you would have never seen as a tourist."

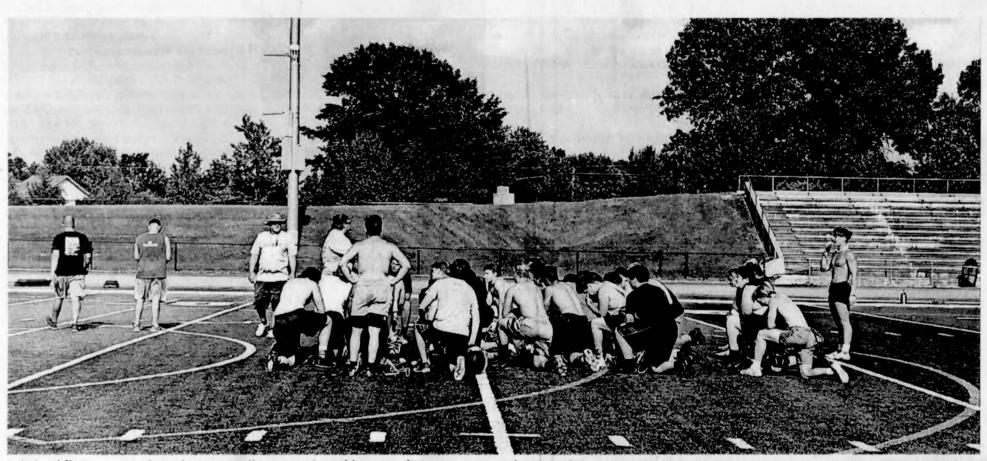
Bowman has backed off a bit on her mileage, not training for 50K or 50-mile races anymore. She's learned what her body can handle.

But that doesn't mean that she's stopping anytime soon, especially when her 74-year-old father just placed in his age group at a Color Run 5K.

"We don't stop, my family," Bowman Said. ******* Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-



Sara Bowman and her sister Cory Paul have a goal to run half-marathons in each National Park, starting the bucket-list goal with a race through Zion



Lakeland first-year head coach James Calhoun speaks to his team after a summer workout session. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lakeland

Continued from Page 1B

tempt to stand out in practice drills and in 7-on-7 work.

"There was almost new tryouts," Gacki said. "We don't know the coaches and they don't know us. So, you are just trying to prove yourself to the coaches which has really bumped up the competition.'

After leading the Lakeland baseball team to its third-straight LVC championship and to the district final, senior quarterback Tate Farquhar said it didn't take long for him to return to the football mindset.

Last year, he said, learning the of-

fense was a bit of a struggle, coming into "five things right" instead of "10 things his first year as the starter.

He helped the Eagles average 27.1 points per game.

Ahead of his final year with Lakeland, Farguhar said offensive installation is coming more easily to him, striving to take Lakeland farther in the postseason than it has ever been.

"What we're doing, we know it can get us there, but we have to take that extra step," Farquhar said. "More focus in practice, getting another rep, another rep, just to get past that district final to that regional. That extra step, that one extra rep will probably get us there in our minds."

As he leads Lakeland in its offensive and defensive installation, Calhoun encouraged his players to focus on doing half right."

"I honestly believe that if you can do something and do it well, you keep doing that," Calhoun said. "As you grow, as that sponge can absorb more, absolutely we will add more."

To Gacki, that simply comes down to developing chemistry with his teammates on the field, having trust that each player is doing the job they are supposed to.

That's what Gacki feels separates Lakeland from other high school football teams in the LVC, and something he will continue to preach to those younger than him starting at summer workouts heading into fall camp.

"Even if we may not have a lot of skill or a lot of athletes left and right - like D1 kids - we have a bunch of kids that work together and know how we play and really work well," Gacki said.

And while that has gotten Lakeland to winning football for the past four years, Gacki's confident that it get them to games the Eagles have never played in before.

But that journey and that focus starts now for him and his teammates.

"I want to get past that brick wall of losing in the district finals," Gacki said. 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.

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Rojas

Continued from Page 1B

man had developed in youth wrestling. But he knew with the existing talent in the room, Rojas would have to wait his turn.

"You had three Division 1 prospects in (Josh) Edmond, (Kevon) Davenport and (Cameron) Amine," Hancock said. "So he had to be patient and wait for those guys to pay their dues."

Rojas was around those top wrestlers from the age of 10, picking up on their work habits in the practice gym. Each one was a wrestler Rojas looked up to, working hard to be on the varsity team from his first season with the Shamrocks just to be with them every day.

"They accept (him) with open arms, and that's why Manny caught on and was welcomed in that CC room because he didn't mind being a second-fiddle to those guys," Mike Rojas, Manuel's father, said. "We knew going into freshman year that we're going to do everything we can to use those guys as workout partners and learn from them. Our time's going to come."

Success didn't click immediately for Rojas, losing to Brighton's Dane Donabedian in the second round of the individual state finals at 160 as a freshman – knowing he should have been competing either at 152 or 145.

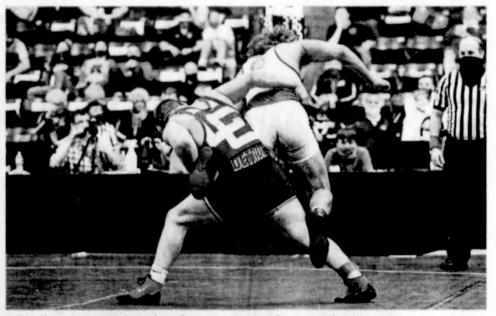
Losing in the state tournament was something he swore would never happen again.

"Coach Hancock really just preached that no one could keep up with me," Rojas said. "In three periods, if they are going to hang in there, they won't last until the third period and I will just break them."

Rojas was not challenged much in individual bouts, winning 50-of-51 matches to his first individual state title at 189. But the sophomore's ability was still questioned, highlighted by a match against a former workout partner in the 2020 MHSAA team state finals.

Trailing 5-2 against Davison's Alex Facundo, who started with Rojas on the same youth wrestling team, Rojas fell to the ground after a hit, later getting the match win at 189 after an illegal slam was called, helping the Shamrocks to their 14th team state title.

"To me, I think it was very hard for him to go through that, what had happened between him and Alex," Natalie wersity, every university in the country



CC junior Manuel Rojas wins his second-straight state title at 189. SCOTT CONFER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rojas said. "To him, wrestling is everything, and it almost felt like a lot of that hate he was seeing or that negativity he was getting, especially online and in private messages and things like that. I think that kind of almost made him upset and pushed him to be better. He had more to prove."

To Manuel's father, that was his son's turning point.

"Before that it was fun," Mike Rojas added. "After that, it was more business."

'I want everyone to know my name'

Despite the challenges, Rojas continued to build up his resume.

After beating Traverse City Central sophomore Remy Cotton for his second individual state title at 189, the incoming senior won a junior national freestyle title at 170, an unprecedented step for the CC wrestling program.

Twenty-one years after wrestling in Fargo, North Dakota, himself, Hancock was in Rojas' corner, watching him "tech falling and pinning" his way through the tournament before beating Frankfort, Illinois', Brayden Thompson, 5-2, for the championship.

"By him winning that tournament, it establishes him as a full-ride athlete to any university he would want to go to," Hancock said. "If he didn't already commit to Iowa State on a full ride, any university, every university in the country

would have offered him a full ride after this tournament."

Offers had already been flowing in, receiving 21 to different programs across the country. But Rojas already had his mind made up.

He described Iowa State as an "old wrestling powerhouse," saying the Cyclones' pitch was for him to help build the team back up.

Once Rojas took his unofficial visit to Ames, Iowa, he found a place where he would be known.

"That was one thing that Manny said: 'Dad, when I go on campus, I want everyone to know my name," Mike Rojas said. "'When I walk into the arena, I want them to yell my name.'

"Well Iowa's where it's at. You aren't going to get that anywhere else."

Nothing to prove

Everyone in the Shamrocks wrestling room knows Rojas' name.

His workouts are unparalleled, something, he says, that keeps teammates away when it comes to training. Hitchcock had to match the incoming senior with either himself or assistant coach Kevin Beazley – a former All-American at Old Dominion – to challenge Rojas.

The senior waited his turn. Now, the CC wrestling room is his.

Rojas is the wrestler everyone wants to replicate. He's their Amine, Edmond, Davenport and Derek Gilcher. And Rojas plans on taking advantage of that, coaching up the younger athletes to continue the legacy.

"I want to get the freshmen in, talk to them a bit, sit down the freshmen and sophomores: "Hey, you guys aren't just little kids. You guys can start now," Rojas said. "Make a name for yourself in Michigan. It starts now."

Personally, Rojas has already made a name for himself in Michigan. His goal is to continue to make his name known nationally, agreeing to compete in FloWrestling's "Who's Number One?" competition in Dallas this September.

It's all about what's next. It's something Rojas' parents will continue to support, driving the incoming senior to wrestling practices from Bay City every day.

"He's won so many tournaments, but as a dad, as his coach, you always question it because people are out there, 'Is it a fluke? Did he get lucky?'" Mike Rojas said. "At a certain time, like now, he's wrestled everybody. Doesn't matter where, didn't matter what, whatever weight and he's beat them.

"He's really the real deal. He's finally reached that pinnacle."

But wrestling's just what Manuel Rojas does. It's not what defines him.

To Natalie Rojas, "Manny" is a "goofy kid who loves to dance and makes his friends laugh." He's the youngest of three and the "biggest Teddy Bear." He's hardworking, resilient, respectful, funloving and fearless.

"He'll give you the shirt off (his) back," she said.

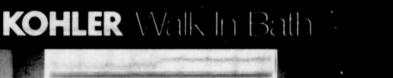
Hancock calls "Manny" a sweetheart. He's likeable, able to strike up a conversation with each person he meets, always with a smile on his face – that same smile that used to take down opponents on a youth wrestling mat.

That's the person Hancock and Rojas' parents expect to see in CC's wrestling room each day. He's not there to prove anything for himself anymore. It's all about what he can leave behind.

"I would say just don't hold back," Manuel Rojas said when asked what advice he has for the younger wrestlers in the room. "Enjoy the time while you have it. It will definitely go by fast.

"And don't give Coach Hancock too hard of a time."

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.



DEMARE



4B I THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 I O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Keller's girls hockey camp may inspire Olympians

Gold medalist gives lessons in sport at **Farmington Hills**

Mia Berry Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Megan Keller's legacy is forever etched into the Farmington hockey community.

By the age of 23, Megan was a four-time world champion and an Olympic gold medalist.

A red, white and blue banner embroidered with her Olympic No. 5 and "2018 Olympic gold medalist" underneath hangs center ice at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills

Her memories at that rink are what led to Megan Keller's Gold Medal Hockey Camp in her hometown, designed for girls only.

"I started playing hockey with the boys and I didn't make the switch over to girls until I was in high school eighth grade just because there weren't really many girls teams in the area (nor) opportunities for girls to play on all-girls teams," Keller said Wednesday, the third day of four-day camp. "Now it's so exciting to see that I have like four to five teams worth of girls out there altogether."

"So there are so many more opportunities in the sport continue to grow. I just want to be a part of that and hopefully give these girls a place to come play with their peers."

Keller intentionally sought out an all-female coaching staff for the campers. All eight coaches shared a wealth of knowledge with players stemming from collegiate and professional experience.

"I did do camps like this (with women coaches) but it wasn't all-female staff, which I wish we would have had like this because it makes it so much better for all the little girls if you have two older girls," Riley Johnson said, a camp volunteer who's playing hockey Mercyhurst this fall. "We always had boys, which were older than us so it's nice to see the girls look up to older girls."

Over the years, Keller has participated in various camps, but is still in awe she was able to see months of planning and coordination come into fruition.

"I've always wanted to do something like this and start my own camp. I have a lot of teammates that have done the same so to be able to come back and have about 100 girls out here this week, and just get them on the ice, get them off the ice talking to them, introducing the game and different skills has been so awesome," she said. "They've been a joy to be around (and) I hope they're having fun."

Camp participants took turns in drill rotations



Megan Keller talks to campers at Megan Keller's Gold Medal Hockey Camp at Suburban Ice in Farmington Hills on July 21, 2021. The camp consisted of fundamental skills, age-appropriate concepts, training on forward and backward skating, playmaking, scoring, puck handling, and defense. There was three age group at the camp. PHOTOS BY RODNEY COLEMAN-ROBINSON





Keller shows campers her U.S. Olympics photo.

BRING YOUR FLOOR TO LIFE







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Megan Keller speaks to campers at Suburban Ice in Farmington Hills on Wednesday. The camp consisted of fundamental skills, training on forward and backward skating, playmaking, scoring, puck handling and defense. RODNEY COLEMAN-ROBINSON

Keller camp

Continued from Page 4B

working on their puck handling and goal shots, but the biggest draw for campers was playing soccer on ice. While fun, combining the two Olympic sports in the rink aims to help improve their skating skills and get younger and inexperienced players accustomed to using their feet.

With the Tokyo Olympics starting this week and the 2022 Winter Olympics around the corner, Keller remembers her favorite memories from the 2018 Games.

"I had such a great time. I want to do it again," Keller said. "I think just for me, a lot of my teammates, and just all Team USA athletes when you walk through opening ceremonies, you hear over the speakers, they announced the United States of America. it's not just your team, but it's amazing athletes from all over the world in the country and you walk out together behind your flag. I think that's one of the moments that I'll always remember. It just gets everything started for the whole Olympic Games and makes it really feel like a dream come true."

During the off-ice instruction, the girls passed

around Keller's gold medal, which she hopes inspires them to focus on their passions and aim high.

"I didn't even know girls hockey really was a thing until I saw it on TV at the Olympics," Keller said. "That's when I was like, 'OK, I want to do that I want to go to the Olympics,' and that's when I first realized my dreams. So to be able to hopefully spark some of these girls that are here today, spark their dreams and inspire them. I think little Megan would definitely be happy about that and proud because that's what the girls before me did for (me)."

Mia Berry is a sports reporting intern with the Free Press. Reach out via email: mberry@freepress.com.

CABINET REFACING & REFINISHING IN AS LITTLE AS 3 DAYS!



6B | THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 | O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Family plans running race in honor of daughter's fight against leukemia

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Melissa and Lance Bridson's world was turned upside down in November.

Their daughter Brooklynn, then 8 months old, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The doctors didn't think it was cancer at first, but rather aplastic anemia or glucose storage disease, Melissa Bridson said.

"We were ready to go home. We had her in her stroller with a balloon when the doctor came running into our room and said, 'I am in a meeting right now, you can't leave. I think it's leukemia," she said.

Brooklynn was admitted to the University of Michigan's Pediatric Oncology floor where she remained for more than a month.

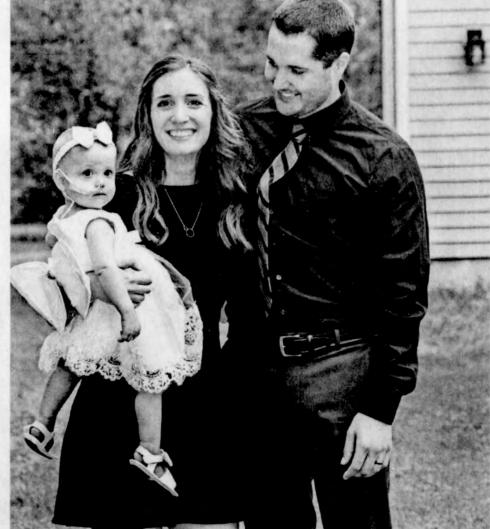
Melissa Bridson, a Brighton kindergarten teacher, said one of the first calls she received following Brooklynn's diagnosis was from the I Will Right Now foundation.

Created in honor of Chris Harbrecht, a Scranton Middle School teacher, who died from a rare esophageal cancer, the foundation helps Livingston County families experiencing catastrophic illnesses with meals, bills and other needs.

"Immediately they said we are here to help," Bridson said. "They told us to give them our mortgage information, our car payments, things we weren't even thinking about."

She said the couple finds themselves in tears thinking about the community's outpouring of support.

"I remember being so overwhelmed – we have no idea what is happening," Bridson said. "Without even hesitating they reached out. It was so helpful, we



Brooklynn Bridson with her parents Melissa and Lance Bridson in July 2021. COURTESY OF MELISSA BRIDSON

had no idea."

Run with Mae

Now that Brooklynn is back home in

the delayed intensification phase of her treatment, the couple want to give back to the organizations that have helped them

A runner, Bridson organized "Run

with Mae", a 5k and 10k virtual race referencing her daughter's middle name.

The event runs from Aug. 18 to Aug. 26 with participants receiving a custom shirt, medal and racing bib for \$45.

She said she opted for a virtual run this year due to COVID-19 uncertainties and to allow for runners across the country, like her brother in California, to support the cause.

Bridson said she hopes around 100 people participate in the event.

The couple will donate 45% of the proceeds to I Will Right Now and another 45% to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, an American pediatric cancer charity.

The final 10% of the proceeds will go to U-M's Pediatric Oncology floor to help with the celebrations the staff puts on for families who have to spend holidays at the hospital.

The Bridsons spent Brooklynn's first Thanksgiving and Christmas at U-M.

'We know that it's not the place that families want to spend the holidays," she said. "But they made it as special as they could."

Melissa Bridson said plans to host the event every year, even after Brooklynn, now a year and a half old, finishes the maintenance phase of her treatment in spring 2023.

How to help:

tv92

To register for the event visit: https://bit.ly/3khCMpP

The family also has a GoFundMe Campaign, "Brooklynn's Brave Battle" to help cover medical and living costs.

Contact Kayla Daugherty at 517-552-2848 or kdaugherty@gannett.com.

Follow her on Twitter @KayDaugher

Best places to run or walk in Livingston County if ...

Kayla Daugherty

Livingston Daily **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**





single or double-wide stroller and clear of trip hazards. Almost any paved path will do, but routes in Huron Meadows **Metropark in Brighton and Settlers Park** in Hartland allow for playtime after the run or walk. Island Lake State Park also has a wide, paved 4.5-mile, out-and-back path that can accommodate a stroller or two.

Looking for a place to stretch your legs? Look no further. Livingston County is full of places to run and walk, and some will cater to your needs better than others. So, here are the best places to run in the county if ...

You want to test your stamina on hills

Potawatomi Trail in Pinckney Recreation Area is known for many things such as the variety of trees or picturesque views. One thing it is not know for - being flat.

With an elevation of over 1,200 feet, the 17-mile loop is sure to challenge even the most experienced trail runner. Thankfully there are shortcuts and

LEFT: Roots and hills are common features on the Crooked Lake Trail at **Pinckney Recreation Area** PHOTOS BY BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

smaller loops on the trails for runners

and hikers who've had enough of the

Have the need for speed? Check out

The trail is paved from Hall Road in

Hamburg Township to M-36, just west

You want to feel fast

Mike Levine Lakelands Trail.



The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park runs between Hamburg and Stockbridge.

of Pinckney. Runners can log additional miles on a crushed limestone path that continues from M-36 to Stockbridge. The best part?

It is one of the flattest routes in the county so pesky hills won't hamper your speed.

You need to be near a bathroom

Leaky bladder? Regretting your dinner choice from last night?

Opt for a path lined with bathrooms at Kensington Metropark. There is a restroom every mile to two miles along the 8.1 mile loop. Take note - the bathrooms are closed in the winter so you will have to get creative.

You run with a stroller

Runners training with their little ones in tow need a path capable of handling a

You like to run alone

Some people don't like to run with others, we get it.

Kensington Metropark and Lakeland Trails can provide an escape while being populated enough to offer a sense of security.

You want to run with others

There are several running groups in the area if you need a little motivation to get moving.

Mondays: Howell Underground Running Team meets at 7 p.m. Mondays (rain or shine) at Howell High School Track and Football Field.

Tuesdays: Team Running Lab meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Running Lab on Main Street in downtown Brighton.

Wednesdays: Brighton Area Road Striders meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Brighton High School.

Contact Kayla Daugherty at 517-552-2848 or kdaugherty@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @KayDaugherty92.



The Lakelands Trail snakes under M-36 just west of Pettysville Road. Portions of the trail were a former railroad track. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Obituaries

Irene M. Burnham

Irene M. Burnham, age 87, passed away June 25, 2021. She was born October 27, 1933 in Detroit, Michigan, daughter of the late Gust and Julia Turzak. She is survived by, her loving children: Barb (David Baldwin) Burnham, Pam Blair, John Jr. (Vicki) Burnham. She is also survived by her

grandchildren: Daniel Burnham and Jamie (Justin) Bourland; her great-grandchildren: John, Lily, and Jack. Irene was preceded in death by her husband, John Sr. in 2010, her grandson, Justin Blair in 2017, and her son-in-law, Tom Blair in 2016. A memorial gathering will be held on Friday, August 13 from 4:00PM-8:00PM with memorial service being held on Saturday, August 14 at 11:00AM with final gathering beginning at 10:00AM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake Street, South Lyon. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Families Against Narcotics or Hope Not Handcuffs.



hills

Donald Leonard

Schultz NORTHVILLE/

SOUTH LYON - Donald Leonard Schultz, was born on June 4, 1932, passed away at the age of 89 on July 28, 2021. Beloved husband of Lisa Janetta (Hess) Mark Schultz (Luella),

czka, Susan (Keith) Rosol.

Visitation will be Thursday, August 5 at **Phillips Funeral Home** from 5-9 pm.

Visitation on Friday, August 6, from 1-2pm with service at 2pm.

> May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



Schultz, loving father of Lisa Schultz, Michael Schultz (Julie) and Aar-

on Schultz (Sherri). Loving brother of Charles Schultz (Carol), Shirley (Bob) Mon-

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Craggs

Continued from Page 1B

could work with and mold into a nextlevel player.

"Did I know it was going to be Division 1 right from the get-go? No," Sinawi said. "It took a little bit of development, and really his sophomore season early on is where it sort of clicked - at least for me - that he would have the opportunity to play an extremely high level of basketball in college if he just continued to work, which is exactly what he did."

Sinawi's job with a player who aspires to play college basketball is to be specific about his development as a high school player to help his team now, while also balancing personal development to make sure that player is college ready.

For Craggs, that journey started freshman season, slowly developing from a defensive specialist to more of a scorer - using his 6-foot-8 body to finish more around the basket as a forward - to more of a shooter, developing more of a "position-less" playing style.

Over the past two seasons, that development has worked, earning Craggs first-team All-Catholic League honors as a sophomore and junior. It's a development that Craggs said Oakland will continue once he arrives, playing as a smaller power forward with the ability to stretch the floor and run, creating a mismatch at his position.

Along with the tradition of the Golden Grizzlies - making three NCAA Tournament appearances since 2005 and the school being close to home, Craggs is excited for what head coach Greg Kampe and the rest of the Oakland staff will help him do at the college level.

"I do know that they develop really well from what I've seen with other players," Craggs said. "They have a great coaching staff and I really think they are going to help me take that next step to my game."

Now that Craggs knows that his future is in Auburn Hills, the senior forward can focus on what's happening in Novi, leading Catholic Central; a team that's only won 11 games in the past two seasons with first-round playoff exits to Canton and Salem.

Craggs' focus is now on leaving a legacy with the Shamrocks.

"After the last two years, it's been tough with two first-round exits. I think the seniors and Coach Sinawi, we're just tired of losing like that," the senior said. "We're going to keep our heads down and go to work and then we'll see you guys in the playoffs."

To Sinawi, Craggs' focus is what



could define his team in 2021, taking as much as he can out of the senior forward before his time at Catholic Central is complete.

"We've got Cooper 100 percent locked in, and that's a dangerous thing," Sinawi said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330Canton's Jake Vickers is guarded by Catholic Central's Cooper Craggs. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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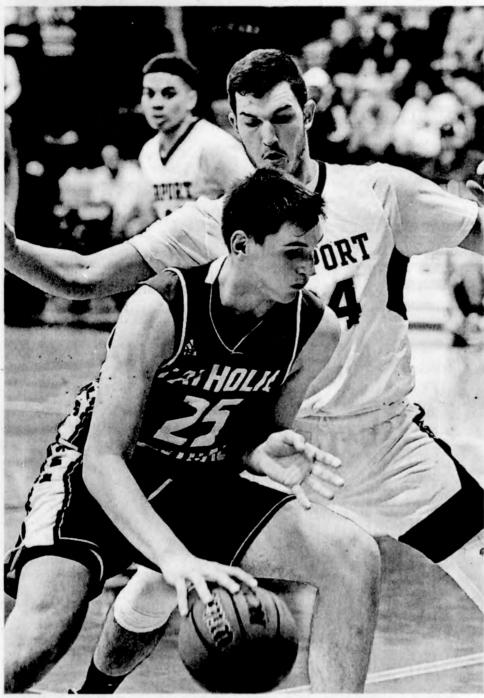
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Catholic Central's Cooper Craggs earned All-Catholic League honors as both a sophomore and junior. Craggs has committed to play for Oakland University. HOMETOWN LIFE.COM FILE

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Job News Roundup

By ZipRecruiter.com

This article provides a roundup of recent news stories related to employment. • Employers are offering sign-on bonuses to overcome hiring challenges. For example, Sea World is offering \$1,000 bonuses to food and beverage workers. The city of Houston is using \$3,000 bonuses to attract garbage truck drivers. And Disney is offering \$1,000 sign-on bonuses for workers at its theme parks, just nine months after laying off 32,000.

• Almost one in five young adults in the U.S. was neither working nor studying in the first quarter of 2021. That's up 24%, from a year earlier, before many lost their jobs or deferred college enrollment during the Covid-19 pandemic. The figures are based on a report released this week by the Center for Economic Policy and Research. (Bloomberg)

Connecticut legalizes recreational marijuana. On June 22, Connecticut became the 19th state to legalize recreational marijuana—and the fifth to do so just this year. (New York Times)
The percentage of workers testing positive for marijuana rose in 2020, and is up 44% since 2016. That's according to Quest Diagnostics, one of the country's largest drug-testing laboratories. The highest positive rates for marijuana use were among accommodation and food services workers. (Wall Street Journal)



DS. **ZipRecruiter**

city of San Francisco said on June 23 that it would require all 35,000 of its employees to be vaccinated against Covid-19 or risk losing their jobs. As of Monday, June 28, city employees will have to show proof of their vaccination status within 30 days. City officials will allow workers to request exemptions on medical or religious grounds, but will redouble efforts to get every employee vaccinated. (New York Times) A court has ruled that Indiana must continue to pay federal unemployment benefits. Indiana canceled enhanced federal unemployment insurance benefits on June 19. But on

Friday, June 25, a judge granted a preliminary injunction and ordered that the state must continue to pay the federal government's unemployment benefits, arguing that the benefits are "instrumental in allowing Hoosiers to regain financial stability." Making the opposing argument, Indiana Governor Holcomb says that jobs are plentiful, the state unemployment rate is just 3.9%, and Indiana businesses are struggling to find workers. (NBC5 Chicago)

• Kentucky announces re-employment bonuses. Kentucky plans to continue paying federal unemployment benefits through September 6., but it also joined a small list of states offering return-to-work cash incentives. The state will pay up to 15,000 Kentuckians who are on unemployment insurance a \$1,500 bonus for rejoining the workforce by the end of July, using leftover funds from the CARES Act. Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Montana and Oklahoma have introduced similar programs. (ABC News)

 Nevada is enacting a Right-to-Return Law for certain laid-off workers in the tourism industry. Beginning July 1, under the Nevada Hospitality and Travel Workers Right pandemic, the opportunity to return to work. (SHRM)

• New York amended its HERO Act to give employers in the state a bit more breathing room. Initially, the law would have required the New York Department of Labor to publish workplace health and safety standards by June 4, but the deadline has been extended to July 5, after which employers have 30 days to adopt a disease prevention plan, and 60 days to share it with staff. (SHRM)

New York City wants to ban fast-food restaurants from firing work-ers without cause, but the law could be blocked before it goes into effect. Most workers in the U.S. are at-will employees, which means their employment can be terminated with or without cause at any time. A new law in New York City banning at-will employment for fast-food workers is scheduled to go into effect on July 5, but is widely expected to be blocked by the courts. (New York Law Journal)
 The Colorado Supreme Court struck

The Colorado Supreme Court struck down 'use-it-or-lose-it' vacation policies. The court ruled that Colorado employers must pay employees for earned but unused vacation pay at the end of their employment. Employers are not required to offer paid vacation

• San Francisco will require all city employees to be vaccinated. The to Return Act (SB 386), certain employers in the casino, hospitality, stadium and travel industries who have 30 or more employees must offer their former employees, who were laid off or furloughed due to the COVID-19 time to employees. But if they do and employees earn paid time off, it will be considered as wages and employers will be obligated to pay departing employees for the vacation that they earned. (SHRM)



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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo INTERPLANETARY

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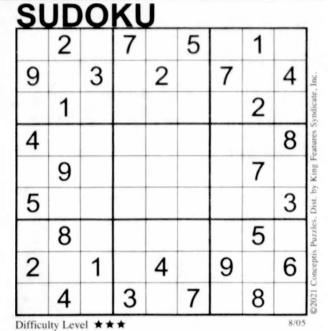
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Here's How It Works:

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

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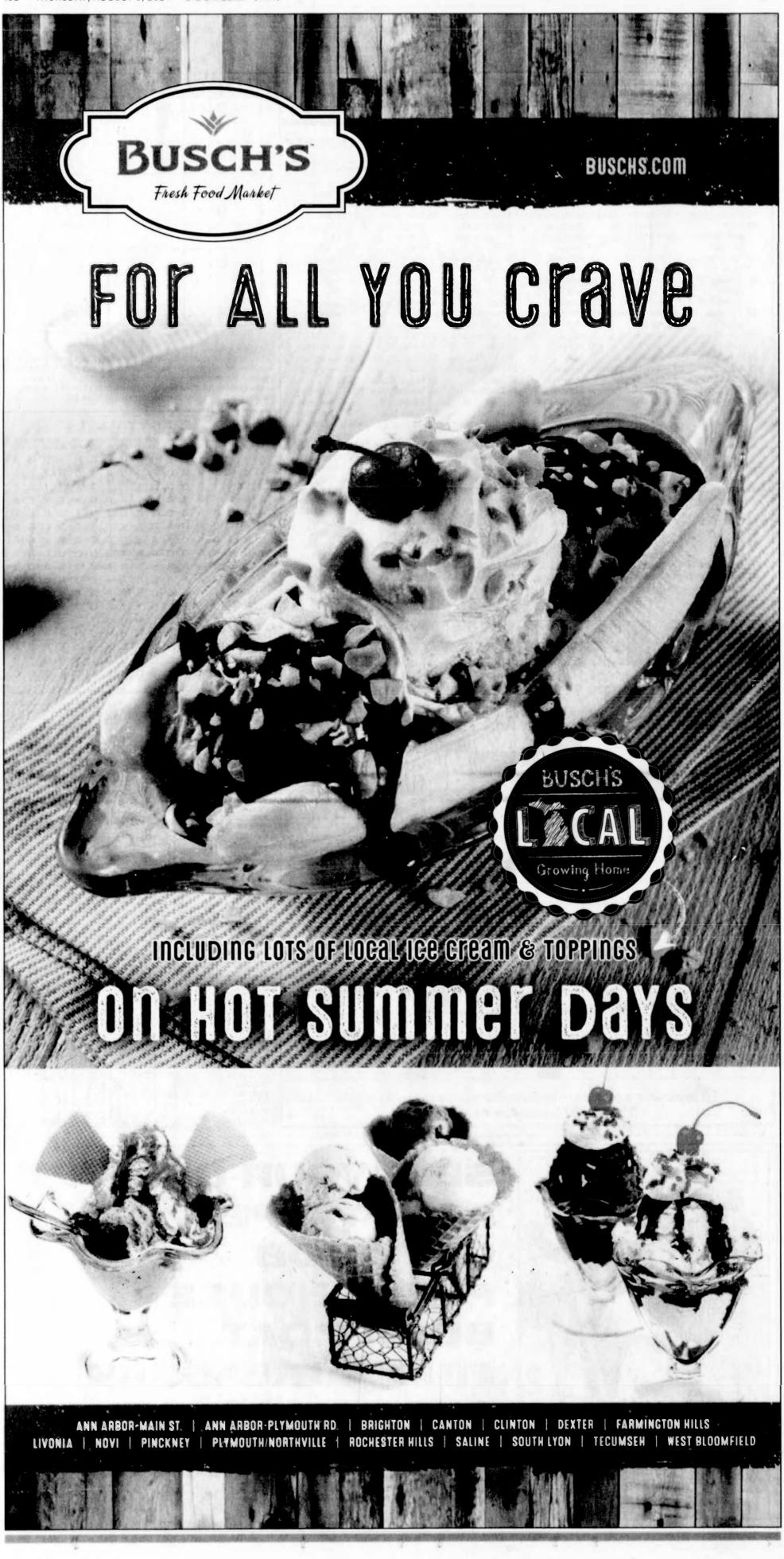




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