

# ORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## School threats taper off in metro Detroit

Area saw spike after Oxford shooting

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

School threats spiked exponentially after Oxford, the metro Detroit suburb now associated with a Nov. 30 high school shooting that killed four students and wounded seven, including a teacher.

Students and parents in districts throughout Michigan saw that daily in social media chatter and a slew of student arrests. There also were notable lockdowns in various school districts,

Canton high schoolers on campus several hours after school.

Then the holiday break came, and law enforcers confirmed the break from school eased overall fear and anxiety levels in local classrooms.

"We're still getting threats at different schools almost on a regular basis, a daily basis, but not like we were," Oak-

like the lockdown that kept Plymouth- land County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "We were getting multiple schools threatened every day."

Bouchard promised continued vigilance to keep schools safe for students

"If anyone makes threats, they're going to be prosecuted whether they

See THREATS, Page 8A

## **Milford** voters will decide on fire millage in August

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in Milford this August will be asked if they support a tax increase to pay for full-time firefighting staff.

How many firefighters and how large a millage request remains to be seen. Fire Chief Tom Moore would ideally like to see 12 full-time firefighters in Milford, requiring at least 1.75 mills.

"We've been looking at a millage for awhile for the increased staffing," Moore said. "It is a necessity. The current millage we have - and are very grateful for — maintains our ability to serve the community, but it won't support full-time personnel."

Milford has always been solely a paid on-call fire department with the exception of the full-time chief and as of last September, a full-time fire mar-

Over the years, it has been increasingly difficult to find people willing to do a firefighter's job without health insurance or a full-time salary. As the population and the number of calls the department responds to continues to rise, the township attempted to staff Station 2 at least five days per week for 10 hours each day to improve response times, but the effort was largely unsuccessful.

"It just isn't working," Moore said. "We only have X amount of people to

See MILLAGE, Page 8A



Novi Meadows teacher Bridget Zahradnik helps fifth graders Alessandra O'Neil and Maya Raffoul with a science lesson. Zahradnik is the recipient of a Presidential Award for Excellence in science teaching. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Novi science teacher earns presidential honor, \$10,000

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jamie Kliebert has some new additions to her Novi home this year.

They include cups of salt water, a telescope, and a 10-year-old daughter who is excited for the first time about

Zahradnik, who teaches 5th graders science and math at Novi Meadows, and who recently received the highest honor in the U.S. for those in her profession-The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

"She has instilled a lot of confidence and curiosity in my daughter (Allie),"

She attributes all of this to Bridget Kliebert said. "She is so deserving of a teacher. This is not a one-year thing, she's been excelling for years in math and science. She didn't win it, she really earned it."

> The award, which is granted to two K-6 teachers from each state, U.S. terri-

See TEACHER, Page 8A

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## Mrs. Milford, historian Gharrity dies at 93

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

Mary Louise Gharrity lived in and loved Milford over the course of more than eight decades, keeping and contributing to the community's history.

Now her own story has ended, but with a legacy that will continue.

Gharrity, also known as "Mrs. Milford," died Feb. 16. She was 93.

"She was a loyal friend. She'd do anything to help people out," Norm Werner, Milford Historical Society president, said. "She was a founding member of the society and was critically involved with establishment of the Milford Historical Museum. She lived a lot of the history."

Mary Louise was born in Ann Arbor in 1928. She moved to Milford in 1935 as a second-grader with her parents, Howard and Bernice Fawcett, who purchased Central Hotel and renamed it Ye Olde Hotel.

Mary Lou later reflected on her early vears affectionately and self-deprecatingly as a "Main Street Brat." She worked in the hotel's dining room as a waitress and then helped her mother run the adjacent Star Theater, which they purchased following her father's death in 1945.

After her graduation from Milford High School in 1946, Mary Lou studied to become a banker and was working at the bank on Main Street where PNC is now located when she met and fell in

hometownlife.com

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love with Bob Gharrity, who regularly came in to make deposits for the Milford Times newspaper.

The couple married in 1952 and owned the paper until 1975, but while they would be content to leave future Milford news in the hands of others, Mary Lou was already planning how to preserve the community's history and she helped found the Milford Historical Society, closely followed by establishment of the Milford Historical Museum.

"In 1973, she decided Milford needed somewhere to house archive and stories about history of the community," Sue Bullard, corresponding secretary for the Milford Historical Society, said.

Just three years later, the museum opened in the 1853 house which had been the location of the village and township offices and police department. The historical society has a 99year lease on the building for \$1.

The museum was Mary Lou's pride and joy, and Bullard recalls Gharrity giving tours to all the new museum docents, including herself, in 1991 and also greeting every museum visitor at the

"She knew every item, how they were used, who the donors were, and (she) would have a story about those people," Bullard said. "A lot of times, people would come to the museum and tell their stories, and she would know the people they talked about, maybe even have a picture of them in the archives. I don't think there was a time when she didn't know someone."

Mary Lou was a wonderful person who always took the time to listen, and if you had a problem, would give advice without candy-coating it, Bullard adds.

"She told you what you needed to hear," she laughed. "And if you did something she didn't agree with, she would let you know."

In the obituary he wrote for his aunt, Bill Gunther noted: "Though many knew she could be bossy or snip at them, deep down they knew she was a kind hearted, sweet woman who always wanted what was best for others and the future of her town and country."

Although she never had children of her own, she was a grandma figure to many, and Gunther recalls many happy memories with her.

"She was just a blessing in everyone's life," he said. "She was all about people and relationships, she didn't worry about having the biggest or fanciest things or needing more... I just think she grew up having a sense of service to community and spent all of her time and energy doing communal things."

Mary Lou was a lifetime member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a member of the Milford Presbyterian Church, and a founding member of the Zonta (International) Club of Milford in which she worked to" improve women's lives, education levels, their communities and



Long-time Milford resident Mary Lou Gharrity was honored as the Milford 2015 Independence Day Parade grand marshal. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Gharrity in the late 1940s, when she worked in Ye Olde Hotel in Milford. COURTESY OF BILL GUNTHER



Carol Waarala, Gharrity, and Dee Gondol show off items for sale during the Christmas Bazaar in 1980, SUBMITTED

women's status in society."

In the days following his aunt's death, Gunther came across Mary Lou's travel passports from previous decades and is in awe of the numerous places to which his aunt traveled, including throughout Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Still, she remained down-to-earth and a hometown gir, working to get playground equipment for children in Milford and getting her hands dirty in the gardening that she loved.

She continued to document every picture and piece of history that came her way until a stroke slowed her down a

few years ago. Now, she leaves her own lasting mark in the pages of Milford his-

"She will be lovingly remembered and missed by a lot of people," Bullard said. "Milford won't be the same without her, but we are better because of

A memorial service for Mary Lou Gharrity will be held at a later date.

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

#### **NOVI TOWNSHIP** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Novi Township board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year on March 8th, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at 44551 Chedworth Ct. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 44551 Chedworth Ct.

Individuals with disabilities may contact the Clerk, Janeen Crittenden, 248-404-7529 for special services, with 72 hours advanced notice

Publish: March 3, 2022

#### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF MARCH 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 8, 2022 in the Mayor's Conference Room/ Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The Board of Review will not hear appeals at the

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Event Quarter Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 14, 15 and 16, 2022.

If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 11, 2022 in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnovi.org > Services > Board of Review Notice.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Written Appeals: Taxpayers may file a protest and petition in writing, instead of appearing in person. Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting

All agents protesting values on property other than their own MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.citvofnovi.org. Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

**BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE** 

Monday, March 14, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advisory dated November 19, 2021, all persons in indoor public settings are advised to wear a face mask, regardless of their vaccination status.

> Cortney Hanson CITY CLERK

Publish: February 17, 24 & March 3, 2022

#### CITY OF NORTHVILLE 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne and Oakland Counties, will meet for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2022 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022:

4:00 p.m. Organizational Meeting (No Appeals 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2022, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2022 Real and Personal Propert Assessments: WAYNE COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. OAKLAND COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00.

Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 16, 2022 before 4:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by APPOINTMENT ONLY. To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 15. 2022. Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2022 taxable or assessed value.

**BOARD OF REVIEW** 

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.299 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ARTICLE 2.0, "DEFINITIONS," AT SECTION 2.2, "DEFINITIONS;" ARTICLE 4.0, "USE STANDARDS," AT SECTION 4.51, "SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES;" ARTICLE 5.0, "SITE STANDARDS," AT SECTION 5.2.12, "OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS;" TO ALLOW FOR CLIMATE-CONTROLLED SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES THAT MAY CONSIST OF MULTIPLE STORIES.

Ordinance language is available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@citvofnovi.org

All interested persons are invited to attend this in-person meeting. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Published on March 3, 2022 Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: March 3, 2022



Members of the Detroit Ice Yacht Club get ready to race Jan. 15 at Walled Lake in Oakland County. About 16 boaters came from across lower Michigan to train. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Iceboats take advantage of freezing temperatures

Philip Alimen Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Looking similar to a sailboat, these winter rides travel over the ice at high speeds. No motor, no keel, no inhibitions.

The art of ice boating is a tradition that has been around since the 1600s when old sailboats would be fitted with blades to help ship goods across the frozen canals of the Netherlands.

Now the sport is a largely recreational undertaking that draws a small, tight-knit group of enthusiasts onto frozen water bodies each year when winds are gusting and bare ice turns lakes into a venue for what seems like an unlikely endeavor — winter sailing.

There are multiple ice yacht clubs across Michigan, including the Detroit Ice Yacht Club, West Michigan Ice Yacht Club and Gull Lake Ice Yacht Club.

There is a Facebook group called Iceboating in Michigan and Ohio for those interested in the sport, featuring posts about ice conditions, upcoming events and places where people use boats.

Ice boating is said to have been introduced to North
America in the late 18th century when a crude ice boat
was taken onto the Hudson River in New York by Dutch

Among the more popular iceboats are the DN, the largest iceboat class. It's name comes from a 1937 Detroit News-sponsored design contest to come up with a design for an affordable, home buildable iceboat to provide winter entertainment during the depression.

An ice boat works similarly to a sailboat minus the comfort and leisurely speeds on a lake during summer months.

The boat's sharp runners prevent the thin-wooded crafts from sliding sideways, acting as a keel by reducing drift and keeping the boat going in the intended



Bruce Williams, of Kalamazoo, rigs up his iceboat on Walled Lake.

direction.

To get an iceboat going you simply put one foot on the rear plank and start pushing as if you are a dogsled musher. With a gust of wind, you are off for a ride whose speed and duration depends largely on what Mother Nature has to offer on any given day.



Martha Croasdale, of Galesburg, sets up the mast.





An iceboat gear sled sits on Walled Lake as Detroit Ice Yacht Club members get their boats rigged up for training. Ice boating is said to have been introduced to North America in the late 18th century when a crude ice boat was taken onto the Hudson River in New York by Dutch settlers.



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Stacks of concrete barriers line the median of Interstate 275 near Six Mile on Feb. 25. Major roadwork will mean reorganization of traffic along I-275. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## MDOT begins second year of I-275 project

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Frequent travelers of Interstate 275 between Five Mile and Northline roads can expect roughly nine months of delays starting this week.

Road crews with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are set to begin work on the second phase of MDOT's four-year, \$257 million project to improve I-275 between Will Carlton and Six Mile roads. The four phases will go through Wayne County communities including Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Canton.

This year, crews will rebuild roughly 10 miles of southbound lanes between Five Mile and Northline roads.

"The rough part will be throughout this next week," said Diane Cross, a communications representative with MDOT. "Drivers will see us out there working, and they may temporarily find their ramp closed. If we can have some patience for the next week or two, we'll get everything situated."

Throughout the next week, people can expect temporary ramp closures while crews get set up. Otherwise, ramp closures throughout this year's construction will only happen when a particular southbound ramp is under construction. Drivers north and southbound will have ramp access most of the time, and people can keep up with temporary closures by visiting revive275.org.

Because drivers heading both ways will have to share four lanes, Cross said drivers should prepare for delays, especially when travelling near Detroit Metro Airport. This year's work is expected to wrap up in November or December.

Last summer, crews focused on concrete repair between Will Carlton and Northline roads, bridge repairs and culvert replacements between Northline and Five Mile roads.

"The road just isn't holding up any



This year, crews will rebuild roughly 10 miles of southbound lanes between Five Mile and Northline roads

longer," Cross said. "When you're 20, 25 years old, the road gets damaged. It's time to do the major investment of rebuilding that road."

Cross also noted Michigan is in a particularly rough pothole season, which the northbound lanes are affected by. She urged drivers to keep a watchful eye on cars in front of them and abide by posted speed limits, as MDOT crews will also repair potholes as needed.

"You need to drive the speed limit for lots of reasons," she said. "We've got

workers out there and it's not worth risking their life so someone can go whatever speed they think they need to go. You should also drive a safe speed so you don't hurt yourself should you hit a

MDOT will turn to the northbound lanes in 2023 and 2024. Next year, crews will rebuild northbound I-275 between Northline Road and M-14. In 2024, northbound lanes from M-14 to

Five Mile Road will be rebuilt. Starting work in February this year, Cross hopes, will ensure MDOT completes its planned work for this phase. Any uncompleted work will be rolled into the third phase.

"We want to start as soon as we can count on weather being cooperative," she said. "You don't want to pour concrete in this weather, but you can tear it up in this kind of weather."

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

## Roth IRAs, unemployment and more tax questions answered



**Joney Matters** uest Columnist

Not surprisingly, I have received several questions regarding taxes. Many of the questions are similar, so I thought I would answer them here.

Let's start with questions regarding Roth IRAs and children. A few readers asked about eligibility for a Roth IRA and when it makes sense for a child to have a Roth IRA? For Roth IRAs, there is no magic number regarding the age you become eligible. Rather, you only must have earned income. Earned income is income from your labor, typically from a W-2

The key as to whether a child is eligible for a Roth IRA is not their age, but rather, if they have earned income. If they do have earned income, I think it is key with home-office deductions is that done automatically. However, it is an a slam dunk to put money away in a Roth IRA. These retirement accounts grow tax free. Just think, if a child puts money away tax free over 50 or 60 years, they will have made great progress toward saving for their retirement. If you have a child who is eligible for a Roth IRA, I encourage you to open an account

Remember, since tax returns are due April 18, you have until April 18, 2022 to open a Roth IRA for 2021.

Many people who worked at home in 2021 had questions regarding home-office deductions. Unfortunately, if you were an employee in 2021, you cannot take a home-office deduction. A few years ago, legislation disallowed homeoffice deductions for employees. On the other hand, if you are self-employed and you used part of your home regularly and exclusively for business, you do qualify for a home-office deduction. The

it doesn't necessarily have to be a separate room, but it must be an area that you don't use for anything else. For example, if you worked at your kitchen table, you would not qualify for a homeoffice deduction, since your kitchen table is used for other purposes.

Some readers asked about taxes related to unemployment benefits. Typically, unemployment benefits are subject to income tax. The American Rescue Plan Act excluded up to \$10,200 in unemployment benefits for 2020 returns. Unfortunately, this exception only applied to 2020 tax returns. Therefore, for 2021, unemployment benefits are subject to income taxes at your ordinary income tax rate.

Lastly, there is always confusion about extensions. Extensions are automatic for 120 days by filing IRS Form 4868. Extensions do not require any sort of explanation, because they are extension of time to file your return, not an extension of time to pay your taxes. Therefore, if you file for an extension, you will still need to estimate your tax liabilities and make an estimated payment. Estimated payments can be made with Form 4868.

It is also important to realize that filing an extension does not increase your audit risk. The IRS will audit returns for a few different reasons, most of which are out of our control. However, filing a sloppy or inaccurate return will increase your audit risk. Therefore, if for some reason you can't complete your return on time, estimate your tax liability and file an extension.

Good luck. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomadvisors.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@ bloomadvisors.com.

## Brighton theater presents middle-aged dating comedy

Barb Modrack Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK

A Wilde Theatre, located in downtown Brighton, will present the play, "Looking," from March 4-13.

"Looking," by Norm Foster, is described as a laugh-out-loud comedy about four middle-aged singles who are seeking relationships, while navigating life's dating pitfalls.

Director Lynn Wilde said the play offers a chance to get out and enjoy some comedy after a long winter.

"Before online dating, people had to place an ad in the newspaper to try and make a match," Wilde said. "You would place the ad and then you would receive a phone call to meet up for a date. Time have really changed, yet I'm not sure dating is any easier these days."

The play revolves around the characters of Andy and Matt, who are longtime buddies looking for surefire ways to meet women. Characters Val and Nina are best friends forever looking to meet Mr. Right.

Val and Andy agree to meet on a blind date at a bar while dragging along their friends, Nina and Matt, for moral support. So the dating game begins with high hopes of making a long-lasting connection full of past lovers, insecurities and laughable plot twists.

The cast includes Sarah Burcon, of Plymouth; Laura Mandernack, of Howell; Tom Namovich of Novi; and Kevin Rogers, of Brighton.

A Wilde Theatre (AWT) is a professional theater in Livingston County, at III S. West St., behind Jameson's Irish

AWT provides a home for nonequity/ union actors to get professional handson training and theater experience.

Patrons can wander around the theater space and enjoy or purchase art on the walls, provided by the Brighton Art Guild. The art will change with the performances and additional artists will be added throughout the season.

A second show this month will be, "The Lady with All the Answers," which runs March 18-27.

Tickets are all \$30 and are available online at awildetheatre.com.

All shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and at 3 p.m. Sundays.



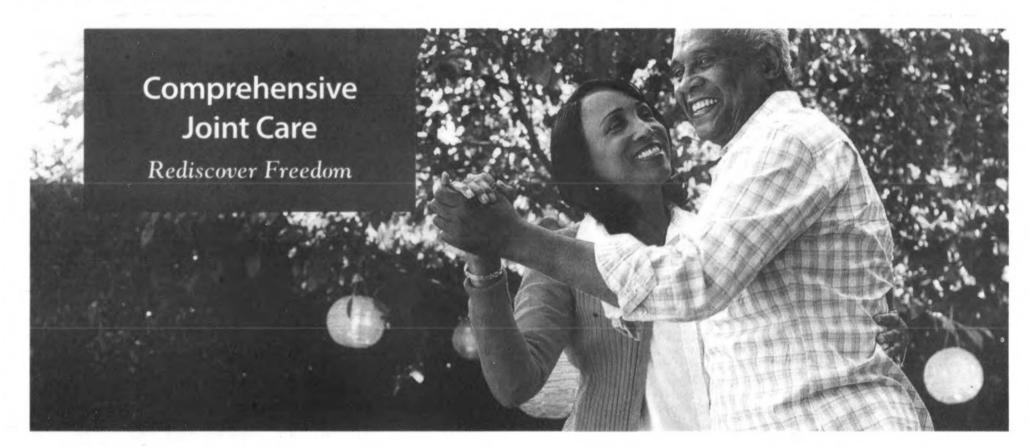
Sarah Burcon and Tom Namovich act during a scene in A Wilde Theatre's production of "Looking," which opens March 4.



Kevin Rogers and Laura Mandernack in a scene.



From left, Mandernack, Rogers, Burcon and Namovich act during a scene in A Wilde Theatre's production of "Looking." PROVIDED PHOTOS



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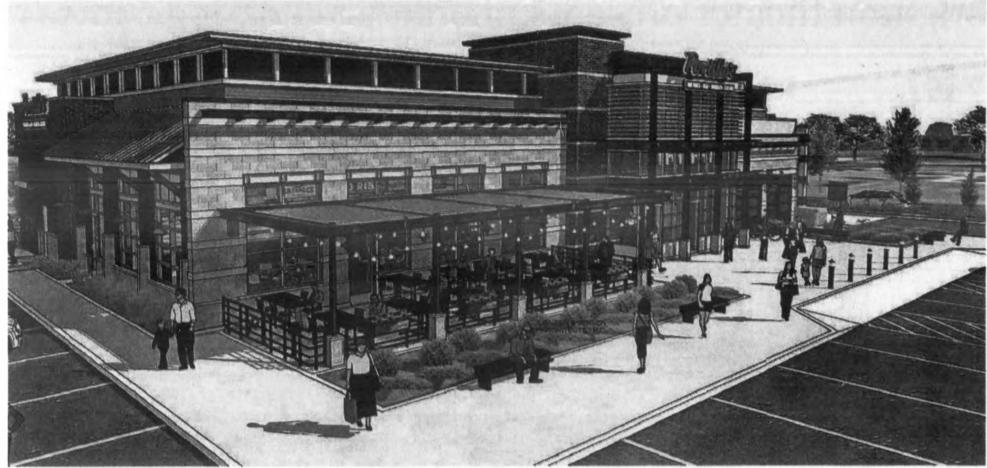
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A rendering of the proposed Portillo's along Middlebelt Road in Livonia. City council recently approved the submitted plan. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA

## Livonia council approves Portillo's plan

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

A taste of Chicago appears it officially will come to Livonia.

The Livonia City Council reviewed the plans for the proposed Portillo's restaurant planned for a new outlot at the Millennium Park shopping center south of Interstate 96.

Located at 13000 Middlebelt, the new restaurant would consist of 7,900 square feet of space and serve up Italian beef sandwiches, hot dogs and chocolate cake shakes.

The council discussed the proposed project at its Feb. 16 study meeting at Livonia City Hall, where it recommended approval for the plans submitted.

"I am excited about Portillo's," Councilman Rob Donovic said. "It's because the city of Livonia does a great job and our residents love to eat. And so do I."

Once open, it would mark the second Portillo's to open in metro Detroit: the first location opened in 2021 in Sterling Heights. It's a restaurant that has a big following, especially for those who have spent time in the Windy City.

It was first sent to the city's planning commission earlier this year, which gave a recommendation of approval to the city council. Some issues were changed from that planning commission meeting, including the shortening of some parking lot lights from 30 feet to 20 feet. A traffic study also led to some changes, including additional signage and striping along the parking lot, as well as the addition of a "no turning left" sign from the southern driveway onto Middlebelt, said Mark Taormina, the city's planning and economic development director.

The council moved the agenda item with approving resolutions to its next

regular meeting, with no real opposition present. The measure is expected to be approved.

Portillo's hopes to break ground this spring with an expected opening date of later this year, said Amanda Schwerin of Texas-based HD Design Group who was one of the petitioners.

Councilman Scott Bahr said the arrival of the restaurant continues Livonia's run of bringing trendy national chains to the city.

"I understand Portillo's is a draw and I have to say it's like we're getting a trifecta of big draw of fast food restaurants with Chick-fil-A and then Shake Shack and now Portillo's," he said. "There's residents that have been clamoring for Portillo's for years."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

"I understand Portillo's is a draw and I have to say it's like we're getting a trifecta of big draw of fast food restaurants with Chick-fil-A and then Shake Shack and now Portillo's. There's residents that have been clamoring for Portillo's for years."

Scott Bahr Livonia City Council member



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The parking lot of the current Doughboy doughnut shop at 34801 Plymouth Road is to be taken over by a Hyundai dealership. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Former doughnut shop to be demolished

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

A longtime staple of Plymouth Road is about to become a parking lot.

LaFontaine Hyundai of Livonia plans to remove the former Dough Boy Donuts shop at 34801 Plymouth Road, which has closed, and turn the property into an extension of its parking lot for showcasing vehicles.

"Our intention with this parcel is to beautify it by demolishing the building. adding some more landscaping, and then turning this eyesore into a parking displaying beautiful new vehicles," said Taylor Lin with Highland Townshipbased LAG Development.

Plans for the redevelopment were reviewed Feb. 22 by the Livonia Planning Commission during its meeting at Livonia City Hall.

The commission ultimately approved the waiver use petition submitted for the project, passing it along to the city council, which had already done a first reading on a rezoning request in the fall. With that recommendation, the petition will see a final determination decided by the council at a later date.

The Dough Boy property - which was formerly a gas station before becoming the doughnut shop in the 1970s - could accommodate as many as 40 vehicles once cleared.

Some concerns regarding vehicle

drop off were voiced to the city by those living south of the development off Laurel. One letter received by the city's planning department expressed concern over trucks using the residential

Matt Szabla, general sales manager for the dealership, said he keeps communication with delivery trucks so they know not to deliver straight to the dealership but to a receiver lot nearby.

"I'm not aware of any semis dropping off cars nor have I seen and if they do and I'm on the property, I make sure that we get them down there and they're not dropping them there and they drop them down the street where all the new cars are received," he said. "We'll con-

tinue to make sure we address it moving forward."

Mark Taormina, Livonia planning and economic development director, said having the additional driveways with the new property could help prevent further issues with vehicles turning onto Laurel instead of Plymouth

"Having this opening here now provides that opportunity for vehicles to exit out to Plymouth Road," he said. "I think actually it will improve the situation for the neighbors themselves."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



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#### **Millage**

Continued from Page 1A

go around, and the staff has their own livelihoods. So they dedicate the time they can to the fire department and there are only so many hours in the day. Everyone has their lives and family, so trying to supplement staffing there is like trying to pull teeth. This is all part of what you need to do to show necessity."

Moore applied for a 3-year Federal **Emergency Management Agency grant** that if awarded to Milford, would fully fund six full-time firefighters in the first year, would pay half of their salaries in the second year, and would cover a quarter of their salaries in the third year.

Approval for the grant is heavily dependent on applying communities showing they have a plan to sustain the firefighting staff after the grant runs out.

That contingency plan, Moore ex-

plains, is the millage.

"If the taxpayers bless us with a millage, then that millage isn't collected until 2023," he said.

Moore said 12 full-time firefighters would ensure four to cover each shift. He estimates each full-time firefighter will come with a yearly cost of \$100,000 including wages, benefits, and insur-

To support a staff of 12 full-time firefighters at an annual cost of \$1.2 million, voters would need to approve at least a 1.75-mill tax levy.

"No one wants to do this job," Moore said. "People just don't have the sense of community like they did. And there is only one way to fix it and it costs money — to hire people full-time so this is their job. Starting salary would be negotiated. To think someone would come and do this for \$40,000 per year is wishful thinking."

A full-time staff of 12 firefighters may also be wishful thinking.

Township Supervisor Don Green agreed that the township needs fulltime firefighters, but said with the millage: "Everybody's going to blow a cork."

"After having heard about this grant, I would go with six people, that's it," Green said. "If you don't have the money to back (the grant) up in the second and third year, you're in trouble... The big question is, how many firefighters and how much is it going to cost? You can't go for a millage and undershoot it or you're back where you started: not enough money to pay for the people you hired."

A mill equates to \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value on a property. Taxable value generally is one half a home's market value. So, a homeowner with a house valued at \$300,000 would pay about \$260 annually on a 175-mill tax.

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

"We've been looking at a millage for awhile for the increased staffing. It is a necessity. The current millage we have - and are very grateful for maintains our ability to serve the community, but it won't support full-time personnel. ... If the taxpayers bless us with a millage, then that millage isn't collected until 2023."

Tom Moore Milford fire chief

#### **Teacher**

Continued from Page 1A

tory and the District of Columbia every other year, has been a long time coming.

Superintendent Steve Matthews nominated Zahradnik in 2019. A stringent application process which included videos, verifiable data on teaching success and testimony from past and present students and parents followed but COVID-19 delayed the esteemed award after her selection.

It was worth the wait.

"I am elated. It's a presidential award and it's a pretty high honor," Zahradnik said. "There are other awards in education, but this one comes with a trip to Washington, a certificate signed by the president and \$10,000. I was shocked when I saw that."

She notes that teaching isn't usually associated with money, and it certainly wasn't why she chose to go into the profession 25 years ago. She has now been teaching elementary students in Novi for 21 years, nearly always math and science, though she also taught one year of Spanish.

Zahradnik loves teaching the youngest kids, whether it was first, third or now fifth graders, because every day is different and they bring "the good, the bad, and the ugly with no filter."

She also sets high expectations, because she knows her students can reach



Novi Meadows teacher Bridget Zahradnik high-fives fifth grader Caydence Madrigal during a lesson. Zahradnik is one of two Michigan recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I have seen for 25 years they are capable of doing incredible things," Zahradnik said. "They are not limited by what they know about society or problems in the world.

"They are not jaded, they're more in-

ventive and creative." Zahradnik wants to instill a love of

STEM in her students, but she knows not all will go in to science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields. Her larger motivation is to create problem solvers and critical thinkers, particularly as they look at how things evolve and change in the world of science as knowl-

When she was at Parkview Elementary, she worked to bring to the district the invention convention and innovation fair that is used at all grade levels and for all students in Novi.

The move away from the traditional science fair where students made volcanoes or dyed carnations with colored water to the invention convention has led to students picking a problem which can range from the plastic garbage patch in the ocean or their guinea pig flinging feces, and getting creative with solutions.

Some of the students' ideas or attempts to solve a problem have led to patents, including for a healthy lollipop and a LEGO sorter and picker-upper.

Besides the innovation convention, Zahradnik also initiated a fundraising drive for outdoor learning spaces in Novi. The efforts by her and others ultimately helped the district obtain a \$400,000 grant for outdoor education spaces.

Matthews praised Zahradnik for her dedication to the district.

"Bridget Zahradnik has been instrumental in updating our science curriculum and a strong advocate for engaging science instruction," he said. "She has helped move our district science curriculum forward and improved science instruction especially at the elementary

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

#### **Threats**

Continued from Page 1A

meant it or not," Bouchard said. "They'll be removed from school. It's going to affect their life. We don't want to obviously ruin anyone's life but the first job is to keep the schools safe."

Most metro Detroit districts canceled school the week of Oxford's Nov. 30 tragedy because of influx of reported online threats.

#### How best to respond to threat reports

Law enforcers expected the increase in school threats, which typically are associated with the aftermath school shootings. Officers and deputies experienced plenty of overtime, discussions with parents, checks for weapons at homes and real arrests.

"Sometimes it's a way to get attention. Sometimes I think it's a way to get out of school. I've heard a million different excuses, none of which make any sense to me," Bouchard said. "Because it causes so much anxiety and suffering and pain and fear and it's completely unacceptable on every level.

"That's why we investigate every threat regardless if it's credible or not. We seek charges on every threat."

Law enforcers' vigilance sometimes sparked criticism.

South Lyon community members took to social media, talking about pat downs, after East High School students were placed on a nearly four-hour Jan. 24 lockdown. Some worried about Fourth Amendment violations in the form of unreasonable searches and seizures of students. Others supported police efforts intended to prevent another

incident. Some also suggested that locking down an entire school might not be a reasonable reaction to an anonymous threat that, in this case, was a message in a girls' bathroom that referenced a shooting. A weapon was never found. No one has been arrested.

Bouchard estimated that his agency

investigated hundreds of threats after Oxford's school shooting. Sometimes, suspicious language in notes or conversation triggered the review. Sheriff's deputies played a part in more than 20 students being criminally charged for school threats.

Wayne County prosecutors have pursued charges in at least 35 school threat cases since Oxford.

Canton Township Police Chief Chad Baugh said his department conducted a thorough investigation when a student reported seeing another with a gun in his waistband on Dec. 9.

Nearly 20 police agencies sent officers to the scene. Students on Plymouth-Canton's high school campus suffered a lockdown of more than three hours before they were allowed to go home.

Police never found a weapon or a student to arrest

School was canceled the following

Baugh's officers had investigated complaints of school threats for all school levels in the preceding year. But Oxford changed everything.

"The break helped bring some calm," Baugh said. "There was a lot of concern for everyone in the region after we had something so close happen in our southeast Michigan area. Oxford - just that horrible event there - just put everyone on alert."

#### Dozens of school threats in cities

Livonia Police Lt. Charles Lister confirmed a large uptick in school threats needing investigation after Oxford's shooting.

Officers responded to 25 school threats that were fully investigated. A majority were reposts or concerned posts about incidents happening in other states

Livonia police filed the proper paperwork for three cases with the Wayne County prosecutors but there were no subsequent charges.

from officers, prosecutors, and govern-

ment and school officials that school

Calming the school environment. Lister said, is the same general message



Police and parents outside Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' high schools campus following a report of a "potential threat" at one of the schools Dec. 9. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

threats - especially those threatening violence - will not be tolerated.

"I think that has resulted in them dropping off to where we have not experienced any school threats in the last couple of weeks that we have had to investigate," he said. "Some of the kids maybe got the message to be careful what you post and what you say, especially on social media."

Bloomfield Township Police Lt. Paul Schwab said his department conducted more than 20 school threat investigations that led to one arrest. Guns that the school community sometimes reported seeing on cellphones were often associated with video games or airsoft guns for play.

'It was pretty intense for a while," he said. "The standing order from the chief was you will investigate these (and) you will determine if these are a credible threat or not, then take the appropriate actions no matter how long it takes."

Within days of Oxford's tragedy, Milford police arrested a 13-year-old boy whose social media post threatened Muir, Oak Valley and White Lake middle schools in the Huron Valley school sys-

He was charged with a one-year misdemeanor and pleaded guilty to the charge. If police had determined he had the means to carry out the threat - proof of a gun, planning, or ammunition, for example - he could have been charged with a 20-year felony.

"Threats, whether false or true, are a serious matter," Dan Caldwell, a Milford police detective and school resource officer, said. "A school threat is investigated to all ends and will not be tolerated by law enforcement, therefore, anyone thinking of making a threat should expect to be caught and prosecuted. "

He said the case required 30 hours of overtime for investigation. The district, he added, continues to evaluate school security and focus on training proper responses to staff.

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



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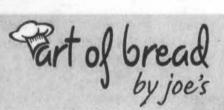
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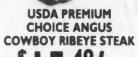
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## SPORTS



Stevenson's Ty Heath (left) gets up after missing a shot against Novi Feb. 25 during the Division 2 hockey regional semifinal at Novi Ice Arena. Stevenson won, 8-1. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Stevenson, Novi hockey battle early in D-2 regional semifinal

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

Novi's skaters exited the ice after the first period and made their way to the locker room.

Past the vending machines and the picnic tables. To the right and down the hall a little bit more.

The Wildcats were elated. They tapped their sticks on the con-

crete and yelled encouragement to each

"Let's go boys!" one said.

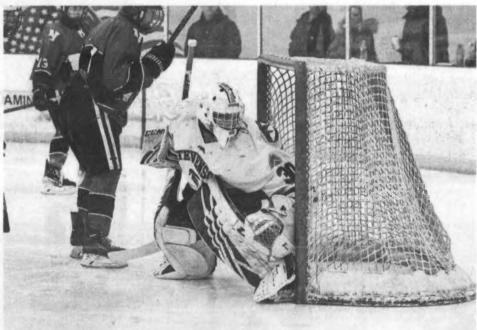
Coach Mark Vellucci revealed a halfsmile as he huddled with his assistants outside their team room.

It was 0-0 in Friday's Division 2 regional semifinal against No. 3-ranked Livonia Stevenson, and Novi was still in this thing.

The Wildcats had battled COVID-19 issues, injuries and everything else you could imagine that derailed what should've been a promising season following last year's regional championship victory.

For an eight-win team that went winless in its division of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, they were playing like it was their Super Bowl. And that left the Spartans looking for answers at the intermission.

"We knew Novi is a well-coached team. In a one-and-done situation, we



Stevenson goalie Zach Waldo watches the puck.

know that every team is going to bring everything that they have," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We knew full well they were going to play their hearts out, and they did that in the first period. We still thought we controlled the game a little bit. But give credit to them. They (Novi) played a whale of a first period.

"Mark Vellucci, who is such a good friend of mine, does just a good job with this program. They played their hearts out, and it puts us in a different situation. We had to relax a little bit and talk to our guys that it was OK. This is playoff hockey."

See BATTLE, Page 2B

#### Northville senior's two goals help lead hockey team to win

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

It was nowhere near garbage time. In fact, the Northville hockey team carried just a two-goal lead into the second period. Clearly, one or two insurance goals were needed if the Mustangs wanted to guarantee a victory in Saturday's Division 1 regional semifi-

And the insurance came. Oh boy, did it ever.

In the span of 2 minutes, 12 seconds early in the second, Northville rifled in four-straight scores to turn a close-call into a 6-0 lead over Lenawee United, a co-op squad made up of Adrian and seven surrounding schools.

And then with 4:27 left in regulation, Andrew Sziraki stole the puck before LU could clear its zone, split three defenders and throw in a shorthanded walk-off goal against goalie Seth Kordyzon to secure the 8-0 mercy-rule

Immediately afterward, the Mustangs' bench leapt over the boards, rushed to the east end of Kensington Valley Ice House and gang tackled Sziraki in celebration.

But, wait, why mention garbage time then?

Normally, that's when role players or skaters who are last on the bench get their shine. Most of the time, they're in there to experience a few minutes of playoff hockey. Sometimes they'll even collect a goal or an assist.

For senior Braden Fuller, he finally got his name on the scorer's sheet for the first time as a varsity player.

Actually, the forward — it's impornt to emphasize what position he plays - scored twice, with both goals coming during that two-minute stretch of the second period that turned a tight game into an eventual big win.

That's right. Northville's third-liner came up with two important goals. They were needed to win the game. These weren't garbage-time scores. And they were far from gimmes.

"He's been working his butt off to get a goal," Northville coach Gordie Brown said. "For him to get two goals in one shift was fun for the rest of the players.

During that section of where we went from 2-0 to 4-0 and to 6-0, seeing him get a goal just picked up the energy on the bench."

So why is this a big deal?

It's because Fuller has earned every second of his playing time.

See GOALS, Page 2B

## Detroit Catholic Central wrestling wins team regional

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

Dylan Gilcher is almost always joking around, or at the very least, lifting the moods of others around him.

And it's obvious why the Detroit Catholic Central wrestler acts like that. Simply put, he's confident. He's con-

fident in his skill set as a 140-pound

grappler. He's confident that his teammates-will perform well in their matches. He's confident his team will always

It's easy to keep things lighthearted when you know you're going to be successful.

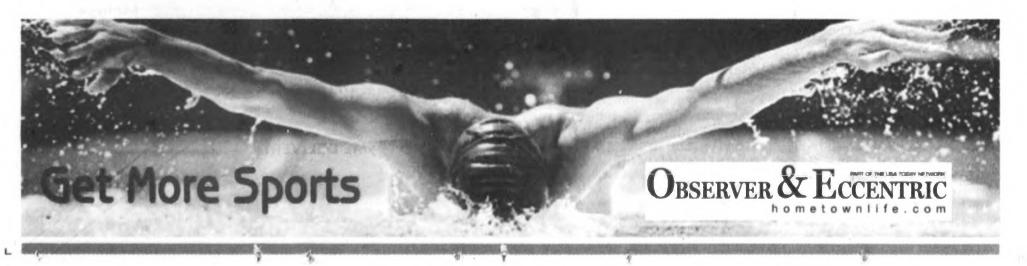
Yet the junior recently ran into his first bout of nervousness and unconfidence last week.

No, it wasn't during his matches at the Division 1 district tournament. He blitzed through his bracket to advance to the championship against Livonia Franklin's Tyler Garrett, who he pinned in 2 minutes, 16 seconds to claim the individual district title.

Nor was he timid when he helped the Shamrocks win Wednesday's D-1 team regional championship with an 80-0 See WRESTLING, Page 5B

victory over Franklin in their home gym. In fact, he spent just 54 seconds on the mat between his two matches, which included him pinning his opponent in his championship match in only 14 seconds. Yeah, seriously.

What really made Gilcher secondguess his confidence — even if it was for



## Pinckney seniors reflect after loss to Milford

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CHELSEA — Evan Drus stepped out of Pinckney's dressing room by himself, still in full hockey equipment, and stared out toward the ice surface at Arctic Coliseum while the Zamboni did its laps.

In those few moments before rejoining his teammates, Drus' Pinckney hockey career flashed through his mind.

He didn't dwell on the negative ending, an 8-4 loss to Milford in a Division 3 regional semifinal Saturday night, but on the Pirates' accomplishments on that sheet of ice over his three seasons.

"Just all the memories I've had here," Drus said. "Just the good times with my friends, and I've made a lot of them."

The Pirates won a lot, too, during the careers of Drus and Pinckney's other II seniors.

A program that was 8-42-2 in the two years before the Class of 2022 began arriving on the scene went 49-45-1 over the past four seasons. This year's 16-10 record is one of the best in program history.

"My message was to the seniors, 'Thank you,' " fourth-year Pinckney coach Kenny Grundy said. "We've had a lot of good times, a lot of big victories and I wanted to keep everything positive, so it was an upbeat meeting. Obviously, it's not the way we wanted it to



Pinckney's Jackson Christopher chases a loose puck in front of Milford goalie Cooper Langley on Feb. 26 during the Pirates' 8-4 loss in a regional semifinal.

DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

end, but Milford was the better team to-

Forwards Bennett Sheppard and Jacob Meade, and goaltender Max Lederer are the four-year players in Pinckney's senior class.

Sheppard scored his 50th career goal to go with 74 assists in 93 games with 14:59 left in the third period.

Meade finished with 34 goals and 48 assists in 92 games, while Drus had 36 goals and 52 assists in 61 games in three seasons.

"Summer of freshman season, we didn't start out well," Sheppard said. "Over time, the boys figured out what they wanted to do. Grundy really helped us out. He made us work really hard and disciplined everybody my freshman year and throughout."

A season-ending loss in the state playoffs is always the worst time of the year, but it was particularly difficult for the Pirates this season. Not only is it the final game for II seniors, but the Pirates were among several contenders in a wide-open regional. They beat every team in the regional during the regular season, including a 3-1 victory over Milford on Nov. 24.

"It feels a little bit different this year, because we had a really good team," Sheppard said. "I felt like we could have had a chance if we would've got there to beat Chelsea and win us a mitten for the first time in Il years. It's a little tough."

Instead, it will be Milford that takes on Chelsea at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Arctic Coliseum. Milford reached a regional final for the first time since 2007.

Pinckney's only lead came 1:12 into the game when Brendan Sullivan scored

the first of his two goals.

Milford countered with four goals in a
4:33 span to take a 4-1 lead with 2:16 left in the first period.

The Pirates cut the deficit to 4-2 on Sullivan's goal 1:35 into the second and had some great chances on a power play to get within a goal, but James Pennebaker knocked in a rebound after Jack Clickett was stopped on a breakaway shortly after the Mavericks killed the penalty.

Down 6-2 after two periods, Pinckney had a glimmer of hope when Sheppard scored on the power play at 2:01 of the third, but Milford responded with two goals to put the game out of reach. Pinckney defenseman Seth O'Neill scored with 1:42 remaining for the game's final goal.

#### Battle

Continued from Page 1B

Novi gave Stevenson a scare early. And it continued well into the second period.

The Spartans fought off a 5-on-3 and then Nick Sharkey threw in a rebound to put them ahead. But, fewer than 3 minutes later, Novi's Max Kinter knotted the score by going five-hole with a shot off a faceoff.

Almost 10 minutes of the period went by before Stevenson finally relaxed.

And then it couldn't stop scoring. Andrew Elliott, Owen Penny and Adam Heard each scored in the final 7 minutes to give Stevenson a 4-1 lead entering the next intermission.

And then Stevenson scored four more times in the third to turn an upset-special into an 8-1 win.

It took grit, and it took patience, but the Spartans pushed through past the

pesky Wildcats.

Stevenson (19-6) faced KLAA rival Canton in Wednesday's regional final at Novi Ice Arena.

"You just want to get that first one (goal), and we got that first one. But give them credit. They came right back and got one right back and tied it up," Mitchell said. "It's a good, teachable moment for us and our kids. Hats off to them. They didn't have the year they wanted to but they had one heck of an effort tonight.

"There are still some quality players over there. Playoff hockey is such where you're going to have bounces against you and breaks against you. You're going to have bad situations. We got down on a 5-on-3 against, and we dug ourselves into some holes. The key is to not dig yourself into so many holes and to capitalize when you've got the chances."

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



Stevenson's Charlie Ward pushes the puck forward against Novi on Feb. 25 during the Division 2 hockey regional semifinal at Novi Ice Arena.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

#### Goals

Continued from Page 1B

For his entire life, he's played defenseman. But he's never cracked the varsity lineup. He's been relegated to playing on the blue line for Northville's JV the past three years.

Sensing that time was running out for Fuller to make the varsity, Brown asked Fuller to change positions.

Fuller didn't hesitate. This past fall, he started learning how to play wing, and he's been a valuable resource to the team. He hustles out there for 20- or 30-second shifts to give the starters a breather. He can put a hit on an opponent when it's needed. He can lay out and block shots. And, most importantly, he's the liveliest on the bench.

"He's played defense most of his life, but he converted to forward because we were heavy on D," Brown added. "He has a great character and is a great person. We said, 'Your best chance to be on the varsity and getting to play is by playing forward.' We had to convert him to forward and teach him to play wing and how to play forward. It's taken some time, but it's nice to see it pay off for him toward the end of his senior year. ... He cheers everyone on and works his butt off. He's just a really good kid."

Fuller calls himself "a grinder," which is a fitting term to describe his personality. He's about as lunch-pail as it gets.

He's had some experience playing forward during spring and summer league games, but it took serious dedication for him to learn his new role during training camp last fall.

When he scored his first goal, he couldn't even think about himself. He knew what it meant for his team's goals of advancing in the playoffs.

"Being able to put my first one on the board in a big game and help us keep rolling to, hopefully, win a regional and go on to win a state championship was pretty exciting," the senior said.

And to score a second goal exactly 30 seconds later?

A A PLENIT

Northville's Braden Fuller (left) battles Lenawee United's Aldo Barba for the puck Feb. 26 during the Division 1 hockey regional semifinal. Northville had a mercy-rule victory, 8-0. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

"Any time somebody on the team scores, it's pretty exciting," he said. "I was just excited to see all the excitement on my teammates' faces and be able to jump around, get big hugs and get fist bumps.

"I play more of a grinder role, and I help bring energy. So getting on the scoring (sheet) was pretty fun."

And no garbage time was necessary.

Fuller's effort was needed.

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



Northville teammates celebrate a goal. "Any time somebody on the team scores, it's pretty exciting," said senior forward Braden Fuller. "... to jump around, get big hugs and get fist bumps."

**Brad Emons** Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

After finishing third in the Catholic League's rugged Central Division basketball race, Orchard Lake St. Mary's acquitted itself quite nicely once the Bishop tournament started.

The Eaglets used a balanced scoring attack Saturday night to beat tournament upstart Novi Detroit Catholic Central for the third time this season, 68-48, at Eastern Michigan University's George Gervin GameAbove Center.

Four players scored in double figures as the Eaglets (15-4) earned their 11th Catholic League title in school history. Senior point guard Kareem Rozier, headed for Duquesne, led the way with 17 points, while Western Michiganbound JaVaughn Hannah added 16.

Freshman guard Trey McKenney also did his part with 14 points, while 6-foot-7 senior center DeCorion Temple, who is headed to Central Michigan to play football, gave OLSM a lift off the bench to add 13.

OLSM, which seems to be peaking at the right time heading into the Division 1 state tourney, now earns a spot in next Friday's "Operation Friendship" game at Calihan Hall against Detroit Public School League champion Detroit King

Trailing by 16 at the half, CC tried to make a game of it by hitting nine of 15 shots from the field while cutting the deficit to eight. But Rozier helped offset the Shamrocks' rally by scoring 11 points, including three 3-pointers to keep the Eaglets ahead 51-39 after three quarters.

McKenney made two shots to start the fourth to put the Eaglets up by 17 and the Shamrocks never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Freshman guard Sharod Barnes' 13foot jumper with one second left gave St. Mary's a 17-11 advantage after one period despite the Eaglets making just seven of 18 shots from the floor.

CC made four turnovers during the opening quarter while shooting 4-for-12.

In the second, St. Mary's went on a 14-2 run to open the period, hitting five of seven shots as Hannah ignited the surge with a steal and a dunk, followed

by a 3-pointer.

Meanwhile, CC missed its first 10 shots until a basket by T.J. Nadeau (14 points) broke the drought with 2:14 remaining in the half.

Temple, who made an immediate impact with six points, made a layup with five seconds left off an assist from Rozier to put the Eaglets up 35-19 at the half as Hannah led the way with 11 points.

Catholic Central (10-8), which finished fifth in the Central, had lost twice to St. Mary's in division play, 75-64 and 81-64.

The Shamrocks got a game-high 18 points from senior forward Kam Mayes.
Catholic Central will face PSL runner-up Detroit Western (15-4) in the other "Operation Friendship" game at 6

p.m. Friday at Calihan.

Two-time defending champion Riverview Gabriel Richard kept its perfect season intact holding off a second-half charge by Clarkston Everest Collegiate, 47-43, in the Cardinal Division final at EMU.

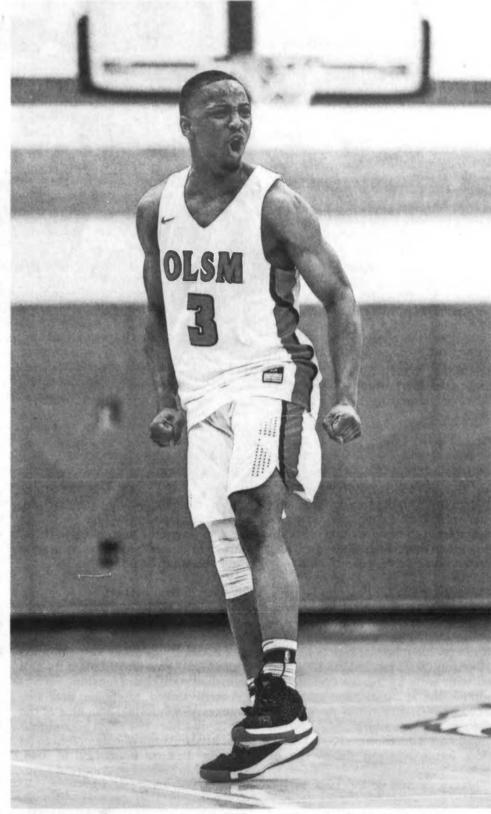
The Pirates, who led 30-19 at halftime, won their 19th straight behind 13 points apiece from senior center Michael Calhoun and freshman guard Luke Westerdale. Senior guard Cainan Harrison chipped in with 10.

The Pirates, the Intersectional 1 champs, did it without the guts of their team, senior guard Nicholas Szezechowski, who went down with an apparent brain injury after fighting for a loose ball under the Everest basket with 3:27 left in the opening half.

Sczezechowski, the team's secondleading scorer and rebounder had scored five points. He was transported to Mott Children's Hospital and appeared conscious as he left the court on a stretcher.

"This was for Nick," Gabriel Richard coach Kris Daiek said. "My wife says you always want to leave a wrinkle in the brains of the kids, and this was the wrinkle in the brain for the kids. They're going to remember this forever. We came in at halftime and said, 'Everything is off the table. This is for him.'"

Senior guards Lucas Cross and Joey Thibodeau paced Collegiate (13-5), the Intersectional 2 champion, with 15 and 13 points, respectively.



St. Mary's guard Kareem Rozier celebrates scoring a 3-point basket against
Brother Rice on Jan. 14 during the first half at Orchard Lake St. Mary's
Preparatory High School in West Bloomfield Township. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS





## Davison, Lowell, Dundee and Hudson claim titles

**Tom Lang** Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

KALAMAZOO – Upsets were few and far between at the team wrestling state finals on Saturday afternoon at Wings Event Center.

Each of the four divisions' No. 1 seeds took home titles.

Defending Division 1 champ Davison had the closest challenge in a 29-21 victory over Novi Detroit Catholic Central. The Shamrocks could have won if they scored a pin in the final match, but Davison junior Josh Barr got a 4-3 decision over Manny Rojas, late in the 171-pound match, to seal the team victory. Both Barr and Rojas are two-time defending individual state champions.

Lowell earned an amazing ninth consecutive Div. 2 title with a 46-16 victory over Goodrich. Dundee is chasing the Red Arrows' streak, though, as the Vikings earned their fifth Div. 3 championship in a row by defeating Alma, 55-12 on Saturday. Finally, Hudson — a 47-13 winner over New Lothrop — was triumphant again after winning three straight from 2017-19.

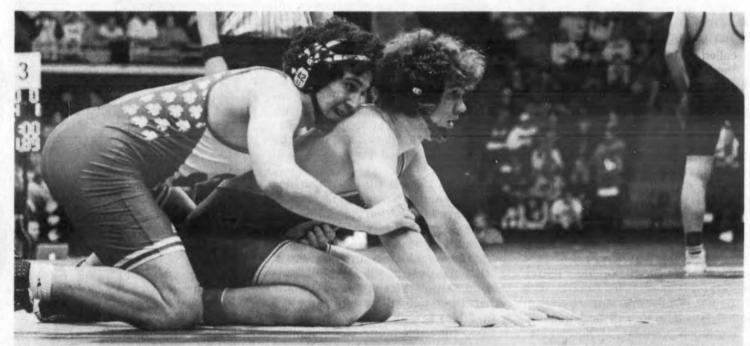
#### Division 1: 'A chip on our shoulder'

"We put a chip on our shoulder all year," Davison coach Zac Hall said. "It's a mental thing for the kids, who are able to believe in their ability, trust the process and trust themselves that we were going to win that match. Those guys had to extend themselves even though they were tired.

"That took a lot of heart and guts, a great match," Hall said of Barr's win.
"Really, a lot of that match he was losing. He almost got a takedown here, doesn't get it but he just kept going."

Davison (19-4) jumped out to a 12-0 lead with wins by Remey Cotton (189 pounds), Jimmy Colley (215) and Zane Richardson (HWT). DCC (14-4) narrowed the gap near the end when Tatum Bunn got a 5-3 decision over Kyle White, before Barr's win put things out of reach

"Manny is one of the best in the country," Barr said after the match. "It's an honor to even be able to step on the mat with him. It's matches like these that get me up in the morning. I like a



Davison's Remey Cotton, right, defeated Connor Bercume of Detroit Catholic Central in the 189-pound weight class. TOM LANG/SPECIAL TO DETROIT FREE PRESS

challenge, and Manny is for sure that."
The only pin recorded in the dual was

The only pin recorded in the dual was in the 103 class; DCC's Nathan Walkowiak scored a fall at the 1:37 mark to bring the Shamrocks back to 12-6.

The two programs have had a fierce rivalry over the years. DCC won four consecutive state titles from 2017-20, beating Davison in the final in 17 and '20. The programs have 16 state titles, with eight apiece, since the team dual format began in 1996.

#### Division 2: Red Arrows fly straight with four pins

The Red Arrows just keep rolling over their competition. Their 30-point margin Saturday gave the program its 12th team dual state championship.

Lowell trailed after the first two matches, 6-5, but then won nine of the last 12 matches. The team scored four pins: Bryson Vandermeulen (285) in 32 seconds, Jackson Blum (119) in 3:44, Nate Cleaver (152) in 4:33 and Case Husiman (171) in 2:35.

"I try not to think about it much to be honest," Lowell coach RJ Boudro said about his school's ninth consecutive title. "These kids deserve it just as much as the first ones. And really, I think that's why we have nine — we don't look at it as a streak, but more as a part of what we do.

"Honestly, to win nine in a row is absurd, especially in a sport like wrestling where you've got sickness, skin infections, injuries; all those things come into play. People take it for granted how much goes into that, and making weight, do your homework, things like that. It's hard to do that nine tournaments in a row, yet alone nine seasons."

Goodrich (31-3) has been the runnerup to Lowell (23-3) three times in four seasons.

#### Division 3: Dundee's big comeback

Dundee started out in a 9-0 hole after Alma's Jacob Munger (189 pounds) won and Adam Garcia (215) earned a pin in 1:22. But the Vikings won II of the last 12 matches to earn their fifth consecutive team title.

Dundee scored seven pins: Kaiden Hubbell (HWT) in 30 seconds, Ashton Viers (103) in 14 seconds, Kyle Smith (119) in 1:26, Braeden David (125) at the 3:22 mark, Logan Sander (140) at 3:02, Aiden Davis (152) in 1:47 and Casey Swi-

derski (171) at 2:49.

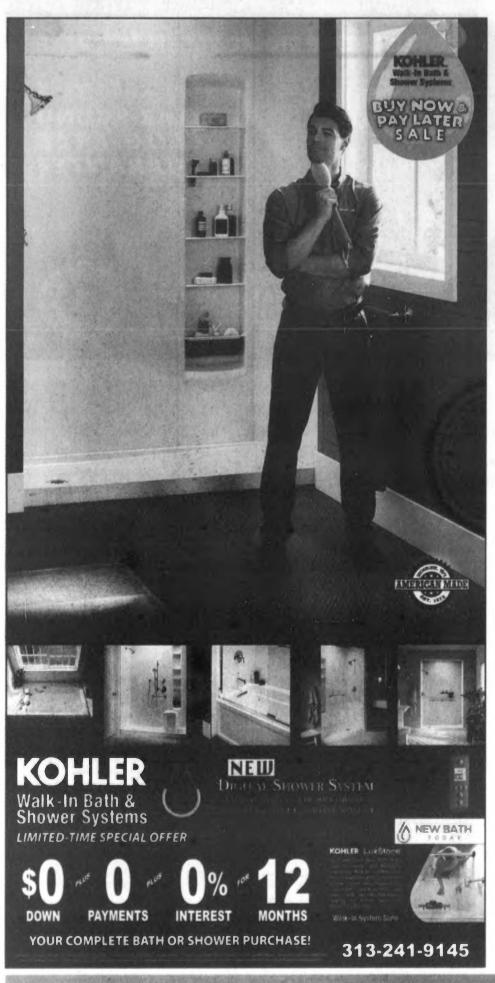
Head coach Tim Roberts said the five titles "are each their own challenge, and it's a new challenge every time. So, this one is just as special as the first one. We came in with five state champs returning, so we knew we could be good. But they were all 152 (pounds) and below. So we had to figure out how to spread it out to make a complete lineup with a bunch of green guys from there on up."

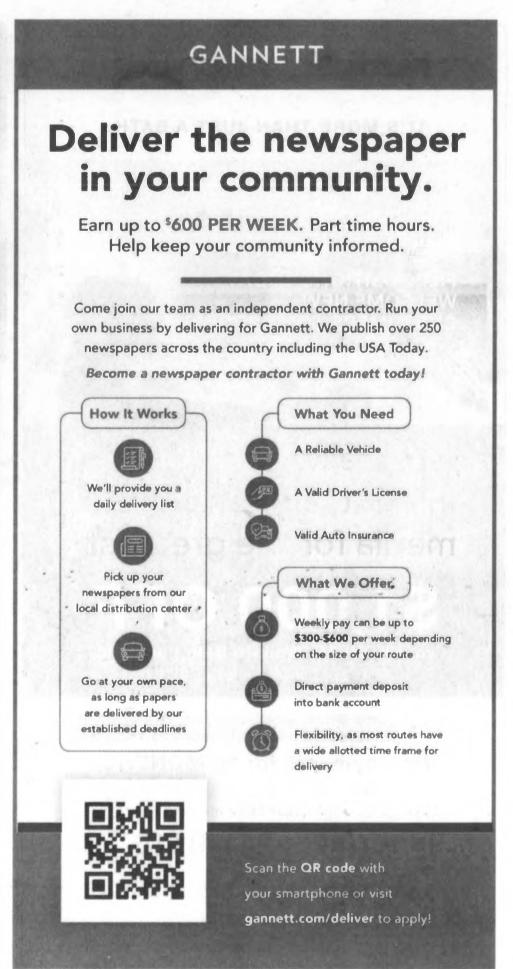
#### **Division 4: Hudson pride**

Clinton was the best in Div. 4 the past two years, beating Hudson and New Lothrop, respectively, but moved up to Div. 3 this season.

That left the two past runners-up to battle to the end, as they had so many times before: Hudson won five straight in 2009-2013, followed by three New Lothrop state titles in 2014-16, then three more by Hudson.

"These kids earned this title, I mean they worked so hard," Hudson head coach Scott Marry said. "I'm very proud of them winning a state title in football then putting it all together for us here. And I'm not kidding you, they're going to be not too bad in baseball."





#### Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

just a brief moment - was when he called his bigger brother and told Derek

On Feb. 12, Dylan tweeted that he had verbally committed to Michigan's wrestling team, joining a long list of Shamrocks that have become Wolverines. Currently, three CC graduates wrestle at U-M in Brendin Yatooma, Cameron Amine and Myles Amine.

So what's the big deal here? That's great news, something a bigger brother would certainly be proud of. Well, Derek, a former CC state champion wrestler at 160 pounds, is a sophomore at Big Ten rival Indiana. And Dylan chose the Wolverines over other offers from Purdue, Oklahoma and, yep, you guessed it,

"That wasn't a call I was looking forward to making," Dylan recalled. "I was just a little nervous before it because I didn't know how he'd take it."

So, how did Derek react?

"He was just 100% proud and just" happy for me," said Dylan, beaming with a smile. "He said, 'Dylan, that's amazing! You've got this down as a junior. You already know where you're going!

"It just made me really happy because I wasn't expecting him to react like that. It was a shock to me a little bit."

It wasn't a shock to 15th-year coach Mitch Hancock, who's had the pleasure of coaching both Derek and Dylan.

Derek was all-business at CC, Hancock said. He was like a coach's dream. Derek showed up, put in the work and was what Hancock likes to say "in the

If you're "in the zone" at CC, you're likely a state title contender. And Dylan, too, is always locked in before matches. Only he's a bit liberal about being laserfocused when it comes to practice or being away from the mat.

"His first two years here, he'd drive me up a wall," Hancock said. "He always wanted to joke around. He was always asking wild questions. He was just a goofball. It took me until the end of his sophomore year to figure out how to really coach him. I figured it out: You just let him do his own thing and have some fun, and you can see the product that you get on the mat. You just let him go out there and have some fun."

Dylan's work speaks for itself, though. He's already a two-time individual state champion at 112 and 135 pounds.

He won last week's district championship and will likely win the upcoming regional tournament.

As of this writing, he boasts a 55-1 record this season, which includes 31 pins, 10 victories by way of technical falls and six major decisions.

Plus, he's been successful on the national circuit, whether it's the Super 32 Challenge showcase in Greensboro, North Carolina, the US Marine Corps Junior and 16-U National Championships in Fargo, North Dakota, or anywhere else they hold top-flight wrestling com-

It's a no-brainer why U-M recruited him. Hopefully, the Wolverines will enjoy his jokes and banter in the practice room

"The neat thing about Dylan is he's pretty laid back," Hancock added. "It took me a couple of years to get used to his mentality and his laid-back demeanor. He's just a loveable, likable guy, and he's always playing around. I like that, and I think our team needs that. I think I need that as a coach, too, because he really puts into perspective what being on a team is all about. We train so hard all the time. We talk about focus and (staying in) the zone all the time. He brings that uniqueness of, 'Let's have some fun!' sometimes, and I love it."

Added Dylan: "I just like to have fun with it. After all, it is just wrestling. If we can have fun with it, I think we should. Of course, you need to narrow in before your match. It's just more fun. It brings up the mood with everybody around you."

Dylan will look to add to his resume when the Shamrocks attempt to win their ninth state championship under Hancock since 2010 next week at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo.

CC hopes to avenge last season's 29-24 loss to Davison in the state final. The Cardinals face Macomb Dakota in their quarterfinal and will likely take on either Grandville or Holt in the semifinal.

There's a chance the two programs will rematch in the championship.

"We kind of know we should be a toptwo team," Dylan said. " ... Our motto is, 'The standard is the standard.' Our standard is to be No. 1, and we know we should be that because of the work we put in."





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## **Obituaries**

#### To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

#### Patricia A. Stringer

NORTHVILLE - Age 78, a longtime resident of Northville, passed away unexpectedly on February 20, 2022. She was born on May 8, 1943, in Youngstown, Ohio; daughter of Paul Vernon and Marybelle (Morrison) Hathhorn. She graduated from Boardman High School; class of 1961. Pat continued her education at Bowling Green State University where she received a bachelor's degree in education. During her years at BGSU Pat was a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. She cherished the bond she made with her sisters and enjoyed meeting other members. With her passion for ed-



ucation, she also achieved a Master's in Education from the University of

Michigan.

Pat started her teaching career in 1965 in Birmingham and Livonia. With the birth of her children, Pat dedicated her life to her dream of being a mother. She was her children's rock and faithfully committed her life to them. In 1985, Pat restarted her teaching career within the Northville Public Schools teaching upper elementary, first at Silver Springs and then Thornton Creek elementary schools. She retired in 2000 but never stopped her love of education and her devotion to her students. Pat was a gifted teacher with high expectations and deep care for her students.

She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Northville, where she served on the Board of Trustees and spent countless hours volunteering her time to help others. Every year she looked forward to volunteering for Hospitality Week and enjoyed cooking every Wednesday for FUMC. Pat involved herself with Sharing Hearts, bible study, and any

outreach program available.

With her larger-than-life one-of-a-kind personality Pat drew her friends and family into all of her social activities. For the past 50 years, Pat enjoyed playing cards, especially bridge, with her neighborhood group. She was a hands-on, over the top grandma, who cherished her time with her grandchildren, teaching them numerous card games and visited with them whenever she could. She loved music and was an avid gardener who took great pride in the upkeep of her home. Pat loved her neighborhood, was a great host and never shied away from community involvement or a friend in need. Pat will be remembered for her kindness, spunkiness, and her willingness to help others.

She is survived by her children Amy and Jason, their spouses Bill Mowat and Ann Katrin Terlaak and her grandchildren, Finnian, Niels, Annika, Kai, Henry, and Sadie. Pat is loved by her many friends, neighbors, and students. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Thomas Hathhorn, her beloved sister in-law Bonnie Hathhorn and her best friend Kate Balai.

A funeral service was held Saturday, February 26, 2022 at the First United Methodist Church. Mrs. Stringer was laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the First United Methodist Church - Hospitality Week, Northville Civic Concern, or Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home.



#### Gerald 'Jerry' Vierra

ROYAL OAK - Gerald 'Jerry' Vierra, 87, passed away of a stroke on February 16, 2022, in Royal Oak, MI. Jerry was born in Denver, CO on October 13, 1934, to Frederick Vierra and Marion Adams Vierra. Fred and Marion divorced and she alone raised Jerry and his two brothers, Fred and J.D., in Tulsa, OK. Jerry graduated from East Central High School in the class of 1952 and later continued his education with a degree in English in 1965 from the University of Tulsa, which left him a passionate quoter of Shakespeare, Milton, and Chaucer ever thereafter. On December 18, 1954, Jerry married



the woman of his dreams, the warm and kind Sue Robertson Vierra, to whom he was a devoted and loving husband until her passing on September 12, 2007. In 1959 they welcomed their beloved daughter, Pamela, into their lives. Jerry served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was stationed in San Francisco, a city he would admire for his entire life. He led a long career in HR, working for the State of Oklahoma and for United Safety & Claims. A proud Okie, Jerry lived in Tulsa until 2012, when he relocated to Michigan to be with his daughter and grandchildren. More than anything, Jerry will be remembered for his exuberant and sharp sense of humor. No matter the conversation, he always had a warm and clever response to liven things up, and neither Oklahoma sandstorms, nor Michigan snowstorms, nor old age ever dampened his characteristic wit, which was his gift to all. Jerry is survived by his loving daughter, Pamela Vierra McKevitz and her husband Mike McKevitz, his grandsons Danny Terrell and Anthony Zilli, his brother Fred Vierra, his sister-in-law Marcia Blalack, his erstwhile son-in-law, Tony Zilli and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. If Jerry were here now, he would perhaps share again this tidbit of Shakespeare that always captured

The poet's eye, in fine frenzy rolling, Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;

And as imagination bodies forth

The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen Turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing

A local habitation and a name.

Services will occur at a later date and will be posted on www.nationalcremation.com

#### Roger Lee St. John

MILFORD, MICHIGAN - Roger Lee St. John, 84, went to his heavenly home on Sunday, February 20, 2022, from his home in Milford, Michigan while surrounded by his loving family. Born November 10, 1937, in Negaunee Michigan to Paul and Leona St. John, he was a loving and devoted husband to Sharon J. St. John (Pezzotti) sharing sixty-three years of marriage. Roger is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Leona, Sylvia and Egnazio Pezzotti, and brother Paul St. John.

Roger was a 1955 graduate of Negaunee High School and was the president of his graduating

class for four years while attaining the honor of being selected to Boys State during his senior year. He was a 1959 graduate of Northern Michigan University where he was the starting fullback for two years. Roger was also a graduate of the University of Michigan with a master's degree in education in 1965. He was a dedicated educator for forty years, helping shape the lives of many while teaching at Brooklyn (Michigan) High School, Lowry Junior High School, Fordson High School, and Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan. In addition to teaching, Roger was passionate about carpentry, woodworking, building, and remodeling. He was also an avid outdoorsman who loved camping, hunting, and fishing. Roger enjoyed coaching basketball at Brooklyn High School and Lowry Junior High School, as well as little league baseball. But most of all, he loved cheering on his grandchildren at numerous soccer and baseball games.

Roger was a beloved member of Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church for thirty years where he served on its Session for ten. He later served on the Session at Milford Presbyterian Church where three of those four years were on

the Personnel Committee.

Roger is survived by his wife, Sharon; his sons Craig (Tonni) St. John and Todd (Pamela) St. John; brother-in-law, Eugene (Carol) Pezzotti; his grandchildren Jeffery (Bayli) Junod, Hailey Junod, Jessica Junod, Samantha (Logan) Dykstra, Ryan (Julia) St. John, Quinten (Hayleigh) Junod, Rachel (Seth) Bale, Dakota St. John, Kendall St. John, and Taylor St. John; ten great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews.

All of those Roger loved and touched deeply, please join us in celebrating his life at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 North Main Street, Milford, Michigan on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 1:00 pm. Luncheon to imme-

diately follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Milford Presbyterian Church. **GO PACK! GO TIGERS!** 

#### **Doris Ayres**

Doris Ayres died on Monday December 20, 2021 at the age of 94. She was born Doris Virginia Kelley on August 8, 1927 to Blenda Ulreka (Gunterman) Kelley and Russell B. Kelley. She is survived by daughter Kathy Bromm, son Tim (Barbie) Yeomans, grandchildren, Amy Da-



vidson, Colleen (Michael) Comey, Joey (Leilani) Bromm, Michael (Michelle) Bromm and Reagan (Chris Schonbachler) Yeomans, and 9 great grandchildren.

Doris grew up in Detroit, Michigan and attended John Pershing High School. She had many lifelong friends and some, like herself, went to Civil Air Patrol meetings where they did parachute jumps in 1945. This is where she met her first husband Ronald E. Yeomans who died in 1970 after 22 years of marriage. Later she married Louis Robert Ayres (Bob) and they shared 25 years together. They lived in the small community of Centennial Farms in South Lyon, Michigan, where they made wonderful, lasting friendships. They enjoyed spending time at the clubhouse, down at the small lake and at neighborhood BBQ's. These were some

of their happiest times. Bob and Doris travelled to many foreign countries primarily with group tours. One notable trip was a Scandinavian tour that included Sweden where she got to visit her mother's birth country. Doris was a true Michigander and even though she travelled the U.S. and spent her last few years in Florida under Kathy's care, she loved Michigan the most, especially Lake Michigan with its white sand beaches. She often said that of all the places

she experienced Lake Michigan was the best. Doris was an accomplished acrylic artist, painting mostly nature scenes and rural Michigan landscapes; she also loved to knit. She was an avid reader and she was genuinely interested in everyone she met and what others had to say, which made her stand out to her South Lyon neighbors, new acquaintances, fellow travelers and friends of friends. While her formal education was basically high school and a few classes at Wayne State University in Detroit, she was smart and savvy. Doris was truly one of the greatest generation. We will sincerely miss you.



**Esther Helland** 

Esther Helland, age 96, Feb 16, 2022. Beloved wife of Allan for 62 years. Loving mother of Lynn (Dr. Cheryl Huckins) Helland, Kathy (Vaughn) Marderosian, Jan (George) Greulich, Leila (Pat) Leupold, Audrey (Marty) Moro and Gail (Paul) Horalek. Proud grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 25.

Esther's life was celebrated with a service at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville on February 26, 2022. She is resting peacefully in Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia.

If you wish to send share a treasured memory or send the family a message of condolence, please visit www.HarryJWillLivonia.com

Hany J Will Funeral Homes





## NYBL little league registration underway

**Courtesy of Brad Leidal** 

Registration is open for the Novi Youth Baseball League's spring season. The season will begin with practices in April, league play starting in early May and playoffs and all-star games in late June. Players can register at www.noviyouthbaseball.com. Discount for registering by March 15

NYBL baseball offers baseball fundamentals and

sportsmanship while having fun.

The league offers baseball for all skill levels over six divisions based on the players age: Pinto Division is a machine pitch division for players ages 6-8; Kid pitch baseball begins with Mustang Division (9-10); and continues with Bronco Division (11-12); Pony Division (13-14); Colt Division (15-16); and Palomino Division (17-18)

The league's home games are played at ITC Community Sports Park at Eight Mile and Napier roads.

"Our coaches and volunteers do a great job working with all players whether they're brand new to baseball or an experienced player," NYBL President Brad Leidal said. "Our coaches look forward to seeing how the players improve over the course of the season and Coach Rob Hernandez. learn to come together and play as a team."

The Novi Youth Baseball League was founded 1957 and is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year.

"I've talked to people who have played in the NYBL over the years, including the original Novi Little League back in 1957 when their home field was where Novi Town Center is now, and there is a lot of history in this organization," Leidal added. "Our Board of Directors works year round to build on this foundation and make this a great league for our players and the com-

The 2021 spring and fall seasons were a return after COVID-19-related challenged in 2020. The league was able to renew its partnerships with the Northville Baseball Softball Association, Lakes Area Baseball, Huron Valley Youth Baseball and Softball League, and the Bloomfield Baseball League as well as developing a new partnership with the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association this past fall.

But last season was not without great sadness. The NYBL lost two longtime directors with the death of umpire director John Slack and longtime director

The NYBL fall uniforms had their initials on the front of their jerseys as a tribute to both men, and Leidal said the board voted unanimously to honor them

"John and Rob are greatly missed," he said. "They both had a passion for teaching the game and making the league better. Their enthusiasm is an example for

The NYBL is a community based, non-profit organization run by an all-volunteer board of directors.

In addition to volunteers, the league is always looking for good umpires to add to its umpire roster.

Anyone interested in umpiring is encouraged to contact NYBL Umpire Director Jack Janigian at jackbjanigian@gmail.com. NYBL umpires are welltrained in the rules of the game and the league provides training to all new umpires. In addition to NYBL games umpires may also be able to work Novi Heat travel baseball games.

Registration is open through April 1. To register for the upcoming spring season or to inquire with any questions, visit www.noviyouthbaseball.com.

## Three locals win scholarship, **MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award**

**Brandon Folsom** 

Hometownlife com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced 13 winners for their 33rd annual MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award program in Class

Three seniors from the Hometown Life coverage area made the grade: White Lake Lakeland's Maeve Spicer, Birmingham Seaholm's Brady Wright and Detroit Catholic Central's Neil Zhu.

Each winner receives a \$2,000 college scholar-

To be eligible for the honor, athletes must carry at least a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average, play a varsity sport and actively participate in their community or an after-school program or club.

The MHSAA picked each winner based on a mix of academic and athletic achievements as well as what they wrote in an essay discussing the importance of sportsmanship in educational activities.

Here's what the MHSAA wrote about our three award winners as well as the highlights the enjoyed organization from each of their essays:

#### Maeve Spicer, White Lake Lakeland

Competing in fourth season of varsity gymnastics and third of varsity competitive cheer. Also ran junior varsity cross country and participated in track & field as a freshman. Earned allstate in gymnastics finishing sixth on vault at MHSAA Finals as a junior and was conference allaround champion; also earned academic allstate recognition. Helped her Huron Valley United co-op gymnastics team to Regional title as a sophomore. Served as captain of gymnastics and cheer teams. Participating in second years of National Honor Society, Math Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Earned Individual Project Completion of Middle Years Programme as part of International Baccalaureate studies. Participating in second year of Peer Corps, and has organized three clothing drives for foster children as part of work for local center. Is undecided where she will attend college but intends



Pictured from left are White Lake Lakeland's Maeve Spicer, Detroit Catholic Central's Neil Zhu and Birmingham Seaholm's Brady Wright. COURTESY PHOTOS

to study international relations.

Essay Quote: "Sportsmanship is important because sports themselves are not simply about who is the best, rather what you can learn from them. I have learned valuable life lessons from my sports that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life such as determination, perseverance, teamwork, integrity, and respect, along with so many others that have built up my charac-

#### **Brady Wright, Birmingham Seaholm**

Competing in fourth season on varsity ski team and played four seasons of varsity tennis; also played junior varsity lacrosse as a freshman and sophomore. Reached MHSAA Finals flight semifinals as sophomore and junior. Earned allstate and all-state academic for tennis and allregion for ski, and earned multiple league Scholar-Athlete Awards for both sports. Served as team captain for both. Earned AP Scholar with Distinction and named National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Earned perfect score on ACT. Participating in second year of National Honor Society and third of National Science Honor Society. Participated in Science Olympiad as competitor and coach and founded high school team, and earned county and state placings. Playing fourth years in school marching and concert bands and served as clarinet section leader. Is undecided where he will attend college but intends to study chemical engineering.

Essay Quote: "Ultimately, what I learned is that the game and the competition is more important than winning a match at any cost. I have seen kids who struggle with losing and will do

anything to win. Honor and integrity get thrown out the window to avoid a loss. ... It is important to me that I am honest with myself - I play sports to push myself in ways that cannot. academics Cheating the game does not help you improve or build character."

#### Nell Zhu, Detroit **Catholic Central**

Will play fourth season of varsity golf this spring and has helped team to runner-up and fourthplace finishes at Lower Peninsula Division 1 Finals. Earned all-state and is ranked among top players for his class in Michigan by American Junior Golf Association. Advanced to match play at Golf Association of Mich-2021 Amateur Championship. Earned AP Scholar with Honor and National Merit Scholarship commended student designations. Participating in second year of National Honor Society tutoring program. Participating in fourth year of finance club and vice president. Reached highest level of Michigan Music Teachers Association for piano and earned first and secondplace finishes in state competition. Completed University of Michigan summer coding program. Volunteered in multiple community service efforts throughout high school. Served as youth leadership member for church as junior and senior. Will attend Swarthmore College (Pa.) and study computer science.

Essay Quote: "The sport of golf is a medium through which my accountability to my decisions and more importantly my accountability to my competitors and values is tested. Therefore, my integrity plays into the principle of accountability. Moreover, golf offers opportunities to meditate on choices

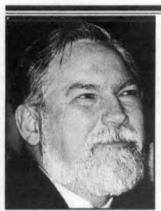
which plays into the skill of decision mak-

The other Hometown Life area Class A finalists who came up just short in winning scholarships included:

- Conner Bell, Detroit Catholic Central • Abigail Lueck, Li-
- vonia Churchill Owen Swisher, Li
- vonia Churchill • James Oberman,
- Livonia Franklin Samantha
- Provenzano, Livonia Franklin
- Erica Molnar, Livonia Stevenson
- Caiden Carlson, White Lake Lakeland

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

## **Obituaries**



James Roedersheimer

**NEWARK**, **DE** - James "Jim" Roedersheimer, of Newark, DE, passed away on February 20th, 2022 peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Sunday, February 27th, 2022 from 3-5 PM at Doherty Funeral Home, 3200 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, February 28th, 2022 at 10:30 AM at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 82 Possum Park Road, Newark, DE 19711. Interment will follow in All Saints Cemetery, 6001 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19808.

To read the extended obituary or to offer condolences, please visit:

www.dohertyfh.com



Irene Elizabeth **Powers** 

**NEW HUDSON -**Irene Elizabeth Powers, age 86, Feb. 21, 2022. Beloved wife of Jim (1932-2020) for 64 years. Loving mother to James Powers Jr. (Donna), Cynthia Symons (E.C.), Thomas Powers (Laurie), Tina Black (Bryan), and Linda Macchiarolo (Matthew). Proud grandmother to 11, and great-grandmother to





For more information regarding this directory, please contact Kadijah Brack-Rowley at kbrackrowl@localiq.com

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# Why Ongoing Labor Shortages Could Boost Employment and Earnings for African Americans

Since the pandemic, employment has risen among black men but fallen among black women

By ZipRecruiter.com

Labor shortages have played an outsized role in black American history, from slavery to the world wars to the present. Although labor shortages in the early colonies formed the rationale for bringing enslaved Africans to the Americas to begin with, labor shortages since then have become the most powerful drivers of forward leaps in employment and earnings among African Americans.

That is because labor shortages inspire efforts to recruit new workers—often those previously excluded from the workforce, such as women and minorities. They motivate employers to offer better wages and working conditions, especially to previously undervalued workers. And they shift economic power to employees and job seekers, with effects that spill over into politics and culture.

In an essay titled "The Labor Problem at Jamestown, 1607-18," historian Edmund S. Morgan explains that the founders of the earliest permanent English settlementa in Virginia discovered tobacco, but could not motivate English indentured servants to work the fields. So they looked across the Atlantic to a new supply of labor in the form of enslaved Africans.

300 years after labor shortages in the early colonies drew Africans into exploitation, labor shortages triggered by the First World War helped draw them out. The war caused migration from Europe to grind to a halt, cutting

off the supply of cheap immigrant labor. So businesses took to recruiting African American workers from the South. Those efforts helped bring about the Great Migration of 6 million African Americans out of the Jim Crow South and to the cities of the North and West.

The Great Migration created a new black middle class and changed American culture forever. The Harlem Renaissance was born, as black artists and musicians emerged from a flourishing community in New York. Blues music migrated north along the Mississippi River, to Memphis and Chicago; jazz emerged as an American art form.

The migration largely stalled during the Great Depression when work dried up. While Americans of all backgrounds suffered job losses and economic devastation, politicians often made sure that New Deal programs and patronage primarily benefited white Americans, especially in the South.

But soon, the Second World War created a new labor shortage that changed

rection of black history once again. The need for millions of soldiers led the Armed Forces to recruit African Americans. Their participation in the war effort created new pressure on the government to end racial discrimination in the armed forces, which President Harry S. Truman banned by executive order in 1948.

Though many black Americans were excluded from the full benefits of the GI Bill, which helped veterans attend college and purchase homes, the skills and the status that black Americans had earned through their service opened up new opportunities in shipyards, factories, and government offices.

Wartime labor shortages back home also pushed businesses to open manufacturing jobs to blacks. The experience of blacks and whites working together in wartime industry and military service caused a watershed in race relations and spawned the Civil Rights Movement, while simultaneously growing the black middle class.

Ever since, African American employment and wages have improved most rapidly during periods of very low unemployment. When the national unemployment rate fell below 4% in 2018 and 2019, for example, wage growth for minorities outpaced that for white wurkers by the widest margins recorded in the Atlanta Fed's Was Growth Tracker. Even declining black home ownership rates finally turned around.

The coronavirus pandemic arrested that progress. And again, as during the Great Depression, African Americans were most severely affected by job losses and least helped by the government programs designed to provide relief and stimulus, such as expanded unemployment insurance benefits and the Paycheck Protection Program.

But the pandemic also created the starkest labor shortage in the post-war period, driving the number of unemployed job seekers per job opening to the lowest on record. Unprecedented hiring challenges are prompting employers to relax job requirements and cast a wider net in their recruiting efforts, while simultaneously raising pay and offering greater flexibility. Those changes are already boosting labor force participation for the youngest workers and those with disabilities-two groups that typically experience the steepest employment barriers.

Given how damaging the pandemic was, for black American women in particular, it is difficult to imagine a full and equal economic recovery. But history should give us hope. The Great Depression interrupted the Great Migration, but afterwards, the "migratory stream turned into a flood," to quote one scholar. The pandemic could be an even shorter-lived setback. The unemployment rate is already back to where it was in early 2018. And an unprecedented labor shortage is just the thing to get black employment

and earnings back on track and take them to new heights.

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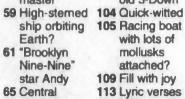
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## THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## **CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

#### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo 45 Org. for 96 Very fast ship **ACROSS** 48 Indian state 6 One voted in 7 Book page cavity fillers 1 Grappler, known for decorated backwoodswith opposite a 46 Doc's warm 49 United shrubbery? treatment VAISO 47 "For" votes 8 Skylit courts 50 In a smoothly 99 Coll. reunion 8 Severe 13 Astronaut elegant way 9 Samples 51 Like thrift 53 Neon, e.g. 102 Father something Wally store goods 20 'The Stranger Sarducci of 10 Singer Diana 52 — facto 56 French mime Beside Me' 53 Sly deception



Canadian tribe members 67 Upscale hotel quarters 68 Small

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aquariums? sharp-bowed 125 Lay aside 126 Bert's pal 127 Introductions 128 In clothes 129 Actors O'Neal and Reynolds 130 Says "OK"

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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!

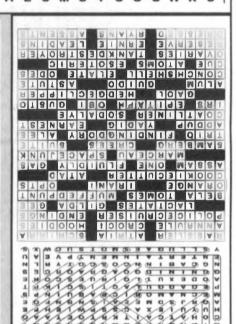
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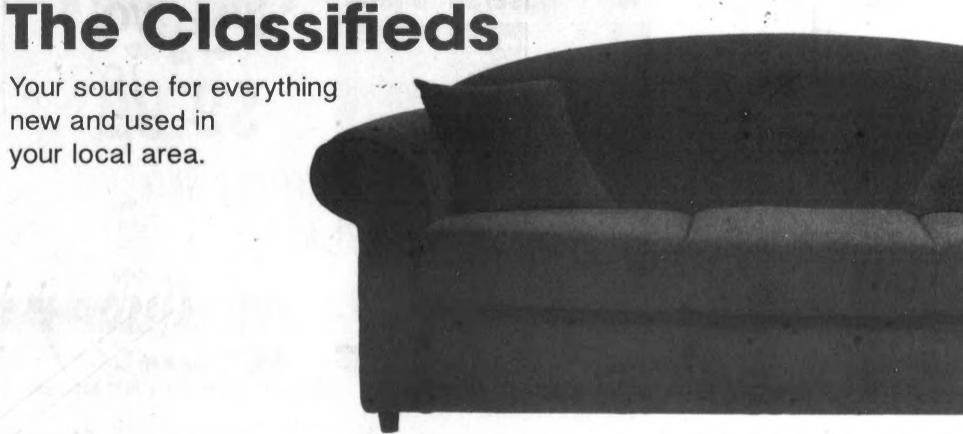
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