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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Landfill owners pay \$2.3M in settlement with state

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel revealed March 10 that her office and the owners of the often-scrutinized Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township have agreed to a settlement that will cost Green For Life an estimated \$2.3 million in fines and costs of community-enhancing projects.

Although it agreed to the settlement, Arbor Hills did not admit to wrongdoing, statements in the settlement confirm.

"AHL denies all allegations in the Complaint and specifically denies that its operations create a public nuisance or unreasonably interfered with the public's right to use property," the settlement reads.

GFL did not return a message from Hometown Life requesting comment on the matter as of Friday early afternoon.

The landfill has piled up a mountain of air-polluting violations in recent years. Many of the violations were the result of hundreds of odor complaints reported by residents of Northville Township, whose western border touches the dump's eastern edge.

"This settlement helps address years of health and safety concerns," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said during a press conference held Thursday in Northville Township's offices. "I applaud the collaborative work done between my office and EGLE (Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) to reach a comprehensive agreement with the landfill's new ownership."

Northville Township Supervisor said a lawsuit his municipality filed against GFL is still pending.

In fall 2020, Nessel filed suit on behalf of EGLE due to the landfill's consistent failure to comply with state and federal regulations and creating a public nuisance.

Approximately 17 months after the lawsuit was announced, Nessel and EGLE Director Liesl Clark announced

See LANDFILL, Page 3A

I-96 Flex Route project starts in Oakland County



I-96 eastbound near Beck Road. Roadwork will rehabilitate breakdown lanes and add a rush-hour lane near the median.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

MDOT tells motorists to be ready for changes, closures

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Prepare yourselves, motorists. More than two years of work on the Interstate 96 Flex Route started Monday.

The Michigan Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the massive \$269 million project, advised shoulders would close on both eastbound and westbound I-96 between Kent Lake Road and I-275/I-696/M-5 to allow for tree removal and brush clear-

ing adjacent to the roadways.

Construction on the I-96 Flex Route itself will begin one week later, March 21, MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross wrote in an email.

See PROJECT, Page 3A

Milford House restaurant eyes reopening date

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It appears the corner of Commerce and Main Street in Milford is getting a restaurant back.

And it's bringing sharks.

Plans for an addition to the Milford House restaurant building, 113 E. Commerce, were recently submitted to the village. Those plans include a 2,080-foot addition to the front of the restaurant, which would wrap around the front of the building near the current

outdoor patio.

But the most unique feature will be a 20,000-gallon fish tank that is expected to hold several live sharks as a focal point inside the dining room of the restaurant.

"We already have the tank that's been brought up. The fish are waiting for us in Key West, Florida," said John Stewart, a Milford-based architect working on the project. "It'll be quite a scene when you see these things."

See RESTAURANT, Page 3A



Milford House could reopen with a new concept, including a giant shark tank.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Trial underway for Farmington Hills man

Altantawi accused of pushing mother out window

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An accused killer's sister took the witness stand March 9, sharing details about their dysfunctional family and their stark differences before their mother was found dead on the patio outside their Farmington Hills home.

Aya Altantawi, now a Michigan State University student studying psychology and criminal justice, testified on the fourth day of her older brother Muhammad's murder trial, saying he practiced a strict faith similar to their dad.

Respect for his father's ways put him in conflict with his mother Nada Huranieh, who often wore leggings and T-

shirts while working as a fitness trainer and regaining some independence.

She filed for divorce in March 2016, about a year and a half before she was found dead, below a second-story window, at her Howard Road home. The 35-year-old mother was living with her son, 16, and daughters, 14 and 9. Her husband lived elsewhere.

The spacious, approximately 10,000-square-foot home had several doors, and one connecting the basement with the patio could not be locked, admitted Aya Altantawi during hours of testimony.

"My brother sided with my dad immediately," the MSU student said of the divorce. "I, for most scenarios (and) most cases, sided with my mother. He kind of just saw (the divorce) as a way of my mom trying to take my father's money and the house and ruin his life."

"It just started to deteriorate further. Whatever sort of relationship they had before became very strained. (In his eyes), she wasn't a good enough Muslim. He said that my father was still the man of the house. We should still be following what he was saying despite my father not being present in the house. Since he was the only guy, he was now the man of the house and we had to follow what he said."

With four attorneys representing him, the 20-year-old Altantawi occasionally looked down and covered his face as his younger sister spoke.

She confessed to hating her brother years ago. She once saw that he programmed his mother's phone number under a pejorative contact name, which a police officer did not find when reviewing the teen's phone.

"I think, regardless of what happened, I forgive him," Aya Altantawi said. "You know, we've been through a lot growing up and since then."

Her brother was a senior at International Academy West in White Lake Township when Farmington Hills officers arrested him and prosecutors accused him of matricide.

Autopsy results indicated asphyxia



Seen through video of the court proceedings, Muhammad Altantawi, 20, of Farmington Hills sits between his attorneys during his jury trial March 9.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

and smothering cause his mother's death, leading prosecutors to accuse the teen of staging a scene to imply she fell while using a ladder to wash windows.

Appeals and the pandemic delayed the trial that could last two weeks. Muhammad Altantawi has moved from Oakland County Children's Village to Oakland County Jail while awaiting a jury's verdict.

Statements he made to police during a "custodial interrogation" without being told of his rights are, for the most part, banned from the trial.

His sister detailed their parents' contentious divorce, separate living arrangements and the custody agreement that the girls would mainly live with their mother and their brother would mostly stay with their father.

About a week before her mother died, Aya Altantawi walked into her brother's room to find her brother and mother talking about the custodial decisions.

"My brother basically just responded, 'It doesn't matter. You're going to get what's coming to you. The entire divorce... (like) she was the one who started it all so she's going to get what's coming to her,'" she testified.

On the morning of Aug. 21, 2017, she woke up without the usual call or text from her mother.

The daughter began calling and looking for her mother.

She said Muhammad was one for bathing later in the day, but Aya heard him in the shower. She kept looking - visiting a younger sister's room, her

mom's makeup room, a bathroom, a guest room, and the garage, where her mother's car was parked.

"That's when I started to worry a little bit," she testified. "I remembered the window was open in the guest room. I thought I'll go check. I saw her body on the ground... on the patio. I screamed. Can I have a minute?"

The young woman sniffled and wiped at tears. She proceeded to describe how she then visited her brother's room. He was walking from his bathroom, staring at the floor and seeming "a little bit dazed" to the patio.

She led him outside and then called 911 before handing him the phone to talk to the dispatcher who wanted to guide them through applying CPR to their unconscious mother still in her pajamas.

A thin gold necklace she always wore seemed to be wrapped tightly around her neck. Her face was blue with some blood under her nose.

Upon handing over the phone, Aya ran to the bottom of the drive to make sure first responders saw their drive, which others frequently missed.

Officers, along with her father, arrived. The family eventually went to a restaurant to regroup and Aya overheard later that day, when her father was on the phone, that her mother had died.

Police interviewed her brother the next day.

Their father at the time was on a tether because he had pleaded guilty in a medical fraud scandal.

hometownlife.com

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU22-0004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Novi Energy, LLC is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary ground mounted solar panels for parcel 50-22-27-226-003 south of Ten Mile Road and west of Novi Road from April 6, 2022 through April 6, 2023. The property is zoned OS-1 (Office Service One) and the use is contrary to 3.17-2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

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

A public hearing will be held at 10:00 am on April 6, 2022, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road in the Mayor's Conference Room. All written comments should be directed to Nina Schaffrath and must be received prior to Tuesday, April 5, 2022, by 3 P.M.

Publish: March 17, 2022

LO 0000361689 3x2.5

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on April 12, 2022, at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ22-0008 (Creative Brick Paving & Landscaping) 112 N Haven Drive, East of West Park Drive and South of West Pontiac Trail, Parcel 50-22-03-201-005. The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a proposed rear yard setback of 12.33 feet (35 feet required, variance of 22.67 feet). This variance would accommodate a roof over the rear deck. This property is zoned One-Family residential (R4).

PZ22-0009 (Garret and Ashley Mette) 1361 East Lake Drive, West of Novi Road and North of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel 50-22-02-328-004. The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a rear yard setback of 23 feet (12 foot variance, 35 feet required by code), a side yard setback of 3 feet (7 foot variance, 10 feet required by code), an aggregate side yard setback of 9.4 feet (variance of 15.6 feet, 25 feet required by code) and an increased lot coverage of 39% (variance of 14%, 25% maximum allowed by code) These variances would accommodate a new 500 square foot, two-story addition on the rear of the home.

This property is zoned Single-Family Residential (R-4).

Publish: March 17, 2022

LO 0000361689 3x2.5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on variance requests in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- On premises zoned R-3, Third Density Residential District on property located at 623 Fairbrook, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-003-01-0348-002. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new residence in the front yard setback along Fairbrook, and in the side yard variance. The variances needed are 2.8 feet from the front yard setback requirement, and 8 feet from the side yard setback requirement in Section 15.01.
- On premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, located at 659 Horton Ave., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-001-02-0038-000. The applicant is seeking a variance to erect 96 lineal feet of fence in the front yard along E. Baseline Road, from the requirements of Section 18.09 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The public hearing will be held on April 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance requests.

The variance applications are available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, local prevailing time or on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us (Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals).

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance requests must be submitted no later than 4:30pm, April 5, 2022 to the City Clerk at the above address, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Publish: March 17, 2022

LO 0000361634 3x4

Metro Detroit physicians sentenced in opioid scheme

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Several physicians in the Hometown Life area of metro Detroit are among the dozen who have been sentenced for a fraud scheme that involved distributing nearly 7 million medically unnecessary opioid pills and issuing \$250 million in false billings.

According to federal prosecutors, local doctors include the following:

- Joseph Betro, who had an office in Canton Township, who was sentenced last month to nine years in prison and ordered to pay \$27.4 million in restitution;
- Mohammed Zahoor of Farmington, who was sentenced to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$36.6 million in restitution;
- Steven Adamczyk of Bloomfield Hills, who was sentenced to at least three years in prison and ordered to pay \$1.2 million in restitution;
- David Weaver of Canton Township, who was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$229,500 in restitution;
- Manish Bolina of Canton, who was sentenced to 20 months in prison and ordered to pay \$310,937 in restitution;
- David Yangouyian of Farmington Hills, who was sentenced to six months

in prison and ordered to pay \$35,481 in restitution.

Awaiting sentencing are Tasadaq Ali Ahmad, the Canton owner of a home health agency, and Stephanie Borgula of Livonia, a licensed physical therapist.

"It is unconscionable that doctors and health care professionals would violate their oath to do no harm and exploit vulnerable patients struggling with addiction," Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite Jr. said in a March 9 statement. "These are not just crimes of greed. These are crimes that make this country's opioid crisis even worse - and that is why the department will continue to relentlessly pursue these cases."

Prosecutors emphasized court documents and trial evidence that detailed a scheme that involved doctors refusing to provide patients with opioids unless they agreed to unnecessary back injections that came with high reimbursements.

The doctors typically worked only a few hours per week to escape notice by federal drug enforcement authorities yet they were among the highest oxycodone prescribers in Michigan.

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

Wixom man charged with child abuse after 4-year-old boy dies

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 30-year-old man faces a first-degree child abuse charge in connection to the death of 4-year-old Jaice Dupont at The Village Apartments in Wixom.

Wixom police and firefighters arrived March 5 at a Beechwood Street residence in the afternoon because the boy was unconscious and breathing shallowly, police said in a report.

An ambulance transported the child to a local hospital because of life-threatening injuries to his skull. He was trans-

ferred to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor but died March 10.

The man was the only adult with the child before first responders arrived, and police arrested him.

He was arraigned in 52-1 District Court in Novi on March 10. Because the child died, police anticipate Oakland County prosecutors will revisit the initial charge.

"The men and women of the Wixom Police Department are saddened by this news and express their thoughts and prayers to the loved ones of Jaice Dupont," police said.

Peek at the unique at AAUW fashion show

Courtesy of AAUW

The Northville-Novu chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Michigan Fashion Designers Showcase Luncheon is April 2.

Hosted by Mistress of Ceremonies Vivian Zhong, the 2021 Miss Michigan, the event features the creativity of five women designers and offers accessories for purchase from 11 additional designers.

"We are hosting ... to promote young women in the fashion design business and to raise money to support our community commitments," Karen Zyczynski, 2022 chair, said. "We offer scholarships for young women from both Northville and Novi high schools.

We also support local elementary school libraries and a variety of other activities that promote equity for women and girls."

Kate Blaszkiewicz, who is developing her brand while creating enchantment, is among the designers participating in the fundraiser.

Doors open at Schoolcraft College's Vis-Ta Tech Center 18600 Haggerty Road at 9:45 a.m. for a look at accessories, followed by the runway show and lunch.

Tickets are \$55, include lunch, and can be purchased at aauwnn.org/fashion-designer-showcase-registration.

AAUW supports wage equality and equal opportunities in education.



Miss Michigan 2021 Vivian Zhong will host the Michigan Fashion Designers Showcase Luncheon. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



I-96 westbound as it heads toward the Beck Road exit. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Project

Continued from Page 1A

While the freeway will remain open, there will be lane closures as well as ramp closures including Kent Lake, Milford and Wixom road ramps, which will be shut down for approximately six months, starting in late May. Cross suggested drivers may want to use local roads instead of the freeway.

The Flex Route traffic management system, which has been implemented on US-23 in Livingston and Washtenaw counties, consists of opening existing shoulders during high traffic volume and ramp metering. For the I-96 Flex Route, ramp metering will occur at eight ramps, with variable speed advisories and traveler information posted on electronic message boards. Median shoulders will be rebuilt as an additional lane to be used not only during rush hours, but also during special events, maintenance activities and as a workaround for traffic incidents.

The I-96 Flex Route project's total cost includes:

- Gantries, lane control signs, message boards, cameras, and detection to allow part-time peak-period median shoulder use, provide queue warning and variable speed advisories, and facilitate incident management.
- Ramp metering at eight entrance ramps to help reduce congestion and improve travel time reliability and safety by breaking up entering traffic groups.
- Seven crash investigation sites along outside

shoulders to provide clearance of incidents

- Rebuilding all eastbound and westbound lanes and shoulders from Kent Lake Road to approximately 3,200 feet east into the I-275 interchange, and widen the existing 9-foot outside paved shoulders to 10 feet.
- Rebuilding ramps, except at the Kent Lake, Wixom, Beck road interchanges.

- Pavement repairs for the existing Wixom and Beck road ramps.
- Improving the Beck Road carpool lot.

- Improving 11 bridges and one box culvert, and building 11 replacement or new box culverts.

"This Flex Route will relieve the daily directional congestion problem by utilizing our existing infrastructure versus expanding/widening the roadway which would add many millions in extra costs," Cross said. "Instead we are taking advantage of wide median shoulders and using them as a Flex lane during peak hours. Flex lane still technically considered a shoulder so it cannot be used as a full-time lane."

She acknowledged that drivers may be frustrated by the inability to use shoulders during non-peak hours and will have to adjust to the different way of using a shoulder. Signage informs motorists when the flex route can and can't be used. A learning curve also exists for the ramp metering which is intended to allow even traffic flow on to the freeway. Instructional videos are available at drivingoakland.com.

Even though adjustments are necessary to driving habits and the work won't be completed until fall 2024, Cross said it will ultimately improve quality of life for motorists.

Restaurant

Continued from Page 1A

The restaurant will be under new ownership through an Ann Arbor limited liability corporation, and it appears it will operate under the Milford House name.

The plans for the renovation were presented before the Milford Planning Commission during its meeting March 8 at the Milford Civic Center. There, commissioners recommended approval of the work on the restaurant — which closed down last summer after 28 years in business — albeit with several conditions.

Commissioner Karen Worrell said the shark tank will make the space a destination.

"I think it's something that will be a novelty," she said.

Stewart said they are doing work in three phases on the property, with the first phase already underway. That work includes renovating the kitchen to get it up and running to offer some service as early as next month, Stewart said. The second phase includes the renovation work and addition of more interior space that was being reviewed by the planning commission. The third phase will include work on the former wine bar, which Stewart said could return in a new format.

The main area of the restaurant is expected to be family-friendly, which could include some amusement activities in part of the restaurant with games such as bocce ball. The wine bar area could serve as a more "adults only" atmosphere farther in the future.

"This whole amusement area, the area ... is for families," Stewart said. "The north side of the family (area) is going to be hopefully a higher end steak and wine bar."

Several conditions on the recommended approval were placed by the planning commission, including having the petitioner submit a lighting plan for the site, limiting when deliveries could take place at the restaurant and working with the village council on paying into a parking fund for additional spaces. The submitted plans shows a deficiency of parking on the site, according to an analysis by the village's planning consultant Giffels Webster.

While there was plenty of discussion around the needed conditions required by the commission, Chairman John Heidt said he was happy to see activity returning to that part of downtown Milford in the coming months.

"It's good to have the site being put back into use," he said. "It's been (empty) for a time period. We wish you good luck."

Landfill

Continued from Page 1A

the terms of the settlement instigated by the lawsuit.

"This settlement will help ensure Arbor Hills Landfill is not a nuisance to neighbors, and that the facility operates safely in compliance with state and federal laws for air quality and waste management," Clark said March 10.

As part of the settlement, the landfill's operators agreed to:

- operate a network of monitors along the landfill perimeter to detect hydrogen sulfide and methane before they reach the neighboring subdivisions and cause a nuisance;
- quickly identify the source of emissions and reduce the concentrations if those gases are detected above thresholds that can cause a nuisance;
- retain a certified professional engineering firm to evaluate the landfill grade and cover quarterly and implement actions to minimize liquid infiltration;
- inspect the site's gas wells twice a month, and install and repair pumps



The Arbor Hills landfill at Six Mile and Napier. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

based on a quarterly review performed by another engineering firm to ensure the wells are not flooded and are working properly; and

- perform monthly measurements of the landfill surface (rather than the quarterly monitoring required by the Clean Air Act and Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) to detect gas emissions using drones and handheld devices.

The perimeter emissions monitoring network will be operated in conjunction with meteorological equipment and a sophisticated software system that continuously measures perimeter concentrations and immediately notifies Arbor Hills of any exceedances.

This aspect of the settlement agreement requires Arbor Hills to oper-

ate all the equipment and software for 10 years, which incurs a cost of roughly \$800,000.

Another settlement term requires Arbor Hills to construct and operate — as a free service to users for 10 years — a facility to collect household hazardous waste (including paints, solvents, automotive fluids and fluorescent bulbs) so it is not disposed in a landfill.

Arbor Hills is also required to plant a vegetative buffer of spruce trees to reduce the transport of particulate matter and odors from the landfill and its adjoining composting facility. The hazardous waste collection program and tree planting will cost another \$1.15 million or so.

Additionally, the settlement requires Arbor Hills to pay a civil fine a \$355,109.



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Michigan gets \$211M for earmarked projects

Todd Spangler Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Even before the U.S. Senate gave its final approval late Thursday on a 68-31 vote to a \$1.5 trillion spending bill funding the federal government, Michigan members of Congress were celebrating the return of the earmark.

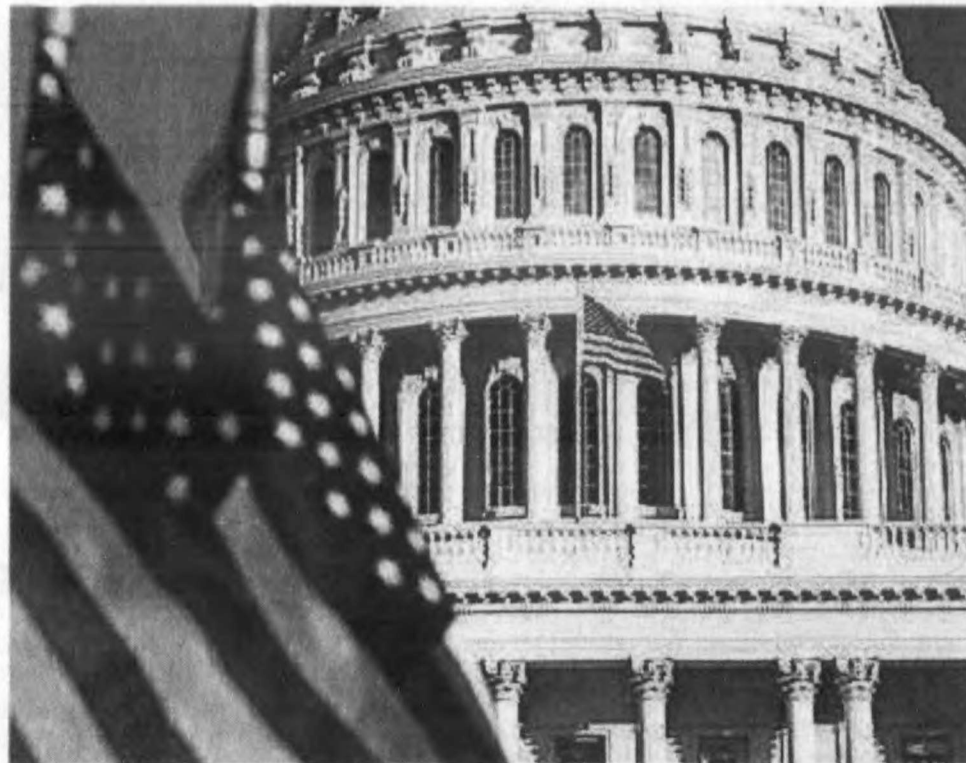
The legislation itself is an achievement, given how difficult it has been for a sharply divided Congress to set aside differences and reach a funding agreement that is more than a stopgap, with the promise of keeping government open through September. It increases funding for both defense and nondefense sides of the government, includes about \$14 billion for aid to Ukraine and features a few items — like \$348 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and \$5 million for Flint's lead registry — of specific initiatives important to Michigan.

But for the first time in just over a decade, this spending package passed by both chambers of Congress also included items specifically requested by individual legislators to fund projects in their districts or states, items — known as earmarks — they can now take on the campaign trail with them to show what they have been able to do for their constituents.

"I will say the process was a little longer than I thought it would be," said U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Southfield, who as vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee supported the return to earmarks, or "community project funding" as a way to not only get money to local priorities but also to give everyone in a split Congress more reason to be part of the funding process.

She said that when some members began to balk at passing a package of spending measures at all, "We reminded them, you have a project that's going to directly benefit the citizens in your district."

And it helped get it done, she said. In Michigan, the 174 items secured by both U.S. senators and all but one of the state's 14 members of Congress — U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Holland Township, opted not to ask for any — account for more than \$211 million in funding. By federal standards, it's not a huge



The \$1.5 trillion spending package recently passed by Congress included \$211 million for earmarked projects in Michigan, including several in the metro Detroit area. USA TODAY

amount of money, but it's targeted use ensures that projects of local importance get funding from federal agencies they otherwise might not.

The funding amounts range in size from \$8,183,000 for expansion of the ramp where cargo is loaded and unloaded at Capital Region International Airport in Lansing secured by U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, both D-Mich., to \$50,000 secured by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, to support salaries and expenses of United Way workers in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to help working poor people.

Local projects include (including who requested the funds):

- About \$4.8 million for the Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement in Novi (Stevens, Stabenow)
- About \$4.5 Million for the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (Stabenow)
- \$3 million for Livonia Senior Center project (Stevens)
- \$2.5 million for Inkster Senior Wellness Center (Tlaib)

- \$2 million for Oakland University, Automation Alley (Stabenow)
- \$2 million for water system improvements in Milford (Stevens)
- \$2 million for biosolids to fertilizer in Commerce (Stevens)
- \$1.6 million for facilities and equipment at Oakland University (Peters, Stabenow)
- \$1.6 million for White Lake Civic Center Road and sidewalk construction (Stevens)
- \$550,000 for Gourdy Amphitheater project in City of Wayne
- \$400,000 for Plymouth Cultural Center ADA compliance (Stevens)

As a practical matter, Michigan's senators either jointly or separately had their hands on just under half of the total earmarks for the state, about \$92 million. In the House, there were few jointly requested earmarks, and it's easier to see who secured — either with or without the help of the senators — the most funding for earmarks.

Stevens had the most at \$17.8 million, followed by Slotkin at \$16.9 million. Giv-

en the way earmarks have tended to work in the past, that's not too surprising. Both are currently in districts that had been previously held by Republicans, and it's not unusual for the party in power to give help through community funding to such members.

Earmarks were gotten rid of after 2011 when Republicans had control of the House in reaction to long-standing complaints about the system, with powerful appropriators sometimes getting funds to supporters or otherwise misusing funds. But there had always been pressure to restore the system — in part because some legislators argued that they were better suited to decide what local projects get funded rather than leaving it solely to executive branch agencies to decide. There was also a hope that horse-trading earmarks might inject more of a sense of collaboration in a sharply partisan Congress.

In the new system, Congress has called for more transparency, requiring grants go only to nonprofit groups or local government agencies and requiring members to certify they have no financial interest in the projects.

Not everyone is sold on the new system, however. At Taxpayers for Common Sense, a watchdog group in Washington that has made an effort to track and detail earmarks in the past, President Steve Ellis put out a note saying his staff, despite congressional promises to the contrary, is still wading through unclear letters and scattered reports trying to make sense of all the funding details.

"Let's just say all the talk about transparency nirvana, that things were going to be different this time, just sounds like that bad ex you shouldn't have believed," Ellis said. "Because they haven't changed. ... Crappy PDFs are not the databases we were promised."

Lawrence, however, said that even as she prepares to leave Congress after this term, she hopes the process remains in place, believing the anti-corruption measures will work.

"I hope it continues," she said. "People expect us to make the quality of life in their communities better. ... These projects, in order to qualify, have to have community support. These are not some backdoor, secret handshake type of projects."

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Last State Silver Bank Rolls up for grabs

Fortune of old Silver Coins issued by the U.S. Gov't sealed away in the only State Restricted Bank Rolls known to exist are actually being handed over to Michigan residents

► **STATE RESTRICTION:** Only residents of MI get the \$19 state minimum - non state residents must pay \$57 per coin

"We're bracing for the flood of calls," said Laura Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Director for the National Mint and Treasury.

That's because the next 2 days the last remaining State of Michigan Restricted Silver Bank Rolls loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars are actually being handed over to Michigan residents who call the National Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's newspaper publication.

And here's the best part. If you are a resident of the state of Michigan you cover only the \$19 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, that's twenty rarely seen Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars worth up to 60 times their face value for just \$380 which is a real steal because non state residents must pay \$57 per coin which totals \$1,140 if any coins remain after the 2-day deadline.

"National Mint and Treasury recently spoke with its Chief Professional Numismatist who said 'Very few people have ever actually saw one of these rarely seen Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars minted from 1965 to 1970. But to actually find them sealed away in State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them,'" Lynne said.

"Now that the State of Michigan Restricted Silver Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of Michigan residents claim the maximum limit allowed of 6 Kennedy Presidential Silver Bank Rolls per resident before they're all gone," said Lynne.

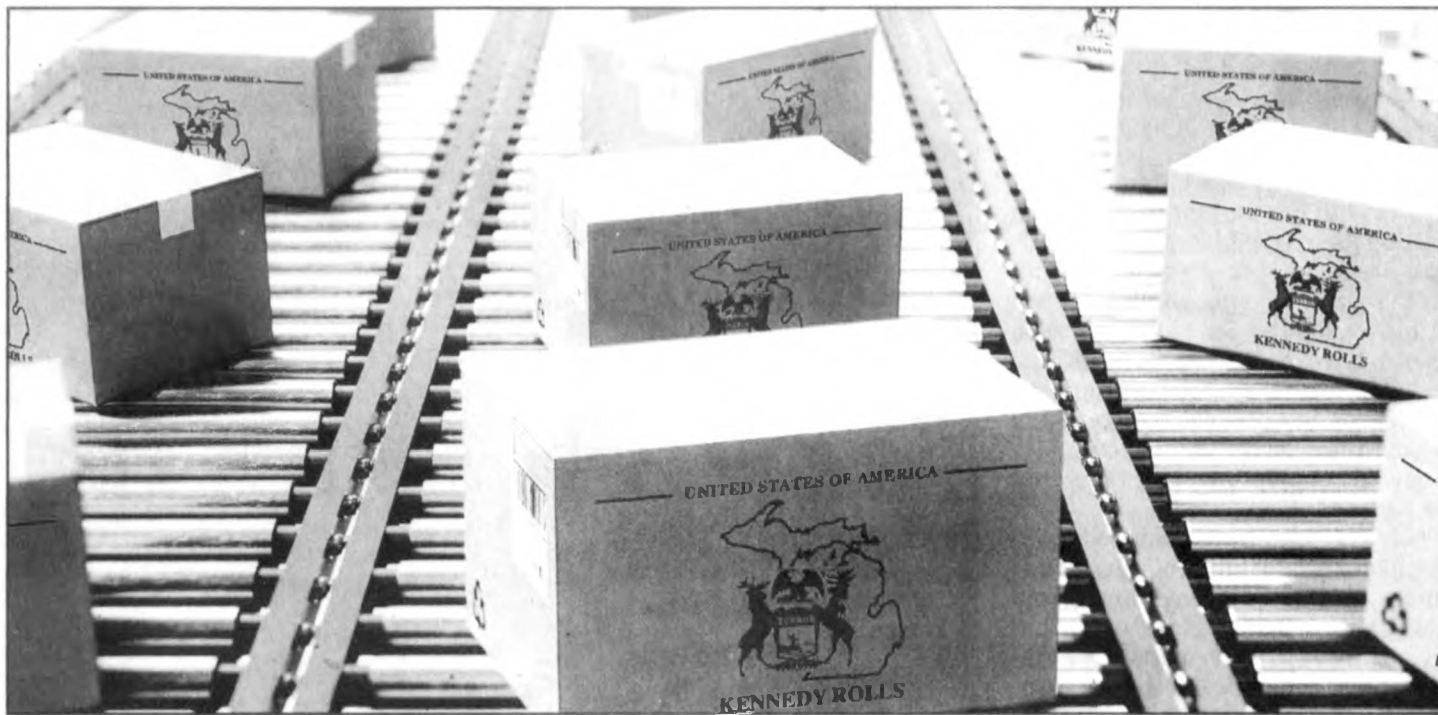
"That's because the dates and mint marks of the U.S. Gov't issued Silver clad Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars sealed away inside the State of Michigan Restricted Silver Bank Rolls have never been searched. But, we do know that these coins were only minted from 1965 to 1970. That means some may be worth up to 60 times their face value, so there is no telling what Michigan residents will find until they sort through all the coins," Lynne went on to say.

"Rarely seen silver coins like these are highly sought after, but we've never seen anything like this before. According to The Official Red Book, a Guide Book of United States Coins many Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars minted from 1965 to 1970 like the ones sealed away in these State Restricted Bank Rolls have nearly doubled in collector value in just the last several years," Lynne said.

"We're guessing thousands of Michigan residents will be taking the maximum limit of 6 Bank Rolls because you can only get them rolled this way directly from the National Mint and Treasury and they are the only State Restricted Bank Rolls known to exist," Lynne continued.

"We know the phones will be ringing off the hook. So make sure to tell everyone to keep calling if all lines are busy. We'll do our best to answer them all," Lynne said.

The only thing readers of today's newspaper publication need to do is make sure they are a resident of the state of Michigan and call the National Toll-Free Hotlines before the 2-day deadline ends midnight to-morrow.



■ **FLYING OUT THE DOOR:** Calls are pouring in from state residents who are trying to get their hands on the last State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls known to exist sealed away in the secured packages pictured above before the deadline ends. That's because residents who beat the 2-day deadline printed in today's publication are cashing in on the lowest ever state minimum price set by the National Mint and Treasury.

Answering Your Questions



Q: How to claim the last State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls

A: If you are a Michigan resident read the important information below about claiming the State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls, then call the State Toll-Free Hotline at: **1-800-233-5658** EXT: JFR1868 beginning at precisely 8:30 A.M. this morning.



Q: Are these Silver Kennedy Half Dollars worth more than other Half Dollars?

A: Yes. These rarely seen Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars were only minted from 1965 to 1970. That makes these silver coins extremely collectible. The vast majority of half dollars minted after 1970 have no silver content at all. In fact, these Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars were the last silver coins minted for circulation. That's why many of them now command collector values of many times their face value so there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.



Q: How much are the State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls worth?

A: It's impossible to say, but these Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars issued by the U.S. Gov't from 1965 to 1970 are worth up to 60 times the face value and there are 20 in each Bank Roll so you better hurry if you want to get your hands on them. Collector values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But we do know they are the only Michigan State Silver Bank Rolls known to exist and Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars are highly collectible so anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls should hold onto them because there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.



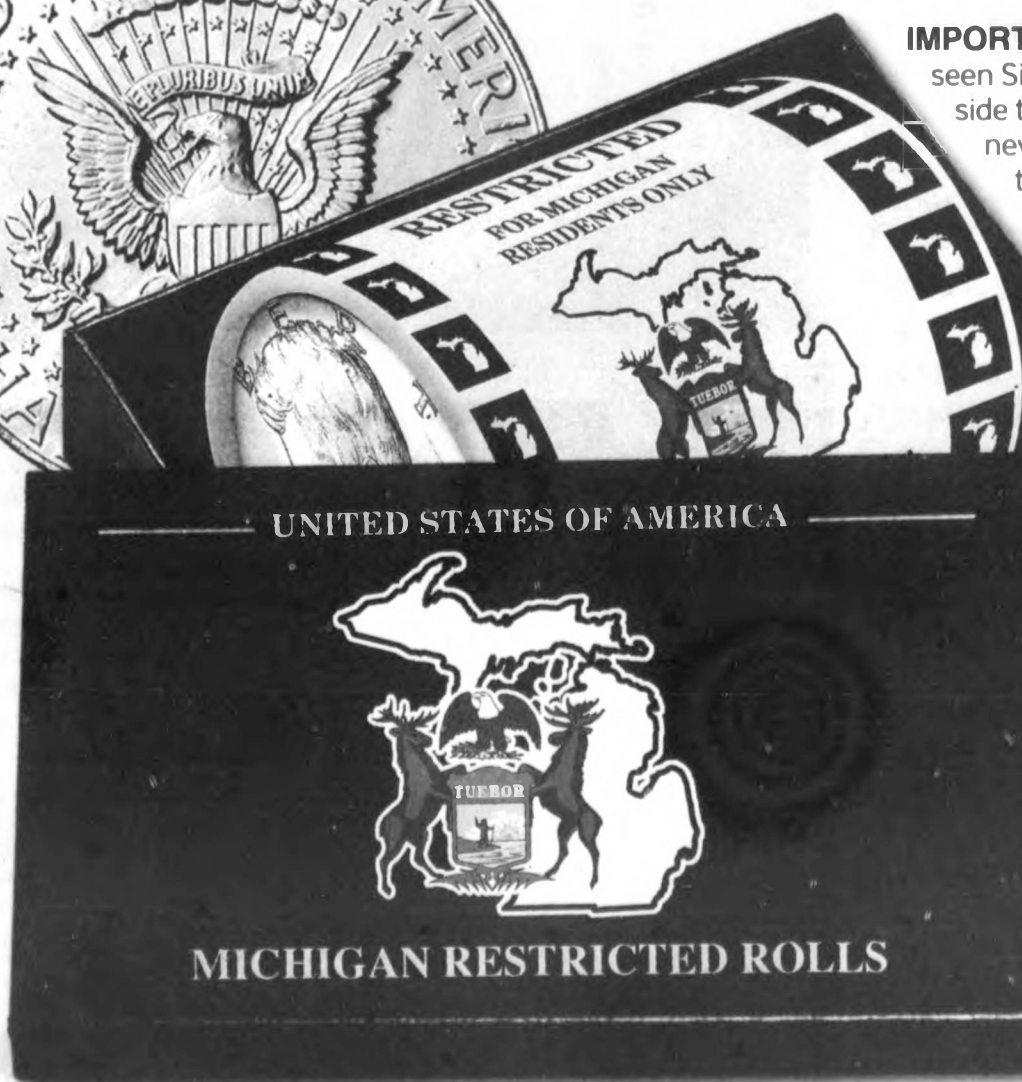
Q: Why are so many Michigan residents calling to get them?

A: Because they are the only State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls known to exist and everyone wants their share. These are not ordinary bank rolls. These are full Bank Rolls containing 20 Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars dating clear back to the mid 1900's some worth up to 60 times their face value. Remember this. Only Michigan residents are guaranteed to get them for just the \$19 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury for the next two days. Non state residents must pay \$57 per coin.



Q: How do I get the State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls?

A: The only thing Michigan residents need to do is call the State Toll Free Hotline at **1-800-233-5658** Ext. JFR1868 before the deadline ends. Everyone who does is getting the only State Restricted Silver Bank Rolls known to exist. That's a full Bank Roll of 20 Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars for just the \$19 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, which totals just \$380 for the full Bank Roll. That's a real steal because non state residents are not permitted to call before 5 pm tomorrow and must pay \$1,140 for each Michigan State Restricted Silver Bank Roll if any remain.



IMPORTANT FACTS: The dates and mint marks of the rarely seen Silver Kennedy Presidential Half Dollars sealed away inside the State of Michigan Restricted Silver Bank Rolls have never been searched. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but any rare, scarce or highly collectible coins, regardless of their value that state residents may find inside the sealed Bank Rolls are theirs to keep.

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Plymouth Salem graduate returns to Michigan for marriage, true crime

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The true crime bug keeps biting Salem High School graduate Alysia Sofios, who has returned from California declaring her journalism chops with some real stingers.

She has a new podcast, CrimeCasters Network with her partner in true crime reporting Ronnie Dahl, once an investigative reporter at Detroit station, WXYZ-TV, and a former public information officer for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Friends since their cub reporter days with Fox 47 in Lansing, they're doing fresh reporting on old cases and providing new insights for investigations that have haunted them over the years.

Their episodes have plumbed mysteries like the vanishings of Nevaeh Buchanan, a 5-year-old from Monroe, and Bianca Jones, a 2-year-old from Detroit.

There are interviews with prison inmates, personal stories and details unearthed with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests as the two also explore cases Sofios covered in California.

There's the woman known as an "Acid Queen" and a man who murdered nine of his children, the latter case inspiring Sofios to write a book that put her on "Dr. Phil," "20/20" and CNN.

Despite some enviable achievements, their episodes are reminiscent of all good newsrooms, where the journalists work hard to get the story right and sometimes just as hard to convey the immensity of their findings to editors.

There's also the camaraderie that goes with reporter friends reporting stories that real people want to know.

"We try to blend different elements," Dahl said. "We feel like the interviews give us our journalistic credibility. We're also not time constrained. We want people to feel like we're approachable and we are not only reporters and journalists. But we're also your friends next door."

Sofios piped in: "We're true crime fans at the end of the day. We consume



CrimeCasters Network's Ronnie Dahl, left, and Alysia Sofios in their Birmingham production space.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the same content. We want to be a community with all of these amateur sleuths. We're just like you, except with a FOIA and with the sources to back it up."

Sofios turned to journalism in high school when she realized a law degree wasn't smart if she nearly fell asleep in the courtroom while job shadowing a lawyer.

So she packed up the skills she was known for and loved – debating, writing, speaking and telling stories – and set off to Michigan State University, known as a top journalism school in the state.

Professors told her the prospects were dim for print and radio journalists, so she committed to a career in TV. And then the true crime bug bit.

Sofios was alone in the newsroom one 2001 weekend – working as a week-

end anchor, producer and assignment editor – in Lansing when she thought she heard over the scanner that there was a shooter at the zoo. A bullet killed Bernita White, who was with her daughter, 5.

"Every reporter has a case she just can't stop thinking about, that haunts her and this one is mine," she said for the podcast. "Because for the past 20 years, like her family and friends, I want to know why Bernita White doesn't have justice especially since police think they know exactly who killed her, and that man is one of their own."

She continued her reporting career in California, where she continued to cover high-profile criminal trials for the likes of Scott Peterson, who was originally sentenced to death for the murders of his wife Laci and their unborn son Connor. He was resentenced to life in prison

without the possibility of parole late last year.

After writing her book about mass murderer Marcus Wesson and the survivors she befriended, she tried escaping the true crime world by signing a one-year lease near the Santa Monica beach to watch sunsets and appreciate living.

"I would watch the sun set religiously, and I had a beautiful old couple that lived near me, and I would watch the sunsets with them," she said.

Her year of escape taught her that there really might be no escape from true crime.

Toward the end of her lease, at about 4 a.m., she woke up to a beeping noise outside of her window. There were satellite trucks outside and a photographer

See GRADUATE, Page 7A



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How to deal with volatile stock market



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

There is no doubt that this year has not been a very good one for investors. Markets have been adversely affected by rising inflation and projected interest rate increases. Now, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine markets have become even more volatile and uncertain.

How long this volatility continues is anyone's guess. However, I do know that mistakes investors make during times like these can take years to correct. It is always important to proceed with caution when investing.

Whenever there is extreme volatility in the market, TV personalities make it seem like what is happening is unprecedented. It reminds me of winter storms here in Michigan. Whenever a storm is on the way, meteorologists build it up like it will be the storm of the century... and then we only get a few inches of snow.

The same thing happens when it comes to the stock market. To investors, it's important to remember that selloffs

are not unusual, and they happen all the time. In fact, many experts will tell you selloffs are good for the market. Whether they are or not, I'll leave that for others; however, it's important to realize that selloffs are common and that 100 percent of the time whenever we've had market selloffs, market corrections or market crashes, the market always comes back.

It is important not to panic or let fear dictate your investment decisions. Do not let short-term comfort cause you long-term pain.

For the average investor, the best way to deal with volatile times is to prepare by building all-weather portfolios. Portfolios that are diversified and balanced tend not to have as much volatility; making times of hyper volatility easier to survive. In addition, it's important to take a long-term approach and to invest based upon their goals and objectives.

If you're saving for retirement 20 years down the road, your money belongs in the market. On the other hand, if you're buying a house in three months, that money doesn't belong in the market. If you focus on your goals and not what's happening in the market on a day-to-day basis, you will be more successful.

Lastly, investors always need to be concerned about risk. As I've said many times in the past, there is no such thing as a risk-free investment; it doesn't exist. However, there are ways to manage your risk. Before investing, all investors must determine what risks they are comfortable with and to invest accordingly.

Although, we have no idea how long this volatility will last, smart investors look at taking advantage of the opportunity. If you have extra cash and your goals are long term, this may be a great time to add that money to the market.

If you are considering converting existing traditional IRA into a Roth IRA, now is the time. With the markets down, investors are able to convert money at a lower tax cost.

By maintaining a diversified and balanced portfolio and having the discipline of not worrying about the market on a day-to-day basis, you can survive the volatility and achieve your goals and objectives.

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.

Semitrailer fatally strikes 18-year-old on Interstate 275 in Canton Twp.

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A semitrailer fatally struck an 18-year-old male after he tried walking away late March 11 from a single-vehicle crash along Interstate 275 in Canton Township.

Michigan State Police troopers said on Twitter that there were three occupants in a vehicle that crashed on the northbound side of the highway, near Ford Road, at about 11:20 p.m. March 11.

The occupants were trying to cross the southbound lanes when the 18-year-old Detroit resident was struck.

Canton police located his companions. The semitrailer driver stayed on the scene.

No other information was available. An investigation continues.

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

Graduate

Continued from Page 6A

she had worked with years before.

The man she had been watching the sunsets with was Whitey Bulger, a now-deceased Boston mobster who vanished in 1994.

She also would realize her true crime links when finding out a former priest was in prison for sex abuse.

"And I was a gymnast all of my life and Larry Nassar was my doctor," she said, referring to the man sentenced to more than a century behind bars on sexual assault charges and statements from a legion of women and girls.

"Those things also play into my quest for justice," she said. "I'm kind of intertwined in the true crime world."



CrimeCasters Network.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

On a personal level, Sofios and her husband Dean Rovinelli met at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Gallimore Elementary School. Now an owner of Barrio Cocina y Tequileria in Plymouth, he was her third-grade crush. Over the years, timing may have been

everything, but they eventually started dating. They married about three years ago after years of traveling cross country to see each other.

She was visiting Rovinelli when the pandemic became situation lockdown. She stayed, but there were lockdown problems that arose.

Sofios was so bored that she started making calls about the zoo shooting that was her first big true crime story. Then she called Dahl and re-pitched an idea. As journalists, they would revisit unsolved cases with outstanding questions or solved cases with unpopular resolutions.

Sofios was ecstatic when Dahl said she was finally available for the project. They fashioned their podcast as "true crime with a heart" and "real reporters, real cases, real investigations."

They record at StartUpNation stu-

dios in Birmingham. The podcast includes video portions on YouTube and features social media segments where the audience can weigh in on the evidence.

"We're trying to make it as real as possible but yet also let them know the real journalism behind it," said Dahl, who left Ohio to attend college in South Carolina, where she started her journalism career. "There are a million of these true crime podcasts but how many of them are actual journalists."

While the two can appear glamorous, there are days when they're meeting over Zoom in their sweats and updos.

Sofios now lives with her husband in Northville. Her parents still reside in Canton Township.

Find the Crimecasters Network online at www.crimecastersnetwork.com. svela@hometownlife.com

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Cars may soon prevent drunken driving

Critics decry device expected to check for intoxication

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's not as earth-shaking as 1966, when every new car sold in the U.S. suddenly needed seat belts.

Still, the latest auto-safety gizmo has car buffs ranting about freedom versus "the nanny state."

New cars sold in 2026 are expected to need a techno-spy onboard, checking whether the driver is too drunk to drive. Critics, including some fans of the magazines Car and Driver and Road and Track, say that amounts to Big Brother spying on Americans.

"We can't idiot-proof this world!" ranted one online naysayer. Enforcing laws already on the books should be enough, others said.

For some motorists caught inebriated behind the wheel, the criminal justice system does seem to work. For others, their drinking and driving don't stop with one arrest, or two, or even half a dozen. Despite laws and sentences that grew increasingly stiffer since the founding of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in 1980, some habitual drunks keep going and going, especially if they can hire good lawyers.

Consider the case of Derrick Okonmah, of Clarkston, who is himself a lawyer. Actually, consider the 11 cases involving alcohol in which Okonmah, 44, has been pulled over since 2010. Through his attorney, Okonmah declined to comment for this story.

Okonmah hasn't killed or even injured anyone. So he hasn't attracted the attention of the Kentucky man who died in a deadly crash three years ago that wiped out an entire Northville family returning from Disney World. That crash drew nationwide attention, spurring U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, who knew the family, to sponsor a law signed late last year by President Joe Biden. It requires automakers to install sensors on future models that will disable a car being driven by someone who's inebriated or otherwise unable to drive.

The driving history of motorists such as Okonmah shows a pattern of serial offenses that MADD says almost invariably leads to crashes, and that Dingell determined must be stopped. Okonmah has racked up driving arrests involving alcohol in at least 11 locales in Oakland, Washtenaw, and Clinton counties. According to police reports and court documents, he has been clocked at 100 mph on U.S. 23; repeatedly exhaled blood-alcohol levels that Michigan law calls "super drunk" — at or above .17, which is more than double Michigan's threshold for drunken driving of .08; and he has often been caught with open bottles of alcohol in his vehicle.

His latest arrest was in Ferndale early last year, when he blew .19 on a Breathalyzer, more than double the threshold for drunken driving. He was pulled over at 11 p.m. for driving without headlights after leaving a strip club on 8 Mile Road, Ferndale police Capt. Dave Spellman said. Okonmah admitted that he was driving with his driver's license suspended, Spellman said. Inside the console of his 2011 Honda was a 23.5-oz. can of Four Loko Hard Seltzer, "which was open and half-empty." This beverage has the same 12% alcohol strength as most wines.

He has been charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, third (or more) offense, and continuing to drive without a valid license. He awaits trial in Oakland Circuit Court after half a dozen adjournments requested by his defense attorney. Okonmah is wearing a court-ordered tether equipped with a sensor that detects whether the defendant has consumed alcohol, his defense attorney, Dov Lustig, said.

"The client has done the right thing and has not used any alcohol" since his arrest, Lustig said. As shocking as Okonmah's string of OWIs (operating while intoxicated) may sound, he simply has "an ongoing substance-abuse problem," said Lustig, who specializes in defending motorists charged with operating under the influence of alcohol.

Plenty of other motorists habitually drive while under the influence of alcohol, sometimes consuming alcohol as they drive. According to police and prosecutors, suspending such drivers' licenses does little to stop them. In Royal Oak last month, police responded to a tipster who said a driver had barely missed striking parked cars. When po-



Sobriety checkpoints have been used by law enforcement as a way to catch impaired drivers before they were involved in an accident hurting themselves or others. GETTY IMAGES



Students sign their pledge and name to one of the minivans parked outside of Ferndale High School in Ferndale on April 18, 2005. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTOS



Rana Abbas Taylor holds a photo of her sister, Rima Abbas while being comforted by her husband, Tom, during a candlelight vigil for the Abbas family at the Ford Field Park in Northville on Jan. 11, 2019.

lice caught up, it was a 47-year-old Royal Oak resident who had an open bottle of vodka in the car. She was arrested for Operating Under the Influence, third offense.

In Troy, where patrol officers receive advanced training for detecting impaired drivers, police arrested six drunken drivers on just one recent night in January. They included a 32-year-old man from St. Clair Shores who took a Breathalyzer test and blew .16, double the Michigan threshold for "drunk"; a 37-year-old Troy woman who fled on foot after rear-ending another car, then was arrested at her home, intoxicated, after she admitted to driving without a license suspended; a 40-year-old Detroit man found passed out with his Cadillac's engine running and the car scattered with a partially full beer and liquor bottles, and who then blew a sky-high blood alcohol level of .26 at the police station, and a 39-year-old Sterling Heights man who, after striking curbs and nearly hitting other cars with his pickup, told police he'd had too much to drink and hadn't had a valid license in 20 years.

All were repeated alcohol offenders, according to police reports. Each could've caused a fatal crash.

For more than 40 years, MADD has campaigned for an end to the annual carnage caused by drunken drivers. Despite decades of progress, leaders say it's not enough. Even with tougher sentencing, billboards and TV ads, school programs, and the words "Drink Responsibly" on beer cans, the nation's drunken drivers are responsible for at least 10,000 highway deaths a year, including about 1,000 children. No matter how much society tries to educate about the reasons not to drink and drive, and no matter how harshly it punishes offenders, some people will just keep doing it, said Alex Otte, MADD national president for 2021-22.

"We hear all the time about these egregious offenders. I was in Washington state recently hearing about someone who had 17 DUI arrests," said Otte, who lives in Lexington, Kentucky. Drunken-driving deaths have gone down by about 50% since MADD was founded in 1980 by a California woman whose daughter while walking to a church fes-

tival was fatally struck by a serial drunken driver.

"But the movement has stagnated for the past decade, and with the pandemic, it's gotten worse," Otte said.

Pandemic drinking

Deaths due to drunken-driving collisions increased by 9% in 2020 compared with 2019 despite the fact the vehicle miles traveled fell by 13% due to COVID-19, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Data for 2021 is expected to show a similar spike in drunken-driving deaths, Otte said.

"We knew that we needed something really different to turn this around. We believe this technology is going to do it," she said, referring to the in-car sensors called for by Michigan's congressional delegation. Not only was the initial idea pushed by Dingell. The innovative law was championed by Michigan's U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, who was honored in January with MADD's "Legislative Hero" award "for his commitment to eliminating drunken driving with automotive safety technology." Peters, who chairs the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, "was a vital cosponsor of the RIDE Act in the Senate," said Rana Abbas Taylor, whose sister died in the crash that traumatized Dearborn and alerted Dingell to the issue.

Another family member of a drunken-driving victim has spent nearly 25 years, thousands of hours and much of his own income trying to educate and scare drivers into driving sober. David Easterbrook said his efforts haven't been a failure but he agrees wholeheartedly with MADD, Dingell, Peters and researchers who've studied the issue: Something more was needed to stop the hard-core, relentlessly intoxicated repeat offenders and to stop the occasional first-time super-drunk who feels invulnerable, even at high speed and without a seat belt.

On a fateful night in 1997, Easterbrook, then a marketing executive with Kmart, stood on his front lawn in Troy and screamed in grief after a police officer told him that his daughter Ashley had been killed. She'd died along with

two of her friends when a drunken driver ran a red light at what police estimated to be nearly 100 mph. The teens had been driving home from getting ice cream. It was five days before her high school graduation. The other driver died hours later on a hospital operating table.

Ashley's dream

"It was a very tough time for me. It was, 'She's not allowed to live, I shouldn't be,'" Easterbrook said. Soon, though, he channeled his grief and marketing know-how into founding Ashley's Dream, a foundation to combat drunken driving. In the 25 years since his daughter's death, the nonprofit group has raised money for signs and billboards (one batch said "Drunk Driving — You Can't Afford It"); paid nearly \$1 million in college scholarships and school programs; and had Easterbrook and his son Alex giving speeches to countless school groups.

He received heartfelt thanks from other parents, from prosecutors and judges, teachers and principals, and from MADD. Still, he readily admitted, it wasn't enough.

"People are still dying," he said from Atlanta, where he and his wife, Gail, relocated to be close to grandchildren, and where he operates a trio of auto dealership supply firms called AME Companies. Its name has his daughter's initials. Last month, one of his employees' sons, a teenage boy, played in a lacrosse game and, afterward, the boy's teammate was walking home when "a drunk driver ran up on the sidewalk, ran over and killed him," Easterbrook said.

"Turned out, the guy who killed him has a son on the dead kid's football team. And then, three days later, the father commits suicide. It's so tragic, and it runs so deep, and it's so preventable," he said.

Easterbrook said he's delighted to hear about the prospect of a computerized cop coming to the inside of every vehicle dashboard.

"I love that technology," he said, adding: "We can put a man on the moon, right? You'd think we could stop a drunk guy from driving."

Free Press staff writer Todd Spangler contributed to this report.



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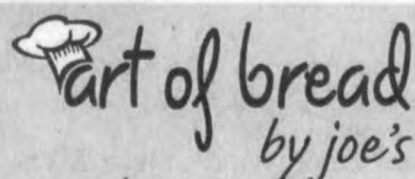
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SPORTS

From roughhousing to winning it all

South Lyon senior wins first-ever MHSAA girls wrestling title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was just a playful spat between the two — nothing too serious.

But Kailyn Garrett had had enough of her uncle, Matthew Allard, picking on

her that night.

So, right there in the living room, Garrett jumped Allard and the two started wrestling.

Garrett, just a middle schooler then, had no trouble getting her 6-foot-2 uncle on the floor and pinning him.

"This 13-year-old should not be pinning me!" Garrett recalled Allard saying to her other family members while he struggled to free himself. "You need to get her into wrestling!"

That's all it took to plant the seed. Garrett couldn't get that comment out of her mind.

So she worked up the courage to at-

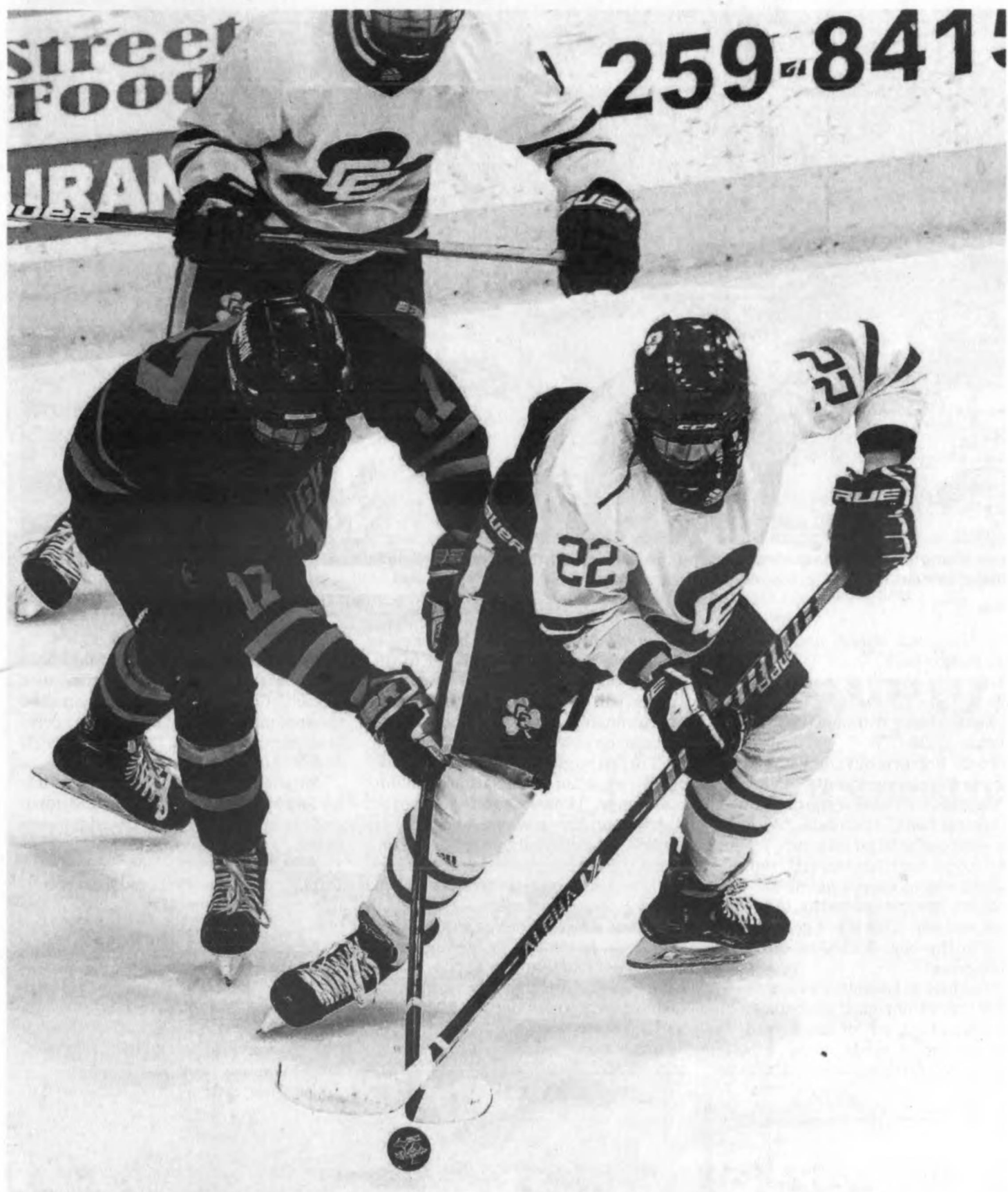
tend practice with the Michigan Matcats Wrestling Club, South Lyon's local youth wrestling program.

"I loved it," she said of her first experience with organized wrestling. "I finally found a sport that fit me."

That was five years ago.

See WINNING, Page 6B

Shamrocks repeat as state champs



Detroit Catholic Central's Parker Jamieson (right) battles for possession against Brighton during the Division 1 hockey state championship March 12 at USA Hockey Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Catholic Central overcomes rare one-goal deficit to beat Brighton

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A wake-up call.

A reality check.

Whatever you want to call it, that's what the top-ranked Detroit Catholic Central hockey team got.

Brighton's Cameron Duffany pushed in the first goal of the March 12 Division 1 state championship at USA Hockey Arena just over 3 minutes into the second period.

What, the Shamrocks, who lost just once to a team from Michigan this winter, were trailing? Leading up to the state-finals, they had allowed just one goal throughout the entire postseason. They never play from behind.

But there it was. A one-goal deficit in quite the back-and-forth affair.

And it was enough to make the Shamrocks' guts clench.

Heck, you could even feel the tension among its fans and rowdy student section in the southeast corner of the ice.

"That was kind of an awareness from us to be kind of like, 'Hey, nobody's going to give this to you, right? You've got to earn it,' and we responded really well to that reality check," seventh-year coach Brandon Kaleniecki said.

"We're always reminding the guys that adversity is going to strike at some point. Whether you're ready for it or not is the key. For us to go down 1-0, we

See SHAMROCKS, Page 3B

How Canton bounced back after losing KLAA title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lake McIntosh somehow missed both free throws.

And the Canton senior rarely misses. He's one of the best guards in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

But there was Devon Pettus. Right in the perfect spot to corral an offensive board.

After the 6-foot sophomore secured the rebound, he pivoted and sailed a chest pass back to McIntosh. This time the sharpshooter didn't miss, as McIntosh's fadeaway jumper gave the Chiefs a 17-point lead with 5 minutes left.

Plymouth immediately called a timeout to stop the bleeding during Wednesday's Division 1 district semifinal.

Canton's Ryan Tarquinto jolted off the bench and raced to halfcourt to dap up Pettus. And then Canton coach Jimmy Reddy headed to the same spot to bang Pettus on the arm twice with his fist. Reddy was proud of his boys.

It was one of those signature moments for the Chiefs. That play was Canton basketball.

The fundamentals.

The wherewithal to do the dirty work under the basket.

The energy to keep making the right plays down the stretch.

Canton beat the Wildcats, 70-49, and advanced to Friday's championship against Northville.

It sure felt a lot different around Bob Blohm Court than it had recently.

The Chiefs (16-5) needed one of those old-school Canton victories, and they got one against their Parc rivals.

"We focused on what's got us to where we've been," Reddy said. "Why we were in the (KLAA) championship? Because we were playing great defense, rebounding and taking care of the ball. We just put an emphasis on the things we've done all year. The guys did a great job responding in practice, and tonight they did everything we talked about in terms of our keys."

The Chiefs are playing for a district championship, which is the perfect Band-Aid for the adversity they've faced.

Last month, it took everything they had, including a 15-point explosion in the final four minutes from Ferris State signee Cole Vickers, to squeak past Plymouth by only four points.

But then Vickers, Canton's top defender and go-to scorer, suffered an ACL injury against Hartland, ending the senior's high school career and taking an important piece off the Chiefs' chessboard.

See CANTON, Page 2B



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Wayne Memorial motivated after semifinal loss

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne Memorial girls basketball coach Jarvis Mitchell is strong in his faith.

Anyone who's ever followed him on Twitter is well aware of that.

And he's a big believer in everything happening for a reason.

That's why it's great the Zebras didn't win the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship two weeks ago.

Wait, what?

Yeah, Wayne lost by almost 10 points to Howell in the league tournament semifinal. It was only the fourth time in Mitchell's eight years leading the program that the Zebras didn't win the conference outright. They were relegated to playing in a consolation game against Belleville instead of competing for some hardware.

Not only was that loss a wake-up call, but it has motivated them to remain even hungrier this postseason.

They had won four straight since that loss, including winning the Division 1 district championship and beating Northville in the regional opener.

So when they faced adversity against Brighton in Thursday's regional championship at Ypsilanti Lincoln, Mitchell and his players all thought back to that loss to Howell.

They never, ever want to feel the pain of defeat like that again.

"Everything happens in divine order," Mitchell said. "So if that was supposed to happen for us to get to our destiny, I'm fine with that. You never want to lose in any situation. ... It's such a delicate fabric, man. In hindsight, I'm glad I'm here. If that loss got me *HERE*, I'll lose all of them. I'll go 0-20 if that means I can keep playing in March."

That loss to Howell helped Wayne (22-2) learn how to handle high-pressure moments.

And Brighton definitely created a high-pressure moment or two.

The Zebras jumped out to an easy 25-8 lead in the first half, doing everything fans of the sport expected one of the top-ranked teams in the state to do.

And they even carried a 12-point lead into the halftime locker room.

But Brighton didn't lay down and die. In fact, the Bulldogs ratcheted up their intensity in the second half.

They scored the first eight points of the third quarter, limited Wayne to just a pair of baskets (a turnaround jumper from Colleena Bryant and a pull-up jumper from Mayla Ham) and outscored the Zebras 17-4 in the period.

Brighton's Makena Smith made a shot down low that gave her team its first lead of the night, 32-31.

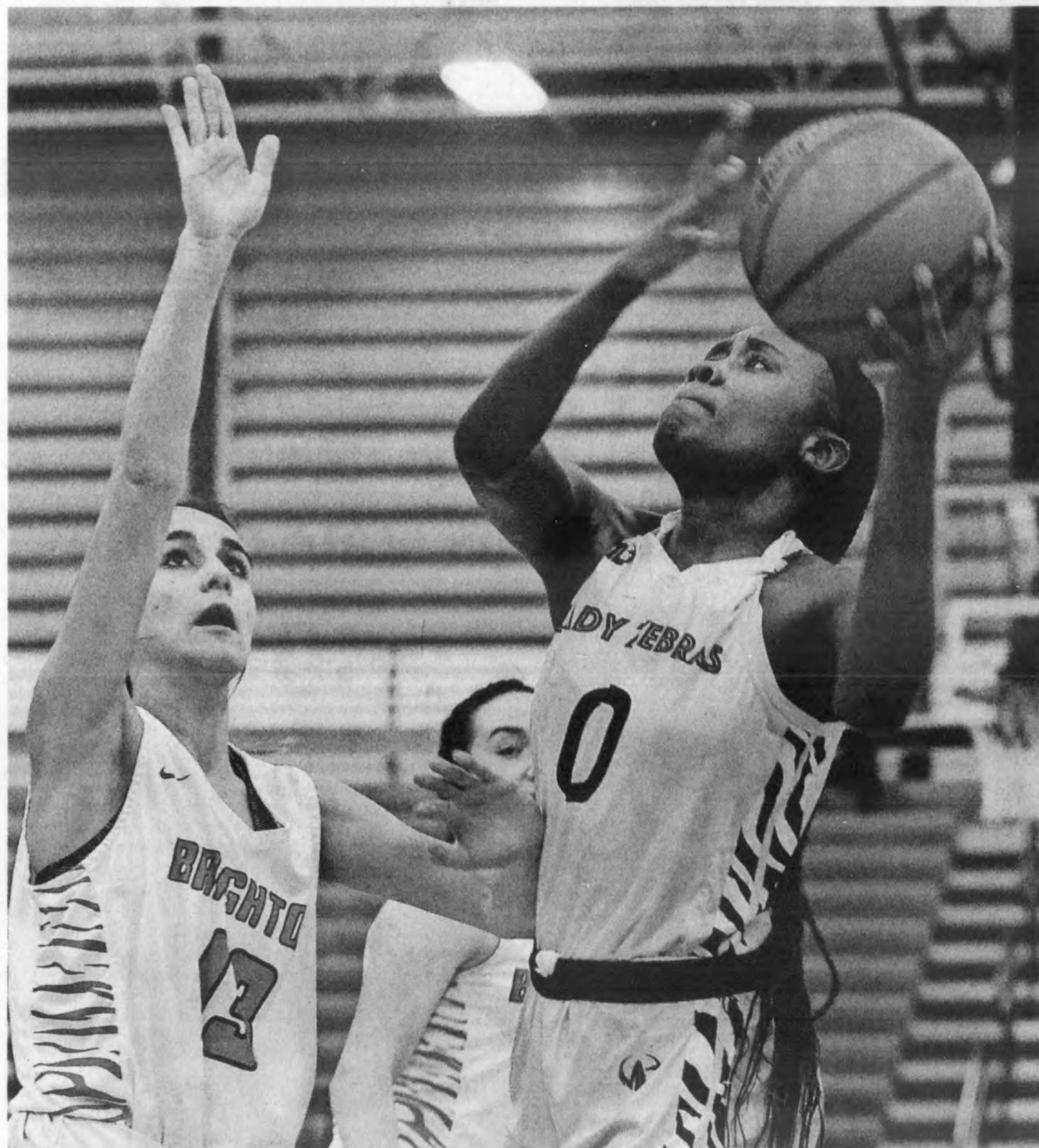
"Meltdown," Mitchell said. "It was a meltdown."

Wayne didn't flinch entering the fourth, though.

It elected to slow down the ball, focusing on making crisp passes and waiting until the best shots opened up.

In turn, that kept Brighton's offense away from its basket.

Ham and Davai Matthews, who finished with 14 and 12 points apiece, made back-to-back buckets down low to put



Wayne Memorial's Paris Bass shoots during the Division 1 girls basketball regional final against Brighton on March 10 at Ypsilanti Lincoln. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the Zebras back ahead, and the team never looked back.

Brighton's Mary Copple drove to the hoop for two points with 23 seconds left, but that only trimmed the Bulldogs' deficit to 37-36.

Wayne finished out the game at the foul line to preserve the 40-36 victory.

"We shouldn't have come out slow (in the second half)," Ham said. "We knew they were going to go on a run. We just had to come back harder. ... So our new mindset was to keep it going, slow the ball down. We just needed to collect ourselves and say, 'This is our game. We've got it in the bag. Just slow down the whole game.'"

"(The loss to Howell) was very motivating. We're not used to losing. That took something out of us. It made us work harder. It made us be a better team, be better teammates and be better

leaders. We've just worked harder every day in practice so we could get to this point."

The win advanced Wayne to state quarterfinals against Riverview, which will also be played at Lincoln.

"I'm just so glad we pulled it out," said Matthews, a Long Beach State (California) signee. "I knew we were going to get it. It just took us a while, even after we went on a run. Usually, after they go on a run, we'd put our heads down, but I feel like we had great leadership in this game."

"Everybody expects us to win every game, and we expect to win every game. But it's not like that. We have wins. We have losses. After that loss (to Howell), Coach Jarvis got on us. Our teammates had our backs."

"After a loss, you've got to pick it up and stay focused. You can't get down on

yourself."

Brighton attempted a Hail Mary near half-court at the buzzer, but the shot missed the mark and Wayne corralled the rebound, and that's where the celebration started, right there in the west end of the arena.

Mitchell saw Paris Bass, Alexis Halley and Matthews jumping up and down and then he gave a heart-felt fist pump in return.

It was a battle, but Wayne got through it. This adversity will likely prepare the Zebras for more to come in the elite eight.

After all, everything happens for a reason.

"We got lucky, we got lucky," he said.

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

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

They had to retool their lineup without him and find a different kind of team chemistry. And they did just enough, by relying on some hard-nosed defense, to finish the KLAA-West undefeated.

Without Vickers, Canton ripped off wins in its next four games to qualify for the KLAA championship vs. Hartland.

The defense came to play again during the championship, but it struggled to drum up any offense. And the Chiefs suffered their first league loss when McIntosh's 3-point buzzer-beater couldn't send the game to overtime.

It was the Eagles who celebrated winning the KLAA title on Canton's court.

Coming off that loss and still understanding Vickers wasn't available to face Plymouth in the district opener, Canton knew it needed to get back to the basics in practice this past week.

And that attitude was just what it took to beat the Wildcats.

"It's a complete turnaround of showing what we were capable of doing last week," said McIntosh, who scored a team-best 18 points. "We came out way stronger and had a lot more energy. All of our points came from the defensive energy. We just had a lot of energy."

The Chiefs had five players score in double figures.

Pettus posted 10 by banging around



Canton's Lake McIntosh tries to get a shot on net while surrounded by three Plymouth players March 9. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

near the hoop.

Dante Favor scored 11 under the rim and with drives to the basket.

Jaden Williams buried a trio of 3-pointers to finish with 11 points.

And Omar Suleiman came up with clutch basket after clutch basket to total 12.

Canton's defensive effort ensured an early 15-point lead, and the Chiefs didn't

let the Wildcats score their first basket until there was 3:45 left in the opening quarter.

Plymouth's Jace Petree, who scored a game-best 22 points, nailed a half-court buzzer-beater to make sure his team didn't trail by 18 going into the second quarter.

"Defense has been an emphasis of ours all year," Reddy said. "Since Cole's

gone down, we've been playing some pretty good defense. We've been holding teams to low point totals. We've been playing some pretty darn good defense. Minus the Hartland game, we've been doing a great job on the glass and being the first one on the rebound."

Plymouth played so well against Canton earlier in the season and almost upset the Chiefs.

They were excited about playing Canton without Vickers in the lineup.

"We were saying we had a good shot," coach Mike Soukup said. "But it just didn't click at the right time for this squad. ... We spread them out wide. We started attacking the basket a little too late."

With 57 seconds left, Reddy substituted in backups so they could get a taste of playoff basketball.

The last to jog off the court was Pettus, who made rebounding and hustling look routine and commonplace all night.

Reddy walked to the end of the bench to slap five with his bulldog post player he likes to call "Mr. Chuckles." And then Pettus went behind the bench to grab a cup of water.

As Pettus made his way to the orange Gatorade jug, Vickers, who has a brace on his leg following his recent ACL surgery, stretched as long as he could from his seat to pat his teammate on the back.

The loss in the KLAA championship was finally behind them. Canton basketball was back.

Shamrocks

Continued from Page 1B

really responded quickly."

CC (26-4) certainly did.

Three minutes after Brighton's goal, Nolan Galda blasted a laser from the top of the left faceoff circle.

PING!

The shot had banged dead-center off the crossbar.

"OHHH!" the entire CC crowd groaned in response, the tension and doubt growing even worse in their bellies.

Fortunately, Parker Jamieson had put himself in a perfect position to corral the rebound and push it in.

It was a tie score. But CC wasn't out of the woods yet.

But, sure enough, about 5 minutes later, Brian Apple slapped in a rebound of his own, slipping a wide-open shot past Brighton goalie Levi Pennala (31 saves) on the power-play.

Not only did the two goals swing the momentum of the game, but it also created a domino effect for CC to pour on three more goals to close out the 5-1 victory and repeat as the state champions.

The championship was CC's 20th, counting the state titles before the Michigan High School Athletic Association started hosting the state tournament. And it was the Shamrocks' 15th since 1994.

"We've been working on that power play all year," said Apple, a first-year senior for CC. "We've had a lot of ups and downs with it. I just passed it Grondz (Nate Grondzieleski) back door, and I saw that he had the shot. I kinda got good puck-luck there, and it ended up on my stick. But that's my teammates' job right there, opening the lane up for me.

"That's probably the most-exciting goal I've ever scored. I've got to say. I'm speechless right now. Words can't describe how important that goal is for me. I couldn't do it without my teammates. They were the ones cheering me on."

What's more, Apple's effort put the crowd at ease as they watched Jack Swamba, Justin Hubenschmidt and Landon West rifle in three-unanswered goals in the final period to secure the win.

"After that first goal Brighton scored, we never got down," Apple said. "We



Detroit Catholic Central's Brian Apple scores the game-winning goal March 12 against Brighton during the Division 1 hockey state championship at USA Hockey Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Brighton's Dylan Hunt (18) battles in front of CC goalie Nick Galda. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

knew that we were going to come back. We just knew we were going to do it.

"After the first goal they scored, we got kind of a reality check. And from right there, we knew we weren't going to be beat. So we just played as team, stayed in our system and it just worked

from there."

Jamieson's line was the one that was on the ice for Brighton's goal.

Their first shift back, they knotted the score.

Kaleniecki, who won his fourth state title in five tries dating back to 2016, said

he wasn't surprised to see one of his top lines hungry to right their wrongs from moments earlier.

"When you go down, guys are going to grip their sticks a little tighter," the coach said. "They were a little frustrated from the shift before. For them to respond by coming back their very next shift to get a goal, I think that as a whole pushed our team forward. That made the team like, 'Yeah we're going to bounce back here. We're going to come back.' Apple put us ahead 2-1, and I think at that point we really felt like we were in a good spot and were going to keep building chances to score."

CC says farewell to 20 seniors, a few of whom doused Kaleniecki with water bottles while their coach was doing his post-game TV interview on the ice with Bally Sports.

Shortly afterward, the team sang the alma mater with CC's student section and the few fans left to watch the celebration.

Not an ounce of tension was left in the arena.

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

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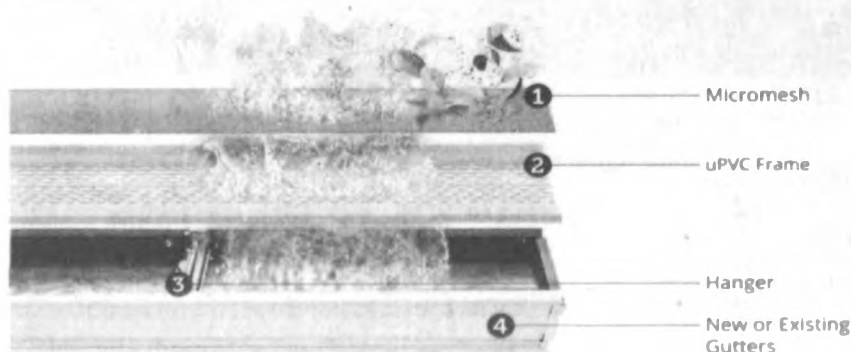
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South Lyon East sophomore wins state title at 130 pounds

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tyler Swanigan got bored of just sitting around and watching.

She wanted to try out the sport for herself.

Growing up, her brother, Thaddeus, wrestled for the Michigan Matcats Wrestling Program, South Lyon's local youth organization.

She would go to the practices, watch him train and sit off to the side by herself. And then she would go to the weekend tournaments, watch him compete and sit in the bleachers alone.

By the time she was 7 years old, she had had enough of the boredom. She had picked up a few techniques and fundamentals from watching her brother vicariously. So she signed up to wrestle.

She went to practices with him, competed in tournaments and fell in love with the sport. The first time she wrestled, she took second place. It was a life-changing experience, she said.

Fast forward to today, and the South Lyon East sophomore is now the best 130-pound girls wrestler in the state.

Early this month, she competed in the individual wrestling state finals at Ford Field. It marked the first time the Michigan High School Athletic Association allowed the girls to wrestle alongside the boys.

Swanigan entered the tournament as the No. 1-ranked wrestler in her weight class after collecting 25 wins throughout the regular season and regionals. Most of her wins came against boys in the Lakes Valley Conference. She didn't face girls until the post-season started.

She cruised through her first three matches of the state finals, pinning each of her opponents.

And then she faced Clinton's Faith Blackburn in the championship match.

Swanigan controlled the opening period, but Blackburn battled back, and then the two went toe to toe. By the time the third and final period ended, the score was knotted at 6. Overtime was needed.

It took Swanigan earning a two-point takedown during an extra period for her to win 8-6 by sudden victory, claiming the state title just a few moments into the overtime.

Swanigan got in about 5 seconds worth of celebrating — raising both arms in triumph and smiling to the point where she was nearly crying — before she paused, turned around and looked at Blackburn.

Blackburn was in absolute tears. Swanigan stopped to embrace Blackburn with a hug and gave words of encouragement.

Why?

Swanigan and Blackburn are best friends. They first met at a youth tournament when Swanigan was 7.

"Wrestling my best friend, it's really crazy," Swanigan said. "It was definitely a tough match. I definitely felt bad, but then I felt better once I realized it was going to be us two at the top of the podium."

In Swanigan's corner during the match was fourth-year coach Matt Cepak.

The two also share an inseparable bond.

When Swanigan originally signed up for the Matcats, Cepak was a coach in the program.

When an opportunity to take the varsity job at South Lyon East opened, Cepak made the transition

See EAST, Page 7B

Obituaries

Ronnie VanSickle

WESTLAND - Ronnie Van Sickle was born to George & Clara (Hollis) Van Sickle on November 10, 1942, in Northville, Michigan. He graduated Northville High School in 1960. He passed away peacefully on March 4, 2022. Ron joined the U.S. Navy in 1962 during the Vietnam War. He was trained as an Aviation Electrician in Jacksonville, Florida, then was stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station. He married Tillie Miller in 1963; they had three children. He worked for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. in 1966, and spent his entire career working in communications, a member of the CWA, retiring after 34 years. He was noted as an excellent electrician, doing jobs for family and friends. Ron enjoyed playing softball in his younger years, then bowling on a league for many years. Learning to play the drums, he joined the family in many jam sessions. Yard work was also something he enjoyed. He is survived by his sons Ronald Van Sickle of Pinckney and James (Kelly) Van Sickle of Trenton, his daughter, Karen Fairman, of Huntington Woods, and the light of his life, his granddaughter, Hannah Fairman. He will be laid to rest in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi, Michigan. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com



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South Lyon's Kailyn Garrett takes the mat during the MHSAA individual wrestling state finals March 5 at Ford Field. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Winning

Continued from Page 1B

Now Garrett is the best 190-pound female wrestler in the state.

That fact can't be disputed.

She competed in the individual state championship tournament at Ford Field. It was the first time the Michigan High School Athletic Association had ever made room for the girls to compete alongside the boys.

The senior pinned her first three opponents each in around 1 minute or less to qualify for the championship match.

And that final bout wasn't typical.

Garrett participated in the march to the mat where the MHSAA has every state qualifier walk out of the same tunnel the Detroit Lions use for their pre-game introductions. The wrestlers circled the north end of the field before standing together on a set of five wrestling mats for the singing of the national anthem.

The crowd was packed. The stadium lights shined brightly on the mats. The wrestling world was focused on Ford Field.

And, most importantly, the MHSAA did it the right way. Since it was the first time the girls were present at the state finals, it put them on the center-most mat, the best mat in the house for spectators, regardless of where they sat.

What an experience.

Garrett was in the second match of the evening, so she waited as Brighton's Sabrina Nauss became the first-ever girls individual state champion recognized by the MHSAA.

Garrett took the mat against Marcellus sophomore Gabriella Allen and turned her final high school match into quite the point-collecting exercise.

The Albion College signee grappled back and forth with Allen, picking up point after point until the three periods finally ended and she was up, 19-9, good enough for her to secure the state title by major decision.

She wore a bright smile when she talked about winning it all. But she was also happy with her pioneering effort. She can forever say she won a state title the first year the MHSAA let the girls play.

"It's completely different here because (at girls-only state tournaments) I had a quarter of the people here watching me," she said. "And now to be able to do it alongside the men is just crazy to me."

"I am just proud. It's awesome being able to have the shot to be here. We never had this before."

The win was obviously Garrett's first MHSAA championship, but it was her second state title, as she also won a championship as a sophomore through Michigan Wrestling Association.

However, the manifest destiny of girls wrestling hasn't been the easiest experience for Garrett.

Yes, she was a state finalist as a freshman and a champion the following year. But she's been doing all of this as the only girl on South Lyon's high school team. She's had to practice with the boys, wrestle against the boys and even dual against the boys.

She competes at 190 pounds in the girls tournament, but she's faced 189- and 215-pounders when she lines up across boys. In fact, she recently took sixth place at 215 pounds during the Lakes Valley Conference championships.

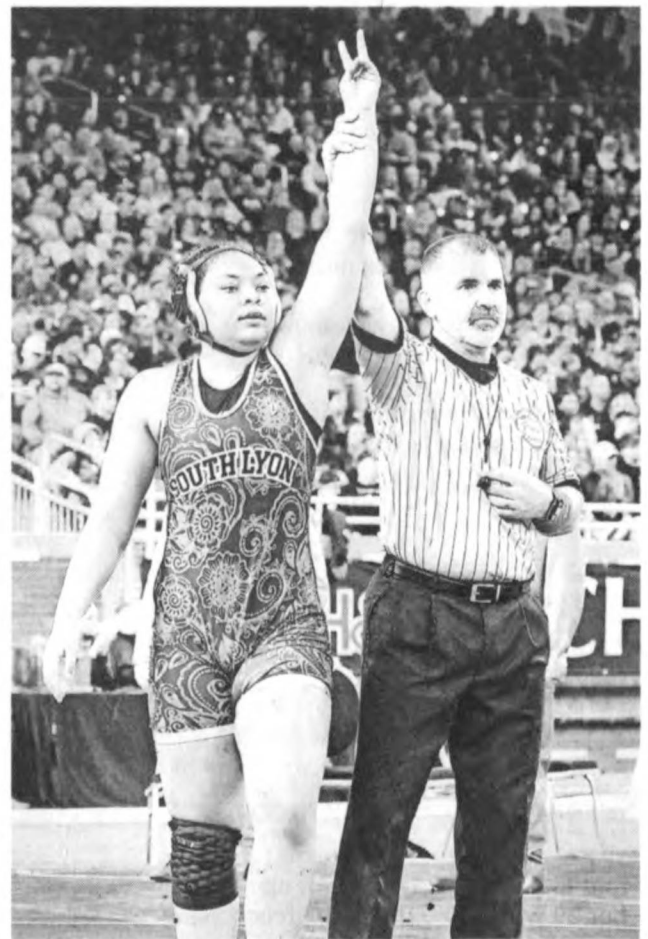
That hasn't always been the easiest experience, but it's toughened up her mindset.

What's more, she suffered a torn labrum injury as a junior. But she battled back from the setback to place at last year's girls state finals.

She's just determined to win.



Garrett grapples with Marcellus' Gabriella Allen.



Garrett celebrates winning the state title.

"The girl just wants it," South Lyon coach Zachary Makowski said. "She works hard. She's very talented and skilled. She's in the heavier weights here, but she doesn't go out and always want to dance and do the upper body stuff. She takes shots, and she's a very skilled wrestler."

"She's made an immediate impact in our program. She's been in our varsity lineup for all four years here. Out of the gate, I knew she was going to be good and fill a role on our team more than just being in the girls tournament. This year, she has been lights-out and unstoppable the last few weeks leading into regionals. Her integrity and the way she practices and handles her nutrition and weight just sets her apart."

Garrett celebrated with Makowski immediately after winning it all.

After the two wrapped up interviews with reporters, Garrett said she was excited to talk with her future college coaches at Albion, who were watching in the stands.

But, first, she had to find her family sitting in a different section. She needed to hug her uncle.

Sophomore helps Northville get past rival Salem

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the hottest teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association late in the regular season wasn't league champion Hartland or runner-up Canton, which won 15 of its 16 conference games.

It was actually six-win Novi.

Yes, you've read that correctly.

The Wildcats, who won just once in their first 13 games, which included an 11-game losing streak, gave every team it faced a heck of a battle down the stretch.

They won three of their final five matchups, one of which was a huge two-point overtime win at Northville.

So they entered the postseason with plenty of mojo and swagger.

And they didn't disappoint either. They downed Salem, 70-61, in the Division 1 pre-district March 7.

Northville coach Todd Sander wasn't exactly excited about facing the rival Wildcats in semifinals at Canton, especially with how poorly the Mustangs played them last time.

"Our effort just wasn't what it needed to be," Sander said of the 50-48 loss on Feb. 18. "I don't know if we were just overconfident from having beaten them the first time (60-44 in January). But they killed us on the offensive glass, and they got every loose ball."

And the semifinal was shaping up to be another disappointment for the Mustangs, who allowed Novi guard Te'John McGowan to score nine of his team's 13 points in the opening quarter, giving the Wildcats a six-point lead.

But then McGowan got into foul trouble and sat almost the entire second quarter.

And Northville started finding its groove.

Sam Barnhart cleaned up the glass.

Its defense forced Novi into taking contested shots.

And Matt Gorski, who finished with 12 points, scored all 10 of Northville's points in the period, including sinking a 3-pointer before halftime that ensured both teams entered the locker room tied at 16.

We had a game on our hands.

"It doesn't take much to stay fired up with Northville-Nov, Sander said.

Barnhart scored down low off an out-of-bounds play to give Northville its first lead, 25-22, with 1:25 left in the third quarter, a lead it would never relinquish.

In fact, Barnhart made a put-back attempt that put the Mustangs ahead by five early in the fourth.

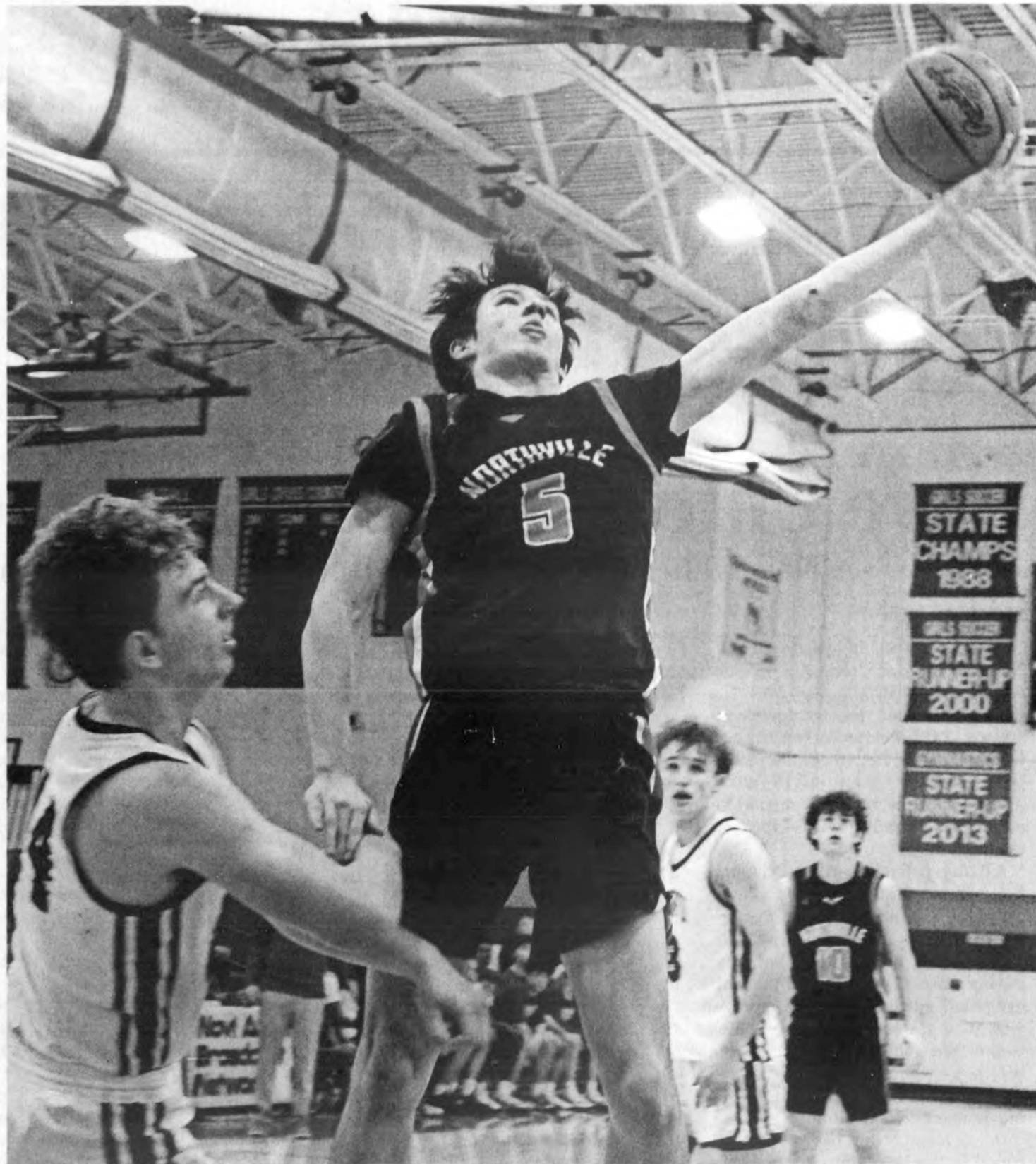
McGowan helped the Wildcats battle back, but then the unlikely of players stepped up for Northville.

Carlos Adamson buried a 3-pointer to make it a six-point game.

And then, moments later, the sophomore knocked down another one to put Northville ahead by nine.

That final dagger with 2:40 left made put a comeback out of reach for Novi, which the Mustangs ultimately beat, 42-29.

"Carlos is already a special player, and he's only going to get better with every game and every year," Sander said. "Being a sophomore is hard when your teammates are all older than you. Espe-



Northville's Matt Gorski snags a rebound during the Division 1 district semifinal March 9 at Canton.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

cially when you're really good, I think sometimes it can be hard to be a little selfish or to think, 'Am I supposed to shoot this shot?' I think he was a little hesitant in the first half, but he obviously stepped up and had the guts to seal the game."

All nine of Adamson's points came in the second half.

"My teammates just constantly tell me to shoot," the guard said. "I didn't shoot much in the first half, but they gave me the confidence to take the big shots when they were wide open, and I knocked them down."

Adamson knows his role.

He's the youngest. He's still trying to figure out how varsity basketball works.

He knows he's the team's second option on offense, behind Gorski, one of the KLAA's best shooters and a senior who has a knack to rise up during big moments.

But Novi did its best to take Gorski out of the game in the second half. And the Wildcats did.

Those two 3-point opportunities were wide-open for Adamson because Gorski was being double-teamed.

"The way No. 10 (Novi's Nathan Schave) was playing on him tonight, it was rough for him," Adamson said of Gorski. "I'm glad he could draw that guy in and get me open shots."

Northville's defense did well on McGowan and Danny Groechel, who have both lifted the Wildcats' offense during their recent hot streak.

McGowan finished with a game-high 14 points while Groechel had eight.

"Our guys just really committed to guarding No. 2 (McGowan) and No. 3 (Groechel)," Sander said. "They've both been so hot lately that they were really our focus. They made some really tough shots in the first half that you just have

to credit them because those are the types of players that they are."

So the Mustangs got past their biggest rival, but Novi isn't going away any time soon.

Coach Chris Housey graduates just one senior starter in Groechel. The rest of his best players are returning.

Next year's two KLAA-West matchups aren't going to be any easier for the Mustangs.

"We're going to use this as a building block and get ready in the off-season for next year," Housey said. "We were tough. There were multiple times this season where we could've folded or given up, but we didn't. We hung tough and hung together. When you have good team chemistry and a good culture, everyone picks each other up, and you can build on that. I think we can build on that and get stronger in the off-season to get ready to come back next year."

East

Continued from Page 6B

from the club level to high school. Two years later, one of his favorite youth wrestlers, Swanigan, helped round out his starting lineup.

Now Cepak has her start at the 125- and 130-pound boys weight classes. Of her 29 wins in 2021-22, she recorded 19 pins. He has nothing but faith in her when it comes to collecting points in duals for the Cougars.

"I've been with her for so long, and she's been on my girls national team," Cepak said. "We've been all over the country together. She's just an amazing young woman. She has a really strong work ethic and is just an amazing girl."

"I expect to see big things from here. I expect the same thing (winning state titles) from her the next two years and the same thing at the college level. That's one of her ambitions is to wrestle at the college level. I can't wait to see what she does for the rest of her wrestling career."

Cepak has three children of his own, all of whom are big into wrestling.

His oldest, Olivia, wrestled at the University of the Cumberlands in Kentucky. His middle child, Matthew, currently wrestles for Siena Heights, and his youngest, Bella, is a budding star with national titles already on her resume.



South Lyon East's Tyler Swanigan grapples with Clinton's Faith Blackburn during the MHSAA individual wrestling state finals March 5 at Ford Field.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

But technically he has a fourth child: Swanigan, whose father recently passed away.

"She calls me dad," Cepak said proudly while fighting tears of joy.

When asked what his favorite moment of Swanigan's journey this winter has been, he replied, "To be able to be her coach and have her call me dad, too." This time he started crying.

He was as proud of her at that moment as he has been for his own children's success on the mat.

And it all started when Swanigan joined the Matcats when she was 7 years old.

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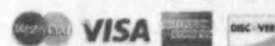
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Are Unions Making a Comeback?

A New Generation Could Revitalize Union Efforts in the U.S.

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Union membership has steadily declined in the U.S., from 20.1% of the workforce in 1983 to 10.3% in 2021. The number of major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers has also fallen markedly, from more than 400 a year in the early 1950s to just 16 in 2021. At the same time, however, support for unions has recently grown—especially among younger workers.

A Gallup poll released last fall found that support for unions is at its highest point in almost 65 years. According to the report, 68% of Americans now approve of organized labor. That means support has risen 20 percentage points since 2009, when approval was at its lowest point since polling began. The increase is largely being driven by the labor market entry of Gen Z and younger Millennials, 77% of whom approve of unions.

Union membership has steadily declined in the U.S., from 20.1% of the workforce in 1983 to 10.3% in 2021. The number of major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers has also fallen markedly, from more than 400 a year in the early 1950s to just 16 in 2021.

Younger Workers Are Leading the Charge. Fresh faces expect more from employers

Baristas in their twenties led some of the first efforts to unionize Starbucks locations, for example. The effects were felt almost immediately when they went on strike in early 2022 to protest

unsafe working conditions. Several early successes have encouraged further unionization efforts, which have now spread to almost 100 stores.

The tech industry, which tends to attract younger workers, is another space where unionization efforts are taking hold. In 2021, Google employees and contractors formed the Alphabet Workers Union. With over 800 members, the union has helped lead the charge in protecting Google workers from wrongful termination and in promoting transparency around who will be using the products they build—such as governments or militaries.

Essential Workers Flex Their Muscles. Workers on the front lines during the pandemic are demanding better conditions

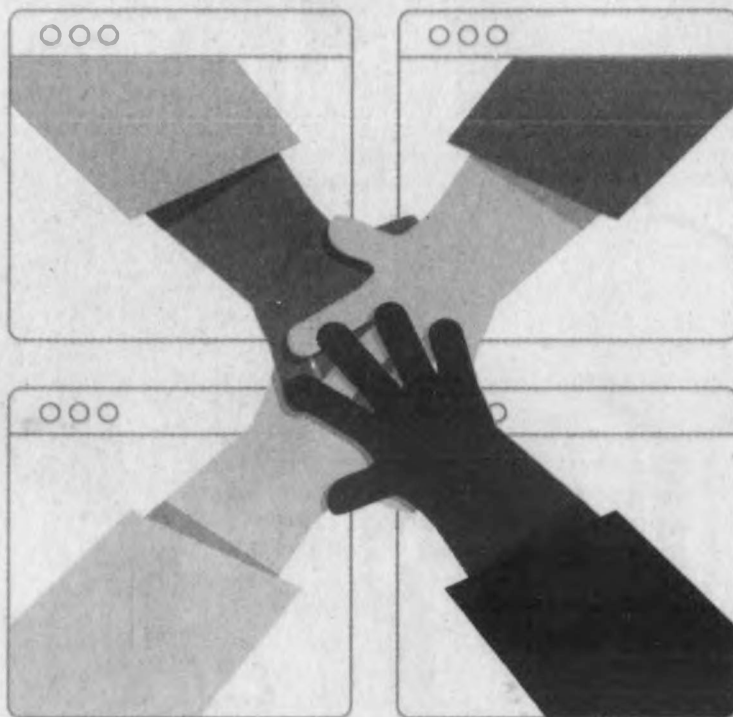
Another major factor driving the shift to union support is the Covid-19 pandemic, which upended many industries, especially healthcare. In 2021, almost 1 in 5 healthcare workers left their jobs, while another 12% were laid off. This talent vacuum created acute staffing shortages in many hospitals, putting even more pressure on those who remained. A 10-month-long nurses' strike in protest against conditions at St. Vincent's hospital in

Massachusetts was the longest work stoppage in state history.

Amazon is a major corporation whose workers also provided an essential service to Americans during the pandemic. Organizers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama held a unionization vote last year. While the initial effort failed, there is currently another vote taking place. At the same time, Amazon warehouse workers in Staten Island, New York are now moving towards their own vote in pursuit of longer breaks, better medical and other leave options, and higher wages.

More to Come in 2022? A more union-friendly generation is coming of age

Recently, labor organizers have emphasized the unionization not only of blue-collar workers, but also of white-collar workers in tech companies and universities. Graduate students at schools like Indiana University and tech workers at companies like Apple and Activision Blizzard have staged sit-ins, circulated petitions, and mounted new unionization efforts. The efforts seem at least partly influenced by tight labor market conditions and the newfound leverage workers have enjoyed in recent months. But a culture shift also seems to be playing a role. Whether those shifts will be enough to reverse the 30-year downward trend in union membership waits to be seen.



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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword

CONFORMITY

ACROSS

1 Competitor
6 Least hilly
14 Spring birds
20 Adult insect stage
21 Irish moss or noni
22 Insect's egg capsule
23 Steady job, say
25 Money, slangily
26 Egg on
27 See 110-Across
28 One — kind
30 Israeli politician
31 Walkiki locale
33 Catholic liturgy
35 Steak/lobster combo dish
39 Leave behind
41 Aquarium shop supply
42 Endowing organization
45 Didn't allow to pass, as a bill
50 Swimmer Gertrude
51 "— the night before ..."
54 Novelist — Stanley Gardner

55 Pass, as a bill
59 "Lady Love" singer Rawls
60 Really hate
62 Jeans brand
63 Recline lazily
64 Regulating system
67 Main nun
69 Nest egg abbr.
70 Estevez of "Tex"
71 Attractive
78 Tesla's Musk
79 Volley starter
80 Flora and fauna
81 GPS display
82 Vogue thing
83 Uruguay's Punta del —
84 Good buds
85 Campout fuel
87 Suffer from hunger
89 Like an attention-grabbing actor
96 Unrefined petroleum
99 Eppie who's known as Ann Landers
100 Home-state candidate
104 Skillful feat
106 Clodhopper

107 Pitcher Hershiser
108 Grassy tract
109 Deceive
110 With
27-Across, makeshift sheds
112 Theater area
114 What the starts of seven answers in this puzzle might do?
121 California beach city
122 Online merchants
123 Sharpens
124 Appraise
125 Sign on a dead-end street
126 Start

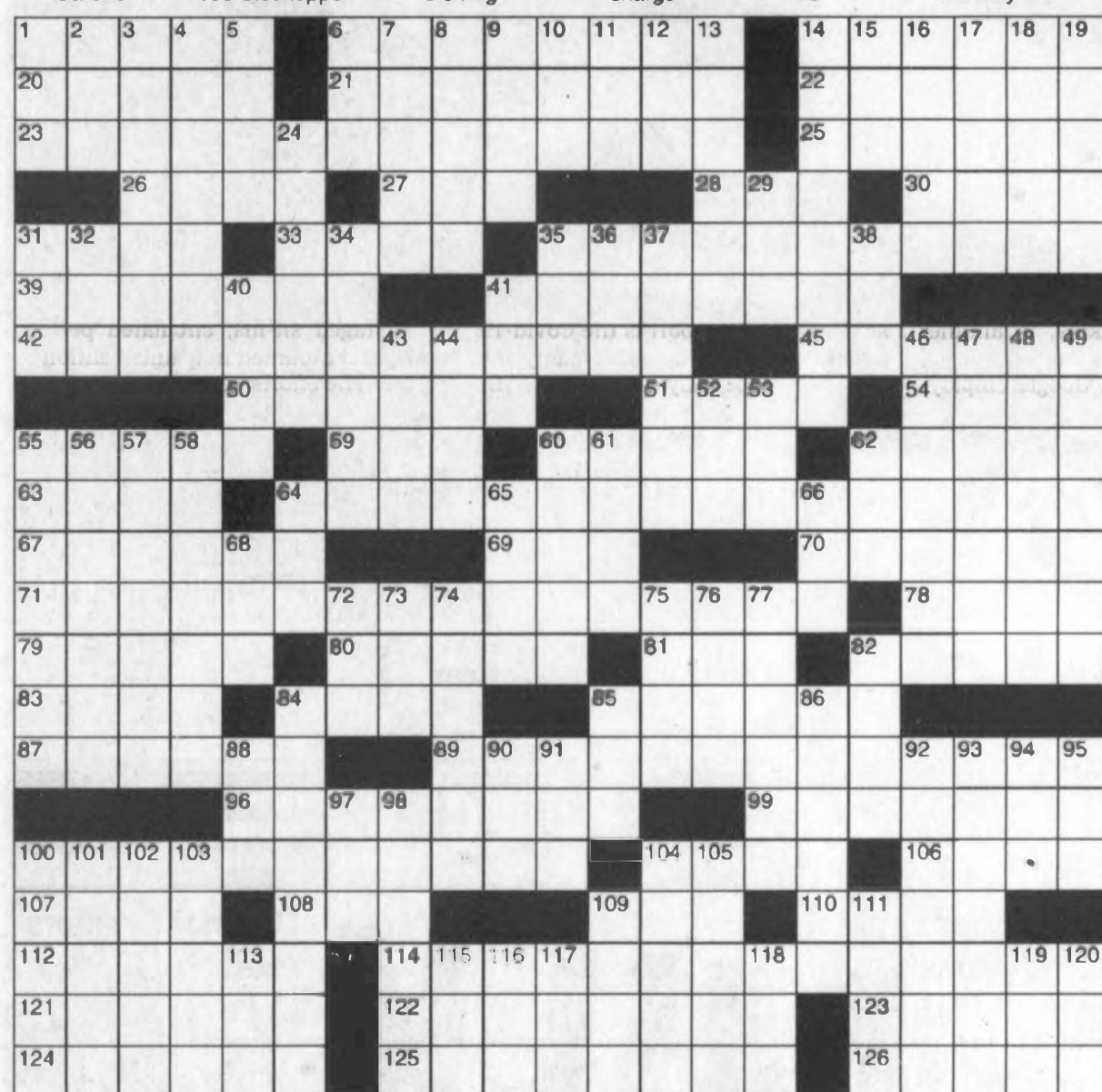
DOWN

1 Grafton's "— for Ricochet"
2 "If u ask me ..."
3 Singer Sarah
4 Bad way for a ship to run
5 "Livin' La Vida —" (1999 #1 hit)
6 Swing to and —
7 Some jabs in the ring

8 "Ciao!" in Chihuahua
9 Gets bronze
10 Special attention, for short
11 Conceit
12 Singer Cooke
13 Start a golf hole
14 Longtime Russian dynasty members
15 Large gametes
16 "Carmen" composer
17 D-Max pickup truck maker
18 Appellation bestower
19 Neck warmer
24 Halley of Halley's comet
29 — Schwarz (toy store)
31 Clodhopper
32 — Dhabhi
34 San — (Texas city near Abilene)
35 Ungodliness
36 The Trojans of the NCAA
37 Musical beat
38 1950s prez
40 Losing effort?
41 Add-on charge

43 Cal's twin in "East of Eden"
44 Fill to excess
46 More itty-bitty
47 Redenbacher of popcorn
48 Omission of a syllable
49 Archbishop Tutu
52 Affliction
53 Projectile path
55 Slips by
56 Most majestic
57 Calgary locale
58 Meat cutter
60 Large artery
61 Ho-hum
62 Hasty escape
64 2000-15 CBS drama
65 Prison melee
66 Laugh half
68 ND-to-LA dir.
72 Rockets' gp.
73 Actor Gerard
74 Chucks out
75 Art Deco artist
76 Summers, in Somme
77 Dr. Seuss' title turtle
82 Warty hopper
84 Very risky
85 Hit sketch show since '75

86 Tattooing tool
88 Outmoded TV adjunct
90 Aviary sound
91 A. in Berlin
92 Classic Chrysler
93 Heat-attached patches
94 Prefix with natal
95 Mutt's threat
97 Adaptable truck, in brief
98 Stun with sound
100 Pro — (perfunctory)
101 Opera songs
102 Osso buco meats
103 "Kukla, Fran and —"
104 Carpentry peg
105 — nous
109 Stallion-to-be
111 Iterate
113 Samantha Bee's station
115 Southern Sioux
116 Thai tongue
117 Lucy of TV's "Elementary"
118 1940s prez
119 Really little
120 July hrs.



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

SUDOKU



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!

SMELL IT?

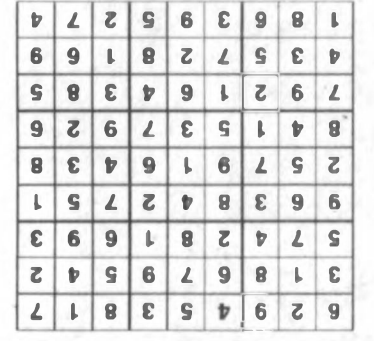
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

AMMONIA
APPLES
BACON
BREAD
CEDAR
CHOCOLATE
CIGAR
CLEMATIS
GARLIC
GINGER
GRASS
HAY
HYACINTH
JASMINE
LEATHER
LEMON
LILAC
LILIES
LIME
OLD BOOKS
ONIONS
ORANGES
PEPPERMINT
PERFUME
PINE
ROSES
RUBBER
RUM
SAGE
SEAWEED
SHAMPOO
SMOKE
SOAP
SOCKS
SPICES
TEA
THYME
VINEGAR
VIOLETS



10x10 GRID



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