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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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NOVI

## Taft and 9 Mile roundabout hits snag

**Susan Bromley** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A roundabout set to be constructed at Taft Road and Nine Mile in Novi this summer after years of planning has hit a major snarl: a city council divided.

During the council's March 14 meeting, Mayor Bob Gatt declared he was not

in favor of the roundabout and the council hadn't had a chance to weigh in, although he was told by City Manager Pete Auger the project dates back nine years.

"I think it's misguided and I am not in favor of proceeding," Gatt said, adding that he wasn't against roundabouts "where they are warranted," but that he

believed the one proposed "... doesn't belong there."

Federal officials who oversee grants for traffic safety improvement say otherwise, with the city approved for \$600,000 in Highway Safety Improvement funds specifically for the roundabout.

Councilmen Dave Smith and Hugh

Crawford also voiced disapproval for the project, with each respectively calling roundabouts "confusing" and "a solution looking for a problem."

Councilman Justin Fischer was the first to speak in favor of going forward with the project, noting he had voted

**See SNAG, Page 7A**

MILFORD

## Council to seek pay raise on August ballot

**Susan Bromley** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Current Milford Village Council members are still receiving the same rate of pay as their counterparts were 64 years ago:

Seven dollars and 50 cents (\$7.50) per meeting.

With two council meetings scheduled per month, that equates to about \$180 per year to be elected representatives and govern the municipality.

Voters could change that in August, after the council agreed, 6-1, to place a charter amendment proposal on the ballot that would raise the rate of pay to \$50 per meeting with a maximum pay of \$1,500 per year. Councilman Jim Kovach voted no.

"We're not asking for an exorbitant amount, we're just trying to align it a little more," Councilwoman Jennifer Frankford said. "We get no benefits, and we're not asking for that. There are no perks for being a council member."

Four years ago, voters were given the same opportunity to raise council members' wages, but declined to do so, with 1,777 no votes to 1,601 voting yes.

Frankford notes the work of council members extends beyond the dais they sit behind for their formal duties, including researching problems and following up on concerns of residents and business owners.

Milford council members appear to be grossly underpaid when compared to their counterparts in some local governing bodies.

South Lyon City Council members receive \$180 per month for a total of

**See PAY RAISE, Page 7A**

SOUTH LYON



The home at 10611 Lighthouse Point Drive in Green Oak Township is on the market for \$2.888 million.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Five most expensive homes for sale are in 1 neighborhood

**Susan Bromley** [Hometownlife.com](#)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The five most expensive homes on the market right now in the South Lyon zip code are all in Hidden Lake Estates, a unique gated community where residents rarely want to leave.

Indeed, the current occupants of the priciest home for sale, a nearly \$3 million waterfront Cape Cod, are simply downsizing to another home in the neighborhood which features 7 miles of walking trails, private beach, marina, playground, amphitheater and organized social events.

"A huge draw to the home is the community," Terri Fenelon, an associate broker with Terri Lloyd & Co. Real Estate, a Keller Williams team, said. "The list of buyers is a mile long waiting for the right house in this neighborhood."

**See HOMES, Page 8A**

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Volume 152 | No. 35  
Home delivery pricing inside  
©2022 \$1.50



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# Michigan AG turns to Northville Township for accreditation tips

Susan Vela [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan's top lawyer and law enforcement official was so impressed with Northville Township's successful pursuit of police accreditation that she dropped by Thursday for some advice.

Northville Township Manager Todd Mutchler, who also serves as public safety director, Police Chief Scott Hilden, Accreditation Manager Lisa Cupp and other badged personnel gathered for a March 24 discussion with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

They talked proper preparation, timetables and the benefits of establishing and maintaining standards, some to address and reduce liability, and maximizing effectiveness and efficiency.

Some accreditation goals are to recognize excellence and improve in terms of fairness, staff confidence, and building community trust and confidence.

Nessel shared that her office is preparing for an accreditation process and that she also is interested in promoting accreditation to other departments across the state.

She wanted to know if the pursuit of accreditation improved police relations with the community.

"When you're raising your level of excellence and professionalism in all your areas it kind of naturally brings out a community engagement component," Hilden said. "You're engaged in the success of the community. You're excited about your department and the things you do for the community."

"I think it just naturally opens up more conversations with community members, more interactions with community members. Accreditation isn't perfect. (But) I can't say enough about it from the standpoint of what it does to the professionalism of an agency."

Nessel asked for recommendations, and one Hilden offered was an emphasis on addressing and preventing mental health crises.

"That is a big topic of discussion: how do we get more social workers in to the schools," Nessel responded. "There's a



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel listens to Northville Township Police Chief Scott Hilden on March 24 as he talks about the township police department's pursuit of accreditation. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"When you're raising your level of excellence and professionalism in all your areas it kind of naturally brings out a community engagement component."

Scott Hilden Northville Township Police chief

huge shortage. It's not just a matter of funding. You have to encourage people to go in to these professions."

Hilden said he learned about a month ago that the attorney general wanted to visit for feedback on accreditation because police leaders recognize Northville Township Police Department as a premier agency in Michigan.

"It really is one of those things that is so self rewarding," he said. "The hard work that everybody has done; that

kind of recognition is what you're looking for. We really are focused on providing the best service to the community."

According to the township's website, the police department has accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, which is considered in the profession to be "the gold standard in public safety."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.



Hilden talks to Nessel during her visit.

## Fake gun sends GM Proving Ground into lockdown

Frank Witsil and Jamie L. LaReau  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A lockdown Friday morning at the General Motors proving grounds prompted by a fake gun — part of work on an emergency vehicle in development — "turned out to be nothing," Milford police later said.

GM confirmed that it was a "false alarm."

"There was a workplace situation earlier today," Maria Raynal, a GM spokeswoman, clarified. "Police responded accordingly. All employees are safe. Work has resumed at the campus."

The incident, which sent social media into a frenzy, was first reported by WWJ-AM.

Just before 10 a.m., two buildings went into lockdown, the radio station



The entrance to GM's Proving Ground in Milford. COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

said, after a tipster reported seeing a massive law enforcement response, which including Oakland County Sheriff's deputies.

Initially, there was concern a barricaded gunman was in the facility.

GM develops police vehicles. A person familiar with Friday's incident told

the Free Press that engineers were carrying fake guns to aid in the project. Someone apparently saw them and thought an active shooter may have been in the building and called police.

The fake guns were "inert mock-ups of police firearms," a source familiar with GM's work on police vehicles said. They are used as part of the validation process for the vehicles GM makes for law enforcement agencies, the person confirmed.

Milford Police confirmed with the Free Press later that officers were at the Proving Grounds, but said there was no threat and any details about the incident would need to come from GM.

According to WWJ, Milford Police Chief Tom Lindberg said a technician was spotted on video entering one of the buildings carrying a rifle. But, he added, the weapon was not real.

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 398880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830, Augusta, GA 30916

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#### Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50  
\$65 per 12 months home delivery

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## Redford couple's yard decoration draws crowd

Shelby Tankersley [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"Skelly Boy," the massive, pumpkin-faced skeleton on Alicia Bonanno and Donovan Richardson's property in Redford, has become a popular selfie and local tourism spot since Richardson gifted Bonanno, his fiancé, the 10-foot-tall monster just before Halloween last year.

"Her favorite holiday is Halloween, so I got it as kind of a surprise for her," he said.

Bonanno and Richardson keep Skelly Boy outside year-round because people enjoy it so much.

"It was just going to be a Halloween decoration, but then people on Facebook were like, 'Are you going to dress it up for the next holiday?' So I was like, 'You know what? Let's do it,'" Bonanno said.

The display has grown to include colored lights, a seat for selfie-takers and two smaller skeletons added during Christmastime the couple call "Skelves." Richardson has also made



A 10 foot-tall St. Patrick's Day-themed skeleton stands outside the Beech Daly home of Donovan Richardson and his fiancée Alicia Bonanno.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sure Skelly Boy is sturdy and able to withstand storms.

Neighbors, children, a party bus and even a local musician looking for album art have visited their home on Beech Daly.

"People are welcome to come and

laugh and be loud," Bonanno said. "We love seeing people happy; it doesn't matter what time (of year) it is."

Most recently, Skelly was decked out with beer glasses, a red beard and a green top hat for St. Patrick's Day. On April 1, he'll don bunny ears and a bushy tail as a nod to Easter.

It costs roughly \$100 to decorate Skelly Boy every month, and the couple has been shocked by the décor, services and money visitors have offered. The couple doesn't ask for donations, but is looking for someone to get Skelly Boy on TikTok.

"We have people stop by all the time," Richardson said. "One lady was walking by today while I was out here fixing it and was like, 'I just want to let you know I drive by this every day. Keep it going; it's awesome.'"

People can keep up with updates by joining the Skelly Boy Fan Club group on Facebook, where the couple also holds a photo contest every month.

"My number one thing is the joy it brings to the neighborhood," Bonanno said.



# With interest rates rising, take steps to maximize savings



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

For the first time since 2018, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates last week by .25%. The Fed's also announced that this won't be the only interest rate hike this year. In fact, it indicated that we would see six additional rate increases in 2022.

Not surprisingly, immediately after the Fed announcement, stocks fell; however, as investors caught their breath and looked at the announcement, stocks rallied and the markets turned, and by market close the Dow added over 500 points.

I bring this up just to highlight how difficult it is to predict short-term movements in the market. I have always said it's a fool's game to try to time the market, because you must be right twice – once when you buy and once when you sell. In the history of investing, no one has been able to do this consistently, so you and I should not try.

You may be asking yourself why the Fed's are raising interest rates. The short and simple answer is that it is trying to curb inflation. Inflation is at a 40-year high,

**Inflation is at a 40-year high, and the fear is if inflation continues to rise, we risk the economy going into a recession – something no one wants.**

and the fear is if inflation continues to rise, we risk the economy going into a recession – something no one wants. Therefore, the Fed's hope raising rates will tamp down spending, thus keeping the economy out of a recession.

Will it work? I don't know, but I do know that as an investor, I am happy that the Fed's are doing something to prevent prices from continuing to rise.

Increased rates have an impact for consumers like you and me. For those of us who borrow money, we can expect the cost of money to increase. That means, for example, if you have an adjustable-rate credit card, your interest rate will rise. In addition, rates for auto loans and personal loans will also increase. Furthermore, even though the Fed's announcement only affects short-term interest rates, you can expect mortgage rates to increase. I think that the time to get a 30-year mortgage for under 4% has probably passed.

Rising interest rates can also benefit investors. For those of you who do not carry debt or whose debt is at a fixed interest rate, rising interest rates may benefit you because the interest rates that you receive at the bank may actually increase.

Of course, don't expect the rates we receive as savers to go up overnight. You can expect the interest we pay to increase much faster than the interest that we receive.

If you carry debt, this should be a wake-up call to relook at your situation and be aggressive in paying down high interest rate debt. Rising rates should provide the momentum to look for ways to refinance your debt. If you can transfer credit card debt to a lower interest rate charge card, why not? After all, the money you save stays in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

As savers and investors, rising interest rates are going to be a fact of life – we can't change that. However, by being proactive, we can look for ways to better position ourselves so that rising interest rates will just be another bump in the road and will not deter us from reaching our financial goals.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomadvisors.com](http://www.bloomadvisors.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).

## Lyon Township picks site for library, park

**Susan Bromley**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICH.

Lyon Township officials have met in the middle and agreed their perfect location for a new library would be in the center of the township on property at 11 Mile and Milford roads.

A park that could be located on the same property sweetens the deal.

In November, the final decision will be turned over to voters.

"We are very encouraged that (the township board members) are now willing to work with us on this combined project and will offer a lot of the amenities the public has been asking for and doing a combined project will keep the costs low," Library Director Holly Teasdale said. "It's pretty exciting. We want to give people what they want and this is an opportunity to do that and improve living in Lyon Township."

Treasurer Patty Carcone agreed, saying she had already worked hard for a park at the site that didn't arrive, but now they could create a park and a library together.

"We were hoping for an amphitheater, soccer fields, a playground, a place for food trucks," she said. "We're gonna get a park, you're gonna get a library; it's a win-win for everyone."

The Lyon Township Library is undersized for the population of 23,271 residents it serves, currently housed in a 6,000-square-foot building compared to nearby facilities. The Salem-South Lyon District Library is 22,056 square feet serving a population of 18,764; and the Milford Library is 23,500 square feet for a population of 17,090.

In 2016, Lyon Township voters declined a proposal for a new 24,000-square-foot library that would have been constructed on the Mill River property, a 13-acre township owned parcel on the west side of Milford Road just north of 12 Mile Road adjacent to Abbey Park.

Library officials scaled down the project to a 19,000-square-foot building and planned to return to voters in 2020. However, that was before the pandemic hit and also before they knew township officials were considering other potential uses for the Mill River property, which sparked some tense discussions.

Library officials had

largely dismissed the idea of purchasing non-township owned property for the additional cost it would incur to taxpayers.

A recent survey of library patrons found Mill River was still the preferred property to locate a new library, but by a narrow margin over the 11 Mile and Milford roads property.

Both options, as well as a third option of expanding the library at its current location were analyzed by Quinn Evans Architects, who had assisted the library with designs for the 2016 proposal.

In the most recent analysis, it was clear that expanding at the current location was the least desirable option. Ann Dilcher of Quinn Evans told the township board during its March 7 meeting the soils are very poor on the site at 27005 Milford Road, with concerns an engineered septic system would be needed. A second story would have to be added to the building and there would be no space for future expansion. Additionally, the library would need to operate from another location, or close, during construction.

Ultimately, it came down to Mill River property, or the 11 Mile and Milford Road site, which township officials unanimously favored and showed excitement for as they considered the possibilities of both a new library and park at the site that could include athletic fields and an amphitheater.



The Lyon Township Public Library is again contemplating whether it can relocate to a larger space to accommodate its increased collections and use by residents. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

theater.

Dilcher estimated building a new library at the 11 Mile and Milford roads site would cost \$11.7 million, but that includes infrastructure costs like the nearly \$700,000 expense to cross an existing drain, as well as costs of paving a 250-foot portion of 11 Mile Road, and installing a parking lot.

However, Trustee Sean O'Neil said those infrastructure costs could be shared by the township in a partnership for the property.

"There is work to be done, but this seems like an opportunity to do it together if voters support the millage for a new library," he said. "We can share infrastructure costs. It brings your costs and our costs down and brings more people together to enjoy all those facilities."

Supervisor John Dolan, who said he was a proponent of the 11 Mile site and never disagreed that a new library was needed, expressed some doubts about taxpayer

support.

"I don't have a problem with the new library, but I do think the millage is going to be a tough sell," Dolan said. "I don't know how big it will be, but these numbers could be quite a bit for each household to swallow. But that is a campaign for you guys."

The 2016 bond proposal for the library requested .5535 mills for 30 years. Teasdale does not yet have anticipated millage number a 2022 proposal.

Library and township officials will confer further on the shared costs and site design, but the library board plans to submit ballot language in time to be on the November ballot.

"We've already asked residents for input and received great feedback and we don't want to lose the momentum of bringing the project to fruition," Teasdale said. "It's started and stalled a couple times and we don't want to do that again."

## Northville Schools superintendent finalists have local flavor

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The picture has become much clearer regarding who will replace Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher, who announced in December she will retire following the 2021-22 school year.

The Northville Board of Education voted to reduce the field of candidates to four at a special meeting March 24.

"We had a stellar pool of applicants," Board of Education President Sarah Prescott acknowledged. "Knowing we have been rated the number one district in Michigan, it is nevertheless extremely gratifying to see the caliber of professionals we have attracted from across the country for our next leader."

Two of the finalists won't have to commute far to work if they secure the job: Aaron Baughman, the assistant superintendent of instructional services for Northville Public Schools; and RJ Webber, assistant superintendent of academics for the Novi Community School District.

Rounding out the pool of finalists are Maysam Alie-Bazzi, executive director of staff and students services for Dearborn Public Schools; and Matthew Barbini, superintendent of schools for Libertyville District 70 in Libertyville, Illinois.

The first round of finalist interviews will unfold April 4 at 5 p.m. in the Hillside Middle School cafeteria and April 5 at 4 p.m. at the same site.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.



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Inside the North-End Market Candle Bar in downtown Milford. Owner Matthew Long calls it an "all-in-one experience." JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Candle-making bar opens in downtown Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A vacation to the southwest led to downtown Milford's newest business.

Matthew Long, who owns the Beyond Juicery + Eatery in Milford and ran the Main Street Gift Co., in the village, has brought yet another new concept to the west Oakland County community: North-End Market Candle Bar.

After vacationing in Phoenix last fall,

he visited a candle bar where visitors craft a candle using their own desired blend of scents. After realizing he wanted to do something similar in Milford, he decided to expand it and bring two businesses under one roof.

"I got the idea to take Main Street Gift Co., and merge in with it and basically create an all-in-one experience where you can eat, drink and shop all in one spot," he said.

The candle bar allows guests to select

a container and work with employees to craft a unique smell for their creation. Using more than 100 scents, guests can make a candle that smells like beer, French toast and more.

Once that candle is burned through, many of the containers can be reused. Options include traditional candle holders, but also include more functional items such as teacups and even planters in the shape of a llama.

"Everything's got a reusable pur-

pose," he said.

Occupying the space formerly held by Amber Lights at 435 N. Main St., Long has moved his gift supplies out of the small room behind the Beyond shop and brought it to the new space. He signed a lease for the space about a month ago, redoing the entire space and adding the bar to the storefront.

Long said the business fits perfectly

See BAR, Page 5A

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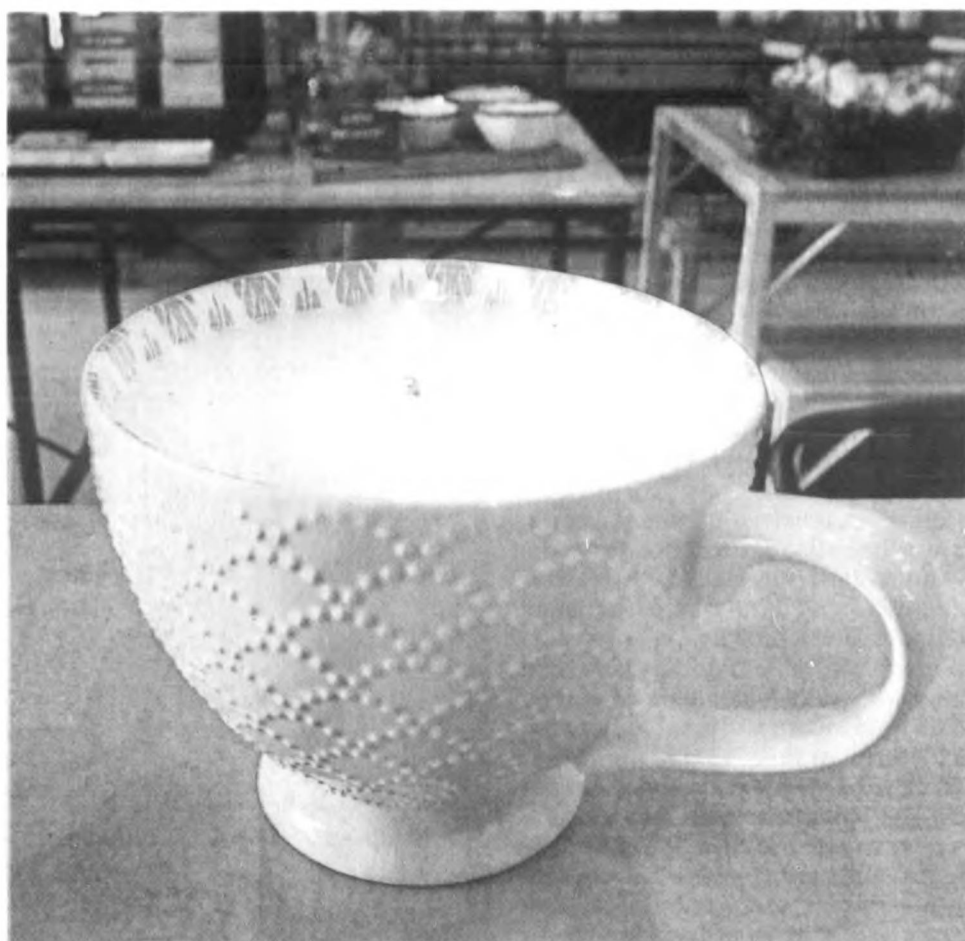


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Matthew Long, owner of North-End Market Candle Bar, talks about the new do-it-yourself candle and soap shop. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Candles can be created in mugs or teacups.

## Bar

Continued from Page 4A

in a downtown with plenty of options for entertainment. Because the candles take some time to set after being poured, he encourages visitors create their candle and then go out shopping or grab dinner. Afterward, they can return and pick up their creation.

"We do encourage them to go out and check our town out," Long said. "I love working with other businesses around here and make sure they're doing good."

He said he's partnering with some businesses around town for specials and hopes to create more partnerships in the future.

In addition to the candles, customers can create other scented items, including soap. He's also expanded the selection of the gift shop, including more health and beauty products; food items and more. Long said they also expect to

have seasonal items throughout the year as well.

Those looking to hold a special event such as a bachelorette party or corporate event can rent the market as well. The bar can hold about two dozen people at a time.

Walk-ins are accepted if there's space, though reservations are preferred. More information, including how to book a time, can be found online at [milfordcandlebar.com](http://milfordcandlebar.com).

The business is just the latest venture for Long, a White Lake resident, who longs to promote downtown Milford as much as he can. Bringing a new concept, he said, will hopefully bring customers from all over the region to enjoy what Milford has to offer.

"I just want to bring something that's new that's exciting and brings people to our town," he said. "We have one of the prettiest downtowns in the whole area."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



The view outside North-End Market Candle Bar on Main Street in Milford.

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# Hometown Life staffers recognized for work in statewide competition

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hometown Life staff earned seven awards in various categories for the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest, conducted by the Michigan Press Association.

Reporters received honors for news, feature, investigative and sports.

The contest received 2,909 entries submitted by 96 Michigan newspapers and individual members.

A representative from the MPA said states with similar numbers of entries "team up and swap entries" for judging each year.

This year, Michigan swapped entries with the Arkansas Press Association. Hometown Life includes 10 print publications, and staff competed in the second and third largest weekly circulation categories, based on publication.

The winners:

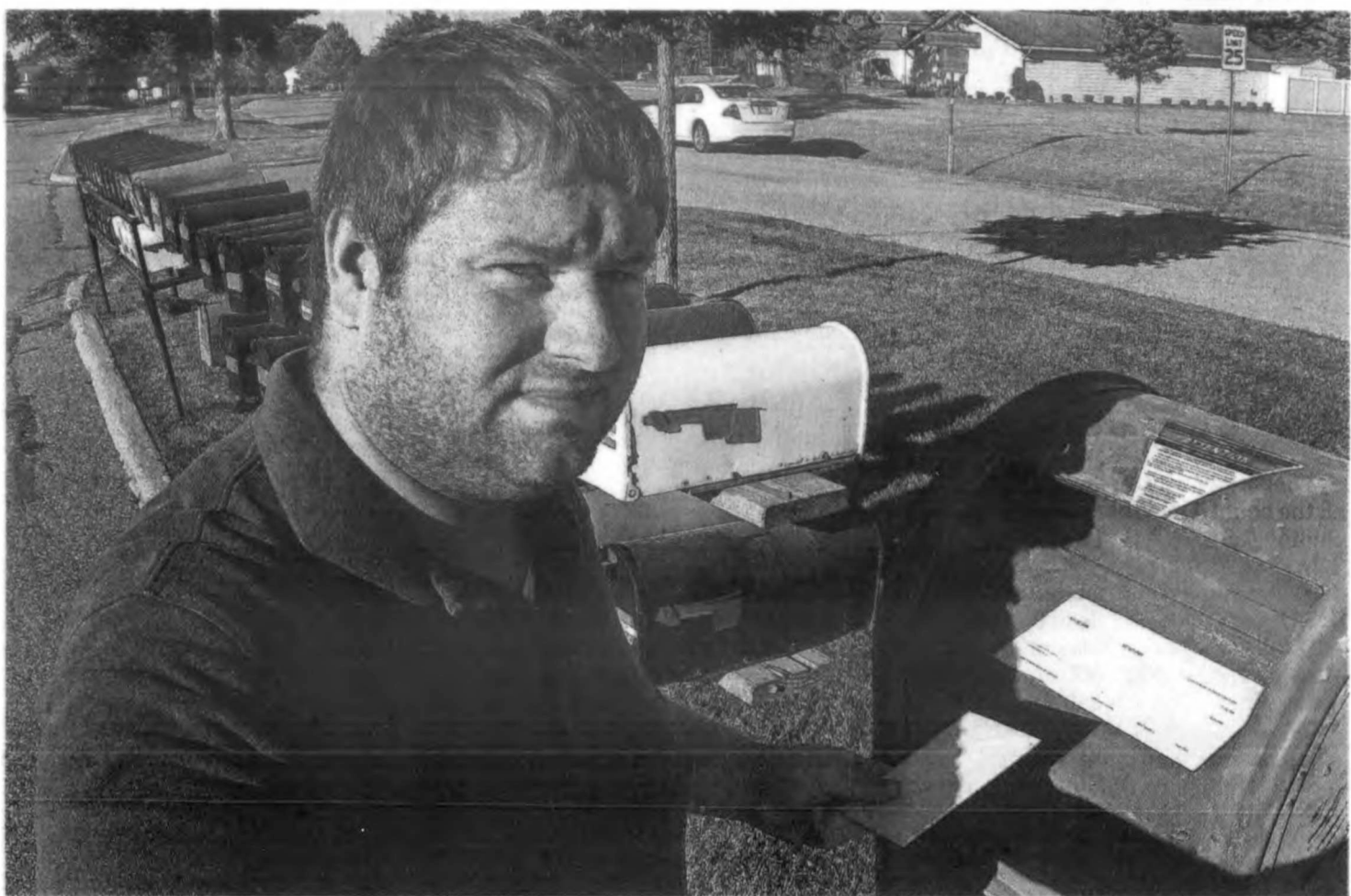
Colin Gay earned both first place and third place in the **Sports Feature** category. The first place honor went to "Larger than life: South Lyon East football prepares for season without Trevon Tyler." The third place award came for "Plymouth lacrosse's Zoe Weber sets aside lymphoma fight for normal senior night."

Tyler was an offensive lineman for South Lyon East who died in late 2019 after complications from surgery.

The team made plans to honor him at the start of the 2020 football season. Weber was a start Plymouth lacrosse player sitting out her senior season because of lymphoma. Her coach and parents devised a plan to get her back on the field.

David Veselenak earned a second place award in the **Feature Story** category with "Here's where you can find the season's hottest item: the hot cocoa bomb."

Bakeries and chocolate shops had difficulties keeping this confectionery craze in stock leading up to Christmas 2020. The story explained how they work and identified shops in the region



Hometown Life staff writer David Veselenak received a third place honor in the Government/Education News category for the story "How long could it take to mail back a metro Detroit ballot? We experimented to find out." HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

where people could find them.

Susan Bromley earned a second place award in **News Enterprise Reporting** for her piece "Gift of Life, organ donors helped 1,000+ Michiganders last year with second chance at life."

Looking at how the pandemic affected Gift of Life and Michigan's organ donor registry, she shared the stories of two local organ recipients who benefited from the program while looking at the program's challenges and success.

Susan Vela received a third place award in the **Spot News Story** category for the piece "South Lyon teen killed, dad in hospital in Wednesday night fatal

shooting."

The breaking news story focused on the death of 17-year-old Dylan Stamper on Dec. 30, 2020. Father Kevin Stamper died later. Police made two arrests, and the alleged shooter faces murder charges in circuit court.

David Veselenak received a third place honor in the Government/Education News category for the story "How long could it take to mail back a metro Detroit ballot? We experimented to find out."

With questions leading up to the November 2020 election on U.S. Postal Service delivery speeds and an expect-

ed uptick in absentee voting, Hometown Life dropped mail off in boxes across metro Detroit to see if there were any delays. There were not.

Susan Bromley received an honorable mention in the **Feature Story** category among 43 entries for her piece "He lived in his car for five months. Then came a knock on the window and an unexpected answer."

This story followed Mike Marshall's journey to recovery after the Milford and Highland community rallied in winter 2020 to help Mike find food, shelter and help. Since May he's been living in an apartment in Pontiac.

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# Wayne County home prices rose in 2021

From Staff Reports [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The median sales price for a single-family home in Wayne County during December was \$172,000. That's an increase of 4.2% compared with December 2020, according to a USA TODAY Network localized analysis generated with data from Realtor.com.

On a year-over-year basis, prices have been rising for 28 consecutive months. December prices are down from \$179,000 the previous month.

The number of houses sold fell by 18.3% from a year earlier. A total of 1,315

houses were sold countywide during the month of December. During the same period a year earlier, 1,609 single-family homes were sold.

Real estate sales can take weeks or months to be recorded and collected. This is the latest data made available through Realtor.com to the USA TODAY Network.

Condominiums and townhomes sold in December had a median sales price of \$220,000. That figure represents a 15.8% increase year over year. In Wayne County, 184 were sold, down 14.4% from a year earlier.

Information on your local housing

markets is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.

The top 10% of the properties sold had prices of at least \$410,000, up 7.9% from a year before.

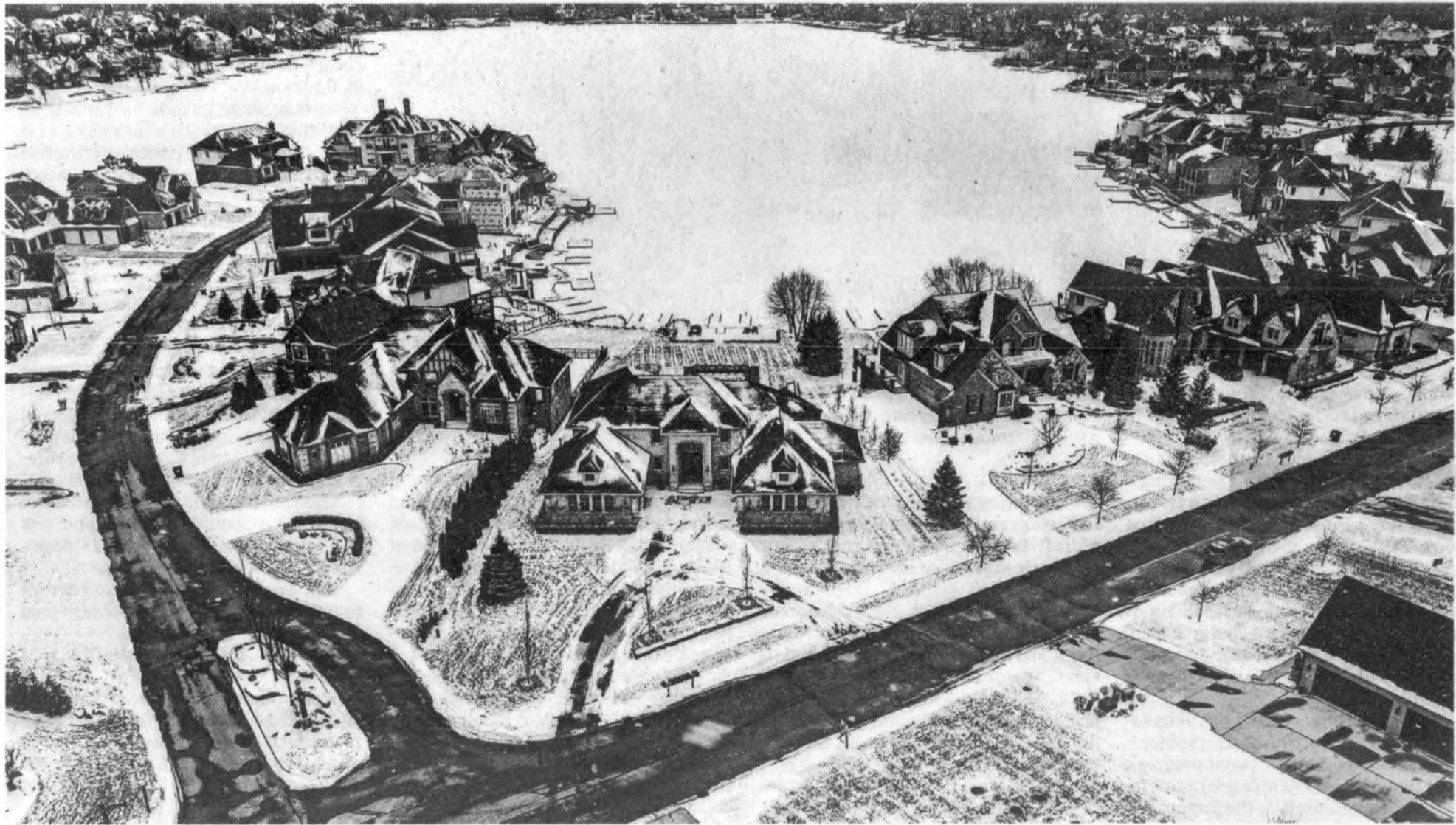
In December, four properties sold for \$1 million or more: Four single-family homes.

The median home sale price — the midway point of all the houses or units sold over a period of time — is used in this report instead of the average home sale price because experts say the median offers a more accurate view of what's happening in a market. In finding the

average price, all prices of homes sold are added and then divided by the number of homes sold. This measure can be skewed by one low or high price.

Find the latest data online at [data.hometownlife.com/real-estate-market-report/](http://data.hometownlife.com/real-estate-market-report/).

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Realtor.com. Localized versions are generated for communities where the data quality and transaction volume meets Realtor.com and USA TODAY Network standards. The story was written by Sean Lahman.



Homes around Hidden Lake in Green Oak Township are among the most expensive with a South Lyon mailing address. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRI LLOYD & CO. REAL ESTATE

## Homes

Continued from Page 1A

The homes, they really range in size, style, quality; and this home, hands down, is the top. It has the best of the best."

Resort-style living was the premise for the developers, who turned a former gravel pit into the 110-acre all-sports lake. The first home in the community was built in 2001, and there are now 350 residences, a mix of waterfront estates, as well as homes and condominiums off the water.

The community is technically in Green Oak Township and in the Brighton School District.

There are no cookie-cutter homes here, but the 40 different builders that have contributed to the architecture did have some guidelines to follow. The smallest condominium size is 2,200 square feet. Any ranch-style home must be at least 2,500 square feet. None of the homes are comprised of less than 80% brick.

The home at 10471 Stoney Point is the best of the best, Fenelon said.

### 10471 Stoney Point, \$2.99 million

Custom-built in 2015, this home has 6,433 finished square feet of space on three levels and an elevator to take you to them all.

Upon entering an artist's wrought-iron front door, take your shoes off in the foyer and walk across hand-scrapped hardwood floors into a great room with a two-story high ceiling, 18-foot windows overlooking the lake, built-in shelving surrounding a gas fireplace with custom quartzite mantle. To your left in the open floor plan is a dining room that seats 10 and an adjacent breakfast nook for a cozy four. Beyond that is a gourmet kitchen with massive island, expansive quartz countertops, glass and marble backsplash, and professional stainless steel appliances.

The master suite is also on the main level and features dual walk-in closets, dual vanities in the bathroom, along with a heated marble floor.

Two more bedrooms are on the second level, each with their own attached full bathroom. A fourth bedroom with full bathroom is in the walkout lower level, along with a living area with fireplace, a full bar, a second kitchen, an of-



The great room of the \$2.99-million home for sale at 10471 Stoney Point Drive.

fice, a gym, sauna, a wine cellar, and even a cigar lounge with its own ventilation system.

Summer is coming and so is the outside delights with this house with a patio at ground level, a terrace off the main level, and a .75 acre lot with a private garden, and a yard that ends with a dock and sandy beach.

### 10611 Lighthouse Point, \$2.888 million

This 3-story lakefront home was built in 2003 and has 5 bedrooms, 5-and-a-half baths, a library, gourmet kitchen, dance floor, private home theater, wine cellar, sauna, gaming room, sunroom, heated 6-car garage, and much more.

It is listed by Crown Properties International.

### 8393 Boulder Shores Drive, \$1.85 million

This 4-bedroom, 4.5 bath lakefront home was constructed in 2008 with an

Italian flair and in addition to formal living room, family room, dining room and kitchen, has a first floor master suite with soaking tub in the master bath.

The lower level has a large great room, dining area, wet bar, theater and indoor pool. It is listed by Kermath Realty.

### 10897 Stoney Point Drive, \$1,799,950

Walk into a grand entrance with unique wood-beamed ceiling in this 5-bedroom lakefront home built in 2002 which boasts "amazing sunsets from almost every room," including a firelit great room with a large wall of windows overlooking the lake.

A large kitchen on the main floor has two islands, custom cabinetry and a heated floor. A second kitchen is on the lower level, along with a custom bar, billiards area, family room with fireplace, and wine cellar.

A second level in the home has a theater and sauna/massage room. The

outdoor area is an entertainer's dream with custom firepit, private decks and lakeside docks. Listing by RE/MAX Select.

### 9023 Hidden Court West, \$1.15 million

This 4-bedroom, 4 bath home was built in 2004 on a .76 acre wooded lot in Hidden Lake Estates, near to the beach and amphitheater. It features newly installed landscaping, a front entrance with grand banister and staircase, large great room windows, a chef's kitchen with built-in double ovens, walk-in pantry and eating nook, a family room, multiple fireplaces, a main floor master bedroom with adjoining bathroom that has a jacuzzi tub.

Upstairs is a loft and three large bedrooms with two recently remodeled bathrooms. Listing by Team Hamilton Real Estate.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.





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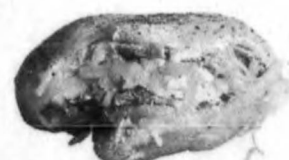
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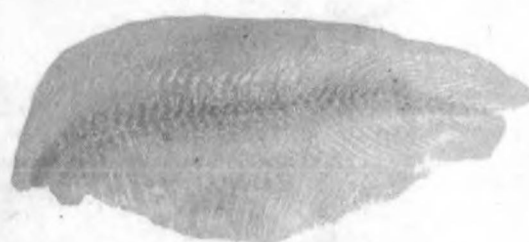
FRESH YELLOW FIN  
TUNA STEAKS  
\$17.99/LB.



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EZ PEEL TIGER  
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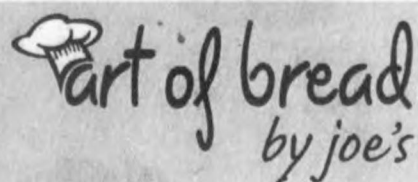
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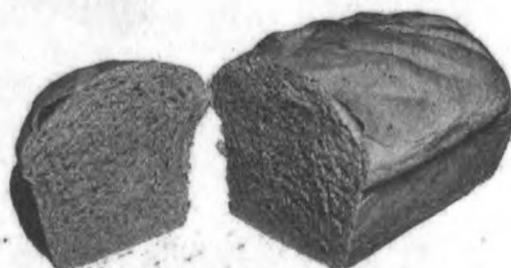


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EGGS 6.5 OZ BOX  
**\$12.49** EA.

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## SPORTS



Cooper Craggs hugs teammate Kevin Wendt after the Shamrocks dropped a Division 1 quarterfinal game to Grand Blanc.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## CC went from last place to one of last teams standing

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only one word can describe this Detroit Catholic Central boys basketball team.

And that word is "last."

That's right.

These Shamrocks finished last in their league.

But they were also one of the last eight teams alive during the last week of the postseason.

And this will be the last time they're looked at as an easy out in the playoffs for the foreseeable future.

Yeah, their roller coaster of a season finally came to an end March 22. CC salvaged a two-win effort in the Catholic League-Central by finishing as the CHSL tournament runner-ups and then putting together a magical run in the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoffs.

Grand Blanc, the defending Division 1 state champions, matched CC's effort all night. Whenever the Shamrocks went on a run, the Bobcats responded with one of their own, plus a couple more baskets.

No one is surprised Grand Blanc won the quarterfinal, 67-60, to earn a return trip to the Breslin Center.

See LAST, Page 3B



Grand Blanc's Tae Boyd tries to get a shot past Catholic Central.

## Hartland seniors 'made their mark' despite loss at state finals

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING — They posed for one last picture with a wooden mitten, some players trying to force a smile, others not even bothering.

Taking team photos with championship trophies has been a regular ritual for Hartland's girls basketball players over the years, particularly for four four-year varsity players who helped put 15 pieces of hardware in the school's display case.

As the Eagles battled emotions following a 51-42 loss to West Bloomfield in the state Division 1 championship game, Queen's "We are the Champions" was playing over the sound system Saturday at the Breslin Center.

The song was cued up as a backdrop to the Lakers' championship celebration, but it was an appropriate send-off for Hartland's senior class.

Leah Lappin, Gracey Metz, Amanda Roach and Lauren Sollom were regulars from day one of their freshman year, helping Hartland post a 90-8 record and get at least to the state quarterfinals three times. They were denied a possible fourth quarterfinal appearance when state tournaments were shut down two years ago.

Champions, indeed.

"It's a group you will miss," Hartland coach Don Palmer said. "They were kind of like the band of sisters, if you will. They hung out and they didn't care if one of them got 20 and the other got zero, as long as they won. It was that type of group that is rare in today's individualistic society. I'll miss them for that."

"But the other thing is they took us the furthest we've been. There's other teams who led the way and got us to quarterfinals and that type of thing. Tom Izzo always asks his kids, 'What are your footprints going to be in this program?' I know it's a coach's cliché, but they made their mark."

It's also increasingly rare for a group of players who grew up together in the same school district to reach the biggest stage in Division 1. The Eagles seniors began playing together in third grade in a Hartland rec league before moving on to travel ball the following year.

"It feels great to be up here and play with all these girls I started with," Hartland senior Leah Lappin said. "Obviously, it's disappointing, because we didn't play our best, but it was good to end with these girls."

The Eagles are only the second

See HARTLAND, Page 2B

## Northville boys basketball team snaps 24-year curse

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville boys basketball coach Todd Sander knows exactly how special the celebration was a few weeks ago.

That's because he was on the court the last time the Mustangs got to celebrate winning a Division 1 district title.

No, not as a coach. They've never won a district tournament in his 14 years leading the team. Well, actually, they

haven't even won too many playoff games in this millennium.

Northville's 48-43 victory over Canton on March 11 was its first district championship since 1998.

Sander was a junior on that team.

"It was even an upset when we beat Salem back then," Sander recently said. "Early in my coaching career here, even when I was the JV coach, we had a bunch of heartaches in the district. We've lost a bunch of tough games."

"My first 6 years of my career, I didn't know if we'd ever get back there, but then we lost five straight district finals and our sixth one was canceled because of COVID-19."

You don't need to tell the people around town how big it was to snap the 24-year hex that hovered over the program.

Sander has heard from countless former players.

Mustangs fans swarmed the players

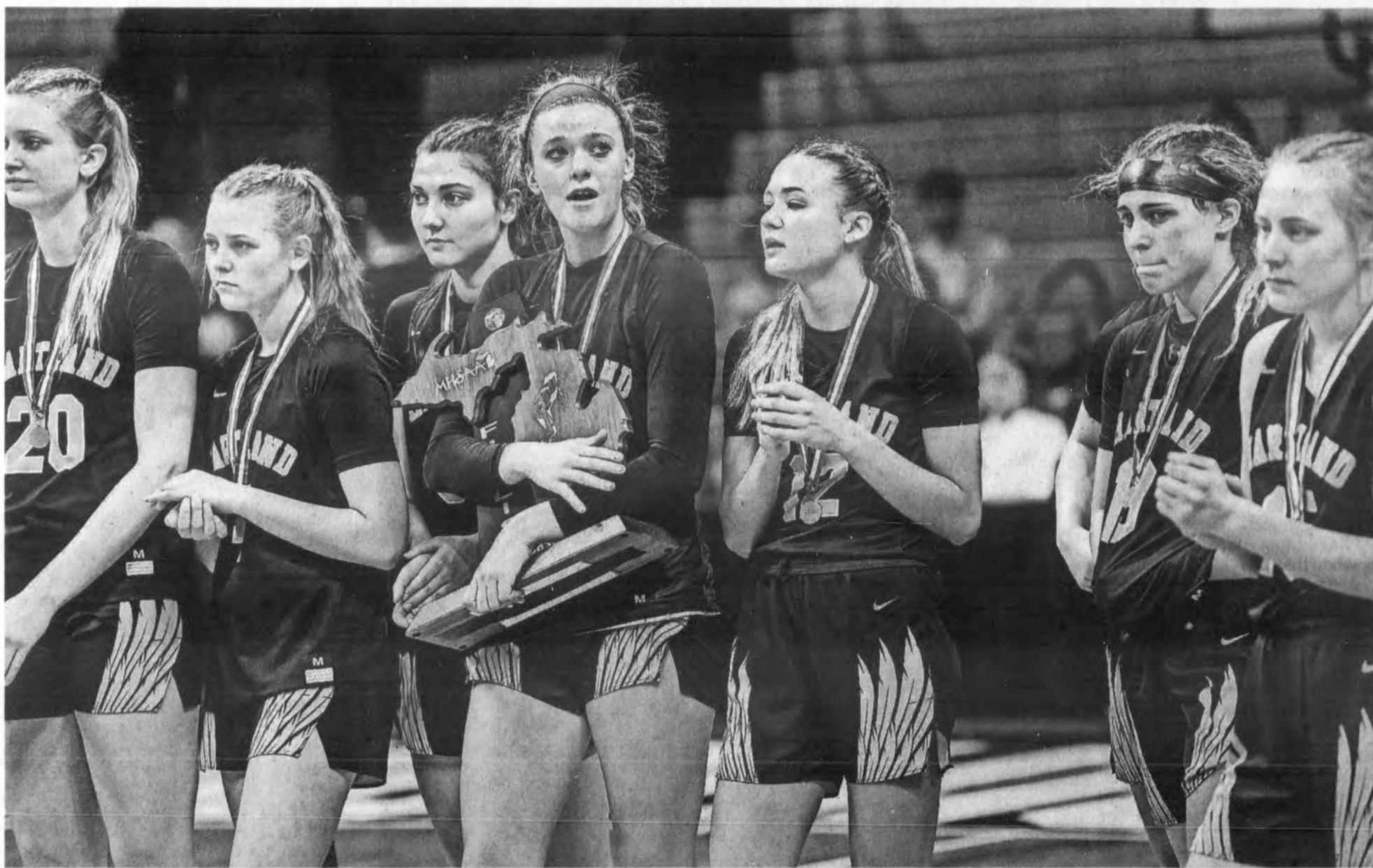
and handed out congratulations left and right after their win in Canton's gymnasium.

Northville wound up losing to Romulus, 56-55, on a last-second questionable call in the regional semifinal, ultimately ending its best playoff run in forever. But, so what? This year's squad is going to be one people talk about for years to come.

See NORTHVILLE, Page 7B







Hartland's Lauren Sollom, center, holds the Division 1 state finalist trophy after losing to West Bloomfield on March 19. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

## Hartland

Continued from Page 1B

Livingston County girls team to play in a state championship game, matching the achievement of Howell's 1996 Class A runner-up squad. The county's only two boys state finalists were Howell teams way back in 1922 and 1927.

So, it could be a while before another group like this comes along.

The Eagles, based on all the tears following the game, weren't happy just to reach the state final.

But they went up against a West Bloomfield team that was the consensus No. 1 team for most of the season.

The Eagles shot 4-for-24 from 3-point range and were nearly out-rebounded on their defensive glass, getting 18 boards to the Lakers' 16.

"They just kept getting offensive rebound after offensive rebound," Palmer said. "A lot of times, it certainly wasn't one and done — it was three, four and done. That just adds up and that's demoralizing. That said, you've got to give them credit. The best team won today; I have no qualms about that."

Hartland never led, with the Lakers taking the lead for good by scoring seven straight points to break a 4-4 tie.

West Bloomfield built a 35-21 lead with 4:39 left in the third quarter. Every time Hartland seemed to get a little momentum after that, the Lakers would quickly answer.

A steal and layup by Roach and a 3-pointer by Lappin cut the lead to 35-26 with 3:32 left in the third, but West Bloomfield responded with the next five points lead 40-26 going into the fourth.

Down 42-28, Hartland got six straight points to make it a 42-34 game on a layup by Gracey Metz with 5:34 remaining, but Summer Davis hit a short jumper just 17 seconds later.

The Eagles (25-2) were within striking distance when a 3-pointer by Roach made it 46-39 with 3:59 left, but Hartland missed five consecutive shots while the Lakers remained scoreless from the 4:14 to the 35-second marks.

A layup by Sydney Hendrix with 35 seconds left pretty much put it away.

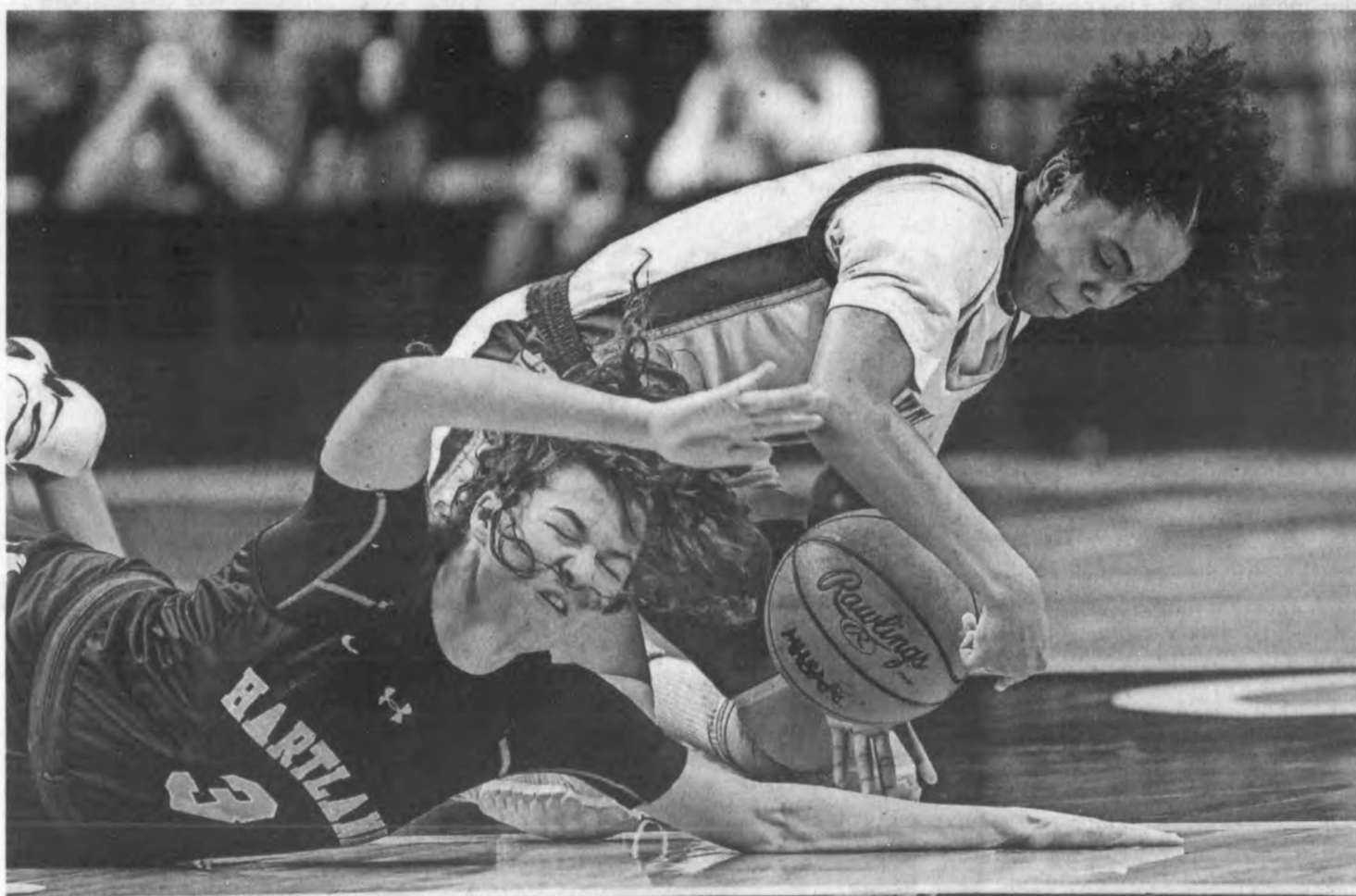
"I personally thought we still had a chance with 30 seconds left," said Roach, who scored half of Hartland's points with 21. "We fight back every single game. I'm just proud of everybody."

West Bloomfield won its first state championship, having reached the title game in 1989. The Lakers lost to Hartland in the regional semifinals in 2019 and 2020.

"We lost to Hartland my freshman year," said Hendrix, a junior. "I think I was crying for like three days straight, because I wanted it so bad, but we couldn't pull out the win. I've been wanting my get-back for a minute now."

Sophomore Indya Davis scored nine of her team-high 17 points in the first quarter and Hendrix finished with 12 for West Bloomfield.

Metz and senior Morgan Seog of Hartland became the first Livingston County girls to play in state championship games in two different MHSAA sports. They were both on the Eagles' state championship soccer team last season.



Hartland's Leah Lappin, left, and West Bloomfield's Indya Davis battle for the ball March 19 in the Division 1 state final at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. West Bloomfield won, 51-42.



Hartland's Amanda Roach, center, cuts to the basket against West Bloomfield during the fourth quarter.



Hartland's Olivia Linden, center, reacts after losing to West Bloomfield.



Hartland's Lauren Sollom, left, grabs a rebound over West Bloomfield's Zaneiya Batiste during the second quarter.



## Last

Continued from Page 1B

But no one is also surprised CC made it this far in the postseason, which is wild to say out loud considering its recent history.

This year marked just the second time since 2012 the Shamrocks (16-9) didn't lose their opening-round district matchup. This year also marked the first time they won a regional championship since 2009.

Yeah, they were sent north for the district and avoided the usual suspects in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association on the west side of metro Detroit. But they took care of business against Walled Lake Western and Walled Lake Northern to finally win another district title.

And then they sprinted past Hartland, this year's KLAA champions, without an issue in the regional opener. They finally got the monkey off their back when they beat Clarkston in the regional final, which is impressive because the Wolves are from the Oakland Activities Association-Red, about the only local league outside of the Detroit Public School League-Division 1 that's as competitive as CC's Central division.

Coach Brandon Sinawi knows what it takes to have one of the last teams standing. He took Novi to the Class A final four at Michigan State University in 2018.

In his fourth season on nearby Wixom Road, the foundation at CC has finally been built. Winning big games and, heck, winning big championships, is now the standard.

And he knows this season will have lasting impressions on the program.

"We are so proud of our team and of our kids," Sinawi told Hometown Life late Tuesday night. "We played one of the toughest teams in the state and showed what grit, character and fight we have."

"We went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the state, and we played one of our worst games, and we were never out of it."

"This team hasn't won a regional since 2019, and that's a long time, and it was an even longer time since they had won one before that. We're trying to establish the culture here, and I'm proud of our guys for doing that. There's no



CC coach Brandon Sinawi yells an offensive play to his team March 22 during the Division 1 quarterfinal against Grand Blanc at Saginaw Heritage High's gymnasium.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

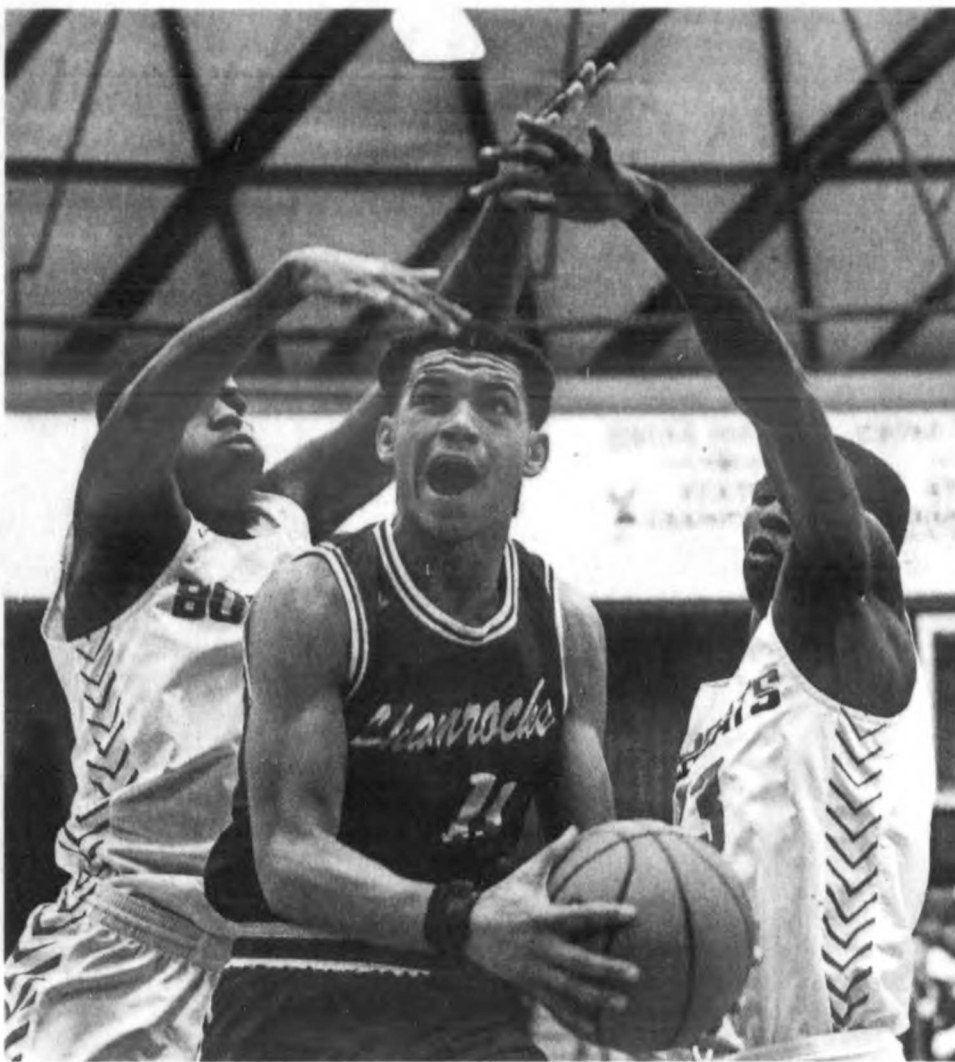
reason to regress from here, and there's no reason to say we'll take a step back. We're looking to really sustain this thing for a long time.

"We were one of only eight teams that got to practice yesterday. We are definitely not taking any steps backward."

Sinawi has his seniors to thank for establishing CC as a team on the rise.

Oakland University signee Cooper Craggs was one of the best players in the state. He rebounds viciously, shoots from range and can will a team to victory at the buzzer.

Kam Mayes, who is still somehow unsigned, had a knack for taking over games, and he never did it in the same fashion twice. His transition buckets started long runs. His free throws in the bonus iced victories. His drives to the hoop helped CC put together comeback wins.



Catholic Central's Chas Lewless tries to scoop and score against Grand Blanc.

And Kevin Wendt and Brady Hewer were just consistent players. Wendt deserved to be a starter thanks to a heads-up steal here or a quiet box out there, while Hewer was just stellar on defense all-around.

"The message to the seniors was thank you," Sinawi said. "I was so happy to coach these guys. People like you (fans and reporters) only get to see them inside the lines. I got to see them outside of the lines. They care about each other and their school, and they have hobbies and passions off the court."

"In the locker room afterward, it wasn't sad. It was somber. We had a lot to laugh about and a lot of smiles."

CC returns two of the best sophomores in the state in Chas Lewless, an absolute gamer at point guard, and TJ Nadeau, who found his confidence down the stretch of the season and made a name for himself both in the

paint and as a shooter.

As Sinawi said, the Shamrocks won't be taking a step back, especially with these two returning. And those two must credit this senior class for all the tutelage.

With 11.9 seconds left against Grand Blanc, and no chances of a comeback possible, for one last time, Sinawi subbed out Craggs, Mayes and Wendt and gave each of them hugs as a thank-you for turning the program around.

CC had the ball for the final possession. As the time ticked down to 0 seconds left, Lewless caught the ball behind the arc and buried a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Are you really surprised that was what happened on CC's last shot?

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

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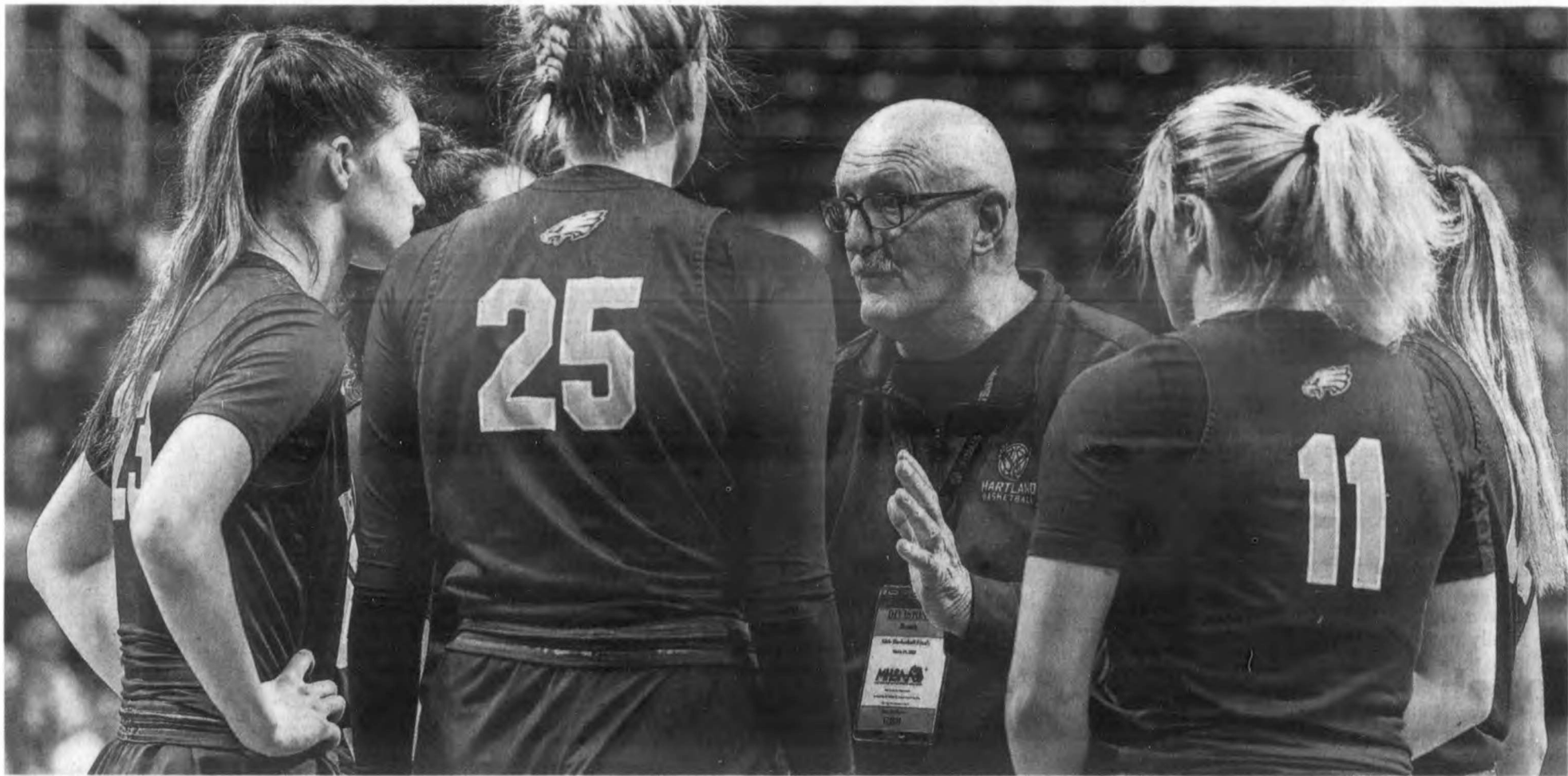
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Coach Don Palmer addresses his Hartland players prior to a 51-42 loss to West Bloomfield in the Division 1 state championship game March 19. The Eagles went 255-58 in 13 seasons under Palmer. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Former Milford basketball coach retires

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Patrolling the sideline at the Breslin Center, Don Palmer couldn't have imagined a better place to end his basketball coaching career.

Competing at the Breslin Center is the ultimate goal in Michigan high school basketball. Making it even sweeter for Palmer is the fact he's a Michigan State University graduate.

"To be able to be on that floor, not once but for two games, it was completely unreal," Palmer said. "The more the days go by, the more I just can't believe those kids got us there. They did a great job."

Coaching Hartland in the state Division 1 girls basketball championship game was the final act in a career that

began in 1974 when Palmer coached the freshman football team at Milford. He announced his retirement from coaching Tuesday after dropping hints during the state finals that, at age 71, he was getting too old for the grind.

"To be truthful, my wife and I determined before the season started this would be it," Palmer said. "Basically, I did 32 seasons of girls at Milford and I did 29 seasons of boys at Milford, then 13 more varsity seasons at Hartland. So, that's 74 seasons of varsity basketball. I think that's enough; that's enough."

Between the boys and girls basketball teams at Milford and Hartland, Palmer won 1,025 career games. He reached the regional championship game in 1979 and 2001 with Milford's girls and in 1988 with the boys, but his greatest success would come later in his

career when he arrived in Hartland.

Taking over a program that hadn't won a district championship since 1991, Palmer won 11 district championships and five regional titles in 13 seasons. The Eagles had a record of 255-58 during his tenure.

After four straight losses in the state quarterfinals, Hartland broke through to reach the final four for the first time this season. The Eagles made it to the state championship game, losing 51-42 to West Bloomfield.

"We were in the same league with Hartland," Palmer said. "The former coach I replaced, Brian Ives, I coached at Milford. He was a very, very good coach. He had to leave because of a work conflict. The year he had to leave, they were 16-6. We could see it coming. The varsity at Milford was still beating them by one

or two points, but our lower levels were just getting murdered.

"When I got the job and my staff came with me, I said, 'There'll be no excuses for not winning, because there's people here.' I didn't realize it would be about 12 years of people. We knew it was coming."

Palmer coached against Brighton and Howell during his Milford days, but those rivalries were amped up when he came to Hartland. Most of the losses either team had in a given season were against each other.

"I'll miss the competition," he said. "I competed against great coaches — Timmy (Olszewski) and Paul Ash and his assistant, Dan Christner, and the Piephos, Lee and Jason. Those were all great

See COACH, Page 5B



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Don Palmer won 11 districts and five regionals in 13 seasons as Hartland's girls basketball coach. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Coach

Continued from Page 4B

coaches. We had great games. It never got personal. It was just a matter of respect. I'll miss that the most. I would talk to those guys and learn basketball and it was just pleasant. It wasn't hostile."

Palmer and rival coaches would often sit down and chat during pregame warm-ups. Olszewski will miss those moments now that Palmer has retired.

"It's always a good rivalry," Olszewski said. "He and I can talk before and after games. We can talk about anything and everything. There's no animosity, ever. It's competitiveness. It's doing what we both love, working with kids and coaching. As far as I'm concerned, he's an ambassador. Hartland's going to miss him dearly. I just hope he can relax now and not be all up in arms when basketball season comes, because he's done it so long."

Hartland athletic director JD Wheeler had an inkling his coach might retire after this season, but knew Palmer wasn't the type to upstage the players' season.

"He knew there was a job to do with this team," Wheeler said. "He knew he

had these seniors who earned every ounce of everything he could give them this season. He wanted to keep the focus on them. That's the type of guy he is. Don's not a 'Hey, look at me' type of coach at all. It's all about the girls, all about the team. His retirement wasn't anything he wanted anyone focusing on, because he wanted the girls to go as far as they possibly could."

Palmer retired as a teacher at Milford after his first season coaching at Hartland, but couldn't give up basketball until now.

"It just became a lifestyle," Palmer said. "For so many years, you did the girls, then went to the boys. Sometimes it was good, sometimes it was bad, but it was just when you get some of those wins or special nights that it's all worthwhile. If you get a kid you have so much respect for, it makes it all worthwhile. I enjoyed teaching, and maybe I continued coaching to get my time with kids, because I do enjoy that."

That lifestyle will change now that he's not coaching.

"I'll continue to play some bad golf," he said. "My wife likes to travel; I'm kind of a homebody. We've got a daughter in Seattle, so we'll visit her more often. I would like to go to more college games than I go to. We've got some kids here and there who I'd like to see play."

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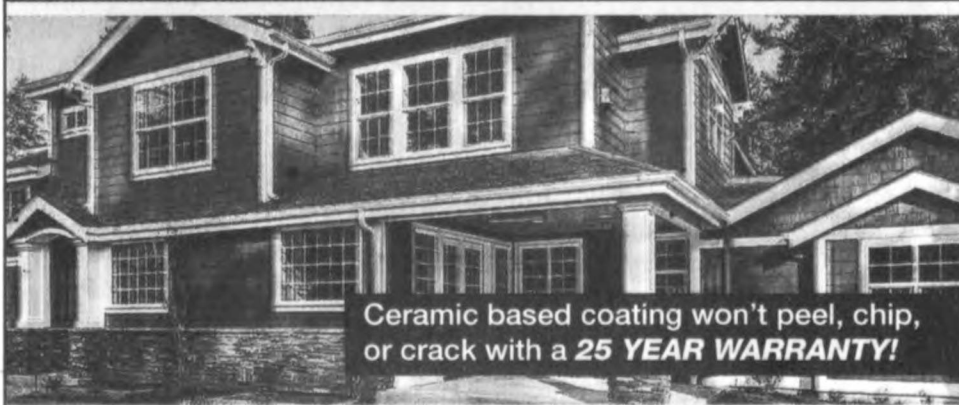
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# Former Hartland student shines on big stage

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What's more difficult, trying to get a puck past Blake Pietila or dislodging him from Michigan Tech's crease? Neither has been particularly easy this season.

Pietila, who attended Hartland High School through his junior year, started all 36 games for the Huskies heading into their first-round NCAA tournament game Thursday against Minnesota-Duluth. In the process, he broke the school record by recording seven shutouts.

Pietila played in 2,138 minutes, 57 seconds through the regular season. Tech's other two goalies have each made three appearances off the bench for a total of 64 minutes, 15 seconds.

For Pietila, it was a case of seizing an opportunity that presented itself at the start of the season.

"One of our goalies, Mark Sinclair, got hurt before the first weekend and was out the whole first half," Pietila said. "I've played every game since then. It hasn't been too bad, because at the college level you play Friday-Saturday. You get plenty of time to rest during the week and get your recovery in. It's been good to stay healthy and see the team win."

Pietila, who had two starts as a freshman and 18 as a sophomore, credits his teammates for his individual success.

With a 4-0 victory over Bowling Green on Feb. 11, Pietila broke the Tech record of six shutouts set by current goaltending coach Jamie Phillips in 2014-15. Pietila has also tied Phillips' career record of 10 shutouts set between 2012-16.

"As a team, it's been one of the best seasons in the past four or five years, as far as making the NCAA tournament," Pietila said. "That's a testament to how well the team's been playing. It makes all the individual stats come out. When we're playing better, it makes everyone else look better. That's probably improved my play or made me look better, in a sense."

Getting in the goaltending record books at Tech means something, considering Hall of Famer Tony Esposito played for the Huskies from 1964-67. Damian Rhodes, who played in 309 NHL games, is also a former Tech netminder.

Pietila went into the NCAA tournament with a 1.91 goals against average, a 21-12-2 record and a .918 save percentage. His seven shutouts rank fourth in the nation. He's been a nominee for the Mike Richter Award as the top goalie in college hockey the past two seasons. He has been a goaltender since he was 6 or 7 years old.

"During youth hockey in mini mites when we'd rotate the goalie, one time it came around to me," Pietila said. "I really liked it. I told my dad I wanted to keep playing. It stuck from there."



Blake Pietila, a former Hartland student, set the Michigan Tech single-season shutout record with seven this season. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN TECH UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

He had a pretty good shooter in the family to help hone his skills, twin brother Logan. Logan also plays for Tech, as does cousin Jed Pietila and former Brighton High star Jake Crespi.

"(Logan) would always try to maneuver me to the basement to shoot on me when we were younger," Pietila said. "I wasn't a fan of that. You couldn't wear skates. I was wearing shoes with goalie gear."

Playing college hockey together has been a dream come true.

"Me and Logan and Jed grew up within walking distance of each other," Blake said. "We all know we wanted to go to Tech. It's cool to see them every day growing up and now we see each other every day at the rink in college life."

Pietila attended Hartland for three years before moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to play in the United

States Hockey League, one of the top feeder systems for NCAA hockey. He graduated high school in Iowa.

He said Hartland coach Rick Gadwa talked with him about playing high school hockey his freshman year, but he never played for the Eagles.

"It's a great program there," Pietila said. "It was something to think about. For me, development wise, it was better to play AAA. No knock against how great Hartland has been, especially with their recent success."

Pietila has up to two seasons remaining at Tech, getting a possible extra year of eligibility because of how COVID impacted the last two seasons.

"It's always been a goal and dream of mine to play pro hockey," he said. "We'll see where that leads beyond Tech. For now, my focus is on this year, next and maybe the COVID year."

## Obituaries

### Sarah Dewey Jaros

LINDEN - Sarah Dewey Jaros, 85 of Linden, Michigan passed away peacefully surrounded by family March 12, 2022. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 30, 1936 to the late Edgar and Lois Haines. Beloved wife of the late Daniel Jaros, whom she married on October 21, 1966. Loving mother of Samuel (Sandra) Jaros of Winchester, KY, Laura (Hal) Lietzau-Richmond of Howell, MI, Christina (Chuck) Hughes of Howell, David (Sonya) Jaros of St. Marys, OH. Loving grandmother/Yaya to Daniel (Kristina) Lietzau, Katherine Lietzau, Connor Hughes, Mason Hughes, Madison Jaros, and Michael Jaros. Great-grandmother to Taylor, Brayden, and Jaxson. She was preceded in death by grandson Christopher Jaros and brother William Haines. Sarah graduated from Blanchester High School, Blanchester, OH and from Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri.

Sarah grew up in Blanchester, OH where she worked in the family's retail clothing business, Haines Town and Country stores and after college worked as a buyer and merchandiser. Sarah and her husband, Dan, worked and raised their family in Howell, where they resided for over 30 years. After retirement they moved to Clearwater, FL where they enjoyed the warm, sunny weather, swimming, golfing, and spending time with many dear friends at the "Ranch." They also enjoyed traveling, taking memorable trips to Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, St. Lucia, and traveled extensively throughout the United States. Sarah was a 50+ year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) and she spent many hours volunteering in her children's schools. Sarah was known for her fun-loving spirit, great sense of humor, and had the ability to make friends wherever she ventured.

A private family memorial will take place at a later date. Sarah will be laid to rest at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Lansing, MI. Memorial contributions can be made to the Livingston County United Way in memory of Sarah Jaros.



### Mollie Galate

Mollie Galate, 72 of Redford Mi

Cherished wife, loving mother, beloved daughter, fun-loving sister, and fierce friend. Mollie's arduous battle with pancreatic cancer ended on March 14, 2022. Mollie loved and nurtured animals of all kinds, she enjoyed hunting for just the right rock on the shores of Lake Superior and she spent every spare drop of time outdoors. Mollie always had a bag packed for her next grand adventure. Between trips, as they were trips and not vacations ("you can sleep at home"), she enjoyed lazy afternoons with her friends coloring intricate mandalas and countless hours of talking politics. Mollie loved getting lost in a good book and passed on her passion for reading by working as a full-time volunteer librarian at Roosevelt Elementary School, where she granted children access to books they may not have had access to otherwise. Mollie was also a volunteer turned employee at Seedlings Braille Books for Children where she learned to transcribe written words into braille and where she impacted the lives of countless braille readers and workers turned friends for over 25 years. Mollie quenched her thirst for history with other American Civil War enthusiasts in the Michigan Military Round Table for many adventure-filled years - she served as secretary and helped plan the trips to a plethora of battlefields across the United States.

Mollie is survived by her husband of 51 years Sam Galate, her daughter Courtney Galate and her son-in-law Adam Ostrowski. She is survived by her sisters Adele (Charles) Roney and Jeanine Courtney (Don) Clark. Mollie is predeceased by her parents Donald and Betty Courtney. Mollie also leaves behind countless friends whom she considered family. Mollie is and will forever be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Please join us for Mollie's Mingle on Sunday, March 27 from 2-6pm at Harry J Wills Funeral Home in Livonia, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Seedlings Braille Books for Children or Pound Pals Downriver.



## Repairs underway months after Highland post office arson

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Customers dependent on mail services in Highland Township post office have had some frustrating months, but many are sensing some normalcy returning.

They've had to pivot since late December when someone visited the 376 Beach Farm Circle building overnight, ignited a paper and placed it inside a trash bin, sparking flames that caused more than \$100,000 in damage.

Three months later, the culprit remains unknown, and customers have dealt with limited hours, late arrival of bills and detours to other somewhat-nearby post offices for regular transactions like buying stamps and mailing letters.

"(But) construction to repair damage sustained in a recent fire has begun," United States Postal Service spokeswoman Elizabeth Najdich said in an email update. "We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience to the temporary change in services and appreciate the patience of our customers as we work to make the building safe for our employees and customers."

Saying there's no scheduled time for reopening and resuming normal services, she continued to redirect retail service customers and those with package pickup notices and "accountable" mail to the Davisburg Post Office, 12795 Fountain Square, which is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Small makeshift signs posted at Highland Township's post office direct P.O. Box customers and let everyone know work is happening. Pickups in Highland are limited to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Rick Kirchner said he's less irritated than before. He's returned to more frequent visits to the Highland Township post office. He had limited himself to once-a-week stops in the aftermath of the fire.

A business owner, Kirchner said he understands supply-chain issues and unexpected challenges. But he's been late on some bills because of the in-and-out mail routines associated with the fire.

"It's actually improved, though," he said. "Tolerance is important."

Kathy Morris of White Lake Township visited the Highland post office on St. Patrick's Day, wearing some symbolic green.

She had minimized her dependence on mail services by doing "a lot of online stuff" before the fire.

But she still misses the pre-fire days when she could visit the front lobby 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"It seems to be part of life sometimes. You just go with the flow," Morris said.





Northville's Matt Gorski snags a rebound during a Division 1 district semifinal March 9 at Canton High School. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Northville boys basketball team celebrates its first district championship in 24 seasons. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE ATHLETICS

## Northville

Continued from Page 1B

If Northville strings together a couple more district titles, this team will be looked at as the catalyst that got the run going. If this is its lone district title for another 24 years, well, everyone will know just how special it truly was.

"It's pretty indescribable, man," said senior Matt Gorski, who was born 6 years after the Mustangs had won their previous district championship. "We were talking about it all year, going to a district final. I know it's been our coach's goal for a very long time. Being able to accomplish it was pretty cool."

And, frankly, it's pretty impressive Northville (13-10) could even muster a championship run.

The Mustangs exited the regular season as losers of three of their final four games. That included a two-point overtime loss to their biggest rival Novi, which had the worst record in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West.

But they stepped up in the district semifinal, coming from behind to take down the Wildcats in the rubber match.

And they put together another comeback against Canton, which went 14-0 in the West and also narrowly lost in the KLAA title game to Hartland as it played without Ferris State signee Cole Vickers.

"Before the first Novi game, we had a rough stretch," said Gorski, who scored a team-best 15 points against the Chiefs. "Beating Novi in the playoffs gave us a little momentum. The whole time we knew if we played well, we'd be able to beat Canton, too. We knew if we rebounded well, played our game and slowed down our game, we knew we could handle them in their gym. We knew it'd be a tough fight, but we all knew we were capable of doing it."

This year's squad, which included seniors Brett Mathiesen, Ty Schembri, Gabe Peck-Demit, Jack Holland, Sam Barnhart and Gorski, will always be heralded, which almost sounds silly considering how often other sports at the school have made deep playoff runs and even won state championships.

But that just proves how tough of a league the KLAA really is in boys basketball — when winning a district championship makes you a neighborhood celebrity.

In the 2011 documentary "Roll Tide/War Eagle," former NFL and MLB player Bo Jackson, of the Tecmo Bowl videogame fame, described what it was like when legendary Alabama football coach Bear Bryant recruited him.

Bryant, who won six national championships with the Crimson Tide, was quite the celebrity back then. His fame would've been easily comparable to Tom Brady, LeBron James or Tiger Woods today.



Northville fans cheer after their team scored a basket against Novi during the Division 1 district semifinal March 9.



Elation for Northville, left, and dejection for Novi after the game.

When Jackson was in high school, Bryant called Jackson's home to make his interest in the running back known.

After the call, Jackson said hoards of people from around his neighborhood in Bessemer, Alabama, came over to his house to just admire his phone.

"That's the phone Bear Bryant called you on?" Jackson said his neighbors would say when they visited him.

There's going to be a similar Bear Bryant vibe around Northville.

In the future, whenever someone recognizes a Mustang basketball player from the 2021-22 season around town, they'll point and whisper amongst themselves, "That's one of the boys who ended the 24-year curse."

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

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For more information regarding this directory, please contact Kadijah Brack-Rowley at [kbrackrowl@localiq.com](mailto:kbrackrowl@localiq.com)



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## Jobs Are Plentiful Across the Nation

### 10 States Hit Highest Job Openings Rates in Their History

ZipRecruiter.com

There are 11.3 million job openings nationwide, and the U.S. labor market is tighter than ever, according to the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey report released last week. Yesterday's state-level report provides greater insight into exactly where those job openings are concentrated and where businesses are facing the steepest hiring challenges.

For the first time on record, job openings exceed the number of unemployed people in every state. California, with 0.96 unemployed people per opening, has the "slackest" labor market nationwide. Historically, there have been 2.4 unemployed people per opening nationwide, so the California job market is still unusually tight.

#### 1. Maine and New Hampshire have the highest concentration of job opportunities across the nation.

In January, with an 8.8% job openings rate, Maine and New Hampshire were punching above their weight when it came to generating opportunity. They recorded the

highest job openings rates in the nation—2.8% percentage points higher than the national average of 7.0%.

Jobs are plentiful across the nation. Including Maine and New Hampshire, ten states hit their highest rate of job openings in their history: Connecticut (6.7%), Delaware (7.9%), Illinois (7.6%), Minnesota (8.1%), Nebraska (7.8%), New Mexico (7.7%), Pennsylvania (8.3%), and Tennessee (7.6%).

The need for drivers, teachers, and retail workers is particularly acute in those states, and

continues to rise.

#### 2. Nebraska and Utah have the tightest job markets in the country.

Businesses in Nebraska and Utah are facing the toughest odds when it comes to finding candidates. There are currently 3.6 job openings per unemployed person in Nebraska and 3.5 in Utah, making it especially challenging for companies to fill vacancies.

Labor force participation is slowly recovering, but many people remain reluctant to reenter the workforce due

to concern about workplace health and safety and childcare challenges, among other factors.

#### 3. Despite hiring challenges, employment levels have fully recovered in 19 states.

Utah's labor market recovery is well ahead of the curve. 4% more people are employed in the state now than before the pandemic. It is among 19 states which have recovered all jobs lost at the start of the pandemic.

New York and Vermont are lagging behind due to a slow recovery in the leisure and hospitality industry. However, downtown businesses in both states are likely to see business pick up as workers return to offices.

On the other hand, labor force participation is down in almost every state. Two years into the pandemic, there are only four states (Delaware, Alaska, Oregon, and Wisconsin) where labor force participation has recovered. The talent shortage will only deepen unless the labor force participation recovery picks up soon.



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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo****RULING PARTY****ACROSS**

1 Gilda Radner character on "Saturday Night Live"  
9 Certain martial arts surface  
16 Just OK  
20 Enthusiastic reply to a request  
21 Raised, as a building  
22 Central point  
23 British ruler applying veneer?  
25 Violent anger  
26 Nutrition Facts category  
27 Brewed beverage  
28 Great Plains tribe  
29 The Devil  
30 Nile goddess  
33 Turkish ruler's pungent condiment?  
38 Quaint office transcribers  
41 Sleep study diagnosis  
42 Regarding  
43 Something a French-kissing Arab ruler has?

**46 Small**

51 Nuptial vow  
52 Really smell  
53 Kind of tide  
56 China's Zhou —  
57 Actress Perez  
59 Hindu ruler's radio sign-off?  
65 Secretive U.S. org.  
67 Tehran's land  
68 Jug handle  
69 Skye of film  
70 Save the Russian ruler from tumbling to the ground?  
75 Actors Mineo and Landi  
77 Car club ints.  
78 Coin-op hole  
79 Thesaurus entry: Abbr.  
80 Afghan ruler caught up in a tomado?  
85 Stared in amazement  
89 Agate playing marble, informally  
90 Lingo suffix  
91 Greek money  
93 Brewed beverage

**94 Exam taker**

96 Very easy task for a Muslim ruler?  
102 Many a war vet's affliction  
105 Behave badly  
106 Yellowstone gusher  
107 English ruler making mouse sounds?  
111 Bomb part  
112 Liquid — (Drano rival)  
113 Electees  
114 Iowa college  
116 Louver strip  
120 Hula —  
121 What's revealed by taking an X-ray of a Persian ruler?  
127 Shower affection (on)  
128 Butt forcefully  
129 Waters north of Australia  
130 Went swiftly  
131 Visits during a trip  
132 Car mileage recorder

**2 Tibet locale**

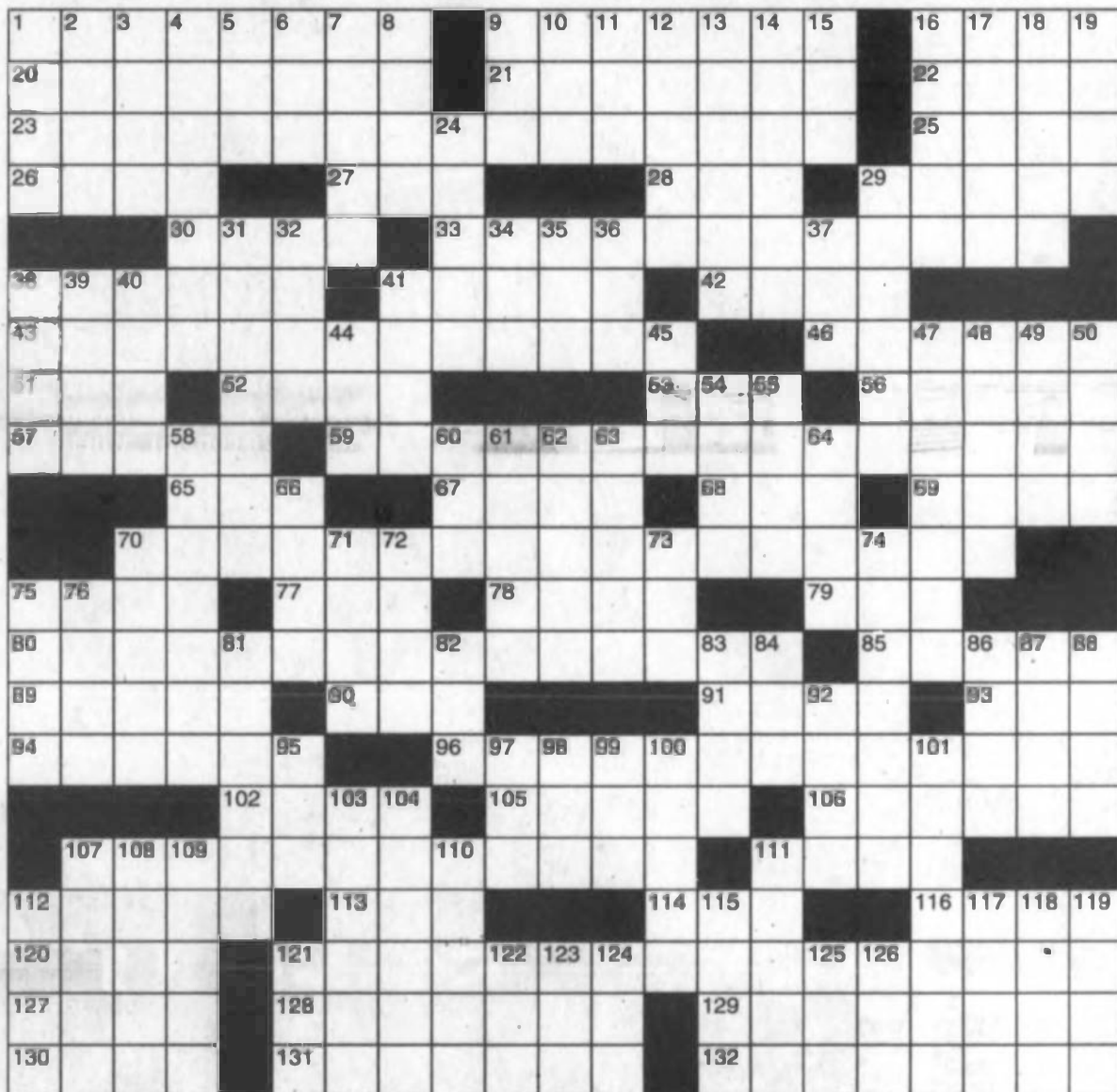
3 Bat very gently  
4 Emerging  
5 Actor Studi  
6 Herr's "Alas!"  
7 Sits tight  
8 Writer Rice  
9 Pa Clampett  
10 Arg. neighbor  
11 Last mo.  
12 Gaffer Lorena  
13 Volcano in E. Sicily  
14 — Fables  
15 Six-pt. plays  
16 Shredded bit  
17 Pontificate  
18 Fructose, e.g.  
19 Yoked yaks  
24 Utters breathlessly  
29 Oral  
31 Most vinegary  
32 "Understood"  
34 Sch. in the Granite State  
35 Director Ang  
36 Mai — (drink)  
37 UFO pilots  
38 Commotion  
39 Commotion  
40 Actress Mireille —  
41 Singer Paul

**44 Ending for cash**

45 Comedian Hart, casually  
47 Hoosier State  
48 Building story  
49 Part-goat god  
50 Where it's at  
54 "It's — real!"  
55 Boast  
58 Irritated  
60 Big name in peanut butter  
61 Break out in —  
62 Actress Berry  
63 Set to a slow speed  
64 Bow shapes  
66 Berry of Brazil  
70 Some mollusks  
71 Loathe  
72 Oohs and —  
73 "Lord, is —?"  
74 Precursors of embryos  
75 Brief parody  
76 Cry of woe  
81 Person crying  
82 Golf gizmo  
83 Kind of tide  
84 Used a spade  
86 Cronies  
87 Model  
88 Macpherson  
88 Doe or stag

**92 Spaghetti sauce brand**

95 GPS calculation  
97 Egyptian — (cat breed)  
98 Cold cubes  
99 GPS calculation  
100 Grape cluster  
101 Visual insult  
103 Slope-hitter's headwear  
104 Energetic sort  
107 Small sailboat  
108 Citation  
109 Officiated on the diamond  
110 Vessel used to lure U-boats  
111 Foul-smelling  
112 Profs' degs.  
115 Maestro Klemperer  
117 Strong desire  
118 1940s film critic James  
119 "— she blows!"  
121 This yr.'s grads  
122 Hosp. VIPs  
123 "Give — try"  
124 Obtained  
125 Med. group  
126 DVD —



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:**

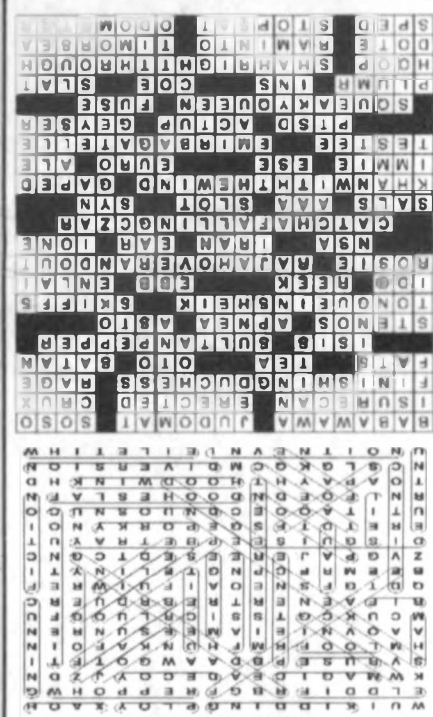
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

**TAKEN IN**

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

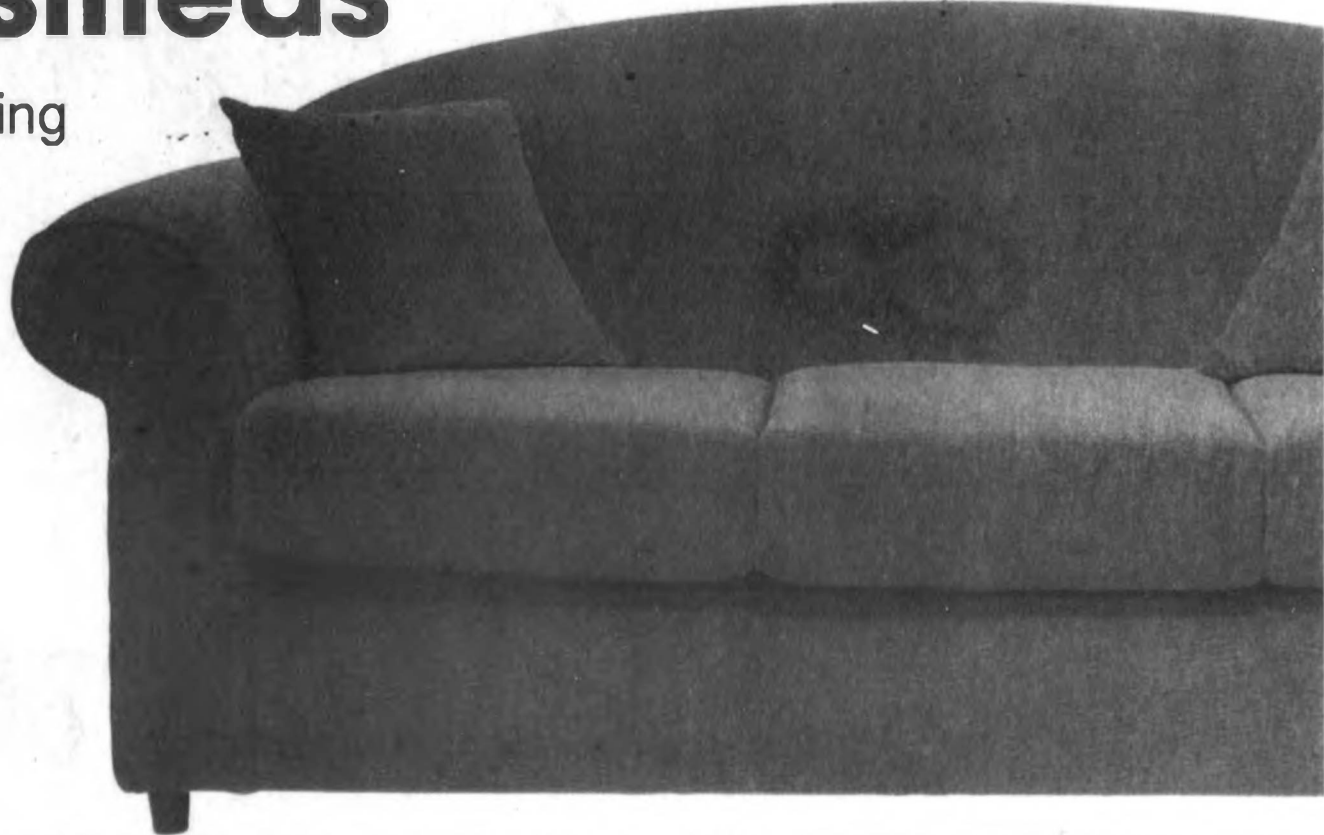
W U I K I D D I N G P L O Y X A O H  
E L D D I F R B G F R E P P O H W G  
K W M A G I C E A D E C O Y J Z D N  
S V R U S E P B D A A W G O T F T I  
H M L O O F R M F H D N K A F O I N  
A A O V N I E I A M E E S U N R E N  
M C U K C G T S S I C R L U O G F U  
B I F A E N E R T R E B R D U E R C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

BETRAY  
BLUFF  
CHEAT  
CONTRIVED  
COUNTERFEIT  
CUNNING  
DECOY  
DECEIT  
DISGUISE  
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DODGE  
ERSATZ  
FABRICATE  
FAKE  
FALSEHOOD  
FAST ONE  
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FICTION  
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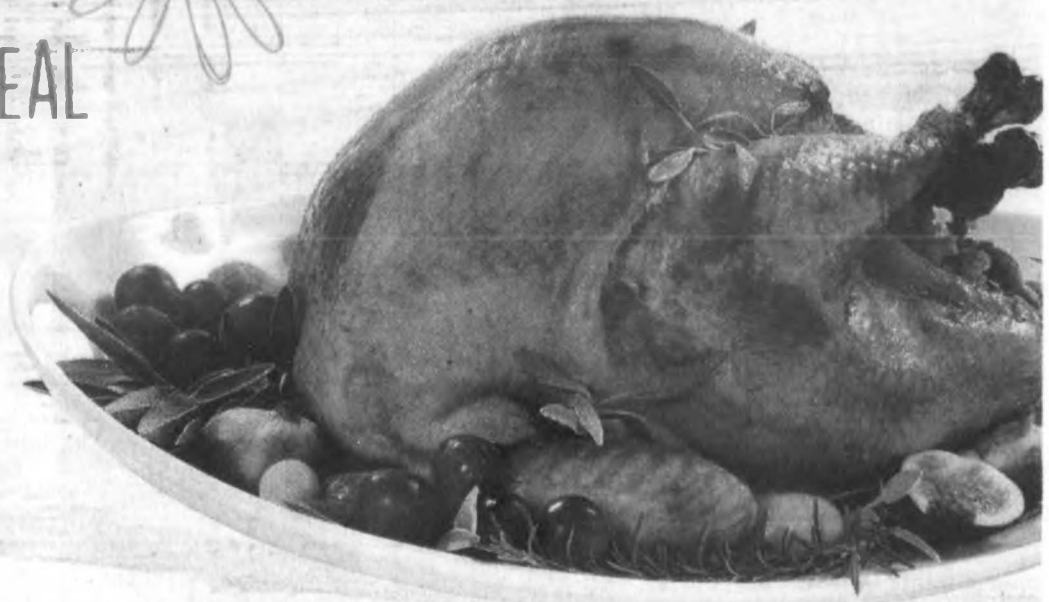


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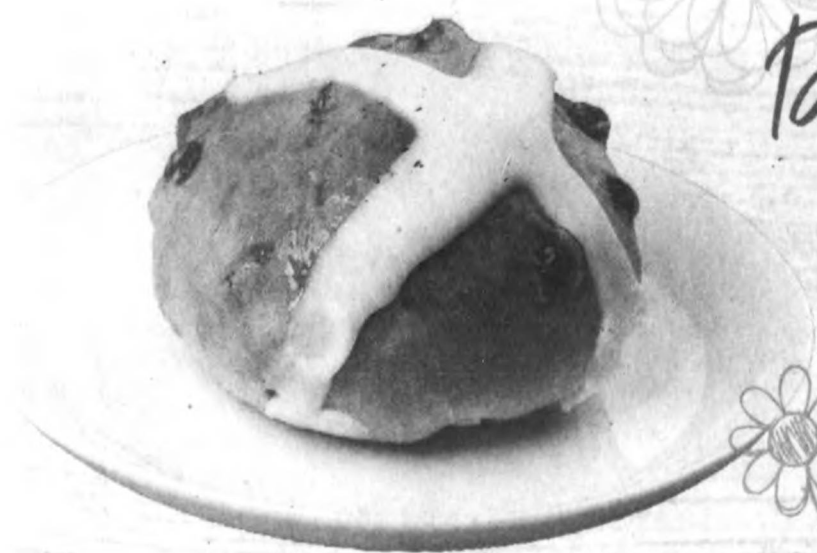
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