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Municipalities say GLWA overcharged for water service to pay off legal fees

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Concerned that the Great Lakes Water Authority improperly charged for municipal waters services for the past decade has several leaders of metro De-

troit municipalities thirsting for reimbursements for their respective communities.

In 2012, the State of Michigan requested the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, now GLWA, provide emergency water services to the City of High-

land Park because the state determined Highland Park's water treatment plant was creating a public health risk.

At the time, the state said the repairs to the water treatment plant were to be completed in "three to four days," however the repairs were never made.

On March 11, 2022, the Conference of Western Wayne Board of Directors met to discuss the arrearage of water and sewer payments due from the City of Highland Park to GLWA.

See **OVERCHARGED**, Page 7A

Currie Road roundabout, paving work begin in Lyon Township

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Motorists in Lyon Township heads may spin with the amount of roadwork heading their way, and it all starts this week.

Beginning April 14, a half-mile of Nine Mile Road will be paved from Griswold east to Briar Meadow Road, courtesy of Pulte Homes, which is putting in a large new subdivision in the area. The developer is also doing a "hill cut" to improve sight distance.

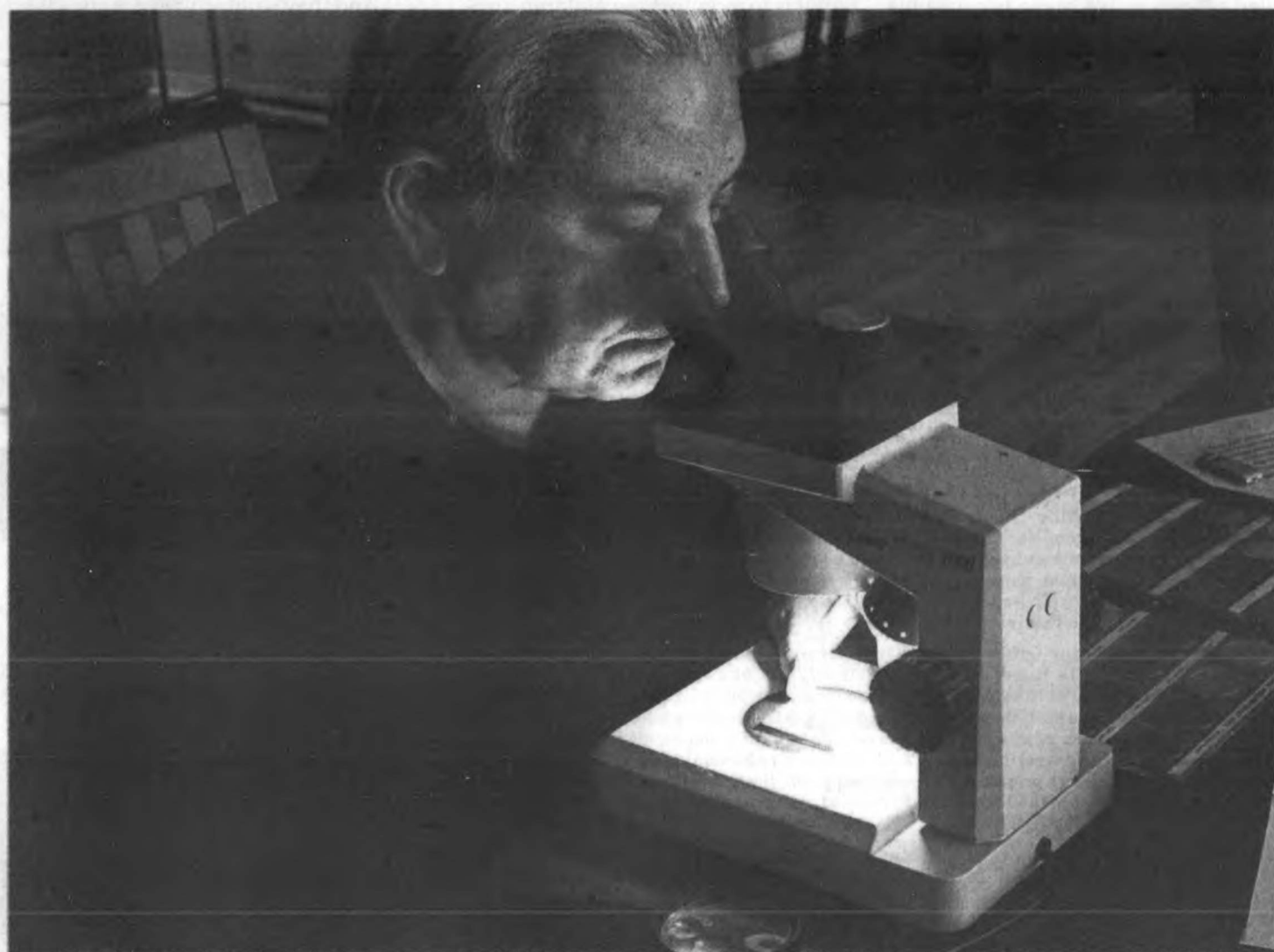
The next day, the second year of work on Currie Road commenced — with the \$4.4 million second phase including two roundabouts and the paving of the gravel road from 8 Mile to 9 Mile Road. The first phase last summer paved Currie Road from 9 Mile to 10 Mile.

"To add insult to injury it starts on what is normally tax day, April 15," Craig Bryson, senior communications manager for the Road Commission for Oakland County, said.

The paving of the one-mile stretch of Currie Road is expected to be completed in August. The first single lane roundabout at 8 Mile and Currie will be done in June, at which time a second single-lane roundabout will be installed at the 9 Mile and Currie Road intersection.

The two new Currie Road roundabouts will make six total in Lyon

See **WORK**, Page 6A



Al Raddi examines a coin under a microscope in his Milford home March 30. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Your change could be worth big bucks to coin collectors

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Al Raddi is happy to give his two cents on what your change might be worth — and what is actually the most valuable may not be what you think.

The chair of the Huron Valley Numismatic Society has been collecting coins for more than six decades.

In an age when cash is no longer king and money changes hands in the form of credit cards, Venmo and Apple pay rather than paper bills and metal coins,

coin collections may be on the way out.

"It's a hobby diminishing in the number of collectors, but in certain areas like error coin collection it is growing like crazy," Raddi said. "Certain areas are

See **COLLECTORS**, Page 6A

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Northville Schools selects Novi assistant superintendent as district's next leader

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi Community School District Assistant Superintendent RJ Webber was offered the opportunity to lead Northville Public Schools during an April 12 special meeting of the district's board of education.

If Webber accepts the offer to serve as Northville's next superintendent, he will succeed Mary Kay Gallagher, who will retire at the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year following 10 years as the superintendent.

Contract details were not discussed during Tuesday's meeting.

In addition to Webber, finalists for the position were Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Aaron Baughman and Maysam Alle-Bazzi, executive director of staff and student services for Dearborn Public Schools.

Prior to voting unanimously to offer Webber the superintendent position, board members held a straw poll to reveal their first choice for the job. Webber earned five votes to Baughman's two. James Mazurek and Roland Hwang initially supported Baughman.



Baughman

The district's goal is to have a new superintendent start July 1.

Representatives of search consultant firm Ray and Associates were in the process of reaching out to Webber immediately after Tuesday's 1 p.m. selection meeting.

Webber, a graduate of Perry Public Schools near Lansing, earned a bachelor's degree from Alma College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan and a doctorate of education from Michigan State University.

He has taught grades fifth through 12th in Nigeria, Saginaw, Ithaca, and South Lyon, and has earned teacher of the year and principal of the year honors, according to his biography that was published on the Northville website.

Webber was hired as Novi's assistant superintendent of academics in 2010. He is the co-founder of the Novi area Mental Health Alliance and Novi's Feed the Need summer lunch program.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Rodney and Mithais Brown of Beacon play at one of the new exhibits from the Science Revealed! exhibition inside the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum on March 29. The museum has opened its doors since closing in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PATRICK OEHLER/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

COVID-19 cases, deaths tracker for Wayne, Oakland counties

Mike Stucka Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 105.5% as 7,725 cases were reported. The previous week had 3,759 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 18th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 10% from the week before, with 225,931 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 3.42% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 31 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 1,653 cases and 17 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 758 cases and 10 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 401,129 cases and 7,912 deaths.

Oakland County reported 1,520 cases and seven deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 656 cases and nine deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 287,896 cases and 3,821 deaths.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Washtenaw County with 255 cases per 100,000 per week; Alpena County with 176; and Oakland County with 121. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 1,653 cases; Oakland County, with 1,520 cases; and Macomb County, with 967. Weekly case counts rose in 71 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Michigan ranked 35th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 66.8% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 77.3%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 104,243 vaccine doses, including 7,900 first doses. In the previous week, the state ad-

ministered 109,894 vaccine doses, including 8,216 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 15,718,745 total doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in eight counties, with the best declines in Mackinac County, with 0 cases from 6 a week earlier; in Van Buren County, with 26 cases from 30; and in Keweenaw County, with -2 cases from 1.

In Michigan, 81 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 70 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,400,990 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 35,857 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 80,632,301 people have tested positive and 988,618 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions rising

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, April 17.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 649
- The week before that: 605
- Four weeks ago: 704

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 38,545
- The week before that: 37,371
- Four weeks ago: 41,914

Hospitals in 22 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 15 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 32 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. Contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

When it comes to finances, don't focus on how much you pay in taxes

Dear Rick:

I just got my tax return from my accountant, and I was surprised at the amount of taxes I owed. Because of the mutual funds in my portfolio, I had several substantial capital gains distributions. My accountant says I should consider buying tax-free municipal bonds versus the growth mutual funds I have.

Do you think that makes sense? I am still about 10 years away from retirement and currently income is not a problem.

I also had a question regarding my Roth IRA. I have a grandson to whom I would like to gift my Roth IRA; is that a problem? It is worth approximately \$50,000.

Thank you, Bob

Dear Bob:

I don't agree with your accountant's recommendation. It appears all your accountant wants to do is lower your taxes, which doesn't make any sense. Your goal is not to lower your taxes, but rather to increase your net worth.

I will use the example of winning the lottery. If you won \$500 million in a lottery, you would pay over \$200 million in taxes. If your goal was to lower your taxes, you wouldn't want to win the lottery, because your taxes would increase. On the other hand, if your goal was to increase your net worth, you wouldn't focus on the \$200 million you're paying in taxes, but rather, the \$300 million that you're left with.

It is my belief that investors should focus on what ends up in their pocket, not what they pay in taxes.

In your situation, since you are at least 10 years away from retirement, you need to be in a growth portfolio, not one based upon generating income. If you look over a 10-year period, you will do much better in equities after taxes than you would in a fixed-income investment like municipal bonds.

It isn't uncommon for an accountant to solely focus on taxes. My belief is their focus is in the wrong place. As investors, we must recognize that taxes are a fact of life and that the more money you make, the more you're going to pay in taxes. It has been my experience that when investors focus on taxes, they may lower them, but at the same time, they are not increasing their net worth, which is the goal.

With regards to gifting your Roth IRA to your grandson, unfortunately, if you do, the money your grandson receives will not be in a Roth IRA. Your grandson may qualify to make a Roth IRA contribution, but he would not be able to roll over your gift into a Roth IRA. Remember, you can gift up to \$16,000 per year to anyone that you wish. In the case in hand, if you gave the \$50,000 in one lump sum, there may be gift tax consequences that you have to take into consideration. However, you can spread the gift over multiple years, thus avoiding any gift tax consequences.

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.

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Eight Mile Road in Northville, Novi scheduled for major upgrades

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Driving over Eight Mile Road near Meadowbrook Country Club feels like traveling on a five-lanes-wide highway rumble strip, every component of your vehicle's suspension pushed to its limit.

And that is after Wayne County patching crews filled in the road's myriad potholes that had one observer noting the country club's parking lot resembled a used-car lot one February afternoon as "a multitude of vehicles" had been steered into the space — at least one tire on each flatter than the club's 18th green.

"It's a horrible stretch of road, from Center Street to Haggerty Road," lamented Daniel Smith, who lives just off of the rim-rattling roadway. "It's better now since they patched the potholes, but they put so much hot patch in the holes, it's like driving over a speed-bump obstacle course."

There is great news on the horizon for Smith and his thousands of Eight Mile-traversing peers.

Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki confirmed a complete rebuild of Eight Mile has been added to the county's road-construction schedule for this summer.

"There has not been a determination of exactly where the repairs will take place on Eight Mile since road conditions change due to weather conditions and time," Marecki said. "But the new road will be a two-inch mill of asphalt, which will make driving much smoother."

Marecki said the cost of the project — Wayne County will pick up the entire tab — is uncertain, noting a total replacement of roadways like Eight Mile costs roughly \$1.3 million per mile.

"The road will be done this road season," she asserted.

Wayne County maintains Eight Mile west of Interstate 275 to Taft Road. Oakland County owns the road west of Taft.

"Eight Mile needs attention, and to Wayne County's credit they've ac-



This rocky section of Eight Mile Road greets drivers as they exit Meadowbrook Country Club. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

knowledge that and put it on their heavy construction list for this year," Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said. "It's not on the official list on the county's roads website yet, but it should be added soon."


"We're very happy that they're taking this on and sooner rather than later."

Eight Mile has been a horror show for drivers in recent months as, along with the beat-down condition of the surface, a bridge that takes drivers over railroad tracks just east of Novi Road — approximately one-half mile west of Meadowbrook — has been reduced from four to two lanes for several months due to disrepair.

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




A collection of large potholes in the westbound lanes of Eight Mile Road between Haggerty and Meadowbrook. The exposed rebar can mean serious damage to tires. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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As his girlfriend Erica Battle relaxes on their travel van's bed, Nick Kokenos tries out its outdoor shower nozzle. The couple's dog Bella, who will join them on their trip to San Diego, is at right. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bella has her own bed in the van.

Van life

Continued from Page 2A

we started doing this we don't really go anywhere. A week from now, our life is going to be totally different."

The van life may not be for everyone, but Battle and Kokenos are confident they'll enjoy it, hoping to continue the mobile life for years. They've taken the van out a few times before completing the conversion and enjoyed it even without all the bells and whistles it has now.

"It was much needed and so nice," Battle said of their mid-build breaks. "For the first one, we didn't have anything. We just had like the floor insulated but I don't think the walls were in yet. We just had like an air mattress."

A van is far "stealthier" than an RV, as Kokenos likes to say, so they'll be able to drive it just about anywhere and stay under the radar.

The van's amenities can all run on so-

lar power or, when needed, the van's battery or gas.

While they're on the road, the couple plans to be #VanLife influencers, or content creators, to make some cash so they don't have to go back to a conventional job right away. Their Instagram page, @Wanderlusttravelcouple, already has more than 21,000 followers.

"We've always made content but we've never done much with it," Battle said. "Once we stopped working and were focused on just the build we were able to get more into it and it's been really, really nice. It's our goal to focus on that and start building that."

They're unsure just how long the van will be their home — Kokenos joked in June 2021 that they just might live in it forever — but they plan to use it in part to find a good place to live long-term. Their home on wheels is designed to host friends when needed and enjoy their stops in a non-tourist manner.

From here on out, home is wherever they decide to park.

stankersle@hometownlife.com



Battle and Kokenos show how they put the van together in 2021.

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Collectors

Continued from Page 1A

very strong. Not all areas of numismatics are dying at the same rate."

The 77-year-old Milford Township resident first became enamored with coin collecting when a family friend who worked at the Philadelphia Mint sent him a 1955 proof set specially prepared for collectors prior to issue of circulated coins.

Raddi still has that proof set with "perfect" penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half-dollar coins. But what the collector of more than 3,000 coins searches for now is the imperfect: coins that have blatant errors and therefore are worth much more.

Indeed, he is thrilled whenever the U.S. Mint errs, which happens frequently due to the sheer volume of coins made.

"Whenever the mint makes a mistake, I get excited — that is why I have so many coins," Raddi said. "Sometimes small mistakes become collectible, just like the inverted Jenny stamp."

It is a dream to find a coin mistake in the magnitude of the famous stamp displaying an upside down airplane, one of which a Birmingham stamp collector sold in 2020 for more than a quarter of a million dollars after holding it in a vault for four decades.

Raddi continues to search circulated



Some 1970s-era Eisenhower dollar coins. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

coins for small errors like cracks or off-center stamps, but for dramatic mistakes the coins must be purchased from dealers.

Older errors are more valuable and harder to find, he added, not because fewer errors were made, but because fewer coins were made.

For this reason, an Indian head cent that is struck off center is more valuable than a Lincoln penny, simply because there are fewer.

Lincoln cents have been made con-

tinuously since 1909, but Indian head pennies minted from 1859-1909 are often sought after for particular years in which fewer were minted.

Raddi notes that in 1943 wheat pennies were made mostly of steel due to the war, but a few copper pennies were struck in error, and those can sell now for between \$100,000 to \$250,000.

While they are found "now and then," Raddi is much more likely to see far less valuable coins on the appraisal nights his group hosts a couple times per year.

Most common are buffalo nickels, mercury dimes and the Indian head pennies that are not rare. He also sees rolls of 1964 half-dollars featuring John F. Kennedy and many coins from the Franklin Mint with no collector value.

Many people don't realize that a coin that is shiny and new may be far more valuable than one that is ancient. When it comes to coins, it's not just age that matters; condition is very important.

Raddi notes that a friend of his collects coins that are mentioned in the Bible, including the "widow's mite," a coin spoken of in the Gospel of Mark in which a poor widow gives the smallest and least valuable coin, but Christ said her offering was more pleasing to him than those given by the wealthy.

Those coins, over 2,000 years old, can still be purchased by modern collectors, Raddi said, for the bargain price of \$5 or \$10 and even Roman and Greek coins from 500 to 1,000 years before the Christian era can be obtained for \$40 or \$50.

Condition and rarity are important and it's not just how many were made, but how many survived. He is looking forward to seeing what coins people have been holding on to and helping them trace their origins.

The Huron Valley Numismatic Society meets monthly and holds coin shows and appraisal nights periodically. For more information, visit hvns.org.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Work

Continued from Page 1A

Township. Oakland County leads the state in roundabouts with 32 currently under the purview of the county and six more to be added this year, Bryson said. These county roundabouts are separate from ones that exist or are proposed for city-owned roads like one proposed at 9 Mile and Taft in Novi that recently hit a snarl.

Roundabouts have been shown to reduce serious injury crashes at intersections as well as improve traffic flow. However, they have also inspired controversy among motorists, ever since the first ones in Oakland County were

installed around 2008 and 2009 in West Bloomfield at Maple and Drake roads and Maple and Farmington roads, Bryson said — intersections that previously took as long as a half-hour to get through, but which he said now take less than half that time.

"With every single roundabout, there have been people wailing and crying and screaming — about businesses that will close, or people just don't like them," Bryson said. "But once they open, it's crickets. All those comments go away and people have even called and said they were wrong."

He concedes that there can sometimes be a slight uptick in fender benders as drivers learn how to navigate the roundabout, but it's a worthy trade-off for the dramatic reduction in fatal or se-

rious injury crashes.

Bryson anticipates the road improvements in Lyon Township will help alleviate traffic issues in one of the fastest growing communities in the state.

Approximately 1,800 vehicles per day travel Currie Road between 8 Mile and 9 Mile. Detours for through traffic while paving is being done are Seven Mile Road to Napier Road to Ten Mile Road, back to Currie Road and vice versa.

The detour for Eight Mile traffic while the intersection at 8 Mile and Currie is closed for roundabout construction is: Eight Mile Road to Griswold Road to Ten Mile Road to Napier Road, back to Eight Mile and vice versa.

Additional roadwork coming later this year in Lyon Township includes:

• 8 Mile Road, Currie to Taft — Sim-

ple resurfacing begins in mid-August and should be completed by the end of August.

• Kent Lake Road, Silver Lake to Grand River — Simple resurfacing starts in mid-May and is expected to be finished by end of May tentatively.

• Griswold, 9 Mile to 10 Mile — Simple resurfacing, starts mid-May with an expected finish by the end of May.

For those simple resurfacing projects, Bryson said those are typically three days of work with new asphalt applied to the road, new lane striping and road shoulder work. The projects are funded through the road commission.

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

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Overcharged

Continued from Page 1A

The City of Highland Park has paid less than 1% of its water services charges and has accumulated \$54,233,700 in debt since 2012 and that debt has been allocated to the 87 other GLWA member communities, including the 18 communities in western Wayne County.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise was appointed chairman of a special committee organized by the Conference of Western Wayne to investigate whether the GLWA — the water provider for many southeast-Michigan communities — discreetly raised its constituents' water rates to help pay for indebtedness and legal judgments created by an ongoing lawsuit filed against the GLWA by the city of Highland Park in 2012.

Conference leaders allege the rate increases — amounting to a combined tens of millions of dollars — were buried in rate calculations for close to 10 years.

"One of the the selling points of the GLWA was that we'd have more information on how rates were calculated and what we have to pay. So it came as a great shock to the communities that this had been effectively concealed from all of the communities going back as far as 2012," Heise said about the authority created to replace the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

GLWA Interim Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Coffey countered, stating the authority prides itself on transparency.

Since its 2016 inception, "GLWA has been committed to transparency throughout its operations, most especially in matters of finance," Coffey explained. "To assist GLWA in its transparency efforts, the utility has a robust member outreach program, which includes the hosting of more than 80 engagement meetings each year.

Coffey asserted the GLWA hosts a series of meetings in advance of the GLWA administration presenting its proposed budget and charges for the coming year to its board of directors for discussion and approval.

"Each meeting is typically between two and four hours in duration and goes into great detail of each component of GLWA's charges," Coffey said. "Meetings



The Plymouth Township water tower. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

three and four include a discussion of any Highland Park bad debt recovery included."

According to Coffey, worksheets, when applicable, show the Highland Park components. These worksheets are both provided to the representatives attending the meetings and sent via certified mail to the individual municipalities' member partner contact of record.

"Additionally, GLWA verbally reviews an example charge sheet line by line in the roll-out meetings and includes the Highland Park components in detailed verbal PowerPoint presentations," Coffey added. "The presentations include slides and verbal discussions of the treatment of Highland Park bad debt expense and include time for questions and answers."

Heise said every municipality that relies on the GLWA for its water supply has been paying higher-than-typical bills because of the Highland Park legal battle, "but communities in Wayne

County have been paying the most because Highland Park is in Wayne County."

Municipalities throughout the GLWA's service area are forming resolutions intended to halt the Highland Park-related payments going toward the lawsuit judgments until the billing issue is resolved, Heise said.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution April 12 saying it didn't want to see communities subsidizing others municipalities.

"This is not about Highland Park, it's about other communities having to pay for services they don't receive," said Commissioner Terri Marecki, R-Livonia, who chairs the commission's Committee on Public Services.

Plymouth Township has paid GLWA approximately \$183,000 toward the Highland Park lawsuit indebtedness since 2012, Heise said, which works out to roughly \$15,500 per year.

Heise said Dearborn has been over-

charged approximately \$3.6 million by GLWA because it is directly tied to Detroit's sewer system.

If Plymouth gets reimbursed, Heise said the township would likely invest the money into water usage-related improvements as opposed to reimbursing residents the money they have been overbilled.

Livonia has paid \$378,400 toward the GLWA debt owed by Highland Park, Livonia Mayor Maureen Brosnan said.

"This is a complex situation involving GLWA, Highland Park and the State of Michigan, and we understand that there are multiple sides to this story," Brosnan said. "Nevertheless, the City of Livonia is looking to stop further payments to GLWA for the City of Highland Park's debt and seeking the State of Michigan to become directly involved in this dispute to address the issues in Highland Park and to provide reimbursement for these payments."

"Livonia residents should not be on the hook for the water bills and debts of other communities, and I will continue to work to ensure our community is billed fairly for our water use."

Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo said his municipality will wait for further recommendations from the Conference of Western Wayne before deciding on its strategy moving forward.

The Northville City Council approved a resolution April 4 requesting, in part, that the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Water Authority not require the 87 paying member communities to pay for the City of Highland Park's debt to GLWA and that the GLWA reimburse \$14 million to affected communities dating back to 2017.

Coffey asserted the current Highland Park matter must be taken in the context of GLWA's overall operations and financial strategy.

"GLWA's overall approach is preserving stability while drawing attention to a situation that needs to be resolved for the long-term benefit of the region," she said.

"Our understanding of the goal of the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) is to drive engagement by the State (of Michigan), with other responsible parties, to the table in order to resolve this matter that continues to impact the region. Accordingly, the focus is on resolving the matter this year so that it is not an issue in future years."

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The Jimi Hendrix Experience on Aug. 15, 1967, at the Fifth Dimension in Ann Arbor. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WILSON LINDSEY

Northville photographer captured an era

Brian McCollum Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wilson Lindsey was a 16-year-old Detroit resident and budding photographer when he embarked on a whirlwind few years in the thick of the '60s rock explosion.

Lindsey, now a 75-year-old Northville resident, eventually went on to a career in the record business. But for a thrilling few years, he and his lens were on the front lines capturing shows and stars in Detroit.

With the Detroit Free Press increasingly devoting serious coverage to pop and rock music, Lindsey became a regular freelancer for the paper. Today, looking back on those early years, Lindsey has tapped his photo archives to celebrate some of his work, including images never before published.

Working with the Free Press, Lindsey found himself alongside some of the biggest names of the day as they rolled through the area. The Beatles. The Rolling Stones. Jimi Hendrix. The Who. Cream. The Faces. There was also the hometown stuff, including photo shoots at Motown.

"I was just phenomenally lucky, I think," he says of landing a plum freelance gig at such a young age. "I threw myself into these assignments and thoroughly enjoyed it. I worked hard at it, and thought I was pretty decent. So it turned out OK. But it was also a lot of pure luck."

As a precocious teen who also had an eye on a music career — he played with a Detroit band called the Train — Lindsey said he could be flaky and self-absorbed in those days.

"I was really immature. But I loved what I was doing and got a chance to meet people who were really idols of mine," he says. "It didn't pay much, but it was a great gig."

Lindsey, who caught the photography bug when his grandfather gave him an old Argus 35-millimeter camera, landed his first professional work across the Detroit River. An avid wrestling fan, he pestered promoter Johnny Doyle to let him shoot match tapings in Windsor. Doyle eventually relented, and Lindsey's photos of regional wrestling stars like Bobo Brazil and the Sheik made their way into the promoters' event programs.

The Free Press got wind of Lindsey after publishing a handful of those promotional images, and the paper tapped the high schooler to follow boxer Cassius Clay — the eventual Muhammad Ali — during a visit ahead of his 1964 heavyweight championship bout with Sonny Liston.

"I had a chance to hang out with him for three days," Lindsey recalls. "They gave me full access to photograph him and just hang out. It was amazing, and now I was totally hooked."

On the music front, it was a time of transition for big-city papers such as the Free Press. From the dawn of the rock 'n' roll era a decade earlier, pop mu-



Muhammad Ali, right, then still Cassius Clay, with a sparring partner while promoting his first fight with Sonny Liston.



Eric Clapton of Cream interviewed by disc jockey Ted Lucas in Detroit.

sic had been covered largely as a teenybopper curiosity. The stars and their music were often treated with a kind of bemusement, even dismissiveness, by the cigar-chomping reporters assigned to the task.

Now things were changing. A young Free Press hire, Loraine Alterman, had come aboard to cover pop and rock as a legitimate beat. With Lindsey often at her side, she documented the scene with an approach and vocabulary its audience understood.

"Loraine was a very progressive

thinker in a conservative environment," Lindsey says. "And she knew that I knew something about music. So she related to that. She could communicate with these musicians at the time in this hippie culture."

The vibe was loose, freewheeling. Lindsey often found himself backstage, chatting up musicians. By the time he segued into a record-label career just a few years later, show protocols had dramatically changed, and that openness was a thing of the past.

"The access was a lot different back

then," he says. "We were just hanging out with a lot of these people."

Ken Settle, who took up rock photography in the early '70s and endures as one of Detroit's top veterans in the field, recalls being "a little kid rifling through the Free Press every day" when he started spotting a regular credit on music photos: Wilson Lindsey.

Today, Settle regards Lindsey, along with rock shooter Frank Pettis, as a trailblazer who set the stage for professionals such as himself.

"He's a treasure for us local music fans and photographers," Settle says. "Wilson and Frank were the two guys who had the sense that this music was important and should be chronicled in photos. You can feel that resonance in their work. They really set the template for the photographers that followed."

Lindsey went on to work for several record labels, including a mid-'70s stint as Motown's Midwest regional sales manager and work in Mercury Records' national promotions division.

The old photos he has on hand are survivors: Twenty years ago, while living in Hamtramck, most of his archives were destroyed in a basement flood.

The loss was heartbreaking, Lindsey says. But he remains proud and nostalgic about the work he did — even if he wasn't aware then of the historical import.

"In those days, when I was taking these pictures, frankly, I was just having a good time doing it," he says. "I never really thought there would be any interest, especially this many years later. I'm pleased that there still is."



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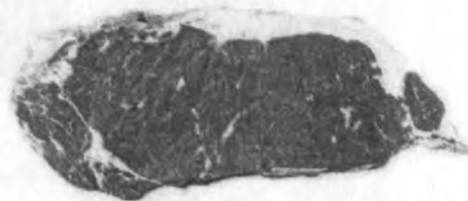
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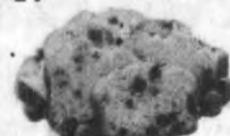
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SPORTS

HOMETOWN LIFE ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



Catholic Central's Chas Lewless dribbles against Bloomfield Hills during a Motor City Roundball Classic game Dec. 29.
PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Our favorite metro Detroit players

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

And I'm back.
As you might have seen two weeks ago, I released my personal Hometown Life All-Area team for girls basketball. It marked the first time in seven years that we have released an actual all-area team that highlights the standouts around western metro Detroit.
This time I've returned from a week-long staycation to present you with Hometown Life's All-Area boys basketball team. I slaved over this for about a week, doing my best to figure out who I thought were the best players around.
We cover 43 schools amongst our 10

print newspapers and, sadly, about 10 schools decided not to participate by filling out their All-Area nomination forms. What's more, a few other coaches did a haphazard job of filling out the form. Lots of details were missing, which made it hard for me to determine just how good their players were.
So if your favorite player is missing from my list, or you feel as if a certain player should've been higher on the team, blame your coach, not me. I tried my best to get someone from every school on the team. But if you'd still like to throw haymakers my way, my Twitter handle is @folsombrandonj.

See FAVORITES, Page 2B



Bloomfield Hills' Noah Adamczyk shoots during an Oakland Activities Association-White game March 3 at Stoney Creek.

Readers can vote for their favorites

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hometown Life sports reporter Brandon Folsom announced who he thought were the best boys basketball players in west metro Detroit.
Now it's your turn!
For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position: Center, power forward, small forward, shooting guard and point guard.
Polls opened last weekend and run through Saturday. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team. Find voting for all five positions online at hometownlife.com

Point guard candidates

- Julian Manna, Bloomfield Hills**
Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-11
Stats: Averaged six points and two assists.
Accolades: N/A.
College Interest: N/A.
- Jonathan Johnson, Bloomfield Hills Roeper**
Vitals: PG, senior, 6-foot-1, 170 pounds.
Stats: Averaged 19 points, 9.1 rebounds and four assists.
Accolades: N/A.
College Interest: N/A.
- Johnathan Blackwell, Brother Rice**
Vitals: PG, junior, 6-foot-4, 190 pounds.
Stats: Averaged 12.9 points, 5.3 rebounds and four assists. Shot 49% from the 3-point line.
Accolades: All-CHSL first team.
College Interest: Committed to Wisconsin.
- Lake McIntosh, Canton**
Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-10, 145 pounds.
Stats: Averaged 13.8 points, four rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.2 steals. Shot 35% from the 3-point line and 71% from the free-throw line.
Accolades: All-KLAA first team and a three-year player.
College Interest: Holds an offer from Lawrence Tech.
- Chas Lewless, Detroit Catholic Central**
Vitals: PG, sophomore, 6-foot-1, 170 pounds.

See READERS, Page 3B

HOMETOWN LIFE ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Readers choose nearly 100 favorite players in poll

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

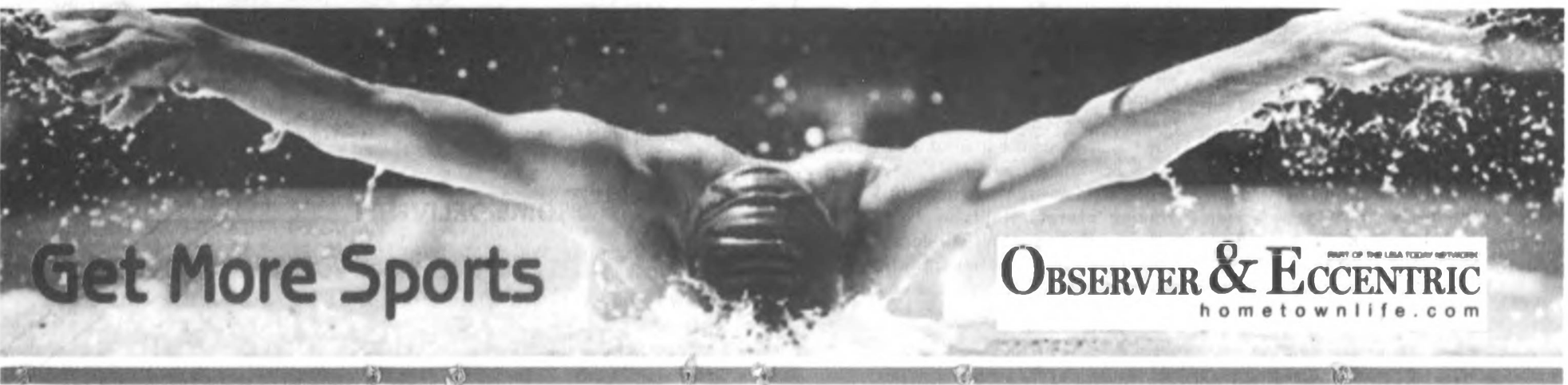
Two weeks ago, I released Hometown Life's first All-Area girls basketball team in seven seasons.
I told you who my favorite players were and even picked our Player of the

Year (shoutout to Plymouth-Christian's Anna Fernandez). If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to see how my team shook out. Almost 100 players made the cut.
But why stop there?
I took off for vacation last week, but while I was gone I had you, our faithful

readers, vote for your favorite players. Thousands of votes rolled in over the week.
After Saturday's voting deadline finally came, I couldn't wait to put together the results and see where our community thought each player belonged on the All-Area team.

So, for the first time in Hometown Life history, I'm proud to present our All-Area girls basketball team, which is 100% assembled by our readers.
Check to see where your favorite players landed:

See VOTE, Page 7B



Favorites

Continued from Page 1B

Let's see how this year's team shook out:

First Team

Ryan Hurst, North Farmington Hometown Life's Player of the Year

Vitals: SF/SG, junior, 6-foot-3.

Stats: Averaged 23 points, six rebounds and two assists.

Accolades: All-OAA-Red selection

College Interest: Holds an offer from Miami (Ohio) and is being recruited by Division I colleges.

Coach Todd Negoshian: "Showed up huge in big games."

Folsom's take: It's been a long time since I've seen a player take over a game how Ryan does. Transition, inside, outside, rebounding. He's a put-back machine. He can almost do it all. When he gets a full head of steam driving to the hoop, he's either getting two points or going to the foul line, the latter also resulting in an injured defender or two. What's more, though, is he's a fantastic shooter. Ask Livonia Stevenson about that.

Noah Adamczyk, Bloomfield Hills

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-11.

Stats: Averaged 22 points, four assists and four steals.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection and a captain as only a junior.

College Interest: Being recruited by Division I and II schools.

Coach Phil Kurajian: "Noah was the most dominant player on the court in every game we played and always stepped his game up in the biggest moments. He faced double teams, box-and-one coverage and found ways to find his teammates and still score himself. Noah is the most underrated player in the state of Michigan."

Folsom's take: Noah was my favorite player to watch. He can pass, shoot and drive to the hoop similar to former NBA legend Jayson Williams. Every trip down the floor is a potential And-1 Mixtape highlight. He doesn't look like much, plus he's incredibly short. But he can dunk on you. And he can shoot it from anywhere. He's like Foster Loyer lite.

Curtis Williams, Brother Rice

Vitals: SF, junior, 6-foot-5, 200 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 15.3 points and 6.9 rebounds.

Accolades: All-CHSL first team.

College Interest: Currently holds nine Division I offers.

Coach Rick Palmer: "Curtis improved a great deal this year. His numbers speak for themselves, but what doesn't get talked about enough is how good of a defender he is."

Folsom's take: Curtis will be the best player in Oakland County next year. Shoot, maybe even all of metro Detroit. He's one of the most exciting players to watch, and he's got a knack to take over a game at any moment. I'd be shocked if he doesn't lead Brother Rice to a Catholic League title in 2022-23.

Johnathan Blackwell, Brother Rice

Vitals: PG, junior, 6-foot-4, 190 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 12.9 points, 5.3 rebounds and four assists. Shot 49% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: All-CHSL first team.

College Interest: Committed to Wisconsin.

Coach Rick Palmer: "Johnathan made huge strides learning the point guard position this year. His upside is through the roof, and I'm excited to watch him continue to grow."

Folsom's take: John is every bit as good as recent Mr. Basketball winner Chansey Willis Jr. with the ball in hands, maybe even better. I expect him to be the best point guard in the state in 2022-23, which is almost wild to say given the competition he'll have at that position in his own division.

Chas Lewless, Detroit Catholic Central

Vitals: PG, sophomore, 6-foot-1, 170 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 11 points and three assists.

Accolades: All-CHSL first team.

College Interest: Already being recruited by mid-major Division I basketball programs.

Coach Brandon Sinawi: "One of the top point guards in our league, he helped pace our team all year. His scoring numbers dropped a bit this year, averaging just under 11 points per game, but his assists and leadership have gone up from last year, as he tried to establish himself as a true distributor at times for us this season. Chas is an elite defender for his 6-foot 1-inch frame and a true competitor."

Folsom's take: I never doubted a CC

comeback when Chas was on the floor. He's one of those gamers who always ratchets up his effort to match the opponent's intensity on the floor, especially in crunch time.

Coach

Brandon Sinawi, Detroit Catholic Central

Folsom's take: You can see why the Shamrocks stole Sinawi from Novi. He took them from dead-last in the Catholic League-Central to becoming the runner-ups in the CHSL tournament. And then he took them to the state quarterfinal, helping them win their first regional title in forever. Sinawi never gave up on his guys, which is pretty special. Even after losses, he was promoting his players on Twitter. He truly cares about each one of them.

Second Team

Cole Vickers, Canton

Vitals: SG/SF, senior, 6-foot-4, 175 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 18.1 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.6 steals. Shot 47% from the floor, 40% from the 3-point line and 81% from the free-throw line.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team and third-year player. Scored a career-best 30 points vs. Detroit Renaissance.

College Interest: Signed with Ferris State.

Coach Jimmy Reddy: "Cole did so much for our team, specifically on the offensive side of the ball. His ability to score inside and out made him incredibly tough to guard. His leadership for our team was unmatched and he is an outstanding student and role model. Unfortunately for him and our team, Cole tore his ACL in game No. 16 this year."

Folsom's take: As someone who graduated from Ferris State with both a bachelor's of science and a master's in business administration, I can say with full authority that Cole is your prototypical Bulldog basketball player. He looks, plays and interacts with the media exactly like every player that FSU coach Andy Bronkema has signed in Big Rapids. That's exciting news for an FSU fan like me.

Cooper Craggs, Detroit Catholic Central

Vitals: PF, senior, 6-foot-8, 220 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 14.7 points, eight rebounds and two blocks.

Accolades: Three-time All-CHSL first team, fourth-year player and two-year captain.

College Interest: Signed with Oakland University.

Coach Brandon Sinawi: "Cooper has to be one of the most dominant players to come out of CC in recent memory, and his impact on this year's team, helping us win a regional title, will be talked about for a long time. He can impact the game in so many ways. He's a big reason we had the year we did!"

Folsom's take: It's hard to call him a bulldog big man because he's such a smooth shooter, too. But he can be both a bulldog under the basket when needed as well as a clutch shooter when the game's on the line. He's so well-rounded.

Kareem Aburashed, Detroit Country Day

Vitals: C, senior, 6-foot-9, 210 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 17 points and 9.2 rebounds.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: Committed to Macomb Community College.

Coach Mark Bray: "Kareem worked so hard to develop into one of the best players in the state. As a mobile and active 6-foot-9 inside-out big man, very few teams had an answer for him this year. He impacted the game on both ends of the floor. We are so proud that he went from a player who was a defensive liability as a sophomore to an essential part of the reason our defense held opponents to 51.5 points per game while we averaged 63 points per game on offense."

Folsom's take: Kareem is a special talent on the floor, only outmatched by his leadership and love for the game. Yes, he can dunk. Yes, he rebounds. Yes, he has a strong jumper. But he also shows up and supports both his teammates and friends around the area. When he wasn't in the gym working on his game, he was in another gym cheering on his buddies at rival schools.

Kenoly Jones, Livonia Stevenson

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-11, 168 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 16.2 points, 3.2 rebounds and one steal. Shot 39.2% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: Holds an offer to Schoolcraft Community College.

Coach Eoghann Stephens: "Kenoly has led our team throughout the year of-

fensively. He has had some huge scoring games, including a 45-point performance against Brighton where he shot 62% from the field, including 57% from the 3-point line. He has worked hard on his game all year and is showing continuous improvement. He is active on the defensive end and will often take on the assignment of playing defense on the opposing team's toughest player."

Folsom's take: I've never seen a better player in the third quarter than Kenoly. Seriously. If the NBA was drafting players who could play only in the third quarter, he would be my No. 1 pick. He'd routinely score 15 of his 20-something points immediately after halftime. It's almost like he guzzled Red Bulls during the intermission.

Matt Gorski, Northville

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot-2, 165 points.

Stats: Averaged 14 points and five rebounds. Shot 40% from the 3-point line and 70% from the free-throw line.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team, named team MVP and tabbed as one of BCAM's Outstanding Senior Student-Athletes.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Todd Sander: "Matt was a tremendous workhorse for us all season. He averaged almost 15 points a night, despite always getting the attention of the opponent's best defenders. He had a knack for making big shots in big moments. He had a terrific career."

Folsom's take: I saw a lot of the Mustangs this past winter, about five or six games, and Matt had maybe a 6-minute stretch of a single quarter where he wasn't the most dominant player on the floor. He's an absolute gamer who always shows up. He was usually the guy who ignited Northville when it needed a spark.

Coach

Phil Kurajian, Bloomfield Hills

Folsom's take: In just five years, Kurajian helped the Black Hawks go from the outhouse to the penthouse in the OAA, pushing them to back-to-back OAA-White championships. That's incredibly impressive given Bloomfield Hills is still basically a brand new school. He's developed guys who would've been role players on other teams into absolute game-changers. It's a shame he stepped down from coaching following this past season. He will be missed, especially by this sportswriter.

Third Team

Coach - Jimmy Reddy, Canton
C - Lee Hardy, junior, North Farmington
C - Chibi Anwunah, senior, Plymouth Christian Academy

PF/C - Carson Brodsky, senior, Bloomfield Hills

PF/C - Sam Barnhart, senior, Northville

PF - Dante Favor, junior, Canton

PF - Kelvin Amoako, junior, Plymouth

PF - Ashton Wheeler, senior, Salem

PG - Jonathan Johnson, senior, Bloomfield Hills

PG - Lake McIntosh, senior, Canton

PG - Julian Scott, senior, Detroit Country Day

PG - Dylan Stadler, senior, Livonia Clarenceville

PG - Paul Davenport, senior, Lutheran Westland

PG - Landon Williams, sophomore, North Farmington

PG - Danny Groechel, senior, Novi

PG - Jace Petree, freshman, Plymouth

PG - Jordan Scott, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

PG - Logan Doty, senior, South Lyon

SF/PF - Xavier Thomas, junior, Brother Rice

SF/PF - Tawayne Campbell Jr., senior, Canton Prep

SF/PF - Sam Lewis, junior, Milford

SF - Quinton Steele, senior, Birmingham Groves

SF - Ben Canty, senior, Bloomfield Hills

SF - Derrick (DJ) Lee, junior, Bloomfield Hills

SF - Kam Mayes, senior, Detroit Catholic Central

SF - Robert Grant, senior, Garden City

SG/PG - Tyler Spratt, sophomore, North Farmington

SG - Henry Garrity, junior, Brother Rice

SG - Te'John McGowan, junior, Novi

SG - Nate Pierson, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

SG - Adam Jagacki, senior, South Lyon East

Honorable Mention

Coach - Matt Windle, Plymouth Christian Academy

C - Jake McGlynn, senior, Livonia Franklin

C - Drew Brizard, sophomore, Northville Unified

PF - John Kersh, junior, Cranbrook

PF/C - Aaron Rice, senior, North Farmington

PF - Lucas Young, junior, Livonia Stevenson

PF - Keith Wright, senior, Wayne Memorial

PF - Andrew Turnquist, junior, White

Lake Lakeland

PF - Caleb Zurek, senior, White Lake Lakeland

PG - Julian Manna, senior, Bloomfield Hills

PG - Monte Paulateer, senior, Bloomfield Hills Unified

PG - Caleb Williams, sophomore, Canton

PG - Jalen Silver, senior, Farmington

PG - Eric Hobson, junior, Livonia Franklin

PG - Jason Stewart Jr, senior, Plymouth

PG - Evan Southerland, sophomore, Plymouth Christian Academy

PG - Jaylen Provost, senior, Redford Union

PG - Denim Ray-Barrow, senior, Redford Union

PG - Pryor Reynolds, junior, Salem

PG - Jordan Williams, sophomore, Westland John Glenn

SF - A'Mareon Jackson, senior, Livonia Churchill

SF - Mark Stein, sophomore, Livonia Stevenson

SF - Lucas Theriault, senior, Milford

SF - Jake Fannon, junior, South Lyon East

SF - Christian Fontaine, sophomore, Lutheran Westland

SG - Brandon McCaskill, senior, Cranbrook

SG - TJ Nadeau, sophomore, Detroit Catholic Central

SG - Nick Sanders, senior, Detroit Country Day

SG - Carlos Adamson, sophomore, Northville

SG - Jailyn Evans, senior, Redford Thurston

SG - Kahlil Bedford, senior, Redford Thurston

Special Mention

Coach - Rick Palmer, Brother Rice

Coach - Todd Sander, Northville

C - Bashir Jallow, senior, Farmington

C - Max Peters, senior, South Lyon

PF/C - Keithan Gilmore, sophomore, Brother Rice

PF - Hunter Baldwin, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

PF - Devon Pettus, sophomore, Canton

PF - Josh Ross, junior, junior Detroit Catholic Central

PF - Tony Tolbert, junior, Farmington

PF - Cole Shires, junior, Novi

PF - Cam Weller, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

PF - Jabari Gaines, senior, Redford Union

PG - Aaron DuBose, senior, Birmingham Groves

PG - CJ Jackson, junior, Bloomfield Hills

PG - Ahmad Taylor, junior, Bloomfield Hills

PG - Warren Marshall, sophomore, Brother Rice

PG - Evan Evans, junior, Cranbrook

PG - Kevin Wendt, senior, Detroit Catholic Central

PG - Dante Davidson, senior, Livonia Franklin

PG - Radu Iacoban, senior, Livonia Stevenson

PG - Dwayne Ray, junior, North Farmington

PG - Cullen Foley, junior, Northville

PG - Blake Ellison, senior, Novi

PG - Michael Myles, sophomore, Redford Union

PG - Amar'e Slaughter-Taylor, sophomore, Redford Union

PG - Caleb Gash, junior, South Lyon East

PG - Andrew Platt, senior, White Lake Lakeland

SF - John Chinonis, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

SF - Nick Kelley, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

SF - Tommy Labruzzo, senior, Brother Rice

SF - Jaden Williams, senior, Canton

SF - Omar Suleiman, junior, Canton

SF - Benjamin McCaskill, senior, Cranbrook

SF - Brady Hower, senior, Detroit Catholic Central

SF - Jace Abrahams, senior, Livonia Stevenson

SF - Matt Mrozinski, senior, Milford

SF - Luke Aurilia, junior, Novi

SF - Cameron Williams, junior, Redford Thurston

SF - Jailin Clark, sophomore, Westland John Glenn

SF/SG - Bryce Garbacz, junior, Plymouth

SG - Jordan Holman, senior, Bloomfield Hills

SG - Luke Ammori, senior, Detroit Country Day

SG - Chris Boyd, junior, Farmington

SG - Jack Schwesing, junior, Livonia Churchill

SG - Jared Frazier, senior, North Farmington

SG - Amari Lee, senior, North Farmington

SG - Ryan Peters, sophomore, Salem

SG - Travon Stevenson, senior, Wayne Memorial

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

Readers

Continued from Page 38

bounds, 1.7 assists and 2.7 steals. Shot 40.6% from the floor. Scored a career-best 25 points vs. Canton.

Accolades: All-KLAA honorable mention and second-year player.

College Interest: N/A.

Nate Pierson, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-10, 155 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 20 points and shot 40% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team and All-MIAC dream team. Scored a school-record 45 points in a single game.

College Interest: N/A.

Adam Jagacki, South Lyon East
Vitals: SG, senior, 6-foot-2, 185 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 10 rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Accolades: All-LVC selection. Carried a 3.7 GPA.

College Interest: N/A.

Small forward candidates

Ben Canty, Bloomfield Hills

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged seven points, seven rebounds and two blocks.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection. College Interest: Committed to Macomb Community College.

Derrick (DJ) Lee, Bloomfield Hills

Vitals: SF, junior, 6-foot-4.

Stats: Averaged nine points, four rebounds and two assists.

Accolades: All-OAA-White honorable mention.

College Interest: N/A.

Curtis Williams, Brother Rice

Vitals: SF, junior, 6-foot-5, 200 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 15.3 points and 6.9 rebounds.

Accolades: All-CHSL first team.

College Interest: Currently holds nine Division I offers.

Tawayne Campbell Jr., Canton Prep

Vitals: SF/PF, senior, 6-foot-2, 208 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 16 points, three rebounds and 1.5 steals.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Kam Mayes, Detroit Catholic Cen-

tral

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot-5, 190 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 13 points and seven rebounds. Shot 62% from the floor.

Accolades: All-CHSL selection and third-year varsity player.

College Interest: Uncommitted but receiving Division II and III interest.

Robert Grant, Garden City

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot-1, 170 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 20.1 points, 8.2 rebounds, 1.2 steals and 0.9 assists.

Accolades: All-WWAC selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Christian Fontaine, Lutheran Westland

Vitals: SF/SG, sophomore, 6-foot-3.

Stats: Totaled 337 points, 81 rebounds, 31 assists, 30 steals and 13 blocks.

Accolades: All-MIAC dream team and All-MIAC-Red first team. Scored seven 3-pointers against Lutheran Northwest.

College Interest: N/A.

Ryan Hurst, North Farmington

Vitals: SF/SG, junior, 6-foot-3.

Stats: Averaged 23 points, six rebounds and two assists.

Accolades: All-OAA-Red selection and named Hometown Life's Player of the Year.

College Interest: Holds an offer from Miami (Ohio) and is being recruited by Division I colleges.

Matt Gorski, Northville

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot-2, 165 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 14 points and five rebounds. Shot 40% from the 3-point line and 70% from the free-throw line.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team, named team MVP and tabbed as one of BCAM's Outstanding Senior Student-Athletes.

College Interest: N/A.

Jake Fannon, South Lyon East

Vitals: SF, junior, 6-foot-2, 165 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 13 points and six rebounds.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Power forward candidates

Xavier Thomas, Brother Rice

Vitals: PF/SF, junior, 6-foot-4, 235 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 13.7 points, 5.8 re-

bounds and 3.2 assists.

Accolades: All-CHSL selection.

College Interest: Holds offers from Central Michigan, Tennessee State and Toledo.

Dante Favor, Canton

Vitals: PF, junior, 6-foot-7, 190 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 9.8 points, 8.4 rebounds and 1.7 blocks. Shot 59% from the floor.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Cooper Craggs, Detroit Catholic Central

Vitals: PF, senior, 6-foot-8, 220 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 14.7 points, eight rebounds and two blocks.

Accolades: Three-time All-CHSL first team, fourth-year player and two-year captain.

College Interest: Signed with Oakland University.

Lucas Young, Livonia Stevenson

Vitals: PF, junior, 6-foot-3, 190 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 7.2 points, 5.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.4 steals. Shot 41.5% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Sam Lewis, Milford

Vitals: PF/SF, junior, 6-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged 18.6 points, six rebounds and three assists. Shot 43% from the floor and 76% from the free-throw line. Made 49 3-pointers.

Accolades: All-LVC selection and named team MVP. Tied school record for most 3s in a game (seven) and finished third for most points scored in a single season (390) and fifth for most 3s in a single season (48).

College Interest: Being recruited by Division III and NAIA programs.

Aaron Rice, North Farmington

Vitals: PF/C, senior, 6-foot-5, 190 pounds.

Stats: Averaged two points, five rebounds and two assists.

Accolades: All-OAA-Red honorable mention.

College Interest: Signed with Eastern Illinois for football.

Kelvin Amoako, Plymouth

Vitals: PF, junior, 6-foot-8, 225 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 10.2 points, 7.8 rebounds and 1.2 blocks. Shot 58% from the floor.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Ashton Wheeler, Salem

Vitals: PF, senior, 6-foot-5, 185 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 13.8 points and 8.5 rebounds.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team, third-year player and named team MVP.

College Interest: N/A.

Center candidates

Carson Brodsky, Bloomfield Hills

Vitals: PF/C, senior, 6-foot-7.

Stats: Averaged eight points, eight rebounds, three assists and one block.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection.

College Interest: Holds offers from Albion College, Alma College and Kalamazoo College.

Keithan Gilmore, Brother Rice

Vitals: C/PF, sophomore, 6-foot-5, 200 pounds.

Stats: Averaged six points and five rebounds. Shot 56% from the field.

Accolades: N/A. Missed time because of injury.

College Interest: N/A.

Kareem Aburashed, Detroit Country Day

Vitals: C, senior, 6-foot-9, 210 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 17 points and 9.2 rebounds.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: Signed with Macomb Community College.

Lee Hardy, North Farmington

Vitals: C, junior, 6-foot-6, 195 pounds.

Stats: Averaged seven points, six rebounds and one block.

Accolades: All-OAA-Red honorable mention.

College Interest: N/A.

Sam Barnhart, Northville

Vitals: C/PF, senior, 6-foot-5, 205 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 7.5 points and six rebounds. Shot 60% inside the arc and 32% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: All-KLAA first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Chibi Anwunah, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: C, senior, 6-foot-8, 235 pounds.

Stats: Averaged 9.4 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.5 blocks.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team and All-MIAC dream team.

College Interest: Signed with Michigan for football.

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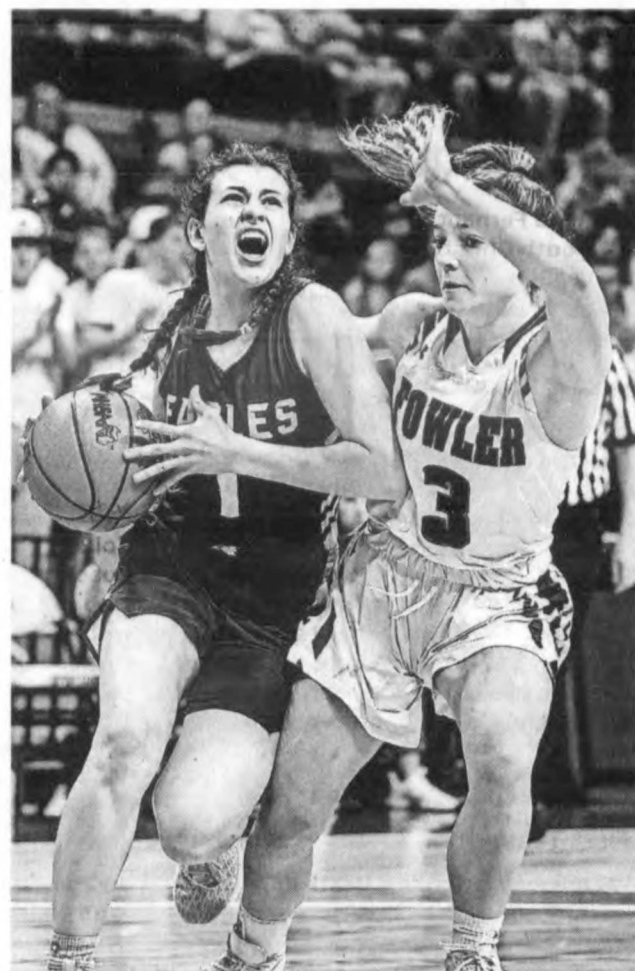
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Fowler's Avery Koenigsnecht, right, passes the ball as Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez closes in during the Division 4 state final March 19 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Fernandez, left, shoots as Koenigsnecht defends.

PCA four-year starter finally wins in playoffs

Anna Fernandez named Hometown Life Player of the Year

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Imagine being a four-year starter for a girls basketball team that has a strong foundation and plenty of talent.

It'd be a career chock-full of deep playoff runs, district and regional championship celebrations and opportunities to face some of the toughest opponents around Michigan.

That was not the case for Anna Fernandez.

Entering this past season, the senior had won one playoff game in three seasons — a 63-15 victory over Ann Arbor Central Academy in the 2020 district open-

er. The Eagles proceeded to get stomped in the district final by Adrian Lenawee Christian, a favorite to repeat as the state champions had the COVID-19 pandemic not forced the Michigan High School Athletic Association to cancel all sports two weeks into the postseason.

Halfway through her senior year, Fernandez reached the 1,000-point milestone for points scored in a single season, doing so with only four playoff games on her resume. Think about that for a second. Most 1,000-point scorers get to play three or four playoff games a season. She reached that career mark with fewer opportunities.

But no accolades — scoring 1,000 points, making the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's dream team and leading the Eagles to a 14-6 regular season record — really mattered once the postseason started.

Fernandez needed to leave her mark on the program by winning some one-and-done games.

And so she and the Eagles did just that.

They won back-to-back games to open the playoffs and win a district title.

And then they knocked off league foes Southfield Christian and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist to win a regional championship. That included a 45-39 overtime thriller against Inter-City Baptist, the Eagles' biggest rivals.

From there, they beat Genesee Christian in the state quarterfinal, punching their ticket to play in the final four at Michigan State's Breslin Center.

Wait, what? This small Division 4 private school that hadn't won anything throughout Fernandez's career was going to play for a shot at winning a state championship?

Yep, that's exactly what happened.

They had no trouble taking down Lenawee Christian in the state semifinal, which meant it'd get to rematch Fowler in the state final. Fowler had beaten Plymouth Christian handily during a mid-season showcase matinee at Little Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Pistons, in January.

And, yeah, Fowler wound up beating Plymouth Christian again thanks to Ferris State signee Mia Riley inspiring her team to a 61-46 victory, ensuring Fowler would repeat as the state champs in D-4.

But so what?

Fernandez, the team's lone senior, and her talented supporting class of juniors had finally snapped the curse. A legacy had been established. They went from the basement to the penthouse and came very, very close to winning a state championship, a feat that'll likely be talked about for many, many years to come in Plymouth Christian's gymnasium.

And for a turnaround like that, Hometown Life selected Fernandez as its Player of the Year.

"It's incredible. It just feels like all of the hard work I've been putting in, and the team has been putting in, has paid off," Fernandez said following her team's state final game on March 19. "Especially after losing in districts three times in a row. We were really motivated this year, the whole season, to get after it, and I think

we've put a lot of time and energy into this season. We came up a little bit short, but I'm proud of this team."

This past winter, the 5-foot-7 unsigned point guard totaled 458 points, 164 rebounds, 90 assists and 91 steals.

She was the total package, earning All-MIAC first team and dream team honors and even winning the league's MVP honor. She finished her career with 1,418 points.

But perhaps her greatest asset was her synergy with her teammates. She knew when to drive to the hoop or dish it out to the likes of Madison Yeager, Morganne Houk or Hailey Maulbetsch for jumpers. She knew where to catch an outlet pass and when to race down the floor. She could read where to send teammates passes on fastbreaks. She could rebound with the best of them. She wasn't afraid to scrap for a loose ball on the floor. Anything for her teammates.

She truly could do it all.

"She's been amazing," said Houk, a junior. "She's been my point guard for the last three years. She's led us on the court, off the court and in the locker room. She's everything you want out of a leader. It's been a heck of a season with her."

And Houk was on to something there with that comment.

Fernandez's leadership can't be outmatched.

She often dictated the energy in practice. And she was always grateful for the coaches who put on the practices. Coach Rod Windle's favorite memory of Fernandez was hearing her say thank-you after every training session.

Fernandez's leadership often helped the team during games, too.

"Most of the season, I'm not giving her directions," Windle said. "(I'd tell her, 'It's your team.' ... It kind of pays off a little bit. She'd take on that responsibility about what we're running, what we're in and what we're doing next on offense. She's done a great job executing game plans and making the teammates around her so much better."

When most players lose the final games of their career, plenty of crying ensues. It's an emotional thing.

Not for Fernandez. She soaked in the entire moment, enjoying being on that stage, in the game and with her favorite people surrounding her.

Yeah, the Eagles had just lost to Fowler. But they were getting a runner-up trophy.

And there she was on the Breslin's floor, posing for pictures with both the trophy and her father, assistant Norb Fernandez.

And during the postgame interview process, she was all smiles, too.

It stunk losing. But she had realized what she and her teammates had just accomplished.

"I definitely am (sad), but it's, like, we made it this far! There's a lot of good," she said. "There's some bad. But there's a lot of good that came out of this season, so I'm focusing on that. I got to play with them (her teammates), and my dad got to coach me. At the end of the year, that puts everything in perspective."

Obituaries



Charisse Faye Spencer

MILFORD - Charisse Faye Spencer of Milford, MI, died in the late hours of Wednesday, April 6, 2022. She was 66 years old.

Charisse is survived by her loving husband of 36 years, Samuel Spencer Jr.; her sisters, Dianna Garant, Roxanne Smith and Betsy (Jack) Eskelson; nephews, Jeremiah Smith, Bobby Eskelson and Michael Williams; nieces, Shannon Hanchett and Michelle Blackburn as well as many dear friends and extended family members.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Beulah (nee. Irish) Garant; her brother, Michael Garant, and her sister, Linda Garant.

Funeral Services took place at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, with Pastor Steven Swayze officiating. She was laid to rest in Oak Grove Cemetery.

In loving tribute of those we've lost



Fernandez, left, Madison Yeager, center, and Morganne Houk celebrate after defeating Lenawee Christian. AL GOLDIS/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Vote

Continued from Page 1B

Hometown Life's Player of the Year

PG Anna Fernandez, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: Senior, 5-foot-7.
Stats: Totaled 458 points, 164 rebounds, 90 assists, 91 steals and 11 blocks. Shot 49% from the floor and 19% from 3.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team, All-MIAC Dream Team, MIAC MVP and ended career with 1,418 points as a four-year starter.

College Interest: Uncommitted.

Coach Rod Windle: "She is our floor leader who runs the offense at the point guard position. She steps up in the biggest games to score the basketball. She has a thankful attitude toward her coaches at each and every practice."

Hometown Life All-Area teams

First Team

PF Juliana Imbuzeiro, Northville (15,857 votes)

Vitals: Senior, 5-foot-9.

Stats: Averaged 7.2 points and 4.3 rebounds. Led the Mustangs in blocks and was second in scoring.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection, fourth-year varsity player and co-captain.

College Interest: Signed with Nova Southeastern (Florida) for volleyball.

Coach Todd Gudith: "She has the strength to play inside but can step out and knock down the 3. Juliana's big-time leaping ability made her a force on defense as she applied her volleyball skills to the basketball court."

C/PF McKenzie Swanson, Bloomfield Hills Marian (3,315 votes)

Vitals: Sophomore, 6-foot-3.

Stats: Despite missing time with injury, averaged 13 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.0 steals. Totaled 169 points and shot 48% from the floor.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Mary Cicerone: N/A.

SF Shahd Bakkar, Salem (8,737 votes)

Vitals: Junior, 5-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged seven points, six steals, four assists and three steals. Led the Rocks in assists, rebounds and steals.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: Being recruited by Division III, NAIA and JUCO schools.

Coach Rod Wells: "Shahd made great strides during the season. She controlled the tempo/flow for our offense. Great rebounder for her size. All about the team."

SG Jaidyn Elam, Detroit Country Day (4,610 votes)

Vitals: Sophomore, 5-foot-11.

Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 7.2 rebounds and 3.4 steals.

Accolades: Division 2 AP All-State honorable mention.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "Jaidyn's ability to shoot the ball from 3 and drive and finish makes her hard to guard. Her length and height also allow her to guard multiple positions. She rebounds extremely well and because of her guard skills, she can go the full length of the court."

PG Eve Tanaskoska, Northville (15,194 votes)

Vitals: Junior, 5-foot-7.

Stats: Averaged 7.3 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.1 steals. Led the Mustangs in scoring and charges taken (14).

Accolades: All-KLAA selection and third-year varsity player.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Todd Gudith: "The quarterback of the team. She has become more of a scoring threat this season and has a high-basketball IQ. She continues to get better each season and took a major step forward this year. Defensively, she is always in the right place at the right time."

Second Team

PF Hailey Maulbetsch, Plymouth Christian Academy (11,847 votes)

Vitals: Junior, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Totaled 328 points, 130 rebounds, 61 steals and 13 blocks. Made 36 3s and shot 54% from the floor and 26% from 3. Scored in double-digits in 17 games.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team. On pace to finish with more than 1,000 career points.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Rod Windle: "Hailey is an outstanding help defender who shrinks the court against our opponents' top scorers. Hailey is a difference maker at both ends of the court."

C Mira Kelley, Milford (1,660 votes)

Vitals: Sophomore, 5-foot-11.

Stats: Averaged 6.9 points and 5.6 rebounds.

Accolades: All-LVC selection, All-LVC Academic Team and named team's Rookie of the Year.

Coach Mike Jenkins: "Mira had a great sophomore season, leading our team in scoring and rebounding. She's an athletic 5 (center) that dominated at times in the paint. Huge potential in the coming next two years."

SF Ari'Yana Wiggins, Detroit Country Day (4,634 votes)

Vitals: Freshman, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Averaged 10 points, six rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.2 assists.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "A freshman with a high IQ and immense versatility with the ball, she does not play like a freshman. Eerily similar to Ashley Owusu at Maryland, Wiggins can play the 1-5 with ease. Her ability to handle the ball, distribute, rebound and score make her a next-level threat that will be a triple-double player before her senior year."

SG Penelope Creary, North Farmington (1,152 votes)

Vitals: Junior.

Stats: Averaged 11.1 points, 3.3 steals and 5.5 deflections.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jeff Simpson: "Penelope is a tenacious defender. She also has one of the best first steps in attacking the basket."

PG Sofia Salinas, Bloomfield Hills Roeper (10,882 votes)

Vitals: Freshman, 5-foot-4.

Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 2.2 assists and two steals.

Accolades: All-MIAC-Red first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Andrea Collins: "Sofia is a young but lionhearted guard. Truly a tough kid. Salinas is a true leader on and off the floor. The kid is fast as lightning and can not only create and see the floor well for her team she is also our leading scorer. Accepting such a big role as a freshman is a hard task, and she came in and delivered."

Third Team

PF Erin Young, Livonia Franklin (1,987 votes)

Vitals: Senior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 13.6 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.5 blocks. Shot 43% from the floor, 37% from 3 and 85% from the free-throw line. Finished career with 850 points, 500 rebounds and 150 blocks.

Accolades: Three-time All-KLAA selection, fourth-year starter and third-year captain. Carried a 3.8 GPA.

College Interest: Signed with Albion College.

Coach John Santi: "Erin led us to our best record (13-8) in over 10 years. She is an excellent student, leader, scorer (inside and outside) and outstanding help-side defender."

C Davai Matthews, Wayne Memorial (40 votes)

Vitals: Senior, 6-foot-2.

Stats: Averaged 18.1 points and 12.3 rebounds.

Accolades: Two-time All-KLAA selection, McDonald's All-American nominee, the winningest player in Zebras' history (79-14 record) and made three trips to the state final four.

College Interest: Signed with Long Beach State (California).

Coach Jarvis Mitchell: "Great leadership. She persevered through two ACL surgeries."

SF Anna Lissan, South Lyon East

Vitals: Sophomore, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 12.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.4 assists.

Accolades: All-LVC selection.

College Interest: Holds an offer from Wayne State.

Coach Rob Leadley: "Anna is a hard-working, fundamentally sound player who is a threat inside and outside. She is a physical, aggressive player who can score in the low post and step out and hit the 3."

SG Rachel Balhorn, Livonia Churchill (773 votes)

Vitals: Freshman.

Stats: Scored over 200 points and led the Chargers in scoring, rebounds and steals. Had a season-best 28 points in one game.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach K'Len Morris: Nomination form not returned before deadline.

PG Diavian (Dee) Robinson, Livonia Clarenceville (3,943 votes)

Vitals: Freshman, 5-foot-3.

Stats: Averaged 14 points, four assists, five steals and three rebounds. First girl to score 300 points in a season.

Accolades: All-MIAC-Red, All-MIAC Dream Team, voted team MVP and Best



Country Day's Ariyana Wiggins, who made Hometown Life's all-area girls Second Team, puts up a basket against Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Offensive Player and led the Trojans to school's first district title.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Kristen Aisheskie: "Dee is one of the most unselfish point guards that I have had the pleasure of coaching. She is constantly looking for her teammates on the court, and she does an excellent job of controlling the tempo throughout the game. Dee is also someone I can count on to lock down on defense."

Honorable Mention

PF - Maggie Liebler, Birmingham Seaholm

PF - Maya White, Farmington Hills Mercy

PF - Meghan McCarthy, Plymouth

PF - Summer Ambler, White Lake Lakeland

C - Scarlett Webster, Livonia Stevenson

C - Caroline McGuire, Lutheran Westland

SF - Sarah Cunningham, Farmington Hills Mercy

SF - Madison Yeager, Plymouth Christian Academy

SF - Hailey Baumann, Wixom St. Catherine

SG - Kaitlyn Sanders, Birmingham

Groves

SG - Samantha Maday, Novi

SG - Morgan Miller, Plymouth

SG - Morganne Houk, Plymouth Christian Academy

SG - Ella Kruschka, South Lyon East

SG - Paris Bass, Wayne Memorial

PG - Katie Sullivan, Birmingham Seaholm

PG - Anna Herberholz, Bloomfield Hills Marian

PG - Emma Arico, Detroit Country Day

PG - Aysia Yokely, Detroit Country Day

PG - Sophie Dugas, Farmington Hills Mercy

PG - Siena McNitt, Garden City

PG - Kalin Bates, Livonia Franklin

PG - Sela Leffler, North Farmington

PG - Shanya Reid, Redford Westfield Prep

PG - Taylor Anderson, South Lyon East

PG - Molly Libby, White Lake Lakeland

PG - Rachel Luomala, Wixom St. Catherine

PG - Colleena Bryant, Wayne Memorial

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

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How to Write a Job Recommendation Letter

ZipRecruiter.com

For some jobs, especially in academia and high-profile positions, employers sometimes request that top candidates submit letters of recommendation as part of the decision-making process. In some instances, employers might even ask for a letter of recommendation to accompany a resume and cover letter as part of the initial application. Colleges also request letters of recommendation as part of applying students' applications, especially as part of master's and doctoral-level degree applications.

Letters of recommendation carry a fair amount of weight for the recipient, and therefore, candidates must carefully consider whom they ask to write one for them. Writing an effective letter of recommendation takes time and effort, though when it's looked at as a privilege, the task can feel more meaningful and enjoyable.

If you're asked to write a letter of recommendation, if you truly don't have the time or don't feel you can represent the candidate in a positive light, it's OK and best to decline the request.

However, if you agree to accept the request and be part of the team helping the person achieve this treasured goal, you'll need to include some basics. It's completely acceptable to ask the requester to provide notes on what they'd like you to include. Here are some tips that can help them. This post provides you with tips to make writing letters of recommendation straightforward, with a letter of recommendation example included.

SAYING "YES" TO RECOMMENDATION LETTER REQUESTS

If you're on the fence as to whether to

write a recommendation letter, consider the following questions:

- Have you directly observed the applicant in class, in extra-curricular activities, at work, or in a relevant situation that allows you to share authentic insights?
- Are you aware of the individual's skills and strengths?
- Do you have specific examples of the individual's relevant accomplishments or work?
- Are you able to provide positive feedback about the person?
- Do you have the time and availability to give the letter what it needs to best represent the one requesting it?

If you answered "no" to any of those questions, then declining to write a letter of recommendation for the individual might be best. This is especially true if you can't provide positive feedback about the person. It's best to decline the request vs. writing a letter that's lukewarm or inaccurate.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION: THE BASICS

As with all business letters, recommendation letters follow a similar format: address and contact information with date, salutation, body, and closing signature. If you refer to recommendation letter samples, you'll find that the body of most well-written recommendation letters will include the following:

- A brief introduction that indicates your intent for writing the recommendation, who you are, and your relationship to the requestor.
- An overview of the positive attributes you've experienced while observing and interacting with the candidate.

• A personal story that dives deeper into one or two of the positive attributes you shared.

• A closing statement that summarizes your points and why the candidate would be a good fit for the program or position.

• Your contact information in case additional information is needed.

Ask the individual to provide you with a copy of a resume, cover letter, and job description or program information to help jog your memory and give you some information to work with as you develop your points for the letter.

TIPS FOR WRITING A RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Collect information. Ask the person requesting the recommendation to provide you with a current resume. Also, ask for a copy of the job description or program details. A copy of their cover letter can also be helpful. Reviewing these documents will help you align the relevant information you provide with the requirements of the position or program.

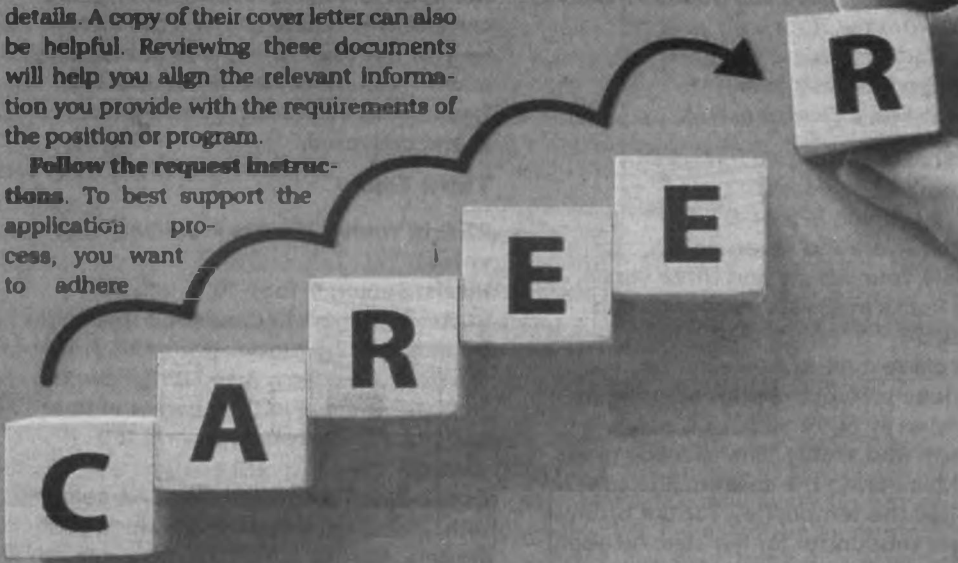
Follow the request instructions. To best support the application process, you want to adhere

closely to any instructions the employer or institution provided regarding what to include and how to deliver the letter.

Use standard business letter format. A letter of recommendation is a professional business letter and, as such, should follow the standard formatting for business letters.

Be direct and honest, while remaining positive. You want the letter to have a positive spin and vibe, while also being concise and to-the-point, providing the information the employer or institution needs to make an informed decision based on your perspective.

Focus on the most pertinent traits and qualifications. Sharing two to three of the most relevant achievements related to the program or job description with specific examples to highlight successes will provide the greatest impact.



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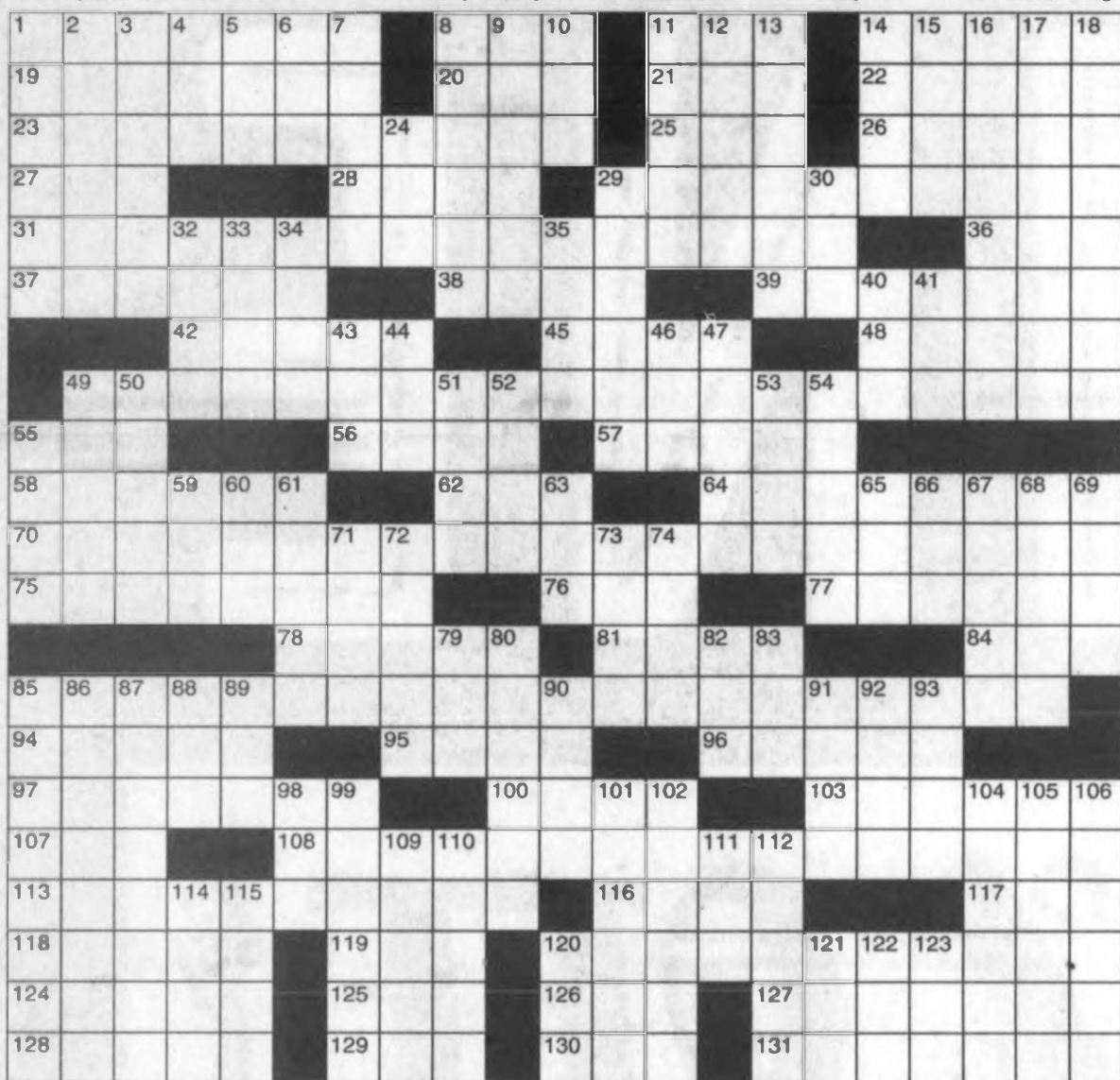
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

WELL-DEFINED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ran after
8 — oil (trendy marijuana extract, for short)
11 Old TV ET
14 Feudal peons
19 More ill-bred
20 Loaf in a deli
21 Palme — (Cannes award)
22 "La Traviata," e.g.
23 120-Across #1
25 "Over here!"
26 Sieved, as potatoes
27 Folk rocker DiFranco
28 Drink holders
29 120-Across #2
31 120-Across #3
36 Suffix of enzymes
37 Don effortlessly, as shoes
38 Toxin-fighting fluids
39 Functional unit of a kidney
42 Wield a saber or foil
45 Sky twinkler
- 48 Stray calf
49 120-Across #4
55 Plead
56 Cabinet chief: Abbr.
57 Muse of poetry
58 Mimosa tree, e.g.
62 "Put — Happy Face"
64 DiCaprio of "Titanic"
70 120-Across #5
75 More furtive
76 Possess
77 Gets the impression
78 Core belief
81 Light tan
84 Groom's vow
85 120-Across #6
94 "Take —" ("Jot this note")
95 Water spigots
96 Extort money from
97 Fit to reside in
100 Architect Saarinen
103 Island near Bora Bora
107 Rage
108 120-Across #7
- 113 120-Across #8
116 Male sweetie
117 Day, to Juanita
118 Totally lost
119 Bruins' Bobby
120 What this puzzle literally provides eight times
124 Wee
125 Hitler's stat
126 Single-named R&B singer
127 Erase
128 Some Canadian gas stations
129 Tot's "piggy"
130 Bible translation, e.g.: Abbr.
131 Lobby sofas
- DOWN**
- 1 The Sims or Minecraft, say
2 Muse of astronomy
3 Fast part of a river ride
4 Govt. stipend
5 Adm.'s org.
6 Brain wave test: Abbr.
7 Harry Potter bully Malfoy
8 Burial vaults
9 Poet Percy — Shelley
10 — Moines, Iowa
11 One-off, as a committee
12 Lerner's songwriting partner
13 Skillet
14 Ilk
15 Grand-scale
16 Give new energy to
17 Region prohibiting slavery prior to the Civil War
18 Made unhappy
24 — Puf (facial sponge)
29 Really hate
30 Suffix with serpent
32 Resist boldly
33 Singer Lisa
34 City in Sicily
35 Once, once
40 Word file alternative
41 — polloi
43 Synnøge amts.
44 Stretch (out)
46 — Lingus (Irish carrier)
47 Writer Dahl
49 The Beatles' "— Work It Out"
50 Tequila plant
51 Sacred image
52 Big Apple address abbr.
53 Sch. near the Rio Grande
54 Axes, e.g.
55 Scrooge's outbursts
59 U.S. spy org.
60 Fluid in a pen
61 Anxiousness
63 In times past
65 Scot's denial
66 Novelist Rand
67 Varnish stuff
68 "Judge —" (Stallone film)
69 — buco
71 Artist Jan van der —
72 "Nola" composer Felix
73 Actor Wilson
74 How much '90s music was recorded
79 LAX info
80 High-quality
82 CSA soldier
83 Web address
85 Certify
86 The "E" of UAE
87 Overturns
88 Singer Sumac
89 Word before goblin
90 Employed
91 — bad example
92 Split
93 Ritalin treats it, for short
98 Science writer Willy or ESPN anchor Bob
99 Urge strongly
101 Kind of steak
102 Like some headsets
104 Chemist's "I"
105 Brief pang
106 For a really long time
109 Muscle car booster
110 Macabre
111 Interval
112 Is really angry
114 Lotto variant
115 Deposits, as eggs
120 License-issuing agcy.
121 Palindromic file suffix
122 Fitting
123 Cashew, e.g.



#2,087

Average time of solution: 67 minutes

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:

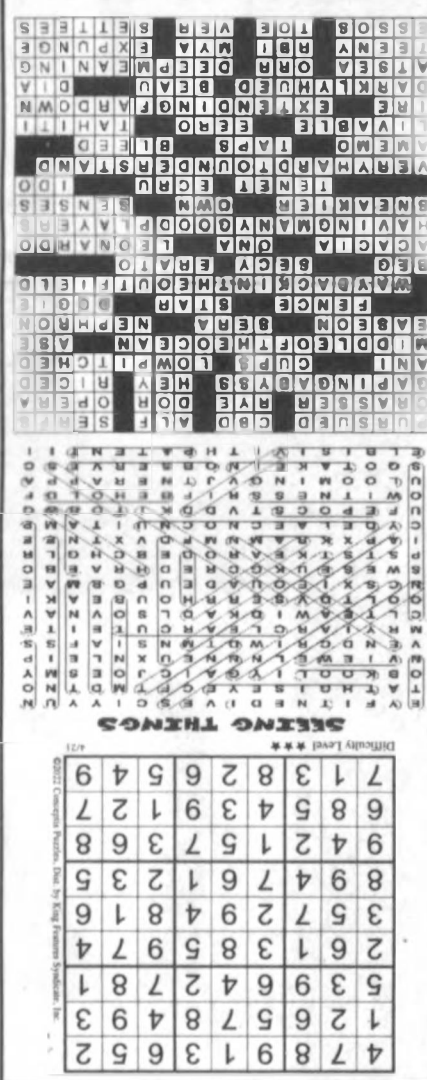
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

SEEING THINGS

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.

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

APPARENT
BEHOLD
CLEAR-CUT
CLEARLY
CONSPICUOUS
DETECT
ESPY
EVIDENT
EYESIGHT
FIND
HEED
IDENTIFY
IN FOCUS
LOOK
LOOMING
MAKE OUT
MANIFEST
MARK
MONITOR
NAKED EYE
NOTE
NOTICE
OBSERVE
PATENT
PERCEIVE
RANGE
REGARD
REVEALED
SCAN
SCOPE
SEE
SPOT
SPY ON
STARING
TAKE IN
UNCLOUDED
UNCONCEALED
UNMISTAKABLE
VIEW
VISIBLE
VISTA
VIVID
WATCH
WITNESS



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

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