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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Novi schools investigating student complaint

Incident involved ‘interaction with a board member’

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi Community School District is investigating a complaint made by a student against a member of its board of education.

Calling it an effort to “provide transparency,” Board President Danielle Ruskin made a 1-minute statement at the conclusion of a more than 3-hour April 21 school board meeting.

“The Novi Community School District, the board of education, the board

or the district recently became aware of a complaint made by a district student regarding an interaction with a board member,” Ruskin said. “The board’s responsibility is to investigate this complaint and take the appropriate action. As the board president, I have been working with the board’s legal counsel as a third party investigator gathers in-

formation and makes recommendations to resolve the situation.”

Details of the accusation were not released.

Nearly two months ago, during a regular March 3 board of education meeting, the board hired the Allen Law Group

See COMPLAINT, Page 3A

Cereal box dominoes a hit with Kurtz fifth-graders

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Can’t find the cereal you want on the shelves at the grocery?

You could likely find it in the halls of Kurtz Elementary in Milford.

Colorful boxes of cereal, 616 of them all vertically spaced, lined the school’s hallway as fifth graders, teachers, and parents milled about, careful not to knock them over as excitement built.

The kids held their breath and watched, ready for the school’s mascot, Paws the Cougar, to set off the Cereal Box Domino Challenge — the culmination of a lesson in not only math and physics, but in empathy and kindness.

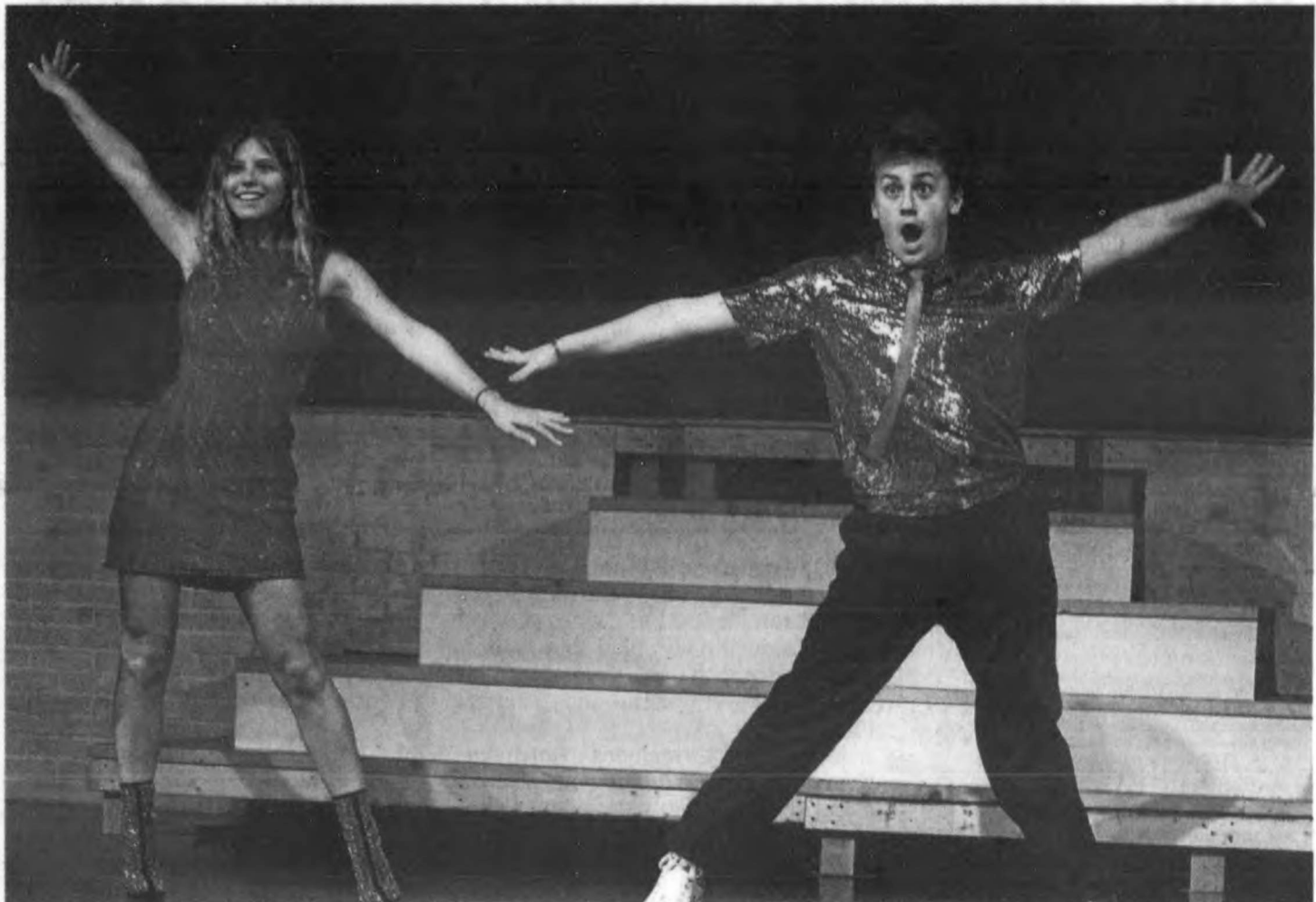
“We wanted to do something to support the community and this was something simple,” Michelle Lauzon, Kurtz PTA president said. “The fifth graders haven’t had a lot of special things the last couple years... This is a pretty popular trend and shows that one small action has a domino effect in helping others.”

The entire school community participated in collecting boxes of cereal that ultimately will be donated to the Community Sharing food pantry, which serves families in need in the Huron Valley School District.

With some guidance from fifth grade teachers Rustin Phillips and Dena Spurlock, the kids used problem-solving and spatial skills to really crunch the numbers.

“We got a lot more cereal than we thought,” said Project Manager Sophie Ralph, II, whose preferred cereal is

See DOMINOES, Page 3A



Two of the leads for Northville High’s production of “High School Musical” rehearse April 20. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville High ‘jocks’ save the day for first play since 2019

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A heavy dose of unscripted, Broadway-level drama unfolded during the early stages of auditions for the Northville High School Drama Club’s production of Disney’s “High School Musical,” the club’s first performance since spring 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seconds after senior Braeden Courtney — an accomplished football player and complete stranger to the world of theater — entered the auditorium for his audition, he pivoted and headed toward the exit.

“Once I saw all the dancing on stage, the sign-up table, everything that was involved, I was intimidated,” Courtney said. “I was like, ‘This is not for me.’”

With the survival of the play poten-

tially hanging in the balance, director Christina Johnson spotted Courtney before he disappeared into the hallway.

“I heard Ms. Johnson say, ‘Whoa, whoa, whoa, curly boy, get back in here,’” said Courtney, who has almost-shoulder-length curly hair.

He not only followed the director’s directions, but earned the male lead role,

See PLAY, Page 3A

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AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTIONS

South Lyon ballot takes shape

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in the South Lyon area will see some newly-numbered districts as well as new names and some familiar ones on the August primary ballot vying to represent them.

The filing deadline was April 19. Most incumbents are unchallenged within their party and won't be tested until November with a few notable exceptions.

Brighton resident Lana Theis, state senator representing the 22nd District since 2019, will be up against fellow Republican Mike Detmer of Howell in the August primary. Detmer ran for Congress in 2020.

Either Theis or Detmer will go up against Democrat Jordan Genso of Brighton in November. The 22nd District represents all of Livingston County, as well as parts of Ingham, Genesee and northwest Oakland counties.

One Republican incumbent who will be unchallenged until November is 23rd District State Sen. Jim Runestad of White Lake.

Voters in August in the district that includes South Lyon, Lyon and communities north like Milford, Highland, Waterford and Clarkston will choose from one of two Democrats to face him: Una Hepburn of Davisburg or Michael J. Wiese of Commerce.



In Senate District 14, which includes Salem Township, along with most of the north and west parts of Washtenaw County and most of Jackson County, Republican Tim Golding of Jackson is unopposed in the primary election and will face the winner of the Democratic August primary in November. Those candidates are Val Cochran Toops of Michigan Center, Sue Shink of Ann Arbor and Kelsey Wood of Jackson.

In the state House of Representatives, the 49th District includes Green Oak Township and New Hudson, as well as Wixom, Walled Lake, Brighton and the northwest corner of Novi. Vying to represent the district is Incumbent Republican Ann Bollin of Brighton who will be challenged in August by fellow Republican Chase Turner, also of Brighton.

The winner of the primary will face Brighton resident and Democrat Christina M. Kafkakis in November.

For the state House District 23 seat, which encompasses western Northville and Plymouth, South Lyon, Salem Township and southern Lyon Township,

ship, as well as extending southwest into Ann Arbor, Republican Richard Sharland faces Democrat Jason Morgan. Incumbent Democrat state Rep. Kelly Breen has no opposition from within her own party for the seat representing the 21st District.

However, two Republicans will face off in the August primary to challenge Breen in November: Daniel Lawless and David Staudt. All three are Novi residents and Breen and Staudt previously worked together on the Novi City Council. Staudt continues to serve on council as mayor pro-tem.

The district includes all but the northwest corner of Novi, as well as western Farmington Hills and eastern Lyon Township.

Two Republicans will face off for a shot at challenging Democrat Elissa Slotkin for her U.S. Congress seat.

Tom Barrett of Lansing and Jake Hagg of Holt are both vying to be the next representative of the 7th District, which includes South Lyon and Milford, as well as most of Livingston, Ingham, Shiawassee, Clinton and Eaton counties.

Slotkin, a Holly resident, is seeking her third 2-year term as U.S. representative.



Milford voters will have new choices for U.S. Congress

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Redistricting political boundaries in Milford mostly kept the township's representatives in Lansing intact. Everyone in the community, however, will have a new voice in Congress as Milford joins with districts to the north and west.

In the 7th Congressional District, Democrat Elissa Slotkin hopes to hold her U.S. Congress seat.

Tom Barrett of Lansing and Jake Hagg of Holt are both vying to be the next representative of the 7th District, most of Milford, except for the northeast corner of the township and most of the Village of Milford, as well as South Lyon and most of Livingston, Ingham, Shiawassee, Clinton and Eaton counties.

Slotkin, a Holly resident, is seeking her third 2-year term as U.S. representative.

The rest of Milford joins the 9th District, which stretches through northern Oakland and Macomb counties and the entire Thumb area. The seat is held by Lisa McClain of Bruce. She faces a primary challenge against Michelle Donovan of New Baltimore. The winner of that primary election faces Democrat Brian Jaye of Rochester in the Aug. 8 election.

On the state level, the primary ballot will have two Democrats vying for the chance to take on state Sen. Jim Runestad for the 23rd District seat this November.

Una Hepburn of Davisburg and Michael J. Wiese of Commerce are vying for their party's nomination, while Runestad of White Lake had no Republican challengers. The district includes Lyon, Milford, and communities north and east like Highland, White Lake, Waterford and Clarkston.

The battle for the 51st District state representative seat is already set for the November ballot, with only one candidate from each party filing the necessary paperwork.

Democrat Sarah May-Seward of White Lake will face off against Incumbent Republican Matt Maddock of Milford, elected in 2018. The district include Milford, Highland, White Lake and western Commerce.

Former Northville trustee files for state Senate

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Political newcomers as well as savvy veterans are among City of Northville and Northville Township residents who filed for federal and state offices ahead of April 19's 4 p.m. filing deadline.

Candidates have until then to rescind their candidacy. These politicians made the Tuesday deadline:

6th District U.S. House of Representatives

First-time candidate Hima Kolanagireddy of Northville will run against Canton's Whitney Williams in August's Republican primary while Ann Arbor's Debbie Dingell and Detroit's Shonelle Jackson will vie for the Democratic nod.

The district includes Plymouth Township, City of Plymouth, Canton Township and mostly stretches south and west encompassing all of Washtenaw County.

13th District State Senator

Northville Township's Jason Rhines, a former member of the township's board of trustees, will take on Northville's Brian Williams in the race for the Republican nod. Klint Kesto of West Bloomfield initially filed but subsequently dropped out. Keego Harbor's Rosemary Bayer was the lone Democrat to file.

The district includes Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth Township, City of Plymouth, Novi and northern Farmington Hills.



Koleszar



Rhines

22nd District State Representative

Northville's Cathryn Neracher will take on Livonia's Rob Donovic in the battle for the Republican slot in the November election. Plymouth's Matt Koleszar, the incumbent was the lone Democrat to file.

The district encompasses City of Plymouth, western Livonia, eastern Plymouth Township, northern and eastern Northville Township and the Wayne County portion of the City of Northville.

23rd District State Representative

For the state House District 23 seat, which encompasses western Northville and Plymouth, South Lyon, Salem Township and southern Lyon Township, as well as extending southwest into Ann Arbor, Republican Richard Sharland faces Democrat Jason Morgan.

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Novi voters will decide fields of 3 key races

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi voters in the Aug. 2 primary will help weed out several Republican and Democratic politicians, narrowing the field of candidates in three key races in November.

The 2022 elections will decide who represents Novi at both the state and federal level as voters will decide who will be their next state Senator, state

Representative and member of U.S. Congress.

An incumbent Democrat facing a challenge for her party's nomination on the Novi ballot is Debbie Dingell, who is seeking reelection as a U.S. representative for the 6th District. Challenging her in the primary is Democrat Shanelle Jackson of Detroit, who was a Michigan state representative from 2007-2012.

Republicans who will face off in the primary to appear on the November ballot are Hima Kolanagireddy of Northville and Whitney Williams of Canton.

The district encompasses Novi on its north end and continues south and west



Bayer



Breen



Dingell



Staudt

with all of Washtenaw County, as well as southern and western Wayne County.

A small portion of northwest Novi mostly near Walled Lake is part of the 11th Congressional District. If she's successful, Congresswoman Haley Stevens, a Democrat from Waterford, might remain Novi's voice in Washington, D.C. But, she and Congressman Andy Levin,

See NOVI, Page 3A

Filed: 4/13/2022 10:01 AM
St. Joseph Superior Court 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

St. Joseph County, Indiana Superior Court; Cause No. 71D07-2010-PL-000351; Safe Auto Insurance Company, Plaintiff v. Stacey Frazer, Defendant et al.; Summons by Publication; To the above-identified Defendant, Stacey Frazer: a Complaint has been filed against you in the above-identified court and cause of action. The name and address of the attorney seeking service upon you are as follows: Garrett M. Lewis, Goodin Abernathy, LLP, 301 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205. The above-identified cause of action is one for declaratory judgment as to whether Plaintiff owes any duty of coverage, defense, or indemnity to any party thereto arising out of a motor vehicle accident which occurred on or about September 11, 2020 in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. You are listed as a defendant therein as your interest appears as the operator of a 2014 Chevrolet Equinox that was involved in the subject accident. You must respond to Plaintiff's Complaint within thirty (30) days after the last notice of the above-identified cause of action is published. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in Plaintiff's Complaint.

(Seal)

Dated 4/13/2022

Rita L. Hanna
Clerk, St. Joseph County, Indiana

SEAL
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
INDIANA

Publish: April 28, May 5 & 12, 2022

**CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2022-2023 BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY 2022-2023 BUDGET** at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on **MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022**. Said hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Novi Civic Center Council Chamber, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

Interested citizens may appear and present written and/or verbal comments on the proposed budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will also be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2022-2023 budget is currently available at the Finance Department in the Novi Civic Center for public inspection, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan and on the website www.cityofnovi.org.

Courtney Hanson, MMC, MiPMC II
City Clerk

Publish: April 28, 2022



Preparations for the Cereal Box Dominoes Challenge finish up at Milford's Kurtz Elementary on April 14.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Dominoes

Continued from Page 1A

Honey Nut Cheerios. "It will be great to give people in need the cereal."

Austin Laurain, 11, was a course designer, mapping and drawing out the distance with some trial and error runs prior to the big event. He was nervous prior to the official tip-off, but he watched with pride as all 616 boxes fell one after the other in true domino fashion, followed by cheers from his classmates.

"It was really cool," he said with a smile, adding that Special K is his favorite.

So what is the most popular cereal among all Kurtz fifth graders? There was no clear agreement when

asked and dozens of different answers rang out. But the most donated cereals were Cheerios and Frosted Mini-Wheats.

Roberta Lennie, office manager for Community Sharing, said she welcomed all of the cereal, which will be enjoyed by children and senior clients alike, particularly with the rise in grocery prices.

"We are just delighted," Lennie said. "Cereal is something our clients really use. What a fun thing to do with kids, right? It was very thoughtful and will be put to use, and it's a very nice thing for the kids to think of others."

The Cereal Box Domino Challenge is a successful lesson Phillips said he plans to annually repeat.

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

Novi

Continued from Page 2A

a Democrat from Bloomfield Township, are running for the same seat.

The two representatives in Congress are running in District 11. The district includes much of southern and central Oakland County, including Farmington Hills, Birmingham, Waterford and Royal Oak.

The winning Democrat will face one of the three Republicans running, Mark Ambrose of Bloomfield Township, Matthew DenOtter of Waterford and Gabi Grossbard of Southfield, in the fall. None of the Republican hopefuls have held elected office before.

In the race for state senator representing the 13th District are three Republicans: Jason Rhines of Northville and Brian Williams of Northville. Clint Kesto of West Bloomfield initially filed but subsequently dropped out. One of the three will face Democrat Rosemary K. Bayer of Keego Harbor in November. Bayer has served as state senator since 2019.

The district includes Northville, Plymouth, Novi and northern Farmington Hills.

Incumbent Democrat state Rep. Kelly Breen has no primary opposition for the seat representing the 21st District. Two Republicans will face off in the August primary to challenge Breen in November: Daniel Lawless and David Staudt. All three are Novi residents; Breen and Staudt previously worked together on Novi City Council.

The district includes all but the northwest corner of Novi, as well as western Farmington Hills and eastern Lyon Township.

In the state House of Representatives, the 49th District includes the northwest corner of Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, New Hudson, Green Oak and Brighton. Vying to represent the district is Incumbent Republican Ann Bollin of Brighton who will be challenged in August by fellow Republican Chase Turner, also of Brighton. The winner will face Democrat Christina M. Kafkakis of Brighton in November.

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

The Northville High cast of "High School Musical" (clockwise from left): Brooklyn Blaskay, Braeden Courtney, Aubrey McCurdy, David Roden, Bella Reyes and Ryan Reynolds. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB



Play

Continued from Page 1A

Troy Bolton (played by Zac Efron in the 2006 movie), saved the day and, quite possibly, the play.

Sorely lacking male actors for a play that tells the story of a group of high school athletes who join theater to meet girls, the show runs May 5-7 largely because Courtney and teammates Ryan Reynolds and Zane Yamin agreed to give acting a shot after being recruited by friend and castmate Aubrey McCurdy.

"Had these young men not shown up," Johnson revealed, "we may not have been able to have a show."

Courtney said the theme of the play made it easier to find a comfort zone.

"I'm a jock who's never been in a musical before playing a jock who's never been in a musical before," he said. "... I'm playing me."

Yamin, who plays a self-described "basketball player/closeted baker," said his first-time dive into theater has provided unexpected joy.

"I don't think I ever could have imagined walking out of rehearsal with Braeden and Ryan and thinking, 'Wow, that was extremely fun,'" Yamin said. "When we'd leave football practice in the fall, we were so beat up we just needed to sleep. Now, when I leave rehearsals, I feel better than when I went in."

Reynolds, homecoming king and a Wayne State University football recruit, acknowledged he harbored a few apprehensions going into auditions.

"I'll admit it: I wasn't real confident singing and dancing in front of people," he said. "It wasn't something I usually do. Looking back, I'm incredibly happy I auditioned. I've met a lot of people, gained a lot of new friends, and grown as a person."

The athletes are earning rave reviews from their castmates, many of whom are veterans in theater.

"I was a little nervous at first when I found out guys who had never acted before were going to play lead roles, but I was excited, too, because I knew they were all pretty popular and cool," said Brooklyn Blaskay, who plays female lead Gabriella Montez. "They definitely bring a lot of fun to the show."

Lauren Baligian, who portrays pianist Kelsi Nielsen, revealed she had never met the athletes/actors prior to auditions.

"I knew they were popular and, truthfully, I was a little intimidated," she said. "But I also thought they'd be really good for the play because they were dedicat-

Spring performances

• South Lyon East Drama performs "Grease is the Word" April 28-May 1. Tickets at southlyoneastdrama.com.

• Northville High School performs "High School Musical" May 5-7. Tickets available at nhstheater.ludus.com.

ed to what they do. For people who have never done theater before, they've caught on to everything so well."

McCurdy, who plays villain Sharpay Evans, said the novice actors have exceeded her expectations.

"A lot of people underestimate how much time and work it takes to be an actor," McCurdy said. "But these guys have worked incredibly hard, often staying after rehearsals."

Playing Troy Bolton gives Courtney an opportunity to end his senior year on a much higher note than it started. His final season of football ended after he tore an anterior cruciate ligament during a non-padded pre-season practice.

"I didn't get to play my sport my senior year, so this will give me something to take home and remember," he said.

The show will run with single performances at the Northville High School theater 7 p.m. May 5-6, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 8.

Tickets are available online at nhstheater.ludus.com or at the door.

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

APRIL 29-MAY 1

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Complaint

Continued from Page 1A

on a 6-0 vote to conduct a complaint investigation. Ruskin was absent from the meeting.

There was almost no discussion regarding the motion with Superintendent Steve Matthews telling the board that it was not regarding any financial impropriety. In response to a question from Board Vice President Paul Cook about why outside legal counsel was needed, Matthews responded that the district's attorney Tim Gardner had recommended a neutral third party so there would be no conflict of interest.

Besides Ruskin and Cook, other members of the Novi Board of Education are Kathy Hood, Willy Mena, Bobbie Murphy, Mary Ann Roney and Tom Smith.

In concluding her April 21 statement regarding the investigation, Ruskin said, "District administrators have taken appropriate steps needed to ensure the safety of the students at this time. Unfortunately, I am unable to share specifics at this time as this is attorney-client privileged information."

Ruskin said she hoped she had answered some questions. The meeting then adjourned.

According to Board of Education operating procedures provided by the district, board members are given semester-long building assignments and "are encouraged to visit all schools and attend district events."

Additionally, all board members must notify the principal or designee of campus visits "when they are not attending a scheduled or normal parental activity during school hours" and must also check in at the office during visits.

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

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Wayne County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 35.6% as 10,474 cases were reported. The previous week had 7,725 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 19th 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 increased 57.1% from the week before, with 351,599 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 2.98% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 42 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 2,237 cases and 10 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 1,653 cases and 17 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 403,366 cases and 7,922 deaths.

Oakland County reported 2,050 cases and eight deaths in the latest

week. A week earlier, it had reported 1,520 cases and seven deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 289,946 cases and 3,829 deaths.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Washtenaw County with 312 cases per 100,000 per week; Alpena County with 187; and Oakland County with 163. 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 2,237 cases; Oakland County, with 2,050 cases; and Macomb County, with 1,279. Weekly case counts rose in 60 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Kent counties.

Michigan ranked 35th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 66.9% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 77.5%, 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 85,485

vaccine doses, including 7,115 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 104,243 vaccine doses, including 7,900 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 15,804,230 total doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 18 counties, with the best declines in Allegan County, with 39 cases from 53 a week earlier; in Clare County, with 2 cases from 8; and in Lapeer County, with -3 cases from 2.

In Michigan, 78 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 81 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,411,464 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 35,935 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 80,984,914 people have tested positive and 991,254 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 24. Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 686
 - The week before that: 628
 - Four weeks ago: 614
- Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:
- Last week: 40,571
 - The week before that: 37,500
 - Four weeks ago: 39,316

Hospitals in 37 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 25 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 42 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. If you have questions, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

Steps to protect yourself from donating to fake charities



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

Last month I gave \$1,000 to a charity for the benefit of Ukrainian children. I received an email that was so disturbing that I had to act.

I learned that the charity I gave to is a scam. I know I shouldn't have responded to the solicitation, but I did.

In the past you've written articles about giving to charity, and I thought you should write one again to remind people of the scams that are out there.

Thank you, M. M.

Dear M. M.

I salute you for coming forward. All too often when people are scammed, they're too embarrassed to say anything and all that does is help the scammers.

Unfortunately, whenever there is a natural disaster or a geopolitical event, the scam artists come out of the woodwork. It should not be a surprise to anyone that there has been an explosion of bogus websites, emails, and fake charities due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

When it comes to giving to charity, set rules for yourself. Here are some of the rules that I live by when it comes to donating to a charity.

My first rule is I never give through a phone solicitation. Even if I recognize the charity, I am not comfortable giving through phone solicitations.

Before I give to an organization I thoroughly look into the charity. This takes time, and I cannot do this when I receive a phone solicitation.

My next rule is I never give pursuant to an email or something on social media, no matter how much it pulls at my heart strings. The scam artists know that we all are affected when we see pictures of children or animals in distress, and they try to exploit us.

Remember, the scam artists are not only looking to scam you out of your money, but also to steal your identity. I don't respond to an email solicitation.

I look into the legitimacy of the organization and how the organization is spending their money. After all, there are legitimate charities that are poorly run and waste donors' money.

I often look at charitynavigator.org, charitywatch.org, or give.org to collect background information on the organization. These sites provide a wealth of information, allowing you to make an informed decision as to whether you should donate.

There's no shortage of legitimate charities that are raising money to help the Ukrainian people. Unfortunately, there's also a fair number of charities that are just out to scam you. The key is to do your research before you write the check.

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, please email rick@bloomadvisors.com.



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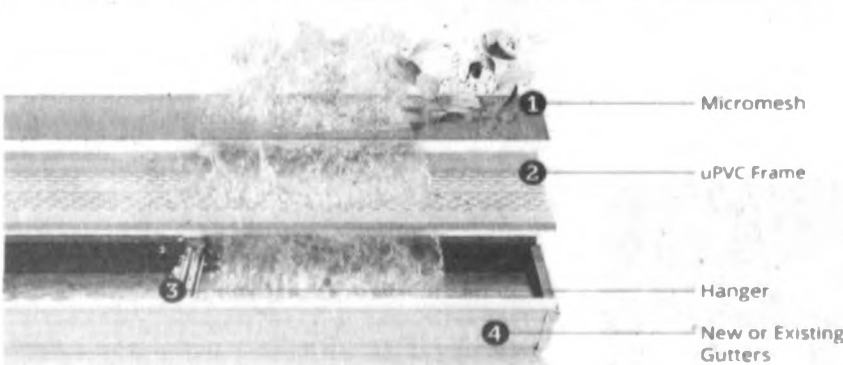
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

MI residents scramble to get State Silver Bank Rolls

Once Michigan residents got wind that Michigan State Bank Rolls filled with Silver Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's were being handed over, there was a mad dash to get them. That's because they are the only Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design.

"The phones will be ringing off the hook. That's because everyone will be trying to get them while they still can," according to officials at the National Mint and Treasury who say they can barely keep up with all the orders.

In fact, they had to impose a strict limit of 4 Michigan State Bank Rolls. So, if you get the chance to get your hands on these State Bank Rolls you better hurry because hundreds of Michigan residents already have and you don't want to miss out.

You see, the U.S. Gov't stopped minting these Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars in 1947 and there can never be

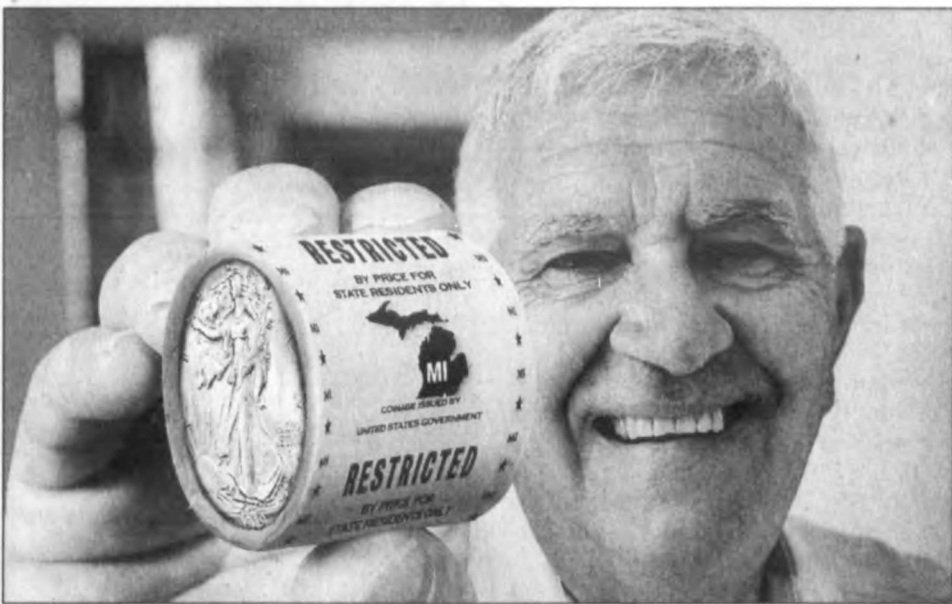
any more which moves them into the collectible coin status.

And here's the best part. The rolls are unsearched so there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value.

That's why the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury of just \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty coin, which is just \$585 for the full Bank Roll is a deal too good to pass up.

But you better hurry because these Michigan State Bank Rolls themselves have been marked State Restricted by price which means the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Michigan residents and non-state residents must pay full price if any remain.

That's because they make amazing gifts for children, grandchildren and loved ones. Just imagine the look on their face when you hand them one of the State Bank Rolls — they'll tell everyone they know what you did for them.



■ GOT 'EM: Residents all across Michigan who get their hands on these State Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls are definitely showing them off. That's because they are the only ones known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design. And here's the best part, these Bank Rolls are loaded with U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars some dating back to the early 1900's so everyone who wants them better hurry.

Only State Restricted Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls go to Michigan residents

Michigan residents get first dibs on Sealed Bank Rolls loaded with U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties dating back to the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value starting at 7:30 am today

► **STATE DISTRIBUTION:** A strict limit of 4 Michigan State Bank Rolls per MI resident has been imposed

"Michigan residents get first dibs. That's why Hotline Operators are bracing for the flood of calls," said Laura Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Director for the National Mint and Treasury.

Beginning at precisely 7:30 am this morning State of Michigan Sealed Bank Rolls loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars are actually being handed over to Michigan residents who call the State Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's newspaper publication.

"National Mint and Treasury recently spoke with its Chief Professional Numismatist who said 'Very few people have ever actually saw one of these rarely seen Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars issued by the U.S. Gov't back in the early 1900's. But to actually find them sealed away in State Bank Rolls is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them,'" Lynne said.

"But here's the good news. The Bank Rolls themselves have been marked State Restricted by price which means the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Michigan residents only and non-state residents must pay full price if any Bank Rolls remain," Lynne confirmed.

This is important to note. "These are the only Michigan State Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls known to exist. You can't get them at banks or credit unions or the Government since they do not produce State Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls. In fact, you can only get them bearing the exclusive State Restricted Design and rolled this way directly from National Mint and Treasury," Lynne explained.

"Now that the State of Michigan Sealed Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of Michigan residents claim the maximum limit allowed of 4 Bank Rolls per resident while they still can," said Lynne.

"That's because after the Bank Rolls were loaded with 15 U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties, each verified to meet a minimum collector grade of very good or above, the dates and mint marks of the Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars found inside the Bank Rolls have never been searched. But, we do know that some of these coins date clear back to the early 1900's and are 90% pure silver so Michigan residents who get their hands on them will be glad they did," Lynne went on to say.

And here's the best part. If you are a resident of the state of Michigan you cover only the \$39 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, that's 15 U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars worth up to 100 times their face value for just \$585 which is a real steal because state residents who miss the deadline and non state residents must pay \$118 per coin which totals \$1,770 if any coins remain after the 2-day deadline.

"U.S. Gov't issued coins like these are 90% pure silver and a favorite of dealers, collectors and the like," Lynne said.

"We know the phones will be ringing off the hook. So the only thing readers need to do is make sure they are a resident of the state of Michigan and call the State Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication," Lynne said. ■

SILVER: ONE OF THE LAST SILVER COINS MINTED FOR CIRCULATION

STATE MINIMUM: OF JUST \$39 PER COIN SET BY NATIONAL MINT AND TREASURY



LAST MINTED: MINTED IN PHILADELPHIA, DENVER & SAN FRANCISCO

ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL: YEAR VARIES 1916-1947

RARELY SEEN: MINTED BY THE U.S. MINT IN THE EARLY 1900'S

FACTS:

HOW TO CLAIM THE MICHIGAN STATE BANK ROLLS

If you are a Michigan State Resident read the important information below about claiming the State Silver Bank Rolls, then call the State Toll-Free Hotline at 8:30 am: **1-800-979-3771 EXT: RWB4649**

Are these Silver Walking Liberties worth more than other half dollars:

Yes. These U.S. Gov't issued Silver Walking Liberties were minted in the early 1900's and will never be minted again. That makes them collectible. The vast majority of half dollars minted after 1970 have no silver content at all and these Walking Liberty Half Dollars were one of the last silver coins minted for circulation. So there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

How much are State Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls worth:

It's impossible to say, but some of these U.S. Gov't issued Walking Liberty Half Dollars date back to the early 1900's and there are 15 in each Bank Roll so you better hurry if you want to get your hands on them. Collector values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But we do know Walking Liberties are collectible so anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Silver Bank Rolls should hold onto them because there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

Why are so many Michigan residents claiming them:

Because they are the only Michigan State Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design, everyone who wants their share better call the State Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication. Each Bank Roll contains a whopping 15 Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars dating back to the early 1900's. Best of all the Bank Rolls have been marked State Restricted by price which means the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Michigan residents who beat the deadline only. That means Michigan residents cover only \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty, which is just \$585 for the full Bank Rolls for the next 2 days.

How do I get the State Silver Walking Liberty Bank Rolls:

Michigan residents are authorized to claim up to the limit of 4 Michigan State Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls by calling the State Toll Free Hotline at **1-800-979-3771 Ext. RWB4649** starting at precisely 8:30 am this morning. Everyone who does is getting the only Michigan State Walking Liberty Silver Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design. That's a full Bank Roll containing 15 Silver Walking Liberties from the early 1900's some worth up to 100 times their face value for just the state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury of just \$39 per Silver Walking Liberty, which is just \$585 for the full Bank Rolls and that's a real steal because non state residents must pay \$1,770 for each Michigan State Walking Liberty Silver Bank Roll if any remain.

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Indian banquet hall, eatery opens in former Livonia bar

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Longtime patrons of Kickers All-American Grill can take one step inside the new Punjab Indian Cuisine and The Celebration banquet center and will never recognize it.

The restaurant at 36071 Plymouth in Livonia has sat vacant for years after the sports bar closed. What was once dormant has sprung new life in the form of a new Indian restaurant and banquet facility.

The improvements have garnered a lot of attention from area residents who remember what the building used to look like.

"A lot of people come. They are so surprised," said Mohit Dwahan, the restaurant's owner.

Gone is the dark bar area with dance space on the first floor. It's replaced with a bright, fresh banquet room, complete with crystal chandeliers and golden chairs, enough to seat more than 250 people. The room also has several décor pieces straight from India, including bicycles.

Dwahan said he began working in restaurants when he lived in Chicago. He moved to the Detroit area for an IT job and decided to open his own restaurant, which was the beginning of Punjab Indian Cuisine. It's operated in several communities, including Farmington Hills, Troy and most recently in Auburn Hills on Opdyke Road. That Auburn Hills location closed in order to focus all attention on the new Livonia spot.

He said he began looking for a space before the COVID-19 pandemic when he found lots of his customers were coming from western Wayne County.

"I was looking for a place in Canton because I have all of my customers in this area," he said. "We were delivering every day in this area."

Open for the first time a few weeks ago, the building remained vacant for most of the last few years. An American concept restaurant was planned for the building back in 2015, though those plans never went forward. The parking has been used as storage for vehicles the last few years as the building sat dormant.

Dwahan found the former bar, but held off on purchasing it due to the pandemic. Records show the property was purchased in late 2020.



A lunchtime buffet of Indian food is available every day except Monday. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tandori chicken from Punjab Indian Cuisine and The Celebration in Livonia.



The Celebration banquet hall and restaurant at 36071 Plymouth Road.

demic. Records show the property was purchased in late 2020.

Dwahan then spent time completely renovating the space, taking more than a year to completely remodel. In addition to the massive work done on the

first level, he also added a bar to the upstairs — which formerly held Joe's Comedy Club — to accommodate the restaurant portion of the business. That section can also be used to host smaller events, like birthday parties or showers.

Despite all the work, there's still more to do. Dwahan said he's adding seats to the patio and hopes to have that open in the next few weeks.

The restaurant features a wide array of Indian cuisine, with butter chicken being the big seller since opening, Dwahan said. Carryout is also available, with plenty of employees at the nearby Ford Transmission Plant stopping by in recent weeks to try the food. A buffet is served around lunchtime in the middle of the week as well.

Punjab Indian Cuisine is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. More information, including online ordering, can be found at punjabcuisinemi.com.

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



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Third cannabis shop set to open in Whitmore Lake

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The third and final marijuana retail store approved by Northfield Township officials is set to open next month.

Cousins Trent McCurren and Dr. Rob McCurren are expanding their business, The WellFlower, to southeast Michigan. The McCurrens and their partners invested more than \$2 million to convert a former roadhouse at 50 E. North Territorial Road, west of U.S. 23 near Whitmore Lake, into a recreational marijuana shop.

The store is expected to open before Memorial Day, once work on the exterior and parking are complete.

Trent McCurren gave *Livingston Daily* a sneak peek at interior renovations last week prior to opening another location in Ypsilanti, which opened over the weekend. They also own The WellFlower in Manistee.

McCurren said as they continue to expand, they are only interested in opening new outlets in communities that limit the number of retail stores that can operate, like Northfield Township, which capped the number at three.

He said Big Rapids, where they opened their first location in early 2021, does not limit the number of outlets, and the market quickly became over-saturated.

"We were one of the first and now there are 18. There were 11 when we closed," he said. "When we opened, we were doing alright, but then there were more and more opening and we couldn't see a through line. We didn't see a path to profitability because there was too much dilution."

He said The WellFlower champions the wellness benefits of cannabis products. Rob McCurren is an emergency medicine physician, who worked for several Michigan hospitals.

"He had seen the therapeutic benefits for sleep, appetite, chronic pain and the side effects of chemotherapy," said Trent McCurren, who previously worked for Founders Brewing Co. as vice president of marketing, and other companies, before pivoting to the marijuana industry.

While The WellFlower in Northfield Township is not a medical marijuana



Trent McCurren, co-owner of The WellFlower dispensary in Northfield Township, looks over the soon-to-open facility.
GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

dispensary, medical patients will be able to purchase products at a discount.

The reception area and store are spacious compared to other outlets in the area. The spaces feature round tables with retro-inspired chairs and a "bud bar" counter with bar stools.

"It's urban Bohemian, if I had to put a description," Trent McCurren said. "We joke these were modeled after our living rooms. It's warm, neighborly, genuine and enlightened, the same as we describe The WellFlower as a business."

The store will employ "budtenders" to help people with their orders. There also will be a self-service option for people who would prefer to place their own order on a tablet.

The store will offer curbside pickup and in-person shopping. It may add delivery services in the future.

"We wanted it to be a place you'd feel comfortable coming in whether you're

new to cannabis or not, because it can be overwhelming for people at first," McCurren said.

The store takes up only part of the building, which also features a lower level.

"We were going to have a downstairs, but then we needed water retention, which caused an issues with parking there," he said.

He said another business could potentially use the lower level.

"I would love it if Northfield Township would allow consumption lounges. They are allowed (in the state) but not many communities allow them," he said. "Some people think its important to have consumption lounges, because its not allowed in public, which includes when you are renting, so some people have no safe space to consume, which is especially important for medical customers."

In 2019, voters in Northfield Township rejected a proposal that would have banned marijuana businesses.

Planted Provisioning was the first marijuana dispensary to open in Northfield Township. The recreational and medical dispensary is located in a long-time vacant property owners renovated at 9545 Main St. in downtown Whitmore Lake.

Quest Cannabis, a recreational and medical dispensary, opened at 8475 Main St. in the former Bobber Down Bar & Grill, where they also opened a liquor and convenience store, Quest Spirits.

Quest Cannabis owners are also developing 127 acres near the interchange of U.S. 23 and North Territorial Road into an industrial business park. A 30,000-square-foot marijuana grow and processing facility is under construction. They plan to expand by another 30,000 square feet in the future.

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The lilacs are blooming just in time for the annual Lilac Festival on Mackinac Island, set for June 3-12. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTOS

Seven quintessential Michigan festivals

Kiran Saini Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Planning a family vacation?

Michigan has some unique spring and summer festivals that feature fun for the whole family.

Consider taking a road trip to Holland's Tulip Time festival, or to northern Michigan where you can go mushroom hunting at the National Morel Mushroom Festival.

Here are the major festivals across the state that are well worth the drive (or ferry ride!):

Tulip Time, Holland

May 7-15, 2022

One of the most famous festivals in Michigan, Tulip Time celebrates Holland's Dutch heritage with an eight-day experience. There are more than six million tulips blooming throughout the city and area attractions.

Bringing thousands to Holland every year, Tulip Time has received accolades, including Best Flower Festival and America's Best Small Town Festival.

This year's Tulip Time will have two parades, live music and entertainment, a tulip immersion garden, a Dutch art exhibit and much more.



The Tulip Time festival in Holland runs May 7-15. COURTESY OF TULIP TIME FESTIVAL, INC.

National Morel Mushroom Festival, Boyne City

May 12-15, 2022

May is Morel Month in Michigan. What better way to celebrate than attending the National Morel Mushroom Festival?

According to the website, the festival draws mushroom lovers from around the country. Boyne City's morels are found in nearby woods and clearing, where enthusiasts can go morel hunting.

The festival will feature an arts and crafts show, beer tent, carnival and the Taste of Morels, the festival's premier event, where local restaurants and chefs will participate in offering morel-infused entrees and can take home prizes.



The National Morel Mushroom Festival in Boyne City runs May 12-15. GETTY



Asparagus Queen 2016 Mary Harris, left, of Hart and runner-up Mandy Achterhof of Walkerville dance as the Scottville Clown Band plays during the National Asparagus Festival in Hart.

Lilac Festival, Mackinac Island

June 3-12, 2022

The Mackinac Island Lilac Festival is the largest and most historic festival on the island, according to the event website.

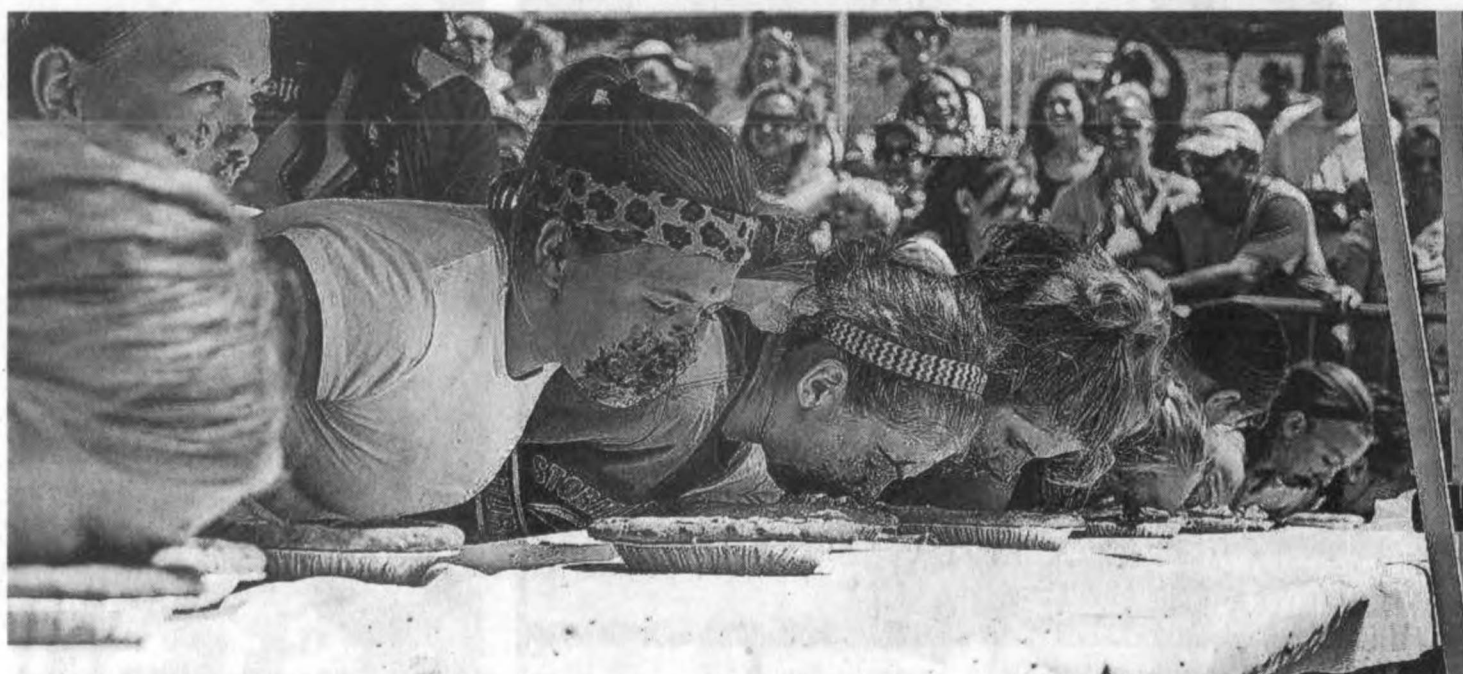
In its 74th year, the 10-day festival celebrates lilacs and their history on the island. Events include the Lilac Queen coronation, walking tours, lilac planting seminars and a parade.

Stay at the Grand Hotel while lilacs are in bloom throughout the island. The hotel offers a history lecture with its resident historian during Lilac Festival weekend.

National Asparagus Festival, Oceana County

June 11, 2022

Dedicated to all things asparagus, the National Asparagus Festival has been celebrating the green vegetable since 1974 as the longest-running asparagus festival in the country.



Kids eat blueberry pie at the 2015 Blueberry Festival in South Haven.

The festival features a 5k run, an arts and crafts fair that's one of the most popular craft shows in the area, and a Taste of Asparagus competition, where folks can create and submit their favorite asparagus recipes that will be judged.

Royalty is also celebrated at the National Asparagus Festival; every year, the festival hosts a pageant and crowns an Asparagus Queen, who then travels the state to promote the asparagus industry of Oceana County.

National Cherry Festival, Traverse City

July 2-9, 2022

Spanning 96 years, Traverse City's iconic National Cherry Festival draws more than half a million visitors.

One of Michigan's most widely-known festivals, it features 150 events and activities, including parades, cherry pie-eating contests and more. According to the website, the tradition of the Cherry Spit Contest continues — try beating the world record distance for spitting a cherry pit at 95 feet and 6.5 inches.

The National Cherry Festival is also known to attract big entertainers. This year's roster includes Nelly, Sheryl Crow, ZZ Top and Boyz II Men.

National Blueberry Festival, South Haven

Aug. 11-14, 2022

South Haven has been hosting the iconic National Blueberry Festival since 1963 as one of the country's oldest continu-

ously running fruit festivals, according to the website. Van Buren County is the nation's "most prolific" producer of highbush blueberries.

The festival features fun for the whole family; get messy at the festival's signature pie eating contest or check out cool creations at the Blueberry Festival Craft Fair.

Fudge Festival, Mackinac Island

Aug. 26-28, 2022

Ready to get your fudge on? Mackinac Island, the fudge capital of the world, celebrates its most famous treat with the annual Fudge Festival.

According to the website, activities including fudge-making demonstrations, fudge inspired food and cocktails, family games and more.



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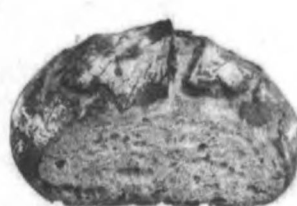
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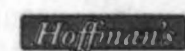
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SPORTS

XENITH GRANT

Brother Rice, Novi football need votes

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the most prestigious showcases a football team can participate in is the annual Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic each August at Wayne State University.

This year, two of Hometown Life area teams, Brother Rice and Novi, will head to Tom Adams Field with the chance to play in front of sell-out crowds.

What's more, both teams are eligible to win some grant money for being Kick-off Classic participants.

The Xenith Product Grant Program is awarding \$5,000 to three of the 12 teams playing in the showcase Aug. 25-27.

Here's how it works: From now until noon on Monday, May 9, fans can vote for their favorite teams by heading to xenith.com/pages/xpkcgrant.

The team with the most votes will receive \$2,500 to spend on Xenith football equipment, while the second-place finisher gets \$1,500 and the third-place finisher gets \$1,000.

See VOTES, Page 2B

Marian volleyball player donates \$12K to Special Olympics Michigan

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For the past two years, Ava Brizard has been the best volleyball player in Michigan.

That's indisputable.

The Bloomfield Hills Marian senior has the trophies to back that up.

Twice, she's been named the state's Gatorade Player of the Year. And this past fall, the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association awarded her its Miss Volleyball honor.

But being the best has come at a price. That's long nights practicing in the gym and weekends traveling to club tournaments.

Many days she's had to give up her free time with family and friends to work on her game.

That also included missing opportunities to watch her younger brother play basketball.

Because of her schedule, she got to watch him in action only two times.

And Drew Brizard was definitely can't-miss for the Northville Unified basketball team this past winter.

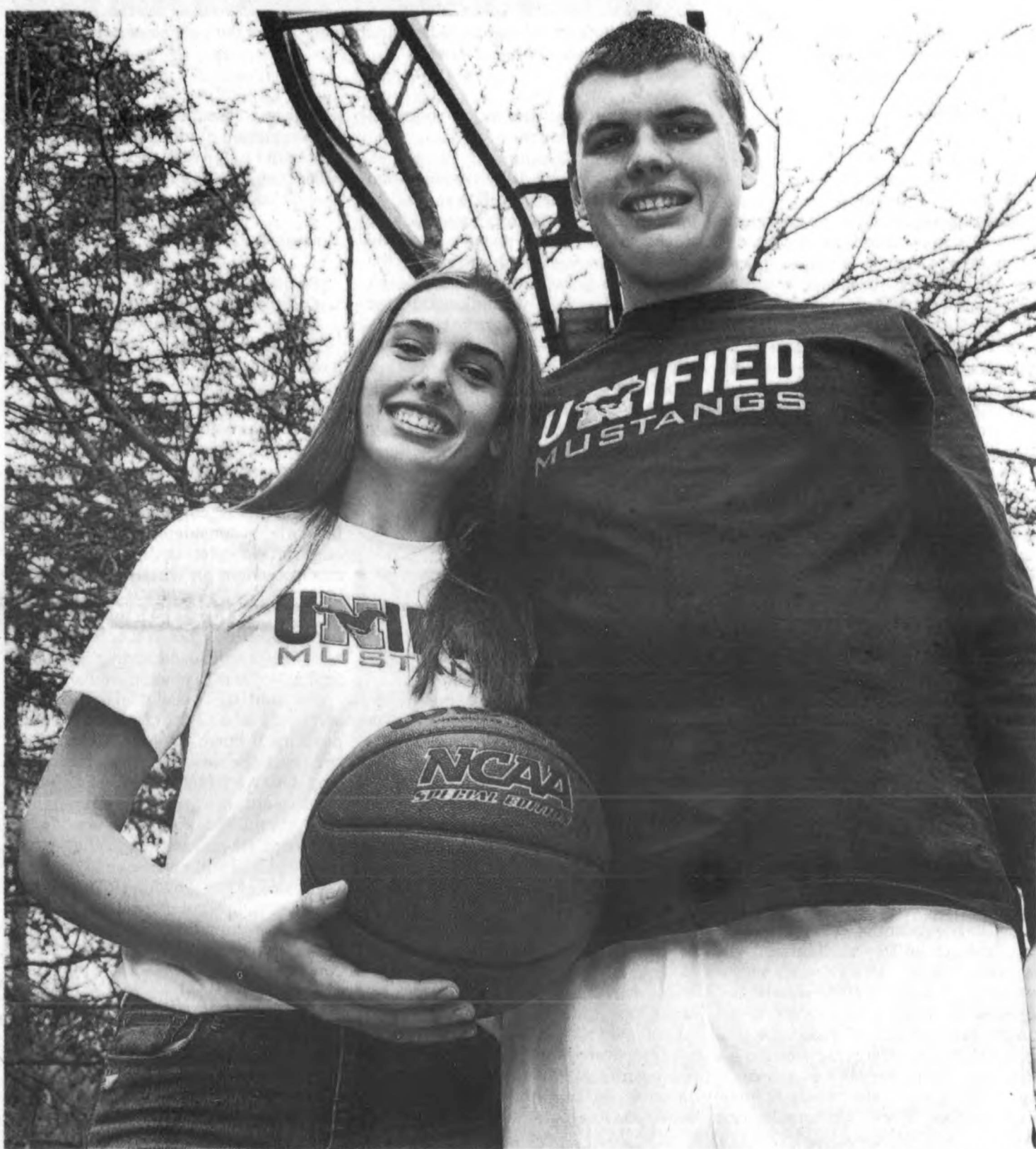
Autism didn't get in the way of the sophomore from averaging close to 30 points per game, including him scoring 32 in the season finale. At 6-foot-8, the power forward can almost out-rebound everybody, and he's absolutely money when he's shooting near the rim.

He even made Hometown Life's All-Area team.

He's got two years left to continue shining on the court, and that's great news for fans of the Mustangs. He's been practicing dunking on a trampoline. It's only a matter of time until Drew throws one down in an actual game.

Ava couldn't always be there in person to support her sibling she often refers to as her best friend. So she did the next best thing: She won Unified Champions Sports Special Olympics Michigan some money.

Being named a Player of the Year by Gatorade enters you into its Play It Forward program where you're awarded \$1,000 to donate to a charity of your choice.



Ava and Drew Brizard at their Novi home April 15. Ava Brizard, after being named a Gatorade Athlete of the Year, received a \$12,000 grant for her brother's special-needs athletic programs at Northville High School. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See DONATION, Page 3B

Boston Marathon inspires Novi, South Lyon runners

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hong Weng of South Lyon and Mike Pezzetti of Novi made it to both the start and the finish line of Monday's Boston Marathon.

Among the obstacles were a canceled pre-race flight for Weng and legs that rebelled against Pezzetti in the final few

miles of the 26.2 mile race.

But finish they did, along with roughly 30,000 other runners celebrating the April return of one of the world's most famous races after two challenging pandemic years.

Weng cried as she crossed: not from pain, but from happiness.

It's the first time she's ever been brought to tears, even after running 70-

plus marathons.

"It was a perfect day," she said, less than an hour after finishing in 3:35:30. "I feel great."

Pezzetti acknowledged he was sore and moving a little slow shortly after finishing his race in 3:32:24. But he mustered a laugh, saying "the legs weren't moving fast, they weren't obeying, but that is where the mettle comes

in, right?"

It's where the medal comes, too, with mental fortitude and years of hard work. The two shared their stories of how they got to not only the finish line of the Boston Marathon, but how they got started on the path that would lead them to completing 26.2 miles.

See MARATHON, Page 7B



Super 6: Most likely selections by Lions at No. 2

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Trent Baalke and Brad Holmes sounded like they were speaking from the same script when they addressed reporters at their respective pre-draft news conferences this week. Owners of the Nos. 1 and 2 picks in Thursday's NFL draft, Baalke and Holmes both said they had a bunch of similarly graded players atop their boards.

"The cluster of players that we're looking at are very, very evenly rated and graded," Holmes said. "And I've always said it's just what fits your team the best."

For the Lions, that fit is about need, positional value, upside and much more. Holmes said football character, which he defined as "being a good teammate, being accountable, (having a) passion for football, perseverance, leadership, work ethic (and) preparation," is an important part of fit. So, too, is dynamic playmaking ability, which the Lions are seeking on both sides of the ball.

The Jaguars are believed to be considering a quartet of players at No. 1 that includes offensive tackles Ikem Ekwonu and Evan Neal and defensive linemen Aidan Hutchinson and Travon Walker.

Ekwonu and Neal are two of the best players in this year's draft, but are unlikely choices for the Lions at two given their depth on the offensive line. These six players, however, could be fits.

Aidan Hutchinson

Position: Edge
College: Michigan
Vitals: 6-7, 260 pounds

Scouting report: Hutchinson earns high marks in the football character department as a mile-a-minute player who oozes leadership, but it would be wrong to characterize him as just a try-hard guy. He set a Michigan record with 14 sacks last season and turned in an impressive 6.73-second three-cone drill at the combine. Hutchinson has advanced pass rush moves and a high floor. He is a virtual lock to go in the top three picks of the draft.

He said it: "In terms of the Lions up there at the top of the draft, Aidan Hutchinson to me is the run-the-card-up-if-he-gets-there (pick). ... It's too easy of a fit there. It's a need. He brings everything that you want on the field and then you kind of add that other element with the leadership and what he could bring to a team that's trying to get the corner turned here. I think he's somebody that has the experience of getting that done." — NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah

Kayvon Thibodeaux

Position: Edge
College: Oregon
Vitals: 6-4, 254 pounds

Scouting report: A college teammate of the Lions' first pick in last year's draft, Penei Sewell, Thibodeaux has been tabbed as the potential No. 1 overall pick since high school. He was dominant as a freshman but was less effective in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and again last year, when he played through a high-ankle sprain. Thibodeaux is a blur off the edge and a game-wrecker inside, but his personality has been a turnoff for some in the pre-draft process. If the Lions are comfortable with



Michigan defensive lineman Aidan Hutchinson speaks during a news conference at the NFL combine in Indianapolis. TREVOR RUSZKOWSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

how he'll mix in their locker room, he makes sense at No. 2.

He said it: "Inside with his power, he's tough to deal with. Outside, when you watch him, his get-off is as good as you'll find at the defensive end/outside linebacker spot. He doesn't have the pass rush moves. He doesn't have the bend right now. A little stiff, doesn't have great body — you talk about just overall, say a Myles Garrett type. Nobody's going to be that way, but he's not the (Jadeveon) Clowney, Myles Garrett type in terms of that bend and that agility. But he's power, he's speed, he chases, he closes. He's got, like I say, great get-off." — ESPN analyst Mel Kiper Jr.

Travon Walker

Position: DL
College: Georgia
Vitals: 6-5, 272 pounds

Scouting report: Walker is the fastest-rising player in this year's draft after a standout combine in which he ran a 4.51-second 40-yard dash and jumped 35 ½ inches. A key cog in Georgia's national championship defense, Walker earns high marks in the football character department for being all about ball. He has offensive tackle-length arms (35 ½ inches) but did not put up big big pass rush numbers (six sacks, 7.5 tackles for loss) in his lone season as a starter and might fit best as a three- or five-technique interior lineman or 3-4 defensive end in the NFL.

He said it: "He played in a system where it was just everything was about do your job. Gap discipline. Let our linebackers go make the plays. Clog everything up, up front, and so he wasn't asked to do that a lot. And he was dropping in coverage at times. They were reducing him inside as a defensive tackle in some passing downs. I think, and when you line him up as a pure edge and

let him get after the quarterback, that his production numbers are going to be a lot better in the NFL than they were in college, and that's saying a lot." — ESPN analyst Todd McShay

Jermaine Johnson

Position: Edge
College: Florida State
Vitals: 6-5, 254 pounds

Scouting report: A one-time teammate of Walker's at Georgia, Johnson played two seasons at Independence Community College and two more for the Bulldogs before earning ACC Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2021. He followed his 12-sack season at Florida State with a standout performance in front of Lions coaches at the Senior Bowl and is considered one of the best edge run defenders in the class. There is mixed opinion on whether Johnson is best suited to play in a 3-4 or 4-3 defense, and his age — he'll turn 24 on the final weekend of the 2022 NFL regular season — has caused some to wonder how close he is to being maxed out.

He said it: "I really like Jermaine Johnson's tape a lot and it wouldn't surprise me if down the road he becomes the best edge rusher in this group. He's long, he's wiry. I think that he has some work to do. He's not a true bender, but he can bend. There's a power element to his game. He plays stronger than what his build looks like since he is so wiry. He has what you look for. He's got great arm length, he's got natural quickness. I really like Jermaine Johnson's game, plus for whatever it's worth, he plays the run exceptionally well." — NFL Films analyst Greg Cosell, on "Stoney & Jensen with Heather" on WXYT-97.1 FM

Ahmad Gardner

Position: CB
College: Cincinnati

Vitals: 6-3, 190 pounds

Scouting report: A Detroit native, Gardner is the most complete cornerback in this year's draft. He has the requisite size, strength and play speed (a 4.41 40) to be a star in the NFL, and his long arms — 33½ inches, best of any cornerback at the combine — make him lethal in press coverage. Nicknamed "Sauce," Gardner oozes confidence for good reason: He did not allow a touchdown during his college career.

He said it: "I truly believe I'm the best cornerback (in this draft). I'll put the work in ... I make sure I'm leading by example. I'm not a smoker, not a drinker. I never have, never will, to make sure I do the little things right." — Gardner, at the NFL combine

Kyle Hamilton

Position: S
College: Notre Dame
Vitals: 6-4, 220 pounds

Scouting report: The term "unicorn" gets thrown around too much with top draft prospects, but Hamilton is a rare player at the position given his size and ball skills. He had eight interceptions in three seasons as a starter and was widely projected as a top-five pick before he turned in disappointing 40 times at the combine (4.59 seconds) and his pro day. Still, Hamilton is considered far and away the best safety in this year's draft.

He said it: "I think this kid's pretty unique. He's so tall and long and rangy. The ability to make plays from the deep middle as well as to drop down and play down low and be a physical player. He can erase tight ends. The interception he had against Florida State's as good as it gets, and I think from a makeup standpoint, I haven't got all of the background information on him, but when you watch him cover punts as a gunner and see how hard he plays, I think this guy checks all those boxes." — Jeremiah

Votes

Continued from Page 18

A football helmet can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1,200, according to a recent Google search, so this money could go a long way in helping a program afford top-of-the-line equipment.

Brother Rice returns to the field with a roster jam-packed with Division I recruits, hoping to rebound from last year's heartbreaking last-second 20-17 loss to Mason in the Division 3 regional. The Warriors posted an 8-4 overall record and went 1-2 in the Catholic League-Central, which included a 35-21 win in the season opener against Macomb Dakota, the team it'll rematch Aug. 25 in the Kickoff Classic.

Novi looks to qualify for the postseason for a second straight year under coach Jim Sparks, who guided the Wildcats to a 5-5 overall record and a 4-3 record in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West during his first season leading the team. They'll open the season on Aug. 26 against KLAA-East foe Belleville.

Xenith is a Detroit-based company that manufactures football equipment and offers helmet reconditioning at an

Kickoff Classic schedule

Thursday, Aug. 25

Brother Rice vs. Macomb Dakota, 4 p.m.

Sterling Heights Stevenson vs. West Bloomfield, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26

Allen Park vs. Wyandotte Roosevelt, 4 p.m.

Belleville vs. Novi, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 27

Dexter vs. Grosse Pointe South, 1 p.m.

River Rouge vs. Cedar Springs, 4 p.m.

Ticket Information

Tickets can be purchased at detroitssports.org at a later date. One ticket grants a fan access to an entire day's worth of games.

affordable price. This is the sixth season it has been the title sponsor of the Kick-off Cassic.

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



Brother Rice's Xavier Bowman rushes against Chicago Christ the King Jesuit back in October at Wisner Stadium in Pontiac. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Marian High athlete Ava Brizard, right, shoots some hoops in the driveway with brother Drew. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Donation

Continued from Page 1B

Since Ava has won it twice, she's been able to donate \$2,000 to the organization that directly supports her brother's teams.

What's more, Gatorade Players of the Year can also enter a video essay contest to win an additional \$10,000 through Play It Forward. Ava didn't win the contest as a junior. But this past school year, she did. That's \$12,000 she's been able to donate to a cause so special to Drew over the past two years.

"Obviously, I wanted to help out Drew and his team, and after meeting the kids on his team and seeing the parents' faces and seeing them cheer them on during the games, it was special — it was exciting to see them compete and play a sport they love," the senior re-

cently told Hometown Life. "Even though some of them may struggle to speak like my brother, or they're struggling with their own challenges, they deserve to have the chance to play on that big stage. It was very easy to pick Unified."

Unified Champions Sports isn't just basketball.

There are teams for soccer, volleyball and even robotics, among other sports and extracurricular activities.

In fact, not only does Drew play on Northville's Unified basketball team, he also participated in its robotics program. And, of course, the robot his team recently built was called a "Basketbot," which was able to shoot and score baskets. Drew said he couldn't decide what was more fun about the project: Actually building the robot or making it play basketball with a remote control.

"I just love tossing the ball," he said. Those were some of the things Ava

highlighted in her video essay to Gatorade, a short film that featured Drew and his teammates.

"I actually had a lot of fun making that video," Ava added. "When I saw that it was a video submission in order to apply for the fundraiser, I knew I had to show my connections to the Unified program with pictures and videos of Drew's teams. I knew that could help my case to win."

"I even had a clip of Drew's robotics team. It was really super awesome and showed that personal connection I have to his program. I wanted to win for Unified so badly, so I'm really happy it worked out. I could never have dreamed about this happening. Winning \$10,000? That's mind-boggling."

Ava, who guided Marian to back-to-back Division 1 state championships in 2020 and 2021, is off to play at North Carolina State next school year. That means she won't be able to watch Drew

play in person in the winter, but she said she'll "be glued to my phone waiting for updates after every game."

But that's OK. One of Drew's favorite things to wear at school is his NC State shirt, and he's already mastered the Wolfpack hand signal that fans display at games. He's excited about watching his sister play in the ACC, even though his favorite college team is Michigan.

So the siblings will continue to support each other, even if they can't physically be there for one another.

"I didn't get many opportunities, but when I did get that chance to finally see him be on the court, it was just so special," Ava said. "For once, I got to be the spectator and see him succeed, and it made me happy. He's always been the one watching and supporting me. So it makes me a proud sister. I have all these accolades for working hard in volleyball, but nothing makes me more proud than seeing Drew get to play."

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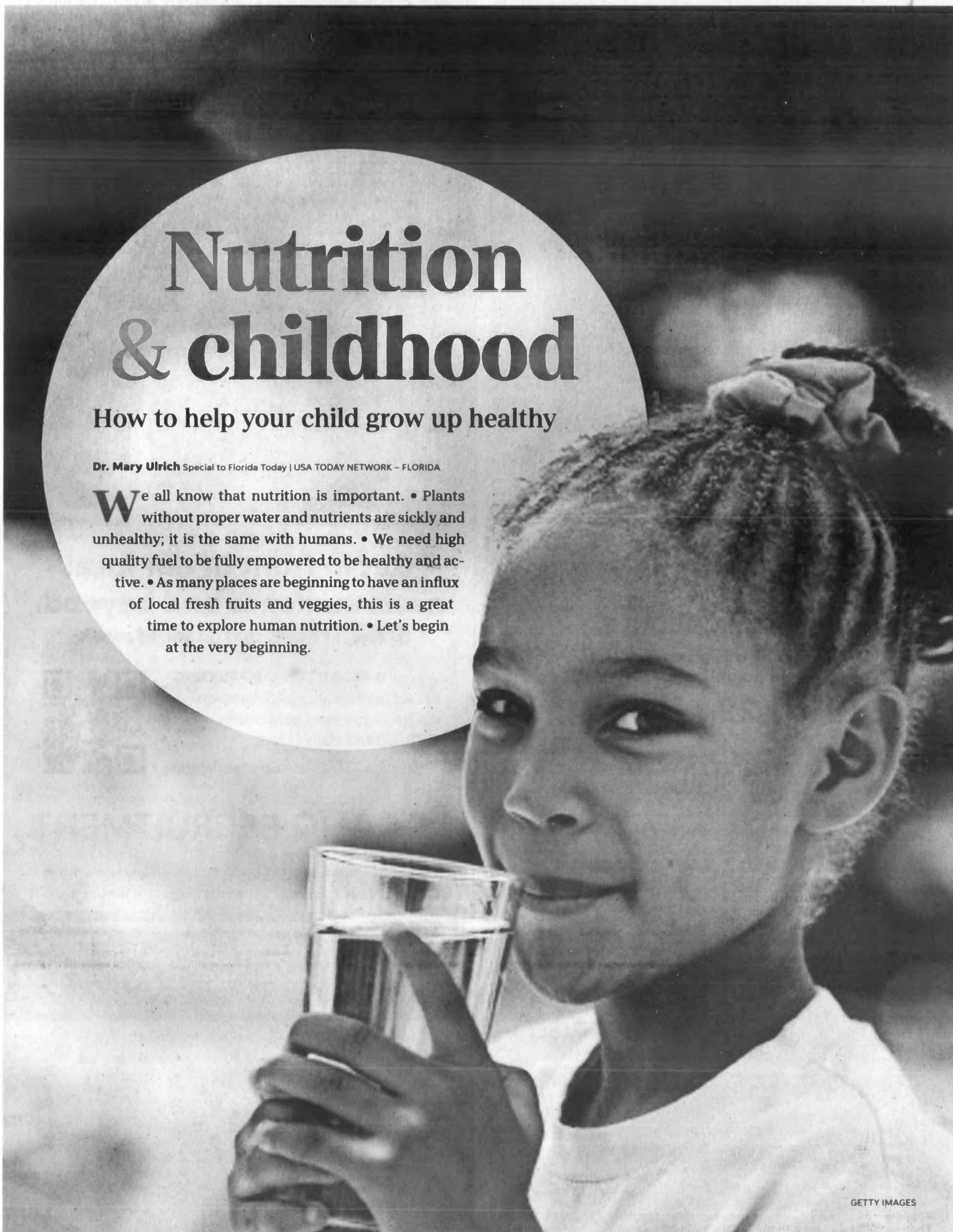
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Nutrition & childhood

How to help your child grow up healthy

Dr. Mary Ulrich Special to Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

We all know that nutrition is important. • Plants without proper water and nutrients are sickly and unhealthy; it is the same with humans. • We need high quality fuel to be fully empowered to be healthy and active. • As many places are beginning to have an influx of local fresh fruits and veggies, this is a great time to explore human nutrition. • Let's begin at the very beginning.



GETTY IMAGES

It is important for prospective parents to have a healthy diet to enhance fertility and for the health of the sperm, egg and embryo.

For example, studies have shown that a nutritious diet may reduce the risk of female infertility by as much as 69%.

It is important for both men and women to include a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and protein in their diet.

Folate (aka folic acid) is very important for both men and women.

In fact, all women of child-bearing age should take a supplement of 400 mg folate per day to be sure they get enough of it; this helps prevent serious neurologic birth defects such as spina bifida and certain brain defects.

Once the baby is born, breast milk or formula are the baby's dietary options.

Mother's milk is nutritious, provides immune protection against many germs and is easy to digest.

If that is not possible, then the breast-feeding goal would be at least for as long as feasible, even if it is just for a few days.

Formula can certainly provide a safe, healthy alternative to breast feeding, if necessary.

Breast milk or infant formula should be continued through the first birthday.

One of the first opportunities to introduce a variety of healthy choices is with the introduction of baby food at around 6 months of age (4 months at the earliest).

Purees including iron-fortified infant cereals, fruits, vegetables and meats are all great options for the beginning eater.

It is recommended to give a new food consistently for at least 2-3 days to look out for intolerance or allergy.

It is now recommended to begin allergenic foods such as nut butters, eggs, wheat and fish around 6-7 months of age.

Be aware of choking hazards; you can mix nut butters in with other foods to reduce choking risk.

Avoid unhealthy foods and drinks from the beginning.

There are some specific recommendations for the beginning feeder.

For instance, fluoridated water should be an added source of refreshing hydration; 2-4 oz. per day is the goal for the 6-to-9-month-olds.

Interestingly, even though spinach is a super healthy food, most pediatricians recommend waiting until a baby is 8-10 months old to introduce it because it has high levels of oxalic acid, which may be difficult for kidneys to process.

Babies and young children are especially susceptible to food poisoning, so all food should be fresh and carefully cleaned before preparation.

Honey should not be given before a year old due to the risk of botulism.

Juice, even freshly squeezed, is not recommended for any age; it increases the risk of cavities and is high in sugar.

At about eight months, you can expand your baby's diet to include soft foods such as yogurt, oatmeal, mashed banana, mashed potatoes or even thicker or lumpy pureed vegetables.

Eggs (including scrambled) are an excellent source of protein, as are cottage cheese, Greek yogurt, and avocado.

After the first birthday, a child should normally be on a good schedule. Most children do the best with 3 meals and 2-3 healthy snacks per day, so they are eating about every 2 hours.

It is not recommended for a toddler to walk around while eating; it is a choking risk, as are hard foods such as fresh apples, carrots, and many vegetables; these should be cooked so that they are soft.

Nuts, popcorn and candies are not recommended until at least 4 years old, and meats

should be cut up and tender.

The child should transition to the cup by a year old. It is recommended for a toddler to have 16-24 oz. of whole milk/dairy per day and 16-32 oz. of water.

The American Heart Association and the AAP also recommend:

- Serve whole-grain/high-fiber breads and cereals. Recommended grain intake ranges from 2 oz./day for a one-year-old to 7 oz./day for a 14-18-year-old boy.

- Serve a variety of fruits and vegetables daily. Each meal should contain at least 1 fruit or vegetable. Children's recommended fruit intake ranges from 1 cup/day, for ages 1-3, to 3 cups for a 14-18-year-old boy.

- Introduce and regularly serve fish as an entrée. Avoid commercially fried fish.

- Serve fat-free and low-fat dairy foods. From ages 1-8, children need 2 cups of milk or its equivalent each day. Children ages 9-18 need 3 cups.

- Encourage plenty of water, from 4 cups a day for the toddler to as many as 8 cups per day for a busy teen.

- Don't overfeed.

Follow these guidelines, and you are setting your child up to have a healthy, long life. For more detailed information you should check out these websites (used in preparing this article):

- The AAP site, Healthy Children: www.healthychildren.org

- The American Heart Association: www.heart.org

- My Plate: www.myplate.gov

Dr. Mary Ulrich is a board-certified Pediatrician at Pediatrics in Brevard, Melbourne office. Dr. Ulrich is also the medical director for Aveanna Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care facility in Melbourne as well as the medical director for Brevard Early Steps.

BOSTON MARATHON LOCAL RUNNER RESULTS

Results of the 2022 Boston Marathon can be found online at baa.org. Below are results of local runners. Included are name, age and official time.

Birmingham

Alex Beired, 52, 3:07:48
Brittany Jackson, 34, 3:37:48
Hebah Hefzy, 39, 3:42:57

Bloomfield Hills

Aeneas Koosis, 26, 2:55:06
Curtiss Haskins, 40, 3:11:12
Andrew Murray, 47, 3:18:38
Goro Tamai, 51, 3:25:33
Sara Bahu, 44, 3:42:33
Jamie Gladstone, 57, 3:44:31
Anna Stanbaugh, 52, 3:57:37
Thomas Hitchman, 61, 4:35:57

Bloomfield Township

Zachary Murray, 33, 3:23:55

Farmington

Collin Hall, 35, 3:01:17
Melissa Peura, 48, 3:45:56

Farmington Hills

Thomas Bailey, 37, 3:18:35
Rebecca Gorski, 33, 3:33:21
Tendai Thomas, 47, 3:42:14
Rachael Ayotte, 45, 3:58:03
David Wong, 53, 3:59:06

Livonia

Tyler Brown, 31, 2:56:41
Jaime Gomez-Espinosa, 57, 3:10:19
Chris Keyes, 51, 4:04:38
Mark Morad, 63, 4:10:19

Westland

Casey Peterson, 29, 3:26:29
Scott Kennell, 45, 3:43:12

Plymouth

Kiersten Waineo, 29, 2:50:37
Breanna Herring, 27, 2:55:56
Xaver Tomaszewski, 47, 2:59:22
Rob Gibson, 46, 3:20:08
Kate Hodgson, 29, 3:27:04
Jenn Burkett, 49, 3:29:42
Bernard Biermann, 57, 3:35:36
Jeff Foor, 52, 3:37:21
Kathryn Murphy, 61, 4:06:07



Spectators cheer on the runners at the 2022 Boston Marathon.

PAUL RUTHERFORD/USA TODAY SPORTS

Al Johnson, 61, 4:25:31
Mary Byrd, 67, 5:03:10

Canton

Erik Wippler, 46, 2:45:10
Scott Skelton, 35, 2:52:14
Mikel Gurrea, 37, 3:00:07
Kayla Hughes, 24, 3:28:47
Chuanbing Rong, 47, 3:33:14
Nichole Mackey, 26, 3:42:39

Philip Pairitz, 58, 3:49:55
Michael McCormack, 65, 4:05:28
Colleen Hoffman, 56, 4:16:39

Northville

Yanyib Liu, 50, 3:07:39
Fangjun Jiang, 52, 3:23:47
Chundao Che, 59, 3:30:06
Katie Millar, 44, 3:33:30
Emily Kempa, 30, 3:33:49
Raffaella Medoro-Naurato, 47, 3:41:02
Michael Webster, 62, 4:12:07
Victor Barkoski, 73, 4:35:42
Myrna Carli, 64, 4:40:24

Novi

Hisashi Kikuchi, 43, 3:05:09
Miachel Pezzetti, 55, 3:32:24
Mitsuru Kitamura, 50, 3:33:31
Kanako Nirasawa, 41, 3:33:46

South Lyon

Hong Weng, 39, 3:33:30

New Hudson

Melissa Christensen, 44, 3:40:42

Marathon

Continued from Page 1B

From China to Boston

Weng, 39, had to travel nearly 8,000 miles before she ever ran even one mile.

Born in Guangdong Province in southeast China, Weng moved to the United States in 1997. As a student at Farmington Hills Harrison High School, she joined the track and cross country teams as a way to belong in her new country.

"It helped me to fit in," Weng said. "As a kid, I watched the summer Olympics a lot. Swimming and track and field and it really inspired me, but we don't have the option to be on a track and field team in China. (Running) was for the more gifted, not for the average person."

Weng attributes the completion of her first marathon in Detroit in 2002 to not knowing there was a sweeper that picked up struggling runners who were far behind. She wanted to quit but found the motivation to continue from the need to get back to her car. Weng finished that Free Press Marathon in a little over five hours.

Her marathon running might have ended there but for her love of food, which led to weight gain and a thought that maybe she should keep running and racing.

She did, running the 10-mile Crim Festival of Races in Flint while an engineering student at Kettering University, then improving her marathon time by 30 minutes in Columbus, Ohio. A year later she was running in Chicago and shaving another 15 minutes off her time, running that marathon in 4 hours and 15 minutes. She started thinking she could qualify for Boston, but following a break-up with a boyfriend, she struggled to find the joy in running and mostly stopped.

Then in 2009, she met a Running Fit group and found her motivation again. Suddenly she was competing in more races. Just as suddenly, with marathon times under 4 hours, Boston felt within her reach.

Running had become a reason to travel, and in 2010 she ran a 3:35 marathon in Berlin, qualifying her for the 2011 Boston Marathon, which she finished in 3:38.

Eleven years have passed and Weng has now run in roughly 70 marathons around the world, some ultra-marathons and a few Iron Man triathlons, too.

Still, Boston is the "icing" on the running cake, she said.

Driven to succeed

Pezzetti is also enamored of the race, striving to get back to Boston ever since he first crossed its finish line in 2017. He qualified for the 2020 race, canceled by the pandemic. He qualified for the 2021 race, but missed the final cut when the number of participants allowed was cut by a third.

"It was going to be one and done and then I got the itch," Pezzetti, 55, said. "There's nothing like it, it's so exciting." Pezzetti, a former soccer player, tallied 30 years of running a lot of smaller distances before conquering his first marathon about seven years ago.

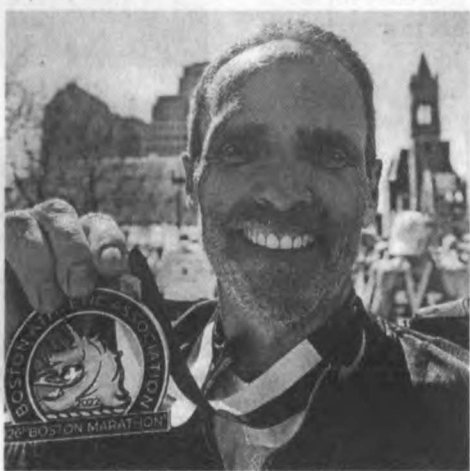
"It's a bucket list thing, but you get so busy with family and work, and it takes a fair amount of time to do one," he said. "Everything I do, I try to give my best effort. And I knew a marathon would take a lot more effort."

Pezzetti is an international tax accountant, attorney and the father of



Hong Weng of South Lyon after finishing the marathon.

COURTESY OF HONG WENG



Mike Pezzetti of Novi holds up his medal after completing the marathon.

COURTESY OF MIKE PEZZETTI

three. With his children now a bit older, he's had more time to devote to the extensive training required.

He and Weng both run several days a week, with a long run that can be 18-20 miles during training.

The training and sound nutrition plans give them the confidence to do what the general population might find inconceivable for themselves.

Mental fortitude and "wall-to-wall" fan support also helps to cross the finish line, especially when the legs and lungs are burning and runners are typically hitting a wall at 20 miles, with hills still to climb.

"I've been driven by accomplishments my entire life," Pezzetti said, prior to the marathon. "I know there will be a lot of pain on Monday, and it's about finding mental strength and knowing I can get through it and crossing that finish line and knowing how great I will feel."

Speaking by phone from Boston, Pezzetti acknowledged getting back to the hotel after finishing the race was a little rough, perhaps even more difficult than the final miles, when he drew strength from the wall-to-wall crowds of cheering, adoring fans.

"Walking back a mile is so painful," he said. "You're shivering because of the mylar (blanket), thinking, 'I'm never doing this again, never doing this again.'"

But after digging deep in the last two miles to earn a 2023 qualifying time, a couple ibuprofen, and a bath with Epsom salt, he already is looking forward to next year's Boston.

Weng feels the same.

I have done other more extreme races and I never cried," she said. "This one, I was crying halfway, crying at the finish. I am super happy, I just felt such accomplishment... If they let me back next year, I will go."

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



The starting line of the 2022 Boston Marathon. About 30,000 runners participated. COURTESY OF MIKE PEZZETTI



Boston Marathon wheelchair race men's and women's winners Daniel Romanchuk and Manuela Schar pose for a photo. ERIC CANHA/USA TODAY SPORTS

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This is What Job Seeker Bargaining Power Looks Like

More than half of employed job seekers think their current employer will ask them to stay and make a counteroffer if they resign

ZipRecruiter.com

Instead of asking workers to leave, employers are increasingly begging them to stay.

In December of 2021, for example, 3% of all payroll employees quit their jobs, while just 0.8% were laid off or discharged. That's a big change from the normal pre-Covid labor market, where 40% of all job separations were initiated by employers.

Record-low layoffs in recent months have coincided with record-high numbers of job openings and record-low numbers of unemployed job seekers per opening.

These unusually favorable labor market conditions have given job seekers and workers a boost in bargaining power—and their answers in a nationally representative monthly survey conducted by ZipRecruiter suggest they know it.

Consider the following survey findings:

- **54%** of employed job seekers think their current employer will ask them to stay and make a counteroffer if they resign, up from 47% in February and 43% in January.
- **50%** of job seekers who hope to find a new job in the next six months al-

ready have at least one other offer in their back pockets, up from 42% in February and 42% in January.

- **17%** of job seekers say they have ghosted an employer at some point during their current job search, up from 16% in February and 16% in January.
- Among hourly workers, the share earning less than \$15 per hour fell to **44%** from **46%** in February and **50%** in January.

• Among hourly workers, the average reservation wage rose to **\$21.13** in March from **\$20.62** in January.

- **62%** of job seekers either said they prefer or only want remote work (19% only want a remote job; 43% would prefer it but accept in-person work), much the same as in February.

In a market where so many job seekers have outside offers or are able to secure counter-offers from their existing employers, job seekers have substantial leverage and can make their demands known—whether for higher pay or for more remote work opportunities.

Businesses that delay in adjusting compensation or that insist on employees returning to the office five days a week may find it increasingly

difficult to overcome powerful market forces in the opposite direction.

What is Job Seeker Bargaining Power?

The bargaining power of job seekers refers to the pressure that candidates can put on businesses to get them to provide higher wages and better working conditions. Job seeker bargaining power is strong when:

- There are few job seekers relative to job openings.
- It is easy for workers to switch jobs.
- Job seekers have alternative sources of income.
- Job seekers' skills are in high demand.

What are Reservation Wages?

A worker's reservation wage is the minimum wage that the worker requires in order to participate in the labor market and accept a new job. Past research on pay

expectations and reservation wages shows that:

- Job seekers are much more likely to accept job offers that are equal to or exceed their reservation wage than to accept jobs offering less.
- An unemployed job seeker's reservation wage tends to fall slowly as their unemployment spell drags on.
- Job seekers reduce their reservation wages as they run out of savings and exhaust their assets.



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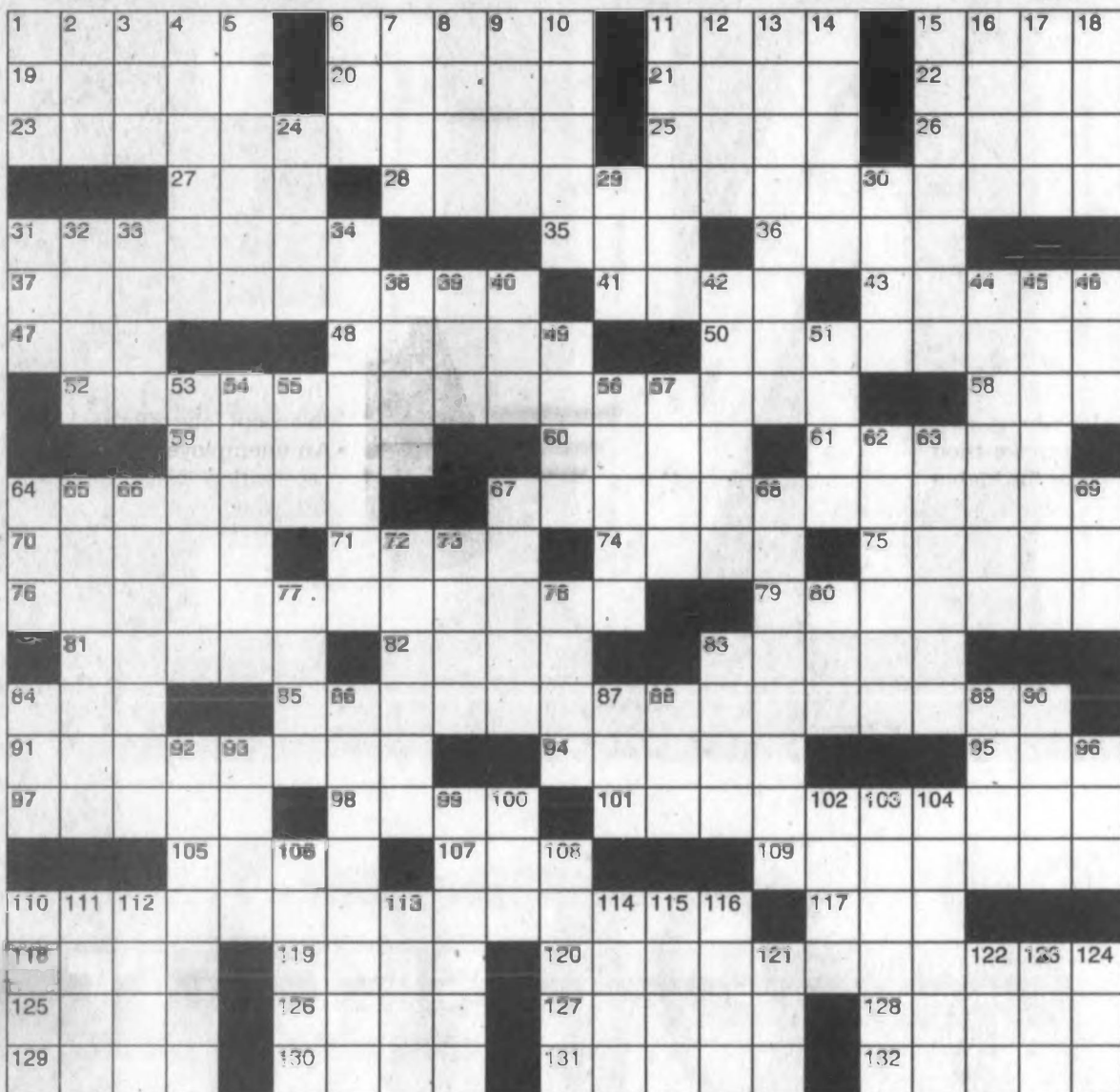
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PHONY-BALONEY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wearing nightclothes, for short
6 Meanie's look
11 In addition
15 Eyelid hair
19 Steel, e.g.
20 Ancient Greek region
21 Empty spaces
22 World's fair
23 Illegal detention
25 Columbus is its capital
26 British actor Guinness
27 "Mind your — business!"
28 High, round collar not folding over on itself
31 Without any variety
35 Ingest
36 Boston NBAer, for short
37 Paint job made to look like marble, wood, etc.
41 New Nintendo console of 2012
43 Big antlered beast
47 Opposite of dep., in an airport
- 48 Thin porridge
50 Saw against the main grain, as
52 Bit of money seized by a Secret Service agent
58 Ecol. monitor
59 Middays
60 Tiny arachnid
61 J. — Hoover
64 Like overdue birthday wishes
67 Bill & Ted went on one in a 1991 film
70 Wombs
71 Bible book after Prov.
74 Q-V linkup
75 "Spider-Man" director Sam
76 Wedlock not based on love
79 Cheer up
81 Burros, e.g.
82 — occasion (never)
83 Paris' river
84 Toronto-to-Montreal dir.
85 Prada or Fendi replica, maybe
91 "Beloved" novelist Toni
94 Buc, Bronco or Niner
95 Beatty of film
- 97 Cindy Brady player Susan
98 Former jets to the U.K.
101 Bit of non-needed body art
105 Sour plum
107 Stage star Hagen
109 Title for Kate Middleton
110 Component of a coated glass-bead bracelet, perhaps
117 Even score
118 Forum attire
119 In the past
120 Apt cry of disbelief for this puzzle
125 Coagulate
126 Rebuke from Caesar
127 Like a dweeb
128 About, before a date
129 At this place
130 Lather (up)
131 Gather up (never)
132 Hoodwinked
- DOWN**
- 1 Global finance org.
2 Teacher's union, in brief
3 Old TV ministry inits.
4 2002 "Friday" sequel
5 Whole lotta
6 Knightly title
7 Bulblike base of a stem
8 — cat (two-base game)
9 Neighbor of Minn. and Ill.
10 Jewish potato pancake
11 Relative of a guinea pig
12 Lion portrayer Bert
13 Feature of Betty Boop's hair
14 "— Mio"
15 Crude sheds
16 Car shaft
17 Project detail, for short
18 Sell at a pawnshop
24 Opponent
29 "I taut I — a puddy tat!"
30 Shade trees
31 Flip — coin
32 DEA worker
33 Irish money
34 Bring about
38 Some flawed garments: Abbr.
39 Add-on to the end of a wd.
40 Bit of a bray
42 Most polar
44 Sea nymph
45 Sovereign
46 Letter two before iota
49 VIP vehicle
51 Margarine
53 Deprives of weapons
54 "Sorry, too busy"
55 Bodily digit
56 Big striped cat, in French
57 A/C output q.tys.
62 Landscape painter Asher Brown —
63 Like low-quality eggs
64 City transport
65 Alcohol in liquor
66 Landlords or landladies
67 Empty
68 Having protruding hearing organs
69 Yang go-with
72 Sings gently
73 U.S. pres., militarily
77 Inquires
78 "Continue"
80 Architect Maya
83 Chiang Kai-
84 Broody rock genre
86 Investigate pryingly
87 Very loudly, in music
88 Miami loc.
89 Stud money
90 Old Storms and Trackers
92 Paraphrase
93 On Sunset Blvd., e.g.
96 Two, in Chile
99 Maintenance job on a car
100 Indy sponsor
102 Ballet outfit
103 Something very easy
104 Vegas casino
106 Some Siouan speakers
108 MetLife rival
110 Concern for a dermatologist
111 Concern for a dermatologist
112 Horror film lab assistant
113 Twice tetra-
114 "Psst" cousin
115 — avis
116 Some old Fords
121 The "S" of GPS: Abbr.
122 Hosp. zones
123 Ideal serve
124 Young fella



#2,088

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

	6			9			1	
4								3
			7	4	2			
		1					3	
9	5					6		1
		4					8	
			8	6	5			
3								2
	8			1			5	

Here's How It Works:

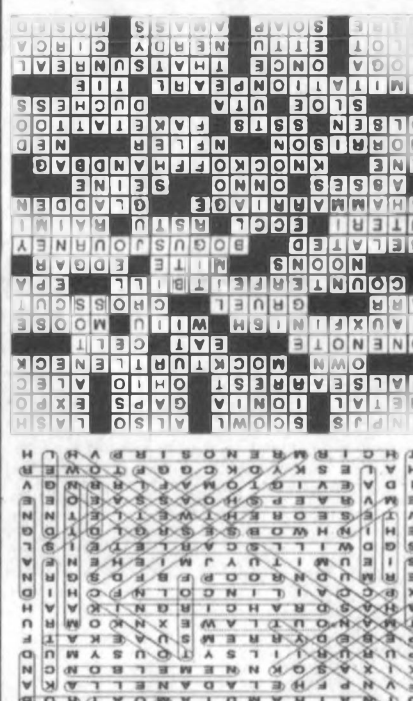
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

ROBIN HOOD

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.

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

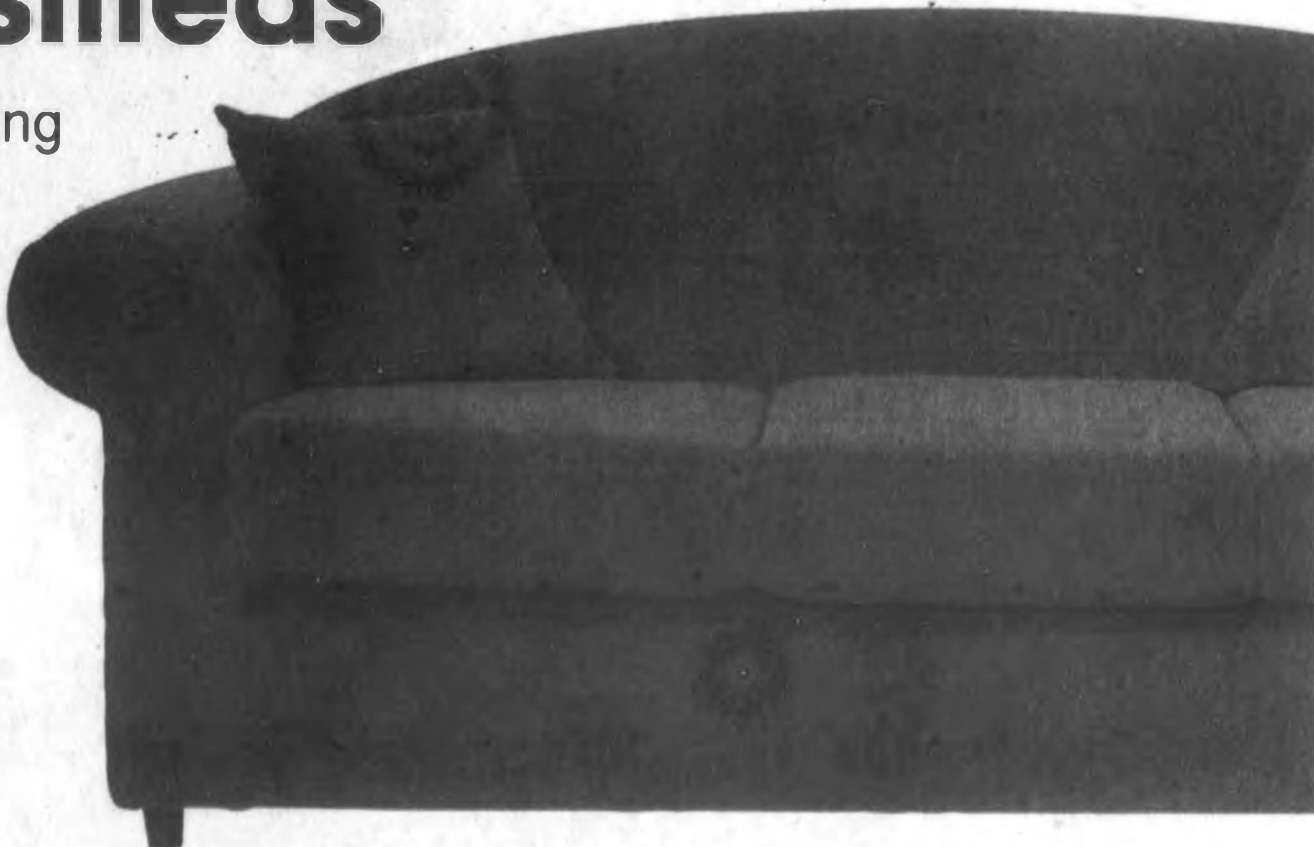
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FIRE
FOREST
FRIAR TUCK
GIVE
GLEN
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HORSES
KIDNAP
KING RICHARD
LEGEND
LINCOLN
MAID MARIAN
MEDIEVAL
MEN
MERRY
MOAT
MUCH
MYTH
NOBLEMEN
NOTTINGHAM
OAK
OUTLAW
PEASANTS
POOR
PRISONER
RICH
RIGHT
ROB
SHERIFF
SHERWOOD
SPEAR
STAFF
STEAL
TAKE
TAXES
THIEVES
TOWER
TUNIC
TYRANT
WILL SCARLET



9	9	4	3	1	2	6	8	7
2	6	1	4	7	4	1	6	9
6	3	2	5	9	8	2	7	1
7	6	8	1	3	5	4	2	9
1	2	9	7	8	4	5	9	6
5	4	3	6	2	9	1	7	8
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3	7	2	2	9	9	1	8	6
5	1	4	8	6	3	7	9	2

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