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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM K1

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Blake's Farms to take over Erwin Orchards in Lyon

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The owners of Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill have signed on to take over operations at Erwin Orchards.

"We've financially committed and are working out the details," Peter Blake, co-owner of the Armada-based business, confirmed. "We've got a big vision for the property but will maintain the integrity of Erwin's and put the Blake spin on it."

It's another seal on the huge deal known as Orchard Crossing, a 181-acre development at Silver Lake and Kent Lake roads, which will include 161 homes on 77 acres, leaving 104 acres for preservation of orchards and the cider mill, as well as new enterprises.

Developer Lombardo Homes first brought the Orchard Crossing plan to the township in April 2021, after several other developers were turned away. A few months later, Peter and Paul Blake announced their intention to partner with Lombardo and run orchard operations in the new development.

However, concerns continued to be raised over the lack of a formal agreement between the partners.

On June 6, those concerns were laid to rest as Supervisor John Dolan nervously asked Blake and company, "You guys are in?" and smiled, reassured, as he received a response in the affirmative.

"Ok. I believe it's a win, win, win," Dolan said. "I think the biggest benefit you could give us is the orchard and

See CIDER, Page 1A



Blake's Orchard and Cider Mill cider
DTE BEACON PARK

Find paradise



A view of the backyard gardens at the home of Nancy and Eddie Kay. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ideas for your own Eden on Milford Garden Walk

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nancy and Eddie Kay enjoy their own paradise on Pinewood in Milford with gardens that are a glory to behold.

Now they are ready to open them up to the public to also enjoy, as the first Milford Garden Walk since 2019 returns June 17-18, after a pandemic hiatus.

tus.

It's hard for Nancy Kay to just relax on a recent sunny morning in one of the many scenic sitting areas overlooking the three-acre property and hundreds of meticulously cared for plants, flowers, bushes, and trees.

"I'd much rather play in the dirt than work in the house," she said as she carries a garden trowel and examines a spot in her front garden where

she had earlier seen turkeys digging in the mulch. "I just enjoy seeing (the gardens) and when you see an area that needs attention and you fixed it up, it feels good."

Sunpatiens in an array of colors are abundant throughout the many gardens, and while the turkeys are currently missing, wildlife are frequent

See GARDEN, Page 1A

Downtown Northville streets will remain closed to cars until fall

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's an issue that's seemingly divided Northville into two camps: should the downtown roads stay closed or should they reopen?

After plenty of discussion, debate and conversation around town, the city council decided it would honor its previous decision to keep both Main Street and Center Street closed to vehicle traffic until just after Halloween.

"We gave a commitment to every business person in town to go to November," Mayor Brian Turnbull said. "Absolutely we'll commit today to November."

The debate came as COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in place from the state for nearly the last year, which originally prompted the closure of the downtown streets to allow for more dining and gathering spaces outside. The city also launched a social district, The Twist, which allowed visitors to wander the downtown with alcoholic

drinks.

The roads were closed in summer 2020 and the closures have been extended several times, the most recent taking place last December, when the city council decided to keep both closed until November 2022.

The council addressed the issue again at its June 6 meeting at Northville City Hall. The council reaffirmed that December 2021 decision, voting unanimously to keep the roads closed

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New luxury dealership will replace former Jaguar lot

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cars will once again be sold at the corner of 10 Mile and Haggerty in Novi.

The former Jaguar dealership at 24295 Haggerty will meet with a wrecking ball some time in the future and be replaced with a new, two-story building that will house Audi of Novi.

The plans would bring an auto dealership back to the corner, which has been vacant for several years since the Jaguar dealership moved to nearby Farmington Hills.

"They're planning on demolishing that and developing the site to build an approximately 12,000-square-foot, two-story car dealership building," said Christian Carroll, a city planner. "The site's not really changing in use substantially from the previous use."

The plans were reviewed during the city's planning commission meeting May 11 at the Novi Civic Center. Commissioners recommended approval of the plans, which now need the review of the city

council before work could begin.

Shane Burley, an architect with Studio Detroit working on the project, said he expected demolition to begin as quickly as it could.

"We're looking to start as soon as we get the ZBA approval," he said, referencing some additional variances they want to have for the new building. "We do have a few other items to go through from a site perspective, so we plan to gear up and demolish that building."

Planning Commissioner Ramesh Verma said he was concerned about all the glass shattering during the demolition. With plenty of bustle in the surrounding area, he was worried about it getting off the site and affecting those sites around the former dealership.

"When you do it, the road is only 60 feet wide and the Dunkin' Donuts and all those (businesses), they are affected," he said. "Make sure you take all of the precautions please."

Burley said the contractor plans to keep all the material on the site when it demolishes the building. He said he expects it will be pushed over; no implosions are ex-



A rendering of what the new dealership at the corner of 10 Mile and Haggerty in Novi is expected to look like. The Audi dealership would replace the former Jaguar dealership, which has been empty for several years. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NOVI

pected to take place on the site.

Overall, the commission were in favor of the redevelopment, with all members voting to recommend approval.

"I think it'll fit nicely in the site," said Planning Commissioner Michael Lynch.

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

While usually avoided, here's when reverse mortgages are good investment



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have an issue that I hope you can help me with. I am in my early 80s and I have a pension and Social Security. This covers most of my needs and when I am short I take money from my investment account. My problem deals with my daughter who is in dire financial straits. I am planning to give her \$150,000. I have two options as to where to take the money from:

- 1 Sell some of my investments
- 2 Take out a reverse mortgage

I have spoken to reverse mortgage company and they have said that I can easily take out \$150,000.

Given where the market is, do you think it makes sense to take out a reverse mortgage rather than sell my investments? I am aware of the cost of the reverse mortgage and also do not intend to have my daughter reimburse me. My house is paid off and even after the reverse mortgage, I would still have equity in the house.

Thanks, Bob

Dear Bob:

Based on your situation, I think a reverse mortgage is the best option. There are pros and cons of each of the alternatives, but I believe the pros outweigh the cons when it comes to the reverse mortgage.

Generally, I do not like to sell into weakness. That is why I constantly encourage investors to have a diversified portfolio and maintain an emergency fund of money. Diversified portfolios allow you to free up cash without having to take a significant loss. Unfortunately, the market has retreated this year, and it is not a great time to sell stocks.

Therefore, by taking the reverse mortgage, you give yourself time for stocks to regain their strength. In fact, when stocks do regain their strength you will have the option at that point in time, if you choose, to pay off the reverse mortgage. Just like any other type of mortgage, you can pay the reverse mortgage off when you choose.

Many people are not fans of reverse mortgages because they believe that reverse mortgages take advantage of seniors. I disagree. I believe reverse mortgages are like any other financial tool in that if you use it properly it can be a benefit.

Unfortunately, too many people use reverse mortgages to fund frivolous things, and thus it causes problems down the road.

I generally prefer that people use reverse mortgages to cover cash flow problems or to improve the quality of their life. I generally oppose reverse mortgages for things such as investing, loaning money to family and friends or even to finance grandchildren's college educations. Not that these things are not important, but reverse mortgages are generally not the tool to accomplish these goals.

For seniors who are considering a reverse mortgage, the current economic conditions are favorable. Interest rates, although they have increased, are still very reasonable and home valuations are still high.

If you are interested in a reverse mortgage, remember to always pay attention to the fees associated. In addition, just like you shop around when you get a normal mortgage, I think it also pays to shop around for reverse mortgages.

Good luck.

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

Wayne County, Oakland County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan reported 18,453 new cases of coronavirus in the week ending Sunday, down 5.5% from the previous week. The previous week had 19,535 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 28th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 0.9% from the week before, with 753,773 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 2.45% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 31 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 3,631 cases and 22 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 3,720 cases and three deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 435,780 cases and 8,041 deaths.

Oakland County reported 2,934 cases and 15 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 3,048 cases and two deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 315,618 cases and 3,892 deaths.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 52 counties, with the best declines in Macomb County, with 1,711 cases from 1,881 a week earlier; in Clinton County, with 130 cases from 244; and in Oakland County, with 2,934 cases from 3,048.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Washtenaw County with 314 cases per 100,000 per week; Schoolcraft County with 297; and Mackinac County with 287. 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 3,631 cases; Oakland County, with 2,934 cases; and Macomb County, with 1,711. Weekly

case counts rose in 29 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Saginaw, Berrien and Oceana counties.

In Michigan, 131 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 50 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,565,819 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 36,538 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 85,515,795 people have tested positive and 1,011,275 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 falling

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, June 12.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 1,057
- The week before that: 1,121
- Four weeks ago: 1,239

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 59,343
- The week before that: 56,290
- Four weeks ago: 49,207

Hospitals in 30 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 31 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 29 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 about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

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Mason offers top schools job to Novi leader

Mark Johnson

Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MASON - The Mason Public Schools Board of Education has selected the person members hope will become the next superintendent.

At a meeting Wednesday, the board voted to offer the district's superintendent job to Gary Kinzer.

Kinzer is the assistant superintendent of human resources at Novi Community Schools, according to a message from Board of Education President Kurt Creamer.

Kinzer was selected over Matthew Stuard, executive director of curriculum at Mason Public Schools, and Kevin Dufresne, principal at Mason Public Schools' Steele Elementary.

Kinzer worked in Okemos for 24 years before taking his current position in Novi.

In 1993, Kinzer started his education career as an English teacher at Imlay



Students at Mason High School head into school for the first day of school, Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

City High School, part of Imlay City Community Schools.

He moved to Okemos High School in 1994 to take a job as an Okemos High School English teacher, a role he held through 1999.

Kinzer served as Kinawa Middle School assistant principal and athletic director from 1999 to 2006, moving on to become Hiawatha Elementary School principal from 2006 to 2017, when he left for Novi.

Kinzer's wife, Marcy, worked for Mason Public Schools for more than 14 years.

"I have a long leadership set of experiences that I think have qualified me to do this work," Kinzer said during his first interview on May 24.

"In all of those positions, I've had opportunities to do all sorts of things that have prepared me to be an effective superintendent."

Even with a career spanning nearly three decades, Kinzer doesn't plan to retire in the immediate future.

"While I've had a long career, I have a long way to go," Kinzer said. "I have a lot of energy. I'm nowhere near the end of my career."

Contact Mark Johnson at 517-377-1026 or majohnson2@lsj.com.



Ellen Dillard straightens her father's tie. Oliver Dillard Jr. recently toured Canton's new VA facility, which may be named after Dillard's father, Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general who died in 2015. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New Wayne County VA clinic to honor decorated Army general

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Relatives of Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general buried at Arlington National Cemetery, recently toured Canton's new VA clinic knowing the spacious, convenient location may be named after their relative.

Congresswomen Haley Stevens and Debbie Dingell wandered through the lobby, exam rooms and other areas of the 5900 North Lotz Road building with the family.

All were impressed with their surroundings, and Oliver Dillard Jr. was touched to know the facility likely would bear his father's name. Dillard Sr., a retired Army general and longtime Canton resident, died in 2015.

"The effort that he put in to go to the VA is now coming back," said Dillard Jr., who owns DC Hydraulics Inc. on Koppernick Road. "He's getting back the reason he went to the VA, to see VA give back to the veterans more of the services that they deserve. This is a great facility. It looks great."

On May 26, just before Memorial Day, Stevens and Dingell officially shared legislation supported by the entire Michigan delegation to rename the new community-based outpatient clinic after Dillard Sr.

He was studying at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama when a military draft swept him in to World War II. A commanding officer convinced him to pursue studies at the Officer Candidate School.



Oliver Dillard Sr.
SUBMITTED

According to his obituary, he became known for a number of firsts: first Black graduate of the National War College and first Black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

Dillard Sr. retired in 1980 as a major general after almost 35 years of military service. He insisted on medical care from the VA health network and, upon settling in Canton, spent some years relying on care from the VA medical center in Ann Arbor.

"My dad made a conscious effort to try and help veterans — because general officers don't go to the VA," the son said. "He figured that, if he went, he would drag the system up because they'd have to take care of him."

He fondly remembered how the general "really got a real kick" out of walking through the medical center for his appointments. The unassuming man would receive greetings from other patients and members of the medical team.

But the military officer and his non-military son could go back and forth over the propriety of the general's demands, which occa-

sionally seemed to involve pulling rank.

"Whenever he would get ill, the first thing he would want to do is go to Ann Arbor and go to the emergency and jump the line," Dillard Jr. remembered. "I would say, 'You can't do that. All veterans are equal. They're all the same rank. That's not fair.'"

Dillard Sr. would mention the obvious — "Well, I'm a general!" — but ultimately would concur with his son.

"It's nice to see now that they're giving veterans an alternative place to go, to get care quicker," Dillard Jr. said of the new Canton facility that's expected to serve about 12,000 local veterans. "They're streamlining the service."

He likened the Ann Arbor VA medical campus to a maze. In contrast, the Canton clinic has one floor, and patients will stay in one exam room while members of the care team come to them.

"This is a nice concept, and I think it's going to be a real advantage for veterans," he said.

Ellen Dillard toured the facility with her father. A nurse practitioner who once helped her grandfather navigate medical services, she also appreciated the convenience of the Canton location.

"It's a great honor," she said of the name that is likely to appear on the façade. "He definitely had a lot of accomplishments. He definitely would be proud and excited."

A ribbon cutting ceremony is expected in the fall.



Elected officials, from left, Canton Township Supervisor Ann Marie Graham-Hudak, Congresswoman Haley Stevens and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell visited the new Canton VA facility May 26 with Jo and Oliver Dillard Jr. The politicians want the facility named after Oliver Dillard Sr., a decorated Army general and longtime Canton resident who died in 2015. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Voters to decide on lawmakers' term limits for state elected leaders

Dave Boucher
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Michigan Legislature gave the go-ahead to a ballot proposal that will let voters decide whether its worthwhile to change term limits and create new financial disclosure requirements for state elected leaders.

The House voted 76-28 in favor of the without any discussion or debate. That's just barely enough to eclipse the 73 votes needed, or support of two-thirds of the 109 currently elected and serving representatives, in order to approve proposed changes to the Constitution.

The Senate followed suit, voting 26-6 in favor of the same resolution. The upper chamber also did so without any debate or discussion and barely cleared the required two-thirds threshold.

"In my view, Michigan's current term limits discourage good people from running for office, shifting the power from the people to the bureaucracy and interest groups, which negatively impacts the legislative process," said Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake.

"Likewise, it is also important that we strike a reasonable balance when it comes to the financial information elected officials must disclose to help make government more transparent, and not further discourage good folks from running for office."

In order to change the state Constitution to add these new rules, activists either needed to collect more than 425,000 signatures or get both legislative chambers to approve the language.

While advocates for the proposal recently called on lawmakers to take this action, the language approved by the Legislature requires elected leaders to disclose far fewer financial details than suggested by the original ballot proposal.

Despite the weaker language, supporters of the ballot proposal thanked lawmakers for their action.

"Under this proposal, Michigan will join 48 other states by requiring its elected state officials to disclose their finances. It will restore faith in government and give real teeth to conflict of interest standards by forcing state officials to publicly disclose all relevant aspects of their finances," said Voters for Transparency and Term Limits co-chairs Mark Gaffney and Rich Studley.

"It maintains the key types of disclosure that the people of Michigan have long urged, including assets, travel, lobbyist gifts, investments."

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 28, 2022, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., at Old Village School, 405 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, the Board of Education of Northville Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2022-2023 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2022-2023 budget until after a public hearing. Beginning June 23, 2022, a copy of the proposed 2022-2023 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at Old Village School, 405 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan.

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

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Angela Jaafar, Secretary
Northville Public Schools
Board of Education

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The House and Senate approved the language of the proposed constitutional amendment, sending the issue to voters in the fall. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

and income sources, but tailors them to standards, dates, and penalties in Michigan law."

Gaffney is the former leader of the Michigan AFL-CIO and Studley previously led the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, entities that are frequently at odds on policy positions.

The suggested change to the state Constitution in the ballot proposal — pushed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, former elected leaders and activists — requires sweeping financial disclosures for Michigan elected officials from the governor to state lawmakers.

But advocates wanted the requirements to mirror those already in place for Congress and include disclosing details on property, income, debts, nondisclosure agreements, travel payments and more.

The language approved by lawmakers does not require elected leaders to disclose details on the purchase, sale or exchange of a security or real property, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency.

Michigan officials are not currently required to divulge any of this information, joining Idaho as the only two states where this is the case. House lawmakers routinely approve legislation to require greater disclosure, but the measures typically languish in the Senate.

The ballot proposal also included language

by lawmakers. Under the legislative plan, the first disclosure would not need to be filed until April 2024. Elected leaders would need to file annually from that point moving forward.

Lawmakers also tweaked the definition of a gift or travel payment to mirror what lobbyists are already required to report under current law. The existing rules are substantially weaker than the language in the original ballot proposal.

The term limit language is the same in both the original ballot proposal and the resolution approved by lawmakers.

The resolution reduces the total amount of time someone can spend at the statehouse from 14 to 12 years, but increases the number of years allowed in either chamber. Right now lawmakers can serve six years in the House and eight years in the Senate. The change would allow a lawmaker to serve all 12 years in either the House or Senate.

Constitutional amendments can be enacted with a simple majority of votes cast in the general election.

Supporters say the joint proposal will provide desperately needed financial transparency and give lawmakers a chance to gain valuable experience before they cycle out of the Legislature.

The general election is Nov. 8.

Due to the holiday, our office hours and obituary placement times may vary.

Please contact us at 800-926-8237 or detroitobits@gannett.com for further details.

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Novi heroes honored after saving drowning child in pool

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One moment, Marvin Petrous was just a dad watching his kids and others play in a Novi pool.

Seconds later, he and Kailyn Alton were heroes, saving 7-year-old Ian Cho from drowning and his family from a lifetime of sorrow.

Petrous and Alton were recently honored with Civilian Lifesaving citations during the Novi Police and Fire Awards Ceremony.

"It's a true honor," Alton said. "I think Marvin and I both stepped up to something that needed to be done, and fortunately, there is a great outcome from it. We can still see the child living a happy, healthy life."

Ian Cho is now an 8-year-old second grader at Parkview Elementary.

"My son is growing up normal," Youngjoo Cho, Ian's father, said. "I am grateful to God and these people who saved my son."

The entire episode, which happened a year ago, still feels unreal to Cho, as well as to his son's saviors, all of whom were strangers to each other at the time.

"For the first few months, I thought, 'Did this really happen and why did I see it?'" Petrous recounted. "I felt it was my time to do something, God wanted me to do it. To me, that's winning the lottery."

Petrous and his wife Venice were at the Liberty Park community pool enjoying the day with their 12-year-old twins last May when they had an inkling something might be awry.

Two young boys were among about 20 people who were in the pool, and the two had been climbing on each other when Venice Petrous noticed one of the boys had gone under. Marvin Petrous started counting, panic growing as the seconds ticked by without the child resurfacing.

He began shouting, "Somebody grab him! Somebody grab him!"

But Ian Cho, who had sunk to the bottom of the pool, was not visible to confused swimmers. Marvin Petrous rushed in to pull Ian up and out of the water.

His voice breaks now as he remembers: "He was lifeless, gone, blue in the face... It was so hard, so hard. He was



Kailyn Alton (formerly Kailyn Gasso) and Marvin Petrous with Ian Cho, days after the strangers saved the 7-year from drowning in a Novi pool. COURTESY OF YOUNGJOO CHO

just gone."

Petrous, 45, pulled Ian out of the pool and began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation motions he had learned from school "back in the day." He tilted back the little boy's head and began pushing on his rib cage.

"I didn't know what to do, but I have to do something — this is a 7-year-old kid and his life is in my hands," Petrous said. "I just had to keep going, no way in hell can I stop."

Alton, who had been on the other side of the pool reading a magazine arrived at the side of Petrous, seemingly "out of nowhere."

The off-duty ER nurse took over CPR on Ian, who didn't have a pulse.

"Time goes by so slow and so fast at the same," recalled Alton. "It was maybe a minute or so. He started coughing up pool water and regained color. He was confused; a lot had just happened to him... The whole pool, all the moms and

dads were very emotional."

Petrous said he had never seen so many emotional people in his life, all witnessing a child brought back from dead to alive. Among them was a woman who was frozen and speechless, who Petrous would later learn was Ian's mother.

A language barrier, shock, and urgently following her child as he was taken by first responders to the hospital prevented mom Soyoung Kang from expressing her gratitude at the scene.

However, Kang and her husband would meet with Petrous and Alton just two days later in a joyful, tearful reunion with a fully recovered Ian.

The family, who had moved to the U.S. from South Korea just a few months prior, couldn't seem to thank them enough, Alton remembers.

Ian's family, which also includes younger brother Ein, gave both heroes hand-written, cherished mementoes



Ian Cho calls Marvin Petrous his hero, and depicts him as Superman after the Novi man pulled Ian from the bottom of a pool in May 2021. COURTESY OF MARVIN PETROUS

they have kept.

In a letter to Petrous accompanied by drawings, Ian writes a simple message:

"Dear Marvin,

Thank you for saving my life and telling my Mom I was in a big, big, big, big, big danger. If you were not there, I can not be here today with my family."

Ian's parents began their letter of gratitude in a similar, simple way — thanking Marvin Petrous and Kailyn Alton for saving their child's life, and also their family. They then pondered what could have been had their heroes not been there that day, something so scary that it dare not be imagined.

They explained that it was the family's first time at the pool, but Ian had previously been learning to swim for several months and the water depth was believed to be shallower than the children's height across the entirety of the pool.

Without Petrous and Alton's heroic actions, they said, Ian would have been found too late. With that fear now allayed, Ian's family had a new worry: That they could not properly express their gratitude because of language and cultural differences.

"Even so, I hope that my family's gratitude will be conveyed to you," they wrote. "Thank you for sharing kindness and love with someone you don't know well. Your love saved our family from terrible grief."

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

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A guide to Juneteenth events in metro Detroit

Shelby Tankersley

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Community groups across metro Detroit will bring people together to recognize Juneteenth this weekend.

The national holiday commemorates the day the last group of slaves in Texas were notified of their freedom on June 19, 1865. Events across the region will give people a chance to celebrate freedom for all Americans, shop, eat and learn about the holiday's history.

Here's a few local events to check out:

Heritage Celebration in Westland

Wayne County Parks and Huron-Clinton Metroparks are partnering to host a Juneteenth event at Nankin Mills Park in Westland noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

The first-time event will include storytelling, activities for children like inflatables, musical entertainment, crafts and more. Nankin Mills is located at 33275 Edward Hines Drive.

To learn more, call 734-261-1990.

Canton Liberty Fest

Canton Township is hosting a Juneteenth celebration as part of its annual Liberty Fest through a partnership with Jack and Jill of America. The inaugural ceremony will kick off a community tradition that will continue in future years.

People will gather at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 1150 South Canton Center Road, 3 p.m. Saturday, June 18 for presentations and entertainment. Performers include the Oak Park Marching Band and Thornetta Davis. The Divine 9 Yard Show will also put on a step show in honor of historically Black fraternities and sororities.

Vendors at the site are will all be Black-owned businesses.

Culture, unity event at Novi library

The Novi Public Library, 45255 Ten Mile Road, is putting an educational spin on the fun during its "Unity in the Community" event 12:30-3 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

The free event is sponsored by the Novi Rotary and will feature a traveling Black history museum, presentations, a step show, music, food and more. Slows BBQ will have a food truck on site featuring some of its signature dishes like pulled pork and mac and cheese that will be available for purchase.

The library is requesting people sign up by filling out a form at novilibrary.org

Annual Farmington area Juneteenth event

First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church of Farmington Hills hosts a Juneteenth event every year inspired by the late John H. Burns II, who died in 2019 and was a priest at the church. The celebration this year begins 7 p.m. Friday, June 17 and ends 6 p.m. Sunday at Nardin Park Church on 29887 West Eleven Mile Road.

Organizers will show family-friendly movies beginning 7 p.m. Friday night and Saturday will bring food and activities as part of a freedom celebration. On Sunday afternoon, organizers will hold an "intercultural ancestral and collective healing event."

The event is free, but people are asked to register beforehand at the weekend's Eventbrite page.

Week of events in Detroit

Detroit's department of civil rights, inclusion and opportunity along with its office of arts, culture and entrepreneurship will host a slate of events June 16-23.

Some of the highlights include a Black business crawl on June 16-19, a public reading of the Emancipation Proclamation 3 p.m. Thursday, June 16, and a Juneteenth celebration Sunday, June 19, including entertainment and education. All events will take place at the civil rights office on 2 Woodward Avenue.

To learn more and see the full schedule of events, visit detroitmi.gov.

Ann Arbor Juneteenth

Ann Arbor's branch of the NAACP has been hosting a Juneteenth event



Canton's Liberty Fest weekend, held this year June 17-19, usually draws thousands of carnival goers. CANTON TOWNSHIP



People walk and shop during Juneteenth celebrations on the Avenue of Fashion on Livernois in Detroit on June 19, 2021. ERIC SEALS, DETROIT FREE PRESS

since the 1990s. Things will get started this year 10 a.m. Saturday, June 18, with a unity march beginning at Fuller Park, 1519 Fuller Road.

Starting at noon, a daylong program will happen at Wheeler Park, 200 Depot Street, complete with children's activities, vendors, food, entertainment and

more. Learn more at annarborjuneteenth.com.

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

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HEAR MICHIGAN CENTERS

Garden

Continued from Page 1A

visitors and also include deer, squirrels and ducks. Today, a frog suns itself on one of the many large decorative landscape boulders that frame the Kays' backyard centerpiece: a pond, complete with goldfish and a stunning waterfall.

Nearby, a plaque with a frog motif notes, "Very little is needed to make a happy life."

The waterfall was one of the things the Kays needed after seeing it on a previous Milford Garden Walk. The couple, married for 60 years, had Landscape Magic install the waterfall, pond, and all the gardens after their home in the northwest corner of the township was built in 2019. Previously, they had lived in another Milford home for 40 years.

It continues to help maintain the gardens, which feature hydrangeas, rose-bushes, Japanese maples, Roxanne geraniums and weeping pines, but Nancy Kay does a fair amount of the work herself, about 10 hours a week, and also has assistance from a friend and her grandchildren.

It is early in the season for some of the blooms, but they are looking for-

ward to the explosion of color yet to come in reds, yellows, purples, blues and more.

"It's relaxing," Eddie Kay said. "We've been here three years and it's not something we get tired of and it changes through the seasons."

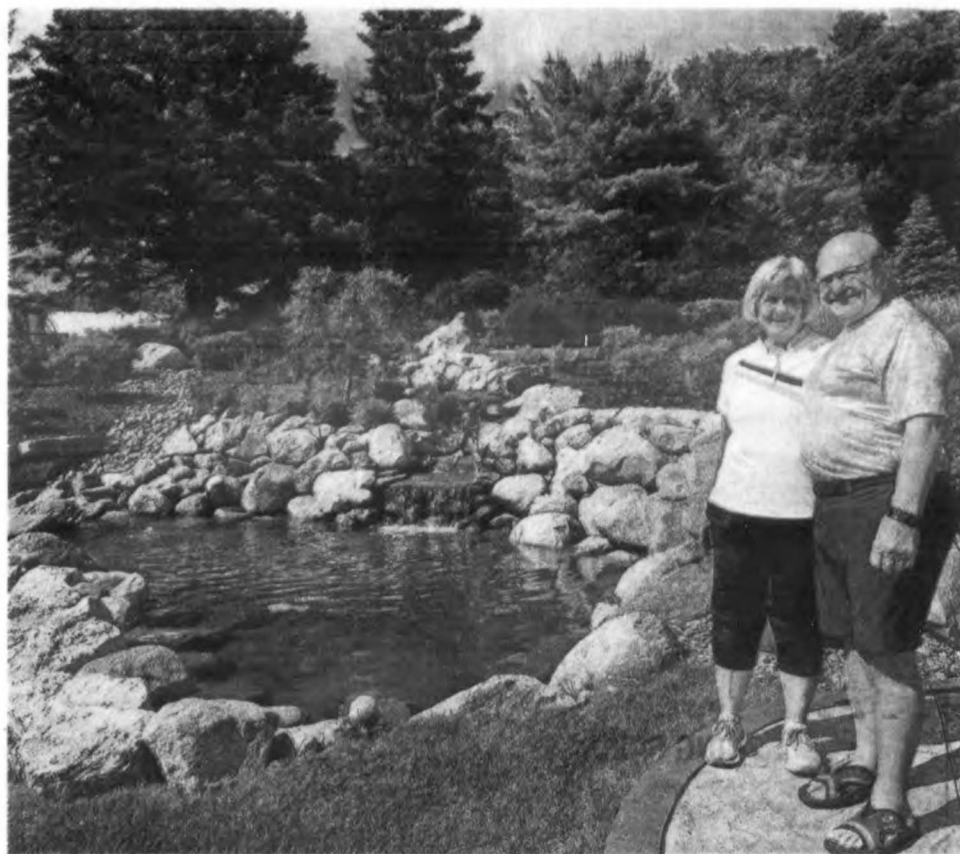
After a few seasons of pandemic, they are looking forward to the big reveal and invite you to see it during the 25th Milford Garden Walk.

Besides the Kay gardens, five other homes with beautiful gardens chosen by the Milford Garden Club are featured on the walk, which is set for 4-8 p.m. June 17 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 18. Tickets are \$12 if purchased in advance or \$15 the day of at the Milford United Methodist Church. Proceeds benefit college scholarships for Huron Valley Schools seniors.

"It's a peaceful feeling, when you walk through these gardens," Gail Cooper, Milford Garden Club member, said. "Not only do you get clever ideas and see something totally unexpected, but it's fun."

For more information, visit www.themilfordgardenclub.org

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



Nancy and Eddie Kay next to their pond with waterfall, inspired by a previous Milford Garden Walk. The couple's extensive, beautiful gardens are featured in the 25th garden walk, the first since 2019.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



An expansive garden in the front yard of 1661 Pinewood, the home of Nancy and Eddie Kay. Their gardens are featured in the Milford Garden Walk. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A view from the top of the waterfall in the Milford yard of Nancy and Eddie Kay. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A mosaic bench catches the sun in the front garden at Nancy and Eddie Kay's Milford home. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Airways	Dramatic	Laps	Scan
Alarm	Drown	Legs	Shark
Alert	Dumper	Lessons	Siren
Attach	Duty officer	Ocean	Speed
Belt	Famous	Panic	Surfboard
Breathe	Grommet	Relax	Train
Calm	Guys	Rescues	Tube
Carnivals	Help	Risk	Wash
Crew	Injuries	Roster	Wetsuit
Dive	Kick	Sand	Whistle
Dog paddle	Leaves	Save	

TODAY'S ANSWER

Watching for danger

Swim between the flags

PSRISKFAMOUSDRN
LCGCPWXRGATNCEE
EHIEAAARAUADPR
HEINLLORTSYSUMI
RBLEAMMOTUNSTUS
ETRDMPGSAREEYDC
SRLEDFSTCFVLOTA
CETEAAOEHBINFIR
ULSUBTPRNODIFUN
EAYSBNHKGACAIISI
SCANWEREORLRCETV
PVCWOCEANDDATEEA
EDRAMATICSAHRWL
EDINSEIRUJNISGS
DEARWHISTLEKICK

PUZZLES & POSERS

THE ASTERISK RISK

TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE ALL ASTERISKS OF IDENTICAL NUMBER MUST LIE IN A STRAIGHT LINE. ~EXAMPLE: ASTERISKS MARKED 4. THIS MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY REMOVING ONLY SIX ASTERISKS AND REPOSITIONING THEM IN THE SAME SIX POSITIONS.



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Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: SILVER

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

Cider

Continued from Page 1A

just keeping the orchard there is so important to this township. Every meeting, everyone wanted the orchard to stay, and it's staying. Thanks for keeping the orchard."

Trustee Sean O'Neil agreed, noting the board had seen a lot of "horrible" plans in which other developers wanted to add 400 homes rather than maintain the orchard. The Blakes' involvement in the orchard part of this plan is something he believes will leave a little bit of the Erwin legacy.

"This is the first time that a significant development's happened where I hear nothing but excitement," he said. "For every one comment of concern, I hear five or 10: 'When's it coming, when are they going to break ground? Can I buy hard cider?'"

That's part of the plan.

Immediately following the board's approval of the first reading for the housing plan final review and agreement, they approved an off-premises tasting room license for Blake Farms Hard Apple Cider, LLC. The step is necessary before being issued a permit by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to sell and serve alcoholic drinks manufactured elsewhere.

Blake's is planning a 20,000-square-foot tasting room which will include a full-service restaurant, bar service, and cidery/beer brewing. The facility would be open year-round and located on the northeast corner of Silver Lake and Kent Lake roads.

Also in this north side orchard operations area would be a 20,000 square-foot event venue with a 400-person capacity, and an outdoor patio. Additionally, a 3,500 square-foot restaurant and 1,000-square-foot farmer's market will share a building which will be designed to accommodate the potential for a drive-thru lane around the facility.

On the south side of Silver Lake, plans are for the existing cider mill to be expanded by 12,500 square feet with a cider press, cafe, retail sales and office. An outdoor gathering space currently under the name of "Orchard



Erwin Orchards in Lyon Township allows guests to pick a select variety of apples through the late summer and fall.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Square" will have green space, walkways, patio, seating areas and seasonal merchandise tents.

An "agritainment" area will host larger events in a 10-acre area with up to three small pavilions and one large 60-by-100-foot pavilion available for rent.

The u-pick operation will "preserve a significant portion" of the current orchard area.

Peter Blake said they plan to run the orchard operations with possibly only some minor changes for crowd and traffic control this fall while familiarizing themselves with the property.

Construction could be as soon as next year as they begin to incorporate their vision.

"It will take years to put the full plan together, but we're excited," Blake said.

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Canvas holders
- 6 Conclusive procedures
- 15 Fan site
- 16 "10-4"
- 17 City east of Delft
- 18 Longfellow lover
- 19 It may be underfoot
- 21 Marked, in a way
- 22 Olivier Award winner of 1981
- 23 They're essential to a Dairy Queen "Blizzard"
- 25 Divide
- 26 Original co-owner of Disneyland
- 27 Beloved Hollywood nickname
- 29 Put down
- 30 Didn't go together
- 32 Put over
- 34 Pulitzer winner for *The Good War*
- 35 Evidence of some accents
- 39 Athlete's jitters
- 41 Surpassed
- 42 GM news of 2010
- 45 Prime time for oysters
- 47 Shell filling
- 48 Union election agcy.
- 50 Show fear, perhaps
- 51 Something to rattle
- 52 Possible results of raptness

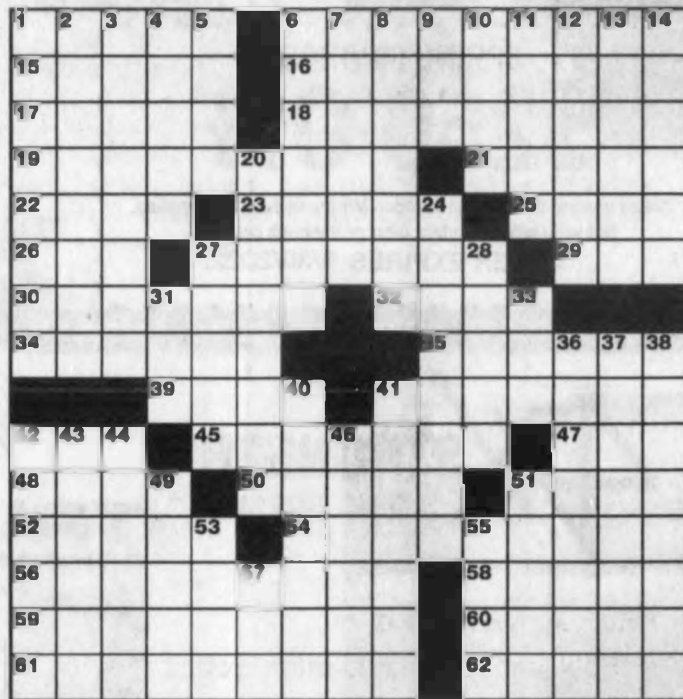
- 54 Source of fast-acting carbs
- 56 2007 Best Director Oscar sharer
- 58 "Bow down, archangels, in your dim _": Yeats
- 59 Posted
- 60 Dockers' cousins
- 61 Certain racers
- 62 Ticket seller

DOWN

- 1 Vaudeville staple
- 2 Venial
- 3 Certain racer
- 4 Astronomical study
- 5 Jeremy Irons in *The Lion King*

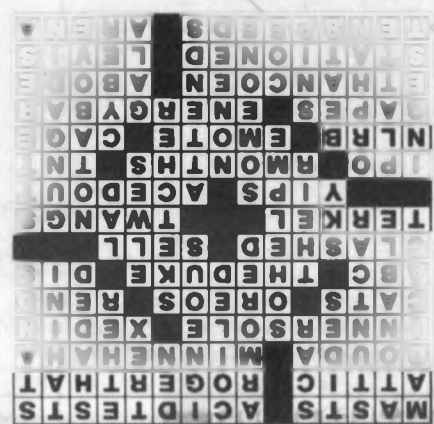
- 6 Carrying mail
- 7 Went around in circles
- 8 Of volcanic origin
- 9 Hiding place
- 10 King Kong opponent
- 11 Heavens
- 12 Not hot, perhaps
- 13 Greek bread spread
- 14 Won't change
- 20 "And that's the truth!"
- 24 Caricaturist
- 27 *Finest Hour* (Churchill book)
- 28 Mel Brooks' Robin Hood
- 31 Heavens
- 33 Nipper

- 36 Willing to consider
- 37 Water carrier of verse
- 38 Spanish patron
- 40 A VIP
- 41 Listens carefully
- 42 Eat
- 43 River followed by the Pony Express
- 44 Unfunded, as a research project
- 46 Refusal of assistance
- 49 Overcomes
- 51 Space starter
- 53 Presumptuous person
- 55 Festive
- 57 Cedar Rapids school



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TODAY'S ANSWER



Downtown

Continued from Page 1A

to traffic until then after a survey was taken asking the community its thoughts on the closures. That survey saw more than 4,000 responses, and was reviewed by the city council earlier this spring.

Council rejects reopening Center Street

A recent recommendation from the Downtown Development Authority asked the council to consider reopening Center Street as soon as possible with Main Street staying closed to cars until the original November date. That recommendation was approved by the DDA board by a 5-4 vote, one of the tightest votes DDA Director Lori Ward said she's seen during her time in Northville.

But council declined to follow that recommendation, saying they wanted to keep the original agreement in place. Councilman Andrew Krentz listed several reasons for keeping the roads closed, saying Northville had become a unique destination with creating an atmosphere no other surrounding community had been able to accomplish.

"Vibrant communities are built from vibrant shared third places," he said. "We have lightning in a bottle."

There's been some demand from some community members and business owners to reopen the roads to vehicles, saying the closures have outlived their need. One of those is South Lyon resident Thomas Fox, who said he works downtown. He said he recently had an incident where someone almost struck him with their car when he was walking near Wing Street, something he thinks would not be a concern had all the city's roads been open to vehicular traffic.

"My life would have actually been affected by the road closure," he said. "You have to consider other people's lives outside the community who come there to work."

Michele Johnson, an owner of Colors of the Wood downtown, said the



Downtown Northville's The Twist region preps to add covered and heated gathering spaces in 2020.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

closures have been nothing but a success. She said she routinely gets positive feedback from customers about having the streets closed.

"As a business on Center Street, we have gotten almost 100% positive feedback on the streets being closed," she said. "We've received a lot of positive feedback from our customers."

While the streets will remain closed the next several months, city council members realized the issue is something that will continuously return back to council, especially with issues of traffic. That's a problem that existed before the street closures and will continue to be one until council addresses it, said Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne.

"We had a traffic problem and a pedestrian safety problem before the pandemic," she said. "Prior to the pandemic, in the evenings ... we were all finding a way to avoid Center Street and Main Street. Whatever our decision is, we need to address those. And that's become more clear."

"I don't want to keep kicking the decision on the road closure down the road."

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



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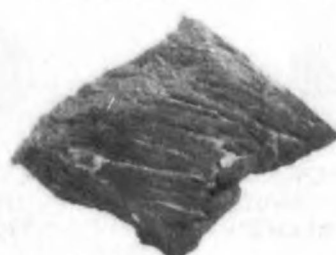
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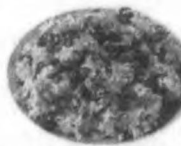
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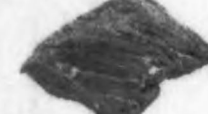
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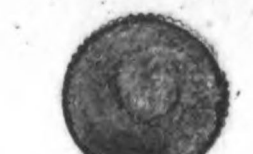
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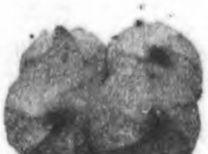
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SPORTS

'It was a total group effort'

Here's who helped South Lyon's Ava Bradshaw win Gatorade POY honor

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ava Bradshaw wasn't merely offering lip service to prove she's a good sport and an even better teammate.

The South Lyon sophomore was being dead serious.

"Really, it is an individual award," the pitcher said. "But I feel like this team won it with me. Does that make sense?"

"It was a total group effort."

And that award? Pretty much the best one you can win.

On June 9, she was named the Gatorade Softball Player of the Year for Michigan.

You know, just a little banner that'll hang in South Lyon's gym that says Bradshaw was the best player in the state in all of 2022. It's a pretty big deal.

Entering the week, she carried a 28-2 record with a 0.88 ERA and had struck out 314 batters through 175 2/3 innings pitched. She had just 31 walks. Offensively, she batted close to .400, smacked three homers and drove in 34 runs.

Not only does she carry a 4.0 grade-point average but she has also been ranked the No. 10 2024 recruit in the entire country by Extra Inning Softball.

And, according to Gatorade, those stats put her heads-and-shoulders above the rest of the state's players nominated for the honor.

But here's why it was a total group effort for her to win it.

First of all, her pursuit of being the best began well before the No. 1-ranked Lions started their Division 1 state title defense earlier this spring. It was her and catcher Madison McKenzie getting together multiple times a week during the fall and winter. Throwing and catching. Simulating being in a jam. Balls and strikes. Hour after hour of practice.

And it wasn't like Bradshaw could just show up. She's just a sophomore. She didn't have a driver's license until recently. So it was McKenzie putting tons of miles on her car so the two could get to the gym and work together.

See BRADSHAW, Page 3B



South Lyon's Ava Bradshaw celebrates a home run during the Division 1 softball regional final against Dexter on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Northville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Eagles win 5th straight district crown, despite sloppy base running

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pheh, that was close!

Much closer than Plymouth Christian Academy baseball coach Joseph Bottorff wanted it to be.

For one, the Eagles swept rival Lutheran Westland during Michigan Independent Athletic Conference play.

And, for two, they were aiming for their fifth-straight Division 4 district championship.

Plus, they were the home team, playing in their own dugout, in front of their own crowd of parents and students.

With Joey Levigne, arguably one of best pitchers in program history, if not the best, on the mound, Friday's district final had the makings of being an easy, fun outing for Plymouth Christian.

And it turned out to be anything but that.

The 9-8 victory was an absolute battle thanks to some poor decisions made on the base paths.

And, coincidentally, it was Micah Lavigne's keen baserunning skills that guaranteed the win, as the freshman made it home for the walk-off run after the Warriors threw a wild pitch.

"We had ran ourselves out of a bunch of runs," said Bottorff, who's in his 15th year leading the team. "We had three, four really bad base running mistakes. We shouldn't have even needed that run in the seventh but we did because of how bad our base running was at times."

"We were getting hits, but we were making dumb base running mistakes."

"We were happy to get the win, and we were in the game the whole time, but I'm not happy we took the lead early and just gave it away," Bottorff added. "We got the pitching to win the game. Joey was pitching a game we could win. Joey was giving us a chance to win. We just need to clean up the base running."

Lutheran's Josh Reddeman singled past the shortstop to drive home Jack Ellis in the sixth inning, giving the Warriors an 8-6 lead.

But then Plymouth Christian's Noah Etnyre doubled to center field to score

See EAGLES, Page 2B

Adding Moraitis to team has been a boon for top-ranked Mustangs

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All it took was one phone call for Lauren Moraitis to confirm she was making the right decision.

Mentally, the senior was absolutely burned out.

And that can happen to star soccer players on the club circuit.

It's a cut-throat, win-at-all-costs business. College scholarships aren't just on the line here. So are opportunities to represent your country in international tournaments. And, probably in the near future, so will a chance to make money off your name, image and likeness.

Moraitis had given her club team about everything she had in her. She

had done the work. She had earned a break.

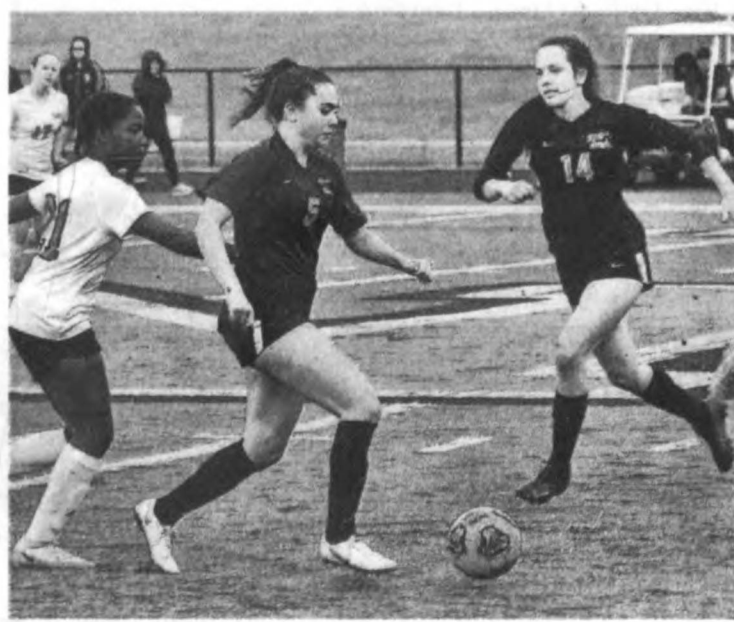
And after she signed with Cincinnati last fall, the reality set in that she didn't necessarily need to play at the highest level of travel anymore. Her spot to play college soccer with the Bearcats was reserved.

So she decided to do what many club players do their senior year: Try out for her high school team.

But, first, she needed to make one phone call to confirm playing in high school would be a good fit for her.

"I told her high school is a great atmosphere, and she was just looking to relax and have fun before she goes to college," first-year Northville coach Jeannine Reddy said. "I told her we try

See MORAITIS, Page 2B



Northville's Lauren Moraitis goes on a fastbreak during the Division 1 girls soccer regional final against Belleville on Friday, June 10, 2022.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Lauren Hamlin's PK lifts Plymouth Christian to regional semifinal win

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lauren Hamlin wasn't going out there.

After 80 minutes of regulation and two 10-minute overtimes, neither Plymouth Christian Academy nor Manchester could muster a goal and decide the winner of the Division 4 girls soccer regional semifinal on June 7.

To the penalty kicks shootout they went.

Fortunately for the No. 14 Eagles, they had been working on PKs during their past three practices.

Entering regionals, coach Ryan Thomason had a hunch they'd be playing in low-scoring games. Every game is a battle at this point, and overtimes and shootouts are never out of the question.

The third-year coach wanted them prepared for just this moment.

"If you don't want to shoot, we want to know right now," Thomason said he asked his players before the shootout. "If you're not confident, that's OK. We want to have confident shooters out there."

Hamlin, a freshman who has been one of Thomason's best PK shooters in practice this week, said she didn't want to be one of the five sent out for the shootout at midfield.

So Thomason picked his five, excluding Hamlin.

And both the Eagles (11-6-1) and Manchester went 3 for 5. Three makes and two misses each. That meant both teams had to send out another five girls. They'd go one kick at a time until someone finally won it all.

"When we got to the second round, I said, 'Can you do it, Lauren?'" Thomason said. "She said yes and didn't even hesitate. She was ready to go."

Thomason picked another girl to shoot the sixth attempt.

He was shocked when he saw that the girls on the field had actually elected Hamlin to line up for that shot instead. But he wasn't mad about it. He believed in her.

"I guess a lot of things were going through my head," Thomason said. "First of all, we've been working so hard and have kind of gone through the gauntlet all season. I knew we were ready to win, and I had confidence in her when she stepped up."

"Before we went into overtime, I



Plymouth Christian Academy celebrates beating Manchester in a shootout during the Division 4 girls soccer regional final on Tuesday, June 8, 2022, at Royal Oak Shrine. MIKE COSTELLO/ALL LACROSSE MICHIGAN

made the girls take 10 seconds to themselves before they got on the field. I told them, 'Visualize yourself celebrating and winning this game. See yourself winning the game.' I just wanted to give them the confidence that they would pull it out. I believed in them because we've practiced (PKs) so much."

Hamlin's shot went in. And she was quickly greeted by hugs from her four teammates at midfield.

And then goalkeeper Caroline Wright stepped up and saved Manchester's response.

Hamlin, timid at first, had just lifted the Eagles to a 1-0 victory.

"She's made a ton of them in practice, and she's always one of our final three or four shooters every time," Thomason said. "And it was crazy, too, because she's a back, so she's not scoring a lot of goals in games."

"It was definitely a pressure-felt situation, and we were confident in all of our girls when we got to penalty kicks."

Thomason said they wouldn't have even made it to overtime without his defense playing so well.

He credited center back Saige Yakuber for slowing down Manchester's attack.

He said she'll be key in slowing down Royal Oak Shrine during Satur-

day's regional championship.

The Knights, who finished the regular season ranked No. 10, are coming off an upset victory over second-ranked Madison Heights Bishop Foley in last week's district final.

They've played in the past two state championships, including beating Kalamazoo Christian for the 2019 state title.

"We played Shrine earlier this season, and they beat us 3-0 with two goals coming off corner kicks, so we can't let them get into set pieces," Thomason said. "They're really good, and they ought to be the favorite to win the state title. They're our goliath, and I think the girls will get up for it emotionally."

"We're riding the back of our senior center back, Saige. She refused to lose today. She wouldn't let them get a shot off. She was phenomenal, and we're going to keep riding her effort. We'll have to play a little more defensive on Saturday just to match their firepower."

"It'll be an upset if we win, and that's the truth. But we won't be backing down from this fight."

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



Northville's Lauren Moraitis (right) hugs Grace Koski (left) during the Division 1 girls soccer regional final against Belleville on Friday, June 10, 2022. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Moraitis

Continued from Page 1B

to have fun, and we obviously still want to work hard and accomplish a lot of things, but it's about playing with the people you go to school with, playing in front of your community and having a lot of fun.

"That's what she wanted. She wanted that before she started her college career. I didn't really have to sell her. She was already set on what she wanted to do. She just hadn't done it the first three years."

And that's all it took. That was the reassurance Moraitis needed.

She was one of two career club girls to join the Mustangs this spring — Michigan Jaguars FC star Emily Takahashi, who is not pursuing college soccer, being the other.

And their impact has been immediate.

Northville (16-0-5) ended the regular season with the No. 1 ranking in the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association's top-10 poll in Division 1. It won both the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West as well as the final KLAA tournament. And it edged rival Salem to win a district title.

And this past week, the Mustangs chased another trophy.

They downed Grosse Pointe South, 6-0, to win the regional semifinal. And then they blanked KLAA foe Belleville, 5-0, to win the regional championship.

Getting them started against the Tigers was Moraitis, who grabbed a possession near midfield, pushed it down the near sideline and lasered a shot to the opposite post to put Northville ahead 1-0 in just the second minute.

A few minutes later, she placed a perfect corner kick inside the penalty box for Caroline Meloche to head in.

Do you want to have fun senior year? How about igniting a fast start for your teammates in the elite eight? Because that's exactly what Moraitis had just done.

"When I found out Jeannine was the new coach, I just gave her a call, and she was so welcoming and a personable person," the senior said. "She's just really easy to talk to. I just knew she was going to push me to be a good player now and in college."

"I had already committed, so I had just decided it'd really help my confidence going into my fall season. With the coaching change, I just really like the atmosphere and the girls here. I haven't had a day where I didn't want to go to practice."

"It's just exciting that I get to do this with my team," Moraitis added. "And, hopefully, we get another trophy at the end of this."

As regulation was winding down, they towed the orange boundary line in front of their bench area.

The public-address announcer at Tom Holzer Ford Field counted down the final 10 seconds of regulation.

Five.
Four.
Three.

And they just took off.

These were most of Northville's starters. They were sidelined several minutes earlier for a job well done. Their services were no longer needed.

They got about 10 feet onto the pitch before they realized they had left to celebrate way too early.

So most of them blushed, thankful the referee didn't see them have too many players on the field while the match was still going on, and then they shared one giant laugh.

And in that scrum of early-celebrators was Moraitis, who was enjoying every moment of it. Talk about some reassurance.

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

Eagles

Continued from Page 1B

Joey Weertz and Riley Rodhagen to knot the score a half-inning later.

Closing pitcher Noah Spicer put two on in the seventh, but Eshton Krieger got the Eagles out of the jam by recording back-to-back put-outs from second base.

That set up the winning run for Micah Lavigne, who got on with a fielder's choice and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Two pitches later, he made it home on another wild one.

"The message to them before they went out there was: Let's win it now," Bottorff said. "We knew we had our 8-9-1 hitters coming up, and they (Lutheran) had their 3-4-5 if it would've went to an eighth inning."

The Eagles are hoping to win their first regional championship since 2018 and qualify for only their second state

quarterfinal in program history.

Bottorff knows exactly what the boys will be working on in practice this week.

"We just need to clean up the base running," he said. "We have some things to work on. Base running has been the Achilles heel. We've gotten out a lot that way. For us to go much farther, we can't be doing that."

"We're playing pretty well and pitching great. We have a few mistakes to clean up, and I think we'll be fine."

Here's how Hometown Life's coverage area fared during the district finals matchups:

Division 1

Northville 11, Plymouth 6
Livonia Franklin 12, Redford Thurston 0
Birmingham Groves 16, Royal Oak 1 (3 innings)
Detroit Catholic Central 11, South Lyon East 5

Brother Rice 8, Farmington 2
White Lake Lakeland 7, Walled Lake Western 0

Division 2

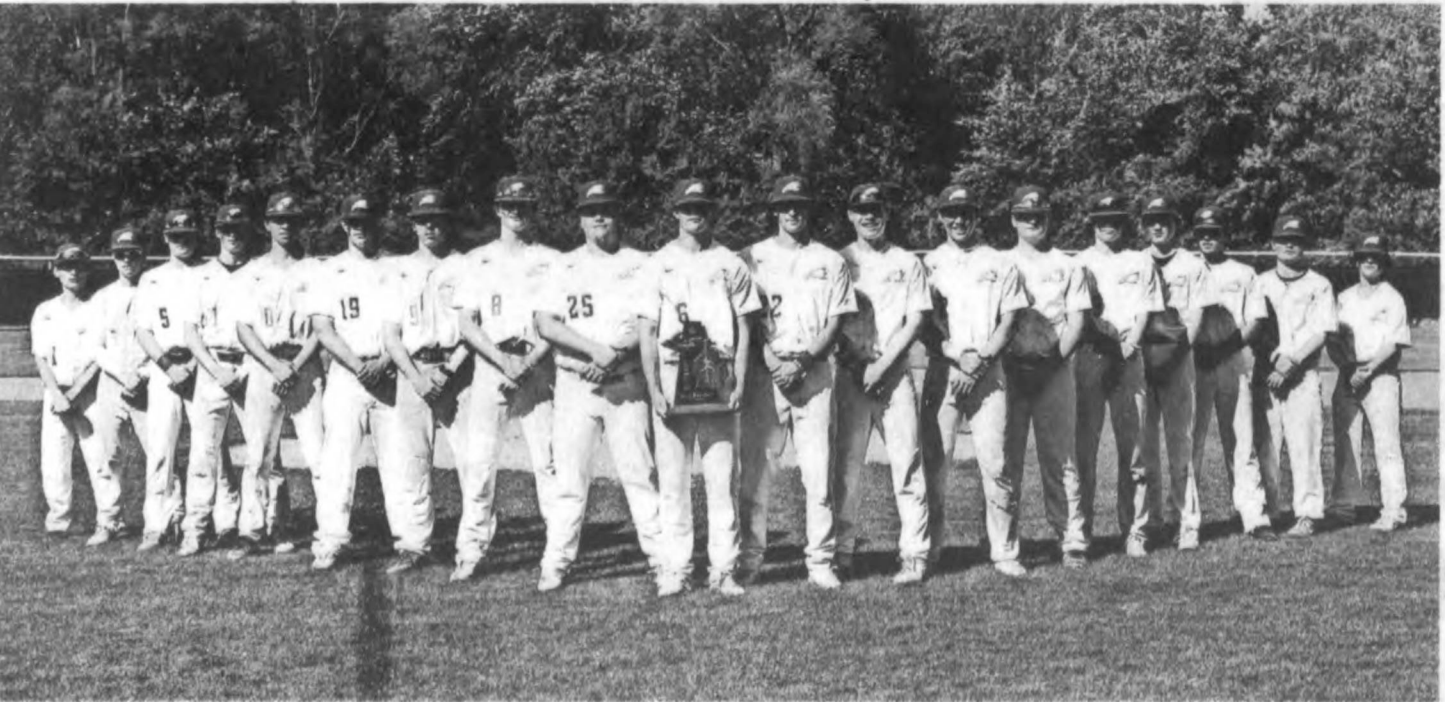
Livonia Clarenceville 12, Redford Union 9
Dearborn Divine Child 10, Garden City 0 (5 innings)
Madison Heights Lamphere 6, Detroit Country Day 3

Division 3

Taylor Prep 15, Canton Prep 0

Division 4

Plymouth Christian Academy 9, Lutheran Westland 8
Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Plymouth Christian Academy celebrates winning its fifth straight Division 4 baseball district championship after beating Lutheran Westland on Friday, June 3, 2022. MIKE COSTELLO/ALL LACROSSE MICHIGAN

Bradshaw

Continued from Page 1B

er.

But McKenzie said it wasn't too bad driving Bradshaw around. The two would often detour for whatever tea flavor of the week South Lyon Nutrition was selling. And they didn't spare any expense. They'd get the large \$9 teas. Those drinks provided plenty of energy to get them through those throwing sessions.

"Of we would get Biggby (Coffee) if we were feeling spicy and wanted a cold drink that day," McKenzie said.

When South Lyon coach David Langlois heard Gatorade had nominated Bradshaw for its award, that required him to send in regularly-updated stats. Every strikeout. Every inning pitched. Every home run. Gatorade needed to know about it as the regular season was winding down. And Langlois and his coaching staff had to do their part to make sure Gatorade always knew just how well Bradshaw was playing down the stretch.

But Langlois admitted that he and his assistants got the easy job.

He said Bradshaw's parents, Scott and Calli, had to do most of the heavy lifting.

Gatorade doesn't just hand out these awards because of great stats. You also have to be a great person. Scott and Calli had to hunt down former elementary teachers for letters of recommendation. Background checks on Bradshaw needed to be performed and turned into Gatorade. Report cards, progress reports, all of it. The Bradshaw family was put to work, and it paid off for their daughter.

"They had to get those letters of recommendation," Bradshaw said. "I credit a lot of my growth as a person to my parents. I have great parents. Beyond my athletic achievements, they've made me a great person."

"That's the biggest takeaway about this. Beyond my softball career, I am a great person, and that's because of my friends and because of my parents and because of my family for making me this way."

Bradshaw repaid all of her teammates, coaches and family members back for helping her win the Gatorade Player of the Year award by guiding the Lions (35-3) to a regional champion-



South Lyon celebrates winning the Division 1 softball regional final against Dexter on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Northville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ship.

South Lyon blanked both Ypsilanti Lincoln and Dexter 15-0 in back-to-back games at Northville.

And that victory over the Dreadnaughts in the regional final was a beauty for Bradshaw, who threw a no-hitter, striking out 11 and walking just one batter in a five-inning, mercy-rule effort.

The final three batters she faced all went down swinging.

"Catching for her, I just find it a lot easier than it normally is because she makes it so it's not a lot of work on my behalf as a catcher," McKenzie said. "The most I have to do is frame. She always gets it to me in the right spot."

Grace Walters got the offense going by smacking a solo home run to left-center during the game's first at-bat.

Four at-bats later, Bradshaw raked a two-run homer herself, as she also scored Julia Duncan from second base.

She raised her right arm in the air and pointed toward the fence as she raced to first base.

"Go!" she shouted, watching her shot to center field. "Go! Go!"

Once it cleared the fence, she hoisted both arms as she rounded first and made it to second. And then she slapped five with Langlois after touching third. Her teammates met her at home plate

for a big celebration.

South Lyon left the first inning with a 4-0 lead and never looked back as it tallied at least one run in each of the next four frames. Plenty of celebrations followed.

"This game, it was all about execution," Bradshaw said. "That's what we've been saying all year long. 'We say, 'The only ones who can beat us are ourselves,' and that's the truth. We played really clean all day, and our offense had a breakout day for us."

"The kids are just dialed in," Langlois said. "They have a single goal in mind. We stay focused on that. We keep it light in practice. We practice pressure a lot."

"I can tell you every single one of these kids, and not in a cocky way or by looking past any opponent, they've mentally gone through this process. Accepting the trophy and winning it every time. They knew what to expect this weekend to look like. They know what it looks like when we take care of business. They know what we're going to do and that everything is laid out for them."

After Bradshaw threw her last strike to record the game's final out, but before celebrating with her teammates near the dugout, she made a brief detour to home plate to hug McKenzie.

The hours in the gym practicing to-



South Lyon's Ava Bradshaw pitches during the Division 1 softball regional final against Dexter on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Northville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

gether during the winter were worth it. The trips to get tea and coffee had paid off. Bradshaw was the Gatorade Player of the Year, and South Lyon had just repeated as regional champions.

And that's what that hug signified: A total group effort.

Here's how Hometown Life's coverage area fared during the regional finals and quarterfinals:

Division 1 softball

South Lyon 15, Dexter (5 innings)
Farmington Hills Mercy 10, St. Clair Shores Lakeview 0 (5 innings)

Division 2 softball

Detroit Country Day 3, St. Clair 0

Division 1 baseball

Northville 9, Brighton 3 (regional final)
Battle Creek Lakeview 7, Northville 2 (quarterfinal)
Grosse Pointe North 7, Birmingham Groves 4 (regional final)
Grosse Pointe North 5, Clinton Twp. Chippewa Valley 0 (quarterfinal)
Hartland 5, Detroit Catholic Central 4 (regional final)
Orchard Lake St. Mary's 7, Hartland 0 (quarterfinal)

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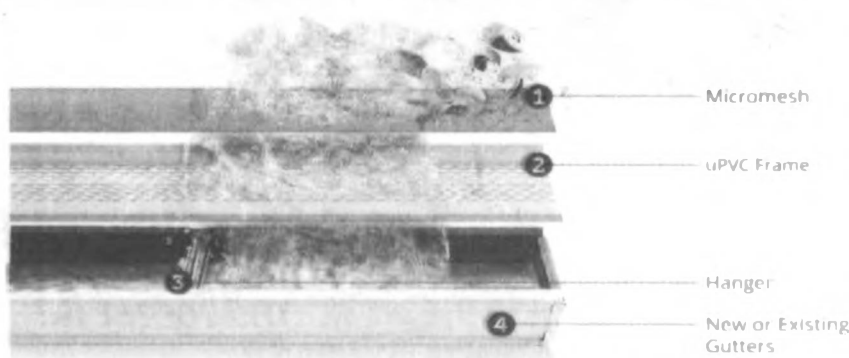
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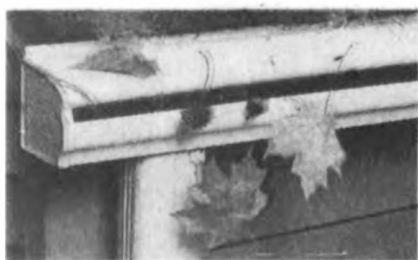
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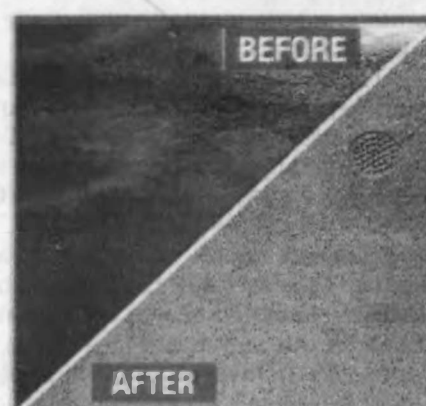
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Hartland loses to unbeaten OLSM in quarterfinals

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a rocky start, Gannon Grundman held Hartland in the game against one of the top high school baseball teams in the nation in the state Division 1 quarterfinals Saturday at Novi.

Unbeaten Orchard Lake St. Mary's scored three first-inning runs in a 7-0 victory over Hartland.

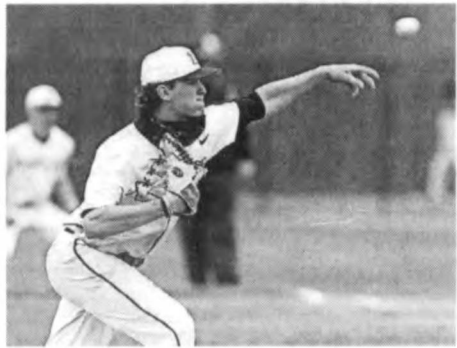
After allowing a solo homer to Nolan Schubart and a two-run double to Blake Grimmer in the first inning, Grundman didn't allow a run in the next four innings.

Jasen Oliver hit a two-run homer in the sixth and Grundman left the game after reaching his pitch limit on his seventh strikeout of the game. The Eagles tacked on two more runs after his departure.

Hartland, which won its first regional championship since 2016 earlier in the day, managed only two hits off Ciaran Caughey, who pitched six innings and fanned 10, and Oliver, who threw the final inning.

The Eagles finished with a 24-13-2 record. St. Mary's is 41-0, becoming the 11th Michigan high school team to reach 40 victories.

The Eagles are ranked No. 1 in the country by MaxPreps and No. 2 by Perfect Game.



Hartland's Gannon Grundman struck out seven batters in a 7-0 loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Brighton's Ryan Metz tags out a Northville runner at second during this Division 1 regional final at Coldwater High School on Saturday. BILL BRODERICK/THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

Brighton falls short against No. 2 Northville in regional final

Bill Broderick
Battle Creek Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton ran into the No. 2 ranked team in the state in the regional finals. And Northville lived up to that ranking.

Northville defeated Brighton, 9-3, in a Division 1 baseball regional final at Coldwater High School on Saturday.

Northville jumped on Brighton with five runs in the first inning and never gave up the lead in advancing to the state quarterfinals.

"We gave up those early runs, but our guys never let up," Brighton coach Charles Christener said. "I thought we battled and our kids were in it the

whole way."

Brighton had a glimmer of hope with a 3-run home run by Nicholas Baker off the scoreboard in the fourth inning to cut the lead to 6-3.

However, Northville starter Joey Broughton was tough throughout, as the Mustangs allowed just five hits overall, and was able to earn the win. The Mustangs padded their lead by adding three runs in the sixth inning, with two coming off an infield error.

Brighton ends the season at 22-12.

"That home run was a big swing for us. We just couldn't put enough of them together over the course of seven innings," Christener said. "I'm proud of my guys, we fought today and they have fought all year."



Brighton pitcher Luke Micunek throws home during this Division 1 regional final against Northville at Coldwater High School on Saturday. BILL BRODERICK/THE BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

Obituaries

Theodore Joseph "Ted" Rancont

HARTLAND TWP. - Theodore Joseph "Ted" Rancont, of Hartland Twp., MI, died surrounded by his family in the afternoon hours of Friday, May 20, 2022. He was 89 years old.

He was born November 17, 1932, to Theodore and Josephine Rancont in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his brother Ronald grew up in Detroit. Ted and his wife Diane have been married for 61 wonderful years. Their children are Maia Braun (Don) of Hartland, Vicki Rancont (John) of Fenton, Dr. Christopher Rancont (Kelly) of Ann Arbor and Alexandra Rancont (Jason) of Brighton. They enjoy their nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.??

A Memorial Mass will take place at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Road, Highland, MI on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 11:00AM. Family and friends may gather at the Church beginning at 10:00AM. The Rev. Fr. Wayne Ureel to officiate.

For further information, phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248.684.6645.

Catherine "Erin" Currier

PENSACOLA, FL - Catherine 'Erin' Currier, age 65. Erin graduated from South Lyon High School in 1975. She won a 4 year scholarship from Interlochen Center for the Arts, to University of Michigan, where she obtained a BFA degree in Music. She then graduated from Life Chiropractic School in Atlanta Georgia. She has been a successful and innovative Chiropractor in the Pensacola, Gulf Breeze area for approximately 30 years.

Erin loved her dog Roxy and being with friends and family. Erin is survived by her beloved daughter Rachel Matsoukas, son-in-law Kris and grandson Aiden. She is survived by 5 siblings, Colleen Middleton, Mike Currier, Cheryl Melville, Frankie Groce and Bridget Currier. She was preceded in death by her parents, Catherine and Patrick Currier, and her brother Pat Currier. Erin was formally married to Jerry Chernenkoff.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 18th at 2:00 PM in Pensacola. Flowers can be sent to:

Rachel Chernenkoff
1018 East La Rua Street
Pensacola FL 32501



Six different Mustangs score as Northville blanks Grosse Pointe South

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For anyone who's concerned about it, we're calling it an excused absence for Kaitlyn Rogala.

The senior missed Northville's girls soccer match on April 23 at Grosse Pointe South.

She's headed to the University of Michigan in the fall. So she used that weekend to visit the Upper Peninsula and meet her future college roommate, who lives in Menominee. There's great kayaking up there.

So she missed a heck of a Saturday non-conference game.

Sylvia Bohlen scored to put the Mus-

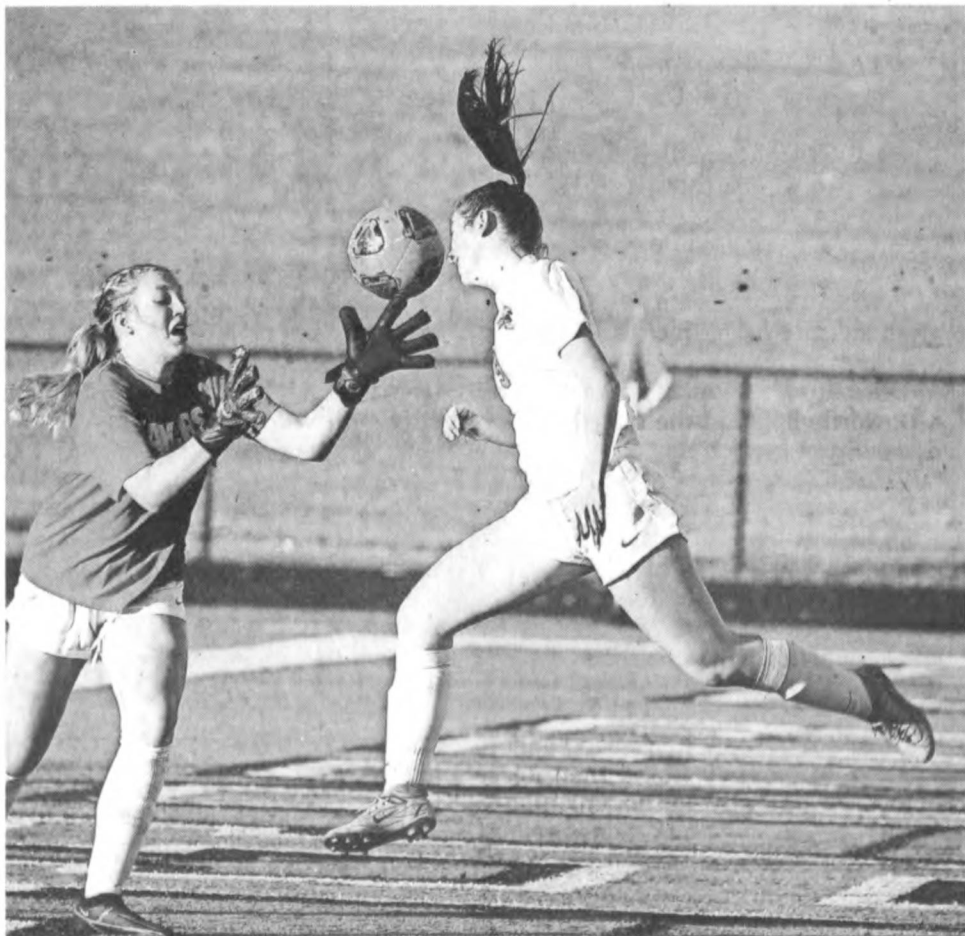
tangs ahead, and it looked like they were going to hold on for their sixth victory of the season. But, alas, the Blue Devils scored the equalizer with about 30 seconds left.

That's understandable. South does play in the Macomb Area Conference-White, the second-toughest division of the MAC and one of the best soccer leagues on the east side of metro Detroit.

But Northville wasn't happy about giving away the win and settling for the 1-1 tie.

The No. 1-ranked Mustangs (15-0-5) got their chance to right that wrong when they hosted South for the Division

See **SOCCER**, Page 7B



Northville's Jessica Belknap heads a ball during the Division 1 girls soccer regional semifinal against Grosse Pointe South on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

Lockwood's overtime goal gives Hartland Div. 1 title

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — Nothing Bo Lockwood accomplishes on a lacrosse field occurs by happenstance.

The biggest goal of his career — the biggest goal in the history of Hartland's program — was the reward for years of repetition when 1,000-plus fans weren't watching.

Lockwood's 258th and final career goal came with 1:00 remaining in overtime, giving Hartland a historic 11-10 victory over Birmingham Brother Rice in the state Division 1 championship game Saturday at Parker Middle School.

"It was literally a play that I practiced in my backyard a million times," Lockwood said.

Following a missed Hartland shot, play restarted with Lockwood bringing the ball out from behind the net. He was shadowed, as he had been the entire game, by Brother Rice defender Robert MacMichael. Mac Tognetti set a pick that allowed Lockwood to cut to the front of the net, where he faked a shot before scoring as he fell to the ground.

Pandemonium ensued.

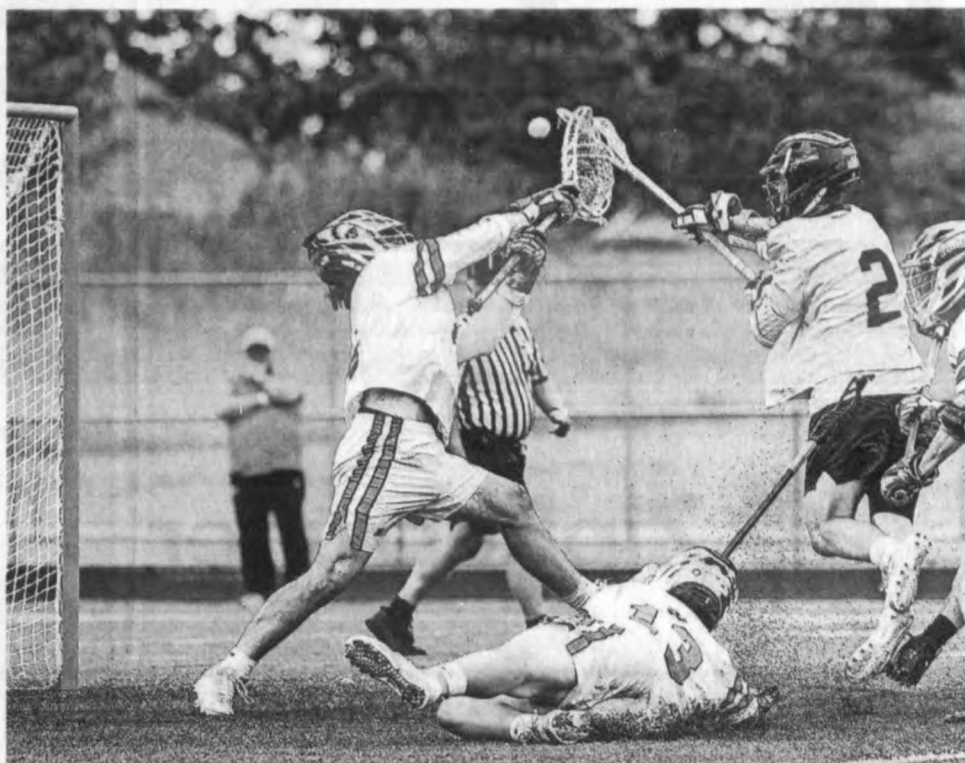
"I didn't have much time to realize it, because my team was running in, crowding around me," said Lockwood, who had three goals and four assists. "I couldn't breathe for a few seconds. I just wanted to get to my dad and my brothers and just hug them. It was awesome."

Lockwood wanted to share his greatest moment of triumph with as many people as possible. As the Eagles started lining up for the award ceremony, Lockwood was seeking out familiar faces along the fence and giving out hugs. When his team returned to the locker room, Lockwood spent several minutes signing autographs for little kids, some of whom might be inspired to win a state championship of their own in 10 years.

After losing in last year's state final to Brother Rice, in two state semifinals to Detroit Catholic Central and in a state quarterfinal to Lake Orion the past four seasons, Hartland finally reached the mountaintop.

"It's huge," Lockwood said. "I think it sets a tone for the rest of the years coming up. I've seen my brothers in the past lose in the semis, never in the championship. Last year, especially losing in the championship, it motivated us to keep working and get this win today."

It had to be Lockwood who scored the goal that delivered the state champion-



Bo Lockwood (2) fires the game-winning goal past Birmingham Brother Rice goalie Cam Sims in overtime, giving Hartland an 11-10 victory in the Division 1 state championship game on Saturday. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Hartland assistant coach Max Treanor hoists the Division 1 state championship trophy Saturday after the Eagles beat Birmingham Brother Rice, 11-10. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

ship to Hartland.

"It's definitely fitting," Hartland coach Nick Levanti said. "To be corny, it's a storybook ending. Bo has worked hard for these opportunities to get us in this position. It's a great day for Bo Lockwood. He deserves it. We deserve it."

It wasn't lost on anyone that Hartland is the first public school to win the

Division 1 championship in the 17 seasons that the Michigan High School Athletic Association has sponsored the tournament. Brother Rice won 15 of the first 16 championships, with Catholic Central winning the other in 2018.

Going back to when the Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association conducted the tournament, Hartland and the 2002 Birmingham United team are

the only public schools to win the largest classification in 48 seasons.

Brother Rice was 86-1 in MHSAA postseason games before Saturday.

The Eagles may have shocked the world, but not themselves.

"It's not a surprising feeling for us to be here," Levanti said. "It's great. It's an awesome feeling. We expected with the work that we've put in to be in this position."

"We always keep in the back of our mind, hey, we're a public school and we're doing this for a lot of public schools around the state and around the country. ... We're very proud to be a public school. These guys got it done and they know what they represent in terms of that."

Senior Ryan Krause, who had a hat trick, kept looking over at the final scoreboard to make sure he wasn't dreaming.

"This is the greatest feeling in my life," Krause said. "I've never been this happy. I still can't get over it. It doesn't feel real yet."

Each team had a possession in overtime, Hartland getting the ball first after Evan Busby won his 21st faceoff in 23 attempts. Brother Rice got the ball after a turnover and began working its offense after calling timeout.

When Luke Washe began to drive from 20 yards out, Joey Mattord and Luke Bulloch converged on him, forcing a loose ball that Zack Dixon scooped up.

"As soon as I saw it went into overtime, I almost passed out, I'm not even gonna lie," said Hartland goalie Evan Phillips, who made 13 saves. "Seeing (Washe) come down the middle and seeing Dixon come across and take it away, I felt so relieved. I thought he was gonna get a shot off, yet I just trusted the defense."

Hartland went into halftime with a huge momentum boost when Tognetti scored just before the buzzer to give the Eagles a 6-4 lead.

When Rice scored the first three goals of the second half, it was a flashback to last season's title game when the Warriors pulled away from a 5-5 halftime tie by outscoring Hartland 6-0 in the third quarter.

The Eagles halted Rice's momentum this time, outscoring the Warriors 4-1 the rest of the quarter to take a 10-8 lead into the fourth.

Rice scored the only two goals of the fourth quarter, tying the game 10-10 on a goal by Sam Klein with 3:55 remaining in regulation time.

Soccer

Continued from Page 6B

1 regional semifinal June 7.

Not only would a win avenge their earlier-season woes against the Blue Devils but it'd advance them to the regional championship, just two wins away from qualifying for the state championship.

Rogala couldn't wait to finally play this tough South squad her friends had told her about in practice.

"I wasn't there for that first game, but I heard about all the drama with it being tied 1-1 and it just being a really aggressive game with them," she said. "I was curious coming into this game, like, let's see how they (South) are."

"I came in and just couldn't understand how we had tied them 1-1. I just couldn't imagine it."

It's easy to see why Rogala's perspective toward the Blue Devils is a bit biased.

The two squads battled for the opening 15 minutes, and then Rogala assisted Lauren Moraitis on a goal in the 17th minute. And then she assisted Bohlen on another one.

In fact, Jessica Belknap scored soon after, too, and then Grace Koski put one in as well.

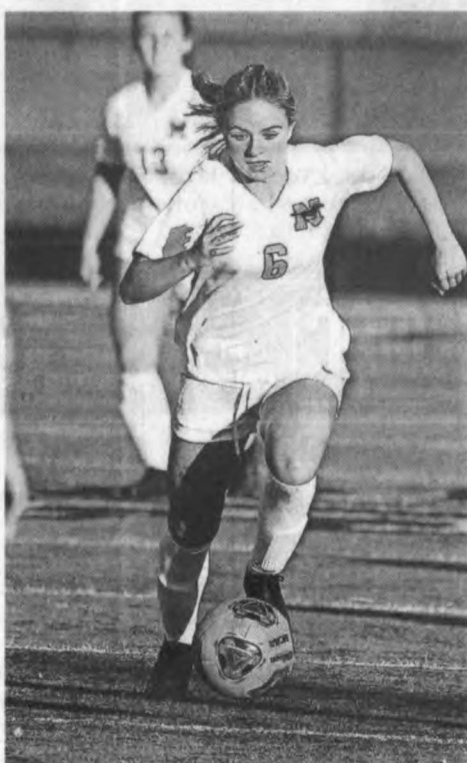
In a matter of about 10 minutes, it was 4-0, Northville, and the match was almost entirely sewed up.

"We all had a lot of adrenaline after the first goal," Bohlen said. "Going into the game, we didn't want to end our season. We all wanted to play for each other. After the last game (against South), we all had pretty high motivation because it was not the best game. We didn't want to prove they could hold their own against us twice."

Rogala scored an unassisted goal to open the second half, and then Reese Cassie put in another to ensure the Mustangs the eventual 6-0 victory.

It was a stark difference from the last time the teams met two months ago in Grosse Pointe.

"It took us a little bit, and we just had to get into a rhythm," said Koski, who also recorded an assist. "Once we got



Northville's Caroline Doody pushes the attack during the Division 1 girls soccer regional semifinal against Grosse Pointe South on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. JOHN KEMSKI/EXPRESS PHOTO

started and got that first one in, we were all hyped up. We knew we had tied this team before, so it was just a lot of adrenaline with what was on the line. Once we got it going, we just went from there.

"That last game was on a Saturday, and we all drove out there, and our heads weren't really in it that game. It was an unlucky tie, and they got that free kick in the last 30 seconds to tie it. This went much better for us."

Surprisingly, six different Mustangs scored.

"We played really well against them, and we've really been working on finishing in the box and getting the ball to certain people around the net," first-year coach Jeannine Reddy said. "I'm happy I was able to play everybody, which is something you don't always get to do."

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



Northville celebrates beating Grosse Pointe South 6-0 in the Division 1 girls soccer regional semifinal on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. NORTHVILLE ATHLETICS/COURTESY PHOTO

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April 2022 JOLTS

Job Openings and Quits Remain Near Record Highs, Layoffs Fall to a Record Low

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The April JOLTS report released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics points to a robust and vibrant labor market, and the tightest on record. There were 11.4 million job openings—63% more than before Covid, and almost twice as many as the number of unemployed job seekers. And 4.4 million workers quit their jobs. Both of those numbers are near their all-time record highs.

Meanwhile, layoffs and discharges fell to 1.2 million, well below the pre-Covid average of 1.9 million and a new record low—an indication that employers are hanging onto the workers they have in a tight labor market where replacing them is unusually costly. On top of that, blockbuster job openings figures from the record-breaking March report were revised upwards.

Here are the key takeaways from the report:

Employer demand for workers remains extremely high

- Job openings were at record levels in the midwest, as well as in construction and manufacturing (both durable and nondurable).
- Compared with pre-Covid levels, job openings are up 152% in manu-

facturing, 129% in other services, and 96% in transportation, warehousing, and utilities.

- Job openings for small businesses with 10 to 49 employees are at record high. With 3.3 million job openings, small businesses have 111% more vacancies than before the pandemic.

U.S. workers are enjoying unprecedented employment security

- Most workers are at-will employees who can be laid off or

fired at any time with limited notice. But in this tight labor market, employers are proving reluctant to terminate employees, even when employees—or the businesses themselves—are underperforming. Employers know that replacing workers now will be more time-consuming and costly than usual, given a job fill rate of 57.7% (the number of hires completed in a month divided by the number of job openings) which is well below

the pre-Covid average of 1.2.

- Layoffs and discharges overall fell to 1.2 million—37% below their normal pre-Covid level.

- Layoffs hit a record low in small businesses with 10 to 49 employees with only 0.7% of their workforce being terminated involuntarily in April. Small business employment is typically relatively precarious, but it is now more stable and secure than ever before on record.

The Great Resignation is not yet letting up

- There is still tremendous churn in the labor market with about a million more workers quitting their jobs each month than usual. The vast majority are trading up, leaving their jobs for better ones in an environment marked by more numerous, more attractive, and more accessible opportunities.

- Compared to pre-Covid levels, quits are up 93% in real estate and rental and leasing, 84% in manufacturing, 49% in construction, and 38% in state and local government.

- Small businesses with less than 50 employees suffer more in the Great Resignation compared to other size classes. With nearly 2 million small businesses, employees quit their jobs in April, accounting for almost half (48%) of all job hoppers in the economy.



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