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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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NORTHVILLE DOWNS

City continues months-long review of plans

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If there's one thing that can be said about the expected redevelopment of the Northville Downs site, it's that city officials aren't rushing the process.

The city's planning commission con-

tinues to spend multiple hours during each of its recent meetings discussing the massive project at the property off Seven Mile and Center. The most recent subject? Dealing with plans for the public spaces, parks and farmers market at the site.

"The open space that has been pro-

vided comprises almost 1/3 of the total development project," said Randy Metz, a landscape architect with Plymouth Township-based Grissim Metz Andriese Associates.

The planning commission reviewed several presentations on those areas for the project during its July 5 meeting. It

was just the most recent discussion held on the redevelopment project, which seeks to take the property currently occupied by the Northville Downs horse racing track and transform it into a place with hundreds of residential

See REVIEW, Page 4A

New Novi superintendent wants to unify school district

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ben Mainka is excited to be the incoming superintendent of Novi, a district that is "totally different" from the one he is leaving.

Mainka led Swartz Creek Community Schools for the past six years, a district with about 3,600 students, roughly 2,000 fewer than Novi. The student population is also less diverse and more economically disadvantaged than Novi.

"A big difference is the level of opportunities provided to students," Mainka said. "The resources and access to them that kids have is higher in Novi. But where I am coming from, families and the community are very supportive of schools."

"We were able to do a lot of great things as a community, including passing bonds and improving financial stability and the relationships and culture within the district is something we made great improvements upon."

Mainka is looking forward to improving upon what he noted was Novi's tremendous history and strong tradition, qualities that drew him to applying for the superintendent position recently vacated by Steve Matthews after 11 years.

The Novi Board of Education unanimously selected Mainka as its top choice from three finalists.

Prior to leading the Swartz Creek Community Schools, Mainka served

See DISTRICT, Page 4A



Brandon Smith prepares to work in his Milford Township garage. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Divers retrieve Milford Twp. man's prosthetic leg from lake

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brandon Smith was devastated when he saw his prosthetic leg fall into Sunrise Lake and sink out of reach.

The Milford Township man dove after the artificial limb, but the laws of density and water drove the prosthetic leg toward the murky depths faster than Smith could swim.

While he wrestled to stave off the anger, frustration and depression that

came with his lost leg, Smith's wife and father-in-law got busy reaching out to people who could help.

A few days later, on July 13, the whole back yard was filled with Oakland County Sheriff's vehicles. Smith had pinged the location where his leg sunk during family time on the lake. After 10 minutes in the water, a dive team member broke the lake's surface holding Smith's leg.

See LEG, Page 8A

"It was a huge relief. I'm just beyond thankful for them getting it and finding it, I really am. I never anticipated anybody doing something like this for me."

Brandon Smith

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S#8 B3

Area business roundup: What opened, closed

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's a busy time for exploring. That includes finding a new favorite place to eat or shop.

A whole host of businesses opened and closed their doors in recent weeks across Detroit's western suburbs. Here's a look at several in the area.

Are we missing one? We certainly try to catch as many openings and closings as possible, but it can be tough. If there's a shop worth listing in a future update, feel free to send us an email and we'll consider it for a future roundup.

Farmington

There's been a flurry of activity in the little community, and it's not just because of the current streetscape project that's closed roads downtown.

The biggest news is the potential closure of the longtime Farmington bakery, Sunflour Bakehaus. The shop — in operation since 1936 — could close later this month after its owners, Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlik, decided to move onto different ventures. Without a new owner, the bakery will close its doors, though Burns said she was hopeful a buyer could be found.

Two new places to grab something to eat did open in the Farmington commu-



Ashley Furniture opened a showroom at the West Oaks shopping center in Novi, in the former Value City Furniture. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK / HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

nity in recent weeks: The Big Salad opened its doors at 23342 Farmington, offering a variety of salads, soups and sandwiches. The restaurant joins several other Big Salad restaurants in Michigan, including in Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe and Charlotte.

For more comfort food, head northwest on Grand River to the former Panera Bread location, where the Farmington Grill has taken over. The diner serves up fare one would expect in a coney island, including sandwiches, entrees and coney dogs. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner at 34635 Grand River.

Westland

Grab your beloved golden retriever and head to Westland's newest pet supplies shop.

Premier Pet Supplies finally opened in the shopping center at the southwest corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill in the city. It brings another pet supplies shop to the corner after Pet Valu closed its doors at the end of 2020.

Inside, customers can find everything they need for their dog, cat, bird and more. Food, toys and other items are available.

Wayne

Wingstop has arrived in the city, opening a new restaurant at 35165 E. Michigan Ave.

The restaurant, known for its wings, fries and tenders, occupies the plaza at the intersection of Wayne Road and is open seven days a week.

Milford

It could be called a comeback of sorts for Chef Tom Lin.

Lin has returned to Milford, where he first opened Lei Ting more than 20 years ago. He's come back to the space, transforming it into Lei Ting's Blue Pearl, an upscale Asian fusion restaurant serving many classic favorites and some new



The Chili's at Eight Mile and Haggerty in Novi has closed its doors for good.

twists.

Sporting a new look and bar, the restaurant opened in its longtime home in the Mill Valley Center on the northwest corner of Main Street and Commerce.

Novi

If hungry diners want their baby back (baby back baby back), they'll have to head outside of Novi to do it.

That's because the Chili's on the corner of Eight Mile and Haggerty has permanently closed its doors, according to a sign posted on its door.

Other Chili's operate in Livonia and Canton Township in the nearby area.

A new place to pick up furniture has joined the West Oaks shopping center these days. Ashley Furniture, 43620 W. Oaks, has opened in the storefront that previously held Value City Furniture, which relocated itself to the former Art Van building closer to Novi Road.

Livonia

BBS Distilleries wants to transform parts of eastern Livonia into a destination. It has done a small part, adding a new tasting room for its distilled spirits.

Located in a former Subway restaurant, the tasting room serves up simple bar food to accompany the moonshine and other distilled drinks made by the Livonia company, which has been in operation for several years.

Perhaps before grabbing a drink, gentleman, head to a specialized shop for a manicure and pedicure just for you. Just for Hym opened earlier this spring in the shopping center at Five Mile and Harrison, specializing in men's care services.

Bloomfield Township

A pop-up designed to feed Detroit-style pizza to hungry mouths in Bloom-

field Township has run its course and closed down.

Como's opened in early 2021 inside the Maple Art Theater as a way to bring the Ferndale-based restaurant's food to more people. It closed its shop in late June.

Northville Township

The development at Five Mile and Beck continues to grow, and with it comes a new place to grab brunch.

First Watch, a Florida-based restaurant chain serving breakfast and lunch, opened on the northwest corner of the intersection with Plymouth Township. The shop serves up classics as well as newer breakfast dishes, and a host of lunch options. It's open from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily.

Canton

A new, local place to grab a drink has emerged in Canton.

Local North Taphouse and Grill opened its doors at 44282 Warren. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner, including appetizers, entrees, burgers and more. It also offers a Sunday brunch, according to its website.

More information, including a menu, can be found at localnorthtaphouse-grill.com.

Plymouth Township

A mainstay shop of downtown Plymouth has relocated to Plymouth Township.

Sunny J's, a shop selling bras, lingerie and swimwear, recently moved to a larger space at 521 Ann Arbor Road. The move doubled the store's space and allowed it to add two fitting rooms as well.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

hometownlife.com

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City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Zoning Board of Appeals** for the **City of Novi** will hold a public hearing on **August 9th, 2022, at 7:00pm** in the **Council Chambers** of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ22-0036 (Frank Accardo) 44719 11 Mile Road, 11 Mile Road East of Taft Road, Parcel 50-22-22-100-008. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance from Section 3.1.5 for a reduced side yard setback of 4.72 feet on the west side of the proposed property (10 feet required, variance of 5.28 feet). The variance requested will accommodate building a 2-car garage. This property is zoned One-Family Residential (R-4)

Publish: July 21, 2022

LO-0008789370 3x2.5

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

To the qualified electors, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Northville, Counties of Oakland and Wayne, on **Tuesday, August 2, 2022**. The election will be conducted in all polling places in the City of Northville for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

State:	Governor
Congressional:	Representative in Congress
Legislative:	State Senator, Representative in State Legislature
County:	County Executive (Pct 1 only), Sheriff – partial term (Pct. 1 only), County Commissioner, Delegate to County Convention

and voting on the following ballot proposals as presented and listed below:

County:	Proposition J – Jails Millage Renewal (Pct 1 only)
District Library:	Northville District Library Millage Renewal

Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the Northville City Clerk's Office, 215 W Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, (248) 349-1300, and on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us.

Polling Place Locations

Precinct 1 (Wayne County)	Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.
Precinct 2 (Oakland County)	Amerman Elementary School, 847 N. Center St.

The polls open at 7am and remain open until 8pm. Polling places are ADA accessible and each precinct is equipped with Braille and audio voting instructions and ADA compliant voting equipment.

Absent Voter Ballot Deadlines

- **Friday, July 29, 2022** by 5pm is the last day the City Clerk can mail an absent voter ballot (exceptions apply).
- **Saturday, July 30, 2022**, the City Clerk's Office will be open from 8am to 4pm. Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot in-person.
- **Monday, August 1, 2022**, by 4pm, AV ballots are available for voters that are already registered to vote. The ballot must be voted at City Hall.
- **Tuesday, August 2, 2022**, by 8pm, AV ballots must be received by the City Clerk's office. Postmarks are not accepted.

Absent voter ballot applications are available at the City Clerk's office, on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us, or by calling 248-449-9914.

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Publish: July 21, 2022

LO 0008789356 3x5.5

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022. NOVI TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

To the Qualified Electors of NOVI TOWNSHIP, County of Oakland:

Notice is hereby given that a State Primary Election for the purposes of nominating candidates for the offices of Governor, State Senator 13th District, Representative in Congress 6th District, Representative in State Legislature 21st District, County Commissioner 15th District and Delegate to the County Convention will be held in Novi Twp., County of Oakland on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 from 7 AM to 8 PM. The polling place for said election is 44114 Wyngate Dr., Northville, MI 48167.

For assistance in determining the accessibility of the polling place locations and the availability of voting instructions in alternative formats such as audio and Braille, please contact the clerk's office. Persons wishing to obtain an absentee ballot may do so by contacting the Novi Twp. Clerk's office. The Clerk or their designee, will be available on the Monday preceding the election, August 1, 2022, until 4:00 pm, the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot.

Janeen Crittenden
Novi Twp. Clerk, (248) 404-7529

Publish: July 21, 2022

LO-0008789312 3x3

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land or lots or any other non-subdivided parcel of land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed, or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction, or removal of same, together with an administrative charge established pursuant to resolution of City Council, will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

Charles Boulard, Building Official
City of Novi

Publish: July 21, 2022

LO 0008789358 3x4

Teens face murder, armed robbery trial in deaths of Highland Township friends

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Clarkston judge sent a pair of 18-year-olds to trial on murder charges after hearing testimony alleging they fatally shot a pair of friends near a White Lake Township pond and capped off the crime with a Coney Island meal and trip to Detroit to get rid of the weapon.

52-2 District Court Judge Joseph Fabrizio's decision hinged on more than an hour's worth of testimony from a 17-year-old who was hanging out with the men charged - Steven Morrow and Jesse Wright - the night of May 20 at the Cedarbrook Estates manufactured home community.

The teen testified that he and the suspects were at a friend's barbecue when Morrow took him aside to confess he had a gun and planned to rob Cameron Duckworth, 20, whom they would pick up later at his Highland Township home.

Sixteen-year-old Drake Mancuso, the unaware Highland Township resident who would die with Duckworth, was with the older teens when Wright drove them to Morrow's house to pick up bullets and then to pick up Duckworth.

They returned to Cedarbrook Estates to hang out and smoke marijuana, the teen testified. Wright stayed in his car. The teen testified he was kneeling down to prepare the marijuana when he heard several gunshots.

Surprised that Morrow followed through with robbery plans, he said he started following Morrow, who had picked up Cameron's bag and was running toward Wright's car.

Then Morrow turned back to Mancuso, who was trying to crawl away. Morrow began kicking him in the face. Morrow returned to the car and they drove away.

Mancuso had left his bag in the car. Morrow went through the victims' bags and found at least \$300. The teen who testified during the July 13 preliminary examination was with Morrow and Wright when they had a Coney Island meal afterward.

White Lake Township police discovered the victims in the morning.

The testifying teen would spend the day with Morrow and Wright disposing of the gun at the closed Fisher Body Plant location in Detroit.

The testimony was agonizing for Marcus Mancuso, who briefly left the courtroom when hearing that Morrow kicked his son in the face.



A 52-2 District Court judge in Clarkston ruled that Steven Morrow, 18, of Highland Township should stand trial on charges alleging he killed two friends in White Lake Township. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"How brutal is that?" he asked after the hearing. "That is just an animal. That kid should not ever be free again."

Both Morrow of Highland Township and Wright of White Lake Township are facing two counts of homicide, two counts of armed robbery, and four counts of weapons-felony firearms.

Defense attorneys cast suspicions on the 17-year-old's testimony considering his marijuana use.

Wright's attorney Paul Stablein claimed his client doesn't deserve the eight counts that he is facing.

"There is absolutely no evidence on this record that

he had any prior knowledge that there was going to be an armed robbery or a murder or any of those offenses," Stablein said.

Fabrizio disagreed.

"He drove the vehicle to get bullets," the judge said. "He drove the vehicle to get Cameron. He drove to the site of the execution. As the prosecutor argues, he stayed in the vehicle."

"It could be concluded that that was because he knew what was going to go down."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Waterford resident dies in Novi Road crash

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Novi police are investigating a fatal crash that killed a Waterford Town-

ship resident the morning of July 13.

Police said in a report it appears a 25-year-old Bancroft resident was northbound on Novi Road when he "drove straight

through the curve" at Old Novi Road and struck the Waterford resident shortly before 10 a.m.

The Waterford resident, 54, died at the scene.

Police said the other driver was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

No other information as available.



Metro Detroit homes for sale rise in price to \$159,900

Mike Stucka
and Sean Lahman
USA TODAY NETWORK

A typical Wayne County home listed for \$159,900 in June, up 12.2% from the previous month's \$142,500, an analysis of data from Realtor.com shows.

The median list home price in June was down about 9.4% from June 2021. Wayne County's median home was 1,273 square feet for a listed price of \$129 per square foot.

The Wayne County market was busy, with a median 30 days on market. A month earlier, homes had a median 29 days on market. The market added 2,536 new home listings in June, compared with the 2,440 added in June 2021. The market ended the month with some 3,219 listings of homes for sale.

The median home prices issued by Realtor.com may exclude most of a market's homes. The price and volume represent only single-family homes, condominiums or townhomes. They include existing homes, but exclude most new construction as well as pend-

Wayne County's real estate market added 2,536 new home listings in June, compared with the 2,440 added in June 2021.

ing and contingent sales.

Information on your local housing market is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.

Oakland County home prices drop 0.1% to \$436,500

Oakland County's home prices fell 0.1%, to a median \$436,500, from a month earlier. The typical house was on the market for 21 days, from 15 days a month earlier. The typical 2,023-square-foot house had a list price of \$214 per square foot.

Across metro Detroit, median home prices rose to \$284,700, up 3.6% from a month earlier. The median home had 1,563 square feet, at a list price of \$178 per square foot.

Across all of Michigan, median home prices were \$282,450, rising 1.8% from a month earlier. The median Michigan home for sale had 1,647 square feet at list price of \$169 per square foot.

Across the United States, median home prices were \$450,000, up 0.7% from a month earlier. The median American home for sale had 1,887 square feet, listed at \$228 per square foot.

The median home list price - the midway point of all the houses or units listed over a period of time - is used more often in this report instead of the average home list price because experts say the median offers a more accurate view of what's happening in a market. In finding the average price, all prices of homes listed are added and then divided by the number of homes sold. This measure can be skewed by one low or high price.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from the Realtor.com residential listings database. The story was written by Mike Stucka and Sean Lahman.

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN AUGUST 2, 2022 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Novi:

Notice is hereby given that a primary election will be held in the City of Novi on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

1	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
2	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	41415 W. Nine Mile Road
3	Village Oaks Elementary School	23333 Willowbrook Road
4	Church of the Holy Family	24505 Meadowbrook Road
5	Orchard Hills Elementary School	41900 Quince
6	Church of the Holy Family	24505 Meadowbrook Road
7	Department of Public Works	26300 Lee BeGole Drive
8	Meadowbrook Elementary School	29200 Meadowbrook Road
9	Crosspointe Meadows Church	29000 Meadowbrook Road
10	Fox Run	41000 Thirteen Mile Road
11	Hickory Woods Elementary	30655 Novi Road
12	Portsmouth Apartment Clubhouse	31170 Wellington Drive
13	Brightmoor Christian Church	40800 13 Mile Road
14	Crosspointe Meadows Church	29000 Meadowbrook Road
15	Faith Community Church	44400 West Ten Mile Road
16	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
17	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
18	Novi Public Library	45255 West Ten Mile Road
19	Legacy Church of Novi	45301 West Eleven Mile Road
20	Novi Middle School	49000 Eleven Mile Road
21	Novi Middle School	49000 Eleven Mile Road
22	Deerfield Elementary	26500 Wixom Road
23*	St. James Catholic Church (*TEMPORARY)	46325 West Ten Mile Road
24	St. James Catholic Church	46325 West Ten Mile Road
25	Thornton Creek Elementary School	46180 West Nine Mile Road

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Novi will be voting for purposes of electing candidates for the following office:

STATE:	Governor
CONGRESSIONAL:	Representative in Congress
LEGISLATIVE:	State Senator and Representative in State Legislature
COUNTY:	County Commissioner

And for the purpose of electing Delegates to County Convention of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the City of Novi Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the City Clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Cortney Hanson, MMC, MiPMC II
City Clerk, City of Novi
(248) 347-0456
cityofnovi.org

Review

Continued from Page 1A

units, a new farmers market and several parks scattered across the 43-acre development.

Also at odds is the 1936 log cabin on the Downs property. Originally built for a retired teacher, plans now call for the relocation of the structure to another site on the park. That plan was crafted earlier this year.

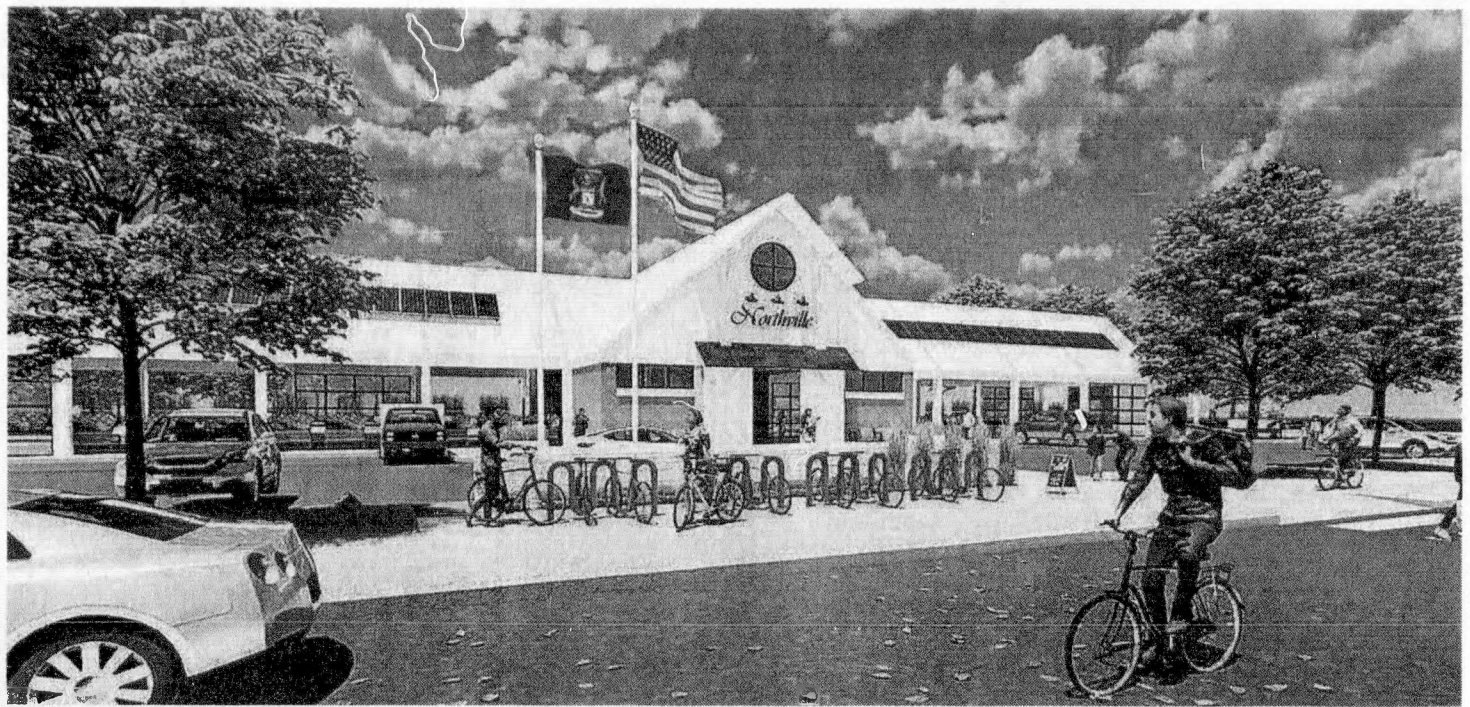
Discussed at the meeting were the plans for the farmers market, which would locate into a new not-yet-built building on Seven Mile.

Susan Haifleigh, one of the task force committee members, said the Northville farmers market is a popular one that on a normal day can attract people from dozens of surrounding ZIP codes.

She also said the committee was looking at a recent bill that would bring \$45 million to local farmers markets. Despite those potential additional dollars, she said they still had plenty of challenges ahead.

"We're eyeing some very specific things," Haifleigh said. "We're encouraged, but we have a lot of work to do."

More discussion on the public



A rendering of the proposed farmers market on the Northville Downs property. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE

spaces, farmers market and parks will take place at the next planning commission meeting July 19. The commission is slowly working its way through the project, with information on the previous steps being found on the city's website.

Planning commission chairwoman Donna Tinberg said it is anticipated the preliminary site plan recommendation from the commission to city council will not occur until late August or early September. From there, the city council will

review and decide on a direction for the project.

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

District

Continued from Page 1A

as the associate director for the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and was once the principal of Hartland High School. He began his now 20-year career in education as a middle school teacher in South Lyon for six years.

"It's a difficult field, but in my biased opinion it's the absolute greatest profession one could endeavor to do," Mainka said. "Being able to impact the odds for children is tremendously rewarding."

Mainka earned his bachelor's degree in education from Spring Arbor University and holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan. He is currently working toward a doctor of philosophy degree in industrial/organizational psychology

from Liberty University.

The Brighton resident, father of four school-aged children and husband of Jen, a clinical psychologist, said student and staff mental health is an issue he plans to tackle in Novi.

"I think the pandemic was a really big part of this, but students and staff are under stress that is unprecedented in the history of education," he said. "We have to look at how we are helping staff and students cope with those challenges, being mindful of balance in their lives."

Addressing mental health will include looking at adding social workers, counselors and school psychologists. Mainka said he will be watching the state's allocation of funds to districts over the next six months and working with the board to prioritize next steps.

He acknowledged recent strife in the district and added that he wants to focus on a culture of belonging for everyone with people of different back-

grounds and perspectives unifying to improve outcomes for all students.

"The district is suffering, like many districts, from the political dynamic across the country and one of my top priorities in the first six months of year will be unifying the district and that is something I have to had to overcome in my current district," Mainka said. "Community members have different ideas of how students should be educated in public schools. I will work toward common values and try to partner with parents, students, and staff to work toward a consensus on where we need to go."

Mainka plans to hold town halls, with dates set once he gets settled in the district.

Another priority for the new leader is to level and align curriculum in Novi, ensuring it is up to date and that resources are available for teachers at every grade level, from early childhood through 12th grade. That will include a wide array of


texts from which to choose and particularly at the elementary level, offering literacy supports that are consistent across the district.

He is excited, too, to continue to push the envelope for high-achieving students in the district, while looking at opportunities for students who may not be pursuing a college path post-high school. That means ensuring a diverse array of offerings are open to them, including apprenticeships and job training programs.

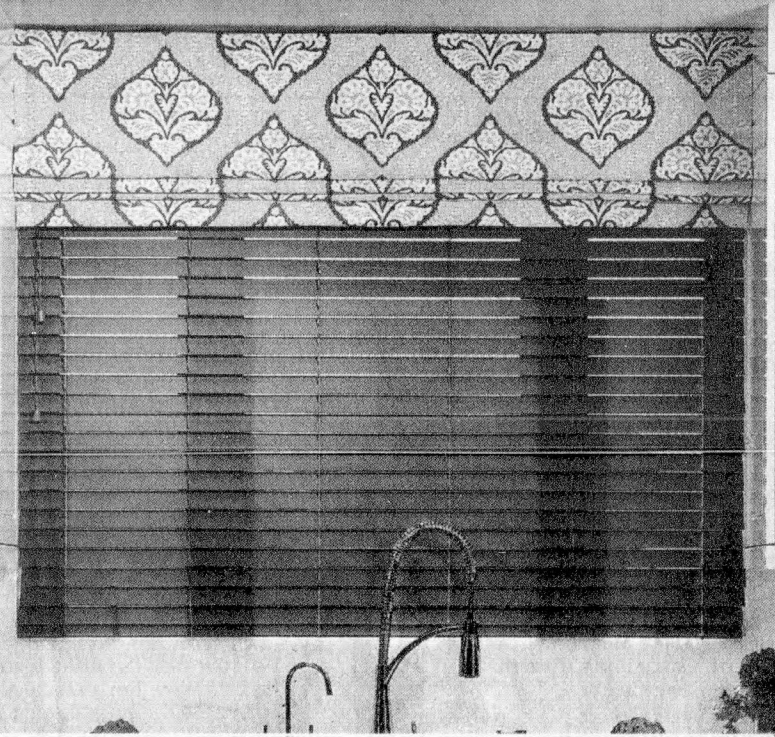
He is looking forward to rolling up his sleeves to start filling teacher and possibly some open administrative roles before the first day of school, Sept. 6.

"I'm extremely excited and eager to work with the staff and community and appreciative of the board and their leadership through this time," Mainka said.

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


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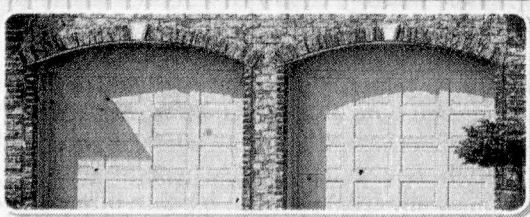
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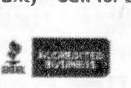



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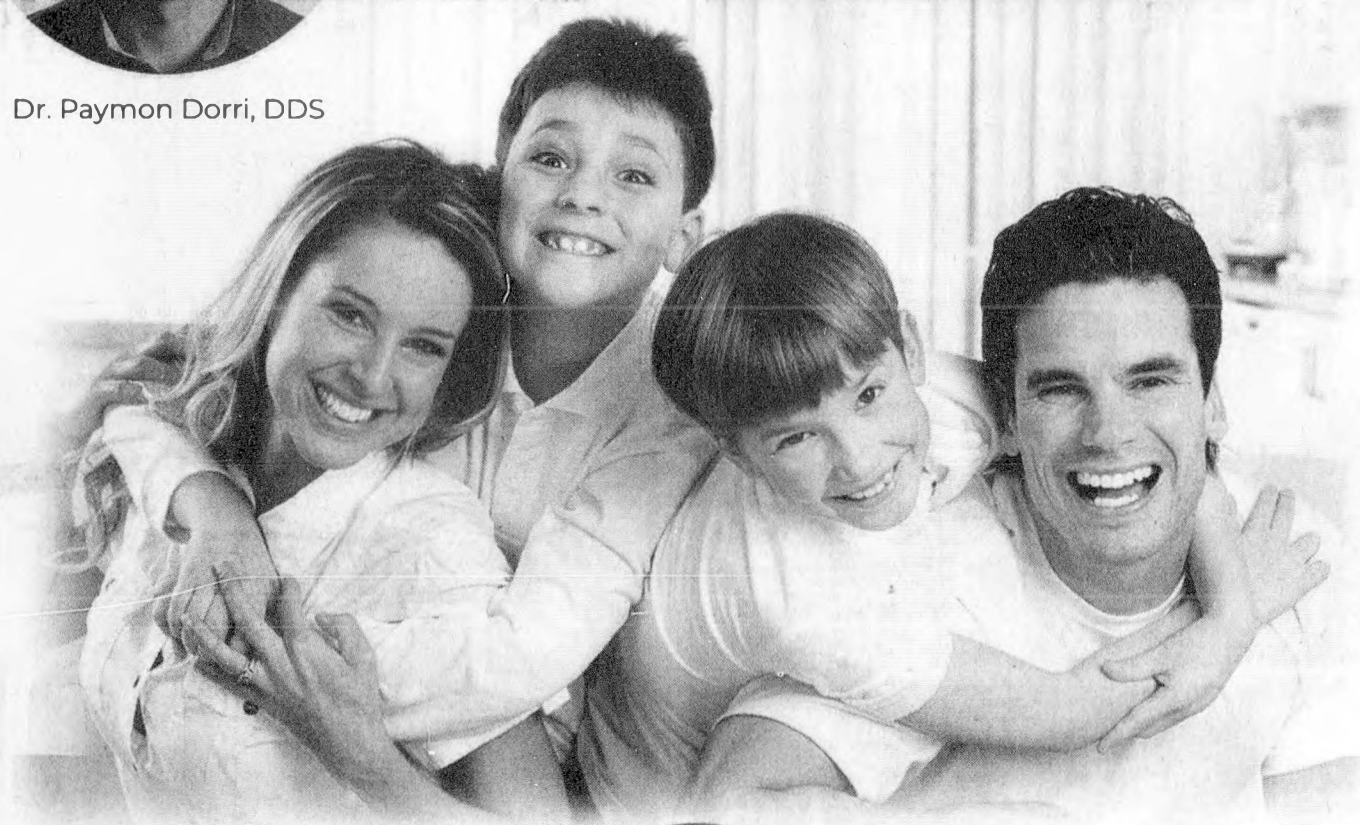
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What to do when stuck with an adjustable mortgage rate



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have a couple of financial problems that I hope you can help me with. My first issue is that a couple of years ago when I bought my house, I originally thought I'd only be in the house a couple of years and thus, I got an adjustable-rate mortgage.

My plans changed and I plan to be in the house for longer than I expect. As a result, my mortgage has adjusted and my rate went up substantially, and I'm not sure what I should do. I cannot afford the new payment. What options do I have?

My next question deals with my life insurance policy. I have a 10-year term policy that is maturing.

When I went to purchase a new policy for another 10 years, the rate was substantially higher.

I am not sure I still need the policy, but I'd like your opinion. I have no dependents, but I do have two adult children who are on their own.

Thank you, Julie

Dear Julie:

The first thing I would recommend with regards to your house is that you contact your mortgage lender. There may be some sort of program that you may qualify for that can be beneficial to you.

In addition, I would also look into the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund. This program was established as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This program is to help homeowners who have financial difficulties due to the coronavirus.

Under this program, if your household income is less than 150 percent of area median income, the property is your primary residence, and if your financial hardship was a direct result of COVID-19 on or before Jan. 21, 2020, you may qualify for up to a \$25,000 grant from this program.

For more information on this pro-

gram, you can contact them at 1-844-756-4423.

If you do not qualify for any programs, one solution you may want to consider is to sell the home. Home prices are still favorable to sellers, and you may find that by selling the home, you may be able to find more affordable housing.

Your mistake would be to do nothing and hope this goes away, because it won't.

Unfortunately, high inflation will be with us for a while, and it's important to do something with your home while you still have options.

With regards to your life insurance policy, I am a believer that not everyone needs life insurance. The question you ask yourself is that if you pass away, does anyone lose out financially. Since your children are on their own and are not dependent upon you financially, you probably do not need the life insurance. Remember, life insurance is not an investment; it's a matter of risk management. Ten years ago, you had the risk that your children were financially dependent upon you. Today you don't; so, in my opinion you don't need life insurance.

I have always been a believer that all types of insurance are matters of risk management. If you don't have the risk, you don't need the insurance. For example, I don't have boat insurance not because I don't think boat insurance is important, but rather because I don't have a boat.

With life insurance, we all know that eventually we will pass; however, the key is when we pass is there anyone that will be financially harmed by your passing. If not, you don't need insurance. Some insurance people like to think that insurance is a good investment; I don't believe that.

As far as I'm concerned, if I have to die for an investment to pay off, it's not a very good investment.

Good luck!

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

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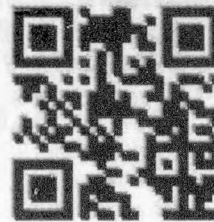


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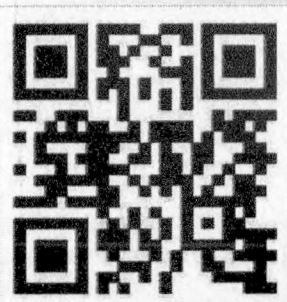
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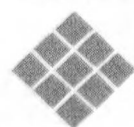
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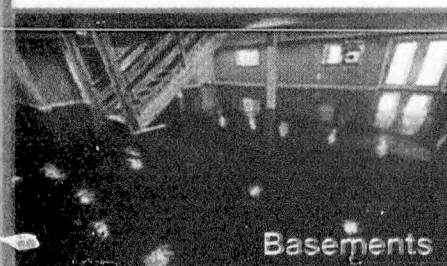
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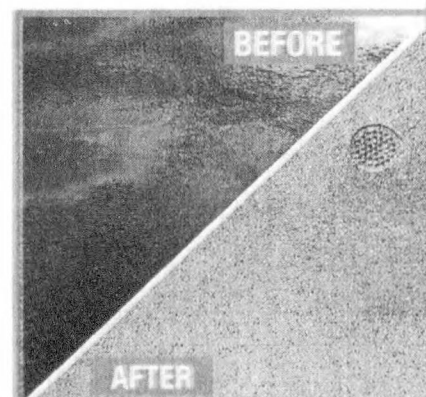
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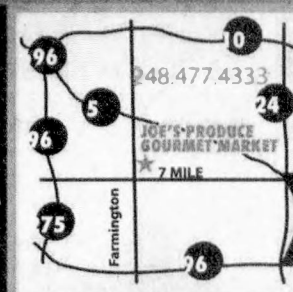


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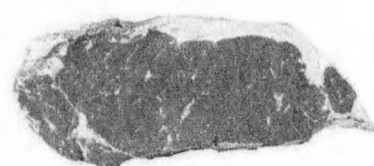
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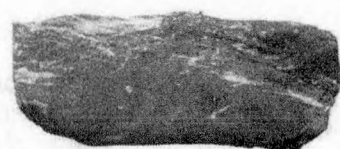
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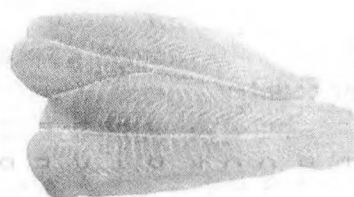
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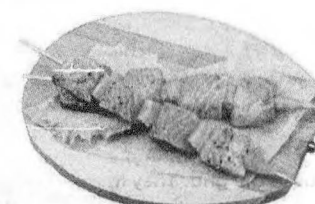
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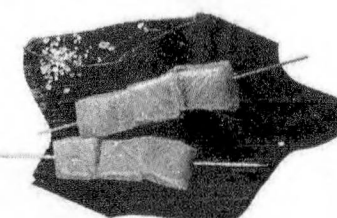
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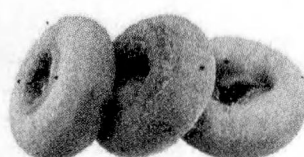
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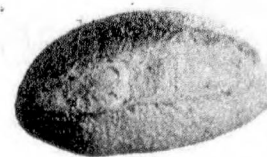
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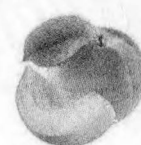
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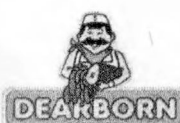
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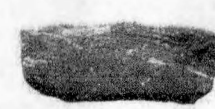
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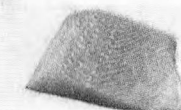
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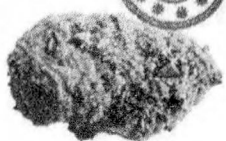
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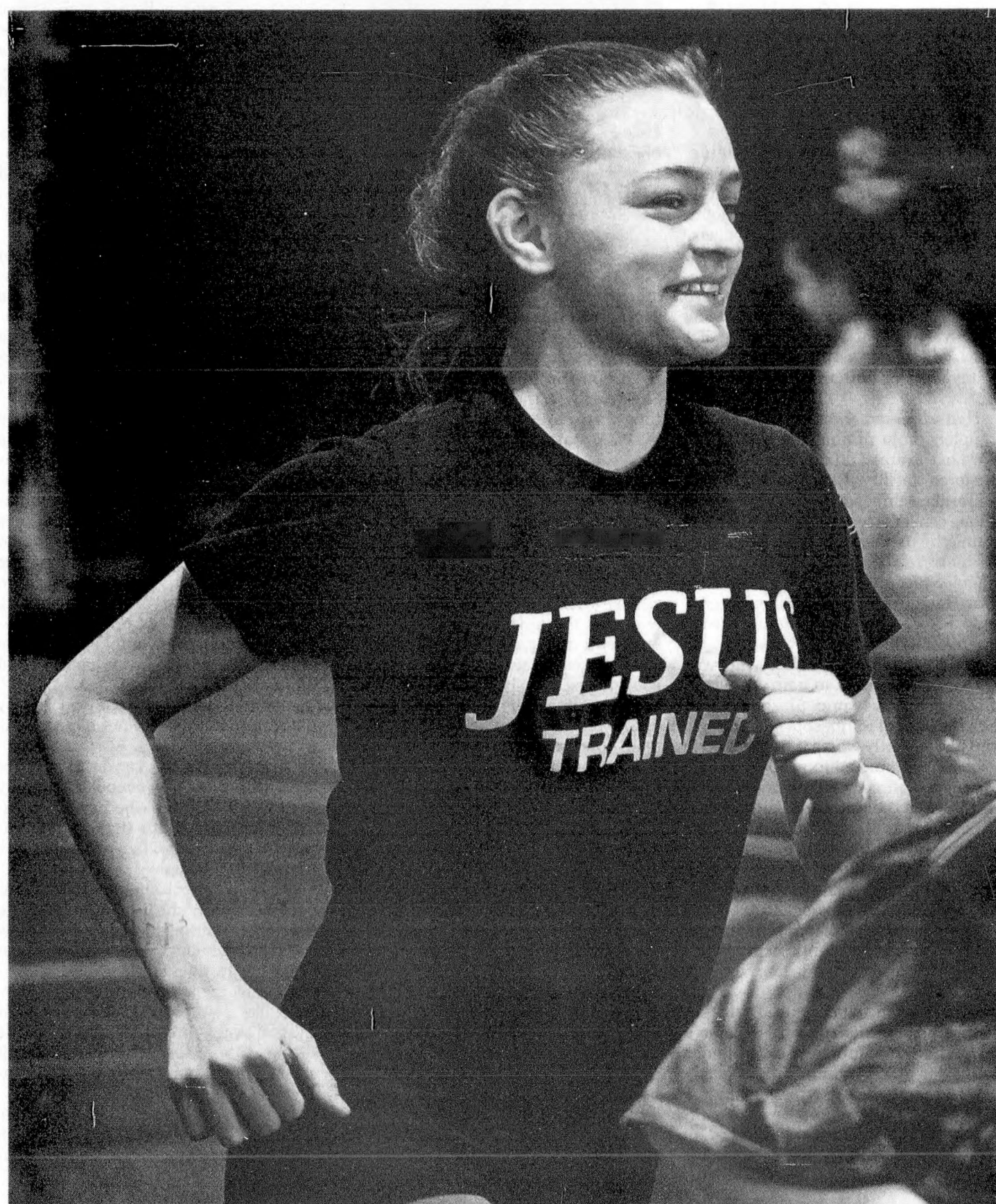
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SPORTS

Jiu-jitsu world champion sets sights on top wrestling rank



Plymouth Christian wrestler Alexis Lazar warms up at the Michigan Revolution Training Center in Highland on April 27.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Student transfers to Plymouth High to continue career after policy change

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth native Jim Lazar grew up boxing and later developed an interest in mixed martial arts.

He even boxed in a few Detroit Golden Gloves tournaments before he blew out one of his shoulders and decided to step away from the competitive aspect

of the sport. But he still spars from time to time to feel young again.

So, naturally, when his daughters became old enough to compete in sports, Lazar took them to the dojo instead of the youth soccer fields or the junior basketball leagues.

It just made sense. Lazar was big into combat sports, plus his buddy John Toth owned the Plymouth-based For-

mula Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy not too far from their home.

Alexis, his oldest daughter of three, was a quick study when she first started rolling on the mat at 8 years old. Success at local tournaments turned into her going on to compete in North American Grappling Association

See CHAMPION, Page 2B

Vote for Hometown Life girls soccer Player of the Year

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

I released the Hometown Life All-Area girls soccer team and named Bloomfield Hills senior Ava Badallo as the Player of the Year.

But there were easily 20 other players who could've been named the top player in our newspaper footprint.

So now it's your turn. Listed below are 16 of my favorite players from this past spring.

Here's your chance to vote for which one you felt was the best.

Online voting continues until 10 p.m. July 20.

You may vote as many times as you wish, but please know that only one vote counts per email every three hours.

I'm looking forward to seeing who you, our loyal leaders, pick as our Player of the Year.

Let's take a look at the candidates up for this honor:

F - Ava Badallo, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This West Virginia Wesleyan signee was a linebacker in a striker's body. Regardless of the competition, she was always the toughest player on the pitch.

She totaled 17 goals and six assists, was an MHSSCA third-teamer and, most importantly, booted in the penalty kick that gave the Black Hawks their state championship.

F - Isa Agrusso, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

The Michigan State signee was a national champion at the club level. So, of course, she was going to be successful the one year she spent playing high school soccer. She totaled 21 goals and six assists, was the perfect complement to strike Elle Ervin and finished as an MHSSCA All-State first-teamer.

F - Kirsten Fitzgerald, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

The MHSSCA All-State second-teamer was just too quick for opposing defenses. She posted 14 goals and five assists.

But none of her goals were as big as the game-winner in overtime that gave the Marlins their first district championship since 2012.

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Point guard leaving Catholic Central to play for Detroit King

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just how new is Chas Lewless to the Detroit King boys basketball team?

While talking about the goals he wanted to achieve with the Crusaders, he didn't even know what the Detroit Public School League called its all-con-

ference team.

And, yeah, he wants to make that team. But his new coach has higher expectations for him than that.

"Honestly, that's low-hanging fruit for him to be All-PSL," King coach George Ward said. "There won't be a guard in the PSL better than him. I want him to set his sights higher than that,

and that's what we're going to do for him."

That's right.

One of the best point guards in the Catholic League has transferred out.

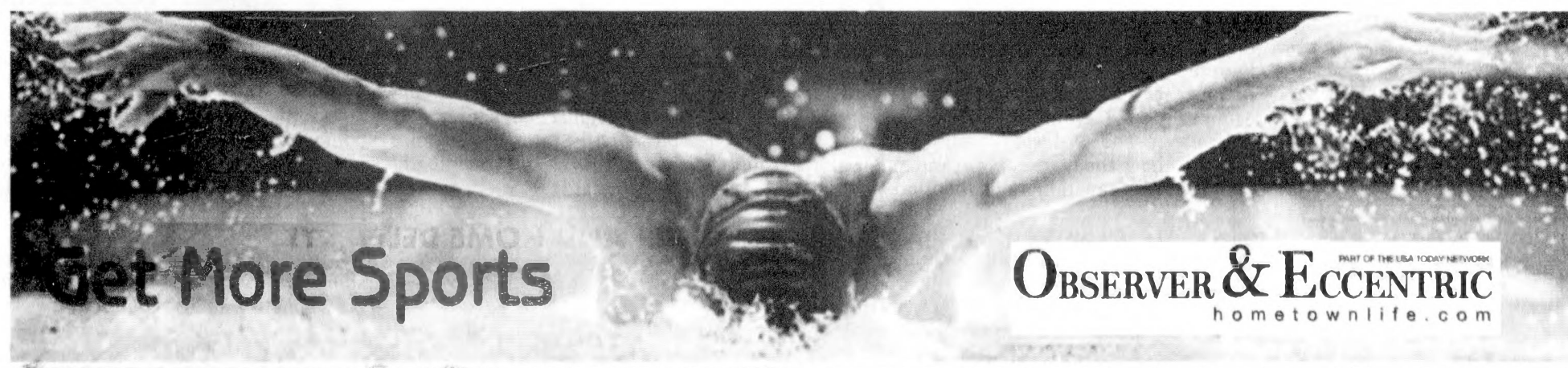
After starting for Detroit Catholic Central the past two years, and leading the Shamrocks to the 2022 state quarterfinal and a CHSL tournament runner-

up finish, he's now joining Ward and the Crusaders, who a year ago were 19-3 overall and spent several weeks atop the Associated Press' top-10 poll in Division I.

So let's first quash the rumors.

No, there is no bad blood in the water

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Champion

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world championships. She won in Morristown, New Jersey, and then she won in Dallas. By the time she was 11, she was a two-time world champion.

With Alexis improving each day, Jim wanted to do whatever he could so she'd continue to be the best. He asked around to see if anyone knew what else could help her improve. One of his friends suggested wrestling.

"I've been around MMA for a long time. I've boxed for a long time. But no one in my family has ever wrestled," Jim told Hometown Life. "I knew nothing about the sport, but we just wanted her to get better with jujitsu. At that point, that's when we realized just how much more wrestling had to offer.

There were tournaments every weekend, and it was all new to us. So we made that transition, and she kind of hit the ground running with it."

Once again, Jim took Alexis to another one of his buddies, this time it was Jason Crothers with the Wayne Wrestling Club, which practices another short jaunt from their home.

A difference between jujitsu and wrestling

Alexis' first time wrestling saw her pull guard against her opponent, which is a Brazilian jujitsu takedown tactic that's a little more violent than the takedown wrestlers are used to inside the circle.

"I knew nothing about wrestling," Jim admitted. "I didn't even know wrestling had seasons. I knew nothing about anything. People involved in the sport had to guide her and us as a family. I didn't even know the difference between a national tournament and MYWAY (Michigan Youth Wrestling Association) tournament. How different life was for us back then."

The losses added up, yet Alexis kept coming back and trying again. She kept learning, too.

Jim remembers when Alexis was 3 years old and wanted to be the fastest on the monkey bars at the playground. Sometimes she'd return home with bloody hands because she swung so much.

He saw that same competitive spirit in her when she competed in BJJ. And he was seeing it again while she was grappling on the mat.

The wins started coming. So did some notoriety. And, in no time, she was ready to take wrestling to the next level.

"It went from something new to her to, 'Hey, she's actually pretty good at this!'" Jim said. "Beyond anything else, I saw in her something you don't see too much in other kids. That was the heart to take the losses and still come back and fight. She'd get beat up so many times and use the losses to push herself."

Top athletes seek this Highland trainer

Mario Flores, who has trained wrestlers for 20 years, opened Michigan Revolution Training Center in Highland just over 5 years ago.

He's one of the go-to coaches who parents from all over the country send their kids to.

Just how good is he?

This past winter was the first time the Michigan High School Athletic Association allowed girls wrestlers to compete alongside the boys at the state finals at Ford Field. Ten of the 14 individual state champions had previously trained with Flores. Several of them still continue to work with him.

Sending Alexis to Flores is probably the smartest thing the Lazar family has done for her career.

Not too long after she started going to Revolution, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. That forced most kids behind a laptop to do their schooling from home.

Flores came up with a better solution. He took one of the all-purpose rooms in his training facility and turned it into a classroom for his wrestlers. They got to do their homework and take their classes there, and then they got to train on the mat 2-3 times per day.

What's more, parents volunteered to make breakfast and lunch for the kids. Each wrestler got to follow their diet plans, whether it was bulking or cutting, to stay on track with their weight classes.

That attracted some of the greatest grapplers from around the country to move to the area and do their schooling at Flores' facility. Girls from Arizona, California, Minnesota and Washington, among other places, flocked to Highland during the pandemic. At one point, Flores had 15 of the top-20 ranked high school wrestlers training at his place. That included three different girls ranked No. 1 in the country in their respective weight classes.

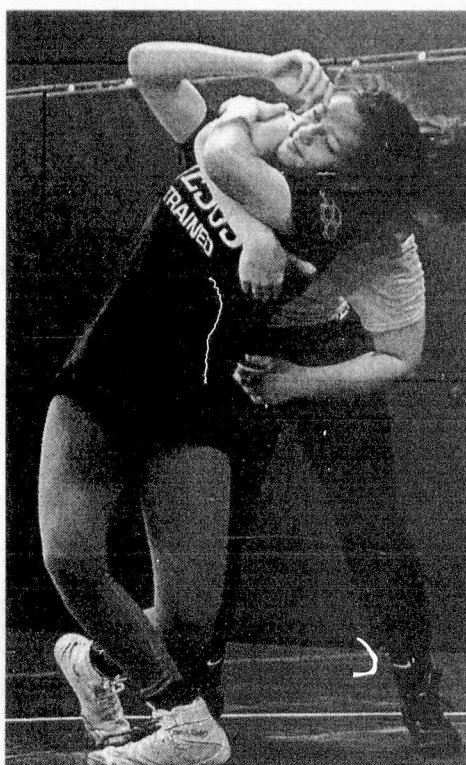
And that allowed Alexis, who was still in middle school, to train with some of the best in the world. She got to spar with the likes of Minnesota's Gigi Bragg, who just recently won a junior folkstyle national championship at 100 pounds, and several others who've gone on to do big things in the wrestling world.

The results from that experience showed when she went to tournaments.

As only a middle schooler, she beat some of the best wrestlers in the world. Some of these girls are headed to college to compete for Division I programs. Some are even representing the United States in future world tournaments overseas.

She's beaten Illinois-based wrestler Gabby Gomez, who recently became a U-17 national champion at 100 pounds.

She's beaten Virginia Ford, arguably one of the five best wrestlers in the country, who is from Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory Academy in Pennsylvania, one of the most prestigious high school wrestling teams



Plymouth Christian wrestler Alexis Lazar spars with Clarkston Jr. High's Paisley Denault at the Michigan Revolution Training Center in Highland. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

around.

And just this past winter, as only an eighth-grader, she downed junior Kate Cooper, a state champion from Missouri, to win the Michigan Border Brawl. She's also won the Mid-Michigan Wrestling Association tournament and the MYWAY state championship this year, too.

"I really like to compete, and I love going to travel to all the tournaments where I can meet all these new people and wrestlers, and the comraderies with the girls are great," Alexis said. "My favorite moments are at tournaments when I win a match I'm not supposed to win, and the girls are giving me hugs and being super supportive. I'm always the youngest on the team, and it's really cool to hang out with all these older girls who support me."

She recently tried out for a national team to represent the U.S. in a world tournament before she suffered a hip injury and couldn't carry on. But she has since returned to the mat and has gotten back to work.

"Alexis is probably a once-in-an-age group type of athlete," Flores said. "What that means is she's really special. Just her work ethic and her ability to understand and ask the right questions. Her confidence to take risks is what separates her from the other girls she competes against. She's fearless. When it comes to competition, especially against the bigger-name girls and the nationally-ranked girls, Alexis takes the fight to them where other people might be hesitant to want that matchup or competition."

"She's got a handful or more of those significant wins, and she's only in the eighth grade. It's crazy. It really is. I call

her the phenom, and she's not even in high school yet."

School policy prevents girls to wrestle at Lutheran West

While Alexis' journey has been an unbelievable one, and it'll likely lead to many more great moments for her as she enters high school with the goal of winning an MHSAA state championship as a freshman, there's been one problem that has soured her career.

And it has nothing to do with her as a wrestler.

It has everything to do with her being a girl.

Alexis attended middle school at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton. The Eagles do not field a high school wrestling team because they do not have enough athletes interested in the sport. So, like do they with football, they co-op with nearby Lutheran Westland for wrestling.

This past year, PCA junior Noah Etnyre became the 171-pound state runner-up for Lutheran at Ford Field. And Etnyre even quarterbacked Lutheran to its first-ever league title in school history last fall.

So while the co-op has worked great for athletes such as Etnyre, it does nothing for Alexis, who was told she wouldn't be allowed to wrestle at Lutheran because girls aren't allowed in the program, despite PCA athletic director Matt Windle pushing for Lutheran to change its policy.

When asked why Alexis wouldn't be allowed to compete for the wrestling team, Lutheran responded with the following statement on May 16: "Our Lutheran High School Association prohibits girls from wrestling on the boys wrestling team. However, provided guidelines and parameters set by the MHSAA are met, schools may co-op with another school of their own choice for a sport they do not provide. In addition, Lutheran Westland has not had a girls wrestling team as we have not had interest by our students."

Jim said his family was shocked by Lutheran's decision to not allow Alexis to wrestle.

That's forced the Lazars to pull out Alexis from PCA, a school the family thoroughly enjoyed. She has since enrolled with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and will be attending Plymouth High School.

While a school change doesn't impact her goals, she'll have to adapt to new surroundings and make new friends. That'll be tough, especially because she loved attending PCA.

But if going to Plymouth High is anything like trying out BJJ or wrestling for the first time, Alexis will have no trouble fitting in at her new school. Especially if she can bring home the school's first individual state championship.

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

Vote

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F - Mackenzie Gregor, senior, Livonia Stevenson

Very few attackers in Michigan were as dangerous around the penalty box as this MHSSCA All-State second-team selection, as the fourth-year player finished with a staggering 30 goals and nine assists.

F - Kate Creighton, sophomore, Plymouth Christian Academy

Most players cower against double and triple teams. Not the MIAC MVP. She posted 27 goals and seven assists, good enough for MHSSCA All-State first-team honors.

F - Rhianna Schermerhorn, junior, South Lyon

As the leader of the Lions' attack, she was an All-District and MHSSCA All-State third-teamer.

F - Emma Pompo, senior, South Lyon East

The Cleveland State signee not only totaled 25 goals and 21 assists en route to MHSSCA All-State first-team honors but she also qualified for the state finals in track and field. Her speed set her apart.

F/M - Natalia and Sofia Salinas, freshmen, Bloomfield Hills Roper

Despite not fielding a team in 3 years, the Roughriders returned to the pitch and won the MIAC-Red. They can thank

the Salinas sisters for that. Natalia totaled 20 goals and 18 assists, while Sofia added 15 goals and 16 assists.

M - Rachael Claxton, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

This MHSSCA All-State third teamer knew how to run the field and create scoring opportunities, whether it was for her teammates or herself. But no play was bigger than her game-winning goal to help the Cranes win their first-ever CHSL tournament title.

M - Madi Webb, junior, Lutheran Westland

Some players have a knack for finding the back of the net, and then there's Madi Webb. This MIAC-Red first-teamer tallied a staggering 33 goals and four assists to help the Warriors place second in their league.

M - Talie Burns, sophomore, Novi

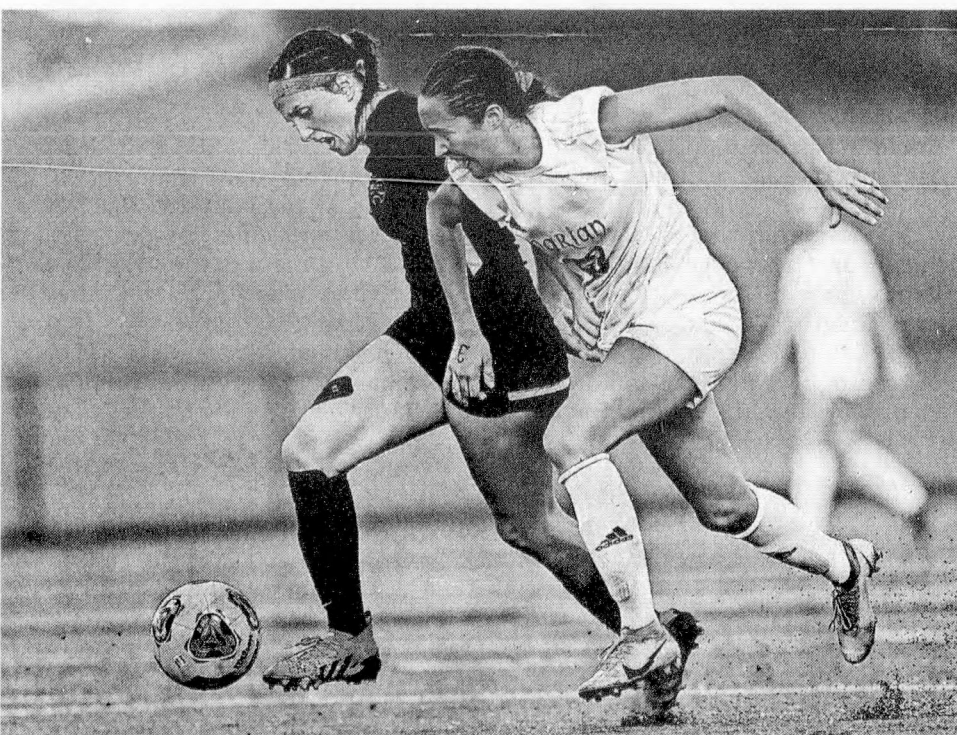
It takes a lot of brainpower to successfully organize a defense and shut down an opponent's best player. So it's no surprise the Wildcats' best defender carries a 4.0 grade-point average. She also added two goals and six assists en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

M - Megan Wu, senior, Plymouth

The Wildcats' leading scorer was both the team captain and an MHSSCA All-State honorable mention.

D - Sarah Gaffka, senior, Livonia Churchill

The fourth-year player was the heart and soul of the Chargers' back line.



Haslett's Sophie Novak, left, and Bloomfield Hills Marian's Isa Agrusso go after the ball June 15 at Northville High School. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Reading the field was never an issue for this center-back, who also posted two goals and two assists.

D - Lauren Moraitis, senior, Northville

The Cincinnati signee spent just one season playing high school soccer, and the MHSSCA All-State first-teamer didn't disappoint, as she was an integral part of the Mustangs' first trip to the state finals since 2014.

GK - Grace Kenopatzki, senior, Garden City

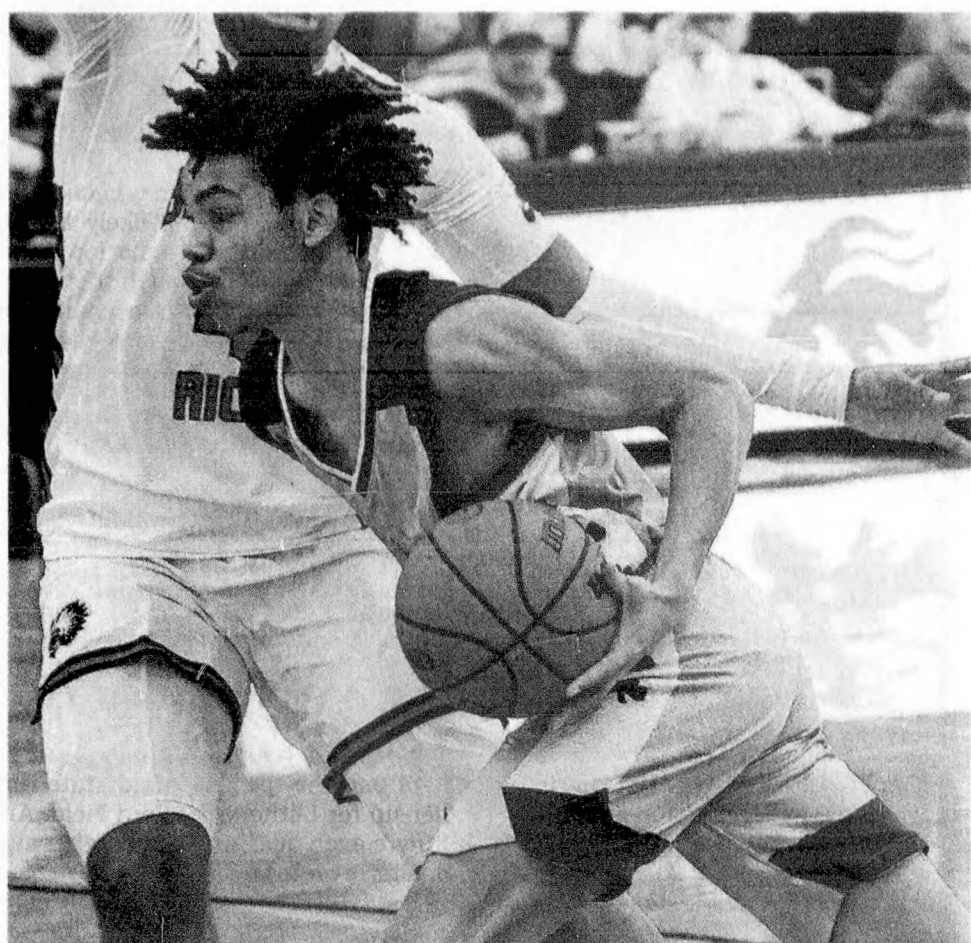
This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer

posted eight shutouts. That meant the team captain got to play in the field at times, and she made the most of it, scoring three goals and even assisting on a handful of others.

GK - Ava Holloway, senior, Salem

Despite playing in arguably the best conference in Michigan, the fourth-year player recorded seven shutouts en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

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



Detroit Catholic Central's Chas Lewless drives to the hoop during the Catholic League tournament quarterfinal against Brother Rice on Feb. 19 at Bloomfield Hills Marian. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Point guard

Continued from Page 1B

between Lewless, CC and Shamrocks coach Brandon Sinawi. And Sinawi has done nothing but wished Lewless all the best at King.

No, this has nothing to do with recruiting. Lewless was already getting plenty of college looks while in Novi.

And, no, Lewless isn't benefiting from some sort of Name, Image and Likeness deal to transfer downtown.

Simply put, this comes down to traffic. Like tow trucks, steamrollers and orange cones.

It took the Lewless family 60-90 minutes to get the kids to school last year. Chas' younger sister, Hannah, who just helped Royal Oak Shrine win a state title in girls soccer this month, needed to be dropped off in Royal Oak, and then Chas was headed to CC's campus on Wixom

Road on the other side of the county.

If congested traffic, car accidents or road construction made Hannah even 1 minute late for school, that meant Chas was going to be several minutes late.

And that's when they were living on the southwest side of Detroit. They've since moved to the east side, close to King's campus. Those drives were about to become much, much worse.

"And there's always construction and traffic on 696," Chas joked. "Without traffic, it's like 30 or 35 minutes straight to CC from my old house. With traffic, it has taken me 45 minutes to an hour. And that's not also counting stopping at my sister's school. With CC being in Novi and me living in Detroit, it was already a hike. Now I'm on the east side and it's even farther. So it's just easier and more convenient for me to go to King, which is a great school with great coaches, so it worked out."

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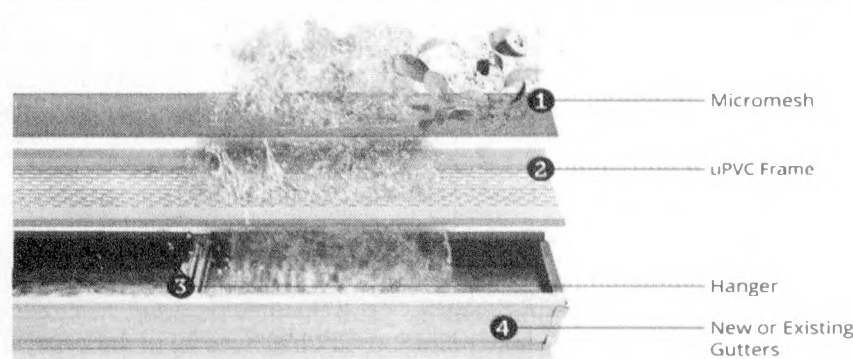
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Point guard

Continued from Page 3B

Chas' father, Chris, is calling it a "homecoming" story for his son.

If Ward has his way, it should be quite the homecoming story indeed.

Chas, a 6-foot-2, 170-pound All-Catholic League selection who averaged 11 points and three assists as a sophomore, steps into an incredible situation.

Running the show in the PSL has been former King point guard Chansey Willis Jr, who averaged close to a triple-double and wound up being named Michigan's Mr. Basketball as a senior. What's more, when he signed with Saginaw Valley State University, he became the first Mr. Basketball winner to sign with a Division II school.

Chas, who is receiving true college interest now that he's a junior, has already heard from the likes of Western Michigan, Toledo, Temple, Cleveland State, Marist College, Mercer University and Georgia, among others, but, obviously, he has big shoes to fill. But he should fit right in at Willis Jr's old spot.

"Chas has got the 'it' factor, and, so far, he's been a great teammate and a good player," Ward said. "But we want him to be better than good. It's a blessing for us to get him, but we'll be a blessing for him as well. I expect him to be the best guard in the state of Michigan. Not just in his senior year but right now. That'll say something about our program, too, if he can become that."

"Having Chansey the last four years has provided us with some great things. But as similar as they are as players, and with both of their first names starting with a 'C-H-A,' there are also some differences. Chansey was amazing for us, but he had to do a lot on his own. With this group, we'll be better. You'll see a better defensive team overall. We'll be a better offensive team, too."

"We're looking forward to Chas being the best, and those aren't unrealistic expectations for him. In his mind, and in my mind, he could be the best point guard in the state of Michigan over the next two years."

So what does Chas add to the squad? Well, he's a gamer. As he proved with CC, no deficit is too large, and no game-winning shot is too big to attempt.

On top of that, he is one of the best ball handlers in the state. He can weave

through traffic, scoot to the rim and create shots for both himself and his teammates.

And he's got a great outside shot. He's been a pretty heads-up defender, but Ward thinks King can make Chas the best defender out there.

"He's just got to keep working and listening," Ward added. "He's going to get so much better defensively that people will be able to see the difference in him by Dec. 1. I don't think he can have that high IQ on offense and just not have it on the defensive end. He's got to use that size and IQ on the defensive end, too. If he wants to average 25 to 27 points a game and eight or nine assists, he's got to hand check. It's going to start on the defensive end. And that comes with physical, mental and emotional growth. We're going to push him every day. Some days won't feel good or sound good to him over the next two years."

"But he knows he's good. I don't think he knows just how good he really can be, though. He realizes he can shoot, score and pass the hell outta the ball. I just don't think he realizes he can dominate the hell outta the game, too."

But being the best will come at a cost, one that has already taken an emotional toll on Chas.

It's been incredibly tough saying farewell to CC.

"I'm going to miss it, for sure," he said. "Not even just the basketball program but the school itself. The brotherhood there is crazy, and a lot of people talk about it all the time, but it really is a real thing."

"I'll definitely miss my teammates and my friends in school who didn't even play sports. I'll miss the different events and the things we used to do that were super fun. I'll miss the faith aspect of it. I joined the Catholic Church and was confirmed when I was at CC. They're all still going to be my family, and I didn't leave on bad blood. I'm just going to miss all the guys there."

"But, at the same time, I'm looking forward to this new school I'm at and making new friends."

If Chas lives up to the hype, all of this fuss will have been worth it. And if he does win Mr. Basketball his senior year, he'll have coaches from both King and CC at the annual ceremony inside the Detroit Free Press' office. Not even bad traffic will keep the Shamrocks from attending that.

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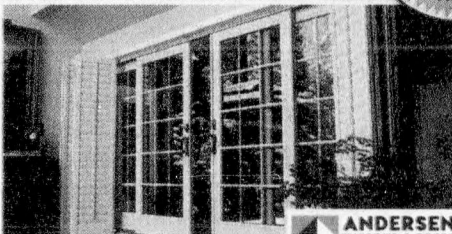


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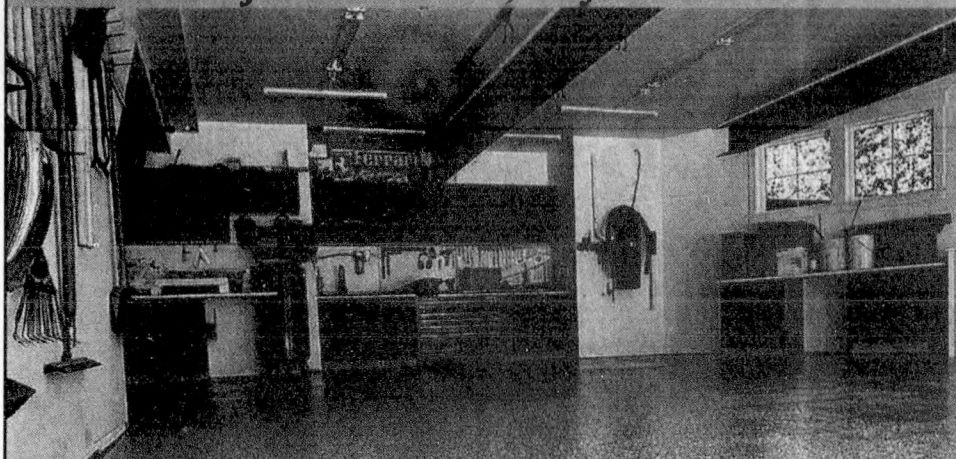
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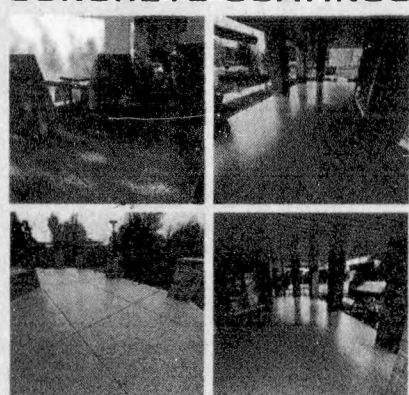
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HOMETOWN LIFE ALL-AREA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

Thousands of words and one tough choice



Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

I was in an incredibly tough position.

Not only was this my first year on the high school sports beat at Hometown Life, but I'm also the only reporter in the entire department.

We cover 43 high schools across 10 different newspaper mastheads. That's about 120-150 different varsity teams playing each season in my small area alone.

We simply can't cover every team the way newspapers have 5, 10 years ago. So I made a tough choice at the beginning of the spring: I went all-in on covering girls soccer. And that, obviously, made for a lack of coverage in the other sports such as baseball, softball and track and field.

Why did I do that?

As the old Ron Swanson quote goes: "Never half-ass two things. Whole-ass one thing."

Girls soccer has always been one of my favorites to cover, even dating back to my times at both the Grand Rapids Press and Gaylord Herald Times.

And one of my bosses says to never cover a subject you're not interested in because it'll show in your writing.

I could've parachuted in and covered random stories with little knowledge about what I was writing about. Or I could've entrenched myself on the sidelines of the soccer pitch to be able to tell you, our loyal readers, who the best players were and what the wins and losses meant for each team. I went with the latter.

A lot of you write in and tell me your favorite part of my coverage is my personality. You know, the style of my writing, the jokes I make and the observations I see that truly no one else pays attention to as closely as I do.

I'm not talking about the keys to a goal being set up. I'm talking about noticing when a player loses a tooth or has a booger hanging from their nose (both of these things happened this spring). One player even almost lost a nose ring after a game. Making soccer my main thing allowed me to share details like those. Right, Mackenzie Gregor?

So, yes, I didn't cover enough baseball and softball this spring. But I was still there to watch Northville baseball and South Lyon softball win



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Isa Agrusso.



Cranbrook Kingwood's Rachael Claxton.

regional titles. I saw Farmington Hills Mercy softball win the Catholic League and then lose to a tough Allen Park team in the quarterfinal. And I did miss a few track stars winning state championships.

But I was there on the pitch. And you knew it, too. I wrote thousands of words about our soccer players. And my tough choice to solely cover soccer paid off. We had three teams play for state championships, and one of them, Bloomfield Hills, even got to hoist a championship trophy.

So here we are. Here is Hometown Life's All-Area girls soccer team.



Bloomfield Hills' Ava Badallo (left). PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

One thing you'll notice is I steer away from the groupthink that is all-conference teams. The most talented players aren't always the best players, in my opinion. I like players with grit. I like leaders. I like it when the little guy wins. And you'll see that my all-area team reflects that.

As a side note: Thanks to everyone who made my first school year at Hometown Life a blast. I'm looking forward to covering girls soccer again next spring.

Let's take a look at who I thought were the best players throughout the 2022 season:

First Team Hometown Life All-Area

F - Ava Badallo, senior, Bloomfield Hills (Folsom's Player of the Year)

This West Virginia Wesleyan signee was a linebacker in a striker's body. Regardless of the competition, she was the toughest player on the pitch. She totaled 17 goals and six assists, was an MHSSCA third-teamer and booted in the penalty kick that gave the Black Hawks their first-ever state championship.

F - Isa Agrusso, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

The Michigan State

signee was a national champion at the club level. So, of course, she was going to be successful in the one year she spent playing high school soccer. She totaled 21 goals and six assists, was the perfect complement to striker Elle Ervin and finished as an MHSSCA All-State first-teamer.

F - Elle Ervin, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills Marian

This MHSSCA All-State first-teamer didn't finish the season on the pitch because of an ACL injury, yet she still posted 18 goals and 11 assists for the state runner-ups.

F - Mackenzie Gregor, senior, Livonia Stevenson

Very few attackers in Michigan were as dangerous around the penalty box as this MHSSCA All-State second-team selection, as the fourth-year player finished with a staggering 30 goals and nine assists.

F - Kate Creighton, sophomore, Plymouth Christian Academy

Most players cower against double and triple teams. Not the MIAC MVP. She posted 27 goals and seven assists, good enough for MHSSCA All-State first-team honors. Not bad for a college football coach's daughter.

F - Emma Pompo, senior, South Lyon East

The Cleveland State signee not only totaled 25 goals and 21 assists en route to MHSSCA All-State first-team honors but she also qualified for the state finals in track and field. Her speed set her apart.

M - Drew Martin, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This Western Michigan signee was the heart and soul of the Black Hawks' state championship squad. Not only was she an MHSSCA All-State first-teamer but she also made the Dream Team thanks to her 14 goals and 10 assists and her knack for showing up in a big way in important games.

M - Ange Briggs, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

Coach Reid Friedrichs called this St. Francis College-Brooklyn signee the quarterback of the Mustangs, and the MHSSCA All-State first-teamer was just that. She finished with eight goals and 11 assists, and no one was better than her during setpieces. She also made the MHSSCA Dream Team.

M - Rachael Claxton, junior, Cranbrook Kingwood

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer knew

Obituaries

Joann (Hildebrandt) McDevitt

January 23, 1932 – July 9, 2022

On the evening of July 9, 2022, Joann (Hildebrandt) McDevitt joined her beloved husband William (Bill/Pops) McDevitt in heaven at the age of 90. Survived by her baby brother Michael Hildebrandt; five loving daughters and two incredible son-in-laws, Karen Evans, Connie (David) Jaskot, Pat (Larry) Watson, Peggy Wright, and Marybeth Ball. Jo/Grams was the #1 fan of her eight grandkids, Michaelene, Danielle (Brad), Cymbre (Marquise), Rebecca, Pete, Chelsea, JJ and Matthew; and could not be prouder of her great grandkids, Gwen, Connor, Marquise Jr., and Kanye.

In her early years, she was the life of the party in her birthplace of St. Bernard, Ohio with her siblings Robert (Jeanette) Hildebrandt, Dorothy (Robert) Fiebig, Katherine Moore, and Michael (Shirley) Hildebrandt along with numerous nieces and nephews for Aunt Jo to love immensely.

After a long career at Sears in Livonia, Michigan, Jo became the most popular Grams in Northville and Novi as the OG Uber Driver, exceptional daycare provider and loudest cheerleader who attended all her active grandkid's events. Jo also loved Spartan basketball and was, herself, an avid golfer with 2 hole-in-ones throughout the years. More importantly, golf fostered a network of life-long friendships that lasted after the clubs were put to rest, with the ladies meeting regularly at Tim Hortons. Her legacy will be the loving family unit that will forever cherish her unconditional love and support, instilling in all of us to reach for the stars.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, July 24, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Inn at St. John, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her honor to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, P.O. Box 22324, New York, NY 10087, the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or a charity of your choice.



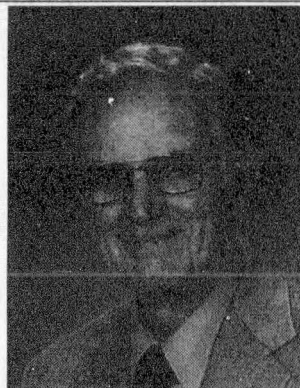
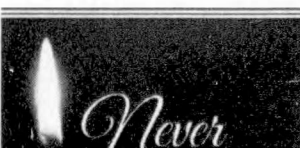
Amy Lakey

SALEM TOWNSHIP - Amy Lakey, 90, Salem Township, born in Los Angeles in 1931 passed away on Tuesday. Amy is survived by her loving son Thomas Ringo (Christine), loving grandchildren Michelle (Brett) Gawley, Jordana (Matt) Fisher and Erik (Brittany) Ringo as well as her six great grandchildren, Ty, Luke, Chase, Brynne, Reese and Sarah. She was preceded by her husband Gerald Lakey. She will be missed greatly by her loving brother Mikey Yoshida, loving nieces Pam, Kelly and Kristen, and her stepson, John P. (Kathy) Lakey. Amy retired from her position as the head Registered Nurse in the OR for the VA Hospital in Detroit. In addition, after retirement she served as mayor of Norfolk, Arkansas. A private family service has been held.



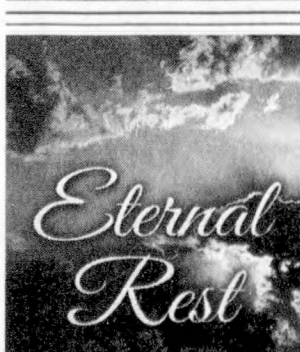
Doreen Schihl (Hock) Moore

Doreen was born April 9th 1934 to Francis and Margret Schihl in Ontario Canada. She passed away June 15th in South Lyon Michigan. Doreen married Ed Hock in 1955 and had Edward Jr. Susan, Ruth, Linda and George. She returned to the work force in her 40s at the University of Michigan History of Art Department. There she met Barbara Peacock who became a travel companion going to England, Scotland and Italy. Doreen enjoyed reading, going to the movies with friends, concerts in the park and her dogs. She was the grandmother of 10 and Great grandmother of 2. There will be a memorial service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon on July 25th at 11:00am.



Dale Haskin

NORTHVILLE TWP. - Passed on July 13, 2022 at the age of 91. Beloved husband of Jacqueline. Loving father of Brian, Jennifer Haskin Will (Jerry Will), and Cindy Haskin-Popp. Cherished grandfather of Nicholas, Riley, Phillip, Grace, Liam, and Colin. Preceded by siblings Versal Haskin and Virginia Bullock. A memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church of Northville on July 19, 2022. Dale's final resting place is Glen Eden Cemetery. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



All-Area

Continued from Page 6B

how to run the field and create scoring opportunities, whether it was for her teammates or herself. But no play was bigger than her game-winning goal to help the Cranes win their first-ever CHSL tournament title.

D - Lauren Moraitis, senior, Northville

The Cincinnati signee spent just one season playing high school soccer, and the MHSSCA All-State first-teamer was an integral part of the Mustangs' first trip to the state finals since 2014.

GK - Ava Holloway, senior, Salem

Despite playing in arguably the best conference in Michigan, the fourth-year player recorded seven shutouts en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

Coach - Alan Zakaria, Bloomfield Hills

He's been the Black Hawks' coach since the school opened in 2015. Not only did he lead them to their first Division 1 state championship but he helped BHHS win its first team state title ever.

Second Team Hometown Life All-Area team

F - Esther Rosett, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This MHSSCA All-State honorable mention had a knack for scoring big goals. That included her game-winner against the defending state champion Hartland in the regional final. She scored 14 goals and had four assists.

F - Daelyn Short, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

The Cranes almost upset Bloomfield Hills Marian in the district championship, and they likely would've had a better chance at doing it had this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention not gone down in the opening 10 minutes with an injury. She's got a knack for scoring goals.

F - Kirsten Fitzgerald, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

The MHSSCA All-State second-teamer was just too quick for opposing defenses. She posted 14 goals and five assists. But none of her goals were as big as the game-winner in overtime that gave the Marlins their first district championship since 2012.

F - Sylvia Bohlen, senior, Northville

Want to know why the MHSSCA All-State honorable mention is headed to Detroit Mercy? She's always finding a way to create scoring chances. Either for her teammates or herself. She was one of the best offensive threats in the KLAA.

F - Alyssa Melquist, junior, South Lyon East

The MHSSCA All-State second-teamer already holds the school record for most goals in a career, as her 25 goals this past spring moved her to 43 total in just her second season on varsity. She also added 18 assists.

M - Caroline Meloche, sophomore, Northville

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer was only a 10th-grader but she proved she deserved all the playing time she got among a crowded lineup of future college soccer stars. She was always one of the best defenders on the field.

M - Talie Burns, sophomore, Novi

It takes a lot of brainpower to successfully organize a defense and shut down an opponent's best player. So it's no surprise the Wildcats' best defender carries a 4.0 grade-point average. She also added two goals and six assists en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

D - Gabby Sapia, senior, Livonia Stevenson

Not only was this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention a shutdown defender but the Madonna University signee was also just as valuable in the attack, as she posted five goals and 23 assists.

D - Emily Takahashi, senior, Northville

When this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention decided she wasn't going to play in college, she quit her club team and joined the Mustangs for her final year of high school. And what a contribution she made. She was always in on the big plays.

GK - Jenica Opdahl, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills

The Black Hawks don't win a state championship without this MHSSCA All-State first-teamer in the net. She posted 11 shutouts. But even more important were the two saves she made in the penalty kick shootout during the state final.

Coach - Jeannine Reddy, Northville

After coaching at Canton for nearly two decades, she took over the Mustangs and, in just her first season, led them back to the state championship for the first time since 2014. They were ranked the No. 1 team in Michigan for most of the spring.

Hometown Life All-Area team Honorable Mention

F - Siena McNitt, junior, Garden City

Despite missing three games with an injury, she totaled 17 goals and six assists, good enough for MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors. Her secret to scoring? She's fast and hardly loses control of the ball when attacking.

F - Lindsay Dahlinger, sophomore, Novi

From a skill standpoint, this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention is a technician. Her fine-tuned fundamentals helped her create scoring opportunities for the Wildcats, who benefited from her 10 goals and four assists.

F - Olivia Schuck, junior, Salem

With 11 goals and five assists, the MHSSCA All-State honorable mention was the leader of the Rocks' attack while playing a challenging league schedule.

F - Rhianna Schermerhorn, junior, South Lyon

As the leader of the Lions' attack, she was an All-District and MHSSCA All-State third-teamer.

F - Alexis Kuffta, senior, Wixom St. Catherine Academy

This MHSSCA All-State second-teamer was so good she couldn't stop breaking records. She finished with both the most points (40) and goals (29) scored in a single season in program history, plus she finished 36th on the MHSAA leaderboard with the most goals scored all-time, which included a staggering five game-winners.

F/M - Natalia and Sofia Salinas, freshmen, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

Despite not fielding a team in 3 years, the Roughriders returned to the pitch and won the MIAC-Red. They can thank the Salinas sisters for that. Natalia totaled 20 goals and 18 assists, while Sofia added 15 goals and 16 assists.

M - Alice Spiegel, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This Western Michigan signee was the glue of the Black Hawks' offense. The MHSSCA All-State first-teamer finished with just one goal and eight assists, but she was responsible for starting a lot of runs that ended in scores.

M - Abby Luchessi, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

The Mustangs' offense often started with this MHSSCA All-State second-teamer, who finished with five goals and 15 assists. But, more importantly, she ignited many runs that ended with either Elle Ervin or Isa Agrusso scoring goals.

M - Catherine Riddle, junior, Livonia Churchill

Not only is she a multi-sport athlete but she's also a multi-position soccer player. She played every position, including goalie, and still totaled seven goals and 11 assists.

M - Jenna Barbour, junior, Livonia Stevenson

No pass was too tough to thread through a tight defense for this All-KLAA first-teamer, who totaled 10 goals and 15 assists (most of which were to teammate Mackenzie Gregor).

M - Madi Webb, junior, Lutheran Westland

Some players have a knack for finding the back of the net, and then there's Madi Webb. This MIAC-Red first-teamer tallied a staggering 33 goals and four assists to help the Warriors place second in their league.

M - Grace Koski, junior, Northville

There's no denying her leadership skills on the field. She's always the loudest. And she's always in control. There's no doubt her teammates benefited from her organization, and it's no surprise to see her already committed to Cleveland State.

M - Megan Wu, senior, Plymouth

The Wildcats' leading scorer was both the team captain and an MHSSCA All-State honorable mention.

M - Jessica Boulard, senior, South Lyon East

The Cougars had plenty of talent in the midfield, and Boulard was one of the best. The MHSSCA All-State honorable mention posted 20 goals and 10 assists while helping East get back to the regional final.

D - Sarah Gaffka, senior, Livonia Churchill

The fourth-year player was the heart and soul of the Chargers' back line. Reading the field was never an issue for this center-back, who also posted two goals and two assists.

D - Brynn White, senior, Plymouth

The MHSSCA honorable mention was part of a trio of All-KLAA defenders. She will play at Detroit Mercy.

D - Saige Yakuber, senior, Plymouth Christian Academy

Just how good is this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention? She was the first defender selected by area coaches at the all-region team meeting.

D - Autumn Neville, senior, South Lyon East

The Spring Arbor signee was a hard-nosed defender but was also a big help

in the attack. She scored just one goal and had only two assists but she played well enough to pick up MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

GK - Grace Kenopatzi, senior, Garden City

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer posted eight shutouts. That meant the team captain got to play in the field at times, and she made the most of it, scoring three goals and even assisting on a handful of others.

GK - Simran Magnan, freshman, Northville

She wasn't just All-KLAA first team as a rookie. She posted four shutouts and allowed just three goals during the playoffs, all while the Mustangs finished as the state runner-ups.

Coach - Reid Friedrichs, Bloomfield Hills Marian

After inheriting a squad that won four-straight state championships, he guided the Mustangs back to the state final, despite one of his best players, Elle Ervin, missing most of the playoffs because of an injury. They finished as the state runner-ups in D-2.

The best of the rest

F - Camryn Pepper, sophomore, Birmingham Groves

F - Melissa Olney, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

F - Avery Coykendall, senior, Canton

F - Sara Tweed, senior, Cranbrook Kingswood

F - Soraya Puerto-Khalil, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

F - Juliana Morro, senior, Livonia Stevenson

F - Kelsey Ware, sophomore, Livonia Stevenson

F - Kayla Shuk, senior, North Farmington

F - Abby Park, senior, Northville

F - Kaitlyn Rogala, senior, Northville

F - Clare Binder, freshman, Plymouth Christian Academy

F - Elaine Rama, sophomore, Salem

F - Paige Senter, senior, South Lyon

F/M - Kate Heston, senior, Livonia Churchill

M - Elsie Meilinger, senior, Birmingham Groves

M - Ava David, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

M - Avary Hall, junior, Bloomfield Hills

M - Emily Woods, senior, Canton

M - Sophie Endrud, junior, Detroit Country Day

M - Amanda Exline, senior, Farmington

M - Abby Clark, junior, Livonia Clarenceville

M - Reagan Burnette, senior, Livonia Franklin

M - Grace Distelrath, senior, Livonia Franklin

M - Leah Kuhn, junior, Livonia Franklin

M - Marlo Lulguarj, senior, Livonia Stevenson

M - Jenna Boye, sophomore, Lutheran Westland

M - Michi Hooks, senior, Milford

M - Skylar Wayne, freshman, North Farmington

M - Caroline Doody, senior, Northville

M - Elizabeth McHugh, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

M - Emma Dennison, senior, Salem

M - Lauren Driscoll, sophomore, Salem

M - Mackenzie Buckley, senior, South Lyon

M - Sierra Newton, junior, South Lyon

M - Gianna Spano, freshman, South Lyon

M - Maya Spano, senior, South Lyon

M - Kaylie Samluk, junior, South Lyon East

M - Nancy Ramirez, senior, Wayne Memorial

M - Karissa Welsh, senior, White Lake Lakeland

D - Morgan Perry, freshman, Birmingham Groves

D - Allie Adams, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

D - Simone Forte, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

D - Emma Merchant, senior, Bloomfield Hills

D - Sabrina Yaladoo, junior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

D - Mackenzie Behnke, sophomore, Cranbrook Kingswood

D - Katherine Bergman, junior, Farmington

D - Tymmarie Grom, senior, Livonia Churchill

D - Kendra Pearson, senior, Livonia Clarenceville

D - Kiera Hura, junior, Livonia Franklin

D - Alli Avers, junior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Anna Oynioan, junior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Morgan Bogacki, senior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Makenna Fetzer, junior, North Farmington

D - Chloe Jefferson, junior, North Farmington

D - Brooke Pendleton, senior, Northville

D - Grace Kwasniewicz, sophomore, Novi

D - Isabella Blake, junior, Plymouth

D - Riley Sheppard, junior, Plymouth

D - Ashlon Gilmore, senior, Salem

D - Jennifer Valadez, senior, Wayne Memorial

D - Cameron Swafford, junior, Westland John Glenn

D - Breanna Kennedy, freshman, Westland John Glenn

D - Molly Marino, sophomore, White Lake Lakeland

GK - Spring Schwanki, senior, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

GK - Mya Duhart, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

GK - Jordan LaVesueur, freshman, Farmington Hills Mercy

GK - Madison Shirley, junior, Livonia Franklin

GK - Arden Schultz, junior, Milford

GK - Maya Weisberger, senior, North Farmington

GK - Isabella Elkins, senior, Plymouth

GK - Caitlyn McBeth, junior, South Lyon

GK - Jessica Forbis, sophomore, White Lake Lakeland

Coach - Tyler Pemberton, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

Coach - Ken Shingledecker, Livonia Stevenson

Coach - Ryan Thomason, Plymouth Christian Academy

Coach - Kyle Karns, Salem

Coach - Pete Stoyanovich, South Lyon East

Co-Coaches - Kristina Sikora and Tom James, Farmington Hills Mercy

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Labor Market Extends Its Record-Setting Heat Streak

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The labor market conditions Fed Chair Jerome Powell has described as "extremely, historically" tight and "unsustainably hot" persisted in May, according to the May JOLTS report released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

We have now had 6 straight months of more than 11 million job openings and 12 straight months of more than 4 million people voluntarily quitting their jobs—a sign of high job seeker confidence signaling continued upward pressure on wages and likely future increases in labor force participation.

There were 11.3 million job openings—61% more than before Covid, and almost twice as many as the number of unemployed job seekers. And 4.3 million workers quit their jobs. Those numbers are near their all-time record highs.

Meanwhile, layoffs and discharges remained historically low at 1.4 million, well below the pre-Covid average of 1.9 million—an indication that employers are hanging onto the workers they have in a tight labor market where replacing them is unusually costly. Job openings/quits figures from the April report were revised upwards.

Here are the key takeaways from the report:

Small business demand for workers remains intense, with job openings reaching an all-time record high.

- At 1.8 million, job openings are at a record high in small businesses with fewer than 10 employees. According to NFIB's small business jobs report, labor shortages continue to be a challenge with 51% of small businesses reporting job openings they could not fill in May, near the 48-year record high set in September. 92% of those owners hiring or trying to hire reported few or no qualified applicants for the positions they were trying to fill. Overall, two in three small businesses reported hiring or trying to hire in May, up eight points from April. So small business demand for labor is showing no signs of cooling.

There is no evidence of mass layoffs in tech, but labor market conditions in the tech sector do appear to be cooling slightly.

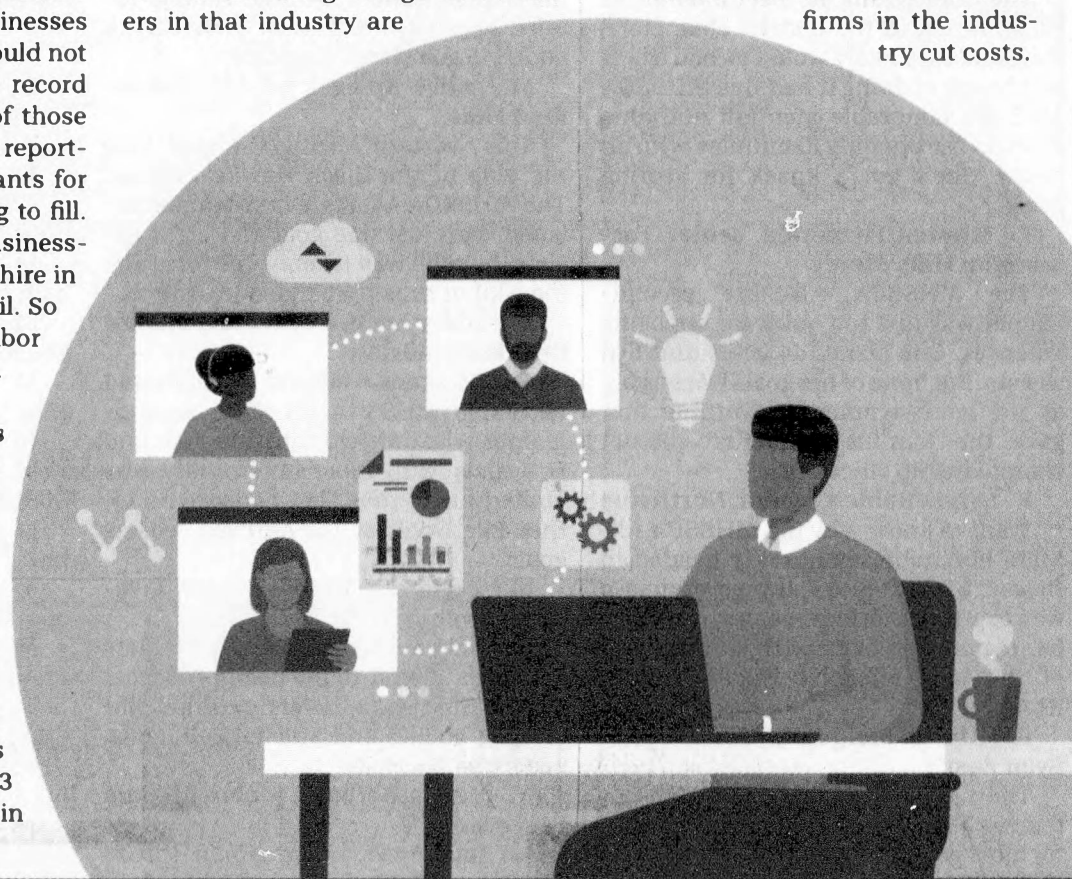
- The job openings rate in the information sector slowed in May to 7.4% from 8.4% in April, and the hires rate declined slightly to 3.4% from 3.5%. The layoff rate has been picking up for the last 3 months (0.8% in March, 0.9% in

April, 1.0% in May), however it is still lower than the 2021 average of 1.1%.

The rapid increase in mortgage rates is dampening worker confidence in real estate and financial services.

- Quits fell 41% in real estate and rental and leasing—a sign that workers in that industry are

no longer confident that they'll be able to find a new job if they leave their current positions. Market conditions have cooled very quickly, with large declines in home purchases and mortgage applications, as mortgage rates have risen faster than ever before. Layoffs also spiked 71% in finance and insurance as some firms in the industry cut costs.



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