



NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Lyon Twp. subdivision pays for road fixes

Tanglewood Homeowners Association finds solution through special assessment district

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Keith Ledbetter was a state road lobbyist for six years, but he had no idea he would have to lobby a few hundred of

his own Lyon Township neighbors to fix their subdivision streets.

He has a warning for residents of townships throughout Michigan: if you're waiting for the cavalry to come to the rescue of your own deteriorating

roads, you too might need to be your own heroes and open your wallets.

"I am not a casual observer, and to find out abruptly that no one was going to fix our roads was a shock to me," Ledbetter said. "You are going to be in for a rude awakening that no government agency will fix the roads for you. You will have to find a way to pay for them yourselves."

The president of the Tanglewood Homeowners Association did find a way, the only way: a special assessment district, in which taxes are levied for a period of years on homeowners who have frontage on roads to be improved.

It wasn't going to come easy, nor was it going to come cheap.

See **ROAD FIXES**, Page 6A

Sakura Novi recommended for approval years after 1st proposal

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Asian-themed mixed-use development in Novi continues to push forward toward reality, even after several years of discussion and changes to the site.

The most recent move? The recommendation of approval of the preliminary site plan for the Sakura Novi development, which is expected to consist of retail, office and residential units on property east of Town Center Road and between Grand River and 11 Mile.

"We hope we have done enough to move forward," said Scott Aikens, one of the developers. "We have numerous businesses that are interested in the site."

The development includes the commercial properties closer to Grand River, with apartments closer to 11 Mile. A pond incorporating walkways and a Japanese-style garden are also part of the development.

Several changes have been made since the initial proposal of the village several years ago, including the removal of the anchor tenant, One World Market. That store decided to stay in its current location and expand into the former Library Sports Pub & Grill that closed. Several additional residential units could occupy a part of the property that was designated as a parking lot as well.

"They may need that parking," said Lindsay Bell, a planner with the City of

See **SAKURA NOVI**, Page 4A



A sandhill crane parent and two chicks feast on a bag of Sun Chips on July 18 at Maple Beach at Kensington Metropark.
SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kensington cranes crash picnic

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A trio of sandhill cranes threw their own beach picnic at Kensington Metropark, wreaking havoc in front of stunned and indignant humans and laying waste to chips and chalupas.

It was a stark reminder to not feed the wildlife, lest they decide to crash your feast as uninvited guests.

The guilty party, an adult crane and

two chicks, strolled onto the scene of Maple Beach innocently enough, inspiring smiles as they passed through a playground.

But the brazen beach bums then sauntered over to a blanket under a tree where Adrienne Hardaway and Gabrielle Jackson had brought food and beverages from McDonald's and Taco Bell to enjoy.

The Detroit residents watched in disbelief from less than three feet away as

the birds first nipped at a drink's straw and then stuck their beaks into the bags with chalupas, fries and a hamburger.

The women were rendered nearly speechless.

Uncertain what to do, Hardaway finally picked up a camping chair, collapsed it, and waved it in the general direction of the cranes while shooing them away.

See **CRANES**, Page 8A

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S#8 B#3

Huron Valley Schools celebrates budget windfall

Susan Bromley [Hometownlife.com](mailto:hometonlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Huron Valley Schools Superintendent Paul Salah doesn't usually equate budgets with good news, but he and other school officials are rejoicing after state legislators passed a bipartisan education budget.

The budget is a veritable windfall for the district with not only "an absolutely outstanding" \$450 per pupil increase in the foundation allowance (equating to more than \$3.4 million for the 7,700 students in the district), but additional increases in multiple areas.

"There's a lot to celebrate here," Salah said as he grinned and went through all the aid coming Huron Valley's way, which besides the foundation allowance increase which bumps the district up to a base total of \$9,150 per pupil, also includes:

- \$1,789,345 in increased funding for special education
- \$677,249 in grant funds to be used for at-risk students
- \$833,000 in a new mental health grant
- \$833,000 in a new school safety grant
- \$45,159 increase for career and technical education

The district had previously passed a budget that anticipated an increase from the state of \$300 per pupil. With the higher than anticipated increase, as well as all the additional increases, the district will be receiving more than \$5.3 million in unexpected funds, raising the fund balance in just a month from 6.7 percent to 13.6 percent.

Geoffrey Van Goethem, assistant superintendent for business and operations, called it "phenomenal."

"Thank you to our legislature and governor for putting together such a robust school aid budget that really puts kids first and is a large investment in all of our students, including those in the Huron Valley School District," he said.

He noted the district still has \$2.5 million remaining of a total \$4.5 million in COVID-allocated funds which they will spend in specific areas, like many of the new grants.

Salah noted "at-risk" covers more than 30 percent of the student population in Huron Valley and can include not only students who receive free or reduced lunch, but also students who are not proficient in English language arts or math, and could also be children who have an incarcerated family member.

The mental health grants, which will

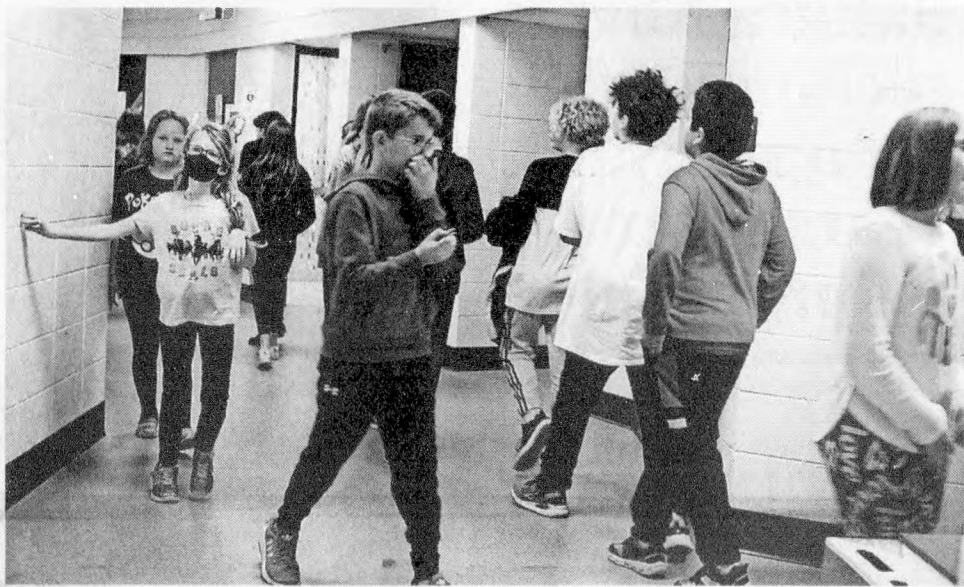


Highland Elementary School teacher Susan Osterhart works with kindergartners. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

also include \$350,000 from Oakland County, will help the district add additional full-time staff at each elementary school and the special education increases will assist in adding behavior interventionists and behavior specialists, too.

"The ink hasn't even dried on the bill yet, so we are still working out the details and exact formulas and ratios," Salah said. "Advocacy is key. We are so grateful to parents who reached out to us, and thankful for them to emailing legislators and the governor... This tremendous budget will allow us to do things immediately and look at the longer-term to attract and retain staff."

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



Highland Elementary School students pass in the hallway on May 18.

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Grab sushi from conveyor belt in Novi

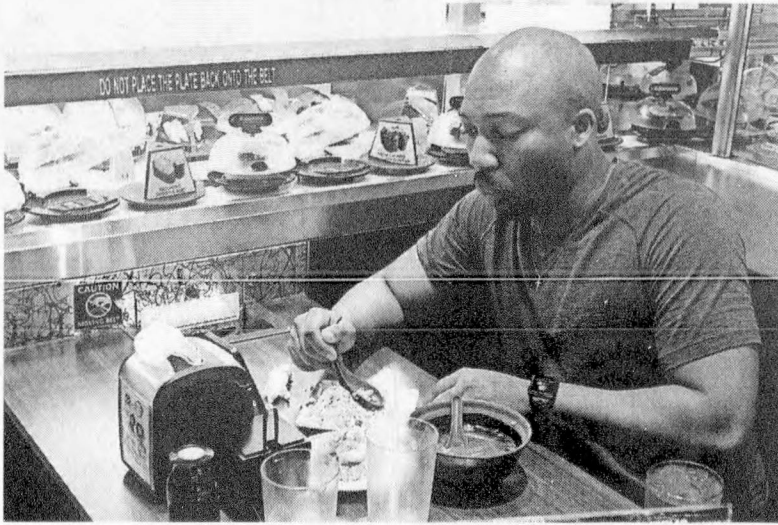
David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's newest sushi restaurant is something straight out of an episode of the Jetsons.

Kura Sushi, an international brand based in Japan, provides more than just sushi and bowls of ramen. It provides guests with an experience, complete with rotating dishes and even a drink-serving robot.

The restaurant, located in Suite C at 26425 Novi Road just south of Interstate 96, opened July 16. It's a concept not seen much in metro Detroit before: guests are welcomed and sit at the bar or in a booth and order right away. Adjacent to their seat is a conveyor belt, which constantly rotates a myriad of small plates containing sushi, desserts and other delicacies.

Guests can grab whichever dishes they want as they pass by; the used plates are discarded in a chute at the table, which tabulates how many were taken for billing purposes. Each sushi



West Bloomfield Township resident and food influencer Chester Walker eats during a media event July 19 at Kura Sushi in Novi.

DAVID VESELENAK/
HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

dish is the same price.

"This is something that our chefs fill with all the food. It's covered, it's protected," said Hitomi Vinciguerra, Kura Sushi's director of public relations and marketing. "You can pick anything you like when you see it. This is your chance to try something new."

For those looking for a hot dish, such as garlic fried rice, shrimp tempura or miso ramen, a touch screen located at each booth allows guests to order those at their leisure. When the dish is ready to be served, it arrives on a separate conveyor belt right to the table.

The concept brings an experimental way to dine to Novi. Kura Sushi first started in Japan and has expanded across the globe, including in places such as Taiwan and the United States. The Novi restaurant is the second one to open in Michigan; another operates along Big Beaver in Troy.

Guests can expect a welcome in Japanese when they enter, and can expect a different kind of server if they order a pop or water. That server is Kur-B, the company's new robot server programmed to bring non-alcoholic drinks out to guests.

The restaurant does offer takeout for

customers who can't stay, but Vinciguerra said dining in is the truly best way to experience what Kura Sushi is all about.

"All the food is really good," Vinciguerra said. "Just the uniqueness of our experience, that's really where we stand out."

John Lee, an opening manager with Kura Sushi, travels the country opening Kura restaurants.

He said the Novi location — located in a former T-Mobile store — is one of the smaller restaurants in the company. A new restaurant location coming to Orlando, he said, will be at least twice the size.

He said while he enjoys the menu, it's the sweets that have become his favorite item.

"I actually like the dessert: the Japanese soy milk doughnut," he said. "I just come here to eat that."

Kura Sushi is open 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. More information, including a menu, can be found at kurasushi.com.

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF NOVI ORDINANCE NO. 18.299

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AT ARTICLE 2, DEFINITIONS, AT SECTION 2.2, DEFINITIONS, IN ORDER TO ADD DEFINITIONS FOR DRIVE-UP SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES AND CLIMATE-CONTROLLED SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES; AND AT ARTICLE 4, USE STANDARDS, AT SECTION 4.51, SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES AND ARTICLE 5, SITE STANDARDS, AT SECTION 5.2.12, OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR AND ADD REGULATIONS RELATING TO DRIVE-UP SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES AND CLIMATE-CONTROLLED SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 11, 2022, and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Milford restaurant returns with modern twist

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford's newest restaurant is a homecoming of sorts for Tom Lin.

The longtime chef known for first opening Lei Ting restaurant, as well as his appearances on the Food Network, has returned to the village and rebranded the longtime Asian restaurant in the Mill Valley Center.

Now known as Lei Ting's Blue Pearl, the restaurant sports a new look, new menu items and a new attitude toward dining.

"We need to represent Milford. We need a good, Asian restaurant. And I had so many recipes and I've been training chefs my whole life," he said. "I have lots of new ideas."

"It's something I'd like to present to the people."

First open in 2000 by Lin and his wife, Julie Hill-Lin, he eventually sold it to his uncle 10 years ago when he got busy with other ventures, such as his Fortune Cooking food truck and Szechuan Empire restaurants in Livonia and Commerce Township. With his uncle retiring from the restaurant business, he approached the Milford couple about taking the space back and they decided to do it, though with a new outlook.

Gone is the wallpaper and dated looks inside, replaced with black and blue paint and modern artwork, renovations that took roughly three months to complete. Open July 1, Lei Ting's Blue Pearl ups the ante and invites guests to experience an Asian fusion dining experience not seen in the Milford area before.

While many of the same dishes known for longtime Lei Ting's customers returned, several new options adorn the menu, combining cuisine styles from across Asia and around the globe. Dishes such as red snapper, sushi, buffalo chicken egg rolls and smoked duck can be found on the menu, in addition to the traditional longtime foods such as General Tso's chicken.

Focusing on fusions isn't just a combination of globetrotting cuisines, Lin-Hill said. It can also include a cross between other Asian flavors, of which can be vastly different.

"A fusion can mean Chinese fusing with Japanese, Japanese fusing with Thai," Hill-Lin said. "You can have those fusions in the Asian culture also."

They've brought a whole line of drinks as well, including new signature cocktails that take an Asian spin on many of the classics.

While only open for a few days, the couple said the response overall has been great for both lunch and dinner.

"It's been amazing how the community has rallied around us," Hill-Lin said.

Manager Alex LaFountain, who previously worked at the former iteration of Lei Ting, said he believes Milford will embrace the new concept.

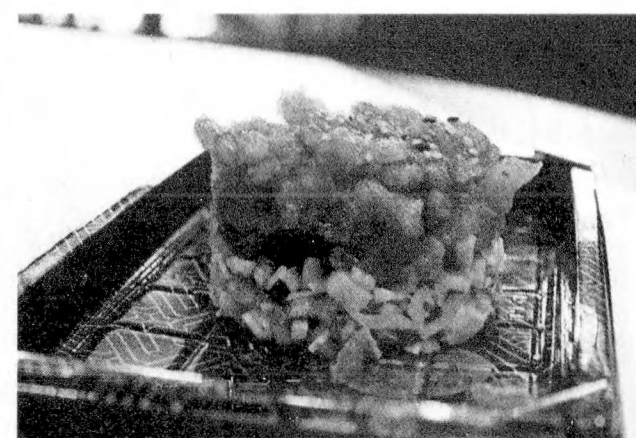
"It's going to be better for sure," he said. "The customer response has been great."



Husband and wife team Tom Lin and Julie Hill-Lin have opened Lei Ting's Blue Pearl in the Mill Valley Center in Milford. The restaurant is a new take on Asian food, focusing on fusions and an elegant experience.
PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



While many dishes familiar to longtime customers returned, new options also now adorn the menu.



A tuna tartare at Lei Ting's Blue Pearl.

Takeout is still a major component of the restaurant, though they anticipate more dine-in as word gets out about the opening, with online reservations and ordering coming soon. They anticipate working with third-party delivery services as well in the future.

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 9:30 p.m. Sunday. More information, including a menu, can be found at leiting-bluepearl.com.

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

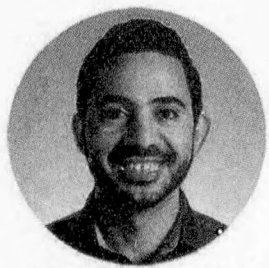


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Motor City Nightmares returns to Novi

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tommy Brunswick loves scary movies.

The producer and Michigan native favors monsters over slasher flicks, but all the villains and their loyal fans have a place at the Motor City Nightmares Horror Expo and Film Festival.

Brunswick co-founded in 2008 what is now the only woman-owned horror convention in the country. The annual event returns to Novi July 29-31 at the Sheraton Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road.

"It's a little crazy and not for the faint of heart," she said. "All ages come to the show, they want to meet their heroes. Everyone loves a good villain. It's funny, because the villains in the movies are the nicest people you'll ever meet in real life."

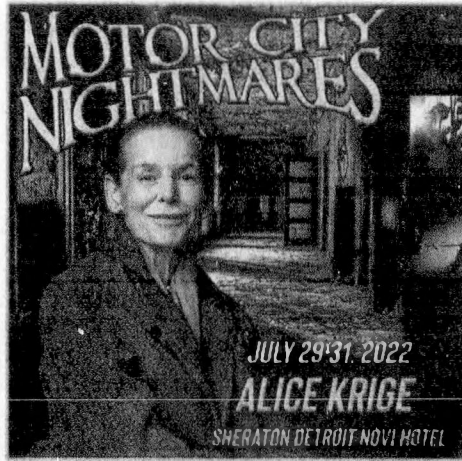
The convention's main draw is all the celebrities who attend, with this year's slate including a cast reunion for "Dawn of the Dead" as well as the original "Pet Sematary."

Brunswick is particularly excited about the attendance of Alice Krige, a South African actress with a long list of horror film credits, but who may be best known as the Borg Queen in "Star Trek: First Contact."

Motor City Nightmares also boasts 37 horror films — both features and shorts — all three days of the festival, viewed in blocks.

Vendors, many niche artists, will also take over the Sheraton's multiple ballrooms, and Brunswick is planning parties as well, featuring bands including Amino Acids.

She expects attendance at the event, which has ticket prices averaging about \$25, to be several thousand.



Alice Krige, who has starred in numerous horror movies and was the Borg Queen in *Star Trek: First Contact*, will appear at Motor City Nightmares Horror Expo & Film Festival in Novi.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOMMY BRUNSWICK

While the horror genre may not be mainstream or as popular as the Motor City Comic Con, with its good guys superheroes, Brunswick notes it still has many very loyal fans.

For the native of Livonia and Milford who also lived in Plymouth and Canton before moving to Los Angeles a few years ago, Motor City Nightmares is "like one of my children."

Brunswick described the event as a family barbecue.

"All of us strange horror people feel accepted and enjoy each other's company," she said. "It's a totally fun, geeking out kind of thing."

For more information, visit motorcitynightmares.com or the Motor City Nightmares Facebook page.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



The Motor City Nightmares Horror Expo & Film Festival descends July 29-31 at the Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty Road in Novi.

Sakura Novi

Continued from Page 1A

Novi. "The PRO agreement does allow up to 15 additional units in that area."

The movement by the planning commission is the first major action by the

city since last year. The property was rezoned by the city council in May 2021, with the property purchased by Sakura Novi LLC last summer.

Development is expected to happen in phases, with the retail storefronts and some residential going up first, followed by more apartments in the second phase. The first phase could be

completed by the spring of 2024, Aikens said.

Planning commissioners were supportive of the site plan, with several saying they were excited to see work begin and the project go from a concept to a reality.

"I'm kind of getting antsy wanting to see it get up and running," said Commis-

sioner Michael Lynch. "I see no reason to reject it at this time."


The city council will next take up the preliminary site plan and make a determination on it at a future meeting.

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

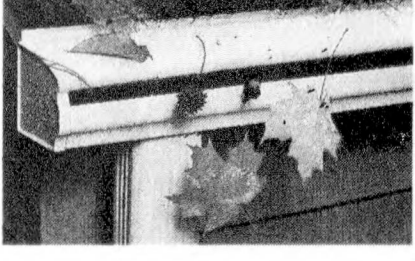
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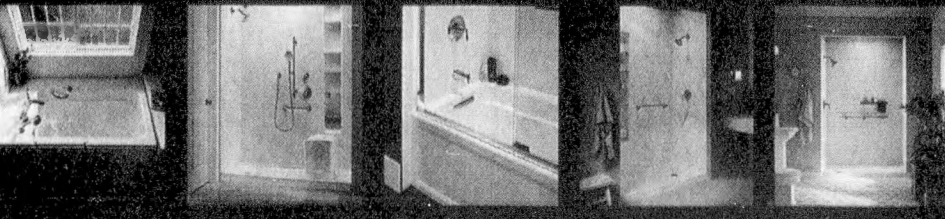
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

MI zip codes turn up gold for residents

Contents inside sealed Vault Bricks reveal old U.S. coins with rare 24 Karat Gold Layering issued by the U.S. Gov't nearly 100 years ago are actually being handed over to Michigan residents who find their zip code below; but only those who beat the 48 hour deadline are getting them at just state minimum

"If you live in the state of Michigan you need to find your zip code listed in today's newspaper announcement and call immediately," said Laura A. Lynne, Director of Coin and Currency for National Mint and Treasury.

That's because Michigan residents who find the first three digits of their zip code listed in today's publication are getting Sealed Vault Bricks containing the only Michigan State Gold Bank Rolls known to exist with the exclusive State Restricted Design and each loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Buffalo Nickels layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold by National Mint and Treasury. This is all happening because thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold. Now any resident who finds the first three digits of their zip code listed in today's publication and calls to verify it gets to claim the Gold Vault Bricks for themselves and keep all the valuable gold found inside.

And here's the best part. Michigan residents can really cash in for the next 48 hours. That's because non-state residents and those who miss the 48-hour deadline must pay \$8 per coin, but Michigan residents who take the Vault Bricks cover just the \$4 per coin state minimum. That means Michigan residents get all 125 coins with rare 24 Karat Gold Layering for just \$500 which is a real steal since non-state residents must pay over \$1,000 for each Vault Brick. And it gets even better for those claiming the Jumbo Gold Vault Bricks.

"As Director of Coin and Currency for National Mint and Treasury, one of my jobs is to deliver breaking news. And today's announcement confirming the release of Sealed Gold Vault Bricks to residents of the state of Michigan is as big as it gets," Lynne said.

"So my advice is this, anyone who gets an opportunity to get their hands on one of these Gold Vault Bricks full of coins issued by the U.S. Gov't nearly 100 years ago with rare 24 Karat Gold layering from the National Mint and Treasury better jump at the chance while they still can," Lynne said.

"These Gold Vault Bricks make the most impressive gifts for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, weddings, and any other occasion, especially for that hard-to-buy-for person," Lynne said.

According to Ms. Lynne, since thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the gold, today and tomorrow are intended as a "special 48 hour release" for the benefit of Michigan residents. This gives them a fair chance to claim the Sealed Gold Vault Bricks and all the valuable gold loaded inside for themselves.

But, Ms. Lynne added, "The Sealed Gold Vault Bricks are only available as inventory permits during the special 48 hour release so please do not miss the deadline." The director added, "We have no power to stop coin dealers, resellers or collectors buying up all the Gold Vault Bricks they can get their hands on," Lynne said.

"We already know the phones will be ringing off the hook. That's why hundreds of agents are standing by to answer the phones beginning at 8:30am this morning. We're going to do our best, but with just 48 hours to answer all the calls it won't be easy. So make sure to tell everyone to keep calling if all lines are busy. We'll do our best to answer them all," Lynne said.

"That's why National Mint and Treasury set up the State Distribution Hotlines in order to make sure residents of Michigan can get them now," Lynne said.

The only thing readers of today's newspaper publication need to do is make sure they live in one of the zip codes listed and call the State Distribution Hotlines before the special 48 hour deadline ends midnight tomorrow. ■



■ **FLYING OUT THE DOOR:** Lucky Michigan residents are hoping to find their zip code listed in today's publication, but not everybody will. That's why those who do need to immediately call the State Distribution Hotlines. Everyone who does is authorized to claim sealed Vault Bricks loaded with the only Michigan State Gold Bank Rolls known to exist for the lowest ever \$4 per coin minimum set for Michigan residents - non-state residents and those who miss the 48 hour deadline must pay \$8 per coin, if any remain.

MICHIGAN RESIDENTS: IF YOU FIND THE FIRST THREE DIGITS OF YOUR ZIP CODE BELOW. CALL: 1-800-997-8036 EXT: BNA1105

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■ **RARELY SEEN:** ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOV'T NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO



■ **VALUABLE:** RARE 24 KARAT GOLD LAYERING

Answering Your Questions

Q: How much are the Gold Vault Bricks worth?

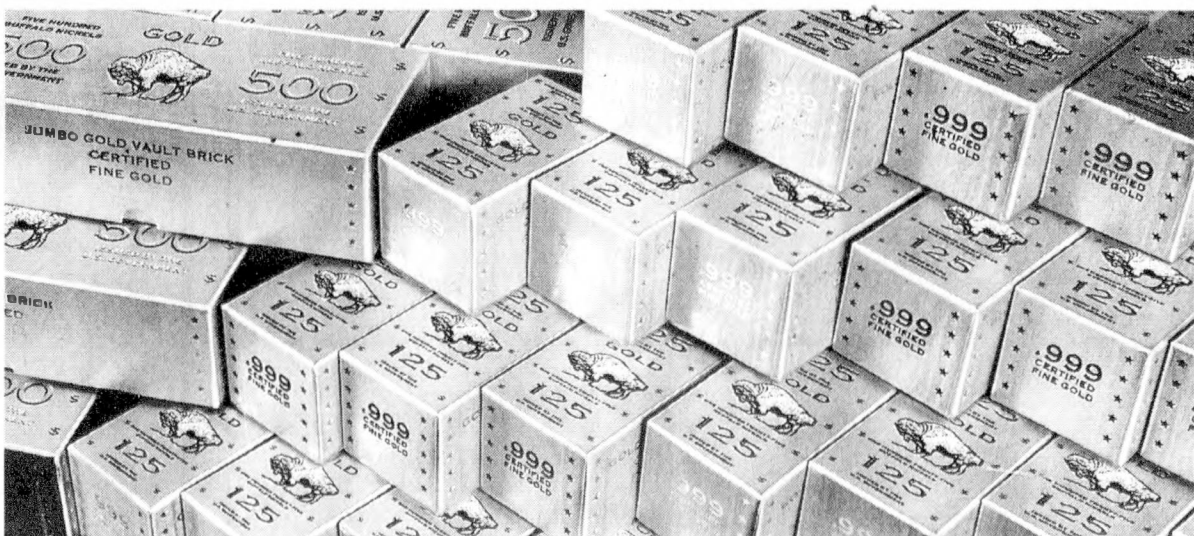
A: It's impossible to say, but these Buffalos date clear back to the early 1900's and are covered with rarely seen 24 Karat Gold Layering, sealed and protected in brilliant collector condition and there are 25 in each Bank Roll so you better hurry if you want to get your hands on them. Collector values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees. But we do know they are the only Michigan State Bank Rolls known to exist. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these sealed Vault Bricks should hold onto them because there's no telling how much they could be worth in collector value someday.

Q: Why are so many Michigan residents calling to get them?

A: Because they are the only Michigan State Bank Rolls known to exist we're bracing for the flood of calls. These are not ordinary Bank Rolls. These are full Bank Rolls containing 25 Buffalos dating clear back to 1900's. Best of all each Buffalo is layered in 24 Karat Gold and the state minimum set by National Mint and Treasury is restricted to Michigan residents who find the first three digits of their zip code listed in today's publication beat the deadline only. That means Michigan residents cover only \$4 per Buffalo when they claim the Gold Vault Bricks, which is just \$500 for the next 2 days.

Q: How do I get the Gold Vault Bricks?

A: The only thing Michigan residents need to do is find the first three digits of their zip code in today's publication and call the State Toll-Free Hotline at 1-800-997-8036 Ext. BNA1105 before the deadline ends. Everyone who does is getting the Bank Rolls for just the state minimum. That's a sealed Gold Vault Brick containing the only Michigan State Bank Rolls known to exist each loaded with the rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Buffalo Nickels layered in valuable 24 Karat Gold for just the \$4 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, which totals just \$500 for the full sealed Gold Vault Brick. That's a real steal because state residents and non-state residents who miss the deadline must pay \$1,000 for each sealed Gold Vault Brick if any remain.



■ **FIRST LOOK INSIDE GOLD VAULT BRICKS:** Shown above is a sneak peak inside the Gold Vault Bricks. The Gold Vault Bricks are loaded with Michigan State Gold Bank Rolls containing U.S. Buffalos each layered in 24 Karat Gold. The phone lines will be ringing off the hook beginning at precisely 8:30 am this morning. That's because Michigan residents can really cash in for the next 48 hours. Here's why. Non-state residents and those who miss the 48-hour deadline must pay \$8 per coin, but Michigan residents who take the Gold Vault Bricks pictured above cover just the \$4 per coin state minimum. That means Michigan residents get all 125 coins with rare 24 Karat Gold Layering for just \$500 which is a real steal since non-state residents must pay over \$1,000 for each Gold Vault Brick. And it gets even better for those claiming the Jumbo Gold Vault Bricks.

Road fixes

Continued from Page 1A

Ledbetter was going to need a super-majority of 349 homeowners to each agree to pay several hundred dollars in additional taxes per year for a decade to fund more than \$3.6 million in road improvements.

"Any township road in Oakland County, the only way to improve them is through a special assessment district," Craig Bryson, communications manager for the Road Commission for Oakland County, confirmed. "They are never going to be repaved by the county. We agreed to maintain them, but not repave them. That is the case in every township subdivision in the state."

He, too, wishes more people knew this. Bryson said there are two main reasons why it's incumbent on township residents to pay for their own road improvements — one, their tax rates are lower than cities and villages which have jurisdiction over their roads; and two, the funding the road commission receives under Act 51 is only enough to cover patching potholes and routine maintenance, including plowing and repairing drainage issues. It's not enough to resurface subdivision roads.

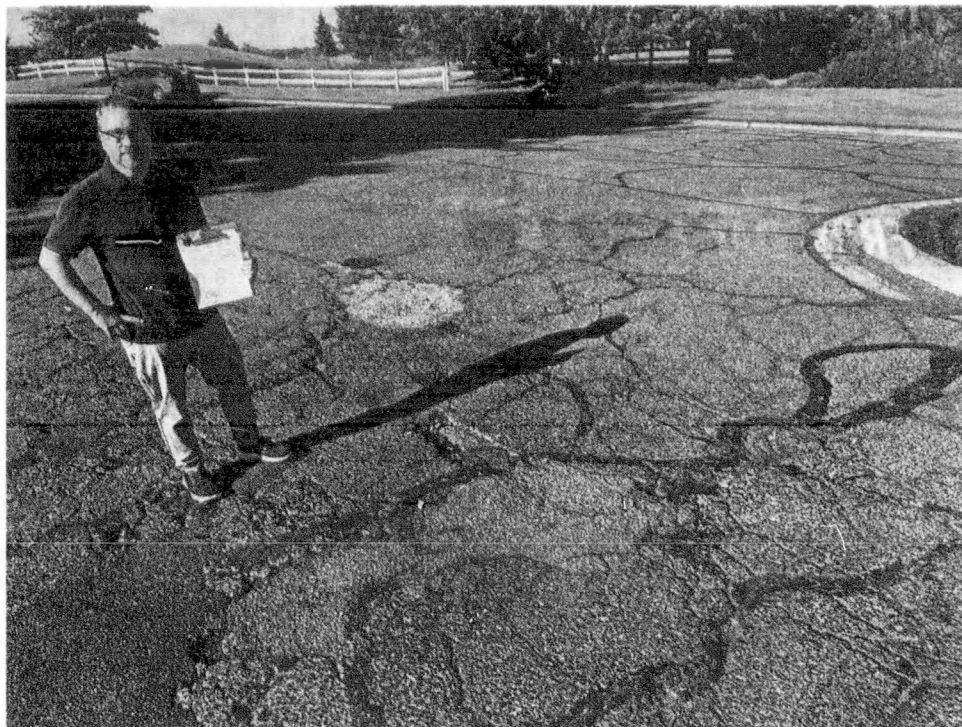
On a recent afternoon, Ledbetter stood in the midst of Country Club Drive near 10 Mile Road at the main entrance to the Tanglewood Golf Community. The rough, bumpy, cracked road, patched multiple times over about 30 years, is a jarring contrast leading to homes that Ledbetter says range in price from \$400,000 to \$1 million.

The main drag may be the worst, but as Ledbetter shows on a golf cart tour deeper into the subdivision, multiple roads are crisscrossed with crack-sealing and crumbling curbs.

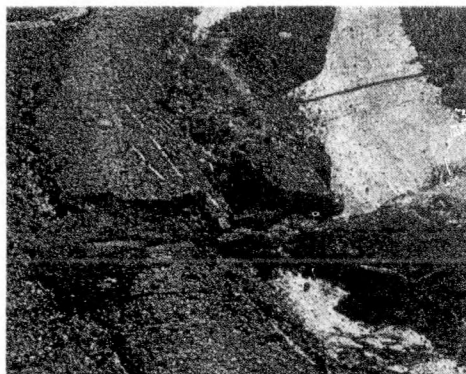
A year ago, the nine-year resident of the subdivision decided enough was enough and took on the onus of tackling the long-overdue road improvements, despite the pandemic.

It was to be a battle, but he had a small army of supporters with at least 20 fellow homeowners ready to knock on doors and gather petition signatures.

Ledbetter said township officials wanted the assurance that at least 75 percent of the homeowners agreed to the special assessment district before the governing body would approve it.



Keith Ledbetter, president of the Tanglewood Homeowners Association, holds signatures from subdivision residents who agreed to a special assessment district to fix their roads. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The special assessment district got the support of 75 percent of residents.

"You're lucky to get 50 percent of people to agree to a tax increase on anything," Ledbetter said.

He crafted a PowerPoint presentation as part of the campaign, explaining the special assessment district, what road improvements were needed and the costs. He explained that he wouldn't do all the work and if the residents said no, he would not be attempting to get the roads fixed again.

There are roughly 1,300 miles of public subdivision roads in townships in Oakland County that the road commission has jurisdiction over and main-

tains, Bryson said. The life of a road varies, but between 20 to 40 years after its made, it will need to be repaved.

"Some people never come to that conclusion, because they don't want to spend the money," he said.

Special assessment districts can be very hard to pass in certain areas, he added, where \$10,000 over 10 years is a financial hardship for families. Payments can be deferred for some families that meet income requirements.

School districts have also declined to participate in special assessment districts and by law, they are not required to.

"I would assume they would argue that it takes money from classrooms," Bryson said. "We've begged districts not to build schools in subdivisions."

A few wealthier townships will regularly contribute 5 percent to a special assessment district cost as a service to residents, but they are in the minority, Bryson said.

Ledbetter believes the township should have a local road millage to pay for road improvements. Bryson said, ultimately, the special assessment district is a fair way to address a difficult situation, evenly spreading the cost to homeowners along a road.

"How much more additional taxes are you willing to pay?" he asked. "You will pay one way or the other... How do you want to pay? 10 years and done, or higher taxes for perpetuity?"

Ledbetter encountered plenty of resistance over the Tanglewood special assessment district.

Some residents simply did not want any tax increase.

Others objected due to a sense of unfairness in the burden's distribution.

There were those that felt the golf course owner should bear a higher percentage of the total cost of the project. Others said homeowners in a newer area of the sub should also be included in the special assessment district because in spite of their frontage not needing improvements, they would still be using other roads in the SAD to get to their homes.

Shortly after Christmas, however, the biggest obstacle to getting the special assessment district passed arrived like a lump of coal in a stocking: A revised cost estimate for the road improvements, which doubled the price.

"The original estimate we thought it would be \$5,000 per household for 10 years-- \$500 per year—but they did the core samples on the roads and it was much worse than they thought," Ledbetter said. "We had to go back to the community and share our disappointment that the price had gone up."

Residents were upset. Some thought they had been intentionally misled.

But despite all this, 75 percent of the 349 homeowners ended up signaling their support, enough for the township board to give their full approval of the special assessment district. The contract was awarded to Spartan Paving and the road improvements are expected to be all completed by November.

"We feel awesome," Ledbetter said. "This was a full year of work to get to this point. It was really a remarkable effort by the entire neighborhood."

He adds, "Nobody wants to pay, but you need to. A lot of times, you pay and there is no local benefit, but in this case, 100 percent of the money fixes our roads. It's pay now or pay much more later. Road improvements and repairs aren't getting cheaper with time, they will get more expensive."

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

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Cranes

Continued from Page 1A

"There are fish in the lake," Hardaway noted. "Why aren't they eating those?"

The birds are natural connoisseurs of fish, plants, and seeds. But they are also described by the National Wildlife Federation and Michigan State University Extension as "opportunistic feeders." They've taken that label to the next level at Kensington, which they demonstrated as they explored unattended beach blankets on their dining tour.

As witnesses watched, the adult crane found an unopened bag of Sun-chips, expertly poked a hole in it, and shook the harvest cheddar treats out. All three began pecking away before leaving just as the intended chip consumers returned.

It was a crumbly situation for Novi resident Rachael Wolf and a crying shame for her 3-year-old daughter, Emily.

As they picked up their belongings to leave the scene of the crime, Wolf tried to comfort the teary toddler over the stolen chips.

Patrick Braun, who watched the drama unfold with his own daughters, Chloe, 3, and Natalie, 18 months, said: "This is what happens when people feed the wildlife."

While no one at the beach that day was intentionally feeding the cranes, Danielle Mauter, chief of marketing and communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks, confirmed Braun's observation is correct.

"This is a huge issue we have in the parks," she said. "People have fed the wildlife at Kensington in ways they shouldn't. Wildlife learn that people are an easy source of food, rather than finding food on their own in more wild ways. And they approach people thinking they will have that food source."

Feeding of wildlife is a long-term problem for the parks in which it is prohibited, but is more commonly a problem in Kensington, one of the most visited parks in the metroparks system. The problem also extends beyond cranes to issues with turkeys, chipmunks and squirrels also approaching people.



Adrienne Hardaway, standing, and Gabrielle Jackson of Detroit were enjoying a picnic at Kensington Metropark on July 18 when a family of sandhill cranes showed up uninvited. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The parks system does not track or manage the number of these animals in the park like it does with deer and geese, but Mauter said parks officials occasionally receive complaints about animals getting too close. She is not aware of any injuries to humans from these interactions.

However, the dangers to the wildlife are many. Consumption of human food can cause the animals illness and feeding wildlife trains them not to look for food on their own.

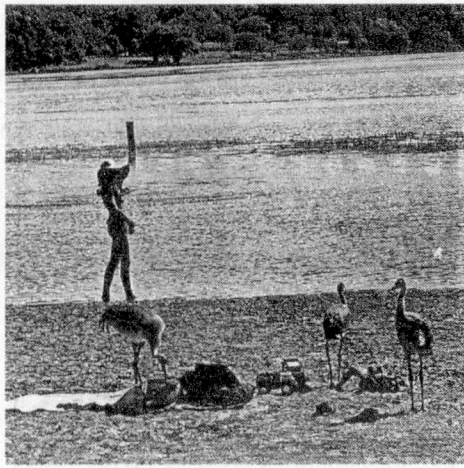
Park visitors may not intentionally feed wildlife, but Mauter said they should also make an effort to keep food out of reach, securing it in closed coolers or beach bags and disposing of litter.

So what to do if you come face-to-face with a chip- and chalupa-craving crane or something similar?

Turn the other cheek and remove yourself and your snacks. Do not throw chips or other food at them in order to get the animals away, as they will just return, and do not engage with them in any other way. If an animal is displaying aggressive behavior, contact park officials.

"We never want to discourage people from looking for wildlife, and people do flock to the park for that, but remember they are wildlife," Mauter said. "Do keep a safe distance and don't feed them."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



The cranes took it upon themselves to look for snacks at Maple Beach.

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Apsley | Gretna | Oaks | Snug |
| Art gallery | Guide | Orford | South |
| Auburn | Heat | Ouse | Surf |
| Bass | Heka | Peak | Targa |
| Highway | Hythe | Pines | Trek |
| Bell Bay | Lakes | Rail | Views |
| Boyer | Lifestyle | Reefs | Walk |
| Climb | Linda | Risks | Waterfront |
| Cluan | Merton | Rivers | Wild |
| Eagle | MONA | Ross | Yachts |
| Echidna | Nala | Rugged | |
| Fauna | Nelka | Safe | |
| Gray | Nile | Sharks | |

TODAY'S ANSWER

Historic villages

Tasmanian holiday

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

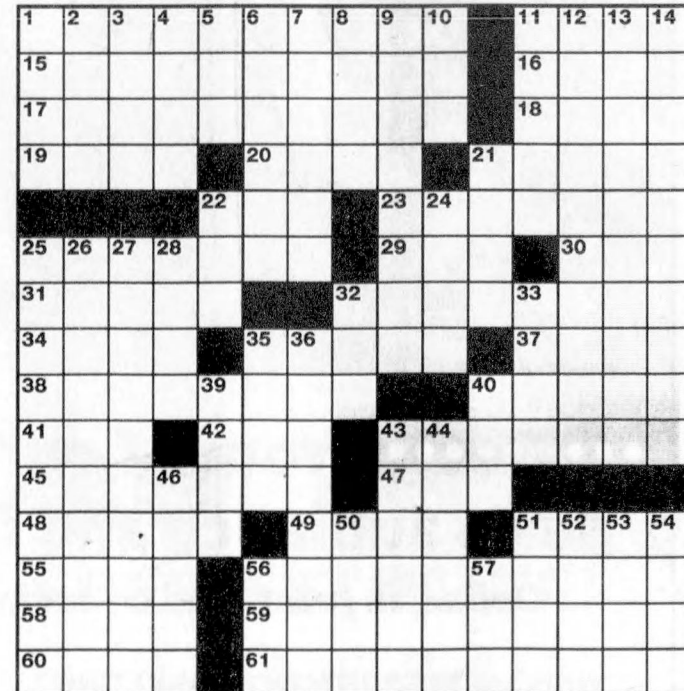
ACROSS

- 1 Diva designation
- 11 Angular field
- 15 Closed-shop indicator
- 16 Woe-begone words
- 17 Foldable food
- 18 Badly in need of a wash
- 19 Deferral
- 20 Hanks' boss in *Bridge of Spies*
- 21 They've sold for millions at Tokyo auctions
- 22 Crack
- 23 Space-opera stunners
- 25 Much-consumed juice
- 29 Essence of a Bard's curse
- 30 Wasn't playing
- 31 It's in tanks a lot
- 32 Depreciate
- 34 Step lively
- 35 Dramatic device
- 37 ____com (Pelican State news source)
- 38 Drying out, perhaps
- 40 No longer sharp
- 41 Be unsatisfying?
- 42 Dash
- 43 With sharpness
- 45 Just beginning
- 47 Blubber
- 48 Ecumenical elevation
- 49 Streaming, say
- 51 After-dinner convenience
- 55 Impactful interjection
- 56 Got nowhere

DOWN

- 1 Holds gently
- 2 Taking care of business
- 3 2014 guest on a Cher tour, singing with Cyndi
- 4 Mudlike
- 5 Chain letters
- 6 Region abutting Switzerland and Germany
- 7 With superior reach
- 8 Liquidation.com rival
- 9 Went over
- 10 Cream ____
- 11 Cheerio, essentially
- 12 Bit associated with Elvis
- 13 Concurrently
- 14 Has a squeeze
- 21 One taking a stand
- 22 With 24 Down, belt feature
- 24 See 22 Down
- 25 Ready to go
- 26 Loser of 1781
- 27 Evincing one's annoyance
- 28 Precursor to one taking a stand
- 32 Crisper, for instance
- 33 It may be beside a washer
- 35 Example overture

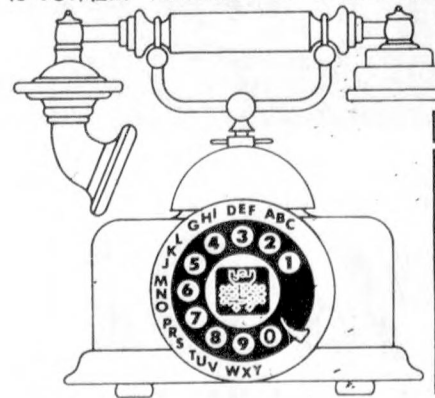
- 36 Redundant reckoning
- 39 Ceaselessly
- 40 Whirlpool locale
- 43 Beneficiary of the rickrolling meme
- 44 Bed linen
- 46 A little relief
- 50 County with radio station KVVN
- 51 Chisholm Trail city
- 52 "Ditto"
- 53 Cheer (up)
- 54 Drainage development
- 56 "Science. Technology. Performance." slogan
- 57 Apathetic



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANKWORDS@AOL.COM 7/23/22

PUZZLES & POSERS

THIS IS A CODED WORD GAME IN WHICH THE TELEPHONE IS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVERTING NUMBERS TO LETTERS. SINCE EACH NUMBER ON THE DIAL STANDS FOR THREE LETTERS, IT IS USUALLY POSSIBLE TO SPELL TWO OR MORE WORDS FROM ANY GIVEN SEQUENCE. HOWEVER, THE "5" WORDS WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARE ALL RELATED BY THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY.



"MONEY TALK"

A•36844
B•27323
C•473362225
D•7326887
E•926786

SUDOKU | CREATORS

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

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

A. DOUGH
B. BREAD
C. GREENBACK
D. PEANUTS
E. WAMPUM



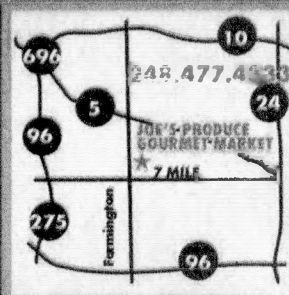
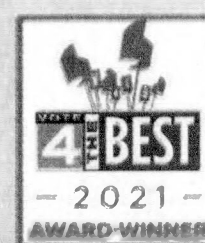


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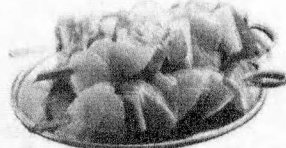
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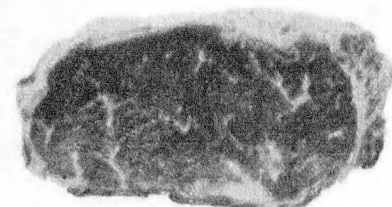
FRESH
HOUSEMADE
SAUSAGES



POLISH
\$3.99/LB.



HUNGARIAN
KOLBÁSZ
\$3.99/LB.



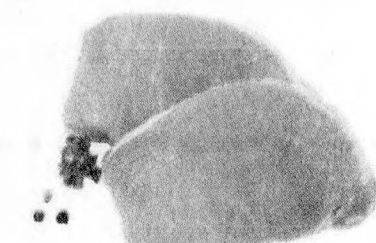
USDA PREMIUM
CHOICE ANGUS
TOP SIRLOIN STEAK

\$8.99/LB.



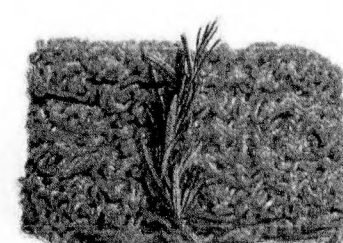
USDA PREMIUM
CHOICE ANGUS
BISTRO STEAK

\$12.49/LB.



FRESH
ALL NATURAL
BONELESS PORK CHOPS

\$3.99/LB.



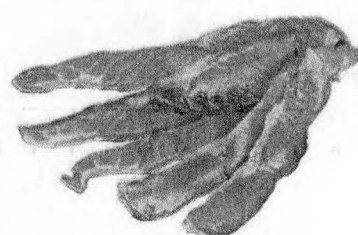
USDA PREMIUM
CHOICE ANGUS
GROUND BEEF-SIRLOIN

\$6.49/LB.

Seafood



FRESH
BLACK PEARL
SALMON
\$17.99/LB.



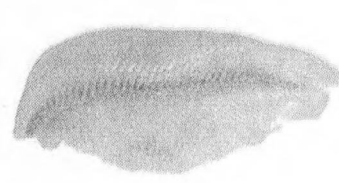
FRESH
RUBY RED
TROUT
\$11.99/LB.



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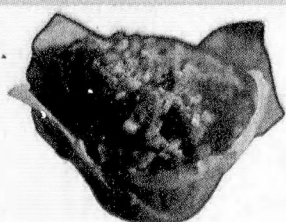


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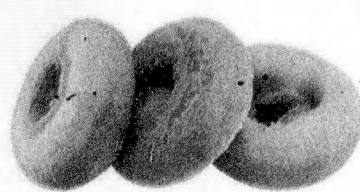
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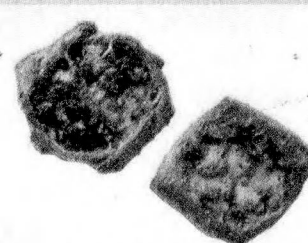
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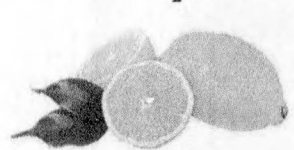
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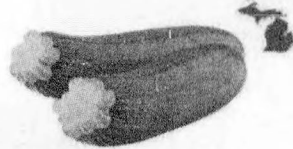
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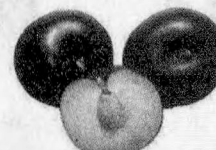
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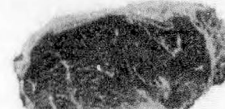
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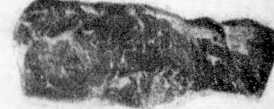
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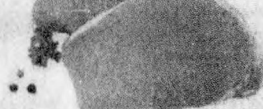
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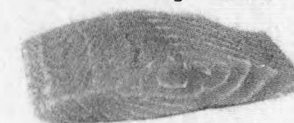
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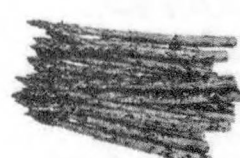
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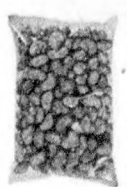
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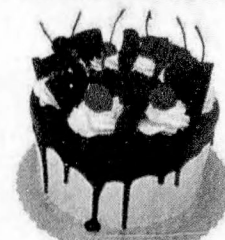
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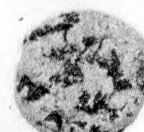
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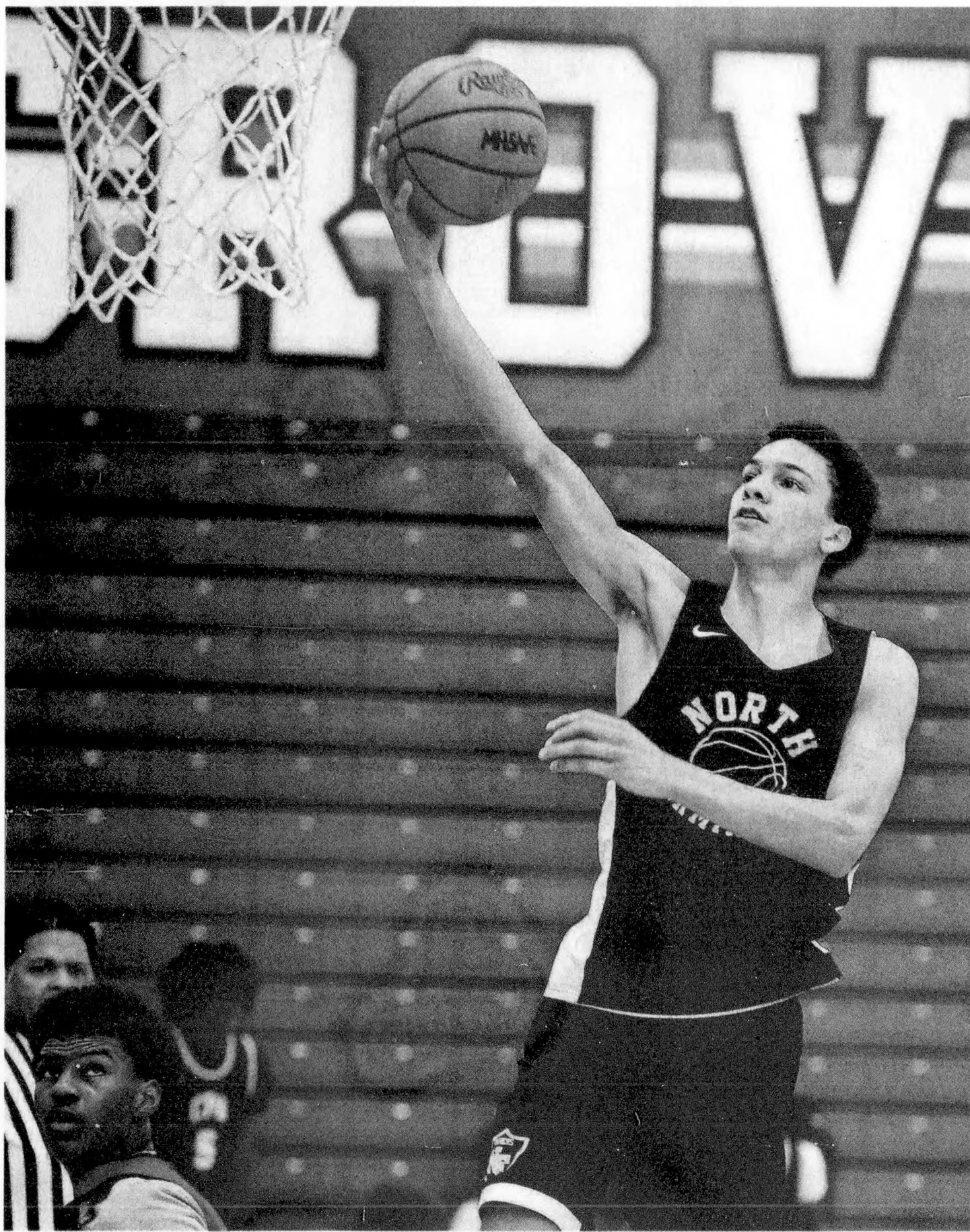


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SPORTS

Chasing the championship



North Farmington's Donavin Williams goes up for a layup during a Derrick Coleman Elite Summer League boys basketball game against Warren Lincoln on July 18 at Birmingham Groves. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Four reasons North Farmington boys could win state title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit King, Brother Rice, Grand Blanc, Orchard Lake St. Mary's and Warren De La Salle, among others.

All of those boys basketball teams were considered favorites to not only make deep runs in the Division I playoffs a year ago but to also win the whole thing.

And the Pilots did just that with a 67-58 victory over the defending state champions, Grand Blanc.

Another squad that should have been considered in that list of elites is North Farmington.

The Raiders (18-4) were just as deep and talented as the others. But, for whatever reason, they never received the same kind of love and hype in both the sports media and on social media.

Which makes no sense. Seriously. Just take a look at three of those four losses.

They lost 49-32 against Williamston, which won the D-2 state championship. Except several coaches and players were missing from the Raiders' bench because of COVID-19 quarantines.

See CHAMPIONSHIP, Page 3B

Vote for Hometown Life's Male Senior Athlete of the Year

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2021-22 school year has finally come to an end.

We celebrated conference, district and regional champions. We even celebrated a handful of state titles won right here in the Hometown Life coverage area.

And now it's time to award another honor.

There's no question seniors are some of the most important players on the team. They bring leadership, experience and talent. They offer guidance, act as a coach on the field or court and are usually the ones mentally prepared enough to attempt, and even miss, a potentially game-winning shot. They're the vocal ones in the locker room and are sometimes even the chauffeurs for the younger players.

Below is a list of 32 seniors from around our coverage area. It's your turn to pick which one is Hometown Life's Senior Athlete of the Year.

Voting online at **HometownLife.com** ends at 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug 4. You may vote as many times as you wish, but please note that only one vote cast per person every 3 hours actually counts in the final tally.

Let's take a look at who was nominated for this honor:

Jaden Mangham,
Birmingham Groves

The Michigan State football signee was a four-star recruit and named to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl as one of the top 300 players in the country. The younger brother of South Florida star running back Jaren Mangham, he'll play safety for the Spartans.

Alex George,
Birmingham Seaholm

The No. 3 doubles player teamed up with junior Alex Lewis to win an individual Division 2 tennis state championship.

Evan Knox, Bloomfield Hills

The All-American track star owns school records in the 100- and 200-meter sprints as well as the 400-, 800-, 1,200-meter relays. The Delaware State signee was also a key contributor on a football team that went 9-0 in the regular season and captured the

See VOTE, Page 2B

Plymouth Christian girls basketball lineup looks promising

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball coach Rod Windle lifted the purple and gold Nike Eagles hat off his head and scratched a few tufts of hair.

He had to think about it for a second. And then he smiled.

"Yeah, I've been fortunate that I

haven't had to teach the point guard position the past four years," the 18th-year coach said following PCA's 65-42 win over Walled Lake Western during a Summer League Shootout matchup at Canton. "So it's been a lot different this summer."

Isn't that the truth?

Windle's squad is coming off a Division 4 state runner-up effort after it lost,

61-46, to Fowler in the state championship in March.

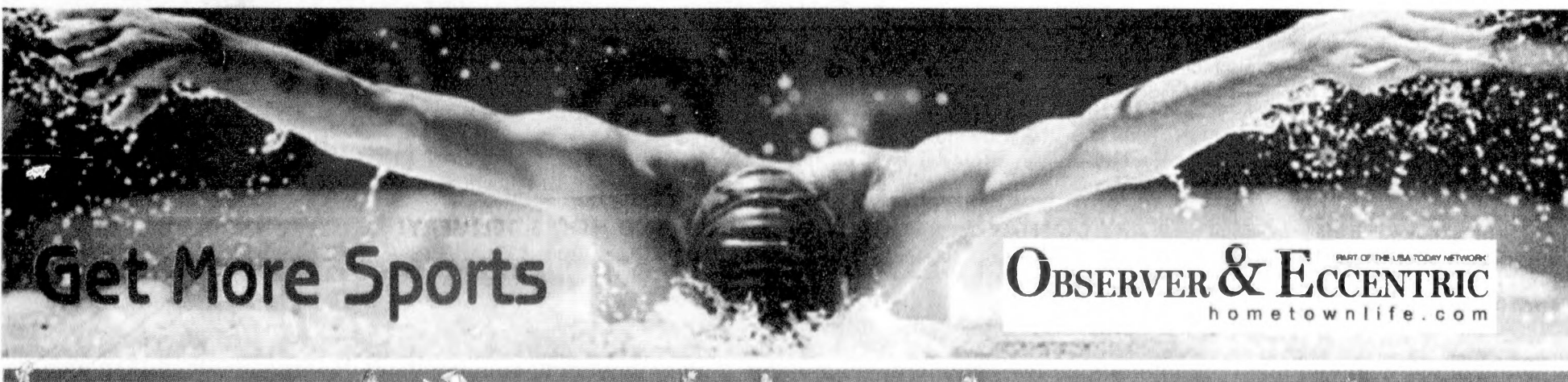
A contributor who pushed the Eagles to that trip to Michigan State University's Breslin Center was point guard Anna Fernandez, arguably one of the five or 10 best players in the state a year ago.

The Wheaton College (Illinois) signee was an elite scorer, totaling 458 points

her senior year and finishing her career just shy of 1,500 points in all. Her ability to scoot to the rim, drain pull-up shots and create open opportunities for her teammates earned her Player of the Year honors from Hometown Life.

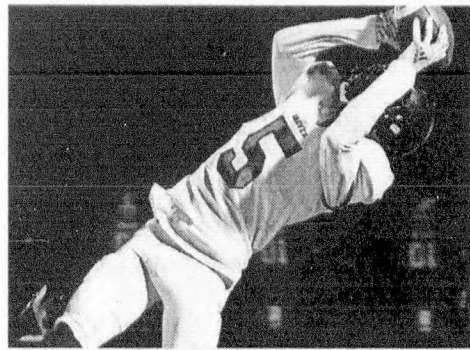
And now she's gone. Just like that. A four-year starter at the most important

See LINEUP, Page 7B

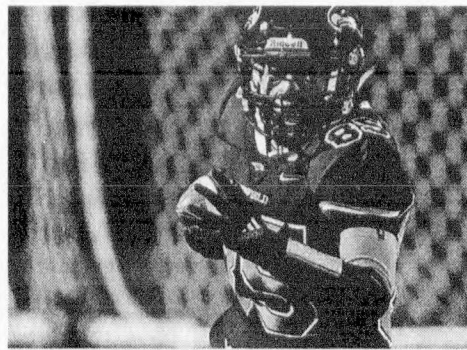


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Groves' Jaden Mangham.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills' Evan Knox.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Detroit Catholic Central's Brian Apple.
JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Churchill's Taj Williams.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



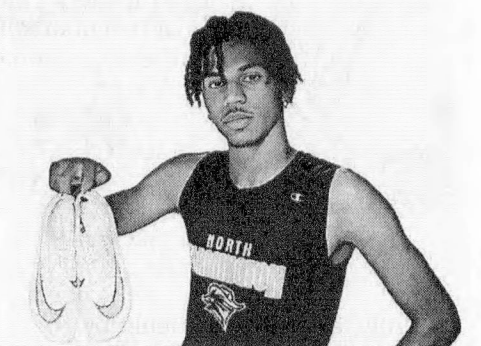
Livonia Franklin's Zac Olesuk. PHOTOS BY
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



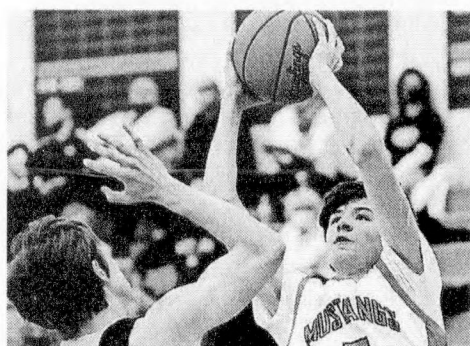
Livonia Stevenson's Kenoly Jones.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Lutheran Westland's Paul Davenport.



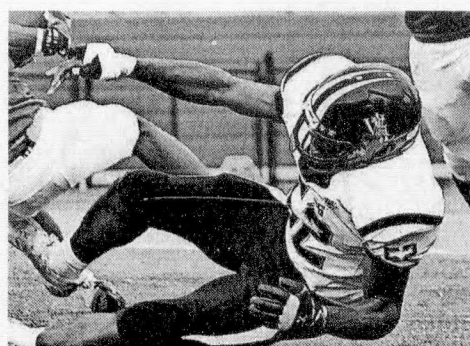
North Farmington's Jordan Johnson.
COURTESY



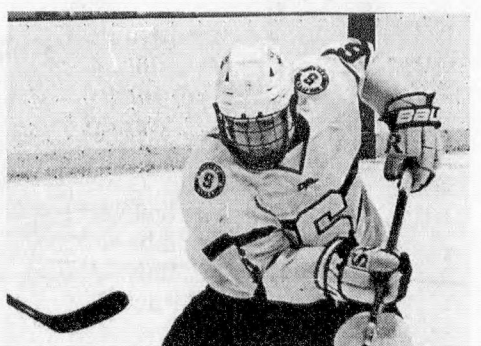
Northville's Matt Gorski.



Plymouth's Connor Sherman.



Lutheran Westland's Chibi Anwunah.



Salem's Alex Mazzuca.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Vote

Continued from Page 1B

Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship.

Jonathan Johnson, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

Not only was he all-conference in soccer but he also was all-league in basketball. His 19 points and 9.1 rebounds per game earned him Dream Team honors in the MIAC.

Giuliano Denipoti, Brother Rice

The Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association all-stater helped the Warriors to a state runner-up finish.

Tyler Husted, Canton

Recently signed with the Metro Jets Hockey Club in Mt. Clemens, he was an all-state player for the Chiefs and an integral part of them winning their first regional championship in program history.

Tawayne Campbell Jr., Canton Prep

The forward averaged 16 points and three rebounds en route to helping the Chargers win a program-record 13 games.

Zach Wittenberg, Cranbrook

The forward on the Cranes' soccer team was a first-team all-state selection by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Brian Apple, Detroit Catholic Central

The state champion was named the Division 1 MVP by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association and also picked to the organization's Dream Team.

Brandon Mann, Detroit Country Day

The Michigan football walk-on was both a three-star quarterback and selected to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association all-star game.

Jake Steslicki, Farmington

The Michigan State signee was an individual Division 1 state champion in the discus. His throw in the state finals went 176 feet, shattering the previous school record by 9 feet, 6 inches.

Dontez Tinsley, Garden City

The track and field star was an elite sprinter and jumper, which included him finishing sixth during the Division 2 state finals in the long jump. His jump of 21 feet, 11 1/2 inches was good enough to



South Lyon's Coy Plummer.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

earn him all-state honors, and he also owns the all-time best jump in school history.

Taj Williams, Livonia Churchill

The Chargers were putting together a dream season on the gridiron until the Adrian College signee went down with a season-ending injury during a pivotal Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East matchup at Dearborn Fordson. The quarterback was arguably the most important player in the entire league, as Churchill was 6-0 with him behind center and 2-3 with him sidelined.

Armonee Snorden, Livonia Clarenceville

All-MIAC in both football and track, he was a league champion in the 100- and 200-meter sprints and the 400-meter relay as well as a state qualifier. His name appears seven times on the Trojans' all-time leaderboard, including holding the second-fastest time in the 100 (11.04 seconds).

Zac Olesuk, Livonia Franklin

Signed with Alma College for both football and baseball, he was the starting quarterback and the ace pitcher for the Patriots. That included him leading Franklin to a state semifinal appearance in football and starting behind center during the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's all-star game.

Kenoly Jones, Livonia Stevenson

The all-state basketball player was also one of the best in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association after averaging 16.2 points and 3.2 rebounds per game.

Paul Davenport, Lutheran Westland

He's known as Mr. MVP around the MIAC. He totaled 342 points en route to becoming the MIAC-Red MVP in basketball and then played both outside linebacker and receiver while helping the Warriors claim its first-ever league title in program history.

Billy Sternberg, Milford

The Hope College signee threw for



South Lyon East's Bryce Lambeth.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

1,311 yards, 12 touchdowns and four interceptions and also rushed for 549 yards and five TDs in what went down as the Mavericks' best season since 2006. He was also All-Lakes Valley Conference and named his team's offensive MVP.

Jordan Johnson, North Farmington

The Lawrence Tech track and field signee set the school record for the fastest 400-meter sprint (FAT) and went on to represent the Raiders on the national circuit.

Matt Gorski, Northville

The senior was responsible for taking two different programs to new heights. In basketball, he helped the Mustangs upset Canton to win their first district championship since 1998. In baseball, he was one of the team's top pitchers, helping Northville win district and regional championships as well as play in the state quarterfinal.

Nolan Londo, Novi

The defenseman was a Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association all-stater.

Connor Sherman, Plymouth

The Kalamazoo College football signee was both the starting quarterback and the ace pitcher for the Wildcats. That included him throwing a no-hitter and going 10-0 as a starter on the mound.

Chibi Anwunah, Plymouth Christian Academy

The Michigan football walk-on helped Lutheran Westland win its first conference championship in program history. He also led the Eagles' basketball team to a share of the MIAC-Blue title and a district championship.

Curtis Keels, Redford Union

The running back totaled 1,013 all-purpose yards and 12 touchdowns en route to leading the Panthers to their first Western Wayne Athletic Conference title since 2004. The Arkansas-Pine Bluff recruit also returned three kicks for touchdowns.

Caleb Gardner, Redford Thurston

The Adrian College signee was a force along both the offensive and defensive lines. At 6-foot-1 and 340 pounds, he was easily one of the toughest guards in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference.

Alex Mazzuca, Salem

The center was both a Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association first-team all-stater and a nominee for the Michigan's Warrior Hockey Player of the Year.

Coy Plummer, South Lyon

The Wayne State baseball signee was a key contributor in football, basketball and baseball. That included him quarterbacking the Lions to a Lakes Valley Conference championship as a backup when starting QB Dawson Skupin was lost for the season with an injury.

Bryce Lambeth, South Lyon East

The All-Lakes Valley Conference football star and three-sport athlete is headed to Temple University to play defensive back.

Travon Stevenson, Wayne Memorial

Signed with Independence Community College (Kansas) for football, he was an asset for the Zebras on the gridiron, on the basketball court and in the long jump pits. In track and field, he was All-KLAA and All-Wayne County, plus his personal best jump of 20 feet, 2.5 inches was the seventh-best distance ever recorded at Wayne Memorial.

Joseph Nunez, Westland John Glenn

The distance runner was one of the best for the Rockets. In cross country, he recorded four top-six finishes as a senior and ran a personal-best time of 17 minutes, 36.7 seconds in the 5 kilometers. In track, his name is on the all-time record board at John Glenn four different times among four distance events.

Jack Beeskow, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran

He was first-team All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference in both soccer and basketball, plus he was named the MIAC Athlete of the Month last September.

Tate Farquhar, White Lake Lakeland

The Michigan State baseball signee was both the starting quarterback on the gridiron and a starting pitcher/outfielder for the Eagles. Lakeland named him its Male Athlete of the Year.

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

Championship

Continued from Page 1B

They fell to Oakland Activities Association-Red champion Ferndale by six points in a coin-flip matchup. And all the Eagles did was go on and return to the state semifinal for a second straight season.

And the toughest loss of them all was to St. Mary's, who many picked as the favorite to win it all because of Western Michigan signee Javaughn Hannah and his supporting cast. The Eagles beat North Farmington by just two points in the waning moments of their regional semifinal game. St. Mary's went on to lose to De La Salle in the quarterfinal.

So for those keeping track at home, North Farmington lost to a state champion, an OAA-Red champion that made the final four and a star-studded Catholic League crew that made it to the elite eight.

Truly, the Raiders should be receiving more hype entering this winter. They should be considered a dark horse contender to win a state title.

But, for right now, they're OK with being the underdog.

"I don't know if we have a chip on our shoulder," North Farmington coach Todd Negoshian said following last week's 42-39 win over Warren Lincoln in the Derrick Coleman Elite Summer League at Birmingham Groves. "Our kids know our program has the philosophy that nobody remembers how you start and only how you finish. We got to hang a banner for a district championship, and that was it."

"With teams like Brother Rice and St. Mary's, there's so much talent around us, and it's hard to put everybody in the same jar. We're happy with flying under the radar. We know how good our kids are, and we'll continue to build and take it one game at a time, one day at a time, and we'll see where we're at. And that's OK for our guys and our staff. We've just got to continue to get better, plug away and see where we end up."

Here are four reasons why North Farmington should contend for a state championship:

Hometown Life's Player of the Year is in the best shape of his life

Ryan Hurst didn't lie to us.

When Hometown Life picked the small forward as its Player of the Year, he said in his acceptance interview that he was going to lose weight and get into the best shape of his life.

And he sure did.

There he was against Lincoln last week, looking trimmer, stronger and happier as he told Hometown Life that he had indeed followed through with going vegan.

He got rid of the junk food and sugary drinks and has been following a plant-based diet.

He was an absolute force to try and stop at 6-foot-3 and 225 pounds. And now he still is, only he's much faster and shiftier after shedding the extra baby fat.

He averaged 23 points and six rebounds per game a year ago. Those numbers are only going to get better with how well he feels in his body right now.

"He's done an unbelievable job," Negoshian said. "I think it's been a huge help for him from a personal standpoint, too. Getting in better shape, if nothing else, helps him from a mental standpoint that he got over one big hurdle and he can get over some more now. I think all of our guys have done an unbelievable job in the weight room with Coach Billy (Slobin)."

"Whether that'll translate into wins or losses, I don't know, but the any time you can have success in the weight room, it just makes you that more confident."

Hurst should be a candidate for the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Mr. Basketball award. Getting in shape might even help him win it.

There's now royalty in the Raiders' backcourt

One of the best point guards tearing up the AAU scene right now is Mackhi "Prince" Jackson.

And after transferring to North Farmington and sitting out last season, he's ready to step in and take the Raiders' backcourt to the next level.

He also gives Negoshian plenty of options when it comes to assembling a lineup.

The backcourt could have many combinations now. It could be Jackson and Landon Williams.

Or Jackson and Hurst. Or Williams and Tyler Spratt.

Or it could even include sixth-man Dwayne Ray, the first man off the bench, who would likely start for most teams in the OAA.

That's great for Jackson, who is still trying to find his fit with North Farmington's already-established chemistry. He won't be asked to carry the team at the position, but his skill set as a passer should help the likes of Hurst, Spratt, Lee Hardy and even Donavin Williams find open scoring chances.

"I don't think we've ever added a kid of his caliber to a team that already returns so many kids," Negoshian said. "It's been a challenge for us, and it's been a fun challenge. Adding Prince to the guys from last year gives us so many options now. And the kids have done an unbelievable job with mixing and matching and helping each other out. From a leadership standpoint, it's been great for our guys."

"It's been fun to mess around with the lineup over the summer."

It's a good bet Jackson will be the Day 1 starter at point guard.

And that's bad news for the rest of the league. He should be an All-OAA-Red standout.

These guards will be 2 of the best juniors in Michigan

How young both Landon Williams and Spratt are is hard to believe.

The two were integral to North Farmington's success a year ago. And from the physical and maturity side of things, they acted like seniors.

Except they're just now entering the 11th grade.

At 6-foot-3, Williams will be one of the most consistent guards in the state. He has an incredible awareness when bringing the ball up the floor.

He sees his teammates well and gets them the ball before defenses can apply pressure.

Though he averaged just seven points per game, he's a great shooter, too.

He's just not asked to be one, especially with Hurst taking all the big shots.

Spratt, too, is another great guard, only he can play multiple positions. At 6-foot-3, he can defend every position when asked to, plus he can bring up the ball, play on the wing or even bang in the post.

He's too valuable to take off the floor, as he can slide into any position if a

teammate gets into foul trouble or needs a breather.

"It's unbelievable. I'm not going to lie. I feel like Landon and Tyler have been here for 17 years already," Negoshian said. "And we get them for 2 more years, and that's just a great thing."

"They're such great kids and great competitors, who play the game the right way."

North Farmington should have seven of the top-100 players in the state in its rotation, and these two juniors are included in that list.

The Raiders' secret weapon is still figuring this out

North Farmington has been to some of the best showcases and tournaments this summer, including BCAM's Reaching Higher showcase in Grand Rapids and the Midwest Live tournament at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio.

Negoshian chuckled about the reviews opposing coaches gave his team after they faced the Raiders.

"To hear coaches say we bullied teams at times, that's all we can ask for," the 13th-year coach said. "The guys buy in to the way we play."

And that bullying starts with Hardy, their 6-foot-6 senior center who is still relatively brand new to the sport.

He had a breakout season a year ago, averaging seven points, six rebounds and one block, and things really started to click for him around the winter break.

Now he's had a full off-season to lift weights, play with his teammates and gain confidence.

And it has shown. Against Lincoln, he was always the first to a rebound and he had no trouble ripping the ball out of the air before anyone else could get to it.

Fast breaks are going to start with him. Second-chance opportunities under the rim will start with him. And the team's toughness will be determined by how much of a junkyard dog he plays like.

He might be a late bloomer, but he'll still be one of the best big men in metro Detroit this winter.

So expect more chuckling from Negoshian.

The bullying in the paint is going to continue.

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



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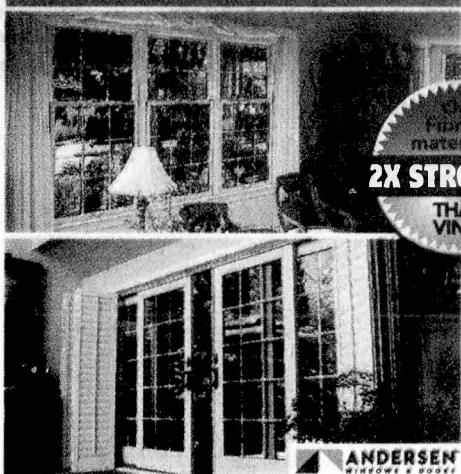
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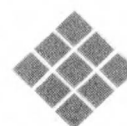
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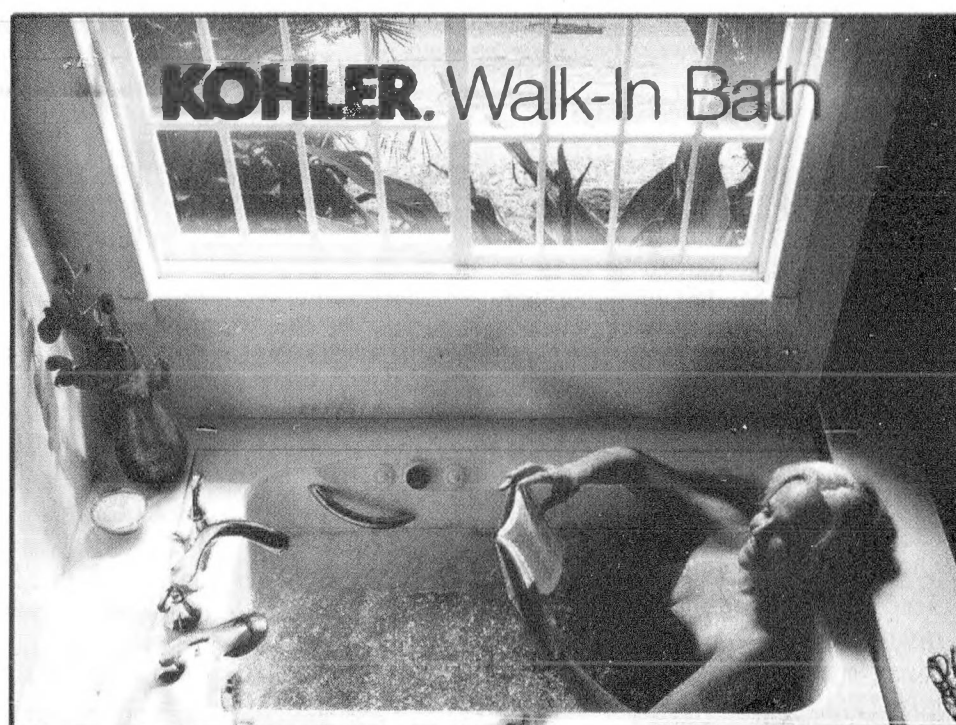
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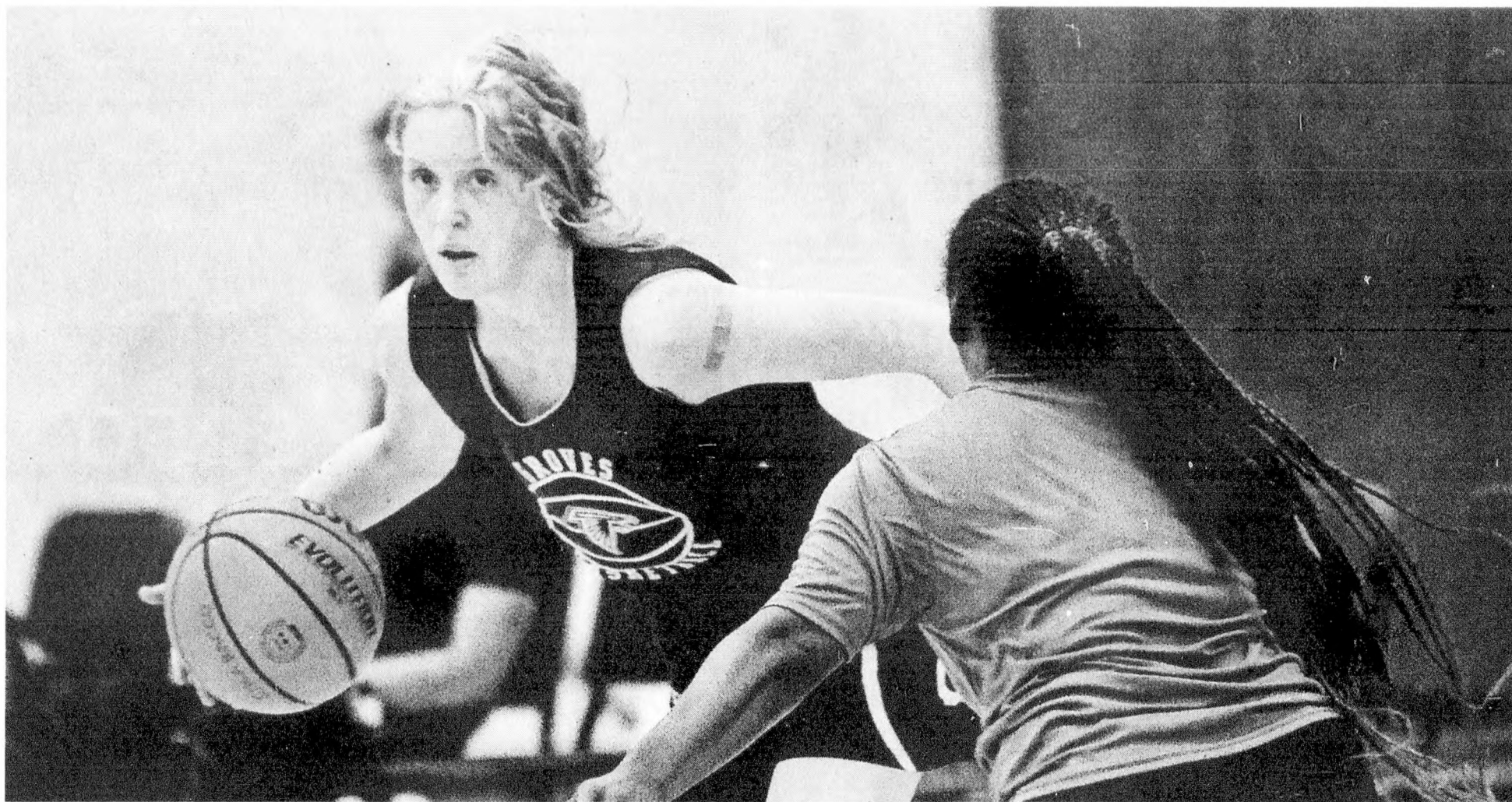
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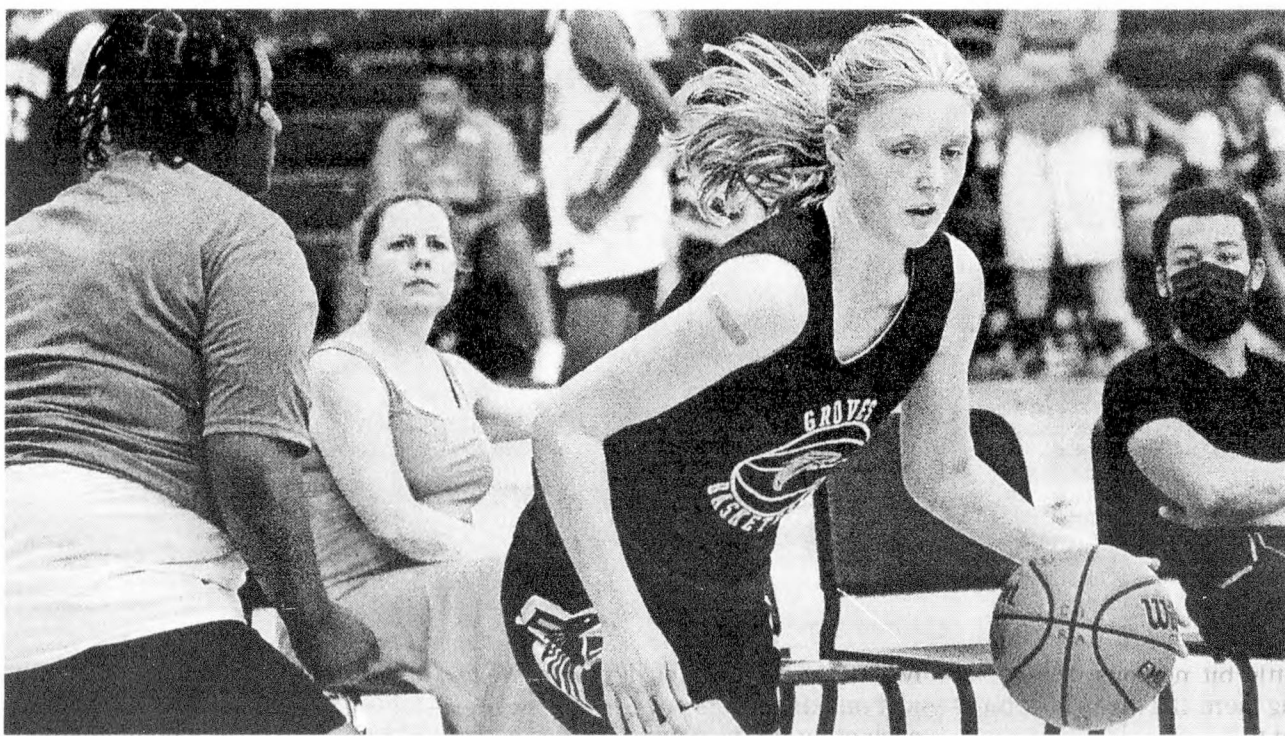
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Birmingham Groves' Kaitlyn Sanders during the Derrick Coleman Elite showcase against Detroit Mumford on June 15. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Groves guard 'ready to give it my all'



Sanders missed eight weeks of the season because she had mononucleosis.

Senior led Falcons in scoring after missing 8 weeks for illness

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the more unbelievable things that happened during last winter's girls basketball season was Kaitlyn Sanders being voted as an All-Oakland Activities Association-Red first-teamer.

And you might say, "Yeah, so what? Good players make all-conference teams every year."

Well, let's gloss over how Birmingham Groves was on its third head coach in as many seasons and was playing in the same league as the eventual Division 1 state champions, West Bloomfield, a team absolutely loaded with future college basketball stars.

Truly, the Lakers' starting lineup alone could've made up the entire All-OAA-Red team.

No, it's unbelievable because Sanders missed eight weeks while battling mononucleosis.

She still posted 225 points in 17 games and averaged 13 points and four rebounds per night.

She was the team leader in steals and blocks, recorded three double-doubles and even scored a career-high 29 points in one game.

And she missed four league games, which was just an unreal feat for the almost 6-foot guard.

"What we noticed when she wasn't on the floor is we lost our team composure," second-year coach Alison Hidey said following a Derrick Coleman Elite Summer League game in June. "I don't think our team realized how much composure she brought to our offense until she was gone."

"She was the glue. When she wasn't here, we looked more frazzled, and it was no secret that we were struggling to score. We were minus 15, 20 points on average when she wasn't there. When she came back, we, as a whole, played more composed and looked a lot more comfortable. I would say that's what is special about her, offensively."

Sanders actually played the first month of the season with mono before she realized she even had the infection.

She said it didn't hamper her play on the court, but it impacted her everywhere else off of it.

She'd return home from school, take a nap before her games, go and play and then return home and head straight back to her bed. It wasn't until winter break that she was diagnosed with the condition.

"I lost a lot of weight and a lot of endurance," Sanders said. "It was definitely hard because I was isolated over winter break when there was big tournament play for our school. Not only could I not be out there but I couldn't even go for a run because my spleen was swollen, and I was just in fear of getting it hurt."

Sanders spent weeks laying in bed. She'd watch Groves' games on HUDL and review the film to pass the time. That's something she has been used to doing because this wasn't the first time she's missed time throughout her three years on varsity. She's had concussions, ankle tears, turf toe and ear infections, among other ailments, before.

When her mom wasn't watching, she'd lift small free weights, but she realized it wasn't the smartest idea to work out while battling mono.

Groves lost four straight in January while she was gone. When she returned, they won three of their next four games.

The night she returned, during a 62-25 loss to Rochester Hills Stoney Creek on Jan. 25, she played only 8 minutes as Hidey wanted to ease her star point guard back into the action. And Sanders still led the team in scoring.

"Teenagers always amaze me," Hidey said. "Everyone I know who has had mono is out for 6 months. When she recovered, she recovered. She played 8 minutes, it wasn't a full game and by the next game, she was ready to go."

Sanders said competing during the track and field season has helped her build up her endurance again. But she admits that she still gets winded while battling the infection.

Obituaries

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Gerald "Jerry" Marshall Breen

MILFORD - Gerald Marshall Breen, 87, of Milford passed away peacefully with family at his side on July 9, 2022. Born in Pontiac on August 24, 1934, Jerry grew up in the area and graduated in 1952 from Pontiac High School.

An enthusiastic sportsman, Jerry was a varsity fencer for Michigan State University (MSU) and in later years, continued his love of sports into racquetball, golf, boating, hunting and trout fishing. After serving in the Army, he moved to Milford to work with the family grocery business, Breen's IGA. During this time, he met Karol Miller, a local 4th grade teacher, and they married on August 12, 1961.

Jerry was deeply committed to his family, friends, church, the grocery business and Milford. He sang bass in the church choir for over 50 years and was an active and honored member of the local Chamber. Friends and family will remember him for his cheerful demeanor, kind words, bad puns, friendly support and twinkling blue eyes.

Jerry Breen is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Karol; daughters Susan Belleville and Cindy Nasky; grandchildren Alexandra & Danielle Leist; Drew & Jack Nasky; and sister Jacqueline Trancik of Venice, Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, Loretta and Quirinus Breen.

A service will be held in Jerry's memory on Wednesday, August 24th at 11:00 am at the Milford Presbyterian Church. Those who wish may make memorial contributions (in lieu of flowers) may do so to the:

•Milford Presbyterian Church, (248)684-2805, admin@milfordpc.org

•Little Traverse Conservancy, (231)347-0991 <https://landtrust.org/memorial-or-honorarium/>

Robert (Rob) Charles Teal

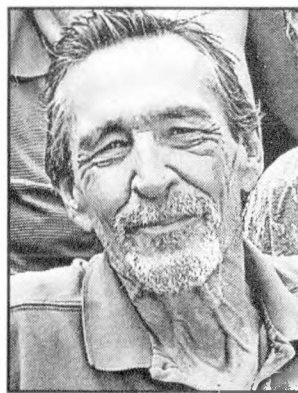
COLUMBIA, TN - Robert (Rob) Charles Teal, age 64, of Columbia, Tennessee, passed away on Sunday, July 17, 2022 after a long illness. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on October, 12 1957, the fourth of six children born to Laurence and Patricia FitzGerald Teal. Rob attended St. Mary of Redford in Detroit, then went on to finish his secondary education at Milford High School.

From childhood, Rob had a quick wit, intense athletic ability, and the talent to fix nearly anything. Rob was blessed with the capacity to listen well, love deeply, and always had a well-placed pun or joke to tell. He loved creative endeavors like song-writing, poetry and writing.

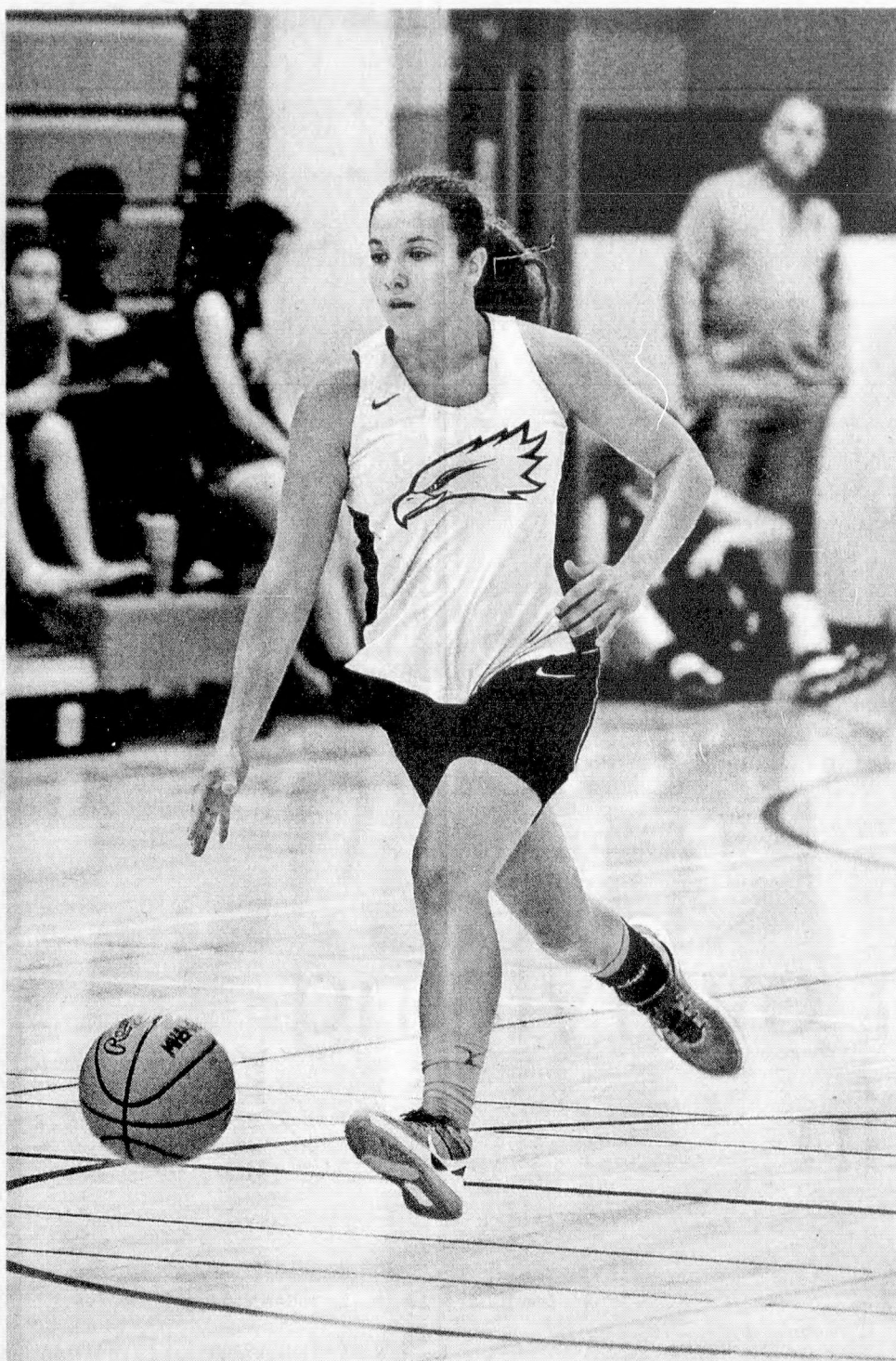
Rob went on to have a career in mechanics and electronic security. He was the family's go-to guy when it came to repairs of any kind.

Rob is survived by a saddened family, including his father Larry, his siblings, Claudia (Don) Whitsitt, Timothy Teal, David (Kathy) Teal, Paul Teal and Jon (Jessica) Teal. He also leaves behind his beautiful daughter, Arielle Adkins, along with his three grandchildren, the light of his life, Cole, Bailey and Scout, along with many nieces and nephews. Rob was preceded in death by his mother in 2019.

Memorial plans will be announced at a later date. We will miss him tremendously.



See GUARD, Page 7B



Plymouth Christian's Morganne Houk dribbles during a Summer League Shootout showcase matchup against Walled Lake Western on July 13 at Canton.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lineup

Continued from Page 1B

position on the floor is now off to the next level.

So, yeah, Windle is teaching the point guard position to a pair of players this off-season. But it hasn't been as challenging as he expected.

For one, the Eagles return three key seniors, all of whom made the All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference team, and one of them, Morganne Houk, will be stepping into Fernandez's role as the starter.

And, for two, Houk's backup already looks like she'll be one of the next great star basketball players for Windle. That would be Clara Groen, a freshman guard who already plays well above her age level. She doesn't have the moves that Fernandez had, but that's OK. She hasn't even played one varsity game yet.

So the future looks bright for the Eagles' backcourt, despite one of the best players in metro Detroit no longer leading the team.

"It's a little tough because I've never really been a point guard that much," said Houk, who totaled 375 points, 171

rebounds and 127 assists as a shooting guard a year ago. "But I learned a lot from Anna over the years. I'm trying to use what I learned from watching her and seeing how she did it. I'm working on being a little more shifty with the ball and finding the space to drive. I'm making the right reads with passes and starting the offense off.

"I'm a little bit nervous, but, yeah, we're getting there. It'll take a little bit of getting used to."

The great news for Houk is she won't be asked to do it alone.

As mentioned early, Windle returns his Big 3, so that means Madison Yeager and Hailey Maulbetsch are back as seniors as well.

Maulbetsch was actually away on a camping trip during scrimmages, but Yeager was there, and she and Houk looked like they were already in mid-season form. The way the two read each other on the court made for several quick baskets. Plus, the two spotted each other for open shots on the perimeter.

On one play, with 9 minutes left in the first half, Houk nabbed a steal, raced up the floor, drew a triple team from the Warriors' defense and then got off a tough pass to Yeager, who finished with



Plymouth Christian's Madison Yeager dribbles.



Plymouth Christian coach Rod Windle talks to his players.

a layup to put the Eagles ahead by nine points. Those kinds of plays don't happen without years of already-established chemistry. And they've got it working again as seniors.

"We all have to fill a lot of new roles this year, which we are getting used to," Yeager said. "The first few weeks of summer ball were rough, but we're finally getting into the hang of things. We're just making good passes and seeing each other on the court, which is good. Morganne is really good at seeing the whole court, so we're able to bounce off of each other and also the underclassmen have been playing a big part in filling their roles and rebounding. It's just been a really fun summer so far.

"We've got this."

The offense is going to look pretty close to what Windle installed for Fernandez a year ago. The only problem is Fernandez won't be there to take about 50% of the shot attempts.

That means Yeager and Maulbetsch, as well as some of the younger players, will be asked to produce more than they ever have in the past.

But that doesn't seem to be too much of an ask given how well Houk is playing at point guard right now.

"She has made good progress on the

little things we're working on," Windle said. "She's denying screens. She's getting around corners, which means she's learning to get downhill. She's just going to make reads. She has to read the second level in terms of who's behind her. Tonight, on ball-side cuts, she did a good job of forcing a post player to switch onto her. She's recognizing how to force teams to switch or pay the price for not switching. She's doing the things she needs to do as a point guard.

"She has to be *THE* player for us when she's got the ball at the point, just like Clara, who is a freshman, has to be the player for us when she's at the point. Both kids run the court really well and are making progress. That's a great thing to see already, that progress."

Houk wasn't wearing her usual No. 2 uniform against Walled Lake Western.

She was actually sporting the No. 9, which makes sense. She's got to be the best quarterback on the court now. Much like recent Super Bowl winner Matthew Stafford, who also wears 9.

Of course, it was a given she wouldn't be wearing the No. 1 because nobody will be able to replace Fernandez. But Houk is going to try her best.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in for Hometown Life.

Guard

Continued from Page 6B

While that limits her play at times, she still uses her skill set to be one of the best players on the floor. And that also includes using her height at the position. She can see the entire floor and make passes to get out of traps and pressure defenses when she brings up the ball.

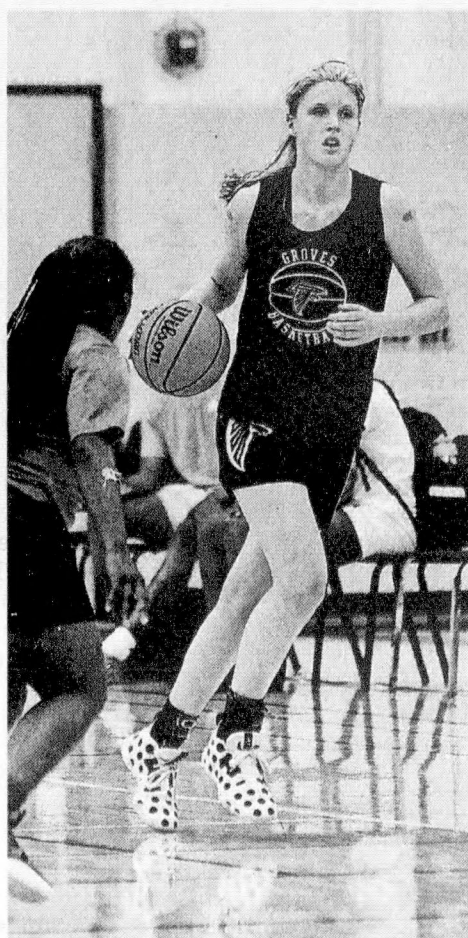
She has a smooth shooting motion and can also get to the rim with her dribble.

If she can stay healthy this winter, Hidey expects Groves to compete for second place in the OAA-Red. Obviously, even Hidey knows West Bloomfield is still a notch-above most teams in Michigan. But the Falcons, 10-11 overall in 2021-22, graduated just two players and finally have some cohesion with Hidey back for a second year.

Sanders is excited about what should be a stellar senior year.

"My goal is mainly to get stronger and get healthier," Sanders said. "I don't want to have to be out sick or injured again. I haven't had a high school season where I haven't had one or the other. I just definitely want to get out there and give it my all."

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



Birmingham Groves' Kaitlyn Sanders dribbles during the Derrick Coleman Elite girls basketball showcase June 15 against Detroit Mumford.

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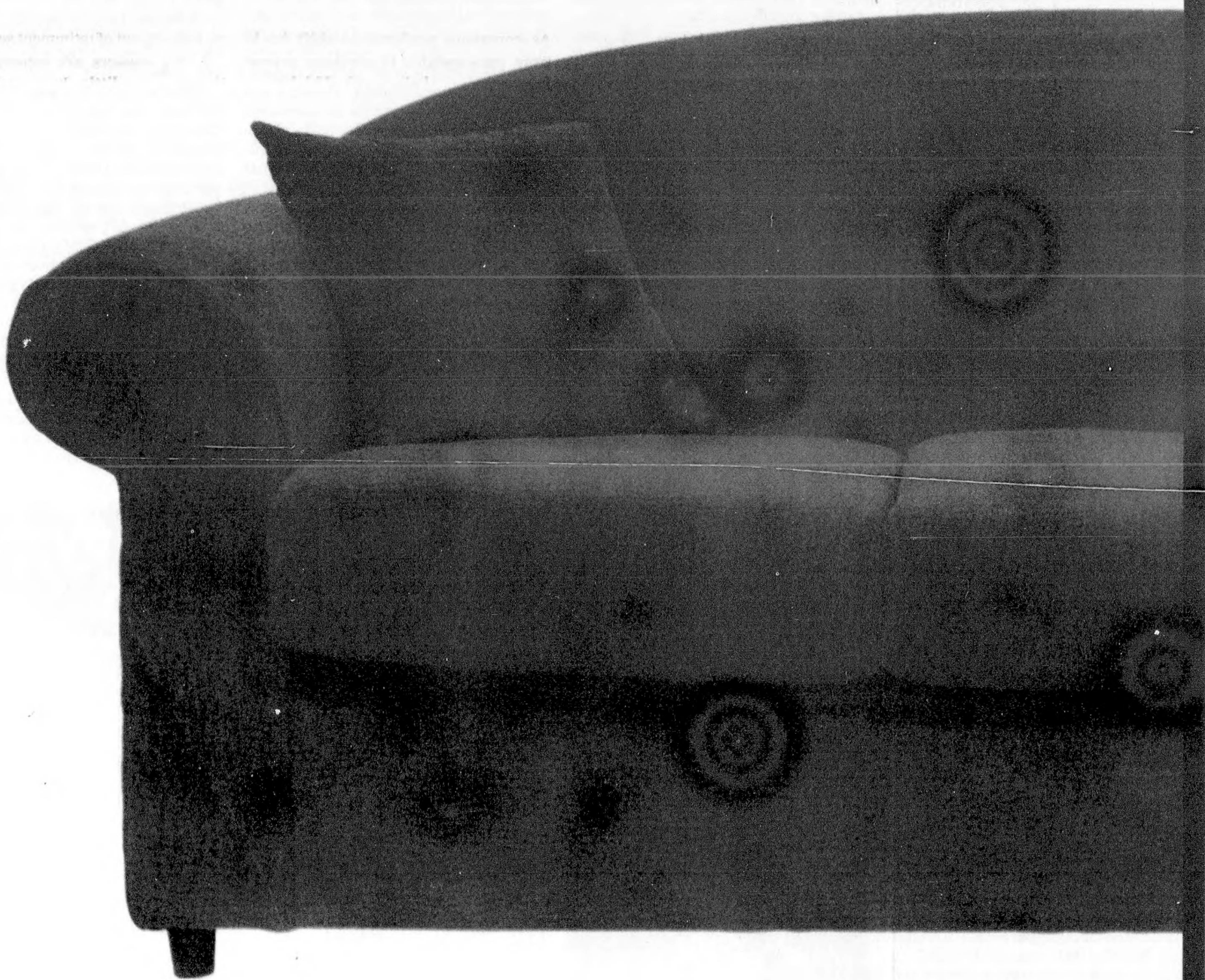
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Inflation Hits 9.1%, Getting Worse Before Getting Better

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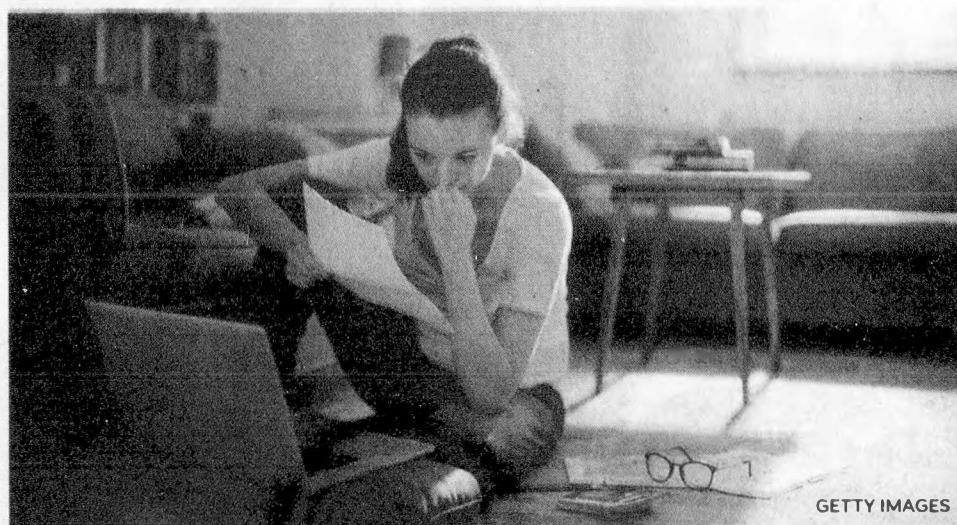
With prices going up 1.3% in June—two consecutive months of at least 1%—and 9.1% over the year, today's Consumer Price Index report suggests the worst is behind us. With inflation above expectations and the labor market proving resilient, the Fed is likely to proceed with a 75 basis-point rate hike later this month, further tightening financial conditions.

Even ahead of further tightening, there are signs that inflation is already being brought under control:

- Year-over-year core inflation slightly slowed down from 6.0% to 5.9%. Core inflation increased to 0.7% over the month, compared to 0.6% in the last 2 months. However, a slow down is ahead of us since international shipping costs have fallen for producers in recent months as global supply chain pressures have eased.

- Gas prices are down to \$4.63 as of today, from \$5.01 a month ago. Since energy contributed nearly half of the all items increase in June's high number, and is a common input in every single industry including food and transportation, the impact of high energy prices on consumers is not limited to its 8% weight in the consumer basket.

- 10 year TIPS (Treasury breakeven inflation rate) is on a downward trend since the most recent rate hike in June, currently at 2.32%. The current number suggests that the investors expect the inflation to be around 2.3% over the next 10 years, which is aligned with the Fed's target of 2 to 2.5%.



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High prices are broad-based with food, gas, and housing costs being the largest contributors.

- Though the mortgage applications have gone down drastically, we are yet to see the impacts of high mortgage rates on housing prices. The overall shelter index increased 0.6% in June, and 5.6% over the last year, the largest 12-month increase since February 1991.

- After increasing 48.7% over the year in May, gas prices surged another 11.2% in June—a sharp acceleration from last month's 4.1%—, which brings year-over-year growth to 59.9%. However, since gas prices are down to \$4.63 as of today, from \$5.01 a month ago, we are likely to see the index moving into the right direction in next month's report. Energy single-handedly contributed to nearly half of today's number. So declining energy prices now could reverse inflation's trajectory in the next report.

- We had another month of food prices seeing double-digit hikes, increasing at a 10.4% rate, the first increase of 10 percent or more since the period ending February 1981. Prices for both food at home and food away from home picked up significantly, to 12.2% and 10.4% respectively.

- The index for dental services increased 1.9 percent in June, the largest monthly change ever recorded for that series, which dates to 1995.

As consumer preferences shift back from commodities to services, prices for services are being pushed higher.

- In June inflation in both durable goods and core services—services excluding energy—have accelerated, 0.7% each.

- Although normalizing consumption patterns are good news for the U.S. economy, which is predominantly a service economy, it also means that inflation is

likely to linger even as global supply chain issues resolve since both prices of goods, and services remain elevated.

High inflation is affecting the labor market.

Here are three ways that job seekers in the market right now are altering their job search plans to escape higher prices:

- 1. Job seekers are flocking towards remote roles to reduce their transportation costs.** High gas prices and car prices have made commuting considerably more expensive, which has made many job seekers prioritize "where" over "what" in their next job. 37.5% of job seekers surveyed by ZipRecruiter in June said rising gasoline prices have made them more likely to look for remote work, whereas another 10.1% said inflation had made them more likely to seek a higher-paying job.

- 2. Older workers are unretiring, pushed by inflation.** In June, 21.5% of job seekers who are currently looking for a job said they had retired at some point previously. Among those, 35.8% cited inflation as the number one reason that they have since unretired and are now seeking employment. Another 26.2% said that they are rejoining the workforce because they are running out of retirement savings.

- 3. Job seekers are rejecting offers that pay too little.** In a market where employers are fiercely competing for candidates, 48.0% of job seekers in June said that they had already secured at least one job offer. Among those, almost half—49.7%—said they had rejected an offer, with 26.7% citing "not enough pay" as the reason for doing so.

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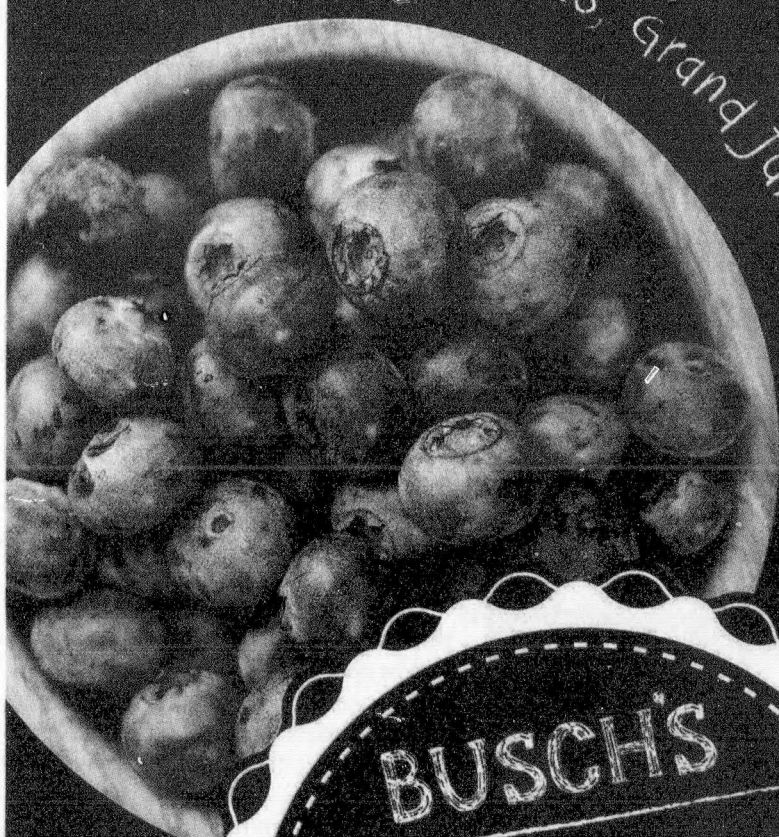
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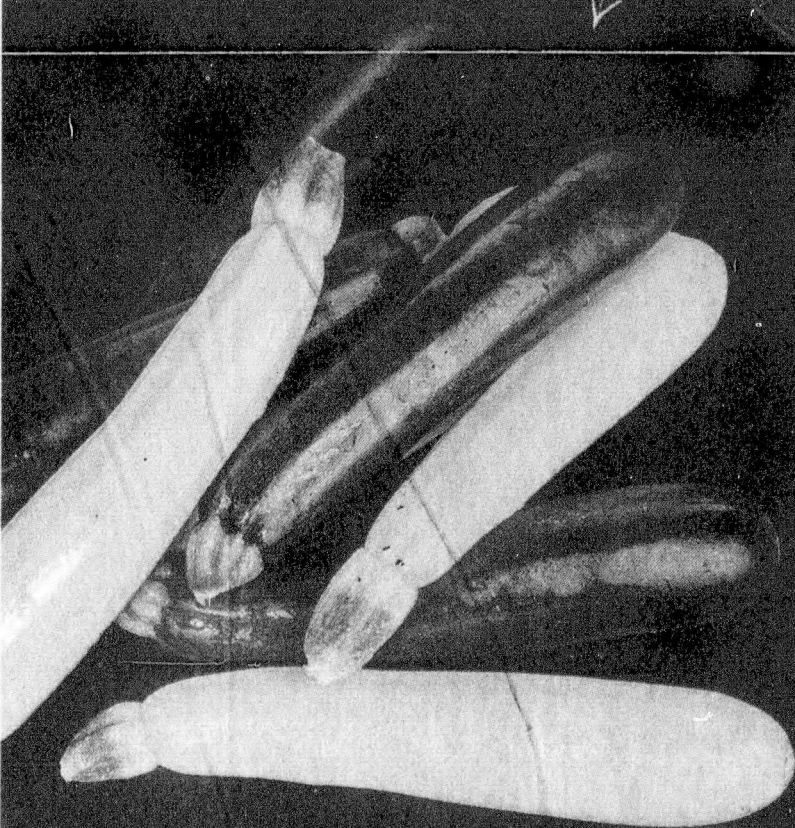


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