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# ORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# The writing is on the wall School threats are now a daily plague

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Jim Wood was a teenager decades ago, the big prank was throw-

ing eggs against the high school.

Times have changed. Now instead of cleaning yolks off walls, school staff must try to wipe out threats.

"The bar has now been set at a very different level," said Wood, now a licensed psychologist with the Oakland Intermediate School District. "Certain lines, once they're crossed, they change the game. One of the things we try to do is make kids aware of the line, and keep them on the right side."

School threats are a daily occurrence for students, school staff, parents and law enforcement.

"It's getting tiresome for everybody and creating fear and anxiety for no reason," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "It's safe to say there are between one and three threats a day across the county. I'm probably underestimating. This is just through the sheriff's office and has been going on for weeks."

After a school shooting tragedy, he adds, there is typically a "great increase in threats," not just in the community that experienced the event, but across the country. It happened after the Oxford High School shooting just over a year ago in which four students were killed. It also happened after incidents in Uvalde, Texas and Parkland, Florida.

Although these increased threats are often found to be empty or not credible, the impact is undeniable. They lead to a culture of fear that feeds upon itself.

Just this fall alone, the South Lyon School District faced six threats in the span of six weeks across its two high schools.

Novi has had two threats at the high school, one at its middle school and most recently one at Novi Meadows Elementary School.

#### What are these kids thinking?

Wood and his colleague Dr. Karen Rusniak, also a licensed school psychologist and consultant in the Oakland Intermediate School District, say

#### See THREATS, Page 4A

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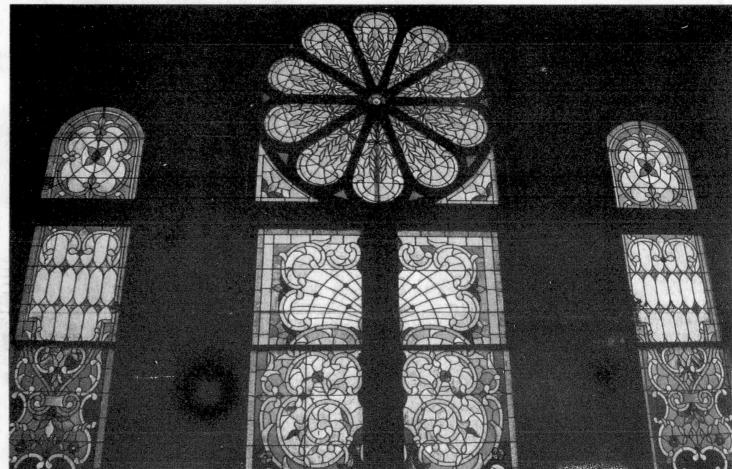
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# Peek inside some of metro Detroit's prettiest churches



Some of the original stained glass inside Milford Presbyterian Church. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The holiday season is here, and that means your mom wants you to go to church with her.

It's an old cliché that Americans are more likely to visit a Christian church around holidays like Christmas and Easter. Metro Detroit happens to be home to many old churches that expect to see more people around the holidays.

So, if you're visiting church just because it's Christmas, why not check out a new place? Here's some of the most beautiful churches in the Hometown Life region, which includes western Wayne and Oakland counties.

See CHURCHES, Page 6A



The sanctuary inside the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia is full of hand-painted iconography

# One of two proposed Lyon Township housing developments faces hurdle

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two housing development proposals are on very different paths in Lyon

Aspen Trails, a 78 single-family home development on just under 44 acres, seems to be a foregone conclusion with only the formality of repeating all previously approved steps after an extension deadline was missed.

However, Chicorel, a proposed 60home development on a "unique" 68.56 acres on the east side of Pontiac Trail, south of Silver Lake Road and north of Eleven Mile Road, is facing an uphill battle

"Our review takes exception with the density of the project, which is significant, and the planning commission felt the same in review," Township Planner Brian Keesey told the Lyon Township Board during its conceptual review of the project Dec. 5.

Jim Clarke of Robertson Homes acknowledged that he had already been in front of the planning commission twice and met with township staff with even larger home developments on a piece of property with nearly 15 acres of wetlands and 18 acres of floodplain. The property also has an oil well that must be worked around.

An original plan put 81 homes on 66 acres and was rejected by the planning

See HURDLE, Page 4A

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Volume 153 | No. 20 Home delivery pricing inside



## Great horned owl eyes return to wild after rescue, rehabilitation

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On a recent cold November evening, two worlds collided when a vehicle struck crucial member of the animal kingdom on a dirt road in Salem Township.

Some time later, Paul Schmid, driving home with his family, spied the creature near the entrance to his driveway on Brookville Road.

He initially thought it was a cat, but as he approached, he quickly realized it was an injured owl.

"They are magnificent animals," Schmid said. "The most beautiful things. ... He was perched on the road near our driveway and he didn't move. There was a rabbit in the middle of the road, a recent roadkill or prey."

Schmid's next actions saved the life of this great horned owl.

The Novi High School history teacher slowly drove around the owl, up his driveway, and got a pair of heavy leather gloves and a box. Accompanied by his kids, he went walked back to the terrified owl, which managed to take a few hops into a bit of brush before turning around and facing his would-be rescuer with an aggressive stance, spreading his wings.

Schmid sat for a few minutes waiting for the bird to calm down, brushing the owl's feathers lightly with his glove before walking around behind the owl. He picked up the owl, carefully gathering the bird's wings against its body and holding him firmly. Schmid cradled the owl against his coat before placing him in the box and taking him to the family's barn, where they moved the owl to a slightly larger box with carpeting.

"He had really soft fur on his talon and I stroked it and he grabbed my hand with his claws," Schmid said. "His grip was fantastic. I had to take my glove off."

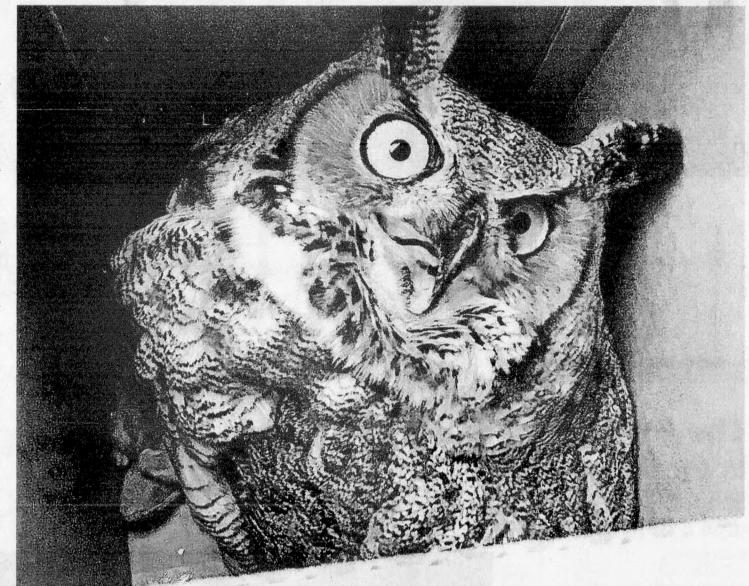
It was just after 8 p.m. when Schmid started making a flurry of phone calls; 15 minutes later he reached a DNR dispatcher who put him in contact with a conservation officer whose shift had just ended. That officer helped Schmid find a certified wildlife rehabilitator.

The next day, Schmid transported the bird to Ypsilanti, turning the care of the owl over to Alysha Albrecht, director of the Raptor Center of Southeast Michigan, formerly known as the River Raisin Raptor Center.

Albrecht is one of a handful of licensed raptor rehabilitators in southeast Michigan, uniquely qualified through 15 years of education, training, observation, and hands-on experience in caring for birds of prey.

The great horned owl Schmid brought her was about the 70th she has taken in so far this year. He joined an eastern screech owl and red-tailed hawk she is also nursing back to health at her home, even as she works a full-time job and cares for her family, which includes her son, not yet 2.

She cares for up to 100 birds per year, typically seeing red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, Eastern screech owls,



A great horned owl found in Salem Township was placed into a box for his safety after he was found injured after being struck by a vehicle. He is being cared for now by the Raptor Center of Southeast Michigan. COURTESY OF PAUL SCHMID.

great horned owls, barred owls, American kestrels, red shoulder hawks, and turkey vultures. More rarely, she has seen snowy owls and short-eared owls. At this time, she does not take in eagles because of the intense amount of care and risk involved in caring for them.

Albrecht notes there are a lot of dangers with wildlife rehabilitation, and not just with eagles.

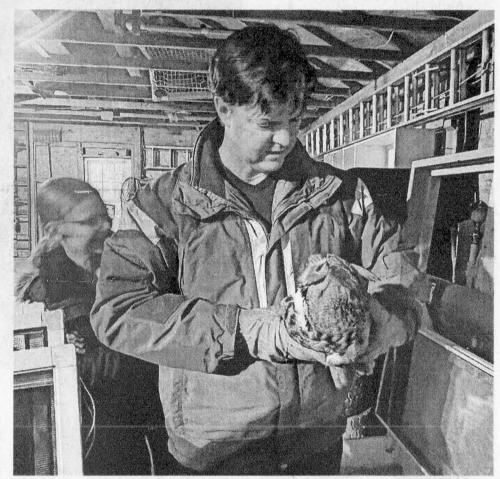
"I really want to stress, this is not just you find an owl and help it," she said. "The sooner you can get that bird to me, the better. We need to create a treatment plan as soon as possible."

#### Giving a hoot, helping the wildlife

She is grateful for those who find these animals and reach out for assistance.

"You have to have that enthusiasm to save a wild bird," she said. "I'm so thankful for our finders. We couldn't do this without all the people like Paul and his family. First, they saw an injured bird and then they took the time to stop, Google, and find a friend — me. I am grateful because we could not do this work without those people who take the time."

Albrecht, 35, has had a passion for raptors, which she defines as any bird with a sharp beak and talons, since she was a teenager volunteering at the Les-



Paul Schmid of Salem Township holds the great horned owl he found injured at the foot of his driveway. The majestic bird is being rehabilitated at the Raptor Center of Southeast Michigan. COURTESY OF PAUL SCHMID



Dummy caption goes here.CREDIT HERE

lie Nature Center. It took her three years to obtain all state and federal permits needed to be a licensed raptor rehabilitator — for which there is a strong need.

"I really want to stress as much as we can, not everyone can pick up a raptor and rehab it," she said. "It takes training, education and equipment to figure out what is wrong and put a plan in place for recovery."

She also could not do the work she does at the nonprofit without the assistance of a veterinarian who offers probono services. Often, Albrecht can tell from observation what is ailing the birds brought to her, but in the case of her most recent patient, x-rays were needed. They revealed the great horned owl had a broken collarbone as well as a broken pelvis.

The diagnosis confirmed her suspicion the owl had been hit by a car, like many of the birds she helps each year.

Other birds she sees are poisoned or haven't figured out how to hunt and are starving to death.

"When they are starving, they take chances, and those chances don't end well," she said. "It's called the wild for a reason—it's hard out there."

The great horned owl now in her care was far from starving — in fact she told Schmid he's one of the fattest, healthiest owls she's ever seen, save for his injuries.

He would not have survived those injuries in the wild.

However, with Albrecht's help, he should heal in about a month.

She will do everything she can to make sure this predator makes it back into the wilds of Salem Township, where his mate is currently missing him. Great horned owls are territorial

and mate for life. Owl mating season runs from now through the end of January and Albrecht hopes to release him in time to start a family.

"The good news is these breaks can heal," Albrecht said. "The bad news is we're on a time crunch, we don't want

See OWL, Page 3A

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A gaggle of dinosaurs on the lawn of the McBride family on Middlebelt near Curtis in Livonia. The dinosaurs have become a bit of a local attraction each holiday season. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Livonia family celebrates holidays with elaborate dinosaur display

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thomas and Jackie McBride decided to go back in time with their Christmas decorations.

But they didn't go 2,000 years back to a nativity scene in Bethlehem. Instead, they went millions of years further back to a time when dinosaurs ruled the Earth.

The couple bought their current home on Middlebelt near Curtis in Livonia six years ago. Their first Christmas, they set up a holiday-themed dinosaur inflatable to decorate their yard. Since then, they've added more to the display each year, now rocking more than a dozen jolly Jurassic creatures.

It's begun to gather some attention, especially those who drive the well-traveled thoroughfare. So much so that people expect to see them each year and

even send mail to their home, praising their creativity.

"Those cards we've gotten in the mail, they've so made my Christmas season," Jackie McBride said.

"They didn't know our name so it was (addressed to) the Dinosaur House."

The newest piece this year is a 15-foot tall bronto-saurus, which the couple adorned with a Christmas bow and added lights inside of it to brighten it up.

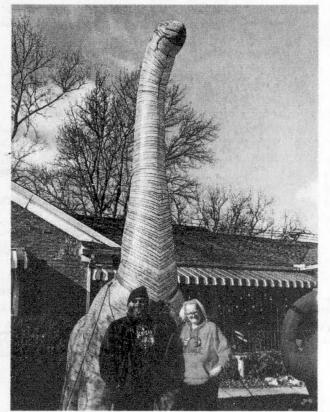
"This one's kind of our new favorite," Thomas McBride said.

It joins others, including a stegosaurus, tyrannosaurus rex and triceratops, including one that moves its head.

Christmas isn't the only time the couple get involved with fossilized inflatables: they also set up skeleton dinosaurs each Halloween, earning them their reputation as the "Dinosaur House."



Thomas and Jackie McBride have steadily grown the front yard of their home on Middlebelt in Livonia into a place filled with inflatable holiday dinosaurs each December.



Thomas and Jackie McBridge stand in front of a 15-foot tall brontosaurus they've installed in their front yard.

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



This dinosaur was the first one the couple put up after their bought their current home back in 2016.

#### Owl

Continued from Page 2A

her to find another mate and we don't want another male in his area, because he was doing great there himself."

She is grateful to Schmid for assisting a bird that is crucial to the forest and the ecosystem.

Schmid was happy to do it.

"He was just beautiful, they are incredible birds," he said. "Looking at and holding them, you appreciate what amazing creatures they are... I so hope we can rehab him. This morning I could hear the other owl hooting. I assume she's his mate, wondering where her husband is."

If you find an injured raptor in southeast Michigan, contact Alysha Albrecht at 616-443-0120 or email her at alyshamae515@gmail.com.

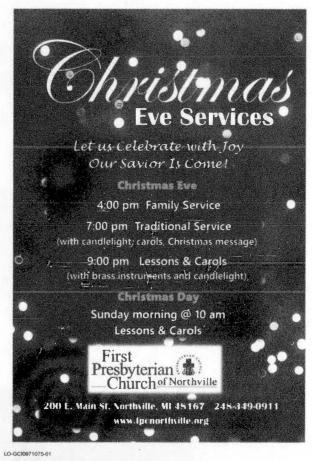
The Michigan DNR also has an extensive list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators, sorted according to county and animal, at https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/

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

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A great horned owl perches on a tree in Southfield at dusk, Dec. 1. Alysha Albrecht, a certified raptor rehabilitator hopes that a great horned owl currently in her care will soon be looking like this one, but in the wilds of Salem Township. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM





A pair of blue triceratops inflatables at the McBride home. The one on the right was obtained by the couple from a seller in Canada, as they could not find it available in the United States.



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Parents and friends of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park students wait just north of Joy Road near Salem High and check their cell phones and await word on students inside the three high schools during their Dec. 9, 2021 lockdown due to a reported weapon being brought into Canton High.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## **Threats**

Continued from Page 1A

the round of threats that often bombards a specific school community in a short period of time is copycat behavior.

"One kid does it and another says, 'Hey, that looks like a good idea, I'll do that too," Rusniak said.

Rusniak and Wood train school staff in crisis prevention and intervention, and also how to evaluate threats using a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Program based off of Secret Service protocol. The collaborative multi-disciplinary process is used to assess not only threats made against others, but also suicidal statements.

Rusniak said the pathway to violence starts with ideation, when an individual thinks of harming others; the second step is planning the violent act; the third step is preparation or acquisition of materials to carry it out; and the final step is implementation.

Perhaps the threat is just a plan to get out of school for the day. Maybe it's a cry for attention. Or maybe it is something more. In any event, prevention and early intervention needs to be a community effort, they said.

Rusniak and Wood encourage teachers and principals to create a school environment of connectedness and parents to be approachable, with no topic off-limits.

"It's one thing to know you can talk to a teacher, it's another to feel like it's OK,"

Wood said. "The other part of this is newsletter.

what parents can do... Some families have forbidden topics, like it's not OK to talk about sex. But then (kids) go to their friends. Ideally, we encourage parents to be open... It starts at home. It took years to get to this point. Getting to a different place will also take time."

Only one arrest has been made in the six recent threats in South Lyon. District officials halted use of restrooms between classes after the most recent threat and issued more individual passes to allow for greater access throughout the day.

Bouchard notes many school districts are installing more security cameras. But ultimately, he believes the threats will end when parents become much more deeply involved, engaging with their kids at a more consistent, meaningful level.

Kids need to step up, too, he said.

"We can't make these stop until everyone is willing to help," Bouchard said. "Typically, someone else knows who made the threat. Help us protect you by sharing information with your teachers and parents."

Confidential, anonymous tips also canbe shared by calling 8-555-OK2SAY, texting 652729 (OK2SAY) or emailing OK2SAY@mi.gov.

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

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Robertson Homes hopes to put ranch-style homes like these on a 68.5 acre parcel on the east side of Pontiac Trail, south of Silver Lake Road and north of Eleven Mile Road. COURTESY OF LYON TOWNSHIP

#### Hurdle

Continued from Page 1A

commission. After the developer acquired an additional 2.5 acres with a house, a new parallel plan was proposed with 70 new homes, also turned down. In late October, the plan was further reduced to 60 homes.

The mostly ranch-style homes, Clarke said, would appeal to an aging population that is looking to sell 4-bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial type homes as they enter their senior years.

Clarke noted the new overall density allowed the plan to keep amenities including open space and preservation of natural features in property that has been characterized as a hidden treasure by the Huron River Watershed Council. Additionally, the proposal includes a 0.7 mile long trail, open to the public and dedicated to the township.

Board members suggested they were looking for a much lower density of homes, pointing to an approximate 38 total units recommended by Keesey in order to follow the township ordinance, which calculates density by what can be "achieved with underlying zoning"

Clarke said sideyard setbacks, the distance between homes, was currently set at between 15-20 feet, but noted houses would not have windows that lined up, so even with close proximity, neighbors would not be looking into each other's houses.

"I really do like the houses," Supervisor John Dolan said. "I think it would

be great in the township to have small ranches... It just seems a little tight in the area you have."

Trustee Sean O'Neil was more blunt.
"You to go Wixom and Novi and the houses all look identical and it's the ugliest thing I have ever seen," he said.
"You can spread your arms out and touch (two houses simultaneously). People can live where they want, but it looks terrible."

Clarke responded that with only 38 units, the developer wouldn't be able to do their planned amenities.

With the feedback from the board's conceptual review, he said he would return to the board with a revised plan.

The township board had very little discussion during a conceptual review of the Aspen Trails development as it had not changed from a previously approved plan for the property on the west side of Martindale between Pontiac Trail and Grand River Avenue.

Applicant Rick Elkow of Aspen Gate LLC had missed by just 12 days a filing extension on the housing development in the works since 2017. Steps in the formal approval process must all be repeated, but Planning Department Coordinator Katherine Des Rochers noted "there is not a whole lot to review" and final site plan approval could come as early as next spring.

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

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#### **Churches**

Continued from Page 1A

#### Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township

The former estate of Colonel Edwin George in Bloomfield Township has served as a Presbyterian place of worship since 1958. The Gothic-style building at 1340 W. Long Lake Road is home to some of the most beautiful architecture and stained glass in the area. In the sanctuary, stained glass windows depict some of the most well-known Biblical figures like King David and the 12 Disciples.

The Kirk's Christmas Eve services include an 11 a.m. service for families with young kids, a 4 p.m. Christmas pageant, 6 p.m. service and candlelight services at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Sunday worship, which falls on Christmas Day this year, is happening at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

#### The Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia

The Basilica of St. Mary has been at 18200 Merriman Road in Livonia since 1977, but the congregation celebrated its 50th birthday earlier this year. The church hired a Grecian iconographer to paint and plaster the inside, which features various stories and significant figures from the Bible.

Christian Archdiocese of North America.

The church's Christmas nativity play is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. Christmas Day service begins at 10 a.m.

#### **Madonna University Blessed** Virgin Mary Chapel in Livonia

Madonna University's chapel, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, has been in its current state since 1961. The cross-shaped sanctuary serves as a daily place of worship for the Felician Sisters who call Madonna University home.

Visitors to the chapel can check out the mosaic art, paintings and 30 stained glass windows around the sanctuary. Though Madonna is a private university, the chapel is open to the public for worship.

The chapel's Christmas Eve mass begins at 3:30 p.m. and Christmas Day mass begins at 9:30 a.m. Because the chapel is a home for the Sisters, services are subject to cancelation if COVID-19 numbers are too

#### **First United Methodist Church in Farmington**

First United Methodist, 33112 Grand River Avenue, is just one of the historic landmarks in downtown Farmington. The church was built in 1829 and was granted historical landmark status in 2007.

The church's sanctuary is currently undergoing its



The Basilica is part of the Antiochian Orthodox The sanctuary in Kirk in the Hills of Bloomfield Township. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

first major renovation, but the detailed stained glass window featuring historic figures like John Wesley and Biblical figures like John the Baptist remains untouched. The church plans to reopen its sanctuary in time for Christmas.

First United Methodist is planning to host a Christmas Eve service, and Christmas Day worship begins at

#### Sanctuary Church in Birmingham

The building that houses Sanctuary, now a nondenominational church, was built in 1891. The building at 300 Willits Street in downtown Birmingham doesn't have its own parking lot, but there is public parking

Though the outside of Sanctuary is clearly an old building, most of the inside looks like any other modern church. However, Sanctuary's sanctuary has maintained an older feel with large wooden beams, an organ and a few simple stained glass windows.

The church gathers at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.

#### Milford Presbyterian Church in Milford

The congregation at Milford Presbyterian Church has been gathering in the small community since 1899, and the church started building its facility at 238 N. Main Street that same year. According to the church, the building process was faithfully covered by the Milford Times, which is part of Hometown Life today.

The inside of the sanctuary has gone mostly unchanged since the 1980s, but the rest of the building has seen plenty of updates over the years. The church is home to some of the most colorful stained glass in the area, complete with unique pinks and purples, and includes balcony seating.

The church's Christmas Eve service begins at 7 p.m. Milford Presbyterian is not holding any services Christmas Day.

#### First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth

The congregation at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth has been gathering since 1833. The church worshipers meet in today at 710 Church Street was built in 1937 after the original church burned down a year before.

Most of the stained glass visitors to the church see today is just as old as the current structure is.

First Presbyterian has Christmas Eve services at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. It's Christmas Day gathering begins at 11:15 a.m.

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

#### FIND THE WORDS

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 use. 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 12 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

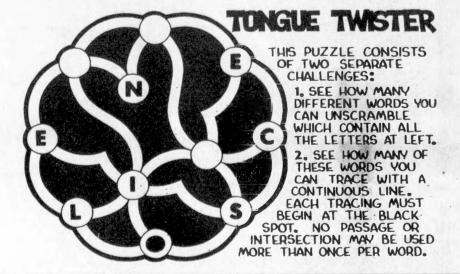
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Aerodynamic	Disc	Klts	Skid
Amps	Door	Lift	Spanner
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Bond	Exhaust	Performance	Sump
Boot	Expense	Petral	Tank
Care	Filter	Points	Transmission
Check	Garage	Repair	Tyre
Choice	Hood	Rims	Used
Colour	Hoses	Roof	Washer
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## PUZZLES & POSERS



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

#### **TODAY'S ANSWER**

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22 To some extent 23 Never got 25 What most Chadians

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words 33 Diagnostic ink 37 Winter whale-watching center

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1 Generous gifts from the Czars 2 Whom senators

would listen to 3 How ghosts do their thing 4 Meet halfway

5 On target 6 Light weights 7 Royal Society

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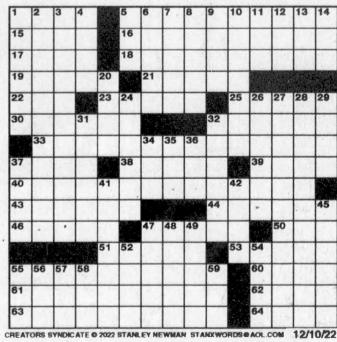
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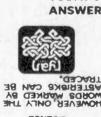
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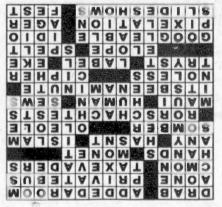




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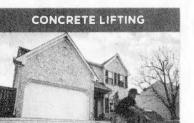


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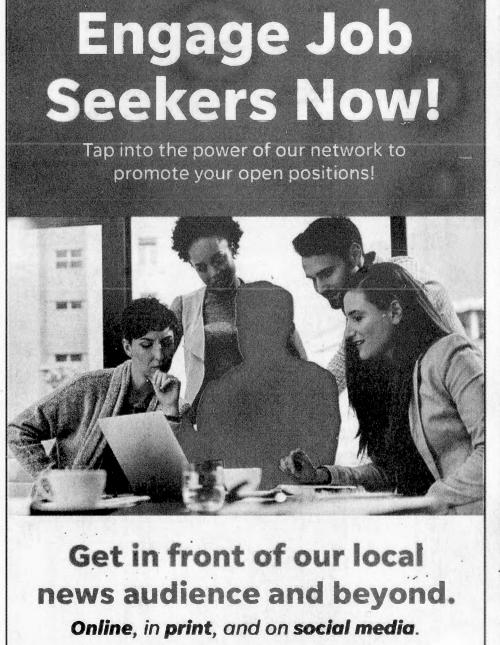


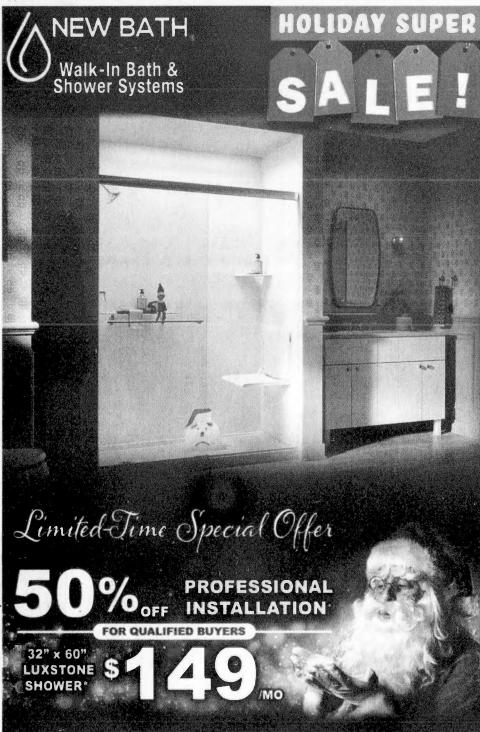
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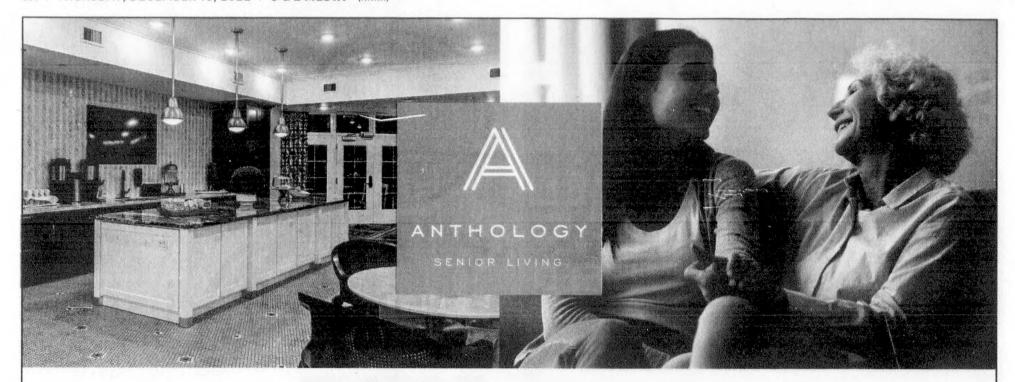
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# SPORTS

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

# Marshall's rise as key starter has Brother Rice aiming for state title

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Brother Rice boys basketball team was expected to win a state championship this season.

And, to be honest, the Warriors (3-0) still might. They entered the opening week as the No. 1 team on The D Zone Top 100, and they'll likely be atop the first Associated Press poll when it's released. If their first three games say anything about what's to come, the Catholic League should be on high alert when they visit your gym.

Following last year's early exit from the postseason, they were penciled in to return all five starters and a couple of their top bench players. But then center Keithan Gilmore transferred to West Bloomfield and shooting guard Henry Garrity, who's committed to Notre Dame for football, suffered an ACL injury during the fall.

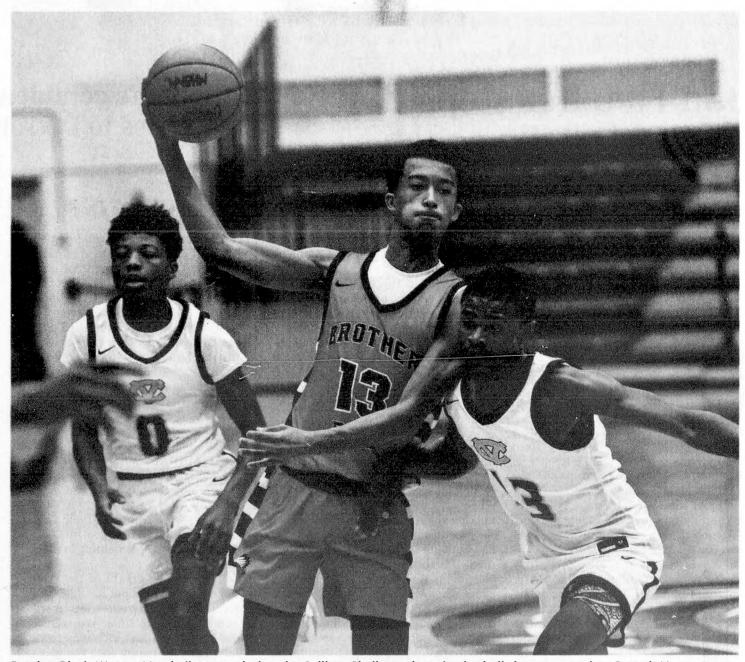
When Gilmore transferred, it was likely junior Warren Marshall was going to take his spot in the lineup. And then when Garrity was lost for the year, that starting role was all but guaranteed to be Marshall's.

Not that Marshall hasn't earned it. He definitely has. He was their sixth man as a sophomore, and he's entering his third season on the varsity. He already holds offers from Grand Valley State, Wayne State and Macomb Community College. His best basketball days are still ahead of him, and he already plays at a high level

But replacing a talent like Garrity in the backcourt? There's a lot of pressure that comes with that.

"At first, I did think that," Marshall said following Brother Rice's 78-52 win

See RICE, Page 4B



Brother Rice's Warren Marshall passes during the Calihan Challenge boys basketball showcase against Detroit Voyageur on Dec. 10, at Detroit Mercy. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

GIRLS BASKETBALL

# How Cameron Little is making a big impact for Birmingham Groves

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Cameron Little would've probably only had two fouls had it been a boys basketball game.

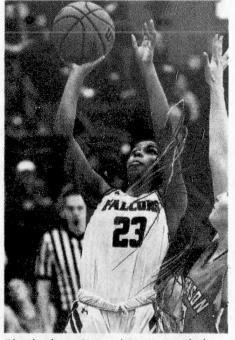
And the handful of hustle plays on defense the junior made during a 41-29 victory over Livonia Stevenson on Dec. 8 would've earned some helmet stickers from Birmingham Groves football coach Brendan Flaherty.

Except this was a girls basketball game because, well, Little is a girl.

But she plays like a football player. From the way she reads passing lanes like a defensive back to how she scrums in a pile for loose balls like a bunch of linebackers and linemen. And there's a good reason she plays like that, too (and we'll touch on that later). But, for right now, Little is just happy to be in the starting lineup.

She was one of three sophomores who made the varsity a year ago. And that promotion from the JV proved to be

See LITTLE, Page 7B



Birmingham Groves' Cameron Little goes up for a layup during a non-conference girls basketball game on Dec. 8. BRANDON

FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL

# Ryan Hurst begins Mr. Basketball campaign with dominant effort vs. MLK

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Big players make big plays on the

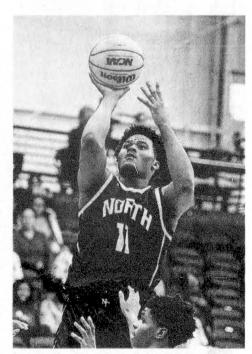
And that's precisely what Ryan Hurst did late in the Dec. 5 season opener, as the senior scored a gamebest 24 points to push North Farmington past Detroit King, 49-36.

As far as the stage? It'll take the Raiders playing in a Division 1 state championship to top the professional-like atmosphere they saw during The Michigan Tip-Off boys basketball showcase at Wayne State Fieldhouse.

It was a who's-who event, chalked full of eight of the best teams in the state. And that included the Raiders, who were ranked No. 4, regardless of division, in the D Zone's preseason Top 100 earlier in the day.

Not only was the game in an NBA G League arena but they also used a 35second shot clock and a college 3point line.

See CAMPAIGN, Page 7B



North Farmington's Ryan Hurst shoots during The Michigan Tip-Off boys basketball showcase against Detroit King on Dec. 5, at Wayne State.

TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



## Farmington Hills doctor charged with more sexual misconduct

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Farmington Hills doctor accused of molesting youth hockey players is facing additional charges.

Dr. Zvi Levran, 66, is charged with sexual misconduct accusations first brought forward in October. He's been charged in the last two months with second degree sexual misconduct, five counts of third degree sexual misconduct and 11 counts of fourth degree sexual misconduct in connection with multiple accusers. The first to come forward was a 19-year-old man.

The new charges include one count of fourth degree sexual misconduct involving a 30-year-old man and one count of second degree sexual misconduct involving a 14-year-old, respectively, at the time of the reported assaults. The Oakland County Prosecutor's office announced the new charges Thursday.

Joseph Lavigne, Levran's attorney, said he expects his client to be arraigned as soon as Thursday afternoon.

We're intent on entering a not guilty plea," he said. "He's looking forward to defending the charges."

Levran has a urology practice in West Bloomfield and has provided medical services to youth and school hockey organizations - including those in Farmington, Redford and Novi - in Michigan and Minnesota for about 20 years.

He is accused of abusing patients at his home office, not at his practice in West Bloomfield. All of his accusers are connected to youth hockey programs.

Levran has been an inmate at the Oakland County Jail since mid-November. He is being held on more than \$2 million bond.

He's scheduled to appear at the 47th District Court in Farmington Hills Jan. 11 for a pre-exam conference.

People are encouraged to call the Farmington Hills Police phone number set up for tips about Levran. According to the department, calls have poured in since the hotline was established last

Get the latest headlines for metro Detroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.

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

#### **FOOTBALL**

# Jon Fletcher steps down as Fowlerville coach

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Coaching high school football requires much more than just calling plays on Friday nights.

The offseason strength and conditioning program begins not too long after the previous season ends. Summer 7-on-7 leagues, offseason camps, film



game-planning study, and running practices after working a full day at work make coaching football a grind like no other in high school sports.

All of that adds up to a lot of time away from family, which is why Jon Fletcher is stepping down after six seasons as Fowlerville's head coach.

"I just want to spend more time with my family and my wife," Fletcher said. "The job takes a big commitment. That was the main deciding factor.

"It's a year-round job. Every day you're doing something. It's worth it, but that's how the job needs to be done."

Fletcher has been involved with high school football nonstop going back to his playing days. After graduating from Haslett in 2009, he went right into coaching at his alma mater while going to college. After seven years in various roles at Haslett, he coached the junior varsity at Fowlerville for one season before being hired as the varsity head coach in 2017.

Fletcher coached Fowlerville to firstround playoff victories in 2019 and 2020. The 2019 team lost by one point to Flint Powers Catholic in the district championship game. He is a special education teacher at the school.

"It was a blast," he said. "I really did love it. I'm just appreciative of all the players and their hard work, our coaching staff. The administration was very supportive. It was a lot of fun, well

Fowlerville athletic director Brian

Osborn said Fletcher will be difficult to

"He's doing a fantastic job here," Osborn said. "He's always done the right things for us, always made kids better on and off the field. It's gonna be a big loss for us."

Osborn said the process of hiring Fletcher's successor began when the job was posted Friday. He said there have already been five applications.

Fowlerville is coming off a 3-6 season. Five of the six losses were to teams that won at least one playoff game, with the other opponent losing a first-round matchup between teams that beat the Gladiators.

"Obviously, being here, I believe it's a good job," Osborn said. "If you look at the caliber of the teams we play, if we can do some things to fix us offensively, defensively, special teams, I think whoever comes in has a good shot at making some runs in the playoffs.

"Mason's in the semifinals. A team like Lansing Catholic on our schedule made it to the regional finals. Corunna was tough. If we can do some things, I think we have a shot at making some deep runs and bringing some of the prestige back to Fowlerville football that Jack Wallace had."

Osborn said he hopes to complete the hiring process by Christmas break so the new coach can begin working with players at the start of January.

"Are there any opportunities in the district for a person to come in?" Osborn said. "That's obviously the best scenario. Kids play school sports so they can practice after school, so that's one of the goals we have is to get someone in education or who has a flexible schedule.

Fowlerville is one of two Livingston County schools looking to hire a new football coach. Brian Savage has stepped down after 11 seasons at Hartland.

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan

#### HOCKEY

#### Brighton's confidence bolstered by close loss to Detroit Catholic Central

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

LIVONIA - It was a hockey game both teams needed.

Brighton needed to validate its belief that it can compete with Detroit Catholic Central, a perennial powerhouse that has steamrolled its opposition in the first few weeks of the sea-

And the Shamrocks needed a competitive game to test their ability to thrive when faced with adversity.

In the most compelling game this rivalry has produced in recent years, Catholic Central emerged with a 2-1 victory on a goal by Andrew Urbain with 10:25 left in the final period Saturday night in the Adam Mitchell KLAA-MIHL Showcase at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

Brighton scored first on a goal by Dominic Vincent with 12:19 left in the second period before Catholic Central tied it on a power-play goal by Cael Rogowski with 4:09 remaining in the sec-

"They're the cream of the crop in Michigan high school hockey," Brighton coach Kurt Kivisto said. "It was a game the whole time. We were one goal away. We had a chance to tie it late. I'm very happy with the way our guys played tonight."

Catholic Central has beaten Brighton seven straight times since losing 2-1 in the 2018 state semifinals. The most recent encounter was in last season's state Division 1 championship game, which the Shamrocks won 5-1.

"We just took that feeling from last March and we brought it to this game," Brighton goalie Levi Pennala said. "We didn't want that feeling again. Unfortunately, we got it, but we don't want that feeling ever again."

Pennala kept the Bulldogs in the game, making 27 saves. Catholic Central outshot Brighton 29-15.

"The whole game, we were right there," Pennala said. "The team played great. They were blocking shots in



**Dominic Vincent scored Brighton's** goal in a 2-1 loss to Detroit Catholic Central on Dec. 10, at Eddie Edgar Ice

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

front of me. We played well as a team."

Catholic Central is off to a 9-0 start, allowing only four goals. The Shamrocks had four straight shutouts coming into the game. They are 60-2 against Michigan teams since Jan. 24, 2020, winning the past three Division 1 championships.

Catholic Central's closest games were a 3-0 victory over Cleveland St. Edward and a 6-2 decision over Birmingham Brother Rice.

You need to play in games like this throughout the season," Shamrocks coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "Fortunately for us, we've been able to distance ourselves in a few games earlier. Tonight wasn't the case. That's good. You want to play in some close games. You find out a lot about your team in games like this, maybe more so than in the games you kind of pull away."

On the winning goal, Urbain jammed away at the rebound of a shot by Jason Spiegel.

'The two goals we scored were kind of ugly goals, not the pretty plays, nothing cute or fancy about them," Kaleniecki said. "But we were able to get pucks to the net and find some rebounds. That type of game is very reminiscent of a playoff-style type of game, so it was good for us to play that."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillK-

#### HOCKEY

## With 0-2 start 'in rear-view mirror,' Hartland rolls past Brother Rice

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA - When Hartland's hockey players left Eddie Edgar Ice Arena 17

days earlier following a loss to Livonia Stevenson, they were searching for answers while heading into Thanksgiving with the program's first 0-2 start in 18 The Eagles' trip home from Livonia

was considerably more upbeat Saturday night. Hartland is looking every bit like the

team that won a state Division 2 championship last season and began this season ranked No. 2 in Division 1 behind perennial power Detroit Catholic Cen-

An impressive 5-2 victory over Birmingham Brother Rice, the top-ranked team in Division 2, in the Adam Mitchell KLAA-MIHL Showcase was the Eagles' sixth straight since the two losses out of

the gate. "After those first two games, we took it to heart and we went to practice right away and we started giving 110%," said Hartland senior Ben Pouliot, who had a goal and an assist. "We're being way more aggressive now, we're getting to the D, getting more shots on net. Honestly, those two games are in the rearview mirror. We're looking forward."

Hartland trailed 1-0 and 2-1 to Brother Rice, but was controlling play. It seemed like a matter of time before the Eagles' persistence in the Warriors' zone would

'That was a good win," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "We built today. Period by period, we got stronger throughout as the night went on. We're starting to get stronger every game. As a coach, you just like to see your guys take steps, and they're doing that.'

Hartland's winning streak includes victories over three state-ranked teams. The turnaround began two days after the Stevenson loss with a 4-1 victory over fourth-ranked Division 3 Riverview Gabriel Richard, then continued the next day with a 4-3 victory over fourthranked Division 1 Brighton.

"We take pride in it being a process, and the season is long," Gadwa said. "Our hope is we start somewhere and we finish a lot higher as a team. As time goes on, you get a lot of reps in practice, we talk a lot, we do a ton of video. You see that stuff start to make a difference. They start to pay attention more and they're coming together a lot more."

Peter Rosa gave Brother Rice a 1-0 lead at 5:59 of the first, but Pouliot responded 3:18 later with a shot under the crossbar.



Hartland's LJ Sabala plays the puck in front of Cameron George (17) and goalie Turner England of Birmingham Brother Rice on Dec. 10, at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Jack Cassidy put the Warriors back on top at 4:07 of the second, but a power play goal by Braden Pietila at 11:41 and a goal by Jack L'Esperance at 12:59 put the Eagles on top for good.

Hartland pulled away in the third period with goals by Ian Kastamo at 5:29 and Nick Halonen at 14:03. The Eagles outshot Brother Rice, 34-12.

"Brother Rice, they're a great team," Pouliot said. "They have great players, great coaches, but we just went out there relentless today. We were relentless, we went out there, scored a few goals and had fun."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.

# Who are top 5 wrestlers in Livingston County?

**Bill Khan**Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

#### 1. Nick Rochowiak

- School: Hartland
- Class: Senior

• Accomplishments: Rochowiak is the only Livingston County male wrestler who enters the season ranked No. 1 in his weight class by Michigan Grappler, leading the way at 165 pounds in Division 1. Other wrestlers had higher state finishes last season, but Rochowiak earned respect by taking eventual state champ Rollie Denker of Temperance Bedford to overtime in the second round. Rochowiak was sixth at 160, going 35-8 and improving to 93-16 for his career.

#### 2. Travis Richardson

- School: Brighton
- Class: Senior

• Accomplishments: Richardson is ranked No. 2 in Division 1 at 150 behind only three-time state champion Dylan Gilcher of Detroit Catholic Central. With Gilcher in the way, that might not be the weight class in which Richardson competes come the postseason. A two-time state qualifier, Richardson was fourth at 145 last season, winning a regional title and going 45-8.

#### 3. Brayden Bobo

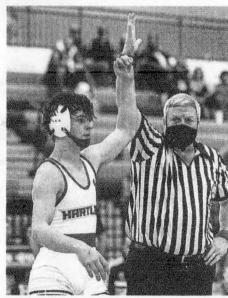
- School: Hartland
- Class: Senior

• Accomplishments: Bobo is ranked No. 2 at 175 behind Davison's Josh Barr, a three-time state champion with a 93-1 career record. Getting out of Barr's weight class is the best shot at a state title. Bobo was fourth at 171 last year, going 42-6 and winning a regional championship. He has a 98-22 career record.

#### 4. Vinnie Abbey

- School: Hartland
- Class: Junior

• Accomplishments: Abbey is



Hartland's Vinnie Abbey has been all-state in his first two seasons of high school

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

ranked second at 157 behind two-time state champion Darius Marines, a junior from Detroit Catholic Central. Abbey has an opportunity to become a four-time all-stater, having placed eighth at 135 as a freshman and fourth at 135 as a sophomore. He was 40-7 last season, boosting his career record to 69-15.

#### 5. Chase Kern

- School: Hartland
- Class: Senior
- Accomplishments: Kern will take a III-19 career record into his senior season, having made the all-state podium twice. He placed fourth at 189 as a sophomore and sixth as a junior. He was 42-8 last year, winning the regional title with three first-period pins. He is ranked No. 3 at 215 behind Davison's Remy Cotton, the state champ at 189 last winter, and Lapeer's Matthew Bollman, who was fourth at 215 last season

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan. HIGH SCHOOL WEESTLING

# Cox a bright spot in Hartland's 47-15 loss to top-ranked DCC

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

NOVI — Vincent Cox envisioned his wrestling season starting with his arm raised in victory by the referee.

And that's just how his first match ended Wednesday afternoon for the Hartland senior heavyweight.

But it began in a less glorious position, as he quickly excused himself from the mat 32 seconds into his match, headed over to the garbage can near the scorer's table, bent over and threw up.

For Cox, there was no need for alarm. It was situation normal.

"That's just nerves," Cox said. "That happened to me all the time during football, last wrestling season. I can't control it. It just happens."

With the power literally out of his

With the nerves literally out of his system, Cox continued wrestling Detroit Catholic Central freshman Benny Eziuka and got a pin just as time expired in the first period.

Initially, it was ruled Eziuka had been saved by the buzzer, but Cox was eventually awarded the pin.

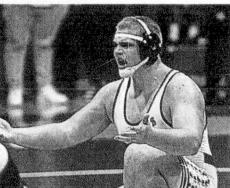
"Originally, he said time ran out," Cox said. "He reviewed it and ended up getting the pin for me, which was nice.

"There are definitely some things I need to work on, such as finishing my shots. But a pin is a pin; I can't be unhappy with it."

Cox has signed with Harding University in Arkansas to play football at the NCAA Division II level, but he has unfinished business on the wrestling

He went 15-14 last season, his first as Hartland's top heavyweight. When the time came to submit 14 names for the individual state tournament, Cox didn't make the cut. Teams can enter more than one wrestler in a weight class, which the Eagles did at 171.

Hartland made all the right moves, qualifying all 14 wrestlers for regionals,



Hartland heavyweight Vincent Cox reacts after it was initially ruled he didn't complete a pin before the clock expired in the first period against Detroit Catholic Central. He was ultimately awarded the pin.

DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

producing a Livingston County-record nine regional champions and sending 12 competitors to the state meet.

"I felt kind of snubbed last year, not getting into the lineup, but it was completely understood," Cox said. "This year, I should definitely be in the lineup for individual states and definitely want to place this year in the top eight.

"Last year, we had a couple kids in the same weight class. That's where I ended up getting bumped out and they ended up staying. It is a little harder than your normal team."

Hartland coach Kyle Summerfield has a team loaded with all-staters and returning state qualifiers, but he singled out Cox in the preseason as someone who could be a pleasant surprise.

"Vincent was a tough wrestler for us last year," Summerfield said. "We had so many tough kids, he didn't get the opportunity at the end. I talked about it early on, he's one of our darkhorse kids. I think he'll make some real noise. Today was just a very brief glimpse."

See WRESTLING, Page 4B







Hartland's Brayden Bobo (right) beat Detroit
Catholic Central's Lee Krueger in overtime at 190
pounds on Dec. 7. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Wrestling

Continued from Page 3B

Cox had the only pin for third-ranked Hartland in a season-opening 47-15 loss to top-ranked Catholic Central in a school-assembly dual.

Hartland's other winners were Easton Culver by a 10-7 decision over Drew Brewer at 138, Vinnie Abbey by a 6-5 score over TJ Bunn at 165 and Brayden Bobo with a 2-1 overtime decision over Lee Krueger at 190.

Last season, the Shamrocks eliminated the Eagles in the state Division 1 semifinals, 43-16, before losing to Davison in the championship match.

"We came here to see a really good team," Summerfield said. "We came here to be in a tough environment. Other than the state meet, this is the toughest environment we're going to be in all year. The point was to see that right away, see where we're at. It's a good measuring stick. We've got things to work on, absolutely. I saw a lot of bright lights, too."

A positive was the performance of Abbey in a clash between two wrestlers ranked No. 2 in Division 1 in different weight classes. Abbey moved up from 157 to 165 to take on Bunn, scoring the winning points on a takedown with 32 seconds remaining.

"I knew he was gassed," Abbey said. "I just had to keep pushing, set up my shots, get away from his shots. I got the takedown."

Abbey has been wrestling for only two weeks after suffering a broken wrist during the third game of football season.

"I've got a lot of stuff from last year I've been working on," he said. "I definitely need to get my conditioning back to where it's normally been, but I felt

good.

"It's a huge confidence boost. Giving up weight and wrestling a kid ranked the same as you at a different weight gives you a good gauge on how you're going to do."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.

#### Rice

Continued from Page 1B

over Detroit Voyageur during the Dec. 10 Calihan Challenge at Detroit Mercy. "Then we started doing practices and training with each other, and I was like, 'We could do this (win a state title) as a team.' But it's definitely a big loss losing him"

Saying Brother Rice is absolutely loaded with talent is an understatement.

The Warriors have the No.1-ranked player in Michigan, according to 247Sports.com, in Louisville commit Curtis Williams, plus they have Wisconsin signee John Blackwell playing point guard. Battling down low is future Toledo forward Xavier Thomas, while Marshall will be a future college player as well.

You'll be hard-pressed to find a better lineup in the state (though, North Farmington could have something to say about that), and getting to the Breslin Center is Brother Rice's top priority. Marshall will definitely be needed.

"We need all 15 guys to win a state title, but Warren is going to play a huge role in what we do," coach Rick Palmer said. "There were games last year where teams just didn't guard him (because he came off the bench), and that was the strategy. I hope they do it again this year because he'll make them pay."

So where does Marshall come from?
He attended Avondale Middle School in Rochester
Hills, and Palmer actually had no idea who Marshall
was when Marshall elected to attend Brother Rice.

was when Marshall elected to attend Brother Rice.
That was during the beginning of the national pandemic.
"So we didn't have him that summer," Palmer add-

ed. "So he just showed up to a freshmen open gym one day, and we were like, 'Whoah! Where did he come from!?"

That was a question a lot of opposing teams asked.

That was a question a lot of opposing teams asked themselves when Marshall checked in off the bench a year ago.

He's 6-foot-4, but he's lanky and not the most intimidating looking. He won't ever be the guy you want getting off the bus first. Besides, that job goes to Thomas, whose burly beard, giant legs and threatening demeanor make him one of the toughest post players to guard in the CHSL.

But, wow, can Marshall play ball. He's a solid defender who seems to always be poking free steals and taking them the distance for layups. He's got a smooth shooting motion and can hit from anywhere in the halfcourt. And he's crafty. There aren't too many passes he can't make on the floor.

And, as Palmer alluded to earlier, not many teams gameplan to stop him because, well, you have three top-shelf college recruits in the lineup as well. It's hard enough trying to stop Williams and Blackwell alone.

So what makes Marshall so great?

"It's about how hard he's worked," Palmer said.
"We've got a culture where guys get in the gym to



Brother Rice's Warren Marshall shoots during the Calihan Challenge boys basketball showcase against Detroit Voyageur on Dec. 10, at Detroit Mercy.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

work on their own game, but Warren spends as much time, if not the most time out of anybody, in the gym. To see him get rewarded (with college offers), it's rewarding as a coach. Because he works so hard, he continues to inch himself toward getting better and better. It helps he's probably grown 4 inches since the first time I saw him. He's such a great kid that it's fun to watch."

And here's some more praise for Marshall: Palmer said the junior is often his best player at practice. He doesn't have many off days. In fact, Palmer said Marshall has had a good start to the year in their three games, but the guard is yet to play as well as he has shown in practice.

But that, too, will come in time.

"I just kind of feel more comfortable with the team and everyone on it," Marshall said. "We're super close, and we know what we have to accomplish this year. All we have to do this year is work and communicate with each other (to win a state championship)."

Marshall would be a great fit at Macomb CC, so it's not surprising to see that Monarchs coach Hassan Nizam wants the guard to play for him in Roseville. Marshall looks, acts and talks just like a Macomb CC player. And Nizam has a knack for getting his guys to Division I schools. Heck, former Detroit Country Day star Kareem Aburashed had an offer from Central Michigan before playing in his first game for Nizam.

But Marshall's in Brother Rice's starting lineup now. Garrity is out for the year. The Warriors are on a journey to win a state title. So Macomb CC, or any small college, really, is unlikely to sign Marshall because he's about to prove to the state just how good he really is. Can he be Palmer's next D-I star?

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



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## Westland veterinarian killed in crash remembered as lover of people, pets

**Shelby Tankersley** 

Hometownlife.com

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Dr. John Hermann was a good-hearted man who loved people and pets, friends, customers and colleagues said.

Hermann, 53, died Sunday afternoon in a vehicle crash in Van Buren Township. Police said his vehicle crossed the center line and struck another vehicle. He did not have any immediate family in the area. According to friends, his colleagues were like family.

While his love for animals was high, he also loved people," said Jesse Kovach, a longtime friend and former colleague. "I don't want that to get overlooked by everything. While he was looking after animals, he was also making sure the humans in their lives were good."

Hermann, an Inkster resident, owned a mobile vet clinic in Westland. The 1993 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine chose to open a mobile clinic to reach as many people as possible.

"I don't even know that you could count the number of people that he served," Kovach said. "We're talking from Westland and Inkster and Romulus out to Holly and White Lake and Monroe."

Though Hermann was best known for his veterinary services, he also volunteered with shelters. He offered training to the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers and treated animals at shelters in Taylor, Romulus, Woodhaven and Trenton.

"He really had a passion for making sure these stray animals were healthy and not getting sick in the shelters," Kovach said. "He was making sure these animals who don't have a voice through an owner were being taken care of."

Kovach said a lesser-known passion of Hermann's was providing affordable housing to neighbors in need.

"It wasn't just animals," she said. "He



Dr. John Hermann of inkster. **COURTESY OF** MOBILE VET CLINIC WITH DR. JOHN HERMANN D.V.M

also had rental houses that he did for low-income families in Inkster and the surrounding area. So, he took care of people as well. I was over at his house and one of his clients came over. When we told her of his passing, she hit the ground crying. Everybody loved him."

A Facebook post from Hermann's clinic announcing his death prompted thousands to share memories of him. Several people also spoke about Hermann during Westland's city council meeting on Monday.

"We've been seeing him ever since we moved here in 2009," resident Emily Bauman said. "He was so compassion-

ate. I'm just in shock."

People who want to honor Hermann's memory are encouraged to donate to their local animal shelter or to "In memory of Dr. Hermann: Shelter medical supplies" on GoFundMe, which will donate supplies to local shelters. At press time, the GoFundMe had raised nearly \$9,000.

According to Hermann's obituary, people can visit his family at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Westland, 7707 Middlebelt Road, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday. His funeral begins t al0:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Livonia, 11411 Hubbard Street.

Get the latest headlines for metroDetroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.

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

# **Obituaries**

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#### Evelyn M. Carl

FORMERLY OF CAN-TON, MI - Evelyn M. Carl, age 102, formerly of Canton, MI and more recently of Troy, OH passed away on December 2, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Martin L. Carl, dear mother of Nancy (Scott) Ford, Susan (Charles), Cantrell, Sr.; grandmother of Fred

Stafford, Jr., Wendy Stafford, Jennifer Hill, Charles (Laura) Cantrell, Jr., Tyler (Mary) Ford and Tom Ford; great grandmother of six grandchilden; great grandmother to five great grandchilden; and aunt of many nieces and nephews.

She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Chirch in Troy. She was a former member of St. Thomas A Becket Catholic Church in Canton, MI where she was a member of the 50/50 Club and Bunco group. Evelyn loved reading and square daning. She enjoyed hosting family holidays and diniers. More recently, Evelyn enjoyed her activities and trips with the Randall Residence. In earlier wars, she worked in civil service as an ammuntion inspector during WWII and was secretary for many years, most notedly in the Wayne Westland School District.

Services will be held at 2:00 PM on Thurday, December 8, 2022, at the Baird Funeral Hone in Troy, OH with Deacon John Carlin officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the sevice from 1:00-2:00 PM on Thursday at the funeral home. Entombment will take place at 1:00 PM on Monday, December 12, 2022, at the Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Chapel of the Angels Mausoleum, Westland, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society or Miami County Anmal Shelter. Condolences may be expressed to the family through www.bairdfuneralhome.com.

#### Donald John Milroy "Don"

NORTHVILLE - Donald John Milroy "Don", age 87, Northville, Michigan, passed away gently on December 5, 2022 with his family at his side. Don was born May 4, 1935 in Superior Wisconsin to his parents, Margaret and David, (both predeceased). Don attended St. Francis Xavier School and East High School of Superior, Wisconsin. He was the eldest brother to Phillip, Kay and Jack. From an early age, Don lived with a wanderlust and zest for life. Upon completion of high school, he hitchhiked to Alaska and worked on the railroad, sending monies home to his mom who was raising the family on

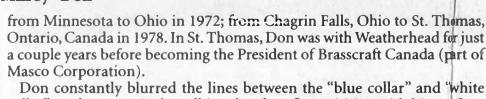
her own following her husband Dave's untimely passing. By all accounts, David who worked on the Great Northern Railroad played as hard as he worked... it would be the same ethics of work and play for Don. His Dad, Dave introduced him to the sport of Curling, a sport that he loved and led to numerous bonspiels and friendships throughout the years.

In 1955, Don worked for the Gary Slag Corporation, a steel mill in Duluth, then shovelled coal on a Great Lakes iron ore carrier. Don attended the Minnesota School of Business 1956-1957.

From October, 1957 to September, 1959, Don served in the US Army. We get a chuckle out of the fact that although he received a "Good Conduct Medal" and "Rifle Marksman" accommodation, he was listed as a Surface to Air Missile Electronic Repair Helper – a guy who was challenged when it came to changing lightbulbs. Don was in downtown Minneapolis when happenstance had him meet an executive at the Gold Bond Stamp Company. He worked at Gold Bond from 1959 to 1966.

Club in 1960. Jimmy got a hold of a list of downhill skiers who had formed their group at the Lexington. Don went down the list and the name Callista Flaherty jumped off the page at him. He called Callista for a blind New Year's Eve date. Her mother Blanche said, "Go out with him. If he's from Superior. He's a nice boy." Callista became the love of his life. Callista and Don were married October 14, 1961, a marriage that lasted 61 years. On August 8, 1962, Patrick (Karen) was born and heralded the birth of three sisters and two brothers all born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Callista "Callie," Amy (Franc Thursday December 15, 2022. The funeral will be Friday December 16 at 11 Mazzuca), Daniel (Kathy), Mark, and Sarah.

at Graco and then ever striving to climb the corporate ladder, he took a from 1-4pm at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd Novi, position at Weatherhead. The corporate climb spurred three major moves: MI. 48375



collar" workers, routinely walking the plant floor visiting with his employees, who loved him. While in St. Thomas, Don was an integral part of the community, volunteering with the United Way fundraising committee, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital Foundation, the Kiwanis Club, he St. Thomas Airport Expansion Project and for two years was the President of the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, a place that he loved. In 1993 Don, Callista, Callie and Sarah moved to Hillsdale, Michigan where Don turned around another Masco Company called Alsons.

Having proved himself with every corporate endeavor he was chalenged with, he was then made President of Brasscraft World, which saw him making numerous trips to Asia, further feeding that wanderlust and zest for lift. Don retired at age 71 years old as a group Vice President for Masco Corpo ation.

A few years ago, Don's son Pat was given the gift of Ancestry DNA. This led to the miracle discovery of Don's daughter Nancy whom he did no know existed. Callista graciously accepted this fact, and Nancy is now a beloved part of Don's family. Don was avid in searching for information regarding his family tree. For most of his life he believed that his Milroy surname was of Scottish ancestry. His wife Callista got the last laugh on their good-learted Irish-Scottish rivalry when he discovered that Milroy was an ancient Irish name and the Milroy clan who immigrated to America from Scotlard, had first come from Ireland.

What can we attribute Don's zest for life to? Throughout his life he demon-Don and his friend Jimmy Walsh happened to be at the Lexington Dinner strated a deep faith. Don regularly attended mass wherever he lived. Prayer was an essential component of his life. He deeply loved his wife Callsta, all of his children, grandkids and step-grandkids, family, friends, co-workers, fellow curlers and golfers, and most importantly his Creator and Savior Jesus Christ.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to your favorite charity areappreciated. Visitation will be held at L. J. Griffin's Funeral Home, Northrup-Sassaman Chapel, 19091 Northville Road, Northville, Michigan from |-8, on am at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard Dr., Norhville, After working those years at Gold Bond, Don took an accounting position Michigan. Funeral attendees are invited to join Don's family for a reception

#### Little

Continued from Page 1B

a boon for the other two girls.

Cira Rocco has developed into a steady point guard. She manages the offense well and handles pressure when she brings the ball up the floor. Her best skill is the patience she uses when finding her teammates with just the right pass, which has been helpful in getting sharpshooter Kaitlyn Sanders (10 points) scoring

Nevaeh Cochran-McKay has been a welcome post presence for the 2-1 Falcons. She doesn't forget to box out, plus she uses her height and wingspan (she's almost 6 feet tall) to outleap opponents for rebounds. And she can score down low, too. She's just who you want playing forward in the tough Oakland Activities Association-Red.

Little, on the other hand, didn't show that kind of

development as a 10th-grader. "She has always definitely been the workhorse, but Cam's development was a lot slower," coach Alison Hidey said. "That's a really, really tough year to be on varsity anyway. She ended up being the second guard to sub in off the bench. I think she had these high hopes and wanted to play more. I told her to just stay the course, put the work in and she'll trend the right way. She took it to heart."

Little certainly did.

Making Groves' starting lineup was her goal while she played travel ball during the summer. She even thought she had done enough to earn that starting

But when she showed up to Greg Grant's fall league, something about her game was still off.

"I told her in the fall, 'At best, you're a sixth man right now. Maybe,' " Hidey added. "I told her, 'I need you to buckle down on defense and stop worrying about scoring.' And then she just did. It was like that statement changed her. She went so hard. She became a different player."

Little said that conversation made things click for her.

She focused on defense. She spent extra hours after practice working on fundamentals. Not a day went by when she didn't pester Hidey with questions about how she could get better.

Throughout preseason practices, Little continued to impress Hidey. From the way she improved on defense to how she played with more confidence. She's always had a remarkable ability to drive to the basket or catch and shoot quick jump shots. But now she showed she could defend at a higher level.

"I know this is going to be a different year for me," Little said. "As soon as I started this season, I told myself it'd be a different year. Last year I was the sixth man off the bench. And my coach was saying I might be the sixth man off the bench this season, but when I tell myself something, when I tell myself I'm not going to be the sixth man or I'm going to make varsity, I'm

After Hidey saw how well Little did in practice during the two weeks leading up to the season opener, she knew there was no way she could keep the guard out of the starting lineup. She needed Little's hustle plays on "I know this is going to be a different year for me. As soon as I started this season, I told myself it'd be a different year. Last year I was the sixth man off the bench. And my coach was saying I might be the sixth man off the bench this season, but when I tell myself something, when I tell myself I'm not going to be the sixth man or I'm going to make varsity, I'm going to do it."

#### **Cameron Little**

the floor.

"The next thing you know, she went from being our sixth man into being in our starting lineup, and here I am eating my own words just a few months later," said Hidey, a third-year coach. "We had to stop calling her Cameron Little and we started calling her Cameron Big."

Little's off to a hot start through three games. And the way she poked free loose balls, nabbed steals and kickstarted transition baskets for the Falcons was hard to overlook against the Spartans.

She was in on so many turnovers in the first half that she looked a lot like Groves' best cornerback.

You know the one, sophomore Chris Little, whose turnovers in the playoffs helped the Falcons capture district and regional championships and make an appearance in the Division 2 state semifinal. He was one of the best defensive backs in Michigan, which earned him first-team honors on Hometown Life's All-Area football team.

And, yes, they are siblings.

Cameron is just over 15 months older than Chris. So the two have battled each other growing up. Chris has always been a great defender, even dating back to his youth days with the Southfield-Lathrup Falcons. Whether it's playing catch in the back yard or playing one-on-one basketball, his aggressiveness has worn off on Cameron.

"He talks a lot of trash," Cameron said, laughing. "We'll play one-on-one, and he says all types of stuff to me to try and get under my skin, and I think that has built my toughness. He doesn't need to talk to me like that. But I just give it back to him physically. He'll say something to me, and I'll pay him back physically with a bucket or a move."

This isn't a sour sibling rivalry. They support each

In fact, after practice on Dec. 7, Cameron spent 90 extra minutes working on fundamentals and shooting to prepare for the Stevenson game. And shagging balls for her that whole time was Chris.

"It means a lot because I don't really tell him how much I appreciate him," she said. "I don't say that as much as I should."

It's no surprise seeing Cameron rack up fouls when she attempts to make heads-up plays on defense. Nor was it surprising to see her foul out late in the fourth quarter against Stevenson.

That's just her inner cornerback showing, something she picked up from roughhousing with Chris over the years.

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

#### HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

#### **Howell beats Birmingham** Marian in unlikely rout

Girls basketball coaches don't schedule Birmingham Marian expecting to win by 35 points.

The Mustangs, a program with six state championships, were put on Howell's schedule — win or lose — to provide an early-season litmus test.

That was the case last year when Marian beat Howell by nine points, dropping the Highlanders to 1-3 before they responded with a 10-game winning streak en route to a KLAA West co-championship.

So, it was a bit of a shock to see Howell totally dominate Marian by a 55-20 score Friday night, although a partial explanation is the Mustangs were missing two starters

"They had a couple kids hurt, kind of like we were last game," Howell coach Tim Olszewski said. "We actually played extremely well. It was a good day for us.

"They're supposed to be a pretty solid team again. The problem is when you lose two starters, it affects you. It just had a bigger impact on them than most

Another explanation for the lopsided outcome is the Highlanders were an angry team after losing 45-39 Tuesday night at Williamston.

"You've got to attribute it to the girls, because Tues $day \, left \, a \, bitter \, taste \, in \, their \, mouth, \, not \, just \, because \, we$ were sick." Olszewski said. "It was a game we felt we were good enough to win. It just didn't go our way in a lot of different factors. They really were champing at the bit to come out here and get back to how they want to play and are accustomed to playing. It just felt better tonight with people feeling better."

The Highlanders (3-1) jumped out to a 37-8 halftime lead and extended the lead to 50-10 through three quarters. Howell played its junior varsity "five-quarter" players in the fourth.

Senior Sophie Daugard had a huge all-around performance, scoring 14 points, while also collecting eight rebounds, six steals and five assists.

"Sophie really was the catalyst with her energy," Olszewski said. "She was the leading scorer, but that doesn't tell the whole tale of her diving on the floor, grabbing loose balls, being the energizer out there, rebounding. She was really championing for what we wanted to do tonight because of how they felt Tuesday. She rallied the girls."

Freshman Gabby Piepho hit double figures for the third time in four games, scoring 13 points. Alison Farr had 10 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Kylie Pung had seven points.

Hartland 44, Saginaw Heritage 33

Ellie Laier hit three 3-pointers in the second half to help Hartland (2-1) secure the victory.

Liv Linden had 13 points, while Sarah Rekowski had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles.

**Farmington Hills Mercy 57, Brighton 49** 

Mercy went 10-for-10 from the free throw line in the final two minutes to seal the come-from-behind victory.

Brighton led 23-14 at halftime and 36-28 after three quarters

Payton VanDeven scored 17 points and Mary Copple had 13 for the Bulldogs (0-2).

South Lyon East 63, Pinckney 40

Audrey Wardlow scored 22 points, shooting 9-for-16 from the field, to lead Pinckney (2-2).

Anna Lassan had 17 points for South Lyon East (2-2).

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

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## Campaign

Continued from Page 1B

Sitting courtside were Michigan coach Juwan Howard, former No. 1NBA draft pick Derrick Coleman and a handful of other movers and shakers in the recruiting industry.

Heck, even Detroit Pistons public address announcer John Mason yeah, the "DEE-TROIT BASKET-BALL" -emceed the event, including giving an And-1 Mixtape-style commentary in the waning moments of each matchup.

The game was never in question, despite a slow start from both teams (maybe that had something to do with the size of the court, the use of an NCAA basketball and the number of fans packed in the gym. But who knows, really?)

But with North Farmington holding only a 10-point lead entering the fourth, that's when Hurst, who was named Hometown Life's Player of the Year in 2021-22, took over.

He put together a dominant performance, even scoring eight of the quarter's first 10 points. He notched his final bucket on a pull-up jump shot near the free-throw line as the shot-clock buzzer

And Hurst's teammates rallied around him. From juniors Landon Williams and Tyler Spratt (eight points) to center Lee Hardy (six) and guards Dwayne Ray and Prince Jackson (five).

They did enough defensively to slow down King big man Jonathan Coffey (18 points) and frustrate San Diego commit Chas Lewless, one of the topranked juniors in Michigan, who was making his debut as a Crusader after transferring from Detroit Catholic Central in the off-season. King was even held scoreless for almost the first 4 minutes of the final period.

About the only thing that didn't go North Farmington's way was Mason struggling to blurt out longtime Raiders coach Todd Negoshian's last name during player introductions. The "Not-ga, Not-ga" he stammered through sounded a lot like the infamous "Not gonna work here" line by Bob Porter in the classic comedy "Office Space" from

But not even that little mishap could detract from Hurst's play.

the 1990s.

"After a slow first half, I had to pick it up, especially with me being a leader of this team," said Hurst, who buried two 3pointers and made eight field goals. "I'm just leading by example, leading by my play and it showed in that second half. Me and my guys have been working all summer. We're just trying to make a statement every game."

And a statement was made, for sure.

And more statements will be needed if Hurst is going to have a chance at winning Michigan's Mr. Basketball, which has a much deeper field of candidates than a year ago.

You don't have to look

too far around the area to find guys who will be vying for the honor. From four-star Curtis Williams (Louisville) and threestar John Blackwell (Wisconsin) at Brother Rice to three-star Sonny Wilson (Toledo) at U-D Jesuit and many, many more

around metro Detroit. Even Coffey, whose former teammate, Chansey Willis, won the Mr. Basketball honor in 2021-22, should be in consideration. Did you see the alley-oop from Lewless he threw down in front of

Derrick Coleman? Oh my. So, yes, more clutch moments will be required from Hurst, a 6-foot-3 shooting guard, if he

wants to win this thing. Honestly, though, he's always been clutch, even before transferring to North Farmington from West Bloomfield.

But Negoshian said Hurst's dedication to the weight room and eating better during the off-season is what made him so much deadlier down the stretch of the opener.

"I think his endurance is up so in the fourth quarter, he can really (be deadly)," the 13th-year coach said. "He's still got his legs. He's still got himself (mentally). I thought he played well, and I thought he followed the lead of a lot of our guys. They found him in transition, found him in a lot of different ways and at great spots. A lot of spots he could use to score. I thought they played well, but I thought he did well, too."

Negoshian's last name might have choked up Mason, but silencing King's crowd late was Hurst's play. And that'll be something worth considering when the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan votes for Mr. Basketball in March.

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

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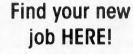
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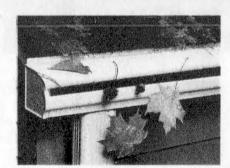
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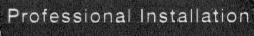
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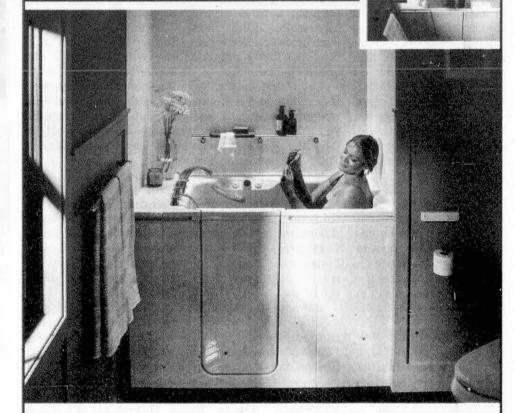
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