



With Lewis playing lights-out, Milford could win LVC title

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville City Council authorizes deal for farmers market site

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans to relocate Northville's farmers market moved forward earlier this month after the city council voted to sign a purchase agreement for the preferred location at Seven Mile and Main Street.

The council voted unanimously during its Dec. 5 meeting to proceed with a deal to acquire nearly 3 acres of land that was the former home of McDonald Ford.

The city leases the current site of the farmers market at Seven Mile and Center Street for \$1. That lot will no longer be able to accommodate the weekly event during the warmer months because of the looming redevelopment of the Northville Downs property.

The new site was identified earlier this year as a potential location, with city leadership eventually crafting a purchase agreement with the owner, Northville-based Seven-Main LLC.

"We have looked at this methodically over the last couple of years," Mayor Brian Turnbull said. "This isn't a one-and-done here tonight. We've been talking about this for the last two years."

The deal calls for the city to purchase the land for \$1 million, with a \$50,000 non-refundable deposit put down for a six-month due diligence period. If needed, the city can add another six-month due diligence period for another \$50,000 non-refundable deposit.

While council unanimously moved forward with the plan, some council members said it wasn't the perfect situation for the city. Councilman Andrew Krenz said he had hoped for more sites to choose from before moving forward.

The McDonald Ford site became the only viable option for the market because of the market's size and its needs after research on other locations was done by the subcommittee exploring the relocation.

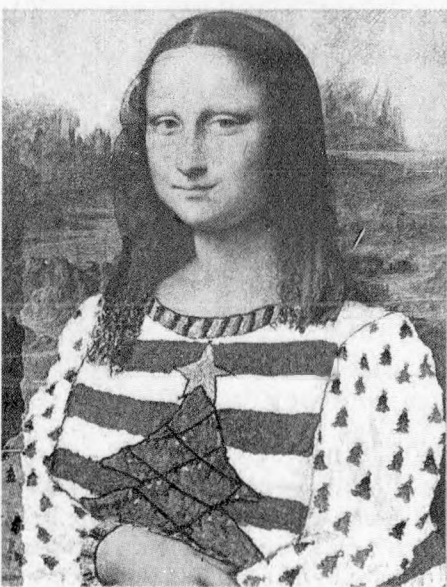
Because of the current agreement's low cost to the city, Krenz said he wants to see a new location used more

See DEAL, Page 7A



A holiday-themed makeover of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" by student artist Olivia Jakubozak. The piece is part of a large display at Main Street Art in Milford and was part of a fundraiser event to benefit artists with special needs.

Art masterpieces remade in Milford for fundraiser



Andrea Perry has "holiday-ified" a reprint of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, "Mona Lisa."

IMAGES COURTESY OF MAIN STREET ART

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"Mona Lisa" clad in an ugly Christmas sweater?

Van Gogh's "Starry Night" overrun with reindeer?

"American Gothic" serving up turkey?

Stick a (pitch)fork in it, these remade masterpieces by local artists are done and ready for you to feast your eyes on and purchase just in time for the holidays at Main Street Art in Milford.

"I'm totally excited and stunned by this art, it's way better than I could have hoped for," Main Street Art owner Natalia Wohletz said. "It reflects their medium and style, and it was really fun to see what they came up with. The creativity was just amazing."

Wohletz recruited local professional artists to put a holiday spin on 16 classic

masterpieces. The new artistic touches are superimposed on poster reprints of the old masters' works to amusing effect.

All of the framed pieces were available in a silent auction. The proceeds will support the Peacock Art Club, for artists with special needs.

Additionally, students from the Peacock Art Club, which is housed at the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center in Milford, were asked to contribute to the whimsical holiday art. Twelve adult student artists, as well as six young students, created holiday remakes of "Starry Night" by Vincent Van Gogh. The pieces can be purchased for \$40 each, with the student artists each earning a commission of \$20, and the remaining \$20 supporting the club.

Main Street Art donated supplies and framing for the endeavor, a premiere

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Police: Driver who hit South Lyon school bus had 0.21 blood alcohol level

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A driver who crashed head-on into a school bus last week had a blood alcohol level of 0.21, according to a City of South Lyon police report.

The bus driver and about 35 students who were on the bus at the time

walked away and were not injured, according to the report, which was obtained by Hometown Life under the Freedom of Information Act.

Police declined to comment while awaiting a charging decision from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

According to the report, police responded at about 7:15 a.m. on Dec. 8 to the crash that occurred on Nine Mile

Road in front of Millennium Middle School. Officers found a black Jeep Patriot facing eastbound planted into the front end of the bus in the westbound lane.

A photo provided to Hometown Life by a passerby shows severe damage to the front end of the Jeep.

See DRIVER, Page 7A

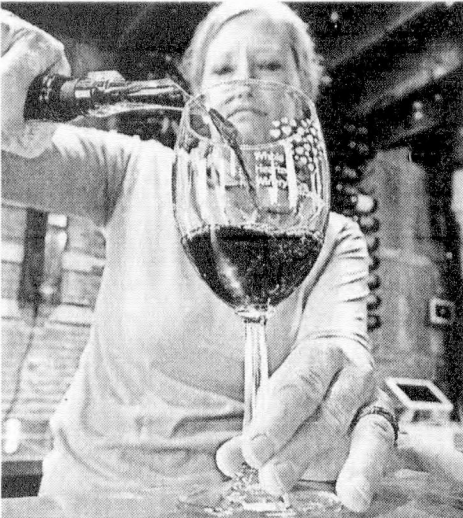
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Grab some Hometown Life area stocking stuffers



Brenda Weiland pours a glass of Whole Hearted Winery's wine in 2021. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Need to get some small things together for a stocking this holiday season? Why not give the gift of local? There are plenty of meaningful items to give that come from or are influential right here in metro Detroit. Here's a non-comprehensive list of great ideas to slide into that stocking before Christmas comes. Here are some suggestions for small to not-so-small stocking stuffers you can find here in the Hometown Life communities that resonate with the communities we live and work in.

A bottle of wine from South Lyon/New Hudson

South Lyon and the surrounding areas have made a name for themselves with numerous local breweries, but wine has slowly become a big deal in recent years. Whole Hearted Winery, 56808 Grand River Ave., opened its doors a few years ago in New Hudson, selling a variety of options that also help a local charity. These days, you can even enjoy a glass inside the old building the winery calls home, which is an experience in itself.

If you're in the city, Twisted Cork Winery opened earlier this year in the basement at 105 N. Lafayette St. An intimate space with plenty of character, the winery also offers a variety of bottles for sale to take home, as well as to enjoy onsite. Either choice is a great gift option for the wine lover in your life.

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A wooden retail display case of a variety of Fraser Teas.

Spices from Milford Spice Company

Have a wannabe chef in your life? Get them the gift of flavor to their cooking by picking up some local spices. Milford Spice Company offers several spice options for all kinds of cooking, including for meats, vegetables and more. Customers can even design their own gift box to tailor their gift-giving needs this season. Not sure what your recipient needs for their spice rack? You can even get a gift certificate for various amounts to allow them to pick their own. More information on where to find them, as well as online ordering, can be found at milfordspice.com.

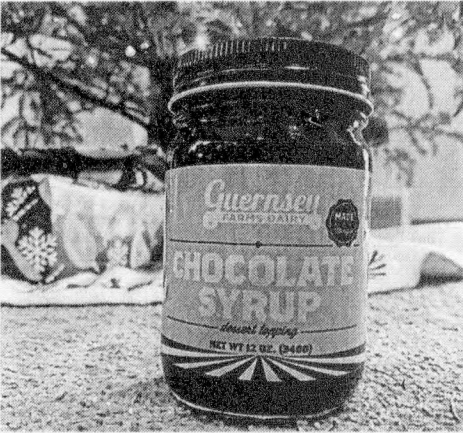


Laura Stearnes's Milford Spice Company sells mostly online. SUBMITTED

it's got to be good enough for your uncle, right? In a small warehouse off 10 Mile Road just west of South Lyon is the home of Midnight Kitchen Tools, which creates stainless steel kitchen gadgets. Known best for its ergonomic ice cream scoop it launched several years, it's now got another product: a pizza cutter, also with an ergonomic handle. The products are available on Amazon and have gotten the attention of Oprah, who listed the items on her Favorite Things lists for the 2022 holiday season.

Tea from a Livonia company

Your friends who swore off coffee will appreciate meeting their new favorite brand of tea, compliments of you. Those who frequent Biggby Coffee — which began in East Lansing and was co-founded by a Milford native — in recent years have noticed a new brand of tea on the shelf. It comes from Fraser Tea, a local company based in Livonia. Launched by a group of brothers, Fraser Tea has a wide variety of options for those who enjoy spiced tea, green tea, black tea and more. In addition to finding boxes for sale at Biggby Coffees across the region, the tea can be found at some retail stores and online at fraser-tea.com.



A jar of Guernsey Farms Dairy Chocolate Syrup is a great way to spread local love for the holidays. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Chocolate or caramel sauce from Guernsey Farms Dairy

It might be tricky to get some ice cream in the stocking this year, but do the next best thing: ice cream toppings. The well-known ice cream company and restaurant at 21300 Novi Road in Novi has plenty of scoops to pick from inside their shop north of Eight Mile, but the company also has plenty of accompanying items to make ice cream extra special available at area stores. Choose from chocolate or caramel sauce, as well as hot fudge. Of course, don't forget something to drink to wash it down: Go with Guernsey's lemonade to accompany a bottle of topping.



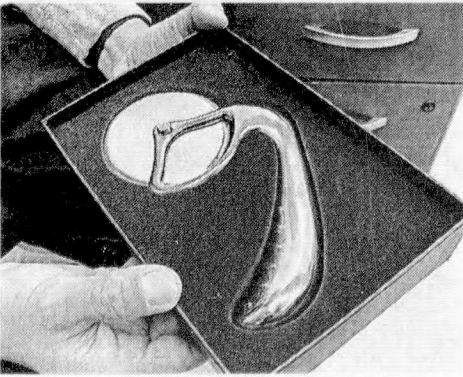
Some of Griffin Claw's products.

A can of Griffin Claw beer

Craft beer lovers will enjoy a rare find from one of the area's biggest breweries, 575 S. Eton St. in Birmingham's Rail District. Griffin Claw beers are typically found in 16 ounce cans, perfect for slipping right into that stocking over the firepit. There's a variety for everyone: pilsners, wheat, IPAs and plenty more. A simple recommendation for the holiday season? Go with the 3 Scrooges, a tasty winter ale made for the holidays. You can find Griffin Claw beers at most every place that sells craft beer, or at its facilities in Birmingham or Rochester Hills.

A vial of 5-Hour Energy

If your list includes someone who needs a quick hit to keep them going during the day, this is the perfect item to stuff their stocking with. The small bottles are made by a Farmington Hills company, and have been



A pizza cutter made by Midnight Kitchen Tools. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

A kitchen gadget from Midnight Kitchen Tools in Green Oak Twp.

If it's good enough for Oprah Winfrey,

See GIFTS, Page 3A

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Zoning Board of Appeals** for the **City of Novi** will hold a public hearing on **January 10th, 2023**, at **7:00PM** in the **Council Chambers** of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ22-0063 (Boyd Creech – American Made Construction) 1185 South Lake Drive, South Lake Drive, east of West Park Drive, Parcel 50-22-03-377-018. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance from Section 3.1.5 for a front yard setback of 17.17 feet (30 feet required, variance of 12.83 feet); for a proposed new second floor addition and deck below. This property is zoned One-Family Residential (R-4)

PZ22-0064 (Scott David – Sign Depot) 41200 Bridge Street, north of Eleven Mile Road, east of Meadowbrook Road, Parcel 50-22-13-351-022. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance from Section 28-5 (b)(1)a for an additional wall sign on the north elevation. (2) wall signs requested (1) is permitted, variance of (1). This property is zoned Light Industrial (I-1).

Publish: December 22, 2022 LO-0008790365 3x2.5

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, January 11, 2023**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **CATHOLIC CENTRAL NORTH CAMPUS, JSP 22-37, FOR REVISED SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS ZONED R-4, R-1 AND I-1.** The property is approximately 115.77 acres and is located at 27225 Wixom Road, south of Twelve Mile Road and west of Wixom Road (Section 18). The applicant is proposing several new facilities in the northwestern portion of the High School campus: a 4-level parking structure, a hospitality/concessions building, an athletic field for practices and competition, discus and shotput fields, and a new track and stadium with press box and bleachers.

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Parcel IDs: 22-18-200-026 and 22-18-200-027

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., **Wednesday, January 11, 2023.**

Published **December 22, 2022**
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: December 22, 2022 LO-0008790365 3x7.5

'For the kids': Livonia couple takes pride in huge Christmas light display

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mike and Jen Jessen's home is one that people will drive out of their way just to pass by.

The sidewalks are lined with candy cane arches, Santa sits atop the roof in his sleigh and twinkling lights dot the yard and trees.

"We do it for the kids around here," Jen said. "We are such nuts for Christmas and we don't have our own kids. So, we do this for everyone else."

The couple has always put lights out, but said they "stepped up" their game in 2020 when Livonia started its "Light Up Livonia" contest.

Their home, at 38702 Lapham Court, is on the competition's map every year and was named one of the winners last year.

"We entered just to be on the map so people can at least come by and see the house," Mike said. "The first time we entered is when we started getting big."

This year, the lights and homemade décor took about two weeks to set up. The Jessens enjoy working on the setup together and dedicate hours to finding new ideas.

"We watch the 'Great Christmas Light Fight' on TV, and it's inspiring," Jen said. "We'll say, 'Oh that's cool. I wonder if we could do something like that.' We start planning it the year before and our ideas just start spiraling."

Some of the couple's newest additions include nods to their late mothers. A group of caroler statuettes in the front window used to belong to Mike's mother, and an angel in the display is to honor Jen's mother. Favorites for the two include their candy cane arches and light-covered trees.

"This might sound a little crazy, but it's just the trees being all lit up," Jen said. "They're so pretty. I put a cardinal on one of the trees to just remind me of my mom, and it stands out a little bit."

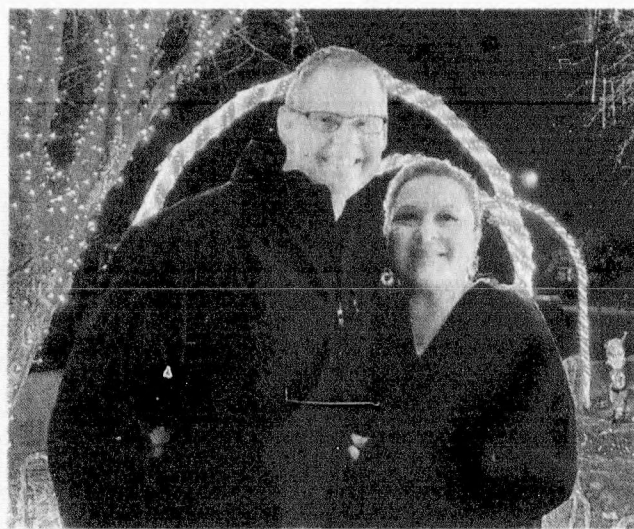
Passersby aren't shy about their love for the display, either.

"Last year, as I was putting up the lights, people would drive by and just stop to talk to me," Mike said. "This year, it's a lot of repeat people now. We get so many good reactions, and the kids run up through the arches."

People can find the "Light Up Livonia" map by visiting livonia.gov.

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



Mike and Jen Jessen of Livonia. The two set up a huge Christmas light display every year.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Winners of "Light Up Livonia" receive yard signs every year. The Jessens were among the winners last year. "We entered just to be on the map so people can at least come by and see the house," Mike said.



This year, the Jessens' light display and homemade décor took about two weeks to set up.

Gifts

Continued from Page 2A

for many years. They come in a variety of flavors, including grape, orange, pomegranate and many more. Customers can also create their own 12- or 24-pack of specific flavors on the company's website, 5hourenergy.com.

A Little Caesars gift card

It's incredible to think how much national influence Little Garden City has had over the years. Originally the home to Kmart, it's also the birthplace of one of the biggest pizza companies nationwide.

Originally opened by Mike and Marian Ilitch in 1959, Little Caesars grew into a major player in the pizza world, eventually cementing its place as the stop to grab a Hot N' Ready pepperoni pizza at any time. Today, it has locations all over and is known for its in-and-out serving of pizza pies and Crazy Bread. What better way to help out someone with the gift of a quick dinner on those busy nights?

The keys to a Ford Bronco

This one might quite pricey, but if you've ever wanted to live out the fantasy of giving a car to that special someone at Christmas, the classic vehicle that Ford announced a few years back is a great option.

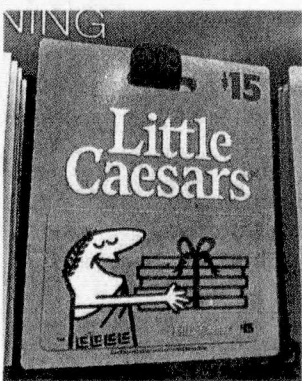
The Bronco is made at the Michigan Assembly



A pair of Ford Broncos. COURTESY OF FORD MOTOR COMPANY



5-Hour Energy got its start in Farmington Hills. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Little Caesars began in 1959 in Garden City.

Plant, 38303 Michigan Ave. in Wayne, a plant with a longtime tradition of making impactful vehicles such as the Ford Ranger, Focus, Escort and Lincoln Navigator, to name a few.

Of course, you'll need some help from a local dealer to help you secure a vehicle, which could be tricky this close to the holidays.

Also: no word on

where you buy one of those giant ribbons to put on top.

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

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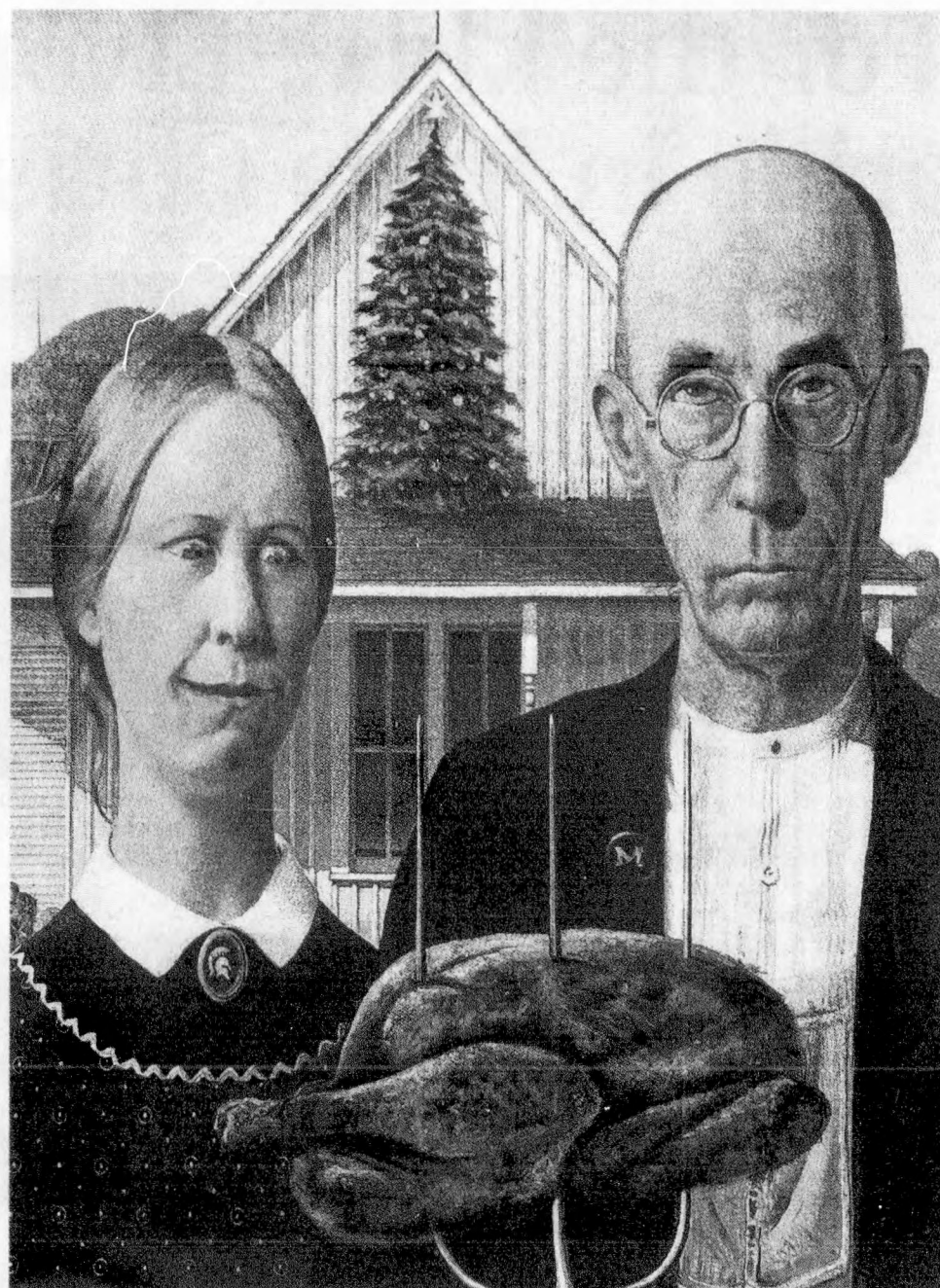
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A reprint of "Girl With A Pearl Earring," by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, got a holiday remake from artist Candace Brancik. IMAGES COURTESY OF MAIN STREET ART



"American Gothic" looks a bit different after this reprint of Grant Wood's masterpiece got a holiday makeover by Heiner Hertling.

Art

Continued from Page 1A

event for Wohletz, who was inspired by a previous event in which the shop framed COVID-19 related memes — including one of Mona Lisa with her feet up, leaning back on a sofa, with the message, "Alone at last."

"People thought those were so funny and I wanted to bring back that idea to

show off framing and art, but doing it in a fun way," Wohletz said. "I am thrilled we could pull together such a cool window display and make it especially meaningful. Around this time of year, we're thinking about those in need and the Peacock Art Club is special to us."

According to the Village Fine Arts Association website, the Peacock Art Club meets once a week in a class "to provide a creative and social environment for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with intellectual and develop-

mental disabilities."


Wohletz hopes to raise at least \$1,000 in her "holiday-ified masterpieces" fundraiser to support the club's mission. She hopes the original artists wouldn't be offended by the alterations to their long-respected masterpieces.

"I think most artists are quirky people, so I'm hoping the original artists would find it amusing," she said. "I did wonder if Van Gogh might be rolling over in his grave right now, but I'm hoping they would appreciate it. It goes to

show how impactful their art was, and that we want to spread joy through their art. I think all those ghosts should take it as a compliment."

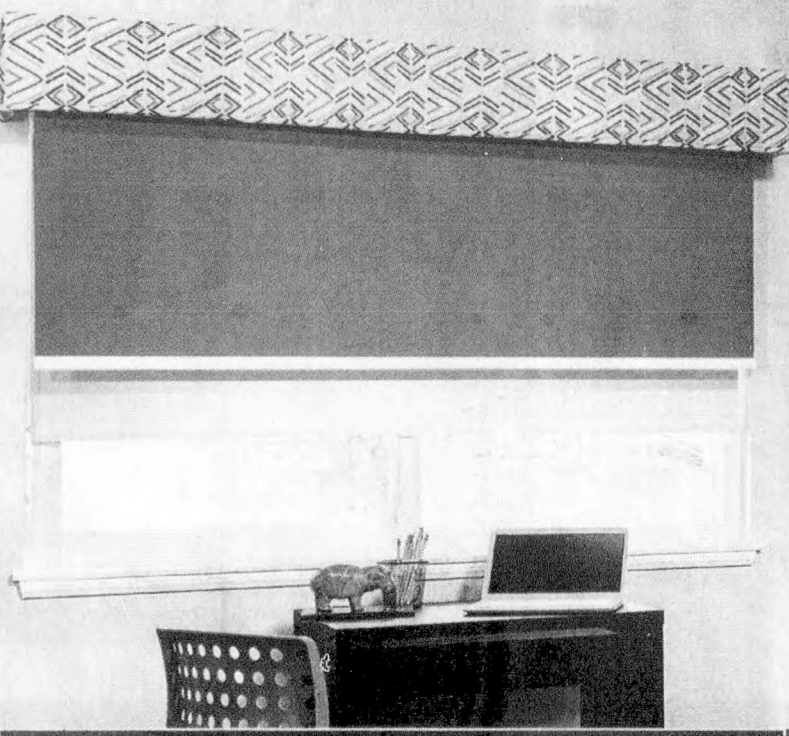
To see all the holiday-ified masterpieces visit mainstreetartmilford.com.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10. Get the latest headlines for metro Detroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.



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Livonia store owner seeks home for 40-foot schefflera plant named Baby

Laura Colvin
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brenda Scott is hoping for a holiday miracle, and she's confident her miracle is coming.

Scott, who owns The Product Shop Souvenirs and Gift Shop in Livonia, needs to find a home for Baby, a beloved and pampered 40-foot-long schefflera plant that has flourished in its current home, her store.

The business owner is moving toward the end of the month but she's not sure where, which leaves Baby's future in jeopardy.

Scott received the plant as a grand opening gift when she put out the welcome mat to her shop in 2007. At the time, the nameless plant was about two feet tall. For a year, it remained two feet tall, with no signs of growth.

When Scott relocated to her current storefront at 28465 Five Mile Road, something happened.

"I think it's the northern sunlight, because within three weeks we started seeing branches sprout out of nowhere," Scott said. "I named her Baby for a reason, because all these little branches started coming out, all these little babies. So I said 'I'm gonna call you Baby.'"

Over the past 15 years, the plant has continued to grow and thrive. Visitors to the shop, Scott said, are amazed when they see Baby's size.

In fact, this past fall, the plant had grown so long that Scott and several friends moved it from a side room in her store into the main retail area, where it took them five hours to lovingly string the plant throughout the 500-square-foot shop.

Baby, Scott said, brings good energy, clean air and a feeling of solitude to the store.

"People ask, 'What do you give her?' and I say we give her a lot of love, we play music for her and we just give her the amount of water she needs," Scott said, noting she also mists Baby's



Brenda Scott, owner of The Product Shop on Five Mile Road in Livonia, is seeking a new home for the 40-foot schefflera plant growing in the store.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRENDA SCOTT

leaves and adds a bit of fresh soil to the top of the pot about twice a year.

She has never trimmed or cut the plant, she says, because she doesn't want Baby to go into shock.

A botanist once told Scott a schefflera plant growing inside wasn't likely to grow past 15 feet in length. At that time, Baby was about 30 feet long.

Scott called herself a "nature person" and said she loves all plants and flowers. Still, Baby is special. Scott wants her to have a good home.

"I don't want to send her just anywhere," she said, noting she's had some interest from local botanical gardens but nothing official yet. "Wherever she goes, I want it to be a place where they will love her the way we love her and allow her to just spread her branches, continue to grow and be around other plants in a place where people can still come and visit her."

"I believe we're going to find a home for her. I believe the right place will contact us and come see her."

Brenda Scott can be reached at 734-525-9995. The shop will be open in its current location until Dec. 27.



Scott received the plant, later nicknamed "Baby," as a grand opening gift when she put out the welcome mat to her shop in 2007.



Over the past 15 years, the plant has continued to grow and thrive. Visitors to the shop, Scott said, are amazed when they see Baby's size.

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

Action	Diving	Lucky	Reef
Alva	Drink	Major	Relax
Aramac	Dunk	Malanda	Roma
Beach	Dysart	Motel	Scuba
Bell	Fish	Natural	Sharks
Break	Giru	Mebo	Sunshine
Broome	Hals	Nelia	Coast
Cape	Hayman	Noosa	Swim
Cays	Hook	Ocean	Timber
Cove	Ideal	Palms	Toads
Cow Bay	Laze	Pub lunch	Tour
Dalby	Long	Quilpie	Units
Dawn	Lota	Rain	Yerra

TODAY'S ANSWER

North for winter

Warmer climes

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

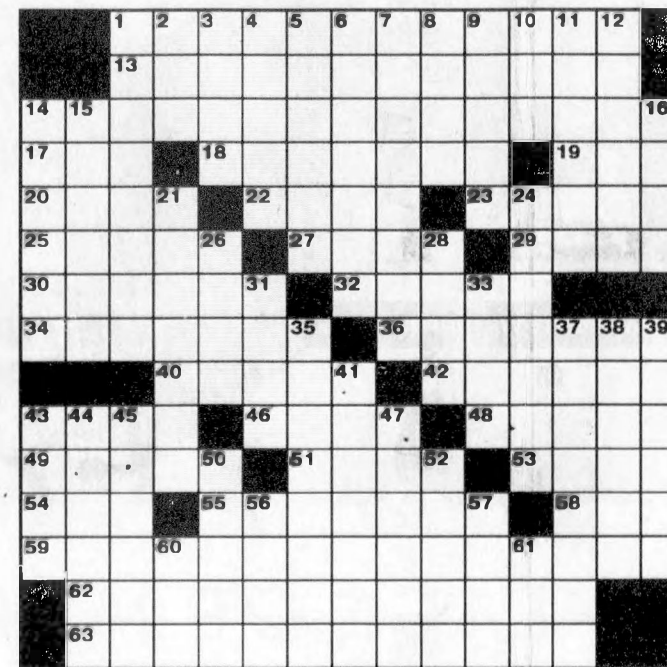
ACROSS

- 1 One paid to talk since the 1920s
13 Capture the moment
14 Much more than moist
17 Choice for a charge
18 Not as sensible
19 State with a 45 mi. northern border
20 Not a true friend
22 Hefty helping
23 Surpassing in pleasing
25 They help Hades in Disney's *Hercules*
27 Slice pairing well with peaches
29 Painter's canvas
30 Taquito
32 Bumps in the road
34 Guidance computer backup for Apollo astronauts
36 It articulates with the femur
40 Stabilization specialist
42 Hit the big time
43 Queen dowager of the 1540s
46 No longer dubious
48 Sweet sandwich
49 Only four-Pulitzer poet
51 Landlocked neighbor of China
53 Took off
54 Early 10th century year
55 Add to another's upset
58 Mother

DOWN

- 1 Extra charge of a sort
2 Common Korean surname
3 Let pass
4 Second chances
5 Spill something
6 Show stoppers
7 Early user of ATMs
8 Exercise obstacle
9 Uncompromising
10 Cotton candy purchase
11 "The greatest symphony," per *BBC Music Magazine*
12 Melt down or hand down
14 Does some cramming
15 With something taken off
16 Iconic peace officer
21 Name in the news since 1851
24 Evidential intro
26 One in the lead
28 Groom's growing concern
31 Supplementary details
33 Tours de force
35 Home improvement prop
37 Any of three in *Macbeth* Act 4
38 Is with you
39 Is unobliged to

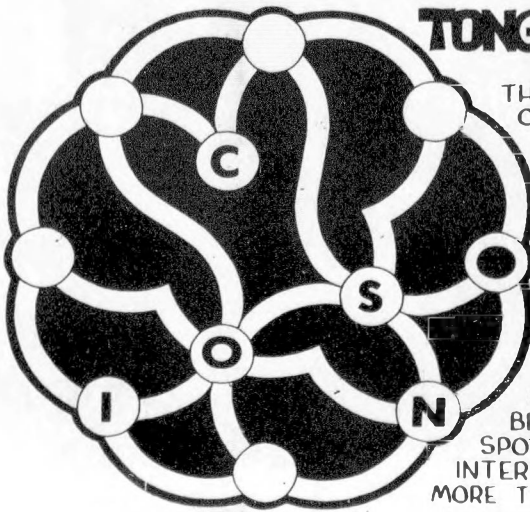
- 41 Find My Shade online quiz offerer
43 "The backbone of the Marines"
44 Galahad garb
45 "s Kiss (Act III of a Rostand play)
47 Excess of affection
50 Cinematic convention for conveying a concept
52 Song releases, in the music business
56 Very soon after
57 Trivia
60 Homie
61 What a Washington portraitist wasn't called



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/17/22

PUZZLES & POSERS

TONGUE TWISTER



THIS PUZZLE CONSISTS OF TWO SEPARATE CHALLENGES:
1. SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT WORDS YOU CAN UNSCRAMBLE WHICH CONTAIN ALL THE LETTERS AT LEFT.
2. SEE HOW MANY OF THESE WORDS YOU CAN TRACE WITH A CONTINUOUS LINE. EACH TRACING MUST BEGIN AT THE BLACK SPOT. NO PASSAGE OR INTERSECTION MAY BE USED MORE THAN ONCE PER WORD.

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPELL THESE WORDS: * SCOR * ICONS * TRACED. HOWEVER, ONLY THE WORDS MARKED BY THE RED ARROWS CAN BE TRACED.



Police pursue charges following threat at Plymouth Twp. school

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Police say they've identified the source of a threat that sent Starkweather Academy into shelter-in-place mode Dec. 13.

No names have been released, but Plymouth Township Police Chief James Knittel said his department will send results of the investigation to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for determination of possible charges.

The incident began mid-morning Dec. 13 when township police were notified about a social media post that threatened lunchtime violence at Stark-

weather, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' alternative high school. After an hours-long investigation that included multiple interviews, the threat was determined to be not credible.

"The case is still under investigation but we did identify the source of the information," Knittel said. "Our plan, just like any threat made on social media or otherwise, will be to have the prosecutor's office review the information and make a determination on charges."

As threats become more common across the country, police are finding they need to expend more resources to combat the issue.

"Just about every officer in the department was out there," Knittel said.

"We put the safety of our school kids as priority number one. If folks are going to make threats or post information threatening the school, they should expect the consequences to include arrest and charges, and that could affect the rest of their life."

"Kids post things thinking it's a joke, and it's no joke. We take it very seriously."

Police conducted extra patrols at the school this week as a precautionary measure.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt talked about the incident at the Dec. 13 meeting of the board of education, noting she and other district officials were

at the school during the incident and had communicated frequently to assure parents their children were safe.

Merritt also said that while the threat was deemed not credible, counselors and social workers would be available to students following the incident.

"It's still a traumatic experience for students and staff," she said. "I want to thank our students who consistently work to bring situations forward that might be suspicious or potentially compromise the safety of our school district."

"It is so important to continue to share with a trusted adult anytime a situation occurs so we can work to mitigate any harm that might be caused."

lcolvin@hometownlife.com

Driver

Continued from Page 1A

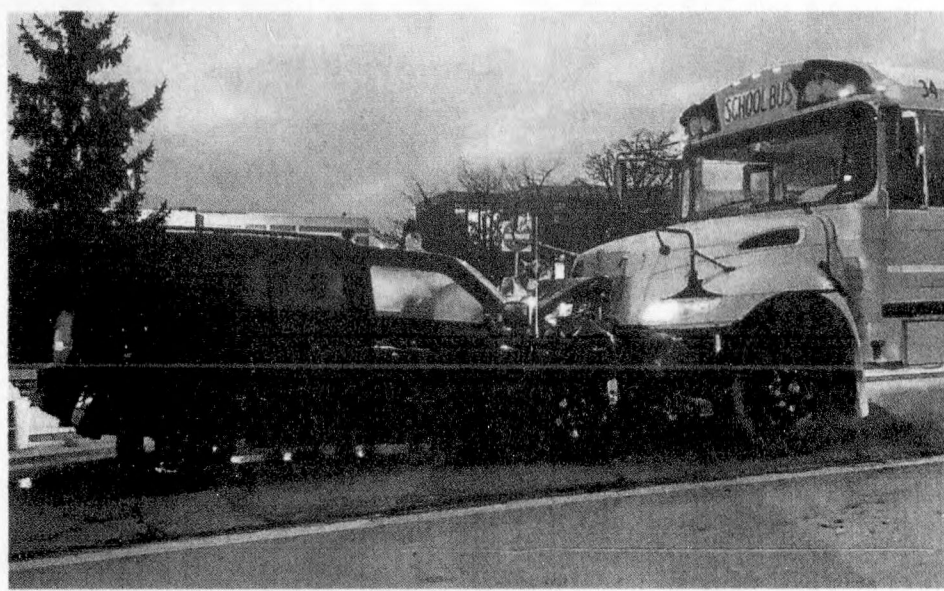
The driver of the Jeep was sitting on the curb when police arrived, while the bus driver was standing near the bus. The bus driver told police he was driving about 35 students to Centennial Middle School when he saw the eastbound Jeep enter the westbound lane. The bus driver stopped the bus and began honking his horn continuously, but to no avail as the Jeep driver crashed into the bus, according to the report.

The bus was smoking, so the bus driver evacuated the students and they all walked to school.

"Ultimately, we were very happy with how the bus driver and the students handled the situation," said Brian Toth, district assistant superintendent of administrative services. "The kids did not panic and followed the instructions of the bus driver. The bus driver did everything by the book and followed his training and very pleased with his actions as well. It was definitely a scary way to start the day."

The Jeep driver told police that he left his Brookdale apartment and was driving to McDonald's to get breakfast, according to the report. He said he heard a horn honking and then his vehicle was smoking.

According to the police report, "he



The driver of an SUV crashed head-on into a school bus in front of Millennium Middle School in South Lyon on Dec. 8. COURTESY OF VICTOR VULAJ

does not know what happened after that."

Police asked the Jeep driver if he was on any medications or if he had consumed alcohol prior to the crash, and the Jeep driver answered no to both questions. However, the driver smelled of intoxicants and officers also observed he had glassy eyes while being medically evaluated, according to the report. After he declined treatment and exited an ambulance, officers observed him swaying from side to side. A preliminary

breathalyzer test was administered, and according to the report, the man's blood alcohol content was 0.21, nearly three times the legal limit of .08 and higher than Michigan's 0.17 super-drunk law.

The Jeep driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated as well as driving on an expired license.

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

Deal

Continued from Page 1A

frequently to better justify the price tag.

"(The low-cost lease is) going away, the economics and everything are changing, which means we need a higher utilization," he said.

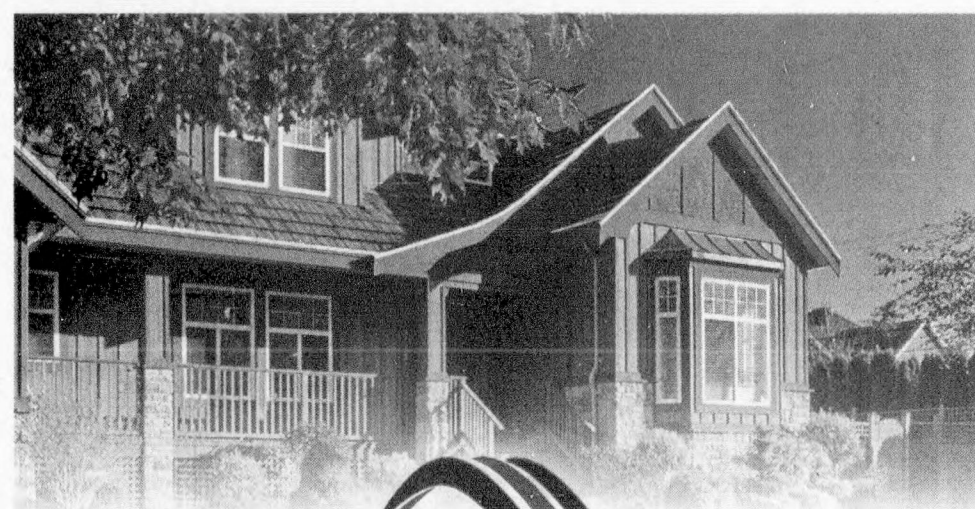
Some benefit could also come with the location, Krenz said; there was some discussion Northville Township may desire to connect with the city's market, and its proposed location would put it near the township as well.

The due diligence period for the city to inspect the property and raise any issues began Oct. 31, leading Councilwoman Barbara Moroski-Browne to push for the due diligence work to begin soon. With the holidays looming, she doesn't want the city to be placed in a position to need to pay another deposit in the spring.

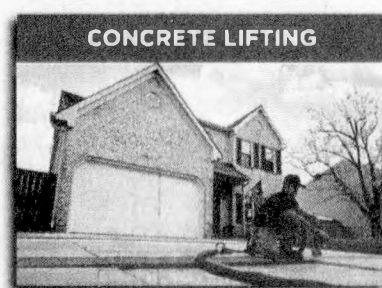
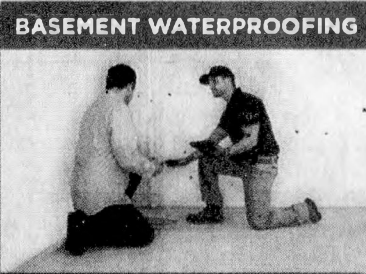
"This is too important," she said. "We don't want to be forced to go into a second six-month period and something shows up."

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



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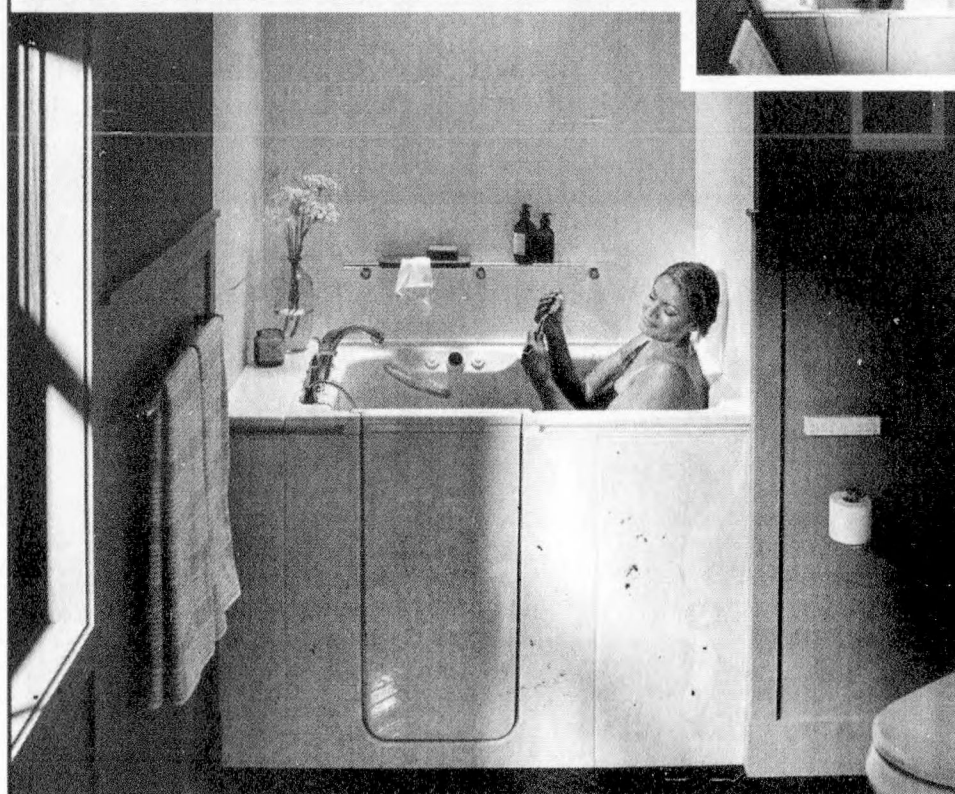
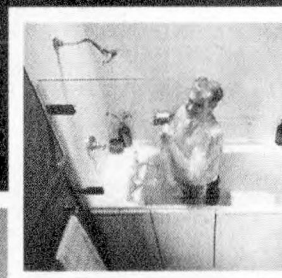
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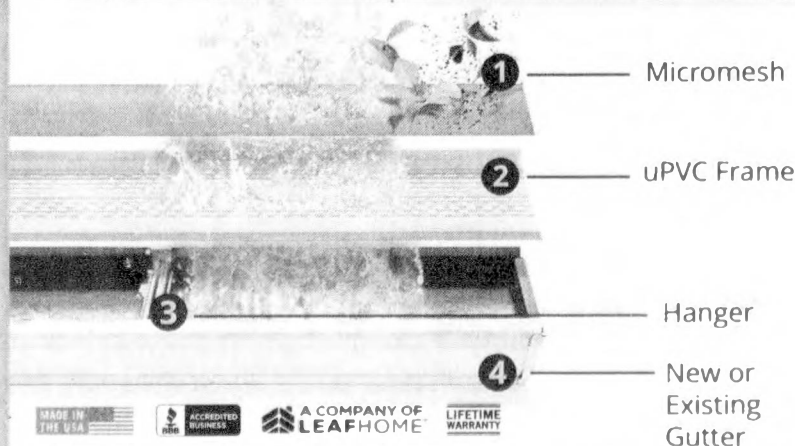
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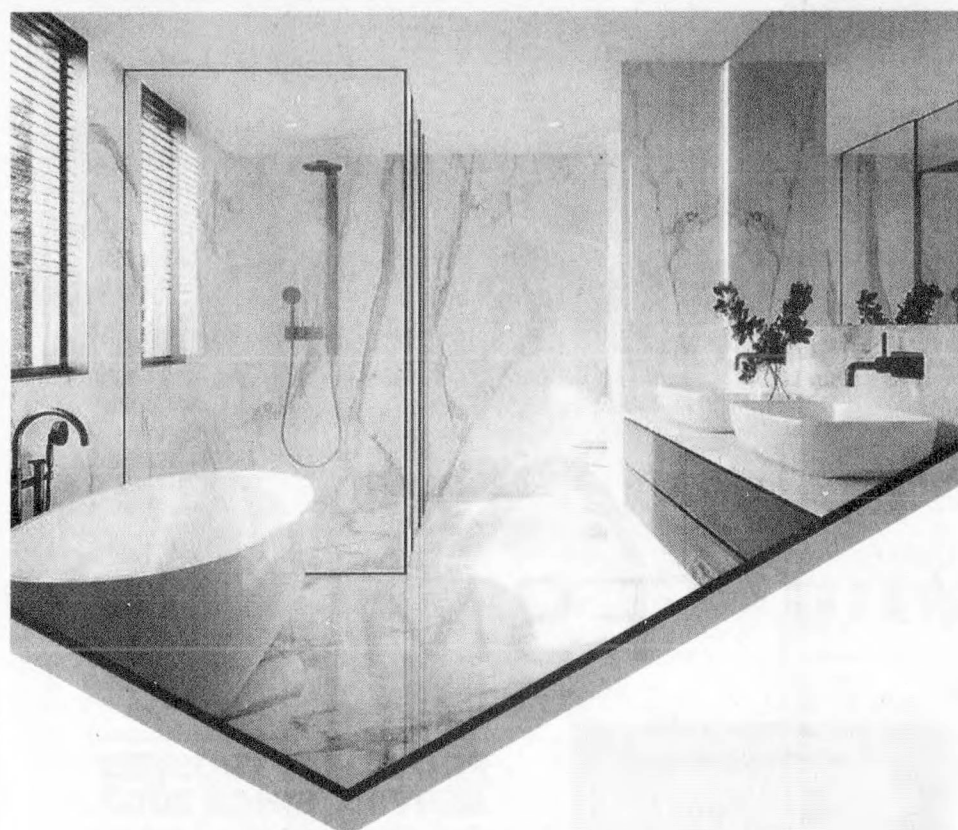
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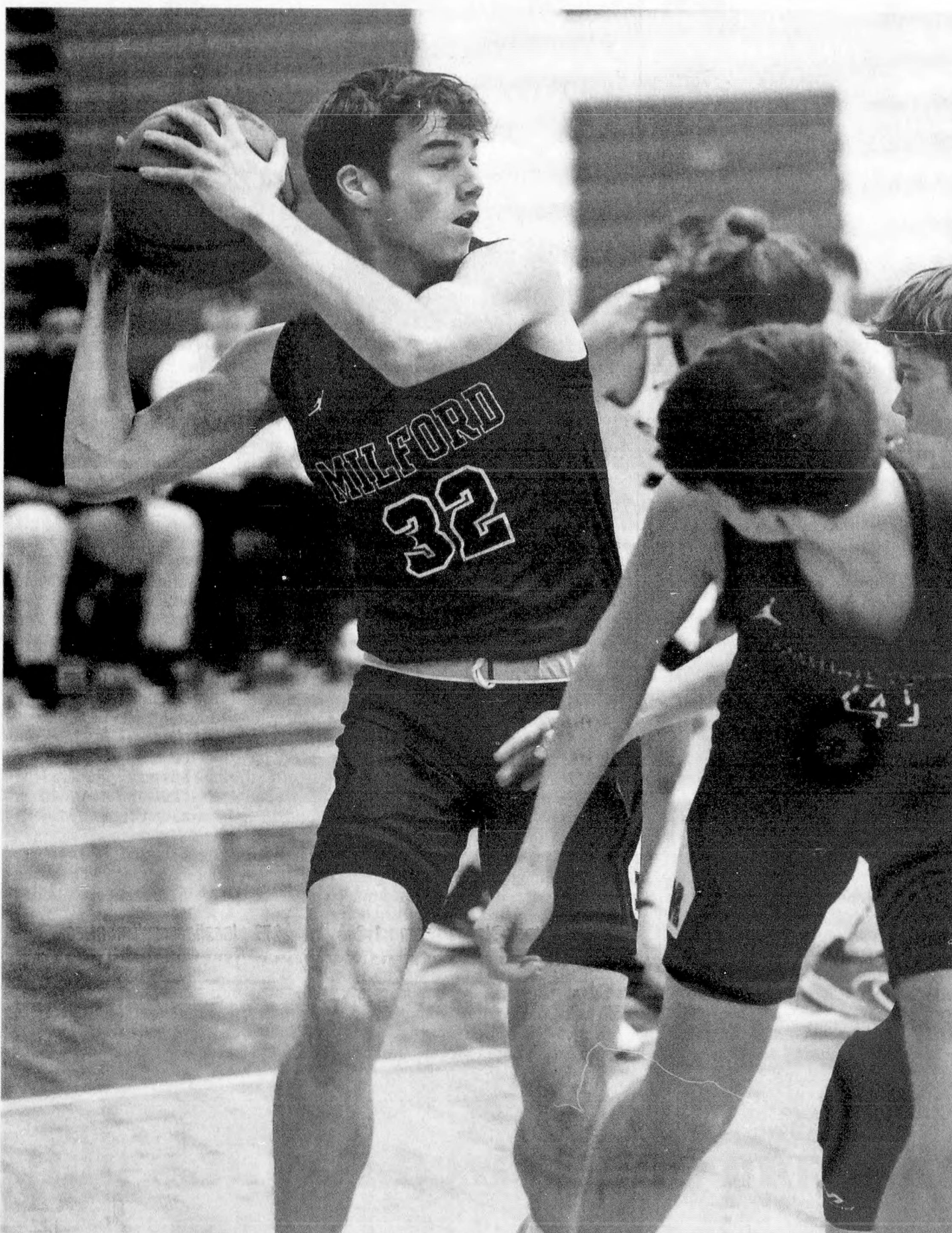
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BOYS BASKETBALL



Milford's Sam Lewis rebounds during a non-conference game Dec. 12 at Livonia Churchill. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

With Lewis playing lights-out, Milford could win LVC title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you made the trip Dec. 12 to Livonia Churchill and paid the \$5 admission, you were unfortunately robbed of seeing Milford boys basketball star Sam Lewis put on a show.

Part of that had to do with the Mavericks' schedule — they were playing back-to-back nights against a pair of Kensington Lakes Activities Association teams in Churchill and Salem. Getting a chance to rest their 6-foot-6 senior small forward — which they did for the entire second half — is always a wise choice when possible, especially with a Lakes Valley Conference matchup at Walled Lake Western coming up to round out the week.

The other part of that had to do with Milford playing what coach David Gilbert likes to call "Milford basketball."

To sum it up for those who are unfamiliar: It's hard-nosed, in-your-face defense (whether that's a halfcourt trap, zone defense or man-to-man), hustle plays in transition and doing everything you can to sacrifice your own shine and glory for the betterment of the team.

Playing "Milford basketball" is what has the Mavericks 3-0 to open the season. It's what helped them race past the Chargers with a 57-24 victory. And it's what makes them a serious contender for the LVC title.

Lewis is definitely the centerpiece. And, frankly, it's surprising that only Division III and NAIA schools are recruiting him to play in college because he's one of the best shooters in Oakland County (more on that later).

But the guys surrounding him, plus the depth on the bench, should help Milford compete for a league championship. And that's no easy feat, especially with each team playing 16 conference

games. Yeah, the Mavericks beat defending LVC champion Waterford Mott in their home opener last week. But they still have 15 games left, and with the way South Lyon East has been chattering on Twitter, Milford isn't going to just run away with this thing.

"I truly believe in this team. If we continue to focus on the details and get better, I think we've got a legitimate shot to do some special things this season," Gilbert said. "We've just got to be ourselves. With the long season, growth is easily the biggest thing we're looking for as well as staying consistent in what we like to call 'Milford basketball.' Good, hard-nosed defense, sharing the basketball, and you saw we were able to do that tonight."

A case of "Milford basketball" broke out during the second quarter at Churchill.

See LVC TITLE, Page 3B

Albanese brings in 33 points as Mercy beats Northville

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Aizlyn Albanese was so nervous about her game that she texted her father for reassurance.

Part of that had to do with where the Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team was playing on Dec. 16. The Marlins (5-0) were Game 1 of a double-header at Northville. First, it was Mercy and the Mustangs, and then Detroit Catholic Central and Northville capped off the evening with a boys game.

Albanese assumed there'd be a packed crowd because of the proximity between Northville and CC. And that guess proved to be right as both student sections made the Shamrocks' eventual win a can't-miss affair.

But she was also anxious because she knew Northville was going to make it a game. With Hartland graduating most of its starting lineup and losing its coach to retirement from last year's Division 1 state runner-up team, that has made the Mustangs one of the top contenders to win the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West. And considering how the Marlins had to battle back from a 12-point deficit against Brighton, another KLAA-West team, a week ago, a lot was going to be expected of the sophomore.

That's right. Albanese is only a

See MERCY, Page 5B

Shamrocks, Mustangs give promising district preview

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Each set of bleachers inside Northville's gymnasium has giant white signs in large lettering that read "NO SITTING IN THE 1ST ROW OR STANDING ON THE FLOOR."

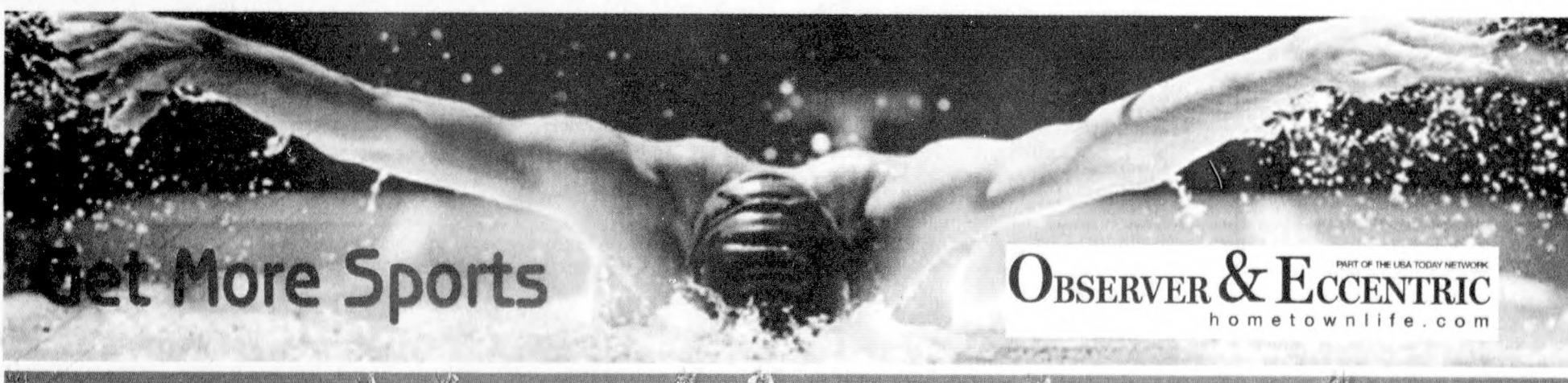
That's important to know because multiple times former Mustangs quarterback Luca Prior fell out of the student section and onto the floor while celebrating his schoolmates' big plays Dec. 16 against Detroit Catholic Central.

When Carlos Adamson scored lay-ups in transition and buried 3-pointers from the corner, there was Prior losing his mind — and easily 100 other Mustangs in the white-out who were doing the same.

When Angelo Rodriguez won arm wrestling match after arm wrestling match in the post to draw trips to the foul line, the Prior-led student section erupted some more.

When Cullen Foley laid it all on the line while driving to the hoop, Prior and his friends ... well, you get it already. Athletic director Brian Samulski should've worn a badge for the amount

See PREVIEW, Page 4B



Adamczyk scores 1,000th career point as Black Hawks beat Plymouth

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Between the first and second quarters Wednesday night, Plymouth boys basketball coach Andrew Meeuswen walked to the scorer's tables, looked at the scorebook, shook his head and then headed back to his bench.

"He's got 12 points!" the first-year coach said to himself quietly with a dumbfounded look.

Who's he?

That's Bloomfield Hills senior Noah Adamczyk.

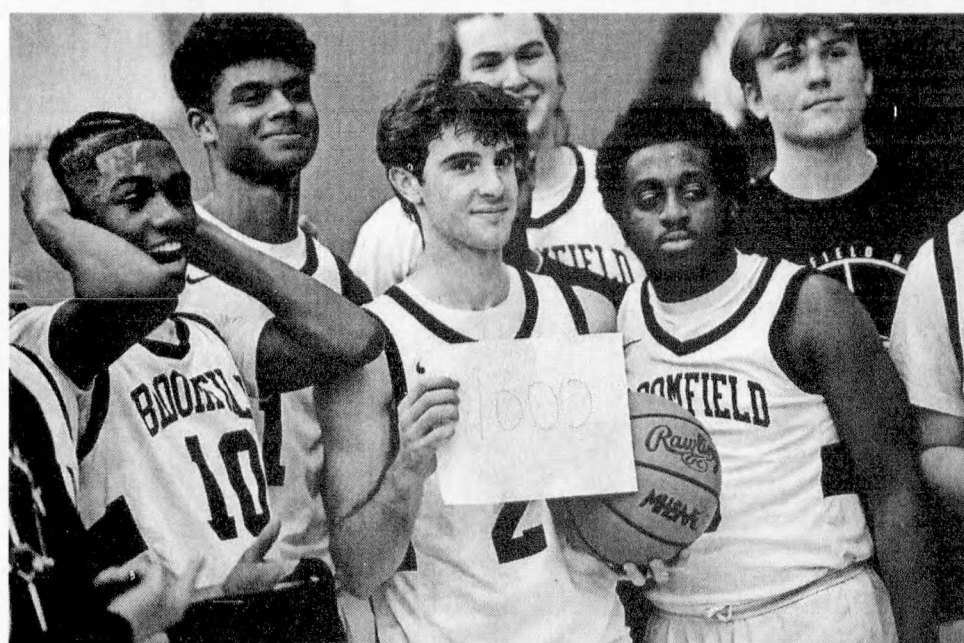
For fans of Oakland Activities Association basketball or anyone who hangs out in gyms in northern Oakland County, the shooting guard isn't some new phenomenon. He definitely isn't new to Hometown Life's readers. His tales of leading the Black Hawks to a White division championship a year ago were told in the Birmingham Eccentric.

But for the rest of Michigan, he might as well be named Joe Schmoe or John Doe. He's not talked about like the guys in the Catholic League or Detroit Public School League. He's criminally underrecruited, especially for someone who can bury Steph Curry-length 3-pointers at any moment. The roster has him listed at 6 foot, but he's more likely 5-10, and that, right there, is why colleges haven't been racing up Telegraph to scout his games.

In fact, there were actually four colleges on hand vs. Plymouth: A trio of Division II schools in Indianapolis, Northwood and Wayne State as well as D-III Alma College. But that's because the Wildcats have a pair of star players in 6-9 center Kelvin Amoaka and 6-4 small forward Bryce Garbacz.

Amoaka, rightfully so, has been one of the hottest recruits in metro Detroit since this past summer. What small school wouldn't want a project like him? He's got the size and physical attributes to be a dominant post player at the next level. He just needs to refine his fundamentals.

And Garbacz is no slouch either. Bloomfield Hills was en route to a blow-out win over Plymouth, but it was Garbacz's hot shooting in the second half that made it a seven-point game late.



Bloomfield Hills' Noah Adamczyk celebrates scoring 1,000 career points following a game against Plymouth on Dec. 14. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The senior scored 19 of his team-best 28 points in the second half, which included him burying a trio of 3s late, to make it a respectable 63-47 loss.

And, most importantly, Amoaka and Garbacz have earned every bit of the recruiting attention they've gotten. They've put in the work, especially in the off-season, to warrant having college scouts at their games.

But so has Adamczyk.

And if his performance through the first three games hasn't sounded an alarm inside the recruiting offices at most colleges around the midwest, then coaches just aren't paying attention on purpose.

He scored 32 and 31 points, respectively, in Bloomfield Hills' first two games, and he primarily faced a box-and-one defense in both victories.

Meeuswen knew what to expect out of Adamczyk entering the matchup. But, of course, he was still bewildered by Adamczyk's play after the first quarter. Plymouth was lucky the senior had just 12 points by then.

And the Wildcats did everything they could to stop him from scoring. But he got to the rim and scored over Plymouth's big guys, including Amoaka. And he buried catch-and-shoot 3s.

And then he pulled up from the volleyball line and sank another 3 at the buzzer.

The referees gave Adamczyk a technical foul for flexing after a tough finish at the rim. The senior responded by scoring the first eight points of the second quarter.

He didn't miss his first shot until almost halfway through the period.

It was Bloomfield Hills 46, Noah Adamczyk 32 and Plymouth 32 entering the fourth.

"The original game plan was to play a little no catch, no help, but he's really, really good," Meeuswen said. "He knows how to still get the ball where he wants to get it. He's a really good basketball player. He's very smart, has a high IQ and knows what foot to attack. He's very patient, so hats off to him."

Had Garbacz not made it close in the fourth, Bloomfield Hills coach Brian Canfield would've likely pulled Adamczyk. Except the guard entered the game needing just 42 points to reach 1,000 for his career.

So the Black Hawks (3-0) went for it.

After Garbacz knocked down a 3 and scored at the rim to trim Plymouth's deficit, all while taunting Bloomfield Hills' student section in the process, Adam-

czyk responded with a 3 of his own (side note: the trash talk was warranted by the Wildcats, as the BHHS faithful had plenty of creative insults all night).

Moments later, Adamczyk sank a runner in the lane. And then he scored again in transition.

He had no idea how close he actually was to the career milestone.

But Julian Manna, Bloomfield Hills' starting point guard last year, did.

The 2022 graduate had been keeping a tally of Adamczyk's points while sitting courtside, just waiting for the big moment to happen.

And then Adamczyk stripped Garbacz, who had fallen to the floor, near midcourt and then outraced Amoaka for a tough finish at the rim to score his 1,000th point.

Manna jumped out of his seat and right onto the court, started screaming in celebration and then pointed at his former teammate.

Adamczyk turned his head and then grinned back at Manna, realizing he had just done it.

Canfield called timeout so the gymnasium could briefly celebrate the moment.

"I thought he was maybe going to get it Friday," the first-year coach said. "In the first half, he came out firing. The next thing I know, he's two points away from it. He got that breakaway. You couldn't be more proud of a kid, though, because all he does is work and puts in the time outside (of practice)."

Bloomfield Hills halted Plymouth's offense on the ensuing possession, which allowed Adamczyk to dribble out the remaining 57 seconds while the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

After the final buzzer, he clutched the game ball against his left forearm like a football so he wouldn't fumble his new memento as a pack of students stormed the court to celebrate with him.

And even the scorebook will be saved as Shari, the team's bookkeeper, tallied the points but also added an exclamation point to Adamczyk's line in the box-score. It'll forever read, "42!"

"It's an unreal feeling," Adamczyk said of scoring a career-high. "It doesn't happen often. I'll take it (and celebrate) tonight. But we've got practice tomorrow, and we got a game on Friday."

Raiders benefit from undersized Ray Jr.'s play

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Boys basketball teams don't win state championships without guys like Dwayne Ray Jr.

The North Farmington sixth man proved that in Tuesday's 76-38 victory over Detroit Catholic Central.

It was a battle early on.

As it should've been because the Raiders (3-0) entered the week ranked No. 2 in Michigan, regardless of division, in The D Zone Top 100, behind only Brother Rice, while the Shamrocks are coming off a state quarterfinal appearance and brought into the matchup one of the best lineups in metro Detroit.

In fact, big man Josh Ross converted on an acrobatic layup attempt in transition to put CC ahead 11-10 early in the opening quarter.

North Farmington had left plenty of points on the floor. Its post players missed a few bunnies under the basket. A couple of open jumpers didn't fall, despite Mr. Basketball candidate Ryan Hurst knocking down two early 3-pointers to inspire his teammates. And starting point guard Prince Jackson missed three contested layups.

The Raiders looked nervous. They needed to settle in. And they needed to do so quickly.

And then they did thanks to coach Todd Negoshian subbing in Ray Jr., whose physical presence isn't going to intimidate many people.

He looks every bit undersized at 5-foot-9, though his dedication to the weight room with strength and conditioning coach Billy Slobin has helped add muscle to his frame.

But don't tell Ray Jr. he's not big enough to play at a high level. He doesn't care to hear about it. His height isn't stopping him from playing with the heart of an all-stater who's 6-7 or 6-8.

"You've got to have that dog mentality in you," the point guard said.

You've probably got two questions about Ray Jr.: What does he add to the



North Farmington's Dwayne Ray Jr. defends Detroit Catholic Central's Uchenna Amene during a game Dec. 13. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

team and what did he do to help the Raiders turn a one-point deficit into an almost running-clock win vs. the Shamrocks?

He played steady defense on CC guard Uchenna Amene and added plenty of energy to the floor.

Once Ray Jr. entered the game, the Raiders went on an 18-5 run, which included him making a beautiful pass across the paint to set up Hurst for a catch-and-shoot 3 that put their team ahead 26-16 early in the second quarter.

And then, quietly, Ray Jr. kept making play after play.

He teamed up with guard Landon Williams for a trap that resulted in Lamar Walls turning the turnover into a layup.

He drove into the paint, sucked in the defense and then hit Lee Hardy with a pass on the backside for two points.

And then he baited a pass that turned into Walls throwing down a two-handed dunk that earned the senior a technical foul for hanging on the rim and a nice, loud round of "daddy's money!" chants from North Farmington's student section.

"Coach trusts me with the sixth-man role and, defense-wise, I like it," said Ray Jr., who sank a pair of free throws for his only two points. "I love playing defense. If they're (the starters) struggling, I'm going to hit some shots to get the energy going. If the bench is dead, I'm going to get the energy going. As I step onto the court, I bring the energy."

But he does so quietly.

Statisticians aren't running out of ink while writing down all of his points in the scorebook as they do with Hurst, who scored a game-high 21 points. But he's getting a key assist here that sparks

a big run. Then he's getting a much-needed turnover there that has opposing offenses second-guessing themselves.

Ray Jr. held Amene, CC's star point guard, scoreless in the second quarter, which is saying something because Amene had a 49-point game a week ago. Amene finished with just 12 points, though it must be noted that the Shamrocks' best player, shooting guard TJ Nadeau, sat out another night with a dislocated shoulder.

"He plays with a chip on his shoulder because of his size," Negoshian said of his sixth man. "But he's unbelievable with the way he plays, how hard he plays and how smart he plays. He has grit, and he has a toughness about him. You can't replace that. He's a little small for what we want — for what (any team would) want — but his productivity every night, whether it's at practice or in a game, is second to none. With that chip on his shoulder, he always feels like he's got something to prove to people. Because of that, he's been successful."

North Farmington is deep.

And it's definitely one of the few metro Detroit teams that will compete for a Division 1 state title.

Hurst is one of the top scorers in the state.

Hardy has turned into a consistent big man down low when it comes to rebounds and cleaning up misses.

Landon Williams and Tyler Spratt have proved to be absolute gamers, despite being only juniors.

Jackson continues to find his role in the backcourt after sitting out last year due to the transfer rule.

"Anybody that wins a state championship in any sport, you've got to have depth," Negoshian said. "You've got to have consistency. You've got to have an edge."

And, for North Farmington, you've got to have a Dwayne Ray Jr.

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

LVC title

Continued from Page 1B

Turnovers, sure-handed rebounds and a swarming defense allowed Lewis to have a brief highlight-reel effort.

In about a 6-minute stretch, Lewis buried a trio of 3-pointers, outscored the Chargers 13-2 on his own and ended his evening early by grabbing a rebound and taking it coast-to-coast for a layup that gave the Mavericks a 37-8 lead by halftime. He has his teammates' tough defense to thank for that. They're the ones who got him going.

The senior finished with a game-high 19 points and didn't see the floor in the second half. He spent the majority of his time in Livonia with a small green Gatorade cup in his hand while sitting on the bench, sandwiched between teammates Lucas Jaklic and Anthony Hutter, who chipped in six points apiece.

"We have a lot of confidence," Lewis said of Milford's chances of winning the LVC. "Our home opener was a nice one against Mott to kind of build confidence. We've been building it in practice, and now it's starting to show in games. I think we just need to play 'Milford basketball' every game, play D and just lock in on all four quarters."

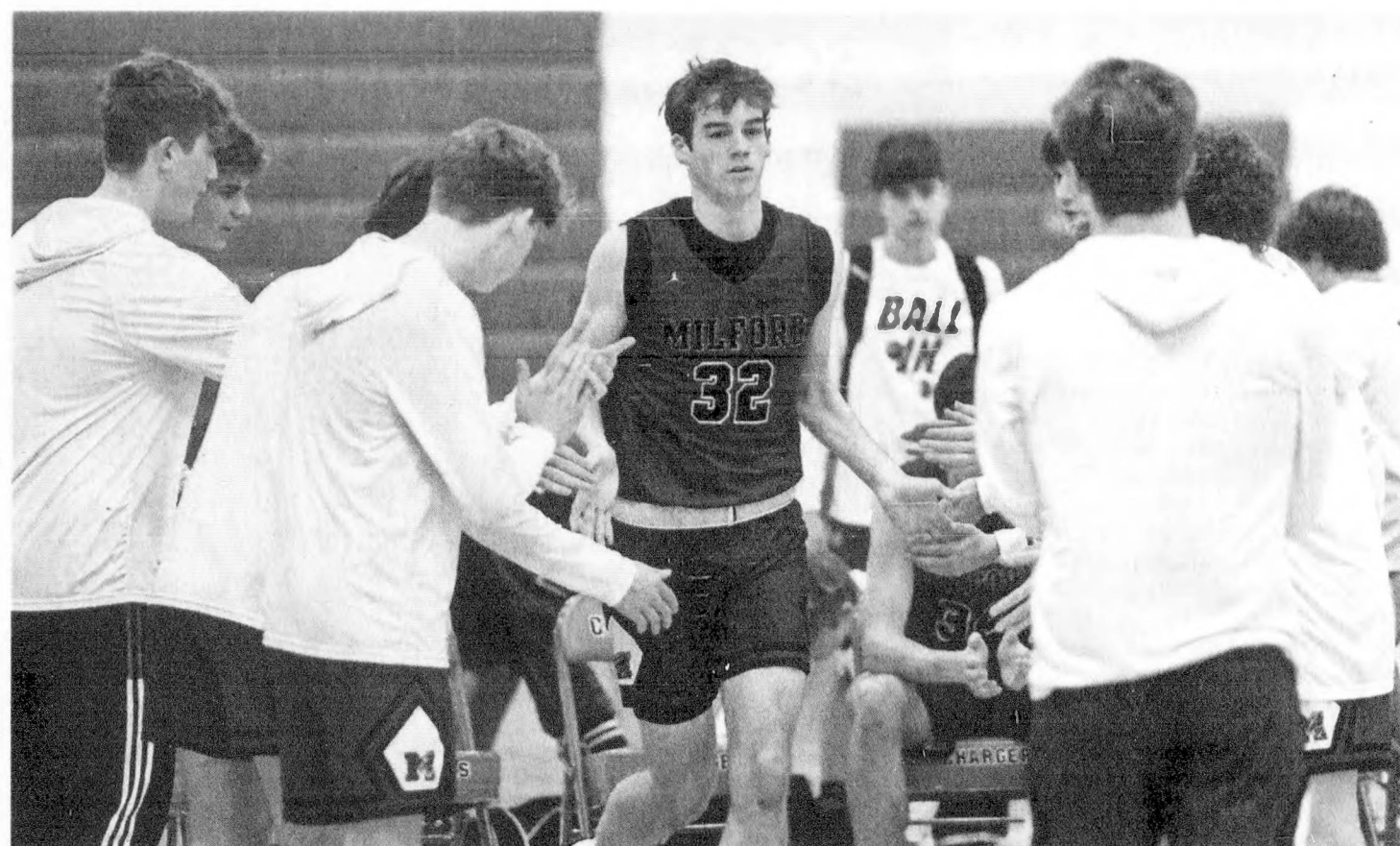
Lewis split his summer between playing for the Legacy Center-based The Process AAU program and running open gyms with the Mavericks.

He said he's been getting up about 250-500 shots per day. Anytime he can, he likes to get in the gym and work on his individual game with his father, Milford JV coach Andy Lewis.

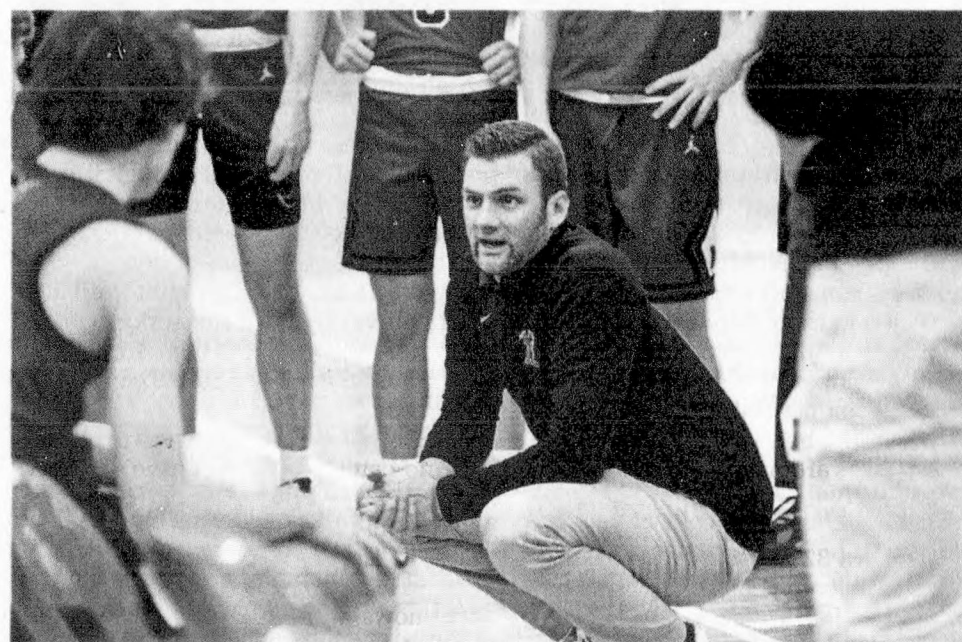
Lewis is a steady defender, but the best part about his game is his shooting. He can hit from seemingly anywhere on the floor and he has about the nicest shooting motion you'll find in Michigan.

If you were to ask Lewis to square up to the basket, he literally could. His arms have the perfect bend to them when he lets a shot fly. It's so pure that teams often double-team him to keep him from racking up 3-pointers. And that's been a boon for the other starters, including Luke Siterlet (seven points) and Owen Stark (two).

"Isn't it beautiful?" Gilbert laughed about Lewis' shooting motion. "When he's doubled and guys are trying to deny him, he's going to find the open man, too. So it just leads to some great basket-



Milford's Sam Lewis goes through player introductions before a non-conference game Dec. 12 at Livonia Churchill. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Milford coach David Gilbert talks to his players.

ball being played."

Honestly, the Mavericks are a deep, deep team, but they'll go as Lewis goes.

If he has an off night, it might be tough for them to compete with the top teams in their league. But he rarely has off

nights.

A year ago, he averaged 18.6 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists, shot 43% from the floor and buried 49 3s, which was good enough for All-LVC honors and for him to be named his team's MVP. The 390 points he totaled wound up being the third most scored in a single season in program history.

"This is my 10th year, and he's a special player," Gilbert said. "I'm a fan of his on the sideline. He's just a gym rat. He cares about his team more than himself. He cares about winning more than his stats. Those kids who are that talented and have that mentality don't come around too often. I'm just trying to appreciate it, and I think our whole team feeds off of him."

The more the Mavericks play "Milford basketball," the more likely Lewis will continue sitting on the bench in the second half. So buyers beware when you hand over your \$5 at the ticket table.

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

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Preview

Continued from Page 1B

of crowd control he did all night.

And CC's student section showed out as well (with officer Aaron Babicz in charge of the south bleachers).

So did Northville's drum line as well as a bunch of alumni who made it home from college for their holiday break.

An early December game that had all four sets of bleachers pulled out? That's almost unheard of these days.

It looked, felt and smelled a lot like a Division 1 district final game.

And, well, that's exactly what it was.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is sending CC south for the district tournament this season. Instead of playing against one of the three Walled Lake schools, the Shamrocks, a state quarterfinal team a year ago, will become an honorary Kensington Lakes Activities Association member when March rolls around.

CC's 65-52 victory over Northville wasn't just a good game. It was a potential district championship preview.

The district the Mustangs will host features Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Novi, Northville and CC. And there's a good chance Prior and his pals will be just as rowdy in the spring.

"Hopefully, we match up again with them in March here," Northville coach Todd Sander said.

The Shamrocks (3-2) were still without future Division 1 college player TJ Nadeau (dislocated shoulder), and they played most of the game with forward DJ Lee in foul trouble.

Guard Uchenna Amene (20 points) and big man Josh Ross (eight) did well in keeping CC ahead of the Mustangs all night, but they needed help down the stretch from a handful of stars in the making.

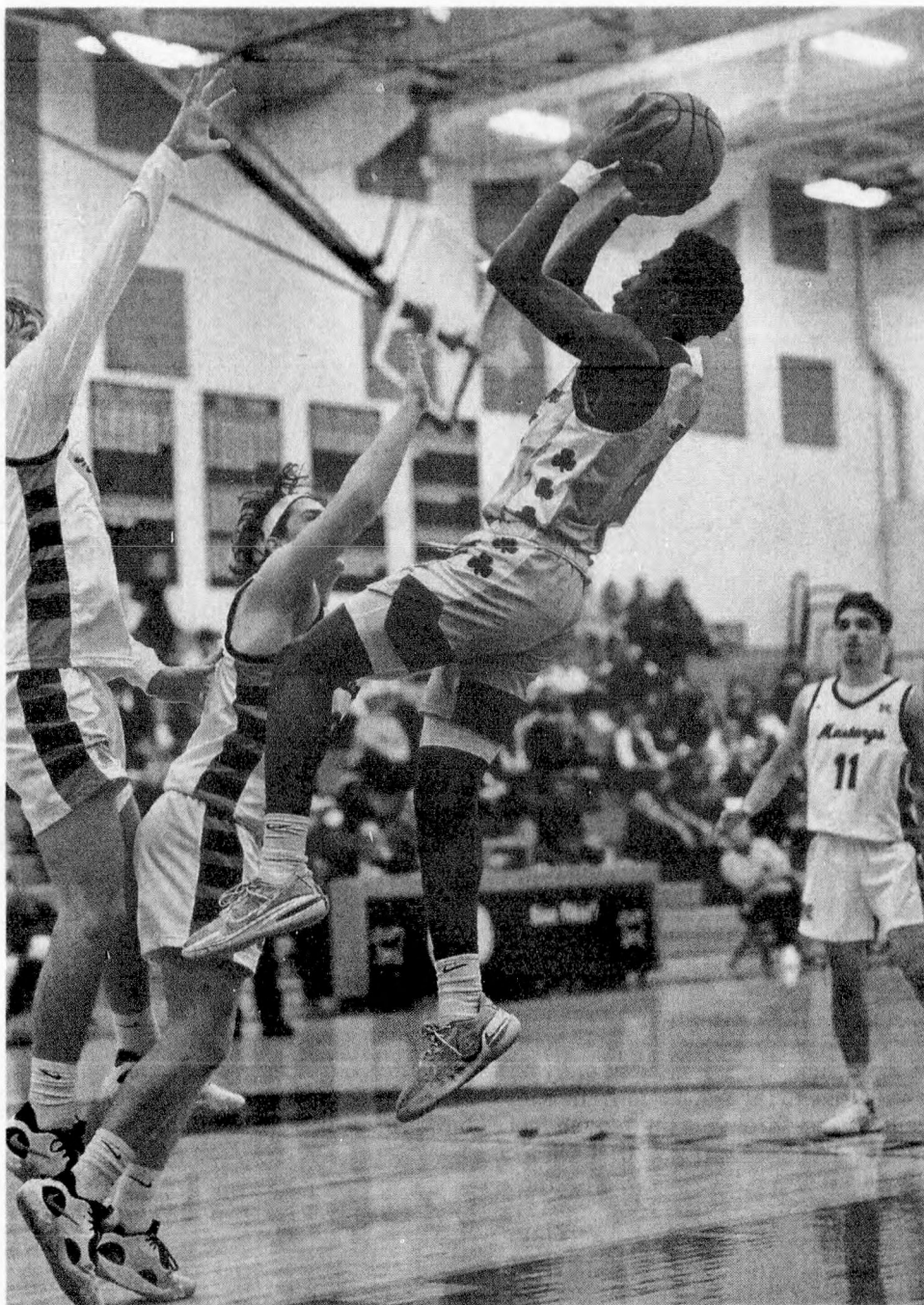
Sam Howard (12) hit big shots from downtown and even scooted to the hoop to draw an and-one.

Devin Lee (five) scored down low to keep Northville at arm's length.

But it was the freshman who closed out the road win for the Shamrocks.

That would be Asher Suardini.

And that guard isn't even a full-time member of the varsity. If he was a professional soccer player, he'd be on the taxi squad. He's a guy coach Brandon Sinawi has been using with the relatively



Detroit Catholic Central's Uchenna Amene shoots during a non-conference game Dec. 16 at Northville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

new "fifth-quarter" rule.

Essentially he's a JV player who can also appear in varsity games.

And with Nadeau still recovering from his injury, Suardini, who buried a pair of 3s in the first half, has been needed.

Northville (0-3) just wouldn't go away. Which makes sense because Adamson is one of the best guards in the KLAA. He scored 18 of his team-best 25 points in the second half and kept trim-

ming the Mustangs' deficit. And that's not a bad effort considering injuries and illnesses have hindered Northville's start. The Mustangs are yet to hold a practice with every player present.

So after Northville's Justin Huang buried a 3 from the corner to make CC's lead just 57-50 with 2:06 remaining, the Shamrocks needed somebody, anybody, to step up and ensure they wouldn't blow their lead late.

Surprisingly enough, that somebody

was Suardini.

The 5-foot-8 freshman finished at the rim to extend that lead to nine points. And then he got to the foul line and hit a pair of shots in the bonus. And then he finished with a layup.

The rookie went on a 6-0 run of his own to secure the 65-52 victory and finish with 12 points.

"I was just coming in here to do whatever they needed me to do and help until TJ gets back," Suardini said of his crunch-time effort. "I was just trying to help and do whatever I can. I'm just here to do whatever the program needs me to do and whatever I can to help us win a state championship because that's our goal."

Immediately following the handshake line, CC's players and its student section huddled together to sing its usual, "Mary, Alma Mater." But as soon as the song halted, a gang of students grabbed Suardini and hugged him.

"That's big minutes for him," Sinawi said of his freshman. "We knew this was coming because he's been coming on in practice. He's a five-quarter kid, so he's been playing with the JV team and finding some rhythm. The kid can shoot the lights out. It's great that we can find different guys to step up when our top guys are out. That's what good teams do, and tonight was a great coming-out party for him. I'm happy for him, he works his tail off and he's one of the hardest-working kids."

Of course, Suardini was mobbed by the media afterward. In between interviews, Sinawi grabbed Suardini and also hugged him and then said, "Great job. I'm so proud of you."

"This is fun," Sinawi said while panning his gaze around the arena. "Playing in this atmosphere against a really good basketball team, a well-coached basketball team, in a great atmosphere, that's why we play the non-conference schedule we do. We're not only getting our guys physically ready (for the Catholic League and the postseason) but mentally ready to go as well. It'll help us down the road. We're going to have our hands full. Our entire district is tough, and they're going to be gunning for us."

And that includes Prior and the NHS student section, assuming Samulski doesn't stand in their way.

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

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Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

sophomore.

The Marlins won both the Catholic League-Central and a district title a year ago with veteran play from Sarah Cunningham and Sophie Dugas. That allowed players such as forward Maya White, point guard Lauren Smiley and Albanese to find their roles as merely one cog keeping Mercy's well-oiled machine rolling down victory lane.

But Cunningham and Dugas were lost to graduation.

More has been asked of White, a Grand Valley State commit, and Smiley. And new girls are filling in those roles previously held by them.

And it might be unfair, but even more has been asked of Albanese.

Take a look around the CHSL. Almost every team has a future college basketball star leading the team. That's Mckenzie Swanson at Bloomfield Hills Marian, last year's CHSL tournament champions, and Kennedy Blair at Dearborn Divine Child. And it looks like the new twins, freshmen Ava and Vanessa Rodriguez, are going to be just that for Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, arguably the favorite to win the Central this winter.

Albanese is only in the 10th grade, but she's being forced to make Ms. Basketball nominee plays.

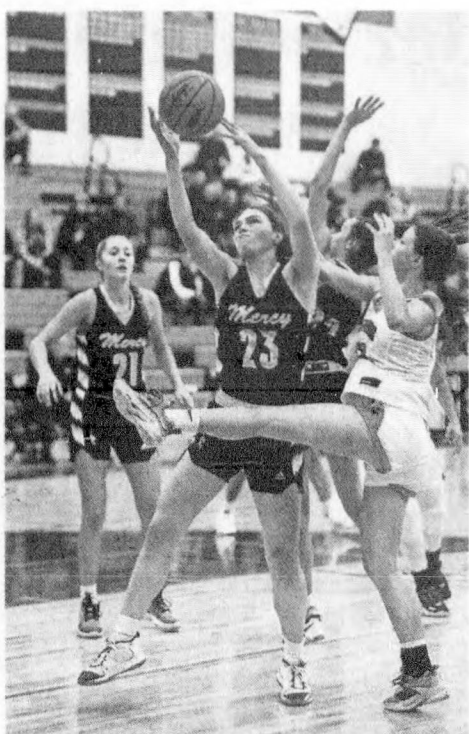
And that was the case once again in their 50-38 win at Northville.

Mercy (5-0) trailed at halftime, the third time in five nights it has faced a deficit entering the second half of games, and Albanese helped bail out Mercy and turn a close game into a runaway victory.

She scored all 14 of her team's points in the third quarter. That included her hitting jumpers, driving to the hoop and finishing at the foul line.

That momentum inspired her teammates to play better. White nailed three baskets down low, including opening the fourth with an and-one opportunity. She scored nine of her 10 points in the final 8 minutes alone.

Northville's Susy Heller scored a basket to snap an almost 5-minute scoreless streak for the Mustangs, but Albanese closed it out at the foul line in the bonus, going 7 of 8 late and finishing with a staggering 33 points.



Farmington Hills Mercy's Maya White rebounds during a non-conference game Dec. 16 at Northville.

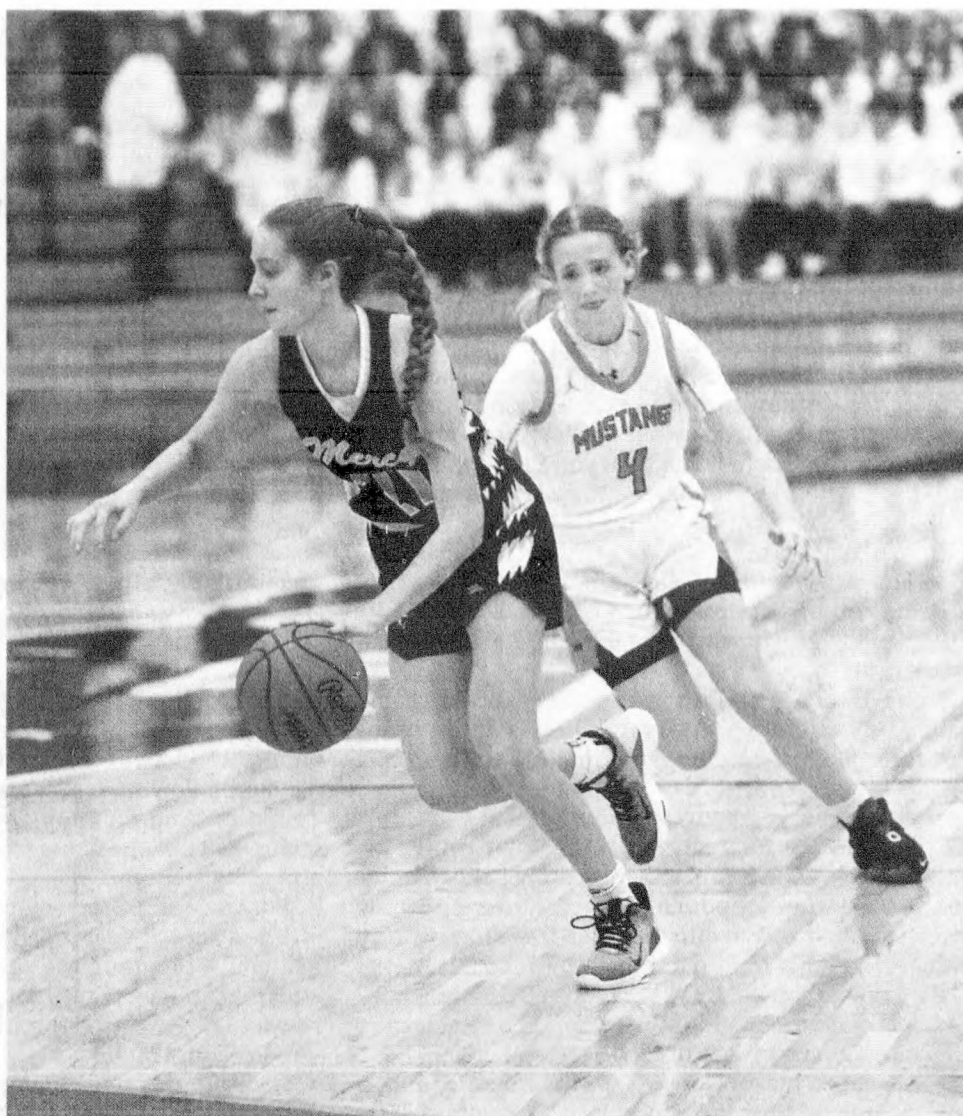
"She's a confident player," coach Gary Morris said. "She knows she has worked hard. As a result of that, she's a capable player (in these moments). Early on, she was hitting outside shots. I think Northville is a very good defensive team and so they're going to make an adjustment and take that away. Then she showed she can drive to the basket, and she's an excellent free-throw shooter so we feel really good when she's going to the line."

But what did it feel like in that moment?

"Yeah, I feel a lot of pressure," Albanese admitted. "But I rise when I have pressure. I want to play in college. When you play in college, there's tons of pressure on you. Tonight I went out and was nervous. I just really, really wanted to win this game. The same with the last game (against Brighton). Me, personally, I'm always like, 'No, I need to go out there and get the team to start playing,' especially when we're down at halftime."

Morris has been expecting this effort out of Albanese.

She got consistently better in each game throughout her freshman season. By the time the district final came around, she was playing as more of a go-to star for the Marlins than just a fresh-



Farmington Hills Mercy's Aizlyn Albanese dribbles Dec. 16 at Northville.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

man getting a few minutes here and there.

That experience was a boon for Albanese, who said it motivated her to improve during her AAU season with the Michigan Storm program this past summer.

"Playing AAU just really helped me because I developed a lot of confidence, and I just worked on my shot and my driving," Albanese said. "When we're down, which we have been for a few of our games in the past couple of weeks, after halftime I've been like, 'No! We're not losing. That's not an option here. We need to beat them.' I like to get the team going like, 'Let's go! This is our game. We're winning. We've got 4 minutes left. Let's go!' When I get them fired up, it fires me up."

It takes quite a skill to channel nervous energy into confidence. And that's something you see seniors do all the time. Heck, it's something Cunningham, a first-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area team, did all last year.

All it took for the sophomore was a quick reminder from her dad via text before the opening tip.

"My dad was like, 'Aiz, I'm proud of you no matter what. You're doing great because you recognize the feelings that you have. You've pinpointed them and said I'm nervous but, no, I'm not going to let it impact me,'" Albanese said. "I knew I had to take those nerves and turn them into excitement and play through them."

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

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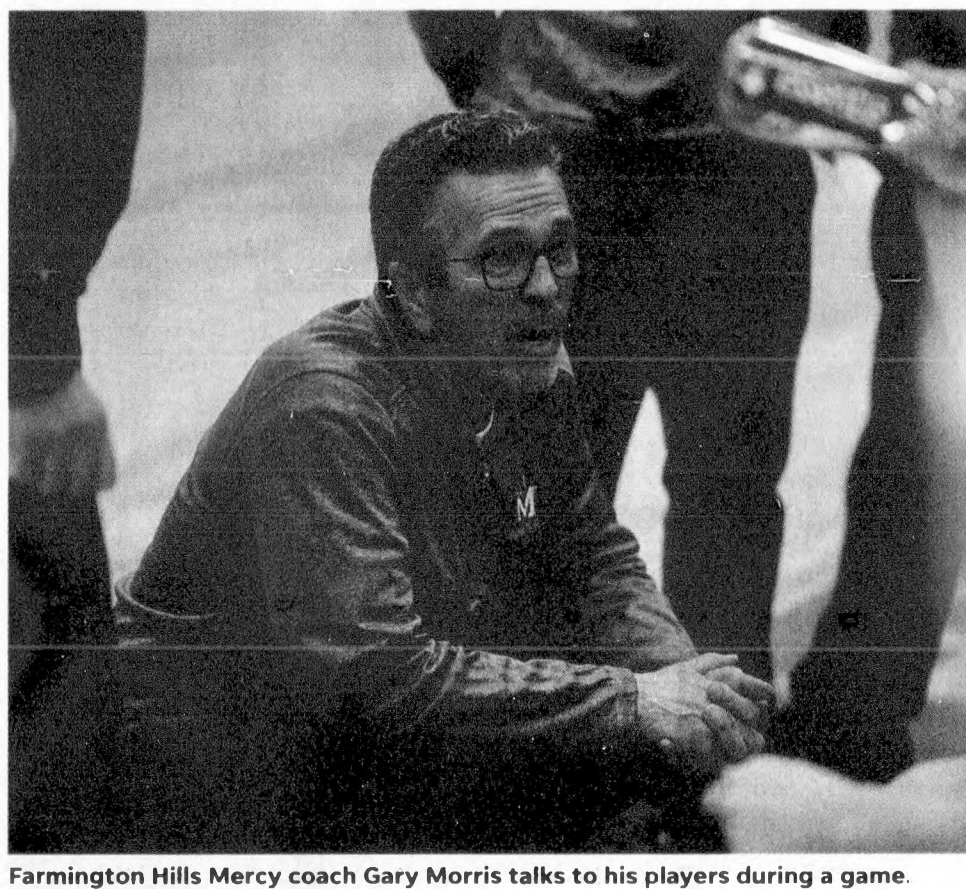
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Farmington Hills Mercy coach Gary Morris talks to his players during a game.

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Meet PCA grad, star Fernandez' potential replacement

Brandon Folsom

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Each player on the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team has a nickname on her warmups. Some of them make sense, like "HAY HAY" for senior sharpshooter Hailey Maulbetsch.

But Clara Groen is out there doing ballhandling drills and layups with "FRESHMAN" on her back.

Yeah, technically, the point guard is a freshman.

But "FRESHMAN" is often a nickname given to someone who, well, just isn't that good. And that's just not Groen, who has been one of the Eagles' standouts through three weeks.

They're coming off a Division 4 state runner-up finish to Fowler a year ago. And everyone is back except for Anna Fernandez, Hometown Life's 2021-22 Player of the Year, who is now playing for Wheaton College in Illinois.

Groen is one of two point guards who longtime coach Rod Windle has tasked with replacing Fernandez's production. Senior Morganne Houk, who has never played the position before, is the other.

And that senior-freshman combo in the backcourt has been a boon for PCA, which has just ripped off back-to-back wins against Kensington Lakes Activities Association opponents after suffering three losses to open the season. But those three losses were against D-1 teams Dexter and Farmington Hills Mercy and D-3 powerhouse Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard (and we'll talk more about FGR later). The Eagles are 2-3 overall, but they don't hide from anybody.

While Groen has put in the reps to be a surehanded guard, Houk is slowly easing into the position after playing mostly wing for PCA in the past. Fernandez has always been the star point guard for PCA, but Houk, Maulbetsch and Madison Yeager have been no slouches either. The seniors entered this winter as Windle's "Big 3."

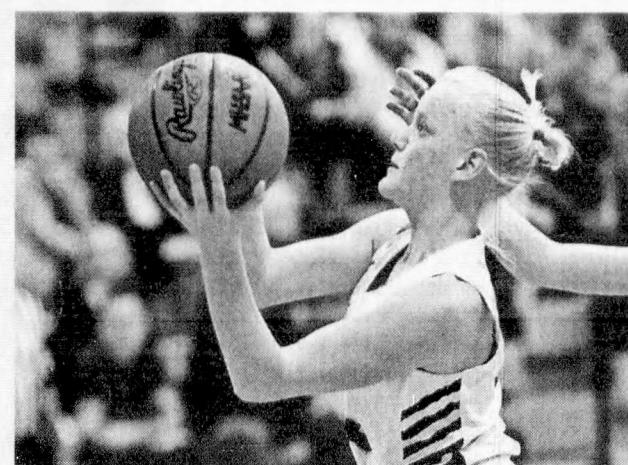
But the Eagles might need to change that to "Big 4" with how great Groen has looked.

Groen and Houk have been interchangeable bringing the ball up the court, and that keeps opponents on their toes. You never know when Houk will line up on the wing for a possession and bury a 3-pointer or drive



Plymouth Christian Academy's Morganne Houk.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



PCA's Clara Groen shoots against Livonia Franklin.

to the hoop for a tough basket, just like old times.

"The fact that Morganne can still be a threat on the wing with Clara at the point is more of a bonus," Windle said following last week's 57-25 win over Livonia Franklin. "And for Morganne to grow into the point guard spot like she has is really a testament to her work ethic this summer."

So where did Groen come from?

She's actually part of the Michigan Factory Basketball youth program, the same one Houk, Maulbetsch and Yeager have played for over the years.

And The Factory is the same AAU program that Fernandez came up in.

Groen grew up watching Fernandez and even tried patterning her play style after her.

And, for the most part, Groen has done well with that. She plays just like Fernandez, who could hit a shot from almost anywhere on the floor but excelled the most in turning her defense into transition points.

"I did look up to her," Groen said. "I came to her all of her games when I was younger. Sometimes she'd give me advice and so have the others. Actually, all of these seniors have all been really good for me. All of them have been really supportive, so I know even if I mess up, they'll be encouraging and nice to me."

Groen totaled 10 points vs. the Patriots in PCA's first

win. And then she scored seven of her eight points during the fourth quarter of Tuesday's 43-34 win over Joy Road rival Plymouth (and also had three assists and two steals).

Two weeks ago, she had nine points and two assists against Mercy.

"Clara's going to be an up-and-coming guard," Windle said. "She's working really hard to lead our team. She's one of two point guards that has been given responsibility to lead our team on the floor, and she's stepped up this season already."

Maulbetsch admitted there's plenty of pressure on the Big 3's shoulders to perform well this season, especially with Fernandez graduating, PCA wanting to return to the Breslin Center and the Eagles jumping up to D-3.

In fact, that pressure might be immense considering they've been thrown into the same district as FGR, which could be arguably the best team in Michigan. And if FGR isn't, the Irish aren't too far behind the likes of Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. FGR actually topped PCA 61-44 in the Eagles' opener.

So that's where Groen comes in. A lot will be asked of the seniors. The freshman should be a big help. And, hopefully for the Eagles, she'll assist in upsetting FGR in the district final.



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Pinckney's Newman is Player of Year

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Nothing about Chris Newman's formative years as a soccer player

foreshadowed the greatness he would achieve at Pinckney High School.

"Honestly, growing up, I was just a player on the team," he said. "In sixth or seventh grade, I made the 'B' team one year. I was so disappointed about that. It changed something."

Newman channeled that disappointment into a newfound drive that helped him earn a spot on the top team at Legacy Center the following year and become a varsity player as a freshman just a few years later.

"I guess it stops me from giving up, because I was so down on myself," he said.

Newman's four-year career at Pinckney produced two league championships, 53 goals, two all-state honorable mention selections and culminated with the honor of being named Livingston County boys soccer Player of the Year by the Livingston Daily.

Pinckney coach Sean Grace knew little about Newman until he began hearing reports from the seniors who were running offseason practices in the summer of 2019. Grace didn't plan to take any freshmen on a senior-dominated team led by Nic Brousseau, who scored a school-record 35 goals that season.

"The seniors started telling me, 'You need to start looking at this guy; this kid's for real,' when the captains were running practices," Grace said. "Unless he was going to start and play more than half the game, I wasn't going to take a look at him. They said, 'Coach, I think he could and should.' I looked at him and said, 'You guys are right.' It was clearly the right decision. He did nothing but get better."

Newman recalls a game against South Lyon East, the Pirates' third of the 2019 season, as the moment everything clicked for him as a ninth-grader.

"I remember coach



Chris Newman (9) led Pinckney to two SEC White championships as a junior and senior.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

kept telling me, 'Today's a day for a goal, today's a day for a goal,'" Newman said. "I was just a small scrawny little kid. I didn't really expect anything to happen. After I scored the first one, the confidence boosted after that. I feel like I really fell into the team after that."

He finished his freshman year with nine goals and three assists before earning first-team all-county each of his final three seasons.

For all his individual success, Newman is most proud of the fact Pinckney delivered its first two league championships since 1999 during his final two years. The Pirates were 7-1-1 in the SEC White last season before going 10-0 this year, winning all but one game by at least three goals.

"Last year we beat teams, but we didn't dominate the whole game," he said. "This year, I feel like we really dominated and showed our presence on the field. It made it even better, because the kids I played with this year are my lifelong friends. It was just a great experience."

Newman's goal production dropped this season from 19 to 15, but his

assists increased from nine to 19. A hamstring injury that first surfaced last winter limited his ability to play with explosiveness this fall.

"I dropped down into a new role," he said. "My wingers were willing to run for the ball. I dropped down and played more possession. I think it helped the team a lot instead of just kicking it around all game. It resulted in fewer goals for me, but a lot more assists. I'm happy with the result. It was frustrating, because I used to base my entire playing style on my pace."

Newman is undecided about his soccer future. He doesn't want to settle for a lesser college just because it offers him a soccer scholarship.

"Honestly, I'm not really sure if I want to play in college right now," he said.

"I talked to a couple coaches from various places. I'm just not sure how it would look for me, because I'll end up going to a smaller school if I play in college. I'm not sure if I want that experience. If I go to school normally, I'm leaning toward studying business at MSU or possibly Michigan."

Obituaries



Mariette (née Beuglet) Forberg

Forberg, Mariette (nee Beuglet), December 10, 2022, Age 83, of Birmingham, Michigan. Loving wife of Charles for 57 years. Dear mother of Michael Forberg, Daniel Forberg (Lynn), Kit Forberg, Paul Forberg (Mirjam), and Beth Harding (Jim). Also survived by eight grandchildren. Sister of Jeanne (the late Jack) Ryan and the late Charles and Gerard Beuglet. Sister-in-law of Marilyn Beuglet and the late Cathy Cole-Beuglet. Funeral Mass was held Saturday, December 17, 2022, at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon St., Birmingham. Memorial tributes to Dysphonia International, formerly National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, 300 Park Blvd, Suite 415, Itasca, Illinois 60143.

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Elwood Ralph Sippola

NOVI - Elwood Ralph Sippola passed away peacefully on December 11, 2022 at the age of 80, at Ascension Providence Hospital located in Novi, MI. He was surrounded by loved ones.

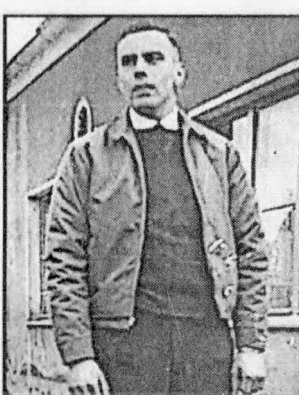
Born March 3rd, 1942 in Painesville, OH to Elwood, Sr. and Lavern Sippola (née Congos). Elwood is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Patricia (Prater). He is survived by his former wife Linda Sippola and their children Elstan (Christie) Sippola, Erin (Matthew) Lavender, Erik Sippola, Elizabeth Sippola, Eliot (Erin) Sippola, along with five grandchildren: Avery, Jason, Marina, Olivia and Samuel.

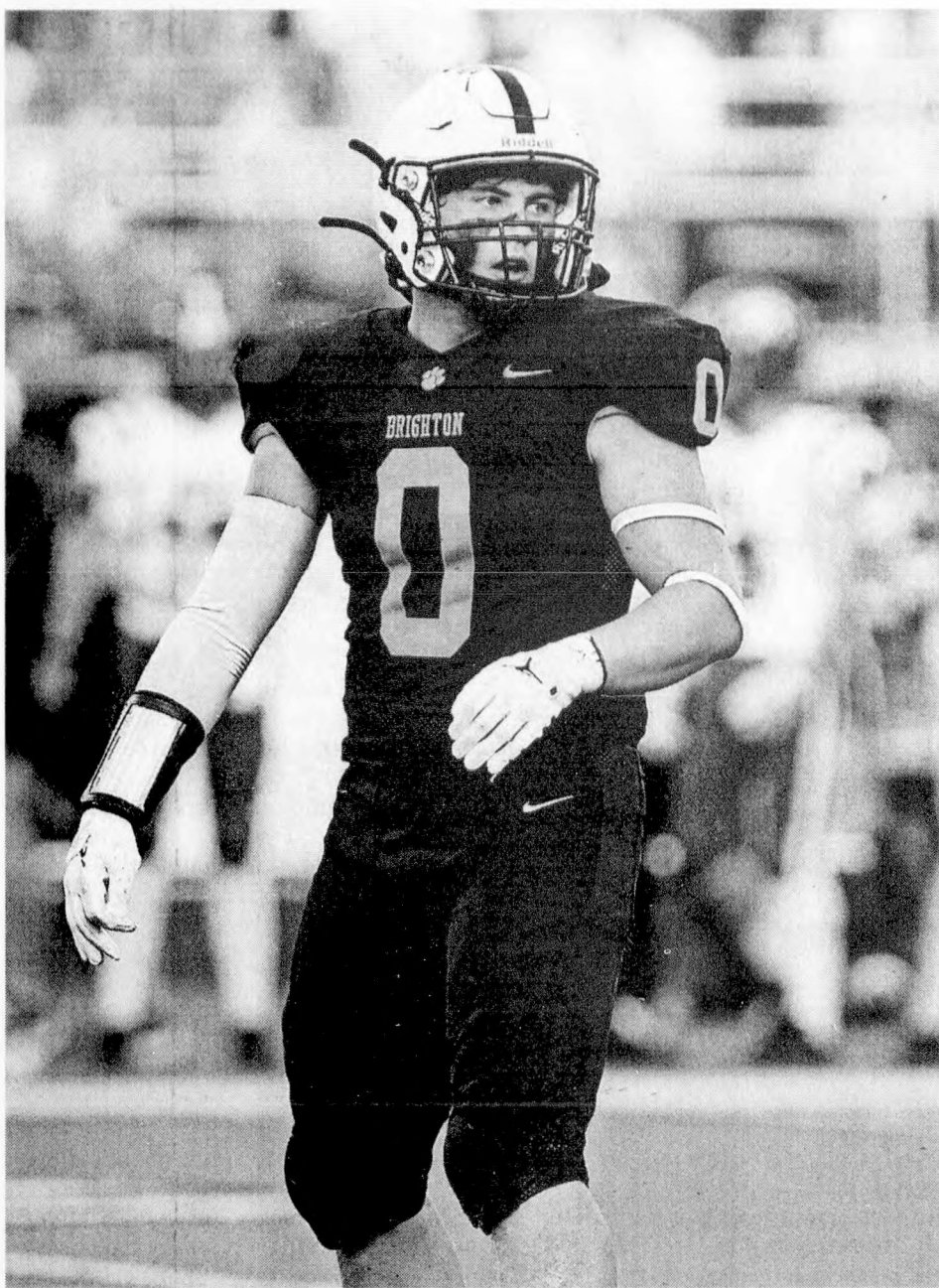
Elwood graduated from Painesville High School in 1960 and enlisted in the United States Army 4th Armored Division, serving from 1961-1964. Following an honorable discharge, he lived in Detroit, MI and settled in Milford, MI in 1975, where he spent the next 47 years raising his family, completing a 45-year career as an Electrical Designer for Consulting Engineering Associates (CEA) in Detroit, and living out his American Dream.

He was involved in many activities, including leading Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, coaching youth sports teams, and teaching Sunday school at St. George's Episcopal church in Milford, MI. Elwood enjoyed drawing, painting, woodworking, telling jokes, and he was an avid fan of The Ohio State University. He embodied a spirit of generosity and service by contributing his time and support to numerous charitable causes.

Elwood will be laid to rest at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion in his honor.





Linebacker Hunter Harding was Brighton's leading tackler each of the last two seasons. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Being little brother prepared Brighton's Harding to hit on field

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Any football player who woke up a little more sore than usual on Saturday mornings after being tackled by Hunter Harding can blame his older brothers.

After being the nail for much of his life, Harding enjoyed finally being the hammer.

Like, *really* enjoyed it. "Being able to hit people for free; there's not much more I could ask for," the Brighton senior linebacker said.

"I'm the youngest of three. I always got beat up a little. It was nice to beat up on some kids this year."

Harding got in more than his fair share of hits, leading Brighton in tackles for the second straight season with 98. Of those, 12 were for losses and four were sacks.

As a result of his leadership role on the top defense in the KLAA West, Hunter has been selected Livingston County Defensive Player of the Year by the Livingston Daily.

Harding has been named first-team all-county and all-region the past two seasons. He was the heartbeat of a defense that enabled the Bulldogs to win their three biggest games in the division on nights the offense was being held in check.

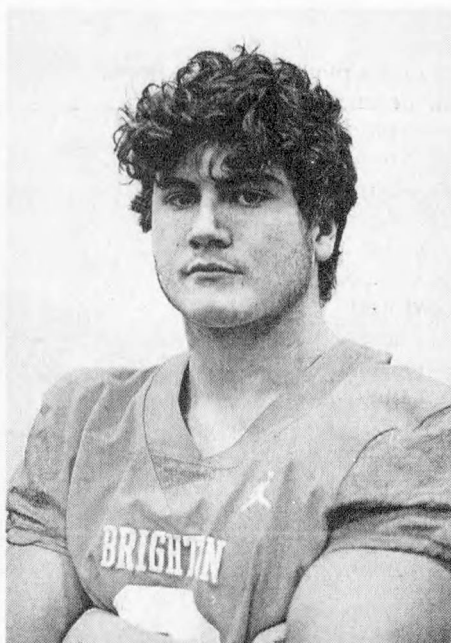
Harding played three varsity seasons with Brighton, becoming a starter because of an injury midway through his sophomore season. He tied for fourth on the team with 21 tackles in five games during a season shortened by the state's COVID restrictions.

"Growing up, of course I looked up to the varsity guys," Harding said. "Sophomore year is when I got pulled up. I didn't think I was going to play much. I was just happy to be with the team. Being able to play all three years starting, it's been a blessing. I've learned so much from everyone, from the seniors my sophomore year, to all the coaches who have been here. It's been really good."

The Bulldogs typically have a handful of sophomores on their roster, which is designed in part to prepare the school's most promising players to take on bigger roles as juniors and seniors. Harding put himself in a position to play more than most 10th-graders on the team in 2020.

"In his case, he was very athletic and very versatile, so we could use him in a lot of different spots," Brighton coach Brian Lemons said. "It made it easy to move him up ahead of schedule."

Also on the varsity as sophomores that season were Griffin Bell and Luke Frisinger, who combined with Harding to give Brighton a formidable lineback-



Hunter Harding.

ing corps. The success the trio had as seniors on Friday nights were developed through years of being with one another on and off the field.

"The chemistry between us, we can trust each other," Harding said. "That's the biggest thing other teams didn't have. They'd try to be selfish or didn't trust their partner next to them. I'm glad I had some battle buddies next to me I could trust. I just had to fill my role, and I knew they'd fill theirs."

Cade Riddle, who missed all but the final kneel-down snap of his senior year with an injury, was also part of that linebacking group in 10th grade.

"Ever since freshman year, we've always been a tight group," Harding said. "It's really nice, because every weekend we'd be hanging out, we'd be brothers. There's nothing more I can ask for. I'm going to miss every single one of them. Cade's going to Central. Hopefully, I can pop into a game there. I don't know where the other two are going, but hopefully we can stay tight."

Brighton had high aspirations this season, particularly after winning its first eight games. But the Bulldogs were no match for Belleville's collection of blue-chip talent in the KLAA championship game. As injuries mounted, they were also overpowered by Grand Ledge in the first round of the playoffs.

"I don't think it's hit me yet that it's all over for high school," said Harding, who hopes to continue playing in college. "I already miss all the guys. There are some guys I can't see that much because of school and other sports. I think I'm going to come back next year and it's going to be really fun. I need to come back for at least one game. The environment is insane."

Brighton's Shrader is Livingston County football Offensive Player of the Year

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Brighton's football team never took Carson Shrader for granted, but his value was amplified when the Bulldogs had to play without the senior running back.

An offense that averaged 30.3 points while starting the season 8-0 was held to two field goals in Brighton's final two games when Shrader was standing on the sidelines in a walking boot.

Granted, the opponents were state Division 1 champion Belleville and a Grand Ledge team that reached the third round of the state playoffs, but the Bulldogs were obviously missing a spark after Shrader sustained a fractured fibula in Week 8 against Howell.

"Not having him those last two games, definitely there was a lot more to overcome than we wanted," Brighton coach Brian Lemons said. "He was a special player, for sure."

Special enough to emerge from a pack of worthy candidates to earn Livingston County Offensive Player of the Year, as selected by the Livingston Daily.

Shrader made an impact in Brighton's running and passing games, rushing 90 times for 637 yards and 11 touchdowns and catching 19 passes for 241 yards and three scores. He led Livingston County with 7.1 yards per carry.

His totals would have been greater if Brighton hadn't pulled him early in blowout games or spread the ball around to other weapons. In a 43-6 victory over Salem, Shrader scored four touchdowns on five touches in the first quarter before taking the rest of the night off. He had two first-half touchdowns and 112 yards on only seven carries in a 35-7 victory over Plymouth.

One of the highlights of Shrader's season came in a 21-6 victory at Howell in Week 8. His 7-yard touchdown catch opened the scoring and his 1-yard run with 1:37 left in the game secured the Little Brown Jug for the Bulldogs.

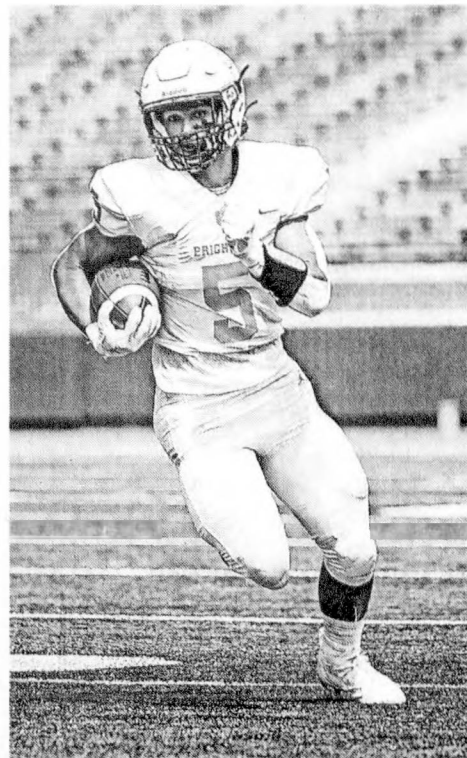
That last touchdown, which came on his seventh carry of the drive, was scored with a fractured fibula he sustained late in the third quarter.

"I didn't notice anything until I was on the bus on the way home," Shrader said.

He could only watch while Brighton lost to Belleville in the KLAA championship game and to Grand Ledge in the first round of the playoffs.

"It was tough, but I had to be there for my team," he said. "I had to support them."

The season didn't end the way Shrader envisioned, but he couldn't have asked for a much better start. On



Brighton running back Carson Shrader scored two long touchdowns against Dearborn Fordson at Michigan Stadium to open the 2022 season.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

the first possession of the season at Michigan Stadium, Shrader took a dump-off from Colin McKernan on third-and-6 and ran for a 56-yard touchdown down the left sideline, providing the spark in a 35-14 victory over Dearborn Fordson.

"It was great to start off that way," Shrader said. "It was just what we practiced. We came out and executed it. We had a great game at the Big House. It was a lot of fun."

"What I remember most is that whole play was just an audible for me and Colin. We saw the two linebackers come down. He audibled it and sent me on a flare route and I ran down the sideline."

Shrader also had a 38-yard touchdown run on Brighton's first play of the second half. Although he found great success on the football field, Shrader's first passion was hockey. He started playing football early in elementary school, but didn't play in eighth or ninth grade.

"I played hockey a lot those two years," he said. "Then I just decided to come back to football. I'm glad I did. It's a lot of fun."

Now, with his high school football career over, Shrader is back on the ice. He got a late tryout with Brighton's state-ranked hockey team after his injury healed and made the team.

Ultimately, though, he hopes that his final football game wasn't the night he got injured at Howell.

"Right now, my recruitment is 100% open," he said. "I'm just looking at some places. I'm waiting to see the right fit."

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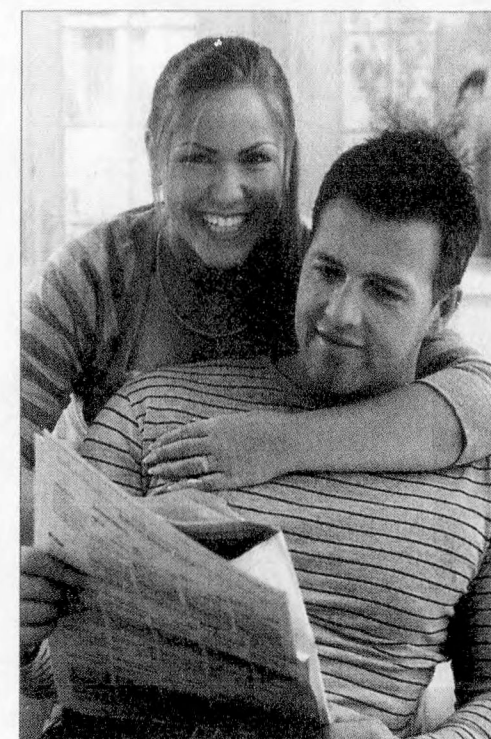
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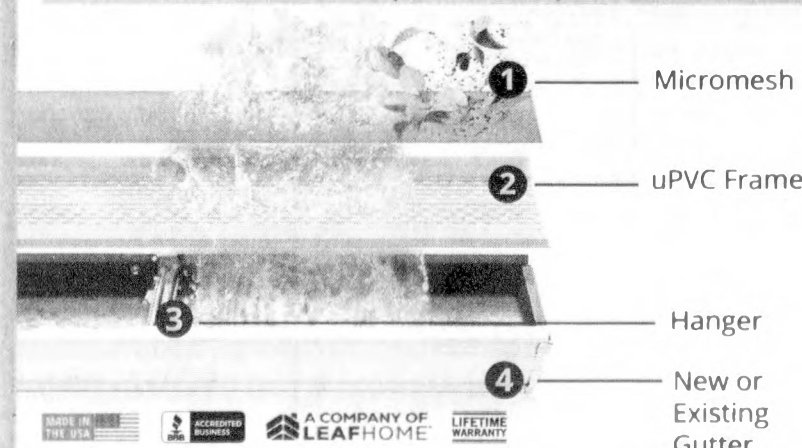
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