



Northville girls still in the race despite losing streak

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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New Patel Brothers grocery store in the works for Canton

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Patel Brothers, the U.S. based grocery chain focused on foods from India and the Middle East, is planning a new store in Canton.

The Canton Township Planning Commission recently reviewed a site plan for the 20,000 square-foot store proposed on a 2.6-acre parcel on the east side of Canton Center Road, between Ford and Hanford roads.

The site is the former location of the Canton Computers building, which will be demolished to make way for the new store if the plan is approved.

At the Jan. 11 planning commission meeting, Stephen Lechman, senior project manager for Partners in Architecture, said his firm was working on the new store in Canton, as well as others in Ohio, Georgia, Florida and Arizona.

"We've done a number of these Patel Brothers stores around the country," Lechman said. "(Patel Brothers) are very excited about getting into Canton. It's a specialty grocery store, obviously, specializing in Indian foods. We're excited to get this one going."

No one at Raja Foods, Patel Brothers' parent company in Chicago, was available to comment on the project.

Established in 1974, Patel Brothers operates 52 stores nationwide, including Michigan locations in Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, Garden City and Troy.

According to the company's website, its mission is to "bring the best ingredients from around the world, right to your doorstep. With a wide variety of authentic regional grocery and spice products, we strive to reconnect people with the familiar flavors of India."

The planning commission approved the proposed site plan with conditions; before going to the Canton Township Board of Trustees for final approval, the company must remedy issues related to landscape and lighting plans, masonry and ensure construction of a two-way driveway.

It was not clear when the proposal would appear on an agenda for the board of trustees or when construction would begin if the plan is approved.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.

New look for Northville



Looking northbound along Center Street in downtown Northville. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

First draft for downtown aims for more outdoor dining, safety features

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Could downtown Northville take on a new look? A new pedestrian plan recently proposed to the city council could lead to just that.

Consultants hired by the city last year to help develop a plan for the downtown area now that it is closed permanently to motor vehicle traffic unveiled its initial report after taking a look at Main and Center streets.

See NEW LOOK, Page 2A



A rendering provided by Grissim Metz Andriese Associates on what the entrance to downtown Northville could look like under a new pedestrian plan. The main streets downtown were closed permanently last year by the city council, which hired the Plymouth Township firm to help conceptualize what downtown could look like in the future. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE

South Lake Drive in Novi to close this spring for Lakeshore Park improvements

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

More improvements are coming to one of Novi's parks along the shores of Walled Lake.

The pedestrian tunnel that connects the beach to the parking lot at Lakeshore Park will be replaced this spring. That work is expected to begin

in March and run through the end of May, with city officials hoping it wraps before swimmers begin descending on the beach Memorial Day weekend.

"We hope to have it done by the time the beach opens," said interim city manager Victor Cardenas. "We're keeping our fingers crossed."

The work would also impact those who regularly travel along South Lake Drive: the road will close to vehicles for

the construction work, forcing drivers to detour along Old Novi Road, 12 Mile and West Park Drive.

"We really want to emphasize that," said Jeff Muck, the city's parks, recreation and cultural services director. "There's going to be a hole in the road."

The work will be completed by Green Oak Township-based Ponson Company,

See IMPROVEMENTS, Page 2A

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Six finalists to interview for Northville city manager job

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Who will Northville's next city manager be? The answer is expected soon. Six finalists are expected to interview with the City Council during an all-day special meeting Feb. 4 at Northville City Hall.

The council will convene at 8:30 a.m. and meet with each of the six candidates throughout the day, with each candidate receiving about 45 minutes for their interview. The meeting will also stream on Zoom.

The candidates were narrowed down from 24 to six by the City Council in mid-January. The six include:

- Michael Greene, assistant city manager, St. Clair Shores
- Cameron Horvath, city manager, Durand
- Haley Snyder, city manager, Albion
- Erik Tungate, city manager, Oak Park
- Daniel Selman, township deputy supervisor, Van Buren Charter Township
- George Lahanas, former city manager, East Lansing

Mayor Brian Turnbull said the City Council could reach a decision during its meeting Feb. 4, though a decision could come later at the council's Feb. 6 session at city hall. If a candidate is selected, Turnbull said it's expected they would

begin the position March 1.

The position became open after the retirement of Patrick Sullivan in early January. Mark Wollenweber, a former city manager in several communities, including Grosse Pointe Shores, currently serves as the interim city manager.

Turnbull said the search for a new city manager comes at a crossroads for the community. With all the talks of development, including the Northville Downs site, the Foundry Flask property, as well as the changes to downtown, Northville is on the cusp of major changes. Having the right candidate to lead the city's administration, he said, is key.

"This is a unique time for Northville. This isn't Northville of the past," he said. "We're acting as a much larger community right now because of all the activity."

The opening is just the latest in a series of city manager opening searches across the area. To the north of Northville, Novi is currently seeking a city manager after Pete Auger left his post last fall, and Birmingham is trying to hire a city manager to take over when the contract of current city manager Tom Markus expires later this year.

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

South Lyon Fire comes to rescue of woman poisoned by carbon monoxide

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon Fire Chief Joey Thorington knows it can be annoying when your carbon monoxide detector starts beeping and you're sure it's nothing.

Please don't turn it off, he asks, because it's there to potentially save your life.

The reminder comes after South Lyon firefighters responded to a condo on Franklin Terrace in the Colonial Acres Senior Living Community at around 11:07 a.m., Jan. 23 for an extremely ill female patient.

"While the rescue crew was there, the woman told them the carbon monoxide detector had started beeping the night before and she took the batteries out," Thorington said. "Fortunately she woke up. ... Things smelled different and it didn't feel right."

Firefighters suspected it could be a CO incident. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can be produced in high levels in a home by malfunctioning furnaces, hot water heaters or anything that uses gas. In this case, Thorington said it appeared a boiler used to heat the condo was at fault.

In addition to high levels of carbon

monoxide, Thorington said there were also high levels of combustibles in the condo that resulted in the odors.

Adjoining units also had levels of carbon monoxide and combustibles that were unacceptable. People living in six condos were evacuated. The residents initially were moved to the clubhouse and then were sent to stay at a hotel while a contractor worked to fix the issue, Thorington said.

Firefighters have responded to the senior living community in the past for carbon monoxide poisoning. Thorington said the fire department performs safety inspections on commercial buildings, but not on individual private residences.

Colonial Acres management could not be immediately reached for comment.

What to know about carbon monoxide poisoning

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting and confusion. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, carbon monoxide poisoning sends more than 100,000 Americans to hospital emer-

See RESCUE, Page 3A

Improvements

Continued from Page 1A

which was the low bidder for the project. The city council voted Jan. 23 to authorize a contract with the company for

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about \$600,000.

Muck said this will be the first major replacement of the tunnel since its installation several decades ago. The work will also include improving accessibility for the wash stations, as well as widening the tunnel's path.

"It's short, it's narrow," he said. "If you're pushing somebody in a wheelchair, it's not ideal."

Other work related to the tunnel replacement, including relocating power lines, will bring total costs for the project to about \$1 million, \$500,000 more than originally budgeted. The current state of industry variability has led to bids for projects being higher.

The work on the tunnel is just the latest improvement to the park on the city's north end. A new community building, along with new playground equipment and more, was installed and opened in 2021. A Novi Public Library kiosk, offerings several hundred materials available for checkout to cardholders, also opened on the site in recent years.

After the tunnel replacement, Muck



The pedestrian tunnel at Lakeshore Park in Novi will be replaced later this spring. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

said the next set of plans for Lakeshore Park include paving the parking lot near the back of the park, as well as improving the trailhead kiosk.

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678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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New look

Continued from Page 1A

The proposed plan, detailed during a joint meeting of the city council and the Downtown Development Authority Jan. 19 at city hall, reveals some of the biggest potential changes to the downtown

Northville landscape seen in decades if implemented. Those ideas stemmed from a pair of goals the consultants laid out at the beginning.

"We need to make Northville engaging and livable and it's a downtown for everyone," said Sue Grissim of Plymouth Township-based Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, the firm selected by the city to work on the pedestrian plan. "No. 2: It has to prosper. Businesses have to make it or else there's no point."

"Those were the two big goals we felt ... we had to achieve."

What does that plan look like? Vastly different than the current layout, which has essentially been in place since 2020, when the roads first closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Big proposals include adding features to the entrance areas along both Main Street and Center Street to make it more appealing and removing the orange construction barriers that currently keep vehicles out.

The detailed plan also calls for redesigning the road space, including adding areas for an elevated deck system to allow for outdoor dining to sit flush with the sidewalk. It would also add bollards — or permanent posts anchored to the ground — to help protect pedestrians; some of those bollards could also be removed easily for emergency vehicle access if that is needed.

While there could be big changes to the layout, the sidewalk and curbs would remain under the proposed plan.

"We think we can save some money by not doing this big, invasive construction," said C.J. Thompson, a Grissim Metz associate, about the existing sidewalk.

Just the next steps to transform downtown

The city council voted last August to permanently close portions of Main

Street and Center Street to motor vehicle traffic, a move that came after gathering feedback from residents, business owners and more. It was a decision that became fairly intense. Still, people spoke at the recent council meeting to ask the city to reconsider that decision and reopen the road to traffic.

After that decision, the city council authorized hiring Grissim Metz Andriese Associates last fall to help craft a new pedestrian plan to better move the downtown forward.

With the initial plan presented, the city's DDA is expected to spend more time digesting it and to come back to the city council with its version sometime in February, said Shawn Riley, the DDA's chairman.

While there were plenty of big items discussed that could completely transform downtown, Councilman John Carter said it was important to keep the expectations realistic. Such a plan, he said, allows the city to make better decisions about what it wants to see going forward in this new look for downtown. Grissim Metz's proposed plan, with everything completed, would run about \$1.1 million.

"We're not going to do every single item on this plan," Carter said. "Part of what we're going to get into today is what are the priorities? What does phase one look like? How do we make it flexible so that we recognize that we're going to learn along the way, but also show a commitment that this can be successful and everyone can invest in it together to do it for the long term."

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

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF MARCH 2023 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in the Mayor's Conference Room/Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The Board of Review will not hear appeals at the Organizational meeting.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Mayor's Conference Room/Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 13, 14, and 15, 2023.

If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 10, 2023, in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Department or at www.cityofnovi.org > Services > Board of Review Notice. Please bring four (4) copies of the documents to support your contention of True Cash Value to your board appointment.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Written Appeals: Taxpayers may file a protest and petition in writing, instead of appearing in person. Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on a limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.cityofnovi.org. Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

Monday, March 13, 2023 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room

Located in the Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

Cortney Hanson
CITY CLERK

What's up with the old Sears building?

Livonia property has been empty since 2020

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ever drive by the old Sears in Livonia and wonder what's going on with it? Us, too.

The old Sears, at the corner of Farmington and Seven Mile roads, is one of several large vacancies in the city that Livonia leaders see as opportunities for redevelopment. But, seeing opportunity isn't always enough to get ground broken for a new project.

Sears owner unwilling to part with property

A spinoff of Sears, Seritage Growth Properties, was formed in 2015 to sell and redevelop old Sears sites. The company has turned former Sears sites into office buildings, housing and retail space.

But it's unclear if the company has similar plans in Livonia.

Nothing regarding Sears has come to the city's planning department since the old Livonia Mall closed in 2008, and calls to sell have been mostly ignored. The Farmington and Seven Mile corner is one of three spots in the city identified in the Livonia Vision 21 master plan and considered prime for mixed-use development. Sears has to sell or request redevelopment before that can happen.

"I think levelling that Sears property would really help infuse energy into that corner," Dan West, CEO and president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said.

Media representatives with Sears did not respond to requests for comment. The Livonia business has been closed for business since 2020.



The City of Livonia is considering changing zoning rules in its master plan that could affect the former Sears lot at Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Creating the right proposal with the right developer

Just as the old Sears land has remained empty for years, the former Kmart at Seven Mile and Farmington roads has gone unused since 2017. Mark Taormina, the city's planner, said a new proposal for the site has never crossed his desk.

The land is being marketed by Schostak Brother and Company. Representatives with the company did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

"We'll see if they bring us something in 2023," Taormina said. "It has been a

while. In the meantime, the city will monitor the site and make sure it's properly maintained. It is identified as an opportunity for a mixed development center. Hopefully, that's what we'll see in the not so distant future."

Taormina said properties like Kmart and Sears, or even the soon-to-be empty Comerica Bank building at Six Mile and Haggerty roads, often need the right buyer, which can take time for relations to find.

Taormina's office can work with a developer before taking plans to the city's planning commission and council, and he said he expects to do that with large

developments.

"For a project like Comerica or Sears, I'm sure there will be meetings leading up to any formal review," he said. "It's not unusual, and quite frankly it's encouraged, to work with us early in the design process."

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

Man charged with murder in 2022 incident takes plea deal

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The teen who was driving the getaway vehicle the night Cameron Duckworth, 20, and Drake Mancuso, 16, were murdered last spring in White Lake has pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact.

Jesse James Wright, of White Lake Township, pleaded guilty Jan. 18 in front of Oakland County Circuit Court Judge David Cohen.

Prior to last week, when the accessory after the fact charge was added, Wright had faced two counts of murder, four weapons charges and two counts of armed robbery in connection with the deaths of Duckworth and Mancuso, both of Highland Township. Duckworth and Mancuso were found in May near a pond at the Cedarbrook Estates Mobile Home Community.

The plea deal and sentence agreement were sealed per court order.

White Lake police alleged that

Wright and Steven Dean Morrow, of Highland Township, both 18, had devised a plan to rob Duckworth and Mancuso over money, a backpack and a watch.

According to White Lake police, Wright drove Morrow, Mancuso and Duckworth to Cedarbrook Estates where they had agreed to visit a wooded area near the pond within the manufactured home community along LeGrand Boulevard, south of M-59.

Shrouded by woods, Morrow allegedly drew a pistol and fatally shot Duckworth and Mancuso. Morrow returned to the vehicle that Wright was driving, and they apparently fled from the area to dispose of evidence.

Judge Joseph Fabrizio of 52-2 District Court decided in July that Wright and Morrow should face trial on murder charges after a 17-year-old who was with the older teens that night testified against them for more than an hour.

Wright's attorney, Paul Stablein, subsequently argued that there was no evidence his client had prior knowledge

that a robbery or murder was planned. Fabrizio disagreed.

"He drove the vehicle to get bullets," the judge said. "He drove the vehicle to get Cameron. He drove to the site of the execution. As the prosecutor argues, he stayed in the vehicle. It could be concluded that that was because he knew what was going to go down."

Stablein did not respond to calls for comment, nor were requests for comment from Oakland County Prosecutor Karen D. McDonald's office returned.

Wright's sentencing is set for 3:30

p.m. on March 6 in front of Cohen.

Wright faces up to five years in prison and/or a fine of \$10,000.

A pre-trial hearing for Morrow is scheduled for 9 a.m., Feb. 1 in front of Cohen.

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

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Rescue

Continued from Page 2A

gency departments each year and kills more than 420 Americans annually. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

Thorington said the woman is "very fortunate" and expected to fully recover.

He urges residents to get heating appliances regularly inspected and never remove batteries from either carbon monoxide or smoke detectors.

If detectors are beeping, the fire department will come check the alarms for free, he said. Thorington said any city resident who does not have a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector can get one for free from the fire department, which also will install the unit at no charge. Call the City of South Lyon Fire Department at 248-437-2616.

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

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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, February 22, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider the 2023-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing. The draft Capital Improvement Program documents are available for examination and review by contacting the City Manager's Office, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours. Any written comments for the public hearing must be received by the Community Development Department, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Published February 2, 2023
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: February 2, 2023

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.738

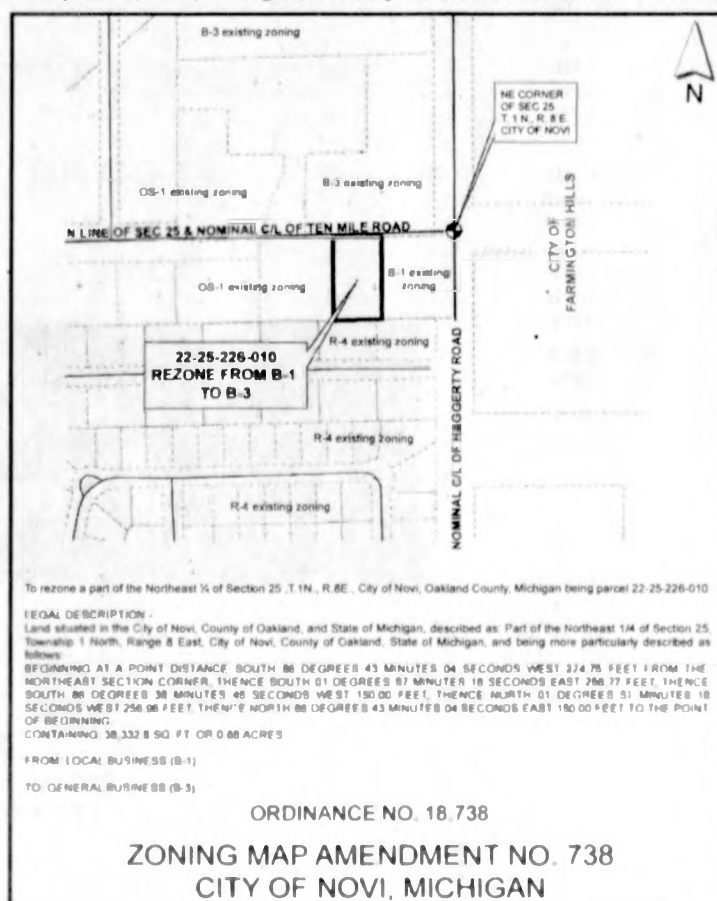
THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.738 attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance.

Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is February 7, 2023.

MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan the 23rd day of January, 2023. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time.



Robert J. Gatt, Mayor
Courtney Hanson, City Clerk

Published February 2, 2023

10-002870414 3x2 S

Farmington Hills firefighter sues city

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A paid on-call fire lieutenant who works for the Farmington Hills Fire Department says he was passed over for promotions because of his race and eventually transferred to a station where promotion would be more difficult.

The firefighter, Gary Reid, filed a federal lawsuit against the city and Fire Chief Jon Unruh on Sunday with the U.S. District Court. Reid, who is Black, says he was not considered for promotions while white colleagues were and was reprimanded for voicing concerns. He alleges the city violated his civil rights and is seeking compensation for things such as lack of promotion and humiliation.

Steve Joppich, attorney for the City of Farmington Hills, said the city hasn't been formally served the lawsuit. He added the city generally doesn't comment on ongoing litigation.

The lawsuit is the latest critique of how the city's public safety departments handle matters of race. Last year, residents expressed concerns about shooting targets the Farmington Hills police used, which prompted city council to order a review. At a council meeting Monday, independent consultants told city council the review found the department to be following best practices.

According to the lawsuit, Reid applied to become the district chief at Station 2 in November 2019 upon the then-chief's retirement. The retiree, according to the lawsuit, recommended Reid for the job as he was the highest ranked

individual at the station.

Reid says his letter of interest was ignored, and the district chief at Station 3 was assigned to cover Station 2 as well. Upon inquiry, Reid was told he was underqualified and needed to become a captain first.

The lawsuit lays out four examples of other men, all white, being promoted to district chief in Farmington Hills before becoming a captain. One of those examples is the former district chief Reid had sought to replace.

"Give everybody a district shot at becoming a district chief or captain," said Dionne Webster-Cox, Reid's attorney. "Give everyone an equal chance. Have some equality."

Reid claims his attempts to become captain were consistently thwarted with new requirements, all of which ended with a white colleague getting the

promotion or necessary training. Eventually, he was transferred to Station 4, where multiple people outranked him and promotion will be more difficult.

The lawsuit also alleges the department is an offensive environment for non-white employees, giving multiple examples and lengthy background. One example in the lawsuit shows imagery used in department training, which depicts a Black cartoon gorilla firefighter.

Another example in the suit filing is Reid's experience with a superior officer who, allegedly, used racial slurs and targeted Reid. That officer was fired in 2021, but was later named the department's "Firefighter of the Year."

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

21,000 requested license plates denied in 2022

Krystal Nurse

Lansing State Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Editor's note: Some of the requests for vanity plates contain vulgarity.

Michiganders can express their love for a city, team, phrase or nearly anything under the sun with their license plate, but not all desired tags ever get seen in traffic.

The Michigan Secretary of State office denied 21,652 custom plates in 2022, compared to 118 requests in the first six months of 2021, according to a public records request. Rejected plates included DEMONIC, DIARHEA, 2BOOBS, HOTBOX and HOTDAMN (cue Captain Raymond Holt from the TV show, "Brooklyn Nine-Nine").

Some of the denied plates include lewd or sexual content, euphemisms for certain drugs, opinions on politicians, curse words or more simply, the age-old hate of a particular state southeast of Michigan.

Angela Benander, SOS' deputy chief of communications, said there isn't a way for the department to count up the



A rendering of a denied license plate. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

number of denials in a given year. Instead, there's a committee of mostly-volunteered SOS staff who review custom plates every day.

That new section has a list of flagged plates where a subcommittee reviews and votes on the plates. A plate passes if the committee voted in the majority for it and it moves forward for final review by SOS leadership. Benander said leadership can always override approvals if they find violations. The whole process takes 40 hours a week of combined effort.

"Ones that get denied get added to the master file and the customer is sent a letter with the policy, and then they are asked if they wish to review the denial or send back a list of possible other plates," she said.

The denied messages for customized plates are part of SOS's aptly named "bad word file," a compilation of tags that people submitted upon registration. Michiganders can order a plate on Michigan.gov/SOS starting at \$5 per plate.

According to the Michigan Vehicle

Code, the department will deny any plate that has a "configuration of either letters, numbers or letters and numbers that carries a connotation" deemed to be profane or obscene. That included several iterations of damn, hell, DEEZNTZ and rapper Cardi B's hit song "WAP."

One of the categories with the most denied plates is swear words, with at least 730 attempted uses, not including all alphanumeric combinations. Over 900 tags that were sexually explicit or described genitals were also denied.

To the humor, or disgust, of some, 33 variations of "fart" made the list, including "IFARTED" and "UFARTED."

Plates promoting hate or violence directed to anyone or a business were denied. At least 45 slurs were denied last year.

Plates that interfere with law enforcement's plate identification or conflict with the number system were also denied such as F00000D, LOLZZZZ and Q00Q00Q, among others.

As for references to Ohio, 10 plates — including OHIOSUX — were denied.

Contact reporter Krystal Nurse at 517-267-1344 or knurse@lsj.com.



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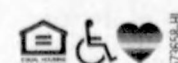
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Canton to host town hall on license plate readers

Laura Colvin
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Police say the license plate reader cameras they're proposing for the corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road, on the southwest side of the township, will help solve crimes in an area hit hard by retail thefts.

But before deciding whether or not to use the controversial cameras, the Canton Board of Trustees wants to hear what the public has to say. At 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, police department officials will present information about the proposal during a meeting at township hall, 1150 Canton Center Road.

Residents are invited to make comments or ask questions. Prior to the

meeting, questions can be emailed to chad.baugh@cantonmi.gov.

"I want to make sure the community has some input," Director of Police Services Chad Baugh said, noting the township board will ultimately give a thumbs up or down on use of the cameras. "This is an opportunity for the community to understand how we would implement this type of technology in a limited, measured fashion."

In November, police officials gave a presentation to the board about using the cameras based on the department receiving a \$40,710 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance that would cover the cost and installation of four Motorola LPR cameras on poles at the Michigan Avenue and Beck Road intersection. Approximately 30,000 cars

pass through the area daily, police said.

At the November meeting, Baugh acknowledged the technology can be controversial due to privacy concerns. In Ypsilanti Township, for example, citizens recently protested a plan to install LPRs in that community.

The LPR cameras take still photographs of passing vehicles, recording license plate numbers, as well as the date, time, the make, model and color of vehicle, and GPS coordinates. Plates would be cross-checked against a "hot list" to identify vehicles associated with crime and alert police to wanted subjects, stolen vehicles, amber alerts, missing persons or someone on a terrorist watch list, for example.

LPRs do not photograph the driver or vehicle occupants, or provide name,

date of birth, address or other identifying information about the driver, but that information is available to police through a secondary search.

Baugh previously said his research shows LPRs are used by Michigan State Police, as well as in Warren, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Kalamazoo, Southfield, Flint, Jackson, Wyoming, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Troy, Sterling Heights, Chesterfield Township, Van Buren, Livingston County, Grosse Ile and Grosse Pointe Park, and by Metro Airport and Oakland County Sheriff.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.

New country music festival based on 'Yellowstone'

Jennifer Eberbach
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A new festival featuring country bands, food trucks and a look-a-like contest based on the hit TV show "Yellowstone" is coming to the Brighton area this summer.

The Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce announced in a humorous Instagram video that it will hold the Yellowstone Country Music Festival on July 22 at Mt. Brighton in Genoa Township.

With downtown Brighton under construction for a massive streetscaping project most of the year, some festivals and civic events will have to move or be postponed.

"We can't have our festivals downtown," Pam McConeghy, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce said.

"We decided not to have the art festival this year and have this country music festival instead this year, and we hope it will become an annual staple," McConeghy said. "We're making the best of a tough situation, and we're looking outside the box."



Members of the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce view the premiere of a video spoofing the "Yellowstone" TV show. The video was created to announce a new country festival coming to the Brighton area on July 22.

The festival will be held from 2 to 10 p.m. July 22 at Mt. Brighton, a ski and snowboarding venue near Brighton.

McConeghy said they are still planning some of the event details.

Dressing the part

Several employees of the chamber dressed up as iconic characters from "Yellowstone" and created a humorous video spoofing the TV show to begin announcing the new festival on social media.

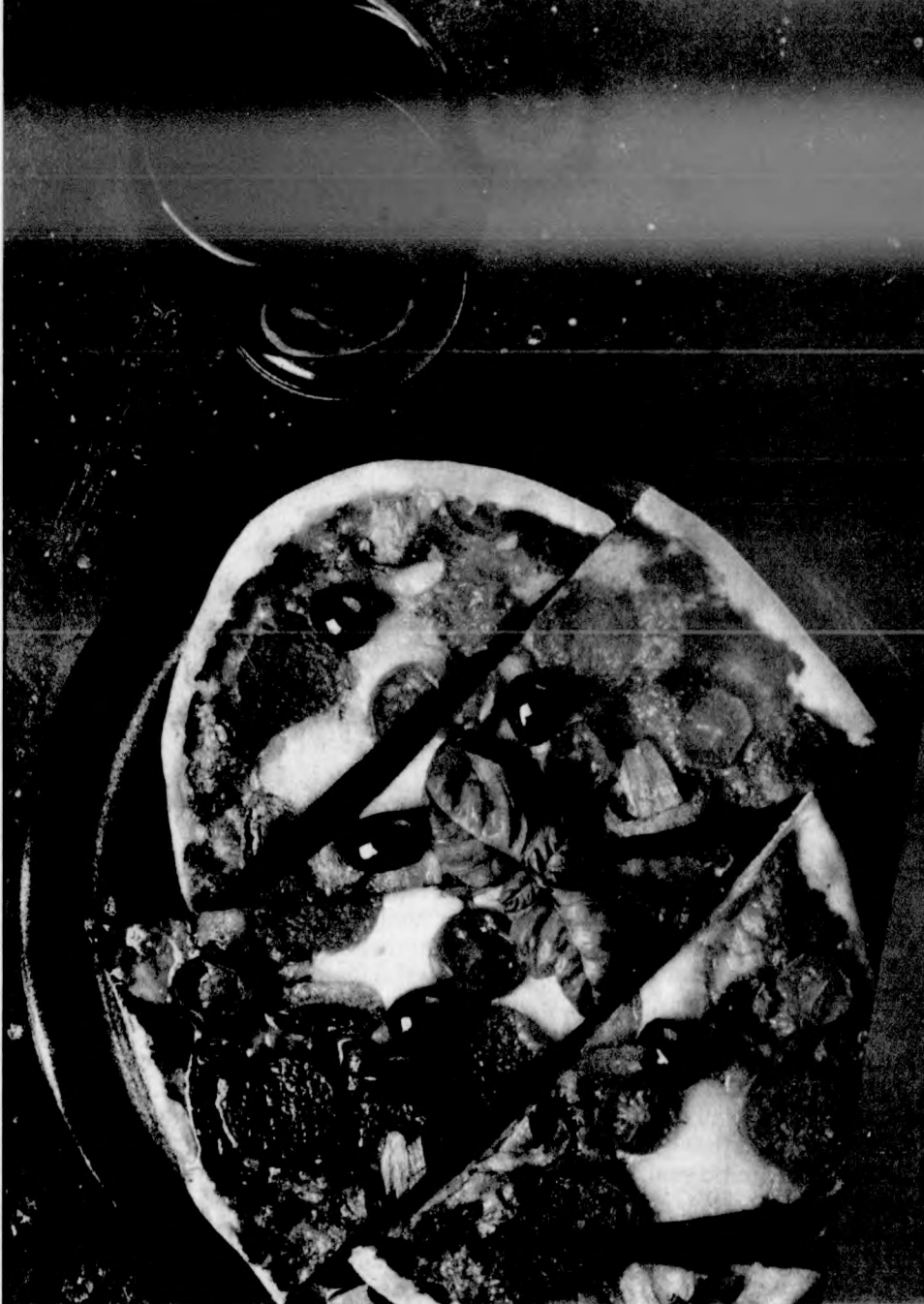
"It's going to be like the TV show with a look-a-like contest and things like that," McConeghy said. "We're obviously going to tame it way, way, way down."


She said they have not booked bands, and they will likely be a combination of Michigan acts and acts from out of state.

"We're looking at about four country music bands, and we're looking at food trucks, pony rides and having horses out there. We're going to make it as realistic as possible," she said.

She said she expects people will show up in western wear, cowboy hats and boots, some in costumes depicting characters from the show. They plan to hold a contest for the best costumes.

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Jennifer Eberbach at jeberbach@livingstondaily.com.





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EMBARK ON A TOUR


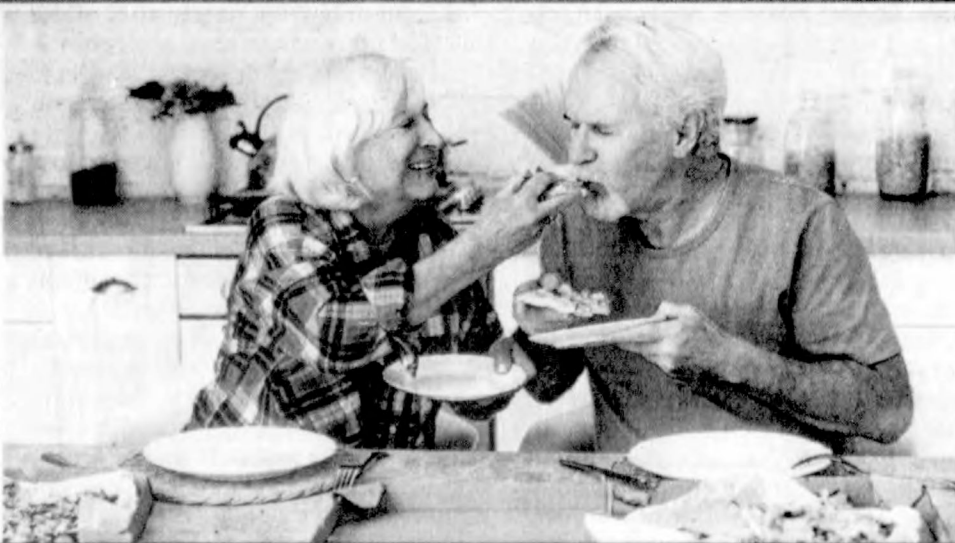
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FIND THE WORDS

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

Bales	Dogs	Lambs	Table
Blades	Ewes	Layers	Tails
Brand	Experience	Lifts	Tally
Chute	Fleece	Machine	Tired
Classer	Gate	Numbers	Tough
Click	Grazier	Owner	Travel
Cocky	Guns	Pays	Waste
Comb	Help	Price	Wool press
Count	Hogget	Rams	Yard
Dags	Horns	Smoke	Yield
Dips	Hungry	Sort	

TODAY'S ANSWER

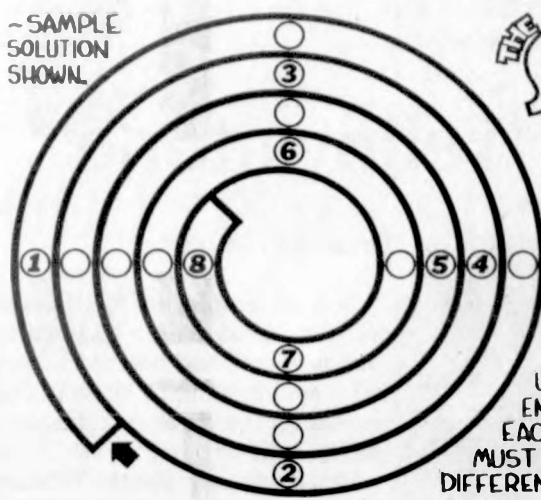
Shearing is back breaking work

Click go the shears

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

PUZZLES & POSERS

~SAMPLE
SOLUTION
SHOWN~



THE SPIRAL
ADDAGE

START AT THE ARROW
WITH THE NUMBERS
ONE THRU EIGHT.
AS YOU TRAVEL IN-
WARD, DROP OFF
THE NUMBERS IN
ORDER AT THE CIRCLES
OF YOUR CHOICE.
UPON REACHING THE
END OF THE SPIRAL,
EACH ROW OF CIRCLES
MUST TOTAL 9. HOW MANY
DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS EXIST?

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

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

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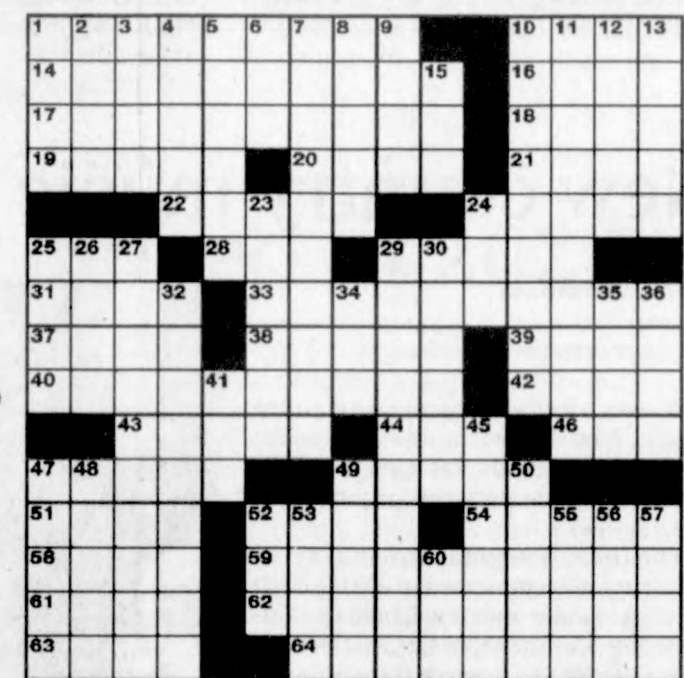
NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Skewered then served
10 "I need speed"
14 Walk of Style locale
16 Quick declination
17 Sizable print makers
18 Hardly a hot spot
19 Application before many Asian weddings
20 Cousin of -palooza
21 Winged mud-prober
22 A lot of trivia
24 Doing what's dignified
25 People taking seats
28 Beginning to fade
29 Toon bearded brawny bully
31 Capital on the Persian Gulf
33 Grounds
37 Iniquity
38 Set one's sights
39 Swamp thing
40 Ceramist's glazing process
42 "Keep Commerce Human" site
43 Yorkshire's largest city
44 It's left
46 Spelling example
47 Far from certain
49 Sound of the city
51 Propeller of a spinning wheel
52 *Tierra en el mar*
54 Car charger
58 Buck
59 Place for pipes and pumps
61 Then

DOWN

- 1 Sound like "Grrr!"
2 Time-honored backstories
3 Mideast capital-in-exile
4 High-fiber food
5 Share a task
6 Without a match
7 42 Across alternatives
8 Name on Perfectly Moist mixes
9 Deadline lead-ins
10 Record replacement
11 Password, from the Bible
12 Striking location
13 Versifications
15 Ultimate ending
23 Far from stout
24 Order follower
25 Middle of Martius and Maius
26 Series with a 2022 "Saving Venice" episode
27 Part of the Boston Celtics logo
29 How foxgloves flower
30 One put up
32 Best of friends
34 "Say no more"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/28/23

TODAY'S ANSWER

THERE ARE SIX DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS.



SOLUTION



Mich. can learn from previous disasters

State has 3 \$1B-plus events since 1980, more on the way

Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

As human fossil-fuel burning warms the global climate, severe storms have increased in frequency and intensity. And with that have come more expensive impacts.

Historic temperature and precipitation data show that the Great Lakes region is warming faster than the rest of the contiguous United States. U.S. annual precipitation increased 4% between 1901 and 2015, but the Great Lakes region saw an almost 10% increase over that interval.

Heavy rains are getting heavier, as well. Researchers looked at the top 1% of rainfall events, based on the amount of rain that fell within a 24-hour period, and found that the amount of rain falling in those heavy events has increased 42% in the Midwest since the 1950s. Only the northeastern U.S. had a more pronounced increase, at 55%. Scientific modeling projects rain and snowfall in the Great Lakes region could increase by up to 30% by century's end.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information compiles data on the economic cost of severe weather events. It found the U.S. has sustained 341 weather and climate disasters since 1980 where overall damages and costs exceeded \$1 billion when adjusted to the 2022 Consumer Price Index. The total cost of those floods, severe storms, wildfires, blizzards and other calamities: more than \$2.475 trillion.

"Michigan and the Great Lakes region have been spared the high-end, billion-dollar disasters that other regions of the country have experienced — the South and Southeast in particular," said Adam Smith, a lead scientist with the National Centers for Environmental Information. "However, Michigan has been impacted by numerous events: severe storms including tornadoes, hail and high winds; drought; winter storms and flooding events."



Hazel Park officer Jeff Czarnecki helps rescue Nabil Kinaia of Sterling Heights who was trapped along northbound 75 at Woodward Heights on Monday, August 11, 2014, after heavy rains flooded multiple expressways in metro Detroit. At least seven vehicles were completely submerged. RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Here are the three most impactful and costly weather-and-climate-related events in Michigan since 1980:

1988 nationwide drought — total cost: \$51.4 billion

In 1988, at or near record-high temperatures combined with at or near record-low precipitation across virtually the whole country, and by midsummer, a disaster was unfolding that rivaled the infamous Dust Bowl that beset the U.S. Plains in the early 1930s.

By mid-July 1988, nearly 40% of the U.S. land mass was in severe or extreme drought, with another 28% in moderate drought. The conditions hit Michigan hard as well. The Sturgeon River in the western Upper Peninsula flowed at just 5% of its normal summer rate. About half of Michigan's corn and hay crop was lost or was poor. Ten million Christmas tree seedlings out of 13 million planted in Michigan that year died.

With crop losses approaching \$600 million in Michigan, the federal government declared every county in the state a disaster area, making it the 15th state to have all of its lands eligible to access federal relief funds in that long, dry, hot summer.

"Many areas of Michigan experi-

enced the worst drought ever recorded. Record low rainfalls were accompanied by record high temperatures," said Jon Bartholic, then a professor at Michigan State University's Department of Community Sustainability, who was a panelist in a federal and academic review of the drought in the fall of 1988.

Bartholic noted that once rainfall returned to closer to normal, governmental agencies' efforts to better prepare for such drought events waned. Then he offered this statement, some 18 years before Al Gore's 2006 movie "An Inconvenient Truth" brought climate change more into the public consciousness:

"The question of the contribution of the Global Warming Trend to the drought has continued as a question in most individuals' minds. The need for long-term strategic planning with well-developed tactical plans is clearly evident."

Severe summer storms, June and August 2021 — total cost: \$2.8 billion

Michiganders got hit with a one-two weather punch in the summer of 2021.

A June 25-26 storm swept through the Great Lakes region, dropping 6 to 7 inches of rain in some areas of metro

Detroit. Some 23,000 Detroit residents filed claims for flooded basements and homes. The Detroit Public Library and other public buildings were flooded. The Interstate 96 freeway was closed for days.

Then, on Aug. 11-12, 2021, another series of violent storms walloped southern Michigan, dropping up to 5 inches of rain and this time accompanied by wind gusts of around 70 mph. DTE and Consumers Energy reported nearly 850,000 lost power in the storms. In a bitter irony, Federal Emergency Management Agency teams in Detroit to assess damage claims from the June storms had to hang tight at their hotel due to flooding from the August storm.

Severe rainstorm, Aug. 11, 2014 — total cost: \$1.3 billion

For short-term intensity, no modern weather event tops the Aug. 11, 2014, storm.

That afternoon and evening, 4 to 6 inches of rain fell in metro Detroit in less than four hours. Thousands of homes flooded. Every major freeway in the area — Interstate 75, Interstate 94, Interstate 696 and the Lodge — had portions closed for days due to flooding.

More than 1 billion gallons of stormwater containing sewage overflowed into local waterways in Macomb County, with at least 67 million gallons so polluted even in the rainwater dilution that it didn't meet federal standards.

Infrastructure planners had been well aware of increasing storms and their strengthening intensities prior to the August event. But its devastating wake after just a few hours still knocked them back on their heels.

"That was a very significant storm, and a lot of work has been done since then," said Kelly Karll, manager of environment and infrastructure for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Most infrastructure was built post-World War II, with about 80% contribution from the federal government. That same, aged infrastructure is still there, and now the federal government's contribution is about 10%, she said.

Contact Keith Matheny: kmatheny@freepress.com.

Livonia residents want to save closed library branch

Shelby Tankersley

HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After hearing news the Livonia's administration was planning to request demolition of the Alfred Noble Library, at 32901 Plymouth Road, Jeff Dutka got to work.

Dutka, who grew up in Livonia, has been mobilizing residents and knocking on doors in recent months, encouraging people to show their support of the library. The group, called "Save Alfred Noble Library," showed up en masse at a Livonia City Council meeting on Jan. 18. Roughly 20 people voiced their opinions to council.

"My neighbors and I loved having a library in walking distance," resident Heather Fowler said. "We would love to see tax dollars invested in the remediation and repair of Noble, not destruction."

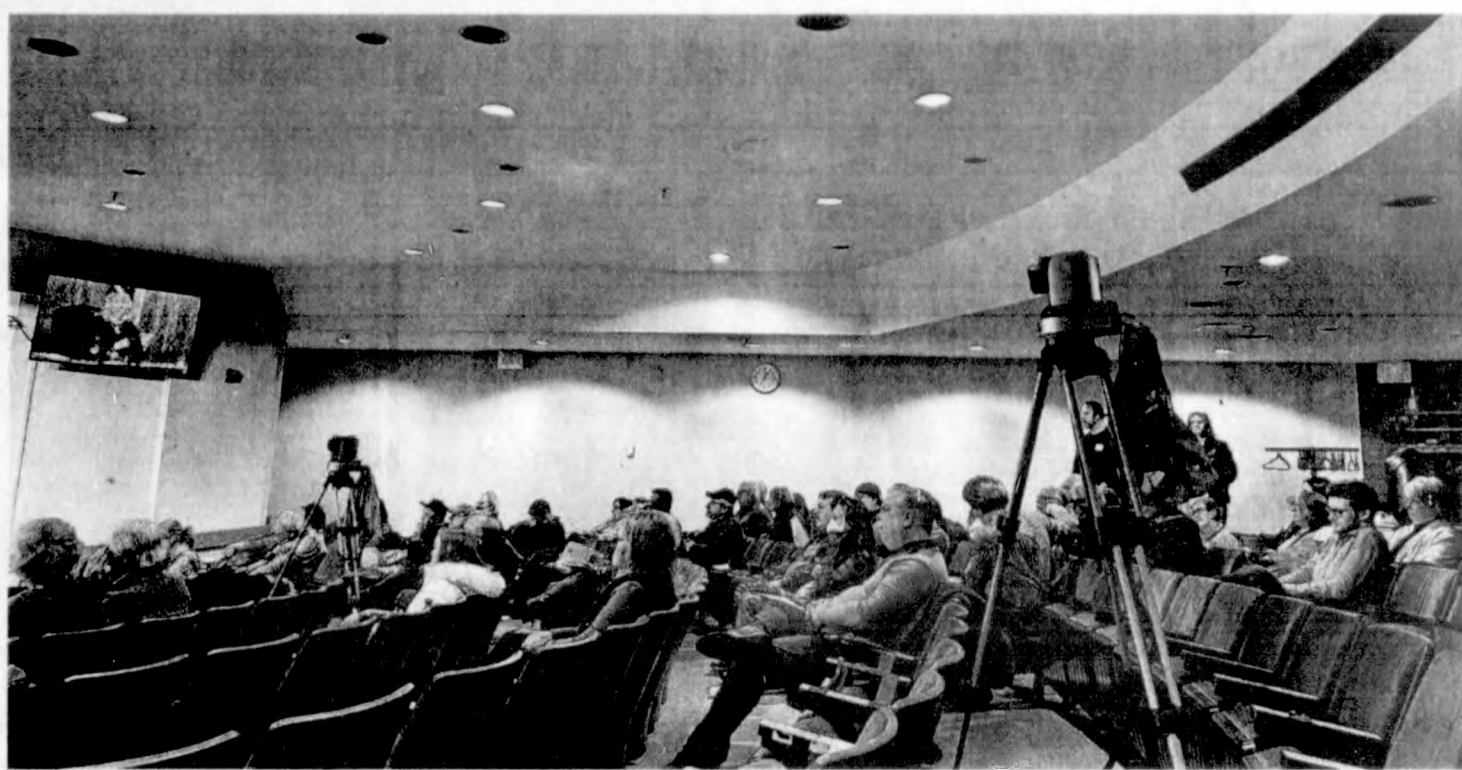
Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan told council in October 2022 that she plans to request demolition of Noble, at 32901 Plymouth Road, this year. The building has been closed since October 2019 due to mold concerns, which officials say it has struggled with for decades. Prior to the 2019 closure, the branch was open two days a week.

Brosnan cited maintenance costs at the city's other libraries — Sandburg and Civic Center — along with the mold issues as reasons for her decision. The city estimates a new Noble library would cost upwards of \$6 million, which would be in addition to the more than \$15 million the city's library system expects to invest at Civic Center and Sandburg over the next decade.

The mayor has said her intention, if council approves demolition, is to gather citizen input regarding the land Noble is on and the libraries to create better services for residents. Josh Sabo, a spokesperson for the city, said the mayor still plans to request demolition in February or March and wants residents to dictate what happens to the site afterward.

But still, some residents say they'd like to see the building reopened. Several people noted the building's cultural significance, having been designed by celebrated architect Gunnar Birkerts.

"It's important for us to protect the



A large group of Livonia residents expressed their desire for the Alfred Noble Library to remain open during a Jan. 2023 city council meeting. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

architecture and culture that this building brings to our community," resident Edward Dutka said.

Others said they miss having library services on the city's south side.

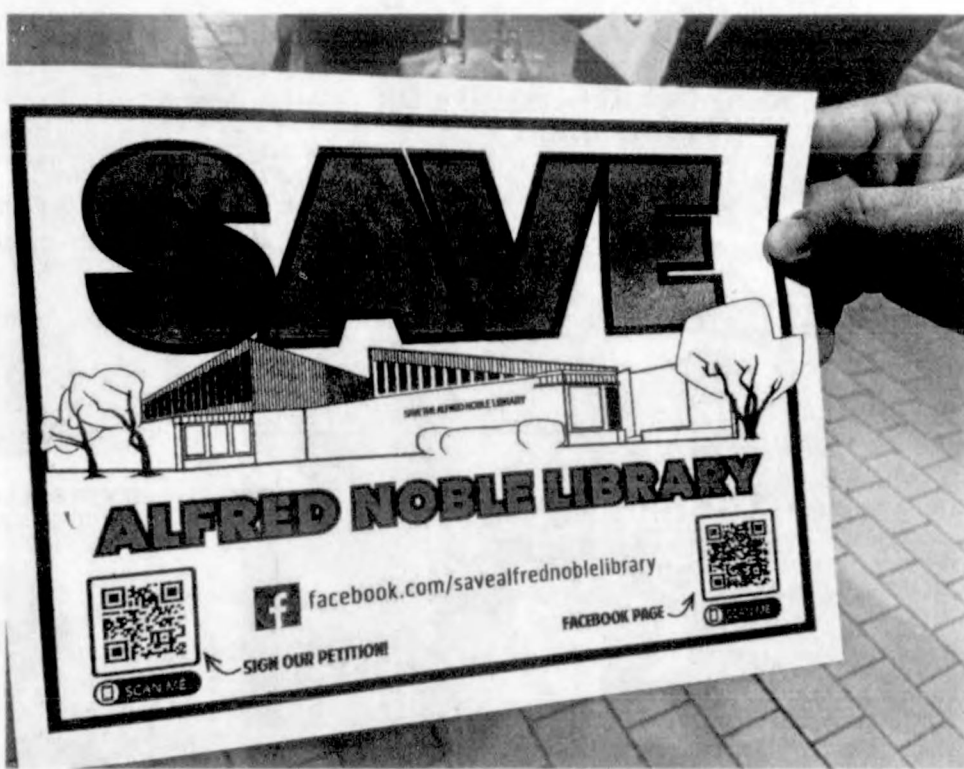
"I just love the library and I've been waiting for it to open up again," resident Pat Hamilton said. "I spend a lot of time up there reading, doing my taxes and spending time there."

Noble wasn't an agenda item at the Jan. 18 meeting, and council noted a decision is likely a couple months away.

"It's part of my family, and I would hate to see it go also," Councilman Scott Morgan, who lives in south Livonia, said. "But we haven't had any definite plans, and we're still going to review that. Hopefully, the community can be involved. We'll see what happens."

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

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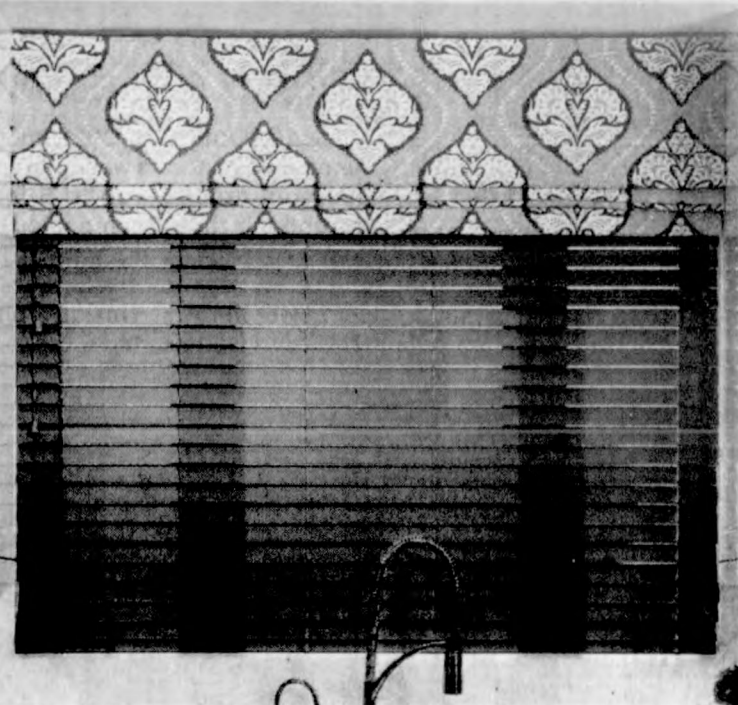


A sign encourages Livonia residents to save the Alfred Noble Library. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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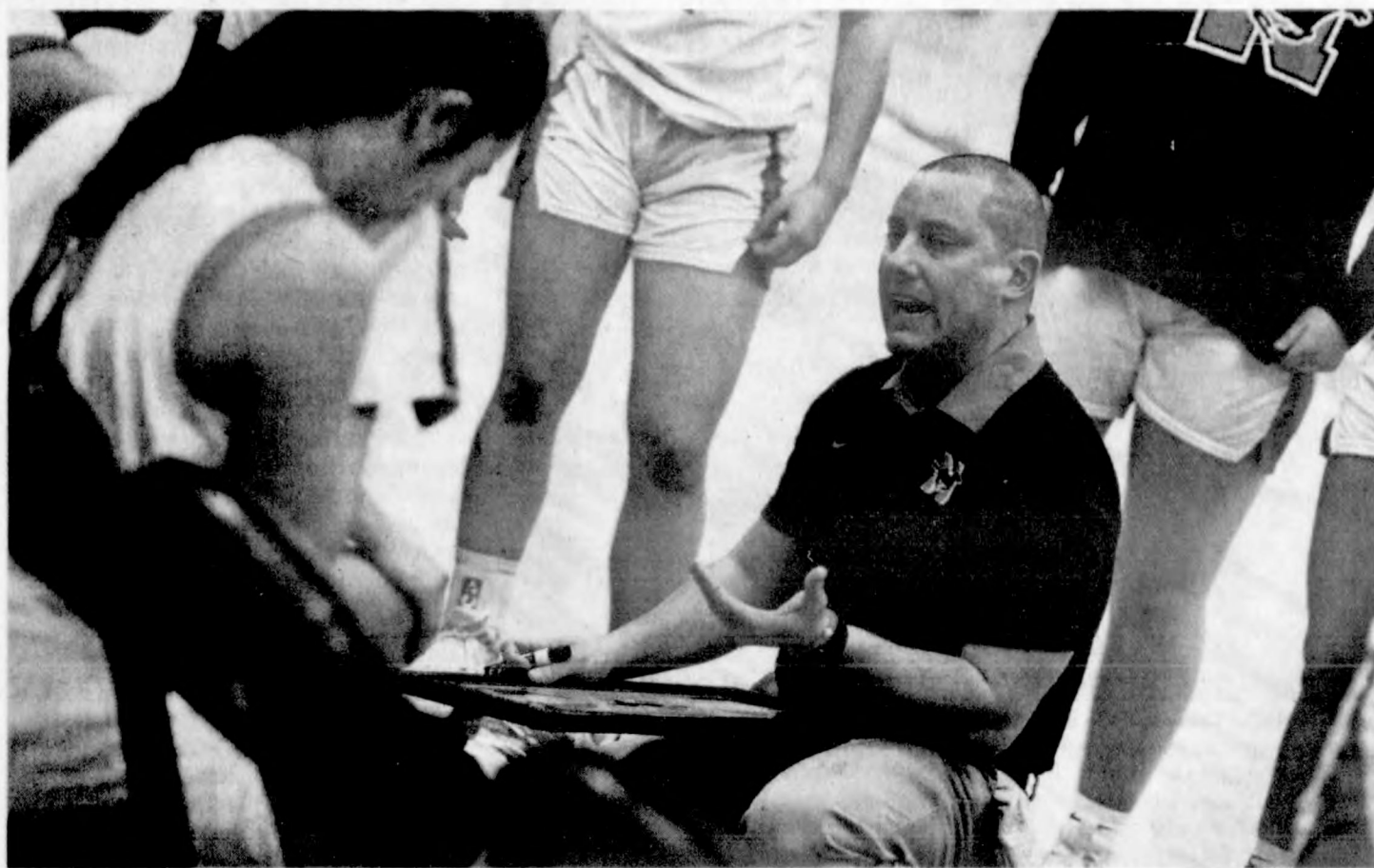
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SPORTS

UPHILL BATTLE



Northville coach Todd Gudith talks to his players during a KLA West girls basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville girls still in KLA West race despite recent 3-game losing streak

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Todd Gudith was dreading practice at the beginning of the week.

The Northville girls basketball coach was expecting low spirits. It wouldn't have been a surprise if some of the Mustangs just went through the motions.

And it made sense why he was feeling like that.

This year, more than any year, Northville had a legit chance to win the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West. Since the league was established in 2008-09, a team from Livingston County — Hartland, Howell and Brighton — has won the division every season. Canton, Northville, Salem, Plymouth and Novi have never represented the West as a No. 1 seed in the league's annual conference tournament.

But this year presented a possible changing of the guard. Following last season, legendary Hartland coach Don Palmer retired and the Eagles were expecting a rebuild after losing most of their talent from last year's state runner-up team. Brighton coach Paul Ash stepped down, too. And programs such as Northville and Salem entered the winter with stacked rosters.



Northville's Evelyn Deren gets fouled by Olivia Maciag while shooting during a KLA West girls basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The Mustangs got off to just the start they wanted in the West. In early January, they beat Hartland for the first time since the league formed. And then they knocked off rival Novi.

After that? Things just fell apart.

They lost to Brighton by a basket. Four nights later, they lost to Salem by a single point. Yes, really.

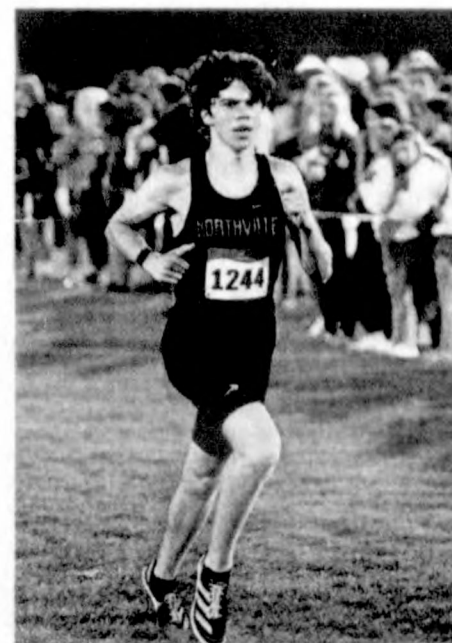
Surely, senior-laden Northville was going to bounce back with a win at Howell, right? Nope. It lost by 13.

Gudith knew the Mustangs had an opportunity to finally win a division championship. And they were letting it slip. So no wonder he was bummed when he got to practice on Monday.

Certainly, his players were just as upset, right?

"I was really pleasantly surprised with how our kids reacted," Gudith said following Northville's 34-23 three-game-losing-streak-snapping victory over Plymouth on Tuesday night. "We were worried that our kids were going to be down, especially our seniors, who are so used to winning, and we had a good year last year, and, really, I was dreading practice. But they came in and were so positive, smiling, laughing and having a good

See BATTLE, Page 2B



Northville's David Whitaker competes during The Lamplighter cross-country invitational Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, at Ford Field in Livonia. TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

13 seniors named finalists for MHSAA award

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Jan. 18, the Michigan High School Athletic Association named 120 finalists for its annual Scholar-Athlete award.

For the past 34 years, the governing body of high school athletics in this state has awarded up to 32 seniors per school year with \$2,000 college scholarships. So far, 896 scholarships have been awarded.

Thirteen student-athletes from Hometown Life's coverage area, which includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon, Milford, White Lake, Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Westland, Wayne, Redford and Garden City, were named as finalists (see list of names below).

According to the MHSAA, 421 schools submitted applications and 1,440 applications were received. No school had more finalists than Cranbrook Kingswood (four).

A 65-member committee of coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and school board members from around Michigan will judge the applications over the next few weeks. The 32 scholarship recipients will be named throughout February. Class C and D winners will be announced on Feb. 7, Class B will be on Feb. 14 and Class A will be on Feb. 21.

Here's a look at the local student-athletes who made the cut:

GIRLS CLASS A

Ella Blank, Birmingham Groves
Caroline Colt, Milford
Leah Merriam, Milford
Kate Mazur, South Lyon East
Amyla Eberhart, South Lyon East

BOYS CLASS A

Henry Jackson, Bloomfield Hills
Abhinav Attaluri, Northville

See AWARD, Page 2B

Bloomfield Hills bounces back after dropping OAA-White game to Troy

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Thursday night, as Birmingham Groves boys basketball coach Marc West exited the locker room following the Falcons' comeback win over Lake Orion, athletic director Tom Flynn stopped West and told him the news.

"Troy won tonight," the AD said.

West's eyes widened, but then he quickly wiped the surprise from his

face.

Yeah, the Colts upsetting Bloomfield Hills, winners of the past two Oakland Activities Association-White championships, is a big deal. But not even Groves' first-year coach was shocked to hear it had happened.

That's just how tough this division is this winter.

That's why Friday night, just 24 hours later, it was all about fixing mistakes for the Black Hawks.

Merely beating Detroit Country Day

in a ho-hum non-conference matchup wasn't going to be good enough. Bloomfield Hills needed to come out and prove that the way it had stumbled across the finish line against Troy was not how the Black Hawks play basketball.

And a lot of proving is what they did.

Senior captains Noah Adamczyk and Ahmad Taylor broke open an 11-

See GAME, Page 2B



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Game

Continued from Page 1B

point game by scoring 11 and eight points, respectively, during a 24-2 run against the Yellowjackets in the third quarter.

In fact, with 1:15 remaining in the period, coach Brian Canfield subbed out Adamczyk, Taylor and Brandon Newland, three of his starters, as a job-well-done gesture and the trio sat the rest of the 67-39 victory watching from the bench.

"We dropped one yesterday, and you really want to regroup, but that's hard to do without a practice," Canfield said. "We had a lot that we wanted to work on from yesterday and bring into today. And practice helps with that, but we were playing back-to-back. So we had to talk about what we wanted to do. We came out and thought we performed on those things. We really took care of our responsibilities on defense. We shared the ball with a more balanced attack to-night, which is good."

Friday could've easily been a trap game, too.

For one, it was Black Hawk Fever night, an annual event where the school celebrates all of its sports teams with a pre-game parade around the gymnasium and plenty of additional fanfare. Even the Detroit Pistons Extreme Team — yeah, the guys who do acrobatic half-time shows while dunking on trampolines — were on hand. There were a lot of distractions there.

And not only were the Black Hawks (10-3) playing without rest, but they were facing a rebuilding (yet scrappy) Yellowjackets squad that was enduring an eight-game losing streak.

And Country Day did its best to make a game out of it. In fact, it limited Adamczyk, arguably one of the best, if not the best, scorers in the OAA, regardless of division, to just three field goals in the first half. The Yellowjackets constantly locked in on the shooting guard and doubled him when possible.



Bloomfield Hills' Drew Wilson attacks the basket during a boys basketball game against Detroit Country Day on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The senior caught fire in the third quarter by making five field goals to shake off the slow start.

"It was a rough one last night," said Adamczyk, who scored 18 points. "We didn't play our best, and they (Troy) played a really good game and, probably, the best they'll play against us. But we just had to bounce back tonight."

While it wasn't surprising to see Taylor, who finished with 10 points, have a big third quarter, how he did it was eye-opening. At one point, the power forward scored six straight, which included a no-look reverse layup following an out-of-bounds play, a tough drive to the hoop and a jumper from almost the 3-point line.

Not bad for the 6-foot-3, 230-pound defensive end, who has picked up four offers to play college football since he was named MVP of the Legacy All-Star football game back in November.

"I just caught a hot streak, but really it's just about always having a leadership mindset," said Taylor, who hopes to make his college decision in February. "You've just always got to have a positive outlook to always keep people engaged in the game and keep moving. It was a little upsetting (losing to Troy the night before), but, of course, everything can't go perfectly, but we have another chance to go back to their place (on Feb. 17) and face them again and hopefully get a W."

The reality is, from top to bottom, the OAA-White isn't going to be an easy schedule for any of the six teams.

Troy sits in first place at 2-0 overall, followed by Bloomfield Hills at 3-1, West Bloomfield and Groves at 1-1, Farmington at 1-2 and Lake Orion at 0-2.

And the last-place Dragons aren't bad. They led Groves for most of Thursday night until the Falcons put together a 17-0 run in the fourth to earn a comeback victory.

"I think that the team that wins the league can drop multiple games and still win," Canfield said. "I tell people all the time: Somebody in this conference, the OAA-White, is going to finish in last place and they're going to be a good basketball team. I don't know which one it's going to be, but somebody is going to be good and finish at the bottom."

With that kind of competition, it'll be tough for the Black Hawks to threepeat. Even more so if freshman guard Drew Wilson, who left Friday's game with a head injury, is unable to play for the foreseeable future.

But a competitive league was expected. Upset or not, no future result will be a shocker. You don't need to read West's facial expressions to know that.

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

Battle

Continued from Page 1B

time. We got to work and, actually, our last two practices have been some of our most enjoyable that we've had.

"I really give them all the credit because I was more upset, down and dreading coming in this week than they were. Maybe that's the credit to their maturity. Maybe that's a credit to having so many seniors that understand the bigger picture."

That senior maturity was needed against Plymouth on Tuesday.

The last-place Wildcats (4-9, 0-7), who were down three starters, including their two giant post players, actually took a lead into the second quarter thanks to baskets from Zaynab Saab and Mackenzie Dicken.

It took a pep talk from Gudith between the periods to kickstart Northville's comeback.

Point guard Eve Tanaskoska poked free a steal on defense, took it the distance and finished at the rim just 9 seconds into the quarter to ignite a 12-2 run and ensure the Mustangs an 18-9 lead at halftime.

That effort carried over into the second half when Northville recorded 12 of the 14 points scored in the third, which included limiting Plymouth to no points until 35 seconds remained in the quarter.



Northville's Susy Heller passes in traffic during a KLA West girls basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It felt really nice because we were in a bad slump coming out of Salem," said power forward Evelyn Deren, who scored a team-best nine points. "Getting this win was really big. We've been positive in practice, but definitely turning things around in a game was helpful, and it'll carry over to Friday, hopefully, against Canton."

Yes, Northville isn't mathematically eliminated from winning the West, but it'll be an uphill battle.

Brighton is 7-0 and Salem is 6-1. The Mustangs have no wiggle room for another loss as they begin the second swing through the division, as Tuesday night meant that each team had played against one another at least once al-

ready.

But they do have the talent to finish the rest of the regular season undefeated. Seniors such as Deren, Tanaskoska, Sydney Brown and Susy Heller are some of the best players in the division.

They were integral in getting the Mustangs through practices during that three-game losing streak. They'll be integral in getting Northville into the conference tournament.

"We just have to move on from the past when we come to practice," Deren said. "We come in with a fresh mindset and are ready to get after it that next day (after losses). Everyone on our team is really invested and dug into our team and season and winning. When we're all on the same page, it makes it a lot easier."

And coming into practice with high spirits, despite sitting in fourth place in the standings, will be necessary.

"The tough part about losing three in a row is that two of them were by one possession each," Gudith added. "We're, really, two possessions away from being tied for first place right now, in theory, if you look at everything. We're not out of it yet, but we can't worry about what everyone else is doing. We've just got to take care of ourselves and let things fall as they may."

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

Award

Continued from Page 1B

David Whitaker, Northville

GIRLS CLASS B

Jordan Richie, Cranbrook Kingswood

BOYS CLASS B

Evan Evans, Cranbrook Kingswood
John Kersh, Cranbrook Kingswood
Nathan Hooker, Cranbrook Kingswood

BOYS CLASS C

Noah Etnyre, Plymouth Christian Academy

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



South Lyon East's Kate Mazur (right) pushes a possession toward the net during the Division 2 girls soccer regional final against Haslett on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at Fenton. MELISSA SAMLUK PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY PHOTO

Groves earns first OAA-White victory with West back on bench

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Elijah Yelder shouted so loudly you probably could've heard him while standing in line at the concession stand. "John! John!" the Birmingham Groves junior yelled at teammate John Simpson, who was dribbling up the floor in transition, heard Yelder's call and sailed a perfect pass that set up Yelder with an open 3-pointer on the wing.

That play snapped a 33-33 tie early in the fourth quarter and was a catalyst that kept the Falcons' 17-0 run going after they had entered the second half of the Oakland Activities Association-White game on Jan. 26 trailing by six.

Lake Orion quickly called a timeout and, once again, coach Marc West delivered the same message he had been delivering to his boys all night.

"Keeping sharing the basketball!" West said while slapping the floor. "Keeping share the basketball!"

And they did. Seven of the next nine points were scored by Paige Williams, who had entered the fourth with only one bucket to his name. Then it was Williams and Jack Abbot driving to the hoop to hit teammates for open looks on the opposite side of the block.

The passing just never ended as Groves (9-4, 1-1) completed the 56-41 comeback win against the Dragons and picked up their first league victory.

"That's the big thing," West said. "The culture we're trying to build, as they'll start to see, is that the more we share it, the more open shots everybody is going to get. If you share it one time, the next time it's going to come back to you. Paige Williams is a great example of that. He was sharing it all night and kicking it out. He ends up hitting that big, big 3 for us because somebody else kicked it out to him. That's how the game works when you're playing it the right way."

Creating that kind of culture has been key since West returned to the Fal-

cons' bench this past offseason.

Wait, returned?

Yep, West coached Groves for four seasons before saying farewell to the high school game and joining the staff at Henry Ford College in Dearborn four years ago. But after four years of traveling the country with the Hawks, he had to step away from being a college assistant. The time away from his family just got to be too much.

Coincidentally, the coach who replaced him at Groves, Benny White, the former Michigan State star and Eastern Michigan University assistant, retired from coaching following last season.

That made it easy for West to step back into his former role with the Falcons.

The only problem? White's final squad featured five starters who were seniors. West was basically inheriting a brand new team without a ton of varsity experience.

"So we're all in new roles," West added. "New coach. New players. New everything. Building that culture is really getting everybody to find their roles and a like-minded mindset. And to really enjoy playing together."

Both the highs and lows of building a new culture showed up against the Dragons.

It seemed like foul after foul just wouldn't go Groves' way in the opening half. After Groves started on a 4-0 run, Lake Orion dominated play in the paint, whether that was drives to the hoops, put-backs or drawing fouls near the blocks. The Dragons took a 21-15 lead into halftime.

That frustration carried over into the second half. Yelder picked up his third foul and was sent to the bench. And there the junior sat, slumped in his chair, upset at himself for not being able to contribute.

But then West reminded his players to start sharing the ball again. And then Josh Gibson hit three big shots, including a floater in the paint and a pair of 3-pointers, and Jack Abbot nailed another



Birmingham Groves' Elijah Yelder scores in the paint during an Oakland Activities Association-White boys basketball game Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

3 to give the Falcons mojo as they trailed just 31-29 entering the fourth.

Once Yelder got to go back in during the fourth, not only did his attitude change but so did his play.

"I knew what I had to do for my team," said Yelder, who scored a team-best 16 points. "And I knew I wanted it more. I knew my attitude was a little off. While sitting on the bench, I knew my team was struggling and needed my help. When I came in, I knew it was time to go. My teammate, John, got us going. And it was just time to get the emotion going after that."

West challenged his players in the locker room afterward, asking his team who was going to be the guy to step in big moments each night.

Judging by Groves' comeback, he's got a lot of guys to choose from. Whether that's Yelder, Gibson (13 points), Williams (12 points), Simpson (10 points and 13 rebounds) and Abbot, or even

Max Kramer, Max Young or Brody Tushman coming off the bench.

The OAA-White is a tough league, and the Falcons are only one game back from first-place Troy in the standings. Each of those guys will be needed as the division schedule heats up.

"It's amazing. This OAA-White, if you go through it, every night is going to be an absolute battle," West said. "People would look at the final score tonight and won't see it, but that was a dogfight, and it came right down to it. We happened to hit a couple of shots there to get us on a run in the fourth quarter. That was a much closer game than what that score would indicate at the end."

And it could've been a loss had the Falcons' newfound culture not prevailed late in the second half.

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

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Livonia Churchill's Marc Hage has been nominated for the hall of fame. DEROCHER | PHOTOGRAPHICVISIONS

Former Livonia Churchill AD to be inducted into hall of fame

Brandon Folsom
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Marc Hage spent 26 years as Livonia Churchill's athletic director.

Now you can see him enter the school's hall of fame.

On Tuesday, March 14, Hage will be honored during the school's annual Churchill Athletic Patrons Hall of Fame dinner. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m. at Italian American Banquet Center, 39200 Five Mile Rd. in Livonia.

Hage retired following the last school year. Prior to becoming Churchill's AD, he was a teacher for Berkley School District, Holt Public Schools and Livonia Public Schools.

LPS replaced Hage with current AD Casey Conway, who had taught physical education and health for 27 years in the district prior to accepting his new appointment. Like Hage before him, Conway also coached several sports.

To purchase tickets for the event, visit <http://www.chs-cap.com/dinner/>. Questions? Contact current AD Casey Conway at cconway@livonia-publicschools.org.

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

2 PCA players reach 1,000 career points 7 days apart

Brandon Folsom
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nowadays, it's rare to see a high school basketball player score 1,000 points in a career.

The Plymouth Christian Academy girls team had two seniors reach that milestone seven days apart.

On Jan. 10, during a 46-36 victory over Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, Hailey Maulbetsch scored 10 points to crack the 1,000-point mark. Exactly one week later, teammate Morgane Houk reached the same milestone after totaling 23 points in a 55-50 win at Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central.

This comes just over one year after Anna Fernandez, Hometown Life's 2021-22 Player of the Year, also totaled 1,000 points for her career.

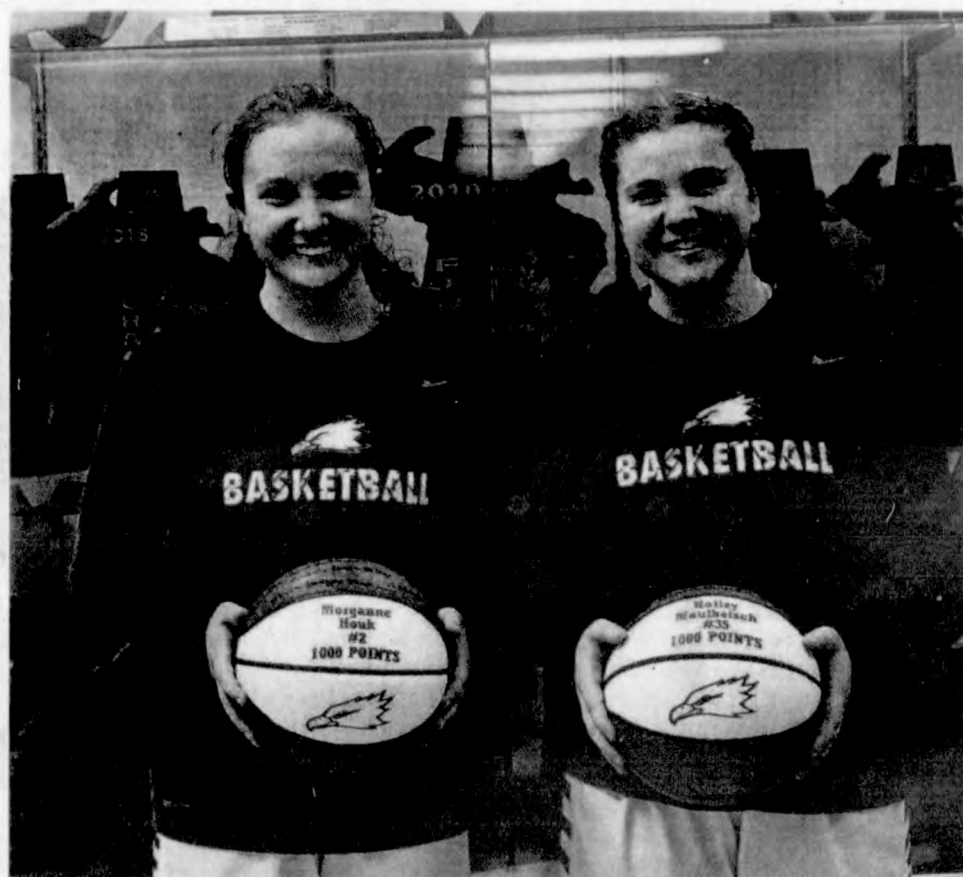
That's three players from last year's Division 4 state runner-up team hitting the century mark.

"I had always known that reaching 1,000 points was possible but never had it as a main goal because I just loved the game of basketball and played for fun," Maulbetsch told Hometown Life earlier this week. "Knowing that I was close going into the season was exciting for me. I didn't keep track of how many points I was away because I wanted it to be a surprise for me. But after our game against (Detroit) Country Day, I knew I was two points away."

"When I made my first basket against Lutheran Northwest I was so excited and proud that I could accomplish such a big thing. I am so thankful for my teammates and coaches who pushed me to become better and better each day. And most of all, I am thankful that God has given me the ability to play."

Fortunately for Maulbetsch, she got to celebrate her achievement in front of a home crowd.

Houk reached her milestone at the foul line on the road. So PCA (8-4, 4-0



Plymouth Christian Academy seniors Morgane Houk and Hailey Maulbetsch celebrate scoring 1,000 career points together. MIKE COSTELLO/COURTESY PHOTO

MIAC-Blue) elected to honor her during its next home game, a 51-36 victory over Auburn Hills Oakland Christian.

"Reaching 1,000 points was not something I was chasing," Houk noted. "I had no idea how many points I had until Coach (Rod) Windle told me right before the SMCC game. But it is cool to realize that all of the hard work led me to this point. Since freshman year, my teammates have pushed to play as a team, get better and glorify God. They are a big reason why I got to 1,000, and I am so thankful for them."

Houk, who totaled 375 points and 127 assists as a junior, was a second-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area team a year ago. Maulbetsch made the third team.

BRIEFLY: Tuesday's 73-65 victory over Ypsilanti Arbor Prep marked the 100th career victory for eighth-year Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball coach Matt Windle, the son of girls coach Rod Windle.

Matt, who graduated from Livonia Churchill in 2011, has coached both the JV boys and girls basketball teams. He was named the varsity boys coach in 2015 and was appointed to the school's athletic director position in 2016 after completing his degree in sports management from Eastern Michigan University.

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

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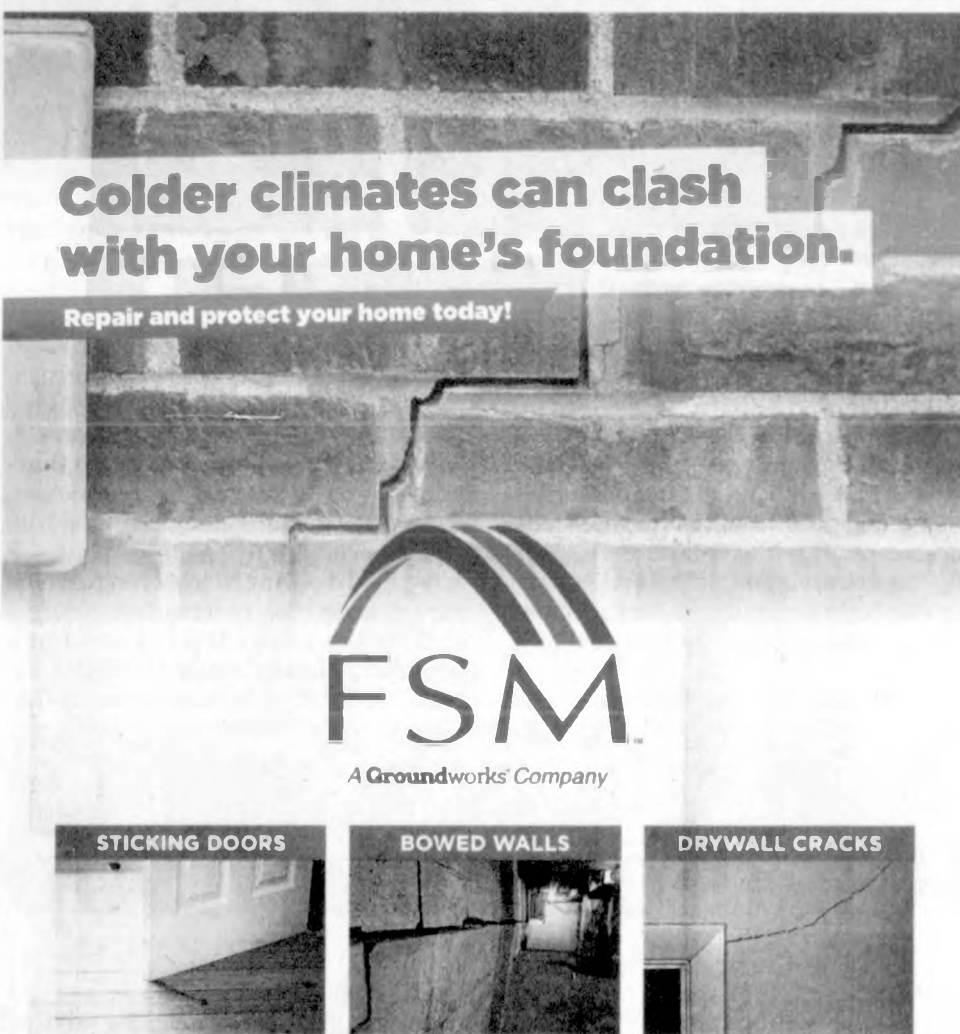


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'Tremendous role model'

'Reluctant' former Hartland coach Jagdfeld set for Michigan Tennis Hall of Fame

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Judy Jagdfeld didn't feel capable of taking over the Hartland boys tennis program in 1981.

To hear her tell it, the school didn't have many options when she was approached about coaching the team.

"Some coaches were players, some coaches just love the game, some of them like working with young kids or sometimes they just couldn't get anybody else to coach," Jagdfeld said. "I was a combination of all of those. I didn't feel like I knew enough about coaching tennis. I was reluctant to do that."

Jagdfeld agreed to take the job, becoming what is still a rarity as a woman coaching a team of boys.

A self-described recreational tennis player, she got up to speed by attending as many coaching clinics and watching as much video as possible.

She went on to coach for 35 years and 64 seasons overall, having added coaching duties for the girls team in 1986. Nearly 1,000 players called her "coach" during their high school careers.

Now, 42 years later, Jagdfeld felt an apprehension similar to what she experienced before taking that first coaching job as she was preparing for her name will go alongside the top tennis coaches in state history.

Jagdfeld was inducted into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches' Association Hall of Fame at a banquet Jan. 27 in Holland.

When she was coaxed into providing information during the nomination process, her reaction was, "Are you sure? Are you sure you guys want to do this?"

One of her former players is certain she is deserving of the honor.

Doug Moffat, the current boys and girls coach at Hartland, was surprised Jagdfeld wasn't already in the Hall of Fame when he attended an induction ceremony two years ago. Moffat and former Howell coach Bruce Grotenhuis, a 2003 inductee, were Jagdfeld's biggest allies during the process.

"I had four years with her," Moffat said. "Everybody you talked to said she was such a great coach, so encouraging, so positive. I'm introducing her at the dinner. A name students had for her was 'Jumpin' Judy,' because she had so much energy and still does today. She's 80 years old and still traveling a lot. She just got back from France, is playing two or three times a week. Why would you not want to grow up to be like that? She's such a tremendous role model."

Jagdfeld was a curiosity when she became the boys head coach. The Livingston County Press did an article asking the boys about the differences between being coached by a man and a woman.

"They said the big difference was



Judy Jagdfeld addresses her 2015 Hartland girls tennis team before the final practice of her 35-year career. JIM JAGDFELD



Judy Jagdfeld high-fives her No. 2 doubles team of Alyssa Whittaker (far left) and Emily Fay during a tournament in 2015, her final season coaching boys and girls tennis at Hartland. JIM JAGDFELD

"when we win, she hugs you instead of shaking your hand and she brings snacks to practice," Jagdfeld recalls. "That was the big difference they saw. I really kind of went into it because they asked me to do it and I really enjoyed working with young people. I love the game myself."

Jagdfeld continued coaching for 15 years after retiring as a teacher, returning from the winter trip her and husband Jim annually made to Mexico to coach the start of tennis season in the

cold weather that usually greets Michigan spring athletes. She stepped down following the 2015 girls season.

"I loved teaching, loved my profession," Jagdfeld said. "When you're coaching, you're teaching, but here you are with a much smaller group. You only have kids out there who really want to be out there. I just really enjoyed that."

"Finally, after I was around 72, Jim said to me, 'How long are you going to do this? We could still be down in Mexico instead of coming back in the middle of

March for tryouts."

The Jagdfelds were preparing to head to Mexico as soon as Friday's induction ceremony was over.

"We've got our rackets already packed," she said in the days leading up to it.

While coaching Hartland, Jagdfeld experienced the same difficulty as her Livingston County Division 1 counterparts in getting past Detroit Catholic Central, Northville and Novi at the league or regional level.

"I can't tell you how many times we came in third or fourth in those," she said. "Those were always big things for me. When we were in Division 2, my teams did better. I definitely had kids who went to state, and we went to state as a team several times. Division 1 and that conference just killed me most of the time."

"When I talk about memories, it wasn't always those winning memories for me. It was moments on the court, being with the players. I have moments going to the fence, coaching a kid, turning him around. Sometimes parents ask, 'What did you say to him?' 'OK, if I told you, I'd have to kill you.' Probably one of my strengths in coaching is that I was able to find what I call 'the button' for each player. Even though it's a team sport, it's individual. What might work for one kid is definitely not going to motivate the next kid. I enjoyed that, seeing if I could turn their games around."

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

Brighton girls hoops leads KLAA West

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Brighton hit the halfway point of the KLAA West girls basketball schedule on Jan. 24 unbeaten in the division, but the Bulldogs are a long way from clinching a championship.

What was expected to be the most competitive KLAA West race ever became a two-team battle through the first half of the division schedule.

Brighton extended its winning streak to nine games on Jan. 24 with a 62-52 victory over Canton.

Meanwhile, Salem beat Howell, 36-32, to win its seventh consecutive game since losing 54-34 to Brighton on Dec. 22.

"I told the girls because we won the front end of the league games, now it's even going to be tougher," first-year Brighton coach Bob Wellman said. "Everyone's going to come at you."

"Again, we have had some situations where we haven't been able to put a team away yet. We need to learn how to do that, not let teams back, but that's just because of this conference. This conference is good. I knew that coming

into this job that it's not going to be something where you're going to run through anybody. You've got some good coaches and really good players in this league. The second time through will be tougher."

Senior Payton VanDeven scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed six rebounds as one of four Bulldogs in double figures. VanDeven's previous high was 17 points against Farmington Hills Mercy in the second game of the season.

"She's such a good slasher," Wellman said. "She got to the rim so well today. She finished everything she put up inside. She maybe hit a couple outside jumpers, but most of it was her getting to the rim, either with a dribble or making a hard cut and someone getting her the ball."

"We were outsized; Canton's big. But she did a good job putting a body on someone with five or six inches on her and not giving them an opportunity."

Mary Copple had 14 points and six rebounds, Liv Lutz had 10 points and six assists, and Sophia DeAngelis had 10 points for Brighton.

The game was tied 50-50 before Brighton pulled away in the final five minutes.



Brighton's Payton VanDeven scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed six rebounds in a 62-52 victory over Canton. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE DAILY

Hartland wrestlers win 'redemption dual'

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HARTLAND — Hartland's wrestlers weren't interested in learning any tough lessons against Brighton this time around, even if the learning experience was beneficial in the long run.

The Eagles came to not only beat their neighboring rivals, but dominate them.

Senior Nick Rochowiak established the tone by pinning his opponent 34 seconds into the dual, and second-ranked Hartland rolled from there to beat the Bulldogs, 62-8, on Jan. 26.

A year ago, Brighton beat Hartland, 46-29, for its fifth victory in its last six duals against the Eagles.

Before leaving the gym, with the disappointment of the loss still fresh, Hartland coach Kyle Summerfield vowed his team would become stronger as a result. The Eagles didn't lose again until falling to Detroit Catholic Central in the state Division I semifinals.

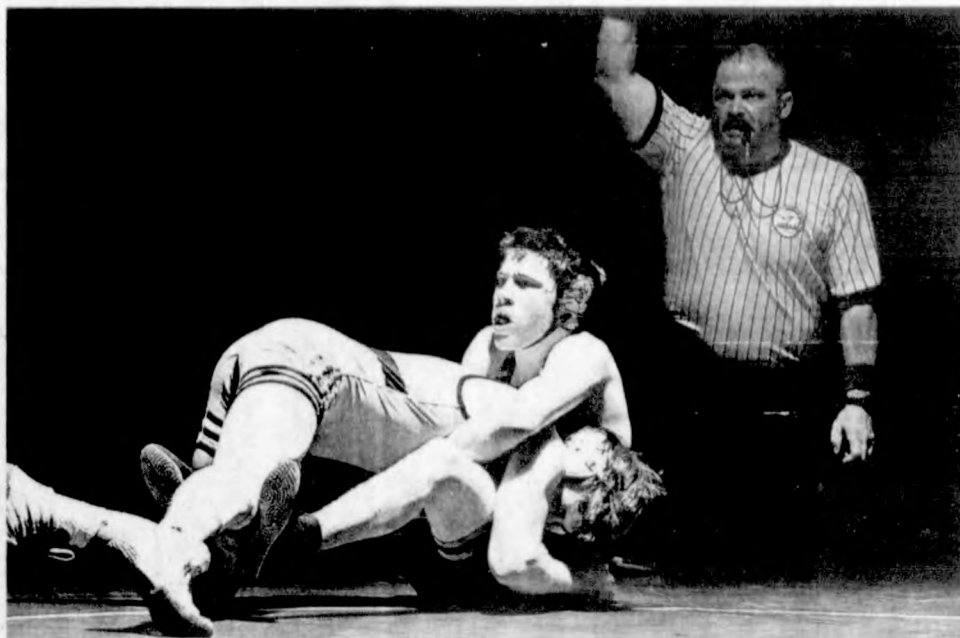
"Last year, we came out and Brighton put it to us," Summerfield said. "It was an eye-opener for us and got us ready for the rest of the season. This year, that wasn't going to happen. Our kids were ready to go."

It was Hartland's largest margin of victory over Brighton since a 68-12 victory in the district semifinals on Feb. 15, 2006.

"That was definitely super important, because I know a lot of people were pretty upset about how last year went," Hartland junior Vinnie Abbey said. "It didn't go how we planned. The coaches talked all week about how this is our redemption dual. We got it back, for sure."

Hartland won the KLAA West championship, finishing 7-0 within the division. Brighton took second at 6-1.

Only two of the wrestlers who took



Referee Chad Davinich signals that Hartland's Chase Kern got two points for a takedown in overtime to win a 144-pound match against Xander Courneya on Thursday. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

the mat for Brighton were in the lineup for last season's victory over Hartland. The Bulldogs used seven freshmen, four sophomores and three juniors in this meeting.

Not that they could've put much of a dent in the final score, but Brighton held out third-ranked 126-pounder Easton Hardesty and second-ranked 150-pounder Travis Richardson to allow injuries to heal. Hartland didn't wrestle No. 2 215-pounder Chase Kern.

"Hartland, they brought it," Brighton coach Shawn Scott said. "It's always nice to see tough wrestling for us, to see those kind of guys. Kudos to Kyle Summerfield and Hartland; that was a great dual. Those guys came out to wrestle. We have a young team. We're learning our ways, we're learning to clean up the little techniques here and there. The

hardest part is some guys are injured and we've got to keep those guys healthy."

Two of the best matches came late in the dual after Hartland had easily secured the victory.

Hartland sophomore Gavin Kern got a takedown against freshman Xander Courneya 19.5 seconds into overtime to earn a 4-2 victory at 144 pounds.

"I hit a low single, put my head right into his knee and just got around him and climbed up the body and got two," Kern said. "It's a sense of relief, just knowing that you've got the victory right in your hands."

The final match was the most anticipated of the day, with second-ranked Vinnie Abbey of Hartland facing third-ranked Zak Knapp of Brighton at 157.

Abbey led 4-2 after two periods and

got a takedown early in the third for some insurance points in a 6-2 victory.

"I wrestled him a lot in youth," Abbey said. "It was definitely a lot of back-and-forth matches. In my first match at state last year, we wrestled. We've grown up wrestling each other a lot, so we've made friends from that, talking a lot to each other. It's definitely a good match to wrestle with him."

The Eagles scored pins in eight of their 12 victories. Rochowiak, Brayden Bobo, Jacob Pretzel, Vincent Cox, Bohdan Abbey, Easton Culver, Liam Wiitanen and Gabe Cappellano pinned their opponents.

"It felt amazing," Culver said. "I went into the Brighton dual last year, had some ups and downs before with some sicknesses, and never wrestled my best. It felt good to get back to work this year and hand it to them."

Brighton's two victories were decisive decisions by freshman Ethan Smith at 106 and sophomore Jackson Johnson at 126. Johnson is the only Bulldog to win a match in the Hartland dual each of the last two seasons.

"Those guys came out wanting to win and wanting to show the Brighton way, and they did that tonight," Scott said. "I'm happy with that performance. But, up and down the line, we need more fire. I think that's what we need progressing into districts and team regionals."

Hartland 62, Brighton 8

165 — Nick Rochowiak (H) d. Lukas Stone 34; 175 — James Butzler (H) d. Mason Gardner 20-3; 190 — Brayden Bobo (H) d. Banks Lilly 1:25; 215 — Jacob Pretzel (H) d. Sean O'Keefe 3:05; 285 — Vincent Cox (H) d. Javier Madril 1:12; 106 — Ethan Smith (B) d. Dane Dunbar 7-0; 113 — Bohdan Abbey (H) d. Drake Pollins 46; 120 — Dallas Korponic (H) d. Vaughn Tarbet 9-2; 126 — Jackson Johnson (B) d. Ty Biggart 16-0; 132 — Easton Culver (H) d. Kaden Tindall 1:44; 138 — Liam Wiitanen (H) d. Chris Whitaker 2:04; 144 — Gavin Kern (H) d. Xander Courneya 4-2 (OT); 150 — Gabe Cappellano (H) d. Jacob Yakimow 1:19; 157 — Vinnie Abbey (H) d. Zak Knapp 6-2.

Bulldogs grab share of first place in KLAA West

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Ben Anderson and his Brighton basketball teammates were issued a challenge leading up to their Jan. 24 game against Canton.

Get taller.

During the weekend before the game, Bulldogs coach Mike Griest said, "We'll have to see if we can come up with a game plan that makes them a little shorter and us a little taller."

Anderson has been holding his own in the paint against bigger players all season, so he wasn't about to concede territory to 6-foot-8 Canton center Dante Favor.

The 6-3 Anderson jump-started Brighton's 69-52 victory over the Chiefs by scoring eight of his career-high 17 points in the first quarter. Seven of Anderson's team-high 10 rebounds came on the offensive end.

"It's usually me or Jack (Storey) and we've got to guard some 6-8 guy," said Anderson, who averages 8.1 points and 7.1 rebounds. "Favors is a really good and tough guard. We've just got to be as big as possible. We can't change our height, but we can play taller."

"To be honest, I just love to rebound. If I can get them any shot I can, I'll get it to them. If I can score some points along the road, I'll gladly do it."

Anderson wound up outscoring Favors, who had a team-high 15 points, while not picking up a foul until 7:21 remained in the game.

"Benny is a star for us," Griest said. "He defends posts every night. He's always undersized. He's an amazing offensive rebounder, a really smart defensive player. He plays with tremendous energy. He worked on his game to get better throughout the season. He stepped up today and was 7-for-8 from the free throw line. Earlier in the season, he was struggling with that. So, he takes pride in getting better for himself and the team."

Canton's leading scorer, senior Omar Suleiman, is also a matchup problem at 6-5 with excellent outside range. He finished with 12 points. Anderson and 6-4 Eddie Millington were the only Bulldogs taller than 6 feet in Brighton's starting lineup.

The undersized Bulldogs have found other ways to win consistently and move into a first-place tie with Canton in the KLAA West at 5-1.

"We do play a little bigger than maybe we are," Griest said. "I know our heart is fantastic. We battle on every possession. That's what we take pride in is winning those battles. We won more of

those battles than they did tonight."

Canton coach Jimmy Reddy won't argue that point.

"On the offensive glass, they got a lot of second-chance opportunities and they scored a lot on the second chances," Reddy said. "That really hurt us. They were first to the floor, first to the ball. We got killed on the loose balls and killed on the second-chance points, for sure."

The Chiefs won 19 straight games within the division since losing 57-49 to Novi on March 16, 2021. Brighton is one of many KLAA West teams who have struggled against Canton, ending a seven-game losing streak to the Chiefs since last winning 48-45 on March 5, 2015.

"It felt great to finally beat them, because we lost to them twice last year," said Brighton senior Ashton Tomassi, who scored a game-high 20 points. "It was definitely a stepping stone for Ed and I last year. We were just fitting into our roles. This year, we were able to take over and do what we do."

Millington had 11 points, eight rebounds and two blocks. Trevor Viau had 12 points for Brighton, which at 11-2 overall is off to its best 13-game start since going 12-1 in 2010-11.

"I'd like to be one more game ahead, for sure," said Griest, whose team's only division loss was in overtime to third-place Howell. "We're just on to the next one."

"We talked earlier in the week, it's still in our hands at this point, which is how you want it to be. You don't want to rely on other people. But there's a ton of basketball, a lot of good teams in our division. If we didn't have everybody's attention, I think we will for sure now. It all gets tougher."

Brighton never trailed, pulling away from an 11-10 lead late in the first quarter by scoring nine straight points. Before either of its two leading scorers put up a point, the Bulldogs had a 17-10 lead.

Brighton led 30-18 at halftime, then had an answer every time it looked like Canton might be ready to make a run in the second half.

When the Chiefs cut the deficit to 36-27 in the third quarter, Tomassi scored eight points during an 18-4 run that expanded the lead to 54-31.

The Bulldogs hit 12 consecutive free throws in the fourth quarter, including both ends of three one-and-ones, to keep the Chiefs from chipping into the lead.

"We talked about getting a few stops in a row," Reddy said. "Score, stop, score. We couldn't get stops. We were making some shots, but we weren't making a dent in the lead. We've got to play better

defense and we've got to rebound the ball better."

Brighton shot 23-for-46 from the field, including 8-for-14 from 3-point range.

Canton had won five straight games, all in the division, after 2-5 start against a tough nonconference schedule. It was similar to last season when the Chiefs started 0-4 before winning 14 consecutive games once division play began.

"We were playing better," Reddy said. "We certainly haven't put a full game together. It's been a little frustrating. We've been making strides at both ends of the court. We've been playing better defense the last few games, and so this is disappointing for sure in terms of our defending and rebounding."

"The hard nonleague schedule is supposed to get you ready for games like this, a real good team on the road. It really didn't help us tonight. That's on me and that's on the guys."

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



Brighton's Ben Anderson, who scored a career-high 17 points, takes a shot while defended by Canton's Omar Suleiman during the Bulldogs' 69-52 victory. The Chiefs had won 19 straight games in the KLAA West prior to Tuesday. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

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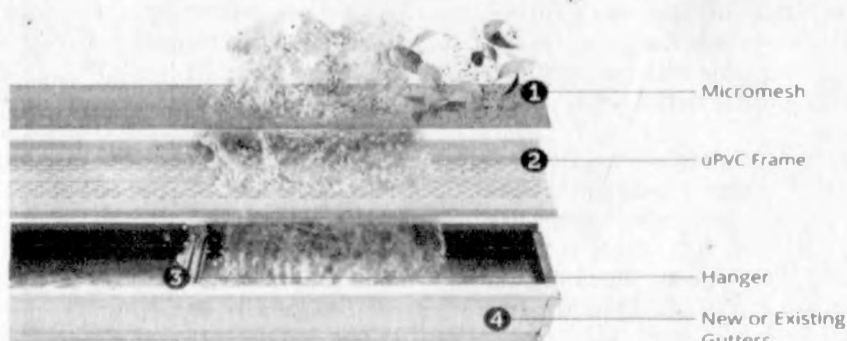
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