

## **DCC tops Hartland for** state wrestling crown

SPORTS, 1B

# ORTHVILLE

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# **Budget deficit** growing at 35th District **Court** in **Plymouth**

Laura Colvin Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth's 35th District Court is facing a projected deficit of more than \$600,000 in 2023, which means the five communities it serves will need to fork over weighted shares of the shortfall to balance the budget.

The issue, according to local officials, is this: Police are writing fewer tickets, meaning less revenue is being generated by fines and fees. The reasons vary

"It's largely due to ... changing circumstances such as the wider adoption of ride share services like Lyft and Uber that are reducing dramatically the number of DUIs and OWIs, which are pretty significant revenue generating tickets," said Plymouth Mayor Nick Moroz, one of five local leaders who sit on the 35th District Court Authority Board. "It's not something I see as having an immediate or easy fix.

In addition to the city of Plymouth, the district includes Canton Township, city of Northville, Northville Township and Plymouth Township.

In the past, fines and fees generated more than enough to cover the costs of operating the court, including employee salaries and benefits, along with building and operations costs. The state of Michigan pays judges' salaries but their benefits are funded locally through the court budget.

For many years, in fact, each of the five municipalities received an annual check - often hundreds of thousands of dollars - when court revenues exceeded expenses.

Financial records show the amounts vary over the years, with a high in 2012 of excess funds totaling over \$1.1 million. That money was divided among the municipalities in proportion to the volume of cases as follows:

- City of Plymouth \$100,258
- Plymouth Township \$184,363 • City of Northville \$41.740
- Northville Township \$249,261 Canton Township \$433,694

Similar "refunds" to the communities were reported in the years before and after, but stopped in 2018 when the authority board decided to use surplus revenue to fund future retiree obligations at the court.

See DEFICIT, Page 7A

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# **Great White Buffalo** charging into Northville



Eric Sokoloski arranges the first beer list on the wall of Great White Buffalo Brewing Company in downtown Northville. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A plate of chicken with dipping sauces, one of the options on the menu at the brewery, which is set to open March 3.

Brewery to open March 3

**David Veselenak** 

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN NORTHVILLE — Eric Sokoloski can't

wait to bring some new flavors to the heart of downtown Northville. The Novi resident, his brother Ryan Sokoloski and their business partner John Skrabal are in the final preparations for opening Great White Buffalo Brewing Company. After 10 months of

renovations and city reviews, they are

hyped to open their 101 W. Main St. brew-

ery at 3 p.m. Friday, March 3. "It feels good," Eric Sokoloski said. "It's nice now that I have everything

See BREWERY, Page 6A

# Hines Park mills work could begin this year

**David Veselenak** 

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Both the Wilcox Mill in Plymouth and the Newburgh Mill have been sitting without much activity since Wayne County authorized the sale of the historic buildings in Hines Park several years ago.

But as 2023 gathers steam, those who drive by these long-vacant buildings might start to see some life.

Critical Mass, the Northville-based company that entered into agreement with the county to purchase the mill at 230 Wilcox in Plymouth and 37401 Hines Drive in Livonia, was approved

to purchase the two mills back in 2021, but no major work has taken place. Several issues delayed their redevelopment, including the COVID-19 pandemic, labor issues and turnover in county leadership.

Greg Donofrio, one of the partners in the development, said residents should start seeing activity later this year.

"I think we're back on track and the community should start to see some progress here in the springtime," he

The two mills are part of the county's Mill Run project, which seeks to rejuvenate the mills formerly operated by Henry Ford decades ago. The mills have sat largely vacant and unused for some time, with the redevelopment of them pitched to bring life back to the historic buildings.

Critical Mass had entered into purchase agreements with Wayne County for both the remaining mills, though complications still remain, especially with the Newburgh Mill. As a part of the purchase agreement for that building, Critical Mass must construct a new building for the Wayne County Sheriff's mounted division, as it is currently located next to the Livonia mill. Land has been identified in the county park in Dearborn Heights as a prime location for the barn.

See MILLS, Page 6A

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Volume 67 | No. 43 Home delivery pricing inside €2023



# Uptown Cheapskate plans to open store for millennials, Gen Z in Livonia

**Shelby Tankersley** 

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

LIVONIA - Uptown Cheapskate, a resale clothing store, will open a Livonia location later this year.

The business, similar to Plato's Closet or Clothes Mentor, will allow customers to buy and sell men's and women's clothing and accessories. The store will be located in the Livonia Marketplace shopping center, on the corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads, in a former Dots store

"Our vendors bring in their gentlyused items, they have to be within a year or two old, and we have buyers that are trained to evaluate what they bring in," said Angela Moore, the owner of Livonia's store. "They're paid cash or store credit for those items."



Uptown Cheapskate sells lightly-used name brand clothing. SARA DIGGINS/AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Moore said Uptown Cheapskate's target demographic includes millennials, the oldest of which are 40, and Generation Z, the youngest of which are teens. She considers Livonia a good

place to reach younger adults.

'The stores I've been in are full of what millennials are wearing," she said. "It's brand name items like Lululemon, Nike and those type of things."

The business is expected to receive its remaining city approvals later this month. Moore, who is Black, said she's excited to open a Black-owned store in

Uptown Cheapskate will be "open to buy" in June, meaning people will be able to sell their clothing to build the store's inventory but not shop. It will officially open to shoppers around September. When Uptown Cheapskate opens, Moore said roughly 90% of the store's items will be used clothing and accessories.

"It's definitely better for the environment," Moore said. "We're taking the clothes that could go to landfills and recycling them in the community."

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

## Canton Chiefs could get a name change before school year ends

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

CANTON TWP. - The Canton High School Chiefs could have a new name by the time the Class of 2023 walks across the stage to collect their diplomas this

A call to change the school's mascot and logo began in early 2021 when students made a presentation to the school board, arguing Canton High School's "Chief" mascot and accompanying arrowhead logos are disrespectful to Native Americans and can lead to cultural appropriation.

At a Feb. 14 meeting of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education, Trustee Patti McCoin said a committee had been selected to address the mascot issue at the school

McCoin said the committee will consist of five students, two parents and four community members. Superintendent Monica Merritt will select administrators and staff members to serve on the committee

Board members who will serve on the committee, in addition to McCoin, include Board Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu and Treasurer Patrick Kehoe.

According to the district's board policy, considerations for changing the name of a facility, mascot, or logo can be made only if the proposed name is determined by the board to have special significance to the district, and the current name has become obsolete or inappropriate.

The committee must bring a recommendation to the entire board within 90 days of formation.

Canton High School won't be the first to retire a "chiefs" mascot and logo. Last year, the Okemos Chiefs began a rebranding effort and became the Okemos Wolves



The Chief bench awaits the start of an inning on May 4, 2022.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

### hometownlife.com

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# White Lake woman tried for \$6M, but got \$100,000 instead. She'll take it.

### Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Victoria Rudzewicz may not be a millionaire, but winning \$100,000 isn't too shabby, especially for a lottery game she didn't know she had entered.

The White Lake woman had been trying to win \$6 million, and scanned her lottery tickets regularly into the Michigan Lottery app, only to find they were losers.

What she didn't know was that just by scanning the \$6 million Jackpot tickets, she was entering herself in a second-chance random drawing.

That second chance came Feb. 8.

"When I saw an email from the Lottery informing me I'd won a \$100,000 prize, I was ecstatic, but I wasn't sure if it was real," Rudzewicz, 75, said. "I got a call from the Lottery shortly after receiving the email and that's when I



Victoria Rudzewicz holds a check for \$100,000 from the Michigan Lottery, a second chance prize she is happy to have. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN LOTTERY

knew it was real. It was so exciting! I called my daughter right away to tell her the good news.'

While it won't make her as wealthy as the billion-dollar Novi winners who burned breakfast, or even the Farmington Hills man who won \$3 million and planned to celebrate with a chicken dinner, Rudzewicz will still enjoy her windfall, much like a South Lyon winner of \$110,000 in the Fantasy Five did. She plans to vacation to Florida with her daughter and then save the remainder.

Jake Harris, spokesman for the Mich-

igan Lottery, noted that \$100,000 is a "happy surprise."

He adds that lottery officials reach out to second chance winners to notify them, but do not ever do that for a prize won on an actual ticket, which emphasizes the importance of checking your ticket, made easier with the mobile app.

Unclaimed prizes are a small portion of the lottery, Harris said, but still, every year there are players who miss out on claiming their prize by the one-year

Still unclaimed is a Lucky for Life ticket purchased Aug. 14 at a Sunoco gas station in Shelby Township that will pay \$25,000 per year for life; as well as two \$1 million Powerball prizes that will expire Oct. 30. One was sold at the New Buffalo Shell station and the other at Billy's Liquor Depot in Redford.

The \$100,000 that Rudzewicz won is the top second-chance prize. Eight more second-chance drawings for non-winning \$6 million jackpot tickets are planned. Each drawing awards a top prize of \$100,000; five \$10,000 prizes; twenty \$1,000 prizes and sixty \$500

The next drawing is scheduled for March 2. Players can visit www.michiganlottery.com/Jackpot for complete game rules and drawing dates.

### 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

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,

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

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

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOVI TOWNSHIP** 

The Novi Township board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year on March 14th, 2023, at 7:30 pm at 43965 Cottisford St., Northville, MI. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 44551 Chedworth Ct., Northville, MI.

Individuals with disabilities may contact the Clerk, Janeen Crittenden, 248-404-7529 for special services, with 72 hours of advance notice.

Publish: March 2, 2023

#### NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU23-0001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Feldman Chevy Novi is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary parking at parcel 50-22-14-376-009, south of Crescent Blvd. and east Town Center Drive from March 20, 2023 through March 20, 2024. The property is zoned TC (Town Center) and the use is contrary to 3.27 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit

A public hearing will be held at 9:30 am on March 20, 2023 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road in the Mayor's Conference Room, All written comments should be directed to Nina Schaffrath and must be received prior to 3 P.M. on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Publish: February 23, March 2 & 9, 2025

# Northville Township seeks state grant to fund Seven Mile pathway

**David Veselenak** 

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. - Local officials hope some state funds can be secured to assist in connecting parts of Seven Mile

Road in Northville Township. The township board of trustees recently approved a grant application for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to help fund a pathway along the road beginning at Traditions Drive and heading west toward Hines Park.

If approved by the state, the grant funding would help connect the township to the new Legacy Park, currently under construction at the former psychiatric hospital between Haggerty and Northville roads.

It's not the first time the township has applied for such a grant. It applied last year and was turned down. Bob Belair, the township's director of public services, said there were significantly less projects funded by the statewide grant in 2022 than the previous year, which made it difficult to obtain one.

"In 2021, 95 grants were funded, totaling \$23 million. Last year, only 30 grants were given totaling \$9 million," he said. "If we had applied the previous year, the score we received last year would have been funded."

If the township is approved for the



A pathway ending just west of Traditions Drive along the south side of Seven Mile Road. Northville Township hopes to connect pathways along Seven Mile to Hines Park with the help of some grant funding. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

grant, it would total roughly \$300,000. That would go with the \$1.5 million the township hopes to receive through a Transportation Alternatives Program grant and \$250,000 in settlement funds that are dedicated for the work

Belair said they hope to find out before the end of the year whether the township is awarded the funding.

Given some costs are expected to increase, having all those funding sources will help keep the project within reach.

33104 Grand River Ave. to Skep Space, a

nonprofit artist incubator, and is work-

ing to help KickstART, another nonprof-

it, find a new home downtown.

"The project will likely be more than \$2million, so we have a little buffer," Be-

Trustee Mindy Herrmann said such a plan seems like one all members of the board are eager to support.

"I've been on the board a long time and when this board got elected, it was the first time in a very long time that we specifically dedicated money for pathways, which I think is a great thing," she said. "As we all know, time and again, that's what residents have routinely and consistently put on their priority list in terms of recreational activities.

"It provides access to the broader community pathway system that these residents don't have but for it."

One resident spoke during a required public hearing on the proposal held Feb. 16. Mary Lou Posa said she was in full support and hoped the board of trustees would let the township residents know whether or not the grant was awarded later this year.

"I support the pathways project," she said. "I hope that this year, the grant funding does in fact come through."

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

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# Here's how Farmington combats expensive retail space costs

**Shelby Tankersley** 

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington has a downtown other communities envy.

It's historic, aesthetically pleasing and walkable. Between the park, farmers market, shops, restaurants and entertainment, it's easy to kill time there.

According to the city's downtown development authority, downtown saw 1.6 million visitors between April and September last year.

"And that is with a hairy streetscape construction project that changed traffic patterns," DDA Director Kate Knight

### The price of popularity

Jason Schlaff, an owner of Farmington Brewing Company, has seen downtown grow since opening in 2014. He said the foot traffic, visibility and city leadership are great for business

"The amenity that is really under appreciated is how helpful the DDA is," he said. "They are so helpful to our small businesses. It's unbelievable."

While Schlaff thinks it pays to be downtown, he said it also costs. He spends roughly \$3,100 in rent for his shop at 33336 Grand River Ave. every month before utilities, and that cost is rising. Schlaff said he's thankful for a landlord who can be flexible when times are tough.

The former KickstART and Sunflour Bakehaus buildings both lost their former tenants due to new ownership. The former KickstART building will become a Cannelle Patisserie, and Sunflour's core offerings can be found at the Never Forgotten Bakery on Orchard Lake Road.

'If you have a business and there's more people walking by, more synergy, your sales will increase," said Dan Blugerman, a senior associate with the PA Commercial real estate group. "The more you do sales, the more valuable space is and the more you can afford in



A view of Farmington's Grand River Avenue, which is popular with businesses and shoppers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

rent. So, what's happened over the last businesses it wants to see or keep decade is the value of the real estate has downtown. The DDA is leasing space at caught up to the worth.

Blugerman has worked in the Farmington area for nearly 30 years and is the realtor charged with marketing the former Sunflour building. He said city updates from the last 20 years, like the Grand River Avenue streetscape and creation of Riley Park, have helped make Farmington a regional destination with a bigger price tag.

'That was transformational," he said. "It's one thing to have the wonderful scale, which Farmington has - two roads, two sidewalks, two stories - but they transformed Grand River into a warm, welcoming place."

#### **Keeping downtown accessible** to small businesses

Knight thinks people come to Farmington for the retail diversity it offers. Chain stores like Beyond Juicery and TJ Maxx are mixed in with small businesses like Ground Control Coffee Roasters and Dearborn Music. According to Knight, TJ Maxx and Dearborn Music are both draws for people coming downtown to shop.

"Once people get here, they see what else is happening," she said.

Knight said the DDA will help small

ing a nonprofit art space downtown, impacts the vibrancy of the whole district."

The DDA and Farmington Brewing also facilitate pop-up shops. Knight, Blugerman and Schlaff all said the business community in Farmington sticks together.

"I think that sense of community is pretty important," Schlaff said.

Popularity costs, but it pays, too. Knight said downtown vacancies are getting harder to find, even with rising costs, and the bustling city center helps Farmington stay competitive.

'Nobody is relocating to southeast Michigan because of a tech park," she said. "People who move here want schools, neighborhoods, trails and they want a downtown."

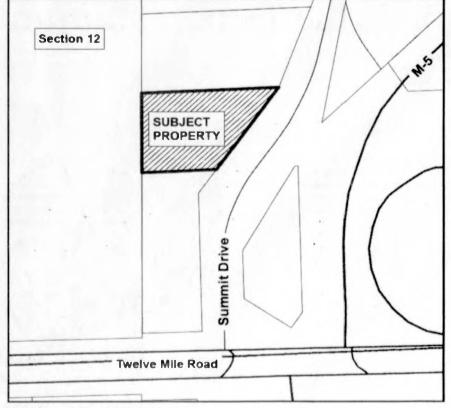
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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley "We value that use," Knight said. "In at stankersle@hometownlife.com or that mix, us being able to support hav- 248-305-0448.

### **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, March 8, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider 28015 SUMMIT DR. PBR22-0530 FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT. The subject property totals approximately 1.95 acres and is located west of Summit Drive, north of Twelve Mile Road (Section 12). The subject property is zoned RA (Residential Acreage). The applicant is requesting to remove 53 regulated woodland trees in order to construct a single-family residential structure on the lot

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department during regular business hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)



Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-12-351-046

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

Published: March 2, 2023 Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

### **CITY OF NORTHVILLE** 2023 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

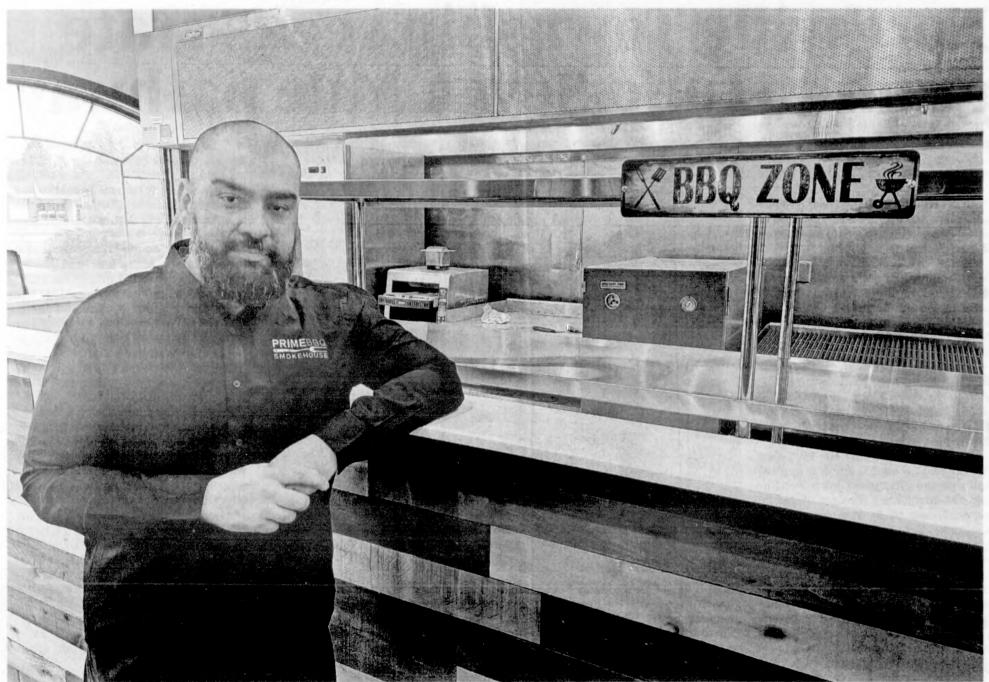
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne, and Oakland Counties, will meet for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2023 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023: TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023: THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023: 4:00 p.m. Organizational Meeting (No Appeals) 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2023, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2023 Real and Personal Property Assessments WAYNE COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. OAKLAND COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00.

Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 16, 2023, before 4:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by APPOINTMENT ONLY. To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2023 taxable or assessed

BOARD OF REVIEW



Wally Yasso, co-owner of the soon-to-open Prime BBQ Smokehouse in Highland, is ready to start serving customers high-quality barbecue in a fast-casual environment. Photos BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Prime BBQ Smokehouse is Highland's new sensation

**Susan Bromley** 

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HIGHLAND TWP. - Wally Yasso doesn't want you to have to travel far for great barbecue, nor does he want you to have to smoke it yourself on your deck for hours.

So the Novi resident is bringing his new franchise restaurant, Prime BBQ Smokehouse, 1100 S. Milford Road in Highland, to the suburbs instead of seeking city locations where rents can be higher.

"Our concept is you don't have to drive miles and miles for good barbecue," Yasso said. "Instead of driving long distances, we're coming to (the customers)."

He plans to welcome guests to his new fast-casual restaurant March 20, where they can also experience a concept based on nine flavorful meats: brisket, pulled pork, pulled chicken, sausage, smoked chicken, pork ribs, rib tips, bourbon chicken and jerk chicken.

The meats are well-seasoned and delicious with or without sauce, Yasso said, and are smoked for 14 hours overnight. Guests can choose from a variety of sauces and can "build-their-own" perfect meal, choosing their base, pro-

tein, and toppings from many options. The side dishes are also numerous, including classic barbecue favorites such as mac and cheese, coleslaw, potato wedges, fries, rice, beans, and more.

### Tough time to start restaurant, but success followed

Yasso has a passion for barbecue, but found himself in the business with his brothers Eddie and Sam quite unexpectedly - at what would be an inopportune time. They opened their first Prime BBQ in late 2020 in Monroe, Ohio, after a cafe owner sold them her business for \$15,000.

Yasso, 31, moved to the U.S. from Iraq in 2008. He had worked in pizzerias and opened a Mediterranean restaurant in 2012 in Walled Lake.

He said it was a struggle to open a new restaurant during the pandemic, but Prime BBQ has found the recipe for success, with the brothers opening another Ohio location, as well as the new Highland site, and they're now planning to open two Detroit locations, with an eye on more franchises.

He is focused on consistent quality at every location, with the same seasoning and high-quality meats. He said everything is cooked fresh, but delivered



Prime BBQ Smokehouse, 1100 S. Milford Road in Highland Township, is expected to open in March 2023.

quickly. Most wait times are five minutes or less, with the exception of burgers that may take 15 minutes.

Prime BBQ is also prepared to cater, and offers delivery through services like

Door Dash and Grub Hub.
"We are trying to bring Texas-style

barbecue to the suburbs," Yasso said. "A lot of restaurants only have a few meats, but with us, we have every meat possible. Here, you get the full barbecue experience."

To learn more, visit primebbq.com/. sbromley@hometownlife.com

# Northville Twp. restaurant serves up Korean barbecue

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — It's been nothing but growth for Min Kyu Kim's fast-casual Korean Kimchi Box restaurants the last two years, and now he's bringing a new concept to his home community.

Enter Kimchi Box Plus, an expanded offering which adds Korean barbecue to the menu. It's a concept, Kim said, that he hopes will introduce the cuisine to a new audience that may not have tried it.

"I want to bring more approachable Korean barbecue," he said. "Normally, you would go and the menu is pretty complicated. You don't really know what to do."

The restaurant at 18875 Traditions Drive, opened in early February in the former Tom & Chee in the Northville Park Place shopping center near Seven Mile and Haggerty roads. Kim has taken the space and completely transformed it, adding tables complete with grills and vents.

The location is the eighth Kimchi Box to open since it began in Sterling Heights in 2021. Today, there are locations in Plymouth Township, Novi, East Lansing and elsewhere. The Northville



A plate of uncooked Korean barbecue foods, including pork belly, brisket and more. Customers cook the food at their tables on a gas grill at Kimchi Box Plus.

DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

Township location is the lone Kimchi Box to offer Korean barbecue.

"We did have a lot of anticipation because it's been under construction for a while now," Kim said. "This is the only

one in Northville."

Guests who come sit down and have a variety of options of food to choose from. The gas grill at the table is lit and guests can cook their food, including pork belly, brisket or kalbi, which is marinated boneless short ribs. The cooked food comes with a whole host of sides, including things like broccoli, kimchi and more.

The traditional way to prepare the food is for guests to cook it themselves. Kim said some guests are unsure of how to do it, and sometimes staff can jump in to help them and show them the proper

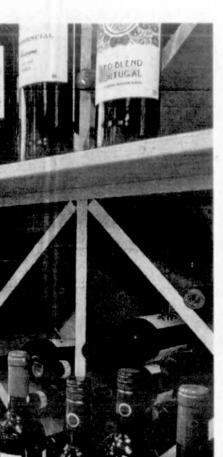
The restaurant also offers a full bar, including beer, wine, spirits and drinks from places like Korea and Japan.

The restaurant is open II a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. More information, including a menu, can be found at kimchiboxusa.com. The restaurant offers dine-in, carryout and delivery through some third-party apps.

Kim, who moved to the United States from South Korea as a child, said his hope with his restaurants is to showcase South Korean food and bring a new flavor in a style not seen before, especially in Michigan.

"I do research and what mostly exists is Korean fried chicken," he said of similar places. "I'm trying to put Korean fast casual on the map."

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



Dolcetto, Cheese, and Specialty Goods will offer a larger wine selection than Farmington's Cheese Lady store did. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE COM



Cheeses at Dolcetto, Cheese, and Specialty Goods in downtown Farmington are cut fresh.

# Farmington cheese shop goes independent with new owner

**Shelby Tankersley** 

Hometownlife com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lindsay Kennedy loves to eat and has an appreciation for fine foods.

As the new owner of Dolcetto Cheese and Specialty Goods at 33041 Grand River Ave. in downtown Farmington, formerly The Cheese Lady, she hopes to share that love with the community.

"I'm one of those people who really hopes they haven't found their favorite food yet," she said. "I want to just eat everything. There's so much to learn and so many good things to eat."

Fans of The Cheese Lady, which has several shops in Michigan, will still be able to find many of their favorite products at Dolcetto. Kennedy said she's more interested in adding items than taking ones away.

Kennedy said she declined to take The Cheese Lady name for multiple reasons, one being that an independent store has more freedom with its offerings.

"I think our community can be taken much better care of by an independent shop," she said. New items include vegan cheese making kits, specialty cookies and a wider wine selection. Kennedy, who spent eight years working for Simply Wine in Northville, also started a "Perfect Bite Club" for members to try a new wine, cheese and food pairing each month.

This month's trio is a smoked salmon jerky, fromage and a zinfandel wine.

'r really love obscure wines," Kennedy said. "There are plenty of places where you can get two buck chuck or a Napa cab. I don't want to sell that. I want to sell' he cool, unique things you're not

going to get everywhere else."

Kennedy plans to introduce shoppers at Dolcetto to foods, wines and experiences they can't get anywhere else.

"If you're trying to make a recipe and there's that special ingredient you can't find, call me up," she said. "I'll try to find it. I want to make sure you have access to it."

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Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



### 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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle, equatatalemordagmes com as

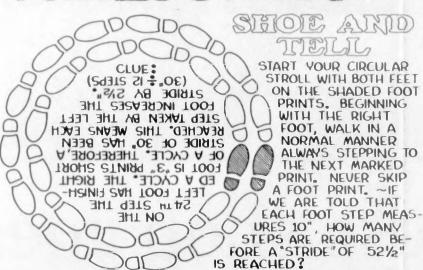
Aloe	Iris	Oxlip	Salvia
Arum	Ixia	Path	Show
Bloom	Leaf	Peony	Snail
<b>Button</b> hole	Leek	Perfume	Special
Chokes	Lilles	Petunia	Stem
Corsage	Lobella	Phiox	Stock
Dill	Moss	Posy	Tansy
Erica	Musk	Pots	Vase
Flannel	Oily	Primula	Vine
flower	Onion	Rakes	Viola
Gift	Open	Ribbon	Water
Ginger	Opuntia	Rose	Weld
TODAY'S	ANSWER		

Garden full of colour

Spring beauty

G	A	R	M	N	0	В	В	1	R	N	S	H	K	T	
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### PUZZLES & POSERS



### **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: GOLD

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

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### **NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

### ACROSS

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- 15 Evita title 16 Vivien's spouse, when she did
- Streetcar
- 17 Highly dedicated 18 Properly warned
- 19 Evidence of apprehension 20 Bests in finesse
- 22 Mess of locks 23 Archer follower
- 25 Not shrinking at all
- 26 Weave that
- sounds cetacean
- 27 Contest winner, necessarily
- 29 When most
- DVDs come out
- 30 Cell descriptor 31 Track refs call
- 33 Ancient allegorist 35 Schmaltz
- What Kareem wore on the
- court 41 Old Testament
- in-law 43 Alternative to Bea
- 44 Word on World Almanac covers
- 47 Draw on 49 Place that many
- visit 50 Wide-open
- spaces 51 Misdirected paint
- 53 Zesty relish 54 Be all wet
- 55 Shell station? Puzzling code,
- perhaps Number in a
- union chart 60 Turn in

- 62 Medicine delivery system 63 Tech company first called
- ProNav 64 Proving grounds65 See 1 Across

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fructose 44 Charged 45 Oxidize 24 They should've

12 Panda or person 40 Childhood pal of

- 46 They often go by plane 26 Leia's kissing
  - 48 Antonym of preference over "advance"
- 51 Metaphor for glory 52 What some 30 Cause of a rapid
  - policewomen are called 55 Structure with

Charlie Sheen

42 Glucose and

- slatted sides 56 Legal (controversial
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- step) 59 Star of Life
- wearer
- surname 61 Dodeca-fraction 38 39 40

### TODAY'S **ANSWER**

IS REACHED, STRIDE OF 521/2 INCHES





65

RS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS @ AOL.COM

### Mills

Continued from Page 1A

Donofrio said it's hopeful work on that building can begin this year.

"We're getting very close," he said. "The City of Dearborn Heights has been super excited to have it."

Donofrio said he expects the renovated mills to house customer-friendly businesses such as a coffee shop or potential food-and-drink establishments. Wilcox Mill could also hold a bicycle shop.

Once developed, the mills will add some amenities that aren't typically found in those parts of Hines Park. John Buzuvis, Plymouth's economic development director, said they look forward to seeing the Wilcox Mill get developed, especially as Old Village shows signs of

new life. "It kind of is a nice anchor as an entryway into town, into the city limits proper," Buzuvis said. "I think it will play nicely with the energy and the kind of excitement that is happening in Old Village now."

### **Phoenix Mill shows what** could happen elsewhere

Operating for about a year, the Phoenix Mill is a glimpse of what the Wilcox and Newburgh mills could look like once developed, Donofrio said.

A purchase agreement for Phoenix Mill was reached in 2018 between the county and Critical Mass, which spent years restoring it and getting up to code. Today, its lower level is home to a banquet center and the top level is occupied by Grissim Metz Andriese Associates.

While the pandemic changed plans for the building — the top floor was originally going to host a 1920s-themed restaurant — Donofrio said the building and its grounds have become a destination, especially as the community learns about the space.

"It didn't fill up every available day. This year is different," he said. "I see that they're getting a lot of bookings."

Such a development, Donofrio said, isn't one many developers are willing to take on due to high costs. But Cox and he both see the value in saving such build-

ings. dveselenak@hometownlife.com



Greg Donofrio shows off some of the work done in an upstairs room of the Phoenix Mill in Plymouth Township. The building has served as a banquet center and home to a private firm for about a year since major renovations to the building were completed. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bartender Ben

Socia pours a

glass of beer at Great White

Buffalo

**Brewing** 

# **Brewery**

Continued from Page 1A

approved, I can kind of do whatever I want to do. I can set the culture. I can do

my thing. The brewery occupies the former Yogurt Palooza, which closed several years ago. After signing the lease last April, the owners began transitioning the former frozen yogurt shop into a brand-

new brewery. A homebrewer the last decade, Sokoloski decided to enroll in Schoolcraft College's brewing and distillation program and learn more about the business. After completing his time there, he and his partners began looking for a spot to open their dream brewery. They finally found their home in the heart of downtown Northville

The difference is stark. Gone are the

bright colors of the yogurt business, re-

placed with blacks, whites and golds

throughout the dining area and bar. Ev-

erything has been redone, from the

floors to the ceiling and even the bathrooms, which sport an elegant look.

The star of the show, though, is the beer. A handful of varieties will always be on tap, including a lager, an India pale ale, a stout and an amber, which is Sokoloski's signature brew.

He and his partners will rotate in some more unique beer flavors like

Company in downtown Northville. The brewery, located at Main and Center streets, opens March 3. DAVID VESELENAK/ HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

smoked mango milkshake and pretzel wheat

They'll also serve hard seltzers, starting with a rainbow sherbet seltzer. Eric Sokoloski said they'll rotate seltzers fre-

'Those ones are going to change pretty quickly because they're easy to do,"

Hard cider and wine also will be served, with those offerings coming from New Hudson's Whole Hearted Winery.

Ryan Sokoloski brings experience in the restaurant field. He spent more than a decade working at restaurants in places like downtown Detroit. He said he's a fan of several of the beers Great White Buffalo is brewing.

The brewery has a full kitchen, making items perfect for sharing. While the menu is still being finalized, they expect to serve dishes such as wings, flatbreads, salads and tacos, with several

vegan and gluten-free options. Of course, they also plan on having a

bison burger on the menu as well. "A little bit for everybody," Eric Sokoloski said. "We have a nice bison burger

that has an onion jam. It's good." His brother has been sampling the beers, and said they have a great array

that will impress. "I like the (Munich) lager," Ryan Sokoloski said. "It's like our version of Oktoberfest. I love Oktoberfest. And I think our amber might be the best."

### Deficit

Continued from Page 1A

In the past few years, there have been no excess revenues, only a growing deficit, from \$562,000 in 2022 to a projected \$638,392 this year, which is 17 percent of the court's budget.

"We haven't been able to find some secret pot of money or some miracle cure," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, noting the shortfall this year was not a surprise to anyone, as revenues have continued to decrease in recent times. "The problem is us. The problem is the communities ... not writing the number of tickets that we used to in the past."

### How the court gets its money

For 2023, the court's adopted budget shows revenue from fines and fees at an estimated \$2.4 million or 77 percent of its revenue, with the other 23 percent generated through probation, interest and "other" sources, for total revenues of \$3.14 million.

Operating costs are estimated at \$3.8 million, including \$3.14 million in employee salaries and benefits

At a recent meeting with the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Heise said finding a solution to the court's funding shortfall should be a township priority for 2023. The 35th District Court Authority Board - currently the three township supervisors and two mayors - oversees the court's

In 2023, Heise said, Plymouth Township's expected contribution will be \$110,000-\$115,000, while Canton Township was looking at a \$360,000 contribution to court operations. Numbers are based on court use; Canton, with the largest population of the five communities at nearly 100,000 citizens, has the highest use of court resources.

Heise also said he believed the court was overstaffed "in some areas."

While tickets were down significantly in 2020 due to fewer drivers on the road and fewer traffic stops, overall trends show tickets and court cases in general have declined over the past decade or more.

"I think it's how communities are viewing community policing," Heise said. "I think some of us might be a little



Plymouth's 35th District Court serves the communities of Canton Township, City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

more stringent than others."

Twenty years ago, in 2003, the court handled 49,358 cases, including traffic, non-traffic (felony, misdemeanor and civil infractions) and civil cases. By 2013, that number had decreased to 40,792 and continued to decline to 36,378 by 2019.

In 2020, during the height of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, cases bottomed out at 22,460, rebounding only to 24,899 in 2021. Reports are not yet available for

In Canton, Public Safety Director Chad Baugh said, overall, officers are writing fewer citations compared to 10

"I think there's been a general change in that, yes," Baugh said. "Citations are given to help - whether they are warnings or civil infractions - they are there to help educate, change behavior and make Canton as safe as possible. Our goal is not to generate revenue."

Northville Township Police Chief Scott Hilden said ticket writing is at the discretion of patrol officers.

"We have a responsibility to try to make the roadways in our community as safe as possible," Hilden said. "The issuing (of citations) is based on the driving behaviors of the people the officers are encountering. Sometimes they feel it could be handled with a verbal warning, and that would be appropriate. If they

feel the violation should result in a written citation, that could be deemed appropriate also

'We have never – and I'll stress that – we have never issued citations because it's a revenue generator," he added. "It's unethical."

It's also illegal. Section 257.750 of the Michigan Compiled Laws prohibits requiring a police officer to issue a predetermined or specified number of cita-

#### What can be done to bolster court finances

Facing a \$360,000 burden on Canton Township's bottom line in 2023, -Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said the "antiquated formula" dictates that Canton pay 70 percent of the deficit, even though it makes up 59 percent of the population in the district.

'They're basically saying 70 percent of the business is ours," she said.

Graham-Hudak said she believes the court's costs can be cut and revenues can be increased with a closer look at court finances.

"In 2022 alone, our tickets were up by 20 percent as businesses and schools reopened, but the court's deficit still increased," she said. "If more revenue is needed from tickets that are written, the court could assess higher fines, but that is up to the court, not the communities."

A pending retirement and use of the fund balance helped reduce the deficit in 2021, she said.

"However, they gave raises and bonuses to (court) employees in 2022, which increased the deficit even more, and added a new position, a security person, so we ended up going the wrong way again."

Graham-Hudak said she proposed several ideas, including a five-year budget cutting plan, applying for grants to help fund the court's sobriety court program, researching whether other communities could utilize an empty court room and bringing in an independent consultant to review court financing.

The board ultimately decided instead to bring in help from the State Court Administrative Office. A representative from that office is expected in March to begin a best practices review and financial review.

"I think we need to do what's best for our residents in the long run," Graham-Hudak said. "Obviously people have different ideas about different items, but I think we need to work together for our residents."

Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull said that while his city has a smaller financial responsibility, it's all relative.

"It is absolutely a concern because we all have budgets," Turnbull said. "Let's just say we're an \$18 million company, we spend \$18 million dollars. We don't have any extra, and neither does Canton or Plymouth or any of us. Whatever you take in in taxes, we spend everything on infrastructure. We are a not-for-profit organization."

"It's the same pain," he added. "It might be \$20,000 or \$30,000 in Northville, but that's a lot of money in our budget.

The 35th District Court's Chief Judge Michael Gerou said the court gets input regularly from the five communities it serves.

"We take our role of being stewards of the public's resources very seriously," he said. "Our job is to deliver justice and to do so in a cost-efficient way; we are very transparent and we're always open to suggestions. We get suggestions from other courts, we get them from the Supreme Court Administrator's Office, we try to adhere to best practices.'

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



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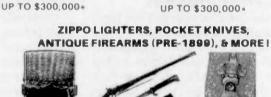


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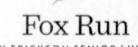
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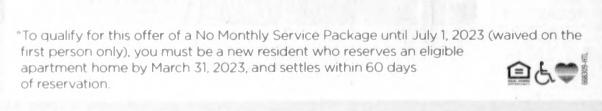
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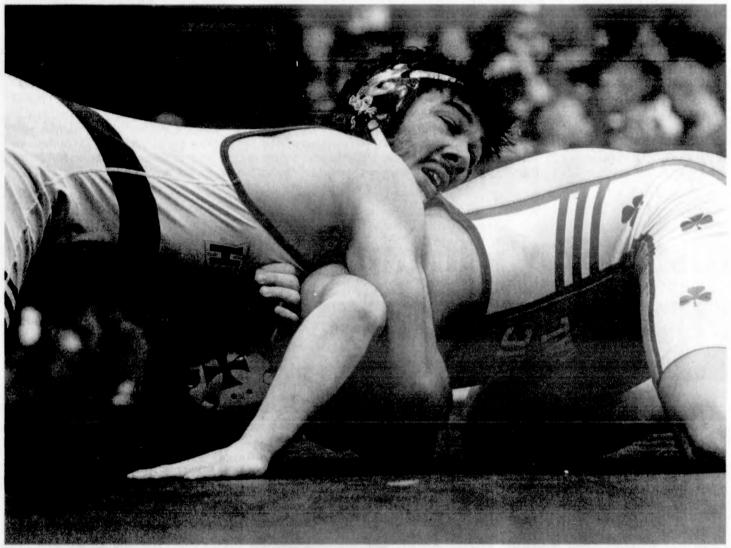








# **SPORTS**



Detroit Catholic Central's Dylan Gilcher (right) wrestles Hartland's Gabe Cappellano during the state Division 1 championship dual Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 at Wings Event Center. PHOTOS BY BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

# DCC tops Hartland for state wrestling crown

**Bill Khan** 

Livingston Daily **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

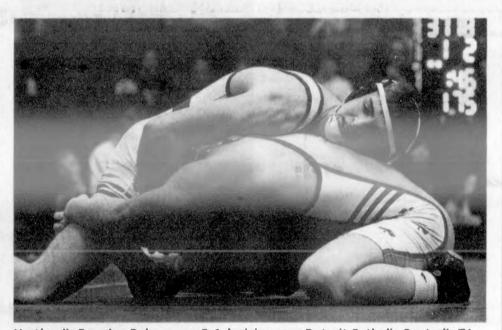
KALAMAZOO - The state championship had already been decided by the time Hartland seniors Nick Rochowiak and Brayden Bobo took the mat against **Detroit Catholic Central wrestlers late** Saturday afternoon.

That didn't diminish the importance of those matches for each wrestler.

Rochowiak and Bobo certainly didn't go through the motions to finish the state Division 1 championship match, beating highly ranked opponents to build some personal momentum heading into the individual state finals next weekend at Ford Field.

The Shamrocks clinched the championship with three matches remaining

See WRESTLING, Page 6B



Hartland's Brayden Bobo won a 5-1 decision over Detroit Catholic Central's TJ Bunn during the state Division 1 championship dual on Saturday.

# **Brother Rice** beats UDJ to capture CHSL tourney title

**Brandon Folsom** 

Hometownlife.com

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Warren Marshall missed a shot early in the first half of Friday night's Catholic League tournament championship.

And then the heckling started.

"That's why you're only going D-II!" one ill-informed fan shouted at him from the front row of the north set of bleachers inside a packed Calihan Hall at Detroit Mercy.

"Only D-II!" the fan's buddies chimed in.

The heckling continued. Only briefly, though.

Xavier Thomas got the Brother Rice boys basketball team going, as the senior scored 11 of his 22 points in the opening quarter. Once Detroit U-D Jesuit made defensive adjustments to slow down the Toledo signee, that's when things started opening up for

The junior absolutely took over the game, scoring down low, scoring off an alley-oop from Wisconsin's John Blackwell, burying back-to-back 3pointers right in front of his new courtside friends (read: haters) and coming up with dunk after dunk while a Who's Who? list of movers and shakers in the high school basketball community watched.

You name it, they were there to see it. From soon-to-be-named Mr. Basketball candidate Ryan Hurst of North Farmington, who's coincidently a Detroit Mercy commit, to old Detroit Catholic Central rival Chas Lewsless, who has since transferred to Detroit King and has committed to San Diego, as well as plenty of former college players and current college scouts.

Marshall finished with a team-high 25 points as the second-ranked Warriors (20-1) staved off UDJ's comeback down the stretch, captured the 68-63 victory and secured the CHSL tourna-

It'd be unfair to call his performance a coming-out party because, frankly, he's been playing at a high level all season long, but it definitely marked his arrival as one of the state's top players. He pushed the Warriors past UDJ and scrappy guard Sonny Wilson, also a Toledo signee, who scored a gamebest 31 points, and he did it with the entire CHSL sitting in the stands.

See TOURNEY, Page 6B

# Salem upsets Wayne Memorial in OT for KLAA championship

**Brandon Folsom** 

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

The final score was 67-64.

If you think that sounds like a thrilling finish to Thursday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship, you don't know the half of it.

Somehow, someway, the Salem girls basketball team upset Wayne Memorial in overtime. Which is saying something. This is only the Rocks' second team to have at least a .500 record since 2016. The pre-season coach's poll picked them to finish fifth in the KLAA-West.

And the Zebras? They're led by two McDonald's All-American nominees -Georgetown signee Mayla Ham and North Dakota's Paris Bass — who have taken their team to the Breslin Center each of the past two seasons.

Stealing a win from a state power such as Wayne is emotional enough. But no player was put through a gam-

ut of emotions quite like Shahd Bakkar. Salem (16-6, 12-2) entered the fourth with a 14-point lead, but the Zebras kept chipping away at it. Shots from Ham, Bass and Alexis Halley set up Mia Bazzi

at 59 with 1:25 left in regulation. Free throws from Madison Morson, who scored a game-high 33 points, put the Rocks ahead briefly, but Colleena Bryant hit a shot in the post to knot it up, once again, at 61, with 8.5 seconds re-

with a 3-pointer that knotted the score

Bakkar received the ensuing inbounds and darted up the floor, hoping

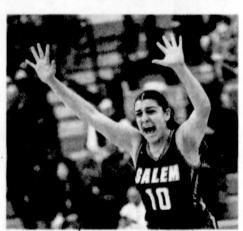
maining.

to set up Salem with a game-winning attempt. Instead, Ham fouled Bakkar near half court with just 1.4 seconds on the scoreboard.

The Rocks were in the double bonus. If Bakkar makes at least one attempt, her team likely wins.

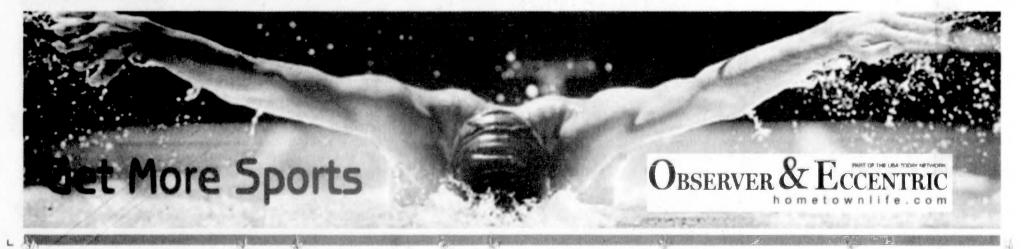
The Rochester University commit toed the line, trembling inside withnerves, and missed the first shot. Just about everyone in the gym was nervous as she was preparing to shoot the second. Heck, even Northville athletic director Brian Samulski was nervously pacing behind the scorer's table with the KLAA championship trophy cradled in his left arm, eager to see who he'd be presenting it to after the final buzzer.

See KLAA, Page 2B



Salem's Shahd Bakkar celebrates winning the KLAA girls basketball championship game Thursday, Feb. 23,

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



# Groves, Milford students win MHSAA award

**Brandon Folsom** 

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Ella Bank of Birmingham Groves and Caroline Colt of Milford were two of the 14 student-athletes from Class A schools who were awarded a \$2,000 college scholarship from the Michigan High School Athletic Association on Tuesday.

The two seniors were recipients of the Scholar-Athlete Award, an honor the MHSAA has handed out for the past 34 years

To be eligible, student-athletes must letter in one varsity sport, carry at least a 3.5 grade-point average and write an essay about the importance of sports-



MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Winners. HOMETOWN LIFE/ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION

manship

There were 32 recipients this time around, including Plymouth Christian Academy's Noah Etnyre and Cran-

brook's Jordan Richie, who were selected for the honor earlier this month.

Blank, who played three seasons of golf, two years of basketball and is slated to play her fourth spring of softball, is a National Honor Society and National Math Honor Society member at Groves. She will study physics at the University of Michigan.

Helping her receive the honor was this portion of her essay: "Being a good sport goes beyond cordiality and shaking hands after a match. Good sportsmanship creates trust, and trust creates respect. ... Actions on the field have effects on opinions off of it."

Colt also played three seasons of golf but is about to be a fourth-year tennis player as well. But, perhaps, she's most known for helping create Milford's Unified basketball program, which is in its second season. The National Honor Society member is undecided about where she will attend college but wants to study medicine and humanities.

Here's a highlight from her essay: "As a golfer, tennis player, and all-around athlete, I have been told my entire life to follow the rules, play fair, and have fun. Yet, when faced with difficult choices, I often see my competitors lack honor and integrity. I believe that true sportsmanship is rare, yet is the most crucial characteristic of being a great athlete."

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

# Meet the finalists for Michigan Miss Basketball

**Mick McCabe** 

**Special to Detroit Free Press** 

The streak will stop at four.

For the first time since 2018, this year's Mick McCabe Miss Basketball Award will not go to a player from Detroit Edison.

After Edison's unprecedented run of four consecutive winners - Rickea Jackson in 2019, Gabby Elliott in 2020, DeeDee Hagemann in 2021and Ruby Whitehorn last year - the 42nd Miss Basketball will come from one of the other 689 schools in Michigan that play girls basketball.

This is the most prestigious award a female athlete in Michigan can receive. It represents the best of the best from a state long known for its excellence in girls basketball

A year from now, the five finalists will be close to wrapping up their freshman seasons at five of the most competitive schools in the country. Macy Brown of East Grand Rapids will be playing at Michigan while Buchanan's Faith Carson will be at rival Ohio State. Two powerhouses in the Mid-American Conference will have two of the finalists. Kennedy Blair of Dearborn Divine Child will play at Bowling Green and Cadence Dykstra of Grand Rapids West Catholic will be at Toledo.

Wayne's Mayla Ham will be in the Big East, playing for Georgetown.

St. Ignace coach Dorene Ingalls, chairperson of the Miss Basketball award for the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, did her due diligence in compiling the list of finalists.

She had a committee of 13 coaches from different areas of the state. They were sent biographical information on 14 nominees and asked to vote for five.

"I think this year's class has a lot of depth and some fantastic careers," Ingalls said. "Their careers and their seniors year speak for themselves. But the fact that their team is successful and played a competitive schedule is a big bonus.

The voting will be from March 2-6 and only BCAM members are permitted to vote. The presentation will be March

Here is an alphabetical look at the finalists

### **Kennedy Blair**

Dearborn Divine Child, point guard, 5 feet 10.

College: Bowling Green. Averages: 25.5 points, 9.5 assists, 6

Best move: Driving into the lane for a pull-up jump shot or a pass.

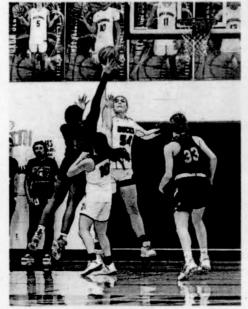
Favorite athlete: Kevin Durant. Top opponent: Maya White, Far-

mington Hills Mercy.

Favorite book: "The Giver" by Lois

When my basketball career is finished I will ...: "be a coach or a physical therapist and help recovering athletes."

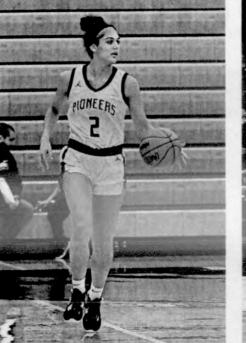
Overview: A scoring machine, she has had games of 46, 42 and 35 points, and each was in a close game. The other day, she had 37 points in the first three quarters. She averaged 29.5 points per



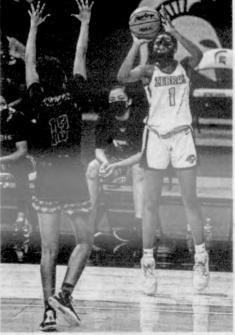
Buchanan center Faith Carson is the most intimidating post presence in the state. PROVIDED BY THE CARSON FAMILY



Cadence Dykstra's defensive tenacity sets the tone for Grand Rapids West Catholic. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS



**East Grand Rapids guard Macy Brown** is a threat from the 3-point arc, as well as in the paint. PROVIDED BY BROWN FAMILY



Mayla Ham has become the best rebounding guard in Wayne Memorial history. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

game in the always-tough Central Division of the Catholic League, something no one else has ever done. She is an amazing passer when she takes the ball to the basket and looks for open teammates. She has incredible, Caitlin Clarklike range

### **Macy Brown**

East Grand Rapids, point guard, 6-0. College: Michigan.

Averages: 25.0 points, 8.8 assists,

3.4 assists.

Biggest area of improvement: Attacks and scores against a myriad of defensive attention.

Best move: Uses a hesitation dribble at the 3-point line and attacks the bas-

Favorite athlete: LeBron James Top opponent: Cadence Dykstra, **Grand Rapids West Catholic.** Favorite book: "The Kite Runner," by

Khaled Hosseini When my basketball career is finished I will ...: "be a sports broadcast-

Overview: She will follow her two older sisters into Division I basketball. She is a threat from the 3-point arc, in the paint and everywhere in between. She has done a good job of learning how to create space to get off her shot. Her biggest scoring games have been against the best teams on the schedule and she has the ability to impact the game defensively.

### **Faith Carson**

Buchanan, center, 6-4. College: Ohio State.

Averages: 19.2 points, 11.3 rebounds, 6.3 blocks.

Biggest area of improvement: Ball

handling and perimeter shooting. Best move: Has the ball on the block, spins to the middle and brings it back with an up-and-under move.

Favorite athlete: Michael Jordan. Top opponent: Sarah Rambus

(Flushing). Favorite book: "What Made Maddy Run: The Secret Struggles and Tragic Death of an All-American Teen," by Kate

When my basketball career is finished I will ...: "travel across the country and teach young athletes about proper nutrition, eating right and treating your body well.

Overview: The most intimidating post presence in the state. A volleyball injury cost her virtually all of her junior basketball season, but she has been terrific this season. She is nimble and has good hands and quick feet, which help with her shot blocking. She is lights-out when she gets good position inside. She can finish inside with either hand. She is also hitting 36% of her 3-pointers.

### **Cadence Dykstra**

Grand Rapids West Catholic, point guard, 5-9.

College: Toledo.

Stats: 14.4 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals.

Biggest area of improvement: Perimeter shooting.

Best move: Takes the ball to the basket, absorbs contact to draw the foul and

finishes for an and-one. Favorite athlete: Kobe Bryant

Top opponent: Macy Brown, East

Grand Rapids. Favorite book: "Where the Crawdads Sing," by Delia Owens.

When my basketball career is finished I will ...: "own my own business."

Overview: She has turned from a support person last season on the Division 2 runner-up to becoming the main cog on the best team in the state. This is her fourth year of being the team's floor general. Her defensive tenacity sets the tone for the team. She has assumed the leadership role this season and has become a motivator for her teammates.

### Mayla Ham

Wayne, guard, 5-10.

College: Georgetown.

Stats: 19.4 points, 9.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists.

Biggest area of improvement: Rebounding

Best move: Dribbles down the right side, uses a quick crossover dribble to the left to create space for a jump shot or

drive to the basket. Favorite athlete: Kobe Bryant Top opponent: Macy Brown, East

Grand Rapids. Favorite book: "Good Vibes, Good Life: How Self-Love is the Key to Un-

locking Your Greatness," by Vex King.

When my basketball career is finished I will ...: "be an athletic trainer." Overview: As a freshman, her many

turnovers often led to a seat on the bench. But she has improved her ball handling and decision-making so much she has dramatically cut down on her turnovers. She has become the best rebounding guard in program history. She has been to a pair of Division 1 final fours and could reach a third this season.

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press.

### **KLAA**

Continued from Page 1B

And then the second attempt was

Bass corralled the rebound, got an outlet pass to Bryant and then, headscratching enough, Bakkar swooped in and hand-checked Bryant just before the final buzzer

Bryant started celebrating, knowing she, too, was about to head to the foul line with a chance to win it.

"It was very stressful. I got nervous because I'd never been in that type of a situation," said Bakkar, who scored 24 points. "We've never been in such a close game where I had to take the shot. So I got really nervous. And that was a bad foul. I think it was a careless foul. That was the only really, really bad moment in the game.

And, somehow, Bryant missed both of her attempts as well.

The buzzer sounded and Bakkar sprinted back to Salem's bench, tears started forming and then she hugged Isabell Kulick. As the senior found her spot on the bench, awaiting Wells' instructions for overtime, she couldn't hide her emotions. She was about to pour tears

She had just gotten a second chance. A chance to redeem herself, and a

chance to push the Rocks to a win that would've been unthinkable before Wells took over the program two years ago.

"Shahd, that's my Mustang, that's my Ferrari, and sometimes I want to slow her down," said Wells, who led Ypsilanti Arbor Prep to a state title in 2016. "But that thing has speed, so I have to let her go. I have to let her go. That's what I did tonight, and I was confident she was

See KLAA, Page 3B





Salem celebrates winning the KLAA girls basketball championship game Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, at Northville. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### **KLAA**

Continued from Page 2B

going to do what she had to do. You gotta take the good with the bad, but I'm confident in Shahd all the time. I believe in

"I really believed Shahd was going to make those free throws, to be honest. She's a confident kid, and she believes in herself. I thought she was going to make them. When she missed them, I felt bad for her. She had put in so much work to make it here. I knew if we had another opportunity, Shahd was going to come through for us because she's the type of player who has a short memory."

Morson and Bryant traded free throws and baskets in overtime.

And then Bakkar drove to the hoop in the waning moments, drew in Wayne's defenders and kicked it out to Ashley Resovsky, who found a small window to get to the hoop and sink a basket to put Salem ahead by two points.

After Wayne couldn't tie the score on the next possession, it resorted to fouling Bakkar during the ensuing inbounds play. Only a half-second was left. Salem didn't need her to make a free throw. The win was likely wrapped up.

But Salem's bench stood up and started cheering her on. Bakkar waved back at them and yelled, "Come on, let's go!" And then she made the second attempt to give the Rocks insurance on the

scoreboard.

After Wayne's Hail Mary never manifested, she raised both arms above her head and started celebrating. Tears formed as she grabbed Kulick for anoth-

"You know what? They believe in each other," Wells said after accepting the championship trophy from Samulski. "They trust each other. They work hard. They've got a chip on their shoulders because we were picked to finish fifth in the league. They took that personally, plus they got beat up a lot their first couple of years, my seniors, and they just call it the revenge tour. I know it's a cliche, but they've actually been on

"They've beaten a lot of teams that

have beaten them pretty badly the last couple of years. I told them if they want it, they have got to put the work in. Not just on game day. You've got to put it in on the other days, and they do. They really do put the work in."

Wells organized the girls for a team photo with the trophy. A few seconds in, Bakkar interrupted the group and said, "Hey, hold up, everybody hold up five fingers!"

And so the team did.

"They picked us fifth, and we had to prove them wrong," Bakkar said. "We had a goal, and our motivation was to prove every single person who put us in fifth wrong, which was the deal. That was the goal, and we did it."

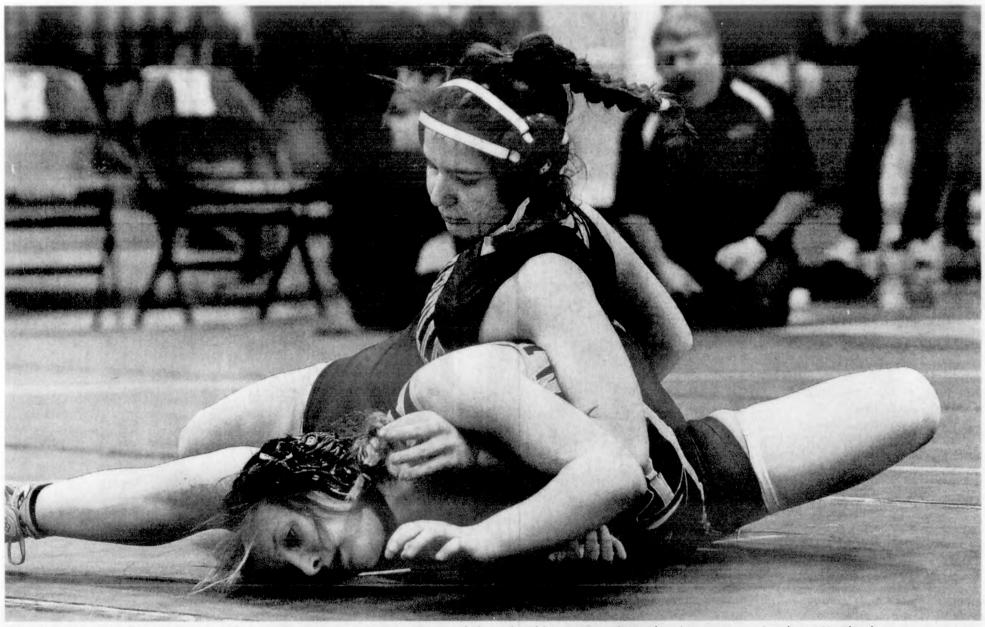
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Fowlerville's Maggie Buurma beat DeWitt's Jamie Cook, 11-7, in the 125-pound championship match at the regional tournament Sunday at Hartland. PHOTOS BY DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

# Four county wrestlers win regional titles

### Defending champs Nauss, Buurma among group looking to add more hardware

**Bill Khan** 

**Livingston Daily** 

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton junior Sabrina Nauss and Fowlerville sophomore Maggie Buurma took the first steps toward defending their girls wrestling state championships by winning regional titles Sunday.

Nauss, who is ranked fourth nationally pound for pound by USA Wrestling, won both of her matches with pins in the regional at Birmingham Groves. She won the 190-pound championship by pinning Bella Huston of Brooklyn Columbia Central in 2 minutes, 48 sec-

Nauss won a Michigan Wrestling Association state championship as a freshman and won the first girl to win a Michigan High School Athletic Associa- Green won her three matches via pins tion title when she captured the opening that took a total of 1 minute, 42 seconds. match in last year's inaugural finals for

girls at Ford Field in Detroit.

Buurma, ranked 21st nationally at 127, repeated as a regional champion by winning an 11-7 decision over DeWitt's Jamie Cook in the 125-pound final at Hartland.

Buurma is 5-0 this year against Cook, who is ranked fifth in the state by MichiganGrappler.com. This was the first match that Buurma didn't win via pin.

Fowlerville sophomore Hannah Blyveis won the 130-pound championship at Hartland with a 6-3 decision over De-Witt's Elliana Hillard. Blyveis was a regional runner-up and eighth in the state meet for Gaylord last season.

Howell senior Brynn Green, ranked 14th nationally at 152, won the 155 championship at Hartland by pinning Standish-Sterling's Aliyah Schalk in 1:01.

Green was a regional runner-up and

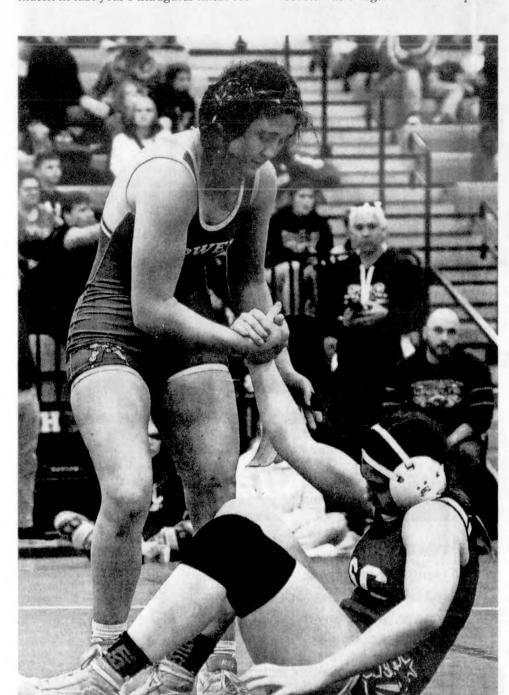
third in the state at 155 last season.

The four regional champions were the only Livingston County girls to qualify for the state tournament, which will be held March 3-4 at Ford Field. The top four in each weight class at regionals ad-

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



Hannah Blyveis of Fowlerville won the 130-pound championship match.



After winning the 155-pound championship match by pin, Howell's Brynn Green helps up Standish-Sterling's Aliyah Schalk.



# Howell freshman sparks win over Livonia Stevenson

**Bill Khan** 

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Gabby Piepho was never really a typical freshman on the basketball court, announcing her presence with a 17-point performance on the road against a tough Midland Dow team in her high school debut.

Now, while still technically a ninthgrader, Piepho can lean on her success during a full 22-game regular season for Howell as she enters a new phase in her development.

She heads into her first state tournament possessing the poise and presence of a reliable veteran.

When Howell needed to create separation against Livonia Stevenson, it was Piepho who hit five 3-pointers and scored 17 points in the third quarter to spark a 45-37 victory Tuesday night in the regular-season finale.

She hit a 3-pointer to break a 25-25 tie, then scored II straight points in the final 2:14 of the third quarter to extend Howell's lead to 39-27. That included three consecutive 3-pointers in less than a minute.

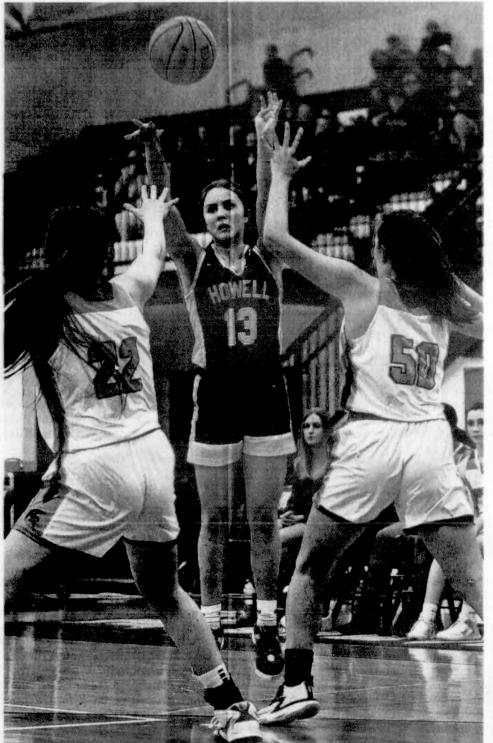
"I was just playing the game," said Piepho, who finished with a game-high 24 points. "The team got a bunch of energy and we got our second wind. Just having their support and everything helped me have faith in my shot. I was feeling it for a little bit. I knew if I missed, my team would go get the rebound. I have faith in them."

The next challenge for Piepho and the Highlanders will come with the start of district play at 5:30 p.m. March 1 against Milford at Hartland. After a 16-6 regular season, the best record in Livingston County, Howell is seeking its first district championship since 2016.

"I'm so excited," Piepho said. "I've been dreaming of this day since I was little. It's going to be fun."

Howell coach Tim Olszewski has zero doubt that moment will be too big for Piepho. Any questions about how she would handle the pressure of varsity basketball were answered emphatically that first night up in Midland on Nov. 29.

"I don't think Gabby's ever lacked confidence in her game." Olszewski said. "I think she was trying to figure out



Howell freshman Gabby Piepho hit five 3-pointers during the third quarter of a 45-37 victory at Livonia Stevenson on Tuesday. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

her position on the team, meaning, 'What am I supposed to do? Am I supposed to be as aggressive as I want to is. She's a solid, very good basketball

be? Should I sit back?'

"She's come to realize how good she

player. I feel she's more comfortable being on the floor with her teammates. They do look to her. They want her to lead, as well as the senior captains. So, I feel she's more comfortable in that role, being more assertive with her game than she was early on."

The only concern about Piepho was her health during the fourth quarter against Stevenson. She came off the floor with an ankle injury with 6:05 left. After returning to the game, she was shaken up while battling on the floor for a loose ball in the final minute.

"It's part of the game," she said. "You get knocked down, but you've got to keep getting up."

Piepho scored six points in the first 3 minutes and 14 seconds, as Howell jumped out to an II-I lead. Stevenson cut the deficit to 17-16 by halftime, as Howell didn't score a field goal in the second quarter and shot 4-for-9 from the line.

After Stevenson took an 18-17 lead to start the third quarter, the game was tied three times before Piepho dominated the final half of the quarter to put the Highlanders comfortably ahead.

"She wasn't shooting in the first half," Stevenson coach Kareem Smart said. "We played off of her and she started shooting in the second half. It was hard for us to recover."

Molly Deurloo had 10 points and Caitlyn Rayl seven for Howell.

Gabby Piergentili scored 10 points, Bella Sapia eight and Addy Piergentili seven for Stevenson.

The Spartans will take a 10-12 record into a first-round district game against Livonia Churchill at 7 p.m. Monday at Canton. Stevenson swept the regularseason series with Churchill, winning 36-27 and 58-39.

"I think we're in a good spot right now," Smart said. "A little bit more help defense and a few more tweaks here to get ready for districts and we should be

"(Churchill) plays us pretty competitive. We have to make sure we bring our 'A' game every time."

Howell has a 6-0 record against Stevenson since the KLAA formed in 2008-

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





### Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

and eventually beat Hartland by a 41-21 score at Wings Event Center.

Rochowiak was the first Eagle to take the mat after Hartland's mathematical hopes for a comeback were dashed, winning 13-9 over Cameron Adams in what could be a preview of the 165-pound individual state championship.

Adams is ranked No. 1 and Rochowiak No. 2 in that weight class by Michigan Grappler.

"It's still very important," Rochowiak said. "I had to get the job done for the team to kind of (narrow) the score. That's a good rivalry with that guy. I know I'll see him at the state meet.

"He grew up in Hartland. He was a good buddy of mine growing up. We've wrestled back and forth in high school. It's gone both ways. It's always a good match."

Rochowiak heads to Ford Field with a 31-match winning streak.

"I'm feeling good," he said. "I'm feeling like I'm peaking. It's just a matter of gaining that edge every day, working a little bit harder in practice, pushing it here on the mat and getting the mentality right."

Bobo didn't wrestle Saturday morning in Hartland's 38-28 victory over Rockford in the state semifinals. He had a chance to showcase himself on a big stage by beating the third-ranked 165-pounder in Division 1, TJ Bunn, by a 5-1 score at 175. Bobo is ranked fifth at 171.

It was a confidence booster for Bobo, who lost in the finals of the KLAA and regional tournaments earlier in the month

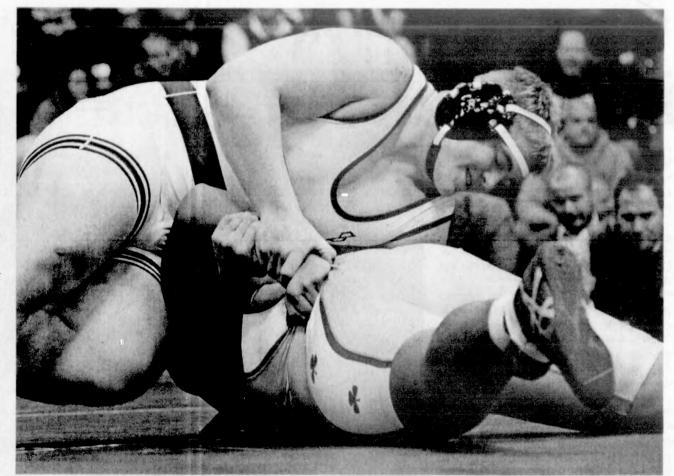
"I had a pretty tough loss this year, so it's definitely nice to be able to remind yourself you've still got it and keep going," Bobo said.

Adams and Bunn are two of the five wrestlers who began their careers in the Hartland Wrestling Club who were on Catholic Central's roster, four of whom competed in the state final.

"Those guys they beat are guys they grew up wrestling with," Hartland coach Kyle Summerfield said. "They're Hartland wrestlers who went to C.C. They grew up wrestling these kids. They're friends with them, but at the same time there's a certain amount of pride to go and beat those kids. Both TJ and Cam are great kids. For both sides, there's pride to win and beat your old training partner and now your rival."

While Rochowiak and Bobo can look forward to wrestling at Ford Field, the loss in the state championship was the end of their team careers at Hartland.

"It's a surreal feeling, knowing this is my last high school dual ever," Rochowiak said. "I'm proud of everyone. I'm proud of all the boys. They left it all on the mat. Obviously, it sucks that we can't take home the state championship, but we left it all out there and we really



Hartland heavyweight Vincent Cox got his third pin of the team finals against Detroit Catholic Central's Benny Ezuika during the state Division 1 championship dual Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 at Wings Event Center.

BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

battled hard, so I'm happy with it."

The Eagles were wrestling in the state championship match for the first time since winning their only state title in 2016 and for the seventh time in program history. They lost to Catholic Central in the semifinals the past two seasons.

"I remember being a freshman, it was my first time here," Bobo said. "It was scary. It's a big place. So, I'm proud of what everybody did today."

Hartland's only two losses this season were against the Shamrocks. The Eagles started their season with a loss in an assembly dual at Catholic Central and ended it with another loss in the state championship. In between, Hartland won 27 consecutive matches.

The dual was tied 12-12 after five matches, with senior Vincent Cox getting his third pin of the weekend at 285 to provide a spark for the Eagles in the second match

Freshmen Bodie Abbey and Dallas Korponic, who were 3-0 in the team finals, won by decisions.

The Shamrocks then rolled out wrestlers ranked in the top two in their weight class in six of the next seven

matches, winning five of them to take control.

"Once we got to 38, you have (Mason) Stewart there, (Clayton) Jones, (Dylan) Gilcher, (Darius) Marines," Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock said. "That's a pretty tough gauntlet to run through. Once we got to those guys, we knew we could score some points and perhaps separate the dual.

"But hat's off to Hartland. Coach Summerfield and his staff did a remarkable job with those guys tonight. They competed hard, flipped some matches from earlier in the year. They're an excellent wrestling community. They have a lot of pride in what they do, and they showed that tonight."

The Shamrocks finished 27-2, their two losses coming against state powers from Ohio. They have won 12 straight duals against Hartland since losing 39-31 in the regional championship match at Holly on Feb. 20, 2009

Catholic Central finished runner-up to Davison each of the last two seasons.

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

# **Obituaries**



Paul David Burrow Sr.

MILFORD - Paul David Burrow Sr., a long time resident of Milford passed away on on February 20, 2023 at the age of 84.

He is survived his daughter, Kimberly Renko; his sons, Paul "Dave" Burrow II and Bill (Kelly) Burrow. Grandfather of Amanda (Jared) Chaffee, the late Tayler Mackenzie, Drew, Alison, and great grandfather of Alexandrea and Asher. He is also survived by her brother-in-law, Robert L. "Buddy" McCain (Beverly); and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Paul is preceded in death by his beloved wife of nearly sixty years, Betty Jean Burrow; also 8 brothers and sisters.

A Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Burial followed at Milford Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in his name to the First Baptist Church of Milford.

## **Tourney**

Continued from Page 1B

Yeah, Marshall only had offers from Division II Grand Valley State and Macomb Community College entering the game. But that should change very shortly.

"I don't think he's going to be D-II much
longer," Brother Rice
coach Rick Palmer said
while patting his front
pocket, looking for his
cellphone. "I haven't
turned my phone on yet,
but I wouldn't be surprised if he's D-I here in
a couple of minutes."

Marshall kicked off the fourth quarter with a monster dunk, and then Thomas got going once again to ensure the Warriors could stay a step ahead of UDJ.

The only misstep Marshall made in the second half was missing a pair of free throws just after Wilson had buried a 3-pointer to trim the Warriors' lead to only 65-62 in the waning moments.

Following a timeout with 22.1 seconds left, Ryan Hatcher attempted a 3 to trim UDJ's deficit to just a point but the shot rimmed out.

Louisville signee Curtis Blackwell hit a pair of free throws in the bonus to put a comeback for the Cubs completely out of reach with 3.3 seconds remaining.

And then the Warriors' bench quickly mobbed Marshall and the rest of the starters.

"I thought he was pretty good tonight," Palmer added. "He's an unbelievable kid, and I'm happy for him. I'm happy for all my kids, but he just shuts his mouth and works. For



Brother Rice celebrates winning the Catholic League tournament championship Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, at Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

him to show up on this stage, it's just amazing."

After Brother Rice accepted the championship trophy, a mob of media members swarmed Marshall.

His interviews lasted so long that he was late to join the rest of the Warriors for their celebration inside the locker room.

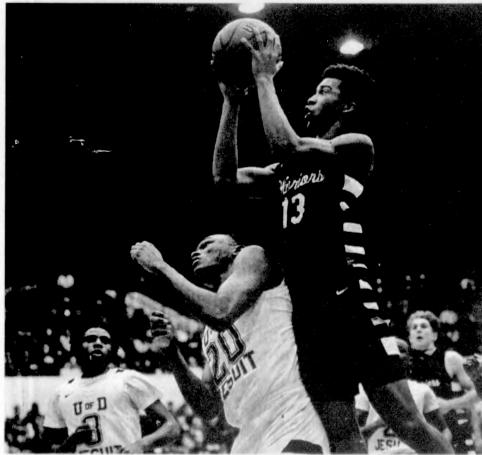
His hecklers were long

gone by then, though.

"It kind of pushed me a
little bit," the 6-foot-5
shooting guard said of
being labeled a D-II prospect by fellow CHSL players. "I hear it sometimes.
It is what it is, but it's
pushing me to go D-I. And
they're realizing it now.

And they're seeing it.

"But being here tonight, it just means a lot.
I've really wanted to play
in this kind of environment and be one of the
starters. Today, it was
just kind of my game. X
started it all."



Brother Rice's Warren Marshall goes up for a layup.

# Who should win high school girls basketball state championships?

Mick McCabe

Special to Detroit Free Press

It's time to dance

We are a few days away from March, which means March Madness to most of the free (Press) world, but the girls state tournament begins Monday in a three-week race to crown four state champions on March 18 in East Lansing.

For the first time in some six years, no team is a lock to win a state champion-ship. Although Detroit Edison is still a favorite in Division 2, the Pioneers are not a team that seems preordained to win another state title.

This is the most wide open tournament we have seen in years, although West Bloomfield is a prohibitive favorite to repeat as champion in Division 1.

Once again the Michigan High School Athletic Association has used its Michigan Power Rating formula to seed the top two teams in each district, which is meant to make it possible for them to meet in the district final.

Sometimes it seems to work better than others (Ann Arbor Richard and Chelsea are not the top two teams in the Pinckney district?). At least it will provide at least one tremendous district semifinal game.

As we begin, here is the Free Press' analysis of all four divisions and who to keep an eye on as we move toward the Breslin Center:

### **Division 1**

Defending champ: West Bloomfield. One year ago, this team was supposed to be a year away before going on a tremendous tournament run and winning the state title. That's when twins Indya and Summer Davis, then sophomores, became stars in the high school basketball world, but it was junior Sydney Hendrix who saved the day with 12 points and 13 rebounds in the final.

Toughest district: District 12 at Wyoming. After a first-round bye, No. 1 seed Byron Center will likely face a dangerous East Grand Rapids team that has been in the top 10, featuring Michigan signee (and Miss Basketball finalist) Macy Brown. Waiting in the finals should be East Kentwood, a team that has had its up and downs this season but is more than capable of pulling off

Final four: Wayne, West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills Mercy, Byron Center

Sleeper: Flint Carman-Ainsworth. Coach Tonya Edwards, one of the state's all-time best players, has the Cavs primed for a big tournament run. Armoni Strozier is a load inside and Sierra Robinson is effective from pretty much anywhere. The key game for them could be a quarterfinal matchup with West Bloomfield.

State champion: A year ago, the Davis twins and Hendrix served notice that the Lakers were a force to be reckoned with. And they are all back this season and playing well. Were it not for losses to South Bend (Indiana) Washington and Arbor Prep, they Lakers would be No. 1. They will wind up there in March.

### Division 2

Defending champ: Detroit Edison. Were it not for COVID-19, Edison could be six-time defending state champ. As it is, the Pioneers won last season as Ruby Whitehorn became the fourth straight Edison player to be named Miss Basketball. There is no Miss Basketball candidate on this team, but the Pioneers play hard, and their press can cause havoc for opposing offenses.

Toughest district: No. 62 at Flint Powers. There are only four schools here, but all of them have winning records, led by Lake Fenton (22-0), which has to face host Powers (15-7) in the first round. On the other side, Goodrich (19-3) faces Linden (14-7). Goodrich's three losses have been to Lake Fenton, and how does that saying go about trying to beat someone more than twice?

Final four: Grand Rapids West Catholic, Lake Fenton, Ann Arbor Richard and Frankenmuth.

Sleeper: Chelsea. This team is definitely good enough to win the state title if it can get by Richard in the district semifinal game, and how in the world is this only a semifinal game? Junior Leila Wells is a terrific point guard and Meg McCalla can knock down shots with the best of them. Sophomore Avery Lay is improving and proving to be a difference maker.

State champion: West Catholic. The Falcons got to the finals last season and graduated the best player in school his-



West Bloomfield's Summer Davis, left, and Rockford's Samantha DeKuiper battle for the ball during the Division 1 state semifinals on March 18, 2022. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

tory, Abbey Kimball. But they are back again and very well could win it this time, thanks to the overall improvement to Cadence Dykstra and several other returnees, who have all added to their games.

### **Division 3**

Defending champ: Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. Prep lost the most exciting player in the state last season in Mya Petticord, who was a four-year star there. She was an amazing playmaker with extraordinary range on her shot and seemed irreplaceable.

Toughest district: No. 71 at Evart. Four of five teams have been ranked at times this season. McBain vs. Lake City could be a regional final game, not a district semifinal. Farwell and Evart should meet in the other semifinal game and the winner of this district may wind up in the final four.

Final four: Sandusky, Arbor Prep, Evart, Buchanan.

Sleeper: Niles Brandywine. The key is beating Buchanan in the district final. If Brandywine can do that, it can get to the final four. But that will be no easy chore. The Bucks beat Brandywine twice this season, but one of them went to overtime. If Brandywine's Ellie Knapp lights it up from 3-point range again, nothing is impossible.

State champion: Arbor Prep. It is difficult to ignore Arbor Prep's pedigree. Sure, Petticord is gone, but junior twins Stacy and Stephanie Utomi earned a ton of valuable experience last season, and they are capable of carrying this team to another state title.

### Division 4

Defending champ: Fowler. Another state title isn't out of the question because the Eagles have won the last two and the roster still contains a Riley—this one is Emma, who was a big part of the previous two titles. The Eagles are 15-7, but have won eight of their past nine games.

Toughest district: District 104 at Rogers City. The northern portion of the Lower Peninsula has played excellent basketball for decades, and this district is another reason why. Semifinal matchups between Johannesburg-Lewiston (16-7) and No. 8 Hillman (18-3) and Posen (14-7) and Onaway (15-6) on the other side of the bracket guarantees a winner capable of getting to the final four.

Final four: Norway, Fowler, Maple City Glen Lake, Colon.

Sleeper: Gaylord St. Mary. The Snowbirds have won their 20th league title in the last 28 seasons and this could be a breakthrough tournament for them. It will be difficult possibly playing Glen Lake in the regional final, but it isn't impossible. Sydney Grusczynski, Macey Bebble and Ava Schultz can all have big scoring nights and their pressure defense gives teams fits.

State champion: Glen Lake. This outstanding program has run into difficulty in the semifinals recently, but that was in Division 3. Now the Lakers are in Division 4 and that could make a world of difference. Plus, Ruby Hogan and Maddie Bradford have been around the



Maple City Glen Lake Gemma Lerchen looks to pass the ball during the first half of a Division 3 state semifinal vs. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep at the Breslin Center in East Lansing on Thursday, March 17, 2022. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep won, 57-44, to move on to the Division 3 final on Saturday. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

block before.

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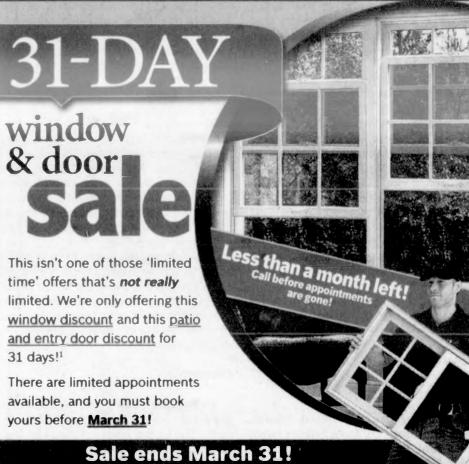
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