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SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Former Kensington Grill in New Hudson is getting a new tenant

Susan Bromley

HometownLife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NEW HUDSON — The former Kensington Grill is getting a new occupant. The site of the restaurant and bar at 30712 Lyon Center Drive East, which closed its doors in September, will reopen this fall as SOKO Social, under the ownership of popular Brighton restaurateurs.

"Our plan is to do a kind of elevated, casual restaurant," Hana Filipovic told the Lyon Township Board during its March 6 meeting. "We want to give the area and neighboring cities somewhere to have a business meeting, birthday parties, celebrate anniversaries, all those wonderful things in a very nice, casual atmosphere. We hope to do for our town what we've done for Brighton."

Filipovic and her brother, Lou Lucaj, went before the board seeking a liquor license recommendation for SOKO Social, which they received as the board welcomed their plans to come to Lyon Township.

Treasurer Patty Carcone said she has been to both Brighton Bar & Grill and Bourbons, the siblings' businesses in Brighton, "many, many times" and was excited.

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Kensington Grill, 30712 Lyon Center Drive East in New Hudson, closed in 2022 after 10 years in business.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Allen Tucker and Patrick Mihalek with "Sandbar Mitchell," a World War II-era B-25 bomber plane at the Warbirds of Glory Museum, located inside a hangar at the Oakland Southwest Airport in New Hudson. Museum members are working on getting the plane to fly again, an enormous task. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New Hudson museum is rebuilding a World War II-era bomber. Here's why

HometownLife.com

Patrick Mihalek and Allen Tucker have embarked on a lofty mission: They intend to get a World War II era B-25 bomber plane flying again.

They have quite the challenge ahead of them. Of the 9,300 B-25 bombers manufactured in the United States from about 1940 to 1945, only

about 100 remain and Mihalek said less than 20 of them still fly.

"After the war, there wasn't a cadre to preserve them," Tucker said. "You don't really preserve until someone wakes up and says, 'There are not a lot of these around. You don't really memorialize them until 30 to 50 years later when you realize you are losing that piece of history.'"

Mihalek and Tucker are determined to preserve at least this one piece.

Mihalek founded the Warbirds of Glory Museum in New Hudson 10 years ago after discovering an abandoned B-25 Mitchell bomber plane that he subsequently mounted a charge to rescue.

See BOMBER, Page 4A

New Northville city manager excited to begin work

David Veselenak

HometownLife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Seeing downtown Northville was enough for George Lahanas to want to serve as the city's new city manager.

When going through the application process, Lahanas took a look at

the assets of the city and knew what Northville had was special. It was then he decided he wanted to be a part of it.

"I think one of the coolest things about a city is having an authentic downtown. And I use the word 'authentic' on purpose because you can't really create it," he said. "This city has that authentic downtown that's vibrant, that's great, that's cool and people see it as an

amenity that they all come to from around the region. That's a huge asset for a city."

Lahanas began March 6 as the new city manager, taking over from Pat Sullivan, who retired from the post earlier this year. He comes to the city located in Wayne and Oakland counties after

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MDOT gets started on major I-696 rebuild

FARMINGTON HILLS — Drivers who frequent Interstate 696 in Farmington Hills and Southfield can expect disruptions in their commute for the rest of the year.

The Michigan Department of Transportation recently began a three-year rebuild of the freeway between Interstate 275 and Lasher Road. This year, MDOT will reconstruct the eastbound portion of that stretch and move all traffic to the westbound side.

"The pavement is really at the end of its life," said Brian Travis, who is managing the project. "We've been out patch-

ing the roadway for the past few years as potholes develop."

Expect several long-term ramp closures

Through late fall, the ramps at southbound Orchard Lake Road, eastbound I-696, eastbound I-696 to American Drive, and northbound Telegraph Road to eastbound I-696 will all be closed. The ramp at westbound I-696 and northbound Orchard Lake Road, which has been closed, will remain closed through the fall.

"Certainly, if you can take an alternate route, do so," Travis said. "If you can't, plan extra time and have patience. There's a lot of people working on these projects day in and day out."

Travis said people can also expect to see several short-term ramp closures throughout the summer.

Looking ahead

In the 2024 construction season, MDOT will turn its attention to the westbound side of I-696, shifting traffic to the new eastbound lanes. In 2025,

drivers will see intermittent median reconstruction along that stretch.

When the project is completed, the impacted area will have all new lanes and ramps.

MDOT anticipates the total price tag for the project will be \$275 million. The project will also support roughly 3,500 jobs, according to MDOT.

Drivers can find regular updates on the project by visiting drivingoakland.com/i696-west.

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

Northville Twp. balloon artist taking talents to build for charity

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — Julie Cylla's simple desire to find an arrangement of celebratory balloons for her sister's baby shower decades eventually led to a new career for the Northville Township woman.

Cylla set out to find a display of balloons and went looking for someone to create a design. Unfortunately, the trend of using balloons in that way hadn't yet hit Michigan, so she decided to start creating such displays herself.

"In 2002, that's when I decided to do balloons because I couldn't find anybody like I wanted," Cylla said. "Since then, I've been going to balloon classes, balloon conventions, balloon workshops, balloon retreats."

Most days, she can be found at her shop, Top Notch Balloon Creations, 42977 W. Seven Mile in the Highland Lakes Shopping Center, where she spends time blowing up and arranging balloons for events and businesses.

Cylla, said she was proud as a Black woman to be among the first to start doing balloon design work. Her business focuses on corporate customers; she has created displays for Amazon. Some of her work has been seen by employees at local centers, including at the Canton Township delivery station on Michigan Avenue that opened last fall.

Before taking on balloon design work full time, Cylla was a manager in a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services office in Detroit. She left that job a few years back when she discov-



Julie Cylla blows up some balloons at her shop on Seven Mile in Northville Township. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ered she could make a living running her business. It's become a dream come true; so much so that Cylla hopes to eventually open her storefront, where she assembles arrangements, to the public so they can visit and pick up arrangements.

Off to construct a display for charity

While she spends plenty of time creating displays in metro Detroit, she'll take her skills west and help create a massive display for a good cause later this month.

Cylla is one of dozens of balloon creators who plan to go to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and help create a massive display using tens of thousands of balloons as a fundraiser for a local charity. The project is expected to take three days to complete. Cylla will lead a team to help create the outdoors-themed display before it opens to the public.

Dubbed the Big Balloon Build, the event has taken place in several cities over the last few years, including Kansas City, Missouri, and Vincennes, Indiana. Each event features a theme. Balloon artists use blown-up balloons to create a big, beautiful scene. After the build, the public is invited to visit to raise money for a local charity.

"You can't imagine what it will look like where balloons are on the walls and you follow this road and all you see is nothing but balloons," she said.

The Wisconsin event will help raise money for organizations for adults with disabilities. People planning to attend can purchase tickets for a variety of events surrounding the balloon build.

Cylla said she's hopeful such an event can eventually come to Michigan, possibly at a place like the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi or Huntington Place in downtown Detroit. Such an event is ripe for innovation, she said, with a build potentially focusing on the automotive industry or Motown history.

"I really do want to bring it to Detroit," she said. "I just have to find a charity that's big enough to help partner with it."

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3 Wayne-Westland students have been hit by vehicles. The district isn't talking

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

WESTLAND — Amanda Brouhard picks up her children from school every day at Cherry Hill Road and Carlson Street. Her three teens, all students at John Glenn High School, cross Cherry Hill at a crosswalk and walk into the neighborhood she's parked in.

The week of Feb. 27, she watched as that crossing became risky. The traffic signal and crosswalk signal were out all week. After Brouhard posted on Facebook about the outage, city officials contacted Wayne County, which repaired both signals March 3.

But until then, Brouhard observed near-misses with children and vehicles for five days straight.

"Cars, if they stopped at all, would go into the intersection," she recalled. "My son actually almost got hit. A car wasn't even paying attention and just



Amanda Brouhard stands at the Cherry Hill Road and Carlson Street intersection, where the traffic light and crosswalk signal were recently broken for at least five days. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

went."

There were no accidents involving pedestrians at this intersection, but that's not the case across the school district.

Since Dec. 8, 2022, three Wayne-Westland students have been hit by vehicles at three separate locations while walking to or from school. One of those students, Jacob Escobedo, was killed. Another, Aalyiah Rasheed-Wiley, suffered injuries that hospitalized her.

The school district, via Communications Director Jenny Johnson, declined repeated interview requests from Hometown Life, citing an "ongoing investigation." Johnson did not respond to an email asking whether the investigation was related to all three crashes. School Board President David Cox also declined an interview.

Brouhard said she is glad the issue at the Cherry Hill Road crosswalk was resolved. But she's frustrated it took nearly a week to fix and thinks her complaints to the school district and West-

land police were not taken as seriously as they should have been. Brouhard said a Westland police vehicle was stationed at the intersection after school for one of the five days.

"Other parents were on (my Facebook) post saying they were calling and complaining too," she said. "So, as parents, we're not really being listened to. They're not taking our children's lives into account. I don't think they really care."

Distracted, reckless driving poses risks to pedestrian students

Rasheed-Wiley, a 15-year-old John Glenn student, was struck by a distracted driver Dec. 8, 2022 while walking to school. She was hit at the corner of Marquette Street and Newburgh Road and, according to her family, has steadily improved.

City police blame the accident on dis-

See STUDENTS, Page 3A

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, April 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.300 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION: ARTICLE 6.0 DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS, SECTION 6.1 SITE PLAN REVIEW (ALL DISTRICTS) SUBSECTION A TO REFERENCE THE UPDATED 2023 SITE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL.**

The draft text amendment and updated Site Plan Development Manual are available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org

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, April 5, 2023.

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Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

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Board votes 6-1 to advance Northville Downs project

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville Downs in Plymouth Township project came one step closer to reality last week, but only after a long procession of residents – and one trustee – spoke out against the plan.

The project, proposed on part of a 128-acre parcel near the southwest corner of Five Mile and Ridge roads, would replace the existing Northville Downs horse racing facility in Northville and include a half-mile racetrack, grandstand, racing building, horse barn and more.

On Feb. 28, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted 6-1 to approve the planned unit development option (PUD) for the property, which is part of the Michigan International Technology Center (MITC) corridor.

Trustee Chuck Curmi voted against the project, citing a long history of the property and objections to the current plan, which he said does not meet the vision for MITC. According to its website, MITC projects are envisioned to include global technology, mobility, life science and engineering innovators.

Instead, Curmi said, two recently approved warehouses and the Northville Downs project will create low paying jobs and high traffic in the northwest corner of the township where the MITC corridor is located.

"These proposed projects produce low economic value-added outcomes," he said, noting gambling, at the racetrack, "could be considered a negative value-added operation, as gambling transfers wealth from the poor to the rich."

Curmi said he was also concerned any revenue the facility brings to the township would be offset by other factors, such as increased traffic and crime.

"For decades Plymouth has enjoyed lower crime and traffic levels verses surrounding communities," Curmi said. "I urge a no vote. Let's be patient and wait for a more suitable investment in Plymouth Township that improves our long-term quality of life and continues to make Plymouth a great place to live and work."

Plymouth Township Police Chief James Knittel spoke at the Feb. 15 planning commission meeting and said conversations with Northville Police made him confident the venue would not bring criminal activity to Plymouth Township.

Like at the Feb. 15 planning commission meeting, a long procession of residents also spoke in opposition to the project, including those with concerns about animal ethics, traffic and road conditions, impacts to the family-oriented atmosphere of Plymouth Township, and the perception that the project appears to be fast-tracked through the township's approval process.



Dan Yessian, Milford resident, plays music on his piano formerly owned by his hero, Burt Bacharach. Yessian is the composer of "An Armenian Trilogy," and will be featured in a new PBS documentary premiering March 12, 2023. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAN YESSIAN

How a Milford man came to compose 'An Armenian Trilogy' on Burt Bacharach's piano

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What do a Milford man, Armenian genocide and Burt Bacharach's piano have in common?

They are all crucial elements in the making of "An Armenian Trilogy," a PBS documentary that premiered March 12 on Detroit Public TV.

Here's a look at what you will see — and hear — if you stream the show following its premiere.

Who is Dan Yessian?

Yessian, 78, is a Milford resident who took an unconventional path to becoming a success, composing award-winning music for television, movies, theme parks, Fortune 500 companies and memorials including the One World Observatory in New York City.

Yessian Music has an office in New York City, as well as Los Angeles and Hamburg, Germany, but the company is based in Farmington Hills. It got its start in 1971 when Yessian risked disappointing his parents and gave up a teaching career after only four years to compose music that to this day he is unable to read or write.

"I don't read or write music, I play music," said Yessian, who had lessons in clarinet and saxophone as a child, but played by ear. He later did the same with the piano. "What I had to do producing music — I would tell them (instrumentalists) what I want to hear—chords I wanted... For many years, I didn't know where middle C was on the piano. Somehow or other, I banged out a career doing it this way."

What is 'An Armenian Trilogy'?

The 22-minute symphony Yessian composed at the request of his church priest in 2014 was a three-year project commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. In this horrific event, 1.5 million Armenian citizens were massacred by the Ottoman Empire, in an act Yessian said was not unlike the Holocaust.

"There were no ovens to destroy them," he said, "but the Armenians were forced to march through the desert until they dropped dead."

Yessian completed a symphony with three movements, "The Freedom," "The Fear" and "The Faith."

With little patience for historical data, he sought to convey in his music the emotions the Armenian people felt.

"We are supposed to learn from history, but that doesn't seem to happen," Yessian, who is of Armenian descent, said. "The thought was, 'Let me lay this out, so people might understand what they are going through.'"



Yessian and his musical journey to composing the symphony is the subject of a new PBS documentary airing March 12, 2023.

How does Burt Bacharach's piano come into play?

Bacharach, who died last month after a lifetime of fame composing such popular hits as "Rain Drops Keep Fallin' on My Head," "I Say a Little Prayer" and "What the World Needs Now is Love" was a musical hero for Yessian.

So much so, that Yessian purchased one of Bacharach's pianos during a 2005 charity auction. Bacharach signed the instrument and added a message: "I wrote a lot of good music on this piano."

He also wrote a letter of authenticity to Yessian, in which he mentions that he had bought the piano in 1959 and it had stayed at the home of his former wife, actress Angie Dickinson, for many years.

Yessian recalled that when he asked Dickinson if he could buy the piano's bench, she declined, telling him, "No, that is where Burt's butt was."

No matter. Yessian found a bench and has composed much of his own music on the Bacharach piano, including "An Armenian Trilogy."

"The documentary takes you from the beginnings of a budding clarinetist and saxophonist through a progression of time that leads up to what I would suggest would be my legacy now, which is the 'Armenian Trilogy,'" Yessian said. "It's important to know where we've been and where we're going. ... There is something about music that creates emotion and that was my aim through all of this."

Learn more at armeniantrilogy.com.

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

Students

Continued from Page 2A

tracted driving.

"The unfortunate thing about that accident is it wasn't intersection-related. It was driver negligence and not paying attention," Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik told Hometown Life last month. "(The driver) ran a red light and struck a child at the crosswalk."

On Feb. 7, a child was hit while walking to school by a driver who failed to yield at the corner of Wayne and Glenwood roads. According to police, the student, who's name was redacted from the police report, did not sustain significant injuries.

One week later, a third child was hit.

Escobedo, a 12-year-old Franklin Middle School student, was killed by a Wayne-Westland school bus while trying to leave school on Feb. 14.

Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong said drivers need to be more aware of pedestrians.

"I would just tell drivers that you have a responsibility to be aware of your surroundings, including pedestrians," Strong said. "When you're turning right or left, you really need to be paying attention to those crosswalks."

Crashes met with, seemingly, little change

In response to the Dec. 8 crash, Westland installed a pedestrian sign at Newburgh Road and Marquette Street to draw more attention. The intersection does not have a crosswalk signal.

Otherwise, it doesn't appear anything has changed.

According to Strong, it's too soon to know if the three accidents should prompt procedural changes. Wayne-Westland doubled its crossing guard staff during the 2021-22 school year, and those individuals are trained annually. Strong said he feels staffing is sufficient.

"I have not, for these three, been able to put all three together as some kind of pattern," he said.

Hometown Life has previously documented the issues with faulty crosswalk signals Westland faces, though that does not appear to be a factor in any of the three crashes. Strong said people should call their local police department if they see a faulty signal, saying police will notify the county officials responsible.

But, Brouhard said, she felt the local response was not as quick as it should be.

"Why didn't they do it sooner knowing there was school in session?" she said. "So many kids walk this path."

Strong urged drivers to be cautious. As a runner, he frequently observes drivers ignoring pedestrians. Brouhard said she's observed similar carelessness.

"Why don't these people care?" she said. "I think everybody is in such a hurry with their everyday lives that they don't care about people anymore."

Hometown Life reporter Susan Bromley contributed to this report.

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

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City manager

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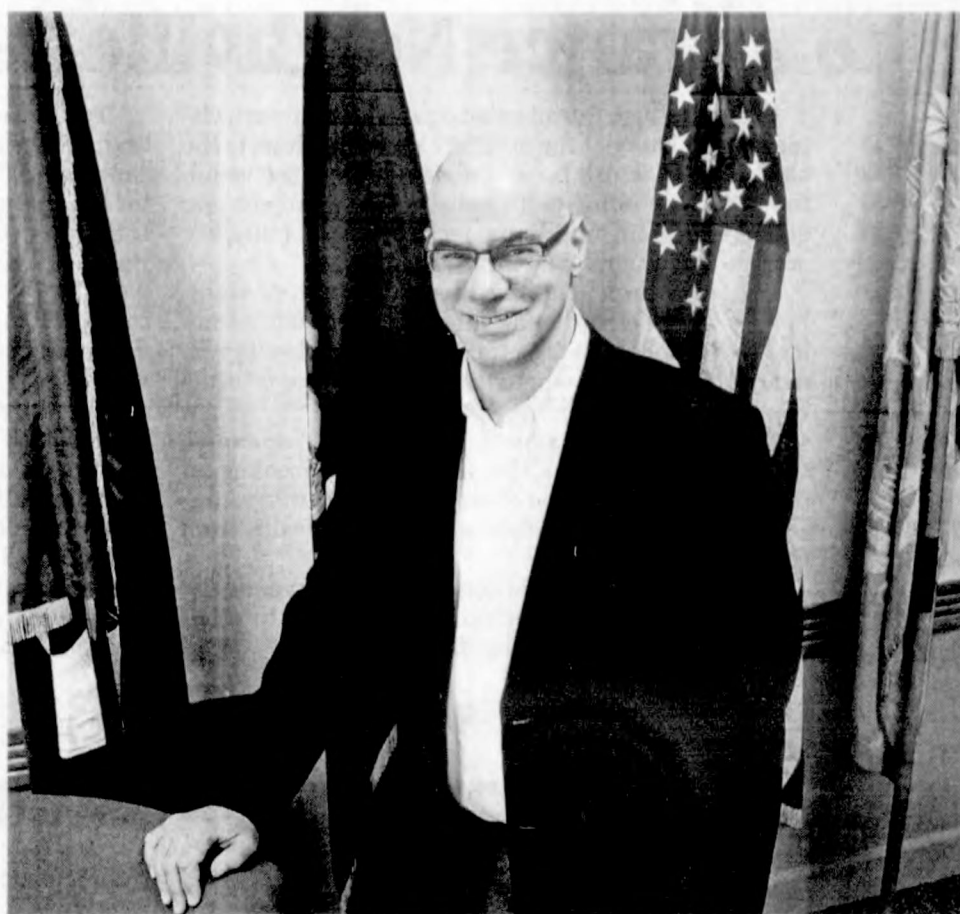
spending nearly 25 years working for the city of East Lansing, where he served as city manager the past 11 years before signing a separation agreement earlier this year.

The Northville City Council selected Lahanas as its city manager in early February.

A native of Queens, New York, he found his way to Michigan for college. A computer algorithm helped Lahanas select a school: the program spit out Northern Michigan University in Marquette as a good option. So he packed his things and moved to the Upper Peninsula, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

After his time Up North, Lahanas decided Michigan was the place for him. He worked in Shiawassee County before heading to East Lansing. Realizing in recent months he needed to consider looking for other work, he began applying to jobs locally and across the country: he was also a finalist for the city manager position in Birmingham.

Lahanas comes to Northville at a pivotal time in the city's history, especially when it comes to economic development. Projects looming include the planned redevelopment of the Northville Downs property on the south side of downtown, as well as the potential relocation of the farmer's market to the former McDonald Ford site along Seven



George Lahanas is Northville's new city manager. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mile and the redevelopment of the old Foundry Flask building. Having such projects in the pipeline is exciting to Lahanas, who oversaw major work taking place in East Lansing the last few years such as The Hub of East Lansing and

more.

He said he believes his experience dealing with those projects have prepared him to tackle the city's perspective on the commercial development planned in Northville.

"The scope is similar, but the projects were different," he said. "But it's downtown development and it's exciting."

Good stewardship of the city

Lahanas said there are plenty of challenges he expects to tackle, with big ones being infrastructure and the fact the city is largely built out. But those present plenty of opportunity when it comes to redevelopment.

When it comes to his role as the city manager, Lahanas said he wants to keep the city in good financial shape.

"You want to be a good steward of the city's resources and their government, and you want to leave the city in a better place years from now," he said. "I think that's sort of the standard things, but you want it to be this vibrant downtown and great residential neighborhoods that people want to live here."

Since arriving in town, Lahanas said he's been greeted with open arms. It's a feeling, he said, that makes him excited to work in Northville.

"I think it's great. People have been so friendly," he said. "The welcome I've received has been great, from the staff, from the council and from the residents."

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

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Bomber

Continued from Page 1A

Mission to Alaska

World War II planes have fascinated Mihalek since childhood. After earning his degree in aviation maintenance from Western Michigan University, he started his own company working on aircraft from that time period.

He also began amassing a collection of parts from B-25 bombers and dreamed of making one whole.

He struck gold when he learned of a B-25J that had been sitting on a sandbar near Fairbanks, Alaska, since an emergency landing there 44 years before.

The aircraft, which was built in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1944, never saw combat. The U.S. Army Air Force used it for bomber training; several years after the war ended, the plane was being used to fight forest fires.

In June 1969, the B-25's double engines failed shortly after a takeoff outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. The pilot successfully landed "wheels up" on a sandbar in the Tanana River. The engines were salvaged, but the aircraft's frame remained there, frozen in time.

A crowdfunding effort enabled the Sandbar Mitchell Recovery Team, consisting of 14 museum members, to journey in 2013 to Alaska where they disassembled the plane and brought the pieces back to Michigan.

Despite nearly a half a century out in the elements, the body of the plane was well-preserved. Unfortunately, vandals had pillaged much of the plane's contents. Mihalek said about half of the original aircraft was intact.

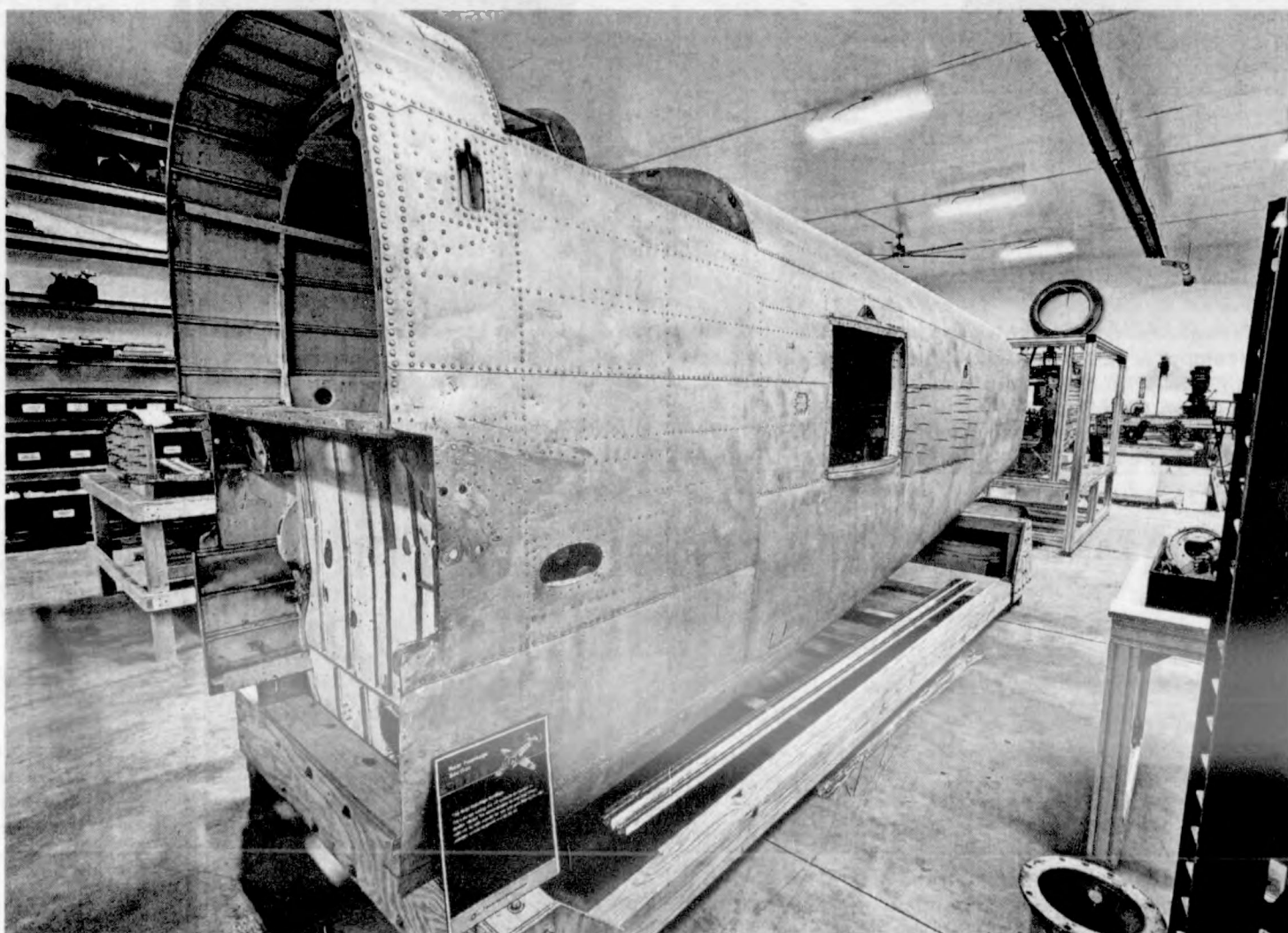
Friends near and far unite in effort to complete a puzzle

Museum members widely publicized their efforts to find missing pieces. They found allies among some who once may have been considered foes.

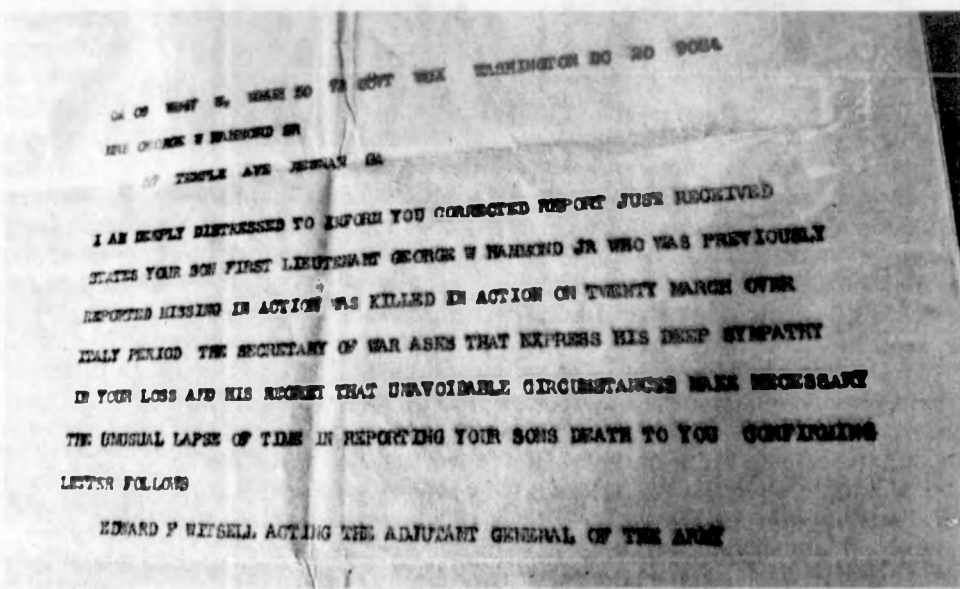
"Some people that had taken parts off the plane over the years started returning them to us," Mihalek said. "They'd tell us, 'When I was a kid, we took this off for a souvenir, and we found out about you and want to give it back.'"

The museum, a nonprofit with more than 140 members, now has 75 percent of the parts for the plane. The donations include B-25 wings from a plane once flown in Canada that were donated by a man who drove them to the museum from his home in Minnesota and parts from a B-25 on display in Omaha.

"It's a very tight community," Mihalek noted.



The rear fuselage section of a World War II-era B-25 bomber plane. Putting the aircraft together is the massive project undertaken by the Warbirds of Glory Museum in New Hudson. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A 1945 telegram notifying the family of George Hammond that he was killed in action in Italy. The document is on display at the Warbirds of Glory Museum at the Oakland Southwest Airport in New Hudson.

Journey to Italy, honoring heroes

The most emotionally significant contributions for the Warbirds of Glory

Museum's effort, however, came from an Italian farmer's barn in 2017.

Recovered parts from a B-25 bomber that Germans gunned down on March

20, 1945, had been stored in that barn for seven decades.

On that fateful March day, a six-man U.S. crew was part of the 488th Bomb Squadron's mission to bomb the Campo North Rail Bridge in the Italian Alps. The crew successfully bailed out before the plane crashed into a mountain.

The men were captured by the Germans. Three were later executed; the others were prisoners until the war ended.

The Warbirds of Glory historian Ron Asman, who did the research on the 488th Bomb Squadron B-25 8Z, reached out to the crewmembers' families, and many of them donated personal belongings from their late relatives' time in the service.

Mihalek notes in particular items that 1st Lt. George Hammond's family donated, including all of the bombardier's correspondence, as well as service medals, including the Purple Heart, and a bracelet his wife had given him that he was wearing in Italy when he was executed.

See BOMBER, Page 6A

Tenant

Continued from Page 1A

Restaurant plans include interior remodeling, upscale experience

In their business plan submitted to the township, New Hudson resident Filipovic and Lucaj wrote they are plan-

ning \$500,000 in improvements with the help of a professional interior decorator that will update the restaurant, including sliding windows that will be open during warm months. They expect to employ 50 workers, most of them locals.

The menu will offer a needed, slightly more upscale experience for the area, they said, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$25 for lunch and \$14 to \$38 meals for

dinner.

Included in their business plan was a Bourbons menu, featuring steaks, seafood, pasta, pizza, burgers, soups and salads.

Filipovic and Lucaj said their mission is, "to celebrate the cultures that inspire us by using fresh ingredients and preparing them out of a scratch kitchen. Recipes crafted with purpose and traditional cooking techniques, and food

served with honor. We relish providing an experience second to none. And treating our guests as if they were in our personal home."

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

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Plymouth, Northville study whether to continue shared fire department

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville and Plymouth officials have separately agreed to move forward with a study that could lead to a new long-term agreement to keep in place the cities' combined fire department.

Both the Northville City Council and Plymouth City Commission conducted meetings March 6 and approved moving forward with a study to evaluate the combined fire department they currently share, and which has been in existence since 2012.

That study, to be conducted The Center for Public Safety Management, based in Washington, D.C., will review the arrangement and could lead to a new 12-year agreement.

"As a part of the contract renewal, we felt it was rather ... helpful for the long-term health of that organization to have an outside look," said Paul Sincock, Plymouth's city manager, during the March 6 commission meeting.

The study is expected to cost \$23,760, plus travel costs, an expenditure the cities will split.

The two elected bodies appeared interested in keeping the current arrangement, which has fire stations in both Plymouth and Northville. For its emergency medical technician services, Plymouth utilizes Huron Valley Ambulance, which responds to calls in the city.

Northville's 2022-23 proposed budget for the fire department was about \$1.15 million while Plymouth's proposed 2022-23 budget showed about \$1.2 million in expenditures for the fire department. The department is headed by Chief Matthew Samhat and has two captains, six lieutenants and 55 total staff.

Mark Wollenweber, Northville's former interim city manager, said he had spoken to Sincock and both cities expressed an interest in retaining the current level of service. The two discussed a survey that could review other practices at similar fire departments across the country and potentially bring new ideas, Wollenweber said.



Northville and Plymouth share a fire department, an arrangement that may continue in the future. FILE PHOTO

Paul and I thought sharing the cost of the new survey, an outside consultant to tell us what's in the works around the country for these kinds of joint fire departments that are paid on-call ... an analysis of our statistics to determine are we doing our best work," he said.

"We're talking about what's the latest and greatest that we might want to add." The agreement is expected to come back before both bodies later this spring.

spring.

"I'm fully supportive of moving forward on this," Northville Mayor Pro-Tem Barbara Moroski-Browne said. "I think having an independent look is always good."

Plymouth City Commissioner Marques Thomey said despite differences between the cities, having more information on such an agreement is important.

"We know from our other attempts, the cultures are a bit different. And the fact that we might not be able to bridge

all of those cultural shifts is just part of reality," he said. "But having data, which this report will give us, it allows us to take what we've done before, what we're doing now and look at how we can make things better."

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

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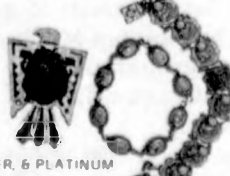
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FIND THE WORDS

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

Aims	Clarke	Hunt	Price
Arianne	Croft	Image	Raper
Titmus	Deng	Johns	Roach
Austin	Devitt	Kenny	Scott
Barty	Ellas	Kerr	Simpson
Bell	Evans	Klin	Skilton
Bogut	Falau	Lewis	Smith
Border	Gaze	Lukin	United
Brabham	Gould	McGrath	Waugh
Brook	Heal	Nagle	Webber
Cash	Hoad	Palmer	Welsh
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M A I M S G P T F O L A U Y I
T C D L H M P A L M E R R E L
I H A S I W E L I A S V O K K
T U T S S B R O C K H O A D E
E R T T H N A G L E S L C N E
N C S F I M A G E N L A H K S
R H I K O V G A Z E E L I T Y
A I U R H R E B B E W P A T U
I L R A P U C D L U O G R E L
R L H O R A N I T S U A T A H
A L E S C O T T N T B K E R R

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

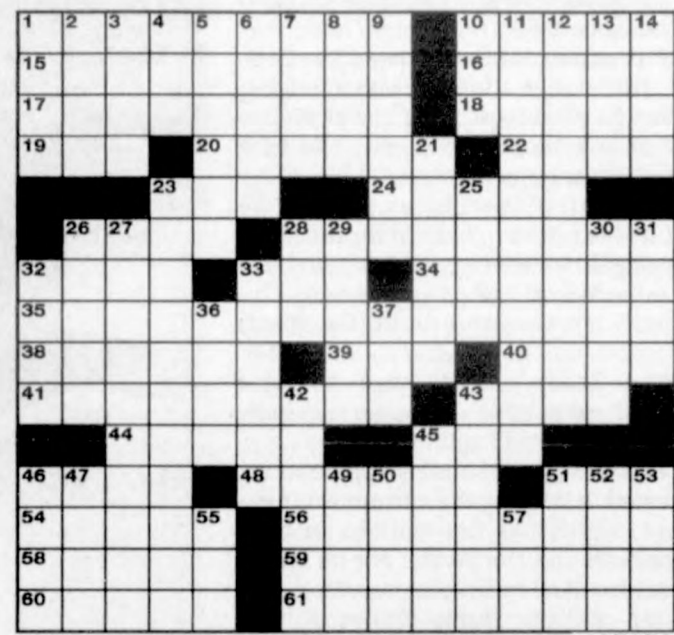
- 1 Green course
10 Home worker's activity
15 TV debut of '75
16 Schleppe
17 When the going rate's reduced
18 Cover for info
19 Word from Old English for "house"
20 Leaf source
22 Penetrating
23 Girl's name in the Toy Hall of Fame
24 Stinker
26 Starship in a Clarke story
28 Presentation for Performance
32 West Point boss, in tweets
33 Point of a Batsuit
34 Robert the Bruce recaptured it in 1312
35 Rap-battle venues
38 John Deere House locale
39 Intolerably
40 Accident report of a sort
41 Captains' commands
43 Jam or pickle
44 Pigeon
45 _ house
46 Port visited by Polo with "adorers of Mahomet"
48 A little (not necessarily night) music
51 Publisher of Specialty Codes
54 Personal guide
56 Second restraining order
58 Inventory
59 Hong Kong medium of exchange
60 Unavailing ID
61 Keto-friendly

DOWN

- 1 Hindu Mother of the Universe
2 Much
3 Manicure candidate
4 Places using plaster
5 Shade in a cave painter's palette
6 "The same"
7 "There may come a time / When a _ needs a lawyer" (Marilyn Monroe lyric)
8 He's in a Food That Built America episode with Fields
9 High point of the National Park Service
10 Stopping tech
11 Global perspective

- 12 Most-played artist on Canadian radio in the 2010s
13 Not in a long time
14 Event to be found on active.com
21 More than ought
23 One of many on Central Park's eastern border
25 Winter whale-watching center
26 It ain't necessarily so
27 What may end up on the cutting room floor
28 Ox
29 Name atop the NFL's most consecutive games started list (for 1992-2010)
30 Informal moves

- 31 City _
32 Goose
33 For all that
36 Aide's assertion
37 All Surface
42 Sarcasm specialists
43 Wasteland of fantasy fiction
45 Yogurty side dish of India
46 What light-dimming precedes
47 Shout from the Grinch
49 Genesis "cunning hunter"
50 Impact report
51 Fit to finish
52 Aquarium decorator's option
53 Mirrors
55 Put in the shade
57 Series of sketches

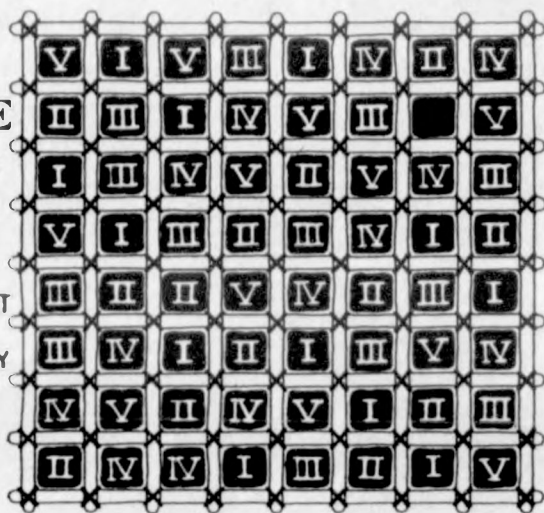


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PUZZLES & POSERS

ROMAN STONE GAME

BLACKEN THE SURFACE OF 32 STONES IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE 8 HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL ROWS WILL EACH CONTAIN 4 STONES OF DIFFERENT NUMERIC VALUE. ONE STONE HAS ALREADY BEEN BLACKENED.



SUDOKU | CREATORS

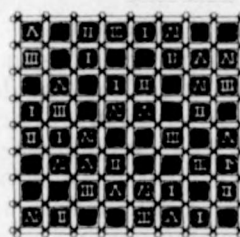
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) RATING: SILVER

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



NOLLUNOS



Patrick Mihalek, president of the Warbirds of Glory Museum, with B-25 bomber wings donated as part of the effort to put together a World War II-era plane and make it flight worthy. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bomber

Continued from Page 4A

Making history take flight

Tucker and Mihalek see restoration of Sandbar Mitchell to flightworthy status as a way to preserve the crew's memory and history, too.

While three-quarters of the plane has been obtained, the work of inspecting each part for airworthiness and documenting it for FAA certification is slow and meticulous, undertaken by adult volunteers and student aviation apprentices.

Every part is inspected and discard-

ed if there is corrosion or deterioration beyond repair. In some instances, to ensure airworthiness, parts will be remade with help from original drawings and blueprints.

"When this thing flies, it will be a safe aircraft," Tucker said. "The first priority is to make it safe to fly. The second priority is to have it as authentic as possible."

The restoration of the B-25 aircraft is one of the three goals of the museum, Tucker said. It overlaps with the other two: mentoring students by teaching them the skills involved in restoration, and appreciating and preserving history.

The museum, which moved to New Hudson in September after 10 years at the Brighton Airport, will make a unique

contribution to Oakland County, creating a whole experience with other vehicles from that time period, Tucker said.

More than 45 students have moved through the museum's apprenticeship program, most going into aviation- or engineering-related fields, Mihalek added.

The museum will have to move to a larger airport when the Sandbar Mitchell is ready for her wings and to finally take to the sky. Mihalek hopes that will be in the next five years.

Mihalek estimates it will cost about \$2 million, funded almost entirely through individual donations, to get the plane flying. But to him the value is infinite.

"It is being able to tell this story of

World War II," he said. "It is beautiful to see a B-25 assembled and on display, but it's another to hear the sound and smell and see what it does."

Tucker agrees.

"I do think that preservation of history is important to this country so that we understand the sacrifices made and appreciate those sacrifices," he said. "That aircraft is a means to an end, and the end is to remember and honor and learn."

The museum gives tours by appointment. A formal open house is planned for spring.

For information, visit warbirdsof-glory.org or to volunteer or learn more about an apprenticeship, email allen@warbirdsofglory.org.

New Tapper's Jewelry opens at Eight Mile, Haggerty

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Having a brand-new jewelry store along Interstate 275 makes for the perfect way to reach a new customer base.

That's the feeling of Mark Tapper, one of the owners of Tappers Jewelry, about his family's newest store at 20800 Haggerty in Novi.

"I couldn't be happier with how it turned out," he said. "Our team just did a fantastic job. I don't think we've really missed any details."

The 10,000-square-foot shop, which the family claims is now the largest jewelry store in Michigan, has been under construction for months at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Haggerty. It stands where Big Boy formerly was until the restaurant closed in 2020.

The standalone store, first proposed in the summer of 2021, replaces the shop formerly located in the Twelve Oaks Mall. Having a shop more east and south was a decision they made to expand to a newer market, said Tapper. Reaching customers in places in Plymouth and Canton Township, as well as being along a major expressway, was one of the goals of the new store.

"I was really attracted to the Haggerty corridor between Six and Eight Mile. We've loved being in Novi before, and obviously being close to the border of Novi/Northville/Livonia we just thought it would open things up," Tapper said. "During COVID, we were looking for an opportunity. Some of our brands wanted to exit the regional mall and for us, the property became available and we just thought we'd take advantage of it."

Inside, customers can find all sorts of brands, including a new Rolex shop dedicated to the high-end watchmaker. Returning also for watches is Omega, which Tapper's had not carried for some time. Other watch brands found at the Novi store include Shinola, Breitling and TAG Heuer among others. The store also has a pre-owned watch section as well.

"This definitely is a watch destination," said Katrina Barbey, president of the company. "(Other stores) have a good assortment of watches, but this

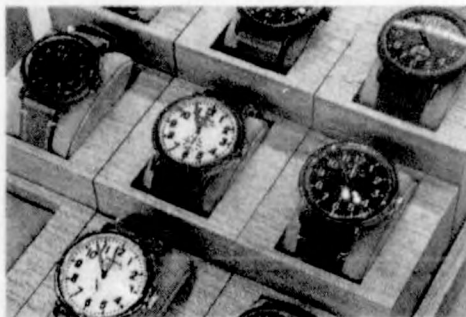


The interior of the new Tapper's Jewelry at Eight Mile and Haggerty in Novi. The store is billed by the company as the largest such jewelry store in Michigan.

PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAC/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mark Tapper of Tapper's Jewelry speaks March 1 at the grand opening of the company's new store.



A collection of Shinola watches at Tapper's Jewelry in Novi.

probably has one of the largest of the three locations."

Jewelry options include David Yurman, Lagos and more. The shop also has an upstairs diamond loft, which provides plenty of options especially for bridal and diamonds.

In addition to the Novi location, Tapper's has stores in West Bloomfield Township and well as in the Somerset Collection in Troy. The company also has a small shop in downtown Birmingham.

The Novi store is open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Despite the grandiose appearance on



The second floor of the Tapper's Jewelry in Novi contains the Diamond Loft, which has plenty of bridal jewelry.

the outside, Tapper insists they are a store for everyone, regardless of budget. While they do sell high-end watches such as Rolex, Tapper said he has Casio watches that begin at \$89.

Having that accessibility, he said, is how Tapper's came to be and will remain going forward.

"The origin of our business is we have price points from \$25 to over \$250,000,"

Tapper said. "We have something for everyone."

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

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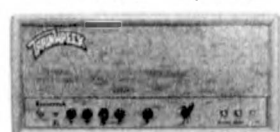
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UP TO \$4,200***MORGAN DOLLAR**
UP TO \$100,000***ROOSEVELT DIME**
1964 & OLDER**MERCURY DIME**
UP TO \$3,400***LIBERTY NICKEL**
UP TO \$4,500***WALKING LIBERTY
HALF DOLLAR**
UP TO \$4,600***FRANKLIN HALF
DOLLAR**
UP TO \$3,200***KENNEDY HALF
DOLLAR**
PRE 1970 UP TO \$400***GOLD COINS U.S.**
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SPORTS



Detroit Catholic Central celebrates winning the Division 1 hockey state championship Saturday, March 11, 2023, at USA Hockey Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Naurato's shutout helps Detroit CC hockey win 4th straight state title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As cliché as it sounds, Luca Naurato absolutely stood on his head. And the goalie did so for the entire Division 1 state championship Saturday at USA Hockey Arena. High glove saves. Covers on deflections. Shots stopped with his blocker. All of it. The Detroit Catholic Central senior even got a little lucky with a few of

Brighton's shots pinging off the crossbar or narrowly missing open portions of the net following redirections. And at the end of the night, they came up one short. Who's they? The Michigan High School Athletic Association. No, the Shamrocks did it. The 3-0 victory gave them their fourth straight state championship (and back-to-back titles over the Bulldogs.). CC survived an onslaught of penalties and immaculate scoring opportunities for Brighton. But the biggest setback came during

the medal ceremony afterward. One by one, the Shamrocks went to center ice to receive their state championship medal from athletic director Aaron Babicz. To make things more organized, they went in numerical order. But since Naurato's No. 32 is at the end of the roster, that meant he was last to get his medal. Except he didn't get one. They ran out of medals. They were one shy, which is tough because Naurato was arguably the game's MVP.

See DETROIT CC, Page 6B

Peter Rosa, Brother Rice come back to beat Byron Center, win D-2 title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Early Saturday afternoon, a Brother Rice hockey fan leaned over the steel railing that protects the rowdy hundreds from falling into one of the tunnels that connect the dressing rooms with the ice rink at USA Hockey Arena. "Hey, give me that hat!" the fan shouted at a Michigan High School Athletic Association support staff member while pointing at a gray Warriors cap laying on the tunnel floor. "Right there, that's my hat!" The support staff member turned to look at the fan and glared. "Did you throw it?" the staff member asked. "Yeah!" the fan responded. "Then no!" the staff member said. That hat was one of a few dozen that wouldn't be returned to their original owners. And just a half hour earlier, the mere thought of any hats being tossed onto the ice seemed like wishful thinking.

Brother Rice trailed Byron Center 2-0 entering the third period of the Division 2 state championship. The scoring opportunities were there. The Warriors just couldn't cash in on any of them. Bulldogs goalie Carson Mackenzie was playing too well. But you can't rule out Brother Rice. No, not with Peter Rosa in the lineup. But, honestly, it's a blessing the senior is even on the team. He tried out with the Shreveport Mudbugs in the North American Hockey League before the high school season started, and he made the cut. He should be bussing around the country, playing juniors and competing in some of the best minor-league barns out there. He should be on his way to becoming a professional hockey player. Instead, he returned to Brother Rice in hopes of winning another state title.

See BROTHER RICE, Page 6B

Salem beats Dexter, wins 1st regional championship since 1990

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thursday's third-quarter lull during the Division 1 girls basketball regional championship saw Dexter erase Salem's double-digit halftime lead almost completely. The Dreadnaughts made four field goals, trimmed their deficit to 23-18 and held Salem to just two points — off a put-back from Ashley Kopacko — in the period. Before the fourth quarter started, coach Rod Wells had just the message for his Rocks, who are often composed and locked in when adversity hits. "Remember that story I told you the other day?" the second-year coach said he asked his players. Although Dexter grabbed an early lead, Salem (20-6) couldn't have asked for a better start.

Shahd Bakkar dove onto the floor for a steal and somehow got a pass to Madison Morson, who cashed in on a layup that put the Rocks ahead once and for all midway through the first quarter. Salem went on a 6-0 run to begin the next period and held the Dreadnaughts to only nine points in the first half. A 21-9 score at halftime looked insurmountable for Dexter. Until it wasn't. That intermission in the third couldn't have come at a better time for Wells. "He actually told us a story about how he was beating up a kid one time when he was a kid," said Morson, who scored a game-high 17 points. "He let the kid get up, and then the kid started beating up him. So he was saying don't let them get back up. Beat them into the dirt. It was a great analogy."

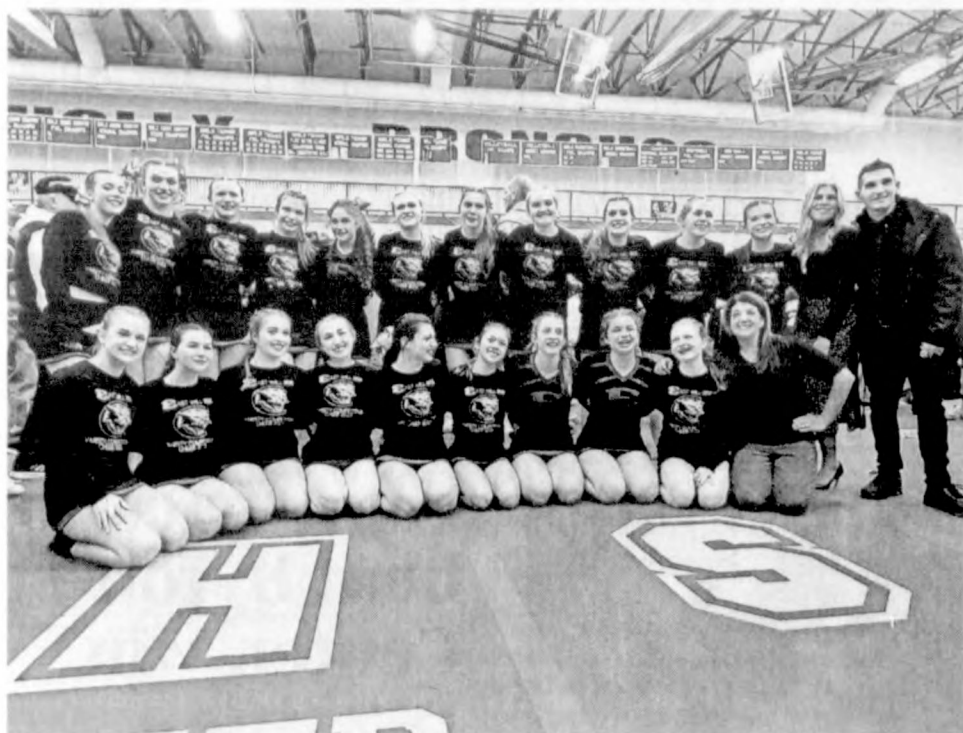
See SALEM, Page 6B



Salem's Abby Resovsky and Isabell Kulick celebrate winning the Division 1 girls basketball regional final Thursday, March 9, 2023, at Saline. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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South Lyon East's competitive cheer team recently placed sixth in the Division 2 state championship March 3 at Central Michigan University. COURTESY PHOTOS



South Lyon East competitive cheer makes 1st-ever appearance at states

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thanks to a fourth-place effort during the Division 2 regional meet, the South Lyon East competitive cheer team qualified for the state championship for the first time in program history.

The Cougars placed sixth out of eight teams during the championship held on March 3 at Central Michigan University.

They recorded rounds of 231.70,

223.92 and 306.10 for a total score of 761.72, finishing just under a point behind fifth-place Middleville Thornapple Kellogg.

Gibraltar Carlson won the state title with a score of 789.54.

East, which opened its school in 2007, placed second in both the Lakes Valley Conference and at the LVC championship meet and ended the regular season ranked third in D-2.

"When I started at East, the odds were against us," fourth-year coach Ju-

lia Tilt said. "We had some great athletes, but we were underdogs by far. It's been a long road with lots of blood, sweat and tears, but I'm so proud of this team. Qualifying for state finals is not given, it's earned, and this team has earned it. Hard work pays off."

Don't forget about Milford!

East wasn't the only LVC team in action during the state finals.

Milford, the undisputed LVC champi-

ons, also competed and placed seventh out of eight teams in the D-1 meet.

The Mavericks finished with scores of 233.00, 228.12 and 318.40 for a total of 779.52, missing out on sixth place to Macomb L'Anse Creuse North by less than a point.

Rochester (790.62) won the state title.

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



Northville's ski team celebrates winning the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship. NORTHVILLE SKI TEAM/COURTESY PHOTOS

Northville celebrates winning first-ever KLAA ski championship

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville boys ski team missed qualifying for the Division 1 state finals by one place during its regional last month.

But that's OK because the Mustangs still had plenty to celebrate.

They won the first Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship for alpine ski racing on Feb. 17.

The Mustangs placed first out of five teams in both the slalom and the giant slalom, while four individuals took home all-conference honors in both disciplines (only top-10 finishers earn all-conference nods).

Joe Sepanik placed second in the giant slalom, followed by Nathan Moriarty in fourth, Jackson Weiland in sixth and Jacob Gusick in eighth.

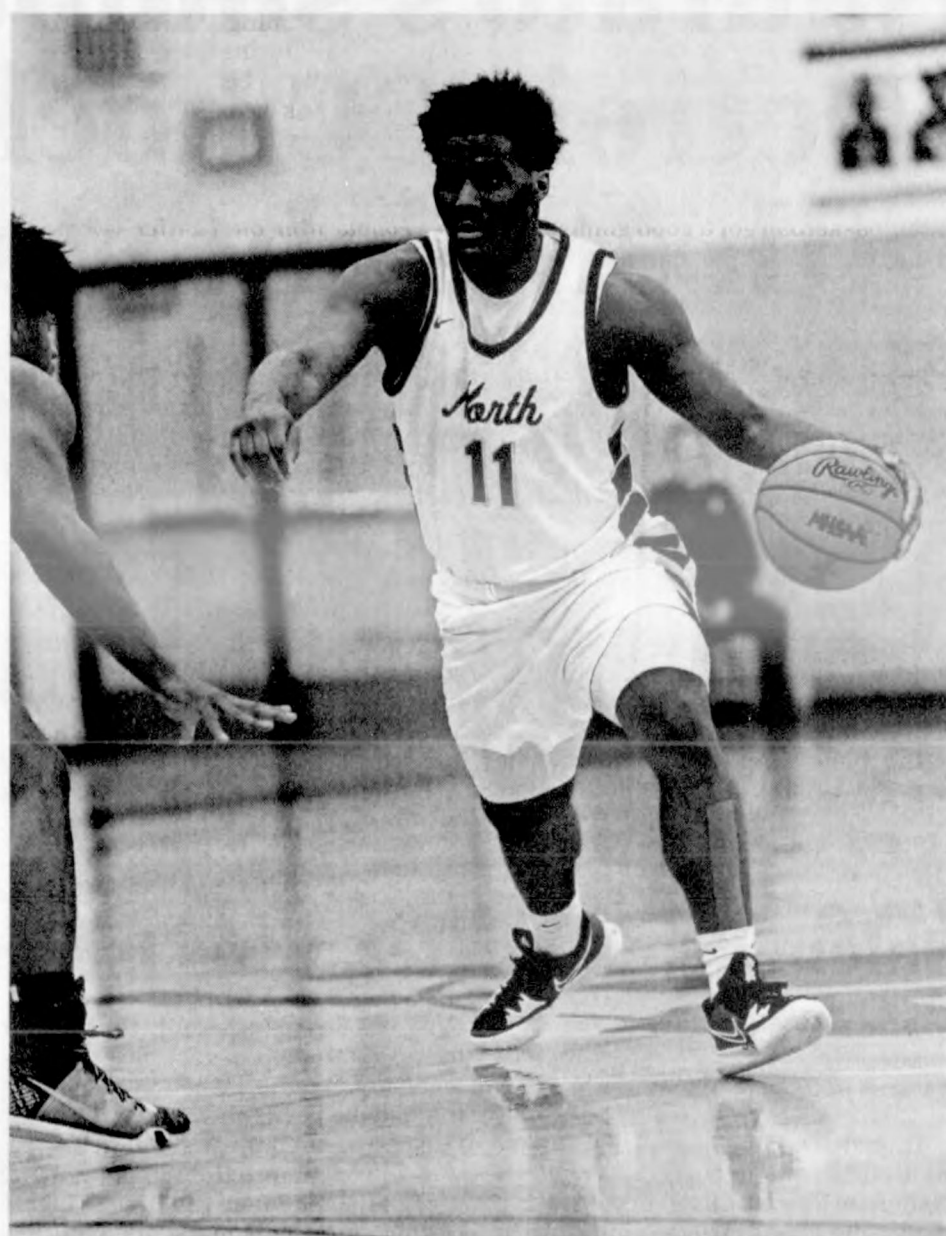
Sepanik was fourth in the slalom while Moriarty took fifth, Weiland finished sixth and Gusick took ninth.

Northville scored 24 and 20 points, respectively, in the slalom and giant slalom to place first in the conference with a 44-point total, followed by Hartland (81), Brighton (107), Howell (148) and Novi (155).

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



Northville's Joe Sepanik competes in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association ski championship. Sepanik placed second in the giant slalom and fourth in the slalom.



North Farmington's Ryan Hurst dribbles during the Division 1 boys basketball district semifinal Wednesday, March 8, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mr. Basketball campaign started in the weight room for Ryan Hurst

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Even Southfield A&T's Xavier Bowman respects Ryan Hurst's game.

The North Farmington star started heating up just before halftime of Wednesday's 73-22 victory over the Warriors in the Division 1 boys basketball district semifinal.

He hit back-to-back deep jumpers.

And then, with the clock winding down and Bowman draped all over him, Hurst stepped back and shot a Steph Curry-length 3-pointer that went in at the buzzer.

Bowman couldn't even get mad at it. The three-star wide receiver recruit took his massive right arm and gave Hurst a big hug around his belly and then smiled as he walked off the court and headed into the locker room.

At this point, you've got to expect

that kind of magic out of Hurst each night. He's truly having a dream season.

A month ago? He verbally committed to Detroit Mercy.

And the Raiders? They're 20-1, with an Oakland Activities Association-Red championship under their belt and the No. 3 ranking in the state. Beating Southfield was just Step 1 on their playoff journey to winning a state title.

And last week? The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan named Hurst one of five finalists for its Mr. Basketball honor. He's just the second Raider to ever be nominated and the first since Amauri Hardy in 2017.

"From the day he walked in, he's been a very unselfish kid," coach Todd Negoshian said. "He really puts the team first. He doesn't worry about his numbers and knows that as the team goes, everything else will just fall into place."

See CAMPAIGN, Page 3B

Campaign

Continued from Page 2B

He's been unbelievable with getting us going, and he's made sure he follows along with what our program has been about with a team-first attitude."

In reality, the day Hurst first walked in wasn't very long ago.

After his parents moved houses, Hurst transferred from West Bloomfield to North Farmington before his junior year.

He came in overweight and a step slower.

But as he got acclimated into Negoshian's program, the better the 6-foot-3 shooting guard got. He dropped the weight, gained power and speed and wound up averaging 23 points per game, which was good enough for Hometown Life to name him its Player of the Year.

Once again, he's averaging close to 23 points per game this winter. Plus, he's averaging seven rebounds and four assists.

If it wasn't for his hard work in the weight room the past two seasons, the Raiders might not be one of the favorites to win the state championship right now.

"Since I got here, me and Coach Billy (strength and conditioning coach Billy Slobin) had one goal, and that was to get me in shape for the junior season and carry it over to next summer before senior season," said Hurst, who scored 13 points vs. Southfield. "We've just been working in the weight room, and it's shown a lot. Being a Mr. Basketball candidate, it really means a lot to me. One of my closest friends, (former Ferndale star) Treyvon Lewis, was a Mr. Basketball finalist last year. So it feels great, and I'm very blessed for that."

Hurst said if it wasn't for Negoshian's tough scheduling, he'd probably not be up for the honor.

You need lots of state-wide exposure to garner enough votes to get on the nomination list. Fortunately for him, the Raiders played three games out west against challenging opponents. Twice, they went to Grand Rapids for showcases, and they also ended up at Benton Harbor.

Being out west ensured that plenty of coaches who are unfamiliar with metro Detroit basketball got a good glimpse of his talent.



Southfield A&T's Xavier Bowman hugs North Farmington's Ryan Hurst after Hurst buried a buzzer-beater during the Division 1 boys basketball district semifinal Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hurst said he made sure to "show up big" every time they traveled out of the area.

"I think they (BCAM voters) saw how versatile he is because I think he does a lot of things," Negoshian said. "He can score at three levels. He rebounds. The one big question everybody had when he came over here was whether he would be able to play as hard as we wanted him to defensively. I think that's been, without a question, something he's done. It's been great. He's bought into how we play, and he's just kept going. It's been a great thing for him."

Should Hurst actually win the honor, the acceptance celebration takes place at the Detroit Free Press office. He's bound to receive plenty of hugs from family, friends and Negoshian while downtown. But just remember his first hug since becoming a nominee came from Bowman during the playoff opener. Even one of the best football recruits in Michigan has respect for the season Hurst is having.

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

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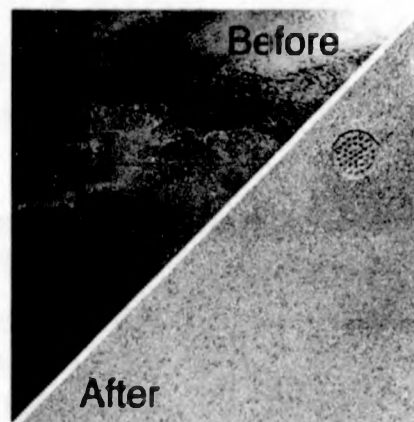


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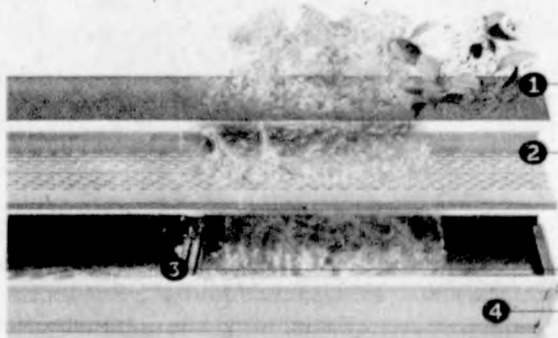
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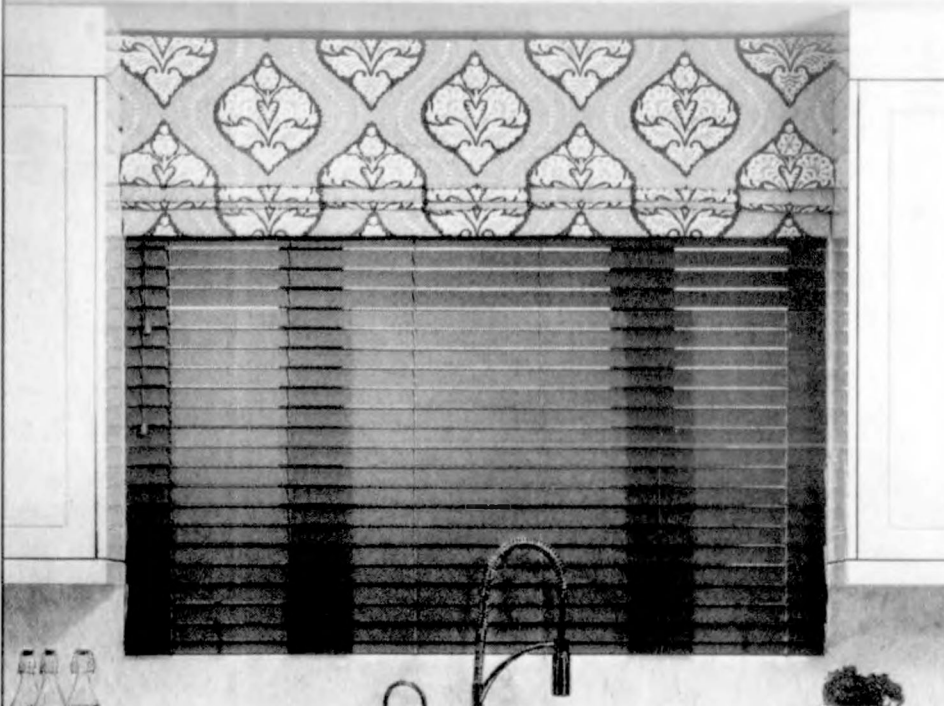
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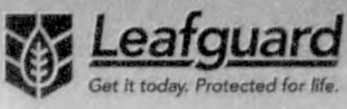
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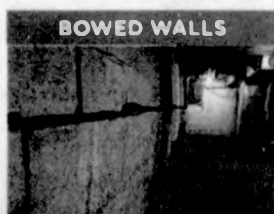
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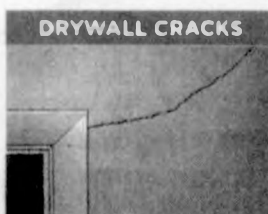
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Detroit CC

Continued from Page 1B

But that's OK. No one's going to forget his 20-save shutout performance on the biggest stage.

"He's awesome. He played really, really well. He made some big saves," eighth-year coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "I don't think we've been under that much pressure all season, so we needed our goalie to come up and make some big saves, and he did that. That was huge. To get a shutout in the state championship game, that's awesome, and he earned it."

Naurato's effort was needed.

Jackson Walsh scored the game-winner just 4 minutes, 27 seconds into the game, plus the junior tallied an empty-netter in the waning moments, while Nolan Galda also had a goal in the first period.

CC's defense had some breathing room with a two-goal lead for most of the night.

But the Shamrocks put Brighton on the power play six times. And the Bull-

dogs nearly took full advantage of it.

At one point, with about 12 minutes left, they had officially outshot CC on the scoreboard.

And these weren't any easy-to-stop shots. It wouldn't have been a surprise to see Brighton tie the score late.

But Naurato was resilient.

"It was unreal. He had like four wrap-around, back-door stops that completely saved the game for us, keeping it close," Walsh said of his goalie. "He just completely kept us in the game."

No gaffes, no mistakes.

Naurato battled through the power plays. He stopped breakaway attempts. He got the job done.

He got a state championship trophy for his troubles. He just didn't get a medal.

"At the end of the day, you've just got to battle through it and get the job done," the goalie said. "It could've went either way with the penalty calls. We just got unfortunate today, but we battled through as a team, and I'm proud and happy that we all worked through that."

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



Detroit Catholic Central goalie Luca Naurato makes a save during the Division 1 hockey state championship Saturday, March 11, 2023, at USA Hockey Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem

Continued from Page 1B

Salem ratcheted up its defensive intensity, started driving to the basket for layups and to draw fouls and never looked back as it opened the final quarter on a 12-2 run.

The eventual 40-23 victory wound up as the Rocks' first regional championship since 1990.

They'll face Riverview in Tuesday's state quarterfinal at Ypsilanti Lincoln. A trip to the final four at Michigan State University's Breslin Center is on the line.

"When you've got someone down, you've got to continue to beat them up," said Wells, who guided Ypsilanti Arbor Prep to a state championship in 2016. "You can't allow them to get up and get confident. I told them that story the other day, and they understood. They listened."

"They understand that a team is going to give them a punch. But they're not afraid of that punch no more. When teams came at them and hit them, we would've fallen down last year. We would've just started throwing the ball in the stands. Now we know that when teams make a run, you've just got to persevere through it."

It's been a season of perseverance for the Rocks.

They lost five of their first seven games of the winter, including a staggering 18-point loss to Dexter in the opener. That also included a tough four-game losing streak while Morson was sidelined for two weeks with an ankle injury.

But they bounced back. They won 11 straight at one point. They suffered just



Salem coach Rod Wells celebrates the Division 1 girls basketball regional final Thursday, March 9, 2023, at Saline. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

two losses during their Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West schedule, good enough to earn them a trip to the league championship game.

They fumbled a 14-point lead to Wayne Memorial, a squad with two Mc-

Donald's All-American nominees in Mayla Ham (Georgetown) and Paris Bass (North Dakota), but they pulled through in overtime.

Now they've got both district and regional titles under their belt. This is a

program that has struggled to reach a .500 winning percentage over the past decade. Now they're one win away from the Breslin.

"It's crazy. I did not think that we were going to make it this far," said Abby Resovsky, Salem's first player in off the bench who hit the game-winner against Wayne two weeks ago. "We have grown as a team so, so much. To be able to even win regionals and to be able to win districts in general, and win the league, and do everything we've done so far, it's just insane. I can't believe we've done it, and we've done it together as a team. We're still going. Quarterfinals are next, and we're not done yet! We're not done yet!"

Yes, the Rocks have some of the top players in metro Detroit on their team, such as Morson, who should be a Michigan Miss Basketball nominee as a senior next winter, as well as Bakkar, a Rochester University signee who happens to be the heart and soul of the team. No one questions her leadership.

But Salem is also chock full of players who just know their roles. From 3-point specialist Isabell Kulick to post players Leilah Howard, Macy Boyd and Alannah Staudle to Kopacko and Resovsky, two wings who are clearly good enough to play at the next level, and everyone else who gets into the game when Wells makes wholesale hockey line-type substitutions.

They know their assignments. They have chemistry. And now they're one of eight D-1 teams left that get to play during the final week of the season.

"Winning this game was incredible," Bakkar said. "Making it this far is amazing. I'm on top of the moon right now. It's so good. Everything feels amazing."

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

Brother Rice

Continued from Page 1B

He vowed to get the Warriors one more banner.

And there he was, facing a two-goal deficit with only 17 minutes left in his prep career.

But you can't count out Rosa.

And so he got to work.

Just over 90 seconds into the third period, while on the penalty kill, Andrew Marone sauced a perfectly-placed pass to center ice for Rosa, who turned on the speed and buried a short-hander past MacKenzie.

That was enough to put Byron Center's defenders on their toes.

Nine minutes later, Rosa did it again. Jack Cassidy set up Rosa with a snipe near the blue line. And away Rosa went, slamming his body into the glass in front of the Bulldogs' faithful.

Game on.

Another 90 seconds later, Roman Villaire went top shelf to put Brother Rice ahead for the first time, which left the Bulldogs scrambling. Byron Center ultimately called a timeout to pull MacKenzie in hopes that the man-advantage would get them the tying goal and send it to overtime.

Instead, you guessed it, it was Rosa slapping in an empty-netter from center ice with 20.7 seconds left.

And then the hats started raining onto the ice.

Rosa did it.

The forward recorded his second hat trick of the postseason and made good on his promise to bring Brother Rice its second state title in three seasons and



Brother Rice celebrates winning the Division 2 hockey state championship Saturday, March 11, 2023, at USA Hockey Arena. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sixth championship overall.

"Hat trick!" Brother Rice's now-hatless student section shouted. "Hat trick! Hat trick! Who!"

Warriors 4, Bulldogs 2.

"All year I've been telling the guys about the spot in the back of our locker room with all the state championship banners," Rosa said after hoisting the championship trophy. "There's one corner that's empty. Every day when we came to practice, I told them that we needed to fill that space, so it's awesome."

As the two teams went through the handshake line, Brother Rice's student section started chanting, "Mr. Hockey! Mr. Hockey! Mr. Hockey!"

Rosa should have a strong case to win it. His three goals in the state championship gave him 83 points for the season, which includes 39 goals and 44 assists.

But, more important than his statistics, he should be recognized for his leadership.

That's what helped the Warriors bounce back.

A bounce back from a three-week stretch during which the Warriors lost four games early in the season. A bounce back from finishing as the runner-up in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League-North after dropping a pair of league games to rival Detroit Catholic Central. And a bounce back

from a 2-0 hole to Byron Center on the biggest stage.

"Peter, he's amazing," Villaire said about his captain. "He's a great role model. He leads the team well, and he shows everyone how to play right. He's just always there when we need him the most. We were pretty scared coming into that third period, but, ya know, we just had to work hard, take it up another level and we did it. We came back and got the win."

Obviously, Rosa didn't do it alone. This year's Brother Rice team has nine seniors and several veterans. That includes Rosa, Marone and Cassidy, the Warriors' three captains.

As much as Rosa wanted to win another state title, so did Marone and Cassidy.

"You know what? Him (Rosa), Andrew Marone and Jack Cassidy have been here for 3 years," coach Kenny Chaput said. "They were on a mission this year. I know it was a lot of hard work throughout the early part of the season when we struggled, but when we got down to the stretch run here and into the playoffs, you could just tell that they weren't going to come up short, that's for sure."

Of course, Rosa was mobbed by the media afterward.

But as the arena's lights dimmed, most fans, several of them now hatless, cleared out. And Rosa and a few teammates shared a quiet moment together with the championship trophy.

Mission accomplished. Now it's onto juniors for the Mr. Hockey hopeful.

"I won't ever forget it," Rosa said looking at the empty seats in the arena. "It's perfect. It's one of the best days of my life."

Noah Etnyre becomes 1st Lutheran Westland wrestler to win state title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With a second-round pin of Belding's Gavin Craner on March 4 at Ford Field, Noah Etnyre became the first wrestler at Lutheran Westland to win an individual state championship.

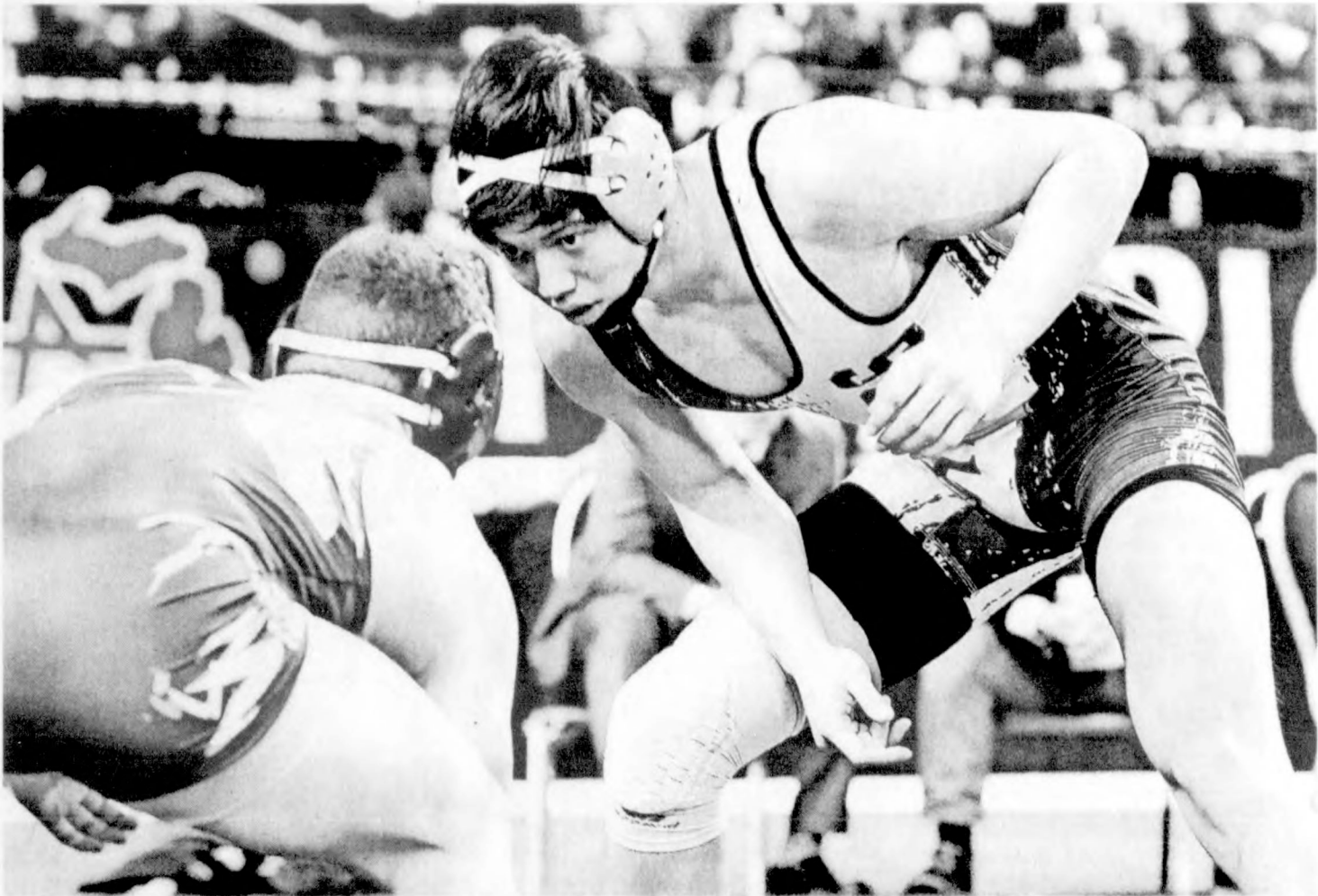
The senior, who finished the season with a 46-3 record, pinned Craner 35 seconds into the second round to claim the 175-pound state title in Division 3.

Etnyre, a four-time state tournament qualifier, actually had to avenge an early-season loss in the state semifinal. He lost to Alma's Cole O'Boyle during the Hudson Super 16 tournament championship round by major decision, 12-3. But he won the rematch in downtown Detroit with a pin at 3:05.

Etnyre, who actually attends Plymouth Christian Academy but takes advantage of his school's co-op agreement with Lutheran for football and wrestling, was a state runner-up at 171 pounds a year ago.

The Warriors also sent James Bigelow to the state tournament. However, the senior lost a pair of matches at 190 pounds to bow out of the tournament and finish with a 36-11 record.

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



Lutheran Westland's Noah Etnyre grapples with Evert's Cole Hopkins during the MHSAA individual wrestling state finals on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Ford Field. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Franklin loses rubber match to Dearborn in district final

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Franklin boys basketball team lost the Division 1 district championship Friday at Dearborn, 56-32.

The Patriots (18-6) advanced to Monday's regional semifinal against Lincoln Park. The Patriots ended their season 17-7 overall.

The rubber match

The matchup couldn't have been any bigger between the two Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East foes.

Dearborn won the first league game 50-30 on Jan. 27.

But the rematch on Feb. 25 had, quite literally, everything on the line.

For one, the game was postponed because of the storm two weeks ago. When power couldn't be restored to Dearborn's gymnasium, the game got moved to nearby Dearborn Fordson.

For two, the game determined which team got to represent the East in the KLAA championship game. Franklin edged Dearborn in an emotional match-up, 58-56, so both teams finished tied atop the final East standings at 10-4 overall and shared the division title. However, since Franklin won the de facto division championship, the Patriots

got to represent the East against Canton in the league finale.

What's more, the following week, Dearborn was on hand for the KLAA title game, which Franklin lost to the Chiefs, 56-32, and the Patriots even sat behind Franklin's bench to root on their new-found rivals.

Fans couldn't have asked for a better matchup for the district final. Except it was Dearborn that ran away with the win.

How the Patriots won

Dearborn's defense absolutely smothered Franklin all night. It employed an aggressive 3-2 zone that looked to trap ballhandlers in the corners. Plus, the defense was extended out well beyond the 3-point line. The Patriots struggled to feed the ball inside to their go-to scorers.

Dearborn's Nassim Mashhour went on a 9-2 run of his own to close out the first quarter. That included him burying a runner in the lane at the buzzer.

Eric Hobson Jr. helped the Patriots close the gap to just 23-19 entering half-time, but Dearborn opened the fourth on another 9-0 scoring spree and held Franklin to just four points in the period.



Livonia Franklin's Eric Hobson Jr. dribbles to the hoop during the Division 1 boys basketball district championship Friday, March 10, 2023, at Dearborn.

Looking at the scorebook

Ali Makki led the Patriots with 17 points, followed by Mashhour with 15.

Hobson Jr. paced Franklin with 14 points. Adam Alokab scored nine points, including all four of the Patriots' points in the fourth, while Mitch Cronyn tallied five.

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



Livonia Franklin's Robbie Wynn attempts a layup during the Division 1 boys basketball district championship Friday, March 10, 2023, at Dearborn.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Community Worship

BRIGHTON HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL www.hspc.net at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd. 810-231-9199 Fr. John Roccus, Pastor Weekend Liturgies: Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Please visit our Shrine of Our Lady Display and Book & Gift Shop)	HIGHLAND Church of the Holy Spirit 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland Saturday Mass 5PM, Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM (248-887-5364 HolySpiritHighland.com) The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home! All are Welcome!	NOVI Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church 41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375 248.349.0565 Divine Service on Sundays at 10am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 8:45am Rev. Thomas Schroeder: wetsnovi@aol.com Come and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!
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