



## Trip to Breslin restores pride in Salem basketball

SPORTS, 1B

# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Lyon Twp. opposes tavern license for gun shop owner

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A tavern license is the latest dispute between Lyon Township officials and Huron Valley Outfitters owner Ed Swadish.

During a special township board meeting on last week, Patricia Carcone recalled that when Swadish sought approval to relocate his gun shop from Milford to New Hudson more than six years ago, he promised he would never sell alcohol on the property.

She also recalled promises township officials made to the many residents who objected to the close proximity of the shop to Dolsen Elementary School.

"I sat here and lived and breathed it," Carcone said. "They were boisterous and we promised. We gave our word... Now he is back asking for a liquor license when he said there would be no alcohol there. You have to understand our obligation to our community."

Carcone and the township board are objecting to any effort to break that promise, recommending in a resolution that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission deny Huron Valley Outfitters' tavern license application.

The MLCC is set to consider granting the tavern license request on March 16. If granted, the license would enable Huron Valley Outfitters to serve beer and wine at Molly Pitcher's Restaurant, part of the facility at 56477 Grand River in New Hudson which also includes a shooting range and barber shop.

### Township makes a 53-page case; attorney objects

The township board's resolution states that Huron Valley Outfitters and Molly Pitcher's have established "a clear and repeated pattern of disregarding and violating the township code and regulations, as well as state

See LICENSE, Page 5A



Tom Teknos places several dishes of food on the bar at the Hudson Cafe in Northville Township.

DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Enjoy a meal at brunch joint in Northville Twp.

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE TWP. — Haggerty Road was the most logical spot for the expansion of the Hudson Cafe, one of downtown Detroit's best-known brunch spots.

"Right here on Haggerty, let's be honest, this is where all the big boys

play," said co-owner Johnny Mourtos, who lives in nearby Livonia. "When we started looking out here, it just, we knew this area would be a perfect fit for the Hudson Cafe."

"Literally every customer that comes in the door says, 'This is what we've been missing out here,'" Mourtos added, as he and co-owner Tom Teknos sat inside the dining room of the new Hudson Cafe.

The original restaurant, named for the one-time department store on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit, is known for its quality ingredients and dishes, such as the Hudson salad and crepes. The new restaurant opened its doors earlier this month at 17101 Haggerty Road in the space formerly occupied by Applebee's.

See BRUNCH, Page 4A

## 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 ago 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 any-

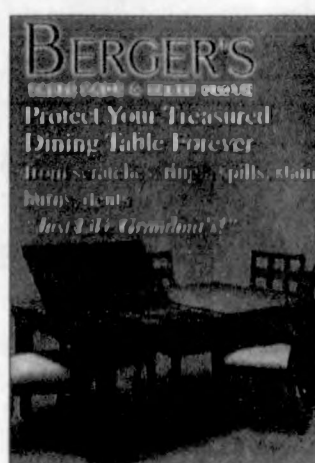
body like I wanted," Cylla said. "Since then, I've been going to balloon classes, balloon conventions, balloon workshops, balloon retreats."

Most days, she can be found at her shop, Top Notch Balloon Creations, 42977 W. Seven Mile in the Highland

See BALLOONS, Page 2A

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# Novi Road, between Nine and Ten Mile roads, set for construction this year

David Veselenak  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Drivers, get ready for more construction.  
Those who typically drive Novi Road, between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads, may want to find a different route this spring as the Road Commission for Oakland County assigns crews along the one-mile stretch for resurfacing.  
The project was scheduled to begin

March 20 with several lanes being closed, though traffic will be maintained going both north and south. The work will consist of the reconstruction of the intersection of 10 Mile and Novi roads, as well as the milling and resurfacing of Novi Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile. It will also include work on three culverts along Novi Road, as well as improvements to drains and sewers, upgrades to guardrails, and upgrades to pedestrian crosswalks. The work also will extend the left turn lane on Novi

Road from Nick Lidstrom Drive south to Little Falls Boulevard.  
Beginning April 23, the road will shut down to traffic for a little more than a month to allow crews to work on and replace several culverts along the roadway. Once that work is complete, southbound traffic will be restored and traffic will return to normal in the fall, when the project should be done.  
Road commission officials announced the \$4.1 million project a week before the scheduled start date.

The detour for navigating the region will send drivers both during the full closure and during the northbound-only closure along 10 Mile to Meadowbrook Road to Nine Mile and back to Novi Road and vice versa.  
The project is just the latest RCOE work being down in southeast Novi. Also under construction is 10 Mile between Meadowbrook and Haggerty. That work has that stretch of road closed completely to traffic until mid-April for culvert replacement.

# I-96 Flex route construction beginning this week

David Veselenak  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brace yourselves: Interstate 96 construction in western Oakland County is back.  
Construction on the freeway's "Flex" route, which will offer more traffic lanes at peak times, kicked off in earnest March 15, when crews closed all lanes but one along westbound I-96 between Beck and Kent Lake roads to allow crews to mark the pavement for the upcoming traffic shift.  
Eastbound I-96 from Kent Lake to Wixom roads will go down to two lanes beginning in the early morning hours of

March 18. That lane closure will last until late summer. More lane closures took place March 18 from Wixom Road to Interstate 275: crews will reduce that eastbound stretch to one lane while workers lay markings that will direct motorists onto the crossover that will carry vehicles over to the westbound side. There, two lanes of eastbound traffic will be maintained until late fall.  
Several exit and entrance ramps will close as a part of the work, including:  
• the Wixom Road ramp to eastbound I-96  
• the Beck Road ramp to eastbound I-96  
• the eastbound I-96 ramp to Beck Road

• the northbound and southbound Novi Road ramps to eastbound I-96  
• the westbound M-5 ramp to westbound I-96 will remain closed through late fall  
The Flex route, once complete, will provide more lanes for traffic during peak commuting times. It will be the state's second Flex route; the first opened along U.S. 23 between Ann Arbor and Brighton. The U.S. 23 lane utilizes a full-lane-width inside shoulder as a traffic lane at certain times of the day or during high-volume events.  
Several miles of pavement will be reconstructed as part of the \$269 million project, and there will be improvements to the Beck Road carpool lot, among other work along the route.

The on-ramp detours are south to Grand River, then east on Grand River to northbound Novi Road, then north on Novi Road to 12 Mile Road, then east on 12 Mile to M-5, then south on M-5 to I-96/696.  
The work is just the latest construction to take place in the region this year: projects are also taking place along I-696 in Southfield and Farmington Hills, and along I-275 between Northline Road and M-14 that will see traffic reduced to two lanes.  
More information on the project can be found at drivingoakland.com.  
Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

## Balloons

Continued from Page 1A

Lakes Shopping Center, where she spends time blowing up and arranging

### hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
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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 discovered 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



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

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."  
Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.  
Get the latest headlines for metro Detroit every morning in your mailbox by signing up for our daily briefings newsletter.

### City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Zoning Board of Appeals** for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **April 11th, 2023, at 7:00PM** in the **Council Chambers** of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

**PZ23-0007 (Richard Bohl Architects LLC) 111 Austin Drive, west of Old Novi Road and south of 13 Mile Road, Parcel 50-22-10-278-013.** The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance from Section 4.19(E)(i) for total garage square footage of 1200 square feet (850 square feet allowed, variance of 350 square feet). This property is zoned One-Family Residential (R-4)

**PZ23-0008 (Nowak & Fraus Engineers) 24305 Haggerty Road, west side of Haggerty Road, north of 10 Mile Road, Parcel 50-22-24-476-022.** The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.10.3.A to allow one overhead door to face a major thoroughfare (Haggerty Road). This property is zoned General Business (B-3)

Publish: March 23, 2023

### Mayflower Towing 1179 Starkweather St., Plymouth, MI 48170 734-459-0053 PUBLIC AUCTION MARCH 30, 2023 @ 10AM

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
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2016	DODGE	DART	1C3CDFBA2GD717100
1997	HONDA	CIVIC	2HGEJ6422VH122123
2000	PONTIAC	MONTANA	1GMDX03E9YD306201
2000	ACURA	TL	191UA5662YA040062
2015	JEEP	CHEROKEE	1C4PJMCB6FW660212
2008	HYUNDAI	ELANTRA	KMHJU46D68U289618
2013	FORD	TAURUS	1FAHP2F82DG134342
2017	KIA	FORTE	3KPFL4A88HE042058

Publish: March 23, 2023



A display by Top Notch Balloon Creations at the Amazon delivery station that opened last fall along Michigan Avenue in Canton Township.





Terry Mack, right, hands a tool to employee Emily Thibodeau at the Belle Lavende farm on Friday, July 1, 2022, in Stockbridge. Hometown Life's report on Mack's business won a 2022 Michigan Press Association award.

NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Plymouth Christian Academy graduate Chibi Anwunah signs as a preferred walk-on with the Michigan football team in 2022. PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETICS/COURTESY PHOTO



Garden City Library Director James Lenze puts a book back on the shelf at the Garden City Library in April 2022. Hometown Life reported on Lenze's fears that tensions with Garden City would lead to homelessness for the library. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Hometown Life wins 13 Michigan Press awards for its work in 2022

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA – Hometown Life reporters earned 13 Michigan Press Association awards for their work covering western Wayne and Oakland counties.

Staff members received accolades for government, business, sports and spot reporting. The 2022 contest included 2,866 entries from 89 Michigan publications spanning Aug. 1, 2021, to July 29, 2022. Hometown Life competes in the second-largest weekly circulation category — 7,001 to 15,000.

The 2022 MPA competition was judged by members of the Colorado Press Association.

Here are the winners:

Susan Bromley, Hometown Life's Milford and South Lyon reporter, won first place in Spot News for "Those crazy cranes. What they did to chips and chalupas at Kensington is nearly criminal." Bromley told the story of a trio of cranes that wreaked havoc on family picnics at Kensington Metro Park in 2022. The story highlighted the downside of feeding wildlife.

Bromley also took third place in Enterprise News for "This sprawling subdivision wanted its roads fixed, so owners are paying it themselves." The article follows an effort by Lyon Township residents to see their neighborhood streets repaired.

Sports reporter Brandon Folsom took first and second place in Sports Feature. His first-place entry, "Michigan football just signed a former Nigerian cross country runner. Here's his story," tells the story of Chibi Anwunah, a Plymouth Christian Academy graduate who was signed by the University of Michigan Wolverines. His second-place entry was "How learning to wrestle has made South Lyon East's Tyler Swanigan one of the best."

Folsom also won first and second place in Sports Writing. His first-place story was "A Livonia Franklin baseball player's overnight race to play in the MHSBCA all-star game." The article tells of Livonia Franklin graduate Caden Fournier's unusual path to the MHSBCA all-star game. Folsom's second-place entry was "Get me back in there": Badal-

lo thwarts injury, boots Bloomfield Hills to 1st state title."

Shelby Tankersley, Hometown Life's Livonia and Farmington reporter, won first place in Business/Agriculture News for "Livonia, Farmington Hills look at walkable real estate trends to attract younger residents," which detailed local trends toward mixed-use developments.

Tankersley also won first place in Government/Education News for "Lack of oversight led to ineligible candidate on Westland ballot. It can happen again." The story highlights the lack of campaign finance violation enforcement in Wayne County.

In News Enterprise, Tankersley earned second for "Will Garden City Library become homeless? Lawsuits, tensions with city hint at yes." Following Hometown Life's coverage, Garden City renewed the library's lease.

Former public safety reporter Susan Vela earned first place in News Enterprise for "Westland fires more police officers than other communities. Is that a good thing or bad?" The story highlights conflicting views on the way Westland runs its police department.

Vela, along with former photographer John Heider and former Plymouth and Canton reporter Ed Wright, won second place in Spot News for "Plymouth-Canton high school students head home hours after threat locks down buildings." The three spent hours at the district's high school education park after police received reports of a student with a weapon. No one was harmed.

In Government/Education News, Vela took home third for "Dad seeks school policy after Livonia police interview son at school without parent consent." The article was about a Livonia Stevenson student who was interviewed by local police at school without his parents' knowledge.

David Veselenak, Hometown Life's Novi and Northville reporter, won third place in Business/Agriculture News for "Couple uproots suburban lifestyle to become Michigan lavender farmers." The business feature follows a Livonia couple who used COVID-19-related troubles to start their own business.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).



Parents and friends of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park students just north of Joy Road near Salem High check their cell phones and await word on students inside the three high schools during their Dec. 9, 2021, lockdown. Hometown Life journalists were on scene for hours. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Section 0.2 Advertisement for Bid

### Request for Proposal

The Northville Public Schools (also referred to as the District or NPS in these documents) will accept sealed bids for:

#### NHS Fire Alarm Wiring

Sealed bids are due no later than 11:00 a.m. April 4, 2023

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 15045 Fogg Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on March 22, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. The plans, specifications, and bidding documents will be made available online at [www.michigan.gov/signmayes](http://www.michigan.gov/signmayes) or [www.northvilleschools.org](http://www.northvilleschools.org). Bid documents will be placed on [Buildingconnected.com](http://Buildingconnected.com) with the following link: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5cc9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc>. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site. The following link is for instructions for [Buildingconnected.com](https://buildingconnected.com): <https://buildingconnected.com/hc/en-us/categories/360001889773-Getting-started-for-subcontractors>

If not attending the pre-bid walk-through, bidders are encouraged to visit the site but must make an appointment. Contact Mr. Steve Banchemo at 248-231-9879 or [banchemost@northvilleschools.org](mailto:banchemost@northvilleschools.org).

Proposals should be submitted through [Buildingconnected.com](http://Buildingconnected.com) with the following link: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5cc9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc>. No physical bids will be accepted in person or via delivery service. Proposals must be submitted no later than 11:00 AM Local Time on April 4, 2023. The District will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission. Bids will be publicly opened immediately following the close of receiving bids with the following virtual meeting link: <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://northville.zoom.us/j/92392950608?pwd=3DL3JudjJ3dDJRQGV0U1cxODZzS044Zz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usg=AOvVaw0KeffY9vNhuMiUZPgIY8N5> Meeting ID: 923 9295 0608  
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One tap mobile +13863475053,,92392950608#,,,257525# US

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in whole or in part; or, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time or preference, to award the contract to other than the low bidder. The contents of RFP and Bidder's (also referred to as Contractor in these documents) Proposal will become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the Bidder to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the award.

In compliance with MCL 380.1267, the proposal shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, or the superintendent of the school district. The Board shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All proposals shall be firm for at least sixty (60) days from the date of opening of the proposal. All proposals submitted must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

A certified check or Bid Bond must accompany each proposal by an approved surety company in an amount not less than 5% of the proposal amount. If the bidder is providing a certified check as bid security, the certified check must be delivered to the Northville Public Schools Board of Education Offices located at 405 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167 prior to the bid date and time. All bids shall be firm for at least sixty (60) days from the date of opening of bids. The length of time required for completion shall be specified in the bid. All bids submitted must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Bids are to be submitted on our Bid Proposal Form through [Buildingconnected.com](http://Buildingconnected.com) with the following link: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5cc9d7f637c1a90018cb55dc>

All questions should be referred to Steve Banchemo at the e-mail address: [banchemost@northvilleschools.org](mailto:banchemost@northvilleschools.org) or phone number 248-231-9879.

Publish: March 23, 2023

LS-000876084 3x7.5

## NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU23-0003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Northern Equities Group is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporarily Driving Vehicles for Component Testing at 30755 Cabot Drive, parcel 50-22-01-200-048, north of Thirteen Mile and west of Haggerty Road from April 12, 2023, through April 12, 2024. The property is zoned OST (Office Service Technology) and the use is contrary to 3.14.1.A of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

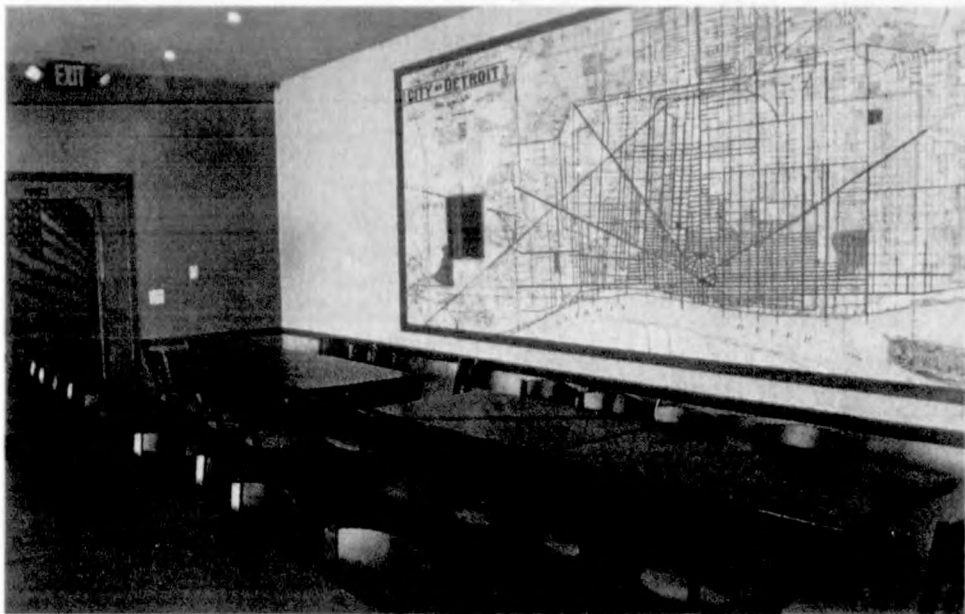
A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

A public hearing will be held at 10:30 am on April 12, 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 Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 3 PM.

Publish: March 23, 2023

LS-000876071 3x2.5

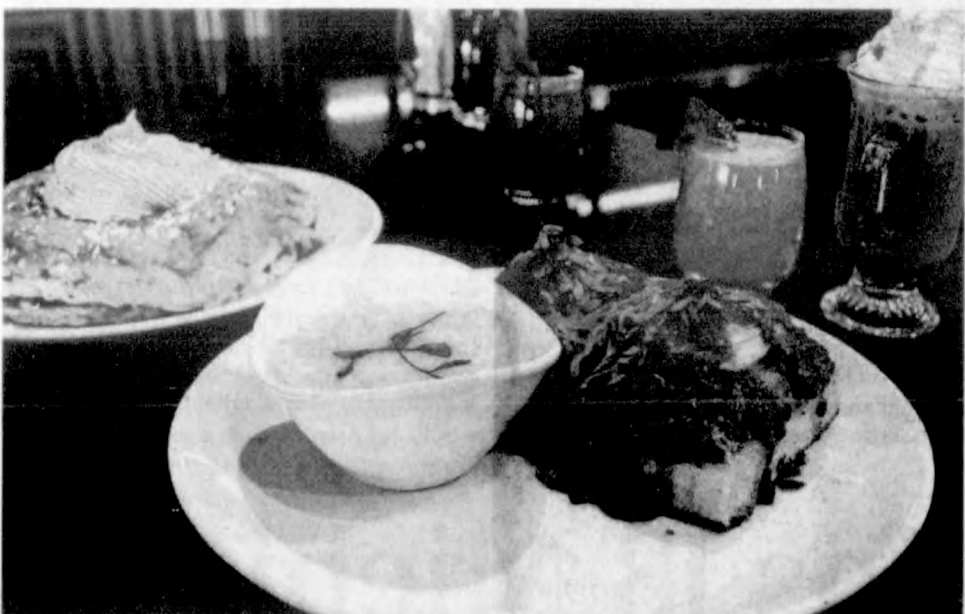




The private event space inside the Hudson Cafe includes a map of Detroit.  
PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A bacon jam crepe served with fresh fruit and toast.



Several food and drink items served at Hudson Cafe in Northville Township, including a plate of Cinnabun pancakes and Voodoo Benedict.



The interior of the cafe, formerly an Applebee's, has been completely redone.

## Brunch

Continued from Page 1A

The only remnant of the former chain restaurant still recognizable is the yellow awnings outside; everything else has been completely transformed. The Hudson ownership spent several months redoing the interior, moving the bar and adding a separate private event

space that can be used for gatherings up to 55 people.

"It's been a great build. Everything's brand new," Teknos said. "Everything's efficient; we spent a lot of time doing it. We feel that the flow is correct for us to be a successful business here."

The menu is the same in Northville Township as it is in Detroit. Guests can find plenty of options for breakfast and lunch, including pancakes, waffles, sandwiches and more.

Drinks will be served; the restaurant was recently approved for a liquor license to allow it to serve Bellinis, mimosas and more.

The Northville Township location is currently the only Hudson Cafe open: The restaurant on Woodward in downtown Detroit is currently being renovated to make it will look more like the Northville Township location.

The original Hudson Cafe opened in 2011. The store, known as one of the

largest department stores in the world, closed its doors in 1983. The Hudson's building was demolished in 1998.

The restaurant offers dine-in and carryout and is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information, including a menu, can be found at [hudson-cafe.com](http://hudson-cafe.com).

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.




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## License

Continued from Page 1A

orders during the COVID-19 pandemic" and is accompanied by more than 50 pages of documentation to be considered by the MLCC before its Thursday decision.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the four township board members present during the special meeting, which besides Carcone included Clerk Michele Cash and trustees Sean O'Neil and Robert Swain. Supervisor John Dolan and trustees Lise Blades and Kristofer Enlow were absent.

Scott MacDonald, an attorney representing Swadish and Huron Valley Outfitters, requested the board not send the resolution to the MLCC.

"I respectfully submit that tonight's meeting is premature," MacDonald said. "It risks voiding the application process."

In making his case, MacDonald also said the license was conditional and even if approved by the MLCC, his client would not be able to serve alcohol until a list of repairs to the Huron Valley Outfitters facility was completed and in compliance with township ordinances.

O'Neil said he was confused by MacDonald's request, since Swadish sought an expedited process by the state, which was going through "at lightning speed."

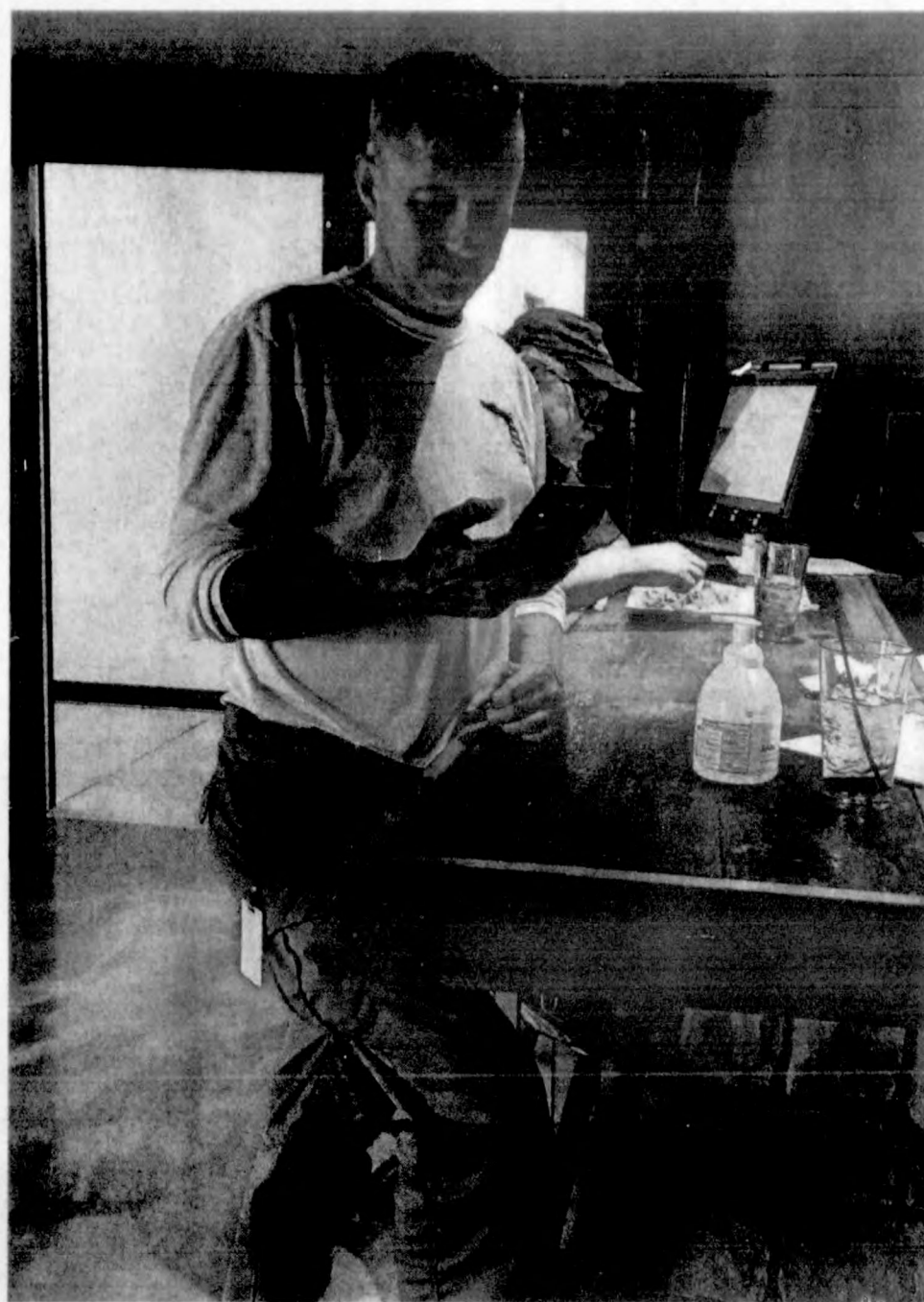
MacDonald responded that it was a "false crisis" and added, "the township is not at risk at all," but declined a counter offer to retract the tavern license application to the MLCC to attempt to resolve issues.

Among the township's objections in the resolution are safety and proximity to Dolsen Elementary School; and failures of the business to adhere to local regulations, pay water and sewer bills in a timely fashion, and to stick to an original plan for a 29-seat, members only café and lounge.

### Change of plans

MacDonald said under the township's ordinances for transfer of liquor licenses, none of those objections are valid as the only criteria for a transfer is "plans of operation."

He continued by citing many gun clubs throughout the state that have



Restaurant owner Ed Swadish checks his phone during the conclusion of Molly Pitcher's Cafe reopening. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hosted bring your own booze events with no history of accidents, including the Birmingham Gun Club, Detroit Gun Club, Whitmore Lake Gun Club and Oakland County Sportsmen's Club.

MacDonald added that Molly Pitcher's plans to go beyond what is required and scan the IDs of everyone who wants to be served wine or beer. Anyone unwilling would not be served, and if they are scanned, they would not be allowed to access the gun range until the follow-

ing day.

"No one who orders a drink will be able to go back in the gun club and purchase range time or firearms," he said. "None of the other facilities with perfect safety records go this extra mile."

As far as allegations that the New Hudson business had violated local regulations and COVID-19 pandemic orders, MacDonald said it was "improper to punish somebody for doing something that was deemed illegal by the

state's highest court" and his client considered everything to have been addressed.

"There were bumps in the road and the applicant came around," MacDonald said. "I think this speaks to the applicant's willingness to compromise and be in harmony."

He also said Swadish had not been trying to pull the rug out from under the township with a change to a 55-seat restaurant instead of a smaller café, but times had simply changed with customers wanting a burger and beer rather than a juice bar.

### Harmony and history at odds

When informed by Carcone that Huron Valley Outfitters continued to not be in good standing financially with the township, MacDonald promised the business would pay whatever taxes were still owed. He asked the board to retract the resolution and close a chapter with the business in which there had been "hiccups."

"This could be the beginning of a new relationship," he said.

Juliann Sleek, the only township resident to speak at the quickly called meeting, urged the board to reject the plea.

"As many of you know, I have always been vehemently opposed to the gun shop," she said. "I was told Ed Swadish would bring amazing things to this community. I'm still waiting. If anything, (this business) is a nuisance to this community and residents, all you need to do is look at their social media page. When you approved this business, liquor, beer, and wine was not allowed. They allow outside alcohol to be brought in, why not put a stop to it? They think they are above the law."

O'Neil, who was the only board member to vote no in 2016 when a special land use was approved for the New Hudson property, would not be swayed to reconsider his stance against the business having the ability to serve alcohol.

"History is important and there have been ongoing issues," O'Neil told MacDonald. "If the MLCC thinks these comments aren't applicable, they will discard. The fate of your client is in the hands of the Liquor Control Commission, not the township."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

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

Ambo	City	Form	Moon	Swag
Arid	Crops	Gezer	Nelly	Taipei
Attaboy	Cyclone	Grog	Opal	Tim Tams
Aussie	Daks	Guff	Pubs	Togs
salute	Deserts	Head em	Razoo	Upter
Bananas	Dill	Hobo	Rivers	Waddy
Barbie	Diving	Ice	Rort	Ya mag
Beaut	Egos	Idly	Rules	Yabber
Big	Energy	Info	Savvy	Yack
smoke	Esly	Jonah	Skite	Yobbo
Boll	Farmer	Lark	Snaq	
Bush	Fire	Mate	Surf	

## TODAY'S ANSWER

The lucky country

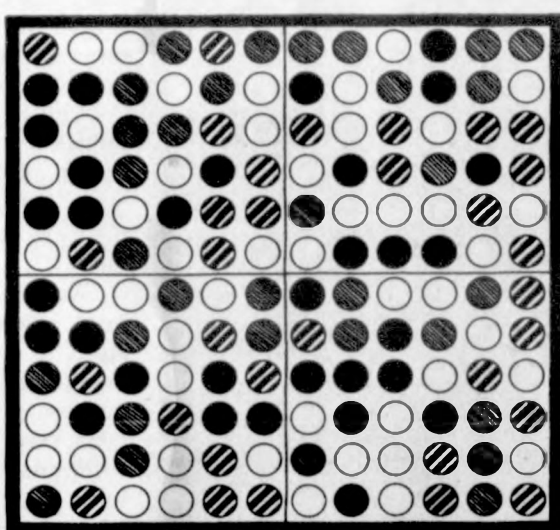
## Aussie lifestyle

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

## PUZZLES &amp; POSERS

Reverse  
Gerrymander

THIS PUZZLE IS PRESENTLY DIVIDED INTO FOUR DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE WHITE SPOTS OUT NUMBER ANY OTHER COLOR IN EACH DISTRICT. —YOU MUST REDRAW FOUR NEW DISTRICTS OF EQUAL SIZE AND SHAPE SO THAT ALL FOUR COLORS HAVE A MAJORITY IN ONE DISTRICT.



## 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

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

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

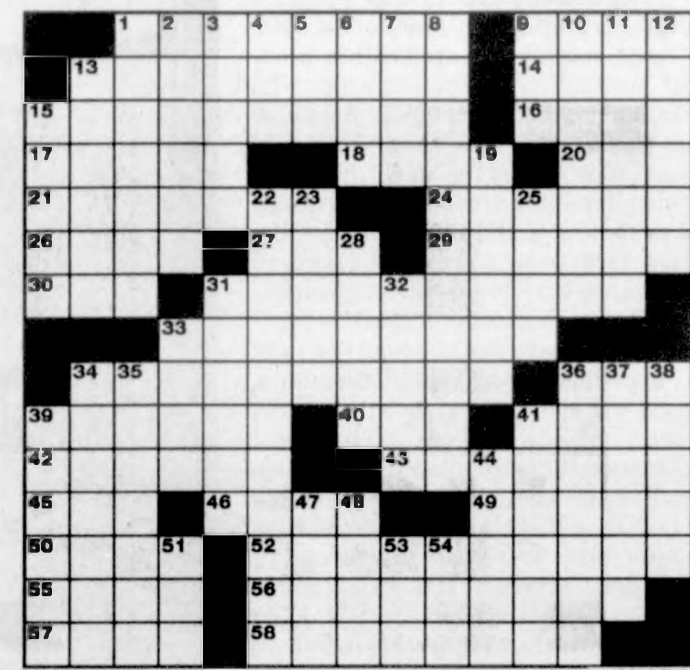
## NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

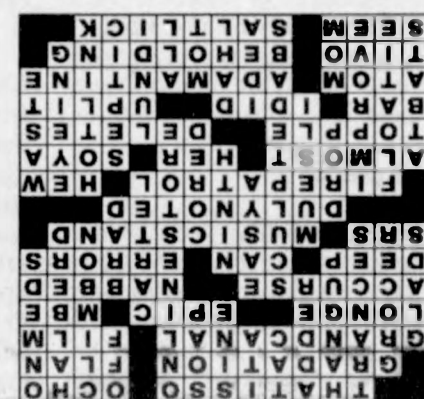
- 1 "Uh-huh"  
9 *Cubo pequeño*  
13 Something on the spectrum  
14 Sort of tart  
15 Major thoroughfare in the City of Bridges  
16 Save for posterity, perhaps  
17 What Sweden and Greece share  
18 Beyond big  
20 Low-level honour  
21 Anathematize, old-style  
24 At large no longer  
26 Cavernous  
27 Milk  
29 Famed farce's title troubles  
30 Quad wheels, for short  
31 Scorekeeper?  
33 "Gotcha"  
34 Loss prevention team  
36 Fell  
39 Virtually  
40 Dating app for women  
41 Brit's bean  
42 Oust  
43 Takes out  
45 Milk  
46 Simple admission  
49 Aglow from below  
50 Iota  
52 Fully firm  
55 Save, since 2000  
56 Taking in

## DOWN

- 1 Spelling sessions  
2 Snag  
3 Fork source of a *Macbeth* brew  
4 Pencil game center  
5 IOC code for a three-time Olympics host (four, counting 2026)  
6 *Amor... fine* (endless love)  
7 What a dish might hold  
8 Where a tiny cart is kept  
9 Aptly named repellent  
10 Add to a cheerleader formation  
11 Medieval battleaxe cousin  
12 Taking something  
13 One wearing an apron  
15 Irises' relatives  
19 Fixer of a sort  
22 Middle management successes  
23 Average helper  
25 What Patton called his colleague  
28 What I will always be?  
31 Word from the German for "purée"  
32 Minus a middle  
33 Iota  
34 Mermaid in the pool  
35 Better  
36 What a breakfast staple could be (but isn't) called  
37 Taking in  
38 Freegan's bane  
39 Times up  
41 Hardly healthful  
44 *Début de la semaine de travail*  
47 Block buster?  
48 One-author focus of an Oxford dictionary  
51 Call for help at home  
53 Bit of wit  
54 Something of yours to give



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/18/23

TODAY'S  
ANSWER

## Sharpshooters remove deer from Kensington Metropark

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MILFORD — In two separate culls, police officers killed 29 deer in Kensington Metropark last month.

The animals were among 161 deer culled from seven of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks throughout February as part of the Deer Herd and Ecosystem Management Plan.

"The Metroparks remain focused on responsibly preserving wildlife and managing the ecosystems that sustain wildlife, including ensuring healthy, thriving deer herds, within our 13 unique parks," said Danielle Mauter, Huron-Clinton Metroparks chief of

marketing and communications.

The number of deer culled at Kensington this winter was a dramatic drop from last year, when 80 deer were killed after a 1-year hiatus in the program due to threats of violence in 2021 shortly before a planned cull.

The parks' deer management plan has been in effect since the late 90s, with Kensington included in deer culls nearly every year, but not without controversy. Some of that controversy has resulted from albino deer seen in the park, including a buck killed during one of the culls.

An albino doe, believed to be one of his descendants, was living in Kensington Metropark in 2021, but has not been seen recently, Mauter said. The park

does not track individual deer, but does now take measures to avoid having albino animals culled.

The parks system seeks to maintain a deer population density of 15 to 20 deer per square mile in each of its parks, as recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. That number of deer protects the ecosystem, including native plants and other wildlife, officials said.

Aerial surveys are conducted regularly to determine herd sizes and if deer culls are necessary.

In 2023, population densities averaged 45 deer per square mile across the nine parks where programs have been conducted in the past.

Kensington, with 49 deer per square

mile, was second only to Oakwoods at 108 deer per square mile. The two were nearly equal in the number of deer culled this year however, with 30 removed from Oakwoods, only one more than Kensington.

Other parks where deer were culled include Stony Creek, 35; Indian Springs, 15; Hudson Mills, 20; Willow, 8; and Lake Erie, 24.

The Metroparks donated 9,830 pounds of venison to food banks in Michigan as a result of the 2023 culls bringing the total to more than 200,000 pounds of venison and 617,000 meals donated to those in need since the program began in 1998.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

## In 3rd year, I-275 rebuild promises greater impact on airport travelers

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON TWP. — A massive rebuild of Interstate 275 that began in 2021 is over halfway complete. But, drivers will continue to see lane reductions and delays for the rest of this year.

The Michigan Department of Transportation completed reconstruction of 13.5 miles of southbound I-275 between Northline and Five Mile roads last year. Now, MDOT's attention is going toward the northbound lanes between Northline Road and M-14.

Drivers can expect to continue seeing two-lane travel each way on the newly-built southbound side of the freeway.

The most notable disruptions will take place near the Detroit Metro Airport.

But, drivers taking the freeway through Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and Northville will continue to see delays.

Weeks-long ramp closures  
at I-275, I-94 interchange

According to Diane Cross, a spokesperson for MDOT, crews will close the



A ramp onto I-275 in Livonia. A rebuild of the highway is entering its third year.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ramps at the I-275 and Interstate 94 interchange near the airport within the next month. The ramps will stay closed for about six weeks. Drivers will be able to access the airport through Eureka Road.

"It's a huge impact on traffic, and we

are aware of that, but part of why we have to close it all at once is the airport is starting up a job this summer," Cross said. "We have to be done with ours so airport traffic can get into the airport."

Drivers can also expect intermittent lane and ramp closures as work pro-

gresses throughout the summer. The only longstanding ramp closure, aside from those near the airport, is the eastbound Ann Arbor Road loop ramp at northbound I-275, which should remain closed for the rest of the year.

On the I-275 Metro Trail, walkers and cyclists will see a closure between Van Born Road and Michigan Avenue through early June.

## Looking ahead to 2024

Next year is expected to be the project's final full year. Drivers can expect to see work between Five Mile Road and M-14, which will include landscaping improvements, bridge work and removal of median crossovers.

MDOT estimates all work will wrap up in September 2025, at which time the state will have spent \$275 million on the project.

People can stay up to date with the project's progress and temporary closures on I-275 and the Metro Trail by visiting [revive275.org](https://revive275.org).

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



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# SPORTS



Salem's Madison Morson moves the ball against West Bloomfield during the third quarter on Friday, March 17, 2023, at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.  
PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

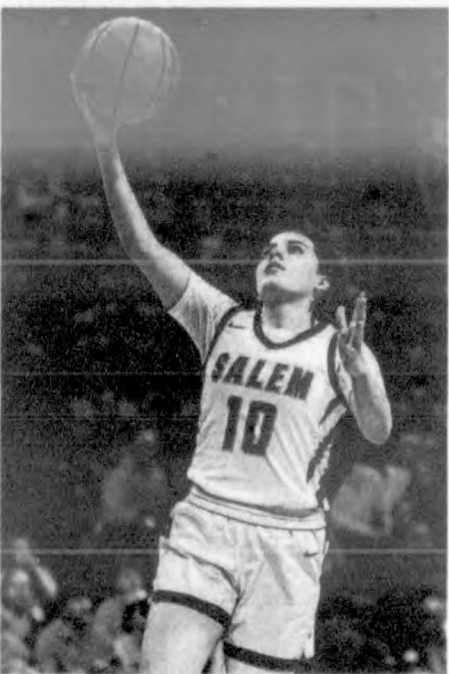
## Trip to MSU restores pride in Salem girls basketball

Brandon Folsom  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Expectations couldn't have been any lower for the Salem girls basketball team. Like, the Rocks just wanted to win a playoff game on campus. Forget about winning their division, the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship game, district and regional titles, the state quarterfinal and making an appearance in the Division 1 final four. They just wanted to beat Park rival Canton in a meaningful game. Which, honestly, was sensible. This year's group of seniors won only four games combined as underclassmen. It took everything they had to finish one game above .500 as juniors. It makes sense their goal from practice No. 1 last summer was to beat their cross-campus schoolmates, especially since the Chiefs

narrowly knocked them out of the post-season with a 54-49 win in the district semifinal a year ago. But expectations change. How good someone says you are doesn't necessarily mean it's true. And the Rocks proved that all winter long. They were picked to finish fifth in their division in the KLAA pre-season coach's poll. Not the entire KLAA, just the eight-team West. Instead, they won 14 straight league games to win the division and represent the West in the KLAA championship game, where they beat Wayne Memorial, which was coming off back-to-back trips to the Breslin Center. After proving their rivals in the league wrong, they just kept rolling. Not only did they get that rematch with Canton in the playoffs, but they

See PRIDE, Page 7B



Salem's Shahd Bakkar scores against West Bloomfield.

## Morson draws raves in Salem's semifinal loss

Mick McCabe  
Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EAST LANSING — Senior Sydney Hendrix is the unofficial spokesperson for the West Bloomfield basketball team. She is also an astute student of the game. So, following West Bloomfield's easy 78-53 semifinal victory over Plymouth Salem in which she scored 20 points on March 17, Hendricks was accurately able to break down Salem junior Madison Morson's game. "I watch a lot of film so I already knew she had a pretty good pull-up and she knows how to get to the basket," Hendrix said. "She's an all-around player as well. She goes hard and she finds a way to get to the basket that most people don't know how to do. She's very efficient with the ball." Morson, 5 feet 8, proved it in her 31-point effort, which may have been her

See MORSON, Page 7B

## Ryan Hurst, North Farmington bow out of postseason

Brandon Folsom  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ryan Hurst did his best to hold back his tears while walking off the floor following Thursday's 56-44 loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the Division 1 boys basketball regional final. But once the senior got among a swath of North Farmington fans huddled in the northwest corner of Troy High School's arena, all it took was one hug for him to start crying. The emotion on his face said it all. For one of the best players in Raiders' history, that's a wrap for his preps career. He's headed to college after guiding his team to a 22-2 record, an Oakland Activities Association-Red championship and a pair of district titles. It's the second straight season St.

Mary's has beaten the Raiders in the state tournament. But Hurst and his teammates gave it their best shot against Trey McKenney, the four-star and No. 1-ranked sophomore recruit in Michigan, who holds almost 20 Division 1 offers and spearheaded the Eagles' second-half comeback with a 26-point effort in front of a packed crowd. "Kids like Ryan don't come around that often," longtime Raiders coach Todd Negoshian said. "We've got kids coming back, so the future is still bright, but it's a tough pill to swallow with that because he's a once-in-a-generation type of kid. He does so much for the program, stays out of trouble and always works hard. You hate to see him or any of our seniors go out like this." Hurst's basket plus an and-one free

See NORTH FARMINGTON, Page 6B



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# Spartans' McKenzie Siroky picks Tennessee swimming and diving

Brandon Folsom  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

McKenzie Siroky's best time in the 100 breaststroke would've qualified her for the SEC championship.

No, not the Ann Arbor-based South-eastern Conference. Like the Roll Tide, War Eagle and Gig 'Em, Aggies SEC.

So it makes sense that the Livonia Stevenson senior just verbally committed to the Tennessee women's swimming and diving program.

According to *SwimSwam.com*, the premier voice of the swimming world online, Siroky, who is a three-time state champion in the breaststroke, will take a gap year after graduating from Stevenson to prepare for the 2024 Olympic Trials and then enroll at UT shortly afterward.

Siroky, the first female to ever score a goal for Stevenson in a boys hockey game, was previously committed to Minnesota Duluth for hockey.

"It was not an easy decision pick between the two sports I love the most," Siroky wrote in an Instagram post. "Hockey will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will always be grateful for all the opportunities it has given me. With that being said I'm looking forward to starting this new chapter in my life, GO VOLS."

Siroky's state champion times in the breaststroke are 1:01.45, 1:00.85 and, this past school year, 1:00.27.



Livonia Stevenson's McKenzie Siroky celebrates signing her national letter of intent with the Tennessee women's swimming and diving program. LIVONIA STEVENSON ATHLETICS/COURTESY PHOTO

## Newcomb, Brighton make history at state meet

Bill Khan  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

GRAND RAPIDS — Once Luke Newcomb hit the water, he switched his mind off.

"I just let my body take over," the Brighton junior said. "My mind wasn't really in it at that point. I was just going through all the motions, what I've learned, leaving everything in it. It was kind of an out-of-body experience. It was really cool. When I finished, I heard all the cheering. I was just hoping it was for me."

It was.

Newcomb hit the wall in 55.34 seconds, taking first place in the 100-yard breaststroke at the state Division 1 swimming and diving meet Saturday at Calvin University.

He became the first boys state champion from Brighton and the fourth champion from Livingston County, all of whom achieved their victories in the last four state meets.

Newcomb reached the top after climbing through the ranks. He was fourth in breaststroke as a freshman and second as a sophomore.

"So, this was the year," he said. "I said, 'You know what, I'm going to take it this year.' I definitely still feel the nerves. I think the nerves are what helps me. I turn nerves into confidence, and that's how I'm able to do it."

Newcomb won by 0.48 seconds over Detroit Catholic Central junior Luke Mychalowych. In prelims, Newcomb was first by 0.38 seconds over Mychalowych with a time of 55.48.

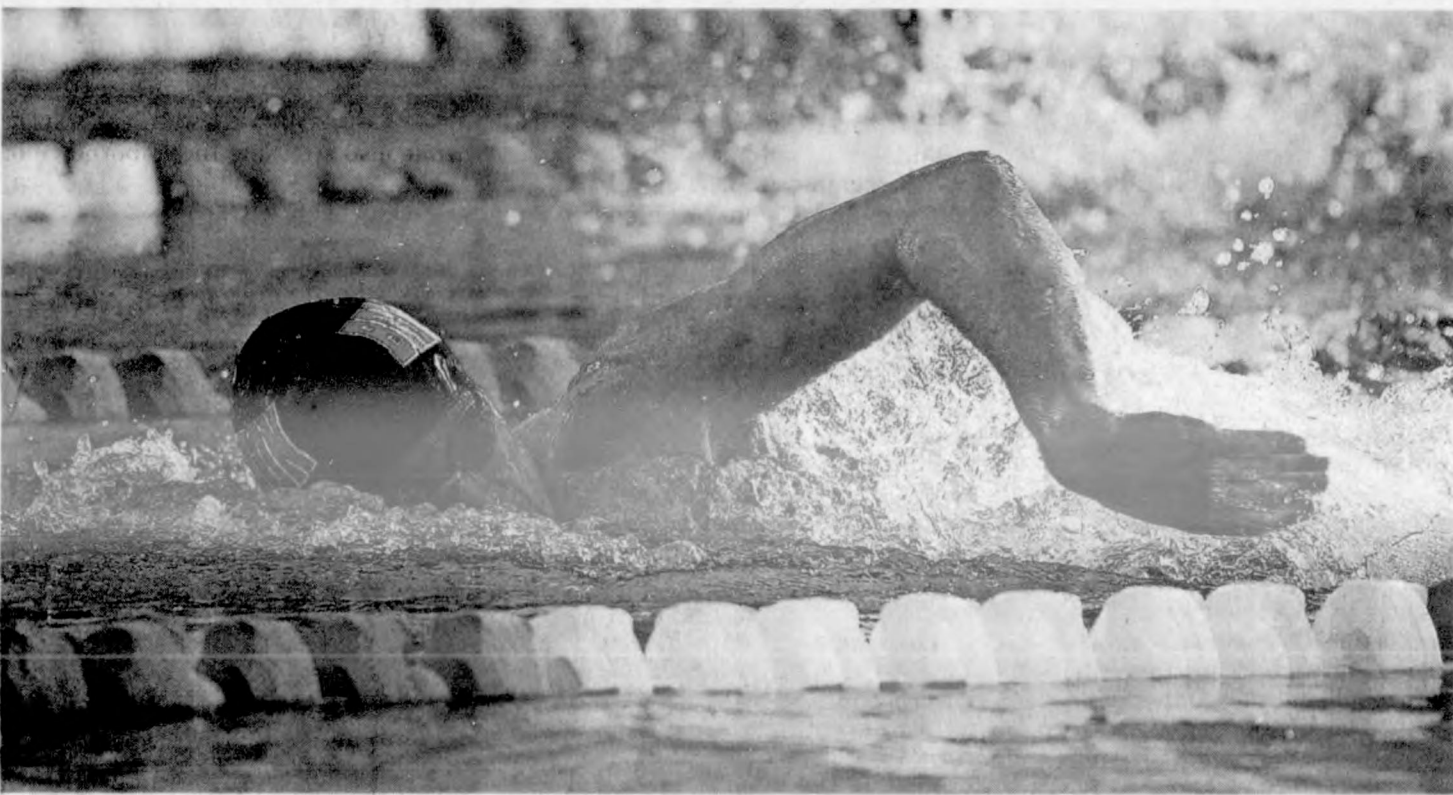
"It was exhilarating," Newcomb said. "As soon as I looked up and saw it, my coach Jason (Black) came running toward me and gave me the biggest hug. 'My teammates were cheering. It was an awesome experience.'"

Before Saturday, second-place finishes by Kevin Doak (1999 backstroke), JD Ham (2014 50 freestyle), Cade Hammond (2018 diving) and Newcomb (2022 breaststroke) were the best finishes by a Brighton boy.

Newcomb's name now goes down alongside Howell's Hunter Gubeno (2019), Pinckney's Tyler Ray (2021, 2022) and Pinckney's Erik Bolang (2022) as Livingston County's only boy state champions.

Newcomb's time easily eclipsed his own school record of 56.72 seconds set in prelims at last year's state meet. It was one of five school marks broken by Brighton swimmers as they finished in third place with 156 points, the best finish and most points ever scored by a county boys team.

Senior Sam Keranen set two records with his third-place time of 4:37.63 in the 500 freestyle and sixth-place time of 1:41.96 in the 200 freestyle. Keranen took down the oldest school record in



Brighton's John McHugh had four all-state swims in the Division 1 meet at Calvin University. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Brighton junior Luke Newcomb won the Division 1 state championship in the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday at Calvin University. COURTESY PHOTO

Livingston County, shattering the 200 freestyle mark of 1:43.43 set by Todd Mercer when he placed seventh in the 1985 Class A meet.

Senior John McHugh swam a school-record 51.20 time in the 100 backstroke prelims before placing third in the finals in 51.29.

The 200 medley relay team started things off for the Bulldogs by placing

second in a school-record 1:34.37. McHugh, Newcomb, Keranen and Mason Staszal comprised that team.

Newcomb made all-state in all four of his swims. His other finishes were eighth in the 200 individual medley in 1:57.17 and fifth in the 400 freestyle relay with Staszal, Noah Shand and McHugh in 3:13.57. McHugh also had four all-state swims, placing fifth in the 200 IM in 1:54.78 in his other individual event.

Brighton's 200 freestyle relay also scored, placing 15th in 1:30.26 with the team of McHugh, Kai Megel, Shand and Staszal.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won with 288 points, followed by Holland West Ottawa with 156 and Novi with 155. Brighton's performance passed Pinckney's fifth-place showing and 154 points in Division 3 last year as the best by a county boys team.

It's only the third top-10 finish ever for Brighton, which was eighth in 2021 and 10th in 1990 and 1991.

"This is the first time the boys got a trophy for top four at D1," Black said. "The girls have those four banners hanging. Now I've got to put a banner on the opposite wall for the boys. I'm really excited for that."

Brighton came into the meet ranked sixth in Division 1. The breakdown of scoring based on seedings had the Bulldogs placing eighth.

"It was the relays that really took us over the edge," Black said. "We scored all three relays; it's only the second time in history we've done that. Two of them were all-state. When you're going into the meet and looking at eighth, you've got to make up a lot of points, which we

did. We made up 35 points between the psych sheet and what we ended up scoring."

Hartland placed 15th with 56 points, its best finish since placing 11th in 2015.

Junior Issac Davis had two all-state swims for the Eagles, placing seventh in the 50 freestyle in 21.77 and eighth in the 100 freestyle in 47.61. He was also on the 14th-place 200 freestyle relay team with Andrew Barrett, Hudson Schick and Josh Ray and the 16th-place 200 medley relay team with Nathan Bergkoetter, Ray and Tyler Davis.

Diver Jack Losert made all-state by placing sixth with 364.1 points after ranking 11th going into finals.

Tyler Davis was 12th in butterfly in 52.82 and 16th in the 200 freestyle in 1:46.20. The 400 freestyle relay team of Barrett, Sebastian Ritsema, Tyler Davis and Ray took 14th.

Howell diver Peter Mick was 14th with 330.25 points.

In Division 3 at Oakland University, Pinckney was 14th with 72 points.

The Pirates had two all-state relay finishes by Conor Trotter, Dylan Ray, Talon Koppman and Lucas Mondro. They were eighth in the 200 medley relay in 1:40.89 and seventh in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:19.97.

Senior diver Griffin Stahl made all-state by placing eighth with 335.25 points.

Ray was 10th in the 200 IM (1:59.78) and 11th in breaststroke (1:01.41). Koppmann was 15th in the 50 freestyle (22.58).

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.



# Livonia St. Edith goes 30-0, wins 2nd-straight CYO championship

**Brandon Folsom**  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia St. Edith middle school girls basketball team hasn't lost a game since before the pandemic.

The Eagles just wrapped up a 30-0 season, which included them winning the Catholic Youth Organization championship for the second straight season. They're just the fifth team since 1944 to win back-to-back league championships.

They are 57-0 dating back to February 2020 (the 2021 season was canceled because of COVID-19).

This year's squad included seventh-graders Lainey Claramunt, Maya Gentilia, Payton Woodruff, Avery Nacarato, eighth-graders Eliza Szczypka-Klein, Bella Claramunt, Isabella Albano, Karla Long, Adelina Mood, Samantha

McCloud, Gabby Apap, Luckia Munson and Sophia Walker and coaches Dave Allie and Dominick Albano.

They topped Everest Academy, 41-21, in the championship game on March 11 at Detroit Catholic Central.

However, it took everything they had to even make it there.

In the Westside final, they trailed by four points with only 90 seconds left but managed to snag back the lead with 12 seconds remaining to secure the 24-23 victory over Northville Our Lady of Victory and advance to the CYO championship game.

St. Edith, whose only other CYO title came in 2006, hopes to become the first team in league history to three-peat when the 2023-24 season begins.

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



The Livonia St. Edith middle school girls basketball team recently won the Catholic Youth Organization championship. COURTESY PHOTO

## Big Ten LB to host youth football clinic at Farmington

**Brandon Folsom**  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wisconsin football linebacker Jordan Turner, a 2020 graduate from Farmington High School, is returning home to lead a youth skills clinic for children in third through eighth grades.

The camp will run from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 13, at the high school football field, 32000 Shiawassee St.

The cost is \$44.52 and includes a shirt, refreshments and an autograph from Turner, who was named the defensive MVP of the Guaranteed Rate Bowl this past season in Phoenix, Arizona. Photographs with Turner will also be welcomed.

A portion of the camp proceeds will benefit childhood hunger in metro De-



**Defensive MVP Wisconsin linebacker Jordan Turner holds his trophy during the Guaranteed Rate Bowl Game at Chase Field in 2022.**

ALEX GOULD/  
THE REPUBLIC

"Hosting a camp for these kids in the same neighborhood that I grew up in and at the same high school I attended is a surreal accomplishment for me and my family and something we hope to continue doing for many years to come," Turner wrote in a press release. "It's very special to me."

Turner, who is 6-foot-2 and 232 pounds, was an All-Big Ten honorable mention this past season.

He totaled 68 tackles (five for loss), four QB hits, two sacks, a forced fumble and an interception in 13 games played.

To register a child, visit [eventbrite.com/e/jordan-turner-football-camp-tickets-551869495517](https://eventbrite.com/e/jordan-turner-football-camp-tickets-551869495517).

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

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# Hartland grad Bommarito wins national title

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

To everyone else, it appears Eliana Bommarito shouldn't have a care in the world when she takes the wrestling mat for a big tournament.

At Hartland High School, she was a four-time state champion who had 12 first-period pins and one second-period pin in 13 postseason matches. She spent a total of 11 minutes, 31 seconds on the mat in those bouts.

That success has transferred seamlessly to college, where she won the National Junior College Athletic Association 235-pound championship as a freshman at Indian Hills Community College in Iowa with two first-period pins and a technical fall in the second period.

But Bommarito admits she still gets nervous before a big match, even if the outcome seems to be a foregone conclusion.

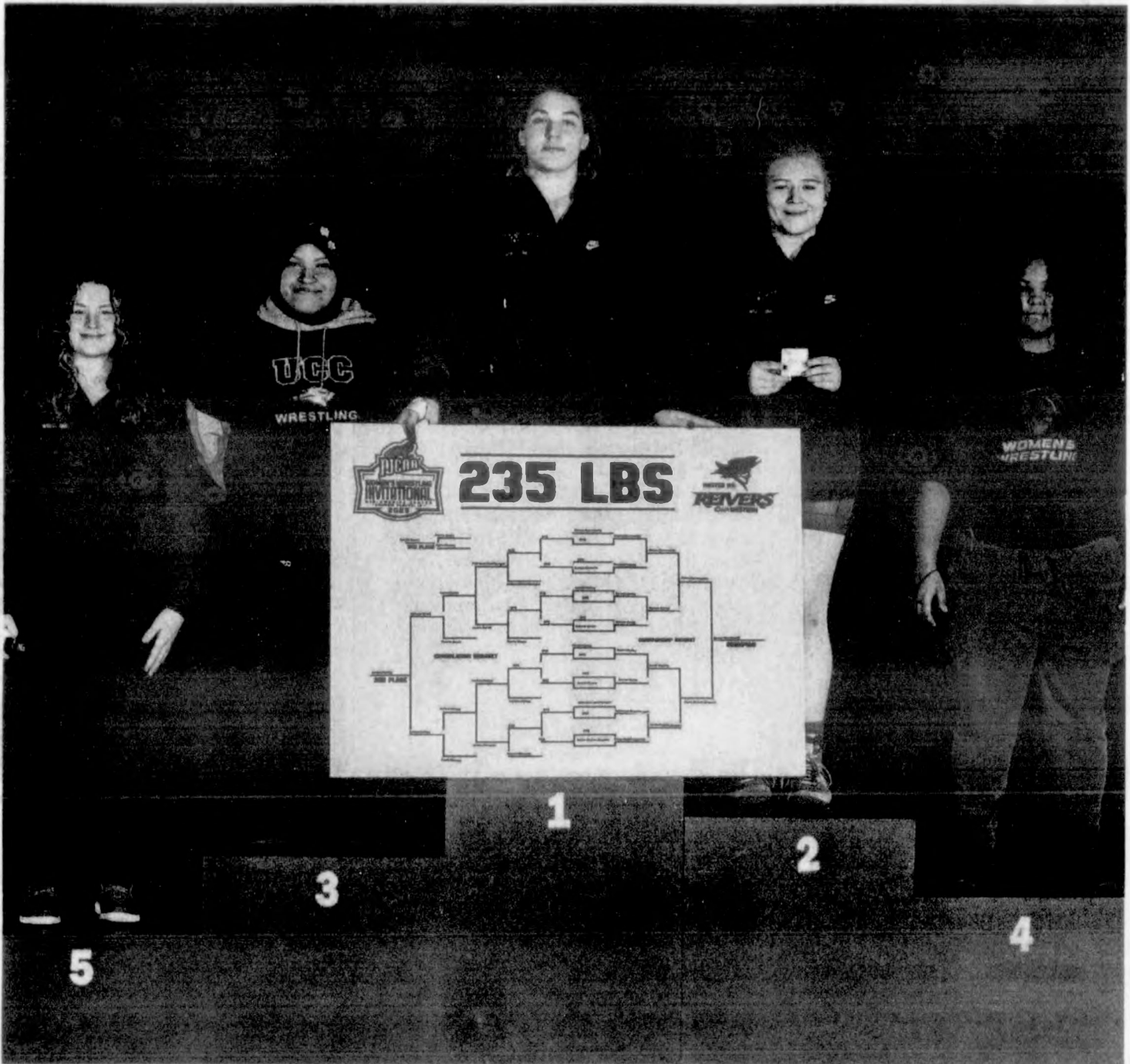
"I didn't get too nervous until I was there and I was like, 'Oh, we're here,'" Bommarito said. "What my coaches say is if you don't get nervous, you're not caring about the sport. I still want to win. I know there's always a possibility of losing. With my record right now, not losing is a bigger pressure. I'm sort of expected to win, I guess. I get nervous about that."

Bommarito won her first two matches at the national tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa with pins in 35 seconds and 1:55.

She faced teammate Karla Padilla Zepeda in the championship match, winning with an 11-0 tech fall in 2:50.

"I went through them pretty quick, but there was definitely some difficult competition," she said. "With one of them, I wrestled a girl before. I knew she was pretty good competition. She's real strong, kind of equal to me. It was a nice little battle. My final match was with my teammate, so we knew each other's moves. So, that was a little different coming into it, but it was good competition. I considered switching up my moves since we knew each other."

Bommarito's performance helped Indian Hills win its third straight national championship.



Hartland graduate Eliana Bommarito of Indian Hills Community College stands atop the podium as the 235-pound champion at the National JUCO wrestling tournament. COURTESY PHOTO

"I'm so proud of everyone on my team, especially Karla, who was in my weight class," she said. "I'm so glad we got first and second together."


Bommarito has one more season of eligibility remaining at the junior college level. After that, she won't be able to

continue her college career unless a 235-pound division is added for four-year schools. Currently, the heaviest weight class for the NCAA and NAIA is 191.


"I'm definitely still trying to encourage that," she said. "Right now, I don't

have high expectations that will happen within my career. I'm definitely trying to encourage it for future females of the weight class to come."

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.



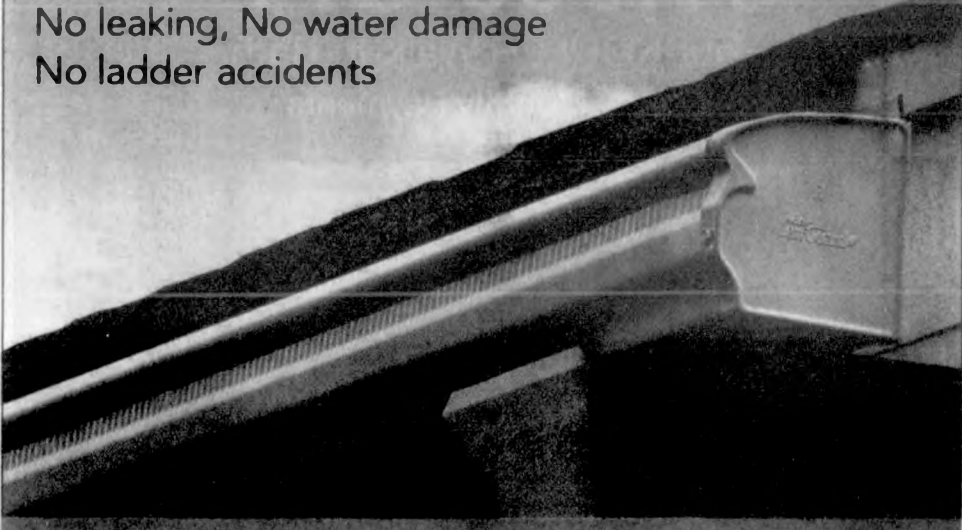
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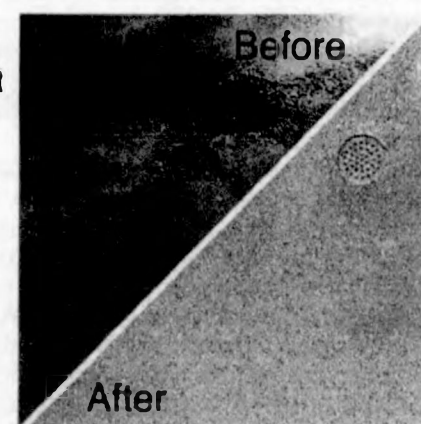


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# Picked to finish 5th in KLAA-West, Salem girls basketball reaches final 4

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the waning moments of Tuesday's Division 1 girls basketball state quarterfinal, Ashley Kopacko made both free throws in the bonus.

The Salem senior then sprinted back on defense and slapped five with teammate Shahd Bakkar, all while wearing a big, bright smile.

For the fourth time since the second quarter, Kopacko had bailed out the Rocks, and she absolutely knew it.

Salem (21-6) held on to edge Riverview, 55-52, and advanced to Friday's state semifinal at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. It'll face defending state champion West Bloomfield with a state finals berth on the line.

Yes, that's right. The same Rocks who were projected to finish fifth in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West — not the entire KLAA, just its eight-team division — will play in the final four.

And they have their senior shooting guard to thank for helping them get there.

"It feels absolutely amazing," said Kopacko, who scored 14 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. "I always put in the work at practice, staying extra to get the extra shots up. I knew that, eventually, it'd pay off. And this was the game that it paid off. When I saw my opportunity to shoot or run in and get a rebound, I was like, 'I've got to take that opportunity.' And we came out on the winning side because of those opportunities."

So let's go blow by blow just how Kopacko stepped up at the right times.

Whenever the Rock got into an offensive lull, she was there to shoot them out of it.

When Riverview took the lead, 23-22, with 2:57 left in the opening half, Kopacko buried a 3-pointer to get the lead back and ignite a 7-0 run that gave the Rocks a 29-23 halftime lead.

When the second half opened a bit rough for Salem, Kopacko knocked down another 3 that inspired teammate Madison Morson — who started the day by announcing on Twitter she had received her fifth college offer, this one from Nebraska-Omaha, and finished it by leading the Rocks with a team-high 29 points — to score two baskets down low and then take a rebound coast-to-coast for a layup that ensured them a 40-38 advantage entering the fourth.

"I mean, Ashley's known to be our shooter, and people don't understand she can do so much more than sit in the corner and wait for a swing pass," said Morson, who had coaches from Eastern Michigan University and North Dakota on hand to watch her dominate. "She can drive to the hoop. She can get those putbacks and mid-range jumpers like you saw in the fourth. She



Salem's Ashley Kopacko buries a shot during the Division 1 state quarterfinal Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Ypsilanti Lincoln. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

can do it all, and I'm not even surprised she pulled that out."

Once again, Riverview briefly took a 41-40 lead to open the fourth quarter. And, you guessed it, Kopacko corralled a rebound and knocked down another jumper to give the Rocks the lead once and for all.

Her two free throws turned a close game into a five-point lead for Salem in the final minute.

The Rocks' defense did the rest.

For as clutch as Kopacko played, it's easy to see why a handful of the local junior colleges have been heavily recruiting her this winter. And two of them were there at Ypsilanti Lincoln to see her hit big-time shots in the elite eight.

"I think a lot of colleges have missed out on her," said coach Rod Wells, who won a state title with Ypsilanti Arbor Prep in 2016. "She's smart. A very smart player. Ashley is a great shooter. We tell her to shoot more. I wish my team would pass the ball more to her so she can shoot more because she's a rhythm shooter.

I know she can make the shots. I actually took her out of a couple of games this year because she *wasn't* shooting the ball.

"I want you to shoot the ball, Ashley, and what a clutch time for her to make baskets. And she was not afraid to do it. I'm proud of her."

And to think, when Salem started the season at KLAA Media Day, Wells and his captains thumbed through the program and saw the Rocks were picked to place fifth in its division in the coaches poll.

Whoops. There are only four D-1 teams left in Michigan. And Salem is one of them.

"Our coach was not happy about that," Kopacko said. "And we'd show it in our team pictures after we'd win games (the KLAA title, district championship and regional final). We'd hold up the five (fingers) to be like, 'Oh, we're No. 5, huh?' Now it's crazy that we're in the final four. We're proving everyone wrong. We're putting in the work so we can show the world that the Salem Rocks has got what it takes."

## Obituaries

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### James T. Morché

**NORTHVILLE** - James T. Morché, age 82, of Northville, passed away March 11, 2023. He was born on October 22, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan; son of Rudolf and Clara (Eggy) Morché. Jim was lovingly devoted to Susan Sendelbach for over 23 years. Jim and Susan spent 15 winters at Anna Maria Island, Florida enjoying the sunshine.

Jim graduated from Denby High School in Detroit, Michigan; class of 1958. Following high school, he attended Wayne State University where he completed his undergraduate studies and his Doctorate. Jim was a Forensic Psychologist with the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court, Clinic for Child Study in Detroit. He retired in 2001 after many years of dedication.

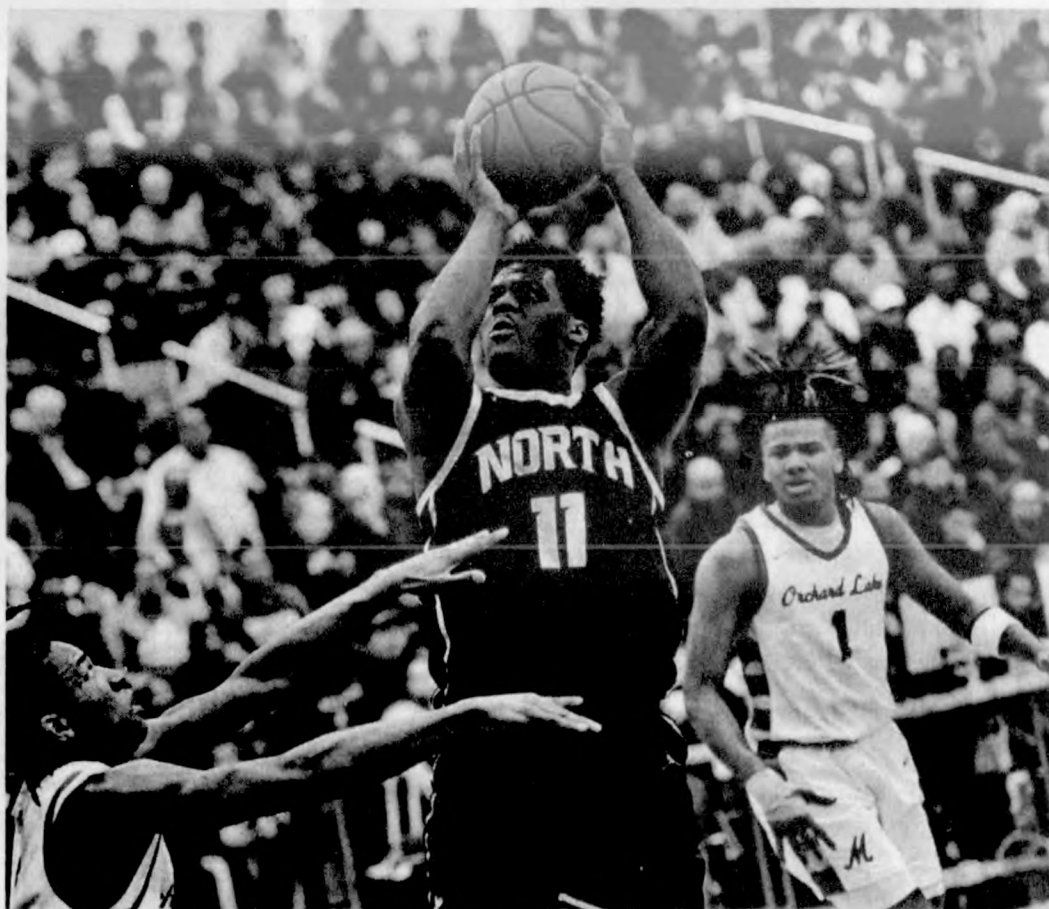
Jim was a proud member of the Friends of the Northville Library where he served as a trustee. He also served on the Northville Township Beautification Committee. Jim was a leader with the Northville Newcomers, leading the Dining Light Group. He also organized and headed trips for Single Point at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville. Jim enjoyed travelling and was an avid reader. When reading became hard, he began listening to audiobooks. While wintering at Anna Maria Island in Florida, Jim was a docent at the Island Museum and served on his church's board of directors. He enjoyed the simplicity of life. His kindness will be missed by all who knew him.

Jim is survived by his loving companion Susan Sendelbach; his son Ed (Colleen) Morché; his grandchildren, Connor, Griffin, and Regan; and his siblings, Roseanne, Ron, Wayne, Rudolf "Rudy" II, Dennis, and Warren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at a later date this Spring, please continue to check for updates at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

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North Farmington's Ryan Hurst shoots during the Division 1 boys basketball regional final Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at Troy. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## North Farmington

Continued from Page 1B

throw in the opening period and Tyler Spratt's four 3-pointers in the first half ensured the Raiders a 26-19 lead entering halftime, but McKenney just wouldn't back down.

Four separate times, St. Mary's knotted the score in the third.

And then McKenney went on a 9-2 run of his own to open the fourth, giving his team the lead back once and for all.

After leading for so long, the best North Farmington could do was trim the score to three points on a play that went down as Hurst's final bucket as a Raider. With 2:40 left, he caught a pass in the corner, pump-faked McKenney, slid to his left and buried a 3 to make it 44-41.

The Michigan Mr. Basketball finalist and Detroit Mercy commit had a short-lived time at North Farmington, but he made the most of it.

He transferred in from West Bloomfield before his junior year. While the Raiders were the runners-up to Ferndale in the OAA-Red and lost to St. Mary's

in the regional opener, Hurst did enough to be tabbed as Hometown Life's Player of the Year last winter.

He worked in the off-season to get in better shape and develop even more chemistry with his teammates.

So it wasn't surprising that North Farmington was poised to make a state title run his senior season. Surrounded by a stellar cast, which included juniors Landon Williams and Tyler Spratt and seniors Lee Hardy, Prince Jackson, Donavin Williams and Dwayne Ray, among others, Hurst got his squad just three wins away from making it to Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

"For a kid that's a Mr. Basketball finalist and to be as unselfish as he is and be a team-first guy, I think he means a lot to not just our program but to basketball, the game and the basketball world," said Negoshian, who subbed out Hurst with 9 seconds remaining so fans could give him one final standing ovation.

After getting a hug from Negoshian, Hurst briefly covered his face before finding a seat on the floor near the baseline. It was his final moment representing the brown and gold on the hardwood. And he tried his hardest not to let it show on his face.

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



## Pride

Continued from Page 1B

also beat the Chiefs to win the district title.

Then they won their first regional championship since 1990.

And then they came back from a handful of deficits to beat Riverview in the state quarterfinal.

Yeah, Friday's 78-53 loss to defending state champion West Bloomfield in the final four was heartbreaking. The Lakers are led by twin Michigan State commits Summer and Indya Davis and Florida A&M signee Sydney Hendrix, who each scored over 20 points in the matchup, and their team's full-court pressure and defensive rebounding proved to be too much for the Rocks.

But guess what? West Bloomfield is an already-established dynasty. Salem is only two years removed from a two-win season. Yet they made it to Michigan State University after everyone doubted them.

No tears were shed when second-year coach Rod Wells, seniors Ashley Kopacko and Shahd Bakkar and junior Madison Morson, who scored an awe-inspiring 31 points, marched into the media workroom to answer questions.

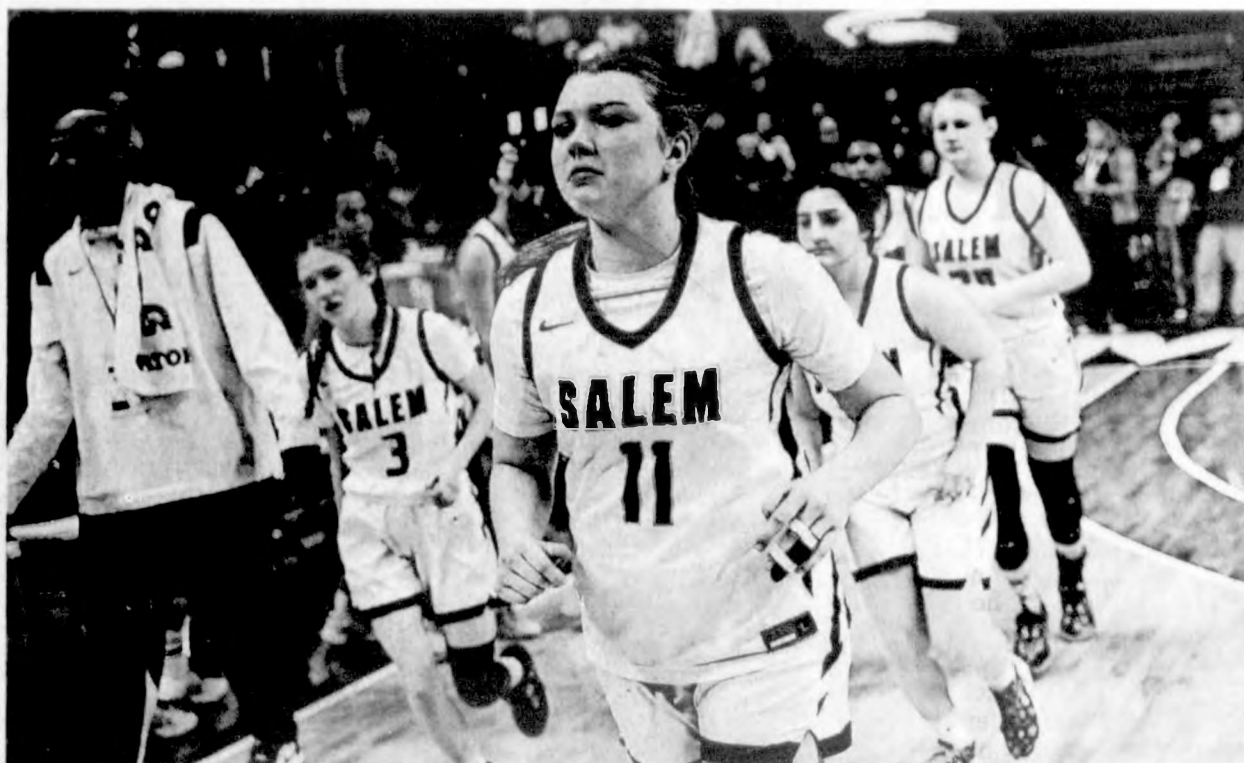
Expectations? There are no expectations like that when you're the underdog.

"We were the uninvited guests today," said Wells, who won a state championship with Ypsilanti Arbor Prep in 2016. "But we were OK with that. We beat a lot of good teams this year. We just didn't walk into this place. And they earned it, and I'm very happy with this team and satisfied. I've never been more proud of a team because they just kept fighting and fighting and fighting."

Of course, this type of success didn't happen overnight.

It started with Wells developing his culture a season ago.

Once the team chemistry came along, then he worked on their confidence.



Salem's girls basketball team leaves the court after the Division 1 state semifinal against defending state champion West Bloomfield on March 17, 2023, at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Salem lost, 78-53. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Being fearless has become second nature to this group. Even while staring down a double-digit deficit to West Bloomfield, they didn't flinch. They were still locked in on each possession, trying their best as if it was only a one-possession game.

Once they became fearless, then the winning followed.

It's amazing just how far the Rocks (22-7) have come.

"Coach always saw us going further than the Park," said captain Shahd Bakkar, a Rochester University commit who scored 15 points. "In our head, we just wanted to win the Park and win more than two games. After we won our first four games with Coach last season, we were like, 'Oh my God! We're so excited.' And we celebrated. Once we got those four wins, I was like, 'I just doubled my wins total for the past two years.' But the expectation Coach had for us was to play hard, play good defense and love each other. I think that's what got us this far."

It's true.

Some programs can ride their talent to success.

Up-and-comers such as Salem need to have more to get as far as it did. Sure, Morson, who continues to rake in Division I offers, is one of the top players in Michigan, but this wasn't just Morson's team. And she wasn't asked to do everything for the Rocks.

Each player had a role. And rarely did someone overextend themselves or do something that would hinder the team's chemistry.

Morson was the three-level scorer. Bakkar was the point guard. Kopacko and Isabell Kulick were the clutch shooters. Abby Resovsky was the team's grit. Macy Boyd, Leilah Howard and Allie Staudle battled in the post. And Taylor Bond and Elissa Antoun added a spark off the bench when they were called upon.

Yeah, you can brute-force your way past Canton and Plymouth in the regular season. It takes a team effort to get

out of the district, win a regional title and be one of the last four teams standing.

"All summer, when we were working hard, I was saying, 'We're getting out of districts. I can't go another season without getting out of districts because I'm used to winning districts,'" Wells said. "I said, 'Once we get out of districts, we'll take things from there.' That's kind of what we did."

As for next year, it's unlikely the Rocks will be slighted in the pre-season coach's poll. They actually should be a favorite to win the West and get out of their district again.

And Wells has already called his shot. Once again, he reiterated in the post-game press conference that he expects the almost 6-foot Morson to be a Michigan Miss Basketball finalist in 2023-24.

Now how's that for low expectations? *Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.*

## Morson

Continued from Page 1B

coming out party as a player of consequence in the state.

She scored Salem's first 11 points and added a blocked shot that sent fans in the Breslin Center into gyrations no matter which team they were rooting for.

"I placed second in the state for high jump last year," said Morson, who jumped 5-8, the same as Ann Arbor Pioneer's Gabriella Newman. "The girl who beat me is going to Michigan for high jump so I'm pretty satisfied with my vertical."

Last summer at Eastern Michigan's girls basketball camp Morson had her vertical jump measured and came up with 28.7 inches.

"I was hoping for a 30-something," she said. "But then again it was June so it might be higher now."

You can't really measure someone's basketball IQ, but Morson's would be off the charts. She has tremendous feel for the game. Averaging 22.4 points a game, she knows when to attack and understands when it is time to let the game come to her.

"I'm pretty satisfied with my scoring," she said. "I don't really care how much I score, I just want to win, honestly. Sometimes I have to score more than I usually do. I mean, I had 30-something against Wayne Memorial, too. I'm usually the main scorer, but if I don't have to I won't."

In this game against the defending state champs, Morson never tried to force herself on the game, even as West Bloomfield (26-2) pulled away with its tremendous defense.

"I knew they were going to be handsy, I didn't think they were going to be as physical, with their bodies, but I knew they would reach at stuff," said Morson, who hit 11 of 17 shots. "We were going to try to take out the twins, but their other players can do just as well."

"We knew they were going to crash the boards hard and we weren't rebounding or boxing out. I mean, we haven't really done that all season but it really got us today."

The Davis twins, Indya (23 points) and Summer (20), had committed to Michigan State coach Suzy Merchant, who stepped down earlier this week for medical reasons. The twins said Friday they are sticking with their commitment for now.

Morson is uncommitted, but says she has Division I offers from Eastern Michigan, Detroit Mercy, North Dakota and Omaha.

Salem coach Rod Wells thinks she

should have many more offers than that by this point in her career.

"Madison is a fantastic player," he said. "Madison is just a phenomenal player. She's a hidden gem. I don't understand the recruiting thing. It's cool. Whoever gets her is going to get a great player."

"I love the way she plays for Salem. She's not worried about recruits or anything, she's playing for Salem basketball. I've been around the game. She's one of the best players in her class and in the state, period."

Watching Morson play reminds of Stacey Thomas, who starred at Flint Southwestern in the mid-1990s and then at Michigan, before playing in the WNBA.

Morson is so smooth and never was out of control against the Lakers.

"I knew Madison was going to be able to do what she does," Wells said. "The good thing about Madison is when she does her thing it opens up for her teammates. Her teammates love playing with her because she's not a ball hog."

Unfortunately, that wasn't reflected in the game. It was almost as if her teammates were ignoring her as some came down and fired up some crazy shots that had little chance of going in the basket.

Take her stats out of it and the other Salem players made 5 of 30 shots and committed 17 turnovers.

"OK, I don't know what was going on today, honestly," she said. "People were in their own heads like: 'Oh, my God, the Breslin Center.' But we have to focus on the game. I mean, I usually have the ball a lot. But that's OK, it happens, sometimes."

"I'm not mad at them or anything, but I would prefer to get the ball a little bit more."

Unlike some of her teammates, Morson was not intimidated about playing the defending state champs. In fact, she was looking forward to it.

She understood this game could be a springboard for her career.

"I always go out and try to play my regular game, I try not to prioritize anything," she said. "But I knew the publicity we'd get from not only playing West Bloomfield, but competing with them. How many people are going to see that and notice that?"

"I really wasn't worried about that, but now I'm thinking people finally know who I am now."

The entire community of girls basketball in this state knows about her now.

*Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at mick.mccabe@ gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @mickmccabe.*



Salem's head coach Rod Wells, left, talks with players including Madison Morson (12) during the girls basketball game against West Bloomfield on March 17, 2023, at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

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