



Folsom's favorites: All-area boys basketball

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Shaq's shoe call is be-all, end-all for Eric Kilburn's size 23 feet

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Eric Kilburn Jr.'s phone rang around 6 p.m. Wednesday, he answered to hear the unmistakable voice of basketball star Shaquille O'Neal.

"I was flabbergasted," Eric, 14, said. "My soul left my body for a moment, I was so shocked."

The call has been the icing on the cake, or perhaps the laces on the shoes as Eric's mother Rebecca says, to a month of March madness after Hometown Life wrote about the Kilburn family's quest to find size 23 shoes for Eric.

The story struck a nerve among readers who sought to help Eric get shoes that fit. Advice from readers included shoe-cobbling instructions, company recommendations and most commonly, urging the Kilburns to "reach out to Shaq," who is known for kindness and generosity.

The Kilburns didn't have Shaq on speed dial, nor did they expect the star to take notice of their struggle. But after the Kilburns' story went viral and resulted in offers from both Puma and Under Armour to make custom shoes, Shaq took notice, too.

In his phone call to the Kilburn family, O'Neal, who wears size 22 shoes, empathized with Eric's predicament. Shaq told Eric that when he was the same age, his mom also couldn't find the shoes he needed.

Eric, who sprained his ankle last fall playing JV football for Goodrich without cleats, asked Shaq if he'd ever played football in high school. The answer was affirmative, but Shaq also suffered an injury and six months later began playing the sport that would bring him fame and fortune.

"Shaq said he made \$900 million by listening to his mom and dad, so he told me to listen to my parents," Eric said.

Shaq, played in the NBA for 19 years, hasn't had to worry about shoes in decades and now Eric won't have to, either.

Under Armour Senior Director of Footwear Development Robb Cropp scanned and measured Eric's feet on Sunday and Puma plans to do the

See SHOES, Page 4A



Richard and Joe Corriveau stand near a pink sign outside the Corriveau Law Firm on Main Street in downtown Northville. The father and son are involved in a campaign passing out pink signs that have appeared across town asking the city council to reopen the downtown streets to vehicle traffic. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Downtown Northville street closures divide community

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — The planters of hundreds of pink yards signs in Northville are hoping to convince the city council to reopen downtown streets to vehicular traffic.

The council last summer voted to permanently close Main and Center streets to traffic, a decision made de-

signed to make the downtown more walkable and pedestrian friendly after being closed the last few years.

That decision has manifested into a hotbed of controversy in this town of 6,000. Some residents have become vocal on the issue — with the calls to reopen the streets countered by pleas to keep them closed to traffic.

Hence, the pink yards signs. "We just had to bring it to issue," said Joe Corriveau, a Northville resident and

local attorney who practices out of his firm at 324 E. Main St., and is involved with the campaign. "We're just looking for a collaborative approach that serves all the businesses' and residents' best interests equally."

Here's a look at what led to these division and what, if anything, could happen next with Northville's roads. (The Northville City Council was set to meet

See STREETS, Page 5A

Practice volleys at Novi tennis simulator

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Tucked away off 10 Mile Road is a place designed to refine your tennis game.

Resembling a golf simulator but modeled on tennis principles, TennisTEC is an idea born out of a desire in Thanh Tran, who wanted to keep up with his game after the COVID-19 pandemic put restrictions in place.

Tran, an engineer by trade, wanted a simulator to practice his tennis swings but found there wasn't one here in the U.S.

"One of the things that hit me was that there was no tennis simulator," said Tran, who picked up tennis several decades ago. "There was a golf simulator, but no tennis simulator."

Tran recently launched TennisTEC, a simulator billed as the first of its kind in the United States. Located at 24300 Catherine Industrial Drive in suite 407 near 10 Mile and Novi roads, it provides tennis players a way to practice their game and get feedback on their play.

TennisTEC looks similar to a golf simulator: the front of the shop has a designated sitting area and sells some

See TENNIS, Page 4A



Thanh Tran adjusts the tennis simulator at TennisTEC in Novi. Tran opened the simulator earlier this year. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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More Eight Mile construction coming, this time between Taft and Napier roads

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NORTHVILLE — Local drivers have been good at finding detours due to road construction but now they'll have to do even better because of an Eight Mile Road project later this summer.

The Road Commission for Oakland County plans to resurface Eight Mile between Taft and Napier roads, to help extend the life of the road between five and 10 years, agency spokesman Craig Bryson said.

With no firm start dates, the work will include adding two inches of asphalt to the existing surface.

"This is what we call a preservation overlay," Bryson said. "The positive thing is, it's fairly quick."

Eight Mile runs through part of Northville and then along the border of Northville Township and Novi. Bryson said the road commission is still going through which contractor will do the resurfacing projects across the county,



Eight Mile between Beck and Taft roads in Northville will be resurfaced by the Road Commission for Oakland County later this year.

DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

which will determine when work begins.

Bryson said the work most likely would take place in the summer after school is out, given that schools such as Moraine Elementary, Amerman Elementary and Hillside Middle School are along the road. Traffic should be maintained in both directions, and Bryson

said flag crews most likely will be utilized to manage traffic during resurfacing.

Once a start date is determined, weather and other factors could affect the contractor's proposed schedule. Bryson mentioned what he considers a plus about the project.

"Because there's about 20 projects in this contract, we bid all the preservation overlay projects together," he added. "Typically, that schedule is pretty fluid. Once it gets going ... we're talking maybe a month or so worth of work on this road."

The estimated cost for the project is around \$1 million, Bryson said, with costs being shared. The Northville City Council approved its portion of the cost for the work at its March 20 meeting. That funding will come from the city's Tri-Party funding, which is used for road commission projects.

"The portion between Beck Road and Taft is in the City of Northville, and they are requesting the city help with our tri-county funding to help pay a portion of

that," said Mike Domine, the city's public works director. "This is money from the Tri-Party we've been saving and banking since actually 2013."

The city expects to allocate about \$100,000 for work within its boundaries between Taft and Beck roads.

The work is just the latest to take place along Eight Mile. Other resurfacing work will take place between west of Orchard Hill Place and just east of Interstate 275 by Wayne County, which controls that section of Eight Mile where Novi, Northville Township, Farmington Hills and Livonia meet. That work will take place later this year. A reconstruction of Eight Mile between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads is expected sometime also is expected.

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

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Canton Twp. road construction to begin in mid-April

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township is preparing to roll out the orange barrels in a busy season of road construction — while also preparing for projects in 2024 and beyond.

Construction for 2023 will begin on Lotz Road in mid-April, contingent on weather. Projects will follow in the order listed:

- Lotz Road, Michigan Avenue to Palmer Road, base repairs and resurfacing.

- Lilley Road between Michigan Avenue and Palmer Road, base repairs and resurfacing.

- Sheldon Road, Warren Road to Sheldon Center: asphalt mill, base repairs and overlay.

Each project will be completed before the next begins, township officials said, with the final project expected to wrap up in late September.

The three projects, estimated at a total just over \$3 million, are funded through the 1.45-mill Canton Road Improvement Project approved by voters in 2018.

In addition to the three projects facilitated through the road millage, Wayne County will manage reconstruction of Hannan Road from Van Born Road to Michigan Avenue. The county will also send crews out for crack sealing at various locations throughout the township during the upcoming summer.

Looking down the road

Canton Township is also finalizing plans for millage-funded road improvement projects in 2024. Those will include reconstruction of Beck Road, from Cherry Hill Road to Michigan Avenue, with the addition of right turn lanes at the Beck and Cherry Hill roads intersection.

The 2024 projects will also include work on Geddes Road from Denton Road



Orange barrels, like these from a previous year, will soon appear around Canton Township for the 2023 construction season. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

to Canton Center Road.

In a separate project, Canton Township is also planning intersection improvements in the next few years.

"We've identified a intersections throughout the township that need engineering improvements," said Jade Smith, Canton Township municipal services director. "We're hoping to incorporate one of those projects ... in 2024, but most likely in 2025."

Intersections slated for improvements include:

- Beck and Ford roads: Preliminary

plans include widening the intersection to add a right turn lane going north and south, as well as a left turn signal arrow.

- Sheldon and Palmer roads: Preliminary plans include construction of a roundabout.

- Michigan Avenue/Geddes Road/Sheldon Road: Conceptual plans are pending.

While final engineering is not yet complete, township officials are hoping a roundabout at the Sheldon and Palmer roads intersection will be the first in

Wayne County.

"We're in a roundabout competition with Northville," joked Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak. "They're saying they're going to be the first ones, but we're going to be the first ones. It's on."

Northville is currently considering a roundabout at Seven Mile and Sheldon/Center roads.

"Roundabouts are a safer way to pass traffic back and forth and avoid head-on collisions and T-bone collisions," Graham-Hudak added, noting Canton Township hopes to secure a grant from SEMCOG for the project once it is finalized and approved.

The Township Board of Trustees, along with staff and consultants, have been engaged in the study of intersections over the past year, looking at alternatives, cost estimates, and potential right-of-way needs.

"I'm excited we're getting into intersections," said Canton Township Clerk Michael Siegrist. "Traffic is a huge concern people have, and we have these old intersections that haven't changed much in decades while our population has doubled or tripled."

Trustee Steven Sneiderman said he was glad to see the Beck and Ford roads intersection on the list of those slated for improvements.

"It's been 10 years of begging and pleading...with the county and the state for that one," he said, noting he was also glad to see that preliminary plans also include a left-turn signal. "I can't imagine doing all that work and not ending up with a turn signal."

The township is also still engaged with the Ford Road Boulevard project, which is now anticipated to begin in 2025, depending on easement acquisition and utility relocation. That project is run by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

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

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Livonia plans 50 road projects for construction season

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Drivers passing through one of Michigan's largest cities this construction season will have an easier commute than they have in recent years.

Livonia is planning between 10 and 12 miles of local road repairs, a larger-than-normal scope of projects.

"There's a reason for the madness," City Engineer Todd Zilincik said.

Wayne, Inkster roads to be repaired

Zilincik said Wayne County is planning about \$3.6 million in repairs for Livonia, including Wayne Road between Plymouth and Joy Roads as well as Inkster Road between Five Mile Road and Interstate 96. Livonia will pick up a small percent of the bill for those projects.

Zilincik said having two major road repairs, instead of the five drivers saw

last year, will lead to an easier summer for commuters. He thinks the only major delays will happen along the city's border with Westland.

"If anything, it'll be impacting people down in Westland from Joy Road," he said. "That south end of town on the border with Westland will be hard to traverse. But it will be a lot easier to get around."

Drivers will, of course, continue to be impacted by the I-275 reconstruction, which heads through Livonia.

Fifty local road segments to see repairs

On a local scale, Livonia officials said the city will spend about \$9.8 million on road repairs this year. Livonia's road program is funded through a millage voters renewed last year. City council is set to approve a final chunk of funding April 10, which would allow construction to start that month.

Zilincik said he's particularly excited to send crews to West Chicago Street between Hubbard Street and Farming-

ton Road. Across the road, Hathaway between Farmington and Stark roads is also getting repaired.

"For me, West Chicago is a big one," Zilincik said. "We wanted to get in there once the county was done fixing Farmington between Plymouth and Orangelawn. So now, we can reconstruct that piece of West Chicago. I've been here for 14 years and we've been talking about doing it. This year, we're finally going to do it."

Bell Creek Lane and Bloomfield Street, which connect in an arc, are another major project for the city.

"We want to get the water main replaced out there and do the asphalt," Zilincik said. "That's been delayed a couple years, so we want to get in there and get that done."

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

Bowling for big bucks

Locals among those in USBC Masters tournament

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Mike Weed is asked what he enjoys about bowling, his initial answer is blunt:

Winning money.

This week, the South Lyon resident was among 390 men competing in the qualifying rounds of one of the sport's biggest tournaments, the 2023 United States Bowling Congress Masters.

Open to amateurs and professionals and held for the first time at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park, the event that concluded April 2 with a \$100,000 grand prize drew top tier bowlers from across the world.

"I compete in at least a dozen tournaments per year for money, but nothing like this," Weed, 42, laughed. "Usually, it's more like \$1,000, so take a few zeroes off."

Weed did not make the cut of the top 64 to advance, nor the top 100 that were guaranteed lesser cash prizes.

"I am happy with how I did, considering the pattern," he said after the third round, referring to the oiling of the lanes. "It's the hardest pattern I've ever bowled in my life and I did very well until today."

In his five game set on March 29, Weed knocked down a total of 836 pins. He had a score of 1,010 in the first round and 1,066 in the second round. He finished the tournament in 223rd place, with a 194.13 average.

A couple shots of Jack Daniel's

This is the largest tournament Weed has ever participated in. He joined men's leagues with his father when he was 17 and now bowls in league play five days a week. Over the years, he has bowled a perfect 300 game 15 times in sanctioned play. He doesn't practice.

Instead, the window installer's philosophy on being a good bowler involves taking a couple shots of Jack Daniel's whiskey.

"It takes the edge off," he said. "It helps me relax and keep calm."

He knows when he releases the ball whether it is a good roll or not and tries to keep that same feeling consistently.

Life in the fast lane

Noah Campbell, 21, was one of the younger competitors in the tournament.

The 2019 Livonia Churchill graduate attends Madonna University on a partial bowling scholarship, studying sports science. During collegiate season, he bowls throughout the week and in tournaments on the weekends. He was player of the year in the American Hartland Conference in his junior year.

"Most of my life is in the bowling alley," Campbell said. "I love the competitiveness, but I am very much a talkative person. A lot of times, you build a lot of relationships from bowling. I've met people from all over the country."

Campbell's uncle "bet on him" and paid his \$500 entry fee into the USBC Masters tournament. Unfortunately, Campbell's run was also cut short.

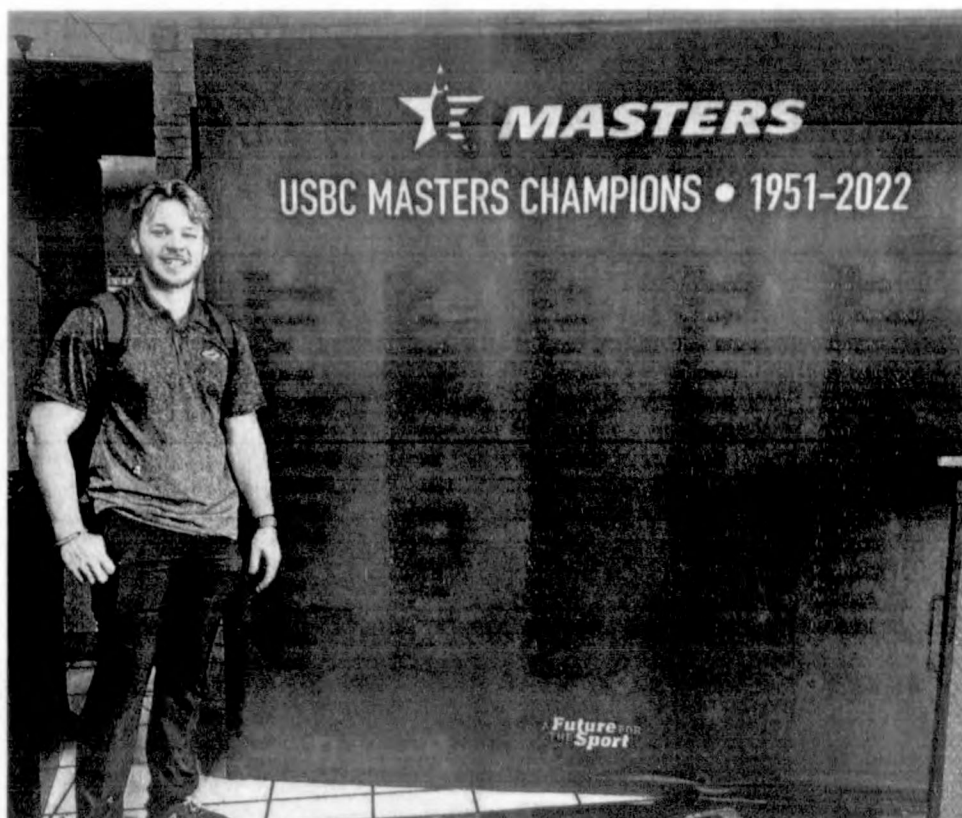
"Monday, the first round, I was plus-72, the cash line for the field," he said. "Day 2 was not so great. And do we really need to talk about day 3?"

Campbell finished in the 292nd spot after a three-round average of 187.60.

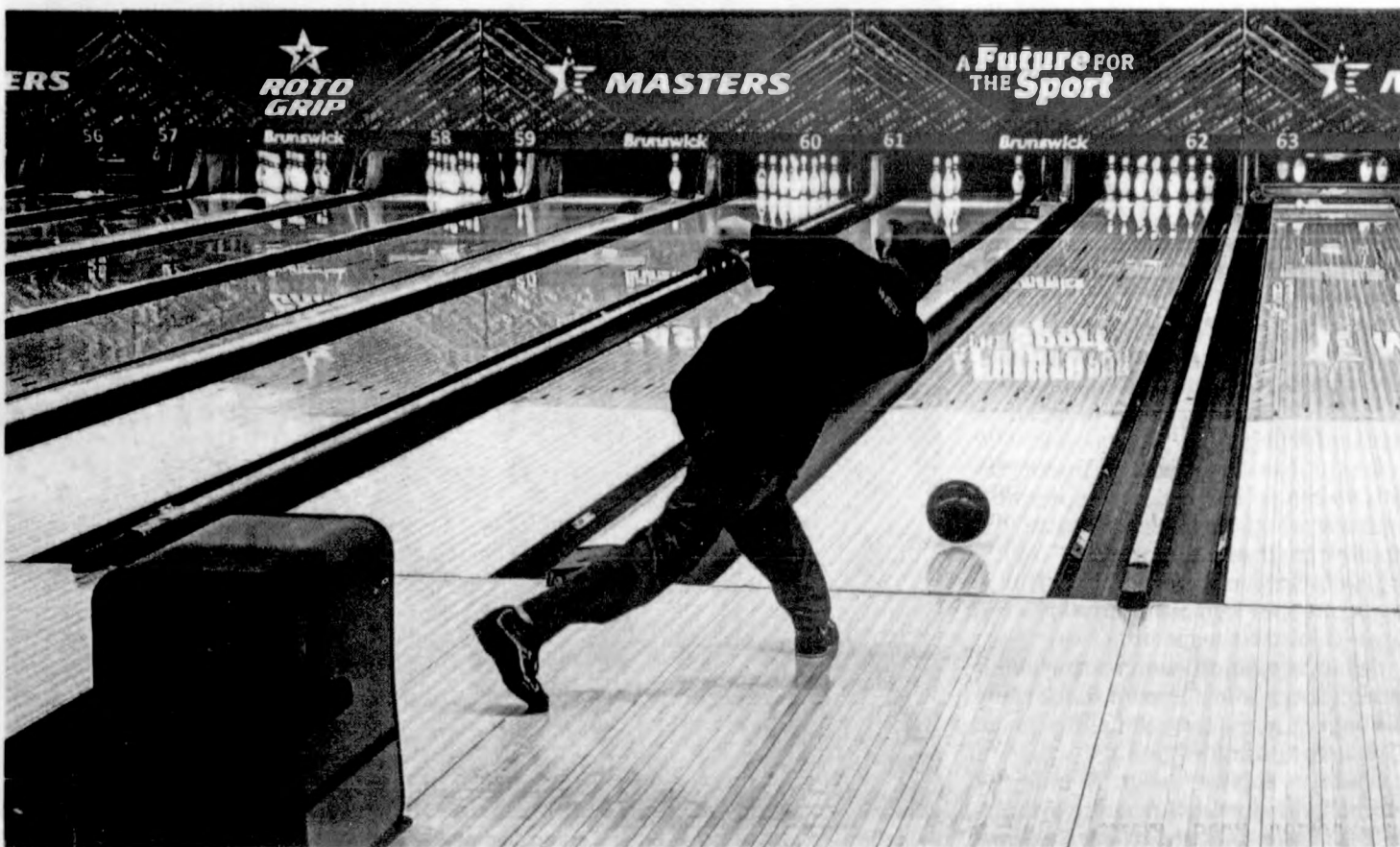
He also noted the "pattern" or length of oil on the lanes, was more than he is



Mike Weed of South Lyon competed in the 2023 USBC Masters tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.



Noah Campbell of Livonia competed in the 2023 USBC Masters tournament.



Weed bowls during the third round of the tournament March 29. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

accustomed to. He also acknowledged nerves, but said, "If you're not nervous, you're doing it wrong."

Both Weed and Campbell expressed their desire to perhaps participate in the USBC Masters again someday, aspiring to the lofty heights of the tournament's top seed, Jason Belmonte of Australia.

Belmonte has won the USBC Masters a record four times and his 15-game total over the three days was 3,552, for a tournament-best 236.8 average. This year, he finished 13th.

Winning the tournament and the \$100,000 top prize for the second year in a row was Anthony Simonsen of Las Vegas, 243 (one game), followed by Michael Martell of West Babylon, New York, who took home \$50,000. Finishing third was Kyle Sherman of O'Fallon, Missouri, winning \$25,000; and Sean Rash of Montgomery, Illinois with \$15,000.

To learn more and see a complete list of results, visit bowl.com/masters.

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

ATTENTION

DEADLINES FOR PUBLISHING NOTICES HAVE NOW CHANGED.

THE UPDATED DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS ARE:

PUBLICATION DAY

Thursday

NEW DEADLINE

12PM Wednesday
(Week Prior)

Publications include the Northville Record, Novi News, and South Lyon Herald.

The above deadlines are for legal/public notices publishing within the classified section that contain no images, graphs, maps etc. Special design components will require an earlier deadline, please email for additional information or questions.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST MAY 2, 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Accuracy Test for the May 2, 2023 Special Election is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** in the lobby of Township Hall, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the Election count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Cynthia L. Jankowski
Township Clerk

Publish: April 6, 2023

LD-0008790775 3x2

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU23-0002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for **Novi Energy, LLC** is requesting a **Temporary Special Land Use Permit** in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary **ground mounted solar panels** for parcel **50-22-27-226-003** south of Ten Mile Road and west of Novi Road from **April 26, 2023, through April 26, 2024**. The property is zoned OS-1 (Office Service One) and the use is contrary to 3.17.2 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 **10:00 am on April 26, 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 25, 2023, by 3 P.M.**

Publish: April 6, 2023

LD-0008790752 3x2.8

Hometown Life



LD-001034477-03

Livonia Chicken Guy! opens Saturday on Plymouth Road

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — The first Chicken Guy! restaurant in Michigan opened April 1.

"The people of The Motor City have spoken. ... I'm bringin' my real deal chicken tenders, sandwiches, and shakes to Livonia," celebrity chef Guy Fieri said in a release. "From shooting DDD ("Diner, Drive-ins and Dives") to taking part in the Woodward Dream Cruise, the Detroit area has always been a go-to for me, so I'm stoked for every-

one to give us a try. See ya there!"

Chicken Guy! will be open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week at 30130 Plymouth Road.

Fieri plans to open 20 Chicken Guy! restaurants in southeast Michigan in the near future, the first of which is in Livonia.

The restaurant serves up chicken strips and sandwiches along with over 20 dipping sauces.

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



Chef Guy Fieri was at Chicken Guy! at Disney Springs in 2018 for its ribbon-cutting ceremony.
PHELAN M. EBENHACK

Shoes

Continued from Page 1A

same this coming week, with custom-made shoes taking about two months to arrive.

In the meantime, Reebok sent five pairs of size 22 shoes they had originally created for Shaq, and while it is still believed Eric needs a 23, these have more toe room than the Nikes the freshman had been wearing and are more comfortable.

"I've never seen my son smile so big," Rebecca Kilburn said. "It's tough to get a smile from a teen, but he is over the moon thrilled and blown away with options for shoes."

Rebecca Kilburn said Shaq told Eric Jr. he would like to get him dress shoes from a man he knows that makes them up to size 26, and also said to call if he needs anything.

Eric Jr. has already been in contact with Shaq a second time, to express his gratitude when the Reeboks arrived the day after their call.


Shaq's text message to him on Thursday is one that left an impression even bigger than their respective footprints.

"When him and I were texting about shoes, (Shaq) said, 'There's much more coming big man. Love you,'" Eric said. "This is the ultimate."

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



Eric Kilburn of Goodrich with a selection of Reebok size 22 shoes that were originally created for Shaquille O'Neal. The 14-year-old will wear these while awaiting larger shoes that are being custom made for him. COURTESY OF REBECCA KILBURN



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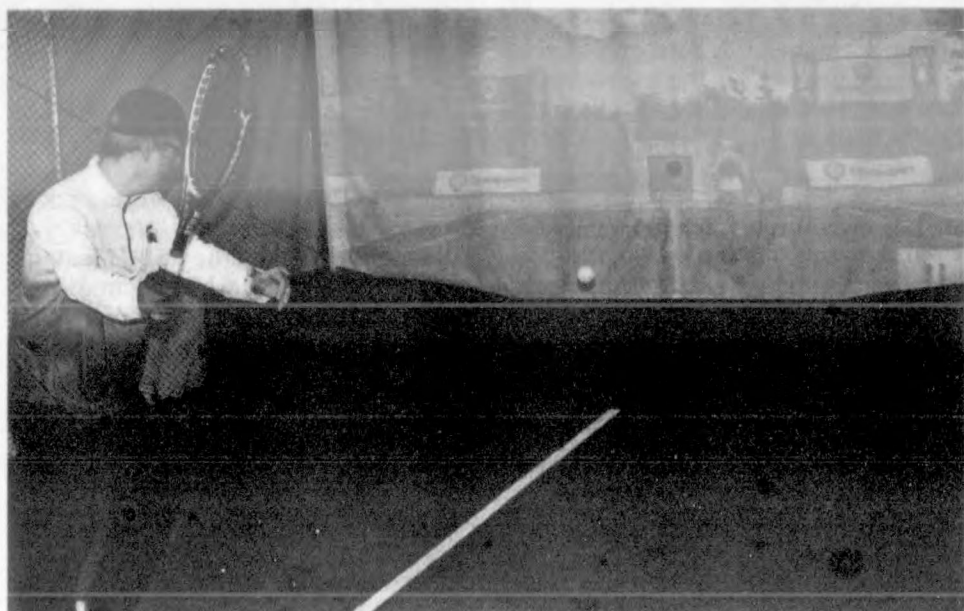
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Dr. Daniel Croteau lines up a shot from the TennisTEC simulator in Novi.
DAVID VESELENAC/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tennis

Continued from Page 1A

equipment, while the back contains a large screen and playing surface designed for hitting tennis balls with the simulator.

The simulation system is one Tran found being used in South Korea. He contacted the company there and bought the rights to use it in the United States, making some modifications to the equipment that offers several types of play styles.

Dr. Daniel Croteau is a founding member of the business. Having recently retired from Henry Ford Health, he has more time to stop by the simulator and practice his game. An avid player who plays tennis, racquetball and pickleball, he stops by TennisTEC about once a week to work on his shots. He's played tennis with Tran elsewhere, notably the Novi Athletic Club.

To judge how active he stays, he'll track his calorie burning through his Fit-bit device on his wrist, looking to see if the amount of energy used while hitting balls in the simulator is similar to a game of tennis.

In some of the initial tests, it's come pretty close.

"I think it's definitely possible," he said.

The space can be used for tennis players of all ages and skills. It can be used by hardcore players, such as local high school or college teams, all the way to a small group looking to host an event that has rookie tennis players. The space is rented out for a certain amount of time per group.

The space has attracted high school tennis players from across the region, looking to utilize the space and gather the analytics of their game. Players also can be recorded during their sessions and their movements analyzed as well.

"Once they hear about what we can do, it's one of the things we want to provide," Tran said.

Those looking to use TennisTEC can sign up for sessions and view full pricing information at tennistec.com.

Tran said he hopes to take his concept and grow it. He has big goals for how he'd like to franchise TennisTEC and hopes to see more of the simulators pop up.

"Everything that's set up — the system, the infrastructure of the facility — is set up for franchise," he said. "So we'd like to be the next X-Golf or Top Golf."

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

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Streets

Continued from Page 1A

April 3, after Hometown Life's press time. For updated details, go to hometownlife.com.)

How did the streets end up closing down permanently?

The first seeds were planted in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many cities began exploring how to allow restaurants to use outdoor seating to provide a more safe environment for those looking to dine out. Northville's city council voted in June 2020 to close Main Street between Center and Hutton streets, as well as Center Street between Main and Dunlap streets for several months, a move done to help attract customers downtown.

What was originally a temporary decision was extended each year until the council decided to keep the roads closed to cars until Nov. 2022. Before that expiration date hit, the city took up the idea making that decision permanent.

An online survey garnered thousands of responses on what should be done. After an analysis, public comment and feedback, the council voted last August to keep the downtown roads closed permanently.

What's the deal with the pink signs all over town?

People in Northville have continually raised concerns over the closures, something punctuated by the winter, when activity in the streets is slower.

Issues surrounding additional traffic, especially on roads such as Wing Street, have also irked some residents.

Residents have flocked to city council meetings the last few months, bringing up the street closure issue during public comment. The pink sign campaign launched after some felt they weren't being heard.

That campaign, which has canvassed hundreds of signs across Northville and Northville Township, wants the city council to revisit its decision. The signs — which say "It's time. Let's open Northville" — can be found in front of houses and businesses all around town.

Corriveau said while they don't have



The Northville Downtown Development Authority discusses the downtown street closures at its meeting March 28. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

a specific answer on what should happen with the downtown roads, he and many others don't want the roads permanently closed to cars.

"We just say, 'Take away permanent, come back to the table and let's discuss all these issues,'" he said. "We need to reopen this and do so sooner rather than later and we can work on a solution."

What do businesses think about the street closures?

It's a mixed bag. Some businesses downtown display pink signs, while others have spoken out in favor of the current conditions.

A March 28 Downtown Development Authority meeting drew plenty of local business owners and residents who wanted to share their opinions as the DDA considered a resolution asking the city council to reevaluate its August decision.

"We're still in favor of the permanent street closures for a lot of reasons," said Bobby Johnson, one of the owners of Colors of the Wood at 140 N. Center. "It can turn the city into something that is really thriving long term."

Angela Jaafar, a real estate agent based in Northville, said she has talked to several business owners downtown who favor reopening the roads to cars. She said the closure impacts some businesses and not others.

"They would like to access to businesses through Main Street. They want to visibly see what's there," she said.

"Regardless of where my business exists, I'm very careful about my ability to thrive as a business owner at the expense of another business."

Could the roads reopen to motor vehicles downtown?

A reversal could happen, but it would take a vote of the city council.

There is an item on the April 3 city council agenda that could prompt a change to the closed streets plan.

Mayor Brian Turnbull — who voted against the permanent street closures — said the discussion item relates to road funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation. The closures could prompt other sections of those roads, such as Center Street from Seven Mile to Eight Mile roads, to be reclassified, which would result in a loss of tens of thousands of dollars in road funding.

"We have the chance of losing monies for those roads on a yearly basis, the whole road that is in the city from Seven Mile to Eight Mile because it is not a throughway anymore," Turnbull said. "There's more proof points, there's more data, there's more information for us to consider that we didn't have a month or two ago."

The DDA on March 28 approved a resolution, 6-2, that asks the city council to work with the DDA to craft a policy that would allow exploration of reopening streets. If the city council agrees to the resolution, there is hope the policy could take effect later this fall.

"We have that piece of information that now they want us to look at it, to talk about it," he said. "They did that officially (Tuesday)."

The city's mobility taskforce, which recently presented its findings to the city council, recommended reopening of Center Street and allowing for a seasonal closure of Main Street. This would help alleviate traffic issues, one of the main concerns opponents have expressed.

What could happen if the roads reopen?

If the roads are reopened to regular vehicle traffic, it's likely there will still be special events that prompt closures.

The city is investigating the feasibility of installing bollards to the entrances of downtown to use when streets are closed.

The bollards, or short posts, would recess into the roads when not in use and be lifted up as needed. First responders would have access to activating them, allowing the barriers to be removed if emergency vehicles need access.

The bollards would eliminate the current temporary barriers, which include a "road closed" construction sign and a parked city vehicle. Some have complained the construction sign is unappealing for the historic downtown.

"We have needed bollards. We've talked about them before," Turnbull said. "That absolutely has to be done."

The city also has hired a firm to craft a pedestrian plan. That information was presented to the city council earlier this year, giving suggestions of elements the city could incorporate to make downtown more appealing.

Having streets close for special events is something most in town can support, including some of the residents behind the pink sign campaign.

With the pandemic squarely in most people's rearview mirror, Corriveau said measures put in place several years ago are no longer needed.

"We're not trying to eliminate all the benefits that the residents had prior to COVID," Corriveau said. "The wolf that was at the door is no longer here. Now, we shouldn't have to suffer as a result of it."

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

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Acad	Cycle	Grit	Peel	Surf
Anchor	Daily	Gymnasium	Preparation	Swim
Arms	Darts	Hand	Puck	Tired
Avid	Dibs	Meats	Push	Title
Bowl	Dive	Hike	Regular	Toss
Canoe	Expert	Ice skate	Blink	Touch
Captain	Fast	Indoors	Road	Walk
Cards	Fish	Join	Rowing	Wear
Close	Flag	League	Shoes	Workout
Clubs	Foul	Legs	Skip	Yacht
Crow	Gala	Ludo	Solo	
Cups	Glide	Oval	Sport	

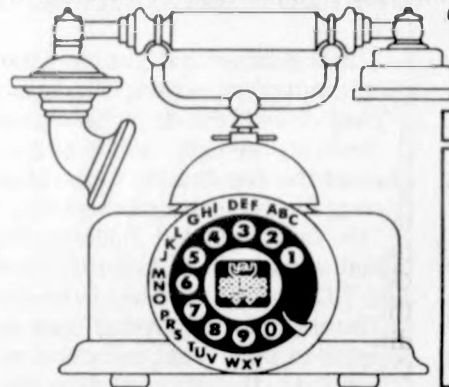
TODAY'S ANSWER
Play to your strengths

Pick your sport

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

PUZZLES & POSERS

THIS IS A CODED WORD GAME IN WHICH THE TELEPHONE IS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVERTING NUMBERS TO LETTERS. SINCE EACH NUMBER ON THE DIAL STANDS FOR THREE LETTERS, IT IS USUALLY POSSIBLE TO SPELL TWO OR MORE WORDS FROM ANY GIVEN SEQUENCE. HOWEVER, THE "5" WORDS WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARE ALL RELATED BY THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY.



PHONY NUMBERS

"ON AN AIRPLANE"

A•2244243
B•66843
C•74568
D•7839273377
E•327746637

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

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

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

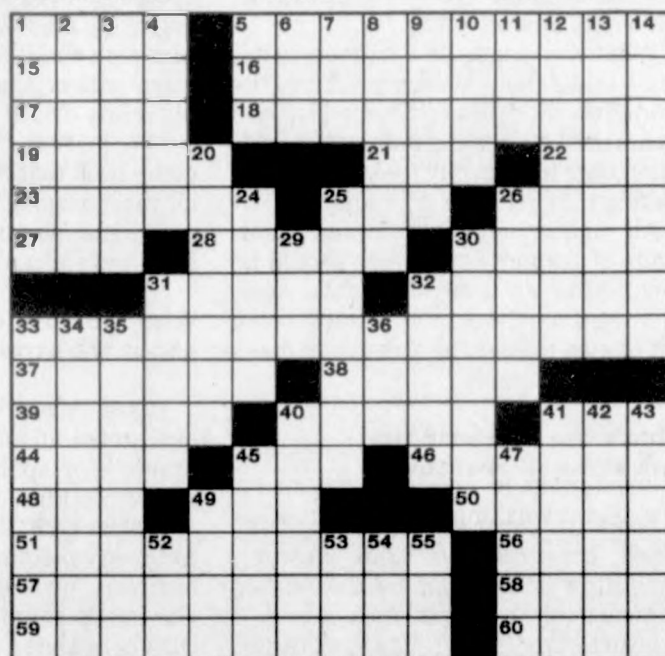
- 1 Better than just OK
- 5 Rats, for instance
- 15 Tip
- 16 Its emblem reads, "EX LUNA, SCIENTIA"
- 17 Word from Middle English for "scrape"
- 18 It's best left sealed
- 19 Tips
- 21 Outback etching
- 22 Parte del calendario
- 23 Grant went there in 1862
- 25 Name on pints of Milk & Cookies
- 26 Turkish tapas
- 27 Declares, so to speak
- 28 Many a sauna, essentially
- 30 Stir
- 31 Blasts
- 32 Big name in pop since 2013
- 33 Fête nationale
- 37 Ferment
- 38 Downton Abbey recreation
- 39 What vegan eggs are made with
- 40 Say again
- 41 Blast
- 44 Reader using batteries
- 45 Betting setting
- 46 Alphabetically last of a small septet
- 48 Almond, e.g.
- 49 Two-digit signal
- 50 Antonym of "censure"
- 51 Big Sky Conference member

- 56 Winner of two Pulitzer for profiling powerful people
- 57 "Be seated," frequently
- 58 Without an appointment
- 59 Present
- 60 Monster's murky milieu

DOWN

- 1 Press too much
- 2 Arizona county bordering Navajo
- 3 Paris premiere of 1980
- 4 Disgorge
- 5 Device that "can practically shake hands," per its earliest ads (1984)
- 6 Heady Topper or Sip of Sunshine
- 7 Start to stick
- 8 Metaphor for much money
- 9 Not big and troublemaking
- 10 Pipe
- 11 Precision Batter Dispenser maker
- 12 Achievement in Chuck Yeager's bio
- 13 One of a Canadian sextet
- 14 Blasts
- 20 Commiseration for a miss
- 24 Mettle
- 25 Get on with it
- 26 Drudges
- 29 Postwar establishment
- 30 F to B, in music
- 31 Round for a course
- 32 Some kin
- 33 Small town surrounded by soldiers

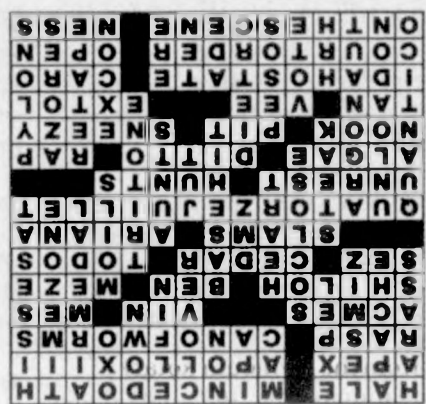
- 34 Blast
- 35 Castor or Pollux
- 36 Become prominent
- 40 Soda with Splenda
- 41 Adjust, as hair extensions
- 42 Group benefitting from the Gulf Stream
- 43 Towers of power
- 45 South American capital
- 47 Freeman, at Shawshank's end
- 49 One may be popular
- 52 The Princess Royal
- 53 Block extension
- 54 Partial score
- 55 "Into the brain" one can think: Keats



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANLEYNEWMAN.COM 4/1/23

TODAY'S ANSWER

A. BAGGAGE
B. MOUNTAIN
C. STIMULUS
D. STIMULUS
E. EARPHONES



What to know about new pedestrian traffic sign

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BEVERLY HILLS — Crossing the street for pedestrians has always had a certain err of caution, but a relatively new concept introduced the last few years may help.

Called Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, or RRFBs, they're a newer safety measure to alert motorists to pedestrians looking to cross the road.

"They've been popping up, probably over the last seven years, we've started to see them," said Danielle Deneau, director of traffic safety for the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Here's what they are, what they do and why they can assist those crossing the road.

What is an RRFB?

It's a traffic signaling device that alerts drivers that a pedestrian seeks to cross the road. It's made up of several rectangular lights that light up once activated by a street crosser when they press a button. Once a pedestrian hits the button at the crosswalk, the lights light up, flashing in a row underneath a pedestrian crossing sign.

Think of it as in-between an unmarked crosswalk with no indicators and a controlled intersection that stops traffic completely. They can be placed at crossings that may need some additional notification to drivers, but aren't high-volume enough to call for more intense signals that would stop traffic altogether.

How do I know if an intersection has an RRFB?

Intersections will have a sign indicating a pedestrian crossing on the side of the road, the typical "stick figure walking" image everyone knows. In addition, they'll have a series of LED lights underneath that sign that will flash once the actuator is pressed.

Once it's turned on, those lights will flash for a period of time, enough for someone to cross the road. Then, they'll turn off on their own, awaiting activation by another pedestrian.



A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at Ann Arbor Trail and Forest in downtown Plymouth. The city installed several of the beacons around town in recent years, hoping to assist in pedestrian safety by alerting cars to someone looking to cross the road. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Where are they typically found?

They aren't super common, but can be found across the region, especially at less busy roadways: don't expect to see one along Woodward or Grand River closer to Detroit, for example. Deneau said Oakland County has about 30 of them.

They've become a popular option for trail crossings, including along Ii Mile west of Beck in Novi, which connects the ITC Corridor Trail. Others can be found in Milford Township at General Motors at Martindale Road for the trail that connects the YMCA to the Kensington Metropark. Another can also be found along Victor Parkway near the

Trinity Health headquarters between Seven Mile and Eight Mile.

Some of the most visible RRFBs can be found in Plymouth: the city installed several of the solar-powered lights several years ago throughout the community, including in Old Village and downtown.

Do drivers have to stop if they see the beacons flashing?

In a word: no. The flashing beacons are simply an indicator to vehicles that someone is trying to cross and gives them the heads-up, but if there's no one in the crosswalk, vehicles can continue through the intersection. The lights flashing do not require a stop on their own. The RRFBs in Plymouth do warn pedestrians of that fact with a sign on the pole.

That being said: drivers must stop if a pedestrian is in the crosswalk, regardless if the beacon is activated or not, per state law. Drivers that violate that law can be cited.

"They're a warning device. Drivers are not required to stop when they see the flashing light," Deneau said. "You're supposed to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk."

What's the goal behind installing them?

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration states having RRFBs can reduce crashes by up to 47%. The agency also says the devices can increase yielding rates by vehicles 98%.

Paul Sincock, Plymouth's city manager, said while he doesn't have specific safety numbers since the beacons were installed, the city has seen the beacons make an impact.

"We certainly see people slowing down," he said. "In today's day and age, there are distracted drivers."

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

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Plymouth church converts rec center into refugee home

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — Parishioners at St. John's Episcopal Church will lay out the welcome mat later this year at a newly-renovated home for refugee families arriving in Michigan.

The project, called St. John's House for New Americans, got started after longtime church member Betsy Sole watched the flood of refugees arriving in the U.S. over the past few years from places like Afghanistan and Ukraine and realized the congregation could offer a valuable resource.

Behind the church at 574 S. Sheldon Road stands a four-bedroom home — built as a rectory and later converted to a youth center — that has been unused for several years.

"Some refugees have big families and it's really hard to find a place when they're just starting out, because they come literally with nothing," Sole said. "I thought, 'We have this empty house and we could fix it for a family.'"

Sole pitched the idea and the congregation loved it. Estimates came in at about \$120,000 to renovate the home back to its original four-bedroom, two-bath layout and add some necessities. The community came out strong and the church is only about \$10,000 short of its goal.

In addition to providing the home, Sole said it was important to put other supports in place, so the committee began assembling a group of volunteers to assist a family once they arrive.

"We didn't want this to be just a St. John's thing," she said. "We wanted it to be a community thing, so we said anybody who would like to help is welcome. Volunteers will be doing a lot of the transportation needs to start — going to the doctor, filling out paperwork, learning how to use the grocery store. The goal is for the family to become self-sufficient."

Sole said the response from the community and beyond has been overwhelming. First came a sizeable donation from the Episcopal Diocese, followed by another from the Livonia-based Masco Corporation and lots of support from the Plymouth Rotary Club. Many donations came from individuals



Betsy Sole, a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth, shows off the living room space in the home the church will use to welcome refugees.

LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

around the community, as well.

"People hear about this, and they want to help," Sole said. "I just feel that we're supposed to do this. I never had a negative response from anyone."

The hope, she said, is to complete renovations late in 2023 and welcome the first family before the end of the year. The program will serve one family at a time.

'A critical need'

To welcome refugee families, the church is working with Samaritas, a government-appointed social services agency that settles refugees in Michigan.

"Temporary housing is a critical need and Samaritas is very excited about this partnership with St. John's," said Michaela Mitrofan, director of the New Americans program for Samaritas in East Michigan. "The need is very high. Very rarely do congregations or individual homeowners approach us with such a generous and wonderful offer to open up a home to host refugees."

A significant number of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees being resettled in

Michigan over the past several years has doubled or tripled the agency's work, she noted.

According to a report from the U.S. Department of State, 534 refugees resettled in Michigan during 2021, putting the state fifth in the nation behind California, Texas, New York and Kentucky. That number represents 4.68 percent, the total 11,411 refugees who were resettled in the U.S. in 2021.

Samaritas, Mitrofan said, helps with every aspect of the resettlement process, from greeting families at the airport to securing temporary housing, providing social integration services, education support, workforce development, economic empowerment, medical support services and more.

Mitrofan added that, unlike immigrants, refugees are people driven from their homes by life-threatening dangers such as ethnic cleansing, war, or persecution because of political opinion or gender orientation.

"They are facing urgency, despair and lack of options," she said. "They come here with a lot of trauma. Once they arrive here...Samaritas offers a warm welcome. It takes a village to offer

that welcome and support with the transition toward integration and self-sufficiency."

By the time they arrive in the U.S., many have spent two years or more — sometimes up to 20 years — in an overseas refugee camp.

All individuals who arrive with refugee status go through a tedious and detailed process that includes interviews, background checks, cross referencing checks, fingerprinting, eye scans, medical evaluations, immunizations and more, Mitrofan said.

"Some of our families are large," she added. "We serve families with eight children or ten children so it is quite difficult to be able to secure a large enough or suitable home in a short amount of time."

No other homes like the one St. John's is offering exist nearby. Mitrofan said Samaritas would love to hear from people interested in volunteering for the organization.

A 'good example'

Betsy Sole said she's never undertaken a project like the one she's heading now, but in some ways it brings her back to her 1950s childhood in Minneapolis, when her church sponsored a Hungarian refugee. The man was single when he arrived in the U.S., but he married a German refugee after the war. Sole's father served as the best man in the wedding and the families remained close throughout their lives. Sole still keeps in touch with their son.

"It was a good example to me and in a way I feel like I'm honoring my parents by doing this," she said.

And, while many have stepped up to help, St. John's Episcopal Church Interim Pastor John Conners points to Sole as the driving force behind the mission.

"It's an absolutely wonderful and visionary project," Conners said. "The most amazing thing about it is the partnerships that are forming and the support the community is showing. It really is the work of Christ."

Donations to the project can be made at www.stjohnsplymouth.org/events

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

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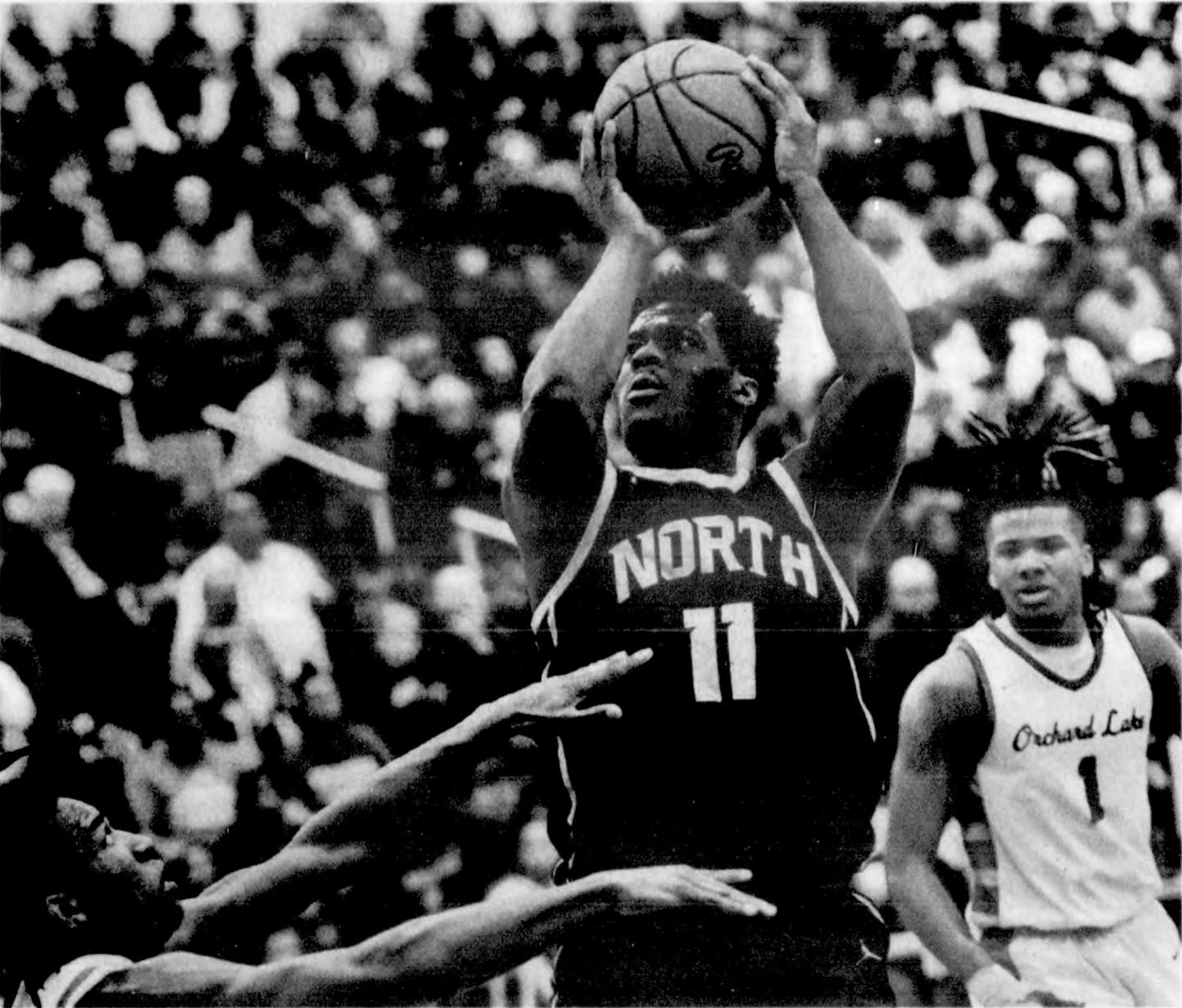
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SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL



North Farmington's Ryan Hurst is Hometown Life's Player of the Year. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hometown Life's All-Area team

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

And that's a wrap for the high school boys basketball season in Michigan. With Brother Rice bowing out of the postseason early and North Farmington losing a close one to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the regional final, Hometown Life was out of the basketball business earlier than it wanted to be this winter. But there was still plenty to celebrate. We had conference champions such as Brother Rice, Canton, North Farmington, Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Seaholm, Redford Union and Plymouth Christian Academy, plenty of teams that secured district titles as well as a handful of teams that toughed out division titles. To put a bow on another great year, sports reporter Brandon Folsom has returned with his annual Hometown Life All-Area boys basketball team. Here's where each player landed on the team (with commentary from Folsom about why they made the cut):

FIRST TEAM

Ryan Hurst, North Farmington

Player of the Year
Hurst has been the most consistent player I've ever covered, which makes him my Player of the Year for the second-straight season. The Detroit Mercy commit just doesn't have an off night. You can pencil him in for 20 or so points and five assists before the game even starts. Everything else, such as wins and losses, hinged on how well his teammates performed around him. And they rarely had off nights either.

Warren Marshall, Brother Rice

I don't think any player made as big of an impact on their team as Marshall. I expected him to have a huge year (I even went out of my way to proclaim that in December), but I don't think many others did. He was a solid role player a year ago, but he took his game to the next level this past winter. He was Mr. Big Shot

whenever the Warriors needed him to be. No stage was too big for him when Brother Rice needed a bucket.

John Blackwell, Brother Rice

Blackwell has been the Warriors' most important player. The Wisconsin signee is one of the best point guards in Michigan, plus he can defend at an elite level. 247Sports has him ranked as the state's third-best player, but you could argue he should be No. 1 because of how important he is to his team.

Noah Adamczyk, Bloomfield Hills

No player was as fun to watch as Adamczyk during the past two seasons. When he takes fastbreaks for layups, he never looks at the hoop. He just stares down defenders, dead in their eyes, en route to two points. I can't wait to see which college he lands with because they're getting an absolute gamer.

See ALL-AREA, Page 6B



Warren Marshall, Brother Rice.



John Blackwell, Brother Rice.



Noah Adamczyk, Bloomfield Hills.

PREP HOCKEY

Eight from Livingston County make first-team all-state

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hartland regularly churns out all-state hockey players, but senior defenseman Braden Pietila is in a class of his own. Pietila is the only Eagle to be named to the exclusive all-state Dream Team twice by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association. He is also only the second Livingston County player to make two Dream Teams, joining Brighton defenseman Tim Erkkila (2018 and 2019). The Dream Team is comprised of the top three forwards, two defensemen and one goaltender, regardless of division. "The first time I saw Braden skate, I knew there was something special in him," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "Witnessing Braden grow as a player and, more importantly, as a person, has been an absolute pleasure. "He's developed so much, and as a coach, that's all you hope for, that your players get better, become great people; and that's exactly what Braden did." Pietila, a rare four-year varsity player at Hartland, made an impact on both ends of the rink. In addition to being a dominant force in his own end, Pietila contributed 14 goals and 15 assists in 29 games. That included four goals and eight

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

Prep football players to get more college exposure

Brian Calloway
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school football players throughout Michigan will now have another way to catch the eyes of college coaches. In a partnership with the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, the Michigan High School Athletic Association will host spring evaluation camps at five sites across the state to provide opportunities for players to show their skills. With the MHSAA's involvement, Division I coaches will be allowed to attend in addition to representatives from college football programs at all level. Brighton High School is among the five sites that will host the one-day camps slated to take place between May 16-19. The other high schools hosting events include DeWitt, Detroit Country Day, Jackson and Jenison. Athletes permitted to attend must be juniors or seniors in the fall of 2023

See FOOTBALL, Page 2B

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PREP BASEBALL

Howell nearly ends OLSM's win streak

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Howell nearly ended one of the longest winning streaks in Michigan high school baseball history on March 26, but fell short by a 5-4 score to Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

The win gave the Eagles their 67th consecutive win, second in state history only to Homer's 75-game streak in 2004 and 2005. They won the state Division 2 championship two years ago and went 44-0 to win the Division 1 crown last season.

St. Mary's scored single runs in each of the first five innings, leading 3-0 after the top of the third. Howell got within 3-2 on a two-run double by Nick Hoorn in the bottom of the third.

The final two innings were scoreless, with Howell getting base runners with two outs in the sixth and seventh.

"Our kids brought their energy," Howell coach Jason Ladd said. "They brought a high level to the game. We made a good run at trying to beat them,

but there's a reason why they've got a 60-some-game win streak. They're well-coached; Matt Petry does a great job with them. Their first five guys in their lineup are all Division 1 Power 5 guys. That's a powerful lineup. To keep them to five runs is pretty darn good."

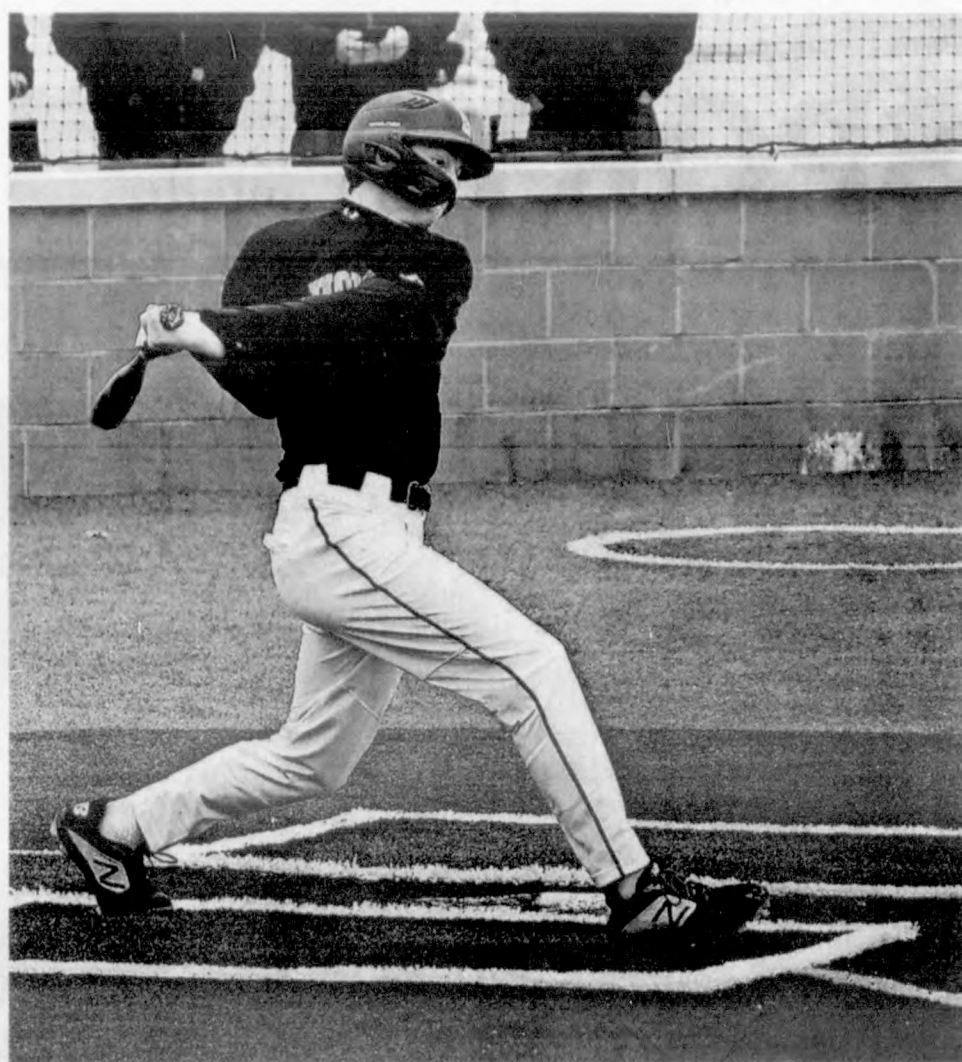
Owen Elsey continued his hot start at the plate for Howell, going 2-for-3 and driving in a run. Elsey is 7-for-9 with three RBI in the first three games.

JT Thomas was 2-for-2 for the Highlanders, who used three pitchers. David Zilch pitched the final three innings for Howell, allowing one run and fanning six.

St. Mary's used four pitchers.

"We feel the best way to learn is by learning on the job," Ladd said. "Practice is good, but games are just a different atmosphere. We feel like that's important for our kids to get games in early, try to jump-start the season, get it going and try to build from your early mistakes and early successes, as well."

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



Howell's Owen Elsey is 7-for-9 with three RBI in the first three games of the season. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE DAILY

Football

Continued from Page 1B

and need to register via a link on the football page of the MHSAA website. The cost is \$20 per player.

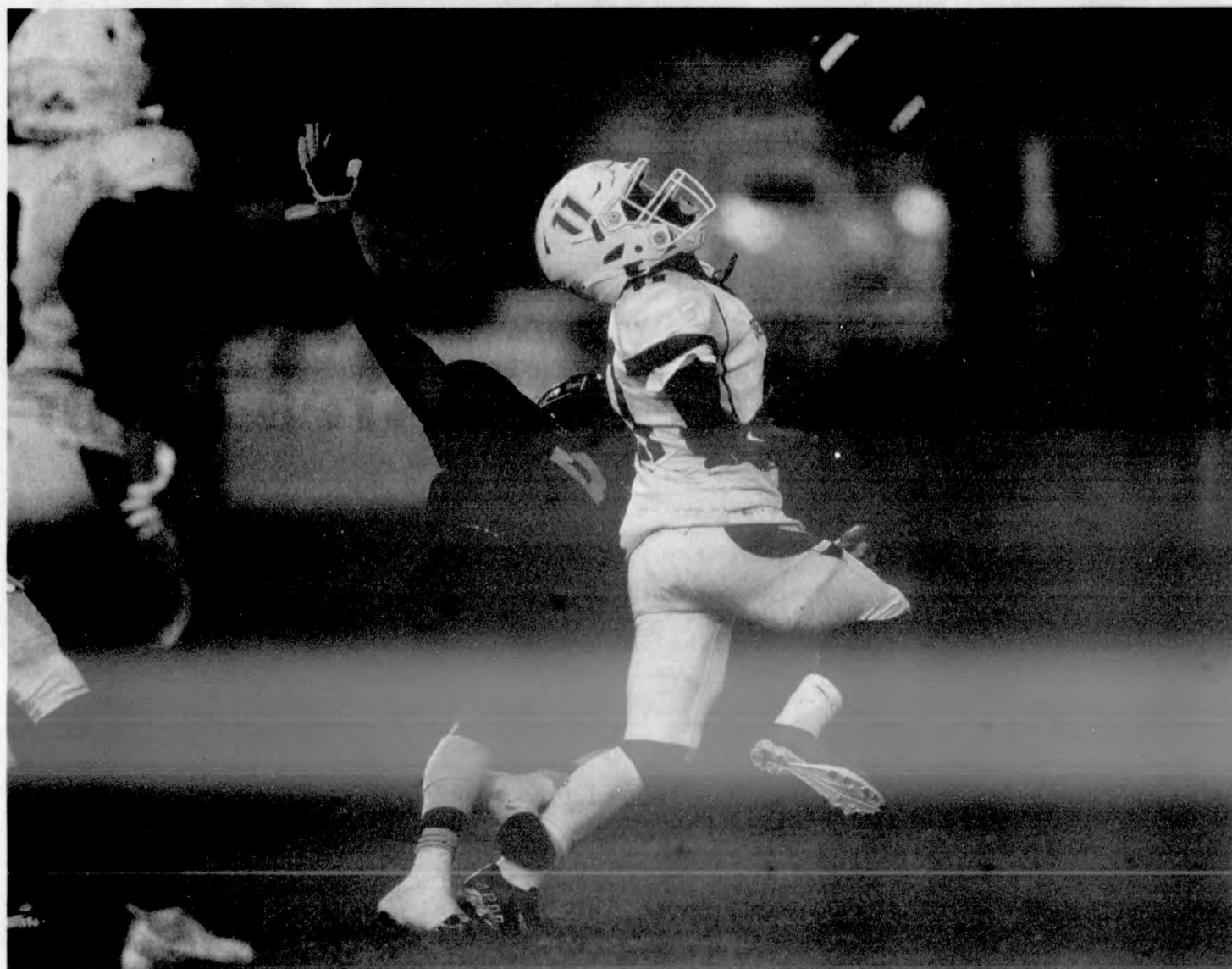
"This is an attempt by the MHSAA to help our athletes get exposure during the spring evaluation period in a way that does not intrude on spring sports," said MHSAA assistant director and former Chelsea football coach Brad Bush in a released statement.

"We are working with the MHSFCA to help put together a first-class experience for the athletes and college coaches."

College coaches will receive registration information for each athlete in attendance. Each registrant will wear a shirt based on graduation year and registration number so their camp performance can be monitored by colleges. Athletes attending must have a MHSFCA member coach from their school's staff present at the camp.

"We are very excited with the partnership with the MHSAA that allows our kids the opportunity to wear a helmet and do drills in front of college coaches in the spring at a minimal cost," MHSFCA executive director Andrew Pratley said in a released statement.

"College coaches are thrilled, and it's a unique opportunity to have the rules waived by the MHSAA at these events only in order to showcase the tremendous talent all over the great state of Michigan."



Everett's Eugene Allen Jr., right, breaks up a pass but commits interference against Waverly's Evan Walker in September at Waverly High School. AL GOLDIS/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

assists in four state tournament games. Over the past two seasons, Pietila had 28 goals and 36 assists in 59 games after having limited production his first two seasons.

Pietila is one of four players from Hartland and eight from Livingston County who made first-team all-state in Division I.

Hartland's other first-team selections are senior forwards Jack L'Esperance and Ben Pouliot and senior defenseman Isaac Frantti.

Brighton's first-team picks are junior forwards Cameron Duffany and Lane Petit, senior defenseman Mattix McMullen and junior goalie Levi Pennala.

Pietila, L'Esperance, Pouliot, Duffany, McMullen and Pennala are repeat first-team selections.

L'Esperance is the first player in Livingston County history to make first-team all-state as a defenseman and a forward. He played defense last season before moving to forward early this season.

He became more comfortable up front as the season went on, scoring 15 goals in his last nine games to finish as Hartland's top scorer with 29 goals and 26 assists in 55 games.

Pouliot had a seven-game multi-point streak early in the season, finish-



Hartland defenseman Braden Pietila, right, made the all-state Dream Team for the second time. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

ing with 15 goals and 20 assists in 29 games.

Frantti more than tripled his scoring output from the back end this season, scoring three goals and 22 assists in 28 games after collecting four goals and

four assists in 28 games as a junior.

Duffany scored one of the biggest goals of the season, completing a hat trick in double overtime to beat Livonia Stevenson in the state quarterfinals. He had 29 goals and 29 assists in 30 games,

giving him 48 goals and 57 assists in 58 games during his career.

Petit, a second-team selection last season, had 30 goals and 17 assists in 29 games. He has 53 goals and 39 assists in 58 career games.

McMullen made all-state in each of his two seasons at Brighton. He scored three goals and 26 assists in 30 games this season, making the all-tournament team at the Division I finals for the second time.

Pennala has backstopped Brighton to two state championship games. He joins Brighton's Logan Neaton (2016, 2017) and Hartland's Brett Tome (2018, 2019) as the county's only two-time first-team all-state goalies. Pennala was 14-5 with a 2.29 goals against average and .914 save percentage this season.

Earning second-team all-state were forwards Hayden Sturos of Howell, Lucas Henry of Hartland and Dominic Vincent of Brighton.

Howell defenseman Chad Pietila received honorable mention and is also on the inaugural all-freshman first team. Forward Jake Pietila and defenseman Eli Sturos of Hartland also made the all-freshman first team, which is comprised of six players.

Nine county players made Team Michigan for the CCM NIT Showcase April 20-23 in Plymouth, Minn.

Making the senior team were Pouliot, L'Esperance, McMullen, Frantti and Pietila. Brighton had four players make the junior team in Duffany, Petit, Pennala and forward Charlie Burchfield.

NEVER IMAGINED

Brighton's Darkangelo living dream that wasn't possible in her youth

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Shiann Darkangelo began playing hockey in Brighton around age 5, she never dreamed she would be playing as a professional at age 29.

No little girl playing hockey around the turn of the millennium could imagine being paid to play the sport they love, because a pro league for women didn't exist.

Not that Darkangelo and others didn't have lofty aspirations. Women's hockey had just been added to the Winter Olympics in 1998, enabling players to represent their countries on the largest international stage.

"I definitely had dreams of playing in the Olympics," Darkangelo said. "I had a book by (four-time Olympic hockey medalist) Angela Ruggiero; she signed it. It's something that's always been in my mind. I always knew the step to go there was to play Division I; that was my goal. Obviously, I did it because I love the game. There was no women's professional league, so the Olympics was the overall goal."

Darkangelo still has a love for the game, which is why she doesn't see herself moving on from her hockey career any time soon.

The opportunity to play professionally has extended her career, even if her Olympic dream has thus far been unfulfilled. She was one of the final cuts for the 2018 team.

By remaining active as a player, Darkangelo can continue to improve and hopefully earn another shot at making the Olympic team for 2026 in Italy.

"Now you can still be scouted and you're playing constantly," she said. "Before when this wasn't happening, you're practicing with a boys team or doing skills, but not getting to play in competition."

Darkangelo continues to bolster her resume, winning the Premier Hockey Federation's Isobel Cup as captain of the Toronto Six on March 26 in Tempe, Ariz. The trophy is named after the daughter of Lord Frederick Arthur Stanley, who purchased the silver cup that was eventually known as the Stanley Cup.

"It's my third season," she said. "I've been here since the start of the Toronto Six. It makes it that much more sweet to be able to hoist the Isobel Cup. It's been the goal since the franchise started. To do it with a group of girls who have been here and to be part of the foundation that was built was exciting. It takes a village to do it; it was pretty awesome."

Darkangelo had 12 goals and 13 assists in 24 regular-season games, earning a spot in the league's All-Star Game. She had two assists in four playoff games.

Toronto won the championship with a 4-3 overtime victory over the Minnesota Whitecaps at Mullett Arena, the intimate college venue that is the temporary home of the Arizona Coyotes of the National Hockey League. The Six lost in the semifinals each of the previous two seasons.

"It was awesome to be able to play in a new market and expand the growth of the game and maybe attract new fans and new people," said Darkangelo, who spent a few days celebrating in Arizona with teammates and family.

"Mullett Arena is where Arizona State plays and the Arizona Coyotes. It's an amazing facility. They were great hosts to us and very cool. I love it in Arizona; you can't beat the weather. It's distracting a little bit coming in, because you have to focus on the game."

Darkangelo played the 2017-18 season in China after being cut from the Olympic roster. She played the next season for the Toronto Furies of the Canadian Women's Hockey League, which folded after that season.

It was at this point that Darkangelo began to consider moving on to a career outside of hockey.

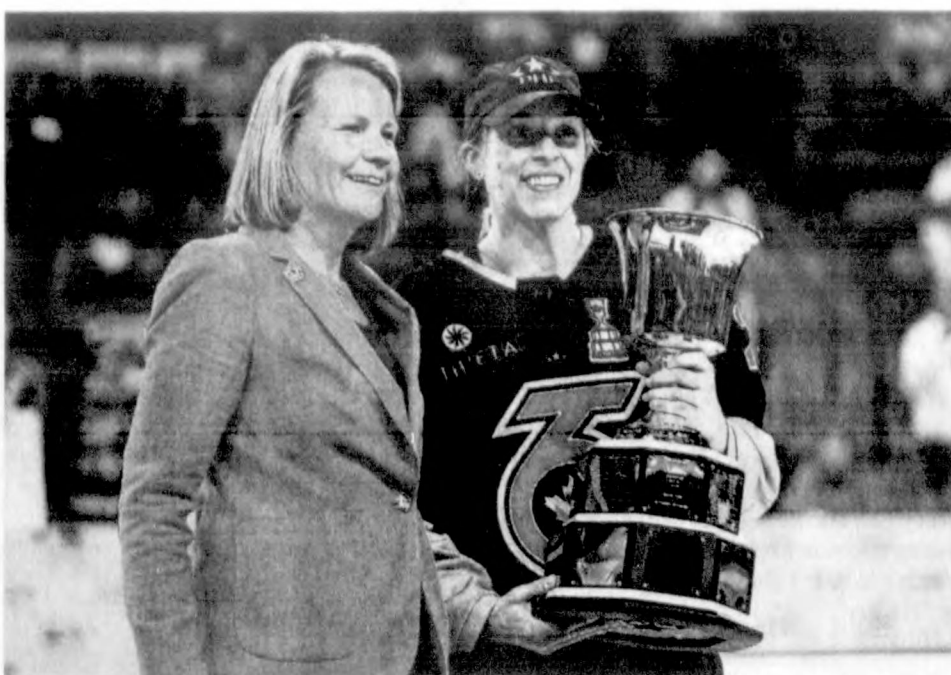
"I still wanted to play," she said. "I feel like I'm still in good shape, I'm still working out, training. How much money am I going to put into skills and that when I have to support myself? It's kind of like a wall. It's almost like hockey is being taken away from me instead of stepping away from the game."

That's when she got the call to be one of the first five players to sign with the Toronto Six. She also began working as a plant-based lifestyle coach, allowing her to work remotely while continuing her hockey career.

"I've been able to really focus and



Darkangelo



Shiann Darkangelo of Brighton, right, receives the Isobel Cup from Premier Hockey Federation commissioner Reagan Carey as captain of the Toronto Six, which beat the Minnesota Whitecaps in overtime on March 26 in Tempe, Arizona. PHOTOS BY ANTRANIK TAVITIAN/THE REPUBLIC



Darkangelo scored 12 goals and 13 assists in 24 regular-season games for the Toronto Six.

make it a full-time thing," she said. "I honestly feel like I'm in my prime and still have room to grow. When the game's taken away from me, you're not even in your prime yet. Some guys graduate college at 25 and are just starting. It's exciting for the growth of the game."

"It's going to get that much better, because women don't get the opportunity to peak unless you're on the Olympic team, because you have to support yourself. This is a full-time job. Having an actual desk job outside of hockey takes away from being able to put 100% effort into that."

Darkangelo became interested in hockey because she had a brother and cousins playing the game. She played her first few years at Kensington Valley Ice House on a boys team until the rink's first girls team was formed.

She advanced enough to begin playing on elite teams with the Honeybaked and Little Caesars programs in the Detroit area. Darkangelo played two years for Syracuse and two for Quinnipiac during her college career.

Darkangelo didn't play hockey at Brighton High School, but was a star on a state championship lacrosse team in 2011. She was a first-team all-state selection and scored three goals and two assists in the state championship game.

"It's another stick sport, if you will," Darkangelo said. "I definitely think it helped. For lacrosse, we had a pretty good team at Brighton High School. We had other hockey players on the team. We definitely brought a little bit more aggressive play coming from hockey. I think that made us more dominant."

"In terms of helping me on the ice, it's another sport where you have to think the game when you're out there. Playing it gets you off the ice, doing something different. That's good to have balance."

Darkangelo hung up her lacrosse stick long ago, but has no plans of putting away her hockey stick and skates.

"As long as I still love the game, which I do, and as long as I stay healthy and in shape, it's something I want to continue to do," she said. "You only get to do it for so long. As long as my love of the game continues and I'm able to perform at a high level, I'd love to continue to play. We'll see what happens."

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Mattord, Petit among local standouts up for top honor

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With Riley Hough around, it really wasn't a fair fight for anyone else aspiring to be the Livingston County Male Athlete of the Year the past two school years.

Hough was not only an all-stater and state champion, but he was a national champion in cross country during his career at Hartland. He shattered the county records for fastest times in cross country and for the 1,600 and 3,200 on the track.

He was a once-in-a-lifetime athlete who prevented anyone else from being a serious candidate for the award.

With Hough now running at Michigan State University, the battle for Athlete of the Year is more open.

Fall and winter sports are in the books. Spring sports are just beginning. Some athletes have already completed their resumes, while the best moments lie ahead for others. The award traditionally goes to a multi-sport athlete, ruling out some outstanding single-sport specialists.

Here's a look at the group of candidates, listed alphabetically, as we head into spring sports.

Nolan Carruthers, Pinckney, So.

Carruthers had a school-record 55 catches as a sophomore last fall, the most in Livingston County since 2005. They added up to 772 receiving yards and seven touchdowns. He heads into his second varsity baseball season having hit .317 and stolen 15 bases as a freshman.

Vincent Cox, Hartland, Sr.

Cox was the only football player in Livingston County to make first-team all-county offensively and defensively. He was a three-year starter on the offensive line and had 61 tackles, 13 for losses and four sacks on defense. He qualified for the state wrestling tournament at heavyweight and pinned all three opponents in the first period at the team finals.



Hartland's Joey Mattord is a two-time 1,000-yard rusher.

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Hunter Harding, Brighton, Sr.

Harding was the county's Defensive Player of the Year after leading Brighton with 98 tackles. The two-time all-region and all-county selection also had 12 tackles for losses and four sacks. He made all-state in the discus last spring, placing eighth in Division I.

Logan Leppek, Howell, Sr.

Leppek made first-team all-county in basketball after averaging a team-high 11.5 points and shooting 50% from 3-point range. He was a second-team all-county pitcher as a junior, leading Howell with a 1.34 ERA while striking out 29 and walking only six in 36 2/3 innings.

Evan Loughridge, Pinckney, Jr.

Loughridge was the county's boys cross country Runner of the Year after placing 10th in the state Division 2 meet. His time of 15:20.9 at the Portage Invitational ranks second in the history of a Pinckney program that produced three state championship teams. He gave a preview of things to come in track by

placing seventh in the 1,600 in 4:19.43 at the state indoor meet.

Joey Mattord, Hartland, Sr.

Mattord is a two-time 1,000-yard rusher, leading the county with 1,322 yards and 17 touchdowns on 191 carries during the fall. He was a key player for Hartland's state championship lacrosse team last season, scoring 14 goals and 15 assists.

Lane Petit, Brighton, Jr.

Petit made first-team all-state in hockey, scoring 30 goals and 17 assists in 29 games for a Brighton team that was the state Division 1 runner-up. In baseball, he was second-team all-county as a sophomore, hitting .308 and leading the county with six triples.

Brady Raymond, Pinckney, Sr.

Raymond was second in the county in passing yards with 1,156, first in touchdown passes with 12 and second in rushing yards with 642 as Pinckney's quarterback. He made all-state in wres-



Brighton's Lane Petit made first-team all-state in hockey.

ting by placing eighth at 175 pounds in Division 2.

Jack Storey, Brighton, Sr.

Storey will compete in three sports this school year and four over his high school career before going to Grand Valley State University on a football scholarship. He was the only county football player to make the coaches' all-state team, was a backup center in basketball and will play his third season of varsity baseball. He had a walk-off single in the district championship game last spring.

Ashton Tomassi, Brighton, Sr.

Tomassi's accomplishments as a senior are in the books, as he doesn't play a spring sport. He has established a strong case for Athlete of the Year as the only athlete to make first-team all-county in football and basketball. His 41 catches were the most by a Brighton receiver since 2005. He was a repeat choice as basketball Player of the Year, averaging a county-high 16.5 points.

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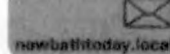
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LIVINGSTON COUNTY FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Daugard among strong crop up for top honor

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two-thirds of the high school sports calendar has been completed, leaving only spring sports before we wrap up another school year.

A year-end tradition at the Livingston Daily is selecting the Livingston County boy and girl Athletes of the Year.

With only one exception during the COVID-shortened 2019-20 school year, every Athlete of the Year has competed in multiple sports, which seems to be more of a rarity as more parents believe their kid needs to play the same sport 12 months a year to obtain a college scholarship. History tells us otherwise, but travel coaches with a financial interest can be very persuasive.

Fall and winter sports provided an opportunity for some athletes to build resumes toward becoming Athlete of the Year. Spring is the time to produce a closing argument.

While someone might come out of nowhere to win the award, chances are the female Athlete of the Year will come from this group of candidates, listed alphabetically, who have already excelled in 2022-23 and who are also strong in their spring sport.

Tori Briggs, Fowlerville, Jr.

Briggs played golf and received honorable mention all-county in basketball, but softball is where she dominates.

The Central Michigan University commit has been first-team all-county each of her first two years, leading the county as a sophomore with a .553 batting average, 68 hits, 20 doubles, seven triples and 61 runs.

Without high postseason honors in her other sports, it would take an otherworldly softball season for Briggs to take Athlete of the Year from the other candidates, but Briggs has that potential. Taking over as the Gladiators' pitcher gives her more opportunities to impact the game.



Howell's Sophie Daugard heads into track and field coming off an all-county basketball season. DAN ZEPPA/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Sophie Daugard, Howell, Sr.

Daugard's college future is as a Ball State track and field heptathlete, making her the personification of an all-around athlete. If she's able to make the state meet in multiple unrelated events like shot put, long jump and sprints, she will have a compelling case.

Daugard is a four-year varsity basketball player who made first-team all-county this season, averaging 10.5 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.4 steals for a district championship team. She also played golf, receiving honorable mention all-county.

Tommi Kleinschmidt, Fowlerville, Soph.

It's rare these days to not only play

three sports, but to do so at a level that warrants postseason recognition in each.

Kleinschmidt received honorable mention all-county in volleyball and basketball. While she's a longshot for Athlete of the Year, a breakthrough season in softball could at least be a springboard toward winning the award in the future.

As a freshman, she tied for fourth in the county with four homers and drove in 24 runs.

Kailey Lambert, Pinckney, Sr.

Lambert is coming into her strongest season after having a significant impact on Pinckney's field hockey and basketball teams.

She was the Pirates' leading scorer in

field hockey with 12 goals and four assists in 12 games and made second-team all-county in basketball.

Soccer is where she can really shine, having received all-state honorable mention last season. While she's a central defender, she had 10 goals and 10 assists, many of which came off set plays.

CeCe Thorington, Pinckney, Jr.

Thorington is the only candidate on this list who hasn't played a high school sport yet in 2022-23. Normally, she would be ruled out of consideration, but she will be competing in softball and track and field in the spring.

In softball, she has accepted a scholarship offer to the University of Michigan, is a two-time first-team all-county outfielder and received honorable mention all-state. She hit .488 and stole a county-high 48 bases last season.

On the track, she was the SEC White 1,600-meter champion as a freshman. Interestingly, she tried high jump for the first time in a season-opening indoor meet and cleared 4 feet, 6 inches. Had she run cross country in the fall, as she did her first two years, she would have built an even stronger case.

Mackenzie Wright, Howell, Sr.

It feels like top distance runners have an advantage in the Athlete of the Year discussion, because they can compete in two sports that involve the same basic skill set — the ability to run far at a fast pace.

But not every great cross country runner has equal success on the track — and vice versa.

Wright made all-state in cross country and was that sport's Athlete of the Year for the second time last fall. She heads into track season already owning Howell's records in the 1,600 (5:07.46) and 3,200 (11:06.61). She was 18th in the state meet in the 3,200 last year, so she needs to move up 10 places to make all-state. Being a two-sport all-stater might clinch Athlete of the Year for Wright.

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

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Curtis Williams, Brother Rice.

All-Area

Continued from Page 18

Curtis Williams, Brother Rice

The No. 1-ranked recruit in the state has played like it at Brother Rice. He's made clutch shots when they've mattered the most, and he's one of the smoothest outside shooters you'll find. I can't wait to see what he does when he gets to Louisville next season.

Omar Suleiman, Canton

This Lake Superior State University signee was easily the most-improved player from a year ago. Not that Suleiman needed to improve on much. But the confidence he gained between his junior and senior seasons made him, arguably, the best player in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Uchenna Amene, Detroit Catholic Central

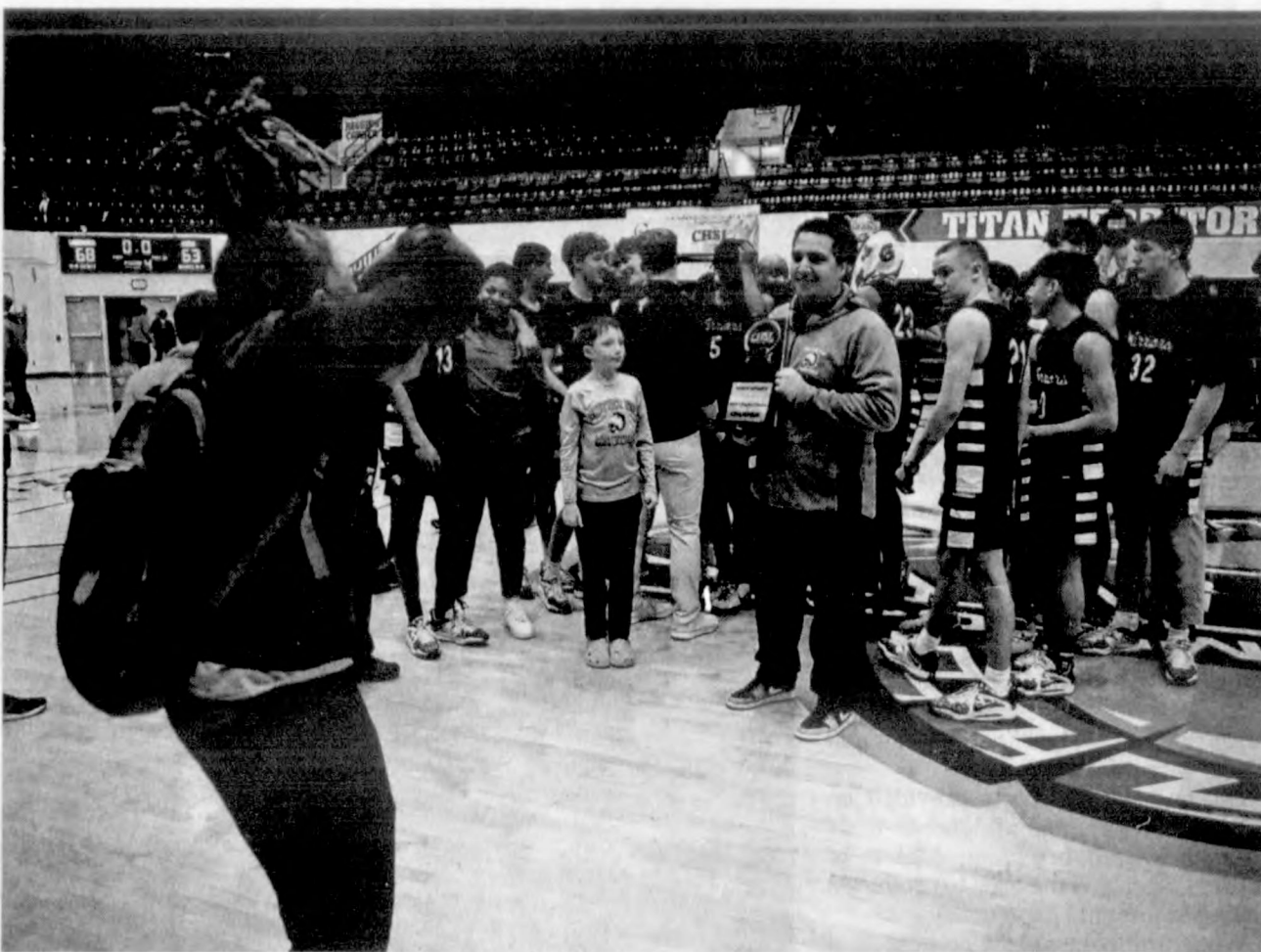
It took Amene no time at all to find his rhythm in coach Brandon Sinawi's offense after transferring in from Division 4 powerhouse Southfield Christian. It's a big ask to replace San Diego commit Chas Lewless at point guard, but Amene did so seamlessly, and he should be one of the best players in Michigan entering his senior year.

Jordan Scott, Plymouth Christian Academy

The Calvin University commit is the son of a former Michigan Wolverines basketball player, and he absolutely played like it. Scott was an elite three-level scorer, and no shot was too tough for him to hit. Heck, he even scored 1,000 career points in only two seasons. One of my favorite pastimes this past winter was scrolling on Twitter after each of his games to watch his dunk highlights.

Sam Lewis, Milford

Lewis is arguably the best player in school history. He was the first to score 1,000 points in 33 years at Milford. He led the Mavericks to their first league title in 25 seasons. And he guided them to their first district championship since 2019. That's hard to do in a league as tough as the Lakes Valley Conference.



Brother Rice coach Rick Palmer is Hometown Life's Coach of the Year.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Eric Hobson Jr., Livonia Franklin

There's no question Hobson Jr. was the heart and soul of the Patriots, who strong-armed their way to a KLAA-East championship after everyone doubted them. Franklin had one of the most well-rounded rosters, yet Hobson Jr. still found a way to stand out each night. He always got them a bucket when they needed one.

Jake Fannon, South Lyon East

I never saw Fannon practice, but watching him play, you just knew he was a gym rat. You don't get that good on natural ability alone. He was one of the best players in the LVC, and he was a leader his teammates really rallied around. Which is saying something because he played with a bunch of football players so they weren't short on guys who could've led the team.

Dante Favor, Canton

No big man has any business being as smooth near the rim as Favor was for the Chiefs, who had an unfair advantage in the post with this senior nailing bunny shots and scoring under the basket. I'm honestly going to miss watching the Spring Arbor signee outwork uncoordinated post players. He's also a great interviewee.

Pryor Reynolds, Salem

Honestly, most ball-dominant point guards are a

hindrance to their team at the high school level. Whether that's them taking terrible shots, hogging the ball or committing too many turnovers. Not Reynolds, though. The Rocks don't win a lot of games without Reynolds slicing and dicing his way to the basket. He was one of my favorite players to watch, and I regret not seeing him more than I did.

Amare Slaughter-Taylor, Redford Union

Criminally underrated, Slaughter-Taylor is one of the hardest workers out there, which is saying something because Redford Union has a ton of hard workers. Whether that's in football, wrestling or basketball. The Panthers don't win the Western Wayne Athletic Conference, a district title and play in the regional final without Slaughter-Taylor leading the way.

Mark Stein, Livonia Stevenson

It doesn't matter how good the opponent is, the Spartans have a chance to beat them as long as Stein is on the floor. Stein's big shots keep close games close when Stevenson is grinding out a comeback or trying to preserve a lead in the tough KLAA-East.

Rick Palmer, Brother Rice

Coach of the Year

Palmer led the Warriors to a lot of firsts. Like winning the Catholic League-Central and CHSL tournament for the first time in over three decades. Yeah, their early exit in the playoffs was a disappointment, but there's no doubt Brother Rice was one of the most fun teams to watch.

SECOND TEAM

Kelvin Amoaka, Plymouth

No one had as much buzz around their name as Amoaka did during the summer leading up to this past season. It seemed like every night a new college was checking in on the almost 7-footer. He reminds me of Zach Hankins, a late-blooming center who led Ferris State to a Division II national title. Expect big things from Amoaka at Indianapolis.

Carlos Adamson, Northville

Flip a coin. It's either Adamson or Novi's Te'John McGowan as the MVP of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. Teams such as Canton, Livonia Franklin and Dearborn were just solid up and down the roster, so their all-stars didn't need to dominate the box scores. But guys like Adamson and McGowan took their teams to the next level with their elite individual play.

Josh Ross, Detroit Catholic Central

Every opposing coach hates Josh Ross. In a good way. That's how much they respect the power forward, who was an absolute force in the paint. If you battled him for a rebound, you felt it the next day. He was one of CC's hardest workers, and it showed each night.

Justin Huang, Northville

It wasn't a surprise to see Huang play so well for the Mustangs. What was a surprise was seeing how many times he had arguably the best performance in Michigan on any given night. Seeing him go off for 30 or so points while also throwing down a SportsCenter-worthy dunk definitely enriched my HUDL-watching time throughout the season.

Landon Williams, North Farmington

Williams is the most unselfish player in Michigan. He's a future Division I player who rarely wows you with his stats in the box score. Yet if you took him off the Raiders, they probably lose a few games. He should have a monster year leading his team as a senior.

Robbie Wynn, Livonia Franklin

Wynn was an important cog in the Patriots'

See ALL-AREA, Page 7B

Obituaries

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Ruth Elizabeth Marroni

NORTHVILLE - Ruth, a long time resident of Northville, Michigan, was sent to Our Lord at the age of 97. She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years W. J. Marroni.

Ruth was a wonderful mother to Anthony Marroni (Kerry), Louise Marroni, Michael Marroni, Beverly Dootz (Gary), Julia Chapin (James), and Jenny Marroni. She had six grandchildren, Randy Svatora (Wendy), Christopher Marroni (Eliza), Andrew Marroni (Mary Kate), Kelly Bicy (Phil), Gabriel Marroni (Holly), and Nicholas Marroni, and seven great-grandchildren, Ataliya, Aaliyah, and Aubrey Bicy, Dominic and Calvin Marroni, Rosie Marroni, and, in loving memory, Vincent Anthony Marroni.

Ruth retired from Northville State Hospital and enjoyed trips to New York, Chicago, and Las Vegas. We loved her very much and will miss her big hugs, wisdom, humor, and cooking.

Special thanks to Ben Arcenal and the staff at A Home for Mom and Dad. Donations may be made to the Vinnie Marroni Miracle Assist Foundation at miracleassist.org. A celebration of Ruth's life will be held at a later date.

Please share a memory or condolences at O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home, obriensullivanfunera



Alvin Eugene Oldfield

FREDERIC - Alvin Eugene Oldfield, 81, of Frederic, MI passed away at his home on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

Alvin was born in Highland Park, MI on October 5, 1941. His family was his life and he would definitely say that he lived a wonderful life. Many years ago, Alvin held "Eugene Tours" where he organized and listed everything to take place. He went horseback riding all the way across the state of Michigan with his wife on a 10 day ride. He was a member of the Trail Riding Association. He worked for many years as a tool and die designer. Alvin is going to be missed by his family.

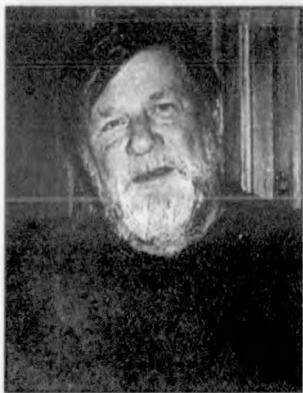
Survived by his wife of 64 years, Lynn Oldfield; children, Jane (Mark) Klug, Bonnie (Cliff) Borlace, and Rob (Anna) Oldfield; grandchildren, Austin (Azure), Laura (Tom), Cliff III (Lindsey), Brittany (Matt), Cameron, Caleb, and Shannon; great-grandchildren, Braxton, Payton, Larkin, Jolene, Luca, Jady, and Eleanor; siblings, George, Jim, Bob, Patty, Kathy, and Mary; and many nieces, nephews, other family, and special friends.

Alvin is preceded in death by his parents, George & Nellie (Wiard) Oldfield and his brother, Mike Donovan.

Alvin's family will remember him privately during this time. A Celebration of Life for family and friends will be held in the summer. Condolences can be shared at www.sorensonlockwood.com

Arrangements entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Sorenson Lockwood
FUNERAL HOME INC



All-Area

Continued from Page 6B

well-oiled machine. Had you taken him off their team, I guarantee you that machine would've broken down. He was more than just a reliable point guard. He also had a knack for making big plays in big games.

Te'John McGowan, Novi

If you missed my commentary on Northville's Carlos Adamson, please scroll up. To add to that, though, McGowan was just an absolute athlete. You can't replicate his hustle, speed or knack for making big plays.

Tyler Spratt, North Farmington

Spratt isn't going to surprise anyone in the Oakland Activities Association next season. But he should surprise the rest of the state when he winds up becoming a top-10 player. He's underrated. For now. That'll change soon.

Xavier Thomas, Brother Rice

Once Thomas puts it all together at the next level, he could prove to be the best player from this year's class at Brother Rice. He can score from long range. He can battle in the post. He can be aggressive. I think he's one step away from being an elite college player.

Bryce Garbacz, Plymouth

It's a shame the Alma College signee was on a rebuilding team because, boy, could he play. Watching him go toe-to-toe with Noah Adamczyk this past winter was something else. No shot was too tough for Garbacz to hit. There's no way he doesn't have success in college with his work ethic.

Josh Gibson, Birmingham Groves

The OAA-White was easily the most fun league race to watch play out, and Gibson is one of the reasons why the Falcons earned a share of the league title with West Bloomfield. Not only was he a gamer but his athleticism gave him an edge each night. And he's only a sophomore.

John Simpson, Birmingham Groves

Speaking of sophomores, Simpson scored almost 400 points for the Falcons. And he averaged over 18 points against league opponents. So it's not like he was doing this against slouches. Groves is set up to dominate over the next two seasons, so expect more fireworks from Simpson and Gibson.

Jaylohn Allen, Wayne Memorial

Allen's name has been thrown out there to be the Freshman of the Year by several outlets, including the basketball recruiting blog The D Zone. No, not Freshman of the Year in the KLAA but the entire state. He averaged close to 20 points per game.

Cameron Crosby, South Lyon East

The problem with taking away Jake Fannon is you leave guys like Crosby open to make plays. And Crosby has a knack for making a lot of big plays. His height gives him an advantage in the LVC, but he also has a natural ability to score, too.

Bradley Ezluka, Canton

Ezluka could probably be a 20-point-per-night scorer if he was on another team. With him surrounded by so many strong scorers, he hasn't needed to be that guy at Canton. And that's made him a reliable ballhandler alongside Caleb Williams. His focus can be on winning games instead of forcing up shots.

Matt Windle, Plymouth Christian Academy

Coach

Sure, Windle's Christian values have something to do with it. But, putting that aside, he just does things the right way. He pours himself into his players, and they respond by achieving so much more than they probably should at a small private school. He schedules hard, and they win league and district titles because of it. It's only a matter of time until Windle gets his shot at the Breslin Center.

THIRD TEAM

Lee Hardy, North Farmington

Hardy's post presence proved to be an asset to the Raiders, who benefited from his freakish height down low. He



Omar Suleiman, Canton.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

had a nice touch while shooting bunnies, but my favorite was watching him throw down dunks.

TJ Nadeau II, Detroit Catholic Central

Injuries kept Nadeau out of the lineup early on in the season, otherwise, he likely finishes as a first- or second-teamer on this list. While we were robbed of seeing him fully healthy during his junior season, the D-I prospect should still be productive as a senior and help get CC back on track.

Caleb Williams, Canton

Arguably the best athlete in the school, Williams was steady as a ball-handler all season long. He does a great job of getting the offense going and finding his scorers right where they want to receive the ball.

Prince Jackson, North Farmington

Jackson placed a lot of pressure on himself to be an elite point guard. And, at times, he needed to be. But he played best when he settled into his role and was just one of the guys out on the floor. He wasn't asked to be a ball-dominant player with the likes of Landon Williams, Tyler Spratt and Ryan Hurst out there.

Nate Pierson, Plymouth Christian Academy

Size-wise, Pierson is not the first guy you want getting off the bus, but he's definitely the guy you want to take the last shot. He's one of the best pure shooters I've seen and, on any given night, he was capable of popping off and breaking school scoring records. Opponents struggled to keep him away from the 3-point line.

Mitch Cronyn, Livonia Franklin

It takes seeing something crazy for me to blurt out, "Wow!" Three times in my life, Cronyn has made me say that. Once he gets on a roll behind the 3-point line, it takes a lot to get him to cool off. What a gamer.

DJ Lee, Detroit Catholic Central

While I was sad to see him leave Noah Adamczyk and Bloomfield Hills, I still saw him play at an elite level in the Catholic League. He was still a matchup nightmare, even for the top-tier teams he faced almost nightly. I would say transferring to CC wound up being a success for his career.

Christian Fontaine, Lutheran Westland

Give Fontaine a protein shake and gym membership and he could be one of the best players in metro Detroit. He has the skill set to play at an elite level. He can shoot, get to the rim and play tough defense. The only knock on him is he's a bit undersized and plays in a small-school conference.

Dwayne Ray, North Farmington

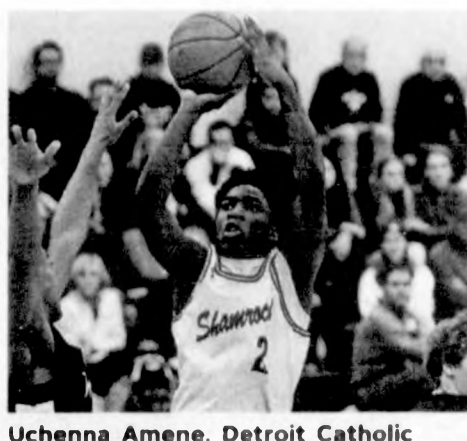
Ray has been the best sixth man in the area for the past two seasons. He's been integral in keeping the Raiders rolling after key starters exit the game for a break or because of foul trouble. He can play point guard, help on the wing and lock down on defense.

Kevin Davis, Livonia Franklin

The Patriots probably don't win the KLAA-East without Davis, whose role in the post proved to be vital. Franklin had plenty of small forwards and guards, but Davis was the team's true big man. He battled down low every game. And he did well.

Ben Diskin, Birmingham Seaholm

Raise your hand if you thought the Maples were going to be one of the most fun teams to watch in the OAA. Most of that had to do with Diskin, who was one of Seaholm's offensive leaders each



Uchenna Amene, Detroit Catholic Central. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

night. You need guys like him to win the OAA-Blue.

Mike Myles, Redford Union

Myles is one of those lunch-pail point guards who never rests. With how tough the WWAC can be, bringing the ball up the floor and kickstarting the offense was a full-time job for him. And he was rarely a liability when doing so. Which is saying something because it seemed like he always had a defender draped all over him.

Jeremiah Alston-Jackson, Redford Union

Alston-Jackson returned to the hardwood after giving up the sport to focus on football a few years ago. But the Central Michigan University signee's return was welcomed. He proved to be the X-factor the Panthers needed in close games. He always came up with timely buckets and popped off for 15 or 20 points when asked to do so.

Graham Braun, South Lyon

The Lions endured quite the rebuilding year, but Braun's production as his team's scoring leader proved the future should be bright at South Lyon. He's only a sophomore, folks. You bet coaches around the LVC have taken note of that.

Drew Moyer, South Lyon East

Moyer's layup at the buzzer to push the Cougars past Waterford Mott, 52-50, was probably the craziest play of the season in the LVC. But what else should you expect from a guy who routinely makes big-time plays?

Todd Negoshian, North Farmington

Coach

So many times I've seen a group of talented players come together and achieve absolutely nothing. Mostly because they dislike each other and are only worried about looking good in front of college coaches. With a lesser coach, that could've been North Farmington. But it wasn't. The Raiders won league and district titles. So that's why Negoshian's family atmosphere and culture are so important. He gets players to buy into their roles and do what's best for the team. A lot of times, that means sacrificing personal accolades for the success of the program. That doesn't go unnoticed.



Jordan Scott, Plymouth Christian Academy.

HONORABLE MENTION

Kenny Brooks, Garden City
Chase VanAmejde, Brother Rice
Jordan Newbill, South Lyon East
Brandon Newland, Bloomfield Hills
Andrew Turnquist, White Lake Lake-land
Devin Lee, Detroit Catholic Central
Jeff Sheldon, Birmingham Seaholm
Adam Alokab, Livonia Franklin
Dylan McGlinch, Livonia Stevenson
Lucas Young, Livonia Stevenson
Rodney Hackman, Novi
Ryan Peters, Salem
Owen Pittenger, Livonia Franklin
Cam Weller, Plymouth Christian Academy
Greg Grays, Farmington
Kyle Ohlsson, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran
Amare McElwee, Bloomfield Hills
Roeper
James Drake, Bloomfield Hills Roep-er
Evan McRoberts, South Lyon
Paige Williams, Birmingham Groves
Elijah Yelder, Birmingham Groves
TJ Hurley, Livonia Franklin (Coach)
David Gilbert, Milford (Coach)
Ron Levin, South Lyon East (Coach)

SPECIAL MENTION

Luke Salkowski, Brother Rice
Ryan Frohock, Brother Rice
Carlos Medlock Jr., Wayne Memorial
Diego Cantu, Livonia Churchill
Artis Hicks, Livonia Clarenceville
Damon Harris, Livonia Clarenceville
Jalin Clark, Westland John Glenn
Ty Rowe, Livonia Churchill
Jordan Williams, Westland John Glenn
Devon Pettus, Canton
Thad Lawler, Novi
Caleb Gash, South Lyon East
Nate Curtis, Livonia Stevenson
Donavin Williams, North Farmington
Nate Rooker, Lutheran Westland
John Toth, Livonia Stevenson
Jack Abbot, Birmingham Groves
Max Kramer, Birmingham Groves
Chuck Davidek, Livonia Stevenson
Ray Weber, Plymouth Christian Academy
Aiden Sexton, Plymouth Christian Academy
Findlay Sparby, Birmingham Seaholm
Evan Evans, Cranbrook
Marc West, Birmingham Groves (Coach)
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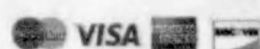
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Great part-time jobs for retirees

Many adults nearing retirement age count down the days until they can bid adieu to the daily tasks of commuting and working so they can enjoy much more time for recreation, travel or whatever is they aspire to do.

As enticing as unending free time may seem, some retirees find it is not ideal to be entirely free from the responsibility of working. As current seniors can attest, inflation can drive up the costs of living, meaning that seniors who were once able to afford a certain retirement lifestyle may no longer enjoy that hard-earned luxury. Others may miss the daily opportunities to socialize that working provides, or the way problem-solving on the job stimulates the brain. But even retirees who miss working may not be ready to return to the workforce full-time. That can make part-time employment an ideal fit for mature workers.

Here's a look at some part-time positions that could be a good fit for older adults reentering the workforce.

Retail sales associate

Working in retail opens seniors up to a wide array of responsibilities and scenarios. Jobs may include greeting customers, making sales, putting out inventory, and helping customers select mer-



chandise. Being personable and having good customer service skills are necessary traits to have when working in retail. Many stores offer part-time employees flexible hours so schedules can be customized.

Consultant

Retirees who loved their job but wanted to spend less time doing it can return as consultants. According to The Balance: Money, individuals often find they earn more per hour working as consultants than they did as full-time staff members. Consulting is a way to share expertise and experience without making a full-time commitment.

Customer service representative

A customer service representative is tasked with helping customers solve problems and ensuring customer satisfaction. He or she may work in a traditional office or store location, or answer calls and resolve issues from home.

School positions

Retirees may want to consider jobs working in schools or in related capacities. Driving a school bus is an option if people are willing to undergo the proper training and licensing to operate this type of vehicle. Seniors also may consider working as lunchroom aides or lunch service providers, crossing

guards, substitute teachers, and para-professionals. School employees will only work a few hours during the day. They'll also enjoy many holidays off as well as summer vacations.

Receptionist

Receptionists greet patients or customers in office settings. According to AARP, they are the welcoming faces of organizations. Answering phones and light clerical work also may be required of receptionists. Those who want to work off-peak hours can think about working nights and weekends in hospitals or skilled nursing facilities.

Seniors have many different options if they decide they want to return to the workforce in a part-time capacity.

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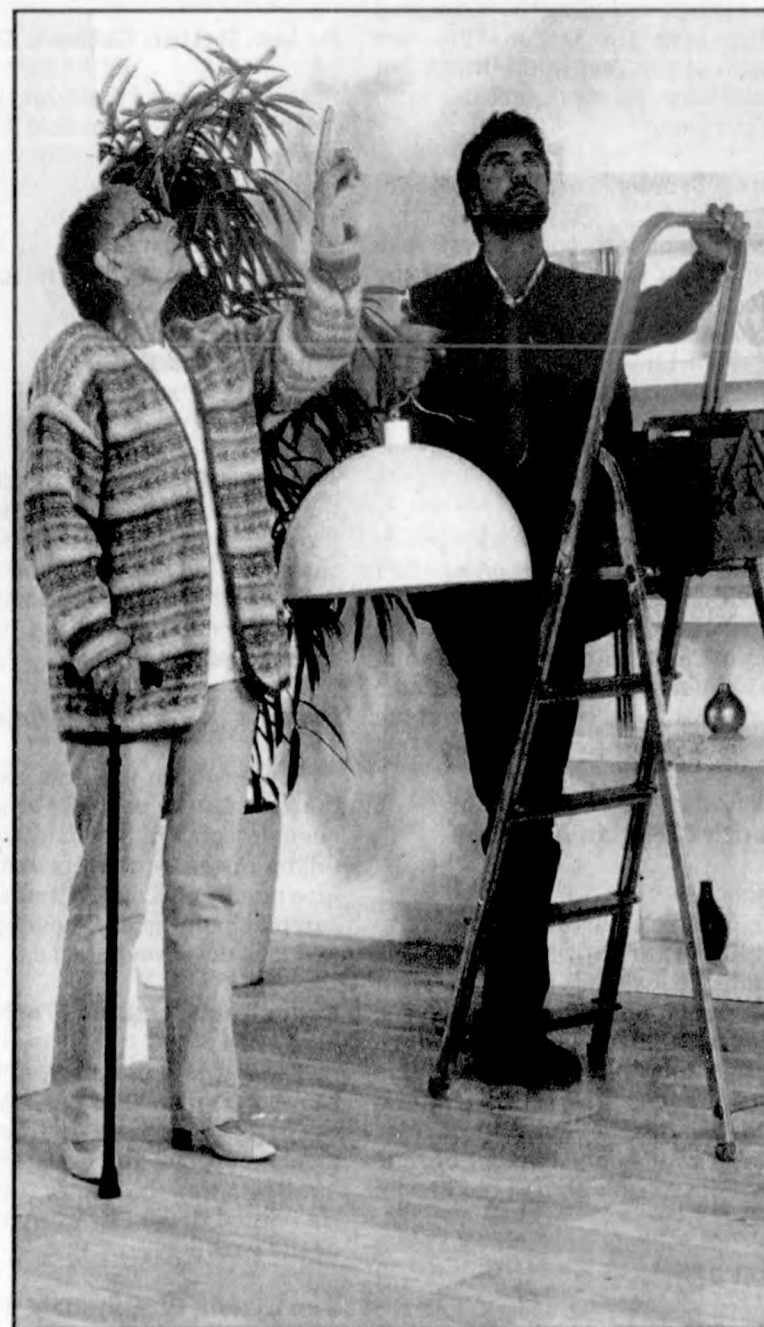
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