



This sophomore should help South Lyon East 4-peat as LVC champions

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NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Lyon Twp. water woes aren't under the bridge just yet

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LYON TWP. — Michelle Roslinski noticed in June that her outdoor plants were covered in white residue, and then she also began hearing about water heater troubles from her neighbors in Woodwind Village.

Five of her neighbors, she said, had to replace their water heaters within a roughly two-week span, and she is concerned about the township's water.

On July 5, Roslinski, a chemical engineer, shared her concerns with the township board and made a plea for better communication about the water, specifically a new municipal water softener system.

"The white residue was a release of calcium from a reactor being overpressurized," Roslinski said. "The daily flow was estimated to be 1 million and went up to 5 million gallons of water per day because of irrigation. That caused problems."

Getting clear, softened water in Lyon Township has been a long process.

Supervisor John Dolan has made improving the municipal water system a priority since his election to the board in 2008. He claimed a major win with the board's approval of \$16.5 million in water treatment plant improvements in 2017.

Prior to that decision, which included water storage and filtration improvements, the water was "horrible," Dolan said, with residents bathing their children in "brown, iron-filled water."

"The only thing this township board wants is the best quality water delivered to our residents," Dolan said. "We haven't had that ever. Now, we do not have brown water, we have excellent water, filtered, from an excellent treatment plant. It's clear and we're trying to take it to the next level. It's tougher than I thought it was going to be."

Township officials celebrated in 2019 when the Woodwind water treatment plant was completed, promising clear water. But even then, they warned that water softening would still be an issue.

See WATER, Page 4A



Property on the north and south sides of Grand River between Taft and Beck roads in Novi is under consideration for rezoning to the "City West" district. The rezoning is part of the 2016 master plan and is meant to make a more vibrant, walkable district. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Novi eyes makeover of Grand River area into 'City West' district

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — A proposed rezoning of 250 acres straddling Grand River Avenue, between Beck and Taft roads, could transform an underdeveloped area of the city into a "vibrant, walkable" district, city officials say.

The "City West" district was established in the 2016 master plan with the intent of "combining entertainment,

convention, commercial, office and residential uses in a cohesive, high-density, walkable pattern."

Now, the city is moving toward putting zoning in place that could make the vision a reality.

"The challenge for staff over the past four-plus years has been to craft an ordinance that would allow and support and encourage that vision to become a reality," Planner Lindsay Bell told City Council recently. "It's exciting to be here tonight to present the results of all our

efforts for your consideration."

The plan to enliven the area around Ascension Providence Hospital and Suburban Collection Showplace has undergone several revisions by staff, who brought a zoning amendment before the council for a first reading on July 10. Council members opted instead to postpone a first reading until changes based on their feedback could be incorporated into the proposal.

See MAKEOVER, Page 4A

Plymouth-Canton schools retires Chiefs mascot, logo

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH — Students at Canton High School will choose a new mascot in the upcoming school year following the district's decision July 11 to retire the Chiefs mascot and arrowhead logo. The Plymouth-Canton Community

Schools Board of Education voted 6-1 to retire the mascot and logo following a stream of impassioned comments from community members mostly opposed to the change.

"I don't agree with the decision to retire the chief and the arrowhead logo," said Gabriel Jim, who identified as a "full-blooded Navaho" and the father of a recent district graduate and a current

student. "As a native person, I find them very honorable and respectful. It's not like the Cleveland Indians' Chief Wahoo caricature or anything like that."

The meeting was punctuated by loud applause from the capacity crowd for Jim and others who stepped to the podium and spoke against the change.

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‘Henry V’ swordplay at center of 2023 Livonia Shakespeare in the Park

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Everybody loves an underdog. And Henry V, King of England, was an underdog.

The king and his army began the Battle of Agincourt, during the Hundred Years’ War, far outnumbered by the French army. The outlook was bleak to say the least.

Did the small English army emerge victorious? Experiencing Livonia Shakespeare in the Park, with its historic costumes and swordplay, is an interesting way to find out.

The event will feature Shakespeare’s “Henry V” this year, which depicts the events just before and after the Battle of Agincourt.

“The audience is going to see Henry go from being a drunk, someone who didn’t want the throne, someone who didn’t respect his father, didn’t respect the church and didn’t respect anything to becoming this hero,” Director Cristina Pellerano said.

People can see the play for free at Stymelski Veteran’s Park, 14407 Stark Road, during the last two weekends in July. Performances July 21, 22, 28 and 29 begin at 6 p.m. and performances July 23 and 30 begin at 2 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Politics, swords and siege

People who enjoyed Livonia’s production of “Romeo and Juliet” last year can expect a bigger and better show this year. “Henry V” requires more actors, a larger set and more fight scenes.

The play features a cast of 30 and plenty of sword fighting. Pellerano said action movie fans will especially enjoy “Henry V.” Theatrica Gladiatoria, a fight choreography company, has been working with actors since May to perfect their combat skills.

“They’re doing really well,” said Joe Wright, co-owner of Theatrica Gladiatoria and fight director for “Henry V.” “It’s very hard to put a sword in your hand and act while also move fluidly with this thing that is not part of your body. Actors, at least in the area, don’t train with it very much.”

Wright said good fight scenes will help viewers better understand a story told by someone who lived about 400 years ago.

“Sometimes the threat of violence is more impactful than the actual violence,” he said. “Physicality tells



Combat plays a major role in “Henry V.” Actors have been working on their sword skills since May. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

stories that die in words, especially when we’re dealing with Shakespeare. People can respond to a sword pointed somewhere or a look on an actor’s face. Those transmit feeling and intention.”

Plus, who doesn’t love a little action? “Last year was good and it was our first year,” Pellerano said. “This year has to be incredible.”

Making Shakespeare relatable for everyone

Pellerano said everyone will be able to enjoy “Henry V” because of its action and coming-of-age plotline. The play also features a Chorus that keeps the audience up to speed.

“I think people will like seeing the story of a man who becomes a king but is still a man under all of that,” said Danielle Patterson, who portrays the Chorus. “He still has fears, regrets and character. I think it’s pretty relatable.”

Patterson views her role as that of a history teacher who will help bring the play’s long-dead figures to life.

“People can be small and petty,” she said. “They can also be big-hearted and kind. There’s a lot of gossip and drama in mankind. You are reminded that these are not dead words on a page. These are people who are just like you.”

Pellerano said, for newcomers to Shakespeare, a live performance is much easier to understand than the scripts many Americans read in grade school.

“The difference between reading Shakespeare and seeing Shakespeare is the difference between throwing a bullet and shooting it,” she said. “You’re going to understand everything. That’s our goal.”

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

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Newsroom Contacts:

Stephanie Angel, Executive Editor
Office: 517-377-101
sangel@gannett.com

Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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Actors rehearse the first scene of “Henry V” in the Livonia Senior Center ahead of the 2023 Shakespeare in the Park event.

Judge recuses himself from case

Tess Ware
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Novi District Court Judge Travis Reeds has recused himself from a case over which he was presiding when he was threatened by the defendant.

Reeds recused himself during a hearing July 12 for defendant Jordan Worrall, 31, of New Hudson, who was arrested in Brighton last week after missing a court date and allegedly threatening to kill Reeds and his court-appointed attorney.

“I feel that it’s incumbent at this point upon me to recuse myself from this case and take no further action on it,” Reeds said. “Given the serious circumstances and the threats that were made, allegedly, by Mr. Worrall against myself and my family and the potential that I could be a witness in the case — it’s not even a close call that I need to recuse myself, from an ethical standpoint.”

Reeds asked his clerk to set a review in regards to Worrall’s competency evaluation, which was ordered May 4.

During his arrest in Brighton, Worrall allegedly broke several facial bones of a detective from the Oak-

land County Sheriff’s Office Fugitive Apprehension Team.

The arrest marked the end of a 48-hour attempt by Worrall to allegedly evade police, beginning when he failed to appear in court. The mother of Worrall’s daughter called police to report he’d posted threatening remarks against the government, his attorney and Reeds.

The court was made aware of the threats and set a \$1 million bond. On Wednesday, July 5, Worrall was seen driving his pickup truck through the courthouse parking lot on Grand River in Novi. He was pursued by Novi police through Wixom and Commerce Township before the pursuit was abandoned in Milford.

After multiple run-ins with police, including in Toledo, Ohio, detectives were notified Friday, July 7, around 9:30 a.m. that Worrall was seen walking down Manistee Street in a mobile home park in Lyon Township. He drove off before deputies arrived. He was arrested a few hours later in Brighton.

Prosecutors announced two additional felony charges against Worrall — making a false report or threat of terrorism and using a computer to commit a crime. Additional charges, police say, will be sought for allegedly assaulting the detective and resisting arrest.

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Wayne police investigate fatal stabbing

Hometownlife.com

WAYNE – Wayne police are investigating a fatal stabbing that happened Saturday morning in the 35000 block of West Michigan Avenue, just east of Wayne Road.

They said in a release they responded to a 911 call just after 7 a.m. Saturday, July 8, about a woman who stabbed her sister inside an apartment.

Upon arrival at the apartment, officers found an unresponsive female suffering multiple stab wounds. Police said Wayne EMS transported her to a local hospital, where she later died.

The officers arrested the suspect who did not leave the scene.

Police are not releasing names of the victim or suspect until their relatives have been notified.

An investigation continues.

State puts \$8M into SOS effort to save Michigan moms and babies

Jennifer Brookland
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the ongoing fight against Michigan's climbing maternal and infant mortality rates, Wayne State is creating the SOS Maternity Network with \$8 million in state money. The initiative will unite 14 universities and health care systems to tackle preterm births and improve the overall health of pregnant people and infants.

"The SOS Maternity Network has created, for the first time, a statewide network of Michigan's finest universities and health care systems to declare war on our terrible rates of maternal and infant mortality," Dr. Sonia Hassan, associate vice president of Women's Health and founder of Wayne State University's Office of Women's Health, said in a news release issued Tuesday.

Michigan is one of the worst states in the nation for pregnant people and babies.

A March of Dimes report concluded that with its preterm birth rate at 10.6% Michigan would get a D+ grade for efforts to protect the lives and health of pregnant people and infants.

Black babies in Michigan are two to three times more likely to die in infancy than white babies. While the rate of white infants born too early is 9.3%, it's almost 15% for Black infants.

March of Dimes report

Michigan's terrible report card for maternal and infant health

While huge advances in keeping babies alive has brought infant mortality rates down by 44% since 1989, that number obscures persistent disparities. Black babies in Michigan are two to three times more likely to die in infancy than white babies. While the rate of white infants born too early is 9.3%, it's almost 15% for Black infants.

Detroit, in particular, received an F grade from the March of Dimes for its worsening preterm birth rate of just over 15%.

For Black babies, in particular, the numbers are going the wrong way. While overall rates of infant mortality in Michigan are at an all-time low — though still higher than the national average — rates for Black babies are creeping back up and are now around three times the national average.

"The state of Michigan is facing a pregnancy crisis," Dr. Ray Bahado-Singh, chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Corewell Health, said in the news release. "No demographic group is immune."

'This could affect any patient, anywhere'

The SOS Maternity Network has its roots in a group that came together during the COVID-19 pandemic, when clinicians were noticing how the coronavirus was affecting pregnant women and began collecting data and comparing notes.

Though they came from health systems that historically compete for patients and funding, network members united to collect data on more than 1,400 women and highlight their

See SOS EFFORT, Page 6A



The new Livonia West Commerce Center at 12590 Eckles Road. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ashley Capital opens new Livonia manufacturing center housing major companies

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — It's official: The old General Motors factory property along Eckles Road is entirely redeveloped.

The Livonia West Commerce Center, 12590 Eckles Road, opened its doors July 11 with a ribbon cutting. Ashley Capital redeveloped the property into a manufacturing center. The new building sits on 19 acres and includes about 365,000 square feet of work space, which is filled by two tenants in three suites.

"Years ago, this property served as a General Motors spring and bumper plant, but the manufacturing center ceased operations in the late 1990s," Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West said. "Since then, it sat underutilized and vacant for nearly three decades."

According to Susan Harvey, Ashley Capital's senior vice president, the project cost is expected to create about 1,700 jobs. Ashley Capital bought the old General Motors property in 2014. Other developments on the site include an Amazon distribution center and a Republic National Distributing Company

facility.

DHL and Penske Logistics, representing TJ Maxx, Homegoods and Starbucks, are the center's first tenants. According to Harvey, every cup of Starbucks coffee brewed in Michigan will pass through the Livonia center.

"I don't think people necessarily appreciate all of the work that comes out of these major facilities that we have," Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said.

Brosnan said she hopes the development, which required some cleanup because it was a contaminated automotive site, is just one of many major redevelopments in the city. Brosnan cited the Livonia Vision 21 Master Plan, which calls for the creation of downtown-like areas throughout the city.

"Partners like Ashley Capital are so important because they are often our first believers," she said. "This site was full of potential disasters, and Ashley Capital said, 'Nope. We see the promise.' ... There are major developers who are going to believe right along with us and make projects like this happen."

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Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan speaks at the opening of the Livonia West Commerce Center July 11, 2023.

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Makeover

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Questions about proposed zoning

Many of council's concerns related to building heights and setbacks for properties on the south side of Grand River that abut existing residential properties, including the Asbury Park subdivision.

While the council seemed amenable to maximum building heights of eight stories on the north side of Grand River, close to Interstate 96, members had reservations about tall buildings on the south side.

Mayor Pro-tem Dave Staudt said he couldn't see five-story buildings permitted on the south side "under any circumstance" and wanted the zoning ordinance to limit buildings to three stories.

He also wanted to require any new construction to have a berm with appropriate landscaping. He asked that hotels and motels be removed entirely as a potential use on the south side of the road.

His fellow councilmembers agreed on those points, but were divided over setbacks.



Grand River in Novi by Suburban Collection Showplace. Roughly 250 acres on the north and south sides of Grand River between Taft and Beck roads is proposed for rezoning as "City West" district. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Staudt supported 100-foot setbacks on the south side.

"The residents have asked for 200, I think that's unreasonable," he said. "One hundred (feet) with the berm and landscaping is reasonable."

Councilmember Laura Marie Casey said she favored 200-foot setbacks, particularly on some corner lots. But she had other concerns — such as protec-

tions for wetlands and woodlands, and infrastructure improvements.

"I have a couple big issues that I want more insight on," Casey said. "Grand River is five lanes, 50 miles per hour, and now we're trying to put in a lot of people doing a lot of walking."

A pedestrian bridge over Grand River was discussed, and Mayor Bob Gatt suggested an underpass.

"Grand River is a wicked street, very difficult and unsafe to cross on foot," he said. "We've talked about a pedestrian overpass. I would like to talk about an underpass. Done right, it's more conducive for the handicapped, older people, and it's safer."

Bell said planners currently are designing an internal street network for the district, but would like to see a crossing for Grand River. She noted Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) has recently released bus route expansion plans that includes a stop in the proposed City West district.

Planner Barb McBeth said the 2016 master plan had three areas for redevelopment, including where Sakura is now; an area by Walled Lake; and "City West," which has been an underutilized area for years. The planning staff has not seen many development plans for the area in the past decade, she added.

"I'm glad to have this conversation and bring it back for a first reading," Casey said. "This is our first chance to look at it, and it behooves us to give as much feedback as possible."

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

Water

Continued from Page 1A

The township is not obligated to provide water softening, but over the course of the last four years tried to find a solution that would be approved by the then-Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The township considered ion water softening, but that was not feasible because of the "tremendous amount of backwash," Dolan said.

Dolan announced in April that the township was finally approved for a pellet water softening system, the first municipality in the state to get one, and that by April 21, residents would start seeing soft water.

But he also cautioned that before that happened, 500 to 600 million gallons of water needed to work through the system.



Lyon Township Supervisor John Dolan and Treasurer Patricia Carcone celebrate as the new Woodwind water treatment plant's filtration system is turned on March 18, 2019. SUBMITTED

When the township turned the softening system on several weeks ago, Dolan said it was processing 1.5 million gallons per day, with water coming in at the

softening target of 10 grains.

"Then we pumped 7 million gallons in one day, it took out one of the high-service pumps and forced calcium up into the system," he explained. "The water is still fantastic, but we're back to hard water. We're looking at another two weeks to get the reactor back online."

Dolan said a decision still had to be made whether to turn the softener system back on to 7 million gallon usage or wait until the usage goes down to dial it in.

When the township softener went online, residents had the option to turn off their home systems. Dolan advised that if residents are unhappy with the water quality, they can turn their home system back on until the township system is operating correctly.

"We're so close, when we get the reactors rebuilt, it will be stronger than it's ever been, but we have to get to that place," he said. "We're still in the adjust-

ment process, possibly til the end of the year."

Roslinski, who has a background in water treatment, said while it may be coincidental that five neighbors' water heaters all quit working within a two-week period, she knows that water hardness without softening of water "will coat up the heating elements and can absolutely cause the kind of problems," necessitating replacement of the units.

Roslinski said she never received a communication about the softener issue from the township, which had promised one would be sent out, and she believes the plant has been offline for more than two weeks.

"It was advertised as a do-all, end-all to all of our water problems and it's not that," she said.

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



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Mascot

Continued from Page 1A

But Rodolfo Palma, a 1995 graduate of Salem High School – one of three schools in the district's high school campus in Canton Township – also identified as Native American and said he was in support of the change.

"I encountered racism and other difficulties...when I was a student here," Palma said, noting it was difficult when he attended classes at Canton High School to "walk under the arrowhead logo."

"It is incredibly distracting to have this mascot," he said. "I completely support the student initiative to change this. They have a right to be free from distraction."

The board's decision follows a discussion that began in early 2021 when students made a presentation to the school board, arguing the chief mascot and accompanying arrowhead logos are disrespectful to Native Americans and can lead to cultural appropriation.

After a second group of students came forward last year to make the same request, the district assembled a citizens advisory committee tasked with researching the issue and making a recommendation.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, which tracks more than two dozen Native-themed mascots at the K-12 level, 181 schools and 91 school districts currently use "Chiefs" as a mascot, while more than 2,000 Native-themed mascots and logos were eliminated from educational athletic programs since 1970.

Survey results

Part of the citizen advisory committee's work included a community survey, which received 6,206 responses.

Of those, 56.6% said they were not in favor of changing the Chief's name, while 27% said they were in favor of such a change. The remainder said they didn't care either way or needed more information before responding.

Plymouth High School graduate Alexis Fernimos told the board she is of Native American descent and opposed to the change.

"You see all the people here tonight: current students, faculty, coaches,



A group of community members gathered in the parking lot of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Administration Building following a meeting Tuesday, July 11, where the district's board of education voted 6-1 to retire the Canton Chiefs mascot and arrowhead logo.

LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

members of the community, alumni. Powerful people in our community don't want this name to change," she said. "The survey results speak for themselves. I'm asking you, my fellow community members are asking you, please do not take the arrowhead down. Please do not change this name."

Trustee Sheryl Picard cast the sole vote against retiring the mascot and logo, noting she also felt the board should "listen to the voices" of those who participated in the survey and those who spoke at recent meetings.

In a list of responses to the survey, provided to Hometown Life by a member of the community, those claiming Native American heritage were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the chiefs name.

"As a card carrying member of the Sault tribe of Chippewa Indians I find nothing wrong with the mascot and name as is," wrote one respondent. "Quite frankly I don't even understand how some would find either the name or arrowhead offensive."

"There is nothing demeaning that I've ever associated with the use and will be disappointed if either ends up being changed."

A few, however, were strongly

opposed.

"As a Native American of full blood and representing a tribe in North America, I find the use of my people as mascots offensive," wrote another. "We are not pets or cartoons. We are real people who do not deserve to be treated as enjoyment. 'Chief' has been a derogatory term used by colonialists to demean the strong men of our tribe. I would support a change."

'It's the minority that I'm paying attention to'

After reviewing the committee's work and making a recommendation to retire the chiefs mascot at the board's June 13 meeting, Superintendent Monica Merritt said the survey was designed to serve as a component of the research, not a deciding factor.

The district's board policy prohibits mascots or logos based on a protected classes such as race, color, national origin, sex and other factors, while its dynamic plan states "All P-CCS students and staff will report they feel physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe and represented at school."

Board Treasurer Patrick Kehoe said he recognized a "substantial majority"

of those who responded to the survey wanted to retain the Chiefs name.

"It's the minority that I'm paying attention to," Kehoe said. "It's those that feel this is unacceptable...and they do not feel this represents them and serves them well."

"I recognize that certainly those in the majority will lose something if we remove this mascot, some portion of their history and self-identity," he added. "They can still be chiefs. It's the generations that we have going forward, those people that are finding this is not acceptable and offensive to them, those are the ones I think it is important for us to honor in this process and make sure we choose something that is not offensive."

Board President Shawn Wilson acknowledged that, for many, the Canton chiefs mascot recalls "fond memories of friends and lifelong experiences that they gained during their time in high school," although all students do not share those feelings.

"My role would be to allow a new generation of students to choose a brand which they can all be proud of. It's time to pass the baton, its time to pass the torch."

The district also cited numerous findings in its resolution to change the name, including:

- In 2003, the Michigan State Board of Education passed a resolution that "strongly recommend[ed] the elimination of American Indian mascots, nicknames, logos, fight songs, insignias, antics, and team descriptors by all Michigan schools."

- In 2005, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which was founded in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, resolved that "the use of 'Native American' sports mascots, logos, or symbols perpetuates stereotypes of American Indians that are very harmful." The NCAI resolved that it "oppose[s] the use of racist and demeaning 'Indian' sports mascots."

Merritt said the Canton High School student body would choose a new mascot in the 2023-24 school year, keeping the red and white color scheme, and that the district would apply for grants to help pay for the transition.

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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Alva	Coffs	Main	South West
Apollo	Harbour	Manly	Rocks
Avalon	Corio	Mario	Surf
Avoca	Darwin	Nowra	Tathra
Beach	Eden	Old Bar	Tide
Bega	Gerroa	Onslow	Urunga
Bells	Hyams	Palm	Wanda
Bikini	Karumba	Play	Watega
Bilgola	Kiama	Robe	Wave
Bondi	Lennox	Sale	
Bronte	Head	Sawyers	
Coogee	Lorne	Squeaky	

TODAY'S ANSWER

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Our beautiful beaches

BRONTEIWSMAYHER
WIAREDKNOWRACMU
ANCWNIISTINSNAAO
NIPOATALOWSOENB
DKBMRTPALMORBLR
AIAIHIELBEGA OYA
EBRRALOGGLIBVDWH
HDAAVOCAOLRAMCS
XTMBFSAWYERSOF
OOANRDAAPOLLOOF
NIEBORLGPLAYCGO
NFRUSVHONLORNEC
EVAWAYKAEUQS OEI
LSOUTHWESTROCKS
GERROACEABMURAK

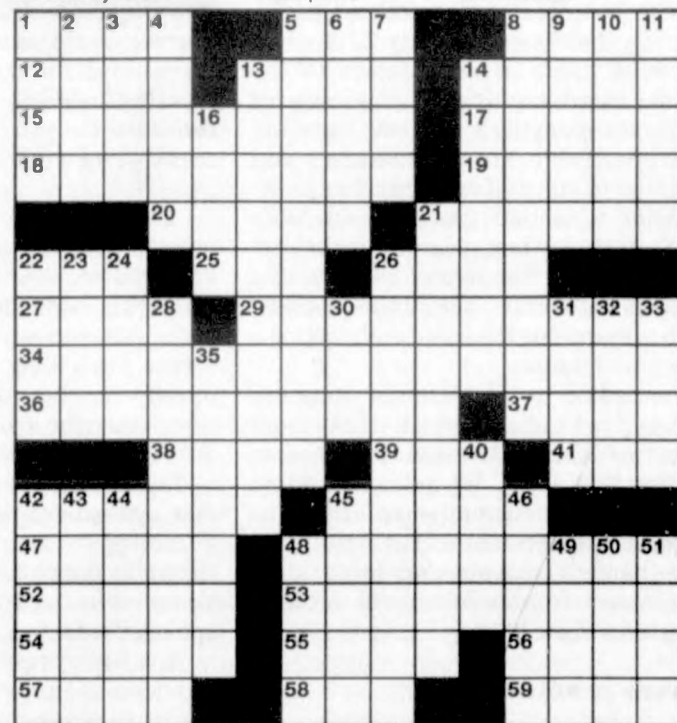
NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Bits of dishonesty
5 Late winter/early spring Vermont collection
8 Thinly sliced fare with vinaigrette
12 Fall report
13 Type of batter bread
14 Go over well
15 Much of *Carmen's* premiere audience
17 What barrels measure
18 Preferred place of athletic contact
19 Is up
20 Inducement
21 Cry for
22 "I'll say no more about it"
25 Stand out
26 Realizes
27 Gave away
29 Psychomotor learning experts
34 One averse to innovation
36 Rustic jam
37 Carry out
38 Goes around in circles
39 What *Avatar* wouldn't work without
41 Sub-Saharan staple
42 Tangle up
45 Deconstruct
47 See 24 Down
48 Reese's Puffs product
52 Drops off
53 Fulfillment phrase
54 Be stingy
55 "The company for women"
56 Took a knee, perhaps

DOWN

- 1 Galaxy cluster
2 Part of a midway skill crane
3 Beat it
4 Caught
5 Never-ending stories
6 Wear thin
7 ___ control
8 *Moby-Dick's* "lively sketches of whales"
9 Dirty rat
10 Poet pal of Tolkien
11 Take by force
13 Peruvian brandy cocktail
14 Starting point
16 Put one's foot down
21 Fennel, for instance
22 Fix permanently
23 Bit of Spanish in Hemingway's first novel
24 With 47 Across, Ray Charles' *Porgy & Bess* partner
26 Similar color to Flame Orange
28 Support for statisticians
30 Top ___
31 NASDAQ-100 shopping center
32 Baryshnikov's birthplace
33 Musical note's vertical line
35 One of four anagrams of SETTERS
40 Dr. Watson outburst
42 Thoroughfare bordering Yale U.
43 '80s catwalk walker for Isaac and Gianni
44 Berlusconi's birthplace
45 See 58 Across
46 Slip away, in a way
48 Get rough
49 Half of several hyphenated words in Hemingway's first novel
50 Dark ___
51 Went on



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

7/15/23

TODAY'S ANSWER

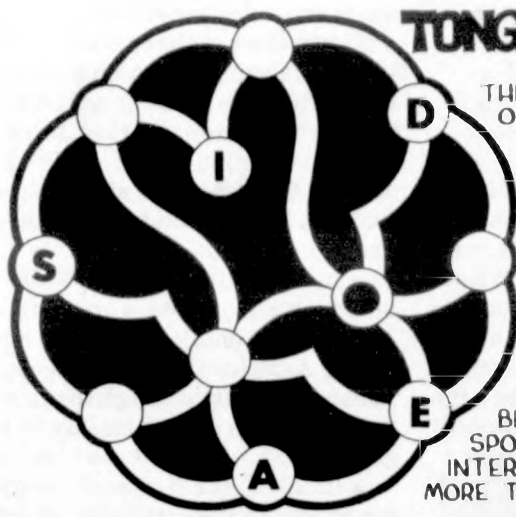


HOWEVER, ONLY THE
WORDS MARKED BY
ASTERISKS CAN BE
TRACED.
* IDEAS
* IT IS POSSIBLE TO
SPELL THESE WORDS



PUZZLES & POSERS

TONGUE TWISTER



THIS PUZZLE CONSISTS OF TWO SEPARATE CHALLENGES:

1. SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT WORDS YOU CAN UNSCRAMBLE WHICH CONTAIN ALL THE LETTERS AT LEFT.
2. SEE HOW MANY OF THESE WORDS YOU CAN TRACE WITH A CONTINUOUS LINE. EACH TRACING MUST BEGIN AT THE BLACK SPOT. NO PASSAGE OR INTERSECTION MAY BE USED MORE THAN ONCE PER WORD.

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

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

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

SOS effort

Continued from Page 3A

findings that COVID-19 was causing them to experience higher rates of preterm birth, preeclampsia and other health disparities.

"Post-COVID we said, 'Wait a second ... we need to leverage this in terms of helping our patients and working together, and we hadn't really done it in the past,'" said Dr. Gregory Goyert, who practices maternal and fetal medicine within the Henry Ford Health system.

Health care leaders including Goyert helped shepherd the group into the Synergy of Scholars for Maternal and Infant Health Equity in Michigan, or the SOS Maternity Network.

Led by Hassan, who is the wife of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, the network will continue its focused research efforts, and will develop and institutionalize best practices, especially in preventing preeclampsia and preterm birth.

"The issue is, especially for spontaneous preterm birth and preeclampsia, there are not great individual predictors for those complications," said Goyert. "This is not ZIP code-related. This could affect any patient anywhere." But Goyert says certain evidence-based interventions are proven to decrease the risk of those two medical issues, making them "high-yield areas for intervention."

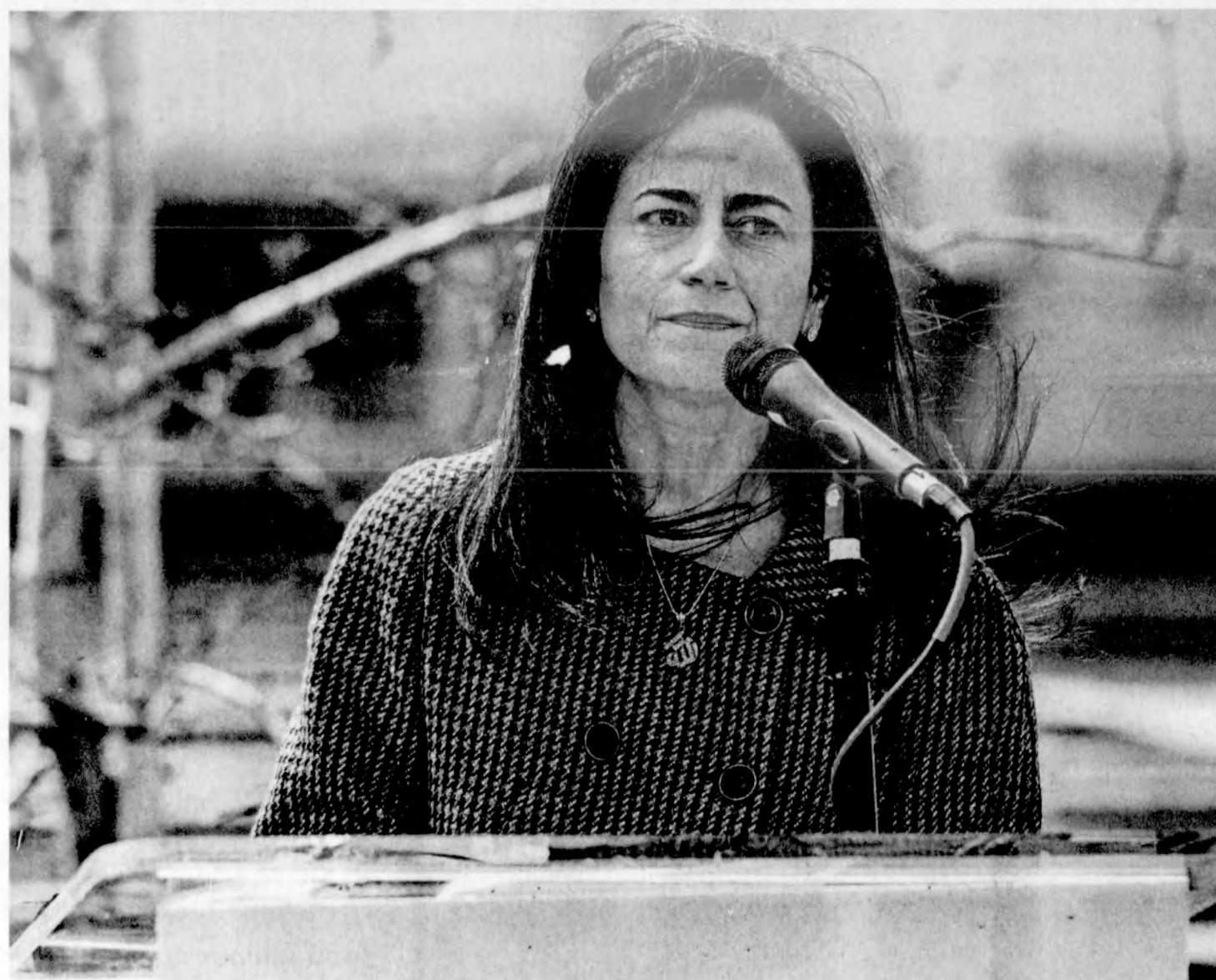
Providers who deliver "the most proven, effective care plans for reducing preterm birth and preeclampsia" could receive incentive payments.

Setting statewide goals, one patient at a time

Other focus areas will be on the social drivers of health, such as the lack of access to transportation and child care that lead some pregnant people to miss or skip prenatal visits.

To that end, the network will test how health systems can increase access to prenatal care by offering things like transportation and individualized patient navigators, and a system of incentives for mothers to have the healthiest possible pregnancies.

"The specifics of the interventions



Dr. Sonia Hassan is associate VP of Women's Health and founder of Wayne State University's Office of Women's Health. ANNIE BARKER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

really focus on and attack health care disparities, systemic racism, lack of access to care, because so many of our patients have significant issues with social drivers of health," Goyert said. "The specific details of the program are going to be to support those initiatives to try to overcome many of the challenges that our patients face."

The large network of health systems will enable movement on the statewide objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality in Michigan while building a body of research and best practices. But Goyert says by getting interventions in front of a huge number of

providers, the network will be helping individual patients one visit at a time. "We have macro goals," Goyert said, "and we make achievements with micro steps."

Which health systems are part of the network?

The SOS Maternity Network could expand to additional centers and locations. For now, the participating centers are:

- Wayne State University.
- Oakland University.
- Michigan State University.

- Western Michigan University.
- University of Michigan.
- Ascension St. John Hospital and Medical Center.
- Bronson Healthcare.
- Corewell Health (Beaumont).
- Corewell Health (Spectrum).
- Detroit Medical Center.
- Henry Ford Health.
- Hurley Hospital.
- Sparrow Medical Group.
- Trinity Health Ann Arbor.

Jennifer Brookland covers child welfare for the Detroit Free Press in partnership with Report for America. Reach her at jbrookland@freepress.com.

Family planning star-studded fundraiser

Jennifer Eberbach

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL TWP. — A famous master magician says he's looking forward to seeing what a Howell Township family has up their sleeve during a Sunday, Aug. 6, fundraiser on their farm.

Lance Burton has quite the history. He's the namesake of the Lance Burton



Burton

Theatre in Las Vegas, he once escaped from a speeding rollercoaster during one of his TV specials, and he's earned a reputation as one of the top magicians of all time.

After retiring in 2010 from Las Vegas shows, Burton said he enjoys being able to set his own schedule of performances when he's not back at his family farm in Kentucky.

"The timing worked out and it sounded like a good cause," Burton — who recently appeared as a judge on the CW Network's "Criss Angel's Magic with the Stars" — told The Daily on Monday when asked about his upcoming appearance in Howell.

The show will benefit The Earl Farm Foundation, created by local Brent Earl and his family to raise funds to purchase cows to process into ground beef, which is distributed to local food pantries and organizations.

For years, the family donated fresh ground beef on their own dime, at least one or two cows a year. But during the pandemic, Earl said, they took it a step further.

"It's progressively gotten bigger over the years," said Earl, who works in software sales in the dairy industry and serves as secretary on the Howell Public Schools Board of Education.

He said food pantries can experience "a huge deficit" in fresh beef, and knew his family could help.

About once a month, he said, he delivers hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds of ground beef to organizations like Bountiful Harvest, LACASA, Son-Rise Food Pantry, Family Impact Center, Active Faith, Torch 180, The Connection Youth Services and The Salvation Army. The foundation has donated more than



Brent Earl has booked famous master magician and TV personality Lance Burton to headline an Aug. 6 fundraiser that will help supply fresh ground beef to local food pantries. JENNIFER EBERBACH/LIVINGSTON DAILY

18,000 pounds to date.

'Magic on the Farm' will feature tricks, circus acts and more

Burton, other magicians, and The Detroit Circus Performers will appear at the family's "Magic on the Farm" event, which runs 5:30-10 p.m. Aug. 6 at 3025 Oak Grove Road. Tickets are available online at earlfarm.com — \$125 for general admission tickets, \$200 for premium tickets, and \$1,250 for two VIP tickets.

The family will host a children's show the day before, from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at \$20 per ticket. The event will feature comedy-variety performer Todd Charles, known as The Moogician.

"I've got a whole birdhouse of things to pull from," Burton said of his performance. "I've got more than 30 years of doing (Las Vegas) shows, different illusions, and a bunch of TV specials. Mainly, these days, what I do is my favorites. They'll be seeing me do things that are my greatest hits."

He likes all kinds of magic, he said, including slight of hand, stage illusions, and tricks with audience participation.

"The event is more than just my show," he said. "They'll have several stages and acts going on."

Burton will already be in Michigan for Abbott's Get Together, a convention for magicians held in Colon. He said he enjoys teaching and inspiring younger magicians and interacting with mystified guests at his shows.

"We'll probably do meet and greets after the show with anybody who wants to come by, talk to people and sign autographs," he said. "That's my favorite part, because I'm reconnecting with people who I haven't seen in decades and new people."

Other magicians performing include Keith West, an Iowa illusionist who's performed with Burton before, and Tim Wise, a mutual friend of Earl and Burton. A full list of acts has yet to be released.

At the fundraiser, Wise will host a

game show experience called "\$50,000: Keep It or Trade It," with a chance for participants to win \$50,000.

The Detroit Circus Performers are expected to perform with stunts, juggling, fire eating and aerial acrobatics.

Earl is also working on assembling an exhibit of "curiosities" in one of his barns.

Food will be provided by four trucks, including Fortune Cooking, owned by Chef Tom Lin, winner of a season four episode of Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen." He and his wife, Julie Hill-Lin, competed with friend Tiffany Webster on the seventh season of "The Great Food Truck Race," which aired in 2016.

Other food trucks include Saginaw's Makin' Bacon, Brighton's Captain's Wood Fired Pies and Fowlerville's Torch 180.

The event will also feature a balloon launch, beer and wine, and limited-edition prints of magic artwork signed by local artist Susan Pomerville.

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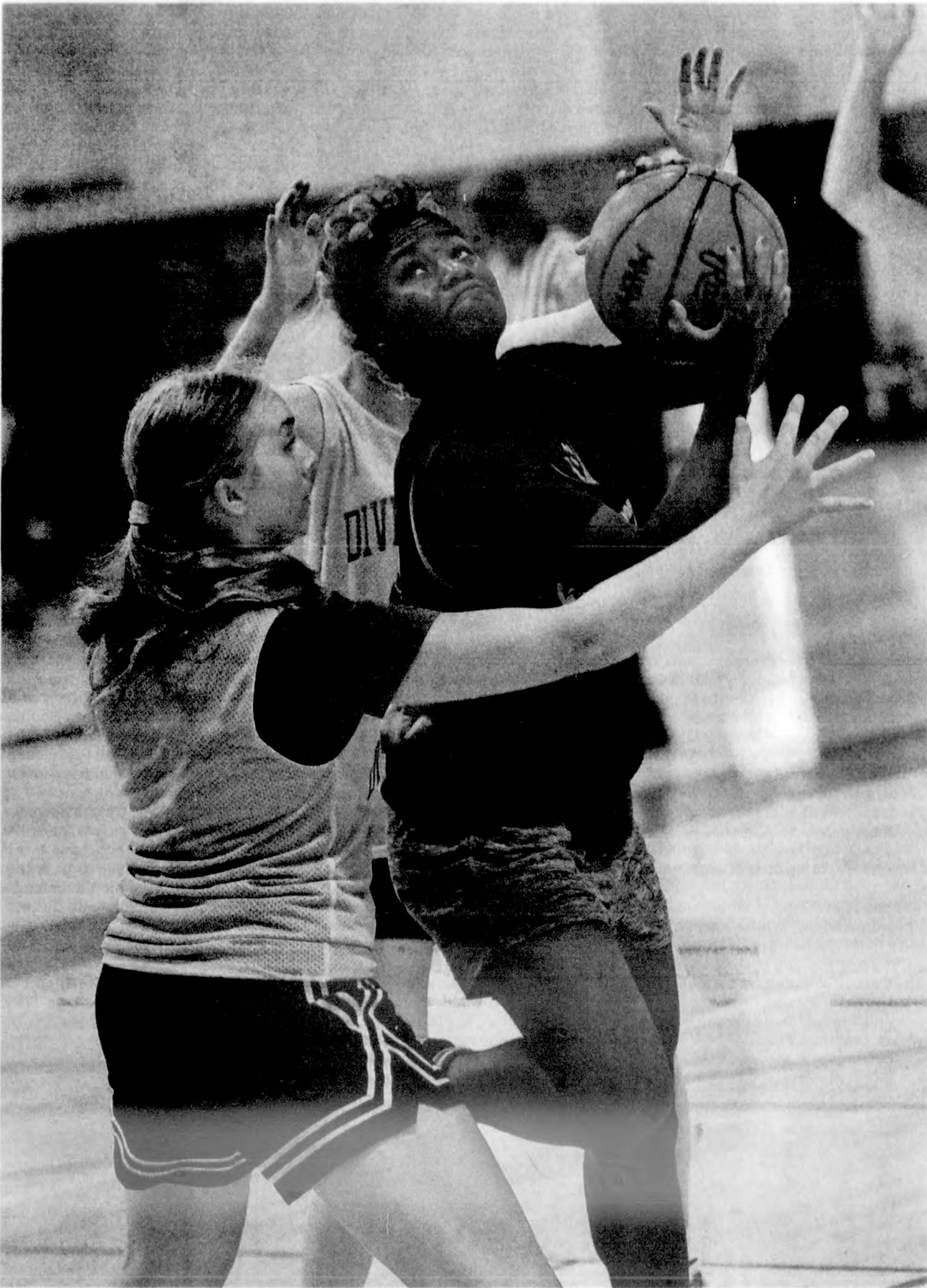
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SPORTS



South Lyon East's Nyla Lake shoots down low against Dearborn Divine Child during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at Canton. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

This sophomore should help South Lyon East 4-peat as LVC champions

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Evan Paputa was asked to describe the athleticism of Nyla Lake late in the second half of Wednesday night's Summer League Shootout game against Dearborn Divine Child.

The South Lyon East girls basketball assistant couldn't even finish his sentence before Lake nabbed a steal, took it the distance and finished at the rim for an easy two points.

"Well, there you go," Paputa said

while slapping his thigh in disbelief.

Everyone knows about Anna Lassar. The almost 6-foot small forward has been a stalwart for the Cougars over the past three seasons, and she's a big reason why they've won three straight Lakes Valley Conference championships.

East has had a track record of churning out top-tier talent, from Gabi Bird and Taylor Anderson, who both wound up at Central Michigan University, to a handful of girls who've gone to smaller schools to play. And judging by how recruiting is going for Lassar, the senior

should be the next big prospect for the Cougars. She recently received an offer from Detroit Mercy and her effort at Nike Nationals last week has other Division I schools interested in her, too.

But watch out for Lake. The sophomore might be the next in line to do great things at East.

Which is saying something because last year was a challenge for her. She got playing time during East's summer league games ahead of her freshman season, but she didn't actually make

See EAST, Page 6B

The 'most improved player in Michigan' plays for Brother Rice

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following the June 26 boys basketball games in the DC Elite Summer League, Brother Rice senior Warren Marshall said teammate Luke Salkowski is the most-improved player in Michigan.

Which may be true considering the 6-foot-7, 200-pound power forward just picked up an offer from Saginaw Valley State University last week despite being a role player for the Warriors a year ago.

But, frankly, Salkowski wasn't asked to do the heavy lifting in 2022-23. Brother Rice had one of the deepest rosters around, which included three of the top 10 players in the state in four-star recruit Curtis Williams (Louisville), three-star John Blackwell (Wisconsin) and forward Xavier Thomas (Toledo). Marshall, who has been recruited by mid-major Division I college teams since last winter, was also a pivotal player in the starting lineup. And had Henry Garrity, the son of former NBA player Pat Garrity, who signed with Notre Dame for football, not suffered a season-ending injury in the fall, he likely would've been a top-100 player, too.

While Salkowski had to earn the minutes he got, being around that group proved to be a boon for his confidence. That's encouraged him to put in

See MOST IMPROVED, Page 2B

Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows relay breaks Oakland County record

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Libby Gerzema, JJ Lukas, Amelia Price and Ainslie Carter hardly knew each other before they signed up to run for the Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows cross country team.

But their success competing on the middle school track and field team this past spring has them already talking about which high school they'll attend together.

That's a hat tip to how well they did in the 3,200-meter relay.

The foursome won the event with a time of 10 minutes, 37.45 seconds during the Catholic Youth Organization Championship on May 13, ensuring its team would finish as runner-ups in the league.

And about three weeks later, they did the unthinkable. Not only did they take first place during the Oakland County Championship on June 1 but

See RECORD, Page 6B



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Plymouth-Canton Little League pitcher throws no-hitter

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

That's not a train you hear coming. That's the Major Red Sox All-Stars' dugout celebrating another strikeout from pitcher Sheandy Payusan.

The 11-year-old threw a no-hitter during a Plymouth-Canton Little League game on June 27. He struck out 11 of the 14 batters he faced and walked three during the 11-1 win over the Major Brewers.

The Red Sox technically secured the 10-0 mercy-rule victory after he pitched four complete innings, but wound up playing a complete six-inning game per league rules. It still goes down in the book as a no-hitter.

"He is mentally and physically mature for his age and has played one year ahead on previous all-star teams," said coach Jay Buelow, who said Payusan has thrown pitches as fast as 65 mph. "He loves baseball and has often dreamed of making it to the Little League World Series. When he strikes

out a batter, the team references them as 'choo-choos,' like a train for the 'Sheandy Express.' "

So far this summer he's pitched 221/3 innings, giving up just nine hits and two earned runs. He carries a 0.62 ERA. He's struck out 68 batters, including catching 38 of them looking.

He also leads the league in batting with a .759 average and has 22 hits, five doubles, four triples, 22 RBIs, 10 walks and 19 runs scored.

His effort came in handy during the league playoffs, as the Red Sox defeated

the Van Buren Yankees 8-7 in the semifinals and the Westland Cardinals 8-7 in the championship game.

In the June 30 championship at Don Massey Field in Plymouth, the Cardinals led the Red Sox 7-1 entering the final inning but the Red Sox mustered seven runs to complete the comeback. That included Lance Buelow smacking a bases-loaded triple to make it 7-4 and Ethan Writebol hitting a two-run single to right-center for the walk-off run, which was scored by Mike Palmer.

Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

Clara Groen takes over as PCA loses 'Big 3' to graduation

Rachel Pierson
Special to Hometownlife.com

Expectations were already high for Clara Groen as a freshman a season ago.

With the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team recently graduating three of the top 10 players in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference, those expectations are only going to be higher.

Gone are seniors Morganne Houk, Hailey Maubetsh and Maddie Yeager. Those three, alongside Hometown Life 2021-22 Player of the Year Anna Fernandez, pushed the Eagles to a Division 4 state runner-up finish two years ago.

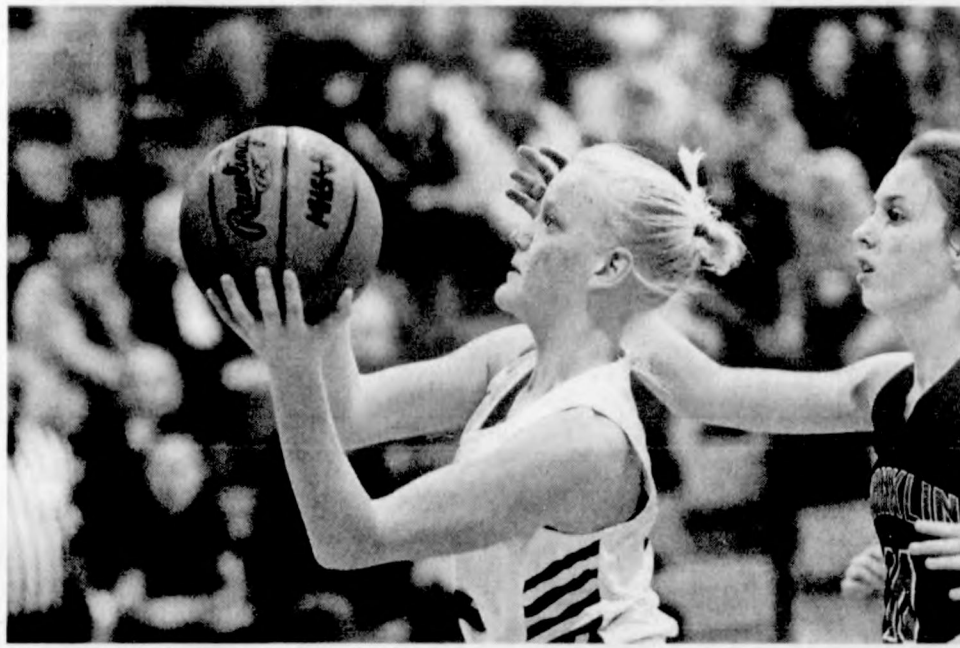
Houk and Maubetsh finished their careers as 1,000-point scorers. Replacing that kind of scoring production is going to be tough. But, honestly, it's the leadership from that "Big 3" the Eagles are going to miss the most.

That's where Groen comes in.

Longtime coach Rod Windle threw her to the wolves last winter. And she handled herself well in PCA's backcourt. As an underclassman, her athleticism helped the team night in and night out.

It's crazy to think about a sophomore leading a team, but she's going to be relied on to usher in the next generation of Eagles who will hopefully ensure the program remains a state powerhouse. That's especially so considering there will be no returning seniors this school year. Six of their expected returners were underclassmen last season.

"Clara was asked as a freshman to run point and do a lot of things for us," Windle said following Wednesday's Summer League Shootout games at



Plymouth Christian Academy's Clara Groen shoots during a non-conference girls basketball game against Livonia Franklin on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville. "She is really starting to read the floor, read the defense all the way in. She also is great at anticipating what is going to happen next. She does what a point guard is supposed to do and takes the weight of scoring on her own shoulders."

The good news?

This upcoming winter won't be Groen's first time being asked to carry a team.

She's actually a premier softball talent. It wouldn't be a surprise if she signs with a Division I softball program before she graduates from PCA.

As the starting pitcher this past spring, she threw 132 complete innings, was 17-7 overall, carried a 2.39 ERA, struck out 236 batters and walked only 43. In the batter's box, she hit .568, drove in 27 runs and totaled 46 hits, including smacking seven doubles and seven triples. She also scored 50 runs and stole 35 bases.

There's no wonder why she was named the MIAC-Red MVP and a first-team All-MIAC selection as a rookie.

The Eagles' softball team was in rough shape before she arrived. In fact, two years ago they were winless. If she

can help turn around that program, hopefully, she can keep the basketball team afloat, too.

The only thing standing in her way is her schedule. Between summer league basketball, travel softball and being a kid, it doesn't leave her much time to do anything else.

"I think my freshman year went really well, but the seniors were a huge part of the team," Groen said. "... It was a very busy schedule with going to school and practices. I almost have 1-2 practices every day, and it requires a lot of resting, recovering and icing. But my dad (Matt Groen) drives me all over, and I am really thankful for that."

Groen can't do it alone, however.

Aside from losing its Big 3, PCA also lost Grace Fernandes, Alivia Lavigne and Lyndsay Weber to graduation.

Rounding out the roster a year ago were freshmen Lexi Weber, Madison Hare, Abby Brumwell and Groen and sophomores Chloe Martin and Sophia Arlen-Olsen. A couple of them must step up and help Groen lead the team to wins. Some of them have already made an impact this summer.

"Sophia is stepping up into a new role this year as one of our guards, and she has been really blessed to have great kids around her to be able to pass the ball," Windle said. "We are the defending conference champions and despite the wave of seniors out the door, it is time for the underclassmen to step it up and defend their team."

Rachel Pierson is the summer sports department intern at Hometown Life. Follow her on Twitter at @rachelm_pierson.

Most improved

Continued from Page 1B

extra work this offseason. And he should be one of Brother Rice's go-to players for buckets down low this winter.

"I'm proud of Luke, and I'm enjoying every single second of playing with him," said Marshall, who was the No. 2 selection on Hometown Life's All-Area boys basketball team in the winter. "I think he's the most improved player in the state. He's been in the gym, and he's been working. Obviously, with AAU, his confidence has gone up. He's comfortable doing things he couldn't do last year. He's just comfortable being a senior and grabbing the boards when we need it. If we need a bucket down the stretch, we look at Luke like, 'Yeah, he's got this.'"

Salkowski admits he wasn't ready to play varsity basketball when he arrived at Brother Rice as a freshman. In fact, he said he belonged on the freshmen team back then. And he wasn't upset about being on the JV the following season either.

But once he started practicing with the varsity guys, that's when things changed for him. His teammates pushed him to get better.

"Playing JV and practicing with the varsity helped me develop," the senior said. "I'd miss a ton of wide-open layups. So being down there gave me extra time to develop. I just kept on working and good stuff came from that. Obviously, I'm going to have a bigger role this year, and I feel like I can display a lot more of what I can now do."

"So all the hard work has paid off. I've been working with my coaches on finishing (near the rim). But a lot of it is mental. I'm more aggressive and confident when I go out there. Just having my coaches and teammates believing in me and telling me to go out there and do everything I can do has been great."

Salkowski should have plenty of help, so getting points down low shouldn't be an issue.

Aside from Marshall and Salkowski returning, Brother Rice also has back junior forward Jeremiah Caffey, who



Brother Rice's Luke Salkowski attempts a layup during a DC Elite Summer League boys basketball game against Detroit Edison on Monday, June 26, 2023, at Birmingham Groves.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

should play a bigger role.

But two of the transfers the Warriors are welcoming in could make them one of the best teams in the state.

Former Okemos forward Trevor Smith, who holds an offer from Central Michigan University, has transferred to Brother Rice as has Elijah Williams, the son of new Detroit Pistons coach Monty Williams. Elijah Williams played for Scottsdale Christian Academy last winter and has offers from Arizona, Missouri, Notre Dame and Washington.

Both Smith and Elijah Williams are only sophomores.

Who do you make a priority to defend? Marshall, one of the state's best seniors? Williams, a 6-foot-6 small forward? Or Smith and Salkowski, who



Salkowski dribbles past a screen.

both should be a nightmare to keep off the boards?

"Having two bigs, it'll make a difference for our team," Marshall said. "Luke's huge, so teams have to focus on him, too, so it won't just be me, and we'll have Trevor Smith, too. I think the biggest thing is Luke isn't selfish. He's one of the best passers. On offense, he can score and create for others, plus he's tough on defense, too."

Salkowski also holds offers from Albion College and Denison University (Ohio). Once the season starts, he'll likely receive more college interest from bigger schools. His game has plenty of upside. He's only scratching the surface of how good he can be as a dominant big man. He's an unfinished project, but

plenty of D-II programs need post players like him. He could be a diamond in the rough with the right coaching at the next level.

For now, though, his mind isn't on recruiting. It's on helping Brother Rice rebound from last season's early exit in the postseason and getting the Warriors to the Breslin Center.

"Our main goal is to win a state championship," Salkowski said. "We obviously lost a lot of talent, but I'm confident enough in the guys we're bringing back and the ones coming in that we can run it back and do big things."

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

How too much screen time is good for Canton senior Bradley Eziuka

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's summer vacation so screen time is expected to be high for most high schoolers.

But Bradley Eziuka isn't binging YouTube, Instagram or TikTok.

The 6-foot-4 Canton combo guard has been studying film. A whole lot of it, too.

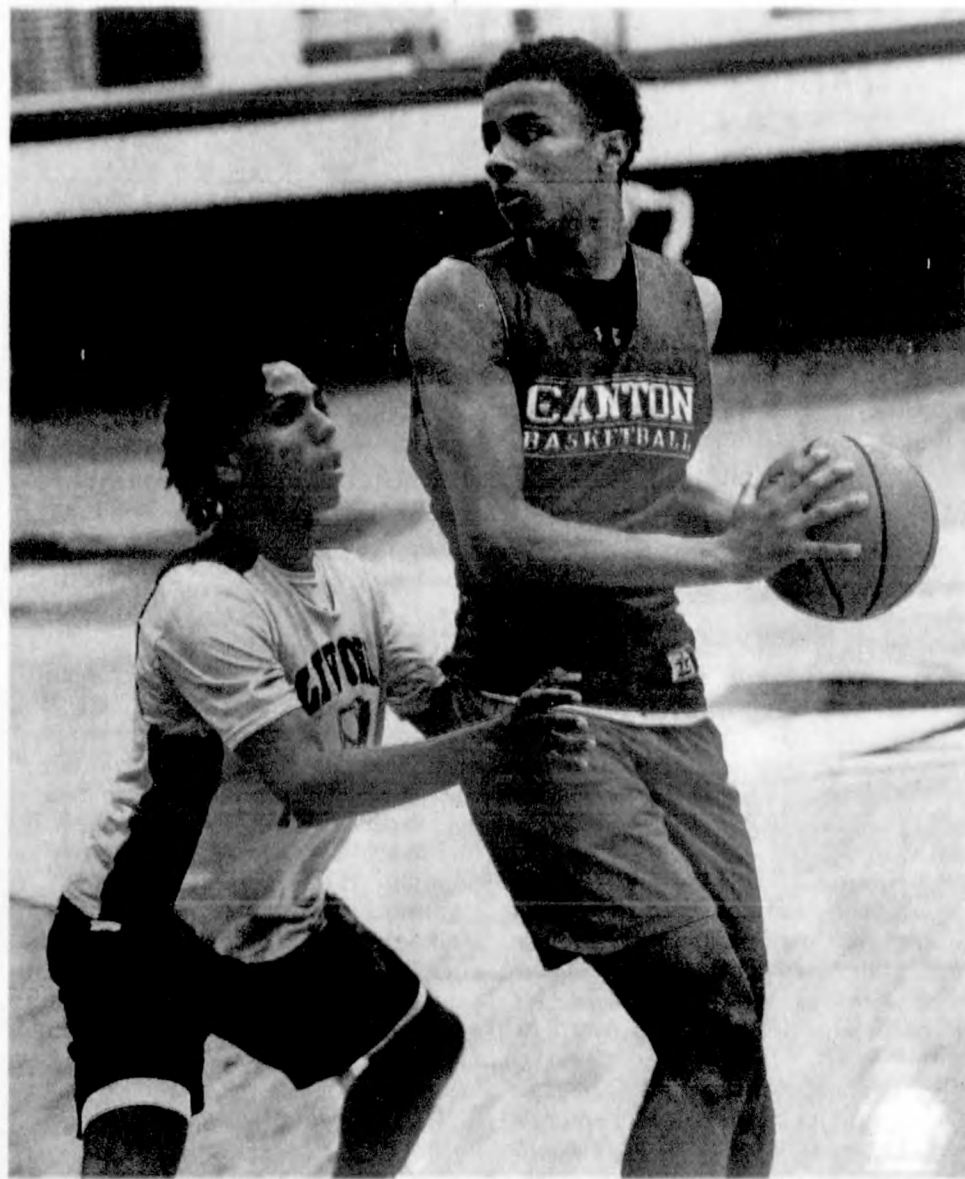
"I've gone back to last year and watched a lot of the games over and over again," the senior told Hometown Life following a Livonia Franklin Shootout boys basketball game last month. "Just breaking down things I might have struggled with and seeing what things I'm strong with. I'll break down things as simple as a small move and ask myself, 'What was the footwork there? Where were his eyes when he made the move? What was the pivot?'"

"It's the little things I study to help my game improve. I just love basketball. I love studying the game. I just love learning more and more, and I like seeing the development in my game, and I feel like that comes from studying the game."

Those extra study sessions should benefit the Chiefs, who were 16-8 overall a year ago, as they prepare for this winter because Eziuka is expected to take on a much larger role.

Not that he wasn't integral in helping Canton win the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship last year. His lockdown defense and ball-handling were definitely imperative to its success. That's one of the reasons he was a second-team selection on Hometown Life's All-Area team.

But Canton graduated, arguably, the best player in the league in Omar Suleiman, a 6-5 small forward signed with Lake Superior State University, as well as 6-7 center Dante Favor, a Siena Heights University signee. That's a lot of production the Chiefs are losing, and Eziuka will be asked to shoulder some of the load that those two left behind.



Canton's Bradley Eziuka looks to pass during a Livonia Franklin Shootout boys basketball game Tuesday, June 27, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"Absolutely, the expectations are much higher for him," coach Jimmy Reddy said. "He's going to have a lot more on his shoulders, and there's going to be a lot more pressure on him, and I expect him to deal with it well."

Reddy doesn't doubt Eziuka is prepared for the promotion because this is the senior's third year on varsity. It's not

just his film studying that makes him a better player. He puts that kind of effort into the other parts of his game, too.

Even with Suleiman and Favor lost to graduation, Eziuka should have plenty of help around him. The Chiefs return nine players, including three-star football prospect Caleb Williams and future Division I football talent Devon Pettus.

Plus, role player Teddy Winstel has made strides as a ballhandler, shooter and vocal presence on the floor. He'll be even more important to the team.

Losing two college players would cripple most programs, but Canton should still be a favorite to repeat as KLAAs champions with Eziuka leading the way.

"I think he was the best perimeter defender in our league last year," Reddy added. "So I expect him to be a great two-way player for us this year. He's going to have to do it at both ends. He's one of the highest IQ players we've ever coached. He knows the game really, really well. We just need him to be more vocal and have more of a voice for our team."

Canton's biggest challenge will be finding the role players who will fill in around its core group. There's no question Eziuka will be the No. 1 bullet point on most scouting reports each night. Williams should continue to be the team's best ballhandler, and Pettus should remain a strong presence in the post. Winstel could be one of the most-improved players in the league.

But can Eziuka handle having a target on his back?

"Being the veteran guy, people have more eyes on you," the senior said. "People study you more. I've been studying the game and seeing what parts of my game I can improve. I can still be a threat on offense but also if that's not an option, I can create for my teammates because winning is the ultimate goal. Whatever I can do to help my team win, I'm going to do it. If that means getting an assist for my teammate or grabbing an offensive rebound, I'll do it. If it doesn't mean scoring, I'm willing to do it."

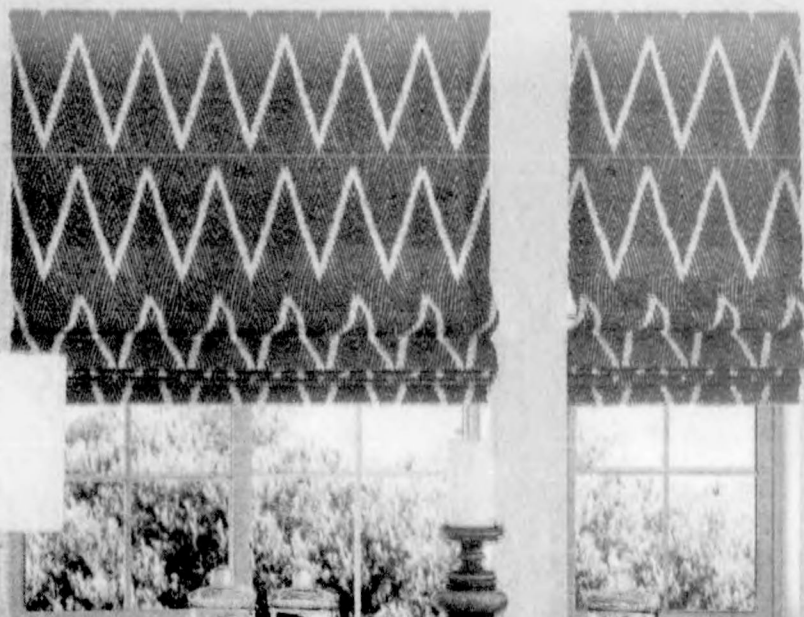
If you see Eziuka's eyes glued to his phone, don't chastise him. That's not the latest TikTok challenge he's watching, that's film from a past KLAAs game he's studying.

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



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This 'dynamic duo' should make the Marlins a CHSL-Central contender

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The cupboard isn't bare for Aizlyn Albanese.

Sure, the Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team has lost a lot.

Starters Maya White (Grand Valley State University), Lauren Smiley and Fran DeNardo have graduated as have Lillian DeJong and Caroline Butcher. And Alison Smiley has elected to pour her effort into her budding lacrosse career, so the junior won't be back as one of the Marlins' rotational guards.

But the attrition isn't as bad as it looks on paper for Albanese, one of the Catholic League-Central's top wings, who carried Mercy offensively night in and night out as a sophomore last winter.

Yeah, losing a post player with NFL bloodlines and college basketball size such as White will make it tougher for Albanese to continue being an elite scoring threat. But with the way Emily Walker has been improving this off-season, Albanese might be in store for an even better winter.

Walker was one of the most reliable role players coach Gary Morris had last season. Whether she was contributing big minutes or just checking in to give players such as Lauren Smiley or DeNardo a breather, it didn't matter, she just showed up and worked. She was always good for a few hustle plays or a momentum-shifting 3-pointer.

And who knows? Had a sprained right ankle not kept her out of five games, she might've been an even bigger contributor for the 22-4 Marlins, who lost to Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard in the Catholic League tournament championship and to Detroit Renaissance in the Division 1 regional final.

It's clear Walker is no longer a young role player. The junior should be one of the Marlins' top returners, one who should help them compete for another CHSL title and keep Albanese atop the stat sheet each night.



Above at left, Farmington Hills Mercy's Aizlyn Albanese, and above at right, Emily Walker, dribble during a Summer League Shootout game vs. Dearborn on Thursday, June 22 at Novi Fieldhouse. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I'm so excited," Walker told Hometown Life following the June 22 Summer League Shootout games at Novi Fieldhouse. "I've been getting better at all aspects of the game like dribbling, shooting, passing, all of it, and making sure everyone's involved. I'm just really excited because I feel me and Aizlyn play really well together. I think we bring up the younger girls, and we are good leaders. It's going to be fun."

Walker will be dynamic for the Marlins in that she can play both guard spots and on the wing. And should returning post players Owynn Evans or Ava Lorraine ever get into foul trouble or become injured, Walker can slide into the paint and defend any forward or center.

But the best attribute she's shown so far this summer has been her chemistry with Albanese. The two look like they've been playing together their whole lives. Yeah, they were teammates a year ago, but Walker wasn't asked to find Albanese with open passes each trip down the floor. That was the job of Lauren Smiley and DeNardo.

But now Walker is doing that. The give-and-goes. The screens. The outlet passes on the fastbreaks. The two just appear to be on the same wavelength right now. Which is saying something because the girls basketball season ended only three months ago.

But that can be explained, too. Walk-



er has actually joined forces with Albanese on the Michigan Storm this summer. What limited time together they've had on the travel circuit is already paying off.

"Not that Maya could ever be replaced, but now I have Emily, so I'm able to score using her," said Albanese, who was a first-teamer on Hometown Life's All-Area team this past school year. "I'm able to get her shots and get her the ball, too, so I think me and her will be able to dominate the league. ... With Emily, I just know where she is on the floor. I'm looking for her, she's looking for me. The chemistry we have is crazy. Freshman year and last year, there wasn't any chemistry. Now it's like we're a dynamic duo on the court. You can't stop us because it's so good."

This is a pivotal season for Albanese, as junior year is when colleges can officially start recruiting players. She's already heard from Eastern Michigan University, Northern Kentucky and Saginaw Valley State University. There's no doubt the 5-foot-10 wing will be a Division I talent. Heck, she'll likely be a Michigan Miss Basketball candidate come her senior year.

And all of that will be well-earned. The CHSL is one of the most challenging leagues in the state. FGR has one of the deepest rosters and is a favorite to compete for a state championship. Butler University commit Mackenzie Swanson

is still at Bloomfield Hills Marian. Yeah, Michigan State freshman Kennedy Blair finally graduated from Dearborn Divine Child, but the Central is welcoming the Toledo schools into the conference this winter.

Albanese recognizes there will be no easy nights, but she accepts that challenge. And her coach is excited to see just how much further she can grow as a player now that she's one year older.

"She continues to add to her game, which is good," Morris said. "We do know that she's going to be the focal point of every team we play at this point. That's why it's imperative that some of these other kids like Emily step up and provide offense for us, too. Otherwise, we're going to see every gimmick there is (to try and stop Albanese) when we play people."

Who will round out the roster is yet to be determined. Right now, the Marlins have a swath of underclassmen they've been giving experience to during summer league and at team camps. Guard Jessica Heath and forward Abby Bores were freshmen JV players who took advantage of the fifth-quarter rule a year ago, so they have a strong chance of making the varsity come tryouts. And it won't be a surprise if a handful of their incoming freshmen make the team.

There's no doubt about it, though: Mercy lost plenty of experience thanks to graduation. But it still should be a contender in the league, especially with how well Albanese and Walker play together.

"They've done a really good job of being leaders and really leading this relatively inexperienced group," Morris added. "They've been showing them how we play and how we do things. I've been very pleased with those two. I like what I've seen so far. We've got good energy. The kids are coming along and working hard. We have a lot of kids who are young, but they play a lot of basketball. They're out there playing club and travel. (Now we need to) get them adjusted to playing at a varsity pace."

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USA TODAY | To the point

Record

Continued from Page 1B

they broke the record for the fastest time in the event in the county's history. They shaved off just over 25 seconds from their CYO Championship time, finishing in 10 minutes, 11.93 seconds.

"These girls have a special bond," coach Adam Specht said. "They really didn't know each other before they began running both track and field and cross country together. I'm lucky to coach both teams and have watched their friendship develop through their common love of running. They are known to have sleepovers and develop playlists to listen to during our long runs and practices."

The previous record of 10:16.57 was set by a relay from Clarkston in 2015.

"They have learned that talent means very little without hard work and dedication," Specht added. "We have fun and joke around at practice but also take the workouts seriously. We are always positive, welcoming of all and push each other to be our best."

Three of them — Gerzema, Price and Carter — helped Our Lady of Sorrows win the league title a season ago as sixth-graders. Lukas just wrapped up her first year in middle school.

Their coach is excited to see how much they'll improve by next spring.

"Watching them break an 8-year-old record was an extremely proud and exhilarating moment," Specht said. "They are a truly special group of young athletes. They have also done a great job of setting baseline expectations for 2024."

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



The 3,200-meter relay team from Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows recently broke the country record in the event. Pictured are Libby Gerzema, Ainslie Carter, JJ Lukas and Amelia Price. COURTESY PHOTOS



Libby Gerzema, JJ Lukas, Amelia Price and Ainslie Carter.



South Lyon East's Brooke Moyer passes against Dearborn Divine Child during a Summer League Shootout girls basketball game Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at Canton. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

East

Continued from Page 1B

the varsity. Though, she didn't spend the entire winter on JV. She got to dress with the varsity and take advantage of the fifth-quarter rule at times.

That experience proved to be just the shot in the arm she needed to gain confidence and get motivated.

"Oh, it was an awesome experience," Lake said. "I was hoping to be on varsity, but it didn't work out. Being on varsity for a little bit and playing with them gave me a little experience for this year, and it was pretty great. My confidence after going to those camps every single day and working with my coaches — and doing AAU with Paputa's team — has just made my confidence go higher. When they tell me to do stuff, like shooting, they're there to tell me it's OK if I miss, and that's how my confidence has gone up."

Yeah, Lassar is back for her last hurrah with the Cougars. She'd like to graduate going 4 of 4 winning league titles, but it's not going to be that easy considering they just lost eight seniors to graduation.

The makeup of the team is a lot different. And a lot younger. But with players such as Lake, East is also a lot faster.

Coach Rob Leadley has always wanted to be a team that can consistently run the floor. He might have that kind of up-tempo squad entering the 2023-24 season.

"She's fast, and she's got some skills," Leadley said of Lake's knack for leading fastbreaks. "We're just working on her confidence, and that's the biggest thing. Last year at this time, we were trying to get her to not dribble the ball with her right hand the entire time. Now she's finishing fastbreak layups with her left.

... I think she creates a lot of problems for other teams through her quickness and speed. There are a lot of things I think we can do with her."

Despite being a sophomore on the shorter side, Lake isn't afraid to stick her nose into a jam and arm-wrestle the ball free. She's not afraid to attack the basket and get thrown onto the hardwood when her layups are contested. She is a strong, heads-up defender always looking for a loose ball.

She's developing her mid- and long-range jumper and she's put an emphasis on becoming a consistent dribbler and finisher at the rim with her left hand. She doesn't want to rely only on her dominant right hand.

Despite losing key contributors such as Alyssa Melquist, Sophia Propps, Kate Mazur and Alyssa Matta to graduation, East still has plenty of talent coming back. It's not just Lassar. Megan Fannon and Brooke Moyer, anyone? And, yeah, Lake hasn't even made it out of tryouts yet, but she could prove to be the sparkplug who keeps the Cougars' tempo high, whether that's on defense, offense or in transition.

"It's awesome, and I love playing with Nyla," Lassar said. "Every time I get the ball, I look for Nyla down the court. If I'm not the first person down the court, Nyla is, and I always look for her."

On Wednesday night, Lake made three straight steals that turned into fastbreak attempts halfway through the first half against Divine Child. The Falcons quickly called time out to put a stop to it, which saw Paputa leap from his seat on the bench and race out to halfcourt to give Lake a high five.

It's hard to believe this time last year she had no idea what she was doing on the court because it now seems she's going to have plenty to say about what happens out there this winter.

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South Lyon East's Anna Lassar drives to the hoop against Dearborn Divine Child.

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How entrepreneurs can approach funding their businesses

Successful entrepreneurs often say that few, if any, professional endeavors are as rewarding as starting a business and ultimately seeing it become profitable. The journey from start-up to profitable business is long, and it starts even before many companies open their doors.

Funding is a significant factor when starting a new business. In fact, the U.S. Small Business Administration notes that choices regarding how to fund a business are among the most important decisions business owners make. Funding a start-up can seem like a daunting task, but the SBA offers the following tips to help entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground.

- Determine your needs. Entrepreneurs should not begin to seek funding until they've first determined just how much money they will need. These costs will be different for every business, and calculating them requires a detailed analysis of your start-up expenses (i.e., office space, insurance, equipment, licenses and permits, etc.).

- Determine your own contributions. Start-ups will not necessarily



require outside funding. Many entrepreneurs dip into their personal funds to help get their businesses up and running. This, too, requires careful consideration, especially for entrepreneurs who already have significant financial obligations, such as a family, a mortgage or even another business. The SBA notes that self-funding entrepreneurs may use money from their savings and even retirement accounts, though some may be unwilling to do so. While self-funding entrepreneurs

take on all the risk, this approach affords them the chance to maintain complete control over the business. Deciding if reducing risk or maintaining complete control is more important is part of determining if the business will be self-funded.

- Consider raising funds through venture capital firms. The SBA notes that venture capital firms typically focus on high-growth companies, so this might not even be a consid-

eration for entrepreneurs starting small businesses that they hope to keep small. If venture capital is an option, entrepreneurs must recognize that venture capital is not a loan, but rather money offered in exchange for an ownership stake in the company. That stake comes with decision-making rights, which means entrepreneurs will not have full control or ownership of the company.

- Seek a small business loan. Unlike venture capital, small business loans are primarily designed for entrepreneurs who do not expect their businesses to become high-growth companies, at least not anytime in the near future. Banks and credit unions issue small business loans, but entrepreneurs who want to secure them must provide detailed business plans, expense sheets and financial projections for the years ahead. The more detailed these plans are, the more entrepreneurs will know what to ask for and the more likely the lender is to approve a loan.

Entrepreneurs can raise funding in various ways. Choosing the best option requires careful consideration of a host of factors.

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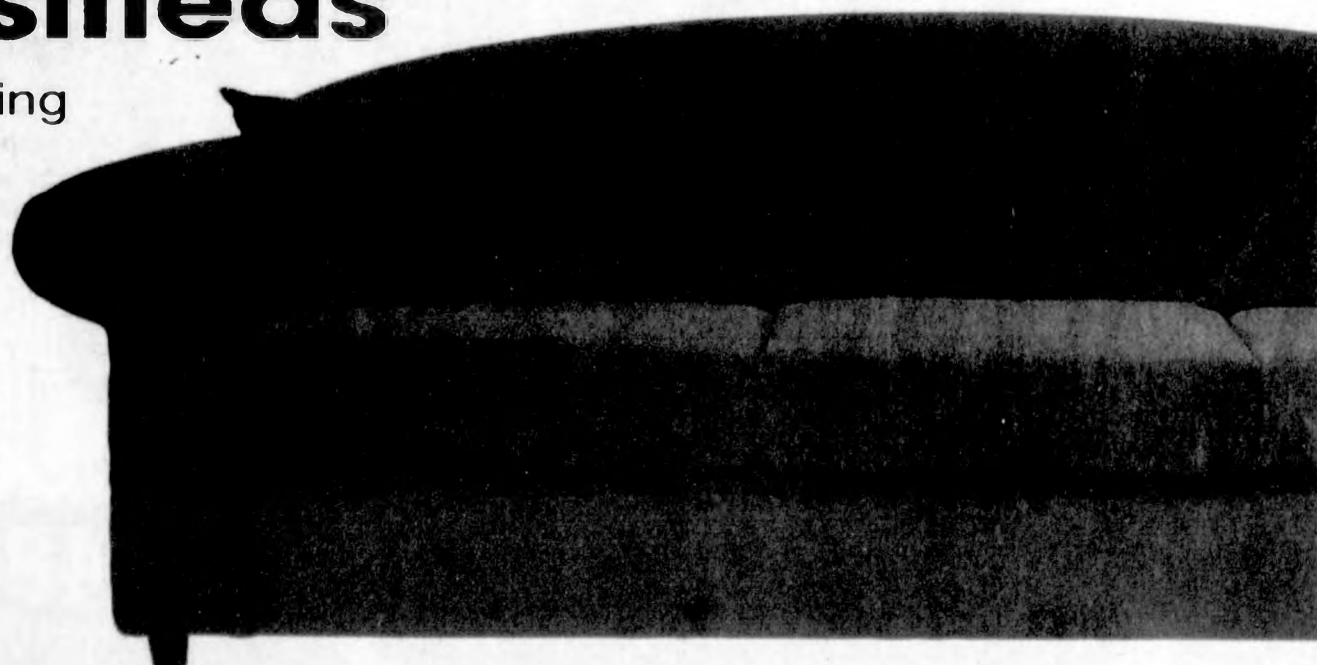
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