

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Livonia police find Milwaukee murder suspect

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Livonia Police officer was cruising for suspicious activity when he recently approached a parked, occupied vehicle outside a local hotel.

Unbeknownst to him, the driver was a wanted Milwaukee murder suspect and the sawed-off, semi-automatic rifle found later near the hotel was his murder weapon.

Dariaz Higgins, 24, is accused of dumping his 2-year-old daughter's body along a rural Minnesota highway before driving across four states and returning to Milwaukee, where he was arrested on March 13.

"This incident is one demonstration of how our officers never know who



tionary mode.

(and) what they may encounter," Chief Curtis Caid wrote on Facebook Thursday. "A simple traffic stop or, in this case, an inquiry into suspicious behavior, our officers are always in a reac-

"We are very fortunate that this en-

counter turned out as it did. Our sympathies to the families that suffered the loss in Milwaukee.

"Please keep our officers in your thoughts and prayers."

Caid said in his Facebook post that the Livonia police officer was alert for suspicious activity earlier this month

See SUSPECT, Page 6A



Eight facts about the founding of Farmington

Pamela A. Zinkosky Special to Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

March is Farmington's founding month.

Before 1824, the densely-forested area had been inhabited by Native Americans, who carved trails through the terrain, giving them names like Shiawassee, Orchard Lake and Grand River.

Once the land was surveyed, the government began selling it for \$1.25 per acre.

Sandbox employee Tamara Cooley helps Cortez McNeal adjust a pair of virtual reality goggles during his March 18 visit. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Virtual reality arcade now open in Westland

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The world can be your playground if you head to a storefront in the West Ridge shopping center in Westland. Young and old, able-bodied or in a wheelchair, anyone can battle zombies in the Arizona desert, swim in the ocean or even walk off a board on a building 80 stories up.

That's the idea behind The Sandbox Virtual Reality Arcade, which opened earlier this month across from the Westland Shopping Center.

The process of bringing the arcade, which uses HTC Vive virtual reality headsets to immerse players into an alternate world, to Westland happened when an investor visited the arcade opened by Jeremy Bigelow in Flint Township.

See VR ARCADE, Page 7A



Timothy Miket plays a virtual-reality shooting game March 18 at Westland's Sandbox. His point of view is displayed on the monitor above his head. That's when Arthur Power of Farmington, New York, twice-widowed and the father of 13 (some sources say 11 but there is mention of two more daughters born of his second wife in New York), saw an opportunity.

Here are some interesting facts about Power's journey to and settlement of Farmington, Michigan:

■ 1. Power traveled by sleigh, not wagon. An 1877 book, "History of Oakland County, Michigan," describes Power's travel via a "sleigh drawn by a pair of good horses."

Since he left in late winter, a sleigh might have been the easiest means of traversing the ice- and snow-covered trails.

■ 2. Power had traveled to the area before. In 1823, Power traveled to the area and apparently camped near a spring at present-day Orchard Lake and Ten Mile roads.

It was then that he purchased a good tract of land. According to "Oakland County Book of History," his land extended from the present Eleven Mile and Power roads to Nine Mile Road, or what was then known as Sections 22, 27 and 28.

■ 3. The journey took a little over a month. The travelers, which included Power, his sons Jared and John, and hired hands David Smith and David Rush, left Power's New York house-hold in the able hands of daughter Mary and son Nathan, on Feb. 1, 1824.

The journey took them through Windsor into Detroit and later to Royal Oak and Hamilton, or present-day Birmingham, and then down to what is now Power south of Eleven Mile Road.

■ 4. They arrived on March 8 near sundown, felled the first tree, likely slept in their sleigh, and got to work

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# **Expert: Lights at psychiatric hospital are not paranormal**

#### Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

A closer look at video from a night at the Eloise Psychiatric Hospital in Westland suggests the orange and white lights first thought to be evidence of paranormal activity can be explained by science, one of the ghost hunters who made the recording acknowledged.

Moreover, some people wonder if it is more constructive to consider the building's historical significance rather than its standing among some supernatural believers as one of the most haunted places in America.

The "light anomalies" that the ghost hunters found, including an orange orb

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Two weekends ago, Adkins and his band of ghost hunters revisited the Eloise to examine the basement of a building that had been closed off for decades because it was flooded.

"For any group in our line of work, it's their responsibility to rule out rational explanations if they are available," he said in a later interview.

In this case, he said, further investigation revealed the bright lights that appear in the lower right-hand corner of the monitor weren't in the original video and therefore are a reflection of another light, rather than a supernatural phenomenon.

But, Adkins added, what he felt was definitely eerie, and he continues to be-

lieve in ghosts.

Another email to the Free Press, this one from book author and journalist Steve Luxenberg, questioned the notion that the Eloise was haunted and offered another perspective.

"It's unnerving to see such a piece, and not for the reasons that Detroit Paranormal would suggest," the Detroit native wrote. "Eloise's long history as a psychiatric hospital deserves attention and respect. Thousands of patients went through those doors, many of whom never left."

One of Luxenberg's books, "Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into a Family Secret," is a true account about an aunt he never knew because she was sent to Eloise in her 20s.

The book title refers to a metaphorical ghost.

In his email, Luxenberg said Eloise hospital "allows us to study and better understand the arc and evolution of mental health treatment for 150 years," but "a company with a commercial stake, pushing the notion of paranormal activity," would not be his choice to do that.

"If ghosts exist, why do they so often seem to inhabit the basements and attics of psychiatric institutions?" he rhetorically asked. "Why not the corridors of prisons? Or the places were people were sold into slavery? Or the halls of Congress, for that matter?"

Luxenberg added he delved into the Eloise's history for years and spent many hours over several days there.

"I saw no ghosts, no suspicious phenomena. I heard no spooky noises," he wrote. "But I came face to face with extraordinary and important history, I interviewed some people who worked there, and listened to their touching and often poignant stories."



Infrared cameras captured video in the abandoned Eloise Psychiatric Hospital. COURTESY OF DETROIT PARANORMAL EXPEDITIONS









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## **Farmington Musicale announces scholarship winners**

The Farmington Musicale's annual Musical Excellence Competition is done, and the community group made sure local musicians were the big winner.

The group awarded \$1,950 to the students.

The Awards for Musical Excellence Competition is open to music students in grades 7-12.

Eligible students are those who attend Farmington public or private schools, are children of a Farmington Musicale member or whose primary residence is in Farmington or Farmington Hills, though they attend school elsewhere.

Students are divided by grade and instrument.

The winners:

Owen Dorweiler, 7th-8th grade piano, Spiritus Sanctus Academy, 1st place

Adithya Vijayan, 9th-10th grade piano, North Farmington High School, 2nd place

Anushka Jain, 11th-12th grade piano, Harrison High, 1st place

Anna de Four, 7th-8th grade instrumental, St. Fabian, 1st place

Maya Rai, 9th-10th grade instrumental, North Farmington, 1st place

Caleb LaBelle, 9th-10th grade instrumental, Farmington High, 2nd place

Keshav Sriram, 9th-10th grade instrumental, International Academy



The Farmington Musicale's annual Musical Excellence Competition winners received \$1,950 to the students. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON MUSICALE

West, Honorable Mention

 Susie Lee, 11th-12th grade instrumental, North Farmington, 1st place
 Druva Krishnaswami, 11th-12th

grade instrumental, Farmington High

Kylie Kreucher, Vocal, Mercy High, 1st place Megan Cromwell, Vocal Music, Farmington High, Honorable Mention

Antione McCoy, Vocal Music, Farmington High, Honorable Mention

## **Better Made chips being recalled**

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Better Made Snack Foods has issued a recall on 10-ounce packages because of an undeclared allergen.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Better Made has voluntarily issued the recall because the 10ounce packages may contain undeclared milk. The concern is that those who have "severe sensitivity to milk run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products."

The chips were distributed nation-

wide at stores and through mail order. The chips have a use date of Aug. 10, 2019, a UPC code of 041633063048 and these lot numbers:

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So far, the company says, no illnesses have been reported.

It's believed about 660 bags of 10ounce Original Potato chips may be affected. The recall was issued because a package of the Original instead contained Cheddar and Sour Cream Potato Chips, which contain milk.

Return affected products to the place of purchase for a refund.

## Livonia Speedway robbery suspect heads to circuit court

Ragland

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Sean Ragland, a Highland Park man accused of robbing a Livonia Speedway, has waived his right to a preliminary examination.

The matter now goes to Circuit Court.

Ragland, 26, waived his preliminary exam March 21 in Livonia's 16th District Court.

He is accused of armed robbery. The charge stems from a Valentine's Day robbery at the Speedway, 31374 Schoolcraft, where he once worked.

Police have said Ragland entered the store in the early morning hours with his face shielded by

a bandanna and robbed the store with a gun.

He was arrested the following day.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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## Livonia man finds vehicle missing its tires

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Livonia man woke up March 16 to find his 2019 Mercedes-Benz missing its four tires, along with its 18-inch, fourspoke rims.

Police said in a report the Plymouth Woods Apartments resident doesn't know who to suspect.

The 48-year-old man returned home around 8 p.m. the night before and parked his vehicle in the northwest area of the complex.

He went outside around 11:30 a.m. the following morning and found the tires gone.

He had not heard or seen any suspicious activity..

When police responded to his call, they discovered the vehicle up on two tan landscaping bricks.

The lugnuts were near each wheel well.

Police also have been investigating the theft of tires earlier this month from a Dollar Tree parking lot, 38000 Ann Arbor Road.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2470

Contact Susan Vela at svela@ hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

## **Oakland County reports** eight cases of measles

Ann Zaniewski Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

The measles outbreak in Oakland County has grown to 18 confirmed cases, health officials said Monday night.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Oakland County Health Division are urging people to get vaccinated and have scheduled special vaccine clinics this week at a synagogue in Oak Park.

The outbreak that began earlier this month is linked to an ill traveler from Israel who visited Oakland County from March 6-13.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes. A few days after symptoms begin, tiny white spots appear in the mouth followed by a blotchy red body rash.

The highly contagious disease is spreading nationwide. From the beginning of the year through March 21, there have been 314 confirmed cases of mea-

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sles in 15 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Locally, health officials said 970 people received vaccines March 22 through March 24.

Vaccinations will be available 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Young Israel of Oak Park, 15140 W. 10 Mile Road. People can also get them through the Health Division's offices in Pontiac and Southfield.

People who haven't been vaccinated should get vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure. Officials said people who don't have documentation of two measles (MMR) vaccines from a doctor or Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), or those who don't know whether they've been vaccinated, should contact their healthcare providers or visit a vaccine clinic.

The state and county health agencies released an updated list Monday of where people might have been exposed to the disease. The full list of exposure locations can be found on the Oakland County Health Division's website, www.oakgov.com/health.

## **Dealing with child ID** theft a huge burden



There's no question that if you are a parent to a minor child, in today's world you have your hands full. Not only are there the traditional parent responsibilities, but because of technology, you have additional issues that parents didn't face in the past.

Last year, more than a million children were victims of identity theft and, in fact, Experian, one of the credit reporting agencies, has said that children's identity theft will affect 25% of all kids before they turn 18.

When a child's identity is stolen, the challenge to correct the problem is substantial. In fact, in many cases, it is much more difficult to resolve than when an adult has their identity stolen. As a result, as parents in today's world, you now have an additional burden to protect your child's identity.

There are a number of reasons why identity thieves target children. First, if nothing more, it may take years, or even a decade, to discover the crime. Your child may not discover that their identity was stolen until they apply for a job, financial assistance or a credit card. In addition, because children's credit reports are clean, it is easier for the thieves to do more, because let's face reality, most adult's credit reports are not clean. Adults may have issues, such as late payments or defaults, where children would not.

Once a cyber thief gets your child's social security number, they have free reign. They can open charge cards, apply for government benefits, get a driver's license and even file a tax return seeking a refund using your child's social security number. We all know that there is nothing that you can do that would 100 percent protect your or your children's identity from crooks. However, you can put up some speed bumps that will make it more difficult.

One of the most important things you can do to protect your child's identity is to protect their social security number.

Many organizations and companies ask for social security numbers, but they don't actually need it. Therefore, before you give out a child's social security number, you should inquire as to why they need it and if there are alternatives. In many situations, you can use an alternative number as opposed to a social security number or even just provide them the last four numbers.

I would also tell you that in many situations, as opposed to providing your child's social security number, you may have to walk away from that company. Particularly, if that company requires you to provide a social security number, but they cannot satisfy you as to what steps they take to protect it.

If your child is receiving numerous credit card offers, calls from collection agencies or bills coming in your child's name; it may be a sign that someone has stolen your child's identity. In those situations, contact the three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, to see if your child has a credit file. If your child does have a credit report, you want to work with the credit reporting bureaus to clean it up and then to freeze their credit. FYI, if your child does not have a credit report, then that actually is good news, because having one may indicate problems.

It probably is a good idea for parents to check their child's credit report right before they turn sixteen. The reason is quite simple, and that is if you find that they do have a credit report that contains errors, you have time to correct it before your child begins applying for credit or when they apply for a job.

It is unfortunate that children are targets for identity theft; however, it is what it is. Therefore, it is important as parents to recognize this and take steps to protect your child. The sooner you begin taking action, the better protected your child will be.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.





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DOWN

#### Wayne seeks to ban recreational weed shops

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne city council began the process of banning recreational marijuana facilities during its March 20 meeting, with several council members echoing what other area communities have said: there's still too much ambiguity surrounding the law legalizing recreational marijuana.

"We, being the city administration, have looked at whether we should opt in or opt out of recreational marijuana," said Lori Gouin, the city's community development director. "There's just a lot of things the administration thought were unclear at this point on a state level with recreational marijuana."

The council did the first reading of an ordinance banning facilities from selling recreational marijuana at its meeting, with all council members voting to move it forward. The ordinance, once enacted, would prevent businesses from selling recreational marijuana in the city. It would have no effect on the current medical marijuana facilities that operate in Wayne, nor would it prevent residents from possessing the legal amount allowed under the law approved by voters in November. The ordinance would take effect once a second reading takes place at a future meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Porter said he wanted to put

the moratorium on establishments before they would be allowed under state law.

This is about our city, not whether I care if you drink too much alcohol, do marijuana or just max out on french fries every day," he said. "But I do represent the residents of our city, and will make my decision based on what I feel is best for our city in totality."

If approved, Wayne will join most other communities across the area in banning such establishments from opening. Other communities that have taken that step include Livonia, Novi, Plymouth Township and Birmingham. Farmington Hills is also expected to ban such establishments from opening as well.

Like those other communities, Wayne residents overwhelmingly voted to approval Proposal 1 in November, with 4,109 "yes" votes and 2,150 "no" votes.

That point was brought up by Charles Murphy, an attorney who represents provisioning center Wayne PRV. He said there are some parts of the law that do allow cities to manage such facilities that sell marijuana, including in issues surrounding zoning.

"There are various zoning provisions in the state statute that basically provide for spacing requirements to schools and other types of spacing requirements which the city has the authority under the statute to modify and make them shorter, but not necessarily more extensive," he said.



Continued from Page 1A

Suspect

when he approached the vehicle.

A female identified by Milwaukee authorities as Deloise Lipsey quickly exited. Higgins, the driver, seemed nervous and soon put the car in gear and sped away.

Livonia officers recovered the rifle a short distance away.

An off-duty Livonia officer saw a news report the next day regarding Higgins being wanted for the murder of a Noelani Robinson, 2, in Milwaukee.

The officer noted that the suspect matched the description of the individual that fled the parking lot.

Working together, Livonia and Milwaukee authorities learned the man drove back to Milwaukee. where he was arrested.

Higgins confirmed he encountered the Livonia officer and that the rifle, identified as the murder weapon, was along his leg when he sat in his car.

He told Milwaukee authorities he thought about shooting the Livonia officer.

Higgins has been charged with first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree recklessly endangering safety.

He is linked to his child's death by blunt force trauma.

He also is accused of fatally shooting her mother. Sierra Robinson and seriously wounding a 28-year-

felon since she never contacted police when there was reason to believe Higgins had killed Sierra Rob-

or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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## Performances worth seeing this weekend

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

This is a great weekend to become a theater fan.

With the weather not being warm enough to actually feel like spring these days, it's still a safe bet to have some fun indoors.

That fun can be had at several theatrical performances in the Hometown Life area this weekend.

Here are three shows taking the stage this weekend worth checking out:

#### 'Clue the Musical' in Livonia

Whodunit? Was it Mrs. White in the library with the wrench? Perhaps Colonel Mustard in the hall with the revolver? There's only one way to find out: head to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at 27475 Five Mile in Livonia.

Livonia Community Theatre will bring the board game to life with "Clue the Musical" this weekend. The show, which features the characters from the classic board game, allows the audience to select the killer of Mr. Boddy, providing for a different show with every performance.

The eight-person cast features talent from several area communities, including Livonia, Redford, Wayne and Novi.

The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. March 29 and 30 and April 6, and at 2 p.m. April 7. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students 18 and younger.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or at livoniacommunitytheatre.org.

#### 'Popcorn Falls' in Northville

Can a theatrical performance save a town from becoming a waste management site? We'll find out this weekend.

"Popcorn Falls" opens tonight at the Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady in Northville.

The show features the residents of Popcorn Falls, known as kernels, as they work to put on a theatrical performance to try and save their town. Billed as a



"Clue the Musical" opens this weekend at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia. COURTESY OF LIVONIA COMMUNITY THEATRE

show that features 15 characters with two actors in one town, "Popcorn Falls" is described as a "high-stakes rollercoaster of a performance."

The show runs Thursdays through Sundays each weekend through May 5. Tickets start at \$31 and can be purchased at tippingpointtheatre.com.

#### 'Annie Jr.' in Farmington Hills

Everyone knows it can be a "Hard-Knock Life." Head to Farmington Hills to see it performed live.

The Farmington Hills Youth Theatre will perform "Annie Jr." this weekend at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile. The show will open at 7 p.m. today and Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday and at 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday at the Costick Center.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Costick Center, by calling 248-473-1848 or online at recreg.fhgov.com.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



Find the car shopping advice you need –

The Sandbox has several 10-by-10-foot walled-off areas for visitors so they have room to move about in their virtual reality worlds. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

#### **VR** arcade

Continued from Page 1A

Bigelow then began searching for a spot and preparing to open the arcade in Metro Detroit.

"We sat down, crunched some numbers and I put together a business plan," Bigelow said.

Today, customers can stop in and experience the world of virtual reality, one of the first such businesses to open in the region.

One of those customers was Timothy Miket of Detroit, who came with Cortez McNeal on a recent Monday afternoon. Miket said he hadn't used a virtual reality system before and said he felt like he was standing atop a building 80 stories up when doing the experience.

"It felt real," he said. "I knew the ground was there, but in my mind, it still felt like I was going to fall."

The business launched a few years back when Bigelow was trying to find a way to connect with his teenage son. They then decided virtual reality was the way to go, and opened the first arcade back in 2017.

"I'm looking for stuff for him and I to do together and I thought of renting out some virtual reality would be pretty cool," he said. The arcade has 10 active 8-by-10 stations for use right now, with 11 more stations in the works. More than 30 games and experiences are available to select.

"These are games in development, so they are updating all the time," Bigelow said.

Patrons pay by the amount of time they use the system, from \$14.95 for 15 minutes up to \$99.95 for four hours of play. Discounts are available for party specials, including those looking to rent the entire arcade out for special events. Memberships are also available, which provide additional discounts. Discounts are also offered to active and retired military, law enforcement and firefighters.

The arcade is open from noon to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. While walk-ins are available, Bigelow recommends those interested in playing on the weekend to pre-register for a slot.

With patrons ranging in ages from 4-89, Bigelow said it's been a positive experience since opening in Westland.

"Most everyone leaves happy," he said. "It's rare that we have anyone upset."

More information on the arcade can be found at thesandboxvra.com.

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

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Arthur Power died in 1836. His wife, Deborah Aldrich, who died in New York before Power came to Michigan, is also buried in Farmington's Quaker Cemetery. PHOTOS BY PAMELA A. ZINKOSKY

## Farmington

#### Continued from Page 1A

clearing the land and building a log cabin "by the bank of a small run" the next day.

The settlers planted nine acres of wheat and six acres of corn that first season.

■ 5. Farmington might have been called "Quakertown," "Powerville" or perhaps even "Webbville." Power's arrival was shortly followed by a host of "friends," or fellow Quakers, from New York.

These included Ezekiel Webb, the area's first doctor and postmaster; George and Cynthia Collins, parents to the first white settler born here; and many more, not to mention Power's sons and daughters.

The developing area was often called "Quakertown" or "Powerville," but Power and Webb both agreed to name it "Farmington" after their New York hometown.

■ 6. Nathan got the first cleared land. Power had always intended to give the first settled land to his son Nathan, who stayed in New York to mind the farm.



Nathan Power, Arthur Power's son, came to Farmington in 1826 and was the town's first schoolmaster. He is buried in Farmington's Quaker Cemetery. COURTESY OF THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

That 160-acre tract of land with a log house (a second one, slightly larger than the first) became Nathan's, and other acreage went to other sons and daugh-. ters who eventually came to Farmington. Nathan arrived in 1826.

Power settled closer to what would become the village. Power built his dwelling the same year he arrived, but he gave his son plenty of elbow room, settling closer to the creek, near today's Shiawassee and Farmington roads.

He later built another log house, which was destroyed by fire in 1851. He and Dr. Webb had adjoining 80-acre parcels of land that met at today's Orchard Street and Farmington Road and extended north through what is today Twin Valley subdivision.

**7.** Not everyone in the Power party stayed. Daniel Rush, from the original party of settlers, got homesick for New York and returned just a few weeks after his arrival. David Smith, however, finished out a year of service to Power and settled in Farmington.

■ 8. A settler's life was no bed of roses. Beyond the difficulties that daily pioneer and farming life brought — for example, how utterly cold it must have been clearing the land in early March —

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This historic marker, on Power Road just north of Alameda, reveals the approximate location of Arthur Power's first settlement in Farmington.

there were plenty of heartbreaks.

The settlers' first birth, that of John Collins, was close in time to the first death, that of Patience Utley, who died after falling from a wagon. She is buried in the Utley Cemetery.

John Power, who traveled with the original Power party, died just four years

after his arrival, and Power's other son Jared died at just 35 years old.

Disease took plenty as well. The first burials in the Quaker Cemetery, on today's Gill Road, were Nathan Power's wife Selinda and daughter Phebe Menerva, who died within hours of each other after contracting cholera.



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#### DIVING

## South Lyon native wins national title with MIT

#### **Andrew Vailliencourt**

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was a big weekend for South Lyon native Jay Lang.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) freshman won an individual national title in the 3-meter board at the Division III Swimming and Diving National Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.

He is the first diver in MIT history to win an individual national championship and third student-athlete overall to win a title with MIT.

Lang beat Dylan Glumac-Berberich of Wisconsin-Eau Claire by 1.1 points to take the crown with a total score of 552.65. As a team, MIT finished sixth overall nationally.

Lang went to South Lyon schools through middle school before graduating from Early College Alliance High School at Eastern Michigan University. He is studying aerospace engineering and physics at MIT.

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



South Lyon native and MIT freshman Jay Lang won an individual national title in the 3-meter board at the Division III Swimming and Diving National Championships. COURTESY OF MIT ATHLETICS

#### PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL





Wayne Memorial's Jordan Wright makes a layup against Saginaw Heritage during the MHSAA Division 1 semifinal at Van Noord Arena in Grand Rapids on March 22. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# Wayne Memorial girls fall in state semifinals

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It wasn't the way Wayne Memorial wanted to go out.

One year after falling in the state semifinals, the Zebras did it again, this time losing a heart-breaker Friday afternoon to Saginaw Heritage 58-55 at Calvin College's Van Noord Arena in Grand Rapids.

Saginaw Heritage (25-2) would go on to beat Southfield A&T in the championship game Saturday, winning its second straight state title.

A second-half comeback put Wayne in a position to come away victorious, but Saginaw Heritage answered the bell, doing just enough to win. "Wayne is really good, they're so athletic and physical but I felt like we didn't really play well," Saginaw Heritage coach Vonnie DeLong said. "In the fourth quarter we picked it up again and made a push, and I think that was due to our experience."

The Zebras end the season 24-3. Here are three takeaways from the game:

#### Strickland-Gills takes over early

It was an ugly first quarter for Wayne, which ended with the Zebras losing by eight.

The main reason Wayne fell behind early was Saginaw Heritage's Shine Strickland-Gills, who torched the

See SEMIFINALS, Page 2B



#### **GYMNASTICS**

# Northville gymnast wins state title on bars

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

State gymnastic championships were held earlier this month in Grand Rapids, and Northville teen Sophia Reddy won the level nine championship on bars.

The 14-year-old eighth grader from Hillside Middle School is a member of the EuroStars Gymnastics Club and JO competitive team.

She scored a 9.375 on bars, and had a 36.3 all-around score to take second place in the all-around competition. Her high score and placement means she will travel to Battle Creek as part of the Michigan team that will compete against five other states at regionals.

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Northville gymnast Sophia Reddy, 14, is the level nine state champion on bars. She scored a 9.375 on bars and 36.3 all-around. COURTESY OF JIM REDDY

## PREP BOYS HOCKEY Hartland's Larson named Mr. Hockey

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

There are plenty of talented high school hockey players in Michigan, but Joey Larson checked off the most important box.

He was a winner.

The senior forward from Hartland became only the third Livingston County player to be named Mr. Hockey on Sunday, joining forwards Zach Hitch (2006) and Jake Crespi (2017) of Brighton.

The Michigan High School Hockey Coaches' Association chooses Mr. Hockey from among the six Dream Team members and announced the award at its all-state banquet. Brighton defenseman Tim Erkkila was among the players under consideration. Detroit Country Day goalie Sam Evola was Mr. Hockey as a junior last year, didn't make the Dream Team.

"It was awesome," Larson said. "It was really cool. I wasn't expecting it, but I knew I had a good chance. When they



Hartland senior forward Joey Larson is only the third Livingston County player to be named Mr. Hockey, joining forwards Zach Hitch (2006) and **Jake Crespi** (2017) of Brighton. GILLIS BENEDICT/ LIVINGSTON DAILY

#### **PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**



Mick McCabe Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

## Edison's Jackson cements her legacy

GRAND RAPIDS – March is the month of madness. It is also the month of pressure.

Highly ranked teams that are expected to do well in the state tournament can often be smothered by the pressure of expectations.

That also translates to the players. Take the player who receives the Miss Basketball award on Monday and then has to play in a quarterfinal game the next day.

Even tougher, the Miss Basketball winner is awarded the trophy again in a ceremony between the third and fourth quarters of the Division 3 state championship game and 20 minutes later returns to the court and tries to win the Division 2 state championship.

That can overwhelm any high school senior, but Detroit Edison's Rickea Jackson learned how to use that pressure to her benefit.

"It made me feel like I had to win a championship even more," Jackson said. "It's like why not finish your season with Miss Basketball and a third state championship? If we didn't get it I would have been very hurtful."

It would have been devastating to the 6-foot-3 senior who won state championships in Division 3 as a sophomore and junior.

Not winning another title could have put a damper on her Miss Basketball award.

This season Edison opted to play in Division 2, which should have been more difficult.

Pile on the Miss Basketball ceremony at Calvin College, and it could have been a ready-made excuse had Jackson not lived up to the billing as the best player in the state.

"Winning that award definitely made me way more confident," she said. "Just knowing that I can go out there and play my game and there was nothing more that I could do to prove

## Semifinals

#### Continued from Page 1B

Zebras inside for 13 first-half points. She also grabbed nine first-half rebounds.

The Central Michigan commit did have three first-half fouls, which forced her out of the game for a chunk of the second half. She finished with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

"She's a strong physical presence down low," Wayne Memorial coach Jarvis Mitchell said. "If you don't put a body on her, she's going to get the rebound. I thought the second-chance points killed us in the beginning. I don't think we were locked in."

With Strickland-Gills out of the game, Saginaw turned to Michigan State commit Moira Joiner, who stepped up with a triple-double. She scored 14 points, had 10 assists and 10 rebounds.

"She plays every position on the floor, she guards other team's best players, she gets rebounds, she gets assists," De-Long said. "She's not flashy, but she's extremely good and is very talented and has a high basketball IQ, it enables her to do all the things she does."

#### Terry puts Zebras on her back

Star senior Jeanae Terry carried the load offensively for Wayne. The Illinois commit scored 26 points, had six steals, five rebounds and three assists.

While she was the team's scoring leader all season, she hadn't taken over as much offensively during the tournament run. With teammates struggling and likely feeling the need to do more in such a big game — she commanded the ball like you'd expect from a senior leader.

"I believed in my teammates so much throughout the season, especially this game, that I didn't feel a lot of pressure," Terry said. "I just knew (the offense) had to come through me first."

Senior Sammiyah Hoskin added 14 points and seven rebounds for Wayne. No other player reached doublefigures.

#### **Comeback not enough**

Despite trailing by as many as 13, Wayne stormed back to take the lead 45-43 in the fourth quarter.

The turning point came early in the fourth quarter. Saginaw freshman Lauren Gunn made a three-pointer to put the Hawks up by six, but Terry put a nice move on Gunn at the other end to make a triple of her own. The Zebras then forced a 10-second violation, and senior Jayah Hicks made a three to tie it up. A Hoskin layup gave Wayne its first lead since the first quarter.

"All game long we were trying to get to that point," Mitchell said. "It's no secret that our calling card is pressure, that's how we like to play, we're an uptempo basketball team. We had spots, and normally we take a full plunge, but we were playing against a very experienced team, a championship caliber team.

"If you don't capitalize when you have your chance, it's going to be a long night. I was thinking that's where we'd get over the hump, but they answered the call."

The Hawks would not stay behind for long, however. With the game tight until the final buzzer, free-throw shooting became extremely important. Led by Joiner, the Hawks went 10-12 from the line to secure the win. They stopped Terry on the other end, who tired to drive in close to the basket on several of the final possessions, but came up empty.

"We didn't come here to go home without a trophy," DeLong said. "Our first goal was definitely to get to tomorrow, and we're playing for keeps."

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Wayne Memorial's Jeanae Terry, right, makes a jump shot against Saginaw Heritage's Moira Joiner during the first half. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

3L

### Miss Basketball

#### Continued from Page 2B

anything to anyone, just go out there and play my game."

Her game was magnificent. The Mississippi State signee scored 28 points and sparked Edison to an easy 77-58 victory over Freeland.

Freeland coach Tom Zolinski needed only one word to describe Jackson and the way she dominated the game.

"Amazing," he said. "I mean, she really is. We would make a little run and she'd come back and hit a quick shot, either a mid-range shot or even a 3. She's tough."

After scoring five points in the first quarter in which Edison led 15-7, Jackson began the second period by scoring on an alley-oop pass. She then stole the ball and converted a three-point play and followed with another jump shot for a 16-point lead 40 seconds into the quarter.

That flurry seemed to suck the drama out of this game, but Freeland kept hanging around, hitting 3-point shots here and there to stay relatively close.

With 4:50 remaining in the fourth quarter, Edison's lead was 14 when Jackson hit a jump shot. Following a Freeland bucket, Jackson nailed a 3-pointer and later added a pair of free throws to seal the lead.

Jackson brought a lot more than her scoring, rebounding and passing to the Edison program. It began with her leadership.

"Just the competitiveness she has, just pushing in practice, always getting everyone going," Edison coach Monique Brown said. "She's always pushing and pushing and talking and creating practice wars in practice.

"That makes games look a little easy for us because we've been working so hard in practice."

Practice is where Edison became three-time state champ. It is where the wars are waged so the Pioneers could turn the state tournament into its playground.

Edison's only regular season loss was to Columbus (Ohio) Africentric and it outscored its eight tournament opponents 613-253, which averages

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Rickea Jackson from Detroit Edison was named the 2019 Miss Basketball on March 18. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

out to 77-32.

Through those practices, Jackson became a player no team could stop.

"We're going against these major D-I prospects every day in practice and they're pushing me and not letting up on me," she said. "It definitely takes pressure off me in the game because I do it every day in practice."

Jackson is not the only Division I recruit on this team, but she is the only senior.

That does not bode well for the rest of the Division 2 teams in the state.

Don't expect Edison to become just another program once Jackson graduates.

"Many, many years, more state

championships," Jackson said when asked what is in store for her school. "It just doesn't run on me, it was a team effort. There are other great teammates and great shooters, scorers, rebounders that are still here so I think it can go a long time."

But it won't be the same Edison, without Jackson, who can lay claim to being the best player in state history.

"This is bittersweet," she said. "I'm going to definitely, definitely miss high school. I believe my teammates and I have left a huge legacy.

"They're letting me go off to college with three championships and I can't do anything but thank them for that."



Jackson gets a kiss and hug from her mother, Caryn, after the Pioneers defeated Freeland on March 23. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS





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Hartland's Joey Larson received the Mr. Hockey trophy Sunday. SUBMITTED

#### **Mr. Hockey**

Continued from Page 2B

called my name, it was special, for sure."

Larson was a driving force behind two state Division 2 championship teams at Hartland, winning as a junior and a senior. Of the 28 Mr. Hockey winners, 18 came from state championship teams and three others were past state champs.

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Larson had 30 goals and 27 assists in 31 games. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

During Hartland two state championship runs, Larson scored at least one goal in 10 of 12 playoff games.

"At the start of this year, I set a few goals," Larson said. "One, obviously, was to win a state championship, but to make the Dream Team, then to win Mr. Hockey. I knew if we won a state championship, I would have a good chance. That was my main focus, obviously - team first. Winning this kind of topped it off."

The top coaches in the state got to watch Larson, not only at USA Hockey Arena for three final fours, but throughout the regular season.

"High school hockey has turned around in the past couple of years," Larson said. "It's been getting better every year and continues to get better. Playing in front of all those coaches definitely helped; they saw what I could do.'

Larson's 30 goals and 27 assists in 31 games made him Hartland's leading scorer. During his three-year career, he racked up 75 goals and 64 assists in 91 games.

He has signed a tender with the Chilliwack Chiefs of the British Columbia Hockey League. A Chilliwack alumnus is Detroit Red Wings defenseman Dennis Cholowski, the team's first-round pick in 2016.

"I'm really excited to get going with them," Larson said. "They're a great team and great organization. The amount of players they produce to the next level kind of speaks for itself on how good a program they are."

Hartland has had a player in the running for Mr. Hockey the last four years, with Luke Cowan (2016), Josh Albring (2017) and Jake Behnke (2018) making the Dream Team.

"No other Hartland player has ever won Mr. Hockey, so that pretty much puts him now as the most decorated Hartland player we've had," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "So, it's pretty special. It couldn't happen to a better person, let alone hockey player. I'm just really proud of Joey and everything he's been able to accomplish. His future is extremely bright.

"You look forward to seeing him continue to grow in the game."

Among the past winners are New Jersey Devils defenseman Andy Greene (2000, Trenton) and Detroit Red Wings forward Justin Abdelkader (2004, Muskegon Mona Shores).



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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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