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CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Jones sentenced to probation

Patricia Alvord Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

State Rep. Jewell Jones was sentenced March 18 to two years probation under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act after previously pleading guilty to a variety of alcohol, weapons and other charges stemming from a 2021 traffic stop in Livingston County.

Livingston County Circuit Court Chief Judge Michael Hatty said Jones, a Democrat from Inkster, did not deserve to spend more time in jail for his behavior during a chain of events that included a traffic stop on Interstate-96, bond violations and an attempt to escape from the county jail in September 2021. "What's really at play here is, you violated a number of laws, admitted to

those things and you're on the path to being a good citizen. That's all I ask," Hatty said. "That's all I want for you to continue while you are on probation. I put a pretty large number of conditions on your release after I reinstated your bond after 60 days. I think that you honored those orders of the court."

See SENTENCED, Page 4A



State Rep. Jewell Jones talks to his attorney, Byron Nolen, on March 17. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Canton marijuana grow house can't be shut down

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Neighbors in a Canton Township subdivision are furious that owners of a home they strongly suspect is serving as a marijuana grow house are being allowed to carry on despite repeated complaints to local law enforcement.

Similar scenarios in neighborhoods across Michigan could be heating up now that Michigan's ban on marijuana has gone up in smoke in recent years.

Canton Township Chief of Police Chad Baugh said he understands the residents' concerns, but now that recreational marijuana is legal in Michigan, including growing marijuana plants, law enforcement is limited in what it can do.

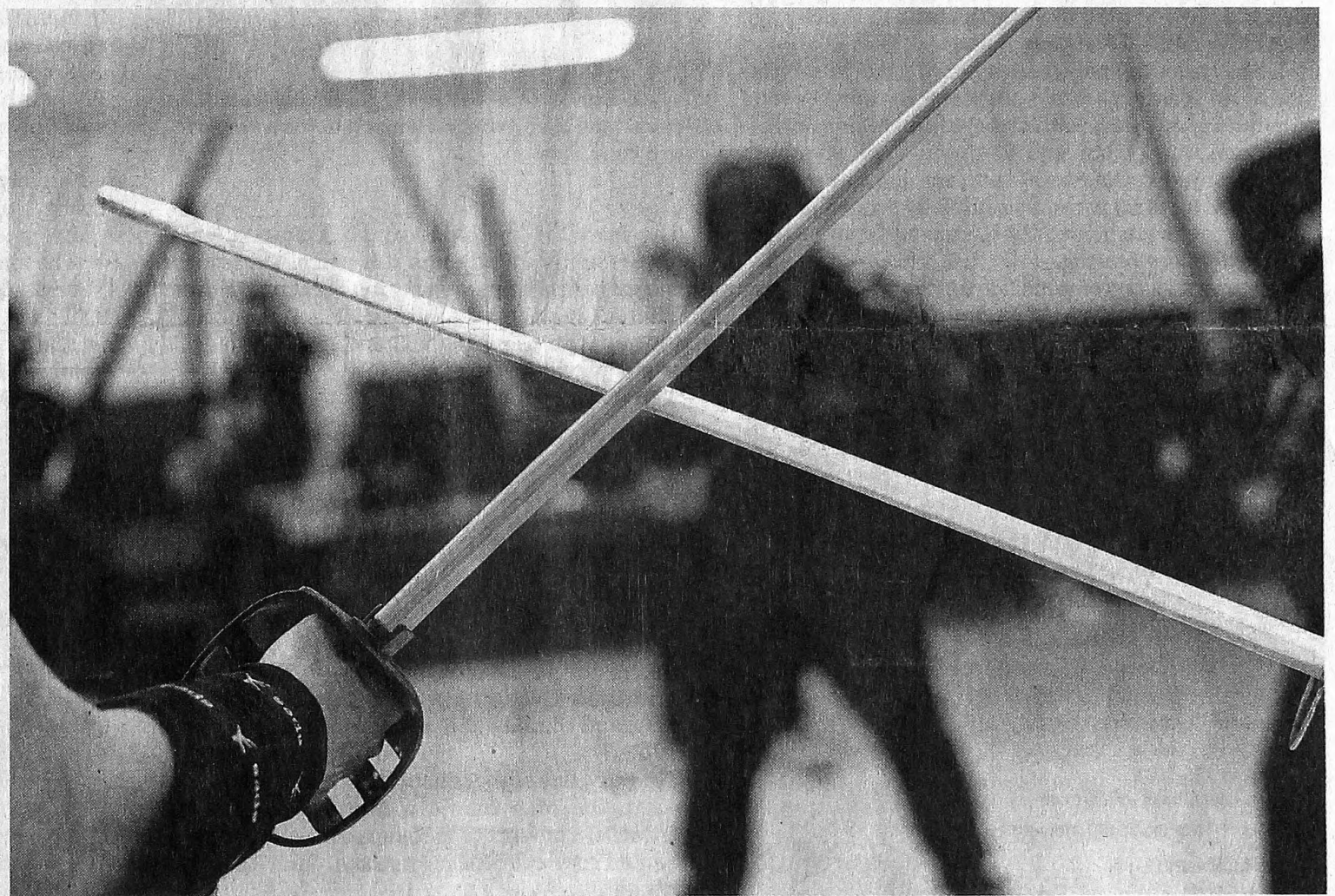
"Our goal is to work with citizens on both sides of this issue and attempt to find a resolution without using the courts as the problem-solver, unless there is an obvious violation of the law," Baugh said. "In this case, with the new laws that are in effect, there is no obvious violation."

Baugh said his department is investigating complaints related to the home in the sprawling Carriage Hills subdivision.

"The township has not received a lot of complaints like I understand some other communities have, which is good," Canton Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said. "Since the

See HOUSE, Page 4A

## Sharpening their skills



Students cross swords March 8 during a class on historical European martial arts. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## See what medieval combat is all about in Livonia



Shelby Tankersley  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

"Fencing is like a conversation between two liars." I love that. Before my days as a regular Lois

Lane I trained in karate for years. So I know Kyle Tansek, who teaches Livonia's Historical European Martial Arts class, is right: A sparring match of any kind is like a conversation between two liars.

Yeah, it's physical. But it's also about bamboozling the person in front of you.

Kyle's classes have expanded now that he started offering a Sunday course

at the Kirksey Recreation Center in Livonia. What better way to learn more about this novel opportunity than to participate in a class myself? Plus — let's be real here — it sounded like a lot of fun.

Thankfully, Kyle was game. Historical European martial arts, or HEMA, includes a lot of fencing.

See SKILLS, Page 6A

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The interior of Bakehouse 46 in downtown Plymouth. The space on South Main Street, formerly Cupcake Station, recently reopened earlier this month. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# New Plymouth bakery serves up cider mill treats

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Walk into the new Bakehouse 46 in downtown Plymouth and guests are instantly reminded of the cider mill.

Smells of fall favorites like doughnuts waft through the shop, now open at 318 S. Main St., as guests make their way to the register. That feeling of time traveling to autumn is all part of the experience at the shop, said Chelsea Smith, creative director for Bakehouse 46, a venture by Cupcake Station and Blake's Farm.

"We make our doughnuts fresh every single day," she said. "We wanted to bring the farm to the city, get that cider mill fall feel year-round."

The Plymouth shop recently converted to a Bakehouse 46 location from a Cupcake Station. Several others across southeast Michigan, including in Birmingham, Ann Arbor and Rochester. The Plymouth bakery closed at the end of last year and renovations continued for eight weeks to completely transform the inside into the fresh new look it currently sports, complete with more seating.

Guests can enjoy cider mill favorites year round like cider, caramel apples and doughnuts, along with several specialties such as a variety of cakes and cupcakes. Hudsonville Ice Cream is also served by the scoop.



General Manager Arnece Johnson holds a tray of vegan cupcakes.

The menu is the same at all locations, though they've recently added some new items. Those include breakfast sandwiches, something that could fill a void for people looking to grab something in the morning, especially with the Panera Bread in downtown Plymouth now gone.

"One thing that we've added on that's newer is the

breakfast sandwiches," Smith said. "We've noticed those have been huge."

The Plymouth store isn't the only shop seeing some changes in the Bakehouse 46 brand. The Birmingham store is in the process of relocating from its original location on Old Woodward north of Maple to a new space at 250 W. Maple in the former Adventures in Toys storefront.

That relocation came about with the work taking place in the building next door where CB2 will eventually open. Smith said the Birmingham café is expected to reopen some time in April.

In addition, they hope to open a few more locations in metro Detroit, including one in Ferndale and another in Grosse Pointe.

Smith said the location in the heart of downtown Plymouth is perfect spot for the concept, especially with the atmosphere near Kellogg Park.

"We're excited to be right across from the park and get involved with the (Downtown Development Authority) and all the events that are going on down there," she said.

The shop is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. More information can be found at [bakehouse46.com](http://bakehouse46.com).

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

## hometownlife.com

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## Stevenson students tackle conflict in Model UN

Courtesy of Stevenson High School

Students in Livonia Stevenson High School's Model United Nations are using the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as a way to learn about handling conflict.

Twenty-one of the school's students recently traveled to the Mid-American Model United Nations (MAMUN) Conference in Kalamazoo where they represented four countries: Australia, Iran, Turkey and Vietnam.

But, some elements of the conference changed so students could work through the ongoing conflict in Europe.

"From having to deal with damage to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant to alleviating food shortages in developing nations due to restrictions on wheat trade, the secretary-general crisis placed an incredibly devastating and international issue into the hands of students who originally represented entirely different nations," Jack Wagner, who ended up receiving high honors for the simulation, said.

The rules and procedures used at MAMUN closely resemble those used in the actual United Nations.



Stevenson High School's Model United Nations group. COURTESY OF LIVONIA STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL

Before attending the conference, students were asked to write three position papers except for one student on security council, who wrote six.

These position papers are written on a specific topic that detailed a student's country's policy on a particular topic.

While in their assigned committee meetings, the students were asked to debate and work with other delegates to write resolutions to solve the crisis at hand before bringing those resolutions to the floor for debate.

"We wanted to make sure we were all prepared for whatever happened and we leaned on each other to talk through the crisis," Alyssa Fetting, who received high honors in science and technology, said.

Stevenson brought home a number of awards, including the competition's second highest honor in best prepared school.

### CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THESE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM AT 6345 HIX, WESTLAND, MI 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS. STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

VEHICLE ARE SOLD AS IS AND MAY BE REMOVED FROM AUCTION PRIOR TO BIDDING. ALL BIDS START AT AMOUNT SHOWN FOR TOWING AND STORAGE FEES.

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
\$8,270.00	2015	DODGE	DURANGO	BLACK	1C4RDJDG5FC750851
\$3,685.00	2003	CHEVROLET	VENTURE	WHITE	1GNDX03E93D173976
\$1,632.00	1999	MERCURY	GRAND MARQUIS	WHITE	2MEFM75W7XX695138
\$1,495.00	2005	FORD	TAURUS	TAN	1FAHP56S65A203504
\$1,605.00	2009	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	BLACK	2G1WT57N391138044
\$1,405.00	2007	CHEVROLET	TRAILBLAZER	SILVER	1GNDT13S172292369
\$1,341.00	2003	FORD	ESCAPE	RED	1FMYU92183KE04217
\$1,235.00	2002	DODGE	RAM	BLUE	1D7HU18Z12J161928
\$1,215.00	2005	FORD	F150	WHITE	1FTPW14525KC01354
\$1,215.00	2010	FORD	FLEX	GRAY	2FMGK5BC6ABD03082
\$905.00	2008	DODGE	AVENGER	BLACK	1B3LC56K88N220688
\$1,055.00	2008	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX	BLACK	2G2WP552281173472
\$785.00	2005	FORD	FIVE HUNDRED	SILVER	1FAHP251X5G180779

Publish: March 24, 2022

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# Reimbursement claims for pothole damage rarely pay

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Getting reimbursed for vehicular damages caused by potholes on Wayne County roads proved a tall order in 2021.

Results of a Freedom of Information Act filing by Hometown Life revealed that 51 drivers used the county's damage claim process from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021, with zero reimbursements issued for damages claimants felt were caused by unkempt roads.

Hometown Life reached out to Wayne County seeking a response to why its damage claim process yielded no reimbursements in 2021, but had not received a response.

The county's damage claim webpage states: If you believe your car was damaged as a result of hazardous road conditions, such as potholes, you may be able to receive reimbursement from the owner of the road (state, county or city). Contact the county and file a damage claim. Claims filed with Wayne County are decided on a case-by-case basis.

Claimants are warned that the standards needed to be met to receive a reimbursement are rather high.

The website explains that under governmental immunity laws, claimants must prove that, "Wayne County failed to maintain the actual road in reasonable repair to prove a road defect claim. You also must show that Wayne County knew of the condition and had an opportunity to repair it, or that the condition existed for more than 30 days."

To file a claim in hopes for a reimbursement for pothole-causing damages, claimants must include the date of accident, exact time of accidents (as close as possible), exact location of accidents (for example: right lane of southbound Greenfield, approximately one-quarter mile south of Warren), the estimate or receipt for any vehicle repair needed as a result of the damage and a photograph of the damage and/or road problem.

According to quotewizard.com, whose research stretched back to 2004, Michigan is No. 3 on its list of states with



A substantial pothole in the southbound lane of Haggerty as it approaches Seven Mile. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the worst pothole problems, trailing only Washington and Indiana.

Wayne County has been repairing potholes throughout the county, typically announcing what areas are being worked on any given day.

**Claimants are warned that the standards needed to be met to receive a reimbursement for pothole damage are high.**

## Public hearing about Downs development draws crowd

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As one Northville resident cleverly phrased it, a version of "March Madness" unfolded in the city's community center March 15, but it had nothing to do with college basketball.

The main event was the public hearing phase of the planned unit development process for the Downs, a 474-unit project proposed by Hunter Pasteur Homes for the current site of the Northville Downs horse racing venue.

Limited to five-minute comments — although there were a few "shot" clock violations — citizens delivered a diverse range of opinions, sounding more favorable of the builders' plans than in prior planning commission meetings.

During an early-meeting period designed for citizens to comment on non-agenda topics, Jim Long, an outspoken opponent of the developer's preliminary site plans, objected to the fact that the development team was allowed two four-hour presentations in the months leading up to Tuesday's meeting while residents were limited to five minutes.

Long said in looking at the rejected proposal from 2019, he doesn't see much difference with the current 2022 plan.

"They're basically the same thing," Long claimed, "except they shuffled the deck a little bit. I am not against development of the Downs site; I'm against harmful development of the site."

Craig Serra tipped off the public hearing comments with a pro-developer comment.

"I understand something is going to happen with the property, and (Hunter Pasteur Homes) has put a plan into play that will kind of address some of the issues people have," Serra said. "There are going to be hiccups with it and there are going to be problems along the way, but I think it's going to happen and I'm for it."

David Field, a 35-year resident of Northville, said the demise of the horse-racing industry — he cited the closures of the Detroit Race Course in Livonia and Hazel Park Raceway as examples — confirm the property needs to be redeveloped with a forward-thinking plan.

"I am for this project," Field said. "When I moved here this was a racetrack town. It's no longer a racetrack town. That place is a relic now and horseracing isn't coming back. After its initial proposal was rejected, Hunter Pas-

teur went out and collected public input — a lot of public input.

"About 6,000 people live in Northville and there are 6,000 opinions about the plans for the property. It's time to move on."

Gloria Hage, a resident since 1986, said new development in the city allowed her and her husband to maintain a residence even as their family grew.

"We were able to move from our first starter home to a second larger home as we raised our kids thanks to new development," Hage said. "Now, there are a lot of families like ours with no more kids living at home. We need new development like this to sustain the city's goals. We welcome all new families to Northville and hope they receive the same opportunity my husband and I had."

Hunter Pasteur representative Seth Herkowitz reiterated during the meeting that the developer has listened to the community and adjusted the site plan accordingly, decreasing the number of units from 599 (in the original 2018 plan) to 474, dropping average units-per-acre to 9.85 and receiving confirmation from Northville Public Schools Superintendent Mark K. Gallagher that the school district could handle the influx of new students the development would create.

Nancy Riegner said she accepts the racetrack property will be developed, but she wants assurance "that it will be developed responsibly."

"The developer completed a traffic study, but how can you get an accurate traffic study when parts of two downtown roads (Center and Main streets) are closed," Riegner asked the planning commission. "If there are, let's say, two cars per household in the new development, that could add up to 1,000 cars to our roads."

"That's not responsible development."

Nancy Rice echoed Riegner's concerns regarding increased traffic.

"Along with the increased number of (the development's residents') vehicles, there are going to be more garbage trucks, more construction traffic, more buses," Rice said. "It's going to take this quaint, beautiful small town and make it look like some other cities in this area that have blown up."

The planning commission still needs to sign off on the preliminary site plans.

### Client Funding Source SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools:

#### BP# EL-2 Bird, Miller, and Smith Playground Installation

The School District requests Bids for the above-referenced Project. Bids will be received through Building Connected until **(1:00) PM on 3/28/2022**.

- All Bids shall be submitted electronically on or before the Due Date through Building Connected: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541> (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
- For instructions on how to submit a Bid please go to the following link: <https://buildingconnected.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-your-Bid-through-BuildingConnected>.

**Bids submitted after the Due Date will not be opened, considered or accepted by the School District**

**Faxed and/or E-mail Bids will not be accepted by the Board of Education.**

**Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. (1:00) PM on, 3/28/22. Bid opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting.** Information regarding joining the Zoom meeting for all Bidders interested in participating is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82482056652>

This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed Bids for the following Bid Divisions:

158A: Playground Installation

Bidding documents prepared by Architect will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; the Builder's Exchange, Lansing and Washtenaw Contractors Association.

Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022 via Building Connected.

There will be a **Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m. at Bird Elementary, located at 220 Sheldon Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170.** The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Project Bidding Documents & schedule, and to answer any questions Bidders may have. Following the meeting, the Bidders will have the opportunity to visit the Project site. The pre-Bid meeting is not a mandatory meeting; however, Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

All Bids **must** include the following sworn and notarized statements:

- Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205)
- Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210)
- Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220)

The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include these sworn and notarized disclosure statements.

Bids shall be submitted electronically into Building Connected. Bid security by a quality surety in the form of a Bid bond, cashier check, or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid shall be submitted with each Bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the School District is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid or the failure of the Bidder to enter into a Contract for performance. Allcashier's checks must be scanned and submitted electronically through Building Connected by the Due Date and be delivered to 454 South Harvey Street Plymouth, MI 48170 to the attention of Deborah J Piesz, within 48 hours of the Due Date. The School District will not consider a Bid that does not include a Bid security. Further, the Bidder will execute the Contract, provide the required insurance certificate(s) and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of Contract but prior to Work commencing.

If awarded a Contract, the successful Bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the Contract price.

The School District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities and irregularities therein, or to award the Contract to other than the Bidder (s) submitting the best financial Bid (low Bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

**END OF SECTION**



## House

Continued from Page 1A

new marijuana law passed in Michigan (in 2018) — Canton voters passed it, too — we have to work within the law. We listen to residents' complaints and then we try to work out a solution."

### Signs indicate no one lives at address

Not only has the unmistakable odor of pot emanated almost nonstop from the single-story residential home since it changed owners in March 2021, neighbors say the home has scant furnishings, trash has never been placed street-side on collection days and a ceiling fan has been installed in the garage — all signs, the neighbors insist, that no one lives in the home that cultivates marijuana.

Every two months or so, carloads of people are dropped off at the residence for two to four hours to — neighbors surmise — harvest the pot and load it into vans for transport to another destination.

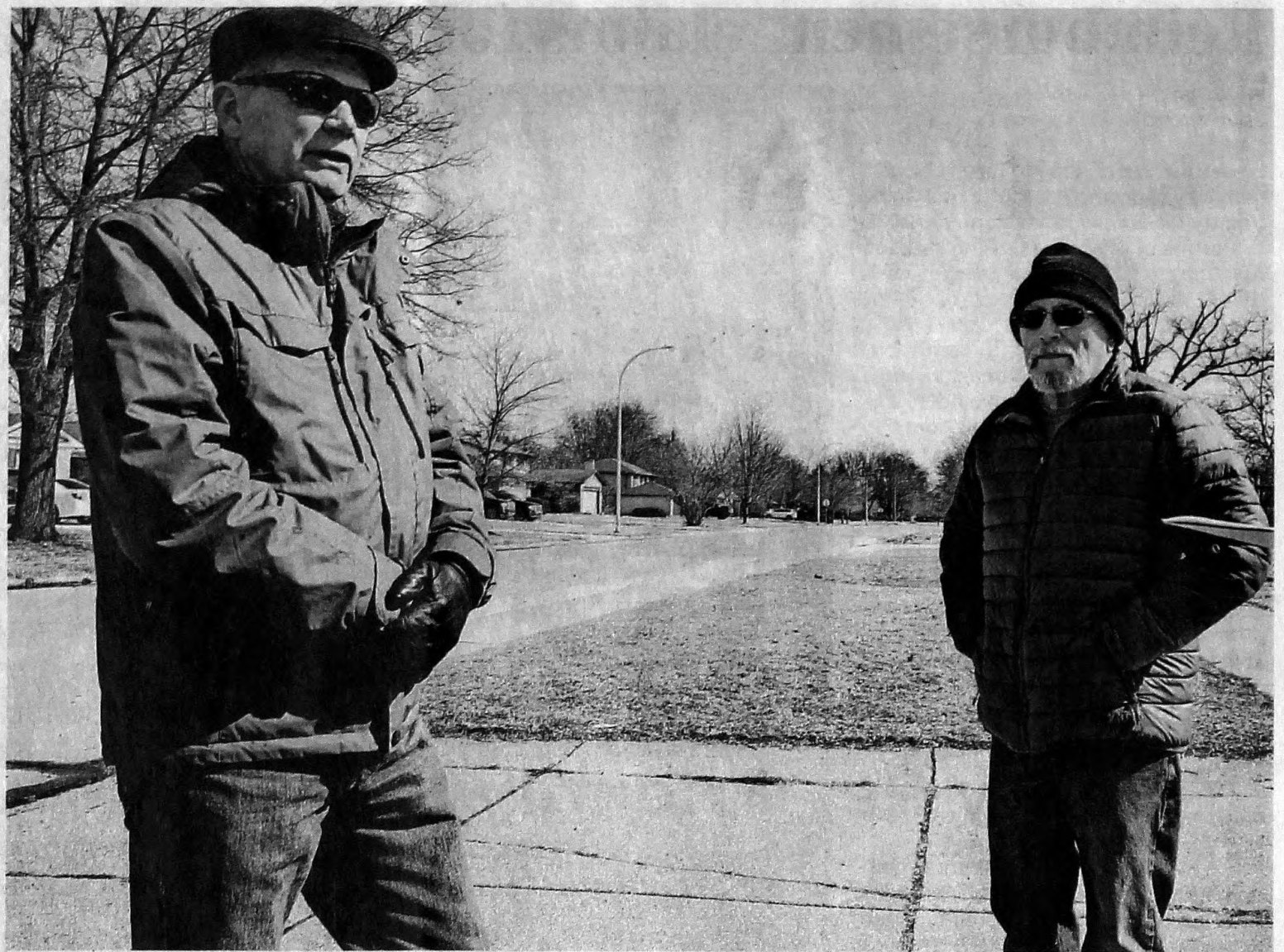
Rich Conway, a 37-year resident living nearby, said he witnessed two men assemble an air conditioner in the home's backyard in December, raising more red flags to him.

"Everything points to the fact that nobody lives there and a pot-growing operation is taking place," Conway said. "The back yard looked like a landfill when they were finished putting together the air conditioner.

"Who installs an air conditioner in December in Michigan, unless you need it to offset the heat generated by the grow lamps?"

### Frustration grows for neighbors

Several times since last spring, neighbors said they have contacted the Canton Township Public Safety Department, members of the township's board of trustees and township ordinance officers regarding the unusual happenings at the home, but have not been given a



Canton neighbors Rich Conway, left, and Jim Mitchell have been concerned for awhile about an alleged marijuana growing operation they believe is taking place in a home near theirs. The home in question is across the street from Canton's Miller Elementary on Hanford, a further concern for the neighbors. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

reason why an inspection of the home has not taken place.

"To conduct an inspection, we have to have some sort of probable cause that the homeowner is breaking a law," Baugh said. "Part of our job as police officers is to not only enforce the law, but also to protect individuals' rights."

Jim Mitchell, who lives near Conway, argued the persistent odor of marijuana in the subdivision is violating his individual rights as a citizen.

"It's gotten to the point where my grandchildren don't want to go outside

when they visit us because of the odor," Mitchell said. "My civil rights are being violated because we can't go outside without smelling marijuana."

Baugh said laws restricting the growing of marijuana are strictly for commercial-growing facilities, not personal grow facilities.

"I understand cities like Garden City have ordinances related to the odor of marijuana," Graham-Hudak said. "But they opted in to allow actual growing facilities while Canton did not, so it's a totally different situation."

Farmington Hills has caregiver restrictions to grow medical marijuana, limiting it to certain industrial areas in the city, a decision made after residents complained about marijuana plant smells in neighborhoods.

Michigan law allows recreational users to grow as many as 12 plants for personal use. Growers of medicinal marijuana to grow up to 12 plants per client, with a limit of five clients.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

## Sentenced

Continued from Page 1A

"I think you finally understand that it wasn't a request, but it was an order. You've done what you're supposed to do and I expect you to do that going forward."

Speaking after the hearing, Jones said he had learned a lot and hoped to help others.

"I'm pleased with what happened today in court. I appreciate Attorney (Byron) Nolen for doing his due diligence and really weighing in on my behalf. I appreciate Judge Hatty for sticking to the facts of the case with so much stuff surrounding it," Jones said. "There's a lot of people in the same situation who are battling different things and battling the system, but I would like to make sure I take a more active role in helping some of those people."

During Thursday's hearing, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Christina Richards presented a victim impact statement from Paul Russo, who was driving alongside Jones during the April 6, 2021, incident. Russo's statement recounted how he called 911 about Jones and noted Jones could have struck someone as he was driving along the shoulder of I-96.

"What is it going to take to address this man's apparent disregard for the law and his reckless behavior?" Richards read from Russo's statement. "Here we have a state representative, a potential role model, but unfortunately a man who has still not become a mature adult. He certainly hasn't shown any true remorse for his actions."

Richards told Hatty she's never seen a response to a case like she has in the Jones case.

"Our office has received numerous communications from the public concerning this case and asking that the defendant not be treated with leniency. In my 15 years as prosecutor, I've never seen the public directly contact the prosecutor's office in this manner, including in murder cases and home invasion cases," Richards said.

Nolen told the court Jones pleaded guilty to several offenses and has not received special treatment.

"My client is in alcohol treatment, right now," Nolen said. "He's also doing counseling with a psychologist and he's been doing that the entire time since he's been released and he's doing well, so I think he has accepted that responsibility."

In addition to probation under HYTA, Hatty sentenced Jones to 100 hours of



State Rep. Jewell Jones leaves the courtroom of Chief Judge Michael Hatty after his sentencing hearing March 17. He was sentenced to 2 years probation on a variety of charges. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

**"There's a lot of people in the same situation who are battling different things and battling the system, but I would like to make sure I take a more active role in helping some of those people."**

State Rep. Jewell Jones

community service and 61 days in jail, but credited him with 61 days served. Jones also was ordered to pay various fines and court costs.

Hatty said Jones has the potential to habit and that he doesn't get into the habit of putting people in jail unnecessarily.

"I think that what is offered by the prosecutor gets us to justice and holds you accountable, but also gives you future the opportunity to grow as you want it to. It's in your hands," Hatty said.

As part of a deal with prosecutors, Jones pleaded guilty last month to two counts of resisting and obstructing po-

lice, driving while intoxicated and possessing a weapon while under the influence of alcohol.

He also pleaded guilty to reckless driving and attempted escape from custody while awaiting trial on a misdemeanor charge.

Prosecutors dismissed two other counts of resisting and obstructing, driving with a high blood-alcohol content, bringing a weapon into a jail and escape while awaiting trial for a felony.

The escape charge stemmed from a September 2021 incident in which Jones was jailed for violating his bond conditions. Jail staff said they discovered a handcuff key taped to the bottom of his foot.

The Livingston County Prosecutor's Office agreed to recommend Jones be sentenced under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act for offenses that happened before Jones' 26th birthday. The act allows young offenders to avoid a permanent criminal record if they successfully complete a probationary period.

Jones was not eligible for HYTA for charges filed under the motor vehicle code and those stemming from incidents after he turned 26.

At the time, Jones said he wanted to get back to go work as a full-time state representative.

"I think we all make mistakes," he said, "I don't think it's so much about being innocent. I don't think it's so much about being guilty. Sometimes, you just have to accept the facts, I made the mistake. I made many mistakes in my life, maybe this is just one of the ways I am paying for it."

As part of his deal with prosecutors, Jones wrote apology letters to two Michigan State Police troopers who arrested him after the April 6, 2021 traffic stop on westbound Interstate 96 near Fowlerville Road.

Troopers were called to the area to investigate reports of a reckless driver.

In dashcam video played in court last year, officers can be seen grappling with Jones during the traffic stop. Jones can be heard in the video saying he wants to give police his ID, after previously refusing to multiple times.

He also referred to one of the troopers as the N-word and other expletives.

Police used a shock device twice, and pepper spray, before Jones complied with officers' request for his left arm so they could handcuff him. Jones was handcuffed and placed into a Livingston County Sheriff's Office vehicle.

Jones had a blood alcohol content of at least 0.17%, according to the police complaint, more than twice the 0.08% limit at which a person can be convicted of drunken driving.

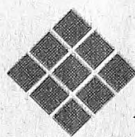




## Quality Pet-Friendly Flooring

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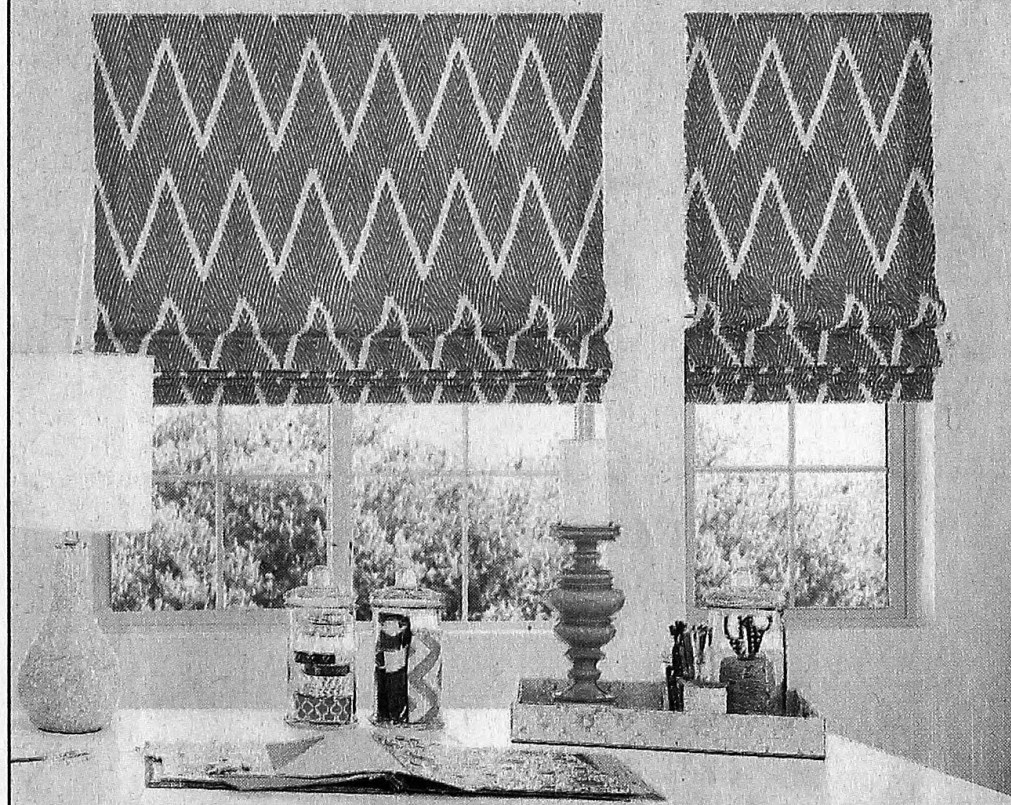
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# With interest rates rising, take steps to maximize savings



## Money Matters

Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

For the first time since 2018, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates last week by .25%.

The Feds also announced that this won't be the only interest rate hike this year. In fact, it indicated that we would see six additional rate increases in 2022.

Not surprisingly, immediately after the Fed announcement, stocks fell; however, as investors caught their breath and looked at the announcement, stocks rallied and the markets turned, and by market close the Dow added over 500 points.

I bring this up just to highlight how difficult it is to predict short-term movements in the market.

I have always said it's a fool's game to

The Feds announced that this won't be the only interest rate hike this year. In fact, it indicated that we would see six additional rate increases in 2022.

try to time the market, because you must be right twice – once when you buy and once when you sell. In the history of investing, no one has been able to do this consistently, so you and I should not try.

You may be asking yourself why the Feds are raising interest rates. The short and simple answer is that it is trying to curb inflation. Inflation is at a 40-year high, and the fear is if inflation continues to rise, we risk the economy going into a recession – something no one wants.

Therefore, the Feds hope raising rates will tamp down spending, thus keeping the economy out of a recession.

Will it work? I don't know, but I do know that as an investor, I am happy

that the Feds are doing something to prevent prices from continuing to rise.

Increased rates have an impact for consumers like you and me. For those of us who borrow money, we can expect the cost of money to increase. That means, for example, if you have an adjustable-rate credit card, your interest rate will rise. In addition, rates for auto loans and personal loans will also increase. Furthermore, even though the Feds announcement only affects short-term interest rates, you can expect mortgage rates to increase. I think that the time to get a 30-year mortgage for under 4% has probably passed.

Rising interest rates can also benefit investors. For those of you who do not carry debt or whose debt is at a fixed interest rate, rising interest rates may benefit you because the interest rates that you receive at the bank may actually increase.

Of course, don't expect the rates we receive as savers to go up overnight. You can expect the interest we pay to in-

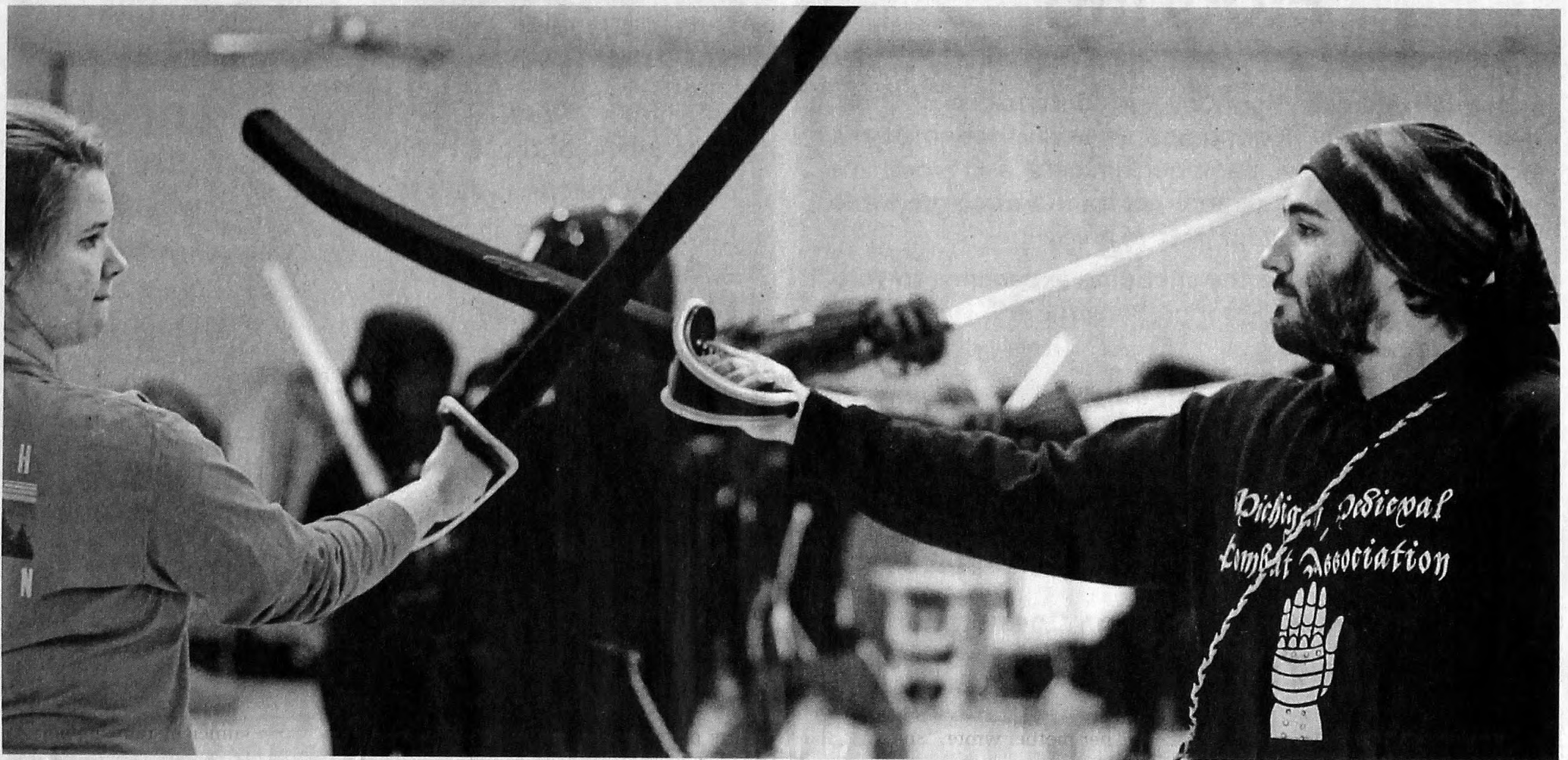
crease much faster than the interest that we receive.

If you carry debt, this should be a wake-up call to relook at your situation and be aggressive in paying down high interest rate debt. Rising rates should provide the momentum to look for ways to refinance your debt. If you can transfer credit card debt to a lower interest rate charge card, why not? After all, the money you save stays in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

As savers and investors, rising interest rates are going to be a fact of life – we can't change that. However, by being proactive, we can look for ways to better position ourselves so that rising interest rates will just be another bump in the road and will not deter us from reaching our financial goals.

Good luck.

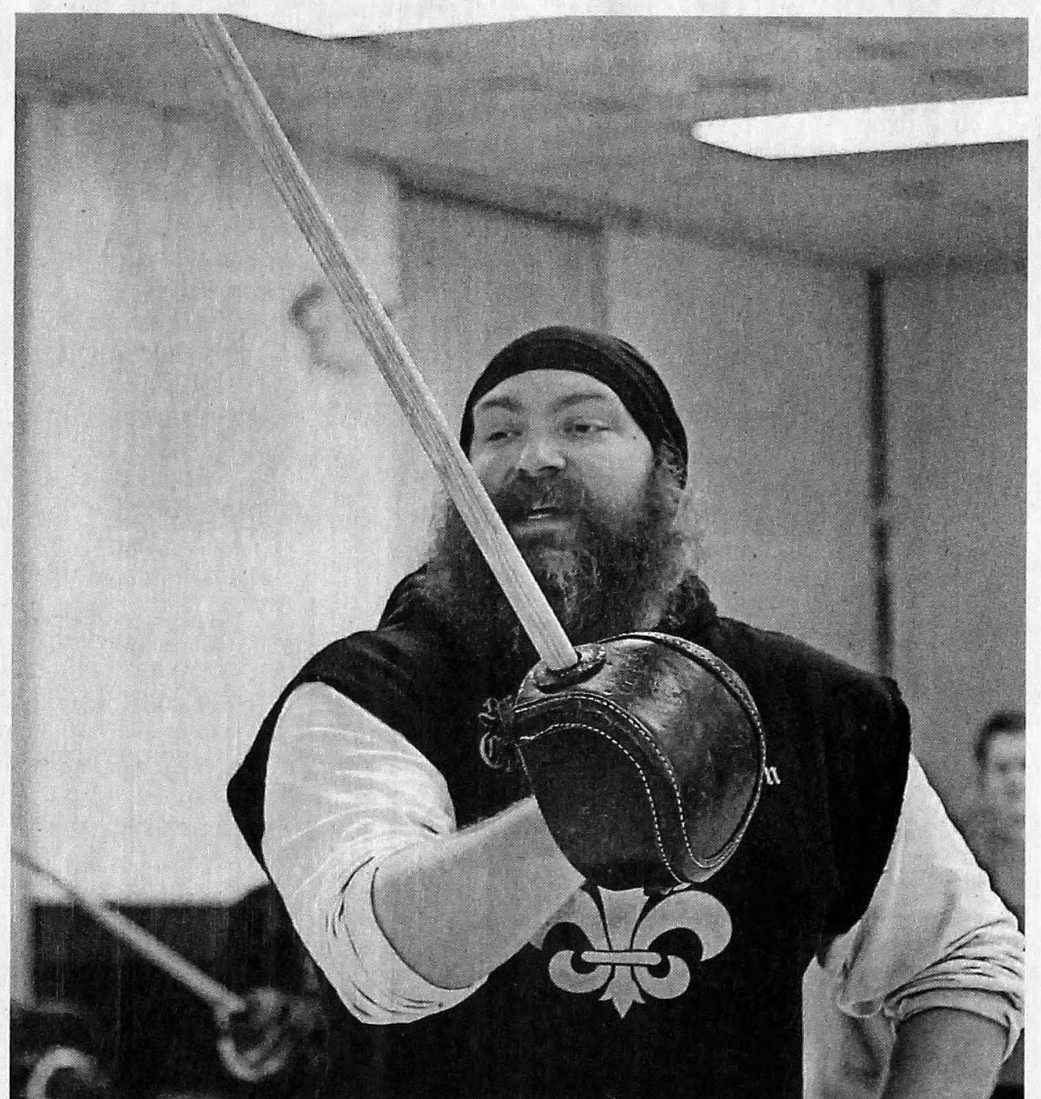
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is bloomadvisors.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomadvisors.com.



Hometown Life reporter Shelby Tankersley works with Mike Lupinski on during a medieval sword-fighting class March 8. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Students study foot work placement.



Kyle Randall-Tansek teaches a medieval sword-fighting class.

## Skills

Continued from Page 1A

Kyle, who has a lengthy background in a variety of martial arts styles himself and has been teaching HEMA for 15 years, pulls from historical Irish, German, Italian and Scottish texts to determine how gentlemen fought before Shakespeare was penning plays.

"We actually use a rule set that's from the 1500s," he said. "Why not use the one from the Renaissance? If it was good enough for them, it's good enough for us now ... The goal is to serve this in the most authentic form to people as we can."

The Livonia classes meet 1 p.m. Sunday at the Kirksey Rec. The cost is \$15 per lesson. A mid-week class is avail-

able, as well, which moves outside in the coming weeks as the weather improves.

Kyle teaches HEMA full-time, and it's clear he loves it.

"Swords are super fun," he said. "I love teaching martial arts in general because you see people grow and discover what they're capable of."

The 90-minute class I took included lessons on cuts, parries and footwork. The more experienced students – so, everyone but me – also took part in some full-gear fencing that was impressive to watch. Kyle said first-timers face varying levels of difficulty depending on how coordinated they are. Personally, I found the class challenging but not so much that it became frustrating.

When I trained in martial arts, weapons work was always my favorite. It's a challenge and, frankly, it's plain fun. Learning to manipulate a broadsword

isn't super easy, but the difficulty is part of what makes the class enjoyable. Plus, a couple of longtime students – Mike and Jim – were willing to help me out and seemed to trust that I wouldn't hit them in the face.

Many of Kyle's students compete in tournaments and interact with the regional HEMA community. Their martial art isn't anywhere near as popular as the Japanese and Korean styles most Americans are familiar with, so they connect with people in and out of state to compare interpretations with the hopes of figuring out who got it right.

Like most sports, the community aspect of HEMA is enjoyable for students on its own. It's clear that many of Kyle's students are good friends, some of whom have been training together for years, even though they're at varying stages of life.

One of martial arts' unique qualities is you can start training at 9 or 90 and still have fun. It doesn't separate people by sex and age, it simply starts everyone in the same place: the beginning. In Kyle's class, a novice is a novice.

Every class intends to leave you better than it found you. Kyle says he enjoys watching his students become more confident as the years go by.

People can learn more about Livonia's HEMA course by contacting Kyle at kyletansek@gmail.com or by visiting michiganmedieval.com. You can also check out the class in action at the upcoming Brezelhau tournament, happening 9 a.m. May 14 at Rotary Park on Six Mile Road.

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



# Girl's escape lands pot farm predator in prison

Tresa Baldas Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

"He made me feel special," 16-year-old Grace told the jury.

He was 25. For months, he groomed her on SnapChat, convinced her they were in love, and met her at Lansing hotels for sex, court records show.

But soon came the violence, the demands for nude photos and sexually explicit videos, threats to kill her family if she told anyone, and a twisted request that she molest her siblings and videotape it. When she couldn't go through with it, she contemplated suicide, so not to disappoint him — but kept her silence.

This would all end one fall evening in Lansing, when, after being held captive in his home and starved for four days, she waited for her predator to fall asleep and escaped in the middle of the night.

Then, she broke her silence.

In U.S. District Court on March 16, with the help of Grace's testimony, 28-year-old Michael McShan of Lansing was sentenced to 25 years in prison for the horror he put her and others through as he sought to feed his perverse desires through manipulation and violence.

U.S. District Court Judge David Lawson handed down the sentence four months after a jury found McShan guilty of child pornography, coercion and enticement of a minor, and obstruction of justice. The five-day trial included emotional testimony from Grace and an 18-year-old woman named Madison, who was also beaten and manipulated by McShan.

She was his girlfriend, blinded by what she thought was love, and struggled to leave him.

The USA TODAY Network does not identify victims of sexual assault.

"Michael McShan mastered the art of convincing his victims that his rage, violence, and sexual perversions complimented their relationships," Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Smith argued in court records. "No female remained safe in his path."

The prosecution sought a 40-year prison sentence for McShan, arguing the crimes he committed on vulnerable girls and women amounted to "savagely" abuse.

Madison knew this all too well.

"He brutally beat her with a PVC pipe for not performing up to his standards," Smith wrote in court documents. "When she tried to leave, he relentlessly pursued her by contacting her mother, looking for her online, and sending dozens and dozens of self-made videos that often rose to the level of threatening to kill her if he found her."

Still, she went back to him. When he got caught for exploiting Grace, prosecutors said, he "capitalized on his girlfriend's love" and convinced Madison to write a false confession to the crimes of which he was accused.

He was trying to get his bond revoked.

It didn't work.

Madison ended up testifying against McShan at trial, telling jurors: "I still feel like I should be loyal to him."

## A mother seeks vengeance: 'He has no soul'

If the 16-year-old girl's mother had her way, McShan would be in prison for life.

"He has no soul or conscience. He is a psychopathic narcissist in every nature of the meaning," the mother wrote in a letter to the judge last month. "He will never be able to be rehabilitated."

The mother's Feb. 22 letter offers a detailed look at the horror her daughter endured at the hands of the stranger she met on the internet, the trauma it caused her family, and the pain they continue to live with.

Perhaps better than anyone, Grace's mother understood the darkness that consumed her daughter, who, for two weeks, had to sleep in between her parents, fearful that McShan would find her and kill her.

"Michael McShan groomed, manipulated and preyed on my daughter for months," her letter began. "He controlled everything she did, from what she ate — cans of fruit only — because he wanted her skinnier."

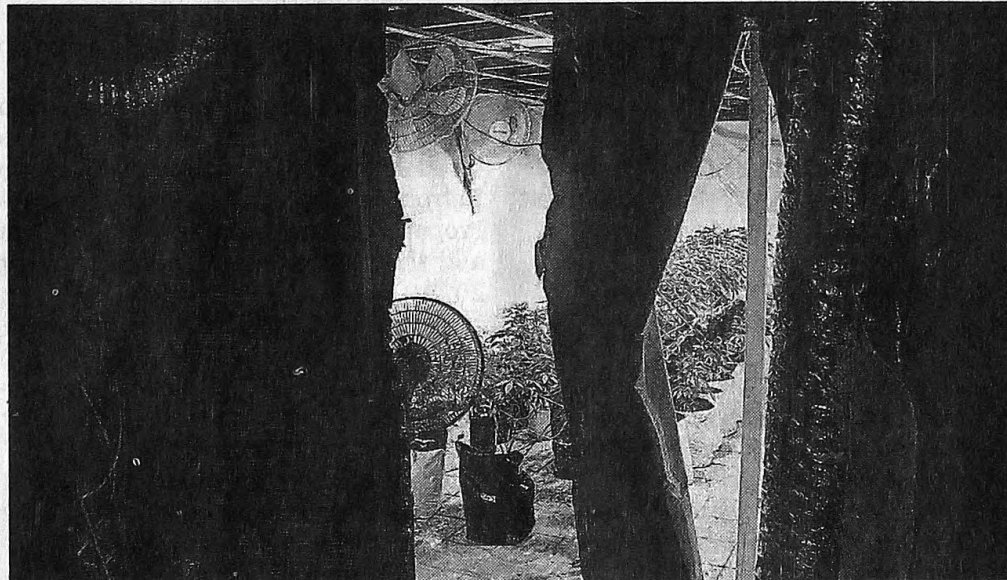
According to the letter, McShan tried getting Grace pregnant multiple times, manipulated her "into thinking her parents were horrible and didn't love her," and told her things like, "I don't care if your Dad is a cop ... he can't do anything to me."

When all this was happening, Grace was in the 11th grade, the year when most high schoolers are prepping for the SAT, and picking out their colleges.

"My daughter was depressed and suicidal and petrified for most of her (junior) year. We couldn't figure out what



Prosecutors say a Lansing man held an Oakland County girl captive in this rundown house after grooming her on SnapChat and abusing her for months. PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



The man also ran an illegal marijuana grow operation out of his home, prosecutors said. One victim said she was starved and forced to work there.

was wrong with her," her mother wrote.

Eventually, her parents would learn that McShan had threatened to kill their family if their daughter ever "told" on him. He also made her steal \$1,500 from her parents, the letter stated, and demanded she give him her entire paycheck from her job at Chicken Shack.

"He made her solely dependent on him," her mother wrote. "She wasn't allowed to talk to her male co-workers as he said he was watching her at work. He had her under his complete control."

Perhaps most traumatic was the unthinkable demand he made of her daughter, when he ordered her to molest her younger sister.

"He has SCARRED both of my daughters' mind, body and spirits. He stole their innocence," the mother wrote.

After months of keeping her relationship a secret, her daughter ran away and moved in with McShan in Lansing.

"I was frantic, petrified and anxious not knowing where my child was and who she was with," wrote the mother, whose thick, long hair fell out due to the stress.

"I could barely function to take care of the rest of my family," she wrote, noting her other children had a hard time focusing on school and going about their everyday lives.

"There was a dark cloud of impending doom and depression over our family for the two months she was missing," her mother wrote.

But then the girl made her daring escape, fleeing in the middle of the night and walking for miles to the Lansing airport, where she called home.

Her parents' worst fears were over, though her appearance was startling. She was filthy, emaciated from being starved, and she reeked of marijuana. Her once thick, waist-length hair was cut short and dyed blonde by McShan, "so no one would recognize her if she went out in public," the letter stated.

And she was scared.

"She had to sleep between her parents for the first two weeks she was home because she was petrified that Michael or his 'associates' would come and kill her family," the mother wrote. "(She) couldn't go by windows or doors for fear he would see her. My younger children couldn't go outside and play for fear they too, would be taken or harmed."

In closing, the mother unleashed her anger, telling the judge:

"Michael McShan belongs in prison until the day he dies and he goes to hell."

## They met on MeetMe

It was December 2018 when Grace met McShan.

She had first met a woman through a phone app called "MeetMe," and that woman then introduced her to McShan.

An online relationship began, with

the two flirting and getting acquainted on SnapChat.

According to a Homeland Security investigator's affidavit, here is what transpired from that online relationship:

Within three to four months, McShan became controlling. He made Grace wear a bra 24-7, forbid her from wearing shorts or makeup, and ordered her to wear only sweatpants and hoodies. He made her delete all guys from SnapChat, and nagged her about her weight.

"McShan always told her that she needed to work out and eat right because he wanted her skinny," the investigator wrote.

Over time, he would get mad for no reason and insult her on a regular basis. "Worthless." "Pathetic." "Stupid." She heard it all.

He also grew angrier with her because she couldn't meet up with him as often as he wanted, and he was mad about not getting enough sex. To punish her for this, he ordered her to send nudes and videos of herself over SnapChat.

She obliged.

This went on for several months, and then he started asking for money. Again, she obliged, giving him \$40 here and there to help him out, but eventually giving him her entire paycheck because he demanded it.

She even stole \$1,500 from her dad once because McShan was threatening her, and spent the money on bills and marijuana grow equipment. In total, she gave him \$4,000.

## She ran away to be with him

On Aug. 8, 2019, Grace ran away from home to live with McShan in a rundown green house with a garden on Grand River Avenue in Lansing. There, he ran an illegal marijuana grow operation, and took care of an elderly woman whom he referred to as his mother.

Beatings quickly followed.

"While she was at McShan's house, (he) beat (her) until she was black and blue," the Homeland Security investigator wrote in his affidavit, adding the girl said he beat her with a white plastic pole. It was a PVC pipe.

Her situation turned into captivity.

When McShan learned that Grace's parents had filed a missing person's report, he refused to let her leave the house, except to take the dog out or go behind the pole barn. For four days, she was forced to work on his marijuana grow operation, trimming pot plants, and cutting and pruning buds.

"The last four days were terrible. She said she wasn't allowed to eat, sleep, shower or drink water," the investigator wrote in an affidavit.

On the fourth night, she plotted her daring escape and broke free.

## Defense attacks victim's credibility

In court documents, McShan's lawyer described him as a troubled man whose early childhood was marred with abuse. He never knew his father. His mother couldn't care for him due to severe substance abuse, so he was raised by a stepmother — whose husband beat him, his siblings, and his stepmother.

"This was the only male role model Mr. McShan really had growing up and probably contributed toward his history of abusive treatment of women," defense attorney David Burgess wrote in court documents, conceding his client had a violent history.

"Mr. McShan ... has been an abusive and unkind person, especially toward the women in his life, and he should be sentenced accordingly," Burgess argued in court documents. "But Mr. McShan, neither in his past nor in this case, really fits the profile of the typical sex offender."

Burgess asked the judge to give his client the mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years for his crimes.

"He is not a person who deserves sympathy or understanding for his actions," Burgess wrote. But 15 years behind bars is sufficient punishment for his crimes, he argued, though failed to convince the judge.

His trial strategy fizzled.

"I'm sure like most people your probable first reaction is, 'Yuck; gross; icky,'" Burgess told jurors in his opening statement. "A lot of you probably already are convinced in your minds. ... 'That's disgusting. That person is sick.'"

But then he went on to challenge the credibility of the victims, telling jurors to listen carefully to their testimony before making up their minds.

"She was not the victim that she wants to portray herself to be," Burgess told the jury, referring to Grace. "And there is very little evidence to support her position at all. And you will hear it."

The jury disagreed.

After only one hour of deliberations, the jury came back with guilty verdicts on all counts.

## A victim finds closure

According to the government, McShan has no prior felony convictions, though police records show multiple arrests for domestic violence. One of those victims was the mother of his child — a woman named Kayla who urged the judge to give McShan "the harshest punishment."

In a letter to the judge, Kayla wrote that McShan beat her when she was pregnant with their child, gave her black eyes after their daughter was born, and attacked her after she discovered he was cheating on her: He stuffed her mouth with a washcloth, choked her, threw a cigarette in her face and poked her in the eye.

"Stupidly, I kept going back because he kept telling me that he was sorry and that he wouldn't do it anymore, he'd say how much he loved me and wanted us to be a family," the woman wrote in her letter.

But the abuse continued.

In 2014, she left him, she wrote the judge, noting she did not begin to find herself until McShan's federal trial, which she attended.

"My heart shatters for the victims involved, and for the victims who have to build themselves up again," Kayla wrote the judge. "I know from experience that it is hard."

But when she heard the guilty verdicts, she felt "like a weight had been lifted."

Her daughter was safe. So was she.



# Wayne County tax foreclosures to resume

Deadline March 31 to pay debts or enter payment plan

**Nushrat Rahman** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The March 31 deadline for Wayne County residents behind on their property taxes to avoid foreclosure is fast approaching.

People with property tax debt from 2019 or prior years have until the end of the month to pay off back taxes or enter into a payment plan before their property goes to auction in the fall.

Renters do not have to leave their property if it ends up getting foreclosed, Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree said.

As of Thursday, there were 3,177 owner-occupied and 5,032 nonowner properties — including rentals — at risk of foreclosure this year, according to the Treasurer's Office. The majority are in Detroit.

Sabree estimates that about 1,200 owner-occupied homes and as many as 2,000 or 3,000 renter-occupied properties could end up getting foreclosed this year.

In 2020, there were no foreclosures because of the COVID-19 pandemic's economic blow. And last year, Sabree filed a request in Wayne County Circuit Court to defer foreclosures on occupied properties because of continuing pandemic-related hardships, however foreclosures on unoccupied properties and vacant land continued. That runs through March 31.

Sabree has indicated that he would stick to the deadline this year. In the past there were extensions.

Tax foreclosures — the process by which a homeowner loses their property because they didn't pay their property taxes — are an ongoing concern in Detroit where a third of the city's properties were foreclosed since 2008 and where homeowners were overtaxed by at least \$600 million, according to a 2020 Detroit News investigation.

The number of tax foreclosures on occupied homes in Detroit has dropped in recent years, but there are still those who struggle to pay off delinquent tax debt.

Groups like the Eastside Community Network — a Detroit-based nonprofit

offering resources and programs for economic development, businesses and youths — are calling up residents and knocking on their doors to inform them about the upcoming deadline and their options.

"We just are here to make sure people know that they're not alone and that our goal is to help them keep their home," said Angela Wilson, chief operating officer for the Eastside Community Network.

Here's a brief rundown of what taxpayers should know:

### How do I check if my property is at risk of foreclosure?

The Free Press has partnered with Outlier Media — which runs an SMS texting service — to give Detroit residents the ability to look up their address and check whether it is at risk of foreclosure by texting HOUSING to 67485. Data is current as of Feb. 14.

More up-to-date information may be available at the following websites:

- The Treasurer's Office has a list of properties at risk of foreclosure. Download it at [www.waynecounty.com/elected/treasurer/](http://www.waynecounty.com/elected/treasurer/).
- Taxpayers can also search for delinquent property tax information at <https://pta.waynecounty.com/>.

### How can I get help paying my property tax debt?

Last month, the state launched a program called the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund that can help income-eligible residents who live in their homes to avoid foreclosure. To apply go to [Michigan.gov/MIHAF](http://Michigan.gov/MIHAF). Call 844-756-4423 for additional help.

Taxpayers can let the Treasurer's Office know that they applied to the program and avoid property foreclosure for another year, Sabree has said.

The county has other assistance programs, which can bring down interest rates, put people on payment plans or help some landlords and business owners hit hard by the financial blow of the pandemic.

For more information, go to [bit.ly/WayneCountyPaymentPlans](http://bit.ly/WayneCountyPaymentPlans) or email [taxinfo@waynecounty.com](mailto:taxinfo@waynecounty.com).



Volunteers Loretta Powell, 60, of Detroit, left, and Yvonne Willis, of Detroit, from Eastside Community Network (ECN), go door to door to let people know they are in danger of losing their homes to property tax foreclosure. Foreclosures are resuming in Wayne County after March 31. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

WayneCountyPaymentPlans or email [taxinfo@waynecounty.com](mailto:taxinfo@waynecounty.com).

The Treasurer's Office is open for appointments Monday to Friday and includes Saturdays in March. Go to [bit.ly/WayneCountyTreasurerHours](http://bit.ly/WayneCountyTreasurerHours) to set up an appointment.

Income-eligible taxpayers can also apply for a poverty tax exemption through their local assessor's office. In Detroit, that's called the Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE) program and the city is taking applications for 2022.

People who qualify for a poverty exemption may be eligible for the Wayne County Treasurer's Pay As You Stay program (PAYS), which reduces back tax debt.

Another program called the Detroit Tax Relief Fund can help people get their delinquent taxes down to zero. For program information, go to the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency's website at [www.waynemetro.org/dtrf/](http://www.waynemetro.org/dtrf/).

### What should I do if I am a renter and my property is at risk of foreclosure?

Renters do not have to move out of their home after March 31. That's when the property's title passes onto the county treasurer. After that, foreclosed

properties are made available to the local, state and county governments for purchase prior to the fall public auctions. Tenants can check with the treasurer about the status of their property.

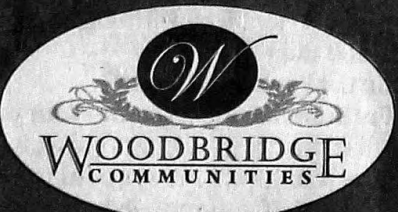
"We don't evict anyone," Sabree said about his office. Tenants should not "panic and move," he said.

After July 1, the city can purchase homes through what's called the "right of refusal" process. During this time, tenants may have the chance to become homeowners. Since 2017, the Make It Home program — a partnership among the United Community Housing Coalition, the city of Detroit and Quicken Loans Community Fund — has helped residents living in foreclosed homes buy their properties before auction.

Ted Phillips, executive director of the United Community Housing Coalition, said the nonprofit is already working with potential candidates for this program.

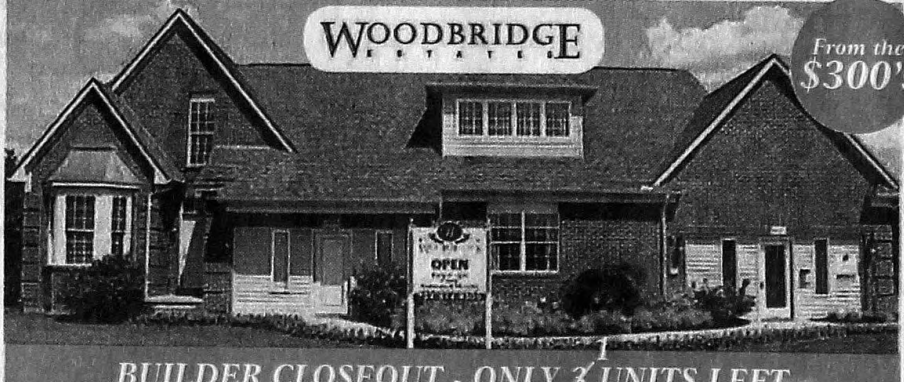
Renters' rights don't change much just because the property is headed toward foreclosure, he said. In fact, it can be an opportunity for tenants to potentially own their homes and save money.

"The landlord can't collect rent after April 1 if they don't own the property. They can't evict them. They can't do anything. It's not their property anymore," Phillips said.



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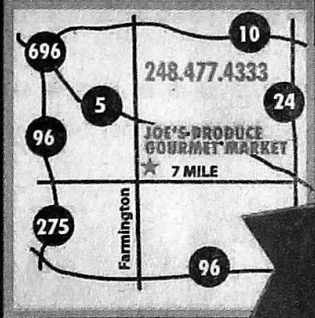
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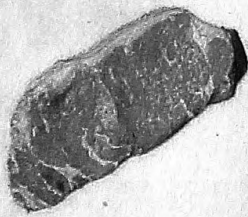
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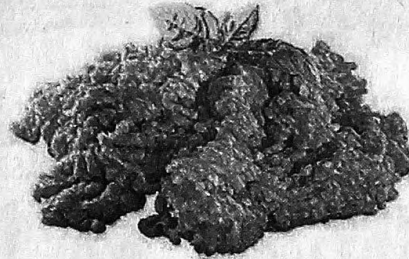
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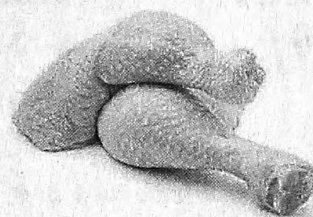
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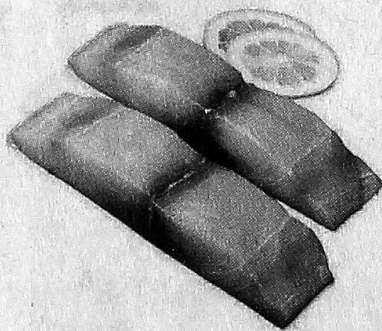
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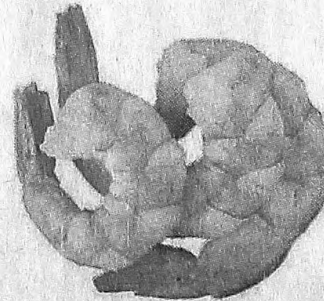
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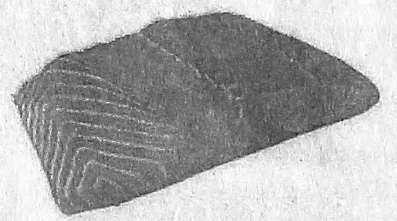
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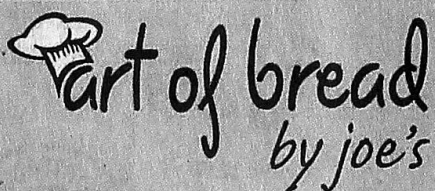
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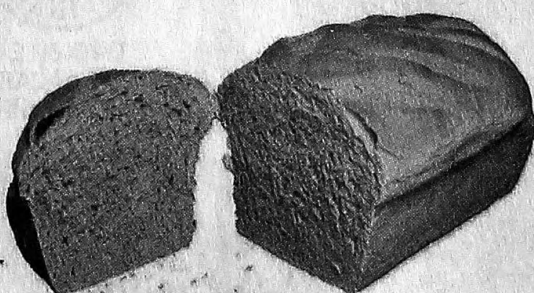


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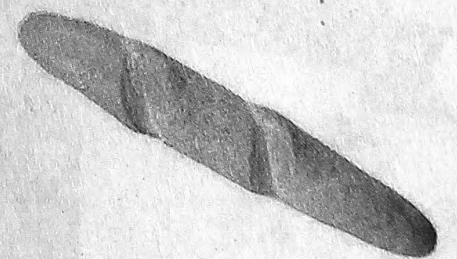
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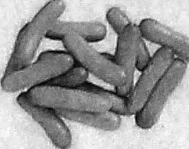
  
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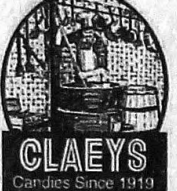
  
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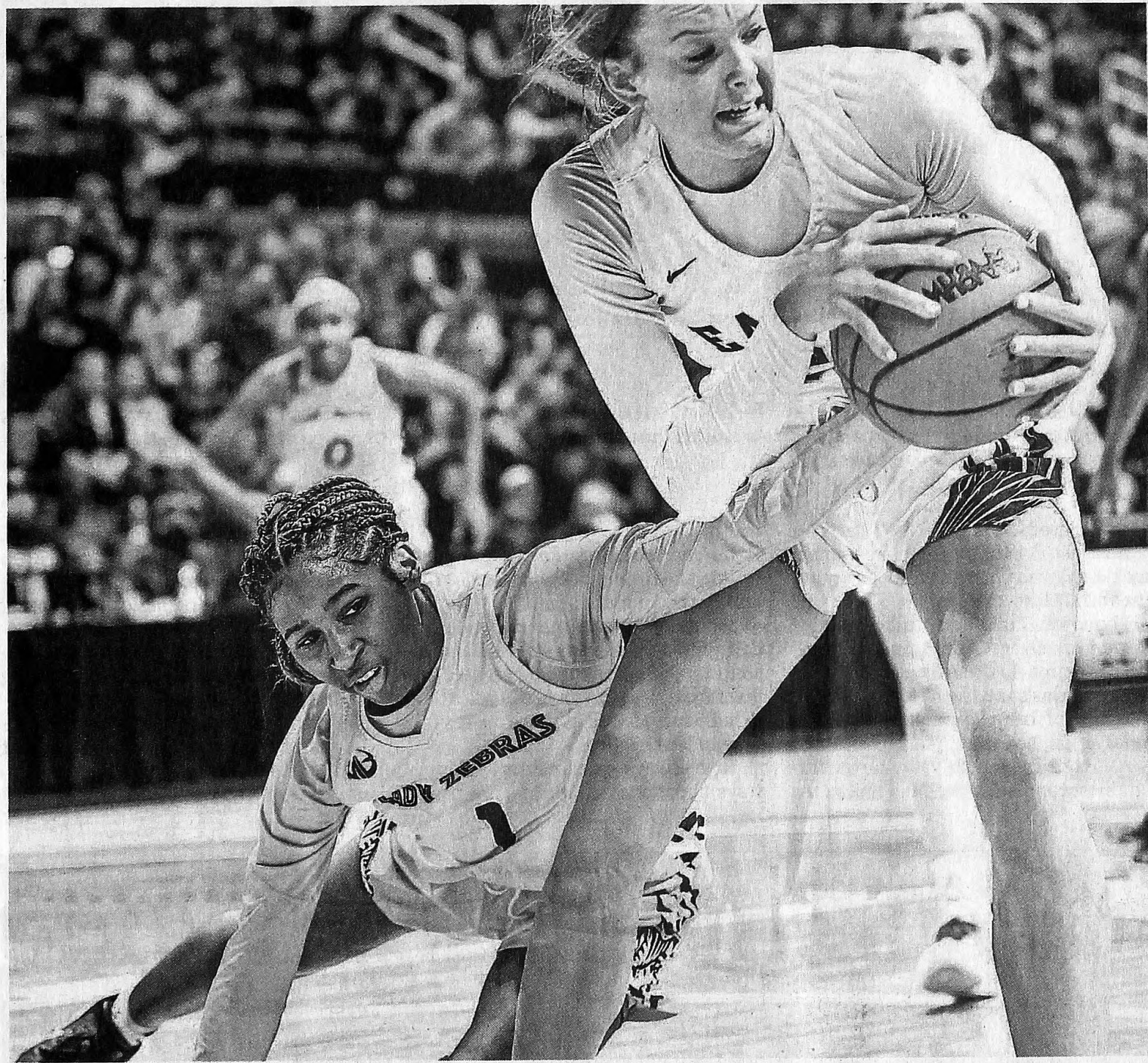
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# SPORTS



Wayne Memorial's Mayla Ham, left, and Hartland's Lauren Sollom battle for a rebound during the second quarter in the Division 1 state semifinal March 18 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

## Livonia United falls to University Liggett 7-2 in state finals

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As far as the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League goes, its state championship was a who's who event.

Crammed into the center-ice press box at USA Hockey Arena were reporters and cameramen, of course. But there was also a hoard of the league's hockey coaches, all wearing their respective team colors and chatting with one another as they watched No. 1-seeded University Liggett take on three-seed Livonia United on March 12.

"I wasn't expecting the score to be like *this!*" one coach said to another after Liggett's Elle Quinlan scored almost 3 minutes into the final period to give the Knights a 5-0 lead.

It's true.

In November, the two squads battled back and forth, with Liggett squeaking out a 2-1 victory. It was everything you'd expect out of a rematch of last year's state championship, a game the Knights also won, 4-2.

But few people expected Liggett to run away with this one. Especially with how well Livonia had played to get itself into a second-straight state final.

But, alas, that's how momentum works in hockey.

"I think we came out and had some pretty good shots, but I think their goalie (Brooklyn Peshi, 21 saves) had some really nice saves," fifth-year Livonia United coach Janine Martinez said following the 7-2 loss. "I think that was the difference. They had some nice saves, and we couldn't catch a break. We had a couple of close ones but couldn't get that break. I think the momentum swung to them once they got the first goal."

Liggett's AnnaClaire Doppke scored the game's first goal, and it had a domino effect for the Knights, who scored twice in the second and two more in the third before LU could finally crack the scoreboard.

But LU (14-3) took full advantage of the stage once Tymmarie Grom scored the first of her two goals.

Her effort saw LU goalie Annelise Pearce (17 saves) skate toward the bleachers to fire up the Livonia faithful, waving both arms in the air until the crowd gave Livonia's skaters a standing ovation.

Just over 1 minute later, Grom scored again, this time on the power-play. Another ovation followed.

"I give the girls a lot of credit," Martinez said. "They didn't give up. They

See FINALS, Page 4B

## Zebras robbed of hype but love experience gained at final four

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

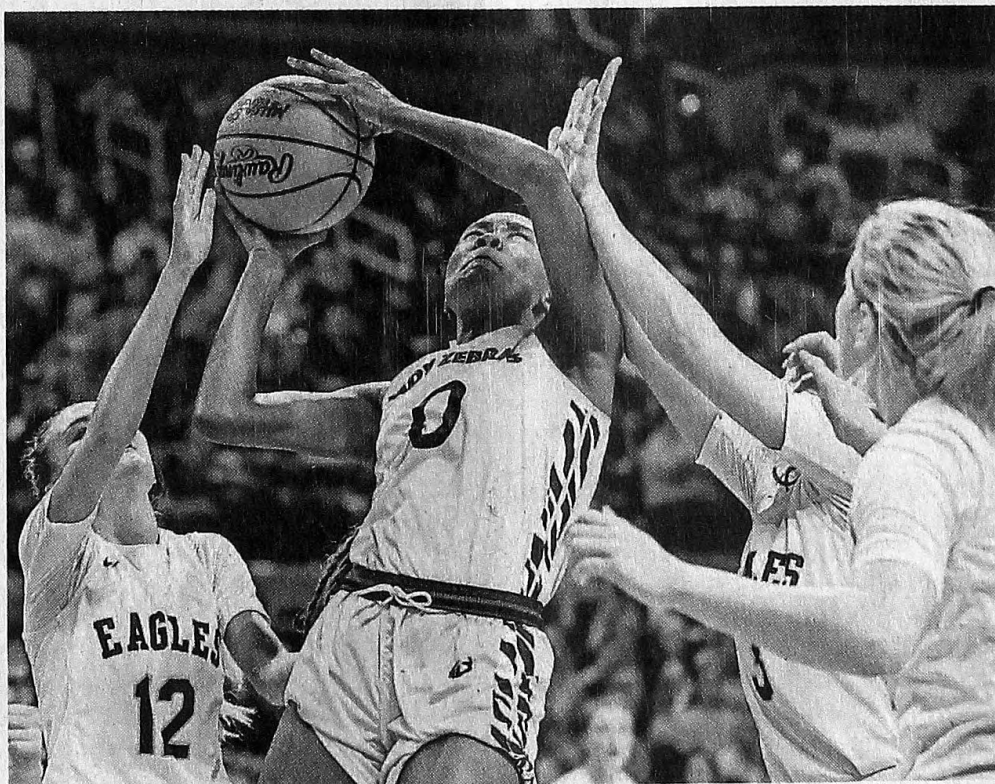
The lights inside the Breslin Center were killed so the public-address announcer could introduce the starters.

But, first, a hype video prepared by the Michigan High School Athletic Association was displayed on the jumbotron above halfcourt, in hopes of drumming up a rowdy atmosphere for Friday's Division 1 state semifinal.

Highlight after highlight was shown, from top-ranked West Bloomfield to Detroit Edison and Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

Heck, even Hartland had two separate clips shown during the brief montage.

By the time the video wrapped up, it was obvious there wasn't going to be a single highlight of Wayne Memorial, and its starters sitting on the bench waiting to have their names announced quickly noticed it.



Wayne Memorial's Paris Bass, center, shoots between Hartland's defense.

See ZEBRAS, Page 3B

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# How a backup bus inspired PCA girls basketball in first-ever state semifinal

Brandon Folsom [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A high school as small as Plymouth Christian Academy cannot afford to have a school bus breakdown.

But that's exactly what happened during a class field trip on March 16.

That ill-timed snafu forced the administration to scramble last-minute to rent another one.

And PCA was definitely in need of a bus. How else was its girls basketball team going to travel to its first-ever Division 4 state semifinal appearance on March 17 at Michigan State University?

The new bus came just in time to get the Eagles to East Lansing.

What's more, PCA managed to get the original bus fixed early Thursday morning. So that allowed the school to haul another 40 students to the Breslin Center.

And all 70 or so of those rowdy fans were needed in the Eagles' 50-39 victory over Adrian Lenawee Christian.

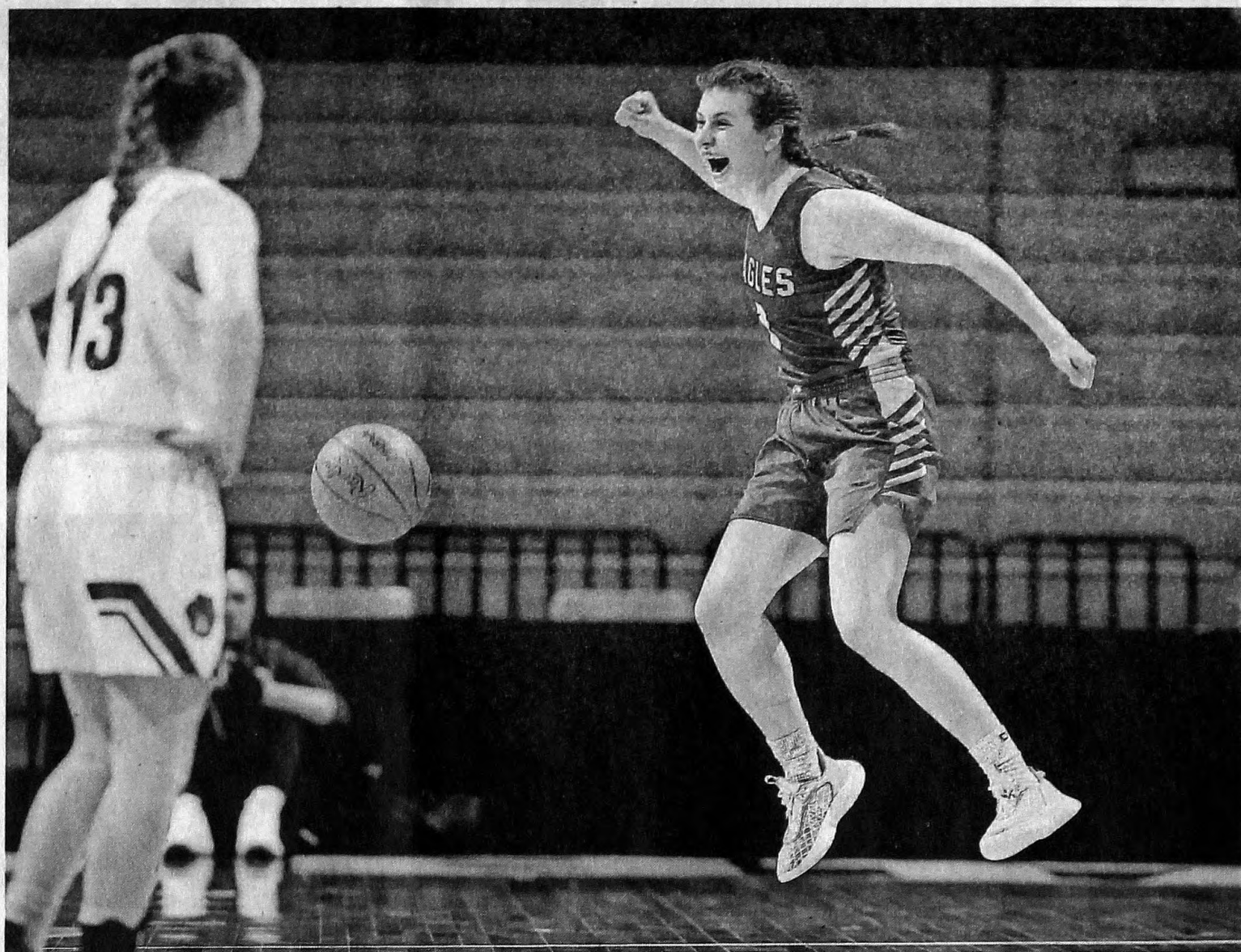
"It was crazy. It was kind of one of those things where it's a bad situation but a good thing comes out of it," said senior Anna Fernandez, who scored 12 points. "We were only supposed to have 30 kids come on the bus, and we got 70, which is a huge plus. The crowd has been there for all of our games so just for them to show up and cheer us on and be a big help, the whole team really appreciates them being here."

Plymouth Christian never tailed the entire night, but Lenawee Christian trimmed its deficit to just three points in the third quarter.

The final period is when the Eagles (22-4) started feeding off the energy from their crowd.

Hailey Maulbetsch and Madison Yeager each buried 3-pointers to kick off the quarter, extending the Eagles' lead to 10 points.

And then Morganne Houk scored six of her game-high 19 points, including going 4 of 4 from the foul line in the bonus down the stretch, to help them stay out in front of the Cougars, who have won two of the last three state champi-



Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez celebrates as time expires against Lenawee Christian on March 17 in East Lansing.  
AL GOLDIS/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

onships awarded in D-4/Class D.

As a last-ditch effort to make a comeback, Lenawee Christian fouled Fernandez with 17.6 seconds left.

Plymouth Christian's student section started chanting, "Anna! Anna! Anna!" as she approached the foul line.

Fernandez sank the first one.

A few of her classmates started to cheer again, hollering, "Yeah, Banana!" And then the fourth-year starter buried the second shot, the final nail in the

coffin.

As she hung her follow-through in the air, she turned her head to the crowd and flashed a giant smile.

Moments later, Fernandez spiked the ball onto the floor as the final buzzer sounded. She was quickly greeted with hugs from Yeager, Houk and Maulbetsch at halfcourt as well as more cheers from the student section.

"It's always encouraging. They always boost our confidence," Fernandez

said. "When we're in close games, they're always just cheering us on. Even when you look over there, they're always just encouraging us or doing something to help us relax."

Plymouth Christian advanced to the state final against Fowler, the defending state champions.

And, yes, if that name sounds familiar that's because the two teams met earlier this season at Little Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Pistons.

# PCA boys win 6th straight district title

Brandon Folsom [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PCA's boys basketball team entered the winter with plenty of new faces after graduating eight seniors in 2021.

The Eagles (13-10) needed to break in new starters and assemble a new rotation — on top of playing a stacked non-conference schedule against D-1, D-2 and D-3 opponents.

Was it a surprise to see them beat Ann Arbor Central Academy 72-49 to win their sixth-straight district title?

No, not really, especially with seventh-year coach Matt Windle leading the retooling.

But it was a shocker to see them get a forgiving regional bracket.

Normally, PCA faces the likes of Detroit Douglass or Southfield Christian at that stage. Those two squads have combined to win six of the past nine state titles in D-4/Class D.

All the Eagles needed to do was get past Taylor Trillium Academy in the semifinal, and they had a chance to win their first-ever regional championship in program history.

It didn't happen.

PCA lost Michigan football signee Chibi Anwunah (left ankle) late in the season and was without its 6-foot-7 dunk artist throughout the postseason.

The senior's absence proved to be too much to overcome during its 74-61 loss to Trillium on March 14, especially when it came to rebounding on the defensive end. A victory would've been its first in a semifinal since 2017.

"It was a battle, honestly," Windle said. "They had a little bit of a stretch of the fourth where it was back and forth, and they (Trillium) stretched the lead to four. We had a big turnover, and they stretched it to about seven."

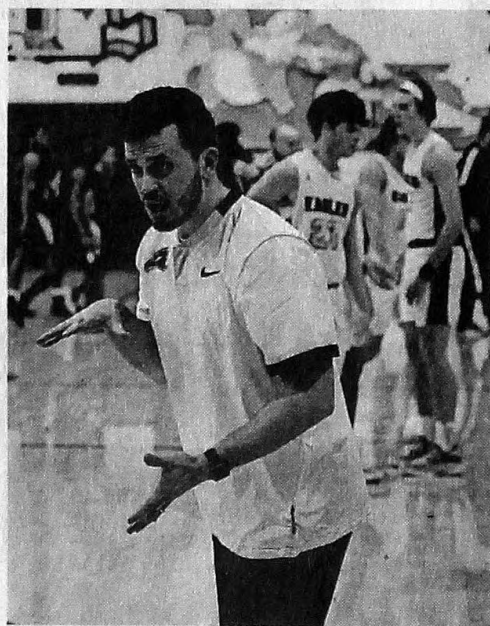
"We got it close with 3 minutes left, but we couldn't make our chances."

Still, it was an admirable effort for an Eagles squad that had to replace so many pieces from a year ago.

So, aside from Anwunah, who helped them make it that far?

For starters, Detroit Catholic Central transfer Jordan Scott made a name for himself in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

The junior averaged almost 30 points



Plymouth Christian Academy coach Matt Windle during the Division 4 boys basketball regional semifinal March 14.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/  
SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

per game in the second half of the season, good enough to be named the league's MVP. The guard scored 31 points (27 in the first half) during the district final and had another 29 in the regional opener.

"He's a stud, man," Windle said. "Really, some D-Is and D-IIIs (colleges) need to take notice of him. He's smooth, can handle the ball, has confidence and can hit shots."

"When other people see him, they know he's a stud. They know he can play at a high level. He's only a junior and is only going to get better and stronger."

Also helping was junior Nate Pierson and sophomore Evan Southerland.

Pierson was an All-MIAC first-teamer after averaging 20.4 points per game. What's more, the guard tied the school record for most points in a single game with 45 during an 85-56 win over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in January.

Southerland was a league second-teamer who averaged almost five points.

Others who stepped up all year were junior Cam Weller, freshman Aiden Sexton (a mid-season JV call-up) and senior Mario Cassar (Anwunah's replacement in the playoffs).



PCA's Mario Cassar rebounds against Taylor Trillium Academy.

"Not having Chibi was huge, and that was a big impact for us," Windle added. "At the beginning of the year, the storyline was that we graduated eight seniors and had a ton of new kids at the varsity level."

"To start the year, we were worried about that aspect of things, but we knew they were really talented. They grew up and matured this year with the help of seniors like Chibi, Mario, Spencer (Mistele) and Joey (Lavinge). Those seniors all played a big role in our success this year."

Expected returners next winter are juniors Brady White, Weller, Scott and Pierson, sophomores Ray Weber, Zach Blume and Southerland and Sexton, the

team's lone freshman to play major varsity minutes, among a handful of other underclassmen from the JV.

Because of PCA's jump in enrollment, it'll be a D-3 team when the playoffs begin.

That's tough news for a lot of teams. But given the Eagles' past regional draws, moving up a division might be a boon.

"We always run into really good teams in the playoffs," Windle said. "It's just a matter of time before we make it over that hump and win a regional title."

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



# Zebras

Continued from Page 1B

Davai Matthews pointed up at the jumbotron, and then both she and Mayla Ham shared a disappointed smirk.

"That definitely was a stab in the back," Ham later said after the Zebras suffered a heartbreaking 52-42 loss to Hartland. "People thought we were down. We here. It was a tough loss, but we were here."

"And that's all that matters."

That's OK. The Zebras (23-3) have been used to getting disrespected all winter.

As eighth-year coach Jarvis Mitchell often points out on Twitter, his critics have said this is probably the "worst" team he's coached.

Why?

Minnesota freshman Alanna Michaux isn't on this team, nor is Purdue junior Jeanae Terry. And neither is St. John's senior Camree Clegg.

This year's squad didn't have generational players who were nominated for the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Miss Basketball honor.

But there definitely needs to be an emphasis on the quotes around the word "worst" because this was a team that punched well above its weight all season long, and it did it with inexperienced players up and down the roster.

The Zebras graduate just two seniors in Matthews, who is signed with Division I Long Beach State, and Jaylah Franklin. They'll return two future D-I players in juniors Paris Bass and Ham. They'll bring back sophomore Alexis Halley and four freshmen, three of whom played 20 or more minutes per game. Yes, that's right, they went 14-0 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East with three freshmen playing 2/3 of the team's minutes.

And these aren't your typical freshmen. This year's team likely has five or six future college basketball players. Even Hartland coach Don Palmer called freshman guard Colleen Bryant the Zebras' "most important player" during his post-game press conference.

So if this is Mitchell's "worst" team, which made it all the way to the final four with losses to only Arbor Prep and Hartland, which are both playing for state titles on Saturday, and Howell, then this team should be poised to win



Wayne Memorial's Davai Matthews cheers from the bench during the third quarter in the Division 1 state semifinal against Hartland on March 18 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

its first-ever state championship in the next year or so.

"We took a hard first loss (to Arbor Prep in December's season opener) and then everybody kind of wrote us off," Mitchell said. "With us, man, I'm not really concerned with peoples' opinions. Our coaching staff just wanted to coach the girls as hard as we can. If we get there (back to the final four), good. If we don't, that doesn't change our love for them as a basketball team. I'm very pleased with the girls' effort."

Mitchell said the experience gained this season will be a boon for his girls going forward.

Entering training camp, he knew freshmen such as Bryant, Mia Bazzi and Tierra Golden-Patton were going to be needed, especially with just four upperclassmen.

But those three youngsters weren't prepared for it. Now they'll know what to expect heading into 2022-23.

"I feel like the first game against Arbor Prep, they didn't know how big their role was going to be," said Matthews, who scored a team-high 15 points vs. Hartland. "Now they know how they should pick it up and play the rest of their career. They shouldn't depend on just upperclassmen or even me (to carry the load). I can have an off game. They should always play for themselves and be the best player that they can be."

That also doesn't rule out the extra responsibility that'll be put on Ham and Bass now that Matthews, the team's big sister, will no longer ride the bus with them to games. The seniors-to-be should be two of the best players in metro Detroit entering next season, judging by the D-I scouts showing up to their playoff games. Much will be expected of them.

"I'm definitely gonna challenge myself," Ham said. "I know that a lot of people didn't expect us to be here because

we were young. Going into the season, we took a hard first loss, but we got better throughout the season and just got better every game after that. I just feel like next year it'll be totally different. Just getting better, this day forward until the start of the new season. Just reflecting on it, see what happens and see what we can improve going into the next season."

Wayne didn't have what it took to keep pace with the Eagles, who have as many seniors as the Zebras have players on the roster, thanks to a rough first half and an even worse third quarter.

But Mitchell's "worst" team in eight years made it to MSU, and plenty of girls basketball fans around Michigan got a glimpse of what Wayne's future will look like. These young girls can play at a high level, and now everyone knows it.

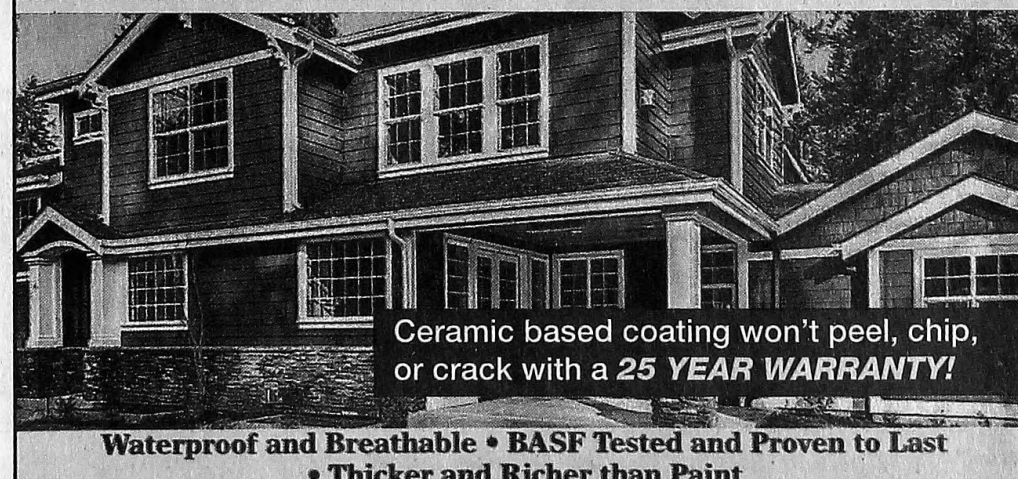
Hopefully, that means the next time the Zebras make it to the Breslin they'll be in the hype video.

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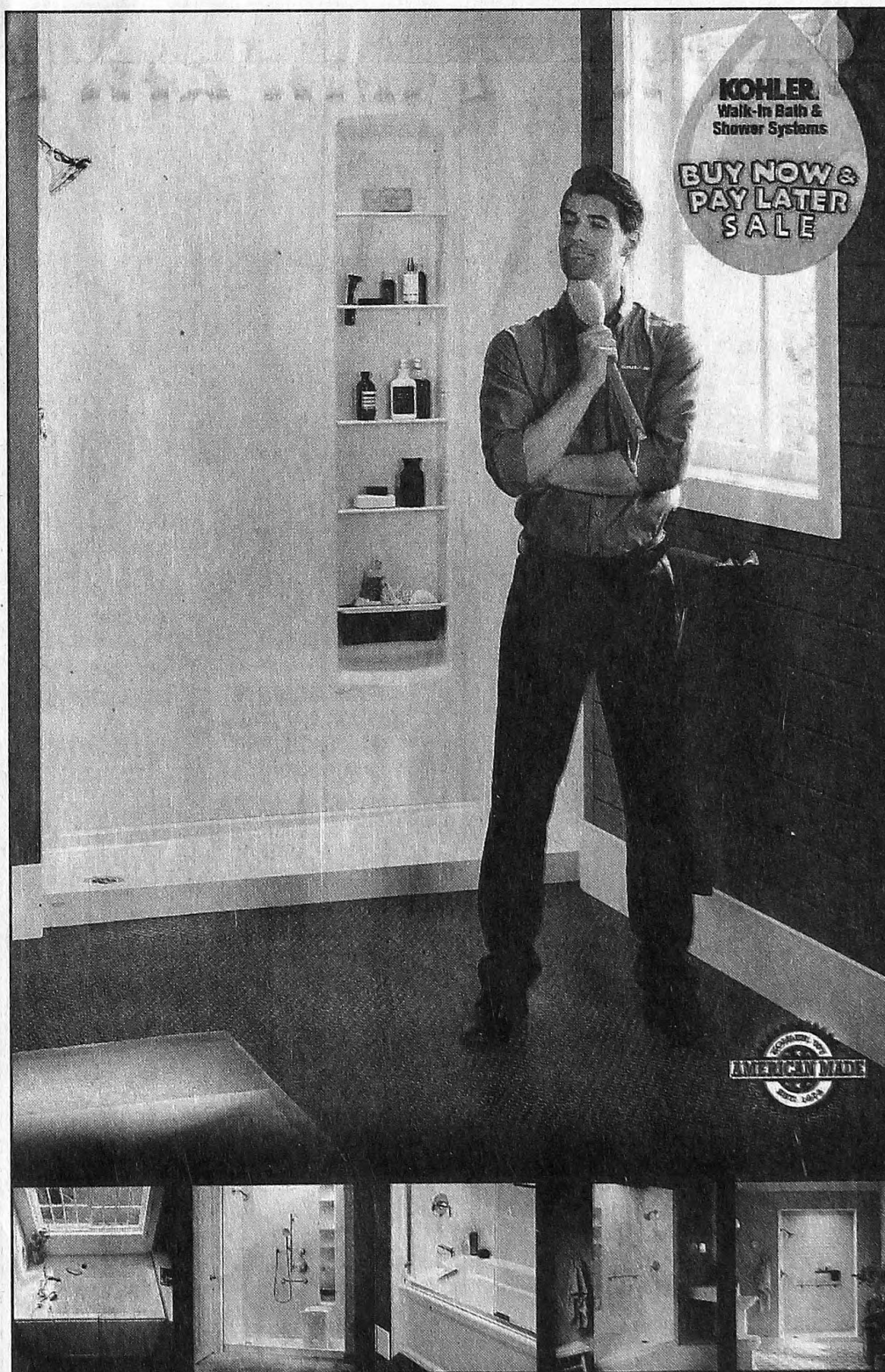
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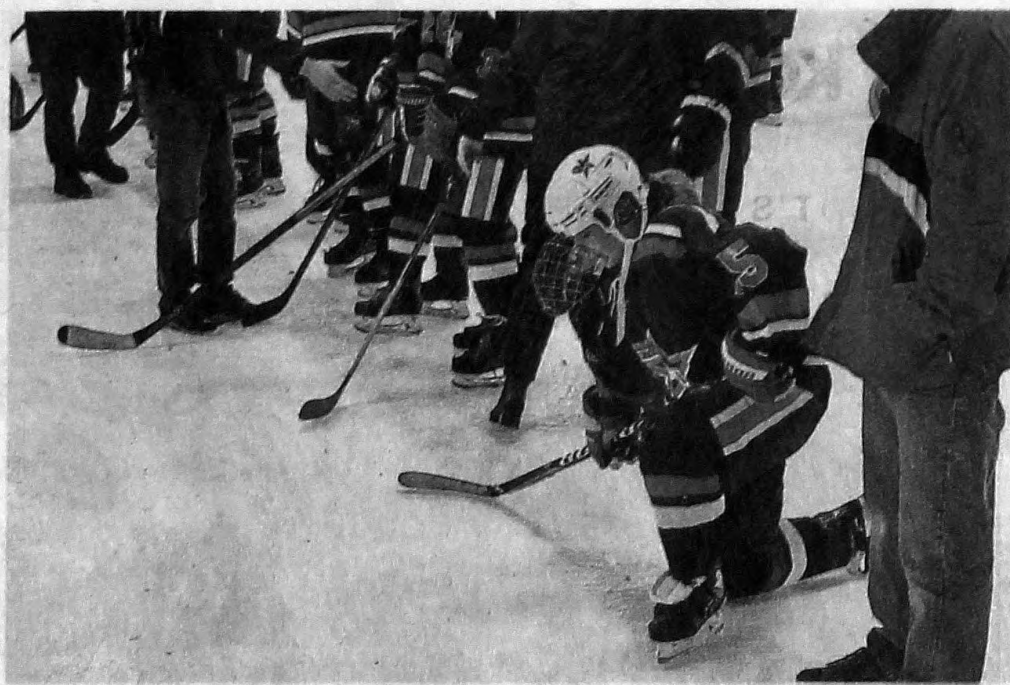
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Livonia United's Martha Blank gets emotional after her team lost to University Liggett 7-2 in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League state championship on March 12 at USA Hockey Arena. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Livonia United goalie Annelise Pearce watches her team celebrate a goal.

## Finals

Continued from Page 1B

popped two in right in the third. Unfortunately, it was a little too late and too short.

"But it was nice we were able to celebrate with the fans. We had a lot of people come here, and I bet you half those people upstairs don't even have a kid on the team. It was a tremendous amount of support we've gotten from the community to come here and watch this game."

Livonia United has come a long way since its club was founded five years ago.

The team initially didn't have a coach until Martinez's daughter, Corrin, told her mother to step away from the referee ranks and get behind LU's bench so the co-op between Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson could actually play games.

Livonia United was the worst in the league that inaugural year.

But, slowly but surely, the team developed and grew into a well-respected program.

A year ago, LU took Farmington Hills Mercy to five overtimes in the playoff semifinal before finally escaping with a 2-1 win, earning the chance to face Liggett in the championship.

And earlier last week, LU played Grosse Pointe South in an almost-all-night classic, edging the Blue Devils 6-5 after three overtimes. Neither team exited the arena until well past 11 p.m.

"(This week) was very motivating, the girls were resilient," Coach Martinez said. "The three overtimes were phenomenal. They never gave up, and I'm proud of them for getting here today."

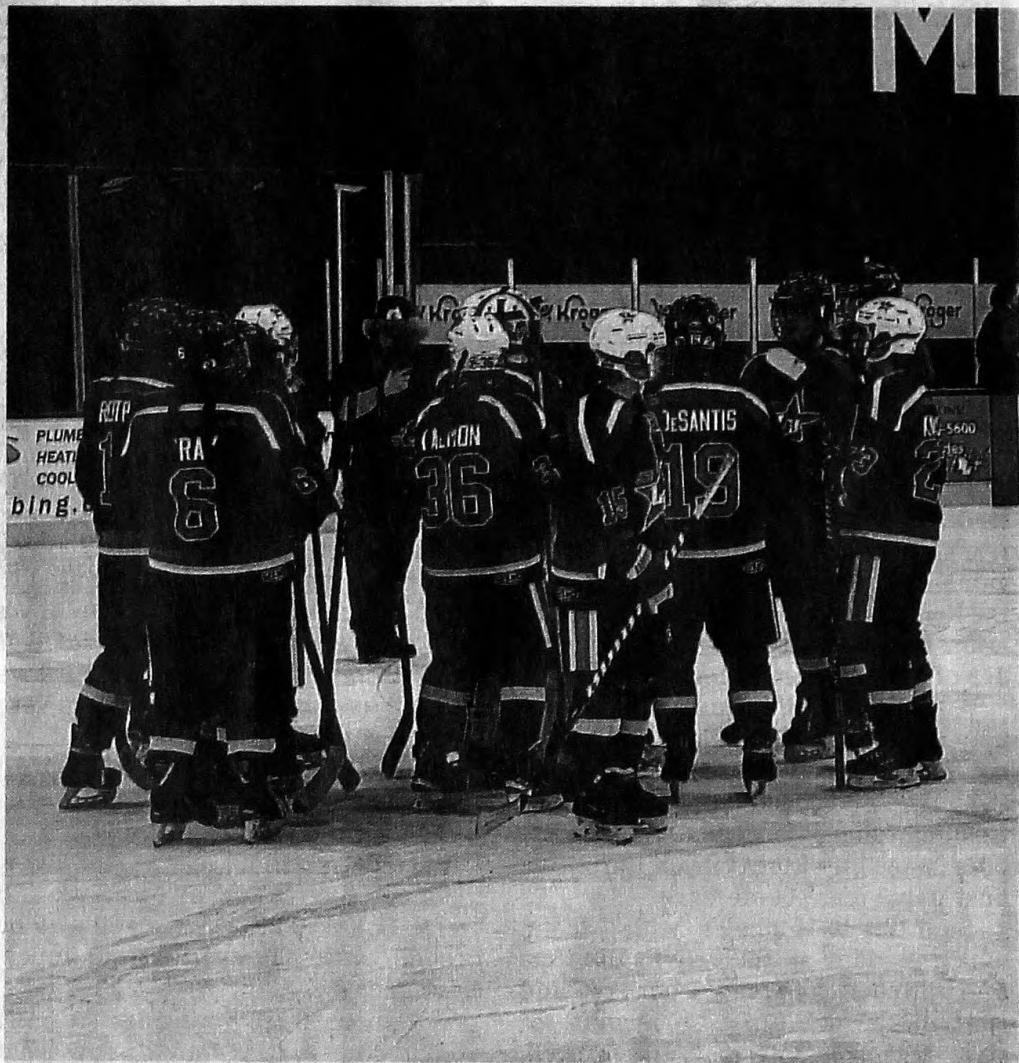
"This is back-to-back for us to be in the championship game, so when we started this program five years ago, we were in last place, so to be back at a state championship two years in a row, I think is phenomenal. This program has come a long way."

"We have a bad habit of going to overtimes, but it makes it exciting. To me, those are the games that they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

This year's squad also included Martha Blank, Darby Gray, Grace McBrien, Allison Breitbach, Kiera Grom, Aliya Kovie, Rachel DeSantis, Jen Kinast, Ava Korte, Shana Talmon, Noelle Michalski, Carley Nelson, Norah Niva and Kirsten Martinez as well as Tymmarie Grom and Pearce.

Helping Coach Martinez were assistants Todd DeSantis, Corrin Martinez and Carlo Marzolo.

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



Livonia United teammates console one another after losing 7-2.

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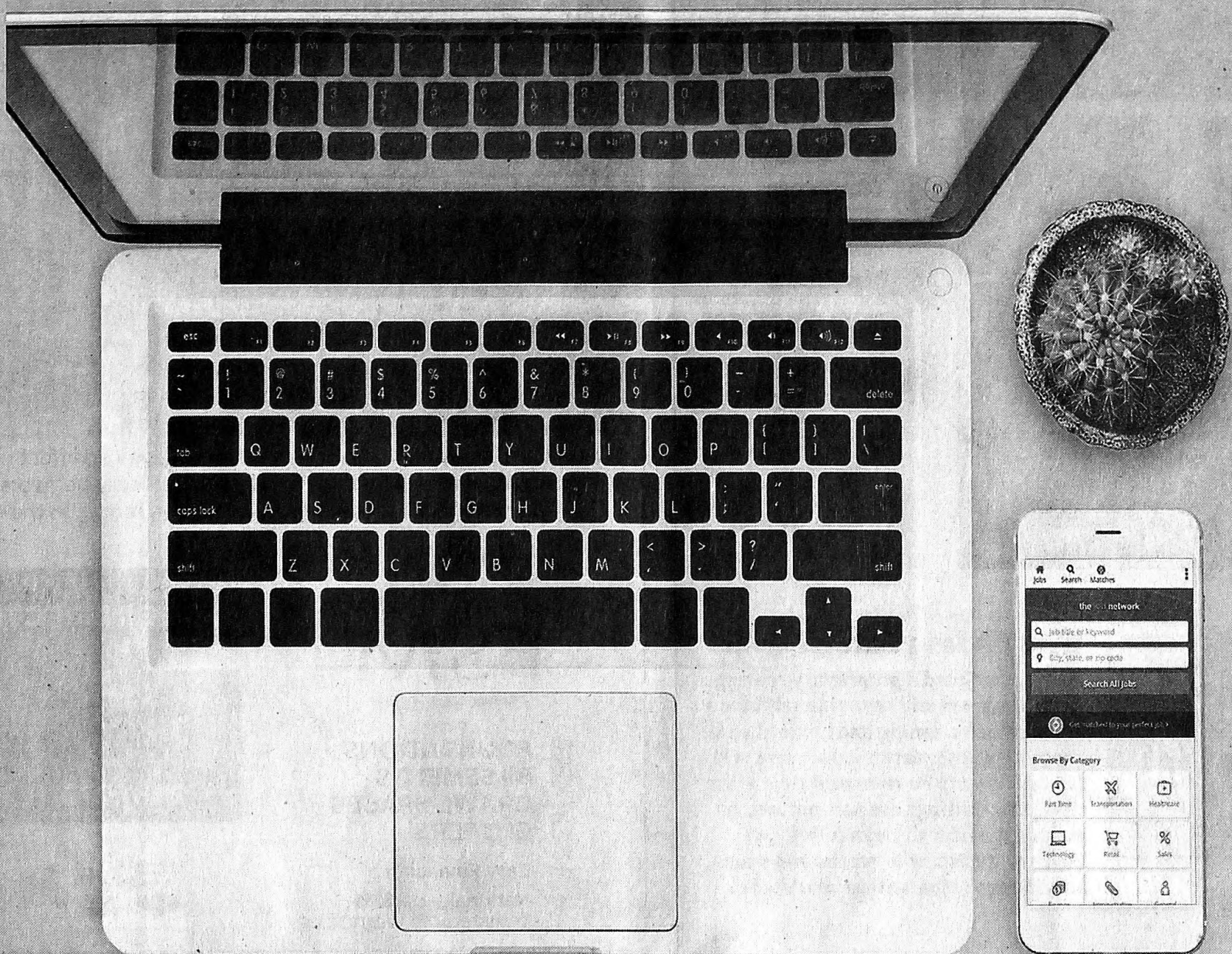
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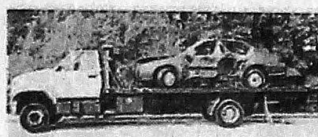
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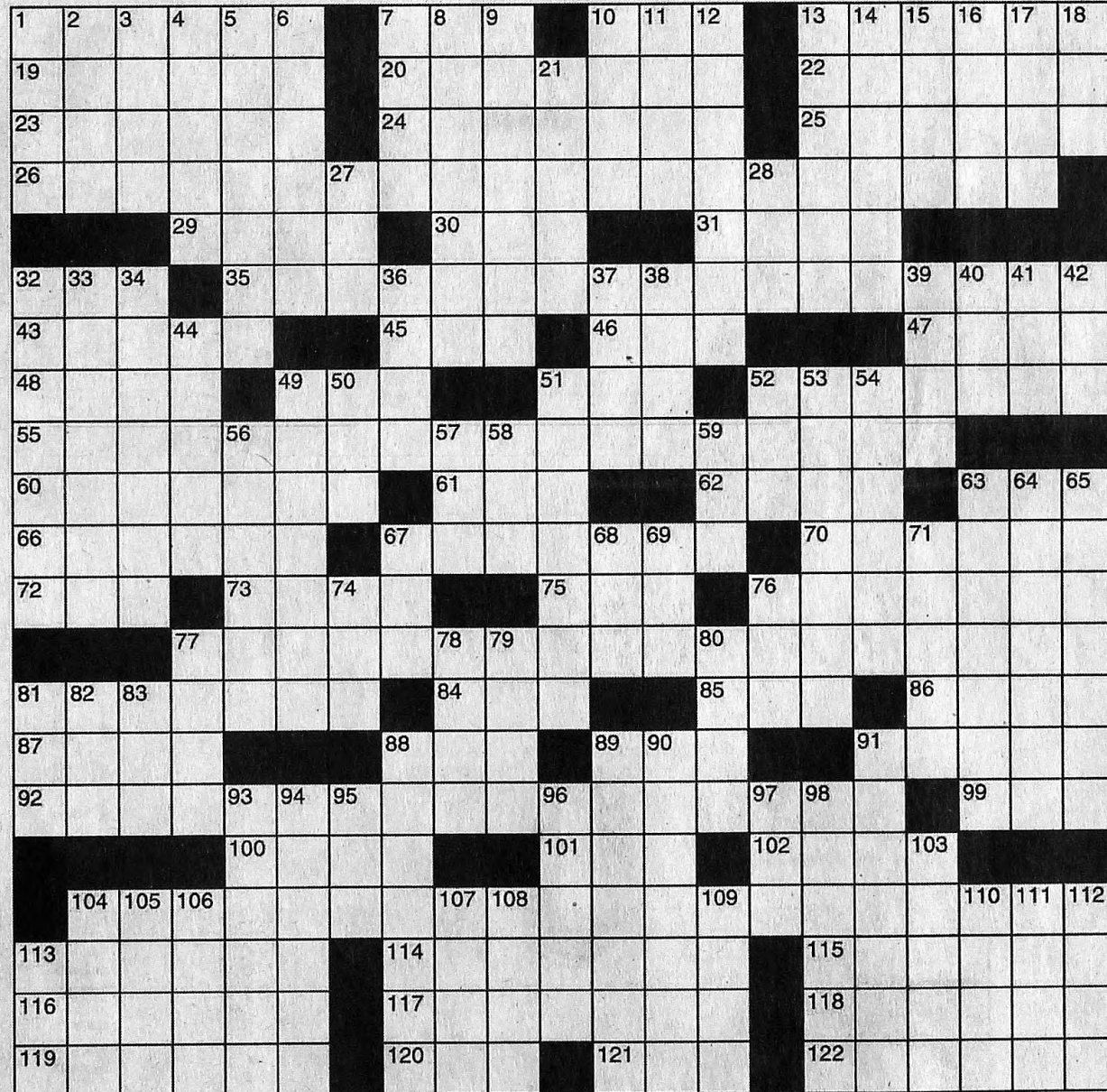


# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

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- |  |  |                                 |                                  |   |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                  | 52 Minecraft and StarCraft, e.g.           | 100 Impulsive desire            | 9 Lure for insect extermination  | 42 — Moines                             | 77 Higher ground?               |
| 1 Not quite first-rate                         | 55 Riddle, part 3                          | 101 Illusionist Geller          | 10 The earth as a goddess        | 44 Bob of choreography                  | 78 "You wish!"                  |
| 7 "Patience — virtue"                          | 60 Brief promos                            | 102 Like planted seeds          | 11 Cut — (dance)                 | 49 Tahitian skirts                      | 79 Condé —                      |
| 10 Car tankful                                 | 61 Triceps' place                          | 104 Riddle's answer             | 12 Pago Pago people              | 50 Package delivery co.                 | 80 User-edited website          |
| 13 Collie of TV                                | 62 Pop's Celine                            | 113 Enter very quickly          | 13 "Meteor" actor Martin         | 51 Carpentry material for some cabinets | 81 Rescue squad VIP             |
| 19 Cattle farm of the West                     | 63 See 58-Down                             | 114 Novelist Caldwell           | 14 1972 Billy Wilder comedy film | 52 Chi follower                         | 82 "— di-dah!"                  |
| 20 Trumpet blast                               | 66 Bullfighter                             | 115 Common gauge for toy trains | 15 Long, involved story          | 53 Spicy Spanish pork sausage           | 83 False story                  |
| 22 Singer and actor Frankie                    | 67 Riddle, part 4                          | 116 "Despite that ..."          | 16 Shut loudly                   | 54 Taxonomic subdivisions               | 88 Projecting curves on saddles |
| 23 When it's 12:00 p.m.                        | 70 Put a new front on, as a building       | 117 Gets smaller                | 17 Actress Skye of "Stranded"    | 56 Become lively                        | 89 By the day                   |
| 24 Element #3                                  | 72 Unbroken                                | 118 "Happy Days" actress Ross   | 18 Grammy winner Brian           | 57 Cheer yell                           | 90 Huffington of HuffPost       |
| 25 Japanese city that hosted the 1998 Olympics | 73 Recognized                              | 119 Bunks on ships              | 21 "— the breaks!"               | 58 With 63-Across, for the time being   | 91 So to speak                  |
| 26 Start of a riddle                           | 75 With 59-Down, brand of frozen potatoes  | 120 Mil. ranker                 | 27 Former Egypt-Syr. alliance    | 59 See 75-Across                        | 93 Wise-acting                  |
| 29 Japanese buckwheat noodle                   | 76 Famously feisty fish                    | 121 Gym pad                     | 28 Texter's "Holy smokes!"       | 63 Oven used to bake naan               | 94 Thick-skinned critters       |
| 30 Dr. Seuss' Sam —                            | 77 Riddle, part 5                          | 122 Hole to receive a lace      | 32 "Let me!"                     | 64 Spiny ant eater                      | 95 Day, in Chile                |
| 31 Amo, amas, —                                | 81 Oval shape                              | <b>DOWN</b>                     | 33 Bases-loaded situation        | 65 Most unkind                          | 96 Study guys                   |
| 32 "Addams Family" cousin                      | 84 Dejected                                | 1 Bird's crop                   | 34 Lightweight kitchen utensils  | 67 Conservation org. with a panda logo  | 97 Abbr. on a bad check         |
| 35 Riddle, part 2                              | 85 "Who am — judge?"                       | 2 Trellis strip                 | 36 Peak                          | 68 Pooch's yap                          | 98 End a vacation               |
| 43 Faint smell                                 | 86 Secret writing                          | 3 "Noelle" star                 | 37 Chicago daily, in brief       | 69 Big blue body                        | 103 Mother-of-pearl             |
| 45 Foldout bed                                 | 87 Postal pieces                           | 4 Glasgow natives               | 38 Global: Abbr.                 | 71 Genre of many sitcoms                | 104 Surfing need                |
| 46 Co-workers of MDs                           | 88 Detectives like TV's Kendrick for short | 5 Grandstander                  | 39 Mark for life                 | 74 Wide shoe spec                       | 105 Cake finisher               |
| 47 Stalactite site                             | 89 Karachi's nation: Abbr.                 | 6 Chimpanzee variety            | 40 Easter meat                   | 76 Mining shaft                         | 106 Holy Week's time            |
| 48 Florence's river                            | 91 Very long time periods                  | 7 "— have to wait"              | 41 Adam's mate                   |   | 107 Eldest of the Brady boys    |
| 49 Total amount                                | 92 End of the riddle                       | 8 Got married                   |                                  |   | 108 Helper: Abbr.               |
| 51 "Scram!"                                    | 99 Disloyal type                           |                                 |                                  |   | 109 For fear that               |
|  |  |                                 |                                  |   | 110 Half a train track          |
|  |  |                                 |                                  |   | 111 — gin fizz                  |
|  |  |                                 |                                  |   | 112 Camp shelter                |
|  |  |                                 |                                  |   | 113 Yank's rival                |



#2,083 Average time of solution: 67 minutes

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

## SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## A FANFARE OF FORDS

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

- ANGLIA
- CAPRI
- CORSAIR
- CORTINA
- COUGAR
- CROWN
- CUSTOM
- DE LUXE
- DEL RIO
- DURANGO
- ELITE
- ESCORT
- EXPEDITION
- EXPLORER
- FAIRLANE
- FAIRMONT
- FALCON
- FIESTA
- FIGO
- FLEX
- FOCUS
- FUSION
- FUTURA
- GALAXY
- GRANADA
- KA
- KOLN
- KUGA
- LANDAU
- MAINLINE
- MAVERICK
- METEOR
- MONDEO
- MUSTANG
- PINTO
- RANGER
- RHEINLAND
- ROYALE
- SPECIAL
- SPORTKA
- SQUIRE
- TAURUS
- TEMPO
- THUNDERBIRD
- TORINO
- VICTORIA
- ZEPHYR

A FANFARE OF FORDS

Difficulty Level: \*\*\*

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

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