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PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS

Parents offer innovative budget ideas

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Plymouth-Canton Schools community members came up with a list of innovative ideas when given a chance to offer feedback regarding the creation of

the district’s 2022-23 budget.

Projects ranging from enclosing the walkways that connect the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park’s three high schools to reducing the number of students in classrooms were frequent suggestions, revealed Board of Education

Treasurer Patrick Kehoe.

Unfortunately, trustees admitted most of the budget requests would be too expensive, at least with the current state education funding methods.

“We appreciate the interest in the construction of coverings for the Ply-

mouth-Canton Educational Park passing-time walkways,” Kehoe said. “This suggestion comes up every year. However, it’s probably unlikely to occur any-time soon because of the cost.”

See IDEAS, Page 5A

Crime at hookah lounges leading to law change in Farmington Hills

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Chronic crime issues at five of the six hookah lounges that have operated in Farmington Hills in recent years has officials considering further restrictions on smoking lounge establishments.

According to the Farmington Hills Police Department, these issues date back to 2014 and have resulted in more than 100 instances requiring police intervention. Incidents have included everything from public urination to homicide.

“We’re not going to tolerate that kind of behavior in these facilities,” City Manager Gary Mekjian said.

Police suggested strengthening the ordinance after a shooting in January at Vibe Hookah Lounge on Northwestern Highway. City council recently discussed the issue during a study session and will vote on potential ordinance updates, including giving the police department power to close an establishment for 72 hours after an emergency and requiring establishments to have working security cameras, at a future meeting.

The city currently requires smoking lounges to close between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. and have a license. The city also empowers police to close a smoking business for six hours following an emergency.

Mekjian said some of the establishments in Farmington Hills still haven’t applied for a business license since the city set that requirement in September 2021. The city has issued at least one reminder.

Police Chief Jeff King said his biggest concern is the violent nature of

See CRIME, Page 5A



Kensington Farm Center supervisor Patrick Bigelow introduces Finlee Donner, 7 months, to a weeks-old lamb March 28. Finley is held by his mother Stacey. The center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily and features many baby animals at this time. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Spring is here and so are Kensington Farm babies

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It’s springtime, and babies are back on the farm.

Kensington is welcoming cute new arrivals at the metropark’s Farm Center in along the Milford/Brighton border, with six kids (baby goats) and six lambs recently born.

Baby season continues to the end of May and is the most popular time of the year for visitors, who are able to interact

See BABIES, Page 4A

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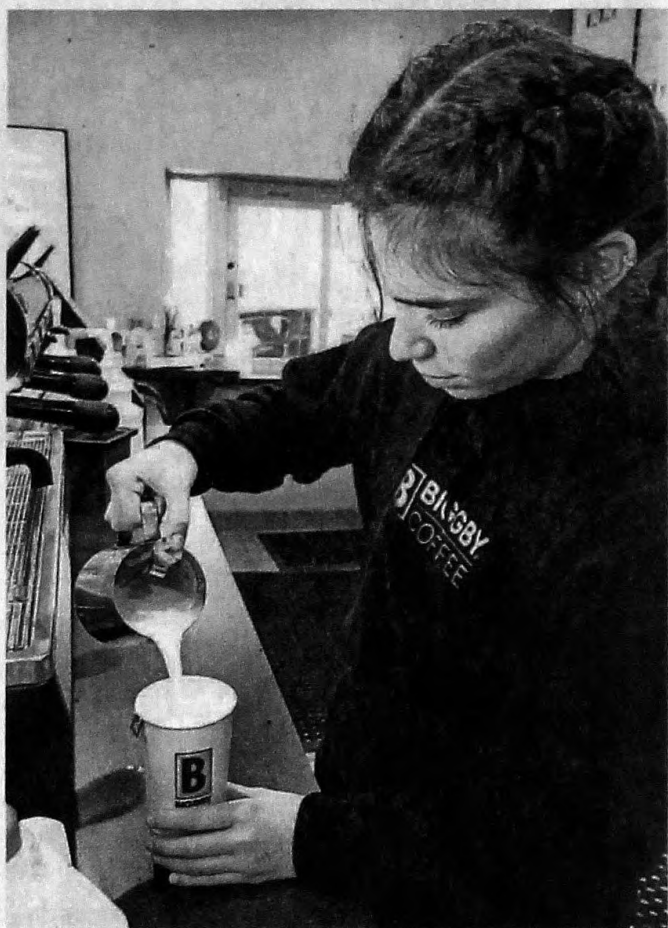
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Paris Baguette Assistant General Manager Megan Lou places pastries in a case at the new Birmingham location. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Biggby Coffee employee Emma Mood mixes up a tea-latte. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Business roundup: What opened, closed in March

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Spring is a time for change, and the same could be said for the region's business community. Here's a non-exhaustive list of the changes in the business landscape across the Hometown Life communities during the past month. Did we miss one? Have a business opening or closing soon? Let us know by emailing dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Westland

After years of work and delays, Legendary Axe opened in the former Skateworld building at 37550 Cherry Hill. An entertainment venue complete with a bar and several ax-throwing lanes, it sports an Up North feel in a space next to Hush Haunted Attraction. Either before or after throwing axes, be sure to grab something to eat. A longtime vacant restaurant on Wayne Road has new life thanks to hummus and chicken shawarma. New to town is 2Booli 2Go, a fast-casual Middle Eastern restaurant at 6308 N. Wayne Road.



The North-End Market Candle Bar at 435 N. Main St. in Milford brings together the North Main Gift Co. and the new candle bar.

An offshoot of 2Booli in Farmington Hills, the restaurant serves up bowls and pitas packed with flavor. The restaurant provides dine-in, takeout and drive-thru. Not in the mood for Middle Eastern? Drive a little north along Wayne Road to a new café serving up crepes and coffee. Aroma Creperie and Cafe opened in late February in the space that formerly held Payless ShoeSource in the Westland Plaza. Opened by Iraqi immigrants, the cafe brings both savory and sweet crepes with plenty of international flavor.

Livonia

It's gotten a little easier to grab a cup of coffee in southwest Livonia. The Biggby Coffee long located in the plaza at Ann Arbor Road and Newburgh recently relocated to a space formerly occupied by a bank at 38047 Ann Arbor Road. The biggest addition is a drive-thru, allowing customers to pick up that Caramel Marvel without leaving their cars. A new place to grab both new and "pre-loved" women's clothing has arrived in Livonia as well. Lynn Nailor has relocated Get Styled Resale Boutique from its previous location in Ferndale to a new shop at 33302 W. Seven Mile, just east of Farmington Road. The shop has new and used items. A big box pharmacy has closed as well. The Rite Aid at 27401 Six Mile on the corner of Inkster has closed, with the last day open in March. A request for more information on the closure was sent to Rite Aid but was not returned.

Plymouth/Plymouth Township

Grab a taste of fall all year round in downtown Plymouth. Bakehouse 46 has taken over the former Cupcake Station at 318 S. Main St. A collaboration between Blake's and Cupcake Station, Bakehouse 46 brings cider, doughnuts, cakes and other treats to a new café. It joins several others in southeast Michigan. A popular fast-casual restaurant has also moved to the area: Chipotle opened at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty in Plymouth Township. The popular burrito joint is one of the first locations to open at the plaza where Kmart formerly stood. A Henry Ford Health facility plans to open on the site later this year.

There was one prominent closing in the Plymouth area this past month. Shimmy Shack, the well-known vegan restaurant on Sheldon Road, closed after rent was increased at the space. While the restaurant is closed, the Shimmy Shack food truck plans to continue serving up its delicious fare.

Farmington

Get ready to get fit as a new gym has opened its doors in Farmington. F45, known for its high-intensity workouts, held its grand opening in March at 33019 Grand River. The gym is known for its group fitness classes utilizing circuit and high-intensity interval training. Other F45 gyms operate nearby in Livonia and Birmingham.

Milford

No longer do Milford parents looking for used clothing for their children need to drive to Novi or Brighton. Three Little Peas has opened in the plaza at Summit and Commerce next to the Milford Independent Cinema. Specializing in clothing for infants to young children, it's the first dedicated children's clothing resale shop to open in the area. They also purchase clothing. A new attraction for a special night out also opened its doors in downtown Milford. North-End Market Candle Bar opened in late March at 435 N. Main St., giving guests a chance to create their own scented candle, hand soap and other products with customizable smells. It brings together the North Main Gift Co., which operated in a small room behind the Beyond Juicery + Eatery, and the new candle bar.

Nearby in Highland, there's now a place to grab a classic metro Detroit classic: the coney dog. Leo's Coney Island has a new location at 2218 S. Milford Road in front of Milford High School. Leo's is known across the region for its traditional coney island staples such as the hot dog smothered in chili, onion and mustard, along with other comfort foods.

South Lyon

There's a new reason to go to the bowling alley in South Lyon. Pinz Bowling Center at 700 N. Lafayette has added a new arcade in addition to the bowling lanes, which includes a variety of games. Shoot some hoops or play one of several games and try to win a prize at the bowling alley. Do well enough and win a prize. More information can be found at pinzsouthlyon.com.

Birmingham

Grab a taste of the world at Birmingham's newest café. The first Paris Baguette in Michigan opened in March at 183 N. Old Woodward. Known for its self-serve format for pastries and other baked goods, the cafe offers space for diners to enjoy their baked goods and coffee inside or to-go.

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Westland man sentenced in shooting death of Novi teen

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Westland man may spend up to 40 years in prison for his admitted role in killing 17-year-old Robert Bigham during the summer of 2020.

Third Circuit Judge Chandra Baker-Robinson sentenced Duan Markeith Jones, 20, to 22-40 years for a second-degree murder charge.

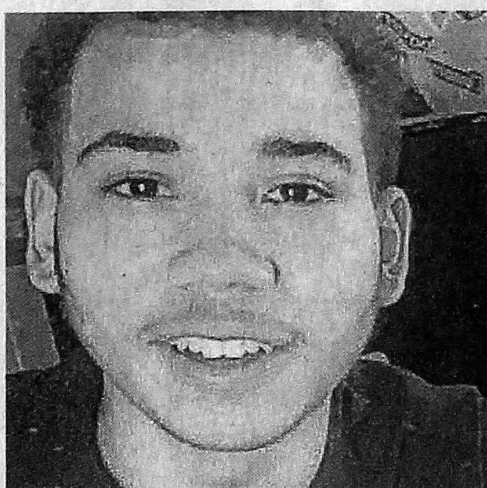
At a March 31 proceeding, the judge also sentenced Jones to two years' incarceration on a weapons charge tied to the same shooting. Jones pleaded guilty to both charges, and the individual sentences will run concurrently.

Jones' attorney, Wright Blake, has previously said his client's guilty pleas were the smartest move considering the prosecutors' evidence.

"It's just a very unfortunate situation," Blake said after the sentencing. "Two families are impacted. My client is very remorseful. He made his apology to the family, and he was sincere."

According to Westland police, Bigham was fatally shot while riding his bicycle near Grand Traverse Street and Missaukee Court the night of June 7, 2020.

Police initially arrested three teens. Jones was charged with murder. The other two individuals faced lesser charges.



Robert Bigham was fatally shot while riding his bicycle near Grand Traverse Street and Missaukee Court the night of June 7, 2020.

COURTESY OF HUSBAND FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

Timothy Stevenson of Detroit pleaded guilty to larceny, admitting that he took Bigham's phone when he saw him suffering from his wounds. He's said in court that he intended to give the phone to Bigham's mother.

Stevenson did not appear for his sentencing, leading to a bench warrant.

The third individual does not appear in online records for Westland's 18th District Court or the higher Third Circuit Court in Detroit.

Woman dies in collision in I-96 construction zone

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Rochester Hills woman died Saturday morning in a rear-end collision along a westbound Interstate 96 construction zone near the Novi-Wixom border.

State troopers said on Twitter they responded to reports of a crash involving injuries near the Wixom Road interchange at about 9:25 a.m. April 2.

A Subaru was stopped in the westbound center lane due to a lane closure. A Kia sat behind the Subaru.

According to a preliminary investigation, a driver in a different car moved to

the center lane because of the lane closure.

After the lane change, his car rear-ended the red Kia, which then rear-ended the Subaru. First responders pronounced the Kia's rear passenger – a 28-year-old woman from Rochester Hills – dead at the scene.

The Kia's driver and front-seat passenger were transported to a local hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Other individuals involved in the crash were not hurt.

An investigation continues.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Hospitals are safe, so don't put off your care



Safa Kassab
St. Joseph Mercy Health System

As Chief of Surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and as one of our region's busiest orthopedic surgeons, I perform hundreds of hip and knee surgeries each year and am intimately involved in all facets of surgical quality and safety within the hospital.

There has been a lingering misconception throughout Michigan that hospitals are to be avoided except for the most gravely ill, or that non-critical or non-life-threatening medical procedures can and should be put off until COVID-19 is written about in history books. This is not only false, it's dangerous.

Although our hospitals have been on the frontlines for the treatment of COVID-19, they have also continued to treat many other conditions during the pandemic. We continue performing life-saving procedures as well as procedures that help to improve the quality of life for local residents. The hospital is a place for healing and the improvement of a patient's wellbeing.

I hear it in my office every day. When I meet with patients to discuss their treatment options, including the possibility of surgery, many are surprised to learn that hospitals are still doing procedures amid the last two years. This isn't the anecdotal experience of one physician in Oakland County, it's a well-documented medical problem unfolding across our state and across the country.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control, four in 10 Americans have avoided medical care because of concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To state that simply, that's 40% of all people.

This statistic is alarming. It represents a significant danger to the collective health and wellbeing of our community. Like most hospitals, at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, we continue to perform the full spectrum of surgeries from critical heart and cancer-related cases to life-enhancing cases, such as hip, knee and spine procedures.

We have not felt a need to suspend hospital surgical cases since the very beginning of the pandemic because we have confidence in the safety processes and safeguards in place. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as from state and local health officials, are being followed to make sure we provide the safest environment for our patients and staff.

I urge you, whatever your medical concern, to please seek the timely guidance of an experienced medical expert. Don't choose to live with chronic pain when surgical options are available and don't risk the deterioration of your health and wellbeing out of fear.

If you or a loved one needs surgery, please talk it over with your doctor and proceed confidently knowing that your treatment inside the hospital will be provided in a safe and healing environment.

Safa Kassab, MD, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon practicing in Oakland County with the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Reach the St. Joe's Physician Referral Line at 844-237-3627.

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Babies

Continued from Page 1A

with the babies as well as their parents. “You can pet farm animals and it’s a great time to bring the kids out and give them that experience of what a farm looks like and how it works,” said Danielle Mauter, chief of marketing and communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

The Kensington Farm Center is home to goats, sheep, chickens, horses, pigs, cows, donkeys and rabbits.

Mauter said rounds of babies are born about every two weeks as farm animals have staggered breeding times.

While delivery times are unpredictable, farm visitors can observe the miracle of birth if they are fortunate enough to be on site at the magic moment.

The babies remain with their mothers as long as needed for good health. Some will remain permanent residents at Kensington, while others will be sold at auction.

The Kensington Metropark Farm Center, 4570 Huron River Parkway, is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through October.

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



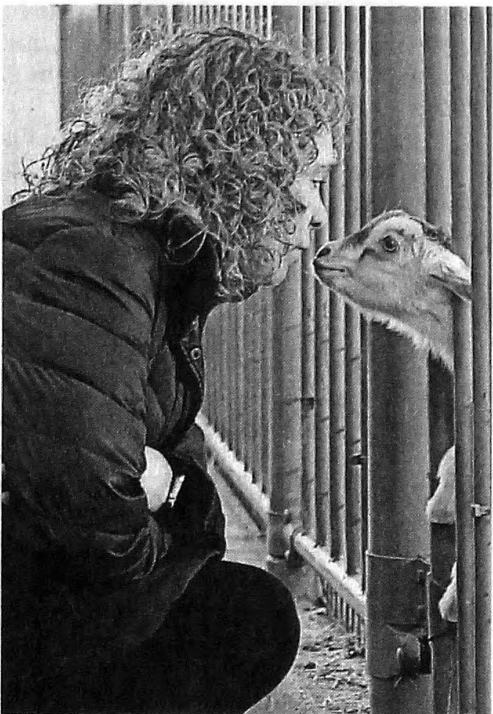
Visitors check out some of the baby farm animals at the Kensington Farm Center on March 28.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



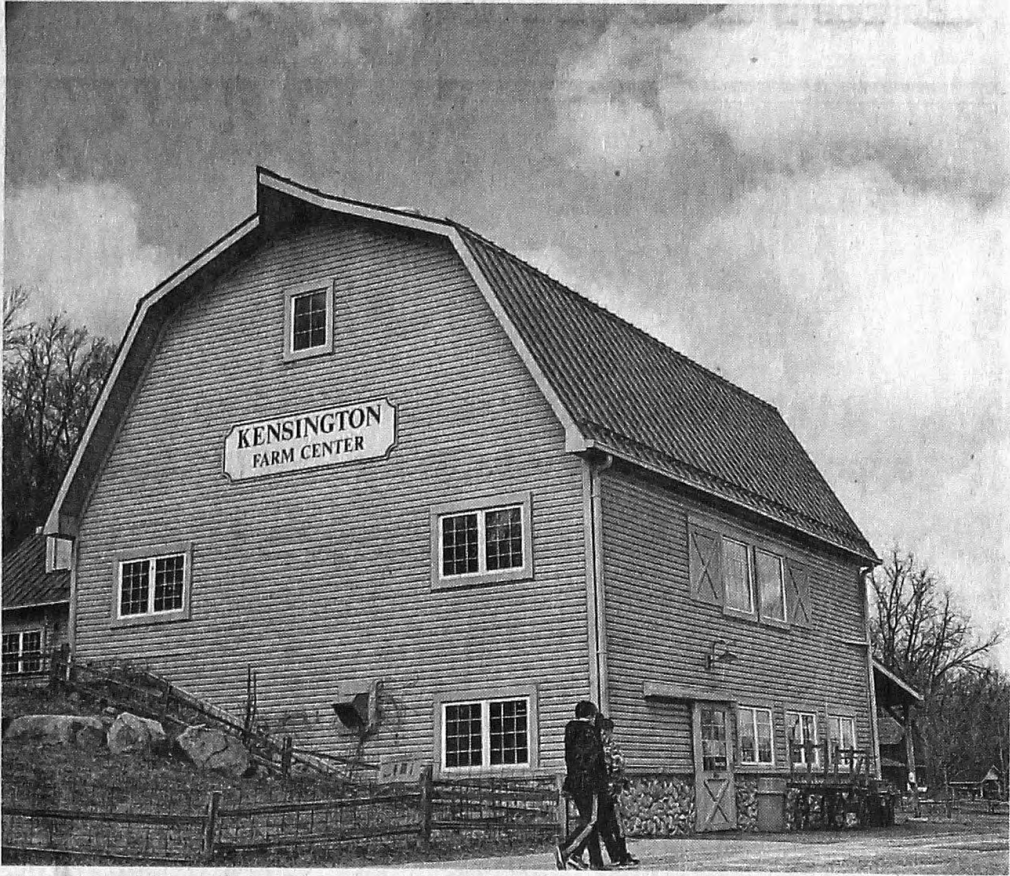
A pair of pigs catch a nap.



Tara Fry says hello to a curious kid.



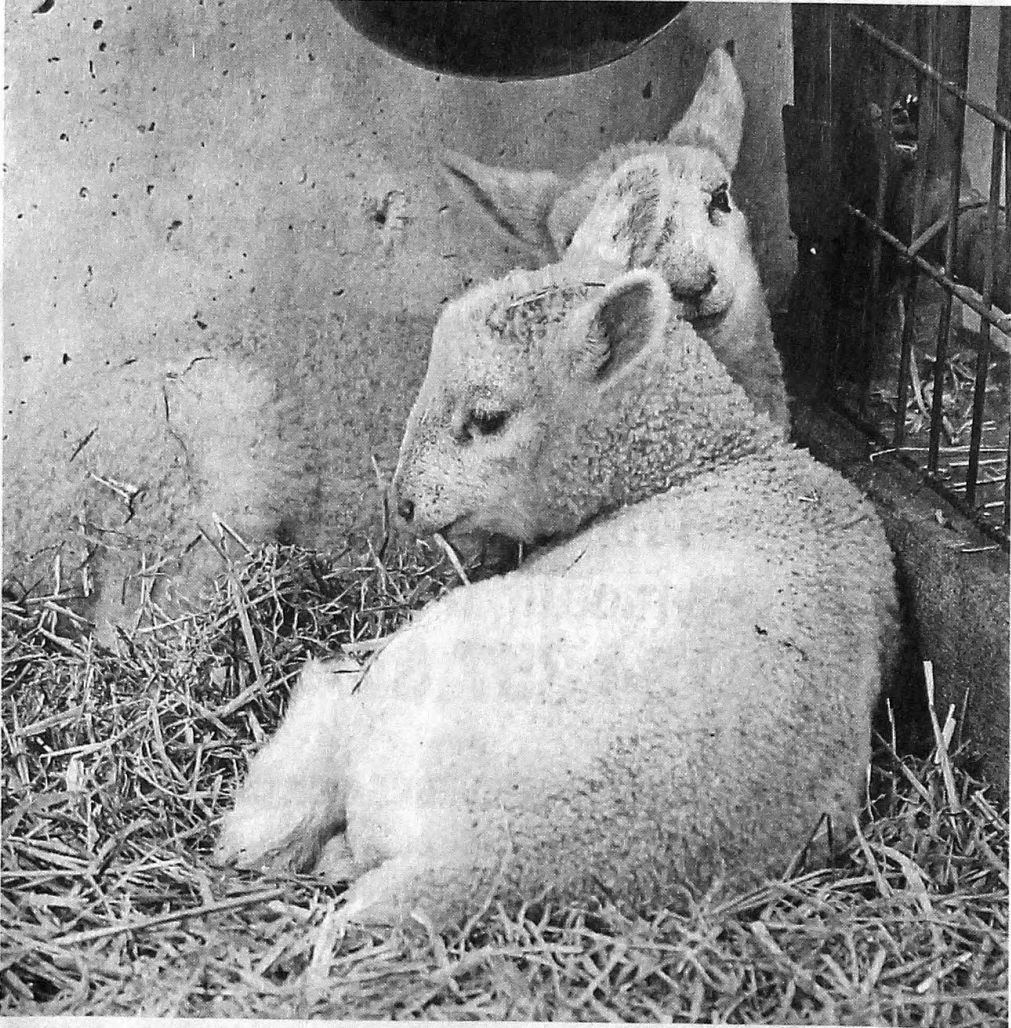
Fry, of Lansing, gets a goat kiss.



The center sits at 4570 Huron Parkway in Milford Township.



A goat gets a drink of water March 28.



Two one-week-old lambs huddle underneath a heat lamp.



Patrick Bigelow holds a three-week-old goat.

INTERSTATE 96 FLEX ROUTE PROJECT

One lane open westbound, bridge to close

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Transportation is closing all but one lane of the freeway from Interstate 275 to Kent Lake Road as crews begin bridge and drain work, pavement repair, and paving of shoulders.

Short-term intermittent ramp closures are also planned.

The work is part of the three-year I-96 Flex Route project. Through late May, single-lane closures will continue during the week 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on westbound I-96 from I-275 to Kent Lake Road and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on eastbound I-96 from Kent Lake Road to I-275.

Additionally, motorists in Lyon Township will be forced to avoid the South Hill Road bridge over I-96 as it will be entirely closed for repairs for one month beginning at 7 a.m. April 11 through May 9, weather permitting.

Detours for northbound South Hill Road will be Grand River Avenue to Milford Road, then Pontiac Trail to South Hill Road.

For southbound South Hill Road traffic, the detours are Pontiac Trail to Milford Road, then Grand River Avenue to South Hill Road.

The \$269 million I-96 Flex Route project includes rebuilding the freeway, rebuilding the median shoulders for use



The South Hill bridge over I-96 will soon be closed beginning May 11 for a month for maintenance.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

during peak periods, sign upgrades, and active traffic management installation, including intelligent transportation systems (ITS) equipment, overhead gantry installation and ramp signals for meter-

ing traffic onto the freeway. Electronic message boards will alert drivers with speed advisories and travel information. For more information, visit Driving-

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

Crime

Continued from Page 1A

some activity Farmington Hills establishments see. The only hookah business in the city that hasn't been the scene of a crime is Demashq Hookah & Café on Orchard Lake Road, which opened in 2019.

"We have four hookah lounges, and

three of them have had significant violent criminal actions at their location," he said. "This has included gunshots, shootings, individuals shot, individuals stabbed and various other crimes."

King added many smoking lounge-related calls his officers respond to result in an arrest or citation.

He expects added restrictions would aid the police department in preventing violent crime.

"The prevention factor is probably

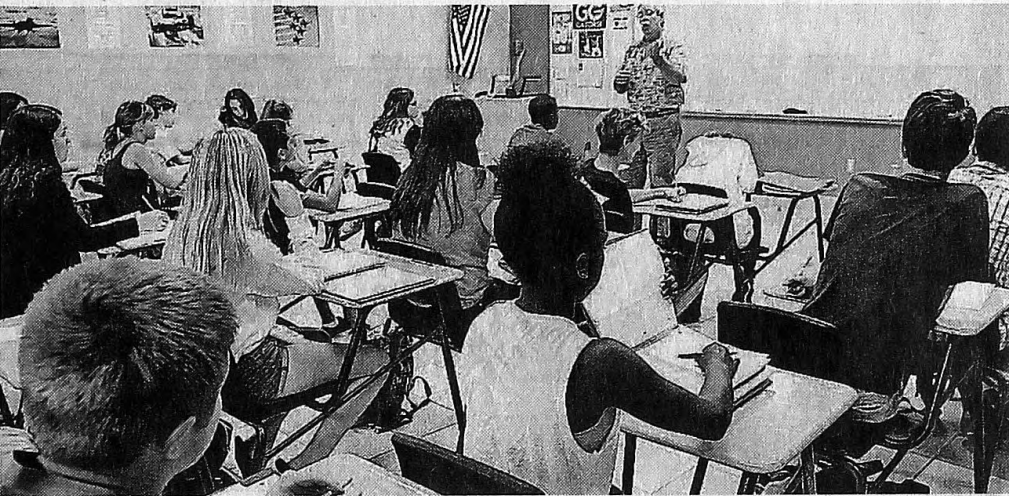
going to be the biggest," King said. "Our ability to have some kind of oversight involvement will help prevent these kinds of incidents."

Mekjian is unsure how this issue might ultimately affect the city's ongoing consideration to possibly allow marijuana businesses, which is still in early stages. But, he noted interactions he's had with industry representatives so far left him with the impression interested retailers want to operate "above board."

Though it's not a done deal yet, Mekjian said he anticipates council will be supportive of tightened restrictions for smoking lounges.

"I think it's fair for me to speak for most of our city council and residents and say we're not going to put up with this," he said.

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



Reducing the number of students per class is a priority for parents of Plymouth-Canton Schools students for the 2022-23 school year. USA TODAY NETWORK FILE

Ideas

Continued from Page 1A

P-CCS Chief Finance & Operations Officer Debbie Piesz said there were no cost estimates presently available for such a project.

"Our current thinking is we're looking first at prioritizing safety and security over comfort, based on what has happened locally as well as nationally," said Piesz, who added an estimate for a pathway-covering project could take some time to secure.

Students walking from Canton to Plymouth high schools for classes must endure a trek close to the length of three football fields — a task made more difficult during the harsh winter months.

The idea to reduce class sizes — a dilemma facing many school districts in Michigan — is also cost prohibitive, Kehoe explained.

"The cost of reducing every K-12 classroom by just one student would be \$1.6 million every year," said Kehoe, explaining the high price tag was due to the number of additional teachers the district would have to hire. "Studies have shown that reducing classes by just one student does not make much of an impact. You'd have to reduce class sizes substantially to see a benefit."

Kehoe explained the district's staff, students and their family members, and community members were given an opportunity to participate in the feedback survey.

"We use this every year to help us identify cost savings, areas where we can potentially make additional revenue and program changes or investments that might be able to help us improve the educational outcome for our

students."

Kehoe's presentation at the March 22 board meeting was divided into five subgroups: athletics and activities, human resources, maintenance/custodial, teaching and learning, and transportation.

The district is planning to start a "deeper conversation" regarding funding protocols for athletics and activities including the district's award-winning marching band. Most extracurricular activities in the district require a pay-to-play formula — a necessity created by previous budget shortfalls.

"Part of our 2020 bond projects include improving athletic facilities," Kehoe said. "While increasing the district's potential for rental income from the facilities may be a side benefit, we're doing it for our students and the programs."

Additional community ideas included:

- reducing the number of administrators to match the district's declining enrollment;
- salary reductions for staff making more than \$106,000 and not paying non-classroom staff more than teachers; and
- upgrading school parking lots and driveways to help deal with chaotic pick-up and drop-off scenarios.

Multiple survey participants urged a remedy was needed for Plymouth High School's current entry and exit set-up.

"This is a notorious problem for us with no easy answers," Kehoe said. "Trust me: We're looking at the process."

The district is required to file its final 2022-23 budget by the end of June.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

Kay Wood

GRAYLING - Kay (Chatterton) Wood, 84, of Grayling, formerly of Midland and Plymouth, passed away peacefully in her sleep April 1, 2022.

Kay was born April 20, 1937, in Clare to Ronald and Josephine Chatterton. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 62 years Ronald Wood and grandson Jamison Wood.

Kay spent her youth in Midland and graduated from Midland High School in 1955. She met her future husband, Ron, at a church in Midland and they ultimately married in 1958. After Ron graduated college they made their home in Plymouth where they raised their family. Kay was a long time member of the First United Methodist Church and a proud member of the Plymouth Community Chorus. After Ron retired, they moved to Grayling in 1995 where they built a new home on property owned by the family for over 115 years.

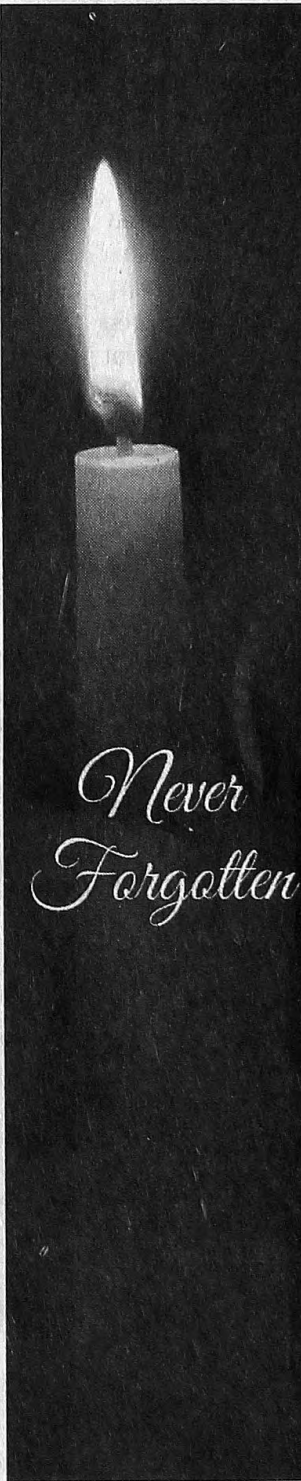
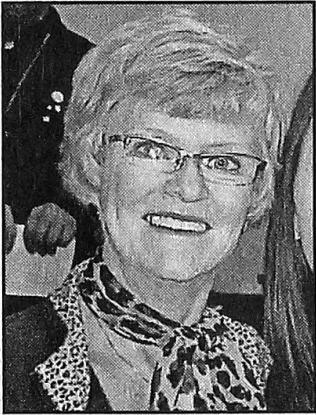
Kay is survived by her son Steve (Jennifer) Wood, daughter Julee Dean, grandson Nicholas Wood, granddaughter Kelsee Dean (Mitchell Thompson) and great-grandson Tatum Thompson, as well as several cousins. Later, Kay was blessed to have her friend Tom in her life.

A celebration of life for Ron and Kay will be held on a future date.

For those that wish to send condolences to family, go to www.sorensonlockwood.com

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It's a well-known fact that for many older Americans, the home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 45% of their total net worth. And with interest rates still near all-time lows while home values remain high, this combination creates the perfect dynamic for getting the most out of your built-up equity.

But, many aren't taking advantage of this unprecedented period. According to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than 9.23 trillion dollars* of unused home equity.

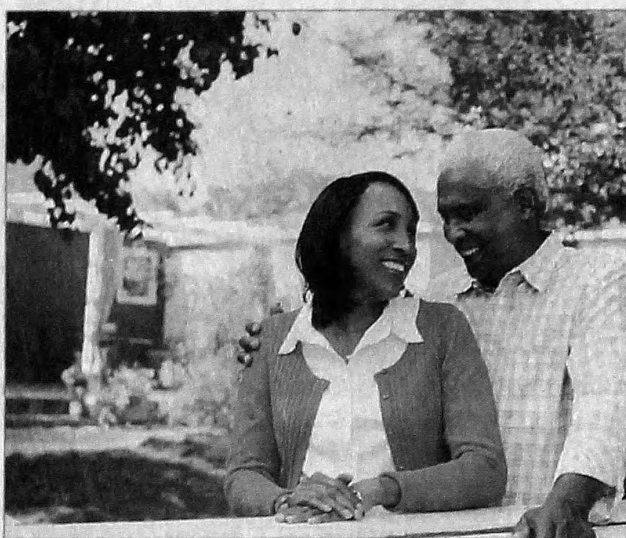
Home Values at All Time Highs

Not only are people living longer than ever before, but there is also greater uncertainty in the economy. With home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short-sighted when looking for the best long-term outcome.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan; however, the borrowers are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective



Thanks to the money received through an AAG Reverse Mortgage, seniors everywhere are enjoying their retirement and worrying less on how to pay monthly bills.

way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

Available if You Still Owe on Your Home or Owe Nothing

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 98% of their clients are satisfied

with their loans. While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners — especially in times like these.

Use the Extra Cash for Almost Anything

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for almost any purpose. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a safety net for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make the best decision for your financial future.

We're here and ready to help. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a FREE, no obligation Reverse Mortgage Guide by calling toll-free at

800-660-8321

Retirement rollover mistakes can cost big



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have a couple of tax questions and could use your advice. I have recently had my tax return done, and I think my preparer may have made some mistakes. Last year, the company that I work for stopped their SEP and started a 401(k) plan.

At the time, they said we could either transfer the balance into the 401(k) plan or roll it over into an IRA. I chose to have the money rolled over into a Roth IRA. I was under the impression that I had my choice between a traditional and a Roth IRA. However, my tax preparer told me that the rollover was considered a conversion, and now I must pay taxes on that money. Is he right? I would not have done this if I knew the money would be taxed to me since I do not have the cash available.

My options would be to take a cash advance from my credit card, dip into my emergency fund, or take a distribution from my IRA. I am in my late 30s and plan to work long-term.

Thank you, J. J.

Dear J. J.

Unfortunately, I have some bad news for you. The money from your SEP that you transferred into the Roth IRA is taxable to you.

You are correct that if you had the money directly transferred into a traditional IRA there would be no tax consequences; however, the fact that you transferred it into a Roth IRA is what created the tax liability. Therefore, your tax preparer is correct that you owe the money.

Although you do have to pay tax on the money that you converted, you may find down the road that it was a good financial move. After all, the money in the Roth grows tax free and in addition the money in the Roth IRA is not subject to minimum required distributions.

Regarding where you should get the money to pay the taxes, I always believe credit cards are a bad choice.

Therefore, even though you don't want to pay the taxes now, in the long run it may be a good move for you.

Regarding where you should get the money to pay the taxes, I always believe credit cards are a bad choice. The interest you're going to pay on your credit card is going to be significant. In reviewing your options, I would suggest dipping into your emergency fund.

This additional tax liability is a good use of your emergency fund and a better option than taking an IRA distribution. Because of your age, IRA distributions would likely come with a penalty, as well as tax consequences. Therefore, I believe using the emergency fund of money is the best money way to pay your tax liability.

I think it's important that you eventually replenish the money taken from the emergency fund. Emergency funds are critical.

In the example at hand, the emergency fund of money is allowing you to manage the tax liability in the most efficient and cost-effective way. You never know what emergency might come up in the future, so be sure to replace any funds you use.

My general belief is that everyone needs three to six months of living expenses to protect themselves. If you find your emergency fund is not sufficient, it's a good idea to set up a program to build one. As a side note, if you're getting a tax refund, using it to fund your emergency fund of money is a great plan.

Good luck.

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

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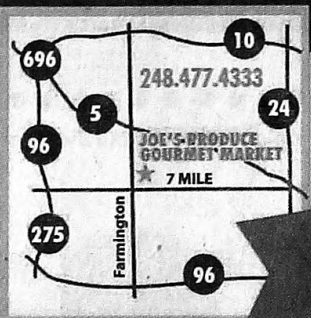
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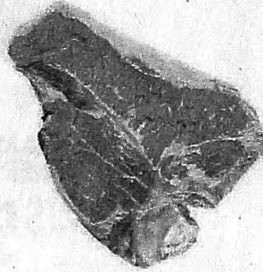
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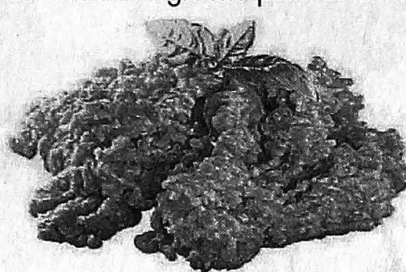
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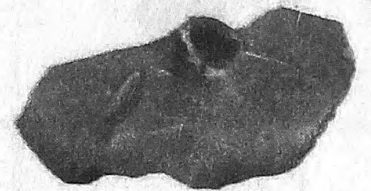
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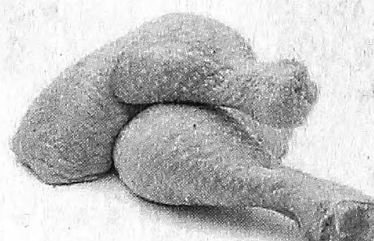
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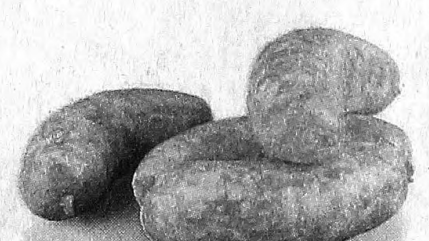
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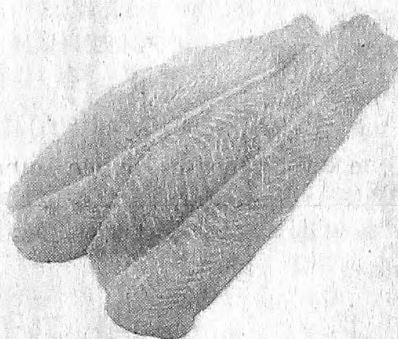


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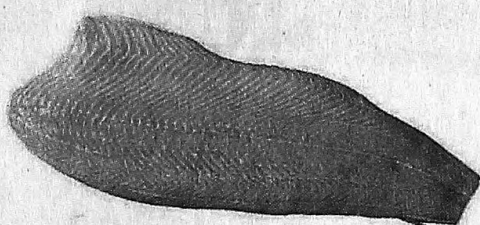
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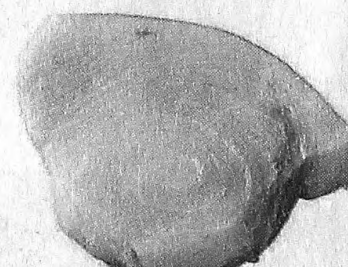
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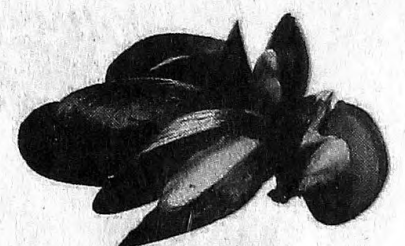
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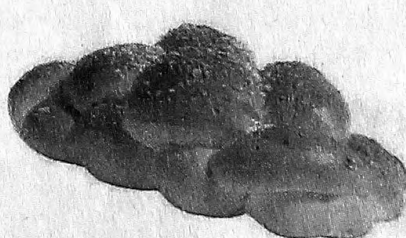
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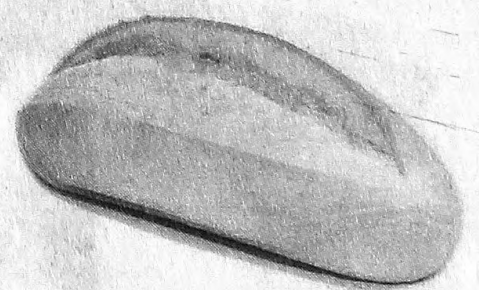
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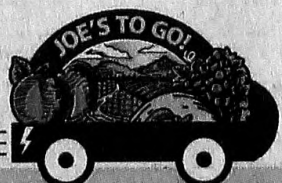
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SPORTS

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



Wayne Memorial's Colleena Bryant rebounds during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East girls basketball game Feb. 4 at Livonia Franklin.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Our favorite players from across the Hometown Life area

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
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I can tell you this: I'm exhausted. I've been told by several coaches that Hometown Life hasn't put together an All-Area team in seven years. Well, it's time to fix that. Much like my favorite GIF from the movie "Jumanji" where Robin Williams' bearded character asks, "What year is it?" I have finally returned from my writing garret after spending the past two weeks putting together this team.

I got no sleep during this time. Is this team perfect? No, not at all. But let's talk about why it has blemishes. First, I am the only sports reporter at Hometown Life. I cover 43 high schools across two counties. Our digital footprint includes 10 print newspapers ranging from Westland to Milford and Birmingham, and pretty much every other place in between. Second, I could not see every team in person. It was physically impossible. Trust me. I tried to see everyone.

Third, when I contacted each school seeking nominations for the All-Area team, it was an absolute struggle to get the coaches to play ball. Half of them never responded. Several of them emailed me after the deadline. And about two-thirds of them didn't send in all the necessary information (e.g. stats, post-season awards, individual accolades, etc). If your favorite player is missing from this team, or if you think a particular player should've been higher on the list, blame your team's coach, not me.

Longtime Yooper sportswriter Burt Angeli, who died in 2020, once tweeted, "When a coach can't take a few minutes to report game results to the media, I wonder where else they're shortchanging their athletes." So think about that before throwing haymakers at me in my inbox or via social media. Here's the team. I'm really proud of how it turned out. Enjoy deep-diving into it while I finally get to take a nap.

See ALL-AREA, Page 2B

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VOTE FOR BEST POWER FORWARD!

For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position: Center, power forward, small forward, shooting guard and point guard. Polls opened Saturday online at hometownlife.com and will remain open for one week. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team.

Disclaimer: Individually, you can vote as many times as you wish, but only one your votes every three hours will actually count in the final tally. So be sure to share this link with your family and friends to ensure that your favorite player wins the poll.

Meet the power forward candidates.

Maggie Liebler, Birmingham Seaholm
Vitals: PF, senior, 6-foot-1.
Stats: Averaged 10 points, 12.5 rebounds and three blocks. Broke the single-game school record for most rebounds with 24 vs. Harper Woods.
Accolades: Two-time All-OAA-Blue first-teamer, named team MVP and a two-year starter. Carried a 3.9 GPA.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Chris Manchester: "Maggie could change the game with her length and athletic ability. She could rebound and block shots with the best of them. She was the glue for our team."

Erin Young, Livonia Franklin
Vitals: PF, senior, 5-foot-10.
Stats: Averaged 13.6 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.5 blocks. Shot 43% from the floor, 37% from 3 and 85% from the free-throw line. Finished career with 850 points, 500 rebounds and 150 blocks.
Accolades: Three-time All-KLAA selection, fourth-year starter and third-year captain. Carried a 3.8 GPA.

College Interest: Signed with Albion College.

Coach John Santti: "Erin led us to our best record (13-8) in over 10 years. She is an excellent student, leader, scorer (inside and outside) and outstanding help-side defender."

Maya White, Farmington Hills Mercy
Vitals: PF, junior, 6-foot.
Stats: Averaged 7.3 points and 5.6 rebounds. Shot 43% from the floor and led the Marlins in rebounding.
Accolades: All-Catholic League selection.
College Interest: Holds an offer from Grand Valley State.
Coach Gary Morris: "Maya was a very effective player in the post, both on offense and defense."

Juliana Imbuzeiro, Northville
Vitals: PF, senior, 5-foot-9.
Stats: Averaged 7.2 points and 4.3 rebounds. Led the Mustangs in blocks and was second in scoring.
Accolades: All-KLAA selection, fourth-year varsity player and co-captain.
College Interest: Signed with Nova Southeastern (Florida) for volleyball.
Coach Todd Gudith: "She has the strength to play inside but can step out and knock down the 3. Juliana's big-time leaping ability made her a force on defense as she applied her volleyball skills to the basketball court."

Meghan McCarthy, Plymouth
Vitals: PF, junior, 5-foot-11.
Stats: Despite playing on both a partially torn ACL and meniscus, averaged 6.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 1.6 assists. Second on team in scoring with 124 points and first in rebounds with 109.
Accolades: All-KLAA honorable mention and given Team Leadership Award.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Ryan Ballard: "The fact that she was

able to hobble around and make the plays she did was what made her season special. I don't know if I have coached a player with a better game IQ. Her ability to read defenses and attack them in a variety of ways makes her really good. Meghan had surgery last week to repair her knee, and we expect to have her back next year for the majority of the season."

Hailey Maulbetsch, Plymouth Christian Academy
Vitals: PF, junior, 5-foot-8.
Stats: Totaled 328 points, 130 rebounds, 61 steals and 13 blocks. Made 36 3s and shot 54% from the floor and 26% from 3. Scored in double-digits in 17 games.
Accolades: All-MIAC first team. On pace to finish with more than 1,000 career points.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Rod Windle: "Hailey is an outstanding help defender who shrinks the court against our opponents' top scorers. Hailey is a difference maker at both ends of the court."

Summer Ambler, White Lake Lakeland
Vitals: PF, senior, 5-foot-10.
Stats: Averaged 7.6 points, 6.2 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.6 steals. Shot 60% from the floor.
Accolades: Three-time All-LVC selection and four-year starter.
College Interest: Signed with Spring Arbor for softball.
Coach Michael Leitheim: "She has improved her scoring every year, including this year. But she has been the heartbeat of our defense the last couple of years. Always guarding opponents' top scorer, very versatile and is a very underrated player in the area."

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



Livonia Franklin's Erin Young looks to shoot during a Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East girls basketball game against Wayne Memorial on Feb. 4. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

All-area

Continued from Page 1B

FIRST TEAM

Player of the Year:
Anna Fernandez, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-7.
Stats: Totaled 458 points, 164 rebounds, 90 assists, 91 steals and 11 blocks. Shot 49% from the floor and 19% from 3.
Accolades: All-MIAC first team, All-MIAC Dream Team, MIAC MVP and ended career with 1,418 points as a four-year starter.
College Interest: Uncommitted.
Coach Rod Windle: "She is our floor leader who runs the offense at the point guard position. She steps up in the biggest games to score the basketball. She has a thankful attitude toward her coaches at each and every practice."

Folsom's take: It didn't matter how big the opponent was (Detroit Country Day, Ypsilanti Arbor Prep, Fowler, etc.), she showed up and outperformed the defender in front of her. She won't ever play Division I basketball, but she has the heart of a WNBA Hall of Famer.

Sarah Cunningham, Farmington Hills Mercy

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot.
Stats: Averaged 11.3 points and 5.2 rebounds. Shot 48.5% from the floor. Led the Marlins in scoring and was second in rebounding.
Accolades: All-Catholic League selection.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Gary Morris: "Sarah is a fearless competitor who gave no ground to any opponent."
Folsom's take: You could tell Sarah was everybody's favorite teammate. Only the best leaders can say that about themselves.

Taylor Anderson, South Lyon East

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-9.
Stats: Averaged 12 points, seven rebounds, 5.4 steals and 4.5 assists. Owns school record for most steals in a career (286) and single-season (113).
Accolades: All-LVC selection and nominated for Michigan's Miss Basketball.
College Interest: Signed with Central Michigan.
Coach Rob Leadley: "Taylor is an incredible athlete who can change the game on defense and on the boards. She sees the court well and is extremely difficult for other teams to handle on either end of the court."
Folsom's take: Her motor never quits, especially while playing full-court defense. She just never tires, and she makes it look easy.

Davai Matthews, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: C, senior, 6-foot-2.
Stats: Averaged 18.1 points and 12.3 rebounds.
Accolades: Two-time All-KLAA selection, McDonald's All-American nominee, the winningest player in Zebras' history (79-14 record) and made three trips to the state final four.
College Interest: Signed with Long Beach State (California)
Coach Jarvis Mitchell: "Great leadership. She persevered through two ACL surgeries."
Folsom's take: As the oldest girl on the floor, she really was the big sister to her teammates. The only thing that



Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez attacks the basket against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep in December. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

matched her strong ability to battle in the paint was her leadership skills.

Mayla Ham, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: SF, junior, 5-foot-11.
Stats: Averaged 14.2 points and 9.7 rebounds.
Accolades: Three-time All-KLAA selection and led Zebras to two final-four trips.
College Interest: Currently holds six Division I offers and is a top-10 ranked junior in Michigan.
Coach Jarvis Mitchell: "Mayla has improved every year at Wayne. She's a complete workhorse and is a very tough-minded kid. She should be in the running for Miss Basketball next year."
Folsom's take: It's going to take either a catastrophic injury or an unforeseen event for Mayla not to be my Player of the Year in 2022-23. She's the best player on the west side of metro Detroit. Without a doubt.

Coach: Rod Windle, Plymouth Christian Academy

Folsom's take: He's coached everything at the school, and he's been around forever. When you take PCA to its first-ever state final, you deserve this honor. Windle is an invaluable asset to PCA athletics.

SECOND TEAM

Anna Herberholz, Bloomfield Hills Marian

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-4.
Stats: Despite missing time with injury, averaged 8.4 points, 3.2 assists, 3.1 rebounds and two steals.
Accolades: All-Catholic League and four-year varsity player.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Mary Cicerone: "MVP of the Catholic League playoffs, in my opinion. Without her, we don't win any games."
Folsom's take: She absolutely took over games, and you really notice just how important she is when she comes off the floor. She can't be replaced.

Maya White, Farmington Hills Mercy

Vitals: PF, junior, 6-foot.
Stats: Averaged 7.3 points and 5.6 rebounds. Shot 43% from the floor and led the Marlins in rebounding.
Accolades: All-Catholic League selection.
College Interest: Holds an offer from Grand Valley State.
Coach Gary Morris: "Maya was a very effective player in the post, both on offense and defense."
Folsom's take: Without a doubt, she was the strongest, most-physical re-

bounder. She'll be one of my favorite post players entering next season.

Morganne Houk, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-7.
Stats: Totaled 375 points, 171, rebounds, 127 assists, 84 steals and eight blocks. Shot 51% from the floor and 27% from 3. Led team in assists, rebounds and 3-pointers.
Accolades: All-MIAC first team and All-MIAC Dream Team. On pace to finish career with over 1,000 points.
College Interest: Receiving Division III and NAIA interest.
Coach Rod Windle: "Morganne is one of the top juniors in the state. Her ability to drive the ball the length of the court for baskets and her overall athleticism are reasons she was named to the five-member Dream Team in our league."
Folsom's take: What a gamer. Anytime PCA needed a basket to kickstart a run, it was Morganne knocking down the 3. One of the best in clutch moments.

Paris Bass, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-10.
Stats: Averaged 8.7 points and 6.4 rebounds.
Accolades: All-KLAA selection.
College Interest: Holds multiple Division I offers.
Coach Jarvis Mitchell: N/A.
Folsom's take: She was the third-best player on her team, which was funny because she'd be the best player in most other leagues. She's that good.

Colleena Bryant, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: PG, freshman, 5-foot-6.
Stats: Averaged 7.3 points and 8.1 assists.
Accolades: All-KLAA selection.
College Interest: N/A.
Coach Jarvis Mitchell: N/A.
Folsom's take: Lee Lee will be the best point guard — and probably the best player, regardless of position — in Hometown Life's coverage area by the time she's a senior.

Coach: Jerica Williams, Detroit Country Day

Folsom's take: She moved to an area she's unfamiliar with and took the Yellowjackets to back-to-back final fours. That's unheard of, even for Frank Orlando's old job.

THIRD TEAM

Coach - Jarvis Mitchell, Wayne Memorial

PF/C - McKenzie Swanson, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills Marian

PF - Hailey Maulbetsch, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

PF - Erin Young, senior, Livonia Franklin

PG - Diavian (Dee) Robinson, freshman, Livonia Clarenceville

PG - Sophie Dugas, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

PG - Sela Lefler, junior, North Farmington

PG - Shamyia Reid, junior, Redford Westfield Prep

PG - Molly Libby, senior, White Lake Lakeland

SF - Madison Yeager, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

SF - Isis Musah-Johnson, freshman, Redford Westfield Prep

SF - Anna Lassan, sophomore, South Lyon East

SG - Kaitlyn Sanders, junior, Birmingham Groves

SG - Jaidyn Elam, sophomore, Detroit Country Day

SG - Rachel Balhorn, freshman, Livonia Churchill

SG - Morgan Miller, senior, Plymouth

SG - Asia Cochran, senior, Redford Westfield Prep

SG - Madison Morson, sophomore, Salem

SG - Ella Kruschka, senior, South Lyon East

HONORABLE MENTION

Coach - Gary Morris, Farmington Hills Mercy

C - Caroline McGuire, senior, Lutheran Westland

C - Mira Kelley, sophomore, Milford

PF - Maggie Liebler, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

PF - Sarah Sylvester, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

PF - Justice Tramble, sophomore, Canton

PF - Aubrie Ickes, senior, Livonia Stevenson

PF - Juliana Imbuzeiro, senior, Northville

PF - Alyssa Lemke, senior, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran

PF - Summer Ambler, senior, White Lake Lakeland

PG - Katie Sullivan, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

PG - Emma Arico, sophomore, Detroit Country Day

PG - Aysia Yokely, junior, Detroit Country Day

PG - Siena McNitt, junior, Garden City

PG - Kalin Bates, senior, Livonia Franklin

PG - Jenna Hoppe, senior, Milford

PG - Penelope Creary, junior, North Farmington

PG - Eve Tanaskoska, junior, Northville

PG - Rachel Luomala, junior, Wixom St. Catherine

SF - Ari'Yana Wiggins, freshman, Detroit Country Day

SF - Shahd Bakkar, junior, Salem

SF - Hailey Baumann, junior, Wixom St. Catherine

SG - Aizlyn Albanese, freshman, Farmington Hills Mercy

SG - Sydney Brown, junior, Northville

SG - Samantha Maday, senior, Novi

SG - Paja Williams, senior, Westland John Glenn

SPECIAL MENTION

Coach - Mary Cicerone, Bloomfield Hills Marian

C - Scarlett Webster, junior, Livonia Stevenson

C - Rachel Schornack, senior, Livonia Stevenson

PG - Sofia Salinas, freshman, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

PG - Lauren Smiley, junior, Farmington Hills Mercy

PG - Alyssa Mamo, junior, Livonia Churchill

PG - Anna Lindsey, sophomore, Novi

PG - Ashley Beeskow, junior, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran

SG - Mary Grace Lehmkuhl, senior, Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart

SG - Marisa Cribari, sophomore, Canton

SG - Mia Bazzi, freshman, Wayne Memorial

SG - Alexis Halley, sophomore, Wayne Memorial

SG - Kate Beckerman, senior, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran

SF - Grace Rotter, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

SF - Susy Heller, junior, Northville

SF - Dani McCain, senior, Westland John Glenn

PF - Meghan McCarthy, junior, Plymouth

PF - Grace Goodnough, senior, White Lake Lakeland

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

VOTE FOR BEST SHOOTING GUARD!

For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position: Center, power forward, small forward, shooting guard and point guard.

Polls opened Saturday online at hometownlife.com and will remain open for one week. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team.

Disclaimer: Individually, you can vote as many times as you wish, but only one your votes every three hours will actually count in the final tally. So be sure to share this link with your family and friends to ensure that your favorite player wins the poll.

Meet the shooting guard candidates.

Kaitlyn Sanders, Birmingham Groves

Vitals: SG, junior, 6-foot-1.
Stats: Totalled 225 points in 17 games, averaging 13 points and four rebounds. Led the Falcons in steals and blocks, recorded three double-doubles and scored a career-best 29 points in a single game.

Accolades: All-OAA-Red first-teamer, third-year starter and carried a 3.5 GPA.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Alison Hiday: "She's a multi-sport athlete who's endured three varsity head coaches in three years. Amidst all that change and adversity, Kate was able to rise as the leader of our team on the court, despite numerous injuries and an almost 6-week battle with mono."

Jaidyn Elam, Detroit Country Day
Vitals: SG, sophomore, 5-foot-11.
Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 7.2 rebounds

and 3.4 steals.

Accolades: Division 2 AP All-State honorable mention.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "Jaidyn's ability to shoot the ball from 3 and drive and finish makes her hard to guard. Her length and height also allow her to guard multiple positions. She rebounds extremely well and because of her guard skills, she can go the full length of the court."

Rachel Balhorn, Livonia Churchill
Vitals: SG, freshman.

Stats: Scored over 200 points and led the Chargers in scoring, rebounds and steals. Had a season-best 28 points in one game.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach K'Len Morris: Nomination form not returned before deadline.

Penelope Creary, North Farmington

Vitals: SG, junior.

Stats: Averaged 11.1 points, 3.3 steals and 5.5 deflections.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jeff Simpson: "Penelope is a tenacious defender. She also has one of the best first steps in attacking the basket."

Samantha Maday, Novi

Vitals: SG, senior, 5-foot-9.

Stats: Averaged 11 points, four rebounds and 1.6 assists. Scored in double-digits in 10 games. Made six 3-pointers and scored a season-best 27 points vs. Salem.

Accolades: All-KLAA, fourth-year varsity player and two-year captain.

College Interest: Signed to Michigan State

for rowing.

Coach Kelsey Masserant: "Great leader on our team. She came back from injury even stronger and was a force offensively leading the team in scoring."

Morgan Miller, Plymouth

Vitals: SG, senior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 12.6 points, 5.1 rebounds and 1.6 steals. Led the Wildcats with 265 points, 38 made 3-pointers, 57 field goals and 34 steals.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection, named team MVP and finished career with three single-game school records: Most points (35), most field goals made (15) and most 3-pointers made (nine).

College Interest: Committed to Michigan-Dearborn.

Coach Ryan Ballard: "Mo had a phenomenal season. She is probably the most improved player in the league. She's an amazing story of grit and determination. Played JV the majority of the year as a junior but worked on her game all spring, summer and fall (to become) our best player. Mo is a terrific shooter and has range-plus to hit shots from deep. Her length makes her a tough guard in the paint, and she's an excellent finisher around the rim."

Morganne Houk, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-7.

Stats: Totalled 375 points, 171 rebounds, 127 assists, 84 steals and eight blocks. Shot 51% from the floor and 27% from 3. Led team in assists, rebounds and 3-pointers.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team and

All-MIAC Dream Team. On pace to finish career with over 1,000 points.

College Interest: Receiving Division III and NAIA interest.

Coach Rod Windle: "Morganne is one of the top juniors in the state. Her ability to drive the ball the length of the court for baskets and her overall athleticism are reasons she was named to the five-member Dream Team in our league."

Ella Kruschka, South Lyon East

Vitals: SG, senior, 5-foot-6.

Stats: Averaged 14.6 points, three rebounds, 2.4 steals and 1.3 assists. Shot 37% from the 3-point line. Finished as third-leading scorer in school history (831 points).

Accolades: Two-time All-LVC selection and four-year starter.

College Interest: Being recruited by Division III schools.

Coach Rob Leadley: "Ella is a clutch 3-point shooter who can also finish with either hand at the rim. She is an excellent on-ball defender and has been a varsity starter for four years."

Paris Bass, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: SG, junior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 8.7 points and 6.4 rebounds.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: Holds multiple Division I offers.

Coach Jarvis Mitchell: N/A.

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

VOTE FOR BEST CENTER!

For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position. Polls opened Saturday online at hometownlife.com and will remain open for one week. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team.

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Meet the center candidates.

Mckenzie Swanson, Bloomfield Hills

Marian

Vitals: PF/C, sophomore, 6-foot-3.

Stats: Despite missing time with injury, averaged 13 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.0 steals. Totalled 169 points and shot 48% from the floor.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Mary Cicerone: N/A.

Scarlett Webster, Livonia Stevenson

Vitals: C, junior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: N/A.

Accolades: All-KLAA honorable mention.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Kareem Smart: Nomination form not returned before deadline.

Caroline McGuire, Lutheran Westland

Vitals: C, senior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Totalled 58 points, 117 rebounds, 43 blocks, 11 steals, seven assists and 14

turnovers, despite missing 11 games with a torn ACL injury.

Accolades: All-MIAC-Red first-team and third in school history in career blocks (90). BCAM Academic All-State with a 4.4 GPA.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Keith Brown: "Caroline's work ethic is intense on and off the court. She persevered through many challenges with poise and passion. She is a role model for all players and is loved by her team."

Mira Kelley, Milford

Vitals: C, sophomore, 5-foot-11.

Stats: Averaged 6.9 points and 5.6 rebounds.

Accolades: All-LVC selection, All-LVC Academic Team and named team's Rookie of the Year.

Coach Mike Jenkins: "Mira had a great sophomore season, leading our team in scoring and rebounding. She's an athletic 5 (center) that dominated at times in the paint. Huge potential in the coming next two years."

Davai Matthews, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: C, senior, 6-foot-2.

Stats: Averaged 18.1 points and 12.3 rebounds.

Accolades: Two-time All-KLAA selection, McDonald's All-American nominee, the winningest player in Zebras' history (79-14 record) and made three trips to the state final four.

College Interest: Signed with Long Beach State (California).

Coach Jarvis Mitchell: "Great leadership. She persevered through two ACL surgeries."

VOTE FOR BEST POINT GUARD!

For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position: Center, power forward, small forward, shooting guard and point guard.

Polls opened Saturday online at hometownlife.com and will remain open for one week. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team.

Disclaimer: Individually, you can vote as many times as you wish, but only one your votes every three hours will actually count in the final tally. So be sure to share this link with your family and friends to ensure that your favorite player wins the poll.

Meet the point guard candidates.

Katie Sullivan, Birmingham Seaholm

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 11 points, nine rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Accolades: Three-time All-OAA-Blue selection, former team MVP and fourth-year starter who led the Maples to their first conference title in seven seasons. Carried a 3.9 GPA.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Chris Manchester: "Katie was the engine who led our team. She is a two-year captain who could take over the game when she needed to. She is also one of the fastest players I have ever coached."

Anna Herberholz, Bloomfield Hills Marian

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-4.

Stats: Despite missing time with injury, averaged 8.4 points, 3.2 assists, 3.1 rebounds and two steals.

Accolades: All-Catholic League and four-year varsity player.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Mary Cicerone: "MVP of the Catholic League playoffs, in my opinion. Without her, we don't win any games."

Sofia Salinas, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

Vitals: PG, freshman, 5-foot-4.

Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 2.2 assists and two steals.

Accolades: All-MIAC-Red first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Andrea Collins: "Sofia is a young but lionhearted guard. Truly a tough kid. Salinas is a true leader on and off the floor. The kid is fast as lightning and can not only create and see the floor well for her team she is also our leading scorer. Accepting such a big role as a freshman is a hard task, and she came in and delivered."

Emma Arico, Detroit Country Day

Vitals: PG, sophomore, 5-foot-6.

Stats: Averaged 8.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 2.4 steals. Shot 31% from the 3-point line.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "Emma is a pure floor general who changes the game when the ball is in her hands. Her ability to drive, pass and shoot make her a dynamic offensive threat. Defensively, she never shies away from guarding the other team's best player."

Aysia Yokely, Detroit Country Day

Vitals: PG, junior, 5-foot-6.

Stats: Averaged 8.6 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 2.2 steals.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "Aysia is a deadly shooter from 3, hitting a season-high seven in our quarterfinal game. She is deceptively quick, making her one of our best on-ball defenders along with a phenomenal ability to break a press."

Sophie Dugas, Farmington Hills Mercy

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-9.

Stats: Averaged nine points and 2.4 rebounds. Shot 44% from the floor and was second on the Marlins in scoring.

Accolades: All-Catholic League selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Gary Morris: "On offense, Sophie is a good shooter off the bounce or catch and is a good driver. On defense, Sophie usually guarded our opponent's best perimeter player."

Siena McNitt, Garden City

Vitals: PG, junior, 5-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged 16.5 points, 4.9 steals and 3.4 rebounds. Totalled 297 points in 18 games, shot 78.7% from the free-throw line and had a high game of 29 points.

Accolades: Three-Time All-VWAC selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Michele Tyree: "Siena has been our offensive leader since her freshman year. She can shoot the 3 as well as attack the basket. She is also a solid defender."

Davian (Dee) Robinson, Livonia

Clarenceville

Vitals: PG, freshman, 5-foot-3.

Stats: Averaged 14 points, four assists, five steals and three rebounds. First girl to score 300 points in a season.

Accolades: All-MIAC-Red, All-MIAC Dream Team, voted team MVP and Best Offensive Player and led the Trojans to school's first district title.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Kristen Alsheskie: "Dee is one of the most unselfish point guards that I have had the pleasure of coaching. She is constantly looking for her teammates on the court, and she does an excellent job of controlling the tempo throughout the game. Dee is also someone I can count on to lock down on defense."

Kalin Bates, Livonia Franklin

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged 10.3 points, 3.9 assists and 3.4 rebounds. Shot 79% from the free-throw line.

Accolades: Three-time All-KLAA selection, fourth-year varsity player, third-year starter and second-year captain. Carried a 3.7 GPA.

College Interest: Signed with Madonna University for both basketball and track and field.

Coach John Santi: "Kalin played a major role in our successful season. Unselfishly moved to the point guard position, which may have hurt her overall stats but definitely helped our team."

Sela Lefler, North Farmington

Vitals: PG, junior.

Stats: Averaged 17.9 points, 3.8 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 4.0 steals. Shot 49.7% from the floor and 72.7% from the free-throw line.

Accolades: All-OAA-White selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jeff Simpson: "Tough, hard-nosed point guard. Can create her own shot and is tough defensively."

Eve Tanaskoska, Northville

Vitals: PG, junior, 5-foot-7.

Stats: Averaged 7.3 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.1 steals. Led the Mustangs in scoring and charges taken (14).

Accolades: All-KLAA selection and third-year varsity player.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Todd Gudith: "The quarterback of the team. She has become more of a scoring threat this season and has a high-basketball IQ. She continues to get better each season and took a major step forward this year. Defensively, she is

always in the right place at the right time."

Anna Fernandez, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-7.

Stats: Totalled 458 points, 164 rebounds, 90 assists, 91 steals and 11 blocks. Shot 49% from the floor and 19% from 3.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team, All-MIAC Dream Team, MIAC MVP and ended career with 1,418 points as a four-year starter.

College Interest: Uncommitted.

Coach Rod Windle: "She is our floor leader who runs the offense at the point guard position. She steps up in the biggest games to score the basketball. She has a thankful attitude toward her coaches at each and every practice."

Shamya Reid, Redford Westfield Prep

Vitals: PG, junior, 5-foot-5.

Stats: N/A.

Accolades: AP Second Team All-State and already a 1,000-point career scorer.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Doc Cornell: Did not return form before the deadline.

Taylor Anderson, South Lyon East

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-9.

Stats: Averaged 12 points, seven rebounds, 5.4 steals and 4.5 assists. Owns school record for most steals in a career (286) and single-season (113).

Accolades: All-LVC selection and nominated for Michigan's Miss Basketball.

College Interest: Signed with Central Michigan.

Coach Rob Leadley: "Taylor is an incredible athlete who can change the game on defense and on the boards. She sees the court well and is extremely difficult for

other teams to handle on either end of the court."

Molly Libby, White Lake Lakeland

Vitals: PG, senior, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Averaged 12 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.2 steals and 2.1 assists. Made 48 3-pointers and shot 79.7% from the free-throw line. Led the team in scoring, 3-pointers made, free-throw percentage, steals and assists.

Accolades: Four-time All-LVC selection.

College Interest: Signed with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (New York).

Coach Michael Leitheim: "Molly has been the driving force behind back-to-back districts titles the last two years. While she was selected as one of BCAM's BEST for Division 1 last year, she has had an even better year this year: Increasing her scoring, free-throw percentage, 3s made and 3-point percentage."

Rachel Luomala, Wixom St. Catherine

Vitals: PG, junior, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Averaged 11 points, 3.5 assists, three rebounds and two steals. Ranked second all-time in school history with most assists, fifth in steals and seventh in scoring.

Accolades: Two-time All-CHSL selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jen VanGoethem: "Rachel is a proven leader who has improved as a player in each of her three seasons on varsity. (Being) picked as a captain by her teammates with five seniors on the team says a lot."

Colleena Bryant, Wayne Memorial

Vitals: PG, freshman, 5-foot-6.

Stats: Averaged 7.3 points and 8.1 assists.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

VOTE FOR BEST SMALL FORWARD!

For the first time ever, readers can vote for who they thought were the area's best players at each individual position: Center, power forward, small forward, shooting guard and point guard. Polls opened Saturday online at hometownlife.com and will remain open for one week. At the conclusion of the event, the top vote-getters will make Hometown Life's Fan-Voted All-Area team.

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Meet the small forward candidates.

Art Yana Wiggins, Detroit Country Day

Vitals: SF, freshman, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Averaged 10 points, six rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.2 assists.

Accolades: N/A.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Jerica Williams: "A freshman with a high IQ and immense versatility with the ball, she does not play like a freshman. Eerily similar to Ashley Owusu at Maryland, Wiggins can play the 1-5 with ease. Her ability to handle the ball, distribute, rebound and score make her a next-level threat that will be a triple-double player before her senior year."

Sarah Cunningham, Farmington Hills Mercy

Vitals: SF, senior, 6-foot.

Stats: Averaged 11.3 points and 5.2 rebounds. Shot 48.5% from the floor. Led the Marlins in scoring and was second in rebounding.

Accolades: All-Catholic League selection.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Gary Morris: "Sarah is a fearless competitor who gave no ground to any opponent."

Madison Yeager, Plymouth Christian Academy

Vitals: SF, junior, 5-foot-8.

Stats: Totaled 219 points, 108 rebounds, 49 assists, 69 steals and 11 blocks. Shot 54% from the floor and 17% from 3. Second on the team in made 3-pointers.

Accolades: All-MIAC first team.

College Interest: N/A.

Coach Rod Windle: "Madison is our top on-the-ball defender who always draws the most difficult assignment and best ball handler of the opposing team. Her length and quick hands make it hard to score against."

Shahd Bakkar, Salem

Vitals: SF, junior, 5-foot-5.

Stats: Averaged seven points, six steals, four assists and three steals. Led the Rocks in assists, rebounds and steals.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection.

College Interest: Being recruited by Division III, NAIA and JUCO schools.

Coach Rod Wells: "Shahd made great strides during the season. She controlled the tempo/flow for our offense. Great rebounder for her size. All about the team."

Anna Lassin, South Lyon East

Vitals: SF, sophomore, 5-foot-10.

Stats: Averaged 12.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.4 assists.

Accolades: All-LVC selection.

College Interest: Holds an offer from Wayne State.



South Lyon East's Anna Lassin dribbles during the championship of Northville's girls basketball holiday tournament Dec. 28.

BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Coach Rob Leadley: "Anna is a hard-working, fundamentally sound player who is a threat inside and outside. She is a physical, aggressive player who can score in the low post and step out and

hit the 3."

Hailey Baumann, Wixom St. Catherine

Vitals: SF, junior, 5-foot-11.

Stats: Averaged 11 points, six rebounds, 4.5 steals and 3.5 assists. Totaled the

most assists in a single season in school history.

Accolades: Three-time All-CHSL selection and ranked first in school history with most assists and steals, third in points

and fourth in rebounds.

College Interest: Committed to Wisconsin for soccer.

Coach Jen VanGoethem: "Hailey is a do-it-all, rarely-comes-off-the-court

difference-maker for our program. She is the most versatile and complete player I have witnessed in my 20 years as a coach."

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Hartland junior named to all-state hockey Dream Team

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Junior defenseman Braden Pietila has an opportunity to go down as one of the all-time greats in the highly successful Hartland hockey program.

Pietila is only the second junior from Hartland to make the all-state Dream Team, a compilation of the top players in all three divisions.

Four forwards (because of a tie), two defensemen and one goaltender were selected to the Dream Team by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

Also making the Dream Team were senior Brian Apple of Detroit Catholic Central, senior Jackson Riley of Calumet, junior Peter Rosa of Birmingham Brother Rice and senior Billy VanSumeren of Midland Dow at forward; senior Brayden Grange of Marquette on defense; and senior goalie Colin Lemanski of Midland Dow.

Twelve Livingston County players were in contention for Dream Team spots after being named first-team all-state in their respective divisions one week earlier.

Hartland's only non-senior to make the Dream Team was junior forward Josh Albring in 2016-17. Hartland's other Dream Team selections were forwards Luke Cowan in 2015-16, Jake Behnke in 2017-18 and Joey Larson in 2018-19.

By making the varsity at Hartland as a freshman, Pietila was already in rare company. Most of the Eagles' top players made the varsity their sophomore or junior years.

"We obviously noticed something in him as early as his freshman year," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "Having him for three seasons, it's really neat to see the development in front of our eyes and how much he's progressed as a player."

"The sky's the limit for his senior year. We'll find creative ways to make sure Braden is staying hungry and trying to reach his hockey goals. He's definitely off to a great start with first-team all-state and Dream Team honors as a junior."

Pietila was not only a force on the



Pietila



Hartland defenseman Braden Pietila had 14 goals and 21 assists in 30 games as a junior. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

back end, but an integral part of Hartland's attack. He was fourth on the team in scoring with 14 goals and 21 assists in 30 games. Pietila had one of the biggest goals of the season, getting the game-winning goal with 5:37 left in a re-

gional semifinal victory over upset-minded Clarkston.

"If things weren't going well, Braden Pietila found a way to turn it around for the team," Gadwa said. "You can't coach those kinds of things in players."

"That's a skill that someone has within. It's a coach's dream to have a 6-foot-1 or -2 player that can shoot and defend hard."



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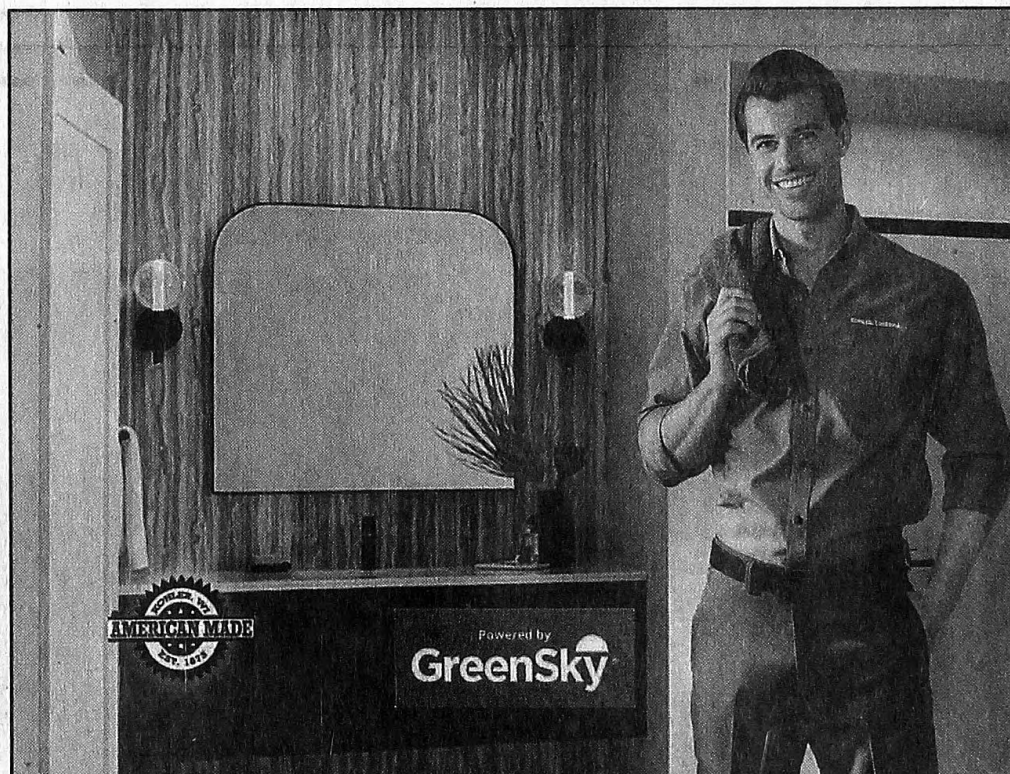
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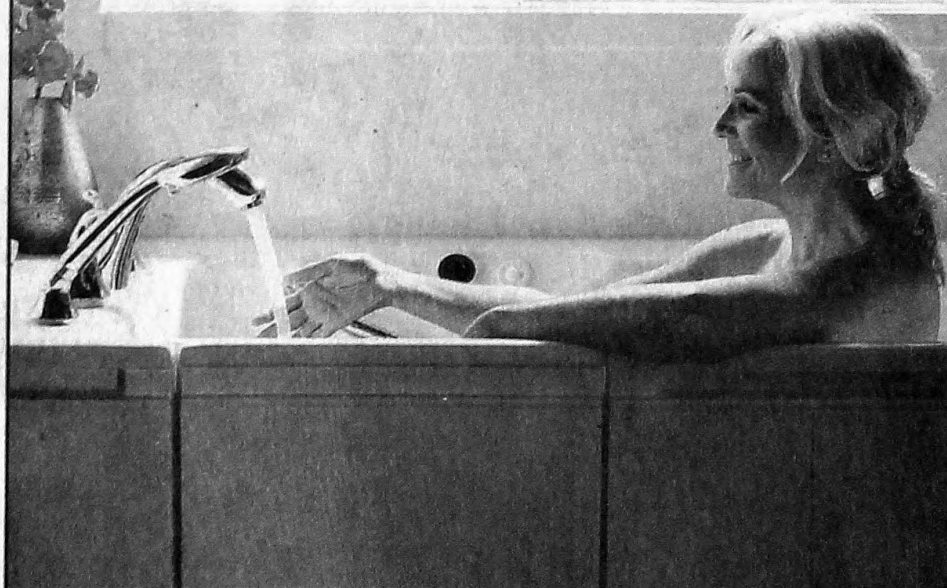
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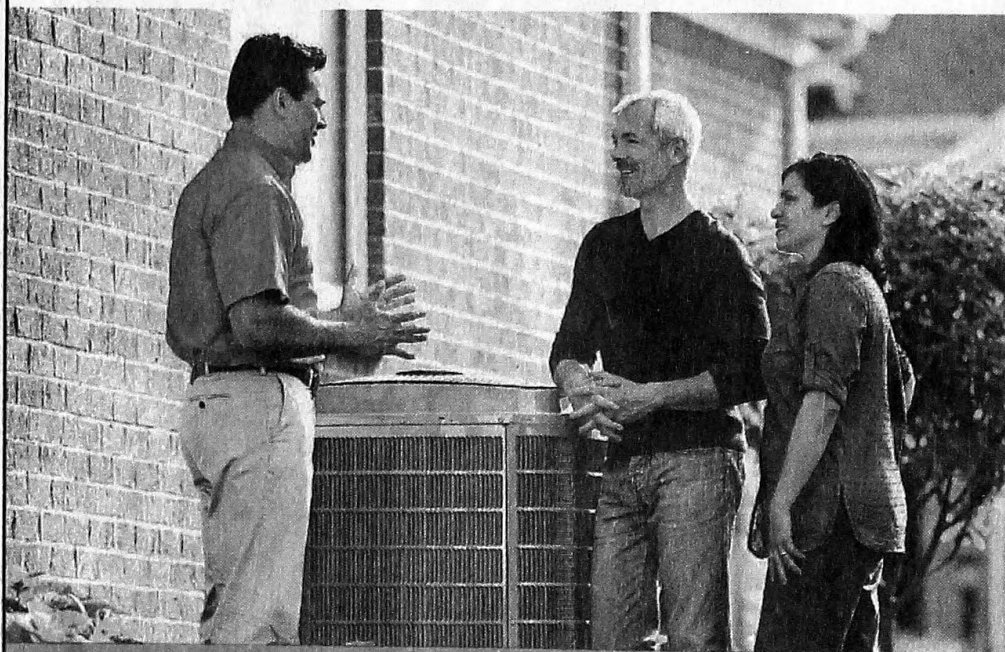
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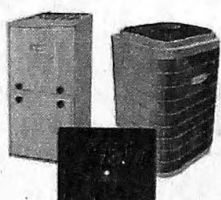
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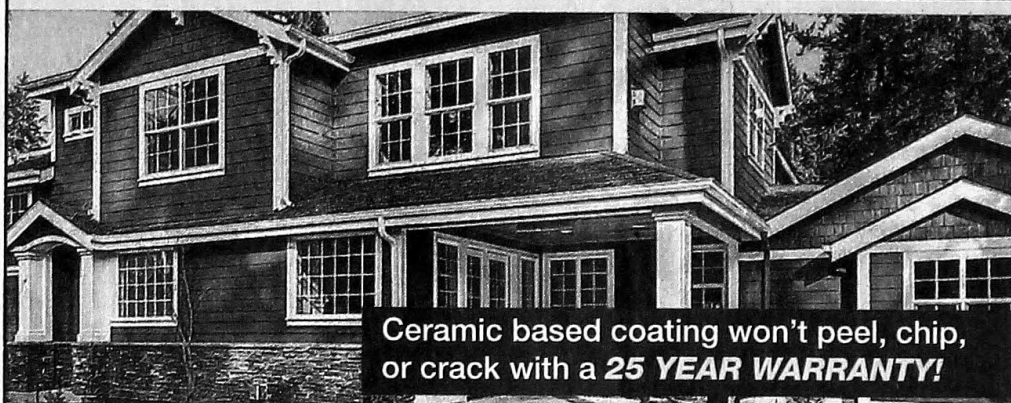
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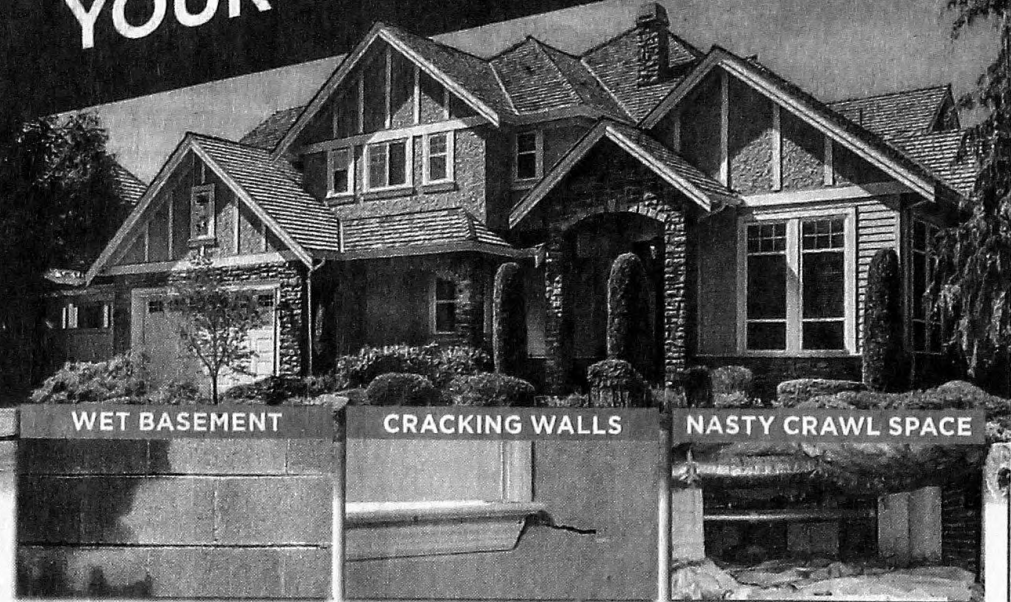
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