

Player of the Year: Ann Fernandez finally wins in the playoffs

SPORTS, 1B

OBSERVER.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Look inside Beaumont's new health center, emergency room

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

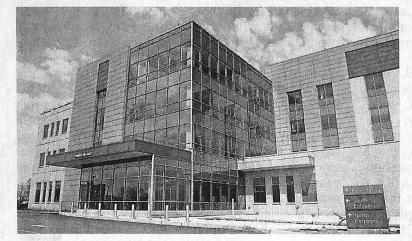
Beaumont Health's newest location, an outpatient center in Livonia, is just about ready to open to the public.

Crews are putting final touches on the building, near the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty roads in Livonia, and staff are training for the center's April 27 opening. Beaumont's \$68 million Livonia campus will be an outpatient center offering most of the services one would normally go to a hospital for. "This is what our patient population wants; this is what they asked for," Imana Minard, director of nursing for Beaumont's Farmington Hills Hospital, said. "They want something like this to be right in their backyard."

The building includes space for CT scans, ultrasounds, labs, a retail pharmacy, breast imaging, infusion services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiology, primary care and more.

Beaumont's Livonia campus also includes an emergency care center with

See FACILITY, Page 6A



The south entrance to Beaumont Health's Livonia outpatient center near Seven Mile and Haggerty. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pho, sushi now served at new Livonia restaurant

David Veselenak

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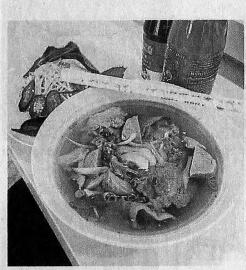
Tung Luu has spent most of his time in the United States working as a sushi chef in area restaurants. Now, the Vietnam native and Riverview resident has gone into business for himself.

Luu, along with his uncle, Minh Nyugen, recently opened The Chopstix, a restaurant serving up Vietnamese cuisine, along with many options of sushi. Open at 30975 Five Mile in the Livonia Plaza shopping center.

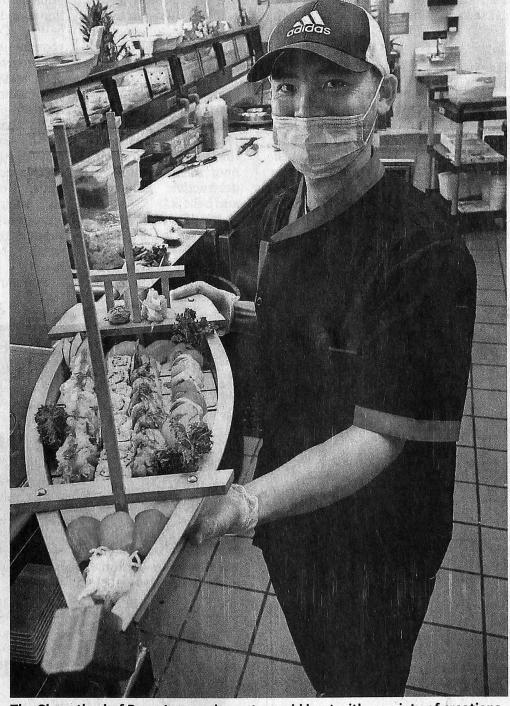
"I want to bring the best sushi here in Livonia," he said. "It was my dream to open a restaurant for a long time."

Luu came to the U.S. in 2011 on his own and began working as a sushi chef in Dearborn, spending time in the culinary program at Henry Ford College. He later began looking for his own

See CHOPSTIX, Page 7A



A bowl of The Chopstix's beef pho with its requisite hot and hosin sauces. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Chopstix chef Dung Luu carries out a sushi boat with a variety of creations from his Livonia restaurant. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Legal fight ends between Farmington Hills, police chief and officer alleging bias

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A legal fight in which a police officer accusing the City of Farmington Hills and Police Chief Jeff King of racial bias is over.

Signed by a federal judge, the "stipulated order to dismiss" noted that the claims were dismissed "with prejudice," meaning they can't be refiled, and "without costs or attorney fees as to any party."

See LAWSUIT, Page 4A

Two more car washes seek to build in Canton

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There must be a lot of dirty cars in Canton Township these days.

Perhaps that's the most plausible explanation for more car wash businesses wanting to locate within the community.

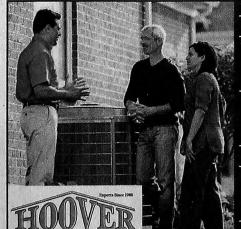
Two more car washes have proposed constructing facilities in the western Wayne County community: a Mister Car Wash, which hopes to build on Haggerty between Cherry Hill and Ford roads; and a Zippy Car Wash at

See CARWASH, Page 4A

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Market State of the State of th

When it comes to finances, don't focus on how much you pay in taxes



Money Matters **Rick Bloom**

Dear Rick:

I just got my tax return from my accountant, and I was surprised at the amount of taxes that I owed. Because of the mutual funds in my portfolio, I had several substantial capital gains distributions. My accountant says that I should consider changing my portfolio and consider buying tax free municipal bonds versus some of the growth mutual funds that I have.

Do you think that makes sense? I am still about 10 years away from retirement and currently income is not a problem.

I also had a question regarding my Roth IRA. I have a grandson that I would like to gift my Roth IRA to; is that a problem? It is worth approximately \$50,000.

> Thank you, Bob **Dear Bob:**

I don't agree with your accountants' recommendation. It appears all your accountant wants to do is lower your taxes, doesn't make any sense. Your goal is not to lower your taxes, but rather to increase your net worth. Lowering your taxes

won't necessarily increase your net worth.

I will use the example of winning the lottery. If you won \$500 million in a lottery, you would pay over \$200 million in taxes. If your goal was to lower your taxes, you wouldn't want to win the lottery, because your taxes would increase. On the other hand, if your goal was to increase your net worth, you wouldn't focus on the \$200 million you're paying in taxes, but rather, the \$300 million that you're left with.

It is my belief that investors should focus on what ends up in their pocket, not what they pay in taxes; therefore, I do not believe your accountant is correct.

Ultimately, for an investor to be successful they should focus on their goals and objectives. In your situation, since you are at least 10 years away from retirement, you need to be in a growth portfolio, not one that is based upon generating income. I am confident to say that if you look over a 10-year period, you will do much better in equities after taxes than you would in a fixed-income investment like municipal bonds.

It isn't uncommon for an accountant to solely focus on taxes. My belief is their focus is on the wrong place. As investors, we must recog-

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nize that taxes are a fact of life and that the more money you make, the more you're going to pay in taxes. It has been my experience that when investors focus on taxes, they may lower them, but at the same time, they are not intheir creasing worth, which is the goal. Therefore, I tell all investors that their focus should never be on taxes, but rather, what ends up in their pocket.

gift up to \$16,000 per year to anyone that you join in, increasing the maximum hand, if you gave the \$50,000 in one lump sum, there may be gift tax consequences that you have to take into consideration. However, you can spread the gift over multiple years, thus avoiding any gift However, once again your grandson would not be able to roll that money over into a Roth

It is important as inalways need to focus on is what ends up in our pocket, not what we pay in taxes. All too often. many people will sell products and the catch of these products is that they will lower our taxes. Unfortunately, many of them do lower our taxes, but at the same time, they lower our net worth - that is not an investment that anyone

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a feeonly financial advisor. website s.com. If you would like him to respond to your

With regards to gifting your Roth IRA to your grandson, unfortunately, if you do gift your Roth IRA to your grandson, the money your grandson receives will not be in a Roth IRA. Your grandson may qualify to make a Roth IRA contribution, but he would not be able to roll over your gift into a Roth IRA. Remember, you can wish. If you were married, your spouse can \$32,000. In the case in consequences.

vestors to realize that the material number we should pursue.

www.bloomadvisorquestions, rick@bloomadvisors.com.

Plymouth-Canton schools, police investigate 'racist' social media post

Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN**

An investigation by Plymouth-Canton Schools revealed video it deemed racist and threatening was created and recirculated on social media by a district high school student.

"When this matter was initially brought to the attention of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools) administration, it was investigated immediately and addressed with the students involved per the K-12 Student Handbook," Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt said in a letter sent to the district's families and posted on the district's website.

"While this incident took place outside of school, the negative impact is felt by our students, staff, and families which disrupts the learning environment. In P-CCS, we do not condone or tolerate reprehensible acts of this

nature." The Canton Township Department of Public Safety has an open investigation on the incident. Findings will be turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for a decision as to whether charges will be issued, department spokeswoman Barb Caruso said.

Merritt said the district will not ignore acts of racism and it will continue to work to eliminate "these harmful and destructive behaviors and beliefs."

"Understanding that education is part of the solution, we remain committed to our intentional work to ensure



Livonia Clarenceville wore special "Rise Above Racism" shirts in warmups before facing Cranbrook in a non-conference boys basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. BRANDON

FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

educational environments where students are physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe and represented at school," Merritt's letter stated. "Hate has no place in P-CCS, and we must continue our collective work to eradicate acts of racism in our school environments."

The district recently implemented an educational and racial equity policy. Culturally responsive-based learning programs have also been added to student curriculum and training for staff.

"In the near future, we will share a comprehensive plan that will involve community forums. conversations, and other engagement opportunities to further support this important work," Merritt continued.

Plymouth-Canton

Schools has established a hate and bias reporting form for students and staff.

We cannot address matters that are not brought to our attention," Merritt emphasized. "Please continue to encourage your students to talk to and share matters with a trusted adult. (The hate and bias reporting form) is a safe online reporting platform for P-CCS students and families to document incidents of hate and bias in our schools or at school-related events.

"I am committed to ensuring a safe environment for all students, and I remain confident that if we work together, we can become the institution that all students deserve."

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



The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is the only three-high school campus in Michigan. ED WRIGHT | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth Housing Commission is pleased to be opening its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List April 28th, 2022 through May 2nd, 2022. After May 2nd, 2022, the waiting list will be closed and the application will no longer be available. All applications must be completed and submitted on-line.

The application can be obtained via a link on our website http://www.phchousing.net or go directly to https://plymouths82022.hdswaitinglist.com. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. You will need access to the internet. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 246.

Publish: April 17 & 24, 2022

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the Charter Township of Plymouth:

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, must be cut and destroyed on or before the 20th day of April, A.D., 2022. And every owner, occupant, or person having charge of any such land must notify the Township that such weeds have been destroyed within three days of such cutting. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the date mentioned shall be liable for the imposition of the penalties set forth in Ordinance Number 64, of the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the Township in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner or to the occupant, shall be spread against the property on the next County and School Tax Roll collection of such expenses. The township may notify by certified mail with return receipt requested, the owner, agent, or occupant, as shown on the current County and School Tax Roll, of any lands on which such noxious weeds are found growing. Such notice shall contain the methods of treating and eradicating such noxious weeds and a summary of the provisions of this section. Failure of the township to give such notice shall not, however, constitute a defense to any action to enforce the payment of any penalty provided in this article or any debt created under this article.

Jerry Vorva, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: April 17, 2022

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35270 Nankin Boulevard in Westland. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

New childcare center planned in Westland office complex

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN Another daycare hopes to open its

doors in Westland. A center for children ranging from infants to school-age plans to locate in an office plaza at 35270 Nankin Blvd.,

west of Wayne Road. Andelina Robinson, the owner of the proposed daycare who said she already operates a home daycare in the city, said the center would be part of Nankin Professional Center and occupy part of a building.

The daycare was discussed by the Westland Planning Commission during its meeting April 6 at Westland City Hall. The request was for a special land use permit to operate the daycare in the office plaza.

The daycare would be open throughout the day, with the busiest times expected to be in the morning for drop-off and at the end of the work day. It would also have an area for chil-

dren to play outside. Mohamed Ayoub, the city's planning director, said he had spoken to at least one person who works in the office park who said having such a center would be beneficial to those who worked there.

"It sounded or appeared to be a wel-

come addition to the complex," he said. "It was a use that all of the professionals in the office complex would benefit

The approval comes as several nearby communities have turned down or seen little interest in such facilities. Novi's city council recently turned down a request for a daycare looking to locate in a golf course clubhouse on 14 Mile, while residents who live in Northville Township recently spoke out against a proposed center looking to construct a new childcare center at Six Mile and Beck.

Robinson said no food would be prepared onsite; it would all be prepared elsewhere and brought to the center.

It would also have security features that would prevent just anyone from walking inside, something Commissioner Sam Durante raised as a concern when discussing the center.

"It's not an easy access," Robinson said. "You have to be buzzed in."

The plans were recommended for approval by the planning commission. It now goes to the city council for its review and final decision.

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

Marijuana business gets OK to move forward in northeast Westland

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Another one of Westland's new marijuana businesses continues to roll along.

A new retail shop for selling marijuana is planned at 8475 Inkster in the city's northeast corner. This location would be a retail-only establishment and occupy vacant land between Ann Arbor Trail and Joy Road near the border with Livonia/ Redford Township/Dearborn Heights. Another property, which contains a vacant building to the south of the lot, would be combined for the business develop-

"We hope to be a benefit and asset to the community," said Noah Harfouch, an attorney representing the petitioner.

The applicants went before the Westland Planning Commission during its meeting April 6 at Westland City Hall to review a site plan. If eventually approved, a new, 3,000-square-foot facility would be constructed on the property for selling recreational marijuana, which became legal after Michigan voters approved it in 2018. The City of Westland allows marijuana businesses within the city after it changed its ordinances to allow for such shops in late 2019.

The development is one that saw at least one nearby property owner speak out against it. Peter Simakas, who owns a property that currently serves as a group home along Inkster in Westland, said he was not a fan of such a business being located in that part of town, especially with the residents who live in the home.

"I have a house with handicap people living in it," he said. "I don't think it's a good mix. That's all I'm saying."

Planning commissioner David Rappaport said any issues that came from the center that disturbed the area would be something for the police to address if needed, not the planning commission, since such a business is allowed by state and local law.

"The purchase and sale and use of marijuana is now legal in the state of Michigan," he said. "You're assuming a slippery slope between what is actually a legal operation in the State of Michigan and you're concerned about what might happen if people misbehave."

The proposal is just the latest marijuana business working its way through getting approvals from the city. Another location, planned along Cherry Hill west of Newburgh, was reviewed by the planning commission last month. The proposal is one of up to seven licenses that could be awarded in the city under its ordinance.

Several lawsuits were filed last year against the city over the application process, with companies alleging the city did not follow its rules when it came to awarding the licenses. No such lawsuit is currently underway against the city, allowing the planning commission to take up the site plan.

The commission recommended approval of the plan, which sends it to the city council for its review and decision.

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

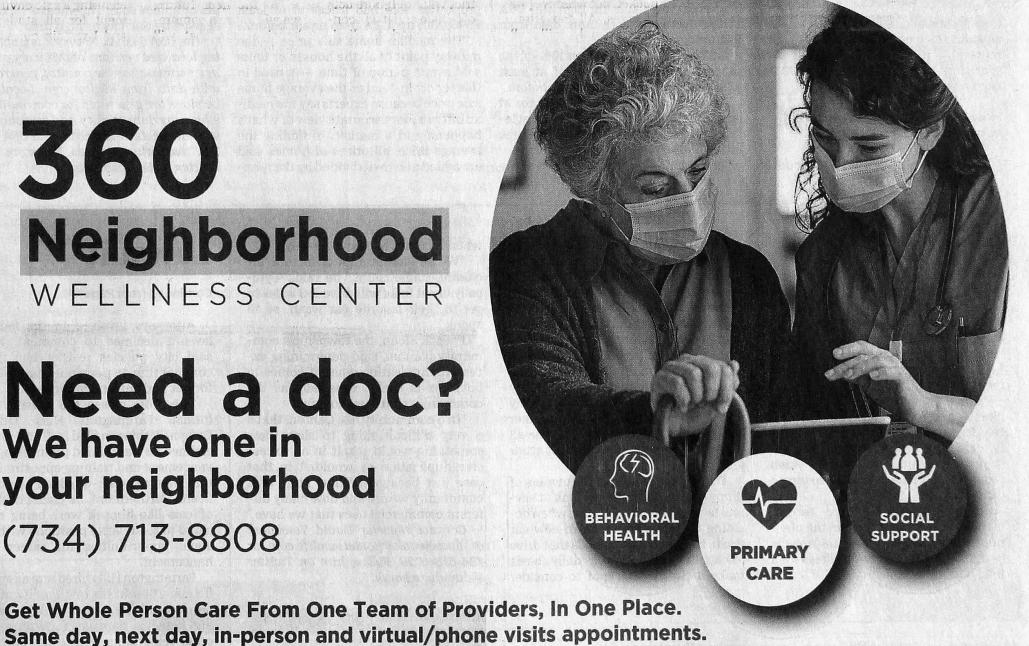


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Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hair DNA most likely from a young Farmington Hills girl was collected from Aaron McDonald's Detroit residence, crucial evidence that moved a felony case against him closer to trial on Fri-

Farmington Hills' 47th District Judge Marla Parker concluded an April 8 preliminary examination by saying there was enough evidence for McDonald, 41, of Detroit to stand trial on six felony counts - kidnapping, torture, assault and three counts of criminal sexual conduct.

"We've had a wealth of testimony connecting Mr. McDonald to this incident," the judge said. "There certainly is sufficient evidence to bind over."

McDonald remains in Oakland Coun-

ty Jail as his case progresses to Oakland County Circuit Court. His defense attorney John Holmes Jr. had predicted the case would be bound over.

Holmes still argued that McDonald was excessively charged and there wasn't enough evidence for the torture, kidnapping and assault charges.

"I've never seen torture charged," he said. "My point was, in every such case where most charges are alleged, what's special about this one? (But) I totally expected it. I fully expected it to be bound

Farmington Hills Police have said a young girl, 9, left her home near Eight Mile and Middlebelt roads the afternoon of Oct. 10. At about 4:30 p.m., or a half hour later, she was lured into a Jeep Renegade near Eight Mile and Grand River Avenue. Auto mechanic Mickey Gullett testified on March 25, the start of the two-day preliminary examination,

that he was working Oct. 10 when he noticed a young girl sitting outside on a blanket she had placed on the sidewalk. He checked on her a few minutes later, after finishing a work task.

"I went to see where the little girl was," Gullett said. "By then, she had walked over to a gray Jeep. It was getting ready to go onto Eight Mile. The little girl's head was just barely above the door. I could see the driver."

On April 8, Farmington Hills Detective Nathan Jordan testified that he was able to find security cameras from businesses that showed the girl around the time she went missing. A small silver SUV with black rims passed by her.

Police narrowed the vehicle down to an older silver Jeep Renegade. McDonald owned such a vehicle and had an address in the neighborhood where the girl was found. Prosecutors contend the girl escaped the Detroit home at about 7:30

p.m., three hours after her disappearance from Farmington Hills, and told authorities she was choked and raped.

FBI agents and Detroit police helped in the investigation. FBI Special Agent Leslie Larsen testified that she searched McDonald's Detroit address. She collected hair DNA that prosecuting attorney Stephen Frey said, based on analysis, proved the girl's presence.

She described the act as her being kidnapped," Frey said. "She believed she was getting into his vehicle to be driven home. Then he took her somewhere else against her will."

Online court records show McDonald pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in 2004. He was released in May 2021.

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

Wayne County, Oakland County homes rose in price compared to last year

From Staff Reports

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The median sales price for a singlefamily home in Wayne County during January was \$167,000. That's an increase of 4.4% compared with January 2021, according to a USA TODAY Network localized analysis generated with data from Realtor.com.

On a year-over-year basis, prices have been rising for 29 consecutive months. January prices are down from \$170,386 the previous month.

The number of houses sold fell by 7.2% from a year earlier. A total of 1,919 houses were sold countywide during the month of January. During the same period a year earlier, 2,069 single-family homes were sold.

Oakland County's median sales price for a single-family home was \$288,000, up 6.7% from a year earlier. Prices have been rising for 20 consecutive months on a year-over-year basis. Some 634 houses were sold in January, down 55.6% from a year earlier.

Real estate sales can take weeks or months to be recorded and collected. This is the latest data made available through Realtor.com to the USA TODAY Network.

Wayne County condominiums and townhomes sold in January had a median sales price of \$220,000. That figure represents a 10.1% increase year over year. Some 265 were sold, down 13.7% from a year earlier.

How hot is Wayne County's real estate market in Michigan?

Information on your local housing



A home listed for \$269,900 stands Wednesday, March 2, 2022, along Graafschap Road in Holland. CODY SCANLAN/HOLLAND

markets is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.

In Wayne County the top 10% of the properties sold had prices of at least \$388,000, up 2.6% from a year before.

In January, 13 properties sold for at least \$1 million, consisting of 10 singlefamily homes and three condominiums or townhomes.

In Oakland County the top 10% of the

properties sold had prices of at least

\$595,000, up 8.2% from a year before. The median home sale price — the midway point of all the houses or units sold over a period of time - is used in this report instead of the average home sale price because experts say the median offers a more accurate view of what's happening in a market. In finding the average price, all prices of homes sold are added and then divided by the number of homes sold. This measure can be skewed by one low or high price.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Realtor.com. Localized versions are generated for communities where the data quality and transaction volume meets Realtor.com and USA TO-DAY Network standards. The story was written by Sean Lahman.

Carwash

Continued from Page 1A

47575 and 47725 Michigan Avenue, located west of Beck Road. The township's planning commission reviewed both projects April 4 during its regular meeting.

"From the sounds of it, it sounds like the people of Canton should have the cleanest cars in all of Wayne County," said Chuck Hoyt with Nederveld, a firm working on the Mister Car Wash proposal. "So no excuses for having a dirty car."

Both proposals received recommendation for approval from the planning commission, sending the projects to the township board of trustees for a final determination.

The petitions are just the most recent for car washes to come before the planning commision. Others include one reviewed last year along Canton Center Road north of Michigan Avenue . Commissioners held some discussion over how many were too many when it came to car washes in Canton.

"We have multiple pizza places, multiple Walmarts, multiple grocery stores. Who are we to as a body to say what's too much?" said Commissioner Doug Weber. "We have to assume all these people have done market stud-

Corey Weaver, one of the owners of Zippy Car Wash, said they look at several factors, including traffic, when deciding on when to locate an new car wash. He said the thousands that drive Michigan Avenue on a daily basis make it the perfect spot to consider

when it comes to a new car wash.

"We do look at a lot of factors, including traffic count," he said. "Typically, most folks will drive 2-3 miles to get to their favorite car wash, so to speak."

Patrick Sloan, the township's community planner, said determining excessive duplication when it comes to business is tricky, especially as the

community continues to grow. "In a community like Canton, that's a very difficult thing to show how something would result in an excessive duplication or wouldn't in that case just because of how large of a community we are and how many different commercial uses that we have."

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

Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

Attorneys involved in the federal lawsuit declined to comment. King said city policies restrict him from commenting on personnel matters for former and current employees.

The order closed the lawsuit that former Farmington Hills Officer Dwayne Robinson filed in 2021. He had claimed he was denied promotion, advancement and training opportunities that went to lesser-qualified white officers. Furthermore, he claimed Black officers like himself were being relegated to road patrol positions without equal opportunities for career enhancement.

Farmington Hills hired him as an officer in 2014. In his original litigation, he demanded a jury trial, lost wages and benefits, damages for wrongs, an order reinstating him to his position and an injunction prohibiting any further retaliation or discrimination.

Prior to the suit, he was the unnamed officer in a Hometown Life story about how the police department handles civilian complaints. King had confirmed during an interview that police administrators sat down with Robinson for a discussion about the appearance of impropriety.

A woman had filed a complaint saying an officer called her after she and his sister were involved in a traffic incident. The complainant alleged that the other woman was using her police officer brother as leverage in an effort to get the woman to pay for the sister's car repairs.

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



This former restaurant site at 2100 N. Haggerty in Canton is proposed to be a new car wash business. JOHN

HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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

Angelo Steven Barduca

NOVI - Angelo Steven Barduca passed away peacefully on April 9, 2022 surrounded by his family and in the arms of the love of his life - his wife Laura. His strength and resilience lives on in his 4 children and his 15 grandchildren.

Angelo will be remembered with love and gen-

uine smiles by so many. Not only was he a devoted husband, dad and papa, a fun loving brother and uncle and honorable son - he was an example for so many. From his son-in-laws and daughterin-law, who loved him as their own, to so many friends across generations. His laughter was infectious and he had a wild side that let him live his life to the fullest. The memories he has created with so many will live on in the stories they tell.

He was flooded with love and support until the day he walked into the gates of Heaven - where he was reunited with his 3 brothers, his mom and dad and so many family members and friends who had entered before him.

Angelo will be missed here on earth immeasurably but he lives within us and we take peace in knowing we will see him again one day. "Like a Rock"

Mary Lou Gooze

HOWELL - Mary Lou Gooze, a resident of Howell, passed away on April 3, 2022 at the age of 86.

Mary Lou was the beloved wife of the late David, loving mother of Karen Gooze, the late Kathleen Gooze and Colleen (Ken) Beauvais. She

was the adored grand-

mother of Megan and Morgan Cox, dear sister of the late Charlene Geiger and the late Anne Gardner. Mary Lou was the cherished aunt of Marianne (David) Nelson and the late Thomas Geiger. She is also survived by many great nieces and great nephews.

Mary Lou had a great love for music, including playing the piano, singing in her church choir and as part of the Plymouth Community Chorus. She also had a passion for writing and wrote a weekly column for the Wayne Eagle in the 1960's. She was a Detroit Tigers and Michigan Wolverines fan and as busy as she kept herself, always stayed current on politics. She enjoyed helping her husband campaign for the school board. Mary Lou will be remembered for her kindness and great sense of humor. Mary Lou was devoted to her daughters and also embraced their friends - becoming everyone's mother. She will be greatly missed but

never forgotten. A Memorial Service will be held at a future date. Please check back for details on dates and times. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Arbor

Hospice. Mary Lou's family has entrusted her care and services to the Keehn-Griffin Funeral Home, Brighton.

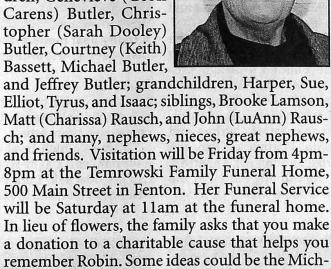
Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at Keehngriffinfuneralhome.com

KEEHN-GRIFFIN L.J. GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Robin Butler

BIRMINGHAM - Mrs. Robin R. Butler, age 65, died April 8, 2022 at home in Birmingham, MI. She is the loving wife of George Butler. Also surviving are her children, Genevieve (Geoff Carens) Butler, Christopher (Sarah Dooley) Butler, Courtney (Keith) Bassett, Michael Butler,



Temrowski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services

igan Interscholastic Forensic Association, which

Robin volunteered countless hours for, or St. Jude's

Research Hospital. Share memories at temrows-

Robert W. Peck

LASALLE -August 6, 1957 - April 2, 2022

kifamilyfuneralhome.com.

Robert "Bob" Ward Peck, age 64 of LaSalle, MI, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 2,

Born August 6, 1957, in Detroit, he was one of six children of the late Roger and Carolyn (Re-

ece) Peck. Bob graduated from Farmington High School in 1975 and later continued his education at Northwood Institute; he received 2 associates and a bachelor's degree in 1980.

Bob met Laurie Owen, the love of his life, at the age of 15 and they married on July 18, 1981. They raised two children and spent over 50 wonderful years together.

He got his start working at his father's dealership, Roger Peck Chevrolet, in Farmington Hills. He then opened his own business, Bob Peck's Show & Go Investments, specializing in muscle cars. Over his 30 year career, Bob sold more than 8,700 cars before retiring.

After retiring, they moved to LaSalle, where he discovered his love for homesteading and spent his time gardening. In his younger years, he enjoyed boating, muscle cars, and spending time with family and friends. Bob was known to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and was the

center of the family. Beloved husband of Laurie Peck. Loving father of Kyle (Kayla) Peck and Randi (Brett) Laird. Dearest grandfather of Nora Peck. Dear brother of Sharon (Glen) Holmes, William Peck, Linda Farley, Debra (Steve) Brock, and Carolyn (John) Thiele. Bob was preceded in death by his parents: Roger and Carolyn Peck. He will be deeply missed by his loved ones.

Everyone is invited to a visitation on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Rupp Funeral Home from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. A funeral service will start at the end of viewing at 1:00 pm. Officiating is Rev. James Puhl. In accordance with Bob's wishes, cremation will conclude services.

Online condolences may be made through www. ruppfuneralhomeinc.com

Melisa Choy (Cross) Czuchaj

Melisa Choy (Cross) Czuchaj left this world on 3-31-22 in Ohio after a brave and painful 5-year battle with cancer. She was 41 years old. She grew up in Plymouth, Michigan and graduated from Plymouth/Canton high school in 1999. She held an Associate Degree from Michigan State University. Melisa was trained and talented at piano, dance and track & field. Throughout her life, even near the end, she always smiled brightly and tried to bring cheer to everyone else. Melisa was predeceased by her beloved brother Jeffrey and is survived by her husband Matt, her





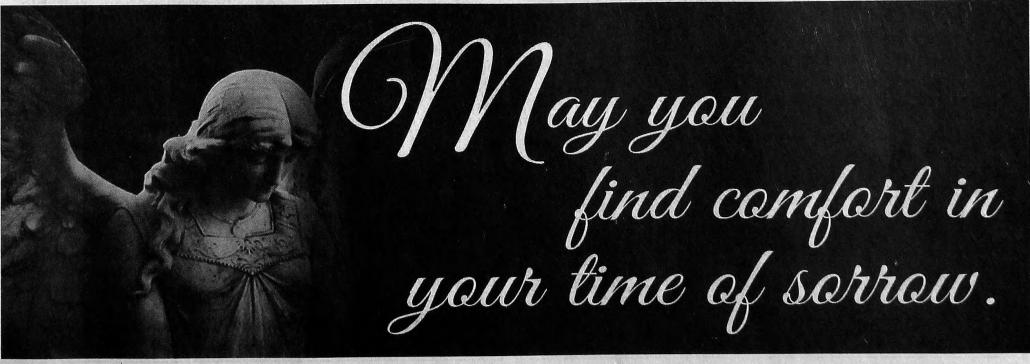
brother Stephen & his wife Kajal, her parents Jerry and Maria Cross and the seven shelter cats that she either rescued herself or inspired her family to rescue.



Robert Paul Piotrowski

NOVI - Robert Paul Piotrowski, of Novi, Michigan, died peacefully at 104 years old with his family at his bedside. He was born in Manistee, the son of Peter and Gertrude Piotrowski, in 1917 and attended school there. In high school he excelled at football and went on to play for the Wolverines in 1936-1937 at U of M while obtaining his degree in pharmacy. He worked in Detroit for E.R. Squibb & Sons in their sales division for more then 50 years. He was blessed with three children, eleven grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren as well as three wonderful step-children and eight step-grandchildren. One of his nephews purchased the home in Manistee where he was born. The Piotrowski family will receive guests at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home Downtown Farmington, on Saturday, April 23, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.





Continued from Page 1A

trauma bays, making it unique from other ambulatory centers in the area. The emergency center will open in early

"We'll take ambulance traffic, we just won't admit patients here like we would at our hospital," Minard said. "We will do everything needed to get them admitted if that's what they need, or they may not need that level of care. It depends on the issue."

The two other similar healthcare options in the city - St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the Livonia Medical Center are both completely or partially operated by the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Minard said Beaumont's facility gives people another option and makes care more convenient for current Beaumont patients living in Livonia.

The closest Beaumont centers to the city, aside from urgent cares, are in Farmington Hills and Canton. The healthcare provider is the largest in Michigan.

"People here who use Beaumont for their services are driving long distances because they're going to Farmington Hills, Royal Oak or Dearborn," said Maureen Biddinger-Grisius, clinical nurse

manager of the emergency center in Livonia. "This way, we're bringing the comfort and the care that you trust closer to home. It's right in your back-

Biddinger-Grisius, who is from Livonia, said locals working in healthcare have been excited to see Beaumont come to their hometown. The more flexible hours and one-stop nature of an ambulatory center have also made it attractive to prospective staff.

"The majority of the staff that will work here live in this area," she said. "When we ask why they want to work at the Livonia center, they say it's because they want to be part of a center that gives care in their own community. The team here is so rooted in this area and this community."

Though the facility has many of the features of a hospital, it's not one and isn't meant to feel like one.

The emergency center will be the only service there open around the clock, and the building's design promotes a welcoming feel. The Livonia campus features plenty of natural light, contactless check-in kiosks, sensory elements meant to comfort children and art of Michigan landmarks like the Mackinac Bridge and the Fox Theatre.

Staff hope the calming nature of the center will make those weary of hospi-



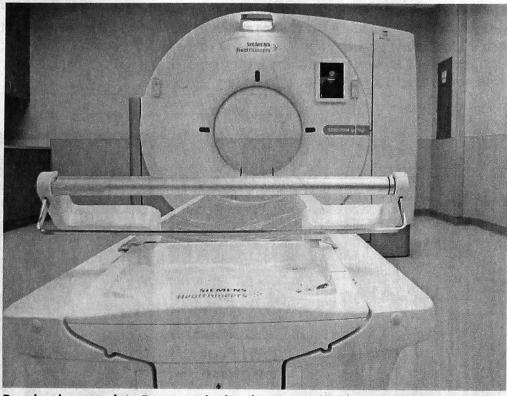
A teddy bear models what getting an x-ray done looks like. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tals come in for preventative care that can catch health issues before they become major concerns.

"There's a high-level of tech that we have here and a high-level of service we can provide, said Derk Pronger, COO of Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills.

"For people who have a stigma against hospitals, having this type of facility is great for preventative care."

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



People who come into Beaumont's Livonia center with ailments like strokes will be able to get a CT scan on site. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



In an effort by Beaumont to make its Livonia facility feel as comfortable as possible, much of the art people will see in waiting rooms are of Michigan landmarks like Comerica Park and Pictured Rocks. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Chopstix

Continued from Page 1A

space when he discovered the storefront that previously held Saigon Boulevard, which opened in January 2021 but was open for less than a year.

"I want something for me," he said. "And when I work for myself, I feel more motivated, more inspired."

The Chopstix opens as a family business, with plenty of Luu's in-laws helping him. One of those is Sang Nguyen, who said Luu's sushi is pristine.

"He makes it for every party, every family event," he said. "The whole family is supportive of his decision because we've been eating his sushi for a long time. We know he can do it."

Now, the space serves up Luu and Nguyen's style of Asian cuisine, which includes a wide range of sushi and pho,

a Vietnamese noodle soup. "The pho is the main dish we have,"

Luu said.

and carryout.

That doesn't mean the sushi takes a back seat. In fact, the colorful dishes can be placed on one of three "sushi boats" and served at a table. Those compose of several styles, including sushi, sashimi or rolls like spicy tuna, California and Boston. The restaurant also

serves poke bowls and other Asian-inspired dishes. The restaurant offers both dine-in

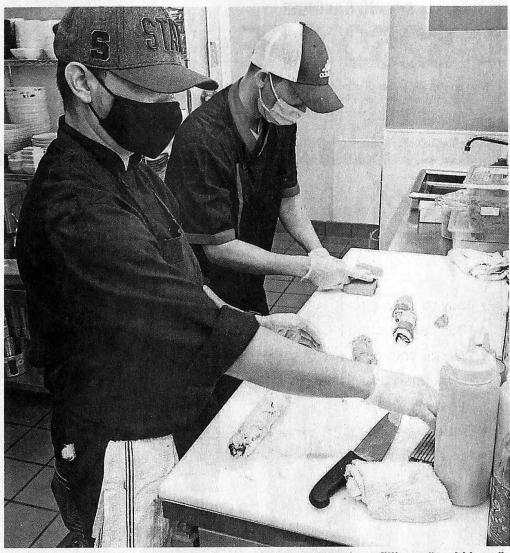
Luu said he's familiar with the area and believes he can bring a product to the community that it needs.

More information, including a menu, can be found at the restaurant's website, the-chopstix.business.site.

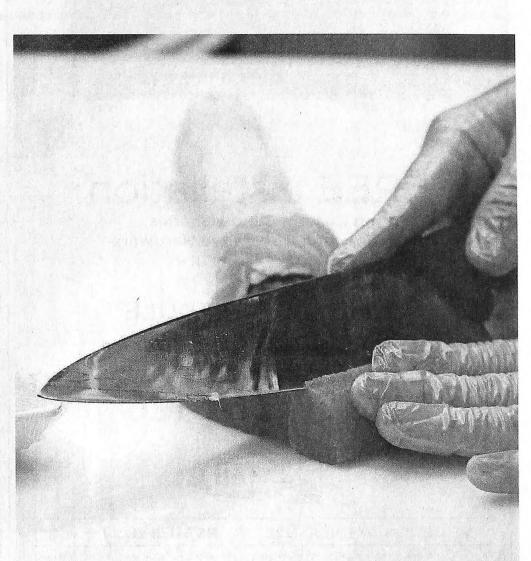
Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



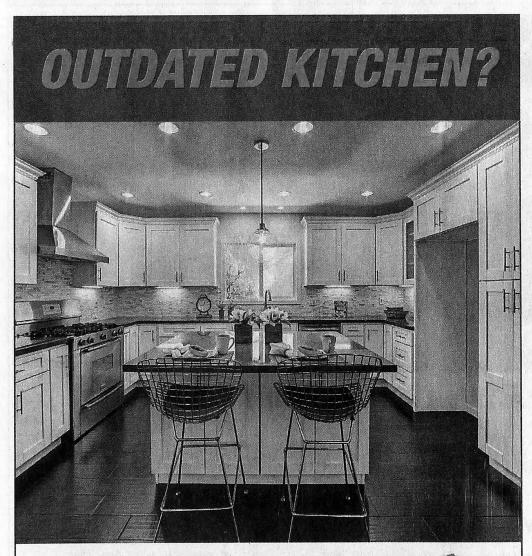
An orchid plant at Livonia's The Chopstix restaurant. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Chopstix chefs Jose Albaro, left, and Dung Luu work on filling a "sushi boat" Tuesday at the Livonia restaurant. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Some raw tuna is sliced for sushi at Livonia's Chopstix restaurant. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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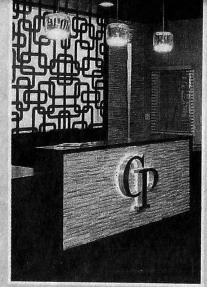


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SPORTS

Anna Fernandez finally wins in the playoffs

The Player of the Year ended her career as a 1,000-point scorer and a state runner-up

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Imagine being a four-year starter for a girls basketball team that has a strong foundation and plenty of talent.

It'd be a career chock-full of deep playoff runs, district and regional championship celebrations and opportunities to face some of the toughest opponents around Michigan.

That was not the case for Anna Fernandez.

Entering this past season, the senior had won one playoff game in three seasons — a 63-15 victory over Ann Arbor Central Academy in the 2020 district opener. The Eagles proceeded to get stomped in the district final by Adrian Lenawee Christian, a favorite to repeat as the state champions had the CO-VID-19 pandemic not forced the Michigan High School Athletic Association to cancel all sports two weeks into the postseason.

Halfway through her senior year, Fernandez reached the 1,000-point milestone for points scored in a single season, doing so with only four playoff games on her resume. Think about that for a second. Most 1,000-point scorers get to play three or four playoff games a season. She reached that career mark with fewer opportunities.

But no accolades - scoring 1,000 points, making the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's dream team

See FERNANDEZ, Page 3B



Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez, center, pushes the ball up court against pressure from Lenewee Christian's Isabelle Kirkendall, right, and Lizzy Scharer (25), Thursday, March 17, 2022, in East Lansing. AL GOLDIS | FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Hometown Life All-Area basketball team: Here's who YOU voted for!

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two weeks ago, I released Hometown Life's first All-Area girls basketball team in seven seasons.

I told you who my favorite players were and even picked our Player of the Year (shoutout to Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez). If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to see how my team shook out. Almost 100 players made the cut.

But why stop there?

I took off for vacation last week, but while I was gone I had you, our faithful readers, vote for YOUR favorite players. Thousands of votes rolled in over the week.

After Saturday's voting deadline finally came, I couldn't wait to put together the results and see where our community thought each player belonged on the All-Area team.

So, for the first time in Hometown

Life history, I'm proud to present our All-Area girls basketball team, which is 100% assembled by our readers.

Check to see where your favorite players landed:

Hometown Life's Player of the Year

PG Anna Fernandez,

Plymouth Christian Academy Vitals: 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."

FIRST TEAM Hometown Life All-Area team

PF Juliana Imbuzeiro, Northville (15,857 votes)

Vitals: Senior, 5-foot-9.

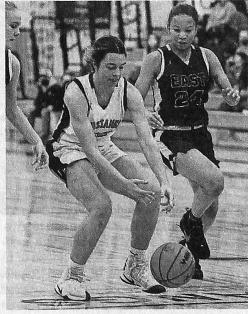
Stats: Averaged 7.2 points and 4.3 rebounds. Led the Mustangs in blocks and was second in scoring.

Accolades: All-KLAA selection, fourth-year varsity player and co-cap-

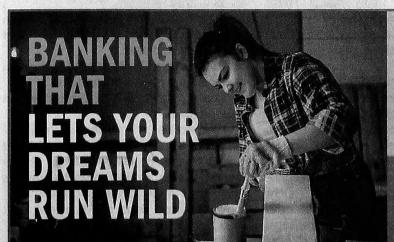
College Interest: Signed with Nova Southeastern (Florida) for volleyball.

Coach Todd Gudith: "She has the strength to play inside but can step out and knock down the 3. Juliana's bigtime leaping ability made her a force on defense as she applied her volleyball skills to the basketball court."

See VOTE, Page 4B



Northville's Juliana Imbuzerio picks up a loose ball against South Lyon East during the championship of the Mustangs' girls basketball holiday tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Chansey Willis Jr. is voted Michigan Mr. Basketball

Mick McCabe

Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

It is still happening, but it is about to end for good

Chansey Willis Jr. will be walking through the halls at Detroit King and a fellow student will tell him: "You suck at basketball."

It began last fall when the football players said that as a way of telling Willis how important he was to the football team, of which he played an integral role in King's crusade to the Division 3 state championship.

The basketball degradation was supposed to end after the football season, but it continued even after Willis led King to the Public School League championship when he was named the PSL's Mr. Basketball.

"They still say it," Willis said shaking his head. "They said it even more after we got knocked out of the state tournament."

Maybe this will help:

Willis is the 42nd recipient of the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award.

The award is named for Schram, who covered high school athletics for the Free Press for over 40 years.

In voting done by BCAM members, Willis earned 2,620 points and was followed by Kyler Vanderjagt of Grand Rapids Northview (2,384 points), Kareem Rozier of Orchard Lake St. Mary's (2,079), Jack Karasinski of Grand Rapids Catholic Central (1,990) and Ferndale's Treyvon Lewis (1,799).

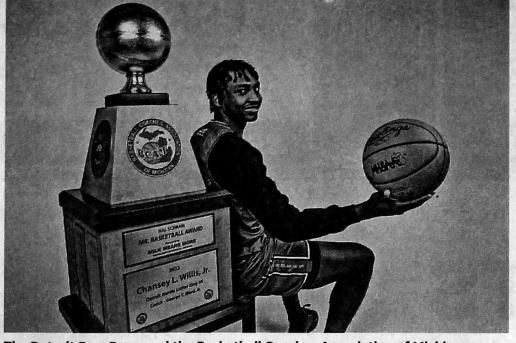
He also had the most first-place votes (341) of the 1,208 cast, 45 more than the runner-up.

"This is great," Willis said. "It's actually a dream come true."

The dream did not begin until Benton Harbor's Scooby Johnson won the award in

"I was playing with the Family in AAU," he said. "I asked Joe Mack, the coach, what's Mr. Basketball. He said it's the best player in Michigan. I never knew who Scooby was and we went to see him and he dropped 43 on Jalen Green, who's with the Houston Rockets now."

Willis has no idea where he will play next season. He holds offers from Toledo, North Carolina A&T, Eastern Michigan and Detroit Mercy.



The Detroit Free Press and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan award the 42nd Hal Schram Michigan Mr. Basketball award to Detroit King's Chansey Willis, Jr. on Monday, March 21, 2022 at the Detroit Free Press in Detroit. MANDI WRIGHT

He began in basketball under the watchful eye of his father, a 1995 graduate of Detroit Northern where he earned All-Detroit and All-State honors.

His father raised him to be a basketball player.

"I wanted him to be way better than me," his father said. "It was tough when I came up, but Robert Traylor named me as his best competition. I didn't back down from nobody."

His father was an outstanding player, but doesn't speak much about himself and his past accomplishments. He is more concerned about his son.

"He doesn't really bring up basketball and his days," Willis Jr. said. "He teaches me more stuff because he's been there already. He wants me to continue on the journey.

"When I go in with him, it's mainly shooting. He makes my arm get tired, I shoot until, basically, my arm falls off."

The time was well spent. This season Willis averaged 25.5 points with 9.5 rebounds, nine assists and four steals.

But there is much more to his game than just numbers. This season, he became the team leader in the drive to the PSL title.

"There are certain times in the course of

a game when he gives me a look and let me know that: 'I've got it, don't worry about it,'" said King coach George Ward. "He'd come to the huddle and a guy misses a shot and I get on him, Chansey's the one who tells them to keep shooting.

"He's never come to the huddle and say: 'Give me the damn ball."

The state's class of 2022 began with the likes of Emoni Bates at Ypsilanti Lincoln, Fletcher Loyer at Clarkston and Ty Rodgers at Grand Blanc, who are all gone.

Ward believed when Bates left Ypsilanti Lincoln that Willis would be a Mr. Basketball contender no matter what anyone else did.

"Honestly, once Emoni left I just figured that with everything that surrounded him and all the hoopla, once he left I figured Chansey's got a shot," Ward said. "Even with Fletcher being here and Ty, I thought Chansey had a chance because in all fairness to you guys, the award has never been a popularity contest."

Ironically, Willis may have received as much attention from playing football before this basketball began. He caught 32 passes for 684 yards and seven touchdowns

But it was one of his shortest pass re-

ception from quarterback Dante Moore that was the most important play of his career. Clinging to a 25-21 lead in the state title game, King faced a third-and-6 from its 5-yard line with 2:22 left.

King didn't want to be forced to punt to offensive juggernaut DeWitt and were desperate to pick up the first down.

"Everybody thought the ball was going to LJ," Willis said of Lynn Wyche-El. "I thought the ball was going to LJ, too. I went to the huddle like: 'You might as well just throw to the ball to LJ.'

"But he called double slants on both sides for whichever one is open. Coming out of the huddle DJ said: 'I'm throwing it to you.'"

Willis was beyond surprised, but responded: "All right, bet."

It was only a 7-yard completion, but it was the one that permitted King to run out the clock and gave Willis his first state title.

Willis didn't waste time making an impression on the basketball court. In his first game as a freshman he hit the game-winning shot to knock off River Rouge, then the preseason No. 1 team in the state.

"They basically just gave me the ball for the last shot and I said here I go," Willis said. ""That's' when I really knew I was good at basketball."

Willis has never been about the hype or who was ranked where in either sport. He just wants to compete. That is why receiving the Mr. Basketball award is so special to him.

"I really just go out and play, play basketball," he said. "In both sports, I just go out and play. I don't worry about none of that other stuff, but I'm really happy to be Mr. Basketball."

The added bonus in being Mr. Basket-

ball is quieting some of his annoying fellow students, who probably don't know if a basketball is stuffed or inflated.

"I'm going to get a video of this," he said, laughing. "I'm going to go to them and ask if I still suck."

Once and for all, the answer will be no. Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at mick.mccabell@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @mickmccabel. Save on his new book, "Mick McCabe's Golden Yearbook: 50 Great Years of Michigan's Best High School Players, Teams & Memories," by ordering right now at McCabe.Pictorial-Book.com.

Edison's Whitehorn is 2022 Michigan Miss Basketball

Mick McCabe

Special to Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Three years ago, Ruby Whitehorn sat in a conference room at the Free Press and watched Detroit Edison teammate Rickea Jackson accept the Miss Basketball award.

Whitehorn was quite impressed.

"As soon as she won it," Whitehorn said, "I thought: 'Now I've got to get this right here."

A year later, she watched another teammate, Gabby Elliott, be named Miss Basketball. "Now," she said, "I definitely have to get

this."

One year ago, Whitehorn was there when DeeDee Hagemann became the third

straight Edison player win the award.
"Oh," she thought, "I can't mess this up now."

She didn't mess up anything.

Whitehorn, who signed with Clemson, captured the the 41st annual Mick McCabe Miss Basketball award, given to the state's top senior by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan in conjunction with the Free Press.

She's the fourth straight Edison player win the most prestigious award a female high school athlete in Michigan can receive. In voting from BCAM members, she accumulated 3,025 points to finish ahead of finalists Abbey Kimball of Grand Rapids West Catholic (2,697 points), Mya Petticord of Ypsilanti Arbor Prep (2,509) and Theryn Hallock (2,335) of Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central.

Of the 1,174 votes cast, Whitehorn earned 389 first-place votes, 86 more than her nearest competitor.

Before this stretch, no school had ever had even consecutive Miss Basketball winners.

This season, the 6-foot Whitehorn averaged 25.6 points, 12.7 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 4.3 steals in leading Edison to the No.1 ranking in Division 2

ranking in Division 2.

"I'm super proud," she said. "I know I made a lot of people proud and that's what

made me happy."

Whitehorn was anything but happy as a freshman when Edison coach Monique Brown created a "B team" so Whitehorn could get more game time.

"When she first got here Rickea was a senior Gaby was a junior and they were so aggressive and so 'Alpha' players and she



The Detroit Free Press and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan award the 41st Mick McCabe Michigan Miss Basketball award to Detroit Edison's Ruby Whitehorn on Monday, March 14, 2022, in Detroit. MANDI WRIGHT/DFP

was so 'Little Ruby," Brown said. "I thought she was going to transfer because it was so hard for her."

The "B team" also allowed Whitehorn to dominate against other varsity teams as opposed to sitting and watching.

"She was good enough to be on the 'A team,' but I wanted her to do what she is doing now," Brown said "I wanted her to stay in that mindset. I knew if she came with the 'A team' she would get second fiddles to Gabby and Rickea and she would be kind of passive."

Even though Whitehorn played mainly with the "B team," she practiced with the "A team" and was sheller and an additional team.

team" and was challenged on a daily basis.
"It kept me in go mode," Whitehorn said.
"It kept me being aggressive and not passive so I really appreciate Coach Brown.
Back when I was experiencing it and going through it, at times I was bored because practice would be harder than the games.

"But, like I said I always test the proc-

The process for Whitehorn began at different Detroit recreation centers across the

Lisa Bryant, her godmother, worked for the Detroit recreation department for over 20 years and every summer wherever Bryant went, Whitehorn went and played a variety of sports.

"She played every sport — lacrosse, boxing, wrestling, swimming — and she was

really good in all of them," said Bryant. "I even started a mom and pop rec basketball team for Ruby. But as she got older, I thought it was time to get her to a real program and play with just girls.

"It was time for her to show what she could do."

Even at a young age, Whitehorn excelled on every team at every level. Her parents loved watching her play and were proud she was so good.

But they didn't realize she was college scholarship good.

"We didn't know how good she was until the eighth or ninth grade," said her mother, Mechelle. "That's when college coaches came around offering full-ride scholarships. We were like: 'You're going to pay for everything for how many years?' That's when we knew she was special."

Someone else who saw a tremendous amount of potential in Whitehorn was Jackson.

Before she left for college she handed Brown a pair of shoes she was given at the McDonald's All-America game.

She instructed Brown to give them and a message to Whitehorn when Brown thought she was ready.

The summer before Whitehorn's sophomore season Brown pulled the shoes out of the trunk of her car and handed them to Whitehorn and relayed Jackson's message.

"Rickea's message to me was: 'These

aren't to wear. Go get your own," Whitehorn said. "It was really surprising to me. It was surprising that all this time she's had faith in me. She's had confidence in me the entire time and that's what gave me confidence."

That confidence led Whitehorn to receive an invitation to play in this year's McDonald's game.

Whitehorn has enjoyed a terrific season, but she never considered herself a shoe-in for the Miss Basketball award.

"Abbey Kimball, wow," she said. "When we had a scrimmage against them in the preseason I saw how good she was. I knew Theryn was good because she played AAU with Abbey. And Mya is like my best friend.

"Honestly, if I didn't win it I would have been very happy because they are great competition. I would have thought they would have deserved it."

There were many defining moments to Whitehorn's career. One came a year ago when Edison defeated Division 1 runner-up Detroit Renaissance.

"It was a close game," Brown said. "In a timeout I told Ruby it was her turn to take over. She went on a 10-point spree. I thought: 'Oh, man, we've got something here."

The COVID-19 pandemic prohibited Edison from winning state titles the last two seasons, which has made Whitehorn more determined than ever.

In a much anticipated regional showdown against No. 4 Redford Westfield last week, Whitehorn grabbed the defensive rebound on the first possession of the game and took the ball coast-to-coast and laid the ball in the basket.

She finished with a career high 35 points on 14 of 18 shooting and added 12 rebounds and blocked four shots in an overwhelming 85-43 victory.

"It was a very energized game for me and my team," she said. "We felt like we had

a statement to make."

After the game, Brown asked Whitehorn what had just happened out there.

"Coach," she said, "it's time to win a championship."

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at mick.mccabeII@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @mickmccabeI. Order his new book, "Mick McCabe's Golden Yearbook: 50 Great Years of Michigan's Best High School Players, Teams & Memories," at McCabe.PictorialBook.com.

Fernandez

Continued from Page 1B

and leading the Eagles to a 14-6 regular season record - really mattered once the postseason started.

Fernandez needed to leave her mark on the program by winning some oneand-done games.

And so she and the Eagles did just that.

They won back-to-back games to open the playoffs and win a district title.

And then they knocked off league foes Southfield Christian and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist to win a regional championship. That included a 45-39 overtime thriller against Inter-City Baptist, the Eagles' biggest rivals.

From there, they beat Genesee Christian in the state quarterfinal, punching their ticket to play in the final four at Michigan State's Breslin Center.

Wait, what? This small Division 4 private school that hadn't won anything throughout Fernandez's career was going to play for a shot at winning a state championship?

Yep, that's exactly what happened.

They had no trouble taking down Lenawee Christian in the state semifinal, which meant it'd get to rematch Fowler in the state final. Fowler had beaten Plymouth Christian handily during a midseason showcase matinee at Little Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Pistons, in January.

And, yeah, Fowler wound up beating Plymouth Christian again thanks to Ferris State signee Mia Riley inspiring her team to a 61-46 victory, ensuring Fowler would repeat as the state champs in D-4.

But so what?

Fernandez, the team's lone senior, and her talented supporting class of juniors had finally snapped the curse. A legacy had been established. They went from the basement to the penthouse and came very, very close to winning a state championship, a feat that'll likely be talked about for many, many years to come in Plymouth Christian's gymnasi-

And for a turnaround like that, Hometown Life selected Fernandez as its Player of the Year.

"It's incredible. It just feels like all of the hard work I've been putting in, and the team has been putting in, has paid off," Fernandez said following her team's

state final game on March 19. "Especially after losing in districts three times in a row. We were really motivated this year, the whole season, to get after it, and I think we've put a lot of time and energy into this season. We came up a little bit short, but I'm proud of this team."

This past winter, the 5-foot-7 unsigned point guard totaled 458 points, 164 rebounds, 90 assists and 91 steals.

She was the total package, earning All-MIAC first team and dream team honors and even winning the league's MVP honor. She finished her career with 1,418 points.

But perhaps her greatest asset was her synergy with her teammates. She knew when to drive to the hoop or dish it out to the likes of Madison Yeager, Morganne Houk or Hailey Maulbetsch for jumpers. She knew where to catch an outlet pass and when to race down the floor. She could read where to send teammates passes on fastbreaks. She could rebound with the best of them. She wasn't afraid to scrap for a loose ball on the floor. Anything for her team-

She truly could do it all.

"She's been amazing," said Houk, a junior. "She's been my point guard for the last three years. She's led us on the court, off the court and in the locker room. She's everything you want out of a leader. It's been a heck of a season with her."

And Houk was on to something there with that comment.

Fernandez's leadership can't be outmatched.

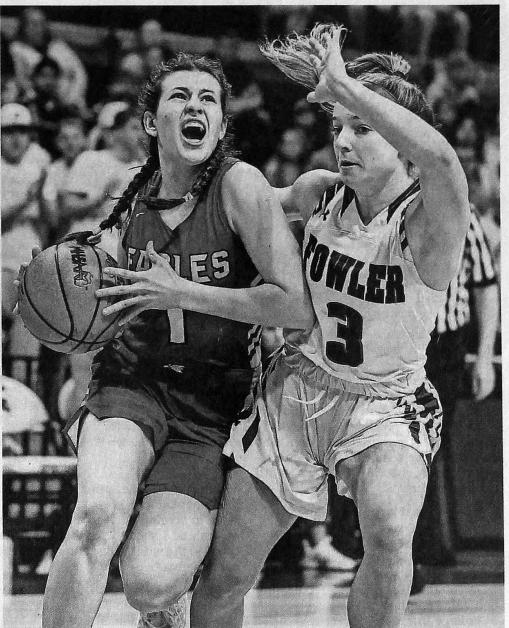
She often dictated the energy in practice. And she was always grateful for the coaches who put on the practices. Coach Rod Windle's favorite memory of Fernandez was hearing her say thankyou after every training session.

Fernandez's leadership often helped the team during games, too.

"Most of the season, I'm not giving her directions," Windle said. "(I'd tell her), 'It's your team.' ... It kind of pays off a little bit. She'd take on that responsibility about what we're running, what we're in and what we're doing next on offense. She's done a great job executing game plans and making the teammates around her so much better."

When most players lose the final games of their career, plenty of crying ensues. It's an emotional thing.

Not for Fernandez. She soaked in the entire moment, enjoying being on that stage, in the game and with her favorite



Plymouth Christian's Anna Fernandez, left, shoots as Fowler's Avery Koenigsknecht defends during the first quarter in the Division 4 state final on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

people surrounding her.

Yeah, the Eagles had just lost to Fowler. But they were getting a runner-up

And there she was on the Breslin's floor, posing for pictures with both the trophy and her father, assistant Norb Fernandez.

And during the postgame interview process, she was all smiles, too.

It stunk losing. But she had realized what she and her teammates had just accomplished.

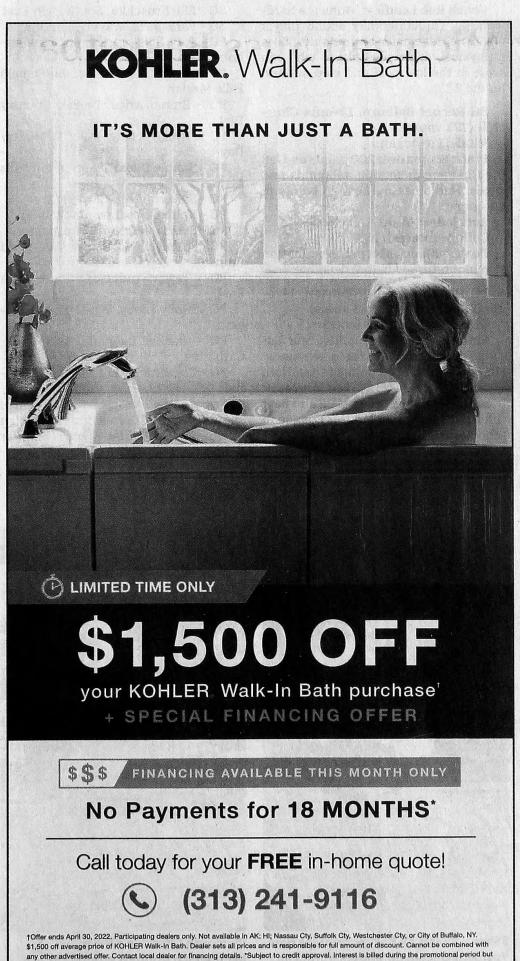
"I definitely am (sad), but it's, like, we made it this far! There's a lot of good," she said. "There's some bad. But there's

a lot of good that came out of this season, so I'm focusing on that. I got to play with them (her teammates), and my dad got to coach me. At the end of the year, that puts everything in perspective."

It sure does.

Losing a game being broadcast on television, with major hardware on the line and on one of the most prestigious courts in Michigan sure beats losing in districts for three-straight seasons.

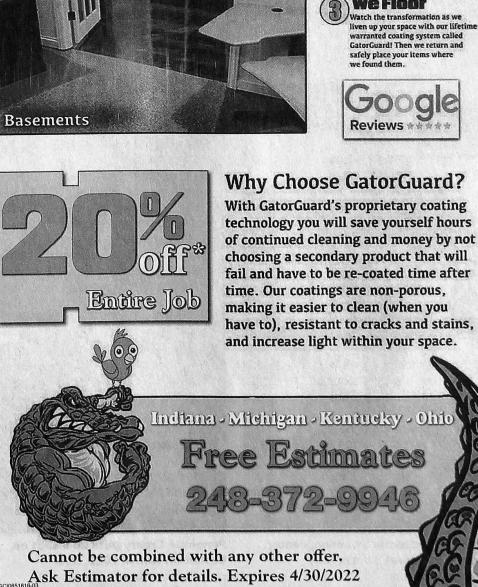
Fernandez can tell you all about that. Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



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Vote

Continued from Page 1B

C/PF Mckenzie Swanson, Bloomfield Hills Marian (3,315

Vitals: Sophomore, 6-foot-3.

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

Accolades: N/A. College Interest: N/A. Coach Mary Cicerone: N/A.

SF Shahd Bakkar, Salem (8,737 votes)

Vitals: 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."

SG Jaidyn Elam, Detroit Country Day (4,610 votes)

Vitals: 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

PG Eve Tanaskoska, Northville (15,194 votes)

Vitals: 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."

SECOND TEAM

PF Hailey Maulbetsch, Plymouth Christian Academy (11,847 votes)

Vitals: 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."

C Mira Kelley, Milford (1,660 votes) Vitals: 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.



Country Day's Jaidyn Elam is introduced. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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."

SF Ari'Yana Wiggins, Detroit Country Day (4,634 votes)

Vitals: 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 tripledouble player before her senior year."

SG Penelope Creary, North Farmington(1,152 votes)

Vitals: 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 bas-

PG Sofia Salinas, Bloomfield Hills Roeper (10,882 votes)

Vitals: Freshman, 5-foot-4. Stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 2.2 as-

sists 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 lighting 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."

THIRD TEAM

PF Erin Young, Livonia Franklin (1,987 votes)

Vitals: 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 thirdyear captain. Carried a 3.8 GPA.

College Interest: Signed with Albion College.

Coach John Santi: "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 helpside defender."

C Davai Matthews, Wayne Memorial (40 votes)

Vitals: 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."

SF Anna Lassan, South Lyon East Vitals: 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.

Coach Rob Leadley: "Anna is a hardworking, 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."

SG Rachel Balhorn, Livonia Churchill (773 votes)

Vitals: 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.

PG Diavian (Dee) Robinson, Livonia Clarenceville (3,943 votes) Vitals: 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 Country Day's Ariyanna Wiggins puts

up a basket against Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes. JOHN

HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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."

HONORABLE MENTION

PF - Maggie Liebler, Birmingham Seaholm PF - Maya White, Farmington Hills

Mercy

PF - Meghan McCarthy, Plymouth PF - Summer Ambler, White Lake

Lakeland C - Scarlett Webster, Livonia Steven-

C - Caroline McGuire, Lutheran Westland

SF - Sarah Cunningham, Farmington Hills Mercy

SF - Madison Yeager, Plymouth **Christian Academy**

SF - Hailey Baumann, Wixom St. Catherine

SG - Kaitlyn Sanders, Birmingham Groves

SG - Samantha Maday, Novi

SG - Morgan Miller, Plymouth

SG - Morganne Houk, Plymouth Christian Academy SG - Ella Kruschka, South Lyon East

SG - Paris Bass, Wayne Memorial

PG - Katie Sullivan, Birmingham Sea-

holm PG - Anna Herberholz, Bloomfield

Hills Marian PG - Emma Arico, Detroit Country

- Aysia Yokely, Detroit Country

Day PG - Sophie Dugas, Farmington Hills

Mercy

PG - Siena McNitt, Garden City

PG - Kalin Bates, Livonia Franklin PG - Sela Lefler, North Farmington

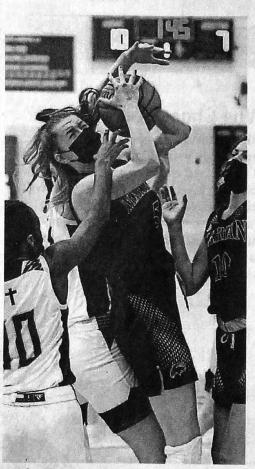
PG - Shamya Reid, Redford Westfield

PG - Taylor Anderson, South Lyon East PG - Molly Libby, White Lake Lake-

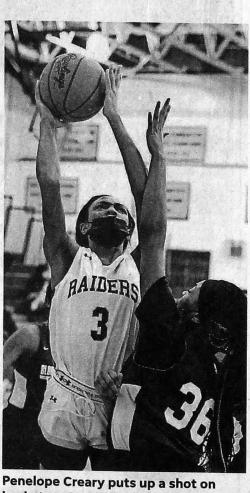
land PG - Rachel Luomala, Wixom St. Catherine

PG - Colleena Bryant, Wayne Memo-

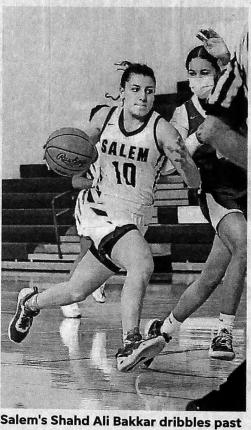
Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Follow him Twitter Life. on @folsombrandonj.



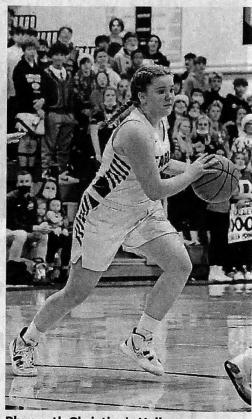
Marian's McKenzie Swanson, center, grabs a rebound. JOHN HEIDER I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



basket on Jan. 4, 2022. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ypsilanti Lincoln defenders during an Ice Breaker tournament girls basketball game on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, at Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth Christian's Hailey Maulbetsch dribbles around the arc against Ypsilanti Arbor Prep during a girls basketball game on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Top 25 Companies Hiring in April

ZipRecruiter.com

1. Walmart

Posted 70,657 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Walmart:

Merchandiser, Software Engineer, Pharmacist, Cashier

2. Amazon

Posted 42,819 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Amazon: Operations Manager, Senior Product Manager, Software Engineer, Area Manager, Driver Trainer, Warehouse Associate

3. Deloitte

Posted 34,006 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Deloitte: Consultant, Engineer, **Cloud Developer**

4. McDonald's

Posted 25,762 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Mc-Donald's: Restaurant Manager, Crew Team Member

5. Capital One

Posted 21,929 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Capital One: Designer, Engineer

6. Shipt

Posted 16,929 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Shipt: Shopper, Delivery Driver

7. DoorDash

Posted 15,446 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Door-Dash: Delivery Driver

8. Sam's Club

Posted 14,887 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Sam's Club: Personal Shopper, Meat Cutter, Cashier, Optician

9. Starbucks

Posted 14,206 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Starbucks: Barista, Retail Shift Manager

10. AT&T

Posted 11,615 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at AT&T: Sales Representative, Engineer, Technician

11. TJX Companies

Posted 10,657 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at TJX Companies: Retail Associate, Merchandise Associate

12. Verizon

Posted 10,042 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Verizon: Sales Representative, Engineer

Posted 10,005 jobs in March. Examples of jobs at KPMG: Analyst, Associate, Engineer

14. Microsoft

Posted 9,067 jobs in March. Examples of jobs at Microsoft: Software Engineer

15. Domino's

Posted 8,891 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Domino's: Delivery Driver, Manager, **Customer Service**

16. Lowe's

Posted 8,838 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Lowe's: Merchandising Service Associate, Customer Service Associate, Loader

17. Whole Foods Market

Posted 8,090 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Whole Foods Market: Shopper, Cook

18. FedEx Ground

Posted 7,976 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at FedEx Ground: Package Handler, Courier

19. Kroger

Posted 7,134 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Kroger: Retail Clerk, Cashier, Pharmacy Technician

20. CVS Health



Posted 7,070 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at CVS Health: Pharmacist, Store Associate, Shift Supervisor

21. UnitedHealth Group

Posted 6,636 jobs in March. Examples of jobs at United-Health Group: Consultant, **Medical Coder**

22. Bank of America

Posted 6,422 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Bank of America: Relationship Manager, Relationship Banker, Financial Advisor

Posted 4,904 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Aramark: Food Service Manager, Cook

24. Macy's

Posted 3,371 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Macy's: Retail Sales Associate, Receiving Support Associate

25. Burger King

Posted 3,256 jobs in March. Examples of job titles at Burger King: Crew Member, Manager

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNE

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword 44 Chess ploy in 85 Japanese 122 Secret 18 Word-wit bit Banjul?

NATION NOTION

ACROSS 1 Sore 4 Under the ocean 10 "Get what I'm

sayin'?" 15 Store 19 Prior to, to poets

20 Gofer's job 21 Gut bacterium 22 Dana

Perfumes fragrance 23 Person born in early October in Benghazi? 25 Family car in

Khartoum? 27 Eddie -(leisurewear chain) 28 Carrere of the

screen 29 Rock concert booster 30 Make furious 31 Silky cat in

Luanda?

34 Beyond city limits 37 Merit badge displayers 38 Kazan of filmmaking

39 It precedes omega

19

23

27

31

37

55

60

68

74

85

91

96

106

115

120

124

86

111

40 Clear-minded 41 Lead-in to history

Bandar Seri Begawan? 63 Lumber tool 65 Former Oriole 106 People Ripken **68** Extremist 69 "Delta Dawn" 108 Engaged singer Tucker 71 Pathologist's

47 Ballroom

Apia?

54 Ancient

53 Ency., e.g.

Central

55 See 112-

Down

57 Russia's

59 Envy, e.g.

man in

60 Dark-haired

56 Italian "my"

Alexis I, e.g.

Americans

dance in

study 74 Long time 75 Mo. in which 112 Long time fall starts 77 Doc in Tijuana? 79 Cinch —

(trash bag brand) 81 "Keep this in" 83 Do a fist bump 84 Scandal-

ridden company of 2002

28

42 43

56

88

116 117

32

61

75

92

97

121

125

20

24

49

50

48

brew 88 Old TV's "--Na Na" 89 Tropical

devil ray in Valletta? 91 Sleeping garment in San

Miguelito? 95 Orig. copies 96 Well out of range 97 Precept 98 Is the right

size for 100 "That made no sense to me" rattling things

guy in Marseilles? 111 Actress Saoirse

off

113 Hip-hop producer Gotti 114 The Beatles' "I — Walrus"

115 Buyable apartment in Brazzaville? 118 Fish eggs in Barcelona?

120 Wine city in California 121 — a million

recorder disguised as a writing

instrument **123** — gow poker 124 Supermodel from Somalia 125 "Check," to a

card player 126 Motown's Franklin 127 Lingo suffix

DOWN 1 Peach —

(desserts) 2 Singer Grande 3 Cleans up, as software

4 NutraSweet developer 5 Website ID 6 Water filter brand 7 Polio studier

8 Make furious 9 Oklahoma 10 Polite reply to a lady

Albert

11 Coffee pod 12 Drift (off) 13 Pay add-on? 14 Hits the jackpot

15 Piloting guy 16 Gave birth 17 Enthusiasm for Barack 10

21

25

58

89

118

122

126

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at

(517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

29

33

44

62

93

98

108

38

52

69

76

24 Michelle of "Crazy Rich Asians"

26 Erwin of film 29 Opera opus 32 Some vipers 33 Korbut of gymnastics

34 Secretive viewers 35 B-52 org. 36 Ensnares 42 Meander

43 Arabian ruler 45 Half a bikini 46 Gallic pal 47 Native-born Israeli 48 "What --"

("Ho-hum")

49 Harold's film partner 50 Dodge of old 51 "Hang on —" 52 Boxing event **57** Precept 58 Hades river

61 "May — a favor?" 62 Personal ID 64 Takes in 65 - terrier 66 Dressy tie

> 67 Pop singer Lewis 72 With 90-Down, appear that

> > 26

46

54

72

84

114

119

73

100 101 102 103 104 105

123

127

40

30

59

13

39

78

109 110

45

53

70

76 Dismissive remarks 78 Not panicky

79 Partaking of with others 80 Aspiration 82 - Mahal

85 On — with 86 Space that's invulnerable to attack 87 Large boa 88 Joust verbally

89 — Hari 90 See 72-Down 92 Lace town WSW of Paris

93 Willful insult 94 Sorvino of the screen 99 Potshot taker 101 Heavy vapor 102 Genie houser

103 Like early audiobooks 104 Unstressed vowel sounds 59 Go like a fish 105 --- weenie 107 Chinese ideal

> 109 Large wader 110 Kick out 112 With 55-Across, she eloped with Ernie

Kovacs 70 Verdi's slave 115 Caesar's 151 116 Artist Yoko 117 Mo. neighbor

118 Jacuzzi site 73 Writer Ferber 119 "Nope" 16

66

APPARENT 36 **BEHOLD** CLEAR-CUT CLEARLY CONSPICUOUS DETECT ESPY **EVIDENT EYESIGHT** FIND HEED 67

IDENTIFY IN FOCUS LOOK LOOMING MAKE OUT MANIFEST MARK MONITOR NAKED EYE NOTE NOTICE **OBSERVE** PATENT PERCEIVE RANGE REGARD

REVEALED SCAN SCOPE SEE SPOT SPY ON STARING TAKE IN UNCLOUDED UNCONCEALED UNMISTAKABLE VIEW VISIBLE VISTA VIVID WATCH

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

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!

SEEING THINGS

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even EYFITNEDIVESCIYYUN TATHGISEYECFTMDTNO OBKOOLIYGAICJOE NNNEUXN CR DTMNS I W RCLEARCU D KAD S D E R RH D CREDH XKRAMNMFDVXT ELAECNOCNUI OCS TVDDKIT NES SR BE OOMINGVJTNE SQOTAKEINOBSERVESC ELBISIVITHPATENTII

ANSWER KEY

8 9 t 9 3 8 3 9 5 1 6 9 7 6 g L 8 3 6 9 1 5 9 3 4 t 8 6 9 7 L 3 2 9 8 5 6 9

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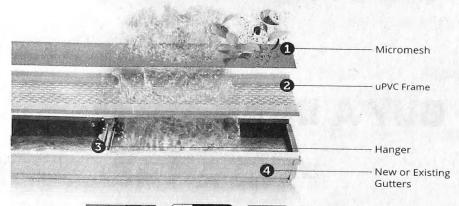
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