



Tough choice: Our picks for All-Area girls soccer team

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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UPROOTED

A bee crawls on a lavender plant on Terry and Windy Mack's farm, Belle Lavende, on July 1 in Stockbridge.
NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Suburban couple becomes Michigan lavender farmers

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The Mack family was taken aback recently when trying to drop off some recycling.

The Livonia residents were turned down, being told the center was only for city residents. The reason? Their license plate was a farm license plate, prompting the employee to believe they did not live in the Wayne County community.

"We have a farm license plate, and he was taking a whole bunch of cardboard from the store," said Windy Mack of her husband, Terry. "We went to recycle it and (the employee) is like, 'You have to be a Livonia resident.'"

An unusual situation indeed, but it's true: the suburban residents have become farmers, a rarity among their neighbors.

After Terry Mack was laid off from his engineering job at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the two began looking for a new way of life.

A Traverse City vacation with a bustling farmers market across the street from their hotel led them to a host of fresh options and sprouted a new business venture.

See UPROOTED, Page 6A



Terry Mack points out some of the Michigan-raised lavender products his Plymouth shop sells. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Roundup: Businesses that opened or closed across area

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's a busy time for exploring. That includes finding a new favorite place to eat or shop.

A whole host of businesses opened and closed their doors in recent weeks across Detroit's western suburbs. Here's a look at several in the area.

Are we missing one? We certainly try to catch as many openings and closings as possible, but it can be tough. If there's a shop worth listing in a future update, feel free to send us an email and we'll consider it for a future roundup.

Farmington

There's been a flurry of activity in the little community, and it's not just because of the current streetscape project that's closed roads downtown.

The biggest news is the potential closure of the longtime Farmington bakery, Sunflour Bakehaus. The shop

See ROUNDUP, Page 2A

Metro Detroit homes for sale rise in price

Mike Stucka and Sean Lahman
USA TODAY NETWORK

A typical Wayne County home listed for \$159,900 in June, up 12.2% from the previous month's \$142,500, an analysis of data from Realtor.com shows.

The median list home price in June was down about 9.4% from June 2021. Wayne County's median home was 1,273 square feet for a listed price of \$129 per square foot.

The Wayne County market was busy, with a median 30 days on market. A month earlier, homes had a median 29 days on market. The market added 2,536 new home listings in June, compared with the 2,440 added in June 2021. The market ended the month with some 3,219 listings of homes for sale.

See HOMES, Page 5A

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Roundup

Continued from Page 1A

— in operation since 1936 — could close later this month after its owners, Becky Burns and Jeff Pavlik, decided to move onto different ventures. Without a new owner, the bakery will close its doors, though Burns said she was hopeful a buyer could be found.

Two new places to grab something to eat did open in the Farmington community in recent weeks: The Big Salad opened its doors at 23342 Farmington, offering a variety of salads, soups and sandwiches. The restaurant joins several other Big Salad restaurants in Michigan, including in Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe and Charlotte.

For more comfort food, head northwest on Grand River to the former Panera Bread location, where the Farmington Grill has taken over. The diner serves up fare one would expect in a coney island, including sandwiches, entrees and coney dogs. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner at 34635 Grand River.

Westland

Grab your beloved golden retriever and head to Westland's newest pet supplies shop.

Premier Pet Supplies finally opened in the shopping center at the southwest corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill in the city. It brings another pet supplies shop to the corner after Pet Valu closed its doors at the end of 2020.

Inside, customers can find everything they need for their dog, cat, bird and more. Food, toys and other items are available.

Wayne

Wingstop has arrived in the city, opening a new restaurant at 35165 E. Michigan Ave.

The restaurant, known for its wings, fries and tenders, occupies the plaza at the intersection of Wayne Road and is open seven days a week.

Milford

It could be called a comeback of sorts for Chef Tom Lin.

Lin has returned to Milford, where he first opened Lei Ting more than 20 years ago. He's come back to the space, transforming it into Lei Ting's Blue Pearl, an upscale Asian fusion restaurant serving many classic favorites and some new twists.

Sporting a new look and bar, the restaurant opened in its longtime home in the Mill Valley Center on the northwest corner of Main Street and Commerce.

Novi

If hungry diners want their baby back (baby back baby back), they'll have to head outside of Novi to do it.

That's because the Chili's on the corner of Eight Mile and Haggerty has permanently closed its doors, according to a sign posted on its door.

Other Chili's operate in Livonia and Canton Township in the nearby area.

A new place to pick up furniture has joined the West Oaks shopping center these days. Ashley Furniture, 43620 W. Oaks, has opened in the storefront that previously held Value City Furniture, which relocated itself to the former Art Van building closer to Novi Road.

Livonia

BBS Distilleries wants to transform

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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Sunflour Bakehaus co-owner Becky Burns carries a tray of Swedish Limpa bread. Along with co-owner Jeff Pavlik, Burns has decided to sell the Farmington shop, which has been in operation since 1936. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Chili's at Eight Mile and Haggerty in Novi has closed its doors for good.



Ashley Furniture recently opened a showroom in Novi.



Local North Taphouse and Grill opened in Canton Township earlier this year.

parts of eastern Livonia into a destination. It has done a small part, adding a new tasting room for its distilled spirits.

Located in a former Subway restaurant, the tasting room serves up simple bar food to accompany the moonshine and other distilled drinks made by the Livonia company, which has been in operation for several years.

Perhaps before grabbing a drink, gentleman, head to a specialized shop for a manicure and pedicure just for you. Just for Hym opened earlier this spring in the shopping center at Five Mile and Harrison, specializing in men's care services.

Bloomfield Township

A pop-up designed to feed Detroit-style pizza to hungry mouths in Bloomfield Township has run its course and closed down.

Como's opened in early 2021 inside the Maple Art Theater as a way to bring the Ferndale-based restaurant's food to more people. It closed its shop in late June.

Northville Township

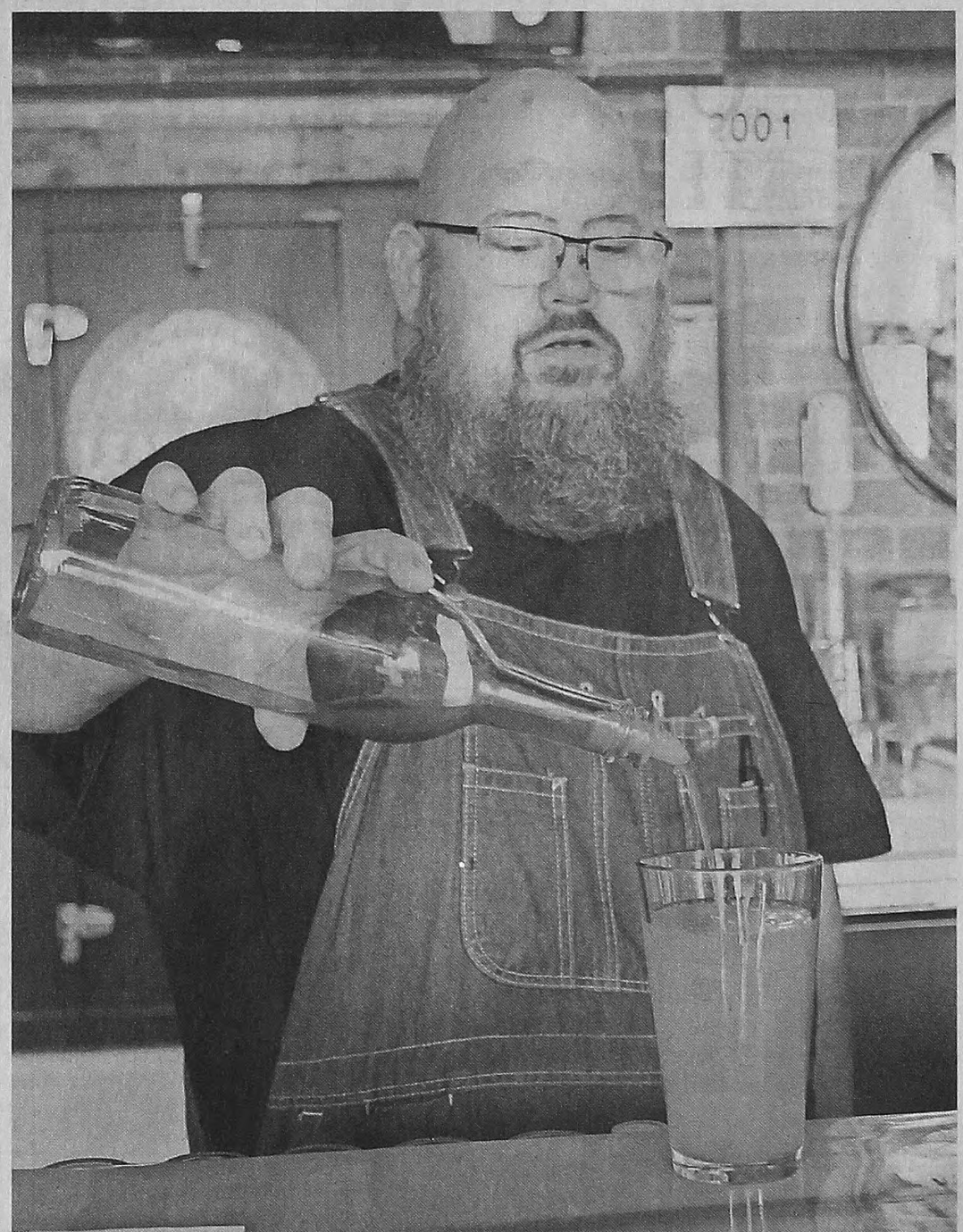
The development at Five Mile and Beck continues to grow, and with it comes a new place to grab brunch.

First Watch, a Florida-based restaurant chain serving breakfast and lunch, opened on the northwest corner of the intersection with Plymouth Township. The shop serves up classics as well as newer breakfast dishes, as well as a host of lunch options. It's open from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily.

Canton

A new, local place to grab a drink has emerged in Canton.

Local North Taphouse and Grill opened its doors earlier this year at 44282 Warren. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner, including appetizers, entrees, burgers and more. It also offers a Sunday brunch, according to its website.



Jason Mitchell pours a drink at Distillery, a new tasting room in Livonia.

More information, including a menu, can be found at localnorthtaphouse-grill.com.

Plymouth Township

A mainstay shop of downtown Plymouth has relocated to Plymouth Township.

Sunny J's, a shop selling bras, lingerie and swimwear, recently moved to a larger space at 521 Ann Arbor Road. The move doubled the store's space and allowed it to add two fitting rooms as well.

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

Make brunch plans at Northville Township's newest breakfast spot

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been a tough few years for the brunch-loving crowd.

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting restaurants and only allowing take-out for several months at a time, those craving a morning out with a Bloody Mary and some avocado toast had to recreate the experience at home.

But with restrictions lifted, brunch is back. And a new restaurant in Northville Township hopes to bring the breakfast gatherings with them.

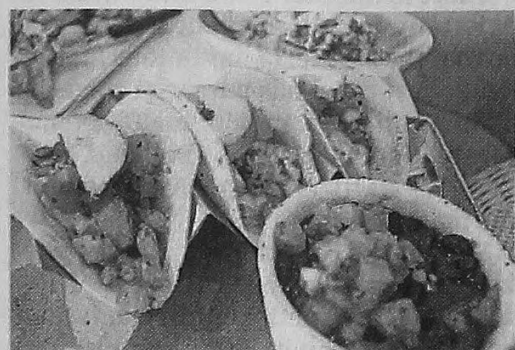
First Watch recently opened its most recent metro Detroit location at 15311 Beck on the corner of Five Mile on the border with Plymouth Township. With its opening brings many of the same flavors regular First Watch customers can expect.

The opening has had plenty of anticipation, so much so that customers kept coming to the doors before they were opened.

"We had a slight delay in opening, so a lot of folks would come ... and think we were open and we weren't quite there yet," Vanessa Hertenstein, director of operations for several Michigan First Watch restaurants, said.

The restaurant is the most recent the Florida-based restaurant group has opened in Michigan since 2018. Others include locations in Livonia and Canton Township, which opened in the summer of 2020. Hertenstein said the company halted openings of new Michigan restaurants in 2021 due to the pandemic, with Northville Township being one of the first to open since that pause.

The opening saw some changes from other First Watch restaurants in the area. The restaurant added a separate door and pickup area for carryout meals. The booths in the restaurant also have separating walls that are a little taller and have some additional aesthetic touches to them to match the theme of the restaurant.



A plate of Farm Stand Breakfast Tacos.



The Pesto Chicken Quinoa Bowl.



The inside of First Watch in Northville Township.

"This one is a little bit different because we have the booths, which are a little bit different than the rest," she said. "During the pandemic, we put up safety dividers that were just wood. And we decided to do these really pretty glass (dividers with chicken wire) ... it's really, really neat."

As for the menu, it's the same that can be found at any other First Watch in the area. The restaurant focuses on



Mo Smith serves several of First Watch's juices.



Vanessa Hertenstein, director of operations for several First Watch restaurants, walks through the new dining room at Five Mile and Beck in Northville Township.

PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

breakfast and lunch, opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 2:30 p.m. daily. It serves a variety of dishes, from hashes to breakfast tacos to omelets to pancakes.

There's also a bar that will serve up several cocktails, including mimosas and Bloody Mary's. The restaurant is still waiting on the final licensing for the bar, Hertenstein said, which should come around Independence Day.

Hertenstein said more First Watch

restaurants are expected in the near future, including others in Novi and Ann Arbor. She said the company hopes to expand 2,000 restaurants across the country, and sees Michigan as a major destination for opening.

"Michigan is a big spot for that," she said. "The communities have just been so welcoming here. I think we just bring a different type of brunch."

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What to do if ex-spouse fails to pay off loan as agreed



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick:

I have a problem I hope you can help me with. I've been divorced for over 12 years and at the time of my divorce as part of the settlement, my ex-husband had to pay off a student loan that I had.

Unfortunately, I just discovered that he never paid off the loan and, in fact, only made payments for two years. I recently received a letter saying that I must pay the loan and interest, and, if not, they would bring an action against me in court. They offered me a payment plan which I cannot afford, and I don't have the money to pay the loan, and I certainly don't want to go to court.

My first question — can they sue me, or do they have to go after my ex-husband? My next question deals with

bankruptcy. My friend told me that since I don't have many assets, I should just file for bankruptcy. Is that an alternative for me? I'm not sure this is important or not, but I did not qualify for a government student loan; I had to go through a private company.

Thank you, Kristen

Dear Kristen:

In answering your first question the answer is yes, they can sue you despite what your divorce settlement said. When you received the student loan, the contract was between you and the lender. You did not have the right to assign the contract to others.

Therefore, from the lender's standpoint, you are the one who is responsible for the debt, and they can sue you. That being said, you would have a course of action against your ex-husband. After all, he is still liable to you for that debt.

With regards to the bankruptcy, that probably is not going to work for you.

Student loans, even issued by private lenders, are very difficult to get discharged in bankruptcy. It's not impossible, but it is difficult. FYI, government student loans are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

There is another issue that I think is important, and that is that it seems to me that the statute of limitations for the lender to sue you has passed. Typically, in Michigan the statute of limitation for private student loans is six years. The six years starts after the last payment was made.

Since it has been more than six years since the last payment was made, I believe if you are sued you can claim that the statute of limitations has run out and that the case should be dismissed. It will not surprise me if the lender knows the rules as well but is trying to strong-arm you.

My advice to you is to tell the lender that you know your rights and that the statute of limitations has run out. My

belief is that there's a good chance that they may dismiss all collection actions against you. Of course, keep in mind that if they do end up writing the loan off, it could have a negative impact on your credit scores.

It is important to remember that if they end up bringing a lawsuit against you, that you answer that lawsuit. Even though the statute of limitations has run out, you still must assert that as a defense to the lawsuit. If you did not answer the lawsuit, the judge could rule in favor of the lender by issuing a default judgement against you, which can cause you all sorts of issues. Therefore, if you do get sued, make sure you retain an attorney who can answer the lawsuit and hopefully get it dismissed.

Good luck.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former Westland historical commissioner remembered

In 1983, Westland Mayor Charles Pickering appointed Virginia Braun to the Westland Historical Commission, where she served from 1983-2007. Virginia was also a member of the "Friends of the Museum" from its 1988 inception. Always willing to lend a hand wherever needed, Virginia served on countless committees within the Westland Historical Commission, including serving as chair of the Perrinsville School Restoration Committee, where she oversaw the complete rehabilitation of the 1856 schoolhouse.

A delegation from the Michigan Historical Commission said it was the best restored one-room schoolhouse that they had ever seen. The Perrinsville School hosted educational programs, public school classes that would visit for the day, and annual open houses, which Virginia coordinated.

When she retired from the Historical

Commission in 2007, Virginia was honored at a Westland City Council meeting with a beautifully-framed Certificate of Recognition signed by Mayor Bill Wild and a well-deserved standing ovation. Virginia was also honored with a special tribute from the State of Michigan, signed by then state Senator Glenn Anderson, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Virginia's true passion was genealogy. Her genealogical expertise allowed her to teach classes on the subject and give lectures at the Westland Historical Museum and at the Westland Public Library. Virginia made numerous trips over the years to the Mormon library in Salt Lake City and the genealogy library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she did exhaustive genealogical research.

Virginia had devoted one of the rooms in her house to genealogy. A room where the walls are adorned with certificates of recognition from the City of Westland, the State of Michigan, her certificate from the Daughters of the

American Revolution and framed pictures of her ancestors. In her genealogy room there are file cabinets filled with decades of genealogical research documentation and bookcases filled with genealogy books.

Virginia was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2000. Although her symptoms continued to worsen over time, Virginia maintained a remarkably good attitude. Her motto was, "Keep on marching." Virginia joyfully received over 60 birthday cards for her 92nd birthday from friends, family, neighbors and church members.

On June 8, 2022, Virginia Braun passed away peacefully in her sleep with family members and her pastor at her bedside. To all that had the good fortune to know Virginia, her kindness, generosity and willingness to help will never be forgotten. Virginia is survived by four children, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Joe Braun
Westland

Flying the Pride flag

I was so proud and happy to celebrate, along with about a 150 other Livonia residents and friends, when Mayor Maureen Brosnan raised the Pride flag for the first time. Finally the city is becoming more inclusive, welcoming and progressive we thought.

She invited the children and teens present to assist in raising the flag. This was especially meaningful to see because children who are gay or transgender need this type of public validation.

Many of us were stunned to find the flag was then flown for just 24 hours. In a return phone call from the Mayor's office, the Pride flag was likened to an ethnic group flag. LGBTQ+ is not an ethnic group.

It's sad that in 2022 homophobes reign supreme and we are again left in a backward, unwelcoming, uninclusive city.

Barb Iovan
Livonia



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BEFORE

AFTER

Mom, basketball coach remember Wixom boy

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Carson Dunn died without realizing his potential as a basketball player, but the coach of the Wixom boy's last winning season will forever cherish the 10-year-old's spirit on the court.

Hot Shots Coach Brian Kennedy honored Carson with words every young hoopster hopes to hear.

"I'll never forget," Kennedy said, explaining that the boy who died July 6 from injuries sustained in a Camp Dearborn accident was a great ambassador of the sport. "He was as happy as he could be, running around with the ball, smiling ear to ear. The kid had an incredible smile - huge, big, infectious smile.

"You could tell he was just having so much fun."

Carson attended Country Oaks Elementary School in the Huron Valley Schools District. State troopers said he fell from a floating aqua park structure in the middle of a Camp Dearborn lake in Milford Township at about 6 p.m. July 6.

Michigan State Police First Lieutenant Mike Shaw said the child ended up in the water. Lifeguards and bystanders managed to get him to the beach, but he was unresponsive when first responders arrived. They provided CPR on the way to the hospital, but Carson ultimately died.

Autopsy results were pending July 8, but Shaw said that the child did not drown.

"He was playing and lost his footing and fell," Shaw said.

The City of Dearborn operates Camp Dearborn. Another party operates the Ripping the Waters Aqua Park where Carson fell. City staff could not provide contact information when asked.

Carson was with his family when he visited Camp Dearborn. With two teen siblings and a 17-month-old brother, he

was preparing to be a fifth-grader.

"I will always remember him as the best big brother to the baby and the best, most loving son you could ask for," his mother Carly Burgess said in a Facebook message.

She confirmed that Carson lost his father a few years ago, and basketball with Kennedy and his Hot Shots "really helped him tremendously." Carson, she said, planned to work hard to be a pro basketball player.

Kennedy said he received a message from Carson's mother soon after he died.

Since then, Kennedy has been thinking about the coachable child who would soak up his every word and show that he understood on the court.

"It was incredible because he had a natural talent," said Kennedy, a coach for about 20 years. "He had a nice shot for someone his age. He could dribble. He scored quite a few baskets during our season. He was a nice kid and a really good player."

Carson liked to wear a headband while playing, and his joy for the sport meant that anyone focused on him couldn't tell whether the Hot Shots were winning or losing.

"Whether winning or losing, ups and downs, that smile ... It never left his face," Kennedy said. "He didn't get down on himself. He was cheering on his teammates. He always kept super positive. He handled himself way beyond his years."

Kennedy will never forget one of the team's last practices at Highland Elementary School, when the "boys being boys" were trying to grab the ball from Kennedy's son, Caleb.

Carson was the one who managed to get the ball.

"He had the biggest smile," the coach remembered. "He jumps up and he runs



Dunn



Carson Dunn has fun nabbing the basketball from his teammate. Carson, 10, died July 6 in an accident at Camp Dearborn. COURTESY OF BRIAN KENNEDY

and everyone's chasing him. I'll never forget it. That just shows who he is and the fun he had. He thought he ruled the world when he got that ball from Caleb. Then he took off.

"It's just very special moment. Kids like him and teams like the one we just had are the reasons I absolutely love coaching kids."

A GoFundMe campaign is happening

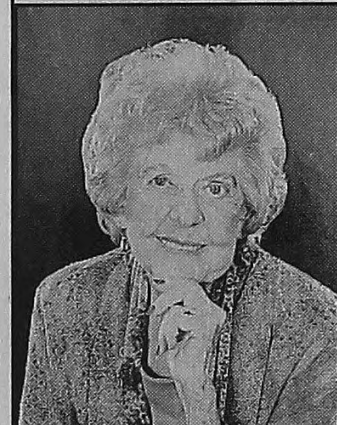
to help Carson's family cope with their loss.

"Everyone who had the privilege of knowing Carson would agree he was an awesome kid who was full of love for God, his family and his friends," organizers wrote.

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

Obituaries

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Frankie Lynne Kreitz

May 24, 2022, age 88. Beloved wife of the late Edward John Kreitz for over 60 years. Loving mother to Colleen Kapas (Peter), Jeffrey Kreitz (Annherst), John Kreitz (Wendy) and the late Daniel and Kristen. Cherished grandmother (Nana) of seven. Great grandmother of three with three more on the way. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Friday, July 22, 2022, 4pm at Birmingham First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Frankie will most be remembered for her intense love of family and her desire to share the love of Jesus with those around her. In honor of Frankie, family asks that memorial donations are directed to her grandson Jonah, who has autism. Donations may be sent to Jonah Kreitz, 2409 Chestnut Crescent, Saline, MI 48176. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 549-0500 View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com

Mark Andrew Mittleman

CANTON - Mittleman, Mark A., age 72, of Canton, July 05, 2022. Beloved husband for 45 years of Margaret. Loving father of Marissa (Antonio) Testa and James (Maria) Mittleman. Devoted grandfather to Antonio, Claire, and Angelina. He is survived by his siblings, Marshall (Lisa) Mittleman, Margaret (Steven) Marschke, and Marty (Linda) Mittleman and sister-in-law, Cynthia (John Avallone) Mittleman. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Heather Anne Mittleman, his parents, Marshall and Margaret, and his brother Michael Mittleman and his grandparents, Margaret and Marshall Mittleman, and Elizabeth and Alfred Schulz. Mr. Mittleman was very athletic, playing baseball, softball, bowling, and followed pro sports and both high school and collegiate sports. He was an avid investor in the stock market. Mark was a combat medic in the Vietnam War. Visitation, Monday, July 11, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 PM, and Tuesday, July 12, 1:00-8:00 PM, at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, 30895 Huron River Drive, Flat Rock. Service will be Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 11:00 AM. He will be taken by caisson to Michigan Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: National Association of Veterans and Families <https://www.navf.org/>, Tunnel to Towers <https://t2t.org/>, Disabled American Veterans <https://www.dav.org/>, Wounded Warrior Project <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>. www.mimemorial.com



This 1,000-square-foot home on Avondale in Westland was listed for \$160,000 as of July 12. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Homes

Continued from Page 1A

The median home prices issued by Realtor.com may exclude much, or even most, of a market's homes. The price and volume represent only homes that are single-family homes, condominiums or townhomes. They include existing homes, but exclude most new construction as well as pending and contingent sales.

Information on your local housing market is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.

Oakland County home prices drop 0.1 percent to \$436,500

Oakland County's home prices fell 0.1%, to a median \$436,500, from a month earlier. The typical house was on the market for 21 days, from 15 days a month earlier. The typical 2,023-square-foot house had a list price of \$214 per square foot.

Across metro Detroit, median home prices rose to \$284,700, up 3.6% from a month earlier. The median home had 1,563 square feet, at a list price of \$178 per square foot.

Across all of Michigan, median home prices were \$282,450, rising 1.8% from a month earlier. The median Michigan

Wayne County's real estate market added 2,536 new home listings in June, compared with the 2,440 added in June 2021.

home for sale had 1,647 square feet at list price of \$169 per square foot.

Across the United States, median home prices were \$450,000, up 0.7% from a month earlier. The median American home for sale had 1,887 square feet, listed at \$228 per square foot.

The median home list price — the midway point of all the houses or units listed over a period of time — is used more often in this report instead of the average home list 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 listed 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 the Realtor.com residential listings database. The story was written by Mike Stucka and Sean Lahman.



Terry Mack, right, hands a tool to employee Emily Thibodeau at the Belle Lavande farm he owns with his wife, Windy. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Uprooted

Continued from Page 1A

"So right across the street was a farmers market. And so we walked across and everyone was so happy: talking. It was like Zen," Windy Mack said.

Deciding on lavender as the crop of choice, the couple looked at several options before eventually buying 40 acres near Stockbridge in mid-Michigan to grow their roots.

They planted several acres worth of lavender and opened a storefront, Belle Lavande, selling items from soaps to oils to food products. Their shop opened earlier this year at 477 S. Main St., in downtown Plymouth.

It's a far cry from where they expected they'd be, especially before the pandemic.

"It forced a certain order of events I guess," Terry Mack said of the events stemming from the pandemic. "Between that (the store) and the farm, it's my full-time job."

Lavender brings out new kinds of farmers

Wynne Wright, a professor at Michigan State University and coordinator of the Great Lakes Lavender Growers organization that promotes the crop in the upper Midwest, said she had not met the Macks, but they fit the definition of a lot of lavender farmers.

"These are different types of folks," she said of lavender farmers in general. "What they are looking for is something that satisfies different kinds of needs."

Lavender is a fairly new crop to the United States, Wright said, making its way across the Atlantic Ocean in the 1990s for commercial growing. It was mainly first grown in the Pacific Northwest, but has extended to most of the country since then.

Wright, who owns lavender farms in Lansing and Alma, said plenty of lavender farms have popped up across the region. Farms operate all over the state, from Livingston County and greater Lansing to Sault Ste. Marie.

The Macks researched the type of crops they wanted to grow, and opted to go with lavender. It's a plant that has a demand for its lovely scent, and is an easy crop to get into if weather challenges arise.

"As we've learned, I call it purple gold. It's a high-value product," Terry Mack said. "It's good for the environments because it's a drought-resistant plant."

The couple learned how challenging the farming lifestyle can be since they purchased the Stockbridge property.

The two also created a butterfly garden on the property, as well as maintain several acres of woods.

Terry Mack said he spent most of last summer out on the property staying in a camper to get the fields ready and plant the lavender.

He said that camper was critical in getting everything up and running, even if he was somewhat disconnected from society while working.

"We couldn't have done the farm without it last year," he said of the camper. "I was totally off grid."

Macks plan to expand farm in future

The couple hopes to turn their farm into a destination in the coming years: in addition to the butterfly garden, they hope to offer u-pick lavender in the future at the farm, making it a true agritourism destination. The hope is to also add a place for special events, such as weddings.

Adding other elements to a lavender farm, Wright said, is a common move for farmers, especially since the harvest season is so short, happening mid-summer. Having additional attractions for guests also fits with expectations from agritourists.

"What you see also is a trend generally in society that consumers expect different things from agriculture," she said. "They want to reconnect with nature."

Opening a shop in downtown Plymouth was a no-brainer, the Macks said, given its prominence and charm. Having a boutique dedicated to their crop and the products made from it just fit the community's feel.

"Plymouth is a shopping destination," Terry Mack said. "With the park and the number of people here, and the festivals and that, it was a natural (fit)."

The products the couple makes are done right on site, including the soaps. The hope is to add more food items in the future, though that will take some additional work and certifications first.

Terry Mack has no intention of returning to the white collar world. The couple finds happiness in owning their own farm and don't plan on shifting careers any time soon. While Windy Mack still cleans houses for income, Terry Mack said his new career is the farm.

Growing up on a small farm in northern Ohio, the Navy veteran said jokingly he's prepared to spend the rest of his life — and perhaps longer — on their Ingham County property.

"I came in on a farm, I'm going to go out on a farm," he said. "I already got my spot of where Windy's gonna bury me." dveselenak@hometownlife.com

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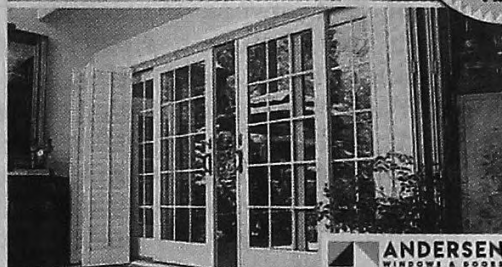
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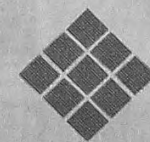
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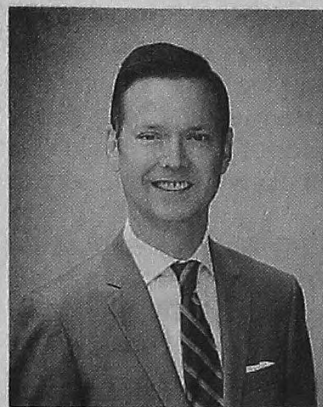
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SPORTS

Point guard leaving CC to play for Detroit King

Family says road work, traffic is cause of move

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just how new is Chas Lewless to the Detroit King boys basketball team?

While talking about the goals he wanted to achieve with the Crusaders, he didn't even know what the Detroit Public School League called its all-conference team.

And, yeah, he wants to make that team. But his new coach has higher expectations for him than that.

"Honestly, that's low-hanging fruit for him to be All-PSL," King coach George Ward said. "There won't be a guard in the PSL better than him. I want him to set his sights higher than that, and that's what we're going to do for him."

That's right.

One of the best point guards in the Catholic League has transferred out.

After starting for Detroit Catholic Central the past two years, and leading the Shamrocks to the 2022 state quarterfinal and a CHSL tournament runner-up finish, he's now joining Ward and the Crusaders, who a year ago were 19-3 overall and spent several weeks atop the Associated Press' top-10 poll in Division 1.

So let's first quash the rumors.

No, there is no bad blood in the water between Lewless, CC and Shamrocks coach Brandon Sinawi. And Sinawi has done nothing but wished Lewless all the best at King.

No, this has nothing to do with recruiting. Lewless was already getting plenty of college looks while in Novi.

And, no, Lewless isn't benefiting from some sort of Name, Image and Likeness deal to transfer downtown.

Simply put, this comes down to traffic. Like tow trucks, steamrollers and orange cones.

It took the Lewless family 60-90 minutes to get the kids to school last year. Chas' younger sister, Hannah, who just helped Royal Oak Shrine win a state title in girls soccer this month, needed to be dropped off in Royal Oak, and then Chas was headed to CC's campus on Wixom Road on the other side of the county.

If congested traffic, car accidents or road construction made Hannah even 1 minute late for school, that meant Chas was going to be several minutes late.

And that's when they were living on the southwest side of Detroit. They've since moved to the east side, close to King's campus. Those drives were about to become much, much worse.

See **LEAVING**, Page 4B

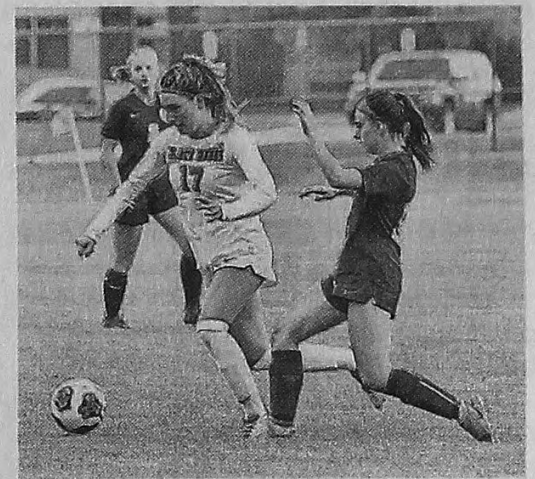
HOMETOWN LIFE ALL-AREA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM



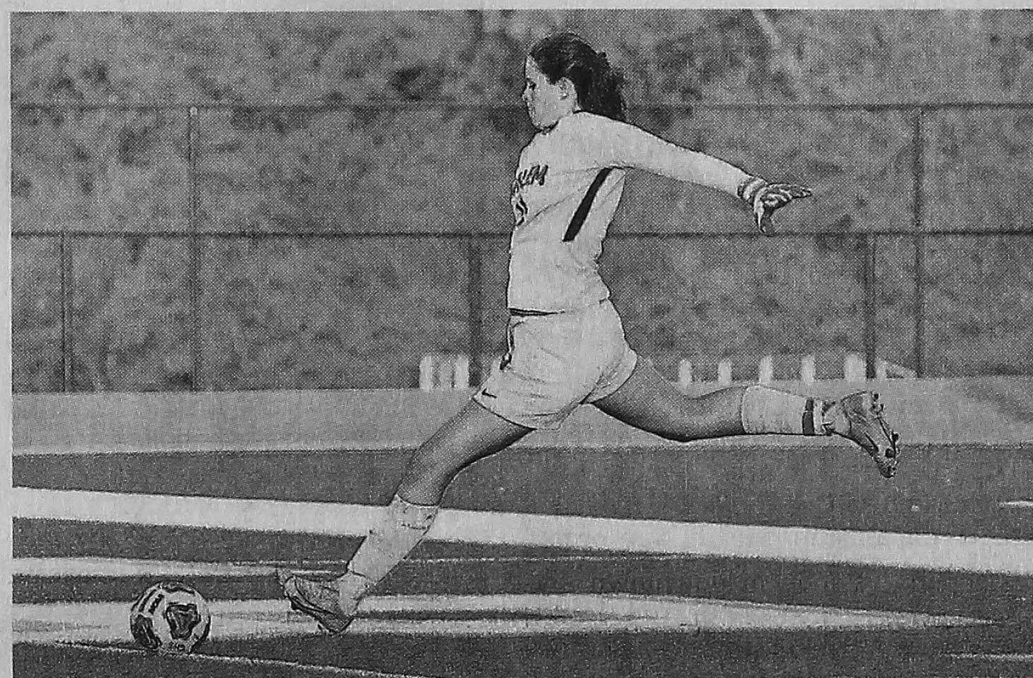
Cranbrook Kingwood's Rachael Claxton.



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Isa Agrusso (left).



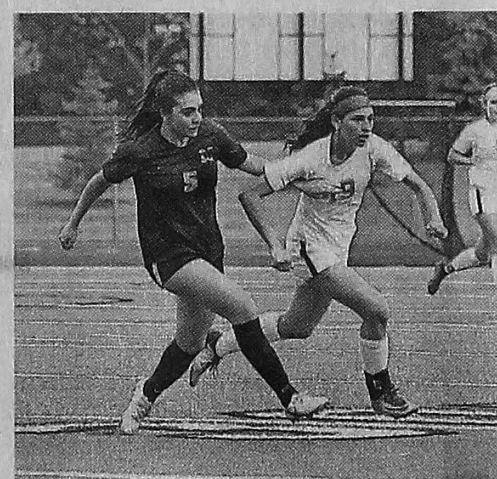
Bloomfield Hills' Ava Badallo (left).



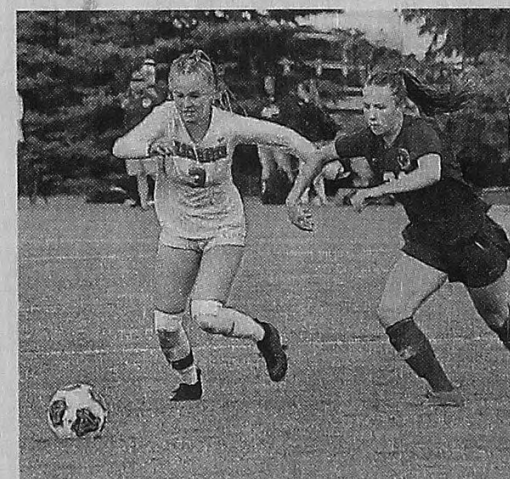
Salem goalie Ava Holloway.



Bloomfield Hills coach Alan Zakaria.



Northville's Lauren Moraitis (left).



Bloomfield Hills' Drew Martin (left).



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Ange Briggs.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Thousands of words and one tough choice



Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

I was in an incredibly tough position.

Not only was this my first year on the high school sports beat at Hometown Life, but I'm also the only report-

er in the entire department.

We cover 43 high schools across 10 different newspaper mastheads. That's about 120-150 different varsity teams playing each season in my small area alone.

We simply can't cover every team the way newspapers have 5, 10 years ago. So I made a tough choice at the beginning of the spring: I went all-in on covering girls soccer. And that, obviously, made for a lack of coverage in the other sports

such as baseball, softball and track and field.

Why did I do that? As the old Ron Swanson quote goes: "Never half-ass two things. Whole-ass one thing."

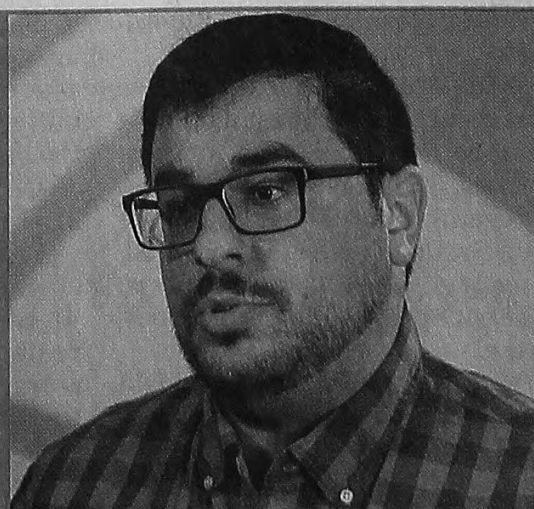
Girls soccer has always been one of my favorites to cover, even dating back to my times at both the Grand Rapids Press and Gaylord Herald Times.

See **ALL-AREA**, Page 2B

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Bloomfield Hills Marian's Elle Ervin (right).

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

All-Area

Continued from Page 1B

And one of my bosses says to never cover a subject you're not interested in because it'll show in your writing.

I could've parachuted in and covered random stories with little knowledge about what I was writing about. Or I could've entrenched myself on the sidelines of the soccer pitch to be able to tell you, our loyal readers, who the best players were and what the wins and losses meant for each team. I went with the latter.

A lot of you write in and tell me your favorite part of my coverage is my personality. You know, the style of my writing, the jokes I make and the observations I see that truly no one else pays attention to as closely as I do.

I'm not talking about the keys to a goal being set up. I'm talking about noticing when a player loses a tooth or has a booger hanging from their nose (both of these things happened this spring).

One player even almost lost a nose ring after a game. Making soccer my main thing allowed me to share details like those. Right, Mackenzie Gregor?

So, yes, I didn't cover enough baseball and softball this spring. But I was still there to watch Northville baseball and South Lyon softball win regional titles. I saw Farmington Hills Mercy softball win the Catholic League and then lose to a tough Allen Park team in the quarterfinal. And I did miss a few track stars winning state championships.

But I was there on the pitch. And you knew it, too. I wrote thousands of words about our soccer players. And my tough choice to solely cover soccer paid off. We had three teams play for state championships, and one of them, Bloomfield Hills, even got to hoist a championship trophy.

So here we are. Here is Hometown Life's All-Area girls soccer team.

One thing you'll notice is I steer away from the groupthink that is all-conference teams. The most talented players aren't always the best players, in my opinion. I like players with grit. I like leaders. I like it when the little guy wins. And you'll see that my all-area team reflects that.

As a side note: Thanks to everyone who made my first school year at Hometown Life a blast. I'm looking forward to covering girls soccer again next spring.

Let's take a look at who I thought were the best players throughout the 2022 season:

First Team Hometown Life All-Area

F - Ava Badallo, senior, Bloomfield Hills (Folsom's Player of the Year)

This West Virginia Wesleyan signee was a linebacker in a striker's body. Regardless of the competition, she was always the toughest player on the pitch. She totaled 17 goals and six assists, was an MHSSCA third-teamer and, most importantly, booted in the penalty kick that gave the Black Hawks their first-ever state championship.

F - Isa Agrusso, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

The Michigan State signee was a national champion at the club level. So, of course, she was going to be successful in the one year she spent playing high school soccer. She totaled 21 goals and six assists, was the perfect complement to striker Elle Ervin and finished as an MHSSCA All-State first-teamer.

F - Elle Ervin, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills Marian

This MHSSCA All-State first-teamer didn't finish the season on the pitch because of an ACL injury, yet she still post-

ed 18 goals and 11 assists for the state runner-ups.

F - Mackenzie Gregor, senior, Livonia Stevenson

Very few attackers in Michigan were as dangerous around the penalty box as this MHSSCA All-State second-team selection, as the fourth-year player finished with a staggering 30 goals and nine assists.

F - Kate Creighton, sophomore, Plymouth Christian Academy

Most players cower against double and triple teams. Not the MIAC MVP. She posted 27 goals and seven assists, good enough for MHSSCA All-State first-team honors. Not bad for a college football coach's daughter.

F - Emma Pompo, senior, South Lyon East

The Cleveland State signee not only totaled 25 goals and 21 assists en route to MHSSCA All-State first-team honors but she also qualified for the state finals in track and field. Her speed set her apart.

M - Drew Martin, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This Western Michigan signee was the heart and soul of the Black Hawks' state championship squad. Not only was she an MHSSCA All-State first-teamer but she also made the Dream Team thanks to her 14 goals and 10 assists as well as her knack for showing up in a big way in important games.

M - Ange Briggs, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

Coach Reid Friedrichs called this St. Francis College-Brooklyn signee the quarterback of the Mustangs, and the MHSSCA All-State first-teamer was just that. She finished with eight goals and 11 assists, and no one was better than her during setpieces. She also made the MHSSCA Dream Team.

M - Rachael Claxton, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer knew how to run the field and create scoring opportunities, whether it was for her teammates or herself. But no play was bigger than her game-winning goal to help the Cranes win their first-ever CHSL tournament title.

D - Lauren Moraitis, senior, Northville

The Cincinnati signee spent just one season playing high school soccer, and the MHSSCA All-State first-teamer didn't disappoint, as she was an integral part of the Mustangs' first trip to the state finals since 2014.

GK - Ava Holloway, senior, Salem

Despite playing in arguably the best conference in Michigan, the fourth-year player recorded seven shutouts en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

Coach - Alan Zakaria, Bloomfield Hills

He's been the Black Hawks' only coach since the school opened in 2015. Not only did he lead them to their first Division 1 state championship but he helped BHHS win its first team state title ever, regardless of sport.

Second Team Hometown Life All-Area team

F - Esther Rosett, senior, Bloomfield Hills

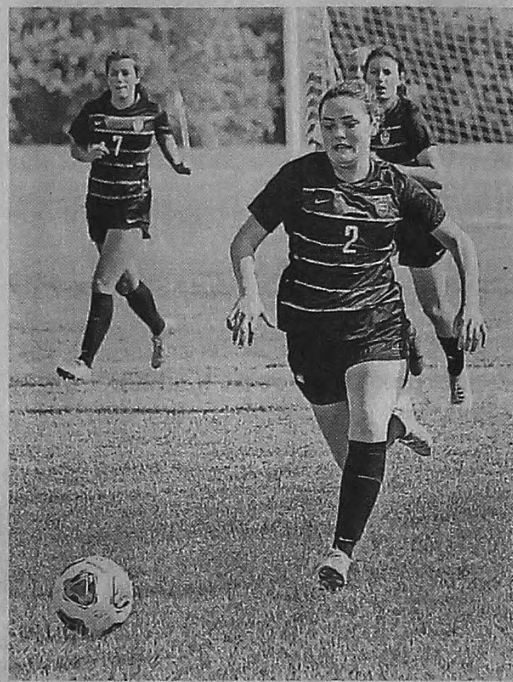
This MHSSCA All-State honorable mention was always at the right place at the right time. She had a knack for scoring big goals. That included her game-winner against the defending state champion Hartland in the regional final. She scored 14 goals and had four assists.

F - Daelyn Short, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

The Cranes almost upset Bloomfield Hills Marian in the district championship, and they likely would've had a better chance at doing it had this MHSSCA



Livonia Stevenson's Mackenzie Gregor (left).



Plymouth Christian's Kate Creighton.



South Lyon East's Emma Pompo (left).

All-State honorable mention not gone down in the opening 10 minutes with an injury. She's got a knack for scoring goals.

F - Kirsten Fitzgerald, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

The MHSSCA All-State second-teamer was just too quick for opposing defenses. She posted 14 goals and five assists. But none of her goals were as big as the game-winner in overtime that gave the Marlins their first district championship since 2012.

F - Sylvia Bohlen, senior, Northville

Want to know why the MHSSCA All-State honorable mention is headed to Detroit Mercy? She's always finding a way to create scoring chances. Either for her teammates or herself. She was one of the best offensive threats in the KLA.

F - Alyssa Melquist, junior, South Lyon East

The MHSSCA All-State second-teamer already holds the school record for most goals in a career, as her 25 goals this past spring moved her to 43 total in just her second season on varsity. She also added 18 assists.

M - Caroline Meloche, sophomore, Northville

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer was only a 10th-grader but she proved she deserved all the playing time she got among a crowded lineup of future college soccer stars. She was always one of the best defenders on the field.

M - Talie Burns, sophomore, Novi

It takes a lot of brainpower to successfully organize a defense and shut down an opponent's best player. So it's no surprise the Wildcats' best defender carries a 4.0 grade-point average. She also added two goals and six assists en route to earning MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

D - Gabby Sapia, senior, Livonia Stevenson

Not only was this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention a shutdown defender but the Madonna University signee was also just as valuable in the attack, as she posted five goals and 23 assists.

D - Emily Takahashi, senior, Northville

When this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention decided she wasn't going to play in college, she quit her club team and joined the Mustangs for her final year of high school. And what a contribution she made. She was always in on the big plays.

GK - Jenica Opdahl, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills

The Black Hawks don't win a state championship without this MHSSCA All-State first-teamer in the net. She posted 11 shutouts. But even more important were the two saves she made in the penalty kick shootout during the state final.

Coach - Jeannine Reddy, Northville

After coaching at Canton for nearly two decades, she took over the Mustangs and, in just her first season, led them back to the state championship for the first time since 2014. They were ranked the No. 1 team in Michigan for most of the spring.

Hometown Life All-Area team Honorable Mention

F - Siena McNitt, junior, Garden City

Despite missing three games with an injury, she totaled 17 goals and six assists, good enough for MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors. Her secret to scoring? She's fast and hardly loses control of the ball when attacking.

F - Lindsay Dahlinger, sophomore, Novi

From a skill standpoint, this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention is a technician. Her fine-tuned fundamentals helped her create scoring opportunities for the Wildcats, who benefited from her 10 goals and four assists.

F - Olivia Schuck, junior, Salem

With 11 goals and five assists, the MHSSCA All-State honorable mention was the leader of the Rocks' attack while playing a challenging league schedule.

F - Rhianna Schermerhorn, junior, South Lyon

As the leader of the Lions' attack, she was an All-District and MHSSCA All-State third-teamer.

F - Alexis Kufta, senior, Wixom St. Catherine Academy

This MHSSCA All-State second-teamer was so good she couldn't stop breaking records. She finished with both the most points (40) and goals (29) scored in a single season in program history, plus she finished 36th on the MHSAA leaderboard with the most goals scored all-time, which included a staggering five game-winners.

F/M - Natalia and Sofia Salinas, freshmen, Bloomfield Hills Roper

Despite not fielding a team in 3 years, the Roughriders returned to the pitch and won the MIAC-Red. They can thank the Salinas sisters for that. Natalia totaled 20 goals and 18 assists, while Sofia added 15 goals and 16 assists.

M - Alice Spiegel, senior, Bloomfield Hills

This Western Michigan signee was the glue of the Black Hawks' offense. The MHSSCA All-State first-teamer finished with just one goal and eight assists, but she was responsible for starting a lot of runs that ended in scores.

M - Abby Luchessi, senior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

The Mustangs' offense often started with this MHSSCA All-State second-teamer, who finished with five goals and 15 assists. But, more importantly, she

See ALL-AREA, Page 3B

All-Area

Continued from Page 2B

ignited many runs that ended with either Elle Ervin or Isa Agrusso scoring goals.

M - Catherine Riddle, junior, Livonia Churchill

Not only is she a multi-sport athlete but she's also a multi-position soccer player. She played every position, including goalie, and still totaled seven goals and 11 assists.

M - Jenna Barbour, junior, Livonia Stevenson

No pass was too tough to thread through a tight defense for this All-KLAA first-teamer, who totaled 10 goals and 15 assists (most of which were to teammate Mackenzie Gregor).

M - Madi Webb, junior, Lutheran Westland

Some players have a knack for finding the back of the net, and then there's Madi Webb. This MIAC-Red first-teamer tallied a staggering 33 goals and four assists to help the Warriors place second in their league.

M - Grace Koski, junior, Northville

There's no denying her leadership skills on the field. She's always the loudest. And she's always in control. There's no doubt her teammates benefited from her organization, and it's no surprise to see her already committed to Cleveland State.

M - Megan Wu, senior, Plymouth

The Wildcats' leading scorer was both the team captain and an MHSSCA All-State honorable mention.

M - Jessica Boulard, senior, South Lyon East

The Cougars had plenty of talent in the midfield, and Boulard was one of the best. The MHSSCA All-State honorable mention posted 20 goals and 10 assists while helping East get back to the regional final.

D - Sarah Gaffka, senior, Livonia Churchill

The fourth-year player was the heart and soul of the Chargers' back line. Reading the field was never an issue for this center-back, who also posted two goals and two assists.

D - Brynn White, senior, Plymouth

The MHSSCA honorable mention was part of a trio of All-KLAA defenders. She will play at Detroit Mercy.

D - Saige Yakuber, senior, Ply-

mouth Christian Academy

Just how good is this MHSSCA All-State honorable mention? She was the first defender selected by area coaches at the all-region team meeting.

D - Autumn Neville, senior, South Lyon East

The Spring Arbor signee was a hard-nosed defender but was also a big help in the attack. She scored just one goal and had only two assists but she played well enough to pick up MHSSCA All-State honorable mention honors.

GK - Grace Kenopatzki, senior, Garden City

This MHSSCA All-State third-teamer posted eight shutouts. That meant the team captain got to play in the field at times, and she made the most of it, scoring three goals and even assisting on a handful of others.

GK - Simran Magnan, freshman, Northville

She wasn't just All-KLAA first team as a rookie. She posted four shutouts and allowed just three goals during the playoffs, all while the Mustangs finished as the state runner-ups.

Coach - Reid Friedrichs, Bloomfield Hills Marian

After inheriting a squad that won four-straight state championships, he guided the Mustangs back to the state final, despite one of his best players, Elle Ervin, missing most of the playoffs because of an injury. They finished as the state runner-ups in D-2.

The best of the rest

F - Camryn Pepper, sophomore, Birmingham Groves

F - Melissa Olney, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

F - Avery Coykendall, senior, Canton

F - Sara Tweed, senior, Cranbrook Kingswood

F - Soraya Puerto-Khalil, senior, Farmington Hills Mercy

F - Juliana Morro, senior, Livonia Stevenson

F - Kelsey Ware, sophomore, Livonia Stevenson

F - Kayla Shuk, senior, North Farmington

F - Abby Park, senior, Northville

F - Kaitlyn Rogala, senior, Northville

F - Clare Binder, freshman, Plymouth Christian Academy

F - Elaine Rama, sophomore, Salem

F - Paige Senter, senior, South Lyon

F/M - Kate Heston, senior, Livonia

Churchill

M - Elsie Meilinger, senior, Birmingham Groves

M - Ava David, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

M - Avary Hall, junior, Bloomfield Hills

M - Emily Woods, senior, Canton

M - Sophie Endrud, junior, Detroit Country Day

M - Amanda Exline, senior, Farmington

M - Abby Clark, junior, Livonia Clarenceville

M - Reagan Burnette, senior, Livonia Franklin

M - Grace Distelrath, senior, Livonia Franklin

M - Leah Kuhn, junior, Livonia Franklin

M - Marlo Lulgjuarj, senior, Livonia Stevenson

M - Jenna Boye, sophomore, Lutheran Westland

M - Michi Hooks, senior, Milford

M - Skylar Wayne, freshman, North Farmington

M - Caroline Doody, senior, Northville

M - Elizabeth McHugh, junior, Plymouth Christian Academy

M - Emma Denssion, senior, Salem

M - Lauren Driscoll, sophomore, Salem

M - Mackenzie Buckley, senior, South Lyon

M - Sierra Newton, junior, South Lyon

M - Gianna Spano, freshman, South Lyon

M - Maya Spano, senior, South Lyon

M - Kaylie Samluk, junior, South Lyon East

M - Nancy Ramirez, senior, Wayne Memorial

M - Karissa Welsh, senior, White Lake Lakeland

D - Morgan Perry, freshman, Birmingham Groves

D - Allie Adams, junior, Birmingham Seaholm

D - Simone Forte, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

D - Emma Merchant, senior, Bloomfield Hills

D - Sabrina Yaldoo, junior, Bloomfield Hills Marian

D - Mackenzie Behnke, sophomore, Cranbrook Kingswood

D - Katherine Bergman, junior, Farmington

D - Tymmarie Grom, senior, Livonia

Churchill

D - Kendra Pearson, senior, Livonia Clarenceville

D - Kiera Hura, junior, Livonia Franklin

D - Alli Avers, junior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Anna Oynoian, junior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Morgan Bogacki, senior, Livonia Stevenson

D - Makenna Fetzer, junior, North Farmington

D - Chloe Jefferson, junior, North Farmington

D - Brooke Pendleton, senior, Northville

D - Grace Kwasniewicz, sophomore, Novi

D - Isabella Blake, junior, Plymouth

D - Riley Sheppard, junior, Plymouth

D - Ashlon Gilmore, senior, Salem

D - Jennifer Valadez, senior, Wayne Memorial

D - Cameron Swafford, junior, Westland John Glenn

D - Breanna Kennedy, freshman, Westland John Glenn

D - Molly Marino, sophomore, White Lake Lakeland

GK - Spring Schwanki, senior, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

GK - Mya Duhart, junior, Cranbrook Kingswood

GK - Jordan LaVesseur, freshman, Farmington Hills Mercy

GK - Madison Shirley, junior, Livonia Franklin

GK - Arden Schultz, junior, Milford

GK - Maya Weisberger, senior, North Farmington

GK - Isabella Elkins, senior, Plymouth

GK - Caitlyn McBeth, junior, South Lyon

GK - Jessica Forbis, sophomore, White Lake Lakeland

Coach - Tyler Pemberton, Bloomfield Hills Roeper

Coach - Ken Shingledecker, Livonia Stevenson

Coach - Ryan Thomason, Plymouth Christian Academy

Coach - Kyle Karns, Salem

Coach - Pete Stoyanovich, South Lyon East

Co-Coaches - Kristina Sikora and Tom James, Farmington Hills Mercy

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



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Leaving

Continued from Page 1B

"And there's always construction and traffic on 696," Chas joked. "Without traffic, it's like 30 or 35 minutes straight to CC from my old house. With traffic, it has taken me 45 minutes to an hour. And that's not also counting stopping at my sister's school. With CC being in Novi and me living in Detroit, it was already a hike. Now I'm on the east side and it's even farther. So it's just easier and more convenient for me to go to King, which is a great school with great coaches, so it worked out."

Chas' father, Chris, is calling it a "homecoming" story for his son.

If Ward has his way, it should be quite the homecoming story indeed.

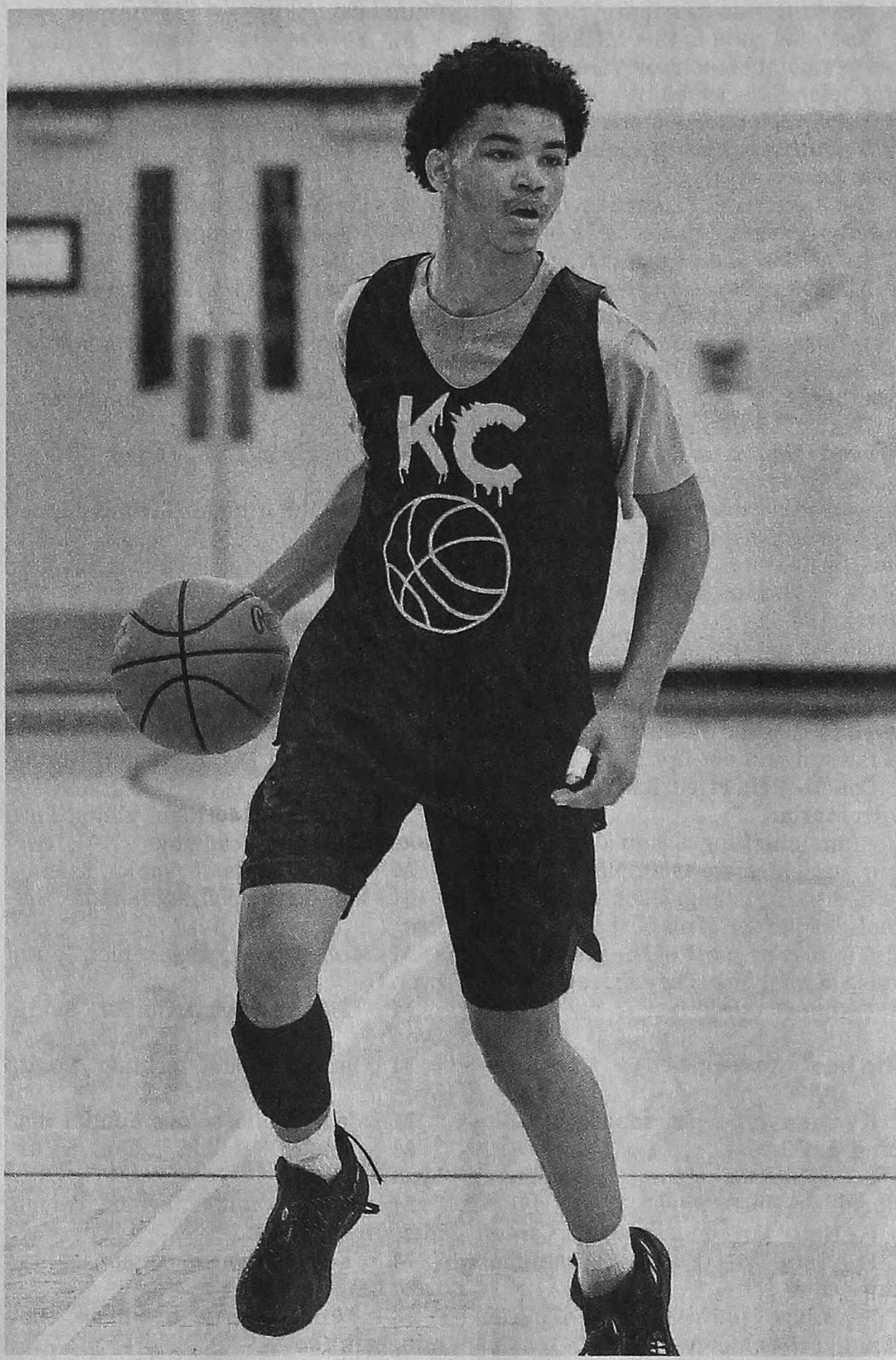
Chas, a 6-foot-2, 170-pound All-Catholic League selection who averaged 11 points and three assists as a sophomore, steps into an incredible situation.

Running the show in the PSL has been former King point guard Chansey Willis Jr, who averaged close to a triple-double and wound up being named Michigan's Mr. Basketball as a senior. What's more, when he signed with Saginaw Valley State University, he became the first Mr. Basketball winner to sign with a Division II school.

Chas, who is receiving true college interest now that he's a junior, has already heard from the likes of Western Michigan, Toledo, Temple, Cleveland State, Marist College, Mercer University and Georgia, among others, but, obviously, he has big shoes to fill. But he should fit right in at Willis Jr's old spot.

"Chas has got the 'it' factor, and, so far, he's been a great teammate and a good player," Ward said. "But we want him to be better than good. It's a blessing for us to get him, but we'll be a blessing for him as well. I expect him to be the best guard in the state of Michigan. Not just in his senior year but right now. That'll say something about our program, too, if he can become that."

"Having Chansey the last four years has provided us with some great things. But as similar as they are as players, and with both of their first names starting with a 'C-H-A,' there are also some differences. Chansey was amazing for us, but he had to do a lot on his own. With this group, we'll be better. You'll see a better defensive team overall. We'll be a



Former Detroit Catholic Central point guard Chas Lessless dribbles as Detroit King faces Brother Rice in the Derrick Coleman Elite boys basketball showcase June 15 at Birmingham Groves. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

better offensive team, too.

"We're looking forward to Chas being the best, and those aren't unrealistic expectations for him. In his mind, and in my mind, he could be the best point guard in the state of Michigan over the next two years."

So what does Chas add to the squad?

Well, he's a gamer. As he proved with CC, no deficit is too large, and no game-winning shot is too big to attempt.

On top of that, he is one of the best ball handlers in the state. He can weave through traffic, scoot to the rim and create shots for both himself and his teammates.

And he's got a great outside shot. He's been a pretty heads-up defender, but Ward thinks King can make Chas the best defender out there.

"He's just got to keep working and listening," Ward added. "He's going to get so much better defensively that people will be able to see the difference in him by Dec. 1. I don't think he can have that high IQ on offense and just not have it on the defensive end. He's got to use that size and IQ on the defensive end, too. If he wants to average 25 to 27 points a game and eight or nine assists, he's got to hand check. It's going to start on the defensive end. And that comes with physical, mental and emotional growth. We're going to push him every day. Some days won't feel good or sound good to him over the next two years."

"But he knows he's good. I don't think he knows just how good he really can be, though. He realizes he can shoot, score and pass the hell outta the ball. I just don't think he realizes he can dominate the hell outta the game, too."

But being the best will come at a cost, one that has already taken an emotional toll on Chas.

It's been incredibly tough saying farewell to CC.

"I'm going to miss it, for sure," he said. "Not even just the basketball program but the school itself. The brotherhood there is crazy, and a lot of people talk about it all the time, but it really is a real thing."

"I'll definitely miss my teammates and my friends in school who didn't even play sports. I'll miss the different events and the things we used to do that were super fun. I'll miss the faith aspect of it. I joined the Catholic Church and was confirmed when I was at CC. They're all still going to be my family, and I didn't leave on bad blood. I'm just going to miss all the guys there."

"But, at the same time, I'm looking forward to this new school I'm at and making new friends."

If Chas lives up to the hype, all of this fuss will have been worth it. And if he does win Mr. Basketball his senior year, he'll have coaches from both King and CC at the annual ceremony inside the Detroit Free Press' office. Not even bad traffic will keep the Shamrocks from attending that.

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

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|---------|
| Albury | Euston | Meal | Remark |
| Awed | Fish | Moama | River |
| Boat | Flow | Monak | Rods |
| Callop | Frogs | Muddy | Rugged |
| Canoe | Gentle | Murray | Running |
| Carp | Gol Gol | Bridge | Snag |
| Cast | Grub | Natya | Swim |
| Cobram | Irrigation | Nets | Weed |
| Dams | Koondrook | Nyah | Weir |
| Downstream | Lake | Ournie | Wodonga |
| Drink | Line | Party | |
| Echuca | Lure | Race | |
| Eels | Mannum | Relax | |

Murray River country

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

A special waterway

1-	3+	2÷	
		12X	6+
2-			
2	3-		

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KENKEN
 1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
 2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
 3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

3	4	1	2
1	3	4	2
1	3	1	4
4	2	3	1
4	1	2	3

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NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
 1 Former members of the OfficeMax family
 7 Highly attuned to others
 15 Night bright light sight
 16 Dental procedure
 17 Shrink
 18 "Uh-uh"
 19 Ad Council creation
 20 Indication
 22 Sleep-Eazy, on *The Simpsons*
 23 Dated "dude"
 26 Western union
 28 Fair-weather friend
 29 *Nouveau* antonym
 30 Young buck
 32 Freighter hazard
 33 Adds up to
 35 Small shake
 37 Sales promotion phrase
 41 One highly attuned to others
 42 "I think this is enlightening..." text
 43 Short cut
 44 Fly on a lake
 46 Not handy
 50 Secure
 51 Over there
 52 Frequent Poirot portrayer
 54 Get out of
 56 Chow chow
 58 HMO members
 59 Resort near San Diego
 61 Limited
 64 Timex alternative
 65 Stand in the kitchen
- DOWN**
 1 World Chess champion, 1975-85
 2 Breakfast that's a Swiss supper
 3 Game room
 4 Joey of fiction
 5 Start to cycle
 6 Dance or dip
 7 Bird
 8 Heretofore
 9 Don't keep up
 10 Takes in
 11 Irons' nephew in *House of Gucci*
 12 Way off
 13 Take advantage of big discounts
 14 Plant regulated by the EPA
 21 Construe
 24 Charge you shouldn't have to pay for
 25 Rigorous
 27 Worked up
 31 In motion
 32 Mid-'60s name in the news
 34 One with a Mexico City museum
 36 Send in or out
 37 Rallying cry of the 2000s
 38 Sloth or skunk
 39 Far from content
 40 Need scraping, perhaps
 45 Japanese eel meal
 47 Escarole alias
 48 Surname meaning "doorkeeper"
 49 They're often up against the wall
 51 What Ebert called "Streisand's dream movie"
 53 The origin of civilization
 55 Darer's encouragement
 57 Extended
 60 NHL Western Conference team
 62 Turnaround for 60 Down
 63 Cut short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								16					
17								18					
19					20	21			22				
23		24	25				26	27				28	
29						30	31				32		
					33	34			35	36			
37	38	39						40					
41							42						
43					44	45			46		47	48	49
50					51				52	53			
54		55				56	57					58	
59						60				61	62	63	
64										65			
66										67			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/16/22

SUDOKU | CREATORS

Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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Inflation Soared in May, Breaking Another 40 Year Record

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With prices going up 1% in a single month, today's Consumer Price Index report suggests that high inflation will last longer than once expected. Inflation approaching double digits will likely put pressure on the Federal Reserve to be more aggressive on rate hikes.

Overall, prices soared 8.6 percent for the 12 months ending May, the largest 12-month increase since 1981. And core inflation (which excludes volatile food and gas prices) increased 0.6% month over month, same as last month—and 6.0% compared to this time last year.

In recent months, we've also seen durable goods inflation fall but core services inflation pick up. Since services make up a larger share of the economy and of the CPI, and since inflation has now broadened to uncomfortably high rates in almost every category, it is no longer predominantly a supply chain problem.

Food and Gas Prices Are Still on the Rise

Below are a few highlights from the report.

- Food prices saw double digit hikes, increasing at a 10.1% rate, the first increase of 10 percent or more since the period ending March 1981.

Prices for both food at home and food away from home picked up significantly, to 11.9% and 7.4% respectively.

- Despite easing the prior month, gas prices surged again, increasing 48.7% over the year. Since energy is a common input in every single industry, the impact of high energy prices on consumers is not limited to their vehicles' gasoline consumption.

Inflation Has Broadened and Increased for Services and Shelter

- The services price index went up by 5.7% year over year. Since services account for about 60% of the consumer basket, recent price hikes in services weigh heavily on consumers.

- Inflation is now broader than what many initially thought, and unlikely to fall simply with the resolution of international factors, such as the Ukraine war and China's lockdowns.

- The largest price jumps were in shelter (5.5%) and used car prices (16.1%). The shelter index increased 0.6 percent in May, the largest monthly increase since March 2004. Under shelter, both rent (5.2%) and house prices (5.1%) went up around the same level, and have yet to slow down in response to interest rate hikes.

- Airlines prices soared 12.6% in a single month, following an 18.6% increase in April. Even though their impact on overall inflation is not high, consumers are feeling the pinch as they try to book summer vacations following two years of staying home.

High Inflation Is Eroding Wage Growth. Real Wages Are Down 3.4% Compared to Last Year.

- With inflation standing at 8.6%, real wages—income that employees get after inflation is taken into account—are 3.4% lower than last year.

- A record-tight labor market is producing the highest nominal pay gains in decades, but U.S. workers are still seeing the purchasing power of their paychecks diminish.

Wage-Price-Spiral: Are We There Yet? Not Yet

- As of May 2022, both level and momentum of the Kansas FED labor



market conditions indicator (LMCI) stay on the positive side, suggesting that we are still not in a wage-price spiral, yet.

- However, the momentum of the LMCI is getting closer to the critical zero line, suggesting that we might be at the verge of wages starting to put upward pressure on already high price tags.

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