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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt talks in her office Nov. 2. Merritt was named 2023 Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.
LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth-Canton superintendent talks diversity, equity and inclusion

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The superintendent's office at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools filled with congratulatory flowers and cards after Monica Merritt was named 2023 Superintendent of the Year by the

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators.

The news came in a surprise announcement during the district's Oct. 25 board of education meeting.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Merritt, noting she realized something was up when familiar faces began populating the audience partway through the meet-

ing. "As my family started coming in, I started to cry. I was shaking. I can't even describe the pride, the surprise, the gratitude, the excitement, all wrapped into one."

The award is presented annually to a superintendent who has shown

See **SUPERINTENDENT**, Page 3A

Livonia council could decide fate of nondiscrimination law in December

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The fate of a proposed nondiscrimination law in Livonia will be decided next month.

Councilman Brandon McCullough gave a first reading of the proposal during Monday's meeting, and it will be up for a final vote during council's Dec. 5 regular meeting. Council could approve the proposal, deny it or send it back to the drawing board in committee.

"This administration stands ready to continue conversations and continue welcoming your contributions to this ordinance," Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan told council Monday.

Brosnan first proposed the ordinance in June 2021. The city's current ordinances — last updated in 1982 — provide some protections to individuals for religion, race and disability regarding housing and employment. Brosnan's proposal took the city's existing policies and combined them into a single law while adding age, sex, appearance and sexual orientation protections. The proposal also includes grounds to prosecute those who intentionally make a false claim.

The mayor urged council to see the benefits of her proposal. A majority of council has expressed skepticism of the law.

"I think, as a group of elected leaders, we have more in common than we think we do in regard to this," she said.

Supporters of the law include PFLAG Livonia, MASCO, NYX, Madonna University and the Livonia Police Department. Representatives from some of those groups spoke Monday to the benefits they think the law would have for businesses.

See **LAW**, Page 3A

Plans to open sports bar in Northville Twp. return 3 years later

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After sitting vacant for years, it appears plans to bring life back to the former Brann's Steakhouse in Northville Township are coming to fruition.

It's been several years since Art and Jake's sports bar announced its intentions to locate a new restaurant at 39715 Six Mile. Announced before the COVID-19 pandemic, the restaurant has since sat vacant with weeds growing on the property and other issues.

But after several years, plans con-

tinue to move forward to renovate the building and reopen the space as a restaurant. Design plans were reviewed by the Northville Township Planning Commission at its Oct. 25 meeting, with commissioners expressing approval for the plans to renovate the building.

Originally, plans called for the cur-

rent building to look completely different, said Jennifer Frey, township planner. Now, the bar owners plan to renovate the current building and make improvements to what is already on site, something needed given the current

See **SPORTS BAR**, Page 3A

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Farmington Hills doctor charged with 17 counts of sexual misconduct

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills police arrested a local doctor for alleged sexual abuse Nov. 10.

The accused, Dr. Zri Levran, is already being investigated for sexual misconduct from accusations brought forward in October.

Levran has a urology practice in West Bloomfield and has provided medical services to youth and school hockey organizations — including those in Farmington and Novi — in Michigan and Minnesota for about 20 years.

In October, county prosecutors charged Levran with four counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct and three counts of fourth degree sexual misconduct.

The new charges, brought by patients following the doctor's previous arrest, include one count of second degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of third degree criminal sexual conduct and eight counts of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct.

Levran is accused of abusing patients at his home office, not at his practice in West Bloomfield.

All of his accusers are connected to youth hockey programs, and the first to come forward was a 19-year-old man.

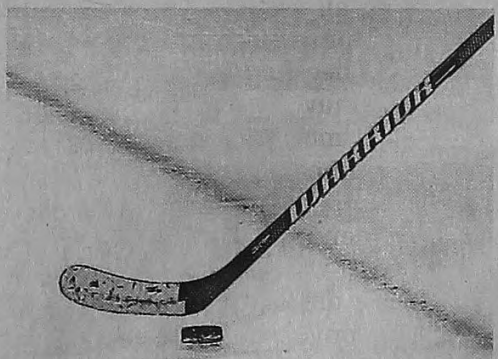
The doctor was arraigned at the 47th District Court in Farmington Hills late Friday morning and was processed into the Oakland County Jail Friday. Magistrate Matthew Friedrich set bond at \$1 million cash.

If released on bond, Levran will be unable to live his home outside of going to work and will not be allowed to treat patients without supervision. As of Sunday afternoon, he was still listed as incarcerated.

A probable cause conference will take place 9:30 a.m. Dec. 7.

Farmington Hills police are asking anyone with information or knowledge of more assault survivors should call 248-871-2610.

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



A Farmington Hills doctor is being charged with sexual misconduct in connection with youth hockey organizations.

GARY LLOYD MCCULLOUGH/FOR THE ICEMEN

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Democrats make history with leadership picks



Sen. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, speaks with the media after she was elected Senate majority leader. She will be the first woman to hold the post. DAVE BOUCHER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Woman, Black man will lead Senate, House for first time

Dave Boucher

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Democrats made history again Thursday with the elected officials they chose to lead the state Senate and House, lawmakers' first big moves following the takeover of both legislative chambers in the midterm election.

Senate Democrats chose state Sen. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, as the new Senate majority leader. Brinks is the first woman in Michigan's history to serve in the leadership role. Later Wednesday, House Democrats picked state Rep. Joe Tate, D-Detroit, as the new House speaker. He'll be the first Black man to lead the chamber when he officially takes over in January.

"It's historic. It's a great opportunity, but also a great responsibility," Tate said, after emerging as the speaker-elect following a nearly three-hour meeting of the House Democrats.

"I'm going to bring my experiences ... this House is for the entire state of Michigan, so making sure that we are doing things that are going to improve the quality of life for people."

Buoyed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, supporters of an amendment to include abortion rights in the state constitution and fairer legislative districts, Democrats won slim majorities in the House and Senate this week.

Whitmer congratulated both new leaders late Thursday, noting what their elections mean in the history of the state.

"I am so excited to work with my friends Majority Leader Brinks and Speaker Tate to get things done on the fundamental issues," Whitmer said.

"Both incredible leaders will make history — Senate Majority Leader Brinks as the first woman ever to hold that position and Speaker Tate as the first Black Michigander ever to be elected speaker in our 185-year history. And both are committed to putting families first and moving Michigan forward. I know they will work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get things done."

It marks the first time Democrats will control the governor's mansion and both legislative chambers since 1983, a power shift the leaders don't plan to relinquish any time soon.

"We're going to pull up our lists, we're going to compare, we're going to talk to the House and we're going to talk to the governor's office, and we're going to put together a list of things that puts the people of Michigan first,"

Brinks said.

"I feel very prepared to lead, having watched a number of leaders in the past — both minority and majority — and I'm ready to bring the full power of that experience to serve the people of Michigan."

The Democratic power shift puts an unprecedented number of women in power. In addition to Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Attorney General Dana Nessel won reelection. In the House, 33 of the 56-member Democratic caucus are women. In the Senate, 12 of the 20 Democrats are women, as Brinks noted in a news release announcing her leadership win.

"It's been hundreds of years that men have been in charge and it's high time that women are having a seat at the table, and in Michigan we have lots of seats at the table," Brinks said.

Brinks, 54, leads the 20-member Senate Democratic caucus after trouncing her GOP challenger, state Rep. Tommy Brann, R-Wyoming, in the midterm. This will be her second term in the state Senate, following three terms in the state House. When she won her House seat in 2012, she was the first woman to represent Grand Rapids in the state Legislature in nearly a century.

Before serving in the Legislature she worked for a nonprofit employee support organization. She has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Calvin College. A native of Mt. Vernon, Washington, she's married and has three daughters.

"I'm a very collaborative leader. I like to have a lot of high-quality voices in the room, I like to listen to them, I want to hear what people have to say. And I really value all the experiences our caucus members bring," Brinks said.

"I'm still learning about some of our new members and the depth of their resumes, but I'm confident we have a fantastic group."

Tate, 41, enters his third term in the state House. Before entering politics, he starred on the Michigan State University football team and briefly played the sport in Europe. After the end of his football career, he joined the U.S. Marines, deploying twice to Afghanistan, according to his legislative biography.

"I grew up in team environments in athletics and the military, and that's going to be my approach. We're going to look at consensus building from the get-go, but also we are going to make sure that we are marrying and bringing an understanding of our constituents' values to the table," he said.

He'll be the first House speaker from Detroit since Curtis Hertel Sr. led the chamber in 1997 and 1998. Current

House Democratic Leader Donna Lasinski, a Scio Township Democrat who's leaving due to term limits, gushed about Tate and what his ascension means for the state.

"For over 200 years, the halls of the speaker's library are rimmed with photos of white men. For us to take majority, to represent the state of Michigan, we have to look like the diversity of Michigan," she said late Thursday.

"And when you look at Joe's incredible background ... he is a man who always puts others first and who believes, to his core, in the democratic values."

It's a joyous day for outgoing Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint, and fellow longtime legislator state Sen. Curtis Hertel, D-East Lansing. The pair talked about the efforts they've put in over the years to increase Democratic strength in the upper chamber, and how they think the party is prepared to keep power by acting on policies that help people.

"I think (Brinks) is going to do great. I think she's decisive, she's a person who wants to get everyone's opinions and make sure everyone's voice is heard. She knows that she's got a diverse caucus and she's going to make sure everyone of them have, to be best of her ability, their priorities met by the time the term's over," Ananich said.

Senate Republicans picked Sen. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, as the minority leader. A former lottery commissioner under then-Gov. Rick Snyder, Nesbitt praised the strength of his GOP caucus.

"I'm looking forward to serving with all of them as we continue to try to advocate for our common sense conservative values of empowering individuals over the state, helping entrepreneurs and small-business owners prosper and grow here in the state and trying to stop the most excessive left-wing activism that the governor may try to push and the new Democratic majority may try to push," he said.

In the House, Republicans chose state Rep. Matt Hall, R-Comstock Township, as minority leader. The third-term lawmaker led a powerful tax committee last session and helmed the Oversight Committee; its hearings after the 2020 presidential election garnered national attention after Trump-affiliated attorney Rudy Giuliani and others testified.

"We are willing to work with the governor when she is moving in the right direction, but we'll fight like hell when she pursues policies that threaten Michigan families or our local economy," Hall said in a statement.

The new legislative session starts in mid-January.



A rendering of the proposed completed work of the Art and Jake's restaurant planned on Six Mile west of Haggerty. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

Sports bar

Continued from Page 1A

status of the building, Frey said.

"There's really been nothing done to it," she said. "Much of the plant material is past its prime and past its shelf life."

Art and Jake's is a chain of sports bars that has locations in Clarkston, Shelby Township, Washington Town-

ship, Sterling Heights and Newnan, Georgia. It serves up dishes such as salads, chicken wings, sandwiches, burgers and more. Its owner told Hometown Life in 2020 that food is the main focus of the restaurant and menu items would rotate regularly.

There was no word on when work could begin at the site, or when the restaurant could open. Several messages sent to the company seeking more information were not returned.

Planning commission chairman Matthew Wilk said he believed the new designs would complement other buildings in the area well with the building materials, including the McDonald's next door.

"It fits the character of it," he said. "It's a good fit, I think, in my opinion."

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

Superintendent

Continued from Page 1A

"tremendous effort and dedication to enriching the lives of students and the community." The winner is selected from a pool of nominees by a panel representing education stakeholders from across Michigan.

"We talk about how it takes a village," Merritt said. "Looking at this recognition, I say this is an honor for all of us; this is not just Monica Merritt, this is for the PCCS team that's worked so hard to create this environment. To have that external validation to say we're excelling in our mission and vision is so gratifying."

As the 2023 MASA Superintendent of the Year honoree, Merritt is in the running for the National Superintendent of the Year award from the American Association of School Administrators. The organization will convene a Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee to select four national finalists, who will participate in a national briefing and interviews in January. The National Superintendent of the Year winner will be announced in February.

A return to normalcy in the classroom, with changes

Appointed superintendent in 2015, Merritt calls herself the lead learner in the Plymouth-Canton district, which, with approximately 16,300 students, is currently the fifth largest of 537 public school districts across Michigan.

After several difficult years during the pandemic, things are beginning to feel a little more ordinary in the 15 elementary schools, five middle schools and three high schools that make up the district.

"I can honestly say we are feeling a sense of normalcy that we haven't felt in a few years and it's really good to see our students' smiling faces and to be able to have our families back in the buildings," Merritt said. "Our staff has worked hard over the past few years; they work hard all the time, but so many extra things have been expected out of them recently, so it's good being able to get back into the rhythm of school."

But that's not to say things are the same as they were pre-pandemic. Additional federal and state dollars allocated over the past few years have allowed the district, in part, to provide an additional nurses, counselors, behavior specialists and student support coordinators through the newly created Department of Student and Family Engagement.

In other words, more trained adults are now in place to address the social emotional needs of students, a need that has emerged as more important than ever in the past few years.

"We all understood we were going through a pandemic, but we were not

really understanding the impacts for years to come," Merritt said, noting staff saw – and continues to see – everything from behavior and development issues to anxiety and depression in students of all ages.

Helpful at the high school level, she said, is the addition of the new extended support advisory block, where students split into small groups twice a week to check in with an adult. This time allows students to catch on homework, receive additional help or get support with social emotional issues. Meanwhile, the district's K-8 program is also utilizing additional resources, with student support specialists in place to help students.

This increased emphasis on social emotional learning, Merritt said, is part of the district's core philosophy of educating the whole child.

"You definitely can't look at (social emotional learning) in isolation," she said. "It does not replace academics. We don't do this instead of English, math, social studies, science. We still have an expectation to teach our standards, to teach our curriculum, to make sure our students have what they need to achieve and move forward."

"But if that child is hungry, if that child is dealing with something social-emotionally or psychologically that is preventing them from succeeding, we need to be able to help address those needs so they are fully present in the classroom."

Diversity, equity and inclusion more than race or ethnicity

Merritt is also known for her dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion, commonly known by the acronym DEI.

That, she said, means creating a school community where every student feels welcome, included and able to see themselves reflected in the educational materials they consume and the staff in their buildings.

"I think whenever people hear DEI they think about race and ethnicity, but diversity is so much broader than that," Merritt said. "As a cornerstone of the community, we are here to embrace all students, with no exceptions. They have a right to feel welcomed and have what they need and that's a priority of our district."

"There's a lot going around in our community and misunderstandings of things that we're teaching," she added. "You hear this rhetoric right now, but for us that's not teaching. It's embracing and welcoming all the students in our community."

It also means ensuring district staff and teachers are highly qualified, but also of diverse backgrounds.

Merritt is also no stranger to divisive topics, especially over the past few years.

"We've seen so many topics divide our community, and that has been very difficult," she said. "It's important for us as educators to keep our eye on our goal of students and our mission and our vision. We've said it before: we're not epidemiologists, we're not politicians. We've tried to stay the course because we educate all kids. That's what we do."

Merritt was nominated for the award by Beth Rayl, chief academic officer at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Diane Robertson, Merritt's executive assistant.

"Superintendent Merritt is a special, one-of-a-kind leader – she is devoted, hard-working, and gracious," said Rob-

"I think, as a group of elected leaders, we have more in common than we think we do in regard to this."

Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan

Law

Continued from Page 1A

Nearby communities like Westland, Farmington Hills and Canton Township have similar laws on the books. Brosnan worked with Livonia's human relations commission to create her proposal, and her office also reviewed a citizen-created version of the ordinance.

Residents spoke Monday urging council to adopt the proposal.

"I couldn't believe that Livonia didn't already have a nondiscrimination ordinance," said Jennifer Teede, a resident who moved to the city roughly a year ago. "I'm here tonight to speak in favor of a nondiscrimination order ... This came from the community, and the community's voice is still important in the final version."

Two residents also spoke against the proposal, suggesting the city's current laws are sufficient.

"To me, this is just trying to make the city more 'woke,' which we don't need," resident Dave Martin said.

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



Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt, center, poses with the district's board of education members after Merritt was named 2023 Superintendent of the Year. COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS

ertson. "Despite the pressure and never-ending responsibilities of her role, she still has a booming, infectious laugh that makes anyone within earshot smile."

Under Merritt's leadership, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools has been recognized with the NASRO Safe School Award, several National Blue Ribbon School awards, Michigan Schools to Watch, and U.S. News and World Report's Best Schools Ranking List.

Merritt is the daughter of Herman Boone – football coach at TC Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia., whose story was portrayed in the Disney movie "Remember the Titans."

"When she first became superintendent, my oldest daughter kept saying, 'It's Coach Boone's daughter,'" said Latisha Thomas, principal at Field Elementary, noting all three of her daughters graduated from Plymouth-Canton. She was excited because remember the Titans was her favorite movie."

Celebrity moments aside, Thomas said she admires Merritt in her current role.

"Even when I first met her, I felt embraced by her warmth and understanding that we are in this together," she said. "Any conversations I've had, I always feel heard. She's always wanting to hear honestly from (staff) what our thoughts are, and she really listens. When you talk with her, you feel like you're the only person in the room."

"She is inspiring. I feel very grateful to work with and for Dr. Merritt."

"This is an extremely well-deserved honor," said West Middle School Principal Clint Smiley, who works with Merritt in several capacities. "She always has the best interests of the Plymouth Canton community in mind. She is a part of the community herself. She's very thoughtful about what's best for kids and she's always accessible and understanding."

"And always positive," he added.

Merritt will be formally recognized during MASA's 2023 Midwinter Conference in Kalamazoo this January. A \$1,000 student scholarship will also be donated by the award sponsor, Michigan Virtual, to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools in her honor.

Outside of her work in the district, Merritt is an active volunteer. She has been a member of numerous state and local organizations, including MASA, the Michigan Association of African American Superintendents, Metro Bureau Association, Wayne County School Superintendent Association, K-12 Alliance, Rotary Club of Plymouth, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Canton Chamber of Commerce, and the Educational Excellence Foundation Board of Directors.

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.

ANALYSIS

Past election results predicted Democrats' control

Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Redistricting entails making predictions about future elections based on what has happened in the past. Last week's midterm election suggests previous voting trends provided a helpful compass for the inaugural group of randomly selected Michigan residents who drew the new congressional and state legislative maps.

The commission's analysis of elections from the last decade suggested Democrats would win a one-seat majority in Michigan's congressional delegation and a 20-18 majority in the state Senate. And the commission's analysis that showed a 57-53 Democratic majority in the state House wasn't far off either. Democrats won 56 seats in the lower chamber to Republicans' 54.

The redistricting commission compiled election results from statewide elections held 2012-20 to evaluate how Democratic and Republican candidates would fare using the new maps. They looked at 13 races:

- 2012: President and U.S. Senate
- 2014: Governor, attorney general, secretary of state and U.S. Senate
- 2016: President
- 2018: Governor, attorney general, secretary of state and U.S. Senate
- 2020: President and U.S. Senate

In an analysis, the commission added up the total number of votes Democratic and Republican candidates won in those races in each of the new districts it drew. The result served as an indicator of the Democratic or Republican tilt of each new map.

The commission relied on four calculations of partisan fairness to evaluate whether the new maps would level the playing field between Democrats and Republicans. Three of those measures showed Republicans maintained a slight advantage under the new congressional and Michigan Senate maps. A fourth measure indicated a slight advantage for Democrats. In the Michigan House of Representatives, all four calculations showed the district maps for the Michigan House of Representatives

gave Republicans an advantage.

Here's how the theoretical election results commissioners considered while drawing the maps stack up against the actual results of last week's midterm:

US Congress

Based on election results from 2012-20, the commission's analysis showed Democratic candidates winning more votes than Republicans in seven of the 13 new districts.

In last week's midterm, Democratic candidates secured a seven-seat majority, but races in two of the new highly competitive districts elected candidates from the party that did not capture a majority of the votes in the district over the previous decade.

One district with a very slight Republican tilt — according to combined election results from the past decade — elected a Democrat: Hillary Scholten, who defeated GOP candidate John Gibbs in Michigan's new 3rd Congressional District. Former President Donald Trump endorsed Gibbs in his primary against U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer, R-Grand Rapids, after Meijer voted to impeach Trump for inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The west Michigan district includes Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and surrounding communities. Scholten secured a nearly 13-point victory over Gibbs, winning 54.84% of the vote to Gibbs' 41.94%, according to unofficial results. Republican candidates in the races analyzed by the commission won 50.1% of the votes in the 3rd Congressional District over the last decade.

Combined election results from the previous decade showed a very slight Democratic lean in the new 10th Congressional District that elected a Republican, John James, who narrowly beat Democratic candidate Carl Marlinga.

James won by less than a percentage point, securing 48.80% of the vote to Marlinga's 48.31%, according to unofficial results. Democratic candidates in races analyzed by the commission won 51.20% of the votes in the 3rd Congressional District last decade.

Michigan Senate

The commission's analysis indicated that Democratic statewide candidates over the past decade won a majority of votes in 20 of the 38 new state Senate districts while Republican candidates won in 18 districts. That's exactly the new partisan split in the state Legislature's upper chamber.

Two toss-up districts chose candidates from parties whose statewide candidates did not carry a majority of votes in the previous decade.

In the new 12th state Senate District, state Rep. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, defeated state Rep. Pamela Hornberger, R-Chesterfield. The district encompasses Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods along with the shoreline communities of Macomb and St. Clair counties. Hertel won 50.13% of the votes to Hornberger's 49.87% — according to unofficial results — in a district where the analysis shows Republican candidates seeking statewide offices won 50.9% of the votes last decade.

In the new 32nd state Senate District, state Sen. Jon Bumstead, R-North Muskegon, defeated state Rep. Terry Sabo, D-Muskegon, by a nearly six-point margin, according to unofficial results. In that district, Democratic statewide candidates won 50.2% of the votes in elections held in 2012-20, the commission's analysis found.

Michigan House

Democratic candidates in races last decade won a majority of votes in 57 of the new state House districts while Republican candidates won 53 districts. In last week's midterm, Democratic state House candidates won 56 districts while Republicans won 53, giving Democrats a narrow two-seat majority in the state Legislature's lower chamber.

In nine districts, the candidate who won last Tuesday did not see their party win a majority of votes in statewide elections in the previous decade:

• **22nd District:** Incumbent Democratic state Rep. Matt Koleszar won his race by an 8.5-point margin over his GOP opponent, according to unofficial results. In the previous decade, Republican candidates in races analyzed by the commission won 52.3% of the votes.

• **28th District:** Republican Jamie Thompson won 50.99% of the vote to Democrat Robert Kull's 49.01%, according to unofficial results. Democratic candidates examined by the commission won 52.3% of the vote to Republicans' 47.7% last decade.

• **9th District:** Incumbent Democratic state Rep. Alex Garza, D-Taylor, narrowly lost reelection to Republican James DeSana, who won 51.48% of the vote to Garza's 48.52%, unofficial results show. Democrats included in the commission's analysis won 52.1% of the votes last decade compared with Republicans' 47.9% in this district that

spans Monroe and Wayne counties.

• **46th District:** Republican Kathy Schmaltz handily defeated Democrat Maurice Imhoff in a Jackson-based district. Less than a month before last week's midterm, Imhoff reversed a decision to end his campaign after reports of past allegations surfaced, including threatening to carry out a school shooting. The commission's analysis indicates future races could see a tighter margin: Races analyzed show that Democratic candidates won 51.8% of the votes in the district last decade.

• **58th District:** Democrat Nate Shannon won 51.33% of the vote to Republican Michelle Smith's 48.67% in this Macomb County district that includes part of Warren and extends just north of Utica, according to unofficial results. Republican candidates last decade won 50.3% of the votes in this district while Democrats won 49.7%, according to the commission's analysis.

• **62nd District:** Republican Alicia St. Germaine easily won her election with a nearly seven-point margin against Democrat Michael Brooks in this Macomb County district that encompasses Harrison Township and surrounding communities. Past election results examined by the commission indicate this is a true toss-up district: statewide Democratic candidates won 50.1% of the vote last decade to Republicans' 49.9%.

• **84th District:** Democrat Carol Glanville won her election over Republican Mike Milanowski Jr. by more than 11 points in a district that includes part of Grand Rapids, Grandville and Walker, according to unofficial results. Glanville won a special election last spring against GOP candidate Robert "RJ" Regan who garnered national attention for comments he made suggesting rape victims "lie back and enjoy it." Members of the DeVos family funneled thousands into Milanowski's campaign, according to state campaign finance records. Republican candidates last decade in races analyzed by the commission won 50.5% of the votes in this district.

• **96th District:** Incumbent Republican Timothy Beson, R-Bay City, easily won reelection, securing a nearly 11-point victory over Democrat Kim J. Coonan, unofficial results show. Democratic candidates seeking statewide offices won 50.3% of the votes to Republicans' 49.7% over the last decade in this district that includes Bay City and surrounding communities, according to the commission's analysis of 2012-20.

• **103rd District:** Democrat Betsy Coffia narrowly defeated incumbent GOP state Rep. Jack O'Malley, R-Lake Ann, in this Traverse City-based district. Coffia won 49.84% of the vote to O'Malley's 48.47%, a difference of 765 votes, according to unofficial results. Republican candidates won 51.8% of the votes cast last decade to Democrats' 48.2%, in races the commission reviewed.

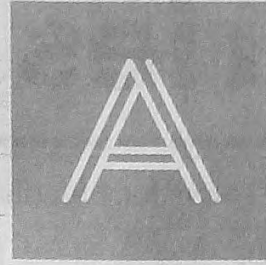
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Obituaries

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Bertha Jane Gibbs

Bertha Jane Gibbs, age 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at The Villa at West Branch. She was born on April 15, 1939, in Royalton, KY to Tobe and Phinettia (Allen) Patrick.



Bertha lived in Alger, MI for 22 years formerly of Livonia, MI. She married Stuart Gibbs in Detroit, MI on May 24, 1969.

She enjoyed reading, collecting antiques, traveling, and camping. Bertha worked many years as a nurse and also delivered mail.

Bertha is survived by her loving husband of 53 years Stuart Gibbs of Alger; daughter Sharon (Harry) Bushway; grandchildren Todd Bushway, Alex Bushway, Rebecca Bushway-Tuttle, Jason Parsons and Jennifer Parsons-Miller; 8 great grandchildren; sister Sue (Foster) Street-Crowl; and brothers Don Patrick, and Ted Patrick.

She is preceded in death by her parents, daughter Karen Parsons and brother Marvin Patrick.

Per her wishes cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch, MI. www.steuernolmclaren.com

STEUERNOL & McLAREN
Funeral Homes, Inc.



Michael Pucher

LIVONIA - Pucher, Michael age 81 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Elaine for over 57 years. Cherished father of Michael (Wendy), Linda (Dave) Van-Goethem and Patrick (Sue). Proud grandpa of Amanda, Royce, Drew, Sydney and Grace. Dearest brother of Bernie (Nancy) Pucher and the late Jim Pucher. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Funeral Services were held last Thursday. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Edith Catholic Church and/or American Cancer Society. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

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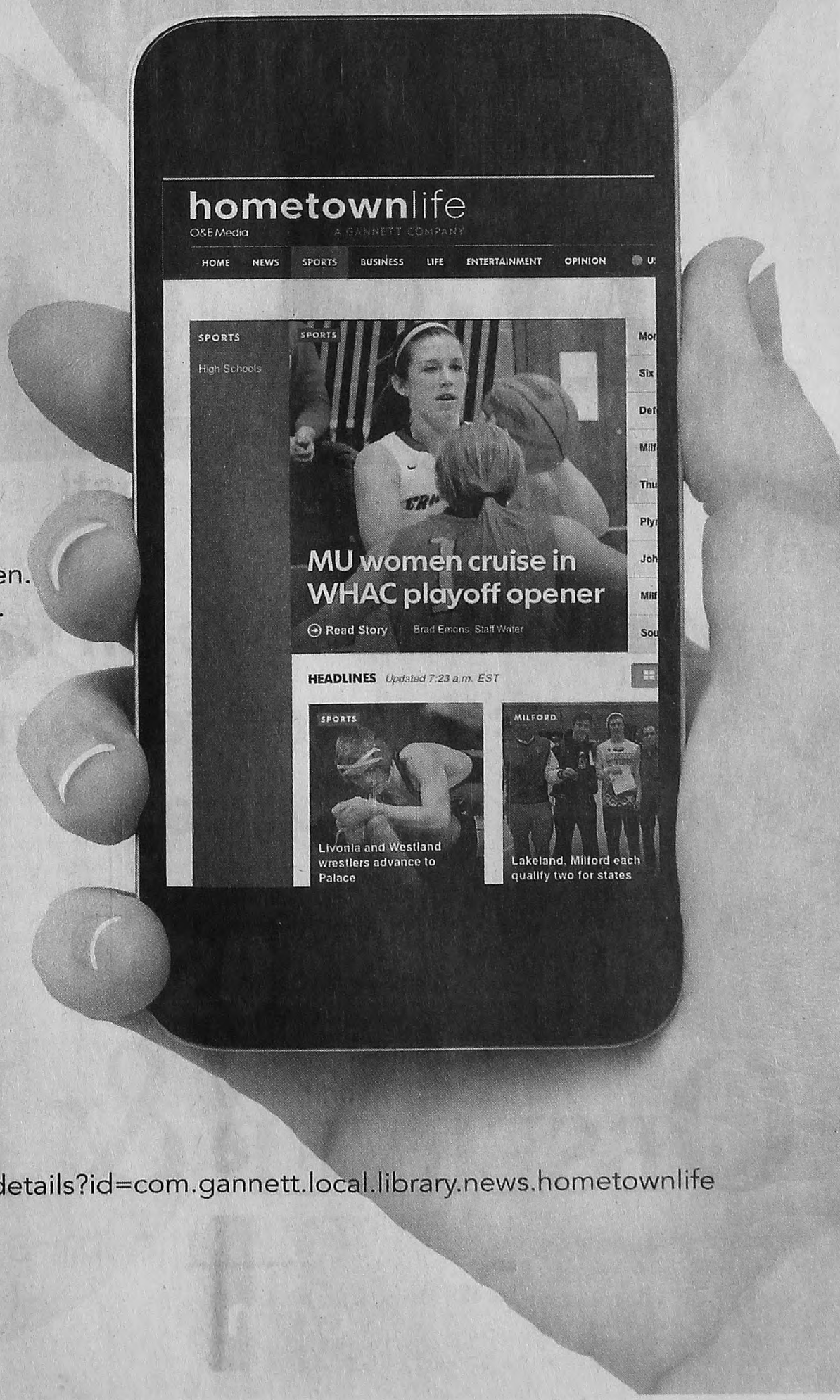
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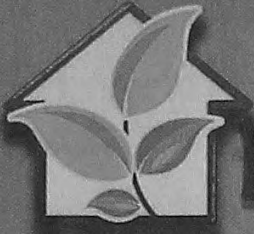
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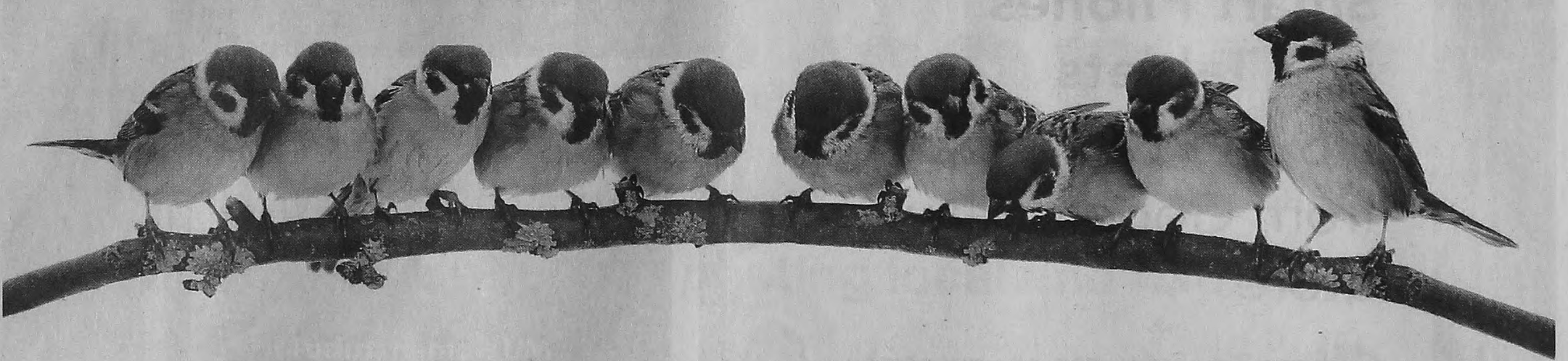
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SPORTS

Ann Arbor Skyline's Harper Murray named 2022 Michigan Miss Volleyball

Tom Lang
Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

There was a coaches' voting process to complete over the weekend, but it sure seemed a forgone conclusion who would win the 2022 Miss Volleyball award, a joint effort between the Detroit Free Press and the Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Association.

Ann Arbor Skyline star Harper Murray — the No. 1-ranked player in the country, headed to play college volleyball at perennial powerhouse Nebraska — is the 2022 recipient of the prestigious award. She received 325 voting points and second place was Ava Sara-fa of Bloomfield Hills Marian at 213. No one else received more than 80 points.

A 6-foot-2 outside hitter, Murray recorded 2,425 kills in her four-year career at Skyline.

"What makes her special in our opinion, and a rare recruit, is she's a pure, six rotation outside hitter," Nebraska coach John Cook said by phone just moments before Murray was surprised with the award. "Meaning, she can do every skill well, and what really, finally convinced me of all this: I went to a practice a couple years ago and the coaches just had her be a setter for that practice — and I think she can be a college setter. She's just a real, well-rounded, true volleyball player that does very well, and she's a dynamic athlete.

"I think another great opportunity for Nebraska is we're going to turn over a senior class here and she's going to have a chance to be one of the faces of Nebraska volleyball. That will be on the court, in the community, NIL sponsorships. So, she'll have a tremendous opportunity here."

The leadership skills Cook needs from her are something Murray worked on her senior season.

"She learned this year how to be a leader," Skyline coach Chris Christian said. "She had everything else, her skills were all there. What I wanted her to get out of this year is to be that leader I knew she could be. And it's something she did amazingly the last half of the season, getting her teammates fired up after a timeout, and that's something new she can take on to Nebraska."

See MISS VOLLEYBALL, Page 3B



Birmingham Groves' Josh Woods rushes during a Division 2 football regional final Nov. 11 at Livonia Franklin.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Undersized sophomore helps Falcons win regional title

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Somebody needed to make a play. Anybody. It didn't matter who. The defense just needed to get off the field without giving up a score.

Joshua Woods had been putting the Birmingham Groves football team on his back all night long throughout the Falcons' 32-25 victory over Livonia

Franklin in the Oct. 11 Division 2 regional championship.

Whenever the Patriots put points on the scoreboard, the senior running back countered with some fierce rushing.

Woods plowed through a pile, broke five would-be tackles (yes, seriously, five) and raced 48 yards to erase an 18-17 halftime deficit and put the Falcons ahead once and for all with 27.8 seconds left in the third quarter.

And then he busted a 78-yard TD run to make it a two-score lead midway

through the fourth. However, as he crossed the goal line, with two Patriots draped on him, he suffered an injury so severe that he never saw the field again. He spent the rest of the night getting his calves worked on by trainers on the sideline.

Of course, Franklin responded with quarterback JD Bates tossing an 18-yard TD pass to Dominic Simpson.

And then the Patriots got a stop on

See FALCONS, Page 2B

Hartland football coach Savage resigns, cites new law

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Back on Oct. 20, the Michigan High School Athletic Association sent an editorial to newspapers written by Executive Director Mark Uyl that was critical of Public Act 184.

The act, which went into effect in July, requires anyone who retires from a public school in Michigan to wait nine months before receiving a salary working in a school. Previously, an employee could return within 30 days at no more than 30% of their previous salary.

One of the casualties of that policy

change is Brian Savage, who has stepped down as Hartland's football coach. Savage will retire Dec. 31 as a physical education teacher at Walled Lake Central.

Under the act, the only way he could keep coaching over the next nine months would be as a volunteer.

"I put in for my retirement from teaching back in mid-October," Savage said. "As I started to do a little more research and talking to union reps, with that new law you're supposed to be separate from schools for nine months. There's a lot of unknowns with it and how the law can affect your pension. I decided it was a good time to not mess

around with that, do some other things as I figure out what the heck I'm going to do instead of getting up going to school every day."

Savage has been the Eagles' head coach for 11 seasons, qualifying for the playoffs six times and posting a 54-48 record.

He has taught in the Walled Lake schools since 1997. He was the offensive coordinator at Walled Lake Western for 12 seasons, took a year off, then was an assistant coach for one season at Walled Lake Northern and one at Milford before being hired by Hartland.

See SAVAGE, Page 2B



Brian Savage coached Hartland to six playoff appearances in 11 seasons.
LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

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Donovan Thomas, Canton, Jr.
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Brady Lipke, Hartland, Sr.
Logan Hartman, Livonia Franklin, Sr.
Ezra Knezek, Livonia Stevenson, Sr.
Marco Palushaj, Northville, Sr.
Jaiden Lunga, Novi, Sr.
Foster Garrett, Salem, Sr.
Mark Masai, Salem, Sr.
Atanas Popov, Salem, Sr.
Ian Mendoza-Garceia, Wayne Memorial, Sr.

Midfielders

Ben Galindez, Belleville, Sr.
Lukas Igonin, Belleville, Soph.
DeVontay Hubbs, Belleville, Sr.
Devlin McGinnis, Brighton, Soph.
Connor Blood, Brighton, Sr.
Hunter Haglund, Brighton, Jr.
Wesley Hart, Canton, Sr.
Hussein Elharake, Dearborn, Sr.
Kade Blake, Dearborn, Jr.
Bashar Othman, Dearborn Fordson, Soph.
Yahya Alhawati, Dearborn Fordson, Sr.
Hassan Faraj, Dearborn Fordson, Sr.
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Orfan Adil, Livonia Churchill, Sr.
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John Napieralski, Livonia Franklin, Sr.
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Carter Mroz, Livonia Stevenson, Sr.
Matt Shehab, Northville, Sr.
Nathan Riehl, Novi, Sr.
Alex Greene, Plymouth, Sr.
Griffin Ellis, Salem, Sr.
Jack Kroll, Salem, Sr.
Jesus Velasquez-Cervantes, Wayne Memorial, Sr.

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Chris Vernon, Brighton, Sr.
Christian Presley, Canton, Sr.
Reese Austin, Canton, Sr.
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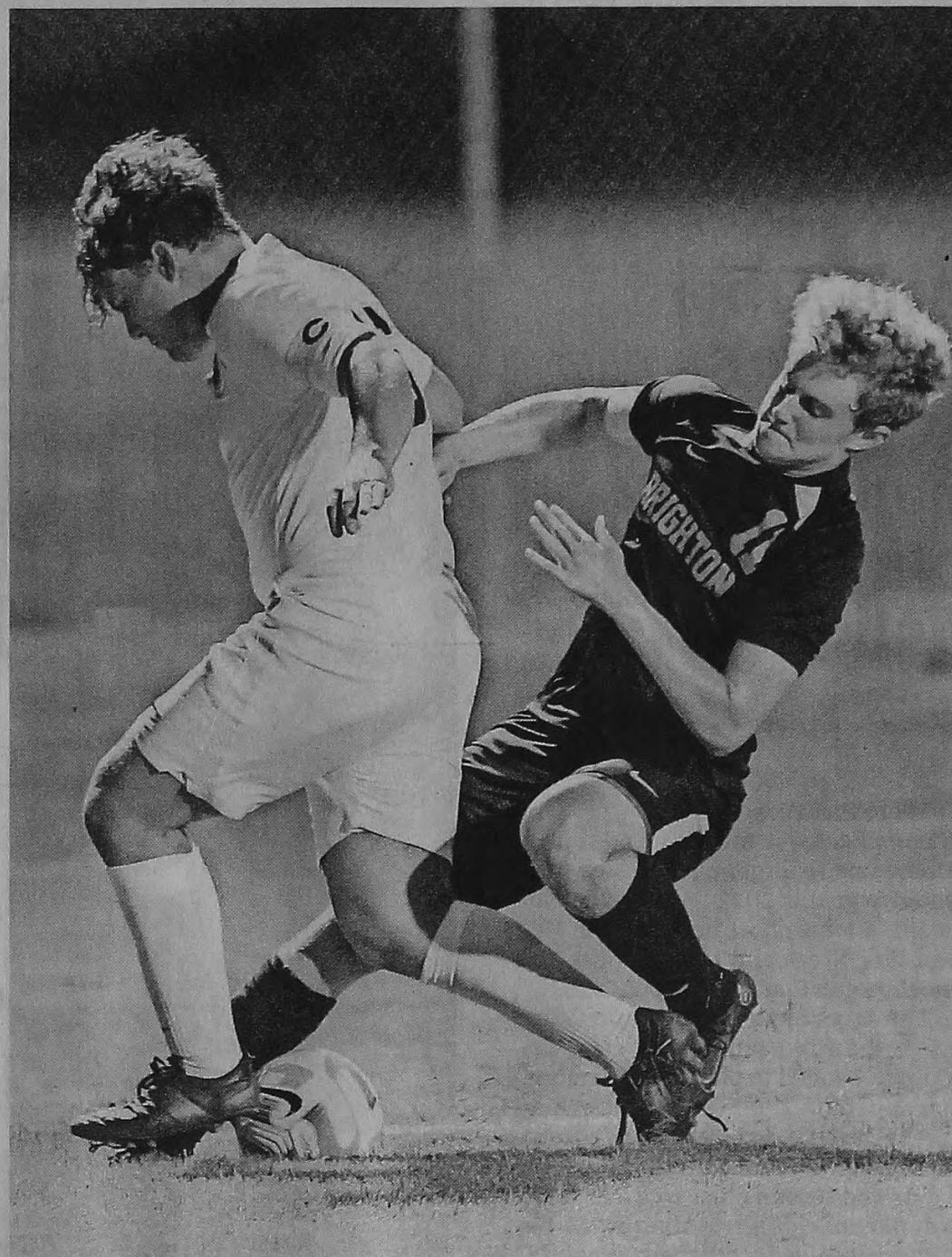
Danny Elder, Dearborn, Sr.
Ali Dakka, Dearborn, Sr.
Noah Alaowieh, Dearborn, Sr.
Muhammad Khodor, Dearborn Fordson, Sr.
Hadi Saad, Dearborn Fordson, Soph.
Christian Beres, Hartland, Sr.
Aiden Niemiec, Howell, Sr.
Stewart Johns, Livonia Churchill, Jr.
Connor Dzungel, Livonia Churchill, Sr.
Colin Whitney, Livonia Stevenson, Sr.
Drake Graham, Livonia Stevenson, Sr.
Ben Wilson, Livonia Stevenson, Jr.
Nick Settle, Northville, Jr.
Yuya Nakajima, Northville, Jr.
Moreno Scaccia, Northville, Sr.
Masaharu Kimura, Novi, Jr.
Antoine Kondracki, Novi, Sr.
Rohan Parikh, Plymouth, Sr.
Dylan Clayton, Salem, Sr.
Bill Broucek, Salem, Sr.
Logan Harkins, Salem, Sr.
Jovani Martinez-Perez, Wayne Memorial, Sr.
Carter Wiseley, Westland John Glenn, Soph.

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Ali Hammoud, Dearborn, Sr.
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Hartland's Christian Beres (left) and Brighton's Connor Allan made the All-KLAA soccer team. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

ham, Alex McCallum, Elis Qafleshi. **Novi:** Jackson Brickey, Corey Dennehy, Sota Imai. **Plymouth:** Kareen Hussein, Spencer Prouty, Adam Schlanser. **Salem:** Jack Macauley, Bennett Quijano, Tom-

my Verash. **Wayne Memorial:** Sultan Giveminyi, Trevor Ison, Javier Tapia. **Westland John Glenn:** Bryce Fallows, Casey Kolb, Osvaldo Ramirez-Santiago.

Falcons

Continued from Page 1B

defense because, honestly, Woods wasn't there to carry the load.

Franklin's offense took over on the 31-yard line with one timeout and 2:31 remaining.

One score, and this Round 3 playoff game was headed to overtime.

"They're (Franklin) a great team, and they're well-coached," said coach Brendan Flaherty, who's in his 22nd season leading Groves. "I just knew we had to come up and make a play. But, honestly, we've been preparing for overtime all week. We were ready to go for overtime if we had to. I just thought somebody would rise up and make a play, and they did."

Here's what you need to know about Bates.

He's the perfect QB. Which is saying something because he entered this season with an almost impossible task. He was asked to replace Zac Olesuk at the position after Olesuk had just led the Patriots to a state semifinal in 2021.

Game after game, Bates found his groove. And the senior never, ever made mistakes. He's one of the best game managers, and we don't mean that in the way an NFL analyst talks about middle-of-the-road QBs. He just handles each key down and distance with moxie. He's always prepared for the pressure. And he rarely turns over the ball.

Groves gave Franklin over 2 minutes to go 69 yards to knot the score and force overtime. If you're picking anyone to make that happen, it's going to be Bates.

That's why it was shocking when the least likely of defenders came up with a game-clinching interception at midfield, which allowed the Falcons' offense to kneel out the remaining 88 seconds and punched their ticket to next week's state semifinal game against defending state champion Warren De La Salle. It's their third final-four trip under Flaherty.

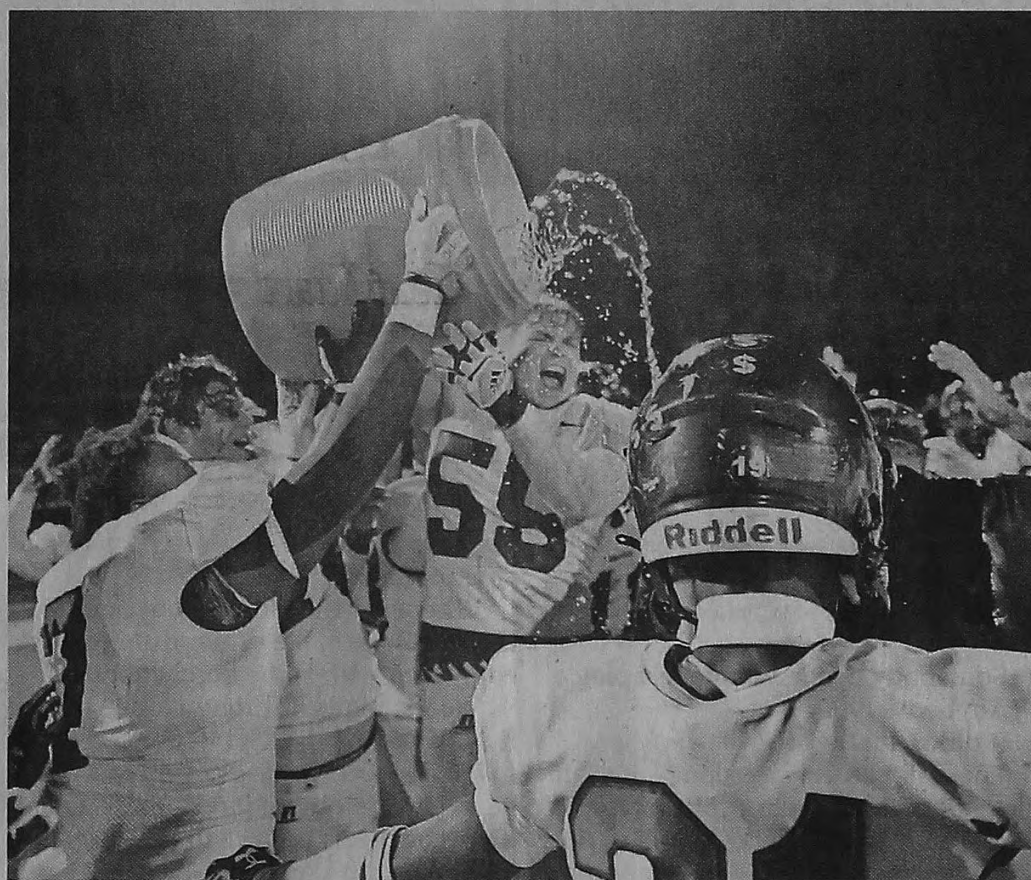
Or was it really that shocking?

Coming up with the heads-up interception was Aiden Leung, who had actually fallen on a game-saving fumble in the red zone against rival Birmingham Seaholm in last week's district final.

And it was easy for Franklin to pick on Leung.

For one, on the opposite side of him is future all-state cornerback Chris Little. Little is about as shutdown as they came in high school. Time after time, he's come up with interceptions and drive-ending pass breakups. There's no way the Patriots were wanting to throw toward Little Island.

"I wouldn't throw toward him or his way," Flaherty agreed.



Birmingham Groves' Malachi Coleman, Avery Gach and Morgan Goldberg pour the water bucket on coach Brendan Flaherty after the Falcons won a Division 2 regional final Nov. 11 at Livonia Franklin. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

And, for two, Leung is just a sophomore. A 5-foot-8, 150-pound one at that. He doesn't have a ton of experience playing varsity football, despite being on the team a year ago.

Plus, Leung got banged up earlier in the game. He had actually missed about a half dozen plays before he was sent back out on defense for the game's last stand.

It wasn't surprising to see Franklin pass his way two plays in a row on that final drive. But nor was it surprising to see him read Bates' eyes and put himself in a position to ensure the Falcons the win.

"It's just amazing," Leung said. "It's so special just to be able to play with these guys and to just play football, really."

Hometown Life actually interviewed Leung a week ago but foolishly didn't use his quotes in the story.

So let's correct that, huh?

Leung doesn't look like much of an athlete because of his size, but he's one of the best at Groves. He started at catcher and center field for the Falcons' baseball team last spring.

Getting a taste of being a Big Man on Campus inspired him to give an extra effort during the off-season. He went to as many voluntary baseball and football workouts as he possibly could.

When fall camp came around, he battled to get on the depth chart. And he even found himself in a three-way battle for one of the starting cornerback spots

with Max Young and Carlos Jones.

By Week 3 of the season, he had won that starting spot. He had done enough to impress defensive backs coach John Curran. And Curran knows a little something about coaching that position. He's only been doing it at Groves since 1994.

"I just started doing a lot better and was a lot more confident in my playing, and they put me there," Leung said. "But I just felt like I could hang with guys. I'm on the smaller side, but with the position I play, I felt like I needed the confidence to hang with them (Young and Jones). We were rotating through the first few weeks. And I've just been trying to fit in."

So that's two game-saving defensive plays Leung has made in as many weeks, both of which led to the Falcons hoisting trophies immediately afterward.

But perhaps his best play of the postseason was the one he made after Groves beat Franklin.

Teammates Malachi Coleman, Avery Gach and Morgan Goldberg surprised Flaherty by dousing him with water after the trophy ceremony. In order to sneak up on Flaherty, someone needed to stand in front of the orange Gatorade bucket and make sure it stayed hidden. And that was Leung.

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

Savage

Continued from Page 1B

"I've been coaching 28 years," he said. "Who knows? Maybe next fall I'll go see what these colors are that people talk about up north and things like that."

Only 51 years old, Savage may return to coaching once he clears the nine-month window.

"You never know," he said. "It's easy to say 'no' right now. I'm going to go hunting and fishing every day, mow the yard and chase the kids off the grass, stuff like that. Who knows what will happen down the road? It's always been enjoyable and fun working with kids."

Hartland athletic director JD Wheeler praised the job Savage did running the football program.

"He's a very stable force for us, an even-keel guy who always had the program's best interests in mind," Wheeler said.

"He was able to assemble a real good coaching staff that worked really well together. He was just a great person to represent not only our football program, but the community, just because football is such a big part of it."

Hartland was involved in many dramatic games during Savage's career, but he recalled an overtime victory at Grand Blanc in 2015 as a highlight that came immediately to mind.

In that game, injured third-year starter Noah Marshall threw a 57-yard touchdown pass to Jack Slavin with 33 seconds left in the fourth quarter to force overtime. After allowing a field goal, the Eagles won 30-27 on a 10-yard pass from Marshall to R.J. Bortle.

"There's a lot of games that were good," he said. "A lot not-so-great, too. That one stuck out."

Savage lives in Howell and teaches in Walled Lake, but Hartland has become a special place for him.

"Hartland's a great place," he said. "Just the community, the school, the kids. The administrators are so supportive. It's a great little place. It's going to be hard to walk away from that community. I've already heard from a bunch of people, which is always nice to see."

Wheeler said Hartland doesn't have a timeline to hire Savage's replacement.

"Obviously, just like any coaching searches, we'll cast a wide net," Wheeler said. "We have some internal candidates I think will be good, but we also owe it to everyone to go through the entire process and see who would be interested."



Teammates pose with Ann Arbor Skyline's Harper Murray, center, who was awarded Miss Volleyball by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Miss Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

Murray said high school and club volleyball gave her that opportunity to improve.

"I think I did a good job, and I can continue that going to Nebraska, and I look forward to learning a lot there," Murray said after the awards ceremony where the school duped her into thinking she had to re-sign her letter-of-intent papers due to a clerical error. "I think being a good leader and teammate is as important as your skills."

And skills she has. In addition to the career kills, Murray collected 130 blocks, 1,423 digs and 362 aces. Her tall and athletic frame was an imposing sight across the net for opponents, especially her final two seasons. Skyline finished runner-up in the Division 1 state finals last year to Birmingham Marian, but this year was bumped out of the regionals by Okemos.

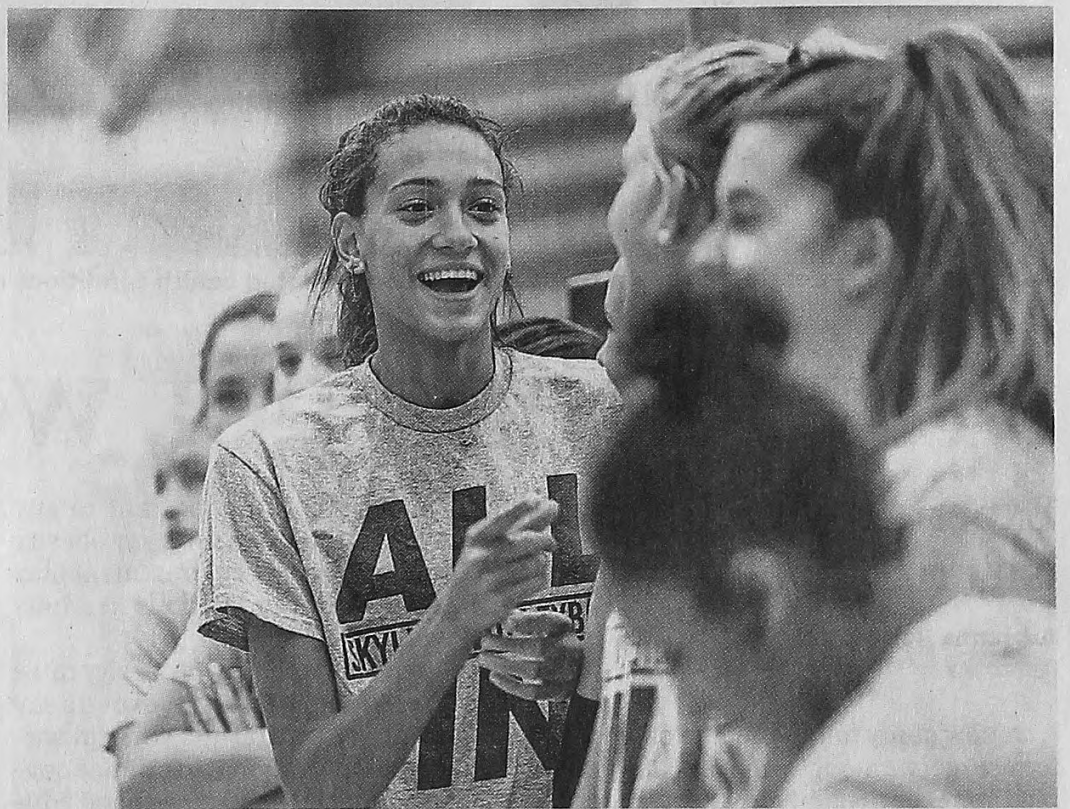
"Even though we didn't make it to Battle Creek like we wanted to, we also

have a great relationship and I think we all were happy with how we finished and how we fought," Murray said about her teammates. "Obviously winning Miss Volleyball is a great accomplishment, but at the same time I am super proud of the team."

Murray was clearly wiping away tears, of both joy and sadness, when holding the trophy and greeting her supporters. Many know that her father, Vada Murray, died of lung cancer when she was just 6 years old. She plans to honor him by wearing the No. 27 he wore for Michigan football. Nebraska will give her that number to wear; it gives her a sense he is with her on the court.

Sarah Murray, Harper's mom, had to choke back the emotions talking about the friends and family that attended the Miss Volleyball presentation Monday morning at Skyline.

"These are friends of her dad's and he was really loved, so this is a big day, and it would have been a big day for him," she said. "So, having people closest to him here, to support her, is really important to me and her."



Murray laughs with teammates during practice at school in Ann Arbor. Murray is the No. 1 volleyball player in the country and has played for the u-18 and u-19 national teams. She has committed to Nebraska, the preseason No. 1 team. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

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Health experts say early treatment helps avoid obesity-related health conditions as an adult. GETTY IMAGES

More teens get weight loss surgery

Experts say procedure isn't right for everyone

Adrianna Rodriguez
USA TODAY

A new study found the rate of weight loss surgery among teenagers has doubled in recent years, but experts argue the procedure is still severely underutilized in the United States.

Although dietary counseling and

physical activity are important to any weight loss strategy, experts say obesity is a complex disease and treatment may require medical interventions in adults and teens alike.

Though research shows obesity rates are increasing among teens, experts say a number of structural and societal barriers – including stigma, insurance coverage, and a lack of awareness and education – continue to impede early treatment.

Experts say surgery is not right for

everyone. Treatment for obesity is highly individualized and may incorporate medication or nutritional, psychological and exercise counseling.

“There are some individuals who are not suited for those things or they may be suited for one thing over another,” said Dr. Konstantinos Spaniolas, director of the Stony Brook Medicine Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center in Long Island, New York. “It’s often times a complex decision.”

Teen weight loss surgery trends

The rate of weight loss procedures among adolescents aged between 12 and 19 has doubled from 2010 to 2017, according to a study published Monday in *Pediatrics*, a journal by the American Academy of Pediatrics.


Researchers analyzed national data looking at metabolic and bariatric surgeries in the U.S. and found rates

See SURGERY, Page 5B

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Surgery

Continued from Page 4B

increased from 2.29 procedures per 100,000 population to 4.62. Study authors also found:

- The average age of patients who had undergone the procedure decreased slightly from 18.10 in 2010 to 17.96 in 2017

- Patients were primarily white (45%), female (75.4%) and privately insured (53.4%) in 2017

- The percentage of teens with a BMI greater than 50 grew from 4.2% to 16.2% ASMB estimates about 1,600 pediatric bariatric and metabolic surgeries are performed in the U.S. per year, most commonly in those over 18 years old.

This is “nowhere close to the appropriate utilization,” said Dr. Evan Nadler, director of the weight loss surgery program at Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C., who is unaffiliated with the study.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines obesity in the pediatric population as a body mass index (BMI) at or above the 95th percentile, according to the agency’s growth charts.

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery says surgery can be recommended in children and adolescents with a body mass index (BMI) over 120% of the 95th percentile – which is considered severe obesity – plus a major health problem, or a BMI over 140% of the 95th percentile.

Racial and ethnic disparities

The study also highlights wide racial and ethnic disparities in weight loss surgery utilization, despite these marginalized groups experiencing higher

rates of obesity.

In 2017, about 45% of adolescents who had weight loss surgery were white, 25.9% were Hispanic and 14.6% were Black. While the percentage of Hispanic teens saw an increase from 2010, the percentage of Black patients decreased.

Rates of obesity are highest among minority groups. From 2017 to 2018, study authors said the obesity prevalence for Hispanic and Black children ages 2 to 19 years was 25.6% and 24.2%, respectively, compared with 16.1% for white children.

Health experts say lack of representation may partly be due to access and distrust in the medical system.

Why rates should be higher

The CDC says about 6.1% of U.S. children and teens between 2 and 19 years old have severe obesity, according to data collected between 2017 and 2018 in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Health experts say early treatment helps avoid obesity-related health conditions as an adult – conditions including high blood pressure and cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, breathing problems such as asthma and sleep apnea, joint problems and damage to organs.

But stigma and bias continue to be the biggest obstacles to adolescents receiving early weight loss treatment, experts say. That is especially true when it comes to medications and surgical procedures.

Wegovy, other options

Surgery is not the only effective treatment at teens’ disposal.

Although experts say the procedure has been found to be safe and effective, many may not want to take on common

risks of surgery such as blood clots, infection, vitamin deficiency, or bleeding.

Pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk announced results last week of their latest clinical trial assessing the effectiveness of their weight loss drug semaglutide, sold under the brand name Wegovy.

Adolescents who got a weekly injection of the drug lost an average of 14.7% of their starting body weight, while those who got a placebo gained 2.7% of their initial weight.

Health experts say patients who take other medications on the market typically lose an average of 5% to 12% of their body weight.

“A medication like (Wegovy) is something we have been missing for a very long time,” Spaniolas said. “They bridge the gap between older medications that

had less effect as well as surgical interventions that can have more of an impact.”

Semaglutide mimics a naturally occurring hormone that tells the brain when the body is full after a meal. The drug also slows down digestion so food stays in the stomach longer. The mechanisms work together to reduce appetite and increase fullness.

“Obesity is a chronic disease and it’s likely going to require all the interventions in some combination to come out with the best outcomes,” Nadler said.

Health and patient safety coverage at USA TODAY is made possible in part by a grant from the Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation and Competition in Healthcare. The Masimo Foundation does not provide editorial input.

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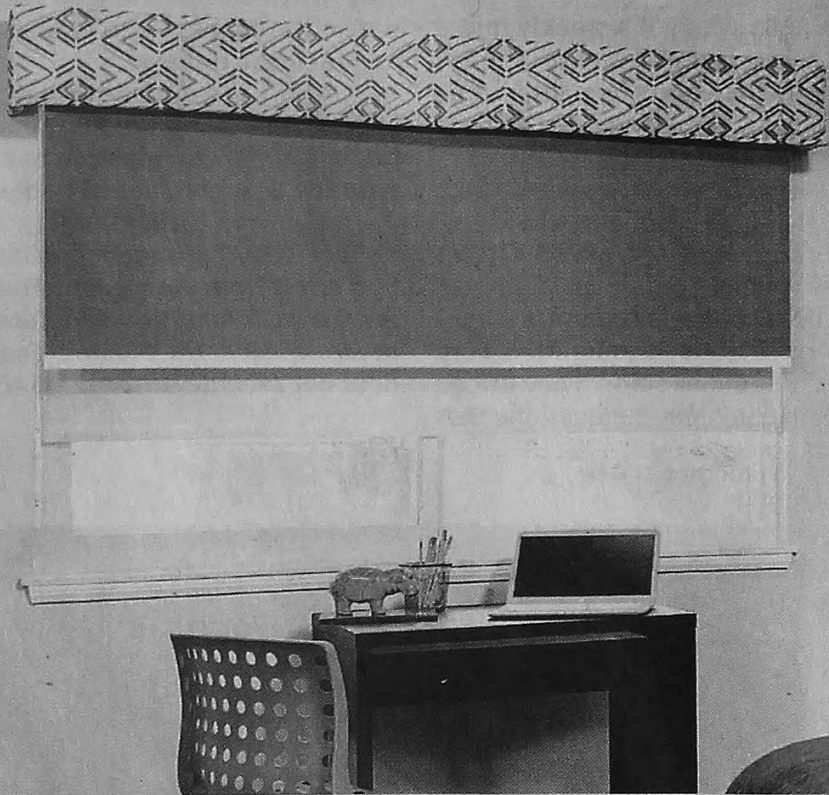
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- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Alert | Eels | Lake | Sawfish |
| Alvey | Emperor | Lead | Sea ear |
| Angle | Eskey | Legal | Shoal |
| Annexe | Floppy | length | Snag |
| ANSA | Ford | Maps | Sold |
| Bays | Freeze | Nacre | Sport |
| Boat | Grunter | Navigate | Steer |
| Borer | Hook | Nets | Storms |
| Break | Hungry | Pipi | Sweep |
| Bridge | Ike jime | Plug | Tiger |
| Cast | Inlet | Relaxing | prawns |
| Clam | Item | Rivers | Tuna |
| Dorsal fin | Jigs | Sand | Turum |

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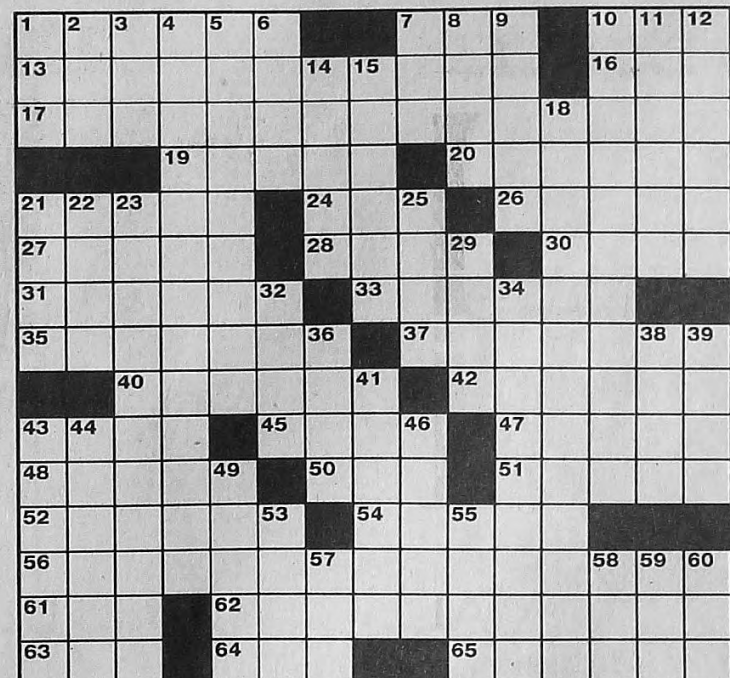
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 S T R O P S E R A N S I T U E
 I E B H A P P L I S N G E T T
 D N A S M R E E Y D A A R A S
 Y F N E A R M A P R G T L L R
 P A R W A I B D I O G E A V E
 P S N E J R N S P F R N D E V
 O S W E E P E L I T G M U Y I
 L A K E E Z U E E L K O O H R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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boston Marathon sponsor since 1989
 - 7 What you may get out of your refrigerator
 - 10 Letters on Octane Booster
 - 13 When *Hamilton* begins
 - 16 Central principle of Chinese martial arts
 - 17 Not before that specific moment
 - 19 Focus of a Belgrade museum
 - 20 Word from Malay for "sheath"
 - 21 Capital by the Red Sea
 - 24 It means "made of"
 - 26 Legendary lamenter
 - 27 University town near Acadia
 - 28 Work in progress
 - 30 Mel Brooks, in the *Hotel Transylvania* films
 - 31 Literary archetype of reinvention since the 1920s
 - 33 "Curses!"
 - 35 Likely to result in bigger banks
 - 37 A name of Eliot's
 - 40 Start back
 - 42 Supplanted by, with "of"
 - 43 Inspire
 - 45 Word associated with parties and dresses
 - 47 Made calls
 - 48 Japanese cattle breed
 - 50 What precedes many an oath
 - 51 Takes no courses
 - 52 Many Wookieepedia subjects
- DOWN**
- 1 Serve (as)
 - 2 Latter-day "Darn!"
 - 3 *Creation volcanique*
 - 4 Infomercial order
 - 5 Intense, as some exercise
 - 6 Deviltry
 - 7 Protective layer
 - 8 Deliveries from Google
 - 9 Many a Central American
 - 10 Excursions with escorts
 - 11 Where to follow shooting stars
 - 12 Reached out electronically
 - 14 Spontaneously
 - 15 Allowed to check out
 - 18 It's nothing, really
 - 21 ___ age
 - 22 Major producer of pomegranates
 - 23 Unimaginative
 - 25 Conductors' concerns
 - 29 Start to trust
 - 32 Comics complaint
 - 34 Show servility
 - 36 Bahamian billionaire singer's nickname
 - 38 "Well-groomed-sounding" hair remover of old
 - 39 They're part of the Mug Root Beer logo
 - 41 Juvenile jellyfish
 - 43 Growths of grass
 - 44 "Stupidity is a ___ for misconception": Poe
 - 46 Gem that dissolves in vinegar
 - 49 Eels for bento meals
 - 53 Sound of billowing sails
 - 55 Novelist who cowrote *Jerusalem: Song of Songs* (1981)
 - 57 "Fresh From Nashville" playlist org.
 - 58 Article in *El Diario*
 - 59 Excerpt from a classroom wall banner
 - 60 Read Across America Day sponsor

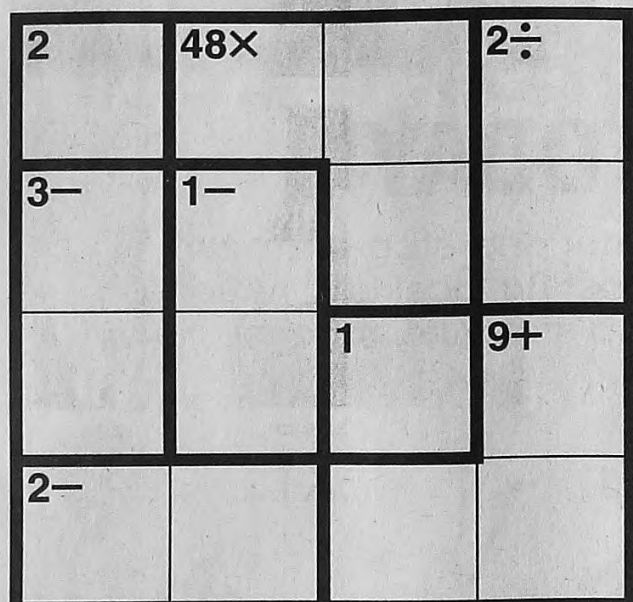
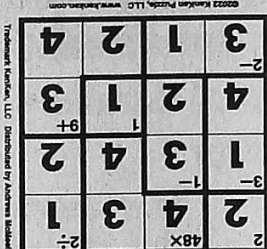


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KENKEN

- Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 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.
- Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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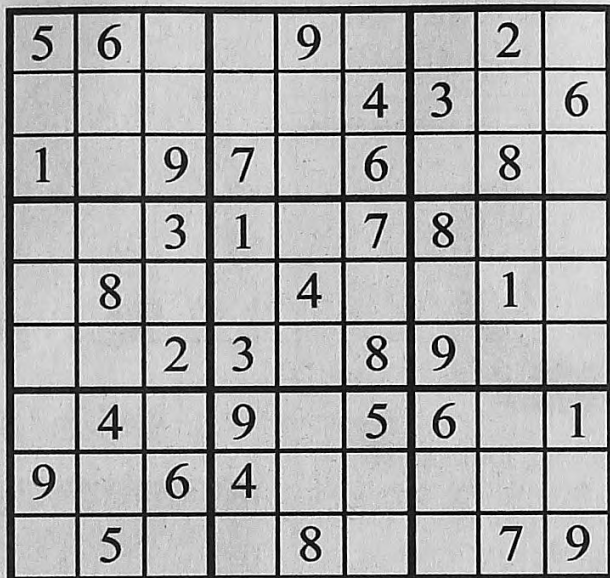
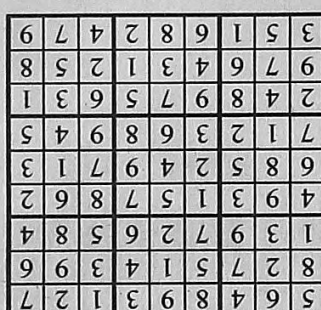


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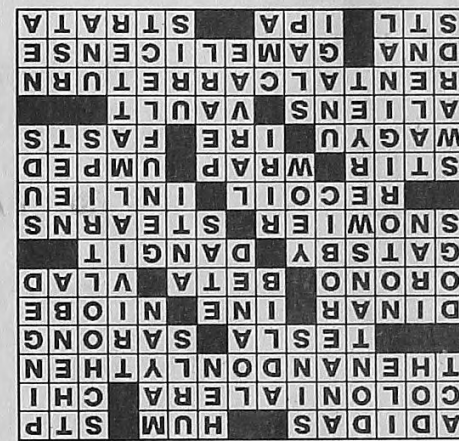
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Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

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