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Livonia mayor presents reimagined park

Future projects highlight state of the city address

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

State of the city speeches are often about looking back on recent successes, but Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said her favorite part of her 2022

address was getting to look ahead.

The mayor delivered her speech March 24 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The crowd, which greeted Brosnan with a standing ovation, included local officials, business leaders and community members.

Given there were so many potential partners and investors in the room, Brosnan used part of her speech to make the case for redeveloping part of Civic Center Park.

The project is part of the Livonia Vision 21 Master Plan.

The plan also calls for the redevelopment of the Plymouth Road corridor and the old Livonia Mall property at Seven

Mile and Farmington roads.

Officials hope reimagining key areas of the city will create downtown-like environments and bring in more young families.

"Big ideas usually cost big money," Brosnan said.

The city has been working to secure

See **MAYOR**, Page 5A



Canton Township Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger stands near the site of the Cady-Boyer barn. The historic barn was destroyed by a fire last year. He expects the rebuild to cost about \$500,000. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plans to rebuild Canton barn destroyed in fire move ahead

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ten months after the flames that destroyed Canton Township's Civil War-era Cady-Boyer barn were extinguished, plans are rising from the ashes to rebuild a similar structure at Preservation Park, the site of the beloved burned-

down gathering place.

"Our tentative plans are to build a more modern structure that has the look and feel of an historic barn," Canton Township Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger explained. "We want it to include more modern amenities and we want it to be more ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) accessible.

"The big thing is we want the new structure to honor what was there before so it's not going to look out of place next to the historic buildings that make up Preservation Park."

Canton Township fire officials confirmed June 11, 2021, that plans to

See **BARN**, Page 5A

Redford couple's yard decoration draws crowd

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You might think people say the giant, 10-foot-tall skeleton in their front yard is an eyesore.

But you would be wrong.

"Skelly Boy," the massive, pumpkin-faced skeleton on Alicia Bonanno and Donavan Richardson's property in Redford has become a popular selfie and local tourism spot since Richardson gifted Bonanno, his fiancé, the monster just before Halloween last year.

"Her favorite holiday is Halloween, so I got it as kind of a surprise for her," he said.

Unlike those who leave the giant skeletons outside year-round for lack of storage space, Bonanno and Richardson keep Skelly Boy outside simply because people enjoy it so much.

"It was just going to be a Halloween decoration, but then people on Facebook were like, 'Are you going to dress it up for the next holiday?' So I was like, you know what? Let's do it," Bonanno said. "We anticipated keeping it up just for Christmas but it was so fun, so it's just kind of grown."

The display has grown over the months to include colored lights, a seat for selfie-takers and two smaller skeletons added during Christmas-time the couple call "Skelves." Richardson has also made sure Skelly Boy is sturdy and able to withstand storms.

Neighbors, children, a party bus and even a local musician looking for album art have visited their home on Beech Daly, right across the street

See **DECORATION**, Page 6A

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Tire-flattening Canton road on verge of replacement

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A serial deflater of tires (and checking accounts), a one-mile stretch of Canton Township's Canton Center Road is on the verge of a major makeover.

Beginning sometime in early April, the township will spend approximately \$6 million to completely replace Wayne County-owned Canton Center from Ford to Warren roads. The project will be funded by a 20-year road millage approved by township residents in August of 2018.

The full-pavement replacement is expected to be completed in fall 2022 — weather permitting.

Major construction projects on roads owned by Wayne County are generally funded and managed by the county, but the horrible condition of Canton Center forced the township to take matters into its own hands, Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said.

"We're doing this because it's the right thing to do," said Graham-Hudak. "We've known this section of road has ASR (Alkali-Silica Reactivity, a chemical reaction that causes concrete to break down at an accelerated rate.) It's time to stop patching over the rough spots and completely replace it."

Wayne County Commissioner Melissa Daub said the county is "working diligently" to provide the township with funding for the project.

The stretch of Canton Center to be replaced has been riddled with numerous damaging potholes for the past few years, creating havoc for drivers, who can be seen weaving around the craters during freeze-thaw weather cycles.

"Myself, Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Paden and a member of our municipal service department staff went business-to-business, explaining to the business owners what the project entails," Graham-Hudak said.

"They all expressed concern about how the temporary lane closures would impact their businesses, but they also agreed that something needs to be done."

Ric Cudini, who co-owns Ric & Rocky's Car Care with his son-in-law Rocky Johnson, said he's hoping his consistent



A pothole four inches deep with sharp rim lies along Canton Center Road's northbound lane. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

customers are willing to deal with the inconveniences created by the looming construction.

"The road has to be replaced; it's terrible and everybody knows that," Cudini said. "Our concern and the concern of probably every business up and down Canton Center is how it's going to impact the bottom line."

"The last time there was major construction in front of our place the guys working were very accommodating, helping people get across the road. We're hoping for the same results this

time around because it's going to be a long project."

Cudini said he and Johnson are brainstorming for ideas that may make life easier for their customers during construction.

"We've even talked about possibly picking up cars that need to be worked on and bringing them here so customers don't have to deal with the construction headaches," Cudini said.

The first phase of the project will start with the closure of the three center lanes of the five-lane roadway (two

north- and south-bound lanes and a center left-turn lane), leaving one lane each for northbound and southbound travel.

One lane of traffic both ways and access to driveways along the construction site will remain open throughout the project, Graham-Hudak said.

Left turns will not be permitted during the initial phase of the project, but will be permitted during the second and third phases.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com.

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Area libraries add seeds for gardeners

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Looking to get into gardening this spring? The local library has you covered.

The Livonia and Westland public libraries are both opening seed libraries this spring, and Redford Township's library recently started one. People will be able to stop in and grab seeds for flowers, veggies and herbs for free.

The three openings coincide with what librarians describe as a statewide trend toward gardening programming. A seed library takes up little space and brings more people into the local library.

"Seed libraries are actually kind of cropping up everywhere," Aubrey Franklin, an adult services librarian for the Westland Public Library, said. "There's quite a lot. We know it's a popular resource for people, and people are really excited about it. Gardening has, I think, really increased in popularity over the years, especially in the last two with the pandemic."

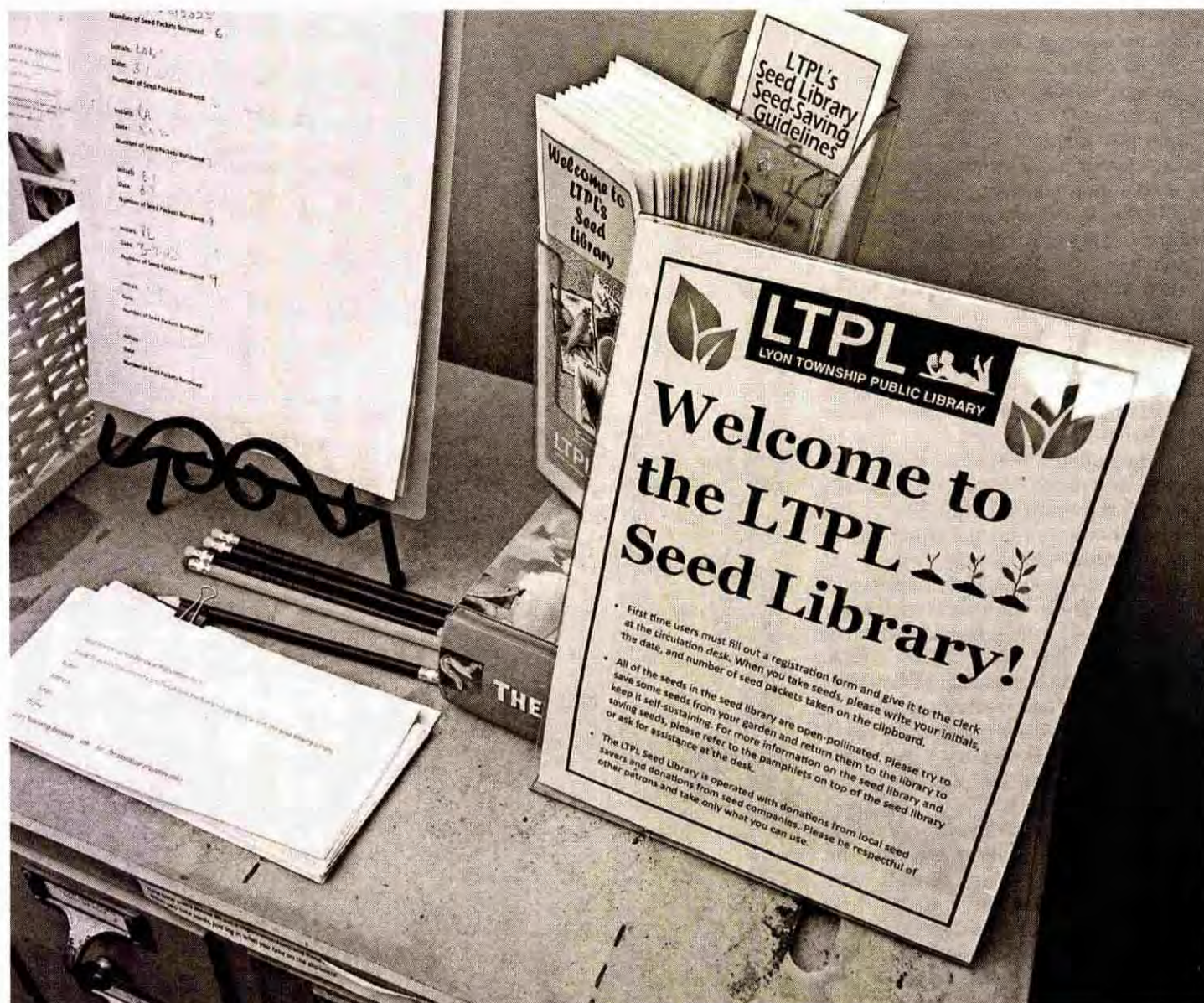
Westland's seed library opens March 30. Franklin noted the library, like those in Livonia and Redford, will include gardening and seed-saving books for newcomers to the hobby. All three libraries are also planning additional programming focused on gardening.

Franklin, a gardener herself, recommended rookies start with easy-to-grow plants like tomatoes, lettuce and beans.

Ken Bignotti, an adult services librarian at the Livonia Civic Center Library, added that leafy greens are usually a good place to start. Livonia's seed library opens April 30.

Most seed libraries aim to be self-sustaining. People are encouraged to save seeds from the fruits of their labor and bring them back to the library at the end of the growing season.

"People check seed out, grow it in their garden, harvest the seed and then return some of the seed," Bignotti said. "We recognize that a lot of different things can happen during the gardening season and almost any experience you have is going to be a learning experience. We're more interested in getting



The Lyon Township Public Library Seed Library. Patrons can both take and leave seeds for flowers, vegetables and herbs.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

seeds in the hands of local gardeners than making sure they bring seed back."

Seed libraries have grown in popularity in Michigan — people can find a map of all the known libraries by visiting misedlibrary.org — but haven't always been popular. When Lyon Township Public Library started its popular seed library in 2013, it was one of the only operations in the state.

"I just kind of flew by the seat of my

pants on opening this thing," Pam Quackenbush, a library technician for the Lyon Township Public Library, said. "There weren't too many in Michigan ... It's well used and gets more use every year as more folks find out about it. We have hundreds of people registered for it."

Franklin, Bignotti and Quackenbush all garden and say it's a good way to spend time outdoors, move their bodies

and obtain healthy food.

"I love getting closer to the earth," Franklin said. "I think it's something that really connects me to the past — I think about my grandparents gardening and ancestors before that. I also love to cook, and I think it goes hand-in-hand with that."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Quirky characters star in Inspire Theatre production

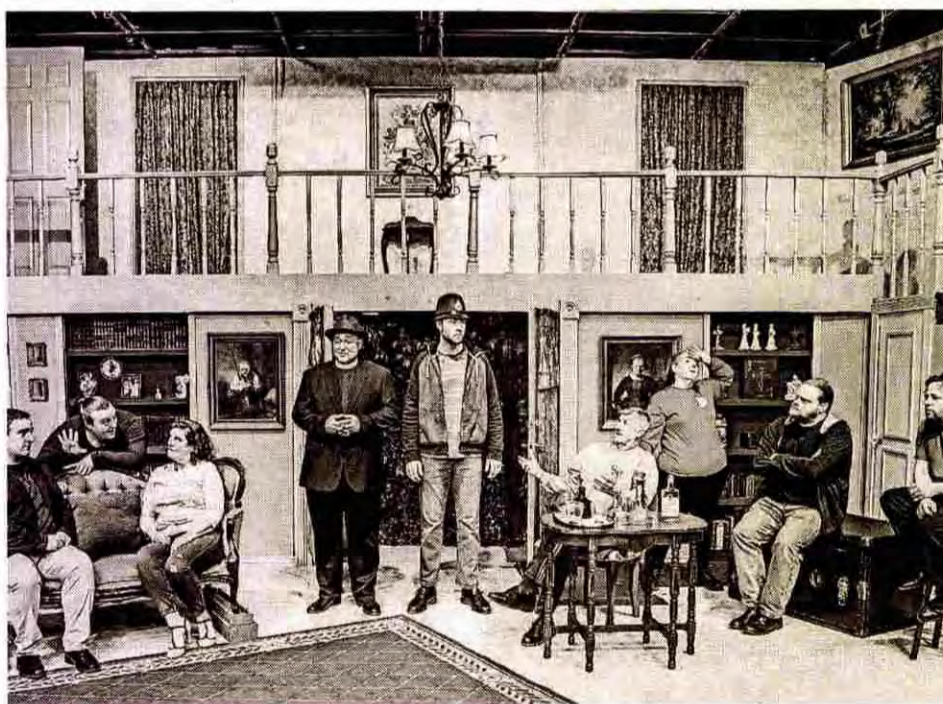
Courtesy of Inspire Theatre

Take tense comic situations, mistaken identities, multiple chase scenes, a bumbling Russian spy, a gossipy church lady and more vicars than the audience can keep track of, and you have Inspire Theatre's latest production, "See How They Run," a Philip King farce.

Set in a quiet village in the post-war English countryside, a mild-mannered parson (Mike Stec) and his American actress bride (Leanne Young) attempt to fit in to the serene lifestyle of the fictitious village of Merton-cum-Middlewick. Mayhem ensues as the wife's old actor friend (John Thiede) shows up.

The gossipy church lady (Jeannette Steinhauer) seizes the opportunity to besmirch the vicar's wife, only to be caught up in the chaos that follows. Meanwhile, the wife's bishop/uncle (Dave Durham), the visiting vicar (Steven Nagy), the Russian spy (Trevor Van Buren), the dull-witted constable (Mike Whitcher), and the sassy maid (Josie Stec) round out the cast of mischief makers. The audience will experience non-stop laughter viewing this hilarious physical comedy event.

When asked how "See How They



The cast of Inspire Theatre's "See How They Run." COURTESY OF INSPIRE THEATRE

Run" fits into the typical fare offered by Inspire, Managing Director Len Fisher chuckles as he weighs his answer.

"I love doing great plays to which our

patrons have not been introduced," he said. "This play was written originally to entertain troops during the Second World War. Our cast is nailing the humor

and the timing.

"Farce is not easy to master but the company knows what is required. Pace and mayhem accelerate as the story unfolds, and there will be many memorable moments, especially in the second and third acts. The audiences will want to return a second time to catch all the comedy because they were laughing so much."

Inspire Theatre is a volunteer organization that seeks people from the community willing to be on stage and behind the scenes. Possible volunteer positions include assistant director, stage manager, costume and prop master and more. Inspire is always looking for talented actors to fill the many roles that open throughout the year.

Auditions for "Guys and Dolls" will be on April 11 and 12 at 6:00 pm.

"See How They Run" runs for three weekends April 8 through April 24. Inspire Theatre is located inside the Westland Center for the Arts at 33455 Warren Rd.

Tickets are available at inspire-theatre.ticketleap.com. More information about the show and tickets can be found at inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057.

Remove financial clutter by 'spring cleaning' accounts



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Finally, spring has arrived in Michigan. With spring always comes spring cleaning.

Typically, when we think of spring cleaning, we think about cleaning up our yards after a long, cold winter. However, we should also think about cleaning up our personal financial affairs.

Most of us are accumulating too many unnecessary documents and receipts. In fact, people have so much stuff that they have no idea what they have! To make life easier, it is important to look at your financial records.

Let's start with tax information. I know people who save their tax records for 50 years. All of this is just clutter.

Under IRS rules, in the absence of fraud, you can be audited any time within three years of filing your return. Therefore, you should save your tax returns and back up documentation for a minimum of three years. To be safe, I generally tell people to save returns and backup documentation for seven years. There is no reason to save tax returns from decades ago.

Spring is also a good time to look at old brokerage statements and other documentation from financial institutions. For most investors, you virtually don't have to save anything. If you're using a brokerage house like Fidelity or Schwab, copies of all statements are available online. In addition, most bro-

kerage houses even keep track of your cost basis. Therefore, most investors can review and shred old statements and documentation.

Every year, you and I typically receive new homeowners and auto insurance policies. My general rule is when I receive my new policy, I shred the old policy documentation.

Many people save old utility bills, cable bills, credit card statements and other types of recurring bills. My question to them is, why?

At most, you should save those bills until you get the next one and then shred the old bill. In today's world where it's so easy to get duplicate copies of statements, there's no reason to clutter our lives with unnecessary paper.

In fact, most people should be receiving their bills and financial statements

electronically. Receiving bills electronically cuts down on clutter, helps keep your files organized and is better for the environment.

As we enter spring, we should dedicate ourselves to removing the stress associated with things we no longer need. I know some of you are thinking that if you get rid of something now, you might need it later. Trust me, you probably wouldn't be able to find it if you needed it anyways; and if you do need it, more likely than not you could always receive a duplicate. So, make life easier on yourself — start pruning your files.

Good luck.

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

Barn

Continued from Page 1A

produce a social media post were the original cause of the flames that engulfed and destroyed the barn. The post was supposed to capture images of burning cardboard and smoke bombs, officials said in an update sent out to township employees.

Although the precise cost of rebuilding the barn will not be known until a plan has been cemented, Hohenberger said it will probably run in the neighborhood of \$500,000 — an expenditure, he estimated, that should be covered by an insurance reimbursement (\$350,000) and roughly \$150,000 the township expects to receive as part of a Wayne County parks millage grant.

“Every year Wayne County gives back about 10% of its parks millage to communities within the county,” Hohenberger said. “To be eligible for the funding, municipalities must show the county they are spending it on some sort of parks-related improvement project.”

Ironically, the most-recent project Canton paid for with county parks millage money was a Preservation Park pavilion, which sits approximately 50 feet from where the Cady-Boyer barn stood and was completed just days before the tragic fire.

“There were some trees damaged by the heat of the fire, but fortunately the pavilion was spared any damage,” Hohenberger said. “Our public safety crews were here in a matter of minutes after the fire started.”

In the months leading up to the devastating fire, the Cady-Boyer barn was evolving into a popular rental facility for weddings, graduation parties and other community gatherings, Hohenberger said.

“The main amenity it lacked was restrooms, so people who rented it had to rent port-a-johns,” Hohenberger said. “The new pavilion includes modern restrooms, but we lost the barn about a week after the pavilion was completed.”

Hohenberger said a realistic timeline for the completion of the new structure is late-2023, considering architectural



The pavilion built less than 100 yards from the Cady-Boyer barn was not damaged by the fire.

ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

design work has yet to start and the presence of supply-chain issues that are plaguing the construction industry.

Canton’s Leisure Services Department staff have been compiling a wish list of amenities it thinks the community will want to see in the rebuilt structure.

“When the new building is designed, we’ll go down the list of amenities until the dollars run out and we have to stop,” he said.

The Cady-Boyer barn’s replacement will be a revenue-generator for the township thanks to the rental fees.

“When people drive by the park, we want them to see a building that fits in with the historic nature of this property,” Hohenberger said.

Hohenberger said a bronze plaque found in the rubble of the charred barn and a couple original beams will be displayed in some capacity in the new building.

“We’re working with our historic commission and stakeholders to collect their ideas,” he said.

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



Flames destroyed the Cady-Boyer Barn at Preservation Park this past May. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP



Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan begins her 2022 State of the City address March 24 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mayor

Continued from Page 1A

\$25 million for the relocation of its senior center. After the senior center is rebuilt near the Kirksey Recreation Center, the corner of Five and Farmington west of Livonia City Hall can be leveled and redeveloped for mixed use.

“Once the senior center is relocated adjacent to the rec center, the chance to redevelop the corner of Five Mile and Farmington offers huge economic benefits for our region,” Brosnan said. “Imagine we clear out the long-vacated courthouse, the functionally obsolete senior center and the little restaurant and office building on the corner.”

“This now creates an amazing opportunity for a unique, public-private investment totaling nearly \$200 million.”

She noted Livonia has already received \$3 million in federal funds thanks to Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-Waterford) and hopes to secure more funds from the state and Wayne

County.

Brosnan has previously said she doesn’t want to increase taxes to pay for Vision 21 projects.

She thinks redeveloping Five Mile and Farmington could transform the city and expressed a determination to make it happen.

“We could see multi-family residential, walkable retail space — the true beginning of a downtown for Livonia,” she said. “Make no mistake, this is a transformational project not just for our city, but our region.”

The mayor’s speech also highlighted increased staffing for the police department, local roads improvements, business openings and the city’s continual work to vaccinate residents against COVID-19.

People can watch Brosnan’s entire 2022 Livonia State of the City address on Livonia TV’s YouTube channel.

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

Obituaries

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Mollie Galate

Mollie Galate, 72 of Redford Mi



Cherished wife, loving mother, beloved daughter, fun-loving sister, and fierce friend. Mollie’s arduous battle with pancreas cancer ended on March 14, 2022. Mollie loved and nurtured animals of all kinds, she enjoyed hunting for just the right rock on the shores of Lake Superior and she spent every spare drop of time outdoors. Mollie always had a bag packed for her next grand adventure. Between trips, as they were trips and not vacations (“you can sleep at home”), she enjoyed lazy afternoons with her friends coloring intricate mandalas and countless hours of talking politics. Mollie loved getting lost in a good book and passed on her passion for reading by working as a full-time volunteer librarian at Roosevelt Elementary School, where she granted children access to books they may not have had access to otherwise. Mollie was also a volunteer turned employee at Seedlings Braille Books for Children where she learned to transcribe written words into braille and where she impacted the lives of countless braille readers and workers turned friends for over 25 years. Mollie quenched her thirst for history with other American Civil War enthusiasts in the Michigan Military Round Table for many adventure-filled years- she served as secretary and helped plan the trips to a plethora of battlefields across the United States.

Mollie is survived by her husband of 51 years Sam Galate, her daughter Courtney Galate and her son-in-law Adam Ostrowski. She is survived by her sisters Adele (Charles) Roney and Jeanine Courtney (Don) Clark. Mollie is predeceased by her parents Donald and Betty Courtney. Mollie also leaves behind countless friends whom she considered family. Mollie is and will forever be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Please join us for Mollie’s Mingle on Sunday, March 27 from 2-6pm at Harry J Wills Funeral Home in Livonia, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Seedlings Braille Books for Children or Pound Pals Downriver.





Donovan Richardson and his fiancée, Alicia Bonanno, talk about the 10-foot-tall skeleton lawn decoration on their lawn. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Decoration

Continued from Page 1A

from Claude Allison Park. They say everyone is welcome and enjoy seeing Skelly Boy be the source of so much fun.

"People are welcome to come and laugh and be loud," Bonanno said. "We love seeing people happy; it doesn't matter what time it is. We usually go back on our camera feed to see how much fun people are having."

Right now, Skelly is decked out with beer glasses, a red beard and a green top hat for St. Patrick's Day. On April 1, he'll don bunny ears and a bushy tail as a nod to the Easter holiday. The couple plans to change his look every month.

It costs roughly \$100 to decorate Skelly Boy every month, and the couple has been shocked by the décor, services and money visitors have offered without being asked. The couple doesn't ask for donations, but is looking for someone to get Skelly Boy on TikTok.

"We have people stop by all the time," Richardson said. "One lady was walking by today while I was out here fixing it and was like, 'I just want to let you know

"My number one thing is the joy it brings to the neighborhood. ... It's just amazing with all the great feedback we've gotten from it."

Alicia Bonanno

I drive by this every day. Keep it going; it's awesome."

People can keep up with updates by joining the Skelly Boy Fan Club group on Facebook, where the couple also holds a photo contest every month. Whether or not they want to take photos for the contest, everyone is welcome to come by and enjoy some spooky fun.

"My number one thing is the joy it brings to the neighborhood," Bonanno said. "It makes kids happy: People actually use it as an incentive for their kids if they're good in school. It's just amazing with all the great feedback we've gotten from it."

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



The Redford couple changes the skeleton's theme based on holidays and seasons. Here, Skelly Boy is decorated for St. Patrick's Day.

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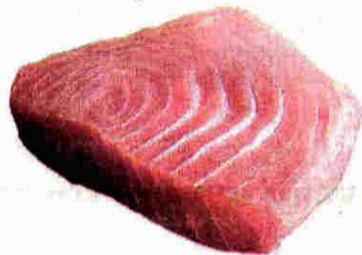


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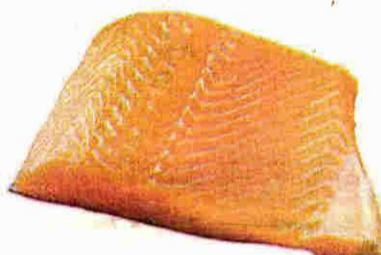


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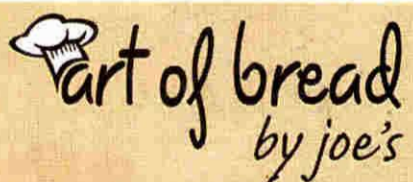
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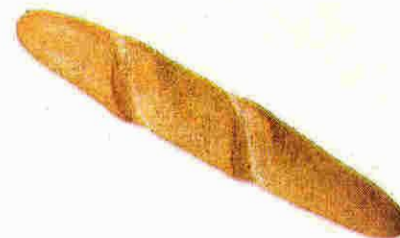
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SPORTS



Cooper Craggs hugs teammate Kevin Wendt after the Shamrocks dropped a Division 1 quarterfinal game to Grand Blanc. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hartland seniors 'made their mark' despite loss at state finals

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

EAST LANSING — They posed for one last picture with a wooden mitten, some players trying to force a smile, others not even bothering.

Taking team photos with championship trophies has been a regular ritual for Hartland's girls basketball players over the years, particularly for four four-year varsity players who helped put 15 pieces of hardware in the school's display case.

As the Eagles battled emotions following a 51-42 loss to West Bloomfield in the state Division 1 championship game, Queen's "We are the Champions" was playing over the sound system Saturday at the Breslin Center.

The song was cued up as a backdrop to the Lakers' championship celebration, but it was an appropriate send-off for Hartland's senior class.

Leah Lappin, Gracey Metz, Amanda Roach and Lauren Sollom were regulars from day one of their freshman year, helping Hartland post a 90-8 record and get at least to the state quarterfinals three times. They were denied a possible fourth quarterfinal appearance when state tournaments were shut down two years ago.

Champions, indeed. "It's a group you will miss," Hartland coach Don Palmer said. "They were kind of like the band of sisters, if you will. They hung out and they didn't care if one of them got 20 and the other got zero, as long as they won. It was that type of group that is rare in today's individualistic society. I'll miss them for that."

"But the other thing is they took us the furthest we've been. There's other teams who led the way and got us to quarterfinals and that type of thing. Tom Izzo always asks his kids, 'What are your footprints going to be in this program?' I know it's a coach's cliché, but they made their mark."

It's also increasingly rare for a group of players who grew up together in the same school district to reach the biggest stage in Division 1. The Eagles seniors began playing together in third grade in a Hartland rec league before moving on to travel ball the following year.

"It feels great to be up here and play with all these girls I started with," Hartland senior Leah Lappin said. "Obviously, it's disappointing, because we didn't play our best, but it was good to end with these girls."

The Eagles are only the second

See HARTLAND, Page 2B

CC went from last place to one of last teams standing

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only one word can describe this Detroit Catholic Central boys basketball team.

And that word is "last."

These Shamrocks finished last in their league.

But they were also one of the last eight teams alive during the last week of the postseason.

And this will be the last time they're looked at as an easy out in the playoffs for the foreseeable future.

Yeah, their roller coaster of a season finally came to an end March 22. CC salvaged a two-win effort in the Catholic League-Central by finishing as the CHSL tournament runner-ups and then putting together a magical run in the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoffs.

Grand Blanc, the defending Division 1 state champions, matched CC's effort all night. Whenever the Shamrocks went on a run, the Bobcats responded with one of their own, plus a couple more baskets.

No one is surprised Grand Blanc won the quarterfinal, 67-60, to earn a return trip to the Breslin Center.

See LAST, Page 3B



Grand Blanc's Tae Boyd tries to get a shot past Catholic Central.

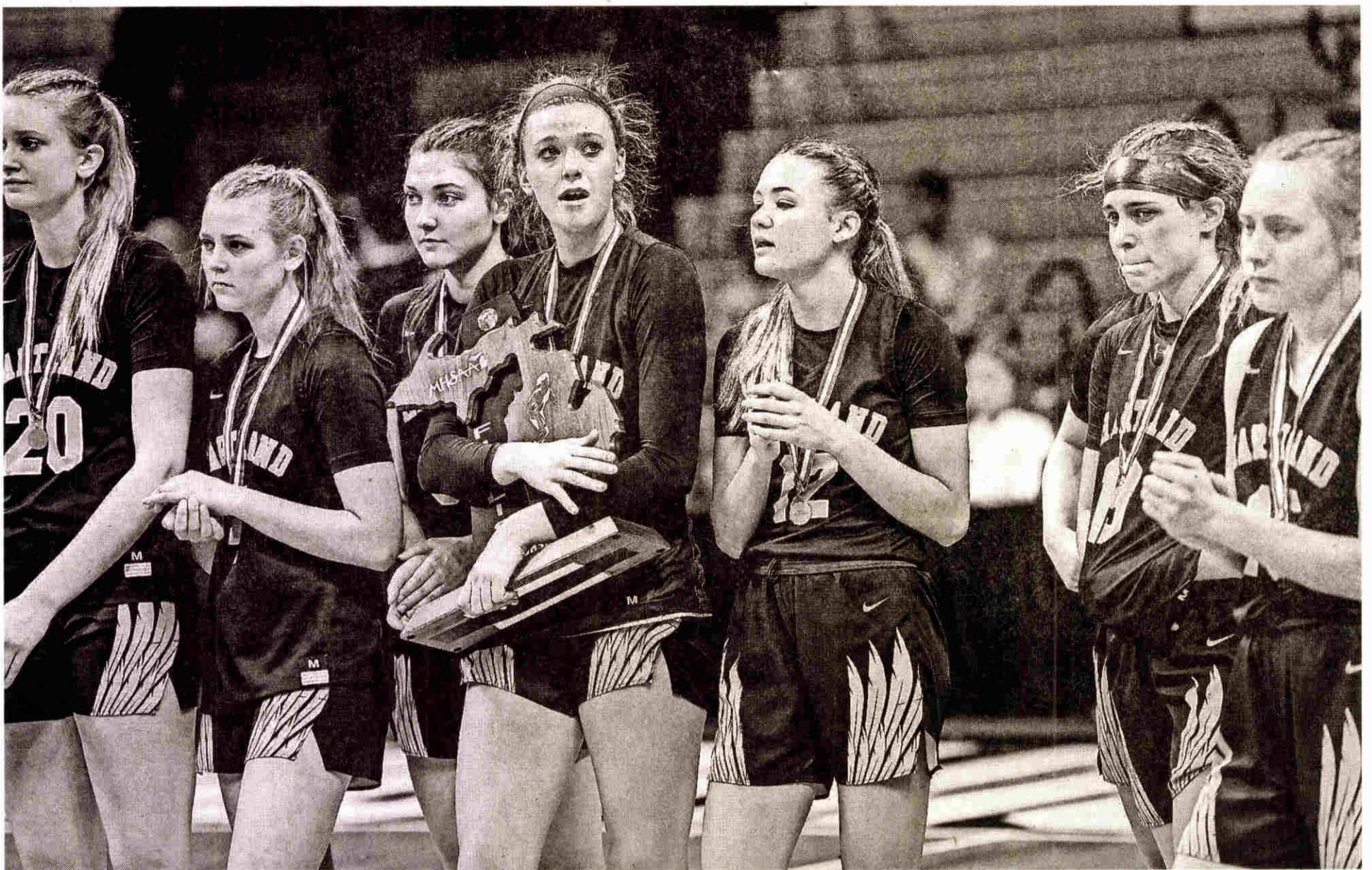
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Hartland's Lauren Sollom, center, holds the Division 1 state finalist trophy after losing to West Bloomfield on March 19. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Hartland

Continued from Page 1B

Livingston County girls team to play in a state championship game, matching the achievement of Howell's 1996 Class A runner-up squad. The county's only two boys state finalists were Howell teams way back in 1922 and 1927.

So, it could be a while before another group like this comes along.

The Eagles, based on all the tears following the game, weren't happy just to reach the state final.

But they went up against a West Bloomfield team that was the consensus No. 1 team for most of the season.

The Eagles shot 4-for-24 from 3-point range and were nearly out-rebounded on their defensive glass, getting 18 boards to the Lakers' 16.

"They just kept getting offensive rebound after offensive rebound," Palmer said. "A lot of times, it certainly wasn't one and done — it was three, four and done. That just adds up and that's demoralizing. That said, you've got to give them credit. The best team won today; I have no qualms about that."

Hartland never led, with the Lakers taking the lead for good by scoring seven straight points to break a 4-4 tie.

West Bloomfield built a 35-21 lead with 4:39 left in the third quarter. Every time Hartland seemed to get a little momentum after that, the Lakers would quickly answer.

A steal and layup by Roach and a 3-pointer by Lappin cut the lead to 35-26 with 3:32 left in the third, but West Bloomfield responded with the next five points lead 40-26 going into the fourth.

Down 42-28, Hartland got six straight points to make it a 42-34 game on a layup by Gracey Metz with 5:34 remaining, but Summer Davis hit a short jumper just 17 seconds later.

The Eagles (25-2) were within striking distance when a 3-pointer by Roach made it 46-39 with 3:59 left, but Hartland missed five consecutive shots while the Lakers remained scoreless from the 4:14 to the 35-second marks.

A layup by Sydney Hendrix with 35 seconds left pretty much put it away.

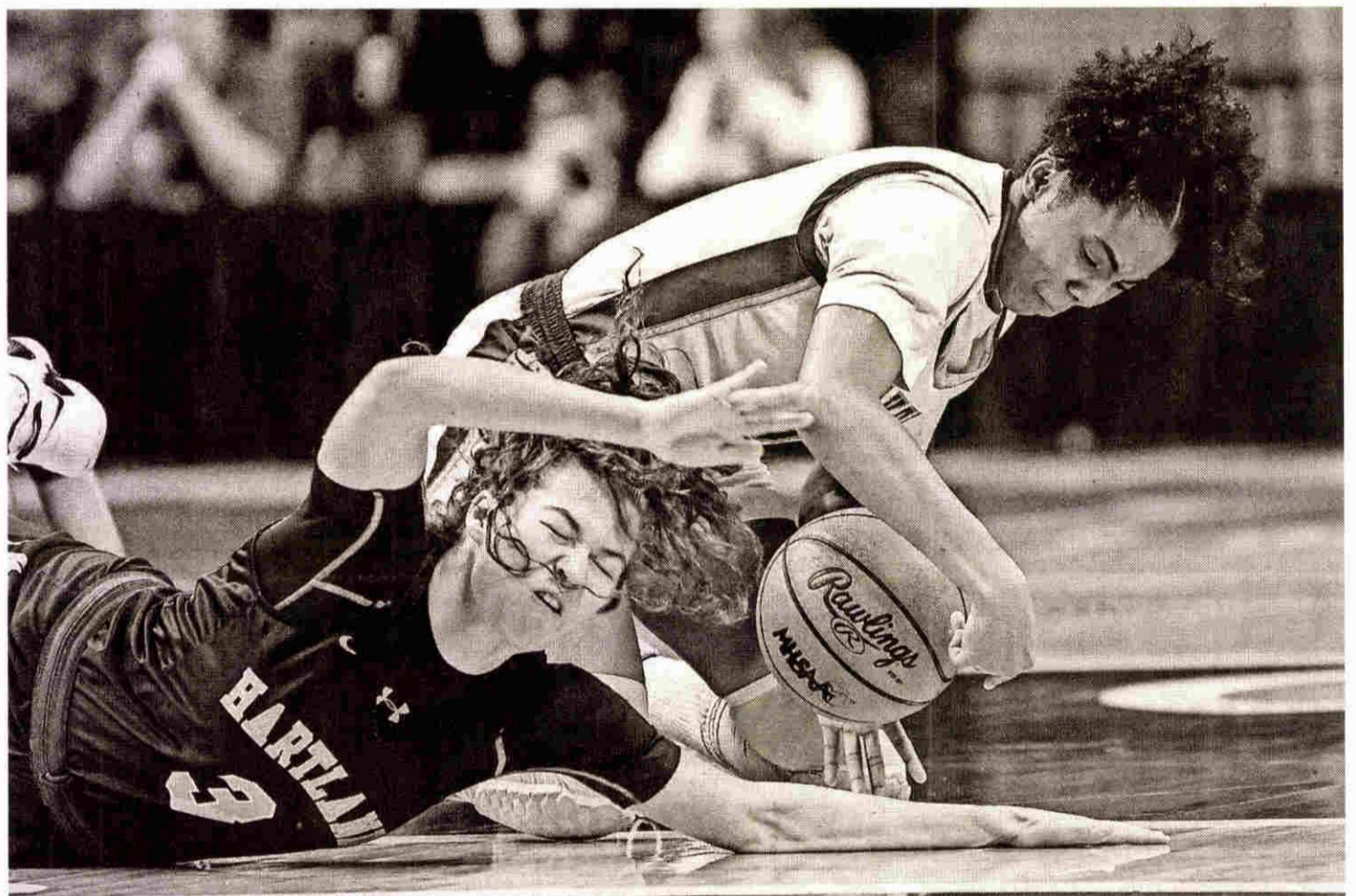
"I personally thought we still had a chance with 30 seconds left," said Roach, who scored half of Hartland's points with 21. "We fight back every single game. I'm just proud of everybody."

West Bloomfield won its first state championship, having reached the title game in 1989. The Lakers lost to Hartland in the regional semifinals in 2019 and 2020.

"We lost to Hartland my freshman year," said Hendrix, a junior. "I think I was crying for like three days straight, because I wanted it so bad, but we couldn't pull out the win. I've been wanting my get-back for a minute now."

Sophomore Indya Davis scored nine of her team-high 17 points in the first quarter and Hendrix finished with 12 for West Bloomfield.

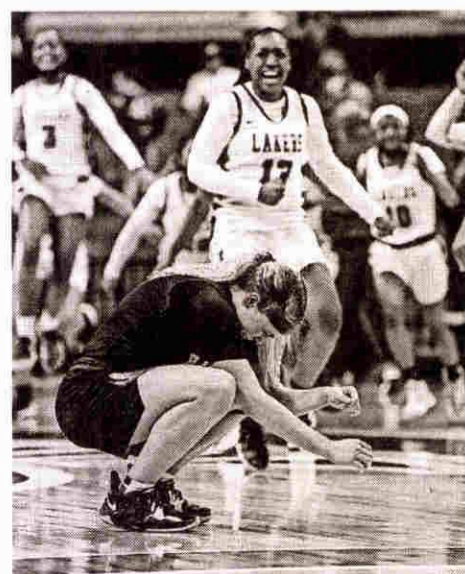
Metz and senior Morgan Seog of Hartland became the first Livingston County girls to play in state championship games in two different MHSAA sports. They were both on the Eagles' state championship soccer team last season.



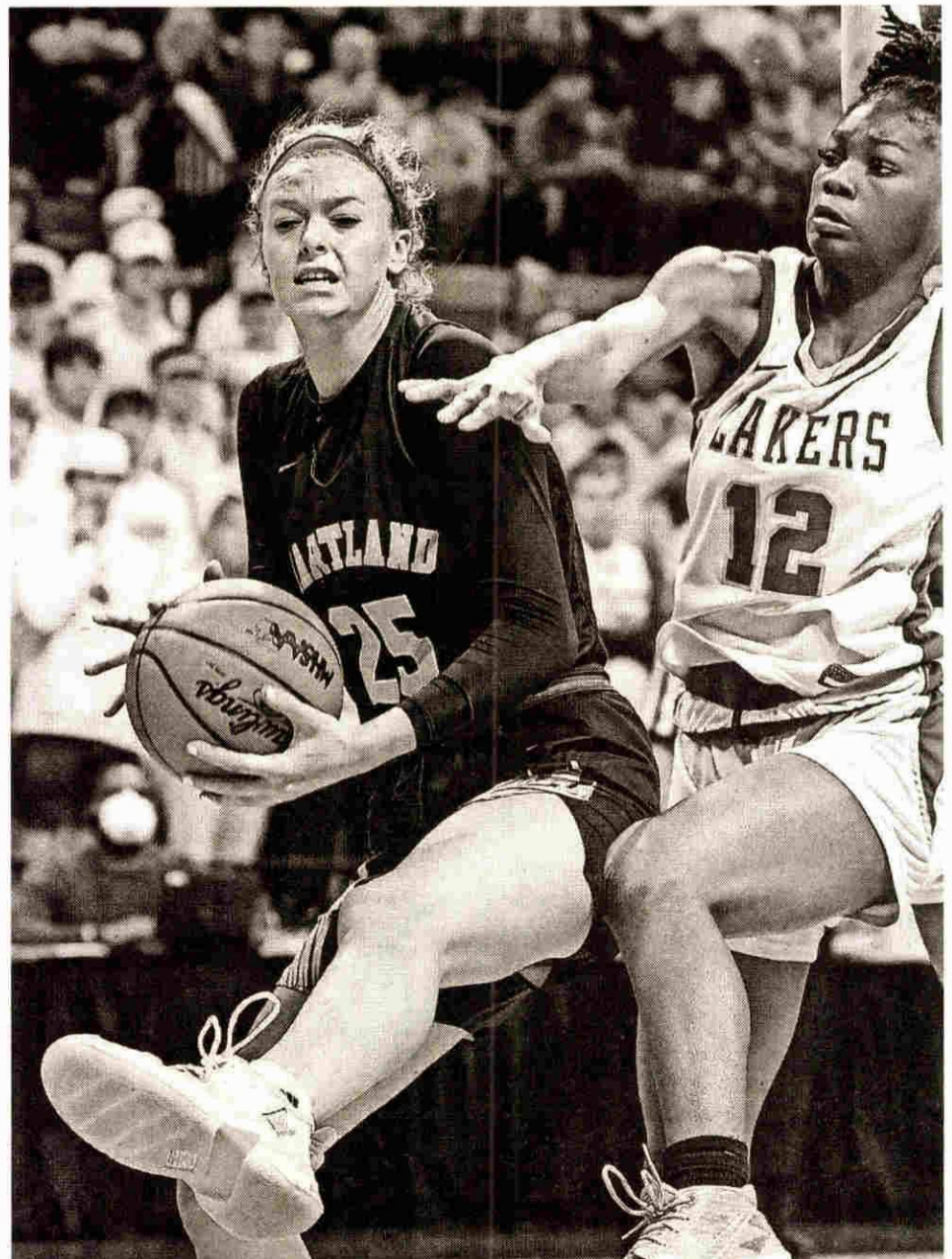
Hartland's Leah Lappin, left, and West Bloomfield's Indya Davis battle for the ball March 19 in the Division 1 state final at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. West Bloomfield won, 51-42.



Hartland's Amanda Roach, center, cuts to the basket against West Bloomfield during the fourth quarter.



Hartland's Olivia Linden, center, reacts after losing to West Bloomfield.



Hartland's Lauren Sollom, left, grabs a rebound over West Bloomfield's Zaneiya Batiste during the second quarter.

Last

Continued from Page 1B

But no one is also surprised CC made it this far in the postseason, which is wild to say out loud considering its recent history.

This year marked just the second time since 2012 the Shamrocks (16-9) didn't lose their opening-round district matchup. This year also marked the first time they won a regional championship since 2009.

Yeah, they were sent north for the district and avoided the usual suspects in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association on the west side of metro Detroit. But they took care of business against Walled Lake Western and Walled Lake Northern to finally win another district title.

And then they sprinted past Hartland, this year's KLAA champions, without an issue in the regional opener. They finally got the monkey off their back when they beat Clarkston in the regional final, which is impressive because the Wolves are from the Oakland Activities Association-Red, about the only local league outside of the Detroit Public School League-Division 1 that's as competitive as CC's Central division.

Coach Brandon Sinawi knows what it takes to have one of the last teams standing. He took Novi to the Class A final four at Michigan State University in 2018.

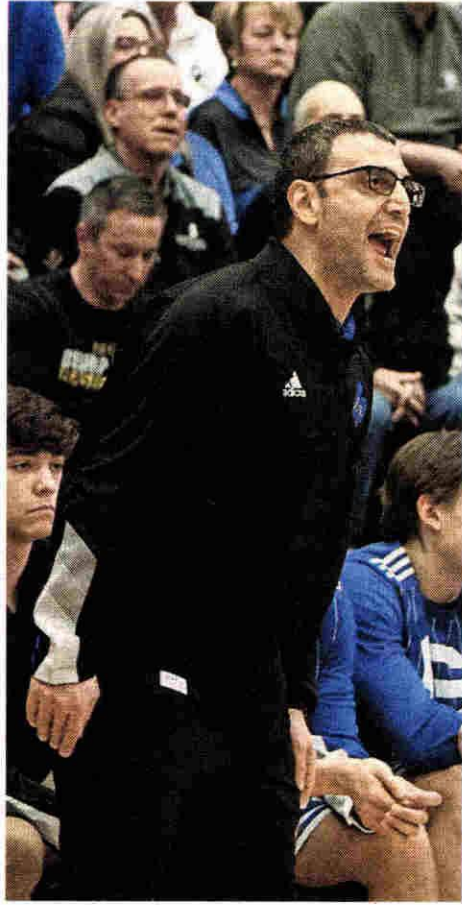
In his fourth season on nearby Wixom Road, the foundation at CC has finally been built. Winning big games and, heck, winning big championships, is now the standard.

And he knows this season will have lasting impressions on the program.

"We are so proud of our team and of our kids," Sinawi told Hometown Life late Tuesday night. "We played one of the toughest teams in the state and showed what grit, character and fight we have."

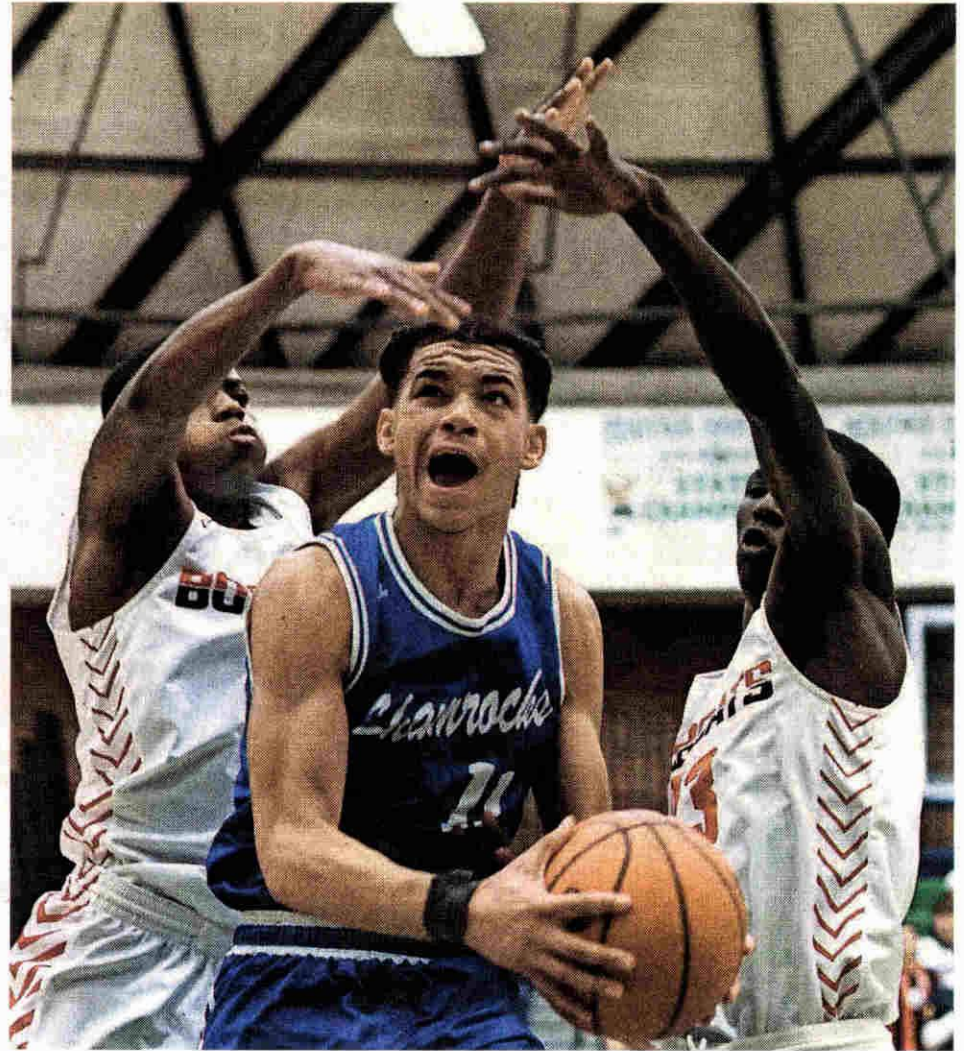
"We went toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the state, and we played one of our worst games, and we were never out of it."

"This team hasn't won a regional since 2019, and that's a long time, and it was an even longer time since they had won one before that. We're trying to establish the culture here, and I'm proud of our guys for doing that. There's no



CC coach Brandon Sinawi yells an offensive play to his team March 22 during the Division 1 quarterfinal against Grand Blanc at Saginaw Heritage High's gymnasium.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Catholic Central's Chas Lewless tries to scoop and score against Grand Blanc.

reason to regress from here, and there's no reason to say we'll take a step back. We're looking to really sustain this thing for a long time.

"We were one of only eight teams that got to practice yesterday. We are definitely not taking any steps backward."

Sinawi has his seniors to thank for establishing CC as a team on the rise.

Oakland University signee Cooper Craggs was one of the best players in the state. He rebounds viciously, shoots from range and can will a team to victory at the buzzer.

Kam Mayes, who is still somehow unsigned, had a knack for taking over games, and he never did it in the same fashion twice. His transition buckets started long runs. His free throws in the bonus iced victories. His drives to the hoop helped CC put together comeback wins.

And Kevin Wendt and Brady Hewer were just consistent players. Wendt deserved to be a starter thanks to a heads-up steal here or a quiet box out there, while Hewer was just stellar on defense all-around.

"The message to the seniors was thank you," Sinawi said. "I was so happy to coach these guys. People like you (fans and reporters) only get to see them inside the lines. I got to see them outside of the lines. They care about each other and their school, and they have hobbies and passions off the court."

"In the locker room afterward, it wasn't sad. It was somber. We had a lot to laugh about and a lot of smiles."

CC returns two of the best sophomores in the state in Chas Lewless, an absolute gamer at point guard, and TJ Nadeau, who found his confidence down the stretch of the season and made a name for himself both in the

paint and as a shooter.

As Sinawi said, the Shamrocks won't be taking a step back, especially with these two returning. And those two must credit this senior class for all the tutelage.

With 11.9 seconds left against Grand Blanc, and no chances of a comeback possible, for one last time, Sinawi subbed out Craggs, Mayes and Wendt and gave each of them hugs as a thank-you for turning the program around.

CC had the ball for the final possession. As the time ticked down to 0 seconds left, Lewless caught the ball behind the arc and buried a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Are you really surprised that was what happened on CC's last shot?

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



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Coach Don Palmer addresses his Hartland players prior to a 51-42 loss to West Bloomfield in the Division 1 state championship game March 19. The Eagles went 255-58 in 13 seasons under Palmer. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Former Milford basketball coach retires

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Patrolling the sideline at the Breslin Center, Don Palmer couldn't have imagined a better place to end his basketball coaching career.

Competing at the Breslin Center is the ultimate goal in Michigan high school basketball. Making it even sweeter for Palmer is the fact he's a Michigan State University graduate.

"To be able to be on that floor, not once but for two games, it was completely unreal," Palmer said. "The more the days go by, the more I just can't believe those kids got us there. They did a great job."

Coaching Hartland in the state Division 1 girls basketball championship game was the final act in a career that

began in 1974 when Palmer coached the freshman football team at Milford. He announced his retirement from coaching Tuesday after dropping hints during the state finals that, at age 71, he was getting too old for the grind.

"To be truthful, my wife and I determined before the season started this would be it," Palmer said. "Basically, I did 32 seasons of girls at Milford and I did 29 seasons of boys at Milford, then 13 more varsity seasons at Hartland. So, that's 74 seasons of varsity basketball. I think that's enough; that's enough."

Between the boys and girls basketball teams at Milford and Hartland, Palmer won 1,025 career games. He reached the regional championship game in 1979 and 2001 with Milford's girls and in 1988 with the boys, but his greatest success would come later in his

career when he arrived in Hartland.

Taking over a program that hadn't won a district championship since 1991, Palmer won 11 district championships and five regional titles in 13 seasons. The Eagles had a record of 255-58 during his tenure.

After four straight losses in the state quarterfinals, Hartland broke through to reach the final four for the first time this season. The Eagles made it to the state championship game, losing 51-42 to West Bloomfield.

"We were in the same league with Hartland," Palmer said. "The former coach I replaced, Brian Ives, I coached at Milford. He was a very, very good coach. He had to leave because of a work conflict. The year he had to leave, they were 16-6. We could see it coming. The varsity at Milford was still beating them by one

or two points, but our lower levels were just getting murdered.

"When I got the job and my staff came with me, I said, 'There'll be no excuses for not winning, because there's people here.' I didn't realize it would be about 12 years of people. We knew it was coming."

Palmer coached against Brighton and Howell during his Milford days, but those rivalries were amped up when he came to Hartland. Most of the losses either team had in a given season were against each other.

"I'll miss the competition," he said. "I competed against great coaches — Timmy (Olszewski) and Paul Ash and his assistant, Dan Christner, and the Piephos, Lee and Jason. Those were all great

See COACH, Page 5B

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Coach

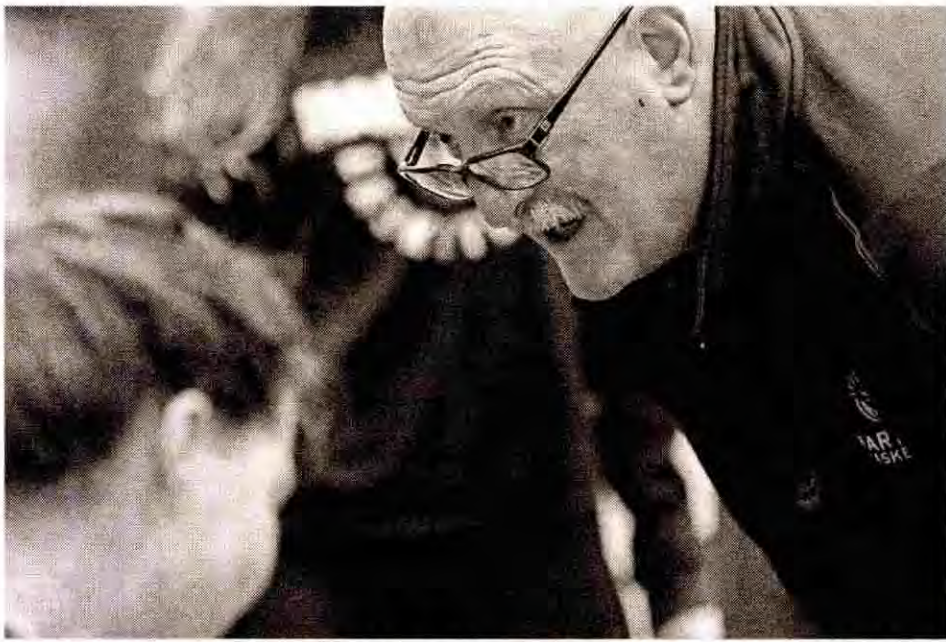
Continued from Page 4B

coaches. We had great games. It never got personal. It was just a matter of respect. I'll miss that the most. I would talk to those guys and learn basketball and it was just pleasant. It wasn't hostile."

Palmer and rival coaches would often sit down and chat during pregame warmups. Olszewski will miss those moments now that Palmer has retired.

"It's always a good rivalry," Olszewski said. "He and I can talk before and after games. We can talk about anything and everything. There's no animosity, ever. It's competitiveness. It's doing what we both love, working with kids and coaching. As far as I'm concerned, he's an ambassador. Hartland's going to miss him dearly. I just hope he can relax now and not be all up in arms when basketball season comes, because he's done it so long."

Hartland athletic director JD Wheeler had an inkling his coach might retire after this season, but knew Palmer



Don Palmer won 11 districts and five regionals in 13 seasons as Hartland's girls basketball coach. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

wasn't the type to upstage the players' season.

"He knew there was a job to do with this team," Wheeler said. "He knew he

had these seniors who earned every ounce of everything he could give them this season. He wanted to keep the focus on them. That's the type of guy he is.

Don's not a 'Hey, look at me' type of coach at all. It's all about the girls, all about the team. His retirement wasn't anything he wanted anyone focusing on, because he wanted the girls to go as far as they possibly could."

Palmer retired as a teacher at Milford after his first season coaching at Hartland, but couldn't give up basketball until now.

"It just became a lifestyle," Palmer said. "For so many years, you did the girls, then went to the boys. Sometimes it was good, sometimes it was bad, but it was just when you get some of those wins or special nights that it's all worthwhile. If you get a kid you have so much respect for, it makes it all worthwhile. I enjoyed teaching, and maybe I continued coaching to get my time with kids, because I do enjoy that."

That will change now that he's not coaching anymore.

"I'll continue to play some bad golf," he said. "My wife likes to travel; I'm kind of a homebody. We've got a daughter in Seattle, so we'll visit her more often. I would like to go to more college games than I go to. We've got some kids here and there who I'd like to see play."

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 20, 2022 The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for April 20, 2022, has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items...

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL ELECTION The City of Wayne will hold an election on November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing one councilperson each from Wards 4, 5, & 6 to the City Council. A nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity with Campaign Finance Act Compliance Statement, must be filed with the City Clerk in order for a name to be placed on the ballot...

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE 2022 GENERAL NOTICE REGARDING WEED CONTROL No person who is the owner, occupant or lessee of real property in the City of Wayne, shall allow grass, weeds, vines or other vegetation to grow to an average height of greater than six (6) inches on his or her property. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of Chapter 1459 of the Codified Ordinance of Wayne shall be liable to the imposition of penalties and expenses incurred by the City in declaring the property a nuisance and abating all nuisance conditions created by the overgrowth...

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS The Charter Township of Redford expects to receive an estimated \$925,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds during the 2022 federal fiscal year. It is anticipated that the Township will also receive an estimated \$300,000 in Program Income funds. Redford Township has a projected CDBG budget of \$1,225,000 during Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Said recommendations will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (D-HUD)...

CCITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 6 3/21/22 Presiding: President Hart Present: Godbout, Herzberg, Londeau, McDermott, Rutkowski, Sampey 59: Minutes of regular meeting held 3/7/22. - Bid for gym painting to Custom Creations Painting; amt. \$24,900. - Service proposal w/CivicPlus LLC for webhosting services; amt. \$16,534.66. - Purchase of 2022 Ford Lightning for PD; amt. \$54,669. - Adopt LD Resolution, PD #049-05-0981-301, sw corner of Ford & Newburgh - Golf Course Fee Schedule Changes. - Proclaimed April 2022 "Autism Awareness" month. 61: Appr. request for immediate closed study session re. Hickman v. City claim/settlement. 63: App. recommendation to resolve Hickman lawsuit. 64: Purchase agreement w/Lulu's Investments for PID #56-030-00-008 in the amount of \$40,000. 65: Appr. Letter of Intent from CP Land Holding LLC to purchase former Hawthorne Valley property in the amount of \$750,000. 67: Set 4/18/22 as PH date for 2022-23 CDBG Annual Plan. 68: Site Plan for prop. Dairy Queen w/drive-thru, 37601 Ford Rd. 69: Site Plan for prop. Conversion of Vacant Church to Condo Development, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail w/contingencies. 70: Appr. checklist: \$2,984,561.90. James Hart Council President Richard LeBlanc City Clerk

hometownlife.com

Abandoned Vehicle Auction Friday, April 8, 2022 @ 12 noon Sparks Auto and Towing, 34043 Ford Road, Westland MI 48185 Table with columns: Year, Make, VIN

CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 25, 2022 7:00 PM NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearings at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., regarding the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Table with columns: FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, FY 2025-26, FY 2026-27, TOTAL

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