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The Rambler senior scored 15 points in the regional final against Standish Sterling and 14 in Boyne City's quarterfinal contest against Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

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Section B

Thursday, March 22, 2018

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RAMBLERS RELY ON DEPTH TO WIN FIRST CLASS B REGIONAL CROWN

**BOYNE CITY 56,
STANDISH STERLING 52**

GAYLORD — Moving on..... That seems to be a regular theme for the Boyne City boys basketball team once the MHSAA tournament begins.

Having won their fourth straight district title this year, the Ramblers are no stranger to winning big games. On March 12, they won their first Class B regional contest, and on March 14th, they claimed their first ever Class B regional title.

The win, however did not come easy for Boyne as they battled back and forth with the Panthers all night and found themselves in foul trouble early on in the contest and in deep foul trouble midway through the second quarter and entire second half.

The Ramblers would hold a slim 12-9 advantage after one quarter of play, before carrying that over to a 23-19 lead at the half, as the team continued to battle foul trouble of starters, Eric Carson, Mason Gardner, Dylon Williams. Boyne was also limited to the services of starter Max Vondra, who sustained an injury midway through the first half and did not return.

"I'm really happy for the guys because they've worked so hard all year," said Rambler coach Nick Redman. "To overcome injuries and different things and the way they've stuck together and



Nick Redman with the Class B regional championship trophy. (PHOTO BY ROB DEFORGE/RDSPOORTSPHOTO.COM)

kept fighting, they truly deserved this. They earned it."

With a majority of the starters in foul trouble all night, coach Redman had to go to the bench early and often as he turned to Jacob Ager, Trevor King, Jacob Robinson and Pete Calcaterra on a regular basis.

"That's huge for us," Redman said. "Our bench has always been huge to our success.

Once the second half began, a pumped up Carson caught fire, hitting a pair of triples and a four-foot jumper to push the Rambler lead to nine midway through the third.

Boyne would carry a 41-35 lead into the final eight minutes of regulation as the Ramblers and Panthers would take turns heading to



Mason Gardner (3) of Boyne City, grabs a rebound during the Ramblers Class B regional final contest. (PHOTO BY ROB DEFORGE/RDSPOORTSPHOTO.COM)

the free throw line, where BC would connect on 11-of-16 from the charity stripe to seal the contest, as the senior duo of Carson and Gardner combined to go a perfect 8-for-8 during that span.

Standish-Sterling would

not go away though and would trim the Rambler lead to 54-52 with just over 12 seconds to play, but a pair of Carson free throws would all but put the game away as the Panthers would miss a three pointer on their next possession

and Gardner would grab the rebound and toss the ball high down the court with three ticks left on the clock, and as the ball bounced off the floor, the horn sounded, setting off a Rambler celebration.

Carson would finish with 16 points, while Gardner added 13 for the winners.

With the win, Boyne advances to the quarterfinals, where they will take on Grand Rapids Catholic Central.



Eric Carson is all smiles he proudly hangs onto the Class B regional trophy. (PHOTO BY ROB DEFORGE/RDSPOORTSPHOTO.COM)



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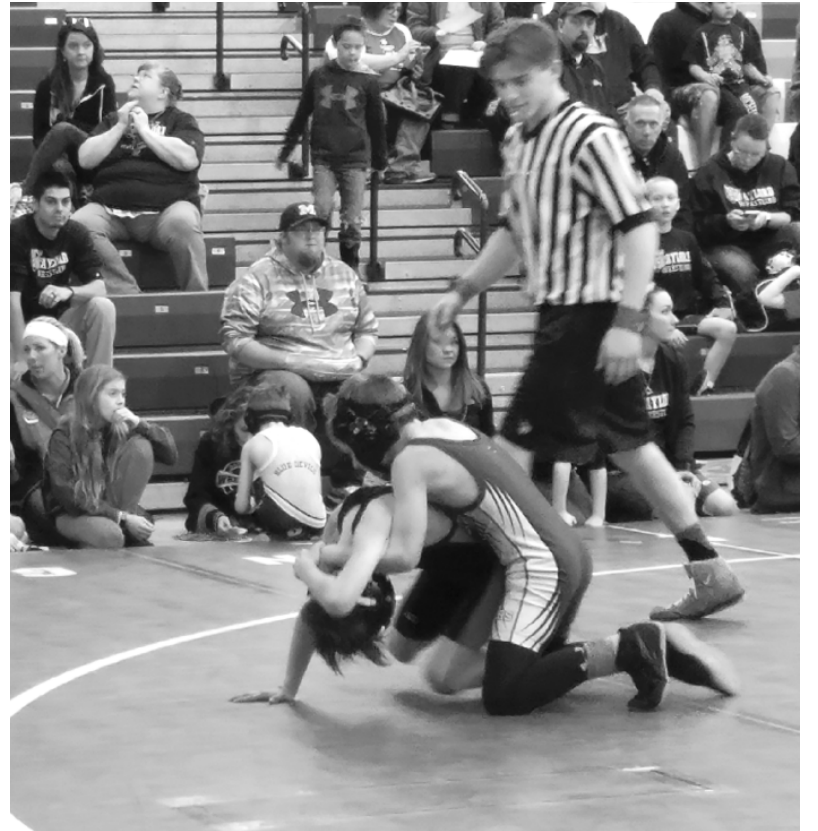
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Sports

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Rayder Elementary/Middle School Wrestling team wraps up season



Jacob Roberts(l) and Colin Jess(r) put in work during their respective wrestling matches over the past weekend. (COURTESY PHOTOS)

CHARLEVOIX — The Rayder Elementary/Middle School Wrestling team finished up a fantastic season this past Saturday, March 17.

According to coach Don Jess, the teams hard work in practice over the last six weeks really showed, with several wrestlers improving

with every match.

Results:
1st place: Collin Jess, Zach Cadwell, Autin Rayl, Ian Moran, Benjen Sheaffer,

Brady Warchol, Brady Jess, Logan Wilks, Gage Noirot and Jamie Parrish.

2nd place: Maggie Sheaffer, Greyson Warchol, Dax-

ton McCleese, Jevon Welzein, Sawyer Blaszczyk, Connor Ortiz, Justin Whistler, Landon Swanson and Camden Carey.

3rd place: Raigan Swadling, Brendan Bonar, Ronin Reiter and Cameron Voorheis.

OUTDOORS

Michigan's first female conservation officer

Huldah Neal nominated for induction to Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY — By all accounts, Huldah Neal was no one to fool with.

That's not to say she wasn't liked or respected throughout Grand Traverse County, Michigan, which she called home for 70 years. In fact, her 1931 obituary mourned her loss, describing Neal as a "loved pioneer" who was "highly esteemed by a large circle of friends."

But, Neal was the epitome of what contemporary newspapers referred to as "the new woman" of the 1890s. Civic-minded and socially engaged, Neal had little patience when problems were ignored and allowed to fester. So, while it probably raised eyebrows outside of Grand Traverse County, those who knew her likely weren't surprised when she grew frustrated by the rampant poaching of fish and game in her area and requested an appointment as a game warden, so she could handle the problem herself. With the stroke of a pen by state game warden and future Michigan governor Chase Osborn in 1897, Neal became a deputy game warden for Grand Traverse County, cementing her little-known legacy as the first female conservation officer in the United States, according to press reports of the day. To recognize her contributions, and mark the observance of March as Women's History Month, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division is nominating Neal for induction to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. A panel of judges will decide if she merits induction later this year. "Huldah Neal was a trailblazer, literally and figuratively," said Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division chief. "She was fearless in the way



Huldah Neal led an interesting life and is shown here in her later years. As the nation's first female game warden, Neal patrolled Grand Traverse County on foot, horseback and in a rowboat to enforce the state's fish and game laws. She not only had an immediate impact on the rampant poaching that plagued her area, but also opened the door for future generations of women to serve as conservation officers. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY)

she performed her dangerous duties, and in how she broke free from typical roles that society forced on women at that time. She paved the way for new generations of women who proudly serve as guardians of our natural resources. Huldah Neal left a positive legacy for our state. On behalf of all conservation officers, it's a privilege to nominate her for induction to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame." Born circa 1855 in Ohio, Huldah Jane Valleau moved with her family to Grand Traverse County in 1861. She married Warren Neal in 1872 and the couple raised two children on their farm near Long Lake. She shared her husband's love of the outdoors, a passion that didn't go unrecognized by newspapers reporting on her appointment as deputy game warden.

"Mrs. Neal is a woman of determined character, and has excellent qualifications for such a position," the Traverse City Record-Eagle

wrote on June 6, 1897. "She is an active woods-woman, a good shot, and can give cards and spades to any man in the manipulation of the fishing rod. Besides being an expert in these respects Mrs. Neal is an ardent supporter of the state game and fish laws, and takes much interest in their preservation. The appointment is a good one, and Mrs. Neal will wage an aggressive campaign against violators of the law; and offenders in her locality will find that Mrs. Neal will stand no fooling."

Neal's appointment generated statewide and national attention, including an extensive write-up in the Aug. 15, 1897, Philadelphia Inquirer. After all, "The duties of game warden are of such a nature that many men would not care to undertake to fill the position," the Inquirer said.

News coverage in that era was quite a departure from the social and journalistic norms of today, as evidenced by descriptions of Neal as a

"plucky little woman" and the expressed amazement that she "wears pantaloons just like those of men and can handle the rifle like a veteran marksman."

Press accounts also credited Neal for having an immediate impact on fish and game law violations. "She is energetic and watchful, and already poaching has begun to diminish. The worst gang of law violators have ceased operations," the Jackson, Michigan, newspaper reported in March 1898.

Hagler said Neal faced many of the same risks that confront today's DNR conservation officers.

"Patrolling remote areas without nearby backup assistance always has been an occupational hazard of being a conservation officer," Hagler said. "It's still true today, even with modern vehicles, weapons and communications. The fact that Huldah Neal carried out her duties on horseback, in rowboats and without communications equipment makes her accomplishments even more impressive."

In addition to her game warden's duties, Neal was a community fixture, even delivering mail three times a week to Traverse City. Today, after leading a productive life that bettered her community and raised the ceiling for other women, Neal rests with her husband in Long Lake Township's Linwood Cemetery.

It would be 80 years before Michigan hired its next female conservation officer: Marquette native Kathryn Bezotte became Michigan's first of the modern era when she began her duties in 1977. Today, nearly 20 women patrol Michigan's woods and waters as conservation officers.

Neal and Bezotte were pioneers in their own right. They opened the door for subsequent generations of women who have served their state by earning the right to wear the badge and uniform of a Michigan conservation officer.

The DNR is an equal opportunity employer. Hagler encourages men and women interested in becoming conservation officers to follow the detailed guide to the application process at www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers.

HUNTING

Reminder: New hunter sign up for safety classes



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources encourages new hunters to sign up now for a safety course. Hunter education classes are conducted year-round but usually are filled to capacity from August through October. (COURTESY OF DNR)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers remind new hunters that it's not too early to sign up for safety classes.

All first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, must successfully complete a hunter safety course.

"Michigan offers quality hunting opportunities year-round," said Cpl. Dave Painter of the DNR's Recreational Safety, Education and Enforcement Section. "First-time hunters shouldn't wait until the last minute to sign up for a safety course, especially if they are considering a springtime hunt. The first step in ensuring an enjoyable hunting experience is to know how to do it safely and legally. Classes tend to fill up in the fall, so now's the time to learn."

Painter said that even new hunters who are outside of the age requirement should consider taking a class. Hunter education courses teach responsibility, ethics, firearm safety, wildlife conservation and identification, game care, survival and first aid. Courses are offered across the state throughout the year, though most are conducted from August through October.

"It's also helpful when an experienced hunter takes a class with a new hunter," Painter said. "This is a great way to show support and mentor the new hunter into Michigan's rich hunting tradition."

A course typically is

comprised of two to five sessions with a total class time of 10 to 12 hours. Classes usually are conducted at outdoor clubs, schools, police stations and camps. In addition to traditional classroom courses, home-study and online courses — which use a self-paced method followed by a field day of material review and testing — are available.

Students who elect to take an online or home-study course should contact an instructor prior to the course to ensure availability of the required field day. Students must successfully complete both the online or home-study course and the field day to earn their hunter education safety certificate.

Online vendors are fee-based and there may be a minimal charge for classes and field days.

Hunter education is a partnership between the DNR Law Enforcement Division and more than 2,500 volunteer instructors. The program is funded through federal Pittman-Robertson Act taxes on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment.

In addition to taking a safety course, Painter encourages all hunters to review the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest for other essential information before taking to the field.

Visit michigan.gov/huntereducation for more information on hunter education and to find a class near you.

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Sports

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Ramblers fall to Cougars in quarters



Boyne City's Dylan Williams jumps against Grand Rapids Catholic Central's Marcus Bingham Jr. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)

GRAND RAPIDS CATHOLIC CENTRAL 65, BOYNE CITY 43

The Boyne City basketball season came to an end against Grand Rapids Catholic Central on March 20, falling 65-43.

The Ramblers battled tough through the first quarter and a half, but a long scoring drought the remaining portion of the second quarter was enough to create the room needed for the Cougars as they pulled away and went up 15 at the half, 34-19.

"We knew they would block some shots, but we had to keep attaching and I think we got away from that during the second quarter, we got into a little foul trouble and had to go to the bench and were un-

able to score," Rambler coach Nick Redman said. "Their offensive rebounding and transition was the difference in the game."

Once the game got underway, the Cougars went up early and looked to put the game away, but the Ramblers kept battling, and trailed by four as the clock ticked away, but a Dylan Williams triple at the buzzer would pull Boyne to within one at the end of the quarter 18-17.

Cougar guard, Darrell Belcher would turn up his game, scoring from all over the court, beyond the arc and above the rim, scoring 10 of his game-high 21 points in the first 16 minutes of play.

"I thought in the second

half we played pretty equal," Redman added. "The second quarter we played a little tentative."

"I couldn't be more proud of them, they work hard, gave it everything they had, and couldn't be more proud of them."

A strong third quarter by Rambler senior, Mason Gardner, where he scored eight of his 14 points, to keep Boyne within striking distance.

Williams would lead Boyne with 15 points, while Eric Carson added six and Trevor King five.

The Ramblers graduate five seniors, Carson, Gardner, Williams, Jacob Robinson and Jacob Ager.



Rambler senior, Mason Gardner drives string towards the basket early in the contest against the Cougars. (PHOTO BY CHRIS FIEL)

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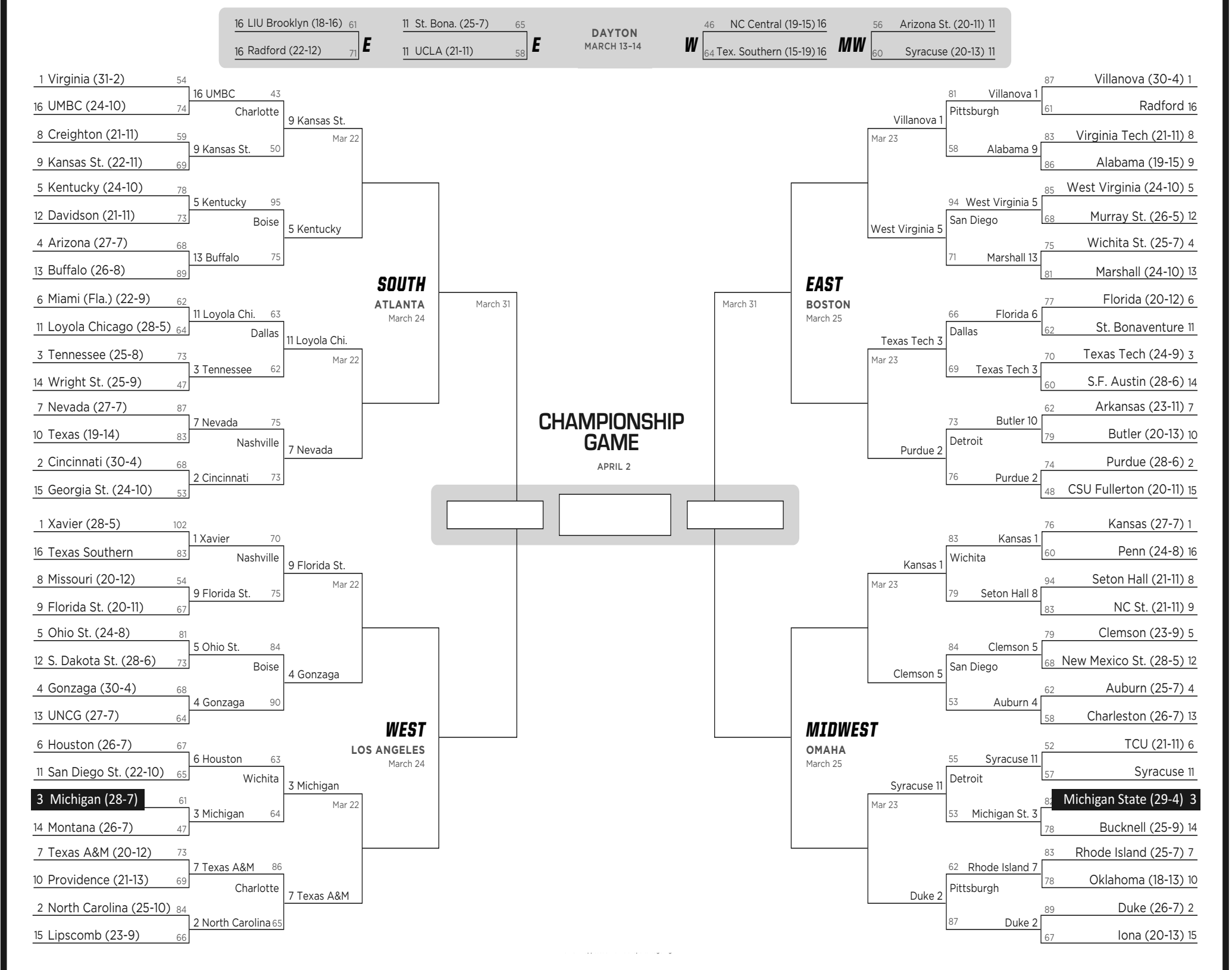
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2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LS EXT. \$19,990. All-weather floor mats, Tonneau cover, bedliner, Towing. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585
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2017 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT. 4x4, club cab, hands free phone, hitch, bedliner. Only 25 K. As low as \$299 a Month. Rivertown Auto Group, 989 VFW Road, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.RiverAuto.net
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2018 Ford F-150 XL. 4WD, tow pkg, bedliner, 10-Speed, EcoBoost 2.7L V6, Twin Turbocharged. MSRP \$40,965. Feeny Price \$34,231. Stock 13157
2018 Ford F-150 XLT. 4WD, Ecoboost twin turbo, tow pkg, rear camera, Voice-Activated Touchscreen Navigation, remote start. MSRP \$48,400. Feeny Price \$44,058. Stock 12974

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Having lived across the U.S. and abroad, Karen Colburn settled in Northern Michigan permanently with her husband, George, a Michigan native, in 1997. She also has the experience of being a landlord and actively conducting a vacation home rental service. Her knowledge of the many facets of real estate has been especially valuable since becoming a Realtor 2006. As a United Airlines Flight Attendant for 39 years, she also well understands the importance of customer service in business activities. Karen has two sons, Trent and Evan, who live in Loveland, Colorado with their families. Community service: Board member, Charlevoix Area Humane Society (www.CAHS.com) Steering Committee, Charlevoix County Road Commission Board member, Springbrook Hills Property Owners Association.

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