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ON GUARD FOR 191 YEARS

Detroit Free Press

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 | FREEP.COM

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SPORTS, 1B

Kirk Gibson still fighting like hell

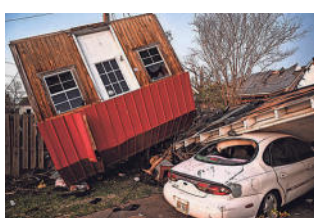
Former Tiger slugger helping others despite disease.



METRO, 4A

Costume parade welcomes spring

Marche du Nain Rouge is Detroit's answer to Mardi Gras.



NATION+WORLD, 11A

Aid pours in after deadly tornado

At least 25 killed by twister in Mississippi's Delta.

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Weather

High 47° | Low 28°
Snow, rain. Forecast, 2A

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Bobbie Hirsch, 19, of Huntington Woods, poses in his fencing uniform Wednesday in Detroit. Hirsch is a transgender male athlete on the Wayne State fencing team. He has employed new strategies on the men's team, which is faster and more physical. PHOTOS BY MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Everything clicks for transgender fencer

Courage for switch to men's team met with support

Christina Hall Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Bobbie Hirsch advances across the hardwood gym floor, lunging forward with a foil in his right hand to touch his opponent in an attempt to score.

In pairs next to him, fellow members of Wayne State University men's fencing team practice, just a day before a couple of them leave for the NCAA championships in North Carolina.

Hirsch has been fencing for eight years, beginning when he was 11 years old.

But competition for the transgender male athlete has been different this school year.

It's felt different. "It was awesome," Hirsch said of his first regional competition in September. "Everything kind of like clicked ... I was able to put in, like, so much more effort. ... It just felt right. It felt more like, 'OK, this is where I'm supposed to be.' Like this feels more natural."

The 19-year-old from Huntington Woods fenced on Wayne State's women's team as a freshman last school year. This school year, the sophomore is fencing on the university's men's team.

Competition "was so clearly lightened up and happier and joyful," his mother, Lauren Hirsch, recalled of her son's first competition on the men's team. "And that has continued throughout the season. It brings me joy to see you happy and comfortable just by making this switch from women's to men's."

See HIRSCH, Page 9A



Bobbie Hirsch pinches the cheeks of his mother, Lauren Hirsch. He joked about his mother's pride-themed purse that she insisted on buying to have something that screamed "ally."

"It just felt right. It felt more like, 'OK, this is where I'm supposed to be.' Like this feels more natural."

Bobbie Hirsch
Transgender male athlete, speaking of competing on the Wayne State University men's fencing team

UAW head brings new 'militant' vision

Memo suggests 'radical change' under Fain

Jamie L. LaReau and Eric D. Lawrence
Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Inside the upper echelon of General Motors there is palpable concern over upcoming contract talks with the UAW - and with good reason.

Gone is union President Ray Curry, with whom GM CEO Mary Barra said she had a good working relationship, and in steps a renegade - Shawn Fain. Fain is an unknown for many executives at the Detroit Three automakers and judging from his platform, the relationship won't be as easygoing. For example, in a January interview he alluded to Stellantis as being "a bully."



"I don't think Stellantis respects Fain us at all, and I think they need to respect the UAW. They've made way too many decisions (where) they don't involve our leadership. They move and then they let us know later and that's not acceptable," Fain, 54, told the Free Press then.

Fain narrowly won the top UAW job Saturday,

See NEGOTIATIONS, Page 6A

Storied career faces uncertain future after stroke

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Geoffrey Fieger has for decades been the most famous attorney in Michigan, a superlawyer whose celebrity blossomed from litigating high-profile cases - not just from appearing in TV or billboard ads.

He is 72 and at a point when many successful attorneys start to at least consider retirement, although Fieger told an interviewer several years ago that he was exercising a lot and felt in great health, aside from an arthritic hip, and could not imagine retiring "because retiring for me would be like retiring from life."



But after suffering a stroke early this month following what was described as an elective procedure for a minor heart arrhythmia, there is now

See FIEGER, Page 3A

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