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THE ANN ARBOR RECORD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Milford skiing returns to the slopes

SPORTS, 1B

Northville Social District finds success

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Possibly the most-embraced "road closed" signs in southeast Michigan are the ones that stop traffic from entering Northville's downtown Social District near the intersection of Center and Main streets.

The proof was in the smiles of the diners — joyfully consuming their meals in 30-something-degree weather, warmed by propane-fed flames — as they sat smack-dab in the middle of Main Street on one recent evening.

"This is great. We're able to eat outdoors in December and help the restaurants," said Dawn Jezowski, who drove

from Linwood with her husband, Dan, and daughter, Rachel, to shop and dine in downtown Northville on Dec. 21. "We heard about the streets being closed (for dining and retail) and decided to stop and see what's going on. I'm glad we did."

"I'm getting heat from the flame and these (Brown Dog Barlor & Restaurant)

tacos," Dan Jezowski added, smiling between bites.

Spurred by guidelines brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Northville's downtown street closures have added big-city hipness to the quaint city, business owners agreed.

See SOCIAL DISTRICT, Page 4A



Emergency responders work outside a New Hudson home Jan. 2 after a small plane crashed into it. COURTESY OF JOHN BRADY

Plane crashes into Lyon Township home, killing 3

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A small plane crashed into a Lyon Township home Saturday, killing the pilot and two passengers.

Lyon Township firefighters said the crash caused the Dakota Drive home in the Orchards of Lyon subdivision to erupt in flames.

Neighbors began calling 911 soon after the crash happened at 4 p.m. and helped the family escape from the home, which caught fire and suffered extensive damage from the crash. The plane's wreckage was sticking out of the house Saturday evening. A neighboring house was also damaged in the crash.

The home's residents escaped safely, but lost their pet cat, Lyon Township

Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak said. Firefighters considered the flames under control within 90 minutes of arriving to fight the fire. To Van Sparrentak, the home seemed severely damaged but not a total loss.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation

See PLANE CRASH, Page 6A

CC grad, parents die in Lyon plane crash

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 2020 Detroit Catholic Central graduate and his parents have been identified as the three individuals killed in a Lyon Township plane crash Jan. 2.

Dawson Compo and his parents, David and Michele, were only a half-mile from their destination of Oakland Southwest Airport when their small plane crashed into a home in the 57000

block of Dakota in the Orchards of Lyon subdivision.

The occupants of the home escaped uninjured as the home and plane burst into flames.

Detroit Catholic Central posted a message to Facebook on Sunday morning noting its deep sadness over the loss of the Compos.

According to the post, Dawson Com-



Compo

po had participated in cross country and band at DCC and had a bright future.

"As a member of the Class of 2020, Dawson helped set an incredible example of how to persevere through challenging times, and we will continue to lean on our faith and each other for support in this tragic time," the post read.

See GRAD, Page 6A

School districts' learning plans vary

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When will K-12 students return to in-person learning?

The answer isn't simple or singular.

All schools have state permission to return to in-person learning after MDHHS's order closing Michigan's high schools expired Dec. 20.

Yet individual districts have their own criteria for returning. Local public school districts vary in how they are teaching students in the 2020-21 school year.

Some metro Detroit school districts have offered classroom instruction virtually for the entire school year. Many other districts have offered some sort of face-to-face learning model, at least for some students.

It's been a roller coaster for educators, support staff and families alike as COVID-19 cases in ebb and flow in Michigan, prompting ever-changing decisions from local school boards and the state health department allowing or prohibiting in-person learning, sports and more.

In addition, school boards are required to update their continuity of learning plan with the state monthly in its education efforts for students.

Here is a roundup of local school districts' current plans.

Wayne County

Livonia Public Schools is expected to return to in-person classes for all students five days a week, starting Jan. 11. The district's board of education was scheduled to meet Jan. 6 to confirm the data that supports the plan. The school district has not implemented a hybrid school plan.

For Wayne-Westland Community Schools, in-person classes have been on pause for students since the school year began. The district currently plans to bring students back to buildings for the first time since March on Jan. 19.

When in-person instruction returns, students' schedules will likely include a mix of in-person and online instruction across all grade levels. When they finally head back to school, students can expect to wear a mask all

See SCHOOLS, Page 4A

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Lyon Fire Station opens Jan. 8 for COVID-19 tests

Susan Bromley [Hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lyon Fire Station #2 will open as a COVID-19 drive-thru testing site next week, after a delay as county officials focused on administering vaccinations to fend off the disease.

Beginning Jan. 8, COVID-19 tests will be administered by county health employees at the fire station located at Lyon Fire Station #2, 56675 Ten Mile Road.

Tests are by appointment only and can not be made the same day.

The fire station was named the county's fifth COVID-19 testing and vaccination location earlier this month under a year-long agreement by county and township officials and was scheduled to begin testing on Dec. 18. However, priorities shifted as shipments of Pfizer vaccines began arriving.

"It was really important to us to shift to vaccines and get those done right away," Bill Mullan, Oakland County communications director, said. "Setting up a new location requires a little extra work and we wanted to dedicate personnel to that when we had those in hand. It was so important with front line workers, healthcare workers, those who are especially vulnerable, to get those vaccinations going."

While the Lyon Fire Station will be a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site, offering tests on Fridays, it is also authorized as a site where COVID-19 vaccinations will be given to the general public. A date for when the vaccinations will start there is not yet known, but they will



Lyon Township's Fire Station No. 2 sits along Ten Mile Road near Milford Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

not be administered on days when COVID-19 tests are taking place there.

Currently, Oakland County is anticipating weekly shipments of COVID-19 vaccinations, which are separate from follow-up doses for those who have already received the first dose.

In their first shipment, the county received 1,950 doses, and have been administering about 120 shots per day to EMS personnel in the county, which have been "well-received."

As of Dec. 26, 56,686 cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Oakland County residents, and the deaths of 1,458 have been attributed to the disease.

Mullan said when the county began testing for COVID-19, it was not unusual to administer 500 tests in a day. He anticipates about 270 appointments to be taken for the launch day of the Lyon testing site, fewer appointments would be scheduled than what capacity allows for to ensure everything runs smoothly.

"We continually respond to the demand for appointments and expand them as needed," Mullan said, noting that if an uptick in cases occurs as a result of holiday gatherings, it may not be seen until the middle of January.

Mullan is grateful for the opportunity to have a free testing and vaccination site in Lyon Township.

"Our goal with the CARES Act money was to have a response accessible to all Oakland County communities," he said. "Southwest Oakland County is a growing area and we are very appreciative local municipalities are working with us to provide a facility to do testing, and ultimately vaccinations, for residents in the area."

To schedule a COVID-19 test at Lyon Fire Station #2, call the county at 800-848-5533.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) will hold a public hearing at 7:00pm on January 25, 2021 to receive public comment on the following proposed changes to the Local Historic District Study Report (Volumes I and II) dated 5/23/19, and revised 10/26/20.

1. Prepare and review amendments to:
 - a. Historic District boundary legal description and maps in Study Report to retain Ford Field, and lots directly south of Ford Field (adjacent to Main Street)
 - b. Add these same properties to the contributing/non-contributing list in Study Report
 - c. Add background information on the historical significance of Ford Field into various sections of the Study Report
 - d. Revise the Historic District boundary legal description in the draft Historic Preservation Ordinance
2. Recommend the amended Study Report and Draft Historic Preservation Ordinance to City Council

Meeting Location

The public hearing will be held via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127806747>. Or Telephone: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 881 2780 8747

Instructions, Meeting Rules and Tips are available on the City's website www.ci.northville.mi.us. On the Home Page, click the Historic Northville icon at the top of the Home page, then click Historic District Survey Project. Or by using the following link: <http://www.ci.northville.mi.us/Community/HistoricDistrict/HistoricDistrictSurvey.asp>

"Zoom Webinar User Guide for City of Northville Public" is also available on the website. Individuals requiring auxiliary aides or services should contact Michelle Massel, at mmassel@ci.northville.mi.us at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Study Report Review Process

In 2018, the City of Northville embarked on an intensive-level survey to uncover new information about the historical features and architectural attributes of the houses and other buildings in the City of Northville's Historic District. The last historical survey was done in 1972 and of the over 400 existing buildings, sites, structures and objects in the District, only 60 of those properties had been studied to any extent before this project began.

Funding to conduct the intensive-level survey of the Northville Historic District, and to update the District information in the National Register of Historic Places, was done through a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Northville retained the services of Commonwealth Heritage Group (consulting architectural historians) to survey the properties within the existing Historic District, and draft a Study Report that meets the standards of modern historic district reports, describes the survey results, and makes recommendations for changes to the District boundary in line with the requirements of Michigan's enabling legislation, Public Act (PA) 169 of 1970, as amended, or the Local Historic Districts Act.

The Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC), comprised of various members of the community, was appointed by the City Council to review Study Report drafts, collect resident comments on the drafts, and provide input to the consultant. The LHDSC held seven public meetings, three of which were Public Hearings. Draft reports and other project materials were posted on a dedicated webpage on the City's website. Residents were encouraged to review the project materials and to provide input at all meetings, and comments were also collected via a dedicated e-mail address on the project webpage. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and State Historic Preservation Review Board also reviewed and commented on the draft. The Committee members reviewed four drafts of the report before the final report was prepared. All drafts incorporated comments made by residents, the Committee, SHPO, and the State Historic Preservation Review Board.

On June 6, 2019, the LHDSC held a public hearing regarding the Northville Local Historic District Study Report (or Historic District Survey), and recommended the final draft to City Council for adoption, as revised. The revisions identified in the LHDSC motion were changes to the Historic District Boundary, and adding an explanatory statement to the introduction of the Study Report. At its September 8, 2020 meeting, City Council referred the Study Report back to the LHDSC for the sole purposes of approving the meeting minutes from its June 6, 2019 meeting, ensuring that the amendment to the report (referred to in the June 6, 2019, minutes) accurately reflects the approved motion, and to make a recommendation on proposed revisions to the current City of Northville Historic Ordinance (boundary), as illustrated in the final Study Report.

The LHDSC held a meeting on October 26, 2020 to review and approve the proposed changes described in their motion on June 6, 2019, and approve the meeting minutes from the June 6, 2019 meeting. Both the changes and the meeting minutes were approved. The Study Report and the Draft Historic Preservation Ordinance were then referred back to City Council for adoption. At the City Council meeting on November 16, 2020, Council again considered the Study Report and made a second request, which was that the LHDSC reconsider removing Ford Field and the properties abutting Ford Field's south end (that are along Main St.) from the Historic District. The upcoming LHDSC meeting on January 25, 2021 will consider Council's request regarding Ford Field and adjoining properties.

How the Study Could be Used

The Local Historic District Study Report (Volume I) is a summary of a recent historic district survey conducted by professional historic architects and preservation planners. A second volume includes the full inventory of all of the resources surveyed in the Historic District. The Local Historic District Study Report (Volume I) meets the current requirements for this type of study, and includes designations of contributing or non-contributing, historic contexts, and significance statements for each building.

The Survey Report could be used in a number of ways. First it will be available on the City's website to all residents and any interested party to research historic properties within the City. This will help property owners to better preserve their properties and Northville's heritage. It could also be used by the Historic District Commission to better understand and protect important historic resources within the City of Northville. They will be able to use the information in the report when considering proposed changes to historic structures in the District. The Study Report is not an ordinance, it is a resource document. It can also be updated as new information is discovered.

Next Steps after the January 25 LHDSC meeting

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 11 at 7pm: | LHDSC meeting – if deemed necessary by the LHDSC |
| March 15 at 7pm: | City Council meeting – proposed ordinance amendment to modify Historic District Boundary introduced for first reading, and consideration of modified Study Report |
| April 19 at 7pm: | City Council meeting – proposed ordinance amendment to modify Historic District Boundary adopted by City Council, and possible adoption of modified Study Report |

Those attending the meetings will be invited to share any comments they have on either document. Please monitor the City's website and public notices posted in the City Hall 24-hour vestibule for meeting format.

Proposed Ordinance Amendment, Study Report, and Full Survey Inventory Available for Review

The proposed ordinance amendment is available on the City's website www.ci.northville.mi.us. From the Home page, go to Government, Governing Documents, Proposed Ordinance Amendments. The Study Report and the Full Survey Inventory is available on the City's website www.ci.northville.mi.us. From the Home page to go Services, Building and Planning, Historic District, Historic District Survey Project.

All documents may also be reviewed at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. If City Hall remains closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please email historicsurvey@ci.northville.mi.us to make an appointment.

Written Comments

The deadline to submit written comments pertaining to the proposed amendments to the report and historic district boundary is 4pm Friday, January 22, 2021 by email to Historicsurvey@ci.northville.mi.us, or by mail or drop box to the Northville Municipal Building, Attention Dianne Massa, City Clerk, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI, 48167.

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Taubman finalizes \$3.4B sale to Simon

JC Reindl [Detroit Free Press](mailto:jcreindl@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bloomfield Hills-based mall owner and developer Taubman Centers has been sold to Simon Property Group, the largest mall operator in the U.S., in a deal once threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Simon announced that it has finalized its \$3.4 billion purchase of an 80% ownership stake in The Taubman Realty Group Limited Partnership, which gives it full ownership of Taubman Centers, including Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills and Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

The Taubman family sold about one-third of its ownership interest in the deal. Simon was to pay \$43 per share for Taubman, down 18% from the \$52.50 per share price when the deal was announced in early February. In June, Simon threatened to pull out of the deal.

The companies ultimately agreed to settle the litigation and last month announced a modified deal.

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New pet salon opens in South Lyon

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A shopping trip to downtown South Lyon led Amanda Carisse to open the city's newest pet grooming business.

Carisse, a Livonia Churchill alumna and Plymouth resident, was visiting the city several months ago and saw a vacancy in the King Plaza open. After considering her options, she decided it was time to open her own business.

Prefurred Pet Salon opened its doors in November at 22890 Pontiac Trail. The shop offers appointment grooming for both dogs and cats, as well as walk-in nail service for pets.

The business is a natural fit for Carisse, who said she's worked as a pet groomer for several years at a shop in Plymouth. When the opportunity came, she and others she had worked with decided to have a go at running a business themselves.

"I've been looking to buy a shop for a while and we found this place for rent," she said. "We were looking for about a year and I happen to be shopping downtown with one of my girlfriends and I saw it for rent and had to jump on it."

"I like the small-town feel."

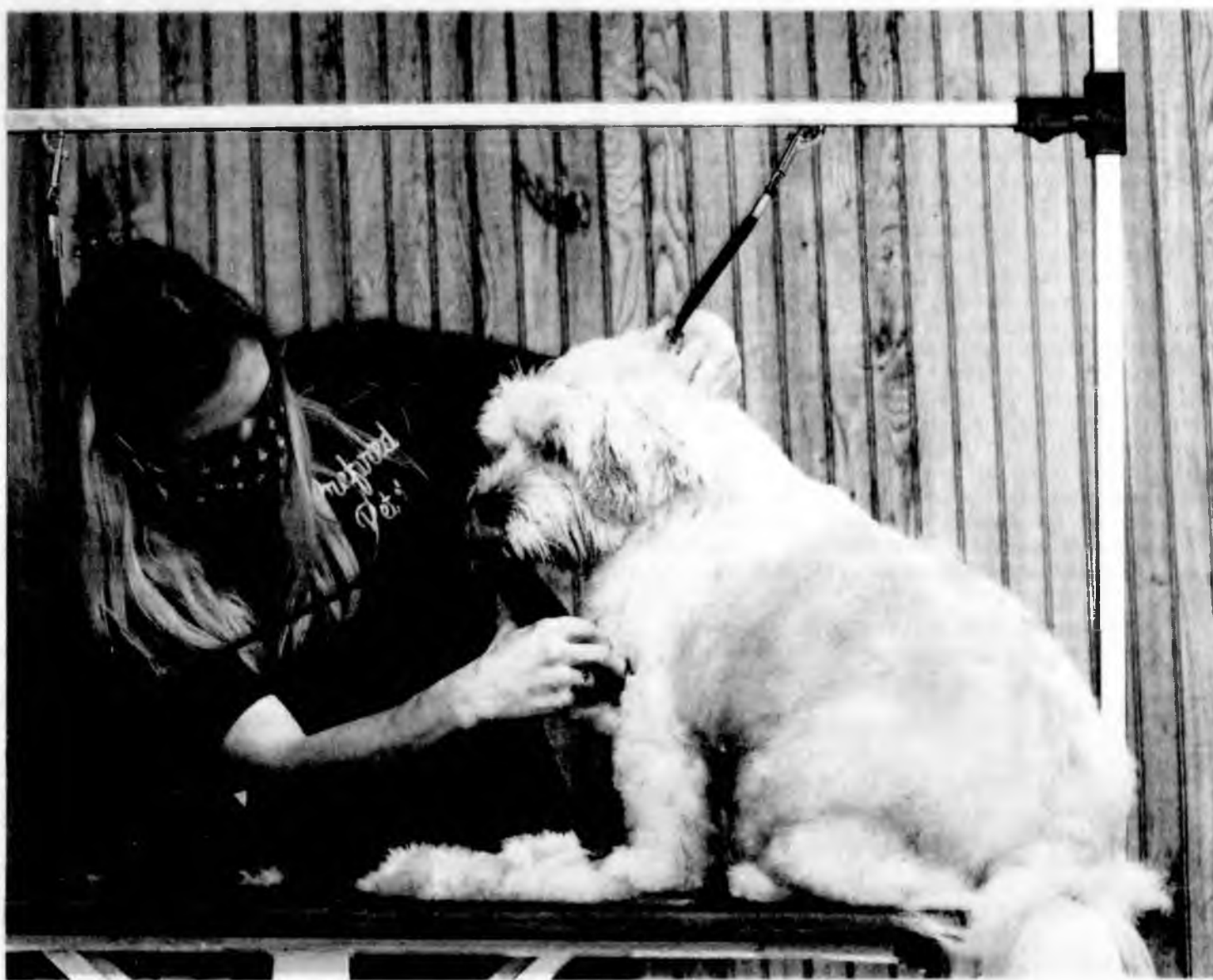
She said she discovered the location in late October and signed a lease in early November, opening the business at a very quick pace compared to others. The space was already outfitted for a grooming business — it previously held Royal Touch Pet Salon — so no major renovations were needed on the interior, though some revamping was needed.

With Carisse also being a student at Schoolcraft College, trying to open a new business with a full academic course load made it a difficult November.

"We were here doing 16-hour days just trying to get this place ready to go," she said.

The shop offers full service pet grooming from bathing to teeth cleaning and more. The shop has seen plenty of business since opening, something Carisse attributes to her offerings and scheduling: the shop is open on Sundays, a rarity in the pet-grooming world, she said.

Megan Maiorana, one of the groom-



Prefurred Pet Salon groomer Megan Maiorana gives a dog a haircut Dec. 9. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ers at the shop, said she especially likes to work with dogs that may have emotional issues or can be difficult to groom. She said she's had plenty of practice and is very comfortable working with animals some groomers may not accept.

"Not everyone has the same techniques to make it comfortable for the dog," said Maiorana, a Romulus resident. "I just love doing that for them."

Carisse said she decided to step away from being an employee and become an owner after several years in order to run a shop the way she saw fit.

"You can take it on as your own, make it exactly how you want it," she said. "There's so many other factors in owning your own business."

The shop is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Though nail trims can be done on a walk-in basis, grooming requires an appointment. Customers can set one up by calling the shop at 248-787-5458.

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



Prefurred Pet Salon sits at 22890 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon.

Teen arraigned on murder charges in South Lyon shooting

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Fadi Jesus Zeineh was arraigned Monday in the armed robbery and shooting death of South Lyon teen Dylan Stamper.

After turning himself in and spending days in the Oakland County Jail, Zeineh was arraigned in Novi's 52-1 District Court on 10 felony charges.

Those charges include homicide-murder, armed robbery, and assault with intent to murder. Zeineh also faces five felony firearms charges.

His attorney, Edward Bajoka, requested a \$250,000 bond but court Magistrate Victor Zanolli denied it because of the severity of the charges.

Zeineh only spoke when pronouncing his name for Zanolli, confirming he could hear the proceedings and agreeing that he understood bond was denied.

Zeineh also has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor retail fraud in Washtenaw County.

He is scheduled to return to court Jan. 13 for a probable cause conference.

Zeineh is accused of shooting Dylan Stamper, 17, and his father Kevin Stamper, 43, in their East Liberty Street home the night of Dec. 30.

First responders arrived after a woman called 911 to say someone was trying to break into her residence and that she heard gunshots.

Police and firefighters found both Stampers lying in the living room about five feet from the front door.

Dylan was unresponsive and suffering from blood loss. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His father was last reported to be in critical but stable condition at a local hospital.

A GoFundMe page has been set up, and donations can also be made through Phillips Funeral Home.

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Social district

Continued from Page 1A

The social district, approved in June by the Northville City Council, allows guests to carry their beverages purchased from participating restaurants to a commons area, streets, sidewalks and plaza that are in a designated seating area encompassed by East Main from Center to Hutton streets and North Center from Main to Dunlap streets.

"Cities like Chicago and New York have been doing this for years," Brown-dog Director of Operations Greg Richards said. "We're getting consistent business every day, not just on week-ends or when there's a festival."

"People are re-engaging with Northville because of the atmosphere this creates. We're getting people coming to downtown for the first time ever, or for the first time in a long time. I hope it continues, even beyond the pandemic."

As friends Jim Azzouz, Rema Nasif and Sameer Desai engaged in conversation while finishing their meals under a



The Jezowski family, from left, Dan, Rachel and Dawn, enjoy an outdoor meal at the Browndog Barlor & Restaurant recently. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

canopy Dec. 21, they shared the same sentiment.

"I love the experience. It brings the community together," Azzouz said. "I

hope it continues as long as possible."

Nasif said she'd be willing to eat outdoors even if the temperature neared single digits.

"If there's a heater nearby, we're good," she said. "This area should be shut down (to traffic) year-round, if you ask me. It's phenomenal. I come down here as often as I can."

Desai said the social district has been so popular that one local restaurant sold out of food one night earlier in December.

"It's a great experience," Desai said. "It should be like this all the time, not just during the pandemic."

Table 5's Mishelle Lussier said the closure of downtown streets has been "so far, so good."

"The weather has been agreeable, which has helped," Lussier said. "Obviously, we have less customers than usual, but, that said, it's been very popular."

City council will take another look at the social district plan in March and decide whether to extend it.

"Obviously, (an extension) will depend on people letting the city know how much they love it," Richards said. "The town is buzzing now, so hopefully it's extended."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

day and have some schedule changes, such as eating lunch in their classrooms rather than in a cafeteria.

For **Plymouth-Canton Community Schools**, elementary school students will be in a remote-learning format until at least Jan. 15. Remote learning was set to resume Jan. 4 following a two-week holiday recess.

A plan to return middle school and high school students to in-person learning was still being developed as of Dec. 24. Middle school and high school students in the district have been in remote-learning mode since the beginning of the school year.

For **Northville Public Schools**, students were to be in full virtual learning the week following the December winter recess, from Jan. 4 through Jan. 11.

Beginning Jan. 11, Northville High School is scheduled to return to a hybrid model while middle school students will return to a hybrid/core cohort model. El-

ementary school students are scheduled to return to in-person Jan. 11.

All plans are contingent on no significant changes in the risk level for COVID-19.

Oakland County

Birmingham Community School District has all students currently remote but plans to return them to the classroom in January. The school board voted Dec. 15 to send students back in a hybrid model, with elementary and middle school students beginning Jan. 11 and high school students beginning Jan. 19.

Students in the middle schools and high schools will learn in person two days a week with virtual learning the rest of the week. Secondary education students will be split into two cohorts and split their time between virtual and in-person learning.

In **Farmington Public Schools**, students have yet to see the inside of a classroom this academic year. District officials have repeatedly stressed that new coronavirus cases in the communi-

ty and county remain too high for them to send students back to class in good conscience.

For elementary students, officials currently plan to bring them back to school Jan. 11. Two weeks later, starting on Jan. 25, middle and high school students are scheduled to make their return to in-person instruction.

All students will likely see altered schedules to reduce movement in school buildings.

Students in the **Clarenceville School District** will continue virtual classes until at least Jan. 22. On Jan. 14, the district's school board will consider a number of plans that could allow for a return to in-person instruction. That decision will depend on what the coronavirus' spread in the community is like at that time.

When Clarenceville makes a return to its school buildings, Superintendent Paul Shepich said, the district will likely initially adopt a hybrid model that includes both virtual and in-person classes rather than diving head-first back into traditional schooling.

In **Novi**, students were to return to

in-person learning Jan. 4 if they are in the hybrid plan, with two days per week in-person instruction at all grade levels. Cohort A will be face-to-face Jan. 4, with Cohort B back to face-to-face on Jan. 5. The district has mostly maintained the hybrid plan since September despite a push by some parents for more face-to-face instruction.

Huron Valley parents and students protested all virtual learning in mid-December and lobbied for an in-person return immediately following the end of the holiday break. However, Superintendent Paul Salah has said the goal remains to return elementary students to face-to-face instruction Jan. 19, and secondary students would return to the middle and high schools on Jan. 25. Until then, they will be learning virtually.

In **South Lyon**, all students were to be learning remotely Jan. 4-8 following the return from break. On Jan. 11, elementary students are set to resume four days per week of in-person instruction. Also on Jan. 11, middle school and high school students enrolled in the hybrid plan are expected to return to in-person learning two days a week.

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David Carrier

JOSH BILLINGS, 1882

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WHO GETS THE LEFTOVERS?

For many folks, the question is: When I am dead, who gets the leftovers?

The answer, for many folks: Read the Last Will & Testament! Preferably on a foggy evening. In a creepy old house. With a creepy old lawyer. Surrounded by heirs of mixed ages and questionable virtue. Reading dramatically from the Will in his creaky old voice, the lawyer delivers deeds, heirlooms, and sacks of cash. Virtuous, good heirs rejoice. Evil, bad heirs plot their revenge! And it is all over in just a few minutes.

Would you be surprised to learn that reality is a bit different than the movies? After 2020, are you still shocked when the "experts" get it wrong?

WHAT IS PROBATE?

Probate is how society cleans up your mess. What mess?

Basic Truth: Middle Class Michigan takes care of business. Handles things. Gets it done.

Right now, most of us own our home (with some help from the bank). And savings account. Investments. Furniture. You pay your bills. And file your taxes. You take care of you. And yours. Humming along like a top...

No Problem! A nice tidy picture. You are a responsible person acting responsibly.

But what if things go wrong? What if you cannot take care of business?



How could that happen?

If you are incapacitated... stroke, auto accident, Alzheimer's? If you die. Who is taking care of your business now? Your nice tidy picture is not so nice and tidy anymore. It is a mess. Who does what? Who gets what? Now what?

Probate is the answer when folks do not plan. And most folks do not plan. Most folks wind up making a mess. Probate is the cleanup crew.

YOU GO TO THE SUPERMARKET.

FOR A LOAF OF BREAD. ONE LOAF OF BREAD.

Have you ever tried this? Have you ever gone to the supermarket for a single item? And then before you find that single item, you gather up a dozen more groceries you cannot live without. This is how most people go through life. Carrying around their stuff in their own name. Like the supermarket shopper without a cart.

That is fine, so far as it goes. But what if you slip and fall. What happens to the groceries?

Whee! Whoops! Big. Mess. Call the Janitor! Cleanup on Aisle 3...

PROBATE COURT IS THE JANITOR!

Probate Court is Johnny-on-the-Spot to clean up the mess you made when you slipped and fell. Probate gathers up your groceries and tries to figure out what to do with them. Janitors have a Rule Book about who gets what. It is called the "Estates and Protected Individuals Code."

The Probate Judge is the Lord High Janitor, Exalted Over All Deputy Janitors. The Personal Representative (or Executor) does the real work. Junior Deputy Janitor.

The Junior Deputy Janitor has 3 jobs.

1. Marshall the assets. Gather up the leftovers.
2. Pay the bills.
3. Deliver the leftovers to the deserving beneficiaries.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WILL???

Your Last Will and Testament is simply instructions to the Junior Deputy Janitor. It is a note, a piece of paper. Fluttering about betwixt and between the mess. Let us hope the Junior Deputy Janitor finds the Will. Let us hope Junior Deputy follows the Will. Let us hope.

Your Will ONLY works in probate. It is simply instructions to the Probate Court, through the Personal Representative, expressing your desires. Expressing your will as to who should be in charge. Who gets what. Deriving its powers from the Probate Court.

Your Will only "works" after you have died.

Your Will only "works" by going through Probate. Your Will does not avoid Probate... it is a creature of Probate, part and parcel.

WILLS ARE AWFUL AND NO GOOD!
PROBATE IS AWFUL AND NO GOOD!

Kind of extreme, don't you think? Wills and probate have their place. Some techniques of great benefit to

many middle-class families only work in probate.

You know that a rush to judgment often leads over a cliff. Let us calm down. Sensitively and sensibly evaluate our options. And choose according to fact, not fiction. Planning success is a choice, not chance.

WE GOT THROUGH 2020.

TIME TO MOVE AHEAD IN 2021.

Last year, the number of regular folks planning their futures dropped. Significantly. Could it be that you had other things on your mind?

At the same time, our Crisis Caseload skyrocketed. Special PACE rules mean more families than ever qualify for immediate help.

And fewer people focused on planning ahead. LifePlanning™. The Carrier Team has been busier than ever, but I fear 2020 was a year of wasted opportunity for regular families. I am extremely concerned. What do you think?

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workshops and one-on-one meetings. Recorded and live-streaming webinars. Like you, we have never stopped serving. As you seek out new ways to accomplish your life's work, we are on the same journey. By your side. Making the rules work for the people who play by the rules.

Sixty minutes that to accelerate your success. An hour to put 2020 in the rear-view mirror. Avoid Nursing Home Poverty. Reject silly Spend Downs. Learn how to preserve your loved one's lifesavings, business, cottage, life insurance. Thousands of middle-class families have learned and use these techniques. Why not yours?

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How do I avoid heavy taxes from the new law on my retirement plans (like my IRA or 401k)?

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Plane crash

Continued from Page 1A

Safety Board are investigating.

"It'll take some time," the fire chief said about determining why the plane crashed.

The small plane may have clipped a tree before striking the home.

David Compo, 60, his wife, Michele, 55, and their 18-year-old son, Dawson, were headed to Oakland/Southwest Airport when their Piper PA 24 crashed.

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Peter Knudson said Sunday that the plane "had been cleared for an approach to land, and shortly after that we had one witness who saw the plane come out of the clouds and strike a tree before coming to land in the house."

The plane's wreckage was expected to be moved to a secure site Monday.

Knudson said Compo was in contact with air traffic control before the crash. Investigators said they are not aware of any distress call. They will review Compo's conversation with air traffic control as part of their investigation. Small planes typically do not have flight data recorders, commonly known as black boxes.

"To the investigators' knowledge, there was no indication of a problem at this point," Knudson said.

In her 85 years of life, neighborhood resident Doranne Bloxom said, she has never heard a sound like the one made Saturday afternoon when the plane crashed one door down from hers.

"It was an absolute nightmare, awful," said Bloxom, who has lived in the subdivision with her husband, Bill, for nearly 20 years. "The minute we walked outside, people were just coming from



A small plane crashed into a Lyon Township home Jan. 2, killing 3 people. COURTESY OF JOHN BRADY

every place."

Neighbor Hannan Mansour was watching TV when she heard a loud boom, which she described as similar to the sound of two cars crashing, only much, much louder. Without grabbing her coat or shoes, Mansour ran out to her porch to see what was happening, only to be met with the sounds of her neighbors' panicked screams.

After putting on her outerwear, Mansour ran toward the smoke and chaos, praying that everyone was OK.

Neighbors rushed toward the crash site, hurrying to rescue the family with two young children living in the home the plane had hit. The family was able to leave their home seemingly unscathed.

"It was scary, I was shaking the whole time I was down there," Mansour said. "All of us were just hugging each other. It was a very traumatic experience."

Given the neighborhood's proximity to the airport, a plane crash is a fear that has played in the back of Mansour and other neighbors' minds. The quiet neighborhood typically has planes flying overhead but nothing too disruptive. Saturday's crash was a nightmare come to life.

"It was just horrific," Mansour said.



The family in the home was able to escape the fire that began after the plane crashed. The family in the plane died. COURTESY OF LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Grad

Continued from Page 1A

The post also stated that DCC's prayers are with the family and all impacted by the loss.

David Compo was the immediate past president of the Home Builders Association of Michigan. His term ended

two days before his death.

The association released a statement mourning the loss of Compo and his wife and son.

According to the statement, David Compo was an experienced pilot who had flown to Canton, Georgia, Dec. 29 and was nearly home with Michelle and Dawson when the plane went down.

"We were fortunate to have David leading our team for 2020," said Michael

Stoskopf, HBA's CEO. "His involvement, professionalism and experience over the years have been great assets to our organization and he has been a true friend to me as we faced challenge after challenge during this past year."

According to the statement, Compo, the son of Janet and Jim, had found his skill for architectural drawing by age 12 and worked for 33 years in his parents' building company.

He later became the co-owner of Novi-based Compo Builders, Inc. with his brother, Christopher.

Compo won various awards for his work, which includes developments in Novi, Howell, Birmingham, Ann Arbor and Highland.

Survivors include his mother, Janet; brother, Christopher, and Lisa Compo.

Details on a memorial service were not immediately available.

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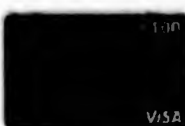
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SPORTS

High hopes in 2021



Milford ski team member Max Wilkerson passes through some gates as he practices at Alpine Valley on Dec. 22.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Milford skiing back on the slopes

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford junior Maddie Melody first started skiing when she was 1½ years old. As soon as she could walk, she said, her father had her on skis.

Joining a race team when she was 5 and developing into a better racer through more competitions in northern Michigan, Melody developed a love for that feeling each time she started down a slope.

"It's so freeing like when you are just going down the hill and you are by yourself entirely and nobody can talk to you and you don't really have any thoughts besides the snow in your skis and how to get down," Melody said.

Marty Neighbors, who has been the head coach for the Milford boys and girls ski team for 34 years, is used to skiers like this in his program.

Despite being smaller the smaller of Huron Valley Schools' two high schools, the Mavericks have found a level of success, sending at least one team member to the state meet for the past 18 years. In 2019, Milford finished seventh in the boys meet and eighth in the girls meet.

This season, hopes are high in Mil-

ford. Both teams will bring back the majority of their starters. All the Mavericks were hoping for was a chance, and the Michigan High School Athletic Association gave them one.

The MHSAA permitted boys and girls skiing as the only winter sport to begin practice Dec. 21 prior to the end of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 restrictions limiting high school athletics and the start of a winter season.

Prior to the approval from the MHSAA, Neighbors was expecting to be able to ski, coaching the only sanctioned winter sport held outdoors.

See MILFORD, Page 2B

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

MHSAA regional final games to watch

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The calendar has flipped to 2021, but many Michigan high school football teams have not yet finished its 2020 season.

The Michigan High School Association partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to introduce a pilot rapid COVID-19 testing program, allowing teams that were initially stuck in the regional round of the playoffs to have a chance at a completed season, along with a return to playoffs for girls swim and dive, and volleyball.

The regional round will be held Jan. 9, the state semifinals are scheduled for Jan. 16, and the state finals are scheduled to be played Jan. 22-23.

Here's a look at the teams left competing for a state championship in the Hometown Life area.

Detroit Catholic Central at Davison

Detroit Catholic Central (9-0) has been hard to stop this season.

After finishing 2019, 4-5, and missing the playoffs for the first time since 2014 — only the fourth time since 2004 — the Shamrocks exploded, coming into the regional final with nine-straight wins.

As of late, the Shamrocks have found their stride. Offensively since its Catholic League Prep Bowl win against Detroit Loyola, junior quarterback Declan Byle and company have scored 37 points or more in four-straight games.

The defense, with senior defensive tackle and Central Michigan signee Bruno Guberinich and junior defensive end Sean Field, has allowed 81 points all season, including only 34 in its past four games.

But the Shamrocks will have to contest with a Davison (9-0) offense that has not been stopped much this season.

The Cardinals have averaged 46.6 points per game in seven games, earning two forfeit wins this season. However, Davison will be without its starting quarterback Brendan Sullivan, who left Monday as a Northwestern early enrollee.

Defensively, Davison has been stingy, allowing 66 points in seven games, including only two games in which they have allowed double-digit point totals.

The Shamrocks will face Davison at 1 p.m. Saturday at Lapeer.

See GAMES, Page 2B

Hometown Life's Top 10 high school teams of 2020

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In a year that defined the word unprecedented, high school athletics proved to be no match for 2020.

From the highest of highs — the wins, the state championships — to the unreal — the postponements, the uncertainty because of the COVID-19 pandemic — teams throughout the Hometown Life

coverage area found a way to shine in the midst of everything that was going on this year.

Here are the top 10 teams that we covered in 2020.

Honorable mentions
Mercy volleyball

Coming off a Division 1 state title in 2019, Mercy came out firing again in

2020. Led by senior setter Julia Bishop and senior middle blocker Charli Atiemo — both first-team All-State — the Marlins only lost 11 sets in 35 games all year, earning sweeps in 29 games, including all seven regular season Catholic League games. However, Mercy fell short when it counted. After falling to rival Marian in five sets in the Catholic League final, the Marlins lost to the Mustangs in the regional final in five

sets to end their season.

North Farmington football

After an inconsistent start to the 2020 season — beating Rochester Adams by one in overtime and losing big to Rochester Hills Stoney Creek — North Farmington began to find its groove.

See TOP 10, Page 5B



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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Milford

Continued from Page 1B

With ski hills such as Alpine Valley Ski Resort — Milford's home base — open, he knew skiers, including his own, would be out there taking advantage.

"I think it's critical, to be honest with you, that young people get out, exercise, have a purpose in mind, something to drive them as opposed to sitting behind a ... computer screen or watching Netflix ad nauseum," Neighbors said. "Hopefully it would be a little bit of a return to the way the world used to spin."

But to the members of the Mavericks, those solo practices are not the same of what they would have in years past.

Different preparation

Constant training is what made Milford junior Max Wilkerson know over time that he was going to be one of the area's top skiers, finishing as a freshman third on the team among the seniors.

At each practice, Wilkerson would get tips and pointers from coaches and teammates, technical skills that would help him improve and make better times, along with making cleaner and sharper turns in his boots.

But when he goes out to Alpine Valley alone, he has to stay accountable to try and make the tweaks himself.

"It's harder for me because I enjoy having that person there giving you things to do (and) knows the things I am doing wrong," Wilkerson said. "When you are on your own, you kind of have to notice it on your own and truly realize 'Huh, I am doing this wrong and (I) have to fix that mistake before it develops into a bad habit.'"

Due to the combination of COVID-19 and warmer weather, Milford spent much of its preseason preparation — when it was allowed to gather as a team — outside in dryland training, running on the bleachers at the high school as opposed to setting courses and being out at Alpine Valley.

Milford senior Riley Watts said over the Thanksgiving holiday many of her teammates traveled to Colorado to get training prior to the start of the winter season.

Milford practiced together for the first time Dec. 21, taking the hills at Alpine Valley. But up to that point, Melody, a co-captain, had to put her trust in her teammates that they were doing their jobs.

"We just kind of have to trust the fact that kids are going to be out there skiing by themselves and not really getting that race training that they normally would in a regular year," Melody said. "Even though our practices are delayed,



Milford ski team coach Marty Neighbors, right, talks to a team member on the slopes at Alpine Valley on Dec. 22. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We just kind of have to trust the fact that kids are going to be out there skiing by themselves and not really getting that race training that they normally would. ... Even though our practices are delayed, I am still very confident that people are doing their job and will pull through."

Meddie Melody Milford skiing co-captain

I am still very confident that people are doing their job and will pull through."

Hoping for normalcy

Neighbors expects and hopes for as normal of a season as possible.

As long as Alpine Valley remains open and his team remains healthy, Milford will be out on the hills performing competitively, hoping to continue that state meet streak with a lot of the same faces from 2019.

"The kids who are there will be able to run pretty much with anybody in the state," Neighbors said. "Every night that we come out ... we are going to bring our

best. I'm quite certain that we will be able to show."

Melody and Watts serve as Milford girls' co-captains, while junior Makayla Woolhiser — the Milford head coach said she "has an extra piece of hardware in her" after suffering a broken femur prior to the regional meet last season — is hard-nosed, driven and determined to regain form and compete with the Mavericks in those races she did not get to run.

On the boys team, Wilkerson, junior Carson Chamberlain and junior Jack Hannert, who each competed for the Mavericks at the state meet last year, will serve as the team's "triple-threat"

along with Joe Antrim, the lone senior on the team.

Personally for Watts, going into her final season with the team, she does not have many expectations.

"I kind of just want to have fun and make the most of my senior year," Watts said. "But I did really well last year, like all throughout the season, so I just want to keep that up. I want to get more firsts at the local races at the hill and continue to improve..."

"I just want to continue to improve and have a really solid and consistent season."

Even uncertainty remains surrounding the 2021 winter season, Wilkerson is confident in what his team will do, encouraging classmates to come be a part of something special.

"If anybody wants to try something different and try out for the ski team, it's a lot of fun," Wilkerson said. "They should not be afraid to come out because they are not the best because you get better over time."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

Games

Continued from Page 1B

Livonia Churchill vs. Oak Park

Livonia Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo has been sitting on Oak Park film for weeks.

Ever since the initial pause of the postseason, the Chargers (6-2) coaching staff continued the tradition of meeting Sunday afternoons, refining the game plan against the Knights each week.

No matter what the game plan is like, senior quarterback Gavin Brooks — the leader of the Chargers offense that averages 32.5 points per game — knows what to expect.

"Obviously they have a lot of kids that are going to play big time Division 1 football, so we know we are going to have our hands full," Brooks said. "I think if we just do what we do and play a clean game, we could come out on top."

The Chargers offense will potentially face an Oak Park (4-5) defense including four-star defensive tackle and Michigan State commit Rayshaun Benny, three-star cornerback and Miami (Ohio) commit Marlon Dawson and three-star safety and Toledo commit Jaylin Mines.

Starting the season with six-straight losses — with one loss turning into a forfeit win due to eligibility issues on the Birmingham Groves team — Oak Park has shown up in the playoffs, winning each of its first three playoff games, two of which were by one score. In three playoff games, the Knights have averaged 29.7 points per game after scoring 45 points in six regular-season games.

This season, Churchill, anchored by defensive lineman Demarius Gibson-Wells, linebacker Boston Clegg Jr. and safety Jimmy Targosz, has allowed 25.1 points per game.

Churchill will host Oak Park 1 p.m. Saturday.

North Farmington at Traverse City Central

North Farmington (7-2) found its stride late in the season.

In the first two playoff games against Watford Kettering and Fenton, the Raiders outscored opponents, 88-35, using senior running back Justin Whitehorn for 470 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

In the regional final, North Farmington will face a defense that has not allowed much offensive success. Other than allowing 42 points in their only loss of the season to Macomb Dakota, Traverse City Central (8-1) has failed to allow more than 22 points in a game, using its two All-State defenders — junior defensive back Carson Bourdo and junior linebacker Josh Burnham — to find success.

Burnham also serves as the team's quarterback, leading the Trojans to 30 touchdowns and 1,953 yards of offense this season, with the team averaging 48.4 points per game.

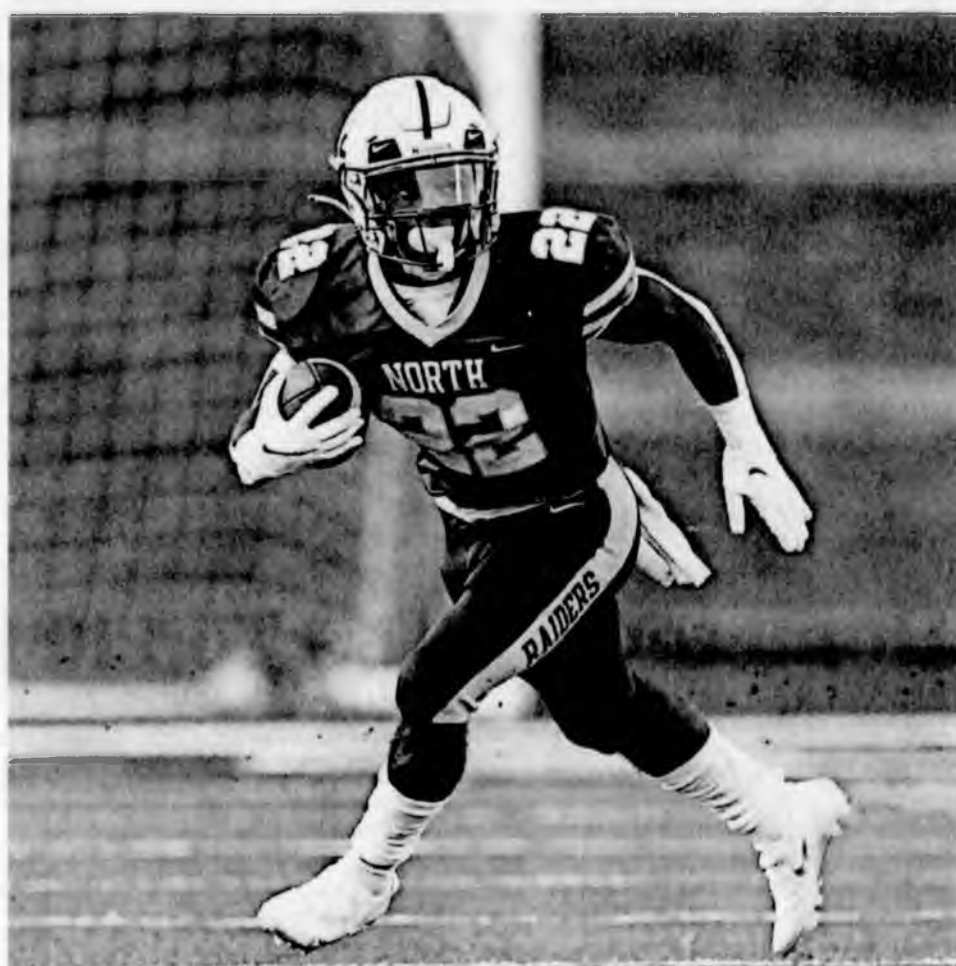
"They want to do something special with their quarterback; they want to get the offense done through him," North Farmington junior split back and safety Aaron Rice said. "I think if we stop their offense, our offense can handle them."

The Raiders defense has allowed only seven touchdowns since Oct. 9 after giving up 111 points in its first three games of the year.

North Farmington will travel to Traverse City to take on the Trojans 2 p.m. Saturday.

Detroit Country Day at North Branch

Detroit Country Day (6-2) had a season to remember in 2019, using a 13-game win streak to propel the Yellow Jackets into the Division 4 state title game before losing to Grand Rapids Catholic Central. But 2020 has been a bit more low key.



In two playoff games, North Farmington senior running back Justin Whitehorn has rushed for 470 yards and scored six touchdowns. COURTESY OF JUSTIN WHITEHORN

Through eight games, Detroit Country Day has lost twice: a forfeit loss to Armada Oct. 9 and a 10-point loss to Brother Rice Oct. 23 prior to the start of the playoffs.

But since then, the Yellow Jackets have been on fire. The offense, including four-star offensive tackle and Northwestern commit Caleb Tiernan, has nearly half of its total season points in the past three games, helped by a 41-point performance against Henry Ford in the playoff opener.

The defense has been stout too. Led

by first-team All-State defensive back Danny MacLean, the Yellow Jackets have allowed more than 20 points only once all season, and have given up an average of 12.6 points per contest.

Detroit Country Day will face North Branch (9-0), who has dominated opponents from the first whistle, averaging 43.2 points per game and allowing only 76 points all season, including five shutouts.

Detroit Country Day will take on North Branch on the road 1 p.m. Saturday.

MHSAA sets return for postseason girls swim and dive and volleyball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced that it would restart its volleyball, and girls swim and dive postseason competitions starting Jan. 4 with championships to conclude by Jan. 16.

The volleyball tournament will begin in the state quarterfinals Jan. 12 and will follow with the state semifinals Jan. 14 and 15 with the state finals Jan. 16. The state semifinals and the finals will be held at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Novi and Marian are the only two teams in Hometown Life's coverage area left alive in the postseason volleyball tournament.

The girls swim and dive finals will be

held Jan. 15 and 16 at three sites: Division 1 at Hudsonville High School, Division 2 at Grand Rapids Northview High School and Division 3 at Lake Orion High School.

Spectators will not be allowed at postseason events.

Participants must participate in the rapid COVID-19 testing program curated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Athletes, coaches and those directly affiliated with the team will be tested three times per week.

The MHSAA announced Saturday that its high school football postseason will resume with the regional finals Jan. 9, with the state semifinals Jan. 16 and the state finals Jan. 22 and 23 at Ford Field.

MHSAA releases winter schedule

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association approved its regular season calendar for indoor winter sports to begin Jan. 16.

Indoor practices for boys and girls basketball, bowling, competitive cheer, gymnastics, boys swim and dive, hockey and wrestling may begin Jan. 16. Basketball, bowling, hockey, and swimming and diving may begin competitions Jan. 22, while competitive cheer, gymnastics and wrestling will start Jan. 25.

This season, the MHSAA is permitting hockey teams to play two games on one school day twice — with four games total during that two-week period. Wrestling teams are allowed two dates of competition per week with competitions limited to four teams per site.

Also, the MHSAA changed the dates of the winter postseason. The start of spring sports will not be affected.

MHSAA winter schedule - Basketball

Girls districts - March 8, 10 and 12; boys districts - March 9, 11 and 13; girls regionals - March 16 and 18; boys regionals - March 17 and 19; girls quarterfinals, semifinals and finals - March 22 (QF), March 24 (semifinals - two sites) and March 26 (finals); boys quarterfinals, semifinals and finals - March 23 (QF), March 25 (semifinals - two sites) and March 27 (finals)

Bowling

Regionals - March 19-20; finals - March 26-27

Competitive Cheer

Districts - March 5-6; regionals - March 13; finals - March 19-20

Gymnastics

Regionals - March 20; finals - March 26-27

Hockey

Regionals - March 15-20; finals - March 25-27

Boys Swimming and Diving

Dive regionals - March 18; finals - March 26-27

Wrestling

District week - March 1; regional week - March 8; team finals - March 19-20; individual finals - March 26-27

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Who will be sports' breakout stars in 2021?

Chris Bumbaca
USA TODAY

Part of sports' mystique is the unpredictability of it all.

In 2020, who could have foreseen Randy Arozarena's rise from obscurity to a record-setting MLB post-season, or 20-year-old Tyler Herro lighting it up from the NBA bubble?

There's also the other side of the conversation: the can't-miss prospects and the already-anointed greats.

This next year will provide a fresh crop of breakout stars. While the conjecture may prove foolish, here are a few of USA TODAY Sports' best guesses as to whom will become household names in 2021.

Sunisa Lee

At 16, Lee placed second in the all-around at the 2019 U.S. gymnastics championships behind Simone Biles. She was also part of the Americans' world championship squad, earning team gold, and a silver and bronze in individual events. Now with the Summer Olympics around the corner, she has the chance to shine on the biggest stage in Tokyo.

Noah Lyles

Lyles had a breakout year in 2019, but has to wait an extra year for the spotlight of the Olympics. In 2019, Lyles won the 200-meter dash at 19.83 seconds at the world championships. He was also part of the United States' gold-medal winning 4x100-meter relay.

Catarina Macario

Born in Brazil, Macario's family moved to the United States while she was in high school. At Stanford, she was a three-time first-team All-American, two-time national champion and won the MAC Hermann Trophy — awarded to the nation's best player — twice. She was granted U.S. citizenship in October and joined the U.S. Women's National Team training camp that same day.

James Wiseman

The Golden State Warriors took Wiseman second overall in the NBA draft after the 7-footer played three college games at Memphis. His professional career is three games old, but all indications are that the 19-year-old is handling the transition well.

Tua Tagovailoa

It does seem odd to have someone on a "breakout stars" list who has been a Heisman Trophy contender, national champion and a top-five draft pick. This is merely a prediction that Tagovailoa will have a bountiful 2021: returning to full health, gaining significant offensive weapons and, finally, taking complete control of the Miami Dolphins.

Sabrina Ionescu

Like Tagovailoa, it does feel weird to have a record-setting college basketball player and No. 1 pick as a breakout star candidate. But Ionescu's rookie season with the New York Liberty lasted three games before an ankle injury ended her year. With the WNBA's rising popularity, Ionescu could become one of the league's elite — in terms of both play and popularity — in 2021.

Sixxo Sanchez

MLB's 60-game season last year served as an appetizer for a rookie class that included the Miami Marlins right-hander, who can touch triple digits on the radar gun and then spin a slider that makes a hitter look foolish. Sanchez posted a 3.46 ERA over seven starts in the regular season before shutting out the Chicago Cubs for five innings (six strikeouts) in the wild-card series. With more performances like that, Sanchez won't be "just another live arm" for long.

Igor Shesterkin

Still technically a rookie, Shesterkin is one of the favorites to win the Calder Trophy next year. With Hen-

rik Lundqvist gone after 15 years in net for the New York Rangers, it's Shesterkin's turn. In 12 games last season, he went 10-2 while averaging 2.32 goals against. He won all five of the contests in which opponents shot 40 times.

Chellsie Memmel

Likely the only person on this list who could have also appeared on it in 2008, the gymnast spent the quarantine posting videos on YouTube and other social media sites of her training — eventually leading to a comeback effort for the upcoming Olympics. As a 32-year-old mother of two, she would become quite the story if she makes the team.

Wander Franco

Franco has been the best prospect in baseball since 2019, and although he lost valuable maturation time with no minor league ball last season, the switch-hitting shortstop from the Dominican Republic is poised to make an immediate impact. He will turn 20 by Opening Day, and could quickly become one of the better players on the defending American League champion Tampa Bay Rays.

Emilie Castonguay & Rachel Luba

Castonguay is executive vice president and director of legal affairs at Momentum Hockey. She became the first NHLPA certified agent in Canada four years ago and the first female agent to represent a No. 1 pick when Alexis Lafrenière was selected by the Rangers in this year's NHL draft.

Luba, meanwhile, has built a stable of clients at her agency, Luba Sports, at age 28. The former UCLA gymnast represents professional softball players, MLB coaches and MLB players — including one of the most coveted free agents in the 2021 class, right-hander Trevor Bauer. The Forbes 30 under 30 honoree also co-hosts a podcast and is active on social media, providing a glimpse into what new-age athlete representation entails.

Obituaries

Benjamin Cato Burton

ORLANDO, FL - Benjamin Cato Burton, 40, died of a sudden heart attack on December 16, 2020 at his home in Orlando, FL. He's survived by his parents, Keith and Linda Burton; girlfriend Eva House; sister Tiffany Burton-Peltier; and sister Tracy Weldon. He was an uncle to Tabitha, Theodore, and Tiya Burton-Peltier, and brother-in-law to Dan Weldon and Jean Peltier.

Benjamin was born in Kokomo, Indiana on March 15, 1980. He grew up in Novi, MI and graduated from Novi High School in 1998. Benjamin attended Eastern Michigan University, started working in manufacturing, then later finished his degree and obtained his MBA. He worked at manufacturing companies across the country that produced everything from cabinets to automotive parts before moving to Orlando in 2018 to take a job as a Lean/Quality Director for the Florida-based aerotech company JBT.

A service for Benjamin will be held on Dec. 28 at 1 pm at the Community Funeral Home at 910 W. Michigan St. Orlando, FL. It's a small, closed family gathering due to the pandemic. Another memorial is being planned for metro Detroit at a later date in 2021 TBD.

Janet Tallant

MILFORD - Janet Tallant, a resident of Petoskey and former resident of Milford, died peacefully at her son's home in Milford on December 23, 2020 at the age of 86.

She was preceded in death her husband, Elson Carmien earlier this year, her first husband, Paul Edward Tallant in 1994, and a son, Dale Tallant in 2013.

She is survived by sons, Brian Tallant and Kevin Tallant.

A Private Visitation and Funeral Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Saturday, January 2, 2021, with burial in Milford Memorial Cemetery.

For further information please phone 248-684-6645.

LYNCH & SONS
Funeral Directors
Milford

Loretta "Lora" McComas

WESTLAND - McComas Loretta (Lora) C., December 22, age 88 of Westland. Dear mother of Claire Mueller and her husband, John; son, Andrew J. McComas, Jr. and his wife, Christine; son, Rev. Gregory C. McComas and his wife, Alice. Visitation Thursday, January 7, 10:00 AM until the 11:00 AM Funeral Mass at St. James Catholic Church, 46325 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi. All are welcome, social distancing and masks requested. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfh.com

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May peace be with you
in this time of sorrow.



Ava Kehoe has found success with Northville's rowing team and has signed to continue her career at MSU. COURTESY OF AVA KEHOE

Northville's Kehoe reaches dream, signs to row at MSU

Collin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since she was in third grade, Ava Kehoe knew she wanted to be a Michigan State athlete. But she did not know what sport she would play.

Growing up playing soccer and dancing, Kehoe watched her sister join the Northville rowing team, a sport that she did not know existed. During the winter season freshman year, Kehoe gave it a try herself.

"I thought it was so different from anything I had done before," Kehoe said. "I had never heard of rowing until my sister started doing it. I thought it was so obscure that I wanted to try it out. I'm glad I did."

After an impressive career with the Mustangs — helping the Women's Junior 8+ team win a state championship at the 2019 SRAM Championship Regatta and a regional championship Midwest Rowing Championships Regatta — Kehoe will get her wish: earning a spot to row with the Spartans starting in 2021.

Nick Bickes, Northville's rowing coach for the past four seasons, said he has seen his athletes shift their commitment to the sport like a "flip of a switch," turning on a level of dedication to hit every split and improve each day.

Kehoe made it clear to Bickes early on her goal was to row in East Lansing. The head coach made it clear what it would take to get there.

"That was kind of her real moment where she figured out what she wanted to do and we had the conversation of 'This is kind of where you need to be,'" Bickes said. "And she started to work toward that goal."

Northville's head rowing coach said that Kehoe's sophomore season was a big stepping stone in her future in the sport, placing 10th in the Women's JV 4x event at nationals.

Kehoe said her success early on was not expected — to her, it was surreal and crazy. But it also served as her moment where she flipped the switch. She realized this was her path to Michigan State.

"When I found rowing, I found something I was pretty good at," Kehoe said. "I knew I wanted to take it to the next level."

While COVID-19 disrupted Kehoe's chance to re-

peat at nationals as a junior, Bickes was impressed with her perseverance and dedication.

Through the uncertainty, he said, she has been a good leader for the Mustangs, never losing sight of what her high school team was doing, despite focusing her attention on competing for a spot with the Spartans.

Kehoe was counting on having a chance to shine her junior season, but instead was forced to improvise: getting the attention of the Michigan State rowing team through an online recruiting page. She was first contacted by the Spartans in September, finalizing her recruitment in November.

Despite having her future finalized, Kehoe is still focused on her training, even though it has looked much different than it normally does, taking a different level of determination to get through.

"You need to have a certain headspace, I guess, just to be able to continue racing your race," Kehoe said. "When I am in a boat with all of my teammates, I race the race for them or my coxswain because I know I can't let them down. But it's so different when you're by yourself or training by yourself. It's so easy to just give up."

"You just have to grit your teeth and bear it because you need to just continue. You don't really have anybody else to help you out."

During these times, Kehoe said she envisions herself at Michigan State's boathouse among her future teammates to keep her going. But she also focuses on what she still wants to do at Northville: placing first at states and in the top-five at the Midwest regionals.

To Bickes, Kehoe has a lot of room to grow ahead of her first collegiate season.

"I think Michigan State's program is a high-caliber program that, with their training plan and the step up in training that she is going to see and the support she is going to get... I mean, the life of a student-athlete, she's very far from her ceiling in terms of what she can bring to the team," he said.

If given the chance in the spring, Kehoe wants to show the Spartans what they would be getting in the fall.

"I want to show them I'm here to work hard and I'm here because I truly love the sport," Kehoe said. "I really just want to do big things in it."

cgay@hometownlife.com

Top 10

Continued from Page 1B

The Raiders scored 44 points in each of its first two playoff appearances, finding momentum both offensively and defensively despite having three forfeit games during the season: two wins and one loss. Junior split end Aaron Rice and senior running back Justin Whitehorn — both first-team All-State — will try and start 2021 with that same groove: facing Traverse City Central in the regional final.

Top 10 10. South Lyon East football

While South Lyon East football is not still in the playoff hunt, the team had to overcome a lot during its 2020 season. Former South Lyon East offensive lineman Trevon Tyler died after complications he had from a surgery in November 2019. Led by senior quarterback Zander Desentz and a defense that allowed three touchdowns or less in all but one game this season, South Lyon East recorded its best season in school history in memory of Tyler, winning five-of-eight games. The Cougars lost its three games by an average of 7.7 points, including one-score losses to rival South Lyon and Chelsea in the district semifinal.

9. Novi volleyball

After starting the postseason with a dramatic five-set win against KLAA rival Northville, Novi has had a dominant path to the state quarterfinal. The Wildcats have swept each of its past four playoff opponents — adding to its total of 23 during the 2020 season, including all but three of their regular-season league games. Led by second-team All State senior libero Rachel Jennings, along with All-Region honorees Sarah Vellucci and Gaby Cummings, Novi will open 2021 with a state quarterfinal match against Ann Arbor Skyline.

8. Livonia Churchill football

Heading into 2020, hopes were high for Livonia Churchill football. One season after advancing to the regional final — losing by a touchdown to Walled Lake Western — the Chargers came out on fire again, averaging 32.5 points per game, including four games of 35 points or more. Coming out on top of close regular season games against area rivals Stevenson and Franklin to earn a city title, senior quarterback Gavin Brooks and senior safety Jimmy Targosz will lead Churchill to a regional final matchup with Oak Park to start 2021.



Catholic Central won its fourth straight Division 1 team state title. COURTESY OF SCOTT CONFER

7. Detroit Catholic Central football

One season removed from missing the playoffs for only the third time since 2006, the Shamrocks were back to its old ways in 2020, winning each of its nine games with a high-octane offense — junior quarterback Declan Byle leading Catholic Central to 29.8 points per game, its highest total since 2016 — and a shut down defense that allowed 81 total points with the help of high pressure on the defensive line. The Shamrocks seem to be on a path that rivals its 2016 state final run, which will continue against Davison in the regional final.

6. Marian volleyball

After being swept by Catholic League rival Mercy twice in the regular season, Marian, without a senior on its roster, regrouped and showed up when it counted. The Mustangs beat the Marlins in five sets in both the Catholic League final and the regional final to give Marian a state quarterfinal bid against Macomb Dakota. With first-team All-State outside hitter Ava Brizard, second-team All-State middle blocker Sarah Sylvester, second-team All-State setter Ava Sarafa and All State honorable mention outside hitter Sophia Treder, the Mustangs look like they are in prime position heading into 2021, taking on Macomb Dakota in the state quarterfinal.

5. Brother Rice/Detroit Catholic Central hockey

Both Brother Rice and Detroit Catholic Central hockey seemed do be in the driver's seat heading into the state semifinals. The Warriors, carrying a first-place Catholic League finish, outscored playoff opponents, 37-3, in four games heading into its state semifinal against Marquette, while the Shamrocks recorded two shutouts — adding to its total of 12 on the season — and were coming off a 6-1 win against Salem. The two Catholic League rivals seemed as prime contenders for Division 1 and Division 2 state titles prior to the season's cancelation due to COVID-19.

4. South Lyon girls golf

While South Lyon ended its 2019 season with freshman Gabriella Tapp winning the Division 2 individual state title, the Lions took another step forward in 2020, earning their first team state title in school history. Senior Katie Potter, who will golf at Marshall, finished second overall at the state tournament. Prior to their win, South Lyon had been to the state meet 12-straight times and finished in second place twice.

3. Detroit Catholic Central soccer

Three seasons after the Detroit Catholic Central soccer freshman class watched the Shamrocks win a state ti-

tle, the program's first, that same class had a chance to hang a banner of its own. The Shamrocks won the Division 1 state title with a 2-1 overtime win against Traverse City West due to two penalty kicks by senior defender Jack Leuker. Catholic Central finished the season with a record of 13-0-3, outscoring opponents 39-15.

2. Northville girls golf

The Northville girls golf team did it again, winning its third-straight state title, beating Rochester Adams by nine strokes off key performances by sophomores Samantha Coleman and Avneet Gill, along with junior Haesol Park and senior Katelyn Tokarz. Of Northville's five scorers in its latest state final win, four will return for the Mustangs in 2021.

1. Detroit Catholic Central wrestling

Catholic Central wrestling dominance in 2020 was just another normal year for the group. The Shamrocks took home its fourth-straight Division 1 team state title, beating Davison in the final, 34-23, while six members of the team earned Division 1 state championships: Dylan Gilcher (112), Josh Edmond (140), Derek Gilcher (160), Manuel Rojas (189), Brendin Yatooma (215) and Steven Kolchey (heavyweight).

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248-887-5364 | HolySpiritHighland.com
The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home
All are Welcome!

Milford

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-717-3564
Pastor Steve Swayze
Sunday School all ages 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Awards: 3 yrs old thru 8th grade (Sept. - March)
Website: milfordbaptist.org

Northville

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship, 9:30 am
Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am
248-349-0811

South Lyon

BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH
Gathering in Jesus Name
52909 10 Mile Rd. • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ragan, Pastor
734-347-1963 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.
at Liberty St.
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Matthew Minzloff, (248) 437-1651
LO-GC10328411-01

Novi

BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi
on the corner of M-5 & W 13
Sundays 9:00a & 11:15a
www.brightmoorcc.org
something for the entire family

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

Church of the Holy Spirit
3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland
Saturday Mass 5PM,
Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM
248-887-5364 | HolySpiritHighland.com
The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home
All are Welcome!

United Methodist Church
(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and 1st Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Martha M. Wozniak, Lead Pastor
www.unitednorthville.org

'the WAY' - a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church
Worship @ Abbey Park
28413 Abbey Lane
New Hudson, MI
Sunday @ 10am, 248-553-7170
www.hope-lutheran-church.com
Rev. Thomas Scherger

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375
248-349-0565
Divine Service on Sundays at 10am
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:45am
Rev. Thomas Schroeder weisnovi@aol.com
Come and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Sunday 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. Clifford Hennings OFM, Associate
Parish Office: 248-349-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2568
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

Whitmore Lake
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.



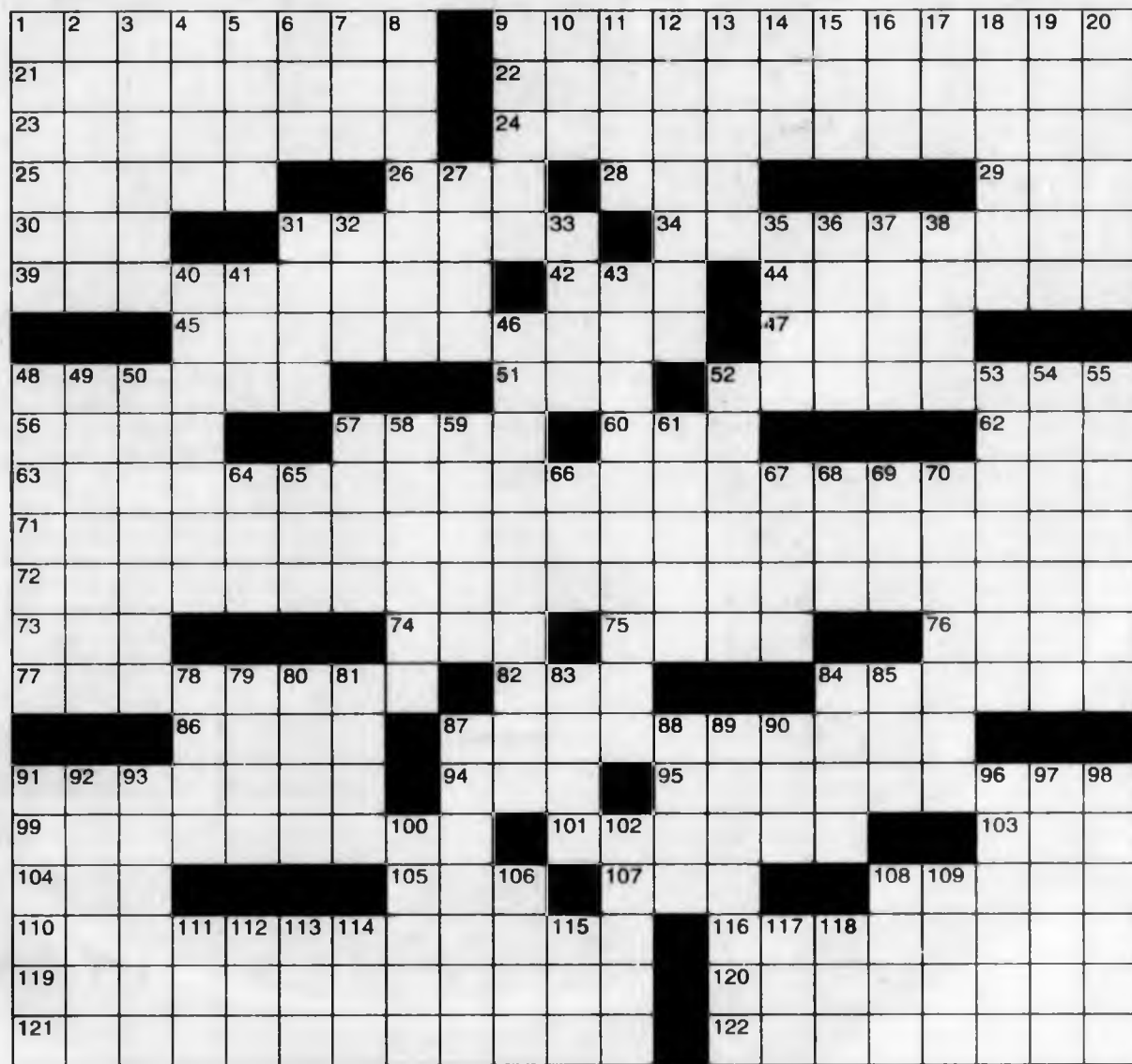
For more information regarding this directory, please contact
Elizabeth Andolina at EAndolina@gannett.com

THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

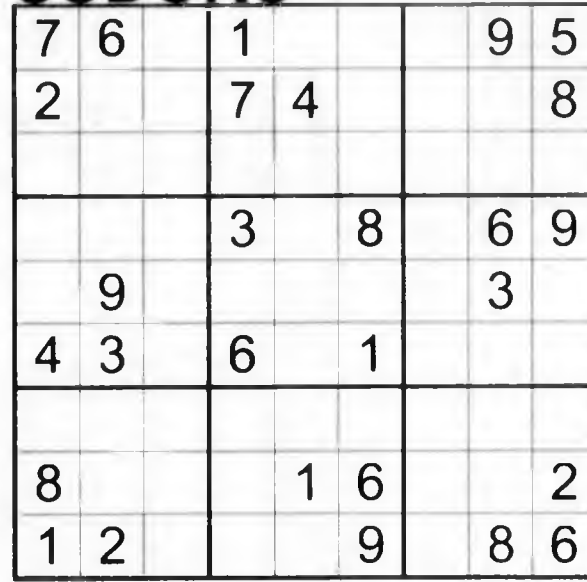
UNTHEMED #3: PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo STACKED CENTER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like photons and gluons
9 Exercise machine with steps
21 Part of Turkey in Asia
22 Money from work
23 Getting wider
24 Three-under-par scores
25 Actors Epps and Sharif
26 Scrape (out)
28 Prefix with monthly or annua
29 Refrain in
30 Distant
31 Gives voice to
34 Study of visual imagery
39 Angler using artificial bait
42 Suffix of sugar names
44 Feels fretfully discontented
45 Looking for
47 Dog pest
48 Geezer
51 Rival of Gmail
52 Gridiron player recruitment event
- 56 Pit — (heartbeat sound)
57 "Etc." for "et cetera," e.g.
60 Kerfuffle
62 Vetoing vote
63 Start of a question in a Snow White story
71 Influence of a country in other countries
72 Explanation of a text based on its exact wording
73 Mauna —
74 After taxes
75 Letters after pis
76 Apple debut of 2005
77 Charming
82 "... boy — girl?"
84 Truck fuel
86 Prefix with monthly or annual
87 Some hairless felines
91 Mafia initiate
94 China's Mao — tung
95 Maestro's group
- 99 Area with a pond and fountains, perhaps
101 Attack
103 Partakes of
104 Trot quickly
105 Conger, e.g.
107 "Listen up!"
108 Rises quickly
110 Vehicle tag
116 War prisoner
119 Not merely figuratively
120 Quality of being close
121 Like a certain branch of geometry
122 Schmoozing sessions
- DOWN**
- 1 Financial scammer
2 Zoo resident
3 Wage
4 Polaris or Sirius
5 Oodles
6 Gin inventor
7 Evil deed
8 Certain steeped herbal drink
9 Passover meal
10 Chinese "way"
- 11 In — (stuck)
12 For short
13 Saintry artifact
14 B-F link
15 Recline
16 Pig — poke
17 Director of 2000's "Charlie's Angels"
18 Ballad singer Michael
19 Materialize
20 States again
27 Deborah of "The King and I"
31 Pre-'91 empire
32 With 66-Down, Mr. or Mrs. Right
33 Arty NYC district
35 German composer Carl
36 "Little" Dickens girl
37 Pundit's paper piece
38 Fibster
40 Source of Adam and Eve's leaves
41 Suffix with Carol
43 Linked collection of photovoltaic panels
46 Redheads
48 Composer Saint-Saëns
49 Personal view
50 Once-popular Nerf game with blasters
52 Amateur player
53 38-Down in the Bible
54 "Enough Said" actor Ben
55 Aleve rival
57 Human rights lawyer
58 Chomping down on
59 Ocean water
61 Actor Lundgren
64 Hockey legend Bobby
65 Stranded cell stuff
66 See 32-Down
67 Very, to Yves
68 In a tizzy, with "up"
69 That, in Chile
70 Liquid quality
78 On the ocean
79 Pricey stones
80 Apple debut of 1998
81 Ship of 1492
83 Ostrich kin
84 Writer Roald
85 Ending for Bronx
87 Strengthened
88 Sniffing organ
89 Getting an inside look at?
90 Roman 201
91 Florida major-leaguer
92 Mother-or-son president of the Philippines
93 Big name in yo-yos
96 Macbeth and Macduff
97 Most scarce
98 Take stock of
100 Coke rival
102 Glossy look
106 Alleyway
108 Feudal peon
109 Writer Sarah — Jewett
111 Poetic "prior to"
112 Modern, in Germany
113 Plant pouch
114 Building addition
115 Airport screening org.
117 Org. for teachers
118 Indenting key



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ONE TO ONE

Can you find all the words containing ONE? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

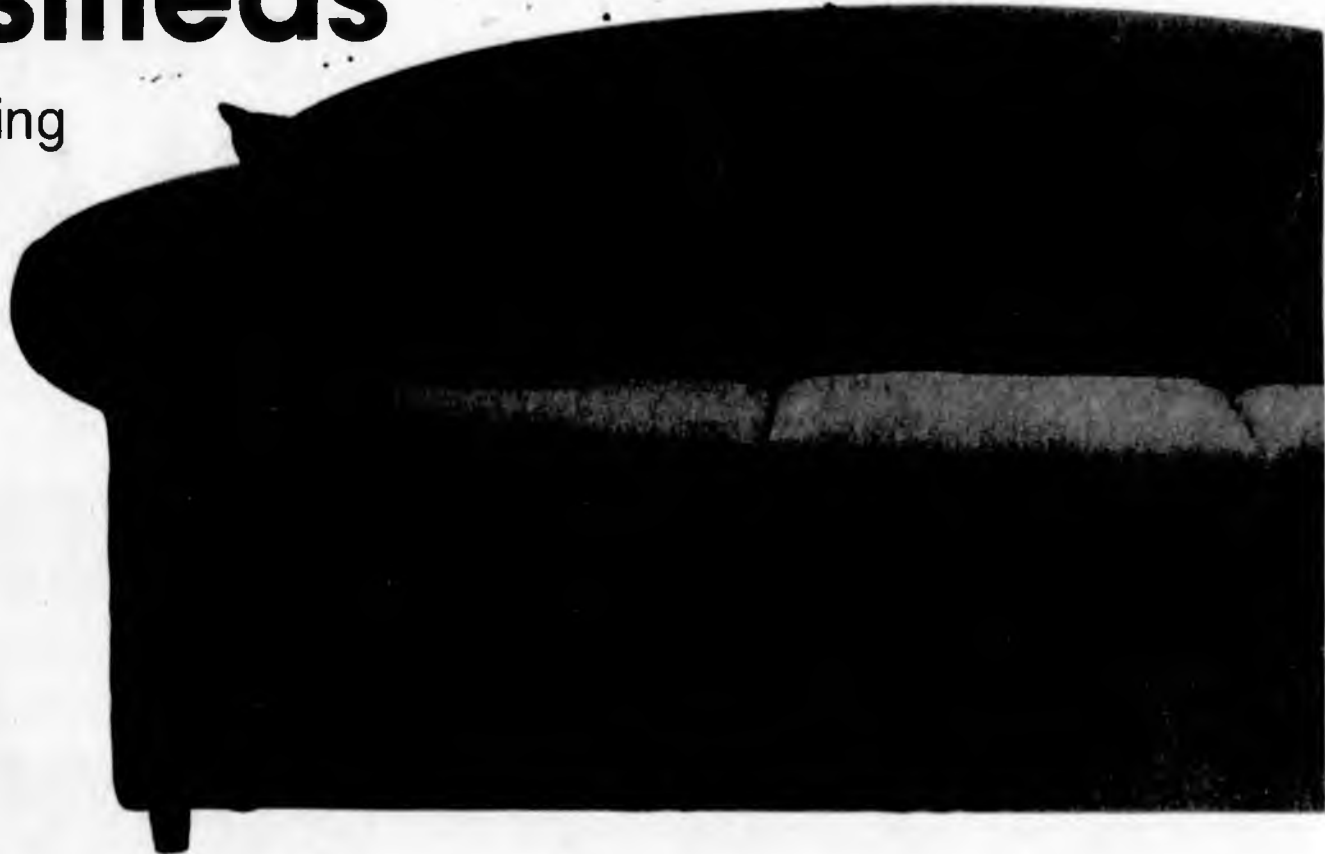
ANSWER KEY



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

The Classifieds

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DEXTER | FARMINGTON HILLS | LIVONIA | NOVI | PINCKNEY | PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE
ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD