

MILFORD IN RECORD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Catholic Central falls to Davison

SPORTS, 1B

Four arrested in teen shooting death

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon police have arrested at least four people because of the armed robbery that resulted in the death of 17-year-old Dylan Stamper, Chief Christopher Sovik confirmed Monday.

Sovik said that the four are in custody because of their roles in a Dec. 30 robbery that led to Dylan's death in his East Liberty Street home.

His father, Kevin Stamper, 43, was critically injured but last known to be in stable condition.

Sovik said he planned to release more information on those arrested on Tuesday.

For now, there have been no apparent arraignment. Sovik declined to share

details on the ages or possible charges for the others arrested.

He also did not respond to questions as to whether the four included the already-charged Fadi Zeineh, 19, of Wash-tenaw County.

Police have said that Zeiney broke into the Stamper home and fired a gun, committing murder and assault.

They also said a driver was waiting

for him in a 2011 Ford Escape and drove him away.

Zeineh was scheduled for a Wednesday probable cause conference. He has been arraigned on 10 individual felony charges.

A court official said Monday morning that there were no arraignments scheduled for later in the day regarding the case.



Main Street Grill and Tavern manager Alisha Wallace steps inside one of the eatery's three outdoor dining igloos. The enclosed, heated tents, which can seat up to six diners, are available by reservation Wednesdays through Saturdays.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Milford restaurants to use greenhouses, igloos

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

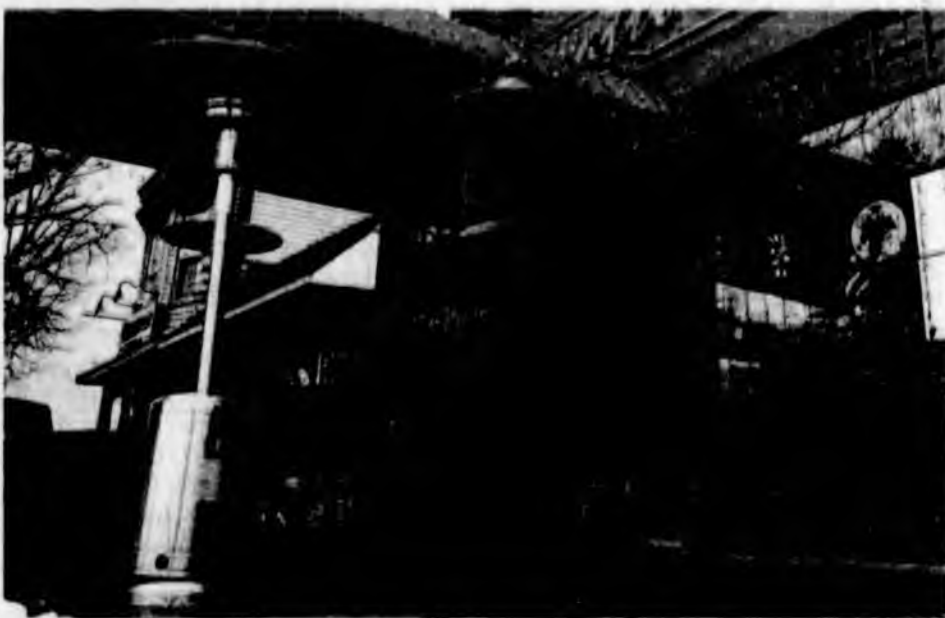
Greenhouses and igloos should begin springing up in downtown Milford this week.

The temporary outdoor structures will allow selected restaurants to offer sit-down options during the pandemic.

"We're ecstatic," Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Ann Barnette said. "Obviously we wish we would have gotten all 26 greenhouses we requested, but we're happy with 10 greenhouses and igloos."

"We will work with restaurant owners on how to distribute. ... We're grateful to the county."

Oakland County is providing five each of winterized greenhouses and



Coratti's of Milford has kept its outdoor diners warm by using gas heaters.

See IGLOOS, Page 7A

Northville board of education seat in question

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two months following the Nov. 3 general election, the fourth and final Northville Public Schools board of education seat that was contested by nine candidates is still up for grabs thanks to a tie (7,856-7,856) between fourth-place finishers James Mazurek and Kimberly Campbell-Voytal.

The draw necessitated that the Wayne County Board of County Canvassers hold a tie-vote ceremony on Nov. 25, with each candidate pulling a sheet of paper out of a box: one reading "Elected," the other "Not Elected."

Mazurek pulled the winning ticket, or so it seemed.

Under Michigan law, the "loser" of such a random draw is entitled to request a ballot recount, which

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Novi council appoints new member

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Julie Maday, a resident of Novi for more than 13 years, now serves the city as a council member.

Maday was appointed to the position last week in a 4-2 vote. Council members Laura Marie Casey and Andrew Mutch voting no. Maday fills the council seat formerly occupied by Kelly Breen, who was elected to the state house in November.

Other candidates who applied for the appointment and whom the council interviewed during a Jan. 4 meeting were Ramesh Verma, who has

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JAN. 29-31
WINE SALE

Robbers force Novi restaurant staff into closet

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two armed robbers recently forced a Novi restaurant's employees into a bathroom before escaping with an undisclosed amount of money, according

to Novi police.
Lt. Jason Meier said the two males entered Nagomi Japanese Restaurant, on Novi Road just south of Grand River Avenue, at about 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5.
The restaurant was about to close, and only the manager and cook were

present.
Each of the robbers had a firearm as they demanded money and forced the manager and cook into a bathroom.
They then stole the money and escaped. Novi police were told the robbers were Black, in their 20s, of thin build

and wearing COVID-19, pandemic-style masks.
Anyone with information is asked to call police Detective Mike Marchetti at 248-347-0537.
Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

MDOT plans \$150M extension of US-23 Flex Route

Jennifer Timar [Livingston Daily](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Motorists on US-23 have been part of an experiment in highway traffic management for a few years.

The Michigan Department of Transportation plans to extend that experiment to Interstate 96 near Brighton in 2024.

In 2017, MDOT launched the US-23 Flex Route on nearly nine miles of the highway between M-14 near Ann Arbor to south of M-36 in Green Oak Township. It was the first of its kind in the state.

The flex route's success has prompted the planned extension north to I-96.

Officials were scheduled to discuss the flex route extension and answer questions from the public at a virtual information session Jan. 13.

The flex route allows motorists to drive on the left-hand shoulder on the southbound side of the highway during morning rush hour and the northbound side during evening rush hour and other times when congestion is high.

It also features overhead signs that alert motorists to when the flex lane is open and traffic conditions ahead such as crashes and suggested speeds.

Construction of the initial flex route was part of a \$92 million revamp of US-23 between M-14 and Silver Lake Road south of Brighton, which also included replacing overpasses, building



MDOT is planning to build new roundabouts at US-23 and Silver Lake Road.
GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

flex route has been performing lately because remote work and other factors have changed traffic counts and flow.
"During the pandemic, it has been hard to get additional traffic data," she said.

Roundabouts planned

Two interchanges — M-36 and Silver Lake Road — will be reconstructed with new roundabouts.

Martin said they are designed to improve traffic flow.

Three roundabouts are planned for the M-36 interchange.

"At M-36, we will have roundabouts at both ramp terminals and at Whitmore Lake Road and M-36. Currently, you've got the partial cloverleaf interchange with the loop ramps and that really strange ramp that ties into Whitmore Lake Road," Martin said. "We'll tighten it up and get ramps farther away from Whitmore Lake Road, which will help with traffic flow where you have three very closely spaced intersections."

Two roundabouts are planned for the Silver Lake Road interchange.

"There will be roundabouts at the ramp terminals. One will also pull in Whitmore Lake Road on the west side, and one on the east that pulls in Fieldcrest Road," Martin said.

She said she expects construction to begin in late 2023 or early 2024 and last about a year.

new roundabouts, upgrading ramps and fixing pavement.

MDOT officials estimate extending the flex route to I-96 and related roadwork, including new roundabouts at M-36 and Silver Lake Road, will cost about \$150 million and primarily be paid for with federal funds through Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Rebuilding Michigan bonding program.

Flex route designed to reduce congestion, crashes

MDOT University Region Planner Kari Martin said the existing US-23 Flex Route has achieved some of what officials intended to do — reduce crashes and ease rush hour congestion.

Martin said travel times have improved and crashes have been reduced on southbound US-23. However, crash-

es are up on northbound US-23 where the flex route ends near M-36. During rush hour, when the flex lane is open, the lane ends and motorists must merge back to two lanes.

"Extending it north is going to help that situation," Martin said.

She also said the extension is expected to improve travel times on northbound US-23.

According to data MDOT released in 2019, primary and secondary crashes were reduced by about 50% along the entire flex route. Officials noted an initial 14% uptick in crashes between January and April 2018, shortly after the flex route opened, and officials noticed a concentration of crashes at M-36 on northbound US-23 where the highway narrows to two lanes during rush hour.

Martin said the pandemic has made it difficult to track how well the existing

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Novi fire station becomes vaccination site

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](#)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Add one more location to get a COVID-19 vaccination in southwest Oakland County.

Vaccinations will take place for people in Phase 1A of the state's vaccination group, said Police Chief David Molloy, who also serves as Novi's public safety director.

Molloy said Oakland County reached out to the city in search of a space to offer vaccinations, with Fire Station No. 4 being the best.

In addition to its convenient location, it has room for enough vehicles to line up and space for the monitoring period required after recipients get the shot, Molloy said. Those who receive the vaccine are required to wait onsite for 15 minutes after receipt.

"It affords the opportunity for traffic to queue," Molloy said. "It's one of our larger fire stations."

Bill Mullan, communications director for Oakland County, said the site will begin vaccinations by appointment only.



Novi's Fire Station No. 4 at 49375 Ten Mile Road, with ample parking at its site, is slated to be used as a COVID-19 vaccination center in the future.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ment only. He said the county is appreciative Novi, as well as other communities, are offering sites up for vaccination sites without any financial compensation.

"We are grateful to Novi because, like our other community partners, they are providing the location for drive-thru vaccinations at no cost to the Oakland County Health Division," he said.

Members of the general public will have to wait a while before they are eligible to stop by the station for their jab. The state is currently vaccinating those at the highest risk for COVID-19, including paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-

term care facilities.

The next set of people expected to receive the vaccine include those frontline essential workers and individuals who are 75 years and older.

Molloy said it's expected the fire station will be used as a vaccination center for several months. It will continue to operate as a fire station, with firefighters staffing the building, he said.

As of Jan. 4, the State of Michigan has administered more than 140,000 doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, both of which were approved for emergency use last month. It currently has more than 520,000 doses shipped across the state, with more than 83,000 shipped in Oakland County and more than 20,000 in Wayne County outside of Detroit.

The Novi station will be the second in southwest Oakland County to serve as a vaccination spot. Just down the road at 10 Mile and Milford Road, a COVID-19 testing and soon-to-be vaccination site has been set up at Lyon Township Fire Station No. 2.

The use of the fire station is not the first time Oakland County has utilized Novi facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing was done last year at Ella Mae Power Park, a space, Molloy said, saw plenty of activity and showed the county what could be done in Novi.

Vaccination appointments are required by calling 1-800-848-5533. Appointments are available based upon the vaccine supply received, according to the Oakland County website.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on February 3, 2021 at 7:00p.m. to receive public input on the following request in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- A variance request for the side yard setback requirement on two lots zoned R-2, Second Density Residential District, located at 711 N. Center St., lot numbers 48-22-34-377-005 and 48-22-34-377-006. The two lots are part of a proposed three-lot residential development where the applicant would like to build a duplex building on each lot. The applicant is seeking a 5-foot variance for lots L-2 and L-3 (northern and middle lots) from the requirement that the total of two side yards equals a minimum of 15-feet, from the requirement of Section 15.01 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Meeting Location and Participation

The meeting 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. The following is a link to attend the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85629409543>. US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592, Webinar ID: 856 2940 9543

Anyone needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, information about electronic meetings, and a user guide can be found at: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=13505469#zoning>. OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, Agendas and Minutes, and scroll to the Board of Zoning Appeals section of the webpage.

Application Review and Written Comments

The variance application is available for review at www.ci.northville.mi.us. From the Home Page, click Services, Building and Planning, then Board of Zoning Appeals.

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance request must be submitted by 4:30pm February 1, 2021 to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Clerk, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or use the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmasa@ci.northville.mi.us.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointment to the following Boards & Commissions:

- Beautification Commission
- Board of Review
- Building Authority
- Construction Board of Appeals
- Historical Commission
- Library Board
- Planning Commission

If you are a registered voter and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, information about the various Boards and Commissions is available at cityofnovi.org or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (248)347-0456.

The deadline for filing an application is Friday, January 29, 2020. Applicants will be contacted by the City Clerk's Office regarding the date and time of interviews.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk



Students at Kurtz Elementary are ready for their first day of school on Aug. 31. All Huron Valley school buildings will reopen for in-person learning Jan. 19.
SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Huron Valley returning to in-person learning

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Huron Valley school buildings will reopen for four days per week in-person learning Jan. 19, almost a week earlier than expected for secondary students.

Some students in special education programs were expected to return even earlier, Jan. 11.

In a letter to district families, Superintendent Paul Salah reiterated the decision made by the school board to send elementary students back to school on Jan. 19, also citing current public health data. But additionally, he announced middle school and high school students would join them, instead of returning Jan. 25 as previously planned.

"Our goal as a district is to keep our schools open and operating in a consistent four-day schedule," Salah said. "The board of education and administration have already begun having conversations about next steps related to a five-day-a-week return and are working closely with the health department to determine timelines and plans for vaccine availability."

High school final exams will also be administered in person Jan. 20-22, allowing students in the building on that Wednesday, a one-time exception as the day is normally reserved for asynchronous learning for all students each week to allow for additional cleaning.

"I'm grateful to have 2020 behind us," Salah wrote in his letter. "Certainly 2020 will go down in history as one of the most challenging of the century due to the

Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent impact to our health care system, economy and education. I'm aware that not all parents agree with every decision that has been made, but I'm hopeful we can come together to support our students and our schools as we return to in-person learning."

Huron Valley was one of only a few districts in the county that started the school year with in-person learning, with a 2-day per week hybrid plan implemented for elementary students on Aug. 31, and two weeks later for 8th-12 grade students. In mid-October, the school board voted to go to 4-days per week instruction, despite teacher objections. However, on Oct. 31, with COVID-19 cases spiking in the community, the district sent all students home to learn remotely.

Two weeks later, the district announced a plan to bring students back to face-to-face instruction, but not even 24 hours later, that decision was reversed. Students have remained in virtual learning as the county remains at risk level E, the highest risk level for COVID-19, but not without controversy.

Salah explained in his letter that the decision to bring students back was made with the support of the Oakland County Health Division officials, with COVID-19 cases having continued to drop over the past few weeks, to the range of 40 per 10,000 residents. During a mid-November peak, there were approximately 96 cases identified per 10,000 residents in the district, creating operational challenges.

Returning students Jan. 19 gives a two-week quarantine window after the holiday break, considered a best practice for the district by the health department.

District officials will continue all mitigation strategies implemented since the start of the year to combat COVID-19, including cleaning protocols, requiring all students and staff to wear masks in the buildings and on buses; handwashing and use of desk partitions and "social distancing to the extent possible."

Salah continued that large classes will be relocated to large spaces when feasible to allow for greater social distancing, but officials recognize "there will be positive COVID-19 cases reported among students and staff members when in-person learning resumes. The district will continue to work closely with OCHD to determine the need to quarantine classrooms or buildings based on confirmed cases."

Salah expressed his hope that parents would keep children home if they are showing any signs of illness, and also gave his gratitude for sacrifices families made to stay safe during the holidays.

"I know I speak for myself, our staff and our board of education when I say we're looking forward to welcoming our students back into our buildings," Salah said. "We will do everything in our power to remain in face-to-face learning and deliver a high quality education for all HVS students as we continue to weigh health and safety, social emotional well being of our students and instructional continuity."

sbromley@hometownlife.com

Governor sets March 1 goal to get kids back in classrooms

John Wisely Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Friday it's now safe for K-12 students to return to classrooms even if COVID-19 caseloads remain high.

She set March 1 as a goal for schools across Michigan to offer some in-person learning and the state won't penalize schools that don't offer it.

"I strongly encourage districts to provide as much face-to-face learning as possible, and my administration will work closely with them to get it done," Whitmer said in a statement. "As rapid testing access expands, we have even more tools to make schools safer for students, educators and other staff."

The question of whether to offer face-to-face learning has vexed school districts across the state since the fall. Some districts have offered it at all grade levels, as have most private schools. Others have limited it to younger grades.

Some have yet to return kids to classrooms, prompting angry complaints from some parents who want it.

The state releases a list every Monday of virus outbreaks traced to schools and the numbers have fluctuated since September. Many districts that had been providing in-person learning switched to all remote after Thanksgiving because of increased virus cases in their communities, even if the cases weren't tied to schools.

Some of those districts are back now and others plan to return in coming weeks.

"Over the last 10 months, medical experts and epidemiologists have closely followed the data and have learned that schools can establish a low risk of transmission by ensuring that everyone wears a mask and adopting careful infection prevention protocols," Whitmer said.

Whitmer announced Jan. 4 that schoolteachers would be among the first people to receive COVID-19 vaccines, a decision that educators cheered.

Teachers have said they are eager to return to in-person learning, but they are also being cautious.

A group of educators, including teachers unions, administrators, school boards and others, issued a joint statement expressing similar hopes.

"I strongly encourage districts to provide as much face-to-face learning as possible, and my administration will work closely with them to get it done."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

"Containing the spread of this deadly disease was — and continues to be — job one, which is why we've supported the steps Gov. Whitmer and our state have taken to fight COVID-19," the statement said.

The push to return kids to classrooms comes with state recommendations to limit the possibility of spread, most of which schools have already been doing.

They include mandatory wearing of masks, except while eating and in other limited circumstances. The guidance also calls for social distancing, including a recommendation to divide students into cohorts to reduce the number of kids in a building at one time.

Other recommendations include adequate supplies of hand sanitizer, improvements to school ventilation systems, as well as having students and staffers screen themselves at home for things like fevers and coughs.

Not all schools have followed protocols. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Friday fined South Lake Public Schools in Macomb County \$4,900 for:

- Not developing an infectious disease preparedness and response plan that can guide protective actions against COVID-19
- Not providing COVID-19 training to employees
- Not conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks of employees before they entered the facility
- Not having a written hazard communication program developed, implemented, and maintained

The citation came after an employee complaint prompted a MIOSHA inspection. Superintendent Ted VonHiltmayer did not return a message seeking comment on the violations.

Overdosing man revived at Speedway

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On- and off-duty emergency responders were able to revive an apparently overdosing Speedway gas station customer in Lyon Township last week.

According to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, a deputy was at the Speedway station at the corner of Pontiac Trail and Nine Mile Road, at about 1:35 p.m., Jan. 5 when another customer reported that a man was turning blue on the floor.

The deputy found an off-duty Southfield firefighter trying to administer CPR to the victim, a 35-year-old man from Brighton Township. The deputy administered two doses of naloxone. Lyon Township firefighters arrived and asked deputies to deliver a third dose. The Brighton Township man gained consciousness.

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New year means time to take care of personal finances



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Happy New Year! I don't remember ever wanting to say goodbye to a year as much as I want to say goodbye and good riddance to 2020. We have all gone through an incredible journey, and although that journey is not yet over, it appears that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The vaccine is being distributed worldwide, and it seems we're finally getting a handle on this deadly disease. Although, during this crisis most of our focus has been on keeping our family and friends safe and making sure their needs are taken care of, it is important as we enter the new year that we remember to allocate time to taking care of our personal finances.

Governments can print money, raise taxes and do all sorts of things that aren't available to you and me. We are responsible for our own personal finances, and the new year is a great time to see how you are doing financially.

Just like corporations have financial statements, so must individuals. I believe there are two financial statements that are critical to help you make better decisions with your money. The first of these statements is nothing more than a net-worth statement, and the second is

Just like corporations have financial statements, so must individuals. I believe there are two financial statements that are critical to help you make better decisions with your money. The first of these statements is nothing more than a net-worth statement, and the second is your own income and expense report.

your own income and expense report.

A personal family net worth statement lists all your assets and liabilities. Assets less liabilities equal your net worth. I generally recommend people do a net worth statement twice a year. After all, how do you know if you have progressed year to year unless you have something to compare it to?

In creating your net worth statement, it's easy to value your investments because most of you will soon receive year-end statements. What is a little more difficult is to value your home or collectible assets that you may have. Always remember that when it comes to valuing your home or any collectible, the value is not what you think it is worth, but rather, what is it worth on the open market.

Remember, you're using your net worth statement to help yourself; therefore, there's no reason to overvalue your assets. In fact, in most cases, it makes sense to undervalue those items.

The other side of the equation on

your net worth statement is debts that you owe. Once again, you will be receiving statements on these items, so it's easy to know what you owe. However, I would go one step further and make sure you understand the interest rate you are paying, the term of the loan, and if you are deducting the interest.

There is nothing wrong with taking pencil to paper and handwriting out your net worth statement. On the other hand, there is also nothing wrong with taking advantage of technology. The bottom line – whatever is easier for you is the method you should use.

The second statement that I believe is important is the income and expense report. In other words, a cash-flow statement, which is nothing more than a report of what comes into the family and what goes out.

A cash-flow statement is important in helping you understand what it costs you to live a month. In addition, by doing a cash-flow statement and comparing it to past years, it allows you to de-

termine your individual inflation rate.

The official inflation rate for the country is immaterial to you and me. What is important is our own individual inflation rate, and by doing a cash-flow statement on a regular basis, you will be able to determine that number. A cash-flow statement is also important in helping someone plan for their retirement and to make sure people are living within their means in retirement.

One of the benefits of a cash-flow statement is that it allows you to understand what your actual cost of living is. Most people have no idea what it costs them to live; rather, they guess.

My experience has been when people guess what it costs them to live they almost always underestimate their true cost. When you underestimate your true cost of living, it can cause you problems, particularly when it comes to retirement. Therefore, it is important to be accurate when you do your cash-flow statement.

2021 will bring its fair share of twists and turns, financial challenges and opportunities. One of the best ways to face the challenges is to have your financial house in order, and doing a family net worth statement and a cash-flow statement is a great first start.

Good luck.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remove Maddock from Legislature

Our democracy has been threatened. I believe Rep. Matt Maddock should be removed from his position as state representative for the role he has played in this terrifying episode of our history.

As a citizen living in his district, I am aware of the constant lies and misinformation Matt and Meshawn Maddock have spread on social media. Lies about the seriousness of the COVID epidemic. Lies about election fraud. Conspiracy

theories that push an anti-government mindset and distrust in our democratic institutions.

He has abused his position of power and in doing so has put us all in danger.

Maddock and his wife have organized and actively participated in events that present a clear threat to the safety of our citizens.

They organized "Operation Gridlock" which blocked traffic in our state capital during the peak of a pandemic; they encouraged armed citizens to disrupt our state capitol all in the name

of freedom.

The domestic terrorists who attacked the heart of our democracy and those who dared to intimidate our lawmakers with potential violence by bearing arms in the place where the work of democracy is done, were driven to those places by a steady diet of right-wing false information and anti-government propaganda. This isn't free speech, it's unpatriotic and treasonous.

The false narrative of voter fraud and a stolen election was promoted by Maddock and based on a campaign of disin-

formation by President Donald Trump that started in advance of the election. Maddock's participation in this dangerous game of discrediting our election process has potentially done irreparable damage to our proudest achievement as a democracy.

We've now seen where the anger and frustration of people who actually believe these lies leads.

The violence will not end if those behind it face no consequences.

Sherri Masson
Milford

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The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

JANUARY 2021

30 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1.2

THINGS EVERYBODY KNOWS...

THAT JUST ARE NOT SO!

EVERYBODY KNOWS: MY TRUST WILL AVOID PROBATE! REALITY CHECK: YOUR TRUST WILL FAIL...



OUR HERO: JOSH BILLINGS
It ain't ignorance causes so much trouble; it's folks knowing so much that ain't so.

JOSH BILLINGS, 1880's

Some things you really know about. Fishing. Painting. Cross-stitch. Woodwork. Lifetime of experience. You are the expert. Then you hear other folks talk about that thing. And they are wrong. Totally. Thoroughly. Completely.

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When grown-ups do, it is not so cute. Regular folks say and believe the darndest things. That waste your time and effort. That cost you money. That prevent effective action.

You found the place where we set the record straight, one issue at a time.

PROBATE PROBLEM: CLEAN UP THE MESS!

You have stuff. Worked a lifetime to earn it. Did not fritter it away. Saved for the rainy day. Your stuff. You own it. You control it. Spend it. Save it. It is yours. No fuss, no muss. Easy.

And then. Stroke. Dementia. Disability. Death. Who is in control now? Not you! Then who? It used to be so easy. Now it is a big mess. When you make a mess, the answer is probate. Guardianship. Conservatorship. Estate Administration.

What if you did not make a mess at all? Let's go back to the "supermarket" from last week's Reporter.



YOU GO TO THE SUPERMARKET.

You are toddling through Kroger (or Meijer or Super Walmart or Aldi or Spartan or ?) with a

double armload of groceries. You are in control. Put items down. Pick items up. No problem. Then. Whoops! Slip and fall. Asparagus in the Air! Soaring Cereal! Bouncing Bread! Fettuccine in Flight! You went from complete control to no control at all. Big mess. Cleanup on Aisle 3... Bring a mop...

PROBATE COURT TO THE RESCUE?

Probate Court is the janitor. Johnny-on-the-Spot to dispose of the debris. Your will? A mere scrap of paper fluttering among

the gallivanting groceries. Golly, I sure do hope the janitor finds that paper! And reads it. And follows it. Let us hope... and pray. That is probate.

How To AVOID PROBATE... DO NOT MAKE A MESS!

Pretty simple. Do not make a mess. No mess? No job for the Probate Cleanup Crew. No probate.

SHOPPING CART TO THE RESCUE!

What if you had put all those groceries in shopping cart? Then you slipped and fell? Wouldn't the groceries stay in the cart? Voila! mess. Nothing janitor Probate Court to do!

YOUR TRUST IS A SHOPPING CART

Your trust is a shopping cart. Put your house, money, insurance, business, cottage, and furniture (but not your IRA!) into your shopping cart/trust. Now comes death or disability. Slip and fall! But your stuff is safe in the trust! No mess. No probate. Whew!

WHY MOST TRUSTS, INCLUDING YOURS, WILL FAIL

You have a beautiful, brand new shopping cart. But you did not put your stuff in it. It is empty! You are still carrying around all/most/some of your stuff. If (when) you slip and fall, that stuff is going to make a mess. And that means probate. And your lawyer put a memo in your trust binder that makes it clear: it is all YOUR fault.

I guess you should have read all 567 pages of legalese in that binder... Oh well. Now your kids will have to probate your estate. I wonder if there will be any attorney fees for that...

EVERYBODY ELSE KNOWS YOUR TRUST WILL FAIL

Failure is a given. Your lawyer knows it. Your banker knows it. Your insurance rep knows it. Everybody knows that you will not put your stuff into the trust. And then the "pour-over will" must be probated. Did you know that? No? Hmmm, I guess not "everybody" knows your trust will fail. Probate is your destiny! Probate costs are your legacy!

WAKE UP. SMELL THE COFFEE. FACE THE FACTS.

You are not alone. According to one survey, only 4% of trusts are fully funded. That means 96% of trusts will fail when needed.

And even when you try to get your assets into your trust, you will often be misled. How many times have we seen financial advisors claim that accounts have been retitled when only the beneficiary designations were changed? All too common. Does your lawyer know what is going on? Why not ask? Why doesn't your lawyer know?

THE ANSWER: TALK STRAIGHT, DO THE WORK

You need a "funding coach" to help you through the hard work. Perseverance pays! We will help you stick with it. You spent good money to preserve your life choices and protect your legacy. Do not surrender with the finish line in sight.

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AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. 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? Riots, nightly violence, capricious decrees, flagrant hypocrisy, obvious media bias and obfuscation. It all takes a toll.

You, Middle-class Michigan, are the foundation for the future. Step by step. Inch by inch. You will pave the way back to normal. Let the chattering classes chatter. There is hard work to be done. And we are just the folks to do it. With integrity. Keeping our promises. Playing by the rules. No cheating. Focused. Undistracted.

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counts. Because one lost year is too much.

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Northville chief takes helm of police associations

Northville Police Chief Alan Maciag has been elected president of two professional organizations for 2021: the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police and the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Maciag has been police chief in Northville for two years. During that time, he has implemented body-worn cameras and is currently ramping up crisis intervention training for officers to effectively respond to individuals who have a mental health disorder or addiction.

At the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Maciag served as first vice president in 2020. He will be sworn in on Jan. 21, 2021 for his one-year term as president.

Among the association's goals and objectives, it seeks to improve law enforcement through the cooperation of public and private agencies focused on protecting lives and property; encourage professional recruitment, selection and training of qualified law enforcement personnel; promote and adhere to high law enforcement standards of conduct; stimulate citizen interest in law enforcement through good public relations; and aid in the adoption of statutes, good police practices and the general welfare and safety of the public.

Among his duties as president, he presides at all meetings of the executive board and association, serves as association spokesperson to the press and public, appoints committees and desig-



Maciag

ates chairs of those committees.

At the Wayne County Association of Chiefs of Police, Maciag was vice president in 2020. He will represent member police chiefs, directors and executive-level law enforcement professionals across Wayne County during his one-year term. His term as president began Nov. 17.

Maciag started his police career at the Wayne Police Department nearly 23 years ago and rose to become police chief. During that time, he held many positions and was Wayne's Police Officer of the Year in 2001.

He earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Western Michigan University; an M.A. in Criminology from Eastern Michigan University and graduated from the FBI National Academy (251st session) in Quantico, Virginia.

While at the Wayne Police Department, he attended and graduated from the Michigan extension program of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, based in Illinois.

Of small-town policing, he said he likes to "be hands-on and get out there with the officers, and become integrated with the community as much as possible."

"Having a great line of communication with the community helps solve problems and combats crime."



Signage on the outside of the Buddy's Pizza location in Detroit in 2019. DFP FILE

Buddy's Pizza handing out discount cards

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Get ready to score Detroit-style pizza at a discounted price. Buddy's Pizza, the beloved local pizza chain, is kicking off its 75th anniversary discount beginning this month.

Customers can pick up appreciation cards good for \$7.50 off an eight-square pizza at any of Buddy's 19 locations including carryout spots. Buddy's expects to hand out 1,500 appreciation cards at each location for a total of 28,500 cards.

This is the first year that the annual promotion, which associates the discount amount with Buddy's time in business, will begin in January. Typi-

cally, the promotion starts in June with Buddy's Pizza Day and runs through December.

This is the 11th year Buddy's has offered the coupon promotion.

Like all Michigan restaurants, Buddy's can only offer carryout because of the state health department ban on indoor dining to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The ban is set to expire Jan. 15.

Customers can use the cards for dine-in once indoor dining resumes.

Buddy's got its start in 1946 with a location at corner of Six Mile and Conant in Detroit, serving up deep-dish, traditional Detroit-style pizza made in dark pans that originally stemmed from the auto industry.

GOP co-chair from Milford facing opposition

Paul Egan and Clara Hendrickson

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING — A Michigan GOP activist who organized busloads of Trump supporters who traveled to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., for a Jan. 6 protest that devolved into a riot is about to become state co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

The proposed leadership role for Meshawn Maddock is not sitting well with some party members.

On Wednesday, Michigan Republican Party Chair Laura Cox announced she would not seek a second two-year term — a decision she said in an email to party members she arrived at over the Christmas holidays.

The unexpected announcement from Cox means that under current rules there will be no election for the top post at the state party convention in early February. Only one candidate, former Chairman Ron Weiser, had registered to challenge Cox ahead of the deadline. Weiser is running on a slate with Maddock as co-chair.

"Meshawn Maddock needs to withdraw as the (unopposed) candidate for co-chairman of the Michigan Republican Party," state Republican activist Dennis Lennox tweeted Wednesday. "If she doesn't, the convention should suspend the rules and elect a candidate from the floor. Period."

Maddock, who was a founding board member of the Michigan Conservative Coalition and is a national advisory board member of Women for Trump, helped organize buses leaving from Michigan to Washington, D.C., to carry Michigan Trump supporters to the nation's capital.

On Jan. 6, she tweeted that those in attendance at the rally at the Ellipse, which turned violent when Trump supporters stormed past police and occupied the Capitol, were "the most incredible crowd and sea of people I've ever walked with."

She posted a video from the rally to Instagram in which a man in the crowd can be heard shouting: "We need to march on the Capitol and drag these people out of power."

Both Maddock and her husband, state Rep. Matt Maddock, R-Milford, spoke at a Jan. 5 Capitol rally, according to a video from the Right Side Broadcasting Network posted to Facebook. Meshawn Maddock told the crowd, "We never stop fighting," but did not expressly advocate entering the Capitol by force.

Matt Maddock told the crowd he was one of a group of state lawmakers from Michigan who wrote Vice President Mike Pence, urging him not to count Michigan's electoral votes for Democratic President-elect Joe Biden.

Neither responded to text messages or phone calls, but Meshawn Maddock told the Free Press Jan. 4 she was organizing buses and expected thousands of



Meshawn Maddock, co-founder of Michigan Trump Republicans, live streams the activity during an event to support President Donald Trump. The event was held in 2017 at Block Brewing in Howell. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Michiganers to join other Trump supporters from across the U.S. in converging near the Capitol.

"As a leader for Republicans in Michigan, I'm going to stand shoulder to shoulder with Americans that know voter fraud is real," she said in a text message. "Voters no longer trust the system and we want people prosecuted. Now is not the time for summer soldiers and sunshine Patriots, now is the time for brave men to do the right thing."

Courts in Michigan and other swing states have resoundingly rejected claims that election fraud was a factor in Biden's victory over Trump.

At least six people with Michigan ties were arrested in connection with the U.S. Capitol breach and subsequent unrest Wednesday, according to D.C. police.

Weiser is a businessman, party fundraiser and philanthropist who was appointed ambassador to Slovakia under President George W. Bush and chaired the state party during the 2010 and 2018 election cycles.

Both Weiser and Meshawn Maddock issued statements Jan. 7 that condemned the violence but made no mention of Maddock's pending role as state party co-chair.

"I strongly condemn those people who turned into a mob and breached the Capitol after what was supposed to be a peaceful protest," Weiser said. "Those who broke the law should be held accountable. My heart goes out to the families of those who were unnecessarily harmed."

Weiser said that Trump on Jan. 7 promised "a peaceful transfer of power," and it is time for Republicans "to rest, regroup, and focus on defeating the Democrats in 2022." Weiser did not otherwise respond to a Wednesday text message asking whether he had any concerns about Maddock serving as state party co-chair, given Wednesday's developments.

Meshawn Maddock's statement, also issued through a spokesman, said she

condemns "the violence and the breaching of the capitol in the strongest possible terms."

She said the rally "was supposed to be a peaceful event and the people who became a mob and broke the law should be held accountable." Maddock said she is "horrified by the death of the young woman and pray for the healing of our nation."

Cox confirmed to the Free Press she will not seek another term but did not respond to a question about Maddock.

"Over the Christmas holiday, I realized that while this has been the best job of my life, it is time to move on," Cox said in the email to party members. "But while I move on from the title, I will nev-

er move on from our party or principles we all fight for."

Under Cox, Trump lost Michigan to Biden Nov. 3 after narrowly winning the state in 2016 and Republican U.S. Senate candidate John James was defeated by Democratic incumbent Gary Peters. But the party held its majority in the state House and won a competitive U.S. House race in western Michigan to succeed U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, who left the party over differences with Trump.

In her email, Cox thanked party volunteers. "Each time the bell rang, you got in the ring with me and fought your heart out for our party, for our state, for our nation, and for our children," she said.

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Loves Furniture files for bankruptcy

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Loves Furniture, the new retailer that took over many shuttered Art Van Furniture locations last summer, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The filing, which happened Jan. 6 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Detroit, comes less than a year after Art Van Furniture's bankruptcy, which turned into a total liquidation for the storied furniture brand that began in the 1950s and grew into the Midwest's top furniture and mattress retailer.

Loves Furniture has been under financial pressure since almost the day it opened, and recently announced it would close numerous locations and keep just 13 stores — 12 in Michigan and one outside Toledo. Loves previously had 32 stores in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania that employed nearly 950 people, including many former Art Van workers.

The initial bankruptcy document offered few details about Loves Furniture's problems, but said the company has between 100 and 199 creditors and \$10 million to \$50 million in liabilities.

According to Loves' bankruptcy at-



Loves Furniture and Mattresses in a former Art Van Furniture store in Livonia.
ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

torney, the company is looking to keep open its remaining 13 stores and bring in a liquidation company to run going-out-of-business sales for unsold furniture. Some of those stores still display "grand opening" banners.

Loves Furniture would then seek a new owner for the stores as part of the bankruptcy process, according to attorney Max Newman of Butzel Long.

Loves Furniture went into business

in late summer after a Texas-based private equity firm, US Assets Inc., whose founder and CEO is named Jeff Love, bought 27 shuttered Art Van stores in Michigan, plus 10 other Art Van and Levin and Wolf locations in other states.

However, that deal did not including the stores' underlying real estate.

Those and other Art Van store properties were previously sold to outside real estate investment firms in sale-lea-

seback arrangements as part of the Van Elslander family's sale of Art Van Furniture to private-equity firm Thomas H. Lee Partners. That \$612.5 million deal happened in March 2017.

In a December interview, Loves Furniture CEO Mack Peters said that Loves was struggling to fill its stores with fresh inventory because of COVID-19 pandemic-related supply issues affecting the furniture industry, resulting in long delivery delays that turned off customers.

The company also has a stack of unpaid vendor bills, including from Detroit-based Fairmont Sign Co. that says it is owed more than \$750,000 and a Mississippi-based furniture supplier that recently sued Loves Furniture over \$1.8 million in merchandise.

"They have operated very sloppily, so it's not a big surprise," Fairmont Sign President David Haddad said about Loves' bankruptcy filing. "I don't think they thought the whole thing out before they (opened)."

Haddad said his business came under tremendous pressure when Loves failed to pay, and he still hopes to recoup "a good chunk" of what Loves Furniture owes.

Igloos

Continued from Page 1A

igloos, as well as about 50 heaters and propane tanks and some sanitization stations as part of a more than \$40,000 grant to the village to help businesses through the pandemic winter. Just before Christmas, the county distributed an additional \$80,000 in CARES Act cash grants to Milford businesses.

The village council unanimously approved criteria for distribution of the greenhouses and igloos that will allow restaurants to take delivery of structures this week.

Village Manager Christian Wuerth and Barnette needed the council to set the criteria for the structures in order to make decisions on how to distribute

them to businesses. There are only 10 available.

Among the factors that will determine who receives a greenhouse or igloo is whether the restaurant has continued to operate in some form during the pandemic; whether they primarily relied on dine-in or carryout prior to COVID-19; and how quickly they can put the structures into operation.

"If they can't put it together tomorrow, (they will be) less priority," Wuerth said.

Continuity of use will also be considered.

Barnette noted that, conceptually, state restrictions on indoor dining could be lifted on Jan. 15 if there is not another surge in COVID-19 cases from the holidays. However, she anticipates that even if that occurs, there would still be customers who would not eat indoors

and restaurants that would still want to offer the greenhouse or igloo options.

"If we award the greenhouses and somebody uses them until April, that is a better allocation," she said.

Barnette added she expects there to be five or six restaurants that would have a permanent outdoor presence until April, regardless of state restrictions, including Coratti's, Charles on Main, and The Bar.

The restaurants will be given ownership of the igloos and greenhouses and would take them down to store them after April 1, but Barnette said they could potentially use them post-pandemic, in future winters.

During the pandemic, the HHS has issued rules for use of the outdoor structures. Reservations must be made and restaurant staff must clean them between each use. Barnette said each

structure fits between 4-6 people.

They will be placed in parallel parking spaces in front of businesses as were dining platforms that were used downtown in the summer to provide more space for outdoor diners. Barnette said many of the restaurants that used the platforms are regretting taking them down although they had permission to keep them up longer.

"Operators didn't realize how many people would sit out there (in colder weather)," she explained. "We're learning a lot of things (in the pandemic): what works downtown and what doesn't work downtown and I think the stronger winter presence will be ongoing. People really enjoying eating outdoors in winter."

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

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Board

Continued from Page 1A

Campbell-Voytal did.

Following three days of recounting ballots, the candidates remained deadlocked.

To make the circumstances even more astounding, seven of the recounted ballots were contested, causing Mazurek and Campbell-Voytal to each lose one vote, assuring that the tie lived on.

"The entire recounting process was masterfully done," Campbell-Voytal said. "There were approximately 44,000 ballots recounted from 20 precincts. The process made me proud to live in a Democratic society like I do."

On Dec. 22, the Board of Canvassers (two Democrats, two Republicans) voted 2-2 to not hold a second random-draw process, which was requested by Campbell-Voytal.

The Board of County Canvassers also declined to second a motion to accept the result of that original tie-vote ceremony, thus extending the mystery of who would secure the final seat on the board.

Campbell-Voytal said she has contacted the Michigan Attorney General's Office seeking a second random tie-vote



The Northville Public Schools Board of Education is still in flux after the Nov. 3 general election. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mazurek



Campbell-Voytal

draw to help resolve the stalemate.

"Win or lose, I'll be satisfied as long as there is a second random draw," she said.

After reiterating that he does not want to disparage Campbell-Voytal and that "she has the right to do whatever the law allows," Mazurek said that reaching out to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's office to help settle a local election is "ridiculous."

"I appreciate the fact that she doesn't want to lose; losing is a sore point for a lot of people," Mazurek said. "But the longer this plays out, the more money it's going to cost the district in legal fees.

"Immediately after the random draw, Kim congratulated me, and we fist-bumped. I thought it was over at that point. I was presented with a certificate that stated I had won from the Wayne County Clerk and that was that."

Mazurek cited a 2018 election tie in a probate judge race in Lenawee County as precedent for holding just one random draw and a recount following an initial tie vote.

"I mean, these are judges, and they were satisfied with the result of one draw," Mazurek said.

In an email distributed Jan. 5 to Northville schools families, Superinten-

dent Mary Kay Gallagher stated that "around Dec. 22" Mazurek presented the secretary of the school board with a certificate of election issued by the Wayne County Clerk.

"The Northville School Board has no authority or discretion to reject a certificate as untimely or invalid, absent a court order to the contrary," the email stated. "Mr. Mazurek is the only candidate who presented a certificate of election for the fourth vacancy, prior to the start date of the term of office. As such, the district received the Acceptance of Office Form submitted by Mr. Mazurek, and administered the oath of office as required by state law on or before January 1, 2021."

Mazurek participated as a member of the school board during its Jan. 5 meeting as Campbell-Voytal watched the meeting remotely.

"In the event of litigation, and/or further action by the Wayne Board of County Canvassers to complete their statutory duties, the Northville Public Schools Board of Education and District welcomes a definitive outcome to the election, and are prepared to welcome and work with either of the two candidates, each of whom have equally strong community support given the results of the election," Gallagher's email said.

Council

Continued from Page 1A

previously served as a councilman, Michael Reddy and Travis Malott.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Staudt stated he wanted to appoint a candidate who had previous experience on boards and commissions and who "represents the person they are replacing."

"I think it's important to have a balance of male and female members on council," he said. "Both are served well by Ms. Maday."

In addition to being female, Maday has also served on the city's planning commission since 2018, a position she will now resign.

Casey, the only other woman currently seated on council, favored Verma, saying, "I think it is important that we look for a candidate similar in fashion to

the previous candidate, but also not represented on council. The challenges COVID has brought to us, we need to have someone who has the ability to step in now and the experience to be in the council seat. There is a learning curve to get yourself fully up to speed."

Mayor Bob Gatt and Councilman Justin Fischer said all four candidates were qualified, but agreed on the choice of Maday, who said she is passionate about public service.

"Sitting on council will give me the opportunity to expand my personal learning and continue to contribute by making decisions within our community that keep Novi a great place to live."

Maday has a degree in environmental science, but does not work in that field, finding more fulfillment in volunteerism, she said, including at Novi



Maday

Schools. Her son is a 2019 Novi High School graduate and her daughter is an Novi junior.

The family lived in Germany in 2007-08 when Maday's husband had an opportunity to work there. When the overseas stint ended, they decided to return to Novi.

Besides the American Red Cross, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Community Emergency Response Team, Maday also volunteers on the Novi Schools' Mental Health Dialogues Committee. She hopes for some collaboration between the city and schools on mental health issues.

As a planning commission member, the most exciting development she has seen in the city is the Adell Center, which has had some delays like many other projects during COVID-19, but which recently welcomed Planet Fitness.

As a council member, she hopes to

work toward bringing citizens together in the city.

"Suburbs are harder, especially without a downtown," Maday said. "The Asian village at Townsend and Grand River I hope comes to fruition and comes alive more. I'd really like to incentivize small businesses to come here."

She also would like to explore the idea of establishing a holiday market in Fuerst Park at 10 Mile and Taft roads with local crafters and breweries.

"I'm just looking forward to making decisions that make this place the great place I feel it is to live in," said Maday, who will serve the remainder of the term which ends in November and may run for election to the seat at that time. "I want to collaborate in bringing the community together."

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

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SPORTS

Last-minute catch leads to Churchill loss

Ben Szilagyi Special to Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's taken a herculean effort to live through the starts and stops of the 2020 high school season during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's also taken a lot of mental toughness to not get down when those starts and stops have happened.

If there was a football game that had its share of starts, stops and heartbreak, Oak Park vs Livonia Churchill was it.

After a back-and-forth affair, Oak Park will advance to the Division 2 state semifinals for the first time in program history, beating Livonia Churchill in the regional final, 30-23, after a winless regular season.

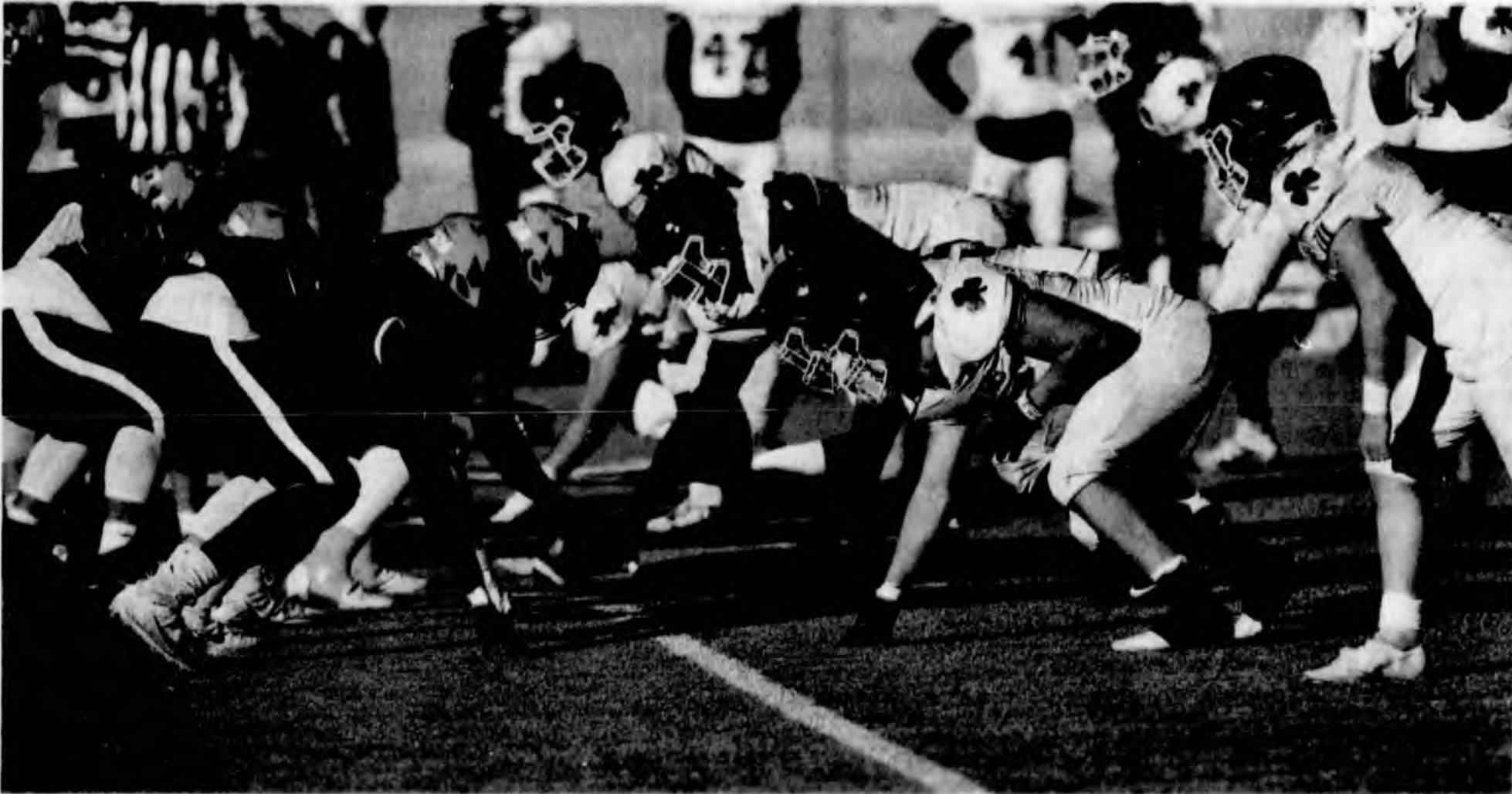
"We've battled, but we were getting mercied in games this year. We had running clocks on us for the first time in our careers. So we just had to believe in what we've been doing all these years," Knights coach Greg Carter said.

"Knowing that our kids were going to continue to play hard, this run is a credit to our team. The guys didn't turn on

each other. They didn't get mad at each other. We said 'Ok, now our goal has to be by playoff time a tremendous team.'

"We had to be a tough out in the playoffs. That's what we worked on. We had to forget about the losses. We just had to keep developing our kids."

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B



Detroit Catholic Central takes on Davison on Jan. 9. In the regional final at Lapeer High on Jan. 9. Catholic Central lost, 20-7. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CC falls to undefeated Davison

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central had an opportunity, all head coach Dan Anderson could really ask for.

Davison senior quarterback Dion Brown — in his first game as a starter replacing Northwestern early enrollee Brendan Sullivan — led the offense to a 2nd-and-goal at the 1-yard line, leading by six points. But a false start and delay of game moved the Cardinals back, giving the Shamrock defense all the room it needed, forcing a field goal from the 8-yard line.

Davison senior Gabriel Hopkins missed the 25-yard try, giving the Shamrocks offense a chance to take the lead late in the fourth quarter. However, as it had all game, Detroit Catholic Central's (9-1) offense could not answer to

its defense's success, falling to the Cardinals (10-0), 20-7, in the regional final.

Davison, the 2019 Division 1 state champions, earned its third regional final victory since 2008, and will take on Rockford in the state semifinals next weekend.

"They beat us up front," Anderson said. "They have a very good defensive line, and they proved it today. We just weren't up to the challenge today."

Davison grinds CC offense to halt

Detroit Catholic Central junior quarterback Declan Byle tried to get his offense going.

After his team had new life late in the fourth quarter after the missed field goal try, he took the field looking to move the

See CATHOLIC CENTRAL, Page 2B



CC head coach Dan Anderson applauds as the Shamrocks take the field.

Swimmers return with no expectations in state meet

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Before returning to the pool Jan. 4, Livonia Stevenson head coach Greg Phill needed to make sure his athletes still wanted to swim.

One week ahead of the originally scheduled girls swim and dive state meet, the Michigan state government halted fall athletics. And while a return

was announced based on the cooperation between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service and the Michigan High School Athletic Association — introducing a pilot program of rapid antigen COVID-19 testing — the state meet was pushed back yet again.

Phill told his players that he would understand if they did not want to wait for a state meet. Through the 20 weeks since the regular season began, girls

swim and dive teams have been permitted only 10 weeks of practice and competition.

But the Spartans told Phill they all wanted to continue. They all wanted to see what they could accomplish with only two weeks until the pinnacle meet of the season.

"I've been coaching 44 years, and this is the first time we have seen anything like this," Phill said. "I've talked with

some college buddies, I've talked with some other coaches; I don't think anyone really knows what to do. We're just going to play it by ear and finish the season."

Area swim teams are in uncharted territory. After weeks without team practices, many head coaches don't know what to expect from the state

See SWIMMING, Page 5B



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Detroit Country Day blasts North Branch in regional final

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dan MacLean had been watching North Branch film for about two months.

Since the pause of the Michigan high school football season in the middle of November due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Detroit Country Day head coach, self-described as defensive-minded, focused on the trickier of the Broncos' offensive look.

At one point, MacLean was worried he had planned too much.

"You talk about a deep dive, this was the deepest dive ever," he said. "These guys understand me and they are able to implement and put a plan (together). I was worried that it was too much time, like you would overdo it, overthink it."

In the Yellowjackets' (7-2) return to the football field for the regional final, they did not miss a beat, ending North Branch's (9-1) undefeated season with a dominant 38-0 victory.

Earning its second shutout of the season, Detroit Country Day recorded its eighth regional title since 2007, and will take on Williamston in the Division

4 state semifinal game this weekend.

"I'm very proud of our kids for all of the stuff they have been through," MacLean said. "Just their resilience and their perseverance. We have great senior leadership... they just take the reins. From my perspective, I just put it out there and these guys put it into action. They're incredible."

Detroit Country Day football can determine their success by their size up front on both the offensive and defensive lines.

Headlined by seniors Will Leggon and Caleb Tiernan, a Northwestern

commit, along with Nick Wachol on the defensive line, the Yellowjackets were able to thwart any real offensive opportunity the Broncos had.

Late in the second quarter, already holding a 14-0 lead, North Branch sophomore quarterback Will Damaska was sacked after intense pressure from the line, leading to a 4th-and-long at mid-field. One play later, Wachol tackled Broncos senior Drake Deshetsy after a reception from Damaska for another tackle for loss.

See FINAL, Page 38

Catholic Central

Continued from Page 1B

ball. Instead, he threw three incompletions, including an under-thrown ball on fourth down that hit junior tight end Connor Cohan in the helmet as he dove forward.

And when Davison answered with its third touchdown of the day, facing a 3rd-and-71, missed his receiver, instead finding Davison freshman linebacker Carter Herriman for an interception — his sixth of the season — to seal the Shamrocks' fate.

The Shamrocks offense, coming into the regional final averaging 42 points in its past four games, recorded only 113 total yards of offense against the Cardinals with only 35 yards in the second half.

Byle completed nine-of-21 pass attempts for 83 yards and an interception, scoring the team's only touchdown on a 1-yard rush in the first quarter.

The Davison defensive line, highlighted by seniors Harrison Unger and William Watkins, stepped up for seven tackles-for-loss, including one sack and a stripped fumble in the first quarter recovered by Watkins.

"Our defensive coordinator Blaise Glennie, he's usually, before the game, he's got some questions, unsure about some stuff," Davison head coach Jake Weingartz said. "Today he said, 'Man, I really think we can take it to them.'"

"Obviously, he was right."

Davison offense finds way

While Weingartz's defense stepped up when it counted against a hot Detroit Catholic Central offense, he thought the Shamrocks did the same when it counted against his Cardinals.

"That's as good of a defensive football game as I have seen in a long time," Weingartz said. "Not only from an X's and O's standpoint, game plan standpoint, but just how our kids played fast and physical and really put the pressure on from the first snap to the last one."



Detroit Catholic Central quarterback Declan Byle prepares to fire a pass to a receiver against Davison in the regional final at Lapeer High on Jan. 9.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

In the first half, Davison found itself within the Shamrocks' 30-yard line four times, but only converted once: a four-yard touchdown pass from Brown to senior TeAvion Warren to answer Byle's touchdown run on the previous drive.

With a quarterback who had never played the position in a live game before the regional final, Weingartz said his goal was to spread the Shamrocks' defense out.

"Did we have a lot of success doing it? No, but it forced them to run sideline to sideline, tire them out," Weingartz said.

"You could see in the second half, we finally started to open up some holes, and, obviously, Carter (Cryderman) did a great job. He's as tough of a runner as there is."

Taking the ball at their own 30-yard line near the end of the third quarter, the Cardinals started a 12-yard drive. Senior running back Carter Cryderman took control, taking the ball 38 yards on six carries on that drive, along with one reception for three yards.

Ticking into the fourth quarter, Brown gave Davison the lead, finding

senior wide receiver Payton Pizzala for a 14-yard score. And when Detroit Catholic Central could not find any success offensively, Cryderman capped the game with a 4-yard touchdown run.

The senior running back finished the game with 100 yards on the ground with a touchdown, along with two receptions for 28 yards.

In his first start at quarterback, Brown completes 11-of-18 passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns.

"I thought our defense played very well," Anderson said. "They had the ball at our end most of the game, and they had the ball most of the time, but I thought our defense stood up against them."

A new experience

As Davison received the regional title trophy, securing a date in the state semifinals, Byle took a few extra seconds to watch them celebrate. Detroit Catholic Central came into the game undefeated, not knowing what it felt like to lose.

Anderson knows it hurts. He wants Byle and those returning to the team in the fall to remember that feeling.

"You don't ever want to have this feeling again," Anderson said. "It's an awful feeling. I think the nice thing is that I feel like we have a bunch of good leaders in the junior class. I think they are going to come back together and they are going to fix it."

But in the midst of an uncertain season, Anderson felt his team was a constant. If anything, they were only getting better week by week.

He saw a team of leaders that had stepped up in a big way throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Since last March, when it all came down, they got online and they were doing stuff: they were doing online workouts, every time we had a Google meeting, everyone was there," Anderson said. "It just amazed me because there has been years where you wish you had leadership like you had this year."

"It was fun going to practice with these guys every day."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

Spectacular catch, heartbreaking loss

Churchill took the lead with 9:26 left in the fourth quarter behind the arm of senior quarterback Gavin Brooks. Brooks completed a 42-yard pass to senior Jimmy Targosz that set up a 5-yard touchdown run for Boston Clegg Jr., giving the Chargers a 23-20 lead.

With seven minutes left, The Knights (5-5) utilized 11 run plays to get inside the red zone.

Churchill's defense forced a turnover on downs on a 4th-and-3. After taking over the possession, Churchill inside its own 10-yard line, took a safety, 23-22, to gain field position and flip the field after both teams used all their timeouts with 1:01 left in the game.

After the free kick, Oak Park senior quarterback James Burnley and wide receiver Amari Harris connected on a play that will be remembered for a lifetime.

"I just had to throw it to him. I work with Amari all the time. I knew if I put it out there, he'd get it," Burnley said.

As he was rolling to his left to avoid the rush, Burnley lofted a bomb to the end zone. Harris broke away from his defender and dove to receive the ball. As he hauled it in, he fell to the ground, his momentum carried him into the end zone for the touchdown.

It was unsure if he was short on the reception, and the play stood.

Burnley ran in the two-point conversion for a 30-23 lead with 41 seconds left.

"That was just a tremendous pass, and a great, great effort on the catch. (Burnley) isn't composed sometimes. He'll hold onto the ball too long, sometimes he takes off running too fast. We have to live with it because he'll eventually make some plays like he did today. He had a lot of composure in that throw, and put the ball out front. Amari made a great play for us," Carter said.

Brooks threw an interception as Churchill tried to march down the field in an effort to tie the score.

Bouncing back

The playoffs were suspended, and paused for eight weeks across the state of Michigan, and at times it showed.

Normally sure-handed Davion Primm and Sykunie Watson had trouble hanging on to the ball on contact when Churchill's defense gang-tackled the ball carriers.

Churchill was able to rebound with stops when it needed, as Brooks had two touchdown passes in the first half, one for 10 yards and the other for 20.

Oak Park had a bad snap that led to a safety and a 17-12 score in the third quarter. Churchill had a muffed punt reception late in the fourth quarter, and Burnley fumbled the snap two plays later as well that led to the Chargers (6-3) taking the lead in the fourth quarter.

Remembering seniors

Even though Bill DeFillippo said it was never a good way to lose a game, he was still proud of what his seniors accomplished throughout their careers.

"They're just a group of great kids. They just have so much character. High character. They were 0-8-1 as freshmen.



A slew of Churchill defenders brings down Oak Park running back David Primm.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

They are now back-to-back district champs in their junior and senior years. So they've come a long way. They worked their tails off, and developed their games.

"But they all displayed great leadership, even in this hard of a year," he said.

The Chargers will bring back a load of well experienced juniors into next year's Churchill squad. The continuity of the program should continue next year, DeFillippo added.

"For the longest time here there

wasn't a great tradition here. We've been fortunate to be consistent. This was the fourth-straight year in the playoffs. We're still going to be consistent going into next year," he said.

"We're going to keep it going... We have a lot of talented kids coming back. We'll just have a different set of leaders, but we have enough talent coming up that we should have a pretty good year next year."

Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

U-M signee Edwards 'the real deal' in West Bloomfield's 52-14 rout

Brad Emons Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan football signee Donovan Edwards stole the show in the restart to the MHSAA Division I football playoffs Saturday, running for four touchdowns in host West Bloomfield's convincing 52-14 victory over Romeo.

It was an unseasonably mild and sunny January day as the Lakers pushed their record to 9-1 overall with the Region 4 title.

It sets up a rematch with unbeaten Belleville (10-0) next Saturday at a state semifinal site to be determined. West Bloomfield has lost to the top-ranked Tigers in each of the past two regional finals.

Here are takeaways from the the Region 4 final.

Edwards runs wild

The four-star recruit for the Wolverines rushed for 235 yards on 19 carries including TD runs of 15, 7, 86 and 8 yards. He also completed a pass to Semaj Moran for 32 yards.

And even though he is an early January enrollee at Michigan, Edwards said

he intends to play next week against Belleville.

"I practice hard every single week because I want to try and be better every single day," Edwards said. "I just owe it to my teammates and the preparation by myself."

Romeo coach Curt Rienas said Edwards is as good as advertised.

"He's the real deal, that's for sure," Rienas said. "Not only does his talent show, but you can see the determination that he plays with. I've been doing this for 20 years and I've seen a lot of really good players that have also gone to Michigan of the players we've played, but I don't know if I've seen them play with the same determination that he plays with."

Quick start

West Bloomfield showed no ill effects from the layoff, jumping out to a 21-0 quarter lead.

Edwards had scored on a 15-yard run with 8:12 left in the first and added a 7-yard TD run just 1:25 later out of the Wildcat formation. The second TD was a result of an interception by Kentucky signee Maxwell Hairston, returned to

the Romeo 16.

West Bloomfield's third TD was a result of a 28-yard pass by quarterback Alex Short to tight end Michael Williams with 4:01 remaining in the first.

After being stymied on its first three possessions, Romeo showed signs of life offensively when QB Logan Rolfs connected with tight end Braden Gorski for a 16-yard TD with 6:49 left in the second period.

West Bloomfield's Jake Ward then booted a 32-yard field goal with 2:55 to play until half for a 24-7 Lakers advantage.

Edwards was dynamic in the opening half with 112 yards rushing on 10 carries.

"He took their strength away from them," West Bloomfield coach Ron Belamy said. "They wanted to stop the inside run and obviously you see why he is ranked so high nationally. He's a special talent and credit to the offensive line and those receivers blocking downfield."

"He understands that it's a team game and those guys do a great job in the run game. It's fun to watch them prepare."

Final

Continued from Page 2B

MacLean said these three players, along with senior running back/defensive back Jacob Yarberry and senior wide receiver/defensive back Danny MacLean, determined his team's success.

"Those three guys, along with other players, but those three guys are three senior guys who have played a ton of football for us. That's kind of foundational," Dan MacLean said. "You can build a team around those guys, and that's what we have done."

However, in the second half, it was a freshman's turn to shine.

The Yellowjackets already had two touchdowns — a 13-yard pass from junior quarterback Brandon Mann to Yarberry and a 19-yard touchdown run by senior running back Kaelen Cooper. But starting with the first play of the third quarter — a pooch punt returned for a touchdown — freshman running back Gabe Winowich defined Detroit Country Day's success.

The freshman back scored two more times on the ground in the final 24 minutes, taking a 20-yard rush to give the Yellowjackets a 31-0 lead, and a nine-yard score to ice the game at 38-0.

"He's a dynamite kid," MacLean said. "He certainly doesn't act or look like a freshman. I think the proudest I am of him is his work ethic. He's really gone to work. He really had that ability, but he really wants to be a good football player and he shows it."

Leggon, who had been with Detroit Country Day for three seasons, knows how to play Yellowjacket football. He knows the discipline it takes, the selflessness.

As he continues with his final season with the team, he's just thankful for the opportunity to play.

"I'm just glad to be out here because we have been delayed for like two months," Leggon said. "I love these guys around here. I've played football with them for three years. I transferred from Brother Rice, and once I got to Country Day, I had that feeling that this is the team that I fit in."

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

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

11-player semifinals Division 1

Davison (10-0) at Rockford (8-0).
West Bloomfield (9-1) at Belleville (10-0).

Division 2

Traverse City Central (9-1) at Muskegon
Mona Shores (10-0).
Oak Park (5-5) at Warren De La Salle (6-4).

Division 3

Muskegon (9-1) at DeWitt (10-0).
River Rouge (8-1) at Chelsea (10-0).

Division 4

Cadillac (7-2) at Edwardsburg (9-0).
Birmingham Detroit Country Day (8-1)
at Williamston (9-1).

Division 5

Freeland (9-1) at Grand Rapids Catholic
Central (9-0).
Lansing Catholic Central (8-2) at Frankenmuth (10-0).

Division 6

Grayling (7-3) at Montague (10-0).
Constantine (9-1) at Clinton (9-1).

Division 7

Traverse City (8-2) at Cass City (10-0).

Schoolcraft (9-1) at New Lothrop (9-0).

Division 8

Ubly (8-2) at Johannesburg (10-0).
Centreville (9-0) at Clarkston Everest (10-0).

8-player semifinals

Championships at Legacy Center

Division 1

Suttons Bay (10-0) vs. Adrian Lenawee
Christian (10-0), 2.

Division 2

Powers North Central (10-0) vs. Portland St. Patrick (10-0), 5:30.



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Junior leads Plymouth girls ahead of state meet

After a season filled with unexpected challenges, the Plymouth Wildcats girls swim and dive team is looking forward to an exciting conclusion to its swim season Saturday.

Eight Wildcats will travel to Hudsonville, along with head coach Emily Weiner and assistant coach Lydia Plencner, to compete in the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 Championship Meet. The team is made up of senior captain Lilly Orris, junior Brady Kendall, junior Bre Beringer, junior Ella Pierzecki, sophomore Lainey Weissman, sophomore Ella Hornbacher, sophomore Jackie Stoddard and freshman Kendal Swatosh.

Plymouth qualified to compete in all three relay events, while standout Kendall qualified to swim the 50 and 100 freestyle, as well as the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.

For the third year in a row, Kendall was the Kensington Lakes Activities As-

sociation conference champion in both individual events she swam at the meet in November, prior to the state mandated break from practice and competition. As a freshman, sophomore and now as a junior, Kendall came out on top in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly events at the KLAAC Conference Championship meet.

Kendall, who holds the majority of the Plymouth team records, many pool records in pools across the state and was a two-time All American in the 50 freestyle and in the 100 butterfly as a sophomore, is looking forward to the state meet. She has had solid performances in the past two years, placing in the top five each year in both individual events.

Weiner said she thinks this will be Kendall's year.

Last year, Kendall began the season recovering from mononucleosis and had to deal with illness during both the conference and state meets. Despite the

impact on training that the coronavirus has had, Weiner said Kendall is ready to race, describing her as a great swimmer who works hard, focusing on constantly improving her technique with a mindset to win, while also enjoying and being supportive of her teammates.

"These girls have been resilient," Weiner said. "They have faced every challenge placed before them with determination, understanding and grace beyond their years. While this season is certainly different than we all imagined, we count ourselves lucky to have the chance to compete and continue to grow as a team. I am also confident that this group of athletes are prepared to continue to overcome obstacles and find great success in their final meet of the season. No matter what, it will be an exciting meet to watch."

The championship meet can be streamed live on the NFHS Network on Saturday.



Junior Brady Kendall headlines Plymouth's girls swim and dive team heading into the MHSAA state meet. COURTESY OF EMILY WEINER

Avid cross-country skiers flock to Frosty Freestyle

Skiers from Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan participated in the Frosty Freestyle cross country ski race at Huron Meadows Metropark on Saturday in unusually ideal weather conditions.

Last year's event was held in the rain and well-above freezing temperatures, but the metropark makes its own snow for the annual event.

This year's skiers had to contend with changes to the structure a bit due to COVID-19-related restrictions, remaining outside the park's ski rental building and staying in their cars until their wave of starts staggered five minutes apart came around.

Registration and check-in took place at a table outside next to the parking lot, and skiers were required to wear face-masks until they crossed the start line of the race.

But even with these changes, the race, sponsored by Nordic Ski Racer, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Hammer Nutrition and Klister Fool, was as popular as ever.



From left, Cliff Onthank (no. 357), Douglas Cornell (no. 94) and Steve Smigel (no. 354) are among the third wave of 15km participants in the Frosty Freestyle taking to the course in staggered starts as other skiers wait in their cars for their wave to ensure safe distancing of those participating Saturday at Huron Meadows Metropark. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

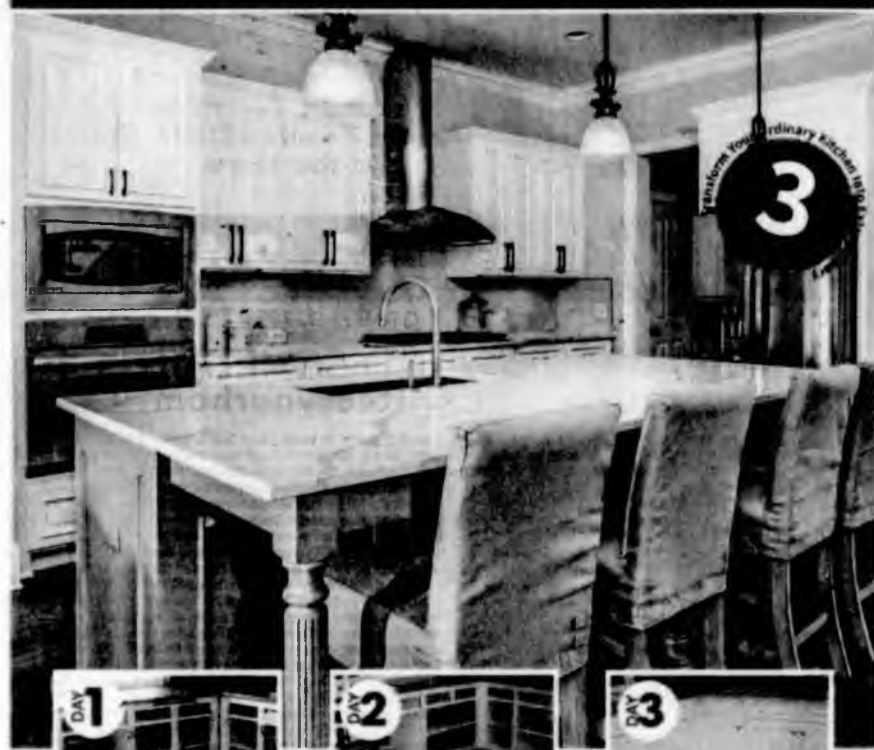
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Swimming

Continued from Page 1B

meet, scheduled for Jan. 15-16.

As teams start the final sprint toward the end of the season, more questions seem to linger than answers, leaving coaches in the dark as to what they will see from their teams with one meet to go.

"This is all very frustrating: the back-and-forth, the 'we're going then we're not going.' The uncertainty was very frustrating because they didn't know if it was going to happen, they didn't know what it was going to look like," Northville head girls swim coach Brian McNeff said.

"No one has ever done anything like this, so it's not like you can look at what someone has done in the past and say 'OK, did this work for them or did it work for me when I did it this way?' Because no one has ever done this, it's kind of hard to gauge what will work and what won't."

Return to the pool

Prior to the first return Dec. 21, Milford head girls swim coach James Schuler did not think the state meet would happen.

Based on previous decisions made by the state, he expected the shutdown date would be extended to Jan. 16 with no practices allowed and that the focus would shift to the winter season.

"I don't think there was any apprehension about if states would happen or not," he said. "It was, 'Hey, we had a really good season. If it happens, we'll figure out what it means and figure out how to make the best of the opportunity.'"

But when Milford's swimmers returned to the pool, Schuler knew he could not have the same approach as he could have when they had last left.

While his swimmers were not out of shape entirely, they were not as prepared as when the tapering period started one week from the state meet in November. Schuler said the Mavericks needed to get back into the pool and get used to swimming again with good technique.

Facing a team that remembers the speeds they were swimming four, five weeks ago, Schuler told his players "I



The Northville girls swim team had a chance to see what it could do before the season was postponed

COURTESY OF EMILY RODEN

need you guys to put that out of your mind for right now, because you are going to have a reference of, 'I was doing this five weeks ago.' We are not at the same place."

Novi head swim coach Kenneth Stark said over the month-and-a-half hiatus, his swimmers found places to swim to keep cardio up and muscles moving. But the tapering process – helping swimmers rest and recuperate their muscles to help them be at their top performance – can only last so long, he said.

As a coach, Stark is trying to get his team to focus on swimming fast again and with an intensity built off teammates

With practices ramping up, McNeff's focus is on the balance of getting his swimmers prepared for high-octane competition while keeping them safe and healthy.

However, he said, most teams are in the same predicament.

"Everyone is kind of in the same boat. No one was able to swim as much and you guys were probably a step above because you got to do something," McNeff told his team. "So that gives us the advantage."

'Like an all-star game'

While swimmers train for the final meet of the season, coaches know the product in the pool is not what it would have been in November.

"Whoever was doing well at the end of the regular season, that doesn't matter anymore," McNeff said. "You don't know what has happened in the past five weeks... It's wide open right now."

Even though expectations are out the window, coaches know there is only a slim possibility of swimmers making their best times, returning to the pool without the extensive training they are used to leading up to the meet.

"The state meet is not going to be anything special this year," Stark said. "I kind of look at it more of like an all-star game."

"We'll see where we end up. It's probably going to be one of the slowest state meets there's ever been. But it still gives the chance for some closure with the girls that the boys didn't have last season."

Phill said he wants his team to go into the state meet without expectations, having no idea what is going to happen Jan. 16.

"Will we swim the fastest times of the year? I don't know," Phill said. "I don't think so, but you never know at that meet. You never know when a quantum leap is going to happen."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Zoo director for 28 years to retire this summer

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

For 28 years under its director Ron Kagan, the Detroit Zoo pioneered a worldwide movement to showcase wild creatures more ethically while hosting record numbers of visitors at Detroit's collection and adding dozens of new exhibits.

Kagan announced Tuesday he'll retire this summer. The Detroit Zoological Society has formed a search committee to seek the zoo's next director, according to a news release.

Kagan, 69, will leave his longtime roles as executive director and CEO of the Zoological Society, a nonprofit group that operates the Detroit Zoo, whose assets are owned by the city of Detroit. In a statement, Kagan said, "I've been in love with DZS and this community from the day I arrived — so many extraordinary employees, volunteers, donors and board members have contributed to creating and securing the future of this amazing organization."

Kagan is widely known in the world of zoos and as a pioneer in how zoos can play key roles in species conservation, environmental activism and showing compassion for the animals in their care. His moves alienated some visitors but won over many more. During Kagan's tenure, the zoo's annual visitor



Ron Kagan, who has headed the Detroit Zoo for 28 years, says he will retire sometime this summer.
REGINA H. BOONE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

counts doubled and its paid memberships tripled.

Also under Kagan, the Detroit Zoo became a sanctuary, rescuing hundreds of exotic animals, including a polar bear from a circus and lions from a junkyard. In 2004, the Detroit Zoo became the first major zoo to discontinue keeping elephants in captivity for ethical reasons, sending the institution's aged elephants Winky and Wanda to California, where they lived out their lives roaming a large

sanctuary with other pachyderms. To disappointed elephant fans, who at the time sent stacks of protest letters to the Free Press, Kagan insisted that confining the giants to just a few outdoor acres in summers, and then making them stand on concrete floors in cramped buildings each winter, constituted cruelty. Since then, most zoo bosses around the world have come to agree.

As Kagan winds down his career in Detroit, he is leading an international team of zoo leaders who are updating the code of ethics for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, according to Tuesday's news release.

Tony Earley, board chair of the Detroit Zoological Society, said the zoo's conservation programs "now reach every continent." In addition, the zoo's education division has grown from two people to more than 20, Earley said in the release.

Among the exhibits at the Detroit Zoo that sprouted during Kagan's 28 years in charge are the Arctic Ring of Life, where polar bears swim overhead as visitors stroll past; the National Amphibian Conservation Center, which breeds endangered frogs and toads, then ships them to be released in Puerto Rican preserves and other wild sites; the Cotton Family Wolf Wilderness, Mardigian River Otter Habitat, Polk Penguin Conservation Center, Holtzman Wildlife Foun-

ation Red Panda Forest, Ruth Roby Glancy Animal Health Complex and — one of the newest — the Devereaux Tiger Forest.

Less known and visible is the zoo's deep commitment under Kagan to its "Greenprint" sustainability program, which has led it to utilize "100% renewable energy," thanks to such innovations as solar cells and a high-tech "anaerobic digester" that turns animal waste into horticultural compost, according to the release. The Detroit Zoo was named the greenest zoo in the nation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the nation's chief accrediting body for institutions that house living creatures here and abroad. Kagan made one mildly controversial environmental change at concession stands: no more bottled water, which he rightly said contributes countless tons to the nation's plastic waste stream. Instead, each zoo visitor is encouraged to make a one-time purchase of a water bottle, to be refilled at drinking fountains.

Tuesday's release said the popular venue, which is just north of Detroit in Huntington Woods and Royal Oak, boasts an annual economic impact of more than \$167 million and hosts more than 1.3 million visitors annually. The Detroit Zoological Society also operates the Belle Isle Nature Center at the east end of Belle Isle State Park in Detroit.

Whitmer vetoes bill to expunge drunken driving record

Paul Egan and Clara Hendrickson
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has effectively vetoed a bill, passed by the Legislature with strong bipartisan support during the lame duck session, that would have allowed expungement of a first-time drunken driving conviction, a spokeswoman confirmed.

Rep. Graham Filler, R-DeWitt, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said on Twitter that he had been informed Whitmer would allow Senate Bill 1254 to die by neither signing nor expressly vetoing it within 14 days, in what is sometimes known as exercising a "pocket veto."

Whitmer on Monday signed several other criminal justice reform bills, including ones to seal juvenile court records from public view and create a process to automatically expunge juvenile records for those who stay out of trouble. In October, she signed other legislation allowing for expungement of certain crimes that do not involve violence or dishonest acts such as forgery or counterfeiting.

Filler said Whitmer gave no reason for declining to sign the bill within the required time period.

Whitmer spokeswoman Tiffany Brown confirmed the pocket veto but would not state the reason for it.

The bill passed 96-8 in the state House and 32-5 in the Senate.

It would have amended part of the state's 1965 criminal procedure code that bars judges from granting expungement for a conviction for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

Those with first-time convictions for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated could have filed an application requesting expungement. A judge would decide whether to grant the request.

Sarissa Montague, a criminal defense attorney with the Kalamazoo-based law firm Levine & Levine, described the proposed change as a victory for criminal justice reform. "I think it's going to open the doors for people to move forward with their lives because it really does hold people back. Practically it does in terms of getting jobs... and it

can impact the ability of someone to get housing, maybe loans," Montague said before learning of the veto.

According to an annual state audit published in July, 31,235 people were convicted for drunken or drugged driving.

Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan, sponsored the legislation. "If we're offering expungements to other crimes... I'm not sure why those who have an alcohol-related offense should be treated as the lepers in our society," McBroom said during a December hearing.

The law would not have applied to people with multiple convictions for driving under the influence or those who caused injury or death while driving under the influence.

Obituaries

David S., Michele M. (Pilat) & Dawson J. Compo

Died suddenly in a tragic accident on January 2, 2021. David, Michele, and Dawson are survived by Janet Compo, Carole Smith, Christopher (Lisa) Compo, Paul (Annette) Compo, Mark Compo, Margaret (Jerry) Szpak, Paul Pilat, Cheryl (Jim) Andrews, and many cherished family members and friends.

David S. Compo and Michele M. Pilat were married on June 6, 1998; they spent 22 loving years devoted to one another. Four years after they married, they welcomed their son Dawson. Their love for family and God was unconditional.

David was President of Compo Builders, Inc., a custom home building and remodeling company. He co-founded the company with his brother Christopher in 2013. David was precise and intelligent; he loved his career, and it was evident in the work he produced. David had an adventurous spirit and liked to be outdoors hiking, climbing, extreme mountain biking, snowmobiling, and scuba diving. He was an Adult Leader with Troop 755 and went on multiple high adventure trips with his son. One of David's favorite things to do was fly, he had his pilot's license for many years and flew as often as he could. He was a philanthropist and incredibly generous with his time and talents.

Michele was the Secretary and Treasurer for Compo Builders, Inc. and worked as the company accountant. Her career was important, but family was the most important part of Michele's life. She was loyal, kind, and strong. She was an incredible cook and baker. Michele cooked healthy dishes and each year prepared the dough for hundreds of pierogis that she made with the help of her family. She was an avid reader, especially mysteries. Michele's happy place was the family cottage in Ontario, Canada where she would relax, go to the beach, and play games.

Dawson began working for the family company, Compo Builders, Inc. a few years ago. His job duties evolved from sweeper and cleaner to learning general carpentry skills, and most recently showing model homes. Dawson was a member of the Boy Scout Troop 755. He began as a cub scout progressed to a boy scout, he recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. His service project to become an Eagle Scout was rebuilding a shelter at Maybury State Park. An award ceremony was to take place this Spring. Dawson was an adventurous outdoorsman; he enjoyed hiking and extreme mountain biking with his dad. He was a 2020 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central and ran Track and Field. He also played the trombone for the CC band and was an emerging pianist. Dawson was a great friend and treasured the time he spent hanging out talking with friends.

A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church of Northville. In lieu of flowers please donate to a chosen charity listed in the full obituaries found at caterlinefuneralhome.com. The family deeply appreciates your kind words, thoughts, and prayers.



Michele, Dawson, and David Compo. COURTESY OF THE COMPO FAMILY

Funeral set for family killed in Lyon plane crash

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A funeral mass for the Compo family, killed in a Lyon Township plane crash, was Wednesday in Northville at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church.

The family died Jan. 2 when their small plane crashed into a home in the 57000 block of Dakota in the Orchards of Lyon subdivision, only a half-mile from their destination of Oakland/Southwest Airport. They were returning home to Northville from Georgia. The family in the Lyon Township home escaped unharmed.

The crash remains under investigation.

According to his obituary, David Compo, 60, flew as often as he could and had his pilot's license for many years.

He had also just finished a term as president of the Home Builders Association, and was the president of Compo Builders, Inc., a Novi company he co-founded with his brother Christopher in 2013.

Michele Compo, 55, was the Secretary and Treasurer for Compo Builders, Inc. and worked as the com-

pany accountant, according to her obituary, but while her career was important, "family was the most important part of Michele's life."

Michele and David were married for 22 years and were the proud parents of Dawson, 18, a 2020 Detroit Catholic Central graduate, runner and also a trombonist and emerging pianist. He recently completed his first semester at Michigan State University and was a Troop 755 Eagle Scout who was to have been honored this spring for his service project, rebuilding a Maybury State Park shelter.

David was a leader of Troop 755 and the father and son went on multiple Scouting trips together, both enjoying outdoor adventures including hiking and extreme mountain biking.

Michele enjoyed hiking with them as well and loved to travel, particularly to Mexico, Hawaii, and her "happy place," the family cottage in Ontario, Canada. She also loved to read mysteries, cook and bake.

A scholarship foundation is being established in the family's name to which donations are appreciated. Learn more about the foundation and view the full obituaries at www.caterlinefuneralhome.com.

Lions' Johnson a finalist for Pro Football Hall of Fame

Dave Birkett Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Calvin Johnson is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and will find out in two weeks if he will be the first Lions modern-era player selected to Canton since Barry Sanders.

Johnson is one of four first-year eligible players among 15 finalists for the Class of 2021, along with quarterback Peyton Manning, cornerback Charles Woodson and defensive end Jared Allen.

He played nine NFL seasons and retired as the Lions' all-time leader in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and catches. Only Julio Jones, Jerry Rice and Torrey Holt had more receiving yards in the first nine seasons of their careers.

"He's one of the best receivers to ever play the game in my opinion," Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "I was coaching in Cincinnati and we had — he made an unbelievable catch. We had three guys on him, made an unbelievable catch, about a 50-yarder for touchdown. But the game plans always revolved around him every single time you played him, whether cheating players there or doubling him or any of those things."

Johnson was a six-time Pro Bowl selection and a three-time All-Pro, collecting 731 catches for 11,619 yards and 83 touchdowns. He retired after the 2015 season at 30 years old. He was one of four receivers named to the NFL's 2010s All-Decade Team last spring.

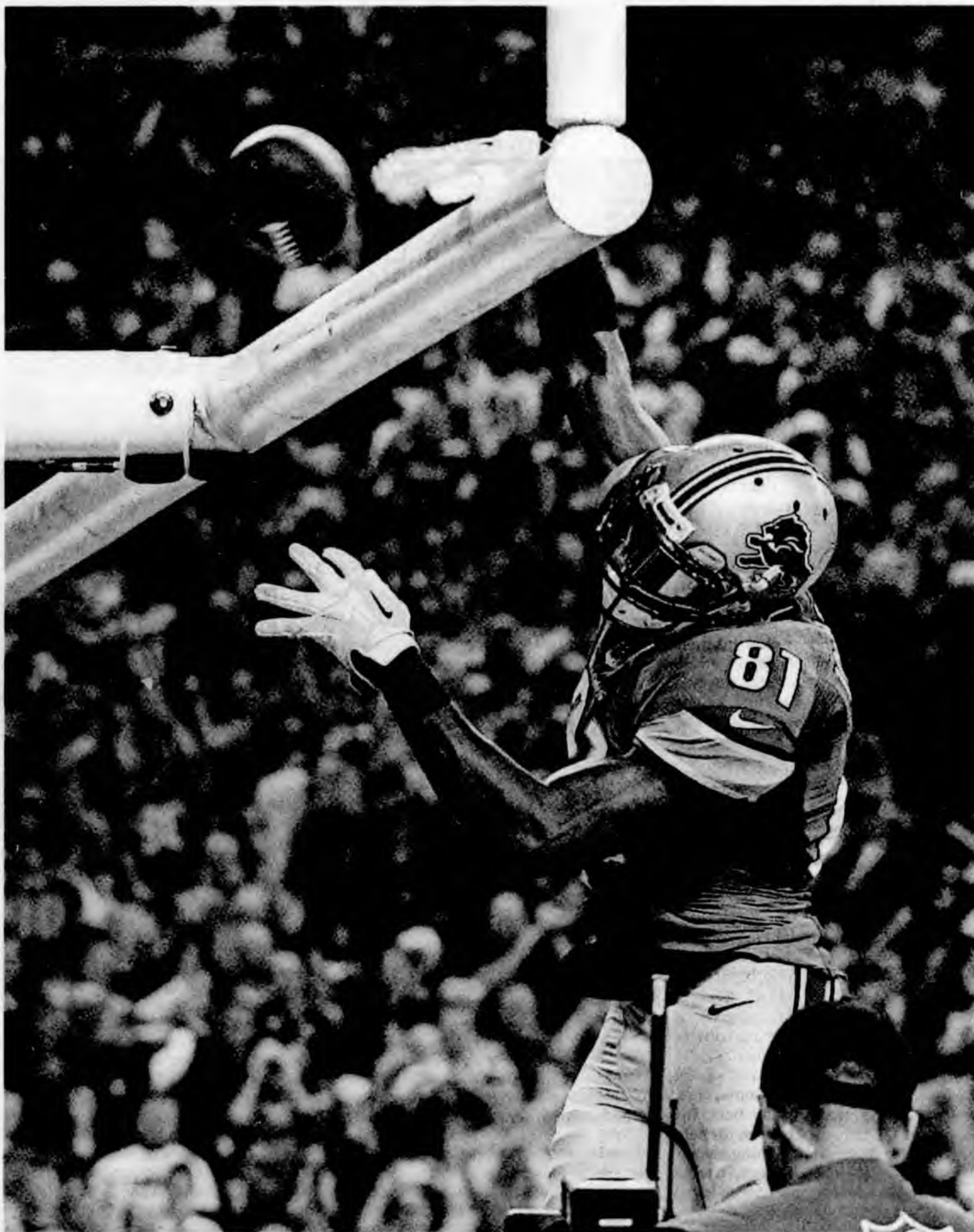
Manning and Woodson are considered locks for the 2021 class, which will include up to five modern-era players. The list of 15 finalists will be whittled to 10 during a virtual selection meeting Jan. 19. From there, the class is reduced to five finalists, then a yes-or-no vote is cast on the final five.

Holt and Reggie Wayne are the other receivers on the ballot. Other finalists include offensive linemen Tony Boselli and Alan Faneca, linebackers Sam Mills, Zach Thomas and Clay Matthews, defensive lineman Richard Seymour, safeties John Lynch and LeRoy Butler, and cornerback Ronde Barber.

The 48 Hall of Fame selectors also will vote yes or no on Tom Flores, Bill Nunn and Drew Pearson, finalists in the coach, contributor and senior categories.

Since 1985, just three receivers — Rice, Randy Moss and Steve Largent — have been selected to Canton on the first ballot.

Johnson has been in a financial dispute since with the Lions since his retirement, but team president Rod Wood said Tuesday the organization is "very much supportive of Calvin's candidacy for the Hall of Fame."



Calvin Johnson played nine NFL seasons and retired as the Lions' all-time leader in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and catches. JULIAN H. GONZALEZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Johnson said in August it would be "the utmost honor" to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

"The guys you just mentioned. Ran-

dy, Largent, Jerry. Tremendous respect," Johnson said. "Followed those guys coming up. I wanted to take certain things from all those guys' game and

piece them together into my game. Not just those guys, but other greats out here, too, but they're definitely admired."

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What to do when you've

BEEN FIRED

You've been fired. There's a lump in your throat, your fists are clenched and you're somehow resisting the overwhelming temptation to punch a hole in the wall (à la Andy Bernard from "The Office") on your way out. Being fired will never be easy or enjoyable. But there are a few things you can do after it's happened to make sure that you act with the utmost poise and professionalism — and that you bounce back even better than before.

1 Take a deep breath

Do your best to keep your composure. Storming out of the office with a string of curse words and both of your middle fingers up in the air really won't do you (or your reputation) any favors.

2 Analyze the "why"

Now it's time to take a magnifying glass to the situation and determine where things went wrong. Was it something you did, such as failing to heed your boss' repeated warnings about showing up late? Or is it due to a change happening within the company, such as restructuring or downsizing?

Taking a hard look at your circumstances can be brutal,

but it's an important thing to do before moving on — especially if there are personal changes you need to make before jumping into a new gig.

Plus, getting to the root of the problem now will make it easier to explain your termination when it comes up in future job interviews.

3 Polish up

We all have the tendency to let our personal branding slide a bit (when's the last time you dusted off your resume or LinkedIn profile?) when we're employed. So it's time to knock off those cobwebs.

Brush up your resume, making sure to change your recent employment dates and switch those responsibilities to past

tense. Craft a new cover letter that describes what challenges you're eager to undertake. And make sure you polish up your LinkedIn profile.

You want to make sure you're ready to go if someone in your network has word of an open job that's a good fit for you.

4 Spread the word

Speaking of your network, it's time to announce that you're job searching. Your web of connections can be a huge asset when you're looking for new opportunities.

Set up a coffee date with a connection you haven't met with in a while or send a quick email to that well-connected friend of yours. Simply let them know that you're searching for

a new challenge, and that you'd love if they let you know when they hear of great opportunities you might be a fit for.

5 Keep your skills sharp

The job search process can take a while — this you already know. Shift your attention to finding ways to keep your skills sharp. Join an industry association or group. Volunteer to help out with a community organization. Take an online course to learn something new.

Not only are these things great resume boosters, but they'll demonstrate that you're willing to take initiative to better yourself (even though you could use that free time to just sit on the couch).

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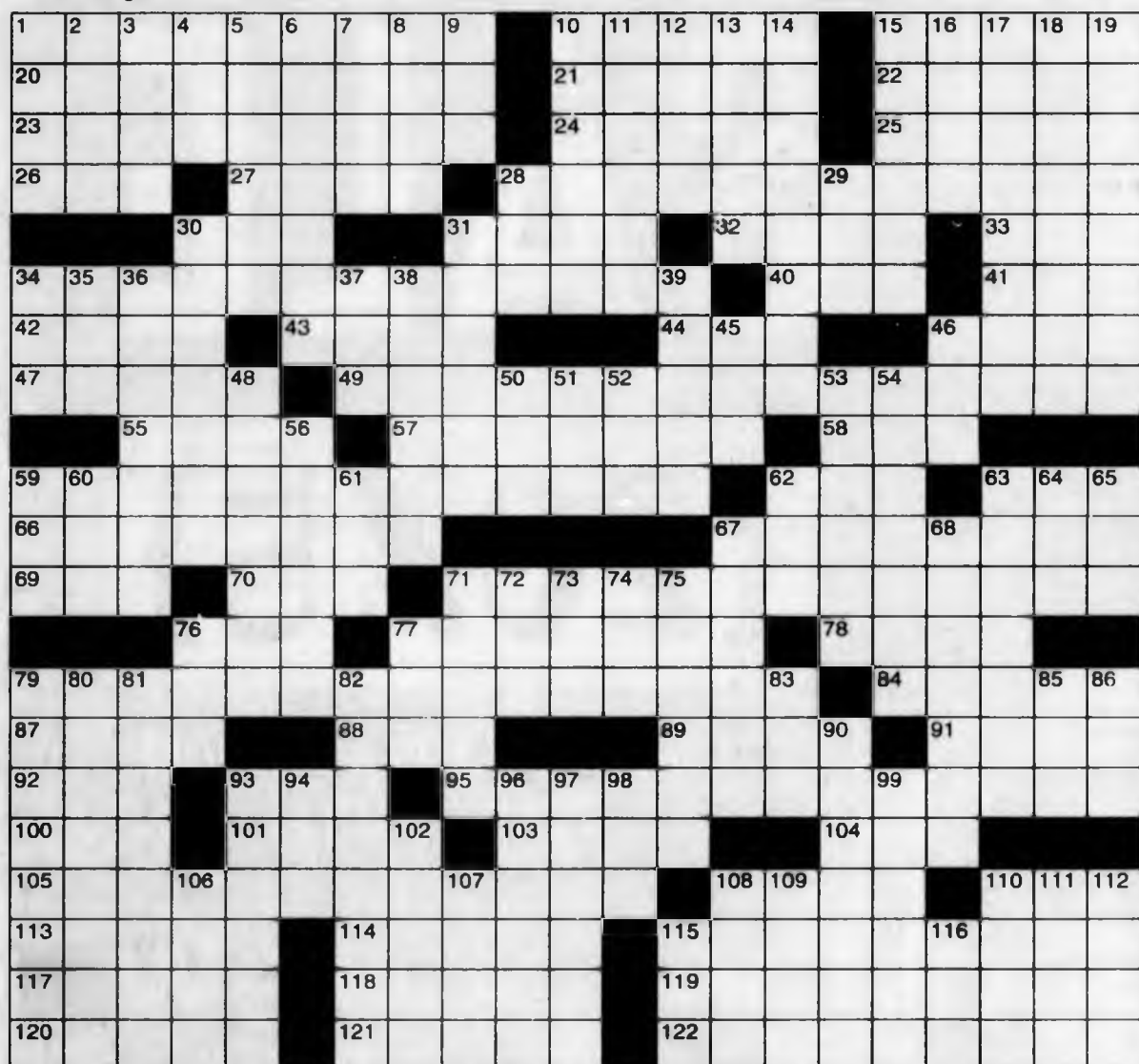
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PROGRAM FINALES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sci-fi zapper
10 "Flashdance" star Jennifer
15 1,152, to Caesar
20 Stateside
21 U-shaped bend in a river
22 Protest shout
23 Gave spirit to
24 Chicago airport
25 See
42 Across
26 Bad grade
27 Causes wonder in
28 Subcompact car of the 1980s
30 Naughty kid
31 Saroyan's "My Name Is —"
32 Mex. miss
33 Abate
34 HarperCollins or Simon & Schuster
40 — Antonio
41 Suffix with Brooklyn
42 With
25 Across, Czech tennis great
43 Crude dude
44 Gallery stuff
46 Film director Preminger
- 47 Holiday song
49 Optimistic attitude
55 Give and take
57 False
58 Flaky dessert
59 Restricted entry
62 USMC rank
63 Frat dude
66 Soon-to-be adolescents
67 Inquire into
69 One of 100 in D.C.
70 Monk's title
71 Stuff applied to the wall of a room
76 School org.
77 Certain
Ukrainian
78 Fine riverbed sand
79 Athlete's advantage
84 1836 Texas
87 Abbr. on a phone dial
88 Sgt., e.g.
89 Must-have
91 In a bit, to bards
92 — a snap!
93 Took a chair
95 Features of many limos
100 Sue Grafton's "— for Noose"
- 101 Movie-rating org.
103 Defendant's opponent
104 Part of LAPD
105 "Necktie," or "bathrobe" or "jumpsuit"
108 College bigwig
110 Furry foot
113 Taken together
114 Great values
115 Subsequent stage
117 Coup —
118 Omit, as a syllable
119 Balsam or turpentine
120 Blissful spots
121 Doles (out)
122 Maker of the eight programs that are the theme of this puzzle
- DOWN**
- 1 Told a fib
2 Hathaway of "Ocean's 8"
3 Store lure
4 Bygone U.K. record label
5 Make over
6 Bar with beer-making facilities
7 Berlin article
8 Masters
- 9 Ticked off
10 "Awright!"
11 Dig out from the ground
12 Impose — on (outlaw)
13 Some nobles
14 Affirms solemnly
15 Suburb of D.C. in Virginia
16 Wheat — (cereal)
17 Judge of the O.J. Simpson trial
18 Owing
19 "Don't worry, things are going to work out"
28 60-min. periods
29 "Give — whirl"
30 "You're preaching to the choir!"
31 Lung cell
34 Pen mailer
35 Egg cells
36 Boat-rowing guys
37 Style of jazz
38 Bathtub sponges
39 Great reviews
45 Scale notes after dos
46 Bulling cheer
- 48 Library penalty
50 Old railroad watchdog
51 — Bo (exercise system)
52 Age-verifying cards
53 Top dentures
54 Food fish from Africa
56 Eye squintingly
59 A DJ might spin them
60 Furiousness
61 Gene stuff
62 Co. big shot
63 Gold-winning figure skater Brian
64 Hotfoot it
65 Slugger Mel
67 Burned a bit
68 Sentimental pop songs
71 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
72 Ida, neighbor
73 China's Lao —
74 Suffix with Brooklyn
75 Comedian Gilda
76 "Ask Me Another" ailer
77 Available without an Rx
- 79 Occur at the same time
80 Acquired the film rights to
81 Army meal companion
82 As a team
83 "So yucky!"
85 Do some lawn work
86 Add — (peripherals)
90 Pupil-widening drug, e.g.
93 Young salmon and sea trout
94 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
96 Tristan's love
97 Surgery assistants
98 TV magnate Turner
99 Olympic athlete, e.g. "Hello"
102 She sang
106 Strategize
107 Stand by
108 Sub shop
109 Part of
62-Down: Abbr.
110 El —, Texas
111 Almost like
112 Departed
115 — de plume
116 "— So Shy"

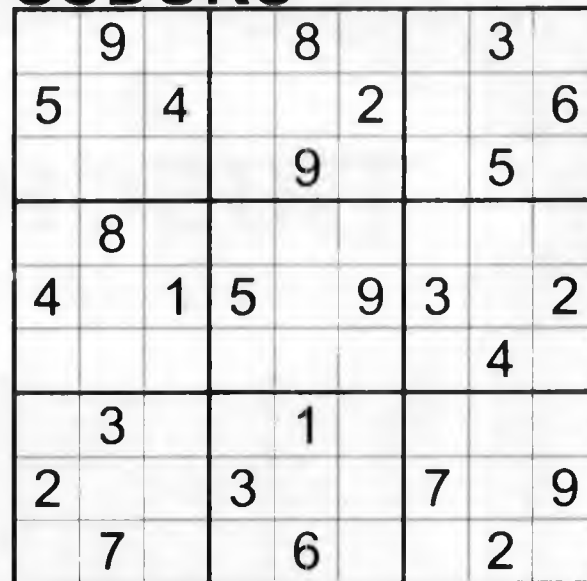


#2,021

Average time of solution: 64 minutes

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 ★★

1/14

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!

METAL MEDLEY

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? 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.

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

ALUMINUM
ANTIMONY
BARIUM
BISMUTH
CADMIUM
CALIFORNIUM
CERIU
CHROMIUM
COBALT
COPPER
EINSTEINIUM
GOLD
IRIDIUM
IRON
LEAD
LITHIUM
LUTETIUM
MAGNESIUM
MERCURY
MOLYBDENUM
NICKEL
NOBELIUM
OSMIUM
PALLADIUM
PLUTONIUM
RADIUM
RHODIUM
SILVER
STRONTIUM
THORIUM
TIN
TUNGSTEN
URANIUM
VANADIUM
ZINC
ZIRCONIUM



METAL MEDLEY

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



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