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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Precautions remain as teachers vaccinated

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi teacher Lisa Rice expected her COVID-19 vaccination to go smoothly Jan. 21.

Her plan was to drive to Novi Fire Station No. 4, stick her arm out the car window, and get injected with her first round of protection against COVID-19.

"I've never been so excited to get a shot in the arm," Rice joked.

Rice said she already dodged a bullet in the fall when her son, a Grand Valley

State University student, contracted the illness and they both had to quarantine.

Many Oakland County teachers set appointments earlier this month after the vaccinations were opened to educational personnel, but only a small percentage were able to secure the first dose.

Among them were at least three teachers in Huron Valley: Nick Peruski, Darci LaRowe, and Jenny Kolb.

"I feel very fortunate, a lot of teachers weren't able to get an appointment right away," said Peruski, who teaches math

and business at Lakeland High School. "I don't think it's a magic bullet, but it's a step in the right direction. This is the evolution of returning to normalcy."

LaRowe, who teaches health and leadership at White Lake Middle School, jumped at her chance to get the vaccine.

"I was super pumped," she said. "My mother is waiting for the vaccine, and she is over 65, so I felt a little guilt inside. But knowing I could protect myself to protect others around me is a nice

See TEACHERS, Page 8A



Village Oaks Elementary teacher Lisa Rice reads to her students Jan. 20. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Corner Social co-owner Mike Carano rolls down his cafe's plastic barrier on its new porch Jan. 14. The roll-up windows, in addition to heaters placed near tables, will give patrons refuge from the cold as they dine. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Restaurants get creative to attract outdoor diners

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Creativity knows no bounds for Ernie Pacsai and the other owners of Super-Natural Brewing and Spirits.

After the state Department of Health and Human Services extended its "Pause to Save Lives" order that shuttered indoor dining at restaurants in November, the ownership of the Livonia brewery at 36685 Plymouth Road began putting their engineering brains to work.

They built several "beer shanties," shielded huts with some heaters designed to house single households dining out. Unlike previous experiences with getting approvals from city government, Pacsai said Livonia's expedited process allowed for a very quick turnaround.

"Normally you have to submit plans. It takes months," Pacsai said. "We went from finalizing the plans to having this built - once again, all by us - in 10 days."

The brewery is just one of many restaurants across the region inviting din-

ers to eat on-site outdoors. With indoor dining banned, restaurants and communities looked at ways to still bring guests to their businesses and keep the kitchens operating.

Makeshift outdoor dining modules have dotted the landscape across the area. Canopies, tarps and even particleboard barriers have been placed to help shield diners from the wind, rain and snow while they enjoy meals outside.

See RESTAURANTS, Page 8A

Northville teens start tutoring service for kids in need

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Throughout its reign of terror, the coronavirus pandemic has spawned the emergence of some awe-inspiring ideas.

Case in point: Northville-based Connect Me, a high school student-run organization that hooks up students from low-income and essential workers' families, among others, with free online tutoring.

The brainchild of Northville High School junior Mehmet Tascioglu, Connect Me is a group of high-achieving high school students who use their

See TUTORS, Page 6A

Winning \$1.05B Mega Millions ticket sold in Novi

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

One lucky Michigander managed to beat the odds and snag the third-largest lottery jackpot ever won in the United States of \$1.05 billion, Michigan Lottery announced Saturday.

"Lucky person," Marcia Owens, of Novi, said as she loaded soda into her car's trunk with her husband Saturday afternoon. That's putting it lightly, as the chances of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are one in 302.5 million. Friday's winning numbers were 4, 26, 42, 50, 60 and Mega Ball 24.

Since a winning ticket was sold in Wisconsin on Sept. 15, the top prize

See MEGA MILLIONS, Page 6A

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Northville restaurant closing after 27 years

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Missy Collins has seen it all in the 27 years she has owned Cassel's Restaurant.

From regulars who stop in for lunch to the church crowd grabbing breakfast on Sunday mornings, Collins has gotten to know many of the customers seeking a meal at 43003 W. Seven Mile in Northville Township.

But, like many other restaurants over the past year, she's seen business tumble due to closures stemming from the

coronavirus pandemic. Amid a tough winter, she's made the difficult decision to close her doors permanently after owning the restaurant since 1993.

"My hope would have been to pass the torch to one of my employees or try to sell it, but last year, I worked for nothing," she said. "I'm facing that again this year. We were open (for dine-in) for four months, but people are generally scared to come out still."

The Northville native who now calls Westland home worked at the restaurant when she was a student at Northville High School. She was offered the diner when the previous owners put it up for sale. A recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a teaching degree, she decided to jump at the opportunity for ownership. Collins bought the diner and changed its name from Cindy's Coney Island to Cassel's Restaurant in homage to her maiden name.

She relocated the American eatery in the Highland Lakes Shopping Center on Seven Mile to a larger space in 2006, which gave her a banquet space.

Last March, she did everything she could to adapt to the new normal: she continued a robust carryout business, something for which she was already known.

"A lot of the employees in this plaza would walk over, get their lunch for carryout. A lot of local businesses would call in for carryout," she said. "I think I would have had a tougher time had I not been known for carryout."

She had to reduce her staff to just herself and a waitress to bag carryout orders. Collins became the main chef, cooking meals all day, every day for customers wanting to support her.

But as the second closure for dine-in service was extended by the state, Collins said she began looking at some harsh realities, including taking on more debt to keep the restaurant open that could have impacted her personal life.



Missy Collins talks about closing Cassel's Restaurant after putting in more than two decades of work. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I knew it was going to be a slow crawl back to even where my restaurant had value again to sell," she said. "You work all your life thinking you have some sort of an asset."

While she's sad to close Cassel's, she said she looks forward to spending more time with family and to finally have weekends back. She said she's on the hunt for permanent employment.

A customer has organized an online fundraiser for the restaurant to help pay some of its bills. Those looking to donate can visit gofundme.com for the page.

She made the announcement to close via Facebook, a post that's been viewed

tens of thousands of times.

Collins said she's touched by the personal stories of guests who have eaten at Cassel's Restaurant over the years, and hopes more of her colleagues in the business don't join her in having to close in the coming months.

"When those restaurants finally do get open, go in," she urged. "Go in, get carryout, they need you. They desperately need you."

"It's too late for me, but if you truly don't want this entire industry to go away, patronize them."

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

hometownlife.com

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Novi Community School District 2019 Bond SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Novi Community School District, 2019 Bond, Bid Package #5A, consisting of:
Bid Package #5A - Novi Meadows Elementary School Site Improvements & Soccer Pavilion will be received through Building Connected until **1:00PM on February 18th, 2021**.

- All proposals shall be submitted electronically through Building Connected. <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541> (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
- For instructions on how to submit a bid please go to the following link: <https://buildingconnected.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-your-bid-through-BuildingConnected>.

Bids submitted after this time and date will not be considered or accepted. Faxed and/or E-mail proposals will not be accepted.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. 1:00PM on February 18th, 2021. Bid Opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting.

Zoom Link:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84519334057?pwd=Zk9tdHN0Wm1UZjFKN3RDS3BoOWV3UT09&from=addon>

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This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:
101. Sitework
102. Asphalt Paving / Site Concrete
103. Selective Demolition
104. Concrete Work
106. Masonry
107. Steel
108. General Trades / Carpentry
114. Storefronts / Glass / Glazing
131. Athletic Equipment (Scoreboard)
140. Plumbing & HVAC
143. Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Architecture** will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills, and the Builder's Exchange, Lansing. **Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 28, 2021 via Building Connected.**

There will be a **Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, February 10th, at 1:00 PM, at Novi Meadows Elementary (Fifth Grade Building) located at 25549 Taft Rd, Novi, MI 48374**. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project bid documents & schedule, and to answer any questions bidders may have. Following the meeting, the bidders will have the opportunity to visit the project site. The pre-bid meeting is not a mandatory meeting however, bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. **A FACE MASK WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE WORN INSIDE OF THE BUILDING DURING THE PRE-BID MEETING.**

All bids **must** include the Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205), the Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210), and the Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220).

All Bids **must** be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid, payable to Novi Community School District, as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the School District is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid or failure of the Bidder to enter a Contract for performance. Further, the Bidder will execute the Contract, provide the required insurance certificate(s) and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of Contract but prior to Work commencing.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Novi Community School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Publish January 28, 2021

1.0.000208130 3x11

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU21-0001 AND PTSLU21-0002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for **Fayz Properties/Pheasant Run Plaza** is requesting a **Temporary Special Land Use Permit** in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary **parking/vehicle storage** for parcel **50-22-24-476-017 and 50-22-24-476-025**, South of Grand River Ave and West of Haggerty Road from **February 11, 2021 through February 11, 2021**, or the completion of the new Jimmy Johns/1111 Burger if sooner. The properties are zoned B-3 (General Business) and the use is contrary to 3.27 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

A public hearing will be held electronically over ZOOM at **10:00am on February 11, 2021** as authorized under the open meetings act, mcl 15.261, et seq., as amended. All written comments or requests for a link to participate in the meeting remotely should be directed to koppermann@cityofnovi.org and must be received prior to end of business **February 10, 2021**.

Publish January 28, 2021

1.0.000208148 3x3

SECTION 00 1113 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: January 21, 2021

PROJECT: Novi Community School District
PA, Clocks and Classroom Audio Upgrades
Bid Package No. 3
Novi, Michigan

OWNER: Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, Michigan 48374

ENGINEERING/ TECHNOLOGY DESIGNER: Integrated Design Solutions, LLC
Architecture, Engineering, Interiors & Technology
1441 W Long Lake, Suite 200
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 823-2100
(248) 823-2200 fax

BIDS RECEIVED: Until 2:00 PM local time on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 the Owner will receive sealed Bids for the work as set forth in the Bidding Documents at:

Attention: Greg McIntyre
Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, Michigan 48374

On Wednesday February 17 at 2:30 PM all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A bid tabulation summary will be available. Due to state-wide COVID-19 restrictions, in-person attendance at the bid opening will be limited to NCSD and IDS staff. Remote attendance will be available via a Zoom meeting accessed at <http://bit.ly/NoviPAClocksAudioBidOpening>

The Bidding Documents will be on file on and after Thursday, January 21, 2021 and may be downloaded from: <http://cloud.ids-troy.com/bids/bids/novi/PAUpgrades>. Bidders are responsible to check the website from time to time to verify they have all addenda, requests for information and other documents related to the Bid.

The Bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Relationship Disclosure Statement. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

A pre-bid conference and walk-through is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM local time. Bidders shall meet at online via MS Teams at <http://bit.ly/NoviPAClocksAudioPreBid>. Building Walk-throughs will be scheduled for Wednesday February 3, 2021 beginning at 9:00 AM Local time. Bidders shall meet at Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook, Novi, MI 48375.

Additional building walk-throughs, if required, shall be coordinated with the Engineer/Technology Designer.

Publish January 28, 2021

1.0.000208147 3x7

MDOT looking to scrape up names for its snowplows

Miriam Marini | Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

With more than 250 snowplows statewide, the Michigan Department of Transportation has turned to the public for help naming them.

Some snowplows are already named, including these gems: Plowasaurus Rex, Sir Salts-A-Lot, Snowboni and Plowy McPlowface.

"I love many of the suggestions, and I can't wait to see more," MDOT Director Paul Ajegba said. But more names are needed.

To see each snowplow's name, users can also activate an interactive snowplow tracker to find snowplows and check what the truck is doing and see road conditions.

"This idea really was driven by people who reached out to us and wanted to know how they could name our plows like those in other places," Nick Schirripa, MDOT spokesman said, in a news release Sunday. "There was so much positive energy and excitement generated so quickly for this idea, it was contagious."

Schools and community organizations are able to "adopt" a snowplow by submitting name suggestions as a group. This can provide an opportunity to learn more about winter driving, snowplowing and transportation safety, MDOT said.

Name suggestions can be submitted online. Suggestions must be G-rated. Submissions that include famous, character or brand names cannot be used, per MDOT. Staff from each of MDOT's seven regions will be able to select their own plow names from the list.



Some of the Michigan Department of Transportation's snowplows are already named: Plowasaurus Rex, Sir Salts-A-Lot, Snowboni and Plowy McPlowface are among them. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

Free tuition plans no replacement for college savings plan



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My husband and I just had our first grandchild. I know that you recommend setting up a college fund for our new grandchild. In fact, a few months ago, we started researching 529 plans.

We are somewhat hesitant to open a 529 Plan with all the discussions regarding free tuition. It doesn't make sense to save for college if tuition is going to be free. Does it still make sense to save in a 529 Plan? If not, what other options would you recommend?

Thank you, Paula

Dear Paula:

Congratulations on your new grandchild and for thinking about your grandchild's future.

One thing I have learned in my 65-plus years is that what politicians talk about, particularly during an election cycle, and what actually becomes the law are two different things. That is why I don't make decisions based upon what is proposed, but rather when something actually becomes the law.

Over the last few years, numerous politicians have proposed free college education. In making these proposals, most of what is discussed is only free tuition. However, anyone with a child in college will tell you there are other substantial costs as well, including books, technology, and lab fees.

In addition, particularly if a student is going away to college, they will have costs for housing and meals. Therefore, even if there was free college tuition, there still will be significant costs to a student in getting their education.

It is critical to remember that you can use money within a 529 Plan for more than just tuition. You can use these funds for things such as room

and board, fees, and technology, such as a laptop. In addition, there are provisions in 529 Plans today that allow you, the donor, to withdraw money from a 529 Plan without penalty. An example is if the student receives a scholarship.

Therefore, if the government did have some sort of free tuition program, there would more likely than not be a provision that would allow people to withdraw money from their 529 Plans without penalty.

It's also important to realize that in most of these proposals for free education, there will be some limitations in order to obtain the benefit. For example, there will likely be some sort of household income limitations and, potentially, some

limitation on the type of educational institution that would be covered.

I've seen one proposal that limits free tuition to just community colleges. Therefore, even if a free-tuition program were enacted, and there certainly is no guarantee of that, what form the program would take, and how long the free tuition would last would be anyone's guess.

Given the number of unknowns, my advice is that you should continue to invest for your children's and grandchild-

dren's college education.

Remember, not all 529 Plans are the same. Even here in Michigan there are different ways to invest in the Michigan Education Savings Plan. Of course, I've always been a believer in commission-free and low-cost investing. Unfortunately, not all 529 Plans meet that requirement. Therefore, it is important that you check costs and fees.

If you buy the Michigan Education Savings Plan directly through the state, it is a very low-cost

plan. On the other hand, if you buy it from brokers, you will pay significant fees.

My belief is the money you would pay in fees looks much better in your pocket than it does in anyone else's, and therefore, when you invest in a 529 Plan, make sure you use a low-cost option.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is bloomadvisors.com. Email Rick at rick@bloomadvisors.com.

**City of Novi
Public Hearing Notice**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **February 9, 2021 at 7:00PM**

This meeting will be held electronically as authorized under the open meetings act, mcl 15.261, et seq., as amended. Members of the public body and members of the public may participate electronically, as described at cityofnovi.org.

PZ20-0066 (Margaret Beller) 1235 S Lake Drive, West of Old Novi Road and North of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-03-332-018. The applicant is requesting variances from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11 to allow the extension of a decorative fence to the front property line on one side of the lot: a 6-foot fence to the front of the house and a 4-foot rail fence to the lot line. Fences shall not extend toward the front of the property nearer than the minimum front yard setback distance by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ21-0001 (David and Molly Armstrong) 43824 Westridge Lane, West of Novi Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-34-277-008. The applicant is requesting variances from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a 15-foot exterior side yard setback (30 feet required, variance of 15 feet). This variance would accommodate the building of a new garage addition. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ21-0003 (Novi Road Retail Management LLC) 26222 Novi Road, East of Novi Road and North of Grand River Avenue, Parcel # 50-22-14-352-002. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.25 D for a 5.2-foot exterior side yard (south) setback (20 feet required by code, variance of 14.8 feet). This property is zoned Town Center (TC).

PZ19-0049 (Jason St. John) 22190 Beck Road, East of Beck Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-33-100-013. The applicant is requesting an extension to variances previously approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals on 1/14/2020. City of Novi Zoning Code Section 3.1.2 for front yard setback of 19 feet (30 feet allowed, proposed variance is 11 feet) and a rear yard setback of 15 feet (35 feet allowed, proposed variance is 20 feet) to accommodate the construction of a new house. This property is zoned single family residential (R-1).

Publish: January 28, 2021

LC-0000158148 3x5



**INVITATION TO BID
NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2021 RENOVATIONS
COOKE SCHOOL REMODELING RE-BID - ALUMINUM
WALKWAY COVERS**

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor trade specific bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the aluminum covered canopy work at Cooke School.

Plans and specifications may be downloaded electronically and are available for review at the office of the AUCH Construction, 65 University, Pontiac, MI 48342 248.334.2000, on or after January 22, 2021. Bid Package consists of Instruction to Bidders, Proposal Forms, General and Supplementary Conditions, drawings and pertinent trade specifications. Contact Jameson Purolo or Shawn Debo for download instructions.

Your proposal will be accepted **NO LATER THAN 12:00PM NOON, February 10, 2021 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION - 405 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167.** Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 P.M., February 10, 2021 at the Northville Board of Education, 405 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. A virtual meeting link will be provided via addendum for the bid opening.

A virtual pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021 at 11:00am and login information will be provided upon request. The meeting is not mandatory but highly recommended.

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Proposals must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Northville Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each proposal over \$25,288 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part, to award contract to other than the low bidder, to waive any irregularities and/or informalities, and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Roland Hwang, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education
Publish: January 28, 2021

LC-0000158150 3x4

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Whitmer: Indoor dining to resume Feb. 1

Dave Boucher
and Kristen Jordan Shamus

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan will allow indoor dining on a limited basis starting Monday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said at a news conference.

While the announced order did not change the timeline in place for the last two weeks, it does offer some relief to restaurant and bar owners crying out for the chance to let people eat inside.

"I know this pandemic has hurt restaurant owners and restaurant workers, and all of their families. I want to thank those that made incredible sacrifices and did their part, on behalf of our protecting our communities from COVID," Whitmer said.

"I've spoken with a number of restaurant owners over the course of these months. I know that it has not been easy. I want you to know that I will continue to do everything in my power to support you and your family."

In November, Whitmer and state health officials enacted what she described as a temporary ban on indoor dining, in-person classes and any operations at venues such as movie theaters or bowling alleys.

While the state has rolled back many of these restrictions, restaurants and bars have not been allowed to offer indoor dining. That has garnered pushback from industry associations and Republicans.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, said it's still safest for elderly people or people with underlying medical conditions to avoid eating indoors. The state will also implement restrictions on indoor dining: businesses can't be above 25% capacity, and they have to close by 10 p.m.

Other restrictions include:

- No more than six people to a table, with tables set at least 6 feet apart
- No more than 100 people or 25% capacity, whichever is smaller
- No mingling with other patrons outside your diner group or in common areas or other places, such as dance floors
- All restaurants must obtain contact information for every person who eats indoors. This is crucial for contact tracing in the event someone who ate at a restaurant gets COVID-19.
- If an employee contracts COVID-19 or shows symptoms at work, the venue must shut down until a deep cleaning is conducted.

There are still risks, but these changes give residents a choice, Khaldun said.

"We want people to have the choice to go to a restaurant, and we are doing what we can to make it safer," she said.

The order takes effect Feb. 1, the day after the current order expires, and runs through Feb. 21. Whitmer said the state will monitor case rates during the three-week period — improvements could mean fewer restrictions, but backsliding could mean another ban.

"Our goal is to make sure that we don't have to take another pause in the state and that's why we're encouraging and supporting the restaurant industry to ensure that they follow the protocols that we know work," Whitmer said.

For weeks, restaurants and similar businesses have argued they can operate safely and the state must give patrons the choice to eat inside.

Blake George, co-owner of Adachi in downtown Birmingham and Zao Jun in Bloomfield Hills, said his businesses will do what they can in light of the limitations.

"It's a start, we were hoping, obviously, for better results," George said. "But we have to be optimistic and it is what it is. We will pivot as usual and we are excited that we can at least do something."

Justin Winslow, president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association, said the news was welcome but overdue.

"It is now time for this administration to move aggressively toward a more comprehensive reintegration strategy, which includes prioritizing vaccination for the broader hospitality industry and establishing clear metrics for phased reopening to 100% capacity of indoor dining," Winslow said.

"The hospitality industry and its sizable workforce has suffered far worse than its peers from this pandemic, losing nearly 3,000 restaurants and employing 200,000 fewer workers than a year prior. It also stands to gain the most from a proficient and expedited vaccination schedule, which is why we contend that there is no more important step the governor can take to get Michigan's economy back on track than restoring public confidence in Michigan-ers' ability to safely dine and travel."

The governor also called on the Legislature to work with her to pass the recovery plan she unveiled this week, as a way to help small businesses and the economy rebound through broader vaccination efforts.

Although Whitmer traveled to Washington, D.C., that week to commemorate the inauguration of President Joe Biden, the current state of the battle against COVID-19 is no cause for celebration. Case rates and hospitalization numbers are promising, but Michigan marked its 14,000th death this week from the virus and confirmed several cases of the highly contagious U.K. variant in Washtenaw County.

Ensuring vaccines are injected in people's arms remains a problem, although the lag between delivering and administering doses is improving. And while Whitmer proposed a massive \$5.6 billion recovery plan — largely funded through federal dollars — her critics have blasted her for not moving faster to restore some form of indoor dining.

State Republicans have threatened to not distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid intended to accelerate vaccinations and improve testing unless Whitmer lets residents eat inside restaurants.

The week marks an inflection point of sorts for Whitmer and Michigan health officials. The Biden administration brings the promise of improvement, but it also ushers in another level of accountability.

Whitmer frequently says the state and nation need to put aside partisan differences and work together to defeat COVID-19. But she has also repeatedly pointed the finger at the Trump administration's ineptitude while arguing state lawmakers aren't taking the pandemic seriously enough.

No longer can Whitmer and the state point to a Trump administration bungling the vaccine rollout, underfunding National Guard reimbursement payments or publicly belittling governors who restrict business operations and call for masks.

Biden unleashed a litany of executive orders aimed at ramping up vaccinations, slowing down the spread of the virus and a return to normalcy. That includes broad guidelines for reopening schools and businesses, something Whitmer is under pressure to accelerate as well.

The new Biden executive orders are part of a national strategy, something Whitmer and other state leaders say has never existed during this pandemic.

As reported by USA Today, they include:

- Telling federal departments to use the Defense Production Act so the country has more personal protective equipment, needles and other necessary supplies
- Requiring masks to be worn on airplanes, trains and federal property;
- Issuing new federal safety guidelines for schools and workplaces
- Expanding testing capacity and publishing uniform data

On Friday, Biden was expected to sign another two executive orders that will make it easier for those in need to get food through federal programs and start requiring federal contractors to pay workers at least \$15 an hour.

Whitmer said these decisions will have a clear and immediate impact in Michigan.

"I'm happy that President Biden recognizes the importance (of the Defense Production Act) and knows we cannot end this pandemic unless we work together," Whitmer said.

However, she said there aren't enough vaccines for everyone who wants a COVID-19 shot right now.

"That's the frustration that you can feel coming from me. ... That's our universal frustration," Whitmer said. "We have the capacity and the plan to do a lot more vaccinations quicker, but the federal government has been hard. They have not gotten us what we need."

The state says it can put shots into the arms of 50,000 people a day, but the supply so far has only been enough to vaccinate 60,000 people a week. Whitmer said she's hopeful that by enacting the Defense Production Act and with new coronavirus vaccines in the pipeline from Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca, the supply problems could improve.

"We will get to everyone," she said, urging patience. "That is my solemn vow is that everyone who wants a vaccine is going to get one."

New variant real threat to Michigan

Since the start of the pandemic, the virus has infected 544,311 people and has killed 14,053, according to state data.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appears at a news conference Jan. 22 in Lansing.

COURTESY OF GOV. WHITMER'S OFFICE

But this week, a new and more contagious mutation of the virus, known as B.1.1.7 or the United Kingdom variant, was detected in Michigan. At least three women with ties to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor have the strain, which is about 50% more transmissible than others. The results of five more genetic sequencing tests of close contacts of the women are pending.

This strain of the virus is not more deadly and isn't known to make people more severely ill than other previously identified variants. However, state health officials are concerned that if the variant begins to circulate widely in the state, this fast-spreading form of the virus could drive up case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths.

"We are watching this situation as closely as possible," said Dr. Juan Luis Marquez, medical director of the Washtenaw County Health Department. "And we ask everyone to continue to do everything they can to prevent transmission — mask, distance, avoid crowds or gatherings, clean your hands frequently, and follow isolation or quarantine guidance carefully."

First detected in the U.K. in September, the B.1.1.7 variant has driven case rates, hospitalizations and deaths so high, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are in lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson told journalists Thursday that it's unclear when restrictions might be lifted, the Guardian reported.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 144 known cases nationally in 20 states as of

Wednesday, and warned that based on transmission models, the U.K. variant could become the predominant strain circulating in the U.S. in March.

The vaccines on the market now are believed to be effective against the U.K. variant of the virus. Research is ongoing, but Pfizer released new data Wednesday to support that claim.

If the variant becomes the dominant strain in Michigan, it could trigger new public health orders and restrictions, Robert Gordon, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services, said at a news conference Wednesday.

"We have always said that we look at multiple factors. I think we will continue to do that. ... There's no cookbook for identifying when to move" to enforce tighter public health restrictions, Gordon said. "I will say, obviously, we are very concerned about the variant, and so we will be observing trends as we move forward."

Whitmer said Friday that she is trying to ensure there won't have to be any more shutdowns.

Michigan's economic recovery

There can be no economic recovery without mass vaccinations, Whitmer and other officials have argued. In response to her recovery package though, Republicans in the state Legislature appear skeptical and hesitant to commit to the proposal.

While acknowledging the plan includes some favorable components — there are hundreds of millions of dollars intended for small businesses, economic development and making it easier for schools to allow in-person classes — Republicans in the House and Senate did not miss a chance to criticize the governor.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, said he was still reviewing the plan yet pledged he would not give the governor "a blank check to continue mismanaging our state's response to COVID-19."

Whitmer's administration sent the outline of her request to lawmakers this week; bills formally detailing her proposal are expected to be filed next week, when legislators return to Lansing.

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VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1.4

PACE EXPANSION CLOSING – ACT NOW OR WISH YOU HAD LAST WEEK – 16 OPEN SLOTS THIS WEEK – 12 CHANCES LEFT (AND 2 APPOINTMENTS BEFORE PRESS TIME!)

COVID IS THE ELDER PLAGUE

95% of COVID deaths among those over 50 years old. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>.

Michigan lags behind in COVID vaccinations. Truth: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>. Michigan elders are paying with their lives.

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1. The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly ("PACE") is free, at-home care.
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 Holland, MI
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Tutors

Continued from Page 1A

free time to bolster learning for struggling students.

"We are a group of high school students who have a passion for helping our community," said Tascioglu, the organization's founder/president. "Right now, as our society faces the challenge of COVID-19, the community is pulling through together, and we want to also contribute by providing tutoring to students who need extra support. ...

"We have 10 tutors right now, but we have another 10 to 15 who we have on a waiting list. I'd sign them all up now, but we want to take our time on this and start it out right."

Each Connect Me tutor is required to sign a contract and fill out a questionnaire about their strongest subjects.

"That way, if we have a student who is struggling in, let's say, math, we can connect them with a tutor who feels math is their strong point," Tascioglu said.

Connect Me has relied almost exclusively on word of mouth.

"We have kids mostly throughout the Detroit area that we're helping so far, but there really are no geographic limits as to who we can help since it's all online," he said. "And once the pandemic eases, we plan on continuing to offer the free tutoring. We may have started this because of COVID-19, but we won't let it end.

"There are a lot of kids out there who need help, not only with academics, but with mentoring, too."



Some of the local high school students involved in the free online tutoring program Connect Me. From left: Kaustuv Mukherjee, Quinn Cassar, Mehmet and Emir Tascioglu, Ilayda Yeni, and Rony Korbe. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tascioglu and his crew like to develop a rapport with students before the learning begins.

"We like to consider ourselves role models for the students we're helping, even though we're not a whole lot older than they are," he said. "We don't want to be just some random person on a computer screen to them."

Tascioglu said he has heard of a similar organization in California, but as far as he knows, Connect Me is the lone Michigan group of its kind.

Parents of students who are struggling academically can learn more about Connect Me by visiting its website at connectmego.square.site. High school students who want to join the tutor

waiting list can also sign up online.

"Our message to parents and guardians is that, 'You're working hard already. Let's keep your kids' grades up,'" Tascioglu said. "Our message to students is, 'Our utmost priority is teaching you the content you need to excel in school and build toward a successful future.'"

Mega Millions

Continued from Page 1A

has kept growing. Until one player happened to buy a ticket at the Kroger located at 47650 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

"Kroger congratulates the individual who purchased a winning Mega Millions lottery ticket at our location in Novi, Michigan," a Kroger spokesperson said in a statement.

For selling the winning ticket, the store will receive a \$50,000 flat-rate

commission once the prize has been claimed, said Jake Harris with the Michigan Lottery. It is unclear whether the commission will go directly to the local retailer or to the Kroger company.

Still, as the Owenses stood feet away from where history was made at their usual grocer, the couple — who don't buy lottery tickets — contemplated the risk associated with partaking in the lottery.

"Somebody's gotta win, but somebody's gotta pay for it," said Owens' husband, who works for a casino and did not want his name published. "You gotta lose more than you win."

Marcia Owens said in more frank terms: "I think it's stupid. People are already hurting, between unemployment and everything else, and they're going to make it easier to lose more money."

The earliest the prize could be claimed was Monday, but big prizes usually take a while to be claimed as winners wrap their heads around the money they're about to step into, Harris said.

"What I would tell the winner is that they're gonna want to make sure to sign the back of the ticket and keep it in a very safe place," Harris said. "A lottery

ticket is a bearer instrument. So, in order to claim the prize, they have to have that original ticket in their hand."

Winners have a choice between accepting the prize as a graduated annuity or as a lump sum. In this case, the annuity option would begin with a payment of \$15.8 million and end with \$65 million before tax, and the lump sum would amount to \$776.6 million before tax.

's Mega Millions is a multi-state jackpot, there's no easy way to tell how many tickets were purchased in Michigan for this pot, which was won on the record 37th drawing.



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To sign up for an online weight-loss surgery seminar, visit ascension.org/detroitweightloss

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January 28, 2021

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

homes

Toll Brothers Michigan Model Home Wins National Award in NAHB Competition

Tour Today and Learn About National Sales Event Savings Available For a Limited-Time

The Michigan division of Toll Brothers, the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, has won a Silver Award in the National Association of Home Builders' most prestigious awards competition, The Nationals. The Silver Award was given to Toll Brothers in the category of Best Single-Family Detached Model Home (under 2,000 sq. ft.) for its Berks model home in the company's Reserve at West Bloomfield community. Home buyers can tour this award-winning model home and many others during the Toll Brothers National Sales Event running January 30 to February 15, 2021.

The Nationals 2020 Silver Awards salute and honor the best in the building industry for their determination, integrity, creativity and endurance. During a four-day judging process, a panel of industry professionals from across the country determine the award winners from a field of over 900 entries.

"The Nationals are the most prestigious awards of their kind, setting the benchmark for innovation in new home design, marketing and sales," said Alex Martin, Toll Brothers Midwest Division President. "We're honored to be recognized nationally with this Silver Award, and we encourage home shoppers to tour our award-winning model homes for themselves during our National Sales Event launching this Saturday, January 30."

The Toll Brothers fully-decorated Berks model home in the Reserve at West Bloomfield community features a ranch-style, open-concept design complete with a home office, and must-see finished basement. Other highlights of the Toll Brothers Berks model include: a gorgeous kitchen with large center island open to casual dining area, great room, and formal dining room area; a luxurious first-floor primary bedroom suite with lavish primary bath; a spacious secondary bedroom with adjacent full bath; and luxe appointments throughout.

Reserve at West Bloomfield is an amazing new community featuring spacious ranch-style homes with an easy, low-maintenance lifestyle and resort-style amenities. All in a convenient location just steps to the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Tour our gorgeous Berks ranch model home and our new Waltham two-story model home today. Priced from the upper \$400,000s. Call (248) 654-8555 or visit ReserveatWestBloomfield.com for more information.

Toll Brothers also has an outstanding selection of homes at the following Metro-Detroit communities:

New in South Lyon

Toll Brothers newest community Lyon Preserve is now open and selling out of our West Bloomfield location offering the same ranch-

style homes and luxury, low maintenance living. Lyon Preserve is nestled in a private wooded enclave in Lyon Township just minutes from historic downtown South Lyon and every convenience priced from the upper \$400,000s. Call (866) 267-0537 or visit LyonPreserve.com to learn more.

Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford Road, west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the low \$600,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call (734) 844-0279.

Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the mid-\$400,000s and two-story home designs range from



Visit the award-winning Berks model home at the Toll Brothers Reserve at West Bloomfield community and learn about limited-time savings offered during the company's National Sales Event.

2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the mid-\$500,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For details, visit TheHamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

Luxurious Living in Northville

Final opportunities are now available in Northville! Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road across from Maybury State Park and offers a range of home designs with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start from the upper \$700,000s. Call (248) 924-2601 or visit LiveAtDunhillPark.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resort-class community situated in a stunning 109-acre setting. Two collections of homes are available: Townhomes from the low \$400,000s and Villas from the low \$500,000s.

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor primary bedroom suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes just released new exterior styles and range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, a lower level with the option to finish and options to add a loft or rooftop deck.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the

VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit NorthOaks.com.

Final Opportunities for Single-Family Homes from low \$400,000s in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools and low Scio Twp taxes is now available.

Two collections of homes offer all new open-concept designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from the low \$400,000s and The Parkside Collection is priced from the upper \$400,000s. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

Toll Brothers is set to kick off its National Sales Event "Discover the Difference" on Saturday, January 30. The event will run through Monday, February 15, featuring limited-time incentives at Toll Brothers communities throughout Michigan. To learn more about Toll Brothers and the National Sales Event, please call 866-267-0537 or visit TollBrothers.com/MI.

This is not an offering where prohibited by law.

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Toll Brothers offers new luxury communities in Northville, South Lyon, and West Bloomfield

TollSalesEvent.com/NNN

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Lyon Preserve Now Open and Selling out of our West Bloomfield Location Low-maintenance, ranch-style homes in a beautiful wooded enclave just minutes to downtown South Lyon From the upper \$400s 866-267-0537

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Reserve at West Bloomfield Two Stunning Models Now Open Tour Today Low-maintenance, ranch-style homes with resort-style amenities, including pool and fitness, just steps from the West Bloomfield Trail From the upper \$400s 248-654-8555

Open Every Day 11 am-6 pm. Brokers welcome. Homes available nationwide. *Offer, if any, is valid for new buyers who deposit on a new home at a participating community in Michigan between 1/30/21 and 2/15/21, sign an agreement of sale by 2/28/21, and close on the home. Not valid on existing deposits or homes under contract. Offers, incentives, and seller contributions, if any, vary by community and are subject to certain terms, conditions, and restrictions, including but not limited to the availability of home sites. Offers may not be valid on quick delivery homes where selections have already been made. Toll Brothers reserves the right to change or withdraw any offer at any time. Not valid with any other offer. See sales representative for details. Prices subject to change without notice. Photos are images only and should not be relied upon to confirm applicable features. This is not an offering where prohibited by law.

Teachers

Continued from Page 1A

feeling. It's nice to be part of this process, part of something that will help our whole country."

Kolb said she didn't have to think twice about receiving the vaccine.

"I follow the science," she said. "I hope if enough people do it ... the virus slows down some and we can stay in school longer and finish the school year here. I am sure parents are ready to keep their kids in school here."

A long waiting list

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said he is excited about the vaccine and feels it will give teachers more confidence in the classroom.

His preference, he said, would be to have a clinic in the district and all 900 staff vaccinated at once. However, the vaccine rollout neither equates to an immediate return to in-person learning nor a normal-looking classroom.

The district has had in-person learning two days per week since September. "This is not a silver bullet to all the struggles we've been through over the last 10 months," Matthews said. "... The reality is every one of our employees need to be vaccinated. Right now there is not a lot of vaccine around. Our hope is that Oakland County gets more vaccine so our staff can do their job."

Heather Burnside, Novi Education Association president, said most teachers she had spoken with were excited about getting the vaccine.

She conducted a survey of staff in the NEA, which includes teachers, social workers, counselors, speech pathologists, coaches and more. Of 244 respondents, 89 staff were able to schedule a vaccination appointment, and 151 had tried to schedule but were unable to get an appointment.

"Most are really excited to get it and hopefully it gets us back to normal," she said. "... The big discussion at the school board level is let's get kids back in. Every teacher wants that, it's just the argument of when it is safe to do so."

"We know this isn't ideal."

Aiming for normalcy next fall

An increase in vaccinations likely will lead to an increase in class sizes, if

not necessarily full-time face-to-face instruction, Matthews said. Because the rollout is expected to take some time, he anticipates current safety measures will be in place at least through June.

Matthews said the larger impact will be felt in the fall when he expects the vast majority of staff would be vaccinated and school could return to in-person learning five days per week, although he added that he would not be surprised if the use of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes continues to be protocol.

"One thing the pandemic has taught us is we need to be mindful of the health things in our buildings, to make sure they are clean so we don't spread this virus or any other virus," he said.

In South Lyon, where elementary students have in-person learning four days per week and secondary students are attending two days per week, Superintendent Steve Archibald is also looking forward to staff vaccinations.

He has no way of knowing how many of the district's 500 teachers have received their first dose of the shot or had attempted to schedule an appointment. The district has not yet conducted any surveys.

Archibald said he has considered it, but is reluctant to "put them in a compromising situation if they have a religious belief or aren't going to."

Some adaptations may stay

Archibald has heard from building principals of some staff being able to make appointments, and senses a great deal of optimism. He had no target for the percentage of staff that would need to be vaccinated to have an impact on future spread, leaving that to epidemiologists who have said between 70 percent and 80 percent of the population needs vaccination in order to achieve herd immunity.

"Every significant advancement like this moves us closer to what we are operating and what we remember as a normal school setting," he said. "This is a significant development overall, bigger than just school."

He, like Matthews, also doesn't anticipate cleaning protocols, or masks, to go away anytime soon.

"I don't think masks are a hang-up or roadblock for us anymore, we're wearing them and moving on," he said. "The big things that are challenging for us are the number of students and staff that had to go into quarantine had huge im-



Village Oaks Elementary students focus on their teacher during class Jan. 20. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

pact, and what constitutes close contact. Those are areas that I hope those guidelines can be loosened."

Huron Valley Superintendent Paul Salah said administrators have discussed trying to get a sense of how many of nearly 1,500 educational personnel in that district are getting the vaccine.

The more important question for him is whether they have access to the vaccine, which he calls "another tool to provide hope."

Widely-available vaccines will drive his decision to recommend five days per week of in-person learning.

"In my mind, it will be complete normalcy if all educational personnel are able to access it," he said. "It allows fewer interruptions, and less restrictions so we can operate fully."

Mitigation strategies may still be needed, he said, but his hope would be that those could be dropped next fall. That would also depend on case counts, he said.

Community help needed

Salah noted that there was a "tremendous" surge in COVID-19 cases in October, which resulted in the district switching to fully-remote learning as

the virus raged through the community, causing large numbers of quarantines and operational challenges that prohibited in-person instruction.

The district on Jan. 19 began four days of in-person learning for all students. Salah said the district is already preparing for student and staff quarantines, but the vaccine gives him hope.

"I am so happy we are through the year 2020, I can't express how excited and hopeful I am for what 2021 has to bring," he said. "The vaccine is another tool at our disposal to move toward the normalcy we appreciate and have enjoyed the majority of our lives."

Peruski is doing his part in getting the vaccine. He hopes the community will join in the effort when the vaccines are widely available.

"If you asked all the teachers, they want to be in classroom with kids, their worry is safety, making sure they are protected," he said. "My worry is we are face-to-face for two weeks, a month, and outbreaks force us to go remote. The more that get vaccinated, the more likely we can stay face-to-face."

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

Restaurants

Continued from Page 1A

For many restaurants, creating such environments is crucial to economic survival amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The virus was first officially detected in March in Michigan, which triggered a declaration of emergency from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Since then, COVID-19 has infected more than half a million people and been responsible in the deaths of more than 14,000 across the state.

Restaurant dining rooms were ordered closed March 16 and remained that way for nearly three months as officials looked to help mitigate the virus' spread. Dining rooms were ordered closed once again in November as cases and positivity rates skyrocketed, and have remained shuttered since, though the state Department of Health and Human Services, which issued the order, will lift that prohibition Feb. 1.

But the state's most recent closure of dining rooms included a caveat: the allowance of dining outdoors, which has led to some creative measures from restaurateurs.

One popular outdoor dining shelter is the plastic igloo, a dome that can accommodate several diners, though state regulations require all guests inside such a bubble must be from the same household. Igloos began popping up at restaurants before the pandemic, but have almost become essential for many restaurants.

Whole Hearted Winery, 56808 Grand River in New Hudson, offers a pair of the plastic domes for patrons. Grabbing igloos earlier on in the season was the winery's best move, co-owner Dan Weiland said, because as the months got colder, it got tougher to find them.

"We're lucky we got one, because now you can't find them," Weiland said.

Reservations fill up fast

A pair of sister restaurants in Northville and Bloomfield Township, Deadwood Bar and Grill and The Moose Preserve Bar and Grill, have decorated the plastic domes to keep their high-end ambiance alive for outdoor diners.

Bryan Coudret, a co-partner at The Moose Preserve at 43034 Woodward



Poole's Tavern in Northville has added curtains and space heaters to its outdoor dining area to keep patrons warm as they enjoy dining out in winter. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ave. in Bloomfield Township, said the domes occupy the restaurant's deck and have two themes: "Northern Lights" and "Husky Hideaway."

Coudret said making the unusual location into an experience for guests is just one way they've tried to stay in people's minds even though patrons couldn't dine out indoors. The recipe has proven successful: every weekend slot throughout January and February in one of The Moose Preserve's igloos is full and just some weekday slots are available.

Those looking to sign up to use the space can do so on the classic American-style restaurant's website.

"They're definitely a lot of work getting them together," he said. "This is some people's only time to get out, is when they eat at a restaurant."

On-site dining isn't just a benefit for those looking for a night out on the town, but also for restaurant employees.

Pacsai said the new huts at Super-Natural Brewing and Spirits in Livonia, which are rented for \$10 per hour in addition to the cost of food and beer, have been so successful that the brewery has been able to bring back two employees from furlough.

He said there was a lot of discussion over whether to charge extra for renting the spaces, but with all the work and money put into the experience, they thought the community would buy into the idea. And it has: the Livonia brewery has seen booking after booking of each of its three beer shanties.

"We're hoping people will support us

in this way," Pacsai said.

Thinking outside the box

Dealing with the closures issued from the state to help stop the spread of COVID-19 has created unique opportunities for businesses and governments to figure out ways to keep the restaurant scene going.

Michigan weather can make outdoor dining a challenge for a majority of the year. But plenty are willing to endure the cold for a night on the town, and several communities have embraced the idea and transformed their entire downtowns as a result.

Laws approved by the state last year expanded options for communities, including the creation of "social districts," parts of a municipality that allow for strolling a designated area with alcoholic beverages purchased at participating businesses.

Northville opened "The Twist" several months ago, bringing in shelters and serving up food from area restaurants.

Farmington has also joined the fun, opening "The Syndicate" social district on New Year's Eve.

The new social district along Grand River Avenue and Farmington roads has grown as more people become aware of it, said Kate Knight, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

"Their customers are very curious to see how this works," Knight said. "They're interested, they want to check it out."

She said Sidecar Slider Bar reported sales doubling on the second weekend with the social district and quadruple what was made in weekends in December.

Having such a district has indeed brought some life to the Oakland County downtown in a traditionally slow time. Visitors are heading downtown to eat, drink, shop and even ice skate at Riley Park. The district is allowed for the next several years under state law.

In Milford, the Downtown Development Authority secured a grant for igloos and greenhouses so that Milford restaurants may expand their abilities to serve guests outdoors.

Other restaurants are opting for a more long-lasting approach. The Corner Social, 101 S. Lafayette in downtown South Lyon, opted to install a new, permanent awning on its patio to provide shelter for guests.

Mike Carano, one of the owners, said they began looking at options last year when it became clear COVID-19 was here to stay for a while. They reached out to a contractor in the fall about putting in a covering over their outdoor seating area and had it installed earlier this month.

Before the permanent awning went up, a temporary tent covering occupied the then-smaller patio to help accommodate guests looking to enjoy a night out at the restaurant, which pivoted its concept from just a coffee shop in late 2019 by adding alcohol and other food items to the menu.

Not only will the space, complete with heaters, allow for guests to enjoy the business while staying safe from COVID-19, but it will help in efforts to beautify downtown South Lyon.

"We decided it's a centerpiece. We want it to look nice," Carano said. "We want people to drive through the town and see something nice."

Going with a more permanent option, which cost tens of thousands, was an investment Carano felt was necessary: he said he expects the trend of patrons being hesitant to dine inside will most likely linger for several years.

"I think it's going to be a new thing," he said. "I think it's going to be a thing people are going to enjoy doing."

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



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SPORTS

WRESTLING

Farmington Public Schools cancels season

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Carson Roberts joined the North Farmington wrestling team as a junior by the recommendation of his football coaches. But in only one season with the Raiders on the mat, he learned to love the sport: the competitiveness, the fo-

cus not only on strength, but technique. Heading into 2021, he was excited for the opportunity to improve, to continue to be a leader and promoter of the sport he quickly fell in love with.

For Roberts, the two other seniors on North Farmington's team and all the wrestlers throughout Farmington Public Schools, they will not get the chance.

Farmington Public Schools announced Wednesday in an email to athletes and parents that it will not be offering wrestling in the 2021 winter season at any of its middle schools or high schools due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This really, really sucks," Roberts said. "I really wanted to go back and

wrestle this year. It was kind of just taken right out underneath me."

Farmington Public Schools Athletic Director Jon Manier said the difference between wrestling and other sports offered is the consistent close contact in order to practice the sport itself.

See **WRESTLING**, Page 2B



Detroit Catholic Central basketball players practice in their gym Jan. 19. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services moved the season back again to at least Feb. 21, but granted teams the ability to hold non-contact practices ahead of that date. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

First non-contact practices define basketball

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Area basketball teams did not get everything it wanted out of the latest order from the state.

With a schedule planned out for the 2021 season already stopped multiple times due to COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services moved it back again to at least Feb. 21, but granted teams the ability to hold non-contact practices ahead of that date.

When he talked to his coaches, Detroit Catholic Central head coach Brandon Sinawi knew he had to get creative

ahead of the return to the gym, pulling out drills he had not used in years to work on individual skills, using football tackling dummies to try and replicate physical contact, watching film, hoping that something would stick when traditional five-on-five practicing was permitted again.

But despite the uncertainty, Sinawi remains confident.

"We know there is an end in sight. It's just a couple of weeks," he said. "You know what, it's not ideal, but it's what we are in control of and we are going to manage that."

Through January, area basketball teams are rolling with the punches, get-

ting their teams conditioned and as ready as they can for a sprint of a season that coaches and players hope doesn't get pushed back again.

Experience looms large

2021 is going to be the season where experience likely will define success.

For many coaches with returning players, they don't have to spend the time working on offensive and defensive schemes of a particular system — something teams really don't have the time or capability of teaching with the restrictions in place.

"Just the fact that the kids know our

system and know our program and what we are all about, having those kids that have been through that varsity experience, it's absolutely an advantage," Milford head coach Dave Gilbert, who will have 10 seniors on his roster in 2021, said.

This is an advantage that Canton doesn't have.

The Chiefs will return five players from the 2019-20 team that won 15 games, including two juniors in Cole Vickers and Lake McIntosh who played valuable minutes. Other than those two, the roster is relatively inexperienced.

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 2B

Girls swim teams find success, closure at MHSAA state meet

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As Northville girls swim neared the culmination of its season, head coach Brian McNeff soon found he would not be able to see it in person.

One week before the state meet, McNeff's son tested positive for COVID-19, forcing him away from his team for its final races of the year. Instead of being poolside, McNeff texted and Face-

Timed his team, watching a livestream from his home.

"I think I was probably a little bit more nervous because I wasn't there and more anxious about it," McNeff said. "I was yelling just as loud as I normally would at home."

"These girls were so mentally strong. I don't think it mattered to them. I think they were ready to go. It would have been nice to be there, but I don't think it affected their swimming at all."

The Mustangs finished third at the 2020-21 Michigan High School Athletic Association girls swim and dive state meet, scoring 164 points — 20 points behind second-place finisher Mercy and first-place finisher Ann Arbor Pioneer — with All-State finishes in five different events, including a second-place finish in the 400-free relay.

But for teams across the state, this meet seemed to be just as much about closure of what had been an uncertain

season than just about swimming fast and earning times.

Plymouth head coach Emily Weiner, whose junior swimmer Brady Kendall finished first in both the 100-fly and the 50-free, said a lot of the conversations she had with her team in the two weeks leading up to the meet was about mindset; getting themselves in a place where they believed they could swim the times

See **SWIMMING**, Page 3B



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DeWitt wins state title over River Rouge

Tom Lang Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DeWitt has been close many times, finishing state runner-up five times in program history.

Saturday night at Ford Field was not meant to be the sixth.

DeWitt (12-0) broke through with a 40-30 win over the defending Division 3 champion, River Rouge.

It's the first state title for coach Rob Zimmerman, who has led the Panthers for 22 seasons.

"Yes, we've been so close so many times," Zimmerman said. "It's just unbelievable. This group of kids — we knew we had a shot with these kids. They are really motivated and driven. They played like they really won a state championship tonight. So proud of them, so happy for them."

DeWitt opened the scoring with a 15-yard touchdown pass from Tyler Holtz to Blake Beachnau early in the first quarter.

River Rouge (9-2) took the lead once, in the second quarter with a brief 8-7 edge, after a 52-yard pass reception by Jalen Holly from QB Mareyohn Hrabowski, followed by a two-point conversion

reception by Nicholas Marsh.

But Andrew DeBri scored on an 8-yard pass and Nicholas Flegler scored on a 35-yard pass along the sideline to take a 21-8 lead into halftime.

DeWitt scored again with a 25-yard touchdown pass from Holtz to Thomas McIntosh to increase the lead to 19 early in the third.

River Rouge quickly cut the lead to 27-14 less than two minutes later on a Hrabowski run. But DeWitt seemingly put the game out of reach with a follow-up touchdown. DeBri scampered 37 yards for a 33-14 advantage as time expired in the third quarter.

River Rouge began the fourth with a four-play, 51-yard drive in 1:09, capped by a 12-yard TD reception and PAT catch by Marsh, cutting the lead to 10.

DeWitt followed with a deliberate drive, going 60 yards on 12 plays and taking 6:27 off the game clock, Holtz made a 2-yard scoring run.

"Holtz was tremendous at quarterback, certainly," Zimmerman said of his junior who was 12-for-16 passing and added 118 yards rushing. "And I think we made plays, and in games like this you've got to make big plays when it's crunch time, and I think we did. Offen-

sively we played very, very well. I think we didn't score only two possessions and defensively we gave up a few plays, but did well enough."

The game was close statistically. DeWitt held the advantage in rushing yards, 226-158 yards, but River Rouge led in passing yards, 227-177.

"Obviously, River Rouge is defending state champ and is loaded with college players, so I'm so proud of our kids to be able to win this game," Zimmerman said.

River Rouge has five players headed to D-I colleges: Hrabowski is committed to Western Michigan, Armion Smith to Cincinnati, Pius Odjugo to Central Michigan, Jalen Johnson to Ball State and Chance Moore to Morgan State.

"A loss gives you an opportunity to win again," River Rouge coach Corey Parker said. "You get so much to learn from in that moment. Seeing how we played and knowing what we've got to adjust off season. At the end of the day, we're fine looking at that scoreboard and knowing we have a chance to come back with young guys making plays and our older guys fighting to the bitter end."

Michigan prep hoops schedule will get pushed back — again

Kirkland Crawford Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

There will be yet another schedule change for Michigan high school winter sports, including boys and girls basketball.

In reaction to the latest state restrictions update from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan High School Athletic Association will take a few days to reconfigure the schedules for basketball, hockey, wrestling and competitive cheer.

Whitmer's announcement, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, extended the ban on contact sports until Feb. 21.

Last week, the MHSAA announced that these contact sports could run non-contact practices. The plan then was for basketball to begin full practice on Feb. 1 and start the season Feb. 4.

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

As Bruce Warmann, one of three seniors on the roster, watched players try out for Canton, he saw a lack of familiarity but an abundance of talent. He saw something he could work with.

But the approach this season, he said, changes. Instead of trying to outsmart opponents in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, the focus will be on basically outrunning teams for four quarters.

"I feel like if we can become the best conditioned team in our league, we're going to have a good chance to blow people out of the water," Warmann said.

"Because of all the crazy circumstances, conditioning is going to probably be the biggest impact on the game. It's going to come down to the mental strength in the fourth quarter: are you going to have the mental energy to finish off the game?"

Novi head coach Chris Housey said this season will come down to energy and effort, relying on the players' intelligence and basketball IQ to make decisions in game play.

At Detroit Catholic Central, this has been a primary focus for Sinawi and his staff.

The Shamrocks head coach put together a practice schedule emphasizing quick skill work, forcing players to make decisions — offensive and defensive — as if they were in game-like situations, teaching core principles in a different way.

While he is aware that there will be a gap in development that only time can replace, Sinawi is not going to make excuses. His goal for these next few weeks is to get his players in a place where, come Feb. 21, they are revved up for the season ahead.

"We are going to do our best to let them visualize and when we can, it's kind of going to be like a chained dog ready to pounce on something," Sinawi said. "Some time you have to let the leash off and come Feb. (21), they will be

ready to go."

Taking initiative

While basketball may look different if teams are permitted to play, some things will not change.

Heading into 2021, South Lyon head coach Troy Weidman preached the importance of two ownership and taking initiative.

"I believe this year, those teams that are player-led teams that are really tight as a team — tight meaning they really like each other and hold each other accountable — are going to be the teams that are really going to be successful," Weidman said.

This is something Cooper Craggs has taken to heart.

The Detroit Catholic Central junior said he had a wake-up call last year, his first on the varsity team. He said the difference in style of play — the physicality down low, the speed of the game — hit him hard at first. But he adapted and got stronger because of the experience.

He said that is his main role heading into 2021: helping groom the underclassmen and getting them better, either verbally or physically.

"We have a lot of young players this year — five underclassmen — so it's very important that this team bonds together so we can be stronger on the court," Craggs said.

Vickers knows that chemistry development takes time. It takes practice reps to see what Canton can actually do on the basketball court, something they don't necessarily have the luxury of.

To Warmann, that's where the flexibility comes in, the ability and necessity to roll with the punches ahead of the start of the season.

"If we can't do something, we have to find the alternative," Warmann said. "If we can't touch each other in practice, we have to find other ways to improve. We just have to be adaptive."

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



Cole Vickers is one of five returners to Canton basketball in 2021.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

"One of the concerns was despite our safety measures — let's say mask-wearing as an example — it's very hard in that kind of close contact to ensure that would be consistently applied," Manier said. "Not that the athletes or the coaches wouldn't be willing to do it, it's the nature of the sport."

"I don't know if there's another sport that encourages or requires hand-to-face contact as wrestling does, or face-to-face contact even."

North Farmington head wrestling coach Robert Mathieson realizes no sport or in-person activity is entirely safe at this point. He knows the risks associated with wrestling, but he also feels those risks are no different than any other contact sport.

He said, with the guidelines put in place — only holding dual meets and wrestlers facing only three other competitors, along with face mask rules and mandates — wrestling was as safe as it could be.

Mathieson compared it to basketball,

watching as 20-plus players switch in and out of the game, bump into each other, contacting a number of players throughout the process.

"I feel perhaps it was a bit of a fear-based decision rather than a solution-based decision," Mathieson said.

Manier said there is a continued analysis of all extra-curricular activities in terms of their safety during the pandemic, conferring with building administration, departmental or athletic leadership, and the District Wellness Committee made up of a variety of representatives throughout the school district.

Prior to the announcement, Manier said he spoke personally to every wrestling head coach at the middle school level, and to every assistant and head coach at both Farmington and North Farmington about the decision.

"I can't say any of them were appreciative, all willing to consider the district's position, all very professional, but certainly disappointed for their student athletes as well as themselves because they enjoy what they do," Manier said.

While Mathieson understands the decision and does not fault the district for making it, he is still looking for rea-

soning as to why Farmington Public Schools made the decision ahead of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"It sounds like they just kind of said, 'Well, we think it's too risky,'" Mathieson said. "I respect the decision and that point, but I feel like the coaches were a bit left out of the conversation."

Through the uncertainty of COVID-19, Chris Roberts watched his two sons sit idle ahead of their winter seasons — the other a hockey player for Farmington United.

While he knows the severity of the pandemic and the personal risks it takes for him, Chris Roberts sees a difference between the sport his son Carson plays in the fall than his adopted winter activity.

"Having just come from football, I understand that the other sports feel that they are secondary sports," Chris Roberts said. "You are sitting there going, 'OK, is my kid ever going to get the chance to do what he loves to do?'"

Manier said he hopes to be able to open wrestling rooms in the next few months for open mats, but said he is making parents and wrestlers aware of

options outside of the high school level.

However, Mathieson knows that for some members of his team, club teams and independent tournaments may not be financially feasible. Instead, he hopes to get approval to distribute some of his personal wrestling mats to players to practice and train at home.

Manier also made clear that this is no indication of the direction the MHSAA is heading regarding wrestling.

"It's never easy to limit a student-athlete's opportunities," Manier said. "I don't think anyone feels genuinely good about it. But we have to take and consider health and safety first and foremost, not that it isn't in other times. But these are unique times and they are forcing us to consider things we have not considered before."

All Carson Roberts wants is a chance to do what he loves to do, however that may look during the pandemic.

"I hope that the three seniors, including me, get to wrestle just one more time before they have to go off to college or go to the next step of their life," he said.

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

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Sparks takes step forward as new Novi head coach

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only 19 years old and just out of high school, Jim Sparks started coaching varsity tennis at Clawson, his alma mater. It was his logical next step: his summer job has always been teaching tennis to younger kids, feeling he had an aptitude for it.

In college, he saw a different path for himself, planning to major his business. But one counseling class, one skill inventory test seemed to change Sparks' perspective.

"The lady who taught the class was like, 'You really seem to enjoy the coaching. Have you ever thought about teaching?'" Sparks recalled. "I told (her) I thought about teaching a lot, but everybody says there's no jobs and you don't make any money."

"She laid it out there: 'How do you imagine yourself? Becoming an accountant and every day you wake up in the morning dreading going to work, or maybe you go into teaching and you don't find a job right away, you don't make a ton of money, but every day, when you wake up, you are actually excited to go to work.'"

Sparks became what he referred to as "a teacher who coaches football" in 1993, taking over the head coaching job at Clawson in 2002. After 19 years in the same role, Sparks is changing things up a bit; he was hired to replace Jeff Burnside as Novi High School's fifth head football coach since 1967.

"We could not be more excited and pleased to have Coach Jim Sparks as our newest member of the Wildcat family," Novi athletic Director Brian Gordon said in a statement. "Coach Sparks brings an enormous amount of experience and knowledge in not only the game of football, but also as an educator for the past 20 years."

"Jim truly understands what educational athletics can do for student-athletes, a school and the entire community. He will continue to honor our traditions and our core values."

Sparks is a four-time Macomb Area Conference Bronze Division Coach of the Year, advancing to the playoffs 11 times — including each of the past three



Jim Sparks is the new head football coach for Novi. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"Jim (Sparks) truly understands what educational athletics can do for student-athletes, a school and the entire community."

Brian Gordon Novi athletic director

seasons — while posting a record of 99-92.

An experienced coach in many different sports, including the varsity softball team at Clawson, Sparks said football remains unique. He views football as a true team game, where one player can't define the success of an entire team. He views it as a place to develop perseverance and grit in a true physical form.

"Football is one of the last places where a kid can physically get knocked down and has to make the choice of 'Am I going to lay here or am I going to get

up?'" Sparks said.

Taking over the Clawson head coaching job from Hall-of-Fame coach Richard Moore, Sparks viewed himself as a "custodian" of the culture. He continued the mantra of belief and humility, the importance of unselfishness and servant leadership.

But the Trojans were a Division 5 program. Sparks said he never complained about the size of the team, looking forward to coaching each and every season. But when the job at Novi presented itself, it was too good of an opportunity to turn down.

"It was time for a new challenge. I perform better when I know people are watching, for what it's worth," Sparks said. "I think it's human nature to kind of get complacent. I was comfortable looking myself in the mirror at Clawson knowing I was doing the best possible thing for myself and the kids, but this is a new challenge. I have to up my game a little bit."

Ahead of his first offseason with the Wildcats, Sparks said he and the roster he's inheriting will start from the

ground floor, choosing to not watch film of his team until he has met the team, not letting him develop any preconceived notions.

However, Sparks knows what he wants his team to look like, not in terms of scheme, but in terms of mentality and approach. He said he wants his entire team to look like how he builds his defense: a run-to-the-ball, fierce, hard-nosed group that becomes its identity.

"You can line up in four, five-wide and wing the ball all over the place and the impression is going to be that you are finesse and all that. That's not necessarily the case," Sparks said. "Your receivers can knock people down, your offensive line can be ferocious out there. It just so happens that you are happier with making 15 yards a play as opposed to two."

Working with a team where a "big" group is about 25 players, Sparks knew that he had to take the strength of the team any given year and accentuate it to lead to success instead of having his players fit some sort of predetermined mold he had formed over the past 19 years.

This is the process Sparks is in now: forming a staff, meeting the players and those around the football program, getting an idea of what it will look like to run a Division 1 program inside the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

But Sparks knows one thing. He knows that whatever he chooses to do with what he's given at Novi will fit his mission statement, a mission statement that he carried at Clawson for 19 years as its head coach.

Sparks wants Novi football players to have a lifelong experience playing for the Wildcats, looking back favorably on their time with a championship-caliber team that is respected on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

"When these kids are done playing for me and they are 40, 50 years old, they look back and say, 'Man, I'm glad that I played football at Novi High School,'" Sparks said.

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

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Division 6 Player of the Year Drew Collins threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for two TDs in Montague's 40-14 victory against Clinton in the MHSAA Division 6 championship. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Montague rolls by Clinton to win Division 6 state crown

Wright Wilson
Special to the Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two teams that know how to keep the pace of the game moving staged an entertaining Division 6 state title game Friday afternoon at Ford Field.

But with Division 6 player of the year Drew Collins, Montague's offense came up with more big plays in a 40-14 victory over Clinton.

Collins, committed to Michigan Tech, threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns while completing 15 of 19 attempts, and ran for two more scores.

Montague's up-tempo aerial attack was in contrast to Clinton's run-oriented Wing-T approach, which piled up 358 yards on 65 rushes and kept pace early.

But Clinton's only pass attempt backfired. While trailing by two touchdowns, Derek Tomalak was hurried by Tugg Nichols, and Montague's Trey Mikkelsen picked the ball off.

Four plays later, Collins scored on a 9-yard keeper to break the game open, 33-14. That came one series after Montague's defense forced Clinton to turn the ball over on downs, when Rodney Brassfield and Hayden McDonald bottled up Brayden Randolph on a fourth-and-2 near midfield.

Montague (12-0) quickly capitalized on that opportunity as well, needing only three snaps to get the ball into the end zone. Collins spotted Samuel Smith sprinting up the left sideline and threaded the needle; Smith caught the

ball at the 6 and crossed the goal line with a defender hanging on.

Montague set the pace early, mounting a 13-play, 59-yard scoring drive on its first possession which took 7:08 off the clock. Collins hit Smith on a 9-yard slant toward center to grab the lead first.

Clinton (10-2) answered by traveling 80 yards in only 5 plays, with George Ames scoring on an 8-yard run. The play was set up by Randolph's 58-yard scamper on the prior snap.

Montague came right back, with Collins hitting Smith on a 25-yard pass play up the middle and Smith didn't need to break stride to get to the end zone. The point-after kick was low, handing the Wildcats a 13-7 lead.

But Clinton kept grinding, keeping the ball on the ground for 19 plays, converting three fourth downs to keep an 11-minute scoring drive alive. Bradyn Lehman ran the ball from 2-yards in, and Jonathan Baughley's extra-point gave Clinton a 14-13 lead.

It only took the quick-strike Wildcats scored three plays to respond. Montague gained 49 on the first play of the drive, with Collins hitting Dylan Everett on a long bomb which took the ball to the 11. Collins reached the Clinton 2 on a keeper, and Everett ran it in on the next play.

Montague was unsuccessful on a trick play on the conversion, with Nichols overthrowing an open to Smith in the end zone, leaving the score 19-14.

Centreville routs Ubly for Division 8 state championship

Keith Dunlap Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Centreville is located in the southwest part of Michigan near the Indiana border, but on Friday it became the "Centre" of the state for high school football.

For the first time, Centreville won a state championship in football, riding an ball-control offense and bruising defense to a 22-0 win over Ubly in the Division 8 final at Ford Field.

"I'd say it's pretty good for a team that was picked to finish fourth in their conference," Centreville coach Jerry Schultz said. "We had a little bit of a chip on our shoulder. That was definitely motivation today."

Centreville senior quarterback Sam Todd rushed for 70 yards on 19 carries and threw for 130 yards and two touchdowns, both to junior wideout Tyler Swanwick.

That offense was more than enough to support a Centreville defense that picked up its seventh shutout of the season.

Centreville opened the scoring with 5:25 left in the first half via a 1-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal by Todd, who outraced the Ubly defense to the left pylon.

On the 2-point try, Mason Lemings did the right thing, touching the pylon with the ball to give Centreville an 8-0 lead.

Centreville took a 16-0 lead just before halftime thanks to an unusual sequence of plays.

Following an unsuccessful third-down attempt by Centreville from near midfield in the final minute, Ubly decided not to call a timeout on defense to get the ball back.

But instead of letting the clock run out, Centreville called a timeout with 18 seconds left in the half.

On the fourth-down play, Todd threw a Hail Mary, which was caught on a deflection by Swanwick at the Ub-



Quarterback Sam Todd runs by Ubly's Carter Hughes during Centreville's 22-0 win in the Division 8 state title. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ly 20 with 8 seconds left.

Following a timeout, Todd threw a jump ball into the back of the end zone, and Swanwick went up and caught it for a touchdown with 3 seconds left.

Todd then ran in the 2-point conversion.

"My route was a 5-yard route," Swanwick said of his deflected catch on fourth down. "I noticed the time and situation and decided to just go deep and see what happens. I knew the play was going to (Lemings), so I was just ready to catch it if it got tipped. Thankfully it did, and I was there to make a play."

Centreville then essentially put the game away on the first drive of the third quarter with a time-consuming scoring drive.

A 12-yard touchdown pass from Todd to Swanwick on third-and-6 capped off an 11-play, 64-yard drive that lasted 7:53 and gave Centreville a 22-0 lead with 4:07 remaining in the third quarter.

Ubly finally mounted a drive on the next possession, recording its initial first down of the game and driving all the way to the Centreville 16-yard line. But the push was stopped with 7:22 remaining in the game on an interception by Centreville's Tristan McElroy in the end zone on third-and-11.

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Fraser Tea in Livonia uses two machines like this to package their blends of teas into individual bags for sale. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Family-owned tea company goes national

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The origins of Fraser Tea are the like the beginning of a bad dad joke: What do you get when you combine a former Catholic priest, an entrepreneur and a master gardener who happen to be brothers?

You get a tea company that's continued to grow since beginning several years ago out of a Livonia warehouse, boasting a wide array of options in their facility as they create a completely organic product.

"Our whole philosophy is people, planet, growth," said John Fraser of Plymouth. "Everything we do is based on those three things."

That passion has turned into a small, organic tea company processing and packaging dozens of varieties of tea. The company — ran by brothers John Fraser, Tom Fraser of South Lyon, Bernard Fraser of Ferndale and Joe Fraser of Novi — has sold their products in places including Plum Market, Westborn Market and Busch's Fresh Food Market and they've recently broken into a new market; Biggy Coffee, the Lansing-based coffee chain, now serves Fraser Tea in its cafes,

an expansion that started about a year ago.

The journey toward serving their tea in several hundred cafes across the country began after meeting Biggy owners Bob Fish and Michael McFall at a convention. After striking up a conversation, they began planning to travel to Asia to locate tea, and a relationship was born.

"We're just sort of joking around. We didn't think anything of it," John Fraser said. "That was an exciting trip."

Today, customers can find Fraser Tea in the more than 200 cafes Biggy operates in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey and North Carolina. In addition to Biggy, Fraser Tea is sold in several area markets and is available in all 50 states and has distribution in several states nationwide.

Ed Buison, a Biggy franchise owner who owns the cafe at Newburgh and Ann Arbor Road in Livonia, said having the tea has been an adjustment for longtime customers used to one form, but they've taken well to a brand-new option. Having that local connection, he said, is what makes Biggy so connected to the community.

"Coming from Michigan, there's a pride in our state," said Buison, who plans to open another Biggy Coffee cafe in Livonia next year. "You couldn't have thought of a better match."

It's a mutual feeling for Fraser Tea, John Fraser said. "They're a really good company to work with," he said. "And the customers all seem to be enjoying it."

'It's a passion'

The love of tea stems from a healthy family life. The brothers lived in Plymouth before moving to the Monroe area, with all of them attending what's now St. Mary Catholic Central High School.

As they got older, the brothers would extend their family competitions to tea blends, trying to figure out who could create the best cup.

"We started blending tea and horsing around. Who could do the better blend? We'd fight over it, argue. 'This is better than that,'" John Fraser said. "We're just going back and forth."

The business launched several years ago and the brothers located their facility in Livonia off Stark Road between Plymouth Road and Schoolcraft. They have seen plenty of sales since beginning their business. Tea continues to grow as a beverage powerhouse, being the second-most consumed drink on the planet after water.

The Fraser brothers say they've seen that trend continue locally as well: they're seeing interest grow in a variety of types of tea.

"If you look at tea sales, people are educating themselves on what they're drinking," said Bernard Fraser, a former Catholic priest.

Fraser Tea stocks more than 100 tea blends from green tea to black tea to herbal tea. There's a whole host of flavors to choose from, as well, including the watermelon oolong, plum berry oolong and even a line of "mocktail" tea. Those non-alcoholic teas are designed to imitate the flavors in classic mixed drinks such as Royal Rum and Cola and Sparkling Champagne.

Teas are all certified organic, a decision the brothers made early on in order to provide the best options for customers.

"The first thing they do when they pick the leaves is they dry it. They never wash it because water is one of the enemies of tea. Any residual pesticides get on it," Tom Fraser said. "That's why we decided to go all organic. The first time it's washed is in your tea cup."

Buison said the popularity of which teas sell well varies by cafe. His shop in southwest Livonia has seen plenty of Fraser Tea sold in the last year, including a cinnamon variety. He said when he speaks to customers and informs them of where it comes from, it's usually a surprise it that come from Livonia.

"It blows everyone's minds," he said.

While it's been a tricky year for many businesses, John Fraser said the COVID-19 crisis has not affected the company as much as it could have. They were still able to obtain supplies to craft their tea and shifted employees around to better accommodate social distancing requirements.

"It's been a challenge with internal stuff," John Fraser said. "We're used to wearing masks and hats anyway in the back."

Online orders have increased dramatically in recent months, with some being placed as far away as Australia.

Tea serves as a great conversation starter, something the family's believed for years. They hope plenty of people keep those conversations going over a hot or cold cup of Fraser Tea for years to come.

"It crosses all things," Tom Fraser said. "You can talk to people about the tea and you don't have to worry about anything else."

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

Obituaries

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Lois Lillian Rozanski

Lois Lillian Rozanski, 79, celebrated her last day of life surrounded by family and friends January 23, 2021 at her daughters' home in New Hudson. Born in Detroit Michigan, on December 2, 1941 to Virginia (Ginger) Danforth and Leland Truax, 14 months before her best play mate and brother Max. As a vegetarian from the age of four, she opted for a coke and chocolate bar for school lunch every day. As a teenager she would get her glasses pinstriped to match her outfit at the local body shop. She graduated from Radford Union High school in 1960. Her mother always had huge parties where she learned and passed down the legacy to celebrate every opportunity possible. She excelled in typing at an early age and eventually found her niche, working at various Title companies for over 20 years. She met her husband at the Kodak Photo booth and was married for 32 years. After moving to the South Lyon area, she worked at Ascension Providence Novi for over 20 years. Though she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, she worked full time until the middle of December. When not working she was either with her dog baking cookies or crocheting, or traveling with family around the U.S., or abroad. Though she never made it to Ireland she did make it to Italy and Greece. She is survived by daughter Margaret Suzanne and husband Robert Keehl, grandchildren Virginia Amanda and husband Jerney Konz, Colleen Margaret Keehl and partner Samuel Emery, Bridgette Lillian and husband Andrew Roberts, and Sean Keehl. She was so proud of the four generations that unfolded before her and is survived by great-grandchildren Arianna, Olivia and Finneas Konz, and Wandajune Lillian Roberts. Predeceased by husband Thomas Rozanski, son Philip Anthony Rozanski, brother Max Truax, and grandchild Isabel Keehl. She was an active supporter of wildlife rights, and Native American Tribes. She also passionately supported the National Audubon Society and was a member of the Daughter of The American Revolution of Grand River Trail. A celebration of her life will take place at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St. South Lyon, MI 48178 on Friday, January 29, 2021 from 2:00pm until the time of service at 5:30pm. An intimate Graveside burial will happen Saturday, January 30, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. If you feel compelled to honor her memory, donations will be accepted and sent in her memory to the societies she held dear.



Angelo Marinelli

COMMERCE TWP — Angelo Marinelli of Commerce Twp, MI passed away peacefully on January 21, 2021 at the age of 86.

Angelo is survived by his wife, Julia; 7 children; 15 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; 2 siblings, and many extended family members and dear friends.

A memorial gathering and inurnment will be held on June 18, 2021 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI.

For further information phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

Legal sports betting arrives in Michigan

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan regulators gave the green light for online gambling and online sports betting to start Friday.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board announced Tuesday that it approved the first nine casinos and their online platform partners to launch at that time, with additional approvals expected in coming days.

The Legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer legalized internet gambling and sports betting in December 2019, and regulators spent all of last year devising rules and ways to monitor and license the new platforms.

The minimum age for online gambling and sports betting is 21. Those taking part in sports betting do not need to be Michigan residents, but must be situated within the state's borders when placing bets via smartphone app or computer. Those from Ohio, where online sports betting isn't legal, could

therefore use Michigan's new betting apps if they do so in Michigan.

The nine platforms and their associated operators are:

- FanDuel, for MotorCity Casino
- BetMGM/Roar Digital, for MGM Grand Detroit
- Penn Sports Interactive/ Barstool Sportsbook, for Greektown Casino
- DraftKings, for the Bay Mills Indian Community
- William Hill, for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- TwinSpires, for the Hannahville Indian Community
- Golden Nugget Online Gaming, for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Rush Street, for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Wynn, for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Richard Kalm, executive director of the gaming control board, said the days between Tuesday's authorization and Friday's launch gave the online platforms time to do testing and make ad-

justments. Some platforms, such as FanDuel, DraftKings and BetMGM, have been advertising for weeks and allowing users to sign up, but not place bets.

"Online gaming and sports betting will provide the casinos with new ways to engage with customers while the state and local communities will benefit from taxes and payments on wagering revenue," Kalm said in a statement.

FanDuel's Chief Marketing Officer Mike Raffensperger said that about 90% of the company's users in markets where sports betting is already allowed use FanDuel through its mobile app.

Raffensperger said legalized online sports betting is a good because it brings the activity into the light of day and prevents people from getting outright cheated.

"Frankly speaking, (sports betting) is a marketplace that existed prior to us launching legally," he said. "It just happened in (the) black market and the gray market with offshore accounts where maybe you'll get your money out, maybe

you won't."

In-person sports betting began in Michigan last March but quickly went dark when the Detroit casinos closed amid the initial surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sports betting lounges reopened in the summer, closed again Nov. 18 and have remained open at reduced capacity since Dec. 22.

The tax rate and the tribal payment rate for internet sports betting is 8.4%.

The tax and payment rates paid by the casinos for general internet gambling — not including sports — will range from about 20% to 28%, based on adjusted gross receipts.

Raffensperger said he believes that online sports betting will not result in the closure of the still-new sports-betting lounges in Detroit's casinos.

"There's nothing like the experience of a sports book — watching a great game on giant TVs and being there with your friends," he said. "COVID has made that difficult ... but it's a wonderful, fun experience."

Detroit Country Day wins Division 4 state title

Collin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Country Day likes to keep the ball as long as it can.

Taking possession at the start of the third quarter while holding on to a slim 6-0 lead against Cadillac, junior quarterback Brandon Mann found senior Danny MacLean on a quick pass for nine yards, starting a slow and methodical march downfield.

The Yellowjackets stepped up when it needed too, converting a 4th-and-1 on a two-yard scramble by Mann and later a seven-yard third-down reception by Jacob Yarberry to bring them into the red zone.

Country Day could not convert within 10 yards of the end zone against the Cadillac defense in the first half, resorting to two field goals. But after Mann found daylight with a 15-yard scamper, all freshman running back Gabe Winowich had to do was walk into the end zone on a four-yard run and let the defense do the rest.

This approach is Country Day's (9-2) bread and butter. And it won them a Division 4 state title, beating Cadillac (8-3), 13-0, at Ford Field Friday night.

The state championship marks Country Day's fourth in program history, but first since 1999, despite playing in the game five different times since 2007, including a 44-0 loss to Grand Rapids



Yellowjacket Ali Kazziha stiff-arms Cadillac's Dan Gray as he picks up yards. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Catholic Central in the 2019 Division 4 title game.

"We have a lot of pride," Country Day head coach Dan MacLean said. "Our pride got dented a little bit by a great Grand Rapids team. I just think the kids made it... they wanted to get back here and get a little redemption. It's not beautiful, but shutouts are beautiful."

The Cadillac offense tried to replicate what Country Day had done at the end of the fourth quarter.

With the clock ticking, the Vikings moved the ball downfield, getting to the Yellowjackets' 39-yard line — as close as they would get to the end zone.

Facing a third-and-3, with junior quarterback Aden Gudden trying to find a place to throw, senior defensive line-

man Nick Wachol took him down for his second sack of the day — finishing the game with a team-leading nine tackles and three tackles-for-loss.

Wachol also provided the rush on the ensuing screen try, with sophomore Kaleb Mckinely dropping the pass attempt to turn the ball over, icing the shutout: Country Day's third straight and fourth of the season, allowing 150 yards of offense and only 3.4 yards per play.

"It's always been a special part of our team is our defense," Wachol said. "We showed it tonight. I don't think they got within the red zone the entire game."

Offensively, Mann was just trying to see how long the Vikings defense could stay on the field.

In their first drive of the game, the Yellowjackets took the ball at their own 27-yard line and kept it for nearly nine minutes. But despite leading significantly in time-of-possession, Country Day could not finish, with sophomore kicker Graham Doman connecting on two short field goals.

But based on how the defense was playing and what his coaching staff's gameplan was, Mann knew that all he needed was one score.

"They kept it close the whole time," the junior quarterback said. "Honestly when we went into the locker room, we knew if we came out fast and scored on the first drive, we would be good the rest of the game. Trust our defense and trust

our coaches to get us over the hump."

Mann finished completing 11-of-14 passes for 105 yards, adding 25 yards on the ground. Parker Yearego led the team with 71 yards on 12 carries.

To MacLean, this is Detroit Country Day football. This is what he had helped build from this senior class — players like Wachol, Yarberry, linemen Caleb Tiernan and Will Leggon, wide receiver and defensive back Danny MacLean: the head coach's son, who brought in an interception late in the second quarter.

From the moment the 2020 season began, Tiernan's goal was to return to Ford Field, to finish what he started, to leave the turf differently than the team did in 2019.

And while the moments are only going to get bigger for him, signing to play at Northwestern next season, the Yellowjackets, what Dan MacLean, the coaching staff and the other seniors built, will not be forgotten.

"It's going to be tough to forget," Tiernan said. "Coach Mac, Coach Topp, all the seniors — we have been together forever. Just getting a win for Coach is just huge."

Wachol, on the other hand, does not have his future set. He said he wants to play college football if given the opportunity, but that it's no guarantee. But his goal for high school was accomplished Friday night, something he played a significant part in.

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First day of work checklist

By Nicole Cavazos
ZipRecruiter.com

Starting a new job can be both exciting and nerve-racking. You're eager to begin a new chapter in your career, but the stress of having to impress your boss and new colleagues is often daunting. Your best bet is to start your new job with a plan. Here are some things that can help.

- Take care of yourself:** Make sure you're at your best by getting a good night's sleep and eating a proper breakfast. It's much easier to pay attention and learn new skills when you're well rested and well nourished. Try to relax and think about soothing things before bed. And set the alarm early enough so that you're not rushing in the morning.
- Dress intentionally:** Dressing for your first day of work is very similar to dressing for your job interview. Regardless of how casual the dress code is, you want to dress professionally and somewhat conservatively. Once you've settled in, you can

start to wear more casual clothing based on the company culture.

- Get to work on time:** Hopefully, you've tested the route during your commute time to get a sense of how long it will take you. Leave a little early, particularly on your first day. If you have time to spare, you can always go to a nearby coffee shop or a park to pull your thoughts together before entering the office.
- Prepare to ask questions (but know when to listen):** If you're hoping to coast through your first day like a passive sponge, you're certainly not going to win many points. Arrive with questions that can help make your transition easier and clarify your role faster.
- Prepare an elevator pitch:** No, you don't want to give a condensed bio of your accomplishments and work history. You already have the job. But people in the office will be curious about your background, so be prepared to answer in a way that's natural and doesn't make their eyes glaze over. You could also explain your new role in the company. Gauge how much they really want to know. Often,



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people are just trying to be welcoming or strike up a conversation.

- Be friendly:** It's hard to smile and relax when you're feeling uneasy. But if you focus on others and your new position, you might find it a little easier. Remember that almost everybody in the office was once in your shoes. It's likely that they're feeling sympathetic and eager to help with your adjustment. Asking colleagues about their backgrounds can help take the spotlight off of you and endear you to others.
- Assess the social landscape:** Office politics play a part in every job. The sooner you

understand the unique social dynamics and hierarchy of your new job, the better. There are people whom you want on your side and others you'd do well to steer clear of.

- Be positive:** Sometimes the smallest things can seem like a big deal until you've gotten used to them. Any transition, whether it's to a new town, a new school or a new job, can be hard to adjust to at first. It might take awhile before you feel completely comfortable and even happy. In the meantime, stay focused on the positive aspects of the job and give yourself a break when you do stumble. You won't be a newbie forever.

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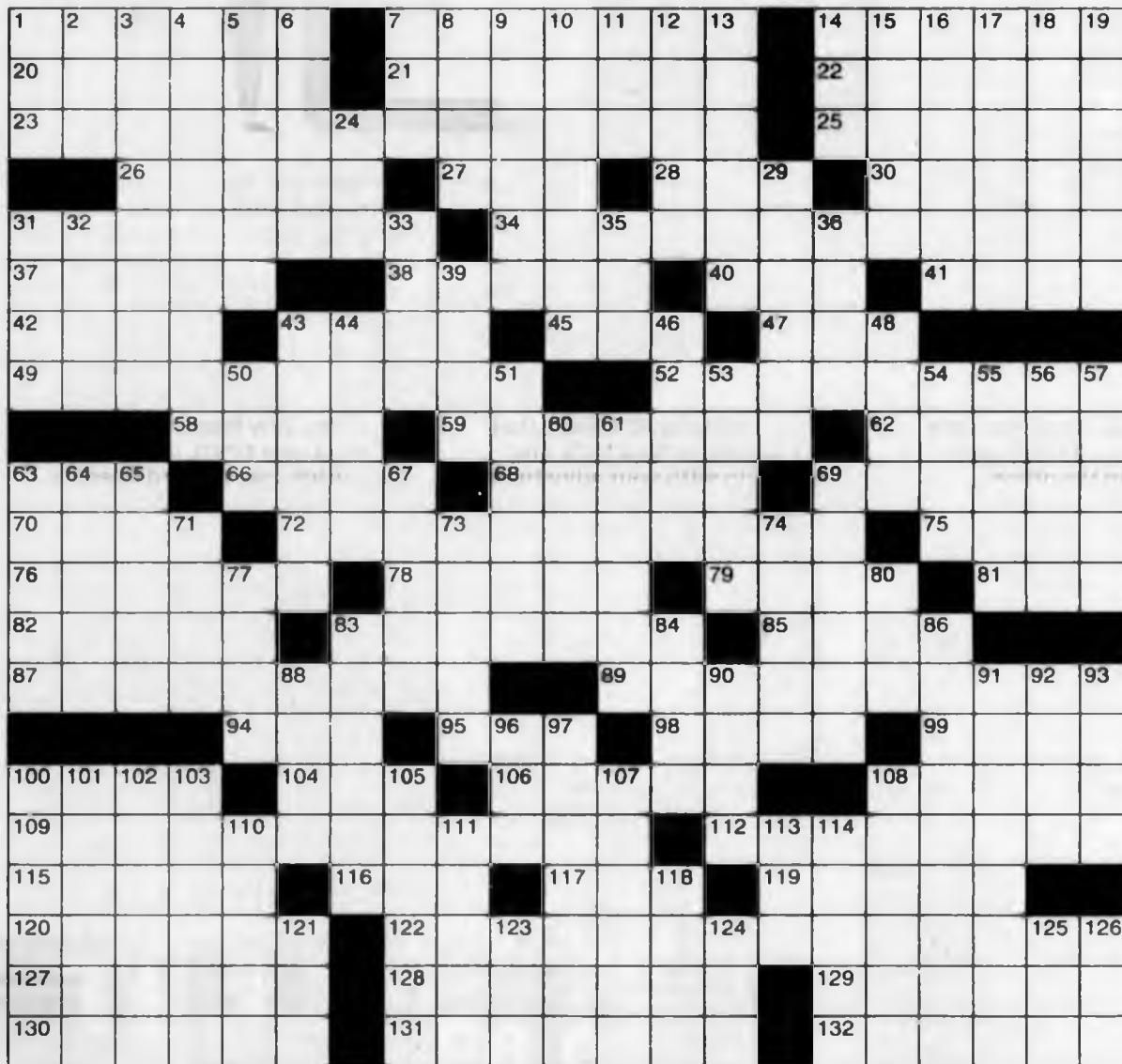
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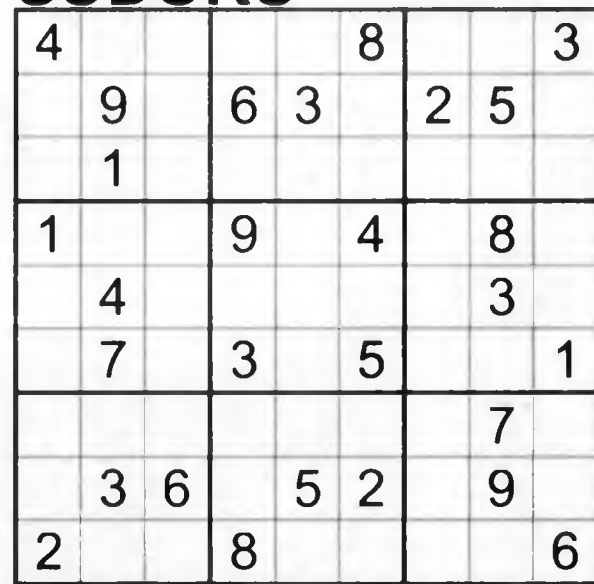
OBJECTS OF DEVOTION

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | 58 Pet-rescuing org. | 94 "Taking Woodstock" director Lee | DOWN | 32 Funny Sahl | 83 Pea or lentil |
| 1 Serengeti trek | 59 Walked very stealthily | 95 NFL stats | 1 Chevy | 33 Wound cover | 84 Sandy hill |
| 7 Freeway exit | 62 San — (California county or city) | 98 Loch — | 2 "Rules — rules!" | 35 U-Haul rental | 86 Tiny blood vessel |
| 14 Calm assurance | 63 CIA missions, e.g. | 99 Jethro — (rock group) | 3 Spanish dance in triple time | 36 Tableland | 88 Actress Swenson |
| 20 Neighbor of Saturn | 66 Give the boot | 100 Do pool laps | 4 Lobbies | 39 Be up against | 90 Ring out |
| 21 Sun porches | 68 River of Paris | 104 Sir, to Brits | 5 That which destroys | 43 Confront | 91 Big pet food brand |
| 22 Deli machine | 69 Louisianans of French descent | 106 All mixed up | 6 Long Island airport town | 44 Rush after | 92 Mucho |
| 23 Aficionado of air ducts? | 70 Café au — (light brown) | 108 High-quality black tea | 7 Opposite of west, in Germany | 46 Cut-rate, in brand names | 93 Painter Paul |
| 25 Capital of Cuba | 72 Aficionado of confidential matters? | 109 Aficionado of Mauna Loa snacks? | 8 Chocolate kiss wrapper | 48 "Easy A" star | 96 Aykroyd of "Soul Man" |
| 26 Jean jacket material | 75 Shapes of parentheses | 112 Set free | 9 Elevator stops | 51 Model Bündchen | 97 Up a tree |
| 27 Email chuckle | 76 Member of a ruling family | 115 Fetus holders | 10 Went longer than expected | 53 Actor Christopher | 100 Blue toons of the 1980s |
| 28 Soccer player Hamm | 78 Sank, as a | 116 Be mistaken | 11 Dog noise | 54 Mexican peninsula | 101 Aqueous |
| 30 Citrus peels in recipes | 79 Writer Wiesel | 117 "— culpa" | 12 Florida's "Magic City" | 55 Road reversal | 102 Deliverers of frozen blocks |
| 31 "House" actor | 81 Once surnamed | 119 "Going Rogue" author Sarah | 13 Grilled Italian sandwiches | 56 Trespassing deterrent | 103 The Red Foxes' college |
| 34 Aficionado of wild, irrational talk? | 82 Cuban-born writer Calvino | 120 Sends in | 14 Silvery-gray | 57 Dancer Bob | 105 Macho |
| 37 Contributor | 83 Downgraded | 122 Aficionado of customs officials? | 15 Town square | 60 Flying Pan | 107 TV sleuth Remington |
| 38 — spell over | 85 Ward with Emmys | 127 Painting on plaster | 16 Energizes | 61 Spanish squiggles | 108 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 thriller) |
| 40 State of fury | 87 Aficionado of wickedness? | 128 Made even | 17 Congress' Alexandria — Cortez | 63 Vintage tune | 110 Last — effort |
| 41 Fly with no co-pilot | 89 Aficionado of apartment managers? | 129 Rocky's last name in "Rocky" | 18 Cerebral | 64 Premium channels | 111 Brand of cellulose fiber |
| 42 Thus | | 130 Electronic keyboards, for short | 19 "Donnie —" (1997 Johnny Depp film) | 65 Mideastern peninsula | 113 NYSE debut |
| 43 Hail — (yell "Taxi!") | | 131 Escape artists, say | 24 Current unit | 67 "Danke —" | 114 Fish piercers |
| 45 Las Vegas-to-Denver dir. | | 132 Like finger paintings | 29 Assented | 69 "Hear ye!" yellers | 118 Big PC brand |
| 47 Ending for Japan | | | 31 Laudatory poems | 71 Like most NBA players | 121 "Rescue us!" |
| 49 Aficionado of bellies? | | | | 73 Bolsterous | 123 "Law & Order. —" |
| 52 Aficionado of sweet fillings? | | | | 74 "That's somebody — problem" | 124 NFL stats |
| | | | | 77 Couch | 125 Neither hide — hair |
| | | | | 80 Pixie | 126 Week division |



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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

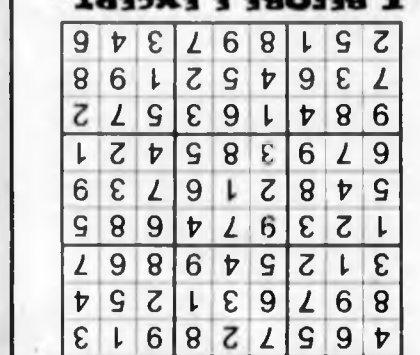
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using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

I BEFORE E EXCEPT...

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.



- AGEISM
- APARTHEID
- BEIGE
- BEING
- CAFFEINE
- CANOEIST
- CODEINE
- CONCEIT
- COUNTERFEIT
- DECEIT
- DECEIVED
- DEIGN
- DEITY
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- FORFEIT
- GEISHA
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- HEINOUS
- HEIR
- INVEIGLED
- LEISURE
- NEIGHBOR
- PERCEIVE
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- WEIRD



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