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VILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



Firefighters vary on COVID-19 vaccination

Decision to receive shot ranged from 24% to 97%

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

From Dr. Russell Faust's perspective, Oakland County welcomed the COVID-19 vaccine with open arms.

"We have more demand for vaccine than we can meet," the county medical director said.

Still, Faust is fighting myths and doubts about the vaccines from segments of the public including medical

workers. A survey of local fire departments shows a range of hot and cold responses to getting the immunizations.

Oakland County prioritized the more than 3,000 licensed EMTs, which includes firefighters, as the COVID-19 vaccines rolled out in December.

But as of early February, participation rates among area fire departments

— often the ones responding when an emergency 911 call is made — varied dramatically from Northville Township with overwhelming support nearing 100% of the staff getting vaccinated, to Milford, where only 24% jumped at the chance.

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, Page 4A



Jack Gallagher, 3, delightfully sleds down the hill at Cass Benton Park in Northville Township on Jan. 26.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Our guide to the best sledding hills

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's a rite of passage for most children in Michigan: the annual winter trips to the sledding hill after a blizzard.

Sledding is as much a part of the culture of this state as coney dogs, pasties and watching the Detroit Lions lose football games. There are plenty of places to head for a good time at the hill for those looking to brave the cold temperatures and enjoy the remainder of winter on a sled. Just make sure you've got one, because it might be hard to find them in stores this late in the season.

So in the name of journalism, I spent

a day hitting up sledding hills across the Hometown Life communities I've never been to to give a fair assessment of what to expect.

A few items of note: This trip was done during a school day, so there were very few, if any, other guests at these hills. And of course, be careful when sledding on new hills as many have signs posting sledding is done at your own risk.

From Farmington to South Lyon to Westland, here's nine spots in the region if you're looking for something fun to do while the weather's still cold.

See **SLEDDING**, Page 6A



Madison Konja, left, and Courtney Langan survey sledding possibilities at Lakeshore Park in Novi.

Novi buys property to complete ring road

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi needed one final piece of land in order to complete the ring road, a bypass to one of the most congested intersections in the city.

The city council recently unanimously approved the purchase of that property, a .6 acre parcel at 43707 Grand River, for a price of \$252,400 plus closing costs.

"Completion of the ring road has been in talks for more than a decade," Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas said. "This is the last piece, the last component to complete it."

The ring road, a \$5 million expansion of Crescent Boulevard, offers a way to get around the busy Novi Road and Grand River intersection. Construction began two years ago.

The Grand River property completing the road was owned by former Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole, but a 1,600-square-foot home there has been

See **ROAD**, Page 7A

Lyon restaurant to be reborn as Mojave Cantina

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A popular Mexican restaurant that went up in flames just over a year ago is set to rise from the ashes.

The Lyon Township Planning Commission unanimously approved on Monday night a site plan for Mojave Cantina, 22870 Pontiac Trail. The restaurant will replace the former Lyon Cantina, which was destroyed by a fire in December 2019.

Applicant Phil Tsapatoris owns two other Mojave Cantina restaurants in Clawson and White Lake and told the planning commission he wants his third location in Lyon Township to be a similar-sized restaurant to what was previously there.

See **RESTAURANT**, Page 7A

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NOTICE
CITY OF NOVI
REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT
PTSLU21-0004
PTSLU21-0005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for **Suburban Collection Showplace and Premier Relocation Mayflower** is requesting a **Temporary Special Land Use Permit** in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for **Temporary Parking of Trucks and Trailers** for parcel **50-22-15-152-007 and 50-22-15-301-010**, East of Taft Road and North of Grand River Avenue from **March 22, 2021 through March 22, 2022**. The properties are zoned I-1 (Light Industrial) 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 March 22, 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 **secompton@cityofnovi.org** and must be received prior to end of business **March 19, 2021**.

Publish: February 18, 2021

LO 0000358421 3x3

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 **March 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.**

PZ21-0002 (Patrick Ziarnik) 1601 W Lake Drive, East of West Park Drive and South of W Pontiac Trail, Parcel # 50-22-03-131-007. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.19.1.E(i) for the construction of a 930,25 square feet accessory building (maximum of 850 square feet allowed by code, variance of 80.28 square feet). Section 4.19.1.B to install the accessory structure in the front yard when by code accessory buildings shall not be erected in any required front yard or in any required exterior side yard. Section 4.19.G for a proposed 5-foot side yard setback (6 feet required by code, variance of 1 foot). This variance will accommodate the building of a new carport. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ21-0005 (Venkata Chekka) 25782 Beck Road, East of Beck Road and South of Eleven Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-21-101-026. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.1 for a proposed front yard setback of 40 feet (45 feet required by code, variance of 5 feet), a proposed aggregate side yard setback of 30 feet (50 feet required, variance of 20 feet), and a proposed rear yard setback of 40 feet (50 feet required, variance of 10 feet). This variance will accommodate the building of a new ranch home. This property is zoned Residential Acreage (RA).

PZ21-0006 (Robert Ledbetter) 26510 Taft Road, East of Taft and South of Grand River Avenue, Parcel # 50-22-15-351-004. The applicant is requesting variance from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11 to allow the installation of a fence in the front yard setback. Fences shall not extend toward the front of the property nearer than the minimum front yard setback distance by code. This property is zoned Light Industrial (I-1).

PZ21-0007 (Full Throttle Adrenaline Park) 44225 Twelve Mile Road C118, West of Novi Road and Twelve Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-15-200-112. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Ordinance Code Section 28-5(b)(1a) and 28-5(d)(7) for the installation of two 165 square foot wall signs. Each sign is 100 square feet larger than allowed by code. This property is zoned Regional Center (RC).

PZ21-0008 (Amar Abro) 47133 Nine Mile Road, East of Beck Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-33-100-009. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.19.E iii for a proposed 2,400 square foot barn (1,500 square feet maximum allowed by code, variance of 900 square feet). Section 4.19(I) for a two-story barn height of 18 feet (one-story or 14 feet maximum allowed by code, variance of 4 feet). This variance will accommodate the re-building of a recently burnt down barn. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

PZ21-0010 (Kensington Family Homes) 24847 Dinser Drive, East of Wixom Road and North of Ten Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-20-301-023. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.1 for a proposed aggregate side yard setback of 45 feet (50 feet required, variance of 5 feet). This variance will accommodate the building of a new home. This property is zoned Residential Acreage (RA).

Publish: February 18, 2021

LO 0000358524 3x3

CITY OF NOVI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ELECTRONIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider **JSP20-38: BAILANTYNE, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND USE PERMIT, WETLAND USE PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL.** The subject property totals approximately 50.86 acres and is Parcel 50-22-31-400-007, which is located west of Garfield Road and north of Eight Mile Road (Section 31). The subject property is zoned RA (Residential Acreage) with a RUD (Residential Unit Development) Agreement. The applicant is proposing to construct 41 single-family residential units with lots ranging in size from 21,780 square feet to 44,045 square feet.

Plans are available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: **bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org**



Subject Parcel ID's: 50-22-31-400-007

Special Instructions for Remote Meeting Procedure:

NOTE: 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 BELOW.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the City will be utilizing the video/audio conferencing platform ZOOM to conduct the February 24, 2021 Planning Commission meeting.

In order to connect to the meeting through ZOOM a member of the public needs to do the following:

- Install Zoom App on mobile device or phone. A link to download the Zoom App may be found online at **www.cityofnovi.org**
- Click the link provided to join the meeting

Members of the public participating in the public comment via ZOOM will wait in a virtual queue until called during the public comment period.

When public comment is permitted, members of the public will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. A meeting coordinator will determine the order of public speakers. If you want to speak, you must use the "Raise Hand" feature in order for our moderator to know you need to be unmuted. When you are unmuted you will have three (3) minutes to share your comments to the public body. At the conclusion of your comments or your three (3) minutes, you will be re-muted and then removed from the queue.

Participants may also choose to submit comments that can be read into the record. Comments can be submitted via an electronic form on **www.cityofnovi.org**. Comments shall be sent prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at **www.cityofnovi.org/pcomment**

As of the date of this notice, Planning Commission members are expected to log in to ZOOM. There may also be some City personnel at City Hall overseeing this meeting.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: February 18, 2021

LO 0000358482 3x3

Homicide case defense attorneys raise concerns

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Attorneys representing the men accused in a fatal South Lyon armed robbery raised concerns in court.

Alleged gunman Fadi Zeineh's lawyer asked over Zoom that a scheduled probable cause conference get pushed back so that he could have more time to review evidence with his client.

"I'm limited only to a 30-minute visit with him," said attorney Edward Bajoraka. "For a case like this, I need more than that."

Overcharging was the claim stated by the attorney for Zeineh's traveling companion the night both Keith Stamper, 43, and his son, Dylan, 17, were shot during an armed robbery at their Liberty Street home.

Attorney Keith Taterelli said his client, Anthony Marshall Porter, did not have, handle, point or fire a gun at the Stampers. Dylan died at the residence. His father succumbed to his wounds late last month.

"He categorically denies these allegations that he was an armed robber," Taterelli said after the hearing.

52-1 District Judge Travis Reeds pushed back their clients' probable cause conferences to March 10.

Zeineh, 19, of Washtenaw County is charged with a total of 10 crimes: two counts of felony murder, three of armed robbery and five of weapons-felony firearm.

Porter, 27, of Ann Arbor is charged with six counts: three for armed robbery and three for weapons-felony firearm.

Taterelli emphasized that, under Michigan law, Porter couldn't be charged with aiding or abetting or conspiracy because then he could be considered a principal player in the crime.

Another reason for the weapons charges, he said, was the fact that Porter was with Zeineh when Zeineh allegedly entered the Stamper home and shot the father and son for money, marijuana or both.

Taterelli's sister is friends with Porter's mother. The attorney has known Porter since he was a child. He said Porter has spent his most recent years as a law-abiding citizen, working as a chef.

According to Taterelli, Porter drove Zeineh's vehicle away from the Stampers' home without knowing about the fatal shootings. The co-defendants had not known each other long and Porter didn't know Zeineh well.

Taterelli would not say why Porter thought they were visiting South Lyon in the first place.

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Northville Record, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$65 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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City of Novi
Notice of Public Hearing
(Remote Meeting)

Community Development Block Grant Funds

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Hearing will be held Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., EST, electronically as authorized under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.231, ET SEQ., as amended, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2021 application in the approximate amount of \$130,530 to fund eligible projects.

All interested citizens are requested to attend this Hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 5:00 p.m., February 22, 2021. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs, including handicap accessibility or interpreter will be made upon receiving 72-hour advance notice. Contact City Clerk, Cortney Hanson at 248-347-0456 for special services.

CORTNEY HANSON,
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 18, 2021

LO 0000358325 3x3

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF MEETING
OF MARCH 2021 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at **9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021** in the **Event Quarter Room/Civic Center** at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll. Appointments are not taken at this meeting.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Event Quarter Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 8, 9 and 10, 2021.

If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 5, 2021 in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnovi.org.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Written Appeals: Letters of protest will be accepted on or before **3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Postmarks will not be considered.** When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own **MUST HAVE** written authorization from **each** property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at **www.cityofnovi.org**. Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

Monday, March 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room

Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, January 22, 2021 Gatherings and Face Mask Order, face masks are required.

Cortney Hanson
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 11, 18 & 25, 2021

LO 0000358178 1x3

Michigan man accused of defrauding Kevin Hart

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Oakland County resident could face 25 years in prison if convicted on charges that he made more than \$1 million in unauthorized purchases using comedian Kevin Hart's credit cards.

Dylan Syer, 29, who currently lives in New York, was hired by the "Ride Along" star in 2015 as a personal shopper through his business, Sire Consulting, to pur-

chase several luxury items for Hart. Using Hart's cards, authorities say, Syer instead bought nearly \$1.2 million on fine art and jewelry.

Syer was arraigned Wednesday on a 10-count indictment charging him with grand larceny in the first and second degree, criminal possession of stolen property in the first and second degree, identity theft in the first degree and scheme to defraud in the first degree, according to the district attorney in Queens, New York.

"The defendant thought he was beyond reach and was living out his uber-rich lifestyle fantasies," said District Attorney Melinda Katz in an announcement Wednesday. "But my team uncovered the bogus purchases — from the credit card charges being processed by the bank, down to tracking FedEx packages delivered to Syer's home and business. This should serve as a cautionary tale for everyone. Regardless of whether you are a celebrity or not, anyone can fall victim to this kind of fraud."

How to deal with IRAs, Social Security after divorce



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I have been married for the last 25 years, but unfortunately, my marriage couldn't survive COVID-19. My husband and I divorced and for the first time, I am on my own.

The divorce went relatively smoothly, and we basically split all our assets. After the split, I received approximately \$200,000. Of that, about \$75,000 was in an IRA. My share of the divorce settlement has been sitting in the bank. My first question is with regards to my IRA.

My divorce was finalized at the end of October and a check was sent to me from the IRA in mid-November, however, I did not receive the check till after Christmas. My tax preparer told me the 60-day rollover period expired and I would be liable for taxes and penalties. Is this true?

Secondly, how do you suggest I invest my money? I am very conservative; I do not like to lose money. My friends tell me I should invest the money, but I am more com-

fortable leaving the money in the bank. Is there anything wrong with that?

Finally, my last question deals with Social Security. Will I be able to eventually collect Social Security based upon my ex-spouse's income? You should know I am 53 and my ex-spouse is 61. His plans are to continue to work for at least another 10 years.

Thank you, Christine

Dear Christine:

Your tax preparer is correct. You have 60 days to invest the rollover check into another IRA or you will be taxed. However, the question is when does the 60-day period begin? The 60-day period does not begin on the date the check is written, nor when it was mailed to you. The 60-day period does not begin until the day the check has been received.

Therefore, since you received the check at the end of December, you still have time to complete the rollover. If you open an IRA within 60 days of receiving the check, and roll over the exact amount that the check was written for, then you do not have to pay the taxes or the penalty.

With regards to investing, you have to do what

you're comfortable with. That being said, I also believe it's important for investors to understand risk. You should know that by investing money in the bank, you are not making a risk-free investment.

Money in the bank has a substantial risk for investors. Money in the bank is not going to keep up with the increased cost of living. When you consider that money in the bank is paying less than a percent, and you compare that to your increased cost of living, you will see that the purchasing power of your money, by investing in the bank, is going to go down year after year.

Therefore, you should consider other investments, in order to not only protect, but to grow your money.

With regards to Social Security, you can collect based upon a former spouse's earnings, as long as you meet the following requirements. 1) You must have been married to that spouse for at least 10 years; 2) you are at least 62 years of age, and 3) you are not currently married. If you meet those requirements, you would eventually be able to collect Social Security benefits through

your ex-spouse.

Typically, a divorced spouse is entitled to 50 percent of the ex-spouse's retirement benefits. As a side note, applying for Social Security benefits from an ex-spouse is a fairly easy and straightforward process, and your ex-spouse won't be notified when you apply for benefits.

Good luck!

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



The Novi Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year on March 9, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at 44218 Wyngate Dr. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 44551 Chedworth Ct. Individuals with disabilities requiring assistance may contact the clerk at 248-404-7529.

Publish: February 18, 2021

L1-0000358378 2x2

City of Novi

Notice of Public Hearing

(Remote Meeting)

Community Development Block Grant Funds

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Hearing will be held Monday February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., EST, electronically as authorized under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261, ET SEQ., as amended, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2018 reprogramming of funds as follows:

Existing (from) - 2018 Program Year

Activity Number	732185
Activity Description	Youth Services
Amount	\$6,006.50

Proposed (to) - 2018 Program Year

Activity Number	730898
Activity Description	Home Improvement Program
Amount	\$6,006.50

All interested citizens are requested to attend this Hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 5:00 p.m., February 22, 2021. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs, including handicap accessibility or interpreter will be made upon receiving 72-hour advance notice. Contact the City Clerk, Courtney Hanson at 248-347-0456 for special services.

CORTNEY HANSON,
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 18, 2021

L1-0000358324 3x3

CITY OF NORTHVILLE 2021 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne and Oakland Counties, will meet virtually via Zoom Meeting, for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2021 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021:	6:30 p.m. Organizational Meeting (No Appeals)
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021:	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING

Topic: Board of Review Organizational Meeting - NO APPEALS WILL BE HEARD
Time: Mar 2, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82898875296?pwd=U24wYkEYSmFXWGVDNm45NiQxOXYrdz09>
Meeting ID: 828 9887 5296
Passcode: 758524

Dial by your location
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Topic: Board of Review - APPEAL HEARING
Time: Mar 9, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82804314701?pwd=Ql0rTE4ycy9qTXZmeDRuSU05a2xCdz09>
Meeting ID: 828 0431 4701
Passcode: 423983

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Topic: Board of Review - APPEAL HEARING
Time: Mar 10, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646265637?pwd=NXQyZWwRZmE5dW9hbnN3Yk12bWZz09>
Meeting ID: 886 4626 5637
Passcode: 172334

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Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2021, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2020 Real and Personal Property Assessments: **WAYNE COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. **OAKLAND COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00.

Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 10, 2021 before 4:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. **To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 2, 2021.** Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2021 taxable or assessed value.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Publish: February 18, 25, and March 4, 2021

L1-0000358618 3x7.5

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 #6 - Boiler Replacement at Parkview Elementary School and Early Childhood Education Center will be received through Building Connected until 1:00PM on, March 11th, 2021.

- All proposals shall be submitted electronically through Building Connected: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d3950007d24541> (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. 1:00 PM on, March 11th, 2021. Bid Opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting.

Zoom Link:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84917940627?pwd=Q2VhRVJGZmtuMW5tSGVhMFZlZW9hQQT09&from=addon>

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Passcode: 483956 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84917940627?pwd=Q2VhRVJGZmtuMW5tSGVhMFZlZW9hQQT09&from=addon>

This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions: 142: 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 Thursday, February 18th, 2021 via Building Connected.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 1:00 PM, at Parkview Elementary located at 45825 W 11 Mile 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: February 18, 2021

L1-0000358618 3x6

Café proposed for new Northville building

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Changes in the economic landscape mean a café rather than a retail shop is planned for a mixed-use building under construction in downtown Northville.

The Northville Planning Commission reviewed some altered plans for the building under construction at 345 Cady St., during its meeting Feb. 2. The three-story building originally planned to have office use on the upper floors and a retail space on the bottom floor.

But with changes in retail outlook in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the petitioner representing the project, Dominic Maltese, said a retail shop wouldn't make as much right now. Instead, a small café is proposed in the space.

With the change in business type, the



Work continues on the mixed-use building at 345 Cady St. in Northville. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

amount of parking required also shifted and required approval from the planning commission. That resulted in the commission approving a plan designating the building as a mixed-use, keeping

the same number of parking spaces and not requiring any more than what's planned.

"(The owner) needed to do something to accommodate the cost of this building," Maltese said. "He really needs to get this building done. Delaying it for parking for 2-3 months will really affect him."

The café would serve items such as coffee, tea and pastries. So long as everything is approved and plans move forward on time, the space could open in early summer.

Sally Elmiger, a planner from Carlisle Wortman and Associates that assists with planning in Northville, said when she recalculated the use of the building with the café, it showed it needed 43 parking spaces, two more than currently planned. But designated as a mixed-

use — which the building could serve as — the building's current parking situation would fit without needing any more spaces.

"The maximum number of spaces required under the mixed-used calculation is 41," Elmiger said. "So the current provided parking would meet that requirement."

Maltese said the café is a perfect complement to that part of downtown, especially with the Tipping Point Theatre across the street.

"(The owner) looking forward to accommodating the theater next door and evening events," Maltese said. "I think this would be a great asset to the community."

Several commissioners said the changes fit the area well and looked forward to seeing them implemented.

Firefighters

Continued from Page 1A

Department views on vaccine vary

Northville Township Manager and Director of Public Safety Todd Mutchler said 30 out of 31 firefighters/EMTs in the township were vaccinated. He is excited about the possibilities.

"I will feel much better about community safety when we pass the threshold of 70 to 80 percent of the population vaccinated," Mutchler said.

Mutchler said COVID-19 "ravaged" the police department in a surge in cases following Thanksgiving after they were able to avoid contracting the illness at its onset.

March 16 marks one year since the Northville Fire Department responded to its first EMS service call on a COVID-19 patient and on that day in 2020, the first call was followed by two more also stricken by COVID-19. Last week marked one of the few times in the past year that the department has had a 7-day period with zero calls for COVID-19.

Stephen Ott, chief of the Northville Fire Department, oversees 58 firefighters and EMS personnel, about 70 percent of whom he estimates have received the COVID-19 vaccines.

"It's been very well-received," Ott said of the department that serves the cities of Northville and Plymouth. "It's not required, but strongly encouraged."

Ott himself is weeks past his second shot and feeling fine, as well as grateful.

"This is our best hope of getting back to some semblance of normal, if the vast majority of people take the vaccine when they are able," he said, noting some staff members waited to get the shot until they saw their colleagues "hadn't grown a third eye."

"I urge people to get it when they have the opportunity."

In Novi, Public Safety Director and Police Chief David Molloy said out of 96 employees on the fire department staff, about 45-50 percent have received the COVID-19 vaccine, which is "everyone that wanted it."

Molloy himself received his second COVID-19 vaccine dose at fire station #4, which he feels good about.

"Any chief and public safety director will tell you our number one priority is our men and women and making sure we have all the tools we need to keep them safe, and we look at the vaccination as an extension of that," Molloy said. "I wish it was 100 percent. People have their personal opinions and some have underlying health conditions that prevent that... As their leader, I won't ask them to do anything that I wouldn't do myself or haven't done myself."

South Lyon Fire Chief Robert Vogel was one of the first in line for the COVID-19 vaccination when it rolled out. He got his second dose Jan. 5 and suffered some of the common side effects, including a terrible fever, aches, chills and fatigue.

He says he'd never been so sick. And he would do it again, saying "it's very freeing."

His only regret now is that some of his staff who didn't immediately get the vaccine now have to wait.

Some of those staff members were waiting to see if the 12 who signed up immediately for their shots would grow a tail, Vogel laughed.

When all is said and done, he expects that 18 of the staff of 24 will be vaccinated; the remaining six having no interest and "wouldn't get it in a million years."

Over in Lyon Township, Chief Ken Van Sparrentak said numerous firefighters had been vaccinated, although he was unsure of the exact number. The township has eight full-time firefighters and 14 paid on-call firefighters.

"It's one of those things where you



All but one of the Northville Township Fire Department personnel have been able to get both doses of their COVID-19 vaccinations. From left: Fire Chief Brent Siegel, and firefighters Greg Ryan, Chris Koth, Jason Raschke, Will Caruso, Jason Hendrian and Brian Siriani. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



An Oakland County Health Division nurse administers the COVID-19 vaccine to South Lyon Fire Chief Robert Vogel on Dec. 18 at the Waterford Regional Fire Department Headquarters. COURTESY OF OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION

provide the information and encourage them to go get it," Van Sparrentak said. "There was definitely some reluctance when the vaccine first came out and when the second round became available and there was more education, they made a more informed decision and we saw more participation. We've had a few that received their second dose and have not lost any time to work."

In Milford, Fire Chief Tom Moore said six of 25 paid on-call firefighters, or 24 percent, received the vaccine.

Moore, the department's leader and only full-time employee, said he supports their decision either way, but he himself has not and will not get the vaccine.

"I'm not getting it; I don't trust it," he said, adding that he trusts his own body's immune system. "You have no recourse if it ruins your life."

His objections center around the speed of the development of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which he said were "rolled out extremely quick."

Fighting myths about vaccination

Faust said that is the most common myth: the mRNA vaccines are not safe because they were developed too fast. The truth is it wasn't developed near as fast as some people think. Research had

been going on for years on similar viruses, with that research used to develop COVID-19 vaccines.

"The fact is we were very fortunate," Faust said. "Half a dozen companies were already working on vaccines regarding MERS and SARS and Ebola. They were already working on an mRNA vaccine for coronavirus. The methodology was already there."

That methodology, he added, was key to the lipid combo, or "secret sauce" for the vaccine, allowing scientists to swap out the cartridge for MERS or SARS and swap in the one for COVID-19. Additionally, this vaccine was not grown in chicken eggs as is common for other vaccines, which makes them safe for people with egg allergies.

Another falsehood he sees regarding the COVID-19 vaccine is that it affects fertility.

"The myth that the vaccine affects fertility is merely another attempt by the anti-vax contingent to throw doubt on the process," Faust said.

He encourages those with doubts to read factual information found on authoritative sources including the websites of the CDC and Johns Hopkins.

Faust is also fighting blatant lies that more people die from the vaccine than from the infection itself, when the truth is that after more than 24 million doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have

been administered globally, there has been zero deaths.

Meanwhile, more than 460,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 in the past year and worldwide, the disease has killed more than 2 million.

The vaccine does have a variety of side effects, which are an indicator of a strong immune response and are typically more severe after the second dose. In Faust's experience, about a third of people have soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site on their arm. About half of those vaccinated develop a full body immune response, which can include headache, fever, fatigue, muscle and joint aches. In nearly all these cases, the symptoms last less than two days.

Full effectiveness from the vaccine is achieved about two weeks after the second shot.

The final myth, Faust said, is that we won't need to wear masks anymore.

"This is big — we all want to be vaccinated and done," he said. "The problem is, we're not done."

He cites two reasons why the vaccine is not the instant fix: it's not instantly available for everyone who wants it; and people who are vaccinated can still be infected.

The vaccine reduces or eliminates symptoms of severe illness, but it is still unknown if a vaccinated asymptomatic individual can transmit the virus to others.

We should know soon, Faust said, because millions of people will be vaccinated and data will be accumulated. Until then, we have to continue precautions, including masking and distancing.

The best reason to get the vaccine remains the most obvious one — to avoid death from COVID-19. Faust notes that while rare, children can die from COVID-19, and the risk of death with the disease increases with age and comorbidities. In the 60-70 age range, 10 percent of those who contract COVID-19 die from it, and that number doubles if also infected with flu.

The Oakland County Health Division staff continues to administer as many shots as they can obtain.

"When you get a vaccine, you are protecting those around you. It's like wearing the mask," Faust said. "That is what this is about — putting an end to the pandemic, protecting your family, your spouse, your parents."

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

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The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

FEBRUARY 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2.2

SIMPLE QUESTIONS...

THAT NOBODY ASKS UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.

WHAT DO YOUR ADULT CHILDREN TALK ABOUT... WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT YOU?

THINGS EVERYBODY TAKES FOR GRANTED... BUT SHOULDN'T

NOTICE: Do you dislike difficult discussions? Shy away from challenging topics? Would you rather not know? Are you content to retreat into irrelevance? Do you think your kids/friends/relatives are not thinking about "what to do" with you? If so, stop reading now. This newspaper has other articles. Boring stories that will not upset you. Gardening. Crochet. Presidential politics. Same old, same old. Enjoy! Bye-bye! OK. Still with us? Onward, then...

**Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.**

Dylan Thomas

We all have to go sometime, but why rush it? Do you wish to remain alert? Independent? Engaged? Aware? In charge? Should your choices matter? Do you refuse to let others decide "what to do" with you? Do you reject dependence?

**It's my life
It's now or never
I ain't gonna live forever
I just want to live while I'm alive**

Jon Bon Jovi



**NO, YOU ARE NOT PARANOID,
THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU**

Your adult children are over to visit. They are in the kitchen. Talking. Vigorously. Your choice of old movies? Meh. Your cable news channel? How can you watch that stuff? Your political views? Best not to go there... And gee, you do not seem to be keeping this place as spick and span as usual...

No kids? Single? You are not exempt. Replay the scenario with your friends from church. Brothers or sisters. Nieces or nephews. Same-same. So... lively discussion. Sounds important. You wander over. Sudden silence. Glances back and forth. Nervous ha-ha's. Guilt? And now... Insipid small talk. Gee, it sure is cold/warm/wet/dry/cloudy for this time of year...

I am sure that before you showed up, they were talking about the Super Bowl. Or COVID. Maybe something insignificant or vaguely bizarre. Like the President. (Whichever one you choose).

**YOU DO NOT NEED HEARING AIDS TO HEAR
YOU NEED HEARING AIDS SO THEY WILL NOT
THINK YOU ARE SLIPPING**

You do not need hearing aids for the chirping birds. You need hearing aids so your family and

friends will not think you are addled. And that is what they think. When you are a certain age. And when you do not reply promptly. Or if your answer is inappropriate. It is not dementia; it is hearing loss. Brought on by 30 years on the factory floor. Chain saws. Lawn mowers. In the Army, we called it "tankers' car". Or maybe 47 years of listening to your spouse just wore your ear drums out.

The point is that at a certain age, everything looks like dementia if you are looking for dementia. Well-meaning folks. People who love and care for you. Good-hearted, kind, benevolent. They will roll you up in bubble wrap given half a chance. For your own good. Aren't you glad they think it is for "your own good"?

**YOU MIGHT JUST BE SUSPECTED OF DEMENTIA,
IF...**

You like your grandkids. They like you. You taught little Jimmy how to whistle. Janey learned how to swim from you. And neither of them would be riding bikes if you had not stepped up...

But now... The parents do not "need" you to pick up the grandkids after school. There is daycare for that... Sleepovers are a thing of the past. No more whittling, swimming, bike riding or other such dangerous activities... Why not? What changed?

You have not changed. But their perception has. You are older. Confused. Not "with it". Perception is reality. And reality bites.



AND NOW THEY WANT TO HAVE "THE TALK"

Not the sex talk. The "you are not safe at home anymore, you are slipping a gear, don't you think it would be easier in a senior community" talk. You know it is coming. You can see it a mile away. It is funny. The kids read a book like, "Mom, Dad... Can We Talk?: Helping Our Aging Parents with the Insight and Wisdom of Others," by Dick Edwards. (Available on Amazon!) Now the kids think they are oh-so subtle.

There are many other similar books. And experts. And courses. And strategies. All crammed with handy hints. All designed to hide the "elephant in the room." They toss a bedsheet over the elephant and expect that you will not notice. All because you cannot be trusted to deal with these issues. They think you cannot handle the truth. Seriously. They do think this.

They think they can kinda, sorta hide the real issue. Like covering an elephant with a bedsheet. Good luck with that! That old elephant is still doing all the things elephants do, bedsheet or not. You have been sniffing out their BS since they were born. These are same kids who thought you bought their shenanigans. Who thought you believed their late Saturday night excuses. Who boy!

DE Nile... NOT JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT

But it is not all high-test malarkey. Dementia is real. Getting older happens. They do love you and they are concerned. But you can put their fears to rest. You can relieve their anxiety. Not for their sakes, but for your own. For your spouse.

Do not wait until your kid introduces you to their "friend from church" or the fellow who helped your in-laws' parents. And God forbid that your children download some boilerplate forms from the Internet (Free! Free! Free!). And God further forbid that you sign that steaming pile of download destruction.

Be the hero. Answer the call. Take care of your business. If you do not, the younger ones around you will get the wrong idea. They will think you are "out of it." Cannot handle your own affairs. Need "help." That means going to probate court. Having you declared incompetent. Incapacitated. And they are in charge. Not you.

The elephant is in the room. That bedsheet is not hiding anything. Rip off the sheet. Stare that pachyderm in the eye. Just as you have done in so many other situations. Over decades. You have faced wars. Riots (real ones, not just fake news). Terrible economic times. Good times of prosperity. Grief. Joy. This is no great challenge for you; you can do this.

JUMP! OR BE PUSHED

You notice a problem with your tax return. An honest mistake, but significant, obvious. Should you wait for the IRS to come knocking on your door, demanding explanations, assessing more taxes? Or would it be better to file an amended return, fixing the problem?

You are the hero of your story. You get to choose how it unfolds. Why would you give that power to your kids or court-appointed strangers?

Do not wait until someone else wants to have "the talk." Sit them down. Give them the talk. Point out that they have

not protected your grandchildren appropriately. Put the shoe on the other foot! Show them that you have planned with wisdom and foresight. Who is the boss now? Whose decisions count?

Do not give them your legal documents (very bad idea!) But we have general information handouts for this very purpose. Reassure them that you have done the grownup thing. That you have followed through.

And REMIND them that they need to do the same. You are looking out for them. They should be looking out for those grandchildren. Change the conversation. Flip the story. Demonstrate your ability. Prove your capacity. Authentic. Real.

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Sledding

Continued from Page 1A

Hills for younger sledders

Not all sledders are ready for the big hills. There's a handful of smaller hills great to introduce younger children to the joy of sledding. Here are a few.

Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia

This was by far the smallest hill visited during my day sledding. It's tucked in the back of the large parking lot south of the historical village and north of the soccer fields at the park at Eight Mile and Newburgh.

The hill is reminiscent of neighborhood hills I remember going to as a kid: small, tucked away hills not meant for fast speeds, but there for some simple fun and great for first-timers.

The hill's not hard to climb up, though some of the layout can be a bit confusing: signs posted at the hill direct sledders to slide down the west side of the hill toward the farm fence, but there's no real incline there. It was clear sledders there before me went down east toward Newburgh Road, which, admittedly, was the better slope.

Just be careful: the hill approaches the parking lot and there are concrete barriers for parking spaces at the bottom. With enough snow, they aren't a factor, but it's something to be warned about.

Another tip to parents thinking about this hill as well: might be good to take your all-wheel drive vehicle to this hill, as the parking lot was not plowed when I arrived, and my sedan got stuck in the snow.

McHattie Park, South Lyon

This hill is definitely a step up in terms of intensity, but still a small hill perfect for younger sledders. Located at the park off South Lafayette that can be accessed via South Warren Street, this hill rises up and offers a 360-degree vantage point.

It's fairly quick, but nothing too scary once you visit. There are hay bales set up in front of area trees, so in case a sledder veers the wrong direction, they won't run smack dab into a tree trunk. It's well thought-out and enjoyable; I found myself going down a few times to see if each side of the hill offered a different experience.

Throw in the accompanying ice skating rink (when it's operational) and the playground and this is a great option for a Saturday afternoon with the whole family.

Cass Benton Park in Hines Park, Northville Township

Honestly, all of Hines Park could be included in either category: the park, which stretches from Dearborn to Northville, is quite hilly and offers some great winter activities outdoors, including a variety of hill sizes for sledders.

The Cass Benton sledding hill is located off Edward Hines Drive south of Seven Mile could fall into either category, but I've opted to put it in the hills for younger sledders. When I visited there were several youngsters sledding the hills, which prompted the decision.

The varying terrain allows for some simple sledding on the surrounding hills, and the main hill runs a bit faster. It's overall smooth and enjoyable and has stairs for a return for sledders to walk back up. This is a great option if you're in the Hines Park area and don't want to spend a lot of time walking back up hills.

Hills for older sledders

Snowy Ridge Park, Commerce



Dozens of snow-lovers hit the incline of Farmington's Sled Hill off Shiawassee. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Chris Pelton laughs as he tries to get his 3-year-old son Lincoln set up on a sled at Cass Benton Park in Northville Township on Jan. 26.

Township

An admission from this journalist: I've always been fascinated by this hill ever since I first saw it. Given its proximity just north of Novi, I decided to give it a shot.

The park is nestled around industrial developments along Welch Road between 14 Mile and Maple, and exists solely for sledding in the winter (which signs at the park warn visitors about). It's a large slope that runs pretty fast, though one downside — at least for me, others might feel differently — were the presence of small moguls on the hill.

I'm not sure if these are natural or if they were made by visitors, but these caused me to jump a bit more than what I typically prefer. Walking up the slope was a bit tricky as well, as it was slippery and took some effort to climb up. The view from atop the hill are worthwhile as well.

Definitely glad I tried this hill and

would go back, but I'd only return with others that wanted a faster experience with little jumps.

Shiawassee Park, Farmington

There were plenty of broken sleds discarded around trash cans at this hill, and after sliding down it a few times, I can see why: this hill is fast.

A popular spot in the Farmington area, the hill behind the Farmington Public Schools administration office at Shiawassee and Farmington roads will have plenty of sledders during the weekend. When snow is packed down, be ready to fly down the hill. I went down twice and ended up spinning around twice after my sled gathered enough speed before even getting to the bottom of the hill. It's a fun hill, especially if you're looking for thrills. There are two return areas designated with hay bales, so it's easy to climb back up and go down again.

It's a solid hill and a worthwhile visit, though I have other favorites on this list, including the next one.

Beverly Hills Village Park, Beverly Hills

Apologies to the fine folks of Beverly Hills for letting this local secret go public, but visiting this park was an absolute delight.

I looked at several locations in the Birmingham/Bloomfield/Beverly Hills area to try, and this park stuck out to me online. And I'm so glad it did; the hill is a great place for sledding.

Located on Beverly Road between Evergreen and Southfield roads, this park required a short walk from the parking lot to the hill, but it's so worth it. The hill has two sides for sledding: one on the east side with gradual decline and another on the west side that features a small plateau before continuing downward. Both sides were fast but smooth; I never felt out of control of my sled, indicating the gradient was perfect.

Bonus points for having stairs to climb up the hill, which makes it easier.

A unique aspect to this hill is its versatility for year-round activities. In addition to its use as sledder's paradise the top of the hill sports two tees for disc golf. Those looking to play nine holes can climb to the top of the hills and

throw toward the respective baskets, taking advantage of the sledding hill all year. If you're looking for a unique hill and want to try somewhere new, Beverly Hills Village Park is a great pick.

Kensington Metropark, Milford Township

This is the lone set of hills I did not visit on my day of sledding, but for good reason: I've sledded these hills since I was 10 and I know them like the back of my hand.

These hills are king when it comes to sledding spots in metro Detroit. Maybe it's the emotional attachment, but I can think of no better sledding hill in the region that is as much fun as the main hill at Kensington: it's tall, it's long and it's incredibly fun to sled.

There are a few options to pick from at the sledding area, including the larger hill and a smaller hill for those not wanting to make the long trip back up to the top of the hill. There's also a toboggan run for those with actual toboggans, which runs really well if you've got one. They do have some small hills for younger children, but the star attractions are definitely the tall hills.

If you plan on heading to Kensington, be sure to bring your wallet: this is the lone park on this list that charges admission. Daily rates for vehicles at any metropark are \$10, and an annual pass for those who live in Oakland, Wayne, Livingston, Washtenaw and Macomb counties is \$40.

Plymouth Township Park, Plymouth Township

The first thing I thought when approaching the sledding hill at this park off Ann Arbor Trail east of Beck Road was "Where's the slope?" I just had to look down.

This hill is steep. I was the lone person on the hill at the time and audibly gasped when I walked up to it. It's a steep hill, which can come across as intimidating, but it's a smooth ride. It, like Shiawassee Park, is a fast hill, but runs great and didn't cause me to spin out. Really fast and fun.

Bonus points go to the layout of the hill: in addition to having a dedicated return lane to walk back up the hill, the parking lot that services the area is essentially on top of the hill, meaning you don't need to walk up for your first ride.

Middlebelt Hill in Hines Park, Westland

It's apt this spot resides within the city that boast the John Glenn High School Rockets, because a rocket is how I felt when I went sledding down Middlebelt Hill.

This hill was my favorite stop on my eight-hill tour. Located on Edward Hines Drive between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, this hill is a visual beauty for sledders.

Approaching it from the (small) parking lot on the west side, it was exciting to see the layout: a staircase leading up to the top of the hill, which was dotted with a small gazebo. Once up top, sledders have 270 degrees of sledding available to them, with all three sides sporting their own walkways back up the hill, a convenient amenity. In addition to being fast, this hill was smooth. I had to force myself to stop when sledding down one side before I ended up in the river, which I did not think I'd reach when I first traveled down.

If there's one hill on this list you can make it to this weekend, I'd recommend Middlebelt Hill.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

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New medical building planned in Northville Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Northville Township Planning Commission reviewed and unanimously recommended approval during its meeting online Jan. 26 of a site plan for a new medical building at 18800 Northville Road.

The building would contain about 6,300 square feet for separate offices: one for periodontist Dr. Samir Zakaria, and a dermatologist office.

Zakaria told planning commissioners he's had a successful practice for more than 20 years, and the Northville land seemed an ideal spot for a new office.

"I'm much looking forward to moving my practice into Northville and being a part of the community," he said.

Ghassan Abdelnour, the architect

working on the project, told the planning commission they were required by ordinance to have 27 parking spaces, but provided a plan with 33.

"We're trying to keep enough parking for the people coming to the dentistry area and for the dermatology and not have issues, especially during movement of employees," Abdelnour said.

Commissioner Tim Guerriero said he believed the number of spaces were fine to have, especially if they determine they would benefit from having them installed at the beginning of the development instead of adding them later. He said it will make a good addition to that part of the community.

"I think this is a great use for this site given what is there," he said. "I think this is a fantastic improvement to that part of the township."



The sign for the Lyon Cantina on Pontiac Trail in South Lyon. The restaurant closed after a devastating fire in early 2020. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Restaurant

Continued from Page 1A

"Lyon Township is a great community and people like the Mexican concept," he said. "If you would love to have us out there, we would love to be there."

The proposed restaurant is 4,277 square feet and would feature a banquet room where private parties could be held, a bar area and outside patio area.

The new restaurant is slightly smaller than the old one which had nearly 4,500 square feet, but was non-conforming to the ordinance and in which parking spaces impeded on the Pontiac Trail right of way. That building was demolished in January 2020 due to damages from the fire.

In order to comply with the ordinance, the new restaurant had to be scaled back in size and he stills need a variance on parking setback from the Zoning Board of Appeals, likely next month.

"This is the largest note on the plan," Planner Brian Keesey said. The parking along the north property line is within a 10-foot setback. It's really the only way parking fits on the site. It has been investigated to death for alternative solutions... this is a good solution on site."

The restaurant will have 46 parking spaces to meet capacity requirements for the restaurant, which will eventually have a seating capacity of about 135 once COVID-19 restrictions are re-

moved.

According to the Mojave Cantina website, the restaurant is "committed to serving fresh Mexican cuisine and signature drinks in a relaxing and festive atmosphere!"

Offerings at the Clawson and White Lake locations include a variety of tacos, fajitas, enchiladas, nachos, salads and much more, with prices for entrees under \$20. Brunch with a mimosa happy hour is available on the weekends. A drink menu shows extensive craft beer and wines, tequilas, margaritas and specialties.

A dessert menu includes chimi cheesecake, hot chimi apple pie, sopapillas, and fried ice cream.

"I'm excited, thanks so much for coming back to Lyon Township," Planning Commissioner and Township Treasurer Patty Carcone told Tsapatoris. "I can't wait to eat in your restaurant, I love Mexican food."

Commissioner Jim Chuck agreed. "It looks like a very, very nice place," he said.

Township Planning Coordinator Katherine Des Rochers said the restaurant could be constructed by the end of this year if the ZBA gives its approval.

She noted the ZBA recently gave a similar variance to the Culver's restaurant planned down the road at 22700 Pontiac Trail.

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

Auger said. "There are several options on the table. I think people will be happy with the solution... The whole ring road concept started more than 30 years ago. We are happy to make the connection. Between this and what the state is doing, some capacity issues are alleviated or lessened. Hopefully these things play well together."

Cardenas said the construction cost of this summer's ring road addition will be around \$746,000.

"This is a long time coming to make sure it's complete," Cardenas said. "It gives residents and visitors different ways of getting around that busy intersection and will help facilitate and mitigate traffic in the future."

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

Road

Continued from Page 1A

vacant for years, Cardenas said. After BeGole's death last year, his family members reached out to the city with a sale offer.

This summer, the property acquisition will be used to add a final 525 foot section to the southwest ring road, aligning it with the northwest segment of the ring road. No detours will be necessary.

City Manager Pete Auger said demolition of the house is one possibility, but there are several options that will be considered after the property is closed upon.

"There has been no final determination on the razing of the house as of yet,"

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He's combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called *Primal Max Red*. In clinical trials, 5,000 mg is required for satisfying



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was recently proven in a clinical trial to boost blood flow 275%

sexual performance. *Primal Max Red* contains a bigger, 9,000 mg per serving dose. It's become so popular, he's having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of more than 500 scientific papers. Thousands of people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath recently visited his clinic, the **Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine**.

Primal Max Red has only been available for a few months - but everyone who takes it reports a big difference. "I have the energy to have sex three times in one day, WOW! That has not happened in years. Oh, by the way I am 62," says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

HOW IT WORKS

Loss of erection power starts with your blood vessels. Specifically, the inside layer called the endothelium where nitric oxide is made.

The problem is various factors THICKEN your blood vessels as you age. This blocks availability causing the nitric oxide "glitch." The result is difficulty in getting and sustaining a healthy erection.

How bad is the problem?

Researcher shows the typical 40-year-old man absorbs 50% less nitric oxide. At 50, that drops to 25%. And once you pass 60 just a measly 15% gets through.

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Primal Max Red is the first formula to tackle both problems. Combining powerful nitric oxide boosters and a proven delivery mechanism that defeats the nitric oxide "glitch" - resulting in 275% better blood flow. There's not enough space here to fully explain how it works, so Dr. Sears will send anyone who orders *Primal Max Red* a free special report that explains everything.

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"I measured my nitric oxide levels, you can buy a test kit from Amazon," reports 48-year-old Jeff O. "Monday night I showed depleted."

Then he used ingredients in *Primal Max Red* and, "The results were off the charts. I first woke around 3 a.m. on Tuesday very excited. My nitric oxide levels measured at the top end of the range."

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HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX

To secure free bottles of *Primal Max Black* and get the hot, new *Primal Max Red* formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-318-9464 within the next 48 hours. "It's not available in drug stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about *Primal Max*, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back," he says.

The Hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock. Call 1-800-318-9464 to secure your limited supply of *Primal Max Red* and free bottles of *Primal Max Black*. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. Use Promo Code NP0221PMAX329 when you call in. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered.

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Huron Valley talks more in-person learning as vaccinations continue

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Huron Valley administrators sent a survey to all 1,300 employees in the district in order to learn who was interested in or had received COVID-19 vaccinations.

About half, or 645, had responded — with 84% intending to take advantage of the vaccines when they can, which Superintendent Paul Salah called “outstanding.”

Also exciting was that 415 responding to the survey were teachers, about 78 percent of all the educators in the district — 88% want, have scheduled or have already received their two vaccines.

“It’s incredible,” Salah told the board of education during a Feb. 8 meeting. “What this tells us is, if these folks have at the very least a vaccination appointment scheduled, they will have it within a week, or two at most. At least 65% of the staff should have both doses of the vaccine by mid-March.”

While the surveys are a piece of good news that Salah sees as offering light at the end of the tunnel for a year of disrupted education, they do not equate to an instant return to five days per week of face-to-face instruction as some parents are requesting.

Salah explained administrators need to collect more data on substitute teacher fill rates and how to offer direct instruction for students who are quarantined, the two largest logistical challenges to being able to offer full-time in-person learning.

Huron Valley was one of the first districts in Oakland County to start the school year with hybrid face-to-face instruction. COVID-19 case spikes in the community and a vast amount of student and teacher quarantines prompted the district to start all-remote learning in late October. Students remained virtual until Jan. 19, when the district implemented the 4-days per week in-person plan.

Since then, 433 students and staff



Nick Peruski, a teacher at Lakeland High School in the Huron Valley School District, holds up his immunization record after receiving the first dose of his COVID-19 vaccination this month. COURTESY OF NICK PERUSKI

have been quarantined in the district. As of Monday, 151 remained quarantined stemming from close contacts at school at the secondary level.

The CDC just issued new guidelines stating that quarantine is no longer necessary for individuals who are more than 10 days past receiving their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Still, with vaccines not available for the vast majority of the community, quarantines are expected to continue, which creates a particular issue for continuity of instruction.

“Wednesdays (virtual for all students) have been a lifesaver to help us meet the needs of students in quaran-

tine,” Salah said.

He added that while administrators recognize the learning loss that has occurred and that a return to five days of face-to-face instruction will help, all options have to be considered.

Students in school five days per week before March 15 is unlikely, Salah conceded. While board members seemed to agree they would like students back full-time before the end of the school year, at what point that might occur in the next few months was uncertain.

“I definitely want our kids to go back five days a week, but when it’s safer,” Denise Pistana said, noting students had only been back to four days for a few

weeks. “I’m not ready to jump into five days a week, I like to think of warmer weather, open windows, people able to get vaccinations. I know they are still struggling to get appointments. I’m not ready to push the envelope.”

Jeff Long said when a recommendation comes to the board to go to five days, he will vote in favor.

“We’ve had enough lost learning for the year,” he said. “It’s a heavy lift for staff and will continue to be. I do support them, but at the end of the day, the best thing is to have five days a week (in-person) and be back to a normal way of life.”

Denise Forrest said currently it’s not a normal life in school with students and teachers wearing masks and shields all day with desk partitions and Wednesdays offered a break, where students could also work in small virtual groups with teachers and do project-based learning.

“It’s a day to breathe, literally and figuratively,” she said. “It’s best to stay with the modality of four days per week for a while.”

Laura Dodd and Pistana both said they would not support bringing students back to five days a week by March 15.

Board President Tom Wiseman said he didn’t want to rush, but had a sense of urgency while still honoring the importance of the work done on Wednesdays by teachers and students.

“Quantity of days doesn’t equate to quality of instruction,” he said. “Teachers are under a lot of stress, change is hard, there is push and pull as it relates to that.”

He conceded that March may not be realistic, “maybe we are looking at April.”

The next scheduled Huron Valley Board of Education meeting is March 1. The board may convene a special Feb. 22 meeting to further discuss increased face-to-face instruction, Salah said.

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

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Catholic Central's Tommy Shea, right, scoots a pass under the stick of Livonia Stevenson's Nick Justice.
 PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CC hockey continues win streak, beating Stevenson

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tommy Shea has been waiting for this, preparing for this through the uncertainty, through the non-contact. The Detroit Catholic Central senior forward capitalized.

In the final two minutes of the third period, tied with Livonia Stevenson, 1-1, Shea found himself in prime position, taking the puck after an errant pass in the neutral zone. He adjusted it with the stick and fired, giving the Shamrocks (3-0) the 2-1 victory against the Spartans (2-1) Saturday night at USA Hockey Arena.

"These are the games we love," Shea said. "We love to compete. That's CC hockey right there."

For Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki, the mindset changed after the first period.

Ten minutes into the first period, Stevenson forward Jack Smith, streaking down the right side of the ice, tipped the pick toward senior forward Carson



Catholic Central and Stevenson players face off. Catholic Central won, 2-1.

See **HOCKEY**, Page 2B

Northville diver regains confidence, love for sport

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As a gymnast, Andy Maiz remembers feeling a rush while competing, doing things that not many people could do.

"You can do a flip, you can swing around... I loved it," he said. "I loved the atmosphere."

Maiz started gymnastics at age 5 and competed for five years, earning top honors in the parallel bars and on the rings in multiple state competitions. Over time, though, he had too many hard impacts on his foot, developing a cyst that forced him away from gymnastics entirely.

For Maiz, the transition to diving was obvious: He knew how to flip, he knew what to do; the landing was just different. Over time, Maiz developed that same rush as a competitor, a rush that fueled early success at Northville High.

Now a junior, that rush is mixing with a sense of drive, diving a season after losing the momentum of a third-place finish at the 2020 Division 1 diving regional after the state meet was canceled one day before the event in March.

"A lot of us didn't know how to feel," Maiz said, remembering sitting with 10 Northville swimmers poolside when the coaches broke the news. "It was something we were working for, something we spent so much time working on and we were getting ready for it. And it got canceled."

"You could say that a lot of us saw it coming. We just didn't want to believe it."

Return to the board

Only days before the pandemic shut down the program, Maiz joined Club Wolverine for the first time to further develop. In only two or three practices with Maiz, head coach Gabby Han saw he had the skills, he had the technique of a good diver, but did not have the time to work with him.

When he returned to the pool over the summer — he spent the spring months doing dry-land workouts and biking to stay in shape — Han did see a level of hesitancy, timidity in the incoming junior, despite not knowing him super well.

"I could see that he had some insecurities," Han said. "I think my main goal with him, after I got to know him a bit better, was to build his confidence. He's a very good diver and has a lot of skills, and I wanted to make sure that he felt the same way."

This was something Northville head coach Jennifer Amman saw in Maiz early on as well.

Heading into his freshman season,

See **DIVER**, Page 2B

Vickers' fourth-quarter spectacle gives Canton first win

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton boys basketball head coach Jimmy Reddy did not plan to face Northville in the 2021 season opener. It kind of just worked out that way.

Canton and the Mustangs ended the 2019-20 season without closure, sched-

uled to face each other March 13 in the postseason district final. Reddy made it clear it was two different teams on the court 334 days after the district final was postponed, then canceled, due to COVID-19. It was a brand new season.

But to Canton junior guard Cole Vickers it was meant to be. It was his time to introduce himself to a KLAA West rival.

"We kind of took it personally," he said.

Vickers scored all 13 of Canton's (1-0) points in the fourth quarter, matching Northville's team total in the final eight minutes and leading to a back-and-forth, 54-53 road win against the Mustangs (0-1) Feb. 9.

The Canton junior finished with 26

points, hitting three 3-point tries while sinking nine-of-10 from the free-throw line.

While he shined offensively, matching Northville, especially 6-foot-8 senior forward Jack Huddy, who finished with a team-leading 18 points, Vickers

See **CANTON**, Page 5B



Plymouth junior guard shines in win over Canton

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth girls basketball's usual game plan is to hit teams from deep. It was something the Wildcats did all of last season, hitting 155 3-pointers, 23rd most in state history for a single season.

After opening the 2021 season with 11 made 3s against Novi, Plymouth continued that trend Friday against Canton, hitting eight 3-pointers in the first half.

Then the Wildcats got cold, hitting only two 3-pointers in the final 16 minutes. But that gave an opportunity for Ainsley Florence to show what she could do.

The junior guard led Plymouth with 20 points — including 12 of the team's 26 second half points, none of which were 3-pointers — while stepping up in the post and in transition to help the Wildcats (2-0) beat rival Canton (1-1), 57-45.

Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard said Florence is his team's best two-way player, providing a boost for both sides of the floor when her defense turns into offense.

"Ainsley loves the moment," Ballard said. "She's been good ever since last year. At districts, I thought she was one of the best players on the floor."

"We're so hard to guard because they want to take away Ella Riley, they want to take away Kyra Brandon. That stretches the floor and gives Ainsley some gaps."

For Canton head coach Kayla Bridges, who spent six seasons on Ballard's staff at Plymouth, this was exactly



Ainsley Florence, shown here in Plymouth's regional semifinal loss to Brighton, played a major role in Plymouth's second-half success against Canton.

LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

her game plan. She wanted her defenders to "find the shooters," shading out to those guards parked behind the 3-point line and led her bigs — Kathleen Burns and Rachel Williams — dominate in the middle.

"I think it's kind of a team-by-team scenario, but Plymouth especially, their strong point is their guards," Bridges said. "I thought this would be a game where our bigs could really dominate. I

think we had flashes of good moments, but we really couldn't put it all together."

"I kind of knew what they would get into today. I wish we could have done a little more to disrupt it."

From the first quarter, Canton's game plan really did not work, allowing Plymouth to score 31 points in the first 16 minutes, 24 points of which came from behind the 3-point line.

In the third quarter, Florence made

her presence felt. She recorded two steals, one of which came on the very first possession, and took in three rebounds, allowing Plymouth to keep its double-digit lead through its 3-point cold spell.

"I feel like my defense sets the tone for the rest of the team, both defensively and offensively, to do better and push them more," Florence said. "I feel like it's very important for me to do my best for the team."

A 7-2 run early in the fourth quarter, including a 3 by Burns, who scored 10 points for Canton, cut Plymouth's lead down to six points, but the Wildcats were able to keep the lead at arm's length, helped by Florence and senior guard Kyra Brandon, who finished with 14 points and eight assists.

Plymouth senior guard Ella Riley led the team with four 3-point makes, adding 14 points.

Canton senior Alexandra Bohn led the team with 11 points.

Coming off its second win in two games, Plymouth is just getting started, Ballard said, saying his players are still getting antequated with the return to play after a long hiatus away from the court due to COVID-19.

But what separates Plymouth, according to Ballard, is its experience, its unselfishness, knowing how to play with one another.

"If Ella's hitting shots, that means Ainsley's getting looks," Ballard said. "If Kyra's hitting shots, everyone else is going to get looks. That just makes us so hard to guard."

Brighton hockey opens with 4-0 loss

Bill Khan livingstondaily.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Brighton certainly wasn't going to come away from its first hockey game with a false sense of security.

The Bulldogs' opening opponent, Livonia Stevenson, is quite capable of exposing any and all weaknesses hidden during weeks of noncontact practices.

First-year head coach Kurt Kivisto won't get many practice opportunities to iron out what went wrong for Brighton in a 4-0 loss to Stevenson Feb. 10 at Kensington Valley Ice House.

As currently constructed, Brighton's schedule calls for 17 games in 31 days, most of them against state-ranked competition like Stevenson.

"It's certainly what we expected from them," Kivisto said.

The Spartans, who have won their last six meetings with Brighton, controlled play most of the night, allowing the Bulldogs few scoring opportunities. Stevenson outshot Brighton, 32-13.

"Certainly, we've got to do a better job skating, skating through traffic, skating through sticks," Kivisto said.

Stevenson, a Division 2 program, is expected to be one of the top handful of teams in the state, regardless of division. The Spartans return three first-team all-stars and one second-team selection from a squad that went 25-3-1 last season, beating Brighton 4-0 in the KLAAs championship game.

"They're always a strong team," Brighton goalie Chris Wozniak said.

Stevenson was also playing its season opener and also has 17 games scheduled in 31 days. The Spartans open with three games in four nights.

"It's go time," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Now there's going to be a lot of games in a condensed area. It's going to be about rest and management and how well they take care of themselves and each other."

Although Stevenson controlled the puck most of the first period, Brighton nearly made it to the first intermission locked in a scoreless tie. However, a shot

by Stevenson's Ryan Teets caromed in off a Brighton player with 42.7 seconds left in the period to give the Spartans the lead.

Brighton's best scoring chance of the night came when junior Joe LaColla hit the crossbar on a breakaway with 13:08 left in the second period.

"I think I got a piece of it with the glove, but the crossbar bailed me out," Stevenson all-state goalie Brenden Stroble said. "I kind of gave it a couple of love taps and thanked it and continued to play."

Just more than a minute later, Ian Kimble extended Stevenson's lead to 2-0 at the 5:04 mark. Brighton had a chance to cut into the lead during a five-minute power play that spanned the second and third periods, but the Bulldogs had only one serious threat, a shot from close range by LaColla just before the horn sounded to end the second.

Owen Penny scored at 2:36 and Andrew VanAntwerp at 10:04 to complete the scoring.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Kleven, beating Catholic Central goalkeeper Bobby Masters for the score: the Spartans' first against the

Shamrocks since Feb. 10, 2017.

From there, the Shamrocks started to take control, pounding Stevenson senior goalkeeper Brendan Stroble consistently through the second period, recording 15 saves on 16 shots in the middle 17 minutes.

After a skirmish near goal three minutes into the second period, giving the Shamrocks a power play, Catholic Central turned the man advantage into a goal, with senior forward Billy Shields finding the back of Stroble's net to tie the game at one.

"I thought we elevated our game in the second and third, and that's what we were hoping to see," Kaleniecki said. "We had a lot of chances in the second period — I thought our second period was the best period we played... We did get one to tie it up, but we felt there would be another one coming."

Watching his goalkeeper finish with 29 saves, Stevenson head coach David Mitchell knew Stroble kept it close, but he knew the level Catholic Central was playing at in the second and third period, something, he said, his team was not able to match.

"Brenden Stroble was very good tonight, but all the credit in the world goes to CC," Mitchell said. "They made adjustments after the first period, their energy picked up. We didn't match their intensity and their energy after the first period. They deserved to win the hockey game."

After allowing the first-period goal, Master was perfect at net, finishing with 22 saves, including two in the final seconds of the third period when Stevenson chose to have an empty net.

To Kaleniecki, this was fun hockey.

Facing his team in the locker room after the game, the Shamrocks head coach preached to them, "This is what winning looks like;" one season after having its state semifinal game against Byron Center postponed and later canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coming off the win, Kaleniecki wants his team to remember how fun high-level hockey is, how much of a blast it is to be emotionally invested, to be engaged, to leave it all on the ice.

That's what he wants to carry over.

"What more can you say? That's what you miss right, the competitiveness," Kaleniecki said. "Just seeing the smiles on the kids' faces again is great. Games like this really bring it out how much they love competing and why it is so important for them to be a part of these things."

Catholic Central will look for win number four Thursday when it faces Cranbrook Kingswood on the road.

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.

Diver

Continued from Page 1B

she had heard rumblings about Maiz from the middle school program, having broken records in that program and placing in the top three in the state in his age group. Amman saw a diver who was performing at the level of a high school junior.

But she also saw a diver that had been under high pressure from his club team at the time, so she changed her approach to make sure he was enjoying himself and the sport.

"He was on a track for a national level of competition from a very young age, and I think he got burned out by it a little bit, and he stepped away," Amman said.

"When he came back in high school, he hadn't been on a board in a while. But even just the talent that he had after not doing it for a while, you could tell that this kid was going to be a contender at state meet."

From his first season with Northville, Maiz met that expectation, ending the year as one of three freshman Division 1 state qualifiers. Sophomore year, he was seeded No. 8 heading into the state meet, leading to All-State honors and All-American consideration.

When Maiz returned to the diving board in summer 2020, he was overwhelmed.

"There was a lot in that first jump," he said. "I hadn't gone off a board in so long. There was a lot of emotion, but there was a lot of me messing up."

After months of dry-land training with Club Wolverine on towels and yoga mats at an Ann Arbor country club, Maiz transitioned to the pool for early-morn-



Mustang diver Andy Maiz talks about making the switch from gymnastics.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing practices, relearning and remastering dives from his high school season while expanding his repertoire.

The dives that Maiz previously knew were quickly solidified, pushing Han to encourage her diver to take the next step.

"I think once we got a few things tweaked... I started to build things on top of that, build his confidence in saying, 'I'm seeing a lot of really, really good things. I want to take it to the next level. I want to start pushing you toward bigger dives,'" Han said.

Maintaining the love

Over the course of his summer training, Maiz regained his confidence, putting in the work and developing a belief in what he could do on the diving board: to break his personal records.

Those personal records did not stay

intact for long. In his first meet of his junior season, Maiz recorded a 250.66 against Plymouth, a personal best on his six dives.

When Amman gave Maiz his scores, the junior did not believe her. But when it hit him what he accomplished, the number served as affirmation.

"It gives me a new sense of what I can actually accomplish," Maiz said. "I know I can do better. I know. It was kind of a springboard. It gave me a new sense of pride, I think."

Seeing a diver that had progressed to a higher degree of difficulty, Amman admitted that Maiz actually missed one of his dives in his first meet back. After the miss, the Northville head coach said Maiz was very disappointed in himself, but she had to give him a reality check.

"I pulled him aside and I was like, 'You just missed for five-and-a-half, sixes,'" she said. "Most kids don't even attain that dive let alone get those scores on their best days. And that was your worst day."

Maiz has the potential to shine for Northville and for Club Wolverine for the next two seasons. His trajectory is on the Division 1 path, with Han saying he has all the tools to shine for a collegiate program.

All that Han said Maiz needs to do is to step back and realize what he is accomplishing, and enjoy himself.

"For him, it's just about maintaining love for the sport and being passionate about it," Han said. "He can do a lot of great things."

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.

KLAA WEST PREVIEW

What to watch for in girls basketball in 2021

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan high school girls basketball is back.

Teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association have already started their 2021 campaign, aiming for a chance at a state title.

This season, the district round will be held March 22, 24 and 26; the regional round will be held March 29 and 31; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 5, 7 and 9.

Here's what Hometown Life's teams in the KLAA West look like in 2021.

Canton

Head coach: Kayla Bridges, first season

2019-20 season: 1-20, eighth in KLAA West, 31-28 loss to Livonia Churchill in first round

Key players: Senior Kate Burns, senior Emerson Kilgore, senior Noel Blain

What to expect: Kayla Bridges knows what it takes to be successful at Canton.

As a player, she made the final four twice in her four seasons. Now taking over the program she has once played for, she has high expectations.

Since joining the team as its head coach, Bridges has put an emphasis on speed both offensively and defensively, something that takes time for players to adjust to.

"I think there is going to be some sort of learning curve, just a growth period once we do return to full contact and we are able to play some games," Bridges said. "I think it's one of those things where every team has to deal with it right now, so we can't pull the 'Woe is me.'"

Of Canton's six seniors, three have had significant varsity experience: Kate Burns, Emerson Kilgore and Noel Blain. Over the past three seasons, Canton has won 11 games, nine of which came in the 2017-18 team.

Last season, Canton averaged 23.1 points per game, recording more than 40 points in a game twice, including a 43-38 win against Salem.

Northville

Head coach: Todd Gudith

2019-20 season: 8-13, fifth in KLAA West, 41-24 loss to Plymouth in district semifinals

Key players: Senior Avery Tolstyka, senior Sophia Jeromsky, junior Juliana Imbuzerio

What to expect: Heading into 2021, Northville will not look much different than its 2019-20 team. However, the Mustangs will have to find a new path to the basket.

While Northville graduated only three players from last year's team, two of those players — Morgan Thompson and Ellie Thallman — were the Mustangs' top two scorers. Of the nine returners, head coach Todd Gudith said each of them had experience playing varsity basketball.

"We are still young in that sense, but we have seen some improvement by everybody, even though we haven't played a game in 10 months," Gudith said, leading a Northville roster of only three seniors with the majority of the team sophomores.

Senior Avery Tolstyka, an All-League honorable mention in 2019-20, will be one of Northville's go-to players on the floor. Heading into her third year on varsity, Tolstyka, Gudith said, has taken the reins of leading the team while continuing to develop her game.

Gudith said he also looks for production from senior Sophia Jeromsky and junior Juliana Imbuzerio, who has been on the team since she was a freshman and is looking to take another step in her game.

Based on what he has seen, Gudith is pleased with where his team is at. He knows they will be competitive, but he knows the kind of teams the Mustangs will be facing this season.

"There are no layoffs, no easy games for us, but I think we will compete," Gudith said. "We think we have some depth this year, and that is really an attribute to those kids who were with us last year who have gotten better and more mature and physically stepped up their game."

Novi

Head coach: Charles Aro, fourth season

2019-20 season: 10-11, sixth in KLAA West, 57-48 loss to Mercy in district semifinal

Key players: Senior Maria Fernandes, senior Hannah Verbracken, junior Sammy Maday, junior Eva Khalil, freshman Anna Lindsay

What to expect: On the first Monday of contact practices, Novi head coach Charles Aro spent 20 minutes leading his team through its warm-up routine on game days.

The Wildcats head into 2021 with only five returners — one out for the year with an ACL injury. And with the transition back to basketball play after months of non-contact training, Aro said the transition is close to non-existent.

"You can go through sets five-on-zero, you can go through defenses and stuff," Aro said. "You can't do anything man-to-man really because that would be contact. It's really hard to prepare them for game speed without going five-on-five."

Two third-year varsity seniors — Maria Fernandez and Hannah Verbracken, a returning starter — will play big roles for the Wildcats in 2021, along with junior Sammy Maday, a starter for Novi last season, and Eva Khalil.

The Wildcats will also have a freshman point guard in Anna Lindsay, who Aro describes as extremely impressive athletically, following in the footsteps of two four-year point guards that have gone through the Novi program.

"It's something Anna can do," Aro said. "It's really, with no summer, it's learning how to play with the kids we have. But physically, she's very physically gifted. That's not the issue at all."

"You couldn't tell she was a freshman."

Plymouth

Head coach: Ryan Ballard, sixth season

2019-20 season: 14-9, fourth in KLAA West, 53-43 loss to Brighton in regional

semifinal

Key players: Senior Ella Riley, senior Kyra Brandon

What to expect: Over the past three seasons, Plymouth has been on a roll. The Wildcats have posted a combined record of 42-25, never losing more than nine games in a single season, while winning four playoff games in the past two years.

Heading into 2021, Plymouth's success will fall with the 3-point shot.

As a junior, Ella Riley hit 75 3-pointers, the second most in the state behind Kent City's Jenna Harrison. Plymouth as a team hit 155 of 482 3-point attempts — connecting on 32.2% — placing the Wildcats in the books for 23rd most makes and 25th most tries in a single season in state history.

Along with Riley, who was an All-League honorable mention last year, senior guard Kyra Brandon returns to the Wildcats.

Brandon was an All-League team member a season ago, averaging 7.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.8 steals per game.

Salem

Head coach: Lauren Evans, third season

2019-20 season: 4-18, seventh in KLAA West, 51-31 loss to Plymouth in district final

Key players: Senior Mia Martin, junior Marissa Henry, sophomore Macy Boyd, junior Syler Evers

What to expect: While Salem waited to see if it would get a chance to play in 2021, head coach Lauren Evans had the opportunity to slow things down for her team.

During non-contact practices, she said, the Rocks worked on form shooting, tweaking what needed to be tweaked and fine-tuning the basics.

While Evans may only have nine players on her varsity roster, she said she could see the work they put in heading into actual game play.

"You can tell that those athletes have been putting their work in and because of that, they have become good coaches along with me," Evans said.

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KLAA EAST PREVIEW

What to expect this season in girls basketball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan high school girls basketball is back.

Teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association have already started their 2021 campaign, aiming for a chance at a state title.

This season, the district round will be held March 22, 24 and 26; the regional round will be held March 29 and 31; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 5, 7 and 9.

Here's what Hometown Life's teams in the KLAA East look like in 2021.

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: K'Len Morris, sixth season

2019-20 season: 12-9, third in KLAA East, 34-32 loss to Salem in district semifinal

Key players: Senior Nasya Thomas, senior Molly Behen, junior Kate Heston
What to expect: To Churchill head coach K'Len Morris, the non-contact practices prior to the start of the 2021 season were a blessing in disguise.

Carrying over only three players from last season's 12-win team, the head coach said those sessions allowed his team on the basics when it really needed it.

"We're so inexperienced that it wouldn't serve me any good to have these crazy, contact practices when our skill level isn't where it needs to be yet," Morris said. "We're really just hammering out the basics: ball handling, the basics of defense, shooting form. We're just trying to teach the kids the basics of the game right now."

Losing Kayla Osen and Keke Buggs from last year's team — both KLAA All-Conference players — the Chargers will have senior Nasya Thomas lead the team in 2021.

An All-Conference player as a junior, Thomas led the team with 16.6 points per game and 18 rebounds per game and comes into her fourth year as a varsity player.

"Everybody looks at her. She is just so athletically gifted," Morris said. "She

makes plays at times where it's just like, 'How do you do that?'"

Senior Molly Behen and junior Kate Heston — both three-year varsity players — are Churchill's other two returners from last year, providing experience for the younger players on the seven-player roster.

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: John Santi, fourth season

2019-20 season: 9-12, fifth in KLAA East, 72-40 loss to Wayne Memorial in district final

Key players: Junior Erin Young, junior Kalin Bates, senior Sami Hampton, junior Sammy Provenzano

What to expect: Livonia Franklin just wanted to play basketball.

Many on the Patriots roster were on the forefront of the "Let Us Play" movement, releasing a video to show support of playing safely through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now that they have a chance, the Patriots hope to find success in the KLAA East.

Coming off a nine-win season, a two-win improvement from the 2018-19 season, Franklin will be without All-Conference guard Emily Esker in 2021, who averaged 6.4 points and 1.5 steals per game last season.

Junior Erin Young, an All-Conference forward as a sophomore, will return for the Patriots, having averaged 8.4 points, 6.9 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game last season.

Junior guard Kalin Bates, who was an All-Conference honorable mention, will return as well, along with senior Sami Hampton, junior Sammy Provenzano

Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: Kareem Smartt, first season

2019-20 season: 11-10, fourth in KLAA East, 56-42 loss to North Farmington in district semifinal

Key players: Junior Kerry Donehue, senior Julia Nowak

What to expect: In 2021, Stevenson will have a new head coach, but one fa-



John Glenn's Taylor Watkins-Johnson gets pressured near the basket.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

miliar with the program as a whole.

Kareem Smartt transitioned from the Stevenson boys basketball program, winning 71 games in six seasons, while advancing as far as the regional semifinal in the 2017-18 season.

The Spartans girls program is coming off recent success, too, finishing last season with 11 wins: the program's first winning season since the 2013-14 campaign in which they won 13 games and advanced to the regional semifinal.

In 2021, Smartt will have to fill the shoes of All-Conference seniors Josie Piergentili and Tara Bourdage.

Kerry Donehue returns as a junior after an All-Conference sophomore season, averaging four steals per game and shooting 45% from the floor at guard last season.

Senior Julia Nowak, an All-Conference honorable mention, returns to the starting lineup as well.

Wayne Memorial

Head coach: Jarvis Mitchell, seventh season

2019-20 season: 19-5, first in KLAA East, 51-40 loss to Saline in regional semifinal

Key players: Senior Alanna Mi-

cheaux, junior Jordan Wright, senior Lachelle Austin, sophomore Mayla Ham

What to expect: Wayne Memorial shined in 2019-20.

After losing the first three games of the season, the Zebras rolled through its KLAA schedule, winning 15 straight, including all of its regular season matchups against conference opponents.

Heading into 2021, head coach Jarvis Mitchell will have each of his four All-Conference players back: senior Alanna Micheaux who is committed to play at Minnesota; senior Lachelle Austin, who is committed to play at Eastern Michigan; junior Jordan Wright and sophomore Mayla Ham.

As a junior, Micheaux averaged a double-double, recording 27.3 points per game and 14.3 rebounds. Austin, at point guard, averaged 4.1 steals per game for the Zebras last season.

Since Wayne Memorial's 0-20 season in 2014-15, the Zebras have won 97-of-120 games, never losing more than five games in a single season.

John Glenn

Head coach: Derrick Jordan, eighth season

2019-20 season: 6-15, seventh in KLAA East, 66-31 loss to Wayne Memorial in district semifinals

Key players: Senior Taylor Watkins-Johnson

What to expect: Last season, John Glenn had a rough time playing in the KLAA.

The Rockets won three of its 11 conference games by a total of 12 points — two against Belleville and a one-point win against Dearborn Fordson. Last season, John Glenn averaged 39.4 points per game, while allowing 49.4 points per game.

Senior Taylor Watkins-Johnson will be back in 2021 to try and change the narrative.

Last season, as a junior, Watkins Johnson was the Rockets' only representative on the All-Conference team, averaging 13 points and five steals per game.

John Glenn has not had a winning record since the 2015-16 season.

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After fast start, Howell loses opener to Novi

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — For the first nine minutes, Howell made it look easy.

And maybe that was the problem. In that time frame, the Highlanders scored three goals and held a two-goal lead against Novi in the long-awaited hockey season opener Feb. 9 at 140 Ice Den. But Howell would score only one more goal in the final 42 minutes, as Novi rallied in the third period to pull out a 6-4 victory.

Trailing 4-3 entering the third, the Wildcats erupted for three goals in a 3-minute, 14-second span. Goalie Austin Muirhead shut out the Highlanders over the final 32:31.

"I feel like once we were in the lead, we kind of thought we were safe, I guess," Howell junior defenseman Ryan



Novi's Issac Gibbs, left, scored four goals and one assist in a 6-4 victory over Howell on Feb. 9.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Moran said.

Either team could be given a mulligan for not always being on top of its game. It was the first game for Novi since a

2-1 triple overtime loss to Livonia Stevenson in the regional championship game last March 4. Howell hadn't played since a 4-3 victory over Macomb L'Anse Creuse in the state Division 1 quarterfinals on March 7.

Howell was one day away from playing Saginaw Heritage in the state semifinals when the postseason was suspended, then ultimately canceled, by COVID-19 restrictions.

"Obviously, it was great," Howell junior forward Everett Pietila said in spite of the loss. "All the guys enjoyed it. We've been waiting for a while to get back on the ice. We've been skating and preparing for this moment."

Howell sophomore Hayden Sturos opened the scoring at the 1:41 mark of the first period and junior Everett Pietila made it 2-0 at the 6:49 mark. After Novi senior Issac Gibbs scored the first of his

four goals at 8:28, Scott Pominville reestablished Howell's two-goal lead just 32 seconds later.

Novi drew even at 3-3 on goals by Nate Erskine and Gibbs before the end of the first.

After a high-scoring first period, things settled down in the second. Sturos scored the only goal of the middle frame on the power play at the 1:29 mark, giving Howell a 4-3 lead.

"We were really quiet in the locker room (after the second period)," Gibbs said. "It took one of us to speak up and say, 'Let's wake up here and do something great.'"

The Wildcats came to life in the third, tying the game with 10:32 left on a power play goal by Erskine, taking their first lead on Gibbs' third goal with 8:12 left and getting an insurance goal from Gibbs with 7:18 to go.

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

proved huge in making the final stop.

With 4.6 seconds left on the clock, Northville senior guard Jacob Eyler took the ball off the inbound, facing Vickers one-on-one. As Eyler, who finished with 10 points, tried to move left around the Canton junior, Vickers stripped the ball — one of 20 turnovers for the Mustangs in the contest — giving Canton possession with 0.5 seconds left in the game.

"In a one-point game, every possession matters," Northville head coach Todd Sander said.

To Reddy, this is what he was expecting out of Vickers.

He had an idea of what he could do last year: earning All-League honors as a sophomore playing alongside seniors Jake Vickers and Ben Stesiak. But Reddy knew the role he would have to play as a junior as one of only a handful of returners — including junior guard Lake McIntosh — with only three seniors on the roster.

"We've been talking to him when he was a sophomore last year that leadership doesn't have an age," Reddy said.

"We wanted him to start finding his voice last year so this could happen this year."

Cole Vickers said the seniors from last season formed a good base for the 2021 team, having looked up to them and learned a lot from guys like Jake Vickers and Stesiak.

After scoring only six first-half points, the junior took over that same leadership role, scoring 20 of the team's 27 second-half points, making two 3s while connecting on six-of-seven free throws.

Ideally, Reddy said, this would be representative of every night for Vickers, consistently shooting, posting up against smaller players in the paint. If anything, the head coach said, the junior has been too passive.

Vickers knows he has teammates that can score — sophomore Omar Suleiman added 11, while McIntosh added eight. But Canton knows where to turn to when it needs a boost.

"I got hot in the fourth and they were feeding me the ball, getting (me) good looks," Vickers said.

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



Canton's Cole Vickers sends up a shot. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

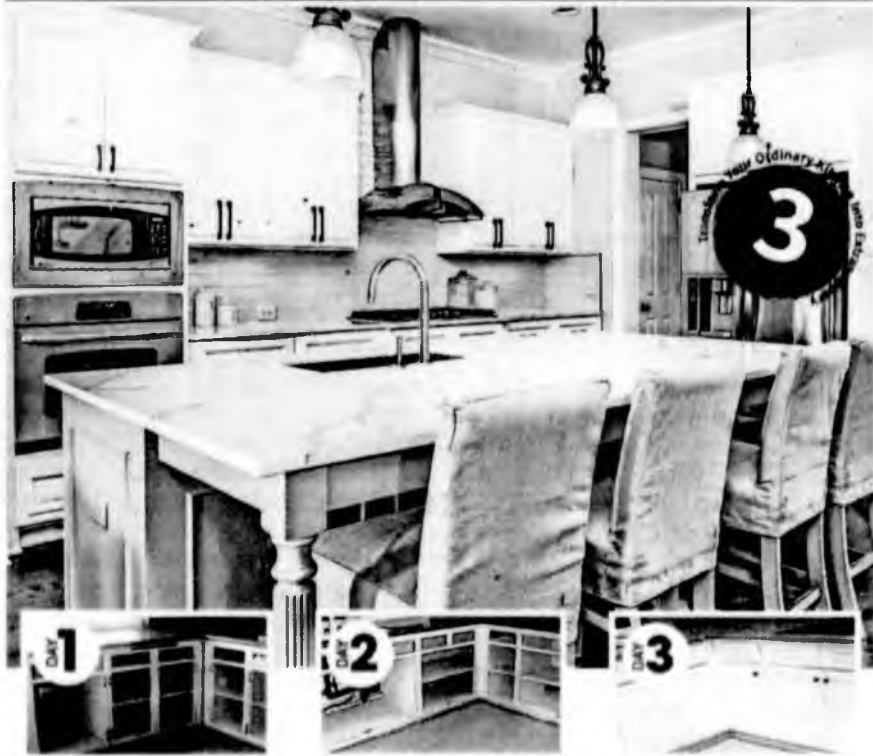
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Brother Rice basketball prepares for 2021 run

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming out of halftime in his first game of the 2021 season and holding on to a 33-17 lead against Eastpointe, sophomores Curtis Williams and Johnathan Blackwell knew exactly the play they wanted to draw up.

Taking the ball just beyond half court, Williams found his spot behind the 3-point line waiting for Blackwell to cut inside, lobbing the pass up for the easy alley-oop layup for the score, two of the Warriors' 76 points scored in their 33-point opening win Monday night.

For a newcomer like Blackwell, chemistry like that is not cultivated through weeks of practices, especially when contact is not involved. But for Williams, Blackwell, sophomore Henry Garrity and Xavier Thomas, this was just another game played together.

The four came into their sophomore season at Brother Rice with some experience as teammates, being on the same eighth-grade youth team that advanced to the Junior NBA Championship and bringing a high level of expectation to the Warriors heading into their 2021 slate.

After Thomas and Williams — both All-Catholic League players — and Garrity led Brother Rice to a 12-win season in 2019-20 — the program's first winning record since 2014-15 — Blackwell joined the team, transferring from Novi Christian Academy.

"I think Jonathan Blackwell is the best player in the state nobody talks about," Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer said. "He's grown a couple inches, he's stronger, he's athletic, he's competitive. He's everything you want. He's as good of a player... there's days where he's the best player on our team."

With the four sophomores making up the majority of the starting lineup for Palmer's team, who's in his third season with the team, the head coach said the chemistry is already there for Brother Rice: providing pressure in the backcourt, forcing turnovers that lead to fast-break scores for Thomas in the paint or hitting Williams behind the 3-point line.

With four sophomores leading the



The Brother Rice basketball team hopes to build off its success from the 2019-20 season. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

charge for the 2021 season and beyond, forward Will Shannon, the lone senior in the starting lineup, the unanimously voted captain and one of three seniors on the roster, provides a sense of stability for Palmer.

"It's nice to know what you are going to get out of him not just on game day, but every day in practice," Palmer said. "He's a great kid, he's a four-point something student, great baseball player, great basketball player, type of kid you want your daughter to date, he's just that type of guy."

"For us to achieve what we want to achieve, he's going to be a huge part of that. He's taken a huge jump from last year to this year."

As a three-year varsity player for Brother Rice, Shannon said he has watched leaders come and go from the

basketball program, including Jon Brantley: the lone senior in the Warriors' lineup during the 2019-20 season who now plays basketball at Lafayette College.

Heading into his senior season, with all of the uncertainty to get to the point of starting a schedule, Shannon said he wants to carry the same torch Brantley had, setting the tone both on and off the court.

"I think we are pretty comfortable," Shannon said. "I think there is obviously room to grow, but I think we are pretty comfortable for as much time as we have had."

Taking the court for the first game on the first possible day games could be scheduled, Palmer said he saw a group that was coming together, commending his team on the way it shared the ball,

moved the ball and defended aggressively.

While watching his team Monday night, with four sophomores and a senior in the starting lineup, Palmer said he saw a veteran group, something he could build off of. But he knows what's coming. He knows what the Catholic League will bring.

However, based on his knowledge of the league, Palmer knows that if Brother Rice can make it through the CHSL Central, their hopes are within reach.

"I've said this since the day I got the job," Palmer said. "If you are good enough to compete at a high level in the Catholic League Central, you are good enough to get to the Breslin."

"We've got high expectations, but we have a long, long, long way to go." cgay@hometownlife.com

Milford senior stands out in basketball, football

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Trevor Leigh is a late bloomer when it comes to organized sports, joining his first basketball team in sixth grade and his first tackle football team in seventh.

To him, the two sports went hand in hand. He never wanted to drop one to focus on the other. Leigh never really knew which one he was better at until much later.

"I didn't realize I was better at football until the end of my junior year and I was like, 'Maybe I could play college,'" Leigh said.

Coming out of his senior season of football at Milford, Leigh will get the chance to play at the college level, signing his letter of intent to play on the offensive line at Northern Michigan. But that doesn't mean his basketball career is over.

Heading into the 2021 season, his final transition between the two seasons is happening, one that from the outside may seem difficult — transforming a lineman into a rim-protecting forward. But to Leigh, it's something he's always done.

Instead of seeing two separate sports with two separate mindsets; two separate approaches, Leigh sees two outlets where he can showcase "Milford toughness," something he's learned ever since stepping onto the Mavericks' football field and basketball court four years ago.

From the field to the court

Milford head basketball coach Dave Gilbert refers to Leigh as "Big Trev."

From the moment he saw Leigh post up against former Milford center and current Lawrence Tech forward Gunner Gustafson as a sophomore and Gustafson telling his coach Leigh was the toughest kid to go against, Gilbert knew he had someone he could work with.

Gilbert knew he had a player who brought a distinct attitude and an infectious attitude to the rest of the roster.

"Trevor can move people," Gilbert said. "He uses his body extremely well. He sets some nasty screens because he brings that football mentality. He's not afraid to get in someone's way. He might get called for one or two moving one's in a game. Guess what: that doesn't really



Milford senior Trevor Leigh will provide the Mavericks with a big presence in the paint in 2021. COURTESY OF TREVOR LEIGH

bother me."

At 6-foot-5, Leigh is by no means the smallest player on the basketball court, playing offensive tackle and defensive end for the Mavericks in the fall. But he's usually not the tallest. He usually can't out jump the opposing post player, admitting he weighs a lot more than the guys he's up against.

Instead, he has to be tough, willing to physically move a player out of the paint, something Leigh said is representative of the generic football player that takes the basketball court during the winter season.

"Usually, they are stronger than the ones who don't," Leigh said. "You can just tell sometimes they are more physical, more tough in a lot of ways... They want to have more contact, they invite more contact and they are usually stronger as well."

But basketball has its effect on the football field, too. Milford head football coach Garfrey Smith said he has seen

Leigh go through the maturation process from sophomore to senior year, using footwork techniques developed in the gym — boxing out in the paint — played out on the line, along with his ability to condition and get stronger.

Gilbert always knew that Leigh was a football player playing basketball.

Over the summer, he would talk football with his senior forward, asking him about the recruiting process, giving him advice on talking to schools.

Leigh knew this too, saying that an invite to a camp at the University of Cincinnati that was eventually canceled due to COVID-10 secured his path to follow in the footsteps of his dad, who played college football at Central Michigan.

To Smith, what separates Leigh is his knowledge of football, teaching others on the field what they should do and how it affects the other players on the field.

"Trevor understood the game where

a lot of kids at their age didn't understand the game," Smith said. "That's the big thing for Northern is they are getting a kid that understands the game. Once they teach how they want it done, it's going to happen."

Family atmosphere

It did not take long for Leigh to realize Marquette would be home.

He first visited Northern Michigan over Christmas break, receiving an offer from the school soon after his senior season was over. While he took other visits afterwards, his mind continuously went back to the Wildcats.

"I'm a huge outdoorsman, and everything about Marquette and their football program, I immediately loved," Leigh said. "They have a family atmosphere, which was a huge thing that I wanted to see in a program because it's something I see a lot in our basketball program."

To Gilbert, Leigh was a big part of that team culture, describing him as a "teddy bear," with an ability to flip a switch when it comes to practices and games.

Smith said he brings that to the football field as well.

"Every day after practice, Trevor would come up to each coach, say, 'Thank you,' and shake our hands. That's the kind of thing you don't see very often," Smith said. "Trevor wasn't big on emotions. Just seeing him do that was huge for us."

"I'm going to miss that kind of attitude and that kind of good-spirited athlete."

Leigh's attitude was something that Milford helped develop, knowing that his school didn't have the best athletes and didn't have the most talent.

Instead, he had to be tough, something that will show up in Marquette when he gets there, but will first show up when he takes the floor for the Mavericks this winter.

"I'm big, but I'm never the biggest or strongest guy," Leigh said. "But my toughness really stands out as the reason why I am playing at the next level."

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.

Stock up on gadgets and stay within budget

Marc Saltzman
Special to USA TODAY

Just because you find yourself short on cash doesn't mean you can't afford a few cool tech toys – so long as you consider your local "dollar store."

Sometimes it's a gadget, such as a clamp-on LED light for reading in bed; other times, it's a low-tech accessory for your smartphone. "Case" in point: a fitted polycarbonate or silicone case for your iPhone or Android phone might cost you upward of \$50 at a big box store but as low as \$1 or \$2 at Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, 99 Cents Only Stores or Dollarama (in Canada).

So long as you have reasonable expectations when it comes to quality and longevity, you should be pleased with your petite purchase – especially among those watching their wallet. (After all, results from a COVID-19 survey by McKinsey Insights found 4 out of 10 Americans say their finances will not return to normal until the latter half of 2021 or 2022 and beyond.)

After scouring the aisles at a few stores, I picked the following items as some best buys to consider. Note: Not all stores carry the same items, and the brand names and exact prices may vary.

Moodlab Rex Fidelity earbuds with mic

Whether it's for use with your mobile device, laptop or game console, it's ideal to invest in a spare set of earbuds.

The Moodlab Rex Fidelity Earbuds with Mic were among the best-sounding (and most comfortable) pair I tried out of three different brands. I've got them plugged into my microphone used for podcasting, and they do the trick perfectly.

Available in several colors – including gold, blue, black and red – these 3.5mm earbuds feature a remote control on a 4.2-foot cable (with "flat wire" design).

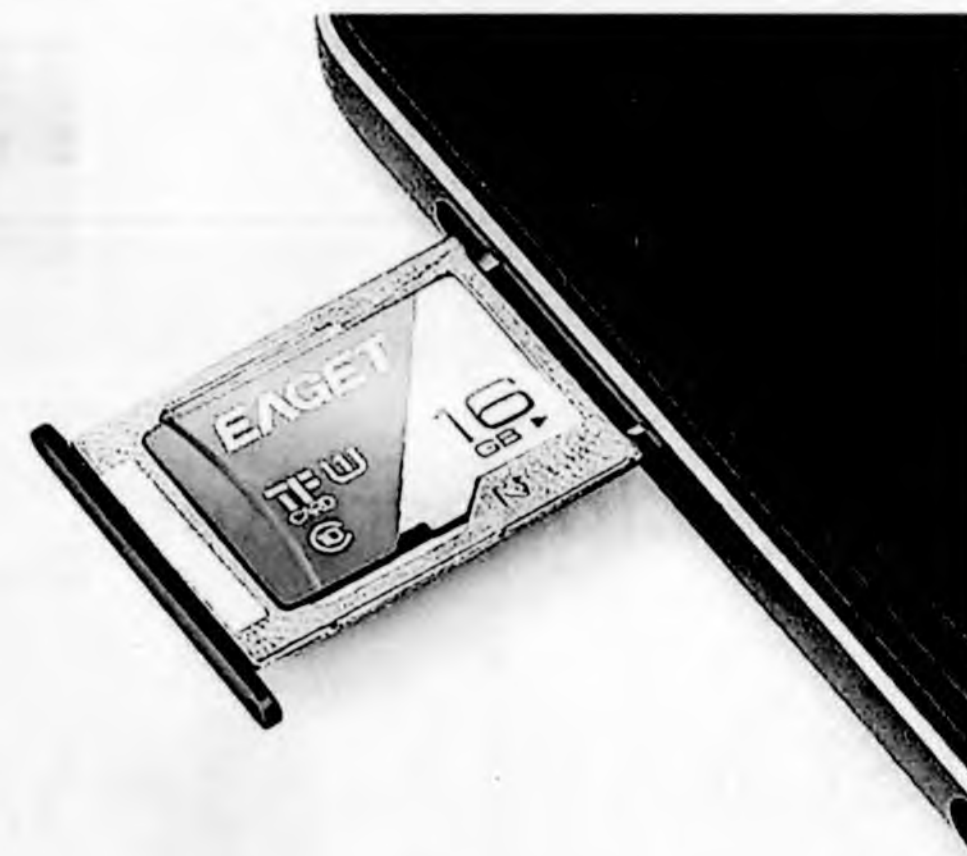
Extra tips, for varying ear sizes, are included in the box.

Universal smartphone lens kit

From Solaray, this three-piece lens kit (\$2) lets you clip on special lenses on top of your smartphone's camera lens – regardless of the make and model – to enhance the images you take.

The kit includes a wide-angle, fish-eye and macro lens.

The wide-angle lens is ideal for panoramic landscape shots, and the "hemispherical" fisheye lens offered a more playful look that rounds out the photo (not unlike some Snapchat filters). The macro lens is designed for taking close-up shots of an object, such as a flower or



Thanks for the memory! Score a 16GB microSD memory card, with adapter, on the cheap. PROVIDED BY EAGET



If your smartphone takes a 3.5mm headphone jack, you may be pleasantly surprised at the quality of these MoodLab Rex earbuds, with microphone. PROVIDED BY MOODLAB/DOLLARAMA



Though it's not "smart home" tech, it certainly is smart to pay just \$1 for a 90-decibel alarm (with batteries) to mount to a home's side or backdoor or windowsill to serve as a deterrent to a would-be thief. PROVIDED BY DOLLAR TREE/MARC SALTZMAN

insect.

To access each lens, you simply unscrew one and attach the other.

Window and door alarm

For a mere \$1, Window and Door Alarm is a two-part device that can notify a homeowner of a possible break-in.

Simply peel off the sticky adhesives on the back of this alarm, press it up against the opening of a door, window or cabinet and flick the switch to turn it on. Should the two pieces of the mag-

netic device become separated, a piercing 90-decibel alarm will sound.

Three alkaline watch batteries (LR44) are required, and included, to operate this inexpensive Dollar Tree product.

6-in-1 stylus pen

Another Dollar Tree find, this ordinary-looking ballpoint pen (\$1) is like a Swiss Army Knife, of sorts.

There's a black-ink pen on one end and a stylus on the other, to be used on

touchscreen smartphones and tablets – perhaps during colder winter months when you might have gloves on.

Along the body of the pen you'll notice a small window with liquid inside, as a bubble leveler (for, say, hanging a picture), as well as a ruler (up to 3 inches).

If you unscrew the soft stylus tip, you'll find two screwdriver heads: One is a Phillips (cross-shape) and the other a flat-head to fasten or loosen screws and bolts.

iHip Rugged Durable 2.1 amp dual-wall charger

Why charge up only one device when you can charge up two at the same time?

For \$2, the iHip Rugged is a charging cube to juice up smartphones, tablets and such, with one of the two USB-A ports a 2.1 amp slot for rapid charging, along with a regular 1 amp port for a second device. Simply plug the small, black cube into an AC socket and one or two gadgets into the female USB ports.

The company claims a "heavy duty" rugged exterior for added durability, in case you toss this doohickey into a backpack, purse or pocket.

Tech-1 HDMI cable

Even keen-eyed home theater enthusiasts might not be able to see the difference between pricy cables and this \$2 one from Tech-1.

For uncompressed, high-definition video and sound, simply connect the 5-foot HDMI cable from the output jack of your home theater components – such as a cable box, video game system or DVD/Blu-ray player – to the input jack of your television or audio-video (AV) receiver.

Keep in mind you can use an HDMI cable to connect a laptop to your TV, monitor or projector.

Eaget 16GB microSD card

For our Canadian readers, I found a 16 gigabyte microSDHC card at Dollarama for a mere \$4 (about \$3 U.S.), which is enough to store many tens of thousands of documents, several thousands of photos or hundreds of TV shows – all on something the size of your pinky fingernail.

Though many Android smartphones and tablets (and some laptops) take a microSD card, a full-size SD adapter is included in the box.

This microSD card is rated as Class 10 flash memory, which is fast enough to support full HD video recording.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.

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Great first jobs for high school students

Jessica L. Mendes
 ZipRecruiter.com

As a high school student, you constantly hear about the importance of education. There are countless resources available to help you succeed in school.

When it comes to finding a great job? Far fewer resources.

Whether you need money to pay for your car insurance, gas money or just entertainment, there are great jobs out there for high school students — even if you have no real work experience. If you are responsible, well-mannered and motivated, you can find a job that pays well and is flexible enough to work around your school schedule.

Here are a few of the best jobs for high school students with no experience:

Barista

These makers of fancy coffee drinks are in high demand. Customers often leave tips. As a bonus, certain high-profile chains offer tuition assistance for college.

Catering staff

Most catering events take place in the evenings or on weekends. Think parties, weddings and other celebrations. Catering staff do several tasks, from setting up to waiting tables.

Customer service representative

In person, over the phone or through online chat, customer service reps provide assistance and support — answering questions about products and services, processing orders and returns, and



responding to complaints.

Food delivery driver

You need a driver's license and a clean driving record to be a delivery driver. On top of an hourly wage, pizza delivery drivers usually earn tips.

Front desk receptionist

If you can answer phone calls and greet people with a smile, front desk receptionist could be the job for you. Many businesses need someone at the front to answer



FREPIK/PEXELS IMAGES

and community centers hire lifeguards; some require CPR certification.

Tutor

Are you good at a certain subject? Someone else is struggling with it. Turn your talent into a job as a tutor and help others reach their potential.

Valet parking attendant

Restaurants, hotels, shopping malls and even medical facilities offer valet parking to their patrons. With a driver's license and clean driving record, you could be paid — and tipped — to park all sorts of cars.

questions and direct guests to the right place — hotels, spas, gyms and yoga studios, to name a few.

Lifeguard

The ability to swim is a must for any lifeguard job. You get to hang out by the pool, making sure people stay safe while having fun or working out. Many gyms

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ON A MISSION

ACROSS

- 1 Doorway part
5 Mix for a deli sandwich
13 Snooty sort
20 River in Europe and Asia
21 Long, bitter speech
22 Popular hot sauce brand
23 Calf-length skirt
24 Navigable sea route in southern Chile
26 Hayloft sites
28 Home to Boise: Abbr.
29 Extra game periods, for short
30 Distrustful
31 Designer for Jackie Kennedy
35 1958 Leslie Caron film
38 Head dog
39 — tai (drink)
42 Really must
47 Tag again
51 One mapping terrain
53 In excess of
54 "Woe —!"
57 Prefix with sense

DOWN

- 58 — Melodies (old cartoon series)
59 Stand-up comedy TV series
64 Ending for form
65 Wince
66 Pakistani's language
67 Like circles
71 Daniel Boone or Johnny Appleseed
76 Lustrous gem
79 Pushpin's kin
80 Jewel box for music
84 Color
85 Kia Sedona competitor
90 Mystery's Christie
94 Org. offering tows
95 Actor Morales
96 Sundae toppings
97 Florence institute near the Uffizi Gallery
100 New York Giants' div.
103 Gussied up
104 MGM's lion
105 Tree yielding chocolate
107 "QED" center
109 Eric the Red, for one

- 115 Alvin of choreography
119 Klutz
122 Pumped stuff
123 Flood stopper
124 All through the dark hours
130 Show sleepiness
131 Most promising
132 "Been there myself, man"
133 Really liking
134 Combination punches
135 Sends along
136 Org. associated with the nine missions featured in this puzzle

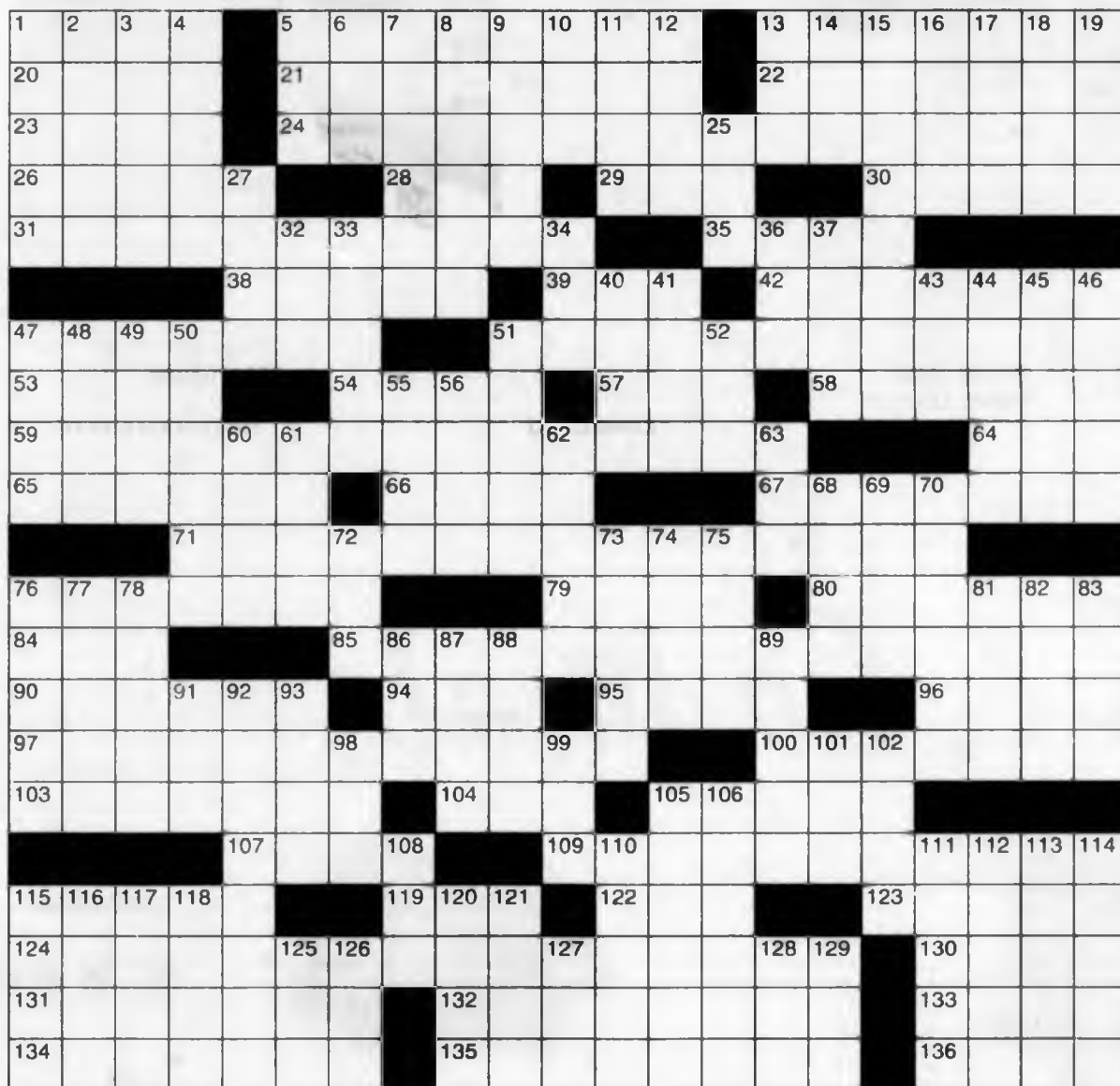
DOWN

- 1 Very big
2 Common typeface
3 The Treasure of the Sierra —"
4 Flashy jewelry, informally
5 Mag staffers
6 "Skedaddle!"
7 Tastelessly showy
8 Sports venues

- 9 Suffix with sect
10 Illuminated
11 "Peek- —!"
12 Skillful and clever
13 JFK datum
14 Fall behind
15 Religious convert's cry
16 Anecdote
17 Atoll part
18 Wound result
19 Actor Danza
25 Soup additive, for short
27 Strikebreaker
32 Bar drink
33 Skedaddle
34 "— little teapot ..."
36 Shiba — (Japanese dog breed)
37 Virus, e.g.
40 A.D. part
41 False god
43 German "the"
44 Sundae topping
45 Sheer linen fabric
46 Greek mountain nymph
47 Use deep massage on
48 Blackhearted
49 Strauss of jeans

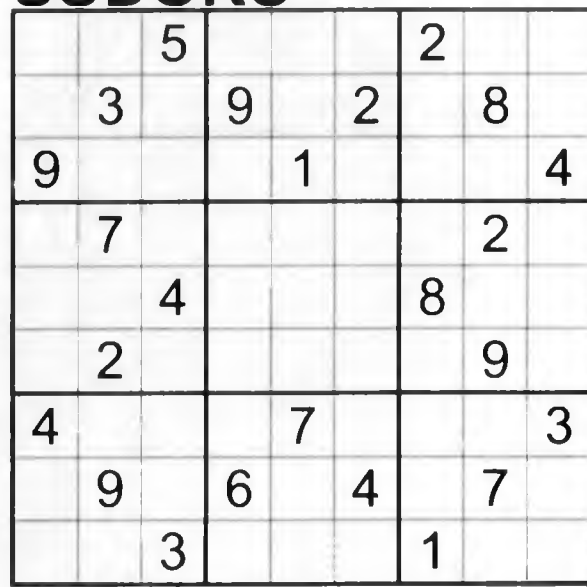
- 50 Sports venues
51 — double life
52 TV show since fall '75
55 Feng —
56 Old Ford make, in brief
60 Pinnacle
61 Those people
62 Kicks on football fields
63 Suffix with ball or bass
68 Spanish for "dry"
69 Lamarr of "Boom Town"
70 Esoteric
72 Camcorder button abbr.
73 Primitive kind of diet
74 Freezes
75 Creole veggie
76 Winner, informally
77 Foretell
78 Razz (reward the server)
81 Water, to Juanita
82 Mounts, as a gemstone
83 Formerly, formerly
86 "2001" computer
87 Train support
88 Harvard rival
89 Singer Gill
91 Golf peg

- 92 Melon variety
93 Golden — (senior)
98 Cavity fillers' org.
99 Mega years
101 Most preferred: Abbr.
102 Corkscrew
105 Baby bed
106 Analyzes in a lab
108 "TiK —" (#1 Kesha hit)
110 Stares at creepily
111 Enter, as to a database
112 An ex-Trump
113 Lizardlike amphibians
114 Port of Italy
115 "Hair" haido
116 Pumped stuff
117 Suffer defeat
118 Discharge
120 Leave — (reward the server)
121 World Cup gp.
125 GI tour gp.
126 Intersectors of aves.
127 French "the"
128 Vie for the affection of
129 "Sister Act" figure



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.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!

BE MY VALENTINE

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.

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

ADMIRER
ADORE
AFFECTION
ANONYMOUS
BEAU
BELOVED
BE MINE
BOUQUET
BOYFRIEND
CANDLE
CARD
CHOCOLATES
CONFECTIONERY
CUDDLE
DARLING
DATE
DOZEN
EMOTION
FEBRUARY
GIFT
HEARTS
HUG
HUSBAND
INFATUATION
INTIMATE
KISS
LOVE
PASSION
PINK
POSY
RED
RIBBONS
ROSES
SENTIMENT
SUITOR
SURPRISE
SWEETHEART
SYMBOLIC
TENDERNESS
TRUE
UNEXPECTED
VALENTINE
WIFE
WOOER

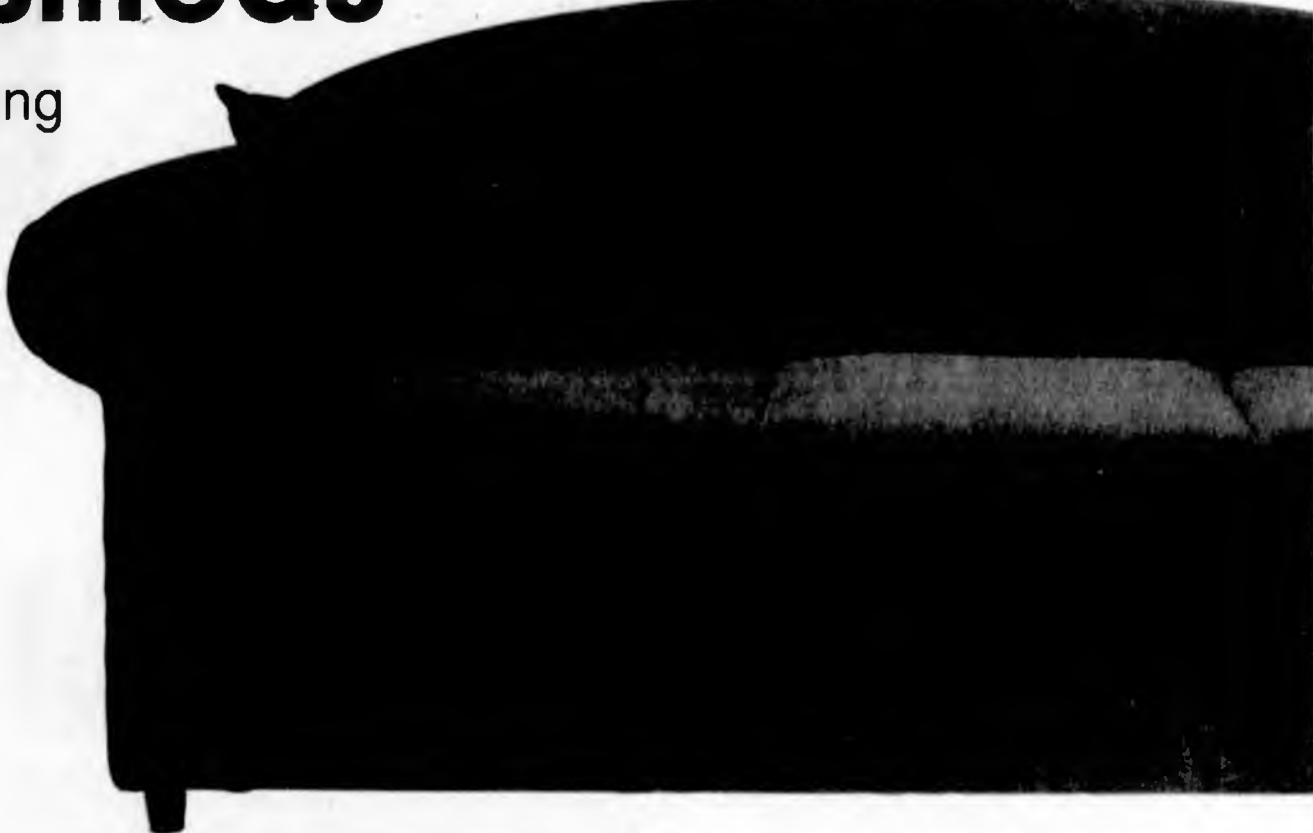


BE MY VALENTINE

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

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