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SL East basketball continues dominance

SPORTS, 1B

South Lyon grad perseveres in Mars mission

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Andrew Plave knows more than a little about Perseverance, both literally and figuratively.

The 2012 South Lyon East valedictorian was determined to work for NASA. He applied numerous times, endured rejection and finally had to make

a case for himself in front of about 30 of some of the smartest people on the planet before he ultimately landed a job as an engineer in the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Now Plave is living his dream, assessing data sent from Perseverance, NASA's newest rover, which landed on Mars on Feb. 18.

"It takes awhile to communicate with

a rover on a different planet, it's not a joystick we are driving around," Plave said. "We send up entire days' worth of activities for the rover to do.

"There are times in the day when we get data back and assess how it is going and make adjustments."

Plave laughs easily and is enthusiastic with a down-to-earth manner as he talks about his job.

He is the lead of the downlink room, which he explains essentially is making sure the multi-billion dollar rover continues to operate and communicate successfully with the engineers and scientists on Earth.

So far, so good, just like Plave's path to the control room.

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The Weal Inn pub bartender Natalie Lucassian pours a shot of Jameson whisky on March 4. The Irish pub in Highland will be welcoming visitors on St. Patrick's Day for indoor and outdoor dining. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Irish pubs prepare for slightly toned down St. Patrick's Day

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

That Guinness might taste just a little bit sweeter this year for St. Patrick's Day for those heading to the pub.

Nearly one year to the day restaurant dining rooms were first ordered closed in Michigan near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year marks the first St. Paddy's Day in two years that can be celebrated in the pub.

But despite most pubs being open, it's not going to feel the same way as it did before 2020. Restrictions on indoor dining meant to curtail the spread of the coronavirus mean the Irish pubs won't be as packed as they usually are in mid-March.

Frank Grisa, owner of O'Malley's Irish Pub in Livonia, said he's happy to

have St. Patrick's Day return but wishes it could look like some of the parties he's thrown in the past, which included plenty of live music, outdoor tents and visits from local Irish dance schools.

"We can't do what we usually do," said Grisa, who owns the restaurant on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Farmington. "Two years ago, in the 17 hours we were open we ran 2,800 people."

The thousands who typically visit during the day each year will be significantly curtailed at O'Malley's this year: with capacity set at 50% by the state Department of Health and Human Services as of March 5, the interior of the bar can fit around 60 people.

The owners at Sean O'Callaghan's

See PUBS, Page 2A



A little leprechaun perches near a map of Ireland at O'Malley's Irish pub in Livonia.

Rooftop seats could come to downtown Northville bar

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Rooftop dining could be on its way to downtown Northville.

Renovations at Poole's Tavern, 157 E. Main St., call for the addition of a rooftop seating area above the bar, adding several tables. This comes after the renovations currently taking place in the interior of the restaurant.

"Poole's has had a problem with a very small kitchen. It's been very difficult to accommodate the customers," said Craig MacDonnell, an architect working on the renovations for the tavern. "They made the decision to invest in a full size kitchen, a full service kitchen in the back."

"It's going to be a much nicer place to be able to have dinner and have some drinks and kind of hang out."

Plans for the project were reviewed

See ROOFTOP, Page 2A

Northville students earn third place in FAA contest

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Based on the results of a recent Federal Aviation Administration Airport Design Challenge that generated more than 1,200 entries from 21 countries, the sky is the limit for a group of Northville middle school students.

Working under the team name Aireos, two students each from Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools, and one former Northville student who recently moved to Texas, combined their innovative minds (and a passion for the video game Minecraft) to earn a third-place finish in the competition that drew interest from students from around the globe.

And they did it all during arguably the roughest portion of the global pandemic and while overcoming a techni-

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Pubs

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Pub in downtown Plymouth are hoping to have a unique celebration, depending on several factors. The bar at 821 Penniman applied to hold a St. Patrick's Day outdoor event at the Plymouth Gathering, the covered shelter space next to the Penn Theatre. Pub owner Sam Khashan applied to the city for a permit to allow for a single-day event for the holiday, something the city commission approved in early March. Approval from the state was still required, something that had not yet happened as of March 8.

"Within the restaurant, we're going to do our regular menu," he said. "If we get the gathering place, it would be a limited menu with some traditional Irish stuff like corned beef and cabbage and reubens."

Khashan said if it's approved by the state, the space will be limited to 100 people, far below the outdoor limit currently set by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which is 300 people.

A different look, feel

The celebrations come after a rough year for bars and restaurants. Many have closed permanently, affected by lengthy shutdowns that shuttered dining rooms for nearly half of the last year, forcing restaurants to convert to a take-out-only model. Restaurant dining rooms were ordered closed by the state to help slow the spread of COVID-19, a disease that has infected about 600,000 people and killed more than 15,000 peo-



The Weal Inn Irish pub in Highland will be open to guests on St. Patrick's Day. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ple. They remained shuttered last year from March 16 — one day before St. Patrick's Day, leaving pubs scrambling to sell all the food they ordered for the holiday — to early June, and were closed again in mid-November before reopening again in February. During those times dining rooms have been open the last year, they've operated at a reduced capacity.

Planning has become a challenge, especially in light of the shift from allowing 25% capacity to 50% capacity, made by the state earlier this month. Having

St. Patrick's Day celebrations with 25% capacity was difficult to swing, but more people allowed has allowed owners such as Khashan more options to plan something, he said.

That includes having live music, something Khashan said he wasn't originally planning on but now wants to do at the Plymouth pub since more people will be allowed in.

"When we were only allowed 45 people, it would be really hard to have a band in here," he said. "Now with the change, I'm trying to scramble to find a

band."

For Mitch Black, owner of Dick O'Dow's in downtown Birmingham, having live music just isn't in the cards this year. To make room in the front of the pub for the acts to play, he would need to remove tables, which would only allow a few dozen people in the front to enjoy it.

Couple that with some of the musical acts he typically brings to the restaurant at 160 W. Maple being older individuals

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Contest

Continued from Page 1A

cal glitch that erased all of their early-process work, proving there is no obstacle too daunting for excellence if you put your mind to it.

"When I first heard about the contest from my teacher, Ms. (Deborah) Cannistraro-Hall, I thought, 'Whoa! This is cool because it involves Minecraft, which we all play,'" said Arjun Saini, the team's lead member. "I called my friends right away and before long we were on a server and building our project."

"There were some obstacles to overcome, including one of our team members living in a different time zone (Central Standard Time), but overall it was a fun and challenging competition."

The challenge required that teams submit weekly assignments from an FAA official over a six-week span before compiling a Minecraft-centered video that was submitted to contest officials.

Team Aireos consisted of Hillside students Saini and Chet Sands; Meads Mill students Ivi Akinyemi and Ritvik Ellendula; and former Northville resident Justin Ambrozaitis.

The Northville-based team was not only the youngest honored team (students in grades 7-12 were eligible to compete), but it was the only contingent from Michigan that was honored by the FAA.

"The Airport Design Challenge gave students the opportunity to design virtual airports in Microsoft Minecraft based on guidance from FAA aerospace and engineering experts," an FAA representative explained. "Participating stu-



Pictured are members of the third-place team along with their support staff: Back row from left, Dr. Anvita Bitta Saini, Hillside teacher Deborah Cannistraro-Hall, Arjun Saini (team lead) and Hillside Principal William Jones. Front row from left are Chet Sands, Ivi Akinyemi and Ritvik Ellendula.

ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

dents meet aviation professionals during the challenge and learn about the aerospace industry."

Challenge requirements included:

- Five weeks of organized lesson plans covering topics from airport layout, pavement, lighting, structures, and innovative growth;

- Weekly knowledge check quizzes, which were turned in accompanied by screen shots of student progress;

- Collaborative work between students, parents and teachers performed in a virtual environment; and

- STEM-based applied knowledge in math, engineering, and career development.

After initially contemplating using Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport as the facility to use as its foundation, team members decided on Gerald R. Ford International Airport in

Grand Rapids as its primary source.

"Once we saw the schematics of Metro Airport, we found it was 1,000 blocks, which would have been hard due to its size," said Saini. "We looked at Bishop Airport (in Flint), but decided on Gerald R. International Airport because it was the perfect size and we wanted to keep it in Michigan."

Team Aireos was notified on Jan. 4 that it was one of the contest's 12 finalists before learning of its top-three finish during a virtual award ceremony live-streamed on Jan. 21.

"I enjoyed the contest for a lot of reasons," said Sands. "First of all, I met some new friends. Also, I love playing Minecraft, so it made it more fun than work. The next time I visit an airport, I'll know more about what goes on behind the scenes."

Ellendula estimated the team spent two to three hours a day working on the project, which was entirely separate from their middle school curriculum.

"Communicating was hard at times as we were only able to get together in person as a group once," Ellendula said. "We learned a lot about teamwork and how to work together even though we were on video calls for the most part."

Like any team, Aireos had to work through small-scale disagreements, they all admitted.

But in the end, their cohesion prevailed and their efforts will be ultimately rewarded within a few weeks when their shiny medals are delivered — who knows, maybe passing through Gerald R. Ford International Airport on the way — to their home mail boxes.

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Rooftop

Continued from Page 1A

during the Northville Planning Commission's March 2 meeting. The commission delayed taking any action on the proposal, with the commission requesting a few more details be included such as a revised lighting plan, revised site plan showing the new stairwell and others. It's expected to be taken back up during a future planning commission meeting.

The renovations are being done in two phases: the first phase, which is currently underway, is work on the interior of the restaurant and kitchen, which hopes to conclude later this spring. The second phase will include adding the rooftop dining area with work taking place later this year.

The proposal would require a new staircase be constructed on the east side of the property and would require the tavern acquire some city land to construct it. The city council this past week reviewed the request for the restaurant to purchase several feet of city-owned land just east of the res-



Poole's Tavern sits along East Main Street in downtown Northville.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

taurant, a decision that appears to be moving forward.

"We were very happy to find out from council last night that there's going to be some accommodation for the stairwell," MacDonell said. "The stairwell is a life safety issue, so we really need to make that a part of the project."

Patrons on the rooftop will be limited to those who have seats up there to ensure safety, MacDonnell said. That number will total 49 guests. The rooftop would be open seasonally during spring, summer and fall.

Commissioner Thomas Barry said he wanted to make sure safety is a priority for such a patio. He said he's seen issues elsewhere involving people throwing things from atop the rooftop to the ground and wanted to make sure such issues wouldn't happen in Northville as well.

"There's something about standing on a rooftop that's different than standing out on the street, even sitting and eating in the street or even eating in an enclosed area," Barry said. "Whoever manages this, they're have two issues that I see that really need to be managed and also overseen by the city so that standards are set for how people conduct themselves when they're up there."

But overall, planning commissioners said they were optimistic about the project and looked forward to its completion once everything was in order. Commissioner Steve Kirk said he thinks once open, the rooftop will be a premiere destination downtown.

"I'm only disappointed by the fact they're only allowed to have 49 people upstairs," he said. "Knowing the management, I'm sure it will be well-controlled."

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Grad

Continued from Page 1A

Job shadow set career path

He didn't always have his sights set on a planet millions of miles from Earth. Growing up, Plave thought he wanted to be a doctor.

Then, in his senior year at South Lyon East, he job shadowed a cousin at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida., doing work related to lunar excavations for moon missions.

Just like that, he was shooting for the stars. He called the admissions office at the University of Michigan where he was already accepted to tell them he was changing his major from medicine to aerospace engineering with a minor in physics.

When Plave started at U-M, NASA's Curiosity rover had just landed on Mars and that focused his vision further.

"I was seeing high-definition photos of the robotics team on Mars, it was the pinnacle of what I wanted to accomplish," Plave said. "I wanted to be involved in one of the Mars rovers, operating one or designing one."

Subsequently, everything he did through college was to get the job he has now, including research projects with professors and landing an internship with MIT Lincoln Laboratories working on cube satellites, which can be sent up on spacecraft with very specific objectives.

In 2016, as he graduated from U-M, Plave thought he had done everything in his power to get a foot in the door at NASA. He applied "a ton of times" for an internship at JPL, but the competition was fierce and they ran out of spots.

He was undeterred.

"I got rejected, but the way I viewed it is, 'I am going to work at JPL. It's not happening now, but it will in the future,'" Plave recalls. "I viewed it as an opportunity to become a better engineer, and when I get in, I will be that much better."

Adding skills for NASA

So Plave turned his eyes to Arizona, where he went to work for Raytheon as an engineer on defense systems for the government.

He admits he did not enjoy the work and never stopped thinking about his end goal.

"It was always, I need to make an impact, do work that people care about and that makes a difference to humanity," Plave said. "I wasn't getting that at Raytheon. I wanted to be on a big project."

In his off hours, he built up skills he thought he was lacking for NASA. He learned how to code, got some more robotics experience and kept checking for openings at NASA and applying any time he saw something remotely close to his qualifications.

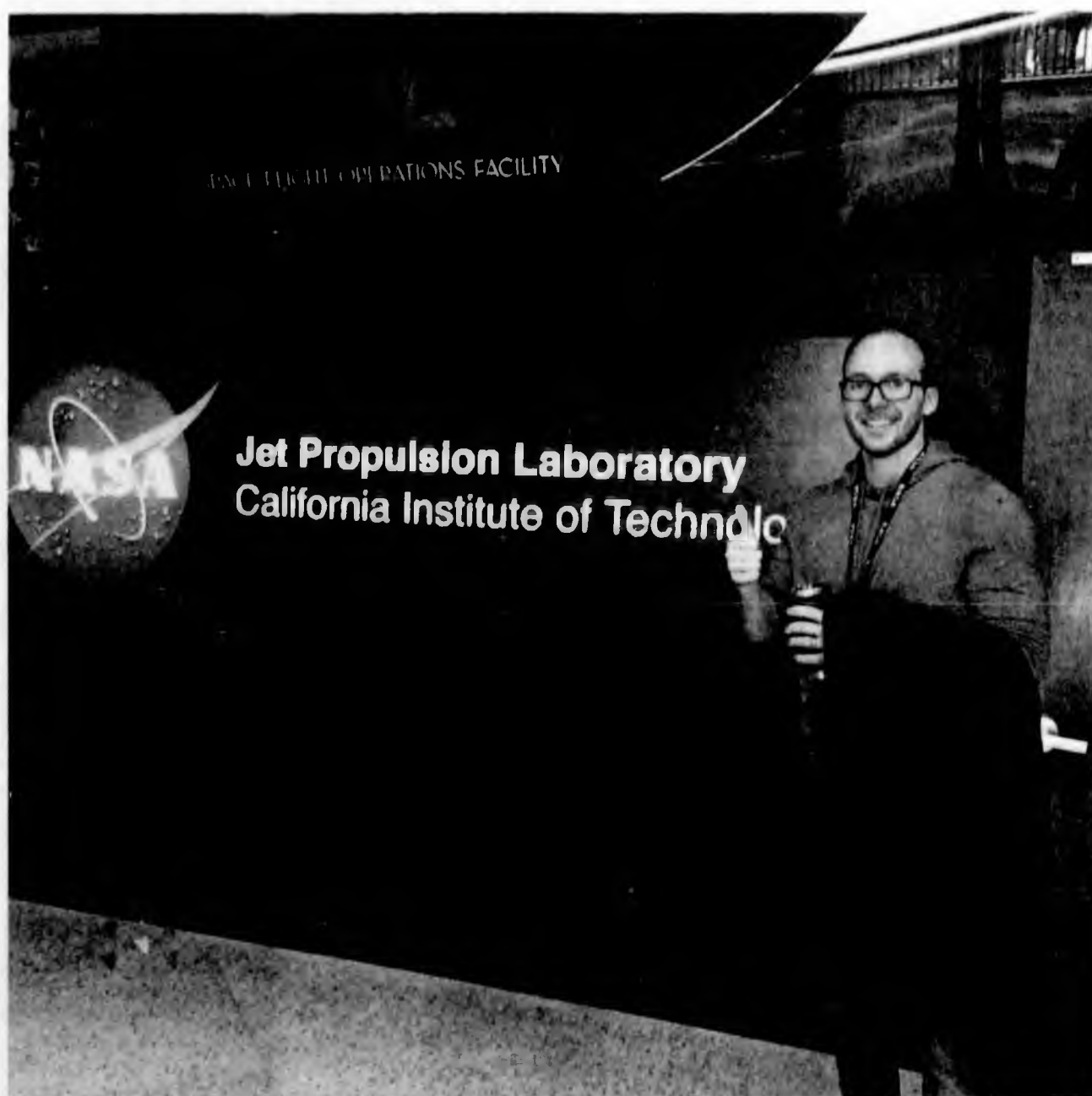
After eight months, he saw a systems engineering role at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was called in for an interview, in which he gave an hour-long presentation about the work he had done to about 30 engineers with whom he sought to work alongside.

The next day, he was offered the job, which entailed assessing or sending data to two Mars rovers: Curiosity, the one that originally sparked his interest in college, and Opportunity, which he sent commands to until a global dust storm covered all the panels in 2018, and from which it hasn't been heard from since.

Plave continued commanding and assessing photos and data from Curiosity until 2019, when "it was all hands on deck for the 2020 Mars mission." Plave is thrilled to have a hand in a flagship mission from its inception. Before the rover's launch from Cape Canaveral last July, he helped develop the software for the rover.

Due to COVID-19, Plave watched both the launch and the landing from the Pasadena home he shares with wife Renae, also a South Lyon East graduate, but the moments were no less awe-inspiring.

"It was really surreal to watch the launch, you un-



Andrew Plave, a 2012 South Lyon East graduate, scored his dream job as a NASA engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. COURTESY OF ANDREW PLAVE

derestimate the impact it will have on you," Plave said. "To watch something you worked on launch to another planet and also to see it land there, you can't really put in words what that feels like. I was a little emotional. I was nervous for the landing, it's so complicated, but the engineers who do this, they are so good."

More than 6,000 employees work at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, with roughly 200 dedicated to the 2020 Mars Mission.

The Perseverance rover is seeking ancient signs of life on Mars and uses a caching system. The rover drills and collects Martian rock and soil samples, which it places in sealed sample tubes and leaves on the planet for a future Mars mission to collect, Plave said.

Life revolves around rover

Right now, there is no typical day for Plave. He works around Mars time, not Earth time. The Mars day is longer than ours, and his work revolves around what the rover is doing. When the rover landed on Feb. 18, Plave's day started at noon PST. As of last week, it was starting at 6 or 7 p.m. and he adds a time zone every two or three days.

"The coolest thing is seeing the pics and videos come down in real time," Plave said. "The color pics are just breathtaking, it landed in an ancient river delta and what I see is a ton of opportunity to do a ton of cool science on a lot of the rocks there. When you see the pics, you're like I wonder what that cool formation is, I wonder what's over there."

He notes, however, that he has learned there is a very big difference between scientists and engineers working on the project and "a lot of times we bump heads."

As an engineer, Plave is concerned with making

sure the rover is safe, healthy and functional, whereas the scientists' primary objective is getting the data from the planet.

Plave is enjoying his place in the NASA universe. He has not had too much time to consider what he wants to accomplish next, but muses that he would like to be involved with the sample return mission and do more robotics at JPL.

For now, he is doing exactly what he wants.

"I love being part of something that challenges me mentally every day," he said. "This is exactly what I expected and wanted to be involved with since I was in high school."

The rover is doing exactly what is expected, too, but Plave and the team are prepared for the worst, having done training exercises for all the things that could go awry.

His nightmare is not a dust storm like the one that struck the Opportunity rover, but a hardware failure. Losing communication with the rover would be disastrous, but Plave notes that Perseverance has many fail-safes built into the software.

"It will always try to communicate. It has protections against a lot of different fault scenarios," he said.

And Perseverance has a lot of work to do in a mission expected to last at least one year, and many big questions to answer about the universe and science in general, including the big one: Was there life on another planet?

"We have wanted that answer for a long time," Plave said. "This will give insight into the origins of the universe and the planets. More specifically, about Mars and what it looked like millions and billions of years ago."

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

Pubs

Continued from Page 2A

not comfortable playing in public right now and he's decided to forgo live music for the first time on St. Patrick's Day at the pub in more than 20 years.

"We're just not going to put people in that position," Black said.

Instead, he's hoping to bring people in throughout the week to mark the holiday instead of just March 17, offering corned beef and shepherd's pie beginning the weekend prior. The bar will open at 7 a.m. March 17 for breakfast and seating will be available outside, both in front of the restaurant and in back.

Grisa said earlier this month he's also trying to figure out music: he said he typically begins planning for St. Patrick's Day at O'Malley's after the first of the year. This year, he didn't do any extended planning beforehand, not knowing what would be allowed by the state.

He said he hopes to clear off part of his stage — which has become a storage space for the tables and chairs he's not allowed to use due to capacity limits — and book a small musical act, though there was no exact word in early March as to who that would be.

The additional tent that's usually up in the parking lot, Grisa said, will also not go up this year. Given how much goes into setting it up, including heaters and other amenities, Grisa said it wasn't worth the gamble to try and do this year.

"We just decided to not do it," he said. "We just can't guess with that kind of money."

Keeping at capacity

There's one thing Grisa has invested in this year he hadn't planned on: a handheld tally counter for use at the door. Given the attention Irish pubs get on St. Pat-

rick's Day, Grisa said he expects state inspectors will visit the bar that day to count heads and make sure they aren't over.

An employee will most likely stand at the door to make sure the bar doesn't go over capacity, an issue Grisa said he's heard about at plenty of bars across the state during the last year.

"It's a crazy day. There's just a lot of people going out partying and not concerned about the rules and that kind of thing," he said. "I'm responsible, regardless of how I feel about it."

A tent will be up at The Weal Inn in Highland Township, said employee Erica O'Connor. She said the bar at 2933 E. Highland near Duck Lake Road will serve up plenty of Irish fare.

"We'll have our corned beef and cabbage," she said. "We'll also have beef stew."

She said she knows it will look a little different than previous years, but said she hopes to see plenty of people hoping to celebrate.

"We're obviously hoping to see a ton of people," O'Connor said.

Despite not having the usual party Dick O'Dow's

usually has, having the bar open for the holiday this year for St. Patrick's Day marks another step forward. He said the bar has gotten plenty of phone calls inquiring about

"For us, the biggest key is it's a starting to return to normalcy," Black said. "Getting some of the traditions we've ad for so many years to come back to again."

"It's definitely a great sign, it really is."

Grisa said they'll bring out plenty of traditional food that day, including corned beef and cabbage, during their opening hours, which will begin at 8 a.m. and run until they have to close, which is currently at 11 p.m., per state order.

Regardless of the restrictions no matter how much Grisa isn't a fan, it's a special day at the pub at Five Mile and Farmington. And he's determined to keep it that way.

"I'm excited for St. Patrick's Day. I'm Irish. I'm always excited for it," Grisa said. "I guess we'll be celebrating it a little bit more in our hearts than our livers."

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ALL IN SAIT TO CELEBRATE

South Lyon firefighters rescue Mozart the cat

Susan Bromley hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mozart the cat hit a sour note after climbing a tree in which he was stuck for hours, but is back in tune thanks to South Lyon firefighters.

"We received a real life miracle when Captain Cory Armstrong learned about our situation, rallied his troops and rescued our cat in the nearly freezing temperatures 40 feet in the air at 1 o'clock in the morning," Jennifer Music said. "We knew without having front claws and him being exclusively an indoor cat, he had grave odds making it through the night. He was frozen in fear."

The orange feline, roughly 10 years old, has lived a relatively calm indoor life since Jennifer and Dan Music rescued him from a barn during a polar vortex about 9 years ago. The couple adopted Mozart into a family that also includes Emily, 14, Henry, 10, and Grace, 8. Four years ago, the family added Indiana the dog, who appears to love the cat, an affection not returned.

Still, things were mostly harmonious until a fun Saturday night in which a bonfire and backyard game of laser tag suddenly went from symphony to cacophony.

As Jennifer Music was passing out laser tag gear through an open doorway to the kids, the curious cat was suddenly spooked by the over-friendly dog and bolted out the door with dog in hot pursuit.

Music wrangled the dog back into the house, but the cat proved much trickier. As she was putting Indiana in a crate, Mozari was streaking up a tree three houses away from their home on Hearthside.

"It's ridiculous. The tree is 30 feet higher than the house it's sitting next to," Music recalled. "My neighbor was like, 'the cat is heading up the tree,' and I thought 'there's no way he's up the tree, you guys are chasing a raccoon, you are delusional.' I get outside after crating the dog and we can't see the cat, just glowing eyes."

As she called Mozart's name, "pathetic, sad" yowls came from the forlorn animal.

Soon, what seemed like half the neighborhood was gathered around the



Mozart relaxes at home in South Lyon after his big adventure.
COURTESY OF JENNIFER MUSIC

"The tree is 30 feet higher than the house it's sitting next to. My neighbor was like, 'the cat is heading up the tree,' and I thought, 'there's no way he's up the tree, you guys are chasing a raccoon, you are delusional.' I get outside ... we can't see the cat, just glowing eyes."

Jennifer Music
Owner, Mozart the cat

tree, gazing up and trying to coax the cat down. Music knocked on an unfamiliar neighbor's door and appraised them of the situation in their back yard. She was embarrassed, but they seemed unfazed.

She later learned they went to bed and slept through the whole debacle, which would include Music shaking a cat treat bag for hours until the contents were crumbles and pacing back and forth as she pleaded to Mozart to come down.

But the cat wouldn't budge.

Then almost three hours into their ordeal, Dan Music saw off-duty South Lyon Fire Captain Cory Armstrong, who lives in the neighborhood, passing by.



South Lyon Fire Captain Cory Armstrong climbs a 35-foot extension ladder on his way to rescue Mozart, a 10-year-old cat, from a tree about 1 a.m. Feb. 28. Holding the ladder are firefighters Dexter Kernohan and Devin Mayer.
COURTESY OF DAN MUSIC

"He asked, 'What is the emergency?' and I said, 'I know it sounds silly, but my cat is in a tree,'" Dan Music said, picking up the story.

Armstrong was back by about 12:30 a.m. Sunday with the ladder truck that carries the 35-foot extension ladder. He was joined by firefighters Dexter Kernohan and Devin Mayer, who held the base of the ladder, while Armstrong climbed up with an animal snare he obtained from the police.

"At the end of the day, he got the ladder positioned, and he himself climbed that dang ladder, and it's amazing," Dan Music said. I was in complete awe and I love my cat, but I don't want this man to get hurt."

Mozart was clearly terrified and clinging "real tight" to the tree with his back claws, which were bloodied from the ordeal. Armstrong put the snare around the hissing cat, then tugged him off the branch and descended the ladder, at last placing the distraught Mozart into his owner's arms.

This was Armstrong's first cat rescue in 17 years with the fire department.

"Nine times out of 10 they come down on their own," he said. "Usually if they get up there, they can get down, but the family had kids upset, and I told them if I can do it I'd attempt it. And it worked out. I was glad I could help."

Fire Chief Robert Vogel said in his 33 years, there have been a few runs on cats in trees. The usual advice is to put a can of tuna fish down for extra incen-

tive.

"The theory is, they always come down. You never find a cat skeleton, but this cat had been up there for awhile," he said. "What Cory did was kind of dangerous, but it's safer for him to try to do it than the cat owner. We are still a small town and we try to help people out."

The Music family is grateful for the help, convinced that without it, the story could have had a very sad ending, instead of what they now have, which is a mostly harmonious home again.

Mozart is back to getting lots of pets and treats and mostly ignoring the dog.

"I was worried he was going to have a heart attack in that tree, but the next day he was back to being a cozy, napping cat, sprawled out and fine, watching squirrels out the window, but still a little mad at the dog," Jennifer said.

She feels Mozart has learned his lesson, and he is not the only one.

"The whole pandemic has had all of us in this place of really questioning humanity and asking, are we still really one community?" Jennifer Music said. "We walked away with renewed optimism... We just really want to say thank you for saving our cat and giving us hope. If it had not been for (Armstrong's) heroism and for the collaboration of the fire department, our family might be telling a different story today."

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

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Providing Safe Care for the Entire Family

Adriane Marchese, MS, MD, and Lauren Marchese, MS, MD, earned their medical degrees from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in East Lansing and completed their residencies at Michigan State University/McLaren in Flint.

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MARCH 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3.1

SIMPLE QUESTIONS...

THAT NOBODY ASKS UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.

WHY YOUR SHINY BRAND-NEW ESTATE PLAN IS A DANGEROUS CLUNKER!

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

WOULD YOU HAPPILY PUT YOUR KIDS IN THE
BACK SEAT OF A PINTO?

Eyewitness:

"the car
exploded "like
a large napalm
bomb" when it
was hit"



Why does
anyone plan their estate? Why did you spend all
that time and money for a will or trust? If you
are like most people, you plan ahead for peace
of mind. Sure, the future is uncertain, but we are
not helpless. Estate planning and elder law can
ensure that our life's work will serve us. And our
families or loved ones. Too bad most planning
does not work that way.

What does everybody know about the Ford
Pinto? It was a good-looking car. Economical!
Popular in the 70's. Millions sold. But it had
an unfortunate tendency to explode on impact,
engulfing its passengers in a gasoline fireball.
With disastrous consequences for all concerned.
Yikes!

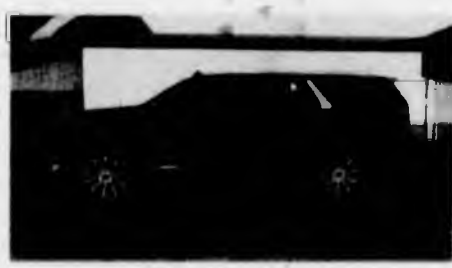
I love my 1956 Chevrolet BelAir. Less than



26000 miles on the odometer. All original, from
the canvas "carpet" to the radio with tubes rather
than transistors. But the dashboard is painted
steel, no padding. Seatbelts? Not in 1956. The
steering column is solid metal. That ends in a
point. Disturbing tendency to turn the driver into
a shish kebab in a head-on collision. Airbags not
invented yet. Whoops!

I do like to drive my BelAir... it is not
a museum piece. But I drive it carefully.
Cautiously. Defensively. With my kid in the
backseat.

Today's cars are loaded with airbags, mirrors,
collision avoidance systems, backup cameras,
beepers, buzzers, bells and whistles. New cars
have airbags all over the place. Some slam
on the brakes automatically. The Caddy even



tightens your seatbelt before a crash. Nothing to
worry about. Whew!

YOUR ESTATE PLAN IS AN EDESL.

Most estate planning is like the Edsel.
Obsolete from the get-go. Answering the wrong
questions. And doing it poorly.



The Wrong Goals: Avoid Probate. Save Taxes.
Get It to the Kids. These things all happen after
you die. But you are not dead yet. Shouldn't we
be a little concerned with what happens before
you die? Maybe taking care of you is the best
way to take care of them.

How do you feel, loading your kids into the
backseat of a 1975 Pinto? Taking them to school.
Driving around town. Going to see grandma.
Safe? Secure? Or are your eyes locked on that
tiny rearview mirror. Fearfully scanning for
danger?



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Edsel. LifePlanning™ is focused on you. On the
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Ignore them if you like. At your peril. That is
what the Pinto folks did. With explosive results.
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choice for you. No legacy for the kids.

LifePlanning™ maximizes the things that
are most important to you. We all have to go
sometime, but why rush it? Why not remain
alert? Independent? Engaged? Aware? In charge?
Why shouldn't your choices matter? Refuse to
let others decide "what to do" with you! Reject
dependence.

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earned, while preserving life savings. Not for the
kids, but to supplement those earned benefits.
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Twelve thousand for skilled care. Who can
afford it? Medicaid is the way America pays
for long-term care. Medicaid wants you broke.
Medicaid is the government solution.

LifePlanning™ says OK! You earned the
government solution. But since when was the
government solution adequate? Why did you
work? Take overtime? Save and invest? You do
not have to settle. You can make your lifesavings
work for you while receiving the benefits you
earned.

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SPOUSE AND FAMILY? FOR YOU?

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like giving. Not what you have earned. Not
what you want. Not what you deserve. With a
whimper, not a bang. Quieter than a flaming
fireball of dramatic death, but just as devastating.
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Without LifePlanning™, you are driving
a Pinto. Do not have good answers to the
questions. No one has your back. Maybe things
will work out. Maybe you will get home today.
Maybe. Why not be sure?

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Better read this if you are 62 or older and still making mortgage payments.

More than 1 million seniors have taken advantage of this "retirement secret."

It's a well-known fact that for many older Americans, the home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 45% of their total net worth. *And with interest rates near all-time lows while home values are still high, this combination creates the perfect dynamic for getting the most out of your built-up equity.*

But, many aren't taking advantage of this unprecedented period. According to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than **7.7 trillion dollars* of unused home equity.**

Not only are people living longer than ever before, but there is also greater uncertainty in the economy. With home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted

in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 98% of their clients are satisfied with their loans. While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners - especially in times like these.

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when looking for the best long-term outcome.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan; however the borrowers are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

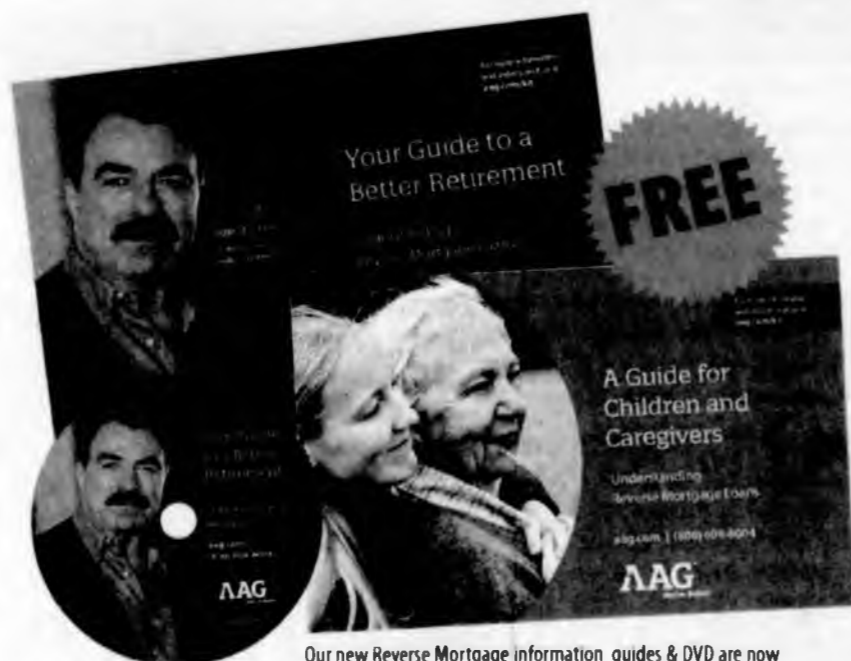
For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for almost any purpose. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a safety net for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make the best decision - for your financial future.

It's time to reverse your thinking

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*Housing Wealth for Homeowners: 62+ Reaches \$7.7 Trillion in Q1 2020. NARMI A/RiskSpan Reverse Mortgage Market Index (RMMI) Q1 2000 - Q1 2020

Reverse mortgage loan terms include occupying the home as your primary residence, maintaining the home, paying property taxes and homeowners insurance. Although these costs may be substantial, AAG does not establish an escrow account for these payments. However, a set-aside account can be set up for taxes and insurance, and in some cases may be required. Not all interest on a reverse mortgage is tax-deductible and to the extent that it is, such deduction is not available until the loan is partially or fully repaid.

AAG charges an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium (where required by HUD), closing costs and servicing fees, rolled into the balance of the loan. AAG charges interest on the balance, which grows over time. When the last borrower or eligible non-borrowing spouse dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, or fails to comply with the loan terms, the loan becomes due and payable (and the property may become subject to foreclosure). When this happens, some or all of the equity in the property no longer belongs to the borrowers, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan balance. V2020.12.22

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Salem Township man, 24, dies from wreck injuries

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 24-year-old Salem Township man died after he lost control of his vehicle Sunday evening along eastbound Nine Mile Road in Lyon Township, according to Oakland County sheriff's deputies.

Deputies said in a statement the unnamed man lost control and veered away from traffic lanes near Currie Road at about 5:43 p.m.

He struck a mailbox and then four trees.

Lyon Township firefighters had to ex-

tricate him from the vehicle.

An ambulance transported the driver to Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, where medical personnel pronounced him dead from his injuries.

Deputies said he was not wearing a seatbelt when apparently speeding on Nine Mile Road.

Alcohol does not seem to be a factor.

The crash remains under investigation.

No other information was available.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.



Jason Dean and his attorney, Nicole Becker. Dean, who has taught for Northville and Wayne-Westland school districts, originally was arraigned with five first-degree criminal sexual conduct charges more than a year ago stemming from allegations while he worked in northern Oakland County.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Teacher declines plea deal in sexual assault case

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jason Dean, accused of sexually assaulting students while a teacher and coach, may have to spend a decade in prison if he chooses to plead guilty to charges against him.

Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney Shannon O'Brien said during a Feb. 27 Zoom hearing that, by her interpretation of sentencing guidelines, he should spend 10 years in prison.

To which Dean's attorney Nicole Blank Becker quickly said there would be no plea deal coming that day, leaving Judge Yasmine Poles to schedule a March 18 hearing for one last pleading opportunity.

The judge set May 20 as a trial date in case Dean and his attorney again reject a plea deal.

Dean already has turned down a Cobbs plea — where admission to responsibility grants some certainty of the sentence — that would have meant nine years behind bars.

Poles, the new judge on the case, said revisiting nine years would not happen on her watch.

"Due to the seriousness of the charges (and) the fact that it involves a minor, the court will not Cobbs to nine years," the judge said. "In fact, I don't even know if it's going to be a Cobbs, but I will agree to at least do it within the guidelines."

The prosecutor had put the possible sentence at a minimum of 10.5 years. Her calculations were different than the 108 months — or nine years — that Dean's attorney had calculated.

Dean, who has taught for Northville and Wayne-Westland school districts, originally was arraigned with five first-degree criminal sexual conduct charges more than a year ago stemming from allegations while he worked in northern Oakland County.

Prosecutors say he had an illicit affair in 2010 with a 14-year-old student while he was teaching and coaching at Cedar Crest Academy, a private K-8 school in Springfield Township.

They've also filed documents claiming evidence of grooming techniques experienced by Dean's former students at Wayne Memorial and Northville high schools.

Dean, a former Livonia-based Michigan Hawks soccer coach, wore a tie during Friday's Zoom hearing. Out on bond, he appeared polite when being scolded by the judge.

His GPS tether had been "shut down" for five minutes, which was a bond violation.

"Let the court make itself very clear," Poles said. "I don't care if you're visiting your family. I don't care what you're doing. I don't care if it's for 30 seconds. You have the luxury of being on bond. Make sure your tether is charged. OK?"

The alternative, she reminded him, is by revoking bond and putting him back in the Oakland County Jail so court officials know his location.

"Do you understand?" the judge asked.

"I do," Dean said.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Northville Township police seeking accreditation

The Northville Township Police Department is seeking accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) by verifying it meets professional standards.

As administrators of the accreditation process, CALEA requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services.

The Northville Township Police Department is seeking its first CALEA advanced law enforcement accreditation and CALEA communications accredita-

tion.

With over 500 law enforcement agencies in the state of Michigan there are currently 11 who meet CALEA's best practices of law enforcement standards.

The voluntary process to gain accreditation will look a little different this year as it will be conducted virtually to adhere to social distancing requirements.

A copy of the standard titles is available at the Northville Township Police Department located at 41600 W. Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. Local contact is Accreditation Manager Lisa Cupp (248) 449-5198.

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Northville gift shop relocates downtown

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sometimes moving into a smaller space is the right move for a business. Going from a larger space to a more cozy floor plan can be just what a little shop like Pear-Aphernalia in downtown Northville needs.

That's what the owners of the shop known for its jewelry and other gifts decided when a new space opened up in downtown Northville.

"It was time for us to make a change," said Peggy Stowe, one of the owners of the store. "We loved our business, but we've always loved Pear-Aphernalia. So it doesn't matter where you are, if you can do what you want to do in the store."

The shop reopened at 111 E. Main St., earlier this month, relocating from its previous spot at 184 E. Main St. The shop is smaller than the previous space, though they believe having that more intimate experience is a better fit.

Pear-Aphernalia first opened 20 years ago along Center Street before relocating to Main Street. The mother-daughter duo have owned the shop since 2013.

Its new location formerly housed Van Dam's Boutique, which closed last fall after owner Christine Van Dam retired, closing the store that operated downtown for 20 years.

After Van Dam's closed, the two looked at the space and thought it would be a perfect fit. They signed a lease with Van Dam in the fall and started renovations to the space, which dates back to the 1800s.

Today, customers can find many of the same items they could at the store when it was across the street, including artwork, candles and other gifts. Easter décor and table sets are already out, and the shop has begun offering some new lines.

It's been a tough year for small shops, especially dating back to last spring when businesses were ordered closed at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the two have found a silver lining in the pandemic: the street closures in the heart of downtown Northville.

With both Main Street and Center Street closed to traffic to better allow for visitors to walk and dine outside downtown since last summer, Pear-Aphernalia began seeing plenty of business from customers it would not have normally expected to see.

They hope being closer to several restaurants will help bring those diners into their stores before or after meals.

"I think one of the things that was the most moving for me was, with the streets being closed, it really helped this past summer," Stow said. "Because there's so many people walking, they'll stop in."

"It gives us a lot of outdoor exposure."



Mother-daughter duo Jenny Grochowski, left, and Peggy Stoe manage Northville's Pear-aphernalia gift shop.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The customers for the shop — who come from as far as Rochester and Grosse Pointe — are taking a liking to the new digs, said co-owner Jenny Grochowski, Stowe's daughter.

"They're so happy we stayed in town, they're happy with our new location," Grochowski said. "They love the parking, the parking situation rather than the one-way street. Little things. But they're really really excited for us to be here."

The shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The move is a silver lining from the COVID-19 pandemic for the store. With new opportunities, the pair decided it was time to change the look and make a move to better operate Pear-Aphernalia for the long-term in Northville.

"We've known for a few years we've wanted to downsize. The way people shop has changed, and with COVID, it changed again," Grochowski said. "We love Northville, we love what we do. We just wanted a change."

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



Pear-Aphernalia has moved into 111 E. Main St. in Northville.

Indoor play area for children coming to Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Melanie Plank wants to give Milford-area children a place of their own. That's why she decided to open Play and Grow, an indoor play area for young children.

The Milford native and current Commerce Township resident plans to open the indoor play space, complete with room for classes in gymnastics and more, at 143 S. Milford Road in the shopping center that also houses Planet Fitness.

The space, which formerly housed Huron Valley Guns before that shop moved to New Hudson, expects to open later this year. She'll bring items aimed for play by younger children, targeting those in the 0-6 age range.

"It's not the big play structures and tunnels. More like developmental play equipment," she said. "I know that parents appreciate a safe, indoor place to take their kids to play and have fun."

The idea for the business has been in the works for some time. Plank, a Milford High School graduate, is an occupational therapist and former gymnast and gymnastics coach. Looking around the region, she saw there was not a lot of options for indoor play for families in the area, forcing them to go to Northville and other places. So she decided to open up her own space.

"It's kind of combining the two," she said. "It's both my passions mixed together."

She looked at the space a year ago right before the pandemic was declared but decided to hold off signing with the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

It's a decision she's happy with, especially since such businesses were

closed for several months once the coronavirus was detected in Michigan. After waiting and seeing the current status of COVID-19, she signed a lease last month and is preparing to start renovations to the space before opening. The delay allowed her to begin offering some courses and party experiences outdoors at customers' homes, of which she did several.

There's no word on exactly when the business will open, but Plank said she expects the first guests will come through the door later this year. When she does open, she'll offer open play as well as opportunities for gymnastics classes at the beginning. She hopes to expand those class offerings to other activities such as parent and tot yoga and music classes.

Birthday party packages will also be available, and there will be a space for parents to sit while their children play.

While Plank is hopeful the COVID-19 pandemic has calmed down by the time she opens her doors, she said they plan on doing everything they can to keep the space clean and taking several precautions to keep her guests safe when they stop by.

She said she still spends plenty of time in the Milford area and can't wait to bring her concept to the village.

"I think the area could use something like this," Plank said. "I think for people to have their own place in their community."

More information on the plans for Play and Grow can be found on its Facebook page, facebook.com/playandgrowmi.

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



A setup for an outdoor party put on by Melanie Plank last year. The Commerce Township resident plans to open an indoor playground called Play and Grow in Milford later this year. COURTESY OF MELANIE PLANK



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HOCKEY

Plymouth stays composed to tie Brighton

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Heading into the final minute of regulation trailing Brighton, 3-2, Plymouth hockey wasn't nervous. The Wildcats had been there before. The mentality didn't change: let each player do their

job and, once completed, get out of the way.

David Brace saw that opportunity with 33.2 seconds left in the game.

Brace found a path to the net and did his job, passing the puck to junior Tyler Kelley for the open shot to tie the game, 3-3. Plymouth (6-3-1), despite giving

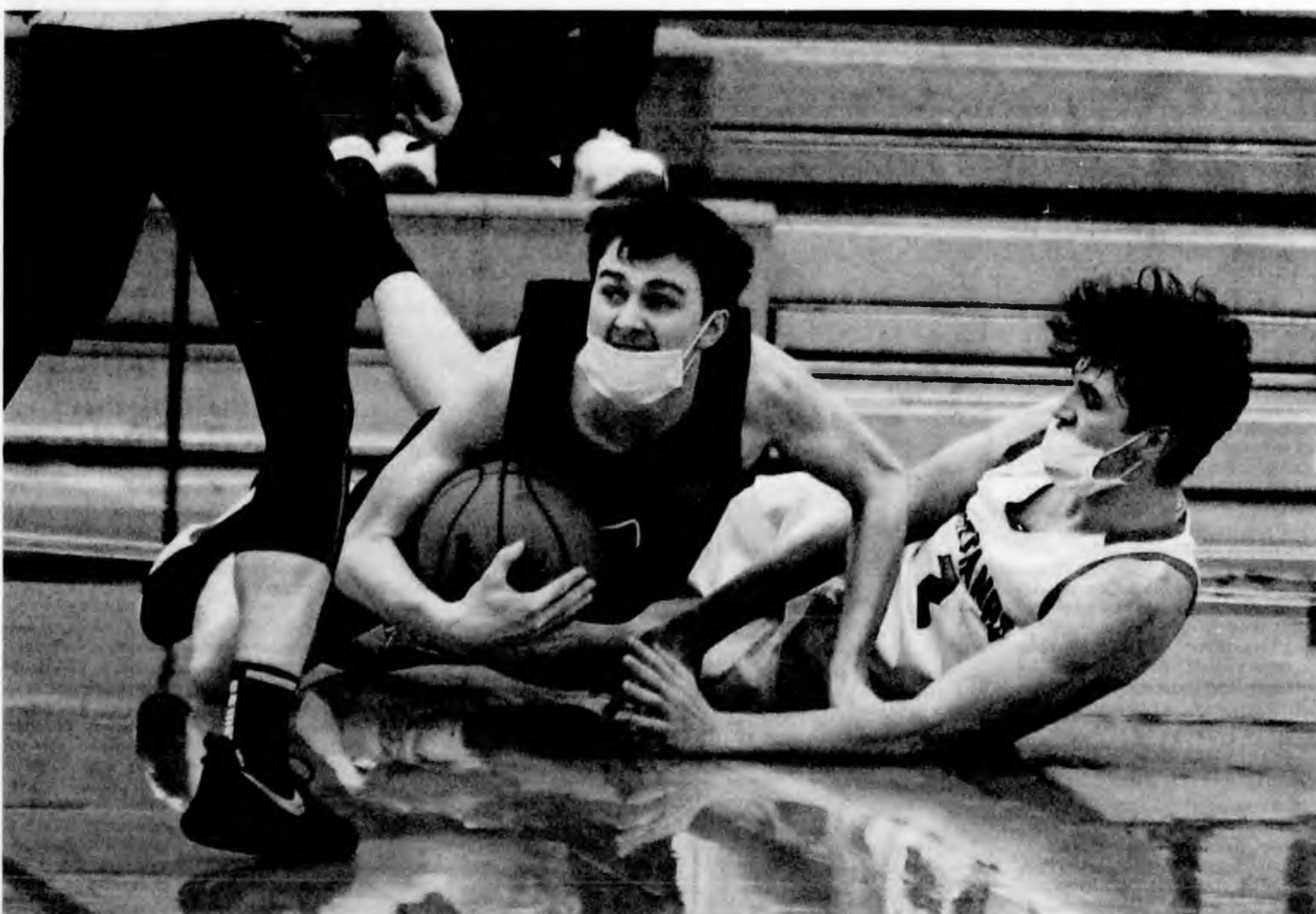
Brighton a man advantage for the final 93 seconds after a penalty by senior forward Jacob Serra, kept the Bulldogs (5-4-3) scoreless in overtime to secure the 3-3 tie.

"They don't get nervous. They don't get anxious," Plymouth head coach Darin Silvester said. "There's great leader-

ship whether they wear a letter on their sweater or not. It doesn't matter if it's a sophomore or a freshman at net or a senior who's been on the team for three years, they are all calm and consistent.

"They fully believe in their game..."

See TIE, Page 2B



Brighton's Owen Ehman and Northville's Brett Rudolph tussle for control of the ball in the fourth quarter March 2. Brighton won, 48-38. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brighton wins clash of KLAA West leaders

Bill Khan LivingstonDaily.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A two-year age difference in high school might as well be a generation gap, so Dallas Armstrong was quite often seen and not heard when he was around his Brighton basketball teammates last season.

Even though he was a starter and one of the most important members of the team as the point guard, Armstrong was still a sophomore who wasn't comfortable leading a group of older players.

"Being my first year, being an underclassman, it was tough with those seniors," Armstrong said. "Coach actually pushed me toward the second half of

the season to be better at that, knowing I would be starting next year, too. It actually helped a lot."

The growing pains Armstrong experienced on an 8-13 team last season have prepared him to lead a Brighton team that is having its best season in a decade.

The Bulldogs won a clash between

two of the three tri-leaders in the KLAA West March 2 at Northville, 48-38.

Armstrong had his second straight 23-point performance, going 3-for-5 from 3-point range in the process. He boosted his season average to 11.6 points.

See BRIGHTON, Page 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

South Lyon East continues LVC dominance against Lakeland

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East boys basketball head coach Ron Levin knew he wanted his team to play its brand of basketball.

The Cougars already faced Lakes Valley Conference rival Lakeland this season, beating the Eagles in a 39-37 slugfest in the fourth game of the 2021 sea-

son. Instead, Levin wanted to see his players pick up the pace, score in transition and get in the 50-plus scoring range.

With the help of senior guard Bryce Bird early in the third quarter, South Lyon East (7-1) got what it wanted, beating Lakeland (5-3) for the second time this season, 57-52.

Trailing 26-24 after a half of play,

Bird took his coach's message to heart: speeding up the game, taking control using South Lyon East's five senior guards. The Cougars wanted to outrun the Eagles.

Bird opened the third quarter with a layup, an and-1 try and a 3-pointer, giving South Lyon East back the two-point lead.

But after a Lakeland layup by junior

Caleb Zurek tied the game at 32, South Lyon East stepped up offensively.

The Cougars recorded an 11-0 run, with eight points coming from senior guard Adam Trent, to give them a 43-32 lead.

Bird says South Lyon East's success starts on defense, something the

See EAST, Page 7B



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South Lyon East breeds success from experience

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Defending a fast-break, Drake Willenborg knows what to do.

When an opponent drives along the baseline, the South Lyon East senior forward steps up to defend the ball handler, knowing that one of his teammates will step back and take the post away and avoid the wide-open layup.

That takes trust, something the Cougars' five three-year varsity players have ample amounts of.

To them it's easy. These players learned the game of basketball together, starting with youth travel teams in fourth grade and later playing together for the South Lyon East freshman team that went 19-1.

As seniors, Willenborg, Zander Desentz, Christian Dimitriou, Adam Trent and Bryce Bird take solace in each other, in their knowledge of the game, in the brotherhood forged through countless contests while reshaping the culture of a program once shadowed by its rival school five-and-a-half miles away.

Ron Levin, after earning 26 wins in his first six seasons as head coach, now leads a well-oiled machine, one filled with a group of seniors that was the first to embrace South Lyon East as its own entity.

"When the school opened, there wasn't really an identity for East," Levin recalls. "It was still South Lyon, South

Lyon, South Lyon.

"This group of seniors was really the first group as little kids who say East as its own, had dreams of 'I want to be at East one day. I want to do special things on that court.'"

When Trent was in fourth grade and first started playing basketball, he remembers the now-South Lyon East senior class always being together, always hanging out with one another.

"We were pretty much a team in fourth grade," he said.

Having experience playing and winning with the other players their age, Willenborg said he was extremely comfortable heading into high school with this group.

But that doesn't mean there wasn't an adjustment period.

Trent remembers one of his first games as a South Lyon East varsity basketball player against Waterford Mott, being spellbound by the speed of the game, the athleticism of its players made reality to him after nearly being dunked on in transition.

"Trust me, that woke me up very quickly to what varsity basketball was like," Trent said.

It was a new experience for Bryce Bird, learning about what he could do on the court, and how it could apply to the overall success of the team, something each of the five sophomores, who played major roles in the 2018-19 team, went through together: only winning six



Since taking over the starting point guard position, Bryce Bird has shined for South Lyon East.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

games in their first season.

But even through that unfamiliarity, the confidence remained.

"We knew we could do something special if we all worked and stayed together," Bird said.

For Levin, that clear shift started in the weight room.

"In years past, I've had to beg kids to go in the weight room," Levin said. "Now it's, 'Oh hey coach, can you open the weight room after practice? Can we get

an extra lift in?'

"You can see in their bodies, they are just physically different than they were a few years ago."

On the court, the South Lyon East basketball teams have taken a dramatic shift as well.

In the 2019-20 season, the Cougars won 15 games, the most in school history, but had its season cut short in the district final round of the playoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through two seasons as the team's starting point guard, Bird has stepped up, holding the school record for assists.

And while the team waited to see whether it would get a chance to play in 2021, it was the only uncertainty ahead of the season, with Levin leading a team of eight seniors and only having to catch up a few players promoted from the junior varsity team, leading practices to the effect of, "Remember, this is how we play."

So far in 2021, the Cougars have lived up to the expectation, using their mix of basketball-first players and multi-sport athletes to win six-of-seven games in conference play, falling to Walled Lake Northern in a one-point overtime loss.

Levin does not want to think too far ahead, but he knows it will be strange to not see those five three-year varsity players in the practice gym after the 2021 season is complete. But he knows the connection they bring to the basketball court.

Brighton

Continued from Page 1B

"It's so much easier," Armstrong said. "The game's slowing down so much better. I've been feeling it a couple games in a row now. I'm hoping to keep that going."

Brighton coach Mike Griest said Armstrong is a more mature player who understands the game at a more cerebral level than he did in 10th grade.

"He understands what offenses to get us into," Griest said. "He's taken control of that now the last four, five games, which I want him to do. I want him to be the floor general. He's improved his scoring, taking good shots, not tough shots. He just has a real comfort level right now. The game isn't too fast. He sees things before they happen and he's shooting the ball really well right now. He's got to expect other teams are going to start coming after him. We'll have to help him out with that."

While Armstrong scored half of Brighton's points Tuesday, other Bulldogs are capable of having big nights.

With the score tied 36-36, it was anybody's game entering the fourth quarter. Armstrong hit a 3-pointer to break the tie and begin the scoring in a quarter in which the Bulldogs would outscore the Mustangs, 12-2.

Brighton shut out Northville over the final 5:23, extending possessions with offensive rebounds while trying to work the clock in the final four minutes. The Bulldogs finished with 10 offensive rebounds. Ryan Opre had three among his seven total rebounds.

"They're one of the best offensive rebounding teams we have played so far



Brighton's Dallas Armstrong scores two of his game-high 23 points while defended by Northville's Jacob Eyler on March 2. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

this year," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "I thought we did a nice job in the first half, then maybe we wore down a little bit. They really beat us up on the glass and it resulted in extra possessions, which usually resulted in a score

for them at the end of the sequence."

Brett Rudolph scored 10 of his team-high 16 points in the third quarter for Northville. Jack Huddy added 11 points for the Mustangs, who won eight of the previous nine meetings with Brighton.

Madonna football cancels season opener due to COVID-19

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Madonna football will have to wait another week to start its inaugural season.

The athletic department announced the Crusaders' season-opening game against Lawrence Tech Saturday was canceled due to COVID-19 protocols.

After having its initial season opener against Missouri Baptist canceled Feb. 13, Madonna pushed its season back again, recording a no-contest against University of Saint Francis Feb. 27 due to a coronavirus case within the Crusaders' program.

Madonna is scheduled to open its first football season on the road against Taylor University 1 p.m. March 13.

Madonna's football program was established in August 2018, hiring its first head coach in January 2019 with its sights set on starting its first season in fall 2020.

The National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics established a spring football season, initially slated to start in February 2021.

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.

Tie

Continued from Page 1B

that success will come their way if they all do their part."

Heading into the game, Plymouth knew Brighton was prone to slow starts.

The Bulldogs had allowed nine first-period goals in 11 games this season, scoring only two as an offense.

Plymouth senior forward Nicholas Chartrand took advantage, taking the puck from a Bulldogs defender gliding past and putting the puck in the corner of the net.

Thirteen seconds into the second period, it was Chris Borg's turn, taking the puck off a rebound and putting it into the other side of the net for a 2-0 Plymouth lead.

But then, as custom for Brighton this season, the Bulldogs woke up.

Plymouth freshman goalkeeper Tanner Olepa allowed two goals within 53 seconds, both at scrums at goal, in which he recorded multiple saves on each try. But Brighton's Joey LaColla and Nathan Przysiecki each connected on scores to tie the game, 2-2.

Brighton head hockey coach Kurt Kivisto wants to see that energy and effort put in earlier than games, acknowledg-



Plymouth freshman goalkeeper Tanner Olepa stepped up in the overtime period, failing to allow a goal despite Brighton earning a power play with 93 seconds left. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing it as something he hasn't seen in the first 17 minutes of games this year.

"A lot of it is work ethic. It's winning pucks on second chances and going into those ugly areas," Kivisto said. "You see the goals that went in: they were at the net, in the blue paint and they go in that

way. It's finding that mindset early in the game because when they do it in practice it looks good, when they do it there in the second period it looks good. We just have to find a way to do it from the drop of the puck."

With 3:30 left in the game, Brighton

senior defender Tommy Madden tried for the dagger, putting a deep slap shot past Olepa and into the back of the net for the score. But Kelley, who was on the back end of Brace's assist, just did what he was in position to do.

"We kind of trust every single one of our guys," Kelley said. "For us, it's do your job, get out of the way, let the next guy do theirs."

This season, Plymouth has been extremely balanced, with no player recording more than seven points or three goals for the team this season. Silvester said that's a product of depth and satisfaction with team play.

In his first season as head coach, Silvester just wanted his kids to get a chance to play. But while they are at it, he wants them to make some noise in the Michigan high school hockey world, something each player in the Wildcats locker room has embraced.

"Throughout this entire season, we've been slept on," Brace said. "Just being the underdog, and we love that feeling. We love knowing that they are going to come out a little lackadaisical and we are going to jump on them."

"We're going to shock the state."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.

Sandhill cranes once again in hunters' sights

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's Michigan's largest, oldest bird species, unchanged in more than 2.5 million years; a tall, graceful bird beloved by birdwatchers for its unique trumpeting song.

It's also a major nuisance to farmers, devouring their freshly planted corn in the spring.

And to hunters, it's known for its meat so tasty it's called the ribeye of the sky.

The Eastern sandhill crane, almost hunted out of existence in Michigan and elsewhere in the early 1900s, has made a significant comeback in recent decades, because of federal protections and its status as a nongame bird. But now, a Michigan state senator wants to change the crane's status, a move that's causing concern among those who want to maintain protection of the bird.

Sen. Ed McBroom, in the Senate Natural Resources Committee he chairs, introduced his resolution urging the state Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member, governor-appointed body that sets hunting and fishing policy in Michigan, to add sandhill cranes to the state's game species list, and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish a sandhill crane hunting season.

The move comes only about a week after another McBroom resolution urging the Natural Resources Commission to establish a wolf hunt in Michigan this year, after the Trump administration removed federal Endangered Species Act protections from wolves last fall.

McBroom, a Republican from the Upper Peninsula community of Vulcan, said under current federal rules, when farmers receive permission to kill sandhill cranes destroying their spring corn crops, they are disallowed from using the carcasses for meat. He called that "a serious affront to common sense."

"Because of this (protected migratory species) status issue, the animal protein is left to rot," McBroom said.

Farmers utilizing a federal crop damage permit to kill sandhill cranes preying on their plants must spend hours in the field hunting the birds, on top of their other chores, McBroom said. And



Sandhill cranes enjoy a day out at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Sen. Ed McBroom has introduced a resolution to change their protected status. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

the inability to offer the resulting meat to anyone helping them impedes the ability to recruit assistance in the job, he said.

"My position right now is to simply stop wasting the food in the field," McBroom said.

McBroom's resolution, however, isn't so limited. It urges the Natural Resources Commission to "seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish an Eastern sandhill crane hunting season," and adds, "a hunting season would reduce the number of nuisance birds while utilizing this food resource."

Any decision on whether to establish a hunt for sandhill cranes could later be taken up by the Natural Resources Commission as it sees fit when "theoretically, at some point in the future, perhaps science would justify a hunt," he said.

Cranes causing problems

Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued 98 permits to farmers to kill nuisance sandhill cranes damaging their crops in Michigan, allowing for the killing of 2,385 sandhill cranes — up 5.4% in number of permits issued, and 14% in allowed cranes killed, from the previous year. Those 2020 numbers were a 32.4% increase in permits, and 42.4% increase in allowed cranes killed from five years earlier.

Permits were issued in eight of 15 Upper Peninsula counties and 37 of 68 Lower Peninsula counties, from 2006 to 2015, according to Michigan Depart-

ment of Natural Resources data. The eastern U.P. and south-central counties in the Lower Peninsula were allowed the most bird kills under the permits.

The DNR, whose biologists advise the decision-making of the Natural Resources Commission, does not have this issue on its front burner.

"There is no current proposal to hunt sandhill cranes in Michigan, and establishing a hunt is not a priority for the DNR," agency spokesman Ed Golder said.

As a treaty-protected migratory bird, any future hunt decision would fall within the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and involve the Mississippi Flyway Council, a 17-state group along the crane's migration route that helps set policy about the bird, he said. Any changes would further have to involve other nations with which the U.S. has treaties related to the migratory cranes, including Canada and Mexico.

Changing the cranes' status to a game bird won't end the perceived problem with wasting farmer-killed birds, said Barbara Avers, the DNR's waterfowl and wetlands specialist.

"Whether we name them a game species or not does not change those federal rules and regulations for migratory birds," she said.

The main reason farmer-killed cranes can't be taken for meat now is a concern that the permits to kill cranes preying on farmers' crops "could be come a de facto hunting season — that farmers could easily get these permits and take birds that way," she said.

When contacted, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson did not provide comment.

Tom Cooper, chief of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's migratory bird program, told the Free Press in 2018 that if Michigan ever asks for a hunt, his agency would permit it.

The 2010 management plan allows hunting of the eastern population of sandhill cranes if a three-year average of bird populations in the region exceeds 30,000 birds. Avers said the 2020 fall survey of the eastern population counted 95,000 cranes.

"We definitely have a population of huntable sandhill cranes, based on that flyway management plan," she said.

To protect or hunt

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the largest nonprofit group representing hunters in Michigan, isn't playing coy in its desire for a sandhill crane hunt.

"While we understand and empathize with the agricultural community — and hunters certainly want to be a part of the solution to help address that — for us, crop damage is not the sole reason for having a hunt," said MUCC executive director Amy Trotter.

MUCC and its members believe that hunters should be "the first and primary tool in the management of sandhill cranes," she said.

Trotter called hunting "a treasured part of Michigan's outdoor heritage."

"While we can't assume we know the motivations for each individual hunter, the outdoors is as important as ever to our physical and mental well-being, as evidenced by the significant increase in license sales in 2020," she said.

While acknowledging the near wipe-out of the crane populations because of overhunting long ago, Trotter pointed to a conservation ethic that exists in modern hunting. Three-quarters of every \$12 waterfowl hunting license is mandated for use to improve or restore wetland habitat, she said.

"Cranes are recovered, and have been recovering for some time," Trotter said.

A 2010 management plan for the eastern population of sandhill cranes, developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and natural resources agencies from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Ontario, made providing hunting opportunities for the birds one of its objectives.

Sandhill cranes have been hunted for years in more westerly flyways in North America, including in the Plains states, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

But the public at large in Michigan would oppose sandhill crane hunting, said Julie Baker, director of the nonprofit Michigan Songbird Coalition.

"There is no scientific or wildlife management justification for opening a recreational shooting season" on Michigan's sandhill crane population, she said.

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Pressure is on Michigan officials to allow hunting, trapping of gray wolves

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pressure is ratcheting up on Michigan wildlife managers to allow hunting and trapping of gray wolves as soon as this year.

Republican state Senators Ed McBroom of Vulcan and Jon Bumstead of Newaygo have introduced a resolution urging the state Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member, governor-appointed body that sets hunting and fishing policy, "to organize wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2021."

Sportsmen's groups are also calling for a renewed hunt, while wolf advocacy organizations continue to question the necessity — and to assert that Michigan voters have already voiced their opposition.

The possibility of a wolf hunt is back on the table after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last fall delisted gray wolves as a protected species under the federal Endangered Species Act, an action that took effect Jan. 4.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources spokesman Ed Golder said the department believes three things should happen before a wolf hunt is again considered in Michigan:

- The legal status of wolves should be permanently settled. There's a long history of legal challenges reversing delisting decisions, and groups are in the process of challenging the U.S. government's latest action on wolves in federal court.

- An update to the Michigan DNR's 2015 wolf management plan should occur, and should include "a public attitude survey." The department expects the completion of a revised plan by June 2022.

- "Meaningful consultation" should occur with federally recognized tribal governments in Michigan.

But McBroom questions that approach. His resolution states in part, "There is no statutory requirement or precedent to delay a 2021 wolf hunt

while the plan is reviewed and updated."

"This (resolution) is a way for the Legislature to offer its opinion to the commission and the department that sound science and existing wolf management policy should be followed, and that existing policy calls on us to have a hunt," he said.

"They should absolutely be working on next year's plan. But that doesn't mean we don't allow our current management plan."

McBroom particularly took issue with the DNR's plan to conduct a public opinion survey as part of its revised wolf management plan.

"Where is that in the realm of science?" he said. "What does that have to do with sound scientific management? The baiting and feeding ban (in deer hunting) is wildly unpopular, and the department does that anyway."

The last time gray wolves were delisted from federal Endangered Species Act protection, Michigan's one and only, controversial, firearm wolf hunting season ensued in the Upper Peninsula in November and December 2013, and 23 wolves were taken. A federal judge then restored the wolves' endangered and threatened species designation, and no hunt has taken place in Michigan since.

Wolves were hunted to near extinction in the Upper Midwest, including Michigan, over the early 20th century. The Upper Peninsula had only three wolves as recently as 1989. But the wolf population rebounded significantly in subsequent years, assisted by protection under the Endangered Species Act. Michigan's Upper Peninsula now has at least 695 wolves among 143 packs, according to the most recent survey completed last winter by the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services division. The state's U.P. wolf count has stayed in the 600 to 700 range for the past decade.

McBroom's and Bumstead's resolution also states that "wolves achieved the minimum sustainable population goal of 200 wolves for five consecutive

years in 2004, and have since surpassed state and federal population recovery goals for nearly 20 years."

At the most recent Natural Resources Commission meeting in January, representatives of hunting groups also expressed support for renewed wolf hunting.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance, and the east and west DNR Citizens' Advisory Councils in the U.P. recently passed resolutions that call for "wolf management to limit the population of wolves to 300 to 400 across the U.P., expand the wolf harvest area to include the entire U.P., and to ensure that both hunting and trapping can be used as legal methods of harvest to maintain the desired population of wolves," said Gary Gorniak, president of the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club and vice president of the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance.

"The (deer) harvest rates of the last five years (in the U.P.) don't even come close to the harvest rates of the '80s, '90s and 2000s," he said, adding that winter die-offs don't explain the discrepancies, as they also occurred in those years but deer populations rebounded.

"The only difference between now and then are wolves."

But Molly Tamulevich, Michigan director of the nonprofit Humane Society of the United States and a longtime opponent of wolf hunting in Michigan, told the Natural Resources Commission that a majority of Michigan residents "have spoken out against trophy hunting and trapping Michigan's wolves."

"There is no scientifically or ethically viable justification to kill wolves," she said. "Michigan's wolf population has remained stable for the past decade. Livestock predation by wolves are consistently low. Of the 46,500 cattle in the U.P. last year, only six were verified as being killed by wolves."

"Moreover, we know that trophy hunting and trapping will not resolve the rare issues that do occur. In fact, studies show that killing wolves can ac-

tually exacerbate conflicts, because it disrupts the stable social structure they rely upon to manage their communities."

Tamulevich added that wolves keep deer populations healthy, as they tend to kill the weakest, oldest deer, helping mitigate problems such as chronic wasting disease in deer populations.

In neighboring Wisconsin, state officials hastily organized a wolf hunt in a matter of days, after a court order forced a season. Wildlife managers there sought a harvest of 200 wolves from their population of about 950 to 1,050 wolves.

That Wisconsin was able to organize their hunt in such short order should compel Michigan's DNR and Natural Resources Commission "not to shirk that responsibility for this year under some lame excuses," McBroom said.

Said Golder, "Although we work collegially with other states on a variety of conservation issues, Michigan will make decisions about wolf management under its statutes and authorities, independent of what other states have done."

Michigan voters rejected wolf hunting in two statewide ballot measures in November 2014. But the Legislature and then-Gov. Rick Snyder, at the urging of hunting groups, restored the wolf hunt that year. Tamulevich cited those referendum results as a clear expression of opposition to wolf hunting by a majority of state residents.

McBroom was unmoved.

"The wolf problem is exclusive to the Upper Peninsula," he said. "If we were to put a lot of very isolated, regional issues on a statewide ballot, you're going to see a lot of things not be successful — helping Detroit when it was in trouble financially, or a road project in Kalamazoo. Put them on a statewide ballot and they are not very likely to pass."

Straits Area Sportsmen's Club board of directors member Steve Dey expressed respect for wolves.

"I'm not a person who wants to wipe out wolves in the U.P.," he said.

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New Eagle Scouts are blazing trails

As the organization evolves, female members make marks

Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Jen Chalom's face flashed on screen and her proud parents beamed. The Boy Scouts announced its inaugural class of nearly 1,000 female Eagle Scouts, including Chalom, in late February online, sending the clear message that "girls can do anything that guys can do."

"I know that sounds cliché," said 18-year-old Chalom, a member of Boy Scout Troop 755 in Northville. "But it's nice to see an organization like Boy Scouts finally showing that by allowing girls in."

The Novi resident, along with 34 other girls and young women from Michigan, earned the highest rank in Boy Scouts, a distinction that, for more than a century, was just for boys, and they are now part of a group that other Eagle Scouts say certifies them as accomplished and creates networking opportunities that they might not yet realize.

"Scouting's benefits are invaluable," Roger Mosby, president and CEO of the Boy Scouts of America, said. "We are elated that the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout is now available to even more youth — young men and young women alike."

In the same year Kamala Harris became America's first female vice president, the first female Eagle Scouts are being feted by the Boy Scouts, as well as local and national media, for leading the way for other girls. And for the moment — despite the mounting challenges the Boy Scouts still face — the girls are enjoying a flood of congratulations. The newly minted, female Eagle Scouts are, as Harris said about her own achievement, the first but "will not be the last."

The Boy Scouts welcomed teenage girls into its career and adventure-oriented programs for older scouts in the early '70s — initially in Exploring and later Venturing — but there was no path for girls to become Eagle Scouts until just two years ago.

"This expanded opportunity will empower generations of young people," said Jenn Hancock, the Boy Scouts' national chair for programs, adding that boys and girls will "earn this rank and become leaders in their communities, in business and our country."

Among all Boy Scouts, only 6% or so reach the Eagle rank.

To become an Eagle Scout, a boy — and now a girl — must hold leadership positions in their troop and their community; earn at least 21 merit badges that cover a range of topics, and develop and complete a community service project all before turning 18. Eagle Scouts are considered the best of the best.

Will the Boy Scouts survive?

Still, the national focus on the first female Eagle Scouts is not going to fix the organization's problems, which include a pandemic that makes it difficult for Scouts to meet, a dwindling membership, and a growing number of legal and financial threats.

As early as 2019, a Washington Post article posed a crucial question in a pessimistic headline: "Lawsuits. Possible bankruptcy. Declining numbers. Is there a future for the Boy Scouts?"

Newsweek went a step further, publishing an opinion piece by an Eagle Scout, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and energy company executive, who concluded: "the Boy Scouts of America is not fit to lead." And a New York Times headline argued: "Save Scouting. End the Boy Scouts."

In a decade, Boy Scouts, with 2.2 million youths, has lost about a fifth of its members. More likely will quit as troops wrestle with pandemic fears and mandates that limit meetings and activities.

In recent years, Boy Scouts has sold properties, in-



Jen Chalom, a member of the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts also has earned the Girl Scouts Gold Award. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

cluding more than 2,000 acres in Michigan alone, to cut expenses and raise millions of dollars to shore up sustained operational losses.

It also has reorganized for efficiency and become more progressive. And to help fend off about 95,000 sexual abuse claims, the organization was forced to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last year to keep operating.

Yet even as the Boy Scouts makes changes, the organization is being squeezed by criticism from those grumbling about its evolution, and those who say it's doing too little, too late.

Some, for example, feel the decision to open its doors wider for girls takes away from the organization's core mission to develop boys into men, while others feel it has not opened its doors enough by segregating boys and girls into separate troops. And in what might seem like a twist, one of the most vocal critics of the Boy Scouts' efforts to recruit girls has been the Girl Scouts, a separate youth organization for girls that was inspired by the Boy Scouts.

In December, the Girl Scouts stepped up the pressure and filed a federal lawsuit in December against the Boy Scouts, which started dropping "Boy" from its name, arguing unfair competition and trademark infringement. To put it plainly: The Girl Scouts accused the Boy Scouts of poaching members.

How Boy Scouts started

Boy Scouts who have earned their Scouting Heritage Merit Badge — one of the 137 that the Boy Scouts awards — know Boy Scouts started in Britain just after the turn of the 20th century.

In 1906, Robert Baden-Powell, a British army officer, wrote a paper, "The Boy Scouts — A Suggestion," that set forth his ideas about a youth program. It was based on other programs like it, such as the Boys' Brigade and YMCA.

The next summer, he took some boys camping on England's Brownsea Island. And a year after that, he published "Scouting for Boys," the first Boy Scout handbook. Then, in 1909, an American newspaper publisher, William Boyce, ran into a Boy Scout.

The story goes — and this is straight from the Scouting Heritage merit badge pamphlet — that Boyce got lost in a thick London fog as he was preparing for an African safari. A boy, maybe about 12 years old, walked up to him and led him to his destination.

Boyce offered a tip for the boy's trouble. But the youngster declined, saying he was just doing his daily good turn as a Boy Scout. Boyce was so impressed he decided to learn as much as he could about Boy Scouts and brought the concept back to America. Boyce incorporated a youth organization for boys of all races and religions modeled on Baden-Powell's philosophies.

By 1912, the Boy Scouts of America was ready to confer its first Eagle Scout rank to 17-year-old Arthur Rose Eldred, a member of Troop 1 in Oceanside, New York. Eldred would go on to Cornell University, enlist in the Navy, become a businessman and serve in public office. After Eldred's elevation to Eagle Scout, more than 2.5 million boys and men have followed in his footsteps.

They include Ernest Green, the first black student to graduate from Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas, and later Michigan State; Neil Armstrong, the Ohio test pilot and first man on the moon, and Gerald Ford, America's 38th president.

Scouting also is for girls

Another Scouting milestone also occurred in 1912. Juliette Gordon Low, a Georgian who also had a house in England and went by the nickname Daisy, met Baden-Powell. But instead of a youth organization for boys, her vision was to start a similar group just for girls. Low, according to the Girl Scouts, wanted girls to have an organization that would let them "embrace, together, their individuality, strength, and intellect" and set it in motion with a telephone call to a cousin.

She said she had an idea and "we're going to start it tonight!" The first Girl Scouts played basketball, hiked, swam, and camped. They studied foreign languages and how to tell time by the stars. Despite the fact that this was eight years before women had the right to vote, they believed girls could do anything.

The organization flourished and now describes itself as an "all-female environment of a Girl Scout troop creates a safe space where girls can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and just be themselves." This is where Chalom becomes a part of both organizations' stories.

Before becoming a Boy Scout, she was a Girl Scout. She started in kindergarten as a Daisy Scout. As a teen, she also joined Boy Scouts' coed Venturing program, and then — when it opened to girls on Feb. 1, 2019, the traditional Boy Scouts program. "I've grown up around Scouts my whole life," Chalom said, adding her older brother, Tim, also is an Eagle Scout. Her father, Morton, is a scoutmaster. She'd tag along to her brother's meetings. "I always wished I could be a Boy Scout."

But she didn't abandon Girl Scouts.

Instead, she earned the Girl Scouts' top achieve-

ment, the Gold Award and goes down in future Scouting Heritage as having been among the first girls to attain the highest rank in Boy Scouts, too. "It takes most Scouts between six and seven years before they get to Eagle," she said. "It took my brother until two days before his 18th birthday, and I'd say most Scouts do it that way. To do it in two years was a struggle."

A separate group for girls

Chalom believes both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts now benefit girls.

"Yet, the two programs are more different than people think that they are," she said. "Girl Scouts can be very similar if your leaders do a lot of campouts, but we didn't, and I always wanted to learn survival skills and outdoorsy stuff."

Girl Scouts is focused on girls. "Everything in Girl Scouts is very girl-based," Chalom said, adding that programs are oriented toward "being a successful woman." Making Girl Scouts more appealing to boys, she said, likely would take away from what the group is about.

Moreover, Chalom said, there is a need for groups like Girl Scouts which try to address discrimination, inequality and issues unique to women. Girls, and women, still are not fully included in many areas. Boys, she said, "have a place to be boys everywhere else in the world." And while Boy Scouts welcomed girls, Chalom also acknowledged resistance. Some was subtle teasing — such as boys saying, "no girls allowed."

But there also has been outright misogyny, especially on social media.

Consider a sampling of Facebook comments on a recent posting of a short CBS segment with journalist Norah O'Donnell about the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts:

- "So Awesome, expect great things from these young ladies."

- "Is there any boys selling girl scout cookies sales person of the year yet?"

- "This is stupid ... girls should not be in boy scouts, nor should boys be in girl scouts."

In what seems like a compromise between those who wanted Boy Scouts to become coed and those who felt there were virtues in having it remain boys only, troops are supposed to be organized into single-sex groups.

But Chalom and others said that sounds a lot like "separate but equal," adding that while she doesn't want to stir too much controversy, the official set up is "a cop-out" which allows girls in Scouts, "but not really."

Single gender or coed

Some troops, like Chalom's, have, in effect, combined the two groups — the larger one for boys and smaller one for girls — by meeting at the same time and coordinating just about all their activities as if they were one troop. So far, Chalom said it seems to have worked.

But, what happens when one of the girls wants to lead the combined groups? Chalom predicts as the Boy Scouts evolve, troops will become coed.

In contrast, Heidi Kreindler, the scoutmaster of Troop 1001 in Birmingham, an all-girls troop that meets separately from boys, advocates for keeping the genders apart from each other.

"I was against girls entering Boy Scouts," said Kreindler, who has a 21-year-old son and two daughters, 19 and 16. "I had worked so hard for years with my husband running the boys troop. The boys need to be with boys and the girls need to be with girls."

Their son, she said, is an Eagle Scout, and their youngest daughter, Chloe, now is, too. Chloe is one of five girls in the troop in the inaugural class, and, Kreindler said, was the reason why she formed the troop. Chloe wasn't satisfied being in the Venturing program, she wanted to be an Eagle Scout.

Kreindler said she doesn't blame Girl Scouts for objecting to Boy Scouts targeting girls. She believes the "Boy Scout program is better," but isn't convinced a truly coed organization is what is best for everyone. Boys and girls develop differently and act differently, she said. Girls are more verbal, more studious, and more motivated to earn merit badges. And when boys are around girls, they start to behave differently.

'They can actually do it'

Still, some wonder if the Girl Scouts may have less to worry about than they think. Some Boy Scout troops report their recruitment of girls hasn't been as successful as some expected or hoped, and boys still vastly outnumber girls. Each year in the last decade, about 50,000 to 60,000 boys become Eagle Scouts. Chuck Williams, the decades-long scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 179 in Farmington Hills, is part of a family that is tied to the Boy Scouts. He was among the troop's first Eagle Scouts. His two younger brothers are Eagle Scouts, and so is his nephew.

And, he added, his wife, Connie Knie, is more active in Boy Scouts than him.

"I've been a proponent of girls becoming Scouts and, of course, becoming Eagle Scouts since the 1980s," Williams, 61, said. "That was a big segment of our population that wasn't getting the benefits of Boy Scouts."

Williams also was briefly a Girl Scout leader for his stepdaughter, Claire Knie. She later joined the Boy Scouts Venturing program, which is coed. At the time, girls could not become Eagle Scouts. "I wish she could have," Williams said.

Troop 179 now has two female Eagle Scouts, Elizabeth Schmidt and Susie Silvagi. "Little girls don't have to grow up wishing they could become Boy Scouts," Chalom said. "Now, they can actually do it. They don't have to grow up learning that outdoors stuff is just for boys." And if "outdoorsy outdoor" isn't just for boys, there's a lot of other stuff that mostly — and only — men have done for decades that girls and women will be doing, too.

Obituaries

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Edward "Ed" F. Dresch

Dresch, Edward "Ed" F. Age 91. March 1, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Nancy. Loving father of Michael (Joyce) Dresch, Karen (Gregory) Dresch-Kaminskas and Matthew (Kristen) Dresch. Grandfather of Joseph (Melissa), Steven, Eric, Oliver, Kalen and Max. Dear brother of the late Lewis Dresch and Audrey Margaret Kaiser. Edward was born in Grove City, Pennsylvania on September 15, 1929 to the late Lewis and Etheldreda (Flynn) Dresch. Ed and Nancy both graduated from Grove City College, PA and were married in 1952, spent numerous winters in Daytona Beach and they loved to travel. She preceded him in death in 2002. He was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church for 50+ years and a Veteran of the United States Army, worked as a salesman for American Standard for 40+ years and an avid Michigan State Spartan Fan. Having lived a long and full life he will be missed by all who knew him. Memorial contributions to Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. Private family services were held. Interment Rural Hill Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



Catholic Central hockey wins league title

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cranbrook Kingswood handed Detroit Catholic Central hockey its only taste of reality so far this season, beating the Shamrocks, 4-0, Feb. 18.

CC senior forward and captain Brenden Cwiek admitted that particular matchup against the Cranes humbled the locker room.

"We can't always come out and expect to win every night," Cwiek said. "Every team's got to show what they got every night no matter what the talent is. I think we reevaluated and showed up tonight."

In their third meeting in 10 games, Catholic Central (9-1) returned to its dominant defensive style March 3, shutting out Cranbrook Kingswood (7-3), 3-0, for the Catholic League tournament title.

Six of the Shamrocks' nine wins this season have come by shutouts with the offense outscoring opponents, 29-0, in those contests.

Facing Cranbrook Kingswood for the third time in 10 games, Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki said it was a good opportunity to see where his team was at and how it can adjust to facing a team that handed it its first taste of adversity in 2021.

But he said it also gives the Shamrocks a taste of what playing in a tournament final is like before the postsea-



The Catholic Central bench pounds on the boards at the start of their game against Livonia Stevenson. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

son begins.

"It's 'Hey, we're in a final,'" Kaleniecki told his team before the game. "Win or lose, the season doesn't end tonight, but we're in a final. Approach it that way."

When Cranbrook made its first mistake of the night, giving the Shamrocks a power play after a penalty by Ronan McLaughlin, they took advantage.

Cwiek took the assists from Nich Borchardt and Nick Condon around for the first goal of the game nine seconds into the man advantage, increasing his

team-leading six goals in 10 games.

Fifty-two seconds later Nate Grondzieleski gave the Shamrocks a two-goal advantage, beating Cranbrook senior goalkeeper Julian Zvyagin for the score assisted by Billy Shields.

Catholic Central was not done on the power play, as Borchardt recorded his second point of the day, taking a pass from Shields in the back of the net for the third score.

Zvyagin, who came into the contest allowing only seven goals in nine

games, gave up three goals on 19 shots on goal.

"They are fast, they play very smart," Cranbrook Kingswood head coach John LaFontaine said. "They have skill, but they play good as a team. It's just whoever scores first wins these games, I guess."

Catholic Central junior goalkeeper Nick Galda recorded his fourth shutout of the season, saving 12 shots on goal by the Cranes.

Kaleniecki knows what's ahead for this team. Winning nine of its first 10 games of the regular season, the Shamrocks have five regular season games left before the postseason: the attempt to avenge losing the chance at a Division I state title.

Through the Catholic League tournament, Kaleniecki said, Catholic Central was able to have a boost to its morale catapulting them through the remainder of the regular season slate.

But to him, this final was different. The celebration ends tomorrow and the striving continues.

"We played some good teams in this tournament and were able to win," Kaleniecki said. "Doesn't mean anything once we get to tomorrow because we have to keep getting better and pushing forward, but right now, hey, we won a tournament against some very good teams."

"You feel good about yourself, but that's it."

East

Continued from Page 1B

Cougars showed in the third quarter: recording four steals along with two offensive rebounds to go with 21 points.

"It really all starts on defense because if we get rebounds, we're picking up the tempo," Bird said. "Once we get the tempo up, then we really start to feel it. That just controls the game for us."

But Lakeland began to chip away, with the help of Andrew Turnquist.

Trailing by 11 points in the third quarter, the sophomore forward grabbed an offensive board and hit a 3 to bring the deficit back into single digits. He added another layup before scoring Lakeland's first six points in the fourth quarter, keeping the Cougars' lead at eight points.

"We challenged Andrew today, every second he's out there, give us that max effort. I think he did a tremendous job of doing that," Lakeland head coach Ron Thompson said of Turnquist, who led the team with 17 points, five rebounds



South Lyon East boys basketball has won six of seven games in Lakes Valley Conference play this season. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

and a steal. "He rebounded the ball really well, he attacked the basket. He kind of showed off what he can do."

Five points by Zurek at the free-throw line late in the fourth quarter cut

Lakeland's deficit to three points, but four makes by Bird at the line for the Cougars secured the victory.

The South Lyon senior guard finished with 22 points, including 18 points in the

second half, along with four steals and three rebounds. Trent finished the day with 13 points, including two 3-point makes.

"It's incredible to have a senior guard like Bryce, but it's even better when you have five senior guards," Levin said. "We're so loaded at guard and they are all experienced... They've had some hurdles and they've learned. They know how to close out a game now."

With the run South Lyon East has been on this season in the LVC — winning six-of-seven matchups with the only loss being by one point in overtime — the Cougars are confident heading into the bookend of the regular season.

But the approach for Levin's team is simple, especially with eight seniors: play with relentless effort, contagious positivity and with the mindset of "We."

"As long as we focus on those three things," Levin said, "then the basketball comes easy."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Study: Remote work demand far outstrips supply

Julia Pollak
ZipRecruiter.com

A new ZipRecruiter survey of more than 2,500 job seekers suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a stark mismatch between the types of jobs Americans are looking for and those that are available: 60% of respondents said they would prefer to find a job where they can work from home. Yet only around 9% of vacancies advertised on the ZipRecruiter platform in December 2020 and January 2021 provided that opportunity.

Exacerbating the imbalance, some groups of workers who are more likely to value remote work are also heavily underrepresented in several of the industries where the arrangement is most prevalent.

Pandemic barriers

The coronavirus pandemic created significant

barriers to working for many Americans. It increased the health risks associated with certain occupations and with transportation modes used for commuting to work. The crisis also caused schools and day cares to close, forcing many parents to stay home to care for children. Additionally, COVID-19 depleted job opportunities in some lines of work, such as the performing arts, to such a degree that many people had to switch industries to find employment.

As a result, almost 8 million Americans left the labor force between February and April 2020, and as of January 2021, 4.3 million have yet to return.

Companies rushed to adapt. In industries where remote work was possible, many companies allowed or required existing employees to work from home, and converted vacant positions for which

they were recruiting into remote roles. The share of job postings on the ZipRecruiter platform explicitly offering workers the opportunity to work from home, work from anywhere, telework or work remotely rose five-fold over the course of the year.

At the same time, the share of job postings offering schedule flexibility also rose substantially.

Demand expected to continue

Despite the dramatic increase in remote work, demand for remote opportunities still far outstrips supply. Even after the pandemic is over, 46% said they anticipate wanting a job where they can work from home.

Preference for remote work was lowest among the youngest and oldest cohorts, but highest among respondents ages 25 to 54 who are more likely to have



FREEPIK

Women were more likely than men to say they would prefer remote work, both now (69% versus 50%) and after the pandemic (52% versus 39%).

young or school-age children. Preference for remote work is also positively associated with educational attainment; the most highly educated workers are both more likely to say they prefer remote work and to have access to the most remote work opportunities.

While job seeker preferences and labor market conditions are aligned along some dimensions, like education, there is considerable misalignment along others.

Women were more likely than men to say they would prefer remote work, both now (69% versus 50%) and after the pandemic (52% versus 39%). Yet remote work opportunities are often most prevalent in industries where women are underrepresented, according to data from

the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For example, the sector with the largest number of remote job opportunities on ZipRecruiter is the business sector, where women make up just 41.4% of employees.

Black/African American respondents were also more likely than whites or Hispanics to say that they would prefer to find work-from-home positions now (61% versus 58% and 53%) and after the pandemic (48% versus 43% and 40%). And yet while Blacks make up 12.1% of the workforce, they are only 9.9% of professional and business service employees, 10.5% of financial services employees and 7.8% of tech fields, like computer systems design and related services, again according to BLS data.

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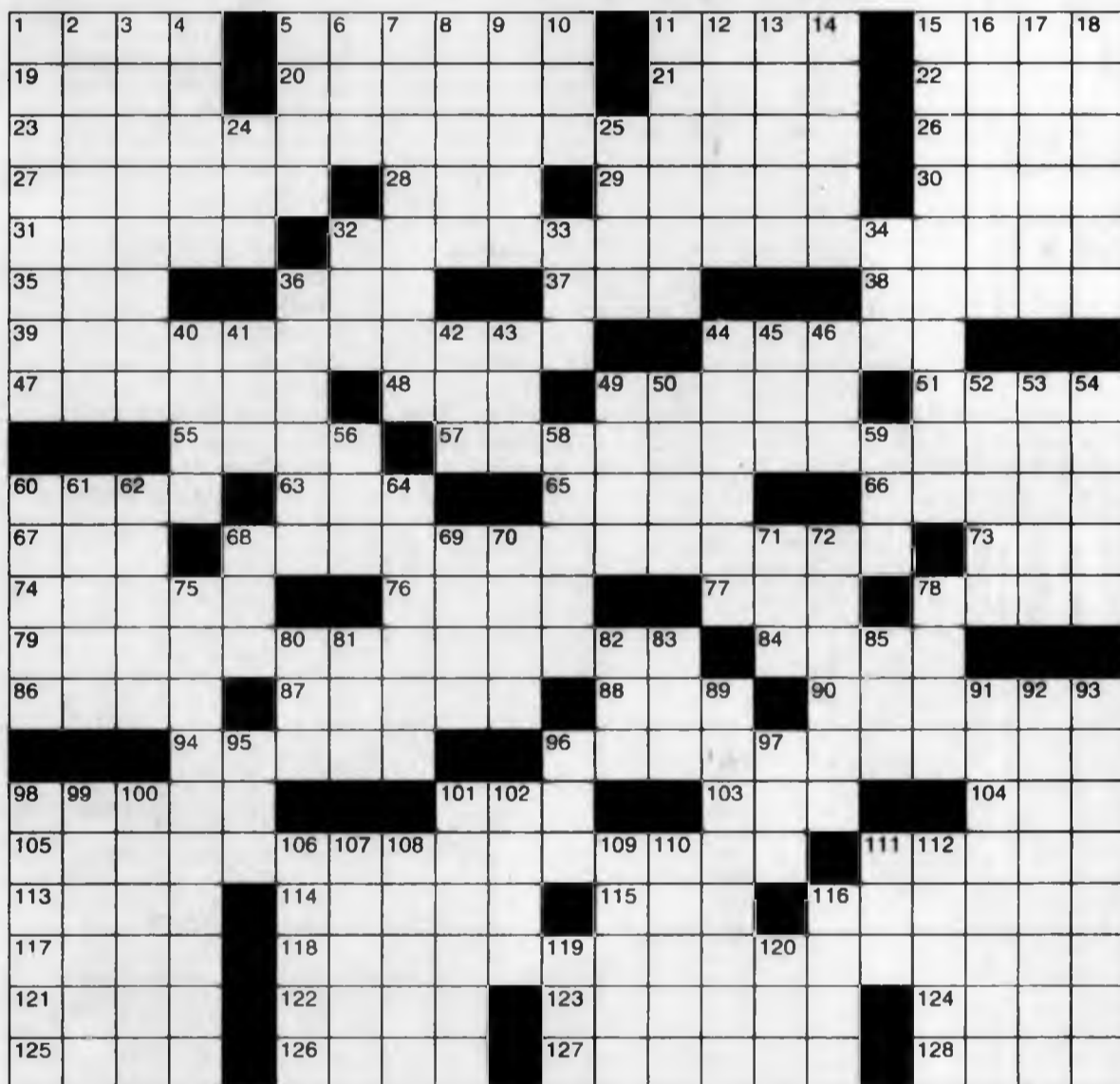
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

**ALLOW TO
BE ADDED**

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Sch." for "school," e.g.
5 "My stars!"
11 Source of poi
15 Baseballer Ty
19 "Don't stop!"
20 Foray
21 State firmly
22 Voiced
23 Put on some wrist jewelry?
26 Actress Foch
27 Connect for use, to Brits
28 With
86-Across, China's place
29 Haunting
30 Mike Brady's three kids, e.g.
31 Greek fabulist
32 Pair of poetic lines about the army?
35 — Valley, San Francisco
36 Disney frame
37 FedEx rival
38 Layers
39 Healed a fictional prince of Denmark?
44 Striped feline
47 "And others," in footnotes
48 Mineo of "Dino"
49 Steer snarer
51 Re
- 55 Home of Taj Mahal
57 Extra wrestling garment in case the main one gets lost?
60 Heifer's home
63 "Hulk" director Lee
65 Blind as —
66 Earp of the O.K. Corral
67 Sound of wonderment
68 Bright red Kleenex?
73 Foot part
74 Cause, as havoc
76 City in Kansas
77 Time on end
78 Bison group
79 Secondhand apartment rental in Rome?
84 — gin fizz
86 See
28-Across
87 Gamma follower
88 Just so-so
90 Warship fleet
94 Test, as ore
96 Coated pill produced in Antarctica?
98 Oak nut
101 Letter before dee
- 103 "— got it!"
104 Partner of 67-Across
105 Parents-to-be expecting three babies at once?
111 "The — come out tomorrow" (start of an "Annie" song)
113 "Mystic Pizza" actress
114 Turkish coins
115 Out-of-date
116 How cats ask for Meow Mix, per a slogan
117 Lady friend, in France
118 Pleasing answer when actress Kate asks her agent "Who wants me next?"
121 Job detail
122 "Huh-uh!"
123 Cyclops' odd feature
124 Actress Falco
125 Car roller, to Brits
126 Secy., e.g.
127 Less wordy
128 Also — (race losers)
- DOWN**
- 1 Tone of an environment
2 Validated, as a claim
3 Period of Model T's
4 Right-hand book page
5 Pickle choice
6 Ending with ethyl
7 Many indie movies
8 Like queens
9 New Zealand native
10 Univ. URL ending
11 Gunlike stunners
12 Animator Tex
13 Saintly article
14 "— ed Eundice" (Gluck opera)
15 Nefarious group plot
16 Bobolink's kin
17 Big headline
18 Explosions
24 "The Raven" poet's ignis
25 Gather in
32 "— culpa!"
33 Boy pharaoh
34 4x4, in brief
36 Jacques of France
40 Panache
41 Use a shovel
42 Vegas lead-in
43 Wallach of "Firepower"
44 African fly
45 Suffix with organ
46 Mass of mayo, say
49 Pride parade letters
50 Jai —
52 Glide on ice
53 Teach privately
54 Decided (to)
56 Actress Ortiz
58 Of birth
59 Astonishment
60 "Fame" vocalist David
61 Major artery
62 Ostrichlike birds
64 Horrific
68 Glide on snow
69 Uncouth guy
70 Napoleon's exile isle
71 "He-e-el!"
72 Loosen, as a shoe
75 Decorative church screen
78 Cannabis fiber
80 Paid promos
81 Tchrr.'s org.
82 Comic Philips
83 Phone no.
85 "... man — mouse?"
89 Clairol products
91 "M*A*S*H" co-star
92 Request for a poker hand
93 Olympics participants
95 NBC show since '75
96 Writer's tool
97 Trailer park campers, for short
98 "Finally!"
99 Like pie crusts with pressed-in ridges
100 Greasier
101 Dry red wine
102 Simple
106 Kagan of the court
107 Some DVR systems
108 Sets up, informally
109 Herman's Hermits frontman Peter
110 Senior
111 Wd. of similar meaning
112 Auto racer Al
116 Funeral platform
119 Net automaton
120 Letter before zee

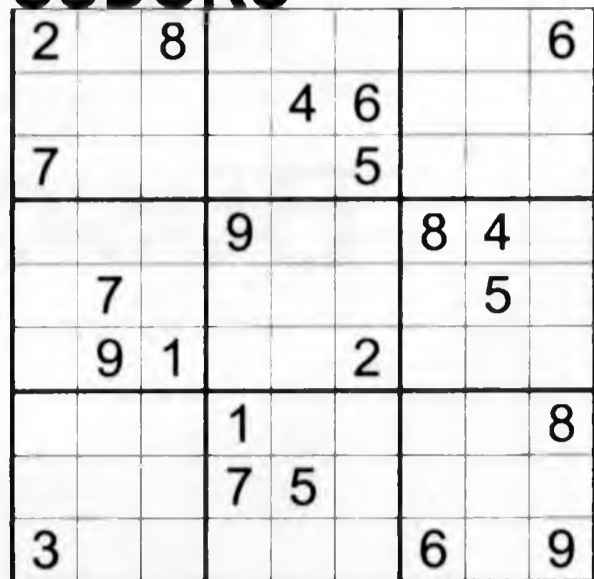


#2,029

Average time of solution: 68 minutes

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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★

3/11

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!

LET'S DANCE

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

BALLET
BALLROOM
BARN
BELLY
BOLERO
BOP
BOSSA NOVA
BREAK
CALYPSO
CANCAN
CHARLESTON
CLOG
CONGA
COUNTRY
DISCO
FANDANGO
FLAMENCO
FOLK
FOXTROT
HIGHLAND
HOEDOWN
HORNSPIPE
JIG
JIVE
LAMBADA
LINE
MAMBO
MINUET
MORRIS
POGO
POLKA
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