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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## South Lyon magician attempts to befuddle Penn & Teller

**Susan Bromley** HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After years of performances, magician Jonathon LaChance was at ease befuddling audiences that numbered in the hundreds.

But he was about to take to a Las Vegas stage in an attempt to baffle just two customers, world-renowned magic duo Penn & Teller, his toughest crowd ever.

"I've done shows with 5,000 people, and I walk out on stage and I'm never nervous," LaChance, a Green Oak Township resident and 2014 South Lyon High School graduate, said. "But... I was going to perform in front of my two biggest role models."

The moment of nerves passed as he walked out and saw his idols and got to work on his single trick, taped for the duo's CW show, "Penn & Teller: Fool Us."

The episode will air at 8 p.m., Jan. 14 on the CW, and streams the day after on the network's website.

"I was nervous, but walked on stage and saw them and was ready to do what I had practiced my whole life," LaChance recalls of his moment to shine on the show which casts a positive spotlight on the world of magic.

LaChance's future could not have been predicted when he first tried his hand at magic at the age of 9 after receiving a set as a gift.

He hated it and threw it away. But a year later, LaChance was back at it after his father taught him a card trick he had learned himself from a magician.

By the time he was 13, he was performing magic tricks in street shows on Mackinac Island and earning money through tips. At 16, he was making \$100 bills disappear, escaping strait jackets, and eating fire, "against his parents' better judgment," he laughs.

LaChance has benefited from many mentors along the way who he says helped drive his career.

See **MAGICIAN**, Page 6A



Bambi Chick and Mike Marshall at Bambi's Milford home for Thanksgiving. Bambi befriended Mike when he was living in his car and helped him get into a better situation. COURTESY OF BAMBI CHICK

## Caring community helps man find home, sweet home at last

**Susan Bromley** HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A year ago, Mike Marshall was living in his car, a cold, lonely, cramped existence that was destroying him mentally and physically.

It was an incredibly cruel end to an already isolating pandemic year for

the 74-year-old widower and retired nurse.

But as a weary world closes the door on a second year in the pandemic, Marshall is opening the door to a new home, one that doesn't have a steering wheel and four tires.

Marshall reflected on 2021 as he sits now in his warm, two-bedroom apart-

ment in Pontiac with a full kitchen, a bathroom, and furnished with a bed and other amenities of a comfortable home, including two pet parakeets.

"I like this place," Marshall said by phone. "I'm doing pretty good... This time last year, I was right down in Dodge

See **HOME**, Page 6A

## Frustration, uncertainty at Northville Schools meeting

**Ed Wright** HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The temporary closure of a school-based COVID-19 testing site, post-holiday break spikes in student and staff cases, allegations of vaccination-

based discrimination and charges of ill-timed chuckles punctuated the latest Northville Public Schools Board of Education meeting Jan. 4.

Just when you thought the pandemic couldn't climb another rung on the chaos ladder, along came the omicron

variant — and its ominous presence was felt throughout the board's debut 2022 meeting, which was available in person and online via Zoom.

Positive COVID-19 cases among

See **MEETING**, Page 6A

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# Vegan chef dishes up plant-based dining for Lyon Twp. library program

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Valerie Wilson decided to become a vegan, she went cold turkey, no pun intended.

But while for nearly three decades she has lived a lifestyle that shuns consumption of any animal products, she doesn't shun those who don't.

Wilson, a Westland resident and owner of macrobiotics business MacroVal, simply welcomes all to give it a try and experience what a healthier way of eating can do.

"After you stop eating (meat and other animal-derived products), it doesn't taste good," Wilson said. "Your taste buds change; they really do."

"A misconception is that other people think we are always judging them, and I could care less what someone else eats," she said. "I will teach you about healthy whole foods."

"A lot of people think 'there's that vegan and they are judging me.' They think vegans are crazy judgmental people. I don't care."

Wilson is celebrating her 25th year teaching vegan cooking, and she will in-

struct chefs 6-7 p.m., Jan. 20 on how to cook Millet with Sweet Vegetable Stew at Lyon Township Public Library, 27005 Milford Road.

Registration is required on the library website. Both in-person and virtual options are available.

The author of five vegan cookbooks became a vegan in 1993 after reading "Diet for a New America" by John Robbins, a former heir to the Baskin-Robbins ice cream empire.

A blurb for the book states that it draws "a clear line connecting America's factory farm system with disease, animal cruelty, and ecological crises."

Her final step is to learn how to tastefully make plant-based dishes, which are delicious when seasoned and cooked properly.

"These are different ingredients with a different way to cook and a different way to flavor so they taste good," she said. "I think the cooking classes are valuable and important."

She has learned to make new dishes like fig bars to replace the Fig Newtons she loved as a kid and mochi macaroni and cheese, which is vegan friendly.

Thirty years after she gave them up, Wilson said she doesn't crave or miss meat, eggs or real cheese.

"After you stop eating it, it doesn't taste good. Your taste buds change, they really do," she said.

She also doesn't miss the eczema or allergies she suffered from before she made the change to a macrobiotic, whole foods diet.

She no longer has pain in her knees or other joints and has more energy than anyone she knows.

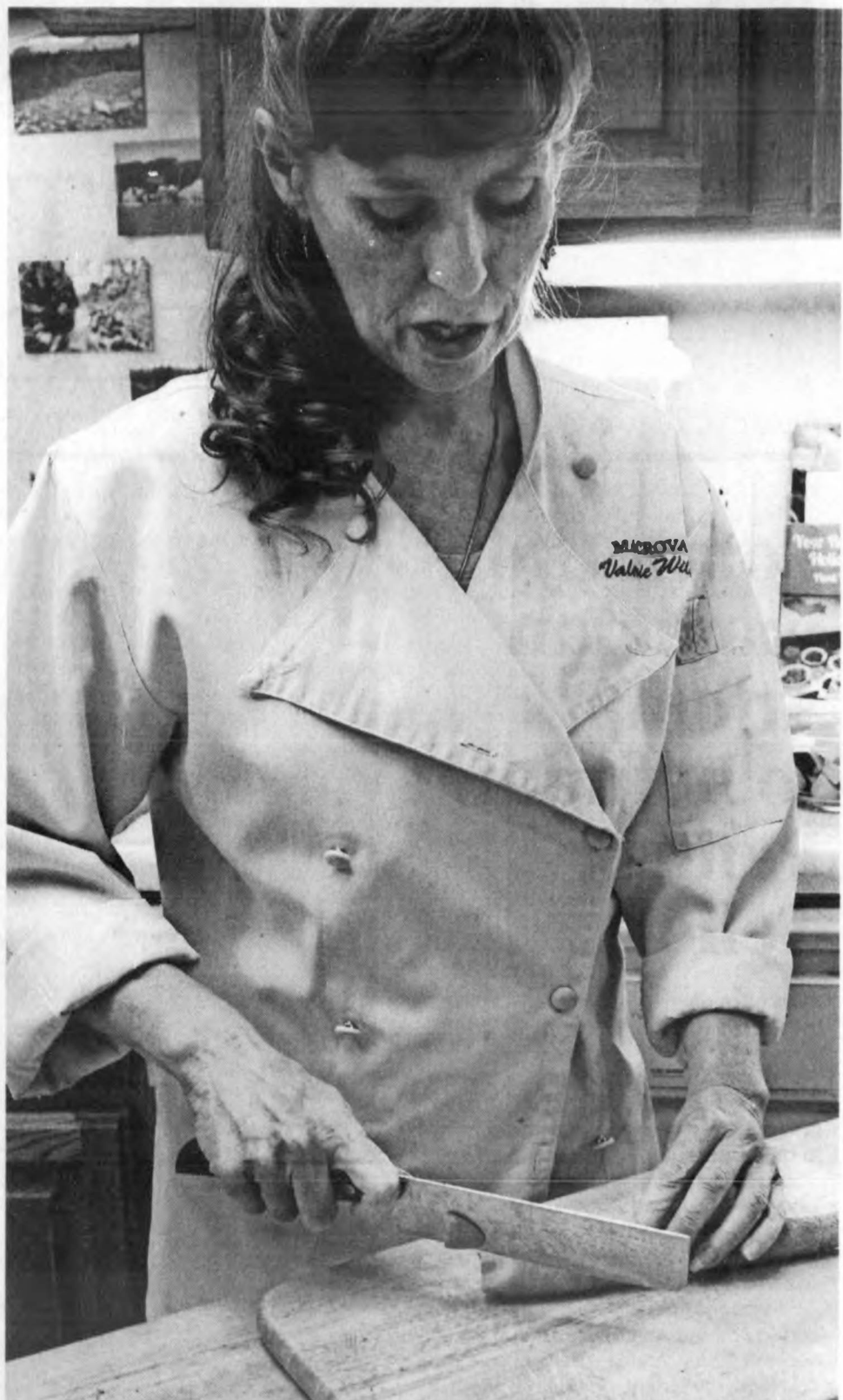
Wilson said a common misconception is that a vegan diet lacks protein. She gets plenty of protein, found in nearly everything she eats from beans and lentils to tofu, tempe, and mushrooms, as well as her many vegetables.

Another misconception, she adds, is that a vegan diet is expensive.

It's not if you're truly cooking and not buying frozen packaged meals or eating at a restaurant regularly. Wilson advises purchasing large bags of non-perishable brown rice, quinoa or millet, along with fresh vegetables.

In the end, cost savings are realized with better health and a decrease in medical bills.

"Food is medicine and it even out when you don't have to take prescription drugs," she said. "If you put your money toward healthy food and consider the investment in health, you're not spending more money."



Chef Valerie Wilson chops up some carrots to add to a vegan vegetable stew at her Westland home Jan. 7. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Tips for trying a vegan lifestyle

Wilson encourages anyone wanting to adopt a vegan lifestyle to read a book or watch a film about factory farming.

She also recommends:

**Start eating brown rice (and other whole grains).** "The first thing I tell my students to start them on a journey of eating healthy is, 'Eat brown rice, eat brown rice, eat brown rice,'" Wilson said. "Start a pot, and just eat it. ... Whole grains and complex carbs give your body energy and digests slowly. All of our ancestors, no matter where you came from, ate this. Most people are starved for whole grains and complex carbs." Dieters often think carbohydrates are the enemy, she

added, but that would be simple carbohydrates, not the complex carbohydrates full of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants.

**Stop eating white sugar.** Inspect labels, Wilson advised, since white sugar is "in everything." Ending consumption of this simple carb will cut inflammation and increase energy levels.

**Choose a month to try being vegan.** Wilson says to pick any consecutive 30-day span to go without meat and dairy. She guarantees a better overall feeling at the end, if packaged processed food is also eliminated.

**Attend a vegan cooking class.** For example, Wilson's class is 6-7 p.m., Jan. 20 at Lyon Township Public Library, 27005 Milford Road.

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Novi Community School District (NCSD) will receive bids for:

### Novi Community School District - 2022 Site Improvements Program

Program consists of access road and parking lot HMA replacement at several district locations, various HMA repairs, various concrete sidewalk repairs, and other ancillary project tasks. Work is located at various buildings/sites throughout the district.

**2022 Bid Package** - Full depth HMA removal and replacement of approximately 400,000 square feet of existing HMA pavement at several district locations, including the Educational Services Building (ESB), Novi Meadows complex, Novi Middle School, Parkview Elementary School, Village Oaks Elementary School, Novi Woods Elementary School, and the Maintenance and Operations facility. Work will also include concrete curb and gutter and sidewalk replacement and may also include full depth Hot Mix Asphalt patching, and/or drainage improvements at various district locations. Bids will be received until 2:00 PM, local time January 27, 2022.

All bidders are to submit bids electronically via email to eBuilder at the email address noted below. If any bidder is unable to submit bids electronically, they shall contact Kevin Donnelly at 586-703-1044 for alternative arrangements.

**NCSSiteImprovementsProposals@docs.e-builder.net**

Bids are due electronically and will be timestamped at the required date/time to the attention of Michael Dragoo. At the time the bid packages are due, all bids will be opened and read aloud remotely via Zoom starting at 2:15pm Click here to join the meeting. or by calling +1 989-272-9774...978434827# Phone Conference ID: 978 434 827#. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered, or accepted.

Bid documents can be pre-ordered and purchased at the offices of ARC/Dunn Blue, 1009 W. Maple Road, Clawson, MI 48107 beginning January 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Bid Documents can also be ordered online by contacting ARC/Dunn Blue for non-refundable purchase price for each bid package. Use email **michigan.troy@arc.com** with the subject line, **NCSD 2022 Site Improvement Program** or call 248-288-5600. Neither the district nor SME will provide documents.

All bidders should be available on Friday January 28, 2022 starting at 10:00 AM for post bid interviews. Interviews will be on an invitation basis only, and will be by conference call or video conference.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five (5) years
- Has successfully completed a minimum of three (3) educational, institutional or municipal site paving / earthwork / site improvement projects each with construction values in excess of \$250,000.00
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by SME for the "Novi Community School District - 2022 Site Improvements Program" and be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to Novi Community School District for the sum of not less than five (5%) of the bid amount for the BASE BID Package. Due to the size of this bid package, the bid sheets will be made available in Excel, however, neither NCSD, Plante Moran, or SME will be responsible for errors in submission due to the use of the Excel sheets by the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the NCSD School Board, Administration or Staff. Bidders shall also provide a Sworn Statement of Economic Relationship with the Country of Iran. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, sworn and notarized statement of familial disclosure, and Iran Economic Statement MAY BE REJECTED.

Novi Community School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the Novi Community School District's interest.

Publish January 13, 2022

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on several requests in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- On premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District on property located at 374 N. Rogers St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-002-02 0439-000. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new residence with an attached garage facing the street that is located 6.5 feet ahead of the front facade of the front exterior wall. The variance needed is 10.5 feet from the requirement to place an attached garage at least four feet behind the front exterior wall of the residential dwelling in Section 18.26.
- On premises zoned R-3, Third Density Residential District on property located at 623 Fairbrook, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-003-01-0348-002. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new residence in the front yard setback along Fairbrook, and in the side yard variance. The variances needed are 2.8 feet from the front yard setback requirement, and 8 feet from the side yard setback requirement in Section 15.01.
- On premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District on property located on the south side of Dubuar St., west of N. Rogers St. and abutting the western boundary of the City of Northville, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-002-02-0376-301. The applicant is seeking a variance as a condition of lot split approval to divide this parcel into two parcels without frontage on a public street per the requirement in Section 18.03.

The public hearing will be held on February 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance requests.

The variance applications are available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, local prevailing time or on the City's website **www.ci.northville.mi.us** (go to Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals).

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance requests must be submitted by 4:30pm, February 1, 2022 to the City Clerk at the above address, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to **dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us**.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

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# What to do with life insurance, 401(k) plans upon retirement



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

## Dear Rick:

My wife and I plan to retire this year. We will be at our full retirement age and thus plan to begin to collect our Social Security. We each will have pensions that start this month.

Pensions and Social Security will more than cover our living costs, and in addition, we each have 401(k) plans plus other savings. We have two adult children who are financially secure, and no debt. In fact, earlier this year we paid off our mortgage. We plan to stay in our home for as long as we can and eventually, we would like to do some traveling.

Do we need life insurance? Currently, other than life insurance through our employers, which will expire upon retirement, we each have two term life insurance policies that have about five years remaining. I don't see any reason why we should keep the insurance at this point. Originally, when we bought the policies, it was to financially provide for our children.

Do we need to do anything with our 401(k) plans? We each have a little over \$100,000 in Roth 401(k)s.

Thank you, Gerald

## Dear Gerald:

Congratulations to you and your wife on retiring! It appears that income in retirement is not going to be an issue for you, which is wonderful. In fact, I always tell people in your situation that you have achieved the American Dream: you can retire without money being an issue.

In reviewing your situation, I agree that you do not need life insurance. When you purchased life insurance, your situation was completely different.

In addition, if you or your spouse passes, the other spouse has sufficient resources to maintain their lifestyle. Therefore, I don't see any reason why you should keep the insurance. Remember, life insurance is not an investment; it's a means of covering risk. In your situation, the major risk you have is that if one of you passes away, will there be sufficient resources to protect the other? Since the answer is clearly yes, there is no reason to keep the insurance.

Now, let's discuss your Roth 401(k) plan. Even though you are happy with the 401(k) plan, there are a few things to consider. One of the major advantages of using a Roth is that they are not subject to required minimum distributions. For example, if someone had a traditional IRA or 401(k), they would have to begin taking required minimum distributions at the time they turn 72. On the other hand, if someone had a Roth IRA, they would never have to take any sort of distribution; thus, money can grow tax free for as long as they choose.

However, there is a caveat to this rule with regards to Roth 401(k) plans. Although money withdrawn from a Roth 401(k) plan is not subject to taxes, they are subject to required minimum distributions at age 72. If the money was transferred from a Roth 401(k) into a Roth IRA, then the rule that requires distributions starting at age 72 does not apply. In addition, if you never take money out of your Roth IRA, and that money is eventually inherited by your children, they also will be able to withdraw that money tax free.

I generally recommend that when someone leaves an employer they should transfer their 401(k) money into an IRA. IRAs typically have greater investment options and flexibility than a 401(k).

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomadvisors.com](http://www.bloomadvisors.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).

# South Lyon High student arrested after threat found on messaging app

**Susan Vela** [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 15-year-old South Lyon High School student was arrested Tuesday after police accused the teen of using Snapchat to say it was "time for Columbine Part 2" at his school.

According to Oakland County Sheriff's deputies, the New Hudson resident was removed from class, searched before meeting with the school resource deputy, school officials and his parents Jan. 4.

He was then taken into custody. Authorities said they had found in his backpack a handwritten note expressing his dislike for the school and school sporting activities.

"I have said, and we will continue to say that anyone making a threat will be investigated and held accountable," Sheriff Michael Bouchard said in a release. "It is completely unacceptable to threaten schools and it will not be tolerated."

A hearing for the student happened Jan. 5 at Oakland County Children's Village. He was then released to his parents' custody but ordered to wear a tether. His next court date is Jan 19.

A sheriff's deputy assigned to the school and school officials learned of the threat from their Pittsfield Township and Saline High School counterparts, who said they had learned of a Snapchat threat from a South Lyon student's account.

The accused student apparently used profanity in the message while saying he did not like the school's teachers or students. The message closed with a smiling face emoji, the sheriff's office said.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

# Livonia dealership had the most new Ford sales in 2021

**David Veselenak**  
[hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

One of the area's biggest Ford dealerships has brought home an elusive honor it's chased for years.

Bill Brown Ford, 32222 Plymouth Road in Livonia, has been named the top Ford dealership in the world by sales volume for 2021. The honor brings the distinction of top sales dealership back to the home state of Ford after several decades: dealerships in Florida and California have been the top volume winners for the past 30 years or so.

David Tashman, the dealership's general manager, said Bill Brown Ford has held a lead throughout much of the year, calling the end-of-the-year finish a bit anticlimactic.

"We just have been extending that lead month by month by month," he said.

The dealership, which offers sales of new and used vehicles, as well as a service center, has been in business since 1914 and has been on Plymouth Road in Livonia for around 70 years. Bill Brown Ford has routinely come close to earning the honor in previous years: it was no. 2 in the world last year, coming in second to Brandon Ford of Tampa, Florida.

The distinction won by Bill Brown Ford is believed to be the first time a Michigan dealership has earned that title in several decades, Tashman said.

Dealership leadership said the staff was focused on bringing home the top volume sales award throughout 2021, with every department focusing on the goal. Tashman said Bill Brown Ford sold 6,297 new vehicles, with many popular models being larger trucks and SUVs. Popular vehicles include the F-150, Edge and Explorer.

Such a distinction is a critical step in showing how metro Detroit continues to be the automo-



Bill Brown Ford sales representatives celebrate after the Ford Motor Co. named their dealership the No. 1 selling dealership worldwide for 2021. They sold 6,297 new vehicles. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

bile capital of the world.

"We do things differently at Bill Brown. We're focused on delivering a seamless automotive experience that ensures our customers can move forward on their terms," said Tom Brown, grandson of Bill Brown, in a statement. "That's what drives us. Being named the No. 1 Ford dealership in the world is a huge step forward in our effort to reinvent the auto-buying process."

Tashman said the dealership already has its mindset to defend its title in 2022. Doing so re-

quires connections between its workforce and those purchasing vehicles, something the dealership is proud of doing for many, many years.

Having those connections, he said, proved to be invaluable.

"It's relationships between the employees and the customers who put a lot of trust in it," he said. "With all of that, we delivered."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @david-veselenak.

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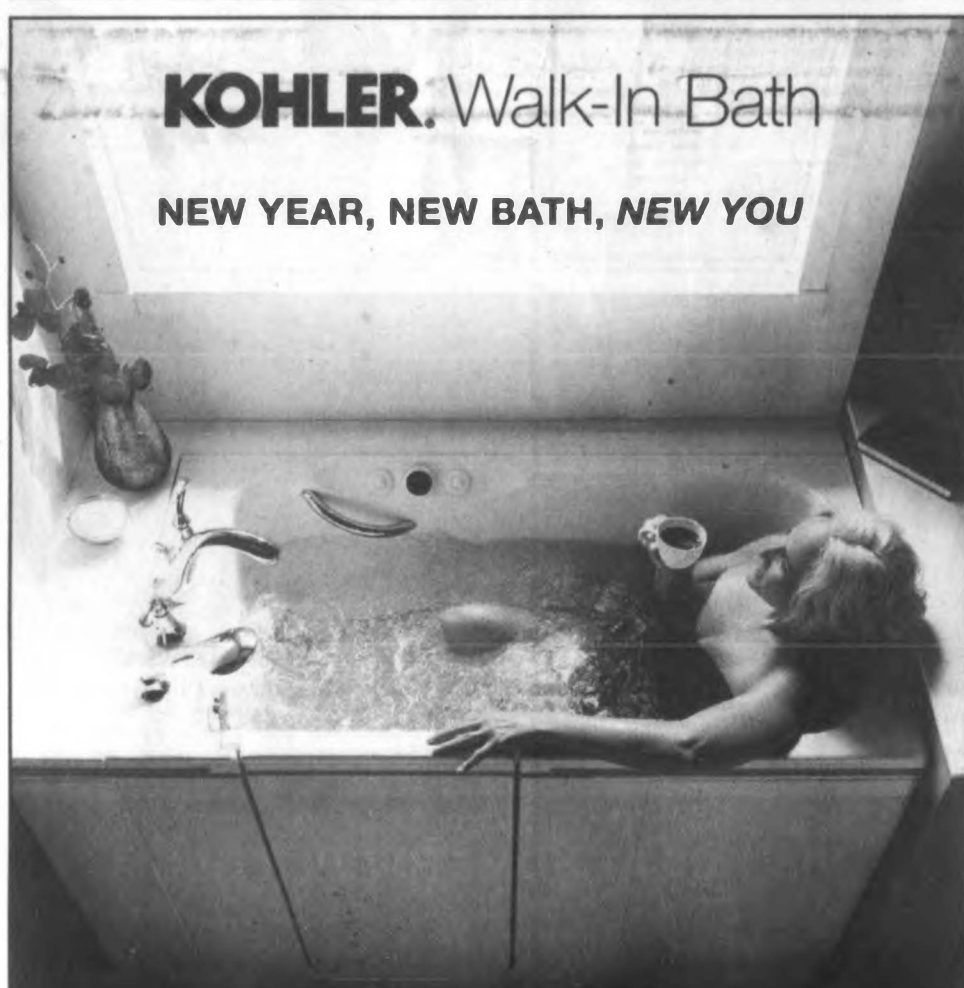
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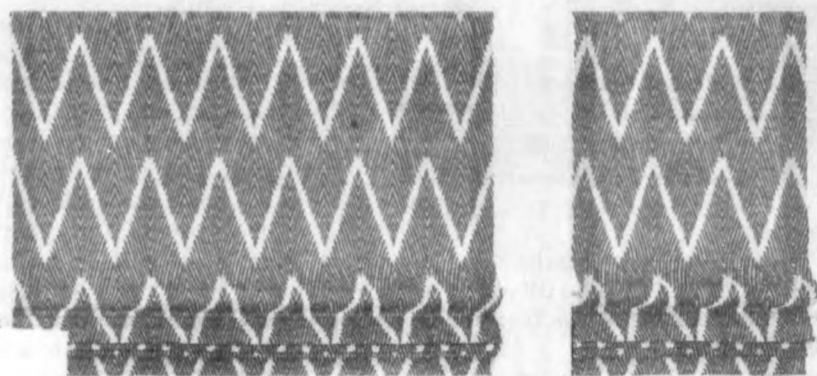
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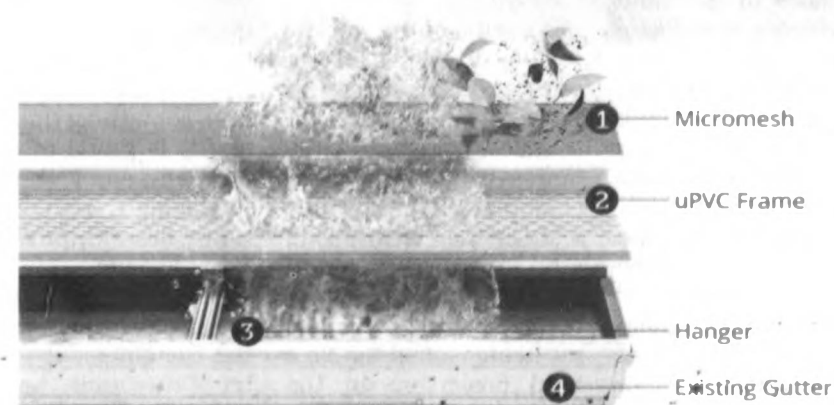
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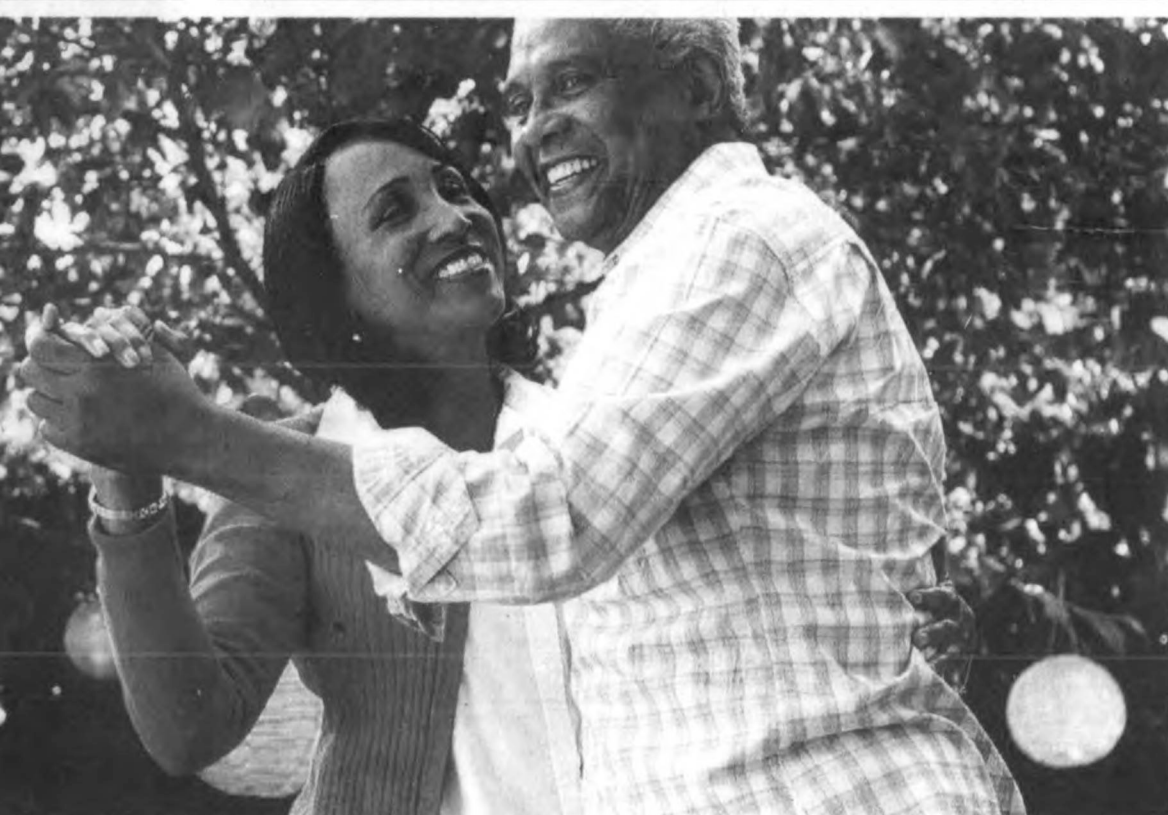
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## Home

Continued from Page 1A

10 park (in Highland Township). I've been here since May, and I don't miss living in the car."

He laughs when he notes that a social worker asked him if he ever thought about going back to live in the car. He responded by asking if he looked freakin' stupid.

Marshall looks nothing but happy and comfortable in recent pictures as he celebrated Thanksgiving at the home of Bambi Chick, one of his benefactors in the Milford area. He has much to be grateful for since Chick helped start a gofundme on Marshall's behalf that raised more than \$10,000.

"Everyone from the community jumped in and started doing stuff and taking stuff out to him," said Chick, who assisted Marshall in getting into a motel room around the end of January. "Everyone read the article and it went viral. It just means there is humanity and people really do want to help, it's just a matter of who do you trust? I would do it all over again for him, he is such a good person."

After more than two months in the homeless shelter, a rough stretch for Marshall but necessary to get him assistance, he was moved into his subsidized apartment.

Besides furnishings, the community's goodwill enabled Marshall to get dentures, repairs to his car so he can use it as it was meant to be used, and medical bills paid.

He also shared some funds with a



Mike Marshall gives a thumbs up at the end of 2021. COURTESY OF BAMBI CHICK

friend in need, paying forward the kindness he has been shown to a man without income who lived in the shelter and now lives a half-mile from Marshall.

"They (social workers) found him a place, and he has Bridge cards but no way to get to the grocery store and had no furniture," Marshall said. "He was sleeping on the floor and had one pan. Me and gofundme helped out. I got a twin-size bed and gave him my cot and I went to the thrift store and got him more



Marshall pauses in his Best Western motel room in Highland on Feb. 16. Marshall was living in his car until good Samaritan and Milford resident Ian Sharp noticed and helped to get him a room. Now, Marshall lives in a subsidized apartment.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

pots and pans and a bicycle so he can get around. I'm so damn glad I found the thrift store."

The gofundme money is now gone, but Marshall, who has Social Security income from his many years of working, said he has all he needs, including internet and a desk so he can start writing a book; a good physical therapist who helps with the damaged feet he sustained from living in his car for five months; and a genealogist who is help-

ing Marshall, adopted as an infant, find his biological family.

He hopes that is a family who will welcome him in a brighter chapter of his life. In the meantime, he is thankful for all those who have helped him through the dark days and enabled him to help others.

"It's why we're alive and here on the planet," Marshall said. "To help one another."

sbromley@hometownlife.com

## Magician

Continued from Page 1A

Prior to the pandemic, he was performing 500 shows per year across the Midwest, often at fairs, and even traveling the world. He has found his destiny, and literally true love — meeting his fiancée and assistant Jazmine Hesselgesser, in the world of magic.

Creating the magic takes a lot of time, practice, and persistence, LaChance said, as well as a narrowed focus.

"One of my mentors told me a good show is when you almost seem like you're sleeping and don't have to think about what you do next," he said.

He compares his shows to a roller coaster ride with impactful tricks, including reading minds, card tricks, lottery predictions and a rope trick that is quite visual. He puts in his own individual twists to add his own personality and loves the wonder that the tricks invoke in audiences.

"A lot of people think magic is gimmicks, and I want them to watch the show and say they have no idea how that was done, that it doesn't make sense," LaChance said.

Did he accomplish that with Penn & Teller?

LaChance can't reveal the outcome of his trick he calls "Cereal Surprise," and in which he called on the show's host, Alyson Hannigan, to assist.

Whether he fooled them or not remains to be seen, but he reveals he did accomplish a goal he shared with Penn & Teller: to cast a positive spotlight on magic, the reach of which goes far beyond the stage.

"This is my dream job, because I get to make people smile and laugh," LaChance said. "In short, they forget their problems in life and have fun with a group of strangers. That is the part that makes me happy."

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



Illusionist Jonathan LaChance performs a trick in the South Lyon High School theater in 2020. The magician appeared on the CW television show "Penn and Teller: Fool Us" last summer. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Meeting

Continued from Page 1A

Northville staff and students rose significantly during the two-week holiday break compared to the weeks leading up to the time off, according to data revealed Tuesday. Of the approximate 30 staff members who tested positive during the final two weeks of December, 90% were vaccinated, said Rebecca Pek, the district's director of personnel development and quality assurance.

Other alarming statistics: 6.3% of Silver Springs Elementary School students tested positive during break, and there were 11 Northville High School students who were in the building Tuesday who tested positive later in the day.

"The notifications I've been getting is that kids were getting sick at the end of the day," Pek said. "There is no evidence that supports people coming to school sick."

It was emphasized multiple times during the first half of the two-hour meeting that students and staff are encouraged to remain home from school if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or if a family member is displaying symptoms or has tested positive.

Pek asserted that students who exhibit symptoms that might suggest a common cold or other ailment — unusual fatigue or a scratchy throat — should be kept home until they can be tested, "because if it is COVID, you don't want it spread to 10 more people."

"This is an age-old problem that puts a lot of working parents in a tough spot," Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said. "We want to emphasize that we're not holding absences against students."

"It's challenging, too, because we want kids in school learning; we don't want absences. But if they're exhibiting symptoms, stay home, particularly with this variant."



Northville High School student Wesson Spurgeon hangs out Feb. 18 after the school had dismissed for the day. Positive COVID-19 cases rose significantly during the two-week holiday break compared to previous weeks, according to a data report. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The rise in post-break cases was predicted by medical experts, who said holiday indoor get-togethers would spark a spread of COVID-19 cases.

What wasn't expected was Monday's closure of the RapidBio testing clinic that has been available for students and staff at Northville High School the past several weeks.

"RapidBio did everything in its power to keep the site open, but it has been experiencing massive positive cases with its healthcare professionals," Pek said. "The testing site will be canceled until further notice."

Pek said the company's website has a list of sites that offer PCR (polymerase

chain reaction) COVID-19 testing.

"It may not be as convenient, but the testing sites are out there," Pek said. "It's just a matter of being persistent and getting out there and finding one."

Gallagher said the district isn't at the point where it is looking to switch to virtual learning, "but we're in a position to pivot if the transmission rates keep rising."

District leadership heard from displeased parents of Northville students during the meeting's public comment section.

Paula Mendelssohn, the parent of two Amerman Elementary School students, said district guidelines released

in August related to vaccinated and unvaccinated students are discriminatory.

"Now, as it becomes painfully obvious that vaccinated individuals are getting and spreading COVID just as quickly as unvaccinated people, why on earth would there be different treatment for classes of people," Mendelssohn said, stating that different protocols like quarantine time and masking protocols vary regarding vaccination status.

"This is clear discrimination against unvaccinated students, and the guidelines must be changed immediately."

John Maue, the parent of Northville High School and Hillside Middle School students, questioned several of the district's decisions.

"What is the metric before we go virtual?" Maue said. "We're in the midst of a wave; isn't that what you were thinking when you got Schoology (a virtual learning management system)?"

"You're asking kids to stay home if there is a hint of sickness, but what are you doing beyond saying, 'We are not worried about absences?' What about the impact on learning. If after two years of this you still can't figure it out, maybe it's time to pause so you can get a better plan."

Maue said he was disheartened by chuckling sounds that could be heard on the recording during the meeting presentation of positive cases data.

"It's a bad look for our board and staff to laugh through the numbers," Maue said. "Please remember these are people's lives that are being impacted."

Board of Education President Sarah Prescott addressed Maue's last criticism during her board comments at the end of the meeting.

"I don't recall hearing anyone laughing," Prescott said. "Everyone in this room is taking this situation very seriously."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.





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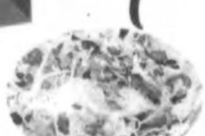


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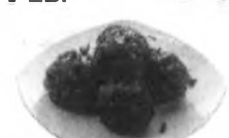
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## SPORTS

## Clarenceville edges Cranbrook at buzzer

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Clarenceville's Donte Robinson corralled Cranbrook's make with 4.9 seconds left.

And then the junior raced to the baseline and looked to inbound the basketball.

"Hold it! Hold it!" teammate Jordan Williams hollered while pointing at Robinson.

And then Williams said it again. "Hold it! Hold it!" He said it 11 times in all.

The final few seconds ticked off the scoreboard while Robinson listened to William's advice and held on tightly, and, mercifully, the Trojans were fortunate enough to escape with a 51-50 victory Jan. 6.

Clarenceville (2-1) had led by as many as 18 points in the second half thanks to a 21-4 run that spanned both the second and third quarters.

Yet, Cranbrook's Evan Evans was a couple of millimeters away from sending the game into overtime.

The Cranes (1-3) stormed back with a 23-point fourth quarter, doing most of their damage in the final 90 seconds.

Ryan Aggarwal scored down low to make it a five-point deficit with 49.2 seconds left.

And then John Kersh nabbed a steal

See CLARENCEVILLE, Page 2B



Farmington Hills Mercy's Ava Lorraine shoots against Bloomfield Hills Marian on Jan. 7. The Marlins won, 35-29. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Mercy girls push past Marian

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gary Morris talked confidently as he made his way to the gymnasium to rejoin his girls basketball team.

The final 15 seconds of the JV game was ticking off the scoreboard as the Farmington Hills Mercy coach walked

past both the trophy cases and concession stand at Bloomfield Hills Marian.

Then he passed through the gym's doorway where he found the Marlins waiting to take the floor.

"You know," he said, watching his team gather near the ticket table, "I think if we have a really good first five minutes, that'll be the key to winning

this game."

Mercy got through 20 minutes of warmups, and it did, in fact, have a really good first five minutes against its rival.

The Marlins (6-1, 2-0 Catholic League-Central) scored six of the first eight points.

And then it exited the first quarter

with a 15-6 lead thanks to a 9-1 run that saw Maya White total four points, Lauren Smiley hit a runner in the paint and Sophie Dugas cash in at the rim on a tough drive to the hoop.

Morris got the start he wanted.

But, in reality, it was how the Marlins

See MERCY, Page 2B

## Farmington limits turnovers to halt Port Huron's comeback

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Five weeks ago, Farmington coach Derrick McDowell would've been worried about how his boys basketball team was going to respond.

Port Huron's Conner Rosenau strong-armed a steal loose near halfcourt and

then finished at the other end with a hard-fought contested layup with 6:28 left.

Disgusted, McDowell called a timeout to halt a 6-2 run that helped the Big Reds trim their deficit to just 31-24, and Port Huron's bench erupted with cheers as it celebrated Rosenau going into the intermission.

"My message to them was to quit being lackadaisical with the ball and move the ball," McDowell said he told the Falcons in the timeout.

Farmington lost four of its five games in December. Turnovers were the culprit. Monday night was a chance to change that.

So the Falcons took care of business

on offense down the stretch, played stout defense and made their free throws in the bonus to secure the 46-33 victory.

After Rosenau's big steal, Farmington (2-4) went on a 15-4 run that extended its lead to 18 points, which was finally

See FARMINGTON, Page 4B



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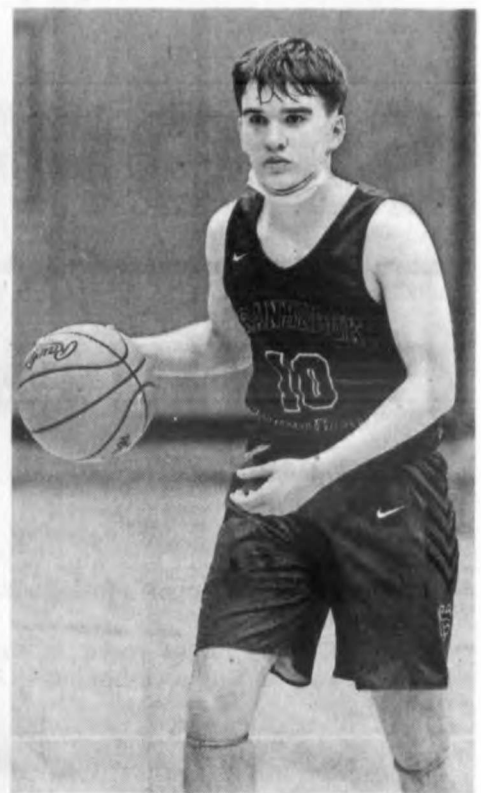




Cranbrook's John Kersh shoots in traffic against Livonia Clarenceville on Jan. 6. The Trojans won, 51-50. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Livonia Clarenceville's Dylan Stadler dribbles against Cranbrook.



Cranbrook's Evan Evans dribbles.

## Clarenceville

Continued from Page 1B

on the ensuing inbounds and managed to pass it to Bennett Luckoff for a contested layup that trimmed it to only three.

Once again, on the next inbounds the Cranes came up with another steal, only this time it was Kersh, who scored a game-high 18 points, finishing at the rim with a layup.

Clarenceville finally got the ensuing inbounds into play without forcing a turnover, and then Cranbrook fouled Williams, who made a pair of free throws in the bonus to make it a 51-48 score with 16.3 seconds remaining.

That's right. The Cranes were down 18 points but still had a chance to knot the score on their final possession.

After a quick timeout, Evans inbounded the ball near his team's bench to Kersh, who dribbled it into the corner. Kersh pivoted and then rifled a pass back to Evans.

Evans got a good grip on the ball and then lined up an awkward-looking sideways 3-point attempt that he somehow

shot over the defending arms of Clarenceville's Dylan Stadler.

The ball swished into the net. As Williams was yelling to Robinson to "Hold it! Hold it!" Evans started pointing at the scoreboard and looking at it in utter disbelief. The referees didn't credit him with three points. It was a 2-point-er.

Was his foot on the line?

The final buzzer rang, and the trio of officials briefly gathered near the foul line. When their conference ended, they stood by their original call.

Evans had his toe touching the line when he let go of the shot.

Game over.

"Hey, with the way the game was going, it was a shocker it didn't go down as a 3-pointer," said Clarenceville coach Raymon Moore, who was disgusted with how his team fumbled its huge lead. "But I told the guys to switch on all screens and close-out, and they did just that. And I told them to don't inbound the ball if it gets below 5 seconds."

Upon video review, the lip of Evans' right navy blue Nike shoe was *JUST* touching the 3-point line. Like by a millimeter.

The Trojans were just happy they

didn't have to withstand an additional four minutes of overtime.

Cranbrook had momentum going its way, and Clarenceville had committed 39 turnovers on the night.

"It was just one of those things where their momentum got the best of us," Moore added. "We kind of had a mental lapse. We're working on our mental toughness as of right now. It's just tough. When momentum was going their way, the guys weren't making the plays. I would draw up certain things for them to break the press, and guys were in their own heads."

"With a game like this, I told them, 'Fellas, this feels like a loss. We're better than this, man. We've got a lot of work to do. It starts with practice. We've just got to become more disciplined.'"

"With the personnel we have, we've got to be more disciplined and more mentally tough. It's just what it is, especially with a game like this. I feel like they got comfortable with an 18-point lead, thinking, 'We're better than these guys.' They got comfortable. You try to tell these kids that mental toughness is the key to situations like this."

Williams led Clarenceville with 16 points, followed by Jaden Smiley with

13, Miles Ealy with 11 and Damon Harris with seven.

Cranbrook's Ethan Peruski helped with eight points, while Evans and Cooper Gurman had six apiece.

"They quit worrying about what happened," Cranes coach Shane Finney said of his team's comeback. "Playing and being worried, that's how we played in the first half. We were a little scared. We were a little hesitant. I think when we looked up at the scoreboard with some desperation, it helped them clear their minds and just play basketball."

As the spectators cleared the gym, the three officials also made their way to the exits, but they were stopped so they could see a freeze-frame photo of Evans' toe just barely touching the 3-point line.

"Hey, you guys made the right call out there," someone told them as they looked at the picture.

One of them smiled and then gave a fist bump to one of his partners.

"We were just talking about this in there while getting dressed," he said.

Another one also smiled but said, "You already know I called it right! I already told you!"

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports for Hometown Life.

## Mercy

Continued from Page 1B

finished the game that got them the 35-29 victory Jan. 7.

Marian's Grace Rotter hit a turnaround shot to knot the score at 24 with 5:05 left. But Mercy proceeded to make nine free throws in the bonus to seal the win.

That included Sarah Cunningham, who scored a team-best 11 points, going 4 of 6 from the foul line in the waning moments. What's more, the senior was 7 of 10 from the charity stripe in the fourth while the Marlins shot 12 of 17 from the line throughout the quarter.

"Obviously, it's a lot of pressure with all of the noise in the background in that close of a game," said Cunningham, referencing Marian's rowdy student section. "I just tried to take a deep breath and block out as much noise as I could, and I focused on my form to make sure it'd go in."

Mercy clung to a 31-29 lead as Marian came up empty-handed on a possession with 17.8 seconds left.

The Mustangs resorted to fouling immediately to preserve time, but they sent Cunningham to the line. Her two makes in the double bonus gave the Marlins breathing room with a four-point lead.

And then Smiley, who finished with eight points, tacked on two more free throws to put any chances of a Marian comeback out of reach with 3:7 seconds left.

So was it nerve-racking winning the game for your team?

"Yeah, definitely," Cunningham added. "I just try to take a deep breath before I even get the ball, or I try to step out (away from the free-throw line) for a little bit. I started to get a little shaky. I just had to remember that I can do it and it's just like practice. As long as my form is how it is in practice — because I make them in practice — I'll be fine."

Also helping in the win, Dugas added seven points.

The Mustangs (5-2, 1-2 CHSL-Central) got 11 points from Anna Herberholz, followed by McKenzie Swanson with eight, Rotter with six and Sarah Sylvester with four.

Mercy's defense limited Marian to just six points in the first quarter and only three in the third.



Farmington Hills Mercy's Sarah Cunningham looks to pass against Bloomfield Hills Marian on Jan. 7.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bloomfield Hills Marian's McKenzie Swanson shoots in traffic against Farmington Hills Mercy.

Herberholz's free throw gave the Mustangs their first point of the second half with just 1:31 remaining in the third.

"I just thought we were really ready to play," Morris said. "I thought we had a really great practice yesterday, not that that always carries over. But, obviously, as a coach, you'd rather have a good practice the day before the game than to not have one. I just thought our kids were really focused. On the bus ride over here, it was really quiet, and I just think they were really focused on playing."

"The start would be important, and we came out ready to play. I thought that gave us confidence, really, for the rest of the game. We kind of responded. They'd make runs, but we were able to respond to their runs."

Marian certainly made its runs.

It scored eight-straight in the second quarter, capped by a Rotter jumper, to ensure only a 19-16 halftime deficit.

And then it scored five of the first six points of the fourth to tie the score.

Mercy didn't buckle after losing its four-point lead, especially when Marian threw a 1-3-1 defensive trap at the Marlins' offense in the final 90 seconds. They had no trouble beating it, as Dugas scored on a put-back to put her team ahead by five again.

Cunningham said it was a pre-game talk that inspired her teammates to not crumble down the stretch.

"When Coach walked out before we even started our warmups, the other captain (Dugas) and I talked to our team," the 6-foot forward said. "We said, 'Listen, this is going to be a big game. We've got to keep focused.' We have a saying that it's the 'next-play mentality.' If something doesn't go right, you've got to put that in the past and you've just got to keep moving forward. I think a lot of us did that tonight."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.





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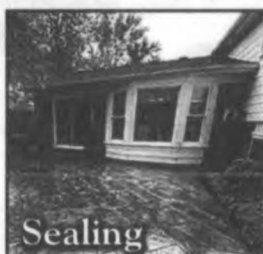


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# Brighton junior has breakout performance in loss to Canton

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — Brighton didn't have an answer for Cole Vickers, but the Bulldogs may have a future version of the Canton basketball star.

Junior Eddie Millington, a second-year varsity player, had a breakout performance by scoring a career-high 21 points and grabbing 11 rebounds Tuesday night in Brighton's 56-41 loss to Canton.

Vickers, fresh off a 30-point effort Dec. 29 against Detroit Renaissance, scored 12 of his game-high 25 points in the third quarter when the Chiefs began pulling away. Vickers has committed to Ferris State University.

It was the kind of dominance Brighton coach Mike Griest envisions from Millington by the time he's a senior.

"Oh, for sure," Griest said. "Eddie capable, too. Eddie works so hard. He's going to continue to work hard, because he wants to play college basketball. That's a good model for him to follow."

Millington averaged six points and five rebounds as a sophomore and came into Tuesday's game averaging 7.3 points in the first three games of this season. He was coming off an 11-point night in the Bulldogs' last game three weeks ago against Lapeer, which was his previous career high.

Like Vickers, Millington can score from beyond the arc or by taking it to the rim. Millington was 3-for-6 from 3-point range Tuesday.

"I want to be able to do both," Millington said. "My shooting's been a little off recently, but in this game I started to get it together."

With a year of varsity experience, Millington is much more assertive on the court.

"I was kind of a role player," he said. "Get a board, get a couple buckets inside; that's about it. I feel a lot more confident being a junior this year, being a two-year guy who started last year and is starting this year. I'm a lot more confident from that."

Brighton (2-2) hadn't played since beating Lapeer 21 days earlier. The Bulldogs led 7-6 midway through the first quarter and were still in the game at halftime, trailing 27-21. The Chiefs stretched their lead to 47-32 after three quarters.

"We had a scrimmage over break," Griest said. "We've been competing as much as we can, but games are different, for sure. Obviously, opening up in the league, that's a different thing, too, from preseason. You're never exactly sure. You don't sleep well the night before, most coaches don't, because you're not sure what's going to come out."

"I'm proud of the effort. The execution wasn't perfect. We have some things we have to work on, but it's



Canton's Cole Vickers pressures Brighton's Nicholas Whalen during the Chiefs' 56-41 victory Jan. 4.

PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Brighton's Ashton Tomassi, guarded by Canton's Cole Vickers, scored nine points off the bench.

early in the season and we expect that."

Vickers is no stranger to the Bulldogs, having victimized them for 27 points last season.

"He's hard to guard, because he's 6-4 and can shoot it from outside," Griest said. "If you get up on him, he can pound you down low."

"There's really no area of the game he's not really good at; that's why he's going to be a college basketball player next year. We thought we did a decent job, not a great job, in the first half, but in the second half he took over."

Complementing Vickers' output was Dante Favor with 16 points. Brighton junior Ashton Tomassi scored nine points off the bench, all in the first half.

Canton played twice over Christmas break, but came into the game with a deceptive 0-4 record.

The Chiefs had losses to Orchard Lake St. Mary's, ranked No. 1 in Division 1 by the Detroit Free Press, and Warren DeLaSalle, ranked No. 5.

The other losses were to quality teams in Hamtramck and Detroit Renaissance.

"People are going to look at our record and see 0-4, but we played some of the best teams in the state," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We had a chance to beat Hamtramck and couldn't get over the finish line in overtime. We had a chance to beat Renaissance last Wednesday; same kind of deal, up one, couldn't get a stop. We're still piecing it together."

"We kept telling our guys, 'You've got to see the bigger picture here.' We played that schedule to get us ready for the KLAA West and beyond and get us ready for districts in March."

## Farmington

Continued from Page 1B

safe enough for McDowell to sub in some bench players. During that stretch, Port Huron scored on just two of its 12 possessions.

What's more, the Falcons won 10 of 10 from the foul line, including Tony Tolbert, who scored a team-best 16 points, going 6 of 6 in the bonus.

"We've been getting better with the turnovers," McDowell added. "I'm a little more at ease as we've been playing (without) turnovers. If it was earlier in the year, I probably would've gotten a little nervous. Since we've been playing better, when they (Port Huron) made their little run, defensively we were doing a good

job. I thought our defense and taking care of the ball would hold us until the end, and it did."

Farmington's Chris Boyd helped with nine points and Deandre Green had seven. Rosenau led all scorers with 17 points, and Nate Oriel helped the Big Reds (1-4) with five.

The Falcons are hoping the tune-up will prepare them for Oakland Activities Association-Red play. Three of their first four games are against Ferndale, rival North Farmington and Clarkston, a trio of highly-ranked teams.

"We're going into the league now, and the league is extremely tough," McDowell said. "Our goal is to get better every game and kind of not worry about what the record is. If we can get better every game, in the end, we'll start winning some games, but I know this league is going to be tough on us."



Farmington varsity coach Derrick McDowell talks to his team on the floor.

## Obituaries

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### Nancy Jane (Monetta) Leonard

WHITE LAKE — Nancy Jane (Monetta) Leonard of White Lake died on Dec. 27 after a brief illness, with her husband and son by her side. She was 77. She is survived by her husband Richard "Joe" Leonard of White Lake; son Wesley Leonard (Cynthia Drake) of Austin, Texas; grandsons August and Crosby Leonard; and siblings Alfred Monetta (Bruce Voss), Sally Taylor, and Laura (Richard) Dunlap. No memorial services are planned. Memorial contributions may be made to the White Lake Township Library.



Farmington's Deandre Green takes a shot Jan. 3 against Port Huron. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



# Hartland freshman gets first hockey goal

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HARTLAND — Ian Kastamo could end up with 50, 60 goals or more during his Hartland hockey career, but the one he scored Wednesday night, Jan. 5, against Plymouth was special.

The first one always is.

Although Kastamo's goal was the Eagles' seventh in an 8-0 victory at Hartland Sports Center, the reaction of his teammates as he returned to the bench indicated this one meant a little more than the others in a one-sided affair.

"It was fun," Kastamo said. "They're always cheering me on for being a freshman."

Freshmen don't make the varsity team at Hartland very often. Kastamo is only the fourth ninth-grader to play for the Eagles during Rick Gadwa's 11 seasons as head coach. The first two made first-team all-state as seniors, forwards Nathan Lipon and Gabe Anderson. The third is current junior defenseman Braden Pietila, who is trending toward an all-state berth as early as this season.

Standing 5 feet, 4 inches, Kastamo is by no means an imposing presence on the ice. He earned his spot on the team with high-end skill and an advanced grasp of the mental side of the game.

"He's one of the smartest guys on the ice," Gadwa said. "His hockey I.Q. is out the roof. He just thinks the game so well. We needed a guy to play up the middle; he's serving a good role there."

Kastamo started out on the junior varsity before getting promoted for Hartland's fifth game of the season against Brighton. He had three assists in seven games before getting a goal and an assist Wednesday.

"It's one of those things where it's been coming," Gadwa said. "He's an offensive player. He's been there. He's been around the net a ton. He's making plays out there. It's one of those times where you want to get off the schneid. He did first game back from break, so it's a good start for him."

Kastamo scored during a five-on-three power play at 3:01 of the third period, backhanding the rebound of a shot by Ashton Trombley past goalie Meagan Frania.

"It felt good," Kastamo said. "I've



Jack Paweski fires a shot past Plymouth goalie Flynn Bright on Jan. 5 for Hartland's fifth goal in an 8-0 win over Plymouth.  
PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

been waiting a long time for that. We're a while into the season now."

Senior forward Sean Hastings also scored his first varsity goal with 11:49 remaining in the third period to end the game via the eight-goal mercy rule.

"I liked our energy," Gadwa said. "Plymouth plays a hard north-south game. They like to hit. We knew we were going to have to be physical tonight, and we were."

Hartland (10-3) took a 1-0 lead on a shorthanded goal by Brendan Pietila 3:57 into the game. Plymouth's best scoring chance came about a minute later when Chris Borg won a race for a loose puck and fired a shot from the right cir-

cle. Kameron Ragon made the toughest of his seven saves to record his third shutout.

Tying the game at that point may not have done much to change the eventual outcome, Plymouth coach Darrin Silvester said.

"I'd love to say that's true, but we were outmatched by some pretty talented hockey players in Hartland," he said. "They have a lot of skill. They're able to move the puck. They see each other well. They're very good in what they do. We did a lot of chasing. When you chase a lot and you lose your temper a bit, you end up getting penalties. That's kind of what happened to us."

Power play goals by Braden Pietila at 7:31 and Ben Pouliot at 15:51 made it 3-0 after one period. Braden Pietila's second goal made it 4-0 at 3:45 of the second.

Jack Paweski and Lucas Henry scored to make it 6-0 after two.

Henry had a goal and three assists. It was the fifth straight loss after a 5-1 start for Plymouth, which played much stronger against two other Livingston County teams, beating Howell 3-1 on Nov. 20 and losing 6-5 to Brighton on Dec. 8.

"We've got an injury to our captain, who had surgery," Silvester said. "We've got another player who's not with us right now we wish we had with us."

## Mick McCabe's high school basketball state rankings

### BOYS DIVISION 1

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Orchard Lake St. Mary's	6-0	1
2. Birmingham Brother Rice	4-0	2
3. Detroit Cass Tech	7-0	3
4. Grand Rapids Northview	5-0	4
5. Warren De La Salle	7-0	5
6. Muskegon	4-0	6
7. Novi Detroit Catholic Central	3-1	7
8. Detroit King	5-1	8
9. Grand Haven	6-0	9
10. North Farmington	7-1	NR

### BOYS DIVISION 2

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Williamston	6-0	2
2. Grand Rapids Catholic Central	5-1	1
3. Hudsonville Unity Christian	6-0	3
4. Ferndale	4-2	4
5. Crosswell-Lexington	6-0	5
6. Parchment	6-0	6
7. Chelsea	4-1	7
8. Battle Creek Pennfield	6-0	9
9. Cadillac	6-1	NR
10. Benton Harbor	6-1	8

### BOYS DIVISION 3

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Flint Beecher	6-0	1
2. Benzie Central	5-0	2
3. Bad Axe	6-0	5
4. Reese	4-1	6
5. Menominee	5-0	7
6. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	5-0	8
7. Detroit Loyola	3-3	3
8. Ishpeming Westwood	4-1	9
9. Schoolcraft	4-2	10
10. Kalamazoo Christian	5-1	NR

### BOYS DIVISION 4

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Wyoming Tri-unity	3-2	1
2. Ewen-Trout Creek	5-0	2
3. Southfield Christian	6-0	3
4. Rudyard	3-0	4
5. McBain Christian	4-0	5
6. Colon	5-0	6
7. Powers North Central	5-0	8
8. Bellevue	5-0	10
9. Munising	5-0	NR
10. Frankfort	3-1	7

### GIRLS DIVISION 1

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Midland Dow	7-0	1
2. Hartland	7-0	2
3. Hudsonville	4-2	4
4. West Bloomfield	8-1	5
5. Dearborn Divine Child	7-0	NR
6. Rockford	7-0	7
7. Holt	5-0	8
8. Parma Western	7-0	9
9. Saline	8-0	NR
10. Farmington Hills Mercy	6-1	NR

### GIRLS DIVISION 2

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Detroit Edison	3-1	1
2. Grand Rapids West Catholic	6-1	2
3. Otsego	9-0	4
4. Redford Westfield	8-0	5
5. Portland	6-0	6
6. Lansing Catholic	9-0	7
7. Newaygo	7-1	8
8. Lake Fenton	8-0	9
9. Houghton	7-0	10
10. Tecumseh	9-0	NR

### GIRLS DIVISION 3

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	6-0	1
2. Kent City	7-0	2
3. Maple City Glen Lake	7-0	3
4. Buchanan	7-0	4
5. Grass Lake	3-2	5
6. Lake City	6-0	6
7. Sandusky	7-0	7
8. Calumet	5-0	9
9. Niles Brandywine	7-1	8
10. Harbor Springs	8-0	10

### GIRLS DIVISION 4

SCHOOL	W-L	LW
1. Portland St. Patrick	9-0	1
2. Fowler	5-1	2
3. Plymouth Christian	6-2	4
4. Lake Leelanau St. Mary	6-1	5
5. Adrian Lenawee Christian	4-2	3
6. Athens	7-1	6
7. Posen	5-0	7
8. Carney-Nadeau	6-0	8
9. Gaylord St. Mary	5-0	9
10. McBain Christian	4-0	NR



Flint Beecher players celebrate as coach Mike Williams lifts up the championship trophy after defeating Iron Mountain, 75-47, in the Division 3 boys state final at the Breslin Center in East Lansing in April.  
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## 2022 Labor Market Outlook

### Why 2022 Could Be a Goldilocks Year in the Labor Market

By ZipRecruiter.com

The labor market in 2022 could reprise the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears: where 2020 was "too cold," and 2021 was "too hot," 2022 could be "just right."

The economy began 2020 in a strong position, as a years-long recovery continued into the first months of the year. But the coronavirus pandemic shut down trade and travel, closed restaurants and schools, and forced hundreds of millions of workers to quarantine. The labor market fallout included 20 million extra layoffs, 200,000 extra business closures, and widespread hiring freezes.

Thankfully, the U.S. contraction was the shortest in history, lasting only two months from March to April, 2020. But despite a rapid recovery, fear and uncertainty lingered, driven by the coronavirus pandemic, even after the emergence of vaccines. The economy recovered about 70% of the lost over the following months. But by the end of the year, job growth had turned negative again amid surging Covid cases, and President Joe Biden was warning of a "very dark winter."

The following year looked more hopeful. Not only did 2021 begin amid a roll-out of vaccines, but it also brought a font of new federal spending, including unspent coronavirus relief funds from 2020 and various forms of stimulus to households. Retail spending, home construction, and new business starts surged past pre-pandemic trends. Equity markets reached new highs.

Employer demand for labor boomed. But very few of the workers who had been sidelined by the pandemic returned to the labor force, causing labor markets to become tighter than ever before. Even when Covid cases fell, schools re-opened, and expanded unemployment

benefits expired, workers were reluctant to return.

Employers' efforts to compete for talent became a veritable cage match. To quote Federal Reserve Board's December 2021 Beige Book:

*"While wage increases were most notable for entry-level positions, contacts suggested that pay was increasing across the wage scale. Moreover, firms were reportedly enhancing other benefits, such as hiring and retention bonuses and flexible work arrangements to attract and retain workers."*

According to one Beige Book entry: "An airline reported offering flight attendants triple pay to work during peak periods over the coming holiday season."

Running the economy hot had large benefits for job seekers and workers, especially disadvantaged groups. But supply chains could not keep up with unexpectedly high consumer demand. The result was the steepest rise in inflation in three decades, the classic sign of an overheated economy. By year end, the Federal Reserve was promising to double the speed with which it would taper asset purchases and eyeing three interest rate hikes in 2022.

Some observers worry that the Fed's "hawkish pivot" could send the economy right back into a frost, especially with cases of the new Omi-

cron variant of coronavirus spreading rapidly, and various forms of Covid relief expired. There is a risk it could cut the recovery short prematurely, with millions still missing from the labor force.

But we believe there is a good chance that the Fed will strike the right balance, taking some froth out of the market and causing inflation to moderate without job growth stalling.

If the Fed is able to strike the right balance, then in other matters, too, the country is likely to find the golden mean between two extremes. Workers will return to the labor force gradually, but not so fast as to push unemployment up, increase labor market friction, or erode their newfound leverage.

Finding the right balance from a policy perspective will increase the chances that people will take Covid seriously, but not panic. Lockdowns likely won't need to be repeated on a wide scale, now that more targeted alternatives are available: N95 masks, vaccines and booster shots, rapid home tests (which will be mailed free of charge to people who want them in the new year), and two oral antivirals (which have just been authorized).

If we find the desirable middle ground, the likely result will be a year in which the U.S. controls Covid and inflation without drastic measures that could damage growth or limit our future potential. As supply chains recover, and workers ease back into the labor market, there is every reason to believe we can find ourselves in a milder and more sustainable economic climate.



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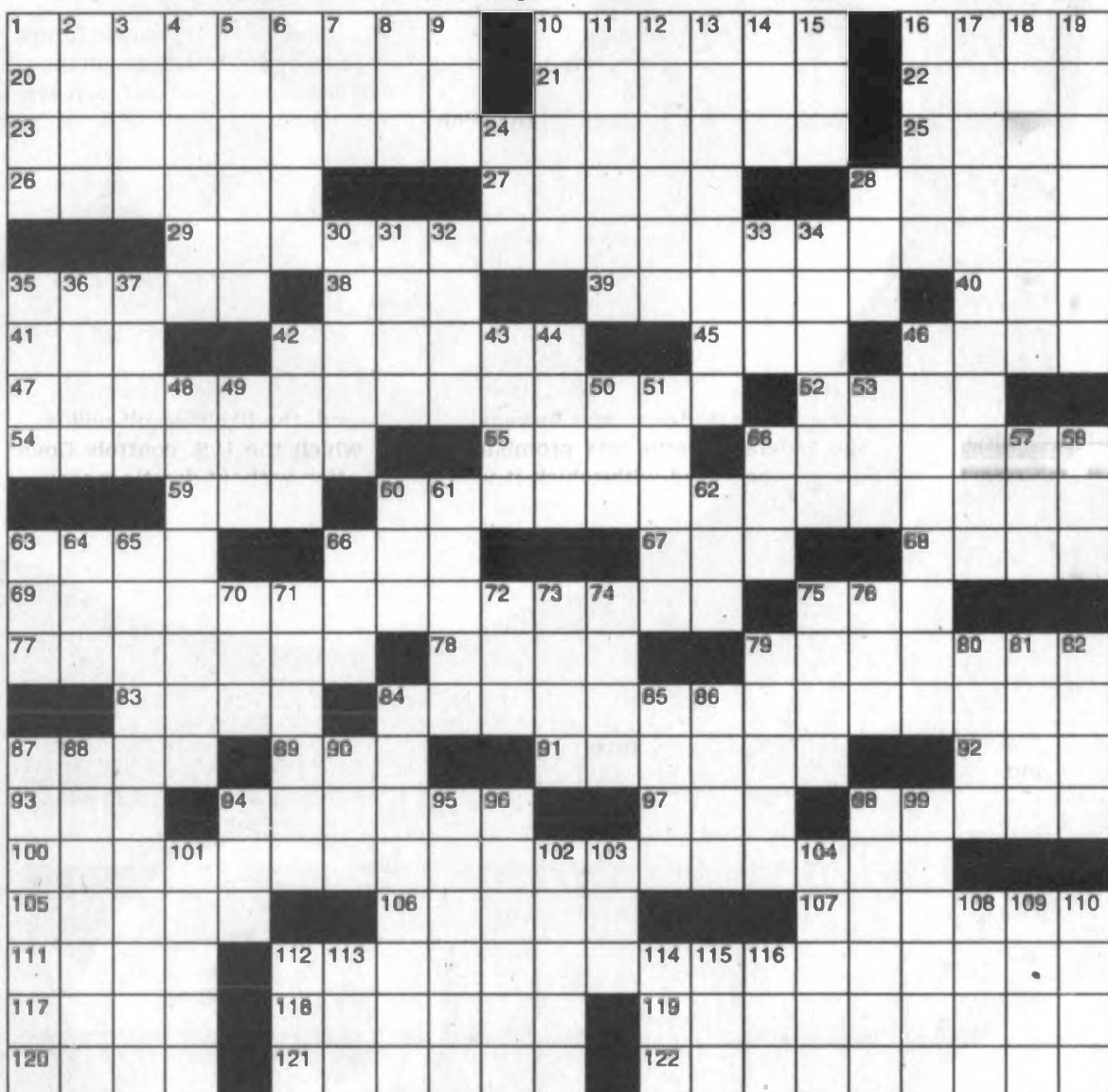
# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

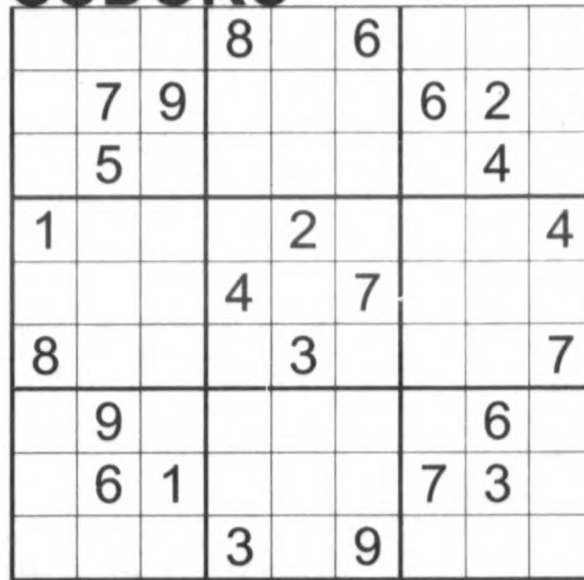
### TRIMMING UP

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sports events played by visiting teams  
10 Obeys reluctantly  
16 Boho-chic Aussie boots  
20 Arched shoe part  
21 Part of U.K.  
22 She talks on iPhones  
23 Parasites plaguing the Cheshire cat?  
25 A party to  
26 Everlasting, poetically  
27 Above ground  
28 Bedazzled  
29 Worked to get a different reward?  
35 Pizza base  
38 Tic-tac-toe win  
39 Geometry assignments  
40 "Dr." who raps  
41 Above, poetically  
42 Yard separators  
45 Prefix with cyclist  
46 Combat vet's affliction, for short
- 47 One giving technical advice to wizards?  
52 Bull in a ring  
54 Structure near a tonsil  
55 "Othello" adversary  
56 Relatives of alpacas  
59 Adversary  
60 City area where lots of radiators are produced?  
63 Sword variety  
66 Medic  
67 Hiking aid  
68 Disgusting  
69 Untwisting threads  
75 "I think —!"  
77 Mobile's state  
78 Smell  
79 Big ape  
83 Hoofbeat  
84 Math student doing sums correctly?  
87 Mötley —  
89 — hub (tech device)  
91 Widely known  
92 "Nope"  
93 Narrow estuary  
94 Guinea pig's cousin
- 97 Ring legend Muhammad  
98 Speechify  
100 Clock setting at the rear of a ship?  
105 Makes grimy  
106 Eye color, e.g.  
107 Non-Spanish spelling of an Arizona tribe's name  
111 Pack neatly  
112 Trim request  
113 ... or what this puzzle takes, based on what its missing letters spell?  
117 Sicilian peak  
118 Use a hammer to fix, perhaps  
119 Angry cry to a captor
- 120 Promising  
121 Lacey's partner on TV  
122 Hugh Jackman film about robot boxing
- DOWN**
- 1 Vex  
2 Doing the job  
3 Suffix with clear or vigil  
4 Certain plows and tractors  
5 Give a smile  
6 Ed of "Gus"  
7 Trim grass  
8 "Do Ya" rock gp.  
9 Wash, bigwig  
10 Good, in Spain  
11 Freeway access point  
12 More shrewd  
13 Begin  
14 "X" number  
15 Eccentric  
16 Consuming  
17 Popular highball  
18 Gardeners, farmers, etc.  
19 Well-muscled  
24 Afront, in rap  
26 GEICO's bus.  
30 Incessantly  
31 Geologic spans  
32 Lead-in to drama  
33 Sweetie pie  
34 Should that be the case  
35 Super-deep sleep  
36 Skim, say  
37 Spur (on)  
42 Pâté de —  
43 Hollywood's Kazan  
44 Eye color, e.g.  
46 Itchy, medically  
48 Make weak  
49 Pigeon sound  
50 Geologic span  
51 Shearer of "A Free Soul"  
53 Sept. follower  
56 Bigwig  
57 Comic strip cry of dismay  
58 Sloppy farm area  
60 Animal in a 58-Down  
61 Greeting with a GIF, maybe  
62 June honoree  
63 Geologic span  
64 Chum  
65 Pre-hurricane orders  
66 Stuff in the gene pool  
70 Thai language  
71 Oppose as false  
72 Snoozing site  
73 Atoll feature  
74 Sticky pod in Cajun cuisine  
75 Entre — (between us)  
76 Tolkien beast  
79 Astronaut's wear  
80 "Girls" creator Dunham  
81 Legal exam, for short  
82 Former court king Arthur  
84 Lying adjacent to  
85 Epps of "Scream 2"  
86 Give up a poker hand  
87 More boorish  
88 Trattoria rice dish  
90 Distress call  
94 — Antiqua  
95 Plaid design  
96 Even-scored  
98 Nebraskan Native Americans  
99 Reinstate in an office  
101 1999 Super Bowl MVP John  
102 Humdinger  
103 Wolfed down  
104 Spying info  
108 To — (perfectly)  
109 Living space  
110 German car company  
112 Circle part  
113 Rural stretch  
114 Rink legend Bobby  
115 Stipend or toll  
116 St. Pete loc.



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

## SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★

1/13

### Here's How It Works:

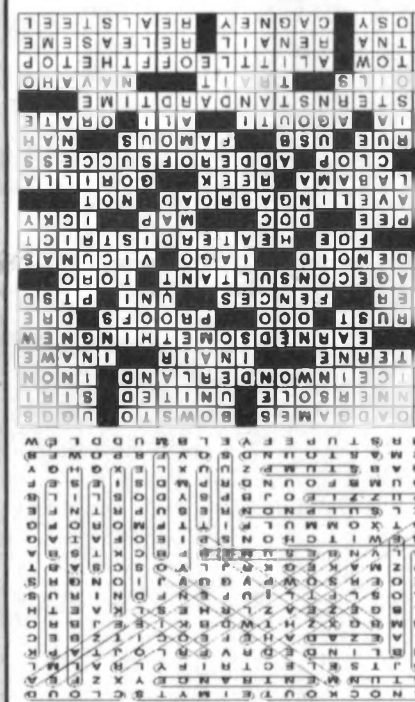
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

## IN A DAZE

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.

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

AMAZE  
ASTONISH  
ASTOUND  
BAFFLE  
BAMBOOZLE  
BEFOG  
BEFUDDLE  
BEMUSE  
BEWILDER  
BEWITCH  
BLIND  
CLOUD  
DAZE  
DAZZLE  
DEVASTATE  
DISCOMPOSE  
DUMBFOUND  
ELECTRIFY  
ENTRANCE  
FLABBERGAST  
FLUMMOX  
FOIL  
KNOCK FOR SIX  
KNOCKOUT  
MUDDLE  
MYSTIFY  
NONPLUS  
OVERPOWER  
OVERWHELM  
PERPLEX  
PERTURB  
PUZZLE  
ROCK  
SHOCK  
SPELLBIND  
STAGGER  
STARTLE  
STUMP  
STUN  
STUPEFY  
STYMIE  
SURPRISE  
UNSETTLE  
UPSET



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ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD