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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Huron Valley School Board appoints new member

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amy Grzymkowski was appointed to the Huron Valley Board of Education in a unanimous 5-0 vote to fill a vacant seat on the school board.

The Commerce Township resident was one of four candidates the board interviewed Jan. 26, chosen from a field of 11 candidates who applied following the

resignation of Jeff Long earlier this month.

Also interviewed were Rose D' Ambrosi, Brian Conley, and Eric Lakin.

In making their selection, the board praised all the candidates, but singled out Grzymkowski for what they believe will be her ability to "build bridges in the community."



Grzymkowski

Grzymkowski, a resident of the district for more than 20 years and mother of four children whom have all attended Huron Valley schools, has been an active volunteer. She helped to pass the \$200 million school improvement bond and sinking fund in 2019 as co-chair of the Citizens for Quality Education Committee.

Board President Sean Carlson

praised her efforts on the bond committee and expressed his gratitude.

"Amy was critical in helping moving the bond forward," he said. "Her thinking not the same as me in a lot of ways, but like her sincerity."

"One of the key cornerstones of any good board member, it is important, when she talks about building bridges,

See BOARD, Page 4A

## Novi city and school officials to swap 70 acres of land each

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi officials are finalizing a deal in which the city and the school district will each exchange 70 acres of land involving Bosco Fields and land near Novi Middle School and Novi High School.

The exchange of property will allow both entities the ability to build new or enhance existing facilities and is seen as a win for all.

"It does nothing but strengthen the relationship between the city and the schools," City Manager Pete Auger said. "It's a win, win, win. The schools, the city and the community wins."

The agreement involves a total of 140 acres, with each swapping 70 acres. No money is involved.

The specific exchange includes:

- Novi Middle School/Wildlife Woods, with the district to gain full ownership of soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and property to the east of the Novi Middle School
- Bosco Fields, with the city to receive full ownership of Bosco Field with the intention to expand the Novi Parks System
- Novi High School/Fuerst Park/El-la Mae Power Park, with Fuerst Park to be squared off, and the district to acquire the land south of school's baseball fields, including their current softball/baseball fields and cross-country trails/wetlands

The city and the schools have been discussing the exchange of property for nearly four years, with elimination of a token lease agreement and formal

See BOARD, Page 4A



Vehicles cross the Eight Mile Road bridge near Novi Road on Jan. 25. Two of four lanes have been closed on the bridge for over a year with no hint of construction. A \$1.49 million construction project on the bridge is scheduled to start in 2024.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Wayne County can't explain Eight Mile bridge lane closures

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

People who drive regularly over Northville's Eight Mile Road bridge want to know why two of the structure's four lanes (one in each direction) have been closed for over a year with no hint of construction work.

Unfortunately, there are no imminent answers.

Wayne County spokesperson Tiffani Jackson confirmed a \$1.49 million construction project is slated to begin on the bridge in spring 2024, but she could not explain the presence of the long-term lane closures.

Although the Michigan Department

of Transportation will be paying for 80% of the project (Wayne County will fund the remaining 20%, Jackson said), MDOT deferred questions regarding the lane closures to Wayne County.

Northville Department of Public Works employee Mike Domine also had

See BRIDGE, Page 4A

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# No weapons found at South Lyon East during lockdown

Susan Bromley and Susan Vela  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East High School students were locked down for nearly four hours on Jan. 24.

Students were finally dismissed for the day shortly after 4 p.m. after a police search of the school ended.

According to an email to families from South Lyon East Principal Karen Fisher that provided a "brief recap of the situation at the high school," the lockdown began after administrators were notified of a message in a girls' bathroom that referenced a shooting.

Students remained in their classrooms while Oakland County Sheriff's



South Lyon East High School was on lockdown Monday afternoon after a written message was found in a girls bathroom at the school in Lyon Township. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

deputies and South Lyon police officers conducted a room-by-room search. No weapons were found in the

school, Fisher wrote in her letter, and the principal said school would resume Jan. 25 as planned.

"In light of today's circumstances, our students and staff handled themselves with poise and were cooperative and understanding," Fisher wrote. "Parents, please take the opportunity to talk with your student this evening about what occurred today."

"If your student needs additional support, our counseling staff will be available to help."

Superintendent Steve Archibald sent a message to families in the district around 12:45 p.m. Monday notifying them of the lockdown.

"South Lyon East High School has entered a lockdown while school staff and

officers from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office conduct a search related to a written message that was found in a girls' bathroom," Archibald wrote. "An update will be shared when the search is completed."

Archibald said school dismissal, which normally occurs around 2:15 p.m., would be delayed.

A parent told Hometown Life his daughters had informed him that students were locked in classrooms while backpacks were being searched and students patted down.

South Lyon officers and deputies from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office are handling the search of the building, South Lyon Police Lt. Douglas Baaki said.

## hometownlife.com

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## Wayne County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka

USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 110,955 new cases. That's down 20.8% from the previous week's tally of 140,169 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 23rd among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 30.3% from the week before, with 3,451,287 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 3.21% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 10 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 16,821 cases and 145 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 21,546 cases and 182 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported



Mira Blum, a registered respiratory therapist at UnityPoint Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, gets ready to extubate a COVID-19 patient in the Critical Care Unit on Jan. 6.

BRYON HOULGRAVE/THE REGISTER

374,328 cases and 7,118 deaths.

Oakland County reported 13,513 cases and 93 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 16,099 cases and 72 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 267,558 cases and 3,460 deaths.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 64 counties, with the best declines in Wayne County, with 16,821 cases from 21,546 a week earlier; in Macomb County, with 8,630 cases from 11,862; and in Oakland County, with 13,513 cases from 16,099.

Michigan ranked 35th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 65.2% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 75.3%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 114,580 vaccine doses, including 25,207 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 178,371 vaccine doses, including 50,856 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 14,708,950 total doses.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Clinton County with 1,803 cases per 100,000 per week; Dickinson County with 1,724; and Chippewa County with 1,660. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000

per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 16,821 cases; Oakland County, with 13,513 cases; and Macomb County, with 8,630. Weekly case counts rose in 19 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Clinton, Montcalm and Newaygo counties.

In Michigan, 695 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 793 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,235,180 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 32,197 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 74,333,001 people have tested positive and 884,260 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

### Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions falling

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, Jan. 30.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 3,280
- The week before that: 3,971
- Four weeks ago: 3,822

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 170,411
- The week before that: 183,931
- Four weeks ago: 147,900

Hospitals in 13 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 15 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 18 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control.

## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider the 2022-2028 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing. The draft Capital Improvement Program documents are available for examination and review by contacting the City Manager's Office, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours. Any written comments for the public hearing must be received by the Community Development Department, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

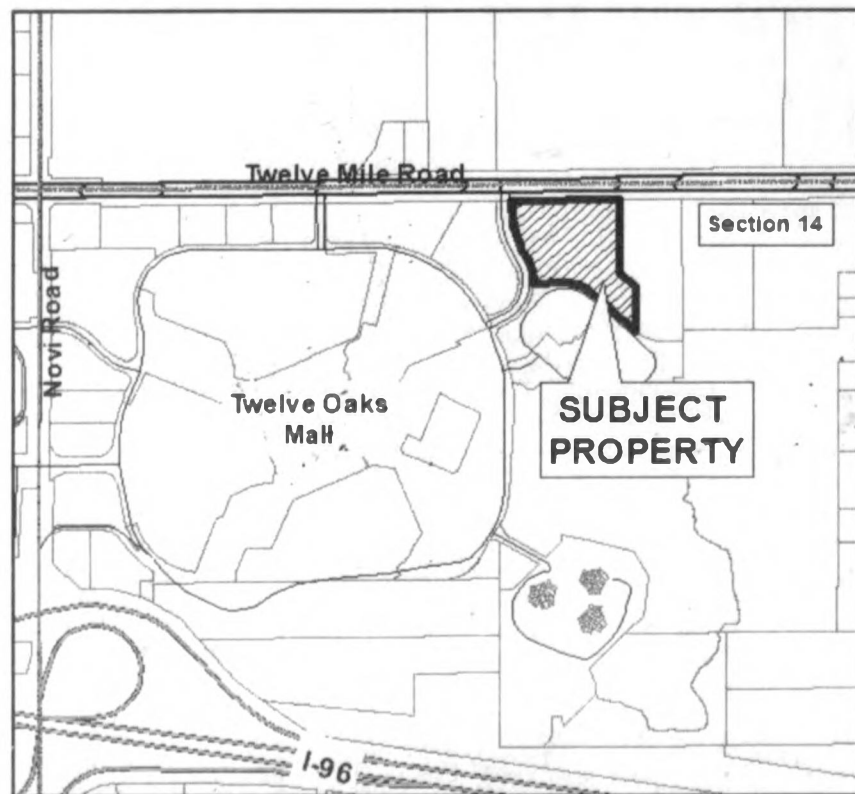
Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published: February 3, 2022

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## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR GRANT OF NOVI JSP20-27, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN WITH A PD-2 PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OPTION, SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT, VETLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. The subject property is located south of Twelve Mile Road, east of Novi Road, and northeast of the Twelve Oaks Mall in Section 14. The applicant is proposing to develop a vacant 7.55-acre site with four multi-story apartment buildings and four townhouse buildings, containing a total of 174 multifamily units. The applicant will be utilizing the Planned Development 2 (PD-2) option to propose stand-alone residential use in the RC Regional Center District.



Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-14-200-034

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published: February 3, 2022

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Rev. Dennis Thomas, Pastor

For more information regarding this directory, please contact Kadijah Brack-Rowley at kbrackrowl@localiq.com



## Pulte to expand the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans to expand The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township were recently presented to the township's planning commission. Those plans include constructing a 14,000-square-foot ballroom addition as well as a ceremony pavilion and an addition and improvements to the pro shop for the golf course. More than 30 parking spaces would also be added as a part of the work.

Word of the additions comes less than six months after it was announced the Catholic Archdiocese of

Detroit finalized the sale of the property to Pulte Family Management. That sale allowed for the Pulte family to own the center, which they had helped redevelop when it still was owned by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"The archdiocese is very familiar with our work, which is also why we're here," said Francis Resendes of Resendes Design Group, which is doing the work on the property.

The planning commission reviewed the plans for an amendment to the site's planned unit development during its meeting Jan. 19 at Plymouth Township Hall. It unanimously recommended approval to the town-

ship board of trustees, who will take up the matter at a future meeting.

Planning commission chairman Dennis Cebulski inquired about several artistic pieces within the facility, which formerly served as St. John's Seminary by the Archdiocese for 40 years.

He called the Inn at St. John's a "jewel" of the township and wanted to make sure such pieces weren't simply removed.

"We're concerned about history as well," he said. "So I think that would be a useful planning device on your part."



Costume director Sue DeKoninck helps 12-year-old Logan Clark, portraying Smee, with his costume Thursday for the production of "Peter Pan Jr.!" PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

## Meet the woman behind Prelude Children's Theater's magical costume creations

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

**HARTLAND** - Sue DeKoninck's work with the Prelude Children's Theater is visible in every swoosh of a feather, sparkle in a child's costume and button on a pirate's coat.

Something magical happens when a child puts on a shiny, new costume, DeKoninck, Prelude's costumer director, said.

"If a kid can't remember their lines and they can't sing on tune, at least they look good, they become that character," she said. "The more shiny it is, the more excitement they show."

Shannon Egenolf, the theater group's director, echoed DeKoninck's thoughts.

"Sue always likes to make sure that each kid feels special in their costumes," Egenolf said. "It elevates it to the next level. Even the kids acting level elevates."

Egenolf said the costumes give productions a "Broadway edge."

DeKoninck began working as costume director for the Hartland-based children's theater in 2016, at the tail end of the production of "Tut, Tut!"

Since then she has worked on several other plays, and after a pause during the height of COVID-19, she is creating costumes for "Peter Pan Jr.!", which is scheduled to debut in February at the Hartland Performing Arts Center.

"Every production has at least 60 kids and many of those kids get two or three additional costumes," she said. "It was so neat because I come to the studio and I have a costume for them. It really inspired me."

Kate Hartman, a mother of two girls who belong to the group, said she appreciates DeKoninck's attention to detail.

"Her costumes help children build confidence. I have watched their entire demeanor change when they see her creations the first time," Hartman said. "Quiet kids, sometimes bullied kids, get their moments to shine."

### 'Always about the children'

DeKoninck, of Fowlerville, said she has learned to be flexible in her role as costume director because kids "have a little problem called growing."

Participants are measured for costumes in the summer when roles are cast — nearly six months before production takes place.

"I remember my Mufasa (from 'The Lion King')," she said. "I had the costume all done, then he grew 6 inches."

Because cast members are all children, finding patterns for costumes can be difficult. DeKoninck ends up making some of her own patterns and uses stretchy material to allow for last-minute growth spurts.

Not only does DeKoninck take into account growth spurts, but also modesty, Hartman said.

"It's always about the children," Hartman said. "Adding little details to make the ensemble outfits unique and special. In 'Frozen,' for the coronation scene, instead of normal dresses, she fashioned a unique Disney princess for each of the girls."



The double cast of the Prelude Children's Theater production of "Peter Pan Jr.!" surrounds DeKoninck as dress rehearsals get underway.

Hartman's younger daughter, Josie, helped with costumes in previous shows.

"In the past she has tagged along with me," Hartman said. "Miss Sue has let her run the machine and make little pieces for the shows."

DeKoninck, who teaches sewing, gets help from her students, with one student working on "Peter Pan Jr." attaching the leaves to Peter Pan's costume and creating Tinker Bell's skirt.

"I have always loved teaching people to sew," she said. "I have kids sewing a lot just because I want them to see that their talents are valuable."

### Sewing is a family affair

DeKoninck said her father, Dean Burcoff, taught her how to sew using a hand-cranked machine to make drapes.

"He was upholsterer. I would sit on his lap and I would turn, by hand ... he would let me turn the hand-wheel to make the machine go," she said.

She passed on the tradition, teaching everyone in her family how to sew, except her husband who supports her passion but has no desire to learn.

"This is a family involvement," she said. "Sometimes my family goes, 'Oh my goodness what am I doing.'"

This past year, DeKoninck skipped her family's Christmas vacation to make sure she finished all the costumes for the latest show.

"There can't be a kid who doesn't have a costume," she said.



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

## When to get a prenuptial agreement

Dear Rick:

I have some questions about a prenuptial agreement that I hope you can help me with. I am in my mid-40s and have never been married. Last year I met someone, and we are planning to get married this summer.

I currently have a nice size portfolio and own my business. In addition, my house is paid in full. My future spouse, on the other hand, has minimal assets. I have had friends who say I should get a prenuptial agreement; others tell me don't bother since they're not enforceable.

Are prenuptial agreements enforceable and, if they are, do you think I need one? Is it something that I can do myself? I have not had great experiences with lawyers, and I'd like to avoid them if I can.

Thank you, Tony

Dear Tony:

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. I wish you both nothing but happiness.

With regard to prenuptial agreements, the answer is yes, and yes. Because you have a business and substantial assets, you should have a prenuptial agreement. If the marriage does not work, a divorce can be expensive for you, and your business can be at risk. A prenuptial agreement can protect you and your business.

With regard to enforcement, they are enforceable. If prenuptial agreements are drafted correctly, they are enforceable in courts of law. On the other hand, there is a chance for litigation if prenuptial agreements are done incorrectly.

In order to have an enforceable prenuptial agreement, it is critical to allot sufficient time for both sides to review and study the agreement. Some prenuptial agreements are so one-sided and unfair or unjust to one of the parties that they may not be enforced. It is important to have the agreement drafted by someone, presumably a lawyer, who deeply understands prenuptial agreements and has experience in this area.

I always recommend that each party have their own attorney to advise them. It is important that there are no conflicts of interest or undue influence by either of the parties.

Unfortunately, many marriages end in divorce. Prenuptial agreements make separation between parties easier. When a young couple is getting married and they don't have many assets, prenuptial agreements are not as important. However, if someone is married later in life and they have substantial assets or they own a business, prenuptial agreements are important.

Therefore, in the situation at hand, I recommend a prenuptial agreement. However, I would suggest hiring an attorney to draft it and encourage your fiancée to obtain separate and independent counsel to review it on their behalf.

I recognize some people think prenuptial agreements are wrong and that if you get married for love then you should not have to think about the relationship ending. Remember that a prenuptial agreement doesn't encourage divorce or separation but rather, makes it much easier if the parties want to terminate their relationship. I hope you never look at the prenup again after it is written, however, if you must, you'll be glad you took the time to draft the agreement.

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).





# Police, community groups prepare for Polar Plunge

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

Some law enforcers have more experience being bold by getting cold, and they're hyping up the cool factor that goes into taking the Polar Plunge.

After all, so their peer-pressuring campaign goes, a hop, skip or a jump into a freezing Walled Lake means more money for Special Olympics Michigan.

So far, White Lake Township, Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township police departments have signed up for the Feb. 12 plunge.

Along with other teams from businesses, community groups and more, they are well on their way to raising \$40,000 for Special Olympics athletes, who are children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Some other groups participating include CrossCountry Mortgage Bloomfield Hills Heroes, Farmington Early Childhood Center, Courageous Lion Studios, and Team Misfits (Formerly Team No.VI).

They're expecting Special Olympics athletes to be in the crowd on the lakeshore at The Beach Tiki Bar & Boil, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, for the event. The athletes have supported the jumpers in the past - and laughed at them, too. They've also queued up for their own plunges into winter waters.

White Lake Township Police Sgt. Brad Connell said the Polar Plunge is a great social event. He recruits jumpers by stressing the competitive camaraderie and excitement that leads up to the no-mercy day.

"It's really fun leading up to it," he said. "Then the morning of ... when you're there ... you're like, 'Why am I doing this? This is an awful idea.' But then as you see some other people start jumping and you get out there on the ice, it kind of hits you like, 'OK. This is going to be awesome.'"

"Then you just do it and it happens so quick that you don't even realize that it's done and over with. You're like, 'OK. That hit me quick. I'm warming up now but that was ... fun.' Then everybody kind of socializes and hangs out."

Drenched or finally dry, they know what exists as a distant memory was for a good cause.

"Anybody can do it," Bloomfield



The White Lake Township Police Department shared pictures from the 2020 Polar Plunge. COURTESY OF WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

**"It's for a great cause.**

**It's great team building.**

**Anything we can do to build that bridge and to establish those great relationships with our community, that's what we're focused on."**

Jeff King Walled Lake Police chief

Township Officer Kelly McGraw said. "The people that watch, they see a person doing an amazing, challenging thing by jumping in there."

"We come out fine." She works out every day. For her, those moments before the plunge - hearing organizers call her name and approaching the frigid waters - are the toughest part of the event.

"You know you've got to go in," she said. "It's freezing cold water. Once you're in, it's kind of a shock."

She's plunged before, and she'll probably do it again. She loves seeing the Special Olympics athletes smile and

laugh at the shivering participants willing to look vulnerable to help them out. A colleague is usually waiting with a hot latte.

This is the first year the Farmington Hills Police Department will send a team to Walled Lake, and Chief Jeff King is building a team on the premise that he will be the first in the water.

Team members have discussed themed costumes for Special Olympics Michigan's biggest fundraiser of the year. They've toyed with the idea of being characters from the Mario Brothers, with King being Mario.

"We don't know what we're going to be yet, but we're going to be something as a team," he said. "I don't think there's a way you can prepare for jumping into fresh water on Feb. 12 in Michigan. What I'm trying to wrap my mind around mentally is getting in (and), just like it says, take the plunge."

"It's for a great cause. It's great team building. Anything we can do to build that bridge and to establish those great relationships with our community, that's what we're focused on."

Law enforcers across the state have been drumming up support for their local polar plunges.

Ted Grossnickle, Special Olympics Michigan's corporate engagement director, appreciates the support.

During last winter's virtual events, participants raised Polar Plunge funds by making snow angels and running through chilly sprinklers. Statewide, they raised \$709,000, compared to the typical pre-pandemic tally of more than \$1.2 million.

With a few weeks to go, participants for the Oakland County Polar Plunge at Walled Lake have raised about \$37,000. Their goal is \$40,000.

"We're very hopeful that we can surpass that because every dollar we surpass our goal allows us to activate more local people at those events," Grossnickle said. "We're able to send more athletes to summer games (and) get more local programming going."

Oakland County has about 1,000 Special Olympians participating in 16 different sports.

To register or donate to the Oakland County Polar Plunge, visit [classy.org/event/oakland-county-west-polar-plunge/e253916](http://classy.org/event/oakland-county-west-polar-plunge/e253916).

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

## Bridge

Continued from Page 1A

no answers, saying the bridge is under the jurisdiction of Wayne County, so the city has little to no information regarding the project.

Once started in 2024, the project will include deck replacement, beam steel painting, bearing replacement and substructure patching, Jackson said. The project is expected to be completed by late 2024.

Northville residents who contacted Hometown Life wondered if the lane closures are safety precautions, ensuring that too much weight is not on the bridge at any one time.

Jackson did not know if that was the reason for the closures or if the lanes would be reopened before the project is completed in fall 2024.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.



While potential structural renovation work is contemplated on the Eight Mile bridge, traffic has been reduced by one lane in each direction. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Board

Continued from Page 1A

she could be successful in helping with that, and we could help her build bridges to our communities."

In her interview, Grzymkowski said she wanted to be on the school board to be a bridge between the board and a community that had been divided during what was probably "the worst two years of our lives."

"I'm not a critical person by nature, but when I see something that needs addressing, I want to be a part of the solution," she said.

Board Secretary Lindsay Cotter was impressed with Grzymkowski's grasp of education in Huron Valley.

"One of Amy's strengths that I didn't see in other candidates, is she is

very knowledgeable about instruction and processes going on in the district," Cotter said. "Certainly she has an understanding."

Grzymkowski has a bachelor's degree in business from Oakland University and currently serves as director of the Highland-White Lake Business Association and is the marketing and human resources manager for the Western Oakland Transportation Authority.

Grzymkowski will be sworn in during the board's Feb. 7 meeting.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected to serve," Grzymkowski said. "I look forward to working with the other board members and the administration to continue to position HVS as a destination school district."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.



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Novi's Bosco Fields on Beck Road, south of 11 Mile. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Land

Continued from Page 1A

exchange of ownership allowing both to expand plans.

Auger said the exchange will allow for a splash pad in honor of the late Fox 2 News meteorologist Jessica Starr to be put at Bosco Fields.

District Superintendent Steve Matthews said the land exchange is good for the schools for multiple reasons.

The obtaining of land adjacent to the middle school will give the district complete control of the tennis courts

and basketball courts and advance outdoor education opportunities the district is looking forward to with a recently awarded \$400,000 grant. Acquiring additional land next to the high school will allow for enhancements to the cross country course and softball fields.

Matthews said the community will not lose any athletic field, and he anticipates a continued partnership with the city's parks and recreation department.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the city and district to continue to work together to enhance opportunities for the students and the residents of Novi," he said.

[sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com)



# How to keep winter bugs out of your home

Sophia Lada Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the warmer months, Michigan residents deal with mosquitos and ants — some must also endure bees, wasps and termites.

Now that winter is upon us, there's an entirely different set of bugs to be on the lookout for.

Bob Yoakam is the "Lansing Bug Man" — his pest control business deals with bug issues mostly in the spring and summer however, this time of year is when he starts getting more indoor calls.

"Now that it's this cold, they're already in your house," Yoakam said.

So, what are the bugs to watch out for in winter? And how do you get rid of them once they're inside? Read on for the five most common winter bugs in Greater Lansing, and how to keep them out of your home.

## 5 most common winter bugs

Gary Parsons is the director of the MSU Bug House, part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where you can learn about all sorts of insects and arachnids — and interact with live specimens.

According to Parsons, the five most common bugs found in Michigan homes during the colder months are:

- 1 Box elder bugs
- 2 Multicolored Asian lady beetles (ladybugs)
- 3 Brown marmorated stink bugs
- 4 Western conifer seed bugs
- 5 Cluster flies

Each of these bugs have adult stages in the winter, which makes them mobile and motivated to get out of or avoid cold and rain and snow.

Most are seeking a dry spot to enter a hibernation state, somewhere they know they'll be protected. Some may go into the bark of trees, or inside a fallen log. Stink bugs especially are known to hibernate in rock, such as the crevasses of a cliff.

Ladybugs and stink bugs are distasteful, meaning pets may get sick from eating too many. For the most part, though, these are all harmless, Parsons said.



Gary Parsons, director of the MSU Bug House (left), talks about a collection with MSU Professor Anthony Cognator outside the College of Natural Science at Michigan State. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

These bugs view houses as just another place to spend the winter because they can sense the warmth. Once inside, they mostly just hibernate in the house.

## How to prevent bugs getting in

Obvious entry points for bugs are where there's an electrical, water or air-conditioning line entering the house, Yoakam said. Caulking and sealing holes around these openings is a good first step toward a bug-free home, but it's not as certain as using a pesticide, he said.

Other common places for bugs to sneak in is through warped siding, or windows and doors that aren't well-insulated. Parsons said he's had stink bugs get into his house through vent pipes in the roof. He recommends sealing up all cracks where bugs could get in.

Parsons said bugs tend to prefer

south- or west-facing sides of the house, because those areas tend to get more sun in the winter. He also uses a mesh screen over his attic vents and other openings to keep bugs out of his home.

"The first thing you should do is try to prevent them from getting in the house," he said.

Once bugs are inside, they emit an attractive pheromone to help other bugs find the safe, warm area and then it becomes a matter of getting them out.

## How to get bugs out

"We do not advocate using pesticides," Parsons said. "It really has little effect on these things anyway." He said there are more effective ways to deal with bugs indoors that don't leave any residue.

According to Parsons, the best way to address the bugs who have made it in-

side your house already is to vacuum them up, or capture them in some sort of container to take outside. These bugs die in the cold, so there's no need to worry about them coming back inside.

Parsons warns residents to not squish bugs — stink bugs and lady bugs especially can leave a stain, not to mention possible odors.

Yoakam the "Lansing Bug Man" approaches getting bugs out a bit differently: "Without a pesticide keeping a bug out of a house, I don't know another way to be honest," he said.

## More about bugs

To learn more about how to keep bugs out of your home this winter, visit the Lansing Bug Man website or MSU Bug House. And for more resources about bugs in general, including tips for keeping them out of your home, visit the MSU Extension website.

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# Novi planning commission denies Carvana request

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It appears no more cars are coming to a vacant lot in one of Novi's newest and most recognizable commercial developments.

Carvana, which opened its lone Michigan car vending machine in 2020 at the Adell Center in Novi, wants to store some of its additional inventory in a vacant lot east of the Texas Roadhouse restaurant at the center located west of Novi Road and south of Interstate 96.

That stands in conflict with the recommendation of the city's planning staff, however. Citing the area's zoning, which is TC-Town Center, the city's planning staff recommended to the planning commission that it deny the proposed amendment to the zoning first approved several years ago.

A representative for Carvana told the planning commission during its meeting Jan. 26 at the Novi Civic Center the additional lot is needed not due to problems with the business but with the booming success the used vehicle market has seen since Carvana opened in Novi.

"I also want to note that all the things Carvana said in 2018 were true. But the fact is that circumstances have changed due to the success of Carvana," said Dennis Cowan, an attorney representing the company. "It is purely a way station, so to speak, for these vehicles which have already been purchased."

Cowan, a former mayor of Royal Oak, said Carvana has spoken to Texas Roadhouse and said management there does not have an issue with the additional lot. He said the lot would simply serve as a lot to keep cars before they are loaded into the vending machine for customers to be picked up.

"I want to keep this a simple puzzle, I don't want to turn it into a Rubik's cube," he said. "We are simply asking that common sense and fairness prevail here."

The city's planning commissioners weren't ready to approve the plans, however. They voted unanimously during the meeting to deny the request.

Commissioner Michael Lynch said he remembers when the project first came before the planning commission in



Carvana in the Adell Center development in Novi. The planning commission denied Carvana's request to expand parking.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

2018. He said the issue of parking was broached then, and he wanted to stick with the original agreement.

"We had a discussion about how small the parking lot was. I remember this vividly," he said. "We were promised if we were to approve this special use that it would just be the vending machine, which I think is beautiful."

"We were promised one thing ... but at this point in time, I'm not willing to deviate from what's already been approved."

Commissioner Gary Becker said he noticed Carvana-owned vehicles were parked in places they should not be when he visited the site the day of the meeting, including vehicles parked in

handicap spaces, as well as vehicles parked on pavement not designated for parking.

He also said it appeared vehicles are not leaving the lot within the 48-hour window Carvana said they would, as evident by the snow still on some vehicles two days after a snowstorm. That showed him vehicles were staying on the site longer than originally stated.

"If this new application is approved, it would provide 77 total parking spaces, of which the applicant said 16 are needed for employees, leaving 61 on-the-ground parking spaces and 28 additional spaces in the tower, 89 spaces for their presold vehicles," Becker said. "The applicant has not provided any ev-

idence that they are currently meeting the requirement of every vehicle being driven off by a new owner every 48 hours upon arrival of the site."

Commissioner John Avdoulos said the distance between the car vending machine and the lot made it hard for him to consider the change. Walking distance between the two spaces would span several hundred feet across the Adell Center.

"That makes it a difficult use and a difficult situation," he said. "I think it if was maybe next to it, then we could have had better discussion."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.

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# Northville family donates SUV to police as thank you for help after armed robbery

**Susan Vela** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Northville Township family wanted to thank their local police department for shoring up their sense of security after an armed robbery.

So they donated a new Chevrolet Blazer.

Tom Close won the vehicle by sinking a hole-in-one during a golf tournament.

"This never happens, right? They had the car there and I won the car. Nobody ever wins the car," he said. "I talked to my wife. We just looked at each other and said let's donate it to the police."

"We're fortunate enough that we don't need a car. I feel great about it. It's wonderful."

Close is president of Advanced Technologies Consultants, Inc., on Main Street in Northville. He's also a serious golfer.

Over the summer, he was driving home from Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton Township when his phone rang.

His wife was on the other end, telling him that she, their daughter and their grade-school granddaughter had just survived an armed robbery in a CVS parking lot in downtown Northville.

He could hear his daughter talking to the dispatcher.

According to his wife, they had walked out of CVS and were settling into their vehicle when a gunman snuck up on them.

He pointed his gun at them individually, demanding their jewelry.

"They were absolutely terrorized," Close said. "Our daughter gave them her wallet. She said, 'Look. Take this and just leave us alone.'"

The robber ran off, eluding City of Northville officers who took control of the investigation.

Northville Township officers were alerted to the case as well, for reasons that included the fact that the robber could determine the Close family's address from what was inside the stolen wallet. They greeted the Close family at their home.

**They sat down with the family and let**



**Northville Township Police Chief Scott Hilden with Thomas Close near the new vehicle Close donated to the department.**  
SUEAN KEILA/HOMETOWNJIFF.COM

them know they'd be patrolling the area more intensely to keep them safe.

"(Their actions) just comforted them," Tom Close said of that August day. "Then they came back the next day. They came back on Saturday. They had the change of duty on Sunday. They came back by the house again. That really meant the world to our family."

His family has struggled to shake off trauma from the robbery. Knowing officers kept them safe while showing how kind, caring and compassionate they can be helps.

Tom Close said he would give both Northville and Northville Township police departments new vehicles if he could. With only one to offer, he chose

township officers for their extra personal service.

The new Blazer has joined the township department's fleet of vehicles.

New Police Chief Scott Hilden said officers could use it for a variety of tasks. A detective or community relations officer might drive the Blazer. There's also the possibility of transportation to training events.

"It's going to be a great addition for us," Hilden said. "Mr. Close here donating this car is just an incredible gesture. I don't know how many people donate cars to police departments around the country. I don't think there's a whole lot."

The chief said criticism against po-

lice can wear officers down, while gifts like the Close family's can remind them of why they chose their profession.

"When they hear positive comments and community members that are extremely happy with the jobs that they've done, that's why the officers got into this profession," Hilden said. "You're out there to help the community. You're out there to do good things."

According to township authorities, the person suspected of committing the CVS armed robbery is in custody out of state facing several felony charges.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

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## Longtime restaurateur opens panini shop in Northville

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A well-known name in Northville's restaurant scene has made a return to her hometown.

Jessica Poole, whose family ran the former Poole's Tavern downtown, has spent plenty of time away from Michigan in recent years. But after time in California and New York, she's returned to her hometown to open a restaurant of her own.

Coming home just a week before state officials shut down dining room operations at bars and restaurants back in March 2020, she began exploring options. She test-ran part of her idea utilizing some of the space at another one of her family's restaurants, the Lake Street Tavern in downtown South Lyon.

"I was just trying to figure out where my place was going to be here," she said. "I kind of did a dry run of this at our restaurant in South Lyon. We took the dining room and turned it into a grab-and-go market, kind of similar to this."

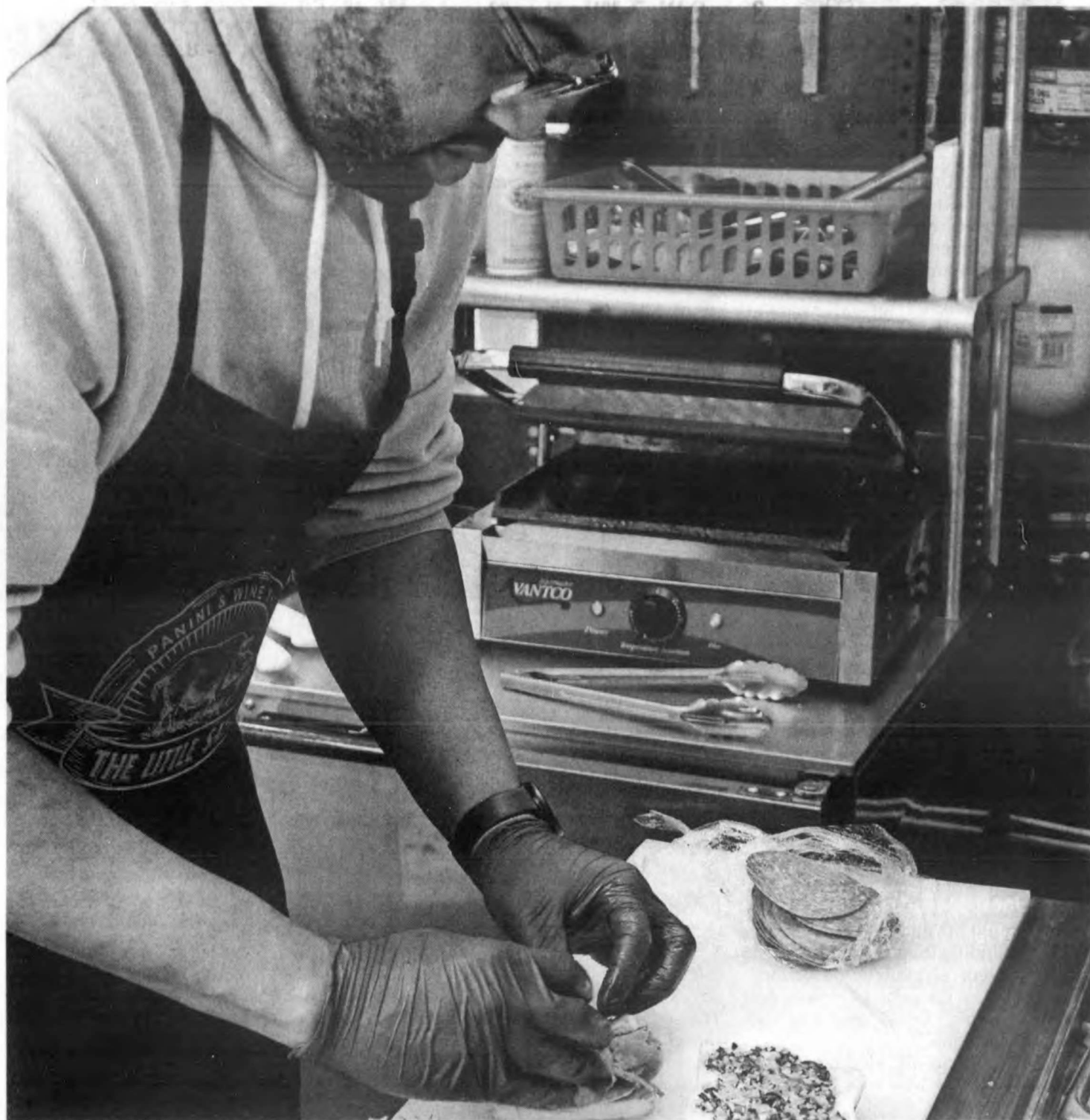
The concept born from that run is The Little Salumi, a takeout panini shop with other items available such as salads, sides and bottles of wine, opened at the end of 2021 at 137 E. Main St. in the space formerly occupied by Urge Juice.

The shop's idea comes from Poole's experience working in the restaurant industry in several facades, from corporate chains to small shops such as Poole's Tavern, which transformed into Exchange Bar & Grill last year under new ownership. The restaurant is designed for takeout only; no tables are set up inside. Customers can enter and order a handful of sandwiches, including a caprese classic and the muffaletta, made with hot capicola, mortadella, salami, provolone cheese and olive salad.

"Some are family recipes and some are influences from places I've worked at," she said.

The shop also sells a variety of wines from all over, including some local brands. Poole said they've sold plenty of wine for patrons to enjoy with their sandwiches.

It's the first time Poole has worked in a strictly to-go setting. Getting into that model is something she wanted to do, but especially after the pandemic began. With more people opting for carry-out and with the challenges the sit-



Corey McPherson preps a muffaletta and caprese panini Jan. 7 at Little Salumi, which is owned by his fiancée, Jessica Poole. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

down restaurant industry has faced for nearly two years, takeout is a model Poole expects to last a long time.

"People are changing their habits and doing things differently," she said. "If

they weren't changing the way they did things, this is still a concept that works everywhere."

"I know it's a tiny space, but we have so much room to grow in this space."

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. More information can be found on its website, thelittlesalumi.com.



Actors Cynthia Tupper, left, and Gary Weinstein. Both live in Farmington Hills. COURTESY OF DAVE REINKE

## Farmington Players prep for Valentine-themed production

Courtesy of Barry Cutler  
Farmington Players

Take your Valentine to a fun romantic comedy at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

"Tokens of Affection," written by Topher Payne, opens Feb. 11. The show is directed by Dave Reinke of Nqv, and it shines a spotlight on what commitment looks like two or three decades later.

The story follows Frank Garrett, who's stunned by his wife Jackie's decision to leave him after 37 years of marriage, as well as siblings Charlie and Claire, who team up to try and save their parents' relationship.

Reinke says "Tokens of Affection" is a perfect Valentine's show exploring two people who need to rekindle their love. To do so, they must first embrace the little things in life: "the compliments, the greetings at the door, the tokens of affection."

"From the moment I read the script I fell in love with the show," Reinke said. "These are real people that audience members can relate to. It is not your typical A plus B equals love connection."

The playwright, Topher Payne, has been quoted as saying: "The core conflict of the show is recognizing that finding someone with whom to build a life is a dicey proposition. And if you manage

to find that, no matter what that looks like, it's worth celebrating."

"I hope audience members will leave with a happy heart and never lose sight of the little things that make love grand," Reinke added.

Tickets for Tokens of Affection are available now at farmingtonplayers.org or at the box office at 248-553-2955. The show will run on a variety of dates between Feb. 11 and Feb. 26.

Adult tickets cost \$22 and tickets students or seniors cost \$20.

In order to protect the safety of our cast, crew and patrons all attendees ages 12 and older are required to have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Patrons must provide proof of vaccination and ID to gain entry to the theater. Mask wearing is required while attending performances.

The house, at 32332 West 12 Mile Road, will open by 7:15 p.m., and ushers will encourage patrons to take their seats promptly — both pre-show and at intermission — rather than congregate in the lobby.

Those who don't feel well or have cold symptoms, even if they've been vaccinated, are asked to please stay home and schedule another day to see a show at The Farmington Players Barn.

## How to check for unclaimed money

Annabel Aguilar Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Anyone missing \$1.8 million?

That's the value of the highest item of unclaimed property from an individual Michigander, a slice of the over \$2 billion currently held by the state's Unclaimed Property division.

The division is managed through the state Department of the Treasury, which returned \$116.7 million in unclaimed assets to rightful owners in the most recent fiscal year. While claimable assets are listed for individuals and entities like businesses and organizations, Terry Stanton, the Treasury's state administrative manager for unclaimed property, said the bulk of unclaimed assets are from people.

"We hear from folks saying, 'I really need this, I'm going through some struggles, my property taxes are due, my rent is due,'" Stanton said. "It's heartwarming to be able to help people out and make sure that we're getting the money back to the right person."

The money usually comes from uncashed checks like forgotten refunds from a utility, a credit balance or money left in an inactive bank account past a typical dormancy period of three years, a period determined by Michigan's 1995 Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. By law, the institution must attempt to contact the owner before reporting the property as unclaimed to the state, which takes custody until the rightful owner submits a claim.

Only properties valued at \$50 or more are posted on the website. Stanton said the amount of smaller properties, some only pennies, is just too large to include in a database with the more significant balances. The average claim pays out around \$2,000, though business claims are typically much larger than individual assets.

The timeline for returning money after a claim depends on the property, with claimants in the simplest cases seeing a check in hand within a couple of weeks. More complicated situations, like claiming property for a deceased relative or bankruptcy proceedings, enter gray areas with further required documentation and months

of bureaucratic process.

A number of Lansing-area institutions have unclaimed funds in the database, including Sparrow Health System, McLaren Greater Lansing, Michigan State University and Lansing Community College.

Stanton said the dynamic with obviously known entities is interesting, as the process requires active participation and documentation from the claimant.

"We do outreach and we will send a letter to an individual or business saying, we believe that we have property for you, please go to our website and check it out, but we never hear from them," Stanton said. "We can lead a horse to water, but we can't make them drink, right?"

Some entries in the database represent physical unclaimed items from abandoned safety deposit boxes, typically precious items like jewelry or gold bars or other heirlooms: wedding dresses, a silver necklace appraised at \$10,000, baseball cards signed by Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams. The items are cataloged by the Treasury and kept in a limited-access, secured property room in an undisclosed location.

While there's no time limit on claiming property, tangible items in the possession of the state for longer than a few years are usually auctioned off after an appraisal, with the equivalent value still remaining claimable.

"It's all just property," said Stanton, a baseball fan whose mind was blown that someone could forget those cards. "We've got to handle it."

Do you have unclaimed funds?

Anyone can search for unclaimed funds belonging to an individual or business through the Department of Treasury's database at unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/app/claim-search to begin filling out a claim.

Customer service representatives from the Treasury are also available at 517-636-5320 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays to begin the claim process for the caller.

It's worth giving it a try: a January 2022 search shows the Lansing State Journal currently has two unclaimed balances, each ranging from \$100 to \$250.





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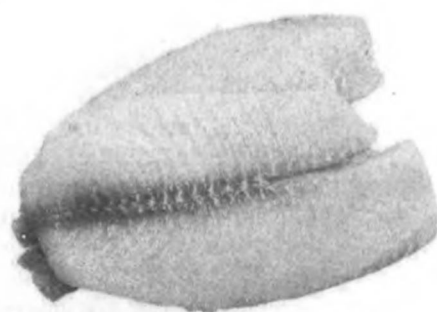
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# SPORTS

## Milford football assistant to be head coach

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Andrew Micovich couldn't have asked for a better birthday present in early January.

Now he's hoping to keep the celebration going until at least late November as Milford's new varsity football coach.

Huron Valley School District fired former coach Garfrey Smith following this past season, despite the fourth-year coach leading the Mavericks to a 7-3 record and their best season since 2006. He compiled a career record of 10-25 after three one-win seasons to begin his tenure at Milford.

Athletic director Jim Marszalek interviewed Micovich, an assistant under Smith for three seasons, for the opening during the first week of the new year. Micovich learned a day after his birthday on Jan. 6 that he had won the job.

Now he's looking to continue building up the program where Smith left off.

"It was a nice little birthday present when Jim called and offered the position," Micovich told Hometown Life. "Coach Smith and our other coaches did a good job putting together that foundation since he arrived here. We have a top-notch weight training facility, and our weight training program is already installed, which is huge for where we

want to be at this point."

Micovich, 29, graduated from Waterford Kettering in 2011, so he's got plenty of experience with several Lakes Valley Conference teams. Plus, his coaching resume is pretty impressive.

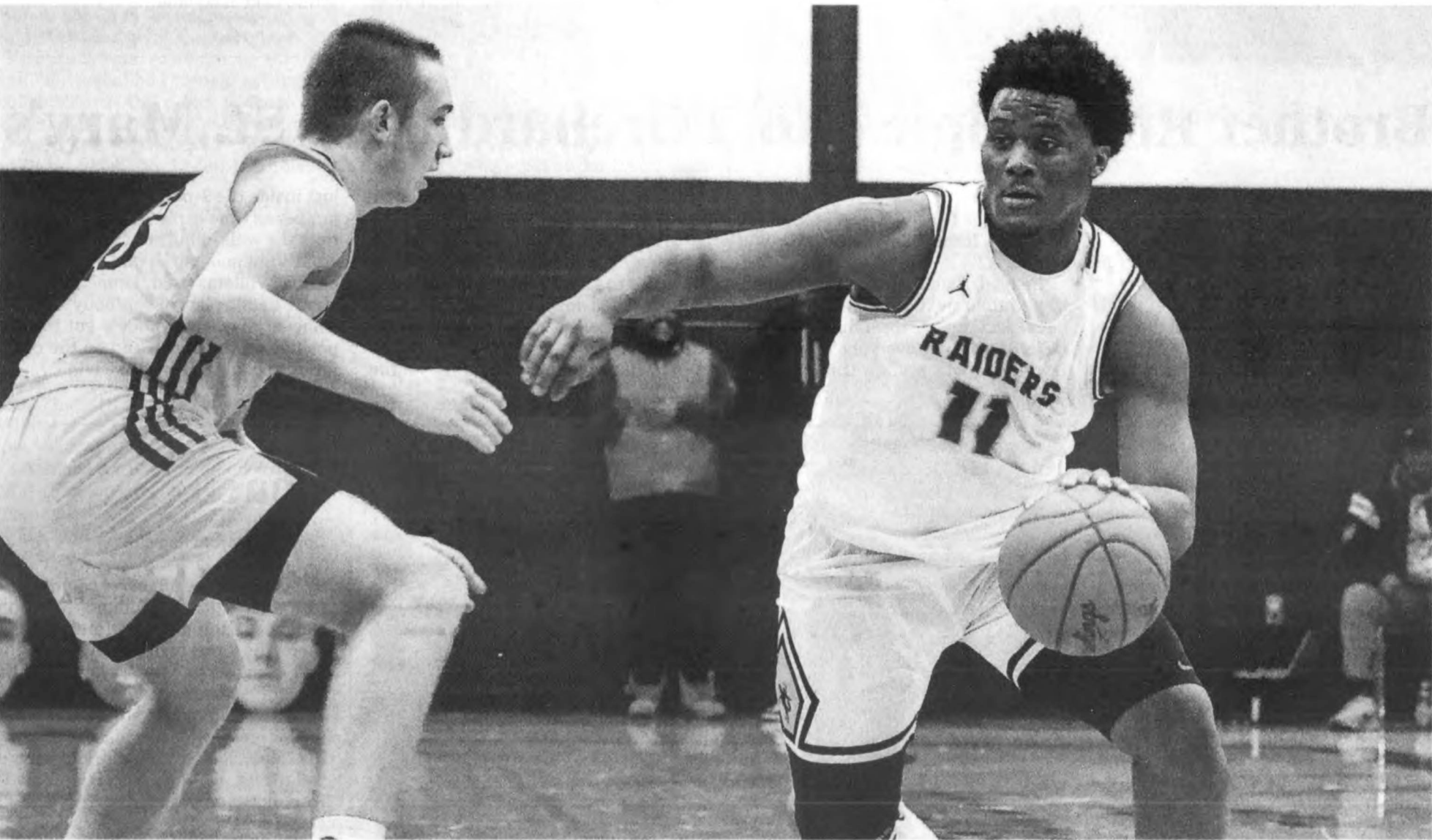
He spent the first four years of his coaching career at the JV and freshmen ranks at both Kettering and Ortonville-Brandon in a variety of positions, including coaching running backs, acting as both an offensive and defensive coordinator and even being the head coach of the Blackhawks' JV.

He tried his hand at the varsity level

See COACH, Page 2B



Milford High School promoted assistant Andrew Micovich to head football coach in early January. COURTESY OF MILFORD ATHLETICS



North Farmington's Ryan Hurst dribbles against Davison during the Freedom Classic showcase Jan. 15 at River Rouge. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Transfer student Hurst helping North Farmington's title pursuit

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

North Farmington coach Todd Negoshian shook his head and had a somewhat worried look on his face.

This was back on Dec. 18 following a blowout victory over Westland John

Glenn during River Rouge's annual season tip-off showcase.

His concern? The Raiders were in the midst of battling COVID-19 protocols. Players were missing. Assistants were out. The team chemistry wasn't exactly where he wanted it yet. Especially with the team adding West Bloomfield trans-

fer Ryan Hurst, one of the top scorers in metro Detroit. There was still work to be done, and Negoshian knew it as he walked the halls near the ROTC room at River Rouge.

Fast forward to Jan 15, on that same River Rouge court. The Raiders had just blown out Davison, and, this time, Ne-

goshian wore a big smile as he wrapped an arm around Hurst and posed for a picture in the arena. Hurst was being recognized as the game's MVP after posting 26 points during the MLK Jr. Freedom Classic showcase game.

See TRANSFER, Page 2B

## Mercy freshman had key role in girls rematch with Marian

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The stakes were too high and the spotlight should have been too bright for a freshman to be doing THAT.

That's right.

The Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team hosted rival Bloomfield

Hills Marian for the rematch Tuesday night.

The first meeting earlier this month was an absolute fistfight. The two squads traded blows back and forth until, finally, the Marlins put together enough offense late to run away with the six-point victory on the road.

So much more was on the line this

time.

The Marlins needed another win over the Mustangs to keep pace in the Catholic League-Central standings with Dearborn Divine Child, which is still unbeaten with six of its 12 wins coming in division play.

And then there's the Mustangs, who are trying to keep the train on the tracks

after injuries have decimated their roster. They had only three bench players against the Marlins, and they were missing some heavy hitters. That included guard Anna Herberholz, who's the key cog in making their offensive machine zoom down the court.

See FRESHMAN, Page 7B



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# Our top 5 boys basketball teams: Week 3

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a new No. 1 in Hometown Life's top five boys basketball rankings this week.

Once again, a shakeup in the Catholic League-Central means Brother Rice and Detroit Catholic Central are swapping positions atop the poll.

Unfortunately for Detroit Country Day, it was on the wrong end of a buzzer-beater and got booted from the rankings. But that paved the way for Bloomfield Hills, which is one of the hottest teams in the area right now, to make an appearance here.

Here's where each team landed:

Note: These records are based on results from before Sunday, Jan. 30.

## 1. Birmingham Brother Rice 8-3, 2-3 CHSL-Central (Last week: No. 2)

The Warriors picked up the best win of the week, as they snapped a seven-year losing streak to Detroit U-D Jesuit with a convincing victory on the road. What's more, the Cubs were actually in first place in the Catholic League-Central before the matchup, so, once again, there's been a major shakeup in the di-

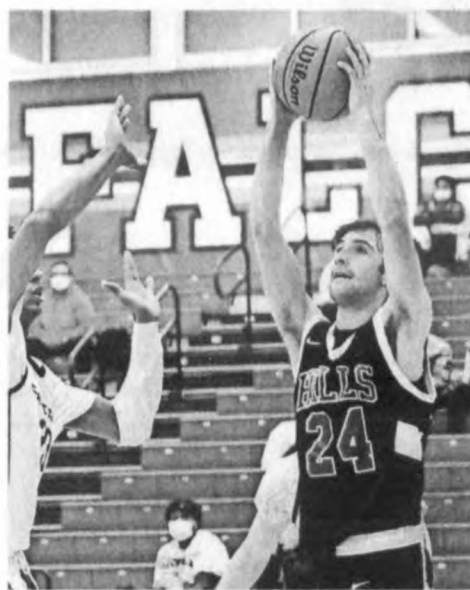
vision standings. Rice is back on top of these rankings, despite still being one win away from .500 in the Central.

## 2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central 8-3, 2-2 CHSL-Central (Last week: No. 1)

The Shamrocks dropped one spot in the rankings after losing by two points to U-D Jesuit. They're still in the running for the league title, and they'll get a chance to make it back to No. 1 in these rankings with a pair of wins this week. They're certainly talented enough to get back on top. They've just got to get past Warren DeLa Salle and St. Mary's, which will certainly be a challenge.

## 3. North Farmington 10-2, 4-1 OAA-Red (Last week: No. 3)

The Raiders bounced back nicely from their loss to first-place Ferndale by beating Rochester Adams. The bad news is two of their next three games are against Clarkston and West Bloomfield, the other two really good programs in the Oakland Activities Association-White. They must win those games to get a chance to win the league title when they rematch Ferndale on Feb. 17.



Bloomfield Hills' Noah Adamczyk attempts a layup against Birmingham Groves on Jan. 27.  
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## 4. Canton 7-4, 7-0 KLAA-West (Last week: No. 4)

Since losing four non-conference games to open the season, the Chiefs have won seven straight in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West.

That included coach Jimmy Reddy earning his 200th career win against Salem on Jan. 21. They've beaten each team in their division once already. Now they're looking to earn seven in-season sweeps by closing out their division schedule with seven more victories.

## 5. Bloomfield Hills 10-2, 2-0 OAA-White (Last week: Unranked)

No one had a better week than the Black Hawks, who opened league play with a pair of huge wins over Troy and Birmingham Groves, two teams who were expected to compete for the White title alongside Bloomfield Hills. They were the first team cut from these rankings a week ago, but now they look like they're going to be mainstays around here going forward, assuming they keep blitzing through their schedule. There might not be a better 3-point shooter in Oakland County than Noah Adamczyk, the junior captain who ignites their offense.

*In the hunt (in no particular order):* Birmingham Detroit Country Day, Birmingham Groves, Livonia Clarenceville, Livonia Stevenson, Milford, Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth Christian Academy, Redford Union, Salem, White Lake Lakeland.

# Brother Rice topples No. 1 Orchard Lake St. Mary's

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Everyone expected the Catholic League-Central to be a meat grinder.

Entering the week, all five teams were ranked in the top 10 of all the polls basketball fans care about.

And, so far, a meat grinder is what

we've gotten.

Detroit U-D Jesuit upset Brother Rice to kick off league play, beating the Warriors 61-42.

Instead of sulking and taking another loss in their next outing, they bounced back and upset top-ranked Orchard Lake St. Mary's, everyone's preseason favorite to win a state championship,

with a buzzer-beater Friday night on the road.

With the score knotted at 43 and only 10 seconds remaining, Brother Rice inbounded to guard Johnathan Blackwell, who dribbled down to the far corner and whipped a pass back up top to four-star Curtis Williams.

The junior quickly found his footing

just inside the 3-point line and buried a jumper as time expired to give the Warriors the walk-off upset victory, 45-43.

"It's not going to be just a walk in the park," Williams told Hometown Life about CHSL play. "Everybody's got to come to play. Everybody's got to stay positive on the bench and on the court for us to come out with the win."

## Transfer

Continued from Page 1B

"He's fitting in pretty well," Todd Negoshian said of his new junior small forward. "I think it's a testament to the kid. He's fitting in well with the guys we've got, and nobody is over-worried about (not sharing the ball). It's a selfless group of guys. They just want to win games, and they don't care who scores. There's zero selfishness. They've become such a close-knit group that it's really fun and special to watch."

Yes, the Raiders (10-2) certainly have been fun and special to watch.

They've been a step ahead of the competition all season long, earning big win after big win. They picked up a two-point close-call victory at Clarkston to kickoff Oakland Activities Association-Red play on Jan. 4, and then they followed it up with a huge 22-point victory against West Bloomfield, Hurst's old school, two days later.

Yeah, they have two blemishes on their record. But those are explainable.

They suffered a non-conference loss to a solid Williamston team because half of their roster was battling COVID-19 issues.

And then they fell just short in a 56-49 loss at home to Ferndale. Several media members predicted the OAA-Red winner to be either North or Ferndale. That game was essentially a coin flip. The rematch is Feb. 17. They'll get another shot at the Eagles.

So how are the Raiders getting it done? Well, their roster, when healthy, is fantastic. Two or three of their rotational players would start on most of the other teams in the OAA.

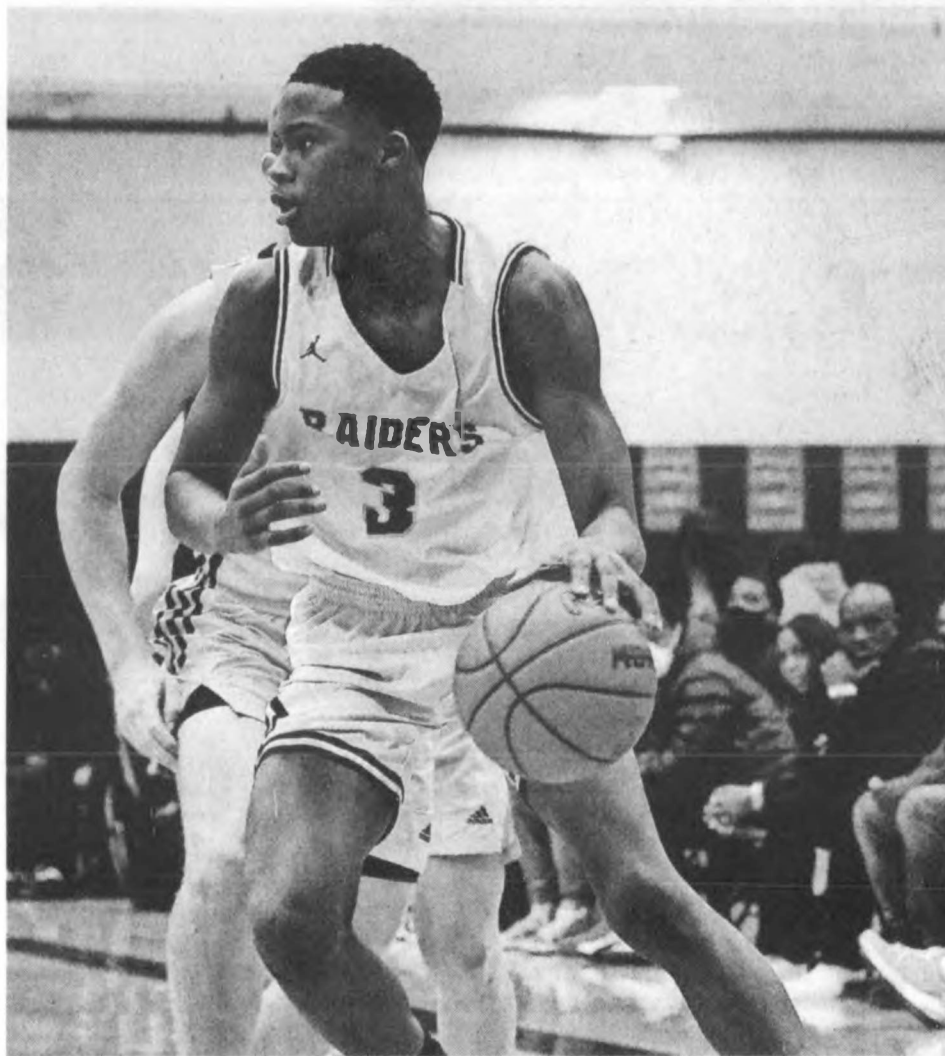
There are the guys down low in starter Aaron Rice and sixth man Lee Hardy, while guards Landon Williams, Tyler Spratt and Jared Frazier are each capable of handling the ball, creating shots for their teammates and scoring themselves. Plus, there's Amari Lee helping out defensively off the bench.

But the glue guy making this thing all work has been Hurst.

The 6-foot-3 junior, who already holds an offer from Miami (Ohio), is just a scoring machine.

It doesn't matter who has the height advantage in the paint, Hurst is using his big frame to out-rebound the opponents to get put-back attempts, and about 1/3 of his scoring comes from doing clean-up work.

He tremendous off the dribble. Whether it's in transition or from just outside the arc, when he starts dribbling to the hoop with a full head of steam, look out! He's about to run someone over for two points.



North Farmington's Tyler Spratt dribbles against Davison during the Freedom Classic showcase Jan. 15 at River Rouge. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plus, he can shoot. He's a great mid-range shooter, but he can also stroke it from outside.

Right now, he's the total package. And he's been the perfect complement to the rest of the Raiders.

"For sure, this summer I've been in the gym working countless hours," said Hurst, a two-star recruit who plays for The Family AAU program. "The last few months, me and my guys have been working hard. We want the state title. The transition has been pretty straight. Coach keeps me accountable. Everything I do, every mistake I make, he corrects me, and they all just hold me accountable."

There wasn't any funny business with Hurst's transfer. Simply put, his family moved homes. Though it is interesting to see a player change schools to one only a few miles away.

"He transferred in the second week of school," Negoshian added. "About a week later, he reached out to me and let me know he was enrolled. I called the school to verify it and make sure it was all legit. Once we got the OK, we started working with him for our four-player workouts. It's just been history from

there.

"From Day 1, it's just been a pleasure to be with all of them together with the way they pick each other up and make each other better. You could tell by the way we practice and how we have fun and joke around that they're (all laid back). Their basketball IQ is so high. There's no selfishness. They only care about winning. They all focus on the little things: Passing it ahead, getting one extra pass to get a teammate a better shot, and everything else."

Hurst said he started training with his new teammates as soon as he could.

Their goal is to win a state championship, and they have a solid chance to do so. They have a tough conference to navigate through first, with rematches against Clarkston, West Bloomfield and Ferndale ahead.

So far, though, Hurst is enjoying his new home gymnasium.

"It's pretty straight. North Farmington is a cool environment," he said. "More chill. Coach keeps me focused. I've got my guys and new teammates, and they keep me focused, pretty much."

## Coach

Continued from Page 1B

by becoming the offensive coordinator of then down-trodden Madison Heights Lamphere. Before he got there, the Rams hadn't won a game for 600 days, despite them playing in the Macomb Area Conference-Bronze, a division reserved for struggling teams in the greater Macomb area. In 2017, his Rams scored 210 points, posted a 5-5 record, won the Bronze and qualified for the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons.

The following season, he became Lamphere's defensive coordinator, replacing outgoing assistant Smith, who had just accepted the opening at Milford. One year later, Smith invited Micovich to join him and lead the Mavs' defense.

Micovich became Milford's offensive coordinator last season. The Mavs' offense scored 185 points under his leadership, the second most they've totaled since 2011.

"I think we're on a good direction," Micovich said. "I'm going to change some things, and we'll continue to build off everything from the last couple of years. But I'm not making any crazy changes."

The coaching staff is going to remain mostly intact. Counting Micovich, 12 assistants are returning.

That includes defensive coordinator Matt Wasnich, who will continue employing the team's 3-3-5 scheme. Micovich will continue calling plays on offense.

Other assistants currently helping the varsity are Chip Mobley (special teams), Nick Landry (offensive line), Chris Warzecha (wide receivers), Jeff Kerwin (defensive line), Steve Smetana (offensive line) and Eddie Inglsbee (defensive backs), among several other JV and freshmen assistants.

"We're not looking to change much, but we're looking to evolve what we already do to best fit our kids," Micovich added. "We just want to increase the participation as a program. We want to make ourselves bigger, faster and stronger in the off season. So there won't be a big overhaul. We're in the process of hiring several other candidates that fit in well with our kids and coaching staff. It was important to me to keep the camaraderie that the coaches had last year."

The Mavs open the season by visiting New Boston Huron on Aug. 26.

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



## Canton game a brief reprieve from sorrow for Howell

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CANTON — Nothing can replace the loss of two classmates, but at least for 32 minutes Tuesday night Howell's boys basketball players could have a semblance of normalcy.

Playing a game against Canton allowed the Highlanders to temporarily escape the pervasive sense of sorrow around school following the deaths of students Josh Pennala and Len Eskola in a vehicle crash Saturday night.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Pennala and Eskola before the game.

"It was a tough loss for the Howell community," Howell senior Honkala said following a 52-45 loss to Canton. "I know their families pretty well."

Counselors, social workers and therapy dogs were brought to the Howell 10-12 and freshman buildings to help students cope with the tragedy.

"It's been kind of tough," Howell senior Carter Bandemer said. "... We're here as a family, we're here together and we've got each other's backs."

Noting that Honkala was one of the players most affected by the students' deaths, veteran Howell coach Nick Simon said his performance given the circumstances was "as impressive as anything I've seen since I've been here."

Honkala was scoreless in the first half, as Howell had trouble getting the ball inside to the 6-foot-5 center. He scored eight points in the third quarter, helping the Highlanders cut a 22-14 halftime deficit to 28-26. He finished with 11 points.

"The kid's been battling a lot of stuff the last two days," Simon said. "For him to be able to put on that performance is a testament to the kind of guy he is."

Seeing their big man successfully attacking the basket gave a boost to the Highlanders.

"There's certain guys that people just follow," Simon said. "You don't know why. That's Danny. He always has been. Whatever he's doing, people tend to follow."

Honkala spread the credit for Howell's third-quarter turnaround to his teammates.

"I'm not just the only guy," he said. "We've got Carter, Adam (Jones), Ryan



Canton's Cole Vickers, who had a game-high 17 points, hit a 3-pointer while defended by Howell's Brevin Weller (0) and Carter Bandemer (14) on Jan. 25. Canton won, 52-45. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

(Cirella), Brevin (Weller), Nolan (Petru); I can name everyone on our team. If anyone hits big shots, then everyone's feeling it."

Howell was never able to take the lead in the second half, but was still keeping the heat on the Chiefs when a steal and layup by Honkala with less than six minutes remaining in the game cut the deficit to 37-35.

The teams then began trading baskets. Unfortunately for the Highlanders, Canton was hitting 3-pointers while they were getting only two points per bucket.

Lake McIntosh, Omar Suleiman and

Cole Vickers hit 3-pointers during a 9-4 run that gave Canton a 46-39 lead with 3:09 to go.

"It was Lake, Cole and Omar," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "Omar has a big-time shot. He hasn't made a 3 in what seems like a while. He has a nice touch and can shoot it and score. ...

"Our balance has been much better lately, and it needs to be, because people are keyed in on Cole. Obviously, people are going to have a plan for him. Other guys have to step up and score."

The Chiefs put away the game by going 6-for-6 from the line in the final minute.

Canton has won seven consecutive games, all in KLAA West play, since beginning the season with an 0-4 record in nonconference games.

The Chiefs hit the midway mark of the division schedule at 7-0, with Harland (5-1) and Howell (5-2) their closest pursuers.

"We talked about this being a big game for both ends of it, because we get to 7-0 and you give Howell their second loss," Reddy said.

Bandemer and Jones had 10 points each for Howell (6-4 overall).

Vickers had 17 points, McIntosh 16 and Dante Favor nine for Canton.



Detroit Country Day's Kareem Aburashed attempts a layup against Fenton on Jan. 29. Fenton won, 63-62. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Fenton takes down Detroit Country Day

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most of the Detroit Country Day boys basketball players threw on hoodies and sweatpants, gathered their game gear and put it in their backpacks and then left the locker room as quickly as possible.

Not Kareem Aburashed.

The 6-foot-7 senior slapped on a Macomb Community College warmup shirt over his white No. 10 uniform, exited the

locker room and walked right back into Shaw Gymnasium with small tears streaming from the corners of his eyes.

Aburashed had just scored a game-best 28 points, which included him making four field goals down low that each drew ensuing and-one opportunities. He made all four of those free throws, too. Heck, he went 6 of 7 from the foul line in all.

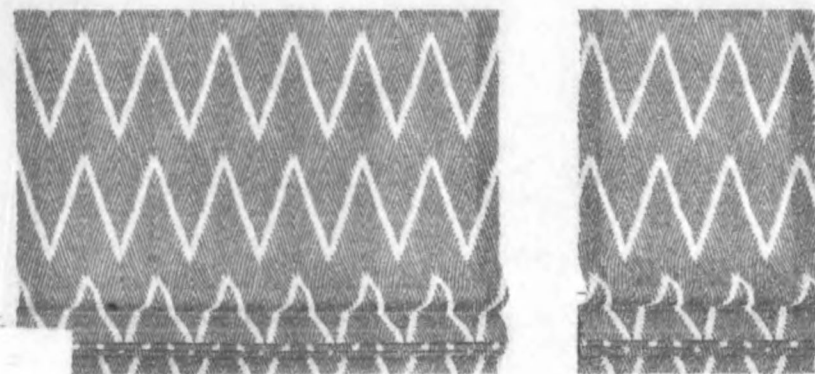
Except it was that one miss that was

See FENTON, Page 6B



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# Olympic skaters Chock, Bates bursting with personality

Jeff Seidel Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Heck yes, they have some great Olympic stories. Funny ones.

Like the dog poop story. "OK, this story is bad," Evan Bates said, hesitantly.

"But it's hilarious," Madison Chock replied on their podcast, "Unlaced with Chock and Bates."

Chock and Bates are getting ready to compete in the ice dance competition at the Beijing Olympics. The opening ceremony is Friday, which has them in a nostalgic mood.

"You have grown so much since it happened," she said, laughing.

"I don't really know how this happened," Bates said. "I pieced it together afterwards."

"Let me lead with — this is your 21st birthday," Chock said giggling. "And you were in Vancouver for the Games."

Yes, that's the best place to start.

When Bates competed in the 2010 Vancouver Games, he returned from the opening ceremony and threw his clothes around his room — hey, he was a college kid back then — and besides, he didn't need that outfit again until the closing ceremony.

But something significant happened at those Games. Bates turned 21 in Vancouver — and just by pure luck — his birthday fell after he was done competing.

So he hit the town in Vancouver and, let's call it, "went socializing" to celebrate his birthday.

At some point during the night, he must have stepped in some dog doo, tracked it into his room in the athlete's village and stepped on his white Ralph Lauren pants on the floor.

"I didn't really realize until it was time to get ready for the closing ceremonies," Bates said on the podcast. "And I got dressed and we're on a really tight time frame. I put on my white pants and I noticed there's a stain on them and investigate further; and I'm like, I mean, it smells like dog doo."

Yes, he panicked.

"So there I am, about to go to the closing ceremony at my first Olympics, and I've got dog poop on my white Ralph Lauren pants, and it is time to get ready



Madison Chock and Evan Bates compete in the championship ice dance during the U.S. Figure Skating Championships on Jan. 8.

ANDREW NELLES/TENNESSEAN.COM

to go," Bates said. "So obviously, you can't show up looking and smelling like that. So I raced to the laundromat. Luckily, they have a laundromat in the village, but you have to do your own laundry."

"There was somebody there and I just explained the situation and she was kind enough to do the laundry for me while I raced back."

"Oh bless her," Chock said on the podcast.

"And I got the rest of my stuff ready," Bates said. "And I ended up looking pretty fresh."

"Smelling fresh," Chock said.

She laughed.

"Sorry for my hysterical laughter, I've heard that story many times," she said on the podcast, "but every time it just gets me."

"Because it's ridiculous," he said.

"It's so unique," she said, laughing.

## Back on the world's stage

Yes, they have been together so long they finish each other's sentences.

Chock, who grew up in Ann Arbor, and Bates, who lived in Novi, have skated together for 10 years. And they talk like they skate — totally in sync, totally in rhythm.

As they tell stories — some embarrassing, some heartwarming — their laughter says everything. They are

driven and full of personality but don't take themselves too seriously. They are the couple next door — if your neighbors are Olympians.

Bates went to Michigan and is a huge fan of the Wolverines, Red Wings, Lions, Tigers and Pistons. He is going to his fourth Olympic Games — the first U.S. skater to do that.

And Chock is going to her third with Bates.

They qualified for the Olympics by winning the U.S. Championship earlier this month, their third national title together.

"We are so thrilled," Chock said. "We couldn't be happier. And it's just amazing to have three national titles now. We just feel such great energy and momentum leading into the Games."

## Partner switch

Chock and Bates are partners both on and off the ice.

But they don't remember when they first met, probably around 2006 or so.

They don't even remember the date of their first kiss.

"I'm a bad girlfriend," Chock jokes.

They went on their first date at Bahama Breeze on her 16th birthday. He gave her a black zip-up sweater from Pink.

But it was just a one date thing, at least back then.

About three years after that first date, Chock was looking for a new skating partner after Greg Zuerlein, her partner of five years, retired. Over a two-week period in the summer of 2011, she tried out with several guys. Nothing clicked, not until she skated with Bates, who had been skating with Emily Samuelson (they took 11th at the 2010 Olympics).

Chock and Bates have been together ever since, evolving into one of the top ice dance teams in the world. They started out training at Novi Ice Arena and have been on the podium at the World Championship twice, finishing second in 2015 and third in 2016.

In their first Olympics together in 2014, she started running out of the tunnel for the opening ceremony. Like she was a sprinter in the Summer Olympics.

"You were like, stop," Chock said on the podcast. "Please slow down and enjoy this. Do not sprint all the way around."

They took eighth in Sochi in 2014 and ninth at the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Chock and Bates are one of about five teams that has a shot to medal in Beijing, including another U.S. team, their good friends Madison Hubbell, of Lansing, and Zachary Donohue.

The U.S. has won a medal in ice dance for four straight Olympics.

"We're just so grateful for the opportunity that this presents," Chock said. "There's a global pandemic going on. And we're so fortunate that the Olympics are happening, and we get to perform and show all of our hard work and share our passion with the world."

Because Chock and Bates will represent the U.S. in the ice dance for the team event — only one team is allowed per discipline — they will have two chances to medal in Beijing. The U.S. has taken bronze in the team event at the last two Olympics.

"We couldn't be more excited," Bates said. "We're just thrilled to get the opportunity to skate in the Olympics. It's just such a such an amazing opportunity. So we're really looking forward to it."

## A spark from way up north

After the 2018 Games, Chock and Bates made a massive change.

They left Novi and started training in Montreal.

"I think moving to Montreal really sparked our creativity, it sparked our love for skating and our love for growth," Chock said. "There's no better school or a team of coaches in the world. And we're so fortunate to be a part of the magic and add our own little magic to it as well."

Their first Olympic competition will begin Friday with the rhythm dance in the team event.

But first, they will go through one of their favorite parts of the Olympics: team processing, where they get to pick out their Olympic swag.

"It's like Christmas on steroids," Chock said.

They will get to try on their outfits that they will wear to the opening ceremony.

And this time, Bates promises to keep his off the floor. He's older, more mature. And has learned his lesson.

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# Pinckney goalie shines in win over South Lyon

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

CHELSEA — Alex Rau arrived at the Arctic Coliseum Thursday morning ready to settle into his usual role on the bench as Pinckney's backup goaltender.

But a mental 180 was required when he was pulled into coach Kenny Grundy's office about two hours before a noon faceoff against South Lyon.

Grundy found out at 11:45 the previous night that senior starter Max Lederer wouldn't be available after backstopping Pinckney to a victory at Jackson Lumen Christi earlier that evening.

The only other option was Rau, a sophomore who had only one start and one other brief appearance in Pinckney's first 14 games.

Grundy was ready with a pep talk when he notified Rau he would be starting.

"I called him in the office this morning and said, 'Alex, you've been kicking but in practice; you can do it in games, and he did,'" Grundy said.

Rau turned aside 32 of 34 shots in a 4-2 victory over South Lyon, the ninth-ranked team in Division 2, in the opening game of the four-day Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase.

"I had the best time of my life," Rau said. "It was really fun."

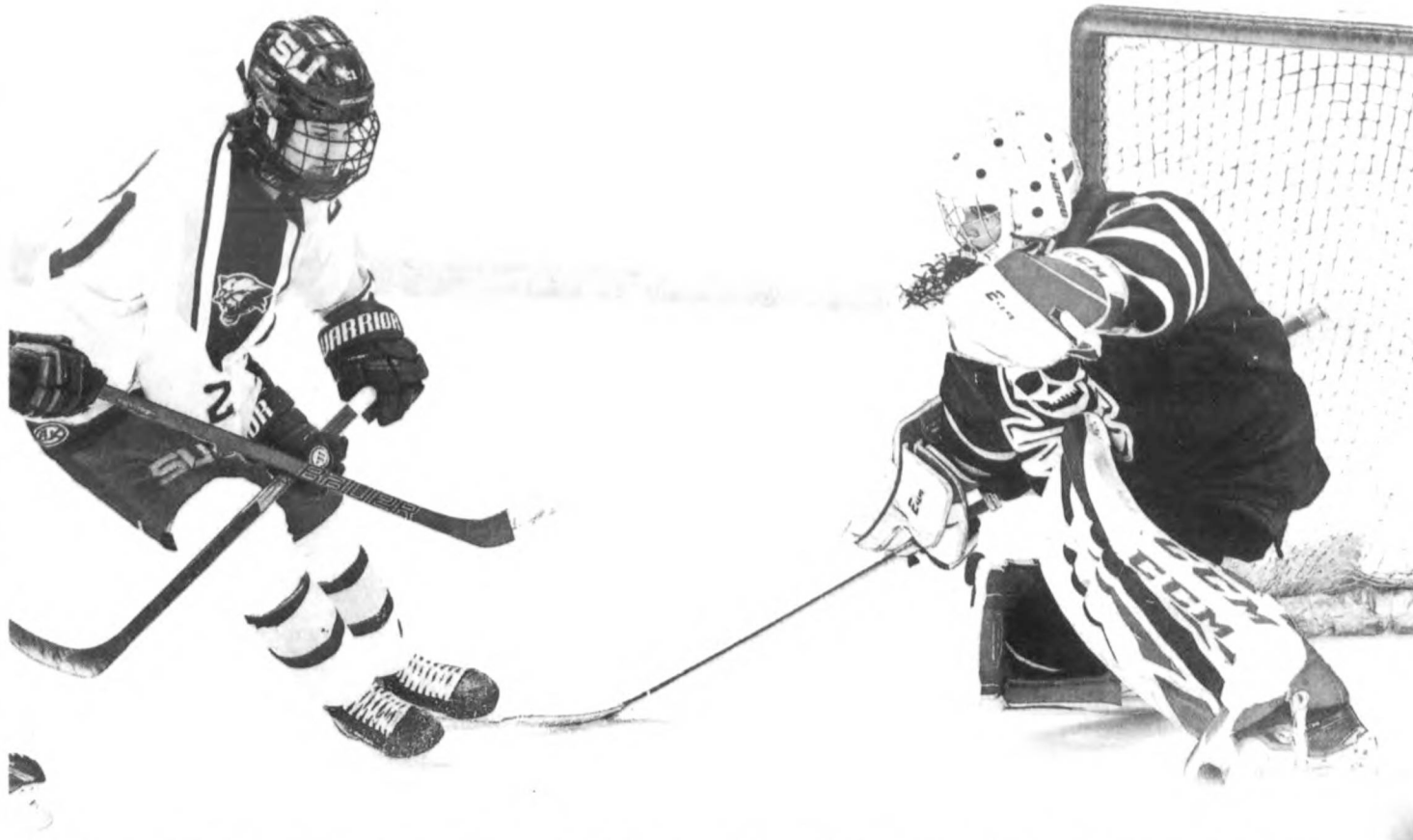
The first thought that entered Rau's head after learning he would start was, "Just stay calm," he said. "I didn't want to get too worked up. I didn't want to go out there and be jumping all over. I've just got to keep my composure and play my game."

In his only other start this season, Rau was on the losing end of a 5-4 overtime decision against Dexter on Dec. 1. He also played the final minutes in a 9-0 rout of Ann Arbor Huron on Jan. 19.

"We all know in practice he's great," senior forward Jacob Meade said. "He's a super athletic goalie. We knew if he could calm his nerves down, he could play an amazing game, and he did."

Pinckney carried the play most of the game, one exception being on the opening shift when South Lyon held the puck in the Pirates' zone for more than a minute. Rau made some key early saves to get himself into the flow of the game.

"It's never good when I'm sitting out



Pinckney's Alex Rau stops a shot by South Lyon's Nick Monzon for one of his 32 saves in a 4-2 victory on Thursday.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

there cold," Rau said. "Getting into it quick really helped me, especially since it was my second start. I don't get much game-time experience."

Rau's biggest saves came in the third period. With the game tied 1-1, he stopped a backhand on a breakaway by Lucas Nichols with 14:30 remaining. After the Pirates took a 2-1 lead, he preserved that lead by stopping a point-blank shot by Nick Monzon.

Pinckney's Keegan Burns scored the only goal of the first period on a wrist shot from the high slot with 5:25 left in the period.

South Lyon tied it on a power-play goal by Ryan Savanyu with 12:29 left in the second period.

After pressuring South Lyon goalie Jacob Koth the entire game, the Pirates broke through for the go-ahead goal on a fortunate break. Meade carried the puck into the zone down the left side, pulled

up in the circle and sent a pass into the slot. The puck deflected into the net off the stick of South Lyon's Chase Temple with 7:30 left in the game.

"I knew we had an odd-man rush, so I kind of put it on net and hoped something happens and it went in," Meade said. "I got lucky. I think it tipped off a kid's stick and went right in."

Pinckney senior Evan Drus was rewarded for a relentless effort the entire game with an empty-net goal with 1:07 remaining and a goal with the netminder between the pipes just seven seconds later. Temple scored for South Lyon with 0.2 seconds left.

The Pirates were not only without their No. 1 goaltender, but were without leading goal scorer Riley Evans and three other players. Evans had a hat trick in a 7-4 victory over Jackson Lumen Christi Wednesday night, but the 16-goal scorer suffered a knee injury lat-

er in the game.

Rolling only two lines, the Pirates beat a team that had a 9-2 record, with one-goal losses to Detroit U-D Jesuit and third-ranked (Division I) Rockford.

"I've been here for four years," Grundy said. "It's been kind of a rollercoaster. We've had some big wins, but today against South Lyon, rated in the top 10 in the state, for my boys to do what they did, I'm so proud of them. I'm so proud to be Pinckney's hockey coach. These kids were amazing."

The Pirates started the season 2-5, but have gone 7-1 since then. That includes a 4-1 victory over Chelsea, a state Division 3 semifinalist last season.

"We all know in the locker room we're a good team," Meade said. "We just want to prove it to everyone else. We started off slow, we were kind of down. Once we got that big Chelsea win, we knew we were going to just take off from there."

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# Dispensary, convenience store open in Whitmore Lake

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A new marijuana dispensary opened in Whitmore Lake in the back of a building that is fronted by a convenience store.

Owners of the two attached businesses at 8475 Main St. say it is a perfect pairing.

Quest Cannabis is the second recreational and medical marijuana dispensary to open in Northfield Township in the past several months, and more marijuana businesses are in the works.

The dispensary is located behind and connected to Quest Spirits, which offers some harder-to-find flavors of snack foods, craft beer, wine and liquor.

Chin Pathak and Kish Sutariya, owners of both businesses, invested a few million to start the business and renovate the former Bobber Down Bar & Grill building and create two separate suites that are connected by a hallway.

"We're trying to normalize the experience of going to a dispensary," Pathak said.

He said a lot of people visit the convenience store after going to the dispensary.

Pathak said others are not interested in buying marijuana products and just visit the convenience store.

## A budding local industry

Pathak and Sutariya are not stopping with the dispensary and store. They have a larger construction

project in the works.

They are developing 127 acres near the interchange of U.S. 23 and North Territorial Road into a high-tech industrial business park.

A 30,000-square-foot marijuana grow and processing facility is under construction. They plan to expand the grow facility by another 30,000 square feet in the future.

The development, which will be called Nova Business Park, will also feature five more lots that could be developed for other types of marijuana businesses.

"We're trying to develop this town and create jobs," Sutariya said.

In 2019, voters in Northfield Township rejected a proposal to ban marijuana businesses. Since then, township officials have awarded several permits for marijuana businesses.

Planted Provisioning was the first dispensary to open. It opened in September at 9545 Main St. in a formerly decrepit building across from the lake. Co-owner Matt Ritz and his partners are also improving the remainder of the building for a future tenant.

Quest Cannabis was the second dispensary to open in the township.

Robert McCurren is a former emergency room physician who once worked as an emergency medicine director at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell. He pivoted to the marijuana industry and co-owns The Wellflower dispensary in Manistee. McCurren has said he wants the Territorial Road store to be Wellflower's flagship.

## What's on the menu at Quest

Quest Cannabis sells recreational marijuana products to people 21 and older and medical marijuana patients 18 or older. Their biggest sellers are marijuana flower and pre-rolled joints.

They also sell vaporizers, concentrates, edibles, tinctures and topical creams, as well as related accessories such as pipes and grinders.

Most of the products contain THC. The dispensary also sells products containing CBD and other cannabinoids.

They offer in-store shopping with help from staff they call "cannabis consultants," as well as curbside pick-up and delivery.

Sutariya said the shop is set up to make people comfortable going to a dispensary, with staff there to help educate customers about marijuana products.

## A different take on a convenience store

"The focus with Quest Spirits is to be a destination for craft beer, wine, liquor and munchies," Pathak said.

Among typical convenience store snack foods, the store sells harder-to-find flavors of popular brands.

"Did you know there is a mango KitKat, a brisket-flavored Doritos, Korean fried chicken Lays, Mountain Dew Oreos?" Pathak said.

"We're also talking about bringing in snacks from Europe and Asia," which are not typically available at convenience stores in the U.S.

# Obituaries

## Debby Sue Arnold Beers

SOUTH LYON - "Debby with a Y" of South Lyon passed away peacefully with her daughter Audrey by her side and into the arms of our Lord and Savior and the arms of her loving husband David Beers on Sunday January 16th, 2022. Debby was born in Ann Arbor on January 24th, 1960 and lived in South Lyon up until her husband's death. She loved to do things for others, whether it was baking delicious treats or just putting together a gift basket for someone just because. She is loved and will be missed by many. She moved to Sanford Florida to be with her daughter Audrey Rich (Abel) who survives her, granddaughter Thalia Susanna her "Tally Sue" age 2, father Herbert Douglas Arnold (Margo) of Cohoctah, brother Steven Arnold (Lori) of South Lyon, niece and nephew Cassandra, Garret Arnold of Whitmore Lake, Brother in Law Steve Beers (Joanne) of Westland, her very best friend of 54 years Sherri Burgess (Ray) of South Lyon and many other loved ones. Debby and David will be buried in the Arnold family cemetery in Campton Kentucky, her favorite place in the world to be.



## Mark William "Chip" Walsh

Mark William "Chip" Walsh died Sunday January 16th, 2022, surrounded by family, after a hard-fought battle with Parkinson's disease.

Mark was born on March 6th, 1955, to Frank and Lily Walsh of Farmington Hills, Michigan. He was the fourth of six children.

Mark attended Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School and graduated from Farmington Senior High School. After graduating from Ferris State University, Mark was able to live out his childhood dream of becoming a police officer. As a police officer for Norfolk Southern, Mark was able to help people all over the country in their time of need. Most notably, the people of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina and in Atlanta during the 1996 summer Olympic games.

Mark was not only devoted to his community, but he was a devoted husband, father and grandpops. He was an avid golfer and always found time to catch a baseball or football game whenever he could. He was a calm and quiet man but had a laugh that could fill the room.

Mark is survived by his wife Lori; his children, Hailie, Sam (Deja), and Kasey (David Magnotte); his granddaughter Mia Magnotte; many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews; his siblings, Frank Jr. (Jane), Barry (Pattie), Dean (Lana), and Lynne (Cornelius) Sikawa. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, June Leppala.

A mass will be held Friday, January 28th at 9:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Power Rd., Farmington, Michigan 48336. A Celebration of Life memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation at [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org). Donations will aid in developing improved therapies and the overall goal to eliminate Parkinson's Disease in our lifetime.



## Judith "Judy" Braid

MUSKEGON - Mrs. Judith "Judy" Braid, age 85, of Muskegon formerly of Milford passed away January 27, 2022. She was born May 16, 1936, in Pontiac, Michigan to Allen and Carol (Redman) Palmer. On August 30, 1959, she married Rev. James Braid and he preceded her in death on May 21, 2012.



Judy graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in education while also performing in the UofM band. She was a very proud Alumni cheering for the maize and blue especially when it came time to play that team down south. She was very active in the community playing piano for the school musicals at both Sanford High School and Milford High School. She was always active in the church choir, involved in the United Methodist Women's Group, and enjoyed playing piano organ duets at church. She loved music and musicals having seen many of the major Broadway shows. Even near the end she was playing piano for the residents and workers at Sanctuary at the Oaks.

She is survived by two children: Lynne (Steve) Morgan of Linden, and Mike (Tera) Braid of Twin Lake, MI; two granddaughters, Paige (Jacob) Patenaude, and Brittany (Jason) VandeVelde; three great-grandsons: Braxton, Briggs, and Malachi. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Carolyn (Hal) Flynn, and Marilyn (Irv) Wilbur.

Visitation and services were held this past week in Muskegon and in Milford. Interment will be held at Milford Memorial Cemetery. Memorial contributions in memory of Judy may be given to Sanctuary at the Oaks, or Harbor Hospice Foundation. Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com).

# Fenton

Continued from Page 3B

haunting him.

With 18.9 seconds left in a back-and-forth matchup with Fenton, the Tigers sent Aburashed to the foul line for a pair of free throws. Two makes and the Yellowjackets would be ahead by three points, which, at the very least, meant the best Fenton could do was force overtime with a 3-pointer in the waning moments.

Instead, Aburashed split the double bonus, as the second shot hit the front end of the rim.

Fenton's Ja'Hion Bond pulled down the rebound, and the Tigers dribbled the ball up the floor. After two passes around the arc, the ball got to Seth Logan, who scored 15 of his team-best 21 points in the fourth quarter, which included a trio of 3-pointers. His final 3 went down as the game-winner with 5.7 seconds remaining.

Country Day couldn't get off a shot before the final buzzer and ultimately suffered a 63-62 loss.

Well after everyone had left the game and emptied the parking lot, only the custodial staff and the school's security team remained in the gym as Aburashed started practicing his free throws. He was shooting at the south end of the arena on the same hoop he had missed the freebie that almost secured the Yellowjackets the win.

"I missed a free throw," the recent Macomb CC commit said. "That's pretty much where it started. They had an offensive rebound before that that led to a 3, but I knew it was my job to make free throws, and I hadn't missed one all game. I've got to go right now and shoot some more. I've got it racking in my head.

"I've got to get better. There's no other excuse."

That one free throw wasn't the only thing that cost Country Day (6-3) the win.

There were several other moments you could point at that were equally as heartbreaking.

For example, there was a slow start and a lack of team chemistry in the first half. The Yellowjackets never trailed before halftime until Fenton's Justin Bernera drained a 3 at the top of the key right as the buzzer sounded. Instead of Country Day leading by a point entering the locker room, the Tigers walked in with a 25-23 lead.

Both teams went on streaks in the second half, often trading leads back and forth.

In the fourth, a pair of and-one three-point plays by Aburashed on back-to-back possession knotted the score at 51, and the two squads continued to pass around the lead afterward. Sanders sank a 3 from the corner with 1:11 that made it a 59-58 score, and Aburashed scored moments later to make it 61-60.

The Yellowjackets just didn't have enough gas left to halt Logan down the stretch, especially on Fenton's final possession.

"No. 2 (Logan) had 15 in the fourth quarter," Country Day coach Mark Bray said. "That's a bad job by me to recognize the guy who was hurting us. Obviously, he hit a big shot at the end. ... Giving them a wide-open 3 when we were up by two, that hurt us.

"But we didn't play well in the first half. We weren't ourselves. We didn't really play together or play with a focus. That was the most disappointing part: We didn't play our best. Other good teams are going to make plays, and they (Fenton) certainly did, but we didn't really play a full game."

Julian Scott helped the Yellowjackets with 10 points, followed by Sanders and Luke Ammori with seven apiece. James Blair added five points off the bench.

Bray said it was good for his squad to face some adversity, but he knows it needs to do a better job defensively when the game is on the line. He agreed there were other factors than Aburashed's missed free throw to blame the loss on.

Still, Aburashed blamed himself.

"That's true, but that's crunch time right there," the forward said. "That's where we've got to get better. We've got to put in the extra hours in the gym. I've got to show it right there. There's no excuse. I've just got to take responsibility for my team."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life.







Farmington Hills Mercy's Aizlyn Albanese looks to pass against Bloomfield Hills Marian on Jan. 7. Mercy won, 59-33. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Freshman

Continued from Page 1B

Oh, yeah, there's also the 800-pound gorilla in the room: Marian coach Mary Cicerone is still one victory away from her 700th career win. She plans on retiring following this season.

So it wasn't a surprise to see the two teams duke it out again early in the evening.

Nor was it a surprise to see Mercy's seniors such as Sarah Cunningham and Sophie Dugas and juniors Lauren Smiley and Maya White take full advantage of Marian's short bench with their full-court defense throughout the game.

What was a surprise, however, was the Marlins' secret weapon: Freshman Aizlyn Albanese.

The rookie has been a great spot shooter this winter, but she picked the right time to have a breakout game.

The 5-foot-10 guard scored 14 points, including burying four 3-pointers. She scored eight points in the third quarter alone to help turn a close game into a blowout as the Marlins went on to beat Marian, 59-33.

"She's been shooting the ball really well," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "We have a lot of confidence in her shooting the ball. We have high expectations of her, and she lived up to them tonight."

Cunningham, who scored a team-high 15 points, nabbed a steal at half-time and finished at the rim for an easy layup with 49 seconds left in the opening quarter. The play ensured the Marlins (10-2, 6-1) a 15-8 lead at the intermission.

But, like most Mercy-Marian matchups, the Mustangs didn't back down. They scored 10 of the final 15 points in the second quarter to make sure they trailed just 24-19 entering halftime.

And that's when Albanese started to get hot.

The freshmen buried two 3s early in the third, and then she ended the quarter with a layup from a steal that Mercy's full-court defense drummed up. Mercy took a 40-24 lead into the fourth thanks to a 9-2 run.

That scoring spree inspired the Marlins to finish off the night strongly. They went on a 17-2 run in the waning moments and never looked back. Dugas (six points) sank a technical free throw to give them a 20-point lead late in the fourth.

With 1:01 left, Morris subbed in an entire lineup of bench players to finish off the game.

White finished with 13 points for Mercy, while Sarah Sylvester led Marian with 20 points, which included a pair of and-one three-point plays, and Grace Rotter chipped in nine points.

"I just went out with a lot of energy," Albanese said. "I was relaxed before the game because we were all laughing before the game and having a good time. We weren't thinking about it too much. I always breathe a whole lot and take really deep breaths to calm my nerves down. Being relaxed helps me have a lot

of fun in the game, and that really works."

Albanese has always taken an even-keeled approach to basketball.

Before she was hitting key 3-pointers in CHSL games, she needed to pass the tryouts *BEFORE* the tryouts.

Albanese attended Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy for middle school, so she was pretty unfamiliar to Morris when she was looking for a high school to attend. In fact, she had only one year of junior high basketball under her belt. The rest of her experience was playing for the Westland Factory Basketball travel program.

After the Albanese family decided Mercy was the best place for her, from both an academic and basketball standpoint, she needed to convince Morris she was worthy of being in the program. He got to see her once in the gym before the Marlins went up to Gaylord's annual team camp in northern Michigan.

Albanese had the perfect approach to winning favor with Morris during the camp.

"When I got to play with them, I had to show them what I could do because I hadn't been playing with them all summer," she said. "I wanted to make varsity at this school, so before the tryouts, I had to show him (I was good enough to make the varsity). I said, 'You know what? I do have backup skills (as a role player),' so I'm just going to play and just have fun."

She made the most of her opportunity.

She's one of just three freshmen currently on the roster (along with Alison Smiley and Emily Walker).

Now she's fitting in well with the Marlins' talented crop of upperclassmen.

"We didn't see her until the summer. Just seeing her play summer basketball, (we knew she was good)," Morris said. "We had a pretty good feel for seeing her in the summer. It's a combination of her being skilled but also she has a feel for the game as a freshman. The girls, they've been very welcoming and accepting of her, and I think they realize she's a good player who can help us. They want to make her a good part of the team, and they're doing that."

Albanese, who recently tried out and made the Michigan Storm AAU program, looks like she belongs out there with the rest of the girls. She can shoot well like Cunningham and White. She can hustle on defense like Lauren Smiley and Dugas.

And now she's stepping up in key moments to help Mercy beat tough opponents such as Marian.

"Basketball has always been my passion, and I just really wanted to beat Marian and show them that we didn't have a lucky first win against them and that we could beat them," Albanese said. "I think how much we beat them by shows that we're a really good team and we did what we needed to do with them missing a few really good players."

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



Mercy coach Gary Morris talks to his troops.



Mercy player Lauren Smiley. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Under pressure from Marian's Sarah Sylvester, right, Mercy's Sarah Cunningham looks to drop in two.



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A record 4.5 million people quit their jobs in November, according to the nationwide JOLTS report. Now, with the latest State JOLTS report released this morning, we know which states are responsible for the spike in resignations.

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**Labor shortages are severe in Nebraska, Utah, New Hampshire, and Vermont, but less acute on the East Coast.**

- There were far more job openings than unemployed people in the U.S. in November, particularly in Nebraska (4 openings per unemployed person), Utah (3.4), New Hampshire (2.8), and Vermont (2.8). That imbalance has given job seekers substantial leverage.
- However, not every state is a job seekers' market. On the East Coast, several states have high unemployment levels and relatively few job openings. Job seekers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania are still facing tougher odds.

- Three East Coast states rank at the bottom when it comes to quits rates, job openings rates, and ratios of unemployed people per job opening. Their low quits rates partly reflect the fact that their highly educated populations tend to work in lower-turnover occupations, but they also reflect a relative scarcity of outside opportunities.

- Employed job seekers located in New York, the state with the lowest quits rate, are more likely to cite inconvenient location as a top reason for resigning, followed by too much stress, and insufficient pay.

**In November, Alaska, Hawaii, and New Hampshire recorded the highest job openings rates.**

- Alaska has the highest job openings rate (8.8%), followed by Hawaii (8.3%) and New Hampshire (7.9%). These rates are about 2 percentage points higher than the national average of 6.6%.
- In all three states, there is intense demand for healthcare, transportation, and food service workers. In those states, sales professionals, nurses, medical specialists, trucker drivers, and restaurant workers take the 5 occupations that in highest demand, according to ZipRecruiter's online job postings data.

### Top 3 reasons employees cite for quitting their job

What factors were most important in causing you to leave your last job?

Too much stress

**46%**

Not enough pay

**33.7%**

I did not get along with my boss or coworkers

**21.7%**

Source: A nationally representative survey of 1,500 U.S. adults who stated that they want to find a new job in the next 6 months, conducted between January 12 and January 14, 2022.



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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo**
**FORGET THE WHOLE THING**
**ACROSS**

- 1 Warning about a racy web pic  
5 "West Side Story" knife  
9 Seasoned vet  
15 Bro  
19 French for "yours"  
20 Treat for feet, for short  
21 Pope after Marcellus II  
22 Scads  
23 RFORM  
26 Rapper Snoop —  
27 Variety show hosts, e.g.  
28 ACLU interests: Abbr.  
29 Farming unit  
31 Pasty luau food  
32 Flight takeoff abbr.  
33 NTR  
38 "Peek- —!"  
40 Classic comic Martha  
41 Uplifting poems  
42 Place full of video games  
43 UBL  
46 Chicken cordon —  
47 British chums  
48 Stars and Stripes' nation

- 49 —'wester (certain storm)  
50 "Oh, God!" actress Garr  
54 Cousins of aves.  
55 Name of some newspapers  
57 GHTE  
62 Actors  
66 Flying  
67 TRONI  
72 Cast out of the country  
73 Official helper  
74 Pays out  
75 EAKI  
79 Diner check  
80 Start for existing  
83 Name of some newspapers  
84 Vetoer's vote  
85 U.S. tax org.  
88 Aromatic aftershave liquid  
90 QBs' blunders: Abbr.  
92 RKE  
96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.  
99 Outer limit

- 100 Chimney grime  
101 Great serves  
102 HEER  
105 2000-15 CBS series  
106 Writer Rand  
107 Blood type, in brief  
108 Total  
109 Wakes up  
112 Writer Uris  
114 NTEN  
119 Peel, as fruit  
120 Excited  
121 Cozy corner  
122 Pierce player  
123 Cast off hair  
124 Swan constellation  
125 Forest sight  
126 Saclike growth

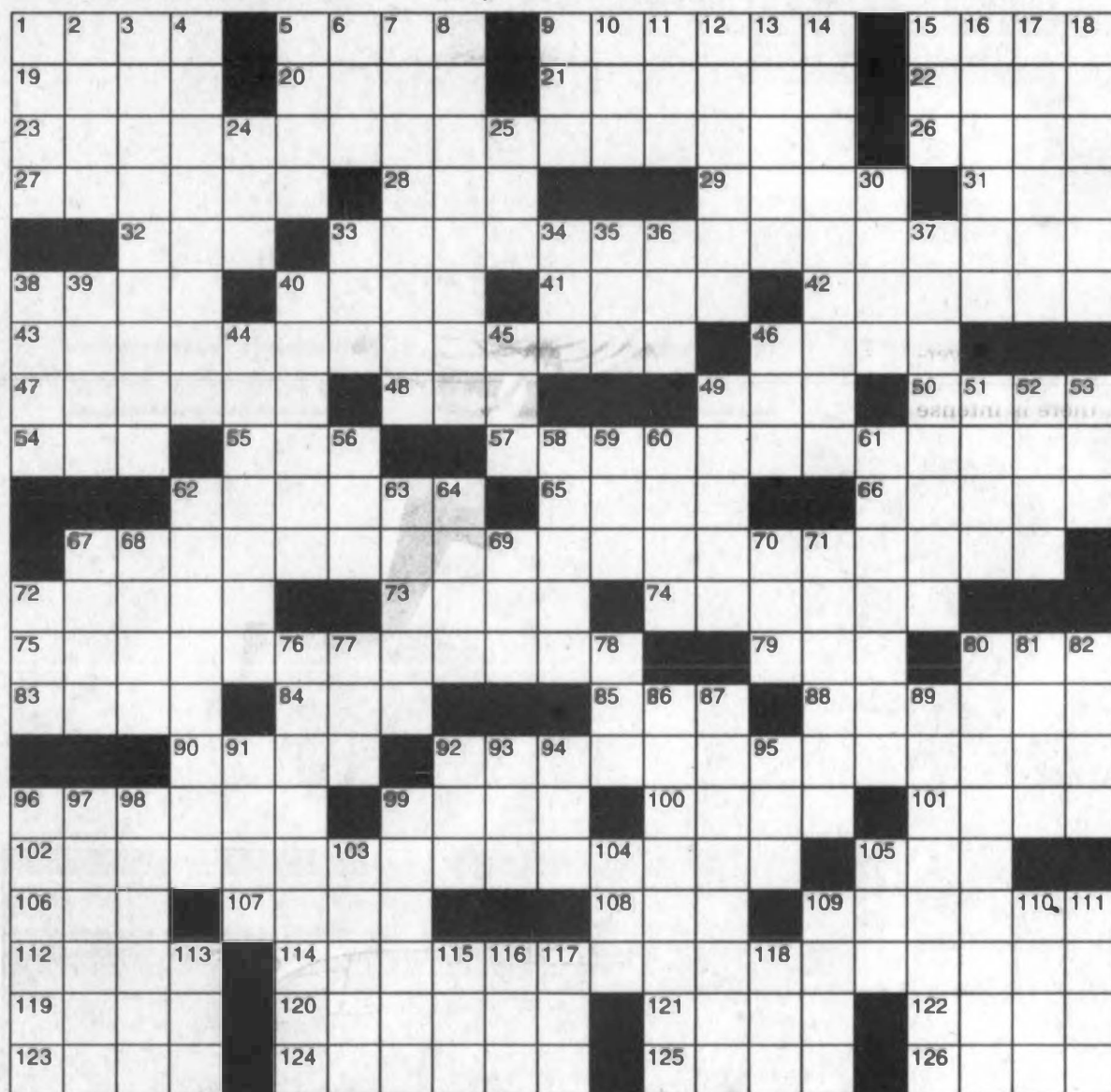
**DOWN**

- 1 Neck back  
2 Mushroom feature  
3 Some plays on ground  
4 Fiancee  
5 Colo. — (city S. of Denver)  
6 Skirt line  
7 "Just go ahead and try!"  
8 Wine merchants  
9 Unlock, in poems  
10 Resting place for a napkin  
11 Drinker's hwy. offense  
12 Implores  
13 Christina of "Bel Ami"  
14 Put too high a price on  
15 Papa  
16 Perfect world  
17 Be charitable  
18 Gas guzzler  
24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon  
25 Chicago winter hrs.  
30 Blamey  
33 Mushroom feature  
34 King, in Lyon  
35 Hubbub  
36 Novelist  
37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps  
38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.  
39 Regatta entry  
40 Upshot  
44 Evan of figure skating  
45 Univ. helpers  
46 Web automaton

- 49 Brother of Moe and Curly  
51 Deep black, in poems  
52 Break in friendship  
53 Hairy TV cousin  
56 "Science Friday" airer  
58 Person tying shoes  
59 Onetime transportation agcy.  
60 Foods created by biotech  
61 Flood-prevention sack  
62 One sharing your blood  
63 Songwriter Carmichael  
64 Salon noise  
67 Large-scale public show  
68 Untrue tales  
69 Neighbor of Mont.  
70 Caress  
71 How money may be lost  
72 Sci-fi gift  
76 Belonging naturally  
77 "One Mic" rapper

- 78 "— ToK" (#1 hit for Keshia)  
80 On the nose  
81 Viking letter  
82 Rescue crew  
86 Occupant  
87 Represented  
89 Peruvian singer with a wide range  
91 Notorious emperor  
92 OR workers  
93 Rust may be a sign of it  
94 DVR remote abbr.  
95 Cain, to Eve  
96 Hair-raising sites?  
97 "Is that so?"  
98 Poe's "radiant maiden"  
99 Yuletide quaff

- 103 Destitute  
104 Tic- —-toe  
105 Gear tooth  
109 Yard tool  
110 Outer limits  
111 Sports datum  
113 TV neighbor of Homer  
115 Pewter, mostly  
116 Univ. website suffix  
117 Vetoers' votes  
118 Rival of Wade



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

## SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★

2/03

Here's How It Works:

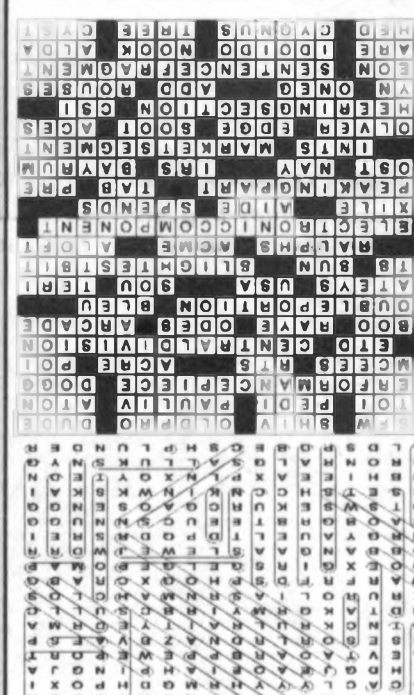
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

## PIRATES

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.

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

ADVENTURE  
ANCHOR  
BLACKBEARD  
BLUEBEARD  
BOOTY  
BOW  
CABIN BOY  
CANNON  
CAPTAIN  
CHEST  
CROW'S-NEST  
CUTLASS  
DAGGER  
DECK  
DRUNKEN  
EARRING  
EYE-PATCH  
FIGUREHEAD  
GOLD  
ISLAND  
JEWELS  
JOLLY ROGER  
MAP  
MAST  
PARROT  
PEARLS  
PEG-LEG  
PLANK  
PLUNDER  
PORT  
PRESS GANG  
RIGGING  
RUM  
SAILOR  
SAILS  
SCAR  
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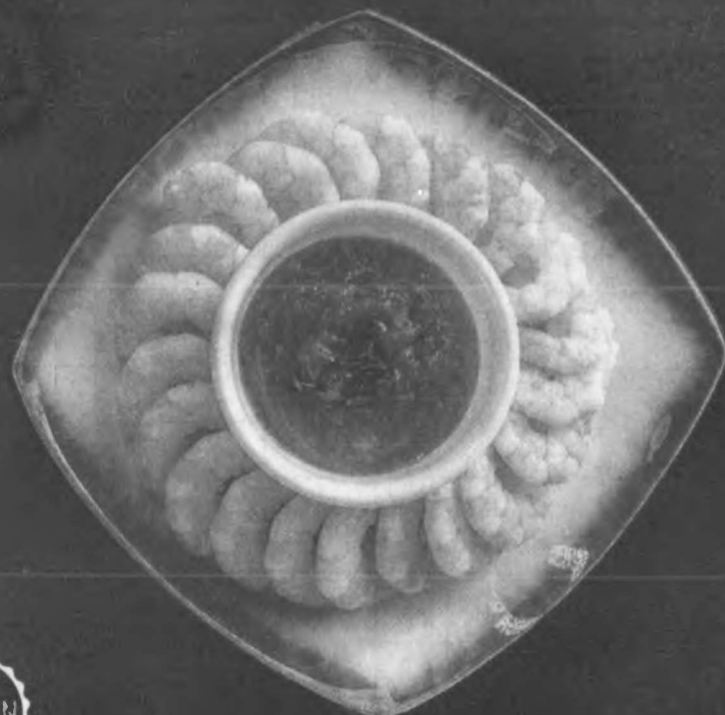
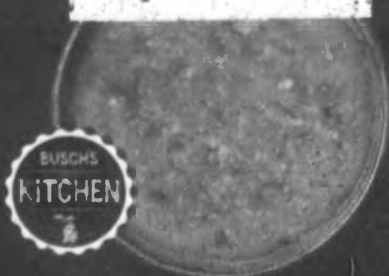


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