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Livonia mayor-elect ready to make history

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Mayor-elect Maureen Miller Brosnan is excited to be the next mayor of her longtime home, but she might be more excited to be the first woman to land the voter-selected job.

"I love the fact that I get to be the first woman mayor in Livonia," she said. "I think the only sad part of it is it took us 70 years to get here."

Brosnan said she hopes her election, and her taking office in January, will be a sign to girls and women they can have a seat at the table.

"No little girl ought to ever think that anything is impossible," she said. "Everything is within reach. The message that I have for young girls and for women in general is be ready. Be ready to take advantage of, be ready to jump into, be ready to raise your hand and chances are you are probably more ready than

you think you are."

Looking back at her historic campaign, she can't decide what ultimately squeaked her past opponent City Council President Laura Toy with 164 votes.

"There is not one particular thing

See **BROSNAN**, Page 3A



Eamonn Moore practices with the Threshold Choir on Nov. 21. Livonia's threshold singers, part of an international organization that has been around since 1990, practice and are based at Angela Hospice. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Threshold Choir brings peace, comfort to dying

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"You are not alone. I am here beside you."

The simple, repetitive songs of the Threshold Choir are meant to bring peace to someone as they step over the line between life and death.

Livonia's threshold singers, part of an international organization that's been around since 1990, practice out of Angela Hospice. The group formed this summer is almost ready to sing bedside to the dying and their families.

"Through that song, that connection brings peace," said Marti Coplai, the president and CEO of Angela Hospice. "It's also peace to the family, just being able to come together around the song and seeing that peace come to their loved one."

The choir was started by Coplai and Margot Parr, the former president and CEO of the hospice. Coplai saw a threshold group serving in Ann Arbor and hoped Livonia could have a similar group one day.

See **CHOIR**, Page 5A

"Threshold singing is really about giving a part of yourself, serving others. We never perform, if we're asked to we won't."

Margot Parr Co-founder,
Threshold Choir at Angela Hospice

Getting to know Farmington mayor Bowman

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sara Bowman jokes that she has an even better version of the viral 10-year challenge. When she was a senior in high school 20 years ago taking a civics class, Bowman was the mayor of Farmington Hills for a day. Now, she's the mayor of Farmington.

"Why my teacher selected me I don't know," she said. "I guess I was the loudest one."

Bowman, a third-generation greater Farmington resident and graduate of Harrison High School, said she never had ambitions to be on council or land in the mayor's seat but loves serving her longtime home.

"I do this because I love it here," she said.

See **BOWMAN**, Page 2A

Over a year after Canton home fire, debris cleared from site

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township resident Mark Owens was more than grateful Wednesday afternoon to see a demolition crew taking down the charred remains of a neighboring house at 500 Merion Drive that was destroyed by a fire on Oct. 23, 2018.

"We're ecstatic," Owens said, gesturing toward the heavy-duty equipment that brought down bricks, boards and insulation with its ominous claw. "It's like, *finally!*"

"The fact that it took so long to clear the property was very frustrating. It had to be a haven for animals and rodents and you're always worried that

See **DEBRIS**, Page 4A



Bowman

Continued from Page 1A

Having formerly serving on and chairing the city's planning commission, Bowman feels comfortable working within Farmington and thinks Mayor Pro Tem Joe LaRussa will be a strong partner.

"Joe worked very, very hard," Bowman said. "He wins it at the campaigning, there's no doubt. It means a lot to him. He works really hard and he really deserves that position."

As for the rest of council, Bowman is glad the elections provided the same group of people another few years to work together and thinks they'll keep building on the momentum they already had.

"I think we're strongest when we're collaborative, and that doesn't necessarily mean we all agree," she said. "But I think if we can all agree on the direction that we want Farmington to go in, we get a lot done. This is why, again, I'm really pleased that we get to continue with the

"I think we're strongest when we're collaborative, and that doesn't necessarily mean we all agree. But I think if we can all agree on the direction that we want Farmington to go in, we get a lot done."

Sara Bowman Farmington mayor

council we have because the word 'momentum' keeps coming up."

While she's glad to have the band back together, Bowman has repeatedly expressed gratitude to Geof Perot and Sarah Davies, who both put their hats in the ring for a council seat.

"I think it really speaks volumes when you have a town of this size that has that many people (who want to run)... We are not career politicians, any of us here in Farmington," she said. "We all have full-time jobs, most of us have families or people that we're taking care of."

Bowman feels like everything that happens in Farmington is a result of people willing to step up and help.

"So much of what you see that happens in this town is just people showing up," she said.

But while she's mayor for the next two years, Bowman hopes to work with council to invest more in Farmington's parks, bring the right businesses to Farmington and rejuvenate the Farmington Road streetscape similarly to the Grand River Avenue improvements.

"I think if you have a strong downtown, it does feed out to the rest of the two miles of town," Bowman said. "I'm on the east side of town and I'm already seeing things come closer and closer to us and growing and developing."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



Farmington Mayor Sara Bowman talks with Hometown Life about her plans for the city at her home Dec. 2. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Students take first-hand gov

WHOD SAYS teenagers are any different than adults?

Harrison and North Farmington high school students found themselves in the same dilemma during the annual Student Government Day Dec. 11 as the Farmington Hills City Council finds itself in almost every Monday night.

"They couldn't make up their

mind any more than the real city council could," said Harrison American government teacher Richard Steele, who works with the Student Government Day program.

That was on the discussion of what to do with the city-owned Peltz-MDOT property south of I-696, west of Farmington Road. Sponsored by the Farmington Rotary Club, the program is designed

to give the high school students a taste of local government. The students assume positions of their adult counterparts, such as mayor, police chief, city manager, district judge, public services director and city clerk.

Both Steele and Steve Brock, assistant to the Farmington Hills city manager, who organizes the program in the city, agree that this year's topics for discussion during the mock council election were better than ever before. William Brinker is Steele's counterpart at North Farmington High School.

"In addition to the Peltz-MDOT issue, the students debated the pros and cons of the city mandating recycling."

"It was difficult to reach a consensus on either topic," Brock said.

In fact, students ran out of time and never got to the third topic, which was picking three priorities out of the city's Year 2000 plan.

"They (students) were interesting, inquisitive and intelligent with their discussions," Brock said. "They hit on a lot of the same issues the usual city council does."

One thing, however, was different. There was an absence of political posturing and power plays. But Steele didn't chalk that absence up to youthful innocence.

"In one day they didn't have enough time to get into their power groups. If they kept at it, within

three or four days they into their power groups."

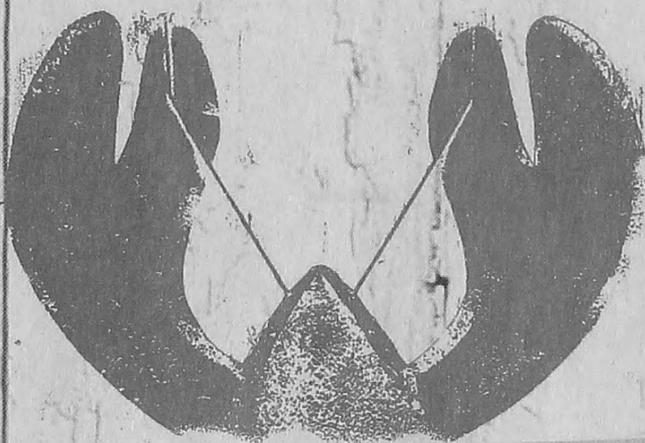
Before the mock council the students spent the first day with their adult counterparts to get a feel for the way the city and what it takes



A lot of it is listening as Harrison student Sara Paul, acting as mayor, and North Farmington student Lynn Patel, as mayor pro tem, find during a mock city council election on Student Government Day Dec. 11.

North Farmington student council meeting.

Bowman's mother saved this newspaper article when her daughter (then Sara Paul) got to sit in council chambers and act as mayor of Farmington for a day as part of a high school class project.



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Brosnan

Continued from Page 1A

that put us over the top," Brosnan said. "I think we learned from this election is that if you ever wanted a great example of every vote counting, this is the example."

The mayor-elect said the campaign taught her that "everything matters." With over \$200,000 raised and 47,542 doors knocked over the course of the campaign, she said she thinks the little things pushed her past the finish line.

"I had a young, wicked smart campaign team that worked right alongside the people that had worked on my campaign since 1995... It was a great mix," Brosnan said. "I do expect that I'm going to be able to bring some of that young talent on board city side."

With that youthful help, Brosnan said she hopes to tackle her top three issues of public safety, schools and the roads. She says she got those priorities from all of that door-knocking.

"We invite new ideas, we encourage innovation, we're actually demanding creativity," she said. "A lot of that comes with people that are newer to the game, that look at things differently."

Brosnan said that, while she waits to get to work, she's grateful Mayor Dennis Wright has welcomed her to the job and is doing what he can to help.

"It makes it easy to transition when you're invited to have a seat at the table and Mayor Wright has been amazingly generous in that regard," Brosnan said.

When Brosnan does take office, she said getting more police and fire professionals "head and shoulders rises above the rest" of other issues. But, creating a workplace development program in Livonia Public Schools and getting more road funding are near the top of her list.

"People are clearly upset with the progress that's been made or not made in funding road projects," she said. "They're not happy with where Livonia has fallen in terms of priorities from the state as well as the county. We've not gotten our fair share of road dollars."

In her attempts to do those things, Brosnan seems confident that she'll have a good working relationship with city council, which includes mainstays like Toy and Council President-elect Kathleen McIntyre along with younger faces like Rob Donovic and Brandon



Livonia Mayor-elect Maureen Brosnan talks about her plans for leading the city during an interview with Hometown Life. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

McCullough.

"You have people that have this historic knowledge of how the city is run and they've been a part of making it one of the best run cities in southeastern Michigan, and in the country as far as I'm concerned," she said. "But you've also got this fresh set of eyes that really want to begin to take a look at how do we do things differently."

"I look forward to work with all of them. The fact that I've had a chance to work with many of them, sitting side by side with them, I think gives us all a leg up."

Some of those colleagues, including

McIntyre, Donovic, McCullough and Council Vice President-elect Scott Bahr will be sworn in Dec. 12 along with Brosnan at city hall. Brosnan said her three children, Marie, Rory and Eleanor, will swear her in.

"They are the reason why I raised my hand to run for city council, to run for mayor of Livonia," she said. "It really is and always has been about making sure that this is really a place that one day they want to come back to."

And come January, Brosnan feels like the city has prepared her to do the job.

"I've had such fortune in serving on the city council, serving as the chairman

of the board of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, having served on umpteen boards and commissions and nonprofit organizations in the city," she said. "I feel like the city itself has educated me, has prepared me for this position."

Brosnan said residents who want to serve on a board or commission or chip in ideas can reach out to her by visiting livonia2020.com.

"Community voice was critical in this campaign and it's going to be amazingly important and central to our administration as we go forward."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

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Debris

Continued from Page 1A

kids' curiosity will get the best of them, which could be dangerous. We had heard it can take a long time (after the fire), but it has been such a hazard to allow it to stand this long."

Canton Township Deputy Director of Fire Chris Stoecklein said there are a number of procedures that have to take place before a burned-out home like this one just north of Heritage Park can be cleared from the property, often pushing back the demolition a year or more.

"Although I would love to be able to tear homes down right after a fire, there is quite a process that follows a fire," Stoecklein said. "We are not typically involved with it once we do our investigation and turn it over to the insurance company or the homeowner."

The Merion Drive fire investigation was extended due to several factors.

Almost immediately, the Canton Township Fire Department handed off the cause-of-fire investigation to the Michigan

State Police due to a potential conflict of interest. The owner of the home was the son of a former high-ranking township official.

Almost four months into the investigation, the home owner died suddenly, ceasing the ongoing arson investigation by the MSP.

"Because he was the only person on the scene when the fire started, once he passed away, there was no reason to continue the investigation," said MSP Sgt. Todd Pelletier, who was the lead arson investigator. "The case closed with an undetermined cause result, meaning it wasn't determined that the fire was caused by arson and it wasn't determined that the fire wasn't caused by arson."

Who pays for demo?

Canton Township Building Official Rob Creamer said this week's demolition of the charred remains of the totaled home was paid for by the property owner.

"The township went through the entire process and had the legal right to tear it down, but the owner stepped up and is getting it done now," Creamer explained. "If



A bulldozer works to demolish a burned home at 500 Merion Drive in Canton on Dec. 4. The home was damaged by fire in 2018 and has since stood empty and fenced off until recently. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the township was to do it, it would have cost us approximately \$15,000 plus a \$13,000 fire withholding we would cash in.

"The property owner would have had to pay us the \$15,000 we put out or we would assess it to the taxes for the property. The only other one like this since I've been here, the owner paid us the difference of the cost after we cashed in the fire withholding and paid the demo contractor, and he now owns the lot free and clear."

Creamer said investigations by police, fire and insurance companies extend the time between when a home is destroyed and the final demolition.

"Mortgage companies sometimes auction off properties," he said. "Or insurance companies won't settle. If they don't settle, negotiations can take a long time and the

fire withholding check to the municipality will not get sent until a settlement has been reached.

"If the check doesn't cover all of the cost, the municipality is responsible for the rest of the cost up front," he explained. "The municipality has to take it through dangerous building hearings (public hearings), 30-day notices to owners and adjournments before the hearing officer gives a date to demo by ... or the municipality has the right to proceed to demo (usually 60 days)."

The list of red-tape items also includes a bidding process for demolition companies, utility cut-offs (at least 30 days before the demolition), asbestos abatement or approval from the state to proceed.

"All (fire-destroyed homes) have different scenarios and issues,"

Creamer added. "In the Merion Drive case, the owner wanted nothing more than to tear that house down. It was one issue after another. If the insurance and mortgage companies want to prolong it, it is easy to do. They can even appeal the dangerous building hearing result to circuit court, which really delays the process."

"The best case scenario is for the homeowner to do it himself, as it is faster. The municipality gets involved when nothing is happening and the process needs a little push."

The fire was reported at 2 p.m. Oct. 23, 2018. Smoke and flames were visible when firefighters arrived, Stoecklein said.

Stoecklein said all 16 firefighters on duty at the time responded to the fire and that a call for additional personnel was made. The fire department

had three engines and three ambulances at the scene, Stoecklein said, but no one needed medical care.

It took about three hours to extinguish the fire, Stoecklein said.

Plymouth Township Fire Chief Dan Phillips said the property of a house Jan. 1, 2019, fire in his jurisdiction was cleared just a couple of weeks ago.

"There are an overwhelming number of issues when it comes to demolishing homes like this," Phillips said. "Residents who live near the home will call us, understandably, and complain and yell that it's taking so long, but the government can't just take a house down without following all of the rules."

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

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Angela Hospice Care Center Threshold Choir director Norma Sander, right, directs her singers during practice Nov. 21. Among them are, from left, Eamonn Moore, Melinda Thornton, and Margot Parr. Parr co-founded the local chapter of the international group with Marti Coplai. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Choir

Continued from Page 1A

"I always hoped that we could replicate that here in this community," Coplai said. "So when Margot retired, we were able to kind of make our dream come true by having somebody with the time and the resources to get something like this started."

Though the choir operates out of Angela Hospice, the two are not affiliated. But, the choir will sing faith-based songs like "Amazing Grace" upon request.

"It was designed to be able to sing to anyone regardless of faith, regardless of culture, all of those things," Parr said of the choir.

The musicians, led by Norma Sander as the volunteer music director, is comprised of people who love singing who want to serve or find a musical community. Parr said the group is open to any-



Threshold Choir members meet at Angela Hospice on Thursdays to practice.

one regardless of vocal ability.

"Our voices are not professional voices. ... You have to have a heart to serve and you have to be able to follow

directions," Parr said.

When singing bedside, a group of three or four singers will sing Threshold's original songs a capella. People can

be sung to as they're dying, but that isn't always the case.

"That does happen, but it doesn't have to be that," Parr said. "It is really meant for individuals at the threshold of their life."

"Most commonly, we think of 'threshold' as that threshold from living to dying. But the choir is also open to singing to individuals who are maybe really debilitated by illness or are hospitalized, that type of thing."

Parr said anyone in the community willing to comfort people in their final moments is welcome to join by contacting her at cthresholdsingers@yahoo.com.

"Threshold singing is really about giving a part of yourself, serving others," she said. "We never perform, if we're asked to we won't. Everything we do is at the bedside."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

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The Claddagh Irish pub on Haggerty closes

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A pub in Livonia appears to have run out of the luck of the Irish.

The Claddagh, 17800 Haggerty, has closed its doors after more than 15 years in business on the Livonia/Northville Township border.

"Thank you for your patronage over the last 15 years and allowing us to serve you and your families," a message on the restaurant's website states. "This location is now closed."

The restaurant was known in the past for catering to soccer fans across the region, with flags of various clubs hanging inside the restaurant, and would feature live music on weekends. The restaurant's Facebook page was updated as recently as 5 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, and advertised several special events taking place during the month of December that will no long-

er take place.

The restaurant in the College Park plaza closed at the end of business Dec. 4.

Justin O'Driscoll, the operations director for Claddagh Irish Pubs based in Cleveland, said the restaurant's lease was up at the end of the month and they decided not to renew it. He said they were sad to close the restaurant after being there since 2004.

"It's been a good location for us over the years," he said. "We've had a good relationship with the landlord and everything, no issues there. It's just a business decision."

The Livonia restaurant was one of two Claddagh's in Michigan. Another location operates in Lansing, which remains open. The restaurant also operates pubs in Indianapolis and Maple Grove, Minnesota, according to its website.

Those who have unused gift cards to the restaurant can call the Claddagh's corporate offices to redeem

them. Those who need to inquire on gift cards or loyalty cards can do so by calling 440-349-6400 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

O'Driscoll said there were no immediate plans to reopen a Claddagh in the metro Detroit area.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said he was sad to see the restaurant close, but expects it won't be vacant for long.

"We are sad to see that Claddagh closed. It was a valued part of the Haggerty Road dining corridor that evolved to new heights over the past decade. As a chamber, we had a lot of good events and gatherings there through the years," he said. "Looking forward, this property is located in one of the premier dining and shopping areas in western Wayne County. There is so much new development planned nearby, so I believe this site will not be vacant for long."

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

Livonia mainstay Blue Plate Diner closes

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A longtime diner in Livonia has closed its doors.

The Blue Plate Diner, 32610 Seven Mile, closed for good Sunday after many years in business. The diner — known for breakfast food like omelettes and pancakes, as well as sandwiches, burgers and pitas — was nestled in the plaza east of Joe's Produce next to Kumon, Jet's Pizza and a State Farm Insurance office.

"Our success could not be possible without you, our valued customers and we appreciate the many moments that we have shared with you," the restaurant wrote in a Facebook post announcing the closure. "You are part of our success story and



The Blue Plate Diner, 32610 Seven Mile, has closed for good after many years in business. The diner was known for breakfast food like omelettes and pancakes, as well as sandwiches, burgers and pitas.

JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWN
LIFE.COM

Beer and Grill in Westland closed right after Thanksgiving. Alexander the Great, a barbecue restaurant, also closed last week after more than 40 years in business along Warren Road.

The diner was a longtime favorite place of Livonia resident and former county commissioner Bill Joyner, who wrote a farewell to the diner in his online newsletter.

"Livonia is a small town and the Blue Plate enhanced that image for so many," Joyner wrote. "And this typewriter bets that you have your favorite go-to restaurant. That is what makes Livonia so livable."

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

we look forward to serving your catering needs in the future.

"May God's grace and blessings be always on your path."

Attempts to speak with the diner's owner, Bob Modes, regarding the closure were unsuccessful.

Despite the restaurant's closure, the Blue Plate name will appear to live on: the Facebook page for the diner will convert to Blue Plate Catering.

Those interested in catering services can learn

more by visiting livonia-catering.com.

The diner joins several other area restaurants that have recently closed their doors in western Wayne County. The Claddagh Irish pub on Haggerty closed after 15 years last week, and Ashley's

Backers of proposed gas station ask for extension

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

It's going to take a little longer for the vacant lot at Seven Mile and Inkster in Livonia to see development.

The Livonia City Council took up a one-year extension for the development of a gas station at 27430 Seven Mile at its Dec. 2 study meeting. The plans were delayed after litigation in circuit court halted progress on the project, said Mark Toarmina, the city's planning director.

"In Feb. 2019, the Zoning Board of Appeals granted variances involving the lot area, building setback and parking. The actions of the ZBA was challenged in circuit court by neighboring property owners and on Oct. 8, the court affirmed the Zoning Board of Appeals decision granting the variances," he said. "However, because of the delay resulting from the court case, the petitioner was unable to secure any permits or commence construction."

With the litigation putting the project on hold, Aly Bazzi of Bazco Enterprises, the petitioner, said they were unable to begin work.

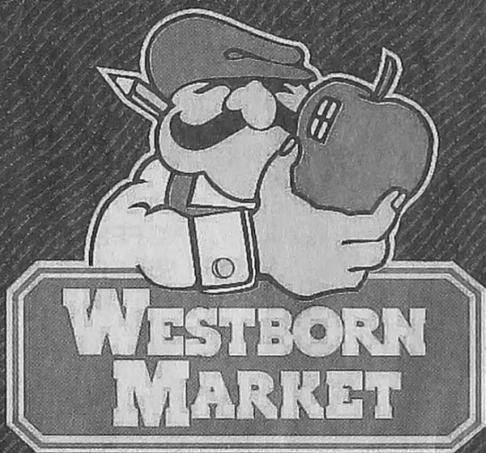
The planning commission recommended approval of the extension earlier this fall, though added two conditions: one would require the owners to undergo Due Care obligations as established by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; and the second to restrict the hours of operation from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day.

Bazzi said remediation of the site has been done with an environmental company and will continue through construction.

That was at odds with the owners, Bazzi said, as they were exploring the option of staying open 24 hours a day, testing the waters at the beginning of the time when the gas station would open.

But several council members, including Vice President Jim Jolly, were fine with the restrictions, especially given that there are other shops nearby that are already open 24 hours.

The city council is expected to take up the extension at its next meeting Dec. 16.



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Hudson's sleigh on display in South Lyon

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Cindy Heins remembers going to Hudson's in downtown Detroit when she was younger and sitting in a sleigh used none other than by Santa Claus.

Today, the assistant store manager at Great Lakes Ace Hardware in South Lyon is admiring that same sleigh every day when she comes in to work.

"I have a picture of myself in it," she said.

That sled, which dates back to the 1940s, greets visitors to the hardware store at 22291 Pontiac Trail as they walk in the door. The hope is it'll bring a wave of nostalgia back to area shoppers that may remember seeing it when they shopped at the department store years ago.

The sled is owned by Joe Grima, who bought it 12 years ago and restored it to its glory of yesterday.

"Believe it or not, I bought it off of eBay," said Grima, a Salem Township resident. "The deal was, my cousin knew I was really big into the history of Detroit. I used to be big into collectibles, so he hit me up and said, 'You have to check this out.'"

"It's a very cool piece."

He bought it and began returning it to its former glory, adding new paint, restoring the metal runners and more.

"It was pretty messed up," he said. "Everything was done."

Hudson's on Woodward Avenue in Detroit was one of the biggest department stores in the country during the 20th century. It was a place where thousands of shoppers would head to each year during its heyday. The store closed in 1983 and the building was imploded in 1998.

Grima said he had no clue what he would do with the sled after he bought it, but it brought back plenty of fond memories seeing the sleigh while shopping as a child.

"As a child, it was our family tradition that, on the day after Thanksgiving, we would get up early and we went downtown," he said. "It just brought back childhood memories."

The sleigh was set up in mid-November and will be on display throughout December.

Traditionally, the sled would be on display at a store in Plymouth near where Grima worked. This year, he brought it to South Lyon for the first time.

As a part of the display of the sleigh, Grima always asks businesses that hosts the sleigh for the holiday season to collect food for an area charity. This year, the store is collecting food for Active Faith, a South Lyon charity that assists families in need who live within the South Lyon School District boundaries.

A box is set up at the store to collect items as a part of the display, and Heins encourages people to donate to such a worthy cause.

"I was thinking that having the Santa sleigh would be a good draw for people to come in and see it and bring up memories of sort and what Christmas is all about," Heins said. "I just really wanted to draw attention to a local charity that we could give back to."



South Lyon Great Lakes Ace Hardware staff members Andrew Ganss, left, Cindy Heins, Teresa Winekoff and Sue Zimmerman gather around an original sleigh from a Hudson's Christmas display on loan to the store through Christmas Day.

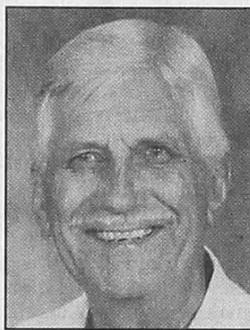
JOHN HEIDER/
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Obituaries

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Lawrence Joseph Dropiewski

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP - Lawrence Joseph Dropiewski, of Bloomfield Township, passed away on December 1, 2019 at the age of 88. Larry was the much loved father of Lisa (Michael) Vetowich, Marianne (Doug) Sacksteder, and Larry D. (Judy) Dropiewski; the caring grandfather of Piper Vetowich, Katherine Dropiewski, Steven Dropiewski, and Jonathan Dropiewski; and dear brother of Vivian (Raymond) Guitar. Lawrence is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Blanche Dropiewski and sister Estelle Murray. The family will receive friends on Thursday December 12, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, with sharing of memories at 7:00 pm at the Pixley Funeral Home, 3530 Auburn Rd, Auburn Hills. Burial at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorials are appreciated to the Royal Oak Symphony, Michigan State College of Business, or Wayne State College of Law. Please share a memory at www.pixleyfhauburnhills.com



Helen Jean Erdody

LIVONIA - A loving, compassionate & kind-hearted wife, mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law passed away Dec 8th, 2019 at the age of 98. Beloved wife of her late husband David, for 61 years. Loving mother of Elizabeth (Kevin) Martin. Proud Grandma of Danny, Christopher, and Jonathan Martin. A homemaker who loved cooking, gardening, flowers and above all her family. A Memorial service will be held on Sat, Dec 14, 2019 at 4:00pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. The gathering will begin at 3pm. For more info, please visit: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Harry J Will Funeral Homes

Grace Kuhns

Grace Kuhns, age 76 on October 9, 2019 in Portland Oregon. Grace was born in Detroit on May 14, 1943 to Doris Bridges and the late Jack Wigley. Her mother later married Ted Kuhns. A graduate of Plymouth High School in 1961, she loved music and poetry all her life, contributing to many plays, choirs, and poetry groups throughout her life. She attended Albion College and majored in music; later attended Eastern Michigan University and became a licensed psychologist.

Grace is survived by her mother, Doris Kuhns, sisters, Victoria (Kevin) Wheeler of Portland OR and Cynthia Cox of Plymouth, brother Ted (Kim) Kuhns of Whitmore Lake, MI, many nieces and nephews and dear friends. She will be sorely missed. She will be remembered for her loving, compassionate nature, and sense of humor. An avid bird lover, memorial contributions can be made to the Audubon Society at audubon.org.

Laura Hammons

DECATUR, AL - Laura Bingham Hammons, 92, passed away Friday November 22, 2019 at Riverside Senior Living in Decatur, Alabama. Laura was born May 22, 1927 in Farmdale, Ohio to Glenn and Cora Bingham and grew up on her parents' dairy farm during the depression, graduating from Kent State University with a BS in 1949.

Laura worked as a Dietitian at Stouffer restaurants in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Chicago before coming to Detroit. There she met Jack Hammons and they married in 1955. Laura was a dedicated homemaker and enjoyed playing the piano, gardening, her cats, and volunteering at the Livonia Public Library.

Laura is preceded in death by her husband Jack and their daughter, Mary; survived by her children, Perry (Laurel) Hammons, Penelope (Kenneth) Kopka, and Jonathan Hammons; cherished grandchildren Curtis, Jennifer and Larkin; sisters Arlene, Jane, Shirley and Marylou; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

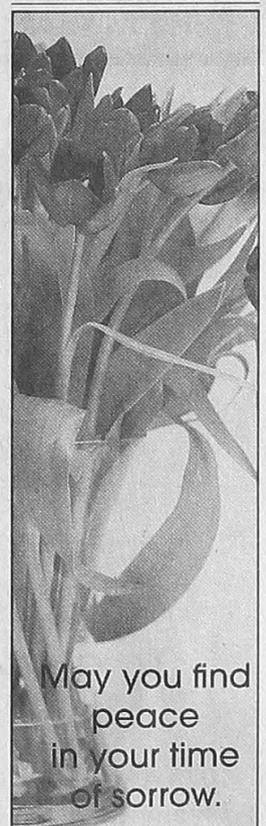
In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to Hospice of the Valley: <http://www.hospiceofthevalley.net/online-donation>. Share a memorial tribute at: <https://www.alabamacremationservices.com/obituaries/>



Margaret L. Thoma

FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 95, passed away Saturday, December 7, 2019. Surviving is her brother, Gerald (Carol) Crossmyer; niece, Barbra (Brian) Reis; nephew, Fr. Robert T. Crossmyer; numerous other nieces and nephews. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Willard, sister, Clara J. Crossmyer and brother, Elmer A. Crossmyer. A funeral mass was celebrated Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at St. Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington. Private burial Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial tributes Fr. Solanus Guild. heeneysundquist.com

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Why we believe that every person has value



Dean Johnson
Guest columnist

In the movie, "The Help," each evening when the maid puts the little girl to bed, she repeats to her, "You is kind, you is smart and you is important." It's very heartwarming. But who says? Who says that little girl is important? And if she isn't smart, is she still important? Says who?

Recently Bernie Sanders was in a town hall campaign meeting when a hurting and depressed military veteran recounted to him how difficult his life is, and he admitted he was considering suicide.

Sanders actually shouted: "No, you're not going to do that!"

He went on to delineate his proposals for how the government would help the man. But what if the government doesn't help the man? Is there a reason not to commit suicide?

The book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells an account of God creating people. It says God created people "in his image."

That is, we are somehow like God in a way that animals and birds and fish are not. We are not just another animal on the evolutionary scale. This is what makes us special.

Later in Genesis, the reason given that we should not take the life of another person is that they are "in God's image."

One day someone asked Jesus if people should pay their taxes to the government. Jesus looked at a coin and said, "Whose image is on the coin?"

People replied, "Caesar's image."

Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." That is, give to Caesar what is his, what bears his image.

Then he said, "Give to God what is God's." That is, what bears his image. You bear the image of God.

I have a college-age son who looks quite a bit like me.

There is a woman in our church who often can't even remember his name,

The book of Genesis ... says God created people "in his image." That is, we are somehow like God in a way that animals and birds and fish are not. We are not just another animal on the evolutionary scale. This is what makes us special.

but who treats him with great respect just because he is "the pastor's son."

To her, therein lies his most striking feature, that he is in my image in a way no one else on Earth is.

Even though the Bible says the world is messed up because of violence and injustice and "sin," it says humans are still in the image of God.

This is the reason, for instance, that the book of James in the New Testament implores us not to curse our fellow humans: because "people are the image and likeness of God."

The image might be damaged or distorted but, yes, we are still the image of God.

The Hebrew word for image is selem. In Latin we say, The "Imago Dei."

If a culture worshiped a certain deity, they would set up a selem, an image, of that deity, which would represent the deity in their town.

The selem itself was not that deity, but it was thought to have something of the essence of the deity in it.

It represented and stood in place of the deity.

The 10 Commandments say, "Don't make a graven image of God." Why? Because there's already an image of God, and it's you.

The Rev. Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at deanlpbc@sbcglobal.net.

Taking over a loved one's affairs



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My mother is a widow and is in her early 80s. Since my father died five years ago, she has handled all her own affairs, including her investments. Over the last number of months, I've noticed my mom has slowed down and I have convinced her that I should take care of managing her legal and financial affairs.

My first question for you is what, if any, legal documentation do I need to get? I want to make sure that I am protected. I have two siblings, one of them who is estranged from the family and I believe could cause me some problems in the future.

My second question to you is, in handling my mother's financial affairs, what advice can you give me in taking over?

Gary

Dear Gary:

In looking at your situation, I believe that the first thing you should do is obtain a medical power of attorney for your mom and a durable power of attorney. These are two separate powers of attorney that together will give you the legal rights to handle your mother's financial and legal affairs and at the same time, be involved in her medical care.

For example, by having a medical power of attorney, you will be able to communicate directly with your mother's healthcare providers, including her doctors. A medical power of attorney can also give you the right to make an end-of-life decision for your mom. Particularly in a situation where an unhappy family member could cause problems, having a medical power of attorney will give you the protection you need.

The other power of attorney I mentioned, a durable power of attorney is more geared for any legal or financial issue that may develop.

This can include handling your mom's banking relationships or even making decisions regarding her home. The bottom line, by having a medical

and a durable power of attorney you can have the power and the authority to do what you think is necessary to handle your mother's affairs and at the same time, provide a level of protection for you in the event that other family members create problems.

In handling your mother's affairs, there are some things I would recommend you do to make your life easier. The first would be to find out if she has any current estate planning documents such as a will, a trust or even other powers of attorney. If she has these documents, the first thing you need to do is to make sure they are still current and reflect your mother's wishes.

I also think it would be important if you are going to take over your mother's affairs to collect her medical information; such as who her doctors are and a list of her prescriptions. At the same time, it would make sense to make sure you understand what her insurance coverages are and determine if any changes need to be done.

In handling your mother's financial affairs, it is important to accumulate her data and know exactly where she stands.

In addition, I would make sure you have any passwords and login information from any of her accounts. I also recommend that you make sure you're added on as a signatory to her bank accounts and brokerage accounts. You should also get the names and numbers of professionals she may have dealt with such as financial advisers, insurance salespeople and CPAs. It is important that you obtain a copy of her tax return. This could be an invaluable piece of information in helping you accumulate her assets.

Life used to be easy; it is no longer that way. Taking over a loved one's affairs is not easy. However, what can make the task less daunting is to make sure you get off on the right foot by obtaining the necessary legal documents and other information which will make your job much easier.

Good luck!

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

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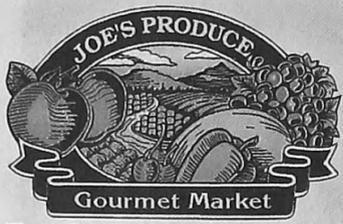
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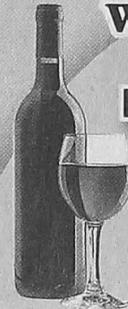
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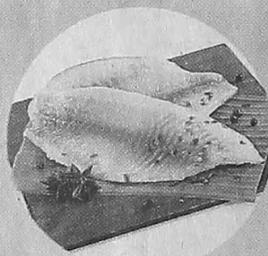
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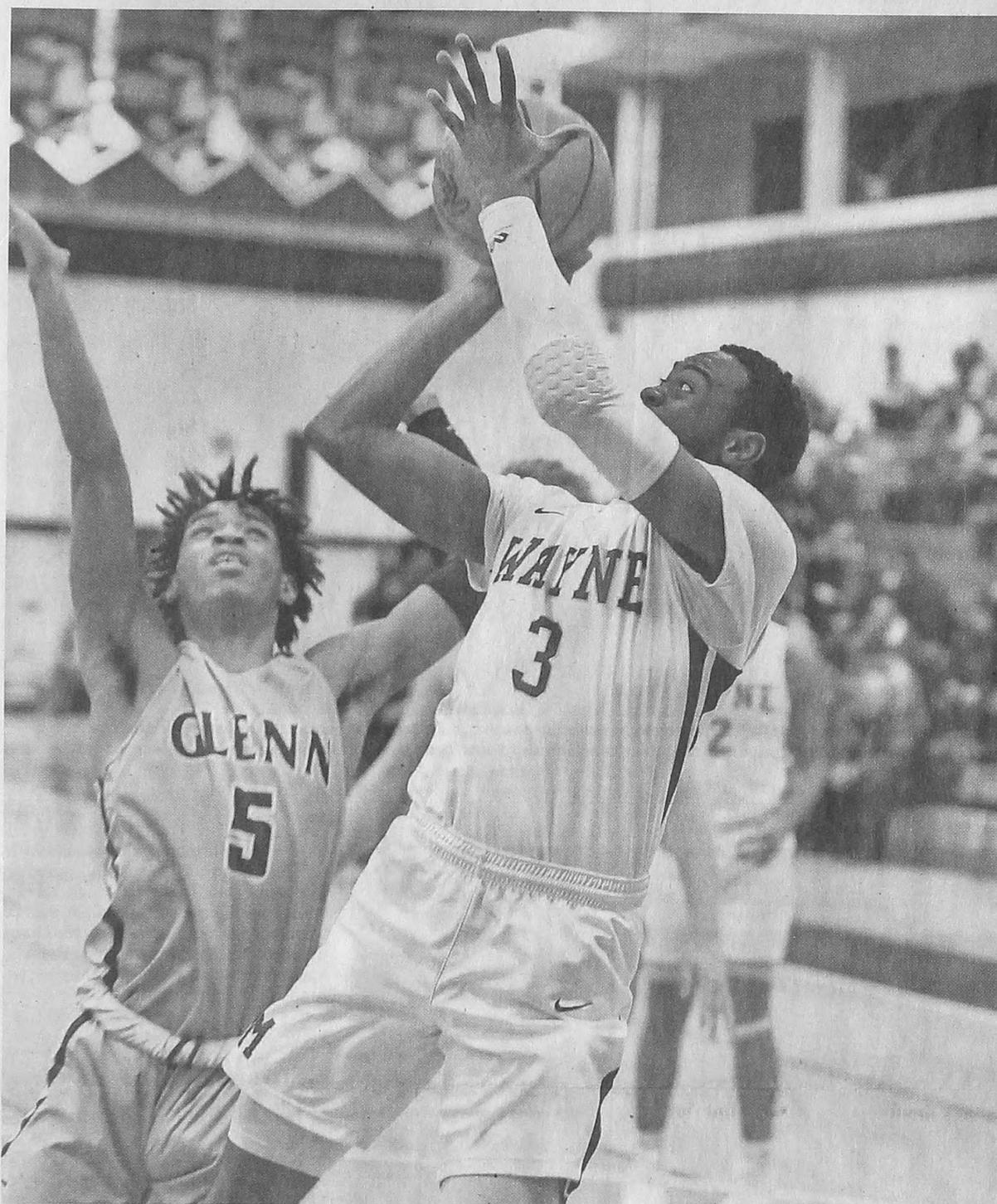
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Sports

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John Glenn's Renel Thrasher watches as Wayne's Chase Leslie tries for a basket during KLAA game action last season. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

What's ahead for LVC boys hoops

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The high school basketball season is here.

From the moment the season tips off on Dec. 9, Hometown Life-area teams will play with the goal to get to the Breslin Center in East Lansing for the state finals on March 28.

Here is a preview of how four area teams in the Lakes Valley Conference look ahead of the season opener.

South Lyon East

Head coach: Ron Levin, seventh season

Last year's overall record: 6-16, eighth place in LVC, lost to Ann Arbor Skyline in district semifinal

Season opener: 7 p.m., Dec. 10 at Lakeland

Players to watch: F Nick Branton, G Bryce Bird

Levin's season outlook: "Expectations for this year's team are very high. We have the talent and the character to compete to win the league and our district. We have depth at every position and leadership from players that should keep us competitive all season long."

Milford

Head coach: David Gilbert

Last year's overall record: 15-8, fourth in LVC, lost to Oxford in the regional semifinal

Season opener: 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. Walled Lake Northern

Players to watch: Eric Elizondo, Ronnie Savage, Nick Krol, Dylan Schils

Gilbert's season outlook: "Our entire team will be filling new roles. We bring up a strong group of juniors from the JV who will look to make an early impact along with a core group of seniors who will be stepping forward to leave their own legacy on our program. We graduated five out of our top six from last season. We lose 80 percent of our scoring and rebounding."

South Lyon

Head coach: Troy Weidman, third season

Last year's overall record: 5-16, ninth in LVC, lost to South Lyon East in the district first round

Season opener: 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. Livonia Stevenson

Players to watch: F Joe Carano, G

See LVC, Page 2B

What to watch for in KLAA boys basketball

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball starts up with each area team looking to challenge for a division and conference title.

Last year, Canton won the KLAA

championship defeating Wayne Memorial, which won the East Division. The Zebras got revenge in the playoffs, defeating the Chiefs. Both teams will look quite different this season, meaning the league could be wide open.

This preview will focus on the Hometown Life-area teams, which make up 10 of the KLAA's 16 programs.

KLAA East Livonia Churchill

Head coach: Jay McCulloh, 4th season

Last season's record: 2-19 (T-7th East)

See KLAA, Page 2B

KLAA hockey preview: Best conference in Michigan?

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the most exciting local sports is back in action.

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLAA) Conference features 11 teams instead of the league's usual 16, since John Glenn, Wayne Memorial,

Belleville, Fordson and Dearborn do not have hockey teams in the conference. However, it is one of the most competitive hockey conferences in the state with multiple state title contenders.

Last year, Livonia Stevenson won the KLAA and is primed to again be at the top of the league with Brighton, Hartland and Salem.

The KLAA boasts the Division 2 de-

fending champion Hartland, which has won the state championship two years in a row. Stevenson and Salem both lost in the state quarterfinals, Stevenson to Trenton in D2 and Salem to Division 1 state champ Detroit Catholic Central.

Brighton, Northville and Howell all made it to the regional finals.

Here's a look at all 13 teams as the season gets underway:

KLAA East Canton

Head coach: Justin Maedel, 1st season

Last season's record: 14-11

Key players: Senior F Hugo Fonovic, senior G Jaxon Taylor, senior D Addison

See HOCKEY, Page 3B



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LVC

Continued from Page 1B

Connor McCollum, G Quinn Fracassi

Weidman's season outlook: "South Lyon will enter the season with a unique combination of youth coupled with players who garnered significant playing time as underclassmen. While the Lions struggled early, they finished the regular season winning three of their last four games, resulting from the growth of the underclassmen. The Lions had a productive off-season and are also adding key players from a strong junior varsity team."

Lakeland

Head coach: Ron Thompson, third season

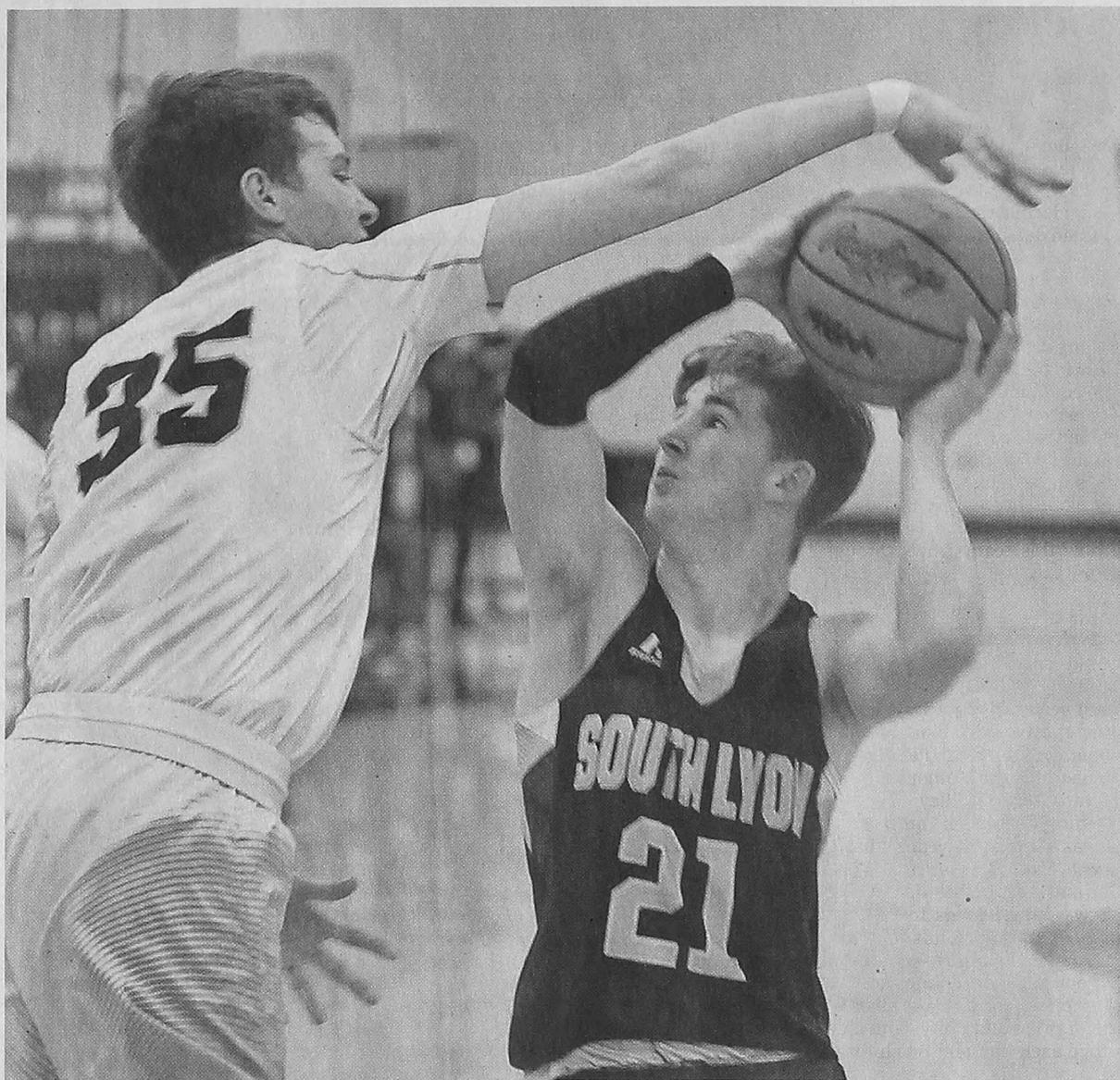
Last year's overall record: 14-7, third place in LVC, lost to Walled Lake Northern in the district first round

Season opener: 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. South Lyon East

Players to watch: G David Jabiro, F Austin Boughton, F Lucas Theaker, G Max Beagan, G Shane Ells, C Caleb Zurek

Thompson's season outlook: "This year's Lakeland team has a big void to fill after graduating nine players from last year's team. This doesn't change our expectations to compete every day in practice and in games. We hope to peak at the end of the year to give ourselves a great chance to win a district title. For that to happen, we need to find some players to step up as leaders and we need to learn to be disciplined. We have an inexperienced group that will hopefully get better every day."

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



South Lyon East's Adam Trent, left, tries to block a shot by South Lyon's Connor Fracassi. Both teams had their season opener Tuesday night, South Lyon East against Lakeland and South Lyon against Livonia Stevenson. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

KLAA

Continued from Page 1B

Key players: Sophomore G Boston Clegg, junior G Ryan Hutchinson, junior G Jordan Garcia, junior F Cole Johnston

McCulloh's season outlook: "We are a team that has great chemistry, a workman like mentality and a very high ceiling. We are young but are going to play a very exciting style of basketball and compete night in and night out. We have a high level of toughness about us that will help us stay composed versus pressure. The key to our success will be getting better every day."

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: TJ Hurley, 3rd season

Last season's record: 2-18 (T-7th East)

Key players: Senior F Greg Fox, senior G JJ Carpenter, sophomore G Andre DeWalt

Hurley's season outlook: "This season we have a young team with a lot of up and coming talent. We have three underclassmen who will all be key players contributing to our success this season. We return only two seniors who will both play significant roles on the court and more importantly as leaders in the locker room. As a program, we expect to be competitive and improve all season long and compete for a district championship."

John Glenn

Head coach: Jerret Smith, 1st season

Last season's record: 12-9 (T-4th East)

Key players: Senior G Kyle Holt, senior G Jalen Johnson

Smith's season outlook: "This season will be a process. Kids are working hard but we are establishing a new system and trying to put in place a championship caliber work ethic. With that being said we are looking forward to getting better every day and we will only focus on how to get better each day and let the season take care of itself. Championships aren't won in December, they are won in March so we have time every day to prepare for that journey."

Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: Kareem Smartt, 6th season

Last season's record: 10-11 (4th East)

Key players: Senior G/F Evan Bradford, junior G Evan Asante, junior F/G Luke Merchant

Smartt's season outlook: "We have high expectations for this year's team. Every season we set our sights on making it to the Breslin Center, but this year we believe we can compete for the division, conference and district titles along



Canton's Jake Vickers goes up for a shot last season. Last year, Canton won the KLAA championship, defeating Wayne Memorial, which won the East Division.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the way. We have returning sophomores and juniors that earned significant playing time last year who give us depth at each position and will help us play our style of up-tempo basketball."

Wayne Memorial

Head coach: Nkwane Young, 6th season

Last season's record: 18-6 (1st East)

Key players: Senior Rico Covin, sophomore Dontae Foreman

Young's season outlook: "We hope to win the KLAA championship, we won it in 2017 and won our division last year; made the final four the last two years. We are looking forward to this season."

KLAA West Canton

Head coach: Jimmy Reddy, 11th season

Last season's record: 21-2 (1st West, Conference Champions)

Key players: Senior F Jake Vickers, senior G Ben Stesiak, sophomore G Lake McIntosh, sophomore G Cole Vickers

Reddy's season outlook: "Our expectation at Canton is to continue to compete like we have the last 10 years. In order to do that we must defend and rebound at a high level and value the basketball. We have some inexperienced guys but they have really put a lot into getting ready for this season. I really

like the makeup of our team and their competitiveness and I know they are excited to get going next week at Ann Arbor Pioneer."

Northville

Head coach: Todd Sander, 12th season

Last season's record: 18-5 (3rd West)

Key players: Senior F Zach Shoemaker, senior G Brady Withey, senior G Domenic Rodriguez

Sander's season outlook: "On paper, I think many of us in the West Division feel like we all take a slight step down from last year: we had 18 wins, Howell made a trip to the Final Four and Canton loses a Mr. Basketball Candidate. That being said, all of our teams are well-coached so everyone is looking forward to reloading and competing at a high level. Coach Housey at Novi does a great job, and rivalry games are always tough. There are no easy nights in our Division or the KLAA. The KLAA is always one of the most competitive leagues top-to-bottom in the metro Detroit area.

"We expect to compete for the Division. Winning the Division is our first goal with every new season. By doing that (or finishing second), you have a chance to win the conference given the second season of the current scheduling format. Though last year was one of the

most enjoyable teams and seasons with an ideal group of players and parents, the beauty and reality of high school sports is you have a new challenge each November. I look forward to watching our players reap the rewards and having success for as much time as they've put in the past eight months."

Novi

Head coach: Chris Housey, 2nd season

Last season's record: 10-11 (4th West)

Key players: Senior G Ashton Smith, senior C Bruce Turner, senior G Miles Sloan, junior G Bryce Lubin

Housey's season outlook: "We are returning six players from our Varsity team last year, as well as some new members to the team. We expect to compete each and every single game, and if we do things the way we're supposed to do them, we will have success this season. What we lack in size we try to make up for in speed and athleticism. In addition to the nightly battles with each of our KLAA conference opponents, we have a challenging non-conference schedule, and both of those will help prepare us for the state tournament. The strength of our team is in our unity and cohesiveness; this team is at its best when we are playing together and working hard. We are looking forward to beginning the season this coming Tuesday."

Plymouth

Head coach: Mike Soukup, 11th season

Last season's record: 9-12

Key players: Senior F Matt MacLellan, senior F Jacob Smith, junior G Brandon Craddeith

Soukup's season outlook: "This is a group that will need to grow together quickly. Plenty of new faces in new roles. It is my hope that this process happens quickly and they can challenge the best teams in the league."

Salem

Head coach: Bob Brodie, 36th year

Last season's record: 5-16 (8th West)

Key players: Senior G Ryan Len, senior F Garrett Smith

Brodie's season outlook: "A very young but versatile group with a lot of basketball knowledge. Should have a lot of depth this season and get better as the season progresses. Looking for a better finish than last year and hope to vie for a division championship."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Eilers, senior D Sammy McArdle

Maedel's season outlook: "This year's team has a good core of players coming back for the season, with good work ethic from the seniors, down to our freshman defensemen. The roster has a mix of seniors and juniors along with a couple sophomores and a freshman. Great group of players that want to get Canton Hockey back on the map, the coaching staff has worked to change the culture in the locker room, on the ice and in the community. Coming into my first year it was very important to come with a vision that I wanted to change things here but I could not do it all myself, the players have to buy in. They have. This team works hard every day on the ice and in the weight room, I can not wait to see how this team grows through the season."

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: Jason Reynolds, 8th season

Last season's record: 9-15-2

Key players: Senior F Cameron Greener, senior D Keith Peterson, senior F Michael Mancina, junior D Justin Haydu, junior G Bryant Riley

Reynolds' season outlook: "Last year was a transition year for us, after a magical State Finals run. We were young and inexperienced, and we needed new young leaders to step up and emerge. In 2019-20, our squad is a year older, our leaders have emerged from the group and our culture is restored. We're approaching this season with a sense of pride and unity, with a goal to improve each day and reach for excellence."

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: Jim Neve, 1st season

Last season's record: 4-20-1

Key players: D Luc Ores, D Luke St. Ledger, F Jacob Cox, D Ryan Kerr, F Casey Farren, F Dustin Fretter, G Steven Hicks

Neve's season outlook: "We have a great core of returning players this year along with some nice additions we expect to compete in every game we are in."

This year's roster is strong on all ends of the ice with our defense being led by Luc Ores and Ryan Kerr and the addition of sophomore Luke St. Ledger. Our forwards are led by our captain Jacob Cox and Casey Farren and newcomers sophomore Dustin Fretter and freshman Caden Dicleme. Goaltending has been a strong part of our program and this year we are led by senior Steven Hicks."

Plymouth

Head coach: Gerry Vento, 9th season

Last season's record: 12-13-2

Key players: Senior F Ian Smith, senior F Gavin Roach, senior F Brendan Allen

Vento's season outlook: "No doubt we will be a work in progress but I am thrilled with the work ethic and attitude of this group. They have an all in mentality and that can really make a difference during the course of the season. We will be looking for a few up front to carry the load early on in regards to goal scoring but I have no doubt that the depth we need will develop as the season progresses. We have four returning defensemen which should make the learning curve short on the back end and two returners in net who will be pushing each other for the No. 1 spot."

Salem

Head coach: Ryan Ossenmacher, 13th season

Last season's record: 15-13

Key players: Senior F Alex Schaumburger, senior D Anthony Gattoni, senior F Ethan Granowicz, senior F Sean Sugrue, senior D Joey DeRose

Ossenmacher's season outlook: "Tremendous leadership with this year's team. A solid group of returners who made it to last year's state quarterfinals and have an understanding of what it takes to find success. Our expectations are to improve throughout the course of the season and hopefully play our best hockey come playoff time. An extremely challenging schedule that that should help with preparation for what is always a tough playoff draw."

Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: Davjd Mitchell, 12th season

Last season's record: 21-6-1

Key players: Senior F Seth Lause, senior F Jaron Anderson, junior F Brenden Heard, junior F Ian Kimble, junior F Ethan Waldo, junior D Ayden Adamic, junior D Nick Justice

Mitchell's season outlook: "We are excited to get going this year. We have an extremely difficult schedule that will challenge us every night we take the ice. We must challenge ourselves every day in practice to make sure we are ready. Our leadership has been outstanding thus far. It will be a question of how much can we improve, how much can we grow and get better? We have some key guys in key places that will allow us to compete, but we must execute consistently if we'd like to be successful. Looking forward to a fun and challenging year of Michigan High School Hockey."

KLAA West Brighton

Head coach: Paul Moggach, 25th season

Last season's record: 13-13-1

Key players: F Will Jentz, F Brady MacDonald, F Logan Mitchell-Pietta, G Chris Wozniak

Moggach's season outlook: "After a .500 season we are hoping to rebound with a young, but talented team. We will need to win more one goal games and create a culture where everyone wants to make others better. Our schedule will test us and resilience will need to be a key team attribute."

Hartland

Head coach: Rick Gadwa, 9th season

Last season's record: 27-4

Key players: Senior Dakota Kott, senior Sam Kastamo, junior Adam Pietila, senior Kieran Carlile, G Ryan Piro

Gadwa's season outlook: "Our expectation is the same it is every year and that is to become the best possible team we can become through our preparation, work ethic and attitude. We have 21 players that all have the ability to compete at a high level. Our 2019-2020 goals consist of getting better every day, learning to compete together as one and have the best time of our lives doing it. We figure if we do these things well we will be in a good place come season end."

Howell

Head coach: Rocky Johnson, 1st season

Last season's record: 13-12

Key players: Senior Stefan Frantti, senior Dominic Rossi, senior Brent Wolf, senior Brandon Eoll

Johnson's season outlook: "Expectations are high with strong senior leadership. Stefan Frantti and Dominic Rossi will be making a case for Mr. Hockey. Inexperienced goaltending may be the decisive position for a strong push toward the state tournament in March. New excitement with a new staff."

Northville

Head coach: Gordie Brown, 2nd season

Last season's record: 13-14-1

Key players: Senior F Nick McInchak (A), senior D Liam Cooney (C)

Brown's season outlook: "Looking forward to a challenging year playing in the best overall conference in the state. Team is young compared to previous seasons where we graduated 13-15 seniors. Excited to see the young players develop and become well rounded student athletes, involved in the community and charitable events."

Novi

Head coach: Mark Vellucci, 7th season

Last season's record: 10-14-1

Key players: Senior F Maanas Sharma, senior F Jay Naidu, junior F Nate Erskine, junior F Austin Balconi, senior D Mike Small, junior D Max Rallis, junior D Sam Lewinski

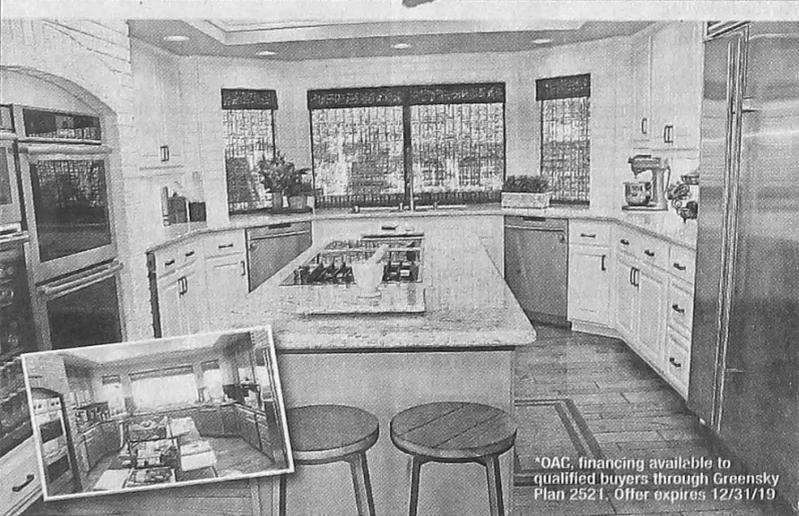
Vellucci's season outlook: "Novi returns 14 players and will be a senior/junior laden team. We look forward to playing in the top three showcases this year: MIHL/KLAA, Trenton and Public School Showcases where we'll have five high quality opponents. On top of playing in one of the tops leagues in the state, Novi's non-league games are competitive too."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at availlien@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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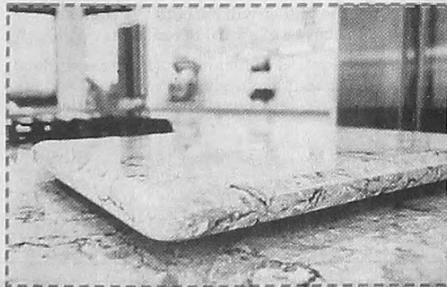
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Plymouth Christian girls hoops team primed for improvement

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth Christian Academy's girls basketball team kicked off the 2019 season Dec. 3 with a win over University Leggett, 54-23.

The Eagles are primed for an improved season after an early exit from last year's state playoffs.

Last season's upset loss at the hands of Novi Christian in the first round of the MHSAA tournament has stuck with junior Ariela Boboc.

"We beat them twice during the season and we should have beaten them in the districts," Boboc said. "We had a couple of injuries and we didn't press as well as we could have. So, this season, we're communicating better, and I think we're ready to get another chance in the tourney."

Head coach Rod Windle says the team is ready to go.

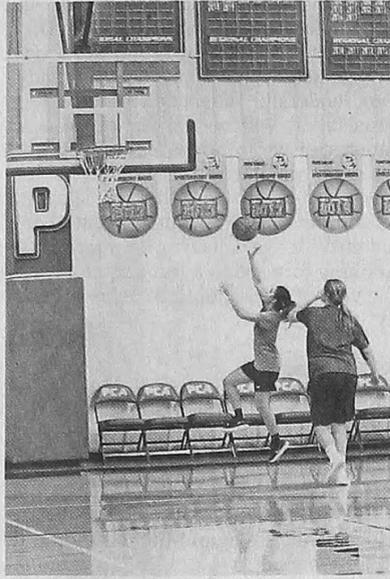
"All of us are excited about this season," Windle said. "The coaching staff is working with the girls to make sure that they are improving every day and working hard. And that includes the classroom - we want to be successful in all phases. We want the girls to say at the end of the season that they did their best and we want them to expect great things from each other."

Sophomore Anna Fernandez is optimistic, even though the team is relatively young.

"We have a good chemistry," Fernandez said. "So far, we are playing well together, and our fundamentals are solid. We may be young, but the girls have all played before and most of us have team experience from the summer."

The team will play a number of bigger schools and gets to play a game later this season at Little Caesars Area in Detroit.

"I'm excited - most of us have played together and the newer players played this summer," senior Rachel Costello



The Plymouth Christian girls basketball team is primed for an improved season after an early exit from last year's state playoffs.

SUBMITTED

said. "I think we are already starting to mesh, and we should be ready to go for the conference games."

Plymouth Christian's schedule is ambitious. The Eagles will battle Division I opponents, Canton, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin as well as two-time state champion, Adrian Lenawee Christian and divisional foes, Inter-City Baptist and Lutheran Northwest. PCA finished tied for second in the MIAC's Blue Division, behind only Inter-City. Their 5-3 record in conference was their best since the 2013-2014 season, when they won seven games and their 12 wins overall was the most since the 2013-2014 team won 13.

Windle expects that the tough schedule will help them down the road.

"The games against the Class A schools should sharpen us for conference play," Windle said. "We need to be pushed and gain that valuable experience. Being prepared for those games is crucial."

This year's team is a blend of experience and youth. Providing senior leadership will be Isabel Mossel, Ella Godin, Costello and Eva Warmbier. Windle has tabbed Mossel and Godin as captains, along with Fernandez.

"I'm happy about our senior leadership," Windle said. "All of them have a heart to lead others and pour into others. They will be a great resource for all of the girls."

Fernandez is looking forward to the added responsibility.

"I think I'm pretty vocal," she said. "So is Ari (Boboc) and all of our seniors are demonstrating leadership and all of us are trying to help the new players and show them what is expected of them."

Boboc and newcomer Emma Clark will work with Fernandez and freshmen Morganne Houk and Grace Fernandes. Having players at every grade level will help in the years to come.

"We have an even amount of every grade," Boboc said. "I think the new people will help us compete. We have a nice blend of guards and posts, that will be good. And we have played together before, so there will be some good chemistry", says Boboc.

Key games

- Road Opener - Dec. 10 at Canton
- Inter City Baptist games - Feb. 14 at Home, February 21 on the road.
- Little Caesars' Arena Game - Feb.10 vs. Whitmore Lake
- Homecoming - Feb. 7 vs. Clarkston Everest Collegiate

Mike Costello contributed to this report.
availlenc@hometownlife.com

SCOREBOARD

Here is a look at how Hometown Life area schools are performing in winter sports such as boys basketball, girls basketball and hockey.

Girls basketball

- Dec. 3**
North Farmington 50, Birmingham Groves 47
Plymouth Christian Academy 54, University Liggett 23
Livonia Stevenson 65, South Lyon 27
Plymouth 50, Wyandotte Roosevelt 28
Livonia Franklin 46, Lincoln Park 41
Milford 38, Linden 32
- Dec. 5**
Farmington Hills Mercy 64, Waterford Kettering 26
- Dec. 6**
Farmington Hills Mercy 61, Grosse Pointe South
John Glenn 53, Romulus 40
Saline 58, Salem 42
North Farmington 49, Walled Lake Northern 41
Milford 38, Brandon 27

Hockey

- Nov. 26**
Milford 9, Ann Arbor Huron 0
- Nov. 27**
Brother Rice 5, Detroit Catholic Central 2
Milford 6, Walled Lake Central/Waterford United 2
- Nov. 28**
Farmington Unified 4, Walled Lake Northern 1
- Nov. 29**
Milford 5, Livonia Franklin 4
- Nov. 30**
Salem 6, Brighton 3
- Dec. 4**
Brother Rice 3, Orchard Lake St. Mary's 1:
CHSL Tournament quarterfinal
Detroit Catholic Central 9, Dearborn Divine Child 0: CHSL Tournament quarterfinal
- Dec. 5**
Milford 7, South Lyon Unified 1
Detroit Catholic Central 2, U-D Jesuit 0:
CHSL Tournament semifinal
Brother Rice 10, Cranbrook Kingswood 1:
CHSL Tournament semifinal
- Dec. 7**
Milford 6, Walled Lake Western 4
Detroit Catholic Central 4, Brother Rice 0:
CHSL Tournament final
Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #20, consisting of
EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

will be received at the office of Ms. Deborah Piesz, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Tuesday January 07, 2020 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 106: Masonry
- 107: Steel
- 114: Glass/Glazing
- 115: Metal Studs/Drywall
- 120: Painting
- 143: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of ½ size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule, and answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

END OF SECTION
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Publish: December 12 & 19, 2019

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PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #19, consisting of
PARKING LOT UPGRADES

will be received at the office of Ms. Deborah Piesz, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until 1:30 P.M., local time on Tuesday January 07, 2020 at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- 102: Asphalt/ Exterior Concrete
- 143: Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of ½ size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule, and answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

END OF SECTION

Publish: December 12 & 19, 2019

LO-0002354413 3x8.5

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

These vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held on Wednesday, December 18th at 10:00 am at 6345 N Hix, Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is. Starting bid is for towing and storage.

Vehicles are sold as is and may be removed from auction prior to bidding. All bids start at amount shown for towing and storage fees.

AMOUNT	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
\$5,369.00	2008	DODGE	AVENGER	RED	1B3LC56K48N690653
\$1,325.50	2000	FORD	ESCORT	BLACK	3FAKP1139YR214912
\$1,295.00	2003	JEEP	LIBERTY	TAN	1J4GK48KX3W612160
\$1,295.50	2002	MERCURY	MOUNTAINEER	BLUE	4M2ZU86WX2ZJ31144
\$1,355.00	2008	CHEVROLET	IMPALA	GRAY	2G1WT58N889110691
\$1,235.00	2003	CHEVROLET	SUBURBAN	WHITE	1GNFK16Z93J102533
\$1,165.00	2004	FORD	TAURUS	BLACK	1FADP55U64G139891
\$1,290.50	2007	HONDA	ODYSSEY	BLUE	5FNRL38837B083994
\$1,105.00	2003	VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA	SILVER	3VWSK69M03M003068
\$975.00	2008	FORD	FUSION	BLUE	3FAHP07Z78R138669
\$915.00	2005	CHRYSLER	TOWN & COUNTRY	SILVER	2C4GP54L15R506106
\$805.00	2008	JEEP	PATRIOT	GOLD	1J8FT48W98D672623
\$765.00	2003	CHEVROLET	EXPRESS	BLUE	1GNFG15T831122318
\$775.00	2004	CHEVROLET	MALIBU	RED	1G1ZT54804F159043
\$735.00	2004	CADILLAC	DEVILLE	BLUE	1G6KD54Y94U115840
\$725.00	2005	DODGE	DURANGO	TAN	1D4HB48N05F604157
\$845.00	2007	CHRYSLER	SEBRING	SILVER	1C3LC56K57N566635
\$665.00	2008	TOYOTA	COROLLA	RED	1NXBR32E68Z022965

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NOTICE

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
WINTER TAXES - 2019**

Winter taxes are payable from December 1, 2019 and payable through February 28, 2020 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be mailed, or paid at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. Information on credit card payments is on our web page - www.plymouthmi.gov. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and Wednesday, December 25, 2019 also Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

During this holiday season, the Treasurer's office will be **OPEN** on Thursday, December 26, 2019, Friday, December 27, 2019 and Monday December 30, 2019, for our taxpayers' convenience.

John Scanlon
City Treasurer

Publish: December 5 & 12, 2019

LO-0000354154 3x3



**PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**

**SECTION 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #21, consisting of **MISCELLANEOUS RENOVATIONS**

will be received at the office of Ms. Deborah Piesz, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 until **1:30 P.M., local time on Tuesday, January 07, 2020** at which time they will be opened, read publicly and tabulated.

Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

This Project will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions of work:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 106: Masonry | 118: Carpeting |
| 107: Steel | 120: Painting |
| 108: Carpentry | 128: Casework |
| 113: HM Doors/Frames | 136: Telescoping Stands |
| 114: Glass/Glazing | 140: Plumbing |
| 115: Metal Studs/Drywall | 142: Mechanical |
| 116: Hard Tile | 143: Electrical |

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Reed Construction Data, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith**, located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule, and answer any questions that bidders may have. All Bidders are encouraged to attend.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the school district is secured from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the bid or failure of the bidder to enter a contract for performance. Further, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

**END OF SECTION
00 11 13 - 1**

Publish: December 12 & 19, 2019

LO-0000354415 3x3



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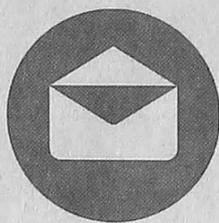
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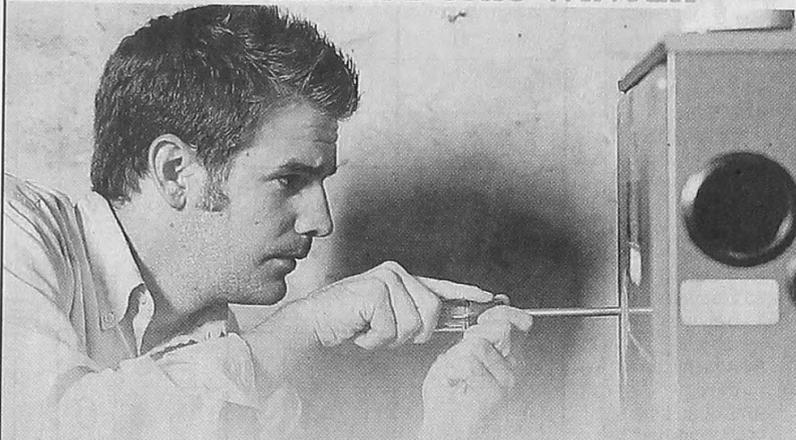
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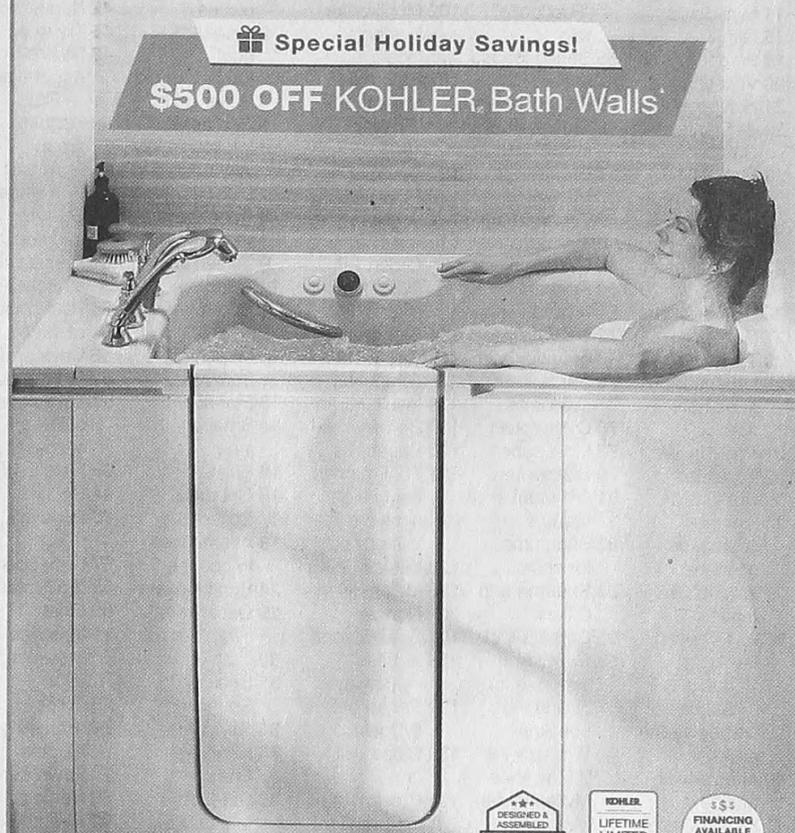
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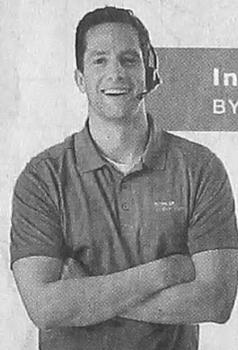
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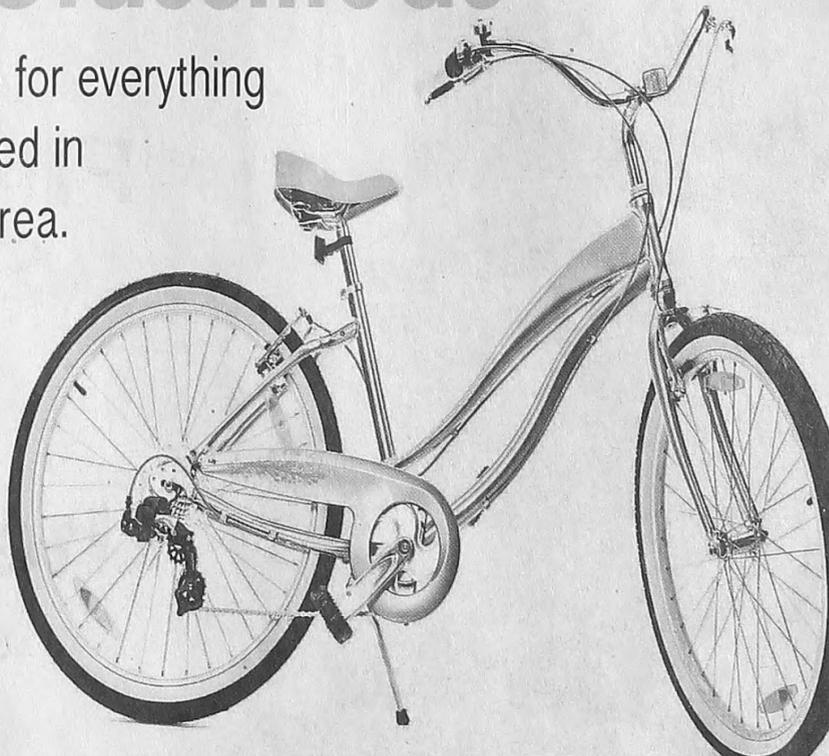
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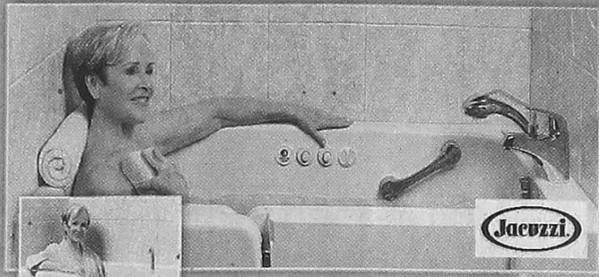
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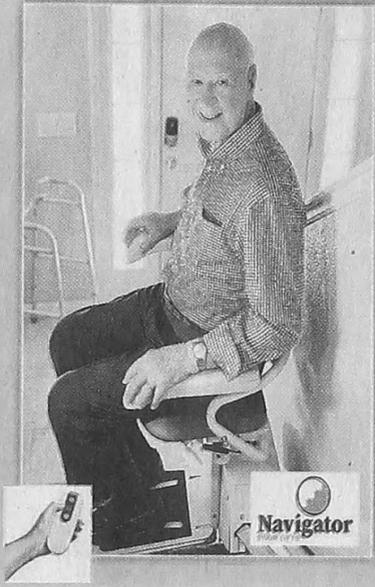
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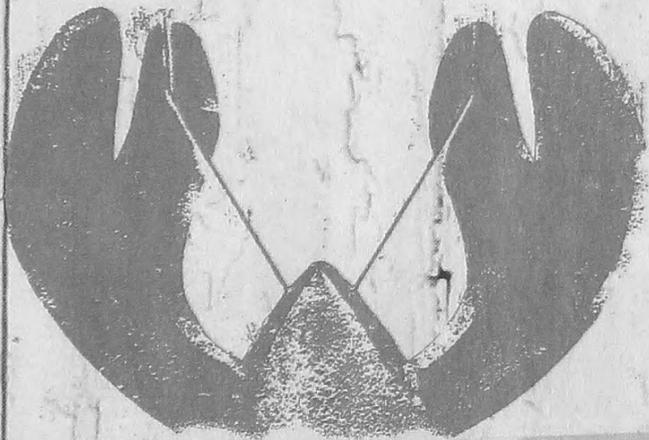
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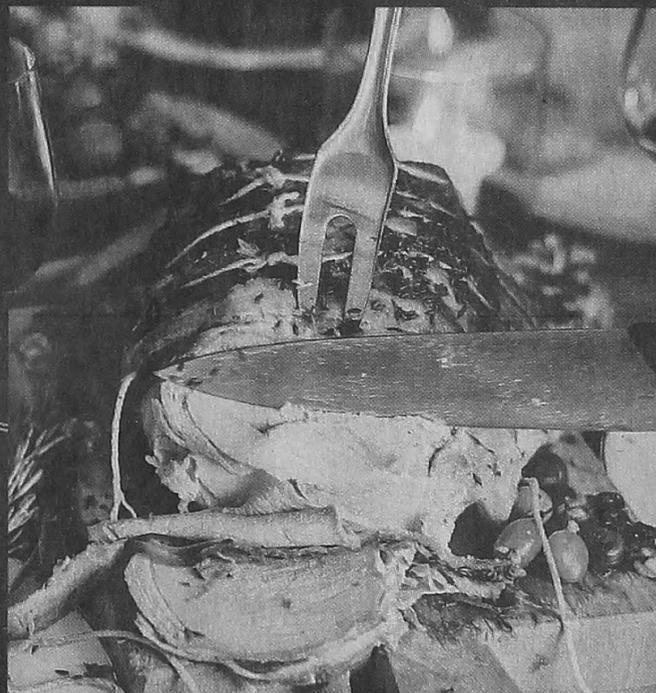
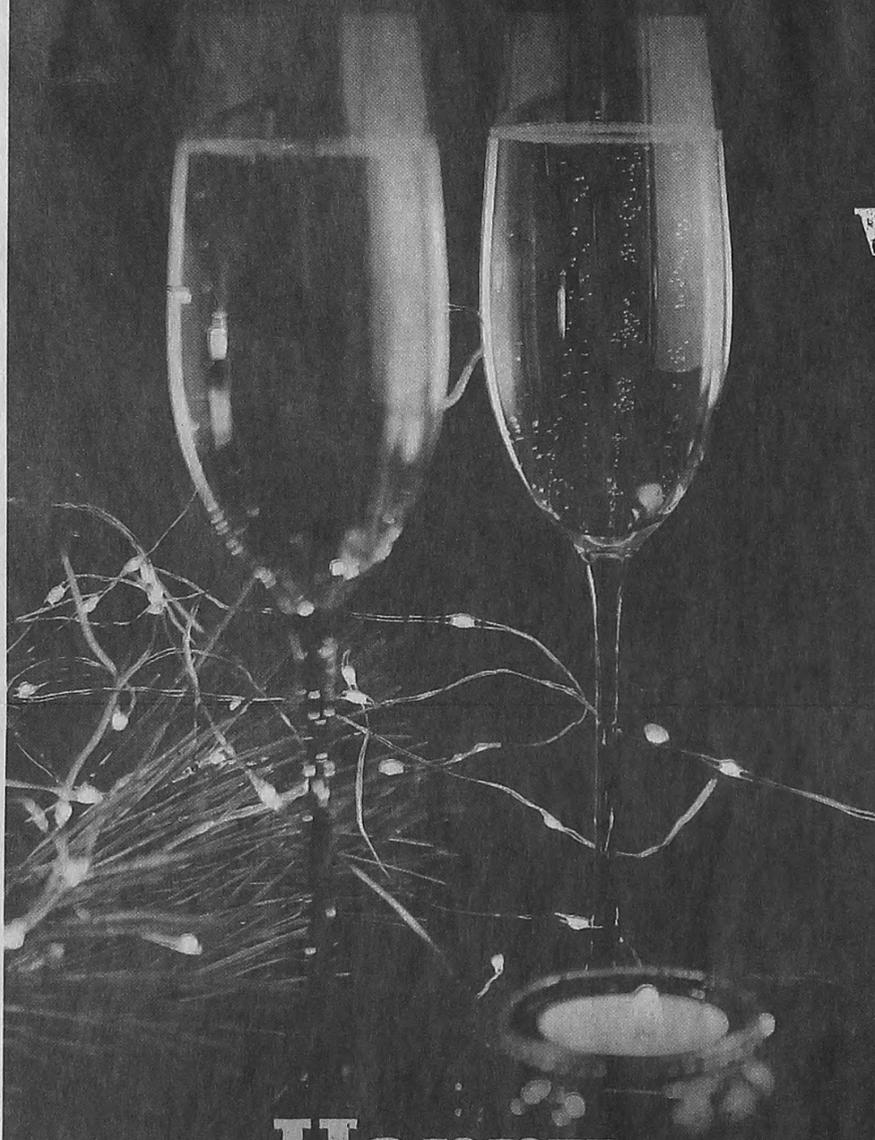
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