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# CANTON

# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Livonia Sears in new wave of closures

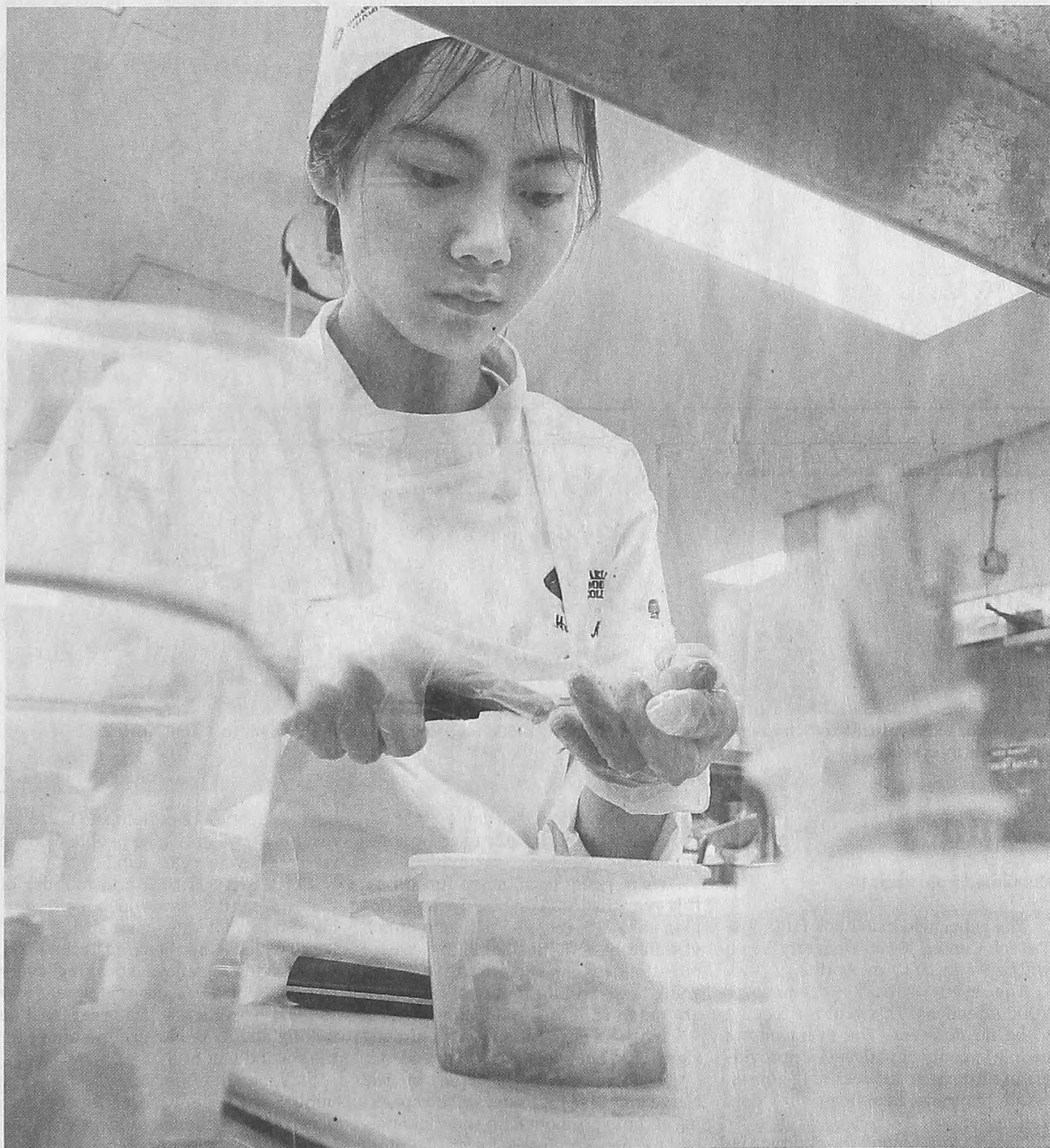
Fans of the Sears at Seven Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia have always exhaled a sigh of relief when the store did not appear on the list of closures put out by the company a few times a year.

Signs currently adorn the interior of the store, the last vestige of the old Livonia Mall that closed more than a decade ago, announcing a "store closing" sale. The store, at 29500 W. Seven Mile in the Livonia Marketplace shopping center, has marked prices down 10% to 40%.

The store on Seven Mile has escaped several closures throughout the years as the company continues to shutter brick-and-mortar retail shops. Several other Sears in the area have already closed,

There was no word on when the store would shutter its doors. A media relations representative for TransformCo,

**See SEARS, Page 2A**



**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Bringing a new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility to Canton will mean more traffic to the area around Ford Road and Lotz. But a new turn lane at the busy intersection will hopefully mitigate those issues.

The Canton Township Planning Commission reviewed plans Monday for the new VA center proposed off of Lotz north of Ford Road. The plans were tabled from the planning commission's January meeting after some commissioners had concern regarding traffic issues.

There are some additional layers, especially since Lotz Road is managed by Wayne County and Ford Road is overseen by the Michigan Department

**See DEVELOPMENT, Page 2A**

# 'One-stop shop' senior expo helps make life easy

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# OCC's culinary program leaving Farmington Hills

The bread and butter of Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus will move to a new home in a few years.

The college plans to move its well-known culinary program to Royal Oak.

## New home

"It really made more sense to us to

move it to Royal Oak because it would make it more accessible to the public and really allow us to highlight the program more," Provenzano said. "It's in that urban setting right on main street and the accessibility and exposure is tremendous.

**See LEAVING, Page 4A**

Metro Detroit's largest senior expo is coming back to Schoolcraft College for its 17th year.

The free Spring Senior Expo presented by Castle Wealth Group, sponsored by HometownLife.com, its advertising partner Michigan.com, The Nerve and Disc Institute, Allure Medical and Castle Wealth Group, is a "one-stop shop" for some of the answers to questions that come with later life.

"It's the one place and the one time throughout the year that a senior or a family or a caregiver can go to one spot and get all of the information they're going to need to make really important decisions," said Expo Director Alivia Caplan, with Michigan.com.

**See EXPO, Page 2A**

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# Girl Scout cookies go on sale beginning Friday

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's time, Girl Scout cookie fanatics. It's time to indulge in those Thin Mints. It's time to break apart the Do-si-Dos and eat the peanut butter filling. Friday kicks off the season in which area Girl Scouts will head out to businesses across metro Detroit and begin selling the iconic boxes of cookies that serve as a fundraiser for local troops. In preparation, several distribution centers were set up across southeast Michigan to dole out cases of the cookies to various troops.

"All of it focuses on entrepreneurship and financial literacy," said Elizabeth Wilson, product program and retail systems coordinator for the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan.

One such site was at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia. Four trucks filled with cases of cookies were lined up in the parking lot to load up boxes.

Back this year are typical favorites such as Trefoils, Samoas and Girl Scout S'mores, while being joined by a newcomer, Lemon-Ups, a lemon-flavored cookie decorated with inspirational sayings.

"It correlates back with our programming that we're trying to instill, the pillars we're trying to instill in the girls," Wilson said. "They work on money management when they work on the cookie sales."

Cookies will be on sale beginning Friday at retail locations until April 5. Stores such as Kroger, Walmart and



In preparation for the start of Girl Scout cookie sales, several distribution centers were set up across southeast Michigan to dole out cases of the cookies to various troops. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lowes will have stands, as well as some smaller locations, Wilson said. Troop volunteers lined up for pickup Monday afternoon, including Jessica

daughter's troop to sell from 5-8 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Cricket Wireless store at 35603 Warren in Westland.

"I am excited," she said. "We've got eight girls and they're all having a great time and doing a great job."

The money raised in the cookie sales goes to both the local troop and the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, which serves more than 32,000 participants in Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and parts of Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. More than 3 million boxes of cookies have been sold each of the last few years, Wilson said, that support travel and other programs the troops plan throughout the year.

Some troops need more than just a passenger vehicle to load up their supply. Maria and Jay Thornton needed two vehicles and a trailer to load up the 4,584 boxes of cookies they picked up Monday afternoon for Troop 75015 out of Livonia.

The troop will be out 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Burton Hollow Plaza at Six Mile and Farmington, as well as 3-6 p.m. at Busch's, 37083 Six Mile in Livonia.

"For us, it teaches them entrepreneurship, it teaches them about how to interact with people, it teaches them money skills or math skills," Maria Thornton said. "It also helps them independently raise money."

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

## Sears

Continued from Page 1A

which bought Sears last year, declined comment.

The closure will leave just two Sears stores open across Michigan, though several smaller Hometown stores are open across the state. The two Sears department stores left are in Grandville and at the Westland Shopping Center in Westland.

The Livonia closure, first reported by USA Today, is accompanied by several other dozen closures across the country happening in the next few months.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said officials have been bracing for the news that the store could close. He said while it's sad to see a piece of Livonia history vanish, he's excited about the potential of the spot.

"Looking at the trends over the past decade with Kmart and Sears, this news was not a surprise. Mayor (Maureen Miller) Brosnan, myself and others were involved in the Livonia Vision 21 process that provided a multiple-use guide for what to do with the Seven Mile-Middlebelt area, anticipating that Sears would eventually close," he said. "While it is never good to see a business close, it always provides new opportunities for ideas and development. This is a large chunk of land in a high-traffic spot that could spark plenty of new business opportunities for this property and all of northeastern Livonia."

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

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The Senior Expo returns to Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## Expo

Continued from Page 1A

The expo, held in Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2. The event typically draws over 1,000 attendees. This year is expected to be no different. The event allows people to connect with service providers in retirement, senior living homes, estate planning, healthcare providers and more.

"People love having the ability to go to this event and get all of the things they're going to need and get all of the places they want to follow up with when they weigh the decisions they're going to need to be making in the next few years," Caplan said.

Along with speakers, seminars and

the slew of vendors that come to the expo, attendees will be able to enjoy some games this year, too.

"We're going to do some fun things this year that are completely new," Caplan said. "We're going to host a bunch of different activities like bingo, where our attendees can win prizes. We're also going to do an informational help desk around the internet and technology."

Plenty of exhibitors have already signed up, but spots are still open.

Dr. Solomon Cogan, owner of The Nerve and Disc Institute, will be speaking at the expo about using new technology for non-surgical solutions to pain. Cogan said the event is a great way for service providers to meet people.

"It's great," he said. "We meet a lot of nice people. Many people decide to come into our office and see if we can help them. We've got a real simple philosophy in our office: We'd rather not

have someone as a patient and fail to get results. So we only take people who we really believe we can help."

Chris Berry is CEO and founder of Castle Wealth Group, which is presenting sponsor for the senior spring expo. Berry will also be speaking at the expo. Berry said he enjoys speaking every year and thinks the event is a great way to meet new clients. This year, he'll be talking about financially "planning for the second half of life."

"It's a great opportunity to meet the public, maybe get in front of people we haven't had a chance to meet with," he said. "We enjoy the opportunity to present every year."

For more information or to sign up as a vendor, contact Alivia Caplan at 313-223-4038 or [ACaplan@michigan.com](mailto:ACaplan@michigan.com).

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby\_tankk.

## Development

Continued from Page 1A

of Transportation, but the plan is to add a dedicated right-turn lane on southbound Lotz to Ford Road to help accommodate the increased traffic expected in the area.

"We will be engaging with the county further on the road improvements," said Derek Weaver of Johnson Development, the Birmingham, Alabama, company awarded the contract to construct the facility.

The commission unanimously recommended approval for the special

land use for the property, which will go to the township board later this month. A site plan still needs reviewing by the planning commission and is expected to come before the commission at its March meeting. More details on road issues are expected from Wayne County before the plan comes before the township board, said Jeff Goulet, township planner.

"Between now and the time it goes to the board, we will know what Wayne County wants," Goulet said.

The 41,000-square-foot building will provide several services to veterans in the region. The center should open in 2021, with construction beginning later this year.

Weaver said the contractor is working with the state and federal government on what it would need to do to remove trees on the site. The plan is to have trees cleared by the end of March, which could be a tight window depending on approvals from the township.

"They're really at crunch time here to get all of these approvals in place," Goulet said. "We will not issue (a tree removal permit) until their pre-construction meeting with water and sewer first."

Commissioner Alan Okon commended the project, saying he looked forward to it joining the Canton community.

"I just want to say thank you for committing to that corner," he said. "It'll be a nice facility."



# Canton's 'Community Arch' repaired

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's good news on the horizon for fans of Canton Township's "Community Arch" sculpture, which was extensively damaged during an automobile crash at the intersection of Ford and Canton Center roads last September.

The multi-ton piece of art will be returning to the place it has called home since 2006 this month, weather permitting, according to Ken Thompson, who designed, built and repaired the massive attraction.

Canton Township Downtown Development Authority Coordinator Amy Hamilton said almost all of the \$24,200 repair bill was paid for by insurance.

"The repairs were covered by insurance with the exception of a small deductible," said Hamilton, adding that the artwork along Ford Road and its insurance are funded by the township's DDA District, which is comprised predominantly of commercial businesses.

Thompson said the sculpture was initially planned to be reconstructed at the Ford-Canton Center intersection this week, but that has been delayed by snow

and ice.

"There was some pretty extensive damage to the sculpture," Thompson said. "We had to cut open the main piece of rusted steel and make some internal repairs. Once we welded it back together it looks as good as new."

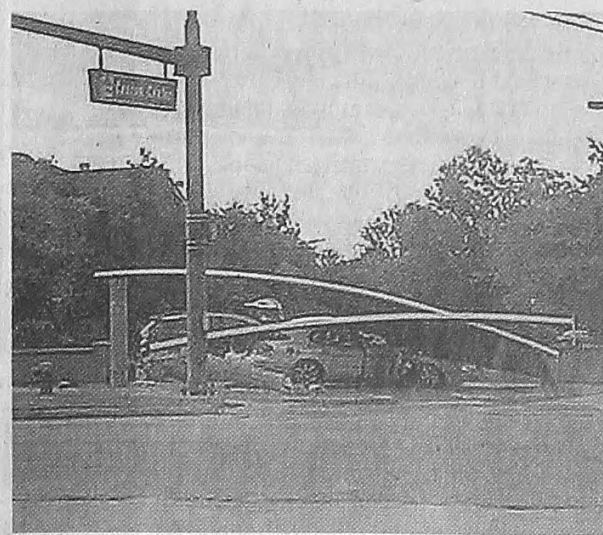
"The only part of the piece that will look any different is the part we had to open up. There is a small portion of steel that doesn't have the weather-beaten look to it, but that will change once it's out in the elements."

Two columns that help hold the rusted plowshare in place have already been secured at the site.

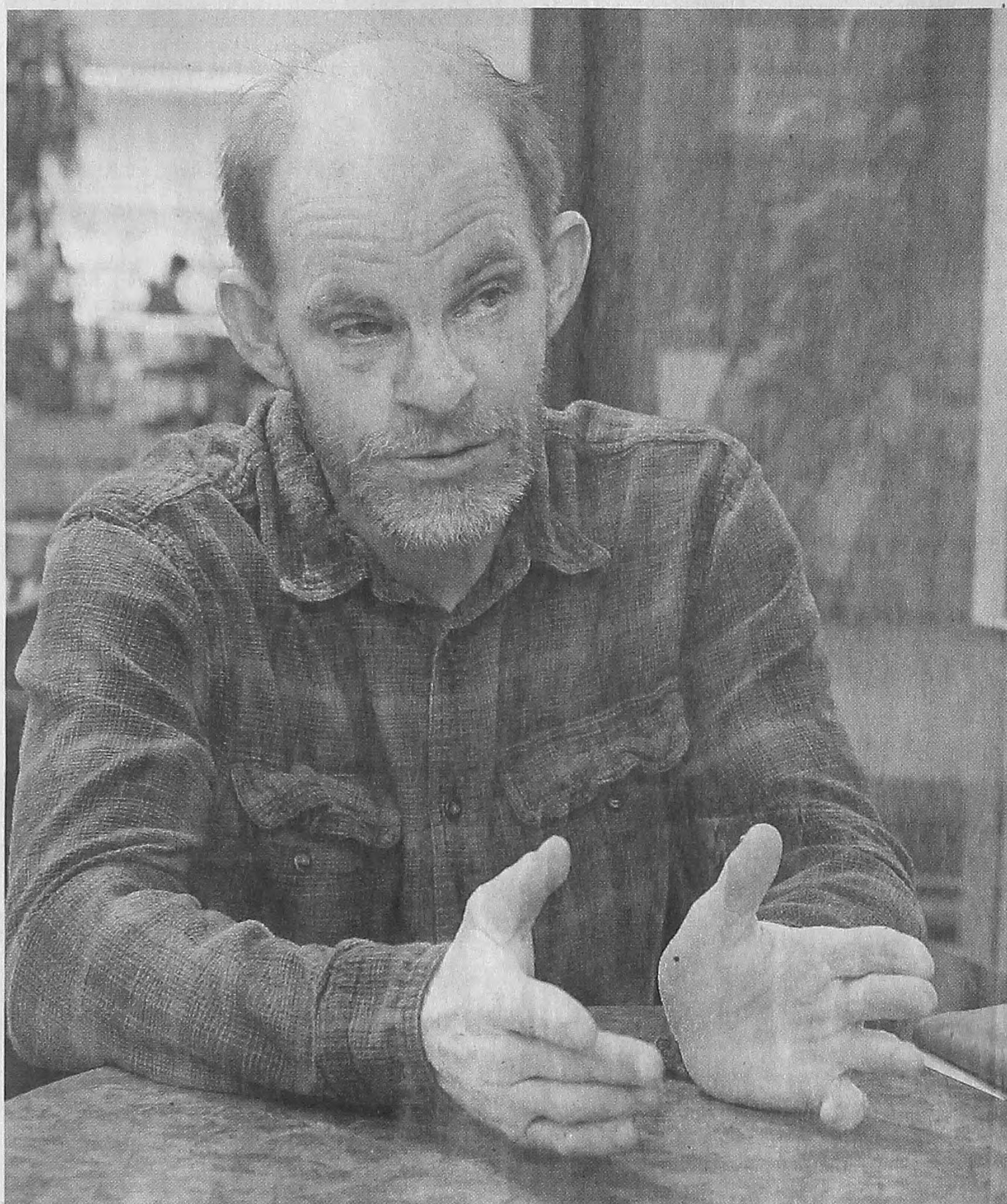
Named the "Canton Community Arch" in a community-wide naming contest in 2006, the structure was made to resemble a plowshare, symbolic of the township's agrarian history, said Thompson, who was given the opportunity to create the piece in 2005.

Thompson hauled the crumpled sculpture to his facility in Blissfield for the repair work.

The driver in the September crash sustained minor injuries and did not require transport to a hospital, said Canton Township Public Safety Sgt. Greg DeGrand.



Canton's "Community Arch" sculpture was extensively damaged in a car crash in September. Now, it is repaired and ready to return to its home. COURTESY OF JASON SMITH



Jim Crowley talks about his years of shoveling snow and mowing lawns for seniors and disabled residents of Livonia. He recently announced that he plans to stop because of the toll the work has taken on his body.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Livonia man talks about years spent helping others

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If people made more of an effort to be nice, Jim Crowley thinks this would be a better world.

Many people know the Livonia resident as the guy who mows lawns and shovels driveways for veterans, the elderly and disabled residents, all for free, though he does accept tips that go toward other good causes.

Crowley became something of a local legend in 2018 when he started offering to shovel senior citizens' driveways and sidewalks. He also made headlines that year by donating water bottles to Flint residents. He's also volunteered with the Livonia Goodfellows and Blessings in a Backpack.

But, Crowley recently announced that mowing and shoveling has taken too much of a toll on his body and, this winter, he's hanging up the shovel for good.

"It's time to end my days of lawn cutting and snow shoveling," he said in a video posted to the All Things Livonia Facebook group.

That video garnered over 1,100 likes and over 200 comments, most of which thanked him for all he's done.

Crowley said three men have expressed willingness to pick up where he left off.

"It's going to go into good hands," he said. "There's people out there that want to help me out."

One of those men is Shaughn Murphy, owner of Nice Touch Landscape. Murphy said he's long had a desire to do what Crowley does and hopes to continue helping people who cannot afford to pay to have their snow removed.

"It's something that I've been thinking about periodically for a while now in some capacity," Murphy said. "Basically, it's just to help people and get the word out there that there are people out there that could use the help."

Crowley said he's far from quitting all together. "Even if I'm going to drop the shovel and be done with it, I'm still going to do a lot of community work," he said.

Crowley will host a trivia night May 1 at Burton Manor. Proceeds will join the nearly \$2,000 he's made from volunteering and benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan.

"What I've been doing for the last three years is collecting money from whenever I shovel, whenever I cut a lawn, when I am driving somebody somewhere so they're not drinking and driving, anything I get after all expenses is going to Children's Hospital for kids with cancer," he said.

Crowley also plans to spend more time with his aging father, who he said has been a huge supporter of his service efforts.

Crowley hopes he's inspired others to help their neighbors.

"If you ever have an idea to help somebody, don't be afraid because it doesn't take money to do good things," he said. "All of this, basically, has been through donations."

He said having the heart to help is all it takes. "I just want to make people happy," she said. "That's all."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448.

## Canton police offer chance to learn about officers' work

The Canton Public Safety Department is accepting applications this month for its popular Citizens Police Academy.

This year's eight-week program will be 6-9 p.m. Thursdays beginning April 23.

The program is designed for residents interested in acquiring insight and knowledge on how the police department works to serve the Canton community.

Individuals attending the academy will learn the policies and operational procedures of the department through presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

They will increase their personal knowledge on law enforcement's role in the criminal justice system, as well as their understanding of the training and education required for police officers to effectively handle the challenges of police work.

"Academy participants will gain insight into the difficult challenges law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis through interesting and informative instruction," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said.

The overall mission is to develop positive relationships between citizens and police officers.

"Once again this year we will be including a mini-Citizens Fire Academy into the program," Meier said. "Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy two sessions of the cross-over academy, learning about the daily operations of our Fire Department."

Class size is limited. Thirty applicants meeting the below requirements will be randomly chosen.

- Canton residents only;
- Age 21 or older;
- No felony convictions, and no misdemeanor convictions in the past three years; and
- Applicants subject to a background check.

Applications will be accepted through Feb. 29 at [cantonpublicsafety.org](http://cantonpublicsafety.org) or at the front desk of headquarters, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

Questions can be directed to Community Relations Officer Patty Esselink at 734-394-5194.

## Livonia Police recover 281 counterfeit \$100 bills

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia police say they retrieved 281 counterfeit \$100 bills from the home of parolee Blane Vernon Smallwood.

Smallwood, 45, faces two felony counts involving counterfeit charges.

Police said in a report that security video at Riverside Arena and Larry's Foodland captured images of him trying to use the counterfeit \$100 bills.

The bills had the same serial number and a red Chinese symbol on the back. They were turned over to police.

On parole for a home invasion conviction, Smallwood was arrested at his home Jan. 29 for alleged counterfeit offenses Jan. 10 and Jan. 27.

He appears later this month in Livonia's 16th District Court.

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



Smallwood





# Leaving

Continued from Page 1A

“It is far greater than something we could achieve at any of the other campuses just because of its location.”

OCC’s Royal Oak campus is located in the city’s downtown, which is known in part for its robust restaurant scene.

Provenzano said the culinary program will be housed in a yet-to-be-constructed building attached to the existing campus.

The chancellor said the city’s restaurant association is eager to work with students.

College officials hope the location will create opportunities for pop-up kitchens at nearby restaurants, mentoring and internships.

“They’ve talked to us about job shadowing where students could shadow and determine whether or not culinary is something they’re truly interested in,” Provanzano said. “There’s being a chef and there’s owning a restaurant, and those can be two different things.”

The program will continue at the Farmington Hills location in the near future as the new Royal Oak building gets constructed.

Provanzano said the early announcement should help make the transition easy for staff and students.

## Orchard Ridge campus plans

Even though the culinary program is leaving the Orchard Ridge campus, Provanzano said OCC will continue to invest in the campus.

In the next few years, boiler replacements, new technology in the theater, repaving in parking lots, new signage and overall modernization of the campus are in the works.

OCC’s study abroad program will also continue to be mostly housed there.

The large kitchen in the campus’ J Building, where the culinary program is currently housed, will likely continue to operate for catering events.

Though the student-run restaurants in Farmington Hills might continue to operate after the culinary program moves, Provenzano said that is unlikely.

“We have this wonderful kitchen here at Orchard Ridge,” Provenzano said. “So I see us using that even if culinary is not headquartered here.



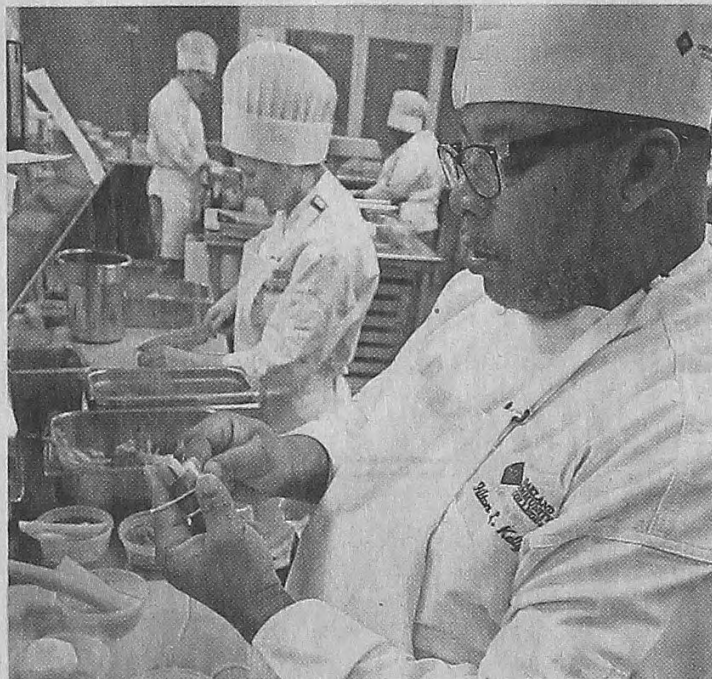
As a large stock pot boils away at right, about a dozen students in OCC’s Orchard Ridge campus take part in its Skills Development class on Feb. 3. The college plans to move its well-known culinary program to Royal Oak in a few years. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**“It really made more sense to us to move it to Royal Oak because it would make it more accessible to the public and really allow us to highlight the program more.”**

**Peter Provenzano**  
Chancellor, Oakland Community College

“Because we have the theater here, because this is such a vibrant campus I see us having functions at, I see the need to have a kitchen and some sort of facility to host events.”

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby\_tankk.



Skill Development cook Filton Kelly ties up some vegetables and herbs for a bouquet garnish in OCC’s culinary class Feb. 3. The program will continue at the Farmington Hills location in the near future as the new Royal Oak building gets constructed.

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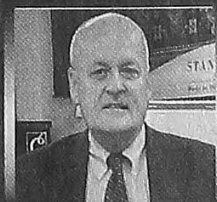
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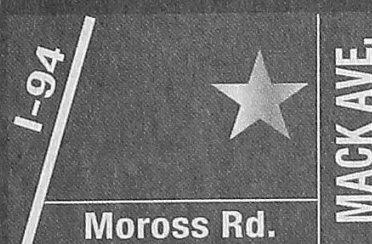


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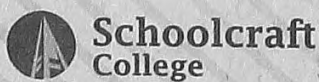
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# Couple opens Farmington coffee shop

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Neither Mel nor Sara Hussin had an interest in coffee until they had children. Then, they couldn't get enough of the roasted bean drink.

The Milford Township couple began seeking out local coffee shops wherever they went and then decided it was time to bring good coffee to the masses.

"I enjoy coffee. I enjoy sitting in a place like this," Mel Hussin said. "I wanted to do something that we could be proud of, that our kids could be proud of, that the community could get behind."

That led to the duo exploring options and finding a space near Farmington High School, where they opened Mugs Coffee and Grub, located at 23303 Orchard Lake, just north of Shiawassee, in Farmington.

The shop, which sports an industrial feeling, opened in mid-January, serving a whole line of coffee drinks, smoothies, sandwiches and baked goods.

The couple focuses on bringing wholesome goods to the shop, opting only for organic, fair-trade coffee.

They're also focusing on buying local, bringing Michigan-based goods from other companies into the shop. That includes Cookie for Your Thoughts out of Milford, which supplies macarons and baked goods from Avalon Cafe and Bakery in Detroit, to name a few.

Sara Hussin said several customers have expressed joy in seeing the locally-sourced products, especially the Avalon baked goods.

"We found companies that aligned with what we wanted," she said.

They hope to bring in a line of gluten-free products as well.

The couple discovered the space in the small shopping center last fall. The storefront had been vacant some time. It was already structured for their concept as it formerly held a bakery, so they didn't need to revamp the entire interior.

"Once we made our mind up, we were all in," Mel Hussin said.

The two have backgrounds in other fields - she's a nurse anesthetist for Beaumont Health and he's a former manager of a Farmington Hills tile shop - but both are excited at the new ven-



Mel Hussin whips up a caramel espresso Feb. 4 at the Farmington coffee shop he recently opened with his wife, Sara.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ture. They hope to bring a sense of community to the shop, as well as local flavor, something that doesn't exist in the surrounding area.

"When we found the location, it was kind of a no-brainer when we found this spot," Mel Hussin said. "There's nothing around here."

"There's so much industry, so many businesses, the school's so close and the only coffee shops they have is Starbucks

in three miles in every direction."

The shop current hours are 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekends.

More information, including a full menu, can be found at mugscoffee-grub.com.

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

**"When we found the location, it was kind of a no-brainer when we found this spot."**

**Mel Hussin**  
Co-owner, Mugs Coffee and Grub



U.S. Ice says it plans to set up shop at 35500 Central City Parkway in Westland.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## U.S. Ice planning new manufacturing center in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When U.S. Ice makes its way to Westland's commercial district, the business hopes to make sure Westland residents make up a share of the employee population.

U.S. Ice is a Michigan-based company that manufactures bagged ice, and the Westland center planned for the former Dick's Sporting Goods location near the Westland Shopping Center would be a manufacturing and delivery center.

The company approached city officials for site plan revisions on the property at 35500 Central City Parkway to allow modifications to the parking lot that would allow semi-trucks to navigate the space more easily. That request

was approved Jan. 21 by the city council.

In its new use, the one-story building won't undergo many changes.

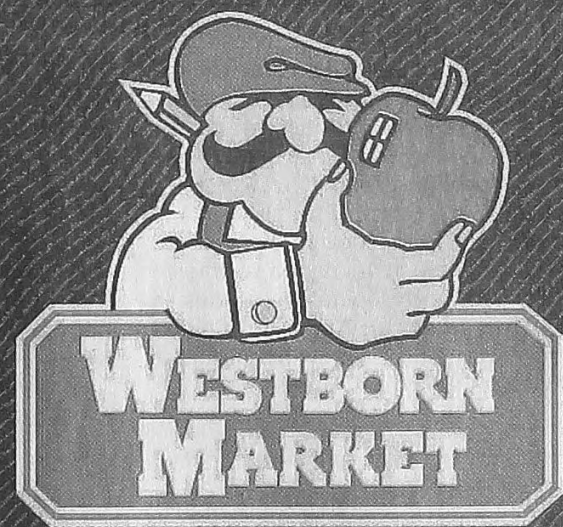
"I'm very excited about the whole thing," said Jacob Isaac with U.S. Ice.

At the meeting, Councilman Peter Herzberg confirmed with Isaac that when the time comes to hire employees, Westland residents will be considered.

"That's one of the biggest things we want to do, is putting on job fairs over here and hiring people over here," Isaac said. "It's hard finding people these days."

Isaac said the company is planning a job fair for March and is hoping to open for business in May.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby\_tankk.



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The Breakfast Club on Seven Mile in Livonia recently opened. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every day. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## The Breakfast Club opens in Wayne County

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It took a while, but George Dimitriou has finally broken into the family restaurant business.

The Westland resident and Churchill High School alumnus became the latest restaurant owner in his family to operate an eatery when he opened The Breakfast Club in Livonia.

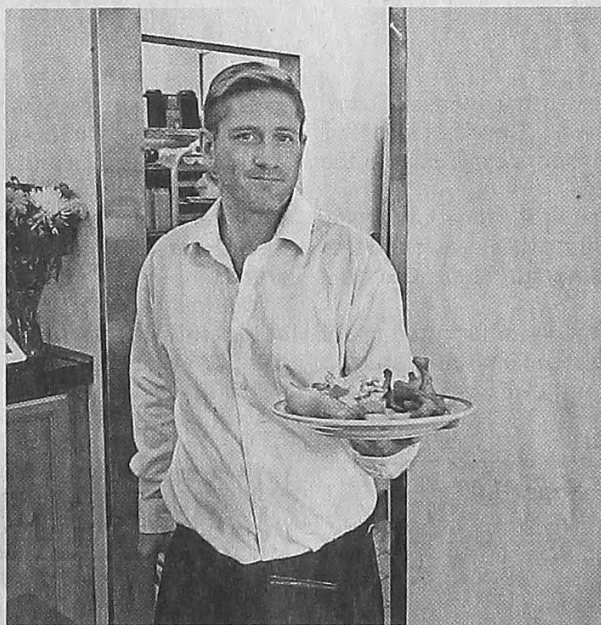
"This is something that I've always wanted to get involved with," he said. "I've always wanted to own a restaurant."

He joins other family members as restaurateurs, including his mother, who owns The Breakfast Club in Brighton.

Other family members own The Early Bird in Northville and Karl's Cabin in Salem Township.

The breakfast joint, located at 32610 Seven Mile in the space that housed the Blue Plate Diner before it closed in December, highlights upscale cuisine for breakfast and lunch. Top menu items include the oven-baked french toast and the Monterey gold sandwich, which includes turkey, honey mustard, mango and avocado on two slices of grilled Texas toast. Every guest is treated to a chocolate-covered strawberry at the end of the meal.

The Livonia restaurant is the seventh one of its name. The chain launched 20 years ago in southeast Oakland County and currently operates eateries in Madison Heights, Troy, Brighton, Novi, Farmington Hills and Commerce Township. The new restaurant is the group's first to open in Wayne County.



The Breakfast Club waiter Kevin Kitchens brings out a lunch order on Feb. 5 at the restaurant.

It's not to be confused with the Livonia Breakfast Club, a restaurant at Six Mile and Farmington that re-branded itself last year.

Dimitriou said the company was hoping to locate somewhere in northwest Wayne County, and, being a Livonia native, he wanted to bring it to town.

While there are several higher-end breakfast spaces across the region, Dimitriou said there was nothing in Livonia. He wanted to change that.

"I know Livonia, I grew up in Livonia, that's where I want it to be," he said. "I grew up in the subdivision behind here. I know this location so well."

Several dozen people can enjoy a meal at a time in the restaurant, which saw some refreshing after the Blue Plate Diner closed. A fresh coat of paint adorns the walls and new artwork has been hung throughout the dining area.

The restaurant had plenty of customers on opening day, including Joy Leski, who works in the same plaza. She was excited not only at the food being offered, but also that a vacancy in the plaza east of the property owned by Joe's Produce is now occupied.

"That's why we were excited, we love breakfast and lunch," she said. "When you're in a small mall, you're hoping it will fill up."

The restaurant is open 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every day. A full menu can be found at [breakfastclublivonia.com](http://breakfastclublivonia.com).

Adding to the ambiance of the restaurant opening morning was a large flower arrangement from Dimitriou's mother, Artemis Dimitriou.

The Livonia resident said she's proud of the work her son has done and is excited for him to begin his culinary adventure.

"My son is a wonderful young man," she said. "And he deserves this."

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

## Obituaries

### Myrna Elizabeth Hersh

**PLYMOUTH** — Myrna Elizabeth Hersh age 84 of Plymouth passed away February 6, 2020. Born to Ort and Maude Sprague. Survived by her children Julie, Debbie, Ron and Dale (Jennie).

Grandchildren Mike (Katherine), and Tony (Ashley) Diana.

Proud Great Grandmother to Ryley and Kennedy. Brother Ed Sprague, sisters Anne Bingman and Sharon (David) Nowak. Many nieces and nephews. She was loved and thought of as a second mom to many.

Preceded in death by her husband Richard, son in law Mike Diana and Grandson Nick Diana. Memorial to follow at later date.

### Mary Beth Mason

-- Mason, Mary Beth, February 5, 2020, age 63. Dear sister of Matthew J. (Renate) and Michael A. (Pam). Dear aunt of Michael and Emily. Family will receive friends Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 3-6pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile), (248) 549-0500. Funeral Mass Friday, February 14, 2020, 11am at St. Regis Catholic Church, 3691 Lincoln, Bloomfield Hills. Visitation at church begins at 10:30am. Memorial tributes to Angels' Place, 29299 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 48034.

View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

## Coding school opens in Plymouth Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Neither Raj nor Krupa Patel has a background in computer programming. That's not stopping them from owning the business that hopes to teach youngsters coding skills like Python and HTML5.

The Plymouth couple are the owners of the-CoderSchool in Plymouth Township, a franchise that teaches children and teenagers coding skills to be able to build apps for cellphones and tablets, as well as other practical computing programs to help prepare them for future career opportunities.

"These kids have so many tools that we didn't have growing up. One of the things is, they're probably already trying to build little apps and games, but they don't have everything that they need. They're YouTubeing and trying to learn," Krupa Patel said. "Instead of that, they're going to have a little bit of guidance."

The school, located at 41624 Ann Arbor Road, is the first of the company's to open in Michigan. It operates 35 schools across 16 states.

The interior can accommodate up to 12 students at a time for one-hour lessons and aims to help children ages 7-18 learn the skills they need to achieve their goals.

While there are some standards the school has for lessons, a lot of what students can learn is limited to what they most want to become more educated about. If a student is interested in a specific kind of game, or wants to build an app to keep track of scores for sports, the instructors will work with them to try and help them achieve their goals.

Raj Patel plans to be onsite running the school after leaving his job with the Detroit Water and

Sewerage Department earlier this month.

Krupa Patel will remain a co-owner and keep her job in the pharmaceutical industry.

The school's been in the works for nearly a year. Both said they were looking for a way to go into business for themselves and discovered theCoderSchool from a friend.

They knew such a school would be a great way to give children who aren't into sports or other extracurricular activities a place to develop their passions.

The location was a perfect spot, both said, to attract students from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Northville and Novi who may have an interest.

Krupa Patel said that makes theCoderSchool different than other places that aim to teach students coding.

Other schools have "nothing that's like 2-on-1 coaching that advances their skills," she said said. "We don't have a set curriculum like those places have."

In addition to the individual stations, the center also has a larger room designed for group coding sessions. And in true Silicon Valley fashion, there's a foosball table set up for kids to take a break.

The instructors range from high school students to longtime professionals.

Students will present their work every quarter, Raj Patel said, to showcase what they've been working on.

"It helps the parents understand what the student's been working on," he said. "It helps the student be more confident, not just in coding, whatever they do in their life."

For more information, or to sign a student up to enroll, visit [thecoderschool.com](http://thecoderschool.com).

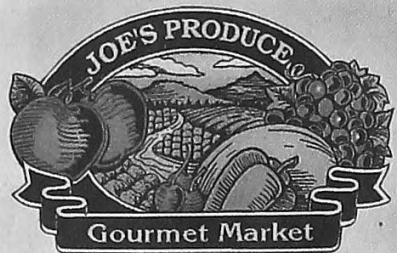
Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



Raj Patel sits at one of theCoderSchool's many computer work stations.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM





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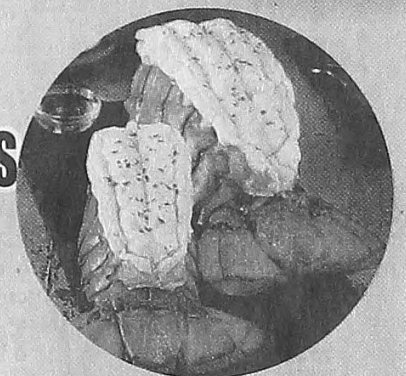
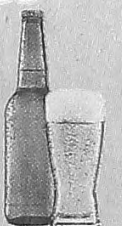
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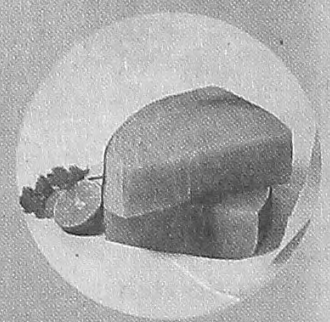
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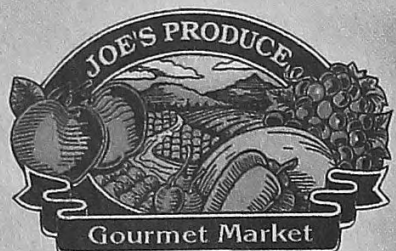
**2/3**

**Pecan**

**Caramel Tart**

**2/5**





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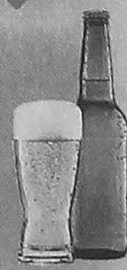
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# Sports

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Vickerses lead Canton charge over Northville

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

All Zach Shoemaker was trying to do was recreate Northville's first game against Canton on his senior night: coming back from a 10-point deficit to earn the Mustangs' seventh-straight win to begin the season.

Facing a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter, the senior forward went for a layup, scored the basket and the foul, hitting a free throw to bring the Mustangs' deficit to within four. However, Canton's Cole Vickers proved the difference, leading the Chiefs (10-4) on a five-point run to keep Northville at bay, handing the Mustangs

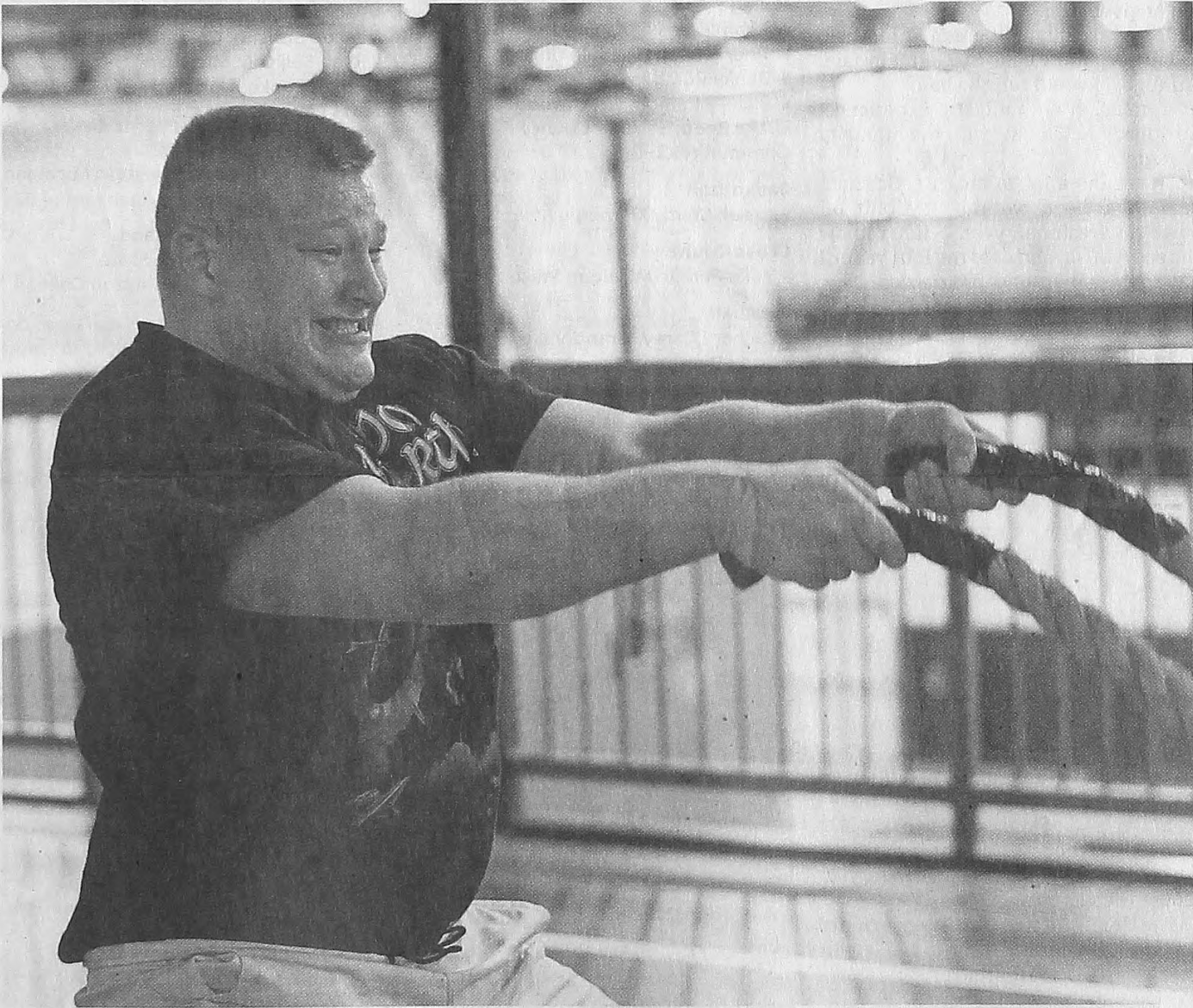
(11-3) their third loss of the season with a 57-48 road win. With the victory, Canton holds sole possession of second place in the KLAA West with an 8-2 record against conference opponents, sitting right behind Howell, who lost to Hartland Friday night, yet holds the win advantage over the Chiefs.

Here are three takeaways:

### Vickers brothers shine

Jake Vickers watched as his brother Cole Vickers secured the victory for Canton.

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B



Franklin dual-sport athlete Jake Swirple pushes himself as he works some heavy ropes during a pre-wrestling warmup.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Franklin dual-sport star striving for greatness

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jake Swirple has one thing on his mind as the state wrestling playoffs begin: winning a state championship. The Livonia Franklin senior heavy-weight, who is also a star football player, has had winning a state title on his mind

ever since he lost in triple ultimate overtime in the state semifinals a year ago and finishing third in Division 1. For Swirple, it wasn't enough. Since that defeat, Swirple has accomplished a lot. He signed to play football and wrestle at Division-2 Minot State University in North Dakota. He competed as a two-way starter on the Franklin football team which ad-

vanced to a district final. He won another individual KLAA conference wrestling championship over the weekend to improve his season record to 48-1. None of that has stopped him from working toward his dream of becoming a state champion wrestler.

See GREATNESS, Page 4B

# CC has record 28 college signees

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

While many Detroit Catholic Central athletes signed on the early signing day in November, the Shamrocks found time on National Signing Day to celebrate the successes of its athletic program. Catholic Central had a school-record 28 student-athletes sign to play college sports. While a few more athletes are expected to sign late, bringing the school's total to more than 30, athletic director Aaron Babicz said it was awesome to honor the successes of each student that has signed. "It's just awesome to do stuff like this for the kids," Babicz said. "When it comes down to it, regardless of if you are in a public school or a private school, it's got to be about the kids. So any way you can celebrate them and celebrate something that really is a dream of theirs, it's a no-brainer." Catholic Central lacrosse led the way with seven signees, while the baseball team recorded six and the wrestling team tallied five. Mario McDonald, a swimmer who signed at Ohio State, said the feel of the campus and the program proved to be a good fit for him. "When I took my visits, it was just I knew," McDonald said. "People always tell you that when you go on your visits, you will know when you are at the right place. For me, that was there." For Connor Baratta, a Shamrocks lacrosse player signed with Rutgers, he said the school fit him well, crediting the campus and the coaching staff for his level of comfort. With the expectations Catholic Central provides, lacrosse player Ryan Sullivan, who will play collegiately for Michigan, said the Shamrocks pre-

See SIGNEES, Page 2B

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# Wixom St. Catherine cheer team shines at Lakeland Invitational

Colin Gay [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

In the Division 3 competition at the Lakeland Invitational, St. Catherine of Siena Academy made school history. The SCA Stars achieved first place in their division Feb. 1 with a record score of 717.76 at Lakeland High School. With no players on the team with prior cheer experience or a background in

the sport, head coach Chelsie Romanescu was extremely impressed with the performance of her team. “I am so proud of the team’s hard work and dedication” Romanescu said. “Pushing themselves to learn and execute new skills has proven to be a great accomplishment. “It is truly amazing to watch the team develop. I look forward for what’s to come as we approach finals.”



The St. Catherine of Siena Academy cheer team finished in first place at the Lakeland Invitational on Feb. 1. SUBMITTED



Detorit Catholic Central celebrates National Signing Day with a record 28 students who signed letters of intent to play college sports. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Signees

Continued from Page 1B

pared him to make such a large leap into Division I athletics. “CC is a really difficult high school to go through,” Sullivan said. “All the practices that we do together, and I’m playing against good competition every single time. I know they prepared me for the next level, and I just have to go show it.”

### St. Germain makes school history

When Shawn St. Germain signed with Western Michigan Wednesday, he did something no other Catholic Central athlete has ever done: sign with a college to play rugby. The Catholic Central rugby team was established four years ago, and while participants have gone on to play at the college level, no Shamrock had signed a letter of intent to play.

Four years ago, St. Germain was a freshman wanting to play football. However, the sport of rugby provided him an opportunity football would have never given him. “I was usually a lineman at football, so I never got the ball,” St. Germain said. “In rugby, I could run the ball.” Coming in without any experience, he quickly fell in love with the intensity of rugby. “It means a lot to me,” St. Germain said. “I’ve been working my butt off since my freshman year. I didn’t know the sport at all, and over the four years, I have just grown and progressed. Now I’m going. It’s exciting for me.” With Catholic Central, St. Germain has had the chance to travel to Texas, Ohio and Illinois, competing against the highest level of competition in national tournaments. Babicz said St. Germain is an example of how a new sport can impact a high school. “We have had a huge buy-in at this school for the rugby program,” Babicz

### Catholic Central signees

#### Baseball

- Cooper Donlin: Mesa Community College
- Adam Falinski: Ashland
- Tyler Harris: Hillsdale College
- Daniel Rumberger: Trine
- Blake Salamon: Northwood
- Jake Zeeb: St. Clair County Community College

#### Basketball

- Josiah Smith: Carnegie Melon

#### Cross Country

- Luke Perelli: Michigan State

#### Football

- Zachary Carey: Grand Valley State
- Cody Daraban: Michigan Tech
- Cole Price: Wayne State
- Easton St. Clair: Heidelberg

#### Lacrosse

- Connor Baratta: Rutgers
- Sean Cunningham: Hope College
- Marco Mularoni: Hope College
- Jack Rioux: Aquinas College
- Jacob Sposita: Colgate
- Ryan Sullivan: Michigan
- Ethan Zupko: University of Massachusetts Lowell

#### Rugby

- Shawn St. Germain: Western Michigan

#### Swim and Dive

- Connor Brownell: Oakland
- Mario McDonald: Ohio State
- August Thielking: Kalamazoo College

#### Wrestling

- Josh Edmond: Missouri
- Derek Gilcher: Indiana
- Steven Kolcheff: Old Dominion
- Logan Sanom: Bucknell
- Marc Shaeffer: Old Dominion

said. “It’s exploded in numbers, we have a fantastic coaching staff. It’s just awesome to see another opportunity for the

kids.”  
Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710.

## Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

After Shoemaker’s and-1 conversion, Cole Vickers hit two free throws, recording an and-1 play himself on the ensuing possession, keeping the Chiefs ahead by seven points. “We would be practicing in the driveway all day, and I was beating him up,” Jake Vickers said. “Now that we are on the same team and everything, it feels great. I love seeing him succeed. And I know all that work we put in is going to pay off and I know he’s going to get even better and I can’t wait to see what he does next.” The younger brother made a late impact to secure the Chiefs’ fourth-straight victory, the elder Vickers proved to be a factor in the paint all night. The senior forward recorded 15 points and 12 rebounds, giving Canton a 12-point lead with 1:09 left in the game after drawing a foul after a layup. As pick-and-roll partners for many of the Chiefs’ offensive possessions, Cole Vickers has had a front-row seat to what Jake Vickers can do all season for Canton. “He’s really big,” Cole Vickers said. “He’s a heck of a guy to play with.”

### Defense becomes priority

Since its two-point loss to Howell on Jan. 24, Canton shifted its focus to defense, limiting opponents to under 50 points in each of the past three games. That streak continued against Northville as Canton allowed only 21 first-half points to a Mustang offense that came in averaging 51.9 points per game. “We’ve really tightened things up defensively,” Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. “We’ve got a greater sense of urgency, what we are doing defensively. We have simplified some things and our guys have, kind of, bought in and we’ve started to dig in and guard.” From the start of the game, that

proved to be the focus for the Chiefs, expecting the offense to come later. “We were talking about just playing good defense and rebounding,” Cole Vickers said. “I think in the first quarter, the first half, we really did a good job rebounding and coming out strong.” With the focus on defense, the Canton offense only had to do just enough to secure the victory. The Chiefs hit five 3-pointers against Northville, including three in the fourth quarter by Grant Hoffmeyer, Cole Vickers and Ben Stesiak. With the struggles of the Mustang offense, including an inability by Shoemaker to find consistent offense — finishing with a team-leading 12 points — Northville head coach Todd Sander felt each one of those 3-point makes, especially when his team was attempting a comeback in the second half. “When we are coming from behind, we’d get it to four, they’d hit a triple. We’d get it to five, they’d hit a triple,” Sander said. “They made five for the night, but each one of them was a back-breaker when you are trying to come from behind.”

### Just about time

Cole Vickers came into Friday’s game knowing it was a must-win for Canton. Sander could see that, saying that his team’s opponent wanted to win extremely badly. Since the two-point loss to KLAA West-leading Howell at home, Canton has changed its approach, focusing more on what the Chiefs can control instead of worrying about other opponents. With that change, Reddy wants Canton to dictate play on both sides of the court. “We’re definitely better now than we were two weeks ago,” Reddy said. “We’ve been talking about changing our best and since we played that Howell game, we’ve been doing that every day. It’s been in practice, it’s been in the games.” The shift for the Chiefs has brought



Jake Vickers proved to be as major a component in Canton’s road win against Northville as he was against Plymouth. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

an increased level of confidence, allowing players to look back at how far they have come over the course of the 2019-20 season. “We have really improved this season,” Cole Vickers said. “From the start, we struggled a little bit, but we have really picked it up a lot.”

Reddy expects that progress to continue. “What is it, February?” Reddy asked. “It’s getting started. It’s getting close to go time.” Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Canton hockey forward keeps team moving ahead

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton junior forward Lenny Kubitski has helped turn the Chiefs hockey team around, helping him to win the latest Hometown Life Athlete of the Week poll.

After starting the season with four wins in 12 games, Kubitski and the Chiefs have won five of their past seven games, including a 3-1 win against Birmingham Unified in which the junior forward recorded two goals.

He finished in first place in the latest poll, receiving 15,085 votes (53.68 percent). Kubitski finished ahead of second-place finisher and Canton classmate Ben Stesiak, who received 8,666 votes (30.84 percent). Livonia Stevenson hockey player Nick Justice finished in third place with 1,882 votes (6.7 percent), while Livonia Franklin wrestler Jake Swirple finished in fourth place and Plymouth Christian Academy basketball player Chibi Anuwah finished in fifth.

We caught up with Kubitski and asked him about his expectations for Canton for the remainder of the season and about how he likes to get pumped up before games.

**Was the Birmingham Unified win a turning point for Canton hockey?**

"I feel like that game, and the games prior, we really were stepping it up and pretty much that was like a top-off to what we really needed to get back on track for the season."

**Do you feel like you have momentum heading into the back end of the season and heading into playoffs?**

"Yeah, I definitely feel like we are on a roll right now and that the practices have been going smooth and the games have been getting better right now. I think it's really good for us going into the playoffs."

**What has this season been like for you in terms of personal development on the ice?**

"I think personally, for me, it really helped me competing against these really top teams and knowing what my job is on the ice and playing all the way from our D-zone to the neutral zone and,



Canton junior forward Lenny Kubitski has helped turn the Chiefs' season around. COURTESY OF LENNY KUBITSKI

pretty much, getting back on my wing when I have to and helping out the D. Like pretty much playing my role on the power play and penalty kill and do the best I can for my team."

**What are a few things you like to do in your free time when you are not playing hockey?**

"I really like fishing with my friends when the weather is really nice. I like playing NHL 20 with my friends also on Xbox."

**Have you thought about future plans and what's next for you after**

**high school?**

"It's really been on my mind ever since I really started freshman year. I played travel, and I went to high school sophomore year. Ever since high school started, I have been thinking what to do after high school. I've been working hard and stuff. It would be really cool to play for a close college by my family."

**As you are heading onto the ice, what are you listening to on your earbuds to get you pumped up for a game?**

"Sometimes, it's like a superstition.

Sometimes I would be listening to my music, like my rap music — Lil Mosey — but I have this superstition like sometimes, before the game, I listen to the music. It gets me too hyped up too early, so sometimes I don't listen to my music until right before the game or not at all. It's a weird thing where if I listen to my music an hour prior, it's getting me too hyped up too early. I want to get my energy up right before the game."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

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# Greatness

Continued from Page 1B

Soon after wrestling season ended last year, Swirple began writing notes to himself and placing them around his room at home and in the wrestling room at Franklin High School. Every note says the same thing and is signed at the bottom: I will be a state champ.

“Every day I wake up and I go run before I go to school. I work out. Every day I’m going after that grind,” Swirple said. “I have it all over my room on looseleaf sheets of paper, I wrote ‘I will be a state champion’ and signed my name. I put it all over and have it in our wrestling room, just to remind myself every day what I’m chasing. It’s a grind every day. It’s something that I personally have been striving for ever since I stepped foot into Franklin.”

## On a championship path

He placed eighth in the state as a sophomore and finished third last season. He says the notes to himself motivate him every day.

“There’s not a day that goes by where I don’t think about that,” Swirple said. “I want to get back to that spot and get into the state finals and win my state championship.”

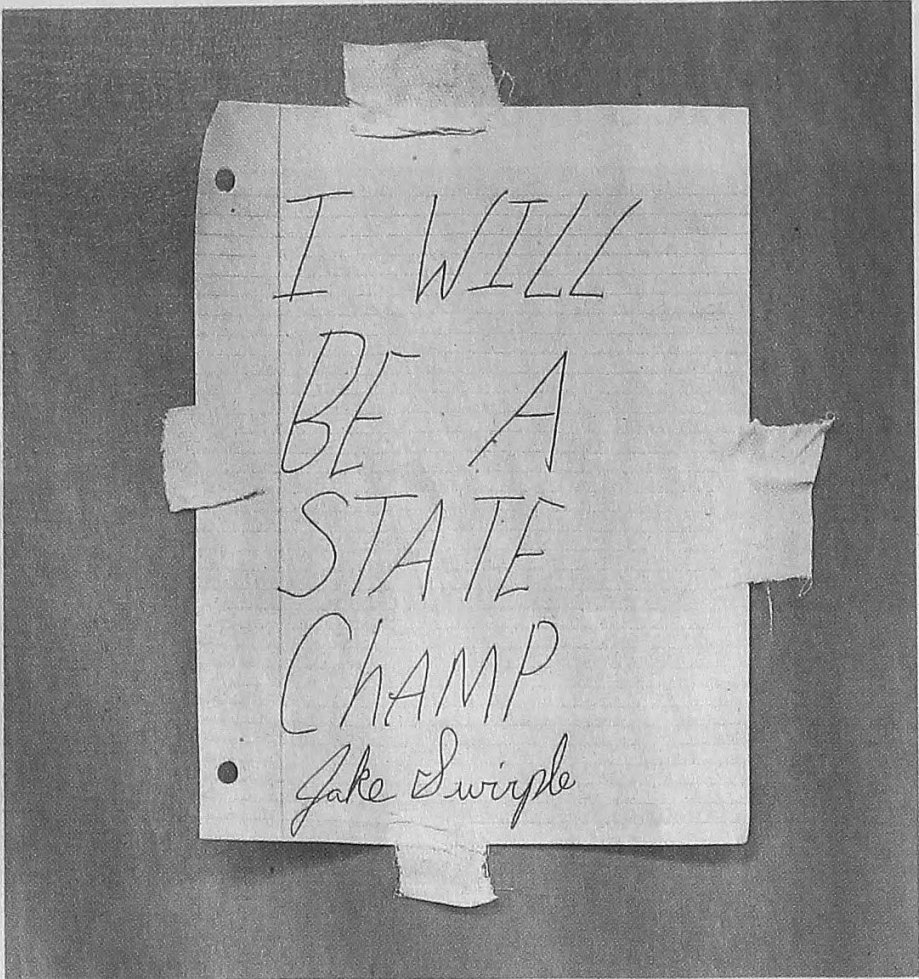
He’s on track to do just that. Entering the state playoffs, Swirple is ranked second in the state with a 48-1 record that includes a victory against the No. 3 wrestler in the state, Brighton’s Luke Stanton.

The one loss, however, came in overtime to No. 1 Steven Kolcheff, a senior at Detroit Catholic Central and defending heavyweight state champ. The pair wrestled at the Observerland Invitational at the beginning of February with Kolcheff winning in triple ultimate overtime.

Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola joked that the match was almost boring with how evenly matched they were with neither wrestler recording a take down and Kolcheff winning after he won a coin toss to choose his position in the final overtime.

Chiola says that there’s no doubt in his mind that Swirple can beat anyone in the state.

“When he loses — which isn’t often now, but his sophomore year he’d lose



Franklin wrestler Jake Swirple wrote this pledge eight times, and taped each one to the walls of the school’s wrestling room. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

matches more and last year he lost a few — he’d never make an excuse,” Chiola said. “He’d just say ‘I have to work harder,’ never threw a fit, never made excuses, always took them in stride and ask us what he needs to do to get better. Very coachable and very humble considering how good he is. He’s a good team leader.”

Swirple’s ability to mentally prepare helps set him apart from his competition. He watches film of all his matches with his dad, who attends all of Swirple’s matches with his mom. He credits his parents for his strong work ethic.

“He psychs himself up as much as any athlete I’ve ever had,” Chiola, who’s been at Franklin for more than 20 years, said. “He starts as soon as his match is over, he’s gearing up for his next match. There’s been tournaments where I never even see him sit down. He’s there for business. He’s not there to eat food and

play around on his phone. He’s there to wrestle.”

A two-year captain, Swirple loves facing other top wrestlers like Kolcheff. He told his coach his day had been made when he found out they’d get to wrestle at the Observerland tournament.

Swirple’s day will be more than made if he can defeat Kolcheff and bring home a state championship on March 7.

**Why not Minot?**

Minot State University (pronounced My-not) is located in northern North Dakota, about an hour away from the Canadian border.

The Division 2 school competes in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and is located in an area suited for those who love nature.

It was the perfect fit for Swirple, who signed last week with the school on Na-

tional Signing Day.

He will be on both the football team and the wrestling team, choosing Minot State over offers from a number of schools including teams in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He ultimately chose the Beavers over Davenport University.

“I really wanted to dual sport in college,” Swirple said. “That was a big thing for me because I’m a top athlete at both, I’m all-state in both. I like keeping busy, I like getting to work. I love that, it’s something I’ve always had, that work ethic. I love the grind of both sports.”

He was first recruited for football and was noticed by the Minot State coaching staff while attending a camp at North Dakota State University in July 2019. After attending a camp at Minot State, he was offered a scholarship and followed that up with an official visit in October.

“I’m a big outdoorsman, North Dakota obviously has good hunting and fishing, so that’s a nice bonus for me,” Swirple said. “Sometimes the offensive line will go duck hunting before classes, so that’s a big interest for me.”

Swirple played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the Patriots and has been a starter since his sophomore season. He tallied 5.5 sacks, 45 tackles and four tackles for loss as a senior on defense.

He was recruited as an offensive lineman, which is where he likely will play in college.

Swirple said he plans to major in criminal justice with a minor in law and legal studies so he can become a U.S. Marshal or federal agent with border patrol or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after school. He then wants to attend law school.

Minot State, which is located near an Air Force base, runs a run-heavy offense inspired by the service academy. It fits both Swirple’s strengths as an athlete and his personality, which has been contagious among his many high school teammates who will miss his impact on Franklin sports.

“I like putting my nose in everything,” Swirple said. “Grinding it out and hitting someone every play over and over and over.”

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @Andrew-Vcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

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## HOCKEY

# Third period defines South Lyon Unified success

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon Unified hockey steps up when it needs to.

Facing a 1-1 tie at the end of the second period against Northville Friday, senior forward Jon Gardiner tucked the puck in the left side of the net for the second goal of the game.

Gardiner opened the floodgates, as South Lyon Unified (18-2), scored two more goals in the third period, giving the team a 4-1 win against the Mustangs (5-16-1).

No matter how close the game felt in the first 34 minutes, South Lyon Unified head coach Bill McCreary feels like something clicks on in the final 17.

"I know that the boys are real competitors," McCreary said. "They want to win."

For the most part, these wins have been in dominant fashion, as South Lyon Unified has averaged just over six goals per game — not losing when scoring more than four goal in a game — while allowing just over one goal per game defensively.

But recently, this success has come late in the game for South Lyon.

In Unified's win against Allen Park on Jan. 30, South Lyon trailed, 3-2, heading into the third period. Unified then out-scored the Jaguars, 4-1, in the final 17 minutes to win.

The same storyline came up against Northville. After South Lyon senior forward Caleb Mulcahy scored the team's first goal of the game eight seconds into the second period, Northville forward Ryan Krikorian answered 26 seconds later with a goal, a score that would remain until the third period.

At this point in the season, McCreary said the third-period success allows his star players to shine brightest when it counts the most, no matter if his team had played its best up to that point.

"You would love to come out of the gate very strong, right, and take control of the game right off the bat, but it doesn't always happen that way," McCreary said. "As the game progresses and it's still a close game, our big guys really step up for us."



South Lyon's Caleb Mulcahy, center, carries the puck towards the Northville net. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Gardiner recorded his second score of the day, taking a pass from junior forward Mitchell Skamiera and hitting it in the right corner of the net for the 3-1 lead. Skamiera scored the fourth and final goal late in the third period.

Missing star defender Anthony Joseph, who was out with a fever, South Lyon stepped up defensively, allowing one goal or fewer for the fourth time in the past five games.

With the scoring ability South Lyon Unified has, defense has seemingly

been an afterthought, a by-product of excellent offensive production.

As the season continues and the opponents get tougher, Lowen said South Lyon Unified has been able to step up in all facets, including defensively.

"At the beginning of the year, we were kind of just getting away with it," Lowen said. "But now that it's close to playoffs, it's really getting us going and preparing us to play these good teams."

In his senior season, South Lyon Unified is doing things Gardiner thought it

would never be capable of.

But with five games left until the playoffs, the forward is confident, especially when Unified comes out on the winning end of closer games.

"It's really just getting us more ready because these blow-out games are just getting old," Gardiner said. "We need some real competition in the mix."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).

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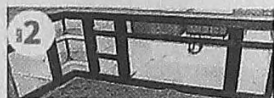
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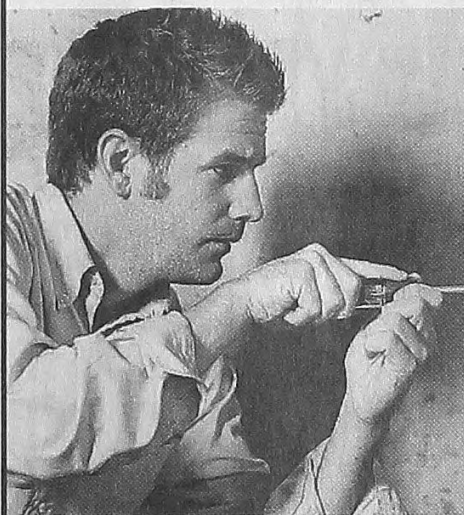
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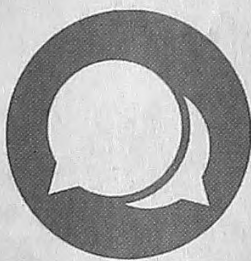
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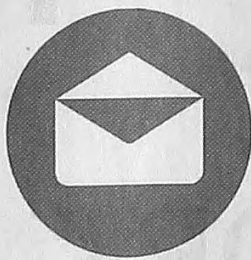
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 MILES \$12324 P23706A For This  
 Special Pricing Call Rick P North  
 Bros. 734-928-2108

 16' IMPALA 72K MILES \$10500  
 P23716 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 14' IMPALA 70K MILES \$11820  
 P23620A For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

**Cars**

 10' MALIBU 68K MILES \$9988 P23762  
 For This Special Pricing Call Dave P  
 North Bros. 734-928-2108

 18' SOUL 53K MILES \$12832 P23714  
 For This Special Pricing Call Dave P  
 North Bros. 734-928-2108

 19' TAURUS LIMITED AWD 11K  
 MILES \$25000 P23707 For This  
 Special Pricing Call Rick B North  
 Bros. 734-928-2108

 19' TAURUS LIMITED AWD 19K  
 MILES \$24500 P23695 For This  
 Special Pricing Call Mark B North  
 Bros. 734-928-2108

**SUVs**

 CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 98K MILES  
 \$12700 P23715 For This Special  
 Pricing Call Dave P North Bros.  
 734-928-2108

 14' COMPASS 90K MILES \$11300  
 P23628B For This Special Pricing  
 Call Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 12' EDGE SEL 112K MILES \$10475  
 P23683A For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 14' EQUINOX 70K MILES \$12000  
 P23712 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 19' ESCAPE SEL 15K MILES \$22600  
 P23683A For This Special Pricing Call  
 Jason S North Bros. 734-928-2108

 18' ESCAPE SE 3K MILES \$19400  
 P23761 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Tarrick W North Bros. 734-928-2108

 18' ESCAPE SE 4WD 15K MILES  
 \$19492 P23736 For This Special  
 Pricing Call Rick B North Bros.  
 734-928-2108

 17' ESCAPE SE 17K MILES \$14900  
 20T9118A For This Special Pricing  
 Call Heidi W North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' ESCAPE SE 20K MILES \$14998  
 P23760 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Heidi W North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' ESCAPE SE 22K MILES \$17844  
 P23758 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Heidi W North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' ESCAPE SE 31K MILES \$16000  
 P23732 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Jason S North Bros. 734-928-2108

**SUVs**

 17' ESCAPE SE 40K MILES \$15952  
 P23768 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Tarrick W North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' ESCAPE TITANIM 4WD 19K  
 MILES \$21400 20T1064A For This  
 Special Pricing Call Tarrick W North  
 Bros. 734-928-2108

 ESCAPE SE 91K MILES \$11857  
 20T9038A For This Special Pricing  
 Call Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 ESCAPE SE 76K MILES \$14225  
 P23734 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' EXPLORER XLT 25K MILES  
 P23759 For This Special Pricing  
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 16' JOURNEY SE 59K MILES \$13500  
 P23711 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 15' JOURNEY 77K MILES \$11600  
 P23759 For This Special Pricing  
 Call Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 16' MKX AWD 28K MILES \$25400  
 P23661 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Rick P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 15' PATRIOT 4WD 38K MILES \$13700  
 P23656A For This Special Pricing Call  
 Rick P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 15' TERRAIN 86K MILES \$12677  
 19T6383A For This Special Pricing  
 Call Dave P North Bros. 734-928-2108

 16' WRANGLER 24K MILES \$24300  
 19T0030A For This Special Pricing  
 Call Rick P North Bros. 734-928-2108

**Trucks**

 18' F150 XLT 9K MILES \$34800  
 P23745 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Jason S North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' F150 XLT 24K MILES \$30100  
 P23696 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Mark B North Bros. 734-928-2108

 16' F150 XLT 22K MILES \$30500  
 P23735 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Rick B North Bros. 734-928-2108

 16' F150 XLT 33K MILES \$29300  
 P23732 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Rick B North Bros. 734-928-2108

**Trucks**

 15' F150 PLATINUM 66K MILES  
 \$32400 19T1312A For This Special  
 Pricing Call Tarrick W North Bros.  
 734-928-2108

 15' F150 XLT 51K MILES \$27600  
 P23744 For This Special Pricing Call  
 Jason S North Bros. 734-928-2108

 17' SILVERADO LT 64K MILES  
 \$22700 P23599A For This Special  
 Pricing Call Tarrick W North Bros.  
 734-928-2108

**Vans**

 GRAND CARAVAN 65K MILES  
 \$13400 P23763 For This Special  
 Pricing Call Dave P North Bros.  
 734-928-2108

 17' TOWN COUNTRY 125K MILES  
 \$10900 18T4011A For This Special  
 Pricing Call Dave P North Bros.  
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unicellular swimmer  
7 Fold in a skirt  
12 Jolie of film  
20 The "R" of 33-Down  
21 Actor Cox  
22 Prepared for storage, as a hose  
23 Endlessly repeating programming problem  
25 Fashion designer in "The Incredibles"  
26 Hwy. felony  
27 Man-mouse middle  
28 What iPads run on  
30 "Boston Legal" actor James  
31 Higher, spiritual level of awareness  
38 Get a whiff of  
40 Lift to check the weight of  
41 Gig hookup  
42 PC key abbr.  
43 Elicitor of a major "Whew!"  
46 Zodiac ram  
48 Truckload  
51 Basso solo, e.g.
- 52 Eligible for Soc. Sec.  
53 Head honcho  
57 Some hole menders  
59 Force unit  
60 Bouffant, e.g.  
61 Pipe joint  
62 — Yello (Coca-Cola brand)  
64 China's Zhou —  
68 Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"  
69 M114 howitzer, e.g.  
72 Prickly shrub  
75 Occurrence  
76 — d'Or (Cannes award)  
77 G-man, e.g.  
80 Cousin's mommy  
82 Actresses Carrere and Mowry  
84 "Look here as well," in a reference book  
86 1931 crime film starring Edward G. Robinson  
90 — Juan  
91 Late hours, in ads
- 92 Minneapolis-Montreal dir.  
93 King of CNN  
94 1971 Elton John song  
97 CD- — drive  
100 Comical Costello  
101 Just OK  
102 Microwaves  
103 Bacterium, e.g.  
109 Blissful  
110 "General" of Chinese cuisine  
111 Miracle- — (plant food)  
112 Vocalist Sumac  
115 Not together  
118 2, for helium  
123 Like rags  
124 Follow, as a pointer  
125 Join a force  
126 Evaluates  
127 Partner of Cheech  
128 Chinese system of calisthenics
- DOWN**
- 1 Quite dry  
2 Bill of fare  
3 She may be a gofer  
4 Wallach of "Lord Jim"  
5 Actor Affleck  
6 Universal truth  
7 "Amen, pastor!"  
8 Online chuckle  
9 Roxy Music's Brian  
10 Put holy oil on  
11 Manuscript mistakes  
12 King beater  
13 Nonverbal "yes"  
14 Knife of old infomercials  
15 Pass, as time  
16 French racing city  
17 "Upon my word!"  
18 "David" and "The Thinker"  
19 Imitating sorts  
24 Prefix with state  
29 Make afraid  
32 Fake fat in some chips  
33 Kind of camera, in brief  
34 Just-OK grade  
35 — a mile (not even close)  
36 "Yes, sign me up"  
37 14-member oil gp.  
38 Color  
39 Wall painting  
44 Did it wrong  
45 "Gigi" star Caron  
46 G-man, e.g.  
47 "Quiet down"  
49 Chances  
50 New Mexico skiing spot  
54 Lethargy  
55 "You got that right!"  
56 Floral symbol of purity  
58 Former "Top Chef" judge  
59 Rounded roof  
63 "P.S. I — U" (old TV show)  
65 They may be glossed over  
66 Carte lead-in  
67 "You got that right!"  
69 "Joey" star LeBlanc  
70 Anxious  
71 Make revisions to  
72 Farm bundle  
73 Lay waste to  
74 Picks off, as a pass  
77 Lighter catchphrase in old ads  
78 Lauder of fragrances  
79 Active types  
81 Sometimes-jellied fish  
83 — -Detoo (sci-fi droid)  
85 Latin for "year"  
87 Trig is a prereq for it  
88 Ending for buck or stink  
89 Spew lava  
90 Being amorous, to Brits  
95 Jerusalem's nation: Abbr.  
96 Darth Vader, as a kid  
98 Rococo  
99 Watery silks  
101 Whiskey type  
103 Political hostess Perle  
104 Thoughts  
105 Injury marks  
106 Singer Hayes  
107 Bow's shape  
108 Tune for nine  
113 Fit together  
114 Beginner's painting class  
116 Pipe joint  
117 Mag staff  
119 Western tribe  
120 Sun.-Tue. link  
121 Article in Argentina  
122 1,051, in old Rome

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20							21						22							
23							24						25							
26					27					28		29			30					
		31	32	33					34	35			36	37						
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109									110				111					112	113	114
115						116	117			118	119	120				121	122			
123										124						125				
126										127						128				

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)

## SUDOKU

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

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!

## VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

ANNIVERSARY  
ARROW  
BOUQUET  
CANDY  
CARDS  
CELEBRATION  
CHOCOLATE  
GUPCAKE  
CUPID  
DESSERT  
DOVES  
EMBRACE  
FEELINGS  
FLIRT  
FLOWERS  
GIFTS  
HEARTS  
HOLIDAY  
HUG  
JEWELRY  
KISS  
LACE  
LOVE  
MARRIAGE  
MEMORIES  
MUSIC  
POEM  
RELATIONSHIP  
ROMANCE  
ROSES  
SAINT  
SERENADE  
SWEET  
TRADITION  
VALENTINE  
WOO

## ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140

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

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