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SPORTS, 1B

OBSERVER

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Amazon plans facility in Plymouth Twp.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amazon announced this week it plans to open five new facilities in metro Detroit, including a sorting center in Plymouth Township.

Township Supervisor Kurt Heise said the company is renovating the former

Spartan warehouse on Haggerty Road that served as a distribution center for the grocery chain until it closed more than 10 years ago.

"The facility was built in the early 1970s," he said. "It was dormant for a long time, and really since the Spartan days it hasn't been fully utilized."

He said Amazon plans to add about

30,000 square feet to the existing facility, which currently stands at about 300,000 square feet. The center is expected to create about 200 jobs with an investment of at least \$2.5 million, Heise said.

The center will essentially serve as a connection point to ship packages to area communities, Heise said. He compared it to a post office in the way it is expected to operate, especially transporting smaller deliveries.

"It's basically where Amazon is going to come in with trucks carrying smaller packages," he said. "If I am ordering a book through Amazon, it's going to go

See AMAZON, Page 2A



A few of the 80 trees that were planted on the parcel of property near the intersection of Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail. Supervisor Kurt Heise is leading the charge to officially change the property to a park. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth Twp. green space, golf course did well in 2020

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A piece of Plymouth Township property near the intersection of Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail, and its next-doorneighbor, a municipal golf course both enjoyed a very good 2020.

Whether the momentum will continue in 2021 no one knows, but hope is alive and well.

While money won't grow on the 80 trees that were recently planted for free thanks to a donation from Webasto Corp., their presence may prove to be the shot in the arm needed to turn the 9-acre slice of land into a passive park. With the assistance of Northvillebased McKenna Associates, the park plan was officially launched with dis-

cussion at a township board meeting last June.

See GREEN SPACE, Page 2A

WWCS students return to classrooms in March

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On March 1, students in the Wayne-Westland school district will begin some form of in-person learning for the

first time this school year. At a meeting Monday, the district's board of education unanimously voted to adopt a hybrid learning model beginning March 1. In that model, students will attend in-person classes twice weekly, have one day of remote instruction and two days of independent learn-

"We know that in-person classes are See STUDENTS, Page 2A

the best way for our students to learn," Superintendent John Dignan said.

Dignan said district administration receives updates from the Wayne County Health Department weekly and plans to release a coronavirus dashboard later this week. Dignan said his goal is to move toward full-time in-person learning, a sentiment much of the board shared.

Last week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said she was encouraging school districts to reopen to in-person classes in some capacity by March 1.



Wayne-Westland students will have some in-person learning beginning March 1. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne **County** tells seniors to register for vaccine at hospitals

Wayne County is advising residents 65 and older to register through their online patient portal with their hospital system to receive information on when they might receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Beaumont, Henry Ford and Ascension St. John hospital systems, as well as St. Mary and Garden City hospitals, will be providing vaccines to seniors, county COVID-19 strategist Dr. Mouhanad Hammami said Tuesday in a meeting with members of the Wayne County Commission Committee on Health & Human Services.

Vaccine information will come to seniors from those hospital systems by mail or email. The Beaumont system is also accepting registrations from seniors not currently part of any health care system, Hammami said.

Wayne County and its health care providers continue to primarily receive the Pfizer vaccine, which requires storage at extremely cold temperatures.

In other COVID-19 news:

· As of Tuesday, 20,022 of the county's 20,475 first-dose vaccines had been given to long-term care patients and health care workers under Phase 1A of state guidelines. Figures do not include Detroit, which maintains its own set of vaccine statistics.

 Wayne County health officials currently are consulting with RESA, the county's intermediate school district, on vaccination plans for teachers and school staff in public, private and charter schools.

 At present, no troubling vaccine side effects have been reported in Wayne County. Reported vaccine side effects have included muscle soreness and, in some cases, fatigue and fever, but health officials say that is a sign the vaccine is working.

 Health officials advise even vaccinated individuals to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing to prevent COVID-19 from spread-

Hammami's presentation can be viewed on the Wayne County Commission's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Additional information on CO-VID-19, including information on vaccinations, is available on the COVID-19 Resources section of the county website, waynecounty.com/Covid19.

Birmingham native stars in Amazon's 'The Wilds'

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In an overwhelmingly dark year, Sarah Pidgeon has found the spotlight.

The Birmingham native stars in the new Amazon Prime series "The Wilds," about nine teen girls stranded on an island after their plane crashes, which sounds accidental, but wasn't.

"Everything about this feels very surreal. From flying to New Zealand to being there and making the project, it's incredibly exciting and fulfilling and lucky," Pidgeon said.

Pidgeon's rise to stardom took her across the world to film for six months, with a return to the U.S. just before the pandemic hit.

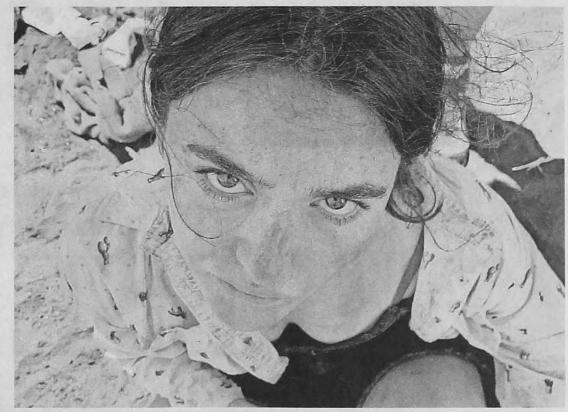
The now 24-year-old never planned this career. Just the idea of being an actress, she said, "seems very grand and unrealistic."

But Pidgeon had a supportive mom who encouraged her passion for acting, sending her to Interlochen Arts Camp during the summer when she was a child.

That progressed to plays at the Community House in Birmingham and theater competitions during her freshman and sophomore years at Groves High

Pidgeon transferred to Interlochen Arts Academy for her junior and senior years and graduated in 2014, moving on

See 'THE WILDS', Page 3A



Sarah Pidgeon, a Birmingham native, stars as Leah Rilke in Amazon's "The Wilds." COURTESY OF SARAH PIDGEON

How to deal with pensions, 401(k), Social Security at retirement



Money Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My husband and I will be retiring in the spring. We each will receive a pension and will be at full retirement age to receive Social Security.

Thankfully, we paid off our house a few years ago and have no other debt. We are very frugal and since we no longer have a mortgage, we can easily live on one of our pensions. My first question to you is, does it make sense to delay our Social Security until we are 70?

My next question deals with our you are 70. By delaying, you will end up 401(k). Based upon some of your past articles, we are going to move that to Fidelity upon retirement. Realistically, we will not need this money. Can we do anything to avoid having to take our minimum required distributions at 72?

My last question deals with our estate. We have no children or relatives. Upon our deaths, we are leaving everything to a variety of charitable organizations. Are we under any obligation to inform the charities that they are in our will? We would prefer not to.

Thank you, Julie

Dear Julie:

Congratulations on your retirement. With regards to your Social Security, I agree that it makes sense to delay until earning about 8 percent a year on your money. Eight percent in today's world is a very good rate of return.

With regards to your required minimum distribution at age 72, there is no way to defer that distribution. However, you can choose to donate your required minimum distribution to a charitable organization. By doing this, you are avoiding having to pay tax on your distribution.

Donating required minimum distributions can be a very effective tax-planning strategy for those who no longer itemize their deductions. Other than donating your required minimum distribution to charity, there is no other way to avoid having to take the distribution.

You are under no obligation to inform a charity that you have named them in your will. In fact, you are under no obligation to tell any beneficiary that they are named in your will.

Your will is a private document and only becomes public upon your death. Therefore, you are also free to change your beneficiaries at any time. Your will only becomes irrevocable upon your death.

Good luck in retirement and congratulations on achieving the American

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

Green space

Continued from Page 1A

The plan included the installation of a walking path, spots for public art and a modest parking lot adjacent to the existing Hilltop Golf Course lot.

rith a vision for the park was not authorized by the board in 2020.

The lone dissenter of the park plan was treasurer Mark Clinton, who argued that the space should remain as it is, at least for the foreseeable future.

"I wish I shared your enthusiasm for this," Clinton told his colleagues. "But I don't. We have all the amenities we're discussing tonight 400 steps away at Plymouth Township Park. There are a lot of repairs that need to be made at the park we do have. ... I don't agree with adding a second park so close."

Supervisor Kurt Heise, who is leading the charge to officially change the status of the property to a park, said the board has authorized the construction and rehabilitation of sidewalks near the inter-However, a blueprint to move ahead section of Beck Road and Ann Arbor Trail to make them ADA compliant.

> "But there is currently no authorization to build paths, benches or anything like that in the triangular area," Heise said. "I'll put this issue in front of the board again this year, especially with two new board members. Hopefully, we can get this land designated as a park. We could add it to the township maps and it would make it easier to secure

grants that we could use to improve the property."

If the plan comes to fruition, it will be labeled a passive park rather than an active park, township planner Laura Haw

"A passive park includes landscaping, walking and biking trails and a gathering place," Haw said. "An active park might be a space with soccer fields and baseball fields."

Haw, who worked with McKenna Associates on the preliminary plans, recommended that a naturalized meadow should be included in the vast central portion of the property to assist in the natural treatment of stormwater.

Following several years in the red, Hilltop Golf Course made a noteworthy profit in 2020, thanks in part to the golfing surge triggered by the pandemic.

Hilltop, which was losing approximately \$150,000 annually, earned a net profit of about \$80,000 in 2020.

"We have committed to reinvest \$25,000 back into the golf course for improvements like better drainage, things like that," Heise said. "We will still pay Tony Moscone's golf course management group \$75,000 a year, but it's a heck of a lot better than losing \$150,000 a year like we were doing before we changed management groups.

"Last year was an outstanding year for golf courses in Michigan as a direct result of COVID-19. Golf is a cheap, easy short-distance getaway for people who couldn't do a whole lot else."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com.

Students

Continued from Page 1A

"My real preference would be to return to five days soon," Secretary Mark Neal said. "If we can go back on Feb. 22 with the aim to move toward five days a week, so the better. ... I think Mr. Dignan and staff have done everything they can to create a safe environment for students and staff."

Once students return to classes, the district will continually notify families

of any positive COVID-19 cases that emerge among students or staff. The district will also clean high-touch surfaces every four hours throughout the school day and provide each classroom with PPE and cleaning kits. Each school building will have a certified nurse on staff, as well.

The board's decision followed a lengthy public comment session that lasted more than two hours. Community members, parents and district staff voiced a variety of opinions. In surveys the district has done, about 65% of staff would like to continue remote learning,

while 56% of parents and about 60% of students want some form of in-person learning.

"I've received hundreds of emails from staff saying they would like the time to receive the vaccine. ... We need the time to successfully finish off the online learning until the cases come

down," Trustee Melandie Hines said. Throughout the meeting, Dignan stated several times a successful move to full-time face-to-face instruction will require the entire Wayne-Westland community following health guidelines recommended by the county.

"It takes a whole village to stop the spread of this," he said.

But, Dignan and the board said they think staff and students will rise to the challenges of attending school in a pandemic.

"I have great confidence in our educators to meet this challenge," Trustee John Albrecht said. "My experience is when you establish expectations, children will meet them."

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

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

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Amazon

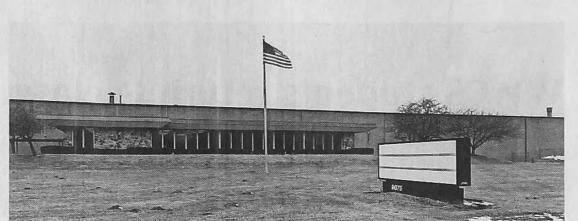
Continued from Page 1A

through the facility in Plymouth Township."

Heise said the center is expected to be fully operational by the holiday sea-

In addition to the site in Plymouth Township, Amazon announced an 823,000-square-foot fulfillment center in Detroit, a fulfillment and sorting center at Pinnacle Park development in Huron Township, a same-day fulfillment center in Hazel Park, and a robotics fulfillment center in Pontiac. The new facilities are expected to create about 2,000 new jobs in total.

"We're excited to be expanding our network to better serve our customers in the great city of Detroit," Alicia Boler Davis, Amazon's vice president of global customer fulfillment, said in a statement. "We are grateful for the strong support we've received from local and state leaders as we broaden our footprint throughout Michigan.



Amazon is in the process of converting a former Spartan warehouse along Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township into a sorting center, which will add about 200 jobs to the region. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We look forward to bringing more than 2,000 good jobs to metro Detroit and contributing positively to the community."

The Plymouth facility join several others currently operated by Amazon in the western suburbs of Detroit. A large fulfillment center opened several years ago nearby in Livonia and a logistics center opened in Lyon Township last

The company states it has created

13,500 jobs in Michigan over the last decade, investing more than \$2.5 billion into the economy.

Heise said not only is Amazon's selection of Plymouth Township a success, but having an underutilized facility be transformed is also a step in the right direction.

"It's a big win for Plymouth Township. Amazon is a very exciting company," he said. "It's an honor to have been chosen by them."

'The Wilds'

Continued from Page 2A

to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh to earn a bachelor of fine arts degree. While still a student there, she landed roles in 2018's "One Dollar" and "Gotham."

In August 2018, after graduation from Carnegie Mellon, she signed with a talent agency that sent her the opportunity to audition for the role of Leah Rilke in "The Wilds." Pidgeon was immediately intrigued by a story written and produced by women, featuring a cast that would be almost all female.

"I found it was something I hadn't read before, life experiences I had known myself – very raw and real and unapologetic of the experiences that women go through," Pidgeon said. "The show covers first heartbreak, relationships with parents, body image, sexual abuse, the loss of someone close to you, guilt, shame and pride.

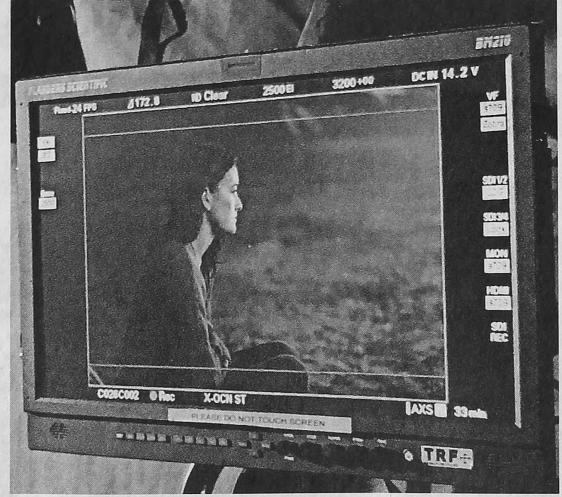
"These girls, even when you meet them and even if you think they have a perfect life, everything they dealt with before shows up on the island and it is still with them."

Pidgeon sent in her tape, was called for in-person auditions and two days later was leaving to shoot the pilot episode of "The Wilds" in New Zealand, officially cast as Leah Rilke.

"In terms of acting, you read the script and have a reaction and you roll with your instincts of who you think this person is," Pidgeon said. "This was my take on the character and somebody watches and depending on how they feel, it either resonates with them or it doesn't."

Pidgeon describes her character as a bit of a loner, and while she wouldn't call her a wallflower, said there is a scene in the pilot episode where she talks about how compared to others in her art school, she is boring.

Leah Rilke has fallen in love with someone twice her age and has "a very intense inner life," and "spins until she



Filmmakers record a scene with Sarah Pidgeon, who has a star turn as Leah Rilke in Amazon Prime's new series "The Wilds." COURTESY OF SARAH PIDGEON

is untethered," Pidgeon said.

"Throughout the series, you see incredible intelligence and that she is thoughtful and has a lot of bravery to follow these trains of thought that are terrifying as she is trying to piece together what has happened to them," she said.

It was not immediately clear that an audience would get to see that. After a month of shooting the first episode in New Zealand, the cast and crew returned home to wait and see whether the pilot would be picked up. They learned the following spring it would be.

Nearly a year after they first arrived in New Zealand, a cast of nearly 100 returned to shoot the remaining nine episodes that comprise first season of the show, and chronicles up to Day 23 on the island.

Pidgeon lived in a hotel in Auckland for six months, from September 2019 until March 2020, with a brief break to fly home in December for the holidays. Her work days typically involved waking between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m., being taken to set, getting into makeup and costume and filming until lunch, but also shooting scenes filmed in the afternoon. If it was a night shoot, filming might end at 4 or 5 a.m. Each scene typically took about two to two-and-a-half hours to film.

Her office was typically a day at the beach, but the work was anything but relaxing.

"You have 16-hour days, you're on the beach the entire time, dealing with weather," Pidgeon said. "Sometimes it's freezing cold, with winds coming off the ocean. The weather was the biggest day-to-day challenge. ... The struggle was fatigue. You have these big, epic scenes about girls struggling to survive and you do that day in and day out."

Going through high school, including her two years at Birmingham Groves, Sarah Pidgeon recalled always being asked to identify with male characters in literature and film.

"The Wilds" is a refreshing change, she said.

"Identifying with women shouldn't be that radical," Pidgeon said. "This project is a blueprint for success. It's fun to see a young adult show embrace female storytelling so fully."

Pidgeon formed close friendships with her on-set coworkers, and said it was surreal to part ways with them after wrapping up the show.

The coronavirus pandemic has been a gift in a strange way, she said, as she is a homebody and is making up for living in a hotel for six months.

Pidgeon stayed in New York until late summer and since October, has been living in Ann Arbor, where she watched the show's premiere with her mom and sister Dec. 11.

She won't stay put for long, though. Just a few days before Christmas, she got the news "The Wilds" has been picked up for a second season. She expects to begin filming in the spring in New Zealand, but otherwise is just as in the dark about where the story is going as fans are. The actors don't learn details until doing table reads of the script just a few days before shooting an episode, she said.

She's learning to be patient while she

"Things have been rather slow in the industry and the world, but I'm very grateful that I have something to look forward to and I get to go back and tell the story and be with these people again," she said. "It was a lot of fun. It's exciting and surreal and very wild, pardon the pun."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

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Livonia Chevrolet dealership goes from brink of closure to top seller

Jamie L. LaReau Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

In late 2009, longtime Livonia car dealer Kit Tennyson was counted out.

The Chevrolet store on Plymouth Road that bore his surname was barely making ends meet. It sold about 120 new and used vehicles a month despite its desirable location that could easily deliver double or triple that amount.

So that year, General Motors put it on the list of 2,400 U.S. dealerships it would terminate under federal bankruptcy protection over the next year.

The showroom was stale, the service area needed upgrades. The staff was downtrodden and defeatist, recalled Jay Feldman, owner of Feldman Automotive Group.

Yet Feldman saw potential in the store and its location. He would end up being the guy to team up with Tennyson to turn it around, restoring the dealership's revenue and Kit Tennyson's reputation.

"The best part for me was Kit. In everybody's eyes he was going out of business," Feldman said. "But when he retired, he retired as one of the biggest Chevrolet dealers in the country, and I thought that was pretty cool. That was cool for his family."

A May-December friendship

Christopher "Kit" Tennyson, who lived in Grosse Pointe Farms, retired in 2017. He died this past October of "a brief illness" at age 73, his obituary said.

His dealership, now called Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia, is part of Feldman Automotive Group, owned by Feldman. It has nine dealerships in Michigan and employs about 800 full-time and part-time employees. Jay Feldman's five Chevrolet stores sell the most Chevrolet vehicles in Michigan, GM said.

Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia sells 400 to 500 total cars each month, Feldman said. It is in the top 50 best-selling Chevrolet stores in the country, a Chevrolet spokesman confirmed. There are about 3,000 Chevrolet stores in the United States.

The store's success is a story of a young, eager car dealer befriending an older veteran amid one of the most volatile times in the auto industry's history.

Tennyson and Feldman both grew up in the business; their fathers were car dealers. Kit took over the dealership from his father, Harry, in the 1980s, Feldman said. At that time, Feldman was still selling cars for his dad, Marty, and wouldn't become a dealer until the early 1990s. There was a 24-year age gap between Tennyson and Feldman, who is just 49.

"But he and I knew each other for a long time, being a fellow Chevy dealer since the early 1990s," Feldman said. "We were very friendly. We weren't close friends or anything, but we talked on the phone over the years and had been on dealer trips together."

But their business friendship almost came to an end in 2009.

The unspoken wind down

Feldman is reluctant to talk about what he said was Tennyson getting "caught up in the GM wind down in 2009. He was not receiving cars from the factory. I don't know what he did to stay afloat; it probably was not easy."

Part of Feldman's reticence is the fact that GM doesn't like its dealers to talk about that period when it went through a federally guided bankruptcy and government bailout.

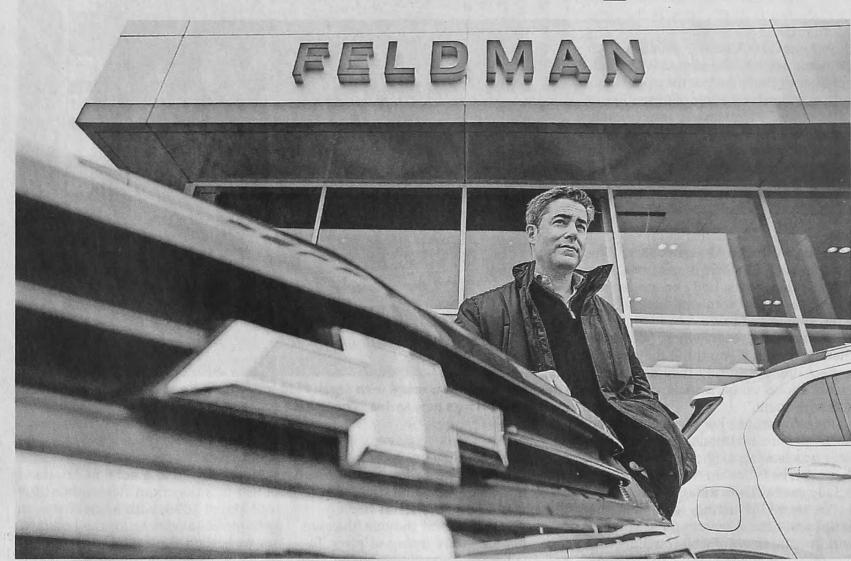
But here's what happened. At the end of 2008, GM was in the red by \$30.9 billion. GM's CEO at that time was Rick Wagoner. He led an auto delegation that included Chrysler Group and Ford Motor Co. to Washington seeking government funding to save the industry and keep GM out of bankruptcy.

But ultimately, Chrysler and GM needed to restructure under federal bankruptcy protection. On June 1, 2009, GM filed for bankruptcy protection, and that sent a shiver down thousands of dealers' spines.

A month earlier, it was widely reported that GM would cut 1,100 of its dealerships in the first wave of the company's restricturing to reduce its dealership

ships in the first wave of the company's restructuring to reduce its dealership count. In total, the company planned to eliminate about 2,400 of its 5,969 stores at that time.

In the end, Chrysler terminated 789 dealerships in 2009, about a quarter of its pre-bankruptcy total. GM told about 2,600 dealership owners that they would be closed in the fall of 2010, a 40% cut to total dealership count, Automo-



Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia owner Jay Feldman stands outside the dealership in Livonia on Dec. 18. The dealership was once sentenced to death, but today it's one of the top sellers in the nation. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS



A man wears a mask as he walks in the lot at Certified Service and Collision Center at Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia.

tive News reported in 2017.

Chrysler and GM eventually reinstated some dealerships, but most of the terminations stuck.

Not ready to go

When GM sent termination letters out, Tennyson Chevrolet got one. Livonia's mayor at the time, Jack Kirksey, lashed out at GM and Chrysler for closing three dealerships along Plymouth Road, a strip that was a car dealership corridor.

Besides Tennyson, John Rogin Buick and Livonia Chrysler-Jeep, owned by the Holiday Automotive Group, were to be closed down, too.

But in a reversal of fortune in March 2010, GM sent letters to 661 dealers indicating they will be reinstated. One of those was Tennyson Chevrolet.

"This is a tremendous boost to the city, we're overjoyed," Kirksey told Crain's Detroit Business.

Livonia Chrysler-Jeep eventually got reinstated, too. But nearby John Rogin Buick is now RightWay Auto Sales, a used-car dealership.

Feldman said that Tennyson convinced GM "to give him another shot."

"He wasn't totally ready to get out of the business and it's a great market," Feldman said, noting Bill Brown Ford, one of the largest in the nation, is almost next door. "It is a great town to do business."

Let's have lunch

In fact, the store had caught Feld-

man's eye years earlier.

"I knew it could be a lot more successful than it was," he said. "It was a good market with a lot of traffic and decent income in Livonia."

Feldman has a knack for turning struggling stores into a success. In 1992, he became a finance manager at Jay Chevrolet, and the store was struggling. His dad wanted to sell it. But Feldman was undeterred. He paid off Motors Holding as part of a year-long plan to get its debt off the books and boost its revenue.

In 1992, Jay Chevrolet's revenues

were \$25 million. Today, Feldman Automotive Group's total revenues are \$1.2 billion, he said. That includes the dealerships in Ohio that he owns with movie actor Mark Wahlberg.

So in late 2011, Feldman called up Tennyson with a proposal: "I'd like to talk to you about buying you out or partnering."

Tennyson declined, saying he was not ready to do a deal. Feldman invited him to lunch anyhow at the California

Pizza Kitchen at 12 Oaks Mall in Novi.

"We just talked about the business, family and what his long-term goals were," Feldman recalled. "His three daughters were not in the business, so eventually he knew he had to do something ... build a new building and a lot of things he wasn't really excited about."

Tennyson assured Feldman he felt they would make a good team and if something changed he would let him know. So the two kept in touch a little here and there and Feldman trusted that, "Kit was that kind of guy to not do anything else without talking to me."

He was right. In the spring of 2012 the two met for lunch again, this time at the Cheesecake Factory in Novi, to "talk about what a deal would look like," Feldman said.

By the third quarter that year, the two signed a five-year partnership.

A brand new dealership

There was a lot to get done to turn things around at the dealership.

First, it needed a whole new building because "the old facility was really, really old."

To do that meant they could not store any cars on the lot while builders constructed a new service lane and showroom. So, given that Livonia Chrysler Jeep down the street was still in its termination process and not open for business, Feldman leased the parking lot there from the owners and stored the Chevrolet inventory there for a year.

Tennyson and Feldman started construction on the new facility in 2013, building an entirely new showroom and service lane. He declined to disclose the cost, but said it was "a significant amount."

"We doubled the size of the service department, put in new floors and paint," Feldman said. "We added 15,000 square feet to the building, repaved the entire lot, put in new landscaping and new lighting."

It took about 18 months to complete but by then, Tennyson had "the confidence to then see the way we operated our business and he trusted me a lot. I had the energy, I was younger than him, to push things along and he wasn't ready to do that again."

Merging company cultures

One of the more difficult things to do was make the cultural change that was needed to truly get the store's sales going. That means letting go of those employees who were downers.

"We just had to change the culture. We had a good number of people that worked there who had so many years of being the red-headed stepchild in the area and going through the whole winddown process, they didn't see what I saw," Feldman said. "Some of them did—we maintained a lot of the staff—but manager wise, there was a general manager who was pretty negative."

He said some people left on their own when they realized it was not a fit there. The culture Feldman wants is one of "winning" and creating a fun work environment that will lead to long-term career-oriented employees, mitigating turnover.

"We want to win and keep our staff informed of all the things we're doing," Feldman said. "Before COVID, we'd have quarterly lunches at every single store and give prizes, recognize birthdays, other employees would nominate employees for awards. ... It's a culture of having fun. We work hard, we push hard, but have a happy atmosphere."

In 2014, Feldman changed the name on all his stores to Feldman to be consistent and created a brand, so Tennyson became Feldman Chevrolet of Livonia.

A first partnership

After Tennyson retired at the end of 2017, Feldman bought out his half of the partnership. The two men stayed in touch.

"We would have dinner together, the couples, even meet up in Florida together and sometimes the Detroit Athletic Club," Feldman said. "Emily, his widow, I talk to and she is heartbroken because he died way too young. He got ill and it was fast."

Feldman said he retains a soft spot for Tennyson, his first business partner, long before he met Wahlberg.

Wahlberg and Feldman own a small empire together that includes three GM dealerships and a recreational vehicle store in Ohio, five Wahlburgers restaurants in Michigan, two in Ohio and two in Georgia, and they are investors in F45 Training, which specializes in high-intensity group workouts.

For Feldman, his partnership with Tennyson remains special. He learned the value of consistent service to customers, but the ability to always evolve, too, "because the business is always changing."

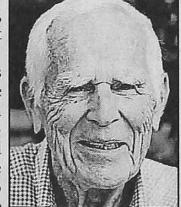
Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

Nicholas Martin Jr.

Nicholas Martin Jr., loving and beloved family patriarch, business entrepreneur, philanthropist, and kind friend died on January 1, 2021. A resident of Fort Worth, he was 96.

Nicholas Martin, who was known by Nick to his friends and family, lived the American dream. He always considered himself lucky to have been born in the United States and to be blessed with the opportunities that this country afforded him. He had a fantastic sense of humor and treated everyone with kindness and respect. He was a true friend to everyone he met and a force for good and source



of help to those who needed it most in his community. He was a successful businessman, real estate entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He valued hard work and believed in opportunity for everyone. He believed that everyone should lead a purposeful life, dedicated to their family and contributing to the health and well-being of their community.

He was born Feb. 23, 1924 and grew up in Birmingham, Michigan. As a child, he loved to play ice hockey and football. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European theater as a sergeant in the 94th Infantry Division.

After the war, he graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, then went to work in the wholesale building materials business with his father at Dealers Wholesale Supply.

Nick was a successful entrepreneur and after selling Dealers Wholesale Supply he helped developed Universal Pipe one of the first PVC plastic pipe producers which later became Robintech Corporation. After leaving Robintech he took over a division called Master Shield, which was an early manufacturer of vinyl siding, which he later sold. Afterwards he invested and developed real estate in Texas, Michigan, and Kansas City.

He was member of the investor group that moved the Ranger baseball team to Texas to become the Texas Rangers baseball franchise.

While he was a successful businessman Nicholas Martin made perhaps his biggest mark as a philanthropist and volunteer. He felt he had been blessed with a fruitful life and that he had a responsibility to give back to the community that had afforded him so much. He formed the Nicholas and Louella Martin Fund with the North Texas Community Foundation and has provided support to many worthy causes.

The joy of Nick's life was his family. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Louella Martin; his daughters, Cynthia Martin Adams and husband John, Christine Ellen Kraatz, and Barbara Martin; his son, Kirk Martin and wife Kathy; his stepdaughters, Julie Parker McBride, and Cynthia Parker Macdonald and husband Bob; and his stepson, David Parker and wife Nancy, he also enjoyed his 19 grandchildren and step grandchildren and his 13 great grandchildren. In his memory donations can be made to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan 26777 Halsted Road, Suite 100, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3560.

Carol Packard

Carol Packard passed away peacefully at home on January 3rd, 2021. She was holding Gregg's hand, her husband of 54 years.

Although the effects of Parkinson's Disease and related dementia slowly took away her ability to needlework and garden she remained happy and optimistic, loved life, her family and friends and was proud of her accomplishments.

Carol was a dedicated elementary school teacher for over twenty years. She is remembered for remarkable skill at helping students grasp new concepts and for her tremendous empathy; meeting

students where they were with their unique life experiences and bringing out their best. She not only taught lessons but intentionally instilled social conscience by involving students in projects such as collections for animals damaged by oil spills and hand making blankets for donation. Her classroom was an exciting laboratory full of books, art and a variety of critters including Leader Dog puppies that she and Gregg fostered. Also a well loved tarantula named Mr. Mistoffelees. Carol's friends and colleagues often comment about her calm and steady personality that made her a natural leader, formal and informal, and priceless mentor to other educators. Her lessons will continue to be learned for generations.

Carol was also the emotional center of her family. The oldest of four she developed wonderful skills early on particularly with the raising of her baby sister Holly who was born with Down's Syndrome. She was a patient and deeply loving mother, daughter, sister, grandmother and wife.

We have physically lost Carol. She won't cook another dinner, pull another weed or tighten another stitch but the marks she made will continue to make the world a more beautiful place.

Carol was greeted in the next world by her parents George and Elizabeth, her sister Holly and a great menagerie of dogs, cats, rodents and reptiles. She is survived by her siblings Skip and Susie, children Lynn and Charlie, grandchildren Zosia and Renia and by her husband of 54 years, Gregg.

A service will be held in the spring at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, details to be arranged. If you wish to honor Carol by making a memorial gift please consider P.E.O, https://www.peomichigan.org, a sisterhood dedicated to advancing education opportunities for women or to your favorite animal related charity.

Rodger Phillip Wantin, Sr.

Rodger Phillip Wantin, Sr., 76, of Farmington Hills, passed away on January 1, 2021. He was born on May 14, 1944 to the late Rudolph and Carol (Osborne) Wantin in Detroit, MI.

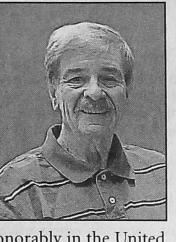
Rodger worked as an Area Manager for Ford Motor Company in the Transmission Division

for 40 years. He served honorably in the United States Marines in Vietnam, and was an Eagle Scout. He attended Henry Ford High School, Michigan Tech (Engineering), Northwood University (BA in Business), and Central Michigan University (Masters in Business Finance).

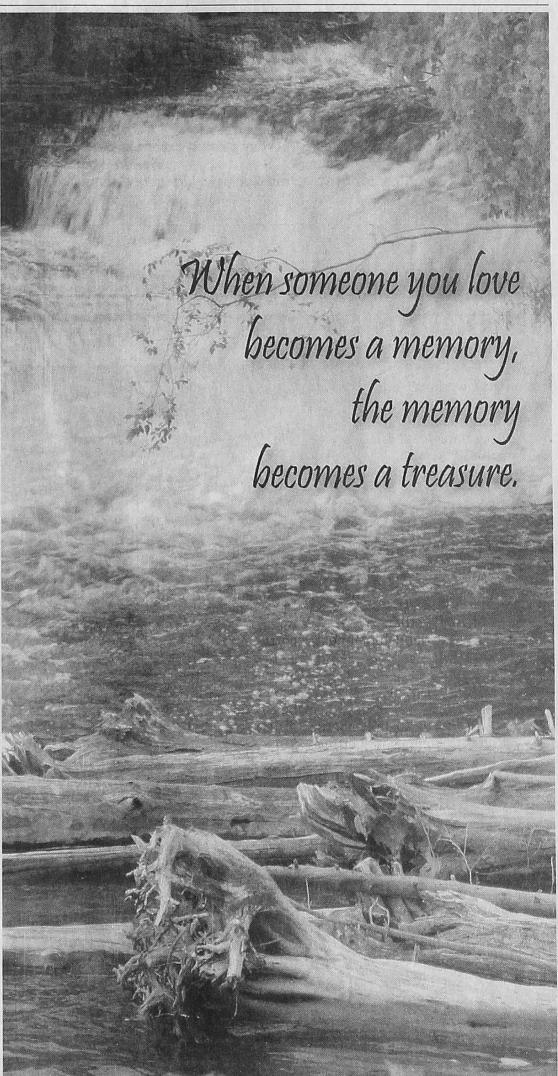
Rodger enjoyed spending time with family, cars, racing, bowling, camping, coaching soccer and he was a fan of the Detroit Lions. He owned one of the first Boss 429 Mustangs. Rodger was a member of Ward Church in Northville.

Rodger is survived by his loving wife, Linda Kay; children, Rodger "Phillip" Wantin II, Dana Lynn Rinard (husband, Shea); grandchildren, Luukas, Noah, Allison, Amberlynn; sister, Gail Deman; sister-in-law, Nancy Kent; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Rodger was preceded in death by his sister, Kathleen Avallone; brother, Richard Wantin.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences can be given at www.phillipsfuneral.com.









Zoo director for 28 years to retire this summer

Kagan known as pioneer in species conservation

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

For 28 years under its director Ron Kagan, the Detroit Zoo pioneered a worldwide movement to showcase wild creatures more ethically while hosting record numbers of visitors at Detroit's collection and adding dozens of new exhibits.

Kagan announced Tuesday he'll retire this summer. The Detroit Zoological Society has formed a search committee to seek the zoo's next director, according to a news release.

Kagan, 69, will leave his longtime roles as executive director and CEO of the Zoological Society, a nonprofit group that operates the Detroit Zoo, whose assets are owned by the city of Detroit. In a statement, Kagan said, "I've been in love with DZS and this community from the day I arrived - so many extraordinary employees, volunteers, donors and board members have contributed to creating and securing the future of this amazing organization."

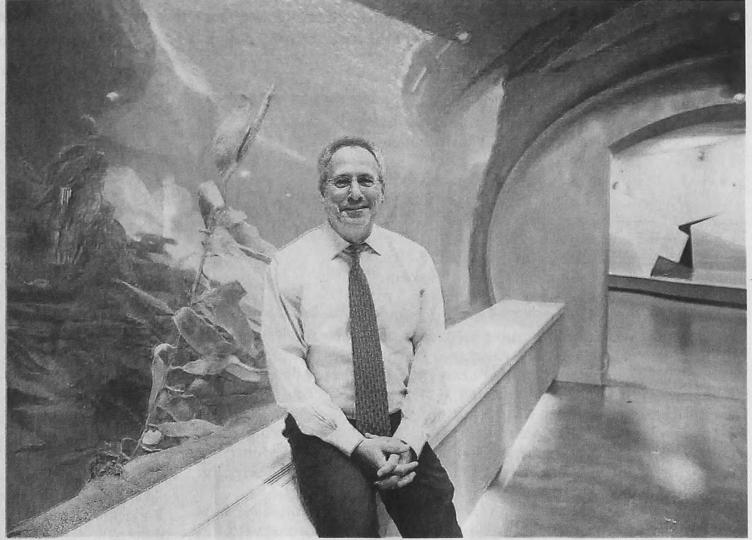
Kagan is widely known in the world of zoos and as a pioneer in how zoos can play key roles in species conservation, environmental activism and showing compassion for the animals in their care. His moves alienated some visitors but won over many more. During Kagan's tenure, the zoo's annual visitor counts doubled and its paid memberships tripled.

Also under Kagan, the Detroit Zoo became a sanctuary, rescuing hundreds of exotic animals, including a polar bear from a circus and lions from a junkyard. In 2004, the Detroit Zoo became the first major zoo to discontinue keeping elephants in captivity for ethical reasons, sending the institution's aged elephants Winky and Wanda to California, where they lived out their lives roaming a large sanctuary with other pachy-

To disappointed elephant fans, who at the time sent stacks of protest letters to the Free Press, Kagan insisted that confining the giants to just a few outdoor acres in summers, and then making them stand on concrete floors in cramped buildings each winter, constituted cruelty. Since then, most zoo bosses around the world have come to agree.

As Kagan winds down his career in Detroit, he is leading an international team of zoo leaders who are updating the code of ethics for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, according to Tuesday's news release.

Tony Earley, board chair of the Detroit Zoological



Ron Kagan, who has headed the Detroit Zoo for 28 years, says he plans to retire sometime this summer. REGINA H. BOONE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Society, said the zoo's conservation programs "now reach every continent." In addition, the zoo's education division has grown from two people to more than 20, Earley said in the release.

Among the exhibits at the Detroit Zoo that sprouted during Kagan's 28 years in charge are the Arctic Ring of Life, where polar bears swim overhead as visitors stroll past; the National Amphibian Conservation Center, which breeds endangered frogs and toads, then ships them to be released in Puerto Rican preserves and other wild sites; the Cotton Family Wolf Wilderness, Mardigian River Otter Habitat, Polk Penguin Conservation Center, Holtzman Wildlife Foundation Red Panda Forest, Ruth Roby Glancy Animal Health Complex and one of the newest — the Devereaux Tiger Forest.

Less known and visible is the zoo's deep commitment under Kagan to its "Greenprint" sustainability program, which has led to it to utilize "100% renewable energy," thanks to such innovations as solar cells and a

high-tech "anaerobic digester" that turns animal waste into horticultural compost, according to the release. The Detroit Zoo was named the greenest zoo in the nation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the nation's chief accrediting body for institutions that house living creatures here and abroad. Kagan made one mildly controversial environmental change at concession stands: no more bottled water, which he rightly said contributes countless tons to the nation's plastic waste stream. Instead, each zoo visitor is encouraged to make a one-time purchase of a water bottle, to be refilled at drinking fountains.

Tuesday's release said the popular venue, which is just north of Detroit in Huntington Woods and Royal Oak, boasts an annual economic impact of more than \$167 million and hosts more than 1.3 million visitors annually. The Detroit Zoological Society also operates the Belle Isle Nature Center at the east end of Belle Isle State Park in Detroit.

Livonia seeks public input | CARE House Circle of on parks in online survey

Livonia Parks and Recreation is working on their Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2022-26 and are seeking the community's input.

If you live in the community, participated in Parks and Recreation programs, or have used their parks or facilities, the parks and recreation staff wants to know what you think.

Patrons are asked to take eight to 10 minutes to respond to an online survey by Feb. 21.

It will help Livonia Parks and Recreation evaluate current programs and facilities and then create actionable goals for improving their park system and recrea-



Rotary Park in Livonia sits off Six Mile Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tion programs over the next several years.

The development of a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is instrumental in planning for programs, park improvements, budgeting

and maintaining eligibility for most State and national grant funding, officials said in a press release.

The survey can be taken at surveymonkey.com/r/MP2022.

Friends to honor Barry King

CARE House of Oakland County will virtually host its 25th annual Circle of Friends program Jan. 28.

This year's event will honor Barry King, a longtime supporter of CARE House who died in November, and memorialize his family's painful, but important, story, that gripped Oakland County more than

40 years ago. Examining the legacy of the Oakland County Child Killings helps call attention to the vital mission of CARE House: the prevention and treatment of abuse and neglect and advocacy

for victims. In 1976 and 1977, four children, including 11year-old Timothy "Timmy" King, were murdered in Oakland County. The cases have not been solved.

In honor of Timothy, Barry King was a major supporter of CARE House's Pontiac facility renovation in 2011, a believer in CARE House programming and services and a dedicated spokesman for child safety throughout the region.

King was an advocate for his son and pursued



Barry King, pictured here in 2020, talks about the decades he put into trying to find who killed his son, Timothy, in 1977. King died in November. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

justice since Timothy's death.

Kevin Dietz, a journalist who covered the investigation into the killings for more than 20 years, will moderate a panel discussion with Timothy's siblings Cathy Broad, Chris King and Mark King, and Marney Rich Keenan, author of "The Snow Killings: Inside the Oakland County Child Killer Investigation."

"Barry and his family have suffered greatly, and yet they have always been advocates of helping other children who are victims of abuse," said Blythe Tyler, president and CEO of CARE House of Oakland County. "Bar-

ry never gave up on finding justice for Timmy, just as CARE House will never give up on the thousands of children we help every year.

"At CARE House, we work to ensure children have the knowledge and confidence to come forward should they ever encounter abuse, and we teach community members how to identify and respond to the signs and symptoms of abuse."

The virtual program will start at noon and is open to the public upon registration. Donations are encouraged to support the CARE House

mission. With a donation of \$100 or more, attendees will receive a copy of Keenan's book and be invited to join a virtual book club discussion with fellow attendees and the author March 9.

The 2021 Circle of Friends event is supported by Bank of Ann Arbor -Birmingham, The Barkshire, Levy Solutions, TCF Bank and the Allison Family Foundation.

For detailed ticket information and additional sponsorship opportunities, contact CARE House at 248-506-2608 or visit www.carehouse.org.





Check us out at HomeTownLife.com

Student-run protest urges return to in-person learning

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators prepared for the first school board meeting of 2021 inside their downtown Plymouth offices Tuesday afternoon, a student-led rally unfolded on the sidewalk outside.

Braving bone-chilling conditions under gray, gloomy skies, the protestors reiterated their desperate plea that it was time to return to in-person learning 10 months after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the district's classrooms to close.

"I think it's great that the community is getting together to fight for something we want, and we want to get back in the schools for face-to-face learning," said Nina Dorigo, a Plymouth senior. "It's important to us that we get to go back to school, at least for the final semester."

Rally organizers and sisters Ashley and Katie Temple – a senior and freshman, respectively, at Canton High School – said they were disappointed not a single member of the administration attended the rally.

"We invited them and we acknowledged what they're doing for us in our speech," Ashley Temple said. "It would have been cool to see at least one of them here."

"It would have been refreshing if they were here," Salem senior Malina Marshall agreed. "It would show that they care about this as much as we do.

"Honestly, the way things are going, it's hard to be hopeful. I'd definitely feel safe if we went back now because I really believe everybody would wear masks and follow the precautions."

Dorigo talked about March 13, the last time she and her peers were inside a school building.

"My friends and I had stayed after school that day to work out, like we did every Friday," Dorigo said. "We had just finished stretching when an announcement came on saying that everyone had to leave and get home.

"When I got home, my mom said we'd probably be staying home from school for a little while longer. It was just my junior year, so it didn't seem real yet."

"We thought we'd be out of school



Plymouth-Canton first-grader Braxton Sourborn protests with his fellow students Jan. 12.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

two weeks, at most," Salem senior Rachel Rutyna added. "I never thought we'd be out until January, or even longer. I'm glad to see other school districts are going back to face-to-face safely. I hope we can as well."

The Temples said they were satisfied with the turnout for the rally, which began just after 4 p.m.

"I'm pleased this many people took the time to come out," Ashley said. "It shows that if you have a vision – even if you're a high school student – you can make an impact on the community."

That night, the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education discussed a plan to return all students to in-person learning by March 1. That plan was to be voted on Thursday.

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

PCCS announces plan for return to in-person learning

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools on Tuesday announced a multi-phase plan that would return all of its students to five-days-a-week inperson learning by March 1 – 50 weeks after the coronavirus pandemic abruptly shuttered schools.

Success of the long-awaited model will rely heavily on students' and staff's stringent adherence to CO-VID-19 safety protocols, Superintendent Monica Merritt emphasized during the nearly five-hour meeting.

"We know that distance learning does not work for all of our kids," Merritt said before discussing details of the plan crafted by the district's learning design team. "There truly are students who are struggling to thrive during this pandemic while learning remotely.

"We've been working on agreedupon ways to get them back into the schools as safely as possible."

Merritt noted there will be periodic mask breaks when, for instance, students are eating and/or drinking, or outdoors during recess.

The proposed five-week rollout, which can be viewed in detail on the district's website, was scheduled to be voted on at a special meeting of the school board Thursday.

The tentative time line for the return to full-time face-to-face instruction looks like this:

• Students in grades six through nine, and those in identified specialized courses at the high school, will return to in-person learning in a hybrid configuration beginning Jan. 25

• All elementary students, sixthgraders, ninth-graders and specialized-course students will return to a full five-day, in-person configuration Feb. 17-19

• Students in grades seven and eight will return to a five-day in-person configuration on Feb. 22

• Students in grades 10 and 12 will return to in-person learning (either in a hybrid learning model or full five-day configuration) on March 1. "We know that distance learning does not work for all of our kids. There truly are students who are struggling to thrive ... while learning remotely."

Monica Merritt Superintendent, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

The district's elementary students were already scheduled to resume a hybrid learning model Jan. 19.

Fueling optimism for the return to inperson learning was the recent revelation that educators in Michigan would be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations possibly as early as late January.

Obstacles that could potentially derail or delay the time line include significant upticks in COVID-19 transmissions in the Plymouth-Canton community, COVID-19-related teacher shortages and increases in disease transmissions within the district's school buildings.

"We will monitor the phased-in return very closely to make sure there are no widespread transmissions in our buildings," Merritt said.

Among the steps that have been taken to reduce the potential for the spread of the virus within the district's buildings are the purchase and placement of air purifiers, intensified cleaning methods and ramped-up ventilation efforts, Merritt said.

Board member Patrick Kehoe, who was invited to join the learning design committee with fellow board member Anupam Sidhu, said fresh data related to the spread of COVID-19 in schools convinced him that a phased-in return to face-to-face learning was the right call.

"The feedback the state has shared with us as recently as today, based on research, is that with proper precautions in place – first and foremost, the wearing of masks – schools are safe," Kehoe said.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com.









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CEO. President

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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

North Farmington collapses against Traverse City Central

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

North Farmington had to wait even longer than most to play a football game.

Prior to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services postponing the high school football playoffs Nov. 16, the Raiders had their district final game against South Lyon called as a forfeit due to COVID-19 cases within the Lions' football team.

Sixty-four days after last taking the

field against Fenton, North Farmington (7-3) traveled to Traverse City Central (9-1) to take on the Trojans, and the Raiders could not hang on, losing, 50-22, in the regional final.

"We felt, coming out of half, that our defense had played tough," North Farmington head coach Jon Herstein said. "We said 'You better keep on tackling. You got to stay up and run into the storm because they are going to come out, they are going to go fast. You got to be ready for it."

See RAIDERS, Page 3B

Country Day hopes for a chance at redemption

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Since the 2015 season, Detroit Country Day's defense has seemingly defined its success.

For the past six seasons, including 2020, the Yellowjackets have allowed less than 14 points per game on average, allowing more than 20 points to an opposing offense only 11 times, while allowing more than 28 points only once: a 44-0 loss to Grand Rapids Catholic

Central in the 2019 Division 4 state final.

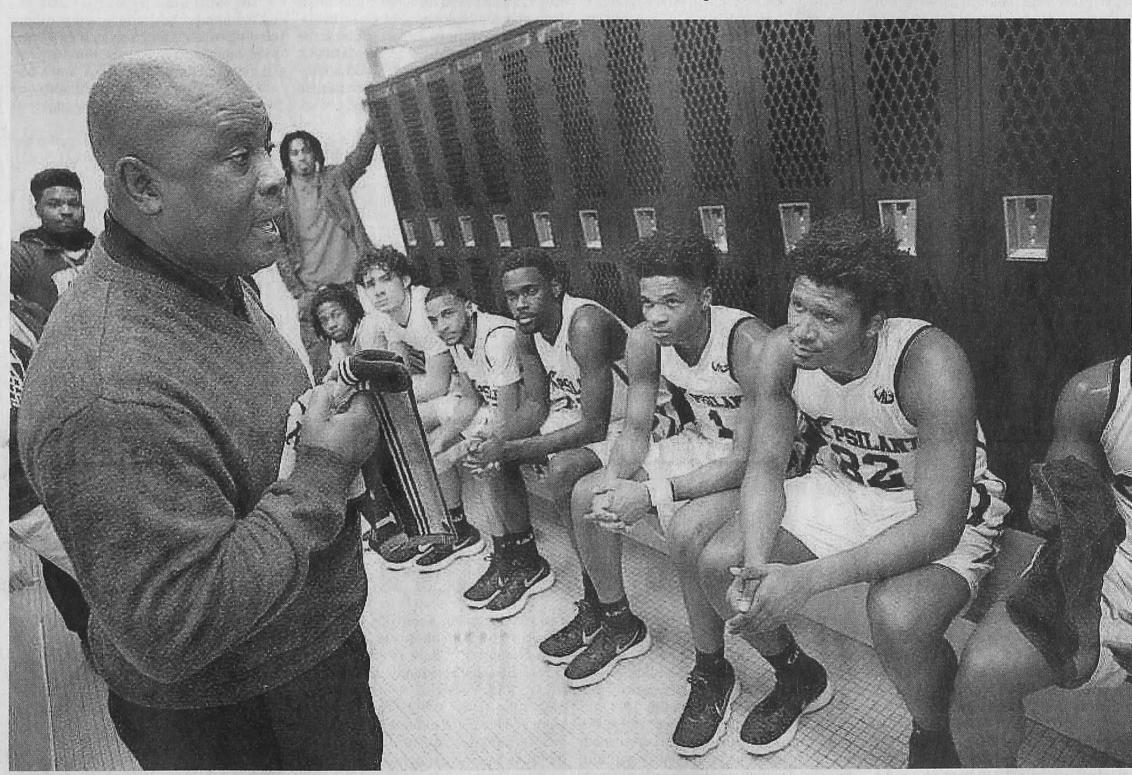
In the regional final against North Branch, Detroit Country Day was no different, silencing the Broncos' T-offense that has averaged 43.2 points per game coming in to a shutout, the pro-

gram's first since Sept. 22, 2017.

When the Yellowjackets lined up against North Branch, the size advantage seemed to help, using guys up front like 6-foot-7, 280-pound lineman

See YELLOWJACKETS, Page 3B

Steve Brooks takes over at Wayne Memorial



Steve Brooks succeeds Nkwane Young as head coach at Wayne Memorial after 18 years guiding teams in Ypsilanti. PHOTO PROVIDED STEVE BROOKS

HERE TO MAKE ADIFFERENCE

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

teve Brooks remembers Wayne Memorial basketball in the 1990s. • He remembered the entire town coming out to games during its run of three straight regional titles from 1995-97. • "I knew that they were very successful and were a great program," Brooks said. "Even when I was a middle school coach in the '90s, Wayne had Lorenzo Guess. They were always in my mind as an upstanding program, representing themselves the right way. Very athletic." • After 18 years coaching basketball teams at Ypsilanti, winning 11 conference titles, eight district titles and three regional championships, Brooks wanted a new challenge, taking the head coaching job at Wayne Memorial ahead of the 2021 season.

See BROOKS, Page 2B

"I have a simple philosophy where you can be the best in the world and your shot may not fall that night, man. But good defensive teams, you at least stay in the game and give themselves a good chance to win at the end."

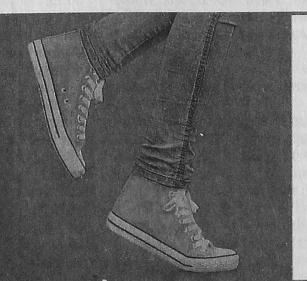
Steve Brooks

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Whitmer signs athlete compensation bills

Dave Boucher Detroit Free Press

USA TODAY NETWORK

In the coming years, collegiate athletes in Michigan could be allowed to earn sponsorship or advertising money without risking their eligibility.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed bills that would allow athletes to be compensated for their name, image or likenesses. The bills also repeal criminal penalties associated with college athletes hiring agents or receiving gifts.

Although the bulk of the measures do not take effect until 2023, they are part of a national movement to allow college athletes to get paid without repercus-

"For years we have all enjoyed the incredible talent of young athletes across the state. This legislation will change the lives of young men and women for years to come," Whitmer said in a news release.

"I am hopeful that the NCAA will set a national standard so that all players across the country are afforded the same opportunities. As always stay safe and go green!"

At least five other states have passed similar legislation: California, Florida, Colorado, Nebraska and New Jersey.

Right now, college athletes across the country are largely banned from earning money or other compensation apart from scholarships when they agree to play a varsity sport. At the same time, colleges, coaches, the NCAA, conferences and others earn billions every year through college football, basketball and other sports. This arrangement has sparked considerable debate and lawsuits for years.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, pictured at a press conference on Oct. 28, has signed bills that would allow college athletes in Michigan to be compensated for their name, image or likenesses. Photo Provided by Governor whitmer's Office

In November, the NCAA unveiled details of proposed rule changes that would allow athletes to be compensated for their names, images and likenesses. The proposals were set for final approval by the NCAA Division I Council on Jan. 11 and the Division I Board of Directors on Jan. 14, as reported by USA TODAY.

However, the NCAA and athletic conferences are still battling with athletes in court. Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a case that could also drastically change compensation rules for collegiate athletes.

Several U.S. senators also recently

introduced federal legislation that would broadly expand the ability of college athletes around the country to be compensated.

The Michigan legislation outlines parameters for how athletes could enter into specific endorsement or sponsorship deals. If these athletes follow the rules, their university or college, athletic conference and the NCAA could not revoke a scholarship or otherwise punish the student athlete for signing a deal, under the new law.

The law bans students from signing contracts that would conflict with cur-

rent university deals. For example, if a university already had a contract with Nike for cleats worn during a game, an athlete attending that school could not have a deal with Reebok or any other similar company that required the athlete to wear non-Nike cleats during a

While other states also have similar provisions in their bills, this appears to be in conflict with some of the proposed changes to compensation rules set for discussion on January.

Given the lengthy delay in time before the Michigan law takes effect, there's a very real chance national legislation is passed, the NCAA institutes sweeping changes or Michigan lawmakers tweak the law again before athletes in the state are actually allowed to get

State Reps. Brandt Iden, R-Kalamazoo, and Joe Tate, D-Detroit, worked together on the legislation. Both measures passed the Michigan House and Senate with widespread bipartisan support.

"At its core, this legislation is to ensure student-athletes in Michigan are treated fairly and they are able to have (a) fulfilling college experience. I am proud of the opportunity to work on getting this legislation across the finish line," Tate said in Whitmer's news re-

The Michigan legislation also requires nonprofit trade groups representing colleges and universities to provide reports to the Legislature on any changes made by the NCAA and Congress as to whether student athletes can be paid. This section of the law goes into effect immediately.

USA TODAY staff writer Steve Berkowitz contributed to this report.

RUNNING

Traverse City marathon to be held virtually in 2021

Elissa Robinson

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

TRAVERSE CITY - The year is starting with the alteration of a popular spring marathon in the Traverse City area.

Organizers said the Bayshore Marathon, scheduled for May 29, will be held only in a virtual format. They said it's unlikely that crowd restrictions due to the coronavirus will be eased by

Registration for the in-person race

thon typically attracts 7,500 runners.

"We did not want to take any registrations knowing that we had plans in place to cancel," said Lisa Taylor, director of the Traverse City Track

The 2020 race was canceled.

and acceptance could exceed expectations, but we think it is unlikely in time for the spring race," Dr. Jim Zeratsky, the event's medical director, said in a letter to Taylor.

Runners who signed up for the 2020 race can again roll their registration to "Vaccine production, distribution 2022 or run the virtual race.

BASKETBALL

Webber planning new Fab Five series; Howard consulting

Orion Sang

Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Former Michigan star Chris Webber is planning a TV series about the Fab Five, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The show, titled "Fab Five," will be based off of Webber's upcoming autobiography, "By God's Grace."

Many will remember ESPN's documentary "The Fab Five," which was released in 2011 and chronicled the journey of the most famous recruiting class in Michigan's history.

But that project, although well re-

Webber, who was involved in the Ed Martin scandal by accepting loans from the booster. Webber and Michigan were forced to disassociate for 10 years by the NCAA, a period that ended in 2013, although Webber has mostly stayed away from Ann Arbor since then. He returned briefly to serve as an honorary captain for the football team's game against Penn State in 2018.

In May 2019, Webber endorsed former teammate and Fab Five member Juwan Howard for Michigan's head coaching job following the departure of John

"What I think is different about it is

viewed, famously did not include I've never spoken about my time with the Fab Five," Webber told The Hollywood Reporter. "There's a lot of behind the scenes that not many people know about, and it's about so many things. Hopefully I'll be able to express those things, whether it's about Detroit or the work ethic of the city and the factories all those things that made us."

According to The Hollywood reporter, Howard - currently in his second season as Michigan's head coach - and Ray Jackson will consult on the limited series.

Contact Orion Sang at osang@ freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @orion_sang.



The Michigan Wolverines' Fab Five: from left, Ray Jackson, Chris Webber, Juwan Howard, Jalen Rose and Jimmy King. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Brooks

Continued from Page 1B

Former Zebras head coach Nkwane Young left the team in October to take a job as an assistant coach with the University of North Dakota women's basketball team, having coached Wayne Memorial to 81 wins, two district titles and a conference championship in six seasons.

For the past seven years at Ypsilanti Community, a merging of the former Ypsilanti High School and Willow Run that opened in 2012, Brooks won 117 games with two regional titles - two straight during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons before losing to Detroit Western and U-D Jesuit in the state semifinal: both of which ended up winning the state title.

Brooks said he was able to get everything done that he wanted to in Ypsilanti except win a state title. But that was not his main goal as a head coach.

"Most of all, we were just able to really, really mold young men and build a family out there," Brooks said. "We were able to put 57 kids on the next level. That's really kind of what we were really



For the past seven years at Ypsilanti Community, Steve Brooks, left, won 117 games and two regional titles. PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEVE BROOKS

about and really why I got into coaching

"Everybody wants to win a championship, but I really got into it to make a difference in young men's lives."

In his final season with the Grizzlies, Brooks led them to a 9-12 record, finishing fifth in the Southeastern Conference White before losing to Ypsilanti Lincoln in the district semifinal.

However, since he arrived at Wayne

Memorial, Brooks has not been able to do much. The head coach said he held his first open gym in early October - one of five allowed before the state halted high school athletics in November.

Ahead of his first season with the Zebras, Brooks really does not know what he will be working with yet, not having a chance to hold tryouts to see who makes his first varsity roster.

"We don't know any plays. They don't know my system," he said. "But, hey man, I will say this: the kids that I have met, they are great kids. So when you have great individuals, you can get a lot done.'

Last season, Wayne Memorial finished fifth in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association East, winning nine of its 22 games before falling to Dearborn in the district semifinal.

While he does not know what depth he has on his roster, Brooks knows what his team is going to look like when it takes the court, using a defensive-first style dating back to his coaching days at

Inkster from 2001-03. "I have a simple philosophy where you can be the best in the world and your shot may not fall that night, man," Brooks said. "But good defensive teams,

you at least stay in the game and give themselves a good chance to win at the end."

He knows that takes a level of conditioning that his team, along with other teams across the state, will not have time to perfect ahead of the first slate of

Brooks realizes that this first season means more to his players than just wins and losses. Heading into his first year at Wayne Memorial, he knows he can help bring the team, the school and the community something that seems more normal than much of the

"Some of these kids, especially this year ... I think they are just going to be happy to play and grateful to play," Brooks said. "There has really been a lot going on that their young minds can't really comprehend right now, socially and having them engaged online.

"The goal this year is really to give them some sense of normalcy and then we'll just go from there."

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

Calvin Johnson a finalist for Hall of Fame

Dave Birkett
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Calvin Johnson is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and will find out in two weeks if he will be the first Lions modern-era player selected to Canton since Barry Sanders.

Johnson is one of four first-year eligible players among 15 finalists for the Class of 2021, along with quarterback Peyton Manning, cornerback Charles Woodson and defensive end Jared Allen.

He played nine NFL seasons and retired as the Lions' all-time leader in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and catches. Only Julio Jones, Jerry Rice and Torry Holt had more receiving yards in the first nine seasons of their careers.

"He's one of the best receivers to ever play the game in my opinion," Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "I was coaching in Cincinnati and we had he made an unbelievable catch. We had three guys on him, made an unbelievable catch, about a 50-yarder for touchdown. But the game plans always revolved around him every single time you played him, whether cheating players there or doubling him or any of those things."

Johnson was a six-time Pro Bowl selection and a three-time All-Pro, collecting 731 catches for 11,619 yards and 83 touchdowns. He retired after the 2015 season at 30 years old. He was one of four receivers named to the NFL's 2010s All-Decade Team last spring.

Manning and Woodson are considered locks for the 2021 class, which will

include up to five modern-era players. The list of 15 finalists will be whittled to 10 during a virtual selection meeting Jan. 19. From there, the class is reduced to five finalists, then a yes-or-no vote is cast on the final five.

Holt and Reggie Wayne are the other receivers on the ballot. Other finalists include offensive linemen Tony Boselli and Alan Faneca, linebackers Sam Mills, Zach Thomas and Clay Matthews, defensive lineman Richard Seymour, safeties John Lynch and LeRoy Butler, and cornerback Ronde Barber.

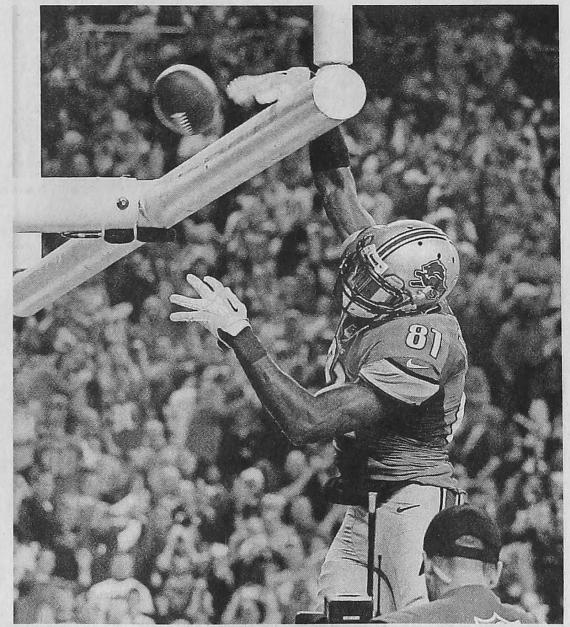
The 48 Hall of Fame selectors also will vote yes or no on Tom Flores, Bill Nunn and Drew Pearson, finalists in the coach, contributor and senior categories.

Since 1985, just three receivers – Rice, Randy Moss and Steve Largent – have been selected to Canton on the first ballot.

Johnson has been in a financial dispute since with the Lions since his retirement, but team president Rod Wood said Tuesday the organization is "very much supportive of Calvin's candidacy for the Hall of Fame."

Johnson said in August it would be "the utmost honor" to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer.

"The guys you just mentioned. Randy, Largent, Jerry. Tremendous respect," Johnson said. "Followed those guys coming up. I wanted to take certain things from all those guys' game and piece them together into my game. Not just those guys, but other greats out here, too, but they're definitely admired."



Calvin Johnson played nine NFL seasons and retired as the Lions' all-time leader in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and catches. He is one of 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2021 inductees. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Yellowjackets

Continued from Page 1B

Caleb Tiernan – a Northwestern commit – and 6-foot-3, 290-pound lineman Will Leggon up front.

But to head coach Dan MacLean, size is not the only factor. It's the quality of the athlete.

"William, he's obviously a big guy, but he's an athlete. Caleb's the same way ... and then Nick Wachol, he probably gained 20 pounds on the break of muscle. Those guys, along with other seniors, have played a ton of football for us," MacLean said. "That's kind of foundational. You can build a team around those guys, and that's what we have done."

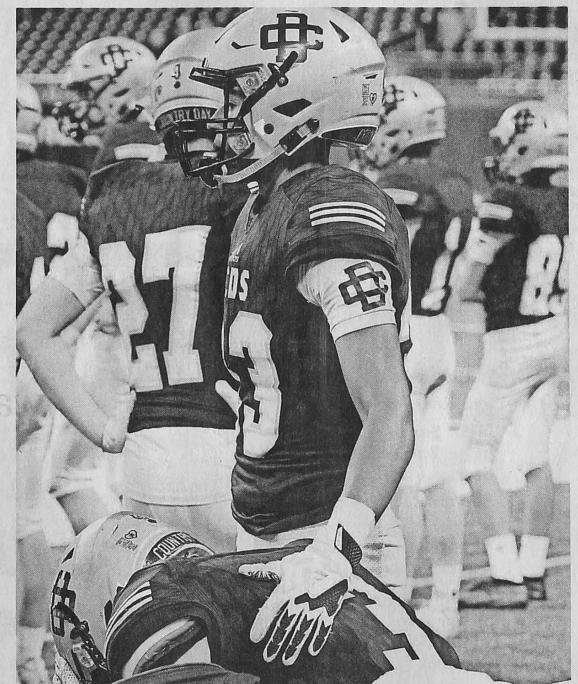
Detroit Country Day's 16 seniors have won a lot of games in their tenure. The Yellowjackets have won 31 games since 2017, advancing to the state semifinals in the past two seasons with a state final bid in 2019.

While younger players, such as junior quarterback/defensive back Brandon Mann and freshman running back/line-backer shined in the team's most recent dominant victory, MacLean knows they feed off the foundation the seniors have set

"I think following in the lead of these guys, having some humility, a work ethic and knowing that it's not just about how many points you put up – it's great, we need it, obviously, but it's kind of how you carry yourself and the kind of person you are." MacLean said. "It's an important part too."

Along with its big defensive and offensive lines leading the way, the Detroit Country Day head coach, who has been with the team since 1998, has senior leaders in his defensive backfield as well.

Used as an impromptu fourth defensive lineman against North Branch's run-based offense instead of as a line-



Country Day's Brandon Mann consoles teammate Joe Miller toward the end of their 44-0 loss to Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the Division 4 state final on Nov. 29, 2019. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

backer in a usual three-man front, senior Billy Abdallah, according to MacLean, is one of the Yellowjackets most versatile options on defense, along with serving as an offensive weapon at tight

The head coach also praised senior defensive backs Jacob Yarberry and Danny MacLean, two of Detroit Country Day's five senior captains, along with senior running back/linebacker Joe Miller, Leggon and Tiernan.

"They are just giving us a ton of play and, more so, a ton of leadership and a great work ethic," Dan MacLean said. "I'm a defensive guy by nature – I have great offensive coaches – but I always believe if you can stop people and make it hard for them, you really give yourself a chance."

After earning its eighth regional title since 2007, Detroit Country Day faced Williamston in the state quarterfinal Saturday, another team that has a recent history of deep playoff runs.

The Hornets had been to four regional finals in the past 10 seasons, winning two, and lost in the state final against Grand Rapids Catholic Central in 2010.

This season, Williamston won nine of 10 games, including a forfeit win in the first round of the playoffs, and have allowed more than three touchdowns in a game only once: a 40-10 loss to Mason Oct. 23.

In the Hornets' regional final win against Milan, senior running back Sullivan Sparks rushed for 217 yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries.

But Leggon's focus is on the Detroit Country Day defense: a disciplined group that knows its job, knows its role and makes stops.

Heading into the state semifinal with 11 starters from last year's team, the senior lineman's focus was on working harder each day to improve.

"We knew we were going to have a lot of mistakes coming into this game, but we learned from this game, keep on practicing, keep on working hard, keep on doing treatment for the people who are injured and keep on moving forward," Leggon said. "We make mistakes, that doesn't matter because we got to keep on moving on toward our goals."

Find game results online at hometownlife.com.

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

North Farmington senior QB Jacob Bousamra practices ahead of the Raiders' regional final game against Traverse City Central.

Traverse City Central.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Raiders

Continued from Page 1B

"Unfortunately, they did come out fast and we didn't get the job done."

The Trojans outscored the Raiders, 44-12, in the final 22 minutes, as junior quarterback/linebacker Josh Burnham accounted for four second-half touchdowns, including a fumble recovery in the third quarter that gave Traverse City Central the lead for good.

Herstein said the second-half collapse had some to do with what the team had at its disposal: with a much smaller team than the Trojans and many players playing both ways. He said the conditioning coming out of the pause of the postseason hurt his team.

"I think we got worn down a little bit. That definitely hurt," Herstein said. "They got up on us and kind of made us, we had to go a little bit one-dimensional unfortunately and they were able to make some big plays, a couple of turnovers and defensive touchdowns. That really made it hard to come back from "

North Farmington senior quarterback Jacob Bousamra threw three second-half interceptions, two of which led to touchdowns, including a pick by junior Carson Bourdo, who took it in for a rushing touchdown on the next play.

Bousamra finished the game completing 17-of-30 pass attempts for 234 yards, two touchdowns – a 32-yard pass to Dez Blanch and a 15-yard pass to Aaron Rice – and four interceptions.

North Farmington senior running back Justin Whitehorn finished with 135 yards on 26 carries and a touchdown,

but only had 15 yards in the second half. Raiders senior cornerback Justin Bryant brought in two interceptions.

Despite the outcome, this did not change Herstein's view of this team.

The second-year head coach said this group "stuck with it," coming together more as a group as the season continued. Herstein said they evolved as people, showing perseverance and grit through the uncertainty that was 2020.

Even though it was not easy, Herstein said this group created memories that would last a lifetime.

"In the end of it, they are going to remember 2020," Herstein said. "And they are going to say, 'Well, what did you do in 2020?' 'I played football in 2020 and made it all the way to the regional finals."

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





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Plymouth Canton Community Schools 2020 Bond SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 2020 Bond, BP#EL-1 Additions and Remodeling, consisting of:

Additions and remodeling at Eriksson, Field, Hulsing, and Dodson Elementary Schools will be received through Building Connected until 1:00 PM on Thursday, February

- All proposals shall be submitted electronically through Building Connected: https://app.b0ildingconnected.com/public/5ae227ade0d395000fd24541 (McCarthy and Smith Plan Room)
- For instructions on how to submit a bid please go to the following link: https://bui Id i ngconnected.ze ndes k. com/he/en-us/articles/36001 0 222 793-How-to-su bm it-yourbid-th rough-Bui ldi ngConnected-

Bids submitted after this time and date will not be considered or accepted.

Faxed and/or E-mail proposals will not be accepted.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud and tabulated, beginning at approx. 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 4th. Bid Opening will be publicly conducted via a Zoom meeting. Information regarding joining the Zoom meeting will be provided in Addendum #1 for all bidders interested in participating in the bid opening.

102: Asphalt Paving/Site Concrete

108: Carpentry / General Trades

112: Caulking/Insulation

115: Metal Stud I Drywall

117: Acoustical Treatments

128: Prefabricated Casework

131: Gymnasium Equipment

106: Masonry

119: Terrazzo

140: Plumbing

142: HVAC

124: Wood Flooring

104: Concrete Footings & Foundations

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

101: Earthwork/Site Utilities

103: Selective Demolition

105: Interior Concrete Flatwork 107: Steel

109: Roofing / Sheetmetal

114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront I

Glass & Glazing

116: Hard Tile 118: Carpet / Resilient Tile Flooring

120: Painting

125: Toilet Partitions 130: Window Treatments

137: Food Service Equipment

141: Fire Protection

143: Electrical

149: Fencing Bidding documents prepared by TMP Architecture Inc. will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Builder's Exchange, Lansing.

Bidding Documents will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2020 via Building Connected.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting on Wednesday, January 20 at 4:30 p.m. at Eriksson Elementary School, located at 1275 N Haggerty Rd, Canton, MI 48187. The purpo_se of the meeting will be to review the project bid documents & schedule, and to answer any questions bidders may have. Following the meeting, the bidders will have the opportunity to visit the project site. The pre-bid meeting is not a mandatory meeting however, bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. A FACE MASK WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE WORN INSIDE OF THE BUILDING DURING THE PRE-BID MEETING.

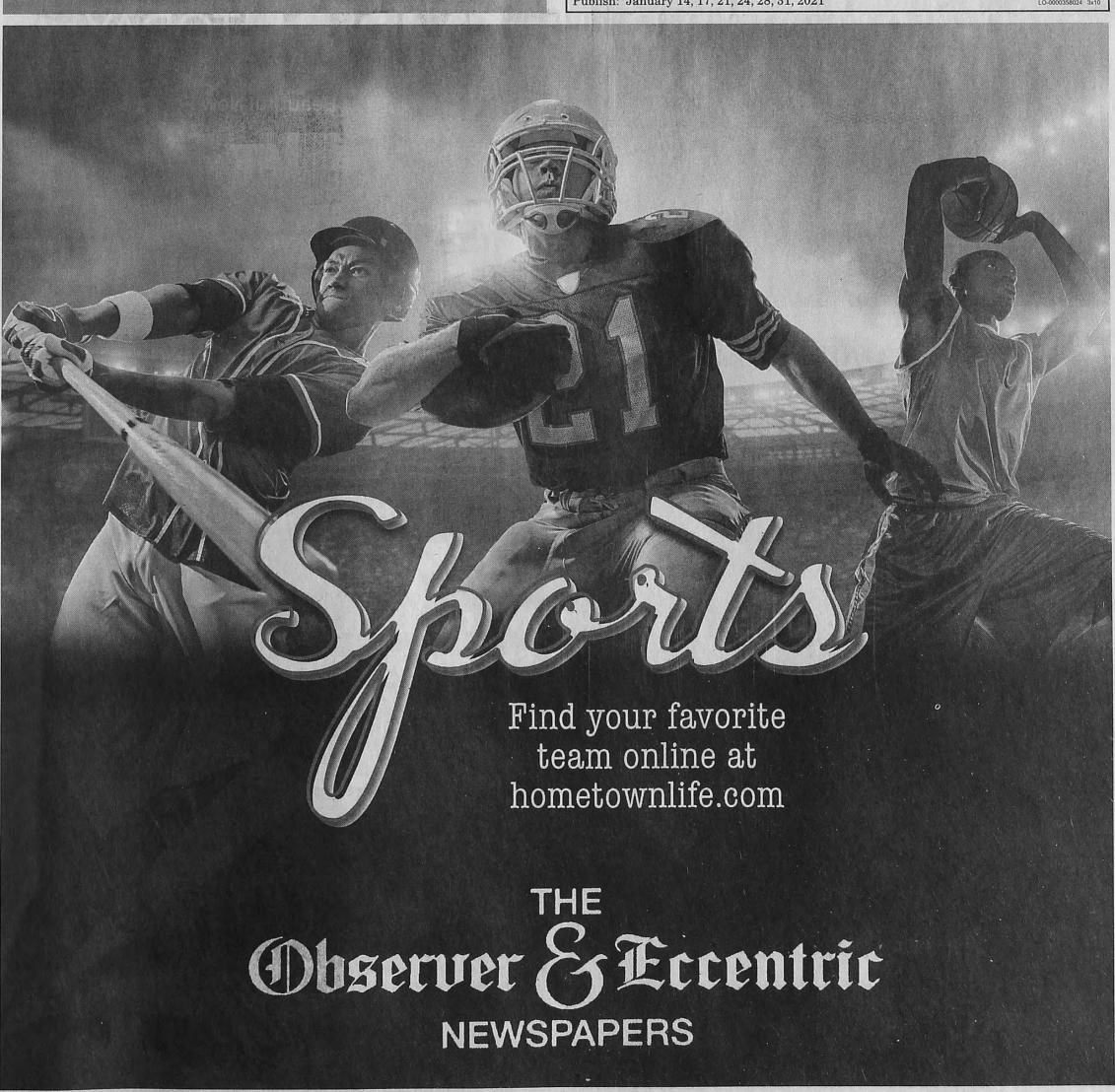
All bids must include the Familial Disclosure Affidavit (Section 004205), the Iran Linked Business Affidavit (Section 004210), and the Criminal Background Check Affidavit (Section 004220).

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 Bid 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, provide the required insurance certificate(s) and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of Contract but prior to Work commencing.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Publish: January 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31, 2021





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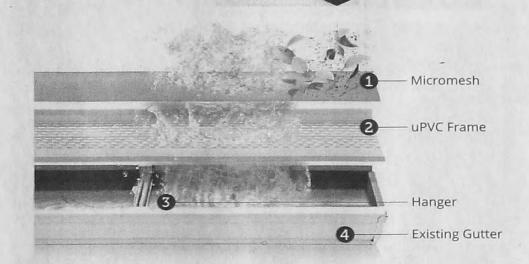
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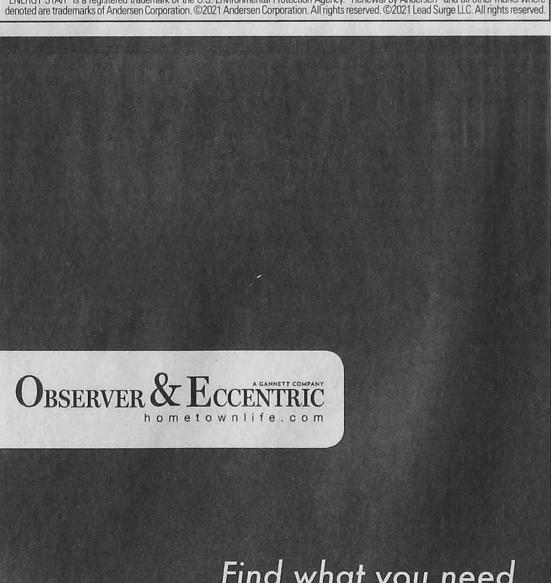
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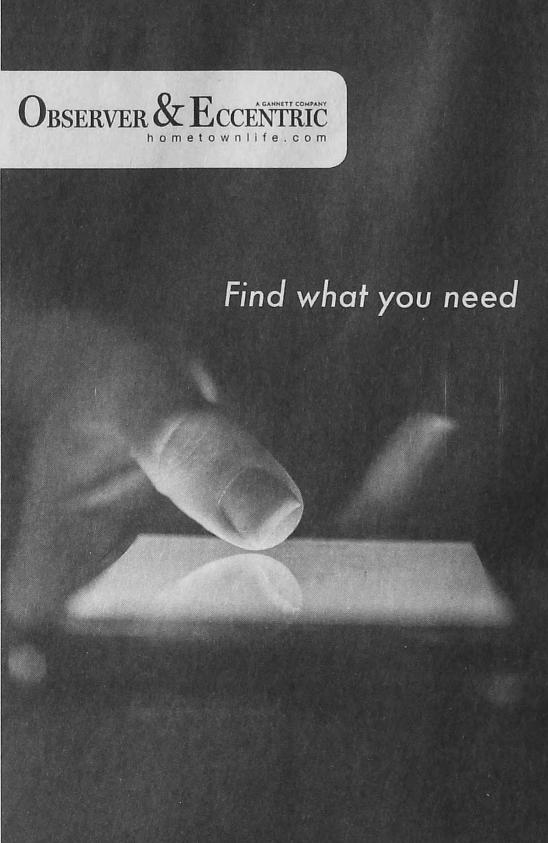
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ACROSS

1 Little rascal 6 Mosque officiants

11 Go for a dip 15 Spill the secret

19 Shinbone 20 Local theaters, in slang

21 Had on 22 Go very fast 23 City in which quadrennial

place 25 Gumbo vegetable 26 R&B singer

games take

James 27 Japanese soup paste 28 Fit — queen

29 Sea cargo weight unit 31 Statistic associated with plane

riders 35 Threatens to topple

36 Brouhaha 37 Ken is one 38 Viking 1 landing site

39 Fleecy boot brand 42 Guesses at LGA

45 Instructive example 47 "Siddhartha" author

Hermann 54 UNLV part **56** 1977 Triple

Crown horse 58 "- & Stitch" 59 Stinging hits 61 TV's Arnaz 62 Not iffy **63** Whitewater

transport 67 Vassals 69 Tongue-lash **70** See 117-Across

71 Goldie of "Laugh-In" 72 Unit of pressure 75 It surrounds

the South Orkney Islands 80 Twin of

Jacob 81 Secy., e.g. 83 Oozes 84 Jazzy

85 Pile of trash 89 Enervate 90 Sacred song

92 Arthurian wizard

96 "Science

Fitzgerald

94 "Encore!"

99 Arthurian

roller coaster 113 Moniker for a 1970s sitcom

115 Go up 116 With

Nabisco cookie 70-Across,

Taj Mahal locale

116-Across 119 Statement about the end of each of nine answers

122 Meyers of "Late Night" 123 Ball field

coverer 124 Candid 125 Cara of

brand 127 Gin flavorer 129 Winona of

wife 101 Add- -(annexes)

52 Gotten larger 103 Reviewer of tax returns 107 Disney World

family

bite-size

"Fame" fame

118 See

97 Pupil setting DOWN

128 Burrito topper 38 Sacred song 39 Wrinkled

1 Walk heavily

2 Paramecium hairs 3 Huge gulf

117 With

91 Muscle twitch 126 Canadian fuel

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118-Across,

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> 15 Favre of football 16 Starbucks offering 17 Many a Tony

14 Scant

winner 18 Hits on the noggin 24 Alternatively

29 Artificial 30 Two-gender pronoun 32 Utopian site 33 Email giggle 34 Bullring calls

40 Smile widely 41 Club game 43 Assuage

44 Bygone Swedish car 46 Smileys' opposites

48 Inherent natures 49 Slimy garden pest

50 Dried up. old-style 8 On a plane or 51 Rams' partners 53 Some babes

> in the woods 55 Sharp, broken-off piece

57 Purple

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64 — carte 65 Nutrition stat 66 Ventilates 68 "Sands of —

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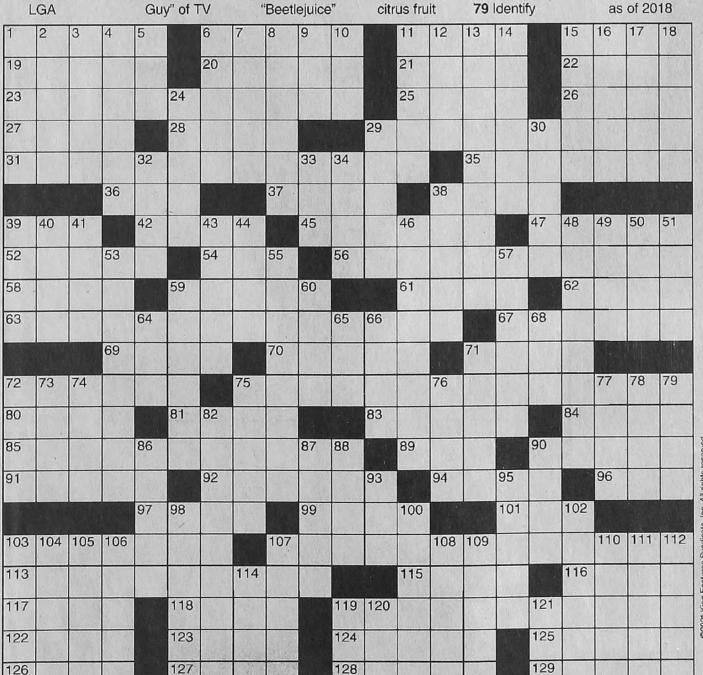
107 Brand of mouthwash 108 Outward expressions

106 Boise setting

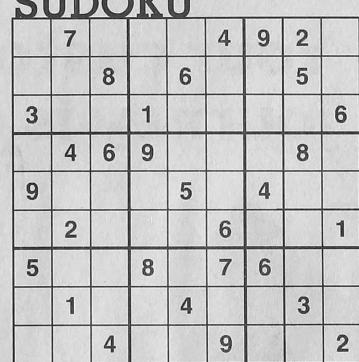
109 Port of Japan 110 Felt sickly 111 Words after two or

hole 112 Stuff in gunpowder 114 Successor of Claudius I

119 Provisos 120 Refrain bit 121 Title for Ringo Starr



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



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!

SAME BOTH WAYS

Can you find all the palindromes hidden in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them. KMINIMBDEIF ROTAVATORRXYM UHANNAHXAG XE DTLCRR AOWOUEAUENE AB ECV FXA T PUOADEANNA SRLJOG PUKBOOBO ERKNT DD TOR P D E A BSAY ROTORDEDA E

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ANSWER KEY ABBA ANNA BIB BOB BOOB CIVIC DAD DEED DEIFIED DEWED DID DUD EKE EVE EWE EYE GAG GIG HANNAH KAYAK LEVEL MINNICIAIOXX SEXESAGASE MADAM V TOTBOBSAYENOO MINIM MUM NOON S GEDDEB KNINDED NUN PEEP PEP PIP POOP POP PUP XABOTAVATORT RACECAR RADAR REDDER 9 6 L 3 REFER REPAPER t ROTATOR ROTAVATOR

ROTOR

SAGAS

SEXES SOLOS

TENET

ULULU

TOOT

TOT

TUT

SEES

TAT

XESAGAS



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