



## Michigan high school athletes plead for winter sports season

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Livonia schools to request \$186M bond

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Public Schools has decided to ask voters to pass a bond this spring.

At a meeting Monday, the school board unanimously approved ballot language that will go before district voters May 4.

The Livonia Public Schools district also includes some of Westland.

"Hopefully our community will see the value in this," board Secretary Karen Bradford said. "I think it's a great opportunity for us."

Passage would allow the district to levy 1.37 mills, which is \$1.37 per every \$1,000 of taxable property value, and is-

sue a 20-year bond. The bond would raise \$186 million for the district. If approved, it replaces a 2013 voter-approved bond issue which is about to get removed from the tax rolls.

District administrators and school board members repeatedly stressed a passage would not raise residents' taxes, only continue the same rate.

"We believe that bringing forward this opportunity to reinvest in our students and in our schools without putting any additional tax burden on our community is truly an opportunity we do not want to see pass by," Superintendent Andrea Oquist said.

See **BOND**, Page 4A

## SNOW MUCH FUN



Heather Turner hauls her daughter, River, 3, up the sledding hill by the Farmington Public Schools administration building on Tuesday. After some cold temperatures and snowfall early in the week, warmer weather is in the upcoming forecast. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Meat processing co. plans new facility in Wayne

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

Michigan Meats has received site plan approval from Wayne City Council for construction of a new meat processing facility on Cogswell Road north of Van Born in an industrial park.

A new 14,000-square-foot building is planned at the northern portion of the industrial park and will be available for meat processing, butchering and sales.

"This has been a vacant piece of property for many, many years," said Mike Buiten, the city's director of building, engineering and ordinance. "I know at least 22. So we're excited to see some new development in here."

Tom Crabill, one of the developers, said the space will most likely have about 15 employees total. He said the plans are expected to come before council with changes to site parking.

"That site plan will include at least double the requirements that Wayne currently has and probably more than that," Crabill said. "We always want to include enough parking."

Michigan Meats owner Mike Alhachami, of Canton, said he hopes to open the facility by summer.

"We're hoping to be there by some time in the summer," he said. "... That's our target right now."

The project had appeared before the council in late 2020 for a rezoning effort, and returned Jan. 19 for a site plan review. The council approved the plan unanimously.

Mayor John Rhaesa said he was excited about the new business.

"We're definitely looking forward to you joining our community," he said. "I'm looking forward to you guys getting this going and being successful in our community."

## New industrial building proposed in Plymouth Twp.

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

The Plymouth Township planning commission reviewed plans during its Jan. 20 meeting for a new two-story office and industrial building at the southeast corner of Haggerty Road and Con-

cept Drive in the Metro Plymouth Business Park.

The concept, petitioner Trevor Wilson of Hillside Investments said, includes a 39,000-square-foot building that would be used for offices, as well as industrial space and research and development.

"We have not identified a final user for this building," he said. "We've received lots of interest from high-end research and development companies."

"They're looking for a decent amount of office space with warehousing space that would allow them to complete their research and development capabilities."

The planning commission discussed the type of materials that would be used for the building, which do not completely fall into compliance. Currently, structures should be made up of 75% or more masonry materials such as brick.

See **BUILDING**, Page 4A





# Redford PD investigating burglary at senior center

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

Redford Township police are trying to find the person who recently stole \$850 from the Minock Meadows senior living facility.

They have released photos of the suspect taken by security cameras and are asking for help identifying the person.

The suspect apparently forced entry into the facility near Schoolcraft and Minock Drive at 10:48 p.m. Jan. 21, stole cash from the office and opened several pieces of mail belonging to residents.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Adam Kubrak, 313-387-2574, or email him at [akubrak@redfordpd.org](mailto:akubrak@redfordpd.org). They also can call Crime Stoppers of Michigan, 1-800-SPEAKUP.

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



Redford Township police are asking for help in identifying this suspect associated with the Jan. 21 burglary of Minow Meadows.

COURTESY OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE

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U.S. Army veteran Abner Gonzalez and his dog, Sophie, walk through the Pet Supplies Plus in South Lyon with store manager Patrick Anthony. Pet Supplies Plus, which based in Livonia, was recently sold to a Virginia Beach company. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

# Livonia-based Pet Supplies Plus sold for \$700 million

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A local company billed as one of the nation's largest pet-supply stores has a new owner, just a few years after it purchased the business.

Pet Supplies Plus will be sold to Virginia Beach-based Franchise Group, Inc., according to a news release shared online Monday. The sale of the company, which is headquartered at 17197 N. Laurel Park Dr. in Livonia near Interstate 275, will be finalized later this spring. The deal is valued at about \$700 million.

Sentinel Capital Partners, based in New York City, bought the company in late 2018 for an undisclosed price. The company specializes in purchasing and building up small- to mid-range companies.

"We are extremely pleased with PSP's significant expansion and successful integration of new franchisees into its system," said Marc Buan, a Sentinel principal, in a news release.

"PSP is the #1 pet franchiser in the U.S. in an attractive, growing market driven by loyal consumers passionate about pet ownership.

"We were honored to work with PSP's highly-committed and talented management team who have superbly positioned the company for continued growth."

Pet Supplies Plus originally launched in Redford Township in 1988. Over the last 32 years, the company has grown to hundreds of stores across the country, selling supplies to pet owners. It currently has 537 stores across 36 states, which is up from the 448 stores in 33 states it had when Sentinel Capital Partners purchased the business in 2018.

Locally, Pet Supplies Plus operates stores in Redford Township, Livonia, Canton Township, Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon, Milford, White Lake Township and Bloomfield Township.

There's no word on what the sale could mean for customers. A message was left with a spokesperson regarding the sale of the company. A message was

also sent to Pet Supplies Plus corporate headquarters seeking comment on the sale.

The sale of the company comes as many businesses across the country deal with issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pet stores have not been immune to these challenges: Pet Valu recently closed its stores nationwide, including two in Farmington and Westland. Recently, Pet Supplies Plus announced it would reopen some Pet Valu stores in several Midwest and Eastern states under its branding.

"It was a pleasure to partner with Sentinel as we significantly grew the franchisee base through geographic in-fill and expansion into white space," Chris Rowland, CEO of Pet Supplies Plus, said in a news release. "Sentinel's deep experience investing in franchise-related businesses was a great asset to us throughout this entire period."

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

# December restaurant inspections quiet

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Inspectors from Wayne and Oakland counties visit restaurants each month to make sure food safety protocols are being followed.

Health inspections take place year-round at restaurants and other places with commercial kitchens, although it slowed down for much of 2020 as dining rooms were ordered closed on multiple occasions by the state in an effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19, which has infected hundreds of thousands of people statewide since first being found in Michigan in March.

Dining rooms remained open for the last several months before the state Department of Health and Human Services ordered indoor dining shut down in mid-November, a closure that lasts until Feb. 1. Outdoor dining continues to be allowed under the state health department's orders, with many restaurants getting creative in how they bring in customers.

Restaurants in several Hometown Life communities had priority violations, which are the most serious violations that could lead to foodborne illness.

Communities checked every month in Oakland County are Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Franklin, Novi, Lyon Township, South Lyon, Milford, Milford Township, Highland Township, Wixom, Walled Lake and White Lake Township.

The Wayne County communities checked for inspections every month are Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Westland, Wayne, Garden City, Redford Township and Livonia.

Several communities, including all the Hometown Life municipalities in

Oakland County, had no restaurants with priority violations in December, according to data posted online by the counties.

### Canton

#### Kung Fu Tea, 45470 Ford Road

1. Observed that equipment drainline is not sloped to an air gap; espresso machine, shorten drainline above the flood rim. Observed that equipment drainlines are no sloped to an air gap; espresso machine corrected.

### Garden City

#### Checkers, 31335 Ford Road

1. Observed that equipment drainlines are not sloped to an indirect waste drain with an air gap; from the walk-in unit cooler and freezer, soda machine, ice machine, machines at drive thru. Provide sloped drainlines from the equipment listed above to a indirect waste drain in the facility with an air gap. Corrected on follow up.

2. Observed that the plumbing is not in good repair; leaking piping, drainlines from the prep sink and 3-compartment sink leaking onto the floor. Repair, eliminate leaks. Corrected on follow up.

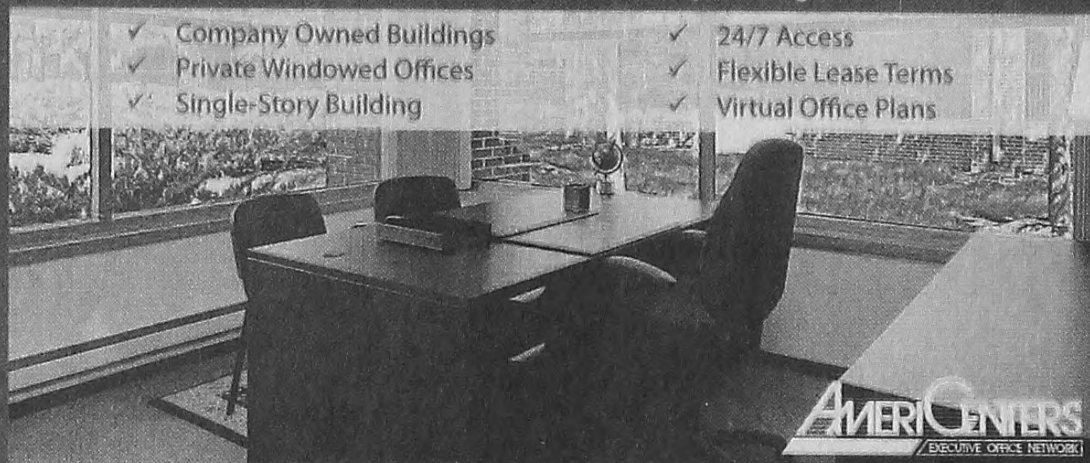
3. Observed that water supply is not protected; to the rinser and taylor freeze. Provide adequate protection on the water line to each of these units. Corrected on follow up.

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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# Livonia settles racial profiling suit for \$260K

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After years of legal jousting, the City of Livonia has taken full financial responsibility for the \$260,000 settlement of a racial profiling lawsuit.

Assistant City Attorney Eric Goldstein confirmed that the city paid the full amount last year because the other defendants in the lawsuit – Canton Township and township police officer Adam Falk – did what they were supposed to do when arresting Christopher Lee-Murray Bey, a 26-year-old Black man, in 2013.

Court documents filed in the U.S. District Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court detail that Bey and some friends caught the attention of undercover Livonia officers Andrew McKinley, Eric Eisenbeis and Megan McAteer while traveling in a beat-up minivan to a Meijer store in the early morning hours of March 16, 2013.

McKinley wanted the minivan followed because of “a hunch” based on training and experience that implied stolen, older vehicles are used for retail crimes because they’re difficult to trace back to the criminals, according to appellate documents.

He and the other Livonia officers were driving in unmarked vehicles to investigate retail crimes. The officers apparently did not know Bey and his friends were Black at the start of the investigation.

McKinley saw a temporary paper registration taped to the window when the suspects entered the store. There were no matching records in a state database.

Eisenbeis has said he heard McKinley say over the radio that the problem with the temporary license plate was that “it was unreadable.” Bey has said the temporary license plate was valid and clearly visible.

The Livonia officers proceeded to follow Bey and his friends from the Meijer to a Livonia Walmart and then to a Canton Walmart.

McAteer followed them through the Canton store, relaying information to her colleagues about the weapons and electronics section Bey and his friends visited before the suspects flipped



Livonia Township Police Officer Andrew McKinley, pictured here in 2014, was part of a lawsuit the city recently settled. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

through some credit cards and paid for their items.

Livonia’s undercover officers had contacted their colleagues, and uniformed Canton police were waiting for Bey and his friends when they left the store.

“The (Livonia officers) did not want to contact Bey and his friends, if possible, because they were in plain clothes and protocol generally dictates that uniformed officers approach suspects,” appellate court documents stated. “(Officer) Falk and the other Canton police officers surrounded Bey’s van and ordered him out of the vehicle.”

Bey told Falk he was armed, pointing to his holster so the Canton officer could remove the weapon. Falk learned the receipts for space heaters showed no signs of fraud. But Bey’s concealed weapon license had expired, leading to his arrest.

Wayne County Circuit Judge David Groner dismissed the weapons charge in June 2013. Bey filed his federal lawsuit in September 2014.

“Defendant Falk, and two other unidentified City of Canton police officers, approached the vehicle and stopped plaintiff and his friends, in spite of the fact that there was no probable cause to

do so,” Bey stated in his first complaint, with Falk identified as the sole defendant.

Later, Canton Township, Livonia and the Livonia police officers were named as defendants.

Bey could not be reached for comment and his attorney, Joel Sklar, did not respond to phone and Facebook messages.

Goldstein requested the U.S. Supreme Court’s review on McKinley’s behalf in June.

The appellate judges had ruled in 2019 that a jury should decide on McKinley since he ordered the surveillance and arrest. The same judges dismissed complaints against the other police officers.

“The Canton Township police officer named in this lawsuit was dismissed pursuant to a 2019 decision issued by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals,” said attorney Holly Battersby, who represented the township and its officer. “It is the township’s position, which is strongly supported by the law, that it likewise had no liability. At the time the suit concluded, a motion to dismiss filed on the township’s behalf was pending in the trial court.”

Over the summer, after an outside facilitator became involved, Bey agreed to settle for \$260,000. Livonia was willing to pay the full amount. A judge dismissed the case in September.

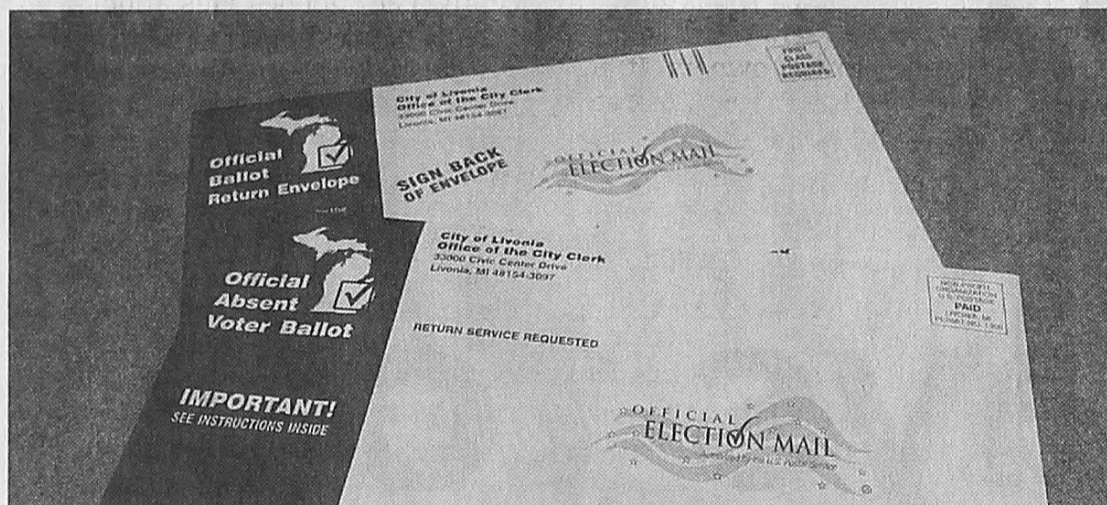
“The city agreed to a settlement offered in order to limit the liability of Livonia taxpayers, especially in the current political landscape,” Goldstein said.

Various city, township and police officials declined to comment. Livonia City Council supported the settlement before the financial agreement was finalized.

Delisha Upshaw, a member of Livonia Citizens Caring About Black Lives, said the case, along with its settlement, is a “glaring example” of why a special board is needed to investigate complaints about police misconduct.

“When police are left to police themselves, taxpayers pay the price through costly legal fees and lawsuit settlements like this one,” she said.

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



A record number of absentee ballots were used during the November election. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## Canton man pleads guilty to voting fraud misdemeanor

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Canton man’s attempt to make sure his college-aged daughter’s vote counted in the November election led to a 90-day misdemeanor election law violation and the obligation to pay roughly \$1,100 in court costs.

Paul Parana, 47, was charged by the Michigan Attorney General’s Office in November with impersonating a voter, a four-year felony, and election law forgery, a five-year felony, after the Canton Township Clerk’s Office discovered he had signed his daughter’s name to an absentee ballot before mailing the ballot to the township.

Parana, whose daughter was away at college when her absentee ballot arrived at the family’s home in Canton, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor Tuesday. In addition to the fine, he will be placed on probation for 90 days.

Parana told to authorities that he filled out his daughter’s ballot while discussing her candidate choices before forging her signature on the ballot.

“Although his act was not malicious – he thought he was protecting his daughter’s right to vote – it broke the law,” Canton Township Clerk Michael Siegrist said. “The fact that we were able to catch the forged signature is an example of how secure our system actually is.”

Siegrist said the signature on each absentee ballot that was received by his office leading up to the November election was cross-checked by staff mem-

bers to make sure they matched voters’ registered signatures.

“There is a lot of grunt work involved, but it’s all done to make sure the law is followed,” Siegrist said. “The law is spelled out on each absentee ballot that the voter has to sign it. If someone else signs it, a law has been broken.”

Siegrist said he believed the felony charges were reduced because there was no malicious intent.

“It’s a lesson for everyone that this process is serious,” Siegrist said.

Parana was booked in the Canton Township jail after he was arrested on the felony charges in November.

“While voter fraud rarely occurs, we are vigilant in pursuing such activity when it does,” Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said. “This is an example of how my office reviews legitimate claims of voter fraud to discover the facts and prosecute according to the law.”

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson added that Michigan’s 2020 elections were the “most secure in our state’s history.”

“Despite unprecedented scrutiny, we continue to affirm the security and integrity of the process with our zero tolerance policy for any incident of fraud,” Benson said.

Parana’s daughter’s ballot was ultimately accepted after the township clerk contacted her and obtained her valid signature on an affidavit.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com).

### 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 4th**.

- 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.lidngconnected.zendesk.com/en-us/articles/360010222793-How-to-submit-yourbid-through-BuidngConnected->

**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.

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

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 101: Earthwork/Site Utilities          | 102: Asphalt Paving/ Site Concrete   |
| 103: Selective Demolition              | 104: Concrete Footings & Foundations |
| 105: Interior Concrete Flatwork        | 106: Masonry                         |
| 109: Roofing / Sheetmetal              | 108: Carpentry / General Trades      |
| 114: Aluminum Entrances / Storefront I | 112: Caulking/ Insulation            |
| Glass & Glazing                        | 115: Metal Stud I Drywall            |
| 116: Hard Tile                         | 117: Acoustical Treatments           |
| 118: Carpet / Resilient Tile Flooring  | 119: Terrazzo                        |
| 120: Painting                          | 124: Wood Flooring                   |
| 125: Toilet Partitions                 | 128: Prefabricated Casework          |
| 130: Window Treatments                 | 131: Gymnasium Equipment             |
| 137: Food Service Equipment            | 140: Plumbing                        |
| 141: Fire Protection                   | 142: HVAC                            |
| 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 purpose 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.



# IRS partnership allows most to file taxes for free



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

The IRS announced that this year's tax season will begin Feb. 12. That is the day the IRS will officially begin accepting tax returns. Traditionally, the IRS starts accepting tax returns at the end of January. Last-minute changes to our tax laws are cited as the reason.

Tax returns will be due April 15. Over the next few weeks, you will likely receive your 1099s, W-2s and other tax documents. No one wants to have problems with the IRS, which is why it is critical to make sure your tax return is

accurate. Therefore, now is the time to make sure you have a tax file to start saving your 2020 tax information.

Although the IRS will not begin accepting tax returns until Feb. 12, that doesn't mean that you have to wait until mid-February to complete your return. In that regard, something you should consider is the IRS Free File program.

The program is a public-private partnership in which many leading tax software companies partner with the IRS to help taxpayers prepare and e-file their federal tax returns for free. To qualify for the program, your adjusted gross income must not exceed \$72,000.

I have recommended the IRS Free File program for years. Many established tax preparation companies participate in this program.

In order to access the program, you must go through the IRS website, [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile). As with any other program, there are scam artists who will attempt to take advantage. Don't be fooled by other sites that say that you can file your tax return for free.

With the recent increase in the standard deduction, many taxpayers find that it is no longer beneficial to itemize their deductions. As a result, completing tax returns has become easier.

If you are looking to save money and your tax situation is relatively straightforward, I encourage you to consider the IRS Free File program. The hundreds of dollars you can save on tax preparation look best in your pocket.

One last note regarding tax returns: you are ultimately responsible for your

own tax return. Whether you hire a professional or do it on your own, it is important that you file an accurate return. If you take deductions you're not entitled to, or you fail to report income, not only will you be responsible for the additional tax and interest, but potentially, you will face significant penalties.

Therefore, when it comes to your tax returns, you should make sure you're taking every deduction you're entitled to. However, it is important that you only take deductions that are legitimate.

Good luck.

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

## Building

Continued from Page 1A

Laura Haw, a planner with McKenna Associates who serves as a planning consultant for Plymouth Township, said the commission would have to consider waivers from the planning commission for the proposed structure as planned.

"Currently, it's proposed as a pre-finished insulated metal panel building with painted face concrete block," Haw said. "We recommend the applicant provide those percentages of each facade for the masonry materials so the commission understands better what waiver they're requesting."



**A new industrial building is proposed at the corner of Concept Drive and Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township.**  
DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Commissioners appeared to be in favor of moving forward with the project as proposed, saying the materials ap-

peared to fit with the area, and could have the project sent to the administrative review committee for approval.

The commission voted unanimously on the tentative site plan and to send the project to that committee for review.

"The only thing I would suggest to the applicant is that they remember that these percentages need to be acceptable in your development, and so perhaps you should be looking at making those percentages as large as you possibly can, so the committee can feel comfortable with it," commission Vice Chair William Pratt said. "When I looked at this, I felt that the drawing, the office space that was being proposed, looked very fine for our township as long as the composition of the developed materials

satisfies our ordinance."

The proposed structure is just one of several recently-proposed industrial buildings in Detroit's western suburbs.

A new industrial building is planned on the site of the former spring and bumper plant in nearby Livonia, next to the Amazon fulfillment center off Eckles Road, and warehouse industrial space is planned at the site of the former Ford assembly plant in Wixom.

Wilson said Hillside Investments also acquired empty sites nearby in the same business park with plans to build in other locations as well.

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

## Bond

Continued from Page 1A

Without a new bond, taxpayers in the district would see a small decrease in their tax rate.

Bonds are generally used by school districts to fund short-term projects, like purchasing buses or renovate build-

ings. According to the district, this bond would focus on "facility upgrades, technology, improving playgrounds and athletic facilities, purchasing school buses and improving property sites." It would also allow the district to finish projects from the 2013 bond.

Oquist said some of the more mundane needs are renovating school kitchens and adding air conditioning to classrooms that do not have it.

Money would also go toward funding early childhood education and STEM programs.

"We're not asking for chandeliers or anything," board President Colleen Burton said. "We're asking to maintain our buildings and continue to invest in the improvements we started making in 2013."

According to Oquist, the district will provide the community with more in-

formation regarding the bond and what it will pay for leading up to May.

"If we have the opportunity to do this and not pass any additional costs onto our taxpayers, this is a win-win for our community, for our students and for our staff," Burton said. "I just think this is a fabulous opportunity."

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

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Visit our online help portal to access FAQs, subscription services, member benefits and more.

[help.livingstondaily.com](http://help.livingstondaily.com)



# Obituaries

## Joan Chandler Bowes

MORGANTOWN, WV - Joan Chandler Schmidt Bowes, 90, passed away on Saturday, January 23, 2021, in Morgantown, WV. She was born on May 6, 1930, in Celina, OH, the daughter of the late William Eldoris and Ouida Nadine (Parten) Chandler.

Leaving her Michigan home of more than 60 years, Joan moved to Morgantown's Village at Heritage Point in 2014 to be near her daughter, Dr. Rebecca Schmidt (Abel) and son-in-law, Daniel Abel, who survive along with her son, John Schmidt (Mary Hannington) of Detroit and stepson, Timothy Bowes (Brenda) of Rochester, Michigan. Also surviving are siblings, William Chandler (Portland, Oregon) and Mary Leak (Temecula, California); grandchildren, Christopher Puidokas (New York City), Cole Bowes (Rochester, Michigan), Justin Zajdel (St. Clair Shores, Michigan) and Carissima McDonald (Holly, Michigan), and nieces and nephews, Steve, Marcia and Gus Chandler of Nashville, Jennifer Padgett (Scott) and David Leak of Temecula, Karen Chandler (Tony) of Denver, John David Chandler (Rhonda), Kristin Walsh, Tracy and Lisa Beth Chandler, all of Portland.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Bowes (1997); her stepdaughter, Catherine Zajdel (2019); her former husband, John Schmidt (2007); and brothers, Jack (1977) and James Chandler (2013).

Growing up in southeast Missouri, Joan graduated from Central College in Fayette, Missouri, with degrees in piano and voice. Her life was built around sharing her passion for music with others, first as a school music teacher and later as a teacher of piano to hundreds of students for many decades. A performer of piano and expert accompanist, she found great joy in playing four hand piano and accompanying singers and instrumentalists, traditions she continued while living in Morgantown. Widely known for her sight-reading prowess, Joan was active in community and church theater, serving as the musical director for innumerable musical theater productions. Playing the early Sunday service for her home church in Birmingham, Michigan, (Redeemer Lutheran) was her honor for several decades.

Joan delighted in sharing the joys of music with those at Heritage Point, where she felt peace and the care and compassion of those surrounding her.

Hastings Funeral Home/Omega Crematory is entrusted with arrangements. A celebration of Joan's life will be held at a later date. Donations in honor of Joan may be made to The Village at Heritage Point Employee Appreciation Fund, One Heritage Point, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Send condolences online at [www.hastingsfuneralhome.com](http://www.hastingsfuneralhome.com)



## Lee James Riddering

EATON RAPIDS -

Passed away suddenly January 17, 2021, at the age of 46. Lee was born in Farmington Hills, MI, October 10, 1974, the son of James Lee and Carol Jean (O'Brien) Riddering. He was a stay-at-home dad joyfully and tirelessly chasing his 2-year-old daughter, Ada. Lee graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 1992 where he played the tuba with the marching band. Lee continued his love of music by playing the guitar and singing. He enjoyed going to music festivals, camping, water and snow skiing, and juggling.

Lee is survived by his loving wife, Amy Riddering; parents, James and Carol Riddering of Johannesburg, MI; daughter, Ada Riddering; brothers, Brian (Anne) Riddering of Novi, Eric (Michele) Riddering of Howell; nieces and a nephew.

No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lee's daughter Ada's Education Fund at Community Financial Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey St. Plymouth, MI 48170. Arrangements were entrusted to the Mills Funeral Home, Shelly-Odell Chapel in Eaton Rapids. Please visit our website to place online condolences, [www.millsfuneral.com](http://www.millsfuneral.com).



## Kathryn Thompson

Kathryn Thompson, 69, beloved Plymouth-Salem High School language arts educator, passed on January 19, 2021 at Arbor Hospice Residence in Saline, Michigan after struggling with cancer.

She was born in Buffalo, New York on May 30, 1951.

Kathy earned a B.A. from Michigan State University and an M.A. from Eastern Michigan University. She taught primarily grades 10-12 for over 30 years in Plymouth-Canton Schools as well as teaching at Lansing's Dwight Rich Junior High after college graduation. She wrote and constantly designed her own courses and materials for humanities, literature, and composition classes, and helped found Michigan's first high school Writing Tutorial Centers in the district's three high schools.

Kathy sponsored and dearly loved the annual New York City and Chicago art museum student trips with her students. She was an avid reader, belonging to book clubs and was a semi-professional genealogist helping others with research. She loved her 7 rescue dogs, international gourmet cooking, and maintaining large vegetable and flower gardens.

In retirement, she and husband Jerry split their time between their home in Michigan, Florida, and trips to Europe and Mexico.

She married and is survived by her Plymouth High School sweetheart, Jerrold (Jerry) Thompson, daughter Laenne Thompson (Frank Pavlovic), brother Mark Stevens (Roseann), and sister Lisa Stevens.

At her request and because of the Covid pandemic, no service or memorial will be held.

Because of Kathy's passion for books and literacy - she believed everything for a child starts with reading - she wanted books in the hands of children and writing opportunities with someone to guide them. Donations can be sent to: [Inside-OutDetroit.org](http://Inside-OutDetroit.org); [Donate.ImaginationLibrary.com](http://Donate.ImaginationLibrary.com); or simply read or give a book to a young person to spark their imagination.



## Dewarld Dewaine "Bill" Hiner

CHELSEA, FORMERLY ANN ARBOR & FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 96, died Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Chelsea Retirement Community. He was born in 1924 in Wymore, Nebraska, the son of Arthur and Althea (Beldon) Hiner. Bill was a member of the Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.



Bill has been married to Eleanor Ann Hanley for 61 years, and she survives. He is also survived by one son, James Hiner (Melissa) of Ann Arbor; and two grandchildren, Margaret Hunt and Robert Hiner. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Margaret "Peggy" Hiner of Atlanta, Georgia, and his brother, Clyde Jr. Hiner of Wymore, Nebraska.

Bill was a graduate of The University of Nebraska, and Detroit School of Law. He served in the Army during WWII. He enjoyed a successful career with Ford Motor Company, and later with American Natural Resources. Bill enjoyed golf, bowling, and traveling with his family. He always had a great sense of humor, and witty comments at the ready.

A private graveside service was held at the North Farmington Cemetery in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation. Bill was a long-time resident of Chelsea Retirement Community and greatly appreciated the care and love he received from his neighbors and the staff. Memorial gifts can be sent to: UMRC Foundation, 805 W. Middle St., Chelsea, MI 48118 or online at <https://umrc.com/umrc-foundation/>. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.



## Eleanor Ann Hiner

CHELSEA - Eleanor Ann Hiner of Chelsea, MI, formerly of Farmington Hills, age 86, died Sunday, January 17, 2021 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born August 27, 1934 in Warsaw, Indiana, the daughter of Edward and Ella (Dye) Hanley. Ann was a member of the Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills where she actively volunteered in many capacities.



Ann had been married to Dewarld Dewaine "Bill" Hiner for 61 years, when he preceded her in death less than a month ago on Dec. 29, 2020. She is survived by one son, James Hiner (Melissa) of Ann Arbor; two grandchildren, Margaret Hunt and Robert Hiner; one brother, Bill Hanley (Helen) of Birmingham, Alabama; and one sister, Peggy Hodak (Jerry) of East Lansing; She was preceded in death by one daughter, Margaret (Peggy) Hiner of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ann graduated from Wayne State University where she was also a member of Delta Zeta. She was a passionate gardener at home as well as for the Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary. She was very talented at growing beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables. Ann loved to cook, and was always looking for new recipes. She loved to entertain friends and family, especially on Christmas Eve.

A private graveside service was held at the North Farmington Cemetery in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation. Ann was a long-time resident of Chelsea Retirement Community and greatly appreciated the care and love she received from her neighbors and the staff. Memorial gifts can be sent to: UMRC Foundation, 805 W. Middle St., Chelsea, MI 48118 or online at <https://umrc.com/umrc-foundation/>. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.



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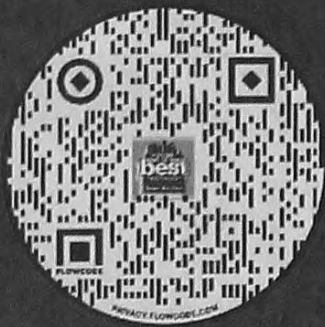
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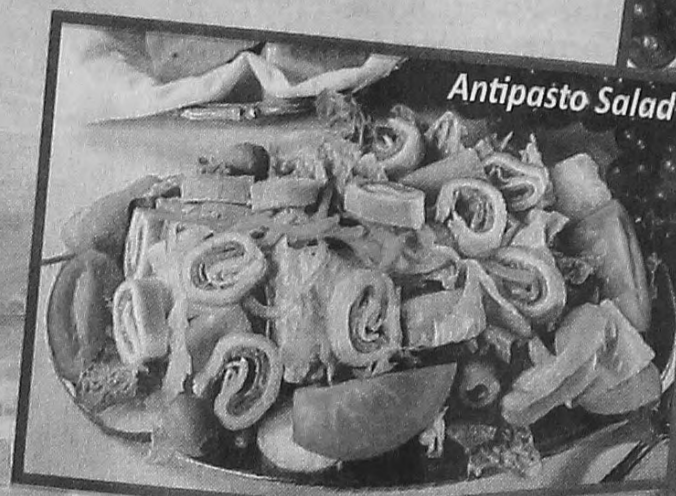


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## **Staff Appreciation Day February 2nd, 2021**

Although it has been a crazy and difficult year, the Rugiero Family has kept its staff employed and earning a living throughout this pandemic. Our great staff has chosen to work and provide an essential service to the community and we applaud them for their professionalism and dedication. For this reason, we have decided to donate half of the proceeds from the day of sales that will be distributed amongst all the staff.

**Come support our wonderful staff on Staff Appreciation Day on February 2nd to show your appreciation for the great work that they are doing!**

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# SPORTS

## High school athletes plead for winter sports season

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ian Kimble grew up in Livonia, what he calls a "high school hockey city."

He remembers watching Livonia Stevenson win a state title in 2013, beating Hartland in front of the entire Livonia community. To Kimble, his goal was to make it to that game with teammates he had played with since he started playing hockey.

But as the days continue without a winter season starting, Kimble now sees his senior season in a Spartans uniform in jeopardy.

"Growing up in Livonia all my life, been playing with some of these kids for almost 15 years now, and this is the last chance at our main goal, which is a state championship," Kimble said. "For it to be taken away, it just hurts."

Under normal circumstances, the high school hockey season would have started two months ago. But with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Michigan's stringent response in fighting the spread of the coronavirus, the season has yet to start.

See SEASON, Page 3B



Plymouth's Brady Kendall finished the season as a Division 1 state champion in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100 butterfly. PROVIDED BY BRADY KENDALL

## Plymouth swimmer shows championship mentality at state meet

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

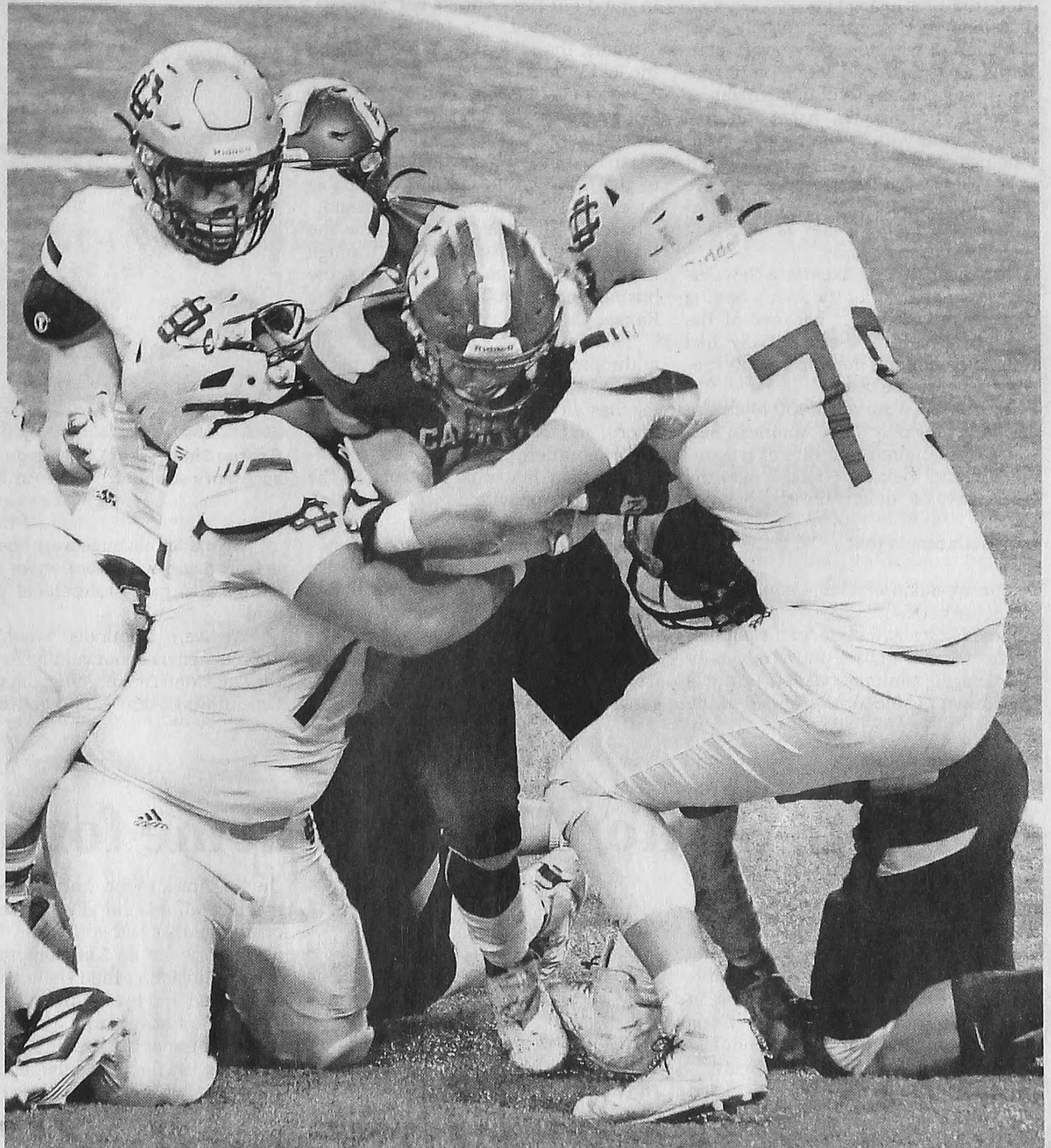
After earning a state title in the 50-yard freestyle, Plymouth junior Brady Kendall did not have much time to celebrate. She cooled down, got her award and returned to the pool to warm up for her second individual race of the day: the 100-yard butterfly.

Kendall was tired. There's usually more time between the two events in a typical state meet - a word not used to describe anything about the 2020-21 swim season.

The fatigue worried the Plymouth junior. She did not know how her body would respond, racing 56 days after the Michigan high school girls swim state meet was supposed to be held.

See KENDALL, Page 3B

## Detroit Country Day wins Div. 4 state title



A swarm of Detroit Country Day defenders stop a Cadillac ball carrier during the Yellowjackets' 13-0 victory in the MHSAA Division 4 state title game Jan. 22 at Ford Field in Detroit. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# YELLOWJACKETS DO IT THEIR WAY

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

**D**etroit Country Day likes to keep the ball as long as it can. ● Taking possession at the start of the third quarter while holding on to a slim 6-0 lead against Cadillac, junior quarterback Brandon Mann found senior Danny MacLean on a quick pass for nine yards, starting a slow and methodical march downfield. ● The Yellowjackets stepped up when they needed to, converting a

See CHAMPIONS, Page 2B

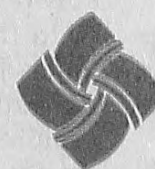


Graham Doman (32) connects on one of his two field goals in the first half.

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# Glitches, \$100K+ losses in online gambling

Survey: 81% find weekend's experience 'mostly positive'

JC Reindl

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The opening weekend for legal online sports betting in Michigan saw many bonus offer redemptions, a few technical glitches and at least a couple \$100,000-plus losing bets.

Online sports betting officially went live Jan. 22 with 10 different app platforms, each partnered with a Detroit casino or tribal casino within Michigan.

Soon after launch, users reported malfunctions with the BetMGM app belonging to MGM Grand Detroit.

A MGM Grand Detroit representative said Monday that high user traffic resulted in technical issues Jan. 22 that were fixed later that day.

American Betting Experts, a New Jersey-based analyst for the sports betting market, reported that because of the glitches, BetMGM users initially had trouble redeeming the app's \$200 special offers for free bets.

Yet overall, a survey of 100 Michigan sports betting players by American Betting Experts found that 81% of respondents found their experiences over the weekend to be "mostly positive."

## Large amounts lost

The weekend also saw some losing six-figure bets.

David Portnoy, founder of the popular Barstool Sports website and a University of Michigan alumnus, visited Detroit's Greektown Casino for the launch of the

Barstool Sportsbook app in partnership with the casino. Portnoy shared on Twitter that he bet \$100,000 on the Pistons winning their game Jan. 22 with the Houston Rockets.

He also apparently bet on the Red Wings beating the Chicago Blackhawks.

"I got caught up in the moment. (Keep in mind I'm rich. Always bet responsibly)," he tweeted.

Sadly, the Pistons lost, 103-102, and the Red Wings lost, 4-1.

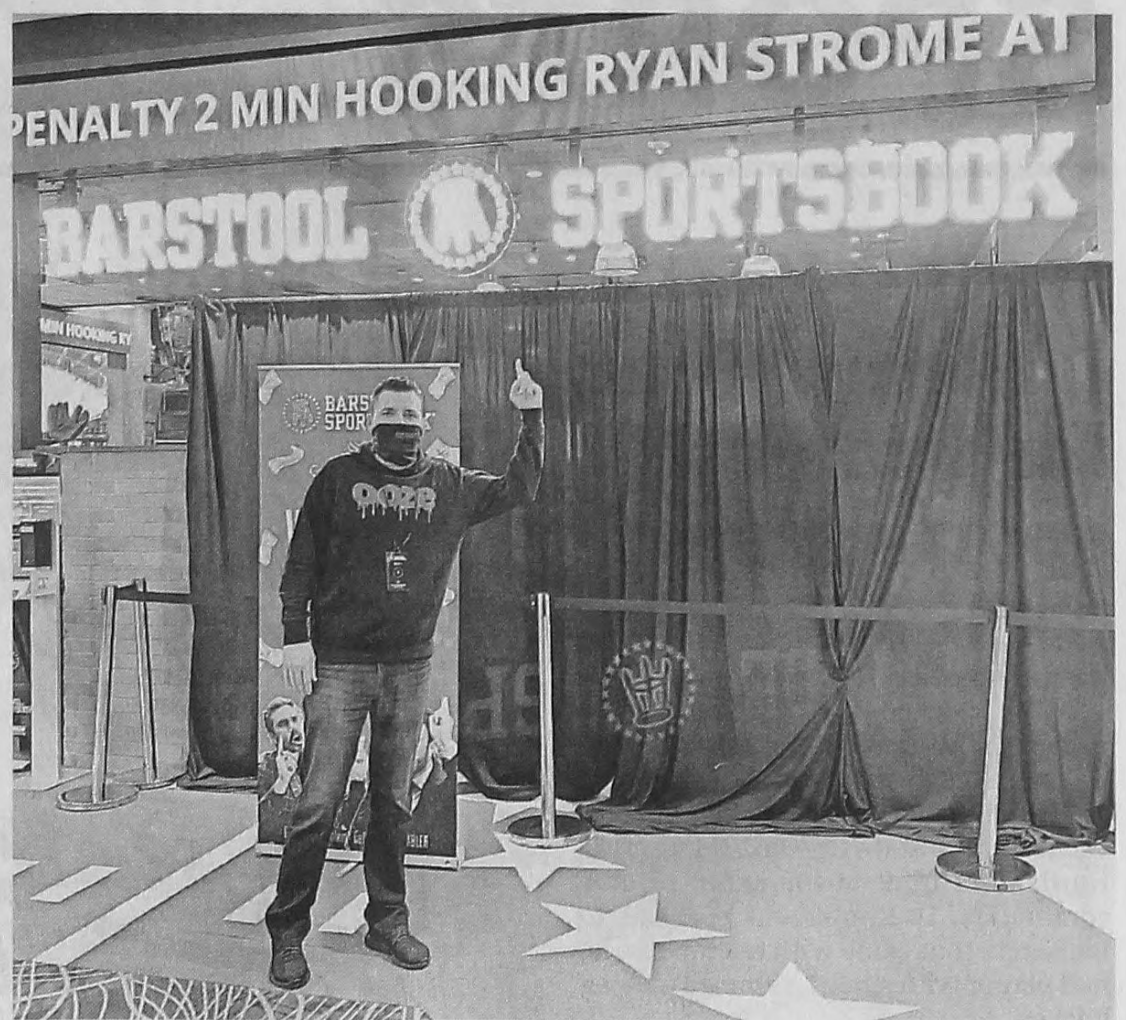
"I'm never betting on the Pistons or Wings ever again," Portnoy later tweeted.

An ever bigger loss befell the owners of the Oak Park-based Ooze cannabis accessory supplier and lifestyle brand.

George Sinishtaj, a partner in the business, made a \$420,420 bet through Barstool Sportsbook on behalf of the business on the Buffalo Bills beating the Kansas City Chiefs.

The bet also was intended as a philanthropic gesture because the owner of Greektown Casino, Penn National Gaming, has an ownership stake in Barstool Sports and as part of the launch weekend celebration, pledged to match Michigan players' first-time deposits on the Sportsbook app with an equal donation to The Barstool Fund, which gives COVID-19 assistance to small businesses.

The Chiefs ended up beating the Bills, 38-24. So even though Ooze lost \$420,420 in the bet, the casino's philanthropic match prompted in a \$420,420 donation to the relief fund. All donations from Michigan users are to help Michigan businesses.



George Sinishtaj of Ooze made a \$420,420 losing bet on behalf of the cannabis accessory supplier. PROVIDED BY JANE WAGNER/OOZE

"We made this huge wager because it is truly a win-win situation for us," Sinishtaj, a former professional gambler, said.

"We were astounded when George approached us about coming in to make the bet," John Drake, general manager of Greektown Casino-Hotel, said in a state-

ment. "His desire to help local Detroit and Michigan business owners who haven't fared well during this time is admirable and we jumped at the chance to support his bet."

Contact JC Reindl: 313-222-6631 or jcreindl@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @jcreindl.

# Lions QB Stafford lists his home for sale, again

Dave Birkett

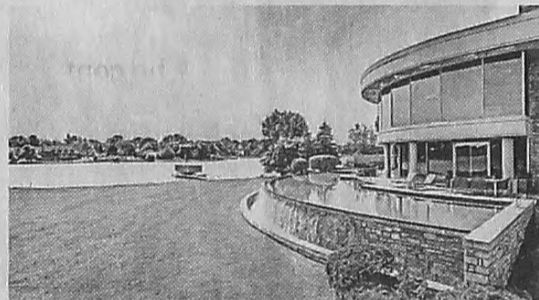
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Not that anyone needed more confirmation that Matthew Stafford's time in Detroit is done, but the Lions quarterback has put his Bloomfield Township estate on the market again.

Stafford and his wife, Kelly, listed their lakefront home for \$6.5 million Monday, two days after news broke that he asked for a trade.

The Lions plan to accommodate Stafford's request and began trade discussions in earnest last week.

Stafford, the Lions' quarterback the past 12 seasons, called for a trade after the Lions went 5-11 this season and with the franchise set to embark on another rebuild.



The home of Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford at 1867 Long Pointe Drive in Bloomfield Township is on sale for \$6.5 million. The five-bedroom, seven-bathroom home sits on 1.27 acres, and the rear faces Upper Long Lake. PROVIDED BY INLAY DIGITAL

The team hired Brad Holmes as general manager and Dan Campbell as head coach, and could take a quarterback with

the No. 7 pick in the draft.

The Staffords initially put their house on the market last spring for the same asking price of \$6.5 million, with Kelly Stafford insisting then there was nothing to read into the listing.

Pregnant at the time with her fourth daughter under the age of 4, Kelly Stafford said the family wanted to get away from the water. The Staffords even looked at other properties in the area before taking the house off the market in September, real estate agent Jeff Barker said.

"They weren't interested in moving to a new home during the football season," he said. "Entirely different circumstances (now), but nothing has changed with the home."

The 12,295-square-foot house has five bedrooms, seven bathrooms and sits

on 1.27 acres of a pointed peninsula that reaches into all-sports Upper Long Lake.

The property includes an indoor half basketball court made of flooring the Detroit Pistons played on at the Pontiac Silverdome, five fireplaces, a sauna, a wine cellar, a glass elevator with service to all three levels and the largest infinity pool in the state.

Kelly Stafford wrote Monday on Instagram that she had bouts of "random tears" when thinking about leaving the city the couple has called its second home for 12 years.

The Staffords also have houses in Georgia and California, and soon will have another place to call home during football season.

Contact Dave Birkett at dbirkett@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @davebirkett.

# Champions

Continued from Page 1B

4th-and-1 on a two-yard scramble by Mann and later a seven-yard third-down reception by Jacob Yarberry to bring them into the red zone.

Country Day could not convert within 10 yards of the end zone against the Cadillac defense in the first half, resorting to two field goals. But after Mann found daylight with a 15-yard scamper, all freshman running back Gabe Winowich had to do was walk into the end zone on a four-yard run and let the defense do the rest.

This approach is Country Day's bread and butter. And it won the Yellowjackets a Division 4 state title, beating Cadillac, 13-0, at Ford Field Jan. 22.

The state championship is Country Day's fourth in program history but first since 1999 despite playing in the game five different times since 2007, including a 44-0 loss to Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the 2019 Division 4 title game.

"We have a lot of pride," Country Day head coach Dan MacLean said. "Our pride got dented a little bit by a great Grand Rapids team. I just think the kids made it ... they wanted to get back here and get a little redemption. It's not beautiful, but shutouts are beautiful."

On offense, Cadillac (8-3) tried to replicate what Country Day (9-2) had done at the end of the fourth quarter.

With the clock ticking, the Vikings moved the ball downfield, getting to the Yellowjackets' 39-yard line – as close as they would get to the end zone.

Facing a third-and-3, with junior quarterback Aden Gurden trying to find a place to throw, senior defensive lineman Nick Wachol took him down for his second sack of the day – finishing the game with a team-leading nine tackles and three tackles-for-loss.

Wachol also provided the rush on the



ensuing screen try, with sophomore Kaleb Mckinely dropping the pass attempt to turn the ball over, icing the shutout: Country Day's third straight and fourth of the season, allowing 150 yards of offense and only 3.4 yards per play.

"It's always been a special part of our team is our defense," Wachol said. "We showed it tonight. I don't think they got within the red zone the entire game."

Offensively, Mann was just trying to see how long the Vikings defense could stay on the field.

In their first drive of the game, the Yellowjackets took the ball at their own 27-yard line and kept it for nearly nine minutes. But despite leading significantly in time-of-possession, Country Day could not finish, with sophomore kicker Graham Doman connecting on two short field goals.

But based on how the defense was playing and what his coaching staff's game plan was, Mann knew that all he needed was one score.

"They kept it close the whole time," the junior quarterback said. "Honestly when we went into the locker room, we knew if we came out fast and scored on the first drive, we would be good the rest of the game. Trust our defense and trust our coaches to get us over the hump."

Mann finished completing 11-of-14 passes for 105 yards, adding 25 yards on the ground. Parker Yearego led the team with 71 yards on 12 carries.

To MacLean, this is Detroit Country Day football. This is what he had helped build from this senior class – players like Wachol, Yarberry, linemen Caleb Tiernan and Will Leggon, wide receiver and defensive back Danny MacLean: the head coach's son, who brought in an interception late in the second quarter.

From the moment the 2020 season began, Tiernan's goal was to return to Ford Field, to finish what he started, to leave the turf differently than the team did in 2019.

And while the moments are only go-



Country Day head coach Dan MacLean talks to Calen Mathis-Miller during the game.

LEFT: Ali Kazziha stiff-arms Cadillac's Dan Gray as he picks up some yards.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing to get bigger for him, signing to play at Northwestern next season, the Yellowjackets, what Dan MacLean, the coaching staff and the other seniors built, will not be forgotten.

"It's going to be tough to forget," Tiernan said. "Coach Mac, Coach Topp, all the seniors – we have been together forever. Just getting a win for Coach is just huge."

Wachol, on the other hand, does not have his future set. He said he wants to play college football if given the opportunity, but that it's no guarantee. But his goal for high school was accomplished Friday night, something he played a significant part in.

"I've always wanted to win a state championship, and we did that tonight," Wachol said.

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.



## Season

Continued from Page 1B

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, along with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, has repeatedly delayed the start of contact sports; the latest announcement extends it to Feb. 21.

"Whether it is contact sports or it is bumping up that number for in-person dining, these are actions that will increase contacts and could create spread, and that's why we have to be smart and incremental as we move forward," Whitmer said.

Athletes and coaches are getting more and more vocal in their frustration, questioning if there's a return in sight for winter sports like basketball and hockey, which were unable to finish the season last year.

### Making the pledge

In four years with the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team, Sami Hampton learned to be a better person. She learned to be a leader on and off the court, playing for the teammates next to you and on the bench, while creating friendships in the process.

She does not want her junior season to be her last in a Patriots uniform.

"I wish I would have went harder," Hampton said. "I kind of saved it all for senior year. If I don't get to have it, I'm not satisfied with how I went off."

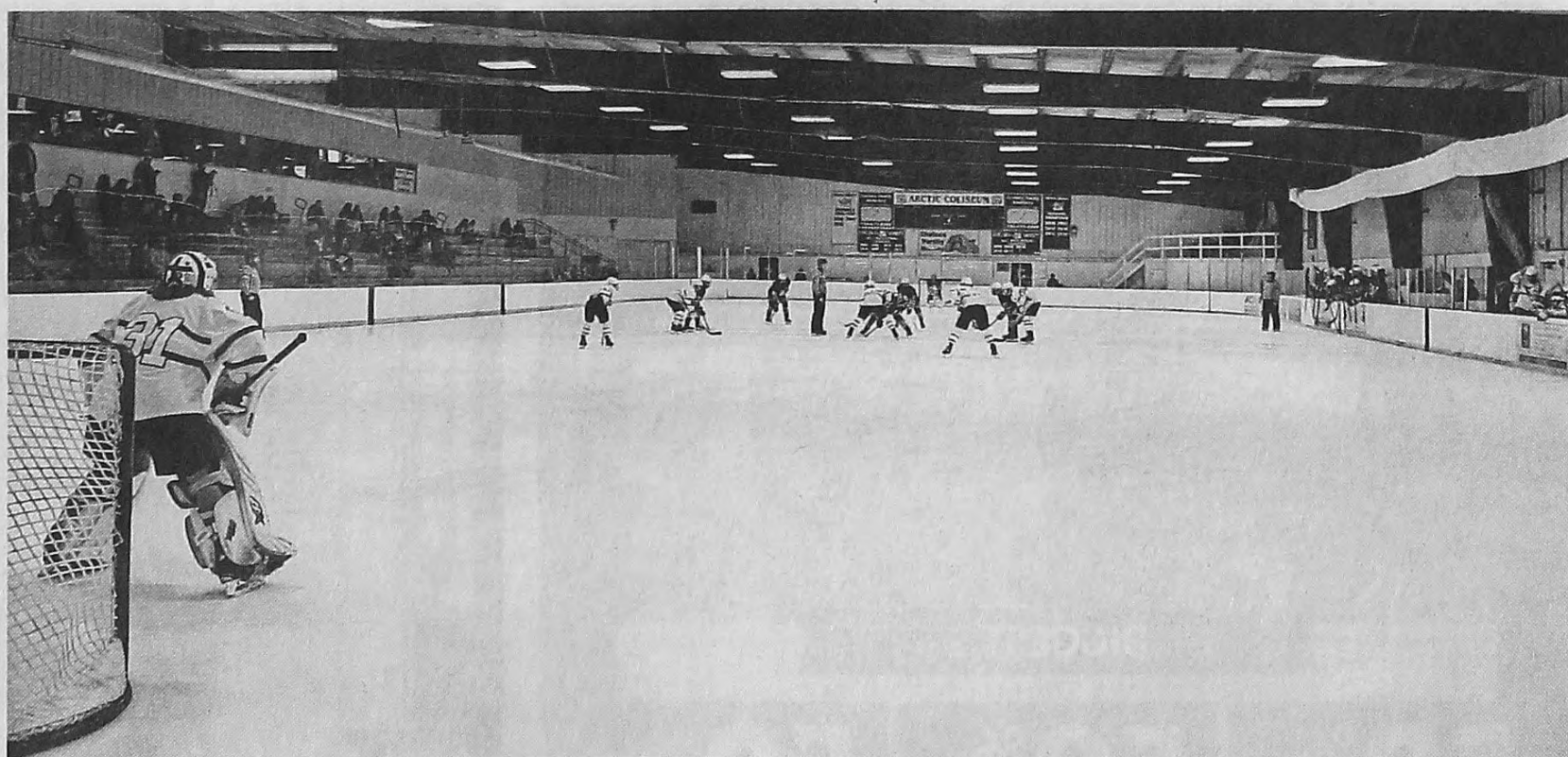
Hampton and the rest of the Franklin basketball team are making sure their voices are heard, releasing a video on social media pledging to follow COVID-19 protocols, something they feel they have already done.

Many teams are following suit with players flooding social media with the hashtag "LetUsPlay," pledging adherence to mask-wearing and social distancing policies to be able to play a season.

Livonia Stevenson hockey senior Brenden Heard said he and his team have been going above and beyond the basic protocols such as going to separate places in the high school to eat lunches to lessen exposure to possible cases, not using locker rooms and spacing out rink-side to put on equipment for practices, staying away from groups of friends and family to make sure they are not exposed.

"It's a quarantine on top of another quarantine," Heard said.

At Novi High School, basketball senior Bryce Lubin said the Wildcats had team managers cleaning balls multiple times per practice and players would sanitize their hands between drills,



The Salem and Livonia Stevenson hockey teams face off in a game Jan. 31, 2020, at Chelsea's Arctic Coliseum. Under normal circumstances, the high school season would have started two months ago. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

**"I kind of saved it all for senior year. If I don't get to have it, I'm not satisfied with how I went off."**

**Sami Hampton**  
Livonia Franklin senior on girls basketball team

maintaining the six feet social distancing rule.

"It was like we were doing all the right things," he said.

With all the precautions taken, winter athletes were encouraged by the signs given from the end of the fall high school sports season.

Using a pilot COVID-19 antigen testing program, the MHSAA and MDHHS found that of 5,376 people tested three times per week, a total of 57 came back positive.

While mass testing is not an option, many athletes view this as progress and as a basis for starting a 2021 winter season.

"I just want everyone to see it can work," Kimble said. "The numbers are out, the science is out: it's showing it can work through fall sports. I think it can work with winter sports too."

### More than just the game

Heard knows that he could have played hockey anywhere this school year. He could have played with a travel team, going to other Midwestern states that allow youth sports to play in tourna-

ments and games.

But Heard said that was never on the table.

"I want a state championship," he said. "It's the only thing that's been on my mind since last year March when we lost to Trenton. That's the only thing I've been thinking about."

Livonia Franklin junior Emily Burton said she takes pride in representing Franklin – her school, her community. She said it hit her specifically at away games, putting on her Patriots jersey and, even if they lost, knowing the team fought hard either way.

But to the players, it's more than just what happens on the court. It's the bonds formed through the shared experience, but bloomed more off the court.

"When you play a sport, you have friends, you have a family," Livonia Franklin junior Sammy Provenzano said. "They are a built-in family; they are there for you."

Lubin said Novi basketball is the "core reason" why he has the friends he does, explaining those relationships built are a big reason why he continues to play.

And when players were away from that community and nothing concrete ahead, it brought a level of loneliness and isolation.

"During a pandemic, there are not many things to look forward to," Livonia Franklin junior Kalin Bates admitted. "Having basketball and athletics and games to prepare for, that really gives us something to look forward to and prepare for. Right now, it's really hard to find that."

No matter what the season brings,

Northville girls basketball player Avery Tolstyka – one of three seniors on the team – wants to make sure her leadership is felt in her final practices with the team, something she has built up through her years with the program.

"The other seniors and I are really trying our best to really give them hope that we are going to have a season," Tolstyka said. "We're not trying to give them any of our negativity or we're not trying to show them that we are upset because I feel that will only negatively impact the team during practice, which will ultimately affect the season if we have one."

As one of six seniors on Novi's basketball team, Lubin knew the team would be his in 2021. He knew he would be one of the leaders of the group.

But through the uncertainty, through the starting and stopping, Lubin realized something he had heard his entire life was true:

"Play every team like it's your last, live every day like it's your last because you never know what's going to happen," Lubin said. "That is just so true to this year."

"I remember in March, when everything got shut down, I didn't think there was any way that it would impact this season. If I would have known what I knew now, I would have just focused and gave it my all. I think I did those things, but I would be more locked in and appreciative of the practices and the games and the time spent with coaches and teammates."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Kendall

Continued from Page 1B

But Kendall instead remembered her preseason goal: simply to finish, to make it through the season despite the uncertainty.

"I just tried to be like, 'OK, I've been waiting for this opportunity since August,'" Kendall said. "Just trying to put that aside and just focus on doing what I usually do before a race, keeping the same race routines."

"I guess working for it for really six months just kind of overcame that little feeling of being tired."

### Big expectations

After setting the Hudsonville High School pool record with a 22.98 first-place performance in the 50-yard freestyle – a 0.74 second improvement from her sophomore season – Kendall stepped up again, earning a Division 1 state championship in the 100-yard butterfly in 54.35 seconds: 1.08 seconds faster than the 2019 first-place time.

While never admitting it heading into the season, Plymouth swim coach Emily Weiner expected Kendall to finish at the top.

From the moment the junior first stepped onto the Wildcats' pool deck, the head coach saw a swimmer intrinsically motivated, driving herself based on her personal goals and always thinking of what came next.

This mindset allowed Kendall to take over her two individual events as a junior. This helped lead to her becoming a Michigan swimming commit with one year left in her high-school career.

To Weiner, this is the mind of a champion.

"After the butterfly as we were walking back to their team room, she was excited but was talking about already 'It wasn't the time I wanted, this is the time I wanted. She's next, this is the goal,'" Weiner said. "I think that's a lot of the reason why she's a champion because



Brady Kendall celebrates with her Plymouth teammates at the 2021 MHSAA girls swim and dive state meet at Hudsonville. PROVIDED BY BRADY KENDALL

she has that mentality.

"As soon as she achieves a goal, she's got the next one laid out for her."

### Finding her place in the pool

Kendall grew up in a family of swimmers. Her father was a prominent high school swimmer, while each of her brothers followed in his footsteps.

"Every day, my dad would drive to practice," Kendall said. "I'd come along and I'd sit there and watch them practice. Watching those people swim, I was always like, 'Yeah, I kind of want to be like that when I'm older.'"

Initially, Kendall did not want to fit the mold, instead gravitating toward soccer. But when her parents encouraged her to give it a try, she soon found the pool to be her home.

From her first season on a club team at age 7 Kendall began to earn state cuts, setting a state record at the 50-yard freestyle at 10.

Kendall said many swimmers find success at young ages, but that it takes a level of effort to continue improving as you get older.

"Some people I know were forced into the sport and don't have that love for it, so it gets harder when you get older," Kendall said. "I feel really fortunate that I am one of the people that really loves the sport. It's fun to practice and work hard and get better."

Heading into her high school career

at Plymouth, Kendall had a reputation that preceded her. Many of the older swimmers on the roster knew who she was, having previously swam against her or with her in club meets.

But instead of jealousy, Kendall fit right into the culture that Weiner installed one year into her tenure as head coach.

"She's leading them as they are running and she's working hard and making great intervals in practice," Weiner said. "I was impressed certainly right away with her work ethic and then obviously early on, between time trials and our first meet, it became very clear that she was a very talented kid and had a lot of potential."

Ahead of all of Kendall's accolades, Weiner is most proud of her ability to be a team player, for her support of the team and, in turn, the team's support of her success.

Kendall said this was something she learned at the start of her freshman year. She saw how different high school swimming was to the club, how team-oriented this group was and what it meant to have supportive and genuine teammates in your corner, or in this case, on the pool deck behind you.

It's something that she plans to continue as a senior.

"That culture, it's just continued throughout the years," Kendall said. "It hasn't changed since my freshman year. It's getting better and better."

### Striving for more

Each time Kendall raced in either the 50-yard freestyle or the 100-yard butterfly at the state meet, she earned All-State honors: finishing third and fifth in each respective event as a freshman and flipping those two performance results as a sophomore.

But heading into her senior season, Kendall has two goals. One is to break the state record in the 100-yard butterfly, along with improving her time in the 50-yard freestyle.

But more importantly, she wants to return to the state meet as a senior, allowing her parents to have a chance to see how much she has grown over her time at Plymouth.

Kendall really has nothing else to prove. She has a spot on the Michigan swim team starting in 2022, and is working to earn an increased scholarship with each race she swims.

But donning the maize and blue was always the goal. And on June 15, the first day that juniors can talk to colleges during the recruiting process, the Wolverines made sure Kendall knew they wanted her, reaching out at 12:15 a.m.

"Michigan has been my dream school since I was little," Kendall said. "I have always been a Michigan fan my whole life. It still hasn't hit me that I'm going to swim there."

After wrapping her head around what she accomplished at the state meet, Kendall was proud of herself. She celebrated with her teammates, mobbing her when she entered the classroom at Hudsonville where each team waited its turn to race.

But she was not satisfied. She knew she could do better, giving her fire heading into her senior season.

"I'm happy with that. I celebrated, and now it's looking forward to what's next, my new goals of what's going to happen," Kendall said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at [@ColinGay17](https://twitter.com/ColinGay17). Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### Super Crossword

TECH BUZZ

**ACROSS**

- 1 TV ET from Melmac
- 4 Puncturing tool
- 7 Restrained like Rover
- 15 "To a ..." poems
- 19 Road gunk
- 20 Zodiac beast
- 21 Course taker, e.g.
- 22 Actress Carter
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 Singer Fitzgerald
- 27 Grove sight
- 28 Certain boxing stat
- 29 Mil. bigwig
- 30 Pale-looking
- 31 Riddle, part 2
- 38 Kilmer of film
- 40 Alley —
- 41 Lion's foot
- 42 Fellow's wig
- 43 Actor Estevez
- 45 Sega's hedgehog
- 47 Look up to
- 51 Riddle, part 3
- 55 Lyric-writing Gershwin
- 56 Globes
- 57 "ixnay"
- 58 "Take this"
- 59 Brainstorms
- 61 Parsley bit
- 64 Riddle, part 4
- 67 Kay Thompson title girl
- 70 Native Kiwi
- 71 Fluctuated greatly
- 72 Riddle, part 5
- 75 Odor
- 77 French port in Brittany
- 78 Outing ruiner
- 79 Afflicted
- 80 Poses
- 84 Inflated self
- 85 Riddle, part 6
- 90 TV talker Phil
- 93 Slipknot loop
- 94 Address of "Dr. No"
- 95 Highest volcano in Eur.
- 98 Mil. bigwig
- 99 Mumbai "Mr."
- 100 Cotillion girl
- 101 End of the riddle
- 107 Throat affliction, for short
- 108 To the — degree
- 109 Western Hemisphere gp.
- 110 McEntire of song

**DOWN**

- 1 Element
- 2 Oz lion player Bert
- 3 Ascend a rock face without aids for support
- 4 Done in the style of
- 5 Vanished as if by magic
- 6 Tilt the head skyward
- 7 Big Brit. lexicon
- 8 Houston-to-Dallas dir.
- 9 Actress Nicole Parker
- 10 Vowel sound in "game"
- 11 Born first
- 12 Alicia of ballet
- 13 Use stitches
- 14 "— a Rebel"
- 15 Like a single-part process
- 16 City of India
- 17 Barkin of "The Fan"
- 18 Street talk
- 24 Prefix with colonialism
- 25 Auction unit
- 30 Mars, to the Greeks
- 32 Move around in confusion
- 33 Pleistocene, for one
- 34 Spout off
- 35 Axis-vs.-Allies event
- 36 Singer Tina
- 37 Copycatted
- 38 Bill blocker
- 39 Eros, to the Romans
- 44 Young girls
- 45 Hang-up
- 46 Be logically connected
- 48 Letters after "had a farm"
- 49 Ache for
- 50 Subdued with a shock
- 52 Lead-in to lateral
- 53 Classic soda brand
- 54 Coach Parseghian
- 59 Very hot star
- 60 Anti-alcohol measures
- 62 Oct. exam for many juniors
- 63 Home: Abbr.
- 64 Compound in wine
- 65 Greedy type
- 66 Indigo, e.g.
- 67 Fix firmly
- 68 One of the Florida Keys
- 69 Cineplex — (former theater chain)
- 70 Hurt severely
- 73 Following loyally
- 74 Zodiac beast
- 75 Plum used to flavor gin
- 76 Roman 1,051
- 79 Commercial lead-in to -gram or -matic
- 81 Shivered in fear or revulsion
- 82 Frilly veggie
- 83 Wild guess
- 85 Lewis of rock
- 86 Apt to pry
- 87 Artist Vincent van —
- 88 Master marksman
- 89 Actress Moran
- 91 Calvin Coolidge's college
- 92 Beginning of a web address
- 96 Papal envoy
- 97 2017 World Series winners
- 99 Gives rise to
- 101 Rachel Maddow's channel
- 102 Rome's land
- 103 Ground corn dish
- 104 Bum — in one's pocket
- 105 Chili holder
- 106 Foul up
- 111 Version being tested
- 112 Eden evictee
- 114 "I'm less than impressed"
- 115 "Who am — argue?"
- 116 Cave in
- 117 Siouan people
- 118 A small number of
- 119 Trellis plant

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	
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67	68	69				70							71					
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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		

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

## SUDOKU

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

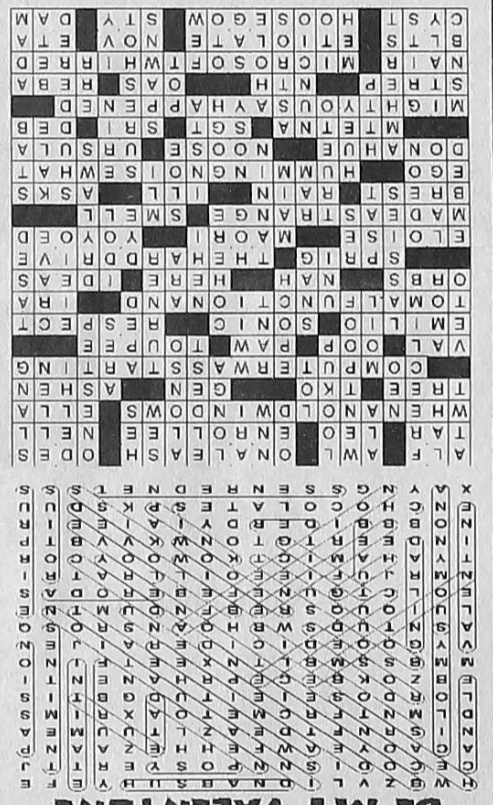
## BE MY VALENTINE

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

## ANSWER KEY

- ADMIRER
- ADORE
- AFFECTION
- ANONYMOUS
- BEAU
- BELOVED
- BE MINE
- BOUQUET
- BOYFRIEND
- CANDLE
- CARD
- CHOCOLATES
- CONFECTIONERY
- CUDDLE
- DARLING
- DATE
- DOZEN
- EMOTION
- FEBRUARY
- GIFT
- HEARTS
- HUG
- HUSBAND
- INFATUATION
- INTIMATE
- KISS
- LOVE
- PASSION
- PINK
- POSY
- RED
- RIBBONS
- ROSES
- SENTIMENT
- SUITOR
- SURPRISE
- SWEETHEART
- SYMBOLIC
- TENDERNESS
- TRUE
- UNEXPECTED
- VALENTINE
- WIFE
- WOOPER



## BE MY VALENTINE

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



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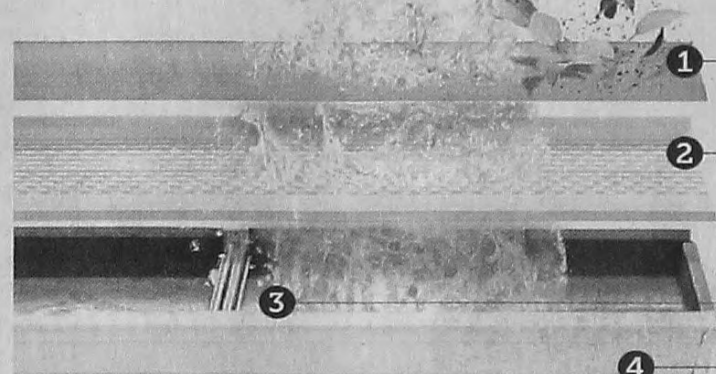
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