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# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## MDOT gives update on Ford Road project

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Transportation says construction work will begin on its massive Ford Road boulevard project in 2022, MDOT Project Manager Adam Penzenstadler revealed during the Canton Township Board of

Trustees meeting Tuesday held via Zoom.

The initial phase of construction will take place on Haggerty Road, with work on Ford Road slated to begin sometime in 2023.

The project on one of the most-congested roads in southeast Michigan will essentially replace the center passing

lane with a boulevard on Ford Road from Lotz to Sheldon roads, necessitating the addition of "Michigan left" crossovers and truck loons that will make U-turns easier for semitrailers and emergency vehicles.

Traffic studies have demonstrated that the replacement of center turn lanes with boulevards on five-lane

roads significantly reduces crashes. Wrecks have consistently plagued Canton's main thoroughfare throughout the township's decades-long growth spurt.

Boulevards will also be installed on Haggerty Road near the Haggerty-Ford Road intersection because of the high

See UPDATE, Page 4A



The Karapuz family started setting up their backyard ice rink around Thanksgiving, but the weather did not become cold enough to keep the ice safely solid until after the New Year. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Backyard hockey rink brings joy, normalcy to neighborhood

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The crackling harmony of hockey bliss - stick smacking puck, puck crashing into boards, stick colliding with stick - echoes through a Canton Township neighborhood most winter afternoons and evenings, and sometimes as late as midnight.

Ground zero for the hockey haven soundtrack - peppered with a lot of laughter and a little good-natured trash talk - is the Karapuz family's backyard.

For the past four winters, the yard has been transformed into a miniature outdoor version of Little Caesars Arena, minus the comfortable seats and \$20 beers.

Providing a venue where his two sons

can sharpen their skills, build friendships and, this year, stay active during the coronavirus pandemic, Brian Karapuz has done what his dad did for him: constructed a slick, well-lit hockey surface that has made him arguably the most popular dad in Canton's Sunflower subdivision.

See RINK, Page 4A

## Plymouth Ice Festival returns this weekend

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Below-freezing temperatures are expected for this weekend's 2021 Plymouth Ice Festival, which is the best news organizers of the long-running event can hear after last year's festival was dampened by rain and warm

weather, and this year's extravaganza was delayed and downsized by the coronavirus pandemic.

Downtown Plymouth is expected to be buzzing Friday through Sunday as 65 ice carvings are strategically displayed in front of businesses to promote social distancing.

Each of the carvings will be single-

block and there will be no live ice-carving competitions as one way to limit crowd gathering.

"We encourage everyone visiting downtown Plymouth to wear a mask at all times and maintain six-foot social distances," a post on the Ice Festival's

See FESTIVAL, Page 5A

## Restaurant proposed at Seven Mile, Middlebelt intersection

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A recent rezoning request indicates a new outlet restaurant could come to the shopping center on the southwest corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia.

A proposal to rezone portions of the south parking lot of the shopping center that contains Planet Fitness and Pet Supplies Plus calls for the rezoning of the land to C-2 General Business from P-Parking.

Such a designation would allow for a new structure, which appears to be a restaurant with a potential drive-thru window, to go up at the site.

"The new building would be located between the Boston Market and the Wendy's," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning and economic development director, during a planning commission meeting Jan. 26. "Changing the zoning to C-2 is the necessary first step since the P-Parking classification currently does not allow buildings or structures."

The proposal received unanimous approval from the planning commission, and the rezoning request will head to the city council for review. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for March 1. If the first reading of the rezoning proposal is approved by the council, a site plan could then come before the planning commission for review and recommendation to city council.

There was no word on what type of restaurant would occupy the space. Architect Benedetto Tiseo told the planning commission he planned on hammering out details of a site plan if and when the time came.

"We're here for just a rezoning," he said. "I know there is going to be some site plan issues that will need to be addressed, but rest assured that we will address them if we go through with this and it's approved."

In addition to shops such as Bulk Food and Smoothies and Jin Wig and Beauty, a standalone Citizens Bank ATM has been installed on the southern portion of the property, placed there after the bank branch on nearby Middlebelt closed in 2019.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com).



# New seafood restaurant opens in Westland

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

Westland's newest seafood restaurant would not exist if not for the coronavirus pandemic.

Kenny and Sue Yim left their former restaurant, Fortune Buffet at Five Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia, in 2019. As they went on, they discovered they weren't completely ready to retire and decided to open another restaurant.

After driving by the building that formerly housed Pizza Hut across from the Westland Shopping Center one day, the two decided it was the perfect spot to open another eatery.

"We stay home, it's very difficult all the time," she said. "We drive through and we said, 'Oh, this is a good location.' And we tried to open something easy."

"Me and my husband said, 'We can do it.'"

The name of that restaurant is Crab Kitchen, located at 7520 N. Wayne Road. It opened in December and focuses on dishes such as seafood boils, fried fish and chicken; and po' boy sandwiches.

Such a restaurant is a far cry from the buffet, which was more taxing, Yim said.

They took control of the space late last year and spent several months preparing it to serve seafood. Pizza Hut closed last spring, leaving the building in the city's Shop and Dine district vacant for several months.

They updated the kitchen, brought in their own cooking equipment and painted the space. There are still some touches of the former Pizza Hut inside: several dining room tables and chairs remained, and the Yims decided to keep them.

"We don't want to waste anything," Sue Yim said. "The tables and chairs are in very good condition. Why would we change them?"

The seafood boils are made of many of the usual ingredients found in such a dish: seafood such as crab or crawfish, corn; potatoes; and an egg. The restaurant also offers some add-ons, including noodles, zucchini and carrots.

"This is something we wanted to do," she said.

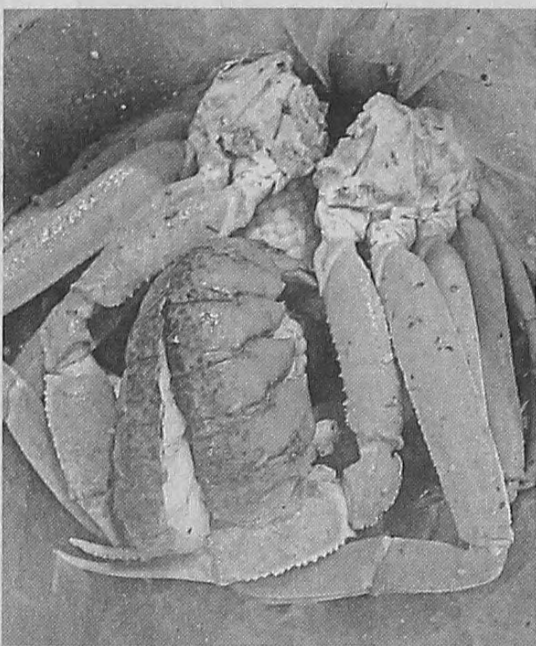
Sue Yim said even with opening just for carryout at the beginning, the restaurant has received plenty of business from area residents craving seafood.

That's something, she said, that speaks highly of the Crab Kitchen's food, since they are not doing much



A lobster, shrimp, pasta, boiled egg, potato and corn meal is ready for a customer at Crab Kitchen on Jan. 28.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



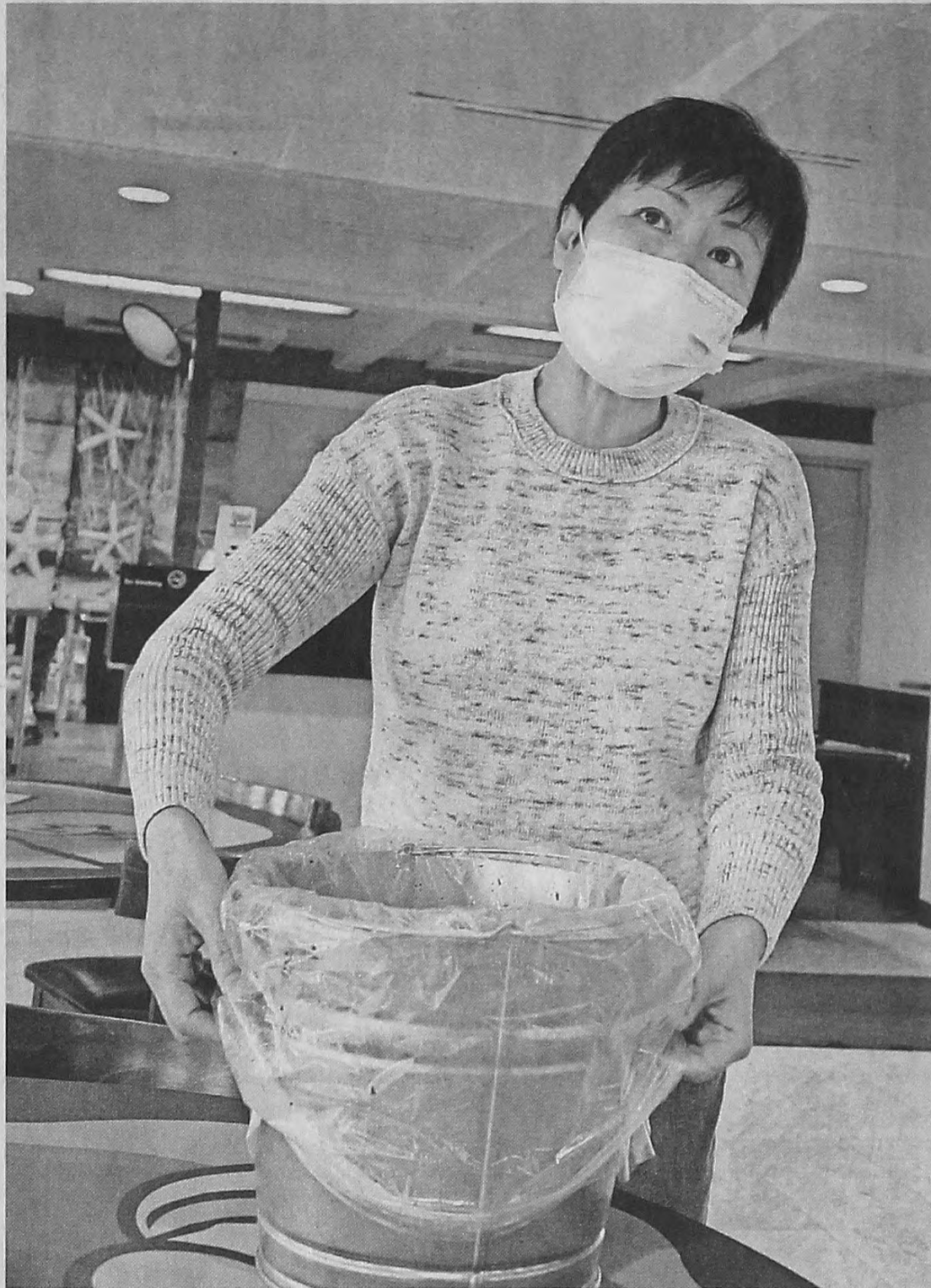
A snow crab and lobster tail order ready to be picked up.

marketing right now.

"We have a lot of return customers. We don't do any advertising, no advertising at all, just this sign," she said pointing to the "grand opening" sign on the building. "Most of it is word of mouth."

Getting the restaurant ready was easier than what the couple expected when it came to city inspections.

Sue Yim said city inspectors and other officials were very responsive in helping them get the restaurant's doors open as quick as possible.



Crab Kitchen co-owner Sue Yim brings out a bag of boiled seafood goodies for a customer at the Westland restaurant.

"I think people understand it's a COVID time," she said.

Crab Kitchen is open for carryout and limited indoor dining under the restricted capacity rules that began Feb. 1. The restaurant is open 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Orders can be placed by calling 734-744-7655 or online at [crabkitchen.ordereze.net](http://crabkitchen.ordereze.net).

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

**"We have a lot of return customers. We don't do any advertising, no advertising at all. ... Most of it is word of mouth."**

Sue Yim Co-owner, Crab Kitchen

## Man dies in crash in Wayne

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

Alcohol and narcotics apparently played a role in a one-vehicle fatal crash Wayne police responded to Sunday afternoon.

They said in a Facebook post that officers were dispatched to the area of Niagara Street and Michigan Avenue at 1:42 p.m. because of reports that a vehicle had crashed into a tree.

The driver, 29, of Wayne, was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead from his injuries.

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

## Livonia police add patrols after indecent exposure report

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

A man allegedly exposed himself to a young runner along Edward N. Hines Drive in Livonia on Feb. 3.

Police Lt. Charles Lister said officers are taking a Churchill High School runner's report seriously and have added patrols in that area of Hines and Newburg Road.

Lister said the runner emphasized that the suspect seemed determined to be noticed by vehicular traffic.

According to the police report ac-

quired by a Freedom of Information Act request, the Churchill athlete was running along Hines at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday when she saw a white man in his 30s exposing his penis from the other side of the street. Of average build, he had short hair and seemed to be wearing a blue puffer jacket.

"(She) stated she was frightened and just kept running and did not look back at the male in fear that he was going to chase after her," police reported.

Police responded to the area. Not finding the suspect, they spoke to the girl and her father.

The girl's coach took to social media to warn others of what happened. The post on the All Things Livonia Facebook page generated nearly 500 reactions as of Feb. 5.

"We were out for our first run in a week or so along Hines because the pathway was finally plowed and the sun was out!" the post read. "While she was running, a man exposed himself to her from the opposite (side) of the street."

The coach wrote in an email that her runners are harassed often, including being stared at, catcalled, drivers honking horns at them, and being followed.

## In-person learning canceled Friday for Plymouth-Canton elementary students

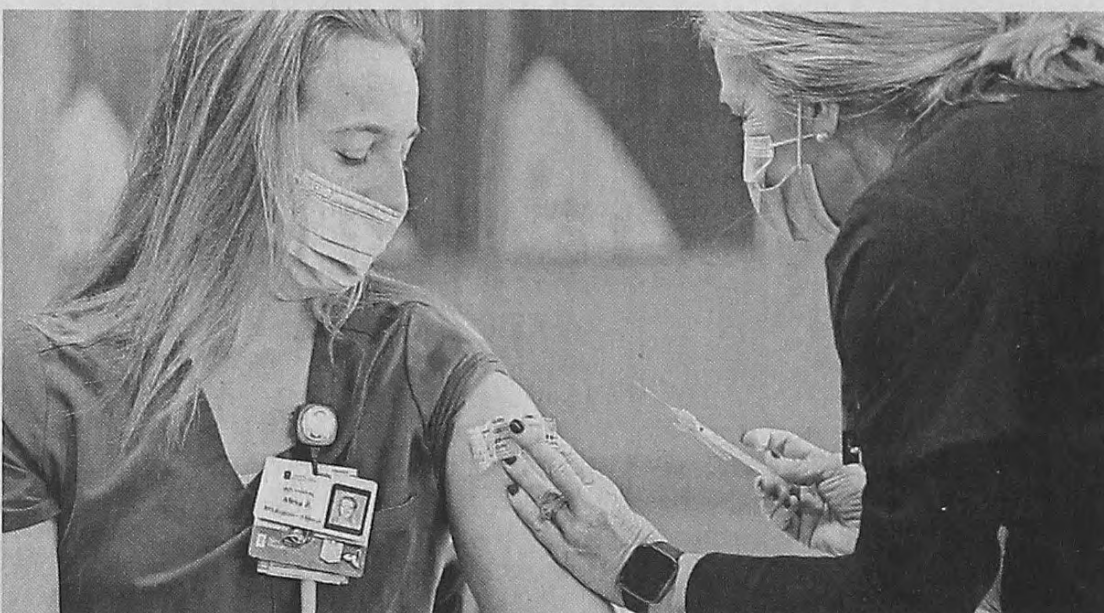
Ed Wright [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Plymouth-Canton elementary school students enrolled in the district's "Safe Start" learning model did not have in-person learning Friday so that teachers could receive the first of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, Superintendent Monica Merritt announced.

The Wayne County Health Department scheduled Plymouth-Canton elementary school teachers to receive their first COVID-19 vaccination shots by Feb. 13.

"We are currently finalizing schedules, and we will update you early next week in regards to adjustments to the Friday, Feb. 12 schedule," Merritt said. "As I have said in the past, I believe we need to do all we can to get our students back to the classroom as long as it is safe to do so."

"Getting our staff vaccinated will go



Plymouth-Canton elementary teachers are scheduled to receive the COVID-19 vaccine Feb. 5-13. USA TODAY NETWORK

a long way toward protecting the health and safety of our staff, students, and families."

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

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#### Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist  
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: [pallmen@hometownlife.com](mailto:pallmen@hometownlife.com)

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# Novi buys property for \$250K to complete ring road

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi needed one final piece of land to complete the ring road, a bypass to one of the most congested intersections in the city.

The city council recently unanimously approved the purchase of that property, a .6-acre parcel at 43707 Grand River, for \$252,400 plus closing costs.

"Completion of the ring road has been in talks for more than a decade," Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas said. "This is the last piece, the last component to complete it."

The ring road, a \$5 million expansion of Crescent Boulevard, offers a way to get around the busy Novi Road and Grand River intersection. Construction began two years ago.

The Grand River property was owned by former Novi Police Chief Lee BeGole, but the 1,600-square-foot house there has been vacant for years, Cardenas said. After BeGole's death last year, his family members reached out to the city with an offer.

The acquisition will be used to add a final 525-foot section to the southwest ring road, aligning it with the northwest segment. No detours will be necessary.

City Manager Pete Auger said demolition of the house is one possibility, but several options will be considered.

"There has been no final determination on the razing of the house as of yet," Auger said. "There are several options on the table. I think people will be happy with the solution."

Cardenas said the construction cost of this summer's ring road addition will be around \$746,000.

"This is a long time coming to make sure it's complete," Cardenas said. "It gives ... different ways of getting around that busy intersection and will help facilitate and mitigate traffic in the future."

# What happened with GameStop and should I invest in hedge funds?



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

By now, most of you have heard about GameStop stock's wild run. I've received a number of questions from investors about GameStop. The number one question I have received is, what happened with GameStop stock?

The GameStop saga can be looked at as a David vs. Goliath story, David being amateur everyday investors, while Goliath is the hedge funds. Hedge funds have been shorting GameStop stock for some time.

This means they have borrowed shares of GameStop and sold those shares hoping that the stock price would fall. This way, when they return the shares that they borrowed, they would do so at a much lower price. Unfortunately for the hedge funds, amateur investors on Reddit, a social media forum, noticed that hedge funds were heavily shorting GameStop stock and in order to punish the hedge funds, started encouraging investors to purchase the stock.

As a result, when you have more people wanting to buy the stock than sell it, the stock price rises, and that is exactly what happened. Millions of individual investors got caught up in the frenzy and started to purchase GameStop stock. As the stock prices started to rise, the hedge funds realized how much money they were losing and thus, to cover their short positions they also started buying stock which, once again, resulted in the stock price rising.

As a result of all the buying, GameStop stock surged in value. As the frenzy started to wane, the stock fell dramatically. Selling for over \$480 a share a week ago, the stock has fallen to \$50 a share now.

Over the years, many investors have also asked me if I recommend that they invest in hedge funds. My answer is generally no. Hedge funds are not as regulated as other investments such as mutual funds; they are limited to accredited investors only. To be an accredited investor, you must have an annual income exceeding \$200,000 or have a net worth of over \$1 million.

In addition, hedge funds typically employ a variety of sophisticated techniques to maximize returns over the short run. To me, that makes hedge funds more akin to gambling as opposed to investing.

Furthermore, many hedge funds are highly leveraged in order to increase their potential returns. This can be very profitable; however, it also can be extremely risky.

Most hedge funds are stuffed with high fees and often tie up your money, unlike mutual funds, where you can sell your investment any time you choose.

If you are an accredited investor that is already well-diversified, and you are looking to invest a small portion of your portfolio into something aggressive, you may wish to consider a hedge fund. Remember that not all hedge funds are the same and before you invest, make sure to do your homework and understand the investment and the risks involved.

Good luck.

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



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# State lifts hiring freeze, posts hundreds of job openings

**Carol Thompson** Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING – The state is looking for hundreds of new employees to join its ranks after a months-long hiring freeze ended late last year.

State departments and agencies posted a glut of positions on the state jobs page, [governmentjobs.com/careers/michigan](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/michigan), this month. There are more than 400 jobs available, although some openings for critical positions like corrections officers have been up for months or years.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the hiring freeze in March as part of a series of cost savings measures designed to limit state spending during the

pandemic-fueled economic downturn. The state still hired for critical positions and jobs related to COVID-19 response.

Whitmer lifted the hiring freeze on Dec. 30.

“The pandemic has unearthed a host of challenges that require robust public response,” she wrote in a letter to state department and agency leaders. “Without the ability to hire, our capacity to rise to these challenges will be impaired.”

The hiring freeze saved the general fund \$21.4 million by Sept. 30, the end of the state’s 2020 fiscal year, State Budget Office spokesperson Kurt Weiss said.

Whitmer cited the state’s stabilizing financial position in her letter rescinding the hiring freeze.

**“The pandemic has unearthed a host of challenges that require robust public response.”**

**Gov. Gretchen Whitmer**  
In a letter to state department, agency heads

State economists made dire predictions about the state budget last spring but have become increasingly optimistic throughout the pandemic. In January, they estimated the general fund and School Aid Fund would rake in a combined \$25.5 billion — \$1.2 billion more than their August estimate.

State revenues are down more than \$1 billion from pre-pandemic levels, state treasurer Rachael Eubanks said.

“There is cautious hope and optimism as we move forward as vaccines are administered, and we begin to put the pandemic behind us,” she said.

The postings are encouraging, said Jeremy Tripp, executive director of Service Employees International Union Local 517M, which represents about 3,500 state employees. He’s optimistic the state will turn away from private contractors and hire more of its own staff.

“We talk about investment,” he said. “We should be investing in our state. I think that starts with having trained, competent state employees that we can rely on.”

## Rink

Continued from Page 1A

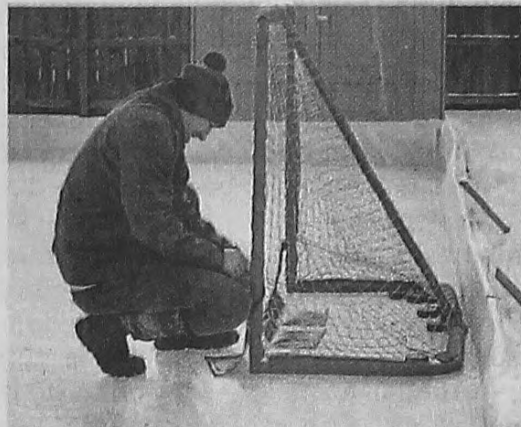
“Every year, I make it a little bit better and a little bit bigger,” said Karapuz, as his two sons, Cooper and Brady, and a few of their friends skated on the rink one recent afternoon. “It’s something my dad did for me when I was young, growing up in St. Clair Shores. I’ve made a rink every year since we moved to Canton four years ago from Livonia and I put one together for the boys for a few years when we lived in Livonia.”

The rink’s rules are simple: no checking, no slap shots and have fun.

“The boys are out here every chance they get, especially this year with a lot being shut down due to the pandemic,” Karapuz said. “When the boys were in remote learning (at Tonda Elementary School) there were times they needed a break, so they’d come out here and get some activity. It’s better than being stuck indoors playing video games.”

Karapuz said his neighbors are cool with the backyard hockey rink; some have taken his idea and run with it.

“We’ve heard no complaints whatsoever,” Karapuz said. “When a puck goes over the fence into the neighbor’s yard, they throw it back, although we don’t allow slap shots, so that cuts down on the number of over-the-fence pucks.



**Brian Karapuz mends a net at his backyard hockey rink Feb. 2.**

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

“My neighbor across the street liked the idea so much he built one in his backyard. I’ve had other neighbors volunteer to help me put it together every year. It’s a lot of fun.”

The number of outdoor hockey rinks maintained by municipalities has decreased sharply over the past couple decades, making family-built rinks even more popular.

According to LittleGuideDetroit.com, the closest outdoor ice rink to Canton is Riley Park in downtown Farmington.

And while pick-up hockey games can be spotted occasionally on a frozen pond near the intersection of Warren and Sheldon roads, the majority of hockey action has moved indoors with

the spread of organized youth travel leagues.

Karapuz said there are backyard rink kits available to purchase, although he prefers to build his the old-fashioned way.

“The kits can get pretty expensive,” he said. “I use plywood for the boards, connect the two-by-fours with brackets and secure it in the ground with rebar. I’ve found that you have to buy a good tarp or liner and make sure it’s longer than what you need to put under the surface before you pour in the water.”

The surface of Karapuz Arena this winter is 32 feet by 56 feet. Once the liner is down, Karapuz fills the rink with water from a garden hose.

“When it first freezes up, it’s usually really smooth,” he said. “Once the kids skate on it for a while or it snows, we re-surface it.”

Karapuz was gifted with a hand-held Zamboni-like device that smooths out the ice surface. His other tools of the ice-maintenance trade include a flame-thrower that takes care of bumps in the ice and a shovel for when it snows.

Cooper and Brady make up his maintenance staff.

“When it snows, it takes us about 20 minutes to shovel it off,” Cooper said. “It’s worth it because outdoor hockey is so much fun, even when it’s really cold out.”

The Karapuz brothers play high-level

travel hockey, so their convenient backyard setup is a skills accelerator.

“It’s nice because when they play in the backyard, they can just relax and have fun, they don’t have to think,” Karapuz said. “They’ll have their friends and teammates over and play for hours.”

Lights were added to the setup in 2020.

Forecasted upgrades for the 2021-22 season include colored rope lighting that will be placed under the ice to provide blue lines and a red line and netting near the ends of the rink to prevent errant pucks from flying into the next door neighbors’ yards.

Karapuz said the cost is minimal, at least relative to the amount of enjoyment the rink provides his family.

“We were surprised by how much our water bill didn’t go up,” he said. “In the spring, we let the ice melt. Most of the water evaporates and we open up the boards at one end and let the rest flow out beside the driveway.”

“Then we have our backyard back until around Thanksgiving, when we build it all over again.”

And like clockwork, the crackling harmony of hockey bliss returns, echoing through a neighborhood whose residents appreciate a good thing when they hear it.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-3113.

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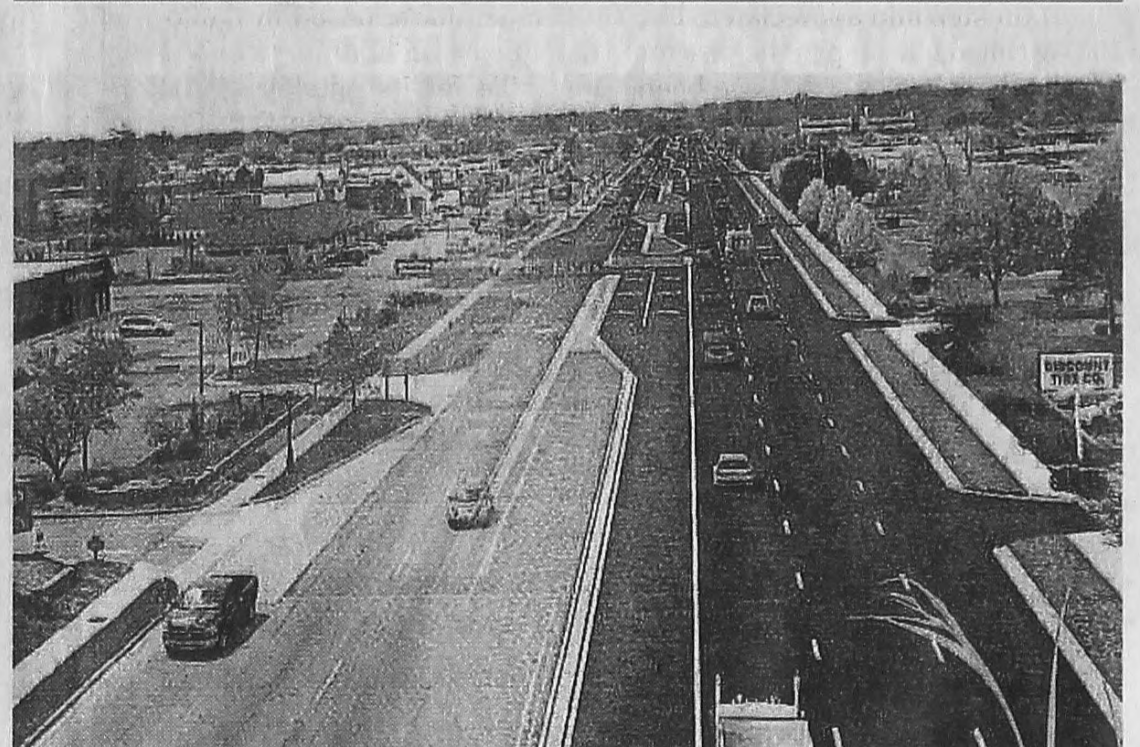
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Released in 2019, a rendering looking westward from Haggerty Road of how Ford Road will look once the boulevard project is complete. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP

## Update

Continued from Page 1A

volume of traffic in that area.

Approximately 2.5 miles of Ford Road will be affected by the project.

“Planning for the project is approximately 60% complete and is expected to be completed in September of 2021,” Penzenstadler said. “While we’re on track to meet our timeline, since our plans are 60% complete right now, there are no guarantees that things won’t change.”

Penzenstadler revealed Ford Road’s “footprint” will be widened during the project, necessitating the implementation of right-of-ways, the legal right of a municipality to purchase land currently owned by businesses along the section of Ford Road that will be impacted.

It is too early in the process, Penzenstadler noted, to begin discussing details related to right-of-ways.

“We have to get far enough along in our design to feel pretty confident as to where everything is before we go out and work with our acquisitions through our real estate division,” Penzenstadler said. “That is one thing that could be a challenge, but something we will be working through.”

Contract bidding on construction work – referred to as “letting” by Penzenstadler – is projected to begin near the end of 2021.

“MDOT goes through a low-bid system,” Penzenstadler said, when asked by Trustee Sommer Foster whether the township would be involved in the bidding process.

The boulevard project will include major drainage replacement along the affected route, the replacement and modernization of existing traffic signals, and sidewalk replacement.

Canton Township is paying MDOT \$1 million annually for the project. The funds were generated by the passage of the township’s 2018 roads improvement millage.

MDOT informed Canton officials in 2019 that bike lanes will not be an option along the boulevards due to the amount of right-of-way needed.

Beginning in the spring, MDOT will hold a series of virtual public informational meetings related to the project. It is also developing a website people can visit for updates and details. The website will be launched in conjunction with the first virtual meeting, but a date has not yet been cemented, Penzenstadler said.

Once the planning phase nears completion, MDOT will initiate conversations with local representatives regarding corridor aesthetics, how water-main replacement work will affect brick signage along Ford Road, overall landscaping elements and lighting changes.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-3113.

## Vaccinated workers at Kroger to get bonus cash

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kroger Co. is giving a \$100 bonus to its employees who get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Kroger employees, including about 19,000 in Michigan, receive the one-time payment of \$100 when vaccinated with the "full manufacturer-recommended" dose along with proof of the vaccination.

Those employees who, for medical or religious reasons, cannot get the vaccine can complete an educational health and safety course to receive the \$100, according to a news release.

"As we move into a new phase of the pandemic, we're increasing our investment to not only recognize our associates' contributions but also encourage them to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available to them to optimize their well-being, as well as the community's," Tim Massa, Kroger's chief people officer, said in a statement released on Friday.

Grocery workers are part of Phase 1b of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine rollout recommendations. The group also includes firefighters, police officers, food and agricultural workers, postal workers, teachers and public transit workers.

In January, Aldi, Dollar General and Trader Joe's announced employees would receive two hours of regular pay for each vaccine dose. For salaried workers, Aldi and Dollar General will offer flexible schedules. Aldi is covering the costs of the vaccines for its workers, according to a news release.

On Friday, Kroger also announced it will invest an additional \$50 million in rewards as a thank you to its associates. The rewards include a \$100 store credit and 1,000 fuel points loaded to associates' loyalty cards on Feb. 11. Hourly frontline grocery, supply chain, manufacturing, pharmacy and call center associates are eligible for the additional rewards.

Nationwide, Cincinnati-based Kroger has nearly 500,000 associates across more than 2,700 stores.

But not everyone is happy. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) said the one-time payment is an important step and appreciated. But the UFCW called it a "slap in the face for its frontline employees who have been treated as expendable throughout the pandemic." The union represents Kroger



Kroger is offering employees who get vaccinated for COVID-19 a \$100 bonus. MIRIAM MARINI/DETROIT FREE PRESS

er workers and other front-line food workers nationwide.

"Kroger workers deserve free vaccinations for the risks they have faced and continue to face as COVID cases increase," Marc Perrone, UFCW International president, said in a statement. "This one-time payment from Kroger is appreciated but given the way the company has treated its workers during the pandemic, it does not recognize the contribution of these essential workers to our nation or the risks they face daily."

This vaccine payment and additional rewards come on the heels of Kroger's announced closure of two Long Beach, California, stores. Kroger cited the city's recently passed mandate requiring large grocers to pay its employees an extra \$4 an hour. Rather than pay the additional temporary wages, Kroger will close the stores.

The closings, the union said, are "retaliation on essential grocery workers who have been risking their lives, and the lives of their families, to serve their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The union has pushed for grocery companies to reinstate hazard pay for their essential workers. Several grocers stopped additional hazard pay last summer. More recently, some cities on the West Coast have mandated hazard pay for grocery workers.

Trader Joe's, based in California, announced an additional temporary pay hike for its employees nationwide after the Seattle City Council passed a mandate for additional pay.

## Students remember Churchill teacher as sincere, caring mentor

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's just something about theater. Kids from across the spectrum – the athletes, the academically gifted, the outcasts and the typical theater fans – can all learn something about themselves and find friends on the stage.

Angie Hillman knew that well. "When you look at this cross section of students whose lives she changed, it was students from every one of those categories," said Jenny O'Connor, a friend and former student of Hillman's.

In the days since Hillman's death Jan. 29 at age 51, students, family and friends have shared stories of how Hillman impacted their lives. Hillman, who worked as the director of the creative and performing arts program at Churchill High School, likely taught thousands of teens in her 20-plus years with Livonia Public Schools.

### A great teacher and a great friend

According to her students, Hillman could make everyone feel important.

"She was just one of those teachers that could reach any student," said Sara Kruz, a friend and former student. "She often said the students that were the hardest to love were the ones that needed it the most."

Even after graduation, Hillman mentored and cultivated friendships with many of her students. Her Twitter account, @lovebeadcentral, is almost exclusively dedicated to celebrating her current and former pupils.

"She accepted any kid that walked through her classroom or theater door, no matter their background, attitudes, abilities and talents," said Michele Porcaro, a former student. "In fact, she always found the best in every person, even when they couldn't see it themselves."

### The famous 'Hillmark' cards

In character with her sincere concern for students, Hillman was known for making handmade, handwritten cards for them.

"I'm eternally grateful that my bond



Angie Hillman

with her continued to flourish long after high school. I'm 34 now, and we became even closer over the years," said Nicole Vowell, a friend and former student. "No matter how far I roamed, she was always close in spirit. Always checking in, calling, texting, sending her famous 'Hillmark' cards."

Others said they had no idea how Hillman found the time to make the cards. On the opening night of a show, Hillman would give personalized, handmade cards to every kid in the cast and crew.

"She made every kid feel important, like they mattered," Kruz said.

### A wide ripple effect

"I don't think any of us who knew her knew just how many people she had really affected in such a profound way until now," O'Connor said. "We're just seeing this outpouring of people who, at this point, is probably in the thousands."

Hillman's students say they'll never forget her wisdom, kindness, inclusive attitude and optimism. Jacki Karns, a former student, said Hillman taught her to "be a beacon of love no matter where life takes you."

"She wanted every student to find 'forever' success," said Churchill Principal Kevin Etue. "She always told her students to 'trust the process' and carry your lessons learned throughout your life's journey. As a result, Churchill High School has a strong CAPA alumni following which is a testament to Angie's radiant personality and positive impact on her students."

In the classroom, on the stage and after graduation, Hillman was what every teen needs: Someone in their corner.

"They need somebody there who says, 'Yeah, I see you. I see you, I see your strength, I see what you're capable of and I believe in you, even if you don't believe in yourself,'" O'Connor said.

## Obituaries



Beverly Morrow

WESTLAND - 83, of Westland, MI, passed away on February 6, 2021. Beloved wife of Paul. Cherished mother of Bret (Tamyra) Morrow, Brian (Shelly) Morrow and Beth (Ray) Carswell.

Dear Sister to John (Sylvia) Reinhart, Nancy (Rich) Perry, Joe (Dolly) Morrow and Wanda (Fran) Wyborski. Loving Grandma, Great Grandma and Aunt to Matthew Morrow, Kristen (Nick) Anderson, Clifford (Kourtney) Morrow, Rachel (Josiah) Simmonds, Ethan Morrow, Richard (Rachel) Perry, Philip (Jessica) Perry, Mason, Caylee, Cadence, Kinslee, Bishop, Chase and Wilder. Cremation to take place with burial at Glenwood Cemetery at a later date.

### Phyllis Ivey Walker

HENDERSON, NV - Phyllis Ivey Walker, 92, of Henderson, NV (formerly Livonia, MI), passed away on January 31, 2021.

Ivey was born in Morriston, Wales to John and Elizabeth Davies on May 11, 1928.

The Davies family immigrated to the US when Ivey was 2 years old. They lived in Detroit, MI. Upon graduation from Highland Park High School, Ivey worked as a bookkeeper until marrying David P. Walker in 1947. Later, she worked as Activities Director at Dorvin and University Nursing Homes for 25 years before retiring. While in her 50's, she earned an associates degree from Madonna University. Ivey and David were active members of Ward Church, Northville, MI (previously Livonia) for over 60 years.

Ivey leaves behind a legacy of love and acceptance as well as an example for all who knew her of a life well lived. She will be remembered for her belief that all who entered her home were family.

Ivey is preceded in death by husband, David Walker; sister, Mary Soja; brother David Davies; grandsons, Sandy J Graham, Richard Simpson IV, Ross Meredith.

Ivey is survived by her children, David Walker (Donna), Susan Graham (Sandy), Bill Walker (Liz) Nancy Simpson (Rick); grandchildren, Brian Walker (Shaun), Jennifer Reid (Nick), Russell Meredith, Deirdre Vriesman (Aaron), Stephen Seargeant (Jess), Leah Follett (Joe), Alexander Walker, Carley Davila (Pablo), Aubrey Johnson (Kyle); great-grandchildren, Anthony, Caden, Cannon, Rylie, Brityn, Camden, Behr, Nola, Samuel, Lucianna, Arya Ivey, Zahra. Ivey was also blessed with many nieces, nephews and close friends.

A memorial service and celebration of Ivey's life will be held at a future date when it is safe for her loved ones to gather together.

## Kroger donates commission from sale of \$1B lotto ticket

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After selling the record-setting Mega Millions ticket in January, Kroger announced it will be donating the \$50,000 ticket commission to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

While the lucky winner of the \$1.05 billion jackpot has yet to step forward and claim their prize, Kroger has decided to spread its luck to Michiganders in need.

As part of its Zero Hunger Zero Waste program, which aims to end hunger by donating 3 billion meals by 2025, the grocery chain will aid local food banks with the commission.

"I applaud Kroger for their generous donation and continued commitment to feeding those in the communities they serve," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in the release announcing the donation. "During these tough times, it has been

incredible to see the ways in which our communities can come together to ensure that nobody goes without. If we continue to find ways to support each other, I truly believe that each month of this year will be better than the next."

With thousands of retailers in Michigan selling lottery tickets, the golden ticket happened to be sold at a Kroger in Novi located at 47650 Grand River Ave. on Jan. 22. The lucky player managed to beat the odds and snag the third-largest lottery jackpot ever won in the United States of \$1.05 billion.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan is a network of regional food banks working to tackle hunger across the state and increase emergency food resources. The donation comes as food banks and pantries are under strain as needs have increased during the pandemic.

## Festival

Continued from Page 1A

website stated. "We hope (visitors) will enjoy and embrace this year's version ... and sincerely thank you for your loyal support."

One of the highlights of this year's festival is a bingo game hosted by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Bingo cards can be accessed on the DDA website and participants can fill their cards by visiting local businesses over the weekend.

Once a player gets a bingo they can take a photo of their board and email it to dda@plymouthmi.gov to enter in the drawing. Players can win a grand prize if they accumulate the most stickers on their card.



An ice sculpture on display during the 2019 Plymouth Ice Festival.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Unlike in past years, there will be no ice sculptures in Kellogg Park.

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

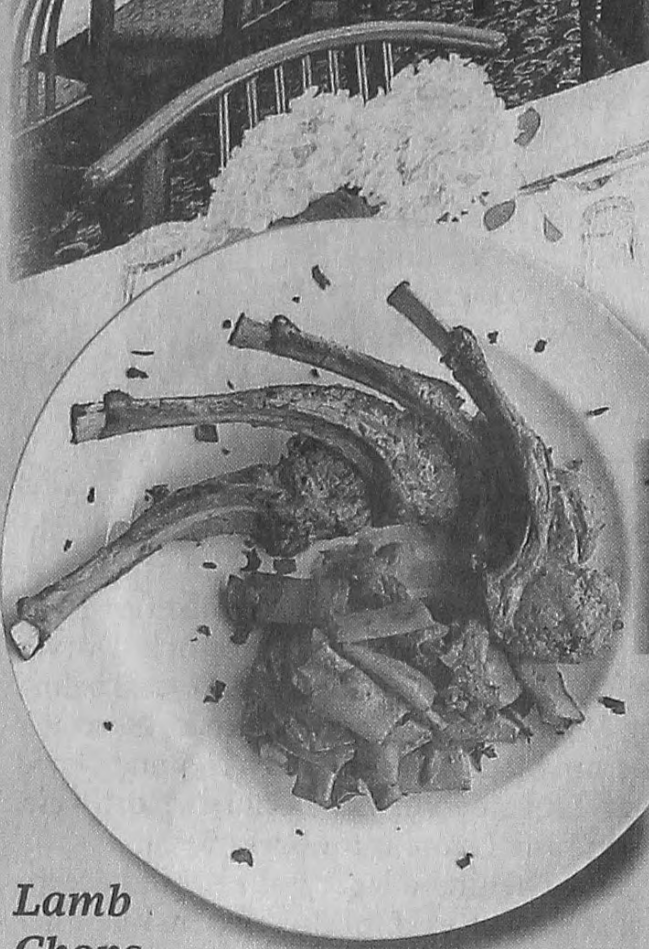
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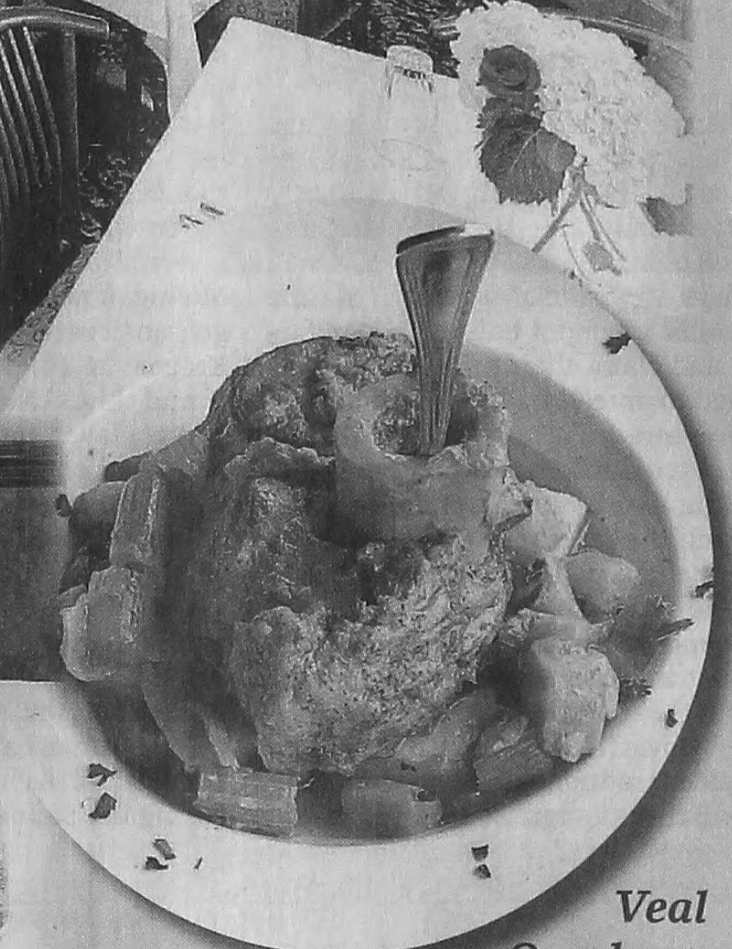
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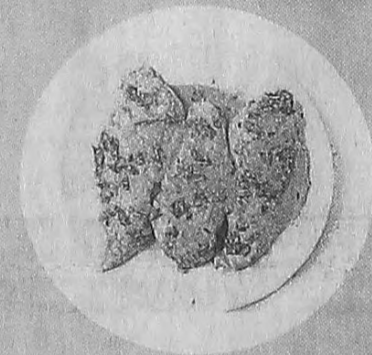
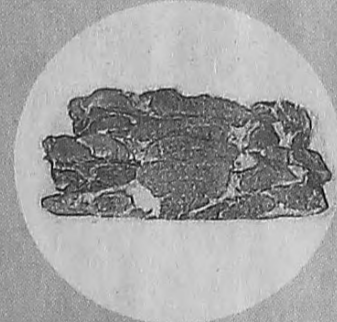
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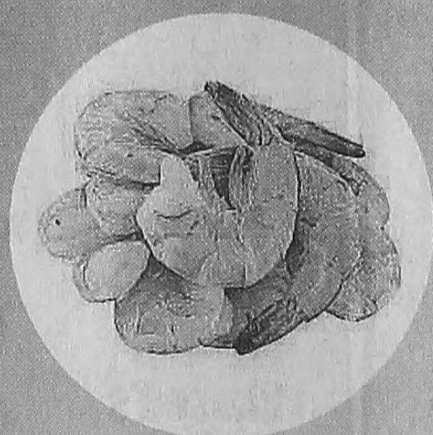
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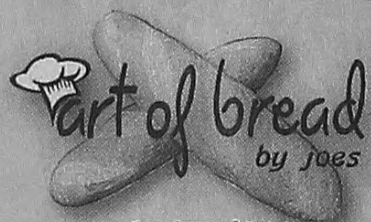
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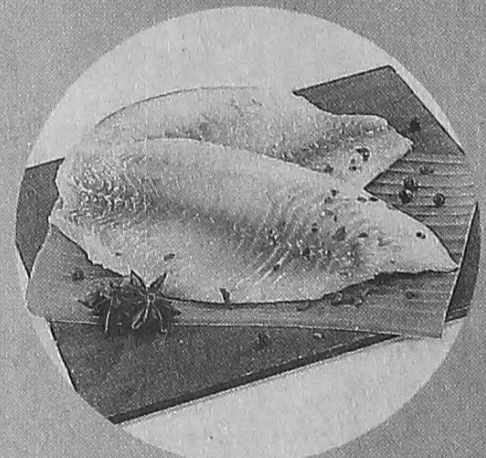
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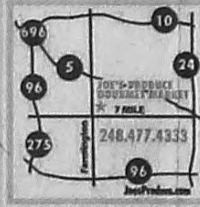
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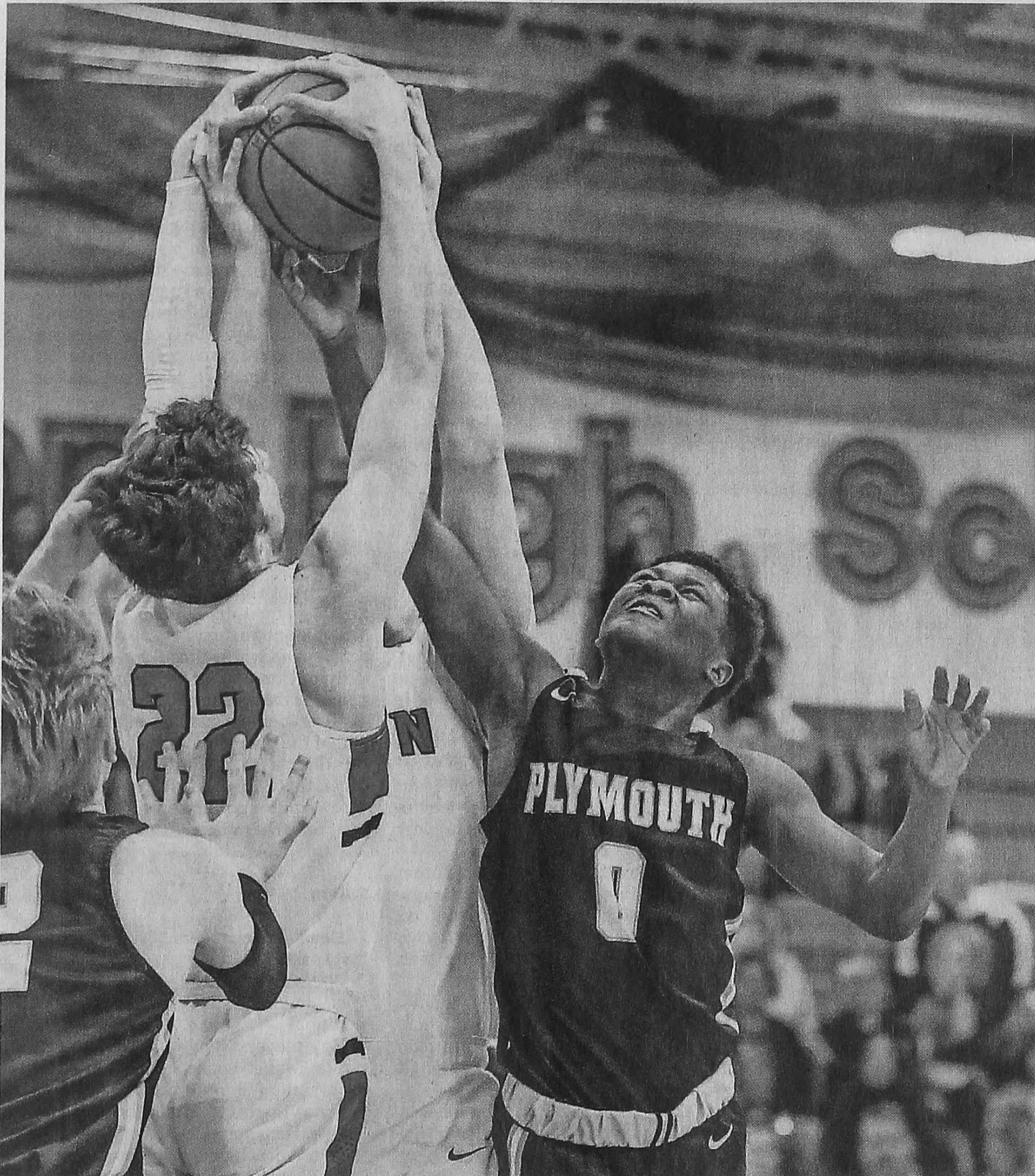
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# SPORTS

## BOYS BASKETBALL



Senior Brandon Craddieth will play a major role for Plymouth this season. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## What to watch for this season in the LVC

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school basketball is back. After months of uncertainty surrounding the 2020-21 winter season, basketball teams got the go-ahead from the state to start the season Monday.

This season, the district playoffs will be held March 23, 25 and 27; the regional round will be held March 30 and April 1; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 6, 8 and 10.

Here's how Hometown Life's four teams in the Lakes Valley Conference look ahead of the 2021 season.

### Milford

**Head coach:** Dave Gilbert, eighth season

**2019-20 season:** 5-15, seventh in LVC, 33-30 loss to Walled Lake Northern in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Trevor Leigh, senior Eric Elizando, sophomore Sam Lewis

**What to expect:** While the 2020 season didn't end the way Milford wanted, head coach Dave Gilbert was relieved to have that sense of closure.

"We had that moment where we gave it everything we had, we fought back double-digits against Northern in the district semi," Gilbert said. "Our kids left it all out there on the court and we fell a bucket short."

Gilbert brings back a group in 2021 that remembers that game well: a senior-heavy group that knows his system, represents, what he calls, that "Milford mentality."

"Just the fact that the kids know our system, right, and know our program and what we are all about, having those kids that have been through that varsity experience, it's absolutely an advantage," he said.

Allowing an average of 51.6 points per game a season ago, Gilbert said defense will be the staple of Milford basketball in 2021. Through the uncertain start to the season, he said defense will be about attitude and effort, showing up from the first game no matter how much time the team had to prepare prior.

If we are going to have any success, I think that's one of the things that can carry over," Gilbert said. "I expect our defense, not pick up where we left off, but truly be one of those things that our kids know and truly understand

See LVC, Page 2B

## What to expect from KLAA West

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school basketball is back. After months of uncertainty surrounding the 2020-21 winter season, basketball teams got the go-ahead from the state to start its season Monday.

This season, the district round will be held March 23, 25 and 27; the regional round will be March 30 and April 1; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 6, 8 and 10.

Here's how Hometown Life's teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association West division look ahead of the 2021 season.

### Canton

**Head coach:** Jimmy Reddy, 12th season

**2019-20 season:** 15-7, third in KLAA West, unplayed district final against Northville

**Key players:** Junior Cole Vickers, junior Amare Reed, junior Lake McIntosh, senior Bruce Warmann, senior Nate Herberholz

**What to expect:** Canton will look much different than the 2019-20 team that won 15 games and ended its season with an incomplete district final.

The Chiefs have five returning varsity players, including two juniors — Cole

Vickers, a KLAA All-Conference player last year, and Lake McIntosh, an All-KLAA honorable mention — who played a lot of minutes for head coach Jimmy Reddy's team last season.

"Those guys will be ready to go," Reddy said. "Those guys play a lot of ball and they got a good feel. I'm not worried about those guys."

After Vickers and McIntosh, along with fellow junior forward Amare Reed, Canton's roster is filled with players without consistent playing time at the varsity level.

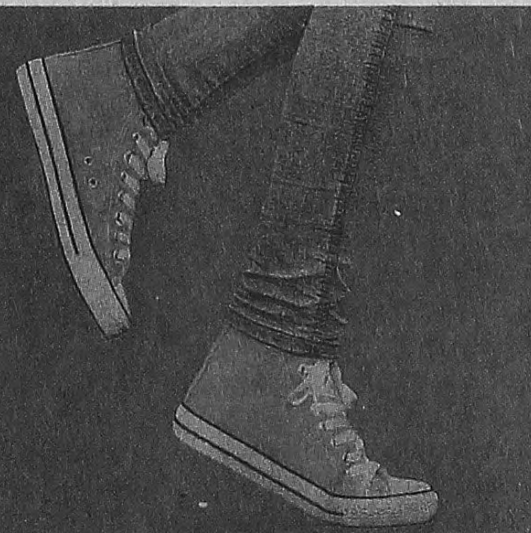
Senior Nate Herberholtz, one of

See KLAA, Page 2B

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## LVC

Continued from Page 1B

where the offense will take a little bit more time... see the offense more evolve through the game experience."

### South Lyon East

**Head coach:** Ron Levin, eighth season

**2019-20 season:** 15-7, third in LVC, unplayed district final against Ann Arbor Skyline

**Key players:** Senior Bryce Bird, senior Adam Trent, senior Christian Dimitriou, senior Drake Willenborg, senior Zander Desentz

**What to expect:** Compared to other teams around the state, South Lyon East head coach Ron Levin feels his team is in a good spot.

Heading into 2021, he has eight players who have gone through a season together, whoknow what South Lyon East basketball is about and that can pick up where they left off in 2020: an unplayed district final against Ann Arbor Skyline.

With this group, including five seniors and three third-season varsity players, Levin said there are no worries about developing team chemistry.

"The familiarity is there," Levin said. "They play together, they know how each other works and functions, they know how to play for me and what I expect from them."

Senior guard Bryce Bird will run the point for the Cougars, coming into his final season already holding the school record for assists after earning a spot on the All-Conference team a year ago. Along with seniors Christian Dimitriou, Drake Willenborg and Zander Desentz — an LVC All-Conference honorable mention — Levin says senior Adam Trent will play a big role, like he already has during the extended and uncertain offseason.

"Kids look up to him," Levin said of



**South Lyon's Lucas Doty has not played since his sophomore year after sitting out the 2019-20 season due to an injury.** JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trent. "He's almost like a coach on the floor. He's been really instrumental at keeping the kids together through all these shutdowns and keeping guys focused and organizing things for guys to stay active, whether it be Zoom calls or workouts. He's been very important."

### South Lyon

**Head coach:** Troy Weidman, fourth season

**2019-20 season:** 10-11, fifth in LVC, 51-48 loss to South Lyon East in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Lucas Doty, junior Quinn Fracassi, senior Julien Neer,

senior Max Peters, junior Logan Doty

**What to expect:** South Lyon head coach Troy Weidman is just grateful for a chance to play.

"It's just been a given to go play league, go play games, go play in a state tournament the way we do," Weidman said. "That's not the case anymore."

Last season, winning 10-of-21 games, the Lions were third in the Lakes Valley Conference in offense, averaging 55 points per game. Due to the lack of contact practices heading into the season, the head coach said offensive and defensive play calling is harder and more accelerated.

But Weidman thinks, especially this

season, that this year is not about him. The players will be the ones defining the success.

"I believe this year, those teams that are player-led teams that are really tight as a team — tight meaning they really like each other and hold each other accountable — are going to be the teams that are really going to be successful," Weidman said.

Weidman feels senior Lucas Doty will play a major role in that. Returning from an injury that sidelined him all of his junior season, Doty was the co-MVP his sophomore year. Weidman expects Doty to battle with his brother Logan, a junior, to be the best defensive player on the team.

South Lyon will also have junior Quinn Fracassi returning, who Weidman describes as a "special shooter" after averaging 16 points per game in 2019-20.

### Lakeland

**Head coach:** Ron Thompson, fourth season

**2019-20 season:** 15-6, second in LVC, unplayed district final against Walled Lake Northern

**Key players:** Junior Caleb Zurek

**What to expect:** In 2019-20, Lakeland did not get a chance at closure.

After a 60-43 win against Walled Lake Western in the district semifinal, the Eagles awaited a district final against Walled Lake Northern before the season was canceled.

Heading into 2021 without its two LVC All-Conference players from a season ago in Austin Boughton and David Jabiro, Thompson, in his fourth season as head coach, will have to rely on junior Caleb Zurek, who was named an honorable mention all-conference selection.

A season ago, the Eagles averaged 58.8 points per game, scoring under 50 points only once — a 44-33 win against Walled Lake Western.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com).

## KLAA

Continued from Page 1B

three seniors on the roster including Bruce Warmann, has done a great job of helping his Canton teammates stay on top of things throughout the pandemic, Reddy said, and has developed as a leader.

"He was a super quiet kid for us as a junior last year," Reddy said. "Actually a really good baseball guy — he's going to play college baseball somewhere — but he's really been vocal, which has really been helpful for our senior class."

But with this new group, Reddy is focused on helping them look forward and not back at what could have been at the district final against Northville. He wants his team to have a chance to write their own legacy at Canton, believing that the best is yet to come.

"There's really no playbook for this," Reddy said. "We're going to try and navigate this as a staff and keep preaching to our guys, 'Attitude, attitude,' because you are just going to have to be ready for anything, the next guy's going to be ready to step in."

"You are just going to have to roll with the punches."

### Northville

**Head coach:** Todd Sander, 13th season

**2019-20 season:** 18-4, second in KLAA West, unplayed district final against Canton

**Key players:** Senior Brett Rudolph, senior Jake Willerer, senior Jacob Eyler, senior Jack Huddy

**What to expect:** Normally, Northville head coach Todd Sander is used to seeing his team every day. But after two months of virtual coaching, reconnecting in person for outdoor conditioning workouts he sensed a few differences.

"I think a couple of them are a few inches taller than when we were last in the gym together in November," Sander said.

Heading into the 2021 season, Sander's seven returners have not forgotten how their season ended last March: in an unplayed district final against Canton that was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But Sander's focus is on them putting their own stamp on Northville's history.

To the Mustangs, it starts with their seven seniors, including guard Jake Willerer, who Sander said has experienced big moments on the basketball court and the baseball field; Jacob Eyler, who transferred back to Northville from Detroit Catholic Central; and Jack Huddy, the tallest player on the roster at 6-foot-7.

But Sander expects Brett Rudolph to



**Northville head coach Todd Sander said he expects Brett Rudolph to take a step up in 2021.** TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

play a major role in the team's success when it's all said and done.

Last year, the Northville staff asked him to learn almost every position as a junior, filling in where he could despite taking a dip in scoring due to the weapons the Mustangs had.

"We asked him to do a lot: we asked him to defend and sometimes he was defending a big and sometimes he was defending on the perimeter," Sander said. "He turned into a great rebounder."

"This year, we need him to take a big step forward, which I'm confident he will because in a lot of ways, he has the most experience, he's the most familiar with us and a lot of our stuff is going to go through him."

### Novi

**Head coach:** Chris Housey, third season

**2019-20 season:** 7-14, 45-25 loss to Northville in district semifinals

**Key players:** Senior Bryce Lubin, senior Aiden Shires, senior Anish Gogineni, junior Danny Groechel

**What to expect:** Adversity is nothing new for Novi basketball.

A season ago, younger players were forced to step up when injuries plagued the Wildcats starting lineup. To head coach Chris Housey, it was a chance to see them step up and fill rolls.

"They did well. There was a bit of a learning curve with those guys, but now, those guys that got the experience because of those injuries, they are back, they are here this year and kind of know they have that background, they have that foundation that they got last year

and they can build on it," Housey said.

Novi will have six returning players to the 2021 team: one junior and five seniors, including senior guard Bryce Lubin, who started most of the season at point guard, Aiden Shires, Anish Gogineni and Danny Gretchel, who came up halfway through last season and filled in at point guard.

Housey said his seniors have taken initiative and ownership of this team, stepping up and organizing offseason pickup games at local parks, making sure the players are in good enough shape for the upcoming season.

This season, more than any other, Housey said success is going to come down to energy and effort, despite the carry-over of offensive and defensive schemes used from the varsity team down to the junior-varsity team.

However, especially at the beginning of the season, deficiencies and shortcomings in terms of the game plan, Housey said, can be overcome by hard work.

"The season is going to be different than any other with the fact that it's going to be a sprint," Housey said. "We're not going to be able to do a lot of the nuanced things we have done. We're going to have to review our basic systems and rely on the guys' intelligence and basketball IQ and energy and effort."

### Plymouth

**Head coach:** Mike Soukup, 12th season

**2019-20 season:** 10-11, sixth in KLAA West, 48-39 loss to Northville in first round

**Key players:** Senior Brandon Cradlieth, junior Jason Stewart

**What to expect:** Heading into his 12th season as the head coach at Plymouth, Mike Soukup has had to adjust on the fly.

Despite having an idea of what he had to work with heading into the 2021 season — participating with his team in a fall league — Soukup still has questions heading into his season.

But Soukup thinks that having seven players return from last season's team will help ease the transition into this uncertain 2021 campaign.

"Returning players, especially returning players who saw significant time, will have a leg up, at least in the beginning," Soukup said. "I expect it to be messy and somewhat unorganized for all. It will be an interesting challenge to see how you balance practice with game management, with fatigue management."

"We hope that guys who played significant minutes last year can kind of hold the ship early, keep on course as we navigate the first third of the season and see where we can make changes on the fly. We are going to lean on those guys

heavy, especially in the start of the year."

With both Matt MacLellan and Jacob Smith graduating, Soukup hopes that senior Brandon Cradlieth and junior Jason Stewart will be those kind of players early, but knows that anything can happen over the course of the season.

"Everybody is playing better at the end of the year, but the evolution process that takes place and how, often-times, that Plan A that you came up with in November ends up being Plan D when you get to the middle of February," Soukup said.

### Salem

**Head coach:** Ryan Nummertguth, first season

**2019-20 season:** 6-15, eighth in KLAA West, 66-51 loss to Canton in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Charlie Argust, senior Tanner Locke, senior Chris Kovacs, junior Ashton Wheeler

**What to expect:** Having been coaching at Salem since 2004, serving as an assistant coach under Bob Brodie since 2014, Ryan Nummertguth is slowly taking things over.

With Brodie still on staff, Nummertguth takes the reins as the head coach at Salem, leading the charge with nine seniors and one junior returning from last year's team.

Prior to their varsity season together last year, none of the now-seniors has any varsity experience, but developed chemistry on and off the court, learning the lessons of being such a young team last year.

"We didn't have the record that we thought we deserved or we should have. We lost a lot of games — probably four, five games — in the last three minutes of the game," Nummertguth said. "We just couldn't get over that hump."

"I think some of that had to do with experience and youth, but we want to take those lessons we learned and use them this year to now, those close games, be on the other end of them."

Along with seniors Charlie Argust, what Nummertguth calls an "old-school basketball player," and Tanner Locke, senior Chris Kovacs will take the lead at point, replacing Ryan Len, who graduated last year as an All-KLAA team member and lead the team in scoring, assists and steals.

Ashton Wheeler, a junior, also will try and continue his momentum from last season, with ummertguth crediting his development after joining the team from junior-varsity four games into the 2019-20 season.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

# Hartland's Carlile among Hobey Baker nominees

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The best shot blockers in hockey are both fearless and have perfected the technique of getting in front of pucks without coming away worse for wear.

"I wish I knew that technique," Declan Carlile of Hartland said.

OK, well, at least he's got the fearless part down.

Blocking shots is far from glamorous, and quite possibly hazardous for a player's health, but it's one of the key elements that have allowed Carlile to become one of the best players in college hockey in a relatively short time.

Carlile, a sophomore defenseman at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, is among 50 players nominated for the Hobey Baker Award, college hockey's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

Among the recent winners are NHL stars Johnny Gaudreau, Jack Eichel and Cale Makar.

"I was a little surprised, but at the same time it was a cool honor," Carlile said. "For me, it's just something that I couldn't have done without everyone on my team. It's just a reflection of our program and how that works.

"Honestly, I didn't expect it this early in my career. It's an honor I take pride in. It kind of sprung up on me and surprised me, and it was definitely a good surprise."

After missing Merrimack's first four games due to COVID protocol, Carlile has emerged as one of the top defensemen in Hockey East. He has one goal and two assists in three games, leading the team with a plus-3 rating.

With 24 blocked shots, his average of three per game leads Hockey East and ranks second in the nation to Colorado College defenseman Zach Berzolla's rate of 3.25.

"I love the feeling of blocking a shot and everyone on the bench getting up," Carlile said. "It helps the team. It's been a part of my game. It doesn't always feel great, but it's definitely worth it in the end."

Carlile made the Hockey East All-Rookie team last year, leading all Merrimack freshmen in scoring with four goals and 18 assists. His 22 points were



Declan Carlile of Hartland, a sophomore defenseman at Merrimack College, is among 50 nominees for the Hobey Baker Award as college hockey's top player. COURTESY OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE ATHLETICS

three shy of the school record for a freshman defenseman. His 67 blocked shots led Hockey East.

"My first year, it was just kind of getting used to the speed and pace of the game," Carlile said. "This year, it's more about bringing that speed and being more used to the games.

"I'm getting my footwork together more, just thinking about it and focusing a lot in practice. I'm a lefthanded D and play the right side, so I'm getting more comfortable on that side, being

able to pivot and use my stick and things like that."

Carlile attended Hartland High School in ninth grade before leaving for two years at Culver Military Academy in Indiana. As a senior, he moved to Wellington, Ontario, to play in the Ontario Junior Hockey League. He had 39 points in 54 regular-season games, helping to lead the Wellington Dukes to the Canadian Junior A championship.

He played for Lincoln and Muskegon in the United States Hockey League in

2018-19.

Carlile went into the 2018 NHL Entry Draft ranked No. 176 among North American forwards. He hasn't been drafted, which doesn't necessarily derail his NHL dreams.

"I thought maybe it would happen last year, but it didn't," Carlile said. "At the end of the day, it's just going to motivate me more. Being a college free agent is kind of a good play these days. I have my options open for me. I think it's a good road to go down."

## Winter contact sports are back: Here's what we know

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After 20 days of non-contact practices and months of uncertainty regarding the upcoming season, winter contact sports have been given the go-ahead to start their seasons.

In a press conference Thursday, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Chief Medical Executive Joneigh Khaldun and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel announced that basketball, wrestling, hockey and competitive cheer teams may start contact practices and competition Monday, ending a ban that started Nov. 18.

"I know these past months have been tough for all of us, and I know they have been hard on student athletes, who have been missing a sense of connection and belonging, as well as many other attributes that playing sports provides," Whitmer said. "I appreciate the passion of our young athletes and the desire they have to get back into the game they love."

Here's what contact winter sports will look like in 2021:

According to the latest epidemic order, in-person contact practices and competition may begin Monday with masks worn at all times.

However, in situations where masks are not compatible, teams may compete in person without them if there are heightened safety protocols, including consistent testing regimens. With sports that are outdoors and where athletes maintain proper social distancing, masks are not required.

According to the latest order, spectators will be limited to two per athlete.

Hertel encouraged winter contact sports teams to continue with consistent COVID-19 testing.

Between Nov. 15 and Feb. 1, the number of daily new cases from around the state has decreased 72%, while the positive test rate has dropped to 5.10%.

Michigan joins 38 other states around the country that already started winter contact sports including border states Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin; each have been participating in basket-



The Mercy High School bench rises to applaud their basketball teammates on the court. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

ball, wrestling, hockey and competitive cheer since Dec. 1.

In December, fall teams remaining in the football, volleyball, and girls swim and dive postseason participated in a rapid testing program headed by the MDHHS three times per week. As of Jan. 19, 99.8% of those tests came back negative with nearly 30,000 rapid tests taken.

"We'll continue to watch the numbers, we'll continue to watch our cases, but we do think there is a way for athletes to be able to participate in the safest way possible," Khaldun said.

Whitmer said she knows that this has been hard on student athletes who have been missing a sense of connection and belonging and appreciates the desire they have to get back into the game they love.

However, this decision was based on, "following the science," not the demonstrations in response to the previous ban of contact practices and competitions.

"Here in Michigan, we all love sports. It's a part of our DNA, and throughout this time we have been watching our numbers closely to make sure we do achieve forward progress and we are continued to make it possible for students to get back into in-person learning as well."

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

## Winter teams celebrate return of contact sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Livonia Stevenson head hockey coach David Mitchell found out that winter contact sports would be allowed to start competing Monday, it was like being a parent on Christmas Day.

"You feel great when you are a kid on Christmas, but when you see your own kids go through it," Mitchell said, "when you have those little kids running down the stairs and you can't wait to video them and watch them running, that's how I feel."

After Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Department of Health and Human Services gave the OK on Thursday, the Michigan High School Athletic Association put the dates into place: allowing hockey and basketball teams to start playing games Monday, while scheduling the competitive cheer and wrestling seasons to start Feb. 12.

"As excited as we were to get fall restarted to be able to finish, we are probably more excited because of these four winter teams," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said.

Tournament dates for each of the contact winter sports will remain the same as was released Jan. 14. With this, spring dates, Uyl said, should not be affected too much.

Detroit Catholic Central basketball coach Brandon Sinawi has seen his players develop over the course of individual skill training. He said his players were consistent and diligent because they never wavered in their confidence that they would be able to have some semblance of a season.

### New wrestling rules

Since Nov. 18, John Glenn head coach Bill Polk said the wrestling community has been collectively "holding its breath."

For the past three months, Polk's message to his players has been to control what they can control, stay in the best possible shape they can be in

and not to worry about anything going on outside of their team's circle.

Heading into 2021, Polk's group will get a chance to show what it can do, but it will be a bit different.

Wrestlers will be required by the MHSAA to perform rapid testing ahead of each competition. With this, competitors will not wear masks during bouts, but will have to in every other setting, including practices.

If there is a positive case within a wrestling program, Uyl said, contact tracing would be put into place, which could quarantine anywhere from a group of players to an entire team.

For basketball and hockey teams, masks will be required at all times. Masks will be required for cheer as well at all times except for performances on the mat.

### All they wanted was a chance

With a season secured, Wayne Memorial head girls basketball coach Jarvis Mitchell admitted that fear and doubt of a season happening did enter his mind over the past few weeks.

To him, it was unlike other pauses: watching other things across the state open up, but still being kept away from the ice. To him, it felt exclusive.

Across the state, coaches, players and families bonded, highlighting sports' ability to be an escape for athletes and coaches alike.

To him, the connection was the silver lining.

"Sometimes as a coach, straight up I'll tell you: It gets lonely as a head coach. You see that there are programs from everywhere ... all up and down the state," Mitchell said. "We just were all pulling for the same thing. Man, in today's world, in society, that's just not happening as much as it should."

Through the waiting, basketball players, hockey players, cheerleaders and wrestlers will get a chance to show what they can do, something they have been waiting for months.

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



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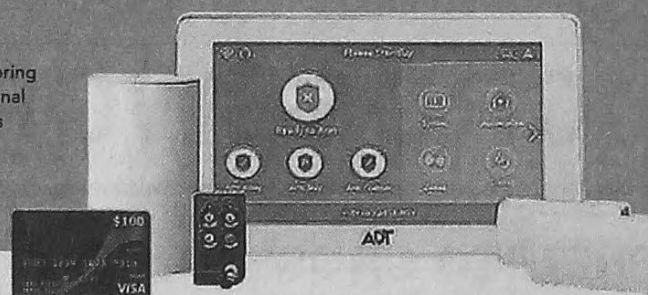
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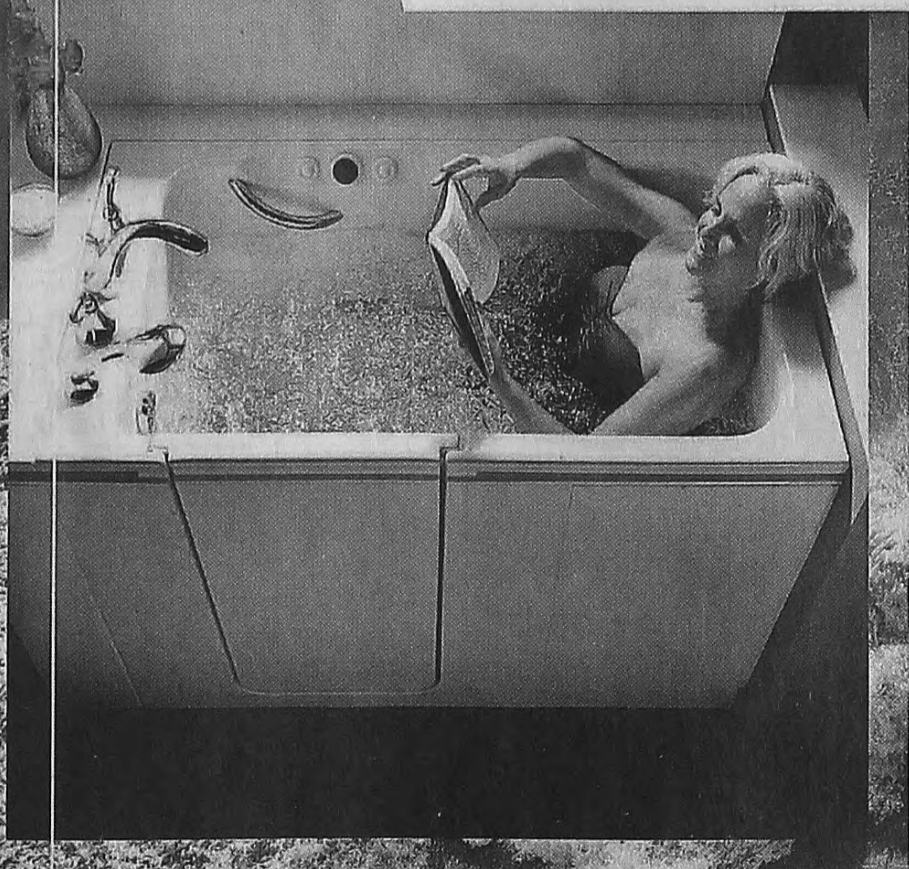
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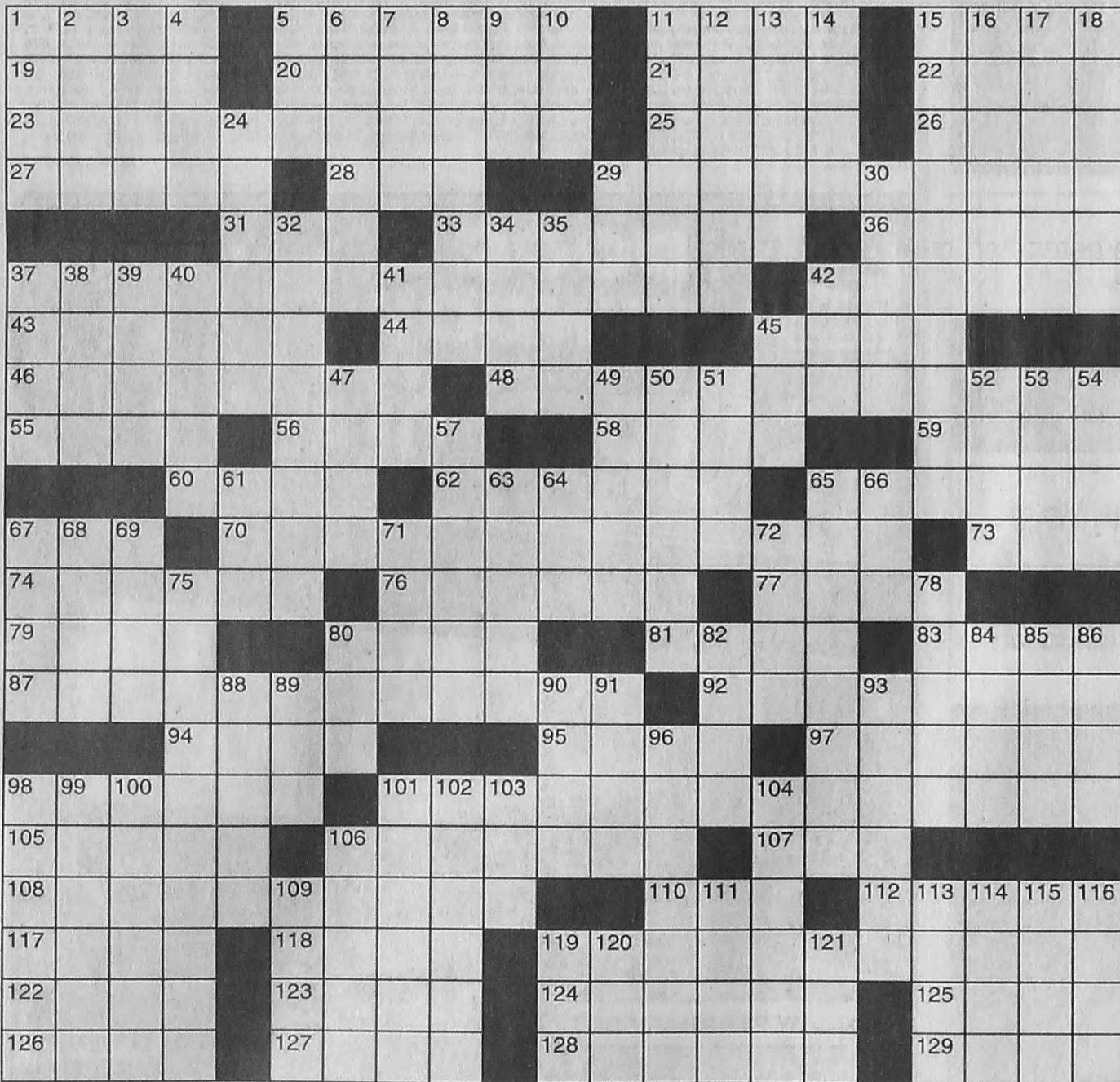
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo** **HARD-TO-SEE FEE**

- |                                      |                                        |                                                 |                               |                             |                             |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | 45 Work to get                         | 95 Potting stuff                                | 2 Aroma                       | 42 Ewe's call               | 84 Window unit              |
| 1 Suddenly blazing star              | 46 Mimicking an angry dog              | 97 TV journalist Chung                          | 3 Destructive habit           | 45 LGA guess                | 85 Kazan of film            |
| 5 Put stress on                      | 48 1993 event at Mount Carmel Center   | 98 Mimicked Daffy Duck                          | 4 After a while               | 47 Emperor before Galba     | 86 Search for               |
| 11 Volcano in Sicily                 | 55 Comic actor Danny                   | 101 A cut from the short loin                   | 5 In days past                | 49 A la — (menu words)      | 88 Green with Grammys       |
| 15 Meadow songbird                   | 56 Spill the info, with "up"           | 105 Playwright Fugard                           | 6 Carl Sagan book             | 50 Hammond instruments      | 89 Ill-bred man             |
| 19 Supreme Norse deity               | 58 Region                              | 106 Vocalists                                   | 7 Roman censor                | 51 Potential plant          | 90 "Oh, woe —!"             |
| 20 Net-tending player                | 59 Raines of old Hollywood             | 107 Simile middle                               | 8 Blissful                    | 52 "Three Sisters" sister   | 91 Jordanian queen dowager  |
| 21 Donahue of TV                     | 60 Active person                       | 108 University in northern California           | 9 Nothing at all              | 53 Tighten up a muscle      | 93 Tile artwork             |
| 22 Genesis garden                    | 62 Spring forth                        | 110 McKellen of "X-Men"                         | 10 One of 18 on a golf course | 54 Destiny                  | 96 Like some trading        |
| 23 Very ornate designs of the 1700s  | 65 Thingamajig                         | 112 Mosul native                                | 11 See 1-Down                 | 57 Under wraps              | 98 Milk-related             |
| 25 Be mindful of                     | 67 "Please help!"                      | 117 Aquarium                                    | 12 One's wifey                | 61 Kyoto sash               | 99 Cornell University city  |
| 26 Bill with Lincoln                 | 70 Venue of the 2002 Humanitarian Bowl | 118 One of 18 on a golf course                  | 13 Nephew's sister            | 63 Actress Kelly or Shearer | 100 Gives off light         |
| 27 Sports site                       | 73 Log chopper                         | 119 They're in eight answers in this puzzle     | 14 Gucci of fashion           | 64 Suffix with prophet      | 101 Used a rotary telephone |
| 28 Apr. and Dec.                     | 74 Brief summary                       | 122 Slushy drink                                | 15 Unlike righties            | 65 Andean llamas            | 102 Puts in                 |
| 29 Longtime metal alloy manufacturer | 76 Sprung forth                        | 123 Superior to                                 | 16 Farewells                  | 66 Quantity: Abbr.          | 103 Big T-shirt size: Abbr. |
| 31 M.Sgt., e.g.                      | 77 Trail                               | 124 Works the rudder                            | 17 Go back to the way it was  | 67 Little quarrel           | 104 Some chair craftspeople |
| 33 Friz Freleng's real first name    | 79 Prefix with dynamic                 | 125 Dimple site                                 | 18 Belfry sounds              | 68 Classic cookie           | 106 Hot pot spot            |
| 36 Mean-spirited sort                | 80 Henna applicator                    | 126 Play roster                                 | 24 Call off                   | 69 Kosovo native            | 109 Movie or play           |
| 37 Fill-up sites with star logos     | 81 Read hastily                        | 127 Joins in matrimony                          | 29 Foofaraw                   | 71 "No" votes               | 111 "Zip — -Doo-Dah"        |
| 42 Crows                             | 83 Gibbons, e.g.                       | 128 Cherished "Mother"                          | 30 Jeer at                    | 72 Apple device             | 113 Pebble, e.g.            |
| 43 Oscar winner Brody                | 87 Something Plus White toothpaste     | 129 Held on to                                  | 32 Christmas trees, usually   | 75 Opening in a parka, say  | 114 Tennis' Arthur          |
| 44 Like a straight line, in brief    | 88 Gibbons, e.g.                       | <b>DOWN</b>                                     | 34 Single-pot meal            | 78 Lacks                    | 115 Ear swab                |
|                                      | 92 Water, humorously                   | 1 With 11-Down, "Sleepless in Seattle" director | 35 Verdi heroine              | 80 DeLuise of "Hot Stuff"   | 116 "— that special!"       |
|                                      | 94 Sports side                         |                                                 | 37 Job to do                  | 82 Large city in Colombia   | 119 1940s pres.             |
|                                      |                                        |                                                 | 38 Pulitzer winner Ferber     |                             | 120 Suffix with Israel      |
|                                      |                                        |                                                 | 39 Diagnostic pic             |                             | 121 Hush-hush govt. gp.     |
|                                      |                                        |                                                 | 40 Ran on TV                  |                             |                             |
|                                      |                                        |                                                 | 41 Clothes, colloquially      |                             |                             |



#2,025 Average time of solution: 68 minutes

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

## SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Here's How It Works:

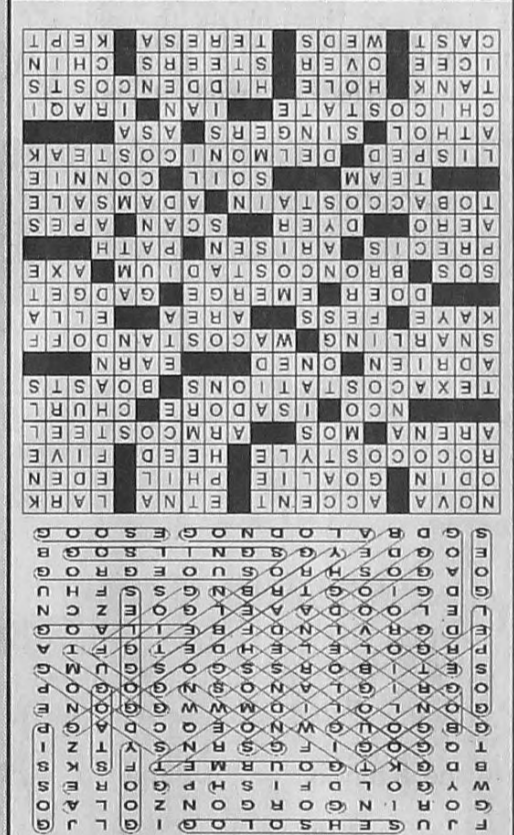
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

## ALL GO

Can you find all the words beginning with GO? 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.

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

- GOADED
- GOALIE
- GOATS
- GOB
- GOBLET
- GODFLINS
- GODFATHER
- GODWIT
- GOES
- GOGGLES
- GOITRE
- GOLDEN
- GOLDFISH
- GOLF
- GOLOSHES
- GONDOLA
- GONE
- GONG
- GOO
- GOODNESS
- GOODS
- GOOFY
- GOOSE
- GOOSEBERRY
- GORE
- GORGE
- GORGEOUS
- GORGONZOLA
- GORILLA
- GORING
- GOSH
- GOSLINGS
- GOSPEL
- GOSSIP
- GOT
- GOULASH
- GOURMET
- GOUT
- GOVERNMENT
- GOWN



**GO 11A**

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

**Assorted Items**  
all kinds of things...

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# Last State Restricted Morgan Silver Dollar Bank Rolls go to MI residents

Michigan residents get first dibs on last remaining Bank Rolls loaded with U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars dating back to the 1800's some worth up to 100 times their face value for just the \$59 minimum set for state residents - non state residents must pay \$136 per coin if any remain after 2-day deadline

## ▶ STATE DISTRIBUTION: A strict limit of 4 State Restricted Bank Rolls per MI resident has been imposed

"It's a miracle these State Restricted Bank Rolls even exist. That's why Hotline Operators are bracing for the flood of calls," said Laura Lynne, U.S. Coin and Currency Treasurer for the National Mint and Treasury.

For the next 2 days the last remaining State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls loaded with rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars are actually being handed over to Michigan residents who call the National Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's newspaper publication.

"I recently spoke with the retired Treasurer of the United States of America who said 'In all my years as Treasurer I've only ever seen a handful of these rare Morgan Silver Dollars issued by the U.S. Gov't back in the 1800's. But to actually find them sealed away in State Restricted Bank Rolls still in pristine condition is like finding buried treasure. So anyone lucky enough to get their hands on these Bank Rolls had better hold on to them,'" Lynne said.

"Now that the State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls are being offered up we won't be surprised if thousands of Michigan residents claim the maximum limit allowed of 4 Bank Rolls per resident before they're all gone," Lynne said.

"That's because the dates and mint marks of the U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars sealed away inside the State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls have never been searched. But, we do know that all the coins date clear back to the 1800's and are worth up to 100 times their face value, so there is no telling what Michigan residents will find until they sort through all the coins," Lynne said.

And here's the best part. If you are a resident of the state of Michigan you cover only the \$59 per coin state minimum set by the National Mint and Treasury, that's ten rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars' worth up to 100 times their face value for just \$590 which is a real steal because non state residents must pay \$136 per coin which totals \$1,360 if any coins remain after the 2-day deadline.

The only thing Michigan residents need to do is call the National Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's newspaper publication before the 2-day order deadline ends.

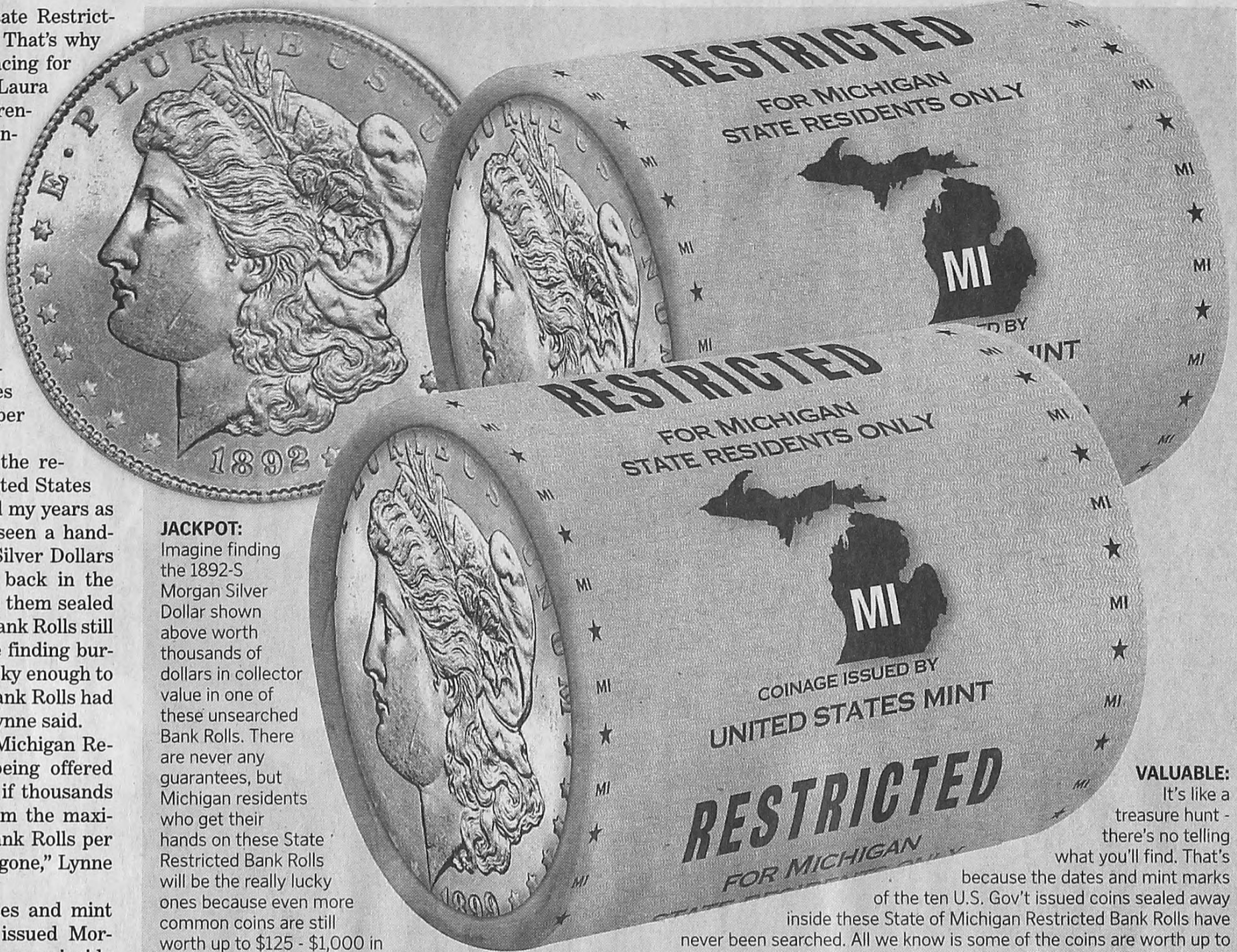
"Rarely seen U.S. Gov't issued coins like these are highly sought after, but we've never seen anything like this before. According to The Official Red Book, a Guide Book of United States Coins many Morgan Silver Dollars minted in the 1800's are now worth \$125 - \$1,000 each in collector value," Lynne said.

"So just imagine how much these last remaining, unsearched State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls could be worth someday. Remember, these are not ordinary coins - these rarely seen coins are over 100 years old. In fact, these coins have been forever retired by the U.S. Gov't, and you can't get them rolled this way anywhere because these are the only State Restricted Bank Rolls known to exist," Lynne said.

"We're guessing thousands of Michigan residents will be taking the maximum limit of 4 Bank Rolls because they make such amazing gifts for any occasion for children, parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones," Lynne said.

"We know the phones will be ringing off the hook. That's why hundreds of Hotline Operators are standing by to answer the phones beginning at 8:30am this morning. We're going to do our best, but with just 2 days to answer all the calls it won't be easy. So make sure to tell everyone to keep calling if all lines are busy. We'll do our best to answer them all," Lynne said.

"That's why the National Mint and



**JACKPOT:** Imagine finding the 1892-S Morgan Silver Dollar shown above worth thousands of dollars in collector value in one of these unsearched Bank Rolls. There are never any guarantees, but Michigan residents who get their hands on these State Restricted Bank Rolls will be the really lucky ones because even more common coins are still worth up to \$125 - \$1,000 in collector value.

**VALUABLE:** It's like a treasure hunt - there's no telling what you'll find. That's because the dates and mint marks of the ten U.S. Gov't issued coins sealed away inside these State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls have never been searched. All we know is some of the coins are worth up to 100 times their face value.

Treasury set up the National Toll-Free Hotlines in order to make sure Michigan residents get the State Restricted Bank Rolls before they're all

gone," Lynne said. The only thing readers of today's newspaper publication need to do is make sure they are a resident of the

state of Michigan and call the National Toll-Free Hotlines before the 2-day deadline ends midnight tomorrow. ■

**IMPORTANT:** The dates and mint marks of the U.S. Gov't issued Morgan Silver Dollars sealed away inside the State of Michigan Restricted Bank Rolls have never been searched. Coin values always fluctuate and they are never any guarantees, but any of the scarce coins shown below, regardless of their value that residents may find inside the sealed Bank Rolls are theirs to keep.



**1886-S**  
Mint: San Francisco  
Mintage: 750,000  
Collector Value: \$78  
\$350

**1888-S**  
Mint: San Francisco  
Mintage: 657,000  
Collector Value: \$125  
\$315

**1896-S**  
Mint: San Francisco  
Mintage: 5,000,000  
Collector Value: \$70  
\$850

**1899-P**  
Mint: Philadelphia  
Mintage: 330,000  
Collector Value: \$175  
\$260

### MICHIGAN RESIDENTS: COVER JUST \$59 MINIMUM PER COIN

**BEGIN CALLING AT 8:30 AM: 1-800-868-0189 EXT. RMR399**

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### NON STATE RESIDENTS: MUST PAY \$136 PER COIN - IF ANY REMAIN

**DO NOT CALL BEFORE 5:00 PM TOMORROW: 1-800-868-0573 RMR399**

IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PAY \$136 FOR EACH MORGAN SILVER DOLLAR FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,360 PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING FOR EACH STATE OF MICHIGAN RESTRICTED BANK ROLL LOADED WITH TEN U.S. GOV'T ISSUED MORGAN SILVER DOLLARS.



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