

CANTON **OBSERVER**

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Jack Gallagher, 3, delightedly sleds down the hill at Cass Benton Park in Northville Township on Jan. 26. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Our guide to the best sledding hills

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's a rite of passage for most children in Michigan: the annual winter trips to the sledding hill after a blizzard.

Sledding is as much a part of the culture of this state as coney dogs, pasties and watching the Detroit Lions lose football games. There are plenty of places to head for a good time at the hill for those looking to brave the cold temperatures and enjoy the remainder of winter on a sled. Just make sure you've got one, because it might be hard to find them in stores this late in the season.

So in the name of journalism, I spent See SLEDDING, Page 5A

a day hitting up sledding hills across the Hometown Life communities I've never been to to give a fair assessment of what

A few items of note: This trip was done during a school day, so there were very few, if any, other guests at these hills. And of course, be careful when sledding on new hills as many have signs posting sledding is done at your own risk.

From Farmington to South Lyon to Westland, here's nine spots in the region if you're looking for something fun to do while the weather's still cold.



Madison Konja, left, and Courtney Langan survey sledding possibilities at Lakeshore Park in Novi.

The story behind **Annapolis** Park in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most of the people who moved to Annapolis Park when it was first built in the 1950s have since died.

Now, the curving roads of the 354home neighborhood is home to a new

Arthur Warren, president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association that includes Annapolis and the nearby Carver neighborhood, said the area's history is lost on many current residents.

But, he says those original residents made the southeast corner of Westland what it is today.

PCCS delays full-time, in-person learning plan

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Citing a need for more planning time to achieve its stringent socialdistancing protocols, Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt announced during Tuesday's virtual Board of Education meeting that the district will slow down the Safe Start return-to-full-in-personlearning timeline it had released last

The full return plan is especially complex for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's three-high school set-up, Director of High School Education Hal Heard explained, because it requires protocols that will maintain distancing for the 5,000 10th-through

See DELAY, Page 4A

Could Amazon come to proposed warehouse site in Canton?

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

Is a certain well-known online retailer coming to Canton Township? All signs point to "maybe."

The township's planning commission recently reviewed a special land use request during its meeting Feb. 1 for a new warehouse and delivery station planned for property north of Michigan

Avenue between Denton and Beck roads in the southwest portion of the township. Plans call for a 183,000-squarefoot facility building on 73 acres of land that would house a shipping facility and distribution center that would see plenty of delivery vehicles leaving the site on a regular basis.

What company will occupy that facility, though, remains shrouded in secrecy. The application for the facility posted on the township's website does not list a company name, only that it is a distribution and delivery station. A letter from a law firm representing the petitioner describes the building as "a commercial Package Delivery Station and Distribution Center for a major online retailer."

Renderings of the building are reminiscent of others built by e-commerce giant Amazon, which already has several facilities in the area. The developer proposing the project, Indianapolisbased Pure Development, appears to have developed Amazon facilities in other parts of the country.

If it is the Seattle-based online retailer, no one's talking. A message sent to Hometown Life by an Amazon spokesperson states they are always looking

See AMAZON, Page 4A



CHILLY WEATHER GREETS FESTIVAL-GOERS



An ice sculpture of a waterfowl in flight attracts a viewer along Ann Arbor Trail during the annual Plymouth Ice Festival. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



An ice sculpture of the Eiffel Tower was on display along Ann Arbor Trail.



Festival-goers pass an ice sculpture of a pig outside Plymouth's Penn Theater.

Perhaps a bit delayed and smaller than in a typical year, the Plymouth Ice Festival wrapped up its annual visit Sunday.

Below-freezing temperatures and light snow helped set the mood for the festival, a nice alternative to to last year's rain and warm weather.

This year's festival, scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, featured 65 ice-carving displays scattered in front of businesses. The sculptures were expected to remain up all week.



Though most Plymouth Ice Festival attendees wore face masks Feb. 13, the sidewalks downtown were so crowded that social distancing was difficult.



Another ice sculpture along Ann Arbor Trail had a touch of romance.

Front-yard ice art inspired by Plymouth Ice Festival

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Plymouth's Lomibao family learned quickly last week how a free and easy art project could spread joy and color throughout their neighborhood during one of the grayest stretches of any calendar year in Michigan: mid-February.

Just hours after Melissa Lomibao placed a series of homemade frozen art sculptures in her family's front yard, the return on her family's fun investment started paying dividends.

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arted paying dividends.
"Right away, two of my neighbors

texted me and said, 'Thank you for brightening up our street!'," Lomibao said. "They said the ice art was like a dose of spring. It was fun to do without the nice feedback, but hearing that made it even more gratifying."

The Lomibaos — Melissa and her daughters Vivi, 9, and Senna, 5 — followed guidance distributed by the Plymouth Community Arts Council to create their own front yard art ice exhibit by using everyday items found inside and outside the house: bowls, flowers, twigs and water.

PCAC Executive Director Lisa Howard said the idea was inspired by last weekend's Plymouth Ice Festival, which had to be downsized to reduce social gatherings in downtown Plymouth.

"It didn't take us long at all to find all the items we needed, then put them together," Lomibao said. "Once they were done, we set them outside in the freezing temperatures and the next morning they were like frozen beauty. It was magical.

"As cold as it's supposed to be, I have a feeling the ice art will be a fixture in our front yard for at least another month."

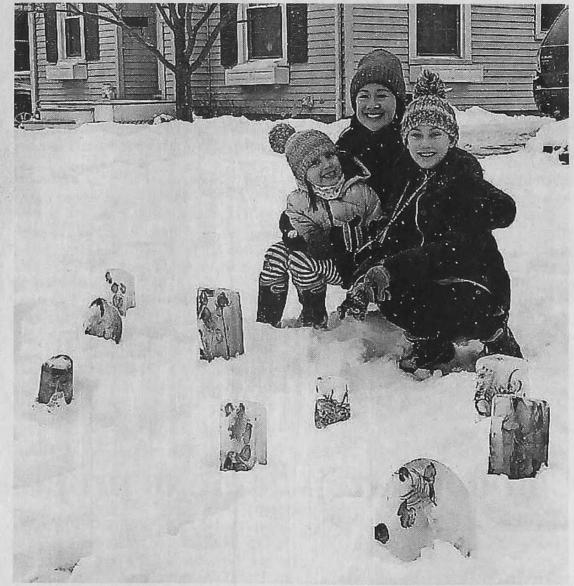
PCAC's own "front yard" that sits on the east side of Sheldon Road just west of downtown Plymouth is also decorated with ice art, as is the area along Penniman Avenue in front of Roots Montessori School, where Head of School Denae Durling turned the ice art instructions into a school project.

The project was a hit with the Roots students, Durling said.

One fifth-grader called the project

"Super Cool!" Durling shared, adding that he thought it was cool to color the ice with outdoor nature items "instead of food coloring".

A Roots third-grader said she worked with whatever idea came to her. "I worked with the supplies I had and came up with idea. I tried it and I liked



Plymouth resident Melissa Lomibao poses in the snow with daughters Senna, left, and Vivi behind the family's display of ice art. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

it."

it."

Just because the Plymouth Ice Festival has passed, artistic people of all ages can still create ice art. Directions can be found on the PCAC's website at www.plymoutharts.com.

Howard said people who create ice art are encouraged to take photos of the finished products and post them on PCAC's Facebook page, email them to lisa@plymoutharts.com or tag the council on Instagram (#pcacplymouth) so they can be part of PCAC's online gal-

Posting a photo will enter artists into a drawing for a "PCAC Extraordinary" T-shirt, a cool sketchbook or a \$25 summer art camp gift certificate.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com.

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Complaint details 18 CSC charges against Canton man

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A federal complaint lays out why Canton's Shailesh Kantilal Patel is dealing with both federal and state charges, including 18 felony counts of criminal sexual conduct.

A Canton police report provided to Hometown Life was largely redacted, but a recently-unsealed explanation of the federal charges includes evidence alleging Patel, 53, sexually abused children visiting his Canton home between 2007 and 2009.

It alleges the sexual behavior continued with at least one female as her family continued to attend the unnamed Canton temple where Patel also worshipped.

According to the federal complaint, Patel has been married to the temple's youth leader and the alleged victims, now young women, say the abuse would happen at dinner parties and during other visits to the couple's home.

In July, one woman, 20, told investigators that Patel first abused her during a dinner party. She and her brother were in Patel's bedroom watching a movie when Patel invited the young girl to join him in a walk-

The 10-page document details that and other incidents alleging a variety of sexual incidents, dating as far back as when she was 9 years old.

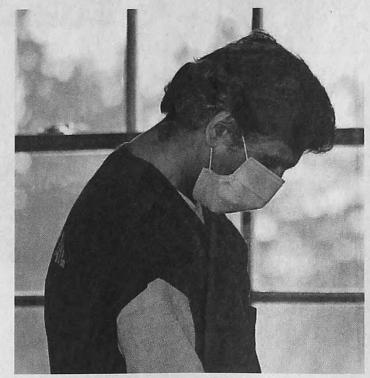
"She had talked with other children and based on those conversations believed the sexual abuse was normal," prosecutors said in their complaint. "(She) was afraid that by coming forward to tell her story that her family would suffer because it would hurt their standing in the community."

In September, an FBI investigator talked to a 23year-old woman claiming years of sexual abuse by Patel at his home, in his car and at the temple.

That woman said Patel has owned fast food franchises. He would sometimes drive children to his ice cream shop and buy them ice cream. The complaint alleges he once sexually abused her when he was driving with another child in the back seat, and she was in the passenger seat. She then was in the seventh grade.

"Since that incident, (she) has made every effort to avoid Patel. However, as her family still attends this temple, it has been difficult," prosecutors said. "(She) has always been troubled by the abuse suffered at the hands of Shailesh Patel, however, was afraid to come forward. (She) was concerned though about other women or children who may be or have been victims of

During a search of his residence, Patel directed investigators to two computer towers located in his bedroom. He indicated he had been using them to down-



Shailesh Patel bows his head in 35th District Court in Plymouth on Feb. 12. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

load adult pornography.

Federal prosecutors said Patel admitted to sexually abusing the 20- and 23-year-old women and "indicated that there may have been two or three more in addition."

Investigators have been reviewing computer items, cellular telephones and tablets that Canton police seized from Patel's residence. Video footage of a child from one of the towers portrayed one of the women who talked to investigators.

"(She) stated that Shailesh Patel had told her to make the video and had given her similar instructions on approximately 30 occasions," prosecutors

Patel faces charges of production and possession of child pornography in U.S. District Court.

He waived Friday a preliminary exam in Plymouth's 35th District Court, where at least half of his charges are of the first-degree variety.

His state case now moves to Third Circuit Court in

"The parties have agreed to a conditional waiver of exam," Prosecutor Tara Hindelang said during Friday's hearing. "Mr. Patel has a concurrent federal case and we are attempting to come to a global resolution with both cases."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Mich. man accused of defrauding Kevin Hart

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

A former Oakland County resident could face 25 years in prison if convicted on charges that he made more than \$1 million in unauthorized purchases using comedian Kevin Hart's credit cards.

Dylan Syer, 29, who currently lives in New York, was hired by the "Ride Along" star in 2015 as a personal shopper through his business, Sire Consulting, to purchase several luxury items for Hart. Using Hart's cards, authorities say, Syer instead bought nearly \$1.2 million on fine art and jewelry.

Syer was arraigned Wednesday on a 10-count indictment charging him with grand larceny in the first and second degree, criminal possession of stolen property in the first and second degree, identity theft in the first degree and scheme to defraud in the first degree, according to the district attorney in Queens, New York.

"The defendant thought he was beyond reach and was living out his uber-rich lifestyle fantasies," said District Attorney Melinda Katz in an announcement.

Syer, who resides in Long Island City, New York, has lived in different Oakland County cities including Berkley, Northville and Farmington Hills and appears to have attended Michigan State University.

According to the district attorney's office, here's how Syer's scheme worked:

Syer used his business credit card processing account to make charges on Hart's credit card, and once those charges were processed by Syer's bank, the money went into his checking account.

From October 2017 through February 2019, Syer charged about \$923,000 on Hart's credit cards and bought \$240,000 in jewelry and watches in purchases unauthorized by Hart.

Syer is also facing an asset forfeiture up to the amount that he allegedly stole. New York investigators executed a search warrant of Syer's home where they seized \$250,000 worth of cash and goods.



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Homes along Hanover Boulevard in the Annapolis Park neighborhood of Westland. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Story

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Built for the Black community

During World War II, Detroit's Black population about doubled. The city, which played a significant role in the war effort according to the Detroit Historical Society, offered employment to many. But because of redlining, a form of systemic housing discrimination, and other forms of racism, many found themselves having to relocate to Detroit's suburbs during and after the war.

Julius and William Schwartz, two developers, saw an opportunity in that. In 1953, they decided to build a neighborhood in what was then Nankin Township. The neighborhood has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2006.

"They saw an economic opportunity, and probably a religious opportunity too, to break the stereotypes that Blacks wouldn't pay rent or pay their mortgages off," Warren said. "So, 354 homes were built over there."

The neighborhood was built exclusively for Black people, many of whom were WWII veterans. Warren said the neighborhood's exclusivity wouldn't have been seen as redlining, but as a positive thing.

"I look over at Annapolis Park, and it's the only neighborhood I could think of that was created brand new for African Americans," he said.

Constant challenges from local government

Warren says the southeast corner of Westland was historically and is still mostly populated by minorities. Be-



Arthur Warren, president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, talks about the Annapolis Park neighborhood in Westland. The area was developed after World War II for the growing Black population in Detroit dealing with systemic housing discrimination and other forms of racism.

cause of that, he says the neighborhood has spent a lot of time battling racism and discrimination in order to get simple assets, like playgrounds, added to the community.

A prime example, he says, is the popular Stottlemeyer Park. The late Chase Stottlemeyer and a group neighbors constructed tennis and basketball courts in 1961 with a meager \$7,000. The city wouldn't approve a contractor for the job because it couldn't find one who would do the project for less than \$25,000.

"I felt that it's the same old stereotype that Blacks can't come together and do anything meaningful," Warren said. "But yet the homeowners association, which was formed to promote and keep a better community, put their heads together and said 'Well since we can't have the \$25,000, give us \$7,000 and we'll see what we can do."

Even after the park's construction, the city and neighborhood didn't have a good relationship. A 1969 letter to the homeowners association from the late Robert Wagner, who was a city councilman at the time, expresses a sense of shock the community was able to create the park at all.

"I took a drive through your area and

what I saw amazed me," he wrote.

"It amazed him," Warren said, laughing a little. "Like Black folks can't do nothing. It's racism. It's as simple as that. We're talking 1969."

Years later, Warren said he had to "raise hell" to get a park built in the Carver neighborhood, too. He also continually struggled with local government officials in the 1990s to get new homes built in Carver when the city wanted to put used homes in the area.

Most recently, the neighborhoods had to fight to get school of choice granted for the Wayne-Westland School District. Even though Carver and Annapolis are in Westland, Wayne-Westland's district wasn't even an option for residents until 2013.

But today, Warren said his association's relationship with Westland's administration is mostly a good one. Warren was appointed by Mayor Bill Wild to sit on the city's diversity, equity and inclusion commission in 2020.

"When I got here, the mayor and the administration didn't want to really acknowledge this portion here," he said. "We had really serious issues with driving while black. But Mayor Wild has been very liberal and very accommodating to all of the residents."

In the good times and less-than-easy times, though, Warren said the historic area is somewhere he's proud to have lived for the past 45 years. He says it's a place Westland's Black community has created and maintained over the years, and it will always belong to them.

"My argument has been that when we write our history, we're going to write it," he said. "You're not going to write our history anymore. Either you except it or you don't, but this is how we lived it."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Amazon

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for new places to locate, but would not comment on anything specific.

"Amazon is a dynamic business and we are constantly exploring new locations," the statement reads. "We weigh a variety of factors when deciding where to develop future sites to best serve customers, however, Amazon has a policy of not commenting on our future roadmap."

When reached Wednesday morning, Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said she could not discuss what business planned to move

to the space, citing confidentiality agreements.

"We can't say anything about the building yet," she said. "We'll all find out soon."

While she said she could not speak about the specifics of what company would occupy the space once built, she said the project has been in the works for more than year. Graham-Hudak, who served on the township's planning commission until her election as supervisor last November, said they saw plenty related to the project, which included a rezoning request. That request was taken up and a first reading was done by the township board of trustees in Janu-

If it is Amazon opening the center, it'll

join several other facilities in the western suburbs of Detroit. Fulfillment centers currently operate in both Livonia and Romulus, and a new distribution center in Lyon Township got approval a year ago.

Most recently, Amazon announced five new facilities in metro Detroit last month, including a new sorting center on Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township, just north of the border with Can-

This isn't the first such industrial use proposed at the site. Community Planner Patrick Sloan said there were plans for other buildings on the site several years ago, but those never came to fru-

"In 2018, on the same property, there

were three large buildings for light research and industrial use that were approved by the township," he said. "These buildings were never construct-

The township planning commission unanimously recommended approval for the special land use during its meeting. A site plan for the facility, which will include more details of the building, is expected to return before the planning commission at a meeting sometime in March.

There was no word on when an announcement of what company will occupy the building could come.

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

Delay

Continued from Page 1A

12th-grade students who were scheduled return to a full in-person or hybrid model on March 1 (ninth-graders returned to a hybrid in-person model earlier this month).

Most Plymouth-Canton high school students attend classes in all three high schools (Plymouth, Canton and Salem), adding challenges in keeping students distanced while transitioning between classes.

"The complexities of bringing back

the high school students are unlike any other school has to face," Heard said. "The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is like a community college."

The revised plan calls for kindergarten through fifth grade Safe Start students to return to a full five-day, in-person model by March1at the earliest. The previous model had set a Feb. 17 date for the full return. Plymouth-Canton elementary students are currently in a hybrid model that has them in school for four half-days per week.

Plymouth-Canton middle school Safe Start students' planned return to a full four-day, in-person model has been pushed back from Feb. 18 to March 1 at

the earliest. The updated plan for Plymouth-Canton high school students targets a March 1 return to in-person learning in a hybrid model that has students attending class two half-days a week (one cohort attends school Monday and Tuesday mornings; the other cohort attends school Thursday and Friday mornings) with afternoons serving as mandatory remote-learning periods. All Safe Start high school students will learn remotely on Wednesdays.

In its proposed next steps, the district revealed it is considering April 5 as a transition day to return to a full ninththrough 12th-grade half-day in-person model "if feasible", which would disband cohorts and make remote classes mandatory 12:10-2:10 p.m. daily.

"When we use the term target dates, we're making sure we're first looking at safety and achieving all of the parameters we set out to achieve as a district to make sure we can bring students back safely," Merritt said. "Our goal is to achieve three feet distancing as a minimum for instruction and six feet in the lunch rooms."

Each of the grade-level directors explained that the district's re-entry teams are focused on working to reduce student density and maximizing distancing, among other hurdles.

Sledding

Continued from Page 1A

Hills for younger sledders

Not all sledders are ready for the big hills. There's a handful of smaller hills great to introduce younger children to the joy of sledding. Here are a few.

Greenmead Historical Park, Livo-

This was by far the smallest hill visited during my day sledding. It's tucked in the back of the large parking lot south of the historical village and north of the soccer fields at the park at Eight Mile and Newburgh.

The hill is reminiscent of neighborhood hills I remember going to as a kid: small, tucked away hills not meant for fast speeds, but there for some simple fun and great for first-timers.

The hill's not hard to climb up, though some of the layout can be a bit confusing: signs posted at the hill direct sledders to slide down the west side of the hill toward the farm fence, but there's no real incline there. It was clear sledders there before me went down east toward Newburgh Road, which, admittedly, was the better slope.

Just be careful: the hill approaches the parking lot and there are concrete barriers for parking spaces at the bottom. With enough snow, they aren't a factor, but it's something to be warned about.

Another tip to parents thinking about this hill as well: might be good to take your all-wheel drive vehicle to this hill, as the parking lot was not plowed when I arrived, and my sedan got stuck in the snow.

McHattie Park, South Lyon

This hill is definitely a step up in terms of intensity, but still a small hill perfect for younger sledders. Located at the park off South Lafayette that can be accessed via South Warren Street, this hill rises up and offers a 360-degree vantage point.

It's fairly quick, but nothing too scary once you visit. There are hay bales set up in front of area trees, so in case a sledder veers the wrong direction, they won't run smack dab into a tree trunk. It's well thought-out and enjoyable; I found myself going down a few times to see if each side of the hill offered a different experience.

Throw in the accompanying ice skating rink (when it's operational) and the playground and this is a great option for a Saturday afternoon with the whole

Cass Benton Park in Hines Park, **Northville Township**

Honestly, all of Hines Park could be included in either category: the park, which stretches from Dearborn to Northville, is quite hilly and offers some great winter activities outdoors, including a variety of hill sizes for sledders.

The Cass Benton sledding hill is located off Edward Hines Drive south of Seven Mile could fall into either category, but I've opted to put it in the hills for younger sledders. When I visited there were several youngsters sledding the hills, which prompted the decision.

The varying terrain allows for some simple sledding on the surrounding hills, and the main hill runs a bit faster. It's overall smooth and enjoyable and has stairs for a return for sledders to walk back up. This is a great option if you're in the Hines Park area and don't want to spend a lot of time walking back up hills.

Hills for older sledders

Snowy Ridge Park, Commerce **Township**

An admission from this journalist: I've always been fascinated by this hill ever since I first saw it. Given its proxim-

ity just north of Novi, I decided to give it The park is nestled around industrial developments along Welch Road besolely for sledding in the winter (which

tween 14 Mile and Maple, and exists signs at the park warn visitors about). It's a large slope that runs pretty fast, though one downside — at least for me, others might feel differently — were the presence of small moguls on the hill.

I'm not sure if these are natural or if they were made by visitors, but these caused me to jump a bit more than what I typically prefer. Walking up the slope was a bit tricky as well, as it was slippery and took some effort to climb up. The view from atop the hill are worthwhile as well.

Definitely glad I tried this hill and would go back, but I'd only return with others that wanted a faster experience with little jumps.

Shiawassee Park, Farmington

There were plenty of broken sleds discarded around trash cans at this hill, and after sliding down it a few times, I

can see why: this hill is fast. A popular spot in the Farmington



Dozens of snow-lovers hit the incline of Farmington's Sled Hill off Shiawassee. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



area, the hill behind the Farmington

Public Schools administration office at

Shiawassee and Farmington roads will

have plenty of sledders during the week-

end. When snow is packed down, be

ready to fly down the hill. I went down

twice and ended up spinning around twice after my sled gathered enough

speed before even getting to the bottom

of the hill. It's a fun hill, especially if

you're looking for thrills. There are two

return areas designated with hay bales,

so it's easy to climb back up and go

though I have other favorites on this list,

It's a solid hill and a worthwhile visit,

Beverly Hills Village Park, Beverly

Apologies to the fine folks of Beverly

I looked at several locations in the

Hills for letting this local secret go pub-

lic, but visiting this park was an abso-

Birmingham/Bloomfield/Beverly Hills

area to try, and this park stuck out to me

online. And I'm so glad it did; the hill is a

park required a short walk from the

parking lot to the hill, but it's so worth it.

The hill has two sides for sledding: one

on the east side with gradual decline

and another on the west side that fea-

tures a small plateau before continuing

downward. Both sides were fast but

smooth; I never felt out of control of my

sled, indicating the gradient was per-

climb up the hill, which makes it easier.

satility for year-round activities. In ad-

dition to its use as sledder's paradise the

top of the hill sports two tees for disc

golf. Those looking to play nine holes

can climb to the top of the hills and

throw toward the respective baskets,

taking advantage of the sledding hill all

year. If you're looking for a unique hill

and want to try somewhere new, Beverly Hills Village Park is a great pick.

Kensington Metropark, Milford

This is the lone set of hills I did not

visit on my day of sledding, but for good

reason: I've sledded these hills since I

was 10 and I know them like the back of

sledding spots in metro Detroit. Maybe

it's the emotional attachment, but I can

think of no better sledding hill in the re-

gion that is as much fun as the main hill

at Kensington: it's tall, it's long and it's

at the sledding area, including the larger

hill and a smaller hill for those not want-

ing to make the long trip back up to the

top of the hill. There's also a toboggan

run for those with actual toboggans,

which runs really well if you've got one.

They do have some small hills for

There are a few options to pick from

incredibly fun to sled.

These hills are king when it comes to

Bonus points for having stairs to

A unique aspect to this hill is its ver-

Located on Beverly Road between Evergreen and Southfield roads, this

down again.

lute delight.

fect.

Township

my hand.

including the next one.

great place for sledding.

Chris Pelton laughs as he tries to get his son Lincoln, 3, set up on a sled at Cass **Benton Park** in Northville Township on Jan. 26.

younger children, but the star attractions are definitely the tall hills.

If you plan on heading to Kensington, be sure to bring your wallet: this is the lone park on this list that charges admission. Daily rates for vehicles at any metropark are \$10, and an annual pass for those who live in Oakland, Wayne, Livingston, Washtenaw and Macomb counties is \$40.

Plymouth Township Park, Plymouth Township

The first thing I thought when approaching the sledding hill at this park off Ann Arbor Trail east of Beck Road was "Where's the slope?" I just had to look down.

This hill is steep. I was the lone person on the hill at the time and audibly gasped when I walked up to it. It's a steep hill, which can come across as in-

timidating, but it's a smooth ride. It, like Shiawassee Park, is a fast hill, but runs great and didn't cause me to spin out. Really fast and fun.

Bonus points go to the layout of the hill: in addition to having a dedicated return lane to walk back up the hill, the parking lot that services the area is essentially on top of the hill, meaning you don't need to walk up for your first ride.

Middlebelt Hill in Hines Park, Westland

It's apt this spot resides within the city that boast the John Glenn High School Rockets, because a rocket is how I felt when I went sledding down Middlebelt Hill.

This hill was my favorite stop on my eight-hill tour. Located on Edward Hines Drive between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, this hill is a visual beauty for sledders.

Approaching it from the (small) parking lot on the west side, it was exciting to see the layout: a staircase leading up to the top of the hill, which was dotted with a small gazebo. Once up top, sledders have 270 degrees of sledding available to them, with all three sides sporting their own walkways back up the hill, a convenient amenity. In addition to being fast, this hill was smooth. I had to force myself to stop when sledding down one side before I ended up in the river, which I did not think I'd reach when I first traveled down.

If there's one hill on this list you can make it to this weekend, I'd recommend Middlebelt Hill.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Obituaries

Marian Sayward West

ANN ARBOR - Marian Sayward West, age 94 of Ann Arbor, passed away on February 8, 2021.

She was born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan on February 10, 1926 to her parents, Richard Arthur and Isabell (née Guthrie) Sayward. Marian is the beloved and devoted wife of the late Frank West

who passed away in 1986 and, loving mother of three children - John West, Richard West and Anne West.

Marian received her Bachelor's Degree with a major in French and minor in Spanish and Portuguese with honors from the University of Michigan. In 1972, she returned to school and earned a Master's Degree in Library Science.

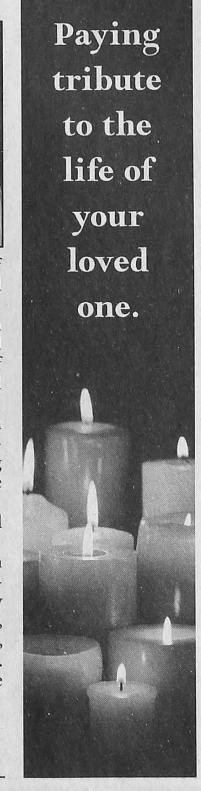
Friends may visit at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church Street, Plymouth on Saturday, February 13, 2021 beginning at 2:30 P.M. until the time of the Funeral Service beginning at 3:00 P.M.

Marian will be laid to rest at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery in Flat Rock, Michigan.

Those who wish to honor the memory of Marian Sayward West are invited to consider a contribution to the School of Information at the University of Michigan, 105 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109 and Alpha Xi Delta Foundation, 8702 Founders Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268.

Contribution envelopes will be available at the Church.





Men's Virility Restored in Clinical Trial; 275% More **Blood Flow in 5 Minutes**

A newly improved version of America's best-selling male performance enhancer gives 70-year-old men the ability and stamina they enjoyed in their 30's.

America's best-selling performance sexual enhancer just got a lot better.

It's the latest breakthrough for nitric oxide - the molecule that makes E.D. woes fade and restores virility when it counts the most.

Nitric oxide won the Nobel Prize in 1998. It's why "the little blue pill" works. More than sexual performance.

And this new discovery sexual performance.

double-blind, One placebo-controlled study "gold-standard" of research) involved a group of 70-year-oldmen.

They didn't exercise. They didn't eat healthy. And researchers reported their "nitric oxide availability was almost totally compromised," resulting in blood flow less than HALF of a man in peak sexual health.

But only five minutes after the first dose their blood flow increased 275%, back to levels of a perfectly healthy 31-year-old man! "It's amazing," remarks nitric oxide expert Dr. Al Sears. "That's like giving 70-year-old men the sexual power of 30-yearolds."

WHY SO MUCH **EXCITEMENT?**

Despite the billions men spend annually on older nitric oxide therapies, there's one well-known problem with them.

They don't always work.

A very distinguished awarded doctor practicing at a prestigious Massachusetts hospital who has studied Nitric Oxide for over 43 years states a "deficiency of bioactive nitric oxide... leads to impaired endothelium-dependent vasorelaxation."

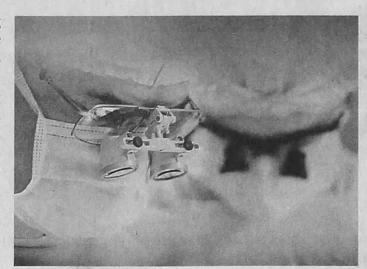
older products may increase levels of nitric oxide. But that's only half the battle. If it's not bioactively available then your body can't absorb it to produce an erection.

Experts simply call it the nitric oxide "glitch." And until now, there's never been a solution.

NEXT GENERATION NITRIC OXIDE FORMULA FLYING **OFF SHELVES**

Upon further research, America's No. 1 men's health expert Dr. Al Sears discovered certain nutrients fix this "glitch" resulting in 275% better blood flow.

He's combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called Primal Max Red. In clinical trials, 5,000 mg is required for satisfying impressive results.



200,000 studies confirm A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was it's the key to superior recently proven in a clinical trial to boost blood flow 275%

performance. trouble keeping it in lasted up to 12 hours.

of more than 500 scientific papers. Thousands of people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath recently visited his clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine.

Primal Max Red has only been available for a few months - but everyone who takes it reports a big difference. "I have the energy to have sex three times in one day, WOW! That has not happened in years. Oh, by the way I am 62," says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

HOW IT WORKS

starts with your blood vessels. Specifically, the inside layer called the endothelium where nitric oxide is made.

The problem is various factors THICKEN your blood vessels as you age. This blocks availability causing the nitric oxide "glitch." The result is difficulty in getting and sustaining a healthy erection.

How bad is the problem?

Researcher shows the typical 40-year-old man absorbs 50% less nitric oxide. At 50, that drops to In plain English, these 25%. And once you pass 60 just a measly 15% gets through.

> To make matters worse, nitric oxide levels start declining in your 30's. And by 70, nitric oxide production is down an alarming 75%.

Primal Max Red is the money back," he says. first formula to tackle both problems. Combining powerful nitric oxide boosters and a proven delivery mechanism that defeats the nitric oxide "glitch" resulting in 275% better blood flow. There's not enough space here to fully explain how it works, so Dr. Sears will send anyone who orders Primal Max Red a free special report that explains everything.

MORE CLINICAL RESULTS

Nutrients in Primal

In a Journal of Applied increases nitric oxide Primal Max Red contains Physiology study, one availability resulting in a bigger, 9,000 mg per resulted in a 30 times even quicker, stronger serving dose. It's become MORE nitric oxide. And longer-lasting so popular, he's having these increased levels

> "I measured my nitric Dr. Sears is the author oxide levels, you can buy a test kit from Amazon," reports 48-year-old Jeff O. "Monday night I showed depleted."

> > Then he used ingredients in Primal Max Red and, "The results were off the charts. I first woke around 3 a.m. on Tuesday very excited. My nitric oxide levels measured at the top end of the range."

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Every order also gets Dr. Sears testosterone boosting formula Primal Max Black for free.

"If you want passionate 'rip your clothes off' sex you had in your younger Loss of erection power days, you need nitric oxide to get your erection going. And testosterone for energy and drive," says Dr. Sears. "You get both with Primal Max Red and Primal Max Black."

HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX

To secure free bottles of Primal Max Black and get the hot, new Primal Max Red formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-443-5454 within the next 48 hours. "It's not available in drug stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about Primal Max, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your

The Hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock. Call 1-800-443-5454 to secure your limited supply of Primal Max Red and free bottles of Primal Max Black. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. Promo Code NP0121PMAX194 when you call in. Lines are Max Red have logged frequently busy, but all calls will be answered.

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How to deal with IRAs, Social Security after divorce



Money Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I have been married for the last 25 years, but unfortunately, my marriage couldn't survive COVID. My husband and I divorced and for the first time, I am on my own.

The divorce went relatively smoothly, and we basically split all our assets. After the split, I received approximately \$200,000. Of that, about \$75,000 was in an IRA. My share of the divorce settlement has been sitting in the bank. My first question is with regards to my IRA.

My divorce was finalized at the end of October and a check was sent to me from the IRA in mid-November, however, because of mail issues. I did not receive the check till after Christmas. My tax preparer told me the 60-day rollover period expired and I would be liable for taxes and penalties. Is this true? Is there anything I can do about it?

Secondly, how do you suggest I invest my money? I am very conservative; I do not like to lose money. My friends tell me I should invest the money, but I am more comfortable leaving the money in the bank. Is there anything wrong with that?

Finally, my last question deals with Social Security. Will I be able to eventually collect Social Security based upon my ex-spouse's income? You should know I am 53 and my ex-spouse is 61. His plans are to continue to work for at least another 10 years.

Thank you, Christine

Dear Christine:

Your tax preparer is correct. You have 60 days to invest the rollover check into another IRA or you will be taxed. However, the 60-day period does not begin until the day the check has been re-

Therefore, since you received the check at the end of December, you still have time to complete the rollover. If you open an IRA within 60 days of receiving the check, and roll over the exact

amount that the check was written for, then you do not have to pay the taxes or the penalty.

With regards to investing the money, I always believe that you have to do what you're comfortable with. That being said, it's important for investors to understand risk. You should know that by investing money in the bank, you are not making a risk-free investment.

Money in the bank is not going to keep up with the increased cost of living. When you consider that money in the bank is paying less than a percent, and you compare that to your increased cost of living, you will see that the purchasing power of your money, by investing in the bank, is going to go down year after year.

Yes, money in the bank does not have the risk of principal fluctuation, but it does have a purchasing power risk. Purchasing power risk is simply the fact that a dollar today buys a lot less than a dollar 20 years ago, and I have no doubt that a dollar 20 years from now will buy a lot less than it does today. If your investments do not keep up with the increased cost of living, it can cause severe financial harm in the future.

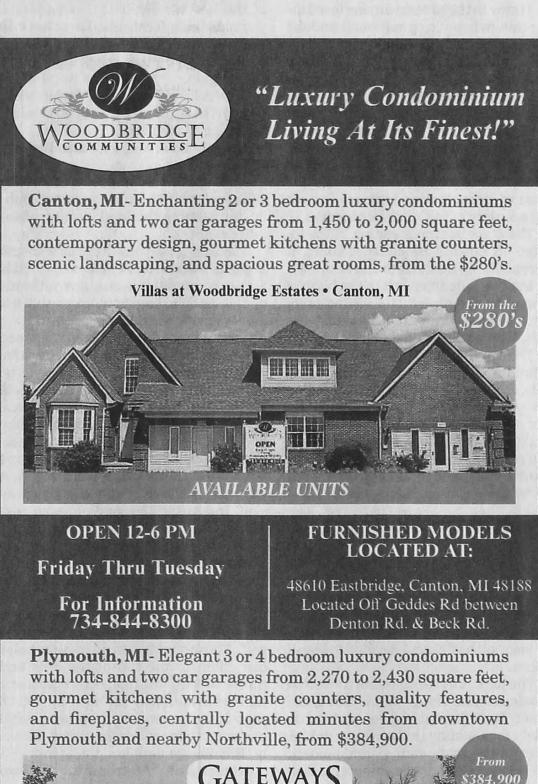
Therefore, you should consider other investments, in order to not only protect, but to grow your money.

With regards to Social Security, you can collect based upon a former spouse's earnings, as long as you meet the following requirements. 1) You must have been married to that spouse for at least 10 years; 2) you are at least 62 years of age, and 3) you are not currently married. If you meet those requirements, you would eventually be able to collect Social Security benefits through your

Typically, a divorced spouse is entitled to 50 percent of the ex-spouse's retirement benefits. As a side note, applying for Social Security benefits from an ex-spouse is fairly easy and straightforward, and your ex-spouse won't be notified when you apply for benefits.

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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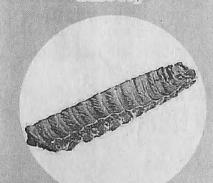


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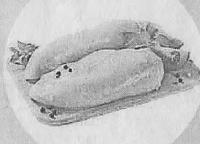
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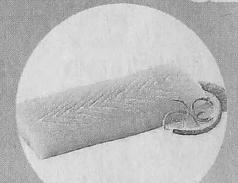


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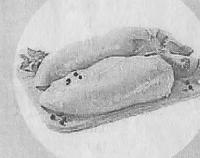
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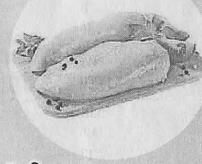
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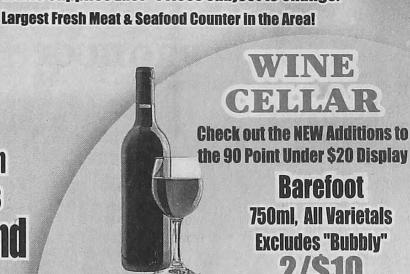
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SPORTS



Catholic Central's Tommy Shea, right, scoots a pass under the stick of Livonia Stevenson's Nick Justice. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CC hockey continues win streak, beating Stevenson

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Tommy Shea has been waiting for this, preparing for this through the uncertainty, through the non-contact. The Detroit Catholic Central senior forward capitalized.

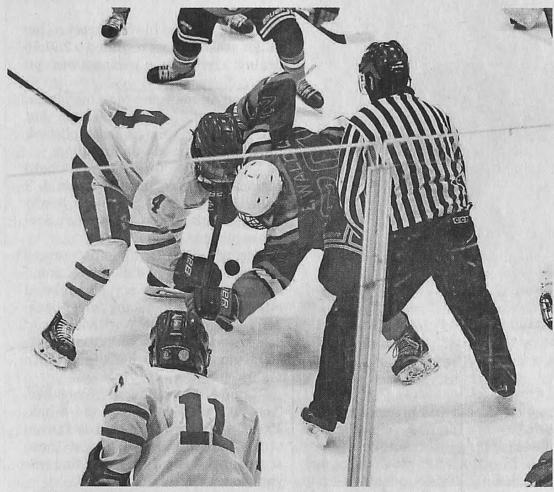
In the final two minutes of the third period, tied with Livonia Stevenson, 1-1, Shea found himself in prime position, taking the puck after an errant pass in the neutral zone. He adjusted it with the stick and fired, giving the Shamrocks (3-0) the 2-1 victory against the Spartans (2-1) Saturday night at USA Hockey Arena.

"These are the games we love," Shea said. "We love to compete. That's CC hockey right there."

For Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki, the mindset changed after the first period.

Ten minutes into the first period, Stevenson forward Jack Smith, streaking down the right side of the ice, tipped the pick toward senior forward Carson

See HOCKEY, Page 2B



Catholic Central and Stevenson players face off. Catholic Central won, 2-1.

Northville diver regains confidence, love for sport

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As a gymnast, Andy Maiz remembers feeling a rush while competing, doing things that not many people could do.

"You can do a flip, you can swing around... I loved it," he said. "I loved the atmosphere."

Maiz started gymnastics at age 5 and competed for five years, earning top honors in the parallel bars and on the rings in multiple state competitions. Over time, though, he had too many hard impacts on his foot, developing a cyst that forced him away from gymnastics entirely.

For Maiz, the transition to diving was obvious: He knew how to flip, he knew what to do; the landing was just different. Over time, Maiz developed that same rush as a competitor, a rush that fueled early success at Northville High.

Now a junior, that rush is mixing with a sense of drive, diving a season after losing the momentum of a third-place finish at the 2020 Division 1 diving regional after the state meet was canceled one day before the event in March.

"A lot of us didn't know how to feel," Maiz said, remembering sitting with 10 Northville swimmers poolside when the coaches broke the news. "It was something we were working for, something we spent so much time working on and we were getting ready for it. And it got canceled.

"You could say that a lot of us saw it coming. We just didn't want to believe

Return to the board

Only days before the pandemic shut down the program, Maiz joined Club Wolverine for the first time to further develop. In only two or three practices with Maiz, head coach Gabby Han saw he had the skills, he had the technique of a good diver, but did not have the time to work with him.

When he returned to the pool over the summer — he spent the spring months doing dry-land workouts and biking to stay in shape — Han did see a level of hesitancy, timidity in the incoming junior, despite not knowing him super well.

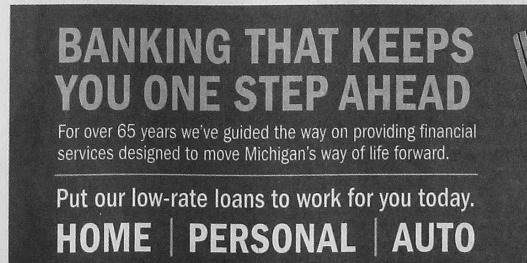
"I could see that he had some insecurities," Han said. "I think my main goal with him, after I got to know him a bit better, was to build his confidence. He's a very good diver and has a lot of skills, and I wanted to make sure that

he felt the same way."

This was something Northville head coach Jennifer Amman saw in Maiz early on as well.

Heading into his freshman season,

See DIVER, Page 2B







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Plymouth junior guard shines in win over Canton

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth girls basketball's usual game plan is to hit teams from deep. It was something the Wildcats did all of last season, hitting 155 3-pointers, 23rd most in state history for a single season.

After opening the 2021 season with 11 made 3s against Novi, Plymouth continued that trend Friday against Canton, hitting eight 3-pointers in the first half.

Then the Wildcats got cold, hitting only two 3-pointers in the final 16 minutes. But that gave an opportunity for Ainsley Florence to show what she could do.

The junior guard led Plymouth with 20 points — including 12 of the team's 26 second half points, none of which were 3-pointers — while stepping up in the post and in transition to help the Wildcats (2-0) beat rival Canton (1-1), 57-45.

Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard said Florence is his team's best two-way player, providing a boost for both sides of the floor when her defense turns into offense.

"Ainsley loves the moment," Ballard said. "She's been good ever since last year. At districts, I thought she was one of the best players on the floor.

"We're so hard to guard because they want to take away Ella Riley, they want to take away Kyra Brandon. That stretches the floor and gives Ainsley some gaps."

For Canton head coach Kayla Bridges, who spent six seasons on Ballard's staff at Plymouth, this was exactly



Ainsley Florence, shown here in Plymouth's regional semifinal loss to Brighton, played a major role in Plymouth's second-half success against Canton. LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

her game plan. She wanted her defenders to "find the shooters," shading out to those guards parked behind the 3-point line and led her bigs — Kathleen Burns and Rachel Williams - dominate in the

"I think it's kind of a team-by-team scenario, but Plymouth especially, their strong point is their guards," Bridges said. "I thought this would be a game where our bgs could really dominate. I

think we had flashes of good moments. but we really couldn't put it all together.

"I kind of knew what they would get into today. I wish we could have done a little more to disrupt it."

From the first quarter, Canton's game plan really did not work, allowing Plymouth to score 31 points in the first 16 minutes, 24 points of which came from behind the 3-point line.

In the third quarter, Florence made

her presence felt. She recorded two steals, one of which came on the very first possession, and took in three rebounds, allowing Plymouth to keep its double-digit lead through its 3-point cold spell.

"I feel like my defense sets the tone for the rest of the team, both defensively and offensively, to do better and push them more," Florence said. "I feel like it's very important for me to do my best for the team."

A 7-2 run early in the fourth quarter, including a 3 by Burns, who scored 10 points for Canton, cut Plymouth's lead down to six points, but the Wildcats were able to keep the lead at arm's length, helped by Florence and senior guard Kyra Brandon, who finished with 14 points and eight assists.

Plymouth senior guard Ella Riley led the team with four 3-point makes, adding 14 points.

Canton senior Alexandra Bohn led the team with 11 points.

Coming off its second win in two games, Plymouth is just getting started, Ballard said, saying his players are still getting antiquated with the return to play after a long hiatus away from the court due to COVID-19.

But what separates Plymouth, according to Ballard, is its experience, its unselfishness, knowing how to play with one another.

"If Ella's hitting shots, that means Ainsley's getting looks," Ballard said. "If Kyra's hitting shots, everyone else is going to get looks. That just makes us so hard to guard."

Brighton hockey opens with 4-0 loss

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON - Brighton certainly wasn't going to come away from its first hockey game with a false sense of secu-

The Bulldogs' opening opponent, Livonia Stevenson, is quite capable of exposing any and all weaknesses hidden during weeks of noncontact practices.

First-year head coach Kurt Kivisto won't get many practice opportunities to iron out what went wrong for Brighton in a 4-0 loss to Stevenson Feb. 10 at Kensington Valley Ice House.

As currently constructed, Brighton's schedule calls for 17 games in 31 days, most of them against state-ranked competition like Stevenson.

"It's certainly what we expected from them," Kivisto said.

The Spartans, who have won their last six meetings with Brighton, controlled play most of the night, allowing the Bulldogs few scoring opportunities. Stevenson outshot Brighton, 32-13.

"Certainly, we've got to do a better job skating, skating through traffic, skating through sticks," Kivisto said.

Stevenson, a Division 2 program, is expected to be one of the top handful of teams in the state, regardless of division. The Spartans return three firstteam all-staters and one second-team

Brighton goalie Chris Wozniak said.

son opener and also has 17 games scheduled in 31 days. The Spartans open with three games in four nights.

Mitchell said. "Now there's going to be a lot of games in a condensed area. It's going to be about rest and management and how well they take care of themselves and each other."

Although Stevenson controlled the puck most of the first period, Brighton nearly made it to the first intermission by Stevenson's Ryan Teets caromed in off a Brighton player with 42.7 seconds left in the period to give the Spartans

Brighton's best scoring chance of the night came when junior Joe LaColla hit the crossbar on a breakaway with 13:08 left in the second period.

"I think I got a piece of it with the glove, but the crossbar bailed me out," Stevenson all-state goalie Brenden Stroble said. "I kind of gave it a couple of love taps and thanked it and continued to play."

Just more than a minute later. Ian Kimble extended Stevenson's lead to 2-0 at the 5:04 mark. Brighton had a chance to cut into the lead during a five-minute power play that spanned the second and third periods, but the Bulldogs had only one serious threat, a shot from close range by LaColla just before the horn sounded to end the second.

Owen Penny scored at 2:36 and Andrew VanAntwerp at 10:04 to complete the scoring.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Kleven, beating Catholic Central goalkeeper Bobby Masters for the score: the Spartans' first against the

Shamrocks since Feb. 10, 2017.

From there, the Shamrocks started to take control, pounding Stevenson senior goalkeeper Brendan Stroble consistently through the second period, recording 15 saves on 16 shots in the middle 17 minutes.

After a skirmish near goal three minutes into the second period, giving the Shamrocks a power play, Catholic Central turned the man advantage into a goal, with senior forward Billy Shields finding the back of Stroble's net to tie the game at one.

"I thought we elevated our game in the second and third, and that's what we were hoping to see," Kaleniecki said. "We had a lot of chances in the second period — I thought our second period was the best period we played... We did get one to tie it up, but we felt there would be another one coming."

Watching his goalkeeper finish with 29 saves, Stevenson head coach David Mitchell knew Stroble kept it close, but he knew the level Catholic Central was playing at in the second and third period, something, he said, his team was not able to match.

"Brenden Stroble was very good tonight, but all the credit in the world goes to CC," Mitchell said. "They made adjustments after the first period, their energy picked up. We didn't match their intensity and their energy after the first period. They deserved to win the hockey game."

After allowing the first-period goal, Master was perfect at net, finishing with 22 saves, including two in the final seconds of the third period when Stevenson chose to have an empty net.

To Kaleniecki, this was fun hockey. Facing his team in the locker room after the game, the Shamrocks head coach preached to them, "This is what winning looks like;" one season after having its state semifinal game against Byron Center postponed and later canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coming off the win, Kaleniecki wants his team to remember how fun high-level hockey is, how much of a blast it is to be emotionally invested, to be engaged, to leave it all on the ice.

That's what he wants to carry over. "What more can you say? That's what you miss right, the competitiveness," Kaleniecki said. "Just seeing the smiles on the kids' faces again is great. Games like this really bring it out how much they love competing and why it is so important for them to be a part of these things."

Catholic Central will look for win number four Thursday when it faces Cranbrook Kingswood on the road.

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

Diver

Continued from Page 1B

she had heard rumblings about Maiz from the middle school program, having broken records in that program and placing in the top three in the state in his age group. Amman saw a diver who was performing at the level of a high school junior.

But she also saw a diver that had been under high pressure from his club team at the time, so she changed her approach to make sure he was enjoying himself and the sport.

"He was on a track for a national level of competition from a very young age, and I think he got burned out by it a little bit, and he stepped away," Amman said.

"When he came back in high school, he hadn't been on a board in a while. But even just the talent that he had after not doing it for a while, you could tell that this kid was going to be a contender at state meet."

From his first season with Northville, Maiz met that expectation, ending the year as one of three freshman Division 1 state qualifiers. Sophomore year, he was seeded No. 8 heading into the state meet, leading to All-State honors and All-American consideration.

When Maiz returned to the diving board in summer 2020, he was over-

"There was a lot in that first jump," he said. "I hadn't gone off a board in so long. There was a lot of emotion, but there was a lot of me messing up."

After months of dry-land training with Club Wolverine on towels and yoga mats at an Ann Arbor country club, Maiz transitioned to the pool for early-mornselection from a squad that went 25-3-1 last season, beating Brighton 4-0 in the KLAA championship game. "They're always a strong team,"

Stevenson was also playing its sea-

"It's go time," Stevenson coach David

locked in a scoreless tie. However, a shot

intact for long. In his first meet of his junior season, Maiz recorded a 250.66 against Plymouth, a personal best on

his six dives. When Amman gave Maiz his scores, the junior did not believe her. But when it hit him what he accomplished, the number served as affirmation.

"It gives me a new sense of what I can actually accomplish," Maiz said. "I know I can do better. I know. It was kind of a springboard. It gave me a new sense of pride, I think."

Seeing a diver that had progressed to a higher degree of difficulty, Amman admitted that Maiz actually missed one of his dives in his first meet back. After the miss, the Northville head coach said Maiz was very disappointed in himself, but she had to give him a reality check.

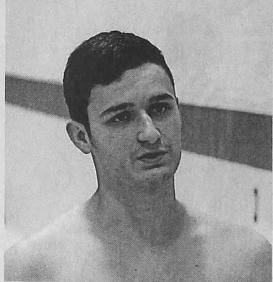
"I pulled him aside and I was like, 'You just missed for five-and-a-half, sixes," she said. "Most kids don't even attain that dive let alone get those scores on their best days. And that was your worst day.""

Maiz has the potential to shine for Northville and for Club Wolverine for the next two seasons. His trajectory is on the Division 1 path, with Han saying he has all the tools to shine for a collegiate program.

All that Han said Maiz needs to do is to step back and realize what he is accomplishing, and enjoy himself.

"For him, it's just about maintaining love for the sport and being passionate about it," Han said. "He can do a lot of great things."

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



Mustang diver Andy Maiz talks about making the switch from gymnastics. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing practices, relearning and remastering dives from his high school season while expanding his repertoire.

The dives that Maiz previously knew were quickly solidified, pushing Han to encourage her diver to take the next

"I think once we got a few things tweaked... I started to build things on top of that, build his confidence in saying, 'I'm seeing a lot of really, really good things. I want to take it to the next level. I want to start pushing you toward bigger dives," Han said.

Maintaining the love

Over the course of his summer training, Maiz regained his confidence, putting in the work and developing a belief in what he could do on the diving board: to break his personal records.

Those personal records did not stay

What to watch for in girls basketball in 2021

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan high school girls basketball is back.

Teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association have already started their 2021 campaign, aiming for a chance at a state title.

This season, the district round will be held March 22, 24 and 26; the regional round will be held March 29 and 31; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 5, 7 and 9.

Here's what Hometown Life's teams in the KLAA West look like in 2021.

Canton

Head coach: Kayla Bridges, first season

2019-20 season: 1-20, eighth in KLAA West, 31-28 loss to Livonia Churchill in first round

Key players: Senior Kate Burns, senior Emerson Kilgore, senior Noel Blain
What to expect: Kayla Bridges

what to expect: Rayla Bridges knows what it takes to be successful at Canton.

As a player, she made the final four

twice in her four seasons. Now taking over the program she has oncer played for, she has high expectations. Since joining the team as its head

Since joining the team as its head coach, Bridges has put an emphasis on speed both offensively and defensively, something that takes time for players to adjust to.

"I think there is going to be some sort of learning curve, just a growth period once we do return to full contact and we are able to play some games," Bridges said. "I think it's one of those things where every team has to deal with it right now, so we can't pull the 'Woe is me'"

Of Canton's six seniors, three have had significant varsity experience: Kate Burns, Emerson Kilgore and Noel Blain. Over the past three seasons, Canton has won 11 games, nine of which came in the 2017-18 team.

Last season, Canton averaged 23.1 points per game, recording more than 40 points in a game twice, including a 43-38 win against Salem.

Northville

Head coach: Todd Gudith

2019-20 season: 8-13, fifth in KLAA West, 41-24 loss to Plymouth in district semifinals

Key players: Senior Avery Tolstyka, senior Sophia Jeromsky, junior Juliana Imbuzerio

What to expect: Heading into 2021, Northville will not look much different than its 2019-20 team. However, the Mustangs will have to find a new path to the basket.

While Northville graduated only three players from last year's team, two of those players — Morgan Thompson and Ellie Thallman — were the Mustangs' top two scorers. Of the nine returners, head coach Todd Gudith said each of them had experience playing varsity basketball.

"We are still young in that sense, but we have seen some improvement by everybody, even though we haven't played a game in 10 months," Gudith said, leading a Northville roster of only three seniors with the majority of the team sophomores.

Senior Avery Tolstyka, an All-League honorable mention in 2019-20, will be one of Northville's go-to players on the floor. Heading into her third year on varsity, Tolstyka, Gudth said, has taken the reins of leading the team while continuing to develop her game.

Gudth said he also looks for production from senior Sophia Jeromsky and junior Juliana Imbuzeiro, who has been on the team since she was a freshman and is looking to take another step in her game.

Based on what he has seen, Gudith is pleased with where his team is at. He knows they will be competitive, but he knows the kind of teams the Mustangs will be facing this season.

"There are no layups, no easy games for us, but I think we will compete," Gudith said. "We think we have some depth this year, and that is really an attribute to those kids who were with us last year who have gotten better and more mature and physically stepped up their game."

Novi

Head coach: Charles Aro, fourth sea-

2019-20 season: 10-11, sixth in KLAA West, 57-48 loss to Mercy in district semifinal

Key players: Senior Maria Fernandes, senior Hannah Verbracken, junior Sammy Maday, junior Eva Khalil, freshman Anna Lindsay

What to expect: On the first Monday of contact practices, Novi head coach Charles Aro spent 20 minutes leading his team through its warm-up routine on game days.

The Wildcats head into 2021 with only five returners — one out for the year with an ACL injury. And with the transition back to basketball play after months of non-contact training, Aro said the transition is close to non-existent

"You can go through sets five-on-zero, you can go through defenses and
stuff," Aro said. "You can't do anything
man-to-man really because that would
be contact. It's really hard to prepare
them for game speed without going fiveon-five."

Two third-year varsity seniors — Maria Fernandez and Hannah Verbracken, a returning starter — will play big roles for the Wildcats in 2021, along with junior Sammy Maday, a starter for Novi last season, and Eva Khalil.

The Wildcats will also have a freshman point guard in Anna Lindsay, who Aro describes as extremely impressive athletically, following in the footsteps of two four-year point guards that have gone through the Novi program.

"It's something Anna can do," Aro said. "It's really, with no summer, it's learning how to play with the kids we have. But physically, she's very physically gifted. That's not the issue at all.

"You couldn't tell she was a freshman."

Plymouth

Head coach: Ryan Ballard, sixth sea-

2019-20 season: 14-9, fourth in KLAA West, 53-43 loss to Brighton in regional

semifinal

Key players: Senior Ella Riley, senior Kyra Brandon

What to expect: Over the past three seasons, Plymouth has been on a roll. The Wildcats have posted a combined record of 42-25, never losing more than nine games in a single season, while winning four playoff games in the past two years.

Heading into 2021, Plymouth's success will fall with the 3-point shot.

As a junior, Ella Riley hit 75 3-pointers, the second most in the state behind Kent City's Jenna Harrison. Plymouth as a team hit 155 of 482 3-point attempts — connecting on 32.2% — placing the Wildcats in the books for 23rd most makes and 25th most tries in a single season in state history.

Along with Riley, who was an All-League honorable mention last year, senior guard Kyra Brandon returns to the Wildcats.

Brandon was an All-League team member a season ago, averaging 7.4 points, 4.3 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.8 steals per game.

Salem

Head coach: Lauren Evans, third eason

2019-20 season: 4-18, seventh in KLAA West, 51-31 loss to Plymouth in district final

Key players: Senior Mia Martin, junior Marissa Henry, sophomore Macy Boyd, junior Syler Eyers

What to expect: While Salem waited to see if it would get a chance to play in 2021, head coach Lauren Evans had the opportunity to slow things down for her

During non-contact practices, she said, the Rocks worked on form shooting, tweaking what needed to be tweaked and fine-tuning the basics.

While Evans may only have nine players on her varsity roster, she said she could see the work they put in heading into actual game play.

"You can tell that those athletes have been putting their work in and because of that, they have become good coaches along with me," Evans said.

KLAA EAST PREVIEW

What to expect this season in girls basketball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Michigan high school girls basketball is back.

Teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association have already started their 2021 campaign, aiming for a chance at a state title.

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Here's what Hometown Life's teams in the KLAA East look like in 2021.

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: K'Len Morris, sixth sea-

son 2019-20 season: 12-9, third in KLAA East, 34-32 loss to Salem in district

semifinal

Key players: Senior Nasya Thomas,
senior Molly Behan, junior Kate Heston

senior Molly Behen, junior Kate Heston What to expect: To Churchill head coach K'Len Morris, the non-contact practices prior to the start of the 2021 season were a blessing in disguise.

Carrying over only three players from last season's 12-win team, the head coach said those sessions allowed his team on the basics when it really needed it.

"We're so inexperienced that it wouldn't serve me any good to have these crazy, contact practices when our skill level isn't where it needs to be yet," Morris said. "We're really just hammering out the basics: ball handling, the basics of defense, shooting form. We're just trying to teach the kids the basics of the game right now."

Losing Kayla Osen and Keke Buggs from last year's team — both KLAA All-Conference players — the Chargers will have senior Nasya Thomas lead the team in 2021.

An All-Conference player as a junior, Thomas led the team with 16.6 points per game and 18 rebounds per game and comes into her fourth year as a varsity player.

"Everybody looks at her. She is just so athletically gifted," Morris said. "She

makes plays at times where it's just like, 'How do you do that?'"

Senior Molly Behen and junior Kate Heston — both three-year varsity players — are Churchill's other two returners from last year, providing experience for the younger players on the seven-player roster.

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: John Santi, fourth sea-

2019-20 season: 9-12, fifth in KLAA East, 72-40 loss to Wayne Memorial in district final

Key players: Junior Erin Young, junior Kalin Bates, senior Sami Hampton, junior Sammy Provenzano

What to expect: Livonia Franklin just wanted to play basketball.

Many on the Patriots roster were on the forefront of the "Let Us Play" movement, releasing a video to show support of playing safely through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now that they have a chance, the Patriots hope to find success in the KLAA

Coming off a nine-win season, a two-win improvement from the 2018-19 season, Franklin will be without All-Conference guard Emily Esker in 2021, who averaged 6.4 points and 1.5 steals per game last season.

Junior Erin Young, an All-Conference forward as a sophomore, will return for the Patriots, having averaged 8.4 points, 6.9 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game last season.

Junior guard Kalin Bates, who was an All-Conference honorable mention, will return as well, along with senior Sami Hampton, junior Sammy Provenzano

Livonia Stevenson

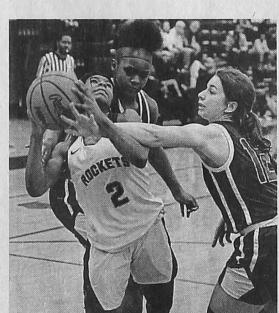
Head coach: Kareem Smartt, first

2019-20 season: 11-10, fourth in KLAA East, 56-42 loss to North Farmington in district semifinal

Key players: Junior Kerry Donehue, senior Julia Nowak

What to expect: In 2021, Stevenson

will have a new head coach, but one fa-



John Glenn's Taylor Watkins-Johnson gets pressured near the basket.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

miliar with the program as a whole.

Kareem Smartt transitioned from the Stevenson boys basketball program, winning 71 games in six seasons, while advancing as far as the regional semifinal in the 2017-18 season.

The Spartans girls program is coming off recent success, too, finishing last season with 11 wins: the program's first winning season since the 2013-14 campaign in which they won 13 games and advanced to the regional semifinal.

In 2021, Smartt will have to fill the shoes of All-Conference seniors Josie Piergentili and Tara Bourdage.

Kerry Donehue returns as a junior after an All-Conference sophomore season, averaging four steals per game and shooting 45% from the floor at guard last season.

Senior Julia Nowak, an All-Conference honorable mention, returns to the starting lineup as well.

Wayne Memorial

Head coach: Jarvis Mitchell, seventh

2019-20 season: 19-5, first in KLAA East, 51-40 loss to Saline in regional samifinal

Key players: Senior Alanna Mi-

cheaux, junior Jordan Wright, senior Lachelle Austin, sophomore Mayla Ham What to expect: Wayne Memorial

shined in 2019-20.

After losing the first three games of the season, the Zebras rolled through its KLAA schedule, winning 15 straight, in-

cluding all of its regular season matchups against conference opponents.

Heading into 2021, head coach Jarvis Mitchell will have each of his four All-Conference players back: senior Alanna Micheaux who is committed to play at Minnesota; senior Lachelle Austin, who is committed to play at Eastern Michi-

more Mayla Ham.

As a junior, Micheaux averaged a double-double, recording 27.3 points per game and 14.3 rebounds. Austin, at point guard, averaged 4.1 steals per

gan; junior Jordan Wright and sopho-

game for the Zebras last season.
Since Wayne Memorial's 0-20 season in 2014-15, the Zebras have won 97-of-120 games, never losing more than five games in a single season.

John Glenn

Head coach: Derrick Jordan, eighth

2019-20 season: 6-15, seventh in KLAA East, 66-31 loss to Wayne Memo-

rial in district semifinals **Key players:** Senior Taylor Watkins-Johnson

What to expect: Last season, John Glenn had a rough time playing in the

KLAA.

The Rockets won three of its 11 conference games by a total of 12 points — two against Belleville and a one-point win against Dearborn Fordson. Last

points per game, while allowing 49.4 points per game.

Senior Taylor Watkins-Johnson will be back in 2021 to try and change the

season, John Glenn averaged 39.4

narrative.

Last season, as a junior, Watkins Johnson was the Rockets' only representative on the All-Conference team, averaging 13 points and five steals per game.

John Glenn has not had a winning record since the 2015-16 season.



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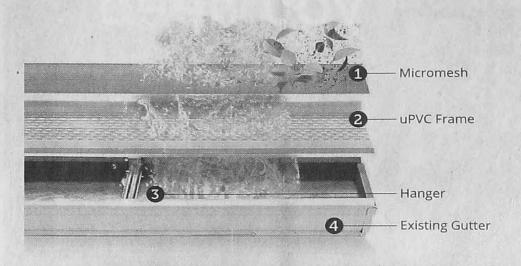
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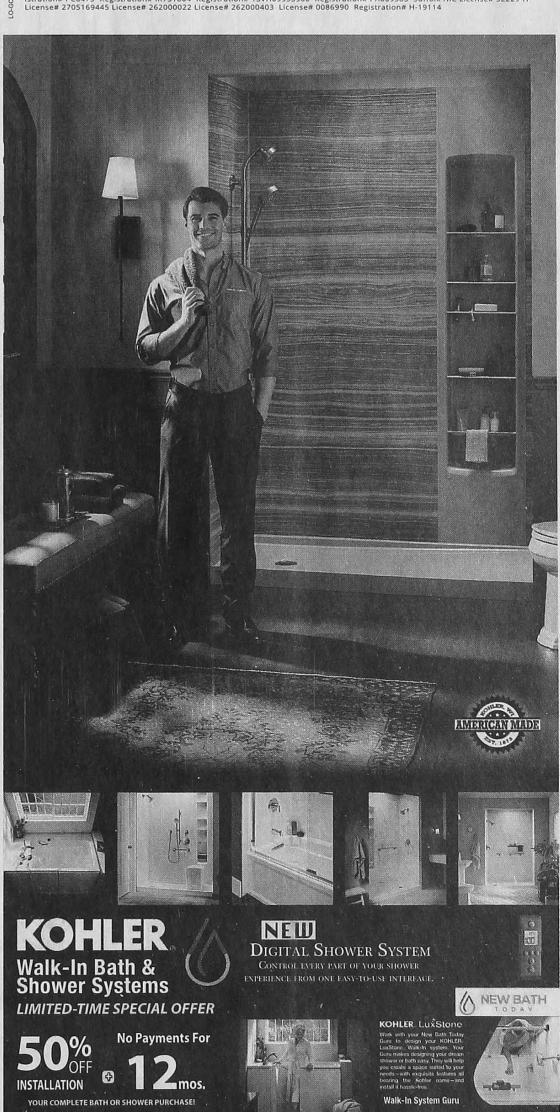
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2021 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

- 1. Application 1617, R78-059-03-0226-701, 8830 Oakview, R-1 zoning district is requesting one variance to construct a new home with a rear yard setback of (43) feet whereas (50) feet is required. Variance requested is Seven (7) feet.
- 2. Application 1618, R78-059-03-0227-701, 8836 Oakview, R-1 zoning district is requesting one variance to construct a new home with a rear yard setback of (43) feet whereas (50) feet is required. Variance requested is Seven (7) feet.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Publish: February 18, 2021

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 – 7:00 P.M. ONLINE ZOOM WEBINAR

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170 Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. online via Zoom to consider the following:

Z21-05 Non-Use Variance Request for 1294 Maple Side yard setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Nathan Johns

Z21-06 Non-Use Variance Request for 629 Herald Front yard setback Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential Applicant: Metaxia and Brandon Morris

All interested persons are invited to attend.

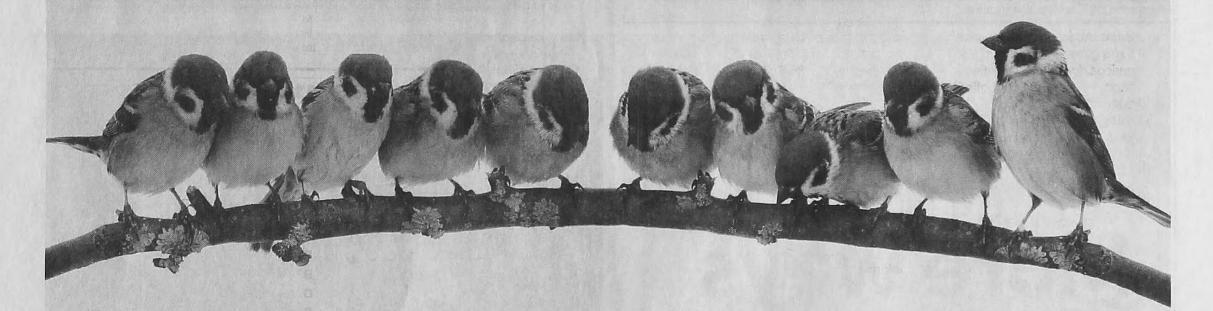
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

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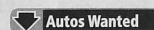


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- PAY** (with accounting exp.)
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- Oil Change Technicians

To apply, email resume to: alawiegus@yahoo.com or Call (313) 800-2032, ask for General Manager Malak

THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

50 Sports

venues 51 — double life

52 TV show

55 Feng —

56 Old Ford

60 Pinnacle

62 Kicks on

63 Suffix with

ball or bass

68 Spanish for

since fall '75

make, in brief

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

- 58 Melodies 1 Doorway part (old cartoon 5 Mix for a deli series) sandwich 59 Stand-up 13 Snooty sort comedy TV series
- 20 River in Europe and Asia 65 Wince 21 Long, bitter speech
- 22 Popular hot sauce brand 23 Calf-length

ACROSS

- skirt 24 Navigable sea route in southern
- Chile 26 Hayloft sites
- 28 Home to Boise: Abbr. 29 Extra game periods, for
- short 30 Distrustful 31 Designer for Jackie
- Kennedy 35 1958 Leslie Caron film 38 Head dog
- 39 tai (drink) 42 Really must 47 Tag again **51** One
- mapping terrain 53 In excess of 54 "Woe -!" 57 Prefix with

sense

20

23

26

31

53

59

65

76

84

90

97

103

124

131

134

47 48

49

78

115 116 117 118

50

71

- 64 Ending for form 66 Pakistani's language 67 Like circles 71 Daniel Boone or Johnny
- Appleseed 80 Jewel box for music 84 Color
- 85 Kia Sedona competitor 90 Mystery's Christie
- 94 Org. offering tows
- 95 Actor Morales DOWN 96 Sundae toppings 97 Florence institute near
- the Uffizi Gallery 100 New York Giants' div.
- 103 Gussied up 104 MGM's lion 105 Tree yielding chocolate
- 107 "QED" center 109 Eric the Red. for one

21

24

32

33

27

38

60 61

28

54 | 55 | 56

66

86

108

72

85

125 126

93

92

107

- 115 Alvin of choreography 119 Klutz
- 122 Pumped stuff 123 Flood stopper 124 All through the dark hours
- 130 Show sleepiness **131** Most
- promising 132 "Been there myself, man" 76 Lustrous gem 133 Really liking
- 79 Pushpin's kin 134 Combination punches 135 Sends along 136 Org.
 - associated with the nine missions
 - featured in this puzzle
 - 1 Very big 2 Common typeface 3 "The Treasure of
 - the Sierra --" 4 Flashy jewelry, informally
 - 5 Mag staffers 6 "Skedaddle!" 7 Tastelessly showy

 - 49 Strauss of 8 Sports venues

10

34

39

62

79

99

51

88

104

119 120 121

132

135

- 9 Suffix with sect 10 Illuminated 11 "Peek- -!"
- 12 Skillful and clever 13 JFK datum 14 Fall behind 15 Religious
- convert's cry 16 Anecdote 17 Atoll part
- 18 Wound result 19 Actor Danza 25 Soup additive, for short
- 27 Strikebreaker 32 Bar drink
- 33 Skedaddle 34 "- little teapot ..."
- **36** Shiba (Japanese dog breed) 37 Virus, e.g. 40 A.D. part
- 41 False god 43 German "the" 44 Sundae topping
- 45 Sheer linen fabric 46 Greek mountain
- nymph 47 Use deep massage on 48 Blackhearted

13

22

36

42

63

89

25

35

52

75

105 106

14

37

58

68

80

100 101 102

128 129

69

70

96

130

133

136

123

30

jeans

12

11

29

40

57

73

95

109 110

122

74

41

- 69 Lamarr of 70 Esoteric 72 Camcorder button abbr. 73 Primitive kind of diet 74 Freezes 76 Winner, informally 77 Foretell 78 Razz
 - 81 Water, to Juanita 82 Mounts, as a
 - gemstone 83 Formerly, formerly of aves. 86 "2001" computer
 - 87 Train support affection 88 Harvard rival of 89 Singer Gill 91 Golf peg

93 Golden -98 Cavity fillers' 99 Mega years 61 Those people 102 Corkscrew football fields 106 Analyzes in a (#1 Kesha hit) Here's How It Works:

110 Stares at "dry" creepily "Boom Town" 111 Enter, as to a database 112 An ex-Trump 113 Lizardlike

ON A

MISSION

92 Melon variety

(senior)

preferred:

Abbr.

105 Baby bed

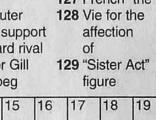
lab

108 "TiK --"

org.

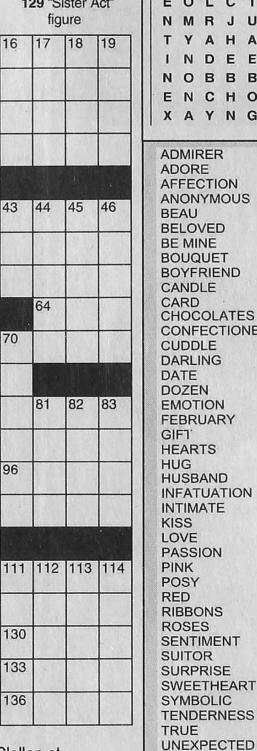
101 Most

- amphibians 114 Port of Italy 115 "Hair" hairdo 75 Creole veggie 116 Pumped stuff
 - 117 Suffer defeat 118 Discharge 120 Leave -(reward the server)
- 121 World Cup 125 GI tour gp. 126 Intersectors
- 127 French "the" 128 Vie for the

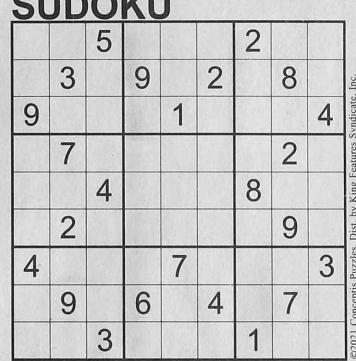


44

64



SUDOKU



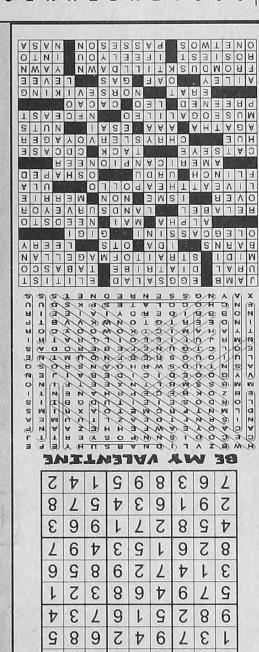
Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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 CECODISNNPOSYERT EAWFEHHEZ TDEA ZL E DOS E ITU DG ZOKBECEPRH SSMBLTNXE SNTUDSWRHOA OUQSREBFND CTGUN E EBE EEO NDEERTGTONWK BBIDERDYIA NCHOCOLATESPKSDUU

XAYNGSSENREDNETSSS 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 9 **RIBBONS** 3 4 9 1 9 ROSES SENTIMENT 9 7 SUITOR 6 3 9 SURPRISE



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

127

*

WOOER

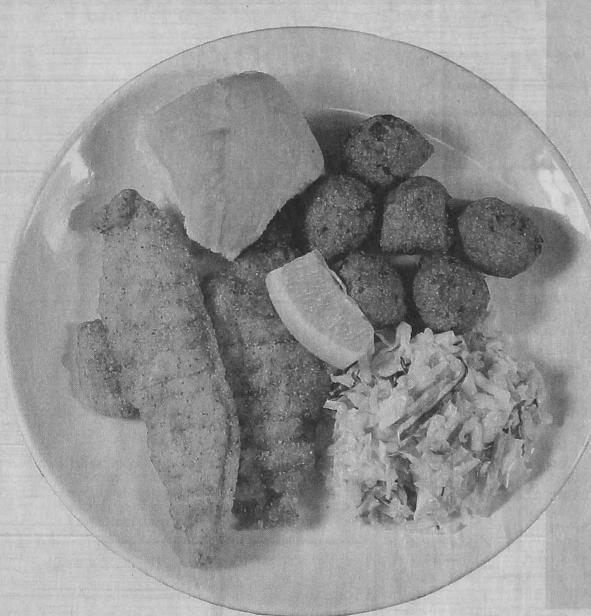
WIFE

VALENTINE

7 1 3 9 8 b



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ONLY AVAILABLE 10:30 AM TO 2 PM & 4 PM TO 7 PM ASH WEDNESDAY & EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH APRIL 2ND

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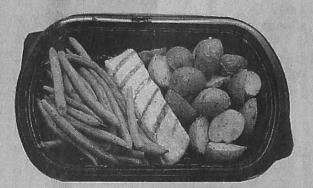
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\$7.99 EA

DINNERS COME WITH 2 FISH FILETS, HUSHPUPPIES & COLESLAW

Grab & Go Meals

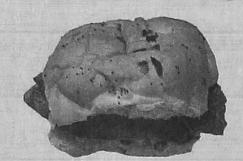


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WHITE BEAN & TUNA LETTUCE WRAP* \$12.99 EA

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