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## MAXFIELD PROPERTY

# Farmington council chooses developer

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The former Maxfield Training Center property is one step closer to development.

Farmington City Council voted 4-1 during a special meeting March 4 to move forward with Robertson Brothers' proposal to build 59 townhomes on the three-acre space. Mayor Sara Bowman cast the dissenting vote.

Robertson's proposal was one of two finalists council chose from four interested developers. The other finalist, River Caddis Development, was proposing 124 apartment units.

"I hope Robertson Brothers comes with a design that will compliment the historic district," City Manager David Murphy said. "That's a transitional area between the historic district and downtown."

Some argued Robertson, based in

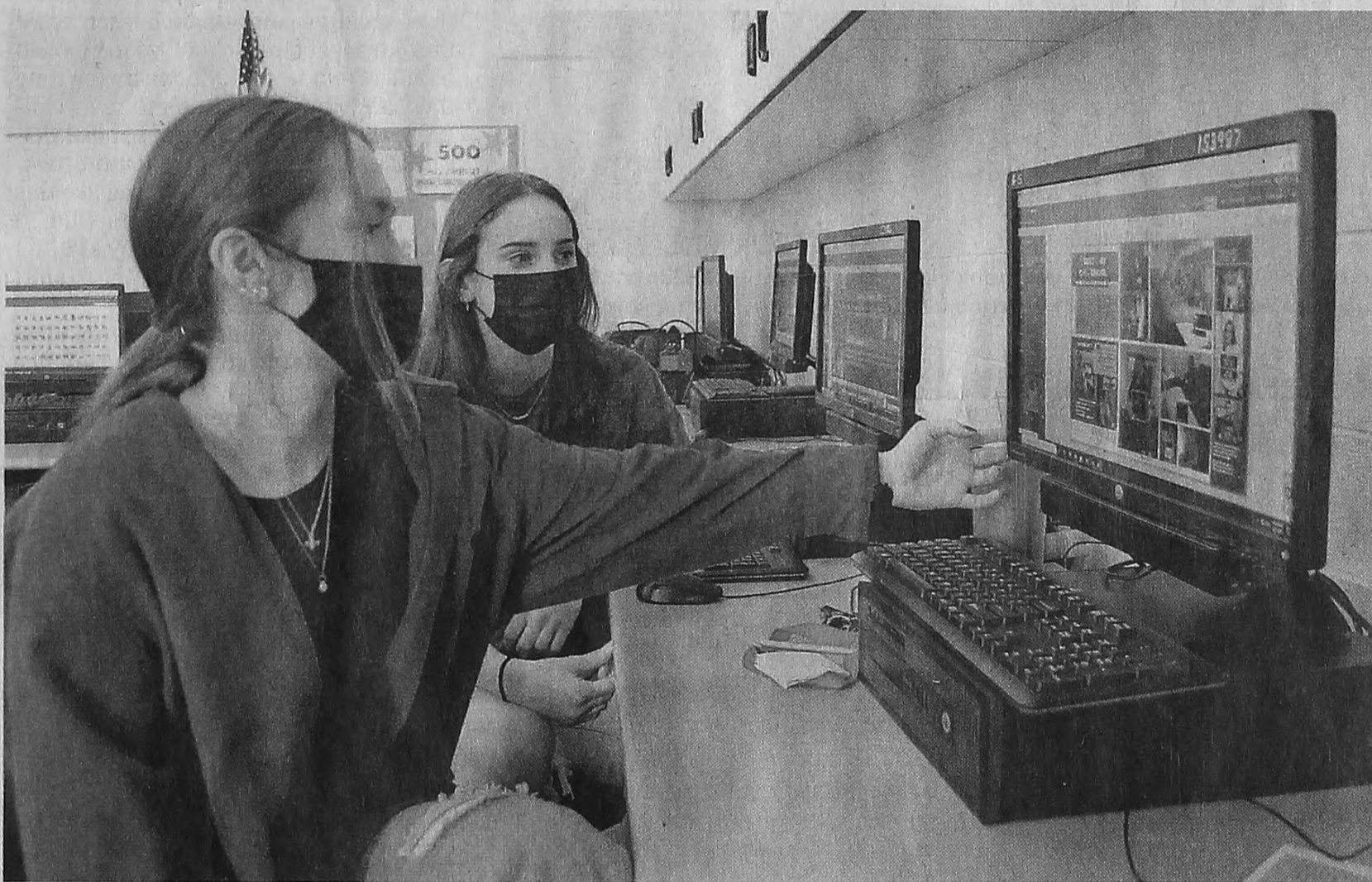
Bloomfield Hills, and its owner-occupied townhomes will better fit in with the nearby historical district. As the proposal stands, the townhomes would include two bedrooms and a single-car garage. Robertson's plan also prioritizes pedestrian access to downtown and Shiawassee Park.

Now, the city will start working with Robertson to develop a plan that, the

See DEVELOPER, Page 2A



It appears townhomes will be built at the old Maxfield Training Center site. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Livonia Franklin High School seniors Quinn Brothers, left, and Josie Ransley talk about the yearbook as they work on the publication's "First day of school" pages. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Livonia HS yearbook editors document historic school year

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

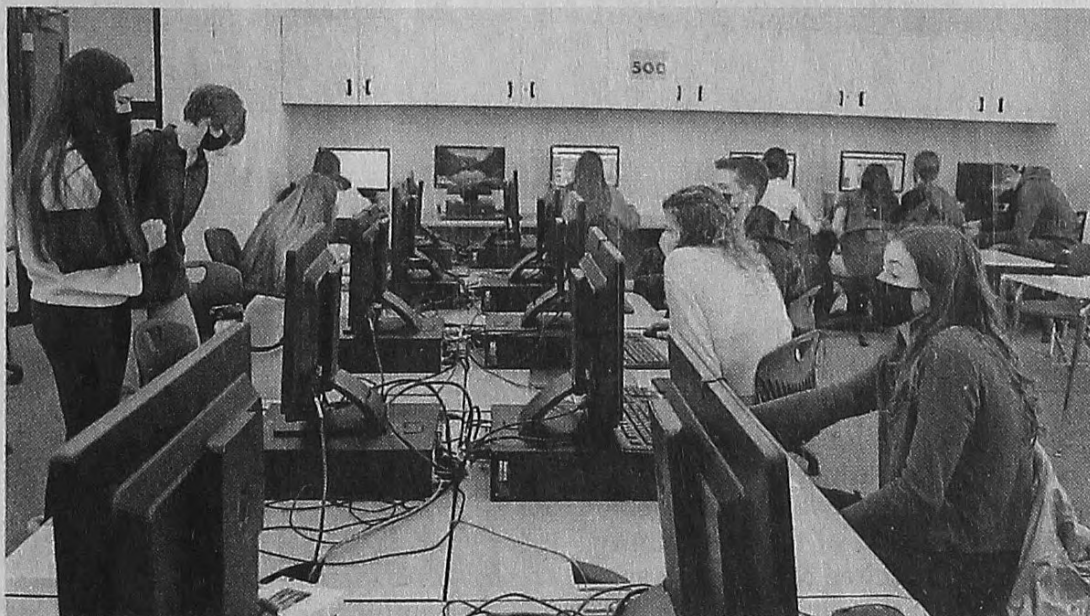
Josie Ransley and Quinn Brothers want you to know yearbooks are for sale.

As editors of Livonia Franklin High School's yearbook class, the finished product will be a culmination of their metaphorical blood, sweat and tears. The two seniors, involved with yearbook since they were sophomores, possess the administrative skills it takes to be good editors, according to their teacher Laura Rea.

And boy have they needed those skills.

"The initial push of getting started was really different," Ransley said. "We started out online, and so we had to do all of the planning and getting set ups remotely instead of in-person where we could physically see copies of yearbooks and plan it."

See YEARBOOK, Page 2A



Students work on Livonia Franklin High School's 2020-21 yearbook.

"I think we really tried to capture the nature of what school looked like during this time. We included a lot of pictures of the health and safety precautions we were taking."

Laura Rea Teacher, Livonia High School

# Livonia adds social workers to police force

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia's police department will be the first in western Wayne County to add social workers to its force.

At a meeting Monday, city council voted unanimously to enter a partnership with the Livonia-based Hegira Health that will embed two social workers in the department. Livonia will not reduce its number of badged officers as part of the move.

"I'm glad we have this in front of us," Councilman Brandon McCullough said. "I think especially with the pandemic, the number of cases are on the rise for this type of social support. I think it's an incredible step forward."

Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid has said he's been working toward a

See SOCIAL WORKERS, Page 2A

# Quick Pass plans second car wash in Canton

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If your car routinely gets dirty driving along the south side of Canton Township, you might be in luck in the coming months.

Plans for a new car wash along Canton Center Road just north of Michigan Avenue were reviewed and recommended for approval by the township's planning commission during its meeting March 1. The car wash would be a Quick Pass Car Wash similar to the one currently operating on North Canton Center Road between Ford Road and Warren.

See CAR WASH, Page 2A



# Amazon's logo on plans for Canton warehouse

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

Signs indicate Amazon is the user of a planned warehouse and delivery station proposed along Michigan Avenue in Canton Township.

While the township's planning commission recommended the site plan for the development along the avenue between Beck and Denton roads during its meeting Monday, representatives for the project still aren't saying who will occupy the 183,000-square-foot facility.

Richard Rattner, a representative for the company, told the planning board he wasn't able to share the client's name during the meeting when asked about "the elephant in the room" by Chairman Greg Greene during the commission's meeting.

"I haven't been authorized yet to release the name," he said. "I think you'll be very pleased, but I'm not authorized to release the name."

But it was pointed out during the meeting the client's name may have already been shared: documents shared on the township's website listing the



A rendering of the proposed warehouse and delivery station planned along Michigan Avenue in Canton, as posted in the public packet for the planning commission meeting held March 1. COURTESY OF CANTON TOWNSHIP

commission's meeting packet show an Amazon logo used on signage for parking spaces planned at the site. Images in plans for the signage show the signature Amazon logo, though it's clear there was an attempt to cover it up: the phrase "tenant logo" appears printed over it, indicating the logo was most likely supposed to be hidden.

The name being listed on plans was brought up during the meeting after Greene asked about the potential client. "You don't have to confirm or deny," Greene told Rattner.

It's just the latest sign that the e-commerce giant could come to Canton. While the project has gone through several discussions at varying levels of township government, including rezoning and a special land use request reviewed by the planning commission last month, the occupant has not been talked about during those meetings.

A message seeking comment was sent to Amazon, though, not returned by press time.

The proposed building looks similar to other Amazon facilities in the region,

including a fulfillment center that opened several years ago in nearby Livonia, though the proposed Canton space is significantly smaller. The developer in charge of the project, Pure Development, is known for constructing other Amazon facilities across the country.

If constructed and associated with the Seattle e-commerce giant, it would join several other facilities in the area, including ones in Livonia, Romulus, Lyon Township and soon in Plymouth Township, where Amazon is converting a former Spartan warehouse along Haggerty Road into a sorting center.

The site plan will now go to the township's board of trustees for final approval. The board is expected to take the item up during its March 9 meeting.

Despite not saying who was occupying the space, Rattner said the proposal will benefit Canton and bring plenty of jobs to the area.

"We believe it is a terrific use to the area and a great advantage to the township," Rattner said.

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

## Yearbook

Continued from Page 1A

Unlike some of its surrounding counterparts, Livonia Public Schools offered some form of in-person learning for most of the school year. The district offers an online option kept buildings closed in September and the 2020 winter holiday season, but has otherwise offered in-person instruction five days a week.

Still, closures and modified schedules make it harder to get photos. At about 20 kids, the class size is significantly smaller than it usually is, too.

"Most of the time we would have three or four cameras walking around the school taking pictures of everything we could," Brothers said. "It was more collaborative I'd say because we were all in the class all together. Now there's a small amount of us, which has been hard. We have to do a lot of planning ahead."

But both said the real challenge is documenting a school year that does look much like a school year at all.

### Capturing the pandemic school year

"We've been in school for 12 years," Ransley said. "We know what school is supposed to look like, and having it be completely different for our last year



Livonia Franklin High School's yearbook class has encountered plenty of challenges making the 2020-21 yearbook. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sucks. But, putting it into a bigger perspective to be able to tell our kids our tell stories about how things used to be is cool."

The editors say this yearbook is different because the year has been different. There's space for students who chose the all-online option if they send in their own photos and there's more individual features than a typical year-

book has.

"We tried to pick a lot of kids who don't do a lot of sports or extracurriculars in school to highlight what they do outside of school," Brothers said. "It's like kids who are into music who aren't in band, or kids who ride horses because we don't have that here."

Their young lives have changed in many ways, and they hope to reflect that

in the yearbook.

"I think we really tried to capture the nature of what school looked like during this time," Rea said. "We included a lot of pictures of the health and safety precautions we were taking. Most candid pictures include the students wearing masks, which I'm sure they'll look back on and hopefully laugh at."

### A rough draft of history

When Brothers and Ransley pitch the yearbook to their peers, they point out how cool it will be to some day show their children and grandchildren what this strangest of school years looked like. The two said they hope by the time they're showing this book to their children, things like masks and social distancing will be things of a distant past.

"I mean yeah, I hope nothing like this ever happens again," Brothers said. "I hope this doesn't happen to my kids ... I feel like this whole thing is going to shift how school is in the future."

Both say this hasn't been an ideal way to end their high school experience and being yearbook editors this year has come with a lot of challenges. At the same time, they think this yearbook will be special in more ways than one.

So for crying out loud, "buy a yearbook."

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

## Developer

Continued from Page 1A

city hopes, suits the area well.

"We'll sit down with Robertson Brothers, start talking and try to put together a development contract," Murphy said.

The property, 33000 Thomas St., has been vacant since Farmington Public Schools listed it for sale in 2015. The city bought the property in May 2020 for \$690,000 hoping to find the right developer for the space.

## Social workers

Continued from Page 1A

program like this for years, and is excited to see how it impacts the community.

"I'm confident this is going to be a win-win for our officers and the community as a whole," Caid said.

The two embedded individuals will form a "crisis support team" that will respond with officers to crisis situations, respond alone in secure situations and follow-up with those who need it. Livonia's department current-

ly receives about 50 mental health calls monthly. Generally, those calls require more time to address than an average call.

Councilman Rob Donovic, a reserve police officer with the city, said he remains skeptical of the program. Donovic ultimately cast an approving vote, saying Caid was helpful in answering his questions.

"In regard to Livonia police officers, they're some of the best trained officers in the state if not the country," he said. "I think they are perfectly capable of handling any situation they have to deal with while carrying out their duties on a daily basis. I do have concerns about

this."

During several previous meetings, community members have been mostly supportive of the program. However, no residents spoke on the issue during Monday's meeting.

The agreement between the city and Hegira will run on a month-to-month contract, so either party can pull out at any time with a 30-day notice if things don't work out. Livonia will pay \$190,000 annually for the crisis support team, which will be paid through budgeted funds.

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## Car wash

Continued from Page 1A

Dan LeClair, president of Wixom-based GreenTech Engineering and one of the petitioners for the project, said it's one the car wash owner, Jamie Burke, is ready to move forward on.

"He's a member of the community and very, very excited to open up a second location in Canton Township," LeClair said.

Burke said there should be enough room for several customers to wait before entering the car wash, especially since the car wash is expected to be high-volume.

"We have three stacking lanes there," Burke said. "That way we can get plenty of people stacked in there comfortably."

In addition to the current Canton car wash, Quick Pass also operates a car wash on Five Mile east of Levan in Livonia.

While the car wash was the only



This vacant lot near 45490 Michigan Ave. in Canton is being considered for a Quick Pass car wash.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

thing discussed by the planning commission, it appeared there are several other buildings planned for the area, dubbed Canton Crossings, including two potential fast food restaurants. Plans for the other nearby buildings would have to come back in separate proposal.

"Although the special land use plan shows multiple commercial buildings

on the site, this special land use application is for the car wash use only," said Patrick Sloan, the township's community planner. "A proposed site development will be considered on a future site plan development application, which will come to the planning commission if the special land use is approved."

LeClair said plans in the process of being submitted for those properties for future review.

Several commissioners had either no comments or praise for the project when discussed.

"I think it's a great use for that piece of property down there," Commissioner Doug Weber said. "I'm a frequent customer of their existing car wash up on Canton Center Road. I am all in favor of the use."

With the recommended approval, the project moves to the township's board of trustees for its review and final decision.

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

# How working remotely can affect Detroit income taxes



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

I have a couple of tax questions that I hope you can help me with. My tax situation is generally simple and so I've always done it myself. I do not itemize my deductions and I have no dependents; my kids are on their own. My wife and I each receive a W-2 and we also receive a couple of 1099s.

For the last 10 years or so I've filed my returns using TurboTax. However, this year is a little different. My first question is with regards to Detroit income tax. I live in the suburbs but work in the city. Because of COVID, I've been working from home since mid-March. Am I liable for Detroit taxes for the time I've been working at home?

Secondly, I did some home improvements this year, such as adding solar panels to the roof and buying some new energy-efficient appliances. At the time, I was told I was allowed to take a credit on my tax return. Am I eligible to take a credit even though I am not itemizing my deductions? If I'm allowed to take the credit, is there a special form I should be completing?

Thank you, Alan

Dear Alan:

It's always nice to be able to give someone good tax news, and the good news for you is that you are not liable for city income taxes for the time you worked at home. In fact, the Michigan Department of Treasury recently addressed this issue and their conclusion was that non-residents who are working remotely outside of the City of Detroit are not liable for city income taxes. Therefore, for the time you worked at home, you do not have to pay city income taxes.

Of course, you still need to file a City of Detroit Income Tax Return for 2020 because you did work in the city for part of the year and you are liable for the taxes for that period.

With regard to the time you worked remotely, if possible, I would recommend that you have your employer write a letter confirming the time period you worked outside of the city. This is a document that you would not attach to your tax return, but should keep on file in case you are audited by the City of Detroit.

It is unlikely, but possible, that the City of Detroit will be aggressive and audit people with regards to the time they spent in and out of the city. This is why I recommend obtaining a letter from your employer. As a side note, moving forward many people who worked

**The Michigan Department of Treasury recently concluded that non-residents working remotely outside of the City of Detroit are not liable for city income taxes.**

in the city will find that after the COVID-19 pandemic passes, employers may allow them to work at home either permanently or for a significant amount of time. I would recommend if you're in that situation, you keep a log of the days you work in and out of the city. Once again, this is not something you'll file with your tax return, but could become valuable if you are ever audited.

With regards to the energy improvements you made in your home, there is a residential energy credit that you are eligible for. Credits have nothing to do with deductions. Therefore, whether you take the standard deduction or itemize your deductions, it doesn't matter; you're still eligible to take a tax credit.

Taxpayers can claim a tax credit on their federal return for making certain energy efficient improvements to their homes and for buying certain types of energy efficient appliances. To claim this credit, you need to complete IRS Form 5695 and file it with your 1040. There is a lifetime limit for the credit, so if you've claimed an energy credit in the past, you may not be eligible for a credit this year.

Tax credits are much more valuable than deductions. Credits are dollar for dollar reduction on your taxes, while deductions are not. For example, if you were in the 20 percent bracket and you received \$1,000 tax deduction, that deduction would save you \$200 in taxes (\$1,000 x 20 percent). On the other hand, \$1,000 tax credit will save you \$1,000 in taxes.

There are two types of tax credits, one that is considered refundable and one that is not refundable. With a refundable tax credit, if the credit is more than any tax you owe on your tax return, the IRS will mail you a check for the difference. On the other hand, if the tax credit is not refundable, the IRS will not send you the difference. Rather, you can carry over the unused portion to your next year's tax return. The residential energy credit is not a refundable credit.

Remember, tax returns are due April 15.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).

# New Chipotle opens in Livonia

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

Southwest food has returned to the corner of Middlebelt and Schoolcraft in Livonia.

Chipotle Mexican Grill opened a restaurant at 13900 Middlebelt in the new strip mall located in front of the Aldi supermarket. The fast-casual eatery is the first business to locate in the new strip mall, with several other spaces still vacant.

"We're always looking for communities where we can serve responsibly sourced, classically-cooked, real food and establish new local partnerships, and the Livonia area is a great fit," said company spokesman Tyler Benson in response to an email.

With the opening, the restaurant joins several Chipotles in in Canton Township, Novi, Northville Township and Bloomfield Township.

The restaurant focuses on serving burritos, burrito bowls, tacos and salads. It operates 42 locations in Michigan, according to its website. Orders can be made by visiting the restaurant or online.

The restaurant has limited indoor dining right now, Benson said, in compliance with the state Department of Health and Human Services order that allows for up to 25% capacity for restaurant dining rooms. In addition, the restaurant has added other precautions, including social distancing markers, increased cleaning of high-touch surfaces and requiring masks for both employees and visitors.

The restaurant's opening comes several years after the former Chi-Chi's restaurant was torn down. That restaurant closed in 2004, with the building remaining on the site until 2011.

Work on the multitenant outlot building started after Aldi opened, with Chipotle the first business to receive approval from the city a year ago.

The restaurant is open daily 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



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# Judge sends assault with power saw case to trial

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

Nearly a year ago, pandemic fears were shuttering schools, restaurants and businesses, infecting moods across the nation, including Oswald Tallent's.

It was an odd March 30 morning, and the self-employed mason worker was home with his wife and their three children.

Stephanie Tallent made breakfast and got the children settled before heading into her home office on Stonebrook Drive in Canton Township.

The man she has since divorced interrupted her workflow by entering with a large gas-powered circular saw wider than her shoulders.

"He started pulling the cord, and I asked him, 'What are you doing? Why are you doing that? That doesn't need to be in here,'" the woman said during her ex-husband's preliminary exam Thursday on felony counts of assault, torture and child abuse. "He said, 'I'm crazy and I'm going to kill you.'"

"He raised the saw over his head and he brought it down on me — on my face and my arm (and) it also got a portion of my knee."

After hearing additional testimony from the Tallents' 9-year-old daughter, 35th District Judge James Plakas said that there was enough evidence to send the 47-year-old father to a higher court for trial.

Defense attorney Brent Jaffe said several experts have been willing to talk about his client's mental health during the pandemic. He said their conclusions may come out at the Third Circuit level in Detroit.

For now, his client is being housed at the Wayne County Jail with a bond set at \$500,000. His former wife and their children are trying to move on.

"It jammed up," Stephanie Tallent continued testifying Thursday about the saw.

Her husband was trying to get the saw going again, she said, and she was able to open an office door and tell their oldest daughter to run for help.

Her then-husband began punching her and kicking her with the steel-toed boots that he always wore.

"He was saying, 'You think you're so



Defense attorney Brent Jaffe, left, represented Oswald Tallent, 47, of Canton in 35th District Court on March 4. Tallent's ex-wife and daughter testified against him during a preliminary exam on assault, torture and child abuse charges.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

much better than me. Why won't you just die," the woman testified, mentioning that she was then able to escape the home.

She provided a long list of injuries including two chipped molars, extensive nerve damage, and partial paralysis in her face.

Married to Tallent for less than 10 years, she told the defense attorney her ex had been less argumentative than usual before the assault.

She knew the accused to be a loving father with their children but the married couple's relationship was uneven.

She was concerned about leaving the children alone with their father.

"He had poor judgment," Tallent said of her former spouse. "I was concerned they could be injured under his watch. When I would come home sometimes from work, when he had been home with the children earlier, he would frequently smell of marijuana or be drinking."

The 9-year-old daughter who ended up with a big bump on her head, apparently from getting slammed to the ground by her father, also testified.

"I was scared," she said, emphasizing

that her situation was not easy. "I like my mom. I like my dad. I couldn't really choose."

According to a 41-page police report, Tallent seems to have experienced a buildup of alcohol consumption and conspiracy theories before becoming violent with family. He hadn't worked during the winter and his wife told police he had a breakdown after researching the pandemic.

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



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# Bike, walk path options to expand in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since the coronavirus pandemic arrived to Michigan nearly one year ago, Westland has seen an uptick in people choosing to walk or bike around the city.

"We've seen more people out walking in our community than ever before," Mayor Bill Wild said, adding he attributes the spike to the pandemic.

The city is hoping to promote and expand its non-motor transportation options in a "Walk and Roll" plan.

"I'd say our city is probably a little behind the curve as far as bike lanes go," Wild said. "Part of the reason for that is most of the streets in Westland have on-street parking. But moving forward we know that mobility is going to be a big thing for people with where they choose to live and raise a family."

To create the plan, Westland will pay OHM Advisors \$40,000, about \$33,000 of which comes from a grant from Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. The city also seeks residents to serve on a steering committee for the plan. Members will contribute ideas, gather public opinion and more. Interested residents can contact the city's planning department at 734-467-9342. While connecting sidewalks and bike

lanes with parks and hotspots in the city, Wild hopes the plan will make non-motor travel safer as well.

"Westland has, over the last couple years, had several pedestrian deaths," he said. "So, what we're looking at is our sidewalk system as well. We know where the gaps are and we've been trying to fill those in the last couple years."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).

# Churchill honor society pens letters to St. Mary Mercy staff

Kiera Zager

Churchill High School National Honor Society

In difficult and dangerous situations, there are always people willing to make sacrifices for the good of others. In the COVID-19 pandemic, these people are healthcare workers who have been working on the front lines. Their acts of bravery and kindness are inspirational to students at Churchill High School.

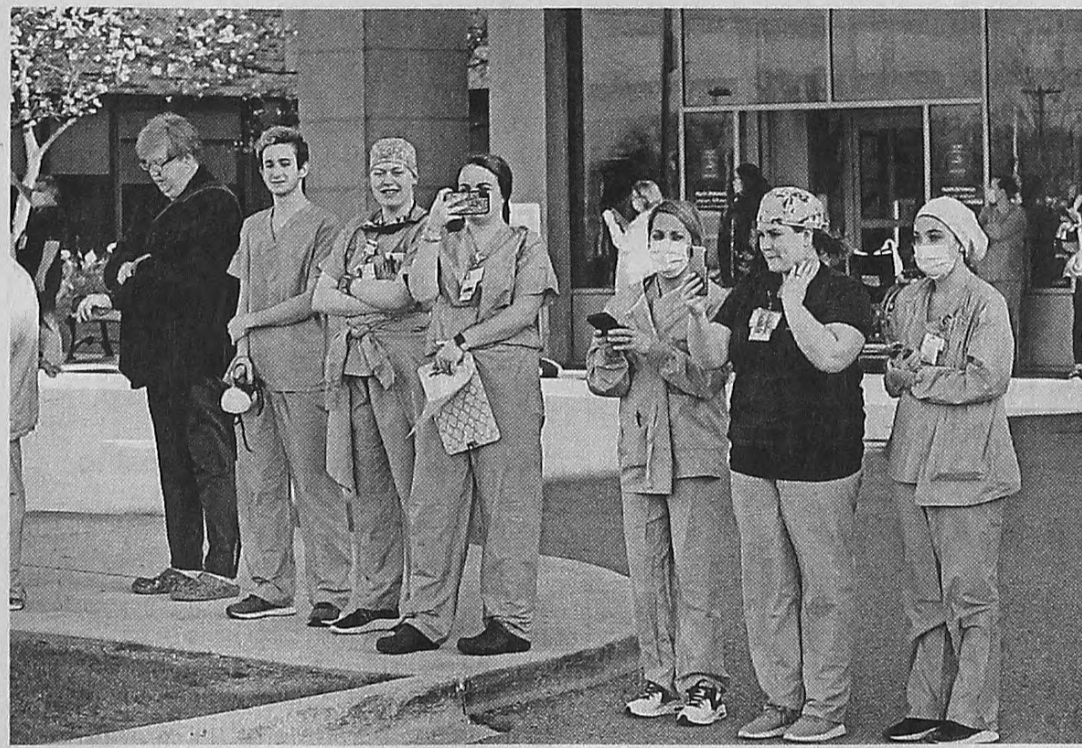
To give back to those who have given so much, the Churchill High School National Honor Society, NHS, undertook initiatives to show appreciation and help support healthcare workers in their community.

NHS students wrote thank you letters for workers at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. The letters will, students hope, remind hospital staff how important their work is.

"Your bravery to face and treat the virus that threatens normal life is a light that leads us closer to safety and normalcy," one letter reads.

Many students wrote they were inspired by workers' acts of bravery, such as one student who wrote, "Inspiring a new generation of healthcare workers is just as important as the hands-on work you do for the community, as it ensures the continuity of helpful and caring medical personnel for future generations."

The students dropped off more than



St. Mary Mercy Hospital staff received thank-you letters from Churchill High students. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

100 letters at St. Mary Mercy and the healthcare workers who received them were extremely grateful. NHS students are proud to know they were able to bring some light into the lives of those who have supported their community during the pandemic.

In addition, NHS hosted a fundraising event to support healthcare workers. Every year, the group holds an event

called Coffeehouse where students show off their talents.

To keep students safe, Coffeehouse went virtual this year. The money raised in ticket sales goes to a different charity each year, and NHS decided to raise money for healthcare workers this year. Through the event, students raised \$740 to buy personal protection equipment for healthcare workers.

# Journal implicates Westland man charged with killing dad

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A print of Flem Stiltner IV's left index finger was found on the knife blade apparently used to kill his father.

A prosecutor said Friday the 25-year-old man stabbed his father 96 times, killing him early Aug. 9 in his South John Hix Road home before trucking him toward Belleville Lake in Van Buren Township and getting stuck in the mud.

Investigators found the vehicle covered in more of the young man's fingerprints and a journal entry that etched out a murder plot.

"He stabbed his father 96 times," Wayne County prosecuting attorney Victoria Shackelford said. "Certainly between stab one and stab 96, the defendant had time to think about his actions and reflect upon his actions."

Judge Breeda O'Leary said she heard enough during the preliminary exam to advance Stiltner, a Westland man, to the higher Third Circuit Court for a trial on first-degree premeditated murder, home invasion and tampering with evidence charges.

The attorneys referred to the victim and the defendant as Flem Stiltner III and Flem Stiltner IV throughout much of the hearing. The attorneys openly differed on the home invasion and tampering charges.

The accused Stiltner had a key to his father's house. Shackelford said the dead man, 48, never provided the key so that he could be killed. She added that Stiltner gave the journal to his girlfriend to conceal his plan.

Defense attorney Maria Mannarino said there wasn't enough evidence presented to prove her client didn't have the authority enter his father's home, where he and his girlfriend once lived, before the elder Stiltner died.

The judge and Mannarino differed over the standards for the tampering charge, and no one could recall what the accused told his girlfriend when handing over the journal they started sharing months before the homicide because of communication problems in their relationship.

Staci McLain said she and Stiltner became a couple about five years ago. They lived with Stiltner's father before moving to Westland.

She was visiting a friend in Lansing when a distraught Stiltner called about 3-4 a.m. She knew that he struggled with suicidal thoughts and beliefs that his father was sexually assaulting others, including his girlfriend, which she denied.

"He was like, 'Hey, I don't see you. I'm going to be going away for a really long time,'" she said.

Stiltner then told her that he "did it." McLain said he sounded like he was in the shower during a second call.

Hours later, Stiltner and his mother visited her in Lansing and McLain wanted to know what happened.

He then told his fiancé that he went to his father's home, entered his room and began hurting him. His father, according to McLain, wanted to know why he was being stabbed.

Stiltner also told her that he went to throw his father into the lake before the truck became stuck in the mud and he rode his bike home.

Before Stiltner returned to metro Detroit, he gave his fiancé their journal, which she turned over to state troopers.

The Aug. 2 entry reads: "He should be sleeping. Verify that he's not asleep in the living room. Plan travel route to avoid main roads. ... Stage to look like a robbery. Open all the doors and drawers. Take easy cash, gold, jewelry etc. Break door, windowpane on the way out."

# Michigan woman searching for half brother born in Lansing in 1973

Rachel Greco Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LANSING - Elizabeth Michalski's search for her younger brother Gilbert began with the last time she spoke to her estranged birth mother.

"Loretta, I love you," Michalski told her. "You're my mother. You gave birth to me and I will always love you for that and I will always cherish that. I forgive you."

Her words were spoken over the phone from her home in Sault Ste. Marie moments before her mother, who was laying in a hospital bed in Florida, died.

It had been 20 years since Michalski had last seen her.

Michalski is the oldest of all her siblings. She was 7 when her mother left their home in the middle of the night, leaving behind a husband and five children.

Before Loretta's death in 2001, she had four more children, including Gilbert, who was born at Sparrow Hospital on Aug. 26, 1973.

Michalski's four half siblings were scattered around the country. Over the years she's connected with three of them, but she didn't get the clues she needed to start looking for Gilbert until after Loretta died.

Her late mother left her a photo album filled with photographs, records and keepsakes from his birth in Lansing.

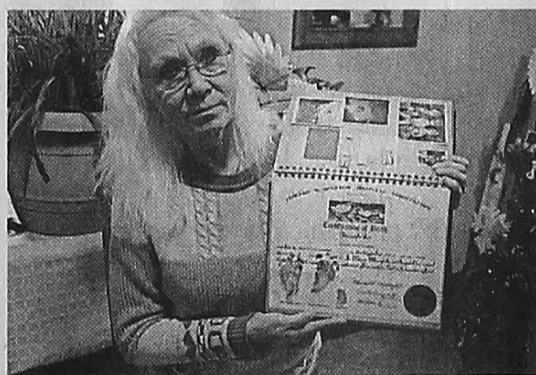
Michalski has his hospital bracelet and birth certificate, which includes ink stamps of Gilbert's tiny footprints in the corner. Beyond that, she knows very little about what happened to her brother.

Michalski, 57, believes Loretta lost custody of him and that Gilbert was in Lansing when he was adopted.

It's second-hand information that, so far, has led nowhere.

"I've been searching for all my brothers and sisters for the longest time and Gilbert's the only one I haven't been able to find," Michalski said.

Finding and meeting him, if Gilbert, who would be 47 today, is willing, means everything to her. He is the last



Elizabeth Michalski holds up the birth certificate for her brother, Gilbert Leroy Fournier, born in 1973 at Sparrow Hospital. Michalski met him once when he was 2 years old.

COURTESY OF ELIZABETH MICHALSKI

piece in her family's puzzle, she said.

"It's very important. I feel like part of me is missing."

## A brief meeting between siblings

Michalski met Gilbert only once, when she was 11.

Loretta came to visit her and her siblings at their home in Sault Ste. Marie in 1975.

Michalski remembers being at her aunt's house that summer day visiting with family when her father called and asked for them to send Elizabeth home.

Loretta wanted to see her. "They sent me home in a cab," she said. "When I got there, everybody was standing outside."

She remembers joining them and standing next to the woman she has always thought of as her mother, her step-mother Patricia.

A little boy with curly hair, Gilbert, stood next to Loretta. He was 2.

"For being 2 years old he was quite tall," Michalski said. "He came to the middle of my belly. I remember he was cute."

Five years later, when Michalski went to visit Loretta in Florida, Gilbert wasn't with her.

Growing up Michalski's relationship with her mother, whose last name was Fournier when she was married to Mi-

chalski's father and when Gilbert was born, was strained. It was almost nonexistent in the two decades before Loretta's death.

Loretta was bipolar and schizophrenic, Michalski said, and she struggled with alcohol and drug use.

When Michalski was little, her family lived near Laingsburg. Her father, Merlin Fournier, was a merchant marine and often away from home working aboard a boat.

Loretta was an absentee mother when they lived in mid-Michigan, Michalski said.

"From the little bit that I can remember, a lot of it's not good. There was a lot of drinking, there was a lot of fighting and drug use."

Her father moved the family to Sault Ste. Marie in the early 1970s. Loretta left them shortly after they arrived.

Attempts to reconnect with Loretta, a Native American born on Mackinac Island, didn't make for a better relationship with her mother, Michalski said.

"She had a lot of problems," she said. "Me being young, I didn't realize it."

When Loretta suffered a heart attack in 2001, it was an aunt who called Michalski with news of her hospitalization.

"I've got some bad news," her aunt said. "Your mother Loretta is in ICU. She had a heart attack and they don't expect her to make it."

She gave Michalski the phone number to reach staff on Loretta's hospital unit.

"When I called there a nurse answered the phone," Michalski said.

Loretta was in distress, the nurse told her, and the medical staff was performing CPR on her. Michalski asked if someone could put the phone to Loretta's ear.

"It made me feel better that I forgave her," Michalski said. "The nurse came back on the line and she told me, 'Your mother has just passed away with a tear coming down her cheek.'"

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But, many aren't taking advantage of this unprecedented period. According to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than **7.7 trillion dollars\* of unused home equity.**

Not only are people living longer than ever before, but there is also greater uncertainty in the economy. With home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted

in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 98% of their clients are satisfied with their loans. While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners - especially in times like these.

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when looking for the best long-term outcome.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

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Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

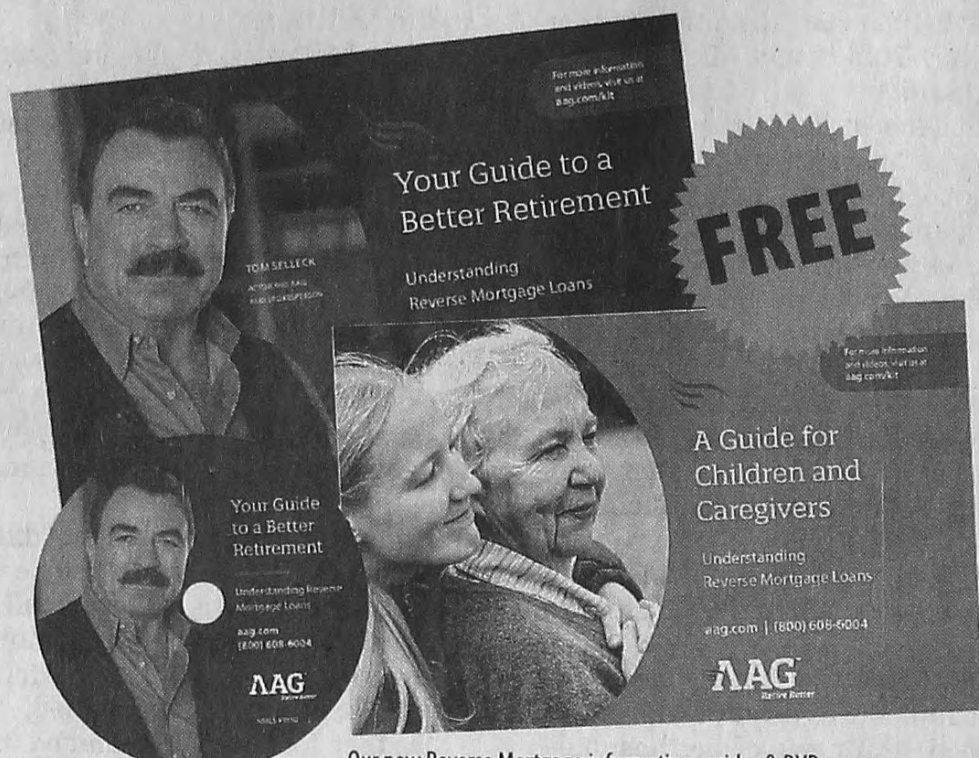
For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for almost any purpose. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a safety net for financial emergencies.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Alzheimer's burden grows

The Alzheimer's Association 2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report shows the burden of Alzheimer's is continuing to grow.

More Americans are living with the disease - 6.2 million Americans age 65 and older have Alzheimer's dementia, including 190,000 in Michigan.

Many family and friends are serving as Alzheimer's caregivers - In Michigan, 463,000 caregivers provided a total of 491 million hours of unpaid care, valued at a total of \$8.5 billion.

Death rates from Alzheimer's continue to climb - Deaths due to Alzheimer's have increased an alarming 145 percent since 2000. As the U.S. population ages, Alzheimer's is becoming a more common cause of death.

The costs are unsustainable - In Michigan, the Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's is estimated at \$1.487 billion. By 2025, these costs are projected to increase by 16.9 percent.

We must do more to invest in Alzheimer's research, advance public policies and expand care and support programs to help people living with the disease and their caregivers.

Thank you in advance for helping to increase public awareness of this serious disease.

**Sandra Dickens**  
Farmington Hills

### Stop political games in Lansing

Michiganders are tired of the losing in our state's winner-take-all politics. Michigan has seen numerous losses from our government's failure to work in the best interest of the people. And what is currently happening in Lansing is a classic example of legislators putting politics before people.

The pandemic continues to wreak havoc as many Michigan families face homelessness due to pending evictions, small businesses continue to fail, and schools struggle to open for full in-person instruction.

In mid-January, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced her plan to allocate \$5.6 billion of "use it or lose it" federal COVID relief funds to assist families, businesses and schools and to facilitate vaccine distribution.

But Michigan's Republican-controlled House and Senate keep dragging their feet, parceling out the much needed federal relief dollars as part of an endgame to blame the governor for a slow recovery and prevent a Democratic governor's re-election. The Republican legislature is leveraging vaccine distribution, Michigan families, businesses and children in order to gain political clout.

These are federal dollars. Whether Alabama or Ohio or Michigan use the money, we all still pay for it, one way or another. What we do now as a state will determine how we fare as we come out of this pandemic. We should use this money to move forward instead of sitting on the sidelines as we pay for other states to pass us by.

Tell your state representative and senator to speak out to stop the political games, release the federal money in full, and put the health, safety and welfare of the people of Michigan first.

**Nancy Czech**  
Wolverine Lake

### Protect groundwater

Any resource taken for granted is a resource at risk of being lost. That is why the Michigan Ground Water Association, The Groundwater Foundation, and the National Ground Water Association join hundreds of organizations across the country in celebrating National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 7-13, an annual week of awareness, education, and advocacy focusing on one of Michigan's and the nation's most precious resources.

Michigan depends on groundwater for nearly 20% of its public water. It also provides over 2.5 million private water wells in the state with fresh and clean water every day. The United States uses 80.3 billion gallons per day of fresh groundwater for public supply, private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes.

Groundwater is undeniably crucial to our society and is a resource that must be advocated for and protected by our citizens. This is why during National Groundwater Awareness Week we are providing tools for the public to become better educated on groundwater issues and opportunities to protect groundwater in their own backyard.

To learn more about groundwater and its usage, you can visit:

[www.ngwa.org/gwaw](http://www.ngwa.org/gwaw).

Here you will find free groundwater educational resources and ways to increase awareness of groundwater issues in your community. Remember, if you don't speak up for groundwater, who will?

For the over 2.5 million Michigan residents who rely on private water wells, we encourage you to use Groundwater Awareness Week to test, tend, and treat your private water system.

An annual inspection of your well and its water can not only save you thousands of dollars in potential damages but can also protect the health of your family.

To find a certified water well contractor in your area, you can visit: [wellowner.org/find-a-contractor](http://wellowner.org/find-a-contractor).

Whether it's writing a letter to your representative, posting groundwater facts on social media, or having your own water supply tested and treated, please remember to take time this week and help protect groundwater in Michigan.

**Dave Schulenberg**  
Michigan Ground Water Association  
executive director

### Statehood for D.C.

Regardless of our background, where we live or where we came from, as Americans we believe at our core that every American has a right to equal treatment.

However, for over 230 years we have made an exception for Americans living in Washington, D.C. The district residents (currently over 712,000 - more than Vermont or Wyoming) have never enjoyed the same representation as the rest of us. Thus, their license plates accurately describe their situation: "End Taxation without Representation".

Capitol residents contribute more in federal taxes than 21 other states; 12 of these states collect less than half of what the district pays. Yet, the district sends no Senators and no Representatives to Congress. They rely on individuals who have never lived in the district to make decisions in their best interest. The notion that government would deny tax paying citizens representation is as repulsive to Americans today as it was in the years leading to our nation's independence.

US House Bill HR 51 D.C. Statehood corrects the un-American treatment of Washington, D.C., residents. By making it a state, the residents who have long been contributing to the nation will finally have the representation owed to all Americans.

Thank Rep. Haley Stevens for supporting full rights for all Americans by co-sponsoring HR 51.

**Patricia Hinzy**  
Milford

### Supports Paycheck Fairness Act

There is no debate about the enormous value women bring to the U.S. economy: They account for almost half the labor force and make up the majority of our country's essential workers.

There should be no debate about this either: Women deserve equal and equitable pay, and the COVID-19 crisis has made this more important now than ever.

We cannot build back an economy that works for everyone without ensuring that all women can work with equality, safety, and dignity, starting with pay equity.

However, right now thanks to decades of discrimination women are still paid, on average, just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man. Coming from a long line of women who worked outside their home, I believe it is time we rectified this situation.

Recently Congress took a step toward the goal of achieving pay equity with the introduction of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which aims to close gaping loopholes in the 1963 Equal Pay Act. Versions of this bill have been considered by Congress many times before, but now for the first time in decades, its passage in both the House and the Senate seems possible if we can get bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

The impact of women in the workforce has changed significantly over the last fifty plus years, it is time to update our laws.

This is where you come in, as a member of the American Association of University Women Northville-Novis, I am asking you to call or write your representatives in Washington, D.C., today urging them to voice their support for this long overdue legislation. It has already been introduced to the 117th Congress.

**Karen B. Zyczynski**  
Novi



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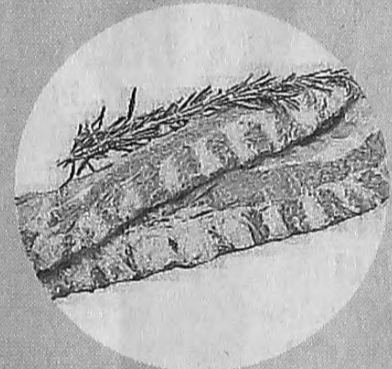
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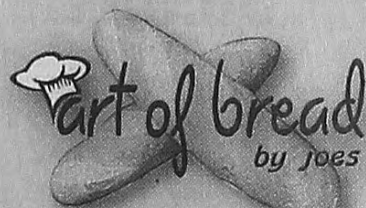
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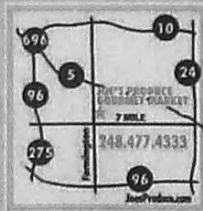
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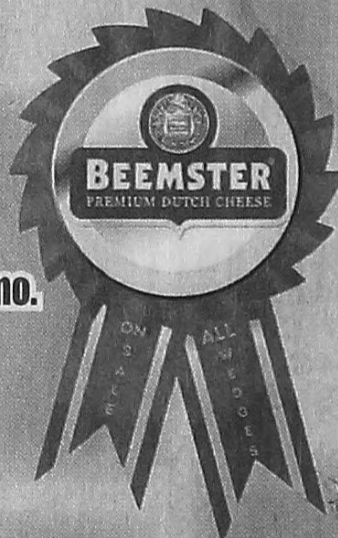
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# SPORTS

## HOCKEY

# Plymouth stays composed to tie Brighton

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

Heading into the final minute of regulation trailing Brighton, 3-2, Plymouth hockey wasn't nervous. The Wildcats had been there before. The mentality didn't change: let each player do their

job and, once completed, get out of the way.

David Brace saw that opportunity with 33.2 seconds left in the game.

Brace found a path to the net and did his job, passing the puck to junior Tyler Kelley for the open shot to tie the game, 3-3. Plymouth (6-3-1), despite giving

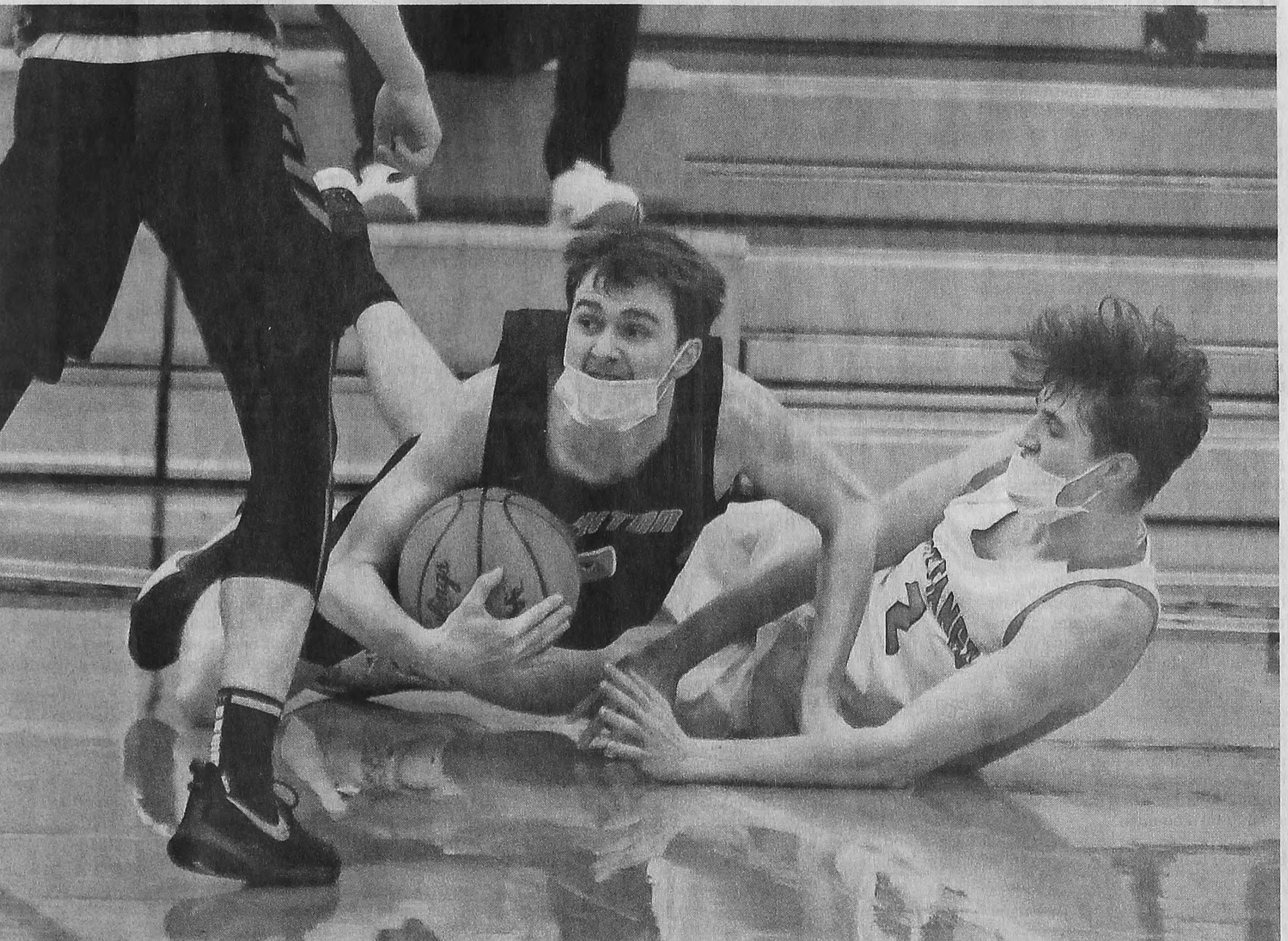
Brighton a man advantage for the final 93 seconds after a penalty by senior forward Jacob Serra, kept the Bulldogs (5-4-3) scoreless in overtime to secure the 3-3 tie.

"They don't get nervous. They don't get anxious," Plymouth head coach Darrin Silvester said. "There's great leader-

ship whether they wear a letter on their sweater or not. It doesn't matter if it's a sophomore or a freshman at net or a senior who's been on the team for three years, they are all calm and consistent.

"They fully believe in their game..."

**See TIE, Page 2B**



Brighton's Owen Ehman and Northville's Brett Rudolph tussle for control of the ball in the fourth quarter March 2. Brighton won, 48-38. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

# Brighton wins clash of KLAA West leaders

**Bill Khan** [Livingston Daily](http://LivingstonDaily.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A two-year age difference in high school might as well be a generation gap, so Dallas Armstrong was quite often seen and not heard when he was around his Brighton basketball teammates last season.

Even though he was a starter and one of the most important members of the team as the point guard, Armstrong was still a sophomore who wasn't comfortable leading a group of older players.

"Being my first year, being an underclassman, it was tough with those seniors," Armstrong said. "Coach actually pushed me toward the second half of

the season to be better at that, knowing I would be starting next year, too. It actually helped a lot."

The growing pains Armstrong experienced on an 8-13 team last season have prepared him to lead a Brighton team that is having its best season in a decade.

The Bulldogs won a clash between

two of the three tri-leaders in the KLAA West March 2 at Northville, 48-38.

Armstrong had his second straight 23-point performance, going 3-for-5 from 3-point range in the process. He boosted his season average to 11.6 points.

**See BRIGHTON, Page 2B**

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# South Lyon East breeds success from experience

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

Defending a fast-break, Drake Willenborg knows what to do.

When an opponent drives along the baseline, the South Lyon East senior forward steps up to defend the ball handler, knowing that one of his teammates will step back and take the post away and avoid the wide-open layup.

That takes trust, something the Cougars' five three-year varsity players have ample amounts of.

To them it's easy. These players learned the game of basketball together, starting with youth travel teams in fourth grade and later playing together for the South Lyon East freshman team that went 19-1.

As seniors, Willenborg, Zander Desentz, Christian Dimitriou, Adam Trent and Bryce Bird take solace in each other, in their knowledge of the game, in the brotherhood forged through countless contests while reshaping the culture of a program once shadowed by its rival school five-and-a-half miles away.

Ron Levin, after earning 26 wins in his first six seasons as head coach, now leads a well-oiled machine, one filled with a group of seniors that was the first to embrace South Lyon East as its own entity.

"When the school opened, there wasn't really an identity for East," Levin recalls. "It was still South Lyon, South

Lyon, South Lyon.

"This group of seniors was really the first group as little kids who say East as its own, had dreams of 'I want to be at East one day. I want to do special things on that court.'"

When Trent was in fourth grade and first started playing basketball, he remembers the now-South Lyon East senior class always being together, always hanging out with one another.

"We were pretty much a team in fourth grade," he said.

Having experience playing and winning with the other players their age, Willenborg said he was extremely comfortable heading into high school with this group.

But that doesn't mean there wasn't an adjustment period.

Trent remembers one of his first games as a South Lyon East varsity basketball player against Waterford Mott, being spellbound by the speed of the game, the athleticism of its players made reality to him after nearly being dunked on in transition.

"Trust me, that woke me up very quickly to what varsity basketball was like," Trent said.

It was a new experience for Bryce Bird, learning about what he could do on the court, and how it could apply to the overall success of the team, something each of the five sophomores, who played major roles in the 2018-19 team, went through together: only winning six



Since taking over the starting point guard position, Bryce Bird has shined for South Lyon East.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

games in their first season.

But even through that unfamiliarity, the confidence remained.

"We knew we could do something special if we all worked and stayed together," Bird said.

For Levin, that clear shift started in the weight room.

"In years past, I've had to beg kids to go in the weight room," Levin said. "Now it's, 'Oh hey coach, can you open the weight room after practice? Can we get

an extra lift in?'"

"You can see in their bodies, they are just physically different than they were a few years ago."

On the court, the South Lyon East basketball teams have taken a dramatic shift as well.

In the 2019-20 season, the Cougars won 15 games, the most in school history, but had its season cut short in the district final round of the playoffs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through two seasons as the team's starting point guard, Bird has stepped up, holding the school record for assists.

And while the team waited to see whether it would get a chance to play in 2021, it was the only uncertainty ahead of the season, with Levin leading a team of eight seniors and only having to catch up a few players promoted from the junior varsity team, leading practices to the effect of, "Remember, this is how we play."

So far in 2021, the Cougars have lived up to the expectation, using their mix of basketball-first players and multi-sport athletes to win six-of-seven games in conference play, falling to Walled Lake Northern in a one-point overtime loss.

Levin does not want to think too far ahead, but he knows it will be strange to not see those five three-year varsity players in the practice gym after the 2021 season is complete. But he knows the connection they bring to the basketball court.

## Brighton

Continued from Page 1B

"It's so much easier," Armstrong said. "The game's slowing down so much better. I've been feeling it a couple games in a row now. I'm hoping to keep that going."

Brighton coach Mike Griest said Armstrong is a more mature player who understands the game at a more cerebral level than he did in 10th grade.

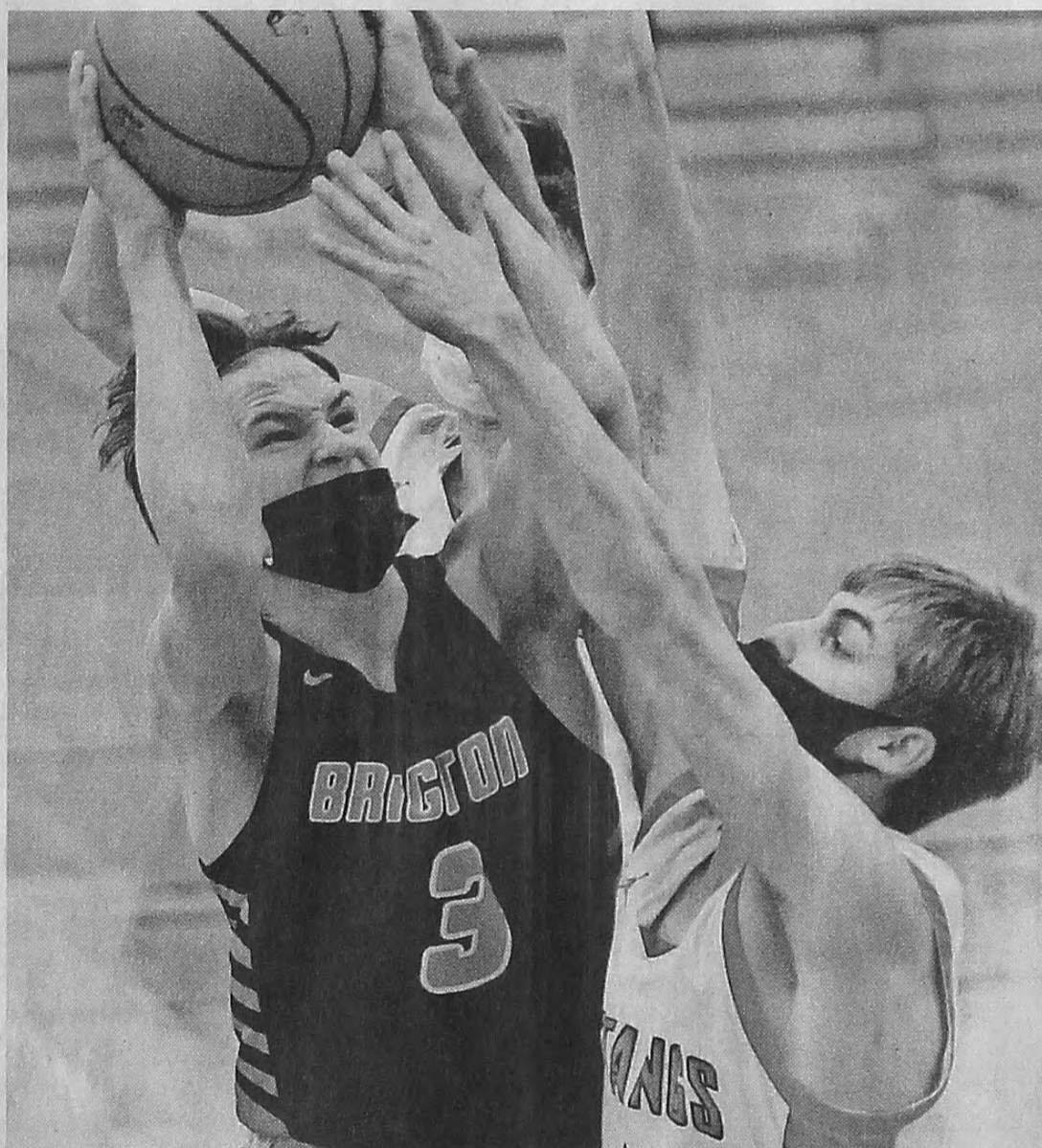
"He understands what offenses to get us into," Griest said. "He's taken control of that now the last four, five games, which I want him to do. I want him to be the floor general. He's improved his scoring, taking good shots, not tough shots. He just has a real comfort level right now. The game isn't too fast. He sees things before they happen and he's shooting the ball really well right now. He's got to expect other teams are going to start coming after him. We'll have to help him out with that."

While Armstrong scored half of Brighton's points Tuesday, other Bulldogs are capable of having big nights.

With the score tied 36-36, it was anybody's game entering the fourth quarter. Armstrong hit a 3-pointer to break the tie and begin the scoring in a quarter in which the Bulldogs would outscore the Mustangs, 12-2.

Brighton shut out Northville over the final 5:23, extending possessions with offensive rebounds while trying to work the clock in the final four minutes. The Bulldogs finished with 10 offensive rebounds. Ryan Opre had three among his seven total rebounds.

"They're one of the best offensive rebounding teams we have played so far



Brighton's Dallas Armstrong scores two of his game-high 23 points while defended by Northville's Jacob Eyler on March 2. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

this year," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "I thought we did a nice job in the first half, then maybe we wore down a little bit. They really beat us up on the glass and it resulted in extra possessions, which usually resulted in a score

for them at the end of the sequence."

Brett Rudolph scored 10 of his team-high 16 points in the third quarter for Northville. Jack Huddy added 11 points for the Mustangs, who won eight of the previous nine meetings with Brighton.

## Madonna football cancels season opener due to COVID-19

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

Madonna football will have to wait another week to start its inaugural season.

The athletic department announced the Crusaders' season-opening game against Lawrence Tech Saturday was canceled due to COVID-19 protocols.

After having its initial season opener against Missouri Baptist canceled Feb. 13, Madonna pushed its season back again, recording a no-contest against University of Saint Francis Feb. 27 due to a coronavirus case within the Crusaders' program.

Madonna is scheduled to open its first football season on the road against Taylor University 1 p.m. March 13.

Madonna's football program was established in August 2018, hiring its first head coach in January 2019 with its sights set on starting its first season in fall 2020.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics established a spring football season, initially slated to start in February 2021.

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).

## Tie

Continued from Page 1B

that success will come their way if they all do their part."

Heading into the game, Plymouth knew Brighton was prone to slow starts.

The Bulldogs had allowed nine first-period goals in 11 games this season, scoring only two as an offense.

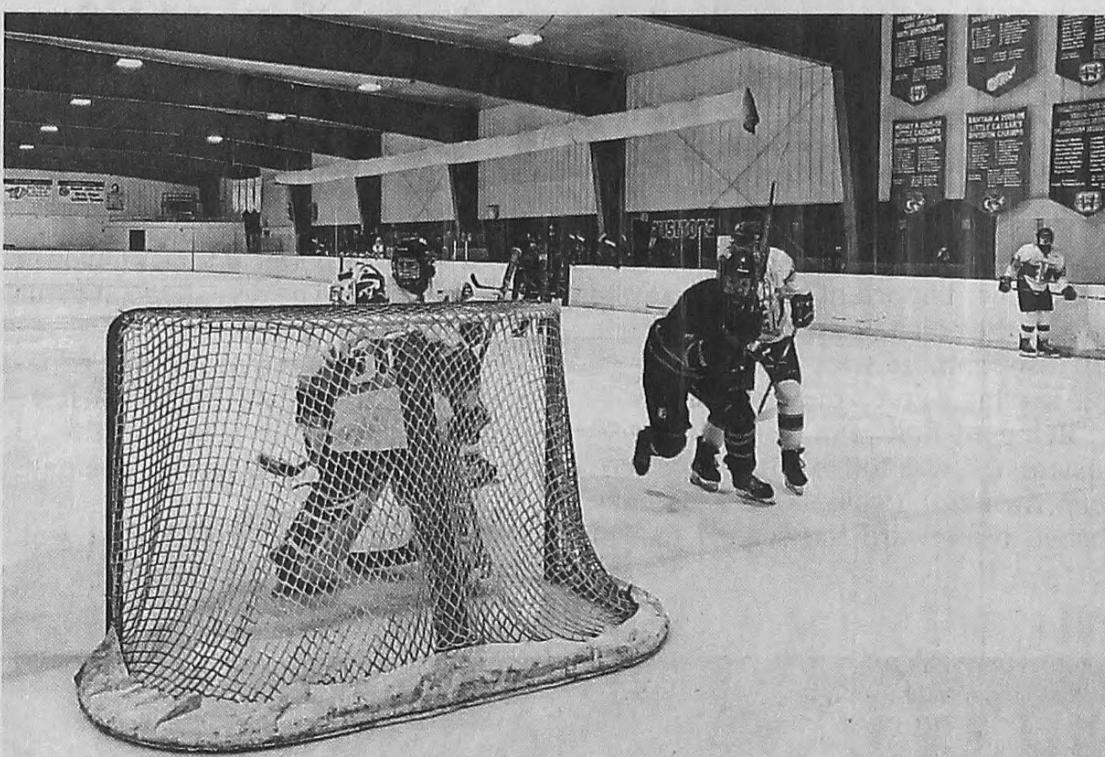
Plymouth senior forward Nicholas Chartrand took advantage, taking the puck from a Bulldogs defender gliding past and putting the puck in the corner of the net.

Thirteen seconds into the second period, it was Chris Borg's turn, taking the puck off a rebound and putting it into the other side of the net for a 2-0 Plymouth lead.

But then, as custom for Brighton this season, the Bulldogs woke up.

Plymouth freshman goalkeeper Tanner Olepa allowed two goals within 53 seconds, both at scrums at goal, in which he recorded multiple saves on each try. But Brighton's Joey LaColla and Nathan Przynski each connected on scores to tie the game, 2-2.

Brighton head hockey coach Kurt Kivisto wants to see that energy and effort put in earlier than games, acknowledged



Plymouth freshman goalkeeper Tanner Olepa stepped up in the overtime period, failing to allow a goal despite Brighton earning a power play with 93 seconds left. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing it as something he hasn't seen in the first 17 minutes of games this year.

"A lot of it is work ethic. It's winning pucks on second chances and going into those ugly areas," Kivisto said. "You see the goals that went in: they were at the net, in the blue paint and they go in that

way. It's finding that mindset early in the game because when they do it in practice it looks good, when they do it there in the second period it looks good. We just have to find a way to do it from the drop of the puck."

With 3:30 left in the game, Brighton

senior defender Tommy Madden tried for the dagger, putting a deep slap shot past Olepa and into the back of the net for the score. But Kelley, who was on the back end of Brace's assist, just did what he was in position to do.

"We kind of trust every single one of our guys," Kelley said. "For us, it's do your job, get out of the way, let the next guy do theirs."

This season, Plymouth has been extremely balanced, with no player recording more than seven points or three goals for the team this season. Silvester said that's a product of depth and satisfaction with team play.

In his first season as head coach, Silvester just wanted his kids to get a chance to play. But while they are at it, he wants them to make some noise in the Michigan high school hockey world, something each player in the Wildcats locker room has embraced.

"Throughout this entire season, we've been slept on," Brace said. "Just being the underdog, and we love that feeling. We love knowing that they are going to come out a little lackadaisical and we are going to jump on them."

"We're going to shock the state." Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.

# Pressure is on Michigan officials to allow hunting, trapping of gray wolves

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pressure is ratcheting up on Michigan wildlife managers to allow hunting and trapping of gray wolves as soon as this year.

Republican state Senators Ed McBroom of Vulcan and Jon Bumstead of Newaygo have introduced a resolution urging the state Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member, governor-appointed body that sets hunting and fishing policy, "to organize wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2021."

Sportsmen's groups are also calling for a renewed hunt, while wolf advocacy organizations continue to question the necessity — and to assert that Michigan voters have already voiced their opposition.

The possibility of a wolf hunt is back on the table after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last fall delisted gray wolves as a protected species under the federal Endangered Species Act, an action that took effect Jan. 4.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources spokesman Ed Golder said the department believes three things should happen before a wolf hunt is again considered in Michigan:

- The legal status of wolves should be permanently settled. There's a long history of legal challenges reversing delisting decisions, and groups are in the process of challenging the U.S. government's latest action on wolves in federal court.

- An update to the Michigan DNR's 2015 wolf management plan should occur, and should include "a public attitude survey." The department expects the completion of a revised plan by June 2022.

- "Meaningful consultation" should occur with federally recognized tribal governments in Michigan.

But McBroom questions that approach. His resolution states in part, "There is no statutory requirement or precedent to delay a 2021 wolf hunt

while the plan is reviewed and updated."

"This (resolution) is a way for the Legislature to offer its opinion to the commission and the department that sound science and existing wolf management policy should be followed, and that existing policy calls on us to have a hunt," he said.

"They should absolutely be working on next year's plan. But that doesn't mean we don't allow our current management plan."

McBroom particularly took issue with the DNR's plan to conduct a public opinion survey as part of its revised wolf management plan.

"Where is that in the realm of science?" he said. "What does that have to do with sound scientific management? The baiting and feeding ban (in deer hunting) is wildly unpopular, and the department does that anyway."

The last time gray wolves were delisted from federal Endangered Species Act protection, Michigan's one and only, controversial, firearm wolf hunting season ensued in the Upper Peninsula in November and December 2013, and 23 wolves were taken. A federal judge then restored the wolves' endangered and threatened species designation, and no hunt has taken place in Michigan since.

Wolves were hunted to near extinction in the Upper Midwest, including Michigan, over the early 20th century. The Upper Peninsula had only three wolves as recently as 1989. But the wolf population rebounded significantly in subsequent years, assisted by protection under the Endangered Species Act. Michigan's Upper Peninsula now has at least 695 wolves among 143 packs, according to the most recent survey completed last winter by the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services division. The state's U.P. wolf count has stayed in the 600 to 700 range for the past decade.

McBroom's and Bumstead's resolution also states that "wolves achieved the minimum sustainable population goal of 200 wolves for five consecutive

years in 2004, and have since surpassed state and federal population recovery goals for nearly 20 years."

At the most recent Natural Resources Commission meeting in January, representatives of hunting groups also expressed support for renewed wolf hunting.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance, and the east and west DNR Citizens' Advisory Councils in the U.P. recently passed resolutions that call for "wolf management to limit the population of wolves to 300 to 400 across the U.P., expand the wolf harvest area to include the entire U.P., and to ensure that both hunting and trapping can be used as legal methods of harvest to maintain the desired population of wolves," said Gary Gorniak, president of the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club and vice president of the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance.

"The (deer) harvest rates of the last five years (in the U.P.) don't even come close to the harvest rates of the '80s, '90s and 2000s," he said, adding that winter die-offs don't explain the discrepancies, as they also occurred in those years but deer populations rebounded.

"The only difference between now and then are wolves."

But Molly Tamulevich, Michigan director of the nonprofit Humane Society of the United States and a longtime opponent of wolf hunting in Michigan, told the Natural Resources Commission that a majority of Michigan residents "have spoken out against trophy hunting and trapping Michigan's wolves."

"There is no scientifically or ethically viable justification to kill wolves," she said. "Michigan's wolf population has remained stable for the past decade. Livestock predation by wolves are consistently low. Of the 46,500 cattle in the U.P. last year, only six were verified as being killed by wolves."

"Moreover, we know that trophy hunting and trapping will not resolve the rare issues that do occur. In fact, studies show that killing wolves can ac-

tually exacerbate conflicts, because it disrupts the stable social structure they rely upon to manage their communities."

Tamulevich added that wolves keep deer populations healthy, as they tend to kill the weakest, oldest deer, helping mitigate problems such as chronic wasting disease in deer populations.

In neighboring Wisconsin, state officials hastily organized a wolf hunt in a matter of days, after a court order forced a season. Wildlife managers there sought a harvest of 200 wolves from their population of about 950 to 1,050 wolves.

That Wisconsin was able to organize their hunt in such short order should compel Michigan's DNR and Natural Resources Commission "not to shirk that responsibility for this year under some lame excuses," McBroom said.

Said Golder, "Although we work collegially with other states on a variety of conservation issues, Michigan will make decisions about wolf management under its statutes and authorities, independent of what other states have done."

Michigan voters rejected wolf hunting in two statewide ballot measures in November 2014. But the Legislature and then-Gov. Rick Snyder, at the urging of hunting groups, restored the wolf hunt that year. Tamulevich cited those referendum results as a clear expression of opposition to wolf hunting by a majority of state residents.

McBroom was unmoved.

"The wolf problem is exclusive to the Upper Peninsula," he said. "If we were to put a lot of very isolated, regional issues on a statewide ballot, you're going to see a lot of things not be successful — helping Detroit when it was in trouble financially, or a road project in Kalamazoo. Put them on a statewide ballot and they are not very likely to pass."

Straits Area Sportsmen's Club board of directors member Steve Dey expressed respect for wolves.

"I'm not a person who wants to wipe out wolves in the U.P.," he said.

## Sandhill cranes once again in hunters' sights

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's Michigan's largest, oldest bird species, unchanged in more than 2.5 million years; a tall, graceful bird beloved by birdwatchers for its unique trumpeting song.

It's also a major nuisance to farmers, devouring their freshly planted corn in the spring.

And to hunters, it's known for its meat so tasty it's called the ribeye of the sky.

The Eastern sandhill crane, almost hunted out of existence in Michigan and elsewhere in the early 1900s, has made a significant comeback in recent decades, because of federal protections and its status as a nongame bird. But now, a Michigan state senator wants to change the crane's status, a move that's causing concern among those who want to maintain protection of the bird.

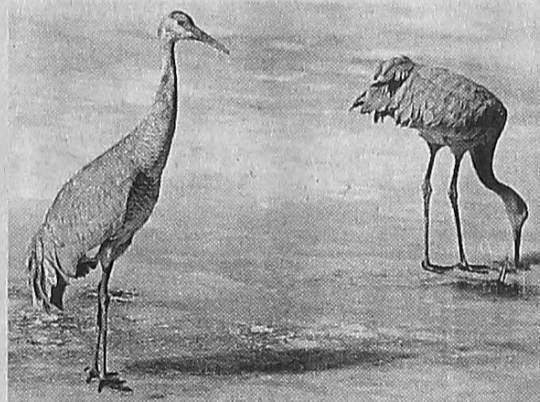
Sen. Ed McBroom, in the Senate Natural Resources Committee he chairs, introduced his resolution urging the state Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member, governor-appointed body that sets hunting and fishing policy in Michigan, to add sandhill cranes to the state's game species list, and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish a sandhill crane hunting season.

The move comes only about a week after another McBroom resolution urging the Natural Resources Commission to establish a wolf hunt in Michigan this year, after the Trump administration removed federal Endangered Species Act protections from wolves last fall.

McBroom, a Republican from the Upper Peninsula community of Vulcan, said under current federal rules, when farmers receive permission to kill sandhill cranes destroying their spring corn crops, they are disallowed from using the carcasses for meat. He called that "a serious affront to common sense."

"Because of this (protected migratory species) status issue, the animal protein is left to rot," McBroom said.

Farmers utilizing a federal crop damage permit to kill sandhill cranes preying on their plants must spend hours in the field hunting the birds, on top of their other chores, McBroom said. And



Sandhill cranes enjoy a day out at Kensington Metropark in Milford. Sen. Ed McBroom has introduced a resolution to change their protected status. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

the inability to offer the resulting meat to anyone helping them impedes the ability to recruit assistance in the job, he said.

"My position right now is to simply stop wasting the food in the field," McBroom said.

McBroom's resolution, however, isn't so limited. It urges the Natural Resources Commission to "seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish an Eastern sandhill crane hunting season," and adds, "a hunting season would reduce the number of nuisance birds while utilizing this food resource."

Any decision on whether to establish a hunt for sandhill cranes could later be taken up by the Natural Resources Commission as it sees fit when "theoretically, at some point in the future, perhaps science would justify a hunt," he said.

### Cranes causing problems

Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued 98 permits to farmers to kill nuisance sandhill cranes damaging their crops in Michigan, allowing for the killing of 2,385 sandhill cranes — up 5.4% in number of permits issued, and 14% in allowed cranes killed, from the previous year. Those 2020 numbers were a 32.4% increase in permits, and 42.4% increase in allowed cranes killed from five years earlier.

Permits were issued in eight of 15 Upper Peninsula counties and 37 of 68 Lower Peninsula counties, from 2006 to 2015, according to Michigan Depart-

ment of Natural Resources data. The eastern U.P. and south-central counties in the Lower Peninsula were allowed the most bird kills under the permits.

The DNR, whose biologists advise the decision-making of the Natural Resources Commission, does not have this issue on its front burner.

"There is no current proposal to hunt sandhill cranes in Michigan, and establishing a hunt is not a priority for the DNR," agency spokesman Ed Golder said.

As a treaty-protected migratory bird, any future hunt decision would fall within the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and involve the Mississippi Flyway Council, a 17-state group along the crane's migration route that helps set policy about the bird, he said. Any changes would further have to involve other nations with which the U.S. has treaties related to the migratory cranes, including Canada and Mexico.

Changing the cranes' status to a game bird won't end the perceived problem with wasting farmer-killed birds, said Barbara Avers, the DNR's waterfowl and wetlands specialist.

"Whether we name them a game species or not does not change those federal rules and regulations for migratory birds," she said.

The main reason farmer-killed cranes can't be taken for meat now is a concern that the permits to kill cranes preying on farmers' crops "could be come a de facto hunting season — that farmers could easily get these permits and take birds that way," she said.

When contacted, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson did not provide comment.

Tom Cooper, chief of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's migratory bird program, told the Free Press in 2018 that if Michigan ever asks for a hunt, his agency would permit it.

The 2010 management plan allows hunting of the eastern population of sandhill cranes if a three-year average of bird populations in the region exceeds 30,000 birds. Avers said the 2020 fall survey of the eastern population counted 95,000 cranes.

"We definitely have a population of huntable sandhill cranes, based on that flyway management plan," she said.

### To protect or hunt

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the largest nonprofit group representing hunters in Michigan, isn't playing coy in its desire for a sandhill crane hunt.

"While we understand and empathize with the agricultural community — and hunters certainly want to be a part of the solution to help address that — for us, crop damage is not the sole reason for having a hunt," said MUCC executive director Amy Trotter.

MUCC and its members believe that hunters should be "the first and primary tool in the management of sandhill cranes," she said.

Trotter called hunting "a treasured part of Michigan's outdoor heritage."

"While we can't assume we know the motivations for each individual hunter, the outdoors is as important as ever to our physical and mental well-being, as evidenced by the significant increase in license sales in 2020," she said.

While acknowledging the near wipe-out of the crane populations because of overhunting long ago, Trotter pointed to a conservation ethic that exists in modern hunting. Three-quarters of every \$12 waterfowl hunting license is mandated for use to improve or restore wetland habitat, she said.

"Cranes are recovered, and have been recovering for some time," Trotter said.

A 2010 management plan for the eastern population of sandhill cranes, developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and natural resources agencies from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Ontario, made providing hunting opportunities for the birds one of its objectives.

Sandhill cranes have been hunted for years in more westerly flyways in North America, including in the Plains states, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

But the public at large in Michigan would oppose sandhill crane hunting, said Julie Baker, director of the nonprofit Michigan Songbird Coalition.

"There is no scientific or wildlife management justification for opening a recreational shooting season" on Michigan's sandhill crane population, she said.

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The AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School, located at 22001 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI, will have "Open Enrollment" from March 8, 2021 – March 26, 2021, between 9 AM to 3 PM, and on Sunday March 14, 2021 from 10 AM to 1 PM. For further information or special appointments, please call the school at 248.569.2988. Random selection drawing for new applicants will take place at the school on Friday, April 14, 2021 at 10 AM. Families of those selected will be notified.

Publish: March 11 & 14, 2021

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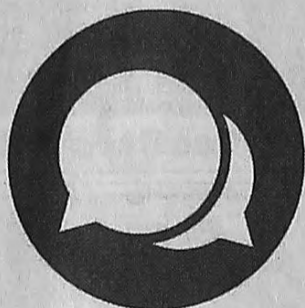
We now have multiple channels that you can use to update your account information, report delivery issues, temporarily stop your paper, activate your digital account or address any questions and concerns you may have.

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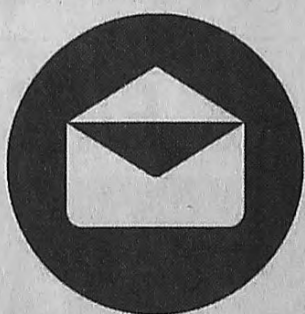
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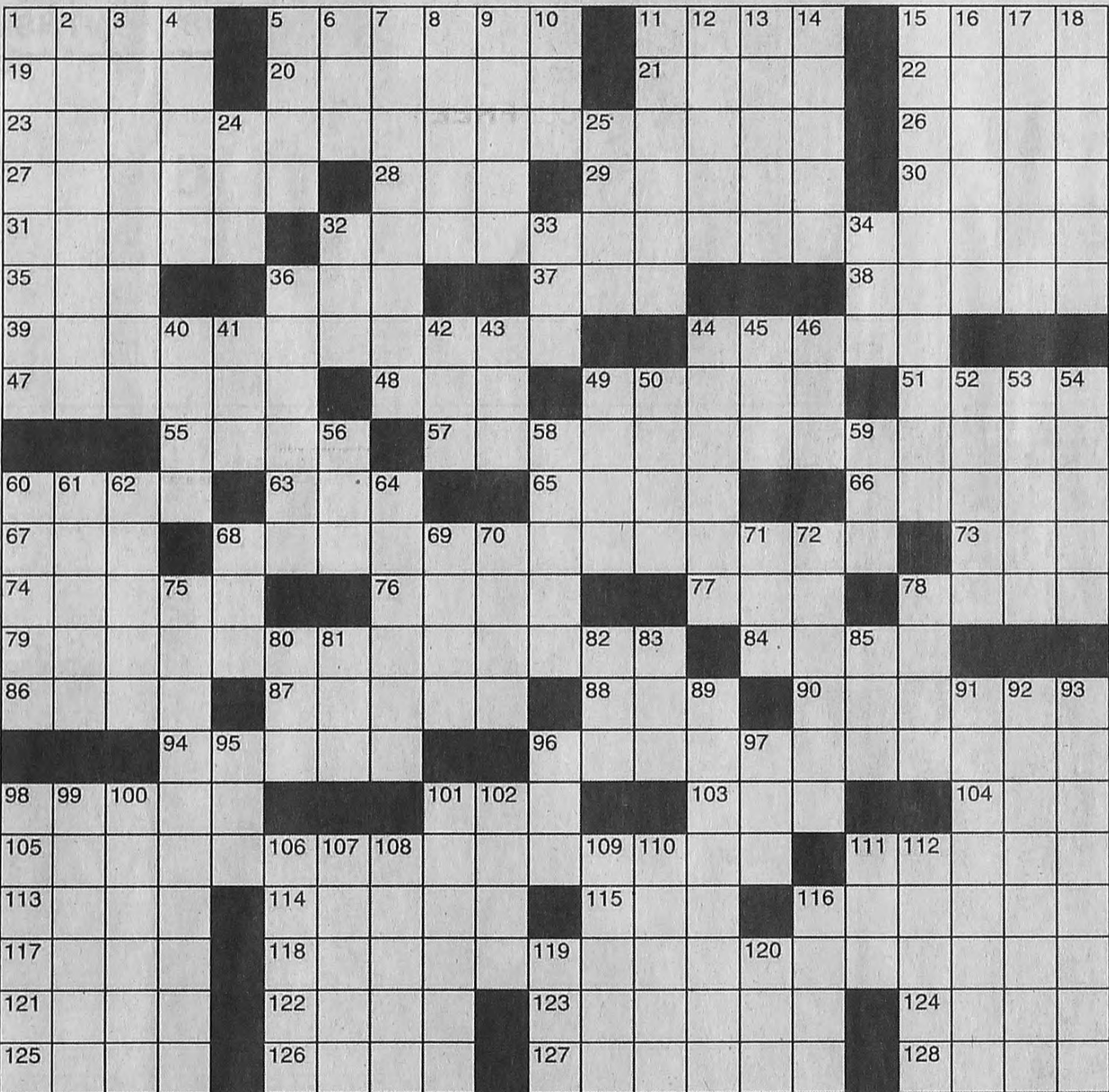
# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**ALLOW TO BE ADDED**

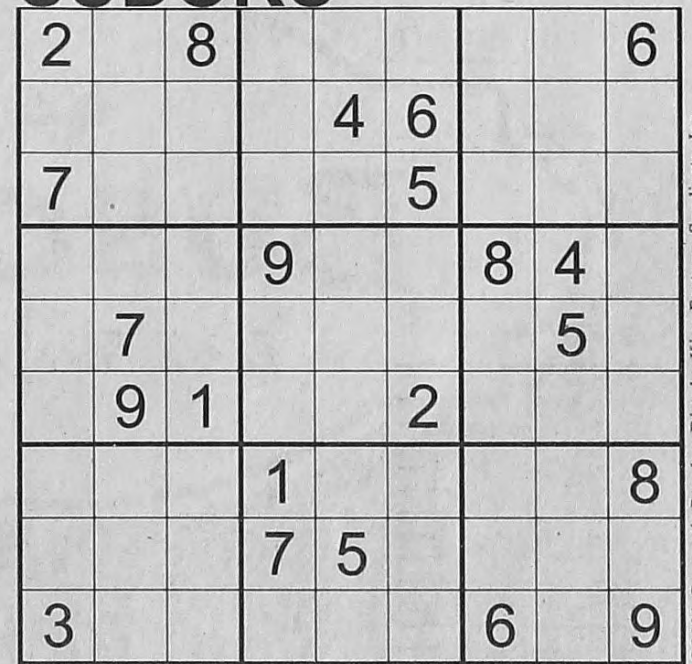
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Sch." for "school," e.g.
  - 5 "My stars!"
  - 11 Source of poi
  - 15 Baseballer Ty
  - 19 "Don't stop!"
  - 20 Foray
  - 21 State firmly
  - 22 Voiced
  - 23 Put on some wrist jewelry?
  - 26 Actress Foch
  - 27 Connect for use, to Brits
  - 28 With 86-Across, China's place
  - 29 Haunting
  - 30 Mike Brady's three kids, e.g.
  - 31 Greek fabulist
  - 32 Pair of poetic lines about the army?
  - 35 — Valley, San Francisco
  - 36 Disney frame
  - 37 FedEx rival
  - 38 Layers
  - 39 Healed a fictional prince of Denmark?
  - 44 Striped feline
  - 47 "And others," in footnotes
  - 48 Mineo of "Dino"
  - 49 Steer snarer
  - 51 Re
  - 55 Home of Taj Mahal
  - 57 Extra wrestling garment in case the main one gets lost?
  - 60 Heifer's home
  - 63 "Hulk" director Lee
  - 65 Blind as —
  - 66 Earp of the O.K. Corral
  - 67 Sound of wonderment
  - 68 Bright red Kleenex?
  - 73 Foot part
  - 74 Cause, as havoc
  - 76 City in Kansas
  - 77 Time on end
  - 78 Bison group
  - 79 Secondhand apartment rental in Rome?
  - 84 — gin fizz
  - 86 See 28-Across
  - 87 Gamma follower
  - 88 Just so-so
  - 90 Warship fleet
  - 94 Test, as ore
  - 96 Coated pill produced in Antarctica?
  - 98 Oak nut
  - 101 Letter before dee
  - 103 "— got it!"
  - 104 Partner of 67-Across
  - 105 Parents-to-be expecting three babies at once?
  - 111 "The — come out tomorrow" (start of an "Annie" song)
  - 113 "Mystic Pizza" actress
  - 114 Turkish coins
  - 115 Out-of-date
  - 116 How cats ask for Meow Mix, per a slogan
  - 117 Lady friend, in France
  - 118 Pleasing answer when actress Kate asks her agent "Who wants me next?"
  - 121 Job detail
  - 122 "Huh-uh!"
  - 123 Cyclops' odd feature
  - 124 Actress Falco
  - 125 Car roller, to Brits
  - 126 Secy., e.g.
  - 127 Less wordy
  - 128 Also — (race losers)
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Tone of an environment
  - 2 Validated, as a claim
  - 3 Period of Model T's
  - 4 Right-hand book page
  - 5 Pickle choice
  - 6 Ending with ethyl
  - 7 Many indie movies
  - 8 Like queens
  - 9 New Zealand native
  - 10 Univ. URL ending
  - 11 Gunlike stunners
  - 12 Animator Tex
  - 13 Saintry article
  - 14 "— ed Euridice" (Gluck opera)
  - 15 Nefarious group plot
  - 16 Bobolink's kin
  - 17 Big headline
  - 18 Explosions
  - 24 "The Raven" poet's inits.
  - 25 Gather in
  - 32 "— culpa!"
  - 33 Boy pharaoh
  - 34 4x4, in brief
  - 36 Jacques of France
  - 40 Panache
  - 41 Use a shovel
  - 42 Vegas lead-in
  - 43 Wallach of "Firepower"
  - 44 African fly
  - 45 Suffixed with organ
  - 46 Mass of mayo, say
  - 49 Pride parade letters
  - 50 Jai —
  - 52 Glide on ice
  - 53 Teach privately
  - 54 Decided (to)
  - 56 Actress Ortiz
  - 58 Of birth
  - 59 Astonishment
  - 60 "Fame" vocalist David
  - 61 Major artery
  - 62 Ostrichlike birds
  - 64 Horrific
  - 68 Glide on snow
  - 69 Uncouth guy
  - 70 Napoleon's exile isle
  - 71 "He-e-elp!"
  - 72 Loosen, as a shoe
  - 75 Decorative church screen
  - 78 Cannabis fiber
  - 80 Paid promos
  - 81 Tchr.'s org.
  - 82 Comic Philips
  - 83 Phone no.
  - 85 "... man — mouse?"
  - 89 Clairol products
  - 91 "M\*A\*S\*H" co-star
  - 92 Request for a poker hand
  - 93 Olympics participants
  - 95 NBC show since '75
  - 96 Writer's tool
  - 97 Trailer park campers, for short
  - 98 "Finally!"
  - 99 Like pie crusts with pressed-in ridges
  - 100 Greasier
  - 101 Dry red wine
  - 102 Simple
  - 106 Kagan of the court
  - 107 Some DVR systems
  - 108 Sets up, informally
  - 109 Herman's Hermits frontman Peter
  - 110 Senior
  - 111 Wd. of similar meaning
  - 112 Auto racer Al
  - 116 Funeral platform
  - 119 Net automaton
  - 120 Letter before zee



#2,029 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.

## SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/11

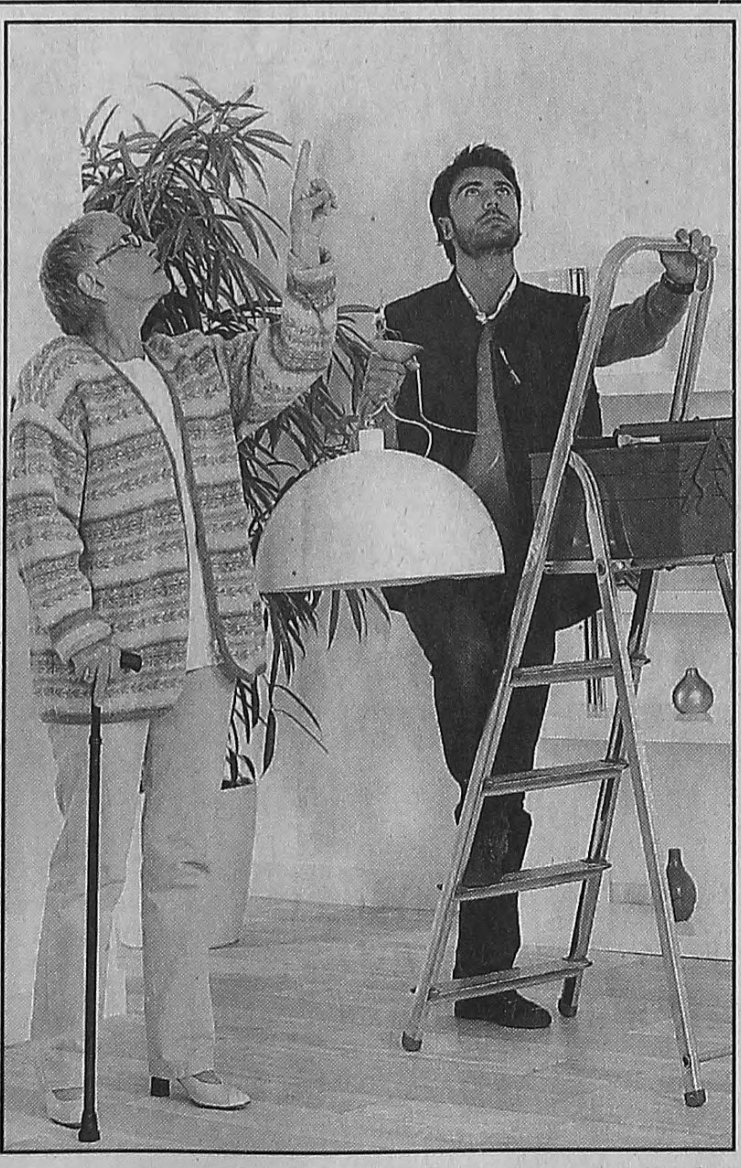
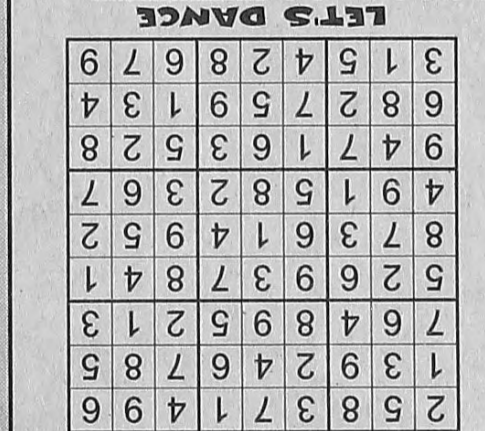
**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear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

## LET'S DANCE

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



- BALLET
- BALLROOM
- BARN
- BELLY
- BOLERO
- BOP
- BOSSA NOVA
- BREAK
- CALYPSO
- CANCAN
- CHARLESTON
- CLOG
- CONGA
- COUNTRY
- DISCO
- FANDANGO
- FLAMENCO
- FOLK
- FOXTROT
- HIGHLAND
- HOEDOWN
- HORNPIPE
- JIG
- JIVE
- LAMBADA
- LINE
- MAMBO
- MINUET
- MORRIS
- POGO
- POLKA
- QUICKSTEP
- REEL
- RUMBA
- SALSA
- SAMBA
- SHUFFLE
- SNOWBALL
- SQUARE
- SWORD
- TANGO
- TAP
- TWIST
- WALTZ



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**ADOPT A PET**  
**GET A JOB**  
**FIND A HOUSE**  
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