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SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Westland may buy former Marshall school

Elementary would be turned into recreation center

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland is considering turning one of the city's unused schools into a 120,000-square-foot recreation center. Mayor Bill Wild said Marshall Upper

Elementary, which the Wayne-Westland school district closed last year, has potential to become a recreation, senior and community space.

"I think it would just be dynamite if we could use it for a recreation center," he said. "It's centrally located right in

the middle of the city, and I think it could really be a great addition to the city's assets."

Presently, the city offers some recreational opportunities through its senior center, but it does not have a separate recreation center.

On Feb. 22, city council approved a resolution that would give the city a 120-day due diligence period to see if Mar-

shall, at 35100 Bayview St., would make a good recreation center. Wayne-Westland's school board, which next meets March 22, also needs to approve the resolution before it takes effect.

Wild said the city and school district would negotiate a selling or lease price for the property after the due diligence

See **SCHOOL**, Page 4A



Ashlyn McCaan, a bartender at Sean O'Callaghan's, pulls a pint of Guinness at the Irish pub in Plymouth on March 4. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Irish pubs prepare for slightly toned down St. Patrick's Day

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

That Guinness might taste just a little bit sweeter this year for St. Patrick's Day for those heading to the pub.

Nearly one year to the day restaurant dining rooms were first ordered closed in Michigan near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year marks the first St. Paddy's Day in two years that can be celebrated in the pub.

But despite most pubs being open, it's not going to feel the same way as it did before 2020. Restrictions on indoor dining meant to curtail the spread of the coronavirus mean the Irish pubs won't be as packed as they usually are in mid-March.

Frank Grisa, owner of O'Malley's Irish Pub in Livonia, said he's happy to have St. Patrick's Day return but wishes

it could look like some of the parties he's thrown in the past, which included plenty of live music, outdoor tents and visits from local Irish dance schools.

"We can't do what we usually do," said Grisa, who owns the restaurant on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Farmington. "Two years ago, in the 17 hours we were open we ran 2,800 people."

The thousands who typically visit during the day each year will be significantly curtailed at O'Malley's this year: with capacity set at 50% by the state Department of Health and Human Services as of March 5, the interior of the bar can fit around 60 people.

The owners at Sean O'Callaghan's Pub in downtown Plymouth are hoping to have a unique celebration, depending

See **PUBS**, Page 2A



A little leprechaun perches near a map of Ireland at O'Malley's Irish pub in Livonia.

Redford Union voters to decide on \$59M bond

The Board of Education for the Redford Union School District unanimously approved a resolution to place a bond proposal on the May 4 ballot.

The \$59.2 million bond proposal will address critical infrastructure needs and make improvements to aging educational facilities across the district. The proposed bond comes at a zero tax rate increase to the community.

If approved, funding from the bond will be used to address the district's aging and inefficient buildings and create future cost savings. The bond will also make essential updates to school buildings and related systems, including replacing ceilings and flooring, upgrading HVAC systems for improved heating and cooling capabilities and air quality, replacing doors and windows, and renovating classroom areas.

Other areas included are safety and security upgrades, common space

See **BOND**, Page 6A

Shake Shack eyes location in Livonia

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Haggerty Road corridor straddling Livonia and Northville Township could get a lot busier in the coming months.

The Livonia Planning Commission narrowly recommended approval of a waiver use during its virtual meeting March 9 of a proposed Shake Shack located at Seven Mile and Haggerty. The restaurant would occupy land that formerly featured Romano's Macaroni Grill, a structure that was built in 1993 and closed last year after the spring shutdown of indoor dining at restaurants.

"We're really excited to be in the City of Livonia," Allison Palmadesso, a senior design manager for the New

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Pubs

Continued from Page 1A

on several factors. The bar at 821 Penniman applied to hold a St. Patrick's Day outdoor event at the Plymouth Gathering, the covered shelter space next to the Penn Theatre. Pub owner Sam Khashan applied to the city for a permit to allow for a single-day event for the holiday, something the city commission approved in early March. Approval from the state was still required, something that had not yet happened as of March 8.

"Within the restaurant, we're going to do our regular menu," he said. "If we get the gathering place, it would be a limited menu with some traditional Irish stuff like corned beef and cabbage and reubens."

Khashan said if it's approved by the state, the space will be limited to 100 people, far below the outdoor limit currently set by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which is 300 people.

A different look, feel

The celebrations come after a rough year for bars and restaurants. Many have closed permanently, affected by lengthy shutdowns that shuttered dining rooms for nearly half of the last year, forcing restaurants to convert to a take-out-only model. Restaurant dining rooms were ordered closed by the state to help slow the spread of COVID-19, a disease that has infected about 600,000 people and killed more than 15,000 people. They remained shuttered last year from March 16 — one day before St. Patrick's Day, leaving pubs scrambling to sell all the food they ordered for the holiday — to early June, and were closed again in mid-November before reopening again in February. During those times dining rooms have been open the last year, they've operated at a reduced capacity.

Planning has become a challenge, especially in light of the shift from allowing 25% capacity to 50% capacity, made by the state earlier this month. Having St. Patrick's Day celebrations with 25% capacity was difficult to swing, but more people allowed has allowed owners such as Khashan more options to plan



O'Malley's Irish pub in Livonia already is decked out in Irish-themed decorations in preparation for St. Patrick's Day customers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

something, he said.

That includes having live music, something Khashan said he wasn't originally planning on but now wants to do at the Plymouth pub since more people will be allowed in.

"When we were only allowed 45 people, it would be really hard to have a band in here," he said. "Now with the change, I'm trying to scramble to find a band."

For Mitch Black, owner of Dick O'Dow's in downtown Birmingham, having live music just isn't in the cards this year. To make room in the front of the pub for the acts to play, he would need to remove tables, which would only allow a few dozen people in the front to enjoy it.

Couple that with some of the musical acts he typically brings to the restaurant at 160 W. Maple being older individuals not comfortable playing in public right now and he's decided to forgo live music for the first time on St. Patrick's Day at the pub in more than 20 years.

"We're just not going to put people in that position," Black said.

Instead, he's hoping to bring people in throughout the week to mark the holiday instead of just March 17, offering corned beef and shepherd's pie beginning the weekend prior. The bar will

open at 7 a.m. March 17 for breakfast and seating will be available outside, both in front of the restaurant and in back.

Grisa said earlier this month he's also trying to figure out music: he said he typically begins planning for St. Patrick's Day at O'Malley's after the first of the year. This year, he didn't do any extended planning beforehand, not knowing what would be allowed by the state.

He said he hopes to clear off part of his stage — which has become a storage space for the tables and chairs he's not allowed to use due to capacity limits — and book a small musical act, though there was no exact word in early March as to who that would be.

The additional tent that's usually up in the parking lot, Grisa said, will also not go up this year. Given how much goes into setting it up, including heaters and other amenities, Grisa said it wasn't worth the gamble to try and do this year.

"We just decided to not do it," he said. "We just can't guess with that kind of money."

Keeping at capacity

There's one thing Grisa has invested in this year he hadn't planned on: a handheld tally counter for use at the

door. Given the attention Irish pubs get on St. Patrick's Day, Grisa said he expects state inspectors will visit the bar that day to count heads and make sure they aren't over.

An employee will most likely stand at the door to make sure the bar doesn't go over capacity, an issue Grisa said he's heard about at plenty of bars across the state during the last year.

"It's a crazy day. There's just a lot of people going out partying and not concerned about the rules and that kind of thing," he said. "I'm responsible, regardless of how I feel about it."

A tent will be up at The Weal Inn in Highland Township, said employee Erica O'Connor. She said the bar at 2933 E. Highland near Duck Lake Road will serve up plenty of Irish fare.

"We'll have our corned beef and cabbage," she said. "We'll also have beef stew."

She said she knows it will look a little different than previous years, but said she hopes to see plenty of people hoping to celebrate.

"We're obviously hoping to see a ton of people," O'Connor said.

Despite not having the usual party Dick O'Dow's usually has, having the bar open for the holiday this year for St. Patrick's Day marks another step forward. He said the bar has gotten plenty of phone calls inquiring about

"For us, the biggest key is it's a starting to return to normalcy," Black said. "Getting some of the traditions we've ad for so many years to come back to again."

"It's definitely a great sign, it really is."

Grisa said they'll bring out plenty of traditional food that day, including corned beef and cabbage, during their opening hours, which will begin at 8 a.m. and run until they have to close, which is currently at 11 p.m., per state order.

Regardless of the restrictions no matter how much Grisa isn't a fan, it's a special day at the pub at Five Mile and Farmington. And he's determined to keep it that way.

"I'm excited for St. Patrick's Day. I'm Irish. I'm always excited for it," Grisa said. "I guess we'll be celebrating it a little bit more in our hearts than our livers."

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Shake Shack

Continued from Page 1A

York City-based chain, said during the planning commission meeting. "Shake Shack really thinks of itself not only as fast-casual but we actually refer to ourselves as fine-casual dining, and we really strive to make all of our restaurants a true community gathering place for the communities we go into."

If approved, the restaurant would occupy roughly the same footprint as the former Romano's Macaroni Grill building, though a new structure would be erected in its place and the old building demolished. The eatery would have space for dine-in both inside and outside, as well as drive-thru lanes for those ordering to-go.

In addition to the restaurant, a second structure is proposed on the eastern portion of the lot that's currently occupied by parking lot. A facility for a yet-to-be-determined bank would also be constructed on the site.

Shake Shack launched in 2001 in

New York and has seen plenty of growth worldwide. It serves up fare such as burgers, hot dogs, french fries and milkshakes. If approved, it would join four other Shake Shacks currently open in Michigan: one in Ann Arbor, one in Detroit and two in Troy.

Issues surrounding traffic expected to flock to the site appeared to be a big reason for the close vote. The approval came with a 4-3 vote; several commissioners commented on issues surrounding the dangerous intersection and what bringing a concept like Shake Shack to that corner could cause when it comes to accidents.

Commissioner Peter Ventura, who voted no on the approval, said he frequents the nearby Home Depot in Northville Township across the street from the proposal regularly and said adding such a business could lead to serious incidents, especially for those looking to turn across traffic.

"The likelihood of anybody exiting this Macaroni Grill site and getting into the left turn lane to go south on Haggerty Road is going to be highly problematic," he said. "That's going to create a very dangerous situation. That's my opinion."

Julie Kroll, a traffic engineer with Farmington Hills-based Fleis & Vandenberg working on the project, said in speaking with Wayne County — which controls both Seven Mile and Haggerty Road — they would work to restrict certain turns out of the parking during rush

hour to help alleviate some of those traffic problems.

"During the off peak periods, there's less traffic that would be conflicting," she said.

A proposal to create a sharing agreement with the nearby private road owned by the Pentagon Entertainment Complex was attempted, but no deal was ever made, said Eric Williams, a design engineer with Detroit-based Stonefield Engineering & Design who is working on the project.

Commissioner David Bongero, another "no" vote on the project, agreed with Ventura regarding the traffic. He said he was at the same Home Depot on a recent weekend day and said had he not been a little "aggressive" in turning out, he would have sat waiting a long time trying to get onto the road.

"In front of me was an elderly driver, and they were very apprehensive to make the move," he said.

The project proposal now goes to the Livonia City Council.

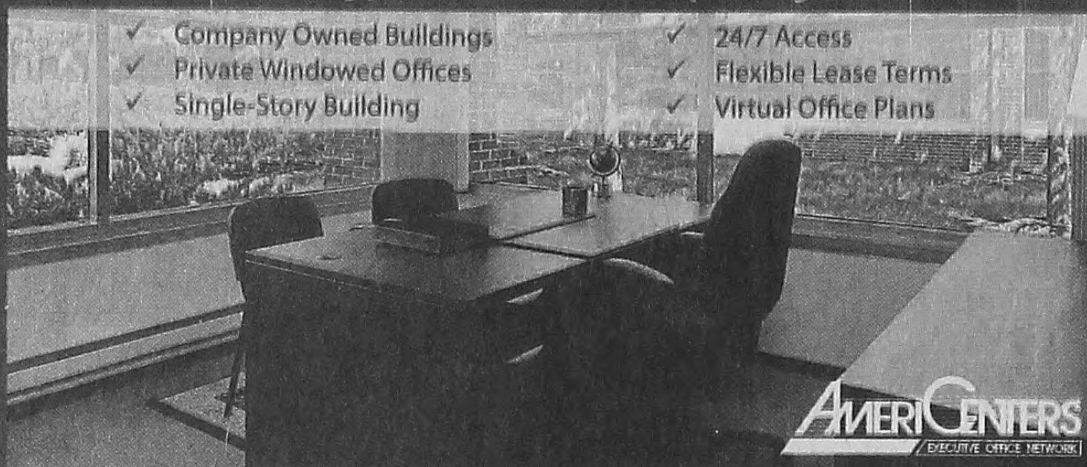
If the project becomes a reality, it marks just the most recent destination to open up along the Haggerty Road corridor between the two communities. Fast-food chicken restaurant Chick-fil-A opened a restaurant in front of Kohl's along Haggerty Road in Northville Township earlier this winter and routinely sees dozens of cars lined up to order food such as chicken sandwiches.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

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Canton Charter Academy is hereby rescheduling the 2021-2022 Lottery from March 9, 2021 to March 18, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

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SURVIVOR

Livonia man with lung transplant among state's first COVID-19 cases

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Paul DeWyse bounded down the steps at Detroit's Hart Plaza Saturday with ease, smiled broadly and took in the warm March sun, grateful to be alive.

He wasn't sure he'd survive long enough to see this day — one year since the coronavirus pandemic devastated the state, the nation and the world, taking the lives of 15,666 Michiganders and more than half a million Americans, and one year since he contracted the virus himself.

A lung transplant survivor, DeWyse, 58, of Livonia had one of Michigan's first two confirmed cases of coronavirus and was the first COVID-19 patient to be hospitalized at Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

"I thought I was going to die because the only thing I knew ... about COVID was that people in China that had compromised immune systems were dying," said DeWyse, a father of three.

"I was crying. I was emotionally a wreck, and so was my wife. And she couldn't even come and see me, you know? I mean, it was very, very emotional."

Hours after he was told he tested positive for the mysterious new virus sweeping the globe, leaving sickness, death and shutdowns in its wake, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a state of emergency on live television.

It was surreal, DeWyse said.

"Here I was, sitting my hospital bed, watching ... Gretchen on TV talking about me," he said. "There were reporters outside, ... I could see them out my window, and they were all trying to figure out who I was."

Whitmer addressed the state just before the 11 p.m. news broadcasts, hours after the polls closed for the presidential primary election. Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, sat by her side, offering details about Michigan's first two confirmed cases.

"We're taking every step that we can to mitigate the virus spread and keep Michiganders safe," Whitmer said that night, urging people to wash their hands, touch their faces less often, stop shaking hands and cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze.

It was before face masks became de rigueur. It was before scientists fully understood the disease's primary mode of transmission was through the air.

The date was March 10, 2020. And it was on that day DeWyse became known as "a Wayne County resident with a history of domestic travel" in news reports.

He and an Oakland County woman who had traveled internationally were among the first 68 Michiganders who had been tested for the virus; they just happened to get the first positive results.

At that stage of the epidemic — it hadn't yet been deemed a pandemic — tests were in such short supply that state health officials only had the capacity to test between 375 and 400 people in a state of nearly 10 million. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines strictly limited the criteria for who should qualify for COVID-19 testing.

With such little surveillance in early March, DeWyse's case was just one example of what was likely widespread community transmission of the virus going undetected in the state and the nation.

He and his family were overwhelmed and afraid.

"We were actually more scared he was going to die when we got the call that he had COVID than when he got his transplant surgery," said his daughter Megan DeWyse, 24.

Her father needed the transplant because he has a rare genetic condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency that began attacking his lungs when he was in his late 30s. By the time he had his transplant in February 2018, his lungs were functioning at about 15% capacity, he said.

"I was on oxygen, and all that stuff, so I was barely getting by," DeWyse said. "I thought I was going to have to go on disability very soon, but luckily, it all worked out."

Three days after surgeons transplanted healthy, 29-year-old lungs into his body, DeWyse was up and walking. He was allowed to go home two weeks after surgery and within a few months, he was well enough to do things he couldn't do in the 20 prior years when

his lungs were failing.

He started to ride his mountain bike, take long walks with his dog, Jazz, and play golf and racquetball and pickleball.

DeWyse hoped the transplant would give him more time with his wife, Marci, and their three daughters, Megan, Molly and Afton. He dreamed that one day he'd walk them down the aisle at their weddings. He dreamed of having grandchildren.

But COVID-19 threatened to snatch it all away.

'A 99.9% chance you don't have it'

In the weeks leading up to his COVID-19 infection, DeWyse, who is vice president of corporate development for Alloya Corporate Federal Credit Union, flew out of state twice.

In late February 2020, he was one of about 5,000 people at the annual Governmental Affairs Conference hosted by the Credit Union National Association in Washington, D.C.

"A lot of people after that convention — 75 that we know of — said they came back with what they call 'the GAC crud,'" DeWyse said.

"So 75 people came back and they were very sick, but ... they never got tested for COVID or anything. But I did, and it was COVID. So who knows? It could have been one of those spreader events and people didn't even know it."

DeWyse said he traveled to Texas, too, for work, but said it's impossible to know whether he caught the virus at the convention, on a plane, or just living life when a deadly pathogen was circulating undetected.

"It could have been at the grocery store," he said.

He woke up on the morning of March 9, 2020, and felt fine. DeWyse said he went to a dentist's appointment and then to work at his office in Southfield. A few hours later, a feeling of malaise washed over him.

"I just started feeling really weird and my stomach started hurting and I had a headache and then it just kept progressing really quickly," DeWyse said.

He began to vomit and spiked a fever. "Then all the other symptoms hit me. I had chills and body aches. I had a headache really bad, and I had diarrhea. I had every flu symptom there was."

At that stage of the coronavirus outbreak, the CDC was advising Americans that the primary symptoms of COVID-19 were chest pain, shortness of breath and coughing.

It was such a new virus, health officials were learning on the fly, and still didn't know exactly what its hallmarks might be. And because DeWyse didn't have those three complaints, he didn't think he could possibly have novel coronavirus.

Flu? Probably. COVID-19? No way. "I never, ever once thought I had COVID," he said. "Not once."

Still, DeWyse called his doctor to report the symptoms and went to the hospital.

"That's with any transplant patient," he said, "anything you've got going, you just call your doctor and say you're on your way to emergency and they pretty much admit you no matter what."

Doctors first tested him for influenza, but the result was negative. DeWyse was shocked.

"I thought it was flu, just really bad flu," he said.

The World Health Organization had begun to report that some people with COVID-19 also complained of fatigue, aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and diarrhea.

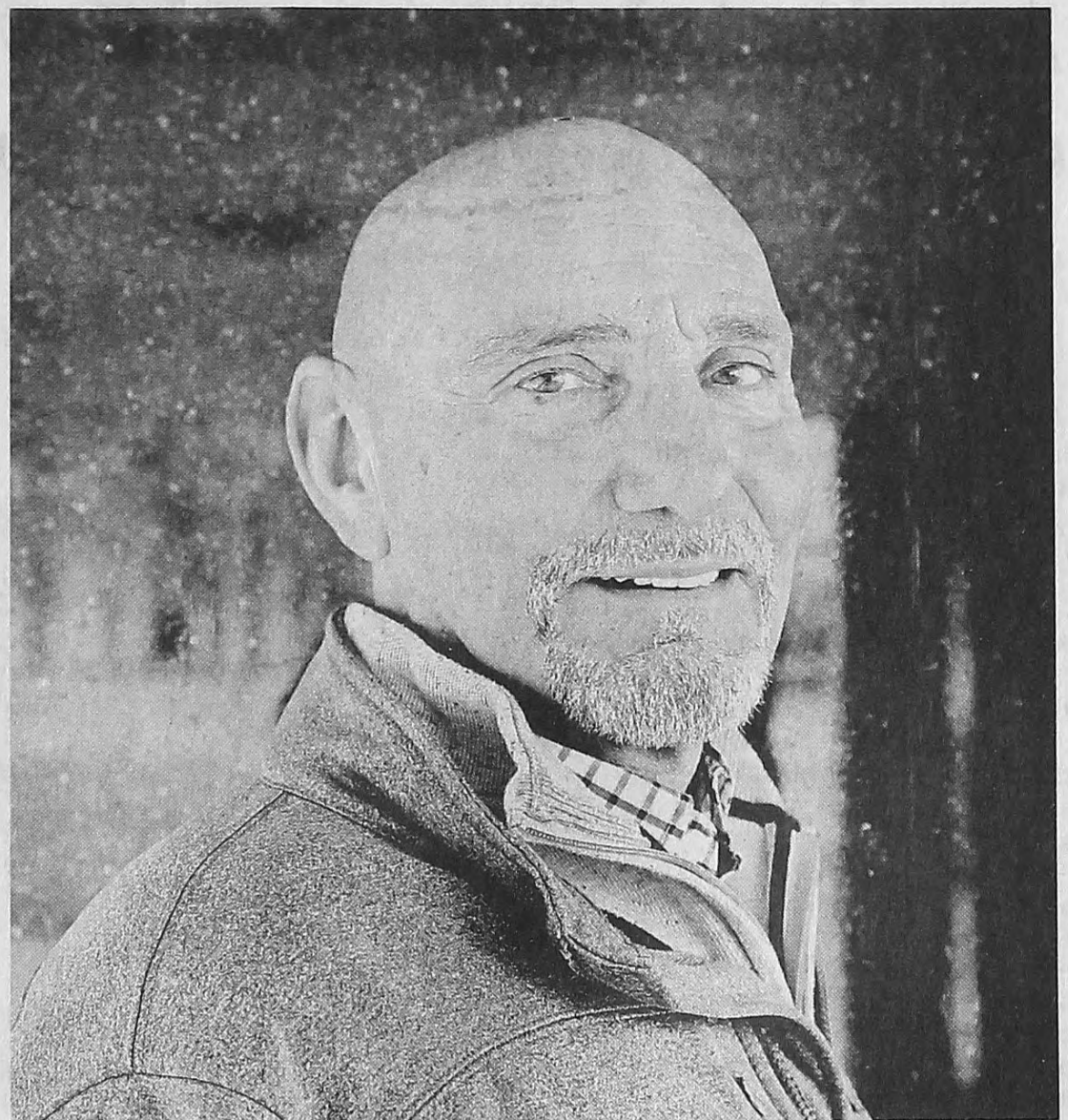
"The nurse said, 'Well, we're going to test you for this thing called COVID-19. But, you know, there's a 99.9% chance you don't have it,'" DeWyse said.

"They put me in isolation that same day, before they even knew. The next day, they told me. The doctor came in. My nurse was in the room and told me I had COVID-19, and I just freaked out."

"I was the first one at U-M hospital to have COVID," he said. "And the doctors didn't even know what to do. The nurses didn't even know what to do. ... Even though they knew it was coming, it ... just kind of hit and they were like, 'OK, here we are. Here's our first patient.'"

"They didn't know how to treat a person with COVID, let alone a person with a double lung transplant with COVID."

DeWyse takes a slew of medications to intentionally suppress his immune system to prevent his body from reject-



Paul DeWyse, 58, was the first COVID-19 patient at the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor in March 2020. DeWyse was especially vulnerable because he underwent a double lung transplant in 2018. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

ing his transplanted lungs, but those are the very same medicines that he knew could hamper his body's ability to fight a coronavirus infection.

"I had my whole pulmonologist team working with me, working with all the other doctors," DeWyse said, doing all they could to save his life. "It was three different sets of people trying to work on a plan behind the scenes for me."

Marci DeWyse, 53, who hadn't left her husband's side when he had his lung transplant two years earlier, suddenly found herself shut out from the hospital.

He was in isolation, infectious. And she was required to quarantine while test results were pending. It meant she couldn't hold Paul DeWyse's hand or talk to him face-to-face.

They communicated via a glowing screen, him in a hospital bed, her in quarantine in their Livonia home.

In the weeks and months that would follow, their experience would go on to be repeated by millions of other families around the nation as hospitals clamped down on visitors to prevent the spread of the virus, and critically ill patients began to die without loved ones at their bedsides.

"I would just pray every night and every morning," Marci DeWyse said. "The first couple of nights when I couldn't sleep, I would just pray, 'Please just let each day not be worse. ... Please let it be either the same or getting better because if it's getting worse, we're in trouble.'"

Guilt and blessings

The day after Paul DeWyse got his diagnosis, the WHO declared the global coronavirus outbreak had reached pandemic level.

"Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly," WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at the time.

As the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 continued its grim march across the world at an ever-faster clip, life as the DeWyse family knew it spiraled out of control.

"All these things are on the news — like big stuff — was happening because they thought that they might have been exposed to us in some way," Marci DeWyse said. "We were watching it and going, 'Oh my God. We are famous for all the wrong reasons.'"

Concerts and sporting events were canceled. Businesses shut down or sent workers home to work remotely. Universities switched to online learning. Schools closed and disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer and toilet paper flew off store shelves.

"They shut down our whole building," Paul DeWyse said of the 20-story tower where he works in Southfield. "They just sent everybody home and the place hasn't opened up yet."

One of the schools that closed was in Dearborn, where Megan DeWyse teaches children with autism in grades one through three.

"My school shut down first ... because of me, because I had COVID. I told my principal that (my dad) was getting tested," she said. When his test came back positive, "the superintendent shut down our school."

"And then the next week, they shut down all the other schools. But all of my students were texting me like, 'Was it you?' And the parents were like, 'Was it

anybody that was around my kid?' And I felt so guilty, you know?"

Though she did go on to test positive for the virus, too, no COVID-19 cases at the school were linked to her, she said.

"It was really scary. I felt so bad," Megan DeWyse said.

Afton DeWyse, 26, lives in Grand Rapids, and wasn't exposed to the virus when her father was diagnosed in March 2020. She didn't have to quarantine and wouldn't go on to contract the COVID-19 until months later. But quarantine rules meant the youngest DeWyse sister, Molly, 21, couldn't vote in her first presidential primary election.

"I was a political science major," she said. "I was really upset because I wanted to go vote."

She told her friends she was quarantining as a precaution because the odds were so slim that her dad had the virus. But when the news broke that one of the two first cases in Michigan was a middle-aged Wayne County man, and her friends asked whether it was him. Molly DeWyse couldn't bring herself to say, 'yes.'

"I was just like, 'Oh, no. We're still waiting on his results,' because I didn't ... know how it was going to turn out," she said.

Social media didn't help a situation already steeped in worry, guilt, and shame.

"There were people on Facebook throwing shade about our family, not knowing it was our family, saying, 'Don't they know how to wash their hands?' because we were the first cases in Michigan," Marci DeWyse said. "They found out where he worked. They found out where I worked."

Then she started getting sick, too. "I was actually scared for myself," she said.

On March 18, when Paul DeWyse had recovered enough to be discharged from the hospital, his wife was too sick to bring him home. Instead, their daughter Megan drove to Ann Arbor to pick him up.

Marci DeWyse was bedridden at that point. The virus had stolen her breath and her ability to taste and smell.

"I did take a long time to ... not feel breathless when I would do the slightest thing," she said. "I'd have to sit down. ... But now, today, I still have a weird smell. Things that used to smell yummy kind of smell weird."

Her husband, she said, "snapped back better than I did, actually. ... He had those young fresh lungs."

Megan DeWyse also tested positive and temporarily lost her sense of taste and smell. One year later, those senses continue to elude Molly DeWyse, who also got a positive test result.

As for Paul DeWyse: "I'm a survivor," he said Saturday, with his family surrounding him along the Detroit riverfront.

"A lot of people didn't survive COVID. A lot of people don't survive lung transplants, and so it's really sad. ... I feel amazingly grateful and lucky and blessed and everything."

But, he said, he doesn't want his story to take away from the tragedy brought by the pandemic, the grief that so many feel after the losses of loved ones who didn't survive.

"I've had three years with good lungs, and I can't even tell you how much that means," he said. "Nobody's guaranteed time here on this earth in life, but I have a little more. ... I'm loving life."

As districts taught virtually, Plymouth charter school kept students in building

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A young girl wearing a colorful mask skipped gleefully down a hallway at Ivywood Classical Academy one morning last week, unknowingly serving as a symbol for an upbeat vibe that flows through the Plymouth Township charter school during a year-long pandemic.

Since September — its second year of operation — Ivywood has managed to figure out a way to hold full time face-to-face learning for its kindergarten through sixth-grade students with just a trace of COVID-19 positivity, boosting the mental and physical health of its students, students' parents and staff, staff say.

"I think it's great what we've been able to do; I love it," Ivywood Principal Stephanie Kooiker (pronounced "quaker") said. "There's so much more to school than academics. The social/emotional well-being of the children is so important. And all of the staff enjoy seeing how happy the kids are."

"Our students have been able to do so many great things this year that many kids have missed out on. Things like a fall celebration, pumpkin carving, holiday celebrations in December, exchanging Valentines — little things that mean so much."

Ivywood's relative success in bringing a near-normal learning environment to its students is the result of thorough planning, teamwork and an all-in attitude from everyone involved, Kooiker said.

Ivywood, which has 300 students, has had 10 reported COVID-19 cases through March 1. Ivywood students have been learning in a full-day, five-days-a-week model since school opened in September, although students only attend half-days on Fridays so that staff can use the afternoons for meetings and planning.

In comparison, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools K-5 students learned in a hybrid or fully-virtually model from September through March 1. Plymouth-Canton sixth-grade students were fully virtual until the last week of January.

"I think the key has been having a plan from the beginning and sticking with it," Kooiker said. "We've been very upfront with our families about our plans and everybody has stuck to the plan."

"One of the most important things is that our families have done a fantastic job of keeping their kids home if there's even a remote chance they're sick. I feel that's why we've had so few COVID



Ivywood Classical Academy teacher Richard Bruce teaches math class March 4.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ivywood Classical Academy principal Stephanie Kooiker talks about her K-6 Plymouth Township charter school.

cases and when there have been some, we've been able to contain them.

"We've had zero cases of pink eye, zero cases of the flu — things you normally see in social settings like school. In years past, if a student had a slight cold, sometimes the parents would send them to school and say, 'Just try to make it through the day.' That's not the case now."

According to the district's website, Ivywood had 10 total cases of COVID-19 at the school during the current school year. Six of those cases came in early February.

The price of near-normalcy has re-

quired sacrifice, Kooiker added. Students stay with their classmates throughout each school day — class sizes average from 25 to 28 students, she said — whether they're in their regular homeroom, in the lunch room or at recess.

A strictly-enforced regimen means there is never more than one class of students in the hallways, on the playground or in the lunchroom at one time at Ivywood.

"For instance, we have kindergarten students who have never seen kids in the other kindergarten classes," Kooiker said. "And we have siblings in different grades that never see each other — not even passing in the hallway — throughout the entire school day."

"It's tough because you want the students to be able to meet peers in other classes, but the children have adapted well. We're hoping we can loosen things up at least a little bit by next school year."

Kooiker heaped praise on the school's 40-member staff, who have been asked to do much more than teach this school year.

"Our teachers want to teach in an in-person model, so that's huge," said Kooiker. "If that wasn't the case, they might not be as willing, obviously, to not only come in every day, but also to do

the extra things we're asking them to do like cleaning their rooms multiple times a day. They're doing everything that needs to be done to make this successful and safe."

First grade teacher Amanda Adkins said bringing normalcy to her students has been a rewarding experience.

"Honestly, every day is like a regular school day, except for the accommodations for the masks and distancing," Adkins said. "We're able to implement our curriculum really well."

"We clean our classrooms whenever our students leave the class and everyone has been great about wearing masks and distancing. I've felt incredibly safe since day one."

Strict adherence to the school's safety-first plans has been key to avoiding numerous positive COVID-19 cases and widespread quarantining, asserted sixth grade teacher Isaac Warchol.

"Like all of the other staff members, I've gone through gallons of disinfectant and hundreds of containers of disinfecting wipes to keep this school clean," Warchol said. "Everyone has been incredibly vigilant to the plan."

"We're dealing with kids so, of course, there are some who aren't big fans of wearing masks all day and social distancing, but they've been great. They're getting used to it because, unfortunately, it's the way of the world now."

Ivywood's plan kicked in March 13, 2020, the day schools across Michigan shut down for what was at the time expected to be a two- or three-week hiatus once the initial cases of COVID-19 started popping up in the state.

"On March 13, 2020, we had all of the students pack up all of their belongings and we made sure they all had devices so that they could learn remotely for, at the time, we thought would be a couple-week period," Kooiker recounted.

When the 2020-21 school year started, Ivywood did not offer a fully-virtual option to families, Kooiker explained.

"Ivywood is a classical school with a very traditional, back-to-basics foundation, so we don't use laptops or computers to teach," she said. "The teacher is in front of the room, desks are lined up in rows and students don't use iPads or computers. It's a very low-technology format. Having a virtual option doesn't align with our method of teaching."

Ivywood Classical Academy's plan is to add one grade every year until it eventually offers grades kindergarten through 12th.

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

School

Continued from Page 1A

period concludes.

If the district sells the building to the city, it could save upwards of \$1 million in demolition costs, which the school district planned to do. The property is not currently listed for sale.

Marshall already has a large gymnasium and a track as well as baseball, football and tennis facilities. Wild said the city could also use the building's

theater and band rooms.

"There's lots of assets there for recreational activities already," he said. "A lot of recreation centers now are geared around classes, so with the way a school is set up there could be a lot of classes."

The building does not have pool, and Wild plans to gauge the community's interest in adding one. Community outreach will likely include surveys or a town hall.

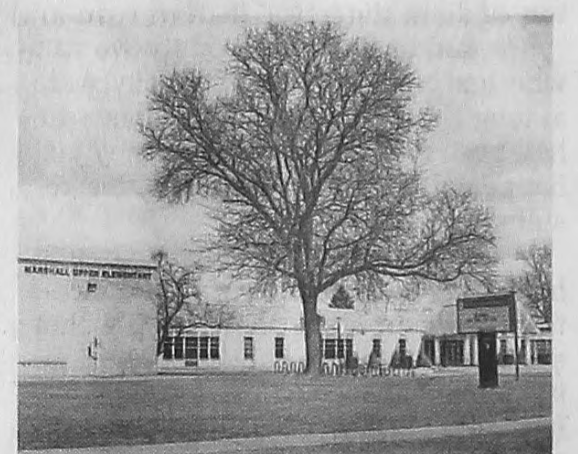
Wild said a new recreation center could ease the burden on the city's senior center. The mayor said the center is well-utilized and seniors would likely

benefit from the larger recreational space the Marshall building would provide.

"We're bursting at the seams there," Wild said. "We have more seniors than space. This building would give us a chance to offer more activities to them."

The mayor expects Marshall could be similar to The Hawk in Farmington Hills. Farmington Hills turned the three-story building formerly used as Harrison High School into a recreation, arts and community building.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



Westland's Marshall Upper Elementary school. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Obituaries

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Sally Read Bacon

Sally was born in Detroit on April 23, 1927, and died in Troy, MI on February 14, 2021. After graduating from Grosse Pointe High School in 1944, Sally earned the degree of Associate in Arts in fashion design from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Subsequently she attended a wedding where another guest coaxed his extremely shy brother to ask Sally out on a date. This date turned into a courtship and on July 8, 1950, Sally and Alexander John Bacon were wed. The marriage lasted 48 years until Al's death in 1998. One of her favorite places was their vacation home in Harbor Springs where she loved sitting on the beach watching the sunset. Sally was active in her church, Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, making cancer pads with the Ladies of the Kirk for many years. She was a nurturer, booster, educator, adventurer and artisan. In short, she worked tirelessly to help her children and grandchildren become their best selves. Surviving Sally are son Alexander John Bacon Jr. (Jennifer) of Troy, MI; daughter Pamela Bacon Cabot (Jon) of Sunset, SC and grandsons Alexander John Bacon III, Daniel Bayless Bacon and Stephen Read Uffelman. Because of COVID 19 the memorial service will be planned for a later date. Memorials may be given to the Karmanos Cancer Foundation or Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation.



**Florence R. Merz
(nee Fleeer)**

Age 90, March 3, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob" Merz. Dear mother of Carol (the late Ron Campbell) Sim-Campbell, Robert (Susan Schroeter) Merz, Lisa (Jeff) Toenniges, and Jim (Alice) Merz. Cherished grandmother of 7. Loving sister of the late Robert H. Fleeer. Private Services will be held.

Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com

James Stasevich, Jr.

September 10, 1930 to March 3, 2021

James Stasevich, Jr. was born September 10, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. The son of Belarusian immigrants, Jim grew up in Detroit and graduated from Cooley High School in 1948. He attended Wayne State University where he participated on the fencing team and received a Master of Arts in History. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1954.

Jim wed Katharine Rank on November 5, 1960, leading to the blessing of four children. Jim and Kathy made their home in Detroit for many years before becoming long-time residents of Livonia, MI.

He tirelessly worked for the Detroit Board of Education/Public Schools for over 40 years, serving as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. He closed his career in 1997 as an Assistant Principal for Henry Ford High School in Detroit, where he served in that position for close to 20 years.

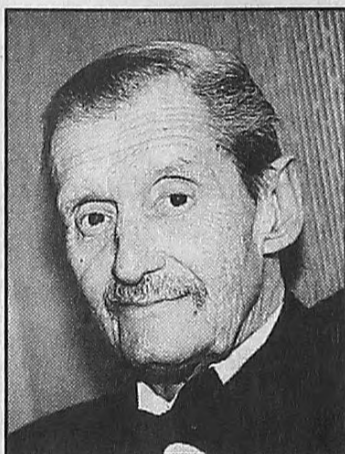
Jim was also a radio broadcaster for WMZK, "The Station of the Nations" from 1973 to 1983. During this time he hosted the "Russian Hour," a show highlighting Russian culture, music, and the arts.

He was dedicated to his faith as a reader for many years while a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit.

Jim delighted in his family and friends. His kind spirit will remain in the lives of all who knew him. He quietly departed from this life on March 3, 2021. He is survived by Katharine, his wife of over 60 years; sons Nicholas (Nancy), Andrew, Stephen (Christen), and Peter (Becky). He was the loving grandfather of Alexander, Michael, Mary Katharine, Anna, James and Jack Stasevich. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Melania Stasevich; sister Lydia Marcum and grandson Matthew Stasevich.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the following charities of your choice in memory of James: Orthodox Detroit Outreach, the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, or the Autism Alliance of Michigan.

The following link can be used to view and add both memories and pictures, as well as view service and viewing details: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livonia-mi/james-stasevich-10084678>



Kathleen Ann "Connie" Barnett

WAYNE - Kathleen Ann "Connie" (née Moore) Barnett, died Sunday, February 28, 2021.

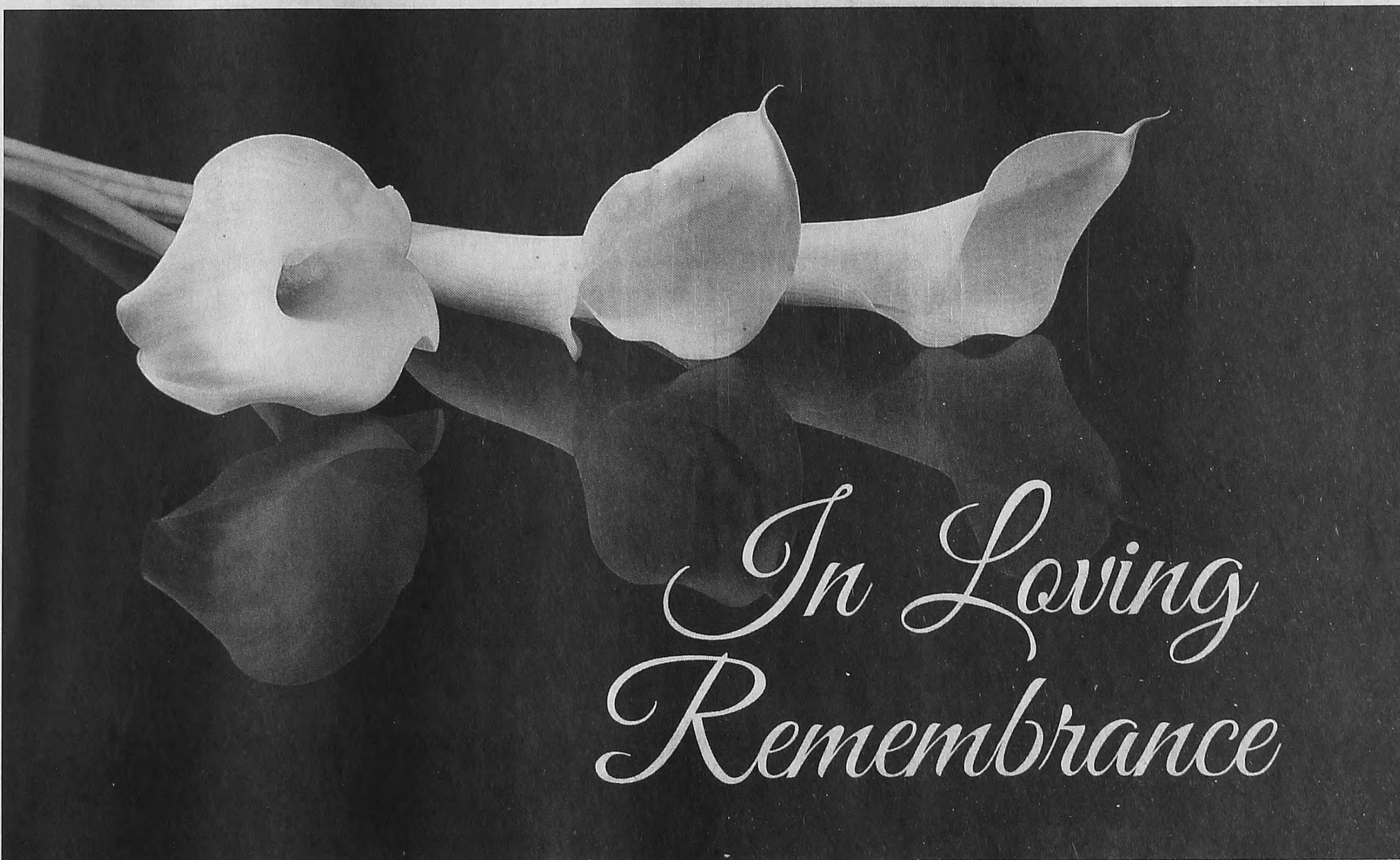
She was preceded in death by her war-time sweetheart, husband Bruce Warren Barnett; her brother-in-law, Jack Barnett; her beloved parents, Agnes "Molly" (née Yuchas) Moore and Leo Anthony Moore; her brother, William "Billy" Moore; her sister, Joanne Strausbough; her daughter, Carole Barnett Stopper; her son-in-law, John Barnett Stopper; and her son, Bruce Barnett.

Surviving are her daughter, Diane Barnett Gordon of Roseburg, OR; her granddaughter, Jesse "Julia" (née Gordon) Orton (Chandler) of Oregon; her daughter-in-law, Maureen McCarthy of Edenton, NC; her niece, Sue; nephews, Marty and Phil and their families; and her treasured neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Barnett worked at Countryside Dairy ice cream bar in her teen years, attended St. Mary's of Wayne for eight years, and graduated from Wayne High School in 1944. During the war, she worked for Ford Motor Company on the assembly line. Connie and Bruce Barnett, of North Carolina, had a war-time romance and were married in 1945. After her husband's death, she worked in the housekeeping department of Annapolis Hospital until her retirement.

After retirement Connie enjoyed traveling to Florida and North Carolina every year to visit relatives. She was a life-long member of St. Mary's Church in Wayne, a member of the Ladies Sodality, and was on a bowling league for years with St. Mary's. She was Den Mother for Bruce's Cub Scout Troop, and was a roommother for all her three children in their school classrooms. Connie lived in Wayne for 77 years until she moved to The Village of Westland in 2003 where she made many good friends. She worked once a week in the Village Store, and was the usher at the twice monthly Catholic Mass in the Village Chapel. In 2017 Connie moved to Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation nursing home to be closer to family. Connie had a gift for friendship that when she made a friend, they were friends for a lifetime.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, a service of Remembrance and Interment of Ashes will be held at a future date in Wayne, Michigan. Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, is assisting the family with arrangements, and online condolences may be made to them by visiting www.millerfhc.com.



Livonia native leaves 'Jeopardy!' with two wins, \$42K

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Laura Portwood-Stacer, a Livonia native, ended a two-game winning streak on "Jeopardy!" game Tuesday.

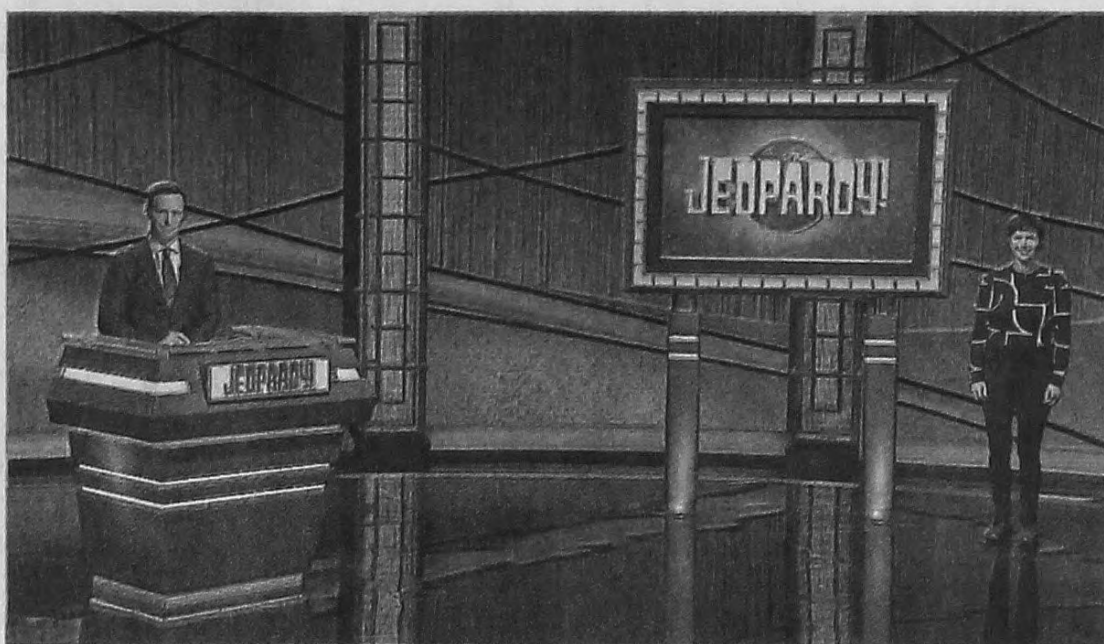
Throughout Tuesday's game, Portwood-Stacer held the third-place spot. She ended up answering the final Jeopardy question of "In a 1952 sci-fi story, a time traveler returning to the present finds a dead one of these insects on his shoe," incorrectly with "What is a cockroach?"

The other two contestants, including winner Zach Shrier, answered correctly with "What is a butterfly?"

Portwood-Stacer won her second game Monday, increasing her total winnings on the well-known quiz game show to \$42,601. She first appeared on the show Friday, March 5, and won \$19,400.

Portwood-Stacer, who graduated from Churchill High School in 2000, now lives in Los Angeles and works as an independent editor and consultant.

During Monday's game, Portwood-Stacer went into the "Final Jeopardy" round leading her two opponents by at



Laura Portwood-Stacer, of Livonia, right, has won two "Jeopardy!" games. COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS, INC.

least \$4,000. The final question was, "A 1949 broadcast in Spanish of this drama from 11 years before caused mass panic in Ecuador & the destruction of the radio station."

All three contestants answered correctly with "What is 'The War of the

Worlds?'" but Portwood-Stacer held on to her lead by betting \$7,601.

In her opening appearance March 5, Portwood-Stacer held the lead for the entire game and went into Final Jeopardy with \$21,400. Though she got the final question, from the category "Amer-

ican Rock Bands," was "In 2020 their "Greatest Hits", with an optimistic '80s anthem, became only the third album to spend 600 weeks on the Billboard 200," incorrect, she came out with the most money left. Portwood-Stacer answered "Who is Twisted Sister?" when the correct response was "Who are Journey?"

"It was super surreal," she said. "I've been watching it since I was a kid with my parents. It was just really cool. While I was doing it, I was just trying to enjoy the moment. Once it finished, I thought, 'Wow, this is probably one of the best things I will have done in my life.'"

Portwood-Stacer, who now lives in Los Angeles and works as an editor and consultant for academic authors, had been hoping to land on the show for years.

"They have an online test and I've been taking that for the past 15 years probably," she said. "This time, I must have done well enough that they called me back and set me up to take another test."

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

Bond

Continued from Page 1A

renovations, site improvements, athletic upgrades, technology upgrades, and furniture replacements.

"Our district continues to be committed to providing students with the tools to succeed now and the skills for future success. The 2021 bond proposal will allow the district to improve infrastructures and upgrade educational opportunities while maintaining a zero tax-rate increase for taxpayers," Superintendent Jasen Witt said in a release.

The last bond passed by the district was in 2009, which included the partial remodeling of facilities for cost savings in energy conservation. With the funding from the 2021 bond, the district would seek to continue the replacement of antiquated building features during a

period when interest rates are at a historical low.

Features of the bond proposal include:

Critical building improvements

- Replacing roofing, ceilings, and flooring
- Upgrading plumbing, lighting, and electrical systems
- Replacing interior/exterior doors and windows
- Upgrading beyond-useful-life HVAC equipment

Building renovations

- Installing secure vestibule entryways
- Renovating media centers
- Building an addition to Redford Union High School to create a single Secondary Campus with both distinct

and shared facilities for middle school and high school students

Site and athletic improvements

- Removing and repaving parking lots
- Upgrading playgrounds
- Replacing field equipment such as lighting, bleachers, and fencing
- Enhancing the Field and Track at Hilbert Middle School
- Building new and/or upgrading athletic facilities at Redford Union High School

Furniture and equipment

- Replacing worn-out classroom, media center, and cafeteria furniture
- Replacing instructional technology equipment
- Purchasing new performing arts and athletic equipment for the middle

school and high school

"Our districtwide improvements would support our mission of providing a tradition-rich, future-focused education for our students. Offering new, safe, innovative, and purposeful learning opportunities for our students and community members is our number 1 priority," Witt said.

Under state law, bond proceeds may not be used to pay administrator, teacher or staff salaries; routine maintenance costs; or other school operating expenses.

The money generated by this bond must be directed toward improving Redford Union School District facilities so that programs can be enhanced.

For more information on the bond, visit redfordu.k12.mi.us and click on 2021 bond information, contact any school principal or reach out directly to Witt at 313-242-6001.



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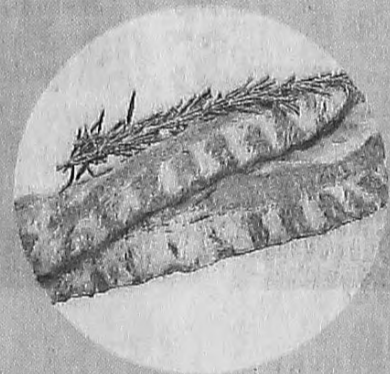
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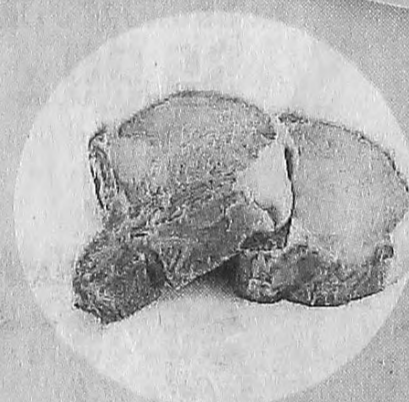
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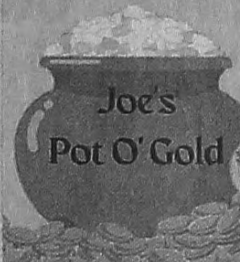
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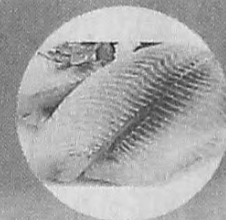
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Plymouth Christian Eagles scramble after a loose ball during a practice. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

COVID-19 sidelines Brother Rice basketball until league tourney

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer was coaching a team playing a lot better basketball of late.

Starting four sophomores and a freshman on a consistent basis, the Warriors earned wins in three of their past four games, losing to Orchard Lake St. Mary's, who many consider as the best team in the state, at the buzzer on the road.

Palmer sees a group that has done what it needed to do to compete at the highest level. Now, due to COVID-19, Brother Rice basketball won't be able to do that until the Catholic High School League tournament.

The team announced Friday that it would be sidelined 10 days due to contact tracing after being exposed to a positive coronavirus case by an opponent. Brother Rice will miss its final three games of the regular season with hopes to return to the practice gym two days before the CHSL tournament begins March 15.

"The timing isn't ever great," Palmer said. "It's not as much missing the three games. It's 10 days in a row of no practice and not being together. It's impossible to stay as sharp as we felt we were right before it. It's a little bit of adversity for us, and we'll see how we respond."

Palmer said he's worried more from a rhythm standpoint than a chemistry standpoint with his group. The Warriors eclipsed 70 points in four of their five wins this season.

Brother Rice last took the court March 2, beating Detroit Renaissance, 74-50, at home. The team's quarantine period started March 3.

At this point, Palmer said his players' focus is on ensuring health — get-

See COVID-19, Page 2B

Plymouth Christian basketball teams aim for playoff run

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In a normal winter season, the Plymouth Christian Academy gym stands are packed Friday nights.

It's ingrained in the culture, seemingly the entire school coming out and supporting the boys and girls basketball teams, playing back-to-back games against the same school.

In a not-so-normal season, both Eagles basketball teams continue to find success despite emptier gyms, each sitting in second place in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue division with goals to finish the season at the top.

And while the makeup of the teams may be different, boys basketball head coach Matt Windle and girls basketball coach Rod Windle, a father-son duo, have the same goals: to make it as far as

they can in the postseason.

Passing the baton

To head girls basketball coach Rod Windle, success at Plymouth Christian Academy comes from passing the baton, from learning what you can from the older players before you and bringing that to the next generation of talent.

It's what he's seen in his eight seasons back with the Eagles after previously coaching the team 1992-2000. He sees it in the 2021 team's only senior: forward Ariela Boboc.

"Ariela embraces it by being an athlete that wants to coach and encourage other athletes," Rod Windle said. "She's always done that, stands with those new kids and younger kids and works with them, has a voice with them, encourages them."

But having been with the program for the past four years after transferring from Novi Christian Academy, Boboc watched

how the team progressed with the help of two players in particular: junior Anna Fernandez and sophomore Morganne Houk.

She said the clear change starts on defense, leading to fast-break transitions that define the team's success on offense.

"If the other team shoots, box them out and get the rebound. There's already someone running down the court to chuck the pass to," Boboc said. "I would feel more energy on defense. We feed off the energy that they bring, and I'm just trying to reciprocate that with blocks and rebounds."

A dozen games into the season, Plymouth Christian Academy allowed less than 10 points in two games this season: beating Southfield Christian, 69-4, and Whitmore Lake, 61-6.

"We're going after the ball. We're not giving up after one shot," Fernandez, the

See PLAYOFF, Page 2B

Canton basketball gets revenge, beats rival Salem

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Over the past two weeks, Canton has been a basketball team.

After losing three straight to Salem, Northville and Howell, Canton has been revitalized, coming into its second date against the Rocks winning three of its past four games, pushing the floor, bringing new life and new hope near the top of the KLA West.

In the second game of the season series, Salem (4-7) saw a different basketball team, as Canton (8-4) earned the 60-42 victory over the Rocks.

"We're better defensively, we've done a better job with communicating on defense, we're playing harder, which is important," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said, leading his team to its second 60-point performance of the season. "On offense, we're doing a much better job of knowing what we need to do to get great shots."

"We made it a conscious effort to make sure we were the harder working tougher team tonight. I think, for the most part, we did a good job."

In terms of pace, Lake McIntosh leads the charge. Canton's junior guard said it's his job to lead the

team's fast-paced offense, pushing the ball down the floor and finding open looks in transition, creating energy through his play-making.

"If you think about it, the other team doesn't want a little guy just running all around, annoying everybody," McIntosh said.

Leading 19-13 after one quarter of play, McIntosh set the pace at the start of the second quarter, scoring six points, a steal and a rebound before Salem ever added to its total. With this Canton started the quarter on an 11-0 run, not allowing a Rocks basket until the quarter was halfway complete.

McIntosh scored 15 points for Canton, including 12 in the first 16 minutes, along with six rebounds and two steals.

"He's starting to understand the game more," Reddy said. He's really young for his age as a junior too, and he's starting to understand that we need to get it up the floor past them and not only dribble it up the court. He's doing a much better job, and he's getting his opportunities more because he's making the right play initially."

Increasing the lead to 43-30 in the third quarter, junior guard Cole Vickers led Canton on a 10-0 run, scor-

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B



Canton Chief Lake McIntosh, left, starts to put up an off-balance shot against the Mustangs on Feb. 9, 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Playoff

Continued from Page 1B

Eagles' starting point guard, said. "We've been practicing our one-three-one a lot. We know where we're supposed to be.

"When we're out there, everyone's working hard. No one is giving up an easy basket."

Boboc, Houk and Fernandez developed trust in the past two seasons together, taking chances with each other on the court, using every opportunity to develop chemistry.

"It looks like we are having fun because we have such good chemistry," Houk said. "It's one of my favorite things to play with them. I know them so well, I know what they have done. It's just fun."

But one thing they have not done together is win a conference title.

In the past two seasons, the Eagles have finished in second and third place, respectively, in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Blue. Ten games into the 2021 season, they are in second place behind Lutheran Northwest with a 8-2 record along with a perfect 6-0 record in league play.

Plymouth Christian never won a conference title in girls basketball, but Rod Windle put it in his players' heads that this group is the one who can do it. It's a group that experienced tough games together and knows what it takes to be successful.

And while the Eagles have only four returners from the 2019-20 team, Fernandez, Houk and Boboc feel they have the tools to make history for the program.

Even when Boboc passes the baton to Houk and Fernandez, she is confident in what Plymouth Christian can do moving forward.

"Just knowing Anna and Morganne have the team, I think they are going to be good when I leave," Boboc said.

Living up to potential

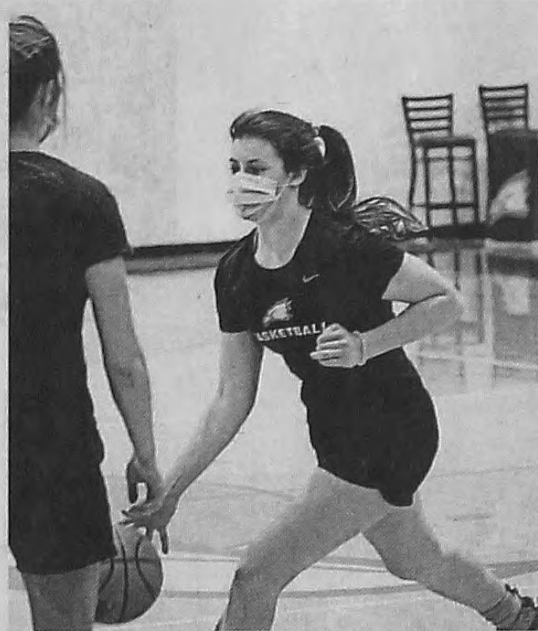
Heading into the practice gym after it was given the go ahead to start its season, Plymouth Christian Academy head coach Matt Windle realized how fortunate his team had been.

Despite losing a chance at a district final in 2020 — the chance at four straight for members of the 2021 senior class — the Eagles did not lose a single player from last year's team.

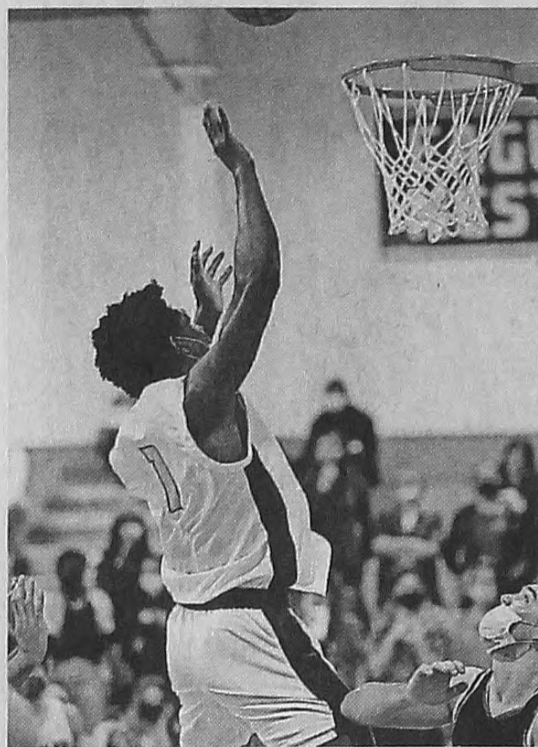
Plymouth Christian Academy did not hold tryouts in 2021, instead immediately starting virtual practices, hitting the ground running as much as they could until in-person practices were allowed.

The Eagles quickly returned to its bread-and-butter approach: use a fast-paced, transition-based offense to become a tough matchup for opponents across the state.

"We've always tried to play fast, but in terms of really drilling into it the past couple years, we've changed the offense to a



Plymouth Christian Eagle Anna Fernandez practices on March 4, 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth Christian Academy junior Chibikem Anwunah has been the Eagles' primary rim protector this season. COURTESY OF MIKE COSTELLO



Plymouth Christian Academy senior Nathan Etnyre leads the team in scoring, but is one of four that averages double-digits. COURTESY OF MIKE COSTELLO

style of play that's downhill, really emphasizes defensive possessions and creating offense from our defense," Windle said.

Windle adopted the "points per possession" approach, allowing players on the floor to make decisions instead of being locked to a particular set or play. With this approach, the Eagles have four players averaging double-digit scoring efforts each night.

In his fourth year with the program, senior Nathan Etnyre adapted to this style, saying he has grown confidence that's apparent both individually and with the team.

"I think it's shown that a lot of these guys have grown over the past four years playing with them," Etnyre said. "I think we have a lot of potential to do something really special this year."

With a lot of experience at guard, Plymouth Christian Academy also utilizes its

big in the middle: Chibikem Anwunah, a 6-foot-6 junior forward who serves as the Eagles' primary rim protector.

Anwunah gives the Eagles an ability to be aggressive and take chances on both sides of the ball, Windle said, using the junior as a safety blanket who can step up and help in those situations.

In his first two seasons with the program, Anwunah said his confidence was lacking. But after nearly losing a chance at a junior season, the junior forward's mindset shifted.

"Since we got shut down in the middle of our season last year, I was like, 'Wow, it really could be gone like that,'" Anwunah said. "Might as well give it my all."

The Eagles have given their all this season. After starting the season, 1-4, they have won seven straight games. In that span, Plymouth Christian Academy has won by less than five points twice, including a two-overtime win against Oak-

land Christian.

In his third season with the program, Nathan Sutrick knows how good this team can be. He tries to enforce the challenges Windle gives his players: using focus and intensity to play four full quarters.

Sutrick knows this is what's going to take the Eagles over the top. This is what it takes to win.

"We've seen our potential for the past two years but never lived up to it. This year, we're trying to focus on how good we are, focusing on getting layers to our offense so we can perform the way we know we can play but we haven't yet," Sutrick said.

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

COVID-19

Continued from Page 1B

ting COVID-19 testing done — and in academics; the players are out of the classroom in the last 10 days of the school's quarter.

If everyone is healthy, the head coach said his players will have to do some things on their own to make sure they remain physically and mentally sharp on the basketball court.

"There's nothing they are going to do that's going to keep them 100% sharp, but there's a lot they can do to minimize the damage," Palmer said.

Brother Rice has been close to 100% sharp heading into this pause. Palmer said the Warriors have put together extremely good tape as of late and is starting to realize what makes a competitive

basketball team at the highest level, while realizing the shortcomings that can make them lose any given game.

But the postseason currently remains a foreseeable goal for Brother Rice, something, despite all the things in the team's way, it will need to be ready for.

"It's not ideal, but no one's going to feel sorry for us," Palmer said.

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

Brother Rice huddles in the third quarter against Detroit Catholic Central. COLIN GAY | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



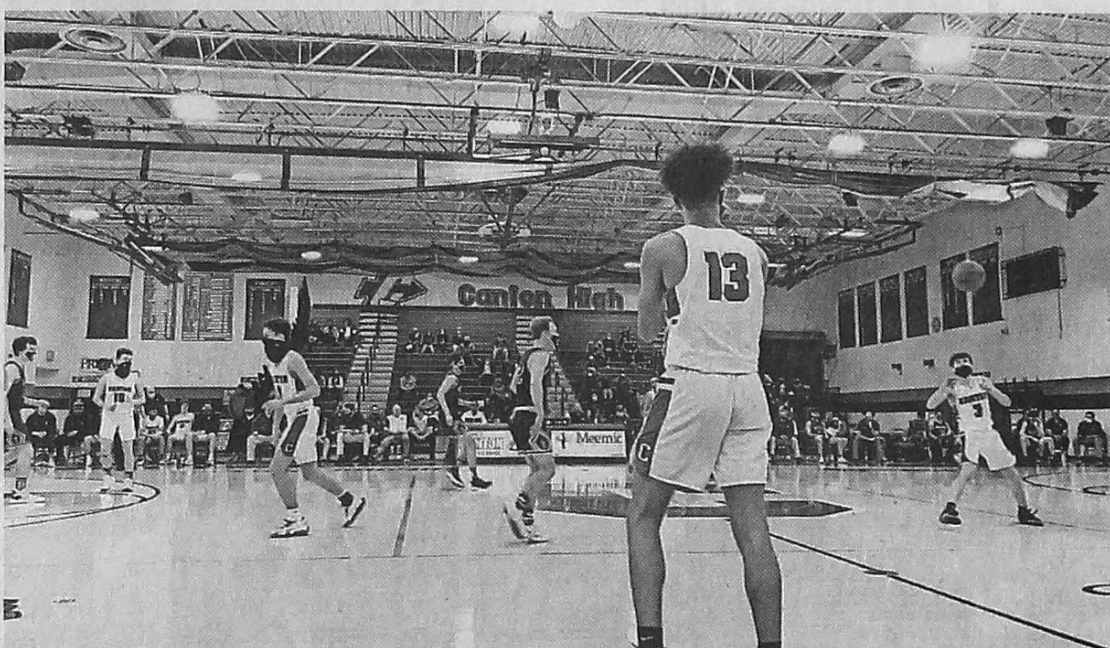
Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

ing eight of the team's points, while adding a rebound and a steal. He finished with 22 points — connecting on six-of-eight from the free-throw line — four rebounds, two steals and a block.

Salem head coach Ryan Nimmerguth said that the runs were what changed this game after beating Canton earlier in the season.

"Sometimes you try and stop a run with a timeout, try and get organized, but also the players have to be able to stop a run on the court," Nimmerguth said. "The way you stop a run is you play defense. First half, we played better defense in the second half, but when you are down 14 going into half, it's tough



Canton junior Jaden Williams passes the ball into junior point guard Lake McIntosh against Salem. COLIN GAY | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

when you are going against a tough team."

Salem junior forward Ashton Wheeler led the team with 17 points, three rebounds and a steal.

Canton feels like it's an entirely different team, one that can make some noise in the KLAA West as the playoffs quickly approach. To McIntosh, it comes down to whether the team can adopt what he's been doing in transition all season.

"We're just a whole new team," McIntosh said. "Energy, effort, focus, that's what we need to emphasize in practice. That's what got us here now."

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

Plymouth's Ella Riley creates consistency, confidence

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kyra Brandon can tell when Ella Riley is on.

The pair of seniors have been on the Plymouth girls basketball team together since freshman year and have this level of unspoken communication together. During warm-ups, Brandon has an idea of what the game plan should be: taking the offense on her shoulders or attacking the basket and pushing out to her 3-point specializing teammate.

At the first time out, though, Brandon and Riley know how the game's likely going to go.

"We're like, 'We're on, so keep shooting,'" Brandon said.

When Riley is on, Plymouth's energy picks up, running and pushing the floor, improving in transition and bringing a fire that each make from 3 increases. Each 3 expands the offense, forcing opposing defenders to crash Riley from behind the arc, opening driving lanes for her teammates in the post.

And when defenders don't, Riley takes advantage. The senior broke her own school record, hitting eight 3-pointers Feb. 27 against Bentley. Riley also holds the second and third-place spots on Plymouth's leaderboard in three-point makes in a game.

"The farther in they are," Riley said of opposing defenders, "the better it is for me."

Each shot Riley makes confirms her place as a shooter, as a player Plymouth has built around for the past four years she has been with the program. But each 3-point make also is another rush of confidence, one that's been growing ever since she tore her ACL preparing for her sophomore season.

Returning from injury

In one of the first summer practices of her sophomore season, Riley faced a four-on-one, going for a layup and landing awkwardly on the landing. After being diagnosed as a torn ACL, Riley's recovery took over a year, rehabbing every day for two hours.

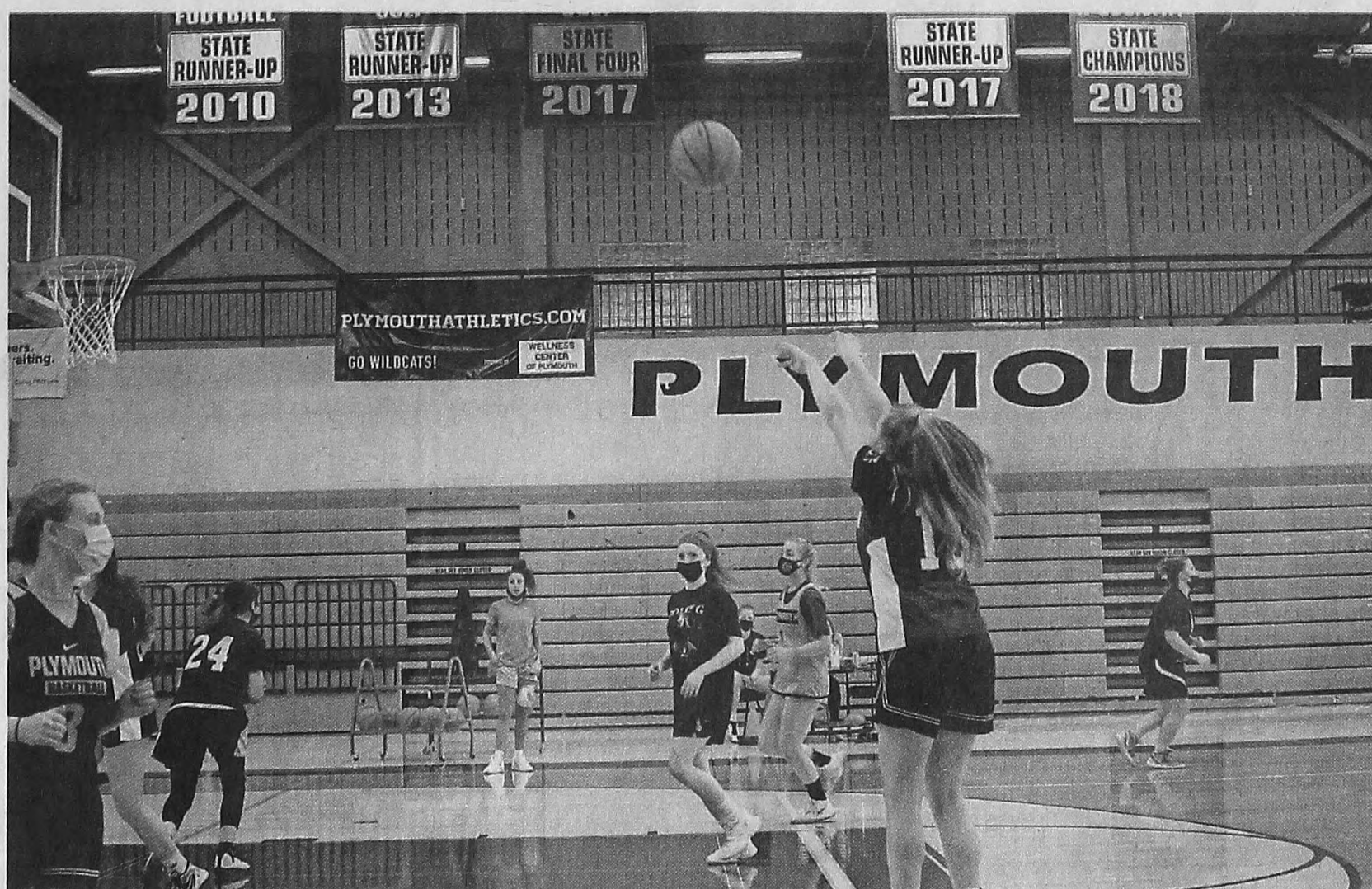
But for her, the tough part was getting back in the gym, getting her mind right.

"I would just second-guess myself or I would think about the injury and I wouldn't want to do something to risk getting injured again," Riley said.

Plymouth head girls basketball coach Ryan Ballard has seen Riley's process of returning, saying it has taken a lot of mental toughness and work ethic.

"I know she's had a lot of anxiety in contact, hitting the floor, stuff like that," Ballard said. "We've had to work through that, so that's why I'm super proud of her and her grit, not giving up."

When she returned to the court as a junior, Riley admitted she was hesitant, saying it took until the second or third game of her senior season to become mentally locked in, to realize that even after contact, she was going to be OK.



Plymouth High girls varsity basketball practice on March 8, 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Ballard realized that moment too, watching Riley crash to the floor, diving for a loose ball in a rivalry game against Salem. He knew she was back.

"She models how a basketball player should act like," Ballard said. "She's such a hard worker, she's always positive. That's what you want kids to be like: to have that type of work ethic and never give up."

Lessons learned

But through her return from injury, Riley was always consistent.

It was something she learned from an early age, working on the basketball court with her mother and father — both former high school basketball players — developing her shot and her role as a guard.

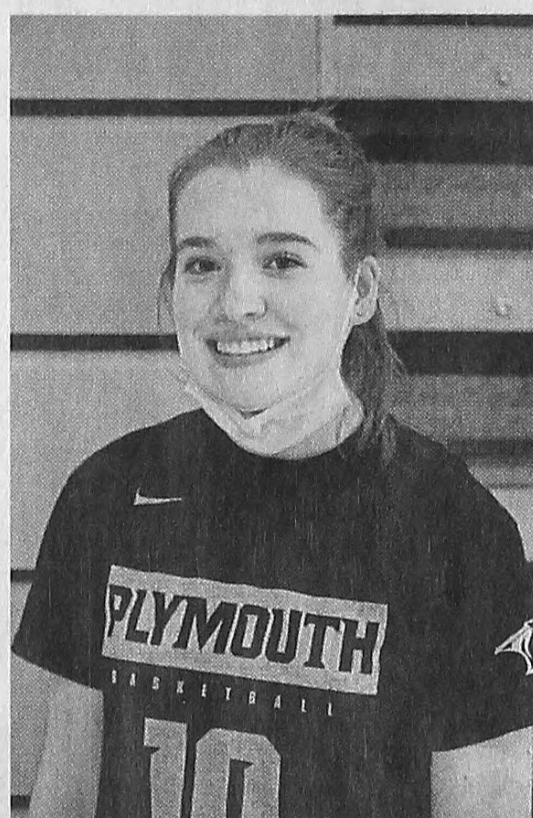
It was something she perfected as soon as she first entered the Plymouth High School gym, draining shots from a shooting machine during a girls basketball summer camp as a seventh grader.

And it's something she continues to work toward, texting or calling Ballard to open the gym, arriving at practices an hour before they start and setting up that same shooting machine to work.

"She has raised the standard and expectations for others," Ballard said. "We talk about 'Best is the standard,' she lives by that mentality. Hopefully her work ethic has worn off on others, her leadership has worn off on others."

Her friendship has worn off on others as well.

Erin Donnelly has known Riley since kindergarten and was inspired to take up basketball because of the now-sen-



Plymouth High senior guard Ella Riley. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ior. While she sees Riley as athletic, focused and determined on the basketball court, Donnelly sees those same qualities when she interacts with others.

"That's what makes her such a good teammate and special person," Donnelly said. "She's so driven to connect everyone together and work as a team and not just by herself."

Riley still has basketball goals and aspirations: she wants to lead Plymouth past the regional semifinal after leading the Wildcats there last year with the help of the 3-point shot: hitting 155 of

482 3-point attempts as a team in 2019-20. She wants to bring the same approach she has brought to Plymouth out to Illinois when she joins the Elmhurst College women's basketball team in the fall.

But Riley knows this consistency, this toughness has been primarily learned in the Plymouth High School gym, what she deems as her second home. In her final games with the Wildcats, the senior hopes that her lessons may be learned by those who will remain with the team, that it will stay as long as Ballard is with the program.

"Just work hard and be consistent," Riley said. "Don't take a day off, even when you have something going on outside of basketball. Just focus on basketball. It's your escape."

"And take advantage of every moment because it really goes by so fast."

Poll results

Riley won the first Athlete of the Week poll in March, receiving 26,670 of the 59,995 total votes cast (44.45%).

Canton senior forward Tyler Husted finishes in second place with 20,895 votes (34.83%), while Plymouth Christian Academy senior Nathan Etnyre received 8,173 votes (13.62%).

South Lyon wrestling senior Max Honiss finished in fourth, while Detroit Catholic Central freshman basketball player Chas Lewless finished in fifth.

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

CC hockey wins Catholic League title, shuts out Cranbrook

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cranbrook Kingswood handed Detroit Catholic Central hockey its only taste of reality so far this season, beating the Shamrocks, 4-0, Feb. 18.

CC senior forward and captain Brenden Cwiek admitted that particular matchup against the Cranes humbled the locker room.

"We can't always come out and expect to win every night," Cwiek said. "Every team's got to show what they got every night no matter what the talent is. I think we reevaluated and showed up tonight."

In their third meeting in 10 games, Catholic Central (9-1) returned to its dominant defensive style March 3, shutting out Cranbrook Kingswood (7-3), 3-0, for the Catholic League tournament title.

Six of the Shamrocks' nine wins this season have come by shutouts with the offense outscoring opponents, 29-0, in those contests.

Facing Cranbrook Kingswood for the third time in 10 games, Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki said it was a good opportunity to see where his team was at and how it can adjust to facing a team that handed it its first taste of adversity in 2021.

But he said it also gives the Shamrocks a taste of what playing in a tournament final is like before the postseason begins.



The Catholic Central bench pounds on the boards at the start of their game against Livonia Stevenson. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's 'Hey, we're in a final,'" Kaleniecki told his team before the game. "Win or lose, the season doesn't end tonight, but we're in a final. Approach it that way."

When Cranbrook made its first mistake of the night, giving the Shamrocks a power play after a penalty by Ronan McLaughlin, they took advantage.

Cwiek took the assists from Nich Borchardt and Nick Condon around for the first goal of the game nine seconds into the man advantage, increasing his team-leading six goals in 10 games.

Fifty-two seconds later Nate Grond-

zieski gave the Shamrocks a two-goal advantage, beating Cranbrook senior goalkeeper Julian Zvyagin for the score assisted by Billy Shields.

Catholic Central was not done on the power play, as Borchardt recorded his second point of the day, taking a pass from Shields in the back of the net for the third score.

Zvyagin, who came into the contest allowing only seven goals in 19 games, gave up three goals on 19 shots on goal.

"They are fast, they play very smart,"

Cranbrook Kingswood head coach John LaFontaine said. "They have skill, but they play good as a team. It's just whoever scores first wins these games, I guess."

Catholic Central junior goalkeeper Nick Galda recorded his fourth shutout of the season, saving 12 shots on goal by the Cranes.

Kaleniecki knows what's ahead for this team. Winning nine of its first 10 games of the regular season, the Shamrocks have five regular season games left before the postseason: the attempt to avenge losing the chance at a Division 1 state title.

Through the Catholic League tournament, Kaleniecki said, Catholic Central was able to have a boost to its morale catapulting them through the remainder of the regular season slate.

But to him, this final was different. The celebration ends tomorrow and the striving continues.

"We played some good teams in this tournament and were able to win," Kaleniecki said. "Doesn't mean anything once we get to tomorrow because we have to keep getting better and pushing forward, but right now, hey, we won a tournament against some very good teams."

"You feel good about yourself, but that's it."

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

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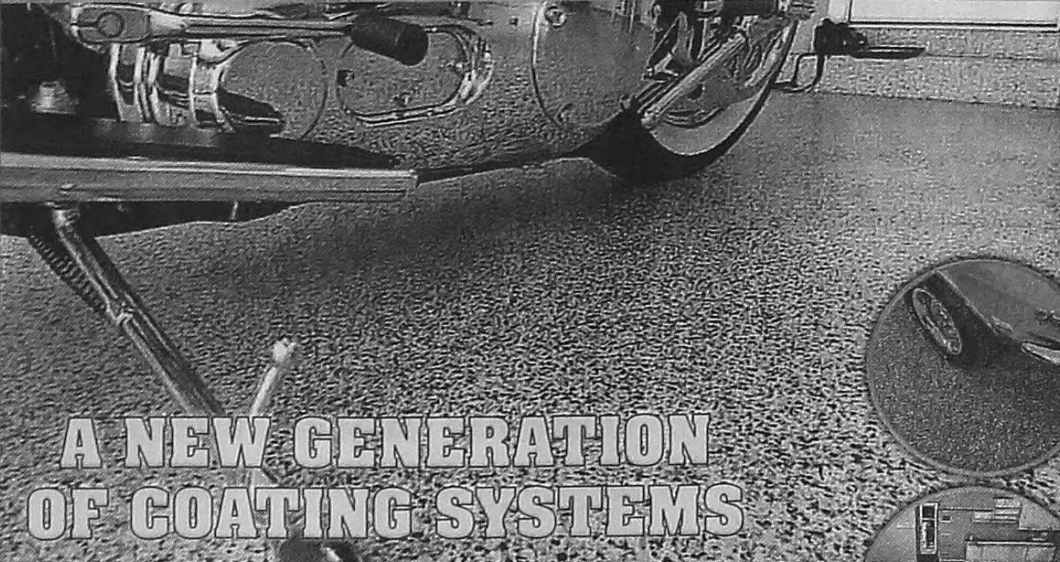
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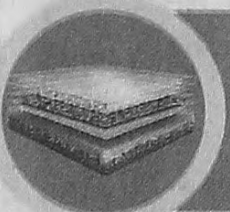
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Study: Remote work demand far outstrips supply

Julia Pollak
ZipRecruiter.com

A new ZipRecruiter survey of more than 2,500 job seekers suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a stark mismatch between the types of jobs Americans are looking for and those that are available: 60% of respondents said they would prefer to find a job where they can work from home. Yet only around 9% of vacancies advertised on the ZipRecruiter platform in December 2020 and January 2021 provided that opportunity.

Exacerbating the imbalance, some groups of workers who are more likely to value remote work are also heavily underrepresented in several of the industries where the arrangement is most prevalent.

Pandemic barriers

The coronavirus pandemic created significant

barriers to working for many Americans. It increased the health risks associated with certain occupations and with transportation modes used for commuting to work. The crisis also caused schools and day cares to close, forcing many parents to stay home to care for children. Additionally, COVID-19 depleted job opportunities in some lines of work, such as the performing arts, to such a degree that many people had to switch industries to find employment.

As a result, almost 8 million Americans left the labor force between February and April 2020, and as of January 2021, 4.3 million have yet to return.

Companies rushed to adapt. In industries where remote work was possible, many companies allowed or required existing employees to work from home, and converted vacant positions for which

they were recruiting into remote roles. The share of job postings on the ZipRecruiter platform explicitly offering workers the opportunity to work from home, work from anywhere, telework or work remotely rose five-fold over the course of the year.

At the same time, the share of job postings offering schedule flexibility also rose substantially.

Demand expected to continue

Despite the dramatic increase in remote work, demand for remote opportunities still far outstrips supply. Even after the pandemic is over, 46% said they anticipate wanting a job where they can work from home.

Preference for remote work was lowest among the youngest and oldest cohorts, but highest among respondents ages 25 to 54 who are more likely to have



Women were more likely than men to say they would prefer remote work, both now (69% versus 50%) and after the pandemic (52% versus 39%).

young or school-age children. Preference for remote work is also positively associated with educational attainment; the most highly educated workers are both more likely to say they prefer remote work and to have access to the most remote work opportunities.

While job seeker preferences and labor market conditions are aligned along some dimensions, there is considerable misalignment along others.

Women were more likely than men to say they would prefer remote work, both now (69% versus 50%) and after the pandemic (52% versus 39%). Yet remote work opportunities are often most prevalent in industries where women are underrepresented, according to data from

the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For example, the sector with the largest number of remote job opportunities on ZipRecruiter is the business sector, where women make up just 41.4% of employees.

Black/African American respondents were also more likely than whites or Hispanics to say that they would prefer to find work-from-home positions now (61% versus 58% and 53%) and after the pandemic (48% versus 43% and 40%). And yet while Blacks make up 12.1% of the workforce, they are only 9.9% of professional and business service employees, 10.5% of financial services employees and 7.8% of tech fields, like computer systems design and related services, again according to BLS data.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Super Crossword RIDING ON EMPTY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Veg-o- (Ronco product)
 - 6 Cesar who played the Joker
 - 12 Stocking material
 - 16 Counterpart of a column
 - 19 Neighbor of Minneapolis
 - 20 Hybrid ride
 - 21 Falco of "Outside In"
 - 22 Dramatist Levin
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 Engage in, as a trade
 - 27 Chilling Chaney
 - 28 English actress Diana
 - 29 Astronaut Grissom
 - 30 Charisma
 - 32 Like a triangle with three unequal sides
 - 34 Respected
 - 38 Fashion's Wintour
 - 39 Riddle, part 2
 - 43 Emotes, e.g.
 - 46 Pupil locale
 - 47 Young tiger
 - 48 Tijuana "two"
 - 49 Riddle, part 3
 - 57 Earthy hue
 - 58 Chaperones, typically
 - 59 Hot dog roll
 - 60 Part of SWAK
 - 64 Work unit
 - 65 It often follows "Co."
 - 66 Use a kayak
 - 68 Like snakes
 - 69 Untidy type
 - 71 Riddle, part 4
 - 76 Parallel (with)
 - 77 Cake layers
 - 79 "To clarify ..."
 - 80 Suffix with Taiwan
 - 82 TV's Longoria
 - 83 Calm
 - 85 Backwoods denial
 - 86 Inventive Edison
 - 89 Male sheep
 - 90 Riddle, part 5
 - 94 Toothpaste box org.
 - 97 Memento of Molokai
 - 98 Haughtiness
 - 99 Spots
 - 100 End of the riddle
 - 108 Roll-call call
 - 109 "30 Rock" star
 - 110 Seasons of falling leaves
 - 114 Sneakers brand
 - 117 Hwy. offense
 - 118 Part of SWAK
 - 119 Roll-call call
 - 120 Fellow
 - 121 Riddle's answer
 - 127 LGA info
 - 128 German Mr.
 - 129 Join a class
 - 130 Rebound on a pool table
 - 131 Comfy room
 - 132 Female sheep
 - 133 Entertainer Charles Nelson
 - 134 Revival shouts
 - 6 Got long again, as a mown lawn
 - 7 Phil of protest songs
 - 8 Bon (witticism)
 - 9 Outer: Prefix
 - 10 Match cheer
 - 11 Salem locale
 - 12 Teacher of martial arts
 - 13 Boise locale: Abbr.
 - 14 Peruvian capital
 - 15 Maintain
 - 16 Matured
 - 17 City near Epcot
 - 18 Attacks from ambush
 - 24 Skye of the screen
 - 25 Mongolian tent
 - 31 Shriver of tennis
 - 33 Final
 - 34 Actor Buchholz
 - 35 Overlooks
 - 36 Humorist Ogden
 - 37 Cato's 750
 - 40 Small brook
 - 41 Actors' aids
 - 42 Melancholy instruments
 - 43 Certifies (to)
 - 44 Actor Sheen
 - 45 Did a slowish ballroom dance
 - 50 — chi ch'uan
 - 51 Novelist O'Brien
 - 52 Emmy winner Susan
 - 53 Internet auction site
 - 54 StarKist fish
 - 55 In a little bit
 - 56 Confront
 - 61 Shirley's TV roommate
 - 62 Give a lift to
 - 63 Balls of fire
 - 66 Hoodwink
 - 67 Pathological plant swelling
 - 70 Bric-a-
 - 72 Prefix with potent
 - 73 Tire (out)
 - 74 Cry buckets
 - 75 "Pronto"
 - 78 Swiped
 - 81 Special ability, for short
 - 84 Fancy pourer
 - 86 Yours, in the King James Bible
 - 87 Equine, in tot-speak
 - 88 Really, really
 - 91 Special ability
 - 92 Street stray
 - 93 Biblical brother of Jacob
 - 94 Humiliated
 - 95 When delivery is expected
 - 96 Nigerian, e.g.
 - 101 Nurtured
 - 102 Bill tack-ons
 - 103 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme song)
 - 104 Shipping container
 - 105 Chiefly
 - 106 Cashews and pecans
 - 107 Cornell's city
 - 111 Mother, in Spain
 - 112 Stocking material
 - 113 Appears
 - 115 Tennis star Arthur
 - 116 Whole bunch
 - 118 Actor Ferrell
 - 122 Sooner than, to bards
 - 123 Ending for butyl
 - 124 — Lanka
 - 125 Fa-la linkup
 - 126 Water flow stopper

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20						21				22			
23				24						25					26			
27			28							29			30		31			
32		33					34	35	36			37			38			
43	44	45					46					47			48			
49				50	51	52				53	54	55			56			
57				58						59			60		61	62	63	
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108							109						110			111	112	113
114				115	116		117						118				119	
120				121		122					123	124	125			126		
127				128											130			
131				132											134			

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

SUDOKU

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

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

BAKE A CAKE

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.

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

ANSWER KEY

- ALMOND
- ANGEL
- APRON
- BAKLAVA
- BATTENBURG
- BEAT
- BIRTHDAY
- BISCUIT
- BOWL
- BROWNIE
- BUTTER
- CANDLES
- CARROT
- CHRISTMAS
- COCONUT
- COFFEE
- COOK
- CREAM
- DATES
- DECORATE
- DESICCATED
- DUNDEE
- FAIRY
- FLOUR
- FOLD
- FRUIT
- GATEAU
- GINGERBREAD
- ICING
- JAM
- MADEIRA
- MIX
- MUFFIN
- OVEN
- PIKELET
- RISE
- SCONE
- SPONGE
- SUGAR
- SULTANAS
- SWISS ROLL
- WEDDING
- WEIGH
- WHISK

S	N	S	A	M	E	S	R	E	L	L	A						
D	E	N	A														
E	T	A															
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H	E	R	E														
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BAKE A CAKE

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



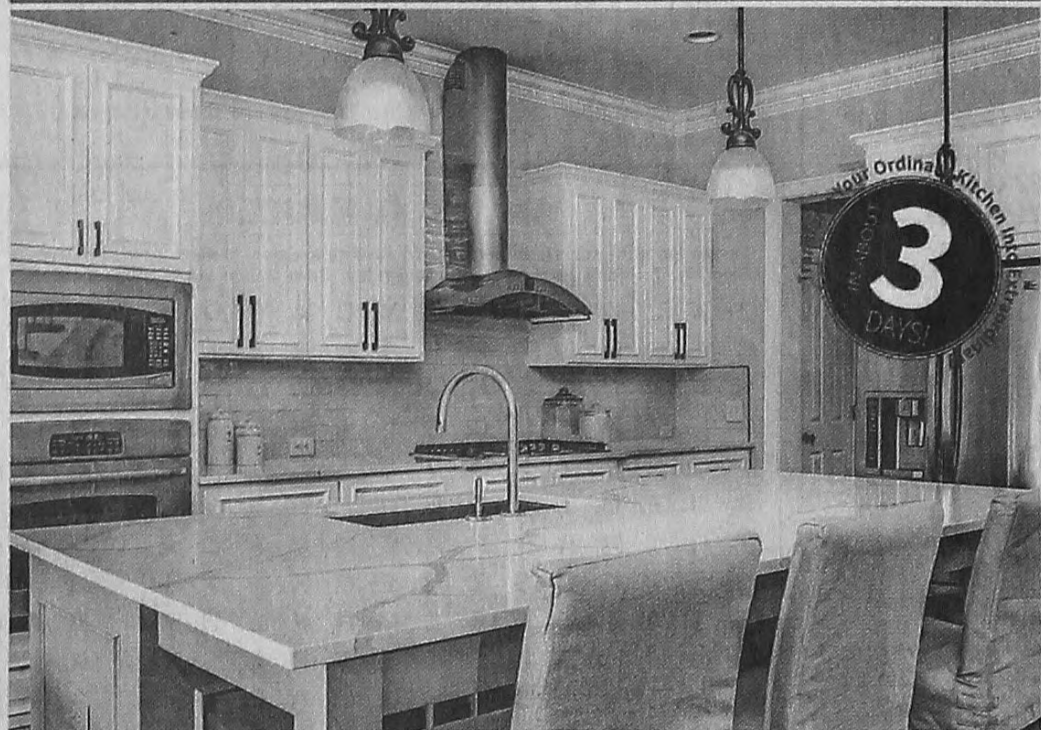
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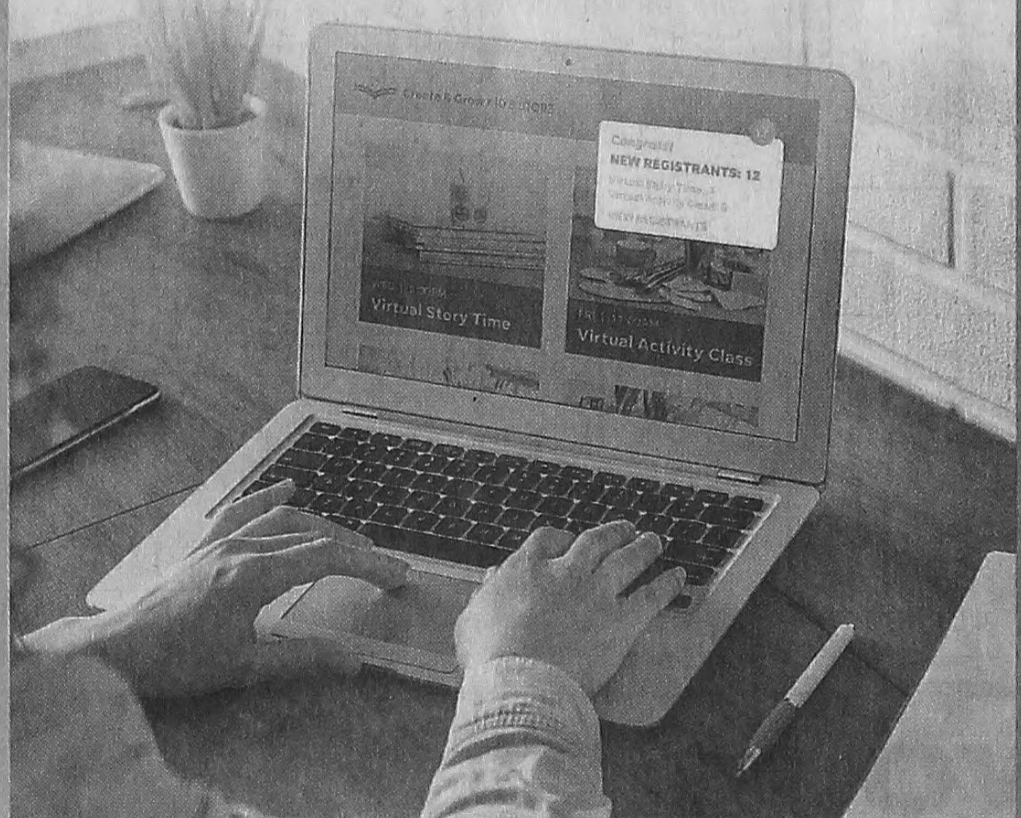
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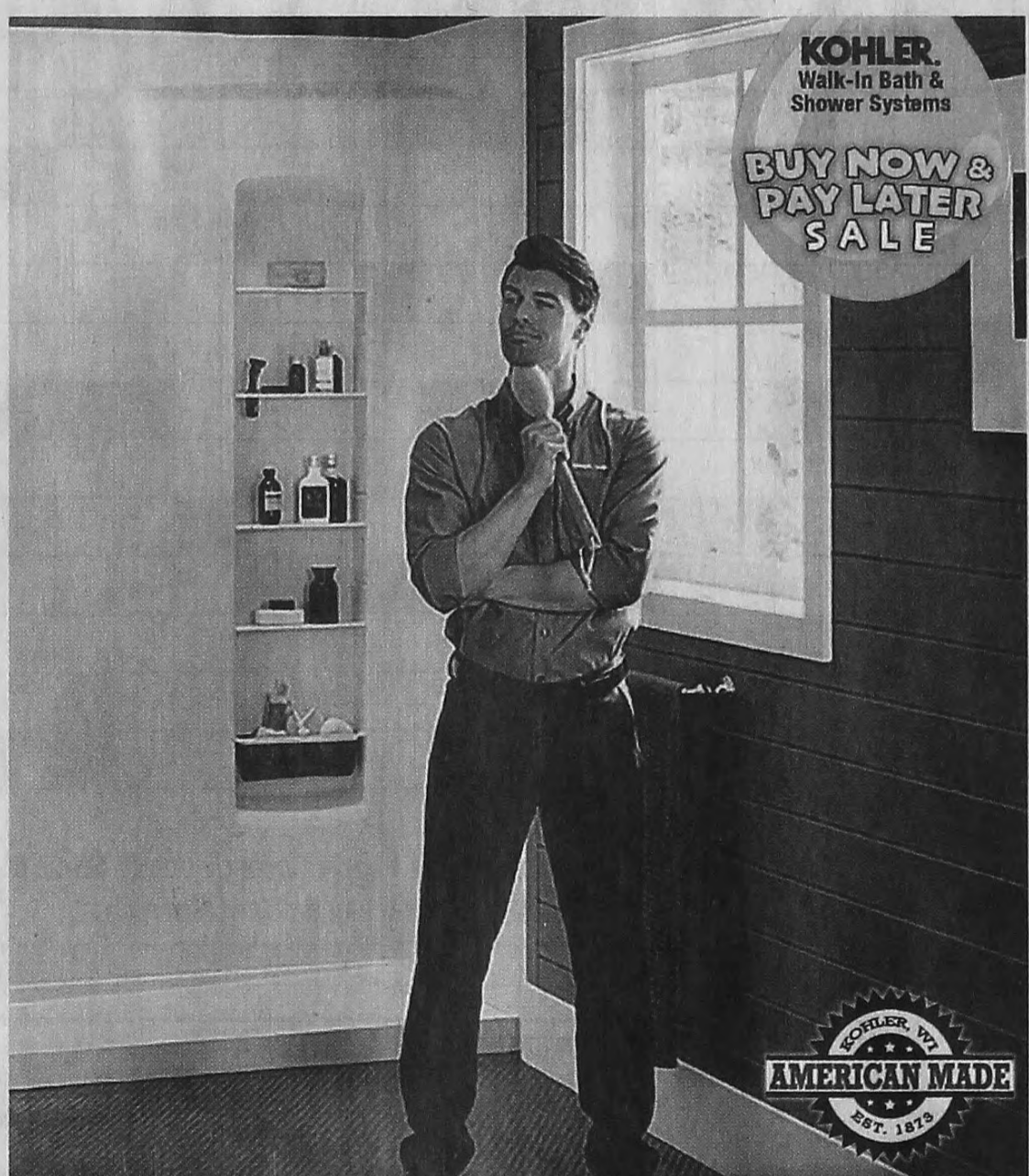


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